

# Knowledge of Children Related to Reproductive Health to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse in Elementary Schools

Oktavia Nur Indaryati and Murfiah Dewi Wulandari (()

Faculity of Teacher and Education, Universitas Muhammdiyah Surakarta, Surakarta, Indonesia mwd278@ums.id

**Abstract.** To reduce the prevalence of sexually abusive behaviors toward children, the objective of this research was to assess the degree of the information held by students regarding reproductive health and readiness for puberty. This study uses quantitative research methods. Data collection is done through a questionnaire technique. The questionnaire was adopted and modified from the CKAQ-RIII research questionnaire. Data were analyzed using univariate tests through SPSS statistical program. Most respondents were female (51.9%) and male (48.1%). The average knowledge of respondents about the right touch is good (6.23%), while the intermediate knowledge of respondents about the wrong contact is still low (10.57%). This article can be used as a literature study on child sexual abuse education prevention. As part of an effort to reduce the prevalence of CSA in educational settings, this research investigated the level of understanding fifth and sixth graders have regarding suitable and inappropriate forms of physical contact. CSA prevention education programs are urgently needed in schools. Such as health education about reproduction and puberty.

**Keywords:** Child sexual abuse · Knowledge · Prevention

## 1 Introduction

Child sexual abuse has become a common problem in every country. Terry W Lawson describes violence against children as mental, physical, verbal, and sexual. Of all types of violence against children, the most common is sexual violence. Sexual harassment can occur anywhere, at any time, and for a variety of reasons. Sexual violence against children can be committed by anyone [1].

Teenage incidences of violence and sexual crimes are on the rise each year as a result of their lack of understanding of sex education, particularly when it comes to understanding reproductive health [2]. Based on data from the Online Information System for the Protection of Women and Children, cases of sexual violence in Indonesia until January 2022 there were 7,723 cases out of a total of 18,011 cases of violence [3]. Where violence occurred in schools, there were 644 cases. It was discovered that a total of 6,340 victims of violence who were affected by the event were between the ages of

13 and 17 years old. This age range accounted for the biggest number of victims of violence who were affected by the event. According to a report that was published on Kompas.com [4], according to the information that was gathered.

and stored by the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI), there were at least 12 instances of sexual violence against children that took place in educational institutions between the months of January and July of 2022. This information is based on the data that indicates there were at least 12 incidents. The data proves that violence also appears in the academic environment. This shows that an educational setting is no longer safe for students.

School is an educational institution that has an important role. School is a place to transfer knowledge and knowledge. More than that, schools are institutions to shape children into intelligent and moral generations [5]. At the same time, sex education is an effort to overcome the moral decline that must be considered.

In the human reproductive system context, "reproductive health" refers to a state of complete wellness in all aspects of one's body, mind, and social life. This encompasses more than just the absence of disease or incapacity [6]. Maintaining reproductive health in adolescence is essential. Because at this time, the sexual organs of teenagers have started to work actively.

A stage of development that occurs between childhood and adulthood and is known as adolescence. According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition, a person's development reaches its peak between the ages of 10 and 19 years old, and this period is referred to as a person's adolescence, while according to the BKKBN, adolescents are between the ages of 10 and 24 and are unmarried. During adolescence, cognitive, social, and biological changes occur [7]. One of the physical changes experienced in adolescence is the onset of puberty.

Puberty is a condition where the reproductive organs mature, and the ability to reproduce is achieved. During puberty, changes occur in each individual [8]. These changes have an impact on each individual. Hurlock [9] means puberty causes changes in behavior and attitudes in individuals.

With the changes experienced by adolescents, it is necessary to provide sex education, especially an understanding of reproductive health, so as not to cause problems for every teenager. The widespread information among teenagers regarding reproductive health makes them less prepared to approach puberty, which in turn gives birth to a myriad of problems that adolescents must deal with.

