

INFIDELITY: THE QUERIDA SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Introduction

Nary an individual has not in some way been affected by the Querida System in the Philippines. So pervasive are its effects that almost every Filipino has directly or indirectly been affected by this social phenomenon, yet the topic is taboo-existing yet denied of existence.

“Extra-marital affairs are the dark side of sexuality, the bit we would rather not look upon, that which we know exists but whose implications we would prefer not to discuss.” (Lake and Hills, 1979 p.8)

Infidelity is a foremost topic on many a mind, yet a topic discussed for the most part only in whispers. Other than gossiping about others' affairs, infidelity as a topic in Philippine society is seldom directly referred to.

In Pilipino “*pakikiapid*” or “*pangangalunya*”, terms for extra-marital affair are understood but seldom used except for legal and scholarly documents. Infidelity instead is referred to by the use of euphemisms such as “*paglalaro ng apoy*” or playing with fire—denoting infidelity's inherent danger, “*pamamangka sa dalawang ilog*” literally rowing up two rivers which denotes the difficulty of maintaining this simultaneous relationship, “*pagsusunong ng uling*” referring to inevitability of being tainted by the dirtiness of the enterprise by paralleling it to carrying charcoal and “*pangangaliwa*” literally turning left or going against the prescribed direction. The terms “*pagtukulasisi*” or the more modern “*pangtsitsiks*” liken infidelity to catching birds, while “*pambababae*” refers to collecting women. “*Kabit*” the Pilipino term for concubine, denotes a clinging attachment while *querida* or “*kirida*” originates from the Spanish term for beloved, with colloquial connotations of flirtatious or “*kiri*”, refers to one's mistress or paramour.

The pervasiveness of this social phenomenon, is evident in the amount of interest it generates. Much has been written about infidelity. It is a topic that has been regularly

and repeatedly featured in popular books and magazines. However there is a dearth of scientific study on this psycho-social phenomenon, and even more meager are published empirical studies on the Philippines' brand of infidelity, the Querida System.

Method

To determine the Filipino's sentiments on infidelity as well as estimate the prevalence of extra-marital affairs, 200 adult respondents were chosen by stratified sampling procedures from a pool of willing participants for the Nationwide survey.

In an attempt to gather data from respondents from all over the 12 regions of the Philippines, provincial-bound subjects were approached at the waiting areas of various transportation terminals, on the assumption that most people there have extra time on hand and would be more willing to spare the time needed to respond to the questionnaire. An equal number of men and women as well as individuals of various ages were approached. They were informed of the general nature of the study, assured of confidentiality, and told that their feelings and opinions on the matter would be appreciated. Willing participants were given a choice of an English or Pilipino questionnaire to fill out.

Of every five people approached at bus terminals approximately three were willing to respond. In the case of pier and airport respondents, approximately 2 out of seven people agreed to answer the questionnaire. Individuals in the 35 and above age range were generally more hesitant to participate compared to those in the 18 to 35 age group.

The total Nationwide subject pool was sorted by Sex (Male and Female), Age (18-34, 35 and over) and Socioeconomic Level (Upper and Lower) thus forming a 2 x 2 x 2 design.

Table 1. Distribution of Respondents for National Societal Survey on Infidelity

| SEX | Male | | Female | | Sub-Total |
|----------------|-----------|-------|-------------|-------|-----------|
| AGE | 18-34 | 35-up | 18-34 | 35-up | |
| SES Lower | 18 | 12 | 11 | 20 | 61 |
| Upper | 47 | 17 | 58 | 19 | 139 |
| Sub-total age | 65 | 29 | 69 | 37 | |
| Sub-total sex: | 94 | | 106 | | 200 |
| Sub-total SES | <35 = 134 | | >=/>35 = 66 | | |

Operational Definition of Terms

Infidelity is defined as a sexual relationship between a man currently living with his legal wife and a woman other than his legitimate spouse. The terms **affair** and **extramarital relationships** are also used interchangeably. Synonymous to this definition are the Pilipino terms of **pakikiapid**, **pangangalunya**, **pangangaliwa**, and **pangangirida**.

Adult is someone over the age of eighteen (18) years.

Sex refers to the person's gender, i.e., his being male or female.

Age is defined as being **Young** i.e., 18 to 34 years of age, or **Old** being over thirty-five years old.

Socio-Economic Status (SES) is defined as **Lower** or **Upper**. **Low SES** is determined by a total monthly family income of less than P5,000.00 and an educational attainment of High School or Vocational School or less. A P5,000 cut-off was considered in view of the computed poverty line for a family of six as per 1987 IBON figures. Considered **Upper SES** are individuals who have finished a professional degree, or whose family earns P5,000 or more per month.

Instrument: The Societal Survey on Infidelity

Questionnaire Construction: Content for the survey items included were collected from existing literature, interviews of experts in the field, as well as pre-test data. The resulting attitude survey consists of 31 statements using a four-point Likert scale (Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree to Strongly Disagree), while ten other items are of a multiple-choice format. Projective items have been preferred to control for socially desirable responses. The questionnaire was item-analyzed and pre-tested for ease of comprehension, and neutrality. There are an equal number of positively and negatively stated items. Each item in the questionnaire was deemed discriminatory in that all items included received a variety of responses upon pre-testing.

The questionnaire is divided into ten parts covering attitudes towards the propriety of affairs, the causes/reasons for having affairs, attitude towards the adulterer, the attitude towards and perception of the mistress, the effects of infidelity on the marriage, its effects on the legitimate family, as well as the effects on the illegitimate family. Also included are the perceived social sanctions regarding infidelity, an indicator of perceived pervasiveness of extra-marital affairs, as well as information regarding first and second hand experience with this social phenomenon. Classificatory demographic information as well as willingness for further participation is also sought.

A Pilipino version of the survey was also constructed. Terms used were checked for familiarity and for evoked positive, negative or neutral connotations. The questionnaire was then translated and back-translated several times until the discrepancies between the original version and the back-translation were considered insignificant and nuances of the statements in the original version were maintained. The English and Pilipino versions were again pre-tested (Appendices 1A-English Version, and 1B-Pilipino Version)

Analysis

Means and t-tests were done between sexes, men and women, the two age groups, i.e., young and older individuals, and across Socio-Economic Groups (lower and upper) for each of the following categories:

1. Attitude towards affair propriety
2. Attitude towards affair causes
3. Societal Sanctions
4. Attitude towards querida
5. Attitude towards adulterer
6. Attitude towards affair's effects on marriage
7. Attitude towards affair's effects on legitimate family
8. Attitude towards affair's effects on illegitimate family

Group mean scores of 1.0 to 1.6 and 1.65 to 2.2 were assessed as strongly agree and agree respectively, while scores ranging from 2.85 to 3.4 and 3.45 to 4.0 were considered disagree and strongly disagree. Mean scores between 2.25 and 2.8 were considered neutral and/or undecided.

Considered significant was a difference of $p=.1$ or better for Items, while a majority of significantly different items in a category was considered a significant difference for that category. Significant differences in four or more categories was considered a significant difference in that group's perceptions and attitudes towards the Querida System.

Actual pervasiveness was computed from responses to Items 36 to 39, while perceived pervasiveness was computed from responses to Item 35.

Comparative Analysis According to Level of Involvement Affected Respondents

A total of one hundred seventy individuals who had direct or indirect involvement with infidelity agreed to participate in the study. They were asked to respond to the Societal Survey on Infidelity. Participants of the Nationwide Sample who signified direct or indirect involvement were also included in this group.

Affected Respondents were sorted by level of involvement, i.e. Offspring, Wives, Husbands, Mistresses.

Table 2. Distribution of Female Affected Respondents for Societal Survey on Infidelity

| Female=99 | Offspring | | Not Offspring | | SUB-TOTAL |
|-----------|-----------|----------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| | Mistress | Not Mist | Mistress | Not Mist | |
| Wife | 77 | 11 | 3 | 24 | 45 |
| Not Wife | 10 | 37 | 7 | 0 | 54 |
| Subtotal | 17 | 48 | 10 | 24 | |
| Total | 65 | | 34 | | 99 |

Table 3. Distribution of Male Affected Respondents for Societal Survey on Infidelity

| Male=71 | Offspring | Not Offspring | Total |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|-------|
| Husband | 15 | 19 | 34 |
| Not Husband | 37 | 0 | 37 |
| Total | 52 | 19 | 71 |

Instruments: Societal Survey on Infidelity

Analysis

The total subject pool was grouped into Noninvolved Respondents (NR) and Affected Respondents. Affected Respondents were further grouped as Offspring, Wives, Husbands and Mistresses.

Means and t-tests were done between the various Affected Respondents (AR), i.e. Offspring, Wives, Adulterers and Mistresses and Noninvolved Respondents, as well as the various AR groups and Other Affected Respondents (OAR) for each of the following categories:

1. Attitude towards affair propriety
2. Attitude towards affair causes

3. Societal Sanctions
4. Attitude towards querida
5. Attitude towards adulterer
6. Attitude towards affair's effects on marriage
7. Attitude towards affair's effects on legitimate family
8. Attitude towards affair's effects on illegitimate family

Considered significant was a difference of $p=.1$ or better for Items, while a majority of significantly different items in a category was considered a significant difference for that category. Significant differences in four or more categories was considered a significant difference in that group's perceptions and attitudes towards the Querida System.

