

# Attitude of School Teachers Towards Sex Education in Srirangam Taluka, Trichy District

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## Abstract

Sex education plays a major role in enhancing the life of the students with proper guidance, if not guided properly they may face severe problems in their upcoming ages. The schools have a vital role in educating the students about sex education and hence the researcher decided to study the attitudes of the school teachers towards sex education. For this purpose, the researcher selected The Govt Boys and The Govt Girls Higher secondary school teachers. The researcher used simple random sampling and selected 25 male and 25 female higher secondary teaching staff. Self prepared questionnaire was used to assess the attitude of school teachers and the various areas that is to be focused in sex education at the school level. Findings revealed that more than half of the respondents (52%) had high attitude towards sex education. There is no significance with the gender of the respondents with regard to the level of attitude towards sex education, there is no significant relationship between the age of the respondents and their level of attitude towards sex education.

**Keywords:** Sex education, Attitude, School teachers

## 1. Introduction

Sex education is described as education about human sexual anatomy, sexual reproduction, sexual intercourse, reproductive health, emotional relations, reproductive rights and responsibilities, abstinence, contraception, family planning, body image, sexual orientation, sexual pleasure, values, decision making, communication, dating, relationships, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and how to avoid them, and birth control methods.

Schools provide an ideal setting for sex education, as a huge mass can be addressed in an easy way. But teachers offering sex education often use more passive forms of learning and tend to disregard skill-oriented learning activities. Others put sexuality in a larger developmental context including such issues as self-esteem, setting goals. Sex education is required for adolescent to provide them positive direction, right information, which would avoid unnecessary worries and tensions. Sex education is needed for freedom from sexual dysfunctions and organic disorders, to create awareness about sexual-social issues like gender discrimination, child marriage, dowry, prostitution etc. having a programme of sex education in the schools will not be panacea for all social ills, nor will facts necessarily be a motivation for improved behavior because adolescents have requirement to know the truth, the right answers, and factual knowledge to counteract the fantasies and half-truths which they are getting from their peers.

School-based sex education can be an important and effective way of enhancing young people's knowledge, attitudes and behaviour. There is widespread agreement that formal education should include sex education and what works has been well-researched. Children and teens need good information about sex, sexual relationships, reproduction and birth control, sexually-transmitted diseases, and sexual abuse. Information is power, and in this high-risk day and age, children and teens need all the information they can get. To withhold information about sex and the possibility of sexual abuse, as well as information about reproduction and disease, puts all children at risk.

## 2. Review of Literature

Reddy.A.V, &Babaiah.G (2015) conducted a study on "Attitudes of Teachers towards introduction of Sex Education in Schools". The study was conducted in 240 secondary school teachers in Nellore and Chittoor Districts of Andhra Pradesh, evenly divided into 8 subgroups by sex, marital status and teaching of science or non-science subjects, were tested using an attitude scale containing 36 statements. The results indicated that teachers in general had a favorable attitude toward introduction of sex education into the secondary school curriculum, with male teachers offering somewhat stronger support. Subject taught and marital status were not found significantly related to attitude towards sex education, although sex and marital status were found to interact. Married male teachers had a significantly more favorable attitude than married female teachers, who had a slightly negative attitude. Married male teachers were more in favor of sex education than single male teachers, while married female teachers were less in favor than single female teachers. 70% of the male teachers answered the affirmatively to the introduction of sex education in secondary schools.

DehghaniKhadijeh&Nasiriani Khadijah (2015) conducted a study "Teachers attitudes regarding Sex

Education to Adolescent” The cross sectional study was done on secondary and high school teachers in Haryana. The teachers were selected randomly using cluster sampling. Data were collected using self-reported questionnaires surveying the teachers mostly focused on the teachers’ views on sex education. The study revealed that the educational content teachers mostly focused on was, related to issues such as maturity, menstruation, hygiene and ablution and moral values for premarital abstinence. The most approved sex education concept by the teachers was that sex education made marriage easier. Teachers believe that the training must start from high school, be done by the school’s health education teacher through educational pamphlets. Teachers emphasized on the necessity of sex education as one of the fundamental rights of young adults and believe that sex education in schools must be mostly about issues regarding maturity, menstruation, hygiene, ablution and moral values of premarital abstinence.

