



November 2020

What Men and Women Want: Mate Preferences of Filipino Young Adults in Selecting a Marriage Partner

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a Marriage Partner
(Master's Thesis, Philippine Normal University)
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**WHAT MEN AND WOMEN WANT: MATE PREFERENCES OF FILIPINO
YOUNG ADULTS IN SELECTING A MARRIAGE PARTNER**

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

In partial fulfilment of the requirements for the
Degree Bachelor of Science – Master of Arts in Psychology and Counseling

CRISSALYN JOY A. DIONISIO

November 2020

APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled “**WHAT MEN AND WOMEN WANT: MATE PREFERENCES OF FILIPINO YOUNG ADULTS IN SELECTING A MARRIAGE PARTNER**” prepared and submitted by **CRISSALYN JOY A. DIONISIO** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of **Bachelor of Science - Master of Arts in Psychology and Counseling** (*indicate specialization*), is hereby recommended for approval and acceptance.



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Approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree **Bachelor of Science - Master of Arts in Psychology and Counseling** by the Oral Examination Committee.

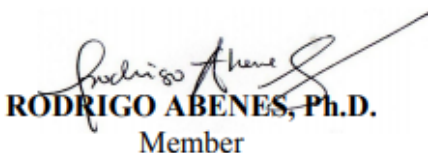
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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my family who supported me emotionally and financially throughout my years of education; for encouraging me to trust in myself and for believing in me even before I do to myself. I would also like to dedicate this study to all single Filipinos out there who are searching for the “ONE.”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank all those who helped me in completing my study. First, I would like to thank the Graduate Research Office (GRESO) for giving me the opportunity of conducting my study.

Second, I would like to express my gratitude to my panel Dr. Terestita Rungduin, Dr. Edna Luz Abulon, and Dr. Rodrigo Abenes; and to my advisor, Dr. Peter Howard R. Obias for guiding me throughout this endeavor.

Third, I would like to thank all the participants of this study who spared their time in this research and without their participation this study wouldn't have been possible.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family and friends for their support and encouragement as I work on this study.

Abstract

Name : Crissalyn Joy A. Dionisio

Title : What Men and Women Want: Mate Preferences of Filipino
Young Adults in Selecting a Marriage Partner

Key Concepts : Marriage, mate preferences, young adults, marriage partner,
parental investment theory, sexual selection theory

Degree : Bachelor of Science – Master of Arts

Specialization : Psychology and Counseling

Adviser : Dr. Peter Howard R. Obias

Marriage is a form of establishing long-term relationships between men and women. Men and women look for different characteristics in a partner that they consider marrying. Through survey, this study determined the mate preferences of Filipino young adults in a marriage partner. The results indicated that men and women look for the same characteristics in a spouse but the latter is more demanding in selecting a marriage partner. These preferences also affect the strategies both sexes employ in attracting a mate and their position on these characteristics affect the characteristics that they demand their marriage partner to have.

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CHAPTER I

Problem and Literature Review

Introduction

Men and women have formed long-term partnership that is usually formalized through marriages. Marriages are the result of specific mate-choice and decisions made by both male and female partners. These decisions may be influenced by evolution that is rooted from the experiences men and women have experienced through time (Buss 1989). Men are always the one who provide for the family through hunting or working in the fields to feed them. On the other hand, women are always the ones who take care of the kids and the household. These changes influence how men and women choose a partner for marriage. Men prefer women with good health such as youth and attractiveness while women prefer men who are able to provide and invest resources for the family.

Early adulthood is the phase in life where individuals establish themselves as independent persons, building their identities through the establishment of their likes, dislikes, preferences, and philosophies. Young adults at this stage develop emotional stability, thus becoming more emotionally stable and mature (Teipel n.d.). It is the time when young adults find intimacy by forming close, long-term relationships with others. Hence, this is the stage where individuals think about having a partner thereby forming their preferences for their desired mates.

Male and female species have faced reproductive constraints in their evolutionary past that cause them to adapt different reproductive strategies (Buss 1989) leading to different mate preferences for both short-term sexual and long-term romantic

relationships (Buss & Schmitt 1996). Women prefer characteristics such as considerate, honest, dependable, kind, understanding, fond of children, well-liked by others, have good earning capacity, ambitious and career-oriented, have good family background, and tall in a spouse while men prefer characteristics such as physically attractive, good looking, good cook, and frugal in a spouse (Buss & Barnes 1986). In terms of long-term mating, men have faced problems regarding assured paternity certainty resulting to their preference to exclusive sexual access to a woman's reproductive capacity. This preference has led women to display sexual exclusivity upon looking for a long-term partner. Men on the other hand, exhibit cues of future resource potential upon looking for long-term mates as women have faced problems with regards to resource acquisition (Buss & Schmitt 1996). These preferences and strategies have signalled the reproductive success of each sex. Thus, in a long-term mate both value kindness, though it is more evident in women (Li, Bailey, Kenrick & Linseimer 2002). Women preferred men who were able and are willing to invest his resources to her and their offspring (Buss 1989) wherein, status is the measure of the ability while kindness is the measure of willingness (Jensen-Campbell, Graziano & West 1995). While for men, kindness indicates a fertile woman's willingness to share her reproductive resources to him.

Marriage for an individual is an event characterized by a bout of multiple transitions from child to adult, from a mere part of a family to the main actor in forming a new one. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA 2017) the number of marriages recorded in the year 2017 was 434, 932 with a 3.6% increase from the 419, 628 marriages that has been recorded in 2016. However, despite the increase of recorded marriages in 2017 it is lower than the recorded marriages in 2008 which is 486, 514

indicating a 10.6% decrease in recorded marriages in the span of 10 years (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2017). Moreover, the median age of women who married in 2017 was two years younger than their male partners.

In 2015, 9.1% of the population were engaged in a marital live-in arrangement and 1.5% of the population is separated. Even when there is a rise in marriages in the Philippines, the number of registered marriages is lower compared to 10 years before. This might be because of the rise of individuals who cohabitate with their partners instead of getting married. Also, based on the National Statistics Office (2000), there are 2.9 million single parents in year 2000 nationwide who are classified as widowed and separated.

Divorce in the Philippines is not legal and Filipinos need to file for annulment in order to legally terminate their marriages. There are about 95% of Filipinos who need to file annulment in order to end their marriages legally (Abalos 2017). However, only a small fraction of individuals chose this action because it is not only expensive but the outcome is also uncertain, additionally, the procedures are long and complex. The whole process usually takes from six to eighteen months and has the possibility to be extended for several years (Lopez, 2006). This is one of the reasons why most individuals who wish to end their marriage resort to informal separation. Even though Filipinos value marriage, the numbers of those who separate from their spouses legally and informally have increased from 4,520 in 2001 to 11,135 in 2014 based on the cases filed at the Office of the Solicitor-General. The increase in the dissolution of union has also been accompanied by an equivalent increase in the number of Filipinos who cohabitate with their partners. In the past two decades, the numbers of Filipino women of reproductive

age that cohabitate with their partner increased from 5.2% in 1993 to 14.5% in 2013 (Abalos 2014; PSA and ICF 2014).

Few studies in the Philippines such as that of Reynolds (1966) and Bernarte, Jalandra, Jarquio & Sanggo (2016) have identified characteristics men and women valued in a partner. Some of the characteristics that men want in a marriage partner are education and intelligence, household skills, understanding, economic security, loving, and attractive; while some of the characteristics women are looking for in their marriage partner are understanding, can earn a living, responsible and dependable, religious, intelligent and educated, and social competence (Reynolds 1966). Filipino men and women today also give importance to physical traits although they have different reasons. For men, these traits were indicators of good reproductive health, and for women, these traits were indicators of better job opportunities and less chances of having illnesses (Bernarte et al. 2016). Men also find it desirable if their partners are well-educated and successful in their jobs, and women desire a partner that is also well-educated and financially stable. Findings about religiosity are also consistent with Reynolds (1966) findings wherein both sexes prefer a mate who value purity, God-fearing, and prayerful (Bernarte et al. 2016).

Many studies including that of Wiederman (1993); Bereczkei & Csanaky (1996); Tadinac & Hromatko (2007) have supported the evolutionary hypotheses that men more than women will value physical attractiveness in a mate and women more than men will value social status and resource acquisition in a mate (Buss 1989). However, physical attractiveness and social status aren't the only ones that are being considered by individuals; though they cannot be disregarded, other factors are emerging and are also

playing an important role in human mate selection. Personality plays a critical role in mate selection wherein, individuals are attracted and desire partners who have the same personalities as them (Botwin, Buss & Shackelford 1997). It was also found that the Filipino youth, in terms of personality factors, desires a mate with whom they can easily form a healthy relationship into such as understanding, caring, responsible, and sincere (Bernarte et al. 2016). These characteristics entail a higher possibility for relationships to be successful, however, in this country alone there are 95% of married Filipinos who are in need of filing an annulment in order to legally void their marriages (Aballos 2017). There has also been an increase in the recorded marriages in 2017 that is 3.6% higher than what has been recorded in 2016 (PSA 2017). However, the high percentage of separation either legally or informally is impossible to disregard. This made the researcher interested to know how Filipinos select their marriage partner, the characteristics they consider in the process, and if they already have different criteria in selecting one.

This study will provide relevant information on the characteristics that Filipino men and women are looking for in their marriage partner. Individuals consider different characteristics when looking for in a short-term partner and in a long-term partner (Regan & Berscheid 1997). This study will provide an insight if this finding is also true in the Philippine setting and will help make the existing information about human mate selection in the country more comprehensive. This research will also provide insights and its implications on how Filipino young adults today choose their marriage partner. The information that will be gained in this study will provide a deeper understanding on the part of the individuals themselves, parents, teachers, the community, counsellors, and

other helping professionals. This study will provide support to young adults in building their preferences that will not lead to harmful relationship choices and instead will lead to a healthy long-lasting relationship with their selected partners. This research will provide an opening for a deeper and more comprehensive study about mate selection in the field of psychology and counseling.

Reynolds (1966) and Bernarte et al. (2016) were able to provide characteristics and traits that Filipinos are looking for in a partner. These studies however have been limited to college students and the former study was conducted too long ago. There are already changes that are happening especially with today's generation of millennials. Today's millennials are already exposed to various dating platforms like Tinder which is considered one of the most famous platforms of establishing relationships today (Foxton 2015). Attitudes toward premarital sex have also changed in recent years wherein from 44% in 2004, acceptance towards this act has moved to 58% in 2012 (Alter 2015). This is also contradictory to Reynolds (1966) findings wherein, both sexes, especially males are reluctant to marry those who have had a previous sexual relation to others prior to marriage. What will be unique in this study is that, it will go for a wider range of participants from students to those who are already working that are part of the young adult population. The study will not only be conducted in one place unlike the two previous studies that were conducted in a specific university. By being diverse through the participants, the responses will also be more generalized and will not just be for one sector of youth. The study will also make use of quantitative measure.

Significance of the Study

This study will be conducted to provide information on the field of psychology and counseling about the characteristics the Filipino youth are looking for in a marriage partner and their implications to evolutionary psychology. Moreover, this study will provide additional resources to the country about human mate selection. The study will benefit the following group of individuals: the researcher, the Filipino youth, parents, educators, the community, and psychologists and counsellors.

The researcher will gain knowledge and information regarding the topic. Through this, insights will be gained that can later be used for further improvement on the studies about mate selection. Other researchers will also be able to benefit in this study and use the results in making a scale about mate preferences that are contextualized in the Philippine setting. Hence, researchers can make their own studies, their own improvements and explore more of the topic in ways that has not been done in researches before.

Filipinos that belong to the young adult group where curiosity about being in a relationship is experienced will benefit from this study. During the young adulthood stage, individuals start to plan for their future that includes being in a stable, long-term relationship. The study will provide relevant information and insights to them by providing them with a heads-up of what characteristics their fellow youth are looking for in a partner.

The parents will also benefit from this study. There are parents that tend to interfere in their children's choices including those concerning their relationships. On the

other hand, there are those that question their children but don't interfere about those choices. One clear fact however, is that the parents try their best to understand their children in every decision they make. There will be a time where children will introduce their dates or partners to their parents. It is also not new for parents to ask themselves what their children saw in those individuals to choose them. This study will provide parents with information on the possibility of how their children might select their mates in the near future. The information they will gain in the study can help them in understanding their children more in terms of relationship decisions that they might do.

The educators will benefit in this study in gaining more knowledge and awareness on the changes their students might face as they enter the phase of young adulthood. Knowing that the young adulthood phase is where individuals construct their preferences in mates and where they engage in dating activities and relationships, they will be able to give more guidance for their students. They can also work hand in hand with the parents to ensure that the children will not fall into harmful relationships that might endanger their safety. Being in a phase of curiosity, young adults may engage in various relationships to experiment on what traits and characteristics they are looking for in a potential long-term partner. However, these activities when not monitored might endanger their safety especially when they engage in relationships that may affect their performances in classes and their relationship with their families. Educators and parents alike can provide the necessary guidance needed to the children so that their safety will not be threatened.

The community where the individuals interact will also benefit from this study. Within an individual's community is where they interact the most with other people

aside from people from their home and school. Community is where they likely meet individuals that may be of interest to them. With this research the officials within those communities will be able to create projects and programs to promote interaction and a safe environment for Filipino young adults to communicate with each other.

Psychologists and counsellors are among the individuals that will benefit from this study. Being the professionals that work directly with individuals and couples that seek guidance regarding relationships, this study will provide information that they can be used in their certain fields. Individuals and couples usually seek guidance if they are experiencing relationship problems in their lives. Psychologists and counselors can apply the information and insights that they will gain in the study in addressing those problems in their sessions. There are also individuals and couples who seek guidance or counseling with regards to marriage and this study will help the concerned professionals in addressing those. Hence, these professionals can apply their insights in marriage counseling, giving guidance to those that are looking to be married or are experiencing marital problems.

Literature Review

Bases of Mate Preferences

Most studies on human mate choice (Symons 1979; Buss 1997; and Feingold 1992) were founded on Trivers's (1972) parental investment theory. This theory emphasized that the sex who invests more in their children will have stronger preferences on mating partners. Male's parental investment tended to be less than that of female's (Williams 1975). Mating required little investment from a male that results to an investment of nine months for a female that was extensive in terms of time, energy,

resources, and foreclosed alternatives. However, there are other ways a male can invest in their children such as providing learning opportunities, and transferring status, power, or resources. These forms of parental investment from males decreased the gap between male and female parental investment. Resources were usually transformed to earning capacity that suggests females' valuation on characteristics associated with it in potential mates like ambition and industriousness (Barron 1963; Willerman 1979). Thus, it was implied that females valued attributes such as ambition, industriousness, and earning capacity that indicate resource possession or acquisition more than males (Buss 1989). Another important factor in a female's mate choice is a man's socioeconomic status (SES). Women considered a man's SES in mate selection compared to men (Feingold 1992). The prediction that women more than men sought characteristics in a partner that would maximize their survival and of their children was supported in this findings.

