

# Legally Married and Live-In Couple: A Comparative Study of Family Union Styles among the Residence of Purok 1 and 8 in Barangay Santiago, Iligan City

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**Abstract**----This study aimed to know if there is a significant difference among the two types of family union couples, the “LEGAL” and the “LIVE-IN” based on some predetermined factors from selected residence in Iligan City specifically in Barangay Santiago.

The descriptive method of research was used in this study. There were forty (40) respondents who were chosen through purposive quota sampling procedure which were composed of twenty (20) married and (20) live-in couple mostly female. The researcher-made questionnaire was used in collecting the data. The percentage, weighted mean and t-test were used to analyze the results of the gathered data.

Based on the results, it revealed that there is a significant difference on the mean rating in terms of “Conflict Resolution” between the married and live-in couple respondents since a p-value of 0.025 less than a 0.05 level of significance. This implies that conflict resolution for the married and live-in couple respondents differ. This might be because most of the respondent’s is still young and cannot handle well their conflict to their spouse/partner. On the other hand, no significant difference on the mean rating in terms of financial aspects, parental style, personal happiness and sex life satisfaction between the married and live-in couple respondents since the respective p-values exceeded the 0.05 level of significance.

It was recommended that there should be thorough information dissemination about handling relationships, for the benefits of teenagers and young professionals to be sponsored by the government agencies and this topic should be taught by the parents in their families.

**Keywords**---Conflict Resolution, Descriptive Design, Legally Married, Live-in Partner, Social Science.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

ONE of the most common concerns of young people as they begin to pursue adult relationships is to engage their self someday in serious relationship which either legally married or live-in. Throughout the years young people have concerns about their ability to maintain a successful marriage.

Living together without marriage or live-in is not acceptable in our community, but why most of the young people choose this kind of relationship? People tend to live-in because they are afraid of getting married. The researcher observed that people who engage in live-in think that in this kind of relationship they will try out if their relationship will last longer and after that they will decide if they married soon. Just like the saying of (“Why buy the cow, when you can get the milk for free”?)

In the other hand marriage is the union of men and women who are committed to each other. People get married because this is the legal thing to do or this is the beautiful dream of most women, to marry a man they love the most. They also want to preserve the traditional family union. According the scripture “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh: Genesis 2:24. Marriage provides the most intimate of all human relationships.

This research aim to know if there is significant difference among the two types of couples, the “LEGALLY MARRIED COUPLE” AND THE “LIVE-IN COUPLE” based on some predetermined factors. This was conducted on the selected residence of Barangay Santiago, Iligan City.

Further, the findings of this study may give supporting data for those couples who consider getting into serious relationship, to aid them to make a wise choice.

### *Statement of the Problem*

This is a comparative study of the two types of family union among the residence of Barangay Santiago, specifically in purok 1 and 8. More specifically, this study sought to answer to the following questions:

1. What is the Socio-Demographic Profile of the Legally Married and Live-In Couple Respondents?
2. What is the financial status of the respondents?

3. How do the respondents resolve conflict?
4. What is the respondents' sex life satisfaction?
5. Is there a significant difference between the married and live-in couple in terms of the following;
  - a. Financial Aspects
  - b. Conflict Resolution
  - c. Sex Life Satisfaction

*Null Hypothesis*

The following null hypothesis is formulated and will be tested at the 0.05 level of significance.

H<sub>01</sub>: There is no significant difference between the married and live-in couple in terms of the following;

- a. Financial Aspects
- b. Conflict Resolution
- c. Sex Life Satisfaction

*Significance of the Study*

This study will be useful for the students to have a brighter view in terms of family union styles its advantage and disadvantage. This study will serve as basis for the teachers in promoting good values and guidance in making wise decision when it comes to settling down. The community can also use the data to promote family welfare among its constituents. The church can use these as a moral reference guide in the society the data could help them to support these moral teachings. And lastly for the parents this will serve as reference guide in molding their children values.

