Validity and Practicality of the *'Perisai Diri'* Digital Comic Based on *Siri' Na Pacce* Values for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment among Junior High School Students

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Abstract. This study evaluated the validity and practicality of the *Perisai Diri* digital comic as a preventive medium against sexual harassment among junior high school students. Adapting the Borg and Gall research-and-development model into seven stages, the comic integrates Bandura's Social Learning Theory, assertiveness training, and the Bugis–Makassar philosophy of *Siri' Na Pacce*. Expert validation indicated very high feasibility 90 % from content experts, 96 % from media experts, and 99 % from practitioners. A practicality test with one guidance-and-counseling teacher and ten students yielded very high practicality scores (99 % and 95 %, respectively). The comic's five stories teach body rights, assertive skills, and reporting pathways, reinforcing both self-efficacy and cultural values. These findings confirm that *Perisai Diri* is scientifically valid and highly practical for culturally grounded school counseling, providing an effective and replicable medium for adolescent sexual-harassment prevention.

Keywords: digital comic; validity; practicality; *Siri' Na Pacce*; sexual harassment prevention.

INTRODUCTION

Sexual harassment of children and adolescents remains a critical public health and educational problem in Indonesia. Data from the national Sistem Informasi Online Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak (SIMFONI-PPA) recorded 295 cases of sexual violence in South Sulawesi alone up to October 2024, with the majority of victims being women and children (Syukurman et al., 2022). In Makassar City during the same period, there were 520 reported cases of violence against women and children, and 73.27% involved child victims, including 68 incidents of sexual violence (Syukurman et al., 2022). These figures underscore an urgent social and educational crisis. Alarmingly, perpetrators are often close to the victim family members, neighbors, or even teachers—indicating that legal enforcement alone is insufficient; comprehensive educational and preventive interventions are essential.

Field observations at UPT SPF SMP Negeri 5 Makassar reinforce this urgency. Interviews with school counselors revealed an absence of systematic prevention programs and a lack of learning media that engage adolescents. A survey of 1,053 students found that 67.12% demonstrated limited understanding of the definitions, forms, and consequences of sexual harassment, with many perceiving catcalls, sexual jokes, or inappropriate touching as harmless teasing (Dewi & Bakhtiar, 2020). This gap between the urgent need for protective education and the availability of effective media highlights the necessity for innovative, youth-friendly interventions.

Traditional lecture-based sexual education often fails to capture students' interest or instill protective attitudes. Digital comics offer unique

advantages: engaging visuals, accessible narratives, and the ability to present role models who model protective behaviors that students can observe and emulate. Empirical studies show that digital comics can increase reading engagement and comprehension (Aditya et al., 2023; Meylindah, 2023) and foster the emotional involvement necessary for behavior change (Logie et al., 2023). Because Indonesian adolescents are avid users of mobile devices, digital comics represent an appealing medium for delivering preventive messages.

Equally important is cultural grounding. For Bugis Makassar communities, the philosophy of Siri' Na Pacce provides a deeply resonant moral framework. *Siri'* emphasizes personal dignity and the shame associated with dishonorable behavior, while *pacce* calls for empathy and solidarity in confronting suffering (Jamaluddin et al., 2022; Reski et al., 2021). Integrating these values into educational media is not mere ornamentation but a deliberate strategy to instill self-control, respect, and communal responsibility. Local research confirms that character education based on *Siri' Na Pacce* effectively encourages prosocial behavior and prevents moral transgressions (Azis et al., 2020). By framing sexual harassment as a violation of both individual dignity and communal humanity, the intervention aligns protective action with cultural identity and moral duty.

The theoretical foundation of this study draws on Bandura's Social Learning Theory, which posits that individuals acquire new behaviors through observation, imitation, and reinforcement. Adolescents can learn assertive skills such as refusing unwanted touch or reporting abuse by observing modeled protective behaviors and gaining confidence (self-efficacy) that they can successfully replicate them (Bandura, 1977). Assertiveness training, which strengthens refusal skills and boundary-setting, complements this approach and has been shown to reduce vulnerability to sexual violence among adolescents (Mediawati et al., 2022; Sayyadi et al., 2019; Sharma et al., 2021).

This research therefore addresses a critical question: *Can a culturally grounded digital comic, integrating Siri' Na Pacce values with social learning and assertiveness training, serve as a valid and practical medium for preventing sexual harassment among junior-high school students?* To answer this, the study developed the *Perisai Diri* digital comic and evaluated its validity the degree to which its content and design meet educational objectives and its practicality, including ease of use, appeal, and relevance to adolescent learners. By combining evidence-based educational strategies with local wisdom, this study contributes both a tested prevention tool and a model for integrating cultural values into digital counseling media.

METHOD

This study employed a research and development (R&D) design adapting the Borg and Gall model from ten to seven stages to accommodate time and budget constraints while maintaining scientific rigor. The study was conducted at UPT SPF SMP Negeri 5 Makassar, Indonesia, from November 2024 to May 2025.