For males, they were limited by their access to reproductively valuable and fertile mates (Symons 1979; Trivers 1972; Williams 1975). A female's reproductive value peaked at their mid-teens and declined with age while their fertility peaked at early 20s and also declined with age (Thornhill & Thornhill 1983). Age had always been a powerful cue to females' reproductive capacity because their fertility and reproductive value is age-dependent (William 1975). Age can be inferred through physical characteristics or with using counting. Hence, it was implied that males valued youth and physical attractiveness in a potential partner because they are linked to a female's fertility and reproductive value (Buss 1989).

Assortative mating also influenced the mate preferences of individuals (Buss 1985). It is mating with others based on their similarity on one or more characteristics.

Assortative mating increased traits' genetic variants by altering the genotype frequencies of the total population (Epstein & Guttman 1984). The genetic reproduction of an individual was also enhanced by mating with someone who shared some of his genes. Thus, individuals differed in their mate preferences wherein they sought characteristics in partners that they themselves possess (Thiessen & Gregg 1980; Buss 1985). Assortative mating can be observed through physical characteristics, age, ethnicity, origin, religion, socioeconomic status, intelligence, personality characteristics, and social attitudes. Individuals also matched in BMI but in a manner of what was desirable (i.e. middleweight men to thin women) that favored a market-driven agreed-upon-value interpretation (Kurbanz & Weeden 2005).

Social assortative mating or homogamy wherein females preferred to mate with males of the same age and education as them also played an important role in mate selection (Bereczkei & Csanaky 1996). "Proximity effects" was one of the factors that influence this phenomenon such as living in the same neighborhood, going to the same schools, and working in the same place had forced individuals to interact with those who have the same characteristics as them. Taking this into consideration, a lot of men with high status, regardless of their attraction to younger females of lower status were paired off with high status women (Feingold 1992). Furthermore, marriage between individuals with similar characteristics was expressed as an adaptive decision. Women who married men with the same education and age had a reproductive success that was close to those who married older men with higher education (Bereczkei & Csanaky 1996). In addition, there are individuals that were forced to practice homogamy more than others. Higher degree women, for example, had less chances of marrying up due to lack of suitable

husbands. Thus, instead of marrying men with lower status, they tended to marry men with the same social status as them. Men, on the other hand were less likely to marry women who have the same or higher status than them.

According to Watson, Klohnen, Casillas, Nus, Simms, Haig & Berry (2004) newlywed couples had strong similarities in age, religiousness, and political orientation and moderate similarities in education and verbal intelligence. Propinquity played an important role in assortment with age because most individuals spend most of their time during childhood and adolescence with people close to their age. Furthermore, as they get older, they were likely to spend more time with other individuals with the same level of education. The same pattern of assortment by age and educational attainment were shown in Taiwan (Tsou, Liu & Hammitt 2011). Women who were married before 30 were 3 years younger than their husbands, while those who were married at later ages were younger by only a year. More than 40% of married couples also have similar educational attainment (Tsou et al. 2011). Assortment by education was associated with the number of children couples had. Women married with men that have less education had fewer children than women married to men that have equal or more education than them. Having similar educational level also encouraged initial interaction and supported the formation of relationships when it comes to online dating (Skopek, Schulz & Blossfeld 2011).

Sex Differences on Mate Preference

Males and females faced different problems in their evolutionary past (Buss 1989). Males faced limited with access to fertile females and females faced limited access to resources for them and their children when it comes to reproductive success. These differences resulted to different reproductive strategies for both sexes. The theoretical

works by Trivers (1972), Williams (1975), Symons (1979), and Buss (1987) provided the foundation from which specific evolutionary hypotheses were derived.

Among 76 ranked characteristics in a mate, the ten most valued were good companion, considerate, honest, affectionate, dependable, intelligent, kind, understanding, interesting to talk to, and loyal (Buss & Barnes 1986). Characteristics such as considerate honest, dependable, kind, understanding, fond of children, well-liked by others, have good earning capacity, ambitious and career-oriented, have good family background, and tall were preferred by females in a husband. Meanwhile, characteristics such as physically attractive, good looking, good cook, and frugal were preferred by males in a wife. The preferences of males and females in their mate differed because the cues to reproductive investment were different for them. The reproductive value and fertility of women were strongly affected by age and good health (Symons 1979). Aspects of physical appearance such as smooth and clear skin, good muscle tone, lively gait, and lustrous hair were indicators of age and health. Thus, in choosing a partner, selection used to favor men who moved on preferences for physical characteristics that were good indicators of age and health, also of reproductive capacity. On the other hand, age for men caused fewer challenges on their capacity to reproduce. Thus, their reproductive value cannot be precisely evaluated based on physical appearance. However, a male's reproductive investment is not limited to breeding and fertility. Having resources such as money and power can provide material advantages for their children. This kind of investment can either be provided by males or females but men tended to have more access to monetary characteristics making these more characteristics of men. As a result, women placed more importance on this kind of reproductive investment (Buss & Barnes 1986).

Males and females exercised different reproductive strategies as adaptations to different reproductive problems they experienced in their evolutionary past (Buss 1989). These problems resulted for them to develop different short-term and long-term relationship strategies (Buss & Schmitt 1996). Men looking for short-term sexual relationships faced finding sexually available women difficult. This resulted for men in preferring sexual availability in looking for a short-term partner. Thus, women looking for short-term partners were highly successful when they use strategies such as self-promotion signalling their sexual availability. Sexual access is important for men looking for short-term partners, and when women suggested sexual access, they viewed it to be effective at short-term relationships. Meanwhile, men looking for long-term relationships faced difficulty in assuring paternity certainty. This resulted for men in preferring exclusive sexual access when looking for long-term partners. Therefore, women looking for long-term partners displayed sexual exclusivity and implied that others will be unfaithful. Men on the other hand were viewed most effective when they display cues of future resource potential looking for a long-term partner.

When it comes to selecting short-term sexual partner and long-term marriage partner, men and women preferred different characteristics (Regan & Berscheid 1997). Individuals considering having long-term relationship with someone gave more importance to internal characteristics like personality characteristics. Meanwhile, physical characteristics were given more importance when selecting a short-term sexual partner. Physical attractiveness was also the most desirable characteristic for men and women looking for short-term relationships. Furthermore, financial power was not preferred by women in this kind of relationship. These only implied that women have

started to distinguish individuals they had intentions of having sexual activities with from individuals they had intentions of marrying. Accessibility was also important in selecting a partner (Feingold 1992). In looking for potential partners, the most accessible characteristics like physical attractiveness were evaluated first. Characteristics that were less accessible were difficult to judge and were only evaluated for those individuals who can be a potential partner. Thus, less accessible characteristics carried less weight in selecting potential partners.

Weiderman (1993) supported the evolutionary predictions indicating that men offered financial resources and honesty, and looking for physical attractiveness and photograph in a prospective partner. Meanwhile, women offered physical attractiveness and looked for financial resources, characteristics indicating resource acquisition, and honesty in a prospective partner. Also, men were more willing to marry younger women with no steady job, earned less, and had less education (Sprecher, Sullivan & Hatfield 1994). On the other hand, women were more willing to marry men who earned more and had more education than them. In lieu with these findings, males tended to choose younger partner for marriage (Bereczkei & Csanaky 1996). They chose relatively younger partners when they got older and their age difference with their wives increase once they remarry. Meanwhile, females followed a different strategy, when they remarry they chose partners with higher educational level; they also had more children when they got married to men with high status. These gender differences were consistent with previous research. Thus, men preferred partners who have characteristics like youth and good looks indicating their reproductive value, whereas, women preferred partners who

have characteristics like ability and willingness to provide resources indicating potential resource acquisition (Sprecher et al. 1994).

Men and women's valuation on mutual love, education and intelligence, sociability, and good looks increased (Buss, Shackelford, Kirkpatrick & Larsen 2001). Aside from these, men increase their valuation to similar education and good financial prospects, and decreased their valuation to good cook and housekeeper. Meanwhile, women decreased their valuation to ambition and industriousness. Characteristics such as dependable, emotionally stable and mature, having a pleasing disposition remained to be highly valued by both males and females. Men place greater importance in physically attractive partners, and women placed greater importance on partners with good financial prospects. Furthermore, men gave more importance on love vs. status in a long-term partner, and women gave more importance on social status and financial resources (Shackelford, Schmitt & Buss 2005). Thus, women valued dependability, stability, education, and intelligence in a partner. Moreover, women gave more importance on characteristics of a man like good social status, ambitious and industrious, has good financial prospects, educated and intelligent that indicate high socioeconomic status implying his possession of resources. Moreover, characteristics like dependable, desire for children, emotionally stable, and mature indicated a man's willingness to share his resources to her and their children. Women also give importance to mutual love and attraction, the same education, political background, and sociability in a man because they were necessary in having a stable long-term relationship (Tadinac & Hromatko 2007). On the other hand, men only give importance to two characteristics in a woman

which are good looks and chastity proving that men look for young, healthy, and reproductively capable partner that will not be unfaithful to him.

In selecting long-term partners, women commonly ensure that a man is average at social status and men commonly ensure first that a woman is average at physical attractiveness (Li, Bailey, Kenrick & Linsenmeier 2002). Moreover, characteristics like personality and kindness are important and equally prioritized by both men and women. Intelligence is also important for them. Without a minimum level of intelligence, an individual can experience difficulties in dealing with the strain of social life and raising a child. Intelligence is heritable and handicap like this is possible to be passed on to the child. Thus, men and women look for an adequate level of intelligence before accepting a potential partner. Another important characteristic in a partner especially for women is kindness. For evolutionary reasons, women preferred men who were able and willing to invest his resources (Buss 1989), status was a measure of ability and kindness was a measure of willingness (Jensen-Campbell, Graziano & West 1995). Hence, a man's actual stream of resources is the product of his place on both characteristics. Likewise, to a man, a woman is desirable to the extent of her willingness to share her reproductive resources to him.

Personality played an important role in selecting a partner (Botwin, Buss & Shackelford 1997). Individuals actively seek and desired to be with similar personalities. Even though there were differences in the degree of similarities, men and women were actually paired with those who possess their preferences. Furthermore, men and women held higher standards for long-term mating on characteristics such as social status, agreeableness, family orientation, intelligence, and emotional stability (Regan 1998).

Additionally, an individual's self-evaluation was closely related to their criteria in selecting a partner. Thus, individuals who viewed themselves desirable were more exacting when it comes to choosing a long-term partner supporting the perception that individuals tended to pair with others having similar value. For females, the minimum criteria for the status of a partner increased as the level of commitment in the relationship also increased. Males followed the same pattern, the minimum criteria for the physical appearance of a partner increased as the level of relationship commitment also increased.

Physical attractiveness is an important factor in an individual's dating preferences. They were not just popular romantic targets (Buss & Barnes 1986; Feingold 1990; Regan & Berscheid 1997), but they were also likely to engage in relationships with other attractive individuals (Buston & Emlen 2003; Little, Burt, Penton-Voak, & Perrett 2001; Todd, Penke, Fasolo, & Lenton 2007). Physical attractiveness was considered an important factor in forming romantic relationships in such a way that attractive individuals preferred dates that were also attractive (Lee, Loewenstein, Ariely, Hong & Young 2008). Less attractive people were also willing to date less attractive individuals. Also, less attractive individuals placed greater weight on characteristics like sense of humor.

An individual's preferences in a mate were based on their position on the characteristic relevant to the opposite sex such as physical attractiveness for females, income for males (Tadinac & Hromatko 2007). Women who considered themselves above-average in physical attractiveness insisted on characteristics that signals a man's resources like education and intelligence, good financial prospect, and good social status; also characteristics that signal a man's genetic quality such as good health and good

looks. As for men, with above-average, income had rated good looks on women the highest. The higher their position on characteristics that were appealing to women, the greater importance they placed on a partner's characteristics. Thus, those with high mate value were choosier compared to individuals with low mate value. On the other hand, those with high mate value placed more importance on characteristics like similar education and political background, refinement and neatness, education and intelligence, and desire for children. Meanwhile, individuals with low mate value placed more importance on mutual love and chastity. However, when it comes to mutual love and attraction, women gave more importance to it regardless of their mate value. Men and women in their reproductive age also placed greater importance on characteristics like desire for children, refinement and neatness, good financial prospects, and good cook and housekeeper. It was also found that, men and women who were at the age of 24-39, who were in the reproductive age, and in a phase when most individuals form a family, placed greater importance on characteristics on their potential mates such as, women value desire for home and children, refinement and neatness, good financial prospects, and being a good cook and housekeeper. At the same time, men showed similar pattern despite of having longer reproductive period, of valuing desire for home and children, and good cook and housekeeper.

Mate Preferences and Sexual Strategies in the Philippines

Forming and maintaining serious relationships were a major developmental task during the young adulthood phase (Teipel n.d.). In a study conducted among the students of Silliman University (Reynolds 1966) the characteristics desired by men in a wife were education and intelligence, household skills (as a mother, homecare), understanding,

economic security (career possibilities, care of money, industrious), loving, attractive (beauty, good carriage, neatness), Christian (religious, same faith), good health, loyal to husband, social skills, good disposition, good character, charming personality, modes, womanly, feminine, and make husband happy and help him feel important. While the characteristics women desired in a husband were thoughtful and understanding, can earn a living, responsible and dependable, religious or religion same as mine, intelligent and educated, social competence, love, good husband and father (loves children), firm convictions, respect for me and my ideals and opinions, faithful, family background, good health, good character, good personality, and handsome (good looks, “clean cut”).

Furthermore, students resisted parental domination but wanted their approval in their selected mate. They are not willing to enter a marriage they believe will not be successful even if their parents wanted the marriage to take place, but most will not marry one of who their parents do not approve (Reynolds 1966). Their desired age for marriage would be 22 – 30 years old with most preferring to be married at 25 – 28 years old. Women are also expected to marry at a slightly younger age than men. Both men and women preferred for the former to be two or more years older than the latter. It is also desirable for them to marry within one’s own religion, preferably to someone with the same religious affiliations which present a strong preference for the marriage of both partners. Moreover, there is a general unwillingness which is stronger for men than for women to marry one who was known to have been engaging in premarital sexual relations especially if an illegitimate child is present. In terms of education, slight preference is given for the man to have more education than the woman. Only a few reported of willingly marrying a man with less education than the woman. The capacity

to produce children is also essential and most would limit number of children from two to five with spaces in between according to a plan. Lastly, men gave more importance to beauty, or the attractiveness of a woman, than women gave to a man being handsome.

