

LEARN. PROTECT. RESPECT. EMPOWER.

THE STATUS OF COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY
EDUCATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC: A SUMMARY REVIEW 2020

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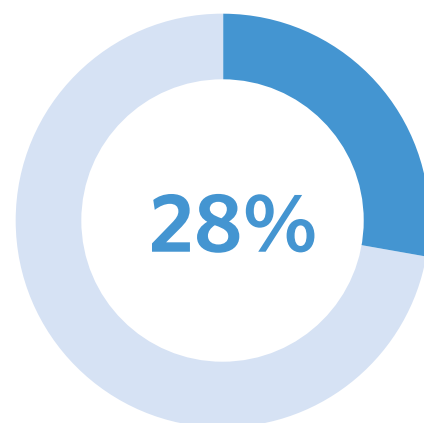
This factsheet is based on findings from a joint UNFPA, UNESCO and IPPF regional review on the status of comprehensive sexuality education in the Asia and Pacific region conducted in 2019, which includes Ministry of Education (MoE) questionnaires, expert questionnaires, and an online youth survey.

To access the background research report [click here](#)

Young people identify the Internet, social media and their peers as more important sources of information on sexuality than school.

OF 1402 ONLINE YOUTH SURVEY RESPONDENTS (NON-REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE)...

IS SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN-SCHOOL MEETING THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC?



FELT THAT THEIR SCHOOL TAUGHT THEM ABOUT SEXUALITY 'VERY WELL' OR 'SOMEWHAT WELL'

Source: Online youth survey data



YOUNG PEOPLE'S PREFERRED SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT SEXUALITY



Peers



The Internet



School



If we hadn't explored the Internet, we would have no idea about many things regarding SRH as proper sexuality education wasn't provided to us in school.

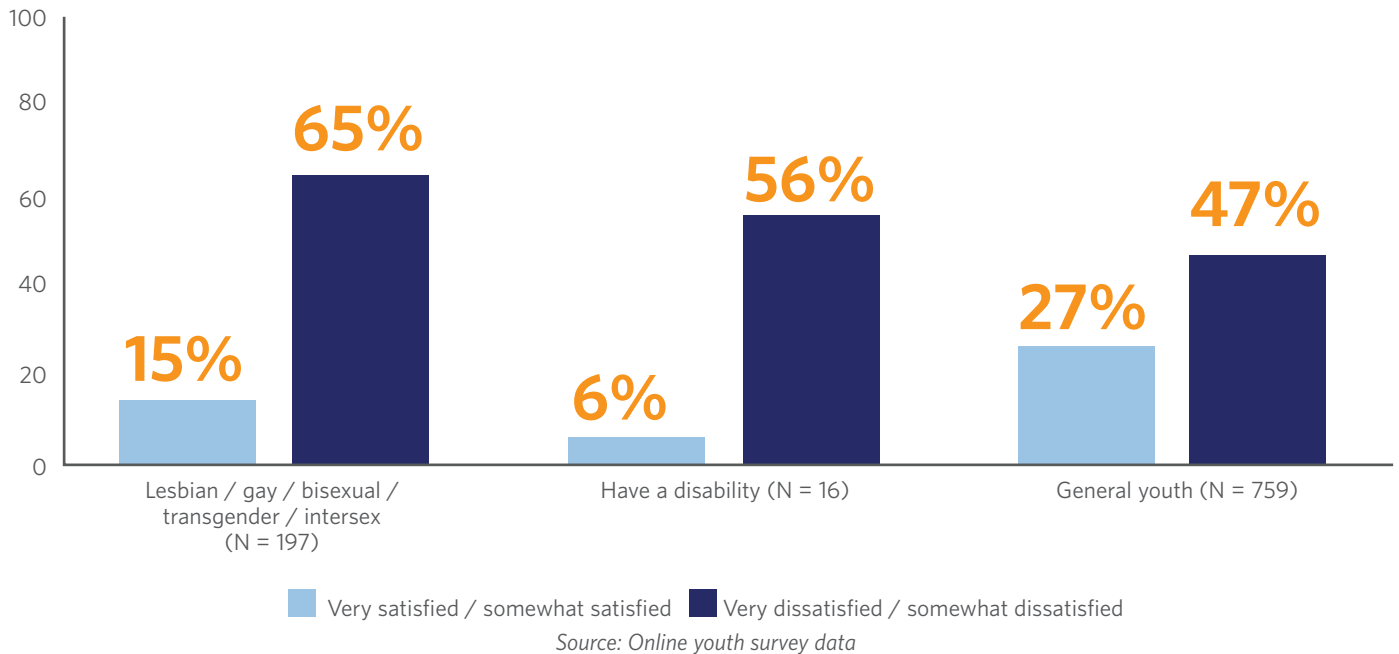
(Young woman, Nepal)

Source: Online youth survey data

IS SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN-SCHOOL MEETING THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC?

Satisfaction with sexuality education was lower among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex youth respondents and respondents with disabilities, compared with general youth.

