

## **Prevention of Sexual Violence in Children with Comic Media**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The phenomenon of sexual violence against children is increasingly frequent and has become global in various countries. 1 in 5 Women and 1 in 13 Men report experiencing sexual violence as a child/adolescent, 12% of children worldwide experienced sexual violence in the past year, and 37% of countries implement sexual violence prevention interventions on a larger scale. One of them is by providing health information to children through interesting media so that children can absorb information and apply it easily. The purpose of this community service is to increase children's knowledge about sexual violence prevention using comic media. This method of community service is with a classical and individual approach, where the individual approach measures the level of knowledge using pre-post. The partner in this activity is Puskesmas Marawola, Sigi Central Sulawesi. This activity was attended by 25 vulnerable children between the ages of 10 – 19 years and their parents. The results obtained in this activity were before the education of respondents who had a good level of knowledge of 14 (56%) while after education there were 23 (92%) respondents with good knowledge. So it can be concluded that there is an increase in children's knowledge before and after health education is carried out.

**Keywords:** Children, education, health, sexual, violence

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Violence against children is a form of maltreatment and exploitation, including sexual abuse and violence on children that is physical and mental. While sexual violence in children is the use of coercion, violence or threats, abuse of positions of trust, authority, or recognized influence on children referred to in the family (UNICEF, 2019). Children become a group that is very vulnerable to sexual violence because children are always positioned as weak or helpless figures and have a high dependence on adults around them. This is what makes children helpless when threatened not to tell what they are experiencing (Eny Hikmawati, 2016). Violence against children and women is a problem whose cases have increased from year to year, even receiving attention both nationally and internationally (Amalia, 2016). In Indonesia, cases of sexual violence have increased every year, victims not only from adults have now penetrated teenagers, children, and even toddlers. The phenomenon of sexual violence against children is increasingly frequent and has become global in various countries (Noviana, 2015). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 1 in 4 adults reported experiencing

violence as a child/adolescent, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 13 men reported experiencing sexual violence as a child/adolescent, 12% of children in the world experienced sexual violence in the past year, 37% of countries implemented interventions to prevent the incidence of sexual violence on a larger scale (Triana Indrayani, 2020).

The Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) released data on the level of child sexual violence during 2019. There were 21 cases of sexual violence with victims reaching 123 children that occurred in educational institutions. According to Komnas Perempuan's 2020 annual records, in 2019 there was Violence against Children / Women (KtA / P) soared by 2,341 cases, the previous year as many as 1,417. The increase from the previous year occurred by 65% and the most were incest cases and added with sexual violence cases (571 cases) (Kusnan et al., 2020). Data from the Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Agency (DP3A) in Central Sulawesi in 2019 showed 156 cases of violence against children, of which Palu City had 22 cases (14.1%) as many as 27 cases (17.3%) after Buol Regency with 27 cases (17.3%). There were 334 cases of violence, of which 107 cases of sexual violence (32%)(Marphatia et al., 2017). The initial data obtained from the Marawola Health Center is the number of pre-school age children as many as 504 people and early adolescence age 1,514 people in boys. And in girls of pre-school age as many as 637 people and in early adolescence 1,594 people. The number of ages is quite large in the area of Sigi regency. The problem that was also encountered was the low knowledge of mothers about sex education in early childhood. Lack of knowledge about sexual violence in children. Health care facilities and facilities have not been used optimally to provide education and information related to ways to prevent sexual violence in early childhood.

Violence against children is a deliberate act that causes harm or harm to children (both physically and emotionally). Forms of violence against children can be classified into physical violence, psychological violence, sexual violence and social violence. Sexual violence against children according to End Child Prostitution in Asia Tourism (ECPAT) International is a relationship or interaction between a child and an older person or adult such as strangers, siblings or parents where children are used as objects to satisfy the perpetrator's sexual needs (Noviana, 2015). There are several factors for the occurrence of sexual violence in children, including internal factors (psychological, biological, and moral) and external factors (economic, social media and environmental) the handling can be preventive and repressive (Untari et al., 2022).

