

AN ATTITUDE OF PARENT'S TOWARD THE INTRODUCTION OF SEX EDUCATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NASARAWA STATE. A STUDY OF LAFIA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

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ABSTRACT

The introduction sex education in secondary schools will help in securing life and better future for the young people in the society. Which can helps in curtailing cases of unwanted pregnancy, contacting venereal diseases, the rate abortions and deaths, rate of school dropouts and so on among the schooling age population in the area. However, the introduction sex education have suffer a setback due to lack of awareness and knowing the important of sex education in the life of the young people's by the parents in the area. The study is aim at identify the important of sex education in the life of the young ones in the area. A population sample of one hundred (100) respondents was considered for the study. And structure questionnaire was used for the collection of data from the population sample. Percentages were used for the analysis of the data collected from the respondents in the field. It was revealed that sex education is important in the life of young people in preventing them from facing health challenges related to sexual intercourse. The need for sex education should be stressed and promoted in the society for good living.

Keyword: *Attitude, Parents, Sex Education.*

INTRODUCTION

Sex education sometime knows as sexuality education which is the process of informing the growing teenagers on the implications associated with the act sex. This is to inform and educates primary and secondary school's students on the need to develop attitudes and beliefs about sex affairs such as sex attitudes, sexual identity, social relationship and intimacy in the society. It is widely accepted that young people have a right to sex and others social rights. Sex education helped to protect them against being abuse, exploits, having unwanted pregnancy, being drop out of the school and being contacting sexual transmitted diseases and so on.

Alexander (2004) and Blum (2003), stated that sex education helps to give young people's right information about matters that affects them pertaining sex. And their rights to have their desires need met and to help them enjoy their sexuality attitudes and form relationship of their choices. Comprehensive sex education curriculum have been develop and endorsed by various governments, governmental agencies, education organizations and teenage advocacy groups as the most effective educational method for reducing challenges associated with teenage marriage and unwanted pregnancy. The advocacy groups and agencies are used as the most effective educational method for reducing teenage pregnancy, unwanted pregnancy and help to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among the school age through creating awareness on the need for sex education in our schools.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Indeed, sex is an important aspect of our life but parents, elders and teachers hardly play any significant role in providing scientific knowledge about sex to their young ones. And sometime those who seek guidance from the parents and teachers are not satisfied because they do evade the discussion or give no satisfactory answers. However, there is a need to educate young people on sex education to avoid the calamity of teenage sex in the society. Most adolescents do not have the knowledge about sex and find themselves in a difficult situation during this stage. Some parents feel teaching young people about sex education as if you are promoting or asking the young one to go into it. And also the risk of contacted sexual transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV and the risk for infant death among the school age had become a thing of concern.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to examine the attitudes of parents toward the introduction of sex education in secondary schools in Lafia.

The specific objective of the study is to:

- i. Identify the attitude of parents toward the introduction of sex education in secondary schools in the area.
- ii. Identify the positive aspects to the introduction of sex education in secondary school in the area.
- iii. Identify the negative aspects to the introduction of sex education in secondary school in the area.
- iv. Identify government's role toward the introduction of sex education in secondary school in the area.

- v. Identify parent's opinions on the goodness or badness of introduction of sex education in the area.

Research Questions

1. How is the attitude of parents toward the introduction of sex education in secondary schools in the area?
2. Do the introductions of sex education have positive aspect on the life of secondary school's students in the area?
3. Do the introductions of sex education have negative aspect on the life of secondary school's students in the area?
4. Do government play it role towards the introduction of sex education in secondary schools in the area?
5. Is the introduction of sex education in secondary schools in area good or bad?

Significance of the Study

The study will contributes to knowledge on area of creating awareness on the need for introduction of sex education in the area. And the findings can be use for policy making in relation to introduction of sex education and in the area. The study will also added values to existing literatures for the research students and open new ground for further study on the same topic or related area of the research. Looking at the danger associated with unusual sexual relation in secondary schools in the area, the study it will serve as guide for the young students in schools on the method to control and protect themselves against sex related danger.

Scope of the Study

The study is limited to the introduction of sex education in secondary schools and the parent's attitudes toward the introduction of sex education in secondary schools in Lafia Municipal council of Nasarawa State. Parents that have children in secondary schools are considered for the study in respect of their sexes and emphases are on parents with children in secondary schools in Lafia town.