SunitaGoel (2014) conducted a study “Attitude of Female school Teachers towards Teaching of Sex Education”. The research is concerned with female teachers’ attitude towards the teaching of sex education in senior secondary schools. Using a random sampling technique 200 female teachers from different government schools of Bathinda and Muktsar districts of Punjab was used to collect the data. The findings of the study revealed that there exists significant difference between attitude of married and unmarried female teachers’ towards teaching of sex education. Urban female teachers showed significantly more favorable attitude than the rural female teachers towards sex education. The attitude of female teachers who are in the age group of 36-46 differ significantly from the age group of 25-35 towards sex education.

### 3. Research Methodology

3.1.1. *Aim-* ‘Attitude of school teachers towards sex education in Srirangam Taluka, Trichy District’

3.1.2. *Significance and Scope*

Many parents and authorities feel that sex education is the responsibility of the home and should not be shared with any other organization, thus ensuring that parents will be free to convey their own moral values regarding sexuality and sexual activity to their children. Providing sex education will not only be effective in reducing the negative consequences of early sexual activity, but will also help children grow into adulthood and will allow them to be more prepared to stand up against all the unexpected obstacles in the near future. Schools play a major role in providing sex education and the attitude of the teachers towards sex education is an important phenomenon. In Indian society uttering the word “SEX” is also considered as a taboo and many of the teachers and parents have a negative attitude towards sex education. In this study the researcher assessed the teachers attitude towards sex education. This study helps to know the level of attitude towards sex education among school teachers and also to bring out the positive attitude among the teachers as well as enhance the quality of sex education in school.

3.1.3. *Objectives*

- To know about the socio-demographic profile of the respondents.
- To study about the attitude of school teachers towards sex education.
- To examine the relationship between socio-demographic variables & the attitude of the respondents
- To give suitable suggestions for enhancing sex education

3.1.4. *Research Hypothesis*

- There is a significant difference between the gender of the respondents and their level of attitude towards sex education.
- There is a significant relationship between age of the respondents and their level of attitude towards sex education.

3.1.5. *Research Design*

Descriptive research design was employed by the researcher in finding attitude of school teachers towards sex education.

3.1.6. *Tools of Data Collection*

The researcher has used the self prepared questionnaire to test the attitude of the school teachers towards sex education and the various areas that is to be focused in sex education at the school level. The required data was collected by questionnaire method. The statistical analysis adopted for the analysis of research consist of frequency, distribution, t-test and the anova table.

3.1.7. *Limitations of the Study*

- The area of the study is restricted only to Srirangam Taluka of Trichy District. Hence the result cannot be generalized.
- The sample size is comparatively less for this study.

#### 4. Findings

##### 4.1.1. Findings Related To Socio-Demographic Profile

Nearly half of the respondents (48%) belong to the age group of 41-50. Half of the respondents (50%) are male and the rest half (50%) of the respondents are female. Majority of the respondents (88%) are married. Majority of the respondents (86%) are Hindus. More than half of the respondents (56%) are Post Graduate with B.Ed. More than half of the respondents (58%) are handling arts subjects. Nearly half of the respondents (44%) are having experience from 6-10 years. More than half of the respondents (60%) are from urban area. More than half of the respondents (66%) belong to nuclear family. Majority of the respondents (84%) do not feel comfortable in teaching about sex to the opposite gender. More than one third of the respondents (30%) were of the view that 16 years would be the appropriate age to start sex education. Majority of the respondents (88%) do not provide sex education in their school to their students. None of the respondents received special training on sex education. None of the respondent received any aid from the government for enhancing sex education in schools.

##### 4.1.2. Findings Related To Attitude towards Sex Education

More than half of the respondents (52%) had high attitude towards sex education and nearly half of the respondents (48%) had low attitude towards sex education.

TABLE-1 Distribution of the Respondents on the Basis of Age

S.No	Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Less than 30	2	4.0
2.	31-40	19	38.0
3.	41-50	24	48.0
4.	Above 50	5	10.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Nearly half of the respondents (48%) belong to the age group of 41-50 and the least respondents (4%) belong to the age group less than 30.

TABLE-2 Distribution of the Respondents on Their View of the Areas of Sex Education That Is To Be Focused In the School Level

S.No	Particulars	Needed		Not Needed	
		Freq	(%)	Freq	(%)
1	Reproductive parts of the Body	47	94	03	06
2	Functions of the Reproductive organs	48	96	02	04
3	Pregnancy & Birth	33	66	17	34
4	Taking care of sexual Health	33	66	17	34
5	Sexually Transmitted Diseases	40	80	10	20
6	Contraceptive Methods	09	18	41	82
7	Importance of Contraceptive methods	04	08	46	92
8	Various Contraceptive Methods	05	10	45	90
9	Abortion	07	14	43	86
10	Homosexuality	03	06	47	94

