



**TUNISIAN EXPERIENCE:
“VERS UN PROGRAMME NATIONAL
D’EDUCATION SEXUELLE”**



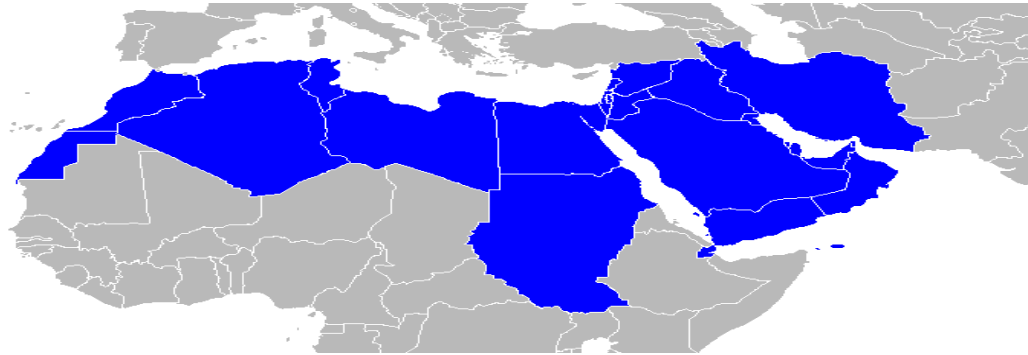
M.K.CHERIF 



- Sexual health is a fundamental component of the individual's health and well-being.
- It plays a central role in stimulating psychosocial maturation and it is fundamental for life quality improvement.
- In fact, the World Health Organization (WHO) emphasizes that sexuality education, especially in **school curricula**, is a substantial component of the adaptation process.

OMS Bureau régional pour l'Europe de et BzgA, (2010), Standards pour l'éducation sexuelle en Europe.

- Tunisia, like The countries of North Africa and the Middle East, still lacks a proper sexuality education programs in schools. It is mainly informal.



21th CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR SEXUAL MEDICINE

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TUNISIAN STUDIES

Many national studies on reproductive health in Tunisia:

- Young people initiate a sexual activity earlier than ever before;
- In some cases they are sexually active during adolescence.



The national survey on youth and risky behaviors

- **26.8%** of interviewees (15 and 24 years old) have had sexual intercourse; it is higher among boys (38.1%) than girls (15.4%)
- **82%** claim that they didn't use condom during the first intercourse.
- **26.4%** don't know any sexually transmitted diseases and **11.4%** don't know HIV.
- Despite the importance of HIV screening and the availability of free and anonymous screening services since 2008, only 1.5% of interviewees claim that they have been tested for HIV.

ATL MST/SIDA-section de Tunis, Sénim ben abdallah, « Enquête nationale auprès des jeunes (15-24 ans) sur les comportements à risque en Tunisie », 2013.



- H. Belhaj 2018:1062 interviewers(15-24 years old) from Tunis
- **Sexuality begins at the age of 15**
- Smoking (47% Boys, 6% Girls), Alcohol and drugs (cannabis 9,4)
- interviewees have had sexual intercourse; boys (63%) / girls (21%)



- 78% boys vs 58% girls was interested to learn about sexuality .
- Boys (40%) no course in schools, friends (63,9%), personal experience(58,4%) friends (58,3%), internet(50,7%).
- Girls, friends (58,3%), parents(49,6%) internet(41,5%).
- Doctors less than (1 %)

- 2500 abortions per year have been performed on unmarried/single women; however this number is probably way below reality.

ONFP, Amel Bouchlaka, Grossesses et maternités hors mariage en Tunisie, 2010.