Preventive countermeasures can be in the form of health education to children and parents of children to prevent, maintain and protect children from all forms of violence and sexual abuse. The provision of this information must be in a simple way, easily understood by children, through interesting media, so that children can absorb information and apply it easily. One of the simple and affordable media for children is through book media, such as through comic book media (Ramadhanti, 2016). Comics are a medium commonly used for entertainment, it can also be used as a learning medium. Comics designed with stories and equipped with colorful and interesting images are liked by children. The advantages of comics in addition to enjoying their images as entertainment can also interpret and assess in life. Comics can indirectly affect children's emotions and sympathy, imagination will also develop following the storyline presented (Azizah et al., 2021).

## **METHOD**

This service was carried out for 2 days namely March 21-22 2023 at 15.30 WITA at the Bomba village hall, Marawola District, Sigi, Central Sulawesi, with a target audience of 25 mothers and children. The method used is in the form of a *Focus Group Discussion* (FGD) with mother and child. Evaluation of this service by measuring the level of knowledge using a questionnaire

through the stages: initial evaluation, FGD, and final evaluation. Indicators of success by comparing the results of the questionnaire before and after health education. Formative evaluation related to general knowledge about sexual violence in children includes sexual education in children, forms of sexual violence in children and ways to prevent sexual violence in children. The following is the documentation when conducting the initial evaluation, FGD, and final evaluation. All activity documentation has been uploaded on YouTube with the link: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=X0NbXyO2LBU&feature=share>.



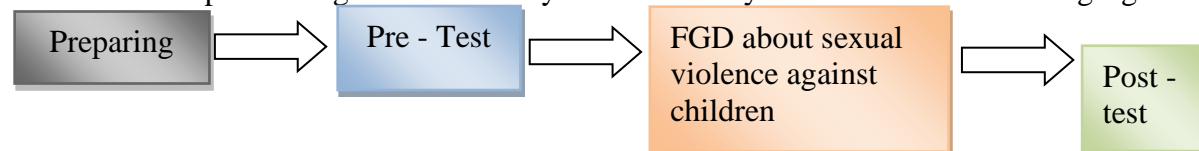
*Fous Group Disussion(FGD)*



*Take photo after FGD*

Figure 1. Stages of community service implementation

The flow of implementing this community service activity is shown in the following figure:



Form of Steps - The concrete steps implemented in this dedication so that this dedication can be implemented are as follows:

1. Identify target locations. It was carried out by collecting data on a number of children aged 10-14 years in Bomba Village, Marawola District, Sigi Regency, Central Sulawesi.
2. Conducting counseling related to sexual violence in children, before counseling (FGD) is first given a questionnaire to measure the level of knowledge of children after that counseling is given and continued with FGD. After that, the children's level of knowledge was measured again using the same questionnaire
3. Assessment of the level of knowledge of children about sexual violence using a questionnaire before and after the training.

## RESULT

Based on the results of observations and evaluations carried out during the service, it can be reported that the service activities carried out in the Bomba village area, Marawola District, Sigi Regency, Central Sulawesi are in accordance with the expected goals. Indicators of success that have been achieved in this service can be seen from the increased knowledge of children regarding the prevention of sexual violence against children. The results of the dedication can be seen in the following table:

Table 1. Frequency distribution of knowledge level of children before and after counseling

| Knowledge | Questionnaire Pre |     | Post-test questionnaire 1 |     | Post-test Questionnaire 2 |     |
|-----------|-------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
|           | f                 | %   | f                         | %   | f                         | %   |
| Good      | 14                | 56  | 23                        | 92  | 19                        | 76  |
| Less      | 11                | 44  | 2                         | 8   | 6                         | 24  |
| Total     | 25                | 100 | 25                        | 100 | 25                        | 100 |

