

Review of: "Assessing Sex Education Awareness Among Higher Secondary School Students in India"

Timo Ojanen¹

¹ Thammasat University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This article provides interesting descriptive information about the state of sex education in India, but I would not consider it publishable in an academic journal in its current format. The findings need to be given context by drawing on previous research.

Abstract:

"This survey research article aims to investigate..." - Since the research was already conducted, this should be "This survey-based study aimed to investigate..." or more concisely "This survey-based study investigated..."

Key findings should be described in the abstract.

Introduction

The introduction is very short and has no citations to previous research. It would be helpful to readers to expand it to at least explain the background of sex education (or sexuality education), for example drawing on the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education, Revised edition (<https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ITGSE.pdf>). In addition, the Introduction should explain what was previously known about the specific topic in India before the present study, before stating the research question(s).

Methodology

It would be good to describe more detail about the sampling, the origin of the questions in the survey, data collection (e.g., was it paper-based or computerized; how was students' privacy ensured, etc.), and also about any ethical issues related to the study. I'd be interested to know which organization(s) ran and funded the study.

The questionnaire should be described more concisely in the Methodology section and the full questionnaire moved to an Appendix.

It should be described how the open-ended questions were scored (e.g. the question on menstruation).

Discussion: In addition to reiterating the key findings, the Discussion section should compare the findings with previous research on these topics, especially in India. Lots of recommendations were given - it would add weight to these recommendations to review in the Discussion what has already been done on each of these issues, what are key

obstacles in following the recommendations given so far, what kinds of best practices have been helpful so far in working along the lines of the recommendations given, and if the author has any other suggestions to help making the recommendations doable in practice. As for the recommendations, I'd suggest expanding Item 10 "Inclusivity and Diversity" to mention the specific needs of sexual and gender minorities, which on many points diverge from the needs of cisgender, heterosexual students.

References

All references given in the list should be cited in the text body.