

FORUM: UNESCO

QUESTION OF: The issue of comprehensive sex education addressing gender and power inequalities

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INTRODUCTION

School-based comprehensive sexual education (CSE) aims to improve the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents. Comprehensive sex education (CSE) is a planned approach to give students a better education on the social, mental, physical, and emotional sides of sexuality as stated by UNESCO. It aims to offer kids and teens a set of skills, opinions and information they ought to have to develop acceptable forms of social and sexual interactions and relationships. The goal of Comprehensive Sexual Education is to recognize sexual rights as human rights and work towards the creation of a positive view of sexuality and sexual health. It has been agreed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) that CSE is an effective way of teaching sexuality.¹ Essentially, Comprehensive Sexuality education (CSE) has been proven to have positive impacts on Adolescent sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in many ways, including an understanding of sexual and reproductive health, communication skills, mental and sexual well-being, and attitudes to gender equality. While CSE programs generally improve data teenagers acknowledge, attitudes, and skills.²

In Reaching the Sustainable Development goals, like goal number 4.7, and promoting gender equality and reducing gender-based violence, specifically violence against romantic partners, rely on CSE. These programs are based on the education, mostly in terms of SRH, that poor

¹Module 3 Comprehensive Sexuality Education, www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/UNFPA-MBMLMW_MOD3-EN.pdf. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

²“Comprehensive Sexuality Education: For Healthy, Informed and Empowered Learners.” *UNESCO.Org*, www.unesco.org/en/health-education/cse. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

health outcomes have a close connection with gender inequity and strict standards of gender. Furthermore, gender inequality puts girls and women more vulnerable to STIs, HIV,³ gender-based violence⁴, and unplanned births⁵. Teenagers are also more open to risky sexual contact because of traditional gender norms limiting their ability to discuss safe practices. Traditional masculine standards can push men to dangerous sexual habits,⁶ such as not practicing safe sexual intercourse or using other forms of birth control.⁷

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Gender Identity

Gender Identity is one's own internal sense of self and their gender, whether that is a man, woman, neither or both. Unlike gender expression, gender identity is not outwardly visible to others. For most people, gender identity aligns with the sex assigned at birth. For transgender people gender identity differs in varying degrees from the sex assigned at birth.⁸

Gender roles

Gender roles in society means how we're expected to act, speak, dress, groom, and conduct ourselves based upon our assigned sex.⁹

³ Capasso, Ariadna, et al. "Pregnancy Coercion as a Risk Factor for HIV and Other Sexually Transmitted Infections among Young African American Women." *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes (1999)*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, 1 Dec. 2019, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6820702/.

⁴ "Women's and Girls' Vulnerability to Gender-Based Violence in the Aftermath of Disasters." *World Bank Blogs*, blogs.worldbank.org/en/latinamerica/women-girls-gender-based-violence-aftermath-disasters-haiti. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

⁵ *Prevalence and Perceptions of Unplanned Births*, www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/88801/prevalence_and_perceptions_of_unplanned_births.pdf. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

⁶ Fleming, Paul J, et al. "Masculinity and HIV: Dimensions of Masculine Norms That Contribute to Men's HIV-Related Sexual Behaviors." *AIDS and Behavior*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4799765/. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

⁷ "High-Risk Sexual Behaviour." *MyHealth.Alberta.ca Government of Alberta Personal Health Portal*, myhealth.alberta.ca/Health/Pages/conditions.aspx?hwid=tw9064#:~:text=Examples%20of%20high%20risk%20sexual,activity%20at%20a%20young%20age. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

⁸ Wamsley, Laurel. "A Guide to Gender Identity Terms." *NPR*, NPR, 2 June 2021, www.npr.org/2021/06/02/996319297/gender-identity-pronouns-expression-guide-lgbtq.

⁹ Parenthood, Planned. "Gender Identity & Roles: Feminine Traits & Stereotypes." *Planned Parenthood*, www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/gender-identity/sex-gender-identity/what-are-gender-roles-and-stereotypes#:~:text=What%20are%20gender%20roles%3F,polite%2C%20accommodating%2C%20and%20nurturing. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

Gender Equality

Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, thereby recognising the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is not a women's issue, but should concern and fully engage men as well as women.¹⁰

Gender-based violence(GBV)

gender-based violence is violence directed against a person because of that person's gender or violence that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately.¹¹

Consent

Consent is an agreement between two people to engage in sexual activity. A verbal and affirmative expression of consent.¹²

