Internet-based interactive sex education for early adolescents in Mauritius: needs and expectations

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Literature Review +

Research Proposal (Qualitative)

Introduction

- **Long Term Vision**
- **Background**
- **Literature Review**
- **Research Proposal**

Long Term Vision

PhD Research (Ecology of Internet and Early Adolescent Sexuality in Mauritius)

- Online Sexual Materials (Intended/Unintended) – Digital Divide (Parents-Children)
- Curiosity + Need for Information + Attraction of the Media
- Establishment of Dating Pattern – Virtual to Reality – In Reality: Through Public Space to Private Space
- Lack information on various important aspects, such as on STIs, Grooming, Dating Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Health Issues (No Formal Sex Education in Mauritius)

Research – Needs and Expectations of Online Sex Education for Early Adolescents
Qualitative: Exploratory

What + Why + How + When + Ethical & Safe Use?

\+

Quantitative For Triangulation

Develop an Interactive Online Sex Education Programme

Evaluation of Impact – CRTs (Longitudinal)

Presentation

(Literature Review + Research Proposal)

Background

- **Early Adolescents (10-12): Crucial Transitory Period (△s)**
- **Mauritius – Move toward a Technology-based Society – Cyber Island – Investment**
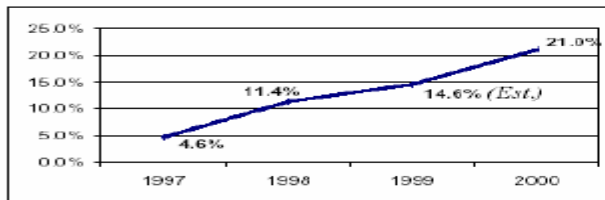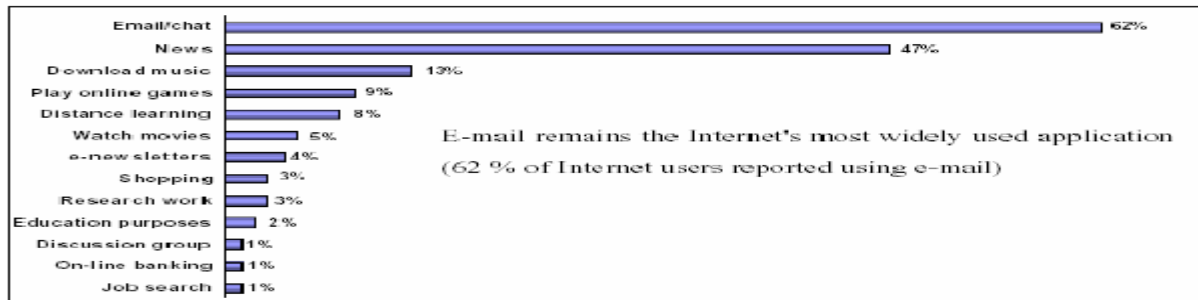
Figure 1: Growth in computer ownership

3.3 Usage of computers at home

The following is a detailed profile of home computer users.

Characteristics	Attributes	%
Gender	Male	69 %
	Female	31 %
Age group	Below 12 years	9 %
	12 - 20 years	34 %
	21 - 29 years	17 %
	30 - 39 years	17 %
	40 - 49 years	16 %
	50 - 59 years	6 %
	60 years and above	1 %

Figure 23: Types of Internet usage

Email/chat	62%
News	47%
Download music	13%
Play online games	9%
Distance learning	8%
Watch movies	5%
e-newsletters	4%
Shopping	3%
Research work	3%
Education purposes	2%
Discussion group	1%
On-line banking	1%
Job search	1%

E-mail remains the Internet's most widely used application
(62 % of Internet users reported using e-mail)

Review :Early Adolescent Sexuality

- **Very few studies (N=15), Developing Countries (N=1)**
- **Most studies Longitudinal**

- **Similarities:**
  - **Crucial Role of Social Environment (E.g School, Work, Family etc)**
    (Bozick, 2006; Wright et al, 1990; Eggermont, 2005; Waller and DuBois, 2004; Paul et al., 2000; Whitbeck et al., 1999; Streitmatter et al., 1984, Scott-Jones and White, 1990)
  - **Some early adolescents starts sexual activity before the age of 16**
    (Legal, social, and psychological implications)

- **Main Difference:**

  - **amount knowledge that early adolescents have on sex, sexuality, and sexuality related concepts (Perhaps depend on sex IEC)**

Review :Young People & Internet Sexuality

- ## Lack of Empirical Evidences (N=9)

- ## The Good

  - Beneficial Medium for IEC on sexual self

  (Amichai- Hamburger et al., 2002; Gross et al., 2002; Hamburger and Ben-Artzi, 2000; Kraut et al., 2002; Valkenburg et al., 2005).

