

Implementing CSE: good practices and challenges

Sharing country experiences in CSE implementation

Future Life Now sharing meeting: 24 -25 February 2021
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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- BACKGROUND
- KEY ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOUNG PEOPLE
- POLICY FRAMEWORK
- WHAT IS COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION?
- WHY CSE?
- CSE IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH THE CURRICULUM
- CSE IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH CO-CURRICULA PROGRAMMES
- FAKE NEWS ON COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION
- CONCERNS AND MISCONCEPTIONS ON CSE IN SCHOOL
- RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND

- The Department of Basic Education has been implementing Comprehensive Sexuality Education through Life Skills (LS) and Life Orientation (LO) subject areas since 2000.
- In 2013 South Africa endorsed the Inter-ministerial commitment to strengthen the implementation of CSE and access to SRHS for adolescents and young people (ESA Commitment)
- South Africa supports the extension of the ESA Commitment to 2030 - as per SADC recommendation through the support from the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC)

POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CSE IMPLEMENTATION IN SCHOOLS

YEAR	POLICY
2012	Integrated School Health Policy (ISHP) 2019
2012	DBE Integrated Strategy on HIV, STIs and TB 2012 - 2016
2013	East and Southern African Countries (ESA) Commitment on CSE
2014	National Sexual Reproductive Health Services and Rights Framework 2014 - 2016
2015	National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health AND Rights Framework Strategy, 2014 - 2019
2017	Department of Basic Education National Policy on HIV, STIs and TB for Learners, Educators, School Support and Officials in all Primary and Secondary Schools in the Basic Education Sector
	National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs 2017 – 2022.
2018	DBE Protocol for Management and Reporting of Sexual Violence in School
2019	Standard Operation Procedures for the provision of sexual reproductive health and social services in Secondary Schools

CSE IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH CURRICULUM

- In 2010 the DBE contracted Dr Doug Kirby to conduct a desk top review of the CSE content in Life Skills and Life Orientation (LO) against the 2009 International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education (ITGSE).
- Dr Kirby's report was used to develop Scripted Lesson Plans (SLPs) to cover the content and teacher training gaps emanating from the review.
- A total of 80 SLPs were developed and tested in 10 districts from 5 provinces.



SEXUALITY EDUCATION SCRIPTED LESSON PLANS

The Scripted Lesson Plans (SLPs) are designed to assist educators to teach scientifically accurate, evidence-informed, incremental, age appropriate and culturally appropriate SE within the Life Skills and LO CAPS in the classroom.



Educator Guides and Learner Books Grades 4 – 12



IMPLEMENTATION SUCCESS

- In the past 5 years, the DBE has been implementing the SLPs in over **1 900** schools and has reached over **500 000** learners.
- In addition to teacher training material, the DBE developed CSE support material to orientate School Management Teams (SMTs), School Governing Bodies (SGBs) and Parents.
- The Department supports CSE advocacy and teacher training (**20 000**) through the HIV and AIDS Life Skills conditional grant. The grant also supports the printing of the SLPs and CSE Learning and teaching support material.

IMPLEMENTATION SUCCESS CONT....

- In February 2020, the DBE conducted CSE consultations with stakeholders including the Youth Sector, Religious Leaders, Traditional Leaders, SGB Associations and Teacher Unions.
- The implementation of the SLPs was expanded to other provinces through partners' support:
 - The Global Fund support forms part of the behavioural layered services in the delivery of our AGYW Programme in 8 implementing provinces for both 10-14yo and 15-19yo interventions including provision of CSE in schools. The programme is implemented in **658** schools.
 - The DBE has entered into a Government to Government (G2G) Agreement for USIAD to support the implementation of CSE in **1000** schools and the strengthening of linkages to Sexual Reproductive Health Service (SRHS) through the employment of Learner Support Agent (LSAs)

IMPLEMENTATION SUCCESS CONT

- The Determined Resilient Empowered AIDS-free Mentored and Safe (DREAMS) initiative supported by USAID has been extended to seven (7) provinces and fourteen (14) districts to provide SLPs and linkages to Health and Social services in selected Primary and Secondary Schools. This includes the recruitment of an additional 255 LSAs in 2021.
- The DBE is in the process of finalising CSE virtual training on the SLPS with EDC and UNESCO. The training will be registered with SACE for accreditation once approve.

CHALLENGES

- **Fake news as a push back strategy on the implementation of CSE** – A coordinated regional advocacy response is required.
- **Anti-CSE campaign** – Particular focus on the continent and in the region. Better coordination is required.
- **Delayed implementation of the SLPs in the selected districts and schools due to COVID-19** – The Curriculum unit revised the Annual Teaching Plans and prioritised topics for assessment. Provinces and Districts have developed recovery plans for the work not covered in 2020.

LESSONS LEARNT

- Political support and conducive policy environment is essential to the implementation of CSE.
- Stakeholder engagement and buy-in is critical to ensure successful implementation of CSE in schools. The Department has noticed a drop in CSE queries since the consultations in 2020.
- It is worth indicating that there was no push back from parents and schools where CSE orientation of the school community was conducted.
- Strategic partnerships has enabled the sector to extend the provision of CSE through the SLPs. CSE implementation has strong financial and implementation support from partners.
- Research and evidence-based approaches are important in the advocacy for CSE - learner pregnancy statistics were presented to parents in order to present a case for the provision of CSE and SRHS.

NEXT STEPS ON STRENGTHENING CSE

- The DBE, with support of UNESCO, will embark on a Social Media Campaign to engage broader community through the engagement with the Breaking the Silence Series using media personalities
- The DBE, with the support of UNESCO, is currently engaging universities on the development of a pre-service module for teachers.
- A reference group with 5 universities has been established and agreement has been reached to:
 1. Adapt the UNESCO pre-service module and contextualise it for South Africa;
 2. Conduct a CSE audit in universities to have evidence to advocate and lobby Deans of Education to integrate a pre-service CSE module in the BEd qualification; and
 3. Conduct research on impact of COVID 19 on access to CSE and SRHS.
- The CSE online training on SLPs will be registered with the South African Council of Educators for continued teacher development.



Thank you



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

