Marriage and Caste in America

Separate and Unequal Families in a Post-marital Age
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...

PERCENTAGE OF NEVER-MARRIED MOTHERS, BY EDUCATION

- No High School Diploma
- High School Graduate
- College Graduate

SOURCE: ELLWOOD AND JENCKS, "THE UNEVEN SPREAD OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES"
...AND MORE DIVORCES AND SEPARATIONS.

PERCENTAGE OF MOTHERS EITHER DIVORCED AND NOT REMARRIED, OR SEPARATED, BY EDUCATION

SOURCE: ELLWOOD AND JENKINS, "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.

CHILDREN’S ECONOMIC SITUATION BY FAMILY STRUCTURE, MARCH 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAMILY INCOME</th>
<th>MILLIONS OF CHILDREN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$80-14,999</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$15,000-29,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>$30,000-49,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50,000-74,999</td>
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<td>$75,000 AND OVER</td>
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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