Intersectionality

the interaction and cumulative effects of multiple forms of discrimination affecting the daily lives of individuals, particularly women of color. The term also refers more broadly to an intellectual framework for understanding how various aspects of individual identity- including race, gender, social class, and sexuality - interact to create unique experiences of privilege or oppression.¹³

Body Autonomy

Body autonomy is defined as the ability of one person to demonstrate power and agency over choices concerning their own bodies. These choices must be made without fear threat, violence or coercion from others.¹⁴

¹⁰“European Institute for Gender Equality’s Terms and Definitions.” *European Institute for Gender Equality*, 6 Apr. 2022, eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/toolkits/gear/terms-and-definitions?language_content_entity=en#:~:text=Gender%20equality%20implies%20that%20the,men%20as%20well%20as%20women.

¹¹“What Is Gender-Based Violence?” *European Commission*, [commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-based-violence/what-gender-based-violence_en#:~:text=Gender%2Dbased%20violence%20\(GBV\)%20by%20definition,-Gender%2Dbased%20violence&text=It%20can%20include%20violence%20ag,ainst,harm%20to%20families%20and%20communities](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-based-violence/what-gender-based-violence_en#:~:text=Gender%2Dbased%20violence%20(GBV)%20by%20definition,-Gender%2Dbased%20violence&text=It%20can%20include%20violence%20ag,ainst,harm%20to%20families%20and%20communities). Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

¹² “What Consent Looks Like.” *RAINN*, rainn.org/articles/what-is-consent. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

¹³ “Intersectionality.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., www.britannica.com/topic/intersectionality. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

¹⁴“Politics.” *StudySmarter*, www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/politics/political-ideology/body-autonomy/#:~:text=Body%20a

Empowerment

The process of gaining freedom and power to do what you want or control what happens to you.¹⁵

Reproductive rights

a woman's right to choose whether or not she will have a baby.¹⁶

Sexual Health

Sexual health is a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being related to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity.¹⁷

Comprehensive sexuality education

Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is a curriculum-based process of teaching and learning about the cognitive, emotional, physical, and social aspects of sexuality.¹⁸

Gender norms

Ideas about how women and men should be and act. Internalized early in life, gender norms can establish a life cycle of gender socialization and stereotyping.¹⁹

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past century, unique cultural, social, and political influences have changed comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in various parts of the world. Continuous changes,

[tonomy%20is%20defined%20as%20violence%20or%20coercion%20from%20others](#). Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

¹⁵Empowerment | English Meaning - Cambridge Dictionary, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/empowerment](#). Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

¹⁶ "Reproductive Rights Definition & Meaning." Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster, [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reproductive%20rights](#). Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

¹⁷ "Definitions of Sexual Health - MN Dept. of Health, [www.health.state.mn.us/people/sexualhealth/definitions.html#:~:text=Sexual%20health%20is%20a%20state,of%20disease%2C%20dysfunction%20or%20infirmity](#). Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

¹⁸ "What Is Comprehensive Sexuality Education?" *What Is Comprehensive Sexuality Education? | Comprehensive Sexuality Education Implementation Toolkit*, [csetoolkit.unesco.org/toolkit/getting-started/what-comprehensive-sexuality-education](#). Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

¹⁹ "Gender Norms." European Institute for Gender Equality, [eige.europa.eu/publications-resources/thesaurus/terms/1288?language_content_entity=en](#). Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

continuous discussions and different levels of implementation define the history of CSE and represent a wide variety of views on education and sexuality. Countries such as the US, Canada and other major areas, emphasize the significant events and difficulties that have influenced this growth.

Early Beginnings and Development in the United States

Social movements and public health issues are strongly associated with the History of sexuality education in the United States. Early in the 20th century, worries about public health, specifically about the rise of STIs, as well as the social effects of immigration and industrialization led to the formal introduction of sexuality education into schools in the United States. At first the point of sexuality education programs was not so much to give full information on human sexuality as it was to encourage Hygiene.

Sexual education in the United states experienced massive changes in the 1960s and 1970s as a result of the feminist movement and the sexual revolution. These movements encouraged more open-minded conversations about sexuality that prepared the way for the addition of courses such as gender equality, sexual orientation, and contraception in sexuality education curriculum. However, religious organizations protested against the implementation of sexuality education, stating that it would promote sexual behavior to youth. Regardless of this protest, comprehensive sexuality education gained acceptance, specifically in the wake of the 1980s HIV/AIDS crisis, where the importance of proper sexual health information was emphasized.

