
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN MARRIAGE: ITS IMPLICATION ON EDUCATION

BY

Akinpelu Isaac Olayemi

Educational Foundations

Emmanuel Alayanande College of Education, Oyo

Email: akinpeluisaaco@gmail.com

Abstract

The paper contemporary issues in marriage: its implication on education looks into the marriage institution and the purpose for its creation. Marriage is a union between two opposite sex. God is the initiator of marriage, Genesis 2:18, the Lord said 'it's not good for the man to live alone, I will make him a helper'. The reasons for this are when it was discovered that it was only Adam that was moving up and down in the Garden of Eden. Marriage is for companionship, sexual satisfaction and protection. But as man mingles with world there are now issues in marriage. Marriage can take any form to be legally acceptable in society. They are customary marriage, traditional marriage, religious marriage and civil marriage, any forms of these marriages without the touch of the people's custom and tradition is not bounding, items requested by the bride family depends on the belief and tradition of the parent. Issues in marriage ranging from religious, culture, physical, economic and emotional. This has an implication on the education institution where some parents may withdraw their words when it is noticed that the teacher is having a marital problem. Recommendations were made such as married couples should allow the marriage to work.

Keywords: Marriage; Culture; Economic; Emotion; and Education

Introduction

It is pertinent to note that for society to be multiplied marriage cannot be ignored. Marriage is a union between two opposite sex. When the marriage is blissful, society would be at peace. Cambridge advanced learner's dictionary (2008) defines marriage as a legally accepted relationship between a woman and a man in which they live as husband and wife. Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2008) stated further that marriage of convenience is a marriage in which the partners have married not because they love each other but in order to get an advantage, such as the right to live in the other partner's country.

The concept of marriage is not initiated by man, God, the omnipotent in His own wisdom-initiated marriage. According to the word of God in the Holy Bible Genesis 2:18, 21-25; then the God said, "it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him so the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; and the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then, the man said, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man'. Therefore, a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. Marriage is the first social institution that created and instituted by God.

Types of Marriage

In Nigeria, there are four major types of marriage. Nina (2018) stated the four marriages as:

1. Customary marriage
2. Traditional marriage
3. Religious marriage
4. Civil marriage

Customary marriage is carried out in accordance with the custom and culture of the local community in which the bride and the groom to be are accustomed to. Usually, marriage in Nigeria context, the groom must abide by the tradition of the bride family. Customary marriage is conducted when the dowry and other things that were demanded by the parents of the bride have been paid in the presence of other family members of both sides, that is the bride family and the family of the groom. When the dowry and other things have been accepted, the bride is now handed over to the groom family representative. Customary marriage gives room for polygamous. The man in this type of marriage is not restricted to only one woman. It is regulated by the native law and custom, making it completely legal in terms of the law in Nigeria.

Traditional marriage recognizes that the parents of the groom to be should visit the parents of the bride to be and exchange some gifts. In the olden days especially before the 1970's, it was the duty of the parents to get their children, good suitors. This is done as a result of familiarization among the elders in the community. In Yorubaland, traditional marriage is in stages. Pulse.ng (2018), highlighted the following stages. The introduction stage is when families of the bride and the groom meet before the engagement. Here the two families will come together and discourse about the love involving their children. Through their children affectionate the families will be united to become one family and when there are any important affairs involving one of the families the other family will also be there to perform their rites.

Brides' outfit is a reflection of what the female guests will wear such as fabric. The colour she chooses reflects the colour, that her family has chosen but should also complement the groom's outfit and look identical. She can put on any accessories that are going to make her beautiful according to her faith. Groom's outfit is also depending on his social background in relation to his faith. The colour combination chooses by the groom should also complement that of the groom. Traditional engagement is contracted out to professionals by both the bride's family and the groom's family. These professionals carry out the ceremony in different stages. Such as introducing the groom's family to the bride's families because the groom's families are the visitors. As the introduction is being done each member of the groom's families will pay homage to the bride's families. The traditional engagement always brings together member of the extended family. This shows the pluralistic community lives associated with Yoruba culture. Items requested by the bride's family depend on the religion being practised by the bride's parents. If the bride's parents are Christian and the bride is also practising Christianity, then whatever item been requested for Holy Bible must be included. If it is Muslim family and the bride is also practising Islam as a religion, then Holy Quran must be included in the items. The price which is the dowry is not fixed it depends on each family tradition.

The groom and the bride are the last people to be introduced by the contracted professionals. After all, said and done, these two individuals would now pray for according to their religion, clerics and their parents. It is after this ceremony that they are recognised as husband and wife. Despite the facts that there are many changes in modern society, traditional marriage in Nigeria especially Igboland, there is a certain procedure which must be followed. Be a Christian or a Muslim before the bride and the groom can receive the blessings of the bride's family.

