

Group 2 (BSIT 4E-G2)**Gender and Society**

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Sexploration UnlockED: Navigating Sex Education for a Safer Generation

LEONEIL:

A. Target Audiences

In a news article published by Montclair State University (2020), a study by Lieberman & Goldfarb (2020), programming implemented in earlier grade levels has helped to prevent child sex abuse which in turn, also lead to improved self-protective skills, improved knowledge of appropriate/inappropriate touching, increased parent-child communication and increased disclosure of abuse. Since it gives kids vital information and skills at a time when they are most susceptible, sex education should start in elementary school. Additionally, communities, parents, and educators gain since kids are more equipped to discuss delicate topics, strengthening safety protocols and creating a more secure atmosphere for everyone.

B. Causes of the Problem

According to Grunebaum (2023), Sex education and access to contraceptives are controversial subjects in the Philippines, where the Catholic Church holds significant influence on a population that's about 80% Catholic. As a result, discussions about sex are often seen as taboo or inappropriate, especially for younger audiences. Many parents and educators are uncomfortable addressing these topics, fearing they might encourage promiscuity rather than preventing it.

C. Effects of the Problem

According to Sejati, P. E., & Mufida, R. T. (2021), one of the triggers for the influence of sex education on premarital sex is a great sense of curiosity and love to try something new and if this is not balanced with strong knowledge and proper education about sexual education and reproductive health, it is feared that unwanted effects can occur on adolescent sexual behavior. They become susceptible to misunderstandings, peer pressure, and dangerous behavior as a result of the absence of correct information. Because they might not completely understand the obligations or potential risks connected with sexual activity, those who get inadequate sex education are more likely to have negative outcomes like unintended pregnancies or STIs.

D. Advocacy Partners

According to a news article by Ballecer (2023), Plan International Philippines, a non-government organization that promotes the welfare of children, is calling for the proper implementation of the comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) to help young men and women develop a sense of responsibility when engaging in acts of physical intimacy. The group highlights how young men and women can better comprehend the repercussions of their actions by being given accurate, age-appropriate information on subjects like consent, healthy relationships, reproductive health, and emotional well-being. By encouraging CSE, Plan International hopes to promote respect and accountability in close relationships while lowering the hazards of early or unprotected sexual activity, such as unwanted pregnancies or STDs.

E. Proposed Projects, Programs, Activities

In a publication published by Plan International Philippines (2022), With smartphones as today's most accessible device for young people when creating content and telling stories, Plan International Philippines, through its Youth Reporter Project, has developed a new mobile journalism toolkit to equip youth advocates with the knowledge and skills needed for effective and powerful digital storytelling. The goal of this program is to teach participants how to utilize their mobile devices to record and share compelling tales, bring significant social concerns to light, and promote constructive change in their local communities. With the help of this program, Plan International hopes to elevate the voices of young people and empower them to effectively communicate and advocate for a range of causes, such as social justice, gender equality, and children's rights.

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HELENA:

A. Target Audience

Nguyen et al. (2022), referencing Jin (2021), emphasize the significant role that sex education plays in a child's overall development. It is crucial for shaping their personality and aligns with the psychological and physiological growth of adolescents. Societal influences, including perceptions of love, sexuality, gender changes, and emotional experiences, contribute to a type of knowledge that children often do not receive from formal education or their families (Cacciatore et al., 2019). Furthermore, sex education provides children with essential knowledge about reproductive health, fertility management, and broader population-related concerns (Warzecha et al., 2019). Around the ages of 7 to 11, children begin to experience puberty, with girls starting menstruation and boys undergoing circumcision. This age group has been chosen as the focus of advocacy due to their developmental stage and the onset of puberty.

B. Causes of Problem

According to Yamat et al. (2023), sex education is often seen as a taboo subject in the Philippines, mainly because of the strong influence of religious beliefs. This situation is alarming, especially since the Commission on Population and Development reported that in 2019, 2,411 girls aged 10 to 14 gave birth, which highlights the serious health risks associated with early pregnancies during this crucial stage of adolescence (Jaymalin, 2021).

Several factors contribute to this issue. Many young people lack access to essential information about sexual and reproductive health, which makes them unprepared in terms of

making decisions. Addition to that, discussions about sex and relationships can be uncomfortable for many families, which leads to having a hard time on tackling the right information to tell the young girls and boys. Therefore, the absence of comprehensive sex education in schools means that adolescents often do not have the access to the guidance they need. These challenges create an environment where misinformation can spread, resulting in higher rates of teenage pregnancies.