Source: Primary data 2023

## DISCUSSION

The community service which was carried out in the working area of the Marawola Health Center took place at the Bomba Village Hall, Marawola District, Sigi Regency, Central Sulawesi, and in collaboration with village officials, the Marawola Police and the village midwife, counseling was carried out on Monday, March 21, 2023, at 16.00 WITA. The number of respondents who attended this counseling was 25 parents and 25 preschool children with an age range between 10-19 years. Evaluation was only carried out on pre-school children using a questionnaire consisting of 10 statements which were divided into negative and positive statements. Of the 10 questions in the questionnaire, 2 were positive and 8 were negative. The evaluation was carried out 2 times, namely immediately after the counseling was carried out and on March 22, 2023. The evaluation was carried out repeatedly to see the resistance of the respondents' knowledge. The mean value is used to categorize the respondent's knowledge. Knowledge is good if the average value obtained by the respondent is  $\geq 65$  and knowledge is less if the respondent obtains a mean value of  $< 65$ .

The results of the questionnaire analysis showed that questionnaire statements asking about forms of sexual violence in children were still poorly known by respondents both before counseling and after counseling (first and second evaluations). This happens due to the lack of information received by respondents. According to (WHO, 2017) the form of sexual violence can be an act of rape; sexual abuse mentally or physically calling someone in a sexual context, making jokes in a sexual context; disseminating videos or photos containing sexual content without permission, forcing someone to engage in pornography; the act of prosecuting/coercing sexual activity on a person or redemption/requirement of getting something by sexual activity; forced marriage; prohibit a person from using contraceptives or devices to prevent sexually transmitted diseases; forced abortion; Violence of the sexual organs including compulsory examination of virginity; and prostitution and sexual commercial exploitation.

As for the questionnaire statement asking about body parts that should not be shown or touched by others, about 95% of respondents answered correctly that the parts that should not be touched are the mouth, chest, genitals, and buttocks, both before counseling and after counseling (first and second evaluation). This is in line with the theory expressed by (Pradikto & Wardana, 2022) that one of the concepts that must be taught to children to prevent sexual violence in children is Body ownership where children are taught that they have private body parts that others should not touch, see, and take photos on that body area.

As for the evaluation results obtained by the service team before the training, out of 25 respondents, there were 14 respondents (56%) who had a good level of knowledge related to sexual violence in children. After counseling and evaluation after counseling (post-test, first) an increase in respondents' knowledge was obtained to 23 respondents (92%) who had good knowledge. But after the second evaluation (second post-test) there was a decrease in the number of respondents who had good knowledge, namely 19 respondents (76%). This can occur because brain function in children is divided into short-term memory and long-term memory. Short-term memory has a limited capacity of only being able to store 7 items and no



more than 20-30 seconds for each item and is quickly forgotten. To move information from short-term memory to long-term memory, it is necessary to repeat information (Musdalifah, 2019).

Efforts made by the service team so that respondents repeat the information provided are by sharing information media in the form of comics containing material about the definition of sexual violence in children, potential perpetrators of sexual violence in children, the time and place of sexual violence in children, and how to prevent sexual violence in children. Comic media is one type of visual print media that can be used in health education. Comics have phrases and visuals that have a function for readers (Lubis, 2018). Comic media was chosen because comics are an art form that uses motionless images arranged in such a way as to form the fabric of the story. Draw in this case, a cartoon character (the character can be an animal, plant, or an inanimate object). Usually, comics are printed on paper and equipped with text (Ramdani, 2021). The medium of comics basically helps encourage the respondent and can arouse his interest in learning. Assisting them in developing language skills, art activities, and creative statements in storytelling, dramatization, reading, writing, painting, and drawing, and helping them interpret and remember the content of reading material from textbooks (Saputro, 2015).

## CONCLUSION

This community service activity shows an increase in knowledge before and after health education using comic media. Comic media was chosen because it attracts more children's attention. For this reason, health workers should pay more attention to the media used when conducting health education. For respondents, educational comics about preventing sexual violence in children can be read repeatedly to better understand and be able to apply the daily knowledge gained to prevent this from happening.

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