

FOREPLAY-ROLEPLAY:
THE EFFECTS OF GENDER ROLES AND SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS IN THE
DECISION-MAKING AND NEGOTIATION PROCESS OF SEXUALLY ACTIVE
YOUNG COUPLES

DANIELLE FRANCESCA ASTRID L. BORJE

EVICA L. VIVAS

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by

DANIELLE FRANCESCA ASTRID L. BORJE
EVICA L. VIVAS

has been accepted for
the degree of BACHELOR OF ARTS IN COMMUNICATION RESEARCH
by

Dr. Lourdes M. Portus

and approved for the
University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication
by

Dr. Rolando B. Tolentino
Dean, College of Mass Communication

ABSTRACT

Borje, DFA. L. & Vivas, E. L. (2012). *FOREPLAY-ROLEPLAY: The Effects of Gender Roles and Socio-cultural Factors in the Decision-making and Negotiation of Sexually Active Young Couples*. Unpublished Undergraduate Thesis. University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication

This study aims to identify how young couples (ages 15-24) communicate their gender roles in their sexual relationships and how socio-cultural factors affect their decision-making and negotiation process in dealing with sex and other related issues.

A purely qualitative research was done by the researchers wherein in-depth interviews of 10 sexually active young couples who live in Metro Manila and two sex and culture experts from the University of the Philippines, Diliman were done. Due to the sensitivity of the topic, the researchers interviewed couples close to them to ensure full disclosure and confidentiality. The results were then analysed through descriptive and comparative analysis.

Guided by Baxter's Theory of Relationship, Bateson, et al.'s Relational Patterns of Interaction and concepts from the Field of Forces framework formulated by Dr. Lourdes M. Portus, it was found out that although there are still common notions and standards that are imbibed in young individuals by different agencies close to them, adolescents no longer conform to the roles set by the society. Gender roles are fluid and both males and females are neither dominant nor submissive. However, the study showed that females are now initiators of sexual activities and males tend to submit to their female partners'

whims to keep the relationship intact; disregarding the supposed to be macho image of males in a patriarchal society.

Socio-cultural factors are ever-present in sexual relationships; family and peers with sexual experience are the most influential social agencies to young adolescent couples. Education inform but does not necessarily emphasize the feelings and emotional aspect of sex as a biological activity; religion delays PMS and serves as a reminder to young adolescents; mass media especially new media is unfiltered in the Philippines and may contain sexually-explicit content which may trigger ideas of early PMS. Given these influences, it is still the adolescents involved in the sexual relationships who get to decide on whether to conform or not. It is more of a matter of personal beliefs and choices they learn and acquire as they age.

Key words:

sexual relationship, negotiation, gender roles, decision-making, socio-cultural factors

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

PERSONAL DATA

Name	Danielle Francesca Astrid Lonzanida Borje
Permanent Address	16 Austin St. cor. Jaguar St. Fairview, Quezon City, Metro Manila
Telephone Number	(+63 02) 428 0099
Date & Place of Birth	13 September 1990, Quezon City

EDUCATION

Secondary Level	Diliman Preparatory School, Diliman, Quezon City
Primary	Diliman Preparatory School, Diliman, Quezon City

ORGANIZATIONS

Inter-organization Relations Director (1st sem, AY 11-12)
Interdependent Student-centered Activism
Secretariat Committee Deputy (1st sem, AY 11-12)
UP Communication Research Society

WORK EXPERIENCE

Intern, HealthJustice Philippines, April-May 2011
Research Assistant, Dr. Florinda Mateo, July-October 2011
Data gatherer, HealthJustice Philippines, October 2011

ACHIEVEMENTS

College Scholar: 2nd semester, AY 2008-2009;
1st semester, AY 2011-2012

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

PERSONAL DATA

Name	Evica Llauderer Vivas
Permanent Address	0018 Purok 1 Brgy. Lodlod, Lipa City, Batangas
Telephone Number	(+63 43) 312 1425
Date & Place of Birth	16 November 1990, Lipa City

EDUCATION

Secondary Level	Special Academic Awardee, Lipa City National Science High School
Primary	Second Honorable Mention, Lipa City Seventh-Day Adventist Elementary School

ORGANIZATIONS

UP Students of Destiny
Tau Omega Mu Fraternity and Lady Circle
Gabriela Youth
UPLB Symbiosis

WORK EXPERIENCE

Intern, AGB Nielsen

ACHIEVEMENTS

College Scholar: 2nd semester, AY 2008-2009;
1st and 2nd semester, AY 2009-2010; 1st semester, AY
2011-2012

University Scholar: 1st and 2nd semester, AY 2010-2011

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To live is to choose.

But to choose well,

*you must know who you are and what you stand for,
where you want to go and why you want to get there.*

Kofi Annan

To young adolescents,

breaking the norm

and achieving gender equality.

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I. INTRODUCTION

"In the division of labour, in dress, in manners, in social and religious functioning -- sometimes in only a few of these respects, sometimes in all -- men and women are socially differentiated, and each sex, and a sex, forced to conform to the role assigned to it."

-Margaret Mead

Since time immemorial, men and women abide by specific roles assigned by their social environment, which is composed of agencies such as family, religious affiliation, school, culture, etc. (Heinrich, n.d). Analogous to Mead's quotation, males and females are in a system where every behavior is overseen, influenced and guided by these agencies. The social milieu dictates how men and women should act; how they should communicate; how they should dress; what type of occupation they must hold, and etc. People are expected to conform to accepted norms and conventions which are considered to be socially programmed for each sex within a particular society (World Health Organization, n.d.). These socially and culturally constructed roles which are passed from one generation to the next are called gender roles.

Gender roles are everpresent in every society; failure to comply with these roles makes the person a social deviant and abnormal or someone who "behaves outside the societal norms" (Cherry, n.d.). Take for example the case of a cross-dressing young man in a community where homosexuality is highly stigmatized; he will be condemned by the people within his own neighborhood because of his unacceptable behavior. Moreover, trying to conform to the gender roles which oppose the personal principles and choices of individuals may result to negative sociological effects in terms of confidence and in

forming social relationships (psychology4a.com, n.d.). This could be demonstrated with how boys are expected to brandish the “macho” image – tough, strong and in control. Stereotypical male characteristics like these might hinder men to reach full capacity of their emotional development in expressing their feelings and sexuality; hence, it would be difficult for them to be seen and be treated as caring and gentle (faqs.org, n.d). Likewise, in the movie *The Stepford Wives* (2004) by Ira Levine, women are made into robotic housewives by their husbands just because the wives are more professionally successful than their spouses. It affects the husbands’ egos as breadwinners of their families as men are expected to work outside the house and to provide, while women are still expected to do domestic work such as cleaning the house, taking care of the children, cooking, etc. (Dolen, 2008;faqs.org, n.d).

Dr. Edwin J. Haeberle (1981) from the Magnus Hirschfeld Archive for Sexology argued that in a patriarchal system, most believe that men should take on the “dominant” position while women are to submit themselves to the former’s whims. The Philippine society, where males are in control, accords with this patriarchal ideology. This can be observed in religious affiliations, in the family structure, in educational opportunities and economic participation. Despite the situation, the 2011 Global Gender Gap rankings by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum ranked the Philippines 8th among 135 countries with the least “gender gap” or gender inequality (Remo, 2011). This proves to show that the country caters to the rights of women in the areas of education, health, economy and politics almost as equal as men’s.

However, gender roles are not solely situated in these societal sectors. Kate Millet’s *Sexual Politics*, which is one of the proponents of feminism, added that in a

relationship between two people, “sex has a frequently neglected political aspect.” She defined politics as referring to “power-structured relationships” where there is one group in control of another. In this research study, the negotiation and decision-making process of young couples regarding their sexual activities project how each gender assert his and her rights in the sexual relationship.

“Women feel a strong obligation to keep their husbands happy and contented.

This often leads to agreement with the husband’s fertility desires.” (David, 2008)

The quotation suggests that the woman sees sex as part of her obligation as a wife while the man either assumes his wife has the same sexual desires as his, or that his wife simply gives in to his sexual needs because he is the husband. Miscommunication or lack of communication between couples regarding their sexual relationship often lead to marital conflicts; nevertheless, these disagreements can be resolved through proper negotiation. Negotiation as defined by Henry Kissinger (1969) is “a process of combining conflicting positions into a common position, under a decision rule of unanimity” (Kissinger in Alfredson and Cungu, 2008). Those involved in the negotiation process must individually attempt to present solutions that will cater to both their goals and concerns as part of a relationship.

Introducing and Negotiating the Use of Female Condoms in Sexual Relationships:

Qualitative Interviews With Women Attending a Family Planning Clinic, a study by

Kyung-Hee Choi, et al. (2003), identified four approaches in negotiation done by women when it comes to communicating their preference in using female condoms, these are:

a) direct approach, wherein women express their desire over something and speak firmly

about their feelings; b) semi direct approach, where women are less assertive and demanding; c) indirect approach, where women are passive, vague and non-confrontational; and lastly, d) non-verbal approach, where women do not feel the desire to tell their partner what they feel towards a certain issue.

Studying the interaction of the male and female roles will show how sexually active young couples negotiate and decide on matters regarding their sexual behavior. Are males always dominant and the female always submissive? Is there a different gender role interaction in the context of sex? Aside from role interplay, it is also essential to explore how agencies – family, peers, school, media and church, affect the young couple's sexual relationship. First, this study would like to define who the young adolescents are.

A. Background of the Study

Adolescence is the developmental stage from being children to adults which entails “intense biological, social and psychological changes.” (Kirch, n.d.) This transition begets the peak of sexual maturity for the reason that it is the inception of sexual curiosity and “activity” among young adults as cited in Raymundo & Cruz (2004, p. 70), a report on adolescent sexual behavior in the Philippines.

Government departments use different age bracketing in defining the youth or the young adolescent. In order to have a uniform “age marker,” with regard to programs dealing with “population and reproductive health,” the Commission on Population, made three age categories: “ages 10-14 as pre-childbearing years, ages 15-24 as reproductive years, and ages 25-30 as young adult and marrying years” (Ogena, n.d.). Similarly, the

United Nation's Children Fund (UNICEF), uses the age bracket 15-24 in pertaining to "young men and women" in studies dealing with reproductive health (UNICEF, n.d.). The latest Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS 3) utilized the 15-27 years old marker since individuals within this age group are more able to respond to sensitive questions with sex-related issues. For this same reason, the researchers of this study used the 15-24 age bracket; however not including the 25-27 year olds because the study focused on young adolescents only.

The study *Youth Sex and Risk Behaviors* by Raymundo & Cruz (2004) used the 2002 young YAFS 3 results, a nationwide survey research, as primary data. The YAFS 3 findings on Filipino sexual behavior are as follows:

- One in every five (23.1%) of all the informants have had premarital sexual intercourse (PMS).
- Among those who ever had PMS, 42.1% said they wanted it to happen; 32.5% did not plan it at all; and 23.4% did not want it to happen. More males (46%) wanted it to happen than females (34.9%); the remaining percentages did PMS against their will.
- During first incidence of PMS, 21% used contraception.
- Males who utilized contraception in first PMS, preferred condoms (41.3%), followed by withdrawal (39.8%); females on the other hand did withdrawal (37.7%), followed by condom (35.6%).
- The prevalence of PMS between years 1994-2002 increased from 17.8% to 23.1%.

On a wider scale, as of August 2007, the National Statistics Office (NSO) measured the population of the Philippines to be 88.57 million with a projected trajectory population of 94.01 million for the year 2010. This prediction almost matched the total population in 2010, which was 94.6 million Filipinos (tradingeconomics.com, n.d.). In line with this, NSO conducted the National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) in 2008 which was funded by the United State Agency for International Development (USAID), as part of the global measure of issues related to reproductive health. Health-related matters include “fertility, family planning, and maternal and child health” (National Demographic and Health Survey, 2008). The results of the national survey which involved 13,594 women age 15-49 include the following:

- Among unmarried young women aged 15-24, only 4% used a condom during first PMS.
- Less than half (45%) of women aged 15-49 know how to prevent HIV transmission through condom use and by limiting sexual intercourse to a single partner.
- More than half (56%) of Filipino births are delivered in homes, with the assistance of traditional doctors or *hilot*.
- In almost 4 decades, the average number of children per woman declined from 6.0 children to 3.3 children (year 2006); however, this fertility level is still relatively higher compared to neighboring Asian countries such as Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia with 2.0 as average number of children per woman.

- In the Philippines, urban mothers have lower average number of children (2.8) than rural mothers (3.8).
- Women who are active in household decisions are more likely to employ a family planning method
- One out of three births is either “unwanted” or “mistimed.”
- One in every thirty children dies before turning 5 years old.
- .Fertility levels of young adolescent women aged 15-24 are higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

Figure 4.1 Age-Specific Fertility Rates by Urban-Rural Residence

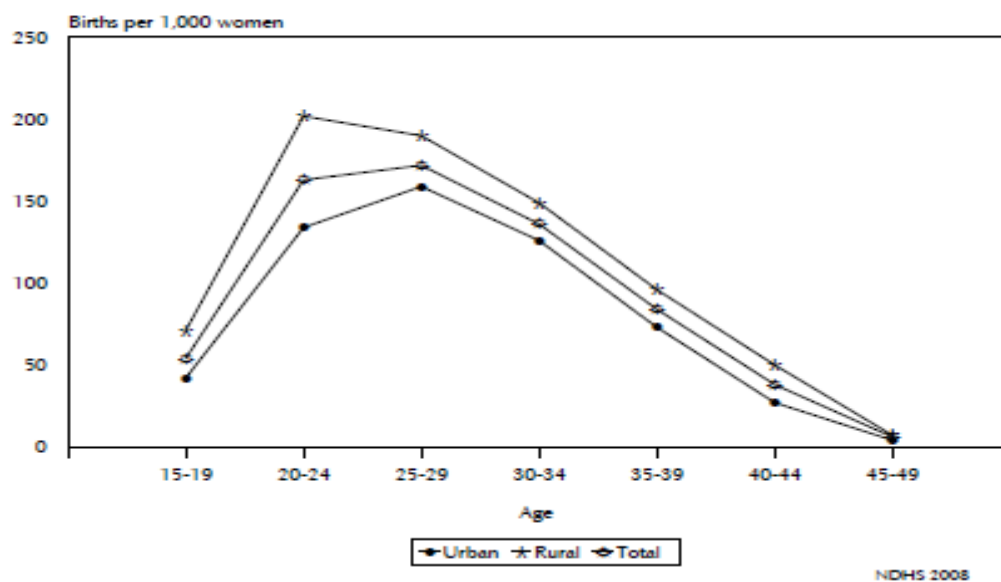


Figure 1. Age-Specific Fertility Rates by Urban Rural Residence (NDHS,2008)

Concerns on adolescent sexuality remain unresolved by the national government. Though there have been efforts established in counseling, promotion of family planning, birth spacing, and other services rendered by organizations, government departments and LGUs (Commission on Population [POPCOM], 2006), the prevalence of teenage mothers

and fathers persists in the country; not to mention the other consequences of this incidence such as high birth levels.

Curative measures as a response to high population rate phenomena in the country are prioritized; less emphasis is given on the understanding of uncontrollable adolescent sexual behavior. The researchers then deem it necessary to focus on the young couples involved in sexual relationships and the socio-cultural factors influencing their decision-making.

In terms of population density, Metro Manila or the National Capital Region holds the highest number of populace in the country with a 2.04% population growth rate from year 2000 to year 2007 (NSO, 2008.). Similarly, NCR covers the highest number of live births in the country (NSO, 2008). The researchers then limited the study to heterosexual young adolescents of Metro Manila who are involved in an exclusive sexual relationship wherein they presently perform sexual activities (e.g., kissing, necking, touching, sexual intercourse, etc.) with current partner only.

In understanding adolescent sexuality, it is important to look at the interaction of gender roles within the relationship while considering the external influences affecting the persons involved. These outer influences are termed socio-cultural factors. Socio-cultural factors are defined by online dictionaries as simply the “combination of social and cultural elements” (www.dictionary.com, 2011). Socio or social pertains to how people create a connection; and cultural refers to the “cultivation” of social norms (www.dictionary.com, 2011). Along with the changes in sexual trends, more factors affecting young sexual behavior emerge. This study includes family, peers, education,

media and religion among socio-cultural factors affecting the sexual relationships of young Filipino couples.

Questions dealing with the determinants, influences and consequences of unsafe sex behaviors are the main focus of previous studies as cited in the related literatures. This study however, incorporates gender roles and socio-cultural factors within young adolescent sexual relationships.

B. Rationale and Significance of the Study

Studying adolescent sexual behavior is necessary because it is further linked to the demographic concerns of the country specifically upshots connected to high population growth such as: the over utilization of land for residential purposes, excessive consumption of natural resources, and production of biological and non-biological waste materials. However, the effects of uncontrolled adolescent sexual behavior are not limited to the increasing population crisis in the Philippines and its economic backlashes. High levels of fertility result to health risk corollaries of unsafe sex like: unwanted pregnancies, abortions, and sexually transmitted diseases (HIV/AIDS). These consequences may result to the backslide of youth's economic participation for national development; thus spoiling the hackneyed phrase that the young generation will alleviate the Philippines from being a Third World country. This then proves that uncontrolled youth sexual behavior is both an economic and a social problem (Carayugan & Naparan, 2006) that needs public attention.

Looking into the negotiation process inside a sexual relationship creates an understanding of how each gender plays its role in asserting rights and sentiments on issues concerning the state of their relationship. This study explored whether there is a compromise of ideas regarding sexual activities and other sex-related matters or is there a struggle in attesting one's standpoint when in contrast with the preferences of the other person. Whether or not one partner is dominant or submissive over the other or is there equal interaction between the gender roles, it is important to observe equal rights in a sexual relationship to foster a successful partnership. Similarly, Filipino adolescents should be aware of the possible personal and social life consequences of their sexual behaviors at this early stage because from the literature, it is said that between ages 15-24, crucial decision-making phases of an individual happen and define his or her possible future as an adult.

This research study on the interaction of gender roles and the effects of socio-cultural factors in the negotiation and decision-making process of sexually active young couples is significant because of social and economic reasons:

First, gathered information show the reasons, the issues, and the stories behind the statistics of fertility levels and youth sexual behavior in the Philippines. There is then a deeper understanding of the youth as sexual individuals.

Second, this study may serve as baseline data for the formulation and reformulation of strategic communication plans that will cater to both sexes in asserting their rights in sexual relationships and in the creation of health programs for a safe and

healthy sex life considering the different ways socio-cultural factors affect the couples' sexual activities.

Third, results may be useful to the academe, to policy makers, to parents, to teachers, to counselors, to heads of religious groups, in managing and dealing with the uncontrollable young adolescent sexual activities. This will help them to guide if not to delay or control adolescent sexual behavior to solve and to prevent problems related to premarital sex.

Fourth, the findings on socio-cultural factors determined the main influences in youth sexual behavior –peers with PMS experience. Using this information, stakeholders may use youth leaders as role models in encouraging young adolescents to participate in activities other than those with sexual properties. The literature explained that “idle” youth are prone to try risk-taking behaviors (Carayugan & Naparan, 2006).

Fifth, realizing their rights and gender roles in their sexual relationship will create a possibly satisfying give and take rapport among young Filipino couples which would cultivate good husband and wife relation in the future. As mentioned in the literature, gender equality in sexual relationships creates satisfactory sex lives among couples (Laumann, et al., n.d.).

C. STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEMS AND OBJECTIVES

Research Problems

In this generation, the trend of first PMS experience among the youth now happens at a younger age - as early as pre-teen stage (Valbuena, 2011). In relation to this, statistics show that the rate of teenage pregnancy increases every year together with the alarming number of young out-of-school mothers and fathers. The related literatures have showed the constant socio-cultural factors associated with young adolescent sexual behavior but the problem remains unsolved despite government policies and programs specifically designed for sexually active young adults (World Health Organization Western Pacific Region, 2005). The researchers then decided that in the study of youth sexual behavior, it is essential not only to focus on the socio-cultural factors but to delve into the interaction of the male and female partner's roles inside the sexual relationship. This study also considered how the external forces contribute in the negotiation and decision-making process of individuals regarding the performance of sexual activities and the possible risk and consequences entwined with these activities.

This research study focused on two main questions:

1. How do young couples (ages 15-24) in Metro Manila communicate gender roles in their sexual relationships?
2. How do socio-cultural factors affect the decision-making and negotiation process of young couples in dealing with sex and sex-related issues?

Research Objectives

In order to present both the male and the female partner's perspectives in the sexual relationship, the researchers were able to describe how gender roles interact during the negotiation and decision-making process of young couples regarding sex and sex-related issues. Specifically:

1. To find out how young couples negotiate with their partners regarding their sexual activities in their first sexual encounter.
 - a. To identify who the initiator of the sexual activities was.
 - b. To know the venues for the sexual activities.
 - c. To find out if young couples practice safe sex and use contraceptives or other means during sexual activities.
 - d. To find out the reasons for practicing or not practicing safe sex.
2. To find out how young couples negotiate with their partners regarding their sexual activities in their subsequent sexual encounters.
 - a) To identify the types or styles of negotiations that the couples use.
 - b) To find out which of these styles or types are successful or not.
 - c) To know the results of the couples' negotiations.
 - d) To find out how gender roles play during negotiations and decision-making.
3. To find out whether or not young couples are aware of the risks and consequences of engaging in sexual activities.
 - a) To find out what measures young couples do to prevent unwanted risks and consequences of engaging in sexual activities.

- b) To learn about young couples' views on the use of contraceptives during sexual encounters.
 - c) To find out what solutions they create for problems such as unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, etc.
4. To identify socio-cultural factors that affect the decision-making and negotiation process of young couples in dealing with sex and sex-related issues.
 5. To find out how these socio-cultural factors enhance or impede sexual activities.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The review of related literature is divided into 4 parts as reflected on the concepts used in the study framework: the first part provides a background on the sexual activities of Filipino adolescents; the second part tackles socio-cultural factors and how these affect the couples' sexual relationship; the third part deals with contraceptive use in the Philippines; and the last subchapter discusses gender roles and the negotiation styles of sexually active young couples with the influence of the aforementioned socio-cultural factors.

A. Sexual Activities of Filipino Adolescents

According to the 2002 Youth Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS 3), a national survey which covered 16 regions in the Philippines with informants aged 15-27, the number of adolescents aged 15-24 amplified and covered 19.7% of the total population of the country in 2000 and is expected to increase up to a population of 30 million by year 2030 (Raymundo & Cruz, 2004, p. 14). This shows 2 major points: 1) there is rapid population growth in the country; and 2) majority of the Philippine people fall under the young adult category - the life stage where biologically, men and women are in their peaks of sexual maturity.

Mateo's (2003) *Towards a Typology of Unsafe Sexual Behavior Among Filipino Youth* used the YAFS 1994 and described adolescents as "sexually-risky" individuals. The prevalence of sexual activities among young males and females of this generation continuously increases every year showing uncontrollable youth behavior. Ramos-

Jimenez and Lee's (2001) study, showed that 54.3 % of male adolescents (ages 15-24) alone have had sexual experience, some have even confessed to having lost their virginity before reaching 15 years old. In line with this, in disclosing their feelings on their first sexual intercourse, the 24 sexually active adolescents in Patricio's *Biographical Sketches of Sexually Active Adolescents* (2004) revealed that almost 77% of females have positive views of intercourse after having done it while none of the males thought of it as risky nor found it fearful. The study suggests that females have a lot more to lose than males and this loss is beyond being divirginized. As cited in the same study, Raymundo (1991) stated that majority of adolescents still consider being virgins until marriage if and only if sexual urges can be controlled. However, 9% of females in the study were open to the thought of engaging in PMS as long as they are in love with their partners and there is "assurance of marriage." Females tend to choose their sexual partners more carefully than males and this is supported by Carayugan & Naparan's (2006) study on the socio-economic determinants of premarital sexual behavior among Filipino young adults, saying that women are "less promiscuous" than men. However, females are more likely than males tend to give in and engage in first PMS with their first romantic partner (Patricio, 2004). This shows how females fall in love too quickly that they believe their first partner will be their future husband.

Adolescents viewed pre-marital sex negatively before engaging in it and then positively after PMS (Patricio, 2004; Allen, et. al, 2008). Some of the informants confessed pleasure and stated that there was no big deal about having sex for the first time and losing their virginity (Patricio, 2004). This shows the change in perception on

sex before and after the act was done. Given that the sexual act did not produce negative effects, adolescents would readily engage in subsequent PMS thereafter.

Majority of the research on adolescent sexual relationships do not discuss the “quality” and the “subjective” experiences of the young couples but more of the analysis of the effects and outcomes of unsafe sexual behavior. According to Allen et al. (2008), study on the quality of heterosexual relationships of 13-16 year olds in England and Scotland, the type of sexual relationship of young couples may be affected by history of their sexual escapades and by the influence of “background characteristics.” Relating this to the recent researches done in the Philippines, the studies here are mostly quantitative in nature and rely on national surveys like the YAFS series. These surveys focused on the external factors influencing young adolescent sexual behavior alone, lacking the in-depth analysis of personal reasons in decision-making.

Some of the observed factors which influence PMS among young Filipinos include: curiosity, media exposure, sexual development, peer influence, family structure, urban exposure, religious affiliation, role models, family, level of education, substance use and personal feelings for partner (Carayugan & Naparan, 2006; Laguna, 2003; Mateo, 2003; Patricio, 2004; Soriano, 2004; Valbuena, 2011). In this research study, the influences of these factors are clarified during the in-depth interviews of young couples and then explained by the experts. Additional studies on the factors associated with adolescent sexual behavior are discussed in the following section.

B. Socio-cultural Factors

Premarital sex is related with the risk-taking behaviors of the young Filipino adolescent (Soriano, 2004). This sub-chapter which deals with the socio-cultural influences in adolescent sexual behavior is guided by the enumerated factors in Soriano's (2004) study entitled *Factors Associated with Adolescent Risk-taking Behaviors in the Philippines: Insights from the 1994 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey*. Her research focused on gender differentials in the risk-taking behaviors of the Filipino youth. Using the YAFS2 data with informants aged 15-24, findings support the notion that engagement in PMS at young age is influenced by specific "background factors." Some of these are "biological" in nature such as the early start of menstruation among girls and advanced "sexual maturity among boys" and some are socio-cultural (Nichols, et al 1986; Nichols et al 1987, as cited in Soriano, 2004). The factors "living away from home" and "person who raised the youth" are discussed in the "family" section. Likewise, "substance use among friends" will not be tackled in this chapter for the reason that these are not part of the study framework.

Family

Parent-child interaction is vital in behavioral development; more specifically this affects the "risk-taking behavior" of the children (Biddlecom, Awusabo-Asare, & Bankole, 2009; Soriano, 2004). The national survey of young adolescents aged 12-19 results showed that in African countries - Malawi, Uganda, Burkina Faso and Ghana, parents who are monitoring (aware of where their children are at night, aware of what their children do during "free time," and aware of their children's peers) affect the sexual

behavior of their children (Biddlecom, Awusabo-Asare, and Bankole, 2009). Same is true with the findings of Patricio (2004) wherein parents are seen as social examples or role models by their children. The study showed that frequent “parent-child interaction and family monitoring” reduces the incidence of premarital sex.

However, good parental monitoring does not equate to good parent-child communication in discussing sexual matters. The four African countries which was cited earlier, mentioned “cultural inhibitions” in discussing the topic sex in the family. Parents are not in favor of the idea that their children are engaging in premarital sex. They believe that parents are not the primary sources of knowledge on the use of contraceptives. The University of California Los Angeles conducted research on Filipino-American families and found out that Fil-Ams believe that school should be the primary source of “facts” regarding sex and sex-related topics and not the family (as cited in Borneo et al, 2005).

Here in the Philippines, David’s (2008) *Exploring the gap between knowledge and practice in family planning and contraceptive use*, which conducted 10 FGDs and 67 in-depth interviews (total number of 143 informants), showed that mothers are very opinionated about practicing family planning and mostly give out unsolicited advice to their children. In line with this, an undergraduate thesis by De Vera (2007) entitled *Mothers as Sex Educators to Their Adolescent Daughters*, conducted surveys with open-ended questions among 47 mothers and 47 young daughters from selected public high schools in Pangasinan, 63% of mothers fail to share their knowledge about “safe sex and sex-related risks” to their daughters. Most of them reported that there is “awkwardness” in communicating this topic to their female children perceiving that their daughters are

not yet ready for this type of discussion and that the latter might “misinterpret” some points during conversations and experiment instead. This may be the reason why adolescents, both males and females, go to peers for information on sexuality.

There are also instances when young adolescents have to leave home to look for jobs or pursue their tertiary education. Living away from parents is a significant factor that influences adolescent sexual behavior (Soriano, 2004; Laguna, 2003). Laguna’s (2003) *Effects of Home-and School-leaving on Filipino Adolescents' Sexual Initiation*, she used the 1992 YAFS 2 data in studying the incidence of living away from home of Filipinos aged 15-24, and the study showed that those who leave home at earlier age are more likely to experience early “sexual initiation.” There is higher incidence of PMS among adolescents who leave home at age 13 than those who depart at age 21 (Laguna, 2003). This is because there is no parental supervision present. Laguna (2003) concluded that adolescents enjoy the liberty doing risky activities without having to be “reprimanded by authority.” They perform risk-taking behaviors with peers who are in the same living arrangement they are in. In addition to this, the same study showed that more females leave home than males in pursuit of employment and attaining educational fulfillment. Hence, females are more susceptible to early sexual initiation and are more receptive to peer influence.

Peers

Sexual behaviors of peers are considered to be the “most blamed” influence in the increasing adolescent sexual activities (Patricio, 2004). Peers’ behaviors and shared experiences enhance the risk-taking tendencies of adolescents in sexual activities as well

as non-sexual activities such as smoking, drinking and substance abuse (Soriano, 2004). Males usually get their information about sex and birth control from their friends; while most females tend to open sex discourses more to their female friends than their families (David, 2008). These relevant findings suggest that majority of sex talks happen within circle of friends who are almost of the same age. Adolescents exchange experiences and stories and possibly sex tips and myths that could shape their perception of what sex really is.

“Peer pressure is great” (Carayugan & Naparan, 2006). In her study, she concluded that adolescents have this need of belonging to a social group. Using the 2002 YAFS 3 data, statistics show that females are inclined to join the “bandwagon” to show people that they can go in accordance with what the popular adolescents do. Carayugan & Naparan (2006) mentioned a judgmental and stereotypical statement suggesting that females are “gullible” and “submissive” when it comes to sexual behavior, saying further that females are swayed by their peers to engage in PMS more due to these characteristics.

Eisenberg et al. (2006) study on peer influence showed that the sexually active peers are proportional to the “odds of sexual debut.” This suggests that individuals with sexually active friends are most likely to engage in PMS. It can be therefore implied that even teenagers with sexually active adolescent friends are prone to engage in early PMS despite their young age.

Education

The school is an appropriate place in discussing sex and sex-related issues with young people. It is an effective “means” in reaching out and educating young adolescents on what they need to know about sex such as the risks and consequences present in engaging in sexual activities (Patricio, 2004). However, sensitive topics are not discussed in schools. The adolescents in Borneo et al study (2005) claim that “fact-talking” in schools about sex is “impersonal” that is why they turn to their peers for advice and consultation based on actual experience.

Carayugan & Naparan’s (2006) study showed 2 findings on the influence of education to adolescent sexual behavior: 1) those who have high educational attainment have fewer incidences of PMS experience; and 2) young adolescents who have nothing to do are prone to engage in activities that are sexual in nature. Delaying PMS among young individuals will result to higher incidence of finishing high school and proceeding to college than their friends with sexual experiences (Rees & Sabia, 2010). The school provides information which widens the students’ understanding of sex. Sex-education programs deal with the influences involved in uncontrollable sexual behavior and one of these factors include media.

Given that young Filipino adolescents are exposed to different forms of media, according to Busko et al. (2010) *Pornography, Sexual Socialization, and Satisfaction Among Young Men* which involved 650 male informants, the formulation of educational programs dealing with sex is important to help individuals filter information with sexual content. One particular media message that is of big concern especially to males, is pornography.

Media

Exposure to mass media either print or electronic is also another factor affecting the sexual behavior of adolescents (Soriano, 2004). In a study that assesses the effects of mass media on the sexual health behavior of college students in Nigeria, it was said that adolescents have high exposure to television and Internet, surveys were administrated and found out that exposure to mass media have positive views regarding pre-marital sex and is more likely to engage in pre-marital sex. Also, frequent use of Internet is said to raise the level of condom use (Wusu, 2008). In this study entitled *The Influence of Mass Media on Sexual Health Behavior of College Students in Nigeria: A Study of Lagos State University*, Wusu utilized 300 questionnaires which were disseminated to undergraduate students aged 20-24 years old and additional discussion showed that open-mindedness on sexual behaviour is a result of frequent exposure to mass media especially among young females.

Ramos' (2005) *Accidental Exposure to Sexual Images on the Internet Among Filipino Adolescents: An Exploratory Study* looked into how 178 male and female informants react to sudden viewing of sexually-explicit materials on the Internet. Results showed that informants experienced "increase in heart rate and arousal"; some found it "disgusting and sinful" and others immediately closed the pop-up window box but then again related the incidence to friends. In this same study which conducted 34 face-to-face interviews, more males reported enjoyment and sexual arousal. Most of the female informants on the other hand were passive.

In the Philippines, general mass media exposure has no significant influence in the intention of the practice of family planning and the use of contraceptives (David,

2008). Advertisements in television are plainly sources of information about condom brands and flavors but there is less “encouragement” on its use for sexual protection (Valbuena, 2011). According to the informants of the same study, based on media advertisements, their perception of using condoms remain to be a form of family method. Media messages in the Philippines does not have vulgar and explicit sexual content which explains why in researches done, mass media’s influence to adolescent sexual behavior is quite insignificant (David, 2008; Ramos, 2005; Soriano, 2004; Valbuena, 2011).

Religion

In the Philippines, ideas of artificial family planning are almost taboo even for married couples. Being the “only predominantly Catholic country in Asia,” (Raymundo & Cruz, 2004) religion influences families in almost all of the aspects in life and in this case, sexuality and sexual behavior.

Despite all the efforts done by the government in response to population growth, the uncontrollable population growth in the country has been present for more than three decades but is yet to be totally solved by the government. This has to do with the influence of religion in forming individual values system, as per Soriano (2004), religion plays a “negligible” role in influencing couples’ decisions regarding family planning. Soriano’s (2004) literature indicates that the frequency of attending religious activities “has a preventive effect on PMS.” Cultural norms and moral values are also “strong against sex” among adolescents and this creates “psychological barriers” in the use of contraceptives (David, 2008). An interesting finding in Valbuena’s (2011) study on male

condom use, suggested that one of the informants reported feelings of guilt after having sex because he felt it was a wrong thing to do outside marriage. Same is true among female informants in Agha's (2008) study on sexual behavior of female Catholics and Muslims wherein females keep their virginity in accordance with their religious beliefs. Female Muslims value virginity to give honor to family and future husbands. In the Philippines, Raymundo & Cruz's (2004) findings showed that Muslims give high regard to virginity and chastity. "Dating" and any form of physical contact such as "holding of hands" are prohibited in Islam.

Compared to Catholicism, Islam has a stronger impact as a religion (Agha, 2008); therefore, sexual behavior among young Islam adolescents is more manageable compared to that of Catholics. The studies show how religion as a social agency influences young adolescent behavior in a manner of delaying first PMS and in regulating subsequent sexual activities.

C. Contraceptive use

During the 1970's, pills and IUD were the most common modern contraceptives in the Philippines; while withdrawal and the rhythm method prevailed as the "most effective techniques to the traditional method" (Mariano, 1973). During the same decade, women aged 25-39 were the prevalent users of contraceptives in Bohol but there was disapproval on condom use because of the idea of "illicit sex" (Adem, 1977) among youth. After more than 30 years, condom is now the leading contraceptive used to date (Patricio & Cruz, 2004, p. 79) especially popular among the youth. In a survey in the

University of the Philippines, a vast majority of college students considered condom as the most popular because it is “cheap and readily available” (Department of Communication Research, 2005). Valbuena’s (2011) study reported an interesting observation by one of the informants saying in Australia condoms are seen as “sexy.” The use of condoms there is a trend and does not in any way affect masculinity. Non-condom users in the study however believe that it reduces sexual satisfaction.

Though condom use is being well accepted in the society, the use of contraceptive in the Philippines remains low. David’s (2008) findings showed that despite the technological advancements for reproductive health to make contraceptives more accessible and cheaper, there is poor practice of contraception among Filipinos.

In a study on the negotiation of condom use among couples, results indicate that request for condom use should be “early, often, and firm” (Choi, Wojcicki, and Valencia-Garcia, 2004). Women informants said that they should be “sweet and gentle and non-threatening” in asking for condom use; coincide with this, men informants approve of condom use as long as the manner of asking for it suggests no “rejection” of them as sex partners (Choi, Wojcicki, and Valencia-Garcia, 2004). Condom use therefore involves delicate negotiation between couples.

The campaigns for raising awareness on the new contraceptive methods are not enough to make Filipinos adopt the use of contraceptives. The adoption depends on the change of perception and beliefs of the people (David, 2008). Socio-cultural factors are important outer influences in shaping sexually active young couples’ decisions in their sexual behaviors and in the practice of safe sex. Likewise, the Philippine government

supports natural family planning method and leaves the promotion of artificial methods to LGUs (POPCOM, 2006).

D. Gender Roles and Negotiations in Sexual Relationships

Aside from the socio-cultural factors, the interaction of gender roles in sexual relationships affects the outcome of the negotiation and decision-making process of young couples.

Gender Roles

Women are often said to be more expressive of their opinions than men and therefore more likely to engage in power relations strategies in the relationship (Emmers-Sommer & Galvin, n.d.). However although women are more communicative than men they often tolerate sexual coercions from their partners. A study entitled *Sexual Coercion in Intimate Relationships: A Comparative Analysis of the Effects of Women's Infidelity and Men's Dominance and Control* says that "sexual coercion in intimate relationships is motivated by men's attempts to dominate and control their partner and that this expression of power is the product of men's social roles" (Goetz & Shackelford, 2006). A dialogue of reproductive health professionals written by Ann Blanc (2001) suggested that power relations are important to look at as it could influence a partner "to acquire information, to make decisions, and to take action related to their reproductive health, safety and well-being."

Gender Roles and Sexual Activities

Gender role is a vital factor in initiating romantic intimacy. Among the 256 informants in the study entitled *Investigation of Starting Romantic Intimacy in Emerging Adulthood in terms of Self-Esteem, Gender and Gender Roles*, those who have masculine gender roles are more likely to initiate sexual activities than those who have feminine gender roles (Atak & Eryilmaz, 2011). In addition to this, almost all men admit that they usually coerce or urge their girlfriends to have sex, either through emotional blackmailing or promises and assurance of love (David, 2008; Goetz & Shackelford, 2006). This sexual coercion is mostly due to “men’s attempt to dominate and control their partners” while women often fail in asserting their rights and usually give in to their partners demands (David, 2008; Goetz & Shackelford, 2006). Gender roles are also present in negotiating contraceptive use and family planning. Since women feel obliged to keep their partners happy, they tend to give in to their partners decision regarding reproductive health (David, 2008).