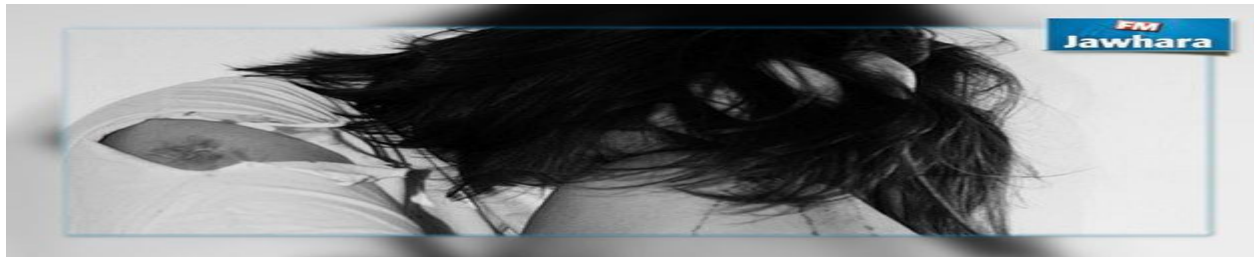
- 42% of single mothers didn't know that there was a mean of contraception; 41% of them thought that they wouldn't get pregnant, others said they didn't use contraception because they felt uncomfortable and were afraid of bad reputation.
- **“The lack of sexuality education results in disasters”**

*Amel Bouchlaka. Les grossesses et maternités hors mariage en Tunisie. [En ligne]
http://www.huffpostmaghreb.com/2016/03/09/tunisie-femme-celiabt_n_9416076.html*



- Even with consolidated legislation, the data provided by the ministry of justice : **28910 complaints** were deposited by women victims of violence from 2008 to 2014; which is the equivalent of **5782 complaints per year**.

*Centre de Recherche, d'Etudes de Documentation et d'Information sur la Femme, Ministère de la Femme, de la Famille et de l'Enfance. La violence fondée sur le genre dans l'espace public en Tunisie. Février 2017 [En ligne]
<http://www.credif.org.tn/index.php/les-publications/2011-2016/la-violence-fondée-sur-le-genre-dans-l-espace-public-en-tunisie>*





Center for Research, Documentation and Information on Women (CREDIF) in 18 different cities, on a sample of 3873 women aged between 18 and 64 years old :

- **78.1%** of Tunisian women suffered psychological violence in the public space
- **41.2%** have been victims of physical violence
- **75.4%** of sexual violence.

Ministère de la justice. Statistiques [En ligne]<http://www.e-justice.tn/index.php?id=101>

- 60% of cases of divorce due to sexual dysfunction



- LGBT





- These social and health related problems in Tunisia are worsened by a :
 - near-total absence of a structured and standardized sexuality education,
 - and sometimes by an erroneous one;as highlighted by all the reports as the main missing indicator.

Professionals
Doctors
Pedagogues
Teachers
Psychologists...



Do not intervene at first, because they are usually solicited only in case of problems that cannot be addressed without their help.

- However, in order to face the current challenges, and the various social problems that continue to rise, many are demanding a more active involvement of professionals.



- Knowing the socio-cultural and religious context of Tunisia, providing sexuality education in schools does not seem an easy task to tackle.
- Resistance, motivated mostly by fears and prejudices, could be encountered.
- It is not easy, for teachers, to address this topic in class, whether in primary, middle or high school.



- Fears are mainly related to ideas received: "**sexual education encourages young people to have early sexual activity.**"
- Studies have shown that sex education does not precipitate sexual activity, but it has a positive impact on healthy sexual behavior and can delay the first sexual activities

UNESCO. 2009. Principes directeurs internationaux sur l'éducation sexuelle : Une approche factuelle à l'intention des établissements scolaires, des enseignants et des professionnels de l'éducation à la santé. Paris, UNESCO.

Maticka-Tyndale, E. 2010. A multi-level model of condom use among male and female upper primary school students in Nyanza, Kenya. Soc. Sci. Med., Aug 5, Vol. 71, No. 3, pp. 616–25. Epub 2010, 5 mai



- **The school** which, until now, has been used to skim the sexuality theme through courses on plant reproduction or human organs from a purely anatomical angle, is today faced with a challenge.
- Unformal ways of sexual education are associative work
- Not sufficient +++

How can teachers teach "sexuality" as recommended by the National Education?

