

Singing Training Using the Zoltán Kodály Method for Preschool and Kindergarten Teachers in Jayapura District

Cosye M. Sahureka¹, Wouter Fangohoy², Deysi O. Mulder³, Nelinio Parinussa, Yustinus Polhaupessy⁴

¹²³⁴Sekolah Tinggi Agama Kristen Protestan Negeri Sentani
Email : meylatumahinas@gmail.com

Abstract

Singing training was conducted using the Zoltán Kodály approach for early childhood education and kindergarten teachers in Jayapura Regency to address the need to improve teachers' competence in effective music teaching for young children. Gaps in music education, caused by a lack of professional training, affect teachers' ability to integrate music in children's cognitive and social development. This service activity aims to empower teachers with the Kodály method, which uses simple and familiar songs to teach basic music concepts in a fun and interactive way. This service activity was carried out using the direct demonstration method by STAKPN Sentani Church Music Department lecturers, who practiced using the Kodály method with children's songs. The training results showed increased teachers' understanding of how music can be used as an effective educational tool, such as the Zoltán Kodály approach. In conclusion, the training made a real contribution to improving the quality of music teaching in PAUD and TK and supporting children's cognitive, social, and emotional development through a holistic and creative approach.

Keywords: Training, Singing, Approach, Zoltán Kodály, Preschool & Kindergarten Teachers, Jayapura District

INTRODUCTION

The implementation of community service activities for PAUD and TK teachers in Jayapura Regency, conducted by a team of lecturers majoring in church music at STAKPN Sentani, is based on improving the quality of early childhood music education. Music has a significant role in child development, especially in honing cognitive, motor, social, and emotional abilities [1].

However, many early childhood education and kindergarten teachers do not have adequate access or understanding of effective music learning methods. Music education in many PAUD and TK institutions in Jayapura District is often limited to simple song teaching without considering the potential for holistic development of children's musical abilities.

To improve the quality of music education for early childhood, a team of lecturers from STAKPN Sentani's Church Music Department initiated a training program using the Zoltán Kodály learning model. This method has been widely recognized as a practical approach to teaching music to young children through songs and games that are close to their daily lives [2], [3].

Folk songs and the gradual development of musical skills are at the core of this method. In Jayapura district, the Kodály method is seen as a solution to overcome limitations in music teaching at the early childhood and kindergarten levels, especially in integrating music with children's cognitive and social development.

Furthermore, the gap in music education at the early childhood and kindergarten levels is due to the lack of professional training for teachers in these areas. Many do not have structured teaching methods or approaches based on modern music pedagogy research. This training empowers teachers with better knowledge and skills in teaching music effectively, according to children's developmental needs. By implementing the Kodály method, it is hoped that teachers can implement more engaging, interactive, and immersive learning strategies so that music education can contribute to children's all-round development.

METHODS

The implementation of community service activities for PAUD and TK teachers in Jayapura Regency was carried out using the demonstration method, which is the core of this training. In this method, lecturers of the

Church Music Department directly practiced using the Zoltán Kodály learning model in an interactive and applicable atmosphere. This demonstration allowed the teachers to witness first-hand how to teach music to children using songs and games.

At the beginning of the activity, the lecturers introduced the basic concepts of the Kodály method, including the importance of using folk songs and children's games as learning media. Through demonstrations, the lecturers show how to utilize songs like 'Cicak-Cicak di Dinding' in the learning process. Each song was elaborated by showing how musical concepts such as rhythm, melody, and harmony could be taught in stages. Teachers watched the demonstrations and were invited to participate in the singing and movement activities, giving them hands-on experience to apply in their classrooms.

Through this demonstration method, preschool and kindergarten teachers can understand more deeply how to apply the Kodály method in their learning environment. Each stage of learning, from the introduction of basic tones to musical game activities, is demonstrated so that teachers can adopt the technique directly. In addition, the method allows teachers to ask questions and try out the methods demonstrated, thus improving their understanding and building confidence in teaching music to children.

The demonstration also shows how the integration of music and movement can be used to develop various aspects of child development, including cognitive, motor, and social skills. For example, the hand and body movements accompanying the song's singing reinforce children's understanding of rhythm and melody, while improving their physical coordination. With this demonstrative approach, preschool and kindergarten teachers get a concrete picture of how to effectively and enjoyably teach music to young children.

The PkM activity occurred on Friday, 12 May 2023, from 09.00 to 11.00 WIT at SMA Asisi Sentani. The participants were PAUD and TK from Jayapura Regency. PCM activities are based on programs directed by STAKPN Sentani institutions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Kodaly Method

Kodaly Music refers to a pedagogical approach inspired by the philosophy of Zoltán Kodály, which emphasizes intuitive and interactive learning through music. This approach involves teaching music logically and sequentially, engaging students in singing, body movement, and group exercises [4]. This method is considered suitable for resolving technical difficulties in learning musical instruments and is immediately practicable by everyone, including children. It emphasizes voice-over instrument use, with the core skills being memorization, listening to intonation, and harmony sensitivity. The use of the voice is the fastest and most natural way to measure one's musical ability [5].

The Kodaly method was found to be effective in improving solfege skills, pitch accuracy, and rhythm in preschoolers when using hand signals compared to a method without hand signals [6], [7]. The Kodaly Method helps improve music literacy by emphasizing active participation in music education and developing listening and music-reading skills [7], [8]. Kodály believed that music is a right for everyone, not just those with natural musical talent or can afford a quality music education. She fought for music education to be an integral part of the formal education system and available to all children, regardless of their social or economic background [9].