However, most of the millennials today are already exposed to various dating platforms and to other means of attracting potential mates. With the emergence of these new ways to build relationships, Filipino's conservative ideals when it comes to selecting partners and managing their relationships also evolved. For instance, Tinder, as identified as "'eBay of love, sex, and romance,'" continues to change the dating game for many of its users is one of the most famous platforms for establishing romantic relationships today (Foxton, 2015). Millennials today also seem to want to marry at a later age compared to older generations. Rainer & Rainer (2011) identified that millennials are marrying much later. Today's millennials chose to marry at a later age as they take their time in finding a partner that will suit their lifestyle and preferences. Although some traditional ideals in relationship building are still applicable, it appeared to be distinctly changed in belief including millennials' perceptions toward pre-marital sex. In Time Magazines, 2015, an article regarding millennials' preference for premarital sex was noted stating "Over the last eight years, acceptance of premarital sex has moved from a minority position to a majority position, with 58 percent of the respondents in 2012 saying that they thought there was nothing wrong with sex before marriage (compared to 44% in 2004,) in accordance to a new study of over 33,000 people published in the Archives of Sexual Behavior" (Alter 2015). This change in perception may be due to the younger generations being more accepting to new relationship standards. This accepting attitude may also be

due to the millennials becoming more open-minded and optimistic in views toward issues often considered as taboos.

Filipino men and women gave importance to physical traits but for different reasons, for men, because these traits were indicators of good reproductive health and for women, because these traits entail better opportunities in jobs and less chances of having illnesses (Bernarte, Jalandra, Jarquio & Sanggo 2016). In terms of social traits, men and women also preferred mates who possess qualities with which they can develop a healthy relationship in terms of communication and socializing. Men and women also have high preference for a trustworthy mate when it comes to personality trait. Understanding, caring, responsible, and sincere was also considered to be pointers of a healthy and faithful relationship. Both men and women desired a mate who has etiquette and the ability to do household chores. Regarding mate's achievements, males had found it desirable if their partners are well-educated and successful in their jobs. Furthermore, females had sought partners that were well-educated and financially stable at the same time. Lastly, with religion being a big part of Filipino culture, both males and females preferred a mate who valued purity, God-fearing and prayerful.

An individual's mate preferences evolved and continue to evolve in order to adapt to this changing world. Yesterday's preferences might not be the same to today's and new ones might already be emerging. This study will provide a comprehensive list of today's youth mate preferences in a marriage partner.

Synthesis

This study will contextualize the Western mate preferences (Buss 1989) in Philippine setting. Mate preferences are different for males and females due to the different evolutionary problems humans have faced in their past. Males have faced the problem of having access to eggs to fertilize, while, females have faced the problem of having access to resources to nurture themselves and their children. According to parental investment theory (Trivers 1972), the mate preferences of an individual is dependent on the amount of investment they are willing to give in their children. That is, the more investing sex will be more demanding when it comes to choosing a partner and the less investing sex will fight over each other to secure a partner. These were also the reason why individuals developed different mating strategies (Buss & Schmitt 1996) to be able to adapt to these constraints.

Men have preferred physical attractiveness for a partner because they were indicative of fertility and reproductive value of females; while women have preferred good-earning capacity, ambitious, and career-oriented in a partner because they were indicative of resource acquisition of males (Buss & Barnes 1986). Individuals however, have different preferences when it comes to short-term and long-term relationships (Regan & Berscheid 1997). Individuals looking for a committed, romantic relationship give more value to internal attributes such as personality characteristics. Wherein, individuals actively looked and desired to pair off with those with similar personalities (Botwin et al. 1997). Intelligence and kindness were also among those that are desired in a long-term partner (Li et al. 2002). Intelligence is hereditary and is a necessity in order to cope with the demands of daily life. Furthermore, kindness is a measure of willingness

for men to share their resources to their partner and children, while for women to share her reproductive resources to their partner (Jensen-Campbell et al. 1995).

In the Philippines, males prefer a wife that has a good education and is intelligent, skilled in household tasks, understanding, loving, attractive, etc. while females prefer a husband that is thoughtful and understanding, can earn a living, responsible and dependable, intelligent and educated, socially competent, etc. (Reynolds 1966). It is also desirable for both sexes to marry within their own religions and a strong preference for the marriage to be the first for both partners. Furthermore, there's a general unwillingness but it is stronger for men to marry one who is known to have been engaging in premarital sexual relations. However, these findings were from an old study and changes might have already occurred today. One is that, the acceptance of today's millennials for premarital sex was moved from 44% in 2004 to 58% in 2012 and thinks that there is nothing wrong with sex before marriage (Alter 2015).

Reynolds (1966) also noted that men gave more importance to beauty or attractiveness on a woman compared to the importance women gave to man being handsome. This seems to have also changed since in a study conducted by Bernarte et al. (2016) both sexes prefer physical attractiveness in a partner since for men it is indicator of good job opportunities while for women it is an indicator of good reproductive value.

Changes already happening such as new platforms in forming a relationship like "Tinder" which changes the way individuals form and maintain their relationships (Foxton 2015). There are also the changes in beliefs that were considered taboo before to be accepted today (Alter 2015), and the preference of people to marry at a later age than what was the preferred age of marriage before (Rainer & Rainer 2011). These changes

may be indicative that there are already changes in the mate preferences of Filipinos when it comes to finding a marriage partner, which this research is aimed at, to provide a comprehensive list of mate preferences they are looking for in a spouse.

Theoretical Perspective

Evolutionary psychology stated that evolutionary processes sculpted psychological mechanisms like solving the problems of survival and reproduction in the course of history (Buss 2009). Several individuals think that evolution is developing characteristics and behaviors allowing us to survive but it is only important when it contributes to successful reproduction. Even if an individual live a long life, if they failed to produce children, their genes will die along with their bodies. Thus, reproductive success is the mechanism of evolution through natural selection. These are called survival adaptations that helped human handle nature and adaptations that helped humans compete for mates.

Sexual selection theory stated that organisms develop characteristics not for survival advantages but for mating advantages. Humans, both men and women, have a say in choosing their partners and both value qualities such as kindness, intelligence, dependability that are beneficial to long-term relationships (Buss 2009). Assortative mating is a form of sexual selection. It is a mating pattern in which individuals paired on the basis of their similarities on one or more characteristics. It can be based on genetic type or social assortative mating. This follows that individuals differ in their preferences in which they seek characteristics for their partners that they themselves have (Thiessen and Gregg, 1980, Buss, 1985).

Parental investment theory on the other hand stated that in humans, sex differences in choosing a mate can be understood in terms of the amount of time, energy, and risk to their survival they put into parenting (Trivers 1972). The sex that invests more in their children will be more selective in choosing a partner. Meanwhile, less investing sex will develop competition for access to potential partners. This theory has been influential because its predictions correspond to differences in preferences of men and women in mates. Males prefer physical attractiveness because it indicates youth and fertility ensuring reproductive success, while females prefer capabilities to provide resources because their reproductive success increases as well as the survival of their children (Buss 1989).

Conceptual Framework

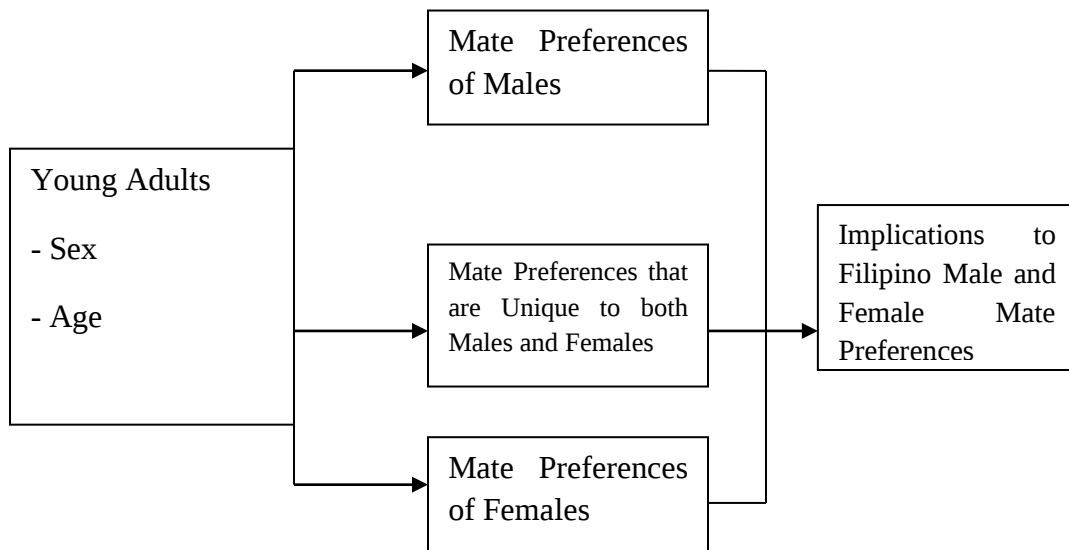


Figure 1. Mate Preferences of Filipino Young Adults in Selecting a Marriage Partner

The first box in the conceptual framework (Figure 1) indicates the participants for this study. This study's participants are Filipino young adults from ages 18 to 39 years old, heterosexually oriented and with no spouse or live-in partner. The young adulthood

stage is the phase when individuals start to look for intimate relationships making this age group perfect as participants of the study. Aside from being part of the young adulthood age group, the participants should also be heterosexual and unmarried. The participants will be the source of the data needed for the research which is the mate preferences of Filipino men and women when looking for a marriage partner. The participants will be grouped based on their sex and age, which will later be used to compare which characteristics were preferred most by each sex and by each age bracket.

The next three boxes in Figure 1 show the data that will be gathered from the participants through survey. The participants will be asked about the characteristics they are looking for in a marriage partner through survey. From their answers on the survey, a lexical analysis will be done and a list will be created about those characteristics. The characteristics will be grouped into three which are, the characteristics preferred by men in their wives; the characteristics preferred by women in their husbands; and the characteristics that are both preferred by men and women in their spouses.

Based on the results, insights and the implications of the preferences of the Filipino youth on how they select a marriage partner will be generalized. The results will also be used to make a framework of the mate preferences of Filipino young adults.

Research Problem

The purpose of this study is to generate a comprehensive list of characteristics that Filipino young adults are looking for in a marriage partner. This research will answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of?

1.1. Sex

1.2. Age

2. What are the mate preferences of the respondents when it comes to their marriage partner?

3. What are the trends of the mate preferences of the respondents when it comes to their age and sex?

4. What are the implications of these mate preferences on how Filipino young adults select a marriage partner?

Scope and Limitation

The study will be quantitative in nature using survey and lexical analysis. The research will be aimed in finding out the mate preferences of Filipino young adults in selecting a marriage partner.

The participants will include heterosexual and unmarried Filipino young adults, ages 18 to 39 years old. The participants will be selected based on these criteria; the participants should not also be currently in a live-in arrangement with their partners. There will only be one open-ended survey question and will be analyzed through lexical analysis and other statistical methods.

The target participants for this study will be no less than 1,000 heterosexual unmarried young adult males and females. The reason is because this paper will seek to know the mate preferences of Filipino young adults when they select a marriage partner in the opposite sex. The data will be collected through online survey wherein the participants will send their responses through a link in a Google form for the study. There will be no monetary compensation to the participants and participation in this study is voluntary and lies within the discretion of the interested individual to participate or not.

Definition of Terms

In order to understand this study easily and to especially to those outside of the field of psychology and counseling; this paper will make use of the following definition of terms:

Assortative mating – It is a mating pattern and form of sexual selection that states that individuals with similar phenotypes will mate with one another more than would be expected under a random mating pattern.

Marriage – It is an event characterized by a bout of multiple transitions from child to adult, from a mere part of a family to the main actor in forming a new one.

Mate preference – Refers to the reason why human chooses to mate or not to mate. It constitutes factors considered by both males and females in choosing either potential long-term or short-term mate.

Parental investment – Is any parental expenditure such as time, energy, resources, etc. that benefits the offspring.

Sex – Either male or female into which humans and other organisms are divided based on their reproductive functions.

Young Adult – Individuals whose age ranges from approximately 18 to 40 years old.

CHAPTER II

Methodology

Research Design

In order to explore the mate preferences of Filipino young adults in their potential partner, this study utilized a quantitative research design. According to Aliaga & Gunderson (2002), “Quantitative research is an inquiry into a social problem, explain phenomena by gathering numerical data that are analysed using mathematically based methods e.g. in particular statistics.” A quantitative approach using survey was done to investigate the characteristics men and women look for in a marriage partner. This study was conducted using this design to provide an understanding of the phenomenon that this research aimed to explore and in order to compare and contrast with the previous findings and their implications to Filipino mate selection.

The study was approached using lexical analysis wherein a stream of characters was read and grouped into tokens. These tokens were sequences of characters having collective meaning (Goyal & Yadav 2014). Lexical analysis was done in order to distinguish the characteristics men and women look for in a potential marriage partner. These characteristics were then ranked from the most preferred characteristic to the least preferred characteristic.

Research Setting

This study was not conducted in a single setting. Using the internet as the mean of conducting the research, the researcher covered several places within the country. There were data collected in the top regions where high percentage of marriages was recorded in 2017 Region IV-A (13.4%), National Capital Region (NCR) with 12.8%, and Region

III (11.7%). The study also gathered data from other regions through the use of Google forms.

Using the internet made it easier and cost effective for the researcher to gather data. The participants only needed an internet connection in answering the Google forms. This also saved money and energy since there was no need for printing survey forms and travelling to different places in conducting the study. The utilization of the internet was an effecting way in reaching the respondents of this study.

Research Sampling

The researcher aimed to have no less than 1,000 heterosexual, unmarried individuals from ages 18 to 39 years old survey respondents. This age range of 18-39 years old is considered to be the young adulthood phase considered to be a stage of curiosity and exploration about many aspects of life such as home, family, resources, school, and role. Included in these curiosities were romantic and intimate relationships. In this stage, youth engage in dating activities and work in maintaining romantic relationships. This was when individuals think of and plan about marriage. The researcher used purposive and snowball sampling, wherein groups of individuals that fit the criteria for this study were asked to answer the survey and these individuals were also asked to send out the link of for this survey to other people who also met the criteria for this research.

Research Instrument

Survey

The research made use of survey with an open-ended question about the characteristics they prefer in a marriage partner. There was only one question from the survey wherein the participants listed the adjectives they are looking for in a spouse. Male participants listed down all the characteristics they are looking for in a woman and female participants listed down all the characteristics they are looking for in a man for marriage. This was the reason why the participants were all heterosexual. Furthermore, the participants were not asked about the characteristics that they don't prefer in looking for a spouse because it was presupposed that the opposite meaning of their preferred characteristics would be their answers.

Analysis of Data

The data from this study was analyzed using quantitative approaches. The following methods were used to know the results of the survey that was conducted in this research.

Lexical Analysis

Lexical analysis was used to summarize the answers of the respondents in the survey. The adjectives with the same meanings were grouped into tokens and were coded to have a collective meaning. Lexical analysis was used to get the list of adjectives men and women wants in a marriage partner. They were also ranked based on the number of times they were answered in the survey. The lists of adjectives that were made are: (1) the characteristics of marriage partner males look for in a woman; (2) characteristics of

marriage partner females look for in a man; and (3) characteristics that both males and females look for in a spouse.

