

Comprehensive Sexuality Education

**How well is the available evidence being applied ?
What are challenges & opportunities in doing this ?**

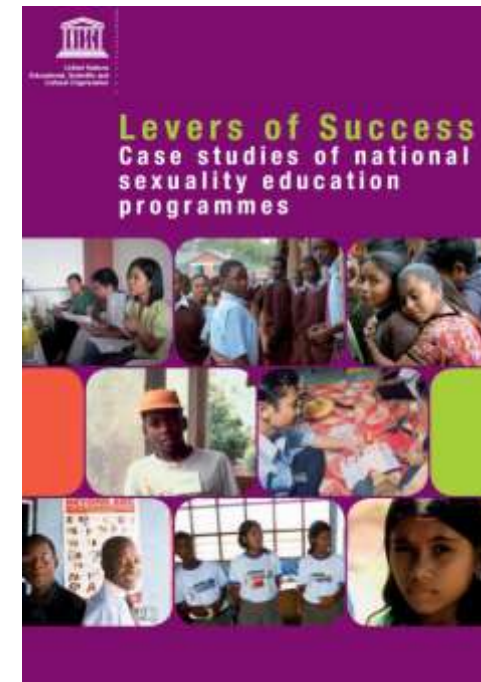
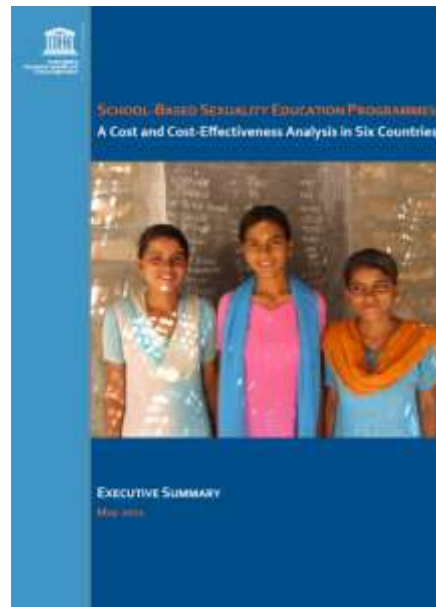
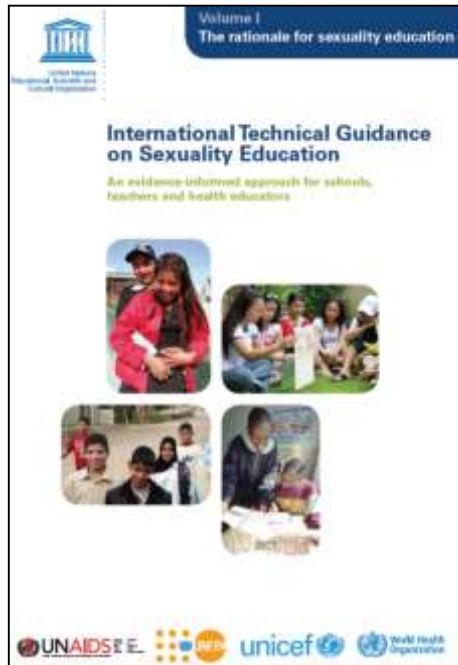
Dr V Chandra-Mouli MBBS, MSc

@ChandraMouliWHO

chandramouliv@who.int



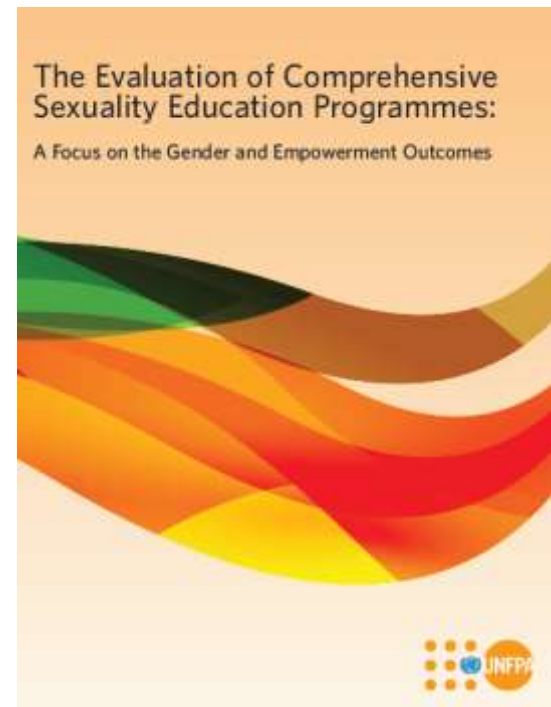
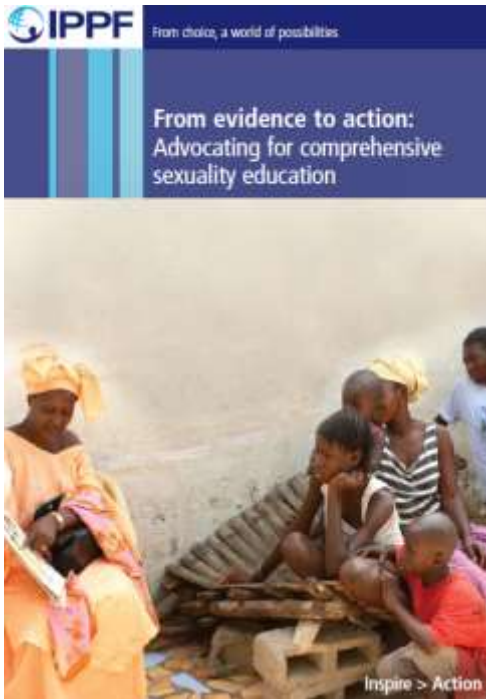
Comprehensive Sexuality Education Evidence



