



Summary of the Reproductive and Sexual Health Report

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Presented to the Regional Conference

Comprehensive sexual education and the extent to which sexual and reproductive health concepts are integrated into curricula and textbooks

Amman from 4/23-22/2024

Summary of the Reproductive and Sexual Health Report

This report highlights reproductive and sexual health (SRH) as a critical current issue. It details collaborative efforts between the government, the Ministry of Education, and partner institutions. These efforts involve practical steps to address SRH challenges and improve education in this area.

The report showcases Egypt's experience in integrating SRH concepts and reproductive rights into the school curriculum. It describes how the approach to teaching SRH has changed. Recognizing its importance, SRH concepts are now woven into various subjects throughout the curriculum. This approach aims to shape positive behavior by fostering student awareness and social responsibility.

SRH education is addressed through a multi-level approach within the improved education system:

- **Curriculum Integration:** SRH issues are incorporated into the general curriculum framework across all educational stages. These topics are linked to life skills and target values, ensuring age-appropriate content in various subjects. The approach considers the specific nature of each subject and grade level. Treatment methods range from direct discussions to fostering skills like problem-solving, decision-making, and teamwork. Additionally, it emphasizes values like participation, cooperation, hygiene, self-preservation, and respect for others' rights and rules.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** The Ministry of Education provides a guide for environmental, population, and health-related extracurricular activities to promote sustainable development. This guide offers diverse activities from kindergarten to secondary school, aiming to raise student awareness in a non-traditional way. It covers three key areas: environmental education, population education, and health education. Each area includes relevant standards translated into various age-appropriate activities. The guide also encourages community participation and support for health education initiatives.

This approach emphasizes collaboration between various stakeholders to achieve broader goals in sustainable development. The Ministry of Education aims to empower learners through increased awareness and adaptability. This includes educators, administrators, and specialists who all play a role in supporting individual and community development aligned with broader sustainable development goals.

The Ministry of Education and Technical Education's Central Administration for Curriculum Development, in collaboration with the United Nations Fund, launched the "Population and Reproductive Health Concepts Framework." This framework provides a set of standards, indicators, and targeted messages designed to be integrated into curriculum frameworks for students from the first preparatory grade to the third secondary grade.

The report outlines the "Health and Population Framework" which aligns with the Ministry of Education's vision. This framework aims to actively address population, reproductive health, and

sexual issues through the areas of population and reproductive health. It assigns specific standards, indicators, and targeted messages for each topic within relevant subjects, ensuring appropriate content and context.

Teacher Training and Educational Materials

The report highlights the importance of training teachers on the Health and Population Concepts Framework as an extracurricular activity. This training equips teachers to effectively integrate the framework's messages, standards, and indicators into their teaching across various subjects. Training materials include a trainer's guide, a trainee's guide, and other resources that provide practical implementation strategies.

This emphasis on teacher training reflects the ministry's commitment to addressing reproductive and sexual health (SRH) issues. They aim to raise awareness among both the school community and society at large. This multifaceted approach includes:

- Supporting the education of teachers and students
- Providing diverse educational materials
- Connecting public health with preventive and therapeutic health, and their relationship to SRH

Examples of these efforts include:

- Student educational materials titled "Towards a Better Life"
- A dedicated section within these materials focused on marriage and family formation, highlighting the dangers of child marriage on maternal and fetal health
- A comprehensive student activity kit designed to raise awareness about population issues and their impact on development programs

Parental Engagement

The Ministry of Education, in partnership with the Roots Foundation for Development, has also developed a guide titled "Towards a Better Life for Our Children" to provide parents with educational resources. This guide includes real-life scenarios and practical activities to help parents understand and address challenges faced by their children, particularly teenagers, regarding SRH issues.

Integration Across Subjects

The report details the integration of SRH concepts, issues, skills, and values across various subjects in the new and developed curricula. Examples include:

- Science (elementary to secondary school)
- Vocational Skills
- Social Studies (grades 4-6)
- Arabic Language

- Islamic Religious Education
- Christian Religious Education
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Philosophy

The treatment of SRH topics within these subjects is tailored to ensure compatibility with the overall teaching objectives and desired level of integration.

The report clarifies the three sub-domains of reproductive health included within the Health and Population Framework: public health and its relation to sexual and reproductive health, marriage and family formation, and finally family awareness and care. Each sub-domain includes standards that translate into specific indicators suitable for integration into lesson plans across various subjects.

The report explores two methods for implementing sex education in schools. The first approach involves creating a dedicated course specifically focused on sex education, requiring dedicated classroom time and specialized teachers. The second approach integrates sex education concepts into existing subjects, tailoring the content to the specific subject matter and age group. The Ministry of Education has chosen this latter approach for integrating reproductive health concepts and topics.

The sex education program aims to equip students with accurate and age-appropriate knowledge about sexual behavior and sexual and reproductive health. It also fosters a positive attitude towards sex education, self-acceptance (particularly for girls), and the ability to fulfill gender-related social roles appropriately.

The report provides an evaluation of the country's experience with sex education, outlining both successes and challenges. It emphasizes the importance of using scientifically accurate language that aligns with both religious and scientific principles. Additionally, the content must be age-appropriate and integrated thoughtfully, considering the subject matter and functionality. The report also highlights the importance of involving parents and the community. The report acknowledges the difficulties encountered in promoting sex education concepts within training programs and details the strategies used to overcome these challenges.

Education is a national concern, and the report emphasizes the shared responsibility of all stakeholders in education and sustainable development. The Ministry of Education and Technical Education's future goals for integrating sex education involve supporting and empowering learners through increased awareness and individual adaptability. Additionally, they aim to provide assistance that aligns with individual and community development priorities to achieve broader sustainable development goals.