

Review of: "Adolescents' Knowledge of Sexuality in a School Context: A Descriptive Study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Paula:

I really liked your article. For more than 23 years, she has worked precisely in an informative consultancy on sexuality in secondary schools with adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18. Therefore, I know the subject quite well.

I congratulate you on the study carried out, which attempts to approach adolescents' knowledge and attitudes about sexuality.

I would like to make some comments regarding the study:

In the material and methods section, there could be a selection bias, since those schoolchildren whose parents have signed the mandatory informed consent participate, and this can probably condition the results in the sense that those who most agree with sexual education in schools answer the questionnaires. On the other hand, they comment that the QCS and QACSES questionnaires have been validated in the population, but they do not specify what methodology has been carried out for said validation. The QCS questionnaire has a true/false dichotomous response scale. This aspect quite limits the obtaining of information from the different questions; perhaps a Liker-type questionnaire with several possible answers would have been more appropriate. Classifying unanswered questions as incorrect is not very appropriate when processing the data. It is not clear how many questions the QACSES questionnaire consists of in the text.

Regarding the results, indeed, the fact that 82.5% of the students had participated in sexual education sessions may be an important factor to take into account when interpreting them. I don't quite understand why they chose 12.5 as the cut-off point in the QCS questionnaire score to consider that values above it are positive. I suppose this is an arbitrary criterion decided by the research team.

In the discussion, I find it very interesting that there is a positive correlation between the degree of knowledge and better attitudes. As they say, it would be very interesting to follow up on the students participating in the study to check if there is an improvement in the results over time and to carry out more educational interventions. It has been more than demonstrated (in multiple published studies) that sexual education in adolescents is effective in improving their knowledge and attitudes towards sexuality.

I encourage you to continue carrying out research studies on sexuality in adolescents to subsequently promote educational interventions in this sense, which have proven to be the best tool to prevent the spread of STIs, unwanted

pregnancies, and gender violence.

I reiterate my congratulations for the work done.