C. Effects of Problems

According to Cordero's article (2024), the National Economic and Development Authority identified teen pregnancy as a "national and social emergency" in 2019. In accordance with figures from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said by CPD, or Popcom, 3,135 females below the age of 15 gave birth in 2022, increasing 35.13% from 2,320 cases in 2021.

Furthermore, according to the Philippines' HIV and AIDS Surveillance report, there would be an estimated 189,000 persons living with HIV by the end of 2023. This enormous figure emphasizes the significance of proper sexual education in the country, that will provide appropriate information regarding sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) and preventive measures to help control the problem.

D. Advocacy Partners

There are a lot of advocacy partners ready to help with promoting comprehensive sex education. One project called Sexual Health and Empowerment - Philippines, managed by CanWaCH (Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health), has over 100 different groups. These include non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), schools, health professional groups, and even private businesses that are all dedicated to improving the health and rights of women, children, and adolescents globally. The primary purpose of this effort is to improve women's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), especially in remote and rural areas of the Philippines.

Many organizations are coming together to support child protection and deal with health and violence issues in the country. The Barangay Council for Child Protection focuses on keeping kids safe in local communities, while the Department of Health is in charge of health

policies. The Violence Against Women Desk specifically works on issues related to gender-based violence. With backing from Global Affairs Canada, these efforts are getting even stronger. In the NGO sector, the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP) helps improve reproductive health services, and the Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK) fights for women's rights in rural areas. Other groups like Sibog Katawhan Alang sa Paglambo (SiKAP), United Youth of the Philippines Women, Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation (AMDF), and the Tarbilang Foundation also contribute to helping communities and empowering women. Together, these organizations aim to create a safer and healthier environment for both children and women across the country.

E. Proposed Projects, Programs, and Activities

Sex education is a topic that is needed to be taught for the students because according to the findings of Bourke, A. et al. (2014, as cited in Lameiras-Fernández et al., 2021) Those who get sex education are more likely to utilize contraception at sexual initiation and postpone their sexual debut. and by teaching this to the young ones they will have the knowledge to be aware and know early the consequences of their actions and the dangers that they will face in the coming years. It has been demonstrated that appropriate sexual education delays sexual initiation, lower the likelihood of adolescent pregnancies, increase the number of sexual partners, decrease the frequency of sexual activity, and utilize condoms and other methods of contraception Ramírez-Villalobos et al. (2021, p. 2), One benefit of sex education is that it teaches students how HIV/AIDS can spread through unprotected sex, mother-to-child transmission, and dirty equipment. The classes also discuss common STIs like chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis, which can affect sexual health. Additionally, the curriculum explains the physical changes during puberty, such as beard growth and acne in boys, and breast development and wider hips in girls. Finally, it provides information on how to prevent pregnancy through abstinence and different types of contraception Kemigisha et al. (2019).

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CHRISTIAN:

A. Target Audiences (why you choose them to advocate, and who are the other beneficiary of your advocacy?)

- Youth frequently learn about their gender and sexual health for the first time through sex education. But what about those who don't receive sex education? What will happen to them and what are the consequences of not being informed about sexual health or understanding their own sexual identity? Sex education is important for young people to learn about their bodies and relationships; as such, our target audience would be early adolescents (ages 10-14). As stated by (Woog & Kågesten, 2022) early adolescence is a period of rapid physical, social, emotional, and cognitive changes. As such, it is a critical time to lay the foundation for positive sexual and reproductive health outcomes. It's important for young people to get educated as soon as possible, particularly when they become aware of their body changes so that they can avoid misinformation and manage emotional development effectively. Parents would also benefit because they should be the primary educators for their children, especially on topics as sensitive as sex education. Even with children as young as 10, parents frequently find it difficult to start a conversation about sexual health. Normalizing these discussions involves teaching parents how to convey information that is appropriate for their children's age.

B. Causes of Problem (what are the causes your topic issue? Elaborate.)

- There are a lot of factors when it comes to Sex Education and some of them are Inconsistent Sex Education, Wrong use of technology, and Parental Hesitance. Let's start with sex education, The topic of sex education is not really being taught; although other schools teach it, many educational systems still provide insufficient or outdated information about sexual health, leading to a lack of current knowledge among young people. The second issue is the misuse of technology. In our technological era, many young people have easy access to it, and pornography is just one search away. Adarsh and Sahoo (2023) state that adolescents exposed to pornography at a young age are more likely to engage in sexual activity earlier, have multiple sexual partners, experience lower relationship satisfaction, and report decreased sexual satisfaction during their teenage years. Lastly, parental hesitancy plays a role; many parents are uncomfortable discussing

sexual health with younger children due to a lack of resources or confidence in how to present information appropriately.

