THESIS

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Lack of sexual education in China?

Experience of qualitative research

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1. Introduction

1.1 Brief summary

With the development of times, in China, people and society are paying more and more attention to the development of education. Because more and more people realized that the education will influence a child in an unintended way, a good education will give a child a right way to explore and learn things. Both the families and schools, even the whole society are trying to give children the best education so that they can achieve better grades and get a better life. But how about the sexual education? Which I called "sexual education" is not just simple sex education, it refers to the sexual education both include sexuality education and gender education. Is it as important as “normal education” for Chinese people, or it is a neglected part of Chinese people and society?

For my thesis, I try to find if Chinese people really lack sexual education. In Chinese culture and society, sex has always been an embarrassing thing for the Chinese people to talk about, so we can see that China still in a "sex-shy" culture compared with some of the western countries which with more open cultures. But with the development of society, the Chinese people need to see the problem of sex with the right attitude and vision. This kind of conservative culture makes Chinese people are used to avoiding sex-related topics, so it is hard to develop positive sexual education in China. As time passes, bad consequences caused by lack of sexual education are beginning to dawn on us. So the topic about “sexual education” are more and more familiar for Chinese in these two years.

For the sources of sexual education, I think the three main sources are family, school, and media. And for my thesis, I want mainly talk about the sexual education by family and school, I want to show what kind of roles the family and school play in the sexual
education in China. I have found an article in the online CASS (China National Center for Philosophy and Social Sciences Documentation), the data showed, for Chinese college students, in terms of the source of sexual knowledge, the college students receive only 8.3% of their sexual knowledge from their parents, 24.4% from teachers, but 45.3% of the knowledge gained from books and Science Popularization TV Program by themselves (Min N, 2001). So we can see that Chinese families and schools are not really taken on their responsibilities in sexual education. So I want to focus on school and family and their role in sexual education for the main part of my thesis instead of media.

1.2 Main structure

For the first, I will find some related literature and write a literature review including theoretical concepts and evidence-based research outcomes on sexual education. And also I want to talk about the current situation of sexual education in China, I want to show some authoritative and detailed data to illustrate how serious of the problem about the Chinese people lack the sexual education. After talking about the current situation of sexual education in China, I want to analyze why Chinese lack of sexual educations. The reasons may include the historical reason, cultural reason, social reason, and also I will research the development process of Chinese sexual education to see if there are some significant sexual education in China.

And then I will discuss some phenomena and outcomes caused by the lack of sexual education. Peng xiaohui the professor of human sexuality at the school of life sciences at central China normal university, said: "99 percent of China's young people are sex blind, and China's current sexual education is almost zero in China's population base." It leads to so many bad phenomena in China. These bad phenomena include the increasing number of people who infected Aids, surprisingly high abortion rates, and the child sexual abuse happens more and more frequently.
After these research by literature, I will do my own research by individual interview method, I think this part will help me to closer to the current situation of sexual education level in China, and also I want to know more Chinese people’s detailed attitude to sexual education. After that, I want my interviewees to share some their own suggestion and ideas on “how to make the sexual education situation better in China? ”

1.3 Research questions

- What kind of factors is behind the lack of sexual education in the family and school in China?

- Does the lack of sexual education in the family and school play a significant role in such unfavourable phenomena as increasing number of AIDS infection, high abortion rates and child sexual assault?

- What are the people’s attitudes toward sexual education?

- What is the best way in China to develop the sexual education in schools? And what is the best way for Chinese parents to teach sexual knowledge to their children?

2. Literature review

In order to research the sexual education of China in a comprehensive way, I found so many kinds of literature in the different aspects and angles, there are several kinds of research published mainly in English and some of them in Chinese. These literatures are including the research data, the summary of Chinese sexual education policy, also some introductions of the Chinese sexual education’s development and some discussions of the current situation of Chinese sexual education.
First of all, we must admit that the sexual education plays a very important role in both the growth of children or teenagers, even the adults also need the sexual knowledge. Sexual education is not only about the topic of sex, it also includes the understanding of love and your body, so by accepting the sexual education, the children and teenagers will know how to protect themselves better from infringement, and the adults will know how to protect their children better also. At the same time, it also can make people learn to respect the privacy of others. In many internet forums or web topics, I can see that many Chinese still can’t look upon the “sexual topic” in a natural way, some of them still feel uncomfortable and stressed when they face a conversation about “sex”, especially the generations of our parents or older people, the deep-rooted traditional ideology still make them feel difficult to talk about this topic in a normal and overt way.

2.1 Key sociological theories

Gender equality / Gender inequality

Sexual education should base on the gender equality, gender equality refers to freedom from discrimination on the basis of gender(Gang, 2013). China has a long history of patriarchy, so in a long time woman are oppressed by man, “Although definitions of patriarchy can vary, it is widely accepted that patriarchy refers to social arrangements that privilege males, where men as a group dominate women as a group, both structurally and ideologically (Connell,1987; Hunnicutt, 2009)”(Rose, Shelly, Danielle, 2014). Under this kind of patriarchy, the thought of man is superior to the woman has already blended into Chinese culture, because of this, for so many years, China pursuing abstinence sexual education. For this kind of sexual education, “virgin” is an important standard to define the moral quality of a girl, this is a reflection of gender inequality. We need to realize the reality of Chinese nowadays society, even it already changed a lot, but actually it still in the patriarchal system. The structural inequality in society between male and female, the phenomenon of male superiority, these phenomena are still
widespread (Gang, 2013). So lack of sexual education, to some extent, it will aggravate gender inequality. A good sexual education will make children know themselves better and learn to how to respect others, because for the children who are in the sexual initiation stage, it is important for them to learn the differences and connection between different genders.

