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A need for sex education

YOUR report "Two girls raped after going out with men they hardly knew" (NST, Aug 6) shows how naive girls are in sexual matters.

This is not the first time that we have read or heard of such cases.

A survey of sexual matters carried out a few years ago on students aged between 13 and 18 and primary school children showed that these youngsters were ignorant and did not know the consequences of unprotected sex and sexually transmitted diseases.

The Education Ministry, with the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry, embarked on devising a

sexual education module for schools a year ago, but there has been no news of its implementation.

There is a need to introduce

sex education in schools. The need is heightened in view of the rising number of fetuses dumped in garbage bins, toilet bowls and drains by underage girls.

The number of babies abandoned continues to increase. About 100 babies are abandoned every year by underage girls.

The upsurge of sexual problems, due to inappropriate sexual activity, has resulted in a high incidence of broken families, abortions, unwanted pregnancies, molestation,

rapes, incest, teenage pregnancies, premarital sex, adultery, sexually transmitted diseases, sexual child abuse (paedophilia), perverse sex, pornography and AIDS.

The frequent incidents of rape and other forms of violence against underage girls and women demand a concerted effort on the part of the

government to address this issue.

Sex education is a move in the right direction.

Many young children learn about sex from the wrong sources.

Parents and teachers avoid talking about sex because it is a taboo subject.

If children are aware of their

sexuality and are adequately informed about sexual matters, there would not be a high number of unwanted pregnancies, dumping of babies and underage sexual encounters.

Adolescents who engage in sexual relations would not encounter problems if they knew more about sex from the right sources.

The message has to be instilled in them that sexual freedom without responsibility can be disastrous.

They must learn that premarital sex and illicit sexual activities are wrong and dangerous.

Sex education would cover human reproduction, the sanctity of marriage and sexually transmitted diseases.

It will teach boys and girls to respect each other and reject violence against women.

Therefore, it is important that sex education be included in certain school subjects and taught at the primary and secondary levels.

The short-term goal of sex education is to prevent sexual problems among young people because of ignorance and unawareness.

The long-term goal is for a better future, great relationships, stable marriages and secure families.

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