

Young Women – Female Mortality

There was no sex education at school when I was at school, just one night three girls, we sat, we would tell each other what we heard and what we knew and you learnt more from your friends at school at that time. You were afraid to mention it to your mother, ask your mother any questions, maybe some of them could talk but I always noticed my mother could bluff you off. I don't know what age I might have been when I really knew where babies come from at all and if a girl did get pregnant it was a big thing.

Families thought that it brought disgrace on the family and she would have been sent elsewhere I remember a couple of girls being sent to a Convent I think it was in Newry and they came back with their babies. Some of them didn't I think, but life was tough in that way. Some of them did get married and some of them didn't. If there was romance maybe they did. I remember surely a few romances and they did get married. Some of them I say went to a convent.

The priest paid a big part in that now as far as I did hear that the priest would arrange for the girl to go to a convent where she would be looked after. Probably she had to work from watching the film I think of the girls that I knew not too many now. I think how they may have suffered the same as the girls in the film had to work hard and I suppose they would of arranged an adoption if the girl wasn't allowed to keep her baby

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