



Attitude On Implementing Sex Education In Schools Among Secondary School Students In Palakkad District

Aarsha A V P^{1*}, and Prof.(Dr.) Suresh Kumar K²

^{1*}Research Scholar, ICSSR Doctoral Fellow, N.S.S. Training College, University of Calicut, Ottapalam

²Professor, N.S.S. Training College, University of Calicut, Ottapalam

Citation: Aarsha A V P (2024).Attitude On Implementing Sex Education In Schools Among Secondary School Students In Palakkad District*Educational Administration: Theory and Practice*, 30(2),846-851, Doi:10.53555/kuey.v30i4.2468

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

The present study aims to find out the attitude of Secondary school students on implementing sex education at schools in Palakkad district. The topic sex education is a matter of debate worldwide. The reason that influences the acceptance and implementation of sex education is based on varying cultural, religious and social perspectives. Palakkad is a district in Kerala where celebrates traditional values. But the interesting factor is that young people of Palakkad district is modern educated. The study employed descriptive survey method to gather data from a representative sample of 150 secondary school students of State syllabus studying at government schools in Palakkad district. Equal representation is given to boy and girl students. Quantitative data were analyzed using statistical methods to identify the attitude of secondary school students on the implementation of sex education in schools. The tool includes 30 items under three dimensions Knowledge and understanding, cultural and religious beliefs and personal experiences. The analysis of data leads into the conclusion that there exist different levels in the attitude of secondary school students on the implementation of sex education in schools, there exist different levels in the attitude of Secondary boy students on the implementation of sex education in schools, there exist different levels in the attitude of secondary school girl students on the implementation of sex education in schools and the last one there exists no significant difference in the attitude of boy and girl secondary school students on the implementation of sex education in schools. To implement age appropriate sex education in schools understanding the attitude of students towards it is very important. Teaching strategies also can be modified according to the attitude of students.

Key Words:Attitude, Implementation of sex education in schools, Secondary school students

Introduction

Right to information is the basic right of children. Education aims for the all round development of children. Period of formal education is the preparation stage of children to lead a bright future. School period is a transformation period of children. They learn and acquire a lot of things from school environment and society. Sex education in schools should be implemented properly. It can guide children in a positive way. World Health Organization's Technical consultation on Sexual Health (WHO, 2006)¹ defines, "Sexual Health is a state of physical, emotional mental and social wellbeing in relation to sexuality: it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. For sexual health to be attained and maintained, the sexual rights of all people must be respected, protected and fulfilled."

Sex Education

Sex Education aims to provide students with accurate information, skills and attitude related to human sexuality, relationships and sexual health. Sex education is the main part in health education. Collins(2008)² states that " Sex Education encompasses Education about all aspects of Sexuality including information

about family planning, reproduction, body image, sexual orientation, sexual pleasure, values, decision making, communication, dating, relationships, sexually transmitted infections and how to avoid them and birth control measures". Sex education in schools should be age appropriate and sex education curriculum should be spiral model. There are two types of sex education; they are positive sex education and Negative sex education. Sex education children are receiving from parents, teachers, authentic books, authentic websites and school can be called as positive sex education. They are getting exact proper knowledge on sex through this positive sex education. When children are not getting good positive sex education they will search for sex education in unauthentic books, peer groups, Internet and social media etc. This kind of sex education is called negative sex education. Children are learning about sex from sources they are not giving authentic information. This negative sex education will guide children to unhealthy sexual and social life.

Need of the Study

In the present days we can see a lot of news in social media and other medias regarding the violence against children. Violence against children in physical, mental and sexual ways are increasing in our society. In a study conducted by Boraiah and Yeliyur (2013)³ titled Comprehensive and age appropriate Sexuality Education: The Need to Address Sexuality in schools, emphasized that among school student knowledge level about sex is very low and the study noted that there is request from the side of student to include sex education in school curriculum. The shocking fact the study revealed is that parents and teachers also expressed their inclination towards the implementation of sex education in High school curriculum. Through comprehensive and age appropriate sex education in school curriculum can make children aware about sex, their body, changes happening to their body and mind, relationships, consent, communication, laws and provisions regarding violence against children. Sex education in schools will provide positive sex education to children. Children are going to internet and social media for sex education but they are receiving negative sex education through that. So before implementing sex education in schools attitude of students towards it is very important to understand.

