

COVERAGE OF SEXUALITY EDUCATION ISSUES BY GEORGIAN MEDIA

2019

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Teaching sexuality education in schools has been an active issue in Georgia over the recent years. By signing the Association Agreement, Georgia undertook certain commitments, including adding sexuality education in the curriculum alongside other issues. In 2015, the Ministry of Education and Science held a presentation of the National Curriculum with the aim of discussing an updated standard for the National Curriculum for Social Sciences. According to the plan, beginning from 2016-2017 academic year, teaching of social sciences will be strengthened and an independent subject called „Society and I“ will be taught for primary grades (grades III and IV). However, in 2016, pilot teaching of the subject was postponed. The same year, a new National Curriculum for 2017-2023 was approved, which also included „Society and I“. This subject is exactly the reason why part of the society including clergymen have confronted the Ministry. Pilot teaching of the new subject began in schools in September 2017, while based on the National Curriculum for 2018-2024, the subject was introduced in grades III-IV beginning from the 2018-2019 academic year. A textbook for primary grades was also approved. Age-appropriate information about sexual and reproductive health and rights are also integrated in other school subjects, including: „nature“, „biology“, „civic education“.

Despite the steps made by the state, lack of a comprehensive education on human sexuality in the formal education field is viewed as one of the critical challenges of the education system by the Public Defender of Georgia. Among other issues related to teaching, the 2019 document on „National study on sexual and reproductive health and rights“ highlights that „Comprehensive education on human sexuality plays a fundamental role in effective protection of health and provision of welfare for young people and adults.“ Existence of a problem in the field of sexuality education in Georgia is also evidenced in another report published the same year (2019): „Sexual and reproductive health and rights: national assessment, key findings.“ Both have been prepared by the Public Defender of Georgia, in partnership with the UNFPA.

It should also be noted that the Government of Georgia has prepared a document to address such problematic issues – National Maternal & Newborn Health Strategy (2017-2030). A three-year action plan for implementation of the Strategy in 2017-2019 was approved on October 6, 2017.

Teaching of sexuality education is a priority for Information Medical-Psychological Center Tanadgoma. The organization has been working in Georgia since 2000 and it primarily focuses on reproductive health and rights. The mission of the Center is to improve physical and mental health of the Georgian population through implementation and advocacy of preventive, educational, diagnostic and rehabilitation services. With regard to sexuality education, as early as in 2010, Tanadgoma published „Findings of a qualitative study on sexuality education issues conducted among X-XI grade teachers, students and their parents.“ In 2016, the organization published a report – „Subject „Society and I“ – attitudes and needs related to the standard.“ „Coverage of sexual and reproductive health and rights issues: abortion, family planning, sexuality education in Georgian Media“ was published in 2019.

According to the study, in 2018, among issues of the research, media devoted the least time to sexuality education and the coverage was mostly neutral. Tanadgoma continues to work on these issues and for future planning purposes, it needs to have a knowledge about coverage of sexuality education issues.

Different organizations have conducted studies on sexual and reproductive health and rights in Georgia at different times. However, the present research is unique in that it is the first one to address media coverage of sexuality education issues in particular. Media plays an important role in raising public awareness, providing accurate information, sharing experience and increasing acceptability.

The present report of media monitoring covers the period from January 1 through December 31, 2019. Introduction is followed by the research methodology, part 1 summarizes quantitative findings of the media monitoring, part 2 provides qualitative analysis, and lastly the report presents conclusions and recommendations of media researchers.

Methodology

In 2019, to study the coverage of sexuality education issues in Georgian media, media monitoring was conducted from January 1 to December 31. The present study uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, as it was not our goal to obtain statistical data only but rather, to also examine substantial characteristics like narratives and message-boxes of journalists and/or respondents . More specifically, the following elements of coverage were monitored:

- **Frequency and periodicity**
- **Type and format**
- **Tone** (negative, neutral, positive)
- **Source** (profession, field of specialization of respondents)
- **Gender balance**
- **Discrimination and/or hate speech**
- **Disinformation**
- **Terminology**
- **Resources used by a journalist**
- **Organization Tanadgoma during coverage of sexuality education issues**

In view of the foregoing goals, the monitoring subjects were determined in a way that would allow selection of media outlets that functioned stably during the reporting period (2019), had high popularity ratings and their archived materials were available. As a result, a total of **29 media subjects were included in the study: 5 televisions, 4 radios, 10 online media, 7 newspapers and 3 magazines.**

Televisions were selected based on the 2019 data of a company TVMR.GE that measures television ratings (see figure 1)

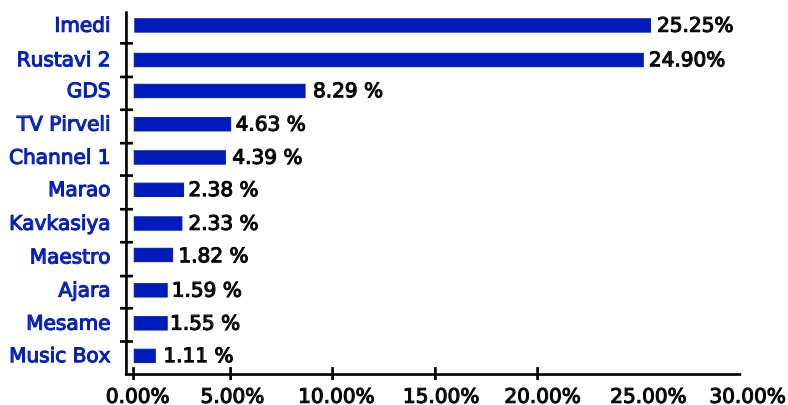


Figure 1 - 2019 data of TVMR.GE

Throughout the year, there were only slight changes in the rankings of the top 10 most popular channels. 5 televisions were selected by taking into account their ratings as well as other factors like availability of their archives and availability of morning, afternoon, news, talk-show and medical programs on the channel. Based on these criteria, **the following channels and programs were selected for the monitoring:**

- **Public Broadcaster** - „New Day“, „In the Afternoon“, „Private Doctor Mari Malazonia“, „Real Space“, „Current Issue with Maka Tsintsadze“, „Moambe“, „New Week“
- **Rustavi 2** - „Good Morning, Georgia“, „Other Afternoon“, „Saturday Afternoon“, „Afternoon Weekly“, „Chief Physician“, „Choice“, „Courier“, „Courier on Saturday“, „P.S.“, „Qronika“, „Qronika on Saturday“, „Imedis Kvira“
- **Ajara TV** - „Morning Wave“, „Radiovision“, „Hashtag“, „Impulse“, „Things to say“, „Weekly Mtavari“.
- **TV Pirveli** - „Stories of the day“, „Pirvelamde with Nino Arazashvili“, „Reaction, „Night Stories“

In addition to TV channels, **4 radios and their programs were also selected for the media monitoring:**

- **Public Radio** – „Rush Hour“, „To Home“, „Our School“, „Open Studio“
- **Radio Imedi** – „Morning Channel“, „Day Channel“, „Evening Channel“, „I am a mother“, „We are here“
- **Radio Tavisupleba** – „Morning Talks“, „Evening Freedom“, „Podcasts“
- **Radio Fortuna** - „Pulse“, „7 tips from a psychologist“

As to online media outlets targeted by the monitoring, they have been selected to represent different editorial policies and formats. In the process of selection, 2019 indicators of ratings portal TOP.GE have been taken into consideration and preference was given to websites with rubrics called „education“. Among them, EDU.ARIS.GE was principally selected as it is the only agency in Georgia that focuses exclusively on issues of education. Remaining 9 media outlets are as follows: Netgazeti.ge, Interpressnews.ge, Ghn.ge, Newposts.ge, Ambebi.ge, Mshoblebi.ge, Radiotavisupleba.ge, Ipress.ge, Saqinform.ge.

Print media outlets were chosen to represent different profiles and levels of circulation. The monitoring mostly targeted magazines and newspapers that have been published for decades in Georgia. They include daily, weekly and monthly publications, a total of 7 newspapers and 3 magazines:

- **New Education** (chosen as a magazine focused on issues of education) – published on a monthly basis
- **Alia** weekly
- **Asaval-Dasavali** weekly
- **Kviris Palitra** weekly
- **New Generation** daily
- **Versia** – published on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- **Rezonansi** daily
- **Sarke** weekly
- **Tbiliselebi** weekly
- **Ojakhis Mkurnali** monthly

Since the present research is based on archived materials of media from 2019, its primary limitation includes shortcomings related to proper functioning of the archives. This limitation concerns 4 subjects of the monitoring – Public Radio, Radio Imedi, TV Pirveli and Ajara TV. Since archived materials of these outlets were monitored using their websites, Facebook pages and YouTube channels, due to their inappropriate functioning and/or a specific way of uploading materials, not all recordings from 2019 were included in the monitoring. In particular, in case of Public Radio, such material included „Information Program“, which is not archived; Radio Imedi does not keep all of its programs in one space, while Adjara TV program called „Morning Wave“ is not available in the archives; Due to certain technical problems, a Facebook page called “დილის ტალღა/Dilis Talga” was created a few times and not all of the 2019 materials are available on it; As to TV Pirveli, there is no archive on the website and only the materials available on a Facebook page “TV Pirveli • ტელეკომპანია პირველი” and the YouTube channel “TV Pirveli” in 2019 were monitored. It should also be noted that the limitation is not as far-reaching as to affect general indicators in any significant way. This only concerns programs that are missing for certain dates.

Chapter 1. Quantitative analysis of the media monitoring results

1.1 General overview of coverage of sexuality education issues

In 2019, media outlets selected for the study prepared a total of 170 materials on sexuality education issues. Their majority was published by online media (80), while the least number of stories was broadcasted on the radio (19), print media published slightly more stories (21), and the remaining 50 media products were aired on TV (see figure 2).

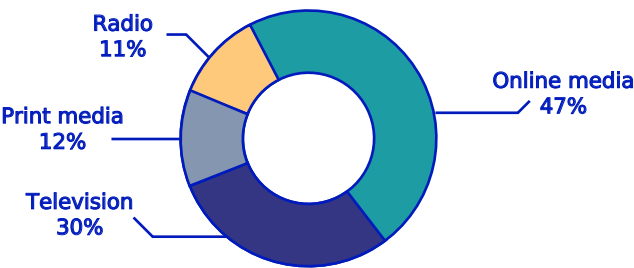


Figure 2 – Coverage of sexuality education issues by the research subjects

Throughout the monitoring period, issues covered by the research were reported at varying intensity, however notably media outlets focused on sexuality education issues in every month. In February-June highest rate of media coverage was found (128), while the peak was in March. Subjects of the research prepared the highest number of materials in March (53). This trend is true for all types of media, with the exception of print media. In fall, the level of coverage increased again but the increase was insignificant. Active media coverage of sexuality education issues in Georgia beginning from February is related to initiation of discussions about the Code on the Rights of the Child in the legislature. In March, parliamentary human rights committee chairperson, Sopho Kiladze put forward a legislative initiative about sexuality education, which was met with intense reactions. As a result, the level of media coverage of sexuality education issues increased. In fall, the topic of the research became relevant once again, in connection to the beginning of the new academic year and the planned initiatives (see figure 3).

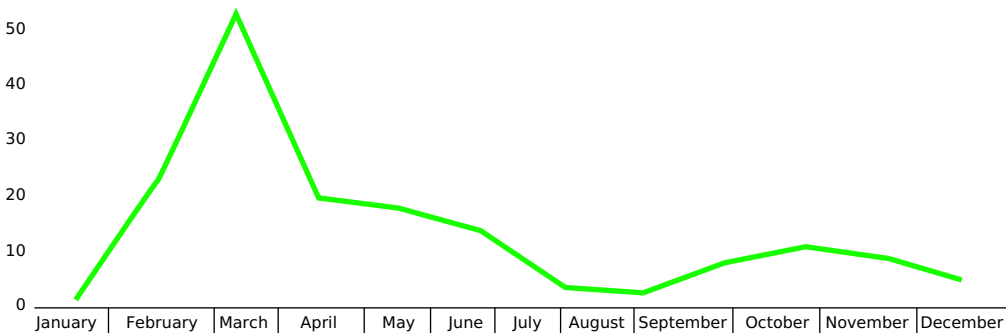


Figure 3 – Frequency and periodicity of coverage of sexuality education issues

During the reporting period, media outlets monitored devoted more time to coverage of sexuality education issues during indirect rather than direct reporting. Among 170 cases of coverage of sexuality education issues, 97 are indirect and 73 are direct. Print media was the only one where direct reporting cases exceeded the number of indirect reporting cases (by 1). In online media, their numbers are equal, while indirect reporting rate was higher than the rate of direct reporting for televisions and radios (see figure 4).

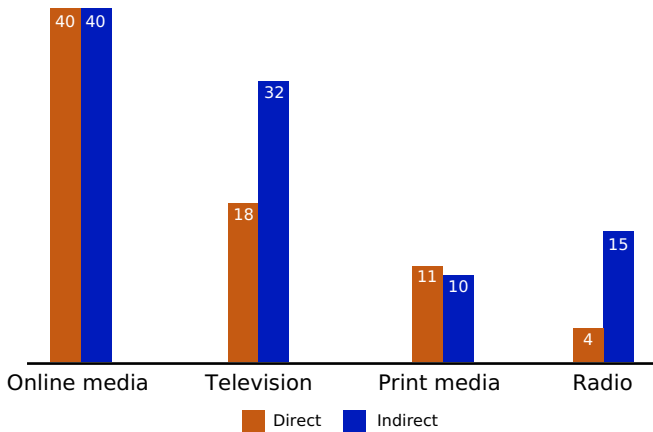


Figure 4 – Types of coverage of sexuality education issues

In 2019, coverage of sexuality education issues was mostly neutral (117). They were covered in a positive light in 38 materials, while in 15 cases the research topic was covered in a negative light. The highest proportion of positive media products (17) was broadcasted by television, while the highest proportion of neutral media products belong to online media. Radio is the only monitoring subject where no negative coverage was found. We found only 1 case of negative coverage on television. Print media published a number of negative materials (8). Notably, the number of negative materials was higher than the number of positive ones (see figure 5).

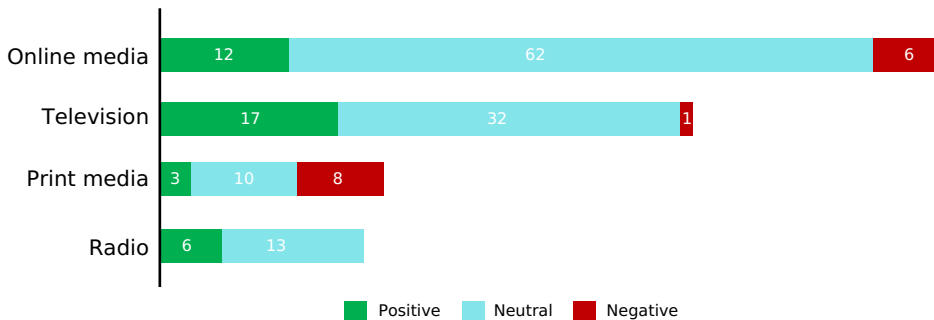


Figure 5- Tone of coverage of sexuality education issues by the research subjects

Media outlets monitored addressed sexuality education issues with assistance of different sources or by engaging in discussions with them. Sources used by them in 2019 were grouped under predetermined categories. It turned out that for discussion of the research issues, media most often turned to society representatives, journalists, politicians, psychologists and NGOs. Respondents also included: field experts, Ministry of Education, doctor, teacher, student, Public Defender’s Office, etc. There was a total of 338 sources. Their majority was used by televisions (166) and online media (122), while radio and print media used 25 sources each.

For the study, gender composition of respondents selected for reporting about sexuality education issues was important, where it was possible to identify them. The results suggest that the research issues were most often discussed by women than men. From 309 respondents, 214 were female and 95 were male. Notably, this is true for all types of media and men were outnumbered by women everywhere (see figure 6).

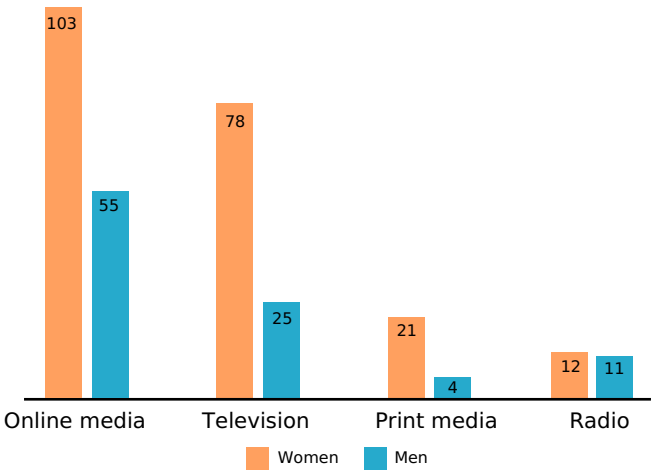


Figure 6 – Sources of sexuality education issues, disaggregated by gender

Notably, in 73 cases of direct reporting about sexuality education issues, gender balance among respondents was observed in 17 cases only. It should also be underlined that this finding does not apply to print media and radio. Gender balance was observed by televisions and online media only. In addition, the highest number of cases (12) of direct reporting was found among televisions, which is twice as many as the cases of indirect reporting. Online media observed the balance only in 5 out of 40 cases (see figure 7).

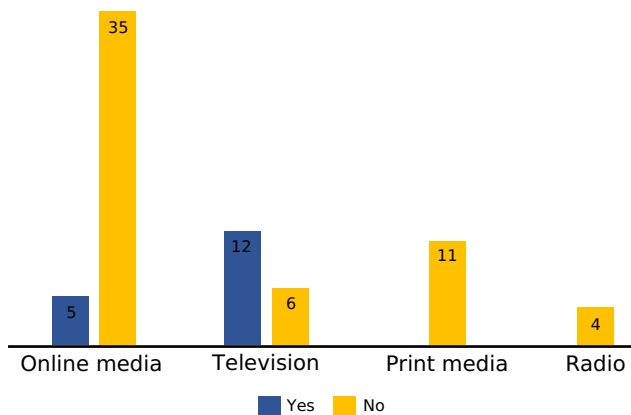


Figure 7 - Gender balance among sources of sexuality education issues

During the reporting period, materials prepared about sexuality education issues were grouped under the following four sub-categories: „The need of sexuality education“, „Sexuality education in schools“, „Protest against sexuality education“ and „Legislative change“. Among these categories, the highest number of materials was prepared on the need of sexuality education (68), while the fewest number of materials concerned protest against sexuality education (23). Notably, radio stations did not devote any airtime to this particular sub-category, which is an exception. For all categories, the highest number of materials was published by online media. For all types of media (with the exception of print media), the sub-categories can be ranked the following way according to the number of materials prepared: the need of sexuality education, sexuality education in schools, legislative change and protest against sexuality education. In addition, online media prepared equal number of materials for the last two categories. As to the print media, it prepared the least number of materials on the need of sexuality education, followed by legislative change, while the highest (and equal) number of materials were prepared on sexuality education in schools and protest against sexuality education (see figure 8).

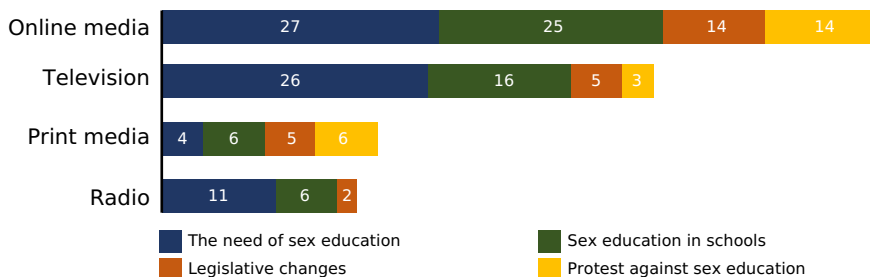


Figure 8 - Coverage of different categories of sexuality education issues by the research subjects

The research also focused on terminology used for reporting about sexuality education issues. It was discovered that the monitored media outlets most often used the following terms to describe the research issues: „sexuality education“, „sexuality upbringing“, „sexuality education“ and „sexual upbringing“. Terms related to reproductive education and human sexuality were also frequent.

1.2 Coverage of sexuality education issues by televisions

Throughout 2019, five televisions monitored aired a total of 50 materials on sexuality education issues. Among them, the highest number of materials (14) were aired by Ajara TV. Public Broadcaster and Imedi TV aired 12 materials each on sexuality education issues, while Rustavi 2 prepared 8 and TV Pirveli prepared 4 (see figure 9).

