

# INDONESIAN PARENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS SCHOOL-BASED SEXUALITY EDUCATION

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## Background:

Research findings indicated that school-based sexuality education programs could result in improved sexual practices and health outcomes of young people. Nevertheless, in contemporary Indonesia, there is limited empirical evidence regarding parents' attitudes towards school-based sexuality education.

## Methods:

A sample of 768 parents and caregivers completed an online Qualtrics survey in Bahasa Indonesia to measure their level of support or disapproval towards the provision of sexuality education at schools.

## Results:

The majority of parents supported school-based sexuality education (98.4%) and suggested to start the program as early as kindergarten and elementary school (80%). Parents agreed with all the presented topics but suggested several topics such as sexual pleasure and orgasm and communicating about sex to be first introduced in higher grades (7-9 or 10-12). The topics are also recommended to be appropriate for the children's age, maturity, and physical development. Parents wanted to share the responsibility of being sexuality educators (98.7%). However, they required assistance to equip them with suitable knowledge and skills.

## Conclusion:

Overall, parents expressed positive attitudes towards the provision of sexuality education at schools. They suggested the government to make sexual health education a compulsory program and to deliver it in line with local wisdom, culture, and religious teaching. The study findings can facilitate the development of sexual health policy at different levels including school, parents, and children.

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