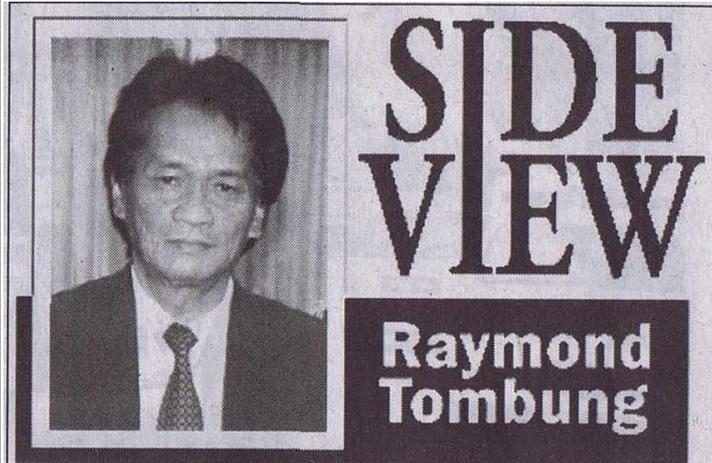


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Beware the dangers of sex education



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I GUESS it is no coincidence that last week I wrote about the unstoppable invasion of the American superculture, subjugating us mercilessly despite our political independence. And last Friday, a news story appeared in a local paper which joined the long chorus of debates on the proposed sex education for children in Malaysia. The story, reporting a statement by Dr. Ligaya A Acosta, Executive Director of the US-based Asia Oceania Region of Human Life International (HLI) Pro-Life Missionaries to the World, sends the clear message that sex education for the young is bad. For the first time I read an argument about the issue of sex education which is sober and sobering. The warning from Dr. Acosta reminds us that we had been so engrossed with trying to catch up with the most sophisticated social management approaches, as a result of the influence of the said superculture, that we had

already began to think of sex education as something compulsory. Acosta's message should serve to warn the government of the dangers of the proposed sex education.

The common argument from proponents of sex education is that sex education for children (which would teach all aspects of the male and female reproductive organs and their functions) would be beneficial for the Malaysian society as a whole because the knowledge about sex would enable the children and teenagers "to make informed choices." This, the logic continues, would reduce our sex-related social problems such as teenage pregnancy, divorce, and baby dumping.

Being a conservative parent, and now a conservative grandfather, I had always felt very uncomfortable with the whole proposal. First of all, what kind of syllabus would be really safe for the school children? Can we tell the mechanics of reproduction without them knowing about the many responsibilities and the many humane aspects of the whole process? How would they make sense of intercourse when they haven't yet reached puberty and the ideas of sensual desire and gratification are still alien to them. And then if the syllabus is used on teenagers, how would teachers present or guide the discussions and illustrations of the mechanics of sex without inadvertently turning them into pornographic titillations? The very thin line dividing the mechanics and the desire to experiment will always be

crossed and confused in the throbbing hearts and minds of the teenagers with raging hormones! "You cannot have sex education without saying that sex is natural and that most people find it pleasurable," said one Bruno Bettelheim. I remember that in secondary school, we all waited excitedly for us to reach the chapter on reproduction which we saw way in advance in our biology text book. How very disappointed we were when the American Peace Corp

teacher, a lady, simply skipped the chapter!

Acosta said, among others, that in the US they are already teaching sex to children from five to 12, at a time when they are not yet interested in sex, a time "where their creativeness and potentials are being harnessed. So don't disturb them with sex education because it will do harm to their bodies." She also openly condemns the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) as having a demonic agenda, being the number one abortionist organization in the world, in part for introducing and promoting the Morning After Pill which is actually 50 times more

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potent than the usual contraceptive pill. The Morning After Pill actually kills the conceived baby, making it an abortifacient. And she said some doctors who carry out abortions in Sabah were trained by IPPF! The main campaigns by IPPF is to promote the so-called planned parenthood, by teaching that people had the right to opt for abortion "as a safe and legal way to end their pregnancies.... The truth is: countries that legalize abortion started with sex education and promotion of contraceptive methods. US legalized abortion in 1973."

As fruits of the US social revolution there had been 800 percent increase in abortions, along with shocking increases in other anti-family social problems. John Kenneth Muir, in his 1998 book, Sex, Politics and the End of Morality, reported that "marriage and traditional family in the United States are on the ropes. Thirty percent of total live births are illegitimate, 70 percent in the black population, 80 percent in some inner-cities. One million illegitimate children are arriving every year." The American Social Health Association (ASHA) reported that "an estimated 15.3 million new STD [sexually transmitted diseases] infections occurred in the

United States in 1996....one in five people in the United States has an STD, that two thirds of all STDs occur in people 25 years of age or younger, that one in four new STD infections occurs in teenagers, and that the cost to diagnose and treat STDs other than HIV is about \$8 billion annually.