Gender stereotype

Gang Fang said in his Empowering sexual education: theory, content and methods, “It seems unfair to say that there is no sex and gender education in China's primary and secondary schools today. However, if such sexual education is constantly told the students "The boys should be like this, and the girls should be like that.", such like boys should be strong and brave, and girls should be tender and considerate, this kind of sexual education is not what we need. If the sexual education is telling the boys and girls what they should do, then it is reinforcing the stereotype of gender roles, and the result is the girls and boys who with non-conformance to this pattern, then they will be discriminated and prejudiced.” (Gang, 2013). Gender stereotype has strong relationship with Chinese sexual education nowadays, for example, more and more Chinese parents pay attention to children sexual assault incidents, but actually most of them only focus on girls victims, because in the minds of normal people, they think only the girls will be the victims of sexual assault, because girls are effeminate. So I can see that because of the gender stereotype, the boys' victims of sexual assault are ignored by the public, even the offenders of sexual assault incidents which the victims are boys they will get the lighter punishment. Liu Baiju, the director of the department of political science and law at the Chinese Academy of social sciences, she said: “In China, there is a traditional concept of virginity, which is only for female. Generally speaking, female will get more social stress and more psychological stress than men when they suffered sexual assaults. And when this kind of public perception of this difference is reflected in the criminal
law, there are differences of punishment strength. When people talk about sexual rights, they also often refer to female sexual rights."(Xi, Jiawei, 2013).

2.2 History

A large part of the reason of Chinese shyness about talking about sex is a historical reason. In fact, in the history of China, there are books about sex very early. As early as the pre-qin period, there have been records of sex, such as China's *I CHING*. In the subsequent dynasties, people did not regard sex as obscene things, and in the Six Dynasties, people even think that the sexual intercourse could prolong life. But after the Song Dynasty, with the rise of neo-Confucianism, abstinence gradually gained the upper hand in the sexual attitudes of Chinese, private life become secretive, and all things about sex are classified as dirty things. During this period, people didn't have the concepts of sexual education, but they already have some early sexual education. For example, the erotic depiction paintings (Shunga) which have always been part of the dowry of ancient Chinese brides, it is a traditional education form, which continues until the middle of the 20th century(Zhiqi\&Jianwei, 2017).

Since the end of the Qing dynasty, as China's locked door was opening, the influx of western culture into China, China's reformists were influenced by western ideas, to interpret Confucianism, and critiqued the conservative abstinence concept. On the one hand, it makes the Chinese thinking become more open, but in the other hand, it also inspired the contradiction between the new thought and the deep-rooted traditional thought, that makes those who hold conservative thinking and still further think the sexual topics is unacceptable. With the founding of new China, the liberating of thought and the popularity of education, the sexual education has been reentered into people's perspective to some extent.
2.3 Current situation(school, family, media)

So how is the current situation of sexual education in China? In 2004, Watts noted in the international journal "LANCET" that Chinese sexual education lags behind the sexual practices of Chinese adolescents (Watts, 2004:1208-1208). This is really the current situation of the sexual education in China, the start of education is late and the development is slow. In China, the start of sexual education curriculum is generally relatively late in schools, it usually begins in secondary schools. Until nearly two years that we began to develop primary and secondary school education textbooks in some first-tier cities(Xiying&Yiran, 2012). And the sexual education is not an independent subject in China, it is usually explained by biology teachers in biology class. So in this situation, it can’t ensure the veracity of knowledge transfer, because the teachers often try to avoid "embarrassment", he/she will not explain the concepts of sex in a detailed way, and the students also listen to these as a joke. The lack of seriousness in this class can easily lead to the neglect of sexual education. Suiming Pan, Yingying Huang's survey of 1593 young people aged 14 to 17, found that 73.5 percent of teenagers said the schools hardly teach them about sexual knowledge; 86.6 percent of teens think they rarely get sexual education from their parents(Xiying&Yiran, 2012).

Everyone knows that sexual education is important for children’s growth, but how to do it? The parents should become the first teachers in children’s lives, but can they do it well? This is the big problem in China for sexual education. We lack the sexual education from families also. Parents supporting sexual education but are afraid to become the educators. Wenli Liu (2006) did a questionnaire survey about sexual education with the amount of 841 parents in three cities--Beijing, Shanghai and Xian. These parents all have puberty teens in families. The results found a very interesting phenomenon, most parents not only to master some scientific sexual knowledge, but also hold very positive attitudes of carrying out some scientific sexual education in
family and schools to adolescent, but 85% of parents said they had never had sexual education for children (Xiying & Yiran, 2012). In China, parents hard to open their mouth to talk about sex-related things, because the traditional conservative thought is deep-rooted. When we ask our parents “Where am I come from?”, the answers always are “I pick you up from a trash can” or “You are a gift given by telephone company when I pay the telephone bill.” These are the common memories for these generations, most of the times we all think these are the funny jokes, but when we heard news like “A young girl gave birth a baby in a toilet because she didn’t know she was pregnant.” “A young couple went to the hospital ask the doctors how to have a baby.” the jokes are sound extremely sharp.

However, we cannot say they are irresponsible parents, Chinese children lack of the family sexual education is not all their faults. To some extent, Chinese parents are also "victims", they are also not accept any kind of regular sexual education during their process of growth, to the contrary, they have been taught are totally traditional so-called "moral standards", which makes in their thoughts it is not easy to talk about the sex-related topics. So, at present, it is difficult for parents to play the role of an educator on sexual education, but through the transition of generations’ thoughts, the “new Chinese parents” will be easier to open their mouth to talk about “sex” with their children. It takes some time.

