

Module 2: Evidence based approaches to sexuality education for adolescents - Adolescent health and development with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health - Assignment

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Barriers to expanding or improving sexuality education

1. Religious men, who believe in marriage and abstinence; talking about sex is forbidden, it can initiate sexual activities.
2. High illiteracy rates, especially in countryside and women.
3. Traditions and values, most of people believe in that this is against the traditions.
4. Denial of having problems related to sex from officials, as the authorities think it is shame to address such issues especially to the media.
5. Civil war and conflicts. We experienced the longest civil war in Africa that ended by the CPA (Comprehensive Peace Agreement) in 2005 but now we have the Darfur crisis, which is still going on.
6. Gender based discriminations.
7. Parents are escaping to answer sex related questions.

Suggestions on overcoming these barriers

The above-mentioned obstacles could be overcome easily in case we follow the 4As clearly stated in the book (Sex Education Advocacy 2009 by IPPF) which are Advocate, Approaches, Activate, and Answer.

Since the religious men believe in abstinence as the only solution, we have to prove to them that the studies showed that abstinence alone is not enough to keep a community cling with virtues, unless it's parallel with sex education (UN convention 1989), because studies showed that young adults cannot stay committed for a long time. We have to advocate for sexual education in national curricula starting from basic schools. Authorities should be pressed to joint CEDAW agreement, as a solution for the discrimination against women.

Assignment documents

1. [IPPF. From evidence to action: Advocating for comprehensive sexuality education. London: IPPF; 2009.](#)
2. [UNESCO. International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education. Volume I. The rationale for sexuality education. Paris: UNESCO; 2009.](#)

3. [UNESCO. International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education. Volume II. Topics and learning objectives. Paris: UNESCO; 2009.](#)
4. [UNESCO. Levers of Success. Case studies of national sexuality education programmes. Paris: UNESCO; 2010.](#)