Frequency

Frequency is the building block of analytical statistical method and the first step in analyzing data. Frequency was used to know how often the adjectives on the list were answered for both males and females.

Percentage

The percentage was used to know the percentage of male and female respondents in the study. Percentage was also used to compute the percent of participants who answered the characteristics listed by both males and females.

Data Gathering Procedure

Upon the approval of the topic, the researcher prepared the needed documents to conduct the study. The researcher used the internet as a platform and created a Google forms (Appendix A) in administering the survey. Also included in the form was the biographical information (Appendix C). After getting the clearance to proceed from the Ethics Committee, the link to the survey was sent to individuals who met the criteria for this study. The participants were 18 to 39 years old, unmarried or with no live-in partner, and heterosexual individuals. They were also asked to send out the link to their relatives, friends, and acquaintances who met this study's criteria.

The survey only contained one question, "If you will marry, what are the characteristics you are looking for in a husband / wife?" The respondents listed all the

adjectives that they are looking for in a husband if they are a female and in a wife if they are a male. Most of the participants answered in English and some answered in Filipino. The directions included instructions of refraining from answering in a vague manner such as “as long as they’re a girl / boy” but there were still individuals who answered in this manner.

Once the link was sent, if they wanted to participate in the study is they will open it and if not they will ignore the link. Once they decided to participate and opened the link, they answered the biographical information and went over to the next page to answer the survey question. The respondents answered in the language they feel most comfortable with. Since the data gathering was done online, the participants were asked to send out the link to other individuals they know who can and were willing to participate in the study. Those individuals followed the same process in completing the survey and were also asked to send the link to someone they know. The same process was continued until the required number of respondents was acquired.

The answers was recorded, summarized, and analyzed using lexical analysis in order to make a list of the characteristics the Filipino youth look for in a marriage partner. Frequency and percentage were also applied in analyzing and interpreting the data.

Ethical Considerations

This research required data from human participants. This study also only included heterosexual and unmarried Filipino young adults and might have had caused discomfort to some individuals who have other sexual orientations. Considering these

facts, the researcher followed the steps in doing a research and considered the following ethical considerations in conducting this study.

Respect

In every research endeavour the physical and psychological safety and the protection of the researcher and participants are ensured. The researcher avoided placing the participants in situations where they might be exposed to risk of physical and psychological harm as a consequence of them participating in the study. The participants were informed of the information regarding the nature, methods, and the risks involved in the research project. Informed consent was provided to the participants informing them that their participation in the research is voluntary and made them aware that they can withdraw from it anytime. The informed consent included the research process and the procedure with which the data will be used and who will use them. Utmost confidentiality was practiced to protect the anonymity of the participants. The importance of confidentiality was explained thoroughly to the participants and they were asked together with the researcher to practice it with utmost commitment with regards to the study. The researcher ensured that the information about the participants was not be shown to anyone who has no direct involvement in the research.

Beneficence

This researcher ensured that no harm was done to the participants throughout the execution of the study. They were informed about the benefits that they will gain before agreeing to participate in the research. These benefits included being able to be a part of a study that can make the existing knowledge about mate selection more comprehensive.

This study helped them gain insights as well on their preferences in a potential mate and may help them in carefully selecting a partner thereby preventing poor relationship decisions. The participants were also informed of the results of the study if they would want it including the community wherein the research was conducted. They will be able to contact the researcher for the results using the contact information on the informed consent that they signed upon agreeing to participate in the study. This study will be able to contribute in enhancing the understanding of individuals in human mate selection and may be used to improve the condition of the youth with regards to relationship decisions through education.

Justice

The researcher ensured that the criteria in the selection of participants, the data collection tools, and methodology are free from any biases such as gender, class, ethnic, cultural biases. The participants in this study were selected using purposive sampling at first in selecting unmarried, heterosexual young adults. No research was 100% free of biases however, because data coming from homosexual and married individuals were removed from the data pool because this study's participants should be unmarried and heterosexual Filipino young adults. The specific criteria for selecting the research participants were provided by the researcher and were explained why those are the criteria set in the selection of participants. The researcher that conducted the study were informed of the appropriate ethics, have enough scientific knowledge and education in doing a research.

CHAPTER III

Results and Discussion

This study included 1,183 survey participants. Their ages ranged from 18 to 39 years old. Among the participants 62.7% were females: n 742, mean age 23.15, SD 3.795; and 37.3% were males: n 441, mean age, 22.81, SD 3.126. The participants were all unmarried, heterosexual young adults. Responses from married individuals were removed from the pool because this study focused on the preferences of unmarried, heterosexual young adults in a marriage partner.

There are 30 characteristics in a marriage partner of both males and females derived from the survey. These characteristics are preferred by both sexes in their partners. Moreover, there are 34 characteristics from the survey males preferred in a wife and 48 characteristics females preferred in a husband.

Mate Preferences of Males and Females in a Marriage Partner

Lexical analysis and frequencies were conducted to determine the characteristics sought by both males and females in a marriage partner. The results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Characteristics Preferred by Males and Females in a Marriage Partner

Characteristics	Number of Responses	Percentage
Caring	688	58.16%
Understanding	659	55.71%
Faithful	650	54.95%

Religious	616	52.07%
Kind	599	50.63%
Responsible	580	49.02%
Family Oriented	567	47.93%
Honest	504	42.60%
Intelligent	498	42.09%
Physically Attractive	465	39.31%

There are a total of 30 characteristics males and females prefer in a marriage partner and Table 1 shows the top 10 characteristics answered by Filipino young adults from ages 18 to 39 years old about what they prefer in a spouse. The rest of the characteristics that men and women preferred are loving (431) 36.4%, hardworking (293) 24.77%, ambitious (288) 24.34%, humorous (257) 21.72%, financially stable (222) 18.77%, respectful (214) 18.09%, patient (195) 16.48%, mature (165) 13.95%, reliable (140) 11.83%, resourceful (94) 7.95%, selfless (87) 7.35%, helpful (81) 6.85%, humble (76) 6.42%, accepting (70) 5.92%, skilled at household chores (64) 5.40%, independent (44) 3.72%, sociable (41) 3.47%, supportive (33) 2.79%, and adventurous (21) 1.78%. All of these characteristics have been determined through lexical analysis based on the responses of the participants in this study. Responses such as ‘cares for me,’ ‘is caring in nature,’ ‘always takes good care of me,’ and ‘likes taking care of people’ were all categorized as caring. Likewise, responses such as ‘loves adventure,’ ‘likes thrilling activities,’ ‘likes to travel,’ and ‘loves the outdoors’ were all categorized as adventurous.

Mate Preferences of Males in a Wife

Lexical Analysis and frequencies were conducted to determine the characteristics males are looking for in a wife. The results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2

Characteristics Males Look for in a Wife

Characteristics	Number of Responses	Percentage
Physically Attractive	321	72.78%
Caring	307	69.61%
Understanding	294	66.67%
Kind	291	65.99%
Faithful	271	61.45%
Family Oriented	219	49.66%
Loving	163	36.96%
Responsible	163	36.96%
Intelligent	156	35.37%
Ambitious	151	34.24%

There are 34 characteristics that are desired by males of ages 18 – 39 years old in a wife and Table 2 shows their top 10 preferences. The rest of the characteristics that prefer in a marriage partner are honest (145) 32.88%, religious (143) 32.43%, cheerful (134) 30.39%, humorous (132) 29.93%, patient (81) 18.37%, hardworking (78) 17.69%, mature (68) 15.42%, helpful (66) 14.97%, accepting (55) 12.47%, skilled at household chores (43) 9.75%, sociable (37) 8.39%, confident (26) 5.90%, financially stable (26) 5.90%, respectful (25) 5.66%, independent (24) 5.44%, assertive (21) 4.76%, humble (19) 4.31%, selfless (19) 4.31%, socially and politically aware (18) 4.08%, reliable (18)

4.08%, resilient (15) 3.40%, supportive (15) 3.40%, resourceful (15) 3.40%, and adventurous (5) 1.13%. All of these characteristics have been determined through lexical analysis based on the responses of the participants in this study. From the responses on the survey, answers such as ‘beautiful,’ ‘pretty,’ ‘has a good body,’ ‘young,’ and ‘cute’ were all categorized as physically attractive.

Table 3

Characteristics 18 – 23 Years Old Males Look for in a Wife

Characteristics	Number of Responses	Percentage
Physically Attractive	215	67.82%
Faithful	210	66.25%
Understanding	208	65.62%
Kind	200	63.09%
Caring	198	62.46%
Family Oriented	183	57.73%
Honest	95	29.97%
Responsible	93	29.34%
Religious	91	28.71%
Loving	89	28.08%

The male participants in this study were further divided into three age groups and the first was 18 to 23 years old. The results generated 31 characteristics that 18 to 23 years old males prefer in a wife and Table 3 shows their top 10 preferences. The rest of the characteristics that they prefer in a marriage partner are intelligent (85) 26.81%, ambitious (77) 24.29%, humorous (74) 23.34%, cheerful (71) 22.40%, accepting (38) 11.99%, hardworking (34) 10.73%, patient (32) 10.09%, mature (26) 8.20%, sociable

(22) 6.94%, confident (21) 6.62%, skilled at household chores (20) 6.31%, respectful (18) 5.68%, socially and politically aware (18) 5.68%, assertive (14) 4.42%, humble (13) 4.10%, reliable (11) 3.47%, supportive (9) 2.84%, resilient (7) 2.21%, financially stable (5) 1.58%, adventurous (5) 1.58%, and independent (4) 1.26%.

Table 4

Characteristics 24 – 29 Years Old Males Look for in a Wife

Characteristics	Number of Responses	Percentage
Physically Attractive	98	89.91%
Caring	96	88.07%
Understanding	79	72.48%
Kind	77	70.64%
Ambitious	74	67.89%
Intelligent	68	62.39%
Helpful	66	60.55%
Cheerful	63	57.80%
Loving	62	56.88%
Responsible	59	54.13%

Men age 24 to 39 years old have 32 characteristics that they prefer in a wife and Table 4 shows their top 10 preferences. This result was based on the characteristics males from this age group have answered in this survey. Aside from these, they also prefer the characteristics humorous (58) 53.21%, honest (50) 45.87%, patient (49) 44.95%, faithful (46) 42.20%, hardworking (44) 40.37%, mature (42) 38.53%, family oriented (34) 31.19%, religious (29) 26.61%, skilled at household chores (23) 21.10%, independent (20) 18.35%, financially stable (19) 17.43%, selfless (19) 17.43%, accepting (15)

13.76%, sociable (15) 13.76%, resourceful (15) 13.76%, resilient (8) 7.34%, assertive (7) 6.42%, reliable (7) 6.42%, respectful (6) 5.50%, humble (6) 5.50%, supportive (6) 5.50%, and confident (5) 4.59%.

Table 5

Characteristics 30 – 39 Years Old Males Look for in a Wife

Characteristics	Number of Responses	Percentage
Faithful	15	100%
Kind	14	93.33%
Caring	13	86.67%
Religious	13	86.67%
Family Oriented	12	80%
Loving	12	80%
Skilled at household chores	12	80%
Responsible	11	73.33%
Physically Attractive	8	53.33%
Understanding	7	46.67%

The last age group, which is 30 to 39 years old males, have the least number of participants in this study. Based on the results of the survey, there are 13 characteristics that males of ages 30 to 39 years old prefer in a wife. Table 5 shows the top 10 characteristics that they look for in a marriage partner. The rest of the characteristics that they prefer are intelligent (3) 20%, accepting (2) 13.33%, and respectful (1) 6.67%.

Mate Preferences of Females in a Husband

Lexical Analysis and frequencies were conducted to determine the characteristics females are looking for in a husband. The results were presented in Table 6.

Table 6*Characteristics Females Look for in a Husband*

Characteristics	Number of Responses	Percentage
Religious	473	63.75%
Responsible	417	56.20%
Caring	381	51.35%
Faithful	379	51.08%
Understanding	365	49.19%
Honest	359	48.38%
Family Oriented	348	46.90%
Intelligent	342	46.09%
Kind	308	41.51%
Loving	268	36.11%

There are a total of 48 characteristics females of ages 18 to 39 years old look for in a husband and Table 6 shows their top 10 preferences. The rest of their preferences are hardworking (215) 28.98%, financially stable (196) 26.42%, respectful (189) 25.47%, wise (184) 24.80%, employed (169) 22.78%, physically attractive (144) 19.41%, ambitious (137) 18.46%, humorous (125) 16.85%, reliable (122) 16.44%, patient (114) 15.36%, mature (97) 13.07%, open-minded (91) 12.26%, shares the same interests with me (87) 11.73%, appreciative (85) 11.46%, resourceful (79) 10.65%, selfless (68) 9.16%, humble (57) 7.68%, tidy (56) 7.55%, sensitive (38) 5.12%, affectionate (32) 4.31%, dedicated (22) 2.96%, skilled at household chores (21) 2.83%, independent (20) 2.70%, disciplined (20) 2.70%, supportive (18) 2.43%, gentle (18) 2.43%, adventurous (16) 2.16%, emotionally stable (16) 2.16%, helpful (15) 2.02%, accepting (15) 2.02%, good

listener (13) 1.75%, decisive (13) 1.75%, genuine (13) 1.75%, healthy (12) 1.62%, educated (11) 1.48%, resilient (10) 1.35%, sociable (6) 0.81%, and generous (5) 0.67%. From the answers of the respondents, responses such as ‘goes to church,’ ‘believes in God,’ ‘has faith in God,’ and ‘fears God’ were all categorized as religious. Also, responses such as ‘*mapagbigay*,’ ‘*hindi madamot*,’ and ‘always ready to give’ were categorized as generous.

Table 7

Characteristics 18 – 23 Years Old Females Look for in a Husband

Characteristics	Number of Responses	Percentage
Religious	286	55.11%
Responsible	259	49.90%
Caring	223	42.97%
Honest	217	41.81%
Understanding	204	39.31%
Intelligent	188	36.22%
Family Oriented	173	33.33%
Faithful	163	31.41%
Kind	149	28.71%
Loving	126	24.28%

The female participants are also further divided into three age groups. The first group was women of ages 18 to 23 years old with 46 characteristics that they look for in a husband. Table 7 shows women of this age group’s top 10 preferences which were based on their responses on the survey conducted in this study. The rest of the characteristics that they prefer are humorous (125) 24.08%, hardworking (122) 23.51%, financially

stable (105) 20.23%, wise (89) 17.15%, physically attractive (84) 16.18%, employed (78) 15.03%, respectful (77) 14.84%, ambitious (65) 12.52%, shares the same interests with me (59) 11.37%, patient (44) 8.48%, mature (35) 6.74%, reliable (34) 6.55%, resourceful (32) 6.17%, appreciative (27) 5.20%, humble (23) 4.43%, open-minded (22) 4.24%, selfless (19) 3.66%, affectionate (19) 3.66%, tidy (15) 2.89%, sensitive (15) 2.89%, adventurous (13) 2.50%, skilled at household chores (10) 1.93%, genuine (9) 1.73%, independent (8) 1.54%, dedicated (7) 1.35%, gentle (7) 1.35%, supportive (6) 1.16%, sociable (6) 1.16%, emotionally stable (5) 0.96%, helpful (5) 0.96%, good listener (5) 0.96%, educated (5) 0.96%, healthy (4) 0.77%, decisive (3) 0.58%, resilient (3) 0.58%, and generous (3) 0.58%.