Comprehensive Sex Education in Canada

State independence and federal laws have been a big influence to Canada's comprehensive sexuality education policy. Ever since then every Canadian region is in charge of its own educational system, there are different ways that sexuality education is taught throughout the nation. Oppositely, national organizations and policies have been crucial in pushing comprehensive sexual health education.

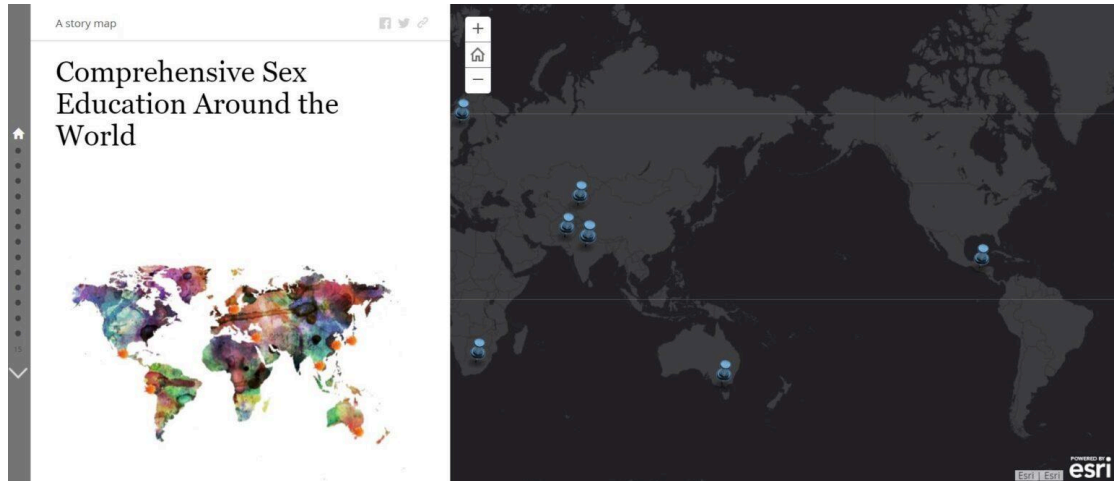


Figure 1: “Comprehensive sexual education Around the world: interactive map”²⁰

Sexual Education in Canada has placed more emphasis on inclusivity and respect for diversity compared to the United States. Many Canadian regions involve consent, gender identity, sexual orientation, and healthy relationships in their curriculum. As an example, the 2015 change to Ontario’s Health and Physical Education curriculum²¹ was significant for adding modern topics, including LGBTQ+ rights and online security. In Canada, sexuality education has been through various obstacles, regardless of these developments, like political opposition and discussions on whether these subjects are appropriate for younger ages.

Global Perspectives and UNESCO's Role

Global Organizations like The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNESCO have a huge impact on the development of comprehensive sexuality education. These institutions have given support to the implementation of Comprehensive sexuality education in many countries by giving evidence-based suggestions and technical help. A crucial tool for expanding CSE on a global perspective is UNESCO’s “International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education”²² which was amended in 2018 after being originally issued in 2009. It

²⁰“Story Map Journal.” Arcgis.Com, www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=28e355da76d940988d37bd63e8bc4ded. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

²¹Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario - 87 - the 2015 Health and Physical Education Curriculum and You, [www.etfo.ca/about-us/member-advice/prs-matters-members-as-professionals/87-the-2015-health-and-physical-education-curriculum-and-you/the-2015-health-and-physical-education-curriculum-and-you-\(87\)](http://www.etfo.ca/about-us/member-advice/prs-matters-members-as-professionals/87-the-2015-health-and-physical-education-curriculum-and-you/the-2015-health-and-physical-education-curriculum-and-you-(87)). Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

²²International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education, www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ITGSE.pdf. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

highlights the significance of teaching young people accurate, age- appropriate knowledge on relationships, sexuality, health and the importance of CSE in upgrading more general public health and human rights issues.

