

## 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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In Ethiopia several barriers exist in expanding and improving sexuality education. The following list summarizes the major barriers to sexuality education.

1. A huge gap exists between current policy/strategy and program implementation. Although Ethiopia has progressive youth policy and Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health Strategy which emphasizes the need for giving priority for the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents and youth, they are not fully interpreted in the different program implementations.
2. In the society at large sexual and reproductive health information specifically for adolescents is considered as a taboo and in most cases parents, teachers and peers of young people consider it as an embarrassment.
3. Limited successful Adolescent and Youth Sexual Reproductive Health (AYSRH) programs such as Youth Friendly Services and Youth centers are being implemented by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the lack of institutionalization of these programs within the public sector affects the scale up and sustainability of programs.
4. The long standing acceptance of intimate partner physical and sexual violence as a traditional norm affects victim reporting, influences legal bodies support to victims, and created societal pressure on future relationships.
5. Family Life Education with some components of sexuality education started in the 80's by the Ministry of Education with support from UNFPA as a pilot program but discontinued without being scaled up.
6. Adolescent Sexuality issues are not getting the necessary attention in relation to other health, education and development issues which may be considered as priority issues compared to the effects of adolescent sexuality.
7. Little evidence (data from operational research or monitoring and evaluation activities) exists on the magnitude of adolescent sexuality problems and the impact of in-country efforts in the areas of adolescent sexuality.

### **Suggestions on overcoming the different barriers to Sexuality education**

In order to improve and expand sexuality education in Ethiopia the different challenges related to policy issues, program implementation and long standing individual and community values and attitudes towards adolescent sexuality needs to be addressed systematically. Change may not happen in a very short period or in an easy way but the following suggestions may contribute to the expected changes in sexuality education.

1. Identify the barriers to the implementation of the policy and strategy documents through a systematic data collection from the level of policy makers to grassroots community including adolescents and design programs based on the evidences.

2. Design a behavioral change strategy to address the long standing beliefs towards adolescent sexuality and associated issues.
3. Restart the family life education started in the 80's schools by addressing all the components of sexuality education.
4. Involve adolescents and youth in any design, planning, implementation and evaluation of sexuality education programs.
5. Introduce a well structure monitoring and evaluation with components of research to collect evidence in sexuality education and issues associated with it.

## **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.](#)