We might like to think that we are too conservative and need to catch up with the west in this sort of so-called education, but even countries in the west have raised their alarm over sex education for children, even more than what we in Malaysia have been voicing out! A report from the UK says that "Family campaigners are furious at the.... school curriculum.... covering sex and relationships.... family campaigners described the lessons as 'too much, too young' and said they could have the opposite effect and encourage sexualization."

In June this year, British actor Christopher Lee Power and wife, along with parents were up in arms against a DVD used for sex education for children in school. "The DVD includes a naked cartoon couple chasing each other around a bed with a feather before having sex in a number of positions. It includes a narrator talking about physical changes during sex, which is described as 'very exciting for both as they feel happy being together.' The voiceover promotes sex as 'exciting' and 'fun' and with a child's voice saying 'they look so happy together.'" This is a true reflection of Phyllis Schlafly's opinion that "Sex education classes are like in-

home sales parties for abortions" and evangelist Jimmy Swaggart's view that "Sex education is our public schools are promoting incest."

In the Philippines a movement succeeded in blocking a legislation to provide funds for information and access to childbirth control, saying sex education was better taught in the privacy of the home.

Dr. Miriam Grossman, MD, author of the recently-released You're Teaching My Child What?: A Physician Exposes the Lies of Sex Education and How They Harm Your Child, said in an interview in Canada that even teenagers are not ready for sex education: "...in the past decade our understanding of the teen brain, and how it reasons and makes decisions during moments of high stimulation has grown tremendously. We didn't know until recently that the brain area that is responsible for making rational, thought-out decisions, the area that considers the pros and cons and consequences of decisions, is immature in teens. The circuits aren't complete; the wiring is unfinished. Sex educators insist that, like adults, teens are capable of making responsible decisions, they just lack information about sexuality and access to contraceptives.... But current neuropsychological research does not support this stance. We know now that teens' poor decisions are likely due not to lack of information, but to lack of judgment. And there is only one thing that will bring that: time."

In her article published by

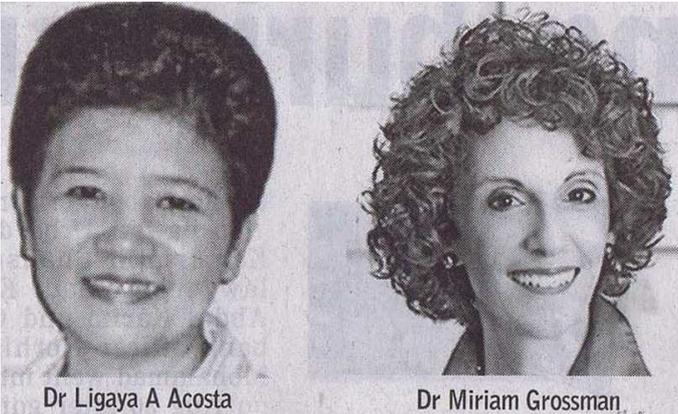
mercatornet.com in July this year, Dr. Miriam Grossman wrote: "Sex education for tots is in the headlines. Last month it was a policy in Provincetown, Massachusetts making condoms available to first graders [primary one pupils!]. Student requests were to be kept secret and parents' objections ignored. Now the news is from Montana. If the Helena school district has its way, kindergarteners will learn about 'reproductive body parts': the penis, vagina, breast, nipples, testicles, scrotum, and uterus. Ten year olds will be taught that 'sexual intercourse includes but is not limited to vaginal, oral, or anal penetration'. Two years later they will discover this may involve 'the penis, fingers, tongue or objects'. Have these people lost their minds?" Such a school program is clearly insane and demonic.

We have this belief that one of the essential lessons in safe sex is for the use of condoms as prevention against infections. But Acosta pointed out that the promotion of the use of condoms does little to control STD and HIV/AIDS; ironically countries with highest use of condoms have the highest HIV/AIDS rates. Thailand, she said, is a case where condoms are sent by the shiploads but the few initial HIV cases have now exploded to more than a million cases. So any sex education advising youngsters to put on condoms to prevent STDs and HIV would be a tragic lie, a cruel deception. In Africa it has been found that the use of condoms had failed to prevent AIDS and the drastic reduction in cases were actually the results of abstinence.

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What the government needs to do is to listen to Acosta's advice that "what we need to teach the children is chastity. It is important for them to know about the sanctity of sex and that human sexuality is not just for pleasure. It is actually a gift from God which is reserved for married couple alone." Some churches are conducting seminars and camps during which teenagers are taught this principles, and at the end of the course they take a vow of chastity until they are married. That is the best approach to the whole thing. Instead of thinking about laying the human body bare to be 'dissected' in the classroom like a piece of dead meat, let's keep it holy and godly.



Dr Ligaya A Acosta

Dr Miriam Grossman