Results and Discussion of Nationwide Survey Results Pervasiveness

Perceived Pervasiveness

Of the 200 respondents nationwide, 44 or 22% stated they suspected none of their friends, relatives and acquaintances of having had an affair, 20 or 10% suspected at least one person and 28.5% (57 respondents) felt they knew of at least 3 individuals having had an affair. Twenty-nine (28.5%) of those surveyed signified they knew of at least five individuals who had been involved in affairs while 28 (14%) stated they knew of at least ten persons having had an affair. Twenty-three respondents or 11.5% did not answer this question.

Totaling the stated number of individuals having been involved in an affair for each respondent we have six hundred sixteen individuals. Given that a total of 178 respondents answered

Table 4. The distribution of Nation-wide Respondents question:
"How many people do you know have had an affair?"

| | NO ANSWER | NO ONE | ONE | <THREE | <FIVE | <TEN | TOTAL |
|---|-----------|--------|-----|--------|-------|------|-------|
| f | 23 | 44 | 20 | 57 | 29 | 28 | 178 |
| % | 11.5% | 22% | 10% | 28.5% | 14.5% | 14% | 100% |

Item 36 requires that one stop and think of specific people that one knows. Feedback regarding this item shows that for many of the respondents this is no easy task. Under-reporting is also prevalent as seen from comparison of responses to this item and Items 36 to 39. The level of difficulty and relative sensitivity of this item may account for the unusually large number of non-responses it elicited.

As such the estimate for perceived pervasiveness is likely to be a conservative one.

Actual Pervasiveness

Only 2% of nationwide respondents admit to having had an affair, (Item 39). However, 67 or 33.5% of the 200 respondents report having been directly or indirectly involved in an affair. Twenty-four percent of the respondents state that their fathers have had an affair. Fifteen respondents (7.5%) indicate that their spouse had an affair. None of the respondents admit that their mother has had an affair (Item 38).

Table 5. Frequencies and Percentages of Responses to Items on Direct and Indirect Involvement in Affairs among Nationwide Respondents

| Item | Yes | No | No Resp |
|---------------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| 36. My spouse has had an affair | 15 7.5% | 165 82.5% | 20 10% |
| 37. My father has had an affair | 48 24 % | 149 74.5% | 3 1.5% |
| 38. My mother has had an affair | 0 0 | 193 96.5% | 7 3.5% |
| 39. I have had an affair | 4 2% | 187 93.5% | 9 4.5% |

The distribution of responses to Items 36 to 39 shows that the number of respondents who admit direct or indirect involvement with infidelity may be misleadingly low in estimating their actual numbers. Analysis of these items bring forth interesting findings. Whereas the number of respondents are almost equal in terms of sex distribution. There are many more women who noted that their husbands have had an affair than the number of men who state that they have had an affair.

Projective techniques have shown that individuals tend to avoid issues that cause internal conflict more frequently than non-threatening ones. A look at the Societal Survey on Infidelity shows that whereas all previous items innocuously ask for opinions about issues at large, Items 35 to 40 require possibly sensitive information about oneself.

Table 6. Distribution of Responses to Item 36: "My spouse has had an affair." and Item 39: "I have had an affair." by Sex among Nationwide respondents.

| | | No Resp | No | Yes | Total |
|---------|--------|---------|-----|-----|-------|
| Item 36 | Female | 12 | 81 | 13 | 106 |
| | Male | 8 | 84 | 2 | 94 |
| | Total | 20 | 165 | 15 | 200 |
| Item 39 | Female | 7 | 98 | 1 | 106 |
| | Male | 2 | 89 | 3 | 94 |
| | Total | 9 | 187 | 4 | 200 |

Items 36, 38, 39 show a large number of respondents who failed to note their answer compared to the number of affirmative answers to these statements, as well as the average number of tallied blanks for other Items in the survey. This is specially true of Item 36.

Although many women do not conceal their husband's affair, many wives feel that their husband's indiscretion is reflective of their shortcomings as a wife; as such Item 36 may be sensitive for these women. (See discussion results of Wives for section on affair causes.) For men, having an adulterous wife is a major blow on their concept of masculinity. (This has been noted in the results and discussion on Husbands' views on the Querida System.)

Item 37 has the least number of blanks and can also be deemed the least incriminating of these items. This affirms earlier findings that show that although offspring are affected by infidelity, their involvement in the Querida System is non-contributory and indirect.

Responses of the various groups on the Societal Survey on Infidelity show that of all Affected Respondents, it is the adulteress who is most subjected to scorn. This being the case, it is understandable that rather than lie outright, some of these women would rather avoid conflict and not answer the question.

Data also reveal the prevalence of multiple affairs among those unfaithful. Given all this; figures for the actual prevalence of extra-marital affairs are likely conservative estimates.

Propriety of Affairs

In considering the acceptability of affairs, responses to items number 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 yield unconditional general disapproval of extra-marital affairs. Even given various mitigating circumstances, extra-marital sex still remains in the realm of the inappropriate. Escaping discovery, being able to afford it, providing for one's legitimate family, and not siring illegitimate offspring generally do not make affairs more palatable. Extra-marital liaisons are perceived as defying God's laws. Affairs are frowned upon for men and even more so for women. It is only the lower income earners who are uncertain of an affair's acceptability should one be able to afford it.

Despite these seemingly strong sentiments, when directly asked, respondents are hard put at condemning adulterous behavior. Despite personal disapproval of extra-marital relations, behaviorally, affairs are widely tolerated. This is seen in response to Item 1 wherein only 24% categorically found affairs not acceptable, these together with another 13% felt that affairs are merely tolerated. Although only 11% found extra-marital relations as acceptable, 46.5% state that extra-marital affairs are okay for others but not for themselves.

Affirmation of this stance is also found in analyzing the results of Item 34 wherein nonchalance and gossip are found to be the normative responses to others' indiscretions.

Affair Causes

Five of the six highest ranked probable reasons the sample perceives for having an affair describe marital or familial dissatisfaction. These are a lousy marriage, the neglect of kids/household duties, neglect of the spouse, negative personality traits of the spouse and not having legitimate children. Extra-marital affairs are seen as a response to felt deficits in the marital and familial situation rather than as arising from convenience or a reaction to circumstances outside of the marriage.

Fifth ranking is being tricked or seduced, while the seventh selected choice is being in love closely followed by the perception of men giving in to their naturally polygamous tendencies. Opportunity arising, satisfying one's physical needs, trying something else, doing what everyone else is doing or even getting away from problems, are each chosen by less than 10% of those surveyed.

Society is cautious at laying blame squarely on either the husband or the wife. Both items 14 and 18 present an ambivalent position on this. These results indicate that generalizations are likely to be contested. Respondents as a whole are uncertain if familial patterns of infidelity exist, but older and lower SES respondents perceive they do.

Men appear to have the prerogative to give in to perceived polygamous tendencies. It is, however, a common sentiment that the control of extra-marital relations rests more heavily on the shoulders of the wife. Its occurrence being highly dependent on the wife's ability to conform to her role of providing a fulfilling marital and family life (Item 16). This is also supported by the most likely perceived causes of extra-marital liaisons that distinctly point to unfavorable marital circumstances.

The Filipina is seen as responsible for keeping her man happy. This appears true for women in general, whether wife or mistress.

Societal Factions

Religion appears to be a major influence in deciding one's perceptions about extra-marital relations, and a primary deterrent for involvement in affairs as seen in response to Items 8 and 40e especially among older respondents.

The highly common and dreaded occurrence of being talked about in gossip circles is noted as society's primary reaction to infidelity. This is even more likely in upper SES groups. Other than talk, many do not directly react when confronted with an affair. Not as common a reaction, but more likely resorted to by upper SES respondents would be to inform the wife. Telling the husband is less likely. Although adulterers are generally not avoided (Item 40), there is a loss of respect for unfaithful men (Item 22). This is further supported by the undesirability of those known to have had affairs as prospective in-laws (Items 10 and 21).

This disregard is even more pronounced for adulterous women. The possible recurrence of one's personal history is underscored by the strongly held belief that an affair is reasonable cause for separation. An affair's negative effects and threatening consequences on marriage and family serve as a warning for most. Although many respondents were uncertain if adultery runs in families, their opposing intermarriage with those known to have had affairs can be seen as a preventive measure against unwanted complications.

Attitude Towards Querida

Although adulterous men are frowned upon, women who stray are met with the nation's stronger disapproval. Men and older respondents generally perceived the mistresses to be in a disadvantaged position especially in comparison to the wife. Women however are uncertain of this.

The querida is primarily expected to gratify the needs of her lover. She is perceived to primarily respond to emotional needs without being able to expect anything in return. This is even more likely among lower SES respondents. For the most part,

physical and ego-boosting needs like being good in bed, physically attractive or even in love with their lover are less important considerations. Nationwide respondents expect mistresses to be better understanding of their men, have a pleasing personality and do everything to please their lovers without making any demands and being content with whatever they get.

Differences between sexes regarding respondents' attitudes towards mistresses are seen in items which compare her position with that of the wife. While men estimate the wife's position as better than that of the mistresses, women are uncertain of this (Item 15, $p=.05$). Both respondents disagree that it would be nice to be a *querida*, but women are more likely to appraise this as true (Item 12). It would appear that women feel that a mistress has advantages over the wife, but estimated repercussions of being a *querida* outweigh the advantages.

