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Lived Experiences of Women in Non-Legal Marital Separation

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**LIVED EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN IN NON-LEGAL MARITAL
SEPARATION**

A Thesis
Presented to the Faculty of
College of Graduate Studies and Teacher Education Research
Philippine Normal University
Taft Avenue, Manila

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Arts in
Psychology and Counseling

KANNAH JOYCE C. SANZ

April 2019

CHAPTER I

The Problem and Literature Review

Background of the Study

Human beings have been referred as very social species. Relationships with other people have been considered to be indispensable and vital. It has been known to be the central aspect of people's lives and intimate relationship has been mentioned to be the core of social nature. Moreover, the need for belongingness has been stated to be inevitable. In a society, when two people have been considered to be in love with each other and decided to make their romantic relationship public, official and permanent, this couple will be in the process of getting married. It has been known to be a lifetime commitment and it takes a lot of effort to make the marital relationship work out and last. Thus, not all married couples are bounded by love. Some of them are just obligated to marry their significant others because it was fixed or arranged by their parents or relatives. Every couple will have disagreements and problems that will arise at some point of their marriage. These have been considered to be unavoidable in a relationship and there is nothing wrong in having them. Hence, during those conflicts couples have been encouraged to resolve misunderstandings for them to be able to keep their marriage intact. But still, not all married couples are successful of doing so and some of them headed to divorce or legal separation. On the other hand, some married couples have decided not to dissolve the marital union and just live separately. The end of marriage involves negative consequences for the former partners and children if any (Gordon,

2004). There will also be significant changes that result in difficulties, loss, decline in physical and mental health.

In 21st century, it has been striking that the major separation of many adult's life is that of divorce. According to Homes and Rahe's study (as cited in Mcleod, 2010) was able to state the divorce experience as the second most stressful life event on the social readjustment scale. As of 2016, it has been reported that researchers estimate that 41% of all first marriages end up in divorce, 60% of second marriages end up in divorce and 73% of third marriages end up in divorce. Many married couples nowadays have been filing for divorce and some of them resort to merely settling things on their own without getting court decision; which is to be separated but still remain legally married. Thus, spouses who have been living apart are still considered married. However, this has consequences; the separated married couple are legally prohibited to marry someone else. In addition, they are legally obligated to pay for the spouse's debt and automatically inherit from the other one without a will, as stated in the contract of their marriage. According to Mika and Bloom, 1980 (as cited in Vukalovich, 2004), married people have been stuck in this kind of situation which is constantly facing the challenges and struggles of marriage whether the couple are married or just living in a de facto relationship, couples may have experience similar difficulties of separating as a couple. Adjusting to separation implies that eventually, they will be forced to live a new lifestyle without their spouses. The separated couple may try to adapt to the social, financial, emotional, and psychological changes as a newly separated person. It has been suggested that there is a possibility for

a few individuals to experience continuation of long term post-separation effects for a period of up to ten years.

In the Philippines, marriage has been regarded as a sacred union. Since Philippines has been considered as the fourth largest Christian country in the world, Philippine society discourages marital separations. Thus, legal safeguards are provided to preserve the marital relations. The Philippines is considered to be the only country in the world, aside from Vatican, where divorce is illegal (Emery, 2013). Recent data shows that a growing number of Filipino married couples dissolve their marital unions, either legally or informally. Since the divorce law is not being implemented in the Philippines, couples who want to break free from their marriages turn to annulment. This process requires long court proceedings and high costs. Many married Filipino couples could not afford getting an annulment, in such case they just resort to separating and living apart from each other.

Since 2006, there have been an increasing number of annulments and nullity of marriage petitions that have been filed based from the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) in the Philippines. Recent data showed in 2013 that more females initiate the filing of nullity proceedings. From a random sampling in 2018, it has been revealed that the petitioners or married couples who seek to nullify the marriage were between the ages of 21- 25 and have been married from 1- 5 years. As of 2011, it was shown in the data reported by OSG that 82% of the couples have children. Due to the prevalence of marriage separation implied by the aforementioned data, the Philippine society is currently in the move to pass a divorce law in the country. For the first time in the

Philippine history, a Divorce Bill reached the House Plenary for deliberation, in the House of the Representatives. The proposed bill is entitled as “An Act Instituting Divorce and Absolute Dissolution of Marriage in the Philippines”, it was substituted from House Bills 116, 1062, 2380 and 6027 and passed committee level on February 21, 2018. This bill seeks to provide spouses in “irremediably failed marriages” to secure an absolute divorce decree under limited grounds and procedure, to protect the children from getting or absorbing pain and stress resulting from their parents’ marital problems, and to grant divorced spouses the right to marry again. Recently, it was reported that the House of Representatives on March 19, 2018, approved on third and final reading a bill which seeks to legalize absolute divorce and dissolution of marriage in the Philippines. The proposed divorce bill is in the verge of being a law which means that it will be much easier for the Filipino citizens to get their marriage nullified.

This research utilized a phenomenological research design about the lived experiences of women in non-legal marital separation with their husbands in the Philippines. This study has gained a deeper understanding about the experiences of married women who are in non-legal marital separation with their spouse, in the context of the Philippine setting. This study also provided suggestions and implications to the guidance and counseling that seeks to assist participant’s awareness. Also, this study has explored and has gained knowledge about the coping mechanisms or skills during the post separation of married couples.

The study has explored the stories of married mothers or wives and to understand their experiences. It also uncovered and explored different events and the transformative

elements that occurred which were considered as the key factors that led to the changes in the lives as mothers or wives. Since it is uncommon to hear the experiences of mothers or wives regarding living separately with their spouse, the study was focused on them and revealed their stories and bring awareness to it. As mentioned, married women and men experience this issue differently. For this reason, a focus on the experiences of the mother or wife alone were examined.

The study utilized an empirical method in conducting this research. It would pay attention to the complexity of the experiences of women's in non-legal marital separation; the conflicts that arose and the changes they underwent. This study uncovered the different stories and issues brought about by non-legal marital separation and how it could have possibly have affected their well-being. This study's complexity also falls on the research design utilized as well as results from this study that will be used in developing interventions for a counseling program. The said program upholds the purpose of improving the quality of life of not only the mothers or wives as well as the whole family.

Research ethics were strictly followed in conducting this study since it involves sensitive issue. Participants were fully informed of this study's nature and what would become of the results on the completion of this research. No participants were forced to participate in this study unless they give full consent; they are allowed to choose not to participate or back out from this study. This study endorsed the participants' right to full disclosure of the information to them, as well as their right to self- determination. Anonymity was also of importance. The participant's privacy was protected and the

anonymity of their profiles was kept. No harm was subjected to the respondents in the course of this study. Interview questions were first presented to experts for validation, for potential mistakes, biases and harm before being used in the data gathering procedure.

Literature Review

This presents the related literature and studies after thorough search was done by the researcher. This literature review explores the main variable of the study: the women in non-legal marital separation. The scope of this literature review is expanded to include researches, journals and articles that examine the main variable of the study. It is important to gather supporting materials in order to have a comprehensive and relevant body in the content. This will also present the synthesis that summarizes all the gathered information and analyze the gaps.

Marital Separation

Diverse researches about marital separation have been published in various fields. For instance, (Han, 2014) defined marital separation as an informal disruption of a marriage that may lead or substitute for a divorce. Marital separation in the said study was also coined as an informal status. On the other hand, marital separation was described as a stage in the divorce process, a substitute to divorce, and a fleeting break from a marriage. Marital separation is considered as a legal status agreement to that outlines the rights and responsibilities of each spouse as the married couple arrives into separation (Brown & Halpin, 2016). These studies are just some of the many researches that examined the term marital separation in various population and setting.

As previously stated, marital separation is a construct defined in various ways. As a result, there have been divergent standpoints in the definition of marital separation. Some researchers argued that most separations end up in divorce (Bramlett & Mosher, 2002). While some researchers stated that not all separations will lead to divorce. According to Wineberg, 1996 (as cited in Lamanna et al. 2014) based from the researches that were conducted, they found out that approximately half of separated women attempt to reconcile with their spouses.

Researchers who view marital separation temporary and attempts to reconciliation in the long run are seldom successful. According to Wineberg, (as cited in Tumin, 2010) it was found out that two-thirds of women who reconcile are no longer married a year later and showed that reconciliation can still be a viable end to separation. For instance, it was discovered that in a community sample, approximately a tenth of marriages had experienced a short-term separation due to marital discord. On the other hand, Morgan (as cited in Tumin, 2010) further argued that most likely to reconcile after separating are women and if they have certainly not attended college. According to Wineberg, (as cited in Tumin, 2010) these research findings recommend that a reliance on the relationship can turn a separation away from becoming a permanent end to the marriage.

Psychological Effects of Separation

In a new study published in 2013 in *Clinical Psychological Science*, journal of the Association for Psychological Science, indicates that divorced individuals is linked with a history of depression with increased risk of future depressive episodes. On the other

hand, Sbarra (2013) and other colleagues took the advantage of the longitudinal study and used the data from Midlife Development in the United States (MIDUS). The researchers randomly assigned people from the population and matched each participant who had divorced or separated to continuously marry the person during the study. By comparing the participants; match, the researchers indicated that it is impossible to randomly assign the people to marry or to divorce. The researcher also to claim the fact that divorce had significant effect on later depression.

Some researchers claimed that divorce leads to constant adjustment concerns resulting from persistent separation-related stresses (Waite & Gallagher, 2000). While other researchers asserted that divorce is just a socially normative change, which typically leads to only mild fleeting distress. Separated individuals experience difficulties and often seek professional support. It is significant to understand how these relationships get started, how they operate and how they end in a haze of anger and pain. Separation or being divorced from the significant other can be among the toughest experiences. Separation is stressful and involves major changes which can be difficult to adjust to. However, other researchers discovered a high frequency of chronic psychological distress and severe maladjustment problems in some years after being separated (Johnson & Wu, 2002). Extreme amount of stress take not just severe emotional toll as well as reduced life satisfaction (Lucas, 2005), and enlarged mental health problems (Wade & Pevalin, 2004). In one of the research findings, it was reported that divorced mothers has higher levels of depression than married mothers in a British sample. These researchers found out that the symptoms of depression increased after a separation while it decreased after marriage.

However, in one of the research conducted by Shapiro (as cited in Keyes, 2007), he found out that divorced couples compared to remarried adults were reported to have higher rates of psychological distress. These several studies demonstrate the relationship between separation and distress. On the other hand, they do not directly interpret that separation causes distress among separated married couples. High rate of individual problems in separated married couples probably reflects not just the characteristics, and increase the risk of separation but also the effects of separation.

Gender Differences in Separation

Diverse responses are experienced during the termination process. Closure in relationship has been reported as distressing both in males and females. Marital disruption tends to be more stressful for women to according to the research of Bloom (as cited in Vukalovich, 2004). Also it was shown in the study that women have higher levels of distress and also experiences more difficulties in the pre-separation period. On the other hand, men experience higher levels of stress and difficulties after several months of post-separation. Although there are great stressors that weaken the adjustment process, the outcomes of adjustment may also be dependent on who decide to terminate the marriage. In a study conducted in the last two decades, it appeared that women are more often initiators of divorce and separation and the personality attributes of women were found to be more predictive of divorce risk. However, most of the researches were based on psychological symptoms of separation. Therefore, surveys that were conducted may be less specific to men. Other researchers identified the gender-related differences during the separation and divorce adjustment process; these are economic resources, subjective

stress and situational stress. For females and males, economic resources tend to affect the separation adjustment differently according to Diedrick (as cited in Vukalovich, 2004). In this area, women have the disadvantage economically in separation since they tend to provide for the child support. Although differences in gender are considerable, this study will examine the adjustment of married women after an illegitimate marital separation in the Philippine setting to provide deeper knowledge and provide an awareness of experiences.

Synthesis

The studies in this section explained the context of married women after illegitimate marital separation. The related literatures supported the proposition of the study that marital separation is an increasing concern in the world, most especially in the Philippine context. In this chapter, the presented studies discussed about the definition of marital separation and the psychological effects among separated married couple. This section presented experiences in dealing with the issues faced by married women. It also included the predetermined causes identified by the researcher based on the most researched aspects of the married women's adjustment after separation. In order to contextualize the study, a certain aspect known as tolerance was added in the possible contributing factors of disclosure dilemmas they might encounter in the process of adjustment. Although studies on married women were less emphasized in the research field, there are still evidences reporting on the distresses that they experience. There is a need for more support systems for married women in order to cater to their unique needs.

It is essential to support these married women in their adjustment to their new life as separated woman.

Conceptual Framework

The present study would like to examine the lived experiences of Filipino married women in non-legal marital separation from their husbands. This study also seeks to provide suggestions to develop implications for guidance counseling for women who seek to assist participants' awareness and also to increase the knowledge and coping mechanisms or skills during the post separation of married couple. This section will provide a visual presentation of the study's rationale and its direction. This aims to guide the entire process of the study and to provide a context for interpreting the study findings.

Figure 1 shows that married women who are in non-legal marital separation from their spouses undergo the separation as indicated by an arrow pointing to lived experiences which show that this study assumes that being separated from husbands may affect the well-being of the women. Under lived experiences are coping processes and challenges of separation. These two areas will be examined in order to fully understand the lived experiences of the women in order to uncover significant themes and develops inputs to the field of guidance and counseling. It is designed to present an overview of the assumed experiences of the researcher based on the discussed related literatures.

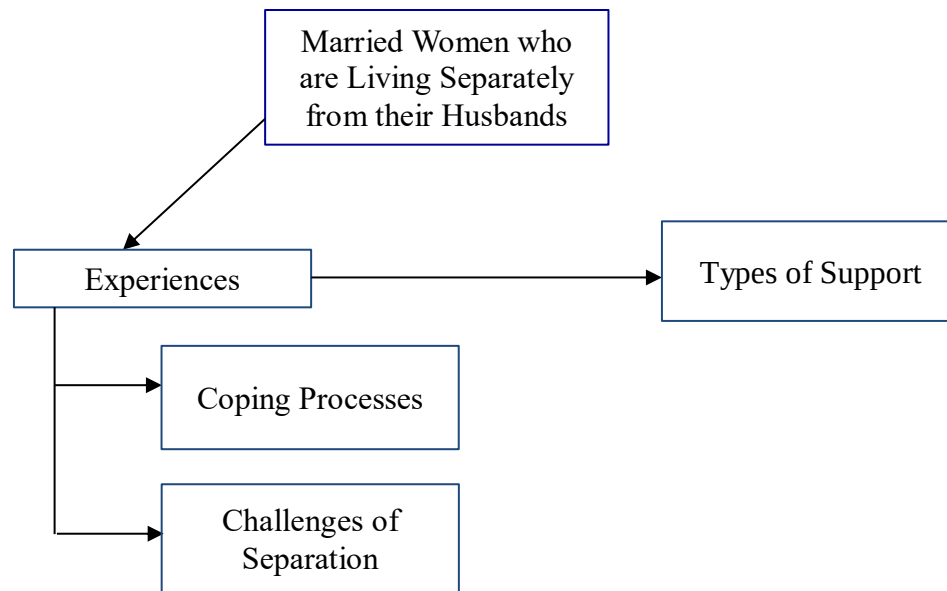


Figure 1. *The experiences of women in non-legal marital separation*

Statement of Purpose

This study uses a phenomenological research design to examine the experiences of married women who are separated from their husbands. The main inquiry of this study is to analyze the lived experiences of married women in non-legal marital separation from their husbands. Specifically, the following are the aims of this study:

1. Determine the marriage experiences of women in non-legal marital separation from their husbands.
 - a. expectations in marriage
 - b. challenges in marriage
2. Identify how married women who are living separately from their husbands were able to face the following:
 - a. challenges of separation

b. coping processes

3. Describe the types of support received by the women in non-legal marital separation.

Significance of the Study

The study aims to explore and determine the coping mechanisms among women who are in non-legal marital separation from their spouses. The researcher believes that the present study would contribute to the advancement of Psychology in the Philippines specifically on limited local researches on coping mechanisms among married women but living separately from their husbands. Knowing the struggles, challenges, adjustments and experiences of separated married couples are essential and will be beneficial to the following individuals in terms of awareness on how to cope up with being separated from their spouse occurs and in terms of having a deeper understanding of their situation. The process and the outcomes of the study may contribute to its problem and purposes. The possible significance of this study are the following:

To the women who are in non-legal marital separation from their spouses. The study will be of help to the married women on how they will be able to cope up with the possible issues and stress in taking care of themselves and their child or children if any. Findings from this study may be used in order to develop counseling interventions that could be of aid to married women who are separated from their spouses. Also, they will become aware on how their situation may affect their well-being.

To the married men who are in non-legal marital separation from their spouses.

The study will be of help to married men in understanding their partners' condition and struggles that are unique to them as they face the different consequences brought about by the non-legal marital separation. Awareness on the possible challenges that their partners face will also be of help in maintaining harmonious marital and familial relationship. An understanding of their perspectives will help them evaluate the ways on how to help them.

To the participants. The study will give them awareness of the experiences of being in marital separation with their spouse. This study will help separated spouses to think that they are not the only ones experiencing the situation. The experiences of others who are in the same situation can also give additional knowledge on how to deal with their lives. It is essential to give them a deeper understanding of the situation so that it could give them the inspiration to move forward and the motivation to pursue their goals in life.