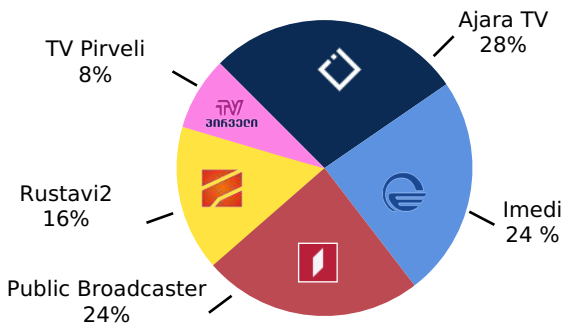


Figure 9 – Coverage of sexuality education issues by televisions

Compared to other months, the highest proportion of coverage of sexuality education issues was found in March and April. The highest number of television materials were prepared during these months, which is directly related to discussions about the Code on the Rights of the Child. The Code initiated by human rights and civil integration committees concern fundamental rights like children’s welfare, security, health, development, education, etc. When speaking about access to education, Sopho Kiladze announced that based on parental consent, children will be able to receive sexuality education in school and clergymen will be able to get involved in the process, which evoked difference of opinion in the society. Televisions began to actively report about this topic during this period (see figure 10). However, it should be noted that Ajara TV reported about the topic in May and the Public Broadcaster in June, upon their own initiatives and it was not related to ongoing developments.

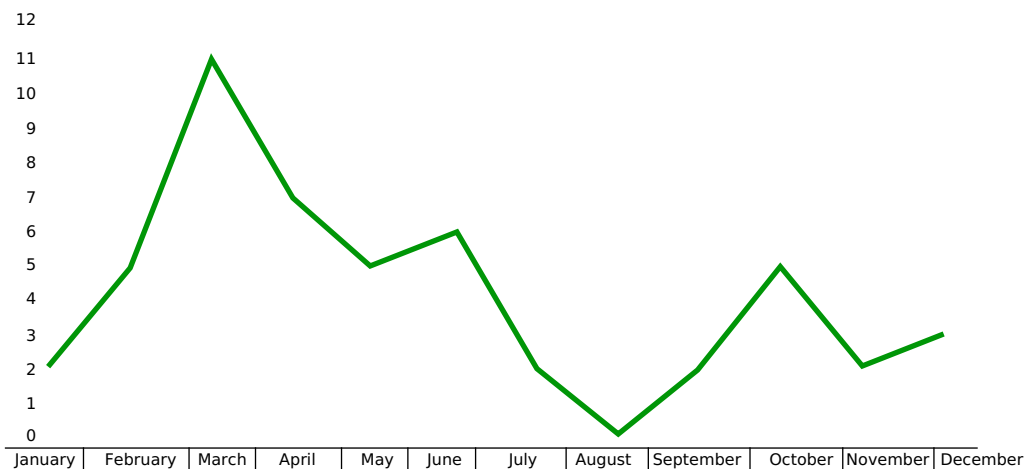


Figure 10 – Frequency and periodicity of coverage of sexuality education issues by televisions

In addition to the regularity of coverage, the study also aimed to find out what type of programs addressed sexuality education issues. It was discovered that the televisions monitored most often devoted time to our research topic during afternoon programs. From 50 materials, 20 were an afternoon program, 9 – news program, 8 – specialized or medical program, 7 – talk show and 6 – morning show (see figure 11). It should also be noted that the topic was not covered at all by Ajara TV and Imedi TV talk-shows, Public Broadcaster’s morning program, Rustavi 2 medical program and TV Pirveli news program. The latter did not have a specialized medical program. Notably, among all television programs, the highest number of materials on sexuality education issues was prepared by Ajara TV program called „Hashtag“ (8 materials). When we compared programs on each channel, we discovered that on Imedi TV the research issues were most frequently covered by Imedis Dge program aired in the afternoon, on the Public Broadcaster – by a talk-show called „Current Issue with Maka Tsintsadze“, on Rustavi 2 – by an afternoon program „Other Afternoon.“

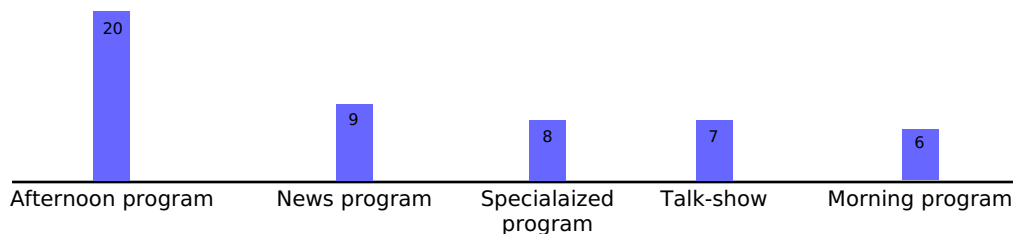


Figure 11 – Coverage of sexuality education issues by different types of programs

To analyze and understand the monitoring results more effectively, sexuality education issues were thematically divided into 4 categories: “The need of sexuality education”, “Sexuality education in schools”, “Legislative change” and “Protest against sexuality education”. Among them, the highest number of materials (28) concerned the need of sexuality education and they were covered in all types of programs except for news programs. The issue of introducing sexuality education in schools was also discussed often (see table 1).

The need of sexuality education	28
Sexuality education in schools	16
Legislative change	5
Protest against sexuality education	3

Table N1 – Coverage of sexuality education issues by televisions

As to the format of coverage, throughout 2019 televisions mostly devoted program blocs to the foregoing issues. 46% of their materials are exactly that. The topic was also covered in the form of an entire program or report. Interestingly, these issues got lengthy airtime and only a few instances of short voice-overs or the format of overlap (see figure 12) were found. As an example, Ajara TV and Rustavi 2 did not use such formats at all to report about the research topic. Imedi TV did not dedicate an entire program to the topic at all, while TV Pirveli did not prepare a single story, overlap or short voice-over and the topic was mostly discussed during a program or a program bloc.

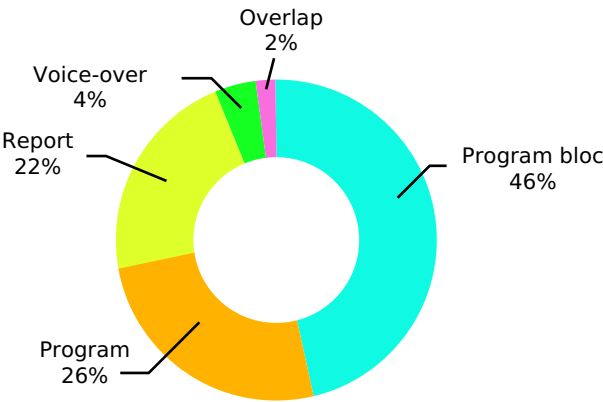


Figure 12 – Format of coverage of sexuality education issues by televisions

An important component of the media monitoring was to determine whether the sexuality education issues were reported directly or indirectly by televisions. The results suggest that the topic was mostly covered indirectly. From 50 materials, 32 are indirect coverages and 18 are direct coverages. In that regard, there is an interesting difference among televisions. More specifically, Ajara TV's coverage was mostly direct, while coverage of Imedi TV, TV Pirveli and Public Broadcaster was mostly indirect, and indirect and direct coverages on Rustavi 2 were equal (4 each). Here we must also note the tone of the materials. On the most part, the tone was neutral (see figure 13).

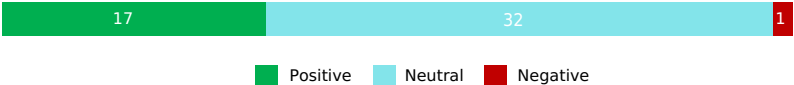


Figure 13 - Tone of coverage of sexuality education issues by televisions

However, important differences were found when comparing tones of indirect and direct coverages. During direct coverage, on the most part, sexuality education issues were reported positively by televisions, while during indirect coverage the tone was almost always neutral (28 materials). In addition, there was only one case of negative indirect coverage, while during direct coverage negative tone was not found in any of the materials (see figure 14). When analyzing tone of each television, it was discovered that Ajara TV had the highest number of positive coverages (7), while Imedi TV had the highest number of neutral coverages (10). One case of negative coverage was discovered on the Public Broadcaster. TV Pirveli coverage was only neutral.

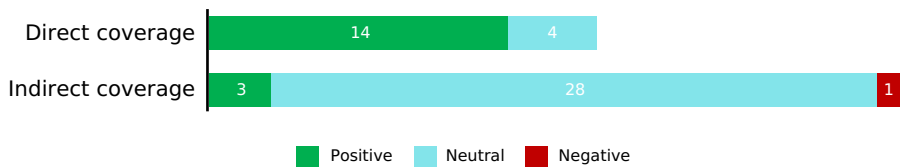


Figure 14 – Tone of sexuality education issues during direct and indirect coverages

Regardless of whether the coverage was direct or indirect, for 50 materials aired by televisions 166 sources were identified. Among them, 143 were direct and 43 were indirect sources. Sexuality education issues were most often discussed on television by: society representatives, journalists, psychologists, politicians, field experts, students, NGOs, doctors and teachers. During indirect coverage, source was mostly the society, while during direct coverage journalists themselves were the source (see figure 15).

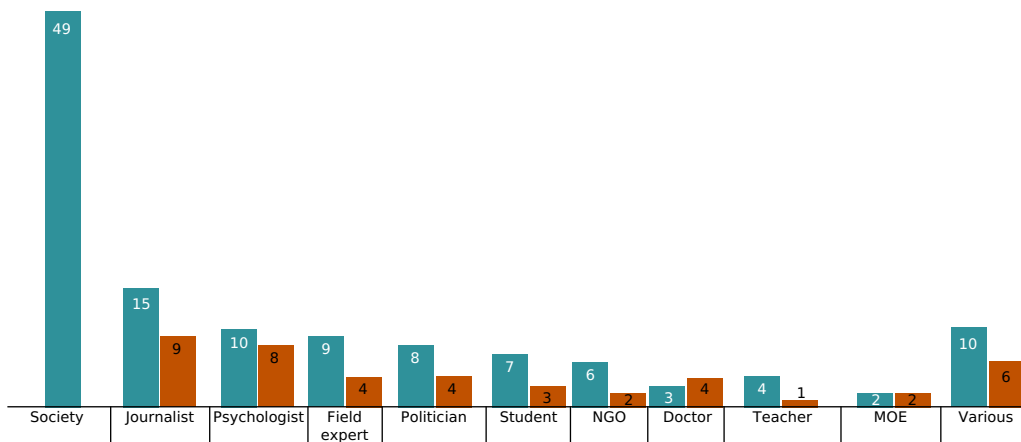


Figure 15 – Sources of information for televisions for coverage of sexuality education issues

Majority of information sources talked about the need of sexuality education (91) and teaching of sexuality education in schools (58). In addition, during direct coverage these two sub-categories were most often talked about by society representatives and journalists. Television sources for discussing the need of sexuality education did not include politicians, clergymen or representatives of the Ministry of Education. Notably, clergymen were a source for discussions on introducing sexuality education in schools and on legislative change. During direct and indirect coverage, psychologists and experts mostly discussed the need of sexuality education. Interestingly, students were a source of information during direct and indirect coverage about the need of sexuality education. However, none of the televisions interviewed parents about this topic (see figure 16). We found slight differences among sources of televisions. For example, the highest number of politicians as a source was found on Imedi TV, the highest number of students as a source was found on Adjara TV, doctors – on the Public Broadcaster and NGO representatives - on Rustavi 2.

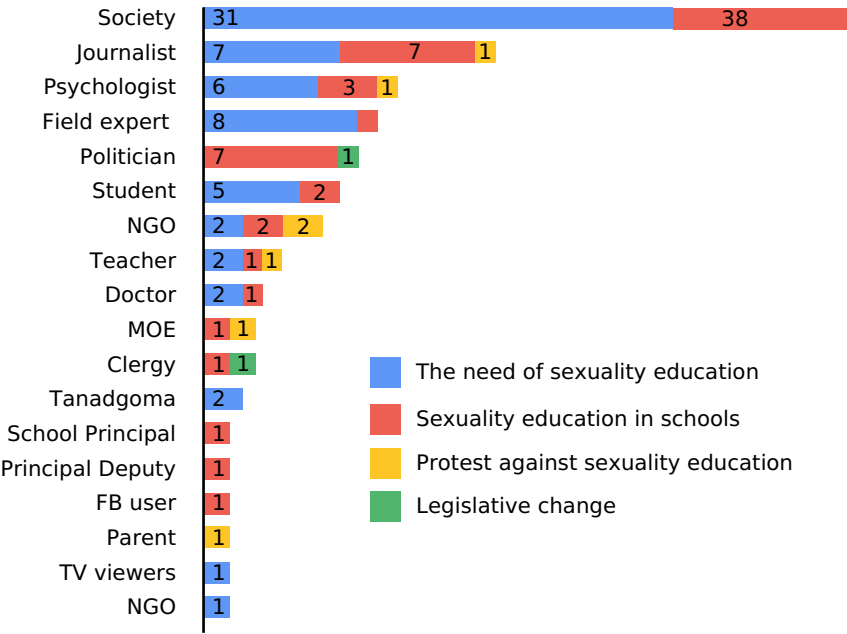


Figure 16 – Television sources for direct coverage of sexuality education issues

In addition to determining the source of information for media coverage of sexuality education issues, it was also important for the monitoring to determine sex of respondents. Among respondents of 5 selected televisions, 103 were women and 55 were men. Ajara TV had recorded majority of these respondents (70), both female (47) and male (23). On TV Pirveli and Public Broadcaster women and men talked about the issues mostly during indirect coverage, while on Rustavi 2 and Ajara TV female and male respondents were almost equally represented for both types of coverage (see figure 17). From 5 televisions, TV Pirveli had the fewest respondents, which directly correlates to the number of materials prepared by the television during the year. More specifically, from the selected televisions TV Pirveli devoted the least time to coverage of the research topic.

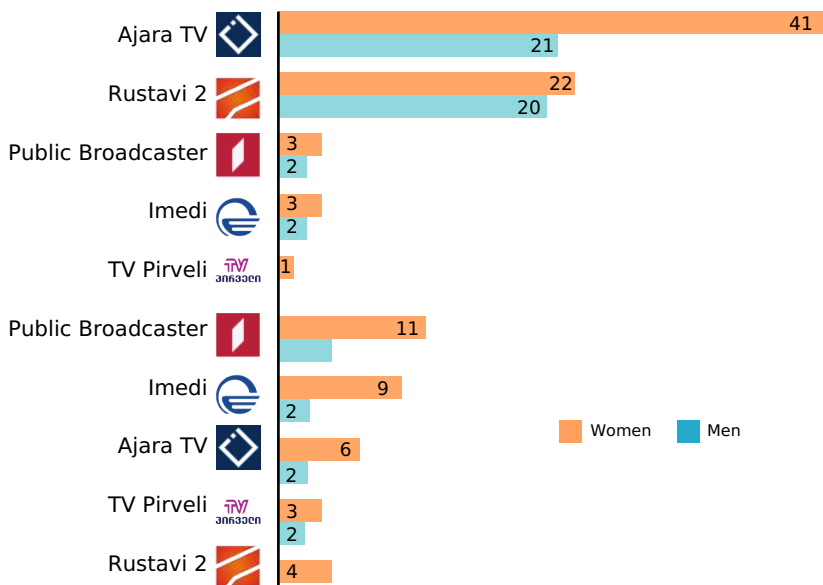


Figure 17 – Sex of the respondents during direct and indirect coverage of sexuality education issues by televisions

During direct and indirect coverage, majority of respondents of both sexes talked about the need of sexuality education and teaching of sexuality education in schools. During coverage of protest against sexuality education, 7 respondents were female and 3 were male (see table 2).

	Women	Men
The need of sexuality education	57	31
Sexuality education in schools	36	17
Protest against sexuality education	7	3
Legislative change	3	4

Table 2 – Sex of the respondents during coverage of sexuality education issues by televisions

To study gender balance of respondents for 5 selected televisions, we analyzed only cases of direct coverage of sexuality education issues as on the most part, during indirect coverage media sources talked about the research issues on their own initiative or due to the ongoing developments. In this case, we cannot require media to observe a gender balance in the process of selection of respondents. Gender balance was observed in 12 out of 18 cases of direct coverage of the research issues (see figure 18).

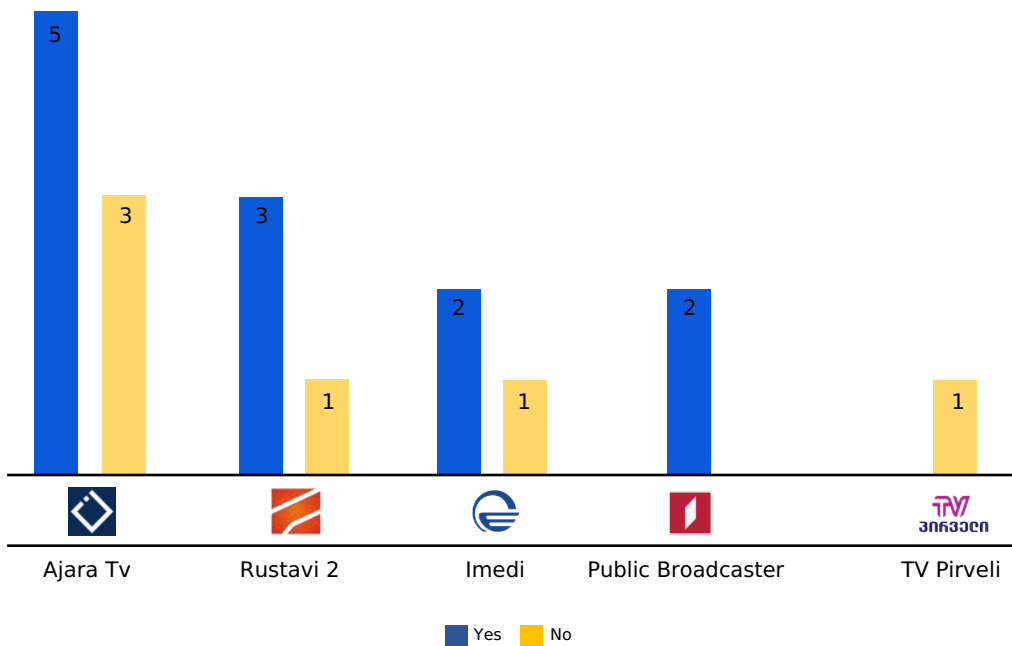
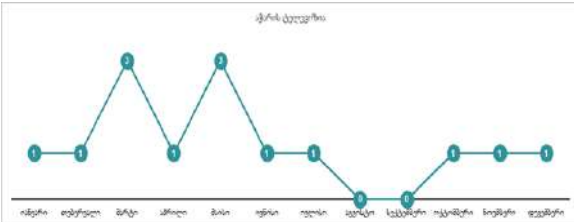
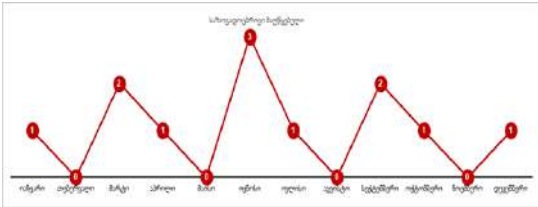
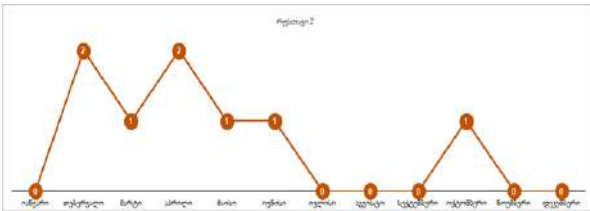


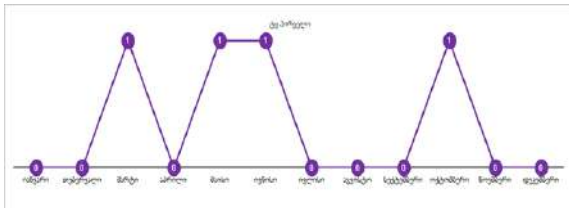
Figure 18 – Gender balance during direct coverage of sexuality education issues by televisions

Number of coverages		14									
The highest frequency and period of coverage											
Type of programs and number of coverages:	<table><tr><td>Afternoon show</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Specialized program</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Morning show</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>News</td><td>1</td></tr></table>			Afternoon show	8	Specialized program	4	Morning show	1	News	1
Afternoon show	8										
Specialized program	4										
Morning show	1										
News	1										
Programs that covered the research issues the most	Hashtag	8									
	Impulse	4									
Which subcategory was covered and how many times	The need of sexuality education		10								
	Sexuality education in schools		4								
Format of coverage	Program bloc	Program	Story								
Type of coverage	Direct	8									
	Indirect	6									
Tone of coverage	Positive - 7	Neutral - 7									
Source of coverage	Society	Teacher									
	Psychologist	Expert									
Sex of respondents	Women - 47										
Gender balance during direct coverage	Yes - 5	No - 3									
Frequently used terms	Sexuality education										
	Sexual upbringing										
	Sexuality education										