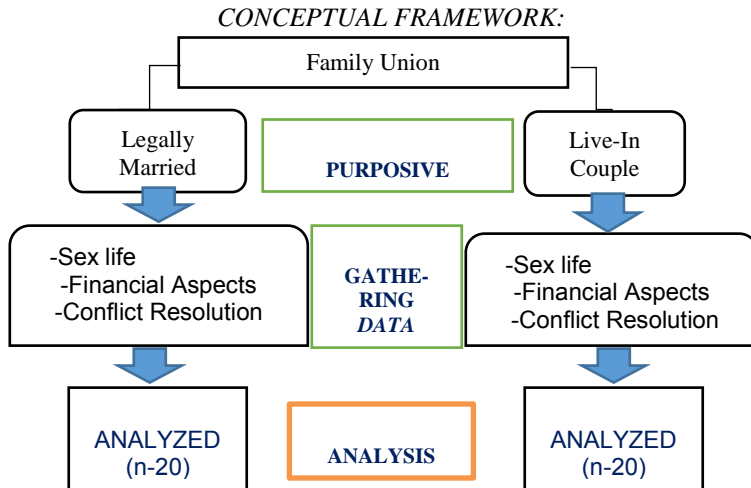


Fig. 1 A Comparative Study of Family Union

The diagram shows the family union styles which the researcher classified it in two types the legally married couple and live-in couple. Purposive sampling technique where used in gathering the data. The predetermined factors such as level of personal happiness, sex life, financial aspects, parental relation, conflict resolution and raising of children where compared and analyzed to determine if there is a significant differences.

*Scope and Delimitation of the Study*

Due to trending issues of legally married couple and live-in couple. The researchers conducted a study focuses mainly on the selected married/live-in couples among the Residence of Barangay Santiago, specifically at purok 1 and 8. The researcher limit the study to 20 live-in and legally married couple total of 40 respondents because of financial and time constraint. The socio-economic profile of the respondents such as gender, age, educational attainment, number of children, occupation, and estimated monthly income where included due to its perceived relationship to the family union styles factor's for comparison.

Moreover, the researchers limit the study to the following factors for comparison:

1. Financial Aspect
2. Conflict Resolution
3. Sex Life satisfaction

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND STUDIES

Cohabitation means joint living of a man without the formal legality of marriage. One major difference between this arrangement and marriage is that the latter takes place with the assumption of permanency, while those who cohabit do not typically enter into the relationship with assumption (Henslin, 1980). There is exclusive sexual involvement and cohabitation, but commitment is only for as long the relationship is mutually satisfying. When either of the couple tires of the arrangement, he or she is free to leave without having to go legal means or to face court.

According to Becker, the single most important factor underlying social transformation related to lower fertility, divorce, and cohabitation has been the rise in the earning power of women. An essential change in the gender division of labor has followed women's increased participation in the waged labor force. This change has reduced the economic advantages and necessity of marriage, and consequently, divorce rates have increased and marriage rates have made non-marriage more attractive. Reduction in the expected economic gains from marriage has made men and women more hesitant to enter marital unions, but a shared household still offers economic advantages. Cohabitation makes good sense because they capitalize on the benefits of a shared household without the economic risk associated with marriage.

In the Philippines, one type of cohabitation is the consensual illegal marriage arrangement which is a more or less permanent relationship, the main motive of which is presumably the avoidance of the expense and inconvenience of a marriage ceremony (Hunt, et al.) They normally raise children and carry on with have legal family without anyone even suspecting that there is no legal marriage. Couples who have legal impediments to marry, may also resort to such consensual union or common-laws relationships. Even when such illegitimate arrangement is known, as found in one barrio not far from manila, the cohabitation couple is accepted as long as neither man or woman is promiscuous, and for as long as they live harmoniously. The number of consensual relationships is

difficult to estimate, but formal mass marriage situation (Hunt, et al., 1987). The law exempts that they have lived together for at least five years and there is no legal impediments to marry each other (The Family Code of the Philippines, Chap.2, and Art.34).