Gender Roles and Negotiating Contraceptive Use and Family Planning

The use of condoms in sexual intercourse to protect the individual from sexually transmitted diseases is one example of using power relations in a relationship (Neuse in Blanc, 2001). In an exploratory study with couples of Mexican origin, Harvey, Beckman, Browner and Sherman cited Amaro (2002), and results show that some men decline in using condoms while women often fail in negotiating their standpoints regarding this matter. In the local setting, David’s study (2008) show that “only 27.9% of women talk to their spouses or partners about family planning” usually preferring to talk about it with

friends and neighbors (47%) and family and other relatives (51%). There is then a relatively low incidence of spousal communication regarding their sexual relationship.

According to David (2008), talking is a way of showing intent on the use of contraceptives; however, since women generally try to make their partners sexually satisfied, they tend to agree with their partners' desire for intercourse. In contrast to David, the study by Shari L. Dworkin and Julie Pulerwitz called *Give-and-Take in Safer Sex Negotiations: The Fluidity of Gender-Based Power Relations* (2006) where the informants countered the common notion that gender-based power is static, a good sexual relationship involves "a set of ongoing interactions and negotiations". Males are willing to talk and compromise with their partners when it comes to condom use. Strategies in practicing safe sex require equality in the giving and receiving aspect in the relationship, which may vary on given circumstances (Dworkin and Pulerwitz, 2006). The willingness of the male participants to talk about condom use with their partners is noted to be an expression of masculinity; an act projecting dominance and power in making decisions (Dworkin and Pulerwitz, 2006). It was also stated in the study that it was the female partners that opt out of condom use for reasons such as they want to have children or that condoms make them uncomfortable. Some women negotiate their preference towards the use of condoms in sexual intercourse because of past gender-based experiences as a form of resistance to the unequal balance of gender norms but also as what Lewis and Kertzner (2003) said is a "type of microgenetic change, in which individuals initiate and enact new personal strategies over time" (as cited in Dworkin and Pulerwitz, 2006).

Negotiating the use of contraceptives is one way of demonstrating the play of gender roles. Most Latinas in *The Role of Pap Smears in Negotiating Risk: Latinas'*

Perceptions of Trust and Love in Sexual Relationships with Men by Francisca Angulo-Olaiz (n.d), said that, portraying oneself as sexually independent and unafraid of rejection is often undermined by men; therefore disregarding the risks that are present when engaging in unprotected sex. Some women believe that using contraception will be a sign of infidelity (Olaiz, n.d).

E. Synthesis

The literature established that there is an alarming growth of population in the Philippines primarily in the adolescent sector of the society. Uncontrollable and unmonitored sexual behavior among the youth results to this increasing rate of mortality.

The related literatures, both foreign and local, used different age markers in studying adolescent sexual behavior. In the Philippines, YAFS 2 (1994) and YAFS 3 (2002) made use of the age brackets 15-24 and 15-27, respectively; the reason behind this was to extend the reach of the research in studying adolescent sexual behavior. On the other hand, foreign studies had a more varied age profiling of adolescents: in Dworkin et al (2006), 18-29 years old; in Biddlecom et al (2009), 12-19 years old; Borneo et al 14-18 years, and so on and so forth. The differences in young adolescent profiling maybe due to the different conceptualization of the adolescence stage which depends on culture and social norms of every society. To further understand young males' and young females' sexual behavior, there must be a definite age bracketing for research studies in different countries. Young adolescents must be properly defined with respect to the accepted standards in their social environment.

The cited studies showed that biological factors are not the only and main reasons behind adolescent sexual behavior but socio-cultural factors as well; these include: urban exposure, religion, educational attainment, mass media exposure, family, peers, and socio-economic background. Socio-cultural factors influencing sexual behavior are almost universal; thus, relating studies from different countries was relevant in analyzing the global sexual trends. However, most of the studies focused on the external forces or the background factors influencing adolescent sexual activities, and less on the possible core reasons for these behaviors – interplay of gender roles during negotiation and decision-making and personal choices of the individuals involved.

The negotiation styles of each person in a sexual relationship determine the sexual activity. Whether or not to practice safe sex and whether or not to do sexual acts; it all depends on the negotiation and decision-making process between sexual partners. Moreover, there were more female-informants in the research studies cited probably because women bear more burden in the risks and consequences of unsafe sexual activities. Women are also believed to be more open with their sex lives compared to their male counterparts.

The literature managed to accept that young adolescents of this generation are into sexual exploration at earlier age. Young people are sexually active and it is a global phenomena. In the local setting, government and non-government organizations (NGOs) have conducted statistical research looking into the prevalence of uncontrolled youth sexual behavior. These are quantitative in nature due to the difficulty of gathering qualitative data because of the sensitivity of matters discussed. Similarly, the Philippines remains to be a conservative country primarily because of the influence of the Catholic

Church; hence, there is lack of in-depth understanding of the youth as sexual individuals. This study dared to dig deeper into the occurrence of young adolescent sexual behavior by conducting a qualitative approach. The researchers created sketches of 10 sexually active pairs and discussed how each partner open conversations regarding matters within their sexual relationships. This study was able to gather relevant information on the sex lives of young adolescents and to describe how socio-cultural factors (family, peers, media, education and religion) affect their sexual activities.

In this study, the researchers combined the effects of the “outside forces” or the socio-cultural factors, with that of the inner processes which involve the interaction of gender roles in communicating sexual rights in a sexual relationship. Similarly, this research paper included both the female and male’s standpoints regarding their sexual activities to assess how each gender perceives sex and its importance in the relationship.

III. STUDY FRAMEWORK

The researchers used Leslie Baxter's Theory of Relationship and the Relational Patterns of Interaction by the Palo Alto Group as guide in studying the gender roles of young couples in sexual relationships.

A. Theoretical Framework

Baxter's Relational Dialectics Theory

In a book entitled *Relating: Dialogues and Dialectics* by Leslie Baxter and Barbara Montgomery (1996), Baxter used Michael Bakhtin's work on dialogism as well as other notable works to explain her own Relational Dialectics Theory.

Baxter (1996) believed that communication is an interactive and simultaneous process of exchanging multiple meanings that could set apart or unite the participants. With this, relational-dialectics could be summed up as simply accepting that "individuals are socially constructed in the on-going interplay of unity and difference" (Baxter&Montgomery, 1996, p. 47). These would then constitute to the interplays of centrifugal forces which could cause disagreements and push people apart or centripetal forces that would pull people in a relationship closer together (Baxter as cited in Littlejohn, 2008, p. 210). Moreover, Baxter explained that these "natural tensions could be managed through coordinated talk" (Baxter as cited in Littlejohn, 2008, p. 210).

Baxter defined relationship as a "dialogue of many voices" (as cited in Littlejohn, 2008, p.209) therefore stating that communication does not only happen interpersonally; outside forces that affect the dynamics of the relationship of two people is also an important angle to consider.

The Relational Patterns of Interaction

The Relational Patterns of Interaction was conceptualized by George Bateson, Paul Watzlawick and their colleagues; together, they are known as the Palo Alto Group. According to their theory, the basic unit of a relationship is the intercommunication between the two people involved, where a series of interactions and patterns may occur (Bateson, et al. as cited in Littlejohn, 2008, p. 198).

Bateson, et al. explained that people involved in a relationship assume their roles that could develop patterns either: 1) symmetrical, wherein power struggles occur, (one claims control over the relationship and the other asserts control as well); or 2) complementary, where the individuals respond to each other in opposing ways (dominant-submissive relationship) thus, the concept of relational control (as cited in Littlejohn, 2008, p.198).

Field of Forces Theoretical Framework

Derived from the Force Field Analysis of Jack Fordyce and Raymond Weil, the Field of Forces theoretical framework formulated by Dr. Lourdes M. Portus in her Master of Arts in Communication thesis entitled *Negotiating Power: The Communication Process and Women in Prostitution* (1999), provides a detailed view of the communication and negotiation process of individuals. This will help in “confirming the relationships and various factors behind the communication process” (Portus, 1999, p.53). It is also appropriate in assessing the “interplay of restraining... and driving forces towards equilibrium” (Jurilla as cited in Portus, 1999, p.53). In this framework, the equilibrium which as Maguire (1988) states involves “balancing and stabilizing

mechanisms” (as cited in Portus, 1999), indicate the position or condition of the person or persons relative to the direction of the goal of the contending forces” (Portus, 1999, p.53).

Integrated Model

The researchers combined the applicable concepts from The Relational Patterns of Interaction, Baxter’s Theory of Relationship and the Field of Forces Theoretical Framework to illustrate the interaction of individuals inside their relationship.

In this theoretical framework (see Figure 1) individuals play roles inside the relationship which determine how they would interact with each other. These roles define Bateson, et al.’s (2008) concept of symmetrical and complementary relationship. This relationship is determined by the straight line incorporated from the Field of Forces Framework, which is the couple’s negotiation. This is also the equilibrium of the relationship that is or might be the balancing or stabilizing factor. The presence of both centrifugal and centripetal forces in the relationship will also be noted. These forces are factors that would either make the relationship in order and stronger or create change and lead to disagreements and contradictions. According to Baxter (1996), interactions in a relationship not only occur internally; therefore, outside factors that influence the thoughts of the individuals should also be studied.

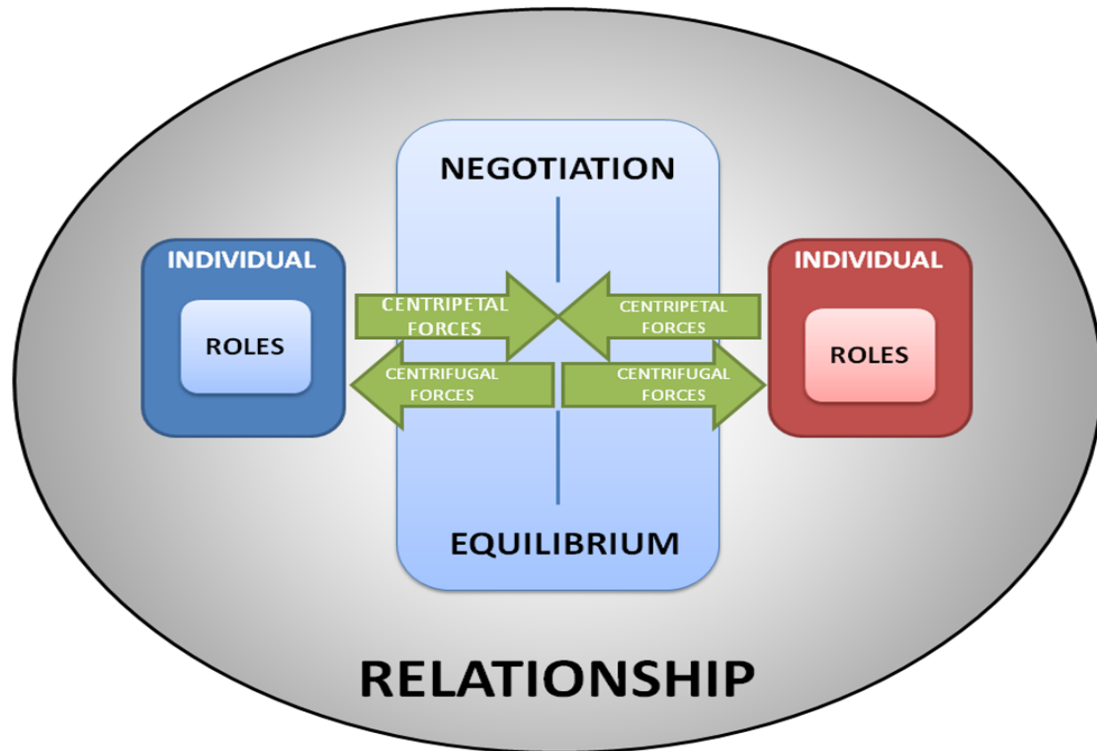


Figure 1. Integrated Theoretical Framework

B. Conceptual Framework

The concepts of the study (see Figure 2) describe the internal relationship of a male and a female. The roles they play are narrowed down to the gender roles they assume that could affect their decision-making and negotiation process when it comes to sexual activities. Socio-cultural influences are regarded as the centripetal and centrifugal forces that could affect their relationship as a whole. These forces as mentioned earlier could either change their relationship and lead to different and opposing views and opinion or create a stronger bond between the two. The gender roles the male and female play determine the outcome of the negotiation styles and decisions of the couple inside the sexual relationship.

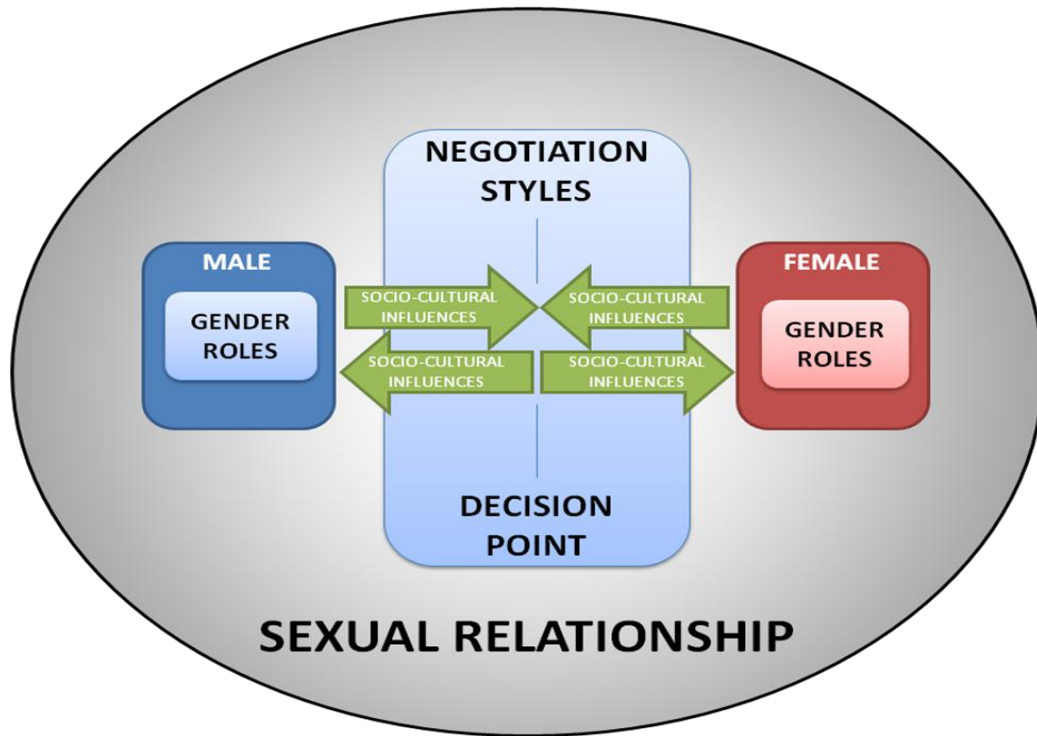


Figure 2. Conceptual Framework

C. Operational Framework

The relationship of the individuals would be specified as the decision-making and negotiation process of sexually active young couples. Given that sexual activities constitute risks and consequences to the couple, the study looked into the negotiations of couples in terms of contraceptive use, frequency of sexual activities, who initiates these sexual activities and where they usually conduct the sexual activities during their first and subsequent sexual encounters. These would determine whether the negotiations and decisions made by the couple strengthen their relationship and keep them closer or pull them apart.

The researchers also took into account the socio-cultural influences of both the young man and woman in affirming their gender roles which affects the whole

communication process; this is narrowed down into: family members, peers with or without sexual experience, religious beliefs and participation, culture and accepted norms, media exposure either print or electronic, level of educational attainment and monthly personal and family income. These factors would help understand the internal communication of a couple in terms of their negotiation styles as enumerated in Choi et al's (2003) study (direct, semi-direct, indirect and non-verbal).

This research determined how these negotiation styles affect the decision of the couples with regard to frequency in engaging in sexual activities, who initiates sexual activities, where these sexual activities are usually done and the use of contraception.

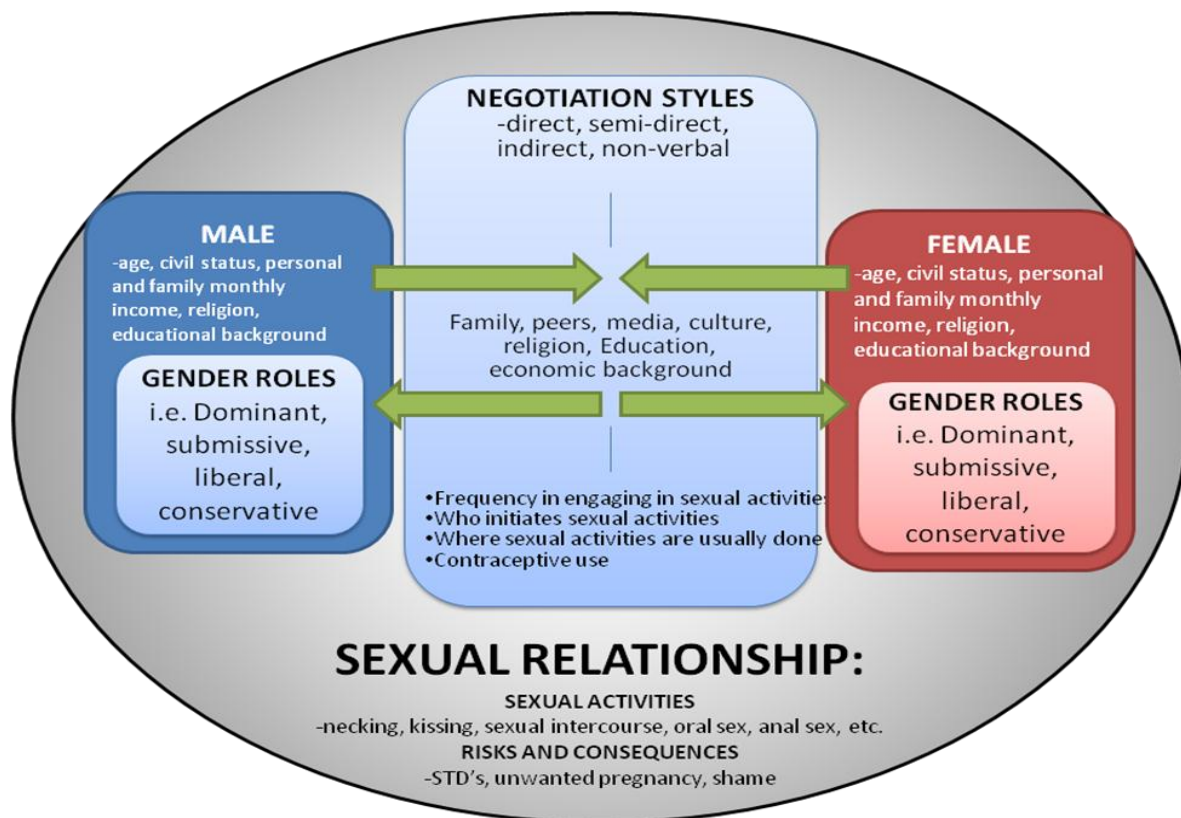


Figure3. Operational Framework

D. Operational Definition of Terms

- **Contraceptive use** – type and frequency of contraceptive use; and whether or not to use contraceptives
- **Decision-making and Negotiation** – refers to how couples try to enforce their gender roles in discussing about the risks and consequences of sexual activities and contraceptive use and to whether or not do the sexual activity
- **Decision Point** – final outcome of the negotiation process wherein the couples decide whether to do the sexual activity or not and if affirmative, how are they supposed to do it
- **Gender roles** – manner on how the male and the female partner react on the issues presented during the negotiation and decision-making process in their sexual relationship
- **Negotiation Styles** – the manner on how each partner tries to assert his or her gender roles in the decision-making and negotiation process regarding the sexual activity preferred
- **Sexual Activities** – activities present in a sexual relationship where couples negotiate and decide on how to perform such acts. These activities include kissing, sexual intercourse, oral sex, anal sex and use of sex toys and masturbation
- **Sexual Relationship** – the affiliation between the male and the female partner wherein sexual activities and the discussion of risk and consequences of these activities are negotiated and decided upon.

- **Socio-cultural factors** – factors that are involved in shaping each individual's argument; these influence how gender roles play in deciding and negotiating on preferred sexual activities. These include: peers with or without sexual experience, members of the family, religious beliefs and participation in religious activities, media exposure either print or electronic, culture and accepted norms, level of educational attainment, and personal and family monthly income.

IV. METHODOLOGY

A. Research Design

This study explored how young couples assert their gender roles in negotiating with their partner in the performance of sexual activities. Similarly, this also considered how socio-cultural factors affect the decision-making of young couples regarding sex and sex-related issues. Since statistics would not be sufficient in giving a clear apprehension of this phenomenon, a purely qualitative approach was used to provide a thorough and in-depth analysis of the objectives of the study.

The researchers used in-depth interviews with couples to understand the communication aspect in adolescent sexual relationships; and conducted expert interviews to further interpret the responses of the 10 couples.

B. Research Methods

In-depth dyad interviews of young couples were conducted to explore how their gender roles play in negotiating with their partners before, during and after a sexual activity. The interviews delved into how the decisions of the couples are influenced by socio-cultural factors i.e., family, peers, media exposure, religion and education. After having been questioned together, the pairs were split up for individual interviews, isolating the females from their male partners. The discussion centered on how individuals affirm their gender roles in making their decisions as part of a couple. This was done with the assumption that individuals would be more vocal on discussing their thoughts and opinions regarding sensual matters within their sexual relationship, than with the presence of their sexual partners. The researchers also assumed that individuals

would share personal insights about their relationship and their sexual partners. Experts on the matter of sexual relationships were also interviewed to further explain the sexual behaviors of young adolescents and the interaction of the gender roles in negotiations and decision-making in sexual relations.

C. Research Instruments

For the in-depth interviews, the researchers utilized interview guides with questions based on the research problem and objectives of the study.

The interview guide for couples was divided into seven parts: a) first sexual intercourse as a couple and the feelings involved b) second sexual intercourse with current partner and the feelings involved c) comparison of subsequent sexual encounters with current partner d) use of contraceptives e) risks and consequences of unsafe sex f) socio-cultural factors and g) communication dynamics of couples during negotiation and decision-making.

The first part probed into the informants' first sexual encounter and the emotions they felt after having sex for the first time. Along with this, the couples were asked to rank the most common sexual activities they do and were asked of their communication patterns during the first and subsequent sexual encounters. This part attempts to answer research questions 1 and 2. The negotiation aspect was embedded in the same questions which deal with the decision-making process before, during and after the couples' mentioned sexual activities. The questions were reconstructed amid the discussions proper, based on the flow of the conversation. Overlapping the questions on sexual activities with the questions on the negotiation process established a form of pattern on

how gender roles interact during the couples' conversation regarding sex and sex-related issues.

The contraception part explored the informants' approval on the use of contraceptives before, during and after sexual activities. It determined whether the informants are aware of the different types of contraceptives available for use and whether they use contraception or not. Accordingly, this part of the research instruments delved into the reasons behind the use or the neglect on the use of contraceptives.

The questions on the effects of socio-cultural factors revolved around how these factors influence the young couples' gender roles in the performance of sexual activities. The questions connect with the questions on negotiation and decision-making process couples go through in their sexual relationship.

Lastly, questions regarding the risks and consequences of sexual activities tried to assess the awareness and knowledge of the informants on the different risks present when the couples engage in sexual acts; therefore answering the third research question. It also looked into whether they communicate this knowledge and awareness with their partners.

The individual interview guide focused more on the individual and how he or she communicates his or her gender role as part of a couple. In-depth interviews of couples attempted to discover how their gender roles interact within the relationship. Lastly, the discussion guide with the experts helped in getting their opinions regarding the couples' answers during the couple interview. The researchers connected answers of the same context and developed patterns.

D. Concepts and Indicators

The seven concepts presented in this study were derived from the theories used in the framework and drawn from the research questions posed. These are: demographic profiles, sexual activities, contraception, gender roles, negotiations, socio-cultural factors and type of relationship.

The socio-cultural factors were considered the centrifugal/centripetal forces that either enhance or impede the sexual relationship of the couple; these included the couples': a) family, b) peers, c) culture, d) media exposure, e) education, f) religion, and g) economic background. A big factor in the relationship is the negotiation style used when deciding whether or not the couple will do the act. Negotiation styles were categorized under a) direct, b) indirect, c) semi-direct, and d) non-verbal. After negotiating, the decision point will lead to the sexual activity wherein the a) type of sexual activities, b) frequency of doing the sexual activities, c) who initiated these sexual activities and d) where these activities are usually done are settled. Also, the use of contraception (frequency and kind) was looked into as it is an elemental feature in the sexual behavior. The outcome of their relationship was determined by the way they negotiate and decide on matters regarding sexual activities and contraceptive use and the risks and consequences they present. These would then determine what type of relationship they have, whether it is symmetrical or complementary.

CONCEPTS	INDICATORS
Demographic Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Sex • Civil status • Personal and Family monthly income • Religion • Educational Background
Sexual Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of sexual activities • Frequency of engaging in sexual activities • Who initiates the sexual activities • Where are sexual activities are usually done
Contraception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of contraceptive use during sexual intercourse • Types of contraceptive used before, during and after sexual intercourse
Gender roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masculinity (i.e. dominant, submissive, liberal, conservative) • Femininity (i.e. dominant, submissive, liberal, conservative)
Negotiation Styles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct • Semi-direct • Indirect • Non-verbal
Socio-cultural factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members • Peers with or without sexual experience • Culture and accepted norms • Media exposure either print or electronic • Level of educational attainment • Monthly personal and family income
Kind of Relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symmetrical • Complementary

Table 1. Concepts and Indicators

E. Units of Analysis and Sampling

Due to the sensitivity of the topic, the first few informants for the in-depth interviews were young couples close to the researchers. Deep-seated information was aimed to be shared by the informants by ensuring them full confidentiality. The succeeding focus interviews involved couples referred to by the first group of participants. In this study, the differences on how males and females play their gender were probed into.

The researchers interviewed 10 heterosexual couples aged 15-24 years old who are involved in sexual relationships. In addition to this, since the theories used in this study have Western concepts, two Filipino sex and culture experts were consulted to further relate the phenomena to Filipino context.

F. Data Construction Procedures

It is imperative for the researchers to explain the research study in order to gain the trust of the informants in disclosing sensitive matters about their sexual relationship. First, the researchers explained the general purpose of the discussions and why the participants were chosen as informants. The researchers then gave the informants a brief background of the research problem and objectives. The informants were asked for their consent in participating (prospect informants can approve or decline in participating in the study).

To set a comfortable atmosphere, warm-up questions were asked to assure informants that there will be no judgments imposed throughout the discussion and it was primarily for academic purposes only.

Revisions of instruments started on the second week of June. The last week of June until the second week of July was devoted to contacting possible informants of the study and scheduling them for possible dates of interview.

A whole month (last two weeks of July and first two weeks of August) was allotted for the data gathering proper since the interviews were based on the availability of the informants. But due to last minute cancellations, the data gathering period was extended until the first half of September.

The second half of September was given for analyzing the information acquired as well as for the write-up. To ensure anonymity and confidentiality, the researchers used nicknames in the study instead of the real names of the informants.

The months October and November were dedicated for the revisions of the whole study; unfortunately, this phase extended up to January after the Yuletide season until early April 2012.

G. Data Analysis Procedures

In-process writing – after every in-depth interview, was essential in successfully completing this research study. During the discussions, the researchers came up with a mental framework on the connections of relevant information and ideas disclosed by the informants. Open coding procedure was performed by the researchers. Afterwards, the creation of a coding scheme and setting of categories were done to analyze the gathered data. A close reading on the transcripts after every discussion helped in picking out significant statements from which meanings were created and common themes and ideas were grouped into clusters or categories. Then for each part, a brief description of the

phenomenon was given after which an explanation of the phenomenon as common concepts emerged from the descriptions given was formulated.

The researchers used descriptive analysis in characterizing the 10 pairs of sexually active adolescents.

H. Scope and Limitations

The study is limited to 10 cases of young Filipino adolescent couples who are involved in heterosexual relationships and who are sexually active. Due to time constraint and sensitivity of the topic, among all the invitees for research discussion, only 10 pairs granted the researchers' request for interviews. All informants are residents of Metro Manila only. The age bracket used for the study is from 15-24 years old; the youngest informant is aged 17 and the oldest is 24 years of age. Because of the sensitivity of the topic, the study was limited to informants who are acquaintances of the researchers and some were recommended by the researchers' friends. Time was also a factor given that the study was conducted within a semester making the data gathering period limited to one-time focused interviews only.

The focus of the study is on gender roles and the socio-cultural factors (family, peers, education, religion, mass media and economic) which influence the couples' negotiation and decision-making process regarding their sexual activities. Two anthropology professors of the University of the Philippines were interviewed to share their expertise on the subject matter. Agents or people concerned in each of the socio-cultural factors were, however, not represented in this study. The related literatures were used to describe their involvement in adolescent sexual behavior.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Profile of Informants

Twenty sexually active individuals currently involved in exclusive relationships were interviewed to understand how their different socio-cultural orientations affect the roles they play inside the relationship and how they portray these roles in negotiating with their partners.

To ensure the anonymity of the informants, the researchers used pseudonyms in narrating the couples' stories. This section describes the demographic profile of the informants with additional notes taken by the researchers during the interview proper. The succeeding sections are allotted for the in-depth discussion of the research findings.

Age of Informants

Of the 20 informants interviewed, there were: two (a male and a female informant) who belong to the age range of 15-17 years old; nine (three males and six females) from the 18-20 years old age range; and nine (six males and three females) from the 21-24 age bracket (see Table 3). This is in parallel with the age range the researchers belong to; this is because most of the said informants are affiliated or are close to researchers.

Based on the table shown below, the male-informants are generally older than the female-informants.

	Male	Female	Total
15-17 years old	1	1	2
18-20 years old	3	6	9
21-24 years old	6	3	9
Total			20

Table 3. Age of Informants

Educational Attainment

Most of the informants are college students (10 out of 20), while five (three males and two females) are college graduates. Three have already finished diploma courses and have started up their own businesses while two are high school dropouts (see Table 4).

College graduates are either waiting for board exams or are already employed.

	Male	Female	Total
High school	1	1	2
High school Graduate			
College	4	6	10
College Graduate	3	2	5
Others (Vocational course graduate, young entrepreneurs, etc.)	2	1	3
Total			20

Table 4. Educational Attainment of Informants

Religion

The religious affiliations of the 20 informants are as follows: 15 are Catholics, two are atheists (one male, one female), one is an Iglesia ni Kristo, one is a Born Again Christian, and one is a self-proclaimed agnostic (see Table 5).

	Male	Female	Total
Agnostic	1		1
Atheist	1	1	2
Born Again	1		1
Catholic	7	8	15
Iglesia ni Cristo		1	1
Total			20

Table 5. Religion of Informants

Economic Status

There is equal distribution when it comes to the economic status of the informants (as seen in Table 6). Eight informants belonged to the upper middle class; eight came from the middle class and four from the lower middle class status.

The researchers classified the informants according to monthly family income: informants who belong to the upper middle class status are those with monthly family income of P60,000 and above; those in the middle class status are those with family income of P30,000 to P60,000; and those with monthly family income of P30,000 and below are considered below middle class.

	Male	Female	Total
Upper Middle Class	4	4	8
Middle Class	4	4	8
Lower Middle Class	2	2	4
Total			20

Table 6. Economic Status of Informants

B. Couples' Stories and Sexual Relationships

The twenty individuals were interviewed together as couples to further understand their communication dynamics in the relationship. Sensitive information were treated accordingly as this is an academic paper for academic purposes only.

Observations during the interviews were noted and significant quotes were lifted from the transcriptions of the couple interviews.

Pol and Vicky

Pol

Pol is a 20-year-old pre-law student in one of the top universities in the country. He came from a well-off Catholic family which openly discusses sex and sex-related matters. His family knows he and his girlfriend Vicky are into sexual activities and this reminds him to practice safe sex so as not to sabotage their future careers.

Vicky is Pol's second girlfriend and the first girl he ever had sex with. He was 17 years old at that time and they did it (sexual intercourse) in his room.

He believes that his mindset has changed over college; from being strict Catholic, he turned Agnostic and now an atheist.

Pol's future career goals matters to him; thus, he is careful with his relationship with Vicky by keeping their sexual activities safe. Having a family who openly talks about sex is also a factor since he and Vicky does not have to pretend they are not sexually active. Nevertheless, his family reminds him of his responsibilities and obligations as a student, as a son and as a boyfriend.

Pol's spiritual beliefs prove his open-mindedness on topics such as sex. There is no guilt feeling after engaging in PMS because he believes it is neither a sin nor is it against anyone.

Vicky

Vicky is a 19-year-old student college student also from a prestigious university. Like Pol, her family belongs to the upper middle class. Her family is conventional with all the members devout Catholics.

Vicky was 16 when she had sex for the first time and it was with Pol. Although she felt scared at first, Pol's reassurances calmed her.

I was so scared, but he reassured me that nothing wrong is going to happen so I calmed down, said Vicky.

Pol is the only guy she has ever been with until today.

Though hers is a religiously strict family, she lost her virginity at a young age. It is probably her college education from a liberal university which empowers her to practice non-judgmental attitude and permissive way of thinking. However, her religious beliefs hinder her from achieving guilt-free sexual relationship with Pol.

Like her boyfriend, Vicky gives importance to her future goals so she makes sure to balance her time in studying and in being in a relationship with Pol.

Vicky and Pol (in a relationship for 3 years)

Pol and Vicky have known each other since they were in high school. After graduation, they went into different universities and lost contact. During a batch reunion, they saw each other again and since then they started going out. They are currently on their third year as an exclusive couple.

First Sexual Encounter

Their first sexual encounter happened after a year of being together. It was Pol who initiated the act with Vicky's consent.

We both wanted it, so I agreed, she said.

The couple admitted that their first time (sexual intercourse) was planned and they used a condom.

She wrapped my appendage with a condom when I volunteered it (penis) for practice for her sex ed (sex education) class...

Pol described how the act started. Afterwards, he confided that his expectations of sex were not met but he was still happy for doing it (sexual intercourse) with Vicky.

Vicky on the other hand did not enjoy their first sexual encounter because it felt painful.

My expectations were not met, parang, yun na pala yun?
(My expectations were not met, I was like, 'that was it?'),
said Pol.

Hindi ko din talaga naenjoy kasi masakit! (I was not able to
enjoy it because it hurt!), said Vicky.

Similar to the literature, expectations of sex before first sexual intercourse are overrated. As seen from Pol and Vicky's experiences, they both wanted to try it (sex) out of curiosity and sexual urge. Their decision to have sex for the first time was not influenced by socio-cultural factors as well as their subsequent ones.

Parang wala. Parents, no, Education, no, Religion, hell no... I think it is just us. We both wanted it we deal with the consequences after. (I think we were not influenced by anything. Parents, no, Education, no, Religion, hell no... I think it is just us. We both wanted it, we deal with the consequences after), said Vicky

Pol agrees with her saying,

I think it was more natural. We do not look for indicators. It (sex) just happens.

Subsequent sexual encounters

Males are more likely to initiate the succeeding sexual intercourse after feeling unsatisfied with the first try; while females would most likely agree to this because their first sexual intercourse was more of pain than pleasure. After a day or two, Pol and Vicky had sex again explaining that they wanted to make things right the second time around.

The couple admits to doing sexual activities almost whenever they are together. These activities include: kissing, necking, petting and oral sex which then lead to sexual intercourse. When asked where they usually do these things, Pol said:

Anywhere. In my car, in my room, or somewhere private.

He also confessed to being the usual initiator of the said sexual activities.

I wanted to make things better than the first, kasi nga fail yung una. (I want to make things better than the first, because the first sexual intercourse was a failure), he said.

However, sometimes when Vicky wants to have sex, she does not hesitate to tell Pol. She even comes to Pol's condo unit when she feels the urge to see him and have sex with him. This shows that she is direct in the couple's negotiation regarding sexual activities; she asserts her rights and her wants in the relationship. Pol on the other hand, tends to yield to Vicky's urges even if he does not feel like having sex. This portrays the sexual submissiveness of males to females.

Use of Contraceptives

Both are well-educated when it comes to contraceptives and their kinds as these are taught in sex education classes.

She had a sex education class and they were taught these things, said Pol while Vicky agrees saying, Oo, Soc Sci 3. (Yes, Soc Sci 3).

Similarly, Pol and Vicky both have positive attitudes on the use of contraceptives during sexual intercourse. Education, they say, is not a factor for using contraceptives; but it affects their views of having sex outside marriage in a way that they think [sex] is part of humans' biological needs. Education gives them a hint of what contraceptives are but it does not exactly encourage them to use contraceptives. They do however use condoms whenever they have sex for the reason that they avoid the risk of getting pregnant at an early age.

I think about her, I do not want to get her pregnant early, said Pol.

He said that although Vicky does not want to use a condom because it is more pleasurable, they always use one. Women, though they have the biggest burden in risking unsafe sex, prefer not to use condom because of sexual satisfaction. However, there are men like Pol, who insist on using condoms because of their concrete fears of the risks and consequences of unsafe sex. To make sure, he always carries a condom with him.

Me. I get broke buying condoms, Pol said when asked who usually brings the condom.

Risks and consequences

The couple is aware of the risks and consequences of engaging in sexual intercourse; for them, these include: early pregnancy, gossips, and acquisition of sexually transmitted diseases. However, as mentioned above, their biggest concern is pregnancy and they often talk about it and work things out together.

There was a time that she got delayed. We were so scared we went to a UP professor to ask what we should do. Pol recalled.

That was the time na the condom we used broke. (That was the time that the condom we used broke), Vicky added.

They believe that family and education are the most influential factors affecting their communication about pregnancy.

I do not want her to get pregnant. She doesn't want to get pregnant because the complications are very severe. I mean if I get her pregnant, that means I'd have to support her. There is nothing wrong with supporting her but then being a student and being a pre-law student, it will greatly impact my education, on hers too. She'll get disowned when she gets pregnant., Pol said.

Although Pol's family knows about him and Vicky being sexually active, they never fail to remind him not to get Vicky pregnant.

Yeah, they know. They just say ‘do not get her (Vicky) pregnant’. That is all. I guess they assume more than they know but it gets confirmed when they ask, he said.

Vicky also tells Pol straightforwardly not to get her pregnant because of what her family might do to her if this happens.

Clearly, there is a fair interplay of roles in their relationship. Both individuals voice out their stands regarding sex and its consequences.

