Divorce rate, blamed on

change of social values

AUGUST 6,1998

One of the most important

causes of marriage breakdowns

is the constant change in social

values with each generation.

These changes lead to changes in

interpretation of sexual

behavior. It is these value

changes that have led to an in

creasing proportion of all first

births being conceived before

marriage and to the rapid spread

of Aids.

Many marrying today are

more concerned with trying to

prove their fertility before marriage than with maintaining

chastity. It must neverthless be

emphasised that even though , most

of the pregnancies are not intended and the pregnancy will

have occurred largely due to ignorance or carelessness.

Therefore, it is necessary for

each generation to develop increasingly higher ethical value

system for the management of

their courtship relationships.

When pregnancy has occurred the marriage is then hastily arranged and with with little time being spent on courtship and marriage preparation. Most of these kinds of marriages therefore start of with probIems of

emotional conflict based on ignorance, fear, guilt and shame

which lead to marriage conflict

and breakdown.

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Our aids against Aids are in

preventing hurriedly arranged marriages by educat  
ing the youth on adolescence

and courtship values and

ethics.

“A marriage breakdown is set of circumstances ,between spouses in which the needs of one or both

are not met . It occurs as a result

of failure of adjustment between

the spouses who then start think

ing of separation and divorce. ‘

The children from those mar  
riages will then in turn grow up

to establish the same type of

marriage and family development. The deterioration of marriage and family lift in society

will thus occur with each generation. This will in turn be complicated by increases in sexually

transmitted diseases such as

Aids, premarital coitus with unwanted pregnancies and children

and abortions as continuing

symptoms of marriage

breakdown.

When a spouse decides to seek

divorce, the principal reasons

given are adjustment failure, In

some which have high divorce

rates, the major reason is failure

of sexual adjustment, heavy al•

cobol dnnking, adultery, cruelty

or spouse abuse which could be

physical, mental and even spiritual.

A hastily prepared marriage

Brought by forces rather than

mutual consent mostly end in divorce. In-laws also play a major

role to make or break a marriage.

Couples this think of separation, divorce or resorting to extra

marital sexual relations when

difficulties arise because they

have not sufficiently prepared or adjusted to cope with the marriage situation.

About 60 per cent of divorce cases occur during the first nine

years of marriage with the third

year of marriage producing more

divorces than any other. Separations however occur as early as

the first years of marriage.

Divorcees tend to marry again again

in search of satisfaction which

they failed to realise with their

erevious partners. In the majority

of cases it is the failure to get emotional satisfaction which lead to divorce.When the new marriage does not provide the expected satisfaction then it is back to square one.

What couples do in difficult situations depend on the value they place on

marriage.If marriage and family

life are given high value by the

society. marriage problems will

be handled with great thought,

patience and careful discussion

of what must be done to restore

normalcy.

The indicator of the value

placed on marriage is the rate of

remarriage of the couples who

get divorced

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