

## USING POSTERS TO PROVIDE SEX EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

**Maya Khairani**

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Syiah Kuala,  
Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Email: khairani.maya@unsyiah.ac.id

### Abstract

The rise of sexual harassment against children prompted one of the Indonesian children's book writers to make a poster of "6 Langkah Melindungi Dirimu Saat di Sekolah" and spread it freely through social media or e-mail. It turned out that some parents were interested in owning the poster and felt they needed the poster to provide education for their children. The author then conducted a mini-survey to 12 parents who already had the poster. The survey consists of five questions that try to find out the background of the parents having posters, the reason they print the poster, locations to place or post the printed posters, how they educated their children, and the function of the poster to educate the children. The survey showed that parents get the posters from Watiek Ideo, parents realized their importance to provide sex education early to their children, parents decided to put posters in their houses and at their children's schools so that more children would receive education through the posters, parents quite creative in educating their children through poster combine with song or other media, parents feel the poster help them much in providing sex education for their children.

**Keywords:** Poster, Sex Education, Children, Parent

### INTRODUCTION

On February 2018, The Indonesian Commission for Child Protection (*Komisi Perlindungan Anak Indonesia-KPAI*) recorded that there were 223 sexual harassment cases. Specifically, it was identified that 26 of them occurred in Aceh (the victims were persuaded to play with perpetrators), 45 of them occurred in Tangerang (victim's age range is between 7 to 15-year-old), 50 cases occurred in Jambi (all victims were boys), 13 cases were in Purbalingga, and 7 cases were in Banyumas (the victims were boys persuaded to watch porn video) (Miris!, 2018). The data showed that the sexual harassment on children which were recorded and documented became considerable. It can be assumed that such cases look like iceberg phenomenon that more cases are still uncovered.

According to the *American Psychological Association-APA* (2018), sexual harassment is an unwanted sexual activity which is forcedly committed by perpetrators followed by threats or taking advantages from victims without any permission. In some cases, the perpetrators and the victims were known to each other. When it happens, victims will be shocked, scared, and difficulty trust in others. Sexual harassment makes the victim needs to have a quite complex and dynamic healing process, especially for those who experience it during childhood.

Many factors contribute to children's sexual harassment, namely sexual attraction on children (pedophilia), mass porn media, and children's incomprehension about the sexual matter (Fauziah, 2016). Sugiasih (2011) also stated that the role of media was so

significant in providing information about sexuality. Therefore parents had a substantial task to provide the best explanation about sexuality to their children. Akbar and Mudzdaliffah (2012) suggested that sexual violence was happening in children because they did not obtain education about sexuality.

Sexuality includes various aspects for instances cognition, affection, attitude, and individuals' behavior toward themselves. Several arguments stated that education about sexuality needed to be taught since early childhood. Unfortunately, sexuality education which is systematically constructed by the government still emphasizes on biological aspect and is given to adolescent (Parkasi & Kartikawati, 2013). Meanwhile, as far as the author has explored, sexuality education on early childhood has not been systematically constructed by the government yet. It usually becomes an independent innovation by educators to deliver sexuality education in schools.

Some previous studies showed that sexuality education which was provided for children required proper material, method, and media (Jatmikowati, Angin, & Ernawati, 2015) so that the children can protect themselves from sexual exploitation (Akbar & Mudzdaliffah, 2012). Sugiasih (2011) explained that sexuality education could be taught to children step by step. It can be started as early as possible by teaching them based on their development stage. Introduction of sexuality for children can be started by introducing their body anatomy and later on explaining about how organisms reproduce (Jatmikowati, Angin, & Ernawati, 2015). Another challenge related to sex education is the view on sexuality as a taboo still happens among Modern Indonesian society. The study by Parkasi and Kartikawati (2013) found there was a viewpoint that sex education was taboo to teach in schools. It can be found in daily life that there are parents who think that sex education is taboo to discuss with children. As a result, children are susceptible to become victims of sexual harassment.

