

ABSTRACT

The research yielded in the field fails to explain how reproductive health education has been implemented in primary schools during the 1990s, and how it fulfilled the initial expectations with which it was introduced, from the perspective of its participants. The objective of the presented dissertation is to propose further potential steps towards the advancement of this domain and to identify topics suitable for further research in the field of reproductive health education on the basis of a survey of available sources, current research and presented research.

The project examines the issue through the perspective of respondents from two countries: the Czech Republic and Spain. These two European nations implemented reproductive health education during the same period, yet with distinct approaches. Spain, with its strong Catholic tradition, contrasts with the Czech Republic, which registers a relatively low proportion of individuals with declared religious affiliation, according to statistical data from the Czech Statistical Office (ČSÚ) in 2021.

The research participants consist of current adolescents and young adults aged 15 to 26 from the Czech Republic and Spain, who attended primary school during the systematic introduction of reproductive health education. The study aimed to investigate how the education was implemented in primary schools, how the participants thought about it and how they perceived its possible impact in their lives.

In pursuit of the objectives of the dissertation, a variety of research methods, including the analysis of existing studies, were employed. The results are evaluated primarily through quantitative analysis, supplemented by qualitative components, and are subsequently presented with emphasis on their relevance to current reproductive health education practices in primary schools.

For data collection purposes, a questionnaire was designed and utilized, targeting participants' experiences with reproductive health education during their primary education, their attitudes, and their perceptions of the education's influence on their lives. The evaluation of the data incorporated quantitative approaches, employing statistical methods such as correlation analysis.

The empirical investigation's findings demonstrate that reproductive health education in primary schools is positively received by the examined generation in both the Czech Republic and Spain. Respondents are aware of the importance of this education and perceive its potential positive impacts on their lives. However, areas for improvement have been identified.

One of these areas is the content of reproductive health education. Research findings suggest the need for expanding curricular content to encompass a broad spectrum of topics, including the establishment of healthy relationships, gender identity and sexual orientation, with the aim of providing students with a comprehensive understanding of human sexuality and reproductive health. By incorporating a broader range of topics, such as communication skills, this education can better prepare students for various real-life scenarios and foster their ability to make informed decisions.

Furthermore, adapting the form in which reproductive health education is implemented to suit the current needs of pupils is important. Research indicates a demand for interactive and participatory teaching methods that actively engage students in the learning process. This may include the utilization of information technologies, games, situational simulations, group discussions, and practical scenarios, fostering critical thinking and open dialogue and lead to the development of essential life skills.

The research outcomes have the potential to contribute to the enhancement of reproductive health education implementation in primary schools, providing valuable insights for the design of current curricula within the framework of "Human, Its Health, and Safety" in the revised educational programs in the Czech Republic.

Keywords: sexual education, primary school, educators, parents, reproductive health, health education