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The Role of Early Childhood Education Study Program in Enhancing Prospective Teachers' Ability to Address Child Violence (Case Study at Mohammad Husni Thamrin University Jakarta)

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ABSTRAK:

This study aims to investigate the role of the Early Childhood Education (PAUD) study program at Mohammad Husni Thamrin University Jakarta in enhancing prospective teachers' ability to address child violence. This study employs a case study method with interview and document analysis techniques. The results show that the PAUD study program has prepared prospective teachers to address child violence through several courses and field experiences. The PAUD study program also collaborates with other institutions to enhance students' abilities. However, there are still some challenges faced, such as limited resources and differences in student abilities. This study is expected to contribute to the development of the PAUD study program and the improvement of early childhood education quality.

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1. Introduction

Child violence has become a serious concern recently, with an increasing number of cases of violence experienced by children in various forms. News spread through the media and incidents of child violence are becoming more prevalent and occurring around us (Dewi, 2024; Zulfikar, 2023; Yla/Fra, 2023). Like many other countries, Indonesia faces problems of violence and neglect of children, child exploitation. As a reaction to this situation, people from various backgrounds have shown serious concern and proposed legal rules that will guarantee and ensure the welfare of children. Some common types of violence include physical, psychological, sexual, and neglect. The impact can be very large, both physically, emotionally, and socially, and can cause long-term trauma. The victims are diverse, ranging from adults, adolescents, and even early childhood. While the perpetrators are also unpredictable, ranging from strangers, peers, close friends, and even family members. Throughout 2022, there were 9,588 cases related to child sexual violence (Yla/Fra, 2023). This condition can be said to be an emergency in Indonesia, with physical, mental, and sexual violence. The problem of sexual violence in Indonesia requires special handling and long-term resolution because the number of child sexual violence cases is quite large, with the most vulnerable age being under 5 years old (Zulfikar, 2023). Therefore, increasing knowledge is also expected to be an alternative solution that can increase awareness of violence.

According to WHO, child violence is an act of abuse or mistreatment of a child in the form of physical, emotional, or sexual harm, neglect of care, and exploitation for commercial purposes that can clearly or potentially harm the child's health, survival, dignity, or development. Child violence can cause physical and psychological problems in children later on. Physically, it may be visible from the child's body with signs of violence. Psychologically, children who are victims of violence can experience mental problems such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and psychosis (Febriana, Early, 2025).

Child violence has become an unending phenomenon, with cases and victims increasing every year, according to data from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI). This situation is a serious alarm that requires immediate attention from the government to achieve the vision of Golden Indonesia 2045. In 2024, KPAI received 2,057 reports related to child rights violations, with the most cases involving:

a. Family environment and alternative care: 1,097 cases
b. Child sexual abuse: 265 cases
c. Education and culture: 241 cases
d. Physical and psychological violence: 241 cases
e. Pornography and cybercrime: 40 cases

Alarmingly, children under the age of five are the most vulnerable, accounting for 518 cases. Ironically, most cases involve parents, specifically biological fathers (259 cases) and biological mothers (173 cases). Other cases involve schools (85 cases) and law enforcement officials (70 cases).

The Indonesian government needs to take concrete steps to address this issue and ensure the well-being and protection of children. This includes strengthening child protection laws, providing support services for victims, and increasing public awareness about the importance of child protection. By working together, we can create a safer and more protective environment for Indonesian children to thrive.

Combating child violence is a collective responsibility that requires a multi-stakeholder approach, involving government, civil society, academia, businesses, and communities. Efforts to address child violence should focus on both rehabilitation and prevention. Child violence is a serious violation of human rights that can have long-term consequences for a child's development.

Education and awareness-raising are crucial in preventing child violence. Parents need to be vigilant and provide adequate attention to their child's behavior, as well as the surrounding environment. Child violence can take many forms, including physical, psychological, and sexual abuse.To protect children from violence, it is essential to provide them with guidance and direct protection from parents. When parents understand their role and fulfill it maximally, children are more likely to have a strong psychological bond with them and be open to their guidance. This is in line with research that suggests that involving parents in early childhood education can facilitate a stronger relationship between children and parents. A good relationship between parents and children, as well as cooperation between teachers and parents, can help prevent child violence. The family plays a vital role in shaping a child's development, and their involvement is essential in preventing and addressing child violence.

