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Sex education: The story so far

• **JANUARY 1991:** The National Union of Teaching Profession disagreed with a suggestion to allow films and videotapes depicting sexual scenes to be used for educational purposes.

• **SEPTEMBER 1992:** The Cabinet Committee on AIDS proposed that sex education, with emphasis on AIDS prevention, be taught to Form Two pupils.

• **OCTOBER 1992:** The Education Ministry decided not to use the term "sex education" for the subject on sex as it can be misconstrued by the public. It would be known as "family health education" and taught to only

secondary school students.

• **DECEMBER 1994:** Sex education would be introduced as a subject called "family life education" for students from Forms Two to Five beginning the 1995/96 school term, said Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn.

• **SEPTEMBER 1998:** The proposal to include sex education in schools has been perceived negatively by some parents and groups in the soci-

ety, said the Federation of Family Planning Associations.

• **APRIL 2000:** Sex education was taught in Penang under a pilot project involving Form 3 students in 15 schools.

• **DECEMBER 2003:** Teachers would be given guidelines on how to approach subjects on sexuality early next year, said the National Unity and Social Development Ministry.

• **DECEMBER 2006:** The Cabinet gave the green light to introduce sex education into the school syllabus at all levels, said the Ministry of Education.

• **DECEMBER 2006:** A sum of RM20 million had been allocated to provide training, campaigns and promotional materials for sex education, said Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein.

• **MARCH 2007:** A plan to expand the

scope of the sex education programme beyond students was holding back the roll-out of the guidelines.

• **MAY 2008:** Sex education and the danger of HIV and AIDS would be introduced under the National Service training programme starting October, said Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Dr Ng Yen Yen.

• **NOVEMBER 2008:** Sex education was unlikely to be introduced in the National Service training, said NS Training Council chairman Datuk Dr Tiki Lafa, as feedback from various quarters had not been received.