The number of sexual harassment cases, especially on children, encouraged an author of books for children, Watiek Ideo, to construct a poster "*6 Langkah Melindungi Diri Saat di Sekolah*" (6 Steps to Protect Yourself While at School) in order to make children have information about how to prevent sexual crime in school. The poster was uploaded on her Instagram account on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Ideo also shared the poster through email for free. The uploaded poster on Instagram gained comments from various sides, the majority of whom were parents who mentioned that the need to conduct socialization about self-protection for children in schools. Later on, Ideo on her email appealed to conduct socialization about self-protection for children from sexual crime. Reviewing the content and illustration on the poster, it can be seen that the poster is for 3 to 10-year-old children. The poster can be seen in Figure 1.

Based on several things explained, the author saw parents' enthusiasm to socialize sex education by using the poster, especially in children schools. It encouraged the author to know the reason for parents to have the "*6 Langkah Melindungi Diri Saat di Sekolah*" poster, and parents' strategy to educate children about sexuality.



Figure 1. The "6 Langkah Menjaga Dirimu Saat di Sekolah" Poster

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Sexuality is a natural part of human development going through every phase of life which involves physical, psychological, and social component (WHO, 1994). Sexuality is part of health education and health promotion. Sexual health was defined as part of reproductive health in the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. Statements about sexual health were drawn from a WHO Technical Report of 1975 (1), which included the concept of sexual health as something "enriching" and that "enhance[s] personality, communication, and love." It went further by stating that "fundamental to this concept is the right to sexual information and the right to pleasure."

Sex Education is defined as teaching about human sexuality, including intimate relationship, human sexual anatomy, sexual reproduction, sexually transmitted infections, sexual activity, sexual orientation, gender identity, abstinence, contraception, and reproductive rights and responsibilities (Breuner & Mattson, 2016). Sex education is an attempt to teach and explain about sexual issues to children since he/she understands the issues related to sex, includes biological, psychological, cultural, ethical, moral, and legal aspects. Sex education provides understanding to children according to their age, about the functions of sexual anatomy, guidance on the importance of maintaining their intimate organs and provide an understanding of healthy social behavior and risks from sexual problems.

According to Donovan (1998), sex education mainly aims to provide information for adolescents in order to empower them in constructing value and relational skills which enable them to make a responsible decision to become sexually healthy adults. Fine and McClelland (2006) stated that in sex education, it is a requirement to discuss sexual desire in order that students can develop their subjectivity and responsibility as a sexual organism. It means that it is urgent to see adolescent as a sexual organism rather than negate their sexuality when giving them sex education.

## METHOD

The study was descriptive research by distributing the Google form link to participants whose criteria was parents having “6 Langkah Melindungi Dirimu Saat di Sekolah” poster. The poster constructed by Watiek Ideo and designed by Bella Ansori was shared through Instagram for free. The author obtained the poster from its constructor which was sent by email.

The researcher distributed the questionnaire on Google form link through WhatsApp and emailed to the parents who had been identified to have the poster. The questionnaire was utilized to know respondents' data namely age, sex, occupation, number of child, child's age, and several questions related to function and benefit of “6 Langkah Menjaga Dirimu di Sekolah” poster.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the result of the survey through Google form link, it is identified some information about respondents' demography which can be seen in table 1.

**Table 1.** Demographic data

No	Age	Sex	Occupation	Domicile	Number of children	Child's age
1	34	Female	Teacher	Banda Aceh	2	7 3
2	36	Female	Teacher	Banda Aceh	1	10
3	34	Female	Teacher	Banda Aceh	2	6 3
4	35	Female	Teacher	Banda Aceh	3	8 4 6
5	42	Female	Head of PAUD-KB	North Maluku	3	17 12 1
6	27	Female	Housewife	Yogyakarta	1	1
7	34	Female	Housewife	Aceh Besar	3	12 8 4
8	36	Male	Civil servant	Banda Aceh	2	6 4
9	36	Male	Entrepreneur	Aceh Besar	3	12 8 4
10	35	Female	Entrepreneur	Yogyakarta	3	13

No	Age	Sex	Occupation	Domicile	Number of children	Child's age
						5
						1
11	32	Female	Housewife	Banda Aceh	1	5
12	30	Female	Employee	Banda Aceh	2	4
						2

The questions on the form were four questions, and the responses can be seen in Table 2.