I have found an article in the online CASS (China National Center for Philosophy and Social Sciences Documentation). There are some data showed. For Chinese college students, in terms of the source of sexual knowledge, the college students receive only 8.3% of their sexual knowledge from their parents, 24.4% from teachers, but 45.3% of the knowledge gained from books and Science Popularization TV Program by themselves (Min, 2001). For this one, we can see that the media play an important part in
students’ independent sexual education. Most of the teenagers learned sexual knowledge from the internet or other media.

Do the media or internet really bring useful sexual knowledge to teenagers? A research pointed out: The group accepted online sexual education reached higher scores of average on reproductive health test than the group which not accepted online sexual education. So they promote the online sexual education in Shanghai, and they have obtained the certain effect, thus, providing online sexual education can improve the knowledge of reproductive health, at the same time, youth also can change their attitude towards sex-related topics (Chao-hua, Quan, Er-Sheng, Iqbal H.S, 2006). So for nowadays China, when the traditional values still the mainstream in parents, the media is a good way to spread sexual education and sexual knowledge. Under the situation that the schools and families are hard to take their responsibilities of sexual education, we should catch this opportunity to raise the publicity of sexual education by media.

2.4 Harm(abortion)

The risk of a lack of education is well known, such as a large number of unsafe sexes leading to increased abortion rates and a rise in the number of people with HIV. Hongzhen Zhang, the director of the department of obstetrics and gynecology of China Heibei first hospital, she said in the report: in recent years, the number of unmarried teenage girls who went to the hospital to do the abortion operation increased significantly, even though they said their ages are around 27 years old, but actually, many of them are still studying in school and even are nonage, and this situation will be more serious in the winter or summer holiday (Xing, 2006). Many of these young girls are pregnant because they don't know any kind of sexual knowledge, and many of them even don't know when they were pregnant. At present, unmarried sex is a common problem for a lot of countries, according to statistics, for those who went to obstetrics and gynaecology to do the abortion operation, about 70% of them are unmarried
pregnancy, and more than 50% of them are female students, this is a very dangerous signal. Because the traditional thought of parents, and afraid of the gossips form others, these girls choose to do the abortion in some private clinics which have very poor sanitary conditions, and they also don't pay attention to have enough rest after surgery, early to do some vigorous exercise, but they don’t know these could cause permanent damage to their body. And because of the lack of formal sexual education, a lot of girls are repeating these mistakes again and again.

2.5 Sexual education policy in China

In 1957, at the eighth the third plenary session, MAO Zedong, the chairman of the communist party of China (CPC), he advocated adding a course of birth control in middle schools(Guangrong, Chengye, Wei, Li, 2005). This is the first sexual education policy of China. This policy cannot be regarded as a complete sexual education policy, it comes up because of the worry of the population, its main purpose is to advocate the birth control to control the population, but we have to admit that this is the beginning of Chinese sexual education after the founding of new China(Tsu, 2016). With the development of society and the development of Chinese sexual science research, people gradually paid attention to the problem of sexual education and the adolescent health after the reform and opening up. In 1979, China promulgated the "Criminal law of the People's Republic of China" and made explicit provisions on sexual crimes to protect the sexual rights of teenagers. On August 24, 1988, the state education commission, the ministry of health and the state family planning commission issued "The notice about start the adolescent education in middle school", it put forwarded that school should open a courses about health education, promote the school to carry out the adolescent sexual education in the form of legal requirements. The adolescent sexual educations include three parts: sexual physiology, sexual psychology, and sexual morality education(Guangrong, Chengye, Wei, Li, 2005).
Starting from this stage, until now, Chinese sexual education has been in a process of efforts to develop, because of Chinese sexual education started late, and development is slow, so after these policies were issued, there are many problems exist. One problem is that these policies failed to implement successfully in school or society, that is, practice can't keep up with policy, so sexual education has not achieved the obvious effect.[6]

Began nearly two years, there are many signs that sexual education is important for both people and society, so this lets sexual education anew draw the attention of the public. But because of the lack of experience and professional, there are some problems were exposed during the exploration of sexual education in our country. There is a media revealed last year in June, a book called "The High School Scientific Education" teaching materials declared that women who have had premarital sex are "cheap" and "fallen", and it also described the sexual behaviors as "women give their body to men" and "men’s conquest to women". It is not unique, the country's first male gender education textbook, "The Little Man", was full of gender stereotypes.

So that we can see, there are still so many problems exist in Chinese sexual education still exist so many problems.

2.6 Comprehensive sexual education & Abstinence sexual education

In the author Gang Fang’ article named "The thinking of University Education Mode"(Gang, 2008), he is deeply discussed the comprehensive sexual education and abstinence sexual education, this is my first time to come into contact with these two nouns. These two concepts come from the United States, and the contradictions between these two different types of sexual education are always present. Comprehensive sexual education: emphasizing that sex is a normal, healthy part of life; Sexual activity, including sex, that occurs during puberty is a very normal thing and should not be blamed; To understand "sex" from the perspective of psychology, society and
physiology; Respect for heterosexuality, homosexuality and single-parent families, etc. Abstinence sexual education: emphasizing that any sexual activities outside of marriage is harmful and also emphasizing the premarital chastity; Ask teenagers to avoid the topic of sex; To emphasize that monogamy is the only way to live up to a moral standard; Objection of abortion, etc(Gang, 2008). These two totally different types of sexual education are very interested me. In China, actually, we always try to use the comprehensive sexual education, whatever the books or the media, they all try to deliver the concepts which the comprehensive sexual education included. But in fact, nowadays of China still in the abstinence sexual education mode, the most of public can accept the homosexual, but still don’t have enough tolerable for homosexual family, and also the society still has some prejudice to the single-parent family. We have to admit that there are contradictions in our society like the USA between comprehensive sexual education and abstinence sexual education, and this is also the contradictions between new ideas with traditional values.