Number of coverages	12		
The highest frequency and period of coverage	<p>Line graph showing the frequency of coverage over time. The x-axis represents months from January to December. The y-axis represents frequency. The graph shows a peak in March (frequency 4) and a secondary peak in November (frequency 3).</p>		
Type of programs and number of coverages	Afternoon show Morning show News Specialized program	<p>Horizontal bar chart showing the number of coverages for different program types. Afternoon show: 5, Morning show: 4, News: 2, Specialized program: 1.</p>	
Programs that covered the research issues the most	Imedis Dge	5	
	Imedis Dila	3	
Which subcategory was covered and how many times	The need of sexuality education	5	
	Sexuality education in schools	3	
	Legislative change	3	
	Protest against sexuality education	1	
Format of coverage	Program bloc	Story	
	Short voice-over	Overlap	
Type of coverage	Direct - 3	Indirect - 9	
Tone of coverage	Positive - 2	Neutral - 10	
Source of coverage	Politician	Journalist	Psychologist
Sex of respondents	Women - 12	Men - 4	
Gender balance during direct coverage	Yes - 2	No - 1	
Frequently used terms	Sex education	Sexual upbringing	Sexuality education

Number of coverages		12									
The highest frequency and period of coverage											
Type of programs and number of coverages	<table><tr><td>Talk Show</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>News</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Specialized program</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Afternoon show</td><td>1</td></tr></table>			Talk Show	4	News	4	Specialized program	3	Afternoon show	1
Talk Show	4										
News	4										
Specialized program	3										
Afternoon show	1										
Programs that covered the research issues the most	Current Issue with Maka Tsintsadze		4								
	Private Doctor Mari Malazonia		3								
	Moambe		3								
Which subcategory was covered and how many times	The need of sexuality education		5								
	Sexuality education in schools		5								
	Legislative change		2								
Format of coverage	Program	Story									
	Program bloc	Short voice-over									
Type of coverage	Direct - 2		Indirect - 10								
Tone of coverage	Positive 5	Neutral 10	Negative 1								
Source of coverage	Journalist	Psychologist	Doctor								
Sex of respondents	Women - 14		Men - 6								
Gender balance during direct coverage	Yes - 2										
Frequently used terms	Sex education										

Number of coverages		8									
The highest frequency and period of coverage											
Type of programs and number of coverages	<table><tr><td>Afternoon show</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>News</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Morning show</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Talk Show</td><td>1</td></tr></table>			Afternoon show	4	News	2	Morning show	1	Talk Show	1
Afternoon show	4										
News	2										
Morning show	1										
Talk Show	1										
Programs that covered the research issues the most	Other Afternoon	4									
Which subcategory was covered and how many times	The need of sexuality education		5								
	Sexuality education in schools		3								
	Protest against sexuality education		3								
Format of coverage	Program bloc	Story	Program								
Type of coverage	Direct - 4	Indirect- 4									
Tone of coverage	Positive - 3	Neutral - 5									
Source of coverage	Society	NGO									
	Journalist	Expert									
	Psychologist										
Sex of respondents	Women - 26	Men - 20									
Gender balance during direct coverage	Yes - 3	No - 1									
Frequently used terms	Sex education	Sexuality education									

Number of coverages		4	
The highest frequency and period of coverage			
Type of programs and number of coverages	Talk Show	2	
	Afternoon show	2	
Programs that covered the research issues the most	Pirvelamde with Nino Arazashvili 2		
Which subcategory was covered and how many times	The need of sexuality education		2
	Sexuality education in schools		1
	Protest against sexuality education		1
Format of coverage	Program bloc	Program	
Type of coverage	Direct - 1	Indirect - 3	
Tone of coverage	Neutral - 4		
Source of coverage	Journalist	Politician	
Sex of respondents	Women - 4	Men - 2	
Gender balance during direct coverage	No - 1		
Frequently used terms	Sexuality education		

1.3 Radio coverage of sexuality education issues

During the monitoring period, radios prepared a total of 19 materials on sexuality education. From 4 radios monitored, majority of products (12) belong to Imedi, 4 – to the Public Radio, 2 – to Radio Tavisupleba and the least number of products was aired on Fortuna (see figure 19).

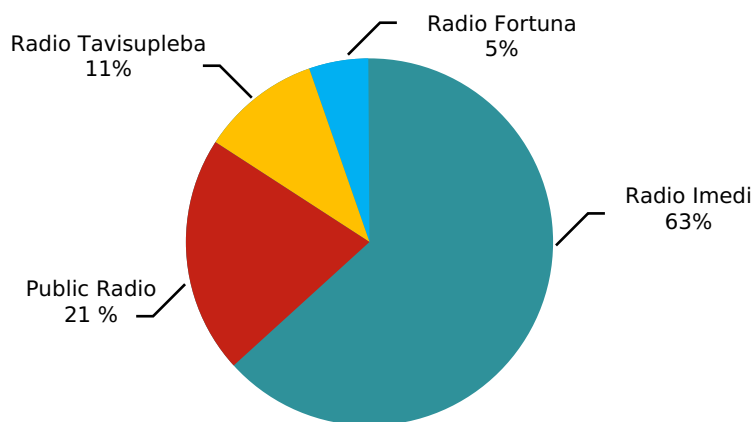


Figure 19 – Radio coverage of sexuality education issues

Notably, in 2019 Radio Imedi aired a project prepared in partnership with Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health - Tanadgoma, called „Message – Healthy Lifestyle“. 4 programs prepared within this project addressed our research issues.

As to frequency and periodicity of sexuality education coverage, the highest number of materials (10) was aired by these radios in February and March and later in September (3). These three materials concerned introduction of a new subject called Citizenship in the context of strengthening civic education in schools, beginning from the new academic year, and existence of a subject „Society and I“ in primary grades. In February and March, Radio Imedi had the highest rate of coverage of the research issues (7), which as noted earlier is connected to the project prepared in partnership with the organization Tanadgoma. 3 programs were aired within this project. Also in February and March, two different radios (Radio Imedi, Radio Tavisupleba) prepared 1 material each on discussions about the Code on the Rights of the Child. During 5 different months of 2019, radios did not cover sexuality education-related issues at all (see figure 20).

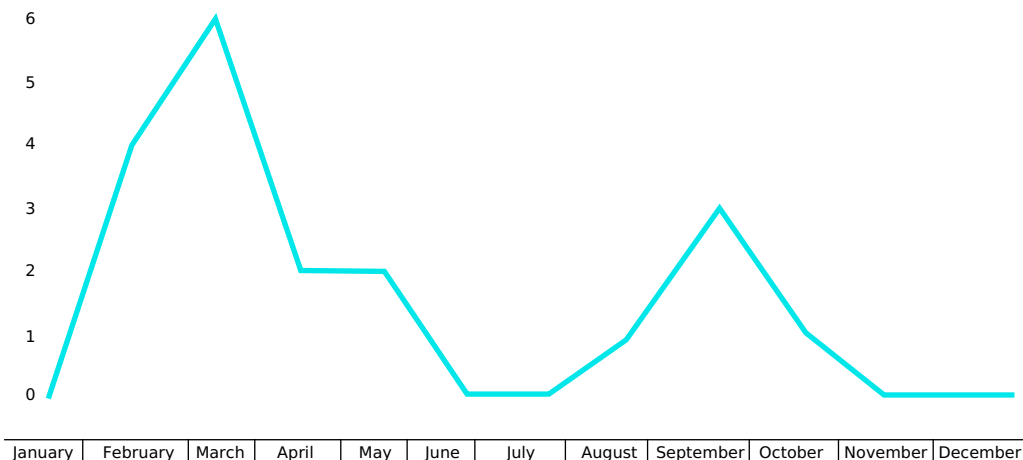


Figure 20 – Frequency and periodicity of radio coverage of sexuality education issues

During the monitoring period, radios covered the topic of sexuality education in different types of programs, using different formats. The highest number of media products (7) were aired during morning programs, 6 – during specialized programs, 4 – during afternoon programs, 1 – during evening program and 1 – during news program. Among morning programs, the highest number of media products on sexuality education issues (6) were aired by Radio Imedi, during Morning Channel. Among them, 4 were aired within a project „Message -Healthy Lifestyle“. Among specialized programs, the highest number of materials (4) were aired during Imedi TV program called „I am a mother“. As noted earlier, Radio Fortuna covered the research topic only once, during a specialized program called „7 tips from a psychologist.“ Notably, in 10 cases the research topic was covered in the format of a program bloc, and in 8 cases – in the format of an entire program. It was covered in format of news only once, during a news program of Radio Tavisupleba. Most programs (3) and program blocs (6) belong to Radio Imedi’s „I am a mother“ and „Morning Channel“.

Radios monitored within this study cover sexuality education issues mostly indirectly. Among a total of 19 instances of coverage, 15 addressed the issues indirectly and only 4 addressed them directly. In addition, Radio Fortuna covered the research topic only once and directly. The Public Radio has not covered sexuality education issues directly. The topic was indirectly addressed on the radio 4 times. Radio Tavisupleba covered the research topic both directly and indirectly, 1 time each. Imedi covered the research topic the highest number of times – both indirectly (10) and directly (2) (see figure 21).

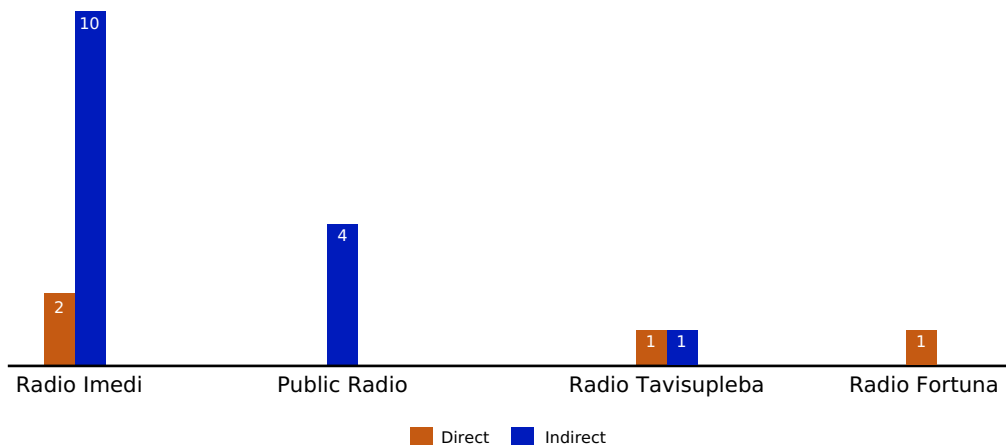


Figure 21 – Type of coverage of sexuality education issues by radios

Radios mostly covered sexuality education issues in a neutral (13) manner. Notably, during the monitoring period they didn't cover the research issues negatively at all, while the number of positive coverages was 6. Among them, majority (5) belongs to Radio Imedi, 1 belongs to Radio Fortuna. Radio Tavisupleba and the Public Radio covered sexuality education issues only a neutral tone (see figure 22).

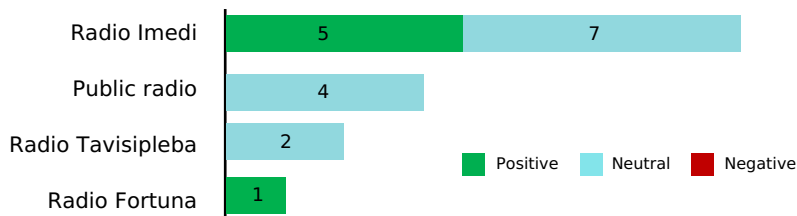


Figure 22 – Tone of coverage of sexuality education issues by radios

Radios are using different sources for reporting about sexuality education issues. These sources can be grouped under certain categories. The monitoring subjects did not use diverse sources for direct coverage. Radio Fortuna and Radio Tavisupleba had 1 source each. In the former case – the source was a psychologist and in the latter case the source was the journalist herself. Radio Imedi had the following two sources: doctor and Tanadgoma. As to sources for indirect coverage, they are relatively diverse. However, most often (9) journalists themselves were the sources. This is true for all three radios [Radio Fortuna didn't have an indirect coverage]. Additionally, Radio Tavisupleba sources for direct and indirect coverage included only journalists and they didn't have other respondents. Radio Tavisupleba had a journalist as a source the highest number of times (4). Radio Imedi stood out with diversity of sources (7 categories), followed by the Public Radio with 5 categories (see table 3).

	Radio Imedi	Public Radio	Radio Tavisupleba	Radio Fortuna
Journalist	3	2	5	
Psychologist	1			1
Field expert	2			
Public Defender's Office	2			
Tanadgoma	2			
Ministry of Education	1	1		
Author of a book		1		
Teacher		1		
Doctor	1			
Director	1			
NGO		1		

Table N3 – Sources of direct and indirect coverage of sexuality education issues on the radio

It was important for the present study to identify sex of sources selected by the radios. Majority of respondents for indirect and direct coverage of sexuality education issues were women (21), only 4 respondents were men. Radio Tavisupleba and Radio Fortuna didn't have a male respondent at all. Over a half of female respondents (11) are sources of Radio Imedi. Among them, 10 women were interviewed during indirect coverage of the research topic. During direct coverage, 1 source was a woman and another was a man (see figure 23).

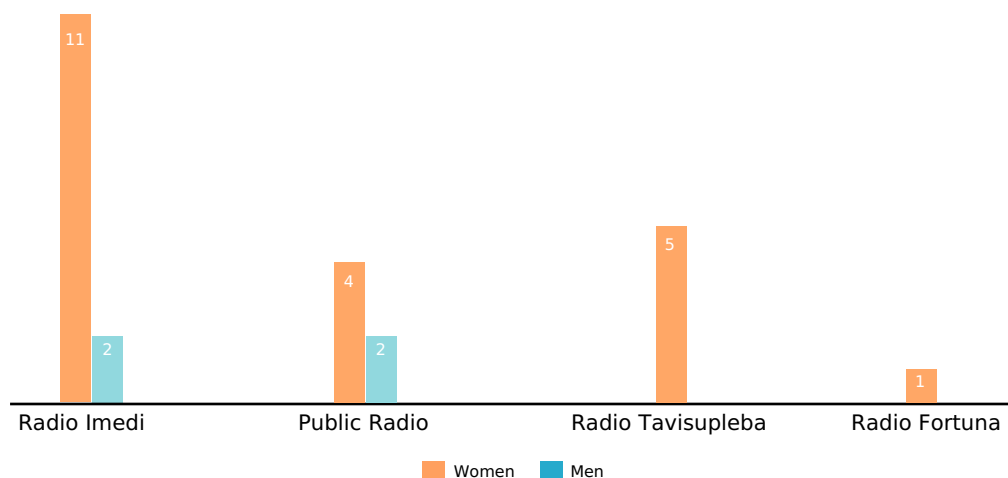


Figure 23 – Sources for coverage of sexuality education issues on the radio, disaggregated by sex

Notably, during all instances of direct coverage of sexuality education issues (4), sex balance was not observed among the respondents in any of the cases.

During the monitoring period, radios reported about different issues of sexuality education, which were grouped under the following pre-determined categories: „Sexuality education in schools“, „The need of sexuality education“, „Protest against sexuality education“ and „Legislative change.“ Notably, the radios monitored did not cover stories about protest against sexuality education. The highest number of the sub-categories (3) were addressed by Radio Imedi, while the need of sexuality education was addressed by the highest number of materials (11). Radio Imedi covered this topic 8 times, including during specialized programs (4 times). The remaining 3 materials were aired by the Public Radio, Radio Tavisupleba and Radio Fortuna. In addition, Radio Fortuna covered only this topic. Legislative change related to sexuality education, i.e., amendments to the Code on the Rights of the Child were covered only two times by Radio Tavisupleba and Radio Imedi. The story was not reported by the Public Radio and Fortuna at all. Teaching of sexuality education in schools was covered by only two of the monitoring subjects: the Public Radio and Radio Imedi, and 6 materials were prepared about this topic (distributed evenly between the two radios). All three programs of Radio Imedi were aired in the morning (see figure 24).

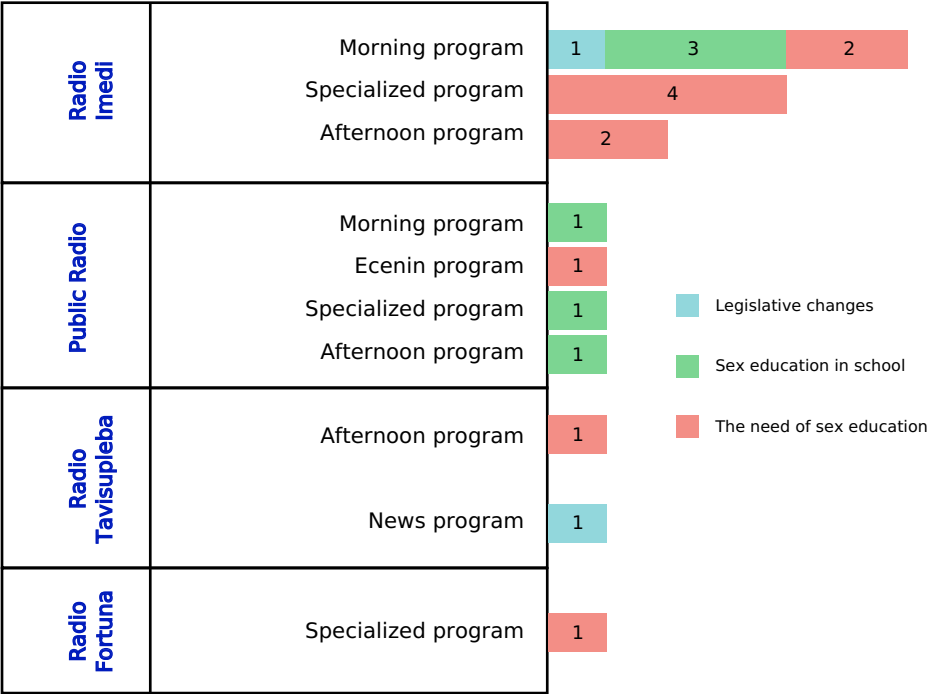


Figure 24 – Radio coverage of sexuality education issues

In the reporting period, radios reported issues related to sexuality education in schools only indirectly, while issues related to legislative change were covered directly (once) and indirectly (once) by Radio Imedi and Radio Tavisupleba, respectively. The highest number of direct coverages concerned the need of sexuality education (3) and this topic was covered indirectly 8 times.

In 2019, the only issue covered positively by the radios was the need of sexuality education. Among 11 media products prepared about this topic, 6 had a positive tone and the remaining 5 had a neutral tone. Majority of positive materials (5) was aired by Imedi Radio and 1 by Radio Fortuna. The Public Radio and Radio Tavisupleba prepared 1 material each about the topic, with a neutral tone. All 6 materials about teaching of sexuality education in schools had a neutral tone. Materials prepared by Radio Imedi and Radio Tavisupleba about the legislative change (one material each) also had a neutral tone (see figure 25).

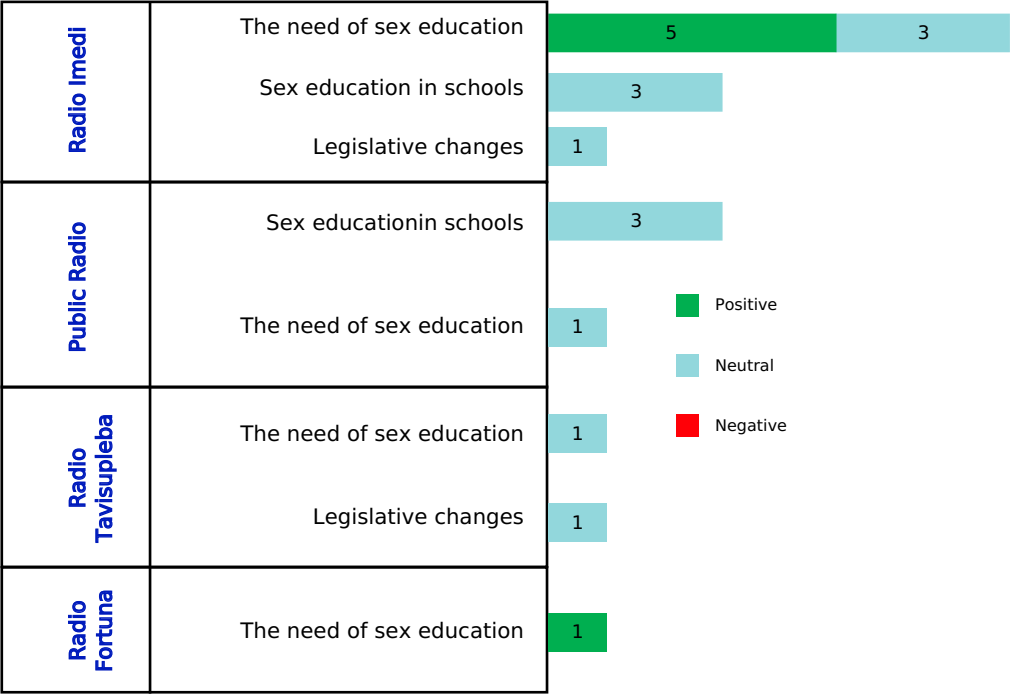


Figure 25 – Tone of coverage of sexuality education issues by the radios

In both of these materials, only women (1-1) were talking about the legislative change, while men did not talk about this issue on Radio Imedi or Radio Tavisupleba at all. Generally, only Radio Imedi and Public Radio had male respondents, 2 times each. Male respondents equally (1-1) talked about the need of sexuality education

and issues related to sexuality equitation in schools on both radios. Sources of Radio Fortuna and Radio Tavisupleba were only women, they didn't have male respondents at all. All four radios had 21 female respondents and their majority (15) talked about the need of sexuality education. Women talked about the need of sexuality education the most on Radio Imedi (8) and Radio Tavisupleba (4). They talked about sexuality education in schools on Radio Imedi and Public Radio, 2 times each (see figure 26).