To the young adults. This study will enhance their perceptions about marriage and separation. To give them further information that marriage is a lifetime commitment and they must be prepared first before getting married and to make their relationship work out. The study will also give them additional knowledge on how to handle the process of being separated from their romantic partners or spouses.

To the future researchers. This study can be an area of interest for future researchers. Further studies on this subject matter are encouraged in order to uncover new

knowledge that can contribute to the field of research. This study will contribute to the timely relevant issues of separation of married couples. The study will find out the experiences, struggles, challenges and coping processes of being separated from their spouses. A larger body of knowledge on this subject would allow more opportunities for people to become aware. It will also serve as a big contribution to future studies with the same nature so that future studies may present further information regarding the issue.

To the married couples. This study will give the married couples the knowledge about the experiences; before, during and after the non-legal marital separation. It will give them knowledge and awareness of the consequences brought by no-legal marital separation. It will serve as help in maintaining harmonious marital and familial relationship.

To Guidance Counselors. This study will give the counselors the knowledge to enhance counseling services that can help couples talk about their problems and come to a decision, or to come to terms with whatever decision they make. Results and findings from this study would add to the existing pool of knowledge in guidance and counseling programs and services that can be developed. Knowledge from this study can help professionals in this field gain new knowledge on this phenomenon, thus allowing them to think and develop ways to extend guidance to parents and children. Programs can also be extended to the parents in order for them to properly handle not only their children but also themselves.

To the Psychologists. This study will give an additional knowledge that can be use in their practice of their profession in the future, for the study that the researcher has chosen is timely and relevant to the issues and trends of this era. As professionals they will be more aware and prepared with these cases that will be encountered in their practice, and to be able to provide a relevant and helpful intervention to the negative impact of separation among married couples. This study will also help psychologists to produce a theory or therapy that will suit the Filipino culture when it comes to adjustment of separation among married couples.

To the society. This study will provide awareness to the public regarding the experiences that married women face. Knowledge that will be gained from this study will hopefully break the stigma about the phenomenon and help the people affected by it.

To the Government Officials. This study will give further information for the government officials to address the concerns of married couple who are petitioners of annulment. This study will serve as an additional knowledge for giving considerations for passing or disapproving the Divorce Bill in the Philippines.

Definition of Terms

Separation – In this study, separation is coined as an action or state of moving or being moved apart also an act of permanently dissolving the marital relationship. This means that the married couple is still considered to be legally married yet they are not living together and this involves moving out of shared home.

Marriage - Marriage is a term for legally or formally recognized union of two people as partners in a personal and intimate relationship. It is public, official, permanent union and considered to be a lifetime commitment of a female and a male romantic couple.

Non-Legal Marital Separation— In this study, it is considered to be a process in which married couple did not undergo legal separation. It is the time wherein married couple separate their lives and start living apart.

Transcendental- relating to a spiritual or nonphysical realm.

CHAPTER II

Methods

This chapter contains the research design and methodology used, research site, the selection of criteria and participants, the process of data collection, data analysis, the role of the researcher, methods of validation and the ethical considerations. This part is focused on the procedure, exploration and determining the process of separation among separated married women from their husbands. It is important to examine the methods and data from different viewpoints to ensure a comprehensive approach to the research questions. It is also relevant to acknowledge ethical issues to protect the moral and social values of the participants.

Research Design

The research design utilized in this study is qualitative, specifically phenomenology. A qualitative research is primarily exploratory research that focuses on understanding a research inquiry through a humanistic approach. This method is used to gain an understanding of the underlying reasons or beliefs of people, opinions, motivations and experiences. Qualitative research was seen as philosophically incongruent with experimental research but now it is recognized for its ability to add a new dimension to studies which cannot be obtained through measurement of variables alone (Pathak, Jena, & Kalra, 2013). It is designed to reveal a target audience's range of behavior and the perceptions that drive it with reference to specific topics or issues.

This study is anchored on a phenomenological research approach. Researchers conducting phenomenological studies are interested in the life experiences of humans. This type of research can be applied to wide variety of situations and phenomena. Specifically, this research used this type of approach to discuss the life experiences of the separated women as they experience the transition. Essentially, it focuses on meaning, of the experience and how a person who experienced this phenomenon defines the experience.

Research Site

The research settings are relevant places for the participants. The participants of this study were Filipino mothers who are currently residing in National Capital Region (NCR). This study is focused on gathering participants from this area because it has a wide range of demographics and it is the most accessible area. It is the country's primary region for business. The region is beaming with its modern housing and commercial infrastructures, sufficient transportation facilities and services, and recreational avenues.

It is comprised of 4 districts. The capital of the Philippines, Manila, comprises the 1st District (Capital District). The 2nd District (Eastern Manila District) is comprised of the cities of Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig, San Juan, and Quezon City, and. The 3rd District (CAMANAVA District) is comprised of Navotas, Valenzuela, Caloocan, and Malabon. Lastly, the 4th District (Southern Manila District) is comprised of Pasay, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Pateros, Taguig and Makati. As of 2015, the 2nd District has the highest population in Metro Manila which is 4,650,613. In totality, the

National Capital Region has a population of 12,877,253. In 1976, the accumulation of Manila, Pasay, Caloocan, Manila, Pasay and Quezon City and thirteen municipalities were officially designated regions comprising the National Capital Region (NCR) or Metro Manila, by the virtue of Presidential Decree 921 issued on March 4 of the same year. In the last few years, eight municipalities were promoted into cities. Since December 31, 1998, twelve (12) cities and five (5) municipalities make up Metro Manila.

Selection Criteria and Participants

The research population is also known as a well-defined collection of individuals or objects known to have similar characteristics. In this study, the participants strictly followed a certain criteria. The researcher has gathered ten (10) participants from the population. The researcher selected the participants from different places in the National Capital Region in the Philippines for the convenience of its location and its wide range of population. Participants were identified using purposive sampling and snowball technique and guided by the following criteria. Participants were married women but living separately from their husbands and who did not undergo legal separation. The age ranges of the participants were from eighteen (18) years old up to thirty five (35) years old. The married couple must be separated from six (6) months up to five (5) years and has a child or children regardless if the couple has a current partner. The participants were willing to participate in the study. The researcher and participant have no relation to each other. The researcher purposely chose married women who are separated with their husbands in order to determine their unique experiences on being separated and it how has affected their lives in terms of their perceived challenges and coping processes.

Research Instrument

For the research instrument of this study, the researcher used an interview for collecting data from the participants. Interview is a method in research defined as a verbal communication between the participant and the researcher. It is used to explore the perspectives of the participants on a particular situation. Interview is an effective way to use in this study to deeply understand the meaning of what the participants would say and explain about the particular event to the researcher. The researcher created semi-structured interview questions that are free from any biases (e.g., gender, class, ethnics, cultural) that were validated and approved by the validator. Sample interview questions are as follows:

1. After being separated with your husband, what are the challenges did you face?
2. Prior to separation, what type of support or help did you seek from other people?

Data Gathering Procedure

The target participants of the study were ten women who are living separately from their spouses yet still legally married. For the data collection of this study, the researcher first identified the participants and the research environment needed for the study. The participants were gathered using purposive, snowball sampling. Purposive sampling was used because the selected participants must fit the criteria provided for the study such as being married with their spouse but separated, women, must be eighteen (18) years old to thirty five (35) years old, six (6) months up to five (5) years of being separated from their spouse. The study used a snowball sampling because the researcher

asked the other participants if they have someone to refer, who also fits in the criteria of the study. After identifying the participants and the environment, participants were approached and were asked for their permission to be a part of the study. Before starting the interview, participants were fully briefed about the study's nature, objectives, and the processes to be employed. When the participants agreed to participate in the study, they were asked to read and sign the informed consent and explained to them the procedure and process of the interview to avoid violating the ethical considerations if any. The researcher also briefed the participants and let them decided to freely withdraw in this study without consequences if they don't want to participate in the study. The participants who confirmed and agreed to participate in this study were preceded to the next step. The researcher gathered the data by conducting an open-ended interview guided with semi-structured interview questions that are free from biases (e.g. class, ethnic, cultural) and acquired data from the participants that fulfilled the main objectives and answered the researcher's questions. No deception has been employed during the process of collection of data from the participants. The interview took about 15 (fifteen) to 90 (ninety) minutes. The interview was conducted in a place both convenient for the researcher and participants. The researcher ensured the safety and comfortability of the participants in the environment where the interview held. During the interview, the researcher used a journal and an audio recorder to record everything that the researcher and informants did and everything that they deemed necessary for the study. The interview was also recorded with the consent of the participants. Moreover, the participants were informed that they have to answer the interview questions truthfully. The participants were thanked for their participation when they finished the interview. Lastly, they were asked if they wanted to

know the result of the research. The information was kept confidential and the participants were assigned with codenames to ensure their privacy for this study. The researcher was the only one who has the access to the information that was gathered from the participants. The researcher sent the transcripts to the participants. The needed information from the participants was included in the final publication of the study. After gathering all the information needed by the researcher from the participants, all information has been deleted.

Data Analysis

Transcripts taken from audio recordings and notes were carefully transcribed and analysed. Thematic analysis was employed in order to extract the information needed. The encoded data was analysed through thematic analysis. Through this process, underlying and reoccurring themes were uncovered by analysing most used words and phrases as shown in the sample coding found in the Appendix. Events, symbols, metaphors, and beliefs were identified, coded, and grouped together based on common factors. After categorization, a chronological order of the elements was established. The turning point, shaped by major events or actions that occurred, was identified. From these processes, the experiences of the married women who are in non-legal marital separation from their husbands were constructed as a whole.

Role of Researcher

Since this study is qualitative in nature, the researcher played a subjective role in research. The researcher served merely as an instrument for collecting the data. The

facilitation of the interview was preceded by the researcher. The researcher explained the study's objectives, the process of this research and its output. Relevant information such as biases, assumptions, and experiences were also explained in order to prove the researcher's ability to conduct this study. Answers were recorded by the researcher as the interview progresses. The researcher employed skills in the art of questioning, such as the use of probing questions, in order to deepen the flow of conversation and thus be able to collect comprehensive answers. The researcher also became a good listener in order to effectively collect data from the interview. Becoming a good listener helped in building a rapport between the participant and the researcher. This strategy helped the researcher in gaining the participants' trust, thus allowing the researcher to ask questions and solicit truthful and meaningful answers.

Methods of Validation

This study utilized an interview guide consisting of semi-structured interview questions. This form of questions allowed the participants to answer freely. This was also allowed for a wide array of answers that helped the researcher in identifying the themes. After transcribing all the participants' interview, the researcher sent a copy of the transcripts to the participants for reviews. Themes were identified within the participants' transcripts; thematic analysis was first utilized; next step was initial coding and developed in terms of main categories, and after preliminary codes were developed final codes were identified. For the validation process of the themes, copies of the themes were given to professionals. These professionals gone through the themes carefully and verified their adequacy and appropriateness. After its validation, comments from the

validation process were taken into consideration in revising the themes. After accomplishing the final revisions, the proposed themes were used for the final themes of the study.

Ethical Considerations

This research utilized human persons as participants where certain ethical issues and concerns were addressed. Since the participants were women, a vulnerable group, there were risks with the participation in this study. The nature of this study offended participants upon approach for permission to conduct this study. There were also questions that recalled the participants sensitive or unpleasant situations that they have experienced which made them feel uncomfortable of answering the question. In this case, the participants were briefed to call the researcher's attention and have the right to withdraw the procedure and provide the participants help or assistance if possible. The interview questions were also constructed with in a manner in which they are free from biases. In order to ensure the safety of the participants, a consent letter and briefing was given to the participants before going through the interview.

The consideration of these issues is necessary for the purpose of ensuring the privacy as well as the security of the participants such as; informed consent, confidentiality and data protection. These issues were identified in advance to prevent future problems during the research process. The anonymity of the participants was also being of concern. Due to the sensitive nature of the topic, participants might feel uncomfortable in sharing their experiences. The participants might also think of the possibility of using their information for exploitation. Participants were reassured that

their anonymity and the confidentiality of their information were ensured through signing the consent form which contains an agreement between the respondent and the researcher in assuring anonymity and confidentiality. The participants were also given aliases in the write-up in order to conceal their identities. The data collected from the participants was strictly used only for this study. To further ensure the safety and confidentiality of the data gathered, only the researcher had a copy of the interview transcripts and audio recording to prevent leakage of information.

The researcher did not use this research for monetary purposes so as to prevent exploitation of the gathered data. There were no monetary incentives given to the participants. Instead, tokens of appreciation were given to them. The results of this study were shared to the participants in order for them to know what information from them was used and how these findings may help other people who are in the same predicament.

A strict code of ethics was followed to ensure the safety of the participants. The following are general principles based on the PNU Code of Ethics that this study followed as a guide in the endeavour of conducting this study.

Respect. In the conduct of the study, the researcher ensured the physical and psychological safety and protection of the participants.

The participants were briefed about the conduct of the research and they were provided with informed consent before conducting the study. Informed consent from all the participants was obtained prior to the conduct of the study. This contained information as to the background of the study, the procedures to be undertaken, risks and

benefits of being in the study, confidentiality issues, and voluntary nature of the study and contact information.

All interview sessions were held in a conducive and well-ventilated place. This ensured that the participants were comfortable during the interview sessions. All procedures and data were treated with utmost confidentiality and their stories were regarded with honesty that they narrated and that no distractions were made during the interview. Confidentiality of information given by the participants was maintained. The protection of the participants, identity was stated in the consent form. The participants' real names were not disclosed while recordings and written data were given codes to disguise their real identities. Information that was obtained from the interviews alongside with the transcriptions was remained in the possession of the researcher who kept them in the personal computer which is password protected. After the study, all audiotaped recordings of the interviews were destroyed and records and documents were shredded.

In writing the final report of the study, the real names of the participants were replaced to maintain their anonymity. In fact, pseudonyms were assigned per participant. No personal information was revealed that might give a clue to the real identity of the participants.

Beneficence. Benefits were optimized and possible harm was minimized in the conduct of research. The safety of the participants was the utmost concern of the researcher. The benefits and risks of this study were thoroughly discussed with the

participants before the informed consent form they signed. Direct and indirect benefits that result from the research are to be shared to the participants and communities. The result of this study will be published, all the participants will be given a copy and as well as the community where the research was conducted. The research should also contribute to the improvement of human conditions.

Justice. The inclusion and exclusion criteria in the selection of research respondents, data collection tools, and methodology were free from any biases (e.g., class, ethnic, cultural biases). Conflict of interest principle was applied in all research activities. Research was conducted by individuals with appropriate ethics, scientific education, training and qualification.

CHAPTER III

Findings and Discussion

This chapter presents the significant findings and results of the study. These results will be divided into three (3) sections according to each research question posed in Chapter 1. Each section includes a table which summarizes the themes, its descriptions and sample responses which reflect the themes. Themes for each research question will be discussed which includes verbatim responses of the participants.

Research Problem #1

Determine the marriage experiences of the women in non-legal marital separation from their husbands.

- a. expectations in marriage
- b. challenges in marriage

Marriage Experiences

a. Expectations in marriage

The participants' responses were categorized into codes and carefully converted into themes. There were two (2) emerging themes which explained the participants' expectations in marriage. The themes are: (1) Marriage as a lifetime commitment; and (2) Marriage as a shared responsibility.

Table 1 summarizes the common themes depicted from the participants' responses about their expectations in marriage. Sample sample responses were translated

to English.

Themes	Participants	Descriptions	Sample Responses
1. Marriage as a lifetime Commitment	P7, P4, P3, P9, P10, P8	This describes the participants' view on marriage whereas dedicating yourself to your partner or spouse for a lifetime.	<i>"Even though I came from a broken family... I still view marriage as an evidence of your lifetime commitment with your husband"</i>
2. Marriage as a shared responsibility.	P1, P2, P7, P6, P3, P5	This describes the participants' idea of their relationship with their spouse and perceives that both of the married couple is working and has the same responsibility as parents.	<i>"My dream before is to have a good husband that is responsible... also... a husband that has a regular job like me."</i>

1. Marriage as a Lifetime Commitment

Participants have a positive and negative outlook toward marriage life before despite of being raised in a broken family. Six of the ten participants shared that they came from a broken family. They all experienced and witnessed the downfall of the marriages of their parents.

P3 came from a broken family. She shared her family background wherein she witnessed conflicts in her family. Thus, despite the fact that she experienced having separated parents, she viewed her marriage to be a good one. This is evident in one of her accounts:

“ang gusto ko kasing mangyari sa married life syempre kase galing ako sa broken family nageexpect ako na sa married life wala namang perfect diba? Yung magiging maayos”

(I really wanted my married life to be... since I came from a broken family, I expected that there is no perfect married life, right? But I expect my own to be okay.)

P4 shared that she grew up from a broken family but she wanted her relationship with her future husband to last. She said:

“na magtatagal yung relationship naming kahit na may mga problema ganon”

(that our relationship will last even though we encountered problems.)

P7 also came from a broken family. To this, she stated the positive and negative sides of marriage. She shared the failure of her parents' marriage yet she wanted her own married life to be a successful one. She said:

“Hindi ko sya inexpect na magiging ano talaga...smooth sailing talagang alam ko naming may ups and downs yung mag-asawa kasi naalala ko rin naman sa parents ko na dumating sa point na nagkakaaway kaya naghihiwalay. Pero gusto ko pa rin magkaroon ng pamilya na magkakasama, buo at successful”

(I didn't expect it to be like...smooth sailing because I always know that there will be ups and downs between married couples... I just remembered the misunderstandings and quarrels of my parents back then that lead to their separation. But I wanted to have a family that lives together and successful)

P8 also shared her family background as non-intact. She said that her view regarding marriage is an evidence of being capable to have a family as a lifetime commitment with your partner.