When compared to men, women are more likely to see a wife as disadvantaged. They are unsure if she is better off than the mistress. It is of interest to note that while women are more likely to speculate that mistresses take advantage of their men, men observe that this is possibly not the case (Item 13, $p=.01$). Women uncertain of a mistress' sphere of influence, appear to see her as possessing more power. Could it be a woman's defense mechanism that she overestimates a mistress' disadvantages as well?

Although not directly avoided in social and professional circles, the nation does not welcome women who have had affairs as future daughters or sisters-in-law. This would be indicative of their acceptability in entering one's more superficial personal space but not gaining entry into closer personal sphere.

Attitude Towards Adulterer

Adulterous men are disapproved of. A man known to have had an affair is generally perceived as losing community respect, although older respondents are uncertain of this. Although not openly ostracized they are not likely to be welcome as a prospective family member. Having had an affair may signify a mark of distrust or even dishonor for men who have gotten themselves into such relations.

It is, however, interesting to note that taken as a whole, nationwide respondents were unsure whether men are mainly responsible for affairs or whether they take advantage of their mistresses. Older respondents are certain this is the case, while richer respondents tend to disagree. There is also no general agreement as to whether men with *queridas* have the best of both worlds, but the more affluent tend to disagree that this may be an advantage.

Effects on Marriage

Nationwide respondents strongly feel that affairs threaten a marriage. Families are unequivocally perceived as suffering from the affair. The marriage is generally perceived as threatened even if the husband continues to come home to his wife. Lower SES respondents are uncertain if this is the case. Affairs are seen as reasonable cause for separation.

Although wives are perceived to be better off than a mistress, they are also seen as particularly losing from her husband's indiscretion. Whether or not wives quietly bear this situation is uncertain. There appears to be increasing disagreement regarding this passive stance especially among younger respondents. Younger women are seen as becoming more assertive in the marital arena.

Attitude Towards Legitimate Family

The effect of affairs reverberate within the family. It is strongly felt that time and money spent on the affair rightly belongs to the legitimate family. And even if the financial responsibilities toward the legitimate families are met, affairs do not become more palatable. These sentiments are even stronger among upper SES respondents. This indicates that although financial support may be important, it is not considered the only issue as far as affairs are concerned. Wives and legitimate offspring are seen as losing most from an affair. Separation is seen as a justifiable recourse. An extra-marital liaison is considered a serious threat that jeopardizes the stability of the family.

Attitude Towards Illegitimate Family

The extra-marital relationship is denied rights and seen as a violation of approved social patterns. Even without siring illegitimate offspring, affairs are met with general disapproval. Resources spent on the affair are presumed to deprive the legitimate family of what is rightfully theirs.

Those who get involved in an affair are expected to be content with whatever they may get. This is not only specially true of women who get involved with married men, but also affects a mistress' offspring as well. This sentiment is further supported by a general ambivalence as to whether children borne out of an extra-marital liaison should be supported. Older and more affluent respondents are more inclined to concede support. Although society agrees that children are victims of their parents' indiscretion, Nationwide respondents perceive illegitimate children as the least bereft when considering extra-marital affairs. Richer respondents however, are a bit more sympathetic to their plight.

Offspring Analysis According to Level of Involvement

Offspring respondents significantly differ from Noninvolved Respondents in their attitudes towards the propriety of affairs, their perceived causes and social sanctions. Although no significant difference is found regarding their attitude towards the querida, there are significant differences in their attitude towards the adulterer, perceived effects on the marriage as well as attitudes towards the legitimate and illegitimate families.

Of the eight areas analyzed regarding the Querida System, Offspring significantly differ from OAR only in their attitude towards the Querida.

Propriety of the Affair

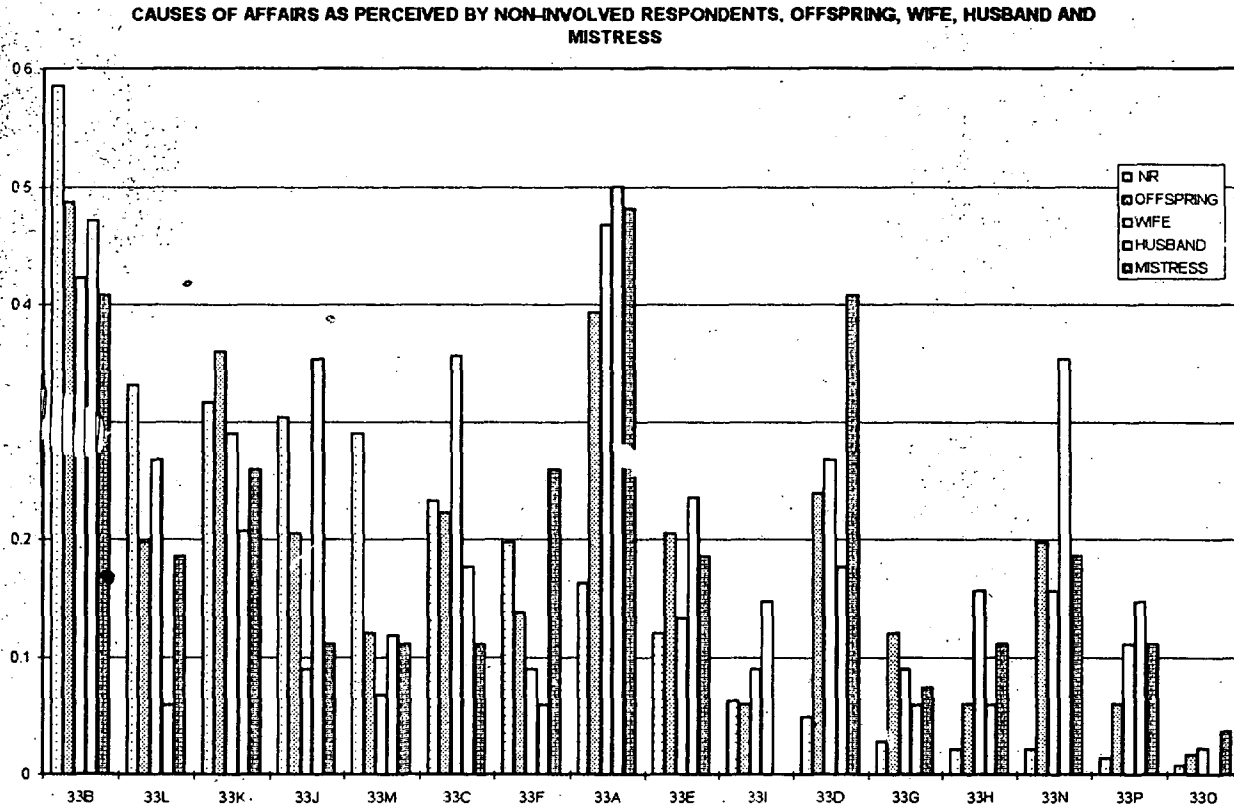
Noninvolved respondents tend to take a more definitive stand with regard to their attitudes toward the Querida System, compared to offspring who tend to adopt a significantly more toned-down perspective (Items 4 $p=.001$, 5 $p=.01$, 7 $p=.001$). Offspring are uncertain as to whether affairs are acceptable for men (Item 6 $p=.001$), or affairs can be justified should one be able to afford it (Item 2, $p=.001$), and can meet the material needs of the legitimate family (Item 29 $p=.001$). This is perhaps an offshoot of a need to adapt to a situation wherein one needs to bridge the dissonance between the ideal and what their reality is.

While OAR are uncertain if affairs are acceptable provided these are kept secret and there are no illegitimate children, Offspring disagree that this is the case (Items 4 $p=.05$, Item 29 $p=.1$). Perhaps, having an adulterous parent makes them more aware that no secret remains hidden forever and when the truth does come to fore there are emotional consequences that they, as offspring, must bear. It would be plausible that they, more than any of the other affected respondents, realize that offspring are the most indirectly involved parties, bearing consequences while having nothing to do with the causes for or perpetuation of this illicit behavior.

Affair Causes

Offspring significantly differ from Noninvolved Respondents in what they attribute are reasons for having an affair. Offspring are uncertain if having a good wife will prevent a man from having an affair (Item 16 $p=.001$) while Noninvolved Respondents believe that being a dutiful wife is a plausible deterrent. Although Offspring are also unsure if a man is mainly responsible for affairs they would tend to see this as the case significantly more often than Noninvolved Respondents (Item 18 $p=.05$). From this it can be seen that they are reluctant to completely blame either parent, they are also aware of their fathers' culpability. To do so would be tantamount to choosing sides, rejecting one's primary source of love and shaking the foundations of one's stability.

