SEX EDUCATION IN LATIN-AMERICA:
A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

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SEX EDUCATION

“It is an imperative factor to the complete development of a human being throughout his life, that comprehends ethical, biological, emotional, social, cultural, gender and human rights aspects, and respects the diversity of sexual identities and orientation”.

Letter of Aveiro, I International Congress in Sexuality and Sex Education, Portugal, 2010
The research’s main objective is the identification of more adequate tools of intervention within sex education, considering its role in the development of satisfactory affective-sexual response and behaviour.
JUSTIFICATION

- The presence of behaviours, attitudes, values and beliefs that do not promote sexual health.

- Media processes that do not produce the necessary reflection for the acquisition of new knowledge and behavioural patterns.

- Social and cultural changes that do not resignify pre-existing structures, i.e. patriarchal paradigms and constructions, within which family, school and communities reproduce heritages of a segmented sexuality (myth of the male machine, or feminine sexuality repressive aspects).

- The lack of a continuous sex education capacitation to health educators and professionals.
- The continuous increase of teenage pregnancy: In developing countries, every day 20 thousand girls under 18 years old give birth and 200 die because of complications during pregnancy or birth. In the world, 7.3 million teenagers become mothers each year, of which 2 million are under 15 years old – a number that can increase to 3 million until 2030, in case the current tendency is maintained. In developed countries, 680 thousand births are attributed to teenage mothers, about half of them belonging to the United States (UNFPA – Brazil, 2013).

- The increase in the number of HIV/AIDS cases. In Latin America, there are 100 thousand new cases each year (UN report). In Brazil, the increase in the number of cases corresponded to 11% between 2005 and 2013, and increase of 7% in the number of deaths in the same period (UNAIDS).

- 1 out of every 10 women in the world is sexually abused according to the UN - there is no preventive character within current educational procedure.
MATERIALS AND METHODS

Survey with 17 questions idiomatically adapted to each country, using a structured self-administered questionnaire, non-probability random sample, in a cross-sectional analysis.
The research was set up with 537 people, 67.91% 20 - 40 years old, with 59.03% of them being female. Of the sample, 36.41% have a university degree, 87.10% are heterosexual, and 33.40% have no stable relationship.
Brasil 24%
Argentina 76%
Paraguai 0%
Chile 0%
Peru 0%
Colômbia 0%
Rep. Dominicana 0%

COUNTRIES
EDUCATION

- Ensino fundamental: 7.89%
- Ensino médio: 22.98%
- Ensino técnico: 9.12%
- Universidade undergraduate: 37.19%
- Pós-graduação: 17.37%
- Other: 1.75%
- Terceiro: 0.88%
- Mestrado: 0.18%
- Síntoma: 0.18%
- No diploma: 2.46%
- No Answer: 0.00%
Have you received sex education?

- Yes: 68%
- No: 32%
In case you have received sex education, through which vehicle have you acquired sexual knowledge?
In which manner has the received sex education influenced your life?

- Melhorou o cuidado de minha sexualidade
  - It improved the care for my sexuality
  - 16.69%

- Melhorou o desfrute de minha sexualidade
  - It improved the enjoyment of my sexuality
  - 7.45%

- Melhorou em ambos aspectos
  - It improved both aspects
  - 19.00%

- Melhorou a relação com meu parceiro(a)
  - It improved the relation with my partner
  - 6.93%

- Prevenção do abuso ou violência sexual
  - It prevented sexual violence or abuse
  - 5.26%

- Prevenção de DSTs e/ou HIV/AIDS
  - It prevented STDs and/or HIV/AIDS
  - 19.64%

- Prevenção de gravidez indesejada
  - It prevented unwanted pregnancy
  - 12.84%

- Não houve mudança nem consequências positivas
  - There were no changes or positive consequences
  - 3.59%

- Houve consequências negativas. Especifique
  - There were negative consequences. Specify.
  - 0.26%

- No sabia como encararla
  - I didn't know how to deal with it
  - 0.13%

- Me faltou mais conscientização sobre ETS
  - I lacked knowledge concerning STDs
  - 0.13%

- S/R
  - No Answer
  - 8.09%
What is your evaluation concerning the sex education you have received?

- **Very satisfied** (Muito satisfatória): 15.73%
- **Somewhat satisfied** (Satisfactoria): 40.51%
- **Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied** (Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied): 16.46%
- **Somewhat dissatisfied** (Somewhat dissatisfied): 6.15%
- **Very dissatisfied** (Pessima): 4.88%
- **Dissatisfied** (Ruim): 7.59%
- **No Answer** (S/R): 6.68%

Considero-me educado, inclusive para transmitir aos outros meus conhecimentos.
*I consider myself to be educated, also to forward my knowledge to others.*
Through which vehicle would you like to have received sex education?

- School: 7.07%
- Family: 9.90%
- School and family: 34.79%
- Friends: 4.38%
- Media: 7.50%
- Books: 4.10%
- Health professional: 23.06%
- Other: 3.25%
- No Answer: 5.94%
RESULTS

From the analyzed group, 67.94% received sex education, with most of it being from an educational institution. The received education was rated unsatisfactory by 27.34% of the people interviewed. And those who rated the received education as satisfactory considered it important to prevent STDs and / or HIV, unwanted pregnancy, sexual abuse and sexual violence, or, according to them, it improved care and their enjoyment of their sexuality.
CONCLUSION

The initial results of this research underline the need for active participation of government authorities and scientific societies in sex education programs aimed at children, youth, adults and seniors; and especially at parents, educators, health professionals and communicators, which are the instruments for the realization of an adequate intervention, formal or informal, comprehensive and continuous lifelong constitution of a healthy sexuality, with its various aspects. They are also instruments for the development of life quality through the exercise of human and sexual rights.
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