MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE CYCLE
Marriage & Family Life Cycle

1. Premarital relationships
2. Marital dynamics
3. Family Life Cycle
Premarital Relationships

• Think of a SONG that was meant to show broken hearts, unmet love etc…
• Is love a CRITICAL pre-requisite for people to get married?
• If couples got married because of they have fallen in LOVE, when they divorced, is it due to them being OUT OF LOVE?
Why Get Married?
Percent saying each is a very important reason to marry, by marital status

- Love: 93% (Married), 84% (Unmarried)
- Making a lifelong commitment: 87% (Married), 74% (Unmarried)
- Companionship: 81% (Married), 63% (Unmarried)
- Having children: 59% (Married), 44% (Unmarried)
- Financial stability: 31% (Married), 30% (Unmarried)

Asked of married and unmarried separately, n=1,306 for married and 1,385 for unmarried.
Pew Research Center

http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/02/13/love-and-marriage/
Love?

• Attachment is an important element in the evolution of love – attachment provides the feeling of security & motivation to live.

• Robert Steinberg (1986) highlighted 3 basic components of love in his model “Steinberg’s Triangular Theory of Love”
  – Intimacy
  – Passion
  – Commitment
• Intimacy: Feelings of closeness, connectedness, and bondedness

• Passion. The drives that lead to romance, physical attraction, sexual consummation, & related phenomena in loving relationships.

• Decision/commitment. In the short-term - the decision that one loves a certain other, and in the long-term, to one's commitment to maintain that love.
1. **Nonlove**: It is merely the absence of the three components. Simply casual interactions.

2. **Friendship**: This is characterized when intimacy is present. This is the set of feelings one experiences without the intense feeling of passion or commitment in the romantic sense. This can however be a root for the other forms of love to manifest.

3. **Infatuated Love**: It is called infatuation when passion is present, and both liking and commitment is absent. Crushes (whether celebrity or not) fall under this category. People with nothing but a sexual relationship with each other also manifest this category, as they are only bounded by carnal desires and nothing more.

4. **Empty Love**: Characterized by the absence of passion and intimacy despite the presence of commitment. i.e. unhappy marriage
• **Romantic Love**: This form of love is a combination between intimacy and passion. Lovers who are under this category are said to not only be drawn and bonded physically, but emotionally as well. This is one of the most common stepping stones to a married life.

• **Companionate Love**: It is characterized by the combination of intimacy and commitment, and the absence of passion. This is stronger than the friendship form because of the element of commitment.

• **Fatuous Love**: It’s the type of whirlwind romances that end up in our television sets. Fatuous love is just that. This type of love is the combination of commitment and passion without intimacy.

• **Consummate Love**: Said to be the perfect and ideal type of love. All three components are present in this type of love and this is some sort of a goal for people who are in a relationship.
Karl Pillemer studied > 700 individual who have been married > 30 years (mean=44.0 yrs). 5 lessons:

1. Learn to communicate
2. Get to know your partner “very well” before marrying
3. Treat marriage as an unbreakable, lifelong commitment
4. Learn to work as a team
5. Chose a partner who is very similar to you
So, is LOVE important?
Love & Marriage

• And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought.

• “Dan di antara tanda-tanda kebesaran-Nya ialah Dia menciptakan untuk kamu dari diri kamu isteri supaya kamu cenderung dan merasa tenteram kepadanya dan dijadikannya di antara kamu kasih dan sayang. Sesungguhnya pada yang demikian itu benar-benar terdapat tanda-tanda bagi kaum yang berfikir”.

   Al Quran: Surah Ar-Ruum: 21
Ira Reiss studied love developmental process that starts with: rapport → self revelation → mutual dependency → intimacy need for fulfillment

Concerns over “love” during premarital stage:
- Exploitation / virtual “love”
- Dating & related issues
- Sexual behaviour/ rape/ abuse / pregnancy / STD’s
- Broken love
- Gender differences in falling in love vs out of love
WHY DO PEOPLE GET MARRIED?

VS

WHY DO PEOPLE REMAIN SINGLE / POSTPONE THEIR MARRIAGE?
Negative (?) reasons for marriage...

- Revenge
- For FUN
- For status
- Forced to
- Pregnancy
- Sexual desire
- Pity
- Running away from other problem(s)
Choosing a life partner – a spouse

"Women of purity are for men of purity, and men of purity are for women of purity "(Quran 24:26)

"A woman may married for four reasons: for her property, for her rank, for her beauty, and for her religion (and character). So marry the one who is best in the religion and character and prosper". (Bukhari and Muslim)

Check on:

Self factors &
Characteristics of future spouse (++) his family) – HOW?
Good CHOICE?

- Religious factor
- Good behaviour
- Similar background “kafaah”
- Good family background
- Healthy
- Wealthy?
Read more..

- Marriage market
- Marriage squeeze
- Preference vs availability in choosing a partner
- Reasons for postponing marriage / not to marry
Remaining single?

Pros vs Cons
Marital Choice

• Bernard Murstein: The Stimulus-value-role Theory or Filtering model of mate selection (1987)
  – People are attracted to one another when the overall “assets” of the potential partner almost similar to oneself

• **Stimulation filter**: physically attracted (look, voice etc)

• **Value filter**: exchange stories of likes, values, life goals etc

• **Role filter**: analysing the suitability of roles of each other as potential partner
1. Proximity filter (Propinquity)
   – exposure to the pool of eligible mates
2. Stimulus Filter
   - physical/personal attractiveness filter
3. Value Filter
   - Comparison/similarity filter
4. Role Filter
   - Compatibility filter
5. Selection \(\rightarrow\) 6. Engagement \(\rightarrow\) 7. Marriage
Preparation to get married

- Spirituality
- Physical
- Socio-economics
- Socio-emotional
- Socio-cultural
Familial/Parental involvement in premarital stage

- Consent / blessing vs “endorsement”
- The role of collectivism vs individualism
- Socio-cultural role
- Reasons for not being supportive
Engagement

• A contract / promise / intend for marriage
• The female: is not married / is not engaged / is not in *iddah* / legitimate (to be a marital partner)…The male??
• Between families

READ MORE ON MARITAL PROCEDURES FOR BOTH MUSLIMS & NON MUSLIMS IN MALAYSIA
WEDDING VS MARRIAGE: THE SOCIO-CULTURAL PRESSURE?