Relationship before and after having sex

Pol and Vicky believe that their relationship became more serious after having sex. They said that all inhibitions they felt before were all gone.

Dati kasi nahihya pa ako sakanya, pero ngayon hindi na. (I was shy before, but not anymore), said Vicky.

...when you open up and bare your soul like that, that is different, she added.

During the interview proper, it was observable that the couple is very comfortable with each other, even showing affection (hugging and holding hands) in front of the researchers. These public displays of affection might have developed as their relationship progressed.

Relationship now that they are sexually active

The couple are very open about their relationship, now that they are sexually active. Vicky believes that she is not afraid of being honest with Pol about things she likes and things she does not like. Similarly, Pol said that they are more comfortable with each other.

Importance of sex in a relationship

Sex, they believe, made them love each other more and it contributed to their level of intimacy. They think that although sex is about physical contact and pleasure, it is still something people do with someone they trust and love and not with just any random person.

Sex before for me, was something done between a married couple. It is now like done between two consenting adults. If you want to enjoy the pleasure of each other's body, Pol said.

... But you do not just do it with some random person. Sex for me is something you do with someone you trust and love, Vicky added.

A person can easily tell a couple who has had sex by observing their body languages. As stated from the previous discussion, Pol and Vicky exhibit this kind of communication.

Decision-making and negotiation

Pol and Vicky are very direct about their opinions regarding certain matters involving their relationship. With regards to sexual activities, when Vicky does not want to have sex, she turns Pol down, but that does not lead to arguments.

Hindi naman kami nag-aaway if I turn him down, he respects me when I do not want to do it, pero minsan, may schemes siya e to subtly get me to do what he wants, kunwari, aalis muna siya tapos babalik ulit, tapos tatanong niya if I changed my mind, sometimes I say yes, pero may times din na hindi talaga, and alam na niya yun. Lawyer talaga yun si Pol e, ang galing niya mag-persuade and he knows the right words to make me say yes to him. (We do not argue when I turn him down. He respects me when I do not want to do it (have sex), but sometimes he has schemes

to subtly get me to do what he wants. For example, he will leave me alone and then goes back after a few minutes asking me if I changed my mind, sometimes I say yes, but there are also times when I really do not want to, and he knows it already... Pol is really a lawyer, he is really good in persuading me and he knows the right words to make me say yes to him), she says.

Of course, I get sexually frustrated. But then I'll realize that 'Hey she doesn't want to, I wouldn't enjoy it if she was not into it.', Pol added when asked how he feels about Vicky turning him down.

However, Pol narrated that he cannot refuse whenever it is Vicky who wants to have sex even though he is not in the mood.

That rarely happens although when it does, I can't say no. I mean she always gets what she wants. You have to consider that for guys it is kinda embarrassing to like turn her down, he said.

Even if it is against his will, Pol submits to Vicky's urges as a form of showing respect to his female partner. There is this notion that as the man in the relationship, it is not right to turn the woman down in doing sexual activities.

In terms of the use of contraceptives, both believe that using one will help them prevent early pregnancy, and although Vicky does not like using one because she thinks of Pol's sexual satisfaction, they use it for safety and assurance.

We never did it without, for safety, I guess. She (Vicky) likes it better without a condom though, because I can feel better. (We use) condom and pills, Pol narrated.

Even in the act (sex) itself, the couple communicates efficiently. Pol described how they communicate during sexual intercourse, saying:

How I initiate? Most of the time it starts with touch then communication is based more on contact than actual verbal

communication. The verbal communication actually comes into play when you want to find out if the other wants to do it. During the actual, we talk. Okay what do you want me to do? Faster? Harder? Then after, I would ask 'Did you enjoy it or how was it? Then she'll reply her own reactions whatever it may be. But then usually no, we do not talk about it. We just lie down with stupid smiles on our faces, he said.

The couple believes that their relationship is a give-and-take one and although there is someone who gets a final say in certain matters, they believe that this is not a form of submission; it is more of respect for the other person.

Gender Roles

During the whole course of the interview the couple could be seen kissing and muttering sweet words to each other. Vicky feels a bit awkward talking about their sexual relationship but Pol keeps on reassuring her.

Okay lang yan! This is for the academe. (It is alright, this is for the academe.), he keeps saying to Vicky.

From what has been collected, it could be noted that the couple still follows the norm that girls should be protected from public stigmatization. In this case, Pol feels the need to protect Vicky from social judgement and what their parents might say which stems mostly from getting her pregnant early which is why they prefer using contraceptives.

However, that is the only instance in which they follow the norm. The couple does not follow the concept of dominance and submission (the girl submits and the guy dominates) in their relationship. They have a balanced and symmetrical relationship wherein both assert themselves in negotiations and decision-making.

It could be inferred that the couple has liberal and modern beliefs. Their roles in the relationship are interchangeable and flexible.

Socio-cultural factors

Family

When it comes to negotiation, it could be implied that their respective families influence them. Pol's family, being open in sexual topics might have influenced him to speak his mind on certain matters, therefore making him assertive. On the other hand, Vicky's traditional upbringing and family beliefs made her more assertive especially in negotiating contraceptive use and talking about risks and consequences of engaging in PMS. This is mainly because she is afraid of what her family might do if she gets pregnant.

Their families are also the reason why they opt to use contraceptives despite condoms not being pleasurable. Pol said that his family trusts him enough not to get Vicky pregnant, while Vicky's family is not open to her having sex with her boyfriend.

However, the couple believes that their families do not affect the frequency of their sexual activities.

Friends

Friends, on the other hand, are a different matter. Pol is open with his friends only when they are comfortable talking about it (sex). They trade sex stories from their own experiences and advices on what contraceptive to use and what not to use.

It depends on whether they'll be comfortable about with it.
I have friends that talk about it with me quite graphic nga

minsang e. (It depends on whether they'll be comfortable with it. Sometimes, I have friends that talk about it with me quite graphic.), he said.

We tell each other advices, like in condoms, if it breaks, I tell them not to use it like 'Dude, do not use Premier', Pol added.

Vicky, however, does not talk about it with her friends. She believes that it (sex) is something that does not need to be shared with other people.

Although friends are Pol's source of information regarding sexual matters, they do not affect his negotiation with Vicky, his preference in using contraceptives, and the frequency of their sexual activities. This is also the same with Vicky.

Vicky's case is different from the common attitude of females regarding sharing sex stories with their girl friends. It is probably because she is trying to portray herself as someone who does not engage in PMS to protect her name and her family's image. This shows that for Vicky, her face and her family's face matters to her.

Media

According to them, media is not a factor in their sexual relationship. However, it gives them information on what to do when it comes to sexual activities.

Mass media, if you include the Internet, like if you watch porn, you'll see certain things you want to try out, Pol said.

Mass media, specifically new media like the Internet, provides sexual tips and implants sexual ideas to both sexually active and inactive people.

Religion

Religion does not affect any aspect of the couple's relationship. Pol believes that everyone has their own free will and that no one should dictate what you have to do.

When it comes down to it, it is our choice. Being an atheist, I believe that you shouldn't let God or the Church decide on what you should do with your body. I mean it is your body, he said.

Conversely, being a Catholic, Vicky feels guilty in doing the act but it does not influence her actions in any way.

I am Catholic and our family goes to church every Sunday kaya I feel guilty about it. Pero I do not think it affects our relationship. When it comes down to it, kami rin naman ang magdedecide kung ano ang gagawin. (I am a Catholic and our family goes to church every Sunday that is why I feel guilty about it at times, but I do not think it affects our relationship. When it comes down to it, we still get to decide what we want to do), she said.

In this regard, religion serves as a reminder to Vicky but not to Pol, that what they are doing outside marriage might actually be sinful.

Education and Economic status

Pol and Vicky are both in college studying in prestigious universities. Their educational backgrounds widened their perception regarding sexual matters, making them both assertive in their relationship.

Likewise, belonging to the same social class diminishes concerns of intimidation, authority or subordination; they treat each other as equals.

Cheska and Jay

Jay

Jay is a 22-year-old college graduate who now works as an administration personnel in the University of the Philippines. He comes from a middle class family and is a devout Catholic. Being a fresh graduate, he still lives with his parents but is doing well by himself.

Jay's first sexual encounter happened more or less than a year before he and Cheska engaged in first sexual intercourse. He was 18 years old and the act was a spontaneous one initiated by his girlfriend at that time. So far, he has had two sexual partners and Cheska was his second.

Jay is serious with his current occupation, and probably would want to level up in his work in the near future. However, practicing safe sex is not his priority because he still believes that things happen for a reason.

Cheska

Cheska is a 20-year-old college graduate who now works as a resource mobilization officer in ABS-CBN Foundation. She comes from a middle class family, who are devout and traditional Catholics.

She said that her first sexual encounter happened with Jay when she was 18 years old and she had no other sexual partners to date.

Her religious background is a factor in delaying her sexual encounter until legal age. Cheska's employment keeps her busy; she makes sure her life is organized and

balanced. She and Jay are both employed and despite their busy schedules she believes that their “love” is a factor in keeping their relationship intact.

Cheska and Jay (in a relationship for 2 years)

Cheska and Jay lived in the same village and have known each other since they were kids. A common friend introduced them to each other and they instantly felt a strong mutual attraction.

Magka-village kasi kami tapos pinakilala kami ng common friend namin e crush ko na siya, crush din naman niya ako, tapos kinuha niya number ko, ayun nagkatext na kami. (We live in the same village then a common friend introduced us to each other. It so happened that we both have a crush on each other and he asked for my number and we got to texting), Cheska recalled.

Frequent exchange of text messages made them realize that they like each other. Not long after, when they entered high school, they became a couple. However, being in different schools and engaging in constant arguments led them to call it quits. They decided to start dating other people but a few years later, after their failed relationships, they got into talking again and decided to give their relationship another try. They are together for two years now.

First sexual encounter

Their first sexual encounter happened before their first month together as a reunited couple. However, they are not sure of the exact date.

Ano ka ba, may one month na tayo non, diba? (What are you talking about? We were already together for a month.), he argued.

Hindi, wala pa tayong one month non! (No, that was before our first month!), Cheska interjected.

They continued arguing until it was Jay who finally gave in and agreed that it was before their first month. It is notable that the male partner submitted to the female partner in the argument.

Both are certain that it was Jay who initiated the act and that it was all planned out.

Wala lang. Pinlano lang yun. (It was planned out.), said Cheska

Jay added:

Ako nagsimula. Kasi ganito yun, nung una talaga ayaw niya... Naghintay naman ako tapos pumayag naman siya. (I initiated it. It goes like this, at first she really does not want to do it (have sex), I waited then in the end she gave in.)

Females tend to have second thoughts before deciding to have sex. In most cases, they get pressured by their male partner's sexual initiatives. Cheska and Jay's first sexual encounter happened in a motel.

Nagtext kami, parang lambingan lang, nung andun na bumigay nalang din ako. (We texted, we exchanged sweet words and when we went there, I just gave in), Cheska narrated.

When asked what factors influenced their decision in doing the act, Jay said:

Tawag lang talaga ng laman, gusto na din kasi namin. (It was an urge. We both wanted it to happen.)

Although Cheska said that she was not that willing to do it (sex) at that time, she gave in to her partner's whims.

Medyo napilitan, parang pinagbigyan nalang kasi mahal ko siya (I was a bit forced, I just agreed to what he wants because I love him.), she said.

It is common for females to have sex for the first time convincing themselves that they are doing it out of love. This is the very reason why most females lose their virginity to their first romantic partners believing that their male partner at the moment would be their first and last mate.

Even though the act was pre-meditated, the couple did not use any contraceptive.

Cheska believes that:

...kung time mo na para (mabuntis), time mo na, wala ka ng magagawa don. (If it is your time to get pregnant, it is your time. You cannot do anything about it.)

Ayoko din kasi niyan (condom) talaga kasi hindi masarap (I really do not want that (condom) because it does not pleasure me), added Jay.

Their views on conceiving a baby are similar, arguing that if it is one's fate to be pregnant, there is nothing they can do about it.

The couple felt nervous before doing the act and guilty afterwards.

Sabi ko, bakit ganito, bakit ko ginawa to? (I asked myself, why is this like this? Why did I do this?), Cheska said.

When asked why, she said that:

Kasi babae ako, yung first mo dapat special. Pero inisip ko nalang special yun kasi sa taong mahal ko naman ginawa yun. (Because I am a girl and my first time should be special. But I just convinced myself that what happened was special because I did it with someone I love.)

Jay felt guilty too; however, he said that it was fine with him and that he felt happy afterwards.

Ako okay lang kasi lalaki naman ako e. (For me it is fine because I am a guy), he said.

Masaya. Naramdaman ko na sobrang love ko pala talaga si (Cheska). (I am happy. I felt like I really love (Cheska).), he added in describing what he felt afterwards.

Losing virginity is an issue among females; they give it (virginity) great value. Males, on the other hand, treat their first time as an achievement. This can be observed in the case of Cheska and Jay; she at first, regretted the experience but soon accepted that she did it (sex) with Jay.

The couple's first time was controversial in the sense that Jay believes that Cheska is not a virgin anymore at the time of their first sexual encounter. Cheska vehemently defended herself saying that she is just athletic; hence, there was no bleeding.

Ako kasi, siyempre lalaki ako, gusto ko ako yung nakaka-una, e tapos nung nag-ano (sex) kami, hindi dumugo. Alam ko naman kasi na may nangyari na sakanila nung ex niya. Pero hindi talaga siya umaamin e, hanggang ngayon pinag-aawayan pa rin namin yan. (Since I am a guy I want to be the one to devirginize the woman. However, when we had sex, she did not bleed. I know that, she and her ex did it (sex) already but she does not admit it. Until now, we still argue about it.), Jay said.

Talagang hindi ako nagdugo so akala niya hindi siya ang una ko, pero natural lang naman yun sa mga sporty e. (I did not bleed so he thought I was not a virgin anymore when we did it (sex), but that is natural among sporty girls.), Cheska contradicts.

Males give importance to the virginity of their female partners. It affects their machismo if their partners have lost their virginities to a different man. Jay's reaction to Cheska's non-bleeding during first PMS turns out to have a big effect in their sexual relationship with regards to trust.

From their narrations, the couple planned their first sexual act and had sex in a motel probably because they have no place of their own.

Subsequent sexual encounters

Kissing, petting and oral sex are the sexual activities that Cheska and Jay usually do. However, they only do these activities whenever they are together, which is now seldom due to their busy schedules. Among these activities, Cheska said that kissing and sensual massages are the activities that usually lead them to sexual intercourse.

When asked who initiates these activities, Jay said:

Ako, di naman lagi, minsan siya (Cheska) rin, pero ako madalas. (Me, but not always, sometimes she (Cheska) initiates too, but most of the time it is me.)

Nilalandi ko muna siya, pag nilalambing ko kasi siya ang bango kasi niya e tapos ang kinis, kaya kinikilig ako (I flirt with her first then when we cuddle, she smells so good and her skin is so soft so I feel giddy.), Jay narrated regarding how he initiates the act.

It is common for males to initiate sexual intercourse. From the couple's narrations, it can be implied that Jay gets aroused easier than Cheska.

Sexual activities and intercourse are usually done in the couples' houses but in most cases, they have sex in Cheska's house because most of the time, there is no one present.

They say there were no factors that influenced them in doing the said activities.

Wala naman, madali lang akong malibugan. Libog lang yun. At attached ka na kasi, gusto mo na ulit. (Nothing, I just easily feel the urge to have sex. It is because of the urge. Plus, you are already hooked to it (sex) and you want to do it again.), said Cheska.

The previous statement shows how vulgar Cheska speaks of their sexual behavior, specifically describing herself as being lustful. It is not common among young Filipina adolescents to admit aggressive participation in sexual activities. From Cheska's narration, she described sex as a normal activity done by people involved in sexual relationships; thus proving the familiar conviction among youth that once you started having sex, you cannot stop doing it (having sex), probably because there is nothing more to lose.

Contraceptive Use

The couple has negative attitude towards the use of contraceptives; they still prefer natural methods such as withdrawal over artificial means.

Ayaw namin ng parang peke (We do not want something that feels fake.), Cheska said.

Pleasure is the main factor for not using contraceptives; this is the usual justification of couples who do not use contraceptives. The statements below show how Jay's attitude towards the use of contraceptives affects Cheska's decision of not using as well.

Ako, ayaw namin parehas pero mas ayaw ko nga kasi walang pleasure, kung walang amount ng pleasure walang kwenta. (We do not like using contraceptives but I feel more convinced not to use [contraceptives] because I like pleasure. If there is low amount of pleasure (in having sex), for me it is insignificant), Jay said.

Kasi after (having sex), sabi niya pangit daw (feeling), so ayaw niya. Ayaw ko na rin. (After having sex, he would say he did not like the feeling, so he does not want to use contraceptives anymore; so, I prefer not to use one as well), Cheska added.

Cheska's family influenced their use of contraceptives but like Jay, she believes that pregnancy is part of someone's destiny – if it is your time to conceive, it is your time. With this perspective, Cheska eliminates the possibility that the risks and consequence of having sex may be prevented by practicing safe sex.

Mama ko kasi nagpills pero nabuntis pa din siya sa kapatid ko, tsaka parang inaano mo yung society na wag mag-anak, pero kung ayaw mo talaga, ayaw mo talaga, kung tinakda, tinakda. (My mom was using pills but she still got pregnant with my brother. Also, it is like you dictate the society not to get pregnant, but if you really do not want it, you do not want it. If it is destiny, it is destined to happen to you.), said Cheska.

Risks and Consequences

The couple believes that pregnancy and the transmittal of STDs are the primary risks of engaging in unprotected sexual activities. Pregnancy is Cheska and Jay's biggest concern:

Kinakabahan ako pag nadedelay siya, kasi minsan one week siya pag madelay, so medyo natatakot ako. (I get nervous especially if her period gets delayed because sometimes she gets delayed for a week so I get scared.), said Jay.

Jay's statement clearly shows that he is not prepared for early parenthood. Like normal young adolescents, Jay is after the pleasures of sex but not yet ready for familial obligations at young age.

Factors that affect their communication regarding risks and consequences are family and other people's judgement. Despite these, Cheska and Jay continue having sex.

Okay lang naman sakin malaman ng friends, mas natatakot ako sa family at pag ibang tao na sa judgement. (It is fine with me if my friends know. I am just scared my family and other people would judge me), said Cheska.

Kapag nalaman ng parents namin, papatayin kami... magagalit talaga. (If our parents find out, they will kill us... they will get really mad.), she added.

The risk of getting pregnant impedes the frequency of sexual activities especially if Cheska's menstruation gets delayed.

Hindi na kami madalas mag-sex at hindi naman kami gagawa ng baby. (We do not have sex frequently anymore and we do not plan on making a baby.), Jay said.

...pag nabuntis anong mangyayari, kailangan magtrabaho na, madami ng problema, yung gatas, yung responsibilidad, ayaw namin non. (If I get pregnant what will happen? We have to work, there will be problems - the milk, the responsibility, we do not want those things.), she said.

Both Cheska and Jay are not ready for parenthood and the responsibilities and obligations that come with it. Sex is pleasurable but they are aware of the possible risks and consequences of early pregnancy. This is in contrast with their earlier statement that pregnancy is part of someone's destiny. This shows how young adolescents can speak their minds freely with conviction, but in reality, there is still this fear of owning responsibilities.

Relationship before and after having sex

The couple believes that their relationship before having sex was better compared to their relationship now. The ways they use to deal with problems are different now.

Dati kasi pag nag-aaway kami napaguusapan talaga yung problema, ngayon pag nag-aaway kami, imbis na pag-usapan, nagsesex nalang kaagad. (Before, whenever we

have arguments, we talk about the problem; now, instead of talking things out, we just have sex.), Cheska said.

In contrast with this, they feel they are more connected now compared before.

Comfortable na ako. Ganun na naman ako sakanya before, mas naging assertive lang after. (I am comfortable (with him) now. I have been comfortable with him since before; it is just now that I have become assertive), said Cheska.

Mas naging close kami sa isa't isa. Hindi na kami yung nagkakapaan pa kung ano ang dapat gawin, paano siya papasiyahin, ganun. (We became closer to each other. We do not test the water regarding what to do like how I am supposed to make him happy. Things like that.), added Jay.

Sex connects two individuals in a deeper level but involving oneself in a sexual relationship can also be complicated due to the conflicts and disagreements embroiled in it. However, because sex is pleasurable, Cheska and Jay cannot stop having sex and they use it (sex) in solving their problems, instead. Here, the advantage and disadvantage of sex as an activity performed by young couples are illustrated.

Relationship now that they are sexually active

Throughout the whole interview, the couple could be seen arguing every time a question was asked. Later they admitted that they have problems with communicating each other's standpoint. These problems are then resolved through sex.

Pag nagaaway kami, hindi na naayos, sex kaagad. (Whenever we fight, we resolve things by having sex.), said Cheska.

In their situation, sex is their means of resolving their arguments. The pleasure is taken as an advantage because it overpowers the negative emotions during a fight.

Importance of sex

Cheska and Jay believe that sex is essential in every relationship.

Syempre pag ginusto niya makipagsex sayo, talagang gustong gusto ka niya (Of course, when he wants to have sex with you, that means he really likes you.), said Jay.

Ginagawa mo kasi yun hindi lang para sa pleasure e, para may attachment kayo, para patunayan mo na mahal mo yung boyfriend mo (You do it (sex) not only for the pleasure but also for the attachment, so that you can prove that you really love your boyfriend.), added Cheska.

Jay agreed to this saying,

Oo, ginagawa mo yun kasi mahal mo yung isang tao. (Yes, you do it because you love that person.)

Ako, naramdaman ko na sobrang love ko pala talaga si Cheska. (I felt that I really love Cheska), he added.

Cheska believes that if someone has sex with you, it means that person really likes you, if not, loves you. She does not look into the possibility that a person may just want to have sex because he or she is only after the pleasure of having sex and nothing more. Jay's statement implies that pleasure comes first before actually feeling 'love' for his partner (Cheska). It can be assumed that for them, sex is a pleasurable activity and at the same time it has a way of normalizing things especially after a fight.

Decision-making and negotiation

Cheska and Jay both feel that they are assertive and direct in communicating their wants and opinions in matters involved in their relationship. However, this is the reason why they often argue. Nobody wants to back down; they both want to be heard.

With regards to sexual activities, turning one down would often lead to a fight and not talking.

Ah, away na yan, lalo na kasi madalas nung nagtatrabaho na ako busy na, pag pagod ako tapos siya nag-aya, away yun. (Ah, that would lead to a fight, especially when I started working and I got busy, whenever I feel tired and she initiates (having sex), we fight.), said Jay.

Nag-aaway kami lalo na pag hindi niya ako napagbibigyan o kaya hindi natuloy, mag-aaway na kami. Kasi naman nandun na tapos hindi pala pwede, e di magkakainisan na. (We argue especially when he does not give me what I want or it (sex) does not happen. Especially when we are in the moment of having sex then he will say no. Of course that will piss me off.), Cheska affirmed.

Jay said that their arguments, however, ends up with one of them giving in and then having sex.

Pagbibigyan ko nalang, kesa naman mag-away pa kami para lang don. (I usually give in instead of fighting just because of sex), he said.

Repetitive in this discussion is Cheska and Jay's use of sex as solution to their never-ending arguments and miscommunication. They are aware of this but still, they continue using sex to ease each other's tension during a fight.

Negotiation regarding the use of contraceptives is not present in the couple's relationship.

...pareho naman kaming ayaw gumamit ng condom pero mas ako yung may ayaw kasi nga hindi masarap yun. (...we both do not want to use a condom but I do not like it more because I do not find sex pleasurable using condoms.), Jay said.

Jay believes that he is assertive when it comes to the topic of not using contraceptives. For him, the only reason why he does not want to use condoms or any

other contraceptive is because of pleasure. In this case, Cheska agrees and prefers not to use as well.

E sabi niya pangit daw yung feeling e, so ayaw ko na rin. (He said that he does not want the feeling so I do not want to use [condoms] as well), she said.

The issue of pregnancy scares stems out from their preference of not using contraceptives. Since they do not talk about contraceptives, they also do not usually talk about the risks and consequences that may occur in engaging in unprotected sex.

Hindi namin napaguusapan yung pagbubuntis, isang beses lang nung nadelay siya ng sobrang tagal, pero sinabi ko naman sakanya na kung mabuntis ko man siya handa naman akong panagutan. (We talked about pregnancy just once when her period got delayed for a long time; but I told her that if ever she gets pregnant, I am willing to take responsibility.), he said.

Cheska, on the other hand, said that whenever they talk about pregnancy, they usually talk about what they will do if ever she is indeed pregnant.

Nag-uusap kami kung anong gagawin, tapos ita-try naming gumamit ng condom, yun pala na-stress lang ako noon kaya na-delay. Sabi niya if ever ganun, magdasal nalang tayo. (We talk about what we are going to do then we try to use condoms. However, it (delayed menstruation) was just because I was stressed out. He said that if ever it happens again, we will just have to pray.), she narrated.

Napag-usapan pa na pag na-delay pa ulit kausapin na yung parents, ganun. (We also agreed to talk to our parents if ever it (delayed menstruation) happens again), Cheska added.

The couple believes that although they love each other so much, there is little trust in their relationship, which is because they do not talk about their problems anymore.

Iniiwasan naming magaway, kung kinakailangan mag-usap nanaman kami, sagot lang doon sex... minsan feeling ko nagesex lang kami para di na pagusapan yung problema.

(We avoid arguments, if we ever need to talk about it, the answer would be sex. Sometimes I feel like we have sex so we would not talk about our problems anymore.), Cheska said.

Moreover, Jay believes that Cheska's unpredictable nature is the reason why they always fight.

...ang gulo niya din kasi minsan kausap at nakakainis na yun minsan. (...sometimes she is really hard to understand and I get frustrated.), Jay said.

Their lack of communication inside the relationship might weed problems in the future if not attended to. Sex is their way of communicating their problems; but sex alone is not enough to solve these conflicts.

Gender Roles

Cheska and Jay, although thinking they have liberal beliefs, can still be classified as a conservative couple. It could be inferred from the data that the couple still follows the norm. They still assume their roles based on their gender wherein the male is the dominant one and the female submits in every negotiation and decision-making that they do.

For Jay, his direct and assertive manner of communicating his wants with his partner is because of what he believes is expected of him.

E lalaki ako e, dapat alam ko kung ano ang gusto ko, para ako yung masunod, (It is because I am the man. I should know what I want so that I get the final say.), he said.

Cheska, although believing that she is assertive, is usually the one who submits in their relationship. She usually lets Jay decide with everything, from their first sexual encounter to her attitude towards contraceptives.

Also, Cheska, as mentioned above, still follows the common belief that girls should wait for the right guy to lose her virginity with while Jay said that it is okay for him since he is a guy.

It is obvious that the couple have traditional beliefs and still follow traditional gender roles of masculinity and femininity. Although both are assertive and outspoken in the relationship, after some time during the argument, Cheska shared that she will always be the one who gives in.

This shows that they have a complementary relationship.

Socio-cultural factors

Family

Both Cheska and Jay come from conventional families and this influences the couple's attitude towards contraceptives and communication regarding the risks and consequences of having sex.

Cheska narrated that her mother got pregnant while taking pills. This made Cheska decide not to trust contraceptives. However, they (family) are also the reason why they talk about solutions if ever Cheska gets pregnant.

Siyempre pag nabuntis, malalaman na. Mapapatay talaga kami ng parents niya (Cheska) pag nalaman. (Of course if she (Cheska) gets pregnant, they (parents) will know. Her parents will kill us if they find out.), Jay said.

The couple believes that their families do not have any effect on their frequency of sexual activities or negotiation skills; they only serve as reminders that they should be careful not to get pregnant.

Friends and Media

Friends and media do not have direct influence on the couple's relationship. They do not consider these as factors that either enhance or impede their sexual activities or help in their decision making and negotiation.

The researchers however noted that the influences of these two factors may not be obvious to the couple but are still present in the relationship. Like when Cheska narrated in the earlier parts of the interview how her friends know of her sexual relationship with Jay, this shows that she is open about her sexuality with her friends but not with her family. The researchers may then assume that sharing sensual details to friends affect Cheska in her partnership with Jay. But this assumption can only be clarified by Cheska herself.

Religion

Religion, on the other hand, greatly affects the couple's attitude towards the use of contraceptives. Being devout Catholics, they believe that being pregnant would be God's will and if ever Cheska gets pregnant, God will forgive them and even help them cross the challenges they will face. This is also the reason why they prefer natural methods over modern contraceptives.

Kung will naman ni God na magkaanak na kayo, edi magkakaanak kayo, hindi naming madalas pinaguusapan

yan kasi hindi ko naman din gusto gumamit. Natural methods nalang. (If it is God's will that you have a baby, then you really will have a baby. We do not usually talk about it (use of contraceptives) because I also do not want to use it (condoms). I prefer natural methods.), Cheska said.

Also, the couple believes that God will help them with their problems (if ever Cheska gets pregnant) if they pray.

...yung isang beses lang na na-delay ako pumunta kami ng church at nagdasal tapos pinagusapan namin na wag na muna gawin yun at kung buntis man, kausapin na ang parents. (...there was that time when my period got delayed, we went to church and prayed. Also, we talked that we will not do it again and if ever I am really pregnant, we will talk to our parents.), Cheska narrated.

Education and Economic Status

Both Cheska and Jay have already finished their college education and are currently working. Both also came from middle class families. From these, it could be implied that their equal educational background and social status are factors that helped the couple become assertive in their relationship.

It was not mentioned in the discussion whether education is a big factor in their negotiation inside the relationship; however, the researchers noted that since both of them finished college, this makes Cheska and Jay equipped with knowledge on the risks and consequences of unsafe sex and that they will be able to make mature decisions regarding this matter.

Rica and Efren

Efren

Efren is a 24-year-old businessman who came from a middle class family. He dropped out of college and started to turn his hobby of fixing cars into a business. He is currently managing his own auto repair shop and is earning well for himself. He is a self-confessed non-practicing Catholic.

His first sexual encounter happened when he was 19 years old with his girlfriend of two months. It (sex) happened only once and his second was with Rica.

Efren has a clear mindset of opening his own car salon someday; with this, he makes sure to practice safe sex with Rica so as not to sabotage his career. He is open with PMS without the binds of religious beliefs. Friends are not influensive in his sexual behavior since he admits that he is not the social type.

For his age, he is apparently mature with regard to his behaviors and personal outlooks and plans.

Rica

Rica earned her vocational course certificate two years ago at a well-known fashion school. After she got her certificate, she turned her hobby and knowledge in making accessories and clothes into a successful online business. She comes from a middle class, traditional Catholic family who she still lives with. She is currently studying advanced fashion courses in Makati. Rica is a self-confessed non-practicing Catholic despite her family background.

Her first sexual encounter happened when she was 15 years old with her first boyfriend. It happened after their 4th month of being together. After which, she had two other sexual partners prior to Efren. Engaging in PMS at an early age made her open in discussing her past sexual experiences with other people.

Rica's familial background and spiritual beliefs makes her permissive to engaging in PMS at a young age. Her past experiences taught her well enough that after a failed relationship, it is not a woman's loss; she believes that a woman of her age must enjoy life to the fullest. She is serious with her relationship with Efren but is open with the possibility that there might be circumstances which may result to them not ending up being together. This makes her independent in nature at age 19.

Rica and Efren (in a relationship for 2 years)

They met over the Internet. Efren was browsing through a common friend's friend list, saw Rica's Friendster profile and got attracted to her. He added her up and she approved his friend request. After exchanging personal messages for almost two years, Efren asked Rica to meet him somewhere near Rica's house. At first, Rica was a little hesitant but Efren persuaded her to go and they met for the very first time. It was obvious that there was instant connection between them and they continuously went out on "secret" dates because Rica was still trying to get out of a complicated relationship.

New media in the form of social networking sites brought them together. These types of relationships are common in this generation. Most do not last but some, like in Efren's and Rica's case, the relationship worked out.

First sexual encounter

They started hanging out at Rica's house and one night, after drinking bottles of beer, they decided to finally do it (sex) for the first time.

Pumupunta na kasi siya sa bahay, tapos nagiiinuman kami nila mommy, e iniwan na niya (mother) kami kasi matutulog na siya, edi ginawa na namin. (He usually goes to our house. One time, we were drinking alcohol with my mom, she (mother) left us because she wanted to sleep then we did it (sex) thereafter.), Rica shared.

It was Rica who initiated the act by kissing Efren.

E siya kasi e, nagsmile-smile siya tapos ang cute tuloy, tapos pagtapos non hinawakan niya katawan ko tapos yun na. (It is his fault! He was smiling and he looks so cute. After that (kissing Efren), he touched my body and we did it (sex)), Rica reasoned out.

For the couple, no socio-cultural factors influenced their decision to do it for the first time.

Ano lang yun, nasa moment lang. Nagkiss kami tapos yun na. (We were in the moment. We kissed and that started everything.), said Efren.

Crush ko na kasi siya non. (He has been my long time crush.), Rica reasoned out.

Efren agreed that the feeling was mutual so there he cannot see a reason not to do it. It was after the act that they decided to officially brand themselves as a couple.

Since their first sexual encounter was a spontaneous one they were not able to use contraceptives which is why they got paranoid after. Efren said:

Walang gamit kaya, baka mabuntis ko siya. (I might get her (Rica) pregnant because we did not use contraceptives).

This event shows the liberal and outgoing nature of Rica, clearly deviating from the norm that girls should wait for the guys to make the first move.

Subsequent sexual encounters

Due to a pregnancy scare, their next sexual encounter happened a month after their first. When asked what sexual activities they usually do, Efren answered:

Lahat except oral sex (Everything except oral sex)

then Rica interrupted saying:

...laging hands lang (We always do it with our hands).

These sexual activities include kissing and foreplay usually done in their rooms, motels, and in their cars.

When asked who initiates these sexual activities Efren said:

Laging pareho, nagdidikit lang kami tapos yun na. (Both of us (initiate), we just touch each other then we do it (sexual activities).)

Dati, ako masyado, ngayun si (Efren) na. (At first, I usually initiate, now it is (Efren) who initiates.), Rica interrupted.

The sexual activities that they often do such as kissing and foreplay usually lead to sex, only if Efren brought protection because of their scare during the first time.

Hindi pwedeng wala kasi delikado, tsaka para maiwasan yung takot na baka meron. (We do not do it (sex) without condoms because it is risky. Also, it is to ease the anxiety that she (Rica) might be pregnant.), said Efren.

Minsan lalabas pa siya pupunta siya ng Mini Stop para bumili pag wala siyang dala. (Sometimes he (Efren) will go to Mini Stop just to buy if he was not able to bring one (condom), Rica said.

Despite the couple's busy schedules, they make time to see each other every other day. It is in these days that they usually engage in sexual intercourse.

Every Monday and Wednesday kami nag gaganun (sex), hindi kasi pwede pag Friday kasi may tao e. (We have sex every Monday and Wednesday. We do not do it (sex) when it is Friday because there are people (in the house)), Rica said.

Use of Contraceptives

After their first sexual encounter, the couple never failed to use condoms for protection. Both have positive views on the use of contraceptives because according to Rica:

...napakaimportante niya para maprevent ang paggawa ng baby. (It is very important to prevent the risk of having a baby.)

Also, they believe that contraceptives are for people who are not ready to have a family yet.

...para sa mga taong hindi pa ready pero gusto ng gawin (...it is for people who are not yet ready (to have a baby) but want to do it.), said Efren.

The couple's positive attitude is mainly because of their families. Family members remind them to practice safe sex.

Sabi ng tita ko kapag hindi na mapigilan, basta gumamit ng protection,(My auntie told me that if we cannot manage the urge anymore, we just have to use protection.) said Rica.

Friends who got pregnant early were also a factor why the couple believes that they should use contraceptives when engaging in sexual intercourse.

...yung mga nakikita sa ibang tao. May mga friend kami na ang bata pa may anak na. (We see the case of other people. We have friends who, at their young age, already have babies), Efren said.

Risks and Consequences

Rica and Efren talk about risks and consequences of engaging in sexual activities often. These include pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

The couple's biggest concern is pregnancy mainly because it might ruin their future.

Nakakatakot mabuntis (siya) kasi baka masira yung buhay, yung future. (I am scared that she (Rica) might get pregnant because this might ruin our life and future.), said Efren.

Tsaka ano, baka magkagulo. (Also because it (getting pregnant) might mess things up.), Rica added.

The couples usually talk about these risks and consequences because of fear and their families.

Papatayin ako ni mommy. (My mother will kill me.), Rica said.

It is the fear of getting pregnant that Rica and Efren decide to always use condoms during sexual intercourse. Throughout the interview, they did not mention

“pleasure” as part of their reasons; this is different from the case of the other couples the researchers interviewed.

Relationship before and after having sex

Efren said that before they had sex they were not that comfortable with each other.

May ilangan pa. Nageexplore pa kami para malaman yung gusto ng isa't isa. Puro pa pa-cute. (We are not that comfortable with each other. We are still exploring what each other want and keeps trying to impress the other.), he said.

Puro kilig. (There is this giddy feeling.), Rica added.

However, after having sex, the couple felt at ease with each other and that their relationship became more serious.

Wala na masyadong pa-cute tapos parang you want more sex! (We are done trying to impress each other and now you want more sex.), said Efren

Rica believes that Efren became sweeter after having sex.

Mas naging sweet siya sakin at mas nafe-feel mo yung bond. (He (Efren) became sweeter to me and I felt that we are bonded.), she said.

Similar to other normal couples, sex brings two people closer together, combining intimacy with doses of passion.

Relationship now that they are sexually active

Now that they are sexually active, the couple said that they are more comfortable with each other.

Parang mas masaya, sobrang love ko na siya. (I felt happier, I love him so much because of it (sex).), said Rica.

Efren also believed that there is assurance that they will work things out no matter what happens. This shows his maturity in dealing with their usual misunderstandings.

Kahit anong mangyari, iwo-work out niyo yung problema. (No matter what happens, we will try to work out our problems.), he said.

Also, they said that being sexually active drew them closer to each other.

Mas naging close na kami, kahit ano pwede ko na sabihin sakanya. (We became closer to each other and I felt like I can tell him anything.), said Rica.

Importance of sex in a relationship

Sex, for Efren and Rica is important because as Efren put it:

Nagpapalevel-up siya ng relationship... may excitement, pampa-hot at pampagana sa relationship. (It (sex) boosts the relationship. It gives excitement and spice to the relationship.)

Rica also said that sex made her want Efren more.

Yun yung nagpapa-adik sa kin kay (Efren). (It (sex) is what makes me want him (Efren) more.), she said.

The couple also believes that without sex, their relationship would be boring. For Efren, sex gives spice to their relationship. He said that:

Yun kasi yung pampagana, yung pampaexcite sa relationship, pag wala yun, mababawasan yung happiness. (It (sex) is what makes the relationship more exciting. Without it (sex), it would not be as happy.)

