



UTM
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Effort of NGO in Promoting Comprehensive Sexuality Education to Improve Quality of Life Among Local and Refugee Communities: An Exploration of NGO Perspective in Malaysia

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Federation of Reproductive Health Associations, Malaysia (FRHAM)



- ❑ A Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) which established in 1958
- ❑ Aims: To educate, promote and support Malaysians in family planning, sexual reproductive health and responsible parenthood
- ❑ A federation of 13 States Member Associations of State Family Planning Associations, Family Health Association, Family Health Development Association and Reproductive Health Association.

History of FRHAM

1953

Selangor Family Planning Association (Selangor FPA) was formally established as the first association in the country providing family planning services and advice.

1957

Malacca FPA was registered.

1961

Kedah FPA and Pahang FPA were registered. FRHAM became a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

1955

Johor FPA was registered.

1958

Federation of Family Planning Associations, Federation of Malaya, was registered.

1962

Penang FPA (now known as Penang Family Health Development Association or Penang FHDA), Terengganu FPA, Perlis FPA and Negeri Sembilan FPA were registered.

1956

Perak FPA, now known as Perak Family Health Association (or Perak FHA), was registered.

1958

Kelantan FPA, now known as Reproductive Health Association of Kelantan (or ReHAK), was registered.

1964

Sarawak FPA was registered.

History of FRHAM

1967

Sabah FPA was registered.

1978

Sabah FPA and Sarawak FPA joined the Federation to form Federation of Family Planning Associations, Malaysia (FFPAM).

2005

FRHAM was first accredited to International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

2009

FFPAM's name change from Federation of Family Planning Associations, Malaysia to Federation of Reproductive Health Associations, Malaysia (FRHAM) in recognition of the emphasis on reproductive health over family planning.

2012

FRHAM was reaccredited to International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

2016

FRHAM together with its Penang, Kelantan and Sarawak State Member Associations successfully underwent an accreditation exercise by IPPF from April-October 2016.



FRHAM's Accreditation

- ❑ In 2005, FRHAM was first accredited to IPPF and reaccredited in 2012.
- ❑ In 2016, FRHAM together with its Penang, Kelantan and Sarawak State MA successfully underwent an accreditation exercise by IPPF.



IPPF – International Planned Parenthood Federation

- ❑ IPPF is a global service provider and a leading advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.
- ❑ It provides sexual and reproductive healthcare services around the world and fights for sexual right.
- ❑ As a condition of membership, all IPPF MAs are required to meet 10 fundamental principles and 49 separate standards to gain the accreditation of IPPF

Open and democratic

Well-governed

Strategic and progressive

Transparent and accountable

Well-managed

Financially healthy

A good employer

Committed to results

Committed to quality

A leading non-governmental organization in its country



FRHAM's Motto

**NOT
TOO
EARLY**



FOR HEALTHY BABIES AND MOTHERS

**NOT
TOO
LATE**



**NOT
TOO
CLOSE**



Priorities of FRHAM

6A's

Access



**Adolescent
/ Young
People**

AIDS/ HIV



Advocacy

Abortion



Aging

Priorities of FRHAM - Access

- Provides access for sexual and reproductive services to marginalised and underserved groups



Disadvantaged youths



People living with HIV



Refugees



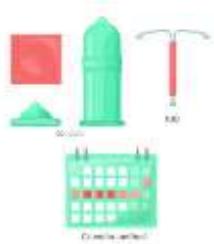
Sex workers



Drug Users

Priorities of FRHAM - Access

- By the end of 2015, FRHAM, together with the clinic Community Clinic Extension Family Planning (COMCEFP) networks of 13 State Member Associations had served about 56,573 clients.
- The services provided:



**Family Planning/
Contraceptives**



**Breast
Examination
&
Pap Smear
Screening**



**Reproductive
Tract Infections -
Counselling/
Treatment/
Referral**



**Abortions
related services
- Counselling/
Treatment/
Referral**



**HIV/AIDS –
Para-
counselling/Coun-
selling/
Referral**

Priorities of FRHAM – Adolescent/ Young People

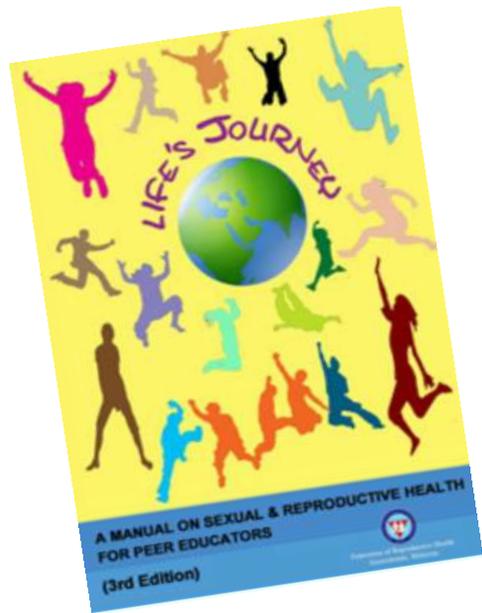
- ❑ FRHAM worked hand-in-hand with the state Member Associations, Durex Malaysia, AIESEC and Women's Aids Organization to provide comprehensive and high-quality educational program.
- ❑ FRHAM also collaborated with UNHCR to conduct training of trainers' workshop for young refugees by using the comprehensive sexuality education modules developed by the organisation.

**Comprehensive
Sexuality
Education**

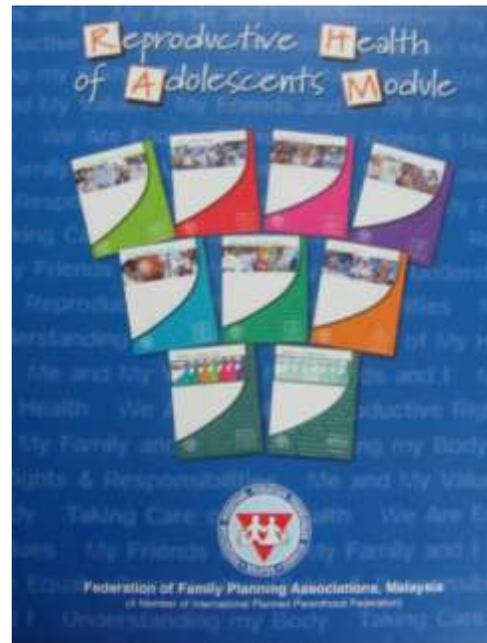
“A curriculum-based process of teaching and learning about the cognitive, emotional, physical and social aspects of sexuality. It aims to equip children and young people with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will empower them to: realize their health, well-being and dignity, develop respectful social and sexual relationships; consider how their choices affect their well-being and that of others; and, understand and ensure the protection of their rights throughout their lives.”

- UNESCO, 2018

Priorities of FRHAM – Adolescent/ Young People



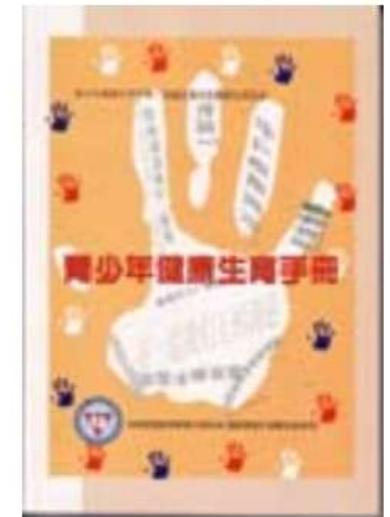
LIFE'S JOURNEY



The Reproductive Health of Adolescents Module (RHAM)



Reproductive Health of Adolescents Module - Islamic Perspective



Reproductive Health of Adolescents Booklet (RHAB) - Chinese

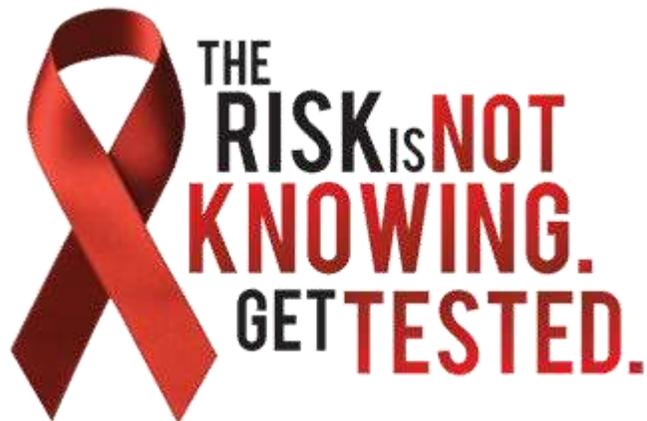
Priorities of FRHAM – Advocacy

- ❑ FRHAM and its state member associations partnered and collaborated with governmental and other NGOs to promote Sexual and Reproductive Health concerns.
- ❑ The organisation had carried out policy dialogues on the access of increasing access to reproductive rights.
- ❑ FRHAM was invited to play a role on various LPPKN and MOH committees regarding reproductive health and family planning.



