The Role of Comprehensive Sex Education on the Prevention of Sexual Assault Against Minors and Its Suggestions

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Abstract: At present, the current situation of the phenomenon of sexual assault against minors in China presents the characteristics of large number and obvious characteristics of low age, acquaintances commit serious crimes, strong concealment, many times and long duration, and rising proportion of male victims. However, the current sex education in China belongs to chastity education, which cannot effectively play a preventive role. It is urgent to promote comprehensive sex education in terms of establishing advanced education concept and healthy sexual values, changing sex education mode, implementing age-specific education and strengthening supervision, so as to prevent sexual abuse of minors.

1. Preface

Sexual assault is an act in which the perpetrator uses threats, power, violence, enticement or coercion to have sexual relations with another person and sexually causes harm to the victim. Forms of sexual assault include seductive sexual assault, violent sexual assault, coercive sexual assault, social sexual assault, seductive sexual assault, and nuisance sexual assault. Sexual assault is a common occurrence in our country, and the prevention of sexual assault is an urgent task. The most effective and direct means to prevent sexual assault is self-protection, which is based on the knowledge and skills brought by the sex education received by the person himself. At present, the current situation of the phenomenon of sexual assault against minors in China presents the characteristics of large number and obvious characteristics of low age, acquaintances commit serious crimes, strong concealment, many times and long duration, and rising proportion of male victims. However, the current sex education in China belongs to chastity education, which cannot effectively play a preventive role, and there is an urgent need to promote comprehensive sex education.

2. The current situation and problems of family sex education and school sex education

2.1 The current situation and problems of family sex education

At present, the popular family sex education in China is chastity education, also known as abstinence sex education, which originated from southern European Catholic countries and matured in the United States. This concept believes that the sexual behavior of young people is absolutely forbidden, and only “health” is taught in the process of sex education, and “chastity” is taken as the highest moral code. This educational model and philosophy has a significant "gender inequality" and "patriarchal" overtone. The sex education community in China has criticized the teaching of chastity education twice, in 2008 and 2010. The major problem with family sex education in China is that it is "don't know how to teach". For a long time, it has been difficult for parents to talk about sex education for children, but with the development of the times, it has slowly shown a good trend. But most parents themselves do not have enough professional knowledge of sex education, not comprehensive and accurate education for children or simply do not know how to speak, what to say and how much to say.

A large body of research shows that chastity education does not reduce the rate of HIV infection and unintended pregnancy among adolescents, and several papers published in the International Guidelines on Sexuality Education have found that abstinence-based sex education is ineffective in delaying sexual debut, reducing the frequency of sexual intercourse, or reducing the number of sexual partners (Kirby, 2007; Underhill et al. Underhill et al, 2007; UNESCO, 2009; Fonner et al, 2004). This is because instead of equipping or empowering the educated with the knowledge and ability to respond to sexual assault, it is focused on protecting their "innocence". If children are taught about sexual abuse without transmitting the positive values of sexuality, it may be alienated into sexual terror education, sexual shame education, and anti-male...
education, which directly affects the future intimate relationships of adolescents.[2]

2.2 Current situation and problems of sex education in schools

Like family sex education, sex education in China's schools is also chastity-keeping education. The lack of effective supervision, formal education and unequal educational resources are common in schools.[3] Sex educators in China have been struggling to implement comprehensive sex education, also known as integrated sex education. For example, Liu Wenli’s team at Beijing Normal University spent nine years researching and compiling a set of sex education textbook called "Precious Life", which covers basic physiological and sexual knowledge for different age groups, such as where I come from, my body structure, sexual consent, sexual assault prevention, contraception and STD prevention, proper understanding of homosexuality and other sexual minorities, how to deal with gender discrimination in the workplace, and so on. But such a set of fairly progressive children's sex education books has been met with numerous objections and complaints from parents, coupled with some media and online marketing moguls taking the books out of context and smearing them, eventually forcing the series to be taken off the shelves, and even some of the books were killed in their cradles before they could be released. The existing sex education in schools is fragmented and scattered, remaining only on the surface, for example, simply stating that during the process of growth and development, girls will get their periods, boys will spermatorrhea etc. The introduction of sexual organs is better than nothing. Most Chinese children only attend one or two lectures on sex education in elementary and junior high schools, and the content of the lectures is vague. In some rural schools or remote areas, special school institutions, etc., children can receive almost no sex education.

Comprehensive sexuality education believes that sexuality is not a simple, separate, and discrete adult behavior, but a state of life that accompanies people throughout their lives. If sexual knowledge does not adapt to the development of sexual concepts, it will lead to a gap in the "sexual world" and a series of social problems. From the Marxist point of view is the dialectical relationship between the economic base and the superstructure, that is, the economic base determines the superstructure, and the superstructure reacts to the economic base. China's concept of sex is becoming more and more open, but sexual knowledge has not kept pace with the huge gap that leads to related social problems more and more serious. And the advanced sex education reading materials are not accepted to lead to the original step of difficult sex knowledge more lagging behind, making the school system sex education.

