

OPTIMIZING CHILDREN'S KNOWLEDGE THROUGH COMIC MEDIA IN PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

Child abuse refers to any act or treatment that has the potential to harm children, resulting in disability or even death. Educational health promotion plays an important role in reducing the negative impacts of child abuse by increasing awareness of prevention. One of the educational media used was comics, due to their attractive and easy-to-understand format. To increase knowledge and prevent violence against children. The community service activities were conducted in the Kadipiro RW 13 area and through a webinar involving participants from Timor Leste. The activity involved 20 mothers with children as participants. The results of the activity showed that the knowledge of participants was 85%. The conclusion of the implementation of this community service activity was that it increased the knowledge of mothers. This community service activity effectively increased the knowledge of mothers and served as one step in building an environment that supports the mental health of the Indonesian people.

Keywords: Education, Violence Against Children, Comics

1. INTRODUCTION

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA, 2018) reported that 41.1% of Indonesian students had experienced bullying. This places Indonesia in the fifth-highest position among 78 countries, showing that violence against children is a serious issue (Jayani, 2019).

Acts of *child abuse* include behaviors that can inflict injuries, cause disabilities, or lead to the death of a child. This type of abuse commonly takes place in the child's closest surroundings, such as the home, school, or community, and is usually carried out by people they know well (Centers of Disease Controls and Prevention, 2016)

Previous studies have identified several factors that contribute to violence against children, with parenting style being one of the most influential. Parenting approaches strongly affect children's emotional and behavioral development, and a positive parent-child relationship can reduce the risk of abuse (Dari et al., 2015). Other findings also show that parenting

style impacts the emotional intelligence of elementary school children (Karomah & Widiyono, 2022).

One way to prevent violence against children is through education that increases awareness of its harmful effects. Involving both mothers and elementary school children in learning activities can maximize knowledge transfer. Comics are particularly effective for this purpose because they combine visual elements with storytelling. Their concise and engaging format helps children better absorb information and stay motivated during learning activities (Emilia et al., 2022).

2. PROBLEM AND FORMULATION OF QUESTIONS

Disability, either physical or psychological, that can cause the impact of death on children, can occur due to acts of violence against children. This can occur due to a lack of knowledge or direction in each individual about the importance of preventing physical violent behavior. Increased knowledge using comics can be achieved. The presence of interesting pictures and stories can make children enthusiastic about participating in education with their parents. Based on this, the formulation of the problem of this community service activity is “how high is the level of knowledge of mothers on the Prevention of violence against children”?

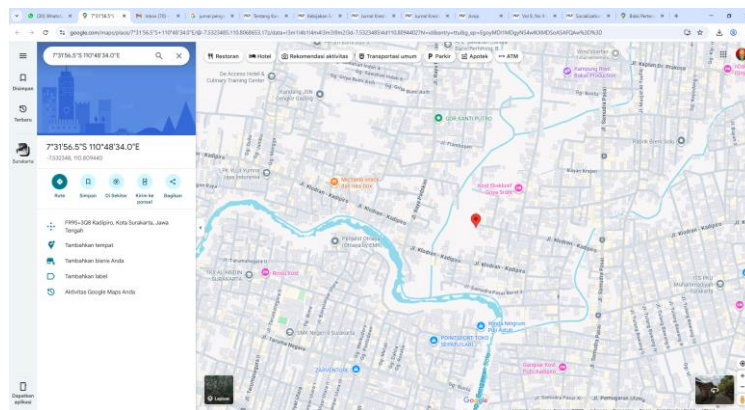


Figure 1. Map of Kadipiro RW 13 Health Center Surakarta

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Violent behavior is any form of treatment that can result in injury or harm to a child's health, future survival, development, or dignity. Violent behavior that occurs to children, whether physical, psychological, sexual, or neglect by someone who should be protecting a child, can cause depression in children (Arsyad, 2002)(Arsyad, 2002). There are factors that cause physical violence in children, namely knowledge factors and parental behavior that commit violence against their children (Fitriyani, 2015).

Child abuse produces both physical and psychological consequences, ranging from permanent injuries to emotional disturbances such as anxiety, depression, and social withdrawal. Physically, violence may result in permanent disability, while emotionally, it can cause anxiety, depression, and withdrawal from social interaction (Lusiana & Siful Arifin, 2022). In

severe cases, children may lose hope in life and develop suicidal thoughts. Other consequences include fear, insecurity, sadness, loss of concentration, poor academic performance, and decreased self-confidence (Ariani & Asih, 2022).

