

**Motion on
“Enhancing sex education”**

at the Legislative Council on 12 March 2008

Progress Report

At the sitting of the Legislative Council on 12 March 2008, the motion on “enhancing sex education” was carried. The motion urged the Government to: (a) pay proper attention to the impact of Internet information on children and youngsters, and allocate additional resources to facilitate parents and educational and youth groups to promote moral education, respect for privacy and sex education; and (b) review the contents of sex education programmes in schools so as to enable children and youngsters to acquire correct knowledge and concepts about sex at a suitable time. This report sets out the actions taken by the Government for Members’ information.

2. The Education Bureau (EDB) is committed to the promotion of sex education and relevant themes in schools and will continue to strengthen their promotion through the following measures.

Promotion through the School Curriculum

3. EDB promotes sex education through incorporating relevant topics and themes into the school curricula. Elements on sex education and themes such as understanding the impact of internet information, developing good character and respecting privacy are included in different key learning areas and subjects in the primary and secondary curricula. These subjects include General Studies at primary level, Computer Literacy, Computer and Information Technology, Science, Biology, Integrated Humanities, Ethics and Religious Studies, Home Economics and Liberal Studies at secondary level. Relevant content includes knowledge about personal growth and challenges arising from different stages of growth, such as dating and love, handling sexual drives, consequences of premarital sexual relationship, birth control, responsibilities of parents etc. Proper use of information technology and the impact of information technology on the society are also covered. Besides, sex education is further strengthened in Personal Growth Education under the student guidance service which covers topics like understanding and coping with puberty changes, as well as handling of adverse peer influence.

4. In the New Senior Secondary (NSS) Curriculum to be launched in 2009, sex education will be further enhanced. For example, more sex education elements will be embedded in such NSS subjects as Liberal Studies, Health Management and Social Care. The primary General Studies curriculum, including the part on sex education, will be reviewed and updated to meet the developmental needs of the younger generation and to fulfil expectations of the society.

5. Sex education is continuously promoted as a key theme under Moral and Civic Education (MCE). The MCE Curriculum Framework has been revised and launched in April 2008. Major features of the revision include the addition of new priority values and provision of expected learning outcomes for various key stages of learning for schools' reference. The expected learning outcomes facilitate schools to design programmes to meet the needs of students in the area of sex education. Some updated life events such as "Observe the body boundary, don't touch me!" for junior primary level; "My Lover" for senior primary level; "The regret of a 14-year-old father" for junior secondary level and "My good friend becomes an unmarried mother" for senior secondary level are included. The revised MCE curriculum framework should help further nurture the positive values of students in dealing with issues relating to sex education.

Collaboration with other Stakeholders

6. Collaboration with other stakeholders, such as parents and other supporting agencies, is continuously fostered so as to create the learning environment conducive for strengthening sex education among the students.

7. With the launch of the Third IT in Education Strategy later this year, \$5 million has been set aside to raise parents' information literacy and assist them in guiding children to use IT for learning at home. The programmes will include guidance to parents to protect their children against undesirable/obscene material or behaviour on the Internet. EDB is formulating a plan for action.

8. The Committee on Home-School Co-operation (the CHSC) as set up by the EDB in 1993 has organized various sharing sessions and seminars over the years, in collaboration with the Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) and Federations of PTAs (FPTA). Such seminars and sharing sessions were run to enhance communication and

coordination between schools and parents, and to remind parents of the importance to create a good environment at home to help their children cultivate positive values and attitude. Examples of theme-based seminars conducted include “Hopeful Life, Happy Family”, “Talk for parents and teachers - Life, Health, Vitality”, “Tactics to nurture children's learning” etc. Looking ahead, we will continue to collaborate with CHSC, FPTAs and PTAs to provide effective parent education to meet the diverse needs of parents, taking into consideration the recent development of the community.

9. EDB's has established a collaboration network with major supporting agencies, such as Department of Health (DoH), the Hong Kong Family Planning Association (HKFPA), and the tertiary institutes to provide relevant learning opportunities for students. Examples of these learning opportunities include the Adolescent Health Programme provided by DoH, sex education activities provided by HKFPA, the HK Healthy School Award Scheme organized by the Centre of Health Education and Health Promotion, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Positive Adolescent Training through Holistic Social Programmes (PATHS) project jointly provided by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Social Welfare Department and EDB.

Provision of Professional Development Programmes and Resource Support

10. To equip school principals and teachers with the updated knowledge and pedagogy in the promotion of sex education, EDB provides them with thematic and systematic professional development programmes. Agencies with the relevant expertise and experience are commissioned to provide, in collaboration with EDB, comprehensive courses on sex education for principals and teachers. Besides, theme-based seminars addressing to the needs of the students and concerns of the society, such as love and sex, teenage pregnancy, methods of contraception, proper use of the Internet etc are organized. Schools with successful experience in promoting sex education are regularly invited to share their experience for cross fertilization of ideas in promoting sex education. EDB will continue to organize appropriate professional development programmes that suit the latest needs of schools and teachers.

11. Resource materials are updated regularly and distributed to schools to facilitate teachers in the promotion of sex education in schools. For example, websites or web-based learning packages entitled “Sex

Education”, “Making Friends through the Internet and Internet Pornography”, “Developing Moral Values through Current Issues” and “Fantasy, Desire and Reality: Adolescent Sex Culture” etc have recently been developed. Questions and guidance notes are provided to facilitate teachers in their discussion with students and the development of positive values and value judgement. Looking ahead, EDB will keep abreast of changes and provide timely support to teachers to promote sex education in schools.

Education Bureau
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