Several problems often occur in adolescents in the field of reproductive health. The most important thing is the problem of insufficient knowledge of adolescent reproductive health. The lack of information that adolescents receive is frequently the root cause of problems that arise in relation to their reproductive health. So that various kinds of problems arise, such as miscommunication, unwanted pregnancy (KTD), unsafe abortion, early marriage, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (PMS), and HIV/AIDS [10]. From the above problems, sex education is needed, especially an understanding of reproductive health for adolescents. So that students have the readiness to face puberty.

As the next generation, teenagers have great power in building the country in the future. With reproductive health, students can recognize reproductive organs and their functions, how to maintain their reproductive health, know the changes that occur in

themselves during puberty, are natural, and protect themselves from threatening sexual crimes [11]. It is important to provide sexual education to teenagers about the reproductive system's health in order to reduce the likelihood of them developing reproductive health issues later in life. This education will help them comprehend how to care for and watch out for their own reproductive health.

One of the things that can be done to minimize the possibility that children would be sexually abused is to provide them with sexual education. This is one of the measures that may be implemented. It is assumed that students can recognize instances of sexual harassment if they can demonstrate knowledge about inappropriate and inappropriate touching. This knowledge can be determined by asking students questions about inappropriate and inappropriate touching [12]. The CKAQ-RIII questionnaire will be used in Greek elementary schools in order to evaluate the efficacy of prevention programs as well as students' levels of knowledge regarding the prevention of sexual harassment [13]. Concur with Meng Yao, who stated in [14], that providing interventions does effectively increase knowledge of sexual violence in children.

Prevention of sexual violence against children is critical because it can provide security for children [15]. Therefore, sexual violence prevention programs must be age-appropriate and involve parents [16]. In Central Java, elementary school children can identify appropriate touch and inappropriate touch [17, 18].

It is believed that implementing a thorough sex education program has the potential to cut down on instances of sexual harassment and is an efficient method of preventing the problem [19–21]. However, the view that sex education is taboo for children is still an obstacle in sex education programs [22–27]. Sex education is not as taboo and immoral as people think, but sexual education can be incorporated into health education [28]. To reduce the prevalence of sexually abusive behaviors toward children, the objective of this research was to assess the degree of the information held by students regarding reproductive health and readiness for puberty.

## 2 Method

This study included 52 grades V and VI students from Karangasem II State Elementary School. Grades V and VI (aged 10–12 years) were chosen because students have reached puberty and can respond to questionnaires. The final sample included 25 males and 27 females.

CKAQ-RIII is a measuring instrument to identify children's knowledge about the abuse of instruction [29]. The CKAQ-RIII consists of 33 true and false questions about good touch and inappropriate touch. Inappropriate touching can lead to potential sexual interactions. The instrument includes both questions about inappropriate contact by a known person and questions that measure the knowledge children have already gained about child sexual abuse. The instrument is capable of measuring both of these aspects of abuse simultaneously. These factors can help prevent the instrument from being used inappropriately. In addition, the CKAQ-RIII covers touch that a child may execute without risk, such as a doctor who needs to examine a child's private areas.

This research was conducted in August 2022. A letter was sent to the Principal of SDN Karangasem II to obtain permission to conduct research. The participants in

this study were given background information regarding the goal of the investigation. Students are directed through the completion of the CKAQ-RIII questionnaire, which can be done either individually or collectively in the classroom. Approximately half an hour is needed to complete the questionnaire in its entirety. The researcher showed his gratitude to the students for their participation in the study by giving each of them a small gift as a token of his appreciation. Using the statistical application SPSS, frequency distribution and univariate tests were performed on the data. Children's results on the CKAQ-RIII were reported using descriptive statistics.

#### 3 Result and Discussion

Table 1 show there are a total of 51.9% female respondents and 48.7% male respondents. Table 2 displays the average score based on the various types of touches that were identified by all of the respondents. From all respondents, on average, they can identify the correct answer because it is the right touch, which is very good, namely 6.23%. In comparison, the average respondent can identify the wrong answer because of the inappropriate touch 4.94%.

Table 3 demonstrates that a majority of respondents (80.8% of the total) can correctly identify questionnaire number 26, as shown by the percentage of respondents who can do so. At the same time, they have yet to identify questionnaire no. 16; 78.8% of all respondents answered incorrectly.