Early childhood education (ECE) is a critical foundation for children's development, and ECE teachers play a vital role in preventing and addressing child violence. To create a safe learning environment, teachers should have counseling competencies that enable them to identify and respond to child violence effectively. By working together, we can create a safer and more supportive environment for children to thrive. Early Childhood Education (ECE) teachers play a crucial role in preventing and addressing child violence. Therefore, ECE teachers need to have the ability to identify signs of violence, prevent violence, and handle violence effectively. Creating a safe and supportive educational environment for young children is essential.

The ECE study program, as a producer of prospective ECE teachers, has a strategic role in enhancing the ability of prospective teachers to address child violence. The program should equip prospective teachers with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to identify, prevent, and handle child violence. The role of the ECE study program should be able to:

a. Increase prospective teachers' understanding and awareness of the importance of preventing child violence
b. Equip prospective teachers with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to identify, prevent, and handle child violence
c. Create a safe and supportive educational environment for young children

To achieve this, the ECE study program can implement the following strategies:

a. Integrate material on preventing child violence into the curriculum
b. Provide training and workshops to enhance prospective teachers' ability to address child violence
c. Encourage parental and community involvement in preventing child violence

The ECE study program can also focus on three levels of prevention:

a. Primary prevention: improving parenting styles and preventing child abuse
b. Secondary prevention: providing education to high-risk groups

c. Tertiary prevention: enhancing integrated child care involving all components, including family and community

By implementing these strategies, the ECE study program can prepare prospective teachers with the necessary competencies and professionalism to:

a. Address child violence effectively

b. Create a safe and supportive educational environment for young children

c. Equip prospective teachers with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to identify, prevent, and handle child violence.

The goals of the ECE study program can be achieved by:

a. Increasing prospective teachers' ability to address child violence

b. Equipping prospective teachers with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to overcome child violence

c. Creating a safe and supportive educational environment for young children.

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) study program plays a vital role in enhancing prospective teachers' ability to address child violence and creating a safe and supportive educational environment for young children. This study aims to discuss the role of the ECE study program in enhancing prospective teachers' ability to address child violence.

Child violence cases in educational settings are unacceptable, as ECE institutions are designed to provide comprehensive care and education for young children. Comprehensive care includes educational services, nurturing, health, nutrition, and protection to ensure optimal child development. Integrated services involve providing care to children, families, and communities as a unified whole.

Handling violence in educational settings requires special attention to create an inclusive and safe learning environment. Cases of violence in schools and how schools handle them indicate that education stakeholders have a significant role in preventing or addressing violence. However, education stakeholders often lack the authority to fulfill this role.

Education stakeholders have the power and authority, but they are hesitant to use it to take action that can reduce or prevent child violence in schools. Their roles, tasks, and functions are clearly defined in government regulations. Preparing prospective teachers through the ECE study program is essential, as teachers are professionals who require knowledge, skills, and expertise to perform their duties effectively. Therefore, research is needed to analyze the role of the ECE study program in preparing prospective teachers to prevent child violence.

The expected outcome of this research is to provide insight into the role of the ECE study program in preparing competent teachers and developing strategic steps to anticipate changes. By doing so, the ECE study program can play a crucial role in preventing child violence and creating a safe and supportive educational environment for young children.

The general objective of this research is to investigate how the Early Childhood Education (ECE) undergraduate program at Mohammad Husni Thamrin University prepares its graduates as prospective ECE teachers to address child violence issues. Specifically, this research aims to:

1. Analyze the course materials related to child violence prevention.
2. Describe the provision of training programs and parenting activities for students.
3. Describe the provision of comprehensive skills training for students to deal with children.

2. Methodology

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method, which is a type of research design that is commonly used to study objects in their natural or real-life settings without manipulation. The descriptive research method aims to provide a systematic, factual, and accurate description of the facts, properties, and relationships between phenomena being investigated (Nazir & Sikmumbang, 2009).