“ang pananaw ko,panghabang buhay na pagsasama yun. Kasi isang katibayan yun bilang isang ano.. sa pagpapamilya”

(I view it as a lifetime relationship...because it is a proof of being like...capable of having family)

P10 came from a broken family as well. She shared that getting married is not an easy decision and viewed marriage as a commitment with your other half. She stated:

“naghiwalay mga magulang ko at alam ko na hindi madali buhay may asawa...ang opinyon about marriage is once na nagdecide ka na ikasal, yung relationship mo sa partner mon a magiging asawa mo is forever na... pang habang buhay kasi na commitment yon sa partner mo”

(My parents are separated and I know marriage is not easy...my opinion about marriage is once you decide to get married, your partner, your relationship with your husband will be forever... it is like a lifetime commitment with your

partner)

P9 said that for her, marriage is forever being with your partner. She stated:

“Yun na nga...ang ano ko dun...once na ikinasal forever na nagsasama.”

(that’s it..my view on that... once that you get married you will be living forever with you husband)

Unique Case

P1 also came from a broken family. Hence, of all the participants who grew up in a broken family, she stated that she expects to see herself as a single parent also. She said:

“Ang opinion ko sa married life is skewed kasi galing ako sa broken family, parang wala akong example ng pagbabasehan ng perfect marriage kasi separated din yung parents ko.. Okay lang... nothing dramatic kasi nakita ko na sa parents ko di ko ineexpect na mageend yung marriage, open ako dun sa idea nap ag hindi natuloy, I will be fine. actually..nung college ako, napicture out ko na single parent ako before ko pa sya makilala”

(My opinion on married life is skewed because I came from a broken family, I didn’t have an example as a basis of perfect marriage because my parents were separated also...It’s okay... nothing dramatic because I’ve seen it with my parents... Yes, I am open minded with the idea of having a broken

family like if my relationship with my husband fails or ends, I will be fine. Actually... I pictured myself being a single parent when I was in college before I met my husband.)

This finding coordinates with the study done by Jones and Nelson, 1996 (as cited in Dillon, 2005) which was related to the impact of separation of the participants' parents on their marital expectations. The participants from non-intact homes were not directly reported to be more idealistic when it comes to marital expectations than participants from intact homes. Thus the findings indicate that there was an interaction found among the intact or non-intact family of origin and physical abuse that affects the ideas of expectations in marriage, which needs to be assessed in the future studies. However, Bandura's Social Learning Theory contributes to this finding by strengthening the influence of social experiences in the process of attaining pessimistic, idealistic, or realistic future marital expectations. Based from the theory, discussed by Bandura (as cited in Dillon, 2005), the process of developing behavior through either firsthand experience or attending to another's behavior affects the perception of the person to a certain phenomenon. It is also stated that when individuals observe or experience behaviors causing either positive or negative response, social learning by response consequences takes place.

2. Marriage as a Shared Responsibility

Participants viewed marriage as a two way process in which the wife and husband has a role as a parent and a spouse. Six out of the ten participants perceived that the

married couple should be both responsible and doing something to make their relationship as married couple, work out. They expected that since both parents are responsible in providing for the family and that they wouldn't encounter problems when it comes to financial aspect whereas both parents are working to support the family in providing the needs financially.

According to P6, she viewed her relationship as give and take with her future husband that they would be both responsible in working for the family. She stated:

“Hmm...(laughs) binubuo ng husband and wife tapos yung relationship nila is give and take...and pareho kami na nagwowork sa pamilya”

(Hmm.. (laughs) it is composed of a husband and wife and their relationship is give and take... and we're both working for the family)

P7 shared her expected relationship with her husband that in order to make your relationship work, both of you should exert effort by helping each other to meet your role as a parent and a spouse. She said:

“Siguro...effort talaga..pareho kami na kailangan mageffort para mag work out yung relationship para matulungan yung bawat isa sa responsibility”

(Maybe...it is about effort...we both need to work out our relationship by helping each other's responsibility as parents and as a spouse)

According to P2, since she viewed that she would have a responsible husband who has a regular job, she expected that they can provide the financial needs of the family. She said:

“Since nagexpect ako ng future husband na hardworking for the the family, ako din nagwowowork...siguro naman stable kami sa needs namin financially”

(Since I expect to have a future husband who works hard for the family, also I am a working woman... I think we would be stable when it comes to financial needs.)

P1 also pictures her future family to be financially stable. She said that both of them as parents are working for the family needs. She stated:

“Expected in a sense na working ako, working yung husand ko tapos may yaya kami tapos kumbaga na-imagine ko na walang problems financially parang regular Filipino family na working pareho yung parents tapos hands on with the child”

(Expected in a sense that I am working, my husband is also working then we have house maid, it would be like a regular Filipino family that both parents are working and hands on with the child...I imagined it as if there would be no problems when it comes to financial aspect)

This finding coordinates with the study done by Sweeting (2014), that there is further evidence on the impact of social change in relation to the conception of shared responsibility and roles of married couples. In contrast to the patriarchal conceptions of the past, in such areas as child care, decision making done in the home, and also the use of money, men and women of today appear to be equalitarian in their marital role conceptions. According to Hacker (as cited in Dillon, 2005), he defined the term, "ideal man" as being, among other things, a good provider and the ultimate source of security of the relationship, not only financially, but emotionally, for his wife and children. However, because our society is changing and our economy is expanding, a woman is not considered to be homemaker, wife, and mother, but also an employed person where her services are needed at home and in the society. She is better when is able contribute to her family as well. This finding is in agreement with the study done by Copur and Eker (2014), result shows that financial satisfaction affects marital satisfaction in Turkish families. Also, satisfaction with one's financial status can enhance marital relationship. Consequently, participants perceived their marriage to be stable and satisfied in financial aspect.

b. Challenges in marriage

The participants' responses were categorized into codes and carefully converted into themes. There were three (3) emerging themes which explain the participants' challenges in their marriage. The themes are: (1) When the husband decides to abandon his responsibilities: issues of unfaithfulness and unemployment; (2) When the husband

lose to control himself: physical and substance abuse problems; and (3) When in-laws are overstepping.

Table 2 summarizes the common themes depicted from the participants' responses about their challenges in their marriage. Sample responses are translated to English version.

Themes	Participants	Descriptions	Sample Responses
1. When the husband decides to abandon his responsibilities: issues of unfaithfulness and unemployment	P8, P7, P6, P4, P3, P2, P1	This means that the participants challenging part they have faced in their marriage was the husband's abandonment of his responsibilities such as; being unfaithful to his wife and being irresponsible to work and provide the needs of the family.	<i>"Our relationship was getting rocky... because of third party"</i>
2. When the husband lose to control himself: physical and substance abuse problems	P2, P6, P10, P7, P5, P4	This pertains to husbands' uncontrollable self in using substance such as drugs, alcohol that challenged their marriage. Also, this pertains to the husbands' lost of control in harming their spouse physically during the years of the marriage.	<i>"every time he was high on drugs, he's always angry, irritated and easily annoyed with simple things...then we will fight because of it"</i>
3. When in-laws		This describes that	<i>"The reason I ended up our</i>

are overstepping	P9, P1, P10	the interfering of the in-laws with the decisions of the married couple became challenging for the couple during the years of their marriage.	<i>relationship because my in-laws were supporting the wrongdoings of my husband”</i>
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1. When the husband decides to abandon his responsibilities: issues of unfaithfulness and unemployment

Participants experienced different ups and downs in their married life. They shared what hardships they have been through and what specific challenges influenced their decision to officially separate from their husbands. Seven out of ten participants claimed that one of the major challenges they encountered during their marriage is infidelity. Infidelity is one of the challenges that influenced their decision to finally get out of their marriage. Also, participants encountered challenges related to financial issues brought by the work status of their husbands. The participants shared their financial struggle because their husbands were unemployed which resulted to arguments and eventually led to separation.

P3 had a long distance relationship with her husband during their marriage. She said that her husband worked in other country to provide the needs of the family. Consequently, her husband had an affair with another woman in abroad. She said:

“nung nagabroad sya, nagkaroon ng third party”

(when he was in abroad, there was a third party)

“inamin naman niya na may babae siya nung nasa abroad siya. Nung nasa abroad pa sya non parang two or three months...okay pa nagtatawagan pa kami pero kapag pala umabot na sa point na feeling mo may iba na...may instinct talaga”

(he claimed that he has another affair when he was in abroad. When he was still in abroad for like two or three months.. it was still okay we were still calling each other but then it came to a point when you will feel it that there is something wrong... there was a woman instinct and I believed in it)

P5 emotionally shared her challenges when she was still living together with her husband. Her husband also had an affair with another woman from his husband's workplace. She narrated how she found out the exchange of conversations between the husband and the woman through text messages and e-mails. She stated:

“a year before nagkaroon kami ng baby dun naging rocky... so second year palang naming as wife and husband dun na naging rocky yung relationship namin... because of third party”

(a year before we had a baby that's when it became rocky...so second year of being wife and husband our relationship is getting rocky... because of third party)

P5 also shared how she confirmed that her husband was having an affair already.

This is evident in one of her accounts:

“yung mga pineprepare kong food sa morning bago sya pumunta sa trabaho hanggang sa pag-uwi nya nagprepare ako..hindi nya na ginagalaw then I found out nga na minsan sa gamit nya may pagkain...may note mga notes na galing sa girl...nakalagay sa note have a nice day, this is for you with emoticons..heart shape”

(There were times when he didn't touch the food I prepared to him anymore... one time when he went home from work,, I found out that there were foods and note came from his affair.. there was written on the note saying 'have a nice day, this is for you' with emoticons.. heart shape)

“during nasa hospital kami kasi na-admit ako tumawag si girl...nagdedemand ng time...tapos narinig ko kasi and sa e-mail naman nagchachat sila..nasaktuhan ko na actual na naguusap kasi silathen sa text”

(during the time I was admitted at the hospital... the girl called my husband then I heard the girl is demanding for his time... in e-mails there are messages which I seen it with my own eyes even in text messages)

P6's husband also had an affair with another woman when they were still living together. She also shared how she had an initial instinct before she confirmed that there is another woman aside from her. She also found out text messages from the other woman. She said:

“may itsura kasi asawa ko eh kaya habulin ng mga babae”

(he’s a good looking man that is why women were fond of him)

“minsan uuwi, minsan hindi uuwi alam ko na nun na may
babae...nababasa ko rin yung mga text nung babae”

*(sometimes he will go home, sometimes he will not go home.... I already
knew it that there is an affair.. I’ve read text messages from the girl)*

“naubos na pasensya ko lalo na nung nalaman ko na nambababae
talaga”

(I lost my patience especially when I found out that he has extramarital
affair)

P7 said that her husband was a good man before he started having affair with
other woman. She also shared how her husband and their relationship changed since that
day. She stated:

“Ah..kasi noon naman mabait naman talaga yung mister ko... pero nung
matuto na sya mambabae ayon nagbago na yung ugali nya”

*(Ah...my husband is so kind ever since... but when he learned to have an
affair.. he became a womanizer that’s when his behavior changed and our
relationship became unsteady)*

P8's husband had already two different women and had children before he met her. She was aware that there were other families aside from them. However, she was the one chosen by her husband to get married to. Cristina emotionally shared the challenges she faced during their marriage. Her husband never came back to their home until now after having an affair with another woman. She said:

“hanggang ngayon may babae siya. Ang pinakamasakit pa don sakin niya binwelta yung pambabae niya na ako daw meron. Pero ang totoo, siya yung may ibang babae...hindi na nga umuwi yon ditto simula nung andon siya sa babae niya”

(Until now he has an affair. The painful part was all his wrongdoings he projected to me. But the truth is, he is the one who has a third party... He never came back here ever since he went away with his other woman)

Infidelity is defined as highly unacceptable in the foundation of marriage, Mao & Raguram (2009). It is considered to have negative impact on the level of trust between the married couple. Infidelity is usually conducted in privacy and therefore leads one partner to feel hurt and betrayed. According to Olmstead (2009), extramarital affairs can extremely damage relationships and it can be challenging to find an appropriate treatment plan for couples who are trying to remain together. As soon as trust is decreased, it might be tough to recover not only from the hurt, but also from betrayal felt by the other.

According to P1, she was the only one working for their family that time. Her husband was the one in charge of taking care of their child and stayed at home

because he did not have any plans of having to work that time. Consequently, P1 started to have problems on her relationship with her husband. She stated:

“ako kasi yung may higher paying job that time... nag alaga siya ng bata ng 2 years naburyong siya sa bahay. Ako naman nagtatrabaho ako pagdating ko sa bahay ako naman gumagawa ng chores, binibigyan ko sya ng pera pang gym, pang dota nya, pang clothes, shoes and everything kumbaga spoiled tapos sya yung nagrereklamo kung anu anong comment siguro insecure sya kasi ako yung nagwowork halos dumating sa point na di na kami nagpapansinan sa bahay palang kala mo boarder lang kaming dalawa. Sa sobrang bwisit ko uminit na ulo ko umuuwi nalang ako sa bahay ng nakainom na para diretso tulog na lang ako kasi nga ayoko na makipag usap hanggang dumating na sa point na sobrang taas na ng tension siya yung nag walk out, iniwanan niya kami”

(That time I was the one who has a higher paying job...he took care of our child for two years and he got bored. I was the one who was working and whenever I went home, I was still the one who did the household chores... I also gave him money to spend for his expenses in gym, DOTA, even his clothes, shoes and everything... I was the one paying for it he was so spoiled.. and then the audacity of this man to rant and giving rude comments about me... I feel that he was insecure that time because he was jobless and I was the one who pays for everything. It came to a point when we didn't talk and ignore each other we were like boarders that time. Until it came to a point where the tension is so high... he was the one who did walk out from our home... he abandoned us)

P2 lived a comfortable life in her early years of married life. However, things changed when she was the only one who works for the family since his husband decided to study again. That time, she felt the challenging part as a mother and wife for her family. She said:

“nakatira kami sa bahay ng tita niya after naming ikasal. Nasanay kami sa six maids that time...yung anak ko hindi pa napapanganak peor may katulong na naghihintay...basically nakita ko na we’re living a good life...feeling ko non wala kaming problem financially. Nagbago lahat nung nagdecide kami na magrent ng house and nagaral ulit husband ko...ako yung kailangan magbayad ng bills...naputulan pa kami kureyente nun kasi nakalimutan bayaran...na challenge talaga ako that time kasi ako lang may work”

(We used to live to his aunt way back after we get married. We were used with having six maids in the house... back then my baby was not yet born but she has already have a maid waiting... basically I saw that we were living a good life... I had a feeling that we will never have a problem when it comes to financial aspect. But then everything has changed when we decided to rent a house and my husband started to go back to studying and basically I was the only one working that time...I have to pay our own bills... our electricity was cut because I forgot to pay for it... that time I feel it was really challenging to be the only one who has a job)

P3 also experienced being the only provider in the family. She said that it was fine for her to be the provider for the family yet she finds it challenging since her husband was unemployed that time. She said:

“nahirapan ako nung may problema na sap era. Napagod ako kasi ako lang ma-isa nagwowork that time okay lang naman nung una kasi pera langnaman kaso ayun nga”

(I had a hard time when I encountered problems involving money issues. I get tired of being the one who only works for the family but it was fine at first to me because it was just money)

P6 also finds it challenging when her husband was unemployed because of his substance abuse. She was the only one who has work and supports the family financially. She said:

“Madaming challenges lalo na sap era....since drug addict nga asawa ko non, hindi talaga sya makapag work....ako lang may income non”

(there were many challenges and one of these is about money...since my husband was addicted to drugs that time, he wasn't into having work... I was the one who has an income that time)

Research findings, based on the study conducted by Mendiola (2014), significantly reported that unemployed couple are more likely to aggravate financial problem unemployed couple reported significantly more likely to aggravate a financial

problem resulting to having lower adjustment in marriage, poorer communication as husband and wife, lower satisfaction in marriage and harmony when it comes in family relations.

2. When the husband lose to control himself: physical and substance abuse problems

Participants claimed that during their marriages, one of the challenges they faced was being physically abused by their husbands. Six out of ten of the participants experienced being hit by their husbands. All of them experienced being physically hurt by their husbands not just once but often times. Also, Participants' marriage fell apart because their husbands were into substance abuses. They claimed that it was a challenge for them having a husband who was abused into substance because it caused arguments, fights, and eventually influenced their decision to finally separate from their husbands.

P5 emotionally narrated how her husband hit her physically. She got bruises whenever her husband hurt her physically. She also said that she received death threat from her husband. She said:

“ayaw ko masaktan yung ano ko (points to chest part) ito yung pinangsasalag ko (points to arms) kaya eto punong puno sya ng pasa”

(I don't want to get hit my (points to chest part) I used this (points arms) to avoid getting hurt.. these arms were full of bruises)

“he pointed knife at me na sabi nya papatayin nalang kita”

(he pointed knife at me and he said, I will kill you)

“yung pinakamasakit ay yung sinampal nya ako”

(the painful part was he slapped me...)

