

without the governmental intervention. However, the government claims that hadn't it been for the strict limitations imposed back in 1978, the population of China would now be 400 million more than it is today. But the ruling Communist Party is having a difficult time coming to terms publicly with the idea that the one-child policy has been a failure and should be scrapped.

*Н.В. Ревенко*

УО БГЭУ (Минск)

### MARRIAGE: WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

We all belong to the society we live in. It means that we should take into account the previous experience of our ancestors and comply with the rules and regulations of the society. Family is considered to be a cell of the society. According to Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, family is the natural and fundamental unit of the society and is entitled to protection by the society and the state. Throughout the civilization development marriage has been the first classical step to family life.

But what is marriage good for? As a rule, when people debate about the value of marriage, most attention is focused on the potential harm of divorce to children or illegitimacy. The results of the research show that children reared outside intact marriages are much more likely than other kids to slip into poverty, become victims of child abuse, fail at school and drop out, use illegal drugs, commit suicides, etc. On average, such children are less successful in their careers. So, marriage protects children.

Another reason for marriage is that it is a powerful creator and sustainer of human and social capital both for adults and children. Nevertheless, it was found that nowadays marriage, whatever its social, spiritual or symbolic appeal, is in purely practical terms just not as necessary as it used to be, since neither men nor women need to be married to have sex or companionship, professional success or respect, or even children – yet marriage remains revered and desired.

One more important advantage of marriage is that it lowers the risk of men and women becoming victims of violence, because it was proved that single and divorced women are four times more likely to become victims of violence than married women, and bachelors are four times more likely to become violent-crime victims than married men.

It is also worth mentioning that married people live longer and healthier lives. Moreover, for men especially, marriage is a productive institution in boosting earnings.

To get to know the opinion of the youth of today, a survey has been held among BSEU second-year students of the School of Management. According to its findings, an overwhelming majority of respondents are sure that it is much easier for married people:

- to raise a family (77% against 2%);
- to have a fulfilling sex life (37% against 7%);
- to be financially secure (35% against 11%);
- to find happiness (29% against 5%);
- to have a social status (12% against 2%);
- to get ahead in a career (24% against 12%).

The following reasons for getting married were mentioned by those surveyed as the basic ones:

- love;
- making a lifelong commitment;
- companionship;
- having children;
- financial stability.

To sum it up, we can state that a successful marriage is increasingly becoming a relationship equivalent to a luxury yacht – hard to get, laborious to maintain but a better vessel to be on when the sea is stormy – its status is unlikely to drop. Yet marriage is still the best avenue most people have for making their dreams come true.