

Impact of love affairs on the future life of university female students

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Love is a fundamental requirement for all creatures in the world. It can be argued that the existence of the world heavily depends on the notion of love. Human beings feel the 'need for love' during every stage of their life cycle in general. However, it is a vivid notion among the youth as they tend to seek the affiliation of the opposite sex. This is mainly due to the natural and social need along with their physical and psychological growth. University students represent the youth population, and having a love affair among them is a common phenomenon in the university subculture. In literature, love affairs among university students have been discussed and presented as different types of case studies by means of novels, poems, rhymes and songs etc. These sources of literature provide viable hints for formulating sociological research in connection with love affairs.

The impact of love affairs on female students seems more crucial in the Sri Lankan society. A love affair is mostly considered as a success factor for marriage in every society. Accordingly, it seems that love affairs evolve up to marriage and then enrich social values. Up to the recent past, rich cultures in our society including university subculture provide evidence that love affairs is a positive factor for achieving targets of lives of men and women. However, in the present society, the notion of love affairs has become an unprecedented matter of debate or suspicious matter for parents, teachers and elders in general public.

Hence, this paper investigates the impact of love affairs on female university students' future lives. Views of randomly selected university students, lecturers, counsellors of the university and experts in the field were taken into consideration as primary data while recorded literature on the theme in books, journals, newspapers, websites etc. were used as secondary data. This study adopted sociological theories of love and marriage, particularly the Robert Steinberg's "Triangular theory of love". Synthesizing and analysing views obtained from discussions and case analysis were mainly carried out.

Results of the study reveal that a considerable number of girls are exploited sexually, physically, verbally, socially and mentally within the period of their love affairs. Serious sexual relationships are common and that has become the major interest of their affairs. Also the study found that university girls are facing greater disadvantages due to their love affairs which put them into an uncertain future destroying not only their academic life but also disappointing the whole family circles. Lack of awareness of risk factors among girls and lack of awareness of the value of girls among boys are major causes for the problem. Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended to educate the students from the beginning of their university life by means of active counselling services, students mentoring programs, developing teacher student relationship etc. to minimize the growing danger on young university students and their parents.

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