Knowledge is formed through sensory experiences, primarily through sight and hearing, and plays a crucial role in shaping human behavior (Notoatmodjo, 2013). Education, as an interactive process, helps individuals gain knowledge, skills, and attitudes through practice and experience (Potter & Perry, 2009). The knowledge an individual possesses can shape their behavior. Good knowledge can create good behavior.

Through their stories and illustrations, comics can deliver information in a way that inspires creativity and imagination. Their colorful and engaging illustrations make learning more enjoyable and easier to remember. The development of science and technology is increasingly growing and there are many digital educational media, including comics, which can be used as interesting media for students in learning (Rahayu & Wicaksono, 2023). Comics not only entertain but also stimulate imagination, inspire creativity, and serve as a practical tool for conveying educational messages.

The function of comics is as entertainment because the reader can imagine things like those in comics, where he has the ability to fight and defeat evil. Comics can stimulate the imagination, and imaginative people can think more creatively in solving problems. Comics provide various kinds of information from images and stories, so that they can be a source of inspiration.

4. METHOD

The community service program was carried out through several stages:

a. Planning Stage

The activity was designed in collaboration with international partners. Initial discussions were held to determine suitable topics, after which the Instituto Ciencia da Saude in Timor-Leste agreed to participate. Their role included recruiting mothers with children as participants.

b. Proposal Preparation Stage

In October 2023, the team from the Diploma 3 Nursing Study Program at Kusuma Husada University prepared the necessary tools, educational materials, and counseling content. Coordination among team members was conducted to ensure that the planned activities aligned with the objectives of violence prevention education.

c. Implementation Stage

The program was delivered both offline and online. Offline activities were conducted in December 2023 in Kadipiro RW 13, Surakarta, where mothers and children attended counseling sessions. Meanwhile, an online webinar was held on February 22, 2024, with participants from Timor-Leste, bringing the total number of participants to 20 mothers.

d. Monitoring and Evaluation Stage

Mothers were asked questions to evaluate their understanding of violence prevention. Monitoring was also conducted to ensure that the knowledge gained could be sustained after the program ended.

e. Preparation Of Reports

The final report was prepared between April and May 2024 to document and account for the activities carried out.

The activities primarily used lectures, discussions, and question-and-answer sessions. After each lecture, participants engaged in discussions supported by comic media (Ardi, Lufri, Yogica, 2020)

a. Lecture method

The lecture method involved presenting the material directly to participants, both in offline and online sessions. The offline method was conducted with an Indonesian audience, namely Mothers with children in RW 13 Kadipiro, Surakarta. An online survey was conducted with Timor-Leste cooperatives, namely, Mothers with school-age children.

b. Discussion method

Discussions were used as a forum for participants to express challenges and jointly explore possible solutions. Problems that occur in the audience can be asked about and discussed. Through the discussion, we can find answers to the problem faced.

c. Questions and answers

The questions and answers session encouraged participants to respond to questions, stimulating critical thinking and active participation. Other learners will be given the opportunity to answer questions from their friends. If the question is not answered by his friend, he will direct or ask for an answer from the teacher. This question and answer can activate the audience in thinking, and can motivate the audience to be active.



Figure 2. Implementation of community service offline in Kadipiro RW 13 Surakarta

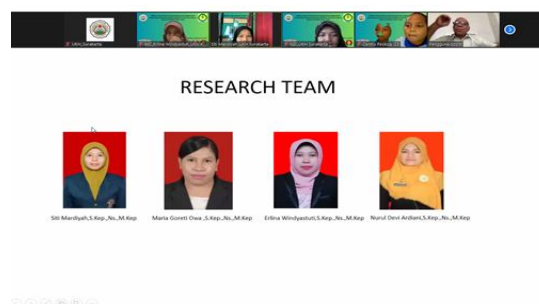


Figure 3. Implementation of community service offline in Timor-Leste

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

a. Result

The community service program on violence prevention through comic-based education was implemented successfully from December 2023 to February 2024. Activities took place both offline in Surakarta and online with participants from Timor-Leste. A total of 20 mothers with children joined the sessions. Evaluation results showed that participants achieved an average knowledge level of 85%, indicating a significant improvement in their understanding of violence prevention.

