OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

Adolescent: This is the person growing up towards adulthood. The person is no longer a child but not yet an adult. The age range varies from culture to culture. While adolescents in non-Western societies have shorter adolescence period (12-20), those in Western cultures have a longer one (12-25 years).

Sexuality: This is part of the holistic personality. It incorporates sexual identity, gender roles and duties, reproductive health, attraction, relationships, sexual intercourse and other forms of sexual behaviours.

Sex: The biological makeup of human beings. In ordinary usage refers to sexual intercourse.

Socialisation: This is the process of acquiring knowledge necessary for social living.

Modern: Cultural Practice attuned to Western style of living.

Irresponsible Sex: This is sexual behaviour viewed to be going against the expectations of the society.

Pre-Marital: Before or prior to marriage.

Sexual Behaviour: It includes physical sexual activity and other erotic overtures.

Social Factors: These are the factors which have a bearing from point of view of the group, community and other social processes. They include the family, peers, the political class, mass media, school and religious groups and belief systems.

Sex Education: Learning process packaged toward understanding the sex life of the human being, sexual and reproductive health, sex values, norms and morality.
Comprehensive Sex Education: Literal, holistic and factual knowledge about human sex life, values, and morals as well as the biological, psychological and socio-cultural aspects of human sex life.

Indiscriminate Sex: Sex intercourse without careful judgement or thought about the outcome.

Culture: People’s total way of life which include beliefs, customs, art, traditions, habits, technology, foods, music and any other life dispositions/behaviour.

Society: Human grouping where people are bound by certain cultural practices, institutions and purpose. Sometimes used interchangeably with the word community.

Key Informants: These are the people in a society who hold certain responsibilities and their actions and decisions have a lot of influence on the life of other people. The position can either be achieved or ascribed. They include such people as religious leaders, teachers, village elders, parents, politicians, etc.

Hormones: Chemical Substances produced in the body or in a plant that encourages growth or influences how the cells and tissues function.

Contemporary: Refers to that which is of present time.