

**The Relationship Between Information Access and Parental Understanding of Early Childhood Sexual Education**

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**Abstrak:** *The number of sexual violence against children in Indonesia continues to increase yearly, and most incidents of sexual violence occur in households and nearby places. They are perpetrated by people close to the child. So parents need to understand sex education for early childhood in order to prevent sexual violence experienced in early childhood. This study aimed to analyze the relationship between access to information obtained by parents on an understanding of early childhood sexual education. The method used in this research is descriptive with a quantitative approach. Data collection was carried out by observation, interviews, and questionnaires given to parents of early childhood at the Delima PAUD unit, Bengkulu City. The results showed that 57.78% of parents most often access information through social media, 33.33% through television, 4.44% through books, newspapers, and magazines, and 4.44% through radio. The data processing results using SPSS show a reasonably close relationship between access to information obtained by parents and understanding of early childhood sexual education. The more quality access to information obtained, the better understanding parents will have. The coefficient of determinant shows that access to information obtained by parents explains the understanding of early childhood sexual education by 19.9%, and other variables explain the remaining 80.1%.*

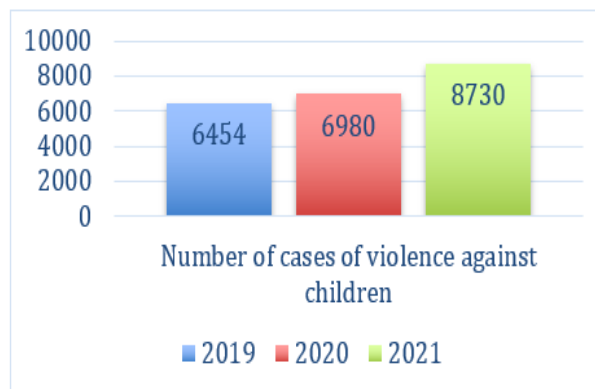
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**INTRODUCTION**

During the 2019-2021 period, violence against children continued to increase. Of course, this is getting worse with the condition of the Covid-19 pandemic that appeared in early 2020, making this number even more worrying. Data from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (The Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, 2020) from 2019 to the end of 2021 showed a significant increase. In 2019 there were 6454 cases, increasing to 6980 cases in 2020 and increasing to 8730 cases in 2021.



*Figure 1. Graph of Violence Rates in Children*

The types of violence that occur in children are dominated by sexual violence. In 2021 there were 4524 victims of sexual violence against children in Indonesia. Most incidents occurred in the household environment and nearby places and by people close to the child who committed the sexual violence (Alucyana, 2018; The Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, 2022). These data are only cases that have surfaced. It is suspected that there are still many victims of sexual violence that have not been uncovered and have not been reported to the authorities.

The high number of sexual violence experienced by children makes people concerned, especially those who are used to interacting directly with children. Parents, teachers at schools, the community, and practitioners in the field of education must certainly participate in maintaining and creating a friendly environment for early childhood. Of course, children who are victims of sexual violence must receive assistance because they are very vulnerable to deep trauma that can create pressure for a lifetime.

Bengkulu Police data from January to July 2020 recorded 105 cases of sexual violence experienced by children. It's sad that the perpetrators of sexual violence against children are the people closest to the child who also know the child (Antara News, 2020). Bengkulu City is the region in Bengkulu Province that has the most cases of sexual violence in early childhood. As an urban area, Bengkulu City does have faster information technology development, crowded centres, lots of entertainment venues, and a pluralistic society when compared to rural areas.

The involvement of many parties is needed to reduce the phenomenon of sexual violence against children, but education for each party who is directly involved and interacts with children needs to be done because it is suspected that ignorance and an indifferent attitude are the cause of the increasing number of cases of sexual violence that occur in early childhood. (Chairilsyah, 2019; Fang et al., 2022). Sex education from an early age is very important as a provision for young children to know about things that are important to them so they can defend and protect themselves from sexual crimes as a form of early protection. This is important so that children have a solid and courageous character to act in order to avoid crimes and sexual deviations (Soesilo, 2021).

