



on the move for equality

tional's First World Women's Conference



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Sexuality Education as a Vehicle for Girls' Empowerment

Workshop at Education International's First World Women's Conference

"On the Move for Equality"

22 January 2011, Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Rationale

Many young people approach adulthood faced with conflicting and confusing messages about sexuality and gender issues. Few receive adequate preparation for their sexual lives, leaving them vulnerable to coercion, abuse and exploitation, unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV.

Countries are increasingly signalling the importance of equipping young people with knowledge and skills to make responsible choices in their lives. A growing number of countries have implemented or are scaling up sexuality education programmes which provide structured opportunities for young people to explore their attitudes and values, and to practise the decision-making and other life skills they will need to be able to make informed choices.

This workshop will examine some strategies and lessons learned from sexuality education programmes and reflect on how participants can encourage the development or the expansion of high quality sexuality education in their own settings to empower girls and support gender equality.

Workshop objectives

This workshop aims to:

1. Review how sexuality education can address gender dynamics and empower girls and young women.
2. Consider elements of good quality sexuality education.
3. Share technical resources and materials on sexuality education for further adaptation and use at country-level.

Useful Resources

UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS Secretariat. 2009. International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education. Paris, UNESCO.

Volume 1: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001832/183281e.pdf>;

Volume 2:

http://data.unaids.org/pub/ExternalDocument/2009/20091210_international_guidance_sexuality_education_vol_2_en.pdf

Volume I focuses on the rationale for sexuality education and provides sound technical advice on characteristics of effective programmes. A companion document (Volume II) focuses on the topics and learning objectives to be covered in a 'basic minimum package' on sexuality education for children and young people from 5 to 18+ years of age and includes a bibliography of useful resources.

UNESCO. 2010. Levers of Success: Case Studies of National Sexuality Education Programmes. Paris, UNESCO. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001884/188495e.pdf>

The term levers of success is used to describe the conditions and actions that have been found to be conducive to the introduction or implementation of sexuality education. Drawing from country experience in China, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria and Viet Nam, and from regional experience in



Latin America and the Caribbean, this publication identifies a range of "levers" that can contribute to the successful development and implementation of sexuality education in the school setting.

Population Council. 2010. It's All One Curriculum (2 Volumes). New York, Population Council.
www.itsallone.org/

This two-volume box set includes Guidelines (Volume 1) on curriculum content that places gender issues and human rights at the heart of sex and HIV education; and Activities (Volume 2) including over 50 activities that engage young people and foster critical thinking skills.

IPPF. 2010. IPPF's Framework for Comprehensive Sexuality Education. London, IPPF.
www.ippf.org/NR/rdonlyres/CE7711F7-C0F0-4AF5-A2D5-1E1876C24928/0/Sexuality.pdf

This document focuses on comprehensive sexuality education that promotes and considers the sexual and reproductive rights of young people, especially those living with HIV. It is based on consultations with IPPF staff, young people, external organizations and IPPF Member Associations and includes evidence from operational practice and research. The report examines what constitutes a useful framework of comprehensive sexuality education, focusing particularly on 7 essential components including: gender, sexual and reproductive health, sexual citizenship, pleasure, violence, diversity and relationships; basic principles of good practice.

IPPF. 2010. From Evidence to Action: Advocacy for Comprehensive Sexuality Education
www.ippf.org/NR/rdonlyres/FB127CA3-4315.../0/SexEdAdvocacy.pdf

This resource is part of IPPF's Inspire pack, which offers standards, guidelines and self-assessment guidance on a variety of strategies and activities that contribute to rights-based and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health programming for young people. It provides service providers, programme planners, policy-makers and young people with information to advocate for rights-based, gender-sensitive and sex-positive comprehensive sexuality education at local and national levels.

PLAN International. 2010. Sex Education in Asia: Are We Delivering? Bangkok, PLAN International.
http://www2.unescobkk.org/hivaid/fulltextdb/aspUploadFiles/Reduced_filesize%20Sexuality%20Education%20in%20Asia.pdf

This report presents the first investigation of school-based sexuality education in Asia through a human rights perspective. The study reflected in this report looked to provide new insights that could help strengthen programming by assessing how States are delivering on their responsibility to provide sexuality education in schools. The main focus is on the laws, policies and strategic plans through which governments provide the enabling environment for sexuality education.

UNESCO HIV and AIDS Education Clearinghouse

<http://hivaidsclearinghouse.unesco.org>

A comprehensive knowledge platform covering a wide range of HIV education-related topics such as curriculum development, learning materials, teacher training and support. Information services include literature search, electronic newsletter, printed documents upon request (respecting copyrights), referral services and facilitating interactive networking. Contact:

hivaidsclearinghouse@iiep.unesco.org

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