

# Exploring the sustainability of ToyBox Study Malaysia among preschool teachers as agents of change



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## INTRODUCTION

- Studies on sustainability that affect implementation give insights to the success or failure of an intervention programme (Walugembe et al., 2019).
- For ToyBox Study Malaysia, teachers are the main program providers of the preschool-based health intervention.
- To maximise reach and sustainability, sustained practices from the teachers or childcare providers can give insights on school-based prevention efforts (Lebron et al., 2020).

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

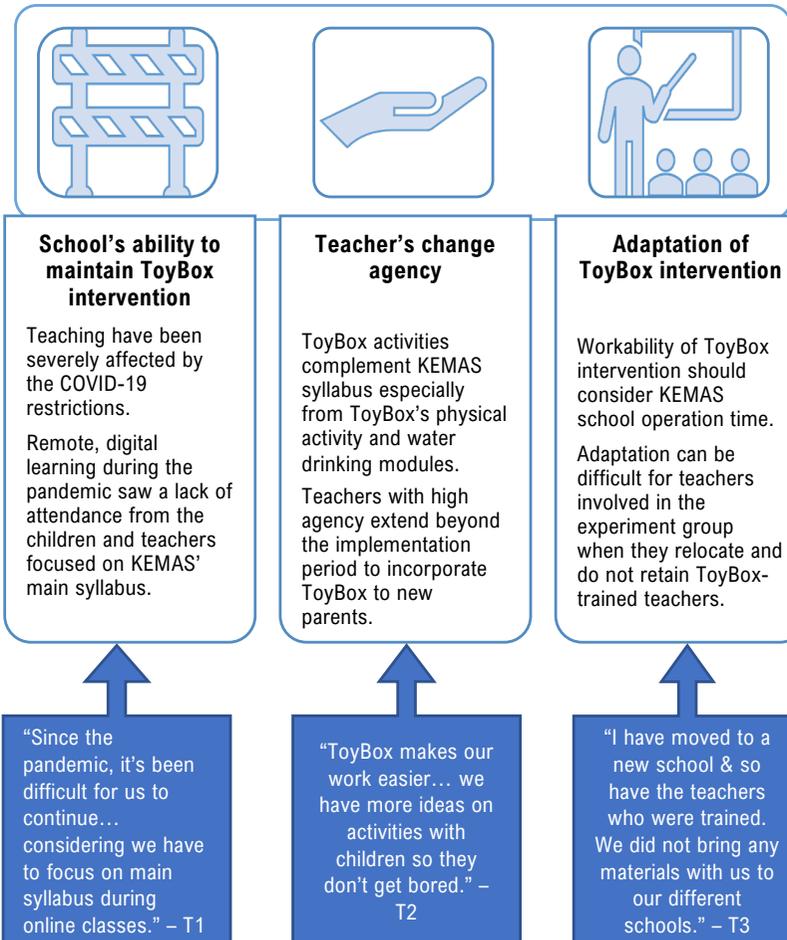
1. What are the roles of KEMAS preschool teachers as the agents of change in sustaining ToyBox Study Malaysia intervention?
2. What are the KEMAS preschool teachers' perspectives on the factors of sustainability of ToyBox Study Malaysia?

## METHODOLOGY

- Descriptive-interpretive qualitative study
- 23 KEMAS preschool teachers from the experiment group in ToyBox implementation study,
  - Kuala Lumpur & Selangor (n=14)
  - Lundu & Bau, Sarawak (n=9)
- Qualitative data are collected through the following methods:
  - Semi structured interviews
  - ToyBox materials and aids checklist
  - Pictures as artefacts
- The collected data are corroborated through triangulation to form coherent findings.

## PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

The following are major codes and related themes found after a preliminary thematic analysis:



## DISCUSSION

- Although these are preliminary findings, a recurring theme found that the sustainability of ToyBox intervention is affected by the school's operation during COVID-19 lockdown.
- Continuing the intervention is a challenge as teachers have expressed the priority to catch up with KEMAS' academic syllabus, which shows the importance of academic outcomes as prevalent norm in schools.

## CONCLUSION

- The KEMAS preschool teachers are in favor of continuing the intervention, provided that the materials and teaching aids are in good conditions.
- ToyBox modules that are easier to adapt complement KEMAS' current syllabus.
- This preliminary findings help researchers to understand the dynamic changes that occurs in schools which affects intervention sustainability.

## SELECTED REFERENCES

Walugembe, D. R., Sibbald, S., Ber, M. J. Le, & Kothari, A. (2019). Sustainability of public health interventions: where are the gaps? *Health Research Policy and Systems*, 17(8), 1–7.

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