In the family environment, parents are the closest people to children and have more time to interact with children, especially children at an early age who have a lot of interaction with their environment. The interaction starts from the nearest environment. Family education as an informal educational institution is the foundation for teaching sex education to children who also collaborate with formal educational institutions or schools, places where children learn

apart from the family environment. The role of parents is central in guiding and teaching children about early childhood sex education. So it is important to educate parents about this. Educational activities can be carried out directly or indirectly. Indirect education can be through existing public service advertisements, news spread through social media, television, print media and so on. Education can indirectly be based on information consumed by parents on a daily basis.

The development of internet technology is growing very rapidly; even for some people, it has become a primary need. According to a survey by the Association of Indonesian Internet Service Providers (APJII) that the most widely used devices are smartphones, and internet access is used 93.9% every day. Urban communities are dominant in internet penetration by 74.1%, and rural communities are around 61.6% of internet users. Even if users are aged 13-18 years, it is 99.16%. For ages 19-34 years, it is 98.64%, and users aged 35-54 years are 87.3% (Databoks, 2022). Parents who have children under six years old, on average, are in the age range of 19-34 years and 35-54 years, which are ranked in the second and third position with the most internet users in Indonesia.

Based on these data, the purpose of each person is different for accessing the internet. Some are just for entertainment, free time, looking for information, as a means of communication, online business and expressing opinions. Even to access information, some people still use certain media, for example, television, print media, radio, and social media, to access information. Of course, these choices are useful for indirect education if used properly, especially in accessing information about sexual education for early childhood.

Bengkulu Province as a province with a population of 2,010,670 people (BPS, 2021), has an internet user contribution of 0.6% to the national figure with a penetration of 85% of the total population in Bengkulu or the equivalent of 1.69 million people, making Bengkulu province has the largest percentage of penetration on the island of Sumatra. This data shows that the majority of the people of Bengkulu Province are already literate in internet technology, especially those of productive age.

Currently, there are several options for the public to access information, either through print or electronic media. Of course, high internet penetration rates can be put to good use to educate the public about the importance of sexual education for early childhood, and parents have good knowledge of early childhood sexual education so that they can equip their children about the importance of early childhood sexual education. But on the other hand, high internet penetration also has side effects, which actually become a new problem if not used wisely, for example, pornography.

Based on these data and facts, it is essential to know and analyze the relationship between access to information and parents' understanding of early childhood sexual education in PAUD Delima, Bengkulu City.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This study uses a descriptive method with a quantitative approach. Descriptive research uses interviews, questionnaires and observations to find out the current condition of the subject being studied, with the data obtained and explained according to the current situation. Meanwhile, quantitative research is a method used to examine specific populations or samples by collecting data using research instruments. The statistical data analysis is intended to answer the predetermined hypothesis (Sugiyono, 2017). This study uses a simple correlation analysis between two variables.

After testing the hypothesis and obtaining results to determine the closeness of the relationship using Guilford criteria.

*Table 1. Guilford Interpretation Criteria Correlation*

Coefficient	Correlation
< 0.20	Very small relationship and can be ignored
$0.20 \leq - < 0.40$	Small relationship (not close)
$0.40 \leq - < 0.70$	Adequate relationship
$0, 70 \leq - < 0.90$	Close relationship
$0.90 \leq - < 1.00$	Very close relationship

Source: Guilford in (Zarkasyi, 2015)

Respondents were 45 people consisting of parents (fathers and/or mothers) of students at PAUD Delima Bengkulu City.

