

NORMALIZING YOUTH SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN KAZAKHSTAN. FORMALLY AND INFORMALLY



Karlygash Kabatova
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Uyatman



Uyat means *shame* in Kazakh language

Expectations vs Reality



Up to 10,000 child births by teenage girls every year



No system to protect
youth sexual & reproductive health

1. Formalistic
approach

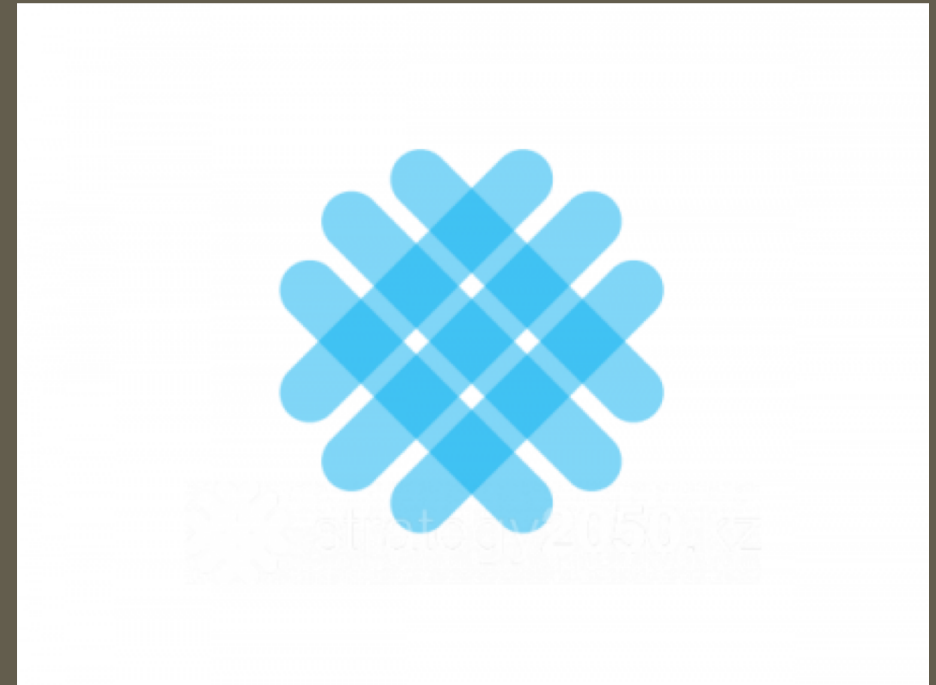
2. Cultural
taboo

3. IO/NGO are
main actors

4. Gender
stereotypes

1. Formalistic approach

- Superficial state programs
- No specific authority is responsible
- Lack of cooperation between authorities (Education & Healthcare)



2. The taboo of discussing sexual & reproductive health

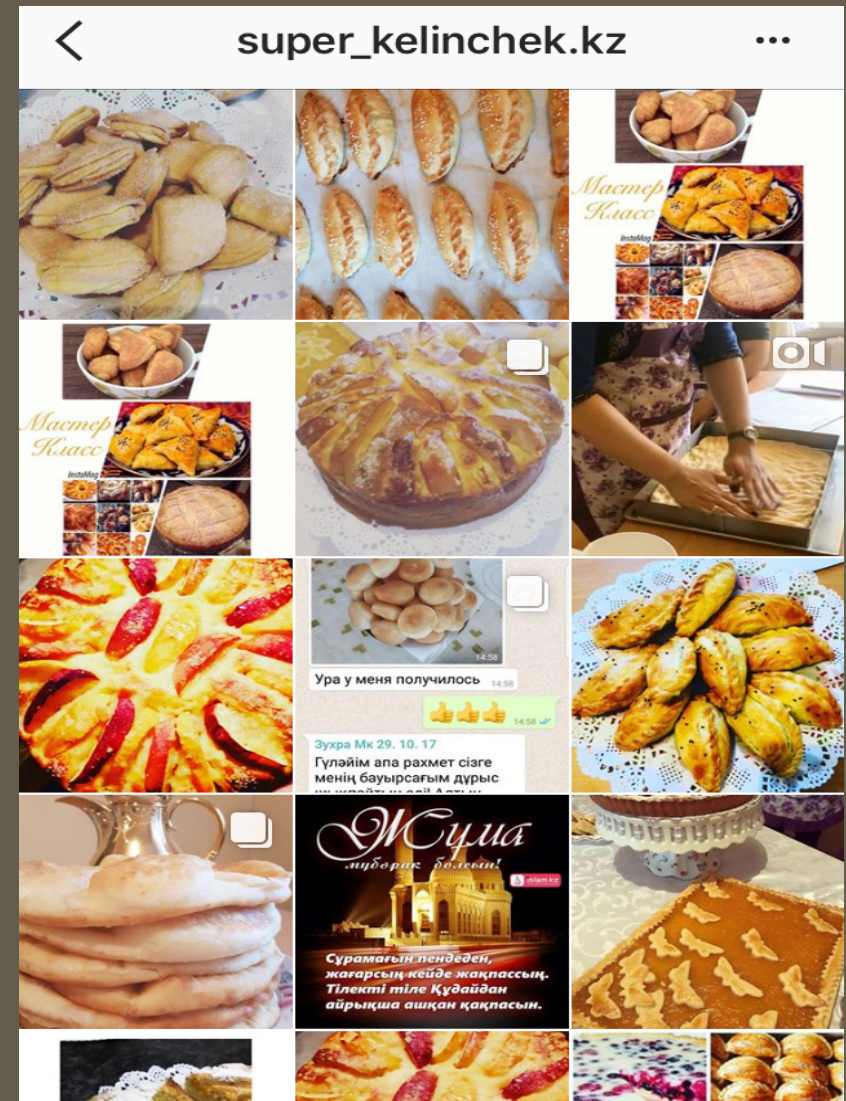
- Teens lack information
- Parents fear *the* conversation
- Internet is the primary source of info
- Lack of resources in the local cultural context