Oo, kasi pag wala na yun puro na siya work, hindi na siya pupunta dito. (Yes, because without it he will focus on his work and he will not visit me anymore.), Rica butted in.

It could be implied that sex gives their relationship thrill and excitement. The biological explanation will be discussed by Prof. Taduran in the proceeding sections. Also, Rica mentioned that without sex, Efren will turn to his work and not visit her; this suggests that Rica then uses sex to keep her boyfriend attached and interested in her.

Decision-making and negotiation

In discussing matters within their relationship, both do not hesitate to tell the other when they are not in the mood to have sex.

Sinasabi niya (Rica) kapag wala siya sa mood o kaya di pa siya nagkakaran. Ako naman game always e. (She (Rica) tells me when she is not in the mood or she has not had her period. I, on the other hand, am always game.), Efren narrated.

Minsan kapag nasira yung mood niya (Efren), ayaw niya. (Sometimes, when his mood changes, he (Efren) does not want to have sex.), Rica said.

However, not wanting to have sex is not a source of their arguments. The couple respects each other when they do not want to (have sex) and does not force the other to do what they want; instead, they look forward for their next try in having sex with each other.

Wala naman, hindi naman ako nagagalit o nalulungkot. Better luck next time. (I do not get mad or sad. Better luck next time.), said Efren.

Wala. Okay lang naman sa kanya, next time nalang kasi ayaw ko talaga e. (It is fine with him, if I really do not want to (have sex) and say that there is always a next time.), said Rica when asked what Efren does when she turns him down.

The couple is also very open in talking about the use of contraceptives because they acknowledge the presence of the risks and consequences when engaging in sexual intercourse.

These situations exhibit Rica and Efren's mature and rational way of thinking. The couple thinks about the consequences of their actions before doing it unlike other adolescents of their age who are impulsive in nature.

Rica is usually the one who initiates talks regarding the risks and consequences of sex especially when she becomes paranoid a week after their last sexual intercourse. The researchers use the term "paraoid" in describing Rica's reaction because from her narration, the researchers feel the tense and the height of her emotions. In addition to this, she admits that she always experience pregnancy scares each and everytime they have sex. This might be because of her young age. Her naivety is reflected on her repetitive reaction after sexual intercourse.

Tinetext ko siya lagi kung wala ba, tapos naiinis siya sakin kasi alam ko naman daw na wala talaga. (I text him asking him if he really did not do anything and he gets mad at me because he said that I know that he did not do anything.), said Rica.

Hindi naman ako naiinis, okay lang naman yun. (I do not get mad, it really is fine with me.), Efren disagrees.

Most of the time, Rica just looks for reassurance that she is not pregnant and she gets it when Efren tells her that there is nothing to be scared of.

Kino-convince ko siya (Rica) na wala yun, na okay lang yan at no worries. (I convince her that there really is nothing, that it is okay and that she should not worry.), he said.

When asked who usually decides about things in their relationship, Efren immediately said that both of them do, while Rica contradicts this saying:

Ano ka, ikaw (Efren) lagi. (What are you talking about? You (Efren) always do.)

Sumusunod kaya ako sayo. (I always abide with you.), argued Efren.

In the end, the couple both agreed that it is Efren who usually gets the final say in deciding. This is normal in a relationship where the male is older than the female partner by a couple of years.

Gender Roles

It could be observed that due to the 5-year age gap of the couple, their assumed roles in the relationship makes it an open and carefree one. Rica, being younger, is usually the one being taken care of, and Efren feels the need to take care of her.

Though no one dominates over the other, Efren feels compelled to assume the mature role in the relationship. He usually is the one who finds a way to solve their problems, probably because he is older than her.

Kasi pag nagaaway kami, syempre, kailangan may gumawa ng solusyon, ako na yun. (Because when we argue, there has to be someone who solves the problem, I do that.), Efren said.

Rica's childish attitude usually is the cause of their arguments. This could be because of her young age and her assumed role in the relationship

Minsan dahil lang sa pimple, magagalit na siya (Rica). (Sometimes she gets mad just because of a pimple.), Efren narrated.

Rica, confirmed this "childish" attitude by saying:

E kasi hindi na niya ako love, titingin na siya sa ibang babae. (That is because he does not love me anymore and he will look for another girl.)

These kinds of arguments usually end up with Rica saying sorry to Efren and they would be okay.

From the instances mentioned above, it could be inferred that Rica assumes the female role of wanting to be protected, courted and assured of love all the time while Efren assumes the role of the protector.

Although the couple plays traditional roles in the relationship, there is no power struggle within their partnership. The couple believes that they have equal rights and so both can assert their views towards a certain matter.

They also believe that their relationship is a give-and-take one. Rica gets to respect Efren; while Efren gives in to Rica's concerns.

Socio-cultural factors

Family

From what has been gathered, it could be said that family has a big influence on the couple's decision-making and negotiation. Both consider what their parents might say whenever they do something.

The couple uses contraceptives because they do not want their parents to find out that they are having sex. Also, they consider their respective families' reaction if ever Rica gets pregnant early; therefore making them open to talking about the risks and consequences when having sex.

However, the couple does not think that their families influence their decision in having sex and the frequency of doing it. They believe that they do it because they want to.

Friends

Friends are also a big influence on the couple's relationship. They are a great source of tips for their sexual relationship. Since both openly talk to their friends about being sexually active, Efren and Rica get information and inspiration on having sex.

Madami silang tips kung paano yung gagawin para mas ganahan yung lalaki. (They give me lots of tips on how I can better please my man.), said Rica

Minsan dun mo malalaman yung dapat at hindi dapat gawin. (Sometimes that is where you learn what you should do and should not do), Efren added.

Moreover, the couple's friends opened them to the risks and consequences present when having sex. Therefore, making them more cautious and at the same time paranoid about early pregnancy.

Meron kasi kaming friend na nagkaanak sila nang maaga, tapos ngayon magkahiwalay na sila, ayaw namin matulad don. (We have friends that had a baby at an early age, now they got separated and we do not want that to happen to us.), Efren explained.

Media

Media is also a factor that enhances the couple's sexual activities and is a great source of information.

Rica narrated how watching movies with sexual content makes Efren want to have sex with her.

Nung nanood kami ng Friends with Benefits, pinipilit niya (Efren) ako mag-ganun (sex). (There was a time that he asked me to have sex with him after watching Friends with Benefits.) , she said.

This clearly shows that media with sexually explicit content stimulates sexual desires among young adolescents, especially among the males. This situation can be found in the literature.

However, when it comes to the use of contraceptives and the risks and consequences, media just informs the couple but does not directly influence them in any way.

Religion

Both Efren and Rica are non-practicing Catholics. Rica narrated that when she was just a kid, her family went to church and she saw images of Jesus hanging on the cross, smeared with blood and with thorns on His head. Rica was traumatized of the images more specifically the statue of Jesus. Since then, she has not entered church again. Her child-like attitude affects her religious affiliation. On the other hand, Efren does not go to church very often by choice. His personality prevents him from attending mass gatherings even church services. He admits disliking events or activities attended by a large number of people. As Rica puts it:

Hindi talaga siya (Efren) mahilig sa mga ganung bagay. Hindi sya bumabarkada. Pag magkikita nga kami mas gusto nya yung sa bahay na lang tapos magsex na lang. (Efren does not enjoy those kind of activities. He does not go out on gigs with friends. Whenever we see each other, he even prefers staying at home and just have sex.)

Rica and Efren are not active in church-related activities. Given these circumstances, the couple does not think that religion influenced them in any way regarding their relationship.

Education and Economic Status

Rica and Efren's same economic status and level of education make them both opinionated and knowledgeable in dealing with their relationship. This also makes them comfortable in communicating with each other.

However they believe that those factors just influence them and the final decision is still up to them.

Kaming dalawa lang, gusto ko kasi siya. (It is between the two of us, it is because I like her.), Efren said.

Also Rica added that:

Minsan sa isip ko lang, lalo na pag nakikita ko yung Adam's apple niya, ang ganda kasi e. (Sometimes it just comes to me, especially when I see his Adam's apple. It is really nice.)

From the discussions, it is evident that Rica is childish and Efren stabilizes this with his maturity. They share a complementary relationship but it works positively in their situation. Both of them pursued their vocational courses and turned their hobbies to profit-making. Their goals in business make them careful in not having Rica pregnant because this will affect their career-making phase which would impact their future life together.

Trish and RJ

RJ

RJ is a 21-year-old male who comes from a lower middle class Catholic family. His family is a traditional one wherein talks about sex are not tolerated. He is a nursing graduate who is currently reviewing for the next batch of nursing board examinations.

He first had sex when he was 19 years old. Although RJ and Trish have broken up several times, he said that Trish was the only sexual partner he had.

RJ's family, a devout Catholic, is probably a factor in keeping him loyal to Trish. He values her yet at the same time prioritizes his nursing career.

Trish

Trish is a 20-year-old college student who is in her last year studying BS Entrepreneur. She comes from a rich Catholic family where topics such as sex are taboo.

Her first sexual encounter happened with RJ when she was 18 years old. Although they have talked about it in the past, she waited until she was of legal age before doing the act. When they decided to call their relationship off, Trish confessed to having another sexual partner which stopped when they (Trish and RJ) got back together.

It is relevant in the description that religion was a factor in delaying PMS, waiting to engage in it at the right age. Her family also affects her decisions in engaging in PMS.

Trish and RJ (in a relationship for 5 years)

Trish and RJ studied in the same school and became real close because they belonged to the same circle of friends.

Kasi naging close kami nung fourth year talaga dahil nga classmates kami tapos yung friends ko, friends din niya. Tapos ayun, inasar na kami tapos niligawan niya ako. (We became close in our fourth year because we were classmates and we had the same set of friends.), Trish narrated.

The couple's friendship developed into a romantic relationship. This is common among high school students but not all relationships last as long as 5 years. Trish and RJ's foundation – their friendship, is strong enough to hold them together until today. Probably, this is also due to their involvement in the same group of friends which the

researchers assumed to be a factor in keeping their relationship intact by providing guidance and help during conflicts.

First sexual encounter

During the course of the interview, it was Trish who usually answers because she notes every detail of their relationship. When asked when their first sexual encounter happened, RJ replied:

Tagal na non e, hindi ko maalala. (That was a long time ago, I cannot remember anymore.)

Trish, however said:

2009, gusto mo may date pa e, March 7, tandang-tanda ko talaga. (2009, if you want to know the date it is March 7. Yes, I still remember it.)

Females are more sentimental and emotionally-attached compared to males. Trish remembers dates and events which she believes to be significant in her life; and this includes her first sexual intercourse with RJ.

According to Trish, it was RJ who initiated the act.

May isa kasi diyan (RJ) bigla nalang nag-aya. Kasi nasa kwarto kami ng friend namin tapos wala kaming magawa. (He suddenly asked me to do it (sex) because we were in our friend's room and we have nothing else to do.), she said.

Sabi niya (RJ) try lang, sabi ko naman, okay lang. (He said that we should try it and I said that it is okay.), she added.

Submission is a traditional role of females and dominance for males. It could therefore be inferred that the couple assumes traditional roles of men and women.

The strongest factor that influenced their first sexual encounter was their friends.

Yung girlfriend kasi ng friend namin, parati kong kasama tapos lagi siyang nagkkwento nung ginagawa nila, kaya yun nacurious ako. (I was always with our friend's girlfriend and she always tells me stories about what they do and I got curious.), said Trish.

Also, their physiological needs are inevitable.

Impulse kasi yun! (It is an impulse!), said RJ.

The couple also acknowledged media and education as factors that influenced them in doing the act.

Yan (RJ) kasi mahilig manuod ng porn, siguro movies din nakakaapekto sa amin. (He (RJ) likes to watch porn. I think movies influenced us.), said Trish.

Mahilig yan sa anatomy e. (He likes studying anatomy.), she jokingly said about why education was a factor.

Trish agreed to have sex for the first time because RJ has been asking her for a long time but she was waiting for her to be of legal age before doing it. She believes that being of legal age may lessen the guilty feeling afterwards.

...dati pa siya (RJ) nagaaya bago pa yun, inantay ko muna na 18 na ako para legal na ako. (He keeps on asking me for a long time but I waited until I was 18 so I am of legal age.), she said.

They used a condom but since it was something they had not planned on doing, they asked their friend from the other room, to spare them one.

Kasi sila muna nung girlfriend niya (friend), pinahiwalay nila kami e wala kaming magawa, tapos sabi ni (RJ) try daw naming manghingi ng condom sa kabilang kwarto. (Our friend and his girlfriend started doing it (having sex), so they asked us to go to the other room, and since we do not have anything else to do, He (RJ) said that we should try asking for a condom from the other room.), said Trish.

First time din kasi namin, so syempre takot pa. (It was our first time so we were scared.), RJ reasoned out on why they opted to use a condom.

This shows how friends are a great factor in the couple's first sexual encounter and that both Trish and RJ are open in discussing their sexual activities to their friends.

Trish shared that before her first sexual encounter she felt nervous, while RJ added:

Nakakasabik din, nakakakaba na nakakasabik. (It is exciting. It is exciting and scary at the same time.)

This shows that the female is afraid of losing something significant to her while the male is excited to try something new. Men are conquerors in nature and women tend to be meek and careful of losing their virginity.

Both of them admitted that they were happy that the act happened. However, Trish said that she felt pain because it was her first time.

Nasaktan ako, kasi alam mo na, ang sakit e. (I got hurt. It was really painful.), she said.

Subsequent sexual encounters

When asked what sexual activities they usually do, RJ replied:

Ahh, lahat ng pwedeng gawin, ginagawa namin.
(Everything that we can do, we do it.)

Trish elaborated this saying that it is usually kissing, touching and oral sex.

The frequency of doing these sexual activities usually depends on their partner's availability.

Madalas, depende kung lagi kami nagkikita, mas mataas yung chance na gawin namin yun. (It depends if we see each other often then there is a big chance that we will do it (sexual activities).), said RJ.

Also, the couple said that these sexual activities more often lead to sexual intercourse.

Siyempre dapat foreplay muna. (Of course it should start with foreplay.), Trish reasoned out.

Venues of these sexual activities include motels, comfort rooms and RJ's room.

Trish also added that they do it wherever and whenever they want to.

...kung san lang datnan. (Wherever we feel the urge to do (it).), she said.

Depende yun sa tawag ng laman. (It depends on our physiological needs.), added RJ.

Their shared sexual activities suggest extreme sexual urges which further implies that sex is addictive for them. This shows that young adolescents, in their nature, are sexual individuals in their peaks of sexual maturity and curiosity. It is in their hormones that they feel the need to satisfy these urges.

Use of Contraceptives

Condom is the couple's most used contraceptive and they frequently used it during their first year.

Nung first year namin, talagang laging meron, pero nung mga sumunod na, hindi na kami gumagamit. (During our first year, we never fail to use one, however, after that we stopped using it (condoms).), said RJ.

This is mostly because both have negative attitude in using contraceptives because of the lack of pleasure.

...hindi naman masarap e. (It does not feel good.), Trish said.

...wala kang mararamdaman na (pleasure). (You would not feel pleasure.), RJ added.

Also, RJ's knowledge about natural and artificial contraceptives made them confident that risks such as pregnancy would not happen.

Napag-aralan ko na kasi, kaya yun, alam ko na. (I have already studied about it (contraceptives) so I know what to do already.), he said.

Risks and Consequences

The couple enumerated a number of possible risks and consequences that can happen when they engage in sexual activities. Trish said:

Madami. Unwanted pregnancy, mga sakit at panloloko. (There are a lot of risks and consequences like unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and gossips.)

Iniisip din naman kung malaman ng parents, anong gagawin. (We also think of what we are going to do if our parents find out.), RJ added.

Although they acknowledge that these risks and consequences may happen to them, Trish and RJ believe that all goes out the window when you are about to do the act.

The sexual urge blinds their judgment.

...pag nandon ka na din naman kasi, hindi mo na maiisip e. After nalang talaga. (...when you are in that situation you would not be able to think about it (consequences), just afterwards.), Trish said.

Moreover, these do not affect their frequency in engaging in sexual activities and without contraceptives at that.

Hindi naman, dati nung mga unang taon natatakot kami, pero nung sanay na, hindi na rin. (Not really, during our first year we got scared but when we got used to it, we got braver.), said RJ.

Couples who have long been sexually active give less concern on the risks and consequences of PMS. RJ and Trish is an example of a couple who got through with the possible challenges of PMS; since they have surpassed the pregnancy scares a couple of times, they feel that the next sexual act will less likely result to pregnancy. Their 5 years of being together taught them well to trust each other and manage the risk and consequences of PMS.

Relationship before and after having sex

The couple described their relationship before having sex as not serious enough.

...nung una puro kilig pa. Parang pang- high school lang talaga. Puppy love. (At first, you still feel that giddy feeling. The (relationship) is so high schoolish, it is what you call puppy love.), RJ replied.

Afterwards, the couple believed that they became more attached to each other and their relationship became a more serious one.

Mas na-attach ka na. Tapos seryoso na kayo, hindi na yung puro kilig-kilig lang. Dun mo na mararamdaman na sobrang love mo na yung tao, kasi siyempre hindi mo naman gagawin yun sa taong hindi mo gusto diba? (I got more attached. It (relationship) felt more serious not full of those giddy and cute feeling. I also felt that I love him (RJ) more because of course you would not do that with someone who you do not like, right?), Trish said.

Relationship now that they are sexually active

The couple, now that they are sexually active, are close and comfortable with each other. However, their break up made them not as open to each other the second time they got back together. Because of this, it can be implied that the couple had doubts in their relationship.

Siyempre minsan magdududa ka na din, kasi iniisip mo, ano kaya ginawa niya (RJ) nung break kami. (Of course, sometimes I have my doubts because I keep thinking about what he did when we were on a break.), she said.

RJ, however denied this, saying:

Grabe ka naman, wala naman talaga. (That is a bit unfair, I did nothing.)

Jealousy and doubts are normal parts of sexual relationships because the couples have bonded biologically. This will further be explained by key informant Prof. Taduran in the succeeding section.

Importance of sex in the relationship

The couple believes that sex is important because it brings their relationship into a deeper level.

Sex is love., said RJ.

Trish, on the other hand, believes that engaging in sex made her love her partner more. Being in this relationship for 5 years made them closer and bonded to each other. Sex, for them is a normal thing couples do. In RJ's answer of what sex is, wherein he defined sex as love, means that his view of sex changed from physiological urges to a form of passion, attachment and intimacy with his partner. However, his definition of

sex overlaps with the meaning he gives to love. Hence, it can be inferred that the feeling of being in love with their partner is required in sexual relationships.

Decision-making and negotiation

There are usually arguments in the relationship because they do not want to give in and agree with what their partner wants.

Dati parating siya (RJ) yung nasusunod, pero siyempre ngayun, nung nagbreak na, iba na. Nagsasabi na talaga ako ng gusto ko at ayaw ko. (At first he always gets what he wants, but after we got back together, everything has changed. I tell him what I want and what I do not want.), Trish said.

Also, the couple does not talk about the use of contraceptives even though Trish admitted to being scared of getting pregnant early.

Natatakot ako madisgrasya. (I am scared of getting pregnant at an early age.), she said.

...e ayaw niya e, tsaka hindi naman kasi masarap talaga kaya wag nalang. Sabi naman niya alam niya kung paano e. (...he does not want to use one, and I do not like the feeling to so I opt not to use one to. Besides, he said he knows what he is doing.), she added when asked why they do not use contraceptives if she is scared of getting pregnant early.

Although the couple had a pregnancy scare once, their communication with regards to risks and consequences is significantly low. Mostly they rely on RJ's knowledge being a nursing student and knowledgeable of the natural and modern contraceptives.

Pag sinabi naman niyang (RJ) wala, edi wala. Siya may alam non, siya yung nag-aaral e. (When he tells me there is nothing wrong, I believe him. He knows what he is doing, he is the one who is studying these things.), said Trish.

Trish also admitted to never having to be turned down because she never initiates talks regarding sexual activities. It is RJ who initiates and she agrees because she wants to.

E kasi nga gusto ko rin naman. Bakit ako hihindi? (I like to do it too, so why would I say no?), she said.

Gender Roles

From the interview, it could be noted that although they have modern and liberal beliefs regarding sex and sex related matters, the couple still follows traditional gender roles in which the girls should make partner happy while the guys should be in control of the relationship. In this case, Trish feels obliged to follow whatever it is that RJ says. RJ's educational background may have also influenced this form of dominance over her partner since his educational background makes him more knowledgeable in matters concerning reproductive health in general.

The couple, although indirectly, follows the concept of dominance and submission (the girl submits and the guy dominates) in their relationship. They have a complementary relationship wherein Trish does not feel the need to assert herself in negotiations and decision-making and submits to RJ's whims.

It could be inferred that the couple's roles in the relationship are definite and are not interchangeable.

Socio-cultural factors

Family

Both Trish and RJ come from traditional Catholic families where topics such as sex are taboo. This restriction could be the reason why both do not feel the need to talk about their sexual relationship. Although they are scared that their parents would find out about their relationship, the couple do not talk about solutions if ever the consequences and risks present in engaging in unprotected sex arise.

Syempre takot kaming malaman ng parents namin na nagsesex kami. Pero tingin ko, they know since matagal na rin kaming mag-boyfriend (ni RJ). (Of course we are afraid our parents might find out we are sexually active. But I think they know already since RJ and I have been together for a long time now), said Trish.

The statement suggests that couples who have been together for a long time can be automatically assumed to be sexually active. However, since there are prohibitions in discussing this matter inside their family, the researchers assume that the parents prefer not to talk about sex.

In terms of their personality, the traditional beliefs of their families might have been imbibed in them and could be a reason why they assume traditional roles in their relationship. RJ's strong and assertive characteristic was cultivated in his family.

Friends

Friends are a very good source of information and knowledge regarding the couple's sexual relationship.

Their first sexual encounter was influenced by their friends' stories of engaging in intercourse which aroused the couple's curiosity and therefore trying it too. Right even

the exact moment of their first sexual intercourse as a couple, they were influenced by their friends who were then having sex in the other room.

Also, their use of contraceptives for their first few years was influenced by their peers with sexual experiences.

Alam mo naman kasi sa barkada namin ang dami ng nabuntis, syempre para maprevent yung unwanted pregnancy. (I have lots of friends inside my circle that became pregnant early, for me it is important to prevent unwanted pregnancy.), said Trish.

However, their peers do not have any effect on the couple's communication with regards to risks and consequences and the frequency of sexual activities. During Trish and RJ's first few years, they admitted to having sex almost everyday and anywhere, including comfort rooms.

Also, the couple believes that decision-making and negotiation in their relationship were not affected by their friends. The couples' friends with sexual experiences inform them only on tips regarding the use of contraceptives. These tips include what condom brand to use and when to use it, trying out pills, etc.

But basically, the final decision comes from them and in their case, RJ decides more than Trish.

Media and Religion

The couple does not acknowledge media and religion as factors which affect any aspect of their relationship. They believe that these do not influence their decisions regarding certain matters such as contraceptive use and frequency of sexual activities. This is probably because during the discussion, the couple took the concept of "media

influence” too general. Influence for them is defined as direct influence which consciously affects their sexual activities; hence, they do not consider any socio-cultural factors as outside forces that may affect their sexual relationships. Both RJ and Trish have full access to media – newspaper, radio, TV and Internet but they do not consider these information relevant to them. They are passive individuals who prefer personal interaction – sharing of sexual experiences and stories, than active recipients of media messages. The researchers however, believe that RJ’s occasional reading or viewing of pornographic pictures and videos influence his aggressiveness in terms of their performance of sexual activities.

Similarly, RJ and Trish are non-practicing Catholics. They do not attend religious activities, gatherings and even masses, unless compelled by their parents, who are devout Catholics. Absence in church activities lessens religion’s stronghold on preventing and/or managing young adolescent sexual behaviour.

Education and Economic Status

During the discussion, though RJ and Trish do not consider socio-cultural factors as outside forces that affect their sexual relationship, the researchers observed and noted that education directly influences the negotiation of the couple, specifically in terms of their communication aspect. Poor communication with regards to contraceptive use and risks and consequences is because of RJ’s confidence that he knows how not to get Trish pregnant as he is a nursing student and they are taught these things in their university.

However, these factors although influence them do not necessarily enhance or impede the couple’s sexual activities.

Hindi nakakaapekto, para sa kin kasi... physiological need kasi yun. (Socio-cultural factors do not affect our sexual activities. For me, it is because it is a physiological need), RJ said.

Trish was observed to be dependent of RJ's knowledge on matters dealing with sexual activities. She believes in her boyfriend because he assures her that his background in nursing makes him reliable in sexual concerns within their relationship. Somehow, this is a form of intellectual authority of a male over a female who has no background in the biology of sex. The male projects his superiority over the female as manifested from his constant reiteration of nursing expertise.

Ica and Archie

Archie

Archie is a 19-year-old college student who comes from a Born Again, upper middle class family.

His first sexual encounter happened with his ex-girlfriend when he was 15 years old. He said that the act was a spontaneous one. They had sex only once and his second sexual encounter happened with Ica.

To this day, he admits to having only two sexual partners.

There is a contrast in Archie's case Born Again beliefs and losing virginity at a young age of 15. Other factors may have influenced him in engaging in early PMS and these include his friends who belong to the same class as his. He claimed that his educational background does not have any effect on his sexual activities.

Ica

Ica comes from a lower middle class family who is very traditional. They are devout Iglesia ni Cristo, hence, her family does not allow her to have a boyfriend at a young age. At 18, she is a working student studying in one of the premier universities in the country.

Her first sexual encounter happened when she was 15 years old with Archie. She has never been with anybody else ever since.

Similar to Archie, Ica's religious beliefs did not hold her back from engaging in early PMS. Unlike her boyfriend however, her economic status and educational background may have introduced her to a different set of friends and liberal learning atmosphere respectively, which may have influenced her decision in engaging in PMS at a young age.

Ica and Archie (in a relationship for 4 years)

Ica's friend was the reason she and Archie met.

Ganito kasi yun, yung friend ko talaga yung may crush sakanya (Archie), tapos nung nanghingi kasi si (Archie) ng textmate, binigay nung friend ko yung number ko. Tapos nagkatek kami (Our story goes like this, my friend has a crush on Archie and it came to her (friend) knowledge that Archie is looking for a textmate. My friend gave him my number and we got into texting.) , narrated Ica.

This was the start of their 4-year relationship that is still going strong.

Hindi ko talaga alam na magkakagustuhan kami. (I never thought that we would like each other.), Ica said.

Similar to the case of Efren and Rica, Archie and Ica's love affair flourished via new forms of media.

First sexual encounter

Their first sexual encounter was one that is spontaneous.

Siya (Archie) yung nagsimula, wala naman kasing plano, nadala lang talaga kami. (He (Archie) started it. We do not have a plan, we just went with the flow.), said Ica.

They were in Archie's room when it happened. It started with kissing until they went all the way. When young adolescents are left alone, unsupervised, they tend to engage in sexual behaviours given that they have nothing else to do. Oftentimes, first sexual intercourse is unplanned.

Wala naman kasi sa plano namin e, syempre nasa kama kami, anong gagawin namin dun? (We do not have a plan, it just so happened we were in (his) bed, what were we going to do there?), Ica said while laughing.

During their first sexual encounter, the couple said that they did not use contraceptives.

E kasi biglaan naman siya e, hindi naman pumasok sa isip namin na gagawin na namin yun nung araw na yun. (It happened spontaneously. It never crossed our minds that we are going to do it, said Archie.

Archie confessed feelings of excitement and nervousness before they did the act. Archie was excited because doing it with Ica was a new experience for him and yet nervous because if things go wrong, he might get Ica pregnant. Ica on the other hand, felt nervousness alone as it was her first time.

Siyempre excited pero kinabahan din ng konti kasi baka mabuntis ko siya (Ica), pero andun na e, alangan naman bitinin ko pa? (Of course I was excited but nervous at the same time because I might get her pregnant. But we were already there, why would I stop it (sex).), he said.

The couple felt guilty afterwards because Ica, being a devout Iglesia ni Cristo, still believes in the sanctity of sex as it should be done inside marriage.

NagUILty ako na bakit ko ginawa yun, hindi namin dapat ginawa yun kasi dapat after marriage pa. (I felt really guilty after doing it (sex). I should not have done it because that should be done after marriage.) , she said.

Because Ica was feeling guilty during their sexual intercourse, she asked Archie to stop. Archie, though he felt short, also had second thoughts of why he did it with Ica that time. Ica's initiative to stop the sexual act shows her direct approach in exercising her rights in the relationship. Even though she was aware of the situation that Archie was probably into at that, she voiced out her stand against continuing their lovemaking because she felt like it was not the right time to have sex.

Yun nabitin, nabitin na natakot tapos nagUILty na bakit ko ba ginawa yun kasi nung una wala naman akong balak gawin sakanya yun. (It was suspended. I felt short, deprived then scared, then guilty asking myself why I did it (sex) when I was not really planning on doing it with her.), said Archie.

Hindi kasi siya (Archie) natapos, super saglit lang talaga tapos sinabi ko na ayoko na. (He did not get to finish, we did it for a few minutes then I asked him to stop.), Ica reasoned out when asked why Archie felt short.

Ica said that the reason she agreed to do it for the first time with Archie was because she trusts him and it was common among couples involved in a relationship.

Kasi may trust ako sa partner ko, parang kahit gawin ko yun (sex) hindi niya ako lolokohin. Tsaka feeling ko kasi kaya ako pumayag kasi parang nangyayari naman siya, nangyayari naman talaga yun kasi hindi mo mapipigilan. (Because I trust my partner that he will not betray me. Also, because it is being done by almost everyone and it is hard to manage the urge.), she said.

Subsequent sexual encounters

The couple's usual sexual activities include kissing and foreplay. Ica said that she cannot perform oral sex on Archie. Her religion holds her strong against oral sex. Ica finds oral sex too lustful. From kissing and foreplay, Archie and Ica proceeded to sexual intercourse.

Usually nagkikiss lang kami tapos konting hawak-hawak tapos diretso na sa ganun (sexual intercourse). (Usually we just kiss and touch each other and then it will lead to sex.), Archie said.

...mabilis kasi kami maginit e. (We get excited very fast.), said Ica.

The couple agreed that it is Archie who always initiates their sexual activities.

This is common behavior – males initiating sexual intercourse.

Ako usually nag-iinitiate pag magsesex kami, pero pagdating sa kissing parang both, nafe-feel nalang naming. (I usually initiate our sexual activities. In kissing, however, it just happens.), Archie said.

The couple usually does sexual activities in Archie's room, usually whenever his parents are not home, which is very often.

According to them, time and the number of people in Archie's house are the deciding factors of the frequency of their sexual activities. If there are only one or two people at Archie's place, they would carry on with their endeavor.

Archie and Ica do not prefer going to motels because they find it impractical. They are satisfied with Archie's place and they only have to find the right timing to do the act. Hotels and motels cost too much when they can actually have care-free sex without any expenses at Archie's place.

...wala kaming pera at hindi kami gagastos para lang makipagsex. (We do not have money and we will not spend just to have sex.), said Ica.

Mas kumportable sa bahay. (It is more comfortable doing it (sex) at home.), Archie affirmed.

Use of contraceptives

Ica and Archie are very knowledgeable of the different contraceptives available.

Archie cited that he learned of contraceptives from school, TV and his parents. Ica on the other hand was introduced to contraceptives because of her mother:

Oo, kasi nakikita ko yung mama ko nagpipills e. (Yes, because I see my mother taking pills.), Ica agreed.

However, though they have a good grasp of what available contraceptives are out there, they do not usually talk about it because in the first place, they do not use contraceptives due of lack of pleasure.

Parang tatlong beses palang ata kami gumamit ng ganun (condoms), hindi naman kasi masarap e, wala kang mararamdaman. (I think we have only used (condoms) thrice. It does not feel good, you will not feel anything.), said Archie.

The couple does not practice safe sex even though Ica has a positive attitude towards the use of contraceptives. This positive attitude stems from the fact that Ica would bear more burden if she gets pregnant.

Kasi babae ako e. Siyempre mas okay sakin yung may protection para safe. (Because I am a girl. It is better to use protection to be safe.), she said.

Archie on the other hand, disagree on using condoms and prefer that Ica use pills if she wants to practice safe sex. This shows how less the male partner thinks of his female partner.

Ako kasi ayoko talaga gumagamit ng condom, mas okay sakin ang pills kasi siya (Ica) naman gagamit, so okay lang sakin. (I really do not want using condoms, I prefer pills because she will be the one taking them.), he said.

Oo, sabi niya (Archie) nga na hindi masarap (condoms), walang pleasure, lugi daw siya kasi ako lang nasasarapan. (Yes, he said he that (condoms) do not feel good and there is no pleasure. He is at disadvantage because I am the only one who feels pleasure.), affirmed Ica.

She also said that they do not talk about contraceptives because it has been common knowledge and understanding between the two of them that Archie does not want to use condoms or any contraceptive that would lessen the pleasure of having sex. Archie rejects the idea of using condoms so Ica has to deal with it to avoid fights or arguments.

...nasanay na ako na dahil ayaw niya (Archie), ayaw ko na din. (I got used to it because he does not want to use (condoms), I prefer not using one as well), Ica said.

In their situation, Archie seems to be selfish of his wants, without considering the welfare of Ica if she starts taking pills with its consequent side effects. Ica on the other hand, submits to what Archie wants because she feels the need to satisfy her partner.

Risks and consequences

Aside from unwanted pregnancy, Archie and Ica mentioned sexually transmitted diseases as other factors to consider in engaging in unsafe sex. Likewise, doubts against partner may develop as well.

Akala niya kasi minsan parang yun lang (sex) ang habol ko sakanya (Ica). (He sometimes think that (sex) is only what I want from her.), said Archie.

The couple said that they talk about the possible risks and consequences of engaging in sexual intercourse and their discussion will result to an agreement of not having sex again.

Naguusap kami na tama na, wag na uulitin, nakokonsensya kasi kami dahil sa religion. (We talk about it and agree that we will not do it again. We feel bad because of our religion.), said Ica.

Being devout Born Again Christian and Iglesia ni Cristo, the couple live by the teachings of their religion - one of the many teachings is not to engage in pre-marital sex. However, Archie and Ica agreed that risks and consequences do not hinder their frequency in engaging in sexual activities. Religion taps their conscience but they continue engaging in PMS most probably because of other factors that influence them, like Ica's university and its liberal views.

Relationship before and after having sex

The couple believed that their relationship became more intense after having sex. Their feelings for each other levelled-up from pure infatuation to a more passionate and romantic relationship.

Dati kasi puro kilig lang, ilangan, ngayun talagang comfortable na ako sakanya, lahat all out na. (Before it is not that serious, but after we did it (sex), I became comfortable and I am able to lay all my cards on the table.), said Ica.

As the relationship deepens, couples feel the importance of sex in a partnership. The uneasiness Ica and Archie felt at the start of the relationship disappeared as they started engaging in sexual activities. They felt more comfortable with each other and they started to have a healthy communicative relationship.

Relationship now that they are sexually active

The couple narrated that they developed a different kind of openness and transparency with their partner. Ica can tell Archie anything without feeling embarrassed; and in return, Archie does not hide anything from her. They have built a good rapport as romantic partners.

Para sa akin mas open na kasi habang tumatagal siyempre parang may tiwala na siya sa iyo sabihin yung mga ganitong bagay, hindi na siya nahihiya... (We became more open with each other especially as time goes by, she starts to trust me enough to say things to me without being shy about it.), Archie said.

However, being sexually active had its consequences in the couple's relationship. Ica confessed to having doubts of whether Archie really loves him. Sometimes she gets to have thoughts of Archie staying with her only for sex.

Lagi na kami nag-aaway kasi iniisip ko baka yun (sex) na lang habol niya (Archie) sa akin o kaya kami nagtatagal kasi dahil doon nalang. (We always fight because it sometimes crosses my mind that the reason why he stays with me is because of sex.), she said.

Women like Ica, develop this kind of thinking because she gives a big part of herself to a man, who in his nature tend to admire sex for sex alone. That is why she would doubt if her boyfriend loves her or loves sex. This is probably the reason why women give in to their partners' sexual urges to keep them satisfied and happy. Women believe that in doing so; their male partners will stay with them.

Importance of sex in the relationship

The couple feels that sex is important in a relationship because it creates a sense of attachment with their partner. Through sex, they are able to express their love to their partners.

Archie and Ica feel that they can live without sex, however they would be thinking about it (sex) because they have tried it already. They have mentioned that once you have engaged in sexual intercourse, it is impossible to stop.

This is in agreement with the former cases that although adolescents are hesitant to try sex for the first time, once they have done it, they want more.

Decision-making and negotiation

In decision-making and negotiation it is usually Archie who gets the last say, mostly because Ica lets him take charge of their relationship.

Ica waits for Archie to initiate sexual activities; though she feels the urge, she believes that if she does the first move, Archie might lose his respect for her.

Kasi nakakahiya sa side ko as babae kung ako yung mag-iinitiate. Tapos binigay ko na yung virginity ko parang lalo pa siyang mawawalan ng respeto sakín kung ako pa yung mag-initiate. So sakín, kahit gusto ko, aantayin ko na siya ang mag-initiate, kung hindi, okay sige kikimkimin ko nalang. (I feel ashamed for my part as a girl if I would be the one to initiate (sexual activities). Especially now that I have given my virginity, he might lose his respect for me. So even though I want to, I just wait for him to start and if not, then I will keep my urges to myself.), she said.

Similarly, Archie recalled that Ica has turned him down only once or twice in their entire relationship when he expressed his intent to have sex. Ica's reasons included

not being in the mood for sex and the guilty feeling after having sex. In these instances, he still tries to convince Ica to agree.

...parang isang beses pa lang naman (turn down), hinayaan ko nalang na wala muna, e ayaw niya e, anong magagawa ko, diba? Though pinipilit ko pa rin siya ng konti. (I think once (turn down), I let it go, if she does not want to, what can I do, right? Though I still tried to convince her to do it (sex) with me.), Archie said.

It is clear that Archie is the assertive one in their relationship. Ica, because of her personal principles as a woman, manages her desires to portray meekness. She believes that as a Filipina, one must be meek and modest and certainly not aggressive. Ica respects Archie as the man in the relationship so she tries to exhibit these characteristics. However, when it comes to communicating regarding the risks and consequences of having sex, Ica becomes very vocal in her concerns.

Minsan pag napra-praning ako tapos sasabihin ko sa kanya (Archie). Lalo na baka mabuntis ako o kaya yung mga sakit. Binibiro ko siya na baka mamaya makipag-ano (sex) siya sa iba tapos pag ginawa na naming magkasakit ako, ganun. Pero yun talaga yung consequence yung mabubuntis ng maaga. Dun kami talaga nag-aalala dahil lagi din akong delayed. (Sometimes I get paranoid and I tell him, especially when I think he might get me pregnant or give me STDs. I sometimes joke about these things; that he might have sex with someone else and infect me with acquired STD's. But the consequence which really worries me is early pregnancy, especially because I am always delayed.), Ica said.

