

PRESS RELEASE

Sex education is not about sex

The Department of Education clarifies that classroom discussions on sex education is not about the sex act but on the science of reproduction, physical care and hygiene, correct values and the norms of interpersonal relations to avoid pre-marital sex and teen age pregnancy.

Education Secretary Mona Valisno said that the contents of the modules that will be integrated in core subjects are scientific, informative and are not designed to titillate prurient interest. "For example in Science, the reproductive system and reproductive cycle have always been part of the curriculum including the changes that happen during puberty," Valisno explained.

"Our role here is to educate our young people on issues that directly affect them and empower them to make informed choices and decisions," Valisno emphasized.

The sex education modules will be pilot tested starting this school year in some 79 public secondary schools and 80 elementary schools across the country.

Valisno explained that sex education will be integrated in Science; Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan (EPP); Health; Heograpiya, Kasaysayan, at Sibika; and Mathematics. Under Science, topics on the reproductive system, parts of the body, reproductive cycle, and puberty are discussed. EPP on the other hand will integrate proper behavior among and between peers of different genders. Health component of MAPEH (Music, Arts, PE and Health) covers personal hygiene and reproductive health.

She added that sex education will be taught in social studies topics under Heograpiya, Kasaysayan, at Sibika such as the position of religion on pre-marital sex and the norms when people of opposite sex interact. In Mathematics, students will use data on issues like pre-marital sex, teen age pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections in their mathematical analysis and exercises in statistics.

"Among those who prepared the modules are psychologists because we want to ensure that specific topics for discussions will be made in the appropriate year levels," Valisno elaborated. Topics requiring a more mature audience are discussed in the latter years in high school.

Two batches of teachers who will be using the modules have already been trained. A third batch is being prepared for training this year.

"We are still open for consultations," expressed Valisno. "The next administration will be the one to decide whether to implement this fully, revise the modules, apply on selected schools, or totally scrap it."

END

--

Communications Unit
Office of the Secretary | Department of Education
2/F Rizal Bldg., Department of Education Complex
Meralco Ave., Pasig City
T (632) 6316033 | F (632) 6364876
Website: www.deped.gov.ph
Email: comm-osec@deped.gov.ph