



**TITLE:** Culturally Sensitive Christian Sexual Health Education: Insights from Cameroon

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**ABSTRACT:**

This abstract presents essential insights into culturally sensitive sexual health education within the Christian community, drawing on over a decade of experience as a Sexual and Reproductive Health Advocate and Projects Coordinator with the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS). The aim is to navigate the complexities of a diverse and faith-driven landscape.

Cameroon, with its religious diversity and a significant Christian population (69.2%), highlights the need for tailored sexual health education. The CBCHS operates across 41 healthcare facilities in the country, serving various Christian denominations. The author's extensive CBCHS involvement equips them to offer guidance to fellow advocates and educators in sexual reproductive health.

Respecting Christian values, such as abstinence, purity, and sanctity of marriage, is fundamental. This approach creates an empathetic and inclusive environment, fostering healthier, more informed, and compassionate Christian communities where individuals make faith-aligned sexual health decisions.

Religious leaders' support is pivotal, as they hold significant influence within their congregations. They serve as spiritual guides and moral authorities, endorsing initiatives involving sensitive topics, contributing to a more compassionate and understanding approach within the faith context.

Balancing cherished values with real-world circumstances is key. Comprehensive sexual health education, while upholding abstinence, addresses situations where abstinence may not be possible. This pragmatic approach aligns with responsible stewardship, guiding individuals to make informed and responsible sexual health choices.

Open and respectful dialogue is central. Encouraging individuals to voice their questions, express concerns, and engage in discussions empowers them to make faith-framed, informed decisions. Particularly important for young people, this dialogue fosters community and support in line with Christian principles of love, acceptance, and understanding.

In conclusion, this abstract emphasizes the importance of cultural sensitivity in sexual health education within Cameroon's diverse Christian landscape. Implementing these principles contributes to healthier, more informed, and inclusive Christian communities, respecting diverse beliefs, and benefiting the well-being of all community members.

### **BIOGRAPHY:**

I hold a Nursing undergraduate degree, complemented by an Executive MBA in Business Administration and a Diploma in Sexual and Reproductive Health. My extensive training spans family planning, emergency obstetric care, humanitarian negotiations, and safety and security among others.

With a decade of dedicated experience in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), I currently oversee SRH service expansion in Cameroon's Northwest Region within the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services, one of the largest faith-based organizations in Cameroon. As a UNFPA Projects Coordinator, I excel in program implementation and fostering strategic partnerships.

My professional journey includes leading a successful fistula project and managing women's health initiatives,

I am passionate about promoting and advocating for sexual and reproductive health among religious communities in low resource settings.