

## TRAGEDY OF TEEN-AGE GIRLS

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A Kenyan DC Education Officer Elijah Andewal recently lamented in public the high rate of pregnancies among girl school students, observing that 12 girls- an extremely high rate- were absent from an annual function because of pregnancy in a girl school at Kitui town.

The authorities raising alarm advanced different reasons for this tragic state of teen-age ~~girls~~ girls. Some thought the male teachers in the girl schools were the main culprits whilst others attributed this shameful state to lack of parental responsibility to bring up the youth and the permissive society that we live in, the indescant life-styles portrayed in films, books and magazines besides the tempting offers by the culprits of fashionable clothes, alcohol and drugs in return for favours.

This tragic story need to be viewed as an alarming signal of the danger for generations to come. It should also act as an eye-opener for every society which truly values its social and religious culture. It ought to be seriously realized by one and every parent that once a girl is seen flirting or acting indescantly, the shame that it brings to the family and the society remains for a long time. The serious problems that it creates cannot easily be solved and the repercussions are equally bad and long lasting.

It must also be understood that youth is a tender age when all that is seen or heard in its environment gets easily absorbed in the soft mind of a young boy or girl. With easy access these days to indescant literature, pictures and films through videos in many homes, the question is whether parents do realize of what grave damage and adverse influence this causes to the young minds.

Another influencing factor is the freedom allowed by parents to young ones to participate in mixed gatherings of boys and girls in the form of birth, wedding or friendly parties. To allow young boys and girls to mix freely is like to bring fire near a petrol depot. Visit to places of attractions or tourist holiday resorts where men and women move around in semi-nude condition does also entail considerable harm.

A young girl of today is a mother of tomorrow, under whose rearing and care a new generation is to come up. If the culture of posterity is to be preserved, then is it not most essential to educate our girls with Islamic descency and protect them from unhealthy environmental influence.?

Any community which is proud of its own culture and truly serious upon preserving it, must also provide its own educational facilities and such schools where it can ensure healthy environment free of contact with undesirable elements, where no co-education is allowed and where girls are to be taught only by descent lady teachers. Besides such a school need to enforce descent full dress for all girls and arrangement for imparting the knowledge of Islamic ethics, history and culture is also made.

And where schools with such facilities do already exist, then it is incumbent upon parents to insist upon their girls to attend ~~these~~<sup>such</sup> schools: Those who fail to do so, not only <sup>do</sup> they commit breach of their parental obligations but display lack of feeling of pride and dignity for their community.

The whole ~~of~~ issue of the right education essential for our teen-age girls boils down to ensuring a healthy and well-protected environment. This is of paramount importance if the future of up-coming generations is to be protected. Let us not forget that the future destiny of children to be borne rests upon the quality of the caretaking of their mothers. This is bound to suffer if the girls of today and would-be mothers of tomorrow are not educated under healthy and descent surrounding and environment. The Prophet of Islam is reported to have said:

THE ONE UNFORTUNATE AND MISERABLE HAS BECOME SO WHEN IN THE WOMB OF HIS MOTHER AND SIMILARLY THE ONE LUCKY AND HAPPY IS SO RIGHT WHEN FROM THE WOMB OF HIS MOTHER

الشَّقِيُّ مِنَ شَقِيٍّ فِي بَطْنِ أُمِّهِ  
وَالسَّعِيدُ مِنَ سَعِيدٍ فِي بَطْنِ  
أُمِّهِ

The psychiatrists today strongly advocate the hereditary influence of mothers over their children hence the environmental effect cannot be overlooked.