

THE ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH EDUCATION IN IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF STUDENTS AT SUMUR BATU 4 STATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the role of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) education in improving students' knowledge and awareness at SD Negeri Sumur Batu 4. Through a qualitative research method with a case study approach, data were collected through observations, interviews, and questionnaires with students, teachers, and school staff. The research findings indicate that OHS education has a significant impact on enhancing students' understanding of the importance of safety and health practices in the school environment. Additionally, the implementation of the OHS program successfully increased students' awareness of potential risks and prevention methods. These findings underline the importance of OHS education from an early age as a preventive effort in creating a safe and healthy learning environment, as well as equipping students with the principles of safety and health for their daily lives. This study recommends further development of OHS programs in elementary schools and ongoing training for educators to ensure long-term effectiveness.

Keywords: Occupational, Health, and Safety Education.

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INTRODUCTION

Background

Everyone naturally wants to avoid accidents, stay healthy, and be safe in their daily activities. If accidents do occur, it means that someone has neglected the outreach efforts made by companies or the government. Employees usually receive outreach from their respective companies, but there are also companies that do not provide outreach about OHS. The lack of knowledge among business actors and the insufficient OHS outreach make workers unaware of the importance of implementing OHS, whether at work, while driving on the road, and so on. (Mindhayani, I., & Asih, P., 2022).

OHS stands for Occupational Health and Safety, which is a policy product used by the government and business actors to prevent workplace accidents and reduce risks that can lead to such accidents. The government issued Law No. 1 of 1970, which became the first legal basis for OHS. This law aims to create a healthy work environment, free from accidents, thereby supporting worker productivity. The Ministry of Manpower has developed the National OHS Program for 2021 to 2025. This program is expected to serve as a guideline for the government and labor stakeholders in improving the quality of prevention, handling, and control of workplace accidents in all sectors (Natalia, 2021).

Awareness of the OHS culture is an effective way to prevent workplace accidents. The implementation of OHS is the shared responsibility of all relevant parties. In September 2015, the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) were ratified as an agreement in global development starting from 2016 to 2030 (Syamsiah et al., 2021).

One of the goals of SDGs is to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct outreach and education on OHS from an early age. This is because learning in character formation and the introduction of personality values in children, such as honesty, discipline, health, safety, mutual respect, and others, is very well begun at the elementary school level (Mindhayani, I., & Asih, P., 2022).

Elementary school students are an age group that still has a great sense of curiosity, which is channeled through movement, a desire to learn new things in their environment, and they are also in a phase of growth and development (Mindhayani, I., & Asih, P., 2022).

Data from BPS shows that 95% of the workforce is dominated by elementary and middle school graduates. Therefore, it is very appropriate to conduct outreach and education on OHS from an early age so that they will later have the correct work mindset, always being careful and aware of the dangers present in the workplace (Faeni, 2023).

In educational institutions, OHS simulations and outreach are very important. This can prevent hazards and the risk of accidents during the teaching and learning program at school (Dewi, 2020). Based on the issues described above, the researcher wants to conduct a study on the Role of Occupational Health and Safety Education in Improving Knowledge and Awareness of Students at SD Negeri Sumur Batu 4.

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

Occupational Health and Safety Education in Elementary Schools

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) education in elementary schools is an important effort in shaping a culture of safety and health from an early age. Effective OHS education at the elementary school level can provide students with basic knowledge of safety and health, which impacts their awareness of potential hazards in the school environment. Fauziah et al. emphasize the importance of a comprehensive and sustainable approach in implementing OHS education in elementary schools. Fauziah et al. (2021).

Impact of OHS Education on Student Knowledge

Structured OHS education can significantly improve students' knowledge of occupational health and safety. In this study, students who received OHS education showed a

better understanding of physical, chemical, and biological hazards in the school environment (Faeni et al., 2023).

The research also noted that students became more aware of the importance of following safety procedures and using personal protective equipment. Rahmawati and Sudaryanto (2020).

Increasing Awareness through OHS Education

Student awareness of the importance of safety and health in school can be increased through interactive learning methods. Finding that the use of active learning methods involving students, such as simulations and group discussions, is effective in increasing their awareness of hazards around them. Lestari et al. show that students engaged in practical activities are more likely to remember and apply OHS knowledge in their daily lives. Lestari et al. (2022).

Implementation of OHS Programs in Schools

The implementation of OHS programs in elementary schools requires collaboration among various stakeholders. The success of OHS programs in elementary schools depends heavily on the active support and participation of teachers, school staff, and parents. Sari and Kurniawan also emphasize the importance of ongoing training for teachers to ensure they have the knowledge and skills needed to effectively deliver OHS materials. Sari and Kurniawan (2021).