In the author's article, he opposes the abstinence sexual education but supports the comprehensive sexual education. The author believes that abstinence sexual education is a kind of threatening sexual education, which can’t bring much scientific useful sexual knowledge to teenagers. For this view, I agree with the author's opinion, Suiming Pan, the sexual research institution’s director of Chinese people's University, he pointed out: in the mainstream view of society, sexual education’s goal is to control the people’s (especially youth) "sex activities", the public regard the sexual education as a "fire extinguisher"(Xing, 2006). Then when we combined the two different types of sexual education which the author talked in this paper, the abstinence sexual education is more clearly show the “fire extinguisher” function of sexual education, it not only can’t advocate the right sexual values to people but also can distort the teenagers’ sexual concept. A survey pointed out that from 1993, the abstinence sexual education began to encourage teenagers to sign the “chastity contract”, by 2000, 2.5 million teenagers have signed this contract, but 88% of them had sexual intercourse before marriage. And these
teens use condoms even less than those who didn’t sign (Bearman & H. Bruckner, 2001).

We should accept different types of sexual education as we accept different cultures, but we have to find a better one to use and find the weakness to change it.

3. Methodology

For my research about the topic “lack of sexual education in China”, for methodology part, I use the individual interviews. In view of my research is about China's sexual education present situation, I need to carry on my research between China and overseas students in here, and find the suitable person with different age as my research interviewee, so I decided to do the online individual interviews for my research.

At the very beginning, I wanted to take both network questionnaire and online interview method. These two methods can make me get the results which I want more quickly and conveniently. But the network questionnaire survey work has its inevitable drawbacks. For the first one, although the network questionnaires can face a wide range of respondents, but because of the characteristics of the network, it can’t rule out some feedback with false answer(Kevin B. Wright, 2005), especially my topic is relatively private and a little bit sensitive for Chinese people(which will be my respondents if I do the network questionnaire). And another one is the network questionnaire is different with the face-to-face questionnaire, I can’t see the expression of respondents and also can’t to recognize their real emotion from their tone. So for these two reasons, I can’t ensure the quality of the feedback of questionnaire, but I think for my research topic, the authenticity is the most important part, I need to know the real thoughts of respondents, so finally I gave up the network questionnaire method, and chose the online individual interview method.
For my interview, as a whole, I mainly used the semi-structured interview. I have beforehand certain questions, but during the actual process of interview, with the answer what I got from interviewees, I added, subtracted or changed some questions, in order to get more information and attitude which I want.

I prepared 17 questions, it has open questions like “Do you know sexual education? What is your understanding of sexual education?” “Do you think the sex knowledge you have learned is useful or helpful for your life? And how it benefited you?”. I try to use this kind of open question to make people can feel free to express their true thought. I think it is important to use open questions in an interview, it can motivate the interviewees to think, then you can discuss it deeper with interviewees. Also, it can give the speaking right to the interviewees, this can promote the interactivity of the interviews. I also prepared some closed-questions, this kind of question can make me know the most direct attitude of interviewees. Such as “Do you want your children to receive the detailed sexual education?” “Do you think the sexual education is important for children? ”. This kind of directional questions also important for an interview, it can make interviewees can know your purpose of question better, then they can give the simple answer in a brief way.

By combining these two different types of questions, I can enrich the whole interview and make it easier for me to get the ideas and information that the interviewees want to express.

And for the samples of my interview, I picked 11 people as my interviewees, 2 of them are male and 9 of them are female. Why I chose more female than male, it because that I think one of the biggest hidden danger caused by lack of sexual education is sexual assault, and most of the victims of sexual assault are female, so I want to know more
female attitude about sexual education. Most of my interviewees are young people, all of them are students in university and their age between 19 to 23 years old, and two of my interviewees are little bit elder, one is 27 years old who is an indoor staff of a company, another is 32 years old who is a principal of kindergarten. I am really happy can have a pre-school educational worker in my interviewees, I think her thought and ideas about sexual education can show me more information than those who are not professional. About the filter of samples, because this is a very private topic for Chinese people, so when I chose the samples, I am very worried about whether I can get very real answers if the interviewees are the strangers or people who I not really familiar, so I decided to find the interviewees in my friends circle or someone I know but not too close, in this way, I can both ensure the authenticity and objectivity of my interviews’ feedback.

In view of my research topic is relatively private, especially for Chinese people, this is a sensitive topic and hard to speak out, so before I started my online interviews, I asked my interviewees’ opinions, all of them said they are more willing to be interviewed by voice call instead of the video interview. In order to respect and protect my interviewees’ privacy, and also create a free and comfortable communication environment for my interviewees, finally, we decided to use the voice call(by Chinese app, Wechat )to proceed our interviews.

And before I do the interviews with my interviewees, I told and showed them about “Information Letter and Consent Form for Invitation to be Interviewed”. I explained the content and situation to them and invited them to participate in my graduation research of BA degree in the Institute of Sociology and Social Policy at the Corvinus University of Budapest BA. I assured them that the participation is completely voluntary, and they can refuse to answer questions, also can stop to continue this research in anytime. The recording of the interviews also asked their permission, in the same time I ensured that their names and any personal information would not appear in any of my papers or reports, I will citing their views in full anonymity.
4. Findings

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<tr>
<th>Name of interviewees</th>
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<td>Jin</td>
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<td>Principle of kindergarten</td>
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</table>

4.1 Understanding of sexual education

For this part, almost all of my interviewees said that they know what is sexual education, and almost all of them can say something about their own understanding about sexual education, only DY said that she knows what is sexual education but she cannot say it. For others of my interviewees, most of them said sexual education is to impart the
sexual knowledge to juveniles like children and teenagers.

