

## FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SEX EDUCATION OF PARENTS TO PRESCHOOL CHILDREN (3-6 YEARS) IN PAUD AL-IRSYAD, SUMEDANG DISTRICT IN 2023

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### Abstracts

*Introduction: There are still many parents who consider sex education a taboo. As many as 60% of parents have not taught, 40% are still confused about how to convey to preschool-age children. The impact is a misconception about sex education. The purpose of this study was to determine the factors related to parental sex education in preschool-aged children. Methodology: The population is 30 parents who have children between 3-6 years in PAUD Al-Irshad through total sampling. The research instrument used a primary data collection questionnaire. Data analysis was performed univariately and bivariately using the chi-square test.*

*Research findings: The results showed that more than half of parents had provided sex education, which was 17 (56.7%). There was a significant association between parental knowledge ( $p = 0.020$ ) and information sources ( $p = 0.017$ ) with parental sex education of preschool-aged children (3-6 years). Conclusions: Knowledge and sources of information play a key role in sex education. It is recommended that every parent can actively participate in activities to get information and increase knowledge about sex education for preschool children.*

**Keywords:** sex education, preschoolers, knowledge, sources of information.

### 1. Introduction

The importance of sex education for preschool children is so that they can detect threats and warnings from immoral acts and be able to protect themselves. According to the Symphony-PPA (Women and Child Protection Online Information System) website, cases of sexual violence against children in West Java have reached 2,001 cases by 2022. While as of February 2023 there have been 10 cases, according to Suhartina Goddess Kasubag Construction of the State Prosecutor's Office (Kejari) Sumedang, the matter is undermined by ignorance and weak communication between families. Early childhood is the time a child, from birth until the age of five is

trying to develop himself to become more self-sufficient. According to Nurhasmah in sex education is teaching and giving knowledge about gender and members of the body<sup>1</sup>. According to Sigmund Freud, psychosexuality is a stage of personality development in line with the growth and development of the body, with sexual factors playing a key role in healthy personality outcomes<sup>2</sup>. There are five stages: oral (0-1,5 years) baby enjoys sucking, anal (1,5-3 years) occurs BAC and BAB control, phallic (3-5 years) child is already able to feel the main pleasure center located on the sex organs, latent (5-12 years) phase libido as "sleeping" and will rise again with full power when puberty arrives, and

genital phase (12 years) is the final phase child will develop sexual interest in the opposite sex.

There will be a challenge for parents to give sex education to children of preschool age such a barrier as sometimes children in an emotional find it so difficult to receive sex education and are not used to when given the understanding of the genital name when knowing it<sup>3</sup>. Although described, the child still shows deviant behavior. In addition to the child, there are barriers on the part of parents, such as Parents are not able to receive full sexual education, difficulty communicating material about sexuality to children, lack understanding of the application of sexuality education, have not understood the importance of sexual education application, and still consider sexual education to be taboo. They consider the understanding of sexuality to be just an intimate relationship between husband and wife<sup>4</sup>. Parents still very poorly explain the difference between girls and boys, giving information about the members of the body that may and should not be touched by others, and the cultivation of shame not to change and change clothes in front of others<sup>5</sup>. So less encouraging sexual violence and less responding to the child's curiosity about the change in body shape<sup>6</sup>.

The obstacle to sex education is the perception and taboo that leads to a lack of knowledge of how parents should provide sexuality education so that no misconduct occurs. Another factor that influences sex education in parents of preschool children is that most parents are not taught about sexual education in their childhood, so they feel that it makes no sense to give it to their children<sup>7</sup>. There is a shift in the age of giving a child an understanding of sex education that cannot be matched with the way his parents experienced themselves in the

past, must be adapted to the time of the child now. Facilities for parents to obtain sources of information about sex education in preschool children can be easily searched through the Internet.

Based on research carried out, factors that can influence the behavior of parents in giving pre-school sex education to children are education, employment, access to information, knowledge, exposure to sexual violence, attitudes, subjective norms, and control perceptions<sup>8</sup>. Based on a preliminary study conducted by researchers on 10 parents in Paud Al-Irsyad, the results showed that 60% of parents have not taught sex education to their preschool children because they still regard it as a taboo and are confused about how to convey it. Then 40% of the other parents have already delivered sex education but are still confused about whether the delivery and media are correct and acceptable to preschool children or not. The objective of this study is to identify factors associated with the sex education of parents of preschool children.