Table 8

Characteristics 24 – 29 Years Old Females Look for in a Husband

Characteristics	Number of Responses	Percentage
Faithful	178	99.44%
Religious	143	79.89%
Family Oriented	140	78.21%
Intelligent	139	77.65%
Understanding	138	77.09%
Kind	130	72.63%
Responsible	128	71.51%
Caring	117	65.36%
Honest	109	60.89%
Loving	102	56.98%

Women age 24 to 29 years old have 45 characteristics that they are looking for in a husband and Table 8 shows their top 10 preferences. This result was based on their responses on the survey of this study. The rest of the characteristics that they prefer are financially stable (91) 50.48%, reliable (88) 49.16%, respectful (82) 45.81%, wise (74) 41.34%, ambitious (72) 40.22%, employed (70) 39.11%, open-minded (69) 38.55%, physically attractive (60) 33.52%, hardworking (56) 31.28%, mature (52) 29.05%, selfless (49) 27.37%, appreciative (45) 25.14%, resourceful (40) 22.35%, patient (38) 21.23%, shares the same interests with me (28) 15.64%, tidy (28) 15.64%, sensitive (23) 12.85%, disciplined (20) 11.17%, humble (15) 8.38%, supportive (12) 6.70%, skilled at household chore (11) 6.15%, emotionally stable (11) 6.15%, affectionate (10) 5.59%, independent (10) 5.59%, decisive (10) 5.59%, accepting (9) 5.02%, dedicated (8) 4.47%, helpful (7) 3.91%, resilient (7) 3.91%, educated (6) 3.35%, gentle (5) 2.79%, healthy (5) 2.79%, good listener (4) 2.23%, adventurous (3) 1.68%, generous (2) 1.12%.

Table 9

Characteristics 30 – 39 Years Old Females Look for in a Husband

Characteristics	Number of Responses	Percentage
Religious	44	100%
Caring	41	93.18%
Loving	40	90.91%
Faithful	38	86.36%
Hardworking	37	84.09%
Family Oriented	35	79.55%
Honest	33	75%
Patient	32	72.73%

Responsible	30	68.18%
Respectful	30	68.18%

The last age group, which is 30 to 39 years old females, were the group with the least respondents. They have 29 characteristics that they are looking for in a husband and Table 9 shows their top 10 preferences. The rest of their preferences are kind (29) 65.91%, understanding (23) 52.27%, wise (22) 50.00%, employed (21) 47.73%, humble (19) 43.18%, intelligent (15) 34.09%, appreciative (13) 29.55%, tidy (13) 29.55%, mature (10) 22.73%, resourceful (7) 15.91%, dedicated (7) 15.91%, gentle (7) 15.91%, accepting (4) 9.09%, genuine (4) 9.09%, affectionate (3) 6.82%, helpful (3) 6.82%, healthy (3) 6.82%, and independent (2) 4.55%.

Discussion

Mate Preferences of Males and Females

Based on the results of the survey, the top 10 characteristics Filipino male and female young adults prefer in a marriage partner are caring, understanding, faithful, religious, kind, responsible, and family oriented, honest, intelligent, and physically attractive. Wherein, 58.16% of all the participants answered caring, 55.17% answered understanding, 54.95% answered faithful, 52.07% answered religious, 50.63% answered kind, 49.02% answered responsible, 47.93% answered family oriented, 42.60% answered honest, 42.09% answered intelligent, and 39.31% answered physically attractive. The results also show that they prefer loving, hardworking, ambitious, humorous, financially stable, respectful, and patient, mature, reliable, and resourceful in their husbands or wives. Aside from these, males and females also prefer their marriage partner to be

selfless, helpful, humble, accepting, and skilled at household chores, independent, sociable, supportive, resilient, and adventurous. Either sex preferred these characteristics individually but with different levels of preference for each of them. An interesting result is that almost all of the characteristics men look for in a wife are also preferred by women in a husband. This result implies that men and women are alike in what characteristics they are looking for in a marriage partner (Buss & Barnes 1986; Buss 1989). This result also suggests that differences in preferences when selecting a marriage partner mostly don't exist between men and women (Regan & Berscheid 1997). However, compared to males, females seek more characteristics in a marriage partner. In terms of Thrivers's (1972) Theory of Parental Investment, females were more demanding in a partner since they invest more for their children as a parent.

There are a total of 30 characteristics that both men and women prefer in marriage partner as indicated by the results of the survey. In comparing these results to previous Western studies, that men and women look for characteristics caring, understanding, faithful, religious, kind, responsible, family oriented, honest, loving, hardworking, humorous, and respectful implies that personality characteristics were given more importance when individuals look for committed and romantic relationships such as marriage which is congruent to the findings of Regan & Berscheid (1997; 1998). The result that both men and women look for kindness and intelligence in a marriage partner as well as their preference for a mature partner is in lined with the findings of Li et al. (2002). An interesting result is that women also started to prefer their potential husband to be physically attractive. Physical attractiveness used to be only preferred by males on their partner because it is an indicator of good reproductive value (Symons 1979; Buss

1989; Wiederman 1993). It also contradicts the theory of parental investment wherein males look for a partner that is physically attractive, young, and healthy that will be able to bear their offspring (Trivers 1972). Furthermore, it is also interesting that men started to prefer their potential wife to be financially stable. Being financially stable used to be preferred by women for their husband because it indicates that he is capable of providing for her and their children (Trivers 1972; Buss 1989; Feingold 1992). When looking through the lens of sexual selection theory, in terms of assortative mating as another mechanism in selecting a potential partner, it can be implied that these results shows that men and women select their marriage partner based on the characteristics that they themselves possess (Thiessen & Gregg 1980; Epstein & Guttman 1984; Buss 1985). Propinquity or proximity effects also play a role in this because men and women mostly interact with people that are near them which can be from the same neighbourhood, school, and workplace or individuals that have the same characteristics as them which can affect the way they form their preferences when it comes to relationships (Feingold 1992).

Furthermore, in comparing it with the previous studies in the Philippines, the results from the survey that men and women prefer the characteristics understanding, faithful, religious, intelligent, and physically attractive, loving, and financially stable is the same with the findings of Reynolds (1966). Moreover, the results on preferences for caring, understanding, faithful, religious, kind responsible, physically attractive, skilled at household chores and sociable are also in lined with the findings of Bernarte et al. (2016). The preference of men and women for a spouse that is family oriented can also be attributed to Filipinos being family oriented themselves. Lastly, the preference for being

religious by both men and women is attributed to the Filipino culture wherein religion occupies a big part.

There are also characteristics that are preferred by both men and women from the survey that weren't on the findings of previous studies whether western or local. These characteristics are honest, hardworking, ambitious, humorous, respectful, patient, reliable, resourceful, selfless, helpful, humble, accepting, independent, supportive, resilient, and adventurous. Most of these characteristics were mostly only preferred by men alone in their wife or by women alone in their husband from previous studies (Reynolds 1966; Buss & Barnes 1986; Buss 1989; Sprecher et al. 1994; Shackelford et al. 2005; Tadinac & Hromatko 2007; Bernarte et al. 2016). This result can imply that the preferences of men and women in their marriage partner are evolving to correspond to the changes on the lifestyle and attitude of today's Filipino young adults which are considered millennials. One example of the changes in the lifestyle of today's Filipino young adults is their exposure to various dating platforms like Tinder (Foxton 2015). Millennials are also more accepting and open-minded to new relationship standards and relationships that were often considered as taboos before (Alter 2015).

Mate Preferences of Males in a Wife

When it comes to the preferences of 18 to 39 years old male Filipino young adults, the results of the survey show that they prefer a wife that are physically attractive, caring, understanding, kind, faithful, family oriented, loving, responsible, intelligent, and ambitious in a marriage partner. These are the top 10 characteristics that they prefer in a marriage partner wherein, 72.78% of the male participants answered physically attractive, 69.61% answered caring, 66.67% answered understanding, 65.99% answered kind,

61.45% answered faithful, 49.66% answered family oriented, 36.96% answered loving, 36.96% answered responsible, 33.37% answered intelligent, and 34.24% answered ambitious. Furthermore, the results of the survey also show that males prefer the characteristics honest, religious, cheerful, humorous, patient, hardworking, mature, helpful, accepting, skilled at household chores, sociable, confident, financially stable, respectful, independent, assertive, humble, selfless, socially and politically aware, reliable, resilient, supportive, resourceful, and adventurous in a wife.

Although, the results of this survey show that both males and females sought physical attractiveness in a marriage partner, this characteristic still remains as the top of what males prefer in a wife. This result is similar to previous studies (Buss & Barnes 1986; Buss 1989; Wiederman 1993; Sprecher et al. 1994; Buss et al. 2001; and Tadinac & Hromatko 2007) that even before, men look for physical attractiveness in selecting a partner. Furthermore, men first looked if a woman is average at physical attractiveness in selecting a potential partner (Li e al. 2002). Physical attractiveness was also considered an important factor in forming romantic relationships because attractive individuals prefer dates and are more likely to date those that are also attractive (Lee et al. 2008). Men also started looking for characteristics outside of physical attractiveness for a marriage partner. Besides being physically attractive, men now also look for personality characteristics caring, understanding, kind, loving, responsible, honest, cheerful, humorous, patient, hardworking, mature, helpful, accepting, sociable, confident, respectful, independent, assertive, humble, selfless, reliable, resilient, supportive, resourceful, and adventurous. This result shows that when it comes to selecting a marriage partner, men also give importance to characteristics that are necessary not just

for reproductive success but also to characteristics that are important for having a successful relationship with their partner. Their preference for a wife that is honest, intelligent, kind, understanding, and faithful is the same with the findings of Buss & Barnes (1986). Previous study by Regan & Berscheid (1997) also shows that personality characteristics were given importance when it comes to selecting long-term partners. Moreover, the result of men preferring a wife that is skilled at household chores is the same with the findings of Buss et al. (2001). However, out of all the male participants, only 43 answered preferring this characteristic in a wife which can imply that the valuation they give in a wife who is skilled in household chores has decreased today. Previous study also shows that men have increased their valuation on a partner that is financially stable but the results of this survey show only 26 participants prefer this characteristic in a wife. Males' preference to a kind and intelligent wife in this study is congruent with the findings of Li et al. (2002). Also, some of the participants have answered preferring a wife that is socially and politically aware. However, they were only a small fraction of the participants and may suggest that those who answered this were socially and politically aware themselves. This can be in lined with the findings of Watson et al. (2004) that there are strong assortment on political orientation between couples. This is also the same with being religious or having the same religious beliefs. Additionally, even though males prefer a faithful woman for a wife, chastity didn't appear in this survey. Chastity of a potential marriage partner had been an important factor that men consider in a woman (Buss & Schmitt 1996; Tadinac & Hromatko 2007). Seeing that it didn't appear in this survey implies that being faithful don't necessarily

equate to chastity. This result can also be attributed to the change in millennials' perspective toward premarital sex (Alter 2015).

Furthermore, the results of this survey show similarities with the findings of Reynolds (1966) in terms of men preferring the characteristics physically attractive, understanding, faithful, loving, intelligent, religious, cheerful, humorous, skilled at household chores and sociable. Moreover, the preference for physically attractive, sociable, understanding, caring, responsible, skilled at household chores and religious is the same with the findings of Bernarte et al. (2016). Also, both previous studies showed that men do look for characteristics that do not only pertain to the physical characteristics of a woman. Just like in this study, previous local studies also consider other characteristics like personality and social. The results of this survey also show more characteristics that men look for in a prospective wife compared to the previous studies. Males' preference for a family oriented and religious wife is due to Filipino culture of being family oriented and religious themselves. Answers from the survey have included preferring a wife that has a good relationship with their own families and give importance to their families, likes children, they also expressed preference for a partner that has the same religious belief as them as well as being in the same religious organization. Personality characteristics are preferred because they are needed in building a healthy and faithful relationship (Bernarte et al. 2016). Men also desire for a partner that is not only beautiful but also has a good character and can make them happy (Reynolds 1966). The preference for a wife that is intelligent, financially stable, ambitious, independent, and assertive implies that males also started looking for a partner that can also earn and support their family. The results show that the preferences of males today in a marriage

partner ranges from being physically attractive, being family oriented and religious, and being able to earn money themselves to having a good personality.

Mate Preferences of Males in terms of Age

Individual mate preferences can be affected not just by sex but also by age. Previous study by Tadinac & Hromatko (2007) showed that men who were at age 24 – 39 years old have valued desire for home and children, and good cook and housekeeper. This phase is considered as reproductive age and when most individuals form a family. This part of the discussion will discuss how men's preferences vary as they get older that were based from the results of the survey.

According to the results of this survey there are 31 characteristics men ages 18 – 23 years old prefer in a wife. Among these, the top 10 are physically attractive, faithful, understanding, kind, caring, and family oriented, honest, responsible, religious, and loving. Wherein, out of all the participants in this age group, 67.82% answered physically attractive, 66.25% answered faithful, 65.62% answered understanding, 63.09% answered kind, 62.46% answered caring, 57.73% answered family oriented, 29.97% answered honest, 29.34% answered responsible, 28.71% answered religious, and 28.08% answered loving. They also prefer the characteristics intelligent, ambitious, humorous, cheerful, accepting, hardworking, patient, mature, sociable, confident, and skilled at household chores, respectful, socially and politically aware, assertive, humble, reliable, supportive, resilient, financially stable, adventurous, and independent.

