

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

THE TRUTH ABOUT COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (CSE)

In addition to the concerns in the mail above, we wish to emphasise that *Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)* is one of the greatest assaults on the health and innocence of children, and as such, Zambian parents should not stand by and allow it to unfold further in our schools.

This is because, unlike traditional sex education, comprehensive sexuality education is highly explicit and promotes sexual immorality and high-risk sexual behaviours to children as healthy and normal practices. Thus, CSE programmes concentrate on teaching children how to obtain sexual pleasure in various ways, some of which are even culturally inappropriate.

Objective evidence-based assessment has established that CSE programmes are in reality not comprehensive, as they fail to teach children about all of the emotional, psychological and physical health risks of promiscuous sexual activity, for instance.

We provide herewith, an *excerpt* from a two-part Study¹ done by *The Institute for Research and Evaluation (IRE)*² in 2019;

The two-part study examining the evidence for school-based comprehensive sex education (CSE) using an approach not often employed by previous reviews, that is, applying standards of effectiveness derived from the field of prevention research to the results of CSE outcome studies.

Part One evaluated studies of school-based CSE in the United States contained in databases vetted by three agencies: the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

That review found little evidence of school-based CSE effectiveness (no long-term effects for the target population on teen pregnancy or STDs and very few on abstinence or condom use) and promising evidence for abstinence education (AE)—several long-term increases in abstinence along with strong evidence that AE does not decrease teen condom use.³

¹ Re-Examining the Evidence for Comprehensive Sex Education in Schools: Part Two: International Research Findings (Outside the United States) *The Institute for Research & Evaluation*. Stan E. Weed, Ph.D. & Irene H. Ericksen, M.S. Updated and Revised: May 2019.

² *The Institute for Research and Evaluation (IRE)* is a nonprofit research organization noted for its work evaluating sex education programs over the past 25 years. IRE has conducted program evaluations for federal Title V, CBAE, and Title XX projects in 30 states, and has evaluated sex education in three foreign countries, in total collecting data from more than 900,000 teens, and conducting over 100 evaluation studies. IRE staff members have published articles in professional journals and presented at professional conferences and workshops. Irene H. Ericksen has served on a national panel of consultants to the CDC-supported Community Preventive Services Task Force meta-analysis on sex education effectiveness and as a secondary author for the published study on the same topic (2012). Dr. Stan E. Weed, Founder and Director of IRE, has served as a national consultant for federal Title XX and CBAE projects, and was a charter member of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. He has been invited to provide expert testimony about sex education to state legislative bodies, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the White House.

³ Weed & Ericksen, 2019

The conclusion of the Study is recorded as follows:

When measured by credible standards of effectiveness derived from the field of prevention research, the evidence found in UNESCO's international database does not support the claim that school-based comprehensive sex education or CSE (sometimes called comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education) is an effective public health strategy.

The studies show a lack of sustained effects on important protective outcomes and a concerning number of harmful impacts for school populations. Policy-makers should abandon plans for CSE's global dissemination in schools and pursue a different approach for preventing the negative consequences of teenage sexual activity. Further studies should be done on the positive results found for abstinence education in the U.S. to inform the development of new paradigms.⁴

If not stopped, the CSE programmes will dehumanize children and destabilize families, and further destroy foundations of childhood for generations to come.

It is no wonder that many reviewers have rightly concluded that the ultimate goal of CSE is to change and pervert the sexual and gender norms of society, which is why it has been argued, CSE could be more accurately called "abortion, promiscuity, and LGBT rights education." To that end, CSE as a "rights-based" approach to sex education necessarily promotes sexual rights to children at the expense of a morally balanced holistic sexual health proposition that conforms to the espoused values for the Zambia we want, today and tomorrow.

In simple terms, CSE will predispose our boys and girls to open-ended values that strip them of capacity to raise and run families in respectable homes. That is precisely the last thing Zambia needs if she is to advance and blossom economically, socially, politically, culturally and spiritually.

In the premises, EFZ hereby appeals strongly to Government to recognize and prevent the lasting damage that *Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)* is designed to do to children today.

NATIONAL PETITION

In responding to abiding concerns from parents, EFZ is spearheading the **Protect Zambian Children Coalition** local effort which is a part of the global 'Protect the Child Health' Coalition, in collaboration with Family Watch International (FWI) who, with similar concerns, have taken a global stand against CSE.

We have to this effect, initiated an *Online petition* to provide an opportunity for ordinary citizens, whether parents, grandparents, teachers, doctors, counsellors, youths, business people or religious leaders, to participate in redirecting the Ministry of General Education in respect to the CSE roll out.

⁴ Weed & Ericksen, 2019

The aim of the petition is three-fold:

1. To galvanize voices from a cross-section of our constituents and citizens in general, towards calling upon our Government to **withdraw** from the deceptive Ministerial Commitment on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) that committed Zambia's schools to teach highly controversial and harmful CSE programs to children in 75 per cent of Zambia's schools.

We note that The Eastern and Southern African (ESA) "Commitment" on Comprehensive Sexuality Education was signed without proper consultation with Parliament, parents or religious leaders. Every Zambian parent has the "prior right" to direct the education of their children, and as such this ministerial commitment violates this critical right. Article 26 (3) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights says this: "Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children." Parental participation in the choice of education for children is therefore an imperative, which our regional governments have violated.

2. To call attention towards the need to end any and all agreements, plans, or projects with known global agencies, foreign governments or foreign-funded NGOs to implement CSE programs, including those which normalize extramarital sexual conduct, especially between children of minor age (whether heterosexual or homosexual), or that include graphic or pornographic materials, that teach children they have "sexual rights" or how to "consent" to sexual acts, or that teach unscientific gender identity theories (i.e., claiming genders or sexes exist other than male or female or that sex is fluid and can be changed).
3. To call attention towards the need to conduct a comprehensive review of sex and sexuality education programs in Zambian public schools, universities, and teacher training initiatives, including those being implemented under the guise of sexual or reproductive health education or preventing HIV, pregnancy, sexual abuse, violence, using formal, non-formal, or peer-to-peer modalities, both inside and outside of schools, and remove all those that contain any of the common 15 harmful CSE elements.

We caution strongly that these ineffective and highly controversial CSE programs mostly pushed by foreign entities, are harming Zambia's children and must be stopped immediately.

It is a serious contradiction in terms, to aspire for the actualisation of a Christian nation and yet deliberately channel a toxic set of secularly sanitised and normalised detrimental practices into the very structure and fabric of the tapestry of our precious children's education. God forbid!

We avail ourselves to work with the Government and other well-meaning Zambians to navigate our way, advisedly and credibly, out of the current entanglement and chart a new course for the sake of a posterity that is more assured of a morally stronger and value-sustained Christian nation.