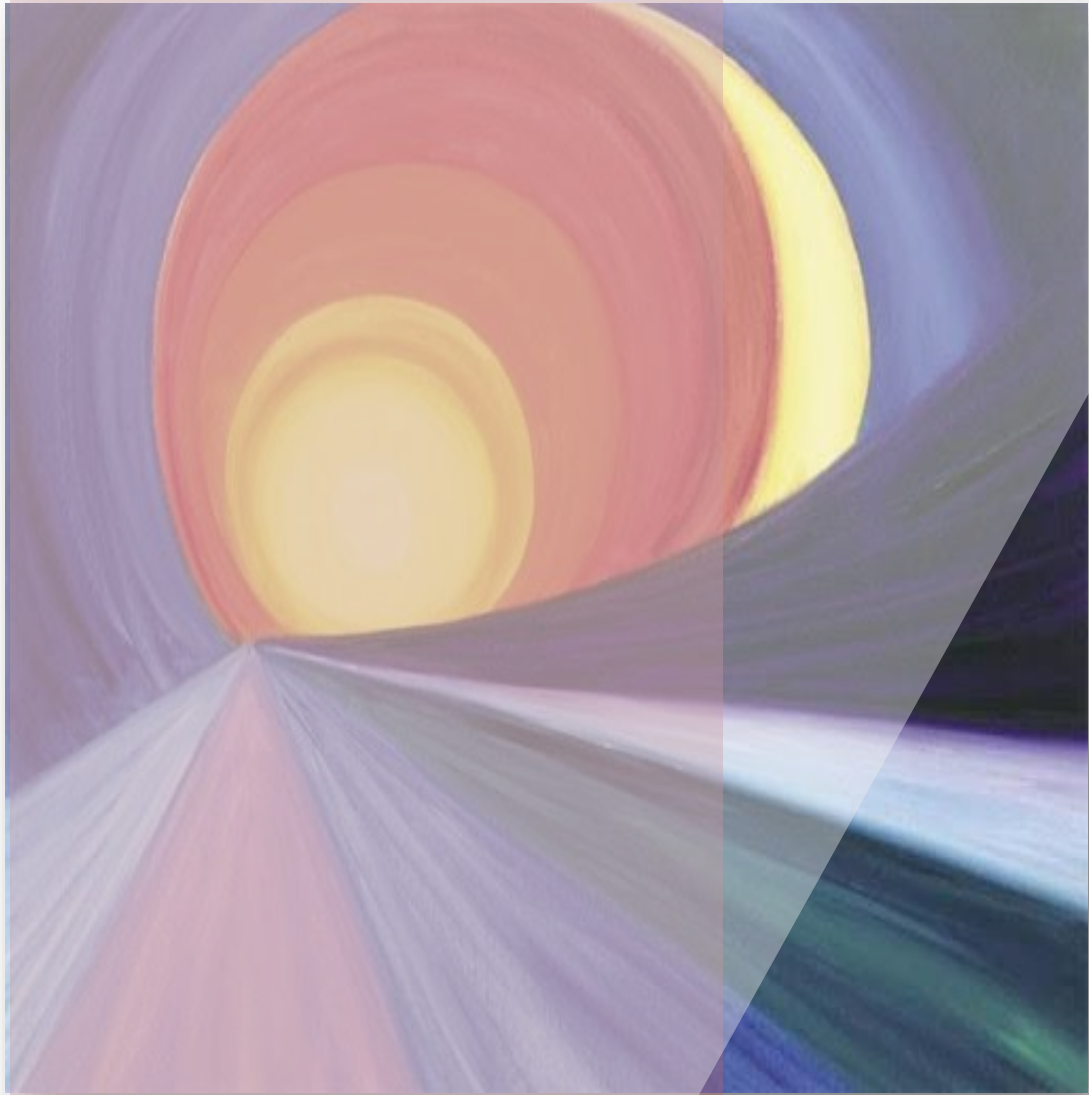




**EDUCATION
OF AFFECTIVITY AND
OF SEXUALITY
OF YOUNG PEOPLE
in contexts of
complexity and fluidity**

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PREMISE

Broad, delicate and 'challenging' theme in contemporary culture inhabited by **complexity, fluidity, individualism, and consumerism..**

Educating about affectivity and sexuality has become more difficult. Adequate words and language are often not found to communicate the value and importance of affective and sexual education and to design **educational itineraries** in this direction.

