ARE CHILDREN LEARNING ENOUGH HIV AND AIDS KNOWLEDGE FROM INDONESIAN SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS?

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Background

When an AIDS case was first identified in Indonesia in 1987, that case was thought to be an invasive disease brought in by and limited to foreigners. Media coverage on HIV and AIDS was minimal and stigmatizing. Soon though, the infection spread to Indonesians, and particularly among the workers and clients of the nation’s widespread commercial sex industry. Currently, Indonesia has a low HIV prevalence of 0.2% among adults aged 15-49 years old; the number of AIDS cases continues to rise. HIV infection has spread to the general population of housewives, pregnant women and their babies, and not just among those with high-risk sexual behaviors and injection drug users.

Informal education and campaigns on HIV and AIDS started in the early 1990s initiated by NGOs. Recently the Indonesian Government decided to include HIV and AIDS education in formal school curricula starting from primary schools.

Objectives

This study assessed the content of primary and secondary school textbooks that reflect the new curricula. Three hundred books were reviewed using a Reproductive Health Analysis Module developed by the authors to evaluate the depth of information given in Biology and Science, Sport and Healthy Living, Social Sciences and Islamic Religion textbooks.

Methods

In choosing the school textbooks, the authors collected information from the Ministry of National Education of accredited textbooks. In-depth interviews were also conducted among teachers and school principals from the research sites (Jakarta, West Java, West Nusa Tenggara and South Sulawesi). The results were matched and combined with information from the curriculum to select the textbooks.

A module was developed and used to evaluate the coverage and accuracy of the textbooks. Each book was analyzed by each researcher individually. The analysis was then compiled using simple descriptive statistics.

In many cases the texts contain no information on HIV and AIDS, so no score was entered.