According to Family Code Article I. Marriage is a legal contract of permanent union between a man and a woman entered into in accordance with law for the establishment of conjugal and family life. It is the foundation of the family and an inviolable social institution whose nature, consequences, and incidents are governed by law and not subject to stipulation, except that marriage settlements may fix the property relations during the marriage within the limits provided by this Code. (52a)

According to Article 1 of the Family code (Serumpio, 1991) that marriage is not only legal contract but is also the foundation of the family and inviolable social institution.

In the Philippines, one type of cohabitation is the consensual marriage arrangement which is a more or less permanent relationship, the main motive of which is presumably the avoidance of the expense and inconvenience of a marriage ceremony (Hunt, et al.) This arrangement is mostly practiced by lower class couples who decide to live and act as man and wife, and perform the same functions of a truly married couple. The number of consensual relationships is difficult to estimate, but formal mass marriages situation (Hunt, et al., 1987). The law exempts a man and a woman from the license requirement if they wish to formalize their union, provided that they have lived together for at least five years and there is no legal impediments to marry each other (The Family Code of the Philippines, Chap.2, Art.34).

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The researcher used the descriptive method of research. The goal is to collect information from the chosen respondents based on their experiences. This study was conducted with in two puroks in barangay Santiago specifically in purok 1 and 8, Iligan city. Santiago is one of the barangays which are in the outlying area of highly urbanized Iligan City. Barangay Santiago is well known where the dump site area is located. Aside from the dumping site it is also near in the sea. There are two subdivision found in this barangay. These are the orchid's home and new frontier. The researchers personally choose the purok 1 and 8 because the researchers believe that this area can provide the needed data. Also according to the barangay record this area has a rampant case in terms of live-in couple.

We used a purposive quota sampling procedure. There were (40) questionnaires distributed to the selected residence in Barangay Santiago, Iligan City. Purposive sampling is a type of non – probability sampling technique. The selected respondents were chosen because the researchers believe that they can provide the needed data. Also we used snowballing technique to obtain knowledge through acquaintances.

The Instrument used is a questionnaire and it was constructed by the researchers and some items were taken

from internet sources. <http://www.marriagebuilders.com/forms/enq.pdf> (level of personal happiness and sex life satisfaction page 2, 3 and 5)

The questionnaire consisted of two parts: Part 1 aimed to gather the personal profile of the respondents such as name (optional), sex, age, age started of being legally married/ live-in, years of being legally married/ live-in, educational attainment, and number of children, occupation and estimated monthly income. They were asked to read the questions and write their answers on the space provided. Part 2 dealt with different factors such as financial aspects, parent relation in both parties, conflict resolution, raising of children's, level of personal happiness and sex life. They were asked to read the questions that belongs to the identified factors and checked the column that corresponds to their answer.

In the Data Gathering Procedure. After the development of the questionnaire it was validated by the statistician and was tried out to sample respondents. The researchers personally distributed it to the respondents together with a letter of request to ensure for their cooperation. It was distributed to their respective houses. The researcher guided them on some items which were not clear to them. Since some of the respondents were not a high school graduate, the researchers explained some of the items unclear to them. After which the questionnaires were collected immediately.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter deals with the presentations and analyses of the gathered data. A sample of twenty (20) legally married couple and twenty (20) live-in couple from Barangay Santiago, Iligan City were chosen using purposive sampling who served as respondents of the study.

Problem 1. What is the Socio-Demographic Profile of the Legally Married and Live-In Couple Respondents?

As revealed in Table I majority of the respondents are female both in the legally married and live-in couple respondents.