Nan said she thinks that sexual education is to teach people about sexual knowledge in an official way.

Xin, Qi and Gao said from the literal meaning of this word, it means to teach children everything about “sex”, but it should be some basic knowledge. But Gao mentioned sexual education should also include knowledge about sexual assault.

Both Cheng and Xi said they think of sexual education, it is not only to told children the biological sexual knowledge but also should include some psychological knowledge. And Xi also said after she went abroad to study, she found that topics about “sex” has the different meaning for Chinese and Westerners. Chinese people think it is a very personal topic and it is shy to talk about it. But compared with Chinese, she thinks the westerners are more open about sexual topics. So she thinks the sexual education also has the different meaning for Chinese and Westerners. Such as before she went abroad, she thinks sexual education is to tell people sexual knowledge about their own gender, but now she thinks that sexual education should also teach people to understand some knowledge about different gender.

Jing, who is a principle of kindergarten, she said she knows sexual education, because these two years, sexual education become a central point in their education sector. As for a teaching staff, she thinks sexual education is to teach children sexual knowledge in a right and positive way and make sure that children can have enough sexual knowledge to protect themselves.

And for Lei and Bo, they both mentioned an interesting thing, they think the sexual education should include “told children where he/she really comes from”. Not only two of them, some my other interviewees like Gao also said, the most common thing for Chinese parents is that they always tell their children “you are the one I picked up from
the trash can” or “you are the free gift gave by telephone company when I pay the telephone charge”.

For this part, I think I agreed with all my interviewees’ opinions, for different people, the sexual education must have a different definition. How about combining all my interviewees’ understanding of sexual education, I think it will be a complete definition for ordinary people. In my opinion, sexual education should not only teach children some sexual physiological knowledge, it should also include: sexual psychological knowledge, knowledge about love, knowing their own body, and also it should told children how to understand the differences and relations between different genders, eliminate the gender stereotypes and prejudices earlier during their gender cognition stage. At the same time, sexual education should teach children how to protect themselves, how to establish correct sexual attitudes, and how to prevent sexual crime. About the people who should be educated, it not only confined to the children, whether children, teenagers, or adults, all of them should accept sexual education, and also should pay attention to sexual education, this kind of sexual education should not be veiled, but should be positive. Only a comprehensive understanding of sexual education, then it can make people accept the concept of sexual education easier.

4.2 Personal experience of sexual education

For this part of questions, I want to know some their own experience about sexual education, include their main source of sexual education, what kind of sexual education they have received before and their sexual education experience from their parents, this part can make me know more about the current situation of sexual education in China. And I also want to explore, at this stage in China, do people between the ages of 20 and 35 have received any formal sexual education?
“Before this interview, have you ever received any kind of sexual education?” For this question, I think my interviewees’ answers are same as I thought. All of my interviewees said they remembered there are some sexual educations existed in their early school-days, it existed in biology class or health class, but almost all teachers will let you self-study in this part of course or just skim over of it.

Cheng, Xi, Nan, Lei and Hui have the same experience in school sexual education. They said they have had sexual education in their school-days, but the teacher only taught them some very basic things, such as a physiological period of girls and boys. And for the other parts about fertilization and sex organ, the teachers will let you look through the textbook by your self. But at that time, they know why teachers don’t want to teach this part, they can feel that even the teachers also feel embarrassed to talk about sexual knowledge, so no one really looks through the textbooks. They told me even some students ripped out that page which painted with human sex organ because they think these things are unpresentable and disgusting. And Cheng mentioned an interesting thing which I also experienced, she said before the teacher talks about the basic sexual knowledge on textbooks, the teacher will separate boys and girls into two groups, and teach separately. And it also happened during my primary school, teaching by such a way leads me to feel that knowing the sexual knowledge of different gender is shameful.

Xin, Bo, Qi and DY have the same experience on school sexual education experience. Bo said he remembered clearly, when he was in primary school, his health education teacher took out one lesson to teach them about basic sexual knowledge (sex organs, physiological period, fertilization) in details, although only one lesson, but the whole basic sexual knowledge which the textbooks mentioned are involved.

Qi said: “When I was in school, I have been taught sexual knowledge, it was in physiological health class of my junior high school, my teacher was deeply impressed me, the teachers of other classes just skipped the sexual knowledge part, but our teacher
gave us a complete and detailed lesson about this part, and after class, he also told us that he hopes we don't have bad concept to sex. I think my teacher is very responsible, but at that time, I know that this kind of teacher who can give lessons about sexual education in a right way is really rare in China.” Also, Xin said, her teacher which gave the sexual education to her was really impressed her. So I can see that if a teacher can have correct view of sexual knowledge and sexual education, then have a positive attitude to go on sexual education to his/her students, actually it does not make students' psychological revulsion, on the contrary, it will make the children have deeper impression for sexual knowledge in the sex enlightenment stage. Therefore, it is feasible to promote sexual education in school, and the biggest difficulty lies in the teachers should have a correct understanding and attitude of sexual education first

For the main source of sexual knowledge. The answers do not surprise me. All of my interviewees said that their main sources of sexual knowledge are internet and media. This result also as same as the data which I mentioned in literature review part, most of the people said their sexual education by self-study on the internet. But the media and internet have their drawbacks, it can offer you some useful and complete sexual knowledge, and maybe can teach you sexual knowledge in a interesting way, but at the same time, it also can offer you some sexual information untimely. So it is more dangerous to let children or teenagers to learn sexual knowledge by self-study in internet and media, because the internet information is diverse, for children who in sexual initiation stage, they can't avoid be attracted to bad information on internet, which may can lead to them misinterpret the concept of sex, and lead to them can't build a right and complete sexual attitudes.

