

Headline **Teach sex education in a holistic manner**
Date **16 Mar 2010**
MediaTitle **The Star**
Section **Nation**
Journalist **N/A**
Frequency **Daily**
Circ / Read **293,375 / 1,026,812**

Language **English**
Page No **L-N43**
Article Size **129 cm²**
Color **Black/white**
ADValue **2,342**
PRValue **7,026**



Teach sex education in a holistic manner

It is heartening to know that teachers are now prepared to teach sex education in schools, according to Lok Yim Phang, secretary-general of the National Union of the Teaching Profession although it was said that educationists should be given comprehensive training first, "Teachers okay with sex education now" (*The Star*, March 15).

Although teachers believe sex education should begin at early secondary level, I feel that children should get some very basic form of sex education at primary level, since quite frequently, they are the tar-

gets. They become victims, sexually abused even by family members.

It could be incorporated in the teaching of Science. Names of body parts, especially the sex organs,

should be made familiar to them. They should be instructed that certain parts are private, and it is offensive for others to view and touch them unnecessarily.

They should also be made aware not to trust people easily for their own security.

At the secondary level, sex education should be taught on different things, not just the physical or biological aspects.

The modules and programmes should be planned carefully, with the maturity of the pupils in mind.

Lower secondary students may just learn about the changes in their body during adolescence, their fluctuating moods, menstruation, conception and so forth.

When they are at upper secondary level, sex education should include the mental, emotional, spir-

itual and moral aspects.

It is not enough to teach students how conception takes place, and how to prevent it by using condoms. The moral aspect must come into it, teaching them that it is not acceptable to have sex before marriage.

Besides teaching conception and contraception, love, infatuation, relationships, intimacy, marriage, fidelity, venereal diseases, AIDS and so forth should be included as part of sex education.

It is hoped that teachers would be properly trained by qualified personnel, and thus, be well equipped and encouraged to teach sex education to students, in a holistic manner, and with confidence.

TAN LEE HUAN,
Bukit Mertajam.