C. Effects of Problems (what are the effects of your topic issue? Elaborate.)

- People who do not receive early and proper sex education are most likely to engage in risky sexual behaviors in their teens, which can lead to unintended pregnancies that might affect their emotional and mental health as well. Also, teenagers who lack access to proper sex education are more vulnerable to sexual violence and abuse because they lack knowledge about consent and healthy relationships. The easy access to pornography due to the misuse of technology can contribute to adolescents engaging in sexual activity at a younger age. Lukolo and van Dyk (2014) state that parents are the main source of rules and values for their children. It is believed that children's sexual development is influenced by their early experiences with their parents' views on sexuality. Additionally, parental hesitance in discussing sexual health issues further exacerbates the problem. When parents are uncomfortable or lack the resources to address these topics, children may seek information from unreliable sources, such as peers or the internet.

D. Advocacy Partners (which government agencies or non-government organizations can help you and why and how?)

- There are several government agencies, such as DepEd and DOH, that can help us. First, DepEd can play a crucial role like implementing a program that can help youth like an early access or integrating sex education into the school curriculum they should ensure that age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health education is provided to students. Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in 2020 showed 2,113 pregnancies among preadolescent girls, which rose to 2,354 in 2021 according to the Department of Health, before declining slightly to 2,299 cases in 2022 (Ballecer, 2023). DOH can help us because they are responsible for implementing health policies, including reproductive health education and programs aimed at preventing teenage pregnancies and promoting sexual health.

E. Proposed Projects, Programs, and Activities (how will you solve or at least lessen the effect or impact of your topic issue?)

- We can integrate a program that will talk about the importance of sex education to the youth. There is also the Parent-Child Communication Program, which talks about the importance of communication between the parents and the child. As stated by Skinner, E. (2020, March 30), "Communication is not about talking. It's mostly about listening and sensing your kid's thoughts and feelings." So, to bridge the gap between parents and children on sensitive topics, we can initiate programs that teach parents how to communicate effectively about sex education. One more program to add is the Digital Literacy Campaigns. A digital literacy campaign can be started to teach young people about safe internet use because technology greatly influences how adolescents perceive sexuality. This means encouraging positive online interactions and being aware of the dangers of misinformation and pornography.

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ANDREI

A Target Audiences

Evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is an essential approach to create a generation of children aware about complications related to sexual and reproductive health, personal safety, communication, among others. Atrial (2006) as reported by UNESCO in 2018 stated that CSE implemented from early childhood results to positive changes including among others; improves self protective skills, shift of knowledge where children have basic ideas on right and wrong behavior and will be able to communicate openly with their parents regarding sensitive matters even if its family planning issues. Lieberman & Goldfarb (2020) contend that early sexual education is a guard against child abuse, and provides children with important life skills; hence the reason for sex education to begin at an age when kids are impressionable talk about proper or beneficial practices. Communities and parents experience the benefits, too: In educating through nurture care communities that are confident in talking about difficult topics can strengthen safety protocols to provide a secure environment to all.

B. Causes of Problem:

The absence of sex and health education programs are generally driven by socio-cultural determinants associated with fear in talking about sexuality. This causes child marriage, teenage pregnancy and violence on the basis of gender. Most schools do not educate children about sexual health to the extent that they need, and this results in a bunch of young adults who don't understand what their bodies are going through or even how NOT to get pregnant. Problems such as economics also hinder the way of thousands, for many families immediate needs will always be a priority over education making its dropout rates raise. Moreover, political support for sexual education has been largely absent and persistent gender inequality prevents girls from attending school.

C . Effects of Problem

Adolescent pregnancy has severe negative effects on young girls, their families, and communities. Pregnancy and childbirth — the leading cause of death worldwide for girls ages 15 to 19 years old poses serious health risks. Because their bodies are not yet fully developed, young mothers often suffer health problems and their babies also face extra risks of complications from a doctor standing with an ultrasound on. On a social level, teenage pregnancy can result in stigmatization and ostracism from family friends as well as an increased vulnerability to violence (and for unmarried girls) of rape or other forms of coercion. Economically, early motherhood frequently derails education and job prospects for girls pushing them into poverty. Young and partnered high school girls are also more likely to be victims of domestic violence, as if they did not face a difficult enough future for their well-being.

