

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Student Awareness of Safety Aspects in School

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Abstract. Safety awareness at school is fundamental in today's era. Awareness of safety at school should not be overlooked because it can be a starting point for students to recognise safety aspects. This research aims to analyse students' perceptions and levels of awareness in SMT IT Al Qudwah Musi Rawas. This study involved 169 students aged 12 to 15 years, where 76 students were male while 93 were female. The study's findings show that all of the mean values are low and the level of safety awareness among students at SMT IT Al Qudwah Musi Rawas is still low, below ≤ 2.40 . The study of student safety awareness perception is critical because it shows that schools still have safety issues. Accordingly, the conclusions of this study might supply readers and researchers with inspiration and insightful ideas regarding parts of safety in school that should be streamlined. In addition to giving insights that future researchers can develop, this work intends to indirectly add to the body of existing knowledge.

Keywords: student awareness; safety aspects; school

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INTRODUCTION

Safety awareness among school students is fundamental to preventing injuries and illnesses (Kadir et al., 2020). A low level of safety awareness can affect the high rate of accidents (Hakimi et al., 2014). Accident rates can also be reduced if students comply with essential aspects of school safety rules by increasing safety awareness (Mardziah, 2002). The same thing was also stated by Abdullah et al. (2021) that students' commitment if they comply with safety practices could increase their awareness towards good safety. Meanwhile, Abdullah and Abd Aziz (2020) emphasise that safety awareness should be developed to the highest level possible to foster a healthy and safe environment for all students.

Furthermore, when the students realise that there will be an impact on the risk at school, they will directly deal with the safety problems by following safe safety practices. Looking at the importance of safety awareness in ensuring safety in schools (Zitty et al., 2017), it is indispensable to conduct a study on student awareness of safety at school. The results of this study will enable school organisations in SMT IT Al Qudwah Musi Rawas to consider various alternatives, including efficient and effective strategies to continuously increase the level of safety awareness among students (Kadir et al., 2021).

The construct for this study is the construct of safety awareness. Safety awareness is a person's responsibility and commitment to following safe work procedures. Safety awareness also reminds a person of impending danger and shows the willingness to act to control any danger (Mohamed et al., 2018). Safety awareness is vital in an organisation because the level of safety of students can be determined and ensure that they are always alert when they are in a risky situation (Holt & Allen, 2015).

Management is responsible for ensuring a safe and disease-free environment. Safely controlling the environment is more accessible than controlling student behaviour towards safe task activities (Hassan, 2000). One plausible explanation is that civilisations could grow and reach the highest level of social stratification by reasoning human behaviour, as humans play an important role in the formation of civilisations and nation-states (Abdullah, 2022). The level of safety awareness in an organisation can be measured by assessing a person's knowledge, understanding and involvement in aspects of safety management (Nik Raihan et al., 2019). Therefore, safety awareness must continually be improved. This is because accidents can be avoided if the level of safety awareness among students is high.

This research aims to create a safe school environment and protect students from potential dangers. Based on this importance, this study seeks to investigate and identify the extent to which students perceive the level of safety awareness in SMT IT Al Qudwah Musi Rawas.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses a quantitative approach through the survey method. A set of questionnaires has been created to obtain information related to safety awareness among students at SMP IT Al Qudwah Musi Rawas. The total number of respondents who participated was 250 students. Based on the study sample size calculation table by Krejcie dan Morgan (1970), The study sample was set at 152 respondents. However, a total of 169 respondents (67.6% of the total population size) were successfully obtained.

A Likert scale was used to measure students' perceptions of safety awareness at SMP IT Al Qudwah Musi Rawas. The Likert scale is shown in Table 2.1.

Table 1. Table of Scale Likert

Scale	Level
1	Strongly disagree
2	Not agree
3	Not sure
4	Agree
5	Strongly Agree

According to Majid (2004), The relationship with the Likert scale was then interpreted using mean interpretation analysis, as shown in Table 2.2. The calculation of the mean category is done through the adaptation of the estimate of the mean score range proposed by Fauzi et al. (2014), which is the highest scale value is subtracted from the lowest scale value and divided by the total Likert scale.