In references to pulse.ng (2018) the Igbo culture has been sustained, where traditional marriage is concerned. When the woman has conceded to marry the man, it is now necessary for the groom's father and some closet relatives and the friends of the groom to visit the bride's parents. At the first meeting, the groom's family normally does not expect either positive or negative response from the bride's family. Both families would have carried out investigation about each other family social records before the next meeting. At the next meeting it is belief that both families have done their investigation, especially the bride's family with their daughters agreed to the marriage. Here some items like kolanuts, palm wine, dry gin, and soft drinks are to be presented to the bride's family. After all, said and done the bride's family will now compile some items for the marriage ceremony and handed such over to the groom's family which are to be brought on the day of the marriage ceremony. Some of the items according to pulse.ng (2018) are Gallons of palm wine; cash gift; bottle of gin; kola nut; one goat; packets of cigarettes (optional); Bags of rice; Tubers of yams; crates of soft drinks; stockfish; bundles of George/Hollands wrappers; and jewellery. In some communities 'iduuno' is practised. This is when the family of the bride officially visit the home where their daughter would be married to. The traditional marriage is a thing that must be observed by any would-be bride and groom in Igboland irrespective of your religious affiliation.

Religious marriage is the type of marriage that takes place either in the church or in the mosque. This is based on the religion being practised by the bride with the concept of her parents. A religious marriage can only be performed by either a Christian cleric or a Muslim cleric. According to the matrimonial causes act 2004 and the marriage act 2004, a marriage is said to be valid where it conforms to laws and legal requirements created for that purpose. Some religious denomination in Nigeria performs the 'Church blessing' of marriages and others perform the 'mosque blessing' of marriages. It is pertinent to note that such blessing of marriage does not ipso facto convert the marriage into a statutory marriage in cases where both parties have been married under customary law, neither does it add anything to the marriage where parties have been married under the act (legal puzzles, 2018). It is pertinent to note that a valid statutory marriage conducted in a licensed place of worship must be in accordance with section 7 to 17 of the Marriage Act for a marriage to be valid. In accordance with the Act of the marriage, the following preliminary steps must be complied with such as:

- a. Display of notice simultaneously on notice board in Marriage Registry and entered into the Marriage register
- b. If there is no objection after 3 months, the registrar issues the marriage certificate
- c. Ensure that the parties have the best resident within the district 15 days prior to the issuing of certificate

Other requirements may include consent of the bride and the parents, age and observance of prohibited degree of consanguinity. Before the blessing of marriage can commence in the church

the parties must have married under notice law and custom. Blessing of marriage in a license place of worship is not a statutory marriage. The blessing of marriage confirms that both parties already have an existing marriage and they have come for blessing.

Civil marriage according to Wikipedia (2018) is a marriage performed, recorded and recognised by a government official. Such a marriage may be performed by a religious body and recognised by the state or it may be entirely secular. Civil marriage is legally binding and it does not incur additional cost after the parties have fulfilled the condition under the 'marriage Act'. Those who can officiate at the marriage depends on the jurisdiction. In most cases, it is the clerk in the registry of the local government that performs the ceremony civil marriage can take place wherever the parties concerned have chosen.

Issues in Marriage

Problems facing marriage are not quite the same from one location to another location. These problems are issues facing marriage. The issues ranging from religious angle, cultural, physical, economic and emotional. Religious issues are those that affect those who are preaching cleanliness in marriage especially among the Christian faith. Adultery is against religious marriage among the Christian. In accordance with the Holy Bible, Exodus 20:14 states that you shall not commit adultery. Hebrew 13:4 states that marriage should be honoured by all and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. From Christian perception, any of the couples that go against the scripture standard as committed a serious offence which may lead to divorce or absence of peace in such a matrimonial.