The population comprised all 1,053 students (grades VII–IX, aged 12–15) and three guidance and counseling (BK) teachers at SMP Negeri 5 Makassar. A purposive sampling technique was applied: the entire student body completed the needs-assessment questionnaire, while 10 students (balanced for gender and grade) and one BK teacher were selected for the small-group field trial.

Data were collected through (1) a needs-assessment questionnaire adapted from (Dewi & Bakhtiar, 2020) to measure students' understanding of sexual harassment; (2) expert-validation sheets (content, media, and practitioner) with 4-point Likert scales covering content accuracy, cultural relevance, design clarity, and message suitability; and (3) a practicality questionnaire evaluating utility, feasibility, and message accuracy. Internal consistency of the validation and practicality instruments was confirmed with Cronbach's alpha ≥0.85, indicating high reliability. The R&D process followed seven phases in the tabel 1.

Content validity and practicality were calculated as: (obtained score ÷ maximum score) × 100 %. Interpretation categories were: ≥85 % "very high," 70–84 % "high," 55–69 % "moderate," and <55 % "low" (Bahri, 2021). Expert validation yielded 90 % (content), 96 % (media), and 99 % (practitioner). Practicality scores were 99 % (teacher) and 95 % (students), indicating "very high" practicality. The study assumes honest responses from students and teachers and acknowledges limitations related to the single-school site and a small pilot group for
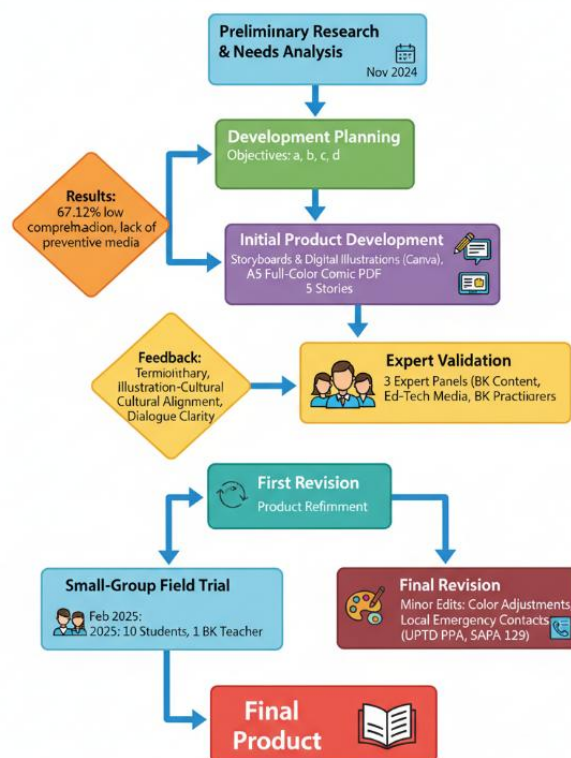
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Figure 1. R&D process

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This study produced consistent and compelling evidence of the validity and practicality of the *Perisai Diri* digital comic, which is grounded in the Bugis–Makassar philosophy of *Siri' Na Pacce*, as a medium for preventing sexual harassment among junior high school students. Expert validation showed very high feasibility: content experts rated the comic at 90%, media experts at 96%, and the practitioner (school counselor) at 99%. In a small-group practicality test, the counselor gave a score of 99% and ten students rated it 95%. These high percentages indicate that in terms of content accuracy, visual design, and ease of use, the comic meets rigorous scientific standards and is ready for implementation in school guidance and counseling services.

The digital comic is presented in a full-color A5 format optimized for mobile and desktop devices. It comprises five main stories depicting forms of harassment commonly faced by adolescents: verbal, visual, physical, and digital. Each story features teenage characters in realistic situations ranging from catcalls and sexually suggestive jokes to the non-consensual sharing of photos and unwanted physical contact and models how to respond assertively and safely. The prologue emphasizes that sexual harassment is a violation of human dignity and bodily rights. It also introduces the Bugis–Makassar philosophy of *Siri' Na Pacce*, which underscores *siri'* (dignity and moral shame for dishonorable acts) and *pacce* (empathy and solidarity with those who suffer) as a moral foundation for rejecting violence and helping victims (Jamaluddin et al., 2022; Reski et al., 2021; Hasni et al., 2019). The narratives are not mere entertainment but are intentionally designed as a learning tool to build assertive skills, teach reporting pathways, and foster protective attitudes through observable and imitable behavior.

The comic's content and storyline are deliberately based on Bandura's Social Learning

Theory (1977), which holds that behavior is acquired through observation, imitation, and reinforcement. In each scene, the main characters demonstrate ways to refuse inappropriate advances, exit risky situations, and report incidents to authorities, while the narrative shows these responses receiving positive social support. Through such modeling, students are expected to build self-efficacy the confidence that they can perform protective actions when facing sexual harassment. The comic also incorporates elements of assertiveness training, an approach proven to strengthen adolescents' ability to defend their bodily rights and express refusal clearly (Sayyadi et al., 2019; Sharma et al., 2021).