50% of respondents encountered porn



vs.



Kyrgyzstan

Kazakhstan

3. IOs and NGOs take the lead

- Sporadic educational projects
- Not sustainable effects
- Focus on females

Дорожкина Л., Сауранбаева М.

Методическое пособие для преподавателей
по введению усиленного компонента по охране
сексуального и репродуктивного здоровья
в предмет «Валеология»

(для пилотных колледжей Восточно-Казахстанской области)

Алматы 2014

4. Gender stereotypes – Cherchez la Femme!



- “Women and girls should be punished so they learn to be responsible!”
- Mainly women work on gender and family related policies
- Educational projects teach girls to navigate in the ‘men’s world’

What children hear from parents

Girls

- Behave!
- Don't approach boys.
- Don't walk alone.
- Don't wear tight clothes.
- Don't wear your hair loose.
- Don't wear makeup.

Boys

- Don't hold hands with little girls. They say that they've been raped.
- If you go to girls, use a condom.

Parents tend to protect daughters from getting “spoiled” = have sex before marriage

A mother: “If parents bring their daughter up properly, then a boy won’t be able to spoil her.”

A father: “When your daughter turns 15 you should take her to a gynecologist once a month. This way you’ll know she’s not spoiled.”

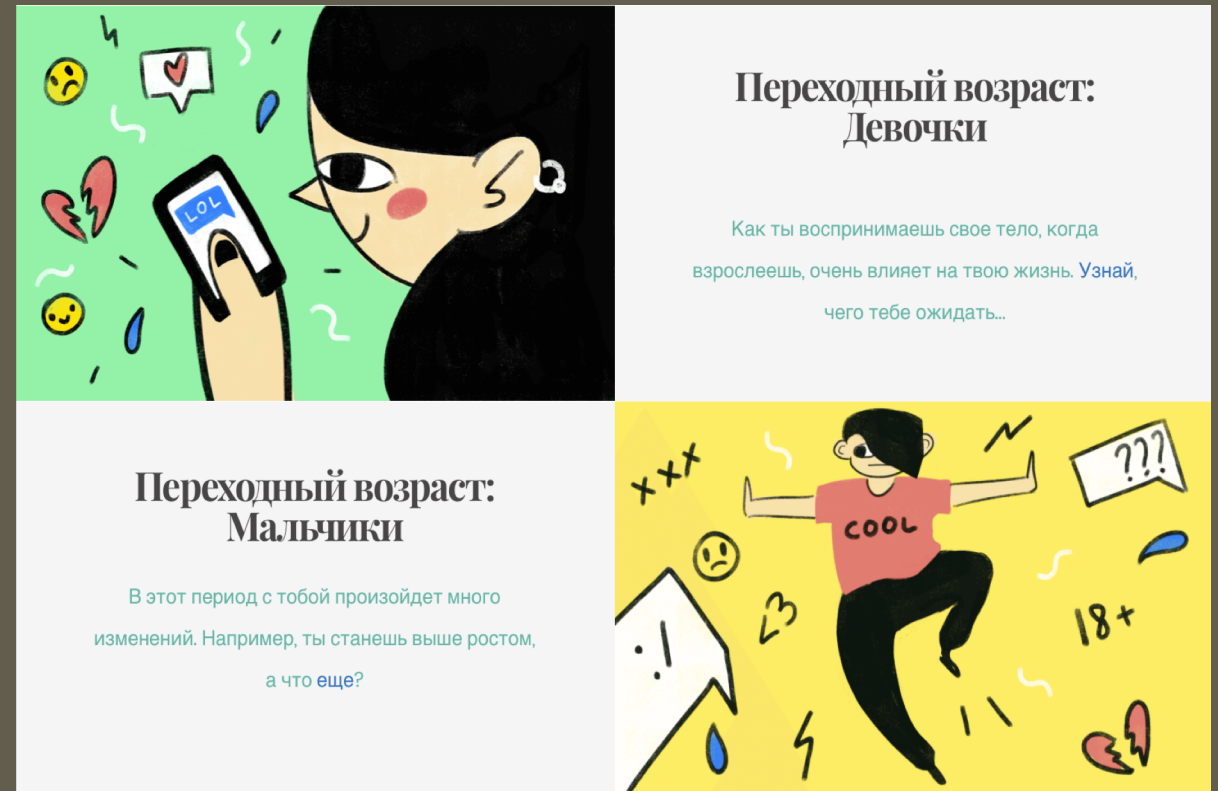
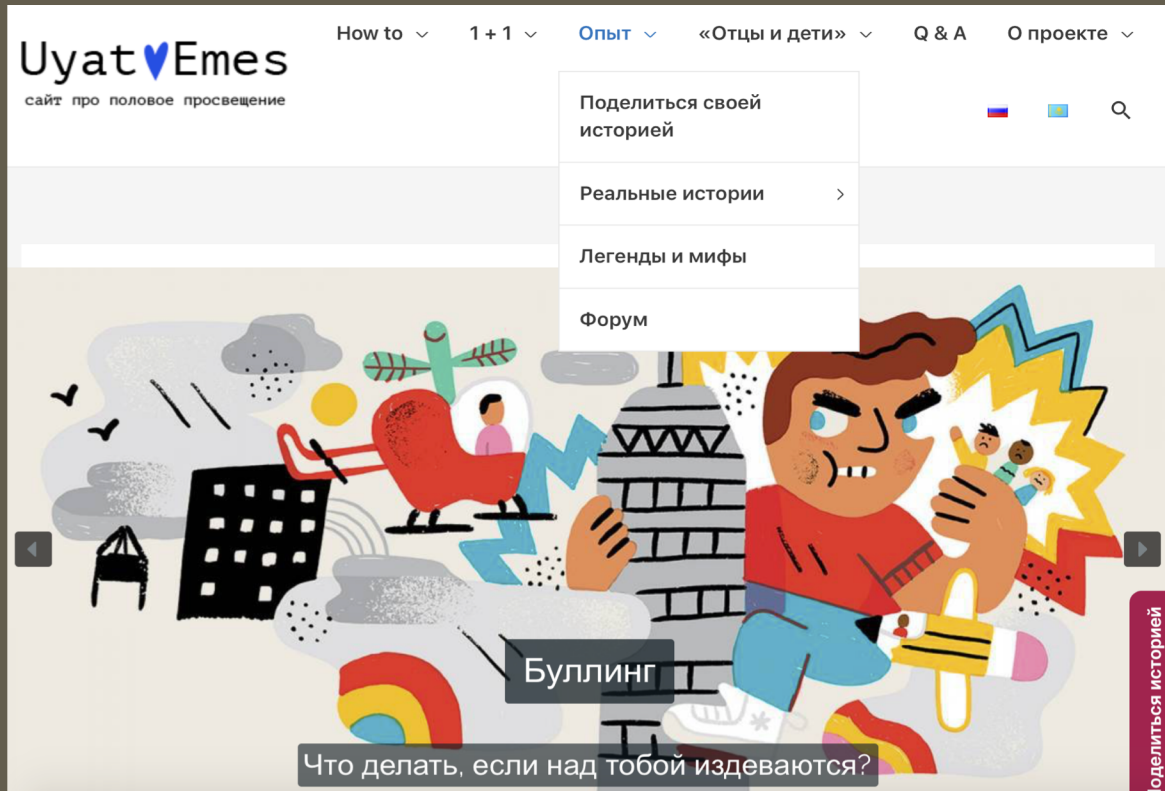
Focus group with parents, Shymkent May 9, 2019

WHAT TO DO? - INTRODUCE SEXED IN SCHOOLS!

- Prioritize youth reproductive rights
- Raise SRH awareness of decision makers, parents, general public
- Make healthcare youth-friendly
- Educate youth outside of schools



Uyat Emes = No Shame



www.UyatEmes.kz