Gao and Xi mentioned the same phenomenon, in recent years, this phenomenon is attracting more and more people's attention. It is a phenomenon about the advertisement, so I also classified it as one of the disadvantages of sexual education by media. Both
Gao and Xi said to me: “We can see there are countless advertisements about painless abortion can be found every big street and small alleys in China, but we can’t even find an advertisement about the condom.” This is a very strange phenomenon in China, whatever in first-tier cities or in backward countrysides, advertisement of abortion is common everywhere, some private clinics even use such slogan “Do abortion in the morning, go to school in the afternoon”, “Students half price”. And if you search “ why we can’t see condom advertisements in China?”, you will see that there are countless people are asking related questions, but no one can give a standard answer, some people said it's because the Chinese conservative culture cannot accept condom advertising, some people said it's because Chinese law forbids broadcast sexual products advertising video, but these answers are not verified. So in my opinion, here is a paradox, talk about sex, what should we ban if we want to ban it? If condoms are banned because they are used during sexual intercourse, then abortion as a result of this process, why we don’t ban it? In other words, if the condom is widely used, and the public can face the sex with a rational attitude, it bound to reduce abortion rate and its harm. Is the worth of an innocent baby really can't compare with a plastic product?

“Did your parents teach you any sexual knowledge before your adulthood?” For this question, Hui, Nan, Jing said their parents didn’t tell them any sexual knowledge or basic sexual common sense. Cheng, Qi , Lei and DY said their parents didn’t teach them the true sense of sexual knowledge, but their parents usually told them “Because you are a girl, so you need to know how to protect yourself, you should keep your distance from boys.”. Bo and Xin have same experiences on this question, their parents bought a sexual education book for them but without any language communication. I can see from these answers, in fact, many Chinese parents are trying to do sexual education for their children, although because of the long history of Chinese conservative culture and deep influence by Confucianism, it is difficult for them to proceed sexual education to children by face-to-face, but actually they still hold a positive and supportive attitude to
sexual education.

4.3 Attitudes

For this part of questions, I want to know the attitude to sexual education of my interviewees. I asked them about “Do you think the sexual education is important for children? Why is it important?” "Do you want your children to receive the detailed sexual education? " “Will you teach some sexual knowledge to your children, and if you feel hard and embarrassed when you talk about sex with your children?” I want to know if they really think the sexual education is important, and how will they proceed the sexual education.

All of my interviewees think the sexual education is really important for children, and all of them want their children to receive official and complete sexual education. Most of them also said even though they will feel a little bit embarrassed when they talk about sexual knowledge to their children, but they still will try their best to proceed sexual education to their children, because they know it is an unavoidable and indispensable part for children in their growth. But “why is it important?”, for this question, they still have different opinions. Most of my interviewees, like Cheng, Xi, DY, Nan, Jin all said that they think sexual education is important to children, because if the part of sexual education missing, the children will get more dangerous, so even sexual education can’t stop all sexual crime, but it still can make children know how to protect themselves better. And also they mentioned, actually for some of sexual offender, because they lack of sexual education during their process of growth, they didn’t set up a healthy and positive sexual concept, so this kind of ignorance maybe increase the possibility of their crimes.

And for Qi and Hui, both they said to me if you don’t give some positive sexual
education to your children, on the contrary, it will arouse their curiosity. At the same time, they didn’t get any useful and healthy concepts of sex, they will try to study and practice it in a wrong way, it will lead to bad consequences. They think, curiosity and exploring spirit are the nature of children, especially for children who in the sexual enlightenment stage and teenagers who in the puberty, the more parents and school want to hide the sexual related knowledge, the more these knowledge will make children feel "mystery", then they will try to explore it in their own way. However, because they have not received any right sexual education, it is inevitable for them to go astray during the exploration.

For Gao and Bo, from the male point of views, they said that sexual education can increase the boys’ sense of responsibility, and also can make the male more respect female more. As I mentioned in the previous article, what we called “sexual education” should not only include education of sex, it should also include education of love and education of gender. Sexual education will not only affect children's own process of growth but will also affect their future relationship patterns. In a country like China which has a long history of patriarchal society, under this present situation, the thoughts of son preference still exist in the minds of many people, such thoughts had already blended into the Chinese culture. So for parents, schools and society, doing sexual education to children is not just about teaching them how to protect themselves, but also about how to respect others.

“According to your opinion whose responsibility is sexual education? What about the role of family and school? ”. For this question, it is surprised me that almost all of my interviewees have the same attitude on this question, except Gao and DY said they think that schools and families share half of the responsibility for sexual education, all the other interviewees said for the sexual education, the primary responsibility should belong to family, and the schools should give assistance.
DY said: “I think the school and the family is the same importance on sexual education problem, because most often, the most of children are really trust the knowledge taught by schools, and the influences from parents to the children is unintended, so I think they both play an important role in sexual education.”

And other interviewees said they think for sexual education, the family is more important than schools. Hui, Cheng, Xin, Nan and Jin think that parents are the first teachers of children, so in the sexual initiation stage, the knowledge taught by parents are more impressive for children from the start, and the children’s values and sexual concepts are mainly formed under the parents' influence and education. But at the same time, which the schools can do is to give children some professional sexual knowledge, because the teachers is likely to be more professional than parents after all. So both family and school play an important role in sexual education, but parents should be mainly responsible for it.

4.4 Understanding of harms

For this part, I want to know if my interviewees know the harms of lack of sexual education.

