

COMMUNITY PERCEPTION ON PROVIDING SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS OF KERALA

P J Nanditha*; K. Sathyamurthi**

*PhD (FT) Research Scholar,
Madras School of Social Work, 32, Casa Major Road,
Egmore, Chennai-8, Tamil Nadu, INDIA
Email id: nandithaphd@mssw.in

**Research Supervisor,
Madras School of Social Work,
Chennai-8, Tamil Nadu, INDIA
Email d: ksm@msssw.in

DOI: 10.5958/2249-7315.2022.00208.8

ABSTRACT

Sex education aims to develop and strengthen the ability of children and young people to make conscious, satisfying, healthy and respectful choices regarding relationships, sexuality and emotional and physical health. This study focuses on the perspectives of people in Kerala on promoting sex education and the implementation of sex education in schools. The study follows a quantitative approach with data collected from 60 participants across Kerala through convenience sampling. A questionnaire is used to collect quantitative data from the respondents. The findings indicate the importance of the implementation of sex education at various levels, starting at the primary level. A comprehensive approach is needed to address and bridge the gaps in the existing curriculum in schools. Similar to a comprehensive sex education curriculum, a combined effort should be encouraged on the part of parents/caregivers, teachers, school counselors/social workers/psychologists, health care professionals, and digital media to bestow sex education. An integrated approach involving all these members is vital to providing the appropriate sex education at the appropriate phase of life.

KEYWORDS: *Sex Education, Schools, Curriculum, Perspectives, Community, Social Work.*

REFERENCES

1. Chowdhury, J. (2020, March 9). *Why Is Sex Or Sexuality Education In Indian Schools Still A Taboo?* Retrieved October 5, 2021, from Feminism in India: <https://feminisminindia.com/2020/03/09/why-sex-sexuality-education-indian-schools-taboo/>
2. Gulati, P. (2021, May 1). *Sex education is not family planning. That's why we built a tool for Indian teachers first.* Retrieved October 5, 2021, from The Print: <https://theprint.in/opinion/sex-education-is-not-family-planning-thats-why-we-built-a-tool-for-indian-teachers-first/648914/>
3. Igras, S. M., Macieira, M., Murphy, E., & Lundgren, R. (2014, March 3). Investing in very young adolescents' sexual and reproductive health. *Global Public Health*, 9(5), 555-569.
4. Jose, J. (2018). *The Need of Sex Education in School Curriculum - A Case Study.* Kerala State Planning Board. Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala State Planning Board.

5. Sathyamurthi, K. (2014). Health & hygienic practices of adolescent girls. In *Community Health, Edition (Vol. 1)*. Today Publishers, Chennai.
6. Sathyamurthi, R. Saraswathi. N., & K., D. (2019). Scope of Social Work Practice in Promoting Health Seeking Behaviour of Adolescent Girls in Chennai Slums -An Eclectic Approach. *Review of Research*, 8(7), 1–10.
7. Sharma, S. (2021, September 23). *Sex Education in India*. Retrieved October 5, 2021, from Daily Excelsior: <https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/sex-education-in-india/>
8. Simon, S. (2021, June 18). *A campaign to reframe sex education*. Retrieved October 5, 2021, from The New Indian Express: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/2021/jun/18/a-campaignto-reframesex-education-2317729.html>
9. The Indian Express. (2021, October 4). *Mandatory sex education in schools: Chairperson of the Women's Commission*. Retrieved October 5, 2021, from The Indian Express: <https://malayalam.indianexpress.com/kerala-news/sex-education-need-to-include-in-school-syllabus-says-state-women-commission-chief-565012/>
10. The New Indian Express. (2010, May 27). *Finally, sex education comes to Kerala schools*. Retrieved October 5, 2021, from The New Indian Express: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2010/may/27/finally-sex-education-comes-to-kerala-schools-156569.html>
11. UNESCO. (2009). *An evidence-informed approach for schools, teachers and health educators*. Paris, France, Italy: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
12. UNESCO. (2018). *International technical guidance on sexuality education. An evidence-informed approach*. Paris: UNESCO.