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Social Problems

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#### **Discussion 4: Marriage**

There are many reasons why people get married, just like there are many reasons why people get divorced. Some of the many reasons for marriage include: an expression of love, companionship, commitment, societal pressure/expectations, religion, traditions, financial stability, pregnancy/ starting a family, citizenship, and legal benefits (Up Journey, 2019). Statistics may be changing in terms of how many people are getting married and rates of divorces, but it appears that marriage is still viewed as an important institution to many people (University of Minnesota, 2010; Pinsker, 2018). Luscombe (2010) claimed, “getting married is a way to show family and friends that you have a successful personal life. It’s like the ultimate merit badge” (as cited in University of Minnesota, 2010, p. 429). Posting engagement/ wedding photos on social media or changing a relationship status are examples of how people can now display this “personal achievement” and receive feedback.

According to the University of Minnesota, “the US emphasis on romantic love helps account for its high rates of marriage, divorce, and serial monogamy. It leads people to want to be in an intimate relationship, marital or cohabiting” (p. 430). It might be more beneficial for children to grow up learning the importance of feeling complete and whole as an individual, before looking for someone to share their life with. However, there are recent trends suggesting that the importance of marriage may be decreasing. These trends include a decrease in the number of adults who have been married and the influence of educational attainment on marriage (University of Minnesota, 2010, p. 429). It appears that more people may be waiting until they complete their education and establish their careers before getting married, which may also result in more maturity with age (Woods, 2018.)

My parents got divorced when I was in first grade and after that happened my own perspective of marriage started to change. My father got remarried to someone we hardly knew about two years later, which was probably a quick transition due to citizenship reasons. My point is, before that occurred, I viewed marriage as something more meaningful and a bond that was unlikely to be broken. There is a lot of pain that can result from growing up in a broken family; therefore, I no longer see any reason to rush into such a serious commitment. It seems like sometimes people look for another person to fill a certain emptiness from one’s own childhood, but first we may need to heal our own wounds before we can expect to have a functional relationship.

#### **References**

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