



## Teachers' Efforts in Preventing Sexual Harassment in SDN 1 Watubelah Students

Fikriyah<sup>1</sup>, Dzela Putri Priatna<sup>2</sup>, Nita Zulviani<sup>3</sup>

University of Muhammadiyah Cirebon, Indonesia, email: fikriyah245@gmail.com

**Abstract.** This study aims to find out how teachers' efforts in preventing sexual harassment in children in elementary schools. This study used qualitative research methods. In this type of descriptive research approach, the instruments in this study used interview instruments. The data collection techniques used were interviews and documentation. The subject of this study was one of the teachers at Watubelah 1 Public Elementary School. The results and discussion obtained from conducting this research are that teachers at SDN 1 Watubelah have made efforts to prevent sexual harassment of elementary school students. The efforts of teachers at SDN 1 Watubelah to prevent this are by 1) strict selection of teachers, 2) giving sexual education to children, 3) giving sanctions to perpetrators, and 4) creating a sense of security at school for students.

**Keywords:** Prevention, Teacher, Abuse, Sexual, And Children

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### INTRODUCTION

Children are the nation's next generation who will continue the nation's struggle. The government and those around them should protect children. However, the problem is that every year, cases of sexual abuse in children increase. Only a few cases of child sexual abuse are known to the broader community, while the rest are many more cases that have not been revealed or known.

Therefore, teachers must continue to prevent cases of sexual abuse in children from happening again. Victims of sexual harassment usually prefer to hide what has happened to them rather than having to tell those around them. Teachers and parents must teach children what they should be if they get unwanted treatment.

Meanwhile, quoted from the [pusiknas.polri.go.id](https://pusiknas.polri.go.id) page, judging from the official website of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Kemen PPPA) received 10,727 reports of cases of violence against women and children. A total of 11,604 people were victims of violence from January to June 2022. From these data, the number of children who become

victims is more than adults. As many as 56.5% of children became victims, while adult victims accounted for 43.5% of the data.

Sexual violence against children, both girls and boys, indeed should not be left alone. Sexual violence against children is a violation of morals and law, as well as physical and psychological injury (Noviana, 2015). Sexual violence in children hurts the future and life of the child. The adverse effects received by children who experience sexual violence include traumatic children who cannot be loss of memory, experience stress, depression, guilt towards themselves, not even wanting to interact with others, and many more impacts obtained by children from sexual violence.

Child sexual abuse can occur anywhere and anytime. Thus, teachers and parents play an essential role in providing understanding and direction so that children do not become victims or even perpetrators of sexual abuse themselves. There is one case of sexual harassment that occurred at SDN 1 Watubelah that has not been so severe, such as touching limbs that should not be touched because the student did not know that these things were wrong and were used as jokes for students. Therefore, this study aims to determine the efforts of teachers in preventing sexual violence against children in elementary schools.

## **METHOD**

The qualitative method used in this study is qualitative. Qualitative research is a natural approach, and the data generated from qualitative research is descriptive. This research was conducted in one of the schools in the Cirebon area, namely Sekolah Dasar Negeri 1 Watubelah. The subject in this study was one of the Sekolah Dasar Negeri 1 Watubelah teachers. The instrument used in this study is an interview. An interview is a conversation between two or more people conducted by the interviewer and the source to obtain information that the interviewer wants to know. The tools used in the interview are stationery and a list of interview questions. Techniques used to collect this research data are interviews and documentation.

## **DISCUSSION**

Sexual violence is a serious crime. The impact is also huge, especially for victims. Therefore, the school must be severe in dealing with this, such as establishing cooperation with various parties, namely parents, the community, health facilities, etc. All parties can take care of each other and supervise each other so that sexual violence does not occur in the elementary school environment. Through this collaboration, it can prevent sexual violence in schools so that students can receive education safely and comfortably to grow into a great generation in the

future.

According to UNICEF, child sexual abuse can be:

1. Indecent treatment from others,
2. Activities that lead to pornography,
3. Pornographic words and acts of harassment of the child's sexual organs,
4. Obscene acts and sexual intercourse on children committed by others without responsibility,
5. Encouraging or coercing children into unlawful sexual activities such as involving children in prostitution.

Based on the results of an interview by the author with one of the teachers at SDN 1 Watubelah, there is one case of harassment that occurred in grade 6 that recently occurred in January 2023. The sexual harassment case, such as one student joking by holding a part of a student's body that just no one should hold. The impact that occurs to the victim is that the victim feels angry and disappointed with the perpetrator. Meanwhile, the impact on the perpetrator after doing this is that the perpetrator feels remorse and promises not to repeat the act and try to improve himself.

The steps taken by the school are to assist victims so that victims are not traumatized or at least reduce the trauma felt by victims. In addition, victims are also given more attention and directions so that they can recover as before. After the case, the school tried to prevent students from experiencing sexual harassment cases again. Providing sexual education to students is one of the school's efforts to prevent cases such as sexual harassment of elementary school children.

Sexual education conducted at SDN 1 Watubelah is usually given outside of learning hours on Saturdays. The provision of sexual education is aired through PowerPoint by their respective homeroom teachers. Sexual education is an effort to guide, coach, and understand given by teachers to children about sexual problems that aim to close all possibilities towards sexual deviations.

Sexual education provided to children includes explanations of the function of male and female genitals, body parts that must be protected, and how to guard themselves against people who intend badly to commit sexual violence or abuse. KPAI deputy chairman Susanto emphasized that with knowledge about sex, children can refuse, avoid, and complain to the closest person if there is someone who commits sexual crimes (Rezkisari: 2015).

Sex education not only teaches about preventing sexual violence committed by strangers, sex education also teaches children to maintain the health of their genitals to avoid sexual

deviance (Counterman & Kirkwood: 2013). Therefore, education about sexual education to children can prevent sexually deviant behavior and reduce the number of people with venereal diseases.

The way schools prevent sexual violence is by:

- 1) Rigorous teacher selection. Ensure that the teacher has good qualifications, choose teachers who not only have teaching skills but also have good morals so that teachers can be role models for their students. So that teachers can prevent students from committing sexual violence.
- 2) Provision of sexual education. Give students an understanding of the body parts that must be protected that their body belongs to them and that no one can touch them without their own permission. Also give the child an understanding that no one should see or hold his private body parts or someone ask himself to show and hold other people's private body parts.
- 3) Sanctioning perpetrators. If the violation is not too severe, sanctions are given in the form of warnings and assistance so that the perpetrator can realize that what he did was a wrong act and harmed others. However, if the violation is severe, strict sanctions can be given in the form of reporting the perpetrator to the authorities.
- 4) Creating a safe environment in schools. If the school has created a safe environment, cases of sexual violence can be prevented.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion of the research that has been described, it can be concluded that teachers at SDN 1 Watubelah have tried so that sexual harassment of elementary school students does not happen again. These prevention efforts include selecting teachers who will teach at the school strictly, providing sexual education or education to children, sanctioning perpetrators of sexual harassment, and creating a safe environment in schools. With these prevention efforts, the school hopes that children are protected and can protect themselves from people who intend to be unkind to them.

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