

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 Ukraine

1. Lack of knowledge about sexuality among teachers and doctors.
2. Absence of special educational programmes at the secondary and high school levels.
3. Religious taboo.
4. Negative attitude to open discussion about sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues in Ukrainian society.
5. Fear to increase adolescents' interest to sex.
6. Strong association between sexuality and pornography, drugs and HIV in Ukrainian people mind.
7. Governmental structures lay responsibility for sexual education on families only.

What we have to do

Sexuality education is quite usual in the school system and undergraduate education in developed countries. In ex-USSR countries, this issue is still under discussion. Sexual and reproductive health rights approach is only in the beginning. Education of schoolteachers and healthcare providers is the most reliable solution of this problem. The existent international guidelines should be adapted to our country taking into account the socio-economic situation and cultural traditions in Ukraine. Sexual education has to be included in curriculum of medical and teachers' schools.

To change existing situation we should work out long-term governmental policy in this field and involve non-governmental organizations in this process. It is necessary to spread knowledge about SRH issues through digital media as the most popular informational resource among teenagers. Developing peer-education at schools and universities may also be an effective instrument.

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.