

children and to think about the future. They also want her to be kind, correct, polite, fair, hardworking, careful and pretty.

Regarding offspring, 62.5% of the respondents want two children; the remainder want only one child. Most of the respondents say that the optimum age for having a child is between 22 and 30 years. The reason they give is that this is the age when one can fulfil one's ambitions and be responsible for the children. The majority of the respondents assume that by that time one should have received an education and learned to provide not only for oneself but also for one's children.

Our study has shown that the basic conflicts in the family, in our respondents' opinion, are quarrels (23%), misunderstandings (15.4%), drinking or cheating on one's spouse (11.5%) and disagreements and fights (7.7%). Also mentioned are coming home late at night, parents' interference in the life of the spouse, relationship between parents and children, absence of shared views and interests, cheating and growing tired of one another (3.8%) (see Table 1).

The head of family, according to the respondents, is the man (46.6%) or the woman (26.7% (mostly girl respondents), while 26.7% consider that the husband and wife should be equal partners.

The respondents count as important love (36.6%), shared views and interests (22%), gravidity (19.5%), security of the future spouse, housing (9.8%), compassion (4.9%). A further 2.4% count loneliness, accident and other unspecified motives as reasons for getting married.

Our study shows, further, that the majority of the adolescents in the study regard it as necessary to have known one's future partner for at least 1 to 3 years if the family is to be happy.

As a whole, matrimonial life is represented by the future husbands and wives as interesting, romantic, happy, cheerful and safe. However, several respondents regard matrimonial life as the duty of each person, or as something unreal, because they view themselves as being still too young to understand what it entails. And only one boy mentioned being frightened at the prospect of matrimonial life because it is difficult to have to be with the same person every day.

The part of the study concerned with the level of preparation for family life provided by the orphanage is rather weak with respect to the judicial aspects of creating a family. For example, only 22.7% knew what was the earliest possible age for marriage in The Republic of Belarus.

The study enabled us to define what our respondents regard as the main problems of family life. These problems are connected with the absence of role models and of knowledge of the family as a social institution. This will undoubtedly make it difficult for them to adapt to family life in the future. Compared with family life, life in the children's home involves much less dialogue between