How to address "sexuality" since it turns out to be plural?

Is it possible to teach "sexuality" without adopting a normative discourse?

Who is legitimate to do it?

How to do it?



Founded in May 2014, The Tunisian Society of Clinical Sexology (TSCS) aims to:

Promote sexual health in Tunisia

Encourages scientific research in this field and Organize scientific meetings

Organize post doctoral courses in clinical sexology for healthcare providers

Conduct communication campaigns to promote sexual health.

Advocate for the adoption of a national sexuality education program in Tunisia

REFERENCE MANUAL DEVELOPMENT

- The manual aspires to answer the need for guidelines or good practices in the field of sexuality education.
- It suggests standards to follow, in order to bring content adapted to the age and the level of maturity of the child and the teenager, while taking into account its degree of psycho-emotional and sexual development and the country's socio-cultural context.

Touboul P. Recherche qualitative : Méthode des focus groupes. Guide méthodologique pour les thèses en médecine générale, 2010.

- Such a manual perfectly meets the current need in Tunisia in the absence of a national program, guide, policy or legislative framework for sexuality education.

Our research project is divided into two major research topics as follows:





LITERATURE REVIEW

- This research aims to gather and analyze data from the literature on sexuality education and already existing international programs.
- A review of the literature was conducted from the Medline database via the PubMed search engine, the Science Direct platform and the Google Scholar meta-search engine by choosing keywords such as "sex education" , "Sexuality" "referential" "sexual health"
(« éducation sexuelle», «sexualité» « référentiel » « santé sexuelle »)

We pointed out from these articles the main guidelines and recommendations as developed by the non-governmental entities working on health :

International Planned Parenthood Federation



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization



World Health Organization

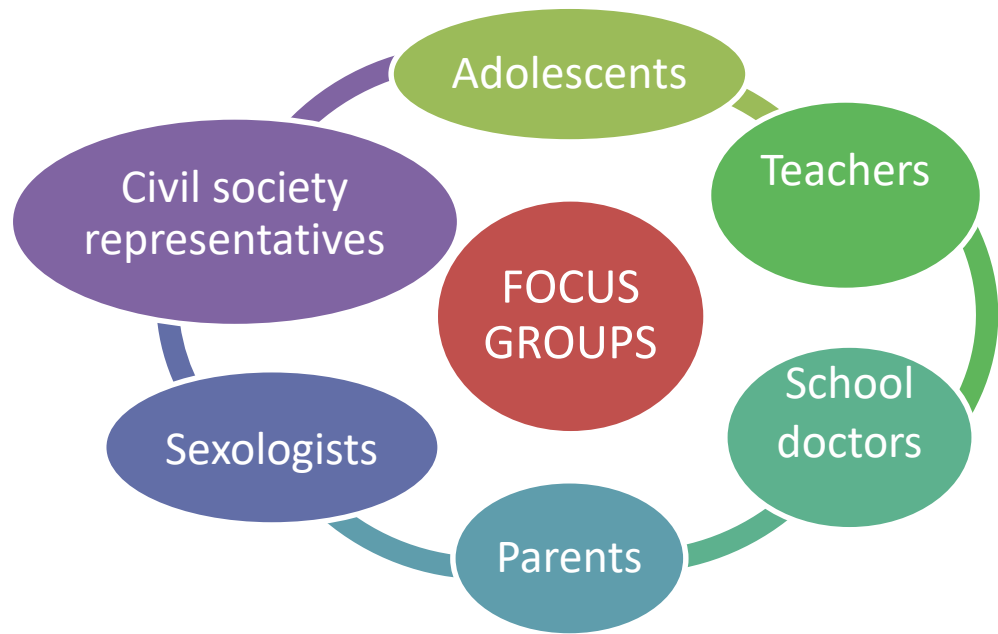


United Nations Fund for Population



FIELD STUDY

We consulted with different actors intervening on sexuality education by holding six **focus groups** discussions with:



We did also conduct individual **face to face** interviews with ministry representatives



FOCUS GROUPS METHODOLOGY

- It is a qualitative data collection methodology
- It is a group interview technique.
- It is a semi-structured discussion group moderated by a neutral moderator in the presence of an observer, which aims to collect information by asking a limited number of questions defined in advance.