TABLE I  
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS IN TERMS OF THEIR SEX IN THE LEGALLY MARRIED & LIVE-IN COUPLE

Sex	Legally Married Couple		Live-In Couple		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Female	18	90.0	17	85.0	35	87.5
Male	2	10.0	3	15.0	5	12.5
Total	20	100.0	20	100.0	40	100.0

Table II shows that most of the respondents for legally married couple belongs to an age bracket of 41 – 45 years old. The group comprises of 8 or 40% of the total respondents. While for the live-in couple majority of the respondents belongs to an age bracket of 21 – 25 years old. Again the group comprises of 8 or 40% of the total respondents. The youngest ages of the legally married and live-in couple respondents are 19 and 16 years old, respectively.

TABLE II  
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS IN TERMS OF THEIR AGE IN THE LEGALLY MARRIED & LIVE-IN COUPLE

Age (in years)	Legally Married Couple		Live-In Couple		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
16 – 20	1	5.0	7	35.0	8	20.0
21 – 25	5	25.0	8	40.0	13	32.5
26 – 30	1	5.0	4	20.0	5	12.5
31 – 35	3	15.0	0	0.0	3	7.5
36 – 40	2	10.0	0	0.0	2	5.0
41 – 45	8	40.0	1	5.0	9	22.5
Total	20	100.0	20	100.0	40	100.0

Note: Legally Married Couple: Mean = 36.2 Live-in Couple: Mean = 23.4

As depicted in the table below majority of the legally married couple respondents started with an age bracket of 20 – 24 years old as a couple. While for live-in couple majority started with an age bracket of 15 – 19 years old as couple.

TABLE III  
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS IN TERMS OF THEIR AGE STARTED OF BEING LEGALLY MARRIED & LIVE-IN COUPLE

Age Started of being legally married/ live-in (in years)	Legally Married Couple		Live-In Couple		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
15 – 19	4	20.0	11	55.0	15	37.5
20 – 24	13	65.0	8	40.0	21	52.5
25 – 29	3	15.0	0	0.0	3	7.5
30 – 34	0	0.0	1	5.0	1	2.5
Total	20	100.0	20	100.0	40	100.0

As evidenced in Table IV most of the respondents are together as couple for about 1- 9 years already both in the legally married and live-in respondents.

TABLE IV  
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS IN TERMS OF THEIR YEARS BEING LEGALLY MARRIED & LIVE-IN COUPLE

Years of being legally married/ live-in couple (in years)	Legally Married Couple		Live-In Couple		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
1 – 9	8	40.0	19	95.0	27	67.5
10 – 18	5	25.0	1	5.0	6	15.0
19 – 27	4	20.0	0	0.0	4	10.0
28 – 36	3	15.0	0	0.0	3	7.5
Total	20	100.0	20	100.0	40	100.0

As for educational attainment, most of the legally married couple respondents are high school graduate while for live-in couple respondents are high school level only.

TABLE V  
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS IN TERMS OF THEIR EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT IN THE LEGALLY MARRIED & LIVE-IN COUPLE

Educational Attainment	Legally Married Couple		Live-In Couple		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Elementary Level	2	10.0	1	5.0	3	7.5
Elementary Graduate	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
High School Level	5	25.0	7	35.0	12	30.0
High School Graduate	6	30.0	6	30.0	12	30.0
College Level	3	15.0	3	15.0	6	15.0
College Graduate	4	20.0	3	15.0	7	17.5
Total	20	100.0	20	100.0	40	100.0

As reflected in the below table most of the legally married couple respondents have 4 -6 children. The group comprises of 10 or 50% of the total respondents. While for the live-in couple respondents most of the respondents have 1 – 3 children. The group comprises of 17 or 85% of the total respondents.

TABLE VI  
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS IN TERMS OF THEIR NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE LEGALLY MARRIED AND LIVE-IN COUPLE

Number of Children	Legally Married Couple		Live-In Couple		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
0	0	0.0	2	10.0	2	5.0
1 – 3	9	45.0	17	85.0	26	65.0
4 – 6	10	50.0	1	5.0	11	27.5
7 – 9	1	5.0	0	0.0	1	2.5
Total	20	100.0	20	100.0	40	100.0

As revealed in Table VII majority of the respondents are housewife both in the legally married and live-in couple respondents.