These arguments do not happen anymore because the couple said that they already know the risks and consequences as they have been having sex for the past four years.

Niloloko ko siya minsan na gusto ko mag-(pills) kasi baka mabuntis ako, pero gastos din yun e. Sa four years naming na ginagawa (sex), never pa akong nabuntis kaya confident kaming dalawa pag withdrawal lang., narrated Ica.

Gender Roles

It could be noted from the interview that although Ica is more vocal in sharing her thoughts about their relationship she still has traditional beliefs and she believes that it is the guy who should be dominant; demanding and speaking out her wants might make her partner lose his respect for her.

It is also clear from the instances stated above that Ica submits to whatever Archie says and that their relationship is a complementary one.

Also, from what has been said, there is no interchanging of roles and that both Archie and Ica assume the stereotypical roles of a man and a woman – the alpha male and the submissive female. This form of relationship, they believe, makes their partnership last.

Socio-cultural factors

Family

According to Ica, family is an important factor why she communicates well when it comes to the possible risks and consequences of having sex. She said that her mother's daily reminder of the consequences of PMS affects her communication with Archie. On the other hand, Archie's family teaches him that the males are supposed to be dominant in the relationship.

Friends

Ica and Archie get tips from their friends on what contraceptives to use during sexual intercourse and sometimes even get “do’s and do nots” in the performance of the act itself. The couple’s friends who got pregnant early serve as a reminder to Archie and Ica that they should talk about their own sexual endeavors.

May kaibigan kasi siya (Ica) na nabuntis ng maaga, bigla nalang namin napag-usapan. Inaalarma lang naming yung mga sarili namin. (She has a friend who got pregnant early, we suddenly talked about her and we warned ourselves that it (unwanted pregnancy) may happen to us.), Archie narrated.

Media

Media affects the couple’s negotiations when it comes to the risks and consequences of having sex. Seeing pregnant women on TV alarms Ica and then they talk about what to do if she gets pregnant early, sometimes they end up limiting their sexual encounters to ease their anxiety. There are also instances when they watch movies together with sexually explicit contents and they both get aroused. They learn new positions and new tricks from movies and TV series and the couple would ask each other to try out these newly learned stunts.

Yung sa Lucky Me kasi meron silang bagong commercial o di kaya minsan pag nakakabasa siya (Ica) o nakakakita ng buntis napra-praning siya. (She gets paranoid when she sees the new commercial of Lucky Me or when she reads or sees someone pregnant (on TV).), he said.

Minsan pag nakakakita kami ng (sex) scenes sa TV, magtext kami na ‘ano gusto mo ng ganun?’ (Sometimes when we see (sex) scenes on TV we text each other and ask ‘So, do you want to do that?’), Ica said.

Religion

Both Archie and Ica attend religious activities but religion does not affect or hinder them from engaging in PMS. The Church serves as a reminder but it is malleable in the sense that they will always be forgiven. Sometimes, they feel they are sinning against the teachings of their churches yet still they continue having sex. Both of them ask for forgiveness whenever they feel the guilt from what they did. Having sex outside is a big disobedience to the teachings of the Church but they also believe that sex is part of humans' biological needs.

Education and Economic Background

The couple believes that education and their economic background do not have any effect on their decision-making and negotiations. Although, Ica admits that her education makes her more aware of the risks and consequences of early pregnancy.

For the couple, the socio-cultural factors that influence the enhancement of their sexual activities are friends and the media, those that hinder are family and religion. Education does not enhance nor impede their frequency of engaging in sexual activities but it enables them to have a wider perspective of life – they have learnt that it is okay to have sex as long as you are willing to pay responsibility.

Elle and John

John

John is a 23-year-old businessman who comes from a rich family. He dropped out of school to manage his business that specializes in playing music in weddings and other special occasions. He lives with his parents but is currently doing well for himself as a businessman. John said that he believes in the existence of a God but not in the practice of religion.

His first sexual encounter happened in Australia when he was 14 years old with a random stranger. The sexual act happened during a house party thrown by one of his friends. He was intoxicated with alcohol so he was not able to remember who he had sex with. Although he cannot recall the number of sexual partners he has been with, he said that right now, he does the act only with Elle.

John's economic status made him liberal in the context of engaging in activities not normally performed by typical lower class Filipino adolescents. Australian culture, like what has been stated in the literature, is different from Filipino conventional societal norms. He may have access to risk-taking behaviours such as PMS, alcohol drinking and partying, but his mindset is mature for his age. Being a businessman and earning a lot for himself, John manages and organizes his life carefully to balance his career and his "fun" side.

Elle

Elle comes from an upper middle class, traditional and strict family. However, this does not get in her way to do what she wants to do. Elle confessed that she is an atheist and at 20, is an advertising student of a well-known university in Manila.

Her first sexual encounter happened with her first boyfriend when she was 16. Elle said that it happened because she is submissive to her boyfriend's wants at that time. After that, she vowed that it would never happen again and so her other two sexual partners prior to John, were one void of emotions.

Elle confessed of having four sexual partners (including John) until today.

Elle's family background may have been a factor in early PMS. The absence of a father working overseas may have influenced her in submitting herself to his past boyfriends. However, her experiences taught her that she must be independent and care-free. Her economic status, similar to John, makes risk-taking behaviours accessible. Both of them can afford high-end clubs, buy alcoholic beverages, go to hotels and motels of their preference, meet different people with varied habits including smoking, drugs, etc. Elle's exposure is wider because of her economic capabilities. The varied the people she meets, the more exposure she gets.

Elle and John (in a relationship for 5 months)

Elle and John belonged to the same circle of friends. Both just came from a break-up before they started dating, John coming from a three-year relationship and Elle from a year long one.

Nagkakilala kami sa party ng friend namin, nung time na yun, may girlfriend pa siya (John). Hanggang sa nung nagbreak sila, ayun naguusap na kami... (We met at our friend's party, and at that time he still has a girlfriend. When they broke up, we got into talking.), recalled Elle.

It did not take too long for the two of them to finally fall in love and commit themselves exclusively to each other.

First sexual encounter

After a few weeks as a couple, they engaged in their first sexual intercourse in John's house.

Oo, sa bahay ko, March 20. Nagsasayaw kami. (That was in my house, March 20, we were dancing.), John recalled.

Tapos, slow. (And it was slow.), Elle added.

Young adolescents with sexual experience tend to engage in sexual intercourse without considering the length of time they have known their partner. This is probably because they already lost their virginities and there is nothing left to lose if one has sex with a different person.

The pair agreed that it was the "setting and the moment" that took over them until it (sex) just happened. When asked why they decided to do it for the first time, John answered:

Why? Would it be wrong?

John's answer reflects his positive view of sex as he has already done it with several women. Elle and John could not pinpoint who initiated the act but they were in agreement of having sex almost instinctively.

Ano ba dapat ang sagot dito? Yung moment lang e. (What should be the answer to this? It was just the moment.), said John.

Parang andun na e, why not? (We were already there, so, why not?), added Elle.

They explained having the same thoughts but no one really made the first move.

The sexual act was not planned at all and it was the music which provoked their inner desires for each other. John said he felt horny prior to the sexual encounter, while Elle agreed with it and said she felt the same.

After the act, John confessed to being so tired.

Ayy, pucha. Pagod. (Oh, I was so tired!), he said.

Elle on the other hand, had just one word to say:

WOW.

Education was a factor in their relationship. From their university, they were well-educated with the latest technology in contraception and the risks and consequences of unprotected sexual activities. However, Elle and John both agreed that actual experiences taught them more. Learning hands-on is better than acquiring facts.

Percentage wise, out of curiosity they do it anyway. I wouldn't know if we know better, we are more equipped. But I think it (education) is a very big factor in the relationship of couples. Yes, affected. Experience wise, we are more knowledgeable.

Also he said that there were no other factors which affected their first sexual encounter and had he been influenced by the media, he would still be doing the act. But the thought of media influencing his sexual behavior is weird for him. This is probably because like the previous informants, he perceived the term "media" vaguely. But from

their narrations, media did its part in triggering John and Elle's first sexual encounter.

The background music subconsciously heightened their sexual urge.

If anything, if ever we would be influenced by the media, I would do otherwise. Socially sa perception ko, parang weird siya. (If anything, if ever we would be influenced by the media, I would do otherwise. Socially, in my perception, that is kind of weird.), John contemplated.

John and Elle did not use any contraceptives because they have known each other well enough to trust one another's reproductive health – no known history of STD. This is the one of the two common justifications of couples not using contraceptives during sexual intercourse. The other reason is that there is less pleasure in having sex if the partner wears a condom or uses any artificial contraceptives for that matter.

Subsequent sexual encounters

The couple has a wide range of knowledge when it comes to sexual activities; John even brought out a list of foreplays stored on his phone. However when asked which of these they normally do, oral sex and foreplay are their answers and these often lead to sexual intercourse.

These sexual activities are usually done around three times a week at John's room. No one really initiates in this case because they believe that they feel it when they both want it.

You both know what you want. Pero walang nagsa-start. Nagtinginan na lang kami. (You both know what you want but no one starts. We just look at each other.), said Elle.

Parang both, alam na yun. Isa sa amin magki-kiss ng moist. (I think both, we know it already. One of us will give the other moist kisses.) , affirmed John.

Use of contraceptives

Most of the contraceptives that the couple knows about came from the Internet.

The couple said that Elle started on the pill after their second sexual encounter.

Para maregulate yung menstruation and less anxiety. (To regulate her menstruation and lessen anxiety.), said John

Lessening of anxiety pertains to the often pregnancy scares and pregnancy panic weeks after having sex. At least with Elle on the pill, they will not think about early pregnancy.

The couple has positive views on the use of contraception. Both agreed that the use of contraceptives help in preventing STDs.

Para maiwasan yung sakit (To avoid diseases), said Elle.

These views are influenced by their family and friends. John's family is very open with these concerns. They have lived in Australia and probably the social environment there influenced his positive view of sex.

Nanay ko sabi niya okay lang basta alam ko ginagawa ko. (My mom said, as long as I know what I am doing.), John said.

Risks and consequences

Risks and consequences such as pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and disapproval of people in general are the three main risks that they consider when engaging in sexual activities.

However, their main concern is unwanted pregnancy, and although the couple looked unbothered, they also had pregnancy scares.

Dati. Pero pag magkasama kayo, nawawala naman yung worries. Dun na papasok yung dapat alam mo yung ginagawa mo. (Before (early stages of PMS together). But when we are together all those worries disappear, that is where knowing what to do comes in.), John said.

Elle's anxiety usually gets the best of her and she usually gets paranoid.

However, John reassures her especially when they are together.

Very rational kasi siya (John). Pag nagkikita kami, papakita niya sa akin yung nakita niya sa Net, tapos hindi na ako mag-woworry. (He is very rational, when we see each other, he shows me what he saw in the Internet and then I would stop worrying about it.), she said.

It is always the females who get more alarmed during pregnancy scares and it is always the males who do the reassuring role.

Relationship before and after having sex

The couple affirmed of having established a deeper connection after having sex.

Also, they believe that their relationship is more serious than their previous relationships because they are able to express their feelings unsolicitedly.

It is about her (Elle), it is different na in a way nai-eexpress mo, kasi maraming ways mo pwede i-express yung feelings mo e, pero in this way, nai-eexpress mo siya physically. (It is about (Elle), it is different in a way that you can express, because there are a lot of way you can express your feelings but in this way, you can express it physically.), John said.

John talks of sex as some form of creating a physical connection with his partner.

Relationship now that they are sexually active

The couple said that they enjoy each other more now that they are sexually active. John even described their relationship as “fun, intimate, spontaneous and free.” Also, the couple shared that having sex made them more open to each other and comfortable.

Importance of sex in the relationship

Sex, for the couple, is one factor that keeps a relationship alive because that is what connects them. Also, they believe that a relationship must have intimacy and passion to survive and that they could live without sex but would be like living a fake life.

Siyempre naman, hindi naman technical na mamamatay ka kung wala nun (sex) di ba? In a relationship, sex is one factor. I know a lot of couples na masabi lang ng society na magkasama sila. May couples na matagal na silang magkasama pero you see right there na hindi healthy yung relationship nila. I do not see the connection, di ba? I can only assume na they are having sex... I could live without sex, but I would be living a fake life. (Of course, it is not like you will really die without it (sex), right? In a relationship, sex is one factor. I know a lot of couples who just wants the society prove that they are together, some have been together for a long time but you can see straight away they their relationship is not healthy. You cannot see the connection. I can only assume that they are having sex... I could live without sex, but that would be living a fake life.), John said.

Here, John becomes an observer where he shares his views on people who are enjoying happy and healthy sex lives. He said that sex keeps the relationship intact. His occupation as a musician makes him capable of concluding this because of the many chances his orchestra gets to play at weddings, wedding anniversaries and the like.

Decision-making and negotiation

John and Elle are both not afraid to tell the other what they want. They could not pinpoint who gets to have the last say during arguments but they are certain that the person who is right wins the negotiations. They solve their problems through calm exchange of opinions.

We try to look at the situation rationally and then act from there, Elle said.

In terms of deciding their sexual activities, they have this common understanding that if the other is tired, none of them will try to initiate any act which is sexual in nature. Even without talking, their body language makes them communicate their mood to their partner. Their level of understanding and communicative rapport shows what sex has done to their relationship. They have developed a kind of connection or bond which exceeds verbal communication in expressing one's inner desires.

Wala, alam namin. That is because alam namin kung pag pagod ang isa't isa without even talking about it. (That is because we know when the other is tired without even talking about it.), John said.

The couple believes that their relationship is a rational one which is why it works.

Mas open-minded kahit mag-encounter kami ng problem regarding sex, mas alam ko na lahat may sasabihin kami. Kasi sa kind of relationship we have, we are really rational about it. (We are more open-minded even though we encounter problems regarding sex, we know that we have a lot to say because in the kind of relationship we have, we are really rational about it.), Elle said.

They said that trust and honesty are key factors in their relationship. These keep the aspect of open communication in their partnership.

Open kami. Pag merong ayaw, I tell her, she tells me. Sa relationships, yun lagi nangyayari e, kunwari sa babae, may problema pala sa kanya pero di niya sasabihin sa guy, sasabihin niya sa girl friends niya and the problem grows and grows and grows and the guy wouldn't even know what the problem is. Ang nangyayari, one thing, communication. Number two, honesty, trust, I guess dun nagkaron ng hierarchy kung may under. I tell her kung ayoko, she tells me kung ayaw niya. (We are open [to each other]. If one does not want something, I tell her, she tells me. In relationships, that is what happens. For example, a girl has a problem with her boyfriend, instead of telling it to her boyfriend, she tells it to her friends and the problem grows and the guy would not even know what the problem is. What happens is, one, communication and two, honesty and trust. I guess that is where hierarchy comes in. I tell her if I do not want to, she tells me if she does not want to.), said John in describing their relationship.

The couple's open-mindedness about sex and their relationship makes it easy for them to become assertive and be vocal with one another.

Gender roles

There is no actual dominance or submission present in Elle and John's relationship. For them, they have roles which balance the relationship.

Si Elle yung nagreremind sa akin to chill out and have some fun, that is her role. It balances out kasi ang role ko naman ay for her self-development. She reminds me to play, I remind her to work., John said.

Their partnership is something that helps the other to balance their time and effort. They remind each other to get serious and enjoy at times. In terms of perspectives, both have liberal beliefs. They are both assertive which makes their relationship symmetrical.

Being assertive may be because of the culture that has been introduced to John in Australia and the past experiences of Elle with her dominant ex-boyfriend. Also, their friends who all have modern beliefs might have affected the actions of the two.

The couple does not have definite roles in the relationship. Oftentimes, these roles interchange. John and Elle believe that they are non-conformists to the standards set by the society.

Socio-cultural factors

Family

Elle does not follow traditional beliefs; therefore she said that it (family) does not affect their relationship in any way. Also, although John is open with his family about sex, his family does not affect him in his relationship with Elle with regard to decision-making and negotiation.

Hindi alam ng (parents) niya (Elle) na samin siya natutulong. Elle is a non-conformist... if parents disagree, a big factor would be the ability ng partner mo to stand up for what she believes. (Her parents do not know that she sleeps in our house. Elle is a non-conformist. If parents disagree, a big factor would be the ability of your partner to stand up for what she believes.), John said.

Elle does not bother herself with the rules of her parents and just believes that she can do what she wants. Living far away from her provincial home makes her independent and makes her act this way. Maybe this is a form of young adolescent rebellion to their parents or just part of her life growing up. Elle grew up with rare appearances of her father who works overseas. The absence of a father figure in the family may have affected her behavior as a young adolescent female living and studying in the big city.

Friends

Friends do not affect the couple's relationship in any way because they do not ask for their opinion of others regarding their relationship.

Naalala ko nung naging kami ni John, people do not want us to be together, marami pang nagco-comment sa relationship status ng sad face. People will try to bring you down kaya dun ko naisip na I do not care what other people might think of me. (I remember when John and I became a couple, people do not want us together. A lot even commented sad faces on our relationship status (Facebook). People will try to bring you down and that is when I realized I do not care about what other people might think of me.), Elle narrated.

At first I was trying to live up to the expectations of those around me but with Elle, I lost all care for those things. With her, I am just honest., John agreed.

However, it could also be noted that their friends' lifestyles and liberal views subconsciously affect the couple.

Media

Media, specifically the Internet, is the couple's source of information regarding contraceptives, sexual activities and how to deal with the risks and consequences of having sex. However, media does not affect the couple in their communication with each other.

Religion

Religion does not affect the couple's sexual relationship in any way as well. They do not talk about it because they have different views on the matter and they have agreed not to talk about it.

Walang effect. Napag-usapan but it is a mutual agreement. I believe in God but I do not believe in religion. Elle is an atheist, agree to disagree kami doon. (There is no effect, We talked about it but it is a mutual agreement. I believe in God but I do not believe in religion. Elle is an atheist. We agree to disagree there.), John said.

Education and Economic Background

Since both Elle and John come from well-off families and have good education, it could be inferred that the couple's good communication with each other stems from these factors. Since they do not get intimidated by one another, the couple can speak more freely about their thoughts on matters regarding their relationship.

Kai and Christopher

Christopher

Christopher is a 17-year-old sophomore Engineering student from a highly distinguished university in Manila. His family belongs to the middle class level and is very liberal in talking about sex and other sensitive matters.

His first sexual encounter happened when he was 17 years old with Kai. He said that she is the only girl he has ever had sex with.

His intelligence and open-mindedness is a big factor in his sexual relationship with Kai. Coming from a special high school institution, at a young age, Christopher has been exposed to serious issues in real life and their consequences; this includes sexual liberalism.

Christopher's family does not hinder him from experiencing sexual satisfaction; his father even encourages him to try it (sex). His family gives him an open mind and at the same time balances it out with reminders of the consequences of PMS.

Kai

Kai is a 17-year-old sophomore Engineering student coming from the same university as Christopher. She is a devout Catholic who comes from an upper middle class family. Kai said that her family is not strict with her having a relationship although she believes that they are still traditional.

Her first sexual encounter happened with Christopher, two days after they officially became a couple. Christopher is the only guy she has ever had sex with.

At a young age, Kai has been exposed to a liberal set of thinking; both because of her family and her special high school wherein the curriculum is specialized for above-average individuals. Education and familial background are relevant factors in her performance of sexual activities. Her parents teach her how to be an independent person. And her special high school trained them to be open-minded.

Kai and Christopher (in a relationship for 7 months)

Kai and Christopher came from different national high schools and were admitted into the same university after their graduation. They met during their first year of college in a dormitory they were both staying in. That was when instant mutual connection happened and soon enough, they proclaimed themselves a couple.

First sexual encounter

Like normal teenagers, Kai kept a diary which contains all of her activities with Christopher.

February 19 yun, February 17 kami naging official tapos
January 3 yung hinawakan niya yung boobs ko. (That was
February 19. February 17 was the day we officially became
a couple but it was January 3 when he touched my
breasts.), Kai said.

Christopher said that their first intercourse happened in the UP Alumni Hostel after coming from a concert.

Dun sa may bowling lane. P700 yung 12 hours. Galing kasi
kaming Feb Fair. (It is near the bowling lane. 700 pesos for
12 hours, we came from the Feb Fair.), he said.

They talked about going to the venue a lot of times before they finally did it. They were arguing on how many times they have checked-in on a motel prior to their first sexual encounter. This is because there were other sexual activities that they have done in different motels before officially having sex.

E hindi kasi may friend kami na nagsabi na meron daw
pero hindi yun yung first check-in natin, pangalawa, yun!
(We have this friend who told us that there are motels, but
that was not our first check-in, that was the second!), said
Kai.

Pangatlo! Pangalawa sa Eurotel. (No, third! Our second
was in Eurotel.), argued Christopher.

The couple narrated that they went to Eurotel to have sex for the first time. However, because they both looked too young to pass as adults, they were not allowed to enter.

On the day of their first sexual encounter, it was Christopher who initiated the act which started with heavy petting and foreplay. The two of them described their first time in details. This shows how open they are in sharing their sex life to the researchers.

Kasi ikaw (Christopher) yung nasa taas nun e di ba? Ayaw niya pa kasi, gusto niya kamay lang. Tapos nahirapan ako, tas sabi ko, ito na nga lang. Tatlo na ba yun (fingers)? (He was on top, he does not want to do it (sex) yet, he just wants to use his hands. Then I got uncomfortable and said that I am okay with this. Were you using three fingers then?), Kai recalled.

Oo, tinitii ko sya. Tas gusto niya talagang mag check-in kasama ako. Tapos nangyari na, yung first puro kamay lang, nung pangatlo, yun na. (Yes. But he wants to check-in a (motel) with me. When I agreed, the first two (check-in) was just foreplay, the last was the real thing.) But, said Kai.

The couples' main reason for having sex for the first time was curiosity which was result of peer influences. Both Kai and Christopher have sexually-active friends back in high school who were open with their sexual escapades. Stories they heard heightened their interest of the pleasures of sex. Also, Christopher shared that he and his friends had a bet on who can get to divirginize a girl first.

Yung pinakanakaapekto talaga yung friends, yung dudugo moment. Parang paunahan rin yun, parang may pustahan rin yun. (What really influenced me the most was my friends, the "dudugo" moment. We have this game of who can divirginize a girl first. It is like a betting game.), he said.

Likewise, media in the form of pornographic videos gave Christopher ideas on the act itself. Moreover, families of both parties exposed them to porn and contraceptives.

Nung summer yun, may tita kasi ako dito, tinanong ako, ‘kelan ka nadvirginize?’ Sabi ko, hindi pa po. Tas sabi nya, ‘oh? tara, kelan natin bibinyagan yan?’ Yung papa ko daw matagal na. Elem pa lang kasi. Pag grade 6 bibinyagan na, ganyan, pero hindi naman natuloy kasi ayaw ng mama ko.” (During the summer, my aunt asked when I got divirginized, when I said I have not done it yet, she said I should be christened. My father had sex a long time ago during his elementary years. They believe that you should have sex when you are in Grade 6, but it did not happen because my mom does not want to.), narrated Christopher.

However, although Christopher’s family is open with topics such as sex, he believes that his mother does not know that he is sexually active.

Christopher has been carrying a condom in his wallet since high school but though he has this, he did not use it with Kai, saying that it is too much of a hassle to retrieve the condom from his wallet.

Both felt nervous since it was their first time to do it (sex), however their feelings afterwards differ, which could be because both had different expectations from the act.

Kai said that:

...napatalon ako sa bed. Nung nalaman ko na yung ano na nya. As in, hiyang hiya lang ako, hindi ako makatayo sa bed. (I jumped out of the bed when I knew that we were really doing it (sex). I was really shy afterwards, I cannot even stand up from the bed.)

while Christopher said that he did not enjoy it that much.

Parang nabigla ako, anong something special? Parang yung first wala lang pero yung next na, saka pa lang. Siguro dahil tulog, hindi kasi gising yung ano ko nun. Parang wala ako sa mood, kaya nga masakit sa kamay e (I was shocked, there was nothing special. The first one was not that great, it was the second one that was. Maybe because I couldn’t get it up. I was not in the mood, that is why we used our hands first.), he said.

Kai and Christopher are the youngest informants in this research study, their openness in sharing their sex life as a couple shows that young adolescents of today are getting more daring in expressing their sexuality. Sex for them is something normally done by people engaged in a romantic relationship. Kai and Christopher's graphic narration of their first sexual activities illustrates their curiosity of sex in the start. Their narration touched the part where they said they have been doing sexual activities even before they were officially dating. This suggests the sexual trend of today's Filipino adolescents – that similar to Western countries; young adolescents are sexual individuals who engage in sexual activities even outside a romantic relationship.

Subsequent sexual encounters

The couple's sexual activities include hand jobs and oral sex, usually initiated by Christopher. They usually do it in motels because they are both living in university dormitories.

Sa Chi (apartelle), pero ngayon sa boarding house na nung friend namin. Pero next sem sa boarding house na din kami! (Chi Apartelle, but now we do it in our friend's boarding house. Next sem, we will also be living in a boarding house!), Kai said enthusiastically.

Christopher said that they do their sexual activities, wherever they felt like doing it as long as there are no other people present in the area. The darker the place is, the better.

Banda dyan, banda don. (Sometimes, there, or there), he said, pointing at different places.

These sexual activities were done once a week because of they are both busy with their studies, however Kai shared that Christopher always touches his boobs when they are together.

Lagi nya hinahawakan yung dede ko as in parang hindi nya kayang mabuhay nang wala yun. (He always touches my breasts as if he cannot live without them.), shared Kai.

Contrary to other related stories of previous couples, these activities do not often lead to sex.

Lumulugar din naman kami. (We also find a good place to do it (sex).), Christopher said.

Use of contraceptives

Kai and Christopher get information about contraceptives in school. Although they are very knowledgeable, they have only used a condom twice because of their negative attitude towards it (contraceptives). Like other informants in this study, Kai and Christopher do not like using condoms because it lessens the pleasure during sexual intercourse and they cannot think of anymore reason to use condoms since they are exclusively dating.

Wala raw friction. Pangit yung feeling parang wala masyadong ma-feel. (There is no friction. You cannot feel anything.), said Christopher when asked why they do not like using condoms.

The couple's negative attitude toward contraceptives is primarily sexual in nature. It is evident in their description that at their young age, sex as an activity is highly exciting and stimulating for the two of them.

Risks and consequences

The couple is aware of risks and consequences present when engaging in sexual activities. Of all these, their biggest concern is pregnancy. They usually talk about it and they take turns in initiating these talks.

And although they have pregnancy scares, the couple usually talks about it jokingly, probably because of their young ages.

Sasabihin ko, 'Love, tingin ko buntis ako', tapos sasabihin niya, 'Hindi, pero ikaw, ano sa tingin mo? Katawan mo yan e.' tapos sasabihin ko na feeling ko naman hindi, tapos magagalit siya sasabihin niya 'ano ba yan! Hindi ka buntis?' tapos sabi ko 'Ayaw mo?' (I tell him that I think I am pregnant then he will say that I am not but what do I think since it is my body, and I will tell him that I do not think I am, and he will get pissed off that I joked about it again.), said Kai.

Relationship before and after having sex

The couple said that there were no significant changes in their relationship before and after having sex. They were already comfortable and open with each other before having sex and nothing much has changed. Although Christopher noted that they had so many arguments after having sex but not necessarily because of the act. He said that it

just so happened that problems outside their relationships arose when after they had sex and that now, Kai openly discloses her personal problems with him.

Dati pa lang naman seryoso na ako sakanya tapos after sex, wala naman masyadong nagbago, timing lang na after sex mas dumami problema kaya medyo nagbago na siya, family problems... basta konting away lang nagbu-burst na kaagad, ang dali niyang umiyak, hindi ko naman siya inaaway pero inaakala niya ganun..., (I was already serious about her even before (having sex) so there were no significant changes when we had sex. Maybe it just so happened that after having sex there are lots of problems that made her change, family problems... For just a small argument she will burst into tears thinking that I am arguing with her when I am not.), Christopher narrated.

Relationship now that they are sexually active

Subsequent sexual intercourse affected Kai and Christopher's relationship with regards to how they relate to each other now. Both of them described themselves as more open emotionally to their partner. Sex, they said made their bond stronger and that they became closer to each other.

Naging hiyang sa isa't isa. (We got used to each other), said Christopher.

Importance of sex in the relationship

Sex is important in their relationship because their arguments usually get resolved after they have sex. Also, it is their way of opening up to each other and expressing their love.

Pag nagna-NAM (sex) nao-open ang problema, nagiging mas open sa isa't isa, mas malambing na. (When we have (sex) problems get opened and we become close to each other.), said Kai.

Decision-making and negotiation

The couple believes that there is no superior one over the other partner when it comes to decision-making and negotiations. However, this is in contrast with the researchers' observation during the interview proper. Kai seemed to be more dominant in the relationship. Christopher tends to submit himself to Kai's moodiness to keep their relationship intact. During the separate interview, Christopher admitted that they often argue even in public places. They raise their voices especially when both of them do not want to back down during a quarrel. But according to Christopher, it is he who always gives in. Kai did not share this during the individual interview and sells the bright side of their relationship to the researchers omitting details on their verbal fights which according to Christopher sometimes become physical.

Parang tinatanong namin yung mga bagay na ayaw kong gawin niya, ayaw niyang gawin ko. Kasi ayaw naman naming gumawa ng bagay na ayaw ng isa't isa. (We asked each other what things we do not want our partners to do. We do not want to do things that will offend each other.), said Kai.

There were times when one partner is turned down by the other which then usually results to arguments. It is usually Kai who turns down Christopher but he said that he got used to it.

Christopher said that he does not mind being the submissive one in their relationship however he thinks there should be limits. He does not like that Kai usually

becomes bossy in public showing off that she has control over their relationship, but when he tries to tell that to her, she gets offended and will usually lead to arguments.

...super negative yung pagtanggap niya sa sasabihin ko kaya minsan pag nasa mood ako, iinintindihin ko nalang pero pag wala talagang nagsisigawan kami. Once nga sa public e, as in nagsisigawan, nagmumurahan din... (She takes everything I tell her negatively that is why when I am in the mood, I try to understand her. However, when I am not, we really fight. Once even in public, we were shouting and cursing at each other.), Christopher narrated.

Gender Roles

At their young ages, Kai and Christopher are sexually liberal and expressive. They are also vocal in stating their stands inside their sexual relationship. In this couple's case, the interchanging of gender roles is clearly exhibited; Kai being the dominant one and Christopher, the submissive partner.

Socio-cultural factors

Family and media

The strongest influences that affect the couple's sexual activities were family and media. Both of them said that they watched porn and scandals with their parents.

Ako, yung tatay ko nagturo sakin magporn, grade 2 ako nung pinapanood nya kami (magkakapatid). Pero before pa nun nakapanood na ako, videos lang (My father introduced porn to us (siblings) when I was in Grade 2. But before that I have watched pornographic videos by myself.), Christopher said.

Kai shared that their family is also open to topics such as sex, but not his father. Fathers are protective of their children especially their young adolescent daughters.

Kami pinapanood kami ng videos nina Katrina, Hayden Kho ng parents... Ano ako nun eh, HS, tapos yung kapatid ko na babae rin, Grade 4. (We watch videos of Katrina and Hayden Kho with our parents. I was in high school then and my sister was in Grade 4.), she said.

Family also affected their communication with regards to the risks and consequences of having sex. Mostly, reminding them that they are still young and should not get pregnant early.

Sabi lang ng mama ko, okay lang basta wag lang magpakatanga at magpabuntis. (My mom said it was okay to have sex, as long as I do not do something stupid and get pregnant.), said Kai.

It could also be inferred that their families being open to topics such as sex affected their liberal view of sex and sexuality in a way where they are not afraid to show their sexuality and express it.

Friends

Friends affected the couple's curiosity about sexual activities because as the couple narrated, they have friends who are sexually active back in their high schools. However, they do not affect Kai and Christopher's communication inside the relationship.

Kai is not close with her high school classmates because of numerous conflicts. This makes her aloof to them. Even in college, she chooses her friends and most of the time spends her day with Christopher. Kai and Christopher have few friends; thus, their sexual relationship is not entirely influenced nor pressured by their peers.

Religion

The couple declared themselves as devout Roman Catholics but this does not necessarily hinder them from performing sexual intercourse together. However, they feel guilty so whenever they go to church, they ask for forgiveness because what they are doing is against God's will.

Parang pag nagsisimba kami nagsosorry kay God na we are doing things like sex. But we are doing it out of love hindi naman out of lust. (We go to church and ask for God's forgiveness that we do things like (sex). But we are doing it out of love and not out of lust.), Kai reasoned out.

From Kai's statement, she defends their sexual behavior as something she and Christopher do out of love and not because of sexual urges or libido alone.

Education and Economic Background

Their educational background widened their perspectives on sexually-related matters like the use of contraceptives and view of pre-marital sex.

As in diniscuss talaga. Yung teacher ko pa nga (4th year) dapat daw open-minded na. So ina-accept namin yung reality sa mga ganung bagay. As in nagpakita pa sya ng used at unused na condom. Dun ko nga lang nalaman na may female condom pala. (We discussed it (contraceptives) in class. My high school teacher during my fourth year said that we should be open-minded. So we accepted that this is the reality for these things. As in she shows us used and unused condoms. There, I also learned that there are female condoms.), said Kai.

However, it does not affect their decision-making and negotiations regarding the risks and consequences of having sex.

Kai and Christopher also said that although these socio-cultural factors influence them, such factors do not necessarily affect the frequency of their sexual activities.

Andi and Lorenzo

Lorenzo

Lorenzo is a 24-year-old college graduate who comes from a wealthy Catholic family. He lives alone in a boarding house near his university and is currently working to earn extra income. He confessed to have been with a number of sexual partners before Andi. Lorenzo was not able to recount how many girls he has had sex with.

His economic background influences him to freely engage in numerous sexual relationships. Like the previous couple-participants, higher social class introduces a different set of friends and wider access to risk-taking behaviors.

Andi

Andi is a 23-year-old college graduate from the University of the Philippines. She comes from a very traditional Catholic, middle class family. Although she is currently employed, she still lives with her family.

Andi said that she has only been with one guy ever since she lost her virginity at 20 years old.

Her religious background may have influenced her to delay PMS but her education is a factor in balancing the ideas of engaging in sexual activities. She, staying with her family, makes her protected from regretful slip-ups or mistakes in the future. This disciplines her and her boyfriend to practice safe sex.

Andi and Lorenzo (in a relationship for 3 years and 3 months)

The couple has known each other since childhood. They went into the same schools but had different set of friends. When they entered college, the two of them got a chance to reconnect and they decided to date exclusively.

Bata pa kasi magkakilala kami, tapos pareho kami ng elementary and high school. (We have known each other since we were young and we went to the same elementary and high school.), said Lorenzo.

Nung high school, nagkaroon siya ng girlfriend, nagkaron ako ng boyfriend tapos hindi kami nagpapansinan. Tapos nitong college nalang kami parang nagkita ulit. Tapos yun, naging kami. (He had a girlfriend and I had a boyfriend when we were in high school and we do not talk. Then, during college we saw each other again and we became a couple.), Andi added.

First sexual encounter

Andi and Lorenzo had their first sexual intercourse three months after they officially branded themselves a couple. The act happened in Lorenzo's room but it was not at all planned.

Actually hindi siya planado, parang spur of the moment (Actually it was not planned, it was like a spur of the moment thing.), said Lorenzo.

When asked who initiated, Andi jokingly admitted that she initiated the act because she was feeling lustful and curious as to how it feels (having sex). This is not common among females – to initiate the first sexual act. Andi is an example of a woman who directly expresses her desires to her partner. Similarly, like other couples who have been doing sexual activities already, Andi and Lorenzo wanted to step up and go to a higher level in terms of their sexual relationship.

Ako. Kasi nung dati may ginagawa na kami pero hindi pa kami nagse-sex. Tapos ako, clueless ako, gusto ko na i-try. (I did (initiate), because we were already doing things before our first but we have not had sex yet. I was clueless and so I wanted to give it a try.), she shared.

Lorenzo admitted to feeling excited and at the same time nervous, while Andi said that she was in heat and excited too. Compared to other couple interviewees, Andi and Lorenzo exhibit interchanged gender roles during their first sexual intercourse. It was Andi who was excited and Lorenzo, nervous. This may be because of their distinct personality. During the interview, Andi shows her assertive attitude in answering the questions while Lorenzo is the silent type of male with a low and meek personality. Personality may be a factor in a sexual relationship.

Excited na medyo kinakabahan kasi hindi ko nga alam na mangyayari yun e, ewan ko siya baka pinlano niya. (Excited but a bit nervous because I was not aware that it was going to happen that day I did not know if she planned the whole thing, he said, jokingly.

Factors that urged Andi to initiate the act for the first time were her friends.

...kasi madami naman sa kanila ang sexually active, tapos kinkwentuhan nila ako tungkol don, so nacurious ako

(Most of my friends are sexually active and they tell me stories about their activities so I got curious.), she said.

However, aside from the influence of sexually active peers there were no-other socio-cultural factors that influenced them, just that they were in the moment and they just went with the flow.

Afterwards, however, Andi and Lorenzo both felt guilty.

Nung after medyo nagUILTY ako dahil sa family, kasi parang kagagaling ko lang sa ganun tapos parang normal pa rin, pero sa after na yung guilt e. Saka mo nalang iisipin yun, pag tapos na. (I felt guilty because of my family who treated me normally when I got home. But you feel the guilt after the act, not during.), Andi said.

NagUILTY kasi alam kong may belief siyang nadisregard nung nagawa namin. Pero nung tumagal na, just go with it nalang. (I felt guilty because I know she disregarded her personal beliefs. But while we were doing it I just decided to go with the moment.), added Lorenzo.

The belief that Lorenzo was talking about was Andi's personal conviction to have sex with the right guy at the right time and inside the vows of marriage. However, Andi said that it was okay since she trusts Lorenzo and he also assured her not to worry about it. Lorenzo's perspective shows his weaker personality compared to that of Andi. Maybe somehow, there was part of him which told him that he was not the right guy at that time.

Subsequent sexual encounter

The couple is knowledgeable of the different sexual activities that can be done. These include: oral sex, anal sex, masturbation and foreplay. However, oral sex, kissing

and foreplay are the sexual activities that they usually do, saying that they cannot imagine doing anal sex.

Ayoko ng anal kasi masakit yun di ba? Ewan ko, hindi ko kaya. (I do not want to do anal (sex) because that hurts, right? I do not know, I cannot do it.), Andi shared.

Filipinos may have leveled up with the new sexual trends but anal sex is still taboo among majority of Filipino couples. Aside from the pain, the couple interviewees in this study mentioned hygienic reasons.

The sexual activities that Andi and Lorenzo have mentioned, however, do not often lead to sexual intercourse because they consider where they are and who are with them before having sex.

Depende sa lugar, kung nasan kayo. Pero pag kayong dalawa lang, magsesex na kayo. (It depends on the place, where we are. But if we are alone, we will have sex.), said Lorenzo.

They engage in sexual intercourse once a week unlike before wherein they have sex almost every day. It is a common thing among young couples to engage in sexual intercourse less frequent as the relationship grows and develops. This is probably because sex creates a deeper form of bond among partners which evolves from being purely physical satisfaction to emotional attachment or commitment.

Nakatira kasi siya (Lorenzo) sa loob ng UP e, so pag break time tatambay kami tapos yun naexcite ka nalang kasi walang tao tsaka minsan mamimiss mo yung feeling e. (He lives inside UP so during break times we hang out and we get excited because there are no people around. Sometimes, you just miss the feeling.), Andi said.

As of today, both Andi and Lorenzo initiate the sexual intercourse depending on who needs it the most but it is Lorenzo who admitted to initiating because he has his urges. Males, as always, have more sexual urges than females.

Siguro ako (initiate), kasi may urges ako na gusto ko siya (Andi) makasama, gusto ko siya ma-solo. (I think it is me (initiate) because I have these urges where I want to be with her, I want to be with her alone.), Lorenzo reasoned out.

Contraceptive Use

Andi and Lorenzo are well-informed of the available contraceptives in the market. Likewise, both of them have neutral attitude towards the use of contraceptives stating that using a condom lessens pleasure while pills have side effects.

Yung mom ko nagsabi na kung magkaron daw ako ng partner wag ko raw ipag-pills kasi may side effects, pwedeng cause sa baby, mahirap manganak. (My mom told me that if ever I have a partner, I should not allow her to use pills because it has side effects. It might be with the baby or difficulty in giving birth.), said Lorenzo.

Tsaka sabi rin pag namiss mo daw yung pag-inom mas nagiging fertile ka. (Also, someone told me that if you miss taking pills you become more fertile.), added Andi.

Similarly, they do not want to use condoms because Andi is not in favor of using artificial contraception. Although the couple believes that contraceptives should be used to prevent unwanted pregnancy, Andi and Lorenzo does not use contraceptives.

Risks and Consequences

The couple had several pregnancy scares in their relationship and they admitted that early parenthood is their biggest concern now that they are sexually active. This is because they believe that early pregnancy will cost them their time, money and future.

Magastos magkaanak e, gusto rin namin eventually pero marami pa kaming gustong gawin. Bata pa kami. (It is costly to have kids, we want to have kids someday, but we still want to do lots of things as we are still young.), Lorenzo said.

Yung mga friends ko din na nagkaron ng early pregnancy ang dami na nilang namimiss, so naisip ko na wag muna sana ganun (getting pregnant). (I have friends who had got pregnant early and they missed out on a lot of things so I said that I do not want that (early pregnancy) to happen to me.), Andi added.

Their mature outlook in life makes them watch out for possible risks and consequences of PMS and plan on what to do if they ever had slip-ups.

Relationship before and after having sex

In assessing their relationship before and after sex, the couples narrated that during their first months together, it was pure infatuation. Lorenzo even said that he never thought that they will be having sex but just enjoying each other.

As their relationship progressed, the couple believes that they became more comfortable with each other. Lorenzo said that they have advanced from being friends to lovers.

Relationship now that they are sexually active

Now that the couple is sexually active, they believe that they gained each other's trust and they share anything to their partner. Also, they said that their relationship had more spice because of sex. Spice in the sense that their relationship, because of sex, retains excitement.

...yung tiwala sa isa't isa nadedvelop namin. Pwede na namin pag-usapan kahit ano tungkol samin, open na kami sa ganun. Tsaka nagkaron ng spice yung relationship namin. (Our trust in each other developed. We can talk about anything, that is how open we are. Also, it added spice to our relationship.), Andi said.

Importance of sex in the relationship

The couple said that sex gives their relationship an extra spice which makes it more exciting. It is also a way for them to bond and have fun.

Hindi naman parang mawawala kami pag walang sex, exciting siya e, nakaka-add ng spice. Kasi ang tagal niyo na pero may fun pa rin kayong nagagawa together. May bond na kayo e. Iba na yun. (It is not like our relationship will fail without sex, but it is exciting, it adds spice, because although you have been together for so long, you still have something fun to do together. You have a bond already, that is different.), Andi said.

Also, Lorenzo believes that sex is his way to show his love for Andi. Not just emotional expression but as well as physical communication through sex.

Decision-making and negotiation

Andi is the more assertive one when it comes to initiating talks regarding their relationship but Lorenzo shows authority in major decision-making and negotiation instances in their relationship.

Maarte kasi ako, minsan pag pagod ako tapos hindi niya nasusunod yung gusto ko, nagagalit ako, tapos mag-aaway na kami. Kasi minsan pag nagpaparinig ako nakakainis na hindi niya naiintindihan, pero yun nga yung sabi niya kasi ang vague ko daw. Ngayun natuto na ako na pag may gusto ako sinasabi ko na talaga sa kanya. (I am very stubborn, sometimes when I am tired and he does not do what I want, I get mad and then we fight. Sometimes it is because I give out hints but it makes me angry that he does not understand what I am saying. He said I was vague. Now, I know that when I want something, I say it straight to his face.), Andi shared.

When it comes to sexual activities, both are very assertive. However, Lorenzo admitted to being sensitive to Andi's feelings especially when it is Andi who initiates. He does not want to hurt her feelings and thus, showing an inverse projection of gender roles inside the relationship. The male partner gives in to his female partner's sexual urges to keep her happy.

Nabi-BV ako, tapos mag-aaway kami kasi hindi obvious pag ako yung natu-turn down e. Tapos ako magiging cold tapos mag-aaway kami kasi bakit ako ganun. (I get pissed off and then we fight, because sometimes it is not obvious that I get turned down. Then I start giving him the cold shoulder and then we fight because he does not know why I am like that.), Andi said when asked what happens if Lorenzo turns him down.

However, the couple believes that in their relationship there is no dominant or submissive one. It is a give-and-take relationship and they are both open to talking about their problems towards the other.

Gender Roles

Andi and Lorenzo do not assume roles that are specific to their gender. The couple practices a give-and-take relationship; however, Lorenzo's submission is not due to Andi's dominant personality but because he respects her wants and her needs.

Since both are assertive in communicating with their partners, Andi and Lorenzo share a symmetrical relationship. They believe that this is the reason why their relationship works.

Socio-cultural factors

Family

Lorenzo and Andi both believe that their families do not affect their sexual relationship. There are times when they feel guilty after sexual intercourse but this does not hinder them from doing sexual activities in the future.

For them, their families serve as some form of disciplinary institution that helps them limit their sexual activities.

Friends

Andi openly discusses her sex life with her friends; in turn, they remind her not to get pregnant early.

...sa mga close lang naman minan pinag-uusapan namin kung ano ginawa tapos minsan wina-warn din nila ako na wag ako mabuntis. (I tell stories to my close friends only, we talk about what we do (sex) and sometimes they warn me not to get myself pregnant.), Andi shared.

Lorenzo, on the other hand, being a private person that he is, does not let his friends know the details of his sexual relationship with Andi. This clearly shows that it is common for females to be expressive of their experiences to their peers especially when her group of friends has the same sexual experiences as hers; while males tend to keep these things to themselves as much as possible

Media

With relation to the sexual activities they do, Lorenzo said that media affect him the most. The tips, facts and other information with sexual content affect his sexual behavior. He admitted to trying the activities he has seen or read in videos and magazines.

Media like magazines, porn, movies affect me probably unconsciously., he said.

Similarly, Andi said that she turns to new for information related to her sexuality and her relationship with Lorenzo. She uses the Internet to look for tips on sexual activities and additional information related to reproductive health.

Religion

Andi takes her religion very seriously, even joining religious organizations while she was in college. However, this does not in anyway affect her decisions and negotiations towards sex-related matters now that she is actively involved in a sexual relationship.

Lorenzo also admits that although he is Catholic, this does not affect his sexual behavior; hence his sexual relationship with Andi.

Sa relationship namin hindi, pero siguro dahil taboo, hindi pwede pag-usapan so siguro kaya hindi namin pwede sabihin sa iba kasi ano ba ang sasabihin ng tao samin. (It does not affect our relationship but since it is taboo, we do not talk about it with others thinking that they might say something bad about what we are doing.), he said.

Lorenzo shared that they regularly go to church. Though they are engaging in PMS, this does not affect them in a way that they would want to stop or limit their sexual activities. As Lorenzo puts it:

Parang walang epekto. Feeling ko naman, saming dalawa, sure naman na kami sa isa't-isa. Kasal na lang siguro ang kulang. I think wala naming masama. (I think, for me, (going to church) has no effects on our sexual relationship. I believe that between the two of us, we are already sure that we are for each other. Marriage is the only thing that lacks in our life.)

They believe that religion is flexible; thus, they tend to do sexual activities even if these are against religious teachings. The couple believes that there is nothing wrong with having sex outside marriage because in time they will marry each other. Andi and Lorenzo strongly hold on to the future of getting married someday.

Education and Economic background

Since both have equal family status and level of education, this could mean that education and their economic background have effects on the way they talk to each other. They are not intimidated in any way of each other's educational attainment and social status; hence, they tend to communicate well in expressing their standpoints and opinions on matters inside their relationship.

Socio-cultural factors, however, do not enhance or impede the couple's sexual activities. They believe that this depends on their mood and whether they are tired or not.

Ruby and Sonny

Sonny

Sonny is a 24-year-old college student, studying in a well-known Catholic school in Manila. He comes from a traditional, upper-middle-class and Catholic family who does not welcome topics such as sex in their conversations.

Sonny lost his virginity to Ruby when he was 21 years old. He confessed to have only one sexual partner to this day.

The restrictions in his family and Catholic education may have influenced him to delay PMS until 21. This is rare these days among males - to lose their virginity after teenage years. This shows the strong influence of family, religion and education in delaying PMS even among young adolescent males.

Ruby

Ruby is the youngest child of a very traditional family belonging to the upper middle class. She is a devout Catholic and is currently in her fourth year of studying in the University of Asia and the Pacific. Her first sexual experience was with Sonny and that happened when she was 21 years old.

At 24, Ruby has never had any other sexual partner other than Sonny.

Her religious affiliation and her family are significant factors in her sexual maturity in terms of the engagement in PMS. Though her economic status grants her opportunities to engage in risky behaviors, Ruby's family and religion prohibits her from doing so.

Having only one partner at age 24 is relevant proof of family's and religion's influences in her relationship with Sonny.

Ruby and Sonny (in a relationship for 3 years and 4 months)

The couple met through a common friend. Living in the same neighbourhood, they got to see each other often and then as they said, love just happened.

Ruby and Sonny share the same set of friends and this is one of the several reasons why they have kept their relationship intact.

First sexual encounter

After 4 months of being in a relationship, Ruby and Sonny had their first sexual intercourse together. It was both their first time so they were exploring how to do the act. Ruby said she was scared because it was her first time while Sonny was excited.

It was Sonny who initiated the act saying that it was his instinct and it was not planned. Ruby also narrated how they fought a few days before the sexual encounter.

Siya naman talaga (nag-initiate). Tinanong niya, sabi niya ‘Ruby, gusto mo na ba?’ Sabi ko ‘ayoko’ tapos nagtampo siya sa akin mga three to four days. Nung nagkita ulit kami, it happened. (He initiated. He asked me if I want to do it (sex), I said I do not want to, and he felt bad for three to four days. When we saw each other again, it (sex) happened) she said.

The encounter happened in Sonny’s room where they used “rubber” or condom. They said that condom was the most convenient contraceptive available to them. It was Sonny who brought the condom and he had it in his wallet long before their sexual encounter.

After having sex, the couple had the same reaction where they could not believe that after all the hype about sex, there was nothing special about it. The couple then decided to have sex again the next day.

Young adolescents are hooked into the thought that sex is an extraordinary experience; this is the reason why they engage in PMS – out of curiosity.

Subsequent sexual encounter

Kissing, petting, necking ang oral sex are the sexual activities that the couple usually do and that 90 % of these often lead to sex as it is part of their foreplay.

These are usually done in Sonny's car or Ruby's house once or twice a week.

Lagi na kasing walang tao sa bahay e. (There are no people in the house most of the time.), Ruby said.

It is usually Sonny who initiates sexual activities, with his belief that it is man's nature to do so. Sonny explains that as the man in the relationship, it is expected that he is the one with frequent sexual urges which needs to be satisfied.

Nasa nature na kasi ng guys yung sila yung nagsstart nung act kasi mas madali malibugan. (It is in guys' nature already, that they start the act because they get aroused more easily.), he said.

Contraceptive Use

Sonny's sisters are OB-Gynecologists; so, he said that he is equipped with sufficient knowledge on different contraceptives. His sisters' medical backgrounds create a positive attitude on the use of contraceptives; however, because of Ruby's fertility complication, they opt not to use one.

Baliktad kasi yung uterus ko so sabi ng doctor, rare daw na mabuntis pag ganun. (My uterus is upturned and the doctor said it is rare for women with cases like mine, to get pregnant.), Ruby said.

Ako naman sira ulo so sinusubukan ko, pero gumagamit kami ng withdrawal para safe pa rin. (Sometimes I fool around and try not using a condom. Still, we do withdrawal so as to be safe.) Sonny added.

In addition to this, they do not use condoms because of the lack of pleasure and because they feel ashamed of buying condoms. Filipinos find it shameful to buy contraceptives especially when there are other people looking. They are conscious of people judging them as sexually active young adolescents.

Nakakatamad bumili e, nakakatamad na nakakahiya. Pag kunwari kasi makakakita ako ng bumibili ng ganun nakakahiya, e pag ako na ang bibili, diba? (It is a hassle to buy it. A hassle and I feel ashamed. Like when I see someone buying condoms, I feel ashamed for them. What if I am the one buying, right?)

Risks and Consequences

The couple's main concern is getting pregnant early because they are scared what their parents might do once this happens.

...hindi ako natatakot na mabuntis siya, natatakot ako kung ano man ang gagawin ng parents niya (Ruby) pag nabuntis siya tapos nag-aaral pa kami. Pero kung if ever naman, pananagutan ko naman siya e. (I am not scared if she gets pregnant, I am more scared of what her parents might do if she gets pregnant and we are still studying. But if ever it happens, I am willing to take responsibility.), Sonny said.

Nakakatakot na madivert yung future mo, yung plans, tapos madidisappoint pa yung parents mo. Pero confident naman kaming dalawa na together pa rin kami pag nangyari yun. (It is scary that it might divert your future, your plans and your parents will get disappointed. But we are confident that if ever it happens, we will face it together.), Ruby added.

Sonny's willingness to take responsibility shows how much he loves his partner. He is more concerned of Ruby's welfare than his own. Unwanted pregnancy has a lot of risks; affecting their future is the biggest consequence if this happens.

Relationship before and after having sex

The couple believes that there have been minimal changes in their relationship after having sex. Sonny and Ruby shared that compared before, they are happier as individuals now that they are sexually active. Sex, for them, elevated their relationship from infatuation to romantic commitment.

Relationship now that they are sexually active

Ruby and Sonny both agreed that after continuously having sex they became closer to each other and their relationship became a healthy one. They also make it a point to spend time together everyday.

During the interview proper, Ruby and Sonny were celebrating their “monthsary.” This shows that even after 3 years, they see to it to thank each other for spending another month together. Now that they are sexually active, Sonny mentioned that they have developed more than just a relationship but “emotional attachment.”

Importance of sex in a relationship

Sex in their relationship lessened their arguments.

Lagi kami nag-aaway pag walang ganun (sex). (We always fight if we do not have sex), Sonny said.

Sex is so important that they said they could not live without it for as long as they are together. This, however, does not necessarily mean their relationship revolves around sexual intercourse alone.

Importante pero hindi naman dun nagrerevolve yung relationship. Parang ingredient lang siya. (Sex is important but the relationship does not revolve around it. It is like an ingredient [in the relationship]), said Ruby.

Similar with the previous couples, Sonny and Ruby uses sex as a way of resolving their misunderstandings, but not all the time. The couple shared that sex eases the tension during an argument or a fight.

Decision-making and negotiation

Sonny describes Ruby as stubborn. During arguments, instead of talking back, he just steps down and apologizes even if it is not his fault.

Ang tigas niye e, hindi ko matalo yung ego niya. Kaya pag mag-aaway na ako nalang yung naggi-give in. (She really is stubborn, I cannot compete with her ego. So whenever we argue, I usually give in.), Sonny narrated.

Ruby is very assertive. During the interview proper, she even said she is the “boss” in their relationship. She gets what she wants. Ruby also, does not like being turned down by her partner. Nevertheless, Sonny said that whenever Ruby feels like he is not in the mood to argue, Ruby just stops.

Gender Roles

The couple had a number of traditional views like guys should always initiate and that girls should be the one to take care of their partner. However, when it comes to the gender stereotyping, in terms of who is dominant and who is submissive, they bend the rules.

It is apparent even during the interviews that Ruby is dominant over Sonny. Sonny even directly said that Ruby usually gets the final say.

Siya (Ruby) naman ang boss eh. (She is the boss), he said.

I always get what I want, he just has to deal with that, Ruby added.

When asked about how the patriarchal society would look at this situation, Sonny answered without hesitation:

Sabihin nila gusto nilang sabihin, basta ako, okay kami.
(They can say whatever they want to say but for me, as long as we are okay, it is fine with me.)

The concept of the alpha male does not work in Ruby and Sonny's relationship. It is the alpha female and the submissive male, which keep their partnership work. The macho image which is supposed to be projected by the male does not bother Sonny as long as Ruby and he stay as a couple. He can endure his partner's demands as long as they both know their limits.

Socio-cultural factors

Family

Although family does not have an effect on Sonny, Ruby being the youngest, affects their negotiations and decision-making.

Ako kasi yung bunso e, so sanay ako na nakukuha ko yung gusto ko. (I am the youngest so I am used to getting what I want.), Ruby said.

Ruby's statement is attributed to her earlier mention that she always gets what she wants in her relationship with Sonny. It is probably her upbringing which made her the more dominant partner in the relationship. However, this is different from the case of Sonny, also being the youngest among the family, he was brought up to be submissive. The researchers believe that this is because he is the youngest and the only male among the siblings. He tends to submit himself to his older sisters; this in turn explains why Sonny lets Ruby take the more dominant role. He is comfortable in this arrangement.

Friends

Friends are Sonny and Ruby's major source of sexual information. They also talk about the risks and consequences of having sex because of the experiences shared by their friends

Nagkaka-idea ka kung anong dapat gawin, kung ano yung mga styles. Tsaka alam mo din kung ano yung hindi dapat gawin dahil sa mga kwento nila. (You get an idea about what to do, what not to do because of their stories.), Sonny said.

Ruby shared that the maturity of her friends makes them more relevant sources of information related to sex. Almost all of her girl friends are sexually active or have had

sexual experience. This then prompts her to do the same without having to be given prejudice. She is comfortable sharing her sex life to her friends.

Media

It was media in the form of porn and movies with sexual content which influenced Sonny's sexual instinct.

Malaking influence ang media. Mga movies ni Rica Peralejo, yung mga bold, mga porn. (Media is a big influence, especially movies of Rica Peralejo, those bold movies and porn.), Sonny shared.

Media with sexually-explicit materials trigger sexual desires among the youth especially among young adolescent males who patronize these types of media. In the literature, males find porn and movies or images with sexual content, interesting; females on the other hand, find these disturbing.

Ruby, on the other hand, does not acknowledge media as an influence in her decision - making and negotiations and sexual relationship with Sonny.

Religion

Whenever Ruby attends church services, she feels guilty but the feeling does not affect her sexual behavior. She feels guilt for a moment and then it fades as she knows she will still be having sex with Sonny. The effect of religion to Ruby is not long-lasting,

just an immediate and forgettable reminder that PMS is against God's will. Her relationship with Sonny and her formed belief that sex is common among adolescents these days, overpower her view of PMS as an activity prohibited by the church.

Sonny, on the other hand, admits no guilt because for him, sex is something normally done by couples and that Ruby and he had had sex several times already.

Education and Economic Background

Ruby and Sonny believe that their educational and economic backgrounds are not factors which affect their sexual relationship. Both of them are in known universities and they belong to the same social class. Given their situation, it is easier for them to relate with one another as there is no tension between their economic backgrounds and their level of education.

They said that the frequency of their sexual activities is not heavily influenced by any socio-cultural factors. If ever their sexual activities are enhanced or impeded it is because of the availability of their partners for sexual encounter.

Ria and Harris

Harris

Harris is a 20-year-old high school dropout who lives with Ria's parents in an urban poor area in San Juan. He does not remember how many sexual partners he had

but is sure that it is more than five. He lost his virginity at the age of 14 with someone he cannot remember.

He is currently married to Ria to which he has a child with

Harris does not recall the number of sexual partners he has had; but the researchers believe he was just not comfortable relaying his sexual adventures to the researchers. In the vicinity where Harris and Ria live, it is notable that most of young female adolescents there, either have a child or are pregnant. This shows that Harris' living environment and economic status affect his actions and behaviors, more specifically his sexual maturity.

His first sexual encounter debuted when he was a young teenage boy with a young teenage girl and this happened in Harris' house. The absence of parents in monitoring their children's activities is a significant factor in Harris' case. This situation among young adolescents is found in the literature.

Ria

Ria is 19 years old and who is also a high school dropout like Harris. She lives with Harris in her parents' house in San Juan. She has had more than two sexual partners prior to Harris but she cannot remember how old she was when she lost her virginity.

Ria was 18 years old when she got pregnant and her parents' decided to get Harris and her married.

Like Harris, Ria was not totally honest during the interview where she said she could not recall how many sexual partners she has had. This is probably because she is a young mother married to a young unemployed husband, both of them living dependently in her parents' house. She may have had felt embarrassed of her situation.

Ria's lack of education, her exposure to urban poor living, her familial background and their economic status which may have introduced her to influential peers, are major factors in her early PMS and early motherhood.

Ria and Harris (in a relationship for 1 year)

According to Harris, he got attracted to Ria the first time he laid eyes on her. They live in the same barangay in San Juan. Their first social interaction made Harris decide on courting Ria. Two weeks later, they became a couple. Less than a month after dating, Ria got pregnant.

First sexual encounter

After a week of being in a relationship, they had sex for the first time. This happened in Harris' house, in his room. Most of unmonitored young adolescents are tempted to try activities which are sexual in nature. The absence of parents or guardians gives them enough liberty to engage in sexual activities with their sexual partner.

Kiniss ko siya. Ganito kasi yun, dapat magkikita kami ng isa kong kaibigan e di siya pumunta kaya kaming (Ria) dalawa nalang. Syempre pag ganun, yun na. (I kissed her.

It happened because I was supposed to meet with my friend but he did not show up so we ended up going home together and it happened.), Harris narrated.

It was Harris who initiated the action by kissing Ria. They did not use any contraceptive because they do not have money to buy one. Condoms cost P50 per 3 pieces and he could not afford buying a pack. He was young and unemployed.

Ang layo ng bilihan at saka wala akong pera pambili. (The store is too far and I do not have money to buy one.), Harris said.

Prior to their first sexual intercourse as a couple, they reported feeling just what other people normally feel before having sex. Both Harris and Ria reported feeling lustful before the act. After having sex for the first time, the couple said they were exhausted.

When asked on what affected their decision to finally do it (sex) for the first time, Harris straightforwardly answered:

Kasi nagawa ko na eh. (Because I have had done it (sex) before.)

Young adolescents with sexual experience tend to engage in sexual activities more than their virgin counterparts. Harris believes that there is nothing to lose, anyway; hence, having sex with other people will do him no harm. This is also true with Ria who has had sexual partners before she met Harris.

Subsequent sexual encounter

Subsequent sexual encounters started with Harris as the initiator. He narrated that torrid kisses usually lead to sex. They always do it in their house for privacy.

Sa bahay lang. Syempre iba dun. Pag sa labas, kiss back lang. (We have sex in our house. Of course the situation there is different from places outside. If outside the house, we can only kiss each other), said Harris.

They have had several subsequent sexual encounters during their first few months as a couple. Often, their parents were out of the house which made these activities possible.

Contraceptive use

Ria and Harris were not in favour of using condoms before. They do not like wearing condoms because it lessens sexual pleasure. However when they found out that Ria was pregnant, they opted to use condoms and all other contraceptives available to prevent getting her pregnant again.

Mas okay pag walang contraceptive, pero pag hindi ka naman gumamit no, may baby naman. Gagastos ka na naman. (I prefer not using contraceptives but if you do not use one, there is a chance you might have another baby which is more expensive.), Harris said.

Ria did not talk much during the discussion as she was nursing her new born baby back then. But during the individual interview, she mentioned that after her pregnancy, Harris and she started using contraceptives. Her mother insists on this. She gets her

injectibles in their barangay for free. According to Harris and Ria, she gets injected once every three months or depending on the availability in their barangay.

Decision-making and negotiation

During their first year as a couple, they had their first baby. Now, Ria and Harris live in Ria's parents' house with her other siblings as well. She is the youngest in the family. The two of them are unemployed and both sides of their families are not well off. When asked about how they communicated with each other before the baby, they reported not to talk about the possible risks and consequences of their actions but when Ria got pregnant and delivered a child, the couple now talks about family planning and settling with one child for now but Harris said:

...pag mayaman na siguro ako, mga tatlo. (When I become rich I prefer three (children).)

As narrated by Harris, in decision-making and negotiation, it is he who gets the last say on matters regarding their relationship. As the man in the family, he believes he should hold authority. Ria on the other hand, bends to her husband's demands. However, both of them are too young for parenthood; their immaturity can be traced in the performance or neglect of their responsibilities. During the interview, Harris was out playing online games in some computer shop while his wife tends to their baby.

Ria was upset with Harris the day of the interview and this is the reason why she was reluctant to answer some of the questions. When I asked Harris what was the reason of their misunderstanding, he said:

Galit sya sakin kasi hindi ko sya ibinili nung tsinelas. Yung Havaianas. Taga factory kasi yung kaibigan ko. Gusto nya (Ria) yun eh pero hindi ko naman naibili kasi nagastos ko yung pera. (She is mad at me because I did not buy her Havaianas flip flops. I have a friend working at the factory. Ria want to have those flip flops but I was not able to buy her a pair because I spent the money.)

The little things like these cause them to argue. As Ria snobbed her husband, Harris jokingly narrated the story to the researchers without trying to suit his wife. Their naivety as young parents was reflected in their behaviour of settling their arguments like children.

In terms of negotiating matters regarding their sexual activities, Harris gets what he wants. This is implied in Ria's answer when asked what happens if she turns Harris down when he initiates sexual activities:

Nagagalit sya sakin tapos hindi nya ako kakausapin ng ilang araw. (He gets mad at me then he would not talk to me for several days.)

Similarly, Harris rejects Ria's sexual advantages but Ria is fine with this.

Gender Roles

The couple assumes their roles based on their gender. Harris takes roles that are more masculine as he is the usual initiator of sexual acts and gets to decide most of the time. Ria submits to Harris' demands and accepts his most of the time, irresponsible behaviour. The researchers' observations, however, suggest Harris authority in the relationship.

However, it is notable that even though Harris shows authority as the male partner, his immaturity keeps their relationship complicated in a way that he prefers playing online games all day instead of helping Ria take care of the baby. Young adolescents, in this case teenagers are not ready to face responsibilities at their young age.

Socio-cultural factors

The couple was not too open to the researchers about their sexual relationship. This is probably because the venue was in Ria's house and she was nursing her baby. However, from their narrations and from the researchers' observations during the interview proper, it is clear that family and peers are the most influential factors in Ria and Harris' sexual relationship.

The absence of parents in monitoring their children made Ria and Harris highly susceptible to trying risk-taking behaviours such as PMS. During the interview, Ria's mother can be heard shouting at her about how to better take care of the newborn baby. Her mother was cursing her even in the presence of the researchers. Ria and Harris told the researchers not to mind their mother as she is always like that. The dysfunctionality of the couple's families probably is one factor of early pregnancy and parenthood. But the blame is not solely directed to their families. Their living environment elicits these risky behaviours. As seen from Harris himself, his petite body is covered with tattoos.

On the other hand, sexually active peers are common in their local area. Young adolescents of same age are either pregnant or with child. It could be further implied that the economic background of young adolescents, combined with their social

environment, trigger unwarranted behaviour among young adolescents. In addition to this, their lack of education, since both Ria and Harris are high school dropouts, made their perspectives narrow and limited to short term goals. They lack knowledge and information regarding the risks and consequences of early PMS and the preventive measures for these risks and consequences.

C. Key Informant Interviews

This portion summarizes the results of the conducted in-depth interviews with the same 10 young adolescent couples. To further understand adolescent sexual behaviour, the researchers interpreted the personal information given by the 10 couples about their sexual relationship by consulting two experts in the field of sex and culture. The interviewees were Assistant Professor Richard Jonathan Taduran, an expert in Forensic Anthropology currently teaching Sex and Culture in the University of the Philippines, Diliman; and Dr. Eufrazio Abaya, Advisory Board Member of the University of the Philippines Center for Ethnomusicology who earned his Ph. D. in Anthropology in Michigan State University and specializes in Culture and Personality.

Demographic Profile

The informants come from middle class families. Most of them are still students, while some are either employed or businessmen and businesswomen. Their religions vary from Roman Catholicism, Iglesia ni Kristo, Born Again and some are self-proclaimed Agnostics.

The results show that educational background is a factor in the negotiation and decision-making of young couples regarding sexual activities. Those with higher level of education are more effective in communicating their rights, views, stands and opinions regarding their sexual relationships. Female college students and graduates are very direct in negotiating with their partners. Those with lower educational attainment are less assertive in the relationship. The case is different with the male informants showing that education has no direct effect on them being the dominant partner. Traditional gender roles and the church are believed to have influenced this arrangement.

The belief that men are supposed to be dominant and assertive in a relationship and that submission is a sign of decreased manhood was shared by the male-informants. This is showcased in the situation of Cheska and Jay wherein Jay confessed that he is the one who usually decides because he is the man in the relationship. Archie is also compelled to dominate because he believes it is his duty to do so.

In addition, the couple Ica and Archie who belongs to different religious affiliations often encounter disagreements over issues concerning their relationship. In this context, the female partner submits herself to the male's demands to reach a compromised decision. This is because of the religion teaches her that women should submit to men.

It is notable that there is no significant difference in the couples' family status or economic background. This is probably the reason why the male and female partners find it easy to relate to one another. The couple-informants did not mention anything about conflicts which are related to their families' economic status.

Age could be a factor in the couples' relationships, especially when it comes to decision-making. Most of the couples are of the same age while others have a few years of age gap. Age range determines the assertiveness of individuals involved in the relationship in such a way that if the male and female are of the same age, it is easier for him or her to relate his or her stand without feeling superior or inferior. The most significant age gap in the cases presented is 5 years - that of Rica's (19 years old) and Efren's (24 years old). True enough, since Efren is older, he usually makes the final decision in matters related to their sexual relationship. Comparing this to the case of Pol and Vicky, there is equality in decision making and whoever makes more sense, given the situation, he or she makes the final call.

It is important to classify the informants according to their distinct demographic characteristics because as Dr. Abaya puts it, individuals are placed differently in the society. Hypothetically, in the study of gender and culture, there is a notion that all women are the same and all men are the same; thus, it is significant to be specific in studying individuals of different gender and characteristics.

So who are the males here? Who are the females here?
How are they situated in the social landscape? [I think it is important] that you have to be very specific.

-Dr. Abaya

Young adolescents as sexual individuals

The couples' sexual activities include kissing, oral sex, and foreplay. These activities, specifically necking and heavy petting, proceed to sexual intercourse. Males

are the usual initiators of sexual intercourse; while females tend to submit to their male partners' whims.

These results show that young adolescents, both males and females are sexual individuals who are open in expressing their urges with their current partner. They have sexually active lives which are not recognized by the Philippine society especially in the case of females. From the informant interviews, there is this common traditional assumption that women should value their virginity because the woman's body is her "investment." This is due to the fact that men believe taking a woman's virginity is a conquest. It is the thrill of conquering the woman and subject them to submission that makes men want to have a virgin wife.

Virginity is valued. Why is virginity valued? Because women are historically viewed as possessions, there is this valuerization of the woman's value. 'Pag virgin ka, mas mataas ang iyong value. Ang contradiction naman nun, sino naman ang [ginagalaw] nung mga lalaki bago sila nag-asawa? (If a woman is a virgin, she has higher value in the society. This is in contrast with the males who have had several sexual encounters before they marry.)

-Dr. Abaya

In the Philippine society which is a predominantly Catholic country, virginity among women is a prerequisite to marriage. Males prefer virgin wives; hence, females keep their virginity for their future husbands. Women are oppressed in expressing their sexuality. This assumption would also be a form of submission for women because their virginity is something they want to keep and if men were able to get it (virginity), then the woman would become a possession they can control. In a patriarchal system, women are prohibited from having sexual encounters outside marriage while males who are conquerors lavish their freedom in promiscuous affairs. Males are glorified while women

are punished upon the engagement in sexual behaviour. However, times have changed and sexual freedom is the new trend. In the study, the male-informants still prefer to commit to virgin women but they consider love and passion as factors in choosing their future wives. One male informant even stated that he has his rights to practice sexual freedom and his partner has hers, too. The past sexual relationship of their female partners may matter but if one really loves the person, there is always acceptance, explained by the male-informants. When asked if they ever thought of staying virgins for their future husbands, all the female-informants said yes but explained that if one feels this is “true love,” they do not mind losing it (virginity) to the man they love even at a young age. Because love, according to the young female-informants, come and just happens. According to Dr. Abaya, age is just a number in discussing sexual experience but it is important for the individual to know his or her responsibilities once he or she engages in a sexual relationship.

In the Philippines, wala naman yung tamang gulang. Not the age per se but the ability of the woman or the female to care to tend for the other. Sexuality normatively speaking is always associated to reproduction. Sex equates to reproduction. Hindi lang laro yan, hindi lang for sexual pleasure lang yan. (In the Philippines, there is no such thing as the ‘right age’ for having sex for the first time. It is not the age per se but the ability of the woman or the female to care and to tend care for the other (male partner). Sex is associated to reproduction. Sex is not a game and for mere pleasure.)

-Dr. Abaya

The Catholic Church allows sex within the bounds of marriage because it is believed to be an activity mainly for reproduction. However, due to the changing cultural norms, premarital sex is practiced by a wide majority of young adolescents involved in sexual relationships. The previous chapters of this study showed that the age of first PMS

experience happens at younger years. According to Asst. Prof. Taduran, it depends on the “values system” of the person. If he or she is liberal, there is the freedom of having sex with whoever he or she wants. Engaging in PMS is a choice; and there are factors involved in making this decision – gender roles (internal) and socio-cultural factors (external).

On Gender Roles in Sexual Relationships

It is interesting to note the interplay of gender roles in the sexual relationship of the 10 young couples in this study. Most of the males believe that they should act in a certain manner arguing that this is because it is in their nature as men, to do so. Given for example the case of Sonny, he explained that his frequent sexual urges are normal among males; hence, he is the usual initiator of sexual activities.

Dr. Abaya explained that an individual embraces his or her gender roles because the social environment expects him or her to portray these roles as part of the society, given its history on gender and sexuality.

Gender roles are culturally and socially constructed in a sense that they are not given, they are products of history and are in play with people who believe, who practice these gender orientations.

– Dr. Abaya

Males and females behave in a certain way as if they are programmed by the society with what to do and not what to do depending on their sex and the cultural norms in their social environment. Because we live in a patriarchal society, there is this assumption that the woman should submit to the man. This is present ever since the

hunting and gathering stage which according to Asst. Professor Richard Taduran is the reason why women are disempowered through time.

Pinanggalingan yan nung hunting and gathering stage yung power ng guy dala-dala niya. Yung investment ng girl sa isang relationship ay yung katawan niya. Taga dala ng baby. So kaya mas malaki yung economic power nung guy. Habang tumatagal nagbabago yung dynamics. Nagkaroon ng kultura, nagbago (pero) naging patriarchal pa rin. (This originated from the hunting and gathering stage where the male carries his economic power with him while the female's investment is her body and its capability of carrying a baby and giving birth. As time goes on, there are changes in this dynamics (in gender roles) in the emergence of culture and other factors; still, the society remains to be patriarchal.)

– Asst. Prof. Taduran

Both experts repeatedly agree that there is this notion wherein the woman's investment in the relationship is her body, while the man is there to take care of the woman and her child. Therefore, it is likely for the woman to submit and the man to dominate. But due to the changing sexual norms, gender roles in sexual relationships become dynamic in nature. This can be seen in this research study wherein the females are not all-out submissive to their male partners in doing sexual activities; they ask and get what they want whenever they want it. Similarly, males now tend to submit to their partners' whims, which is in oppose to the patriarchal ideology where males are always in control.

Globally, because modernity is associated with a kind of lifestyle na liberated, you can do anything you want, yung individualism, freedom. Ito yung modernity discourse. So ang nangyayari, may reconfiguration ngayun ng culture. The culture of modernity. So yung tinatawag nating 'traditional,' [ay] nagche-change. (This is a global trend. Because modernity is associated with a kind of lifestyle which is liberated, you can do anything you want. This is

what individualism and freedom mean. This is the modernity discourse and what we call “traditional” trend, changes.)

-Dr. Abaya

The image of Maria Clara vanishes as what Dr. Abaya said that these days, young females openly show “flesh” and “cleavage” in expressing gender and sexuality. Asst. Prof. Taduran added that in this generation, adolescents are becoming more liberated in the expression of their sexuality. The global trends affect gender fluidity and the traditional cultural norms. In terms of sexual activities, he used the term “FuBu” (fuck buddies) and explained that in their time, they have the same type of sexual associations but they call it “Foo Fighters,” to be discreet. This is basically casual sex between two people not necessarily involved in an exclusive sexual relationship. This shows that even before, females have been involved in this kind of sexual freedom. Promiscuity which is pardoned for males of the society is now practiced by women.

In this research study, some of the informants have had multiple sex partners before their current boyfriend. Similarly, in terms of expressing their sexuality, female-informants are not afraid to initiate sexual activities with their partners. Male and female gender roles become fluid, resulting from different social and sexual interactions. In the cases of Ica and Trish, they have traditional beliefs related to their sexual relationship; thus making their male partners to have the authority in deciding during negotiations. However, this does not hold true for Ruby and Sonny’s case. Ruby is used to getting what she wants and Sonny usually submits to her. For him, it is not submission but a form of respect to her partner.

There are also those who really try to work a give-and- take relationship, such as Vicky and Pol. Elle and John on the other hand, balances their decisions when it comes to sexual activities and the risks and consequences that are present.