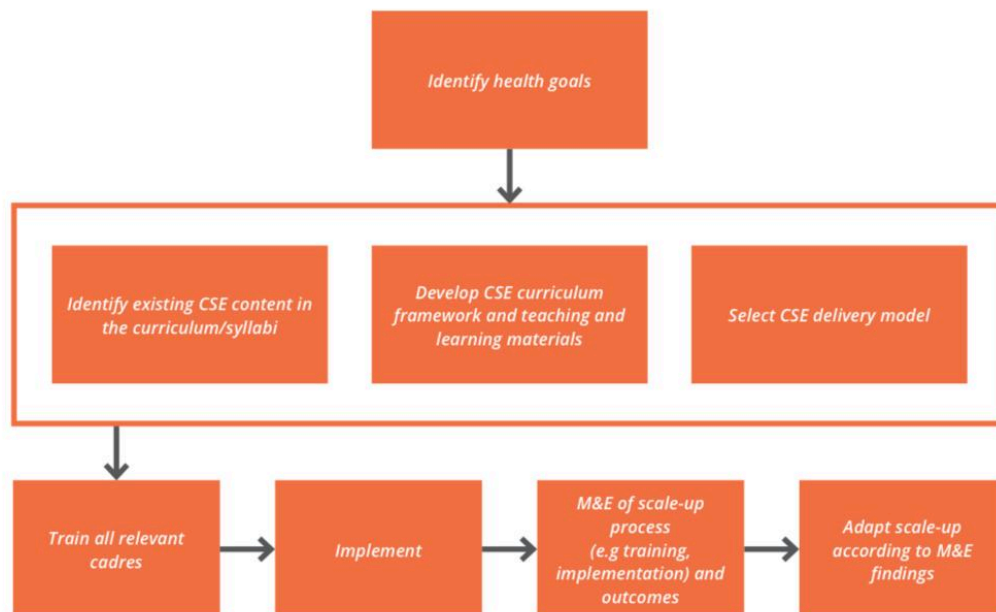


Figure 2:“Overview of technical considerations for CSE scale up” UNESCO’s case studies from Eastern and Southern Africa 2017²³

Countries differ a lot in their ways of adopting CSE, and this represents differences in political, religious, and cultural views on sexuality. Comprehensive sexuality education is widely known and has been taken into school curriculums all around European nations , with a focus on consent, gender equality, and sexual diversity. On the contrary, because of cultural and religious traditions that go against open discussions about sexuality, CSE faces really tough obstacles in many regions of Africa and Asia. Yet, even in those areas, the significance of CSE in preventing problems such as teenage pregnancy, gender based violence, and the spread of STIs is becoming more and more evident.

Challenges and ongoing debates

In varying parts of the world Comprehensive sexuality education is still an issue that divides regardless of the upgrades in its implementation. Finding a way to respect cultural and religious traditions while still staying truthful, inclusive education is one of the greatest

²³CSE Scale-up in Practice, healtheducationresources.unesco.org/sites/default/files/resources/cse_scale_up_in_practice_june_2017_final_.pdf. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

challenges. As an example there are continuing debates in the United States on whether or not to cover subjects of gender identity and sexual orientation in school curriculum , and some states have passed laws limiting the amount of sexuality education that can be taught.