Gao, Xin and Hui told me that they have relatives and friends who had been sexual assaulted during childhood. But because these things are so private and sensitive, they didn’t tell me more detailed information. Xin said: “My several friends told me they feel they may experience sexual assault or sexual harassment in childhood, but they all realized it after they grew up and know what is sexual assault by studied some sexual knowledge. So this is the worst consequence caused by lack of sexual education when children suffering the sexual assault or sexual harassment, they even don’t know what they are suffering. And some of these friends said to me that these kinds of bad experiences still make them feel hurt when they think of these things. I think in fact in
China, some elders of a family will do some subconscious misconducts to children, it is normal for them, but in fact, these actions have already constituted indecent conducts, I think this is also caused by these parents or elders lack of sexual knowledge.” We can see from what Xin said, because the Chinese children lack of sexual education, they even can’t discern what behaviours are sexual assault behaviours, this is a very serious problem, not just for these children and their parents, also for this society.

Hui said: “There are such things happened around me, a girl who belongs to my relatives have been raped by one of her cousins, she didn’t tell anyone until her parents found out that she was pregnant. She was afraid to tell her parents about this thing because her parents had told her that if she had sex with a man before marriage, she would be an unclean person. I don't know what is the frequency of such things in cities, but because of my home in the countryside, actually this kind of thing happens very often in the countryside, is likely to be the low education level in rural areas, legal illiterates also more than cities, not to mention the popularity of sexual education.” Hui told me some current sexual assault situation in countrysides, I can see that in these backward areas, the sexual assault incidents are more serious than cities. In fact, if the parents want to protect their children keep away from sexual assaults, they should maintain sharp vigilance on acquaintances. According to statistics of the “Girl Protection Project”, of the 433 cases of children sexual assault incidents that were made public reported in 2016, 300 were acquaintances commit crime, accounting for 69.28% of the total cases, and the proportion of acquaintances descending order is: 27.33% of the teachers, 24.33% of the neighborhood, 12% of relatives (including parents’ friends), and 10% of family members (Ling, 2017). Xi also mentioned that she heard about the sexual assaults are normal in countrysides. Qi said with the development of internet, in these two years, lots of sexual assault incidents were exposed, but we don’t know the truthful data of that, because there are still many Chinese parents think to be a victim of sexual assault is a shameless thing, one can imagine there are countless sexual assault incidents were hidden.
In fact, I should have had 12 interviewees, and at the last minute, one of the girls rejected my interview request, so I respected her decision. She once was molested by her piano teacher up to 1 year during her childhood. She said: "That time is the darkest time of my life, although we have no real sexual relationship, he has brought unbearable hurts to my life." She told me she refused my interview request because she doesn't want to think of the last time, but she wants me to tell others that the correct sexual conceptions and sexual education are really important to all children, the victims of sexual assault should face up to their hurts, rather than to escape.

And there are also other harms caused by lack of sexual education, like abortion, venereal diseases, Aids. Nan said her best friend has had an abortion in high school, it brought serious bad influences to her best friend’ life, these bad influences include both psychological and physiological, her friend from cheerful person changed to an introverted person, and also she lost her confidence in life on that time, finally she failed the college entrance examination. As I mentioned in earlier part of my article, abortion will bring so many bad consequences to people, not only the physical pain, what’s more, is the psychological harm, especially for teenagers who don’t build up a complete value yet. And for the Aids part, all of my interviewees said lack of sexual education is one of the reasons for the increase in the number of AIDS patients, but it is hard to say if the lack of sexual education is the main reason. In recent years, some AIDS patients with anti-social personality often use sexual intercourse to transmit AIDS to others deliberately. Some of my interviewees said, the popularity of condoms in China is not optimistic, although many people know that condom can avoid some risks of accidental pregnancy or disease, they refused to buy condoms because they fear of embarrassment when buying condoms. And these people who intentionally spread HIV takes advantage of this kind of psychology of public’s, to some extent, this makes it easier for them to commit rascalities.
4.5 Solution

For this part, I want my interviewees to share their own opinions of the solution to me, I want to know what kind of solution that they think is feasible.

Gao, Hui and Xi think, the best way to develop sexual education in China still is to start with parents, because in combination with the current situation in China, people still avoid talking about sexual related topics in public. If related departments want to hold some lectures about sexual education, they think the audience of the lectures should be the parents or adults, at first to popularize the concepts of sexual education and sexual knowledge to parents, and then let them to do the sexual education for children as a family as the unit.

Xín, Cheng, Qi and Nan said, they think make cartoons with sexual knowledge is a feasible way for children. Comparing with professional sexual education videos, the cartoons are more attractive to children, and more likely to be accepted by parents.

Jin, as a principle of kindergarten, she told me her opinion with the more professional angle. She said: “I think that the methods of distributing brochures and setting up lectures are all suitable for older children. For preschool children, because they are younger and have poorer cognitive skills, I think use cartoons or comics to develop sexual education, explain the sexual knowledge and tell some ways to protect themselves to preschool children, this is a more feasible approach”. And I also asked her: “Do your kindergarten start any sexual education to your children?”. She said: “Because of this social environment, we still don't have specialized courses to deal with sexual education. But because people have paid more and more attention to this topic in these two years, and there are more people support and approve sexual education, therefore, we are starting sexual education gradually. For example, we will download some related cartoons with sexual knowledge and explain to children through slides.”
Lei has a less optimistic attitude for the development of sexual education in China. She feels that the foundation for all sexual education is that the Chinese government can accept and support sexual education. She believes that if Chinese society and culture cannot have a positive and objective attitude to sexual related problems, then every solution is an armchair strategist. So she thinks this is a long process. First of all, we must first change people’s views on sexual topics, and then use the state to publish some policies to change the current situation. For example, she feels that China should stop the spread of “bad films”, it is not wrong, but at the same time, it should not stop the spread of necessary sexual knowledge.