P4 shared her challenges with her husband. She also claimed that her husband hurts her physically for so long. She did not get out of her family right away because she thought that her husband would change anyway. However, there was a point in time when she was abused again physically then she started to have the courage to get out of the situation and finally decided to separate from her husband. She stated:

“naghiwalay kami kasi nasasaktan na niya ako physically...ako yung nagdecide na makipaghiwalay kasi nasasaktan na ako ng sobra...ssinasaktan na niya ako noon pa nung sa panganay ko...akala ko magbabago kasi siya”

(we separated because he was hurting me physically... I was the one who decided to separate because I was in so much pain... he used to hurt me even before we only had one child... because I thought he was going to change)

“dumating sa point na nagkakapasa ako kapag sinasaktan niya ako...napunit nga pati damit ko”

(it came to a point when he hit me and I get wound and bruises... my clothes even ripped)

P6 said that her husband hurts her when she had an argument with him and she confessed that her husband started doing it when they had already children. She stated:

“kapag nagaaway kami sinasaktan niya ako...nagsimula yun nung bata pa mga anak ko”

(he hits me when we fight...he started to hurt me physically when my children were still young)

P7 confessed how she realized that she was already physically abused. She said:

“nung time nay un nasaktan niya ako...sobrang nasaktan ako physical abuse na kasi”

(that time he was hurting me too much... I was already physically abused that time)

Further studies like, Testa and Leonard (2001) has been observed that there is a change in psychological well-being and there is an influence of physical violence on wives' marital view. In consequence, wives who experienced physical violence from their husbands were reported to have lower levels of satisfaction in marriage during the first year of their marriage. It was reported that higher levels of stress occurs on their first anniversary as married couple. As a result, due to marital issues and problems, married couples were more likely to report separation from their husbands. Furthermore, the yielded experiences of physical abused are more likely to have negative consequences to both women's marital functioning and psychological well-being.

P2 shared her challenges as a wife of a husband who was into substance abuse.. She said that the reason which made her decided to be separated was because of his husband's vices. She stated:

"I was relieved kasi naghiwalay kami not because of third party pero dahil nga sa mga bisyo nya...nagkaroon sya ng depression, di niya ma-pull out sarili niya kasi substance abused"

(I was relieved with the fact that we separated not because of third party but just because of his vices... he had a depression, he can't pull out himself anymore because he was already substance abused)

P6 shared that her husband was also into substance abuse. Whenever his husband used substance they started to argue and since her husband was high on drugs, he got irritated easily, which resulted to often fights. She stated:

"may mga bisyo...alam mo yun kapag yung lalaki mabisyo na and abused na madali magalit, mainis gaya nalang nung kapag high sya sa drugs mabilis sya magalit at irritable sa mga maliit na bagay...yun nagaaway kami dahil dun"

(he has vices...you know it that when a man has vices and was substance abused he gets easily irritated for example every time he was high on drugs, he's always angry, irritated and easily annoyed with simple things...then we will fight because of it)

According to P7, her husband used to take all the vices that he knew. Since he got into substance abuse, she had an instinct that the behavior of her husband will be changed. Consequently, they failed to resolve the issue, and it became the reason for constant fights and eventually their relationship fell apart. She said:

“yung income niya nakalaan lang sa bisyo nya gaya ng sugal, alak pati na drugs lahat na ng bisyo alam nya (laughs) nung nagsimula sya maging adik nasense ko na magbabago na and tama nga ako...nasira lahat dahil nga doon hindi lang nasira kami pati pamilya namin”

(his income were reserved for his vices such as gambling, alcohol and drugs... he has all the vices (laughs) when he started being addicted to it I already sensed that he will change eventually and I was right it... everything started to fall apart not just in our relationship but with our family)

5. When in-laws are overstepping

According to one of the participants, marrying your partner does not mean you need to marry his parents also. A married woman is considered to be favored if you have a good relationship with your in-laws. However, there will also be a down side if the in-laws are interfering too much or overstepping into the boundaries of your married life. Three out of ten participants stated that the major challenge they faced in their marriage is their in-laws.

P1 narrated her experiences with her in-laws. She said that the major challenge she faced was her in-laws who always meddled with their decisions. She stated:

“Hardships.. actually majority ng hardship namin is yung pakikialam ng in-laws sa mga desisyon din nangengealm pati s anak ko and I hate that”

(Hardships...actually majority of our hardship is my in-laws are always meddling in our relationship, and decisions when it comes to my child and I hate that)

“May sariling bahay kami ang problema ay yung in-laws na nakikialam na oh you should do this or that kasi kumbaga nasanay sila na with their own way sa probinsya na dapat kung ano yung way nila, ganun din dapat. Tapos they kept on saying na dalhin niyo nalang yung bata dito tapos kayo mag work dyan eh kaming dalawa napag decidan namin na the child stays with us kami magpapalaki. Ang gusto nilang mangyari is like OFW style, nasa Manila kami tapos yung bata nasa province and sakin no pati sa budgeting nakikialam, choices din...pati sa career ng husband ko nakikialam eh ang problema medyo mahina yungisa, nakikinig sa nanay nya ayun nga (laughs) hello? ako yung pinakasalan mo sakin ka makikinig hindi sa nanay mo (laughs) yun majority ng hardships namin pero third party wala naman sadyang feeling niya kasi he has this obligation to obey his mommy dahil nga OFW dati then ngayon lang umuwi kaya kami nagkagalit kaya nagaaway kami ng asawa ko”

(We had our own house... the problem was my in-laws.. they were meddling with our decisions, usually they would tell me that ‘oh you should do this or that’ they were like that, because they were used with their own way in

their province and they wanted it to apply to us as well. Also, they kept on saying to bring my child to them in the province then my husband will work here in Manila.. but we both decided that the child stays with us that we will be the one to take care of him. My in- laws wanted to be like an OFW setup or style and I don't want that... they were also meddling with how we budget our own money and even our choices they wanted to be part of it. Hello? I was the one whom you married then you will listen to your mother? (laughs) yes, majority or the hardships is my in-laws but there was no third party involved in our relationship.. it was just he had this obligation to obey his mommy because, she was an OFW before then recently she came back here, that was the reason why me and my husband quarreled.)

P9 also shared her experience with her in-laws. She said:

“Eh, di ko na kaya i-tolerate...syempre, parents yun ng asawa ko. Kaya nga hiniwalayan ko dahil sa in-laws ko na nangengealam, sinusuportahan pa mga maling gawa ng asawa ko, pinapamuka pa samin na ako kontrabida sa kwento. Dinedeny pa nila yung mga kasalanan ng asawa ko sakin and di ko na kaya kaya nagdecide na talaga ako na makipaghiwalay kesa dagdagan ko pa anak ko sa kanya”

(Eh, I was not able to tolerate it.. of course, they were the parents of my husband. The reason I ended up our relationship was because my in-laws were meddling, and were supporting the wrongdoings of my husband, they always

showed to us that I was the antagonist in the story. They even denied the sins of my husband to me and I can not took it anymore so I decided to separate instead of bearing more children from him)

P10 said that she started having problems with her husband because of her in-laws. She defined them as nosy in-laws because they always try to meddle with their family issues. Since her husband wanted to stay with her in-laws, she decided to move out from the house instead of tolerating the fact, that decisions made in her family were always influenced by her in-laws. She said:

“nung una, akala ko concerned lang in-lawas ko samin pero nagsimula ko na maramdaman na masyado na pakilamera nung nangengealam na sila s amga desisyon para sa pamilya ko. Feeling ko nawalan ako ng kalayaan na magkaroon ng sariling desisyon na hindi nila kami sinasabihan kung anong gagawin...ang toxic na and nagaaway na rin kami ng asawa ko sinasabihan ko sya na sabihan na wag na mangealam...sabi niya ako daw yung mali at dapat pakinggan lang parents nya.. dun na ako nainis tapos nagka-problema na rin ako s aparentes niya. Gusto ko na talaga umalis non para di ko na Makita in-laws ko pero yung asawa ko gusto pa rin don kaya ako na umalis kasama anak ko”

(at first, I thought that my in-laws were just concerned with us but then I started to sense it that they were becoming nosy and started meddling with our relationship and the decisions of our family.. I felt I lost the freedom to have my own decision since they kept on telling us what to do.. it was toxic for me and I

started arguing with my husband; telling him that his parents need to stop meddling with our family.. he said I was the one who was wrong and we should continue listening to his parents.. and there I got annoyed and had problems with his parents.. I really wanted to move out and have our own house so that I will no longer see his parents but my husband still insisted to stay, so I was the one who moved out together with my child)

Research Problem #2

Identify how the married women who are living separately from their husbands were able to face the following:

- a. challenges of separation
- b. coping processes

a. Challenges of Separation

The participants' responses were categorized into codes and carefully converted into themes. There were four (4) emerging themes which explained the participants' challenges in separation. The themes are: (1) The cost of raising a child after separation: Financial Support; (2) emotional distress following the separation; (3) emotional impact on children: The struggles that mothers face in explaining the why's to their children; and (4) improbability of annulment of marriage: the last resort to a better life.

Table 3 summarizes the common themes depicted from the participants' responses about their challenges of separation from their husband. Sample responses are

translated to English.

Themes	Participants	Descriptions	Sample Responses
1. The cost of raising a child after separation: Financial Support	P1,P2,P3,P4,P5, P6,P7,P8,P9, P10	This means that not getting the right financial support from the husbands of the participants became challenging for them in raising their child after being separated from their husbands.	<i>“Mostly..ah financial because if you’re raising a child, you’re expecting that your husband helps you in providing the needs of the family...at first he pledged certain amount for the child but then it was inconsistent.. so mainly my issue right now is about financial support”</i>
2. Emotional Distress following the separation	P3,P4,P5,P6, P7,P8,P9,P2, P10	This describes the participants having emotional bondage brought by the separation from their husband is one of the challenges they need to face.	<i>“Of course it was painful... maybe it wasn’t just one week of being devastated emotionally.. I still remember what it feels like that time.. I thought it was the end of the world for me”</i>
3. Emotional Impact on Children: The struggles of mothers face in explaining the why’s to children	P1, P2, P6,P4	This indicates that explaining the reason of the separation of the participants from their husbands to their child or children is one of the struggles they faced and also its emotional impact to their child or children.	<i>“I observed that my last born child was having a nervous breakdown... every time her father arrives.. her hands will automatically shake”</i>
4.Improbability of annulment of marriage: The last resort	P1,P2, P4, P5, P6	This pertains to the unlikely but not impossible annulment of	<i>“Yes, I really wanted to get annulled.. I don’t want to use his surname anymore but then it is so expensive here I can’t afford</i>

to a better life

marriage of the participants from their husbands. Being annulled means having a better future. *it yet"*

1. The cost of raising a child after separation: Financial Support

Participants shared that it was a challenge for them to get financial support from their husbands after separation. Ten participants said that their husbands were inconsistent and stopped giving financial support to their child or children.

P1 said that raising the child without receiving any financial support from the husband is the most challenging part she faced after separating from her husband. She stated:

"Mostly..ah..financial and yung pagreraise nung bata kasi if you're raising you're expecting someone na may katuwang ka sa gastos.... Nagpledge sya ng certain amount pero for the child nung una okay pa nung may work sya pero nagresign kasi then nagsay lang sya sa house nila... so basically di sya makapgbigay ng pera para sa anak ko inconsistent talaga (laughs) so mainly issue ko talaga now is financial support"

(Mostly..ah financial because if you are raising a child, you are expecting that your husband will help you in providing the needs of the family...at first he pledged certain amount for the child well at first it was okay because he was employed but he resigned then he stayed again in their home...so basically he can

not give money for my child he was inconsistent (laughs) now, financial support has become our main issue.)

P2 also struggles when it comes to financial needs. She depends on her own income in raising the child. She stated:

“wala...lahat ng financial needs, ako lahat nagprovide non kasi nga nagstop na sya magbigay ng support...lahat ng promises nya wlaa...di ka na talaga pwede magdepend lalo na may vices husband ko”

(nothing... all the financial needs, I provided it all by myself because he stopped sending financial support.. all his promises were good for nothing... you can not depend on him anymore, especially that my husband has vices)

P4 shared what challenge she faced after the separation. She even went to their barangay to complain about her husband for not being able to support their financial needs. She said:

“nung naghiwalay kami...di nya talaga kami binigyan ng financial support kailangan naming talaga yun...pinabarangay ko sya dahil nga di sya nagbibigay...nakulong sya ng isag lingo tapos kinausap sya ng DSWD na kung magkano yung dapat ibigay niya sa amin”

(when we got separated... he never gave us financial support and we really needed it that time.. I even went to barangay because of financial

issues...he was in prison for one week and the DSWD arranged the financial support he needed to give to us)

P3 shared her experience of being sent away from the house which they rented because of financial issues. She said:

“siguro sa financial...kasi dumating sa point na nagrent kami ng bahay tapos nagstop sya magpadala ng support...wala syang work...napalayas kami sa nirerentahan naming kasi di kami makapgbayad”

(maybe in the financial aspect...it came to a point when we were renting a house and he stopped sending financial support to us...he was unemployed that time...we were asked to vacate the house that we were renting because we can not pay anymore)

P5 said that she has been asking her husband to share with the expenses in the household; however her husband was inconsistent in giving the financial support. She stated:

“I was emotionally devastated even financially kasi tinatanong ko sya na magshare ng bayad sa upa ng bahay, bills and iba pang gastos..binigyan nya kami ng two thousand pero yun lang wala ng kasunod...my friend told me yung husband ko da wnagtatanong sa kanya kung pano nya kami bibigyan ng support sabi ko madaming ways to give that financial support pero hindi nya ginawa”

(I was emotionally and financially devastated because I was asking him with his share with our expenses for our house rent, bills and other expenses....he gave us two thousand and that was it there was no next time...my friend told me that my husband asked him how he was going to support us, and I said that there are so many ways to give that financial support yet he did not)

P6 also said that the challenging part of being separated is the financial support from the husband. She said:

“challenging sa financial issues..inconsistent kasi sya...magbibigay lang sya ng pera kung kelan niya gusto”

(challenging in terms of financial issues...he is inconsistent... he will just send us money every time he wants)

P7 struggles financially yet still managed to provide for the family although her husband is also inconsistent in giving financial support to her family. She said:

“struggle ko talaga financial...ako lang nagprovide sa family ko..yung mga anak ko nakagraduate dahil saakin... minsan lang sya magpadala sabi ko nga kung ayaw nya magbigay mabubuhay pa rin kami”

(I struggled financially... I was the one who provided more for the family...my children graduated because of me...sometimes he was inconsistent so I told him that if he does not want to send us money, we can still live without him)

P8 said she never received any financial support from his husband. She said:

“Mahirap para sa kin kasi nahirapan talaga ako sa pinansiyal...yung gastos sa mga anak ko sa school...alam naman ng asawa ko yung responsibilidad niya pero dun naman napupunta yung pera nya sa kabit nya.. never kami nakatanggap ng pera sa kanya”

(It was hard for me because I struggled financially... the expenses of my children in school...my husband knew his responsibilities but all his money went to his mistress and we never received any financial support from him)

P9 also said that she never received any financial support from her husband. She said:

“hindi talaga nagbigay ng tulong pinansiyal yon.. kaya nga nagwork talaga ako para masuportahan anak ko.. pero siguro kung college anak ko..yun hihingi na talaga ako ng support..hindi par askain pero para sa anak ko lang”

(He never supported us with our financial needs.. that is why I worked hard to support my child...but I think when my child goes to college, I will have to ask my husband to support her financially.. not for me but for my child only)

P10 said that it is hard to raise her child without the help from his husband when it comes to financial needs. She works hard but admitted that she can not do it by her own self. She said:

“challenging...dahil sa pera...minsang nagpapadala sya pero after two years natigil, wala na kaya nga nagwork ako para hindi na humingi sa asawa ko ng pera kahit na obligasyon niya yon pero sa totoo lang hindi ko pa kaya ngayon mag-isa”

(challenging ..because of money...sometimes he sends money but after two years he stopped, there is no child support that is why I have to work so that I will not ask anymore my husband for money, though it is his obligation, but right now honestly I can not do it all by myself)

According to the study conducted by Corcoran (as cited in Fagan and Rector, 2000) data reported that children of divorced or separated couples are more likely to be economically disadvantaged. Many married women who are separated from their husbands experience a substantial decline in the financial aspect, which in turn affects the children.

2. Emotional Distress following the separation

Participants experienced emotional challenges in emotional after being separated from their husbands. They shared and described how it felt to be separated with their spouses.