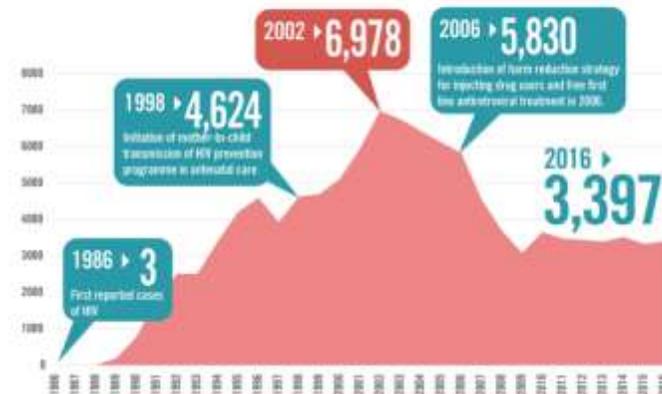
Priorities of FRHAM – AIDS / HIV

- ❑ FRHAM and its state member associations also conducted outreach programs on HIV and AIDS to raise awareness and sensitisation to targeted population and public.
- ❑ Services such as HIV/ AIDS testing also provided in the clinics collaborated with the state member associations.



HIV & AIDS Epidemic in Malaysia

New HIV Cases (1986-2016)



Source: HIVST Centre, Division of Disease Control, Ministry of Health Malaysia

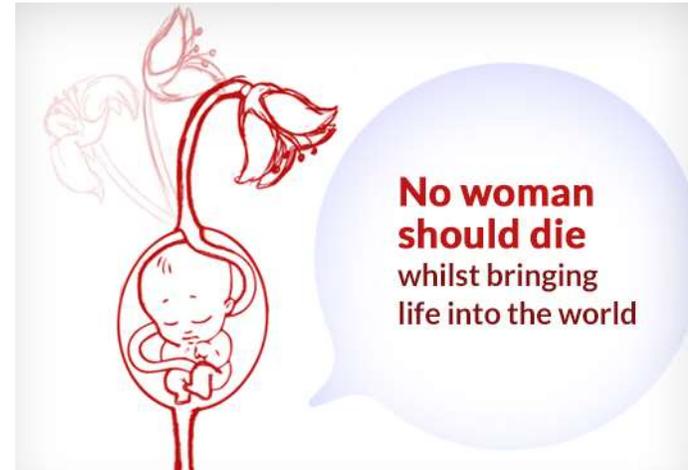
Priorities of FRHAM – Abortion

- ❑ FRHAM makes available of affordable abortion-related services with particular attention to young women, underserved and marginalised groups.
- ❑ FRHAM provides pre- and post-abortion counselling, and referral to a specialist of choice for further management.
- ❑ FRHAM also worked with UNFPA to coordinate studies regarding abortion.



Problem Statement

- ❑ CSE is still a taboo in Malaysia. Previous studies had indicated that people in Malaysia are lack of knowledge in sexuality education.
- ❑ Lack of the knowledge of SRH can lead to social problems.
- ❑ The issues mentioned above impacted an individual's physical and mental health critically, and also implicated the long-term well-being of the individual, their families and even their communities.



Purpose of the Study

- ❑ To explore the role of FRHAM, an NGO's efforts in promoting and implementing of comprehensive sexuality education for local and refugee community in Malaysia.
- ❑ To highlight the challenges faced by FRHAM and recommendations for advocacy of comprehensive sexuality education in Malaysia setting.

Research Methodology

- ❑ Qualitative data were collected through in-depth interviews and analysis of documents and published report of FRHAM.
- ❑ The participants involved in this study were the staffs from FRHAM recruited via purposive sampling method.
- ❑ The interview guide and informed consent form were validated by educational psychology expert. The topics included FRHAM' s roles in implementing comprehensive sexuality education, current activities, and the challenges confronted by the organisation.
- ❑ The process of interviews was recorded, and coded thematically.

