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Learning from PEER country profiles: The journey towards comprehensive sexuality education

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Global Education
Monitoring Report

CSE is central to young people's health and wellbeing

Every child will one day have **life-changing decisions** to make about their well-being, relationships, families, and life goals. Yet, many grow up not having even the basic knowledge and skills to make these decisions carefully.

- **Ten million unintended pregnancies** each year among adolescent girls aged 15–19, signifying end of education for many
- Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are **leading cause of death for girls** aged 15–19, globally
- HIV affects adolescent girls and young women disproportionately; young girls in sub-Saharan Africa are **2 to 7 times more likely** to be infected with HIV than young men
- **1 in 4** ever-married/partnered adolescent girls aged 15–19 estimated to have been **subjected to physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner** at least once in their lifetime

Good quality CSE is:

A curriculum-based process of teaching and learning about the cognitive, emotional, physical and social aspects of sexuality

It aims to equip children and young people with **knowledge, skills, attitudes and values** that will empower them to:

- realize their **health, well-being and dignity**
- develop **respectful** social and sexual **relationships**
- consider how their choices affect their own **well-being** and that of others
- understand and **protect their rights**

CSE is a **core component of quality education &** is always **appropriate for the age & developmental stage** of the learners being taught



The evidence base for sexuality education

- It provides young people with knowledge, skills and attitudes to **develop and sustain positive, healthy relationships, protect themselves from unsafe situations,** and learn and **realise their full right to education**
- It improves health outcomes: **contributing to prevention of unintended pregnancy and HIV, reducing risk taking and reducing gender-based violence**
- It develops life skills, including **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) skills** that encourage critical thinking, communication and negotiation, as well as decision-making and assertiveness
- It helps young girls and boys learn to **treat each other with respect and dignity** from an early age, and uphold universal **values of equality, love and kindness**

Delivering effective CSE programs



Laws & Policies – the enabling framework for delivery



Coverage – the extent of delivery in school settings



Curricula – breadth, quality and relevance of content



Delivery – how well teachers are prepared and are teaching quality CSE



Enabling environment – the wider school environment, community & political support or engagement

PEER country profiles: A tool to foster peer learning and policy dialogue on CSE through improved data



CSE country profiles: A tool to foster policy development

▶ Each country profile covers five main areas

1. Contexts
2. Terminology
3. Laws and policies
4. Governance
5. Monitoring and evaluation

▶ Respond to three main questions

1. What terms do laws, policies and strategies use to refer to sexuality education?
2. What laws, acts, policies and strategies exist in relation to sexuality education?
3. How is sexuality education covered in curricula, learning and teaching materials



Comprehensive sexuality education around the world

- ▶ Education legislation and policies tend to refer to sexuality education, but few countries have comprehensive legislative and policy frameworks

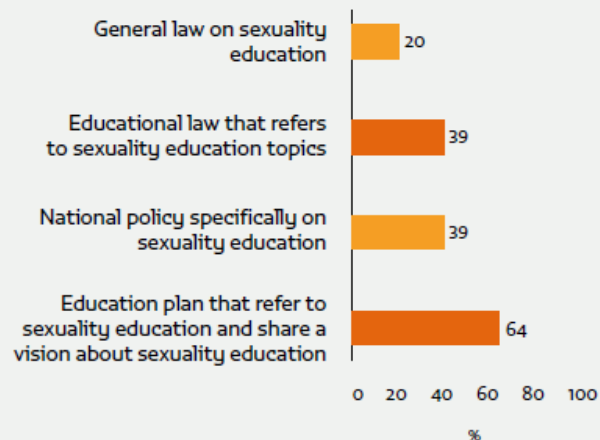
Of the 50 countries, only 20% have a law and 39% a national policy that specifically addresses sexuality education

- ▶ Legislation and policies promote the integration of CSE into the formal curriculum

Sexuality education is compulsory in 68% of countries, in primary education; and in 76% of countries, in secondary education

- ▶ Sexuality education is integrated in various subjects in at least 3 in 4 countries and mostly covers HIV, AIDS and other STI issues (95%)

FIGURE 2: LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS ON CSE



Source: PEER on CSE. See education-profiles.org

The role of schools in CSE

► Issues related to biological aspects, body awareness, puberty, pregnancy and birth are also covered frequently



3 in 4 countries cover issues in relation to human rights

More than 2 in 3 countries cover issues related to love, marriage, partnership, family

► Ministry of Education usually relies on the support of other ministries and NGOs to provide sexuality education

In 85% of countries, different ministries are responsible for sexuality education in partnership or collaboration with the education ministry

CSE saves lives, yet gaps in coverage remain

More than 6 in 10 countries cover topics such as gender roles and sexual and domestic abuse and gender-based violence; 1 in 2 countries cover mutual consent

Less than 1 in 2 countries offer pre-service teacher training

Zambia recently set a target to train 100% of secondary school teachers in CSE as part of its 2017-2021 Education and Skills Sector Plan

Less than 4 in 10 countries have EMIS that monitor CSE

Thailand specifies minimal learning times for health and physical education, and teachers assess students' knowledge through mid-term and final examinations



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Take a look at CSE laws and policies
in your region on PEER

[Bit.ly/CSE-profiles](https://bit.ly/CSE-profiles)



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