Strengths	Limits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cost-effective and time-wise research and data collection method- The settings encourage expression and discussion of controversial opinions;- The sampling is done without a concern about representativity ;- method adapted to study some practical aspects that are difficult to quantify, such as opinions on different themes of sexuality education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Descriptive analysis that quantifies roughly the frequency and therefore does not have a true statistical validity;- Analysis is long and tedious;- Risk of domination of certain participants within the group (opinion leaders).



Face-to-face individual interviews

- Face-to-face individual interviews are semi-directive face-to-face interviews.
- It is a qualitative inquiry technique frequently used in human and social science research.
- It directs partially (semi-directive) the interviewees' discourse around various themes previously defined by the interviewers and mentioned in an interview guide.

A frame of 7 questions was suggested in the following chronological order:

Q1 What
is
sexuality
education
?

Q2 Is there a need
in Tunisia for sex
education? if so,
what are its
objectives?

Q3 Who
to
educate?

Q4 Who
educates
?

Q5 How
to
educate?

Q6 What to
educate?

Q7 How to
evaluate?



RESULTS

1. WHAT IS SEXUALITY EDUCATION?

- 
- A diagram consisting of two large, light blue arrows pointing in opposite directions. The left arrow points left and contains a list of participants. The right arrow points right and contains a statement about the attitude of focus group participants. The arrows are connected at their bases, forming a continuous shape.
- * Sexologists
 - * Civil society representatives

* The attitude of all the other participants of the focus groups, was marked by hesitation and embarrassment.

This would testify to the delicacy and difficulties of communication on the subject of sexuality in our socio-cultural context.

2. IS THERE A NEED IN TUNISIA FOR SEX EDUCATION?

yes

SEXUALITY EDUCATION OBJECTIVES

Objectives joining
those found in
literature

Controversial
remarks and ideas

facilitate access to
information and care

Self Respect

Respect for gender

Body knowledge

Possibility of early
initiation of sexuality

Homosexuality

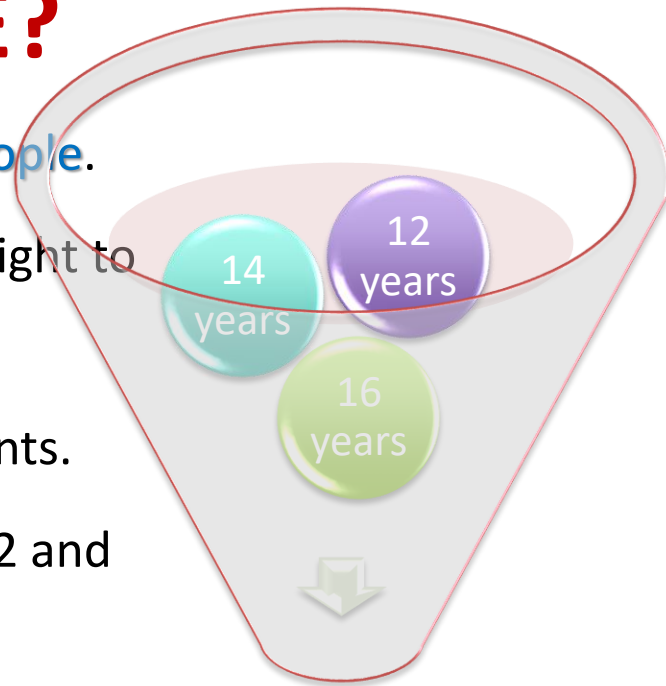


WHAT TO EDUCATED?

