

Some parents abdicated their responsibilities in this fundamental aspect of life. Parents, society, and churches must teach sexuality, body, emotions, and passion. Withholding knowledge, teaching, and nurturing of a child's sexuality is a violation of children's rights. A cruel crime against the child and society.

A child is not a thing.

Parents, society, and religious institutions indeed have a crucial responsibility in educating children about sexuality, body awareness, emotions, and passions. Withholding this essential knowledge and guidance can be detrimental to a child's development and well-being.

Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is vital for children's healthy development and is considered a fundamental right^[1]^[2]. It equips young people with knowledge, skills, and values to make informed decisions about their health, relationships, and well-being^[1]. CSE goes beyond just teaching about reproduction and sexual health risks; it also covers topics like consent, healthy relationships, gender equality, and respect for diversity^[3]^[1].

Research shows that quality sexuality education leads to positive outcomes, including:

1. Delayed sexual debut
2. Increased use of contraception
3. Reduced risk-taking behaviors
4. Improved knowledge about bodies and relationships
5. Enhanced ability to recognize and report abuse^[1]^[2]

Importantly, CSE does not encourage early sexual activity, as some may fear. Instead, it empowers young people to make responsible choices and protect themselves from exploitation and abuse^[1].

Parents play a crucial role in their children's sexual socialization, imparting values and behavioral expectations from an early age^[4]. However, many parents feel uncomfortable or ill-equipped to discuss sexuality comprehensively with their children^[4]. This is where schools, health professionals, and community organizations can complement parental efforts by providing accurate, age-appropriate information and skills training^[4].

Churches and faith-based organizations can also play a positive role in sexuality education, addressing the moral and ethical aspects of sexuality within their belief systems^[5]^[6]. Many

progressive religious institutions have developed comprehensive sexuality education programs that align with their values while providing accurate, science-based information^[5].

Denying children access to comprehensive sexuality education can indeed be seen as a violation of their rights^{[7] [8]}. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes that children have the right to access information that is important to their health and well-being^[7]. By providing CSE, we respect children's right to information, education, and health, and empower them to become responsible, well-informed adults^[8].

In conclusion, sexuality education is not just about imparting facts; it's about nurturing children's overall development and preparing them for healthy, respectful relationships throughout their lives. It's a shared responsibility that requires the cooperation of parents, educators, health professionals, and community organizations to ensure that children receive the knowledge and support they need to thrive.

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1. <https://www.unesco.org/en/health-education/cse>
2. <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/comprehensive-sexuality-education>
3. <https://www.healthyteennetwork.org/news/sex-education-is-essential/>
4. <https://www.guttmacher.org/journals/psrh/2007/sex-education-and-sexual-socialization-roles-educators-and-parents>
5. <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2008/02/matter-faith-support-comprehensive-sex-education-among-faith-based-organizations>
6. <https://foothillsuu.org/resource/why-comprehensive-sexuality-education/>
7. https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/blog/2020/-/asset_publisher/aa3hyyf8wKBn/content/comprehensive-sexuality-education-protects-children-and-helps-build-a-safer-inclusive-society
8. <https://hd-ca.org/rethinking-the-sexual-rights-of-children-and-adolescents>