The Roles of FRHAM



FRHAM as educator

FRHAM as service provider

FRHAM and refugee

FRHAM as advocate



Sexual Education in Malaysia

- ❑ In Malaysia, teenage pregnancies had become a serious issue to the nation. Based on the statistics of live births among adolescent girls, there is increasing number of reported cases.
- ❑ Besides that, the adolescents also unaware about the availability of SRH services for pregnancy and abortion; STIs; sexual violence and contraceptives in health clinics.



Sexual Education in Malaysia

- ❑ Currently, Malaysia has no plans to introduce CSE as a specific subject in schools.
- ❑ The knowledge of sexuality is taught in schools through Health Reproduction and Social Education (PEERS) studies and across a variety of subjects.
- ❑ Ministry of Education Malaysia encouraged NGOs to conduct awareness programs among the students to raise their awareness on how to protect themselves .



FRHAM as Educator

- ❑ To create awareness among the adolescents, FRHAM had developed CSE modules to provide comprehensive and high-quality knowledge about sexual and reproductive health.
- ❑ FRHAM also disseminate the knowledge of CSE to underserved communities and provide training to the representatives of the communities to become the healthcare workers.
- ❑ Besides this, FRHAM also delivered programs, talks, and exhibitions in primary and secondary schools, universities and public places.
- ❑ The staff mentioned the significance of CSE knowledge among the communities, she said that the services provided would be 'pointless' and bring minimal impact on their quality of life.

Reproductive Health Talks and Workshops



FRHAM as Service Provider

- ❑ FRHAM brought service to those who are unable to have the access with no or minimal charges through outreach program and mobile clinics.
- ❑ Family planning and SRH services such as contraceptives, health screening, STIs testing, Pap Smears and AIDS/ HIV services were provided to Orang Asli, the migrants, the refugees, the people living in welfare home, the people in fisherman villages.
- ❑ The staff also said that they provided referral services for the patients who need counselling and other services.

SRH Health Campaigns



Refugees in Malaysia

- According to the statistics of United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are 152,429 refugees and asylum seekers registered with UNHCR Malaysia at the end of November 2017.
- Among them, 89% are from Myanmar and 11% are from 60 other countries.
- According to Malaysian Law (the Federal Constitution of 1957 and the Malaysian Immigration Act 1959/63), Malaysia does not provide a legal right for refugee to remain in the country



FRHAM and Refugee

- ❑ FRHAM staff mentioned that Rohingya are culturally getting marry at young age, and the men had the final words in the matter of getting children. Child marriage is common among Rohingya and some of the girls marry even earlier due to poverty and insecurity.
- ❑ Therefore, FRHAM had taken actions in providing access to SRH services to the refugees.
- ❑ FRHAM also involved the Ustaz (religious leader) among the community in the training of CSE and family planning. They are trained to be the healthcare workers so that they can disseminate the information in the community

CSE and SRH videos in Rohingya Language



FRHAM as Advocate

- ❑ NGOs represent the ‘voice of the people’ at all levels – local, national and international.
- ❑ FRHAM had been invited to attend various governmental meetings and member of committees to provide the perspectives from the NGOs’ aspect.
- ❑ The robust collaboration between the government and NGO can scale up a social development program about sexuality education to national level.



FRHAM in Media

News

Thursday, May 12, 2016 12:00:00 AM

Stillborns with umbilical cords attached dumped in cupboard



ACP Muir Faridulafriash said the case would be investigated under Section 315 of the Penal Code for concealment of a birth by secret disposal of dead body.

GST on contraceptives, is it right? — John Teo

Tools: INCREASE TEXT, DECREASE TEXT, RESET TEXT, PRINT ARTICLE

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Like Share Tweet Print Email G+

MAY 20 — Globally, the latest data published in 2008 shows that 41 per cent of pregnancies were unintended.

The reasons for these unintended pregnancies were substantial unmet need for family planning services (richer areas of the world), poverty, a lack of education, income, income use for contraceptive method failure.

Socio-economic, regulatory and religious conditions also play an important part in the incidence of unintended pregnancies.

Unintended pregnancy can only have three sequelae, i.e. abortion, miscarriages or live birth.