This shows that female-informants who dominate the relationship, bend the structured gender roles in the Philippine patriarchal society. Women of this generation assert their rights in decision making. One female informant said that she is very direct in telling her partner what she wants especially on the use of contraceptives. In these cases, it is usually the guy who submits, not only regarding their sexual activities but in their relationship in general. As one female informant said,

“I always get what I want and he just has to accept that.”

In the study it is observed that men often take charge in deciding the frequency of sexual activities because they are the usual initiators. The use of contraception, be it indirectly communicated, is also under the males' control. Even though females want to use contraceptives, they consider their partners' sexual satisfaction and preference first, so females then are compelled not to use contraceptives. This example is a form of submission on the woman's part because it is more likely that she thinks of ways to please her partner first before thinking of her own welfare and sexual satisfaction.

Ideally, people strive to balance their sexual relationships but reality is there will always be tension in the relationships as both the male and female partner compete for dominance and submission. There will always be one person who will get to decide and this will be due to the fact that one will eventually give in at the end. The outcome of this intra-relationship competition all depends on negotiation skills.

Negotiating the Risks and Consequences of Sexual Activities

The interaction of gender roles in the sexual relationship, specifically in negotiating sexual activities is not purely dominance and submission. This is reflected upon the results from the 10 couple interviews. Female-informants described themselves as to being firm in stating their stands during discussions regarding sexual activities. Males on the other hand tend to submit to their female partners' whims in given circumstances. Though they usually initiate the sexual encounters, their partners may decline their advances. However, this is not the case when females communicate their sexual urges; male-informants said they never or if they did, they only turned their partners' advances once or twice.

In discussing the possible risks and consequences of their sexual activities, the young couples often talk about unwanted pregnancy since this is their primary concern. Females are more afraid than males whenever they experience 'false alarms' (pregnancy scares) because they will be affected more than their partners.

Kasi pag nanganak ka na, ang daming magbabago sa buhay mo as a woman. Lagi kasi pag sex, babae ang parang palaging napupuruhan. Ang lalaki laging makapangyarihan kasi hindi naman sila ang magdadala ng bata. (Once a woman gives birth, there will be major changes in her lifestyle. In sexual relationships, a woman faces bigger consequences. The man is always the powerful one because he carries no burden of carrying a baby.)

- Dr. Abaya

In this research study, the male-informants stated concerns for their female partners if they face unwanted pregnancy – the possible health risks and social changes their girl friends will encounter while carrying the baby. The male-informants of this

study expressed their willingness to carry the responsibility of early marriage and fathering the baby, but it is their female partners they are more concerned with. The females have to quit school or work and there is a big possibility of being stigmatized by the society for getting pregnant outside marriage.

Despite the fear of unwanted pregnancy, majority of the young couples still prefer not to use contraceptives because of the lack of sexual pleasure. The issue of sexual health is not a concern among the informants with their belief that their partners do not have any other sexual interaction outside their relationship.

Negotiation Styles

All male-informants are reported to be direct or semi-direct in their negotiations especially in communicating what they want with their partners regarding their sexual activities. This is present in almost all cases wherein the males are usually the ones who initiate their sexual activities and decide on where to have sex. Although sometimes they are turned down by their partners, men have ways to manipulate their female counterparts. An example would be what Pol does when Vicky turns him down. He lets the tension go down and then asks Vicky the question again until she is persuaded to say “yes.”

Girls on the other hand vary from direct to non-verbal. There are some like Ica and Trish who do not feel the need to initiate sexual intercourse. They believe that men should take control and make the decisions. Andi on the other hand, admits to being vague when it comes to communicating with her partner which often leads to arguments.

It could be inferred from the cases presented that although girls want to assert themselves, they sometimes just subtly communicate their needs through actions.

Negotiating contraceptive use is very poor between the couple-informants. Most of the couples opt not to use contraceptive, ignoring the topic altogether. There are some such as Ica, Trish, and Vicky who think of their partners' pleasure instead of their own.

Efren, Pol and Harris on the other hand, consider the need of using contraceptives to prevent unwanted pregnancy. Even though this does not fully satisfy their sexual expectations, they use condoms and practice safe sex to lower the risk and possible consequences of unprotected sexual intercourse. In the case of Archie, however, he believes that since condoms are not pleasurable he prefers Ica to take pills.

There are a few couples who assume a complementary relationship, which according to Bateson, et.al. (as cited in Littlejohn, 2008), is a dominant-submissive relationship but most couples already have a symmetrical relationship wherein power struggles occur.

Majority of the females are direct in communicating their stand which is to use contraceptives to prevent unwanted pregnancy. If men are the usual initiators of sexual activities, women on the other hand are the ones who bring the topic of safe sex in conversations.

Importance of sex in relationships

Sex affirms physical intimacy and attachment. According to the couple-informants, sex made them feel closer to each other. The young couples' sexual relationship cultivated in them a deeper connection with their partner. Biologically

speaking, according to Asst. Prof. Taduran, sex creates an attachment between two people. He further explained that during sexual intercourse, individuals release: 1) oxytocin, a chemical which emotionally binds two people together; and 2) dopamine, a hormone that gives a happy feeling.

The couples believe that they share an open communication now that they are involved in sexual activities. They shared that issues get resolved because of sexual attachment and that sex adds spice to their relationship. This then explains why young adolescents are hooked to sex; sex creates intimacy and at the same time gives pleasure. However, Dr. Abaya said that sex should be practiced responsibly.

Sex is very dangerous, relationally. It demands intense intimacy and defines a certain degree of commitment and responsibility and consequences can sometimes lead to violence.

– Dr. Abaya

He agrees that sex affirms fantasy and intimacy and acceptance. Having sex with another person is like opening yourself, your body and your entire life to another. This is where it gets complicated because entering one's body would mean creating an access for that person to affect you in terms too delicate to handle. Dr. Abaya explained this by giving a basic example in the second person perspective: it is having another person touch parts of your body which you have kept for yourself. Losing one's virginity and not being able to take it back will have to make the person adjust emotionally and socially. Emotionally, because the person will cope up with the mixed feelings after the sexual intercourse; and socially, in terms of relating to the people in the society with prejudices toward PMS. Moreover, there are other risks to consider in dealing with sex.

Sex could create a connection between two people but it is a double-edged sword which is according to Dr. Abaya must be handled responsibly. Some young adolescents take the issues connected to sex, for granted due to the different influences surrounding them; thus, it is proper to discuss what these influences are and how these affected the sexual behaviour of the 10 young couples of this research study.

Socio-cultural factors in sexual relationships

In discussing the socio-cultural factors which may affect young adolescent sexual behaviour, Asst. Prof Taturan described how conservative Filipinos are:

“Conservative pa din tayong mga Pinoy... Conservative pa rin tayo kasi ganun kalakas ang impluwensiya ng church.”

– Asst. Prof. Taturan

The notion of all males and females following cultural norms and therefore act the same way is problematic, males and females are different from each other and are positioned differently in society. Factors that would come into play would be their social class, religion and education, to name a few. Dr. Abaya cited an example of a woman who comes from a poor family background. This woman would have difficulty negotiating with a well-educated man. Dr. Abaya added that there are moral and ethical dimensions in gender negotiations.

Popular culture would tell us, women or a female who comes from a [poor] family [will] probably have certain difficulties relating to a man who is very well educated. In their negotiation styles mahihirapan sila (they will experience difficulty) because of different class backgrounds. Interaction can be also subjected to social scrutiny.

- Dr. Abaya

What Dr. Abaya was describing here is the effect of economic background to the communication aspect of the sexual relationship. Higher level of family income would produce opportunities to be well-educated. From the literature, educated individuals do better in communicating their rights during discussions. Relating this to the results of the study may explain why the couple interviewees have been in their relationships for long periods of time. Almost all of the informants have good educational background; only Ria and Harris who are both high school drop-outs and the only couple with a baby. Education makes informants well aware of the risks and consequences of their sexual activities.

Higher educational attainment is a factor in good negotiation and decision-making. It could be inferred, from the study, that this notion is proven true. Most of the couples who have good negotiation skills are those couples who come from the same social class or have the same level of education. But education in the aspect of teaching young adolescents about sex, is insignificant. Although schools inform, they do not necessarily influence action. The couples related that education does not affect their sexual behaviour. It only gives young adolescents facts on contraceptives. In connection with this, Asst. Prof. Taduran believes that experience is still the best teacher when it comes to educating an individual about sex.

From the related literature, both foreign and local studies showed that young adolescents turn to their closest friends for sexual guidance (Carayugan & Naparan, 2006; David, 2008; Eisenberg et al., 2006; Patricio, 2004; Soriano, 2004). In this research study, female informants talk about their sexual activities with their girl friends while males do not disclose any detail to their male friends. The informants do not turn to their

families for advice because “sex talk” remains to be taboo in the family. If the family entertains liberal perspectives, then most likely the individual would be able to communicate the topic of pre-marital sex. Likewise, if the family practices conservative traditions, it would be difficult for the young adolescents to talk about PMS. In the case of Kai and Christopher, both come from schools which encourage open-mindedness and both have families who have liberal philosophies; hence, conversations on sex and sex-related matters are openly discussed inside the family. Kai and Christopher were exposed to liberated values systems making them the most care-free in expressing their sexuality in comparison with the other couple-informants in this study.

Religion is an interesting factor in sexual relationships especially in the case of young Filipino couples. A religious person lives by the law of God, wherein sex outside marriage is strictly prohibited. However, this does not hold true most of the time. The informants of this study admitted that even if they consider themselves religious, it is neither a factor which impedes nor enhances their sexual behaviour. The feeling of guilt after engaging in PMS, however, is explained by Dr. Abaya as:

Catholicism is maleable. Yung kanilang mga teachings ay maleable. meron kasi silang sense na pag nagkasala ka, patatawarin ka naman eh. Kasi ang Dyos na kilala ko ay mapagpatawad. So kahit nagrepent sila, parang nagsignal na nagalit ang Dyos sa kanila. May pagsisisi kasi pagsubok yun eh. Mali ang ginawa nyo so may punishment. inaanticipate na ngayon nung lalaki na baka maparusahan sila. So kailangang patawarin sila ron. And yet paulit-ulit [nagse-sex]. (Catholic teachings are malleable. There is this belief that when people sin against God, He will forgive them because God is ever-forgiving. Couples repenting after having had sex show that they are afraid that God will punish them for their wrong-doing. So they have to repent

to avoid punishment. They consider [sex] as sin but they do it over and over again).

Friends and media are the factors that enhance sexual activities of sexually active young couples. They provide information on what to do and how to do it. On the other hand, factors such as family and religion impede and delay sexual activities. The couples usually feel guilt when they think about their families or how the church will react to them. However, these do not usually affect the couples in deciding to have sex or not because they get to decide whether to engage in sexual activities or not.

It is evident in the couples' cases that Baxter's (1996) centrifugal and centripetal forces - the socio-cultural factors, affect the relationship of the couples either pulling them apart or pushing them closer together. This then determines the kind of relationship they have, whether symmetrical or complementary.

Socio-cultural factors, such as family and friends are centrifugal forces that somehow impede the sexual behaviour of the couples but enhance their negotiation skills. Growing up with traditional family values and having friends who got pregnant early affect the couples' negotiation with regards to contraceptive use and the discussion of the risks and consequences of PMS and unprotected sex.

Media and friends are considered the centripetal forces that enhance the sexual behaviour of the couples. The informants relayed that media and friends with sexual experience are their main sources of knowledge when it comes to contraceptives, sexual activities and the risks and consequences of unsafe sexual behaviour.

Religion does not, in any way, affect the couples' negotiation and sexual behaviour.

From here it could be implied that although factors such as: family, risks of getting pregnant, view of church regarding pre-marital sex, peer pressure, education and media affect the sexual behaviour of adolescents. Although norms suggest individuals when is the right time to have sex, the natural promiscuity and curiosity of human beings in general, come out despite suppression and prohibition.

D. Synthesis

The findings of the study agree with most of the literature that males are more promiscuous than females (Ramos-Jimenez & Lee, 2001). Male-informants of the study have engaged in sex for as early as 14 years old with reasons such as intoxication and curiosity. Females' common reason on the other hand is that the "love" they feel towards their partner made them engage in sex at an early age. Most of these sexual encounters are initiated by the male partners and most of it is unplanned. However, during subsequent sexual encounters, there is interplay of roles that break the norm (men are dominant, women are submissive). Some female partners get to decide whether she wants to engage in sex or not or whether to use contraceptives when engaging in sexual activities. Nevertheless, there are still those who believe that men should take on the dominant role in the relationship.

From the cases presented, it could also be noted that the sexual relationships of the young couples are affected by their decision-making and negotiation processes which in turn are affected by the roles they assume and the socio-cultural factors that influence them. In Baxter's Theory of Relationship, it is said that there are centrifugal and

centripetal forces that either pull the relationship apart or make it closer (Baxter in Littlejohn, 2008). In this case, socio-cultural factors that influence the individuals play a vital role in creating a compromised decision or a conflict. Different religious beliefs, economic status, educational background, family, friends and media affect the roles that the individuals assume when deciding inside the relationship. Their socio-cultural influences are their basis for how they act towards their partner. However, the said factors do not serve as root source for enhancing or impeding the young couples' sexual activities.

VII. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Though the topic of sex is not openly discussed in the Philippines, studies show that young adolescent sexual behavior is prevalent in the country. It is the right of young males and females to explore their sexualities and enjoy their sex lives without the binds of society; thus in this research paper, the researchers explored how young couples of the most populated and diverse region in the country – Metro Manila, communicate with their sexual partners amidst the socio-cultural factors in their social environment.

A. Summary

During the couple-informants' first sexual intercourse, planned or unplanned, it was the male-informants who initiated the first sexual act by asking their female partners to have sex with them. Male partners initiated the activity by inciting their female partners through physical stimulation (e.g., kissing and touching).

Most of the couples' first sexual intercourse happened in the male partners' house or condo unit. Only one couple had their first sexual intercourse in a motel because they have no place of their own.

Three out of 10 couples did not use contraceptives on their first sexual intercourse. This is because most of the informants' sexual encounters were unplanned; thus they had no contraceptives at hand. Those who have ready access to contraceptives were the only ones who were able to use condoms during the sexual intercourse. Seven out of ten female-informants viewed contraceptive use positively while 6 out of 10 male-

informants were not in favor of it. Pleasure is the primary reason why couples do not use contraceptives during sexual intercourse.

The couples' main concern for practicing safe sex is pregnancy. Sexually-transmitted diseases were never an issue in their relationships because they trust their partners and they do not have any other sexual partners outside their romantic relationships.

The couples usually practice give and take in their negotiations. They try to understand their partners to avoid arguments. Female-informants assert their rights during discussions and sexual act. This usually balances the interplay of gender roles in the relationship.

Successful negotiations occur when both partners directly communicate what they want and what they do not want. However, these can also lead to fighting when no one gives in during negotiation and decision-making. In cases like these, the couples believe that it will be better if one partner learns to submit to the other in certain circumstances. From the focus interview of Prof. Taduran, he mentioned that there must always be someone who backs down during arguments in order to have compromised decisions.

In deciding on the sexual activities, the couples display a level-headed stance during arguments. All couples decide as one and there is no forced dominance or submissiveness present. Female-informants stated that they are vocal during negotiations and decision-making in their relationship. However, when it comes to resolving issues, the male partners always make the final decision, but without self-centered dominance over their female counterparts. Females still put their male partners' wants and desires

first before theirs. In line with this, the couples revealed different uses or significance of sex in a relationship; aside from the usual answers that sex pulls two people together, some of the couples have sex to resolve conflicts inside the relationship. It has been found out that sex is now a communication tool to put an end to arguments.

In dealing with the possible risks and consequences of their sexual behavior, couples use some form of contraception (natural or artificial) during sexual intercourse. The couples talk about unwanted pregnancy and how it will affect their lives in case this happens. All the male-informants expressed willingness to pay responsibility if they impregnate their female partners. They are concerned with the latter's welfare physically and socially.

The couples see contraceptives for only one purpose – to prevent unwanted pregnancy. But in general, they favor the use of contraceptives to practice safe sex that is for people with multiple sexual partners.

The most commonly used contraceptives are condoms but are not always used during sexual intercourse. Condoms reduce sensation. Male partners do not mind whether a condom is used or not; but female partners insist on using it to prevent unwanted pregnancy. However, this is not always the case among the female informants. Some of the females ask their male partners not to use condoms during sexual intercourse because females do not feel enough pleasure as well.

Sexually-transmitted diseases are not the concerns of the 10 interviewed couples. Pregnancy is the main source of their anxiety within their sexual relationships. When asked for possible solutions in case of pregnancy, only one couple considers abortion.

The male partners will own up the responsibility if pregnancy occurs but they are more concerned with their female counterparts and the consequences the latter would face during pregnancy.

The socio-cultural factors that affect the young couples are almost constant in the related literature. In this study, however, the researchers chose family, peers, education, religion and mass media as primary external factors affecting sexual relationships. Among these factors, the most influential are peers with sexual experience. Since talking about sex in the family remains to be taboo in the Philippines, the informants turn to their closest friends for advice and story-sharing. All of the female informants have sexually active peers and compared to their male counterparts, female sexual behaviors are mostly influenced by their peers. Male informants reported that they do not talk much about sex with their male companions. Likewise, religious affiliation delays PMS but in this study, even in a predominantly Catholic country, religion is becoming less and less significant.

Educational institutions equipped the informants with knowledge about contraceptives and possible risks and consequences of unsafe sex but what they learned from their schools are limited and most of them are not necessarily influenced by the teachings in school. Mass media are more influential. These are vessels of information about contraceptives and other sexually-explicit materials such as pornography which influenced the male informants' sexual behavior. From magazines and Internet, male informants stated that they get tips and sexual ideas which they would like to try with their partners.

Most of the informants both males and females reported to have not been so much affected by external factors. They said that they perform sexual activities not because they are always provoked by such factors but because they have inner desires for sex.

B. Conclusion

There is a blurring of gender roles among the 10 young adolescent couples' sexual relationship. Females no longer abide to the notion that a Filipina should be quiet and meek. They assert their rights in discussions by declining sexual advances of their partners when they do not feel like engaging in any sexual activity. Similarly, all female informants have tried initiating sexual intercourse. Males on the other hand, tend to submit to their female partners' sexual urges as a form of respect. Male-informants do not show any form of utmost authority or dominance in their sexual relationships.

In negotiations and decision-making, both parties assert their rights by joining in arguments but in the decision-making stage, however, directly or not, it is mostly the males who have the last call. Direct approach in communicating during negotiation is the most effective way of reaching a compromised decision regarding sexual activities to be performed by the couple.

During first sexual encounter, the male partners were the usual initiators of the sexual activity. In connection with this, most of the couples' first sexual intercourse happened in the male partners' place. The young adolescent couples negotiate on where to do the act, when to do the act and will they be using condoms. Results show that first sexual intercourse happens without prior planning. Young adolescents are spontaneous

with regards to engaging in first PMS; hence, negotiation comes during the sexual intercourse per se.

Subsequent sexual intercourse shows improvement in planning compared to first PMS. Couples actually plan their immediate subsequent sexual encounter by setting the place, time, and agreeing on whether to use contraceptives the second time they have sex. However, as the relationship matures and lengthens, couples tend to have sex without prior planning. If they feel the urge, they are then more capable of assessing whether to have sex right then and there or find another opportunity to proceed with sexual intercourse. Compared to the earlier periods of their relationship, sex now becomes a normal activity among couples which does not need to be always planned out. Couples develop mutual agreement in negotiating matters related to their sexual activities in such a way that they already know what to do and what not to do before, during and after subsequent sexual intercourse.

Young adolescent couples are well-aware of the risks and consequences of PMS which include but are not limited to: unwanted and early pregnancy, sexually-transmitted diseases and stigmatization within the society which sees PMS as unacceptable. Pregnancy is the biggest concern of the 10 young adolescents in this study but as the relationship matures, couples are willing to pay responsibility if pregnancy happens. It can be therefore concluded that those in long-term relationships are careful not to get pregnant but if ever pregnancy happens, they are ready to face their responsibilities because they have already decided that they will soon be spending the rest of their lives with their current partners. This is in connection with the reason why almost all of the young adolescent couples in this study do not prefer using condoms.

Socio-cultural factors are ever present in young adolescent sexual relationship. Family, peers, school, religion, and mass media in their own ways influence the young couples' sexual behavior. Families which remind sexually active young adolescents help in delaying early PMS by reminding their children of their responsibilities to their parents, to their careers and to their future families.

Peers, especially the ones with sexual experience encourage co-adolescents to try PMS; and at the same time, peers share their experiences to others to inform, warn, and guide them in their own sexual relationships. The influence of peers with sexual experience is the greatest among all socio-cultural factors surrounding the sexual relationship of young adolescents.

School education gives informations on the use of contraceptives and risks and consequences of unsafe sex but does not give emphasis on the feelings and emotional aspects of sex as a biological need of human beings. The school lacks emphasis on the possible life-changing risks and consequences of irresponsible PMS.

Religion delays PMS and serves as a reminder to young adolescents of the sanctity of sex after marriage. However, religion does not recognize the fact that young adolescents are sexual individuals with sexual needs. The more the church imposes restriction on PMS, the more the young adolescents try to engage in it because it feeds their curiosity on what is it about sex that is not appropriate for their age. Similarly, the church lacks efforts in initiating activities that will encourage young adolescents to divert attention from activities which are sexual in nature. Teachings of the Church are passively received by young adolescents who believe that God is ever-forgiving; thus,

any mistake or sin shall be forgiven if one asks for forgiveness. This shows the Church's lack of conviction in informing adolescents about the risks and consequences in engaging in PMS irresponsibly.

Mass media, especially new media is very liberated in the Philippines and may contain sexually-explicit content which may trigger ideas of early PMS. Males are more prone to the influences of mass media with sexual content compared to females. Males read and access pornographic materials which are readily available in the market, electronic or print piquing their sexual curiosity and engaging in early PMS.

All of the socio-cultural influences have two effects on sexually active young adolescents. They either: 1) enhance sexual activities; or 2) impede sexual activities. The effect of these outside forces depends on the personal beliefs, choices, and principles of the individuals. It is still the adolescents' decision whether to conform to the socio-cultural factors or to reject the socio-cultural factors' influence on their sexual behavior.

VIII. IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Theoretical Issues

The Genderlect Styles Theory by Deborah Tannen may be used to explain how individuals involved in a relationship communicate their standpoints in sexual negotiations. The theory may be used in a study looking at communication dynamics of a male and a female partner in a partnership. This will determine the superiority or the inferiority of one individual over the other. As mentioned in the introduction, sex has a neglected political issue among genders (Millet, 1990). Sexual politics should therefore be thoroughly looked into so as to understand adolescents as sexual individuals.

This study incorporated two theories – Leslie Baxter’s Theory of Relationship and Paolo Alto Group’s Relational Patterns of Interaction, with the assumption that communicative interaction between young couples will enhance or impede their sexual relationship with regard to the external factors surrounding each individual. This framework however did not look into the personal principles or ideologies and choices individuals have and practice in their everyday lives. Interpersonal communication affects how a person interacts with other people. Because there is a possibility that an individual may be passive to the influences of his or her environment and only absorbs what he or she perceives to be applicable in his or her life, the internal communication or a person to himself or herself is relevant in understanding his sexual behavior. Likewise, experience may unconsciously affect individual behavior.

It is important to consider interpersonal communication for future research. A psychological approach would also be a good path to take in understanding young adolescent sexual behavior.

B. Methodological Issues

This research study employed in-depth interviews of sexually active couples. It would be better improved, for future researchers to do a longitudinal approach in studying young adolescent sexual behavior. The researchers conducted one-time in-depth interviews of the young couples and this limited the study in the sense that information shared was limited due to time-constraint. Similarly, it was difficult to get both partners present for the interviews. For future studies, researchers may ask young adolescent couples to keep a diary with them where they would document their sexual activities and personal thoughts within and about their current relationship. Journal entries would contain personal information that even their current sexual partner would not know like sensitive information they might not directly share with a live in-depth interview. Additionally, through their writings, researchers would have a better background or history of their sexual behavior. The researchers may ask questions about past experiences that would have influenced their current sexual behavior and what they learned from these experiences.

In this research study, the 10 couples were not selected but were recommended depending on their availability. It would have been better if the couples were to represent different cases such as: young couples who had abortion; young couples who had STDs,

young couples with a baby; young couples who had multiple sexual partners; young couples with different religion and etc.

It was difficult to get willing informants for this study because of the sensitivity of the topic. It would be good if there was bigger funding allotted for the research to attract possible informants. This will persuade them that they would be well-compensated for the information they share.

C. Practical Issues

The results of this study would cater to the different sectors involved or concerned with adolescent sexual behaviors. The researchers recommend possible approaches in dealing with young sexual couples.

The findings are useful for Filipino families with adolescent family members. Realizing and accepting the fact that a certain age, their children will develop into sexual individuals and this development is normal among human beings. Parents will be prepared on how to deal with their children's sexual activities, how to manage and or delay sexual experience by guiding them. Though it would be difficult and awkward to start conversations about this topic, as what Dr. Abaya suggested, parents may insert sex talks casually during watching television where sexuality and some form of sexual issue is presented. Parents may ask their children on their views of PMS and the parents would then relate their own opinions while indirectly giving advices and subtle warnings to their children. Talking about sex in casual conversations would lessen the awkwardness between parent and child.

Frequent attendance of religious services are said to delay PMS among youth. Religious leaders should create sessions or programs designed specifically for youth church members. Programs should be active, interesting and youth-oriented.

School in primary and secondary levels must touch sexual health topics with regards to the ages of the students. Constant and repetitive lessons on sexual health or reproductive health will instill knowledge to students and raise probability of application in the future. Sex education should be presented to higher students belonging to higher age brackets. Schools should inject the importance of education to young individuals and divert them from activities which are sexual in nature.

The government must tighten censorship on the content of TV shows aired in the Philippines. Omissions of sexually-explicit materials would be necessary especially when the Parental Guidance (PG) rating is not strictly followed in households. Young children may have access to media content not suitable for their ages. Internet use must also be monitored by guardians.

Programs on reproductive and sexual health must be reviewed. Westernization of the Filipino culture creates new external factors which could enhance sexual curiosity and therefore activities among the youth. Formulation of new policies and programs based on these changes are advised. Re-formulation of existing policies and programs are necessary basing the process on how socio-cultural factors affect young adolescents.

Lastly, stakeholders in creating gender-specific programs may use adolescent role models as leaders. Encouraging adolescent to participate in socio-civic activities would help divert their attention from activities which are sexual in nature.

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APPENDIX A

The 10 Sexually Active Couples' Profile

Couple	Pol and Vicky		Cheska and Jay		Rica and Efren		RJ and Trish		Ica and Archie	
Demographic Profile	Pol	Vicky	Jay	Cheska	Efren	Rica	RJ	Trish	Ica	Archie
Age	21	20	22	20	24	19	21	20	18	19
Religion	Atheist	Catholic	Catholic	Catholic	Catholic	Catholic	Catholic	Catholic	Iglesia ni Cristo	Born Again
Family status	Upper middle class	Upper middle class	Middle class	Middle class	Middle class	Middle class	Lower middle class	Upper middle class	Lower middle class	Upper middle class
Educational Background	College student	College student	College graduate	College graduate	Vocational course completed	College dropout	College graduate	College student	College student	College student
Sexual Activities										
Sexual activities normally done	Oral sex Foreplay Kissing		Kissing Foreplay Heavy Petting		Kissing Foreplay		Kissing Heavy Petting Oral sex		Kissing Foreplay	
First sexual encounter										
Who initiated	Pol		Jay		Rica		RJ		Archie	

Where	Pol's bedroom		Motel		Rica's house		Friend's house		Archie's room	
Subsequent sexual encounter										
Who usually initiates	Pol		Jay		At first it was Rica then recently it is Efren who initiates		RJ		Archie	
Where it is usually done	Room Car Somewhere private		Cheska's house		Rica's house Car		Motel Comfort room RJ's room		Archie's room	
Frequency of engaging in sexual activities	Every time they see each other		Whenever they are together		2 times a week		Almost every day during their first three years but recently they rarely do it		When they are together	
Contraceptives	Pol	Vicky	Jay	Cheska	Efren	Rica	RJ	Trish	Ica	Archie
Attitude in using contraceptives	Positive	Positive	Negative	Negative	Positive	Positive	Negative	Positive	Positive	Negative
Uses contraceptives ?	Yes		No		Yes		No		No	
Gender Roles	Pol	Vicky	Jay	Cheska	Efren	Rica	RJ	Trish	Ica	Archie
Dominant or Submissive	Balanced	Balanced	Dominant	Submissive	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Submissive	Submissive	Dominant

Liberal or Traditional	Liberal	Liberal	Traditional	Traditional	Liberal	Liberal	Traditional	Traditional	Traditional	Liberal
Negotiation Styles (direct, semi-direct, indirect, non-verbal)	Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct	Semi-direct	Indirect	Semi-direct	Indirect	Non-verbal	Direct
Relationship	Symmetrical		Complementary		Symmetrical		Complementary		Complementary	

Demographic Profile	John	Elle	Kai	Christopher	Lorenzo	Andi	Ruby	Sonny	Harris	Ria
Age	23	20	17	17	24	23	24	24	20	19
Religion	Agnostic	Atheist	Catholic	Catholic	Catholic	Catholic	Catholic	Catholic	Catholic	Catholic
Family status	Upper middle class	Upper middle class	Middle class	Middle class	Middle class	Middle class	Upper middle class	Upper middle class	Lower middle class	Lower middle class
Educational Background	College dropout	College student	College student	College student	College student	College graduate	College student	College student	High school dropout	High school dropout

Sexual Activities										
Sexual activities normally done	Kissing		Kissing		Kissing		Kissing		Kissing	
	Foreplay		Foreplay		Foreplay		Foreplay			
	Oral sex		Oral sex		Oral sex		Oral Sex			
First sexual encounter										
Who initiated	John		Christopher		Andi		Sonny		Harris	
Where	John's house		UP Alumni Hostel		Lorenzo's house		Sonny's house		Harris' house	
Subsequent sexual encounter										
Who usually initiates	Both		Christopher		Both		Sonny		Harris	
Where it is usually done	John's house		Motel		Lorenzo's house		Ruby's house		Harris' house	
			Wherever they feel like they want to do it				Car			
Frequency of engaging in sexual activities	3 times a week		Once a week		Whenever they are together		Twice a week			
Contraceptives	John	Elle	Kai	Christopher	Lorenzo	Andi	Ruby	Sonny	Harris	Ria
Attitude in using contraceptives	Positive	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Positive	Positive	Negative	Positive
Uses contraceptives?	Yes		Sometimes		No		No		At first: No After getting pregnant:	

									Yes	
Gender Roles	John	Elle	Kai	Christopher	Lorenzo	Andi	Ruby	Sonny	Harris	Ria
Dominant or Submissive	Balanced	Balanced	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Dominant	Submissive	Dominant	Dominant
Liberal or Traditional	Liberal	Liberal	Liberal	Liberal	Liberal	Liberal	Liberal	Liberal	Liberal	Liberal
Negotiation Styles (direct, semi-direct, indirect, non-verbal)	Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct	Semi-direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Direct
Relationship	Symmetrical		Symmetrical		Symmetrical		Complementary		Symmetrical	

APPENDIX B

Instrument Title: Focus Interview Guide (Couples)

This guide will be used to lead the interviews of young couples aged 15-24. The researchers are to modify this guide as needed during the interview proper.

Definition of Sex	
FIRST SEXUAL ENCOUNTER AS A COUPLE	
How	
Where	
When	
Who initiated	
Socio-cultural factors or other factors that affect decision (on finally doing it together for the first time)	MEDIA: EDUCATION: FAMILY: PEERS: RELIGION:
Other reasons/factors for doing it already	
Use of Contraceptives (use or not and why)	
FEELINGS (FIRST SEXUAL ENCOUNTER AS A COUPLE)	
Before doing it for the first time	

After first time together	
SECOND SEXUAL ENCOUNTER AS A COUPLE	
How	
When	
Where	
Who Initiated	
Factors in deciding	
FEELINGS (SECOND SEXUAL ENCOUNTER)	
Before	
After	
COMPARISON OF FIRST WITH SUBSEQUENTS	
Knowledge (list down all sexual activities stated)	
Sexual Activities normally done	
Who initiates	
Where (who usually decides)	
How often sexual activities	
Does this often lead you to sex?	

Where they learned about these	
How many times per week (sexual intercourse)	
Any instance of being turned down by partner	
CONTRACEPTIVES	
Contraceptives you know	
Where do they get info about these	
Most used contraceptives	
Rating – Justify the use of contraceptives	
Factors that affect decision in using/not using contraceptives	
RISKS AND CONSEQUENCES	
Risks and consequences they know	
Do they talk about these risks and consequences (if yes, who initiates and when do they usually talk about these)	
Biggest concern	
SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS	
Families of couples	

Influence/help of friends in relationship/sexual activities	
Knowledge/general info affect sexual activities (school, etc)	
Media (ads, porn, Internet, music, movies, magazines, books, etc that provoke sexual activities)	
Religion/religious beliefs in premarital sex	
COMMUNICATION WITH PARTNER (NEGOTIATION AND DECISION-MAKING)	
Describe relationship before having sex ever	
Describe relationship after having sex for the first time	
Describe relationship now that they are sexually active	
How do you think sex affects your relationship	
Importance of sex in your relationship	
Describe communication (negotiations/decision-making) during arguments	
FOR CLOSURE QUESTIONS	
Can you live without sex?	

APPENDIX C

Instrument Title: Individual Interview Guide

This guide will be used to lead the interview guide of young males and females aged 15-24. The researchers are to modify this guide as needed during the interview proper.

Definition of Sex	
FIRST SEXUAL ENCOUNTER	
When	
With whom	
How (who initiated)	
Where (who decided)	
Socio-cultural factors or other factors that affect decision (personally)	MEDIA: EDUCATION: FAMILY: PEERS: RELIGION:
Use of Contraceptives	
Reason for using/not using contraceptives (personally)	
FEELINGS (FIRST SEXUAL ENCOUNTER)	
Before (losing virginity)	
After (losing virginity)	
SECOND SEXUAL ENCOUNTER	
When	
How	
Where	
Factors in deciding	
FEELINGS (SECOND SEXUAL ENCOUNTER)	
Before	

After	
COMPARISON OF FIRST WITH SUBSEQUENTS (WITH CURRENT PARTNER)	
Feelings before and after having sex	
Who usually initiates	
Who usually decides on the place	
Communication with regard to sexual activities (personally)	
Incidence of having been turned down by partner	
Communication with regard to risks and consequences	
Communication with regard to use of contraceptives (personally)	
Factors that affect communication with partner	<p>MEDIA:</p> <p>EDUCATION/GEN. KNOWLEDGE:</p> <p>PEERS:</p> <p>FAMILY:</p> <p>CHURCH:</p>
Describe relationship with current partner now that they are sexually active	
Describe relationship with current partner before having sex	
Changes in communication patterns in general after having had sex (negotiations/decision-	

making)	
FOR CLOSURE QUESTIONS	
Can you live without sex?	
Virgin Wife?	
DESCRIBE ACTIONS DURING INTERVIEW	

APPENDIX D

Instrument Title: Individual Interview Guide (Multiple Partners)

This guide will be used to lead the interview guide of young males and females aged 15-24 with multiple partners. The researchers are to modify this guide as needed during the interview proper.

Definition of Sex		
FIRST SEXUAL ENCOUNTER		
When		
With whom		
How (who initiated)		
Where (who decided)		
Socio-cultural factors or other factors that affect decision	MEDIA: EDUCATION: FAMILY: PEERS: RELIGION:	
Use of Contraceptives (personally)		
Reason for using/not using contraceptives (personally)		
FEELINGS (FIRST SEXUAL ENCOUNTER)		
Before (losing virginity)		
After (losing virginity)		
SECOND SEXUAL ENCOUNTER (WITH NEW PARTNER)		
When		
With whom		
How		
Where		
Factors in deciding (personally)		
FEELINGS (SECOND SEXUAL ENCOUNTER)		
Before (doing it with another person)		
After (doing it with another person)		
COMPARISON OF FIRST WITH SECOND (WITH CURRENT PARTNER)		
	FIRST SEXUAL ENCOUNTER	SECOND SEXUAL

		ENCOUNTER
When		
How (who initiated)		
Where (who decided)		
Socio-cultural factors or other factors that affect decision	MEDIA: EDUCATION: FAMILY: PEERS: RELIGION:	MEDIA: EDUCATION: FAMILY: PEERS: RELIGION:
Use of Contraceptives		
FEELINGS		
	FIRST SEXUAL ENCOUNTER	SECOND SEXUAL ENCOUNTER
Before		
After		
COMPARISON OF FIRST WITH SUBSEQUENTS (WITH CURRENT PARTNER)		
Feelings before and after having sex		
Who usually initiates		
Who usually decides on the place		
Communication with regard to sexual activities		
Incidence of having been turned down by partner		
Communication with regard to risks and consequences		
Communication with regard to use of contraceptives		
Factors that affect communication		

with partner	
Describe relationship with current partner before having sex	
Describe relationship with current partner now that they are sexually active	
Changes in communication patterns in general after having had sex (negotiations/decision-making)	
FOR CLOSURE QUESTIONS	
Can you live without sex?	
Virgin Wife?	
DESCRIBE ACTIONS DURING INTERVIEW	

APPENDIX E

Instrument Title: Personal Information Sheet

Name:	
Age:	
Sex:	
Highest educational attainment:	
Profession (if employed):	
Religion:	
Personal monthly income:	<input type="checkbox"/> below 10,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001 – 20,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 20,001 – 30,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 30,001 – 40,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 40,001 – 50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001 above
Monthly family income:	<input type="checkbox"/> below 20,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 20,001 – 30,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 30,001 – 40,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 40,001 – 50,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001 – 60,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 60,001 – 70,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 70,001 above
Relationship status:	<input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> not married <input type="checkbox"/> engaged <input type="checkbox"/> dating <input type="checkbox"/> open relationship
For how long have you been together?	
Are you involved with your partner sexually?	

APPENDIX F

Instrument Title: Focus Interview Guide (Experts)

This guide will be used to lead the interviews of experts in the field of culture, gender and sexuality. The researchers are to modify this guide as needed during the interview proper.

I. Introduction

II. Interview Proper

1. How do you define sex?
2. When is the right time to have sex?
3. With whom should one have sex?
4. What is the role of sex in a relationship?
5. Compare modern and traditional Filipino sexual behavior.
6. How do gender roles play in sexual relationships?
7. In the Philippine context, describe the modern and traditional gender roles of Filipino couples in sexual relationships.
8. What are the common influences on the sexual behavior of Filipino adolescents?
9. How does society view sex outside marriage?
10. Do you think people can live without sex?