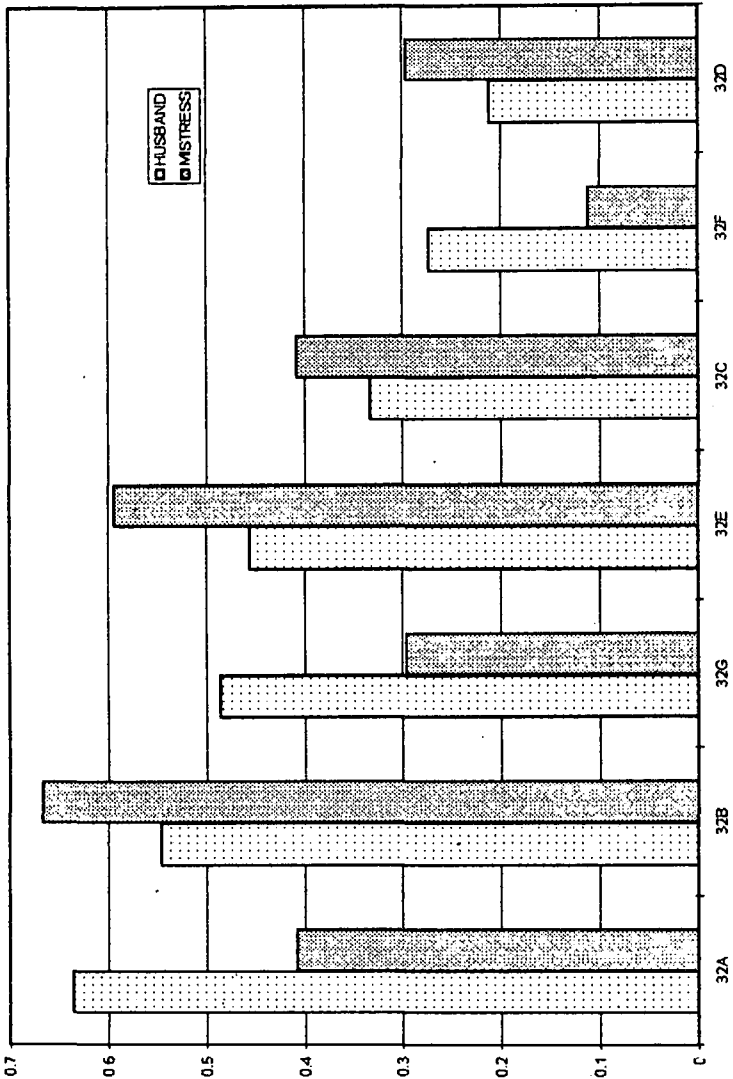
Figure 1. Causes of Affairs as Perceived by Non-Involved Respondents, Offspring, Wife, Husband and Mistress



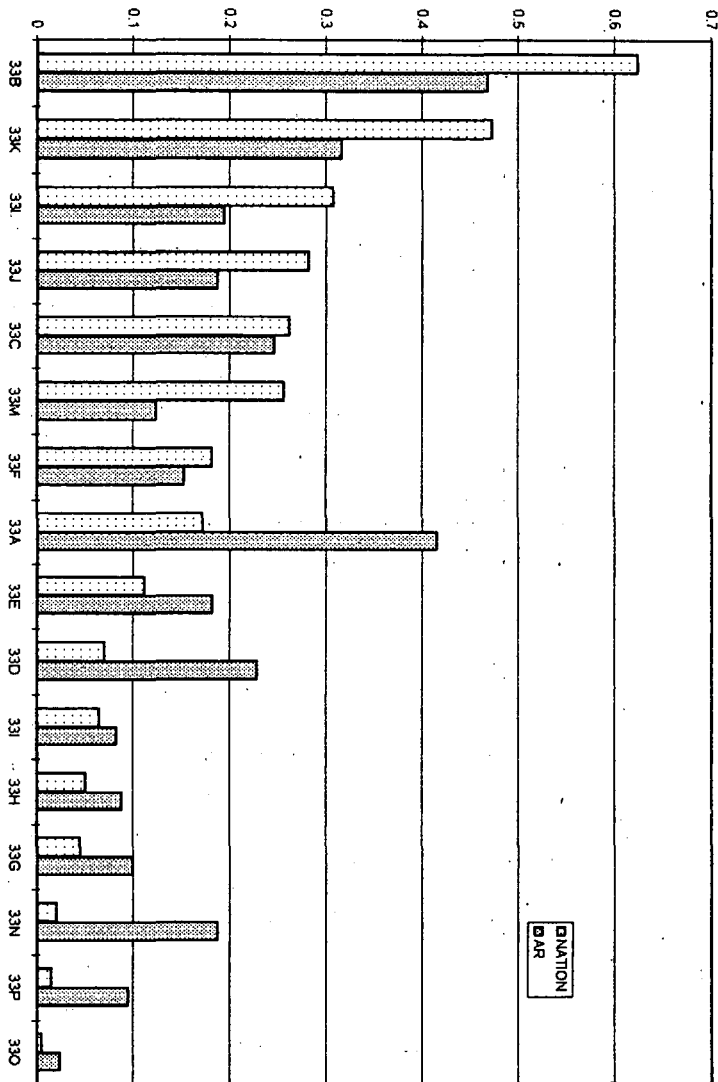
Offspring also significantly differ from Noninvolved Respondents in their assessment of precipitating circumstances that may lead to an affair. Although as a whole, Offspring also rank a lousy marriage as a primary reason, they did so significantly less often than Noninvolved Respondents. They cite an array of causes less noticed by the Noninvolved others.

See Figure

CHARACTERISTICS OF QUERIDA AS PERCEIVED BY HUSBAND AND MISTRESS



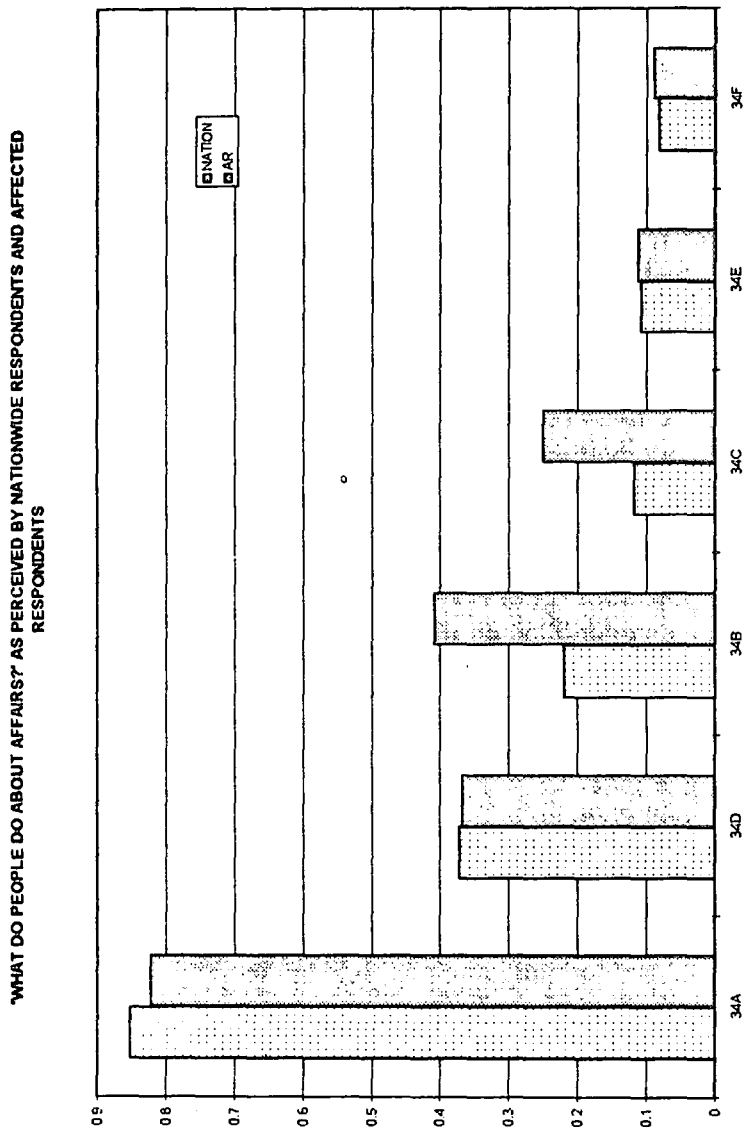
These results show that although Offspring are aware of the detrimental effects of an unhappy marriage, they are also aware that there are many other reasons, sometimes seen as beyond anyone's control, that also greatly influence the existence of affairs. This finding substantiates the above mentioned observation of being more wary of laying blame and seeing commonly held marital shortcomings where these are not felt



CAUSES OF AFFAIRS AS PERCEIVED BY NATIONWIDE RESPONDENTS AND AFFECTED RESPONDENTS

to exist. It may also show their identification with the parents giving both of them a face-saving recourse.

Offspring share similar assessments of the underlying reasons for an affair with Other Affected Respondents.



Societal Factions

There are significant differences in the perceived societal sanctions of Offspring vis-a-vis Noninvolved Respondents.

Offspring feel more strongly that affairs are cause for separation (Item 23). While Noninvolved Respondents see adulterous men as losing community respect, Offspring are uncertain as to this being the case (Item 22 $p=.000$). Although Offspring are reluctant to having a close relative marry one known to have had an affair, their opposition is significantly less than Noninvolved Others (Item 10 $p=.000$; Item 21 $p=.01$). Offspring are significantly more likely to tell the wives and husbands of an adulterous spouse than Noninvolved Respondents (Items 34b $p=.01$ and 34c $p=.01$).

