

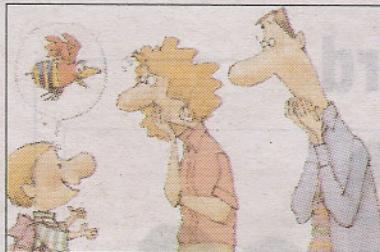
Sex edutainment taboo in schools

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Think sex education and you either squirm in your seat with embarrassment, or grimace as you remember your attempt-at-sex-education class from your school days. And there will probably be more of the former than the latter. How many of us remember wondering why we were being subjected to another “gross” and “disgusting” biology class?

Sex education has always been a taboo subject and where the topic has been introduced, students shy away from it. But when children and adolescents are subjected to explicitly sexual and sex related images and information — much of it distorted — in the media surrounding them, why the aversion to the classes? The answer could very well be the uninteresting manner of teaching.

Renowned andrologist Dr. Sudhakar Krishnamurti feels that the commercial models of sex education have failed miserably because children don't like them. Sex education is extremely uninteresting and clinical — it is treated like a biology lecture explaining the functioning of the male and female reproductive systems. But sex is not a subject to be treated so impersonally. Speaking at



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a presentation on his recently launched book “**Sexx is not a four letter word**”, Dr. Krishnamurti said, adding, “children and adolescents need to know what is clean, pleasurable, safe sex and no ‘sex education’ class shows this.” He believes that edutainment alone can successfully educate authorities and students about sex.

A concerned parent who was present at the function wondered aloud whether a modified version of the book could be included in the school curriculum and children of the right age be introduced to sex education through such a fun medium.

However, school authorities do not agree with the idea of sex edutainment. Vimala Chandrashekhar, Principal of Glendale Academy for Learning and Enrichment feels

children in a school come from different sections of society and from different backgrounds and this would affect their understanding of the subject. It is difficult to generalise and talk about such a sensitive topic is her reply. On a similar note, Ratti Kotwal of Kotwal's School points out that while basic sex education including information about sex and the requirement of abstinence at a young age is important, edutainment is definitely not the right way. “Sex education needs to be a handled sensitively and entertainment makes it a frivolous joke,” she says.