3. The concept of comprehensive sex education and its preventive effect on crimes against minors

3.1 The concept of comprehensive sex education

Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) is a curriculum-based educational model that explores the cognitive, emotional, physical and social dimensions of sexuality. Its educational purpose is to equip the recipient with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will ensure their own health, well-being and dignity. The Chinese translation of the International Guidelines for Sexuality Education, published in 2009 by UNESCO and the World Health Organization, divides the content of sexuality education into eight core concepts (relationships, values, rights, culture and sexuality, understanding gender, violence and safety and security, health and well-being skills, the human body and development, sexuality and sexual behavior, and sexual and reproductive health). Each core concept is subdivided into four age groups (5-8 years old; 9-12 years old; 12-15 years old; 15-18 years old and above). Comprehensive sexuality education is comprehensive, scientifically accurate, progressive, and developmentally appropriate, curriculum-based, rights-based, gender-sensitive, culturally responsive, transformative, and skill-building ten features.[4]

3.2 The significance and role of comprehensive education

The "age-based" approach to comprehensive education is scientific in nature, and its educational content and philosophy are advanced and developmental. "Age-appropriate education" provides accurate and effective content that meets the current developmental needs of learners according to their age and abilities. [5] The concept of CSE is derived from the International Guidelines for Educational Technology, jointly published by the World Health Organization and other international groups, and the content of holistic education is not just a pie in the sky, but is evidence-based and practical. The education process focuses on cultivating learners' independence, helping them to form positive values and acquire a variety of life skills, such as analytical thinking, communication, expression, refusal, and the ability to cope with risks. [6] As a result, when they are faced with the possibility of sexual assault, they are able to react and take effective measures in a timely manner; after being sexually assaulted, they are able to successfully emerge from the shadows and have the courage and positive attitude to face life.

The Netherlands has a very open attitude toward sexuality, with sex education for children from age 4 to 21, and data showing that the Netherlands has the lowest rates of unwanted teenage pregnancies, abortions, and STD and HIV infections in the world. Sweden offers stimulating, participatory and playful education for children from the age of 7, and parents in Finland incorporate "sex" as an everyday topic in their daily lives with their children. Comprehensive sexuality education can be adapted to
meet the needs of different countries. Countries that have developed their sexuality in line with their society will have fewer problems with their sexual society if they have the knowledge to match their sexuality. China is developing faster and faster, and its sexuality is becoming more and more open, but its sexual knowledge is not keeping pace, and the bigger the gap between the two, the more and more serious the problems will be. Chinese comprehensive sex education can quickly and effectively bridge this gap and address the problems of the sex society, such as the incidence of sexual assault, abortion rates, STDs, etc.

4. Suggestions for preventing crimes against minors

4.1 Establish advanced education concept and healthy sexual values

Sex education is to prevent children from experiencing bad things, to protect children, to prevent being sexually harassed and abnormal contact and how to deal with such things correctly, and how to come out from the shadow to face life again after suffering harm.[7] The future is unpredictable and society is complicated. In the process of education, we can share our outlook on life, worldview and values, our way of thinking and behavior with our children; our children will form their own three views, their own way of thinking and behavior by accepting our sharing. Therefore, the ultimate goal of education is to help children acquire knowledge and skills more accurately and quickly, and to develop their ability to face and solve difficulties, and more importantly, to give them the confidence and courage to emerge from all the pain and face life again.

David Reuben begins The Book of Sexual Knowledge by writing, "Man lived in the space age but left his sexual organs behind in the stone age." The evolution of civilized indoctrination has not advanced the proper understanding of sexuality. Many people do not have a perfect understanding of sex because the lack of proper sex education leads them to establish sexual values that are also lacking or even wrong, values that are difficult to change once they are formed, so many people do not learn how to experience the positive value that sex brings to life. Sexuality is not a simple, separate, and discrete adult behavior, but a state of life that accompanies people throughout their lives. It is important to recognize that different religions and social norms define gender differently, to teach children to respect and understand, not to discriminate or hurt others, to recognize that sexual orientation is only a biological phenomenon, etc., and not to deny these objective existences.

4.2 Transformation of sex education model

The model of sex education at home and school should gradually change from chastity education to comprehensive sex education, because the change and development of sex knowledge should be adapted to the change and development of sex concept. Comprehensive sex education is based on the objective laws of science and reality, while chastity sex education simply wants to promote its own conservative ideology. Comprehensive sexuality education does not encourage underage people to engage in casual sex; its tone is still to tell young people to behave themselves, and to tell them how to use contraception in sexual relationships and even how to have a scientific abortion. The superiority of comprehensive sexual education is that it can cover all possibilities, it can see the true shape of the society and know how to make its own educational system and make adaptations according to the laws of the times and social evolution. Therefore, to solve such problems as sexual assault crimes, the first thing is to change the concept of sex education and change the model of sex education.