Christian marriage is a marriage that is based on monogamy (one man, one woman). If any of the couples are involving in extramarital activities and the other partner is about to get information about it. It can only take the grace of for the marriage to stand as it was before the issue of adultery came into it. Many homes have been broken as a result of adultery in Christian families. Charismaamagazin (2013) quoted a pastor who stated that 'I have to confess that I have been involved in an extramarital affair. Effective today I am resigning as the senior pastor of the church, I'm sorry. Wikipedia (2018) has this to say about adultery; adultery is extramarital sex that is considered objectionable on social, religious, moral or legal grounds. Although what constitutes adultery varies, from society to another, but the concept exists in many cultures and is similar in Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

Cultural issues are those problems that experiencing in marriage by a couple who came from different cultural background and married one another. In Namibia, there is part of their culture called 'Okujepisa Omukazendu' meaning wife swapping in which another man can go and have sexual intercourse with a friend's wife. Though according to traditionalist, it is not mandatory for the wife to accept the offer from the cultural perspective, the man may not have total trust in his wife if she turns down the offer. According to traditionalists they believed that this type of culture strengthens the love in the community (AnswerAfrica, 2018) there was a case of couples in which the husband had an accident and had spinal cord injury which makes him remain in the wheelchair. His parents call on the wife pestering her to have children for their son by sleeping with men outside. The woman was not comfortable, to the woman in question it is abomination and the husband keeping suspecting her whenever she goes for any outing (datebadoo.blogspot/2017/04). Among the Yoruba in the southwest of Nigeria, there is some

ethnicity that has serious belief in the male child they see male child as the 'Arole; meaning Heir. If a woman is having female child always.

The parents of the man or his relative may advise him to look for another woman that would give him a male child. This type of cultural belief has brought hardship to many innocent homes which have caused the marriage to be broken down or total absence of peace in such marriage. Princewill (2017) believes that not only in Africa people discriminate against female child. According to Princewill (2017), the generous assistance provided by ultrasound in predicting sexes has paved the way for gender-selective abortions, which is gradually evolving into a widely accepted trend, as witnessed in some countries in Eastern Europe and India.

Physical issues that affect marriage in any parts of the world especially in Nigeria is a sexual problem. Marriage.com (2018) stated that the most common sexual problem within a marriage is a loss of libido. According to Wikipedia (2018). Libido is a person's overall sexual drive or desire for sexual activity. Sexual drive is recognised as a subjective experience accompanied by physiological changes and is influenced by several factors. If one of the couples is having a lack or loss of sexual desire it can bring adverse effect in the relationship. Also, communication is another aspect of physical issues that can endanger marriage if you cannot communicate with your partner during sexual intercourse how can you derived enjoyment. Breakdown of communication may be disaster in a marriage. Also, the economy of many married couples is now going down as a result of recession in many countries. Djauro (2018) stated that when a man is seeking the hand of a woman in marriage, he pretends a lot. He claims to have everything and the woman who is so desperate to marry only the well to do individual is hardly investigated.

In Nigeria, many marriages are suffering from economic hardship imposed by their different state governors. Many state governors are owing their workers months of unpaid salaries. A visit to any tertiary institution in Oyo State will reveal the hardship in which some workers are passing through if the man and his wife are government workers in which salaries and allowances are not paid as at when due, such a marriage is in dilemma. According to Makinde (2018) if governor Ajimobi turns a new leaf today and pays up all the outstanding debts owned the poor workers and pensioners, the damage has already been done. Furthermore, emotional issues in marriage cannot be overlooked. Townsend (2009) stated that a relationship needs intimacy. Regardless of whether it's physical intimacy or emotional intimacy. It is believed that couples cannot create physical intimacy without emotional intimacy. Many couples find their relationship in problem because they refuse to create emotional intimacy. An emotional relationship is a bond that keeps the marriage moving forward.

Implication for Education

Education is a process of giving an instruction to some selective individuals purposely to bring positive change in the lives of such individuals. Wikipedia (2018) defines education as the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habit. Education can take place in a formal or informal setting and any experience that has a formative effect on the way of thinking, feeling or how people acts. Apurba (2018) views education as the guiding light to success. For education to be in a whole, there are three elements that must complement one another:

1. The teacher who is to give the instruction to bring out the necessary skills, values, beliefs and the habit from the learner.
2. The learner who is to receive instruction to be moulded by the teacher.
3. The subject matter that the teacher is going to teach. The subject is always part of the curriculum for the teacher to know how, when and where to impart the knowledge to bring about the desired change in the learner.

The issues on marriage when they are not properly handled by the couples always have devastating effects on education in society. Religious issue such as adultery in stigma in many societies of Africa especially among the Yorubas in the south-west of Nigeria. If a person is stigmatised with adultery and such an individual happen to be a class teacher, there is every possibility that parents that are in the same community with such an individual will withdraw their wards from the class of such an individual and this will have effect on the education of the children in that community. Absence of peace which is also fallout from adultery will spell doom on any educational institution. If an individual loses his/her peace at home, there is every likelihood of transfer of aggression. Such an individual will not be composed to handle the students under his/her care with love. Any minor mistake by the students may lead to serious punishment. When such situation should come to the hearing of the parents, some parents may report to the school authority for the teacher to be sanction other parents may withdraw their wards from the school and this is not pleasant to education as a learning institution.

