



## **Attitude of parents and teachers towards sex education to the children between the age group of 14 to 18**

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### **Abstract**

Sex education to the children is very relevant, crucial and sensitive matter for the people of the modern world. It is a process of building strong sexual health and awareness. It is imperative for adolescents to understand the pros and cons of sex and how it can affect their life. The present investigation is an attempt to ascertain the attitude of parents and teacher towards sex education for their children in the school in terms of Indian society. For this purpose, the parents from rural and urban areas selected and teachers (Male and Female) from private and government senior secondary school were selected to collect pertinent data and it was found after the analysis of data that there is significant difference in the attitude of the parents and teachers towards sex education.

**Keywords:** attitude, sex education

### **Introduction**

The modern era is the era of scientific and technical advancement and which has affected not only professional life but also the personal life. People of this world has a number of desires but the ultimate desire is sex which is necessary, dangerous, satisfying, unsafe and enjoyable for human being. It is much debated topics across the world is the importance of sex education for the children and a topic which must be discussed openly. There is a controversy on this topic some are in favor of this and some are not. But, today, a large number of young people are victim of sexually transmitted diseases and misconception. (Rao, 2007) <sup>[5]</sup> stated that sex education is the only remedy to protect form the sexually transmitted diseases which should be provided in the school to the children so that they may aware about the harms of unsafe and untimely sex. (Mishra, 2007) <sup>[2]</sup> suggested that "adolescence is the most stressful period in the life of a human being. The body is flooded with new hormones and there are feelings of confusion and rebellion. We have to help youngsters understand the changes and also the difference between responsible and irresponsible sex."

Indeed, most of schools and colleges in india have been squeamish about sex education. In India; the society is conservative; and parents and even teachers are very uncomfortable to provide and discuss on sex education with their children while children are also feel embarrassed to discuss on this topic with their parents or guardian. Mostly, children receive information about sex from the society. Dr. S.P. Sharma stated that more and more teenagers these days are experimenting with sexuality and sexual practices. It is vital that they ought to be educated about the risks associated with such behavior. (Wayne 2002) <sup>[8]</sup> advocated that sex education will provide the teenagers positive attitude, information and skills about taking care of their sexual health. (Silva, 2002) <sup>[2]</sup> stated that sex education helps the young people to develop their attitude, values and belief about sexuality which guides them for a safe and health sex life.

It has been seen that various schools across different cities in India are organizing workshops and other informative program to create awareness among students on issues like health and hygiene. But, unfortunately, a complete sex education drive on a regular basis is still to be introduced in Indian schools which would provide the students accurate information about human sexuality so that they can develop and understand their values, attitudes, and insights about sexuality. (Kapoor, 2014) <sup>[1]</sup> said that a compressive education program should be developed by Indian school to develop and exercise sexual responsibility, relationship and interpersonal skill towards sex. The biggest advantage of sex education in India is perhaps, it will help the country to fight against the rising speed of sexually transmitted diseases, abuse and violence. Pandit (2008) <sup>[4]</sup> showed that 53% of children in India have been victims of some kind of sexual abuse and in most of the cases, the child is known to the perpetrator.

A compressive sex education can help the present generation to live a secured and happy life. Sex education cannot be a typical educational practice in school; it should cover all the psychological, physiological and social issues that can force a person to think about the urgency for this kind of awareness among school students. Children reaching the teen phase start showing peculiar behavior that can grow up into bigger problems in future without right knowledge about this fact. An effective sex education curriculum must be developed by the school and parents and teachers should provide this type of information to the children without any hesitation at home and school. (Nickson, 1996) <sup>[3]</sup> stated that sex education should be the integral part of school curriculum which should be taught with a positive thinking to the students in association with the parents.

### **Statement of the problem**

Attitude of Parents and Teachers towards Sex Education to the Children between the age group of 14 to 19.

Definition of Operational / Key terms

**Attitude:** It is an expression of favor or disfavor towards a person place, thing, or event.

**Sex Education:** Is an instruction in various psychological, physiological and sociological aspects of sexual response and reproduction.

**Limitations of the study**

1. The present investigation confined to only Gohana sub division of Sonapat District, Haryana, India.
2. The study limited to the villages of Gohana and city area of Gohana.
3. The study limited to only male and female teachers of Senior Secondary Schools of Gohana Area.
4. The study limited to only private and government Senior Secondary Schools of Gohana form rural and urban areas.

**5. Objectives**

1. To ascertain the attitude of the parents from rural and urban areas towards sex education.
2. To ascertain the attitude of male and female teachers of senior secondary schools towards sex education.
3. To find out the attitude of government and private senior secondary schools teachers towards sex education.

**Hypothesis**

1. There is no significant difference in attitude of parents of rural and urban area towards sex education.

**Analysis and Findings**

**Table 1:** Difference of the mean scores of the attitude of parents and teachers

Categories	N	M	S.D	S.ED.	't' value	Variables
Parents from rural areas	25	103.3	13.41	3.28	3.48	Independent:- Gender Area
Parents from urban area	25	98.28	11.68	3.11		
Private school teachers	25	30	22	7	0.585	Dependent:- Attitude
Government school teachers	25	24	9	1.3		
Female teachers	25	42	6	1.24	3.30	Control :- Schools Teachers And Parents
Male teachers	25	36	5			

The calculated value of t (3.48) is greater than the table value of t (2.77) at 0.05 levels. Therefore, the hypothesis that there is no significant difference in attitude of parents of rural and urban area towards sex education is rejected and concluded that there is a significant difference in the attitude of parents of rural and urban area towards sex education which supports the findings of Smith (2000) that people in rural areas feel uncomfortable to discuss this topic and they were not in favor of this type of education to their children.

In relation to male and female teachers the calculated value of t (3.30) is greater than the table value of t (2.77) at 0.05 levels. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and concluded that there is a significant difference in the attitude of male and female teachers towards sex education which supports the findings of Rao (2007) [5], that males and females have different views on sex education to the children.

In terms of teachers form private and government schools the value of t (0.584) was found lesser the table value of t (2.77) at 0.05 levels. Therefore, there is no significant difference between the mean scores teachers from both type of schools

2. There is no significant difference in attitude of male and female teachers of senior secondary schools towards sex education.
3. There is no significant difference in attitude of government and private senior secondary schools teachers towards sex education.

**Methodology**

**Sample**

To collect the pertinent data; incidental sampling method was used to select teachers and parents. 25 parents from rural areas and 25 parents from urban areas selected for the purpose of the study. The teachers from three govt. senior secondary schools out of two were girl's schools and four private senior secondary schools teachers were selected for collecting data.

**Research tool and statistical technique**

The data were analyzed with the appropriate statistical measure to justify the objectives and hypothesis of the present study. Mean, standard deviation, SED and t-test employed for the analysis of the data to obtain relevant results.

**Data Collection**

The self-made questionnaire had been distributed to teachers and educated parents and requested them to fill the questionnaire now; those who were not educated; they had asked questions as per the questionnaire and response had been noted down.

on the attitude towards sex education is accepted which supports the findings of Kapoor (2014) [1]. That there is no significant difference in the attitude of teachers from government and private sector towards sex education.

**Implications of the study**

The present study has implication for the teachers, counselors, social workers, curriculum developers, educationists, researchers and parents that they can provide teenagers with accurate information about sex education at home and school so that they may have respect for opposite sex, prevent them from sexually transmitted diseases and can lead a happy, health and safe life. Parents should understand the psychological development and perplexity of growing children and should have a friendly attitude towards him/her so that he/she can discuss his/her doubts and problems openly with the parents and let them feel that they are being loved and cared. Teachers and parents should not feel uncomfortable to discuss this matter with their children. Sex education is a holistic education which should be integral part of the

curriculum at school level because sex is an important part of the personality of the child hence it is necessary to give rational orientation about it; lack of sex education to the children may miss directed and may develop some bad habits which may cause a big trouble for his/her life and schools should develop a good teacher-student relationship for interaction on different personal and professional issues. Teacher should encourage and make aware the students about the consequences of premature and unprotected sexual activities and also encourage and help the students to take part in extracurricular and co- curricular activities and parents must be educated by the counselors on this topic.

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