SCRIPT: “It’s Time for ‘The Talk’”
Basant Samhout
December, 2019

Lead In: This Audio Feature is an examination of my parent’s experiences with sex education in contrast to mine. We look into how little has changed over the years, and they weigh in with their opinions on the matter.

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Eman Hafez (EH): Ooo-O-O (03:12)
Adel Samhout (AS): Aaa, why this kind of question? (14:35)

Hi! I interviewed my parents about sex.

MUSIC: Transition by Omar Shehata

Sex is no dinner table talk…

NAT: family dinner table

So I essentially pulled an Uno reverse card and asked my parents about their introduction to sex, their sex life and everything in between.

AS: I was too small…

MUSIC: Background by Omar Shehata

AS: ...at the time about maybe eight, nine years. (14:51)

That’s my dad, Adel.

AS: When I was sitting with my uncle. And there is one lady off the family. She was born. So I am asking him how she born or how, how the baby is come? Then he started to explain for me what is the relation between the male and female and how the baby come. (14:59)

SFX: Baby Crying

AS: I start to ask him, is it my mother doing this? Is it my grandmother doing this? He said, all ladies and all of the people making this. This is and without this is it will be no life. (15:40)
Meanwhile, my Mom, Eman Hafez, had a more dramatic experience with her body in realizing what it was capable of doing.

*MUSIC: Transition and background by Omar Shehata*

*EH: Grade six! That day. It was. Oh my God! I cry too much. I go to my. to take shower so I find something strange. I jump to go out, shouting! Crying! I have something strange! I scratched! Oh my God! I’m going to die! What is that!*....

That was my mom’s first period! My grandma was trying to quietly address the situation.

*NAT: Door close*

*EH: …. My mother Oh! Come, come! She back me to the bathroom and she told me all the girls, when suitable time the God decided to change from small girl to a big girl (05:19)*

*Basant Samhout (BS): Since then and until high school, you weren't introduced to sex at all? You didn’t have any questions? You didn’t talk to your siblings, anything? (7:26)*

*EH: How can we ask about something we didn’t hear about it!? It’s not in our schedule of life.(8:09)*

*MUSIC: Transition and Background by Omar Shehata*

So, until THAT biology chapter on the reproductive system, there was no mention of sex at home.

*AS: No. The culture of my parents not allowed to want to talk about this things. (21:50)*

With little communication at home, it seemed school was the answer.

*SFX: School Bell Ringing*

*AS: His name it was Mr. Gaber. We know he is coming to explain this class and we are waiting. As a people, as a male What is the effect of this class in the in the girls, which is with us in the class? When he start, Mr Gaber, he start to draw the system in the blackboard, before he start, he catch one person and he hit him and throw him and kick
him out the class to control the class. After this is nobody…we are silent and we not talk until he start to explain (18:26)

My dad even went the extra mile afterwards…

NAT: Flipping book pages

MUSIC: Transition and Background by Omar Shehata

AS: There is books about sex. There is photos with our friends, and after this is there is sometimes film

SFX: Film Rolling

AS: So we was looking for… especially when we was in the university, we were looking for this and we read these kinds of books. (23:18)

It’s not really different now. I was introduced to sex in a different decade, school, and even country through the same biology chapter on the reproductive system, and there was no mention of it past that. So, I, like my dad, heavily relied on other sources; one of which was social media.

NAT: Typing
SFX: Phone Notification

To that, mom and dad had opposing views.

AS: No available sources to learn the boys and girls. Only the media, when she saw something in the media, this will open the window for them to ask they parents, to ask they oldest brother or sister to get the correct information from them. If they not see anything, they not read anything even if it is wrong
EH: No
AS: How they going to ask to know what is correct?
EH: If he didnt ask, then it will be wrong idea from wrong source (11:29)

Misinformation is an issue for all topics presented on social media, so my parents got nowhere near sorting out their differences on the matter

NAT: Parents Arguing
NAT: People Talking
Despite their varying opinions, Eman and Adel do agree on one thing, that sex education should be gradually incorporated, not just in our educational system but also further normalized and discussed on the daily.

*MUSIC: Transition by Omar Shehata*

*EH: The conclusion we was wrong. This is wrong. (21:54)*

So… the way we dealt with sex-ed in the past was wrong… four decades later we’re still wrong

*EH: It must be starting from the beginning. Uhm… the children baby, the boy and girl. The boy is different from the girl. When they come older and older, I give the amount that is needed on the suitable time. (43:37)*

Still, sex remains an uncomfortable topic… and only time will tell whether this will change with the coming generations.

*MUSIC: Transition and background by Omar Shehata*

*AS: I am decided to talk with you also before married.*

*BS: Please don’t*

*AS and EH: Why? Hahahahaha (07:52)*

This audio feature was produced by Basant Samhout for the Audio Production course at The American University in Cairo, taught by Professor Kim Fox in the Fall semester of 2019. Special thanks to Omar Shehata for the music and sound effects as well as Eman Hafez and Adel Samhout for their insightful interviews.