The Kodaly method aims to provide universal music literacy so that every individual in the community can actively participate in music-making [10]. Kodaly believes that music education should start early at home and then in the school curriculum. This method emphasises the use of high-quality music, especially classical repertoire and folk music, to develop musical literacy in children [11].

The Zoltán Kodály learning model training for early childhood and kindergarten teachers in the Jayapura district was designed to introduce a music learning method that emphasizes hands-on experience in music through singing and movement. The Kodály model, based on music education using folk songs and children's games, can assist teachers in developing children's musical abilities from an early age.

In this training, the lecturers introduced some familiar nursery rhymes, such as 'Cicak-Cicak di Diding,' 'Balonku Ada Lima,' and 'Bintang Kecil.' These songs were chosen because they have simple, familiar melodies and can be used to teach various basic music concepts such as pitch, rhythm, and sound patterns. Using nursery rhymes aligns with Kodály's principle of emphasising the importance of teaching music through songs close to children's experiences.

The training also aims to strengthen the role of teachers in utilizing music as a learning tool in the classroom. By teaching easy-to-understand songs, early childhood and kindergarten teachers in Jayapura Regency are invited to develop interactive, fun, and effective teaching methods in honing listening, singing, and group collaboration skills.



Picture 1.1 The lecturer team with PAUD and TK teachers while practising the Kodály Model

The Kodály model applied in this training focuses on singing ability and involves gestures and game activities. For example, the song "Balonku Ada Lima" is used to teach the concept of numbers and

colors, which is part of the introduction to basic mathematics. The teachers invited the children to sing while recognizing the color of the balloons and counting the number of balloons that erupted in the song. This method emphasizes integrating music learning with other materials, such as mathematics, to create a holistic learning experience.

The song "Bintang Kecil" is also used in this training to teach the concept of high and low tones and develop children's understanding of the natural world. Teachers are invited to take children to imagine about the stars in the night sky while singing, which can enrich children's experience in understanding the universe and stimulate their imagination. This training not only provides benefits for teachers, but is also expected to have a positive impact on the children they teach. With the Kodály method, children can learn music in a natural and fun way, which can increase their interest in music and help their cognitive, emotional, and social development.

The Zoltán Kodály learning model training is a clear example of the contribution of academics in improving the quality of education in Jayapura Regency, especially in early childhood education. This training is an essential step in supporting music education at the PAUD and kindergarten levels and a valuable form of community service from lecturers of the Department of Church Music in enriching children's learning experiences through music.

2. Application of Zoltán Kodály's Principles

In Early Childhood Music Education in Jayapura Regency, the importance of understanding PAUD and kindergarten teachers about the importance of music in children's development. This training introduces the philosophy and basic principles of Zoltán Kodály's method to help educators develop early childhood musical abilities effectively.

One of the main principles of the Kodály method is learning music based on folk songs. Kodály believes that music should be learned naturally, and one of the best ways to do this is through singing songs that are known to children [12]. Local folk songs and musical games are used as a teaching medium because, in addition to being easy to memorize and sing, these songs also reflect local culture and values that are close to children's lives. In the context of Jayapura Regency, the use of familiar children's songs such as "Cicak-Cicak di Dinding" or "Balonku Ada Lima" is in line with this approach, because these songs have become part of children's daily lives.

Another important principle in the Kodály method is the gradual development of musical skills. Early childhood children are invited to learn music progressively, starting from the introduction of basic notes, simple rhythms, to the ability to sing regularly. In this training, the lecturers of the Department of Church Music showed the teachers of early childhood education and kindergarten how to introduce complex musical concepts gradually, according to the level of children's development. This approach aims to ensure that children do not feel burdened in learning music, but can enjoy the learning process naturally and full of joy.



Picture 1.2 A team of temporary lecturers explaining the theory of the application of Zoltán Kodály's principles in early childhood music education

Singing and play in Kodály's method is also vital, especially in improving children's musical abilities. Through play, children can

learn rhythm, coordination, and hearing skills in a fun way. In this training, teachers are invited to practice singing and movements by children's songs, such as imitating lizard movements when singing "Lizards on the Wall." This activity not only trains musical skills, but also develops children's motor skills and strengthens social bonds through group activities.

Zoltán Kodály's philosophy emphasizes that every child has the potential to learn music, and this training aims to empower teachers so that they can maximize that potential in the classroom environment [13]. With the application of Kodály's method, music is not only considered an additional skill, but an integral part of learning that can support children's cognitive, social, and emotional development. This training provided new insights to PAUD and kindergarten teachers in Jayapura Regency on how music can be used as an effective educational tool, and how Kodály's methods can be applied to create more meaningful learning experiences for early childhood.

CONCLUSION

The Zoltán Kodály Learning Model training conducted by a team of lecturers from the Department of Music of STAKPN Sentani Church for PAUD and kindergarten teachers in Jayapura Regency provided a deep understanding of the importance of music in early childhood development. This method prioritizes song- and game-based learning that enriches the learning process with a fun and relevant approach to children's daily lives. Songs like "Cicak-Cicak di Dinding" effectively introduce basic musical concepts while engaging children's imagination and motor skills. Applying the Kodály method provides a clear framework for teachers to guide children in gradually and naturally exploring music.

This service activity not only improves the competence of PAUD and kindergarten teachers in teaching music but also positively impacts children's development. Through a holistic approach, music is taught not only as an art, but also as a means to strengthen

children's cognitive, social, and emotional skills. So, this training shows the actual contribution of the lecturers of the Department of Church Music in supporting better quality early childhood education and encouraging the development of a more creative and skilled young generation in Jayapura Regency.

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