The Malaysian context

Extrapolating these figures into the Malaysian context with a current population of 30 million in March 2014 and an estimated eight million women in the reproductive age group, the estimated number of abortions in Malaysia per annum will be 224,000.

This is equivalent to 600 abortions per day and 25 abortions every hour.

Malaysia's maternal death rate was 41 per 100,000 live births in 1995 and the latest data was at 28 per 100,000 in 2004 to 2008.

This is a reduction of 31 per cent, falling way short of the Millennium Development Goal set by World Health Organisation of 75 per cent reduction by 2015.

The war years of contraception in those mothers who have died during pregnancy stands at an average of 29 per cent only with no improvements for the past 15 to 20 years that the series of Malaysian Confidential Enquiry into maternal deaths were reported.



A response to low birth rate and declining population growth — Selangor & Wilayah Persekutuan Family Reproductive Health Association

Tools: INCREASE TEXT, DECREASE TEXT, RESET TEXT, PRINT ARTICLE

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Like Share Tweet Print Email G+

MAY 28 — A recent news report cites that the Minister of Women, Family, and Community Development, Datuk Seri Rohani Abdul Karim, has called for Malaysians to reverse the trend of declining population growth by having more children, justifying her argument on data projected by the United



We would like to discuss three main points of a pro-natal policy with little consideration on other population indicators at a time when the world is advocating for sustainable development goals, and how Selangor & Wilayah Persekutuan Family Reproductive Health Association (SWP FRHA) and our counterparts in other states can assist the government to tackle population and development issues.

Nation

Thursday, 7 July 2016

Look into the plight of Bajau Laut, urges NGO

Tools: INCREASE TEXT, DECREASE TEXT, RESET TEXT, PRINT ARTICLE



Special: Star in News

Star news for 7 July 2016

Story highlighted by PH

Florida governor says 'merely' if

Clinton faces as 'back to school' season

Germany 'merely' if the country

Academy on 'back to school' season

Detail

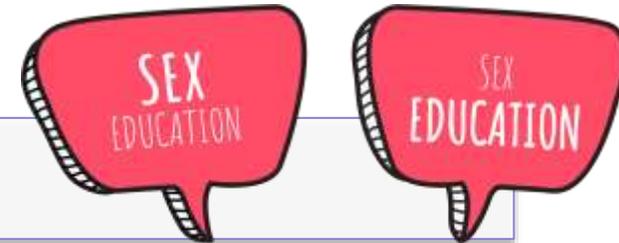
KOTA KINABALU: They are stateless, deprived of education, employment and healthcare and live in abject poverty in the east coast of Sabah.

But things are looking up for the nomadic Pales or Bajau Laut (sea gypsies) since their plight was highlighted by a non-governmental organisation involved in family planning and health.

Lit Hwa Mian, programme services head of the Federation of Reproductive Health Associations visited the Pales in Lajud Datu and described them as a 'pitiful community'.

The Barriers Experienced by FRHAM

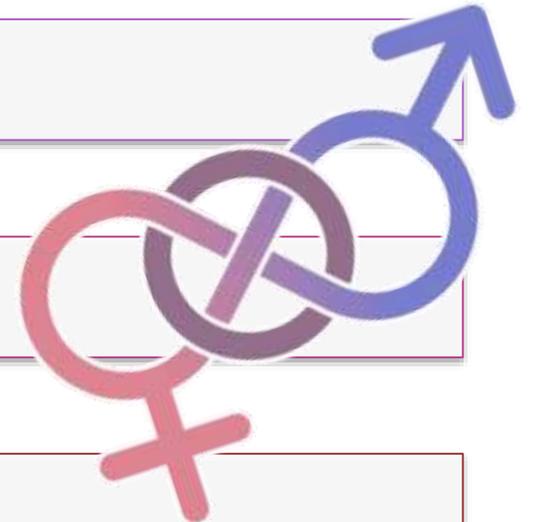
Comprehensive Sexuality Education is perceived as taboo



Cultural factors

Reluctance of educators in delivery of Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Low visibility of FRHAM



CSE: Perceived as taboo



- ❑ Parents in Malaysia are still viewing CSE as a taboo.
- ❑ Some parents are worried that the exposure of CSE might lead:

Sex-experimentation

Earlier sexual debuts

- ❑ CSE is still a controversial subject to be taught in school. Parents are concerns about the negative consequences of implementation of sex education as the children are not mature enough to understand sexuality.
- ❑ FRHAM also revealed it is difficult to obtain permission to conduct programs related to CSE in schools.

