

Level of Physical Security in Private Kindergarten

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at investigating the level of physical safety in private kindergartens. There are three main constructs that are studied: the security of the location and structure of the building, the safety of the classroom and the safety of the kitchen and dining room in the kindergarten. The questionnaire underwent expert verification and instrument reliability using Alpha Cronbach's alpha of .962. Questionnaires were distributed to kindergarten teachers in Bukit Beruntung, Hulu Selangor as a sample of the study. The researchers collected 103 data according to the sample requirements of Krejice and Morgan sampling tables. The data collected by the researchers are quantitative by using survey studies. Therefore, the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) version 23.0 was used to analyze the respondents' data obtained through the questionnaire form. The data were analyzed through descriptive statistics. Descriptive analysis was used to look at the security of the location and structure of the building, the safety of the classroom and the safety of the kitchen and dining room in the kindergarten. The findings show that the security level of the location and structure of the building is at a moderate level with values (Min = 2.83, SP = .370), while that of classroom security is at a moderate level with values (Min = 2.95, SP = .215), and for the safety of the kitchen and dining room, it was at a moderate level with values (Min = 2.94, SP = .235). It is hoped that this study will have a great impact on kindergarten children, kindergarten teachers and kindergartens in the Hulu Selangor district. As such, all parties need to play a proactive role and work more closely together so that the safety of the private kindergarten is improved, and the safety of the children is taken care of.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Introduce the Problem

According to Hazlina Fiyzim (2014), the concept of security refers to safety measures implemented by an individual or group to avoid harm such as accident, death or injury. Without safety protection, children will feel fear, worry or ease exposed to something that harms it either consciously or not. According to Siti Nurhidayah (2011) says that in Malaysia, the education sector has basically evolved, since education is considered an asset which is very important. Education is also one of the country's great agendas priority. The main challenge is the provision of kindergartens facilities especially on education of the pre-school or kindergarten level, which earn less attention in the preparation of a kindergarten environment and suitable building facilities with the need and comfort to carry out teaching process activities and children's learning. According to Norzalikha Buyong & Suziyani Mohamed (2018) say that in Malaysia the level of kindergarten safety is not yet considered perfect and reach the expected level. To date, not many parties have discussed on issues at the level of private kindergarten education, especially the issue of facilities that are suitable for safety of its students.

1.2 Explore Importance of the Problem

The safety of kindergarten is importance nowadays to keep children in safe and far from danger. Various issues regarding the safety of kindergartens in the country. Among them is in news "Berita Harian, robbery at kindergarten" which took place on October 20, 2016, a robber armed with a knife broke into a Kindergarten. Study by Teresa Mwoma, Nyakwara Begi & Catherine Murungi (2018) say that safety in the crowded room cause the child to be unable to move comfortably, two children were injured in the classroom for playing while running causing head injuries for colliding with the classroom door. In the context of this study researcher would like to see whether safety is in the classroom or space learning in private kindergartens has the characteristics of a safety that has been complied with by the kindergarten.

1.3 Objectives and Their Correspondence to Research Design

This study is able to provide benefits not only to the students themselves but more importantly to teachers, parents and the community. The findings of this study will be able to give some guidance to teachers knowing the level of security of the location and building structure, classroom security, kitchen and dining area security in kindergartens around Hulu Selangor. In addition, most kindergartens are mainly kindergartens the private sector ignores and does not comply with established regulations, this is due to the fact that government attention is given more priority to government kindergartens only. Due to that, this study can provide exposure to the general public especially groups of individuals who want to open their own kindergarten about aspects safety that needs to be emphasized in the kindergarten. Good safety in the classroom also benefits teacher in focusing the learning topic on the day. Teacher have no fears or worries about the safety of the child when they were in kindergarten. In addition, the views or responses of the parents about private kindergartens will also be getting better and positive due to the level good security and in accordance with the conditions set by the government that can ensure the safety of their children in kindergarten.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Maslow Theory

The theory of safety, Abraham Maslow put forward Maslow's Theory of Hierarchy in the 1970s explains that human desires are divided into five (5) levels which are arranged hierarchically (Hashim, Razali & Jantan, 2006). This hierarchy begins from the lower level which is the basic needs to the upper level which is the needs of a psychological nature. In this theory the second stage emphasizes the question of security. Safety requirements includes requirements that serve to provide protection in physical and emotional terms such as stability, protection and freedom from fear. Based on Maslow's theory clearly shows that the term security usually specifically to avoid situations that will lead to accidents. The safety of children in kindergarten is very important because it can protect children from any accidents. Therefore, the kindergarten, especially the teachers need responsible for ensuring that children in kindergarten are always inside healthy and safe condition (Zainun Ishak, 2006)

2.2 Previous Studies

Teresa Mwoma, Nyakwara Begi & Catherine Murungi (2018) in a study titled "Safety and Security in Preschools: A Challenge in Informal Settlements". This research aiming to see the safety of the kindergarten is important in improving children's learning. The sample of this study was conducted in 54 kindergartens involving 54 head teachers, managers and 78 kindergarten teachers. The findings of this study showed that the infrastructure is modest, lack of play space and toys and crowded classrooms are at a moderate level. Be found also the need for regular inspections of kindergartens to ensure safety is observed and well executed.