Objectives

1. To study the attitude of Secondary school students on the implementation of sex education in schools.
2. To study the attitude of secondary school Boys students on the implementation of sex education in schools.
3. To study the attitude of secondary school girls students on the implementation of sex education in schools.
4. To find there is a significant gender difference on the attitude on the implementation of sex education in schools among secondary school students

Hypotheses

1. There exist different levels in the attitude on the implementation of sex education in schools among secondary school students.
2. There exist different levels in the attitude on the implementation of sex education in schools among Secondary school boy students.
3. There exist different levels in the attitude on the implementation of sex education in schools among secondary school girl students.
4. There exists no significant difference in the attitude on the implementation of sex education in schools among secondary school students based on their gender.

Methodology of the Study

The present study is descriptive in nature. The primary data was collected through a well-structured questionnaire. The sample size taken for the study consists of 150 secondary school students of Government schools of Palakkad District. Simple random sampling is used as the sampling technique; thus, the collected data were analyzed using various statistical tools such as descriptive statistics, percentage analysis and Z ratio.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The aim of this study is to find the level of attitude on the implementation of sex education in schools among secondary school students and to find out whether there exists any difference between boys and girls in the attitude on implementing sex education in schools. The study is conducted in Palakkad district.

Table: 1 Classification of level of attitude towards the implementation of sex education for total sample of secondary school students

Score	Number of students	Grade
0 - 20	22	Critical
20 - 40	40	Below average
40 - 60	52	Average
60 - 80	23	Above Average
80 - 100	13	Excellent

