

A STUDY OF PERCEPTION OF PARENTS ABOUT SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOL IN MIRA-BHAYANDAR AREA, MUMBAI

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ABSTRACT

Sex education has always been a controversial topic in India and it has remained one of the most debated topics over the decades. Introducing a curriculum focusing on reproductive system, sexual interaction and other facets of human sexual behaviour and educating the children, seems to be one of the most desirable ways to handle teenage pregnancies, a phenomenon still exists. Also, there is considerable evidences of child abuses and increasing risk of HIV infection among youth. Taboos and stigma have created hurdles for initiating sex education in educational institutes in India. Some of the significant factors could be cultural resistances, wherein people believe that imparting sex education is against the Indian culture and against morality. Also sex in itself is considered to be a taboo and conversations on it are generally shushed and not encouraged in conservative families. Some groups are of opinion that teaching children about sexuality and sexual behaviour would otherwise authorize it and would be considered as an inducing factor for engaging in sexual activities by the children at a young age. In recent times, sex education has received mixed views from different sections of the society. However, it is assumed that the perception of parents would matter the most for bringing any strategic change in the domain. The present paper makes an attempt to examine and present the views of parents about the scope for providing sex education to their children in schools.

KEYWORDS: *Sex Education, Parents' Perception*

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