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THE DESCRIPTION OF MOTHER'S CHARACTERISTIC AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SEX EDUCATION FOR EARLY AGE CHILDREN IN BANDUNG CITY

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ABSTRACT

The problem of sexual harassment often occurs in childhood. According to the data report from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission, in 2023, there were 563 cases, where cases of children being victims of sexual crimes were the highest at 252 cases or 14% of the existing cases of violence. Based on the results of sexual crime victims in Indonesia, West Java Province was ranked the second. Data on sexual harassment in the city of Bandung recorded in the Protection of Women and Children (PPA) Bandung City Police in 2022 was 73 cases. Parents, especially mothers, have an important role in providing sex education to children from an early age. However, in reality, many parents consider sex education to be taboo, so their children are not provided with it from an early age. Thus, this study aims to describe the mothers' characteristics and knowledge about sex education for early age children in Cibeunying Kaler District area in Bandung City.

The sample was taken using the total sampling method. This study also uses quantitative research with a descriptive research design and uses a cross-sectional approach. The results of this study show that the knowledge of mothers who have early age children regarding sex education is in the sufficient category or as many as 32 (44.45%), in the good category is 18 (25.00%) and in the poor category is 22 (30.55%).

So it can be concluded that there are still many mothers who have insufficient knowledge about sex education for early age children or as much as 30.55% of respondents in Cibeunying Kaler District area in Bandung City. It is hopefully that this study is able to provide information for future researchers and stakeholders in reducing the rate of sexual violence against children.

Keywords: Sex Education, Early Age Children, Mother's Knowledge

INTRODUCTION

Sexual harassment against children is all forms of sexual activity carried out with force or threats by adults, where the perpetrator is someone close to the child.(1) Children who experience sexual harassment during their lives can cause long-term trauma to them. This trauma is sometimes persistent and difficult to repair if the severity is high and occurs in early childhood.(2) The impacts of sexual harassment are divided into two categories, physical and psychological. The physical impacts that occur are pain in the vagina or penis, bruising, erythema, chronic dysuria, and enuresis, while the psychological impacts include stress, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), high levels of fear and anxiety, and unstable emotional changes, and if psychological problems are not treated immediately, it can lead to fatal consequences in the future, i.e. the child can attempt suicide.(2)

According to Yuniyanti, the factors of sexual harassment on children are merely low economic status and the parent's education level.(3) In line with Yuniyanti, Huraerah mentioned that there are several factors that lead to sexual harassment, they are: 1) weak parental supervision in electronic media, 2) children have disabilities (retardation, autism, etc.),

3) families are psychologically immature, 4) busy parents and 5) lack of parental education towards children.(1) The occurrence of violence and sexual harassment in children is because children do not understand sex education yet. Children who are not provided with it from an early age are still very innocent and do not have the strength to take preventive action if they are in a situation that threatens the child, such as sexual harassment.(4)

The Indonesian Pediatrician Association, states that the important role of parents, especially mothers, is in preventive efforts to prevent sexual harassment in children as early as possible.(6) The role of parents, especially mothers, can be seen through the mother's efforts in providing attention and learning, providing lots of time to play with children, providing love and support to meet all the child's physical, mental, emotional and social needs.(4)

According to the data report from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission, in 2023, there were 563 cases, where cases of children being victims of sexual crimes were the highest at 252 cases or 14% of the existing cases of violence.(6) Based on West Java Children Protection Institution (LPA) data, in 2018, there were 90 cases of sexual violence against children with specifications for cases of molestation, rape and sodomy; furthermore, in 2019, there was an increase to 93 cases.(7) According to the Protection of Women and Children Division (PPA) of Bandung City Police, there were 106 cases in 2019, 100 cases in 2020, and 73 cases in 2022; however, this data has not yet represented the data of sexual harassment on children because there are still many victims who do not report.(8)

This study aims to determine the description of characteristics based on age, education, employment, marital status and mother's knowledge about sex education for early age children in Cibeunying Kaler District area in Bandung City.

METHOD

This study used quantitative methods with a descriptive research design and cross sectional approach. The respondents of this study were all mothers who had early age children participating in the PAUD (Early Childhood Education Program) in Cibeunying Kaler District area in Bandung City and were willing to become respondents by filling out and signing a consent form after explanation (PSP) of the study. The respondents in this study were 72 mothers chosen using the total sampling technique. The data collection technique uses a questionnaire with multiple choice questions. The analysis uses univariate data to produce a frequency distribution.