## 2. Methods

This research is quantitative and analytical observational with a cross-sectional approach. The population of this study were 30 parents who have children aged 3-6 years in PAUD Al-Irsyad, using total sampling technique. Research instruments use questionnaires to collect primary data. Data analysis is done univariately and bivariately using a chi-square test.

### 2.1 Data Analysis

According to table 1, the majority of parents are female, 86.7%, more than half of the parents have female children, namely 60%, less than half have four-year-olds, namely 46.7%.

According to table 2, more than half of parents with good pre-school childhood sex education knowledge were 21 parents (70%). More than half

parents with no experience with sex education were given it when they were young, were 18 parents (60%). Less than half of the parents received more information about sex education from the health workers than 13 parents (43.3%). Over half of the parents who already gave sex education were 17 (56.7%).

Based on table 3, the analysis of the relationship between the knowledge of parents and the implementation of sex education to preschool children found that a small proportion (22.2%) of parents with sufficient knowledge applied sex education in preschooler children, while among well-informed parents, more than half of 15 (71.4%) applied sexual education to preschool children. The result of bivariate analysis using the Chi Square test obtained p-value = 0.020 <  $\alpha$  = 0.050, POR 2,722, CI 95% = 1.272 s/d 5.827, then H0 was rejected and Ha received, which means that there is a significant relationship between parents' knowledge about sex education and the application of sex education in preschool children.

Based on table 4, the analysis of the relationship between parents' information sources and the application of sex education to preschool children found that the majority of 9 (90%) parents obtain information about sex education from the mass media, while less than half of 8 (40%) obtain sexual education from health care. The results of the bivariate analysis using the chi square test were processed, p-value = 0.017 <  $\alpha$  = 0.050, POR 0,167, CI 95% = 0.024 S/D 1,107 ; then H0 was rejected and Ha received, which means that there is a significant relationship between the source of information of parents about sex education and the application of sex education in preschool children.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Characteristics of PAUD Al-Irsyad Parents in 2023

Table 1. Characteristics of PAUD Al-Irsyad Parents in 2023

Variable	n	%
<b>Gender of Parents</b>		
Male	4	13.3
Female	26	86.7
Total	30	100
<b>Gender of Children</b>		
Male	12	40
Female	18	60
Total	30	100
<b>Age of Children</b>		
3 years	4	13.3
4 years	14	46.7
5 years	10	33.3
6 years	2	6.7
Total	30	100

#### 3.2 Overview of Knowledge and Source of Information about Sex Education Parents at PAUD Al-Irsyad in 2023

Table 2. Overview of Knowledge and Source of Information Sex Education Parents at PAUD Al-Irsyad in 2023

Variable	n	%
<b>Parental Knowledge</b>		
Less	3	10
Moderate	6	20
Good	21	70
<b>Sources of Parent Information</b>		
Electronic media	11	36.7
Print media	6	20
Health workers	13	43.4
<b>Implementation of Sex Education</b>		
No	13	43.4
Yes	17	56.7
Amount	30	100

#### 3.3 Relationship of Parental Knowledge and Implementation about Sex Education to Preschool Children in PAUD Al-Irsyad in 2023

Table 3. Relationship of Parental Knowledge and Implementation about Sex Education to Preschool Children in PAUD Al-Irsyad in 2023

Parental Knowledge	Implementation of Sex Education			Total	POR (95% CI)	p-value	
	No		Yes				
	n	%	n	%			
Moderate	7	77.8	2	22.2	9	100	2,722
Good	6	28.6	15	71.4	21	100	(95%CI: 1.272 - 5.827)
Amount	13	43.3	17	56.7	30	100	0.020

#### 3.4 Relationship of Parent's Information Source with The Implementation of Sex Education to Preschool Children in PAUD Al-Irsyad in 2023

Table 4. Relationship of Parent's Information Sources with The Implementation of Sex Education to Preschool Children in PAUD Al-Irsyad in 2023

Parent's Information Sources	Implementation of Sex Education		Total		POR (95% CI)	p-value		
	No		Yes					
	n	%	n	%				
Mass media	1	10	9	90	10	100		
Health workers	12	60	8	40	20	100		
Amount	13	43.3	17	56.7	30	100		

#### 4. Discussion

The results of this study indicate that knowledge is one of the factors associated with the application of sex education to parents of preschool children. (3-6 tahun). In this study, parents who performed sex education on preschool children were mostly parents who had knowledge of sexual education in good categories, while parents who did not give sex education to children in pre-school age were given by parents with sufficient knowledge of sex education.

Based on the field conditions, respondents have good knowledge because of the support environment, which is very easy to access the Internet and television broadcasts. There are parents with enough knowledge to keep giving sex education to their children because there is always a parenting class program from PAUD Al-Irsyad that talks a lot about the sex education of preschool children.

Most of the respondents are household mothers who can accompany their children without the help of grandparents, so the chances of getting information and attending parenting classes are huge. Besides, every parent has the opportunity to share in the application of sex education for preschool children at home. The application of sex education at home can be given and monitored by parents every day without anyone's intervention, thus supporting the

application of parents' sex education to preschool children well.

According to a study entitled "Relationship of Parental Knowledge Level with Sex Education Behavior for Preschool Children," that there are 10 (14.9%) parents with a low level of knowledge giving sex education to their children, and there are 12 (17.9%) fathers with a high degree of knowledge not providing sex education for their children. The chi square test results in a p-value of  $0.014 < 0.0$ , so it can be concluded that there is a relationship between the level of knowledge of parents and their behavior toward giving sex education. Without knowledge, one has no basis for making decisions and determining action on the problems faced9.

According to Chomaria, sex education deals with human sexual anatomy, reproduction, sexual relationships, reproductive health, emotional relationships, and other aspects of human sexual behavior. Sex education can be given to children by their adults. The main focus is on how they know the boundaries of gender coexistence, teaching about everything related to gender10.

Giving sexual education to a child is influenced by a strong intensity, which will strengthen the behavior of parents to provide sexual education for preschool children8.

This study is in line with the study entitled "Factors Affecting Parent Behavior in Giving Early-Age Sex Education to Pre-School Children in Semarang City". Respondents who behaved well in giving early age sex education obtained more from well-known respondents (81.4%) compared to respondents with less knowledge (52.2%), found the results of the chi square test showed a p-value =  $0.005 < 0.05$ , indicating that there is a relationship between knowledge and

parents' behavior in giving pre-school sex education to children8.

In this study, parents who performed sex education on preschool children were parents who obtained information from the mass media, while parents who did not give sex education to preschool children by the parents who received information from health care. Based on the field conditions, parents of PAUD Al-Irsyad students have no difficulty obtaining or even searching for information about the sex education of preschool children because it is easy to get access to information, such as from the mass media. According to the Green Theory (1991), the means and means, in this case the sources of information, are one of the possible factors for the formation of behavior. With increased education and information for parents about sex education in early childhood, it will increase good knowledge so that parents can give as much knowledge as possible about sex education to children9.

Parents in PAUD Al-Irsyad are actively attending parenting classes that are held in collaboration with the health services, like the village maid, to get advice on pre-school material, including sex education. The findings of this study are consistent with the findings that there is a link between information exposure and behavior in providing sexual education to children. Respondents in the study obtained sources of information from print media such as magazines or newspapers and electronic media like television or the Internet11. The study also mentions that parents' mindsets are becoming more open about sexual education, so the taboo notion of giving sexual education to preschool children is beginning to erode. Researchers found that there is a correlation between exposure to information and the sexual education of parents to their children.

Parents with high exposure have a more open mindset about sex education, so they are better at giving sex education than less exposed parents13. Such information can come from print media such as newspapers and magazines. According to the results of the study, that there is a relationship between access to information and the behavior of parents in giving sex education to preschool children. The test results showed a p-value of 0.0388.

Health education media are all means or attempts to display the information messages that the communicator wants to convey so that the target can increase the knowledge that is eventually expected and change its behavior in a positive direction towards health, such as from print media, electronic media, and social media14.

## 5. Conclusion

The majority of respondents in this study were female: 86.7%, the majority had daughters: 60%, and less than half were four-year-olds: 46.7%. The knowledge overview of respondents in this study was good: 21 (70%), more than half of the parents who had no experience of sex education in their childhood were 18 parents (60%). Less than half of the parents received more information about sex education from the health workers of 13 parents (43.3%), and more than half of the parents already gave sex education is 17 (56.7%). There was a significant relationship between the knowledge of parents and the sex education of parents of preschool children in PAUD Al-Irsyad (p-value = 0,020). There was a significant relationship between the source of information of parents and the sex education of parents of preschool children in PAUD Al-Irsyad (p-value = 0.017).

The suggestion from the results of this research is that parents should

increase their knowledge by optimizing the search for information about sex education sourced from health workers and other media so that they can provide this information to their children appropriately.

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