

Building a comprehensive reproductive health education framework

Providing contraceptives as an implementation of Government Regulation 28/2024 concerning Health Implementation Regulations is considered “promoting free sex” by many groups in society. Contraceptive provision in this regulation is only a small part of understanding the reproductive health education framework. Passing out contraceptives (such as condoms) to students in schools does not seem to address the substance of reproductive health education.

Reproductive health education is basically a conscious effort by the government to provide information about human reproductive organs and systems. In addition, the importance of understanding human reproductive health, including the dangers of risky behavior that increases the risks of and vulnerability to sexually-transmitted diseases, should also be communicated. Reproductive health education is a “gateway” for adolescents to protect themselves from harassment and sexual violence.

Introduction and practice of using contraceptives is one of the many activities of reproductive health education that can be provided to teenagers. However, there are many other

curriculum materials that can be offered as well in the effort to build a comprehensive reproductive health education framework.

The Indonesian Family Planning Association (PKBI) mentions seven important components that can be used in comprehensive reproductive health education: gender education, reproductive health and HIV, sexual rights and human rights, satisfaction, violence, diversity, and human relations.

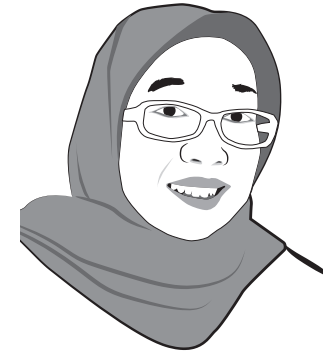
In gender education context, for example, it is important to deliver these materials to teenagers so they understand the differences between female and male reproductive organs physiologically and biologically. Also, gender-related material in reproductive health education should describe the reproductive process experienced by women and men in conceiving babies.

The human reproductive process where babies are conceived as potential new lives must be seen as a partnership between men and women.

In understanding the gender equality lesson, this process should be stressed as a shared responsibility of the couple, one that cannot be evaded. This means that even though

women will biologically carry out the reproductive functions, such as getting pregnant, giving birth and breastfeeding, men as partners are expected to support women in carrying out their functions, by providing quality nutritional intake and ensuring the health of mothers and children, including providing a sense of security and psychosocial protection. This gender equality material can be accompanied by other materials, such as preparation for starting new family life.

Furthermore, in building a comprehensive and teenager-friendly reproductive health education framework, the Government should collaborate with various institutions/agencies, including community organizations that are concerned with related issues. This collaboration and cooperation can be conducted with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Culture, BKKBN, PKBI, other related state agencies and civil society organizations that are concerned with teenager and youth issues. This must be done together as a form of synergy in improving the quality of human resources and reducing the vulnerability of teenagers to risky behavior.



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