It would appear that Offspring perceive the effects of an affair more on a personal/familial level than on a societal one. This can be seen in conjunction to their perception that there is but questionable stigma associated to adulterous behavior among men. This is further supported by Offspring noting significantly more frequently than Noninvolved Respondents that lack of opportunity is a reason for their not having indulged in an affair (Item 40a $p=.05$).

Offspring have witnessed advantages and disadvantages of extra-marital affairs. For some, the benefits are enviable, but for most, it would seem that Offspring have had enough experience with the disruption this behavior produces on a familial level that they try to ensure that these consequences are prevented by barring undesirables into one's intimate territory. Dissonance however is present within the Offspring for it is most difficult to adamantly reject the behavior of a parent, and consequently judge the parent himself as undesirable. Opposition is thus kept minimal.

There are no significant differences between Offspring and Other Affected Respondents in their perceived social sanctions.

Attitude Towards Querida

The differences of the views of the Offspring and the Noninvolved Respondents towards the querida are not significant. Neither is the Offspring's view different from the Other Affected Respondents.

Attitude Towards the Adulterer

There are significant differences between the attitudes of Offspring and Noninvolved Respondents towards Adulterers. Offspring are significantly more willing to give adulterous men the benefit of the doubt and question the effects of this behavior on their personal circumstance than Noninvolved Respondents. They are uncertain as to whether men are mainly responsible for affairs (Item 18 $p=.05$) or whether they take advantage of their women (Item 19). They are also unsure about whether men with

affairs lose social standing (Item 22) or benefit from having the best of both worlds (Item 20 $p=.05$). Offspring are less opposed to having an adulterous man as a future in-law (Item 21 $p=.01$) than Noninvolved Respondents. They are also significantly more likely to view him as losing less in this sort of activity than anyone else (Item 41a $p=.01$).

From this it would show that Offspring are more ambivalent towards adulterous men than others without direct or indirect involvement with affairs. In the eyes of Offspring, it is not certain what role the adulterer plays in this scenario. They are however aware of his getting away with this behavior with but minimal personal repercussions. This viewpoint is similar to Other Affected Respondents.

Effects on the Marriage

Offspring see significantly different effects of an affair on the marriage than Noninvolved Respondents.

While both Offspring and Noninvolved Respondents concede that the family suffers most from an affair and view this behavior as justifiable reason for separation, Offspring are significantly more likely to see these (Item 24 $p=.01$; Item 23). Offspring are less adamant about affairs not helping a marriage (Item 3 $p=.000$) and unlike Noninvolved Respondents, are uncertain as to whether the husband's continuing to go home to the legitimate family can mitigate the detrimental consequences of an affair (Item 25 $p=.001$). While Noninvolved Respondents disagree that wives would quietly bear their husbands extra-marital liaisons, Offspring are uncertain of the veracity of this statement. Offspring and Other Affected Respondents share views regarding affairs' effects on marriages.

Being part of the family, Offspring strongly feel the possible negative repercussions of infidelity. They are however also aware that many of their mothers prefer to just suffer through this experience and keep the family intact provided a semblance of normalcy is maintained. That this puts extra burden on the wife and children, all of which the Offspring are cognizant of, perhaps also explains why Offspring feel more strongly than Noninvolved Respondents, that affairs are reasonable cause for separation.

Attitude Towards the Legitimate Family

Significant differences are found between Offspring and Noninvolved Respondents regarding their attitudes towards the legitimate family.

Offspring feel more strongly that the family suffers most from an affair (Item 24 $p=.01$) and that this is reasonable cause for separation (Item 23). Like the Noninvolved Respondents, they also agree that children are the victims of their parents' indiscretion

(Item 28) and are significantly more likely to cite children as the one who loses most in the situation (Item 41c $p=.000$).

Like Noninvolved Respondents, Offspring feel that time and money spent on the affair belong to the legitimate family (Item 27). Offspring, however, are less likely to oppose affairs than Noninvolved Respondents, provided that the material needs of the legitimate family are met (Item 29 $p=.000$).

There are no significant differences between the outlook of Offspring and other Affected Respondents with regard to the legitimate family.

Offspring are understandably more sympathetic to their own plight than those who have not experienced being enmeshed in the effects of an affair. Although Offspring acknowledge their being shortchanged, not being supported would add insult to injury by being short-changed twice. As in Maslow's hierarchy of needs, it is difficult, if not impossible, to be concerned with higher needs if one's basic physical needs are threatened. In a country wherein some 70% of the population is below the poverty line, dignity and human rights are compromised by economic concerns. Unfair situations are easier to rationalize provided one has the security of having basic material needs met.

Attitude Towards the Illegitimate Family

Offspring's attitudes toward the Illegitimate Family are significantly different from those of Noninvolved Respondents. Offspring agree with Noninvolved Respondents that children are the victims of their parents' indiscretion. They both disagree that the affairs are all right as long as illegitimate children are not born. Offspring believe that illegitimate children should be supported while the Noninvolved respondents are uncertain about this.

Offspring generally agree with Other Affected Respondents in their attitudes towards the illegitimate family. Offspring however, disagree that affairs are okay as long as illegitimate children are not born, the Other Affected Respondents are unsure about this. While the Offspring agree that the illegitimate children should be supported, the Other Affected Respondents are uncertain about this.

Wife Analysis According to Level of Involvement

Wives significantly differ from other respondents who have had no direct or indirect involvement with extra-marital relations (NR) in their overall attitudes and views on the Querida System. Of the eight areas analyzed regarding the Querida System, Wives significantly differ from NR in their perception of propriety, affair causes, perceived

social sanctions, attitude towards the querida, adulterer as well as attitudes towards the legitimate and illegitimate families. Wives show similarities with NR only in their perceived effects on the marriage.

Compared to OAR, wives significantly differed only in their attitude towards the Illegitimate Family.

Propriety of the Affair

Wives tended to be more circumspect in their answers showing more ambivalence and discord than the uninitiated public. From this it can be seen that wives are less likely to espouse definitive stands and more prone to see exceptions than rules. Their condemning the other woman's behavior rather than that of their erring spouse can be seen as a coping mechanism, an attempt to reduce dissonance as well as the hostility towards their husbands, blame is projected and unleashed on the other woman. Wives' significantly marked ambivalence regarding the acceptability of affairs (Item, $p=.000$) is indicative of the trauma of having to confront the issue and making a stand that may jeopardize and threaten her marriage and family. Unaware of an affair's existence, one is not forced to take a stand; the existing structure is undisturbed, the chances of maintaining a semblance of stability increased. Rationalizing affordability ($p=.05$) can also be seen in this light.

Wives are unsure of their husband's advantage as seen in their ambivalent responses to Item 30 which notes that these men may be having the best of both worlds. While NR tend to disagree, wives' insecurity and felt injustice is reflected in their thought that their husbands may gain at their expense.

Compared to OAR, wives' responses are significantly different only on Item 7, at $p=.001$. Whereas the OARs are found to be more tolerant of sex outside marriage, wives disapprove of such behavior. This can be seen in the light of how traumatic wives perceive this behavior.

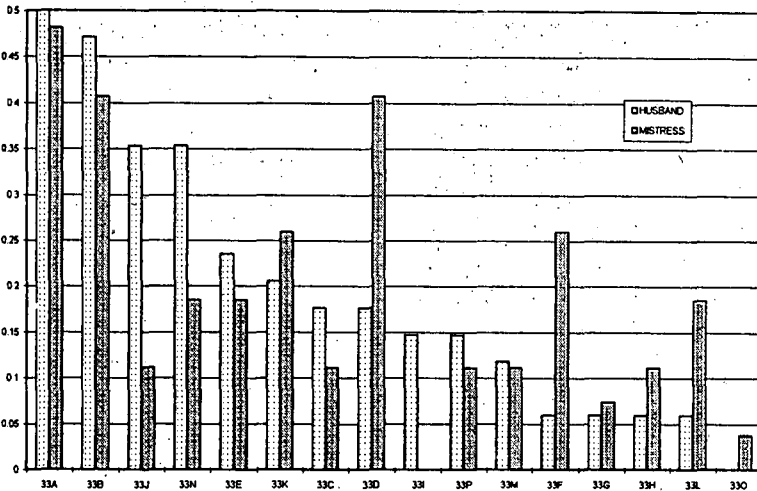
Causes of Affairs

Wives significantly differ from Noninvolved Respondents in what they attribute are reasons for having an affair. Both Wives and NR are uncertain if having a good wife will prevent a man from having an affair (Item 16). Both NR and Wives are also unsure if a man is mainly responsible for affairs, (Item 18) or if adultery runs in families (Item 17).

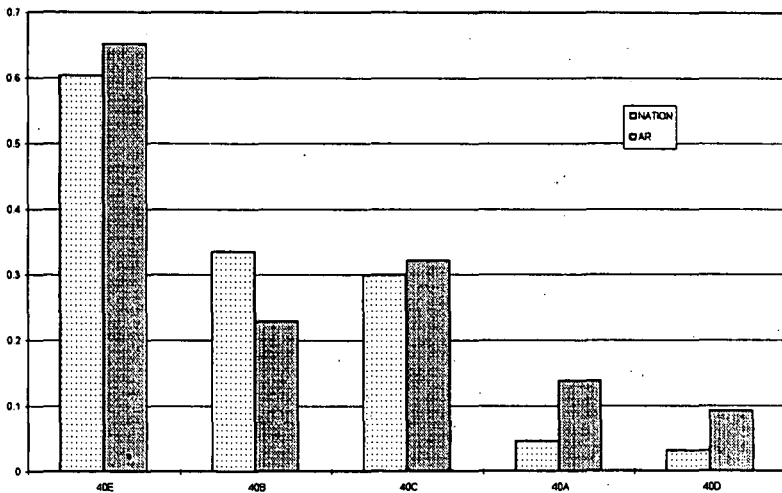
Figure I.W.2 illustrates the ranking of the various causes noted for Wives, NR and OAR. Wives significantly differ from noninvolved respondents in their evaluation as to what may lead to an affair. Rankings of wives differ significantly in ten of sixteen causes noted.

