

MASS MEDIA AND SOCIETY

Perception v

Bright Future

By Jaclyn Dutson

In response to:

“YOUNG WOMEN WITH CHILDREN DON’T HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE.”

- MARCI HAMILTON

For every young woman, there are different definitions of what a “bright future” looks like. A “bright future” is a result of individual perception. It may not look the same to every woman. So how can we determine another person's "bright future" and who has the power to decide what circumstances will work best in someone else's life? Is it Ms. Hamilton?

To consider our own way of life as the only possible success denies individual choice and happiness. Ms Hamilton's perception of a “bright life” deprives other women of their freedom to create a life of their choice. To legalize one way of life that happened to work best for one woman, as Ms. Hamilton has decided to judge others based on her needs, then we would be dictating the lives of others based on an opinion.

Circumstances in her life may have worked out that having children after she was thirty worked best for her. However, it does not mean that many women who had children younger than her were not just as successful. The same idea applies to women who choose careers instead of having children. This way of life may be their bright future, and we cannot impose our version of success on them. Neither can Ms. Hamilton

An increasing number of women in the U.S. and abroad are choosing to have families later in life, which of course is their prerogative. Many are focused on finishing school, pursuing careers and establishing solid relationships before beginning their families. Yet a new study indicates women over age 35 face more pregnancy-related risks than their younger counterparts. The study, conducted by researchers at the Danish Epidemiology Science Center in Copenhagen, found the risk of unsuccessful pregnancy rises dramatically to 20 percent and higher after a woman reaches age 35. "We found the risk of miscarriage increases with maternal age—irrespective of a woman's reproductive history."

Mothers, at many ages, consider their children an integral part to their “bright future.” Ms. Hamilton's statement condemns women to one possible future based on her interpretation of her experience. Ultimately the decision to have children belongs to each woman individually and no one has the right to interfere with their choices.



Jaclyn is a senior at the Academy. She just turned 18 and is excited about voting in this presidential election. After graduation, she plans on attending college for a business degree.