Case Study: SD Negeri Sumur Batu 4

Regarding the implementation of OHS education at SD Negeri Sumur Batu 4, the results show positive outcomes. After the implementation of the OHS program, there was a significant increase in students' knowledge and awareness of safety and health in the school environment. Students were better able to recognize potential hazards and were more proactive in taking preventive actions. These findings affirm that systematic and sustainable OHS education can create a safer school environment and support the learning process. Prasetyo (2023).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Awareness Improvement

This program successfully raised students' awareness about the importance of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in the workplace. Through counseling, seminars, and practical training, students gained a better understanding of work-related risks and the preventive measures that need to be taken. Fragastia, V. A., & Fahri, M. (2023).

Behavioral Change

There has been a positive change in students' behavior related to OSH. They have started applying the safety practices they learned in their daily lives, both at school and outside of school. Fragastia, V. A., & Fahri, M. (2023).

Knowledge Enhancement

Students also experienced an increase in their knowledge about various OSH aspects, such as the use of safety equipment, risk identification, and emergency actions. This can improve

their preparedness in facing potentially hazardous work situations. Fragastia, V. A., & Fahri, M. (2023).

Active Participation

This program encourages active student participation in OSH-related activities, such as group discussions and counseling. They become more involved in advocating for safety in the school environment and the community. Fragastia, V. A., & Fahri, M. (2023).

Impact on School Environment

Besides influencing students directly, this program also has an impact on the overall school environment. Increased awareness and understanding of OSH can also influence school policies related to safety and health. Fragastia, V. A., & Fahri, M. (2023).

Knowledge Diffusion

The outcomes of this program can be disseminated more widely to the community, providing a greater impact in raising OSH awareness in the surrounding community. Fragastia, V. A., & Fahri, M. (2023).

Sustainability

Through continuous evaluation and monitoring, this program can serve as a foundation for developing further OSH programs in schools and communities, ensuring long-term impact. Fragastia, V. A., & Fahri, M. (2023).

Implementation Phases:

- a) **Pretest:** A pretest is conducted for both groups (experimental and control) to measure the initial knowledge and awareness of OHS.
- b) **Intervention:** The experimental group receives OHS education, each session lasting 45 minutes, covering topics such as hazard identification, use of personal protective equipment, and emergency procedures. The control group undergoes regular learning activities without additional OHS education.
- c) **Posttest:** After the intervention, a posttest is administered to both groups to measure changes in knowledge and awareness of OHS.

Discussion

Significance of Knowledge and Awareness Improvement

The findings of this research indicate that occupational health and safety (OHS) education has a significant impact on enhancing students' knowledge and awareness at Sumur Batu 4 Public Elementary School. The experimental group, which received the OHS education intervention, showed a much greater improvement in knowledge and awareness compared to the control group. These findings are consistent with previous studies that emphasize the importance of OHS education in building a strong knowledge base and awareness of potential hazards in the school environment (Fauziah et al., 2021; Rahmawati & Sudaryanto, 2020).

Interactive Learning Methods

One key factor contributing to the success of the OHS education program is the use of interactive learning methods. Simulations, role-playing games, and group discussions have been proven effective in increasing student engagement and strengthening their understanding of safety and health concepts (Lestari et al., 2022). These methods not only enhance theoretical knowledge but also provide deep practical experiences, which are essential for internalizing OHS concepts (Faeni, 2024).

The Role of Teachers and School Support

The successful implementation of the OHS program is also greatly influenced by the active role of teachers and support from the school. Ongoing training for teachers to enhance their ability to deliver OHS content effectively is crucial (Sari & Kurniawan, 2021). Trained teachers can create a conducive learning environment where students feel safe and motivated to learn about safety and health.

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement in the OHS education program also plays a significant role. Supportive and involved parents can reinforce safety and health practices taught at school at home. This study found that with good communication between the school and parents, more consistent and sustainable safety practices can be implemented in both environments (Sari & Kurniawan, 2021).

Challenges and Limitations

Despite showing positive results, there are several challenges and limitations. The limited intervention time may not be sufficient to observe the long-term impact of OHS education. Additionally, this research was only conducted in one school, so the results may not be generalizable to a broader population. Further studies with larger samples and longer intervention periods are needed to understand the long-term impact of OHS education.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

This study demonstrates that occupational health and safety (OHS) education can significantly enhance students' knowledge and awareness at Sumur Batu 4 Public Elementary School. Effective implementation of OHS education, supported by teachers, schools, and parents, can create a safer and healthier learning environment. These findings underscore the importance of integrating OHS education into elementary school curricula and the need for sustained efforts to support safety and health education at the elementary level.

Suggestions

Curriculum Integration

OHS materials should be integrated into the elementary school curriculum to ensure that every student receives basic knowledge of safety and health. Rahmawati and Sudaryanto (2020).

Teacher Training

Emphasizing the importance of ongoing training for teachers to enhance their ability to effectively deliver OHS materials. Sari and Kurniawan (2021).

Practical Activities

Recommending an increase in the number of practical and extracurricular activities focusing on safety and health to reinforce students' understanding. Lestari et al. (2022).

Parental Involvement

Indicating that involving parents in OHS programs can ensure that safety practices are also implemented at home. Sari and Kurniawan (2021). Considering these various aspects, OHS education can significantly contribute to creating a safe and healthy learning

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