Cultural factors

- ❑ Malaysia is a multiracial country and each race or community have their own cultural background that could influence their acceptance towards CSE and SRH services.
- ❑ The Orang Asli is the indigenous minority people in Malaysia. Their geographical distribution, unique socio-cultures and multi-dialects may refrain them from the access to public health interventions, CSE and SRH services.



Cultural factors

- ❑ For refugee especially Rohingya community, child marriage is still one of their traditions.
- ❑ Teen pregnancy could cause maternal death and other health risks due to they are not ready physically for pregnancy.
- ❑ Poverty, lack of education and employment are the factors that contributed to adolescent pregnancies especially among the marginalised population.



SAVING MOTHERS' LIVES

The leading cause of death for girls aged 15 to 19 globally is the complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

Cultural factors

- ❑ Many Muslim in Malaysia have the misconceptions that contraception is not permissible in the context of Islam.
- ❑ Study in Pakistan also revealed that the married women are not using contraception due to religious reasons.
- ❑ They are unable to collate and interpret precisely the various verses of Quran that related to family responsibility and well-being.



Reluctance of Educators in Delivery of Comprehensive Sexuality Education

- ❑ The reluctance of teacher in teaching CSE could cause shallow implementation of the curriculum in the class, that would not be enough to equip the students with the necessary knowledge and skills.
- ❑ The prior study identified the factors behind the reluctance of teachers:

Socio-cultural and religious factors



Poor motivation

Lack of teacher training



Low Visibility of FRHAM

- ❑ FRHAM staff also stated that low visibility of FRHAM is a challenge of the organisation in promoting CSE and SRH services.
- ❑ For NGO, the visibility is a crucial element for them to engage more people to understand their work and create awareness among the people. The more support they receive, the larger impact they can make.



Recommendations of FRHAM in Promoting CSE

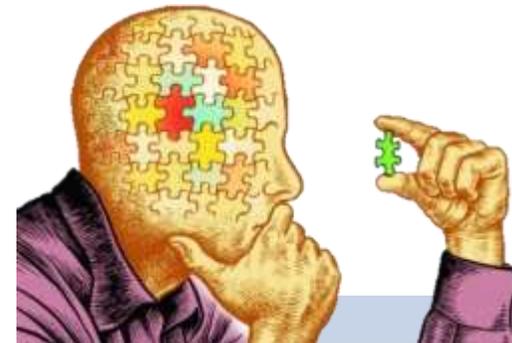
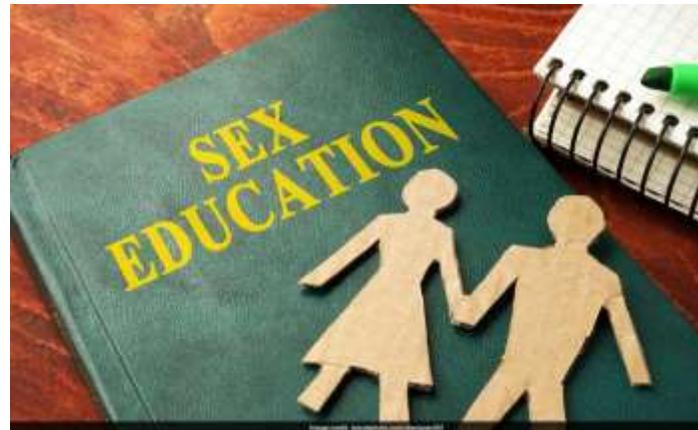
CSE as a standalone subject in curriculum

More collaborations among stakeholders, NGOs and government

Include CSE in Premarital Course

CSE as a Standalone Subject in Curriculum

- ❑ Acknowledgement of CSE as an official subject could be a cornerstone for Malaysia to provide high-quality CSE and SRH services.
- ❑ Teaching CSE as a standalone subject can encourage the use of non-formal teaching methodologies that would help in building students' critical thinking skills.
- ❑ It is easier to monitor, evaluate the effectiveness and revise the curriculum based on need if CSE.