D Advocacy Partners

According to the 2018 Policy Guidelines on the Implementation of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education(CSE), it is the responsibility of schools to do: — integrating CSE programmes and projects across learning areas, information dissemination & advocacy campaigns, networking and partnerships; inclusion in School Improvement Plan for seminars or activities around said enhancement.

The Department of Education, as a regulatory agency, provides BE programs to guide the schoolteacher in implementing CSE (ComprehensiveSexuality Education) in the Philippine School Curriculum. Through education, DepEd guides the youth in terms of their sexual and reproductive health which helps them to make educated decisions. With DepEd on board, there is a better chance that your study will work since Sexploration UnlockED: Navigating sex education for a safer generation would be following the national guidelines of CSE. DepEd will also assist in training the teachers, create learning materials and encourage stronger CSE programs to be incorporated within schools in order for students to receive due education.

E

According to bordogna(2022) approximately 30 percent of us-born girls will become pregnant by age 20 highlights the crucial need for comprehensive sexual education in America. Studies have demonstrated that comprehensive sexuality education is more effective than either abstinence-only or even no sexual discipline in lowering teen pregnancy rates. These reviews revealed that CSE had no impact on sexual behavior, sexual activity and STD rates but the participants receiving Comprehensive Sexuality Education experienced a decrease in pregnancy; increased safe-sex behaviors; and improved overall knowledge of sexuality. I personally feel that in the light of these researches, doing sex education classes should be mandatory for all teenagers. These hands-on sessions can arm them with the tools they need to make better decisions while creating a frame of reference for healthier relationships and decreasing teen pregnancy. I believe that sex education workshops should be mandatory for every teenager. These interactive sessions can arm them with necessary information and skills so that they make truth-based choices about their sexual well-being. These seminars serve a coaching role in giving an environment where they can ask questions and talk , which is invaluable to building stronger

relationships. At the end of the day, preventing teen pregnancy starts with educating young people and providing them tools in terms of sexual education.

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JAIRUS:

A. Target Audiences

Torres (2024) asserts that young individuals possess the necessary information to develop a comprehensive understanding of gender and sexuality through their bodily experiences, community interactions, cultural contexts, and societal influences, all of which contribute to their mental health. This echoes the call for a comprehensive sex education that goes beyond standard reproductive biology. Making sure that young

people can interpret what gender and sexuality mean to them as individuals ensures they explore their own identities before exploring relationships. This kind of learning is critical to psychosocial health and welfare, a way youth can figure out how some extremely challenging social standards, cultural context, and usually familial forces are communicated. Furthermore, with early meaningful education on matters of sexual and gender diversity, young people make better interpersonal relationships also resulting in a healthier inclusive society. It introduces a comprehensive child development system that becomes crucial in making sure our children are well prepared for the identity challenges they will meet as society has been evolving its views around genders and sexualities.

B. Causes of Problem

The prevalence of misinformation and stigma is one of the most important impediments to the provision of proper sex education. While it is a scientific fact that CSE helps in increasing the age of sexual initiation and advocates for responsible sexual practices, many people still retain the mindset that sexual themes should be completely avoided when speaking with younger people. Such myths have been sustained by several proponents of the so-called abstinence – being the only form of education. It has also been claimed that talking about sex in any form will lead to the risk-prone behavior of young people. But Gautam-Adhikary (2011) points out the contrary, emphasizing that evidence indicates that comprehensive sex education does help to delay sexual initiation among adolescents, reduces the number of sexual partners, and increases the frequency of condom use and contraception.

Sex education is generally regarded as taboo and this view is intensified by the Filipino culture, which is predominantly conservative and influenced by profound Catholic beliefs. Many communities, for instance, think that sexuality is an issue that cannot be talked about, especially with the younger generation. This creates a vacuum in which young people tend to look for information from sources such as social media, friends, or porn, which are most unreliable regarding sexual and reproductive health. When young people are miseducated or educated falsely, they tend to practice high-risk

behaviors such as unprotected sex which poses to them risks of unexpected pregnancies, and other sexually transmitted diseases like HIV and AIDS.

Sexuality education programs advocate that it is the right of young people to understand their sexuality in a way that helps them to make informed decisions concerning their sexual and reproductive health. Such programs practice abstinence as well as respect for other set milestones that do not encourage a person to indulge in sexual activities at a young age (Gautam-Adhikary, 2011). The campaigns improve the health of adolescents by helping them understand parenting, boundaries, consent, and healthy relationships and it gives them the courage to challenge unfounded stigma and false information.