*Table 2. Research Variables and Indicators*

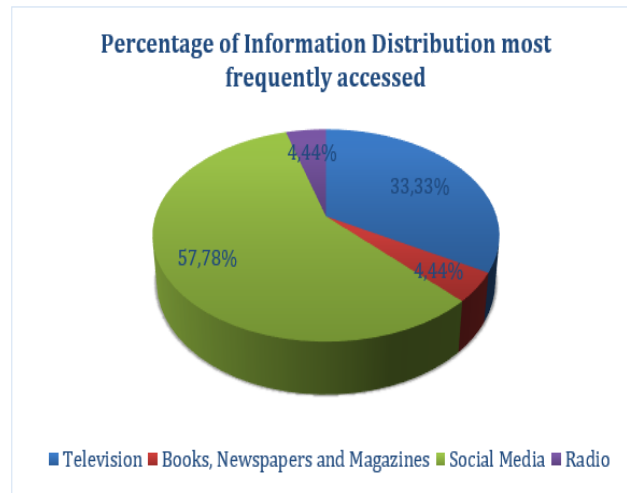
Variable	Indicator
<b>Access to Information Modification</b> (Sutabri, 2016)	Time
	from
	Accurate
	Relevant
<b>Parents' Understanding of Early Childhood Sexual Education</b> (Pradikto et al., 2022)	Complete
	The concept of sexual education
	Self defence from threats of sexual violence
	Maintaining AUD sexual health
	The appropriate response to symptoms of sexual violence AUD

The questionnaire results given to the respondents were processed by first converting the nominal data into intervals using the *Successive Interval Method* (MSI). Then the data were processed using the SPSS application version 25.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**Result**

The following is the most frequently accessed information data by respondents to obtain information:



*Figure 2. Percentage of information distribution that is most frequently accessed*

Based on Figure 2, it is known that most respondents access information through social media with a percentage of 57.78%, television with a percentage of 33.33%, books, newspapers, and magazines with a percentage of 4.44% and radio with a percentage of 4.44%. This data shows that respondents spend the most time accessing information through social media than other media or devices because accessing social media is practical to access using only smartphones and laptop devices.

Observations of the respondents also show that each family has more than one access to information using different media. At least they have smartphones and televisions. Seven families have access to information with all available media, namely television, books, newspapers and magazines, social media (smartphones), and radio.

Based on the results of SPSS data processing regarding the correlation between access to information obtained by parents on the understanding of early childhood sexual education, the following results are obtained within in table 3

*Table 3. SPSS Output of Pearson Correlation Results*

		<b>Correlations</b>	
		Access to Information	Parents' Understanding of Early Childhood Sexual Education
Access to Information	Pearson Correlation	1	.446**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.002
	N	45	45
Parents' Understanding of Early Childhood Sexual Education	Pearson Correlation	.446**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002	
	N	45	45

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Based on the correlation value of access to information obtained by parents on understanding early childhood sexual education of 0.446, with a positive value. This means that the more often parents access information on the information tools used, the more understanding of early childhood sexual education will increase. The relationship between access to information that is often obtained by parents and understanding of early childhood sexual education, according to Guilford's rules, is included in the category of a fairly close relationship.

The next step is testing the hypothesis,

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no relationship between access to information obtained by parents on the understanding of early childhood sexual education.

H<sub>1</sub>: There is a relationship between access to information obtained by parents and understanding of early childhood sexual education.

Based on table 4, the probability value or sig. (2-tailed) of 0.002 or less than 0.01. Then H<sub>0</sub> is rejected, and the test is significant. This means that access to information obtained by parents closely relates to parents' understanding of sexual education in early childhood.

To find out how big the relationship is between access to information obtained by parents on the understanding of early childhood sexual education, it can be calculated using the determinant coefficient, with the formula:

$$Kd = r_{yx}^2 \times 100\%$$

So the coefficient of determination is (Kd)= (0.446)<sup>2</sup> x 100% = 19.9%. This means that access to information obtained by parents regarding the understanding of early childhood sexual education is 19.9%. So it can be said that parents access information through various information platforms, only 19.9% can explain parents' understanding of early childhood sexual education, while other variables explain 80.1%.

