

COURTSHIP

Courtship refers to a close or the intimate relationship between a man and a woman who are mutually attracted to each other with the intention of getting married.

It may also be used to mean the friendship development between a man and a woman attracted to each other.

IMPORTANCE OF COURTSHIP

It gives time for the partnership to know each other properly before deciding to marry one another.

The woman and man are able to dislike each other's likes and dislikes. This enables the partners to appreciate the differences and accept one another the way they are.

It enables the partners to know the strength and weakness of one another. This makes it possible for one partner to accommodate the other's weakness.

It gives time necessary for a woman and man to prepare for the marriage in future.

They can use such a time to put together the requirements necessary for their marriage including the bride price.

It enables the partners to make correct choices. This is because marriage is arrived after a long interaction.

It tests the love that each partner has got from each other's character. This helps them to decide whether or not they can not be together. This lays a strong foundation for future stable marriage.

It helps the partner to adjust their character and behavior.

It gives time for partners to grow mutual understanding and gives respect to each other.

It enables the partner to know each other's character. This helps them to decide whether or not they can not be together with the identified character in future.

Courtship helps to reveal the family background of each other. This is because it is respect to their character and financial status.

It allows each partner to introduce each other to their relatives. This enables the partners to appreciate their family differences.

It enables a man and a woman to come together and establish a firm relationship in preparation of the future together.

QUALITIES/FACTORS CONSIDERED OF A GOOD MARRIAGE PARTNER IN A.T.S

One should consider the beauty including the skin colour, height, size etc. This ensures that one is happy and satisfied with his or her choice.

The following factors were considered when choosing marriage partner in African Traditional:

They considered the family background of either a boy or a girl. They put their interest on morality of the family.

The health or status of partners was a great concern. Attention was directed towards tracing whether some kind of diseases like leprosy or sickle cell existed in the family lineage.

Virginity was important aspect, choosing marriage partners who were expected to be virgin. Virginity commanded the proper upbringing of the girls.

The clan was also considered. The partners were expected to be from different clans as those of the same clan was brothers and sisters.

The hospitality of the partner was the one of the qualities taken consideration. An ideal choice was a person who was welcoming guests and could get along easily and freely with others.

The beauty of the girl was a quality that Africans looked for. They wore waistlines and beads around their necks, arms and the waist was admired.

The economic status particularly that of the boy was important when choosing a marriage partner. Wealth such as cattle and goats possessed by the family was capable of taking care of incoming bride.

The cultural background of each partner was considered. There had to be some harmony and understanding in the two cultures.

The ability of each partner to work was considered. Each partner had to be active when doing domestic duties or activities like cultivation and rearing.

DIFFERENT WAYS ON HOW COURTSHIP WAS CARRIED OUT IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETIES:

The following was the ways through which marriage partners were chosen in African Traditional Society:

The children had freedom to choose their own partners. In such a case, it was a boy to whom interest in a girl and make an approach.