

Adolescents have a right to **Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

Comprehensive Sexuality Education should be an opportunity to promote evolving nature of relationships, to understand the complex concept of consent, to promote gender rights and equality, writes Edwin Thomas

san adolescent, I experienced a lot of things happening around me, and most importantly, to me. We were expected to act like adults, but reminded that we were neither equipped nor ready to be one. The hormones go meither equipped nor ready to be one. The hormones go with a constant of us are trying to figure out and explore our within to help and support from family, school or the government. We get a half-hearted lecture on menstrual hygiene or crude information on condoms and abstinence, with the blind helief that no one is having sex. Biology lessons on reproductive system are glossed over whilst we are threatened with the downfall of society if we access prorgarghy. You we access prorgarghy. with the downfall of society if we access pornography. You are full of questions/doubts/ misconceptions while strugg-ling to engage in adult rela-tionships. The world may have drastically changed, but one thing still sticks—adoleone uning still sticks—adole-scence continues to be one of the most challenging times in one's life to traverse.

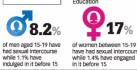
NEED FOR SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Presently, India has around 253 million adolescents (refers to the period between the ages of 10 and 19). We the ages of 10 and 19). We know, for a fact, that around 17% of women aged 15-19 have had sexual intercourse while around 1.4% have engaged in it before the age of 15. On the other hand, the percentage of men aged 15-19, who have ever had sexual intercourse is 8.2%

FACT CHECK

253

million adolescents have limited knowledge on Comprehensive Sexuality Education



of women between 15-19 have had sexual intercourse while 1.4% have engaged in it before 15

while 1.1% report having indulged in it before the age of 15—and that is just those who admit. By not granting adolescents their right to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), we are Education (CSE), we are allowing young people to wing it'. It is time to burn that misplaced notion because CSE or not, early sexual debut is a reality. Teaching abstinence or promoting sex-negative attitudes to sexually active adolescents is a ticking time bomb waiting to explode.

SEXUAL EXPRESSION

To reduce CSE to the act of (safe) sex and contraception though extremely important, is to dismiss its impact on matters like impact on matters like gender-based violence, mental health issues, consent, child sexual abuse, power dynamics in a relationship, early parenthood and body positivity—issues which young people encounter and talk about in a variety of

'We encourage research at UG level'

Director of IIT-Indore **Pradeep Mathur** speaks to **PRIYANKA SRIVASTAVA** on making the first appearance in the Times Higher Education ranking and on his vision to increase the number of international students



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Institute now aims to make a strong presence in the Institutions of Eminence (IoE) initiated by the

Indian government.
In an exclusive chat with the Education Times, Pradeep Mathur, director of III-Indore, spoke of how presence in THE ranking did not come as a surject to him and the institute. "We had

imaking utilinot custs as stup has a stup has to proposed by the district at the indenational level, two years back. Since then, our focus has been to enhance the overall quality of education, research and attract best faculty members, "he said." We have managed to get seasoned, well educated for eight extended for the district of the faculty members. Around 80 % of the faculty members have been hand-picked during our foreign to avels, where we analy members have members and the said of the faculty members have been hand-picked during our foreign to avels, where we analy members have been hand-picked during our foreign to avels, where we analy research in the education sector. Research he education sector. Research he will be the discussion sector.

main reason that the institute topped the list, ahead of old and established IITs in Delhi, Madras established IT's in Delhi, Madra and Mumbai. However, Mathut credits it to 'no rigid boundary' ideology followed by the institute. "We encourage interdisciplinary work in our labs whis increases the research output. Stressing on the dictum that

Stressing on the dictum that teaching and research go hand in hand, we inculcate the research orientation right from the undergraduate level," said Mathur.
"It's a myth that India is not at par with the international standard of research. The international ranking system is based on unique parameters. We need to attract international students at Master's and nost, decreasely level.

attract international students at Master's and post-doctoral level to remain in the race. "he added. At present, two students have been enrolled in the Master's programme and around 15-20 students come to IIT-Indore for short-term courses, annually. "In the top 20 universities in the world, the number of international students is around 30%. We plan to increase our intake Me nal students is around 30%. We plan to increase our intake of international students to 5-10% by 2020," he said. IIT-Indore came into existence in 2009 and battled several hurdles such as not having land allotted for the first four years and operating ou

people with disabilities, CSE will offer visibility to their struggles and give necessary voice to thrive in the

hostile environments.
The latent impact of this is massive. Considering: Only 16.4% of sexually active

(The author is a fellow at Population Foundation of India (PFI) and is developing their youth engagement strategy for public health, sexual and reproductive health and rights)

(The views expressed in this article are those of the author)

b) Adulterate d) Accommodate

b) Atrocious d) Indifferent

b) Utopian d) Ulterior

b) Sophisticatedd) Primeval

Education TIMES



different expressions. For youngsters who are coming to terms with their gender and sexual identities and for

BRAINSTRAIN

Select the word or phrase which is the closest antonym to the key word given in the question be 1. Immaculate a) Unclean b) immobile c) Motherly d) Accumulated

2. Aggravate a) Segregate c) Ameliorate

c) Ameliorate
3. Considerate
a) Comprehensiv
c) Malignant
4. Fragrant
a) Malodorous
c) Capricious
5. Crude
a) Cruel
c) Malevolent

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- India Today Aspire, January, 2018 (Top Law College)

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