


Marriage and Caste in America

Separate and Unequal
Families in a Post-marital
Age

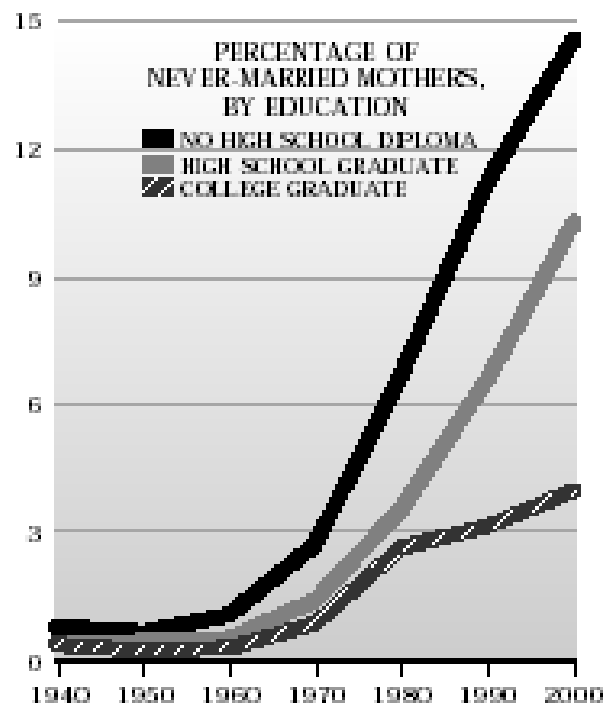
A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in a darker shade of teal, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Common Knowledge:

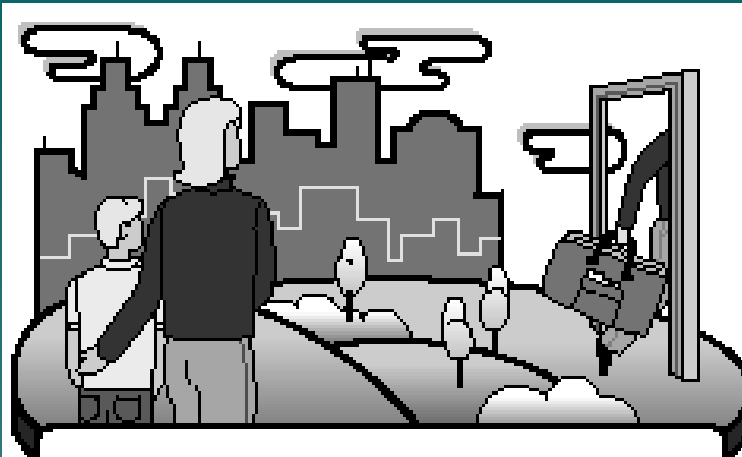
- ◆ 50% of marriages now end in divorce (actually, the number is probably closer to 40%).
- ◆ Nearly 40% children in the United States are born to unmarried mothers.
- ◆ There has been a threefold increase in the number of children growing up with a single mother in the past 40 years



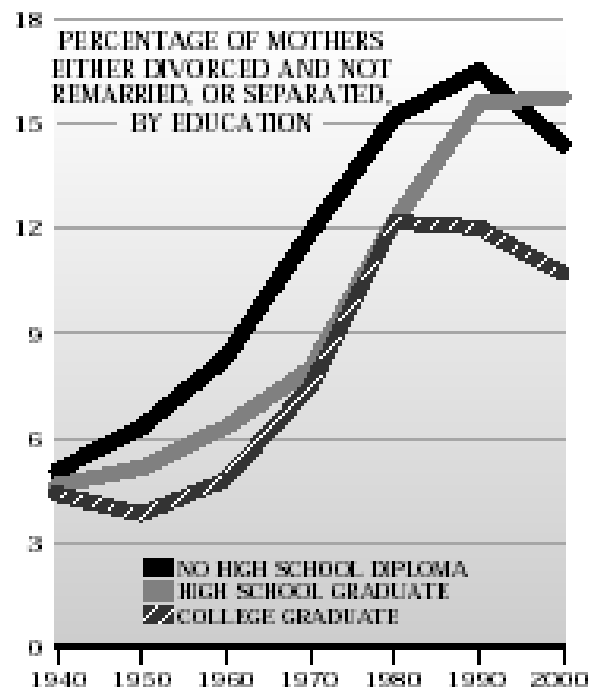
LESS EDUCATION MEANS MORE ILLEGITIMACY...



