

Sex Education

Level: Pre-Int & Up

Objective: To generate discussion and raise awareness on the topic of sex education
Reading for comprehension
A number of possible grammar points
Listening for specific information

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxV1Ab0V3Fk>

Procedure: Hour 1: Ask students if they received any sex education in school. In Turkey, they all should have and students generally don't have a problem stating so. Ask the students to brainstorm a list of feelings related to these classes such as: uncomfortable, awkward, nervous, modest, curious, excited, immature, freaked-out, etc. If the students aren't quite comfortable yet, don't dwell on it too much.

Do any vocabulary work if you think it's necessary and then hand out the reading (the first one is for Int & up while the 2nd is for Pre-Int). I provided some comprehension questions, but you can also focus on: 1) language of obligation, prohibition, and permission, 2) relative clauses, 3) fronting of phrases for effect, or 4) present perfect.

Go over the answers for the reading and see what discussion it generates. I like to put the students in groups or, if the class is small enough, do it as a class. Then the students give their answers and support them with info from the text. The entire group must agree on one answer before they can move on. It usually helps to assign a group leader to get discussion started and moving. If the groups get any answers wrong I tell them after they've finished and then they work together to find the correct answer and reason why.

Hour 2: The students can probably stay in their small groups for the discussion part. If all is well they may have started debating the merits of it with each other already. If groups are having trouble, you can get them to take a minute and write some questions down about the subject. If they are still having trouble you can cut up hand out some of the questions for discussion at the bottom.

I've found that I usually have to resort to the discussion questions for some groups, while other groups are off and running without any support. It depends on their interest in the topic.

Depending on how long the discussion goes, I also include the video as a listening.

Auxiliary Vocabulary: Harassment, reluctant, ignorance, a misconception, intercourse

The questions are on page 2.

Watch the video and answer the questions.

- 1) Are there misconceptions about sex in Egypt?

- 2) Who is doctor Heba Kotb?

- 3) What was a very successful episode of Doctor Kotb's show about?

- 4) How do Egyptian girls feel before their wedding night?

- 5) How do Egyptian men feel before their wedding night?

- 6) What kind of woman do Egyptian men want for a wife?

- 7) What should women know about sex? Why?

Original <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/europe/090625/strawberry-condoms-14-year-olds-shock-muslims>

Sweden's proposal to make sex education classes, which include teaching students about safe sex, mandatory has angered Muslim immigrants. Free condoms, Sydney, July 25, 2007. (Tim Wimborne/Reuters)

Coming home from school with strawberry condoms

Mandatory sex education classes for 14-year-olds anger Muslim

immigrants in Sweden. By Marcus Oscarsson — Special to GlobalPost July 29, 2009 STOCKHOLM — Proper condom use, sex positions and same-sex relationships are all part of the curriculum for 14-year-old students in Swedish high schools.

But many Muslim immigrants, who require their daughters and wives to wear headscarves to ensure modesty, have prevented their children from attending the classes.

A new law proposes to change that by abolishing a provision that was initially created for Catholic and Jewish students looking to get out of religious education classes. All students were allowed to opt out of subjects if they wanted.

Without that provision, Muslim parents would no longer be able to stop their teenage children from participating in the mandatory sex education, or in sports lessons.

"All students have the right to take part in the compulsory school education, regardless of whether their parents approve or disapprove," said Sweden's education secretary, Jan Bjorklund.

Muslim parents who grew up in conservative Middle East countries have reacted with shock when their daughters and sons come home from school with condoms handed out by their biology teachers.

Teenage girls said their parents prohibit them from participating in school lessons because they contradict the family's religion or culture, according to a new survey from Stockholm University. Twenty-seven percent of immigrants' daughters are kept from participating in some school subjects.

"My parents do not think that the school should run any sex education at all. They say it is not the school's business. But I think it is exciting. I do not show the condoms to Mum or Dad," said Fatima Omed, 14. Her parents moved to Sweden from Turkey, but she has lived in Sweden her entire life. "I do not plan to use the condoms anytime soon," she added, laughing.

