

# Call for sex education to start from preschool level

SEX education must be introduced early to youth to reduce the risks of liberal sexual relations from taking place.

National Council of Professors Social Development Cluster committee member, Prof Dr Mohamed Fadzil Che Din said problems would crop up when they lacked knowledge of their own personal sexual development.

As such, he said sex education must be taught to all age levels before adulthood.

"Sexual development in the growing years is different at every stage and we must be able

to deal with it," added Prof Mohamed Fadzil.

He suggested that a suitable term be coined for sex education because the word "sex" had a negative and sensitive connotation.

Universiti Putra Malaysia social expert Prof Mohammad Shatar Sabran said a study he conducted found that 85% of respondents who indulged in sex were prompted by the fun factor.

He said it was an indication that they were not clear about the negative implications of their actions.

Prof Mohammad Shatar said it

was best that sex education be introduced from kindergarten level. It was already being implemented in many developed countries and there was a need for Malaysia to follow suit.

"The subject content must be clear and comprehensive in line with the level of understanding of every target group," he said.

Introducing the subject to younger children would help address problems in society including teenage pregnancy, sexually-transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual exploitation and cyberbullying.

National Union of the Teaching

Profession president Hashim Adnan said sex education must be given emphasis in health-related subjects and religious lessons.

It should also be made a compulsory subject in examinations, he added.

He explained that sex education could be connected to the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS from the health angle, while in religion it could be associated with illegitimate babies.

"The syllabus on sex education must be improved to create more awareness and simultaneously make them (the target group) more cautious of sexual immoral-

ity," he said.

Parent Action Group for Education Malaysia chairman Datin Noor Azimah Abdul Rahim said (liberal) sexual relations could be prevented early via parental guidance in every home.

"Currently, parents take serious care of their children when they are in primary school.

"When children enter secondary school, this is the time they need a great deal of attention as they have desire to try the unknown. Parents must not be embarrassed to speak on sex with their children," she added. —  
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