



Nasionale Nuusbriëf | National Newsletter

18/2019

21/05/2019

SEXUALITY EDUCATION: BOYCOT FORESEEN

INCORPORATION OF SEXUAL CONTENT INTO THE GRADE 4 CURRICULUM

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) is currently in the process of overhauling the Grade 4 Life Skills Curriculum. While the SAOU welcomes any improvement to the curriculum, the Union emphasises that any amendments must be made in a rational, objective and well thought through manner.

The DBE indicated that some of the amendments to the Life Skills Curriculum would include topics with specific sexual content e.g. "masturbation" and "gender nonconformity". The DBE further states that the content is aligned with CAPS and the Children's Act, No. 83 of 2005.

SAOU also urgently raises the following concerns regarding these amendments to the Grade 4 Life Skills Curriculum.

Firstly, none of the stakeholders in the education sector were approached by the DBE to give their inputs into the announced amendments. SAOU's members- the people who have to implement this changed curriculum with its highly sensitive content in the classroom- are very knowledgeable and experienced in teaching the subject to nine- and ten-year-old learners. The input of these educators could have added significant value to the improvement of the curriculum but unfortunately, they are a valuable resource that was not utilised.

Secondly, because no stakeholders in the education sector were invited to give inputs, the SAOU is particularly concerned about the task team that is

SEKSUALITEITSONDERRIG: BOIKOT WORD IN DIE VOORUITSIG GESTEL

INKORPORERING VAN SEKSUELE INHOUD IN DIE GRAAD 4 KURRIKULUM

Die Departement van Basiese Onderwys (DBO) is tans in die proses om die Graad 4 Lewensoriëntering Kurrikulum te hersien. Die SAOU verwelkom enige verbetering aan die kurrikulum, maar die Unie beklemtoon dat enige wysigings op 'n rasionele, objektiewe en weldeurdagte wyse aangebring moet word.

Die DBO het aangedui dat die wysigings aan die kurrikulum onderwerpe met spesifieke seksuele inhoud sal bevat, bv. "masturbasie" en "geslagstereotipering". Die DBO het verder aangedui dat die inhoud in lyn is met KABV en die "Children's Act, No. 83 of 2005".

Die SAOU spreek hul kommer uit rakende die wysigings aan die Graad 4 Lewensoriëntering kurrikulum.

Eerstens, geen rolspelers in die onderwyssektor is genader deur die DBO om hul insette te gee rakende die aankondiging van die voorgestelde wysigings nie. SAOU lede is onder andere die persone wie die sensitiewe inhoud in die gewysigde kurrikulum op grondvlak moet implementeer. Hulle dra baie kennis en ervaring rakende die onderrig van inligting aan leerders van nege- en tienjarige ouderdom. Die insette van hierdie opvoeders kon 'n waardevolle bydrae gelewer het tot die kurrikulum, maar ongelukkig is hierdie bron nie benut nie.

Tweedens, aangesien geen rolspelers in die onderwyssektor genooi is om insette te lewer nie, is die SAOU besonder bekommerd oor die kundigheid

<p>currently making these amendments to the curriculum.</p> <p>The SAOU emphasises that the DBE must use informed advisors when such crucial amendments are made to the curriculum.</p> <p>Thirdly, any amendment to the curriculum must surely be age- and peer-appropriate.</p> <p>Fourthly, the content must be on such a level that it will assist a nine- and ten-year-old child to make a more informed decision.</p> <p>Finally, the content in the curriculum must take cognizance of and respect the different mores held by various communities especially in regard to issues like sex education. A one size, fits all approach will definitely not suffice.</p> <p>If the DBE does not involve the SAOU, parent bodies and other stake holders, they will find that communities will undermine and boycott any implementation process as the absolutely required ownership will not be taken.</p> <p>The DBE must realise the matter under discussion is extremely sensitive and volatile and the current unilateral approach will not dispel serious and real concerns. In fact, it will only harden attitudes.</p>	<p>van die taakspan wat tans besig is om die kurrikulum te wysig.</p> <p>Die SAOU beklemtoon dat die DBO ingeligte adviseurs moet gebruik wanneer sulke belangrike wysigings aan die kurrikulum aangebring word.</p> <p>Derdens, enige veranderinge aan die kurrikulum moet sekerlik ouderdom- en portuur-toepaslik wees.</p> <p>Vierdens, moet die inhoud op so 'n vlak wees dat dit 'n nege- en tienjarige kind sal help om 'n meer ingeligte besluit te neem.</p> <p>Laastens, die inhoud van die kurrikulum moet kennis neem van, en respek hê vir die verskillende kultuurgroepe se waardes, veral ten opsigte van kwessies soos seksonderrig. Die benadering van “een grootte pas almal” sal beslis nie voldoende wees nie.</p> <p>Indien die DBO nie die SAOU, ouerliggame en ander belanghebbendes betrek nie, sal hulle vind dat gemeenskappe enige implementeringsproses sal ondermyn en boikot omdat die absolute vereiste eienaarskap nie geneem sal word nie.</p> <p>Die DBO moet beseft dat die saak onder bespreking uiters sensitief en ‘plofbaar’ is en dat die huidige eensydige benadering nie die ernstige en werklike kommer uit die weg sal ruim nie. Trouens, dit sal net houdings verhard.</p>
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