



Nurturing Compassion Early: Foundations and Preliminary Findings of Animal Welfare Education in Malaysian Preschools



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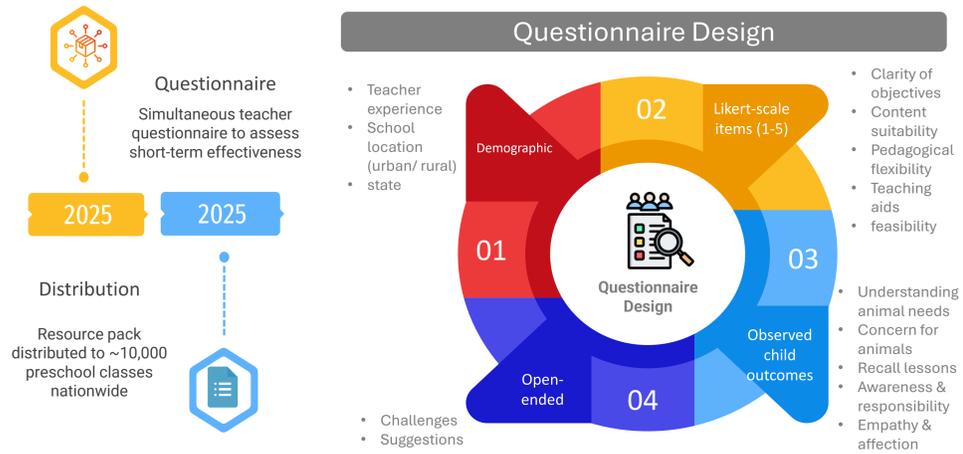
INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES

In 2024, DVS and MOE introduced the **Animal Welfare Resource Pack** for Malaysian preschools, designed to address the curricular gap through age-appropriate **storybooks, songs, videos, and classroom activities**, supported by a **Teacher's Guide**. The resource pack has been distributed to almost 10,000 preschool classes under the MOE.

The objectives of this study are:

- To evaluate the effectiveness of the resource pack in enhancing children's knowledge, awareness, and empathy towards animals.
- To assess teacher perceptions of the resource pack's clarity, usability, and classroom applicability.
- To identify implementation challenges and gather suggestions for improvement.

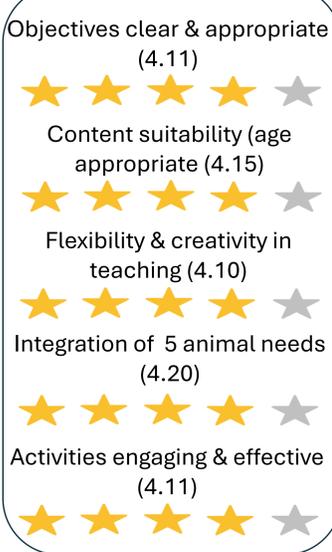
METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW



Preliminary Findings

(n = 70, 3 states; Perlis, Negeri Sembilan, Johor)

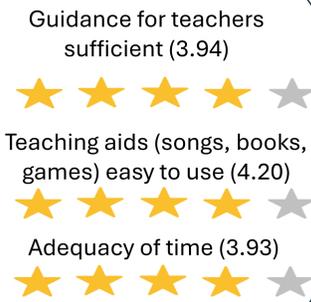
Teacher Perceptions



Observed Child Outcomes



Implementation

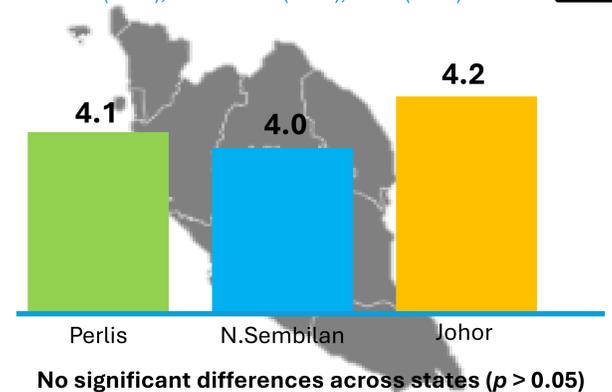


Teacher Perceptions & Child Outcomes (Spearman's Rank Correlation Analysis)

