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**A STUDY OF THE PERCEPTION OF PARENTS
TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SEX EDUCATION
IN SCHOOLS**

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Abstract

Prior implementation, sex education has brought so much perception and speculation amongst every level of the society. In the planning, sex education is to be taught in schools in Malaysia by February 2006. Nonetheless, the implementation has yet to be conducted even though the date had due. The study examines the perceptions of parents towards the implementation of sex education in schools in Malaysia. A random sample of 100 parents inclusive of both parents from Kuching (urban) and Rajang (rural) were given questionnaires. Factors that might influence the perception or acceptance level of parents, parents' level of acceptance towards sex education implementation, whether to implement sex education in single subject or to integrate it into other subjects and at what age levels should sex education be implemented were examined. The study has provided that religious faith, age, residential place and education levels, except for communication level do not influence the parents' perception/acceptance level towards the implementation of sex education in schools. Meanwhile, surprisingly, both parents from Kuching and Rajang have high acceptance levels towards sex education implementation, and mostly parents chose sex education to be taught as integrated subject over to be implemented as a single subject. The study has also provided that most parents want sex education to start being taught at the age of 7-9 years old where they feel that at this age it is of reasonable to learn sex education in contra to learning it at a very young age. From the study, we have learnt that sex education in any way we see it, does brings about positive values. Apparently, through this study, it has depicted that most parents agree for sex education to be implemented in schools. The fact that Malaysian still regards sex as taboo may be seen as slightly off through the result of this study. Yet, a mass study throughout the country may be of useful in the efforts to get the big picture of what parents throughout the country really think about sex education implementation as this study that we have conducted is just a little piece of the big puzzle.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This research is about studying the perception of parents towards the implementation of sex education in schools in Malaysia by which in plan is to be implemented in Malaysia in the year 2006, to be specific in February. Nonetheless, the sex education has yet been implemented by the time this research is conducted, though it has past the expected month. We have chosen this topic because lately, sex education once again having put under the spotlights of Medias, non-profit organization and respective ministries. Sex education issues are becoming more appealing meanwhile the cases of juvenile involving teenagers in sexual crimes are alarming in numbers. Not to forget, also cases involving young children. Having reasons of making the research more interesting and significant, sex education has received a lot of views from every level of the society. Thus, this research is intended to get the in-depth perceptions of the side of the parents on the sex education implementation in schools in Malaysia.

In contrary to Malaysia, sex education has long been introduced and conducted in many countries especially in Western countries such as United States of America, United Kingdom, Sweden, Canada, Holland, etc. Moreover, their sex

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW & CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Literature Review

This section is focusing on the study of previous research or any other related secondary sources with regard to sex education which is done by other researchers or writers. The general view is about the background of sex education and the focuses will be touched about what is sex education itself, the reasons behind its implementation, the reasons why it should not be implemented, the curricula/syllabi etc. This literature reviews are adopted from whether Malaysian researchers/writers or foreign researchers/writers.

2.1.1 Introduction

“Malaysia is a federal constitutional monarchy with a population of approximately 25.6 million. It has a parliamentary system of government headed by a prime minister selected through periodic multiparty elections” (the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, 2006). By the year 2005, the government of Malaysia has drawn up guidelines on sexuality education that is to be implemented in schools in Malaysia by the year 2006. Many perceptions have been received with regard to it. Even, some portions express concerns on what kind of sex education it will be whether of those that emulated the Western type of sex education, as it is obviously seen that the Western is increasingly giving strong influence to our social environment and so to the people. Even more,