TABLE VII  
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS IN TERMS OF THEIR OCCUPATION IN THE LEGALLY MARRIED AND LIVE-IN COUPLE

Occupation	Legally Married Couple		Live-In Couple		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Housewife	16	80.0	15	75.0	31	77.5
Service Crew	2	10.0	1	5.0	3	7.5
Manager	1	5.0	0	0.0	1	2.5
Sales Agent	1	5.0	0	0.0	1	2.5
Driver	0	0.0	2	10.0	2	5.0
Company Worker	0	0.0	2	10.0	2	5.0
Total	20	100.0	20	100.0	40	100.0

As for the monthly income most of the legally married couple respondents have an estimated monthly income of 5,000 – 8,000 while for the live-in couple respondents majority have an estimated monthly income of 1,000 – 4,000.

TABLE VIII  
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS IN TERMS OF THEIR ESTIMATED MONTHLY INCOME IN THE LEGALLY MARRIED & LIVE-IN COUPLE

Monthly Income	Legally Married Couple		Live-In Couple		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
1,000 – 4,000	5	25.0	11	55.0	16	40.0
5,000 – 8,000	9	45.0	5	25.0	14	35.0
9,000 – 12,000	5	25.0	3	15.0	8	20.0
13,000 – 15,000	1	5.0	1	5.0	2	5.0
Total	20	100.0	20	100.0	40	100.0

*Problem 2. What is the financial status of the respondents?*

As shown in the table below, the respondents on the averaged agreed on the financial aspects of the respondents. Moreover, among the items listed in the financial aspects statement 2 is ranked 1 by the legally married and live-in couple respondents. Legally married couple respondents strongly agreed statement 2 “Talk a lot about financial problem with your spouse/partner?” while live-in couple respondents agreed on this statement.

TABLE IX  
RATING OF RESPONDENTS IN TERMS OF THEIR FINANCIAL STATUS IN THE LEGALLY MARRIED AND LIVE-IN COUPLE

Financial Aspects	Legally Married Couple Mean Rating	Live-in Couple Mean Rating
1. Financially stable?	2.85 (Agree)	2.65 (Agree)
2. Talk a lot about financial problem with your spouse/partner?	3.40 (strongly Agree)	3.10 (Agree)
3. Fight about expenses.	2.65 (Agree)	2.75 (Agree)
4. My spouse/partner doesn't let me know in advance our finances.	2.45 (Disagree)	2.35 (Disagree)
5. Our financial records are not keep up-to-date.	2.40 (Disagree)	2.55 (Agree)
<b>Overall Mean Rating</b>	<b>2.75 (Agree)</b>	<b>2.68 (Agree)</b>

*Problem 3. How do the respondents resolve conflict?*

As depicted in the table below, the respondents on the averaged agreed on the conflict resolution of the respondents. Moreover, among the items listed in the conflict resolution statement 5 is ranked 1 by the legally married and live-in couple respondents. Legally married and live-in couple respondents strongly agreed statement 5 "Consult your spouse/partner immediately if you have a certain issues."

TABLE X  
RATING OF RESPONDENTS IN TERMS OF THEIR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN THE LEGALLY MARRIED AND LIVE-IN COUPLE

Conflict Resolution	Legally Married Couple Mean Rating	Live-In Couple Mean Rating
1. Had a hard time of adjustments with your spouse/partner.	2.55 (Agree)	3.00 (Agree)
2. Do you feel that your relationship would fall apart without your constant effort?	2.55 (Agree)	2.90 (Agree)
3. Lose control of your emotions during time of conflict.	2.60 (Agree)	3.00 (Agree)
4. Remain silent for long periods of time when the other is angry.	2.30 (Disagree)	2.75 (Agree)

*Problem 4. What is the respondents' sex life satisfaction?*

As shown in the table below, the respondents on the averaged agreed on the sex life satisfaction of the respondents. Moreover, among the items listed in the sex life satisfaction statement 2 is ranked 1 by the legally married couple respondents while statement 1 is one of the two statements that are ranked 1 by the live-in couple respondents. Legally married couple respondents strongly agreed statement 2 "I like the way my spouse/partner has sexual relations with me." While live-in couple respondents agreed statement 1, "My spouse/partner has sexual relations with me as often as I need."