Table 4 shows that 86.5% of the total respondents can correctly identify questionnaire number 10. At the same time, they have yet to identify questionnaire no. 20; 86.5% of all respondents answered incorrectly.

Table 5 shows that respondents can identify questionnaire no. 32 very well, namely 88.5% of the total respondents, while they have yet to be able to identify questionnaire no. 27, namely 90.4% of all respondents answered incorrectly.

All respondents were 52 people. As many as 25 (48.7%) respondents were male, and 27 (51.3%) were female. According to the findings of this research, the vast majority of the respondents are made up of females. According to the findings of the research, the level of knowledge possessed by the students regarding the ability to recognize

Gender	f	%
Man	25	48.7
woman	27	51.9

**Table 1.** Respondent's Gender (n = 52)

**Table 2.** The average score for each type of touch

Right Right Touch	True Inappropriate Touch	Wrong Touch Inappropriate
6.23%	4.94%	5.63%

**Table 3.** Respondent's responses regarding correct identification attributable to the proper touch (n = 52)

Items	Answer		
	Right f(%)	Wrong f(%)	
2	51 (98.1%)	1 (1.9%)	
4	39 (75%)	13 (25%)	
9	32 (61.5%)	20 (38.5%)	
16	11 (21.2%)	41 (78.8%)	
18	29 (55.8%)	23 (44.2%)	
21	30 (57.7%)	22 (42.3%)	
26	42 (80.8%)	10 (19.2%)	
28	34 (65.4%)	18 (34.6%)	
29	17 (32.7%)	35 (67.3%)	
33	39 (75%)	13 (25%)	

the appropriate response on the basis of the appropriate touch can be characterized as very good. Meanwhile, the student's ability to identify the correct answer was still low because of the inappropriate touch. Nevertheless, the student's ability to identify incorrect answers due to inappropriate touch was quite good. The identical investigation was also conducted in China by [30] and in the United States by [16], with understanding of proper and inappropriate touch, in particular.

In exploring inappropriate touch scales, the lower scores were likely due to developmental factors and difficulty in wording the items on the questionnaire, thus influencing the response. The item "You must always keep a secret" was found. Namely, 32 respondents answered incorrectly, while 20 other respondents answered correctly. It was further explained in another study that the difficulties that the whole age group had with the concept of secrecy were explained further. As a result of a lack of previous exposure to the idea of secrets, children in the age range of ten to twelve years old may have difficulty distinguishing between "good" and "bad" secrets; [31] however, as children get older, their ability to make this distinction improves [32].

Items	Answer		
	Right f(%)	Wrong f(%)	
5	23 (44.2%)	29 (55.8%)	
6	33 (63.5%)	19 (36.5%)	
7	32 (61.5%)	20 (38.5%)	
8	37 (71.2%)	15 (28.8%)	
10	45 (86.5%)	7 (13.5%)	
12	10 (19.2%)	42 (80.8%)	
14	18 (34.6%)	34 (65.4%)	
20	7 (13.5%)	45 (86.5%)	
23	31 59.6%)	21 (40.4%)	
24	13 (25%)	39 (75%)	
30	8 (15,4)	44 (84.6%)	

**Table 4.** Respondent's ressponses regarding correct identification due to improper touch (n = 52)

Cultural variables probably influence the part of the right touch that gets a lower score in Indonesia. Of course, in contrast to European countries that consider touch commonplace. In Indonesia, touch is still considered taboo. A recent study found that countries with warm climates generally prefer the emotional distance to colder climates [33].

Therefore, questions such as "Is it okay for someone you love to hug you?" and "Most children enjoy a kiss from their parents before bedtime" would be a nice touch for them. Children in elementary school may find it difficult to understand on a cultural level, in the context of the situation, and cognitively. In addition, the difficulties that can arise from the wording of certain questions can have an effect on the responses. According to a study [34], Children find it more challenging to comprehend and respond appropriately to questions that are phrased in a negative manner.