Table 2. Table of Mean Score Values for Safety Awareness Level

Mean Score	Level
1.00 ≤ mean ≤ 2.40	Low
2.41 ≤ mean ≤ 3.80	Medium
3.81 ≤ mean ≤ 5.00	High

Among the constraints in getting respondents' feedback is the reluctance of students to participate in the survey conducted. However, 67.6% of the total population was considered a reasonable response rate setting based on the recommendations (Baruch, 1999). For example, research from Shanks-Meile & Dobratz (1995) set a target response rate of 50-60%, which is considered adequate for the survey method. Purposive Sampling was practised in this study; that is, the questionnaire was only distributed to respondents who participated in the distributed questionnaire. This study uses IBM SPSS software version 25 for data analysis. This study will examine whether there is a low mean value after the analysis that represents an indication from students of security awareness at SMP IT Al Qudwah Musi Rawas.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Respondent Profile

Table 3 shows the gender, age, duration of study and safety problems at school for all respondents studied.

Table 3. Respondent Profile

Description	Frequency (n=169)	Percent (%)
Gender		
Male	76	44.9
Female	93	55.1
Age		
12 years old	18	10.7
13 years old	58	34.3
14 years old	58	34.3
15 years old	35	20.7
Duration of Study		
1 year	48	28.4
2 years	44	26
3 years	75	44.4
4 years	2	1.2
Safety Problems in Schools		
Yes	14	8.3
Not Sure	51	30.2
No	104	61.5

The majority of respondents are women, which reaches 55.1% (n=93 people) compared to males (44.9%) (n=76 people). In terms of age group, the age group for students aged 13 years and 14 years get the same amount which is 34.3% (n=58 people) from all respondents, followed by students who are 15 years old, which is 20.7% (n=35 people). For the duration of the study, the group of students who studied at the school for 3 years is the highest, which is 44.4% (n=75 people) followed by students who studied for 1 year is 28.4% (n=48 people) and the lowest is the group of students who study for 4 years which is only 1.2% (n=2 people). Lastly, in the response to the safety problem at the school, the largest majority of the students said that there is no safety problem at the school, which is achieved 61.5% (n=104 people), followed by students who gave not sure response is 30.2% (n=51 people) and the lowest is for students who responded yes is only 8.3% (n=14 people).

Student Perception of Safety Awareness

Table 4 shows the mean value and standard deviation for the items of student perception of safety awareness at school.

Table 4. Mean and Standard Deviation for Students' Perception of Safety Awareness at School

Description	Mean	Stan. Deviation
I know how to do a job safely	1.89	0.535
I know how to use safety equipment well	1.94	0.574
I know the safety procedures at school	1.97	0.711
I know how to improve safety at school	2.00	0.577
I know how to reduce accidents at school	2.17	0.690
If there is danger at school, I will take appropriate precautions	1.60	0.492
If an accident happens, I know who to report to	1.66	0.474
I feel that keeping safe is important at all times	1.50	0.568
I believe that safety at school is very important	1.50	0.558
I think it is necessary to make efforts to reduce accidents at school	1.75	0.512
I believe that the practice of performing tasks safely will improve the quality of a task	1.56	0.498
I feel it is important to encourage other students to do assignments safely	1.91	0.600
I feel it is important to promote safety activities	1.63	0.552

All of the above items are based on items that have been used by previous studies. There are two items used, which are safety knowledge and safety motivation. These two items were used in the study of Vinodkumar & Bhasi (2010), which was adapted from Varonen & Mattile (2000) for the safety knowledge item and Vredenburgh (2002) for the safety motivation item.

The item with the highest mean value is "I know how to reduce accidents at school" with value is (Mean = 2.17, Standard Deviation = 0.690) and followed by item "I know how to improve safety at school", with value is (Mean = 2.00, Standard Deviation = 0.577). From the data obtained, among the items that deserve attention are "I feel that keeping safe is important at all times" with value is (Mean = 1.50, Standard Deviation = 0.568) and "I believe that safety at school is very important" with value is (Mean = 1.50, Standard Deviation = 0.558). A low mean value indicates that students think the school does not maintain safety at all times and is not important to students. This indicates that students have a negative attitude towards safety at school and will become unsafe after entering school.

CONCLUSION

This study found that all students tend to negatively perceive safety awareness at SMP IT Al Qudwah Musi Rawas. This is because the study's findings show the safety awareness level among students in SMT IT Al Qudwah Musi Rawas is still low, below ≤ 2.40 . This study also has a limitation: the sample selection is not random and only involves students in data collection. Therefore, the study's findings focus on students aged 12 to 15. At that age, it is difficult for researchers to translate the overall level of safety awareness. Accordingly, future studies have a broad scope to examine the level of safety awareness by including elements such as safety first, safety behaviours and safety management practices. This study also recommends that the school always maintain the level of safety in every aspect in increasing the awareness of safety to students so that the safety of students is guaranteed.

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