



# **Analysis of Minimum Service Standards for Facilities and Infrastructure in Improving the Quality of Learning in Kindergartens in Tolinggula District, North Gorontalo Regency, Indonesia**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study examines the fulfillment of minimum service requirements for kindergarten facilities and infrastructure in Tolinggula District, North Gorontalo Regency. The approach used in this research is quantitative and qualitative. Primary data was collected directly through questionnaires and interviews. Based on the NSPC (Norms, Standards, Procedures and Criteria) on Guidelines for the Implementation of Kindergarten Programs published by the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia in 2013, this research examines the Minimum Service Standards for Facilities and Infrastructure in Kindergarten Schools. In addition, this research also refers to the Guidelines for the Implementation of Integrated Early Childhood Education published by the Directorate of Early Childhood Education, Ministry of Education and Culture. Furthermore, this study uses the 2012 Guidelines for the Implementation of Integrated Early Childhood Education published by the Directorate of Early Childhood Education, Ministry of Education and Culture. The educational facilities indicators in this survey were also modified to comply with Permendiknas No 24 of 2007. Based on the results of the study, almost all kindergartens in Tolinggula district have complied with the Minimum Service Standards for Facilities. However, almost all kindergartens in Tolinggula district do not meet the Minimum Service Standards for Infrastructure.

**Keywords:** Facilities, Infrastructure, Minimum Service Standards

## **1. Introduction**

A broadly applicable national education system must be able to accommodate the diversity of learners from various regions. This step is very important because learners are the determinants of the future of the Indonesian nation. They are the next generation who will continue the nation's development, make it more advanced, and ensure that Indonesia is not left behind by other nations (Alwi, 2019). Thus, it is very important to pay attention to the education system since kindergarten or early childhood education. This is because children's growth and development will take place very well if they receive quality and comprehensive education. Children grow and develop according to certain patterns in language, creativity, cognitive ability and communication. Depending on the stage of development, each of these aspects includes intellectual intelligence, emotional intelligence, spiritual intelligence and religious intelligence. Government Regulation No. 27 of 1990 states that preschool education is the foundation for children to develop attitudes, knowledge, skills and creativity that will be needed when they enter primary school. The age of 0-6 years is very important for children's growth and development (Asmawi, 2020).

In order to maximize the implementation of learning in kindergarten, educational administration is indispensable in schools. Everything in the school must function as planned and comply with all relevant regulations and laws. Education management is also closely related to the administration of infrastructure and facilities. Of course, the implementation of kindergarten education relies heavily on the existence of adequate infrastructure and facilities. Unfortunately, many schools still lack adequate infrastructure and facilities. As a result, an effective and efficient learning process cannot be implemented optimally due to the limitations of these facilities and services.

Educational facilities are everything that is used to facilitate the teaching and learning process. According to the Decree of the Minister of Education and Culture No. 079 of 1975, educational facilities include buildings, furniture, laboratories, and learning aids (Wijono, 2019). Then there is also what is called educational media which consists of audiovisual. Unlike the material that does not use teaching aids, this audio-visual material is a teaching aid. Books and other teaching materials must be part of school infrastructure and facilities, educational furniture and equipment, educational media and others needed to support learning. This is in accordance with Government Regulation No.19 of 2005 which regulates national education standards regarding school infrastructure and facilities. The regulation also states that classrooms, teachers' and staff rooms, libraries, laboratories, workshops, units and playgrounds must be part of school infrastructure and facilities. However, this is still not fulfilled in some schools in Indonesia (Husaini, 2018).

In kindergarten itself, it is different from other school levels. Unlike elementary, junior high, and even high school. Because kindergarten schools need facilities, namely play and learning media that are in accordance with the age level or child development. This play media is very important and is one of

the requirements for the implementation of kindergarten schools. Because this can support games that are organized educationally. With a supportive playing environment, it will support children's abilities in growth and development. In general, kindergarten facilities and infrastructure include waiting rooms, classrooms, office space, libraries, indoor and outdoor play areas, warehouses, UKS, and front yards and parking lots. In order for these infrastructure and facilities to be used effectively, they must be managed effectively, which includes monitoring, implementation, and planning (Wahyuningrum, 2020).