Definition of Terms

- **Attitude:** Is the habit that one has or develops on a particular behaviour over an issue in the society. That is what they look and feel it should be and develop particular character on an issue.

- **Parent;** These are adults of both sexes that bear children and take care of them.
- **Sex education:** Is the act of teaching people on issue related to sexual activities in the society. That is, informing and passing knowledge about sexuality activities across the growing population.

LITERATURE REVIEW

WHO (2002) and Action Health Incorporated (2003) stressed that sex education is central aspect of human life which encompasses sexual activities, gender identities, roles, sex orientation, eroticism, intimacy and reproduction and so on. Hallu (2002) and Jeyoshu (2007), stated that sexual health require positive and respectable approach of sexuality and sexual relationship as well having pleasurable and safe sexual experience free from coercion, discrimination and violence. These is to attained and maintained any social setting, the sexual right of all persons must be respected, protected and fulfilled in the society.

Esim (2001), Mba (2006) and Kitort (2009), state that sexual right necessitated that all persons irrespective of sex, are free from coercion, discrimination and violence to attainable standards of sexual health (reproduction health care).

- Seek, receive and impart information related to sexuality
- Sexuality education
- Respect for body integrity- among others area not mention

Fankunle (1986), Heema and Brido (2002) and Mueller (2007), state that it is not now that is widely accepted that young people have the right to sex education partly because it is a mean by which they help to protect themselves against abuse, exploitation, unwanted pregnancy, sexual transmitted disease, HIV and AIDs. Mba (2006) and Blum (2003), stated that sex education is a way that is used to fortify the adolescent with adequate information on sex and sexuality. It is evident that formal teaching on sex and sexual education as well to simply assist to enlighten them to acquire wholesome adjustment needed to fortify them against wrong attitudes. WHO (2002) and Alexander (2004), state that there is need for young ones to establish and accept the role and responsibilities of their own gender by acquiring the knowledge of sex.

Talking about sexuality education it cannot goes without challenges. WHO (2002) and Achallu (2007), Said that there is indication that

sexuality education within churches and mosques is still uncomfortable topic and that is only mention in passing. Among others challenges of sexuality education stated by Action Health Incorporated (2002), Kibert (2009) and Jakunle (1986) includes the following:

- Cultural factor that prohibit the discussion of sex education
- Low literacy levels among rural women and other peoples

Jeyoshi (2007) Blum (2003) and Helema and Brido (2007), state that through their findings implied that integration of sexuality education in school had helped to reduce teenage pregnancy, school dropout, unplanned/early marriage, STDs, Hiv and Aids diseases for the adolescent and youths. The adolescent livings with both parents are less likely to engages in unsafe sexual practice, become pregnant and give birth compare to those who live without parents. Gidden and Philip (2013) and Holborn and Haralanbos (2008) stated, that the quality of the relationship between parents is an important factors in adolescent sexual behaviours.

Research Methodology

A survey research design was adopted for the study where the data were collected through used of structure questionnaire. The survey research designed was used because is the most common research design used in social sciences research.

Population of the Study

The population of the study made up of the entire adult parents in Lafia town. That is 7,367 parents in Lafia Municipal Council. That constituted the population of study for this research work. The population of study is made up of both adult men and women in the area.

Sample Size and Sampling Procedures

The entire population cannot be study at the same time, for that purpose a sample population was taken for the study. Sample of one hundred (100) respondents was taken for the study. The sample population was considered for the study because it will represent the entire population of the study and is the reflection opinions of the entire population of the study.

However, the four (4) wards in Lafia town were cluster into two (2) wards and in each of the ward fifty (50) respondents were selected to represent sampling frame of the study through simple random sampling procedure.

Simple random sampling was adopted to select the respondents that represent because it gives every person equal opportunity to be selected to represent the entire population of the study.

Method of Data Collection

The data for this research work were collected through the use of structure questionnaires. The researcher with the helped of research assistant distributed and collected back the filled Questionnaires from the respondents in the field. Questionnaires were used because it enables the researcher to reach a wider area or cover wider respondents in the field. And also it is the most common instruments used for data collection in the social sciences.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected from the respondents in field were coded and analysis through percentages. All data collected were presented in frequency distribution tables and analysis through percentages.

