

**Book Review of *You're Teaching My Child What?***

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*You're Teaching My Child What? A Physician Exposes the Lies of Sex Ed and How They Harm Your Child*, by Miriam Grossman, MD (Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing, 2009) is a must-read for every parent, educator, and health-care provider for children in America. Writing in an easy-to-read format that credibly references the scientific, academic, and lay literature, Grossman exposes “comprehensive sex education” for what it really is—a comprehensive program to sell sex and lesbian/gay/bisexual politics within America’s education system. Grossman maintains that sex education in America’s school systems and universities has in reality become part of a social movement that combines today’s sexual indoctrination with the 1960s sexual revolution agenda. As she explains in her first chapter, “Make no mistake; this is a battle, and the battleground is our kids’ minds and values” (p. 13).

Grossman speaks from practical experience as a board-certified child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist who has spent twenty years at the University of California—Los Angeles campus trying to help young women pick up the pieces of lives that have been shattered by casual sex. These students—despite practicing “safe-sex”—ended up in her office distraught, devastated, and demoralized. Referring to her clients, she asks readers, “Why were they hurting?” and repeats her clients’ haunting question: “What is wrong with me?” (cf. pp. 35–37).

Her experiences with these women led Grossman to research the latest science regarding sex, bonding, neurobiology, and the brain. She then investigated exactly what sex education experts actually teach our children and who is teaching it. Grossman discovered that sex education in America is composed of a vast network of programs, with the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS), Planned Parenthood, and Advocates for Youth at its center. She then pored over their guidelines and materials and visited many of the Internet sites these organizations recommend to teens. What Grossman found was an emphasis on ideology and little or no discussion of the science involved.

Grossman learned that the sex education curricula found in many of our schools expresses a deep-seated hostility toward chastity and religious views concerning sexual

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relations. Grossman provides examples of children and teenagers being taught that sex of any kind is fun and safe. Consider, for example, the lesson suggested by Planned Parenthood—parents are instructed to tell five-year-olds about sexual intercourse, but are told they can wait to describe orgasm until the child has finished kindergarten. Regarding sadomasochism, educators may send teen girls to a website (<http://www.gurl.com/>) that says, “Though it may seem painful, those involved find the pleasure outweighs the pain” (p. 5). Alfred Kinsey is the long-ago-discredited founder of “sexology” who believed that sex between children and adults could be beneficial (p.22). Disturbingly, Grossman found that Kinsey’s ideology has more influence over today’s sex education than does the science of today’s neurobiologists. Consider as an example the following from Wardell Pomeroy, former SIECUS president and associate of Alfred Kinsey: “In father-daughter incest, the daughter’s age makes all the difference in the world. The older she is, the likelier it is that the experience will be a positive one. The ‘best’ sort of incest of all, surprisingly enough, is that between a son and a mother who is really educating him sexually, and who then encourages him to go out with girls” (p. 24).

Similarly disturbing SIECUS views stem from those of psychologist John Money, the discredited pioneering proponent of sex-reassignment, who promoted the myth that gender is separate from biology and that we are all psychological hermaphrodites until the age of three (p. 159). Today SIECUS and similar organizations go even further by claiming that it is normal for gender identity to be fluid throughout one’s lifetime.

According to Grossman, not one comprehensive sex education resource made note of the latest science regarding bonding hormones, pheromones, and adolescent cognitive development. Other glaring omissions set forth by Grossman include the seriousness of the epidemic of sexually transmitted infections currently affecting young people, the greater risk of infection to girls under age twenty-one, the limitations of condoms, and the health risks of various sexual activities, including fringe behaviors. She further notes the complete absence within such “resources” of any discussion concerning the possibility of change of sexual orientation.

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Two of Grossman's chapters discuss gender and today's politically correct emphasis on breaking down traditional views of men and women. She provides a careful review of studies that verify the existence of innate gender differences. She also provides a chapter detailing the costs and damage caused by the current plague of sexually transmitted diseases and the billions of dollars we spend each year dealing with the diseases caused by behavior patterns encouraged by our schools.

The only point with which we take issue is Grossman's slighting of abstinence education as being "moralistic" rather than focusing on healthy relationship building and family formation while providing skills that may help youth delay sex. She appears to overlook that "abstinence until marriage" programs are not moralistic in and of themselves—but rather, that they are factual—and that there are good studies documenting that a significant delay of sexual debut provides common benefits. On the other hand, Grossman properly advocates a program of preparation for marriage based on intentionality, self-respect, and dignity.

Overall, Grossman's research is impeccable. She provides an excellent bibliography, and her forty-eight pages of footnotes are a testimony to the care with which she has verified her assertions. Although critics may try to dismiss her work as that of a conservative ideologue, Grossman's careful documentation permits her to speak an unpopular truth and to provide a message that all of us need to hear. A well-known liberal psychologist, Dr. Nicholas A. Cummings, former president of the American Psychology Association, well describes our views about this excellent book in his endorsement on the back jacket:

Dr. Miriam Grossman is a bright, bold, but solitary beacon revealing the avalanche of faulty sex education and counseling that is endangering the physical and emotional health of our young people and corrupting their futures. This is an alert that all parents must read, and an antidote that our young people can use against those so-called experts who would indoctrinate them.