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Educate, not punish, young couples

CAN we prevent youngsters from having sex? Some say a ruling is necessary. They say it is for their own good to have sex after marriage. This is wishful thinking.

Even in the land of the Taliban, some are willing to take risks to have sex out of marriage.

Sex was never an issue in the days when pornography was not easily available. Today's youngsters are exposed to these pornographic materials from a very young age.

Being young, wild and curious, no amount of regulations can prevent youngsters from having sex.

It is not so much the young that should be our concern. We should focus more on the older man having sex with the young. For the older man, it is an ego trip.

They feel young again having a good time with a young girl who is fit to be their daughter, or granddaughter. More often than not, these paedophiles believe that having sex with young girls will rejuvenate their sexual prowess.

The question is, at what age can we say a young girl does not know about sex? Most young girls are

truly naive about sex. Even girls of marrying age at 18 are known to be naive about having sex with their husband on the first night.

Some are in a state of shock upon seeing a naked man who is her husband wanting to consummate the marriage. To her, marriage is about love, shopping, movies and nothing about sex. That was not the deal when she agreed to marry!

Our prevention measures should not be to punish young couples for having sex, rather we should educate them. Therefore, the time has come for the Education Ministry to seriously consider sex education as a subject.

By considering sex as taboo, we are just denying the reality of the changing times which need pragmatic solutions.

Even parents are too shy to discuss the issue of sex with their young children. When a daughter asks what is rape, the father will have a tough time explaining in the most simple manner without embarrassing his daughter.

Parents are also embarrassed to watch steamy sex scenes on television with their young children

around. Therefore, parents are not the best teachers where sex education is concerned.

When it comes to the definition of rape, I fully agree with former chief justice Tun Zaki Azmi who said: "... But in a case involving young couples, is the girl not at fault at all? I say both of them are guilty, and is it fair if only the man is penalised?..". He should know better as he has handled many cases.

Let us reflect on the days when we were once youngsters. Weren't we curious about sex? Didn't we have the sex inclination during our first date with our girlfriend who was then in Form One, Two or Three.

Of course, it was puppy love and only a few experimented with sex. When they did have sex it was consensual. Still, they were unaware of its consequences.

Rape involves force, coercion, threat to life, and above all, it is very mechanical with no feelings. The girl or woman having been raped will be traumatised for the rest of her life.

Hassan Talib, Gombak, Selangor