The **interpretive keys** for understanding the **new cultural scenarios and paradigms** taking place in society are lacking.



The **affective** and **sexual dimension** through the **educational relationship** and the **creation of an environment**, imbued with the **spirit of family**, is a characteristic of the **Salesian Preventive System**.

The education of affectivity is an essential dimension of education and formation, especially in Salesian life, which significantly requires the *development of the capacity to love*, as the main way to approach young people with a free and pure heart, to make them feel even visibly, by demonstrating that one truly loves them, that one wants their good, that one lovingly leads them to live the Gospel, that is, to come closer to God...

Reason, Religion, Loving Kindness



1

**Listening to reality:
current situation and
'new scenarios'**

2

**Nodal and critical
points for the
education of
affectivity and
sexuality?**

3

**Educational and
pastoral instances**

It is one of the most urgent challenges, for education and formation, for youth and vocation ministry, for discernment and personal accompaniment.



LISTENING TO REALITY

Current situation and
"new scenarios"



The challenges of the theme

In the present cultural context

- radical **transformations** of affectivity and sexuality in the society of knowledge and globalization
- difficulty in finding appropriate **interpretive models...**
- the nodes are **anthropological** in nature...
- Attention to the **growth processes** (resources and developmental tasks) of the person in the wholeness of his or her dimensions






STATISTICAL DATA on the youth-affection- sexuality relationship.

An increasingly precocious
and unconscious approach to
sexuality and affectivity:


- *wrong knowledge*
- *confusing and sometimes incorrect and "misleading" information*
- *risky behaviors...*
- *...*





Excess of **INFORMATION** vs lack of **FORMATION**

- ❖ **Web sex** among (very young) youth on the rise
- ❖ Decline in **inhibitions** and **unprotected relationships**
- ❖ Increase in **risky behaviors** for self and others



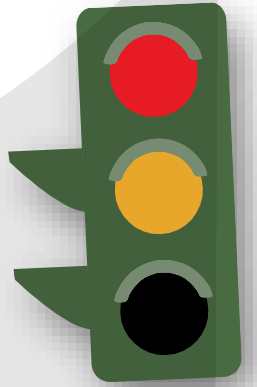
YOUNG PEOPLE ...
without a future and
"high with emotions"
with an
"affectivity without a plan"

The different faces of youth distress:

- ❖ Neo-libertine drive to enjoy without limits
- ❖ permanent fun and celebration
- ❖ melancholic isolation, apathy, and substance use...

New scenarios and new challenges in a changing situation

- **Relationship between young people, affectivity and sexuality:** excess of information without discussion with adults or experts: role of the media, social networks and video game platforms,...
- **Virtualization of affectivity and sexuality:** generator of "**unaffection**" and of an altered **relationship with corporeity** (with emotions) **and with the other/otherness** (male and female)...
- **'Virtual' sexual relationships, excess pornography and auto-eroticism:** blocks, insecurity and emotional fragility, abstinence from 'sex',...
- **"Loveless" affections:** fear of ties, emotional and sentimental confusion, desire for experimentation, search for narcissistic satisfaction,...



- **Emergence of sexuality as a developmental task, 'beyond' the imaginary:** body image, narcissistic relationships, difficulty in building a bond that feeds on realism and commitment...
- **Relationship with time and space 'denied' by the virtuality of the imaginary:** difficult to 'occupy one's inner space' (interiority) and live a healthy relationship with corporeity and physicality (expression of one's identity)
- **Uncertainty of identity processes: oscillation between unisexuality (sexual confusion) and estrangement from the other** ((isolation or 'single' life or refuge in celibacy, even consecrated)
- **Bonding issue:** 'liquid love', precariousness of increasingly short and unstable relationships, love torn between desire for excitement and fear of bonding,...