N.M. Salleh, S.N. Kamaruzzaman & N. Mahyuddin (2013) in a studyentitled "Sick Building Symptoms Among Children in Private Pre-Schools in Malaysia: Association of Different Ventilation Strategies". The study was conducted in 10 classrooms were randomly selected (out of 5 schools). This study gives focus on identifying occupant satisfaction towards safety inside a renovated preschool building or kindergarten building. Findings showed that the private kindergarten building was refurbished with ventilation is at a moderate level.

3. Method

Research aimed is to look at the level of physical safety in private kindergartens. In addition, data collection was made using quantitative method approach through survey. In this research, the data will be collected using an adapted questionnaire form the studies of Azam Ismail (2013) and Noorlia Arshad (2003). Using questions survey as a research instrument because it can save costs and time in data collection. This questionnaire contains questions for answered by all respondents involved in this study. All that data found to be analyzed quantitatively using SPSS 23.0 software.

3.1 Instrument

The instrument is a questionnaire specially designed to collect survey data. In this study. This method is the most appropriate way to obtain information about levels physical security in private kindergartens. In addition, questionnaires also help to obtain more accurate data in his study. In this way you can also saves time, energy and expense by only having to distribute question sets the survey to a large sample. This study uses a questionnaire taken and modified from a questionnaire used by Azam Ismail (2013) and Noorlia Arshad (2003). After obtaining permission from the original owner, the questionnaires obtained will be modified according to the suitability of the respondents and study environment. Once modified, the questionnaire should be reviewed by the supervisor and through a validation process by appointed experts.

This questionnaire consists of two parts, namely part A and B. Part A contains six questions to find out the respondent's personal information, namely gender, age, race, religion, academic qualifications and teaching experience of the respondents. This section uses a nominal scale so that respondents can answer with easy on the box provided. Part B, which is physical safety in kindergarten, consists of three parts, the first question (I), about the safety of the location and structure of the building, second (II), classroom security and the last (III), kitchen space security and a dining room. Each section contains ten items. Overall total questionnaire items of 30 items.

3.2 Population

The research will be conducted to kindergarten teachers in Malaysia but only will focus on private kindergartens around the Hulu Selangor district which is in the Bukit Beruntung area only. This population represents the background characteristics of the respondents which consist of gender. The characteristic of the respondents which is kindergarten teachers consist of three largest races in Malaysia, namely Malay, Chinese and Indians.

3.3 Sampling Procedures

Sampling is a process of selecting a group of individuals for a study which represents a large predetermined group. According to Chua (2006), sampling is defined as part of a population regardless of whether it can be representative of the population or vice versa. This study had used the study sample size determination table by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) in the procedure of determine the sample size to be used. To implement this study, researcher will focus on 103 kindergarten teachers as a sample and it is sufficient for the process of analyzing the findings of this study.

4. Results and Discussion

The findings of this questionnaire are divided into two parts starting with Part A which is information on the demographics or background of the respondents, Part B has three parts of the question. The first is the security level location and structure of the building, the second safety in the classroom and the lastly the safety of the kitchen and dining area.

4.1 Demography

This study will involve 103 samples of kindergarten teachers in the upper district of Selangor consisting of gender, age, race, religion, qualifications and experience. The following is a result of the study. A total of 103 respondents were involved in this study. Total of 14 respondents is males representing 13.6% of the total number of respondents while female respondents is 89 people representing 86.4% of the total number involved in this study. The difference among the male and female samples in this study were 75 people.

The study sample consists of various age groups of teachers, such as aged 20 years and below, 21 to 30 years, 31 to 40 years and 41 years upward. A total of 6 teachers (5.8%) were in the age group of 20 years and below, 74 teachers (71.8%) were in the age group of 21 to 30 years, 11 teachers (10.7%) were in the age group of 31 to 40 years and 12 teachers (11.7%) are in the age group of 41 years and above. The data show the age of the sample 21 up to 30 years more than the sample age of 20 years and below.