P3 described it as if it was the end of her world when she really decided to separate from her husband. She stated:

“Syempre masakit...hindi lang ata isang lingo yung pagiging emosyonal ko non.. naalala ko pa yung feeling non, akala ko guguhon na yung mundo ko”

(Of course it was painful... maybe it was not just one week of being devastated emotionally.. I still remember what it felt like that time.. I thought it was the end of the world for me)

P4 shared how painful it was for her to be separated from her husband and how difficult for her to step out from the house: She said:

“naalala ko..kapag umuwi ako umiiyak ako kasi sobrang hiraap then dumating sa point na nagagalit ako sa mga anak ko...umalis ako at pumunta kung san man four months din yun pero hindi ko rin kinaya na iwan mga anak ko kaya binalikan ko sila”

(I remember...every time I went home I cried, it was so hard that time then it came to a point when I got angry to my children... I went somewhere else for four months but then I can not stand leaving my children so I get back to them)

P7 is emotional when she shared how she felt after being separated from her husband. She stated:

“(laughs) teka naiiyak ako (laughs) kasi naalala ko kung gaano kasakit pero masarap sa pakiramdam na ilabas kung ano yung dinadala mong pain sa aheart...pero kapag naalala ko lahat ng sinabi nya saakin, nagagalit ako”

((laughs) wait I am crying (laughs) because I still remember how painful it was, but it feels so good to release the pain in your heart...but every time I remember all the things he said to me, I get angry)

P6 lost her will to resolve the issues and finally accepted the situation because of being tired of having the same issues and pain. She said:

“di ko na kinaya yung sakit kaya nagdecide na talaga ako na hiwalayan at tanggapin nalang...naubusan ako pasensya at pagod na akong sa paulit ulit na problema”

(I can not take the pain anymore that time, I decided to accept it.. I lost the patience and I get tired of having the same problems)

P5 narrated that she was emotionally devastated during the verge of separation until after the separation. She stated:

“yung feeling na emotionally devastated ka gusto mo lumaban..gusto mo man lang makasampal kahit isa lang..gusto mo lumaban that time pero di ko kaya...sinabi ko sa sarili ko na baka di ko na ma-feel na maging normal actually ang hirap niya kasi di ko na alam pano maging normal again like paano ako magrereact na hindi nagagalit...natakot ako dahil don..then I felt brokenness that time”

(the feeling of being emotionally devastated like you want to get revenge..you want to slap him even just for once... I really wanted to fight but I

can not...I told myself that maybe I will never feel being normal actually it was hard for me because I did not know how to be normal again like when will I react without being angry.. I was afraid because of that.. then I felt the brokenness that time)

After being asked how she felt after the separation, P5 emotionally said that there is still pain. She added:

“Alam ko naka move on na ako but na-realize ko ngayon na may pain pa rin...I feel like binasura ako (cries) so every time na tinatanong ako sa bagay na yun, I feel a bit emotional....pero natanggap ko na yung situation na tapos na”

(I know I have moved on but I realized right now there is still pain... I feel like a trash (cries) so every time I am asked regarding that matter, I feel a bit emotional...but I already accepted the situation that it is over)

P8 said that she got mad after what happened. She stated:

“Naramdaman ko nung time na yun? Mahirap naman sabihin na wlaa akong pakealam sa asawa ko na wala na syang kinalaman saakin. Pero galit talaga ako.

“I felt that time? It is difficult to say that I do not really care for my husband and that it has nothing to do with me. But I was really mad.

P9 also said that it was painful for her being separated from her husband. She said:

“syempre masakit sobra...syempre nagsama kayo ng marmaing taon tapos matatapos lang pala ng ganon...diba? Sino magaakala na mattaapos lang ng ganun? Kaya nga masakit...oo masakit pero dahil sa anak ko naka move on naman ako”

“of course it was painful...of course you have been living together for so many years then it will end up like that...see? Who would have thought that it will just end like that? That is why it was painful...yes I was hurt but I was able to move on because of my children”

P2 said that she resents her husband for leaving them like that and admitted that she was emotionally hurt after being separated with her husband. She stated:

“hindi ko alam... may hinanakit ako sa kanya iniijakan ko sya kasi iniisip ko pa rin bakit hinayaan niya na umabot kami sa ganon how he can just droup us ike that..pamilya niya kami pero iniwan niya kami”

(I do not know... I resent him, I was crying while thinking how he can just dropped us like that... we are your family but you left us)

Unique Case

Of all the participants, only P1 said that she did not feel the need to be a damsel in distress and did not cry after the separation. P1 said that she enjoyed the tension between her and her husband when they were still living together and it is fine for her to be a single parent. This is evident in one of her accounts:

“Determined ako to make it work na ako lang mag-isa,hindi ako umiyak, hindi ako yung parang kawawa, na pa-damsel in distress actually nag enjoy ako (laughs) kasi nga okay lang skain maging single parent..nag enjoy ako kasi yung tension nung andun pa kami sa iisang bahay feeling ko gusto ko na matapos”

(I am determined to make it work alone, I did not pity myself... I was not in damsel in distress actually I enjoyed it (laughs) because it is fine for me being single parent..I enjoyed it because the tension when I was still living with my husband gave me the feeling of ending it as soon as possible)

3. Emotional Impact on Children: The struggles of mothers face in explaining the why's to the children

P6 thinks that the gender preferences of her two children were affected because of what happened between her and her husband. She stated:

“Oo...ano di ko alam..pero nagagalit sila kaya naging ganon.. yung panganay ko naging bakla naging tomboy yung pangalawa yon siguro...iniisip ko na may impact sa mga anak ko kaya pinili nila na maging ganon sila kasi ayaw nila mag asawa “

(yes...I do not know...but my children got angry that is why they were like that...my first born child became gay, my second child became tomboy...that is why maybe I am thinking there is an impact to my children and they chose to be like that because maybe they do not want to marry or have a spouse)

P6 also added that there was an emotional impact on her last born child. She said:

“tapos napansin ko yung bunso naming nagkakaroon ng nervous breakdown ...hahawakan nya kamay ko alam nya pag dumating yon ng lasing naawa ako na baka maloka.. baka mauwi pa sa mental bunso ko ayoko non”

(I observed that my last born child was having a nervous breakdown... every time her father would arrive drunk...she will automatically hold my hand I pitied her that she might get mental health problems...and I did not want her to be admitted in mental institution because of that)

P2 shared how her child insisted not to talk about her father anymore because of being disappointed in him. She said:

“dumating sa point na ayaw na ng anak ko pag usapan daddy nya.. supposedly this sembreak kukunin sya ng daddy nya pero di na naman natuloy di nagparamdam...I told my daughter na I think busy si dad kasi hanggang ngayon ayoko siraaan yung daddy nya unfortunately di na naman nangyari yung promise nadisappoint yung bata. Ayaw nya pagusapan pag sinasabi ko do you still miss your dad sagot nyo can you not talk about it as in close talaga di nya hinahanap”

(it came to this point that my child does not want to talk about his daddy anymore...supposedly this sembreak her daddy will get her but it did not happen his father never showed up...I told my daughter that maybe his father is busy and until now I do not want his father to have a bad image on my daughter unfortunately his promise was broken so the child was disappointed. She does not

want to talk about it and every time I ask her “do you still miss your dad?” she will answer that we should not to talk about it as in closed case, if she does not see her father)

P4 shared how her child responded whenever she explained the situation to her child. She said:

“Lalo na yung panganay ko nagagalit. Nasigaw tapos hindi na sila makaano dahil ano syempre tatay nila yun”

(especially my first born child; she got angry every time. She kept on shouting but they can not fight him because of course he is still their father)

P6 said that her children get emotionally hurt every time her husband hurts her. She stated:

“nasasaktan naman ako at nasasaktan sila kumbaga umiiyak sila pag nasasaktan ako tapos sila napapalo lagi ng asawa ko”

(I am hurt and my children also hurt, like they will cry every time I get hurt then my husband will hurt my children physically)

4. Improbability of Annulment of Marriage: The last resort to a better life

Participants shared that they really wanted to dissolve their marriage legally through an annulment. They have consulted several lawyers on what processes they will to go through, the expenses and also the consequences of the said process.

P6 said that she can not afford to be annulled by now but still hoping that one day, she will be. She said:

“Oo, gusto ko talaga ma-annul kasal naming. Ayoko na gamitin surname niya pero kasi sobrang mahal ditto di ko pa kaya sa ngayon”

(Yes, I really wanted to be annulled.. I do not want to use his surname anymore but then it is so expensive here, I can not afford it yet)

P1 also shared her view on annulment. She said:

“Gusto ko kasi sa annulment may certain grounds lang ang pinakamalapit mong ground eh psychological incapacity alangan naman sinong gogoyohin ko Psychologist para sabihing meron syang topak diba wala akong ganon kalaking halaga ng pera. Kung may divorce sana, at least pwede mo sya i-right under differences tapos magkunwari kayong marriage counseling masabi lang meron. Sakin, I don’t mind na gamitin yung surname nya sakin walang issue yon, ang gusto ko lang mangyari is magkaroon ng freedom na hindi kami under one favor kasi pano kapag nagkaroon ako ng property conjugal property yon, hindi lang sakin yon pag nadedes ako sigurado ba na sa anak ko mapupunta yon hindi eh and for me na maging independent in terms of property ayoko na ng hassle na may nakatali sa pangalan ko...ayoko rin ng legal separation kasi para kang nasa chains pero hindi mo pinutol niluwagan mo lang ng onti”

(I want annulment because I have certain grounds the closest ground eh psychological incapacity I do not have money to look for a psychologist who will

assess my husband's mental health issues. If there is divorce, you can just say you had marriage counseling even if you did not. For me, I do not mind using his surname there is no issue, I just want to have the freedom when it comes owning a property. I have issues; will it still be conjugal? What will happen to my property if I die? Will it go to my child? So, I want to be independent in terms of owning a property, I do not want to encounter problems just because of my surname... I do not want also legal separation because it is like you are in chains; you do not cut it you just loosen it a little bit)

P2 also desires to be annulled from her husband and to have her surname changed. She stated:

“Gusto ko magpa-annul, magpa-change ng surname not to magpakasal ulit .. sabi nga ng lawyer kung wala kang balak magpakasal wag na kasi it's a waste of time it takes two years magastos pa may mga certain rules na di magusap kasi pag nalaman ng judge mababalewala yung petition”

(I want to be annulled, to have my surname changed but not because I want to get married again...a lawyer once said if you do not have a plan to get married then annulment is not necessary because it is just a waste of time it takes two years; so many expenses there are certain rules such as; not talking with your husband because if the judge found out that you have been communicating with your husband your petition will be useless)

P4 also said that she have plans on getting an annulment but had reasons why she can not. She said:

“(laughs) May balak. Gusto ko nga kaso syempre mahirapan, magastos din”

((laughs) I have a plan. I want it but of course it is difficult, expensive also)

Anna also wants to file an annulment and still seeking for a lawyer who will handle her case. She said:

“gusto ko magfile kasi gusto ko maalís yung pangalan nya na gusto ko malinis pag may nangyari sa akin yung benefits ko mapupunta sa anak ko kasi legally still married kami may mangyari sa kin si tatay muna una magbebenefit kawawa naman yung anak ko so yun una...yung pangalwa gusto ko magkaroon ng family ko syempre may mga lumalapit why not give them chance however di makapagfile kasi still I’m seeking na makahanap ng lawyer na willing to handle kailangan ko financially then sabi ng isang lawyer na iraraffle pa case mo maghahanap ng court na may family court na maghold...tagal tagal”

(I want to file because I want to drop his surname, so that whatever happens I want my child to benefit ...second is I want to have a family of course there are guys who pursue me why not give them a chance? However I can not file because I am still seeking for a lawyer who is willing to handle my case. I need financial resources. A lawyer also said to raffle my case to find a family court that can handle my case...very slow)

Unique Case

Most of the participants asked a lawyer or someone who can help them to dissolve their marriage. However, two of the participants want to still remain legally married with their husbands.

P7 explained her reason of wanting to be still the legal wife of her husband. She said:

“hindi...kasi sabi ko okay lang yung kabit nya mananatiling kabit...ako pa rin yung asawa..hayaan mo sya magdusa (laughs) magagamit ko yon kapag kailangan ko ipaglaban karapatan ko”

(No...because I said it is okay that her mistress will stay as mistress..I will always be the wife...let him suffer (laughs) I can use it when time will come that I need to fight for my rights...)

For P8, she accepted her fate of being separated and still being legally married to her husband. She said:

“Wala na sakin yon...sa mata ng Diyos at ng batas, siya pa rin yung asawa ko...kasal pa rin kami”

(It has nothing to do with me anymore...in the eyes of God and the law, he will always be my husband...we are still married)

b. Coping Processes

The participants' responses were categorized into codes and carefully converted

into themes. There were three (3) emerging themes which explain the participants' challenges in separation. The themes are: (1) Acceptance of one's fate in marriage; (2) Diversion of Attention: Choosing activities that will address separation thoughts; and (3) Turning to God: Strengthening the relationship with God to overcome separation hardships

Table 4 summarizes the common themes depicted from the participants' responses about their challenges of separation with their husband.

Themes	Participants	Descriptions	Sample Responses
1. Acceptance of one's fate in marriage	P8,P7,P6,P4,P3, P2,P1	This means that the participants' separation from their husbands is part of their fate in marriage and accepting it is one way of their coping processes.	<i>"mahirap sa umpisa syempre pero ayun kailangan mo tanggapin kasi wala na"</i>
2. Diversion of Attention: Choosing activities that will distract them from separation thoughts	P4,P5,P1, P6,P2,P7,P8	This shows that the participants' way of recovering from the separation were diverting their attention by involving themselves in different activities to keep them away from their thoughts about the separation.	<i>"binuhos ko yung sarili ko with taking care of my son, pag wala na akong ginawa binuhos ko sarili ko sa youtube.. sa Netflix para lang hindi ko isipin Oo o kaya soundtrip nalangako .. o kaya itutulog ko nalang... I would make myself busy para hindi ako masyado magalala"</i>
3. Turning to God: Strengthening the relationship with God to overcome	P2,P6, P10,P5	This pertains that the participants' way of coping up from the separation is believing that they will get through the challenges	<i>"siguro si god, kasi wala na akong pwedeng lapitan e diba walang makakatulong na iba kaya nagdadasal"</i>

separation
hardships

of the separation by
turning to one's faith
to God and
strengthening the
relationship to God. *ako"*

1. Acceptance of one's fate in marriage

Participants shared that one of their coping mechanism after being separated from their husbands is acceptance. Seven out of ten participants stated that they accept the fact that it really happened in their married life.

One of the participants, P2, said that she accepted that there is no chance of having a better relationship with her husband anymore. She stated:

"Na-accept ko na sya...siguro three years ago na wala na mangyayari kasi hirap nung ikaw lang nageeffort tapos gusto mo pa ipaglaban pero yung partner mo wala naman ginagawa"

(I accepted it...it has been three years, so I think there is nothing that I can do about it, since I was the only one who exerted efforts.)

Michelle shared that she got tired and also accepted the situation. She said:

"Napuno na kasi ako e, sagad na ako yung pasensya ko pagod na tinanggap ko na na ayoko na"

(I lost my patience I was so tired so I accepted it I don't want it anymore)

P4 said that she was happy when she got separated from her husband. She stated:

“mahirap pero hindi ko rin alam. Basta masaya ako nung wala na siya eh..kaya tinanggap ko na”

(it is difficult but I do not know...I just know that I was happy when he was gone..that is why I accepted it)

P3 shared that it was hard but then she learned to accept it. She said:

“nako mahirap talaga pero tinanggap ko na hanggang dun nalang kesa naman umasa pa ako mas lalo akong mahihirapan”

(it was hard but I accepted that there is an endpoint. It is better this way, instead of having high hopes which will surely be harder)

P8 also shared that it is really acceptance that got her through after the separation. She stated:

“Tinanggap ko nalang sa sarili ko na wala na, wala na talaga. At saka wala na nga kaming communication eh”

(I accepted it on my own that there is no more, nothing more. And besides we do not have a communication eh)

P5 defined her experience as if she was in hell but learned to accept the situation and finally got over it. She said:

“tinanggap ko na yung situation that it’s over...ayoko na bumalik sa scenario nay un...and if I’m going to describe yung nangyari in one word, impyerno talaga”

(I already accepted the situation that it is over... I really do not want to get back from that scenario...and if I am going to describe what happened in one word, it was really a hell)

P6 had doubt at first but learned to accept it

“Mahirap... sa una ayaw ko din naman kaso kailangan ko tanggapin”

(hard...at first I don’t want but I need to accept it)

P9 did not want to chase his husband instead she accepted everything that happened to her marriage. She stated:

“nandyan na tayo, tatanggapin na lang. Eh kaysa maghabol habol ka pa kahit kasal”

(we’ve been there, accept it. Eh instead of chasing though you’re married)

2. Diversion of Attention: Choosing activities that will address separation thoughts

Participants shared how they diverted their attention to different things to submerge the painful experiences that happened to them.

P5 said she engaged with different activities. She said:

“sumasama na rin ako paminsan minsan sa co teacher kasi talaga dati work tapos bahay lang.. akyat akyat ng bundok minsan fun run”

(I go to my co-teacher sometimes because before it was just work and house only...climbing mountain sometimes fun run)

P1 said she kept herself busy by doing things that will help her forget somehow what she's going through. She stated:

“binuhos ko yung sarili ko with taking care of my son, pag wala na akong ginawa binuhos ko sarili ko sa youtube.. sa Netflix para lang hindi ko isipin Oo o kaya soundtrip nalang ako .. o kaya itutulog ko nalang... I would make myself busy para hindi ako masyado magalala”

(I give my attention to taking care of my son, if I have nothing to do I watch youtube...on Netflix for me not to think about...or soundtrip.. or I will just sleep...I would make myself busy, so that, I do not have to worry too much)

P6 said that she entertained herself by doing household chores. She said:

“Tapos saka nalilibang ako kasi andaming gawain sa bahay e. Nagluluto, pag gising pa lang sa umaga luluto ka na, maglilinis ka, maglalaba ka, yun na lang kumbaga wala na akong ibang paglilibangnan”

(Then I was entertained because there's a lot of things to do inside the house e. Cooking, after waking up you cook, you clean, you wash the clothes, that's it)

P7 shared that she joined a television show and chats online to divert her attention. She said:

“Mahirap...sumali ako sa game ka na ba yun yung una kong ginawa nanalo ako umuwi ako madaling araw tapos tuloy pa rin sidelines ko pag ano kasi maiisip mo tapos uso pa yung sa yahoo messenger ba yon (laughs) chat chat para malibang ako”

(it’s hard...I joined game ka na ba that was the first thing I did I won then I went home in midnight then I continued doing sidelines because you will think of it then that time yahoo messenger is hyped (laughs) chat chat for me to be entertained)

P9 said that she was in province that time so she had the chance to get busy by taking care of their animals. She stated:

P3 shared that she has no one to hold on but prayer. She stated:

“siguro si god, kasi wala na akong pwedeng lapitan e diba walang makakatulong na iba kaya nagdadasal ako”

(maybe it was God, I don't have anyone to rely on there's no one can help me that's why I keep on praying)

P4 also shared that prayer is one of her source of strength in overcoming her challenges. She said:

“prayer talaga and yung faith ko kay God na matatapos din lahat”

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Types of Support

The participants' responses were categorized into codes and carefully converted into themes. There were three (3) emerging themes which explain the participants' types of support received after being separated from their husbands. The themes are: (1) Emotional Support from family members following the separation; (2) Emotional Support from family members following the separation; and (3) Transcendental Support.