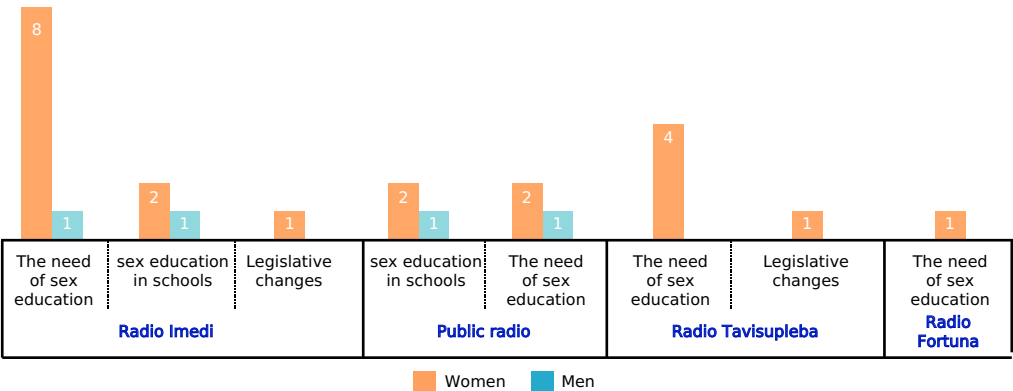


Figure 26 – Sources of sexuality education issues for the radios, disaggregated by sex

Both women who talked about the legislative change were journalists. 15 women that talked about the need of sexuality education included: journalists (7), representatives of the Public Defender’s Office (2), field experts (2), psychologists (2), representatives of NGOs (1) and Tanadgoma (1). This particular sub-category stood out with diversity of sources (see table 4).

	The need of sexuality education	Sexuality education n schools	Legislative change
Journalist	8		2
Public Defender’s Office	2		
Field expert	2		
Psychologist	2		
Tanadgoma	1	1	
Ministry of Education		2	
NGO	1		
Doctor	1		
Author of a book		1	
Director		1	
Teacher		1	

Table 4 – Sources for coverage of sexuality education issues by the radios

1.4 Coverage of sexuality education issues by online media

Throughout 2019, 10 online media outlets that are subjects of this research published a total of 80 materials about issues of sexuality education. The highest number of materials was prepared by netgazeti.ge (18), followed by radiotavisupleba.ge and edu.aris.ge (11 and 10 materials, respectively), and interpressnews.ge, newposts.ge and AMBEBI.GE (8 materials each); Mshoblebi.ge prepared 7 materials, iPress.ge – 6, and the fewest materials were prepared by saqinform.ge. Notably, during the monitoring period, GHN.ge did not publish any material at all about the research topic (see figure 27).

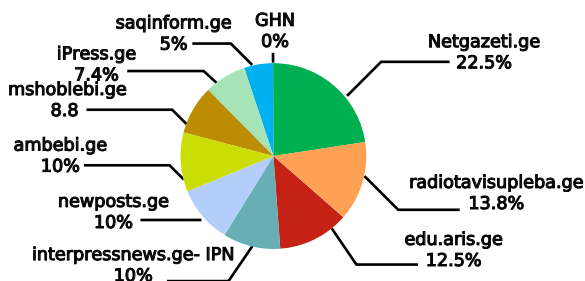


Figure 27 – Coverage of sexuality education issues by online media

As to frequency and periodicity of coverage of sexuality education issues, during the twelve months of 2019, online media did not devote any time to it only in January. In the remaining period, the highest number of materials (32) was published in March. This was related to discussions of the Code on the Rights of the Child. Among online media outlets, netgazeti.ge reported about the research issues most often during 8 different months of 2019; coverage by interpressnews.ge is spread over the period of 7 different months, and by radiotavisupleba.ge and edu.aris.ge – over the period of 6 months, while iPress.ge covered issues of sexuality education during 2 months only (see figure 28).

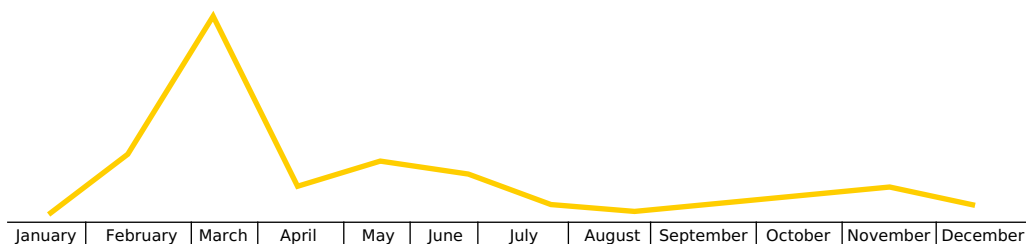


Figure 28 – Frequency and periodicity of coverage of sexuality education issues by online media

During the monitoring period, media covered issues of sexuality education in different forms. In over half of these cases (44) news stories were prepared about these issues. Online media also published 26 articles, 5 interviews, 4 videos and 1 blog that belongs to raditavosipleba.ge. It covered the research issues in all forms of coverage, except interviews. Mshoblebi.ge offered to readers all types of materials

about these issues, except a blog. iPress.ge produced only news about the research topic. Among online media outlets, the highest number of articles (7) on sexuality education issues were published by radiotavisupleba.ge, the highest number of news stories (10) was published by netgazeti.ge, interviews were published by netgazeti.ge and mshoblebi.ge (two by each), while the highest number of videos (2) belongs to radiotavisupleba.ge (see figure 29).

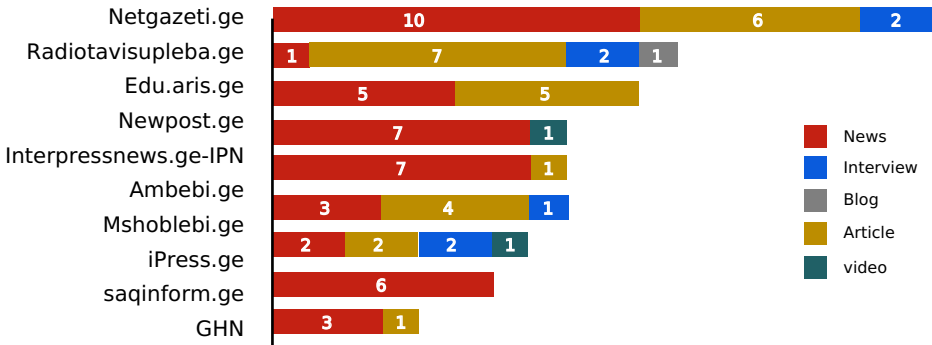


Figure 29 – Forms of coverage of sexuality education issues by online media

80 materials published by online media on sexuality education issues included equal numbers of direct and indirect coverage (40-40). Indicators of direct and indirect coverage are equal (9-9) for netgazeti.ge, while for other media outlets there is some difference between these numbers. Edu.aris.ge and newposts.ge covered these issues only directly, while indirect coverage is not evident in any of the media outlets. In addition, edu.aris.ge has the highest rate of direct coverage (10), while interpressnews.ge and saqinform.ge have the lowest (1 each). Notably, with the exception of netgazeti.ge, all media outlets with indirect coverage tended to cover sexuality education issues more indirectly than directly. Interpressnews.ge has the highest rate of indirect coverage (7) after netgazeti.ge, which is 7 times more than direct coverage (1). Indirect coverage by saqinform.ge is 3 times higher than direct one (see figure 30).

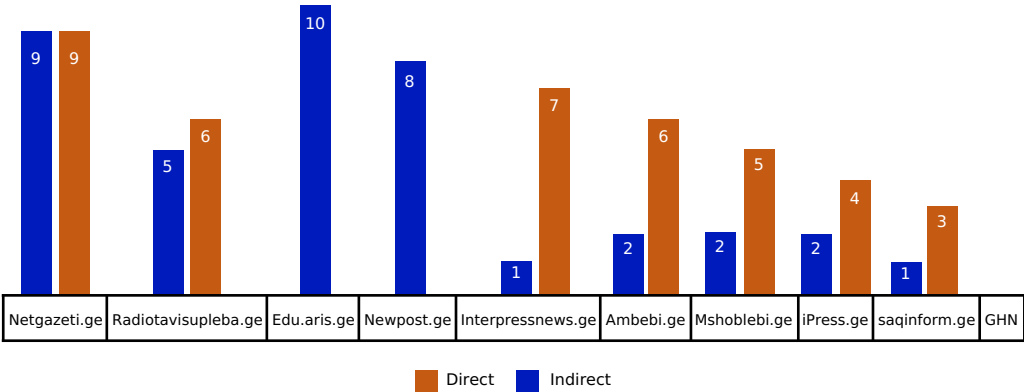


Figure 30 – Types of coverage of sexuality education issues by online media

In 2019, coverage of sexuality education issues by online media was mostly neutral. From a total of 80 materials, 62 have been covered in a neutral way. 12 have a positive tone, 6 have a negative one. Half of the negative materials (3) were published by saqinform.ge, the rest was published by newposts.ge, interpressnews.ge and mshoblebi.ge (1 by each). In addition, mshoblebi.ge and newposts.ge have used all three tones of coverage. iPress.ge is the only outlet among those monitored that covered the research issues in a neutral manner. The highest number of positive materials (4) were published by edu.aris.ge. Saqinform.ge, iPress.ge and interpressnews.ge have not published any positive material (see figure 31).

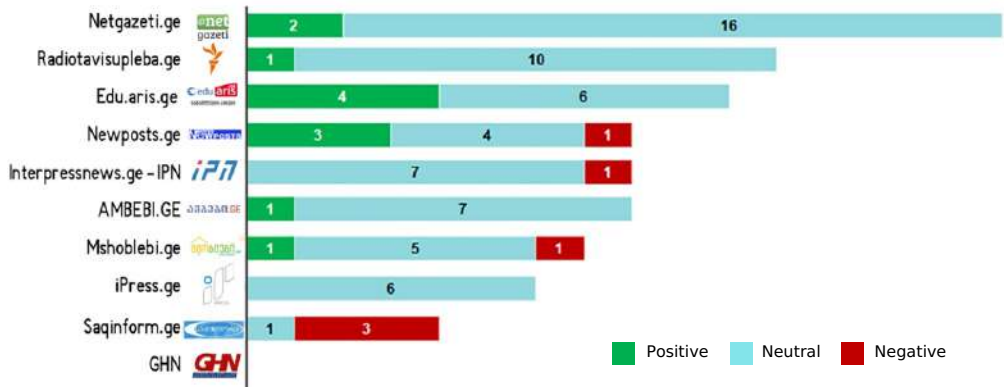


Figure 31 – Tone of coverage of sexuality education issues by online media

Notably, sexuality education issues were covered by online media with a positive tone mostly during direct coverage. From a total of 12 materials with a positive tone, 9 are instances of direct coverage. The research issues were covered with a negative tone mostly during indirect coverage. From a total of 6 negative materials, 5 are instances of indirect coverage.

Online media relied on various sources for coverage of sexuality education issues. A total of 122 sources were grouped under 15 categories. Majority of respondents included: politicians (22), NGOs (17), journalists (16), psychologists (12), representatives of the Ministry of Education and public (10). Notably, all representatives of the society (10) were sources of radiotavisupleba.ge. None of the politicians were sources of mshoblebi.ge. Students were sources of only mshoblebi.ge and edu.aris.ge (1 each). Teachers were only among respondents of edu.aris.ge (2) and newposts.ge. Next to these media outlets, ambebi.ge also stood out with diversity of its sources. Among the monitoring subjects, the following had largest numbers of respondents: radiotavisupleba.ge, edu.aris.ge, netgazeti.ge, newposts.ge and ambebi.ge Majority of sources (81) were interviewed for direct coverage of sexuality education issues and their number is almost twice the number of respondents for indirect coverage (41). Notably, among the sources, only clergymen (3) and teach

ers (3) were speaking during direct coverage. They didn't speak about the topic indirectly. Unlike them, international organizations (3) were only the sources for indirect coverage. The remaining respondents were interviewed during both direct and indirect coverage. Among them, indicators of indirect and direct coverage for the Ministry of Education (5-5) and students (1-1) are equal.

During discussions about sexuality education issues, it is important to know sex of sources selected by online media. Based on the cases where sex of respondents could be identified, it was discovered that women (78) talked more often about the research issues than men (25). In addition, 4 media outlets: netgazeti.ge, interpressnews.ge, iPress.ge, saqinform.ge didn't have male respondents at all. Among 5 online media outlets that had male respondents, the highest number of male respondents (8) belongs to radiotavisupleba.ge. The same outlet also had the highest number of female (18) respondents. In addition, all subjects of the research had at least 1 female respondent [except ghn.ge, since it did not cover the research topic at all]. Notably, majority of the women (51) discussed sexuality education issues during direct coverage (see figure 32). Mshoblebi.ge is the only media outlet where one woman indirectly discussed the research topic. 4 times more men (20) discussed the research topic directly than indirectly (5). During direct coverage, the following media outlets interviewed men: radiotavisupleba.ge, edu.aris.ge, news-posts.ge and mshoblebi.ge; Ambebi.ge had male respondents (2) only for indirect coverage. Ambebi.ge had male respondents (2) only for indirect coverage.

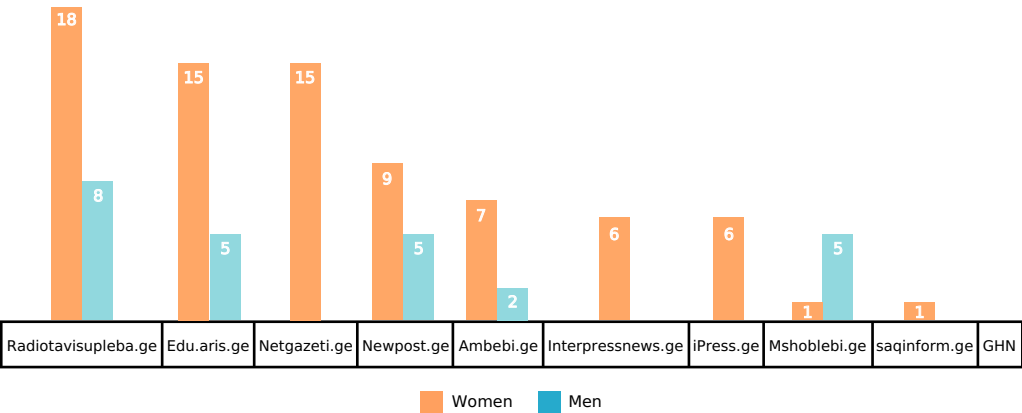


Figure 32 – Sex-disaggregated sources for coverage of sexuality education issues by online media

Notably among 40 cases of direct coverage of sexuality education issues, sex balance between the respondents was observed in 5 cases only, including by edu.aris.ge (3), radiotavisupleba.ge (1) and newposts.ge (1).

During the monitoring period, online media covered a range of issues related to sexuality education. 27 materials were prepared about the need of sexuality education, 25 about teaching of sexuality education in schools, 14 on protest against sexuality education and also 14 on legislative change. The following media outlets published all four categories of materials: netgazeti.ge, radiotavisupleba.ge, newposts.ge and interpressnews.ge. Saqinform.ge didn't prepare any materials about the need of sexuality education and its teaching in schools, mshoblebi.ge didn't prepare any materials on legislative change, while edu.aris.ge, AMBEBI.ge and iPress.ge didn't have any materials on protest against sexuality education. The highest number of materials on the need of sexuality education (8) and protest against sexuality education (5) were found on netgazeti.ge, stories about teaching of sexuality education in schools (6) were found on edu.aris.ge, while those on discussions about the legislative initiative (4) were found on iPress.ge (see figure 33).

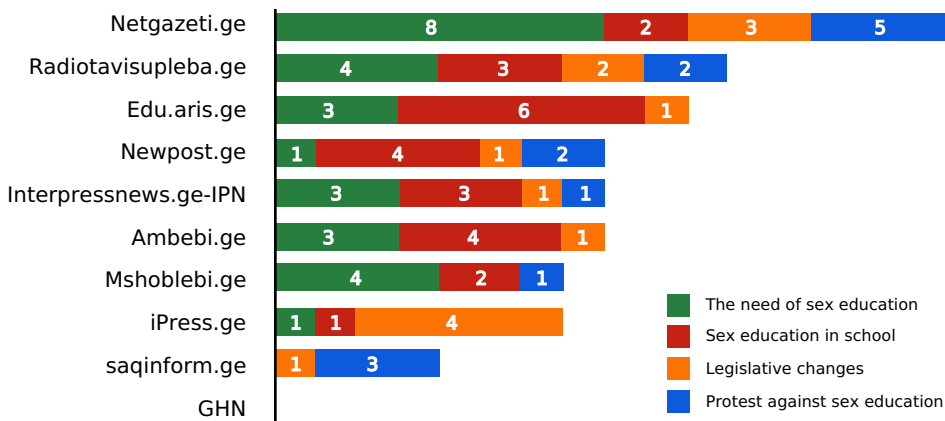


Figure 33 – Coverage of sexuality education issues by the research subjects

During the monitoring period, the sub-category on sexuality education needs was mostly covered indirectly (20). Compared to other categories, it has the highest rate of indirect coverage. In addition, the need of sexuality education is the only category where indirect coverage exceeds direct coverage. In the remaining three categories, direct coverage exceeds indirect coverage. Sexuality education in schools has the highest rate of indirect coverage (13) (see figure 34).

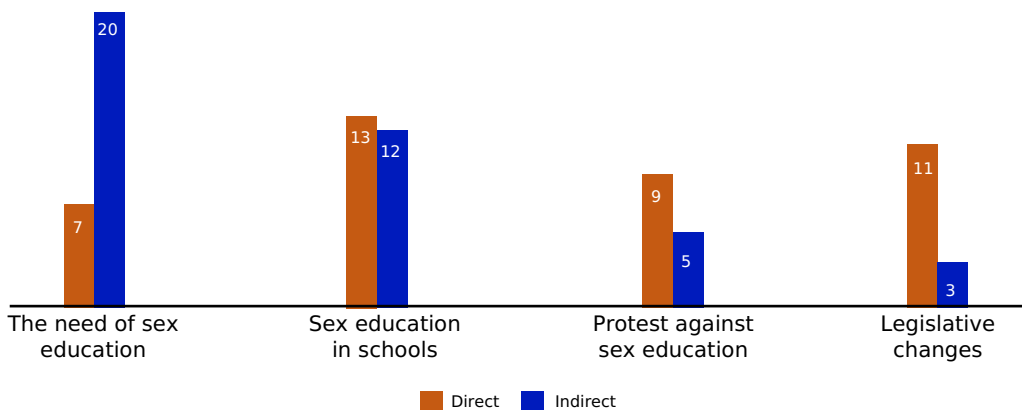


Figure 34 – Type of coverage of sexuality education issues by online media

„Protest against sexuality education“ is the only sub-category that has been covered with all three tones. All materials prepared about legislative change (14) have a neutral tone. The need of sexuality education had the highest rate of positive coverage (7), while sexuality education in schools had the highest rate of neutral coverage (21). Materials on protest against sexuality education are the only ones with a negative tone. We discovered 6 such cases within the research. This particular category has the lowest rate of positive coverage (1) (see figure 35).

