

Digital sexuality education: by, with and for young people

Agents of Ishq



India
Website, Facebook, Twitter,
Instagram, Soundcloud, Tik Tok
Over 5 million users per year

Hannah Witton



United Kingdom
YouTube, Instagram, Facebook,
Podcast
737,000 YouTube subscribers
More than 114 million views

Love Matters Arabic



Egypt, Middle East, North Africa
Website, YouTube, Instagram,
Facebook, Podcast
Over 1 million fans on FB per year

UNESCO and UNFPA (2020). *Switched On: An exhibition on digital sexuality education providers*

Tune Me



Southern Africa
Mobile Site and Facebook
More than 2 million users
across 7 countries



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Digital sexuality education: by, with and for young people

Switched on
An exhibition on digital sexuality education providers

“ Sex education should go where its audience hangs out”
says Adrian Radu, creator of the SEXUL vs BARZA Romanian sex education portal.

This series of posters featured as part of an exhibition at Switched On: Sexuality Education in the Digital Space, a symposium held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 19 - 21 February, 2020. The posters are snapshots of digital sexuality education providers who are doing just that – taking sexuality education to the digital spaces where adolescents and young people can search for and hopefully find, the information they need. These are just a few of thousands of platforms that have emerged throughout the world and have been selected because of their innovative approaches and geographic spread.

This diverse collection of providers operates in over 30 countries, delivering accurate and non-judgemental information in Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, Hindi, Kazakh, Kenyan sign language, Russian, Turkish, and other languages. They deliver in areas of high and low connectivity through websites, apps, social media and other platforms.

Their goals include promoting sexual health and rights, reducing violence and stigma, empowering women and girls, shifting gender and sexuality norms, encouraging self-acceptance and love, fostering critical thinking, and using humour and art to break down barriers. Several seek to fill gaps in formal sexuality education received in schools. Some provide information rarely available in certain languages or contexts. Others operate in an environment overloaded with often inaccurate information. They seek to bust myths and help young people decide which information is accurate or inaccurate, useful or not. All try to make sexuality education more fun.

Together, these innovative outlets have reached hundreds of millions of adolescents and young people throughout the world. Using narratives and numbers to measure impact, these platforms have recorded changes to the way people are educated, increased audience satisfaction, increased HIV testing, and changed attitudes and behaviours. They connect and partner with communities, counsellors, schools, media, police, health services, government bodies, UN agencies, and dating apps.

Governments, donors, and the private sector fund them. A couple make a profit, and several are surviving on almost no money. Each platform finds its own way to negotiate the norms and pressures of their contexts and the transnational online spaces they occupy. Together, they represent a rich and diverse body of online sexuality education for young people living in an increasingly digital world.

With support from

Meeting Report
Switched on: Sexuality education in the digital space

International Symposium,
19 - 21 February 2020, Istanbul, Turkey

Acknowledgements

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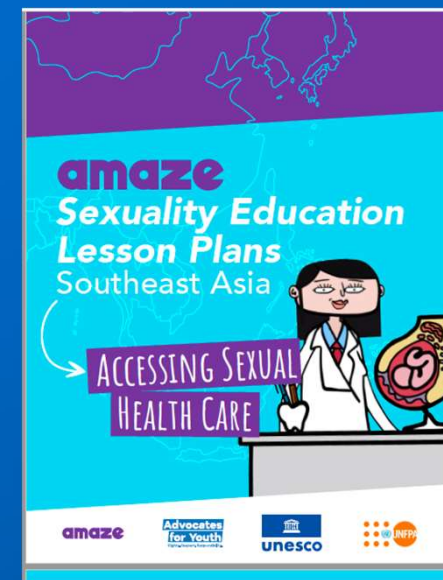
The Switched On symposium and associated activities have been made possible with the support from the Governments of Sweden and Norway.

“As well as committing to advancing CSE with informal and non-formal education, we recognize that, as a global community, we have to diversify our efforts to reach young people where they are, in a language and style that makes them feel comfortable and safe. In 2020, where young people are, is increasingly online.”

Vibeke Jensen, Director, Division of Peace and Sustainable Development, UNESCO

A warm thanks is extended to the Switched On steering group for being instrumental to the successful design and rollout of the symposium and to all who contributed in designing, chatting and documenting sessions. Thank you to all attendees for their active participation and helping to ensure a vibrant and informative event.

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English (Asia Region) 15

Gender Roles and Stereotypes (Asia Region)

English (Asia Region) 31

HIV: How to protect yourself and others (Asia Region)

English (Asia Region) 10

What is Social Anxiety? (Asia Region)

English (Asia Region)

English (Asia Region)

English (Asia Region)