Although aware of the detrimental influence of an unhappy marriage, other factors beyond one's control are also seen as influencing this extra-marital behavior. The distribution of Wives' scores show that wives not only assess more plausible reasons than NR, they also give these reasons more similar weights. This indicates that, for wives, the reason for having an affair is more likely perceived as an array of circumstances than one or two underlying factors.

CAUSES OF AFFAIRS AS PERCEIVED BY HUSBAND AND MISTRESS



'IF YOU'VE NEVER HAD AN AFFAIR, WHY?' AS PERCEIVED BY NATIONWIDE RESPONDENTS AND AFFECTED RESPONDENTS



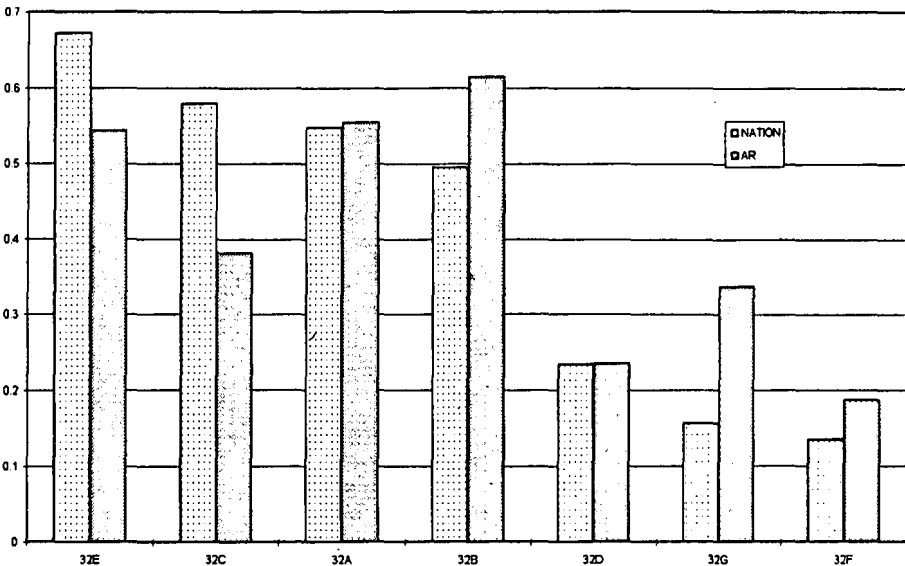
Given their proximity to the home situation, wives may be biased in favor of not blaming the familial and marital set-up or they are cognizant of more extra-familial influences. Another possibility is a combination of the above wherein outside influences are highlighted and the marriage and family reasons are down-played. This could be seen as a defense mechanism wherein guilt is externalized and projected on circumstances beyond anyone's control. In so doing the wife is able to maintain the status quo of marriage and family, while keeping her sense of worth.

That Wives and OAR having similar rankings of their perceived causes of affairs lends support to the hypothesis that the affair may be perceived by the parties involved that it may be more likely be due to an array of influences and circumstances rather than attributable to one or two reasons.

Societal Sanctions

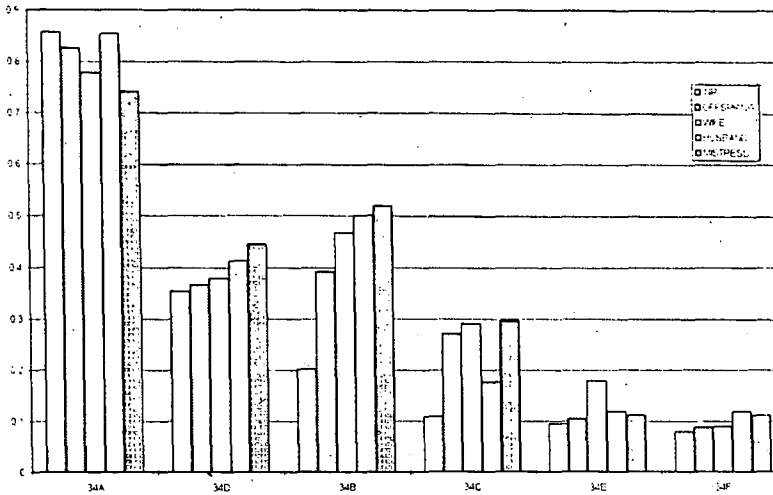
Although wives and Noninvolved Respondents are similar in their perceptions of societal sanctions on infidelity, their attitudes differ in degree. Wives feel more strongly

CHARACTERISTICS OF A QUERIDA AS PERCEIVED BY NATIONWIDE RESPONDENTS AND AFFECTED RESPONDENTS

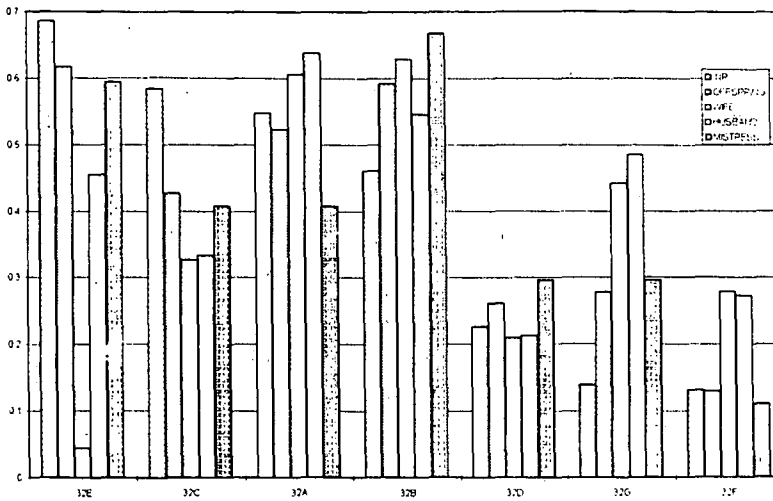


that affairs are cause for separation (Item 23 $p=.05$). Noninvolved Respondents feel that adulterous men lose community respect, wives on the other hand, are uncertain if

WHAT DO PEOPLE DO ABOUT AFFAIRS? AS PERCEIVED BY NON-INVOLVED RESPONDENTS, OFFSPRING, WIFE, HUSBAND AND MISTRESS



CHARACTERISTICS OF A QUERIDA AS PERCEIVED BY NON-INVOLVED RESPONDENTS, OFFSPRING, WIFE, HUSBAND AND MISTRESS



this is true (Item 22 $p=.05$). Although wives would oppose a close relative marrying one known to have had an affair, this opposition is significantly less than that of Noninvolved Respondents (Item 10 $p=.000$; Item 21 $p=.01$).

Wives are significantly more likely to tell the wives and husbands of an unfaithful spouse than Noninvolved Respondents (Items 34b $p=.000$ and 34c $p=.01$). See Figure I.W.3.

Wives are also significantly more likely to evaluate fear of discovery and lack of opportunity as possible deterrents for not having had extra-marital relations than NR (Item 40d, $p=.01$ and 40a), See Figure I.W.4.

Attitude Towards Querida

Wives and Noninvolved Respondents' (NR) significantly differ in their attitudes towards a querida. While Wives agree with NR that extra-marital relations are inappropriate for women, and would oppose a known adulteress as a future family member, wives are less determined about these issues than NR. While NR wonder if Mistresses take advantage of their lovers, wives are convinced that they do. Wives are more insistent than NR that Mistresses make no demands and be good in bed, while discounting the importance NRs place on a Querida's understanding their lovers better than the wife, having a pleasing personality and being physically attractive.

Other Affected Respondents are more certain than wives that a man's legal spouse has an edge over a mistress. Compared to OAR, Wives give less importance to a mistress being understanding, while more likely expecting the Querida to be physically attractive.

Attitude Towards the Adulterer

Significant differences are found between the attitudes of Wives and Noninvolved Respondents towards Adulterer. While NR feel extra-marital relations are inappropriate for men, Wives are less certain this is so. Wives see adulterous men as taking advantage of their mistresses are unsure if unfaithfulness is a blessing twice over. NR are uncertain if adulterous men benefit from their mistresses and tend to disagree that having a mistress gives one the best of both worlds. Wives are more likely to absolve adulterous husbands of responsibility for an affair than NR. Although NR appraise adulterous men as losing social standing, Wives are uncertain if this is so. Both NR and Wives would oppose having a known adulterer marry into their family, but wives would tend to be less adamant in this regard.

Wives are more forgiving of adulterous men than NR. Perhaps this can be attributed to their emotional involvement and experiencing saving graces in their husband that others do not perceive. Absolving or discounting the adulterous husband's culpability,

gives her and her husband face-saving possibilities that consequently would better the chances of the marriage's survival.

