

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 in Cameroon

- 1- Absence of real action to implement adolescent reproductive health as briefly developed in sectorial strategy of health 2000-2015.
- 2- Lack of national guidelines for sexuality education in school.
- 3- Only few religious institutions (especially catholic) developed a program called “EVA” which means “Education for live and love”. Must diluted informations of that program recommend to youth Abstinence as only method of prevention of HIV/STI’s, and only virginity pledges and natural methods for contraception. The program profoundly discriminated condoms and modern contraception.
- 4- Existence of two different systems of education: one Anglo-Saxon introducing notions on sexuality from primary school and the other one French system with few lessons on human reproduction in secondary school level.
- 5- Existence of too many community based associations, International organisms, NGO’s acting on sexuality education under umbrella of different ministries (health, social affairs, promotion of woman and family, youth...) without any coordination and supervision.
- 6- Absence of sexuality education in must youth friendly structures or services especially those covered by ministry of youth and social affairs.
- 7- Consideration of sexuality question as taboo to be not discussed with young people by to overall population.
- 8- Despite the existence of few laws improving gender equity and ratification of international conventions and agreements relative to human rights, there’s still general silence about gender-base violence, sexual abuses and harmful practices.
- 9- General poverty and corruption that pushes trainers and peer educators participating to National program to fight against HIV/STI’s not for conviction, but just for substantial money that they receive for.

Suggestions on overcoming the barriers

Suggestions on overcoming sexuality education in Cameroon are based on barriers listed above.

- 1- Policy on adolescent sexual and reproductive health should be developed as entire preoccupation and not just a small part of global reproductive health. This policy may easily be integrated in objectives of recently created National youth council.
- 2- National guidelines on comprehensive sexuality education should be setup with collaborative integration of relevant ministries, community-based associations, health professionals, international funding and technical agencies. This group of experts should be transformed into National committee for sexuality education.

- 3- The role of this national committee will be to:
 - a. Develop national sexuality education curriculum by integration of previous programs.
 - b. Propose integration of this national sexuality education curriculum into school curricula, other national committee like that for fight against HIV/AIDS and youth friendly structures like professional training centers, Cameroon social marketing program and multimedia centers.
 - c. Build supports and materials for and the implementation of sexual education.
 - d. Mobilize resources (financial, material and humanitarian) needed for action.
 - e. Train trainers and teachers responsible for sexuality education at different level.
 - f. Supervise, coordinate and evaluate the achievement of implementation of sexuality education curriculum.
 - g. Plead for involvement of stakeholders (religious, traditional, policy-makers and administrative).
- 4- Strategy of overall poverty reduction is another key factor of improving sexuality education by providing funds and materials to families, keeping young people at school as long as possible, reducing high level of unemployment and sex exchange for money and material goods.

Improving sexuality education is therefore a multisectoral task that calls out policy-makers, health professionals, religious leaders, parents and funding national and international agencies

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.](#)