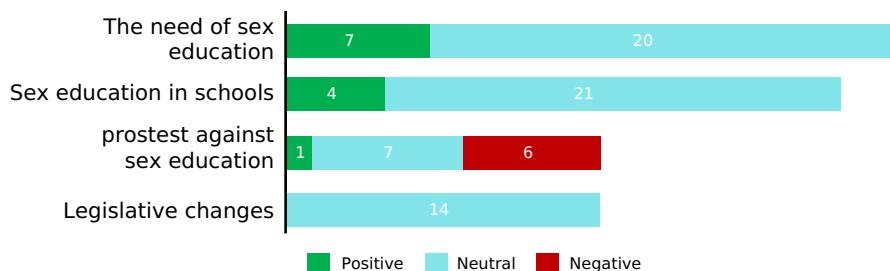


Figure 35 – Tone of coverage of sexuality education issues by online media

During the monitoring period, legislative change related to sexuality education were not discussed by male respondents at all in online media. For the remaining three categories, the number of female respondents was higher than the number of male respondents. In addition, the highest number of women (29) and men (19) discussed introduction of sexuality education in schools, while the protest against sexuality education was discussed by the lowest number of women (14) and men (3). Notably, when discussing this particular topic, all three men were interviewed for direct coverage. Similarly, men (14) were interviewed about sexuality education in schools mostly for direct coverage. Female respondents discussed all four categories of sexuality education issues both directly and indirectly. During direct coverage, the highest number of women (19) talked about sexuality education in schools, while during indirect coverage the highest number of women (13) discussed the need of sexuality education.

Sources of materials prepared by online media about teaching of sexuality education in schools stood out both in terms of diversity (12) and quantity (49). The least number of sources (18) was found in materials prepared on legislative change. Sources of materials for all sub-categories include only politicians, journalists and psychologists. The Office of the Public Defender of Georgia is a source only for materials prepared on the need of sexuality education (7), while clergymen (3) and students (3) were interviewed only for coverage of teaching of sexuality education in schools.

1.5 Coverage of sexuality education issues by print media

Throughout 2019, only 8 out of 10 magazines and newspapers monitored covered the topic of sexuality education. Magazines „Tbiliselebi“ and „Ojakhis Mkurnali“ didn't publish a single material about the research issues, while the remaining outlets of print media prepared a total of 21 materials. The topic was covered the highest number of times by newspapers Asaval-Dasavali (6) and Akhali Ganatleba (6). Alia devoted 4 materials to the research topic, while Versia, Kviris Palitra, Rezonansi, Akhali Taoba and Sakre each devoted 1 material (see figure 36).

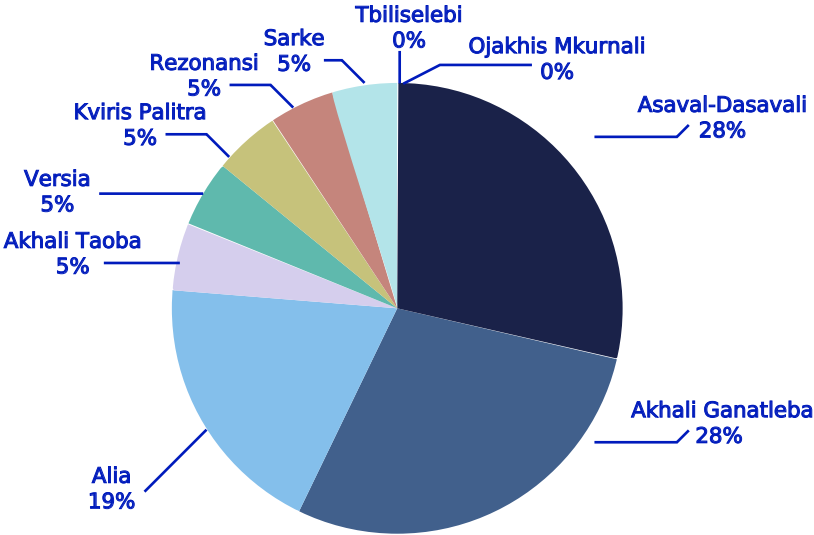


Figure 36 – Coverage of sexuality education issues by print media

Print media covered sexuality education issues mostly during last spring. Among 21 materials, 13 were published during this period. Among them, the highest number of articles (6) were printed in April. During January, July, September and December, not a single material was published by print media about the research topic (see figure 37). From the materials prepared, 6 concerned teaching of sexuality education in schools, 6 – protest against sexuality education, 5 – legislative change and 4 – the need of sexuality education. An interesting difference between the media outlets was found in terms of coverage of the research topic. More specifically,

newspapers Versia and Rezonansi covered only the legislative change Kviris Palitra, Sarke and Akhali Taoba covered only the need of sexuality education, Akhali Ganatleba – teaching of sexuality education in schools, while majority of materials (3-3) prepared by Alia and Asaval-Dasavali were on protest against sexuality education.

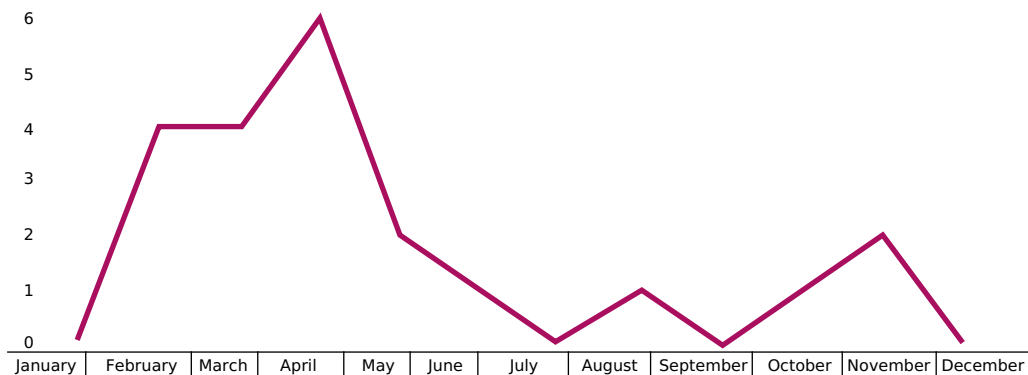


Figure 37 – Frequency and periodicity of coverage of sexuality education issues in print media

On the most part, print media covered issues of sexuality education in the format of articles (12). Least number of materials were printed in the form of an interview (2). Rezonansi, Versia and Sarke covered the topic in the form of news only, Akhali Taoba prepared an interview, Kviris Palitra prepared a single article (see figure 38). The highest number of articles concerned teaching of sexuality education in schools (5). Not a single interview was prepared on protest against sexuality education and the legislative change. The need of sexuality education is the only issue that was covered using all three formats (interview, article, news).

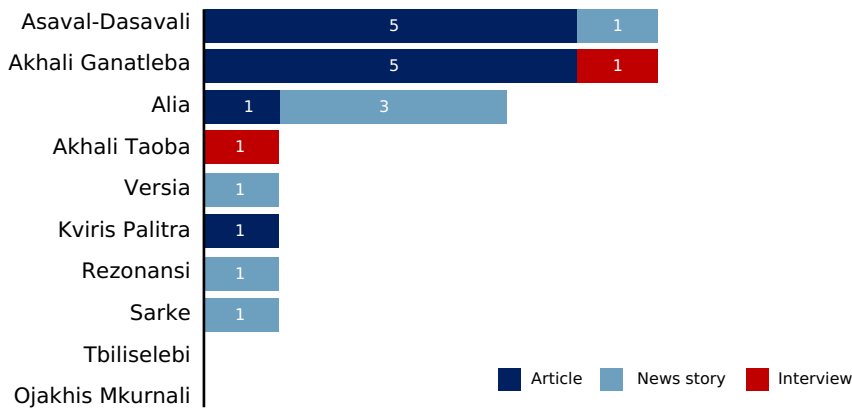


Figure 38 – Format of coverage of sexuality education issues by print media

From 21 materials prepared about issues of sexuality education by print media, 11 are direct coverages, 10 are indirect coverages. The topic was covered directly the highest number of times (4) by Asaval-Dasavali newspaper and indirectly by Akhali Ganatleba (4). Versia and Rezonansi covered the topic directly, while Kviris Palitra, Akhali Taoba and Sarke covered it only indirectly. As to the tone of coverage, majority of the materials (10) are neutral, 8 are negative, 3 are positive (see figure 39).

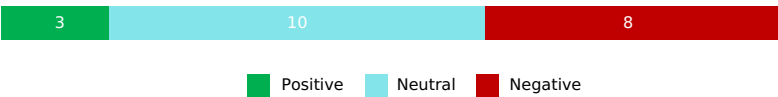


Figure 39 – Tone of coverage of sexuality education issues by print media

From the monitoring subjects, Akhali Ganatleba is the only newspaper that that covered the topic both positively (2) and in a neutral manner (4) the highest number of times. All of these materials concerned teaching of sexuality education in schools. Materials prepared by Asaval-Dasavali had only neutral or negative tone, and those prepared by Alia had only positive or negative tone. Notably, negative tone was not found in any of the newspapers but these two (see figure 40). From 6 articles published on sexuality education issues by Asaval-Dasavali, 5 had a negative tone. Among them, 3 concerned a protest against sexuality education, 2 concerned the legislative change. Among 4 materials published by Alia, 3 had a negative tone and they all concerned a protest against sexuality education.

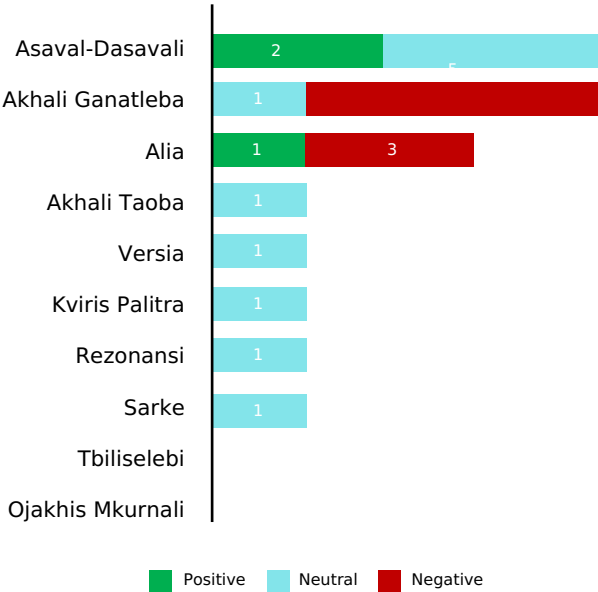


Figure 40 – Tone of coverage of sexuality education issues by the research subjects

21 materials published on the research topic by print media had only 25 sources, including: 7 journalists, 5 politicians, 4 teachers, 3 doctors, 2 civil society representatives, a psychologist, a clergyman, representatives of the Public Defender's Office and the Ministry of Education (see table 5). In addition, their majority (15) discussed the issue during direct coverage. Akhali Ganatleba newspaper stood out in terms of diversity of sources. It had interviewed the highest number of respondents (9), 4 of which were teachers. Notably, none of the media outlets had a teacher as a source. Asaval-Dasavali should also be underlined, as 6 materials published by it had only 7 sources. Among them, 5 were journalists of the newspaper and all of these materials had a negative tone. A material published by Alia newspaper with a positive tone is also connected to a source, because the source here was a doctor who talked about the need of sexuality education.

	Alia	Asaval-Dasavali	Akhali Ganatleba	Akhali Taoba	Versia	Kviris Palitra	Rezonansi	Sarke
Journalist	1	5	1					
Politician	1	2	1		1			
Teacher			4					
Doctor	1			1		1		
Society	1							1
Ministry of Education			1					
Clergyman							1	
Public Defender's Office			1					
Psychologist			1					

Table 5 – Sources of print media for coverage of sexuality education issues

Nearly equal number of female (12) and male (11) respondents were interviewed by print media for sexuality education issues. However, among the monitoring subjects only Asaval-Dasavali had interviewed both female and male respondents (2 women and 4 men), while the remaining print media outlets had either female or male respondents. Akhali Ganatleba had the highest number of female respondents (9), and newspapers Alia and Asaval-Dasavali had the highest number of male respondents (4 each) (see figure 41).

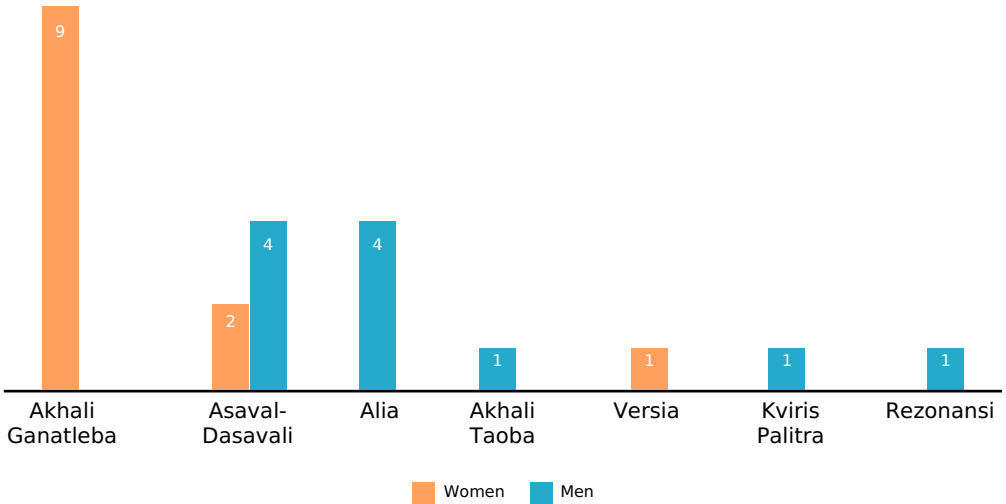


Figure 41 – Respondents for coverage of sexuality education issues by print media, disaggregated by sex

Majority of both female and male respondents talked about the research issues during direct coverage. At the same time, analysis of sex of the respondents and the tone of coverage revealed interesting results. It turned out that on the most part, male respondents discussed the research issues during negative coverage (see figure 42). This was detected in 7 out of 11 cases, while 6 of them concerned protest against sexuality education. Only one material that involved a male respondent had a positive tone. In contrast, 1 out of 12 materials involving female respondents had a negative tone. On the most part, women talked about issues of sexuality education in a neutral (6) or positive (5) tone. All 5 materials published with a positive tone, involving female respondents, concerned teaching of sexuality education in schools, while none of the male respondents addressed this topic.

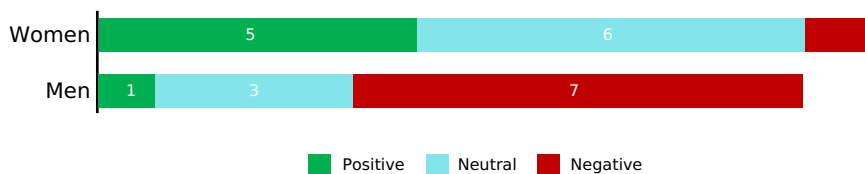


Figure 42 – Tone of coverage of sexuality education issues in print media, disaggregated based on sex of respondents

As noted earlier, 11 out of 21 materials published by print media on sexuality education issues were indirect coverage. However, gender balance was not observed in any of them (see figure 43).

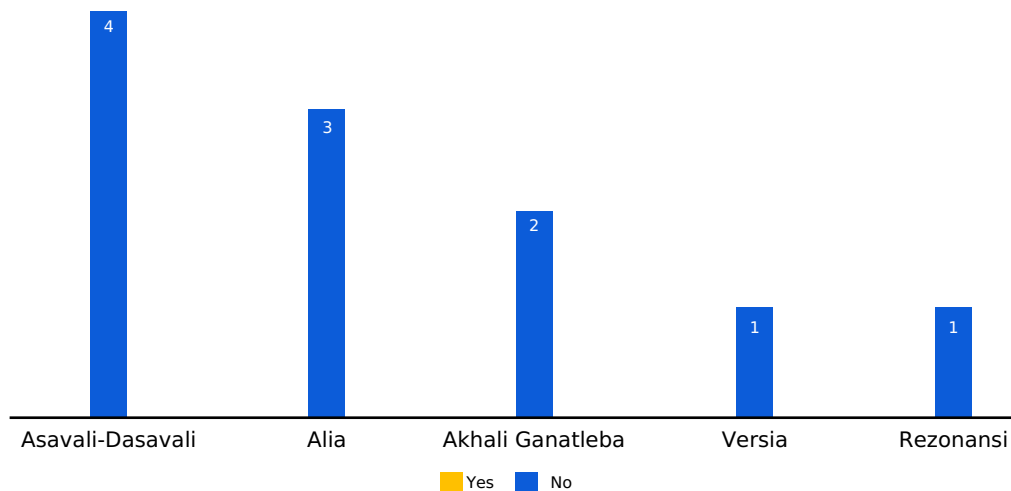


Figure 43 – Gender balance during coverage of sexuality education issues in print media

1.6 Organization Tanadgoma during coverage of sexuality education issues



Number of coverages	6
Frequency and periodicity of coverage	February - 2 March - 2 April - 1
Television	Rustavi 2
Type of program	Talk-Show „Choice“
Format	Program - 1
Online media	radiotavisupleba.ge
Format	Video - 1
Radio	Radio Imedi
Type of program	Morning program „Morning Channel“, project“ Health Lifestyle“, program bloc - 4
Which sub-category was reported and how many times	The need of sexuality education - 3 Sexuality education in schools - 3
Type of coverage	Direct - 3 Indirect - 3
Tone of coverage	Positive - 3 Neutral - 3
Tanadgoma as a source	Maia Jibuti -3 Khatuna Khazhomia - 2

2.1 Issues of sexuality education on televisions – qualitative analysis

In 2019, on the most part the monitoring subjects (televisions) addressed sexuality education issues indirectly. However, comparison with findings of a 2018 study commissioned by Tanadgoma [Coverage of sexual and reproductive health and rights issues: abortion, family planning, sexuality education in Georgian Media] has revealed that coverage of the topic in question by broadcast media has increased three times. More specifically, last year the monitoring subjects (5 televisions) prepared a total of 13 materials, while in 2019 the number of materials increased to 50, which clearly is a positive development. The increase is related to the discussions on the amendments to be introduced in the Code on the Rights of the Child. Although this particular fact took place in March, to a certain extent it was influencing coverage of sexuality education issues by media throughout the entire year.

Coverage of sexuality education issues began with news programs and gradually other programs began to cover it also, however they mostly covered concrete issues like the need of sexuality education, teaching of sexuality education in schools and opposition to it. The fact that these issues were discussed during the kind of programs where invited guests and journalists had considerable time for discussions and evaluations, as opposed to only a few minutes, is a positive development. Importantly, in 2019 talk-shows also devoted their time to sexuality education issues, allowing broader discussions to take place with involvement of different parties. Even though discussions during direct coverage were broader than during indirect coverage, in both cases an entire program or a program bloc was dedicated to such discussions. This was far more informative for viewers than, for example, a report prepared on this topic.

Another important finding is that despite lack of direct coverage, on the most part such coverage was positive, negative attitudes toward sexuality education were not found. To the contrary, with the exception of news programs, all types of programs covered by the monitoring highlighted the need of sexuality education and the importance of teaching it in schools. Sources of information included journalists together with representatives of different spheres and they were actively involved in discussions. Interestingly, last year respondents of research subjects (broadcasters) rarely included clergymen, Ministry of Education representatives and politicians. Sopho Kiladze was essentially the only politician who was talking about the research topic last year. Psychologists and NGO representatives discussed issues of sexuality education more often than Ministry of Education representatives or lawmakers. Notably, media sources included only a few teachers, school principals, students and parents, i.e., stakeholders that are directly affected by the topic. Results of the monitoring demonstrate that decision-makers (representatives of legislative or executive authorities) and groups that are directly affected by this decision were not actively involved in the discussions.

As to sex composition of respondents, we have found that female respondents are twice as many as male respondents. However, we didn't find any significant differences in their attitudes toward the issues. Instead, we should highlight that during direct coverage of the topic gender balance was mostly observed. The fact is that when a TV program format allowed to invite several guests, it also allowed to observe gender balance.

Regarding concrete televisions, the case of Ajara TV is especially interesting. It is safe to say that the channel had an editorial policy for coverage of sexuality education issues because throughout 2019, it demonstrated the most interest toward the topic and it prepared materials about it every month, except in August and September. The only format that it didn't use for coverage of the research topic was talk-show format. Social media product of Ajara TV called „Hashtag“ covered the topic most frequently compared to other programs monitored. Issues discussed during the program included lack of sexuality education, „uncomfortable lessons“, reproduction, education policy, need of sexuality education, etc.

