

Teenage Dating and Domestic Violence

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Learning Institution

Course Name

Date

- Introduction to teen dating and domestic violence
- Legal ramifications of teen dating
- Legal ramifications of domestic violence
- Ethical ramifications of teen dating
- Ethical ramifications of domestic violence
- Conclusion

Introduction

- This is an exploration of the legal and ethical implications of teen dating and domestic violence.
- **Teenage Dating** (Miles, 2005) notes that:
 - It is a normal occurrence for teens to be interested in dating their peers.
 - However, most teens know little about the implications of such relationships.
- **Domestic Violence**
 - 1 in every 3 women in any meeting is a victim of domestic violence.
 - 1 in every 5 teenage girls has been a victim of violence from a boyfriend or self-harm in the course of teenage dating experiences.

Legal Ramifications of Teenage Dating

- Teenage dating is not classified as an illegal activity in most states.
- Parents have the legal obligations of guiding their children on dating matters.
- Strike a balance between teenage rights of association with parental guidance in teen dating (Corey et al, 2011).
- However, there are legal limitations of tolerable activities in teenage dating.
- Anything sexual is under legal sanction especially where any of the parties is below age 16.
- Sexual contact, abuse or violence is considered illegal and warrants conviction/imprisonment for not less than 40 years in Wisconsin state.
- Coerced teen dating relationships have serious legal sanctions and can lead to a court order for isolation (Corey et al, 2011).

Legal Ramifications of Domestic Violence

- Severity of domestic violence has led to institution of various laws against this act (Lemon, 2009).
- There are several legal consequences and ramifications of domestic violence.
- Domestic violence can lead to legal imprisonment of the perpetrator.
- One can lose the license to trade in real estate.
- Can lead to legal restraint orders for access to certain facilities, locations and familial facilities (McBride, 2010).
- Perpetrators of domestic violence can face immigration sanctions.

Legal Ramifications of Domestic Violence Cont' ...

- Domestic violence attracts civil suit against a perpetrator.
- The lawsuit can attract heavy penalties for punitive damages
- Domestic violence is a crime of moral turpitude. Such crimes may lead to questioning of the one's testimony in a legal proceeding.
- Can lead to unequal division of family property so as to compensate the complainant for the damage caused.
- Domestic violence can lead to loss of child custody or visitation rights.
- It can lead to loss of the right to collect spousal support as is the case in California (Lemon, 2009).

Ethical Ramifications of Teen Dating

- Teen dating have significant ethical implications.
- 42% of all teen dating relationships are not healthy, they are potentially harmful (Kernsmith, 2011).
- Most teens often fall victims of cheatings, abuse, violence and exploitation in the course of their dating.
- Some teens date partners who are older than 17 years and become vulnerable to risky sexual activities.
- Most teens are not likely to report abuses and harm resulting from teen dating to their parents.
- This lack of disclosure is often leads to teen's vulnerability to suicide.

Ethical Ramifications of Teen Dating....

- Teen dating must be based on mutual consent of both parties.
- Teenage dating threatens obedience and respect of teens to parents.
- There are concerns for levels of confidentiality and disclosure in teen dating (Kernsmith, 2011).
- The puzzle is whether or not teens should disclose much about their familial backgrounds and parental relationships and marriage.
- Teen relationships are a threat to the academic, social and psychological standings of most teenagers (Corey et al, 2011).

Ethical Ramifications of Domestic Violence

- Domestic violence has various intertwined ethical implications.
- Family and marriage counselors assert that it is an act betrayal. That is, it betrays a partner's love and trust (Payment, 2010).
- Domestic violence is a sign of unfaithfulness and lack of commitment to love, care for and protect a partner at the point of marriage.
- Friends, neighborhoods and relatives may have negative perceptions and attitudes towards conflicting couples/partners (Payment, 2010).
- The consequences of domestic violence can further have ethical concerns.
- For example, domestic violence can cause permanent physical or psychological harm. Such eventualities are quite unethical.

Ethical Ramifications of Domestic Violence

Cont...

- Violence lowers the dignity of the victim.
- Domestic violence may cause familial instabilities such as separation and divorce (Kelly, 2003).
- In such circumstances, innocent children are likely to suffer.
- In almost 45 percent of incidences of domestic violence, children have had to separate with both or either of their parents.
- Domestic violence can affect the peace of innocent neighbors in a residential place.
- Often domestic violence leads to exposure of private family life into the public as partners seek legal redress and medical interventions.
- In some instances, ethical concerns relating to faithfulness and initial purpose of marriage (Kelly, 2003).
- This happens in cases when marriage contract ends due to domestic violence.

Conclusion

- Teen dating raises concerns of age, parental responsibility and teen loyalty to parents and guardians.
- Teen dating remains safe if exercised within the confines of legal and ethical standards.
- Domestic violence has serious legal and ethical implications on the two partners, the family, neighbors and the society at large.
- Teen dating and domestic violence are intertwined since spoilt unhealthy teen dating relationships often lead to domestic violence.
- Therefore, while teen dating is not illegal, there is need for caution to avoid vulnerabilities to violent and abusive partner relationships.

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