Permendiknas No. 24/2007 serves as a legal umbrella in determining standards and financing for kindergarten and early childhood education. In order to support services in kindergarten schools, it needs to be discussed that the maintenance of infrastructure and facilities is an integral part that requires continuous funding. These infrastructure and facilities standards consist of various interrelated items. And the whole must be fulfilled by the school as a form of maximum facilities and infrastructure services. The standard consists of type, completeness, and quality. All of which are indispensable in organizing kindergarten teaching and learning activities.

The management standards that must be met have a specific meaning. It refers to the management activities carried out by the kindergarten school institutionally, which are related to the planning, implementation and supervision of the kindergarten. This is of course related to the management of facilities and infrastructure. There is also what is called a financing standard which includes various sources of costs that are needed in organizing and developing kindergarten schools. Therefore, what is meant by facilities and infrastructure is equipment to support the activities and organization of care, education and protection. Facilities and infrastructure must be modified to suit various conditions when procuring. For example, the conditions of the children themselves, social and cultural conditions and the conditions of the type of service. These facilities and infrastructure must be utilized and used with existing principles. The principles consist of being safe, comfortable, not lacking in lighting, meeting children's health standards, appropriate for the age of the child and the child's growth and development, and empowering according to the child's potential, environmentally friendly and still suitable for use (Nurhadi, 2021).

In order to formally organize a nursery school, the institution must meet a number of standards. These standards include having a minimum space area of 300m<sup>2</sup>, a minimum child space of 3m<sup>2</sup> for each student, a principal's room, a teacher's room, a UKS room, clean water and public toilets, as well as other spaces that suit the needs of children when carrying out teaching and learning activities, having play facilities available outside and indoors that can also encourage child development and have supporting equipment that helps children read, write, recognize letters and numbers. In contrast to formal kindergarten schools which have many requirements that must be taken, non-formal kindergarten schools must take several requirements consisting of having land that is suitable for the type of service, having a room that suits the needs, there are a number of children with the appropriate age group, facilities and infrastructure tailored to the needs of children's services, including bathrooms with clean water, learning spaces both indoors and outdoors, and a minimum area of 3m<sup>2</sup> per student. The most important thing is the presence of children as learners who fall into the kindergarten and early childhood age group as the object of service. It is also important that there are play facilities that can help children enter the growth and development phase. These play facilities must be made with various concepts so that they are suitable for children. Unlike the TPA, there needs to be a room to rest, eat, sleep, and bathe (Nana, 2022). Based on the description above, the research title is "Analysis of Minimum Service Standards for Facilities and Infrastructure in Improving the Quality of Learning at Kindergartens in Tolinggula District, North Gorontalo Regency".

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## 2. Methods

This research was conducted in kindergarten in Tolinggula district, North Gorontalo Regency. This study used a descriptive percentage approach with explanatory purposes. Data collection techniques used were questionnaires, interviews, observation and documentation. data analysis technique used descriptive statistical analysis

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## 3. Result

Based on the research findings that the Minimum Service Standards for Kindergarten Facilities in Tolinggula District are very appropriate. This is because the value of the Minimum Service Standards for Kindergarten Facilities in Tolinggula District ranges from 91%-100% based on the theory expressed by Sugiyono (2012)

Minimum Service Standards for Kindergarten Facilities and Infrastructure in Tolinggula District are quite appropriate. This is because the value of the Minimum Service Standards for Kindergarten Facilities and Infrastructure in Tolinggula District ranges from 71%-80% based on the theory expressed by Sugiyono (2012).

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## 4. Discussion

### a. Achievement of Minimum Service Standards for Kindergarten Facilities in Tolinggula district

The NSPK Minimum Service Standards (Norms, Standards, Procedures and Criteria) on Guidelines for the Implementation of Kindergarten Programs published by the Ministry of Education and Culture in 2013 became the basis for the kindergarten analysis. This analysis was then conducted using the Ministry of Education and Research Regulation No 48 of 2023 on Technical Guidelines for Facilities and Infrastructure Standards in Early Childhood Education, Primary Education and Secondary Education. In this survey, the indicators of educational facilities were also modified to match the provisions

in the Permendikbudristek Regulation. Considering that the Minimum Service Standard score for kindergarten facilities in Tolinggula district ranges from 91%-100%, the district has achieved very suitable results.

All kindergarten schools in Tolinggula district have desks as a material learning medium as well as a required tool. These school desks should be sturdy, stable and easy to use. The shape of the desk makes it easy for students' legs to fit under the desk, and the size is appropriate for the needs of enjoyable learning.

