

Sex Ed in the School of Hard Knocks

The Assault on Parenthood by Dana Mack (1997)

Life has many paradoxes or, *chicken & egg* situations. Consider just a few of the “which came first...” examples:

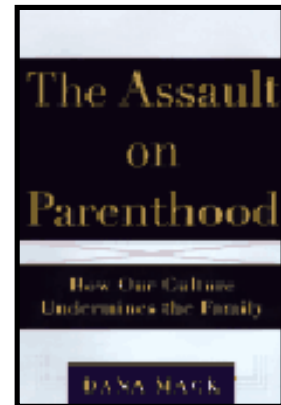
- More troubled marriages (and divorces) or more convenient methods for divorce?
- More out-of-wedlock pregnancies and STD’s or more information (media, public school systems, etc.) and accessibility?
- More crime and prisoners or more certain methods for obtaining a conviction (namely, the *Plea Bargain*)?

Well, these three are just a few off the *top of my head*; but what’s common in all three is that they involve the government – as the saying goes, **anything the government subsidizes (in whatever form), you get more of it!**

I happen to know that divorce did not escalate (to as high as 50% of first marriages) until No-fault divorce had spread across our land like a scourge.

According to the content of this chapter, modern programs of Sex Ed that have aimed to reduced STD’s (without promoting abstinence) have resulted in increases – to presume more promiscuity...and not less.

As for third of the three examples, the Plea Bargain is almost “fool-proof” to prosecute. I know as one who chose this course over the Prosecution’s threat to use my children in court. Courts and judges single purpose is to prosecute (not justice) and the Plea Bargain has rendered the desired result!



Okay, back to Sex Ed and the School of Hard Knocks...

To officially begin this summary, a quote from Dana that summarizes her view:

Of course, sex education is only one factor among many in our culture that seems bent on undermining children’s delicate and immature psychosexual constitutions and thrusting them into responsibilities they cannot handle.

She continues:

A hyper-sexualized media and the irresponsible lifestyles of too many adults – many of them parents – contribute to the problem, as does the legal culture that seems to be more interested in protecting children’s rights to sexual self-determination **than in shielding them from sexual exploitations.**

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Citing the 1970's as watershed period for public change in parent attitudes and public services, Dana describes the expansive movement of sex education:

They have extended their domain from the high schools down to the earliest grades, and expanded their mission from the dissemination of information and attitudes to hawking condoms, **all under the rubric of “early” and “comprehensive” sexual education.**

A key term is “early and comprehensive” – so as suggest that by educating the young and immature, the outcome will be better informed children – though still immature...

Such an “expansive role” has its roots in the 1970's, as pointed out: a time of changing attitudes toward sex and marriage. But as Dana describes, with insights from Barbara Whitehead, this free-wheeling form of sex did not bode well for raising a family. In a sense, *the chickens have come home to roost.*

Through this period, parents have expressed much consternation and concern for the expansive role of public school systems. Then chief complaints:

- That it prematurely introduces children to sexual information
- That it may inappropriately titillate children – rather than preserve them

The public school systems are not alone in the watchful and critical eye of parents. The media is a primary source for such stimuli to include television, the Web, and selected movies and films. Parents can and are responsible in regulating their children's exposure; but the Web is one of those that are perhaps the most risky and insidious.

As I've learned through a recent read, *The Drug of the New Millennium*, the Web offers relative ease to accessibility and a litany of enticements, advertisement, and other bait to lure even the most innocent into a world of porn. If Mark Kastleman is right (author of the book), the porn industry is indeed the “the drug” of this modern information age.

Okay, with the media firmly established as a player in the promotion of sexual promiscuity, let's continue with Dana's book.

To support her apparent opinion that the expansive sex education programs have contributed to the increased incidence of teen pregnancy and STD's, Dana cites several events during the 1980's.

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The first of these events occurred in the early 1980's: the Reagan administration blocked federal funding for comprehensive sexuality education and passed feudal regulations requiring parental notification when contraceptive services were rendered to teens. Some related results to follow:

- Sexual activity rates for young black women fell to levels below pre-1971
- But as funding resumed in the mid-1980's, pregnancy and teen sexual activity rates hot-up once again.

A 1989 study conducted under the Department of Health and Human Services, using data collected over a ten year period, led to the following discoveries:

- The greater the involvement of teens in family planning programs, the higher the teen pregnancy.
- No studies directly implicated sex education in rising rates of sexually transmitted diseases, but indirect evidence “abounded” as to the sharp increase STD's during that period

Finally a study as early as 1979 showed:

- The provocative nature of school, sex education, makes students more tolerant of their own and others' casual sexual activity, and their relaxed attitudes might increase their vulnerability...

In conclusion, she notes that this vulnerability seems to have been forgotten.