This age group has the most number of participants in this study with a total of 317 respondents. This can be due to these participants mostly being students and close to

the age of the researcher. Males aging 18 – 23 years old have just transitioned from being adolescents to young adulthood. They have developed and are currently developing their preferences through their own experiences in relationships and also from what they observed from their acquaintances, family, and friends. For males that belong to this age group, the survey reveals that physical attractiveness is the most preferred characteristic. Being physically attractive means being beautiful, pretty, cute, and having a great body. This characteristic is the first to be noticed in a woman. It is also considered as the first characteristic that men sought in choosing a partner. Aside from this, men this age also sought out personality characteristics in a wife such as being faithful, understanding, and kind, caring, honest, loving, cheerful, accepting, patient, mature, humble, supportive, and resilient. In building a relationship, these characteristics are considered important in order to have a healthy relationship. Especially the personality characteristics faithful, understanding, kind, caring, honest, and loving that were among the top 10 characteristics they prefer in a marriage partner. This implies that men prefer a wife that has a good personality, someone that will understand them, care for them, love them, and will not cheat on them. The preference for being family oriented and religious is due to the importance of family and religion to Filipinos. Filipinos are known to be family oriented and religious individuals themselves which reflected on the way they choose their partners. Along with being family oriented, it is also preferred by men aging 18 – 23 years old that their wife is skilled at household chores. This implies that they want for a woman for a wife that knows the importance of family and who can take good care of the family that they will create. Being responsible, patient and mature is also desired by men this age which can be because of childrearing being difficult. Men might have desired

these characteristics along with being family oriented and skilled at household chores that signal women's childrearing capabilities. Moreover, being religious does not only mean going to church regularly, it is also important for them that they have the same religious affiliations and beliefs. Men from this age group also prefer it if their wives are intelligent, hardworking, financially stable, and independent. Being financially stable can also mean having a stable job or stable income. This result suggests that men also prefer a wife that can support their own and can stand on their own two feet. This result can also suggest that men want for a wife someone that can also help him in supporting their children financially. When it comes to social characteristics, men from this age group prefer a wife that is sociable, confident, socially and politically aware, and assertive. This result suggests that men preferred it if their wife can handle social situations and are aware of current issues. It also implies that men prefer a wife with whom they can easily talk to. Meanwhile, the preference on a partner that is adventurous can be because men from this age group are still young and want to try different things. It implies that they want a partner with whom they can experience what they want to do and have fun with together. It can also suggest that they look for a partner with the same interests as them.

When it comes to the preferences of men ages 24 – 29 years old, the results of the survey show 32 characteristics that they look for in a marriage partner. Among these characteristics, the top 10 are physically attractive, caring, understanding, kind, ambitious, intelligent, helpful, cheerful, loving, and responsible. Of all the male participants from this age group, 89.91% answered physically attractive, 88.07% answered caring, 72.48% answered understanding, 70.64% answered kind, 67.89% answered ambitious, 62.39% answered intelligent, 60.55% answered helpful, 57.80%

answered cheerful, 56.88% answered loving, and 54.13% answered responsible. Moreover, men from this age group also prefer in their wife the characteristics humorous, honest, patient, faithful, hardworking, and mature, family oriented, religious, skilled at household chores, independent, financially stable, selfless, accepting, sociable, resourceful, resilient, assertive, reliable, respectful, humble, supportive, and confident.

In this study, there are 109 male participants that are 24 – 29 years old. Men this age have already started building their careers and there are those who are already established in what they do. Also, 24 – 29 years old males already have an established set of preferences that they look for in a marriage partner. Based on the results of this survey, there are 32 characteristics males from this age group prefer in a wife. Their preferences are higher by one with the addition of selfless compared to the preferences of 18 – 23 years old males. Being adventurous is also not preferred by men from this age group, instead they prefer the characteristics resourceful. However, the two age groups almost have the same preferences in a wife. The only difference is the ranking of the said preferences. The same with the previous age group, 24 – 29 years old males prefer being physically attractive the most in a wife. The notion that being physically attractive is the first characteristic to be noticed in a woman is also true to men in this age group. It can also be due to men in this age are usually financially stable with a good job that they look for physical attractiveness in a woman before considering forming a relationship with them. This result is in lined with the findings of Sprecher et al. (1994) wherein men tended to offer financial stability and look for physical attractiveness in a partner. Aside from being physically attractive, they prefer the personality characteristics caring, understanding, kind, helpful, cheerful, loving, humorous, honest, patient, faithful, mature,

selfless, accepting, resilient, reliable, humble, and supportive. Among these personality characteristics, being caring, understanding, kind, helpful, cheerful, and loving were among the top 10 they look for in a marriage partner. Both 18 – 23 years old males and 24 – 29 years old male have the characteristics understanding, kind, caring, and loving in their top 10 preferences in a wife, the only difference is the rankings wherein men from the latter age group regards caring more than understanding and kind. 24 – 29 years old males also have loving as ranked 9 while 18 – 23 years old males have it as ranked 10. Yet, the order may have been different but these personality characteristics are still needed in order to have a healthy relationship with someone. Their preference for these characteristics can imply that they want a wife that will love them unconditionally. The preference for a cheerful and humorous partner suggests that they want a woman with whom they can easily get along with and can make them happy. Looking for characteristics honest and faithful in a wife implies wanting a partner that is loyal and will not cheat on them. They also prefer the personality characteristics patient, mature, selfless, accepting, resilient, reliable, humble, and supportive. This result implies that they men from this age group prefer a wife that is mature enough to handle married life and can accept them whatever their circumstances might be. Being resilient, reliable, and supportive suggests desiring a wife who can give her all for the sake of their relationship. These preferences also prove the findings of Regan & Berscheid (1997, 1998) that personality characteristics were given high regards when it comes to forming long-term relationships. Being family oriented and religious in a wife is also preferred by men in this age group but the results of the survey shows that 18 – 23 years old men regards it more by them being in the top 10 characteristics they seek in a wife. However, it does not

mean that 24 – 29 years old men gave less importance on these characteristics. This outcome can also be influenced by the number of participants this study has for this age group, which is relatively lower compared to number of participants for 18 – 23 years old males. Family and religion are both important to Filipinos which influenced the preference for a family oriented who values family and religious who has the same religion and religious belief with them for a wife. Moreover, 24 – 29 years old men also prefer it if their wives are skilled at household chores. Marriage entails creating a family and men from this age group along with being family oriented prefer characteristics such as skilled at household chores, patient, responsible, mature, and supportive which indicates if a woman know and can take care of their family. Other characteristics that were in the top 10 preferred by 24 – 29 years old males are ambitious and intelligent. The preference for ambitious suggests that men in this age group that they desire it if their wife also has goals for herself. Also, intelligence is hereditary which can affect the intelligence of their children. Moreover, being ambitious, intelligent, hardworking, financially stable, and resourceful are being preferred by males from this age group. These results suggest that men have started to find it desirable if their wife also has a stable income, can support herself, and is successful in her career. It can also suggest that, they prefer it if their wife can also support their family not just by taking care of them but also financially which is the same with men from the previous age group. When it comes to social characteristics, 24 – 29 years old males prefer a wife that is sociable, assertive, and confident which imply that they want a partner that they can easily talk to. These results also suggest that they prefer it if their partner is not easily influenced by other people and know how to assert herself in front of others.

Furthermore, the results of this survey shows that there are 13 characteristics men ages 30 – 39 years old prefer in a wife. The top 10 characteristics that they prefer are faithful, kind, caring, religious, family oriented, loving, skilled at household chores, responsible, physically attractive, and understanding. Out of all the participants in this age group, 100% answered faithful, 93.33% answered kind, 86.67% answered caring and religious, 80% answered family oriented, loving, and skilled at household chores, 73.33% answered responsible, 53.33% answered physically attractive, and 46.67% answered understanding. Aside from these, they also prefer the characteristics intelligent, accepting, and respectful in a marriage partner.

The last age group male Filipino young adults in this study are age 30 – 39 years old. This age group has the least number of participants with only 15 respondents. The results of the survey also show that they have the least number of preferences when looking for a marriage partner with only 13 characteristics. This result however is largely affected by the number of participants this study has for this age group. Nonetheless, instead of the characteristic physically attractive being the most preferred in a wife like the previous two age group, 30 – 39 years old men preferred being faithful the most in a marriage partner. They still prefer the characteristic physically attractive but it was ranked 9 in this survey. This result implies that men's preference for physical attractiveness lowers as they age. It also suggest that the physical attractiveness of women carries less weight compared to personality characteristics for 30 – 39 years old males when looking for a wife. Furthermore, men from this age group prefer the personality characteristics faithful, kind, caring, loving, responsible, understanding, accepting, and respectful. Among these, faithful, kind, caring, loving, responsible, and

understanding are in the top 10 characteristics men from this age group prefer. This result implies that men from this age group give high regards to personality characteristics when selecting a marriage partner. They especially prefer the characteristic faithfulness which suggests that they want a wife who will be loyal to them. Faithfulness was preferred by men across all age groups but 30 – 39 years old men preferred it the most in a wife. This may be that they want a wife who will not cheat on them or leave them with someone younger. Likewise, preferring a kind, caring, loving, understanding, and accepting wife suggest that they want a partner with whom they can build a strong and healthy relationship with. Furthermore, being religious and family oriented are also preferred by men from this age group. Like from the previous two age groups, this result was influenced by the importance Filipino gives to family and religion. Another characteristic that they prefer in a wife is skilled at household chores that imply wanting a partner that knows how to take care of the house and the family. This characteristic, along with being family oriented and responsible are important in order to raise children well. They also prefer an intelligent partner. It was discussed from the previous paragraphs that intelligence is hereditary and can also affect the intelligence of their offspring. However, previous study also show that intelligence is important in order to deal with the demands of life and to the challenges of building a family (Li et al. 2002). This can explain why men want an intelligent woman as a wife not just with this age group but with the previous age groups as well.

Mate Preferences of Females in a Husband

The results of the survey show that there are 48 characteristics females look for in a marriage partner. Compared to males in this study who have 34 characteristics they

look for in a wife, females have more characteristics that they prefer in a husband. This result implies that women are more thorough in selecting who they will spend their lives with. Also, in terms of parental investment theory, the parent who invests more in their child will be more demanding in selecting a mate, which is usually the female (Trivers 1972). The characteristics religious, responsible, caring, faithful, understanding, honest, family oriented, intelligent, kind, and loving are the top 10 characteristics women look for in a marriage partner. Wherein, the results of the survey shows that 63.75% of the female participants answered religious, 56.20% answered responsible, 51.35% answered caring, 51.08% answered faithful, 49.19% answered understanding, 48.38% answered honest, 46.90% answered family oriented, 46.09% answered intelligent, 41.51% answered kind, and 36.11% answered loving. Furthermore, they also prefer the characteristics hardworking, financially stable, respectful, wise, employed, physically attractive, ambitious, humorous, reliable, patient, mature, open-minded, shares the same interests with me, appreciative, resourceful, selfless, humble, tidy, sensitive, affectionate, dedicated, skilled at household chores, independent, disciplined, supportive, adventurous, emotionally stable, helpful, accepting, good listener, decisive, genuine, healthy, educated, resilient, sociable, and generous.

Religious is the most preferred characteristic by females when looking for a marriage partner. Being religious also entails having the same religious affiliations and beliefs with them. This result coincides with the findings of Watson et al. (2004) that married couples have strong similarities in terms of religiousness. The preference for having the same religious affiliations and beliefs in a husband is also because conflicts arise when two individuals have different religious views and as a result, not just men but

also women desire this characteristic in a husband. Most of the preferences of women in this study are personality characteristics such as caring, faithful, understanding, honest, kind, loving, hardworking, respectful, wise, humorous, reliable, patient, mature, open-minded, appreciative, resourceful, selfless, humble, tidy, sensitive, affectionate, dedicated, disciplined, supportive, emotionally stable, helpful, decisive, genuine, resilient, and generous. This result implies that women give more importance to personality characteristics when looking for a marriage partner. This result is similar to the findings of Regan & Berscheid (1997) that in considering long-term relationships women give more importance to internal characteristics such as that of personality. Looking for the characteristics understanding, honest, family oriented, kind, financially stable, employed, and ambitious is also the same with the findings of Buss & Barnes (1986). Furthermore, women look for a financially stable husband which is the same with the findings of Buss et al. (2001) that women gave importance to this characteristic and that they gave more importance to social status and financial resources when it comes to long-term relationships (Shackelford et al. 2005). They also prefer the characteristics intelligent, hardworking, wise, employed, ambitious, and educated in a marriage partner. These characteristics signal a man's capabilities to provide financial resources to his wife and family (Barron 1963; Willerman 1979; Buss & Barnes 1986; Sprecher et al. 1994; Shackelford et al. 2005). This also proves that a man's socioeconomic status is important to women when it comes to forming a long-term relationship such as marriage. This finding is similar with the findings of Feingold (1992) which stated that a man's socioeconomic status is an important factor in a woman's mate choice. The preference of women for family oriented, intelligent, emotionally stable and mature marriage partner is

also the same with the findings of Regan (1998) and Shackelford et al. (2005). Moreover, based on the results of the survey, women also prefer a physically attractive man for a husband. Women used to only prefer characteristics that signal resource acquisition in a man. However, women also started preferring a partner that is physically attractive as well. If assortative mating is to be considered, this preference is due to assortment by genes wherein individuals look for characteristics in a partner that they themselves have (Thiessen & Gregg 1980; Buss 1985). It was also found out that this type of assortative mating enhances the genetic reproduction of individuals in a sense that traits that both the male and female possess are likely to be passed on to their children (Epstein & Guttman 1984). Also, assortative mating can be observed through physical characteristics (Kurbanz & Weeden 2005). Another characteristic that used to be preferred by men alone in looking for a marriage partner is being skilled at household chores. Before, women used to be the only one to take care of house and the children while the husband works (Buss 1989). However, today, women can have equal opportunity with men of being able to work which may have led to women also preferring this characteristic in a husband.

The results of this survey also show some similarities with the findings of two previous studies conducted in this country. The preference of women in this study for the characteristics religious, responsible, faithful, understanding, family oriented, intelligent, loving, financially stable, respectful, employed, physically attractive, and healthy in a husband are the same with the findings of Reynold's (1966). Also, the result of the survey that women prefer the characteristics religious, responsible, caring, faithful, understanding, honest, financially stable, employed, physically attractive, skilled at household chores, educated, and sociable are similar with the findings of Bernarte et al.

(2016). Both local studies have shown that women also look for physical characteristics in a husband. This is the same with the findings of this study wherein, the female participants prefer a marriage partner that is physically attractive. It is still however, a characteristic that was most preferred by men than by women. Also, according to Bernarte et al. (2016), being physically attractive entails better job opportunities and less chances of being sick. Considering this reason for women's preference for a physically attractive husband, this result suggests that women seek this characteristic because they take into account that it indicates better job opportunities for a man thus having the resources to support her and their children. Moreover, this study shows more characteristics that women prefer in a husband compared to the previous studies. This implies that the preference of Filipino women in their marriage partner is evolving continuously as they adapt to the changing world and the problems that goes with it. Their preference for a religious and family oriented husband is culturally influenced (Reynolds 1966; Bernarte et al. 2016). Women especially have religious as their most preferred characteristic in a husband and family oriented is among the top 10 that they prefer. Religion and family are a big part of Filipinos' lives that they want to marry a man that is also religious with the same religious beliefs and affiliations with her and someone who value their families. Being family oriented also suggest that a man will be a good husband to her and a father to their children. Furthermore, the results show that women's preferences in a husband are mostly personality characteristic. Personality characteristics are important to be able to build a healthy relationship with someone (Bernarte et al. 2016) which explains why women prefer to marry a man with a good personality. Their preference for an intelligent, financially stable, wise, employed, ambitious, healthy and

educated man for a husband imply that they want to marry someone who has the resources and is capable in supporting her and their family. Furthermore, the preference for a kind, selfless, helpful, and generous husband indicate how willing a man is to share his resources to them. All in all, the results show that women's preferences in a marriage partner were mostly that of personality characteristics but they also give importance to characteristics that signal their resource acquisition, sociability, and physical traits.