Majority of the respondents (94%) felt that there is a need for teaching about the reproductive parts of the body in the school level. Majority of the respondents (98%) felt that there is a need for teaching about the functions of the reproductive organs. More than half of the respondents (66%) felt that there is a need for teaching about the pregnancy in the school level. More than half of the respondents (66%) felt that there is a need for teaching about taking care of the sexual health. Majority of the respondents (80%) felt that there is a need for teaching about sexually transmitted diseases. Majority of the respondents (82%) felt that there is no need to teach about contraceptive methods in the school level. Majority of the respondents (92%) felt that there is no need for teaching about importance of contraceptive methods in the school level. Majority of the respondents (90%) felt that there is no need to teach about various contraceptive methods in the school level. Majority of the respondents (86%) felt that there is no need for teaching about abortion in the school level. Majority of the respondents (94%) felt that there is no need for teaching about homosexuality in the school level.

TABLE-3 Distribution Of The Respondents On Their View Of The Areas Of Sex Education That Is To Be Focused In The School Level

S.No	Particulars	Needed		Not Needed	
		Freq	(%)	Freq	(%)
11	Oral sex	02	04	48	96
12	Anal sex	01	02	49	98
13	Masturbation	05	10	45	90
14	Puberty	19	38	31	62
15	Anatomy and Physiology of Genital organs	13	26	37	74
16	Safe sexual practice	03	06	47	94
17	Body image	06	12	44	88
18	Sexual pleasure &orgasm	01	02	49	98
19	Abstinence	02	04	48	96

Majority of the respondents (96%) felt that there is no need to teach about oral sex in the school level. Majority of the respondents (98%) felt that there is no need to teach about anal sex in the school level. Majority of the respondents (90%) felt that there is no need to teach about masturbation in the school level. More than half of the respondents (62%) felt that there is no need to teach about puberty in the school level. More than half of the respondents (74%) felt that there is no need to teach about the anatomy and physiology of genital organs in the school level. Majority of the respondents (94%) felt that there is no need to teach about safe sexual practice in the school level. Majority of the respondents (88%) felt that there is no need to teach about body image in the school level. Majority of the respondents (98%) felt that there is no need to teach about sexual pleasure and orgasm in the school level. Majority of the respondents (96%) felt that there is no need to teach about abstinence in the school level

TABLE-4 T-Test Between Gender Of The Respondents & Their Level Of Attitude Towards Sex Education

S.No	Gender	Mean	S.D	Statistical inference
1.	Male	1.54	.508	t=0.267 P>0.05 <b>Not Significant</b>
2.	Female	1.50	.511	

There is no significance difference with the gender of the respondents with regard to the level of attitude towards sex education.

TABLE-5 Karl Pearson’s Co-Efficient of Correlation between Age of the Respondents & the Level of Attitude towards Sex Education

S.No	Variable	Correlation value	Statistical inference
1.	Age	0.132	P>0.05 <b>Not Significant</b>

There is no significant relationship between the age of the respondents and their level of attitude towards sex education.

## 6. Suggestions

### 6.1.1.To Schools

Age-appropriate sex education needs to be imparted in school. Schools should take lead in teaching sex education. The management should bring awareness among teachers about the responsibility towards students, society and the nation as a whole. There must be separate health educators in the educational institutions for providing sex education.

### 6.1.2.To Teachers

The teachers must be provided special training for handling classes about sex education. Boys and girls should be seated together when sex education is given. Teachers should develop a positive attitude towards sex education. Social work knowledge base can be practiced by teachers at individual, group or community levels for enhancing the knowledge and attitude of students and parents on sexuality education. The teachers should adopt various methods like Essay writing competitions, painting competitions, group discussions for educating about sex in a proper way. Proper guidance programme must be arranged for parents and adolescents.

### 6.1.3.To Government

The government should provide various aids to enhance sex education. Policy makers should design and define the characteristics of relevant sex education programs.

## 7. Conclusion

Imparting sex education to children is the need of the hour considering high percentage of AIDS case, sexual harassment, sexual abuse cases, and suicide cases in India. The Teachers have to teach them how to understand

their sexuality and learn to curb their desires. Sex Education should be formally included in the course curriculum to spread awareness of various sex related problems and teach ways to prevent them. Social workers have to work effectively to change the perception of the society about sex. It is essential to make sure that all the children are educated about sex at the right age. The parents have to realize that they have to come out of their inhibitions and make an initiative to teach their kids about various sex related problems. Educating them right from the beginning is essential in order to enable a better understanding among children about human sexuality.

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