SATISFACTION WITH SEXUALITY EDUCATION



Very few countries in the Asia and Pacific region specifically address vulnerable populations in their sexuality education curricula.

Source: MoE questionnaire

SEXUALITY EDUCATION AT SCHOOL MET MY NEEDS' REPORTED BY IDENTITY / STATUS OF YOUNG PEOPLE



28%

Of lesbian / gay / bisexual / transgender / intersex respondents (n = 197)



25%

of young people with a disability (n = 16)



17%

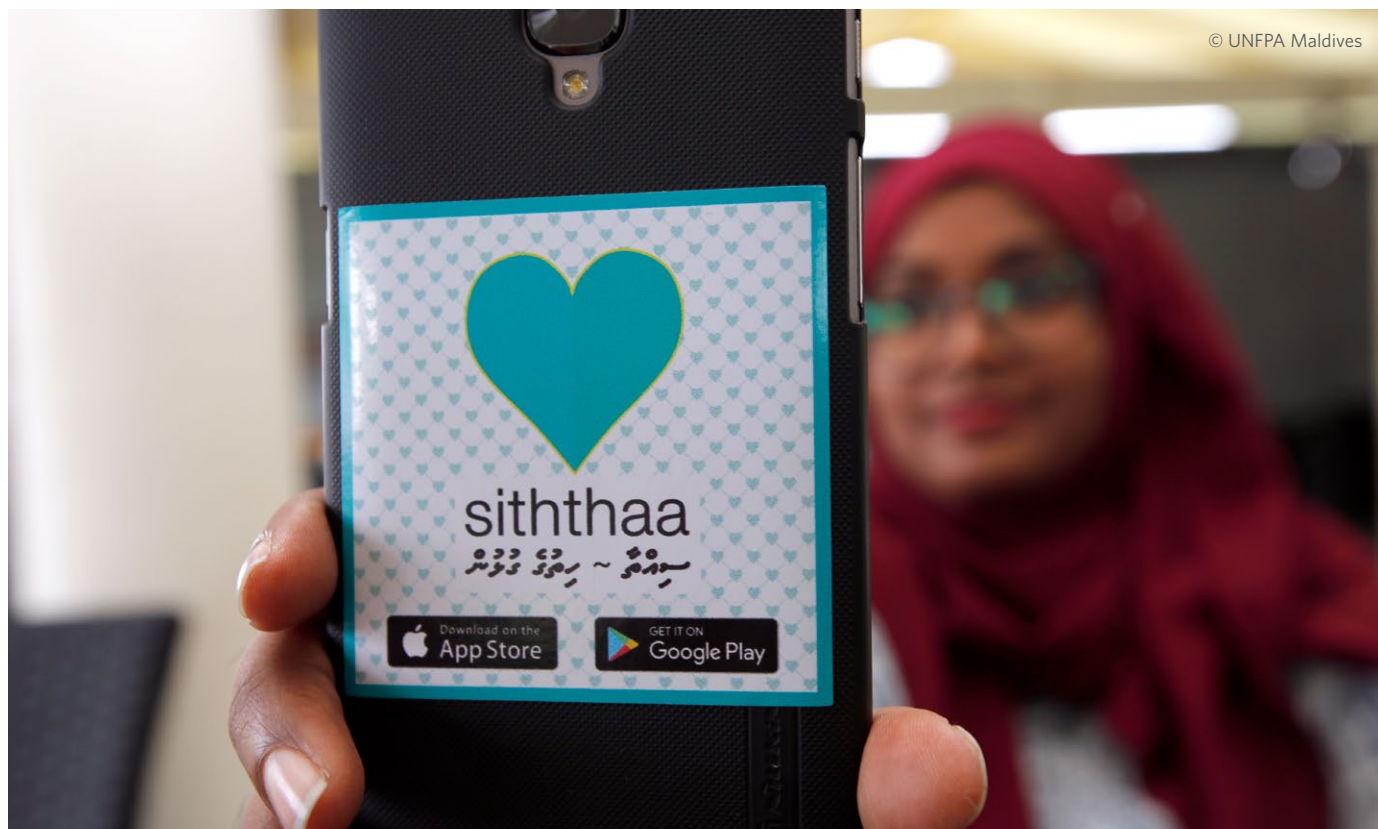
of young refugees / migrants (n = 6)



35%

of young indigenous people (n = 122)