III. Closing

IV. End of Focus Interview

SAMPLE TRANSCRIPTIONS

A. Key Informant

Researcher: Sa area niyo po, how do you define sex?

Informant: Specialization ko kasi Forensic Anthropology at nandun ako sa biological side. 4 fields kasi ang Anthropology: biological, linguistics, cultural at Archaeology at mostly science, scientists kami basically. Pero yun nga ang specialization ko forensics so kung ipapadefine mo sakín ang sex, ang bibigay ko sayong definition ay yung biology na mayroong nagaganap na penal-vaginal penetration, intercourse.

Researcher: Diba po kayo yung nagtuturo ng Sex and Culture na course? Ganon din po ba ang pagdiscuss?

Informant: Ganon din naman. Yung kung ano ang sex.

Researcher: When is the right time to have sex?

Informant: Nagdedepende yan sa values system ng tao kumbaga parang kung medyo liberal yung tao e di sige go makipagsex siya kung kelan niya gusto tapos iba kung conservative naman siya. Ang sex kasi ay isang desisyon kumbaga hindi siya some kind of itch na kakamutin mo lang. Magdedepend yan sa tao kung kelan siya magdedecide na makipagsex.

Researcher: So with whom should one have sex?

Informant: Yan din, nagdedepende sa values system ng tao, pwedeng boyfriend o girlfriend, pwedeng prostitute pwedeng friend, may tawag na nga actually dyan “FuBu” nung time naming ano yan e Foo Fighters, kasi fucking friends ang tawag namin diyan para hindi masyadong halata, foo fighters. And then may iba kissing cousins, nagdedepende kasi yan kung ano yung values system niya. Kung kanino siya makikipagsex, babalik tayo sa sex is a decision, aside dun sa when, pagdedesisyunan din ng tao yung who. Kasi kung hindi siya masusunod dun sa who at sa when ang tawag dun ay rape.

Researcher: Ngayon po sa tingin niyo pano po dinedefine ng mga kabataan sa Pilipinas ang sex?

Informant: Hindi ko alam, kung ibebase ko sa napapanuod kong iniisip ng mga bata, ano... Yung sex kasi right now ay katulad lang din ng sex noon, ang pinagkaiba lang ay

mas siwalat ngayon. Mas tago noon. Not necessarily pinaguusapan ngayon kaya lang mas makikita mo. Mas makikita mo sa billboards, mas makikita mo sa TV, mas makikita mo sa pelikula kung san san. Ang problema, hindi mo napaguusapan, nakikita lang. Hindi katulad non na mas tago talaga e.

Researcher: Nabanggit niyo po yung sa TV, sa pelikula, sa tingin niyo po factor po ang media?

Informant: Oo naman, pero hindi lang yon, factor din ang family, mahalaga talaga yun kasi dun natututo yung bata ng values system basically. Hindi lahat ng natututunan ng bata ay galing sa eskwelahan, in fact ang iba natutunan sa pamilya niya, yung po at opo, pagmamano at kung ano ano pa, nakukuha yan sa family, yung tradition, yung values. Yung ways and means ay napapasa sa anak. Aside sa media at family, papasok din dun yung friends, may mga times na peer pressure ay sobra lang talaga at maggive in ka nalang. May mga time na, nung time na porn, walang internet non e. So meron kaming "The Source" sya yung bumibili. So pag gusto naming humiram ng Playboy, o kung ano man, sakanya kami lalapit. Wala pang www dot, mas madali ngayon e. Pero I'm sure may mga magkakaibigan na magsshare ng links, pero yun nga mas madali na ang access ngayon, meron ka talagang source na kailangan.

Researcher: So sir since nandun na tayo sa part ng influences, ano po yung pagkakaiba ng communication ng family with regards to sex? Ano po yung pagkakaiba niya, o may pagkakaiba po ba?

Informant: Sa tingin ko wala masyado hindi pa napaguusapan ang sex sa pamilya. May pahaging, pero ang problema kasi sa sex tinatago siya, hindi siya pnaguusapan pero it's everywhere. Tinatago siya pero makikita mo siya kung saan saan. MTV, FHM, billboards, kahit nga products e. May ganon ng nangyayari.

Researcher: Yun po kasi sa paghahanap ng related literature sabi po ng family mas mabuti pong matutunan ng bata ang sex sa school, ano po ang masasabi niyo don e kung sa Pilipinas po ay hindi pa din masyadong open, gaya po ng Catholic Church?

Informant: Para sakin ang katotohanan niyan, masyadong maselan ang sex na topic, para sakin, wala talagang magandang venue para matutunan ang sex kundi sa sarili mo, self-taught, kasi ang daming nagtuturuan diba, family dapat, no, school dapat. Sige subukan niyo. Sa tingin ko hindi e, like sakin yung sex and culture class ko kung titignan niyo yung aking course outline, dinidiscuss ko ang anatomy ng sex, history, reproductive success, gender, aphrodisiac, sexual arousal, rape and then future ng sex research. Ang problema kasi sa sex, kahit sa US iniwasan siyang topic of research so wala ka talagang makukuha sa academe.

In fact, kung tatanungin mo ako if enough na ba ito para maraming matutunan about sex, hindi padin. Pero for me, itong mga readings na ito, ito na yung para may matutunan silang something about themselves. Pero turuan lang kasi yan e. Dapat family ang nagtuturo about sex, tignan niyo nga kung ganon ka-awkward ang nanay sasabihin niya “Anak, nagmamasturbate ka na ba?” tapos yung tatay “Anak, may nangyari na ba sainyo ng boyfriend mo?” Ang awkward hindi ba? Siguro special case kung mangyayari yung sobrang open ang family na yon. Yung sa school naman, maraming times na nahihirapan ako magturo sa mga estudyante ko, dahil unang-una marami sila, so may mga nakikita akong estudyante na imbis na magtanong sila nahihiya sila, kung ano nalang ang makuha nila sa readings. Ang problema, may mga estudyanteng hindi pa rin open sa sex. Actually ngayon may mga estudyante akong hindi pa nagsasalita sa klase. Pero hindi pa din yun ang ideal and then ayon, hindi ko sinasabing enough na yon, mayroon akong naturo sa kanila but when it comes to sex, experience talaga ang best teacher. Experience and a lot of reading.

Researcher: Sa tingin niyo po ba mahalaga ang sex? Ano po yung say niyo sa pre-marital sex?

Informant: Pre-marital sex nangyayari na yan noon pa kasi yung structure ng marriage ay bago-bago lang nangyari, mas nauna talaga ang sex, yung premarital sex ay okay lang as long as careful lalo na college. Ang babae kasi ang sexual peak niya ay 18-25, isipin niyo rin, para sakin kung hindi fully maexplore ng babae ang kaniyang sekswalidad, what a waste. Ganon din sa lalaki, kasi isesegway ko nalang din sa do you think people can live without sex, yun nga ang sex ay napakaimportanteng bagay. Sex drives evolution, evolution drives sex. Wala tayo dito ngayon kung walang nagsex. So walang nangyaring evolution kung walang nagsex. Dapat tla siyang pinaguusapan. Ang problema, hindi lang to unique sa Philippine society, actually sa lahat ng society, well not all, most societies hindi pinaguusapan yung sex.

Researcher: Pakicompare naman po yung tingin niyo na traditional and modern sexual behavior?

Informant: Yung sabi ko na sexual behaviour noon ay mas tago, yung ngayon mas present. Ang daming mga factors e, pwede sabihin natin na ay mas nagiging liberated na ang society, pwedeng sabihin na I don't think so. Pwede kang mangchicks, walang phone, walang cell. Walang maghahanap sayo. Magkaron ka ng affair, may mga times na unaccounted for e. Nung unang panahon wala pang cellphone at internet at iba't ibang ways para mastalk ka mas madaling gawin yon, ngayon mas mahirap gawin yon. Maraming factors para masabi na mas tago lang yung noon, sabihin nating sa media wala masyadong pumping scenes, ang daming

factors pero in the end walang research sa Pilipinas about sex. Yun yung nakakalungkot kasi meron research on gender pero walang research on arousal, on sexual relationships, indiscretions, affairs, mga ganong bagay. Ilang Pilipino ang willing magsabi na meron silang affair, papasok naman yung morality kasi Kristyano palaging kaaway natin church. In the end, everything na sinabi ko sainyo can be bullshit kasi walang research.

Researcher: Sir, nung sinabi niyo na tago pero same lang po yung occurrence?

Informant: Pre-marital sex, Im sure maraming nangyayaring ganon, extra-marital, im sure marami din. Mas tago nga lang.

Researcher: Bakit po ulit mahalagang pag-usapan?

Informant: Mahalagang pagusapan dahil nangangapa ang mga tao sa dilim. Pero basically ganon ang tao sa sex, pero at the same time hindi rin kailangan pagusapan kasi in the end wala naman talagang makikipagusap sainyo about sex, mapapanuod mo lang yung Sex and the City at kung ano pang shitty cable movies na kunwari about sex pero gusto lang naman talaga magpakita ng boobs sa viewers, ang point is, gaya ng sinabi ko kanina, tinatago siya but its everywhere, dapat siya pagusapan but at the same time, wag na lang pagusapan. Dapat siya pagusapan pero mas maganda siguro na iexplore nalang nung bata yung sex.

Researcher: So kung dapat po pagusapan, ano po yung dapat idiscuss at mga anong edad po ba dapat?

Informant: Well, para saakin, sa klase mas okay sana kung 18 above, yung meron ng muwang sa kanilang sekswalidad, yung nakafeel na ng arousal or nakakita ng isang hot na tao na according to his or her sexual preference.

Researcher: E pano po ngayon pababa na po ng pababa yung edad na mas nagiging sexually active ang mga kabataan, parang katulad po ng sa ininterview namin nagstart po siya makipagsex at the age of 14, ano po kayang maganda para maiwasan yon.

Informant: Double edged sword yan e, turuan mo siya ng sex baka gamitin niya yung info na yon para makipagsex, wag mo siya turuan ng sex e baka macurious siya, makipagsex siya. So wala talagang panalo dyan. It will be a never ending debate. Problema kasi sa sex hindi alam ng tao kung anong gagawin niya doon. Ang lalaki sa tingin ko mas madali makausap about sex, sa babae hindi, in fact may mga studies na kahit ang arousal mismo ng babae ay hindi niya alam so paano siya makikipagusap about sex? At since empirical yung sexual arousal, so para san yung TV show na para mapagusapan yung sex, para san yon? Para yun sa

mga lalaki. Sobrang patriarchal yung society natin. Rarely ka makakakita ng female-centric na porn, female-centric na sex scene sa pelikula. Usually lalaki diba? Sa porn diba ano ang ending? Magoorgasm yung guy habang nakaluhod sakanya yung limang babae, bakit walang natapos yung girl tapos ganon? Usually lalaki yung center ng sex. Alam kong hindi maganda kasi in fact dahil sa confusion ng sexual arousal ng babae, na disempower sila in time, marami kasing pinaggalingan niyan e. Pinaggalingan yan nung hunting and gathering stage yung power ng guy dala dala niya, yung investment ng girl sa isang relationship ay yung katawan niya. Taga dala ng baby. So kaya mas malaki yung power ng guy kasi sakanya yung economic power. Habang tumatagal nagbago yung dynamics, nagkaron ng kultura, nagbago na pero naging patriarchal parin. Dapat nabago na. Kasi, ako, as a guy, I would be very happy to imagine a world with women comfortable with their sexuality. Wala ng mahihiya...

Researcher: How do gender roles play in sexual relationships?

Informant: Papasok diyan yung dominance ng male. Yung sex acts kung titignan mo sa porn at kung ano, rarely mo makitang dominant yung girl, usually lalaki yung dominant at dinodominante ay babae, pinenepentrate ay babae. Pag male-female, lalaki ang nagdodominante.

Researcher: Ganon din po ba sa Filipino couples?

Informant: Yeah, hindi lang dominant, macho-dominant kung minsan ridiculous na pagiging dominant ng guys. Minsan nakapagfield work ako sa isang health center, narinig ko ang isang nanay, ginamit ako ng asawa ko kagabi. Ginamit, wow, ginamit pero okay lang sakanya, in fact, masaya pa nga siya. Pero ano ba ibig sabihin ng ginamit, para kang pinagparausan, hindi ka nagorgasmo pero siya nagorgasmo.

Researcher: Sa tingin niyo po, pareho pa din yung dati at ngayon?

Informant: Yeah.

Researcher: Aside po from church, school, family at media ano pa bo ba ang nakakainfluence?

Informants: Friends, well manggaling yun sa friends, alcohol ay nanggaling sa friends... Religion ay isa siyang, sabi nga ni Nietzsche, religion ng pinakasuccessful na animal training, yun nalang.

Researcher: Sa tingin niyo po how does the society view sex outside marriage?

Informant: Eto ang fearless opinion ko. Conservative pa din tayong mga Pinoy. Kumbaga, gusto lang magpacool ng mga tao na okay lang yan pero deep inside, eew. Conservative padin tayo kasi ganon pa din kalakas ang influence ng church.

Researcher: Yun pong influence ng simbahan ano po ba yun?

Informant: Yeah, kasi animal training diba? Yung aso, sit, stay, roll over, play dead.

Basically, ang sinabi ng simbahan, pag nakipagsex ka kasalanan so wag. Pwede ka lang makipagsex pag nangasawa. Yun yung law of God. Pag hindi mo nagawa may punishment. Sa sobrang tinagal tagal ng simbahan, sa sobrang influence niya sa tao naging natural kunwari na satin yon. Pero hindi yon natural tayong promiscuous na species, hindi magkakaroon at hindi tayo dadami kung hindi promiscuous ang tao. Naturally promiscuous ang tao kasi kung titignan mo sa present society, bakit madaming single moms? Ano bigla nalang sumulpot yung bata? Hindi, dahil nakipagsex siya sa isang guy na malamang may ka-sex nang iba ngayon and ang daming broken families, lalaki na madaming panganay, madaming affairs. So kahit na sabihin natin law, kahit anong takot kasi lalabas at lalabas padin ang nature ng tao na promiscuous. Promiscuous tayo kasi hindi tayo nageevolve kung hindi tayo naging promiscuous. Kasi promiscuity provides variety, varied tayo, yung gene pool mo, promiscuous yung tao so nakasex siya ng ganito, ganito, ganito. So nakakaproduce ng variety, kung ganito lang lahat, ganito lang sila. So just in case may virus na umatake at ang virus na ito ay meron lang ang gene na ito, wiped out, patay lahat. Pero isipin mo tulad nito, varied, may matitira pa din. Kaya promiscuous pa din ang tao. Sobrang varied natin e. Yung genes natin sobrang nagmix ng nagmix.

Researcher: Kung pinababayaan mo ang pagiging promiscuous ng tao, ano po ang magiging epekto non?

Informant: Well hindi naman siguro pinapabayaan, parang kung pababayaan ang katulad natin ay yung America nung 60s. Nagkaroon kasi ng evolution, sexual revolution nung 60s mga hipsters tapos pagdating ng 70s open na sila sa mga sexual, ayon, dun na nagsilabasan yung mga sakit. Tumaas yung rate ng STD. Nung early 80s nadiscover yung rape. Ayon sobrang naging promiscuous ng mga tao, nagddrugs, nagssex, ganon yung nangyari sa America e, nagkaron ng backlash dun sa ginawa nilang celebratory something dahil sa pagiging open sa sex. Yung backlash sa sexual liberation or emancipation ng mga Amerikano is yung nagkaron ang mga hipsters ng pakikipaglaban nuon, kasi magkakasama yang mga yan, mga liberated couples, feminists, feminists humiwalay, ang sexual revolution sinasabi lang nila na ang mga lalaki mas madami lang daw available na babae. Although I doubt that statement kasi napaka-illogical non kasi ang sex ay dalawang tao, babae lalaki, pag nakipagsex yung lalaki, nakipagsex din yung babae. Although yung mga gay pinaglaban nila yung gay rights. Yung couples nagpatuloy sa

kanilang exploration, basically yun yung evolution sa sexual revolution pero ngayon wala na masyadong nangyayaring ganon kasi hindi na nagkatugma tugma yung mga yon e. Ang problema sa Pilipinas, wala naming sexual revolution na yon, pero naiimpluwensyahan tayo nito ngunit di natin alam iprocess. Pero in the end, tapos na.

Researcher: Dapat po bang napaguusapan openly ang topic about sex? O ipagpatuloy nalang po natin yung pagtitigil at pagpipigil ng sexual behaviour ng mga tao?

Informant: Lahat naman pinaguusapan tapos kung ako may control yung RH bill nay an although I can see the good intentions of mga tao na nagpupush dyan ay walang ngipin yung RH bill, yan ang problema ko dyan, bakit hindi nila ipush ang abortion sa RH bill. Isipin mo yung mga babaeng narrape at nabubuntis ng mga rapist? Hindi ba pwede ipaabort yung bata? Hindi nila gusto mabuntis? Ayoko magcriticize sa mga so-called progressives, pero ayoko magcriticize sa mga so-called ... Hindi talaga sila progressive, kasi tignan mo ang RH bill, magiging available na ang contraceptive sa lahat. Ginagawa na natin yon ngayuon, nakakabili na tayo ng condoms sa ano, ang only thing lang nab ago ay yung sex education, so what? Yun lang tapos progressive ka na? Bading na progressive yon para saakin. Nakakalungkot kasi yung mga UP students na, oh because theyre fighting against the norm, the system, theyre like the coolest something you met. ANong silbi ng ginagawa mo para sumikat ka? Para magkaron ka ng madaming twitter followers? Hindi talaga progressive yan e, they're just fooling you. Cool lang sila yun lang. They just have to be cool, hindi talaga sila progressive. Kung progressive talaga sila ipush nila yung envelope sa abortion dahil kapag sianbi mong madaming magpapaabort, napaka-illogical na statement non, alam mo ba kung paano magisip lahat ng tao? Pag may abortion may isa pa silang option, pag may A, may B ganon lang kasimple. Hindi naman sinabi na lahat ng tao pipiliin ang B. Ang iniisip kasi natin lalo na with our Catholic morals and shit, galit ako sa religion e kasi mas marami pa silang pinatay kesa sa Nazis. Iniimpose kasi natin yung paniniwala natin sa ibang tao e. Yung mga sobrang moralista, ayaw nila ang RH bill kasi hindi daw tayo mga aso. Ganon? Ganon ang RH bill? Ibig sabihin yung mga pro RH bill mga aso, so ganon sila kataas. Tapos tong mga tong pro RH bill ditto lang. Dahil it's a murder, oh shit, murder. Alamin niyo lang muna ang science ng murder. Ilang buwan ba scientifically bago masabing bata na talaga yung dinadala mo? Weeks ba or months? Sige fine, yun yung cut off after that bawal na. Ayaw lang nilang pagusapan kasi puro kahipokritohan lang ang ginagawa nila. Diba kasi ako malinis ako pero progressive at the same time. Very moral pero progressive at the same time. Wala silang balls, wala talagang stand ang RH bill. Its for publicity para sa mga taong involved dyan.

Researcher: Is there a need to talk about sex?

Informant: Yeah.

Researcher: Ano po ba yung tamang paraan?

Informant: Walang morality, yun yung unang una. Kasi yung RH bill na yan sinasabing paguusapan ang sex pero may morality pa din e, kasi immoral ang abortion and shit like that, ano ba yung sex in terms of science, penetration, orgasm, sex, pag nagsesecrete ng oxytocin sa utak, pag nababawasan ng dopamine it relieves stress, yung mga ganong bagay. Bakit hindi ganon pag-usapan? Bakit laging iniisip na sex ay kasalanan, pwede yung sex pero bawal ang abortion, mga shitty compromise. Kasi yung ganon hindi naman talaga nila pinaguusapan sinasabi lang nila na ito yung stand ko hindi ako dun hindi din maintindihan yung stand nila. Kalokohang stand.

Researcher: Kasi po yung study naming tumitingin po kami sa pinakamababang level na pwedeng pagusapan ang sex yun nga po yung sa couple, so ano po yung role ng sex sa relationship ng dalawang tao?

Informant: Papasok dun yung unang una palang sa attraction palang merong chemicals na involved kasi sa tao na leading to sex. Mali yung notion na love lang, may lust talaga yan. I mean isipin mo kung makikipagsex ka ng walang lust, kasi nabinary opposites sila na astos, at respeto. Love at lust. Opposites na pangkama at pangasawa. Pero in fact yung dalawang yon dapat nasa isang tao. Paano ka makikipagsex sa taong nirerespeto mo lang? Anong klaseng sex yon? I respect you. May lust talaga, hindi pwedeng love lang. Pero at the same time, may respect din kasi nga... if ever matumal na ang sex, dun papasok yung respect kasi partner mo yun for a long time e. Lust is testosterone, tapos pag nagclick na papasok dun yung oxytocin, yun yung chemical for attachment. Dun mo malalaman na there's no such thing as casual sex kasi pag nagkiss ang dalawang tao, they bond. May attachment. Yung dalawang nagccasual sex ay hindi nagkikiss, I doubt na meron at meron mainlove sa kanilang dalawa at meron at merong magseselos pag nakitang may iba na kasama yung isa. Kasi meron na kayong attachment dahil sa oxytocin. And then finally yung dopamine, pag nakikita mo siya happy yung feeling, kasi ito ay chemical for anticipation. Pag may giangawa ka for your apple of your eye, inaanticipate mo yung reaction niya lalo na pag nag respond positively.

Researcher: So mahalaga po ang sex sa isang relationship?

Informant: Mahalaga lalo na kapag nasa kapaan stage pa, bagong kasal, dapat sex ng sex yan kasi pag dumating ang time na matumal na ang sex wala na hindi na kayo

nagbond, hindi kayo naattach sa isa't isa hindi kayo tatagal. Lalo na pag kasal. Pero pag hindi naman kasal relationship lang mahalaga pa din yung sex.

Researcher: Paano po yung mga nagpipigil po, they respect each other, religion, hindi po ba magwowork?

Informant: Im sure baka yung lalaki meron ng iba.

Researcher: Pabor po ba kayo sa pre-marital sex?

Informant: Oo kasi isipin mo dalawang virgin sa honeymoon, madudulas lang yan. Pasok na ba pasok na ba? Hindi pa. Ay hindi pa.

Researcher: Ano po kaya yung tingin niyo sa pagkkeep ng babae sa kanyang virginity? Sa kanyang purity na napakapatriarchal an gating society?

Informant: Lahat ng bagay may positive at negative side e. Sa positive side ng pagkkeep ng virginity, unang-una yung magiging asawa mo ay hindi maiinsecure kasi kahit sabihin natin na okay lang yan nakipagsex na siya sa iba, it matters padin kahit lalaki nga e, pag nalaman niyo na yung bf niyo nakasex na 20, meron na kayong insecurity. It matters kung marami ng nakasex. Kung isa lang nakasex nung partner, may feelings of security. However, hindi nagwork ang parehong virgin kasi tapos na honeymoon nila hindi pa sila nagssex. Yung [pag marami naman ng experience marunong na silang magplease ng partner nila. At the same time, mas mature sila kung gagawin nila sa relationship. On the other hand, wala masyadong fits of jealousy yung other partner.

Researcher: As a guy would you want a virgin wife?

Informant: No, goodness. Mas gugustuhin ko. Depende rin sa sitwasyon e. Masaya din kung ako nagtuturo ng lahat pero mas okay pa din yung may experience na dahil wala na akong masyadong iisipin.

Researcher: Sa tingin niyo po anong nagiging impluwensya ng sex communication ng couples?

Informant: Kasi yung sex mismo communication yun e. Anong gusto mo, do you like going down on me or... pag nakikita mo yung feedback na naarouse siya sa ginagawa mo, communication na yon e. I think it improves communication, in fact kung titignan na rin yung mga nagaaway na couples after ng away nagmmake up sex, sinasabi nga ni Marvin Gaye na healing yon, ang sex ay healing it soothes you, hindi ka nasstress. Actually mas hot, kapag galit or anxious ang isang tao, may

sympathetic activation yung katawan niya at dahil don narready na niya yung katawan sa sex, kaya hot ang angry sex, pag nagsex sila hot yon, wild sex. Kasi narready yung katawan nila for sex nung anger so after non wala ng palabok palabok.

Researcher: Sa sex po ba lumalabas yung pagkadominant at submissive ng isang tao? Maganda po ba na may equality yung ganon?

Informant: I doubt it, sa bawat relationship talaga hindi pwedeng walang magddominate at magssubmit e, meron talagang mas dominante, may magsasubmit. Sa sex naman I doubt na gusto ng babae na siya ang dominant. Nature na natin na kapag nagsesex lalaki ang dominant. Rarely lang nagdodominate ang babae.

Researcher: Sir kung sino po ba yung dominant sa sex siya din ang dominant sa relationship?

Informant: Not necessarily.

B. Couple Interview

Researcher: Paano kayo nagkakilala?

Andi: Since bata pa kami, elementary pero nung hs nagkaron siya ng gf nagkaron ako ng bf, tapos hindi kami nagpapansinan. Tapos nung college kami nagkita ulit tapos yun.

Researcher: What is your definition of sex

Andi: Hindi lang siya ginagawa para sa random na tao, ako, willing akong gawin siya pag may naffeel ako sa isang tao

Lorenzo: Para sa kin sign siya ng love for that person. I think long term goal so long term relationship.

Andi: Intercourse, union, parang something na between the two of you lang

Lorenzo: Something we share na kaming dalawa lang, exclusively

Researcher: Describe your first sexual encounter, who initiated, kailan, saan?

Andi: 3 months

Andi: Sa kwarto niya.

Researcher: Paano nangyari?

Lorenzo: Actually hindi siya planado, parang spur of the moment.

Researcher: Sino naginitiate?

Andi: Fine ako kasi. Hindi kasi, nung dati may ginagawa kami pero hindi pa kami nagsesex. Tapos biglang ako clueless, gusto ko na itry

Researcher: Ano ang factors na nakainfluence sa inyo para makipagsex for the first time?

Lorenzo: Kampante na kami sa isat isa non, magkakilala na kami since bata pa kami, andun na yung tiwala.

Andi: Kinilala muna, sure naman akong okay siya na tao. So far.

Researcher: Ang media?

Andi: Akin hindi, wala. Pero siguro yung kuwari yung sounds, pero hindi yung talagang sex.

Researcher: Family?

Andi: Kung nakaffect man more of hindi ko gagawin, pero yung gagawin, ikaw?

Researcher: E friends?

Lorenzo: Ako hindi, wala talaga

Researcher: Ano ang religion niyo at nakaapekto ba yon sainyo?

Andi&Lorenzo: Catholic

Andi: Sa akin oo nung una, iniisip ko... actually nung after medyo naguilty ako kasi normal parin ako binabati ng family, e parang shet kanina lang... yon parang sa after na e, hindi before.

Andi: Parang wala. Kami lang

Lorenzo: Siguro dahil sa...

Andi: Kung may effect man siya hindi para gawin.

Researcher: Bakit niyo ginawa?

Andi: Spur of the moment, parang pag nandun ka na mismo hindi mo na siya maiisip. Maiisip mo siya pag hindi mo ginagawa, pero pag nandun na, intense na e, parang hindi mo na maiisip.

Researcher: Did you use contraceptives?

Lorenzo: Hindi

Andi: Hindi planado tapos andun na e, tapos stop ka pa.

Researcher: Describe your feelings before the act Andi: In heat, hindi, excited din.

Lorenzo: Excited na kinakabahan

Researcher: How about feelings after?

Andi: Ako yung kinabahan, at parang nagsisi ako, parang tama bay un na pumayag ako, parang medyo naisip ko din na kahit papano ang tagal ko inantay yung right time tapos ganon

Lorenzo: Naguilty ako syempre, alam kong may belief siya na nadisregard nung nagawa naming. Nung tumagal tagal na parang go with it nalang

Andi: Inassure naman niya ako after na wag ako magworry.

Researcher: Describe your second sexual encounter.

Researcher: Gaano katagal yung interval from the first?

Lorenzo: Days lang

Andi: Nakatira kasi siya sa loob ng UP e, so pag breaktime tatambay kayo, tapos yun naexcite ka nalang kasi walang tao tsaka minsan parang mamimiss mo yung feeling

Researcher: Who initiated?

Andi: Hindi ko na maalala.

Researcher: San niyo ginawa?

Andi: Sa bahay nila ulit

Researcher: Ano ang factors na nakaapekto dito?

Lorenzo: Siguro parang inassume ko na rin sakanya na seryoso na, sya na talaga, sigurado na ako sakanya.

Andi: Ang naalala ko kasi siguro yung hindi sa mga first, kung nakaffect an yung pinapanuod dun na sa iba. Pero mas interested na ako nung nagawa na, pero hindi yun yung nakaffect para gawin ko. May times nag anon, parang „uy nakakamiss yung ganon ah“ pero sa pangalawa hindi pa.

Lorenzo: Siguro pag may nababasa ako sa print ads or newspapers or magazines or may napapanuod ako sa tv na in relation sa ginagawa namin, siguro nakakaffect din siya somehow, unconsciously.

Researcher: Nakaapekto ba dito ang religion?

Andi: Kasi kung nakakaffect yun hindi naming gagawin

Researcher: E friends?

Andi: Siguro sakin parang ano kasi nakita ko na yung reaction parang okay lang, siguro nakaffect rin

Researcher: Ano ang feeling niyo before niyo gawin?

Andi: Naexcite.

Lorenzo: Nilu-look forward ko yung moment tsaka at the same time kinakabahan kahit papano.

Andi: Ako kasi iniisip ko na, so inaanticipate ko na mangyari pag pupunta ako sakanya

Researcher: Paano yung feeling after?

Andi: Mas komportable na ako

Lorenzo: Parang kahit papano naggain ko na trust ng partner ko, at the same time komportable na

Researcher: Ano ang pagkakaiba ng feeling niyo before nung first and before nung second?

Lorenzo: siguro yung first yung excitement mas mataas. Yung una talaga yung pinakaexcited para sakin. Pero depende rin kasi sa mood mo, sa tao. Halimbawa, sakin, may times na pag hindi niyo nagagawa may times na nillook forward ko yung moment

Researcher: How about after?

Andi: Oo kasi iba talaga yung first e, kahit excited ka kinikilig ka pa rin e, yung second din ganon pa rin pero mas exciting lang yung first

Researcher: What are the sexual activities that know of?

Andi: Oral, anal

Lorenzo: Masturbation, foreplay

Researcher: What are those that you usually do?

Andi: Oral, kissing, foreplay

Andi: Ayoko ng anal kasi masakit yon diba? Ewan ko hindi ko kaya

Researcher: Who initiates most of the time?

Andi: pareho e kung sino may pangangailangan

Lorenzo: Siguro ako. May urges ako na gusto ko siya makasama, gusto ko siya masolo.

Andi: Well kasi ako naman, parehas naman yung dami ng times na gusto namin pero mapride ako na ako yung mauuna so parang hintay hintay konti.

Researcher: when do you usually do it?

Andi: 3-4 times a week, pag nagkikita kami, so madalas

Researcher: What are the sexual activities that you do that usually lead to sex?

Andi: Hindi naman

Lorenzo: Depende sa lugar, kung nasan kayo, pero pag kayong dalawa nalang magsesex na kayo

Researcher: Where have you learned about it?

Lorenzo: Magazines, kasi dati namimili ako ng magazines so naging open ako sag anon tapos pag nakanuod ako ng porn, sa radio minsan may naririnig ako na ganon, friends din, mga kaibigan.

Andi: Parehas pero walang porn pero parang ma naano ako sa friends

Researcher: Gaano kadalas kayo mag- sex?

Lorenzo: Once a week

Andi: Iba na kasi ngayon kasi nagwowork na pero nung pareho kaming nagaaral ang dami

Researcher: Were there times when your partner turns you down? How do you feel when that happens?

Andi: Oo naman, BV tapos magaway kami kasi hindi obvious pag ako yung natturn down tapos ako cold cold tapos magaway kami kasi bat ako ganon

Lorenzo: Minsan, mas nagiging sensitive ako towards don. Halimbawa tinurn down ko siya parag iniisip ko baka magalit.

Researcher: What are the reason why you turn down your partner?

Andi: Pagod, tapos pagkakunwari asar ka. Dalawa kasi yun angry sex or walang gana, kadalasan pagod

Lorenzo: Pagod

Researcher: What are the contraceptives that you know of?

Lorenzo: pills, condoms, IUD...

Researcher: Where did you learn of these?

Lorenzo: friends tapos media na rin

Researcher: Anong contraceptive ang madalas niyong ginagamit?

Andi&Lorenzo: Condoms.

Lorenzo: tried and tested yung mom ko nagsabi siya na kung magkaron daw ako ng partner, wag ko daw ipagpipills kasi may side effects pwedeng cause sa baby, mahirap manganak

Andi: Sabi rin kasi sakín na pag namiss mo yung paginom nagiging fertile ka

Researcher: Gaano kadalás kayo gumamit ng condoms?

Andi: mga tatlong beses yata e. ako kasi hindi ko gusto kasi nasanay na akong wala so nung kami gumamit kami pinatanggal ko siya.

Researcher: Rate your approval of the use of contraceptives.

Andi: hindi ko rin masabi sa ngayon 4, kasi mas natatakot ako magtry ng ganon ng mga foreign stuff. Pero sakín okay lang kahit gumamit yung ibang tao pero ako hindi ko gusto

Lorenzo: 5 para safety na rin, pero hindi kasi kami gumagamit. In general, sana yung mga nasa lower level mas kailangan nila yon

Researcher: What are the factors of you not using/using contraceptives?

Andi: Personal lang, nasatisfy ako ng wala.

Lorenzo: Personal compared sa pag nandun na sa moment na yon hindi mo naiisip kung ano dapat gamitin

Researcher: How about family?

Andi: Oo, kasi yung parents ko talagang hardcore catholics, tapos yung tita ko na gumagamit ng injectables ang dami ko ng narinig sa dad ko, so siguro nakakaapekto

Lorenzo: Wala naman para sa kin

Researcher: What are the risks and consequences of having unprotected sex?

Andi: Pwede ka mabuntis

Researcher: Do you talk about it?

Andi: Oo, lalo na pag natatakot ako

Researcher: Who initiates?

Andi: Nung una ako, pero nagkkatime na siya na yung nagtatanong na bat hindi ka pa nagkakaran, pero nung una talaga ako

Researcher: What is your biggest concern as of the moment?

Andi: Mabuntis

Researcher: Bakit?

Andi: Magastos magkaanak e, gusto rin naming eventually pero as marami pa kaming gustong gawin, bata pa kami.

Lorenzo: Yung mga friends na nakilala kong nagkaron ng early pregnancy, ang dami nilang namiss so inisip ko na wag muna sana ganon.

Researcher: Yung families niyo ba alam na sexually active kayo?

Lorenzo: Feeling ko parents nila, alam yon

Andi: Feeling ko alam din, kasi lumalabas kami pupunta kami sa isang lugar, pumapayag naman so siguro naman parang hindi nalang pinaguusapan

Lorenzo: Basta sabi lang, wag ka muna magkakaanak

Andi: Nung nagCebu kami sabi sakanya ng dad ko, o good boy ka ha?

Researcher: How about friends?

Andi: Alam, close friends.

Researcher: Ano pinaguusapan niyo?

Lorenzo: Ako kasi private na person ako so hindi ako nagoopen up ng ganyang bagay sa ibang tao

Andi: Ako kasi babae ako so yung sa mga close lang naman. Minsan pinaguusapan yung kung anong ginawa, minsan winawarn ako wag ako mabuntis

Researcher: Do they give you advices?

Andi: Sakin meron, gaya ng wag ako mabuntis. Lorenzo: Sakin wala, kasi lalaki kasama ko so naggagaguhan lang kami minsan niloloko nila ako na wag muna magkakaanak, napakavague

Researcher: Ang media ba nakaapekto sainyo?

Andi: Oo, may gusto kang gawin na nakikita mo, parang naexplain minsankungbakit ganon nangyari, kung mali ba, na normal lang pala yung ibang nangyayari samin

Lorenzo: Siguro sa internet, tinitignan ko kung ano mga pwede naming gawin, mga pwede naming mapuntahan

Researcher: Paano ang school?

Lorenzo: Konti lang siguro kasi hs hindi pa naiisip yung ganong bagay. Wala pang paki pero siguro nakakaapekto din yon ngayon.

Andi: Nung una hindi.

Researcher: How does religion affect your relationship?

Andi: Sa relationship naming, hindi pero yung kunwari siguro oo, kasi taboo e, hindi pwede pagusapan so parang syempre yung kung sa ginagawa naming wala pero kung pano sasabihin sa mga tao nakakaapekto

Researcher: Describe your relationship before having sex

Andi: Wala kilig kilig lang.

Lorenzo: siguro seryoso ano hindi ko pa siya naiisip na gingagawa naming yon mas nageenjoy lang kami sa nangyayari samin

Andi: Go with the flow

Researcher: Describe your relationship after having sex

Andi: Mas driven sa isat isa, komportable na.

Lorenzo: Pag tagal tagal tiwala sa isat isa nadedevelop naming, pwede na naming pagusapan kahit ano tungkol samin open kami sa ganon

Researcher: How is your relationship now that you are sexually active

Andi: Super open kami sa isat isa comfortable na kami tsaka nagadd din ng spice sa relationship e so ayon

Researcher: What do you think is the importance of having sex? Is it important?

Andi: Hindi naman parang mawawala kami pag walang sex, exciting, nakakaadd ng spice ang tagal niyo na pero may fun parin kayong nagagawa together, may bond na kayo e. iba na yun..

Lorenzo: Its my way to show my love for her

Andi: Oo mahalaga

Researcher: Nagtatalo ba kayo o nagkakaron ng pagtatalo as a couple?

Lorenzo: Oo naman

Researcher: Sino nagsisimula?

Lorenzo: depende kung sino mainit yung ulo tapos pag sinabayan

Andi: oo na ako na

Lorenzo: Siya, siya yung nagwowork e.

Researcher: Ano ang gagawin niyo pag nagaaway kayo?

Lorenzo: Minsan pag pagod din ako pag nagkakasabay kami nagaaway din kami. Pero most of the time, hinahayaan ko nalang din, parang give way nalang din, hayaan ko nalang siya maging ganon.

Andi: Pero pinaguusapan din naman naming after, parang open na kami, komportable na kami kasi diba parang iba ka magact pag kaharap ng friends, iba sa family, sakanya parang lahat kahit hindi na ako nakakapagisip ng mabuti kahit ano nasasabi kong minsan nahuhurt

Researcher: Sino ang nagsosorry?

Andi: Yung may mali

Researcher: Sino ang madalas na may last say pag nagdedecision kayo?

Lorenzo: Maarte ako e, so ako

Researcher: Ano ginagawa mo?

Lorenzo: Paparinig, pahaging

Researcher: Can you live without sex? Gaano katagal?

Andi&Lorenzo: A month? Pero dapat wala siya nako.