Mate Preferences of Females in a Husband in terms of Age

Women have shorter reproductive period compared to men and it is age-dependent (Williams 1975). Thus, a female's preferences are also affected by their age. According to Tadinac & Hromatko (2007), women at the age of 24 – 39 years old and at their reproductive age placed greater importance on characteristics such as desire for home and children, refinement, neatness, good financial prospects, and being a good cook and housekeeper in their potential partners. In this part, the different preferences of females in terms of three age groups will be discussed.

The results of the survey show that there are 46 characteristics women at the age of 18 – 23 years old prefer in a marriage partner. The characteristics religious, responsible, caring, honest, understanding, intelligent, family oriented, faithful, kind, and loving are the top 10 that women in this age group prefer in a husband. Wherein, out of all the participants in this age group, 55.11% answered religious, 49.90% answered responsible, 42.97% answered caring, 41.81% answered honest, 39.31% answered understanding, 36.22% answered intelligent, 33.33% answered family oriented, 31.41% answered faithful, 28.71% answered kind, and 24.28% answered loving. Furthermore, they also prefer the characteristics humorous, hardworking, financially stable, wise,

physically attractive, employed, respectful, ambitious, shares the same interests with me, patient, mature, reliable, resourceful, appreciative, humble, open-minded, selfless, affectionate, tidy, sensitive, adventurous, skilled at household chores, genuine, independent, dedicated, gentle, supportive, sociable, emotionally stable, helpful, good listener, educated, healthy, decisive, resilient, and generous.

This age group has the most number of participants in this study wherein, out of 742 female participants, 519 of them were 18 – 23 years old females. Women in this age group are at the peak of their reproductive age which peaked at early 20s and started to decline as they get older (Thiessen & Thiessen 1983). It is also the time when they build their preferences through relationship experiences and from what observe from others. Based on the results of the survey, 18 – 23 years old women prefer the characteristic religious the most in a husband. This preference is largely affected by culture since religion is a big part of Filipino culture. In looking for a man when considering marriage, women give importance if that man has the same religious views and beliefs with them, and if they have the same religion because conflicts can arise when two people have clashing beliefs which led to this preference. It was also explained earlier that most of the characteristics preferred by women are that of personality characteristics. Women from this age group prefer the personality characteristics responsible, caring, honest, understanding, faithful, kind, loving, humorous, wise, respectful, patient, mature, reliable, resourceful, appreciative, humble, selfless, affectionate, sensitive, genuine, independent, dedicated, gentle, supportive, decisive, helpful, resilient, and generous. This result implied that women want to have a good man for a husband. Their preference for a responsible, caring, honest, understanding, faithful, kind, and loving husband suggest that

they want a man who can take responsibility for them, someone that loves them and will not cheat on them. These characteristics are also important in building strong and healthy relationships. The preference for humorous, appreciative, affectionate, sensitive, genuine, and gentle man for a husband implies that they want a partner who is sincere, expresses their love to them, and someone that makes them happy. Also, it is inevitable for couples to face fights, misunderstandings, and problems in their relationships, preferring the characteristics wise, respectful, patient, mature, humble, and resilient in a marriage partner suggest that women from this age group want a husband who can deal with these types of situations with them and solving the fights, misunderstandings, and problems that may arise in their relationships wisely and effectively. These characteristics also indicate how far a man is willing to go in order to maintain their relationship and the family that they will build after marriage. Furthermore, along with kind, the characteristics resourceful, selfless, independent, dedicated, supportive, helpful, and generous indicate a man's willingness to support his wife and his family. It is important for women that the man that they will marry does not only have the capabilities to support her but also has the willingness to do so and such characteristics signal a man's willingness to provide for her and the family that they will create. Moreover, it is important for women that the man that they will marry can support them financially. This led to their preference for the characteristics intelligent, financially stable, employed, ambitious, and educated, and healthy. Being financially stable is important for women because they desire a husband that can support her and their children. Although, the valuation they give have decreased over time (Buss et al. 2001). It is also the same for the women in this age group who has this characteristic in the rank 13th of their preferences.

This result is also affected by how today society have changes from before wherein women used to only take care of the house and the children to today wherein women get to have equal opportunities with men when it comes to working. However, being financially stable is still an important factor women look for in a marriage partner. The characteristics intelligent, employed, ambitious, and educated, and healthy indicates that a man has a source of income and can have better job opportunities such as being promoted making him more capable of supporting his wife and children. Furthermore, when it comes to characteristics needed in order to raise a family, women from this age group prefer family oriented, tidy, and skilled at household chores. The same with religious, the preference for a family oriented husband is also culturally influenced. Filipinos give importance to their families among all other things which led to this preference. It is important for women in this age group that the man that they will marry is family oriented in a way that they have a good relationship with their families and they are fond of children. Also being tidy and skilled at household chores is also preferred because it indicates that like them they will also be able to take care of the house and their children. These preferences also suggest that, just as women can now help in raising a family financially, men can now also help not just financially but with also doing house chores and help in taking care of their children. Furthermore, almost all of the previously mentioned characteristics are needed in order to raise a family. Like the characteristics responsible, intelligent, mature, and patient because without these characteristics dealing with the challenges and problems of raising a family will be difficult. Another characteristic that they prefer in a man is physically attractive, this used to be more of a characteristic that men look for in a partner. However, just like men started to prefer that

their wives are financially stable, women also started to prefer it if their husbands are physically attractive. This preference can also be due to the influence of various social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Tinder, etc. which can also serve as dating platforms. They also prefer it if the man that they will marry shares the same interests with them and is adventurous which imply that women in this age group want a husband with whom they can get along with. It is difficult to be comfortable with someone who doesn't share your interests which may have led to this preference. Also, the preference for an adventurous partner implies that they want a man who is open to try different things with them such as going on trips or trying different activities. This age group is also when women want to experience different things in life. In terms of social characteristics, women from this age group tend to prefer it if a man gets along well with her and with other people which led to the preference to characteristics such as open-minded, sociable, emotionally stable, and good listener. These preferences also suggest that they prefer it if the man that will be their husband is easy to talk to and to communicate with.

Moreover, when it comes to the preferences of 24 – 29 years old women, the survey shows that there are 45 characteristics they desire in a marriage partner. Among these characteristics, faithful, religious, family oriented, intelligent, understanding, kind, responsible, caring, honest, and loving are the top 10 that women from this age group prefer in a husband. That is, out of all the 24 – 29 years old female participants in the study, 99.44% answered faithful, 79.89% answered religious, 78.21% answered family oriented, 77.65% answered intelligent, 77.09 % answered understanding, 72.63% answered kind, 71.51% answered responsible, 65.36% answered caring, 60.89%

answered honest, and 56.98% answered loving. Aside from these characteristics, 24 – 29 years old women also prefer the characteristics financially stable, reliable, respectful, wise, ambitious, employed, open-minded, physically attractive, hardworking, mature, selfless, appreciative, resourceful, patient, shares the same interests with me, tidy, sensitive, disciplined, humble, supportive, skilled at household chores, emotionally stable, affectionate, independent, decisive, accepting, dedicated, helpful, resilient, educated, gentle, healthy, good listener, adventurous, and generous in a husband.

In this study, there are 179 female participants that are of ages 24 – 29 years old. Women in this age group are still in their reproductive age. It is also the age group where women think of marrying and having a family. The preferences of women from this age are almost the same with the preferences of 18 – 23 years old women. The differences are only the ranking of the characteristics and the preferences of the previous age group are higher by one. To begin with, faithful is the most preferred characteristic of women in this age group and religious comes in second. On the previous age group, faithful is the top 8 characteristic while religious is the top 1 they prefer in a husband. This result implies that women from this age group give utmost importance that the man that they will marry is loyal to them. It is not entirely different from the previous age group but women from this age group may have felt that they're starting to get old. Based on previous studies men preferred to date and marry younger women because it is one of the indicators of their reproductive value (Reynolds 1966; Buss & Barnes 1986; Buss 1989; Sprecher et al. 1994). Considering this finding, the preference of women from this age group for the characteristic faithful in a marriage partner suggests that they want a husband that will not cheat with them with a younger female. Aside from being faithful,

women from this age group also prefer the personality characteristics understanding, kind, responsible, caring, honest, loving, reliable, respectful, wise, mature, selfless, appreciative, resourceful, patient, sensitive, humble, supportive, affectionate, independent, decisive, accepting, dedicated, helpful, resilient, gentle, and generous. This result implies that women in this age group also give high regards to personality characteristics when it comes to looking for a marriage partner. Personality characteristics are also important in having a healthy relationship with someone. The preference for the characteristics faithful, responsible, caring, honest, loving, appreciative, affectionate, accepting, and gentle suggests women from this age group want a husband who will treasure them and their relationship. Loving and affectionate goes hand in hand in such a way that they want a husband who loves them deeply and doesn't fail on making them feel it. Moreover, their preference for an understanding, respectful, wise, mature, decisive, patient, and resilient husband suggest that they want a man that can understand and respect them in their relationship. Women in this age group are mostly establishing their careers and have a strong sense of self and independence, which may have led to these preferences. Also, it is inevitable to face problems in a relationship which led to these preferences because they want a husband who can work through the problems that they might face with them by being wise, mature, and decisive. They wouldn't want a man for a husband that will run away from problems when they encounter them. Furthermore, the preference for the characteristic kind, reliable, selfless, resourceful, supportive, dedicated, helpful, and generous suggests that women from this age group also want a husband who is willing to support them and their family. Their preference for the characteristic independent means that they want a husband who can

stand on their own two feet and support them without depending on other people such as their parents. Furthermore, women from this age group preferred a man that is religious and family oriented. Just like with the previous age group, these preferences are largely affected by culture. It is also the age group wherein the desire to marry and have their own families is high and because Filipinos give importance to religion and family that they are reflected on what women look for in a husband. Being family oriented, tidy, and skilled at household chores are also important in raising a family. Meanwhile, the characteristics intelligent, financially stable, ambitious, employed, educated, and healthy are indicators that a man has the resources to support a family. This implies that women from this age group also prefer it if their husband has the resources and is capable of supporting her and their family. Even if women nowadays get to have equal rights with men in terms of education and employment, it is still important to them that they will marry a man who is financially stable, educated, and employed. Thus, the practice of social assortative mating happens, wherein, instead of women marrying a man with less education than them, they will likely to marry a man with the same educational attainment (Bereczkei & Csanaky 1996). Moreover, women from this age group also prefer the characteristic physical attractiveness in a husband. This preference might also be influenced by the prevalence of social media platforms that can be used as a tool in finding and starting romantic relationships with others. However, it should be taken into consideration that women from this age group are mostly successful in their careers and are financially stable. According to the study of Tadinac & Hromatko (2007), the preferences of males and females were based on their position on the characteristics that are relevant to the opposite sex. That is, male values physical attractiveness in a woman

and female values financial stability in a man. Thus, if a woman is physically attractive, she will look for financial stability in a man; and if a man is financially stable, she will look for physical attractiveness in a woman. Therefore, because women from this age group are mostly employed and financially stable, they started to look for physical attractiveness in a marriage partner but it still remains that women from this age group prefer the characteristic financially stable more than physical attractiveness. It was also shown from the survey that 24 – 29 years old women prefer it if the man that they will marry shares the same interests with them and is adventurous. It was discussed earlier that it is hard to get comfortable with someone who doesn't shares your interests, which seems to have also appeared true with women from this age group. Furthermore, when it comes to social characteristics, women from this age group prefer the characteristics open-minded, disciplined, and good listener for a husband. This result suggests that they want a husband that knows how to act properly in front of other people, knows how to listen to people, and with whom they can freely talk to. Their preference for the characteristic emotionally stable also suggests that they want a husband who doesn't lose his temper easily.

Also, the survey shows that there are 29 characteristics 30 – 39 years old women prefer in a marriage partner. The top 10 characteristics that they prefer are religious, caring, loving, faithful, hardworking, family oriented, honest, patient, responsible, and respectful. Wherein, 100% of the female participants from this age group answered faithful, 93.18% answered caring, 90.91% answered loving, 86.36% answered faithful, 84.09% answered hardworking, 79.55% answered family oriented, 75% answered honest, 72.73% answered patient, 68.18% answered responsible, and respectful were also

answered by 68.18% of the 30 – 39 years old participants. Moreover, they also prefer the characteristics kind, understanding, wise, employed, humble, intelligent, appreciative, tidy, mature, resourceful, dedicated, gentle, accepting, good listener, genuine, affectionate, helpful, healthy, and independent in a marriage partner.

This age group has the least number of participants with only 44 out of the 742 female participants in this study. Biologically, 30 – 39 years old women are at the decline of their reproductive value. Women in these ages may have experienced a sense of urgency to get married and have children and also an anxiety that they might not be able to marry at all. This can be due to these reasons that this age group has the least number of preferences when looking for a husband compared to the two previous age groups. The results of this survey show 29 characteristics they prefer in a marriage partner. This result can also be affected by the number of 30 – 39 years old female participants. Nonetheless, the preferences of women in this age group were also mostly personality characteristics. Religious is also their most preferred characteristic in a husband, which is the same with 18 – 23 years old females in this study. Although it was not the case with 24 – 29 years old women, it cannot be denied that religious is a preferred characteristic by women across ages when looking for a marriage partner. Aside from these, 30 – 39 years old women prefer in a man the personality characteristics caring, loving, faithful, hardworking, honest, patient, responsible, respectful, kind, understanding, wise, humble, appreciative, mature, gentle, accepting, genuine, affectionate, and independent. Personality characteristics are important in building a strong and healthy relationship and this result implied that these characteristics are important to women in this age group. Their preference for caring, loving, faithful, honest, responsible, understanding,

appreciative, gentle, accepting, genuine, and affectionate implies that even in their age they want a husband who will love and care for them genuinely. They also want a man who will not cheat on them and leave them for another woman. It is important to them if the man can take responsibility in their relationship and work with her in strengthening their bond. Moreover, their preference for the characteristics patient, respectful, wise, humble, and mature in a husband suggests that women from this age group want partner who can handle relationships along with its ups and downs well. Being married, it is inevitable to face problems that can shake the foundation of their relationship, the preferences for these characteristics imply that a man will be able to face and solve these difficulties effectively with his wife. Also, the preference for hardworking, kind, resourceful, dedicated, helpful, and independent husband implies that 30 – 39 years old women want a partner who is willing to support her and their children. This is the same with the two previous age groups indicating that women across ages prefer it if the man that they will marry is willing to share his resources to them and to the family that they will build. One thing that is different in this age group however is that, they do not prefer the characteristic financially stable in a man but they prefer the characteristics hardworking, employed, intelligent, and healthy which are indicators that a man has the resources to support a family. Women from this age group are mostly financially stable and are experiencing a sense of urgency to get married which may have affected these preferences. For them, it can be that as long as they have a job and can help them with the finances needed in building a family is enough even if they themselves get to be the main provider instead of their husband. Another characteristic that women from this age group prefer in a husband is family oriented. The same with being religious, this

characteristic is also largely influenced by culture because Filipinos value their families above all else. This reason largely influenced women's preference for this characteristic. Aside from this reason, being family oriented along with being tidy indicate that a man is willing to raise a family of his own and is ready to bear its responsibilities. Lastly, they prefer the social characteristic good listener in a husband which suggest that women from this age group prefer it if they can talk easily with their partners because they know that they will listen to what they have to say. It is also important to them that they can communicate with their husbands effectively because lack of communication can be a cause of relationship problems.