RESULT

Table 1. Frequency Distribution of Respondent Characteristics for Mothers of Early Age Children in Cibeunying Kaler District Area in Bandung City

No	Characteristic	Frequency (n = 72)	%
1.	Age (in year):		
	18 – 25	43	59.72
	26 – 35	21	29.16
	> 45	8	11.12
2.	Level of Education:		
	Primary School	4	5.55
	Junior High School	7	9.72
	Senior High School	50	69.45

3.	Tertiary Education	11	15.28
	Employment:		
	Working	21	29.17
	Not Working/Housewife	51	70.83
4.	Marital Status:		
	Married	64	88.81
	Divorce	8	11,19

Table 2. Knowledge Level of Mother Owning Early Age Children in Cibeunying Kaler District Area in Bandung City

Knowledge level	Frekuensi	%
Good	18	25.00%
Sufficient	32	44.45%
Poor	22	30.55%
Total	72	100%

DISCUSSION

1. Table 1. Frequency Distribution of Respondent Characteristics for Mothers of Early Age Children in Cibeunying Kaler District Area in Bandung City

Based on the data above, the results obtained for the maternal age category of 18 - 25 years were 43 (59.72%), maternal age 26 - 35 was 21 (29.16%) and maternal age >45 was 8 (11.12%). This is in line with the theory from Ariesty's (2023) in his research which tells that parents, or especially mothers, are considered to be able to take care and raise children optimally at the age of 20 to 35 years.(9) The age of parents, especially mothers, influences stability in managing psychological, mental and emotional matters, so that the older a mother is, the better her way of thinking, hence, she can optimize the provision of knowledge to her children, especially regarding the sex education.(10)

In the frequency distribution of education level, the results showed that the education level for elementary school was 4 (5.55%), junior high school education level was 7 (9.72%), senior high school education level was 50 (69.45), and tertiary education was 11 (15.28%). Education level plays an important aspect in improving knowledge (cognitive), attitudes (affective) and skills (psychomotor), this is in line with the results of research by Kusuma's, which states that the higher a mother's knowledge is, the more knowledge she can provide to her children, including sex education.(11)

The results of the frequency distribution of mothers' employment showed that 64 (70.83%) of mothers were not working/housewives and 21 (29.17%) of mothers were working as private employees or entrepreneurs. This research is in line with a research by Hasiana (2020) which states that parents who do not work have more time and opportunity to look after and supervise their children, including providing sexual education. This is different from mothers who work outside their home who have little time to look after and supervise their children resulting in the limitation of interaction between mother and their children.(12)

The frequency distribution of married status was 64 (88.81%) and 8 (11.19%) were divorced. Based on the results of research by Hasanah (2020), it is said that marriage is an inner bond between husband and wife which aims to form a happy family or household, and the family can essentially shape the children's personality, so that if divorce occurs, it can affect mental

development and growth on children, including their education.(13) The role of both parents is very influential in providing children with knowledge, especially to prevent children from becoming victims of sexual crimes.

2. Table 2. Knowledge Level of Mother Owning Early Age Children in Cibeunying Kaler District Area in Bandung City

Based on the table above, it shows that the mother's knowledge in the good category was 18 (25.00%), the sufficient category was 32 (44.45%), and the poor category was 22 (30.55%). Knowledge is the result of remembering something, including remembering events that have been experienced, meanwhile, knowledge is the result of "knowing", so that knowledge has predictive ability towards something as a result of recognizing a pattern from experience and information received.(14) This is in line with the results of Solehati's (2022) research which tells that mothers who have insufficient knowledge of sexual education think that it is not something that should be immediately given to children and feel it is taboo to convey sexual topics to children from an early age so that mothers hand over the issue of sexual education to other parties such as school.(15))

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Lack of parental knowledge about sex education is an obstacle for parents in providing correct sexual understanding to their children, so this can be one of the causes of increasing incidents of sexual harassment on children. Parents, especially mothers, have an important role as their first education in the family, so that understanding the nature of something can be taught from an early stage of children's age, which includes the understanding of sex education. Early childhood is a golden age where children's grasping power is very rapid so it is hoped that if children are provided with sex education from an early stage of their lives, children can protect themselves and they will remember the things they are provided with from an early age until their adulthood.

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