TABLE XI  
RATING OF RESPONDENTS IN TERMS OF THEIR SEX LIFE SATISFACTION IN THE LEGALLY MARRIED AND LIVE-IN COUPLE

Sex Life Satisfaction	Legally Married Couple Mean Rating	Live-In Couple Mean Rating
1. My spouse/partner has sexual relations with me as often as I need.	3.05 (Agree)	3.05 (Agree)
2. I like the way my spouse/partner has sexual relations with me.	3.50 (Strongly Agree)	2.85 (Agree)
3. Get the satisfaction you want from your spouse/partner if you have sexual relations.	3.45 (Strongly Agree)	3.05 (Agree)
4. Use of contraceptives such as condom, pills or injectable.	2.65 (Agree)	2.15 (Disagree)
5. Aggressive and more rebellious in your sexual relation.	2.50 (Disagree)	2.50 (Disagree)
<b>Overall Mean Rating</b>	<b>3.03 (Agree)</b>	<b>2.72 (Agree)</b>

*Problem 5. Is there a significant difference between the Legally Married and Live-In couple in terms of the following?*

- (a) Financial Aspects
- (b) Conflict Resolution
- (c) Sex Life Satisfaction

Table XII reveals that there is a significant difference on the mean rating in terms of conflict resolution between the legally married and live-in couple respondents since a p-value of 0.025 is less than a 0.05 level of significance. This implies that conflict resolution for the legally married and live-in couple respondents differ. On the other hand, no significant difference on the mean rating in terms of financial aspects and sex life satisfaction between the legally married and live-in couple respondents since the respective p-values exceeded the 0.05 level of significance.

TABLE XII  
COMPUTED T-VALUE FOR THE COMPARISON BETWEEN LEGALLY MARRIED AND LIVE-IN COUPLE.

	Legally Married Couple Mean Rating	Live-In Couple Mean Rating	t-value	P-value	Remark
Financial Aspects	2.75	2.68	0.606	0.548	Not Significant
Conflict Resolution	2.68	3.01	-2.335	0.025	Significant
Sex life	3.03	2.72	0.488	0.631	Not significant

**Legend:** If P-value is less than  $\alpha = 0.05$  (level of significance), then the test is significant (i.e., there is significant difference); otherwise, the test is not significant (i.e., there is no significant difference).

## V. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main purpose of this research was to compare the legally married and live-in couple in their Family Union Styles. A sample (20) live-in and (20) legally married from Barangay Santiago was taken as respondent's thorough purposive quota sampling. The researcher made questionnaire was used to gather the data. The percentage weighted mean rating was used to describe the respondents' rating, to determine whether there is a significant difference in the rating between the legally married and live-in respondents, the two independent sample t-test were used to interpret the results.

Based on the findings, it showed that most of the respondents for legally married couple belong to an age bracket of 41-45 years old. While live in couple majority of respondents belong to age bracket of 21-25 years old. It also showed that for educational attainment, most of the legally married couple respondents are high school graduate while for live-in couple respondents are high school level only.

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are presented:

1. A seminar should be conducted to disseminate information in handling relationships among teenagers and young professionals which will be to be sponsored by the government agencies.
2. Similar studies must be conducted involving a bigger number of respondents which will include more male respondents in order to find out men's preferences in marriage partner.
3. The church and all religious groups should conduct thorough information campaign on marriage and family relationship to increase the knowledge and awareness of the community and the society about the topics.
4. There should be another studies conducted to have a deeper discussion of the related topic.
5. For the Department of Home Technology Education it can be a guide for Curriculum enrichment in home and family living subject.

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