	Recall	Awareness	Empathy
Objectives	p = 0.63	p = 0.62	p = 0.67
Content	p = 0.58	p = 0.56	p = 0.60
Teaching Aids	p = 0.55	p = 0.53	p = 0.59

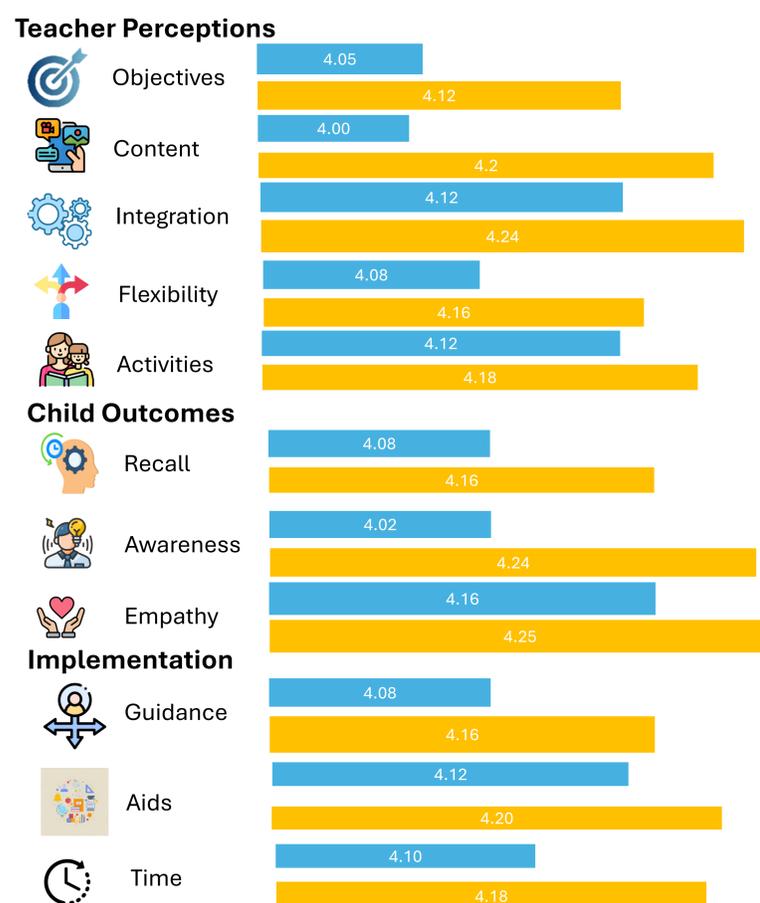
Teacher Evaluations Across States (Kruskal-Wallis Tests)

Perlis (n=21), N.Sembilan (n=17), Johor (n=32)



Teacher Responses Based on School Settings (Mann-Whitney Tests)

Urban (n=38) Rural (n=32)
No significant differences across all items (p > 0.05)



Teacher Feedback: Key Themes

Open-ended responses



- Limited time to run all activities
- Curriculum load restricts extended discussion

Time Constraints



Need for Additional Materials

- More visual aids, storybooks, multimedia
- Differentiated resources for varying comprehension level



Capacity Building for Teachers

- Variability in teacher confidence & knowledge
- Requests for training, workshops, exemplar lessons

CONCLUSION

Positive Findings

- Teachers rated the Animal Welfare Pack positively (mean > 4.0)
- High scores: clarity of objectives, age-appropriate content, integration of five animal needs
- Activities seen as engaging and effective
- Children: recalled lessons, more aware of animal care, more empathetic
- Results consistent across states & urban/ rural – adaptable across contexts
- Spearman's correlation – teacher perceptions strongly linked to child outcomes (p=0.53 – 0.67, p<0.001)
- Excellent reliability of teacher questionnaire = robust evaluation tool

Overall Insights

- Resource pack = effective, adaptable, scalable
- Teacher engagement = key driver of success
- Needs: time allocation + materials + training + sustained support
- Aligns with global best practices- structured, continuous, and well-supported humane education.

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