C. Effects of Problem

According to Moreau (2023), the provision of education on sexual activities helps people to be sane. This is because sex education allows people to have greater autonomy over their circumstances and enables them to make comprehend and confident decisions regarding their bodies and relationships. Thus, they are not confused by many myths and are not ill-informed and under-educated on such crucial topics. Through sex education, learning to respect one's body and others in intimate relations is encouraged, which is necessary to prevent shame or insecurity.

Incomplete sex education leads to not only the sexual health of the youth but their mental health as well. Uninformed of proper and relevant facts being out of their reach, many young individuals tend to go through uncertainty, and sometimes even shame when they think about their bodies and sexuality. This level of ignorance and naivety often breeds alienation, more so for those who may be marginalized because of their gender or sexual orientation.

Sex education that is comprehensive enough enables young people to learn a great deal about consent, limits, and healthy interpersonal relationships which are important aspects of self-care. In contrast, educationally disadvantaged individuals in this aspect are likely to be lost as to how relationships work and, emotionally and psychologically,

become more susceptible to being abused or coerced. This can result in the development of very problematic conditions such as low self-esteem, excessive feelings of helplessness, depression, and anxiety among others. Additionally, the lack of channels to discuss or try to resolve these matters because of the restrictive views on sexuality in many societies only adds to the suffering the young people experience.

D. Advocacy Partners

Plan International Philippines believes that educating young people on their health and sexual rights and responsibilities can be achieved through comprehensive sexuality education or CSE. As Ballecer (2023) notes, the goal of the program is to help youth address key issues such as emotions, relationships, consent, and reproduction. It is beneficial in assisting the adolescent to undergo courtship's challenges, reducing the chances of engagement in early or unprotected intercourse which could lead to unplanned motherhood or STDs. CSE prepares youth with information and thus assists in decision-making and the realization of healthier nations in the future.

E. Proposed Projects, Programs, and Activities

New internet resources and communities in sexual education have received a very positive response from many researchers. Young people can go to safe spaces online where they can learn about sexual health anytime without worrying about being judged. As indicated by Lou et al. (2006), one of the ways to explain the increase in the number of gender-sensitive adolescents is through internet-based educational programs on sexual and reproductive health which have proven practical in changing knowledge, attitudes, and practices of people dealing with sex issues. The provision of these services over the Internet ensures that as many respondents as possible participate in the initiatives that incorporate sex education.

The World Wide Web extends the boundaries of the target audience including people who live in other regions or those who do not get specialized education at school

or in communities. Furthermore, the Internet supports education and the spread of new materials about sexual health, relationships, and consent.

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JEFFERSON:

A. Target Audiences Parents

In the study of Jiin Kim et al. (2023), "Implementation of Reproductive Health Education in a Filipino City: A Case Study," it was found that many Filipino citizens, including educators, believe that reproductive health education should primarily be

conducted within the family setting, led by parents, rather than being the responsibility of schools. This perspective is echoed by Parmanand (2014), where interviewed teachers expressed the view that reproductive health should be instilled through home discipline and parental guidance.

B. Poor Parenting

In the study of Marris R. Reyes et al. (2022), "Start of a Life: Health Risk, Struggles, and Coping as Experienced by Teenage Mothers," poor parenting, particularly the lack of proper guidance and discipline from parents, was highlighted as a significant factor contributing to the risk of teenage pregnancy. The research emphasized that without parental support and moral guidance, many young girls are left vulnerable to risky behaviors, which can lead to early pregnancy. Additionally, the study found that coming from a broken family can also contribute to teenage pregnancy, as the lack of stability and emotional support in the family increases the chances of it happening.

C. Loss of Opportunities

In the study of Christine Marie Habito et al. (2021), "Early Union, 'Disgrasya', and Prior Adversity and Disadvantage: Pathways to Adolescent Pregnancy Among Filipino Youth," it is emphasized that teenage pregnancy can perpetuate cycles of disadvantage, limiting educational, economic, and social opportunities. Young mothers often face challenges that restrict their ability to continue education.

D. DSWD

In the study of Maria C.G. Bautista et al. (2024), "Demand Side Predictors of the Demand and Utilization of Maternal and Family Planning Services of the Philippines' Conditional Cash Transfer Program: A Quantitative Approach," it is highlighted that the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) can provide essential support to teenage mothers through financial assistance from the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). This program offers cash transfers aimed at alleviating their economic challenges, it also includes support for babies and young children, up until they turn 18. However, to

access this assistance, teenage mothers must meet specific conditions, including ensuring that their children receive adequate healthcare and consistently attend school.