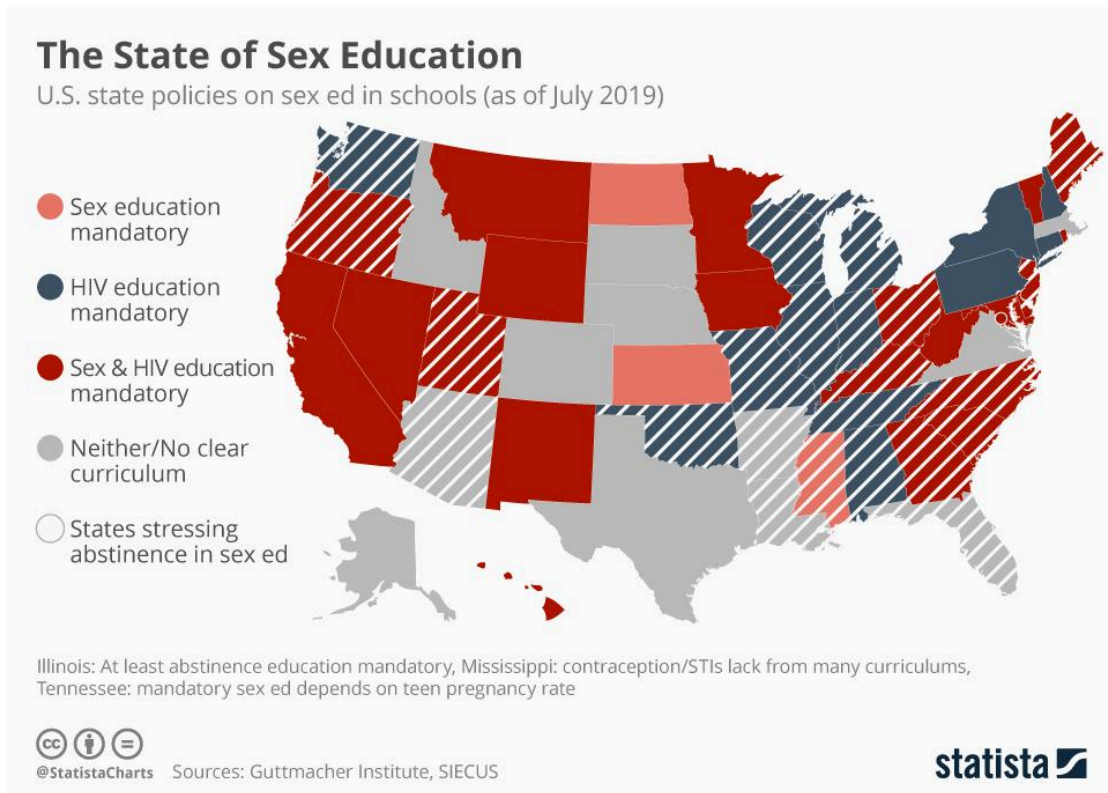


Figure 3: "State laws on sexuality education in the U.S."²⁴

Ensuring that Comprehensive sexuality education is accessible to all young people, specifically those in communities of poverty, is another challenge. Some students receive comprehensive, high quality sexuality education while others do not in many countries because of the differences in educational quality and access. In order to ensure that every student gets proper education and has the information and abilities necessary to make responsible choices concerning their relationships and sexual health, it is fundamental that these imbalances are addressed.

The history of Comprehensive sexuality education is evidence of the continuous battle to keep a balance between human rights, cultural values, and public health. Comprehensive sexuality education has escalated over time to meet the changing expectations and needs of young people in a world that is becoming more complex, beginning in the United States and eventually expanding to the entire world. Even with the

²⁴Buchholz, Katharina, and Felix Richter. "Infographic: Sex Education Mandatory in Half of U.S. States." *Statista Daily Data*, 26 July 2019, www.statista.com/chart/18825/state-laws-sex-ed-in-the-us/.

big upgrades, there are still obstacles in the adoption of Comprehensive sexuality education throughout multiple political and cultural contexts. Comprehensive sexuality education will for sure be needed in determining the direction of public health and education in the future, especially as the world continues to struggle with worries related to sexual health and rights.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Sweden

Sweden has been involved in sexual education ever since 1995. In all Swedish schools sexual education is a basic course, it is covered in topics like biology and social studies. Plenty of topics are discussed in those courses, such as relationships, sexual orientation, human anatomy, reproduction, methods of contraception and sexually transmitted illnesses (STIs).

Sweden partners closely with community organizations and healthcare professionals as a part of the sexual education program. It is an all-inclusive support system which helps to make sure that students have access to accurate data and material.

Consequently, Sweden has experienced a drop in number of teenage pregnancies and STIs. The Swedish government is further investigating ways to improve sexuality education and apply their effective system to other countries.

The Netherlands

The Netherlands maintains an assertive stance on sexuality education, which is taught from early childhood onwards through highschool. Understanding the body, reproduction, STIs, sexual orientation, consent, relationships and emotions are among the many topics covered in courses. Discussions are encouraged in the classroom and students are given the opportunity to share their thoughts and ask questions. Educators are taught how to effectively cover these subjects in class. Schools work with healthcare providers to give additional materials and support to students. Because of this “strategy” the Netherlands also have fewer teenage pregnancies and students are more at ease discussing sexual health.

Canada

State independence and federal laws have had a big influence on Canadian policy regarding comprehensive sexual education. Since every Canadian region is in charge of its own educational system, there are different ways that sexuality education is taught throughout the nation.