5. Conclusion

According to my review of the literature and the analysis of the results for my individual interviews, in my opinion, for the current situation of sexual education in China is not very optimistic. Through the conversation with 11 interviewees, most of them think they didn't receive enough sexual education, at the same time, they also think that the only sexual education of China still has lots of problems. Like one of my interviewees said, it has to take a long time to change the Chinese current situation of sexual education, because the things related to culture are hard to change. The patriarchy, the abstinence education, the Confucianism, the gender stereotype and the gender inequality, these things imped ing the development of Chinese sexual education. We can’t say that conservative culture is bad, but with the development of times, the inheritance of culture should absorb its quintessence, at the same time, discard its dregs.

For sexual education, families, schools, and the media all have very important responsibilities. Key responsibilities belong to the family, because parents are the first
teachers of children, and they are also the closest people of children, since for the most Chinese people think the sexual related topics are very sensitive and private, so we have to admit, for nowadays Chinese children and teenagers, parents should are the best candidates for sexual education. And as my interviewees mentioned before, for the school part, they can provide professional sexual knowledge to children, and also they can provide relative official teaching methods, so the schools need to be the best assistants of the families. And for the media, it is the main source of sexual education and sexual knowledge for children and teenagers, it is better to make a more healthy and positive internet environment, and at the same time make some sexual education cartoons to publicity sexual knowledge by media.

But for the result of my research, it also has some positive parts. All of my interviewees can tell me the harms of lack of sexual education clearly, and they have expressed they have willingness to proceed sexual education for their children in the future, at the same time, one of my interviewees who is an educational staff, she give me some positive messages, she said: "more and more parents begin to pay attention to sexual education problem, so we are starting to develop the sexual education in the kindergarten gradually ."

But my research still has a lot of unexplored places and imperfect places. For example, I don't have enough data to be a quantitative research, so in some ways, it may not fully represent most or all Chinese people’s ideas. And also the individual interviews method has its own limitations, and the sexual related topic is relatively private for Chinese people, so during the processes of the interview, I can feel that some questions were skipped by some of the interviewees or answered with perfunctory answers. So in the future, I think I will combine the individual interview method and questionnaire method to get more data and more significant results.

For me, the sexual education problem deserves more people’s attention, and for China, I
hope that one day I can see a professional and official sexual knowledge textbook presents to classes of schools, I hope that one day I can see a positive and detailed sexual education cartoon present to televisions of Chinese families, and I hope that one day every parent can talk the sexual knowledge to their children with a natural and positive attitudes. I hope this day can come faster and faster.

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7. Appendix

7.1 Interview questions

1. How old are you? And what is your profession now?

2. Do you know sexual education? What is your understanding of sexual education?

3. Before this interview, have you ever received any kind of sexual education?

4. What is your main source of sexual knowledge?

5. Did your parents teach you any sexual knowledge before your adulthood?

6. Do you think the sexual knowledge you have learned are useful or helpful for your life? And how it benefited you?

7. Do you think the sexual education is important for children? Why is it important?

8. How do you feel when you hear people around you are talking about sex?

9. Do you want your children to receive detailed sexual education?
10. Will you teach some sexual knowledge to your children, and if you feel hard and embarrassed when you talk about sex with your children?

11. According to your opinion whose responsibility is sexual education? What about the role of family and school?

12. Did any child sex offences happened around you or did you see such kind news in the internet?

13. What do you think, are there any consequences of missing sexual education? Do you think lack of sexual education cause child sex offences happens continually?

14. Do you think lack of sexual education will bring other kind of harm for people or society? Or you think the sexual education is not so much necessary?

15. Do you know Aids and venereal disease? Do you think that lack of sesso knowledge is the one of causes of the increase of number people who got AIDS in China?

16. Do you think schools should strengthen sexual education to students?

17. Do you think there are some better and feasible ways to develop sexual education in China? For example, holding the forum, and free distribution of sex education books.

7.2 Information Letter and Consent Form for Invitation to be Interviewed

Information Letter and Consent Form for Invitation to be Interviewed
Date:

Dear xxxxx:

This letter is an invitation to consider participating in a study I am conducting as part of my BA degree in the Institute of Sociology and Social Policy at the Corvinus University of Budapest. I would like to provide you with more information about this project and what your involvement would entail if you decide to take part.

This research is try to find if Chinese people lack of sexual education. Due to the Chinese culture has ingrain influences by Confucian thoughts, any topics about sex are sensitive for Chinese, it caused the sexual education is lacking in China. With the development of society, the bad consequences caused by lack of sexual education are appearing gradually, endless sexual assault things happens in Chinese children and teenagers, the younger-age trend of abortion. So I want to get more people's ideas through this research, and want to know about the current situation of Chinese sexual education.

Participation in this study is voluntary. It will involve an interview of approximately 30 minutes. You may decline to answer any of the interview questions if you so wish. Further, you may decide to withdraw from this study at any time without any negative consequences by advising the researcher. With your permission, the interview will be tape-recorded but if you are unhappy with this I can make written notes. Only I and my examiners will have access to the recording. All information you provide is considered completely confidential. Your name will not appear in any thesis or report resulting from this study, however, with your permission anonymous quotations may be used.
If you have any questions regarding this study or would like additional information to assist you in reaching a decision about participation, please contact me at (+36-70-904-1496) or by e-mail at (Andrewsandy1996@gmail.com). You can also contact my supervisor, Éva Perpék (Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Sociology and Social Policy) at e-mail (eva.perpek@uni-corvinus.hu).

I very much look forward to speaking with you and thank you in advance for your assistance in this project.

Sincerely,

…………………………...  ……………………………...
(Signature of the student)  (Signature of the interviewee)