DEPARTEMENT VAN ONDERWYS IN KONSULTASIE MET KERKLEIERS - COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL EDUCATION (CSE)

Johannesburg - 23 Januarie 2020

INLEIDEND

Die byeenkoms is meestal deur leiers van onafhanklike kerke en verteenwoordigers van organisasies wat staan vir sosiale geregtigheid, bygewoon. Die grootste beswaar aanvanlik was die feit dat die gesprek beswaarlik as konsultasie kan dien as die CSE alreeds bekendgestel is; dit moet dan eerder 'n orientasie genoem word. Die debatte was redelik gelade en duidelik wantrouiig aan die begin, maar mettertyd het dit stabiliseer tot op 'n punt waar een van die kerkleiers opgestaan en gese bet: "Ek bet gekom, gereed om te baklei, maar ek is nou anders oortuig." *As* waarnemer was dit vir my duidelik dat die aanvanklike reaksie baie emosioneel was, met geen of baie min insae in die inhoud van die kurrikulum, hoe dit aangebied word en 'n klomp mites of mistastings oor sekere temas.

GESPREKSINDRUKKE

1. Die kurrikulum word reeds sedert 2000 aangebied. Dit word nou slegs in geskrewe lesplanne met aparte leerboeke vir leerders en opvoeders beskikbaar gestel.

2. Die inhoud is nie in detail tydens die konsultasie bespreek nie, maar die skakel na die volledige leerplan is verskaf:

https: / / www.education.gov.za/ Home/ ComprehensiveSexua lityEduc ation.aspx?f bclid=lwAROIAd-Rhd 6SKnYxtR0l hiwKelcxlzKyXw I0 j VRv16 XF3 b Sle9x0x-il.

3. Wat die debat duidelik beklemtoon het, is die feit dat kinders en ander weerlose persone geweldig blootgestel is en dat bemagtiging met waardes, kennis, vaardighede en ondersteuning hoop om 'n verskil te maak.

4. In aansluiting by bogenoemde stel die Dept dit duidelik tydens die gesprek dat CSE in die eerste plek saamgestel is om oor waardes en verhoudings tussen mense te onderrig en nie oor seks as sulks nie. Dit het die weerbaarheid van kinders ten doel.

5. Dit blyk dat daar allerhande mistastings is oor die inhoud van die kurrikulum. 'n Goeie voorbeeld is die onderrig oor masturbasie wat oënskynlik in die lesplanne sou wees. Die waarheid is dat hierdie tema onder die hofie "risiko-gedrag" opgeneem is en slegs in die opvoeder se gids sodat dit na diskressie hanteer kan word.

6. Die volledige kurrikulum is "age appropriate" en saamgestel. Geen tema hoef onbehoorlik aangebied te word vir jong kinders nie.

7. 'n Groot onus rus op die opvoeder self. Hierin is waarskynlik een van die groot besorgdhede opgesluit. Die Departement bied opleiding van opvoeders aan, maar dit is 'n ope vraag hoeveel opvoeders hulle in watter tydsbestek sal kan bereik.

Die Departement stem in tot verdere gesprek in provinsiale streke sou die behoefte bestaan. Kerke kan die inisiatief hierin neem en 'n uitnodiging rig.

8. Die Departement beklemtoon dat 'n monitering en evalueringsproses deel van die implimentering is. Dit beteken dat hulle versoek en verwelkom konstruktiewe terugvoer na bestudering van die kurrikuluminhoud. Trouens, wysigings is alreeds aangebring na die eerste reaksie wat vanuit die publiek ontvang is.

9. Die Departement versoek en daag die Kerk uit om met hernude ems by waardevorming en ingryping in die lig van Suid-Afrikaanse realiteit rondom dade van seksuele geweld, betrokke te raak en in besonder jong kinders hierin te begelei.

VERDERE INSETTE

Losstaande, maar tog in aansluiting by hierdie konsultasie, het BADISA as leidende Kinderbeskermingsorganisasie, 'n span kundiges versoek om 'n deeglike bestudering van die CSE kurrikulum te doen en konstruktiewe terugvoer te gee. Die verslag word nog afgerond, maar ek dink ons moet met ems kennis neem hiervan (sien verslag as bylaag 6B op volgende bladsy).

