RATIONAL VIEW OF IMPARTING SEX EDUCATION TO OUR STUDENTS

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First things first, this article firmly stands that there is nothing wrong with sexual intercourse, they are human needs, a survival factor amongst species and a perfectly normal human activity. However, if such intercourse leads to the robbery of human lives; the adolescent parents who are forced to leave school and hopefully prepare for their future are now shouldered with the responsibilities. And of course, the unborn child robbed of good opportunities because his/her parents are not yet ready to sustain him/her. And in the most heartbreaking cases, youth pregnancy also leads to abortion.

This leads us to the subject-matter of sex education, which has raised a lot of eyebrows in our conservative society. Parents and the religious sector are among them. Claiming that exposing our students to such theme heightens their curiosity and as they say, curiosity killed the cat. In this case, curiosity caused early pregnancy. Early pregnancy is among the prevalent issues in our society nowadays. With the increasing number of pregnant mothers that are still underage, it has been a growing concern in our country. In fact, according to the Commission on Population (2017) here in our country, there has been a significant rise of early pregnancy in the Philippines, from 1,700 cases in 2014, in 2015 I has increased to 1986 cases. Also estimated by the United Nations Population Fund (2016) 60% of Filipino women, from the years of 2000-2010, became mothers even before they have reached the age of 20. Such numbers are alarming and an immediate action is greatly needed.
It is a fact that there is nothing wrong with early pregnancy, if and only if, the parents are ready to support their unborn child not just financially, but also with its physical, mental and emotional needs. Otherwise, the unborn baby will just be another child in the streets. And of course, we don’t want that to happen.

It is also important to note that through the mandate of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law of 2012, which requires schools to adhere to educating students about the reproductive system, physical care and hygiene among others, in age appropriate setting. Now this is where the debate gets interesting. It is a common myth that sex education teaches students to do “it”. But perhaps, if people would research first, study thoroughly the RH law and its mandates before speaking their mouths and opposing harshly a given solution by the government, things would be better.

Ours is still a developing country, majority of our countrymen is still in the poverty line, unemployment rates are still high, and people are still working 2 to 3 jobs just to make ends meet. In solving dilemmas, not just in our country, but anywhere across the globe- a rational view is needed. We are now living in a much modernized world and people are now more open minded when it comes to sensitive topics, such as this. What we need is to not forget our traditional values, or to denounce conservatism. Contradictingly, if we are to solve a national crisis, which greatly affects millions of people, perhaps it is high time to set aside our one sided views and biased opinions, but rather take a look at our problems in a rational view.

References:
