

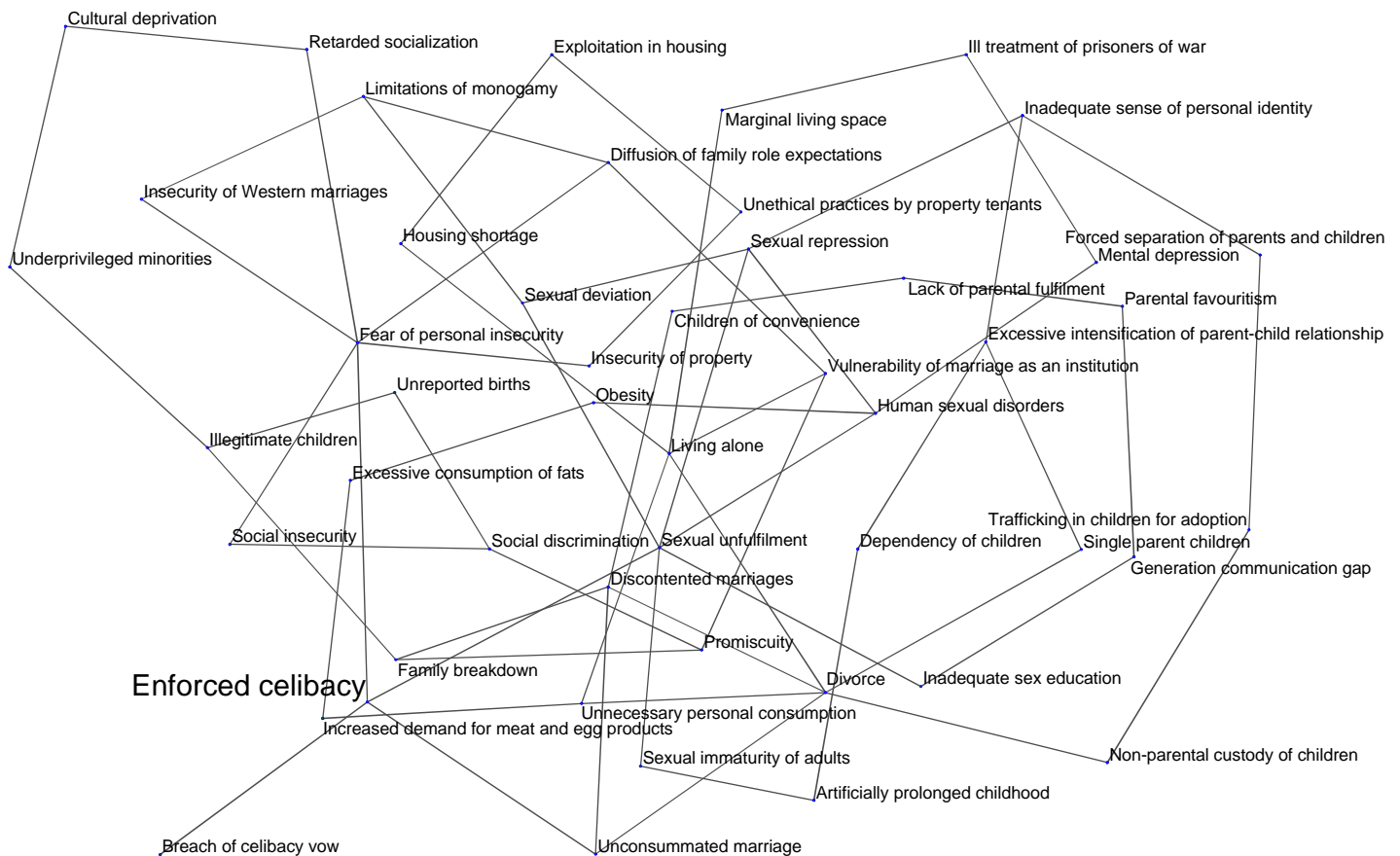
Figure 10.2.23. Enforced celibacy

Database: World Problems and Issues

Link type: aggravates problems

Network nodes: 49

UIA database: <http://db.uia.org/scripts/sweb.dll/uiaf?DD=PR&CL=2&DR=D3371>



A young novice arrives at a monastery. He is assigned to help the other monks in copying old canons and laws of the church by hand. After a while, he notices that copies are made from other copies, not from original manuscripts. So, the novice approaches the Abbot to discuss this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up. In fact, that error would be replicated in all of the subsequent copies. The Abbot thoughtfully agrees: "You know, we have been transcribing from copies for centuries, but there may be a point to what you say, my son." So, he goes down into the deep cellars underneath the monastery, where the original manuscripts are held, in a locked vault that had not been opened for hundreds of years. Hours go by and nobody sees the old Abbot. The novice grows worried and, after a period of hesitation, he walks downstairs to look for him. The Abbot is banging his head against the stone wall. His forehead is all bloody and bruised, and he is sobbing inconsolably. The novice, shocked by the sight, cries: "What's wrong, my dear Father?" In a choking voice, the Abbot replies: "The word is *celebrate*, not *celibate*!"