„Hashtag“ actively covered a training course called “Know Your Body” conducted in Ajara. It aimed to provide girls with information about sexuality education, among other issues. An example of positive coverage is a bloc of a program aired on October 16, 2019, about a topic of “Lack of sexuality education and violence against women”. Gender researcher Khatia Akhalaia was among guests of the program. Hosts began by discussing a fact of pedophilia with guests and later they moved on to the need of sexuality education. Interestingly, the program portrayed sexuality education as a tool for prevention of very difficult and undesirable event that children may experience. Hosts were trying to discuss the topic in a positive light and convince viewers about importance of sexuality education. Necessity of sexuality education was also addressed during a bloc of a program aired on January 7, 2019, in which Khatia Akhalaia focused on teaching sexuality education in schools and explained that negative attitudes toward the issue were due to myths or the fact that it was viewed within the context of anti-Western propaganda, and lack of information.

„Hashtag“ aired on February 18, 2019, entirely concerned the need of sexuality education. This was a case of positive coverage of the research topic, which can be viewed as a model example. More specifically, in addition to the fact that the entire program was devoted to the topic, almost all stakeholders affected by the issue were represented. A short report and a street survey were prepared on the topic of sexuality education, respondents included: civil society representatives, students, teachers, a doctor. The program guests included a psychologist and a field expert. All negative and positive attitudes of the society toward the process were illustrated, however only one of the respondents interviewed during the street survey had

a clearly negative attitude toward the topic. In particular, according to the respondent: „The [child] will perceive and understand himself! When our time came and we became mature, we understood it then. It doesn't need education and all that!“ In rest of the cases, the entire program served the purpose of presenting the topic positively.

In addition to the program „Hashtag“, the topic of sexuality education was also covered positively and directly by a medical program of Ajara TV called „Impulse“. „Impulse“ aired on July 22, 2019, was entirely dedicated to sexuality education among children. The program host, Irakli Parulava and guest, psychologist Ketevan Beridze discussed the need of sexuality education and importance of parent's involvement in the process. They had also prepared an informative video-clip about the topic. Although this is not the only program that „Impulse“ dedicated to the research topic, among medical programs sexuality education was covered most often by the Public Broadcaster Channel 1 program „Private Doctor – Mari Malazonia“. As to other televisions, „Doctors“ on Imedi TV covered the topic indirectly once, while „Personal Doctor“ on Rustavi 2 didn't prepare any material about the research topic during the monitoring period, and Pirveli TV Company didn't have a medical program at all.

2 facts of positive coverage by Public Broadcaster's medical program „Private Doctor – Mari Malazonia“ are particularly noteworthy. On January 29, 2019, the topic of the program was „Children's sexual upbringing“ in which the program host – Mari Malazonia discussed with the program guest – sexologist Levan Kobaladze the need of sexuality education. The program is especially important because the topic of discussion was concrete issues related to physical and reproductive development of adolescent children, including menstrual cycle for girls and masturbation for boys. It is of critical importance to inform children of these issues. Role of parents and the importance of overcoming certain uncomfortable aspects in this process was highlighted. In contrast, material aired on June 17, 2019 – „Sexual culture and sexual violence“ focused more on receiving sexuality education in school. The topic was discussed by Mari Malazonia with sexologist Levan Kobaladze and fertility doctor Jenara Kristesashvili. The fertility doctor provided British teaching model as an example and talked about flaws in the Georgian system against this background. Both guests highlighted the important preventive benefits of such education. More specifically, sexuality education was portrayed as means to avoid early marriage, undesirable pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and violence.

On Channel 1, in addition to medical programs, the research topic was also covered by a talk show called „Current issue with Maka Tsintsadze“. In all four cases the topic was covered indirectly but two cases are especially noteworthy. More specifically, the talk-show episode aired on June 14, 2019, on „Early marriage and public attitudes“, began by discussing the incident that took place in Lagodekhi, Kakheti on June 9. A 16-year-old girl was raped by a neighbor but she hid the fact because she was afraid and she was threatened by the perpetrator. The girl became pregnant, however she herself found out about this after she started having stomach

pains in school and after she was taken to a hospital, she gave birth to a child. According to the girl, she didn't know about the pregnancy and she didn't know about possible consequences of a sexual act. Based on this fact, psychologist Nino Gogichadze talked about the critical need for sexuality education and highlighted responsibility of the society and the state in that regard. „Early marriage – causes, outcomes and solutions“ was discussed during the October 25, 2019 episode of the talk-show. However, it mostly discussed the importance of teaching sexuality education in schools. Invited guests – journalist Ramilia Alieva and Roma activist Elene Proshikiani noted that the society is not ready for sexuality education to be introduced in schools. However, despite the opposition, certain groups and parties involved should launch a campaign to increase public awareness about and acceptability of sexuality education, especially in parents and teachers. According to them, the biggest problem is that these two very important parties involved are unable to provide children with necessary information due to embarrassment and taboos.

In contrast, the need of sexuality education was directly covered by Rustavi 2 talk-show „Archevani“. The entire episode that aired on February 19, 2019, was dedicated to this issue. More specifically, the topic of „Archevani“ was „sexuality education in schools“ and the discussions involved a diversity of sources and opinions. They began by discussing the threats made against Khatia Akhalaia, author of videos about sexuality education. She was threatened for producing these types of videos. In addition to Akhalaia, the program guests also included representatives of Tanadgoma – Maia Jibuti and Khatuna Khazhomia, as well as education expert Revaz Apkhazava, psychologist Maia Tsiramua, founder of Ai Isa – Anania Gachechiladze and founder of the public movement „Nation and State“ – Zviad Tomaradze. A street survey was also prepared about the topic of the program. Strangely among those surveyed, older respondents tended to support teaching of sexuality education more than younger respondents. Several negative comments were also made during the survey. For example, in response to the following question: „Should sexuality education be taught in schools“ one respondent said:

Respondent: "No, it shouldn't be taught and that's it! It's not needed. It is probably one of the first steps toward depravity, you are directly teaching [children] what to do and how."

Another respondent believed that teaching sexuality education would corrupt children morally:

Respondent: "Absolutely not! Everything is going toward moral corruption of youth and children. They start morally corrupting and degenerating children from a young age!"

Third respondent didn't see the need of sexuality education based on a historic experience:

Respondent: „My dear, they managed very well to have these sexual relationships in caves in ancient times [without sexuality education]“.

Guests of the show were trying to refute opinions of the street survey respondents and demonstrate the need of sexuality education. Zviad Tomaradze was the only guest that didn't agree with their position. However, to sum up the discussions it was agreed that it is important for children to receive such type of education in order to be protected from many negative challenges created by lack of information during adulthood. Representatives of organization Tanadgoma underlined the fact that to achieve this goal, stakeholders should come up with a neutral form and content, in order to avoid furthering the existing unacceptability in the society. Notably, the talk-show host Giorgi Gabunia expressed positive attitudes toward the research topic throughout the entire program.

When speaking about Rustavi 2 programs, we must also note an afternoon program called „Other Afternoon“ that covered the topic of sexuality education both directly and indirectly on several occasions. For example, one of the blocs of the program episode aired on May 6, 2019, discussed „Family planning“ with guests - women's rights advocate Ida Bakhturidze and psychologist Tamar Tandashvili. Ida Bakhturidze said that despite irrespective of the level of readiness of the society, experts and professionals should start actively discussing the topic and preparing corresponding educational programs, in order to prevent a number of problematic issues in the future. Based on her own professional experience, Tamar Tandilashvili noted: „Many of my patients that were child victims of violence would have survived had someone provided them with information about sexuality from a young age.“

Imedi TV afternoon program called „Imedis Dge“ addressed the taboos around sexuality education issues. More specifically, one of the blocs of the program aired on February 7, 2019, discussed „Sexuality education of children“. According to the host, the sexuality education taboos lead the society to tragic incidents like violence among minors, aggression, child marriage, undesirable pregnancy, etc. The journalist talked about an unspecified survey, which suggested that young people mostly receive information about sexuality education issues from their friends. One of the program guests, psychologist Nata Meparishvili responded to this and highlighted the role of a parent. She supported the idea of rejecting the myths about storks and cabbages and said that parents should provide this information to their children gradually, according to questions that they might ask, and they shouldn't punish children for being interested in these issues. Parents should teach names of sexual organs to their children, as well as who may touch them in these areas and teach them about personal space. This will help them protect their children from possible perpetrators.

As to morning programs, the topic of sexuality education was most often covered by Imedi TV program „Imedis Dila“. One of the blocs of Imedis Dila episode aired on April 3, 2019, is especially noteworthy in that regard. The bloc discussed lack of sexuality education and addressed changes to be introduced with regard to sexuality education lessons. This specific case of coverage was important due to a particular involvement of hosts and journalists and resources used. Imedis Dila journalist conducted a survey on social media to understand public views about Sopho Kiladze's initiative. Survey participants responded to the following question: „Is

parent's permission needed in order for a student to attend sexuality education lessons at school?" 72% of those surveyed respondent that „Parent's permission is necessary.“ The journalist herself doesn't think that parent's permission is necessary and is trying to convince viewers about importance of sexuality education. In that regard, she addressed the negative consequences caused by lack of sexuality education. She provided an example of early marriage and cited statistics to demonstrate that the incidence of child marriage is 8 times higher in Georgia than in Western European countries. Journalist Natia Orvelashvili also talked about policies and experiences of other countries. She provided an example of Switzerland as the most progressive country, where the subject of sexuality education was introduced in schools in 1950. She also talked about experience of France, Germany, the Netherlands, U.S. and other countries and the positive consequences brought by teaching of sexuality education in schools. As a result, proportion of parents that support sexuality education in schools is increasing every year in these countries. Following this overview, the program hosts and psychologist Davit Andguladze continued discussions and underlined importance of the role of parents, society and state in this process. Notably, gender balance was observed during the program, the discussions were informative and involved different stakeholders. As a result, viewers received comprehensive and positive information about the issue.

During the same period, on March 28, 2019, a street survey on teaching of sexuality education in schools was prepared by Ajara TV morning program „Radiovizia“. The program addressed teaching of sexuality education based on parental consent, however unlike the example of Imedis Dila, journalists wanted to know what public thought and they didn't discuss the issue in the studio. Respondents expressed different opinions about the issue, including negative ones:

Respondent: „Our ancestors weren't taught [sexuality education] and we had a healthy nation. Now our nation is so muddle-headed that the youth need this. I think we are facing a bizarre situation.“

Respondent: „Those that didn't learn [sexuality education] were able to get married and have a wife! They didn't embarrass themselves!“

Respondent: „No, nothing like that! You mean teaching sex in schools?! Who came up with this, stupid people!“

As noted earlier, the topic of teaching sexuality education in schools was not addressed in the discussion format during Ajara TV morning program, however a weekly program „Kviris Mtavari“ hosted comprehensive discussions about the topic. During a program aired on March 31, 2019, Sopho Kiladze's initiative was discussed and the following issues were addressed: „Should children receive sexuality education in schools? Strength and weaknesses of the Children's Code.“ This was the rare exception in which media had interviewed almost all sources that were affected by the issue, including: school principal, deputy principal, psychologist, politicians, representatives of the Ministry of Education. An NGO representative – Ana Abashidze was invited as a guest. The program focused on the importance of considering

the traditional context of the country and age of the child in the process of teaching the subject. Respondents recalled the subject „Society and I“, criticized by the society only because they lacked sufficient and accurate information about contents of the subject. According to the program respondents, the parties involved should not allow development of such processes again and should avoid as much as possible making radical statements or voicing radical decisions.

Notably, among 5 subjects of the research (televisions), 4 had a weekly program and in 2019 all four of these programs covered the topic of sexuality education. For example, Imedi TV program „Imedis Kvira“ aired a report on March 31 about „Kiladze’s controversial initiative“ and it mostly concerned the legislative change. However, the report was not as far-reaching and comprehensive as a report aired by Kviris Mtavari on Ajara TV. As to other televisions, Rustavi 2 program „Post Scriptum“ aired a report on February 17, 2019, about threats made against the author of sexuality education videos, Khatia Akhalaia and covered the topic of the need of sexuality education in that respect. On June 9, 2019, one of the blocs of the Public Broadcaster’s weekly program called „Akhali Kvira“ talked about the fact of „accidental motherhood“. This was an incident discussed earlier in this document, when a 16-year-old girl had a child after she was raped, without being aware of the pregnancy. The journalist used this fact as an argument about importance of teaching sexuality education in schools. While the journalist herself underlined the critical need to receive such education, her respondents – school teacher, the victim’s mother and the child herself - stated the same thing in the report. The most emotional and important part of the report was comments of the girl, who said:

16-year-old girl: „Had I known about the pregnancy, I would have gotten an abortion. I would have told my mother about it... When I first got the cycle and then it stopped, I thought that this was normal. I didn’t ask anyone about why it happened. I thought it was natural. I knew nothing about pregnancy in general and I wasn’t interested in this topic. I was embarrassed... I never had any relationship with someone else and I never embarrassed my parents...”

This particular case demonstrates how media can become an initiator to positively cover an important problem related to the main story, while public attitudes toward the issue are mostly negative. On the one hand, this case demonstrates shortcomings in the educational system and on the other hand, it shows severity of the problem like tabooed topics in the society, ones that parents and children are too embarrassed to discuss. In addition, it illustrates the need for change.

Lastly, we need to address the terminology used by journalists during coverage of sexuality education issues. Since we found only one fact of negative coverage by broadcast media and on the most part, the topic was covered in a neutral manner, hate speech or discriminatory views were not voiced in media. None of the journalists expressed negative opinions. There were only two cases when television respondents expressed radical views against teaching of sexuality education. In one case, this was archpriest Davit Lasurashvili, whose comments were aired during a news program „Moambe“. In particular, he said the following:

Davit Lasurashvili, archpriest: "They are forcing to introduce sexuality education in schools. If this happens, God save us! And it happened. My children are in 9th, 6th and 11th grades, I will not let them attend the class and if the situation becomes worse, I will homeschool them."

In another case, politician Koba Davitashvili made comments aired during a talk-show „Reaction“ on May 14:

Koba Davitashvili, politician: "...Khatia Akhalaia should explain to a child that anus is not just means to answer nature's call but it is also viewed as a pleasure for some people. She should explain it to a four-year old child, so the child then becomes curious and interested in these things. This happens in Georgia. What is the state doing? I am going to confront the government, to make sure that law prohibits teaching sexuality education to children..."

As to the terms used by media, in 2019 sexuality education was mostly referred to by media using the following terms: „sexuality education“, „sex education“, „sexual upbringing.“ These are the terms shared by all five subjects of the monitoring (TV channels). However, they also used different terms – for example, Ajara TV used a term „uncomfortable lesson“ a few times, as well as „reproductive education“, „teaching a sexual act“, „teaching a healthy lifestyle.“ Imedi TV used a term „education related to a person's sexuality“, Rustavi 2 – „education about sexuality“ and „talking about sex in school“, the Public Broadcaster – „a certain course about sexuality“. All of these terms were used by the televisions in a neutral context.

Unfortunately, when talking about sexuality education journalists of the monitoring subjects (televisions) almost never used sources like: study reports, statistical data, books, special publications, standards that reflect foreign experience, educational or teaching plans, sexuality education guides, etc.

2.2 Sexuality education Issues on the Radio - Qualitative Analysis

In 2019, radio devoted the least amount of time to sexuality education issues among research subject medias. Most of the materials on the radio was prepared about the need for sexuality education. This topic was covered by four monitoring subjects (radios). Fortuna's program "7 Tips from a Psychologist" is the only one that was included in the research from this radio. It was devoted entirely to sexuality education issues and positive coverage of its need in adolescents. The psychologist who was a guest on the show also talked about the role of parents in the process of providing age-appropriate information. The importance of proper knowledge about sexual development was emphasized to ensure the sexual and reproductive health and general well-being of children and adolescents. The need for sexuality education was covered by 2 different programs live on Radio Imedi. In both programs: "Morning Channel" and "I am a mother" the need for sexuality education was covered positively. As mentioned above, the project "Message - Healthy Lifestyle" prepared with the non-governmental organization "Tanadgoma" was aired on "Morning Channel". Representative and co-host of "Tanadgoma" Maia Jibuti spoke in

the program prepared within this project. The program was devoted entirely to sexuality education and the importance of talking with adolescents about this topic. The program "I am a mother" was aimed at providing information on sexual education to parents. Guest of the show was a sexologist who advised parents on how to perceive and react to questions asked by their children about sexual topics. The same program devoted another airtime to giving advice to fathers and the journalist offered them possible answers to 5 awkward questions from their children.

Among the cases of indirect coverage of the need of sexuality education, programs where sexuality education was presented as a preventive measure to various problems are noteworthy. For example, while talking about sexual violence against children, a guest on the program "I am a mother", a psychologist, spoke positively about the importance of sexual education as a prevention against sexual violence. On the air of Radio Imedi "Day Channel", the representative of the Public Defender's Office emphasized sexuality education as a major component of preventing premature marriage. This respondent was also a guest on the second program of Radio Imedi - "I am a mother". Ana Iluridze, in response to a journalist's question about measures to reduce violence against women, spoke about the importance of sexuality education. We should note the radio program Imedi "We are here", which is the only one that talked about the sexual and reproductive rights of women with disabilities. One of the guests, an expert in the field, even focused on it as a prevention of sexual violence. According to the expert, parents are unaware that education about human sexuality also includes knowledge of unwanted touch in children. It should also be noted that despite the importance, parents were not respondents in any of the materials prepared about the need for sexuality education.

During the monitoring period, the radio did not directly cover issues about teaching sexuality education at schools. This issue was highlighted only during indirect coverage. It should be noted that in the case of radios, the coverage of sexuality education in schools is mainly related to the subject "Society and I". In fact, 5 out of 6 indirect coverages of this issue were related to "Society and I". They talked about this subject as a component of receiving continuous civic education at schools and it was considered as a pre-requisite for a new subject "Citizenship". Three of these programs were aired on three different public radio programs. The remaining two were aired during Radio Imedi's "Morning Channel". "Morning Channel" is the only program that covered sexuality education in school from a different angle and it was prepared within the project "Message for a Healthy Lifestyle". Its topic was family planning methods. Maia Jibuti, a representative and co-host of the organization Tanadgoma, highlighted the importance of teaching these issues from school period. It should be noted that the students were not allowed to talk about sexuality education on the radios monitored, and the teachers spoke of it indirectly only once in a public radio program - „Our School“. In addition, all materials related to the teaching of sexuality education in schools were covered on the radio in a neutral tone.

Radio Liberty is the only research subject that has directly covered the legislative amendment initiative about sexuality education to be introduced in the „Code on the Rights of the Child“ in its news program „Freedom of Evening“. Information

about the legal draft was aired indirectly during a bloc of Radio Imedi program called „Morning Channel“.

It is noteworthy that during the monitoring period, radios did not cover any material related to the protest against sexuality education, and none of them had a negative tone. Consequently, the study did not find hate speech or discriminatory statements.

The terms used by the media when covering sexuality education issues were also interesting for the research. During the monitoring period, radios used 6 different terms in 16 cases. The most common of these were „sexuality education“, „sex education“, „sexual upbringing“ and „education about human sexuality“. "Information on Sexual Development" was once referred to on Radio Fortuna, and "Reproductive and Sexuality education" was once referred to on Radio Imedi. It is noteworthy, that public radio did not use any terms related to sexuality education at all.

Resources used by the media for sexuality education coverage were also important for monitoring, however in the case of the radio, the journalists did not use any additional resources to cover the research issues.

