

ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG CHILDREN AGED 5-6 YEARS THROUGH WASTE RECYCLING ACTIVITIES

ABSTRACT

This study is motivated by the low level of awareness in waste management which impacts the environment. The purpose of this research is to improve clean and healthy living behavior as well as environmental awareness among children aged 5–6 years through project-based learning in sorting and recycling waste at Pos PAUD Bougenvile, Cisalak, Depok. The study employed Classroom Action Research (CAR) using the Kemmis and McTaggart model conducted in two cycles, consisting of planning, action, observation, and reflection stages. The subjects were 20 children, and data were collected through observation, interviews, and documentation, then analyzed using descriptive quantitative and qualitative methods.

The results showed an improvement in children's clean and healthy living behavior. In the first cycle, the result was 46.62%, which did not meet the success criteria. After improvements in the second cycle, the result increased to 75.93%, categorized as developing as expected. Children demonstrated improvements in handwashing, waste sorting, and creating crafts from recycled materials. In conclusion, project-based learning in waste sorting is effective in improving clean and healthy behavior as well as environmental awareness in early childhood and can be used as a reference for educators in developing environmental-based learning from an early age.

Keywords: clean and healthy behavior, early childhood, waste sorting, recycling, classroom action research