Percentages were used for the data analysis because is the most common statistical instrument used for data analysis in social sciences. And the percentages analysis is easy to understand and interpret.

Data Analysis

One hundred (100) questionnaires were distributed to respondents in the field but ninety five (95) questionnaires were filled and returned. The analysis was based on ninety five (95) return questionnaires collected from the respondents in the field.

Table 1: Attitudes of parents towards introduction of sex education.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Accepted	75	79
Not accepted	20	21
Total	95	100%

Source: field survey, 2020

Table 1 revealed that 79% of the respondents said that they are satisfied and accepted with the introduction of sex education in secondary school in the area, while 21% of the respondents said that they are not satisfied or not accepted with the introduction of sex education in secondary schools in the area. It was revealed that the idea towards the introduction

of sex education in secondary schools in the area was accepted as supported by the majority respondents asked in the field.

Table 2: Positive aspect to introduction of sex education in the area.

Prevent unwanted pregnancy and venereal diseases.	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	90	95
No	5	5
Total	95	100%

Source: field survey, 2020

Table 2 shows that 95% of the respondents were of the opinions that introduction of sex education have positive impacts on life of the student, while 5% of the respondents were of the opinions that the introduction sex education have no positive impacts on life of secondary school's students in the area. It was revealed that introduction of sex education helped in the prevention of unwanted pregnancy and venereal diseases in the area as supported by the majority respondents asked in field.

Table 3: Negative aspects to the introduction of sex education.

Exposing teenagers to sexual habits in the area	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	5	5
Not agreed	90	95
Total	95	100%

Source: field survey, 2020

Table 3 shows that 5% of the respondents agreed that introduction of sex education have negative aspect in life of secondary school's students in the area, while 95% of the respondents did not agreed that introduction of sex education have negative aspect in life of students of secondary schools in the area. It was revealed that introduction of sex education did

not expose teenagers to sexual habits as was not agreed by the majority respondents asked in field.

Table 4: Government roles towards the introduction of sex education.

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Satisfied	75	79
Not satisfied	20	21
Total	95	100%

Source: field survey, 2020

Table 4 shows that 79% of the respondents said that they are satisfied with government roles towards the introduction of sex education in secondary schools in the area, while 21% of the respondents said that they are not satisfied with the government roles towards the introduction of sex education in secondary schools in the area. It was revealed that the people are satisfied with government roles towards the introduction of sex education in the area as supported by majority respondents asked in the field.

Table 5: Sex educations have do good than bad

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	80	84
No	15	16
Total	95	100%

Source: field survey, 2020

Table 5 revealed that 84% of the respondents said yes that the introduction of sex education have do good than bad, while 16% of the respondents said no that the introduction of Sex education have do bad than good among secondary school's students in the area .It was revealed that introduction of sex education have do good than bad as supported by the majority respondents asked in the field.

SUMMARY/ FINDINGS

Considering the important of sex education in securing healthy life of young people in the society, the health experts, NGOs and educationists

are agitating for the introduction of sex education in the school curriculum across secondary and primary school's levels. It was revealed that majority of the respondents were satisfied and accepted with the introduction of sex education in secondary schools in the area.

And it was observed that sex education has positive aspects to life as it helps in the prevention of unwanted pregnancy and being affected with venereal diseases. Also revealed that introduction of sex education will not expose the young teenagers to sexual habits. It was also observed that government at all level have satisfied role in the introduction of sex education in secondary schools in the area. Which majority of the respondents said that sex education have done good than bad and being welcome in the area.

CONCLUSION

Sex education should not be seeing as exposing the young people into immoral act rather is a step to secure their life for better and prevents them against the danger of pre-marital sex. It safe to concludes that the effectiveness of sex education is bedeviled by a host of problems that needed to be address in the society.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Looking at the important sex education, the idea of introducing sex education in primary and secondary school's levels should be promoted by all parents, educationists, NGOs and government at all level.
- Parents should develop the attitudes of discussing sex education with their young children and inform them on the positive aspects sex education on the teenagers life.
- Government at all levels should emphasis on the introduction of sex education in secondary and primary school's levels and equally built it in the curriculum for the students to learn.
- Adequate counseling programme should be provided for pregnant students likewise boys needed to be guided to avoid falling the victims venereal diseases and early marriages.

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