All kindergarten schools in Tolinggula district have chairs as a material learning medium as well as a required facility. Comfortable seating plays an important role in improving focus and concentration during classroom activities. Ergonomic school chairs provide the necessary support and comfort for students to concentrate on their lessons without unnecessary distractions. Classroom chairs should be sturdy, strong and easy for students to move. The backrest and seat design is comfortable for students to study, and the size is sufficient to sit comfortably.

All kindergarten schools in Tolinggula district also have adequate ventilation and lighting to support the learning process. Ventilation acts as a guardian of silence, ensuring the air we breathe is fresh, clean and conducive to a healthy atmosphere. Adequate lighting is also very important in classrooms. For learning, performance and productivity purposes, lighting in school buildings should allow people to read, see others and perform other visual tasks related to learning.

All kindergarten schools in Tolinggula district also have clean and usable blackboards. Whiteboards are very effective for conveying material as a whole or by section. Students' critical thinking skills can also be improved by using whiteboards. School whiteboards should be at least 90cmx200cm in size and positioned so that every student can see them clearly.

All kindergarten schools in Tolinggula district have books that can be used in the learning process. Schools are required to have various types of books, including: first, the Governor or Regent/Mayor sets the list of local content books, and the Minister of Education sets the list of textbooks. Secondly, teaching guides for appropriate instructors, and finally, publications for enrichment. Third, enrichment books with a composition of 25% fiction and 75% nonfiction. Fourth, student reference materials. Fifth, teaching aids, learning CDs, websites and globes are examples of additional learning aids.

All kindergarten schools in Tolinggula district also have learning aids that can be used during lessons. Learning aids in kindergarten schools can include simple storybooks, word cards, limb recognition dolls, thematic puzzles, flashcards and letters, themed dioramas, clock props, sensory boxes, educational game boards, learning stickers, posters of various shapes of objects, learning media for color recognition, media for introducing the properties of objects, learning media for recognizing shapes, collages of natural materials, plastic cups for counting media, and others.

In addition, all kindergarten schools in Tolinggula district have electronic devices and stationery that can be used during learning. Electronic tools are very important because they allow learning to be more interactive and interesting for students. They can increase student engagement and help increase interest and motivation. Stationery is also important because by using stationery, children can control their hand movements in the process of learning to write and draw.

All kindergarten schools in Tolinggula district also have flannel boards that can be used in the learning process. Kindergarten schools can use flannel boards to display pictures, letters, words and short phrases as part of early reading learning. The use of flannel boards is possible because of their attractive colors, easy to stick and remove, and can be seen, touched and moved...

In Tolinggula district, playground equipment is available in each kindergarten for use during the education process. Play provides several important advantages for early childhood development. Children can become excited and satisfied through play, which is beneficial to their development. Of course, the playground equipment provided by the school should facilitate this. Water tubs, sandboxes, slides, bridges, swings, climbing frames, puzzles, or other conventional play equipment can be used as playground equipment.

Educational play equipment is also available in every kindergarten in Tolinggula District to help with the learning process. With a variety of interesting toys, educational play equipment can improve children's intelligence, stimulate their development and make learning fun. Children's motor and sensory skills can also be developed with the use of educational play equipment. Anything found around, such as brooms, plates, cups, plastic spoons, pot lids and small stools, can be used as educational play equipment

#### **b. Achievement of Minimum Service Standards for Kindergarten Infrastructure in Tolinggula District**

Based on the NSPK (Norms, Standards, Procedures and Criteria) on Guidelines for the Implementation of Kindergarten Programs, the Minimum Service Standards for Infrastructure in Kindergarten Schools were reviewed. Furthermore, it was assessed using Permendikbudristek Number 48 of 2023. Because it ranges from 71% to 80%, the achievement of the Minimum Service Standard for Kindergarten Facilities and Infrastructure in Tolinggula District is considered quite good. Most educational institutions have a minimum ratio of land to students that is in accordance with applicable regulations. Then the number of students does not exceed the capacity of the available land area. However, some schools still stated that the minimum ratio of land to students did not meet the requirements. This is because some kindergartens still do not have their own facilities and infrastructure. Or in other words, schools with buildings still have borrowed status.

The majority of schools already have land rights. Although there were respondents who expressed discrepancies over the ownership of land rights. This is because there are still kindergarten schools that do not have their own buildings. Or in other words, schools with buildings are still on borrowed status. However, as long as the location is utilized in accordance with its designation and does not conflict with the public interest, the school's IPPT is also valid. Kindergartens can create a comfortable learning atmosphere if they are located in an area that is suitable for their category.