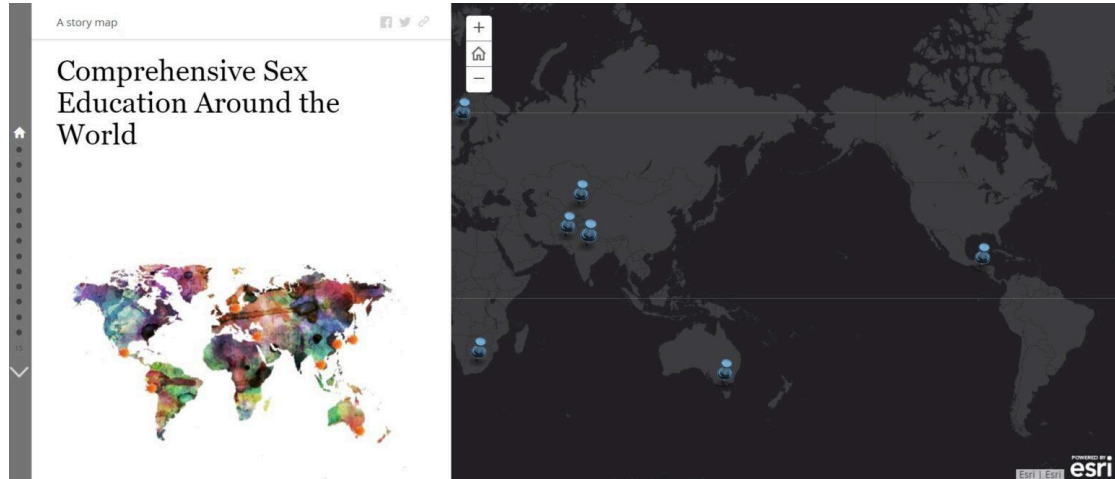


Figure 4: “Comprehensive sexual education Around the world: interactive map”²⁵

Sexual Education in Canada has placed more emphasis on inclusivity and respect for diversity compared to the United States. Many Canadian regions involve consent, gender identity, sexual orientation, and healthy relationships in their curriculum. As an example, the 2015 change to Ontario’s Health and Physical Education curriculum²⁶ added modern topics, including LGBTQ+ rights.

Although sexual education policies may vary by Canadian authority, the general objective is to spread factual and appropriate information that support health and well-being. For example, courses on consent, sexual orientation, gender identity and internet safety are included in Ontario’s Health and Physical Education curriculum which was updated in 2015.

South Africa

²⁵“Story Map Journal.” Arcgis.Com, www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=28e355da76d940988d37bd63e8bc4ded. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

²⁶Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario - 87 - the 2015 Health and Physical Education Curriculum and You, [www.etfo.ca/about-us/member-advice/prs-matters-members-as-professionals/87-the-2015-health-and-physical-education-curriculum-and-you/the-2015-health-and-physical-education-curriculum-and-you-\(87\)](http://www.etfo.ca/about-us/member-advice/prs-matters-members-as-professionals/87-the-2015-health-and-physical-education-curriculum-and-you/the-2015-health-and-physical-education-curriculum-and-you-(87)). Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

Comprehensive sexuality education has been included into the national curriculum of South Africa mainly in the Life Orientation topic, to address important issues such as gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS, and teenage pregnancies. The nation has developed educational resources and educated instructors to properly teach CSE in partnership with UNESCO. However there have been challenges with implementation. Many individuals have raised concerns as to whether such content is appropriate to incorporate into the national school system. Active attempts to address these issues contain public meetings and awareness campaigns.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

As a part of its comprehensive Sexuality Education decisions, UNESCO helps countries create and develop educational programs that inform young people about gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, and human rights. They offer equipment, teacher training, and rules to make sure that CSE is successfully included into curriculums at schools all around the world. Also, UNESCO partners with governments to change these programs to meet regional needs and overcome challenges like cultural differences.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The United Nations Population Fund is active in Comprehensive Sexuality Education by helping nations in developing and delivering age and culturally appropriate CSE programs. To make sure that young people receive the correct information about sexual and reproductive health, they work alongside communities, governments and educators. Furthermore, UNFPA creates educational resources, trains educators, and supports laws that support CSE in an effort to lower the rates of HIV , gender-based violence and teen pregnancies.

World Health Organization(WHO)

By setting guidelines and standards, supporting its implementation, generating research, and promoting the inclusion of it in public health and system of education, the World Health Organization (WHO) plays a crucial part in expanding comprehensive sex education (CSE) globally. The WHO offers evidence-based recommendations on CSE content, delivery, and integration into national policy partnering with organizations such as UNESCO and UNICEF. With the goal to advance human rights, gender equality, and empowerment while reducing health risks, this organization additionally conducts out research. WHO

ensures that young people globally have access to accurate, age-appropriate sexual education through advocacy and technical support.

International Planned Parenthood(IPPF)

With its formation and initiation, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) has been the inspiration for the international growth of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), giving to young people accurate, age-appropriate, and rights-based information. The IPPF doesn't just give educators and healthcare staff great education on how to start CSE programs, but also actively encourages them to be included in national curricula and health the organization's policy. Through research and the adoption of evidence-based approaches, IPPF guarantees that CSE is effective and sensitive to the needs of young people. In addition, IPPF puts a significant value on young people in program design and works with international partners to promote sexual and reproductive rights, both of which have a substantial positive impact on the global promotion of CSE.