Table 5 summarizes the common themes depicted from the participants' responses about the types of support they have received after the separation from the people around them.

Themes	Participants	Descriptions	Sample Responses
1. Emotional Support from family members following the separation	P8, P7, P6, P4, P3, P2, P1, P10, P9, P5	This	

one who types whatever

This resulted to having issues of infidelity, trust and openness within the marriage. Also, majority of the husbands of these women became jobless and failed to provide for the needs of the family. Since they expected to have a shared responsibility with their future husband before entering marriage, it is challenging for them to be the only source of income in the family because they seek a responsible husband. Eventually these women get tired in dealing concerns of having an unemployed and unfaithful husband. Another challenge these women faced was the uncontrollable behavior of their husbands. Majority of the husbands of the participants have vices such as; cigarette smoking, alcohol drinking and even using drugs. The husbands were unable to control their vices and became abused with substance which one reason of the argument between the married couple. Also, some of the participants experienced being abused physically from their husbands whenever they had a fight or argument. Being hit, slapped, and getting bruises from the hands of their husbands happened not just once but many times. These physical and emotional bondages experienced by the participants influenced them to finally decide to separate from their husbands. Another case that challenged these married couple was when the in-laws of these women interfere in the decisions of the couple. These women stated that they find it difficult to deal with their in-laws who were overstepping with the boundaries as in-laws which were the major reason for them to step out of the house.

After the separation, these married women faced different challenges. One of which is the struggle of raising the child or children in terms of financial aspect. Although the married couple decided to live separately, the participants expected that their husbands would be responsible and support the family financially since they are still

considered to be legally married. All the participants stated that financial aspect was the most challenging phase after the separation for them. They said that they can't just rely to their husbands who are inconsistent in giving support to the family. So, the participants worked very hard to have an enough income so that they can be able to provide the basic needs of their child or children. Another challenge of separation to them is the emotional stress they get from the whole process of the separation. Most of them stated that it was a really painful experience for them since they pictured their married life to be a successful one. Also, the emotional impact to their children was one of the struggles of these women. It was hard for them to explain the set up of their family for them to be able accept the changes in their family. The participants really wanted to protect their child or children from getting harmed physically and emotionally which also influenced their decision to live separately from their husband. Although their marriage failed, the participants still wanted to protect the image of their husband as a father to their child or children. Majority of the participants wanted their marriage to be annulled. They really desire to cut the ties with their husbands because they wanted to have a future ahead. They are also optimistic in having future husband if they had the chance to be annulled. However, it is challenging for them to attain this since annulment takes a lot of time because it is a long process here in the Philippines. Also, it takes a lot of money to afford the expenses to precede the filing of the annulment.

In order to cope up, these married women tried different coping mechanisms to be able to recover from the experiences of separation. They shared that it was really difficult for them to accept the situation but then they found out that one way of coping from this

painful experience is accepting that it really happened. For them, it takes a lot of courage to accept and move on with their life. Another way of their coping mechanisms was involving themselves in different activities that will keep them busy. They divert their attention to keep them away from thinking about the separation. Turning to God by praying to strengthen their relationship with God, helped them to overcome the hardships of separation. These married women revealed that they were happier now rather than living with their husband inside the house. For them, it helped them to feel free from the emotional bondages brought by the experiences in their married life.

The participants seek and received different types of support. They were able to handle the challenges with the help of their immediate family members by giving them emotional and financial support. Also, by having transcendental support which they believed that turning to one's faith helped them to get through these challenges.

Implications to Guidance and Counseling

In order to support women who are in non-legal separation from their husbands, inputs to guidance and counseling would be of help to develop strategies that will aid these women. Benefits can be reaped from developing services focuses on family counseling, couple counseling, and community programs. First, not only married women need support, but as well as their whole family. From the results of this study, marital relationships, as well as the father's relationship with the child or children were affected. Although the experiences of the husbands were not explored, it can be inferred that these family member is bound to experience life changes due to separation from their wives.

1. Couple Counseling

Due to the experiences brought by married life, problems may arise that might affect the marital relationship of the couple. Feelings of frustration, anger, dissatisfaction because of the challenges in their marriage may result to conflicts between couples. In order to solve or prevent this, it is essential to develop counseling services focused on helping couples cope with the changes and issues that might occur.

2. Family Therapy/ Counseling

Based on the results, not only married women were affected, but also there was an emotional impact to their child or children and the husband. The lack of knowledge and understanding of the family's situation may also be the root of being unable to cope up. The inability to cope with the changes may lead to disarray in the family's relationship with each other. Services focused on supporting this kind of families should be developed so as to prevent or solve the issues of the family. This kind of services will help families develop effective support systems to each family member.

3. Community Counseling

It is important for local government units such as barangays to have a community counselor who would be ready to assist married women, as well as their families. Majority of the participants find it hard to access this kind of service due to the lack of funds. Counseling services tend to be costly and some would not be avail those, especially those who are economically incapable. Counseling should be made accessible in order to provide the much needed guidance to the family to understand their situation

better also to handle the issues and what are the possible strategies and solutions that could be done in order to cope with the challenges.

4. Seminars and Programs

Guidance counselors who are experts on this field should create these services in order to bring light to the issues faced by the women in non-legal marital separation and how their child or children are affected. It is important to raise awareness among the public in order to rid of the stigma surrounding these individuals. Without the stigma, it would be possible for the public to become more supportive of these individuals and their families. This seminar should be open to all people.

CHAPTER 4

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

This section presents the important features of the present study. These features will be presented in five (5) sections. The first section contains the summary of the background, objectives and methods of the study. The second section includes the summary of the findings of the study. The third section exposes the limitations of the study. The fourth section presents the conclusion of the study, and the fifth section presents the recommendations of the present study.

Summary of the Study

The study is the result of the researcher's observations which she turned into academic interest. Looking back, the researcher had many exposures to groups of friends in her school, community, who are living with their single parents. She observed the struggles and behaviors living in broken family or non-intact homes. These observations caused a lot of curiosity towards their stories behind their projected images. This, in turn generated the researcher to choose to study the lived experiences of the wives as part of her academic venture

Linking this interest to the available literature about married women in non-legal marital separation, it is found that study of this transcends to a number of disciplines such as sociology and psychology. In effect, the numbers of literature available were limited.

Most of the literatures discuss contexts of divorce in Western countries and the lack of studies which are done in the context of Filipinos is seen as one of its gaps.

In fulfilling the objectives of the study, qualitative research design was used, more particularly, the life narratives approach. As such, the utilization of interview provided an extensive amount of data about the participants' experiences and insights. The generation of initial and final codes from the raw data has paved the way to the development of themes which captured the answers to the objectives of the study.

Summary of Findings

The results of the study revealed that studying non-legal marital separation in relation to the experiences of married women who are separated from their husbands, qualitative research design and phenomenology approach is appropriate to use. Using phenomenology in fulfilling the objectives of the study, it was revealed that married women who are in non-legal marital separation from their husbands, do not just decide to separate in coincidence, instead, each of them has experiences to tell and a reason behind their every action and behavior. Like other experiences, it has good and bad effects. The participants perceive their marriage to be simple. Six (6) out of ten (10) participants shared that they perceived marriage as lifetime commitment which six (6) of them perceived that marriage can give them a relationship with shared responsibilities from their husbands that can help them in many aspects, especially on financial needs. During the marriage, individuals experienced challenges such as; irresponsible husbands, uncontrolled self, and overstepping in-laws. Seven (7) out of ten (10) participants decided

to end their marriage because of the issues of irresponsibility as a husband being faithful and provider for the family. Six (6) of them claimed that they were victim of the uncontrollable behavior of their husband that lead to physical and substance abused during the marriage and three (3) of them decided to step out of the house because of overstepping in-laws.

In addition to their experiences after separation, participants from their husbands, most of the participants experienced challenges. All of the participants shared that they have problems when it comes to their husband's inconsistency of sending financial support to the family. Also, all the ten (10) participants experienced emotional distress after being separated with their husbands. Four (4) of ten (10) participants shared that there is an emotional impact to their children in explaining the situation the why's to their children. Five (5) participants stated that they the last resort to a better life with their family are to dissolve the marriage legally. Furthermore, accepting the fate of their marriage was one of way of coping processes after the separation which was cited by seven (7) out of ten (10) participants in the present study. Seven (7) of the ten (10) participants shared that they have been diverting their attention by engaging in activities that will keep them away from their separation thoughts. Four (4) of the participants stated that turning to God is the one key of overcoming the challenges they faced after the separation.

In the present study, all of the participants stated that they have received emotional support from family members after being separated from their husbands. Nine (9) of the participants received financial support from their immediate members and four

(4) of the participants believed that their faith and God gave them transcendental support in overcoming the challenges they faced after the separation with their husbands.

Limitations of the Study

The present study underwent empirical processes and utilized scientific approaches in the course of fulfilling its objectives, yet the findings of the study have to be seen in light of some limitations. This study is limited in exploring the experiences in non-legal marital separation. This study is anchored on phenomenological research design. This qualitative study used an active interviewing to guide the collecting and coding of interview data in order to identify emerging categories relevant to the study. The study conducted only in National Capital Region, women age ranges from eighteen (18) years old to thirty five (35) years old. There were ten (10) participants for the study and all of them are considered to be within the criteria that are necessary for the study. All the participants were ensured of confidentiality and were not harmed in the conduct of the study. This study limits the other factors such as other socioeconomic status, and sexual orientations. However, the researcher of this study was also completely aware of the possible changes and other factors that may also surface in the midst of data analysis. Data was gathered through purposive sampling. All the information gathered from the participants was accessed by the researcher only and was remained confidential. Only information that is needed by the researcher will be published in the study. All ethical considerations such as respect, beneficence and justice were strictly observed in the study.

The first limitation concerns the insufficiency of local data about non-legal marital separation. Since divorce is not yet available in the Philippines, most of the literature and data were foreign and focused in divorce. In the search of literature and data about non-legal marital separation, there were no statistical data about the number of marital separation, its prevalence, and cases. Should there have available researches and literature about non-legal marital separation the Philippines, it would be more apparent to contextualize the study.

The second limitation regards the number of participants and groups and larger scope of research site. Though the present paper is qualitative in nature, having a larger number of participants and larger scope of the research site could have contributed to the generalizability of the findings since few numbers of local literatures were available in the present time. Furthermore, most of the participants in the study belonged in the same group. In effect, there was a high probability that experiences and stories of the participants were similar.

The third limitation involves the selection criteria about the sex of the participants. The study had ten (10) female subjects, which could have affected the findings regarding differences in experiences for each sex. Should the study had equal number of participants with each of the sexes, richer and extensive insights from the data.

Lastly, the fourth limitation concerns the time frame of the whole course of the study. Time is an important element in research and discovery. Every idea, insight, and interpretation takes time. Ought to have more time in the conduct of the study, the

researcher could have dwelled more in data, and interpreted the data more deeply and concisely.

Conclusion

In the light of the conduct to the study, it is concluded that the lives of married women who are in non-legal marital separation revolved around both positive and negative experiences. At some point of their experiences in marriage, they experience challenges which lead them to separation from their husbands that took a lot of courage for them to decide. However, due to the presence of their types of support, these separated women were able to deal with the stress that the separation brought to them. As they go on with life, there are still challenges that these women had to face but they still hope for a bright future with a greater optimism. Participants have unique meanings which they give to their experience as separated from their husbands but in general, they all find the experience devastating yet served as bridge for freedom.

Recommendations

The findings of the present study shall be used for recommendations in the field of counseling, particularly in couple counseling and family therapy which are as follows.

1. Counselors must give attention to the initial stages in drafting out counseling programs, which is couple counseling. This step might be have been overlooked yet it was of utmost importance. Couple counseling should be readily available and easily accessible. This way, married couples could undergo counseling to talk about their family

background, family needs, marital satisfactions, etc. as well as his/her interests. In essence, counselors should draft and conduct programs based on the needs and interests of the married couple. This could prevent the married couples from deciding to separate without consulting each other.

2. It is also recommended that counselors conduct programs that will educate not just the couple but the family regarding the consequences of separated parents. In relation to this, it is recommended that counselors educate parents to strengthen their critical thinking skills and decision-making skills. In this way, they could help the married couples to be critical with their choices and decisions in having the courage to face the consequences of their choices. Counselors may conduct seminars for the parents and/or guardians about parenting styles, how they can communicate with their children effectively, etc.

3. The study suggests that counselors educate not only the married couples but also to the students. Counselors may conduct seminars for the students. This way, students will gain knowledge about being in marriage for them to prepare themselves in having their family in the future.

4. The present study urges counselors to communicate and coordinate with their community through their programs and/or activities. This can prevent separation among married couples.

5. Lastly, since research is a part of counseling services, counselors should conduct studies on this subject matter. There is a lack of research in this field, specifically

in the Filipino context. Most researches were done in Western context, in which there is a possibility of having different implications due to differing cultures. It would be better to have local body of knowledge, since Filipino married women might have been facing this kind of ordeal differently from other married women of different nationalities. This way, counselors could also have a deeper understanding to the experiences of married women who are in non-legal marital separation from their husbands. Findings from studies conducted may be of help in creating counseling programs, interventions, and other services helpful not only to Filipino married women but also to the whole Filipino family.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Interview Questions

Research Question #1	Respondents: Married women who are living separately from their husbands	Comments
Determine the marriage experiences of women in non-legal marital separation with their husbands.	Before entering marriage, what is your view on married life? How did you expect your own married life will be? After getting married, did your view on married life changed? If yes, how? Did you encounter any hardships in married your relationship? Probing question: Can you share that/those experience/s? How you and your partner did overcome these challenges? Did these challenges influence your decision in separating with your husband? When you /your partner did decide to separate? How does it feel being separated with your husband? How did you accept the situation? If you will be asked to give a title for your marriage life, what It would be?	

Research Question #2	Respondents: Married women who are living separately from their husbands	Comments
Find out how the married women who are living separately with their husbands faced the following: a. coping processes b. challenges of separation	a. coping processes Please describe your problems that lead to separation. Who did you turn to? Where did you go? What are your sources of strength? Where did you get most support? How did you cope up with these challenges? b. challenges of separation After being separated with your husband, what are the challenges did you face? Where or who did you turn to? Was it helpful?	
Research Question #3	Respondents: Married women who are living separately from their husbands.	Comments

Determine the types of support received by the separated women.	What forms of support did you get? Prior to separation, what type of support or help did you seek from other people? (if the participant get a counseling) If you had individual counseling since separation, how many sessions? How useful was the individual counseling? Have you participated in group work programs since separation? Did you or your former partner have couple's counseling prior to separation? If yes, how many sessions? If yes, describe the program. Do you have any questions about the processes of this interview?	
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DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Age:

Date of Marriage:

No. of months/years of non-legal marital separation with husband:

No. of child/children:

APPENDIX B

Consent Form

Consent to Participate

Spirit-filled greetings!

I am Kannah Joyce C. Sanz, a graduate student of Philippine Normal University. At present, I am working on my thesis entitled, **Lived Experiences of Women in Non-Legal Martial Separation**. This research is conducted as part of the required criteria to complete my Bachelor's and Master's degree in Psychology and Guidance Counseling Straight Program.

This Informed Consent Form aims to determine your approval to be one of the participants of this study. Please refer to the following for your complete knowledge regarding my study:

a. Purpose of Study: The main objective of this research is to determine the marriage experiences of women in non-legal marital separation with their husbands, and find out how the married women who are living separately with their husbands faced the challenges of separation and the coping processes.

b. Procedures: If you agree to be in this study, you will be interviewed and asked to answer the questions truthfully. One set of data will be gathered from the participant:

1. Demographic Questionnaire which includes information about the participant's age, date of marriage, number of months or years of separation, number of child/children.

c. Risks and Benefits: The participant is likely to experience risks or discomfort by responding to the questions. The participation in this research will contribute to the limited studies on experiences in non-legal martial separation particularly among women.

d. Compensation: There will be no payment for the participation in this study.

f. Participation and Withdrawal: You have the option to withdraw any time, without consequences, if she so decides.

g. Identification of the researcher: If you have any question regarding the research, please free to contact the researcher through this number 0945-8827595 or email sanzkannah@gmail.com

Sincerely,

KANNAH JOYCE C.SANZ

Researcher

REPLY SLIP

I have read the information above and hereby consent voluntarily.