Almost all kindergarten schools in Tolinggula district already have building construction permits and use permits. Building construction permits and building use permits are one of the implementations of Law No. 28 of 2002 on Building and Law No. 26 of 2007 on Spatial Planning.

The school is also equipped with adequate air ventilation and lighting. With proper ventilation, schools can maintain good indoor air quality. Since ventilation acts as a guardian of silence, it ensures that the air we breathe is fresh, clean and conducive to a healthy atmosphere. Adequate lighting can also help students perform other visual tasks related to learning, teaching and school administration.

Kindergarten schools in Kecamatan Tolinggula do not yet have a dedicated UKS room. In fact, the role of the UKS in the school environment is very important for the continuity of student health. Nevertheless, the school is very concerned about the availability of medicines. This is a form of anticipation from the school if a student suddenly becomes ill while attending school.

Almost all kindergarten schools do not have a school library. In fact, the purpose of a school library is to help the school achieve its goals, which include teaching and learning as set out in the curriculum. As a center for teaching, information and enjoyment, the school library serves to facilitate the achievement of a goal.

Some schools also have a warehouse space that serves as a place to facilitate the storage or management process of goods. The warehouse space also serves as the school's inventory management center. It allows the school to keep track of the items owned, estimate inventory needs, and ensure that the required items are always available when .

The safety of kindergarten schools in Kecamatan Tolinggula is already guaranteed. Especially with the support of parents and the surrounding community who also provide security for kindergarten schools. However, in some schools theft still occurs, so there is a need to increase security from all elements. In fact, security is the main factor that must be prioritized in school development

The majority of schools also have sanitation inside and outside the building. The first step to creating a healthy learning environment is to improve school sanitation, which will benefit children's health. As disease transmission can be stopped by implementing a high-quality school hygiene program. Improving children's comfort and health at school can be greatly influenced by expanding access to sanitation facilities, which can also indirectly improve school attendance.

The school environmental pollution movement in the form of waste processing, waste burning and other activities has also been running. With the management of environmental pollution, it can avoid some of the dangers of environmental impacts around the school. Increase the effectiveness of how school operations are carried out. Build a sense of unity among all school members.

To maintain health, schools often carry out routine maintenance, which includes cleaning drainage channels, cleaning rooms and grounds, cleaning windows, chairs, tables, cabinets and other items, irregular cutting of grass and bushes, and cleaning and watering restrooms and toilets.

The school also skillfully carries out light maintenance and moderate maintenance. Light maintenance of facilities and infrastructure includes reporting damage or requests for light maintenance, purchasing equipment, supplies and products, carrying out repairs, submitting the results of light maintenance, and receiving the results of light maintenance work. Moderate maintenance, on the other hand, requires periodic care and maintenance by qualified staff, which puts a strain on the budget. However, schools often do not undertake extensive maintenance or sporadic maintenance by professionals whose performance cannot be anticipated in advance but whose need can be foreseen, putting a strain on the institution's finances.

In the course of such maintenance, the school often conducts evaluations that include teachers and staff. Determining the quantity and quality of educational infrastructure and facilities is the purpose of the evaluation. The existence of quality infrastructure and facilities will have an impact on student learning outcomes if these requirements are not met. Thus, challenges will arise in the teaching and learning process. Maintenance also includes repairing and improving the quality of infrastructure and facilities. Because in education, improving the quality of facilities and infrastructure is very important. Asset utilization and maintenance refers to the wide range of physical and digital items owned and used by educational institutions to support their operations and delivery of instruction

In addition, schools are also responsible for infrastructure and facilities, which includes quality improvement, monitoring and assessment. In the field of education, control over infrastructure and facilities is very important because with good management, these resources can be utilized for a longer period of time. In addition, the management of infrastructure and facilities aims to create a safe, comfortable and conducive environment. The school has carried out repairs and maintenance in the last 5 years. Repairing school facilities is an important action to maintain the quality of the teaching and learning environment and the safety of students, teachers and school staff.

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## 5. Conclusion

The achievement of Minimum Service Standards for Facilities in kindergartens in Tolinggula district is very appropriate, while the achievement of Minimum Service Standards for Infrastructure in kindergartens in Tolinggula district is quite appropriate.

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