Kindergarten Teachers' Readiness for Child Protection Education: Exploring School, Family, and Community Support in Indonesia

Mutiara Magta , Sofia Hartati , Nurjannah

Universitas Negeri Jakarta, Indonesia

Abstract

Kindergarten teachers occupy a strategic position in the early detection and prevention of violence against children, yet their readiness to teach and respond to child protection issues remains underexplored from the perspective of teachers' lived experience. This study aimed to explore kindergarten teachers' experiences of child protection training and how these experiences shape their self-efficacy and readiness to face real cases in the classroom. A descriptive qualitative approach with a multiple case study design was employed, involving four kindergarten teacher participants from Sukabumi, Bogor, Malang, and Jakarta, with teaching experience ranging from 3 to 16 years. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and analyzed using thematic analysis following Braun and Clarke's six-phase framework. The findings revealed six major themes: (1) minimal training exposure dominated by lecture-based seminars; (2) a temporary rise in self-efficacy without practice-based reinforcement; (3) intuitive teacher responses to real cases in the absence of formal guidelines; (4) the absence of documentation and reporting systems; (5) suboptimal institutional and collegial support; and (6) teachers' need for practice-based training accompanied by continuous mentoring. These findings affirm that teachers' self-efficacy regarding child protection is shaped more by unstructured direct experience (mastery experience) than by formal training, and that the synergy of three centers of education among schools, families, and institutional oversight remains weak. The study recommends the design of sustained, case-simulation-based child protection training accompanied by post-training mentoring for kindergarten teachers.

Keywords: Child Protection; Teacher Self-Efficacy; Teaching Readiness; Early Childhood Education