E. The proposed program to solve this issue is to launch media campaigns that normalize discussions about sexual health. According to Bullecer et al. (2023) in their study, Analysis of Early Pregnancy Situation in the Eastern Visayas as a Basis for Multi-Sectoral Policies to Reduce Teenage Pregnancy in the Region, these campaigns are essential for creating a more open and informed dialogue about sexual health among adolescents. By leveraging various media platforms, such as social media, radio, and television, these campaigns can reach a broader audience and reduce the stigma associated with discussing sexual health issue, Additionally community leaders, and youth ambassadors to advocate for Sexual and Reproductive Health education and services

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Start of a life health risk, struggles and coping as experienced teenage mothers

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Early union, ‘*disgrasya*’, and prior adversity and disadvantage: pathways to adolescent pregnancy among Filipino Youth

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Analysis of Early Pregnancy Situation in the Eastern Visayas as a Basis for Multi-Sectoral Policies to Reduce Teenage Pregnancy in the Region

EZEKIEL:

a. Target Audiences

The need for health and education interventions with regard to sexuality and reproductive life is verified. According to Duarte, et al. (2022), the target audience should be broad, however, children and adolescents are prioritized as a priority for guidance on sex education. The promotion of sexual and reproductive health is an issue that should be addressed to all audiences without age restrictions. Strategies for sex education in health are based on teaching, guiding and clarifying doubts about prejudices, taboos, sexually transmitted infections, contraceptive methods, doubts about changes in genital organs, female and male hormones, hygiene, self-care and among others.

b. Causes of Problem

Sexuality education is increasingly recognized as a pivotal tool in reducing teenage pregnancy rates. According to the study conducted by Chanda, et al. (2024), the findings indicated that well-implemented sexuality education programs can significantly lower teenage pregnancy rates. These programs help dispel myths and misconceptions about sex, promote healthy attitudes, and foster open communication between adolescents and their peers, parents, and educators. Additionally, CSE programs that address gender equality and power dynamics can help young people develop respectful and consensual relationships, further contributing to the prevention of teenage pregnancies.

c. Effects of Problems

According to the study of Watcharotone (2010), adolescent pregnancy leads to several health problems, psychological and socioeconomic impacts. The major concerns include unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion, increased maternal and perinatal mortality, preterm and low birthweight babies, anemia, hypertensive disorder, prolonged labor, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

Simultaneously, sex education for adolescents should be deployed as an important strategy to reduce adolescent pregnancies. This article states the role of adolescent pregnancy, situations and problems during pregnancy, psychological and socioeconomic impacts. It also presents

preliminary adolescent pregnancy care guideline and adolescent pregnancy prevention (Watcharotone, 2010).

d. Advocacy Partners

Government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play crucial roles in providing sex education, particularly in regions where traditional educational frameworks may be lacking.

According to the article from Onenews written by Ballecer (2023), Plan International Philippines, a non-government organization that promotes the welfare of children, is calling for the proper implementation of the comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) to help young men and women develop a sense of responsibility when engaging in acts of physical intimacy

Based on a study by the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS), the implementation of CSE is facing a lot of issues. There has been a lack of sufficient materials and facilities in schools as well as adequate training among instructors on the integration of sex education into the curriculum (Ballecer, 2023).

e. Proposed Projects, Programs, and Activities

In the Philippines, “the legal age of marriage is 18 years, although marriage before this age is permitted among the indigenous peoples and among Muslims,” the National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) reported. “Only 2% of women ages 25-49 report that they were first married by age 15,” the 2017 NDHS showed. The same survey revealed that “2% of teenage Filipino women had sexual intercourse before age 15.”

In 2017 alone, more than 194,000 young Filipino women ages 15-19 gave birth, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). “Among Filipino women ages 15 to 4, 1 in 4 have begun childbearing,” the PSA found out. In fact, around 538 babies are born to Filipino teenage mothers every day.

Although the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) Act was passed in 2012, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is still not widely taught in Philippine schools. This leaves many young Filipinos without essential knowledge on topics like sexual health, responsible decision-making, and reproductive rights, which can lead to issues such as high rates of teenage pregnancies and misconceptions about consent. Sexploration UnlockED aims to bridge this gap by providing a user-friendly, digital platform that offers accurate information, interactive lessons, and a safe community for learning. By empowering young people with reliable knowledge, we aim to support healthier choices and safer futures.

A:

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