Expanding access to all-encompassing educational opportunities is one of the concrete steps that can be taken to bring down the overall rate of sexual assaults committed against children. The program's overarching goal is to prevent sexual misconduct against

Items	Answer		
	Right f(%)	Wrong f(%)	
1	20 (38.5%)	32 (61.2%)	
3	20 (38.5%)	32 (61.5%)	
11	29 (55.8%)	23 (44.2%)	
13	7 (13.5%)	45 (86.5%)	
15	15 (28.8%)	37 (71.2%)	
17	8 (15.4%)	44 (84.6%)	
19	40 (76.9%)	12 (32.1%)	
22	32 (61.5%)	20 (38.5%)	
25	26 (50%)	26 (50%)	
27	5 (13.5%)	47 (86.5%)	
31	45 (86.5%)	7 (13.5%)	
32	46 (88.5%)	6 (11.5%)	

Table 5. Parents' opinions regarding speaking and writing skills

children. Despite this, the program that educates people about sexuality still confronts a great deal of resistance. One of them is the perspective of parents who believe that teaching their children about sexuality is against the rules.

Although prevention programs for sexual abuse of children that are focused on children have not been widely implemented in schools, it is crucial to educate students about these concepts. As a result of research, it has been determined that the CKAQ-33 is appropriate for teaching the ideas of the CSA prevention education program [35].

## 4 Conclusion

Children already have identification knowledge, are aware of and know that there are appropriate and inappropriate touches made by other people, and know which private body parts may or may not be touched by other people. The findings of this study show

that children are aware of and know all of these things. Children are not yet capable of protecting themselves against sexual assault since they lack the necessary skills. Therefore, schools need to implement relevant CSA preventive education programs, such as health education regarding reproduction and puberty. When teaching a child, one must take into account their age to avoid impeding the child's intellectual growth. It is highly desirable that the implementation of the CSA preventive education program incorporates the participation of all relevant parties, beginning with the government, followed by schools, and finally the community.

**Acknowledgements.** The author wishes to thank Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta for funding and supporting this research. The author also thanks Leslie M. Tutty, Ph. D., for her assistance in utilizing the CKAQ-RIII assessment tool for children, as well as the teachers and children who participated in this study

**Author's Contributions.** The first author participated in the research and development of the article through data collection, compilation, and writing. It was with the help of the second author that the article was revised and polished to perfection.

## References

- I. Aulia, D., Tan, S A., & Fidiawati, "Peranan Penting Keluarga atau Orang Tua dalam Pencegahan Kasus Pelecehan Seksual pada Anak [The Important Role of Families or Parents in Preventing Cases of Sexual Abuse in Children]," Semin. Nas. Hukum, Soaial, dan Ekon., vol. 1, no. 1, 2022, [Online]. Available: http://jurnal.umsu.ac.id/index.php/sanksi/article/view/10113
- 2. I. Chasanah, "Psikoedukasi Pendidikan Seks untuk Meningkatkan Sikap Orangtua dalam Pemberian Pendidikan Seks [Sex Education Psychoeducation to Improve Parents' Attitudes in Providing Sex Education]," *J. Interv. Psikol.*, vol. 10, no. 2, 2018, doi: https://doi.org/10.20885/intervensipsikologi.vol10.iss2.art5.
- S. PPA, Data Kasus Kekerasan di Indonesia [Data on Violence Cases in Indonesia]. 2022.
  [Online]. Available: https://drc-simfoni.kemenpppa.go.id/ringkasan
- 4. I. Helmi, "KPAI Catat Ada 12 Kasus Kekerasan terhadap Anak di Satuan Pendidikan Pada Januari-Juli 2022 [KPAI Records 12 Cases of Violence against Children in Education Units in January-July 2022]," Kompas TV, Jul. 2022. [Online]. Available: https://www.kompas.tv/article/312105/kpai-catat-ada-12-kasus-kekerasan-seksual-terhadap-anak-di-satuan-pendidikan-pada-januari-juli-2022
- N. Abu, Ahmadi., & Ubhiyati, Ilmu Pendidikan [Educational Science]. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 2001.
- WHO, Kesehatan Reproduksi Wanita [Women's Reproductive Health]. Jakarta: Salemba Medika, 2013.
- 7. Marmi, Kesehatan Reproduki [Reproduction Health]. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2013.
- 8. F. Firdayati, F., Ella, F.Z., & Elia, "Pengembangan Media Layanan Informasi Menghadapi Perubahan Masa Pubertas bagi Siswa Sekolah Dasar [Development of Information Service Media in Facing the Changes of Puberty for Elementary School Students]," *J. Kaji. Bimbing. dan Konseling*, vol. 1, no. 4, pp. 142–147, 2016, [Online]. Available: http://journal2.um.ac.id/index.php/jkbk/article/view/607/374