European Expert group on Sexuality Education

The European Expert group on Sexuality aims to promote sexual education by providing expert guidance, developing best practices, and advocating for the integration of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in national education systems.. The group, formed up of experts from various fields, collaborates with governments, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations to promote age-appropriate, rights-based, and evidence-based sexuality education. The group also wants to ensure that CSE is available to all young people in Europe and addresses a wide range of topics, including gender equality, rights, and sexual health. The quality and reach of CSE across the region are significantly influenced by the work of the European Expert Group on Sexuality Education, which does research, and finally makes policy recommendations.²⁷

²⁷ "European Expert Group | BZgA Who." CC, www.bzga-whocc.de/en/who-collaborating-centre/european-expert-group/ . Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
9 October 1975	The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognizes the requirement of sexuality education as an important right for young people.
20 June 1984	The World Health Organization (WHO) starts developing sexual and reproductive health rules, laying the groundwork for future CSE frameworks.
20 November 1989	The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is adopted by the UN General Assembly, giving the right to children to access information, including about sexuality. ²⁸
6 November 2006	The Yogyakarta Principles ²⁹ are established, affirming the applications of international human rights law to issues of sexual orientation and gender identity, influencing CSE content.
10 January 2008	UNESCO publishes the “International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education” ³⁰ , providing a global framework for developing and implementing CSE programs.
1 December 2010	The IPPF launches its “Framework for Comprehensive Sexuality Education” ³¹ promoting CSE all over the world

²⁸Background to the Convention / OHCHR, www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/crc/background-convention. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

²⁹ “The Yogyakarta Principles.” *Yogyakarta Principles*, yogyakartaprinciples.org/ Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

³⁰*International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education*, www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ITGSE.pdf. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

³¹ *IPPF Framework for Comprehensive Sexuality Education* (...), www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/ippf_framework_for_comprehensive_sexuality_education.pdf Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

15 October 2013	The WHO, along with other UN agencies, publishes “Standards for Sexuality Education in Europe” ³² , setting benchmarks for CSE.
2015	The United Nations adopts the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with Goal 4.7 ³³ emphasizing the importance of education for sustainable
25 September 2018	UNESCO updates and expands its “International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education” to reflect new evidence and global trends, emphasizing a more inclusive and rights-based approach to CSE.
12 July 2023	Many global coalitions, including IPPF and UNESCO continue to advocate for CSE while also increasing resistance in some regions, emphasizing its role in promoting health, equality and rights.

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 65/234³⁴

This resolution mentions the review of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action beyond 2014. It aims to continue efforts to implement the ICPD’s population, health and development goals. It puts a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health, including CSE, gender equality and women's empowerment.

Resolution 71/170 on the Rights of the Child (2016)³⁵

³²*Policies for Sexuality Education in the European Union [2013]*, [www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/462515/IPOL-FEMM_NT\(2013\)462515_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/462515/IPOL-FEMM_NT(2013)462515_EN.pdf). Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

³³*Mission 4.7*, www.mission4point7.org/#:~:text=By%202030%20ensure%20all%20learners,global%20citizenship%2C%20and%20appreciation%20of. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

³⁴ *A/RES/65/234 General Assembly*, www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_65_234.pdf. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

³⁵ *UN*, documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n16/453/27/doc/n1645327.doc?token=NECIZuB0ixbrDbzMOF&fe=true. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

This resolution covers a lot of issues that affect young people's well-being, such as violence, exploitation, education and health. It calls for international cooperation to protect vulnerable groups, while highlighting the need to lessen child labor and the improvement of access to quality education and healthcare. It has a holistic approach to child protection and it encourages children's participation in decisions affecting their lives. Unfortunately, it faces a lot of challenges such as a lack of specific Implementation guidelines and the difficulty of making the recommendations work for resources-limited countries. It strengthens global cooperation and raises awareness, however its success depends on the political state and capacity of individual governments to turn these clauses into actions.