2.3 Sexuality education Issues in Online Media - Qualitative Analysis

Among all research subjects, online media devoted the most time to covering sexuality education issues during the monitoring period. It covered the research issues mainly in a neutral way. In addition to legislative changes related to sexuality education, all three subcategories were also covered in a positive way. Online media outlets have positively covered materials mainly related to the need for sexuality education, which were published on 5 different sites. One of the notable cases of direct coverage is the article prepared by edu.aris.ge - "Due to premature marriage, 300 students are unable to graduate school in Georgia every year." It names lack of knowledge about sexuality as one of the reasons for early marriages. To better illustrate the problem, the journalist had obtained official data from the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports on how many students were unable to complete their secondary education due to early marriage and named this as an official reason. After creating the full picture, the journalist discussed the amendment in the "Code on the Rights of the Child". The journalist also cited the results of a national survey prepared by the Public Defender on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). He also explained the importance of sexuality education and the international practice of its teaching. It should be noted that both sources in this article were women. Sexuality education was offered as a solution to various problems on newposts.ge, which published the material of Imedi TV program "Day of Hope" titled "Sexuality education in Children - Why Psychologists Condemn the Myth of Storks and Cabbage". Pediatric surgeon Levan Peradze links the need for sexuality education to the problems caused by premature pregnancy and misinformation in adolescent boys. His post was published by mshoblebi.ge. During indirect coverage sexuality education is also considered as a preventive measure to sexual abuse of

children. In an article published on Netgazeti.ge - "Sexual Violence - How to Recognize and Protect a Child", section "Prevention", the psychologist talks about sexuality education and says that it is an essential part of children's education and development that we teach them about their body. When speaking of prevention, we should mention article from ambebi.ge - "Some are still playing in the yard at this age" - how psychologists and human rights activists assess the tragedy in Aghaiani", which refers to murder of a child by a minor mother in the village of Aghaiani. In the article, the journalist asks Simon Janashia, an education researcher, the following question - "Is giving sexuality education to children an opportunity to prevent many similar problems?". Field expert in societies, where there are frequent cases of premature marriage, premature pregnancy and domestic violence, confirms the importance of sexuality education in reducing them. The expert also focuses on health issues and the dangers of premature or unprotected sex. Regarding the story in Aghaiani, in the context of teaching sexuality education at schools, newposts.ge published a post by former Minister of Education Nika Gvaramia with the headline: "Shame on me, former Minister of Education ... Bring sexuality education to schools! Urgently!" - Nika Gvaramia on the tragedy in Aghaiani

From online media's positive materials about teaching sexuality education at schools, we should mention Gogi Gvakharia's program published on radiotavisupleba.ge titled "Who is afraid of sex lessons?". His guest is Khatuna Khajomia, a representative of the organization Tanadgoma, with whom he discusses the situation with sexuality education in the country, the experience of the Soviet past, the attitude of the society, including some protests against the teaching and its importance in this context. The program stands out by variety of its sources, it also maintains the gender balance among the respondents. There is also a clergyman among the respondents, whom the following misinformative quote against sexuality education teaching belongs to:

Davit Isakadze, clergyman: „It is planned to soon arrest the parents who protest against debauchery of their children, each of you who demand to not teach sexuality education at schools will be arrested soon. That is why this evil must be prevented from the very beginning ... This is for our children's sake. We have to be very strict, this is a fight and we have to fight." [radiotavisupleba.ge, 03.11.2019]

The article published on edu.aris.ge is also noteworthy - "Students to Kiladze:"We consider it necessary to be informed about sexuality education", which shows the position of students towards sexuality education at school. The same publication devoted a more extensive article to this issue - "Answers hidden behind Cabbage and Cranes - What the Norwegian Teacher Tells EDU.ARIS.GE and What is the Reality of Georgia in terms of Sexuality education" later, in September. It talks about the difficulties associated with teaching sexuality education and the importance of teaching it to adults. Emphasis is placed on the need for parents to provide adequate information to children's questions regarding these issues. The article stands out by the diversity of the respondents and the gender balance among them is also maintained. Sources include: teachers, doctors, psychologists, politicians, journalists and the Ministry of Education. During the monitoring period, online media devoted only one positive piece of material to the protest against sexuality

education - "I am threatened with rape" - the author of sexuality education videos, threatened with sexual violence (video)", which was published on newposts.ge. It is the story from Rustavi 2 program, P.S. The same program included expressions of hate speech and incitement to violence from locals:

Local: „I have a 4-year-old grandchild, if someone dares to talk to him/her about these topics, I'll beat their brain out right there!“

Local: „We must set fire to the houses of those who will vote for the project [sexuality education]!“

Local: „A serious fight has to be started against this [sexuality education teaching]. We should not avoid even bloodshed to stop this“

Local: „A stool? They don't need a stool; a bullet is what they need! A 2 gram one! [about supporters of teaching of sexuality education]“

Although the story was about the threats against Khatia Akhalaia and the above comments also reflect the protest against sexuality education, the media itself had a positive tone towards this type of education and focused on its importance with the respondents.

"Protest against sexuality education" is the only one among the sub-categories of research issues, which was covered in a negative tone in the online media. During the monitoring 6 such cases were revealed. Half of them were published during indirect coverage on saqinform.ge. It is noteworthy that this media outlet devoted almost all [except one] of the prepared materials to the negative coverage of protest against sexuality education. The negative editorial policy of saqinform.ge regarding sexuality education is evident from the content of these materials. One of them is the statement of saqinform.ge - "Saqinform's statement: the increasing number of unprecedented cases of sexual crimes in Georgia is a logical consequence of the government's wrong policy." In the publication, the editors name sexuality education as one of the reasons for the increase in sexual crimes:

Editorial: „Some „missionaries“ teach sexuality education in lower grades of schools, which is authorized by the Ministry of Education, and „progressive businessmen“ release condoms with images of Georgian saints and kings. (Saqinform.ge, 27.02.2019)

The attitude of the editors can also be seen in the second material, which, according to the US Embassy in Georgia, refers to the swearing-in ceremony of the new Peace Corps volunteers. Among them were volunteers of the English Language and Organizational and Individual Development Program, some of whom were starting to teach English in Georgian public schools from the new academic year, and some of whom were starting to work in Georgian non-governmental sector and community organizations. In the case of this material, the title of its anti-Western content is also noteworthy: "A striking group of American missionaries - agents of influence arrived in Georgia on yet another assignment". The following comment of the editorial is also attached to the story:

Editorial: "After undergoing CIA trainings, the "teacher" propagandists will settle in Georgian families and start ideologically programming the population. Many influential agents remain in Georgia for some time or permanently, like the infamous debaucher who taught students oral sex lessons..." [Saqinform.ge, 08.07.2019]

Both quotes from saqinform.ge contain an anti-Western message, which further reinforces the negative attitude towards sexuality education in the society and is an integral part of anti-Western propaganda. This media outlet also covered the story titled - "A rally was held in front of the UN Office in Georgia against LGBT propaganda". It contains an excerpt from the statement of the "Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child", where it says the following:

Statement of „Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child“: „Stop cultivating family breakdown, debauchery and homosexuality in Georgia, abolish the gender-neutral program in kindergartens, stop LGBT lobbying in sports, ban the subject "Society and I" in schools. Stop UN trainings in summer camps as they drag children into accepting homosexuality, stop initiating a UN-drafted child rights law in parliament, as it serves to promote family breakdown and LGBT awareness among children". [Saqinform.ge, 05.03.2019]

This rally was also covered by interpressnews.ge with the same quote. Mshoblebi.ge, together with 3 March congratulations of Khatia Sichinava, a mother of three, published her appeal to the Ministry of Education:

Khatia Sichinava, parent: „Instead of handing future generations as educated and composed people to the country, they found what was missing in the system!! And there it is!! Sexual Education!! How pathetic!! As if you have already solved the rest in the education system!! Teen suicide is not your problem and knowing the names of the genitals and how to wear condoms will increase the IQ of our children!!! I can't understand, what is it that you serve?! Who are you, where did you get so degraded that you now also want to degrade the next generation!!! I may be at an age when I cannot grasp your "developed" thoughts, but no problem has been created for our generation, who were not taught to wear condoms, and from today's point of view, I wish someone else had taught this to your parents!!!" [mshoblebi.ge, 03.03.2019]

Another quote published in online media against sexuality education belongs to one of the leaders of the Alliance of Patriots, Emzar Kvitsiani, and it was published on newposts.ge with the headline: "I pray to God for women who go against their husbands!!!"- Emzar Kvitsiani. He responds to the amendment to the Code of the Rights of the Child as follows:

Emzar Kvitsiani, Alliance of Patriots: „Maybe they don't have parents to explain! Madam, why are you trying to go against nature? Why do you oppose what the Lord has set ?! Everything in the life of a man and a woman must develop step by step, in order to develop into a normal person, what do you want, to outrun the events ?! It will not lead to anything positive! Why does a person have the toughest, most protected head against injuries from 1 to 12 years ?! Because he is most likely to fall during this period. Age of 14 is the maturity period both for males and females. If they have not received premature information, which is forced upon us from abroad (porn ads through the internet). Notice this, the faster you're trying to outrun things, more downhill you will go, in every aspect! Stop! Do not go against God's rules! His answer will be painful and will get more so if you do not come to your senses. I pray to God for women who go against their husbands!!!" [newposts.ge, 29.03.2019]

It is noteworthy that the media did not react to any cases of hate speech or incitement to violence. Unlike them, in the article of radiotavisupleba.ge - "Threats because of Sexuality education Videos", the journalist used the comments posted on the social network against the teaching of sexuality education as an illustration. This article was about the threats made against the author of the videos on sexuality education, Khatia Akhalaia, which was followed by the comments:

„I swear I am afraid what they will teach my child when the time comes for us to go to school. What kind of propaganda will they carry out, I wonder?

„Our church has to win“.

„Instead of going about sexuality education you better take care of your own children. The ones you spoil with the latest iPhones. I wonder if you ever think about what the school girls watch on those phones“.

From the quotes of opponents of sexuality education, we can single out the message boxes that they used to reinforce the negative attitude when talking about sexuality education:

- **Associating sexuality education with depravity and instilling fear;**
- **Discussing sexuality education in an anti-Western context;**
- **Sexuality education is equated with teaching sex and for example, the use of condoms;**
- **Incompatibility of sexuality education with religion;**

Analyzing the terms used by the media is also important when covering sexuality education issues. As it turned out, during the monitoring period, online media most often used the following terms: „sexual upbringing“, “sex education”, “sexuality education”. There are also several variants of terms related to teaching about reproductive health and reproductive education and variations on education about human sexuality. Online media mainly preferred the use of neutral terms, however, there are exceptions. For example, in the negative tone material published on saqinform.ge, the editors use the term - "Oral sex lessons".

2.4 Sexuality education Issues in Print Media - Qualitative Analysis

Qualitative analysis of the print media subjects of the monitoring has revealed a different picture from other media categories. The main reason for this difference is the tone of coverage of sexual issues in magazines and newspapers. While other media outlets covered these issues mostly in a neutral tone, print media coverage in neutral (10) and negative (8) tones is almost equal. The research issues were covered positively by only two of the magazines and newspapers monitored. It is noteworthy that magazines „Tbiliselebi" and "Ojakhis Mkurnali" did not prepare any material on this topic. Consequently, all the indicators referred herein are those of the remaining 8 print media outlets.

As mentioned earlier in 2019, only two newspapers monitored covered the topic of sexuality education positively. One of them is the newspaper "Akhali Ganatleba", which dedicated two positive articles to the topic, and the other is "Alia", which prepared one article on the topic. In terms of content, both articles of „Akhali Ganatleba“ were about sexuality education at school. A newspaper article published on February 21-27 titled "A List of Questions for Understanding issues of „Society and I" was about "Society and I". With this article, Elene Jeladze, a primary school teacher in one of the schools in Tbilisi, shared her opinion on this subject with the public. She talked about her experience in teaching this subject and tried to dispel the negative attitude towards the subject in the society. Article titled "Barriers to Stigmatized Sexuality education" published in "Akhali Ganatleba" on April 4-10, 2019 directly addressed the issue of sexuality education in schools and the new legislative change. In the article, journalist Lali Jeladze starts by discussing the amendment to the Code on the Rights of the Child and quotes a comment made by Sopho Kiladze. This comment is followed by a Facebook post of Marina Chitashvili, Doctor of Psychology, where she criticizes the new initiative and opposes leaving sexuality education up to parents or clergy. This article also stands out by the fact that the journalist uses the results of the national survey "Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights" prepared by the Public Defender with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as an additional source of information. The opinions of the Public Defender - Nino Lomjaria and her deputy - Eka Skhiladze on this issue were also provided. They talked about the issues in the process of teaching sexuality education and the role of the state. Problems that were particularly highlighted were about the readiness of teachers, who are unable to talk to children about these topics and often they instruct children to read sexual and reproductive health lessons at home, or explain the topic to girls and boys separately. The article also lists textbooks that contain components of sexuality education and are taught in different classes.

As for the third case of positive coverage of sexuality education in the print media, on February 28, 2019, the newspaper "Alia" published a comment by Dr. Levan Peradze - "I performed ectopic pregnancy surgery on a 15-year-old girl and she did not believe she could get pregnant". The respondent recalled a specific case in his medical practice. According to him, despite the operation, the 15-year-old girl could not be convinced of her own pregnancy because she had no information about it. He talked about the need for sexuality education in schools and said that if young people have such knowledge, fewer families will be broken up because of „ignorance and illiteracy“.

Majority of magazines and newspapers that covered sexuality education issues in 2019 spoke about it in a neutral tone. Most of these materials were about sexuality education in schools, its need and legislative change on this issue. Most of them were indirect coverage. Among the monitored subjects of print media 2 magazines ("Tbiliselebi"; "Ojakhis Mkurnali") did not cover the research topic at all. Out of the remaining 8 media, 5 of them devoted only 1 neutral material to its coverage.

It turns out that most of the largest and popular print media outlets have little interest in sexual issues and almost no coverage of it. Most of them did not even cover the legislative change, which became the subject of public discussion. Most of the neutral materials are related to only one specific newspaper - "New Education". It is a specialized publication, which covers only education issues, and this fact explains the different picture in this media.

We can say that negative coverage of sexuality education issues in the print media in 2019 are also connected with one particular newspaper. All materials prepared on the research topic during the monitoring period by „Asaval Dasavali“, had a negative tone except for one. Most of the negative coverage was directly related to the protest against sexuality education. The newspaper also negatively covered the planned law amendment about sexuality education. The newspaper ran a kind of a protest campaign against the teaching of sexuality education throughout the year. The following articles, published in March, April and August 2019, also served this purpose:

1. „Read and be shocked - this is the official plan of the genocide of Georgians!" - Asaval-Dasavali newspaper, 04-10.03.2019

2. "Will priests act as "inspectors" on "sexuality education" lessons legalized by Sopho Kiladze?!" - Asaval-Dasavali newspaper, 01-07.04.2019

3. „MIA! Stop the debauchery of minors!" - Asaval-Dasavali newspaper, 12-18.08.2019

These articles were distinguished by the fact that the source of the information was the journalist himself and he was the one who ran the negative campaign. He used hate speech when discussing sexuality education, talked about it in anti-Western context in his schooling, disseminated messages of disinformation and discrimination, assessed it as a step towards the nation's genocide, and incited the public against this type of education. For example, we can cite these two quotes:

Giorgi Gigauro, journalist: „Alright, maybe some idiot parents (and there are many!) would agree to have their children take „sexuality education“ classes, but for us, who find this unacceptable, it matters what kind of „sexually educated“ classmates and friends our children have. Or, are not the children of such degenerate parents our concern?! And these Sopho Kildzes, instead of not teaching our children the filth ordered by UNICEF at all, offer us a „generous choice“ – if you wish, do not let your child take such lessons! And why should someone else’s child take such lessons at all?!” [Asaval-Dasavali, 01-07.04.2019]

Giorgi Gigauro, journalist: „With the support of UNICEF, non-governmental organizations which actively „care“ for the „sexual education“ of our children already operate in Georgia. For example, on the website of „Education and Labor Association“ there is a video tutorial, which is led by LGBT activist and Gay parade activist Khatia Akhalaia! I apologize in advance, but I will literally repeat what this Khatia teacher teaches (and at the same time shows on the board) on her video tutorials... This is already homosexual propaganda! At the end of this video tutorial, we read in subtitles: “The video is prepared according to the principles of the UNESCO international technical guide on sexuality education and is recommended for individuals over 12. The project is funded by the platform of the young feminist foundation “Frida” and “Orbeliani Georgia” with the financial support of the Swedish government”. I think everything is crystal clear! This is nothing but the legalization of Sodom and Gomorrah and supremacy of Satanism in Georgia!” [Asaval-Dasavali, 18-24.02.2019]

In addition to these negative messages, the photos attached to the articles, the comments and the even the titles of the articles also contained negative context. In many cases, the visuals of the photos did not correspond to the topic of sexuality education at all or contained the "propaganda of depravity" in which the author accused Sopho Kiladze, Khatia Akhalaia or other people related to the topic of sexuality education. These photos depicted the intimate parts of the human body, contained visual discrimination against sexual minorities, and also sought to discriminate people who support the teaching of sexuality education on the basis of their appearance.

Apart from the Asaval-Dasavali newspaper, the topic of sexuality education was also covered negatively by the Alia newspaper several times. However, in this case the source of the negative tone were the respondents and not the journalists of the newspaper. Two of the three such reports deal with the same fact. In the village of Aghaiani, a minor mother suffocated her child of several months, which caused a big resonance in the society. The topic was discussed from many angles in many circles. Among them, based on this fact, psychologists, representatives of NGOs and some media journalists talked about the need for sexuality education. Such assessments have concerned a part of the society. This was portrayed by 2 news materials published in the newspaper Alia. There is a post by one Facebook user, Beka Adamashvili, where he does not see any connection between such tragedies and sexuality education and expresses a clearly opposite opinion:

Beka Ramishvili, Facebook user: „So the woman suffocated her child, took gold from home and ran away with some guy and they say – „It’s because she did not have sexuality education“ and „how could they make her get married at 16“...Excuse me but are you nuts? What „sexual education“, „what ignorant parents“, do you really need sexuality education to know you should not suffocate your own child??? [Alia, 27.05-02.06.2019]

In the second case of coverage, journalist Bakur Svanidze stated almost the same position on his own page on the social network, which "Alia" published unchanged.

Bakur Svanidze, journalis: „Some idiots write – „Because you’re asking to ban talking about sex and public lectures about sex, this is why this keeps happening to girls! We want to protect your children from making such mistakes! „To hell with those demagogues! First of all, there was no such sex talk in my generation, but somehow, I do not remember any 17-year-old girl kill her child and run away with her lover. But in the era of your lectures on benevolent sex – on the contrary, there are many such cases! Why? It is because you indulge such unhealthy interest towards „free sex“ in girls! You make them think with your „lectures“ that „a husband is restriction of their freedom“ and so on. Everything that is happening now is your sick propaganda’s fault! Do not try to paint the picture otherwise! [Alia, 27.05-02.06.2019]

Both of the above materials were published by the newspaper Alia in the same issue. Although they covered specific views of individuals, the media did not dissociate from their position and did not react in any way. In one case, an opinion expressed against sexuality education in the post was the title of the material. It was because of this attitude that both coverages were assessed in a negative tone.

It should be noted that hate speech, discriminatory assessments or other negative context were not used in other print medias except for Asaval-Dasavali and Alia. Most of them used neutral terms such as "sexuality education" and "sexual upbringing" when covering sexuality education issues. It is also noteworthy that in 2019, magazines and newspapers subject to monitoring, did not use any additional resources when talking about the research issues.

2.5 Disinformation in Asaval-Dasavali newspaper

As noted earlier, Asaval-Dasavali newspaper actively published opinions against sexuality education throughout 2019. We already talked about contents of these materials; however, we should separately address disinformation issue. Among the monitoring subjects, Asaval-Dasavali stands out in that regard, because none of the media outlets prepared fake news about sexuality education issues. Nearly all materials of Asaval-Dasavali contained disinformation, photo manipulations or anti-Western narratives. Issues of sexuality education were mostly addressed within the anti-Western context and the main goal was to portray activities of international organizations in a negative light. Asavali Dasavali journalists were trying to supple

ment their texts, which mostly contained bad language against any of the Western institutions or organizations, with photo materials and news bullets. These text were mostly attempts of information manipulation and were far from the truth. Let's consider a couple of examples:

Disinformation N1

Giorgi Gigauri, journalist: With the Children's Code, and this has been admitted by Sopho Kiladze herself, „sexuality education“ will be introduced in schools. It is no longer relevant whether or not this will be an elective [subject]. They are introducing it and legitimizing it with „international standards“! These „international standards“ are known as follows: „between the ages of 5 and 8, a child should learn that masturbation is dangerous“! „At the age of 9, a child should know about sexual stimulations and essence, definition and purpose of an orgasm“! „Between the ages of 9-12, children should be able to respect different sexual orientation and gender identity“! „Between the ages of 12-15, a child should know that men and women can get sexual pleasure from representatives of same or opposite sex“! Based on these exact „international standards“ and with UNICEF's financial support, the notorious video-lessons of vile Khatia Akhalaia were prepared and our children are learning from them that „anus is not just a part of digestive system, for many it is associated with pleasure“! [Asaval-Dasavali, 01-07.04.2019]

Journalist Giorgi Gigauri noted in almost all of the materials prepared by him that in Georgia, the Code on the Rights of the Child that contained a component of teaching sexuality education, has been prepared under the initiative and “directive” of the United Nations Children’s Fund – UNICEF. This information is false because the Code was prepared by the human rights and civil integration committees of the Parliament of Georgia, and UNICEF simply supported the process. In addition, the journalist was convincing readers that they are going to teach sexuality education in Georgia based on the standards formulated by this organization. He was printing these alleged „standards“ in almost every article. Information contained by it, about sexuality education components according to age groups of children, have nothing to do with the actual program of UNICEF. This fact can be easily confirmed by verifying the information and photos used in the article. For example, in the material published in the March 4-10, 2019 issue of the newspaper, „Read and be horrified – this is an official plan of genocide of Georgians!“, Giorgi Gigauri publishes the foregoing standards and includes two photos [see the photo] in the material. According to him, one of them is „UNICEF's guide on international standards of sexuality education“, and another is „UNICEF's sexuality education program for the Caribbean.“ In reality, these photos have nothing to do with the journalist's description. English texts on these photos illustrate that a photo claimed to be „„UNICEF's sexuality education guide“ is actually a report prepared by UNICEF's office in Bangladesh in 2011, called „Sexual Abuse and Commercial Exploitation of Children – Elements for a national strategy and Plan of Action“. Another photo is from a UNICEF report – „Combating Sexual Violence against Children in the Caribbean: from isolated Actions to Integrated Strategies“. The journalist used both photos for manipulation and dissemination of disinformation. Here we must also note that both reports are publicly available.