Data for this research will be collected through interviews, observations, and documentation. The primary source of data is the Head of the Early Childhood Education Study Program. Primary data will be obtained through structured interviews, where the interviewer will ask questions to explore answers and gather more detailed information.This research will be conducted at Mohammad Husni Thamrin University in Jakarta.

3. Result And Discussion

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) study program plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of early childhood education and producing competent and professional ECE teachers. The program's key roles include:

1. Preparing students to become competent and professional ECE teachers.
2. Developing a relevant curriculum and preparing students to teach young children.
3. Conducting research and development in ECE to improve education quality.
4. Providing training and mentoring to the community on ECE importance and implementation.
5. Collaborating with ECE institutions, government, and organizations to enhance education quality.

The ECE study program should equip students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to teach young children effectively, develop relevant curricula, and facilitate children's learning. ECE teachers must be patient, caring, and able to handle children's unique needs and problems. One critical issue ECE teachers face is child violence, which can occur in families, schools, or communities. The ECE study program should provide students with knowledge and skills to prevent and address child violence, including:

1. Educating students about child violence prevention and handling.
2. Developing curricula that cover child rights, violence prevention, and case handling.
3. Conducting research on child violence and developing effective prevention strategies.
4. Collaborating with ECE institutions, government, and organizations to raise awareness and respond to child violence.
5. Providing training and mentoring to the community on child violence prevention.

According to an interview with the Head of the ECE study program at Mohammad Husni Thamrin University, the program prepares students to address child violence through various courses, including "Parent and Community Involvement." This course covers:

1. Identifying signs of child violence.
2. Handling child violence cases effectively and professionally.
3. Preventing child violence.

The program also collaborates with relevant institutions, such as HIMPAUDI and community organizations, to provide field experiences for students. The ECE study program integrates child violence material into its curriculum, aiming to increase students' awareness and ability to handle child violence cases. The program's learning methods include:

1. Theoretical lectures.
2. Case studies and discussions.
3. Project-based learning.
4. Teaching practice and simulation.

The program collaborates with schools and professional associations to provide opportunities for students to practice teaching and gain field experience. The program also faces challenges, such as limited resources, varying student abilities, and rapid technological changes. To overcome these challenges, the program implements:

1. Curriculum improvements.
2. Academic guidance.
3. Fieldwork experiences.
4. Group discussions and project-based learning.

The program conducts regular assessments to evaluate student competence and provides feedback to improve student abilities. The program also faces challenges in increasing practical and theoretical abilities of students. Overall, the ECE study program plays a crucial role in preparing competent and professional ECE teachers who can contribute positively to early childhood education.

4. Conclusion

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) study program plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of early childhood education and preparing competent and professional ECE teachers. The program integrates child violence material into its curriculum and uses effective learning methods to improve student abilities. The program also collaborates with other institutions to enhance education quality and student abilities as future teachers. However, the program faces challenges, such as limited resources and varying student abilities. To overcome these challenges, the program implements curriculum improvements, academic guidance, fieldwork experiences, and teaching practice. The program conducts regular assessments to evaluate student competence and performs accreditation to ensure education quality. To improve early childhood education quality, the program conducts research and community service, and develops partnerships with stakeholders.

. **Recommendations**

1. The ECE study program should continue to improve curriculum quality and learning methods to ensure future teachers have adequate skills to address child violence.

2. The program should provide parenting training to students on child violence prevention and handling.

3. The program should increase collaboration with related institutions to provide broader field experiences for future teachers.

4. The program should conduct regular evaluations and developments to ensure education quality meets established standards.

Research Suggestions

By implementing these recommendations, the ECE study program can prepare competent and professional ECE teachers who can provide high-quality education and care for young children.

Based on the research findings, the following suggestions are proposed for future research:

1. Further research can be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the ECE study program's curriculum in enhancing students' ability to handle child violence cases.

2. Developing an effective training model to improve teachers' ability to handle child violence cases.

3. A comparative study to compare the ability of ECE students from different universities in handling child violence cases.

4. Developing an effective child violence prevention program that can be implemented in schools.

5. Evaluating the implementation of the ECE study program's curriculum in enhancing students' ability to teach and care for young children.

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