Other than wives being more likely to appraise unfaithful men of taking advantage of their mistresses than OAR, Wives and OAR share similar attitudes towards the adulterer.

Effects on the Marriage

Despite overall similarity, wives feel the threat of separation more than NR. Although both groups are uncertain if wives quietly bear their husbands' indiscretion, wives are more likely to agree that this is so.

Wives share the attitudes of Other Affected Respondents regarding the effects of infidelity on marriage. Wives were significantly more sure that affairs do not help marriages than OAR.

Attitude Towards the Legitimate Family

Results show that there are but few differences between Wives and Noninvolved Respondents regarding their attitudes towards the legitimate family. Wives more than NR feel that children are the victims of their parents indiscretion (Item 28 $p=.05$). While NR feel that support does not make an affair more palatable, wives are uncertain if meeting the needs of the legitimate family would indeed make things better.

Despite overall agreement with OAR, Wives are found to appraise children as losing more as a consequence of their parents indiscretion (Items 28 $p=.05$; Item 41e).

These results would be indicative of the wife's empathy for her children's plight and her cognizance of their multiple deprivation.

Attitude Towards the Illegitimate Family

Wives share NR's sentiments that the absence of illegitimate offspring does not make extramarital relations more acceptable. Wives however are less steadfast regarding this premise (Item 30, $p=.05$). Wives tend to sympathize more with the offspring of an adulterer than NR (Item 28 $p=.05$). Illegitimate children are seen as more bereft (Item 41c $p=.000$) by wives than NR.

Despite wives feeling that children are victims of their parents indiscretion more strongly than OAR (Item 28, $p=.05$), wives are uncertain as to whether illegitimate children should be supported, while OAR feel they should (Item 31, $p=.000$).

These findings indicate that although wives feel sorry for illegitimate children, this household is seen as a threat to her own especially with regard to available resources.

Comparison of Adulterous Husbands' Responses with OAR and NR

Unfaithful husbands differ significantly from those without direct or indirect personal experience with extra-marital affairs (NR) in their beliefs regarding the propriety of affairs and sanctions they observe society to impose. The two groups also have discrepant attitudes towards mistresses and adulterous men. Although both groups have similar attitudes towards the legitimate family, they have distinct views regarding the illegitimate family and assess varying effects on the marriage.

Husbands' views on the Querida System also deviate from Other Affected Respondents (OAR). Although OAR and Husbands have similar views regarding their assessment of reasons for an affair, attitudes towards the mistress, adulterous husband, and the legitimate family, wayward Husbands' responses are significantly different from the replies of OAR in respect to their appraised propriety, observed societal sanctions, attitudes towards the marriage and the illegitimate family.

Propriety of the Affair

Unfaithful men and NR both presume extra-marital sex as a violation of God's commandments, but this is where their similarity ends. While Noninvolved Respondents judge infidelity as inappropriate behavior under all circumstances, Husbands take an almost completely opposite stand with these differences significant at a $p=.000$ level.

Both NR and Husbands disapprove of non-marital liaisons for women, but NR conceive this behavior more unbecoming than Husbands. Unfaithful Husbands endorse extra-marital sex for men. NR glean this as a breach of decorum.

Unfaithful Husbands assess that sex outside of marriage is appropriate and extra-marital relations are okay should one be able to afford it and/or provided the material needs of the legitimate family are met. Those who have no personal encounter with affairs declare this is not so. While Husbands are uncertain if affairs are acceptable when there are no illegitimate Offspring, NR consider affairs as inappropriate regardless of their presence.

NRs' idealized assessment of "what should be" reflects their having to deal with this phenomenon on a purely hypothetical and cognitive level. As such it is easier to make absolute statements of justice and responsibility for others. Husbands, on the other hand, deal with this issue on a personal level. This being the case, they need to contend with their own misbehavior in light of prescribed decorum. To cope with the incongruity, and attain emotional wholeness, wayward husbands need to adapt their views to their behavior. Not wanting to change the behavior, their perspectives are

adjusted to approximate conduct. The ensuing balance brings a sense of internal harmony and dispensation of culpability.

Husbands also significantly differ from OAR in their overall attitudes toward the propriety of extra-marital relations. While OAR are uncertain if affairs are acceptable if one can afford it (Item 2), or if the material needs of the legitimate family are met (Item 29), Husbands feel these circumstances affect an affair's acceptability. These differences are found significant at the $p=.000$ and $p=.01$ level respectively.

Husbands feel sex outside of marriage is acceptable, specially for men (Items 6 and 7). OAR do not advocate this stand. Both these differences are significant at a $p=.000$ level. Both groups agree that affairs are not becoming of women.

Secrecy is deemed a mitigating condition by Husbands, while to OAR nondisclosure does not excuse an affair's inherent inappropriateness (Item 4 $p=.000$). Although both OAR and Husbands consider affairs as infringing on God's law, OAR are significantly more equivocal in this regard (Item 8 $p=.05$).

Being significantly different from OAR regarding the acceptability of extra-marital relations, Husbands stand alone in their views. Husbands think and see things in a way of their own, a way that condones their illicit behavior. Husbands appear to consider their own self-serving perspective disregarding all others.

Causes of Affairs

Significant differences are found between Husbands and Noninvolved Respondents with regard to their presumptions as to why affairs come about. While NR feel having a good wife will deter a man from having an affair, Adulterous Husbands are uncertain if this is so (Item 16 $p=.05$). Reasons cited by husbands show that circumstances outside the marriage and family are as important, if not even more determinative of an affair than intra-marital and familial shortcomings. From this it appears that adulterous men see affairs as inherent male behavior and are far more practical and opportunistic than circumspect or romantic in their reasons for engaging in extra-marital relations.

Husbands give significantly more importance to their physical needs (Item 33n $p=.01$) and a spouse's negative personality traits (Items 33j $p=.01$) than OAR. The Other Affected Respondents on the other hand, have more romantic notions than adulterous husbands (Item 33f) and assess the neglect of one's spouse with more detriment (Item 33i $p=.05$).

Although differing in some areas, OAR and Husbands share their generally multi-causal functional views on what leads to an affair. While OAR tend to hold more romantic notions, unfaithful husbands are more pragmatic in their reasons.

Societal Sanctions

Significant differences exist in the perceived societal sanctions of Husbands and Noninvolved Respondents. Husbands and NR alike are of the opinion that adulterous behavior violates religious dogma (Item 8). While NR believe affairs are a plausible reason for separation, Husbands despite their general agreement, are uncertain if this should be the case (Item 23). Although both groups would oppose a close relative marrying someone known to have had an affair, NR feel significantly more strongly about this ($p=.001$ for both Items 10 and 21). NR see men losing community respect as a consequence of their indiscretion, while adulterous husbands conceive no loss of standing.

Both groups consider that aside from being the topic of gossip, most people do nothing when faced with an affair. Significantly more husbands feel that others inform the wife of an adulterer (Item 34b $p=.000$). NR and Husbands agree that telling the husband as well as avoiding the illicit partners is unlikely.

Although no overt social sanctions are presumed by unfaithful men, they estimate that adulterous men are poor marital prospects. Adulterous husbands are more aware of being talked about than NR. Unfaithful husbands are understandably more sensitive than NR to the possibility that others tell their wives on them. Perhaps in their guilt, these men project their fear of having their wives find out of the affair and their having to face the consequences of this illicit behavior.

Significant differences between Husbands and Other Affected Respondents are found in their perceived social sanctions. Husbands and OAR feel that persons who have had an affair are poor marital prospects and would oppose having them as future in-laws. Although both groups perceive extra-marital sex as a religious transgression OAR tend to believe this more than adulterous men (Item 8 $p=.05$). OAR are also more inclined to view affairs as a reasonable cause for separation (Item 23). Husbands are of the opinion that unfaithful men do not lose community respect; OAR are uncertain if this is indeed the case (Item 22 $p=.01$).

Adulterous men do not see negative societal reactions directed to their person. Familial and moral consequences are also down-played. This incognizance is likely to be a denial on their part as evidenced by Husbands opposing like-mannered men as partners for their loved ones. This attests to their negative assessment of their own behavior specially with regard to how they treat their spouse, and perhaps extends to their familial relations.

Attitude Towards Querida

Significant differences between Husbands and Noninvolved Respondents occur in their attitudes towards the querida. Although adulterous men oppose affairs for women, they are considerably less disapproving of this behavior than NR (Item 5 $p=.001$). NR object to a close relative marrying a woman with a past more than adulterous men (Item 10 $p=.001$). NR are more likely to posit that worthwhile women do not have affairs. Husbands are uncertain if this is so.

Both groups estimate that a wife is in a better position than a mistress (Items 11 and 15) but NR feel more strongly that it would not be nice to be a querida (Item 12 $p=.01$). Although both NR and Husbands are uncertain if mistresses take advantage of their lovers, Husbands speculate that this is possibly true (Item 13).

Figure I.H.4 display characteristics that adulterous men regard a querida should possess. These are compared to the traits Noninvolved Respondents and Other Affected Respondents feel she should have.

Both Husbands and NR perceive mistresses as being in a disadvantaged position compared to the wife. She is seen unfavorably by both parties. NR however presume that she must possess personal endearing qualities. Husbands on the other hand, appraise her based on how well she caters to his wants and needs. Both groups expect that she be selfless and make no demands.