- 9. E. . Hurlock, *Psikologi Perkembangan Suatu Pendekatan Sepanjang Rentang Kehidupan (Developmental Psychology an Approach Throughout the Life Span)*. Jakarta: Erlangga, 1991.
- & S. Senja, Andika O., Yuni, Puji W., "Tingkat Pengetahuan Remaja Tentang Kesehatan Reproduksi [Adolescent Knowledge Level About Reproductive Health]," *J. Keperawatan*, vol. 12, no. 1, 2020, [Online]. Available: https://journal.stikeskendal.ac.id/index.php/Kepera watan/article/view/699/416
- 11. R. Layyin, M., Elfi, Y., Widyaningrum, *Remaja dan Kesehatan Reproduksi [Youth and Reproductive Health]*. Jogjakarta: STAIN Ponorogo, 2009.
- 12. S. K. Wurtele, "Preventing sexual abuse of children in the twenty-first century: Preparing for challenges and opportunities," *J. Child Sex. Abus.*, vol. 18, no. 1, pp. 1–18, 2009, doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/10538710802584650.
- S. A. Gangos, C J., Chrysanthi, N., & Fotini, "Adaptation and Psychometric Evaluation of the Children's Knowledge of Abuse Questionnaire (CKAQ-RIII) in Greek Elementary School Children," J. Child Sex. Abus., 2018, doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2018.1538175.
- W. Lu, Meng yao., Jane, Barlow., & Yumeng, "School-based Child Sexual Abuse Interventions: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis," *J. Interpers. Violance*, 2022, [Online]. Available: https://doi.org/10.1177/10497315221111393
- 15. L. M. Tutty, "Children's Knowledge of Abuse Questionnaires (CKAQ)-Short: Two Brief Ten-Item Measures of Knowledge about Child Sexual Abuse Concepts," *J. Child Sex. Abus.*, 2019, doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2019.1688443.
- 16. Kenny, Maureen C., Alena, "Mothers Attitudes Toward Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in Schools: A Preliminary Examination," *J. Child Adolesc. Trauma*, 2021, [Online]. Available: https://link.springer.com/article/https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-021-00361-1
- 17. M. Wulandari, M. D., Widhayanti, A., Hidayat, M. T., Fathoni, A., & Abduh, "Identifikasi Pengetahuan Dan Keterampilan Perlindungan Diri Anak Dari Pelecehan Seksual Di SD Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta [Identification of Knowledge and Skills in Protecting Children from Sexual Harassment in SD Muhammadiyah 1 Surakarta]," *Profesi Pendidik. Dasar*, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 61–68, 2019, doi: https://doi.org/10.23917/ppd.v1i1.8374.
- & S. Wulandari, M. D., Hanurawan, F., Chusniyah, T., "Children's Knowledge and Skills Related to Self-Protection from Sexual Abuse in Central Java Indonesia," *J. Child Sex. Abus.*, pp. 1–14, 2020, doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2019.1703231.
- 19. B. Suyanto, *Problem Pendidikan dan Anak Korban Tindak Kekerasan [Educational Problems and Children Victims of Violence]*. Yogyakarta: Suluh Media, 2018.
- I. Topping, K., & Barron, "School-based child sexual abuse prevention programmes: A review of effectiveness," vol. 79, no. 1, pp. 431–463, 2009, doi: https://doi.org/10.3102/003465430 8325582.
- A. Walsh, K., Zw, i K., Woolfenden, S., & Shlonsky, "School-Based Education Programs for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse: A Cochrane Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis," *Res. Soc. Work Pract.*, pp. 1–23, 2015, doi: https://doi.org/10.1177/1049731515619705.
- 22. L. R. Bennett, "Zina and the enigma of sex education for Indonesian Muslim youth," *Sex Educ.*, vol. 7, no. 4, pp. 371–386, 2007, doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/14681810701635970.
- K. Buck, A. Parrotta, "Students teach sex education: introducing alternative conceptions of sexuality," Sex Educ., vol. 12, no. 1, pp. 67–80, 2014, doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/14681811. 2013.830968.
- 24. I. Islawati, I., & Paramastri, "Program 'Jari Peri' sebagai Pelindung Anak dari Kekerasan Seksual ['Fairy Finger' Program as a Child Protector from Sexual Violence]," *J. Psikol.*, vol. 42, no. 2, pp. 115–128, 2015, doi: https://doi.org/10.22146/jpsi.7167.
- K. a. Mkumbo, "Students' attitudes towards school-based sex and relationships education in Tanzania," *Health Educ. J.*, vol. 73, no. 6, pp. 642–656, 2014, doi: https://doi.org/10.1177/ 0017896913510426.