Evidence on

- (i) Effectiveness
- (ii) Cost effectiveness
- (iii) Scaling up & sustaining

Comprehensive Sexuality Education – Policy/programme support tools



Tools for

- (i) Advocacy
- (ii) Programme design & management
- (iii) Measurement

Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Weak implementation



❑ **Weak content:**

Inadequate information about contraception

Key aspects of sex, reproduction & sexual health were missing

❑ **Weak delivery:**

Some teachers lacked the needed skills

Most did not want to deal with sensitive matters

Sources:

1. UNESCO, UNFPA. Sexuality education: A ten-country review of school curricula in East and Southern Africa. UNESCO, Paris. 2012.
2. Pokharel S, Kulczycki A, Shakyac S. School-Based Sex Education in Western Nepal: Uncomfortable for Both Teachers and Students. Reproductive Health Matters. 2006; 14(28):156–161.
3. Shrestha R M, Otsuka K, Poudel K C, Yasuoka J, Lamichhane M, Jimba M. Better learning in schools to improve attitudes towards abstinence and intentions for safer sex among adolescents in urban Nepal. BMC Public Health. 2013, 13:244 doi:10. 1186/1471-2458-13-244.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education Paralyzed by backlash

Policy Brief

PRB

INFORM
EMPOWER
ADVANCE

OCTOBER 2012

BY MAMDOUH WAHBA
AND FARZANEH
ROUDI-FAHIMI

THE NEED FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS IN EGYPT

Two Steps Forward, One Step Back

SRH education in schools in Egypt has experienced both progress and setbacks. In 2010, the press reported that the Minister of Education ordered the "removal of the contents related to male and female genital systems and sexually transmitted diseases from the school curriculum in the science books for grade 9."²² The order was not adopted, either because it was never actually given or because the minister retracted it. The only real change has been the inclusion of reproductive systems in the science books of grade 8 instead of grade 9, which child health advocates saw as a move in the right direction. However, in 2011, following the revolution and the subsequent political instability, the newly appointed minister ordered the removal of the same topics, along with family planning methods, from the 12th grade curriculum for the sake of shortening its contents.

We are failing adolescents

“Most adolescents & youth do not yet have access to comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), despite repeated intergovernmental agreements to provide it, support from the UN system, & considerable project-level experience in a wide range of countries and research showing its effectiveness.”

- ❑ **They reach pupils late**
- ❑ **They do not reach marginalized adolescents**
- ❑ **Their messages do not relate to the realities of many adolescents' lives**
- ❑ **They are poorly delivered**
- ❑ **They are not linked to health services**

Report of the Secretary General, United Nations on 'Assessment of the status of implementation of Programme of Action of the ICPD', Commission on Population and Development, April 2014.

N Haberland, D Rogow. Sexuality Education: Emerging Trends in Evidence and Practice. Journal of Adolescent Health, 2015.

From Paper to Practice

A series of assessments by the Guttmacher Institute

From Paper to Practice: Sexuality Education Policies and Their Implementation in Ghana



Kofi Annwabo-Asare, Melissa Stillman, Sarah Keogh, David Teye Dokku, Akwasi Kumi-Kyereme,
Kobina Esia-Donkoh, Ellie Leong, Joshua Amo-Adjei and Akinrinola Bankole

De la Normativa a la Práctica: la Política de Educación Sexual y su Implementación en el Perú



Angélica Motta, Sarah C. Keogh, Elena Prada, Aron Núñez-Curto, Kelika Kondá,
Melissa Stillman y Carlos F. Cáceres

From Paper to Practice: Sexuality Education Policies and Their Implementation in Kenya