- The themes suggested by the different participants are compliant to the European and global standards.
- But they are limited to a part of these standards.
- They have been dominated by:
 - The preventive
 - Health and social ethics aspects...
- Negligence, for the majority of psycho-affective aspects, universal values and sexual rights.
- Only sexologists and representatives of civil society insisted on non-health topics.
- The theme of sexual orientation and gender identity has generated much debate and controversy.

WHOM TO EDUCATE?

- Sexuality education is intended for **young people**.
- These young people themselves claim their right to sexuality education.
- The question of age subdivided the participants.
- For all adolescents, a starting age between 12 and 14 years has been retained.



WHO EDUCATES?

Adolescents

- Peers
- Parents and siblings

Other groups

- Trained teachers
- Sexologists

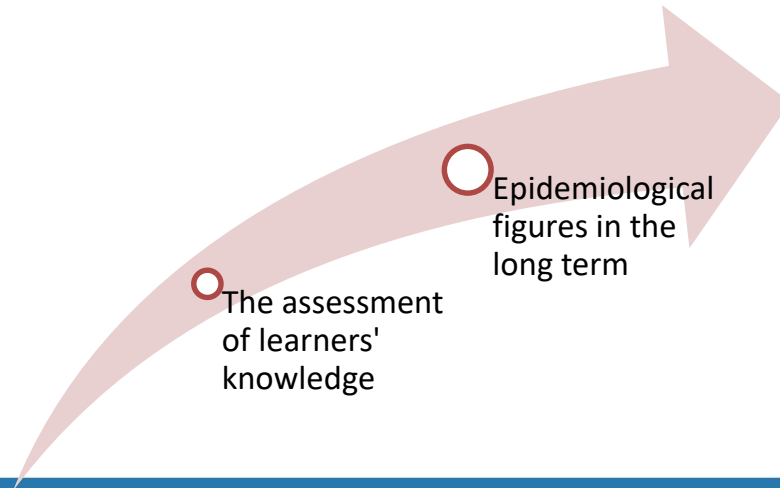


HOW TO EDUCATE?

- The majority of participants underlined that sexuality education should be a training, integrated into the curriculum of a **program formalized by the Ministry of Education.**

EVALUATION

- The evaluation techniques were different depending on the focus groups:

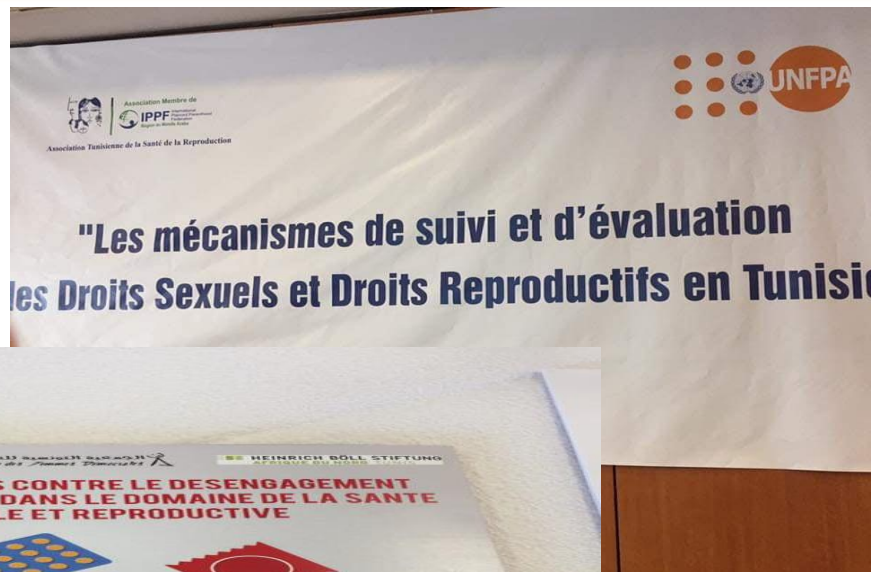




- The groups were heterogeneous
- The ideas reported focused on the **biological side of sexuality**, which left out the "Sexual Rights", "love and sexuality" aspects
- One of the objectives was realized: **the fact of making a situation assessment, decipher the difficulties and the taboos**
- The needs for sexuality education are essential but must be adapted to our Tunisian context

