

Every child is a National Asset

Comprehensive Sexuality Education: A Strategy for Strengthening the Prevention of New HIV infection amongst young people, through Life Orientation in schools

8th SA AIDS Conference

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Overview of Presentation

- Background and context
- Current Status of HIV Prevention
- SACMEQ Findings
- Review of CAPS
- Development of the curriculum
- Results

Background and context

- CSE recognised globally as strategy to prevent new HIV infection amongst the youth.
- The NSP 2017-2022 identifies strengthening school-based life skills programmes and teacher training as key responsibilities of DBE.
- Evidence reports that HIV prevalence among the 15-19 year old girls is 5.6%, compared to that of boys of the same age (0.7%).
- This suggests they engage in sexual relationships with male who are 5 years and older than they are.

Current Status of HIV Prevention in DBE:

Taught through:

- Life Skill Education - through Life Orientation;
- integration in other subjects; and
- co-curricular activities.

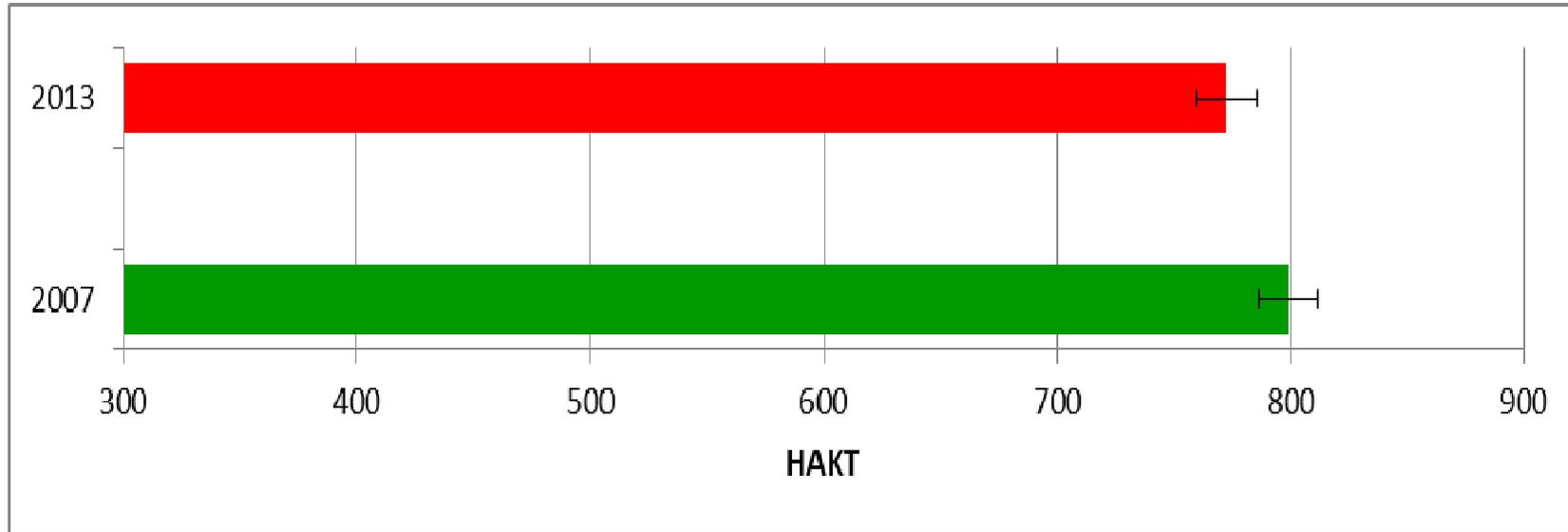
Core areas of focus, amongst others:

- **Values:** Promote self-worth, self image; respect, & respect for others
- Healthy life styles (including relationships)
- Alcohol and substance use prevention
- Peer pressure
- Gender based violence
- Teenage pregnancy

Challenge: Educators' discomfort to teach about sexuality issues

SACMEQ Findings

The Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring the Educational Quality (SACMEQ) assessments in 2007 and 2013 have shown the following:



The survey reported that minimum HIV knowledge level of Grade 6 educators was 100% in 2007. Although average performance fell by 26 points between 2007 and 2013, the difference in average scores were not statistically significant.

NB: Learner knowledge was 37% in 2007 but dropped by 35 points in 2013.

GAPS: HIV & AIDS IN THE LIFE ORIENTATION / SKILLS CAPS

PHASES	GAPS ON HIV & AIDS IN THE CURRICULUM
FOUNDATION	HIV & AIDS not addressed directly in CAPS
INTERMEDIATE	Talk about sex, STIs, and risky behaviours, understanding micro-organisms to understand the role of blood in transmission and immunity.
SENIOR PHASE	How to use condoms, interpersonal issues that give rise to the risk of infection. Pornography, porn-induced erectile dysfunction and sexting
FET PHASE	Include HIV & AIDS content in Grade 10, content lacks time to deep understanding about HIV & AIDS, ARV treatment and nutrition

RECOMMENDATIONS HIV & AIDS: CURRICULUM

PHASES	STRENGTHENING THE CURRICULUM
Foundation ; Intermediate ; Senior ; and FET Phase	Need to specify and prioritise HIV & AIDS as a sub-topic in CAPS , we have to introduce sex and sexuality in earlier grades, and promote sexual wellbeing.
	Need to strengthen the breadth and depth of content (link HIV and STIs) Show how to use condoms; the role of interpersonal relationships in prevention, understanding the difference between consent, coercion and submission; and the broader issues of sexuality and gender.
	Need to incorporate the many world views, moral dilemmas, cyber-safety and new approaches to comprehensive sexuality education. Developing capacity to be resilient.

DBE response

AIM: To improve the pedagogy in educators and fill the identified content gaps.

For effective implementation, curriculum to be:

- theory and evidence-based;
- carefully adapted to local cultures and context;
- supported by educator training, ongoing monitoring and support; and
- Assessment of effectiveness of the curriculum.

Process:

- Review of CAPS against the UNESCO ITGSE;
- Led to development of SLPs on sexuality education: Started with Grade 7-9, due to transition to teenage hood and having to make informed choices and decisions on daily lives; and
- Training programme for educators: values, content and participatory teaching methods.

New topics in the SLPs

- Addressing tolerance and respect;
- Long-term relationships;
- Social norm and behaviour;
- Sexuality and the media;
- Resisting unwanted sexual attention and abuse;
- Commitment, marriage and parenting;
- Living with HIV.

Results

SLPs:

- Piloted through classroom-based monitoring to assess utility;

Findings:

- Educators' improved confidence to engage with sexuality-related issues;
- Inadequate time on school time table and non-alignment of SLPs with the Annual Teaching plan. DBE is looking into matter;
- Resulting in some topics not being covered through teaching (in class).

In addition:

- DBE works with HEIs to raise status of LO;
- Initial educator training and continuing teacher training and development to include CSE to produce qualified educators to teach the subject; and
- Quality LO textbooks.

Next steps

- Expand training 7-9;
- Development of Grade 4-7 and 10-12;
- Team of experts on CSE content;
- Writing team – curriculum specialists; and
- Mapping and alignment of SLPs with Annual Teaching Plan.

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Thank you!

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