Photo, Asaval-Dasavali, 04-10.03.2019

So-called sex-education standard provided in the article, concerning sexuality education issues for different age groups of children, is also disinformation. It is difficult to say which source was used by the journalist in this case but it has nothing to do with UNICEF. UNICEF is a co-author of a document published by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - "International technical guidance on sexuality education – An evidence informed-approach", which describes in detail all issues of sexuality education. Different age groups provided in this document [5-8; 9-12; 12-15] coincide with the journalist's list; however, issues addressed are radically different. One of the chapters of „International technical guidance on sexuality education“ (6, p.64) concerns „The human body and development“. More specifically, it addresses topics of sexual and reproductive system and physiology and summarizes learning objectives for different age groups of children (see the photo). None of the components described here have anything to do with issues specified by the journalist.

6.1 Sexual and Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology	
<p>Learning objectives (5-8 years)</p> <p>Key idea: It is important to know the names and functions of one's body and it is natural to be curious about them, including the sexual and reproductive organs</p> <p>Learners will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify the critical parts of the internal and external genitals and describe their basic function (knowledge); recognize that being curious about one's body, including the genitals, is completely normal (attitudinal); practise asking and responding to questions about body parts that they are curious about (skill). <p>Key idea: Everyone has a unique body that deserves respect, including people with disabilities</p> <p>Learners will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify ways that men's, women's, boys' and girls' bodies are the same, the ways they are different; and how they can change over time (knowledge); explain that all cultures have different ways of seeing people's bodies (knowledge); acknowledge that everyone's body deserves respect, including people with disabilities (attitudinal); express things that they like about their body (skill). <p>Learning objectives (12-15 years)</p> <p>Key idea: During puberty and pregnancy, hormones impact many processes involved with maturation and reproduction</p>	<p>Learning objectives (9-12 years)</p> <p>Key idea: Everyone's body has parts involved in one's sexual health and reproduction, and it is common for children to have questions about them</p> <p>Learners will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe the body parts involved with sexual health and reproduction (knowledge); acknowledge that it is normal to be curious and have questions about their bodies and sexual functions (attitudinal); acknowledge that everyone's body is unique and that variations exist in size, shape, functioning and characteristics (attitudinal); identify a trusted adult to whom they can ask questions, and demonstrate ways to ask about sexual and reproductive anatomy and physiology (skill). <p>Key idea: Women's bodies can release eggs during the menstrual cycle, and men's bodies may make and ejaculate sperm, both of which are needed for reproduction</p> <p>Learners will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain the key functions of the body that contribute to reproduction (e.g. menstrual cycle, sperm production and ejaculation of semen) (knowledge); explain that both women's and men's bodies play an important role in reproduction (attitudinal); express confidence in understanding how the menstrual cycle or ejaculation of sperm happens (skill).

International technical guidance on sexuality education – An evidence informed-approach, pg. 65

Disinformation 2

Giorgi Gigauro, journalist: “In the guide published by UNICEF for Mexico, children are taught how to get sexual pleasure from animals and even inanimate objects!” [Asaval-Dasavali, March 4-10].

The information reported by the journalist is false. Although he didn't cite any particular source, following a comprehensive search on the Internet no such document was found. Over the recent years, UNICEF was preparing general reports about Mexico, however none of these documents are guides for sexuality education. The only material available on sexuality education issues is a report called „Evolution and Resistance to Sexuality Education in Mexico“. It deals with positive changes brought on by introducing sexuality education in Mexico. Notably, UNICEF only provided financial support for preparing the report. In addition, information about attempts of UNICEF to introduce its standards of sexuality education in Mexico is not available in public sources of the Internet.

Disinformation 3

Giorgi Gigauro, journalist: “In the U.S. or in Georgia basically no one knows that the biggest and the most active disseminator of „Universal sexuality education program“ is the International Planned Parenthood Federation“ (IPPF) operating within the UN. The organization has 65 thousand offices in 170 countries of the world. For example, in South Africa the Federation disseminated booklets supposedly dedicated to „the fight with AIDS“, however in fact the booklets talked about how to get happiness from sexual life! However, the most horrible thing was that the booklets was used by the IPPF to teach children that „They have the right not to disclose to their sexual partners information that they are sick with AIDS!“ [Asaval-Dasavali, March 4-10]

The article disseminated by Asaval-Dasavali journalist on UN partner organization International Planned Parenthood Federation, in an attempt to convince readers that Georgia is facing the threat of similar processes, is disinformation. IPPF is an international NGO that focuses on protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the world. According to the journalists, the organization disseminated booklets on AIDS among African children as part of their sexuality education campaign, and the booklets were used to teach the children that they had the right not to share their HIV status with their partners, which is false. There is a guide available on the official website of the IPPF, for HIV-infected individuals and their sexual partners. The purpose of the guide is to raise awareness of infected individuals [and not only], improve quality of their life and prevent spread of the disease. The guide especially emphasizes the practice of safe sexual relations, including the importance of sharing HIV status with partners. Notably, the document is not meant specifically for African countries. It provides general and fundamental recommendations for all countries and it helps us see that approaches of the organization have nothing to do with the information disseminated by the journalist.

Main Findings and Conclusions

Based on findings of the media study, it is safe to conclude that there was no large-scale coverage of sexuality education issues during the monitoring period in Georgian media. In 2019, the monitoring subjects didn't show much interest toward sexuality education. Instances of active coverage of the research issues by media were mostly caused by a certain provoking event or fact. Media was rarely the initiator of coverage. This trend can be clearly seen in the frequency and periodicity diagram. On the most part, issues of sexuality education were the focus of media attention during indirect coverage, rather than direct coverage. Media mostly used neutral tone during discussions about the research issues and the discussions involved different sources. Respondents frequently included representatives of the society, journalists, politicians, psychologists and NGOs. Media was rarely interested in assessments of stakeholders that were affected by these issues the most, and here we mean students, teachers and parents. Issues of sexuality education were rarely addressed by male respondents. They were mostly addressed by female respondents and gender balance among respondents was rarely observed.

Notably, throughout 2019, among issues of sexuality education the monitoring subjects focused more on the need of sexuality education and it didn't pay as much attention to protest against sexuality education. Media also reported about issues related to teaching of sexuality education in schools and related legislative initiatives. When addressing the research issues, media mostly used neutral terms and it rarely used negative terminology. Trends identified in media coverage of sexuality education issues in 2019 can be summarized the following way:

- **Media outlets monitored covered the issue in every month of 2019. The highest proportion of coverage was found in February-June, while the peak was found in March.**
- **Media outlets monitored focused on sexuality education issues more during indirect coverage, as opposed to direct coverage.**
- **Print media is the only one from the research subjects where proportion of direct coverage was higher than proportion of indirect coverage.**
- **In 2019, media outlets monitored covered sexuality education issues mostly with a neutral tone.**
- **Among the research subjects, the highest number of positive media products was aired by televisions.**
- **Among the monitoring subjects, radio is the only one where instances of negative coverage weren't found.**

- Among the research subjects, print media had the highest proportion of negative materials. The number of negative materials published by print media exceeded the number of positive ones.
- In majority of cases, media respondents for discussing the research topic included society representatives, journalists, politicians, psychologists and NGOs.
- The research topic was most often discussed by women than men.
- From the research subjects, only television and online media observed gender balance among respondents.
- The highest proportion of materials about the research issues were prepared on the need of sexuality education, and the lowest – on protest against sexuality education.
- Among the research subjects, radio is the only one that didn't cover the topic of „protest against sexuality education“.
- Among the research subjects, the lowest proportion of materials about the need of sexuality education was published by print media.
- Most often, media outlets monitored used the following neutral terms: „sexuality education“, „sexual upbringing“, „sexuality education“.
- Media outlets monitored used the following negative terms to refer to issues of sexuality education: „oral sex lessons“, „lectures on good sex“, „sexology lesson.“

Television:

- Among televisions monitored, Ajara TV program „Hashtag“ prepared the highest proportion of materials on the research issues.
- In 2019, on Imedi TV the highest proportion of coverage of sexuality education issues was found during „Imedis Dge“ program, on the Public Broadcaster – during a talk show „Current Issue with Maka Tsintsadze“, on Rustavi 2 – during an afternoon program „Other Afternoon.“
- Among the research issues, televisions prepared the highest proportion of materials on the need of sexuality education and the issue was addressed during all types of programs, except news programs.

- Throughout 2019, televisions mostly dedicated a program bloc to issues of sexuality education.
- Ajara TV covered the issue mostly directly and positively. It had a consistent policy for coverage of sexuality education issues.
- Throughout the monitoring period, during direct coverage televisions covered sexuality education issues mostly positively, while the tone of indirect coverage was almost always neutral.
- During direct coverage of sexuality education issues, society was the main source for televisions, while for indirect coverage, on the most part the issue was discussed by journalists themselves.
- Issues of teaching sexuality education were mostly discussed by psychologists and NGO representatives on television, rather than representatives of the Ministry of Education and lawmakers.

Radio:

- Coverage of sexuality education issues by radios monitored within the research was mostly indirect.
- During the monitoring period, radios didn't cover sexuality education issues negatively.
- Gender balance was not observed in any of the cases of direct coverage of sexuality education issues by radios.
- In 2019, radios monitored within the research didn't cover issues of protest against sexuality education at all.
- During the monitoring period, radio devoted the least time to issues of sexuality education, compared to other monitoring subjects.

Online media:

- From online media outlets monitored, GHN.ge was the only one that didn't publish a single material about the research topic.
- Out of the twelve months of 2019, online media didn't devote any time to the research topic in January only.

- From online media outlets, edu.aris.ge and newposts.ge have both covered the research topic only directly, none of the media outlets have covered the research topic only indirectly.
- Half of negative materials in online media were published on saqinform.ge
- From online media outlets, mshoblebi.ge and newposts.ge are the only ones that used all three tones for coverage.
- In addition to legislative changes related to sexuality education, all three sub-categories were positively covered by online media.
- Among online media outlets, iPress.ge is the only one that covered the research topic in a neutral manner only.
- The research topics were covered with negative tone mostly during indirect coverage.
- Majority of sources in online media was interviewed during direct coverage of sexuality education issues and their number is almost twice as many as the number of respondents for indirect coverage.
- During indirect coverage of the research issues by online media, only clergymen and teachers were commenting about issues of sexuality education. They didn't discuss the topic indirectly.
- 4 online media publications: netgazeti.ge, interpressnews.ge, iPress.ge, sawinform.ge didn't have male respondents at all. In addition, all subjects of the research had at least 1 female respondent.
- The need of sexuality education is the only sub-category where proportion of indirect coverage was higher than proportion of direct coverage in online media. In the remaining three categories, proportion of direct coverage is higher.
- When speaking about the research issues, online media mostly used neutral terminology.

Print media:

- In 2019, among subjects of the monitoring (print media) only Tbiliselebi and Ojakhis Mkurnali didn't cover issues of sexuality education.
- In print media, proportions of neutral and negative coverage were nearly equal.

- In print media, not a single material was published on the research issues in January, July, September and December 2019.
- In print media, the need of sexuality education is the only issue that was covered using all three formats (interview, article, news story).
- Among print media outlets, Akhali Ganatleba is the only one that covered the topic with positive and neutral tone the highest number of times. All of these materials concerned teaching of sexuality education in schools.
- Among print media outlets, negative tone was found only in newspapers: Asaval-Dasavali and Alia.
- Among materials prepared on the research topic by Asaval-Dasavali, all but one had a negative tone. Their majority was indirect coverage of protest against sexuality education.
- Among the monitoring subjects in print media, with the exception of Asaval-Dasavali, none of the media outlets prepared materials that contained fake news.
- Asaval-Dasavali had a total of 7 sources. In 5 cases, journalist of the newspaper was the source and all of these materials had a negative tone.
- In print media, only Asaval-Dasavali had respondents of both sexes, while other media outlets had only female or only male respondents.
- During direct coverage of research issues by print media, gender balance was not observed in any of the cases.

How to include sexuality education issues in the media agenda: Practical Guide and Recommendations

Monitoring of coverage of sexuality education issues by media in 2019 clearly suggests that this topic is not part of the media agenda. A number of political, social, criminal, high-profile or tragic stories that take place on a daily basis constantly cast a shadow on the topic of sexuality education. Therefore, the topic is included in the media agenda only in relation to a specific event and it is rarely covered upon the initiative of a media outlet. In some cases, only a few materials are prepared on sexuality education. In reality, media is one of the most important links for raising public awareness about importance of sexuality education. Therefore, the question is, how can media coverage of sexuality education issues be increased?

We should start by noting that this process should be implemented based on a comprehensive and strategic cooperation between media and stakeholders that focus on sexuality education issues. There are a number of instances of such collaboration between media and different sectors, which have proven to be effective. The most important thing is to provide the society with correct information and content, to make sure that active media coverage of sexuality education issues does not have the opposite result and further deepen the critical attitudes that part of the society already has about sexuality education. In view of these issues, we can identify several steps that can be made in this area:

- **Organizations focusing on sexuality education issues should create a collaboration with one or more media outlets and/or journalists**
- **Organizations focusing on sexuality education issues should ensure that media partners/journalists are adequately informed about importance and essence of the topic**
- **Organizations focusing on sexuality education issues should prepare a training course to raise awareness of partner media or journalists**
- **Organizations focusing on sexuality education issues should introduce to their media partners forms and standards of how to effectively cover sexuality education issues**
- **Organizations focusing on sexuality education issues should encourage media representatives' interest in the topic by creating a competition, establishing an award or a financial prize**

Let us discuss each paragraph in more detail. It should be noted that collaboration with media is mostly related to financial obligations, which an interested person or organization may not be able to afford. Therefore, the first paragraph of the action plan does not necessarily entail awarding a grant. There is always a format that will help the parties interested in this topic achieve their shared goal, including a memorandum, a partnership network, etc. In early stages, a small association can facilitate the process. In that regard, it is critically important to raise awareness of media representatives. Sex education issues are quite complex and since they are not as popular in media, journalists are not fully aware of these issues. Therefore, often when they cover topics that are closely connected to sexuality education, they overlook this connection and do not raise the issue. In addition to raising awareness of journalists, training courses prepared by organizations focusing on sexuality education should also aim to illustrate such connections. Since practice is the largest component of journalism, training courses should entail discussions of concrete cases/examples from their work. Here we can discuss trends and cases identified during the 2019 media monitoring.

Although during the monitoring period sexuality education was not covered often, facts that are closely connected to sexuality education were covered quite frequently. However, this connection is difficult to notice at first glance, in view of the existing reality in Georgia. Therefore, often journalists tend not to raise them. Such facts that were frequently covered can be divided in three thematic categories:

1. Pedophilia and lewd act against a minor:

Concrete facts of coverage in 2019:

- **Rustavi 2, „Kurieri“ - "Teacher Abused a Student - The Teacher Tried to Sexually Assault the Student in Front of Grandchildren – The "Courier" Found Out Additional Details About the Accused Teacher"**
- **Rustavi 2, „Kurieri“ - "Fatal Message - Pedophilia at School - 9th Grade Girl Receives Intimate Messages from Teacher"**
- **Rustavi 2, „Kurieri“ - Lewd Actions at School**

High-profile Facts of The Year in Various Media:

- **Rustavi 2, „Kurieri“ - 16-Year-Old Mother - 16-Year-Old Girl Allegedly Raped by A Relative – Minor Hid the Pregnancy For 9 Months**
- **TV Imedi, „Qronika“ - Alleged Rape Case in Lagodekhi Municipality**
- **First Channel of The Public Broadcaster, „Moambe“ – Incident in Lagodekhi District**
- **Radio Liberty – Fact of Rape in Lagodekhi Region**
- **GHN.GE - A 40-Year-Old Man Accused of Raping a 16-Year-Old Girl Has Been Arrested**
- **AMBEI.GE – In Lagodekhi, 16-Year-Old Girl Gave Birth to A Child from A 40-Year-Old Relative? – The Teenager Accuses the Man of Sexual Violence**
- **IPN.GE – According to The School Principal, The Story of Student's Pregnancy Was Revealed After She Was Taken to A Hospital Because Of Stomach Ache**
- **NETGAZETI.GE – „The Teenager Is in A State of Shock“ – 16-Year-Old Girl Says She Gave Birth to A Child as A Result of Rape**
- **MSHOBLEBI.GE - „She Became Ill at Schools and That Is How She Found Out About Pregnancy“ – Minor Accuses Relative Man of Sexual Abuse**
- **Newspaper „Versia“ – „Police Have Arrested One Person with Charges of Raping a Minor“**

- Newspaper „Alia“ - “I Was Told to Give 10, 000 Lari If I Did Not Want to Be Blamed” - „What Does the Man Accused of Violence Against A 16-Year-Old Girl Say“
- Newspaper „New Generation“ - „His Father Came at Night and Raped Me“ - A 16-Year-Old Girl Was Offered to Get Engaged to Rapist’s 14-Year-Old Son

1. Child Marriage and Adolescent Parenthood

- Adjara TV, „Mtavari“ - Premature Marriage Facts and Reactions
- Rustavi 2, “Shabatis Kurieri” - The Result of Child Marriage
- Rustavi 2, “Good Morning Georgia” - Girls Who Fail to Learn and Develop Due to Premature Marriage
- Rustavi 2, “Kurieri” - „Tradition“ Against Law Violation - Marriage and Engagement of Minors in Kvemo Kartli - Alarming Statistics from Marneuli“
- Rustavi 2, “Kurieri” - Father Arrested for Pressuring a Minor Child Was Released on Bail

3. Sexual Blackmail of Children and Threats to Leak Footage of Personal Life

- TV Pirveli, “Day’s News” - Batumi: Personal Life Footage
- Rustavi 2, “Kurieri” - „Internet Blackmail - Adolescent Victims of Sexual Blackmail“
- TV Imedi, „Kronika“ - Footage Of students' Personal Lives on Social Network -Investigation Launched by MIA"

This is only a small list of materials prepared on these three topics last year, where the issue of teaching sexuality education could have also been raised but it wasn't. All of the foregoing topics are clearly negative and they do not evoke any positive attitudes from public. Therefore, such facts are an excellent opportunity for coverage of sexuality education issues in a positive light, as in such cases it causes less unacceptability than these facts themselves. Additionally, such type of education is the primary tool for prevention of the foregoing criminal acts in all countries where teaching of sexuality education is allowed.

In the process of coverage of such unlawful acts, media can integrate issues of sexuality education in a number of ways, more specifically:

- In materials prepared about pedophilia, child marriage, lewd acts against a minor, adolescent parenthood, sexual blackmail of children, media can underline that one of the ways to prevent and solve such problems is by teaching of sexuality education
- In materials prepared about pedophilia, child marriage, lewd acts against a minor, adolescent parenthood, sexual blackmail of children, media can provide an example of countries where teaching of sexuality education significantly reduced incidence of such facts
- In materials prepared about pedophilia, child marriage, lewd acts against a minor, adolescent parenthood, sexual blackmail of children, media can interview a source that will suggest that sexuality education can help prevent such facts and/or the journalist him/herself can ask the respondent to elaborate on this topic
- In materials prepared about pedophilia, child marriage, lewd acts against a minor, adolescent parenthood, sexual blackmail of children, media can explain to viewers as to which component of sexuality education protects children against such threats.
- In the process of covering sexuality education issues, journalists should use credible and reliable resources – statistics/research/reports
- In the process of covering sexuality education issues, journalist should react to negative messages of respondents
- In the process of covering sexuality education issues, journalists should use neutral terms
- In the process of covering sexuality education issues, journalists should be guided by local and international standards for ethical reporting

To these concrete and simple steps, we can add the component discussed earlier, about offering a certain standard for coverage of sexuality education issues. Introduction of such standard can be facilitated by competitions and prizes. This can also be followed by implementing broad and diverse measures.

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