## **Discussion**

Use of social media is the most widely used access to information by parents who have early childhood at Delima PAUD Bengkulu City. This is related to the ease and access of the internet, which is increasingly flexible and to be used anywhere and anytime. Based on the results of research data processing using SPSS, the correlation of access to information obtained by parents on the understanding of early childhood sexual education is 0.446, with a positive value. This shows that the more often parents access information on information tools that are used wisely, the more understanding of early childhood sexual education will increase. The relationship between access to information often obtained by parents and understanding of early childhood sexual education is in the category of a reasonably close relationship. However, access to information by parents can only be explained by 19.9% of parents' understanding of early childhood sexual education. This shows that the use of tools to access information about sexual education for early childhood is still not maximized or has not focused on knowledge about the importance of sexual education for early childhood by parents. The use of devices owned by parents is still dominantly used for other things that are not looking for information about sexual education for early childhood. (Fowler et al., 2022) state that the use of social media, especially video sharing, continues to increase, but content about sexual education and sexual health has not become the user's top choice. Meanwhile, suppose it is mapped out in more detail. In that case, the content of sexual education that is much sought after is the relationship about a romance between husband and wife/man, not about school-based sex education or sex education at home, especially early childhood sex education.

This data is in accordance with a survey released by (Asosiasi Penyelenggara Jasa Internet Indonesia, 2022) that the content most frequently accessed by the public is social media at 89.15%, *online chat* at 73.86%, *online shopping* at 21.26%, online games at 14.23%, news portals /infotainment only 11.98%. This shows that the public does not use the use of the internet as a favourite choice for accessing information. Still, from the same data, the most frequently visited internet service content stated that 68.81% said they did not know or had never accessed public services/community services using the internet. Only 26.11% stated that they accessed the internet to access public health services (vaccines, hospitals, health information, BPJS and others).

Parents at PAUD Delima still view access to information on electronic devices as directed at entertainment and work matters. They have not yet become an educational information centre, especially regarding early childhood sexual education. There is a feeling of discomfort when parents receive information and discuss information about early childhood sexual education with the family environment. (Coffelt, 2017; Fang et al., 2022; Justicia, 2017; Nadar, 2017) revealed that the lack of knowledge about early childhood sexual education in the family environment and the fear of disappointment that parents feel for children and children for parents make the atmosphere not open when discussing sexual education, especially for early childhood.

Access to information using the internet, if appropriately managed, will have a positive impact. Holstrom (2015) states that the rapidly growing use of the internet has become one of the most extraordinary opportunities for people to access sexual education according to their development and needs so that people can easily find information about sexual education. There needs to be education for parents to access information via the internet to increase understanding of the importance of sex education for early childhood. Parents must also accompany their children in learning and playing, incredibly wisely, using technology so that it is not misused.

## **CLOSING**

### **Conclusion**

That 57.78% of parents of early childhood in PAUD Delima most often access information through social media, 33.33% through television, 4.44% through books, newspapers and magazines, and 4.44% through radio. The data processing results using SPSS show a reasonably close relationship between access to information obtained by parents and understanding of early childhood sexual education. The coefficient of determinant shows that access to information obtained by parents explains the understanding of early childhood sexual education by 19.9%, and other variables explain the remaining 80.1%. The most widely used access to information by parents is social media. The use of social media by the public has yet to become a favourite choice for accessing information and public services only for entertainment and communication in terms of work.

### **Suggestion**

For further research, other variables can be examined that influence parents' understanding of early childhood sex education, especially variables that have direct implications for parents, such as educational level, socio-economic, and matters related to parental communication and early childhood education institutions. In addition, there is a need for a model of sex education assistance so that parents understand the importance of teaching children about sex for early childhood according to their development. Parents can be more open and caring, so they do not feel taboo when discussing sexual matters with their children.

The importance of sex education for early childhood can be an early protector **for children to avoid sexual violence.**

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