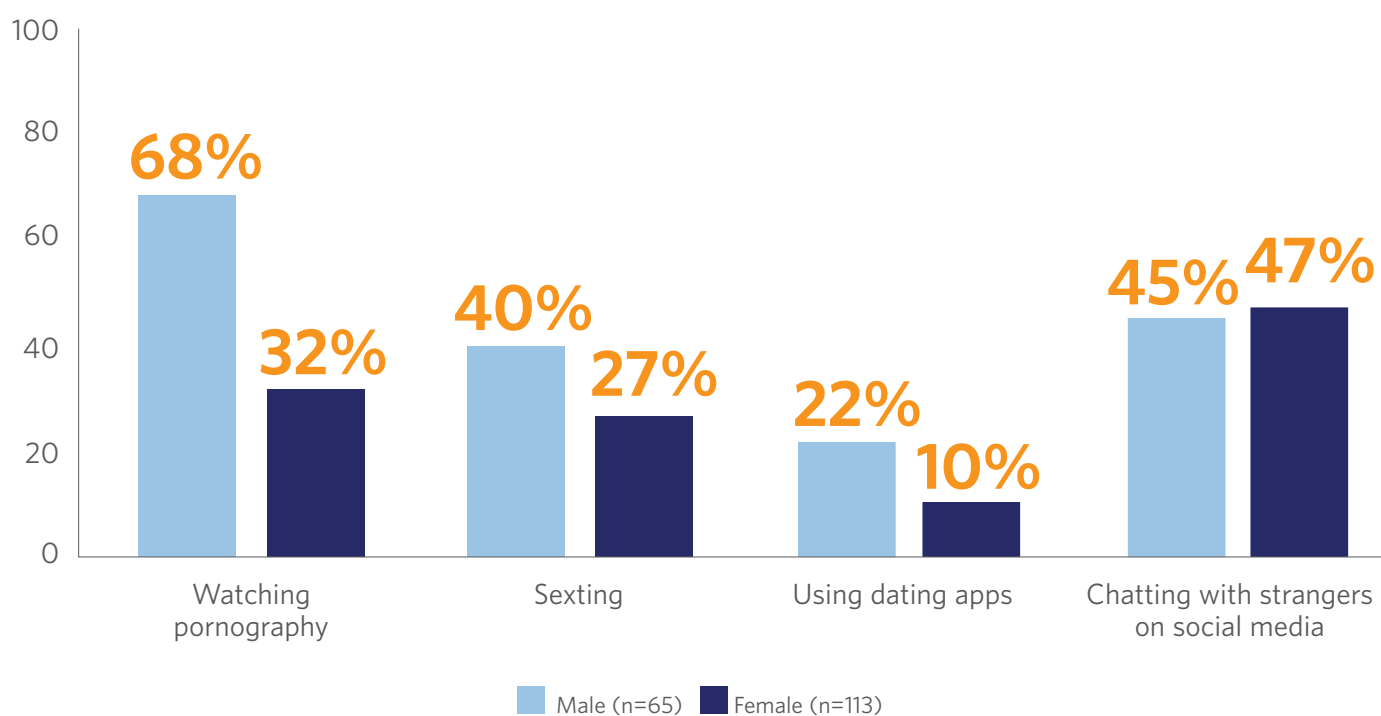
Source: Online youth survey data



HOW DO YOUNG PEOPLE USE DIGITAL MEDIA TO EXPLORE SEXUALITY OR SEEK INFORMATION ON SEXUALITY?

Nearly half of the 15-18-year-old online youth survey respondents have experienced chatting with strangers on social media

PROPORTION OF 15-18-YEAR-OLD RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE USED DIGITAL MEDIA TO EXPLORE SEXUALITY OR SEEK INFORMATION ON SEXUALITY BY GENDER



Source: Online youth survey data



**LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER
AND INTERSEX YOUTH RESPONDENTS USE
DIGITAL MEDIA TO EXPLORE SEXUALITY OR
SEEK INFORMATION ON SEXUALITY MORE
EXTENSIVELY THAN THE GENERAL YOUTH.**



[I wished to have learned about] Sexual orientations and gender identity and how it's completely fine if you are Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT).

(15-year-old woman, LGBT, Malaysia)



TAKE ACTION

- Build support for comprehensive sexuality education for out-of-school¹ and vulnerable populations² of children and young people at multiple levels, from the community to national levels.
- Engage young people, including those from vulnerable populations, in comprehensive sexuality education design, planning and evaluation for both in- and out-of-school programmes.
- Integrate or link out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education programmes with existing programmes and services.
- Develop comprehensive curricula in line with the *International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education (ITGSE)*³ both for in-school and out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education programmes.
- Tailor programmes to the unique needs of participants.
- Facilitators should be well-trained and supported to be able to deliver sexuality education that can meet the needs of vulnerable populations of young people.
- Facilitators for groups of marginalized young people should be from the same marginalized community, if possible.
- Develop strategies to address and reach out-of-school youth and vulnerable youth populations.
- Use a range of teaching methods to enhance life skills that encourage critical thinking, communication and negotiation, decision-making and assertiveness.
- Strengthen comprehensive sexuality education for young people not engaged in formal education.



The information needs to be accessible as well. Some people with mental disabilities will need extra help to understand the information.

(20-year-old woman with an intellectual disability, Fiji)



There is a need to address comprehensive sexuality education/content information for young disabled and ethnic minority people.

(Cambodia key informant interview with UN and Civil Society Organization)

¹ Out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education refers to comprehensive sexuality education which is not delivered at school to students as a part of the school curriculum. Refer to the International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE).

² Young people from vulnerable populations includes but not limited to young people with disabilities, young people in humanitarian settings, indigenous young people, lesbian, gay, bisexual young people, and other young men who have sex with men, transgender young people, intersex young people, and young people living with HIV.

³ Refer to the *International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education*.