

Documents

Abdul Hamid, S.H.

Overcoming challenges and sensitivities surrounding sexual health topic

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Department of Special Care Nursing, Kulliyah of Nursing, Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Malaysia

Abstract

This chapter explores the complex dynamics involved in the provision of sexual health education to unmarried adolescents in Malaysia focusing on the experiences of school's health team officers. It suggests practical approaches for other researchers such as applying ethical approval, gathering data, conducting critical discourse analysis (CDA), and documenting findings of sensitive topics. Through CDA of both interviews and educational materials, this chapter uncovers the contradictions between the stated goals of adolescent-friendly services and the actual practices observed. The research findings indicate a discrepancy between the professional obligations of the school health team and their personal, frequently conservative, attitudes, despite rules that advocate for equal access to sexual health information. This tension is seen in the hesitancy of school health team to offer thorough information about contraception, resulting instead in the acceptance of alternatives like concealed pregnancies and adoption. This chapter argues that the discourses of risk, punishment, shame, and fear play a significant role in shaping the advice given by the school health team, reflecting deeper cultural and social norms. This chapter highlights the importance of challenging deeply held beliefs to respect and uphold adolescents' right to comprehensive sexual health information. © 2025 selection and editorial matter, Su Li Chong.

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Correspondence Address

Abdul Hamid S.H.; Department of Special Care Nursing, Malaysia; email: shazariah@iiium.edu.my

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