



Safeguarding
Young People in Care

Sexuality Conventions, Policies and Discourses

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Sexual Health – What is it?



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Check in for Education



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- **PURPOSE:**
Here you will learn about international conventions on sexuality and how these are used in Denmark.
- **OBJECT:** Knowledge about how individual, social, institutional and cultural factors help structure, enable and reproduce human beings' identities, genders, norms, values and options in a diverse culture.



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Individual, Social, Institutional and Cultural Factors

Factor: circumstance, force or influence that contribute to the generation of a certain result. The factors in focus are:

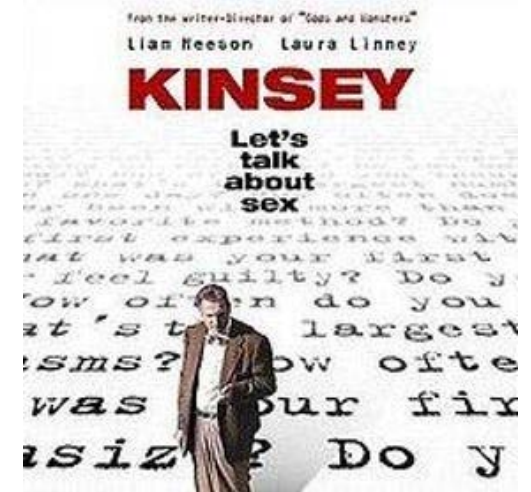
1. **Individual factors** - that concern or characterise the consciousness, desires, needs and rights of the individual
2. **Social factors** - the way in which both the individual human being and the different groups in a society have the opportunity for personal development, for freedom and equality – as well as in the tasks of helping each other.
3. **Institutional factors** - concerning institutions' production and reproduction of traditions, statutes, laws etc.
4. **Cultural factors** - the way of living and the conceptual world that characterise a certain population for certain periods: the habits and ways in which we do things

Knowledge about Sexuality in Movies



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- **Kinsey. Let's talk about sex.** Leading Role Liam Neeson, Netflix.
 - The movie is about Alfred Kinsey and how his biological curiosity and research methods led to pioneering knowledge of sexuality. Sexual Behavior in the Human Male 1948. Sexual Behavior in the Human Female 1953 The Kinsey scale
- **Masters of Sex.** HBO
 - The series is about William Masters and Virginia Johnson and their research in human sexuality in terms of the body's reactions as well as the diagnosing and the treatment of sexual problems and dysfunctions. Research from 1957-1990



UN October 24, 1945



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- **The United Nations have four main purposes:**
 - 1. To keep the peace throughout the world
 - 2. To develop friendly relations among nations
 - 3. To help nations work together to improve the lives of poor people, to conquer hunger, disease and fight illiteracy. And furthermore, to encourage respect for each other's rights and freedoms.
 - 4. To be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations in the attainment of their goals





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Definition of Sexual Health

- “Sexual health is a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity.
- Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.
- For sexual health to be attained and maintained, the sexual rights of all persons must be respected, protected and fulfilled”
- WHO (2006). World Association for Sexual Health (2008)

Eight Conditions for Achieving Sexual Health



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- 1. Securing sexual rights
 - 2. Gender equality
 - 3. Combating sexual violence
 - 4. Access to sexuality education
 - 5. Linking sexual and reproductive health
 - 6. Combating sexually transmitted diseases and HIV / AIDS
 - 7. Available treatment for sexual problems and
 - 8. Recognition of the significance of sexuality to the general well-being and quality of life
-
- Source: WHO (2006). World Association for Sexual Health (2008)

WHO = World Health Organization



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The World Health Organization was established as a specialised agency of the UN in 1948.

WHO assists governments in strengthening the national healthcare system services, particularly in developing countries with emphasis on the primary healthcare system.

- **Health care rationale: Sexual health is crucial to a good life.**

The state of an individual's sexual health is very significant for the quality of life and general health of the individual.

Significant personal costs may be related to unhealthy sexuality both physically and mentally, however, not least socially as the most basic needs for socialising may be compromised.