Participant's Name & Signature: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX C

Letter for Expert Validation

October 9, 2018

Madam Hiyasmin M. Malicdem-Delos Santos

Dear Madam:

Greetings of Peace!

I am a masteral student specializing in Guidance and Counseling/Psychology at the Philippine Normal University, Taft Ave. Manila. I'm presently working on my thesis titled "Lived Experiences of Women in Non-Legal Marital Separation". It is a qualitative study which aims to describe the lived experiences of married women after non-legal marital separation from their husbands.

In connection with this, I would like to request for your expertise in validating the unstructured questionnaire. The instrument will be used in conducting in-depth interview to facilitate the gathering of the data from married women ages from (18) eighteen to thirty five (35) who have been living separately from their husbands for at least six (6) months up to five (5) years and are residents in the area of National Capital Region.

Kindly feel free to write your comments, suggestions and recommendations. Should you have any inquiries, you can contact me at my personal number 09458827595 or through my email-address: sanzkannah@gmail.com.

Thank you very much and I hope for your positive response on my request.

Respectfully yours,

Kannah Joyce C. Sanz
Researcher
MA Student

Noted by:

Prof. Teresita Rungduin
Thesis Adviser
PNU

October 9, 2018

Dr. Lorie Morofia

Dear Madam:

Greetings of Peace!

I am a masteral student specializing in Guidance and Counseling/Psychology at the Philippine Normal University, Taft Ave. Manila. I'm presently working on my thesis titled "Lived Experiences of Women in Non-Legal Marital Separation". It is a qualitative study which aims to describe the lived experiences of married women after non-legal marital separation from their husbands.

In connection with this, I would like to request for your expertise in validating the unstructured questionnaire. The instrument will be used in conducting in-depth interview to facilitate the gathering of the data from married women ages from (18) eighteen to thirty five (35) who have been living separately from their husbands for at least six (6) months up to five (5) years and are residents in the area of National Capital Region.

Kindly feel free to write your comments, suggestions and recommendations. Should you have any inquiries, you can contact me at my personal number 09458827595 or through my email-address: sanzkannah@gmail.com.

Thank you very much and I hope for your positive response on my request.

Respectfully yours,

Kannah Joyce C. Sanz
Researcher
MA Student

Noted by:

Prof. Teresita Rungduin
Thesis Adviser
PNU

APPENDIX D

Interview Question Validation Form

Survey Validation Rubric for Expert Panel – VREP

Adapted from Marilyn K. Simon with input from Jacquelyn White

Directions: Please evaluate the interview questions about the Lived Experiences of Women in Non-Legal Marital Separation. Kindly check the appropriate column using the scale/score below.

Criteria	Operational Definitions	Score 1 = Not Acceptable (major modifications needed) 2 = Below Expectations (some modifications needed) 3 = Meets Expectations (no modifications needed but could be improved with minor changes) 4 = Exceeds Expectations (no modifications needed)				Statements NOT meeting standard (List page <u>and</u> statement number) and need to be revised. <i>Please use the comments and suggestions section to recommend revisions.</i>
		1	2	3	4	
Clarity and Content	1. The questions/statements are direct and specific. 2. Only one question/statement is asked at a time. 3. The participants can understand what is being asked. 4. Statements demand specific answers for the study.					
Wordiness and	1. The statements are					

Language	straight to the point. 2. The language used is free from jargons and terms used are understandable by the target population. 3. The language used is appropriate for the field of study. 4. The language used can be easily explained.					
Balance and Appropriateness	1. The questions/statements are unbiased. 2. The statements are appropriate for the study. 3. The statements are balanced.					
Appearance	1. Statements have readable font style and size. 2. Statements are free from grammatical and spelling errors. 3. Statements are well presented as a whole. 4. Statement of instruction is present and clear.					
Relationship to Problem	1. The statements are sufficient to resolve the problem in the study. 2. The statements are sufficient to answer the research questions. 3. The statements are sufficient to obtain the purpose of the study, 4. Statements are					

	reflective of the data needed by the study.					
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Comments and Suggestions

Evaluator

Signature over printed name

APPENDIX E

Flyer

HELP ME GRADUATE ON TIME!!!

LOOKING FOR WILLING PARTICIPANTS:

- ✓ must be legally married woman
- ✓ living separately from husband within 6 months - 5 years
- ✓ 18- 35 years old
- ✓ living with child/ children

Contact me:
09458827595
sanzannah@gmail.com

REST ASSURED THAT YOUR IDENTITY WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.

Participants who wish to join will receive a token of appreciation.

APPENDIX F

Sample Interview Transcript

I: Can you share your experiences before the separation?

R: So we were boyfriend and girlfriend for 6 years... sa pang sixth year namin dun kami kinasal and after 3 years dun lang po kami nagkaroon ng baby at dun nagstart...a year before nagkaroon kami ng baby dun naging rocky... so second year palang naming as wife and husband dun na naging rocky yung relationship namin... because of third party

I: Okay, can you tell me something about the different ways in which you feel that it was going downhill that it was rocky?

R: Of course at first.. I felt rocky that time because I did everything na malagpasan yun...yung situation kasi sabi ko baka nagstart palang kami iba yung magboyfriend at girlfriend, iba yung magkasama na kayo sa bahay. There are things na dun mo palang madidiscovers na kahit matagal na pala kayo...yung aming mga differences, personalities as well and then ahm actually prior to that may history kasi before kami ikasal but still ano lang ako dedma lang (laughs) na because syempre love mo yung tao kahit nagkaroon ng other party you were able to forgive the person and then afterwards syempre after ng mga pinagkasunduan na okay na hindi na mauulit and then plano na namin magpakasal tapos ayon nung second year nagkaroon ng iba na naman party so lahat po ginawa ko...nagusap kami at nanghingi... nagseek ako ng advice sa friends ko na married din kasi baka dahil married din matagal ng kasal mas matanda sakín pero hindi po sa family ko kasi as much as possible po gusto ko protektahan yung husband ko tsaka yung tingin nila sa pamilya pero nung nakita ko kasi nagstart na gabi gabi na umuuwi so talagang tapos yung sa cellphone, sa e-mails sabi ko parang wala na and even yung pakikitungo nya sa akin...nagchange

I: Ma'am, if I may, can you describe the changes? I mean I would like to focus on the turning point in which nakita mo yung cellphone, nakita mo yung e-mail

R: Yung sa changes.. dun po sa second year kasi umabot pa po kasi yun nagtiis.. nagtiis po sya hanggang sa nakabuo po kami pero dun sa third year...pero during my pregnancy dun po nagworsen yung situation...so syempre buntis ka you're expecting na may kasama ka that time nakabukod kami...mag-isa lang ako sa bahay pag wala sya. Yung changes po...bukod dun po sa paguwi nya ng maaga..pero yung terms of endearment andon pa rin yung tawagan namin pero cold na...before pag nagtext ka reply kamusta ka na nasa trabaho ka na ba naglunch ka na ba yung mga simple na ganon pati yung mga pineprepare kong food sa morning bago sya pumunta sa trabaho hanggang sa pag-uwi

nya nagprepare ako..hindi nya na ginagalaw then I found out nga na minsan sa gamit nya may pagkain...may note mga notes na galing sa girl

I: What was the note about?

R: Ang nakalagay sa note...have a nice day, this is for you tapos may mga emoticons...heart shape

I: So the third party ay someone work within him?

R: Oo..and then sa e-mail once lang yung nakita ko kasi he kept it really secured nalaman ko lang sya nung sinundan ko sya sa computer shop that day kasi wala kaming internet sa bahay.. dumaan na yon nung time nadiscover ko na with concrete na nakita ko na sa text at e-mail that was the time na napanganak ko na yung bata.. so I hope na magbabago and then talagang wala. Nung nasa ospital na ako nagkaroon din naman ng chance na he spend time with me ay ayon okay na siguro nagbabago na kasi andyan na si baby na ang tagal nabuo. Nung time na yon during nasa hospital kami tumawag si girl...nagdedemand ng time...tapos narinig ko kasi and sa e-mail naman nagchachat sila..nasaktuhan ko na actual na naguusap kasi sila then sa text

I: How did you confront?

R: Hindi agad...ah hinintay ko muna sa kanya manggaling..yung mga tanong na san ka galing, may problem ba sa work bakit ngayon kalang pero wala talaga like hindi sya mahuhuli kasi hindi aamin pero nahuli ko na sya sa chat (pause) nagdedeny pa rin sya that time ginagamitan nya kasi ako ng ano eh matatakutin kasi ako sa kanya ginagamitan nya ako ng nirereverse psychology nya ako...na hindi daw wala naman ganon co teacher nya lang daw yun close lang daw sila

I: Close sya dito so ibig sabihin close sya matagal na?

R: Sa tingin ko hindi...parang nagkaroon lang ng chance... sila dahil parang they were belong to the group na barkada din nila lumalabas... I think he find the girl..di ko sure kung attractive kasi nakita ko yung girl eh (laughs) hindi naman sa pagaano sabi nga nila its definitely opposite ko.. so sabi ko hindi naman sa physical kasi yan baka very ano outgoing kasi eh ako nasa bahay lang ako .. ayoko ng masyadong lumalabas sige sabi ko baka hindi sya nagsawa sa buhay binata. Nung kinonfront ko sya nagagalit sya sa akin he shouted at me... he even hit me

I: And then what happened after? Was that the turning point you've decided no more?

R: Not yet..hindi pa medyo mahaba pa hanggang nag one year old si baby tiniis ko pa rin yung ganun paulit ulit na kapag kinonfront magagalit so there was a time na ewan ko kung ano pero nangyari sakin na women's instinct... nasa work ako nagpaalam kasi sya that morning na ah meron akong gagawin sa work magsusulat ako manual ganyan sya I trusted him kasi it happened before na may compensation yan so maganda yon kasi makakatulong. Nung nasa work ako, iba yung kutob ko talagang parang kinabahan ako na why don't you check him I know his boss eh so tinawagan ko pero indirect yung mga tanong ko...tumawag ako kay boss tapos oh anong nangyari emergency ba dun ko na hinugot yung mga itatanong ko na ano yung activity nyo sa work, sa school dun ko nalaman na wala silang ganon activity so lalo akong kinabahan ... prior to that may mga ginawa na kasi ako na self investigation na hanapin yung pangalan, phone number

I: How were you able to get the name?

R: Yung name lagi nya kasi kinukwento yung girl and then... hindi pa uso facebook nun friendster sinearch ko and since friends sila may mga pictures sila na kung di ka naman malisyoso okay lang pero kung may something sobrang dikit sa pictures nila para silang magka ano..ano magkarelasyon. Nakuha ko yung address may kakilala ako na friend nya dun ko nakuha yung address

I: May common friend kayo pero yung friend hindi nya alam?

R: Hindi...wala siyang alam then pinuntahan ko

I: Did you get the chance na kausapin?

R: wala po sya...nung pinuntahan ko sya nakaharap ko yung parents pero hindi ako nagpakilala..nagpanggap ako friend nya kasi marami na akong nakuhang info... the mother feel na ah friend ka nya so andami nyang nakwento hanggang nabanggit ng nanay na may madalas magpunta dito sinabi yung pangalan pero alam na co teacher and then yung mother may feeling na may something tapos nagkwento na rin ng past relationship ng girl

I: So matagal kayo nagkwentuhan ma'am?

R: Opo matagal siguro..kasi hinihintay ko dumating sabi rin ng parent ah sige hintayin mo si ano darating din sya nagpraktis lang sa ano kaso nasa out of town gusto mo tawagan natin sabi nung dumating yung father ay sabi ko di na pero they tried to call... dalawa kasi yung number na nakuha ko that time kaso yung isa yung kinontak off na tapos tinry yung isa kaso nagriring lang medyo sobrang kami na ten o'clock in the evening yon nahiya na rin ako at feeling ko naman na di darating nagpaalam na ako... the whole night hinihintay ko sila dun sa somewhere na alam kong dadaan

I: You were alone?

R: Yes... but when I'm waiting I contacted some of my friends may binigay akong info na pakitago tong address na to number na to... tapos nagwoworry na sila gabi na...ako rin natatakot na kasi yung baby ko iniwan ko lang sa mother ko ilang months palang yon bago... kababalik ko lang sa work kasi yon pero hindi agad kami nagsplit nung nangyari yon pero that was the turning point then yung ninang namin sa kasal sabi nya kung lagi kang sinasaktan sabihan mo ginawa ko yon sabi ko once you hit me wala na tayong pag-uusapan

I: Hitting was any part of your body basta he feels like it?

R: Madalas kasi... kaya ayaw ko masaktan yung ano ko (points to chest part) ito yung pinangsasalag ko (points to arms) kaya eto punong puno sya ng pasa so every time na pupunta yung mother ko naka long sleeves ako even kapag papaarawan ko si baby (cries)

I: but the courage is there and then?? kasi a lot of girls who get hit can't find ways to get out

R: Sobra talaga na pinipilit... he pointed knife at me na sabi nya papatayin nalang kita

I: dahil ayaw nyang iwan mo sya?

R: kasi..yung feeling na emotional devastated ka na parang gusto mo makaganti kahit na makasampal ka man lang kahit gusto mong lumaban di mo kaya kasi... pero it happened kapag kinoconfront ko sya hindi yun mangyayari kung tahimik lang ako kapag tungkol kasi sa girl yung pinaguusapan nagagalit sya..masakit kasi di ko matanggap natakot lang ako may times na parang wala na...parang manhid na...sabi ko ayoko na baka hindi ko na mafeel maging normal actually nahirapan ako dun hindi ko na alam yung normal na hindi dapat kelan ako magrereact na magagalit ako dun ako natatakot tapos parang ano yung wasak na wasak yung emosyon ko

I: You felt guilty dahil nga nirereverse psychology ka nga nya so it's your fault

R: Yes...sinasabi nya sakin... kasi I'm asking kung anong kulang ko kasi parang yun lagi yung normal na tinatanong ng babae

I: Sumagot ba sya?

R: Hindi... hindi sya sumagot pero he always compare me to the girl

I: Anong points ng comparison?

R: Mas maasikaso daw sya tapos inaano nya ako na tingnan mo sarili mo kasi hindi ako pala ayos dahil wala na akong time magayos kasi si baby... aasikasuhin ko magluluto ako, mamalengke

I: Stay at home ka?

R: before... nung nagleave ako.. ang masakit kasi yung sasampalin ka nya, mumurahin ka nya like dahil lang dun sa girl dahil pinagtatangol nya bat daw tanong ako ng tanong wala daw yun... he usually denies it talaga

I: Kailan yung point na umamin talaga sya sayo?

R: Nung huling huli na... sinasabi nya na kawawa naman si baby sabi ko kaya ko syang buhayin tapos meron sya... I'm not sure pero during our relationship boyfriend and girlfriend parang iba yung personality nya mabait sya sa mabait pero pag nagalit sya parang nag iba as much as possible iniintindi ko nanggaling kasi sya sa broken family baka meron syang pinagdaanan

I: Pwede mo ba i-describe sakín yung point in time na you contemplates na finally I'm over and done with... sya ba umalis ng bahay o umalis ka ng bahay? Can you describe yung point na umalis ka ng bahay, ano yung argument, paano mo na-master ang courage na to step out of the house?

R: Yung ano after nya ako saktan... meorn kasing pagkakataon na after nya ako saktan umiiyak sya after nya magalit umiiyak sya yun yung isa sa reverse psychology nya na nagpapaawa sya na sige ipa blotter mo na ako...kasi sinaktan kita kaso makukulong ako kaya mo bang mawala ako.. pero nakuha nya ako sa ganon pero then ginamit ko yung ultimatum

I: Ano yung ultimatum

R: Yung ultimatum na kapag sinaktan ka nya sabihin mo sa kanya na wala na kayong pag-uusapan kasi sagad na so..I told him that pero hindi ko pa yun nagawa... naka dalawa pa na...na sinaktan nya ako kinuha ko yung anak namin tapos lumabas ako pinipigilan nya ako na wag umalis...pag umalis daw ako ng bahay wala na akong babalikan sabi ko kaya ko yon...kaya kong mabuhay kinaya ko nga na wala sya sa tabi ko...pinipigilan nya ako pero di nya ako napigilan even yung bottles sana mabitbit ko nalang di nya binigay sakín...tinangay ko nalang yung anak ko umalis na kami ng bahay tapos ginawa hindi na talaga ako umuwi kahit na sinundan nya kami sa bahay ng mother ko...sinusuyo...nakikiusap tuloy tuloy para syang nanliligaw ulit sabi ko wala na tayong paguusapan kasi sobra na sagad na talaga...emotionally devastated talaga ako even

financially kasi nagkaroon ng time na sa isang bahay kanya kanyang gastos kami I'm asking him sa share nya sa bahay, kuryente and expenses

I: Ito yung time ng pakikipagkita mo sa girl?

R: Yes po..bago gawin yung ultimatum kasi magtatransfer kami sa isang apartment malapit sa mother ko kasi bumalik na ako sa work...hindi na sya nagbibigay ng sweldo nya even dati nung first year namin nagbibigay sweldo even payslip tapos ako nagbibigay ng allowance sa kanya bibigay yung mga kailangan nya bayarin pero may time na wala na sya mabigay kaya ako na nagshoulder ng lahat yung di na nagwork relationship namin yung mga gamit naming ibinenta, yung mga personal things ko pinakuha ko sa brother ko kasi ano lalaki sa lalaki since lalaki sya di sya kumikibo sa brother ko...sabi naman ng family ko subukan ko daw na wag ibigay yung gamit ko

I: Pero wala namang argument when they came sa bahay nyo?

