

A happy-marriage

DR. M. AZIZUR RAHMAN

What are our requirements in life? We would like to maximize our happiness in our family life by fulfilling basic needs like food, cloth, house, education and health-care and thus living a secured and peaceful life. A nation wants to enhance income, GDP and employment opportunities with a view to removing poverty and raising the standard of living and thus form a happy and prosperous society. Development of an individual or a family or a society ultimately enhances national economic development. In a word, individual income results in national income; so it is a necessity to utilize knowledge and resources in order to create congenial atmosphere for wedding.

The pre-condition of happy family life is mutual love, co-operation and understanding between wife and husband, without which family life becomes unhappy despite high social status. What is needed is good understanding and faith and commitment to wed-lock as well. The preconditions of high standard of living and happiness are being held physically and mentally, achievement of knowledge and experience and proper utilization of manpower through development of mental health, good marriage and happy family.

Sound health and mind is nourished in the institution we call family. If this nursing home becomes a place of unhappiness, a man naturally loses mental and physical productivity. In such conditions it is difficult to earn happiness and peace. In order to build-up a happy family love and affection between the wife and the husband is a must. Apart from it they have to develop a sense of modesty getting prepared to sacrifice instead of selfishness. For example, in entertaining relatives the wife plays the main role. She is to offer love and respect for the near and dear ones. At the same time she keeps an atmosphere of peace and happiness providing love and affection to in-laws.

A good marriage is the foundation of a happy family. Marriage is a bond between two male and female youths who willfully agree to and witnessed by social, religious and legal institutions. What we get out of history is that marriages in conservative families last relatively longer. Separation or divorce is rare in such families. On the other hand, in modern families, marriage bond is broken now and then.

It is the social and religious responsibility of a husband to provide support to the wife in all respect. If the wife demands anything beyond her husband's ability, it becomes an obstacle to happi-

ness. In Bangladesh the culture of marriage like other social and family customs is historically different from many other countries. Here a grown-up man or woman is not enough individually to take decision in matters like marriage, social affairs or kinship. In most cases marriages are arranged between families following cultural heritages of the country. So there should be a pre-condition of similar social and financial status between two families.

Besides, there should be similarities between their general traits. It is also important for the families to share hopes and aspirations, taste, temperament and style of living. For a happy conjugal life faith and love for each other is necessary. For, a wed-lock is a lock without a string.

It is to be sustained by love and faith. Both of them should be dynamic so that each could be well informed of the other's social status, movement etc. all the while. Neither of the couple should be hurt in this respect. Men and women in society should possess affinities in respect of outlook, social and economic condition, aspiration, and so on.

If a highly educated young man marries in an uneducated family the wretched girl is generally deprived of respect and love. Again, if a youth of a rich family marries a girl of a family not much well-to-do, they are seldom happy. The reason is that the youths from rich families are often proud of their affluence which consequently hurt their spouses and ruin peace and happiness. Moreover, Children of two families which are financially uneven behave differently. For example, a girl of an affluent family wants to spend hours in the city outside home, to eat in fashionable restaurants and to buy garments of updated fashions. They would like to go abroad for medical check-up even for small complexities. They would also like to have pleasure trips to which they have been habituated. But if the boy is unable to afford such expenses conflict could arise. Instead of happiness unrest is almost regular affair in these families.

With a view to making a happy family the boy and the girl should have certain common characteristics like nationality, culture, religion and language especially mother tongue. That is why Nobel Laureate Professor Garry S. Becker of Chicago University said, "Marriage takes place between two equally smarts." It means in order to plough a land the oxen should be equal shoulder to shoulder. In this case same religious belief and nationality is very important. Political ideology should also be similar if not the same. It would be hard to have a match between a

conservative family and a modern family. If both the husband and the wife are dynamic, their conjugal life will be happy. Another important thing is that both of them should be mentally prepared to sacrifice and accommodate. While giving opinion on any issue they

age or the gap should be little. There should be similarity in education, experience and skill between the two. Both of the couple should choose similar profession. Not only in job, they have to share activities in other spheres like business.



need to be democratic. Since they have sacrificing mentality they can adjust or compromise. In respect of marriage, there should be co-existence of personal views, family traits, social stature & history, financial condition, religion, caste, mother tongue, nationality, conservatism, aspirations, taste and temperament of the two. If we take these issues into consideration, a marriage is successful and thus leads the family towards all round development—social and financial.

Theoretically we can assert so many things regarding marriage; but most importantly it is all about personality of the boy as well as the girl which should be similar. Each of them should obtain own taste and mannerism. They should also be of sound health, mind and outlook. The two should be of same

There should be similarity between the families in respect of recreation and aspirations. The history of the two families should also be alike. If there are similarities mentioned above, an atmosphere is expected to prevail which will be productive. In such families, the man or his spouse can exploit their achieved knowledge and resources spontaneously that ultimately helps them increase personal and family progress. As a result of increase in family income or social progress the national development process is enhanced and the standard of living is uplifted. □

(The writer is the Vice Chancellor and Chief Adviser, Institute of Policy Research (IPR) Uttara University)