Sexual and HIV/AIDS education in South African secondary schools

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Authors:
Thaver, Lerissa
Leao, Astrid

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Description:
Teaching sexual and HIV and AIDS education in schools has been the subject of debate and discussion for a while now southern Africa. The debates have mainly centred around three key issues – at what stage to introduce it, what kind of curricula is appropriate and who is qualified to provide such teaching. South Africa is one the few countries in the region that have made attempts to introduce sexual and HIV and AIDS education at the secondary school level. Although this has had benefits, it has not been without its challenges. This paper discusses current sexual and HIV and AIDS education in secondary schools across South Africa, and analyses the content and quality of the curricula being implemented, focusing primarily on current life skills and HIV and AIDS programmes and the ability of teachers to effectively convey accurate information. The paper also analyses how sexual and HIV and AIDS education in South Africa can be improved, and serve as a model for other countries in the region.

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