The number of students prevented by their parents from attending sex education classes increased during the Iraq war, when many Muslim families immigrated to Sweden. The Scandinavian country, with 10 million inhabitants, granted full refugee status to 24,799 Iraqis between 2003 and 2007, compared with 260 by Britain. Sweden's right-wing government said the increase in students opting out called for action.

Muslim parents who were born in Sweden have not used the exemption nearly as much as parents who are immigrants. Families where both the parents and children are immigrants have expressed the most anger.

"It is a problem and usually it is the father who is protesting the most, especially when it regards a daughter," said Magnus Ericsson, a teacher at one of Stockholm's largest high schools. Although paternal protectiveness can be viewed as noble and admirable, Swedish medical experts think it's counterproductive and potentially harmful for young women.

The classes are designed to educate students about sex before they reach 15, the age of consent in Sweden.

“The purpose of the sex education is to provide good information about how the body works, to make the students feel secure in their sexuality and to prevent sexual diseases and unwanted pregnancies,” said Ann-Cristine Jonsson of the Swedish National Institute of Public Health.

Students learn about HIV/AIDS, chlamydia, herpes and hepatitis, as well as other sexually transmitted diseases. Condoms with different flavors, such as strawberry and orange, are handed out to the students. “We want to prevent both diseases and unwanted pregnancies,” Jonsson said.

The students are also taught that it is normal to have intercourse with people of the same sex and that it is unacceptable to tease or bully classmates who are gay.

Sweden has required sex education be taught in its schools since 1955 and has earned a reputation as a sexually liberal country. The 1967 landmark movie "I Am Curious (Yellow)," which American author Norman Mailer called "one of the most important movies I have seen in my entire life," helped solidify that reputation.

Last year, Sweden’s state-run pharmaceuticals retailing stores launched a line of sex toys aimed at women. The initiative was financed by taxes and within a few days the products became the chain’s bestsellers.

Some members of the left-wing opposition expressed concern that some Muslim families would be so upset by the proposed change that they would pull their children out of public schools, thus increasing segregation in Sweden. But for the most part, support for the law exists throughout the political spectrum.

The paragraph in question was designed decades ago to allow students to opt out of Christian education, which was erased in Swedish schools in 1969 and replaced by the broader subject of religious education.

Forty years later, amid an influx of Muslim immigrants, it is that paragraph that is set to be abolished.

Auxiliary Vocabulary - a proposal, mandatory, to require, a curriculum, to abolish, a provision, to propose, to opt out, compulsory, regardless, to approve, to prohibit, an immigrant, a survey, to prevent, to contradict, exemption, noble, admirable, age of consent, intercourse, a reputation, segregation, an influx



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Read the article and answer the questions.

1) Why are many Muslims upset in Sweden?

2) Do the Muslim children and parents have the same ideas about sex education?

3) What do Swedish teachers and medical experts think about this situation?

4) What is the goal of sex education in Sweden?



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Auxiliary Vocabulary: To prohibit, to require, to contradict – to go against, to participate, an immigrant, modesty, an exemption, counterproductive, to prevent, the age of consent, a curriculum, a reputation.

Questions for Discussion

Which side do you agree with, the angry parents or Swedish schools?

Is it healthy to teach kids about sex?

Who should teach kids about sex, parents or schools?

What if the parents don't teach the kids?

What should the legal age of consent be?

What's a good age to start teaching children about sex?

Should teaching your child about sex be different for sons and daughters?

Why do you think Muslims born in Sweden protested less than Muslims who immigrated?

Is it ok to talk about sex before marriage?

Do you think this is an embarrassing topic?

Would you rather have your parents or your school tell you about sex?

If you don't learn about sex from your parents or school, how would you learn about it?

Is the Internet a good place to learn about sex?

Do you think children are curious about sex?