Implications of Today's Male and Female Mate Preferences on How Filipino Young Adults Select a Marriage Partner

The characteristics preferred by men and women in a marriage partner affects how today's Filipino young adults select a partner for marriage. Today's mate preferences affect the strategies employed by males and females in finding a partner. Knowing that these are the characteristics sought after by the opposite sex, they will tend to display characteristics that can attract a potential partner. For example, women will display characteristics such as physical attractiveness, good personality, social competence, and financial stability because these are what men look for in a wife. On the other hand, men will display characteristics such as good personality, financial stability, social competence, and physical attractiveness because these are sought by women in a husband. It is the same with the findings of Buss & Schmitt (1996) wherein, men and women who seek either short-term or long-term relationships will perform strategies that will attract the opposite sex by displaying the characteristics that men and women are

looking for in a partner. This is why dating is an integral part of forming a relationship, because through this act men and women get to know one another. Moreover, knowing the preferences of each sex and their position on those characteristics affect what men and women require in a marriage partner. Thus, if a woman possesses the characteristics men are looking for in a wife, the former will look for characteristics in the latter that they look for in a husband. For example, if a woman can offer physical attractiveness in a man, she will demand a husband that has the characteristics equivalent of what she can offer to him like financial stability if theory of parental investment is being considered or physical attractiveness if sexual selection theory or assortative mating is being measured. Likewise, if a man possesses the characteristics women are looking for in a husband, the former will look for characteristics in the latter that they look for in a wife. For example, if a man can offer financial stability in a woman, he will demand a wife that has the characteristics equivalent of what he can offer to her like physical attractiveness or being financially stable as well. The same goes with the other characteristics desired by men and women in a marriage partner. The bottom-line is that, men and women will look for the characteristics in a marriage partner that are equivalent of the characteristics that they themselves can offer.

Chapter IV

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary of the Study

Men and women enter the sacrament matrimony as one way of forming long-term relationships with other individuals. This decision resulted from specific choices that may be influenced by the experiences men and women have faced through time. In previous studies, it was shown that men preferred women who are physically attractive and women preferred men who can provide for the family (Buss 1989; Wiederman 1993; Bereczkei & Csanaky 1996; Tadinac & Hromatko 2007). This research was conducted in order to determine the mate preferences of Filipino young adults in selecting a marriage partner and its implications on how they look for a partner.

The focus of this study was heterosexual, unmarried Filipino men and women from ages 18 to 39 years old. The participants were chosen through purposive sampling wherein, those who fits the criteria were targeted to participate in the research. The survey was conducted online with the use of Google forms that were sent to the participants via email and social media platforms. The participants were also asked to share the link of survey to their family, friends, and acquaintance that fit the criteria of the study. The data gathered from the participants have undergone lexical analysis and frequencies in order to generate the list of characteristics men and women look for in a marriage partner. The list of preferences of male and female in a marriage partner based on three age groups, 18 – 23 years old, 24 – 29 years old, and 30 – 39 years old were also generated.

Summary of Results

The participants of this study included 1,183 heterosexual and unmarried men and women from ages 18 to 39 years old (37.3% men: n 441, mean age 22.81, SD 3.126; 62.7% women: n 742, mean age 23.15, SD 3.795). Furthermore, out of the 441 male participants in this study, 317 were 18 – 23 years old, 109 were 24 – 29 years old, and 15 were 30 – 39 years old. Meanwhile, out of the 742 female participants in this study, 519 were 18 – 23 years old, 179 were 24 – 29 years old, and 44 were 30 – 39 years old. Answers from married individuals were removed from this study because it only focused on the characteristics men and women look for in a marriage partner. The characteristics were ranked from the most preferred to the least preferred depending on the number of times these characteristics were answered in the survey. However, it is noteworthy to remember that this doesn't mean that the least preferred characteristic is not important in the selection of a marriage partner. This was only caused by how few of the participants answered the characteristic. The answers of the participants also do not speak for the preferences of other individuals, rather it speak of their preferences alone. Their answers were collected, and were ranked on how many individuals answered the characteristics which were then generalized to the population.

There were 30 characteristics both men and women look for in a marriage partner. The top 10 characteristics that they prefer are caring, understanding, faithful, religious, kind, responsible, family oriented, honest, intelligent, and physically attractive. They also prefer the characteristics loving, hardworking, ambitious, humorous, financially stable, respectful, and patient, mature, reliable, resourceful, selfless, helpful, humble, accepting, and skilled at household chores, independent, sociable, supportive, resilient, and

adventurous in a marriage partner. Both sex preferred these characteristics but with different levels of preference for each sex. It is also interesting that almost all of the characteristics men look for in a wife were also preferred by women in a husband. Thus, men and women are alike when it comes to the characteristics they look for in selecting a marriage partner, and that differences are almost nonexistent between the preferred characteristics each sex look for in a husband or a wife which are congruent with the findings of Buss & Barnes (1986); Buss (1989); and Regan & Berscheid (1997).

For men, there are 34 characteristics that they prefer in a wife and the top 10 are physically attractive, caring, understanding, kind, faithful, and family oriented, loving, responsible, intelligent, and ambitious. Aside from these, they also prefer in a wife the characteristics honest, religious, cheerful, humorous, patient, hardworking, mature, helpful, accepting, skilled at household chores, sociable, confident, financially stable, respectful, independent, assertive, humble, selfless, socially and politically aware, reliable, resilient, supportive, resourceful, and adventurous in a wife. The survey shows that today's male mate preferences in a wife vary from being physically attractive, being family oriented and religious, and being able to earn money themselves to having a good personality. Furthermore, there is not much difference with the preferences of 18 – 23 years old males and 24 – 29 years old males in a marriage partner besides the rankings of characteristics. The preferences of 24 – 29 years old males are also higher by one compared to the preferences of 18 – 23 years old. On the other hand, 30 – 39 years old men have the least number of preferences. This implies that age has effect on the preferences of males when looking for a marriage partner. However, it does not follow the pattern that as they grow older, they tend to be less choosy in selecting a partner. This

is only true with the last age group wherein, they only have 13 characteristics that they look for in a wife. Moreover, physical attractiveness is the most preferred characteristic by both 18 – 23 years old and 24 – 29 years old men but this characteristic is not preferred by 30 – 39 years old men in a marriage partner. Men from the last age group mostly focus on personality characteristics and the characteristics that are essential in raising a family with their preferences in a wife.

Meanwhile, women have 48 characteristics that they look for in a husband. The characteristics religious, responsible, caring, faithful, understanding, honest, family oriented, intelligent, kind, and loving are the top 10 characteristics that they prefer. Additionally, they prefer in a man the characteristics hardworking, financially stable, respectful, wise, employed, physically attractive, ambitious, humorous, reliable, patient, mature, open-minded, shares the same interests with me, appreciative, resourceful, selfless, humble, tidy, sensitive, affectionate, dedicated, skilled at household chores, independent, disciplined, supportive, adventurous, emotionally stable, helpful, accepting, good listener, decisive, genuine, healthy, educated, resilient, sociable, and generous. This result shows that female's mate preferences in a husband mostly focus on personality characteristics but they also give importance to characteristics that indicate a man's resource acquisition, sociability, and physical traits. They also have more preferences compared to men which imply that women are more demanding in choosing a marriage partner compared to men. The result that age has an effect on their preferences in a marriage partner is also true for women. They also follow the pattern that as they age their preferences tends to be less in a husband. This result implies that women tend to be less demanding on what they look for in a marriage partner as they grow older. This can

also be because the reproductive value of women is affected by age. The results of the survey show that 18 – 23 years old women has the most number of preferences, followed by 24 – 29 years old women, and the age group with the least number of preferences are 30 – 39 years old women. However, the preferences of the first age group are only higher by one with the preferences of the second age group. The differences also almost only lie with how the preferred characteristics were ranked on both age groups. The decline on preferred characteristics is mostly evident on the last age group wherein they have 29 preferences in a husband; this is comparably lower than the 46 characteristics preferred by 18 – 23 years old females, and the 45 characteristics preferred by 24 – 29 years old females. Thus, being less demanding in what they look for in a marriage partner is true on the last age group, this result can also be because they feel anxious of not being able to marry and have children because age is against them. Childbearing tends to become difficult once a woman turn 30 and will only get tougher as she gets older which have affected the preferences of the last age group in looking for a husband. Men also prefer to marry younger women that also affect their preferences.

The characteristics preferred by men and women have implications on how today's Filipino young adults select a marriage partner. Knowing these preferences affects the strategies use by males and females when looking for a partner by displaying characteristics sought after by the opposite sex to attract them. Also, knowing their position on the characteristics preferred by the opposite sex affects what men and women prefer in a marriage partner by looking for the characteristics that is equivalent of their values as a husband or a wife.

Conclusion

This study has provided a list of characteristics men and women prefer in a marriage partner today. There are more characteristics that men and women look for in a marriage compared to previous studies such as that of Reynolds (1966); Buss (1989); Feingold (1992); Sprecher et al. (1994); Li et al. (2002); Tadinac & Hromatko (2007); and Bernarte et al. (2016). The preferences in this study are also more comprehensive as it listed all the characteristics they prefer in a husband or wife and not with simply saying someone with good personality and character, and someone who can support me. In this study the characteristics that correspond to those were all listed. The conclusions that were drawn from this study were, first, men and women were almost alike in their preferences when it comes of their marriage partner as almost all of the characteristics preferred by men were also preferred by women when looking for a marriage partner. Their only difference is the level of preference of both sexes on those characteristics. Second, women have more characteristics they look for in a marriage partner compared to men implying that they are more demanding when it comes to selecting a husband. Third, men and women give importance to personality characteristics as they were necessary in having a healthy relationship. Fourth, physical attractiveness remains as the most preferred characteristic men look for in a marriage partner. Fifth, women continue to prefer financial stability in a husband but the degree of valuation was lower. Sixth, age has an effect on the preferences of both sexes when it comes to 30 – 39 years old men and women. Lastly, these preferences affect the strategies used by men and women in attracting a marriage partner, likewise, it has an effect on how they select a marriage partner.

Limitations of the Study

There were a few limitations that have been encountered in this study. There were more female participants than men in the survey. Also, the distribution of the ages of the participants were not equal with 70.66% of them were 18 – 23 years old. These limitations made the results of the study saturated and made it seem like the characteristics drawn from the data gathered in this study to be more of a preference for this particular age group.

Recommendations

The characteristics Filipino young adults look for in a marriage partner has been provided in this study. For future researchers who would be interested in this field of study, the researcher recommends to investigate next if married Filipinos were married to individuals that possess their desired characteristics in a marriage partner. Furthermore, given the limitations encountered in this study the researcher recommends having equal or close to equal number of male and female participants to easily see the differences of both sex in their marriage partner. It is also recommended to have equal numbers of participants per age bracket to avoid saturated results and to be able to easily compare the answers of the participants based on their ages.

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APPENDIX A

Survey Form

Section 2 of 2

Survey

✕ ⋮

Answer the question below by listing down adjectives you are looking for in a spouse. You can list down as many as you want and you are free to answer in English or in Filipino. Please be specific on your answers and make sure to only list down adjectives.

If you are going to marry, what characteristics are you looking for in a husband / wife? *

Long answer text

APPENDIX B

What Men and Women Want: Mate Preferences of Filipino Young Adults in Selecting a Marriage Partner

Informed Consent Form

Name: Crissalyn Joy A. Dionisio

Phone: 0926-112-2707

Email: dionisio.cja@pnu.edu.ph

Purpose of the Study

You are being asked to participate in a research study. Before deciding whether to take part or not in this study, it is important to know why this research is being conducted. Please read the following information carefully. If you have anything that you are having a hard time understanding or if you need additional information about the study, you can ask the researcher about it.

The purpose of this study is to determine the mate preferences of Filipino young adults in selecting a marriage partner. This study aims to know what characteristics the Filipino youth are looking for in a spouse and their implications to evolutionary psychology. This paper also aims to help the youth, their parents and community, the education sector, and psychologists and counsellors gain their own insights that will help them to understand further the relationship decisions that are being done by Filipino young adults.

Study Procedures

Survey:

In conducting this study the researcher will abide with the following steps:

1. The participants in the survey will answer online an open-ended survey question about which characteristics they are looking for in a spouse.
2. The participants will need a stable internet connection and can take their time in answering the question.
3. The data gathered in the survey will be analyzed through lexical analysis and other statistical methods to achieve the purpose of this study.

Risks

The study will not involve any harmful procedures that may put the safety of the participants at risk. However, the participants can decline participating in the study if they feel uncomfortable in responding.

Benefits

In participating in this study you will gain knowledge and understanding of your own preferences and how it affects your decisions when it comes to relationships. Your participation will also help in making the current body of knowledge on mate selection more comprehensive in the country. The study will also benefit other young adults like you, their parents and community, including their schools, and also psychologists, counsellors and other helping professionals.

Confidentiality

Your responses in the questionnaire will be anonymous. Only the researcher will be able to see your answers and they will not be shown to other individuals outside of the research endeavour. Every effort necessary to preserve your confidentiality will be done by the researcher including the following:

- Keeping all the information gained from the participants including their information sheet and responses in a filing cabinet that only the researcher has access into.
- Destroying all the information and responses of the participants upon the completion of the study.

Voluntary Participation

Participation in this study is voluntary. It is within the discretion of the individual if they will take part or not in this study. If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to sign a consent form. After signing the consent form, if you wish to withdraw from this study, you are free to do so even without giving a reason. Any relationship you have with the researcher, if there is any, will not be affected upon your withdrawal from the study. If you withdraw from this study before the data gathering phase is done, your data will either be given back to you or destroyed.

I _____ have read and understand the provided information about the study and have had the opportunity to ask questions. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw any time, without giving any reason and without any cost. I understand that I will be given a copy of this consent form and I voluntarily agree to take part in this study.

Signature over Printed Name / Participant

Date

Signature over Printed Name / Researcher

APPENDIX C

Participant's Information Sheet

Name (Optional): _____

Birthday: _____ Age: _____ Civil Status: _____

Sex: _____ Male _____ Female Sexual Orientation: _____

Religion: _____ Ethnicity: _____

Address: _____