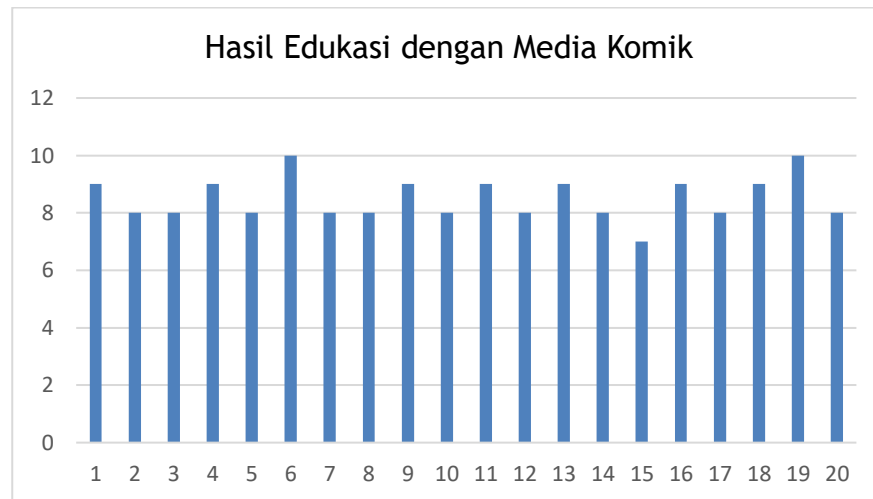


Figure 4. Educational results with Comic Media

b. Discussion

Comic books are typically short stories, ranging from 32 to 64 pages, with simple and easy-to-understand content, which makes them popular among both children and adults (Simbolon, 2021). Comics are practical, flexible, and easy to store or carry. Many children enjoy reading comics because the stories are relatable to their daily environment, making them easier to comprehend (Hevria, 2021). Cartoon-style illustrations, with their strong visual appeal, also capture children's attention, allowing them to understand the storyline even without reading all the text (Lanti, 2017). Parents who read comics to children can make children enthusiastic in receiving the values in the comics. Reading in a style that suits the comic's content can increase children's attention.

Revious studies with elementary school students showed that using comics as an educational medium effectively increased knowledge, particularly in preventing bullying. However, students initially appeared anxious about participating in the learning process. The use of comic-based education can serve as an alternative for teachers to create a more engaging and enjoyable learning atmosphere, thereby helping students understand the material more effectively (Mardiyah, S. et al., 2023). Similar research that has been conducted previously on elementary school students using comic media can effectively improve the reading comprehension skills of elementary school students (Lestari et al., 2022). Educational Media by using this comic, is to have an attractive appearance with pictures, so that students become more enthusiastic

about following education. So that it can make the lesson more interesting and children more interested.

Providing education using comic media on self-efficacy in preventing sexual violence in school-age children at SDN 3 Batubulan Kangin in 2019 is effective in increasing student knowledge (Sipahutar, 2020). Comics are much liked by children, because it has a daya and an appeal when viewed from a light and interesting story, so that they can be used as a medium in conveying material with an interesting. The advantages of comic media are based on its presentation that contains an unsurpassable element and powerful story, comics are also presented in a concise and easily accepted format, and comics also have images that can improve learning, so that children become more enthusiastic. Development of comic media in learning science subjects with various work topics with effective, practical, and effective categories that can be used in the learning (Emilia et al., 2022). The feasibility test of digital comic media for learning is reviewed based on validation from ahli ahli material experts. that Digital comic products are feasible to use because, based on the determination that produkmedia products are said to be feasible if the results of the assessment meet at least one criterion, good criteria (Salahuddin et al., 2020).

The implementation of education in individuals can increase knowledge so that it can have an impact on behavior for the better. Providing education using comic media can increase students' knowledge about hand washing (Ridha et al., 2016) .Education used by media comic books is effective in helping students ' behavior to be better in choosing snacks and hygienic canteens (Masri et al., 2019). Education using comics can improve students ' literacy skills very effectively during the learning process (Purwanto et al., 2022). Parents who teach their children good behavior can foster good behavior in them. Parents are a crucial foundation in shaping children's behavior.

6. CONCLUSION

Comic-based educational activities were found to be effective in enhancing mothers' understanding of child violence prevention. After the program, mothers demonstrated significantly higher awareness and understanding, with an overall knowledge increase of 85%. This program demonstrates that comics can serve as an engaging and practical medium for delivering educational messages. Continued efforts to provide similar initiatives are essential to further reduce the negative effects of violence and to ensure that children in Indonesia grow up in a safe and supportive environment, both mentally and physically.

Recommendations The importance of further research in developing methods to prevent child abuse in children.

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