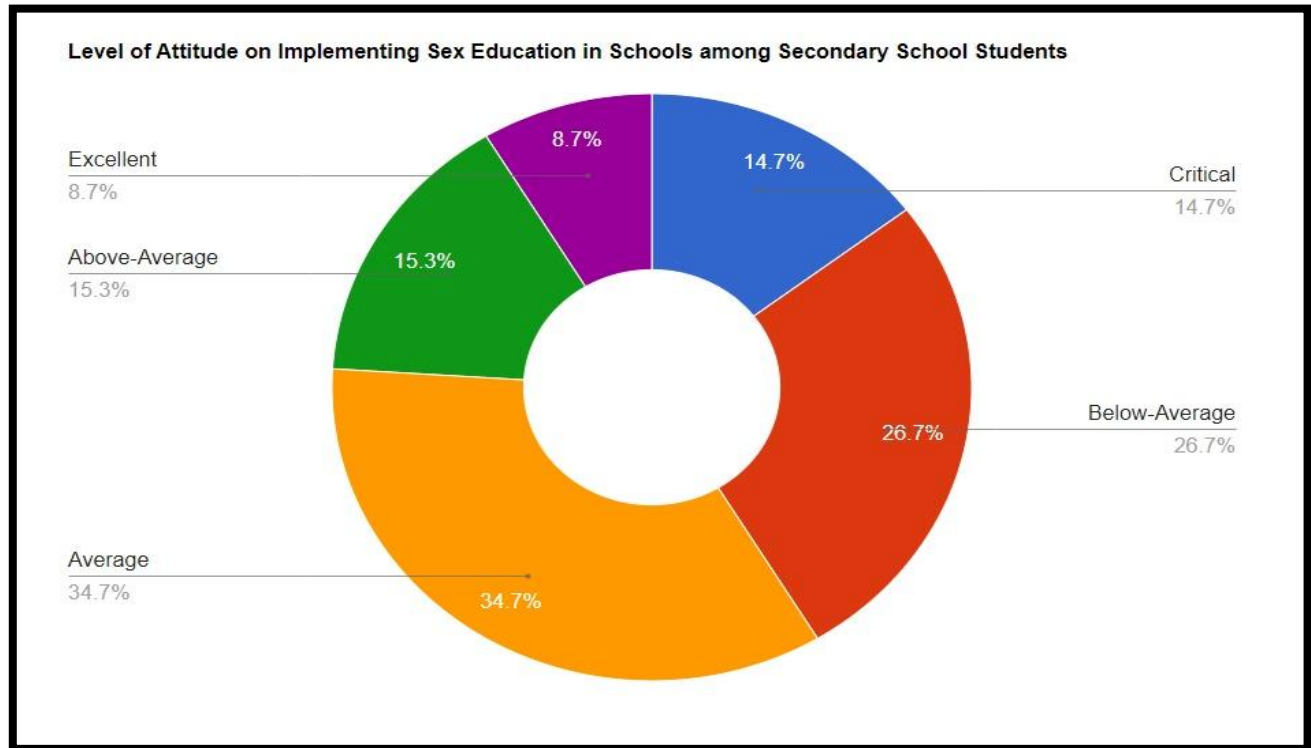


Figure 1: Pie Diagram Showing the Percentage of level of attitude of secondary School Students on implementing sex education in schools.

The distributed score of the total sample on the level of attitude on implementing sex education in school shows that 34.7% of the students are in average class. 8.7% of the students only under excellent grade. Percentage of students in below average class is 26.7%. 15.3% of students belong to above average level of attitude and 14.7% of the students are in critical grade in the level of attitude on implementing sex education in schools.

Table: 2 Classifications of Scores of Attitude on Implementing Sex Education for Subsample of Secondary School Boy Students

Score	Number of students	Grade
0 - 20	12	Critical
20 - 40	25	Below average
40 - 60	23	Average
60 - 80	10	Above Average
80 - 100	5	Excellent

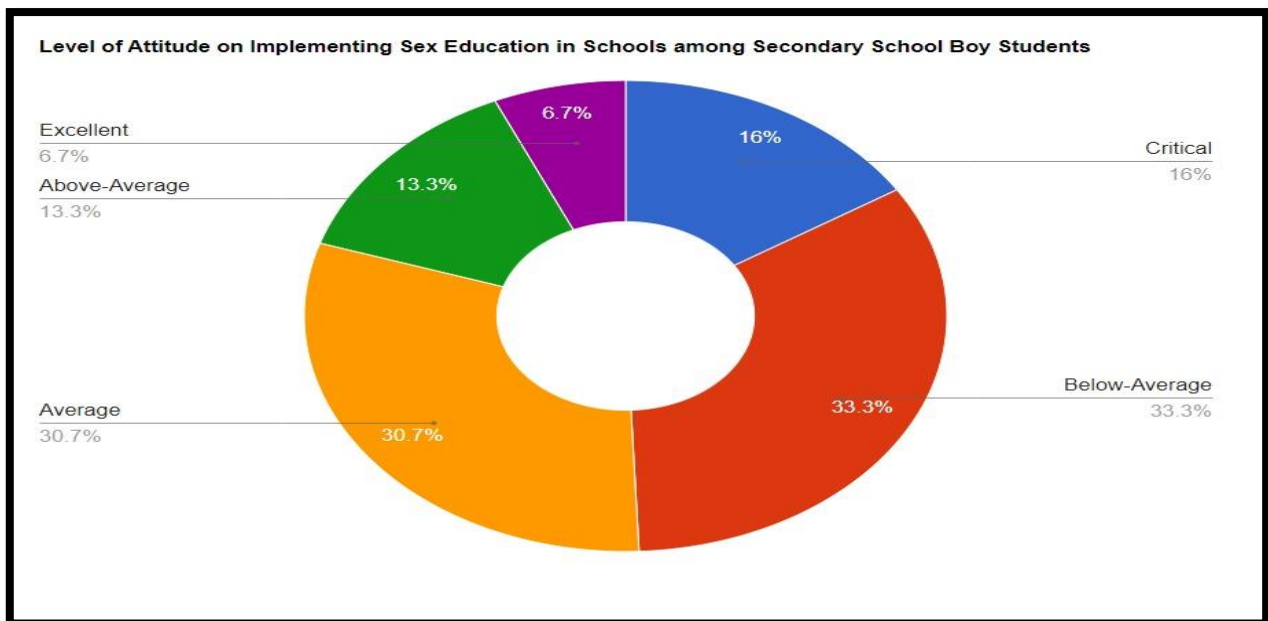


Figure 2: Pie Diagram Showing the Percentage of Secondary School Boy Students fall under the level of Attitude on Implementing Sex Education in Schools

The distributed score of the subsample of secondary school boy students on the level of attitude on implementing sex education in schools shows that 33.3% of the students are under below average class. Only 6.7% of the students come under excellent class. Percentage of students scored under average class is 30.7%. Only 13.3% of students come under above average class. 16% of boy students come in critical class.