The quantitative results supporting these conclusions are summarized in Table 1. The table displays the evaluations from each group of experts as well as the field practicality test, which together provide the empirical basis for determining the comic's feasibility.

Table 1. Validity and Practicality of the *Perisai Diri* Digital Comic

Evaluator / Test Type	Aspect Assessed	Score (%)	Category
Content Experts	Content validity	90	Very High
Media Experts	Visual & design validity	96	Very High
Practitioner (School Counselor)	Practical relevance (validation)	99	Very High
School Counselor – Practicality	Utility, feasibility, accuracy	99	Very High
Students (n = 10) – Practicality	Utility, feasibility, accuracy	95	Very High

Note: Percentages represent scores from expert validation and field practicality tests. "Validation" includes assessments of content and design feasibility, while "Practicality" reflects evaluations of usability and ease of application in the field.

These findings confirm that the comic is not only appealing but also meets both scientific and practical criteria. High percentages across all aspects show consistent quality, from content precision to visual design that supports comprehension. Qualitative feedback from validators suggested only minor revisions such as refining terminology, aligning illustrations with Bugis Makassar cultural symbols, and sharpening dialogue which further strengthened content and face validity.

The results align with broader research on the effectiveness of digital comics in health education and sexual-violence prevention. A study in Iran found that digital-comic reproductive-health education significantly improved adolescents' knowledge and understanding (Triana et al., 2023). In Uganda, participatory comics co-created with youth reduced stigma and enhanced the prevention of gender-based violence

The integration of assertiveness training within the comic is also supported by research showing that assertiveness and other life skills are negatively correlated with sexual-risk behaviors among adolescents (Mediawati et al., 2022). Indonesian interventions such as the *Sumbang* *Duo Baleh* program have demonstrated that structured assertiveness training increases protective behavior and reduces vulnerability to sexual harassment (Adha & Syukur, 2024). International studies likewise confirm that sexual-assertiveness training improves adolescents' ability to refuse unwanted sexual advances (Sayyadi et al., 2019; Sharma et al., 2021). The combination of assertiveness training with a culturally rooted digital comic thus rests on a solid theoretical and empirical foundation.

From a cultural perspective, incorporating *Siri' Na Pacce* is far more than decorative. Character-education research shows that these values effectively foster self-control and prosocial behavior (Azis et al., 2020). By framing harassment prevention as the preservation of dignity (*siri'*) and the expression of collective empathy (*pacce*), the comic's message is more readily internalized by Bugis Makassar adolescents than generic sexuality-education approaches (UNESCO, 2018). This model is consistent with WHO, (2022) recommendations that school-based violence-prevention programs be culturally sensitive and locally grounded.

Even so, the results should be interpreted cautiously. The exceptionally high ratings may

reflect a novelty effect initial enthusiasm for a new and visually engaging medium similar to patterns noted in arts-based school interventions (Ringrose et al., 2024). In addition, the dual role of the school counselor as both validator and user may introduce evaluator bias (Setiansah et al., 2025). Future research employing pre-post designs with control groups and larger, more diverse samples is needed to assess sustained impact, behavioral change, and the durability of effects once initial excitement subsides.

Despite these limitations, *Perisai Diri* can be recommended as an implementation-ready medium for schools. Counselors can integrate it into two classroom-guidance sessions the first introducing key concepts and prevention strategies, the second focusing on assertiveness practice through role-play based on the five stories. The comic can also be incorporated into small-group counseling or parent-education sessions via a QR code linking to the digital version. Its inclusion of emergency-contact information (UPTD PPA, SAPA 129) allows counselors to end sessions with a concrete simulation of reporting pathways. Such practices align with (UNESCO, 2018) and CDC (2022) guidelines for structured, participatory school-based interventions.

Overall, these findings expand our understanding of how culturally contextualized digital media can enhance the effectiveness of sexual-harassment prevention programs. The *Perisai Diri* comic combines a cognitive-behavioral approach through social learning with a normative-cultural approach through *Siri' Na Pacce*, thereby fostering both self-efficacy and moral motivation. This combination makes the product not only an information medium but also an instrument for transforming attitudes and behaviors. Future studies should test long-term effects, compare "comic only" versus "comic plus assertiveness training," and replicate the intervention across different cultural settings to evaluate adaptability and generalizability.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTION

This study demonstrates that a culturally grounded digital comic can serve as an effective and ready-to-use medium for school-based sexual-harassment prevention. The *Perisai Diri* comic achieved very high scores for content validity and practical usability, confirming that its design and educational objectives meet rigorous standards while remaining accessible to junior-high students and counselors. By combining Bandura's social learning framework with assertiveness training and the Bugis–Makassar philosophy of *Siri' Na Pacce*, the comic moves beyond simple information delivery to foster both self-efficacy and moral motivation. These findings add to global evidence that culturally contextualized digital media can strengthen adolescent protective behaviors and align closely with international recommendations for comprehensive, culturally sensitive sexuality education. The originality of this work lies in weaving local wisdom into an interactive digital format, providing a replicable model for educators and researchers seeking to integrate cultural values with modern technology to address sexual-violence prevention in diverse communities.

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