

## **Sex education Malaysian style (Tue 12 Apr, 2005)**

### **WARM-UPS**

**CHAT:** Talk in pairs or groups about: birds / bees / the birds and the bees / sex education / taboo subjects / dangers on the Internet / STDs / sexual harassment. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

**SEX BRAINSTORM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word “sex”. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

**SEXIEST:** In pairs / groups / as a class, talk about who is the sexiest actor, singer, sports player, TV personality, person on the planet, person you know. Who has the sexiest eyes / lips / mouth / body / legs...?

**2-MINUTE DEBATES:** Face each other in pairs and engage in the following (for-fun) 2-minute debates. Students A take the first argument, students B the second. Rotate pairs to ensure a lively pace and noise level is kept:

- a. Sex education is unnecessary. vs. It's one of the most important school subjects.
- b. Parents are responsible. vs. It's too sensitive for parents.
- c. Sex education means kids will try it out and get pregnant. vs. Don't be ridiculous.
- d. Kids learn from TV nowadays. vs. Sex is glamorized on TV. That's dangerous.
- e. Fidelity in marriage should be stressed vs. That's not sex education.
- f. Abortion and contraception are too sensitive for kids. vs. Kids need to know.
- g. Chastity should be top priority in sex education lessons. vs. Get real.
- h. The Karma Sutra should be an introduced text. vs. That's too graphic.
- i. Boys and girls should have different classes. vs. It's important for both sexes to know everything about each other.
- j. The Bible / Koran / Torah etc is the best teacher. vs. Too out of date.

## PRE-READING IDEAS

**WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'sex' and 'education'.

**TRUE FALSE:** Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Malaysia has discovered a whole new way of teaching sex education. T / F
- b. Malaysian schools will look at how birds and bees reproduce. T / F
- c. Sex education is not usually offered in Malaysian schools. T / F
- d. Malaysia wants to prepare its youngsters to cope with their sexuality. T / F
- e. The syllabus will only include reproduction. T / F
- f. Four-year-olds will receive sex education. T / F
- g. Children will not learn about sexually transmitted diseases. T / F
- h. Other Muslim countries are already following Malaysia's example. T / F

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) drafted                | avoid                        |
| (b) the birds and the bees | deal                         |
| (c) abstain                | spread                       |
| (d) onslaught              | perverts                     |
| (e) cope                   | outlined                     |
| (f) nitty-gritty           | taking the bull by the horns |
| (g) predators              | bodily changes               |
| (h) transmitted            | sex                          |
| (i) puberty                | bombardment                  |
| (j) addressing this issue  | facts                        |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| (a) drafted                     | and the bees        |
| (b) the birds                   | move                |
| (c) a very progressive          | syllabus            |
| (d) abstain from all            | this issue          |
| (e) a timely                    | health              |
| (f) proposed                    | revolutionary plans |
| (g) the biological nitty-gritty | things sexual       |
| (h) sexually transmitted        | of reproduction     |
| (i) sexual                      | diseases            |
| (j) addressing                  | measure             |

## SEX EDUCATION SYLLABUS:

In pairs / groups, create your own sex education syllabus from the topics included below or others you want to include. Determine the key points of each topic and decide from which age children should be introduced to them.

Topic	Age	Key points
Reproduction		
Contraception		
Virginity		
Fidelity		
Internet		
Sexually Transmitted Diseases		
Puberty		
Abortion		
Prostitution		
Rape		
Perverts and sexual harassment		
Age of consent		
AIDs testing and counseling		
Saying “No”		
Other		

Change partners. Explain your syllabus and evaluate your new partner's one.

**SEX EDUCATORS:** Who should be doing the educating? Rank the following list of people in order of the “best person for the job”. After you have finished, talk about how comfortable you would have felt about receiving sex education from these people.

- Parent
- School biology teacher
- Religious leader (imam / minister / priest / rabbi ...)
- School friends
- Grandparent
- Aunt or uncle
- Police officer
- Doctor or nurse
- Expert counselors on home visits
- Government television programs

**WORD ORDER:** Put the underlined words back in the correct order.

## **Sex education Malaysian style**

**BNE:** The Malaysian Government plans has revolutionary drafted that may introduce the bees and the birds in its schools. A sex education syllabus may become part of the school curriculum within the next two years. This is seen by many to be a very progressive measure for largely Muslim Malaysia. It is the norm in Muslim countries to abstain from all things sexual in schools. Sex is subject of a taboo somewhat outside of the classroom too. With the onslaught of sexual images, information and misinformation on TV and the Internet, it seems a timely move by the Malaysian Education Ministry to cope with its youngsters to prepare their sexuality.

The proposed syllabus intends to cover the nitty-gritty of biological reproduction and more sociological aspects of sexuality and sexual dangers. Four-year-olds will recognize to learn how and protect themselves from “sexual predators”, while children from thirteen will learn about the diseases of sexually transmitted dangers. Other topics, according to Malaysia’s New Straits Times, include relationships, marriage, sexual health, puberty, sexual harassment or abuse, the challenges of marriage and the rights of children. With Malaysia addressing this issue, it too be long may not before other Muslim countries follow its example.

## **HOMEWORK**

- 1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google’s search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on birds and bees. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. ONE TOPIC:** Choose one topic from the “Sex Education Syllabus” above and make an information poster on it. Present it to your class in your next lesson.
- 4. SEX EDUCATION:** Write a short article about the pros or cons of sex education for elementary school students. Talk about your article in your next class

## DISCUSSION:

- a. What was the most interesting thing in this article?
- b. Was there anything eye-opening in this article?
- c. Do you want to know more about the contents of this article?
- d. How and where did you receive your sex education?
- e. Would you say your sex education was good quality?
- f. Was it fun, interesting, embarrassing, shocking...?
- g. Would you (did / do you) give sex education to your children?
- h. Whose responsibility is it to provide sex education to children?
- i. From what age should children receive sex education?
- j. What topics should be included?
- k. Are there any topics that should not be brought up?
- l. How do you answer young children's questions about sex?
- m. How important is religious teaching in sex education?
- n. How important is talking about love when talking about sex?
- o. Should sex education be approached from a biological or sociological perspective?
- p. How much detail should we teach our children?
- q. Should children be taught about how to enjoy sex?
- r. Is there a danger that teaching about sex will encourage kids to try it?
- s. Is television a good medium for sex education?
- t. Should boys and girls have different sex education classes?
- u. Are western societies too liberal when it comes to sex education?
- v. Did you like this discussion?
- w. Teacher / Student additional questions.

## TEXT

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