Table: 3 Classification of scores of Attitude on Implementing Sex Education for the subsample of Secondary School Girl Students

Score	Number of students	Grade
0 - 20	10	Critical
20 - 40	15	Below average
40 - 60	29	Average
60 - 80	13	Above Average
80 - 100	8	Excellent

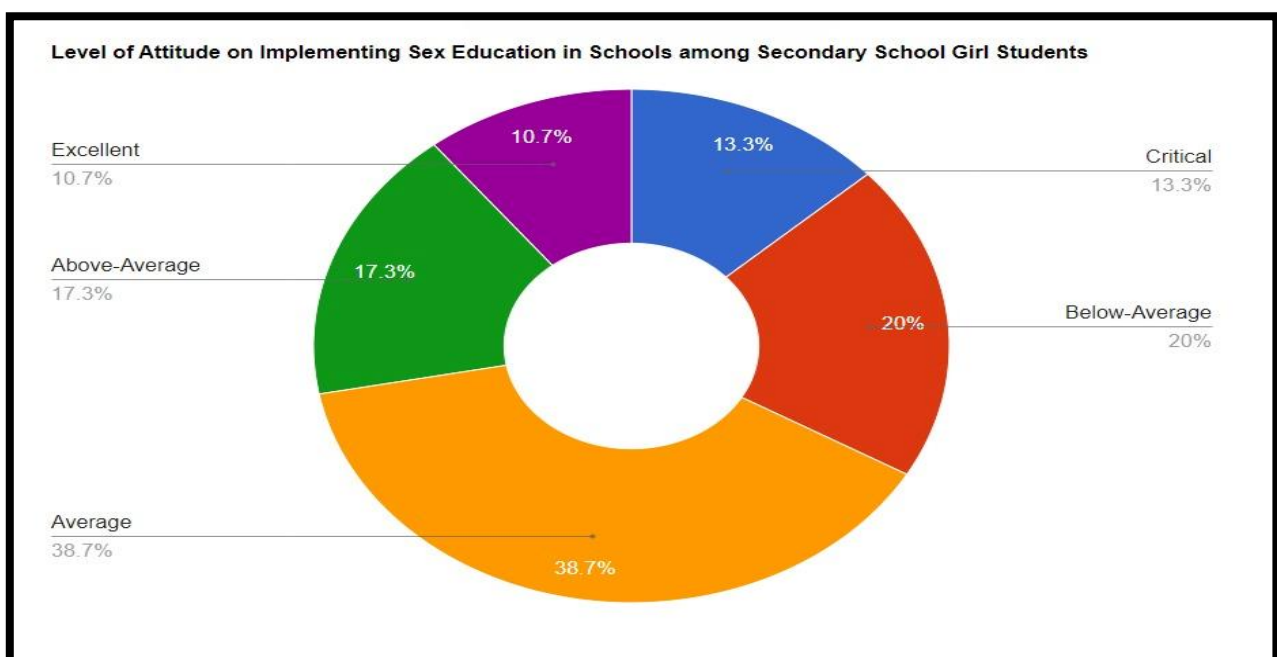


Figure 3: Pie Diagram Showing the Percentage of Secondary School Students fall under each level of Attitude on Implementing Sex Education in Schools.

The distributed score of the subsample of secondary school girl students on the level of attitude on implementing sex education in schools shows that 20 % of the students are under below average category. Only 10.7% of the girl students are under excellent class. Percentage of students scored under average class is 38.7%. 17.3% of the students are under above average class. Notable point is that 13.3% of students are under critical class.