Resolution 37/14 on the Protection of the Rights of the Child in Humanitarian Situations (2018) by the UNHCR

This resolution mainly mentions the safeguarding of children in crises like war and natural disasters. It emphasizes the importance of International cooperation for the prevention of trafficking and exploitation while ensuring that necessary services are available like healthcare, education and support. This resolution is very comprehensive along with it promoting physical mental health needs and legal protections and accountability for rights violations. However, It lacks specific implementation measures as well as present challenges, more specifically in countries with wars where there aren't any resources and the government is weak. This resolution's success depends on resources and if countries are willing to take action.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Global Standards for CSE by UNESCO ³⁶

UNESCO updated its technical rules on Comprehensive sexuality education in 2018, establishing a framework that promotes a rights-based approach, that ensures that all young people get accurate, age appropriate sexual education. These rules aim to give young people the education and skills needed to make informed decisions on their sexual and reproductive health. This is done by outlining important ideas such as relationships, values, attitudes and skills. These guidelines are recognized all over the world and they promote consistency in quality across nations as well as helping address global health issues like HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence. However, some communities may view the content as conflicting with local traditions or religion causing cultural resistance. Also the clauses can be challenging to turn into action in low-income countries where resources are limited. Overall, UNESCO's clauses are advantageous towards global health, adaptation can be challenging due to regional differences. Various countries have embraced and changed this idea, even though there are significant variations as to how it is used depending on political, religious and cultural circumstances.

The IPPF Framework for CSE

To support CSE as an important part of sexual and reproductive health care, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) made a framework. Their plan is to include CSE into larger health educational organizations. It focuses strongly on human rights, gender equality and inclusivity, with the aim the empowerment of young people with the knowledge and skills to make good decisions about their bodies, relationships, and health. The disadvantages is that the clauses clash with local values leading to opposition from cultural groups. Despite these challenges this framework is a role model for promoting sexual health and rights globally.

This plan had a big impact on the promotion of CSE in many areas, especially in low and middle- income nations where access to this form of education has historically been banned.³⁷

³⁶Unesdoc.Unesco.Org, unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000260770. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

³⁷ IPPF Framework for Comprehensive Sexuality Education (...), www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/ippf_framework_for_comprehensive_sexuality_education.pdf. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

The Dutch Model

The Netherlands is often mentioned as a model country for the effective application of CSE. The Dutch approach includes a wide variety of subjects like consent, relationships, and sexual diversity and initiates sexuality education at a young age. The Dutch Model is very often used as an example for other countries because of its beneficial results, that include decreased rates of teenage pregnancies and STIs.³⁸

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Policy Advocacy and Legal Frameworks

To make sure that CSE is imported into school systems all over the world an effective policy and law Framework is needed. If the governments cooperate, CSE will be standardized so all kids no matter where they are or their social class, can have access to it. Sexuality Education ought to become a part of the national educational mission, policies putting it into schools can give legal support to resolve opposition from certain populations. Global agreement between countries and frameworks such as UNESCO or WHO is essential for countries to be able to set rules for ensuring education quality. Without these frameworks the implementation of measures can be slow and lacking, meaning that CSE may not be included in the curricula of low-income or conservative schools. International organizations can speak for these principles making sure that CSE is viewed as essential and not an option.

Use of Technology and Digital Platforms

Getting over challenges can become easier with Digital platforms which offer many creative ways for CSE, especially in regions where in-person teachers are limited because of remote locations, resource shortages, or cultural sensitivity. Kid's may get important information about their sexual health, rights and relationships in a private and anonymous way through e-classes or online programs, mobile apps and social media campaigns. These platforms can serve as a safer alternative for in-person CSE when needed, or else they can be used as a tool for in-class instruction. Furthermore students can connect with content through games, movies or discussion boards that make learning easier to handle. By using this strategy CSE can reach marginalized or vulnerable groups who may not have access to

³⁸ *Comprehensive Sexuality Education in the Netherlands*, rutgers.international/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/20230123-CSE-factsheet-Rutgers.pdf. Accessed 29 Sept. 2024.

formal education. However the digital divide still exists, meaning that access to technology is not available in under-resourced regions.

Monitoring and Evaluation systems

Without strong moderation and evaluation strategies in place, CSE implementation can't be successful. To ensure CSE programs meet the learning standards, successfully involving all of the students, and meeting the changing needs of young people, it is necessary that they go through regular monitoring. Policymakers and teachers can improve curricula, fix possible gaps, and make sure programs are culturally acceptable while maintaining crucial educational goals with the use of data-driven evaluation. For the continuation of growth it requires continuous feedback where communities, teachers and students can share their opinions on the program's strengths and weaknesses. Evaluation can also help in addressing concerns by showing the advantages of CSE on health, well-being and decision making of young people, that can help overcome opposition to its implementation.

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