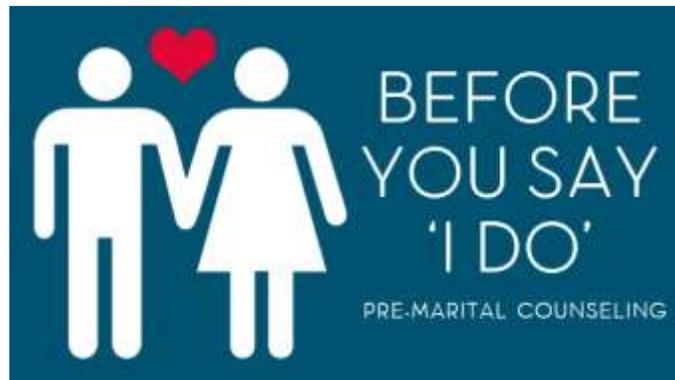
More Collaborations among Stakeholders, NGOs and Government

- ❑ FRHAM staff believed that, with the collaboration of all parties, they can bring more positive impact to the people.
- ❑ NGO is acting as a complement to the government. NGO with proper management and excellent human resources can help to form government policy and aid in program development, complement and supplement government programs.
- ❑ A healthy NGO-government relationship allows the developments of more constructive dialogue and implementation of the program to be more impactful



Include CSE in Premarital Course

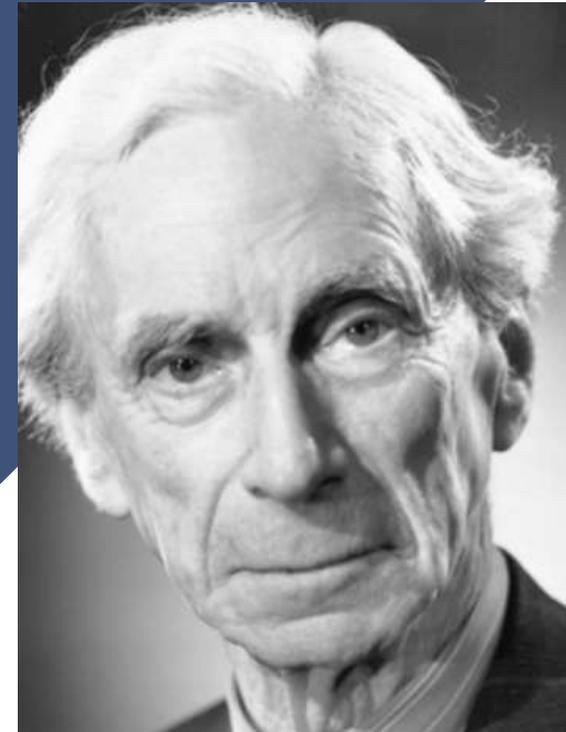
- ❑ In Malaysia, Muslims are compulsory to attend the premarital course before application for marriage.
- ❑ FRHAM staffs suggested that the knowledge about CSE and SRH should be included in the premarital course to prepare the future parents in family planning and play a role in communicating the knowledge about sexuality with their children.



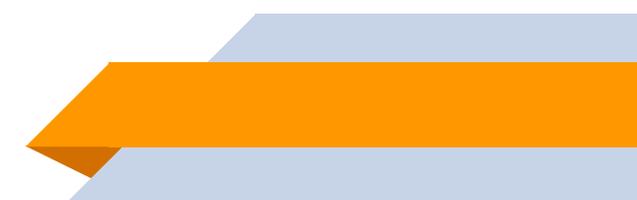
CONCLUSION

- ❑ As the leading pioneer of CSE and SRH services in Malaysia, FRHAM had made remarkable contributions for the well-being of local and refugee communities in Malaysia.
- ❑ The organisation also negotiated with the government, local and international NGOs to advocate the SRH rights for marginalised and underserved populations.
- ❑ This study might encourage more partnerships between government and NGOs as NGOs can reflect the grass-root issues of the people in the nation.

“ Answering questions is a major part of sex education. Two rules cover the ground. First, always give a truthful answer to a question, secondly, regard sex knowledge as exactly like any other knowledge.



~ Bertrand Russell



thank
you

The image features the words "thank you" written in a decorative, teal-colored script font. The letters are adorned with intricate floral and leaf patterns in shades of yellow and white. The word "thank" is on the top line, and "you" is on the bottom line. The overall style is elegant and artistic.