



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

URL of this article: <http://heanoti.com/index.php/hn/article/view/hn1405>**Optimizing Sexuality Education in Early Childhood Based on "Puppet Show"****Sri Puji Lestari \*, Dwi Indah Iswanti\*, Son Haji\***

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## ABSTRACT

The low level of community and cultural knowledge that assumes the taboo of sexuality education in children at an early age is one of the originators of sexual abuse in children. Sexuality education that is aligned with the capacity and thinking patterns of children will help a child to protect himself from the perpetrators of abuse. The puppet show method, which uses puppets as a tool, offers a more appealing method for children. This study aims to test the effectiveness of puppet show as a method to improve early childhood knowledge about sexuality, using a pre-post test with control group design. The subjects of this study were 34 children in PAUD Tiara Hati, Tembalang District, Semarang selected by purposive sampling technique. Data were collected using questionnaire, Puppet Show module and storyteller, then analyzed using T-Test. The results show that Puppet Show can improve early childhood knowledge about sexuality.

**Keywords:** Puppet Show, Sexuality, Early childhood

## INTRODUCTION

The perfect child development is a dream for every parent, but in reality, there are so many things that cause a child's development to be imperfect. Psychological development is one of the important things for the development of children. If the child's psychological development is impaired, it can not possibly affect the physical development of a child.

One of the things that can affect a child's psychological development is the incidence of child sexual abuse. Based on a survey of violence against Indonesian children in 2013 conducted by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Central Bureau of Statistics, and UNICEF Indonesia, it was found that 1 of 2 boys and 1 in 3 girls aged 18-24 years, has been sexually abused before the age of 18 years. Based on information from Kompas Daily, September 2016 on sexual harassment case that happened to some students of Jakarta International School, it turns out that the perpetrators of sexual harassment are janitor and teacher at school, which is notabene known by the child .

Sexual harassment is a phenomenon of icebergs (few cases are visible, but the reality is that many cases of sexual abuse are not exposed or even covered up). Based on information from Detik News in 2015, in Central Java there are 58% of children who are sexually abused. This sexual harassment often occurs in street children. The low level of public knowledge and culture that assumes the taboo of sexuality education for children at an early age is one of the originators of sexual abuse in children. Children are often regarded as a helpless object for the perpetrator, so the offender can easily target children to the satisfaction of his desires.

Hastuti (2015) reported that teachers who teach in early childhood have not yet known the methods and discussion of sexuality education in early childhood. Therefore, sexuality education in early childhood is very important. Sexuality education appropriate to the capacity and thinking patterns of children will help a child in protecting himself from the perpetrators of abuse. Based on the results of interviews with PAUD teachers on Friday, April 15, 2016, in Tembalang District, Semarang, Indonesia it is known that until now there is no sexuality education provided to the students.

Method puppet show with dolls as a tool, offering a new method more attractive to children. Through his research, Setyarini (2012) concluded that based on the results of a one-month class observation (4 meetings) the "Puppet Show" method is an appropriate method to improve the learning outcomes of English, with details: 1) with "Puppet Show" , students tend to more easily capture what is taught by the teacher, 2) the reality media that teachers use in telling stories helps students understand the story and language context used in the story, 3) expression, mimicry and body movement is another aspect that is liked and helps students in learning the

meaning of the vocabulary in the story. Meanwhile, Sukertini, et al (2015) stated that puppet shows can help the giving of materials to children. Puppet shows can improve teachers 'skills, student activities while learning, and students' understanding.

## METHODS

This experimental study aimed to test the effectiveness of the puppet show as a method to improve early childhood knowledge about sexuality, using a pre-post test with control group design. The subjects of this study were 34 children in PAUD Tiara Hati, Tembalang District, Semarang selected by purposive sampling technique. Data were collected using questionnaire, Puppet Show module and storyteller, then analyzed using T-Test.

## RESULTS

Tabel 1. The distribution of children

Group	n	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Control	17	4	6	4.3
Intervention	17	4	6	4.4

Table 1 shows that the mean age of children in the control group was 4.3 years, whereas in the intervention group was 4.4 years.

Tabel 2. The Distribution of knowledge of children about sexuality, before intervention

Group	n	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Control	17	5	8	6.59
Intervention	17	5	8	6.41

Table 2 shows that before the intervention, the mean score of knowledge of children about sexuality in the control and intervention groups was almost the same 6.59 and 6.41, respectively.

Tabel 3. The distribution of knowledge of children about sexuality, after intervention

Group	n	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Control	17	5	9	7.71
Intervention	17	8	10	9.59

Table 3 shows that after intervention, the mean score of knowledge of children about sexuality, in the control group and intervention groups was different, each of which was 7.71 and 9.59. Based on T test results, this difference is significant ( $p$ -value = 0.000). Increased knowledge of children in the control group was 11.2%, while in the intervention group was 31.8%. Thus, Puppe show was an effective method in sexuality education for early childhood.

## DISCUSSION

In this study, the average age of children who were the subject of the study was 4 years. Referring to Piaget's statement, they are included in the preoperative stage ie at the age of 2-7 years. At this time, the child's ability is to receive a limited stimulus (Hurlock, 2010). Because of the limited stimuli received by the child, the learning process needs to be facilitated using an interesting medium. Therefore, learning media using toys is expected to improve a child's understanding. One method of learning that fits the age of the child is by playing. Learning by playing this can be done by role play. According to Mulyani & Agustin (2013), the role playing method is a way of presenting the lesson material by immersing the behavior in social relations with a problem, so that learners can solve social problems. The role playing method aims to show an action of a message to be conveyed from an event that has been viewed. This method also makes students happy, sad, and laugh if the cast can animate well.

The results of this study indicate that children who follow the learning by Puppet show method experienced a higher knowledge increase. This shows that Puppet show is an effective method for learning sexuality for early childhood. This is in line with the results of research Chang, et al. (2012) that compares several methods in teaching. Based on the results of this study concluded that the visual method is the most effective method in learning. In this case Puppet show is one form of visual method in learning for children.

Sex education is not just about biological characteristics that have been categorized as male and female since birth. Sex is a construction that also concerns ethics, morals, social environment, and culture (Nawita, 2013). Sex education is the delivery of information about the introduction (name and function) of the limbs, the understanding of sex differences, the translation of sexual behavior (relationships and intimacy), and knowledge about the values and norms that exist in the community related to gender. Sex education covers the areas of ethics, morals, physiology, economics and other knowledge needed for a person to understand himself as a sexual individual and to establish good interpersonal relationships accordingly (Gunarsa in Marpaung, 2011).

### CONCLUSION

Based on the results of this study it can be concluded that Puppet Show is an effective method to increase the knowledge of early childhood about sexuality. Thus expected parents and teachers to use Puppet show method as one of the methods of learning about sexuality both at school and at home.

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