

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 the expansion and improvement of sexuality education in Nigeria

1. Government policy issues.
2. Ignorance.
3. Cultural and religious values.
4. Poverty.
5. Poor knowledge of teachers.
6. Parent-child-communication.
7. Few peer educators.

Suggestions on overcoming these barriers

Regarding the government policies issues, there should be strong policies regarding sexuality education integration into curricula of schools. There should be strong commitment on the side of the government regarding the implementation of sexuality education in schools. The government should form committee on this aspect through the Federal ministry of education and there should be a monitoring team to follow up on the process. There is also a barrier in integrating sexuality education in some states; the barriers should be addressed by the government.

Teachers have poor knowledge about sexuality education. To this end, specialised training is important for teachers because delivering sexuality education often involves new concepts and new learning methods. This training should teach and provide practice in participatory learning methods, should provide a good balance between learning content and skills, should be based on the curriculum that is to be implemented and should provide opportunities to rehearse key lessons in the curriculum.

Because sexuality education is not well established in many schools, schools heads should provide encouragement, guidance and support to teachers involved in delivering it. There should be supervisors in place to make sure the curriculum is being implemented as planned, and that teachers have access to support in responding to new and challenging situations as these arise in the course of their work. The supervisors should also keep abreast of important developments in the field of sexuality education so that any necessary adaptations can be made to the school's programme.

There is a need to clear the misconceptions some cultures have on sexuality education by involving some policy makers in developing the policies or materials on sexuality education. Sensitization should be made to communities that have misconception on sexuality education on importance of sexuality education to their children and the entire community. Also mass media should be considered in doing this activity as well. There is a need to involve parents in the uptake of educating their wards on the importance of sexuality education. Involvement of Parent-Teachers-Associations (PTA), i.e. a forum where parents and teachers meet to discuss pressing issues, can be a good step in the process of involving the whole community.

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.](#)