Number of respondents involved in this study based on education background. A total of 17 teachers from SPM (16.5%), while from STPM were 13 teachers (12.6%), teachers from Diploma were 13 people (12.6%) and obtained a bachelor's degree were 60 teachers (58.3). Data indicate the bachelor's degree qualification respondents is the most while the fewest respondents are STPM qualified teachers and Diploma. Teachers with SPM graduates came in second.

4.2 Statistics and Data Analysis

4.2.1 Level of security of location and building structure in private kindergartens

The level of security of the location and structure of the building in a private kindergarten can be seen through calculation of mean and standard deviation. Study findings and sequence of location security levels and the

structure of buildings in private kindergartens will be seen through 3 levels namely low, medium and high based on the mean scores found in table 4.1

Table 4.1. *Mean Level of Classroom Safety in Private Kindergartens*

Mean	Number	Percentage	Level
1.00 – 2.33	0	0%	low
2.34 – 3.66	17	16.5%	moderate
3.67 – 5.00	86	83.5%	high

Table 4.1 shows the mean distribution for overall site and structural safety building in a private kindergarten. The number shows a total of 17 teachers (16.5%) has a moderate level of site and structural security buildings in private kindergartens while a total of 86 teachers (83.5%) have a high level of security knowledge of the location and structure of the building in the private kindergarten. Overall level of security of the location and structure of the building private kindergartens are at a moderate level (Mean = 2.83. SP = 0.370).

4.2.2 Level of classroom safety in private kindergartens

The level of classroom safety in private kindergartens can be seen through the calculation of the mean . Findings of the study and ranking of classroom safety levels in kindergartens private will be seen through 3 levels namely low, medium and high based on scores mean found in table 4.2.

Table 4.2. *Mean Level of Classroom Safety in Private Kindergartens*

Mean	Number	Percentage	Level
1.00 – 2.33	0	0%	low
2.34 – 3.66	5	4.9%	moderate
3.67 – 5.00	98	95.1%	high

Table 4.2 shows the mean distribution for overall classroom safety in private kindergarten. The number shows that 5 teachers (4.9%) have a moderate level of classroom safety in private kindergartens while a total of 98 teachers (95.1%) have a high level of the level of classroom safety in private kindergartens. Overall level 57 classroom safety in private kindergartens is at a moderate level (Mean = 2.95, SP = .215).

4.2.3 Security level of kitchen and dining room in private kindergartens

The level of security in the kitchen and dining area in private kindergartens can be seen through calculation of mean. Findings of the study on security in kitchen and dining area in private kindergarten can be seen through 3 levels namely low, medium and high based on the mean scores found in table 4.3.

Table 4.3. *Mean Security Level of Kitchen and Dining Room in Private Kindergartens*

Mean	Number	Percentage	Level
1.00 – 2.33	0	0%	low
2.34 – 3.66	6	5.8%	moderate
3.67 – 5.00	97	94.2%	high

Table 4.3 shows the mean distribution for overall kitchen space safety and dining room in a private kindergarten. The number shows a total of 6 teachers namely (5.8%) had a moderate level of safety in the kitchen space and dining room in private kindergartens while a total of 97 teachers (94.2%) has a high level of security level of kitchen space and dining area in a private kindergarten. Overall level of security of the kitchen and dining area in private kindergartens is at a moderate level (Mean = 2.94. SP = .235).

5. Conclusion

Overall, this study looked at the level of physical safety in private kindergartens at Hulu Selangor. As for the level of security of the location and structure of the building is at a moderate level and can be seen that the safety of the location and structure of the building it is very important to ensure the safety of children in the kindergarten. Among the important thing related to the safety is the location and structure of the building. The location of the kindergarten building is within a safe area thus security can be guaranteed and away from the occurrence of an unintentional accident. Kindergarten must have emergency alarm devices inside and outside the kindergarten building, every accident that occur can be known to the public and such accidents can be avoided.

Thus, physical safety in private kindergartens is very important for children because it can promise a safe and peaceful atmosphere. Therefore, in this study we can see that it is important to maintain safety so that children are protected danger. All problems that arise are related safety in kindergarten should be discuss together regardless of teachers, parents or society, all must be united in realizing the dream of children to be in a safe environment to learn. Without the consensus of the various parties, it is difficult for the kindergarten to implement this level of security at maximum level. Therefore, there is no reason for administrators and teachers

to be skeptical or less confident in enhancing this level of physical security as it can reassure the child to always be in the safe situation and children can go through the process of teaching and learning with more comfortable.

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