The divorce which is one of the issues in marriage has a serious implication on education. Divorce is the physical separation of the married couples from one another through legal process. The law dictionary online (2018) defines divorce as a legal separation of man and wife, effected for cause, by the judgement of a court and either totally dissolving the marriage relation or suspending its effects so far as concerns the cohabitation of the parties. Children from this home are likely to have both sociological and psychological problem which without proper management by the teacher and guardian of such children their education may be affected. Michelle (2018) stated that divorced adults are more likely to become impoverished while their children experience psychological and economic stress hindering their social development. The family in every society is the uniting factor, hence, divorced adults and their children are mentally and physically weakened, becoming less productive social participants.

Conclusion

Marriage is the only institution that is ordained by God. It is a social institution in which the man must love his wife and the wife also must love her husband. There is no religion that supports adultery. When a man and his wife love one another there will be peace at home. Such peace will reflect in the society and through such a process to the country and the nation will be at peace. There can never be any meaningful development in a nation where divorce is rampant. Most often, children from broken homes constitute nuisance in the classroom, to the extent that it may affect their cognitive domain, psychomotor domain and their affective domain. But alas, many marriages are now scattered due to one reason or the other which when trace to the educational institution their implications can be seen among the school children in their lackadaisical attitudes towards their education and those people they are relating with.

Recommendations

1. Every married couple should try as much as possible to allow the purpose of marriage manifest in their home to be able to enjoy the reasons why God in His wisdom created the institution,
2. Individuals that are in marriage should keep at distance virus that affects marriage Married couples should try as much as possible to have emotional contact with one another on daily basis to reduce the friction that can cause issues in marriage,
3. Government at all the three tiers level should initiate marriage allowance for couples that their monthly income is less than eighteen thousand naira (₦18,000) minimum wage, and
4. Education institution should include marriage in their curriculum to allow students to have knowledge about what is marriage, its importance and its effects on society.

References

- Answer Africa. (2018). *Most Bizarre African Culture: Namibian Tribe uses Wives as cola Error!* Hyperlink reference not valid. style. Retrieved 18-12-18
- Apurba, S. (2018). *What is education* www.quora.com. Retrieved 13-12-18
- Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary. (2008). *Cambridge University Press*
- Charismagazin. (2013). *When perfect Pastor Divorce* www.charismagazin.com. Retrieved 13-12-18
- Datebadoo.blogspot.nl. (2017). *My husband- wants- me- to-sleep-with-another-man.* <https://datebadoo.blogspot.nl/2017/04/myhusband-want-me-to-sleep-with-another-man.html>. Retrieved 18-12-18
- Djauro, H. (2018). *Marriage and its problems in Nigeria.* www.gamji.com. Retrieved 18-12-18
- Francis, L. (2018). *What is customary law of marriage in Nigeria* www. Legit.ng Retrieved 15-12-18.
- Makinde, S. (2018). *Seyi Makinde speaks on Oyo's #157bn debt profile, tacklers.* Dailypost.ng>politics
- Marriage Act. (2004). *The difference between church marriage under Act* <https://legalpuzzlesz.com>. Retrieved 18-12-18
- Marriage com. (2018). *8 common problems in married life.* <https://www.marriage.com>advice>ph->
- Michele, V. (2018). *The Effects of Divorce on society* <https:// info. Legalzoom.com>effect-divorce>. Retrieved 13-12-18
- Ninak, K. (2018). *Types of marriage.* www. Legit.ng. Retrieved 15-12-18
- Princewill, N. (2017). *Opinion; Male child preference and the evil of gender-selective abortion.* <https://jnaijam.com>latest>opinion>. Retrieved 12-12-18
- Pulsing. (2018). *How it done in Igboland* www.pulse.ng. Retrieved 15-12-18
- Pulsing. (2018). *How it done in Yorubaland* www.pulse.ng. Retrieved 15-12-18
- The New Living Translation. (1996). *Printed Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.* Wheaton, Illinois.
- Tounsand, K. (2009). *Can a relationship survive without intimacy?* Icppd.com> can-a-relationship survive-
- Wikipedia. (2018). *Adultery en.m.wikipedia.org.* Retrieved 18-12-18
- Wikipedia. (2018). *Civil marriage en.m.wikipedia.org.* Retrieved 18-12-18
- Wikipedia. (2018). *Education en.m.wikipedia.* Org. Retrieved 18-12-18
- Wikipedia. (2018). *Libido en.mwikipedia.* Retrieved 18-12-18