Table: 4 Comparison of Boys and Girls in terms of Attitude on Implementing Sex Education in Schools

Variable	Number	Mean Score	S.D.	t value	Results
Boy	75	42.26	22.12599	1.66	Significant at 0.05 level
Girl	75	48.4	23.038518		

Table 4 shows that the difference in mean score of attitude on implementing sex education in schools of boys and girls exhibited is significant. The formulated null hypotheses of the study that There exists no significant difference in the attitude on the implementation of sex education in schools among secondary school students classified based on gender is rejected in the present study. And the alternative hypotheses there exist significant difference in the level of attitude on the implementation of sex education in schools among secondary school students based on gender is accepted.

Conclusion

Teaching of sex education in school is matter of debate in the field of education. This taboo and stigma towards sex education in schools should be removed and teachers, parents and students should have a positive attitude towards the implementation of sex education in schools. From the play school level to higher secondary school level age appropriate sex education should be effectively implemented. Parents and teachers should be ready for open communication with their students and children regarding sex. The findings of the study indicate that the level of attitude on implementing sex education in schools among secondary school students is average. In the comparison based on gender the number of girls scored above average is higher than that of boys. The mean score of girls is greater than that of boys and this difference in mean score is significant at 0.05 levels. Hence the attitude on implementing sex education among girls is higher than boys. Before implementing sex education in schools policy makers and administrators first analyze the attitude of students towards it and through implementation and proper awareness programmes the attitude of students should turn into positive. Only through the implementation of sex education in schools knowledge and understanding of students regarding sex can be enhanced. Otherwise students will go behind negative sex education and that will adversely affect the life of future generation. Today's children are tomorrow's adults. So this can eradicate society's negative attitude about sex education in schools.

Acknowledgement

1. Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi

Reference

1. Boraiah, J. & Yeliyur, S. (2013), Comprehensive and Age Appropriate Sexuality Education: The Need to Address Sexuality in Schools. International Monthly Referred Journal of Research in Management & Technology. Vol. II, March 2013
2. Bourton, Victoria. "Sex education in school: young people's views." Nursing Children and Young People 18.8 (2006).
3. Collins, L. (2008). A Model middle school Sex Education Programme. Retrieved on 15 January 2022 from <http://economics.txstate.edu/arp/285>
4. Fentahun, Netsanet, et al. "Parents' perception, students' and teachers' attitude towards school sex education." Ethiopian journal of health sciences 22.2 (2012).
5. Jagadish B., (2013) A Study on the Knowledge and Attitude of parents teachers and students on sex education in secondary schools in Karnataka. University of Mysore. Retrieved from <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/74863>
6. Joseph, Sebastian. (2000) Sex education in schools A study on the attitude of parents teachers and students, Shivaji University. <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/140514>
7. Kumar, K. Suresh & TP, Radhika. Awareness On Realistic Mathematics Situations Among Secondary School Students. (2022). Journal of Pharmaceutical Negative Results, 2410-2415. <https://doi.org/10.47750/pnr.2022.13.S10.280>

8. Lalnunfeli, Donna. Attitude of students Teachers and Community towards Sex Education at Secondary School Level in Mizoram(2015), Department of Education, Mizoram University. <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/194644>
9. Liddell, Jessica L., and Juliet Herzberg. "'They Didn't Talk About Stuff like That': Sexual Health Education Experiences of a Native American Tribe in the Gulf Coast." *American Journal of Sexuality Education* 18.2 (2023): 231-260.
10. Momin, Maynochi, G. (2014) A study on attitude towards sex education of class xii students and teachers of tura. North-Eastern Hill University. <http://hdl.handle.net/10603/169880>
11. Reiss, Michael J. "Conflicting philosophies of school sex education." *Journal of Moral Education* 24.4 (1995): 371-382.
12. Talib, Johari, et al. "Analysis on sex education in schools across Malaysia" *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences* 59 (2012): 340-348.
13. Van Leent, Lisa, et al. "Effectiveness of relationships and sex education: A systematic review of terminology, content, pedagogy, and outcomes." *Educational Research Review* (2023): 100527.
14. WHO(2006): Defining Sexual Health: Report of a Technical consultation on Sexual Health, 23-31 January 2002. World Health Organization(WHO), Geneva
15. Yang, Ya Ki. "A study on knowledge, attitudes, and need for sex education in high school students." *Korean journal of women health nursing* 18.3 (2012): 159-169.