

The development of a resource to aid the teaching of SRE to young people in England: An informative Porn Magazine

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Introduction

This project ran alongside the Master's thesis, with the aim of producing a resource that can be used for teaching young people how to be critical consumers of pornography. England is in the process of re-developing its SRE (sex and relationships) curriculum, and in 2020 it will be compulsory for all schools to implement this programme. Currently the SRE curriculum hasn't been updated for 20 years (Long, 2017), and it's failing to provide young people with the skills and knowledge they need to make informed choices about their sexual health and relationships. SRE is a human right, as stated in **The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**, which covers the right to health (the United Nations, 1966). The UK government has failed to meet the requirements of that right, which has resulted in young people being out of touch with topics that have emerged since the on-going development of the Internet. One topic that has been of particular worry is young peoples increased access to pornography (Atwood et al, 2018). Media often focuses on the negative effects of porn (Atwood et al, 2018), yet there are limited resources to inform young people of these effects. This highlighted a need for a young-person friendly guide on how to be a critical consumer of porn.

The objectives of this project were to use the results from the data collected in the thesis to create an informative porn magazine for the young people. As previously stated limited resources were found to inform young people about porn, and many of them weren't inclusive of all genders and sexual orientations. As stated, resources largely only focus on the negative aspects of porn (Atwood et al, 2018) - this is a scaremongering technique that young people are likely to be uninterested in. Lust (2010) states that as soon as you make something unattainable, young people are even more likely to want to seek it out. Furthermore many of the resources that were reviewed only contained cartoon images, which when talking about sexual health is not very relatable. Therefore it was decided that along with being informative, the magazine would take a sex-positive approach and highlight the positive aspects that can also come from watching porn. It would include some explicit photographs to provide a more realistic and relatable way of teaching sex education. The magazine aimed to include pleasure, as well as stressing the importance of sexual health care.

The research question/aim is as follows:

What did the young people in the Master's Thesis highlight as being some of the negative/positive effects of watching porn; and how can these be turned into a resource that will be beneficial for their learning of Sex and relationships education?