World Association for Sexual Health



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- WAS was founded in 1978 by a multidisciplinary, worldwide group of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with the aim of promoting sexual health and sexual rights throughout the world.
- WAS promotes sexual health through the world by developing and supporting sexology and sexual rights for all. Our membership represents thousands of experienced and trainee sexologists from a variety of disciplines.
- WAS has accomplished its aims through the advancement and exchange of scientifically-based multidisciplinary sexuality research, sexuality education, health promotion, and behavioral and clinical sexology.
 - The creation of the Declaration of Sexual Rights in Hong Kong 1999.
 - Advocating for changes in public policy to recognize sexual health and rights as key ingredients in overall health and social justice.
- Source: <http://www.worldsexology.org/>

WAS Advisory Committee

WAS: September 4 is an important day for pedagogues



World Association for Sexual Health



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EU Rights for the Citizens

- **EU's most important job is to ensure collaboration across the member countries about e.g. cross-border issues which are best be solved jointly.**
- Equality between human beings regardless of religion or belief, gender, disability, age or sexual orientation.
- Human trafficking
- Trafficking of women for sexual exploitation
- Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography
- Assistance for making policies concerning reproductive and sexual health

Sexual Health in Denmark



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- Prevention in connection with sexuality usually comprises issues associated with:
 - Prevention, sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies and sexual abuse
- From a wider health perspective, sexuality plays a far more diverse role:
 - Recent population studies show that about 90% of the 16-95 years old Danes find it important, very important or highly important to have a good sex life
- Group discussion:
 1. What is there to gain from prevention in a focused approach regarding health promoting initiatives targeting the general sexual well-being?

Sexuality is a Bio-Psycho-Social Paradigm



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- The emphasis is on biological function and dysfunction but the psychological and social aspects of the life of the individual human being are included
 - Sexuality is a general human resource which in different ways influences life from birth to death.
- **'Two-Way Taboo'**: The patient and the care provider keep each other in concealment regarding sexual and cohabitation-related issues to the disadvantage of the individual patient and as a public health problem:
 - Sexuality has a central place in the population's personal experience of health and well-being.
 - Sexuality-related healthcare services are considered internationally as basic rights
- Is a sexual symptom primary or secondary? – is it the cause of a health / well-being problem or the consequence of it?
 - In most situations, it is a dynamic interaction where the causal mechanisms run both ways – a sexual issue includes a biological foundation and an aggravating psychosocial superstructure

FOREBYGGELSESTREKANTEN

PRIMÆR

Grøn

Generelt

Forebyggende

De, der kan selv

SEKUNDÆR

Gul

Gruppe

Foregribende

De, der har brug for hjælp

TERTIÆR

Rød

Individ

Indgribende

Særlig indsats



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The Prevention Triangle

- **PREVENTING – Is capable:** the largest part of the population: children, adolescents, adults and elderly.
 - It is recommended that the municipality initiates information and counselling work concerning sexual health to the public in general.
- **ANTICIPATING – Will often need help:** Citizens with *impaired physical or mental function, victims of sexual offences and abuse as well as chronically ill people*.
 - It is recommended that the municipality establishes preventive and health promoting offers for special target groups.
- **INTERVENING – Special initiative:** The target groups cover *socially vulnerable, drug users, prostitutes, men who have sex with men (MSM) and HIV-infected*.
 - It is recommended that the municipality establishes preventive and health promoting offers for particularly vulnerable groups at individual level.



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What is a Discourse?

- In scientific debates and texts, the word discourse is often used without any further determination of its meaning.
- However, the word discourse often covers the idea that the language is structured in different patterns which our statements follow when we act within different social domains, e.g. medical discourse or political discourse
- **Discourse is a certain way of talking about and understanding the world (or a part of the world)**
- Our way of talking does not reflect our surroundings, our identity and social relations neutrally but plays an active role in creating and changing them.
 - Discourse Theory (Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe)
 - Critical Discourse Analysis (Norman Fairclough)
 - Discourse Psychology

Discourse Theory



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- **Discourse constructs the social world through meaning**
- but the meaning can never be fixed due to the basic instability of language.
- **No discourse is a closed entity**
- the discourse is rather changed constantly in contact with other discourses.
- **Hegemony:** Different discourses that each represent a certain way of talking about and understanding the social world are constantly fighting each other to achieve supremacy of a certain point of view
- **Dominating discourse:** In hegemony, the meaning of language is locked through which a dominating discourse is established

Group work: The individual, Sexuality and Discourse



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Purpose: To identify the meaning of discourses concerning the individual person's opportunities for developing a healthy sexuality in 2018.

You will do this by:

- I. Working with the 4 factors of the module and for each factor reflect upon the currently dominating discourse.
- II. Incorporating the literature and assignments of the module - remember to include a reference the source

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Sources



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