



ASSESSMENT OF TEACHER ATTITUDE TOWARDS INCLUSION OF SEX EDUCATION IN TO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM: A STUDY BASED IN KELANIYA EDUCATIONAL ZONE

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Sex education is one of the most important aspect of life and everyone should have a good knowledge on this to face and deal with the several social challenges in today's world. But our teenagers are lacking the knowledge on this. Therefore, teachers have a great responsibility to make students knowledgeable in sexuality. This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 339 secondary school teachers and a self-developed questionnaire was used to collect data in selected schools in the Kelaniya educational Zone to assess the teachers' attitude towards inclusion of sex education in the school curriculum in selected schools in the Kelaniya educational zone. The opinion of the majority (98.8%) was that the "School children should have adequate knowledge on sexuality". Most of the teachers (90.7%) mentioned that sex education should be included in the school curriculum but only 61.8% of the participants were interested in teaching this subject. More than 70% of the teachers have identified the topics on male and female genital organs, personal safety, puberty, reproduction and birth, abstinence (values of sexual abstinence until marriage), sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS, sexual coercion and assault, teenage pregnancy, rape / sexual abuse, parental responsibilities and family/individual values and moral beliefs on sexuality as important and to be taught in school. The majority (92.3%) of the teachers' opinion was that teacher training programs should be conducted to educate the teachers on sex-education. Sixty-seven percent of the participants did not think that sex education encourages the students to engage in sexual activity. The majority of the teachers have a positive attitude towards the inclusion of sex education in the school curriculum and the majority of the teachers have mentioned that sex education would make students knowledgeable, healthy, morally independent and responsible adults as well as help the students to make correct decisions in their lives.

Keywords: *Attitude, sex education, teachers, students*