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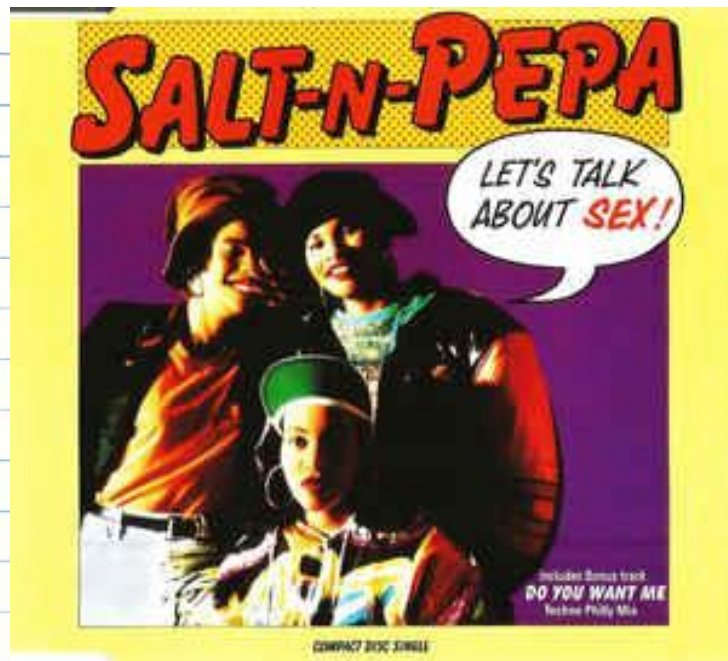
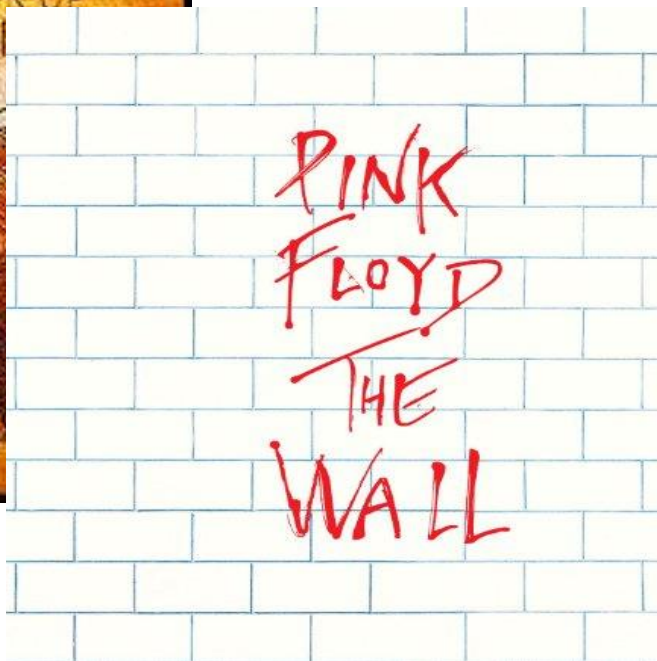
- September 2019

« National program of sexual education »
will be presented to the parliament by the 3
ministeries concerned to be discussed and
ADOPTED

- M. Public health
- M. education
- M. of Women, Family, childhood and the ederly



CONCLUSION





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- The Tunisian Society for Clinical Sexology (STSC) intends to develop a reference manual on sexuality education in collaboration with national and international learned societies.
- We hope that the guidelines to- be emitted encourage the government to establish a formal sexuality education program that has a holistic and comprehensive sexuality approach.

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