SOURCE: ELLWOOD AND JENCKS, "THE UNEVEN SPREAD OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES"



...AND MORE DIVORCES AND SEPARATIONS.



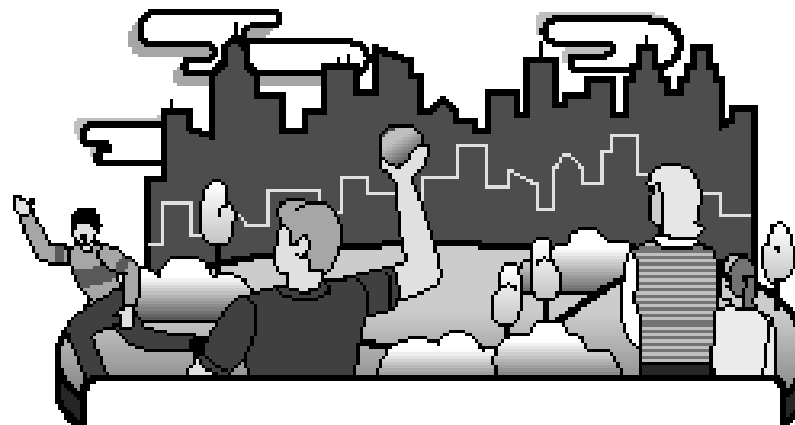
SOURCE: HILLWOOD AND JENCKS, "THE UNEVEN
SPREAD OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES"

The Marriage Gap

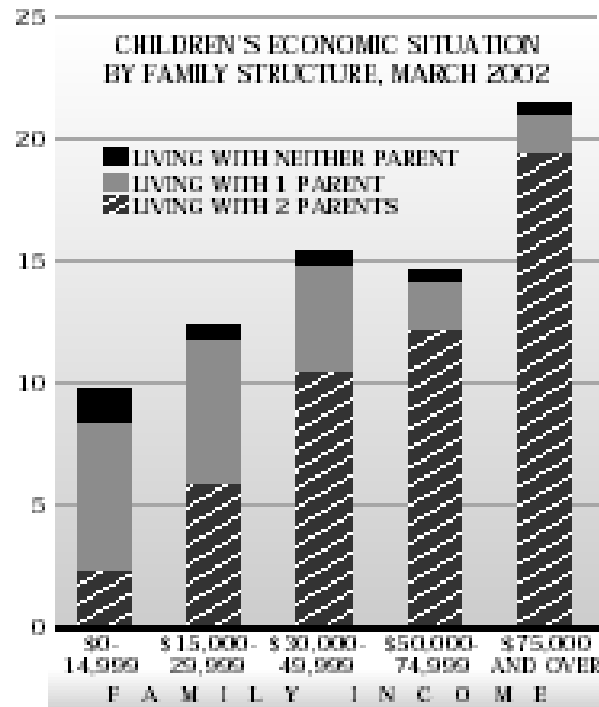
- ◆ In 2000 10% of mothers with college education were living without husbands.
- ◆ 36% of mothers without a college degree were living without husbands
- ◆ “The rise in single parent families is concentrated among blacks and the less educated. It hardly occurred at all among women with a college degree.” Ellwood and Jencks, “The Uneven Spread of Single-Parent Families.”

The Marriage Gap and Children

- ◆ Thirty six percent of single parent families are living in poverty, vs. 6% of married couple families.
- ◆ Ninety two percent of children in families making over 75 thousand are living with two parents.
- ◆ Twenty percent of children in families making under 15 thousand are living with two parents.



TWO-PARENT FAMILIES ARE RICHER.



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Unmarriage and poverty

- ◆ A number of studies showing increase in single parent homes explains much of the rise in child poverty rates