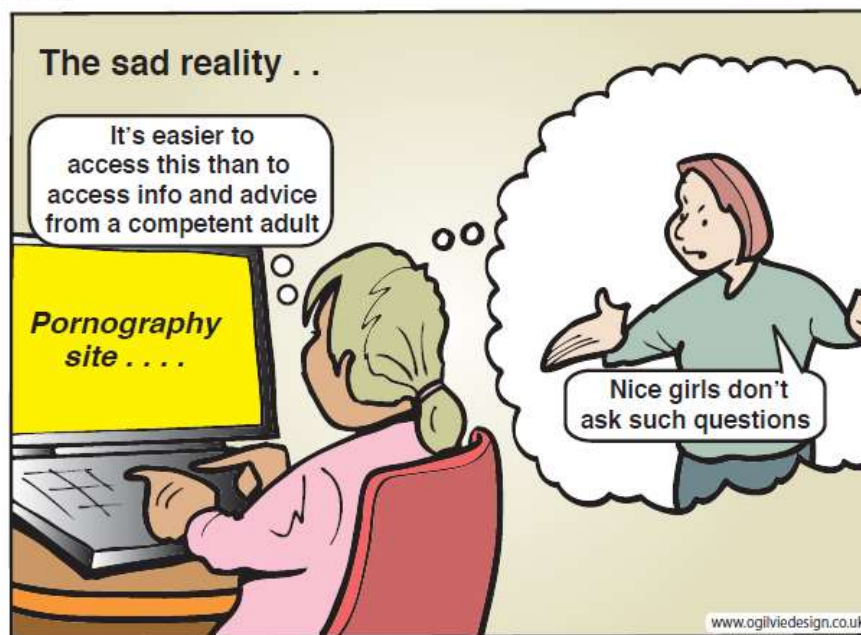
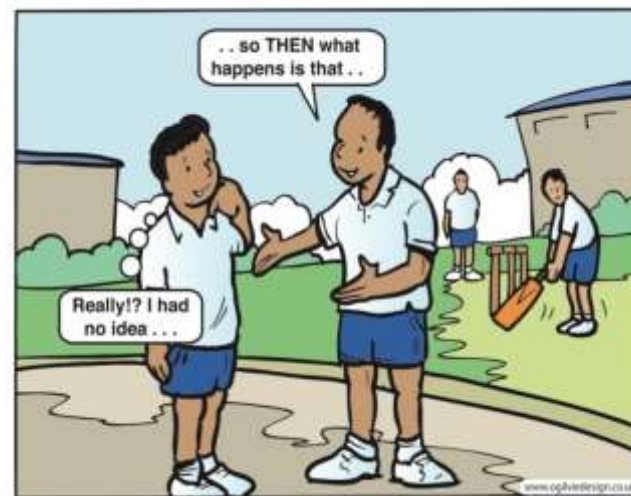
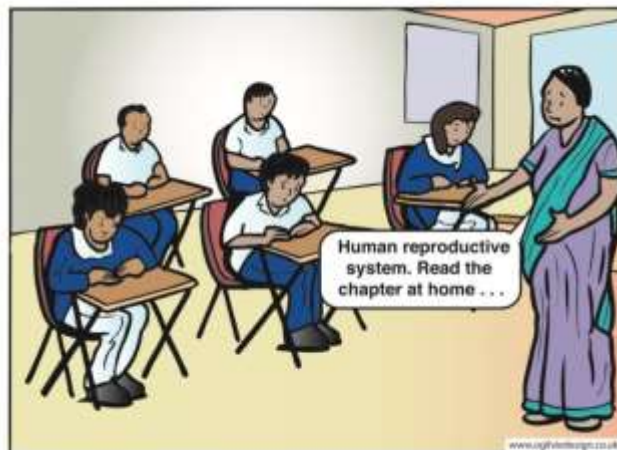


Estelle M. Sidze, Melissa Stillman, Sarah Keogh, Stephen Muliipi, Caroline P. Egesa, Ellie
Leong, Martin Mutua, Winston Muga, Akinrinola Bankole and Chimaraoke O. Izugbara

In all three settings:

- Students want more information on a broader range of issues
- Teachers face challenges (time, resources, comfort)

We are failing our children in our homes, schools & elsewhere in our communities



Why have so few countries moved from sound policies and strategies to large scale and sustained programmes on ASRH ?

“In spite of the commitments made by States Parties contained in plans, policies, programmes and declarations...negative social, cultural, economic and legal factors continue to threaten the lives and health of a large number of women and girls... The effective realization of these commitments is, however, dependent on...:

- ❑ **Political will**
- ❑ **Enhanced capacity**
- ❑ **Sustainable resourcing**
- ❑ **Effective monitoring and evaluation**

- **Inadequate commitment**
- **Discomfort**
- **Weak capacity**
- **Cash shortages**
- **No real accountability**

Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa. Intersession Report of the Mechanism of the Special Rapporteur on The Rights of Women in Africa - 52nd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Yamoussoukro, October 2012.

V Chandra-Mouli, P Bloem, J Ferguson. The World Health Organization's work on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health. German Federal Journal on Health (Bundesgesundheitsbl), 2013. 5, 256–261.

The bottom line ...

Despite evidence of effectiveness, tools, and inclusion in regional/national declarations, most countries are struggling to deliver CSE programmes at scale with quality & equity



Children & adolescents need & have a right to sexuality education. But we are failing them at home.

We need to change this – now !

The updated Interagency Sexuality Education guidance provides practical evidence-based guidance on how to do this.