- R. Naz, "Sex Education in Fiji," pp. 664–687, 2014, doi: https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-013-9204-3.
- 27. M. A. Paramastri, I. Priyanto, "Early Prevention Toward Sexual Abuse on Children," vol. 37, no. 1, pp. 1–12, 2010, doi: https://doi.org/10.22146/jpsi.7688.
- 28. O. B. Martinez, L J., Carcedo, J R., Fuertes, A., Vicario, M I., Fernandez, Fuertes A A, "Sex education in Spain: teachers' views of obstacles," *Sex Educ.*, vol. 12, no. 4, pp. 425–436, 2012, doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/14681811.2012.691876.
- L. M. Tutty, "The Revised Children's Knowledge of Abuse Questionaire: Development of a Measure of Children's Understanding of Sexual Abuse Prevention Concepts," Soc. Work Res., vol. 19, no. 2, 1995.
- X. Zhang, W., Chen, J., Feng, Y., Li J., Zhao, X., & Luo, "Young children's knowledge and skills related to sexual abuse prevention: A pilot study in Beijing, China," *Child Abuse Negl.*, 2013, doi: https://doi.org/10.1177/1049731513510409.
- K. Gordon, H M., Lyon, T D., & Lee, "Social and Cognitive Factors Associated With Children's Secret-Keeping for a Parent," *Child Dev.*, vol. 85, no. 6, pp. 2374–2388, 2014, doi: https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12301.
- 32. A. J. Anagnostaki, L., Wright, M.J., & Bourchier-Sutton, "The Semantics of Secrecy: Young Children's Classification of Secret Content," *J. Genet. Psychol.*, vol. 171, no. 4, pp. 279–299, 2010, doi: https://doi.org/10.1080/00221325.2010.493186.
- J. Sorokowska, A., Sorokowski, P., Hilpert, P., Cantarero, K., Frackowiak, T., Ahmadi, K., Pierce, J., & D, "Preferred Interpersonal distances: A Global Comparison," *J. Cross. Cult. Psychol.*, vol. 48, pp. 1–16, 2017, doi: https://doi.org/10.1177/0022022117698039.
- J. Borgers, N., de Leeuw, E., & Hox, "Children as Respondents in Survey Research: Cognitive Development and Response Quality," vol. 66, no. 1, pp. 60–75, 2000, doi: https://doi.org/10. 1177/075910630006600106.
- 35. J. Czerwinski, F., Finne E., Kolip P & Alfes, "Effectiveness of a School-Based Intervention to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse: Evaluation of the German IGEL Program," *Child Abuse Negl.*, vol. 86, pp. 109–182, 2018, doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.08.023.

**Open Access** This chapter is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), which permits any noncommercial use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made.

The images or other third party material in this chapter are included in the chapter's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the chapter's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder.