Ds Nioma Venter
31 Januarie 2020

VOORLOPIGE VERSLAG VAN BADISA - DIT SAL VROEG IN FEBRUARIE AFGEROND EN BESKIKBAAR VIR VERSPREIDING WEES

Met toestemming beskikbaar gestel - gedeeltes uit die verslag kan reeds aangehaal word

How doessexuality education protect children?

Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) has been part of Life Orientation for the past 20 years. This education is aimed towards ensuring that learners do not get misleading information on sex, sexuality, gender and relationships. During 2019 the Department of Education launched the new CSE curriculum. Parents took to social media, expressing their concerns about the new curriculum.

Many children in our country grow up witnessing and experiencing sexual acts as a norm from a very young age. We live in a country where:

- 56% of children live in a household with an income less than R635 per month. (SA Child Gauge)
- 52 420 South Africans were victims of sexual crimes during the past year (crimestatssa).
- 3262 children between the ages of 10 and 14 gave birth in hospitals during 2018 (statistics South Africa).

Badisa is a child protection organisation who first and foremost consider what is in the best interest of a child. Three of our child protection specialists reviewed the entire curriculum (Grade 4 - 12) and gave some feedback on the new CSE.

The Curriculum

- The curriculum is scientifically accurate, and teach children to use the correct term. This is extremely important as sexual abuse often go unnoticed because children do not know how to voice their problem.
- In most cases the curriculum is age-appropriate and addresses critical scenarios in which children have the opportunity to practice making positive choices and understand the consequences of their choices.

Parents Responsibility

- Most children have free access to smart phones, internet, games and television. If not monitored properly children can be exposed to inappropriate visuals and information that could be misleading. It is important that we talk to our children about sexuality and sex to ensure that they have the right information. The school as a platform for CSE is critical for many children whose parents do not talk to them about sexuality and sex or who are victims of sexual abuse.
- The information discussed is sensitive and parents should make an effort to review the lesson plan with the school and their children. This will ensure that family, religious or cultural values can be respected and taught to children.
- Parents must read and understand what the CSE curriculum is about and to come to their own conclusions. The department of education released the full curriculum on their website, view it here:

https: / / www.education.gov.za/ Home/ ComprehensiveSexua lityEduc ation.aspx?fbclid=lwAROIAd-Rhd 6SKnYxtR0l hiwKelcxlzKyXw I0 j VRv16 XF3 b Sle9x0x-il.

Empower Teachers

- It is important to empower our teachers with specialized training to ensure that they are comfortable talking about the curriculum, and that they are ready to answer any questions related to the subject.
- Teachers will also need training, if intervention needs to take place when a child discloses information of their own trauma caused by sexual abuse.
- It is advisable that teachers of both genders are comfortable to teach the curriculum. As some modules/lessons are sensitive and should be taught in separate gender groups to ensure that children and teachers are comfortable to ask and answer questions.

Child Protection

- In the light of South Africa's statistics, it is critical for children to be educated on their bodies, their rights and how to keep themselves safe.
- It would be in the best interest of our children if government could employ social workers at schools to present these classes and who would be able to assist victims of abuse.
- A concern is that exposure to the CSE content could lead to children disclosing their own trauma caused by sexual abuse and that they might not receive the help they need.
- Another concern of the curriculum is the identification of a child's sexual orientation. This is a sensitive subject that could lead to labelling, bullying and could have a very negative impact on a child's life if not handled with care.

The Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) curriculum could have a positive impact on child protection if presented correctly. It will be more successful if parents work with teachers and talk to their own children at home. Children are curious by nature, and it is the parent's responsibility to offer a safe space where their children are able to ask questions and discuss their own concerns or feelings.

We thank Carin van der Merwe (https:// www.facebook.com / HuisAndrew Murr ay/) . Alicia van Vuuren (https:// durbanvillekinderhuis.org.za/) and Travon (https:// www.herberg.co.za/) for the valuable information regarding CSE and child protection.