R: Wala...kinuwento ng kapatid ko na tahimik lang

I: From then, ano na ang balita mo sa kanya?

R: Nagireach out sya to make friends sa social media sabi ko sa kanya may sarili na syang buhay and tahimik na rin ako

I: How long ago ito nangyari?

R: Nine years old na si baby pero still.. alam ko naman na moved on na ako pero tulad kanina parang andun pa rin kasi yung pain na para kang binasura (cries) so parang pag iyon yung tinatanong medyo emotional...pero tanggap ko na yung situation na wala na tsaka ayoko na...ayoko na rin kasi kung idedscribe ko in one word impyerno talaga yung nangyari sa buhay ko

I: May balita ka ba if he has other relationships?

R: Yung parents nya tinatry nila ako na kung pwede magkita kayo or dinadaan dun sa bata na if pwede makita yung baby pero sabi ko hindi na

I: Wala syang access sa baby mo?

R: Wala... may mga previous relationship pero ang balita nila iba iba pero wala na rin nagtatanong

I: Walang plans to make it legal?

R: Meron... actually I consulted several lawyer...kaso yung isang lawyer gusto is i-secure ko muna yung financial support...sinabi ko sa lawyer ko kailangan pa ba ng hearing di ba dapat hindi na kasi nagstop yung support nya nung hindi na nagdadiaper si baby kasi he isn't giving any monetary support ang ginagawa nya naggrocery sya yun binibigay nya sa bata eh syempre yung bata lumalaki... once lang yung di nya kami naabutan sa bahay tinanong sya ng nanay ko na hindi na pwede ang grocery kasi iba na kailangan nya... kailangan nya na ng vaccine...nagbigay naman sya ng two thousand and that's it wala ng kasunod ang iniinsist nya sa friends nya sinasabi sakín is hindi nya raw alam paano susupportahan sabi ko ang daming paraan to give that financial support

I: So yung common friends nyo nagreach out pa sa inyong dalawa?

R: Opo

I: But these are not the friends na kinontact mo that time na hinihintay mo sila dumating?

R: Yung isa pa... may isa pa

I: Sya kasi yung nakakita nung buo?

R: Yes...alam nya yung history

I: And sinasabi ba nila sa iyo kung ano ang inaadvise nila?

R: Yung guy... yung friend nya na lalaki sinasabi na nagaadvise sila na umayos ka na kasi...yung isa naman nakikinig lang sya yung isa na pinakamalapit sakín pinakiusapan na kung pwede wag muna magbigay ng any information tungkol sa kanya kasi ayaw ko sya makita

I: Pero alam nya ang whereabouts mo, ang whereabouts nya alam mo?

R: Yung sakín hindi ko alam...yung sa kanya somehow through them... yung kung san sya nagwowork ganon

I: I would like to move on to the second question, I would like you to tell me about how you coped.. you mentioned naman kasi nagkaroon ka ng strength to finally leave pero ano yung sources of strength mo? Sino yung pinagbatayan mo naaalis na ako and nagbigay ng support sayo?

R: Dun sa support, unang una yung family ko kasi late na nga nila nalaman na hiwalay na ako dun ko lang kasi sinabi yung lahat lahat... ayun dahil sa family ko and puro dasal ginawa ko lalo na yung nagbubuntis ako ayoko sya mawala kasi yun nalang yung natitira sakín tapos nagpakabusy nalang ako sa trabaho para sa makalimutan ko nalang yung mga

nangyari and then yung ibang friends ko nakaintindi ng pinagdaanan ko sila yung pinaghugutan ko and sa ano na rin internet nagbabasa rin ako kung paano ano gagawin mo ano yung possible na pagkalibangan ko... after this anong mangyayari

I: Anong pinagkalibangan mo?

R: Syempre unang una nagfocus sa work... sumasama na rin ako paminsan minsan sa co teacher kasi talaga dati work tapos bahay lang.. akyat akyat ng bundok minsan fun run

I: Do you see yourself loving another person again coming from this experience?

R: Pwede...pwede...kasi sabi ko baka nagkataon lang kasi if not naman bakit yung parents ko okay naman sila sabi ko siguro there will be right person

I: So ang primary challenge mo is financial?

R: Oo

I: More than kasi yung emotional...did you consider na free ka na sa bondage?

R: Oo sobrang relieved talaga... parang gumaan yung pakiramdam ko na nawala yung pabigat sa buhay ko

I: Who did you consider consult I mean na sinabi mo na gumaan ako

R: Yung mga college friends ko na alam nila kasi kilala nila and then sinasabi nila na sabi ko sayo noon pa naman eh...may nakikita sila na hindi ko napansin

I: Ano yung mga warning signs na nakita nila na hindi mo nakita?

R: Una kasi on and off kami for six years kami.. ang term nga nila may topak yan tatahi-tahimik yan sa loob kulo nyan even mother ko sabi ko hindi mahiyain lang sila tapos kapag nag away kami sinasabi nila inaaway ka na naman may topak na yan sasabihin nila hiwalayaan mo na yan tingnan mo naman itsura nya yung nilalait nila na parang di naman bagay sayo gusto mo pa rin yan pwede ka naman magboyfriend ng iba kasi masyado kasi akong natali sa belief ko na kung sinong unang boyfriend ko, sya na

I: Pero there were other guys na nagtangka lumapit?

R: Before oo pero kasi nakita ko sa kanya yung future ko (laughs) so parang ang ganda ng pananaw ko na magiging okay kami na masaya kami

I: So yung warning signs ay inaaway ka and friends na they sensed it and then yung form of support basically from your parents, they help you financially?

R: Somehow... nung nagtransfer kami mag-ina dun kami nakatira kasi at first di ko pa kaya umupa ng sarili so yung pangangailangan ng baby hindi ako kumuha ng yaya kasi andyan si lola...pag nagwowork ako sya yungbahala sa paghahatid..sa pag-aaral

I: Pero hindi ka lumapit sa pari...sa counselors halimbawa?

R: Meron akong nilapitan na isang pari meron syang mga sinabi pero in the end sinasabi na ikaw pa rin yung magdedecide dyan tapos inistate nya lang yung sitwasyon kung eto yung pipiliin mo possible na ganito mangyayari... since pari sya inadvice nya na itaas mo lang sa Diyos para maliwanagan ka rin

I: Did you think naliwanagan ka dahil sa iyong faith that time na you eneded it?

R: Oo.. wala talaga akong mapagkuhanan talagang yung faith ko yung pinanghawakan ko

I: In any way ba nagkaroon ng threat sa anak mo na masasaktan nya or usually between you and him lang?

R: wala po.. yung isa kasi in words lang nung nasa tiyan ko palang sya siguro sinabi nya para mainis lang ako na hindi naman sa akin yan..masakit po talaga sakin ako pa na finding out na sya pala yung binibintang nya sakin... alam nya lahat lakad at friends ko except na pasulpot sulpot nga name nung girl

I: May news ka pa tungkol sa girl

R: wala na parang according to him sya na nagkwento na aalis na daw sa work yung girl pero after ng girl may sumunod pa, sumunod pa pero lahat naman sila hindi nagtatagal pero may nakita ako kasi may time pa na di ka maka move on siguro second year tinitingnan ko yung picture na kasama yung girl iniscreen shot ko baka magamit ko sabi ko pag nagfile ako kasi very intimate yung pictures nila pero finding out wala na rin pala sila sabi ng friend ko nakita na rin yung ugali

I: What's keeping you from filing?

R: Gusto ko pa rin kasi na magkaroon ako.. na may family ako may tatay anak ko kahit na di sya tatay biologically pag tanda ko kasi gusto ko may kasama ako...sa ngayon kaya gusto ko magfile kasi gusto ko maalis yung pangalan nya na gusto ko malinis pag may nangyari sa akin yung benefits ko mapupunta sa anak ko kasi legally still married kami may mangyari sakin si tatay muna una magbebenefit kawawa naman yung anak ko so yun una...yung pangalawa gusto ko magkaroon ng family ko syempre may mga lumalapit why not give them chance however di makapagfile kasi still I'm seeking na makahanap ng lawyer na willing to handle kailangan ko financially then sabi ng isang

lawyer na iraraffle pa case mo maghahanap ng court na may family court na maghohold tagal tagal

I: Ano daw sabi ng lawyer mo in terms of estimated time

R: Two years yung usal

I: Okay I think we covered it all... may mga bagay ka pa ba na gustong sabihin na hindi ko natanong pero you feel na if you were to write your story dapat andoon sya

R: (pause) siguro yung ano... yung meron man akong makakausap na mga babae na mag-isip talaga sila kung sino papakasalan nila hindi guarantee yung haba ng relationship nyo para maging successful yung marriage nyo

I: So you'd like to talk to girls who are not yet married

R: pero those who are not in a relationship baka matakot sila pero kung may kilala ako sinasabi ko talaga na pag-isipan mo muna kasi in love ka ngayon but still push naman sila

I: How about with your friends who got married after nung mga nangyari sayo what type of support did you give them

R: Tingin ko mas matured sila kasi mas nauna ako mag-asawa and then I think based on my experience nagkaroon na rin sila ng idea na ano dapat nila gawin kahit di ko sinabi sa nakikita ko kasi okay sila ngayon kahit di sila matagal naging magboyfriend and girlfriend may nakuha silang learning dun sa shinare ko tsaka dapat yung babae matapang and di dependent sa lalaki buti nalang may trabaho ako nakatapos ako ng pag-aaral di ako umasa sa kanya na sya lang maprovide kaya malakas loob ko na kaya ko buhayin anak ko kaya ko sya pag-aralin even now private school sya kaya naman

I: It takes a lot of courage to step out of the house diba?

R: Kapag naiisip ko nga yun...salamat sa Diyos dahil kung di ko ginawa yun baka patay na ako kasi na threaten talaga buhay ko

I: Pero wala ba action to file a case against him nung time na-threaten yung buhay mo?

R: Wala kasi pinlano ko pero dinadala nya ako sa...pinakiusapan nya ako kinonsensya nya ako na ganon mangyayari however kapag nagfile ako ng anulment case yun ang problema ko kasi di ko sya pinablotter

I: May questions ka ba sa buong process?

R: Ah ano wala akong maisip ngayon para kasing nabalikan yung experience ko

I: This will happen..magrerecreate kasi ng meanings yung mga binigay mo and then will show you the transcript of what happened today and you can add or you can choose to remove whatever na sa feeling mo hindi talaga nya na-capture yung experience mo and you can add kasi baka may naiisip ka ngayon na hindi mo pa nabanggit

R: May naaalala ako bigla dun sa turning point aside sa sinaktan nya ako isa pa sa nakapaglakas ng loob sakin yung iniinsulto ako kasi meron syang sinabi sakin na...na parang dinidescibe nya yung ginawa nila or ginagawa nila sa akin kaya sabi ko sobra naming parang ang salbahe sinasaktan mo na nga ako physically tapos nambabae ka na tapos yung ginagawa nyo pa sinasabi sakin

I: So umamin?

R: In a way...yung hinihintay ko lang that time na oo sorry wala kasi ganung nangyari kasi diba ganon mga babae bata pa ako non 27 pa ako or 28 tapos since sya first boyfriend ko napakaidealistic talaga ng gusto ko na lalambingin ako magsosorry sakin hindi ko narinig sa kanya na nagsorry sya

I: Pero sinabi mo sa kanya na kung nagsorry ka aminin mo lang

R: Sinabi ko pero wala kasi talaga dinedeny nya pero that time isang beses nya lang sinabi di lang ganon ka-detailed na merong nangyari sa kanila sexually sobrang di ko na kayang pang iinsulto yon tsaka imagine mo na bago mo malaman something happened to us tapos malalaman ko yon diba parang...ano eh..parang pag partner kasi kayo, kayo lang dapat nakakadiri na malaman ko na pag ako nagkasakit idedemanda kita pero after non wala na talagang nangyari kasi nalaman ko tapos yun nga turning point na hindi na naging available sexually

I: The description was really different and the activity was something na hindi nyo ganon ba

R: Ganon nga siguro dahil na rin sa personality ko at personality nung girl younger sya medyo nakapagexperiment sila something bago sa kanya yun siguro kung hindi yun significant sakin hindi ko sya marerecall... pagka naaalala mo sya bigla tingin mo okay na ako naka moveon na ako pag naalala ko yon parang ang linaw linaw pa rin ng pagkakasabi nya yung nangyari para akong nanonood ng tv ganun kalinaw

I: So ganon ka-explicit?

R: Yes, tatlo lang yan eh...yung sa bahay nung girl naghintay ako sa kanila tapos yung pangalawa yung sinasaktan nya na ako tapos yung huli nga yun ganon ka-linaw kaya sabi

ko hanggat kaya ko kalimutan tinatry ko syang kalimutan para bang nangyari lang yon and tapos na sya para naka cope up na rin

I: Ano yung na-realize mo na kaya mo palang gawin na kaya mong gawin?

R: Yung lumaban sa kanya at umalis kasi inalagaan ko sarili ko na kapag nagasawa ako di kami maghihiwalay kahit anong manyari kasi nung dumaan din kami bago magpakasal may counseling naman sa church sinabi naman yung mga pros and cons sabi ko kaya namin yan since nakita ko na nag give up na yung isa there's no sense na para ilaban ko pa...parang walang love na rin kasi kung meron pa di nya magagawa

I: Walang fear for new relationship not to happen again?

R: parang wala na rin naman ayoko din isipin magkaroon man ako ng relationship makikinig na ako (laughs) sa feedback ng friends and family ko na...nakikita kasi pala yun totoo pala yung di mo nakikita kasi bulag ka dahil focus ka sa kanya..sa relationship talagang dun ka lang para kang kabayo na may takip sa mata may blinders na ito kayo

I: Thank you so much, Ma'am.

R: Parang sakin ano man dumating because of that experience kaya kakayanin ko kahit ano kasi sabi ko yun nga kinaya ko ano pang iba

I: Forgiveness... do you see yourself forgiving him?

R: Yun ang parang di ko mabigay sa kanya

I: But you have forgiven yourself?

R: Yes... I'm sure (laughs) inisip ko wala naman ako talagang kasalanan noon kasi inisip ko na ako may kasalanan ako may kulang ngayon nakalabas na ako doon gumaan na yung pakiramdam ko na may retreat akong pinuntahan din inall out ko na iwan ko na dito tama na yan it's just part of the past na may natutunann na wala ako dito kung di ko na-experience and tingin ko may mga behavior na nabago kasi parang dati ang dali ko kausap matigas na ako ngayon hindi na ako tulad ng dati na parang utuin ganon (laughs)

APPENDIX G

SAMPLE CODING

Questions	Participant #1	Participants #2	Participant #3	Participant #4
How did you expect your own married life will be?	Expected in a sense na working ako, working yung husand ko tapos may yaya kami tapos kumbaga walang problems financially parang regular Filipino family na working pareho yung parents tapos hands on with the child	we're both working kami wala kaming problem financially so basically...	ang gusto ko kasing mangyari sa married life syempre kase galing ako sa broken family nageexpect ako na sa married life wala namang perfect diba? Yung magiging maayos	Inexpect ko magiging masaya na magtatagal yung relationship namin kahit na may mga problema ganon
Initial Coding	Both parents are working Financially stable Responsible parents	Both parents are working Financially stable	Positive outlook on marriage	Happy and long-lasting relationship
Did you encounter any hardships in married your relationship? Can you share those experiences?	Hardships.. actually majority ng hardship namin is yung pakikialam ng in-laws	Pag may issue pala the more na tinatakan mo like emotionally bothered ka pala may mga problema na di pinaguusapan	siguro ilang mga years 5 years medyo okay pa smooth yung relationship ng partner ko diba eh dumating sa point na noong nag abroad siya kase banda drummer ganon kahit naman siguro hindi ganon	Maraming pagbabago halimbawa ng ... halimbawa ng yung bago kami naging close ganun. Naging independent.

			yung nature ng work niya kumabaga mas malapit sa temptation sa abroad pwede magloko babae man o lalaki e sa case ko naman kasi yung husband ko yung nagloko talaga	
Initial Coding	When in-laws are intervening the married couple.	Communicationg with your husband about your problems	The husband had another affair.	Being independent.
Where did you get most support?	family Friends...nung nagwowork pa ako non syempre supportive sila tara inom tayo, tara videoke tayo (laughs)	friends..ang problema sakin wala ko masyadong friends.. isa lang sa Las Piñas tapos yung tita ko younger yun ang friend ko pinagkukwentuhan ko actually mas nahurt pa yun.. tapos yung kapatid ko na bakla sya pa nagtatatype ng sasabihin ko.. helpful sila yung family pero at the end of the day ikaw masusunod	sa sarili ko kumbaga tinulungan ko yung sarili ko, walang ibang tutulong sayo kahit yung mga kaibigan mo aadvise lang sayo, mag aadvise lang perokailangan yung advise nila sa tingin mo yung magiging tama pero ikaw pa rin sa sarili mo ang dapat gawin kailangan maging malakas ka kasi may mga anak na umaasa sayo e kasi pag nakikita nila na mahina ka yung mga anak ko apektado	sa mga anak ko talaga... Yung ano mga kaibigan ko. Mga ka-churchmate. Prayer

Initial Coding	Family Friends	Friends Family	Self	Children Friends Churchmates
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