4.3 Implementation of age-specific education

Sex education for younger children is mainly family sex education, supplemented by school sex education; sex education for teenagers is mainly school sex education; family sex education and school sex education combine and promote each other, and truly implement a child sex education curriculum that meets the needs of the times.[8] 3~6 years old is the initiation stage, 11~12 years old is the exploration stage, and 14~15 years old is the maturity stage.

Sex education for 2~5 years old is mainly given by the child's guardian. The content of sex education at this stage is to let the child know the correct body parts and tell the child what behavior is right and what behavior is wrong, because the world of children at this age is only simple right and wrong. For children at this age, sexual organs are as common as organs such as the eyes, nose, and mouth, so guardians should be direct and clear about which body parts are private and should not be touched or exposed without supervision, and which behaviors are bad for them. Studies have shown that in the case of children with normal development, parents can teach their children to bathe independently at the age of 2. In the process of teaching children to bathe independently, the simple sex education mentioned above can be carried out, which allows children to learn to develop independence while building a sense of privacy. This is based on the safety of the environment in which children grow up, but also the understanding of respect for the body.

Sex education for 5 to 18 years old is mainly family sex education, supplemented by school sex education. Sex education in colleges and universities should maintain the two core concepts of sexual human rights and gender equality. According to the newly revised Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Minors, Chapter "School Protection", Article 40: "Schools and kindergartens should carry out age-appropriate sex education for minors, to improve the awareness and ability of minors to prevent sexual abuse, sexual harassment of self-protection. Sexual assault, sexual harassment of minors, schools and kindergartens should take relevant protective measures in a timely manner." Children aged 5-8 should understand the relationship between biological
sex and gender. 12-15 years old should recognize the role of gender in the construction of identity, behavior and aspirations, understand that some people's biological sex does not match their social sex, understand the definition of traditional gender temperament and the impact on male and female romantic relationships. 15-18 years old should know the harm caused by gender and sexual orientation bias, recognize homophobic, transphobic and so on. We should make the topic of "sex" healthy and normal, discuss it more often with young people, integrate it into our daily lives, and teach our children about love and responsibility.

4.4 Strengthening supervision and promoting the implementation of comprehensive sex education

Supervise family sex education, enforce and supervise sex education in welfare institutions and sex education in schools; strengthen safety education and rule of law education for minors. Particular attention needs to be paid to vulnerable groups such as left-behind children and special children. General Secretary Xi Jinping profoundly pointed out that "the whole society should understand children and youth, respect them, care for them, serve them, and provide a good social environment for them". Family protection is listed as the first of the six major protections for minors, which affects the well-being of children throughout their lives.[9] For family custody violations, the procuratorial authorities can supervise custody accurately by urging and supporting relevant organizations or individuals to file lawsuits to revoke guardianship, ordering guardians to receive family education guidance, and holding relevant personnel criminally responsible.

When supervising family custody, the procuratorial authorities should follow three principles: the principle of the best interest of minors, the principle of legal competence and the principle of limited intervention.[10] Only when family autonomy, social organizations and administrative supervision have been exhausted and still cannot protect the legitimate rights and interests of minors, the procuratorial authorities should intervene in a timely manner and intervene in a limited manner to protect the rights and interests of minors, and comply with the principles of necessity and feasibility in the process of justification and measures to achieve intervention, and grasp the limits and scales of public power intervention in private rights, and strive to optimize and minimize the intensity of intervention. To achieve the maximum effect of intervention.[9] Supervision of family guardianship aims to optimize guardianship, and in the face of the need to separate minors from their families, attention should be paid to the establishment of effective placement mechanisms to ensure the healthy growth of minors. Actively carry out rule of law activities such as "rule of law in schools" and "chief prosecutors and prosecutors as vice principals of rule of law" to enhance minors' awareness of self-protection, while parents can be invited to participate in the activities together with their children to enhance their awareness of rule of law and build an all-around "minors' rights" between society, schools. At the same time, parents can be invited to participate in the activities with their children to enhance parents' awareness of the rule of law and build a comprehensive protection network for minors in society, schools and families.

5. Conclusion

Sexuality is not a simple, separate and cut off adult behavior, but a state of life that accompanies people throughout their lives. Sexuality education is about preventing children from experiencing bad things, about protecting children from sexual harassment and unnatural contact and how to respond properly to deal with such things when they encounter them. It is about teaching children correct, positive and healthy sexual values, equipping children and young people with the knowledge and skills to ensure their health, well-being and dignity, and teaching them to protect themselves, love and responsibility. The model of sex education in families and schools should gradually change from chastity education to comprehensive sex education, because the development of sexual knowledge should be adapted to the development of changing sexual attitudes. The implementation and promotion of comprehensive sex education requires the joint efforts of the family, school, society, and the state.

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