**Table 2.** The result of the survey

Questions	Responses
How to get the poster?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given by friends</li> <li>• Sent by the constructor</li> </ul>
What is the reason for printing the poster?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To give it to the school as educational media</li> <li>• To be read by the children</li> <li>• As for the socialization of sex education for kids</li> <li>• As parenting media in school's wall magazine</li> <li>• Self-education for parents to protect the children</li> </ul>
Where is the poster put on? Also, why there?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In children's school, so that many children and adults can read it</li> <li>• In the family room, so that it can be seen easily, and if there are relatives who come, there will be more people who can see</li> <li>• In the house and the school</li> <li>• In the house, so that it can be read by whole family members living in the house</li> <li>• In neighborhood association's hall</li> </ul>
How to explain to the children about the content on the poster?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is told during the spare time</li> <li>• Answering children's questions with logic explanation and showing references besides poster while explaining</li> <li>• Asking children to look at the poster and tell about it, later on, parents help explain and complete the story</li> <li>• Telling it to the kid interactively</li> </ul> <p><i>"Sister and Brother! Look at here; there is a picture of our way to protect ourselves and to make us safe from other people's harassments. These are our body parts cannot be seen or touched by other people. These are mouth, chest, buttocks, and genitals (by showing and explaining). Also, then, we have to be careful in a quiet place, like in school and mall, or other places such as toilet and empty rooms which nobody inside. If there is a person who invites you to a quiet place (even though you know the person), do not follow them. What to say? Yes, say I DON'T WANT. If there is a person who touches our body that we have to protect (chest, buttocks, and genital) and we are not happy for that keep saying</i></p>

Questions	Responses
	<p><i>NO and run away. Shouting and asking for HELP and find someone you trust, like a mother. If there is something, do not be afraid to tell your mother, because your mother loves you as always."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching by using other media like songs and educational movies about body anatomy which can be touched or cannot be touched. The purpose is to make children able to protect themselves</li> <li>• Keep explaining children's body anatomy</li> </ul>
Does the "6 Langkah Melindungi Dirimu di Sekolah" poster help provide sex education for children?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> <li>• Yes, it gives a visual form which is easily caught and understood by the children</li> <li>• Yes, because the children more easily to understand the explanation with image</li> <li>• It helps with its illustration</li> </ul>

Based on the result compiled by the author from 12 respondents, it is known that the parents were helped by the "6 Langkah Melindungi Dirimu di Sekolah" poster in educating their children about sexuality. The illustration on the poster also visually helped the children understand the material delivered. Some respondents were quite creative by combining some media to provide sex education for their kids, either through poster, songs or movies. The activity of pointing and touching part of the body was the way to help children understand the material from the poster. It is in accordance with the result (Jatmikowati, Angin, & Ernawati, 2015) that the method which must be noticed in delivering sex education for children is by involving cognitive, affective, and psychomotor aspect. Image and activity can help children more understand the material.

The respondents also had the motive to print the poster not only for educating their children but also for educating the community. It is known from the response that they stucked or put the poster in the public area (children school and community hall). The reason was to make more people understand about the possibility of sexual harassment or sexual violence against children.

## CONCLUSIONS

The research showed that the parents were helped by the poster in providing sex education for their children, the parents told their children story from the poster (for toddler), the parents asked their children to read the poster by themselves (age 8 to 10 years old), the parents place the poster at school for educate others.

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