  - Many young people are turning to Internet for IEC on sexuality

  (Bay-Cheng, 2001; Kanuga and Rosenfeld, 2004)

- ## The Bad

  - **Exposure to Online Sexuality Explicit**

    (Lo and Wei, 2005; Cameron et al., 2005, Kanuga and Rosenfeld, 2004)

  - **Psychological and emotional distress**

    (Lo and Wei, 2005; Lybarra et al., 2004; Beebe et al., 2004; Wolak et al., 2004; and McFarlene et al., 2002)

  - **Risk with Paedophiles**

    (Levinne, 2000; Quayle and Taylor, 2002; Wolack et al, 2002; McKenna et al., 2002)

Rationale of Study

- **Mauritius Economic Investment: Sustainable (Human factor) – Panic (L'Express, 2006 – Under 16 years making pornographic films in schools using latest technology) -Good Case Study – Various Social, Legal, Medical, Psychological implications**

- **Formal Sex Education is absent – Early Adolescents towards Internet for IEC on Sexuality (But!)**

- **Lack of Empirical Evidences (Internet for IEC on Sexuality)**

- **Lack of Sociological Approach to looking at Early-adolescent sexuality (Sex is social also)**

The Study

- **Aims:** Explore and identify the needs, expectations, and concerns of early adolescents in relation to Internet-based IEC on Sexuality

- **Research Questions:**

1. What are the specific needs of early Adolescents in relation to IEC on Sexuality?
2. What are the expectations of early adolescents in relation Internet-based Interactive IEC on sexuality?
3. What are the major concerns of early adolescents in relation to Internet-based Interactive IEC on sexuality?
4. What are the early-adolescents' perceived barriers and opportunities in using Internet-based IEC on sexuality?
5. How early adolescents can make and promote ethical use of Internet?

Methodology: Phase 1a

- **Qualitative Method – Exploratory nature – Rich and In-depth Data**

- **Data Collections Techniques (Multiple Meth.)**
1. **Narrative Interviews**
2. **Internet-mediated Chat Room Based Interview**
3. **Focus Group Discussion**

- **Data Analysis: Grounded Theory – Use of Atlas-ti**

- **Sampling: Theoretical (Saturation/Fit) But Start with a Purposively chosen diverse sample**

Ethical Issues

- **Informed Consent & Autonomy**
    - **With all stakeholders (Except Chat room- Parents – Anonymity)**
- **Confidentiality and Data Protection**
- **Expert's Advice + Other adults presence (where girls – a female)**
- **Approval of an Ethical Board**
- **Several other social research guidelines and Principles (Veracity, Justice and Fairness, Beneficence)**
- **List of available services for early adolescents in Mauritius**

Research Process & Other

Phase 1a. Research Activities	YEAR	2006							
	MONTH	Mar	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 Literature survey		▓							
2 Protocol write up		▓							
3 Development of Tools			▓						
4 Training of Researchers			▓						
5 Data Collection				▓	▓	▓			
6 Data Input & Analysis				▓	▓	▓			
7 Report Writing							▓	▓	
8 Dissemination of Findings								▓	

Item of Expenditure	Amount Rate	Total Amount in US $
Honoraria: Co-ordinator	1 X 500	
Other Consultants	4 X 250	1,500
Data Collection	@ 500 NIs + 6 FGDs + 300 hrs of IMICRs	2,500
Data Entry and Analysis Support		1,000
Research Assistant	@ 4 months	2,000
Dissemination (Workshop & Seminars)		1,000
Total		**8, 000**

	Urban	Rural
Schools	Boys (Set A) Girls (Set C) Mixed (Set E)	Boys (Set B) Girls (Set D) Mixed (Set F)
Youth Centres	(Set G)	(Set H)

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