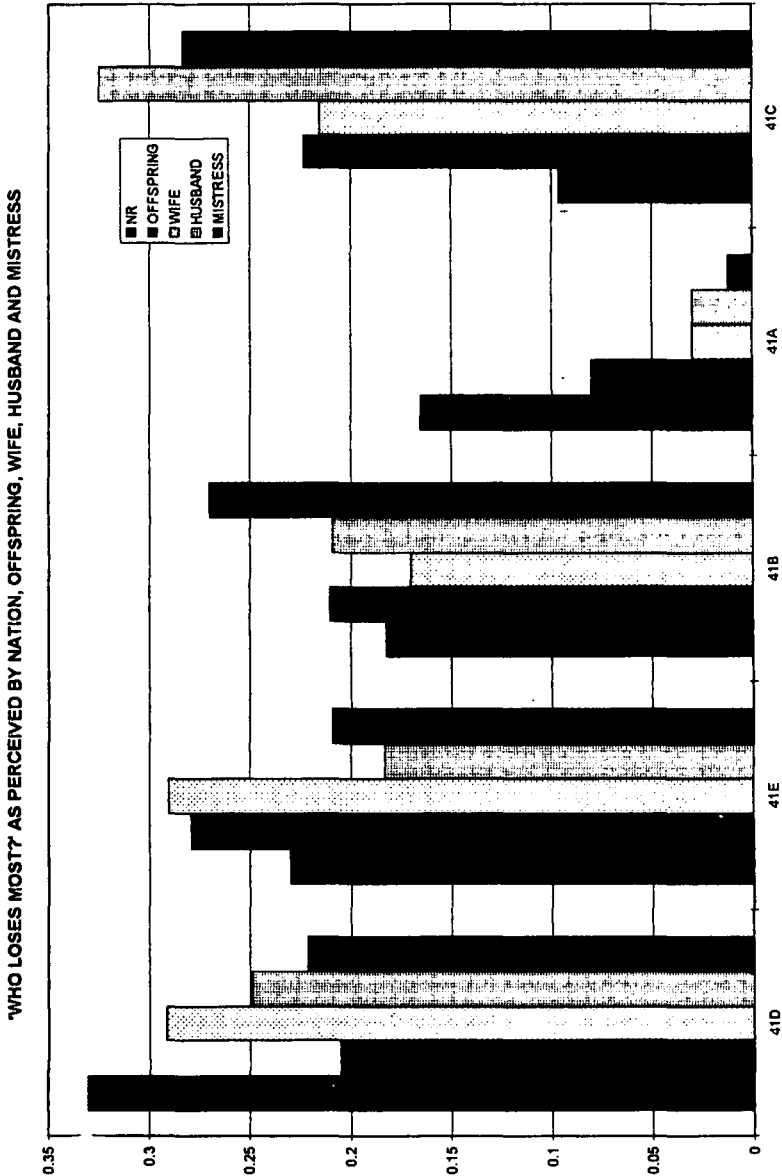
OAR and Husbands significantly differ only on Item 12 where OAR discount the benefits of being a querida more than adulterous men do. This finding is significant at the $p=.01$ level. Unfaithful men also placed significantly more importance to a mistress' sexual competence than OAR (Item 32g $p=.05$).

Mistresses are perceived as going against prescribed ways in filling a functional role that benefits her lover but leaves little for herself. She is appraised in terms of how well she can cater to her man's desires. She is generally looked down upon and perceived as in a disadvantaged position especially when compared to the legal wife.

Attitude Towards the Adulterer

There are significant differences between the attitudes of unfaithful men and Noninvolved Respondents towards Adulterers. While NR state that affairs are not acceptable for men, adulterous husbands feel extra-marital intimacies are appropriate for men (Item 6 $p=.000$). NR assume that an adulterous man suffers a loss of reputation while adulterous men estimate that they do not (Item 22 $p=.000$). Although both NR and unfaithful husbands would oppose having a close relative marry a man known to have had an affair, the adulterous men would reject him significantly less (Item 21 $p=.001$).

Both NR and unfaithful husbands are unsure if men take advantage of their women (Item 19) or if these men are mainly responsible for affairs (Item 18). Husbands and NR alike cannot assess whether or not adulterous men enjoy the best of both worlds (Item 20).



Uncertainty on Items 18 and 19 shows that unfaithful Husbands tend to down-play their responsibility and project the locus of control for infidelity as external to them. In as much as they appraise extra-marital sex as natural and acceptable on their part (Items 33a and 6), would it not also be appropriate to take what is willingly presented? With this perspective, they are not taking undue advantage of their women, they are but giving in to them and merely partaking of what is there.

Corollary to this, they estimate no outstanding social loss, although extraordinary gains are also held uncertain. Despite this outward nonchalance, these men apparently do not trust other men who have had similar exploits. This is indicative of their disapproving their own behavior and their not wanting those closest to them to experience what they put their wives through.

Other Affected Respondents like the wayward husbands surveyed are also uncertain as to the adulterous men's role in an affair and whether it is advantageous to engage in simultaneous relationships. Unlike these unfaithful men, OAR do not feel that affairs are acceptable for men (Item 6 $p=.000$) or that these men's reputation is not adversely affected (Item 22 $p=.01$).

Effects on the Marriage

Respondent Husbands significantly differ from Noninvolved Respondents in their perceived effects of an affair on a marriage. Husbands and NR concur that affairs are reasonable cause for separation (Item 23) and that it is the family that is most traumatized by an affair (Item 24). Although both groups also agree that affairs do not help a marriage, unfaithful men feel this significantly less than NR (Item 3, $p=.000$). These men feel that a husband's regularly coming home to his wife makes affairs more palatable, something NR assess is not so (Item 25, $p=.000$). While Noninvolved Respondents cannot decide if wives quietly bear their spouse's indiscretions, Husbands feel they do (Item 26, $p=.000$).

Husbands assess that although affairs have the potential to break up a marriage and traumatize the family, this can be averted should the wife be accepting and a semblance of normalcy is maintained.

Husbands significantly differ from Other Affected Respondents in their views on an affair's effects on a marriage. Both groups estimate that families suffer most from an affair (Item 24). Although Husbands and OAR agree infidelity may justify separation, Husbands do not assess an affair's adverse effects as seriously as OAR (Item 3, $p=.01$) nor do these men see adultery as ominous a threat on the continuance of the family as Other Affected Respondents (Item 23).

While both groups are uncertain if affairs threaten a marriage should the husband continue to come home to his wife, wayward husbands are significantly more inclined to think this way (Item 25 $p=.05$). Husbands observe wives quietly bear their spouses' adulterous behavior. OAR are uncertain if wives are as self-sacrificing (Item 26, $p=.01$).

Adulterous husbands identify less with the trauma and disruptive effects of an affair on the family than Other Affected Respondents. These men feel that palliative measures in conjunction with wives' tolerance can prevent ensuing detrimental aftermaths. In line with this thinking, Husbands also set the stage for projecting the guilt on their wives if she balks at his behavior or does not accept his "accommodations" and a break-up does occur. This, in the husband's mind absolves him of accountability since it is not his misbehavior that is the issue but a failure of sacrifice and accommodation to his inherent right.

Attitude Towards the Legitimate Family

Both Husbands and NR observe that the family suffers most from an affair and that children carry the burden of their parents' transgressions. NR and Husbands alike consider the time and money allocated on the affair as rightfully belonging to the legitimate family (Item 27). NR are of the opinion that affairs are inappropriate even if the legitimate family is provided for. Husbands on the other hand, feel that affairs are acceptable should the material needs of the legitimate family be met (Item 29 $p=.000$).

From the above results it can be seen that although Husbands acknowledge the battering effects of an affair on the family, adulterous husbands presume they can buy dispensation and detract disruption.

OAR and Husbands alike are aware of the suffering the family goes through as a result of an affair (Item 24), as well as the rights of the legitimate family on the resources spent on the illicit relationship (Item 29). Husbands however downplay the consequent disjunctive effects on the family (Item 23) and rationalize their infidelity by providing for the needs of the legitimate household (Item 29 $p=.000$).

The detrimental effects of an affair on the family are distinctly noted by both groups surveyed. Husbands assessing the probability of familial breakdown as less than OAR is possibly a means for allaying the adulterous man's guilt given the suffering his family goes through as a result of his indiscretion. Justification credited by acquiescing the legitimate household's material support in light of his infidelity.

Attitude Towards the Illegitimate Family

There are significant differences between Husbands and Noninvolved Respondents in their attitudes towards the illegitimate family. NR and Husbands agree that children are the victims of their parents' indiscretion (Item 28). Husbands are significantly

more inclined to perceive illegitimate children as bereft (Item 41c $p=.000$). Unlike NR who appraise affairs as inappropriate even without illegitimate offspring, Husbands question if affairs may not be more acceptable if children are not born out of wedlock (Item 30 $p=.01$). While NR are uncertain as to whether illegitimate children should be supported, adulterous men espouse that they should (Item 31 $p=.05$).

Illegitimate children provoke mixed feelings in adulterous men. Their presence is at times wished away by their unfaithful fathers, perhaps in view of the complications that their existence brings. Given they already exist, the illegitimate offspring bear an unmerited stigma of being the fruit of immoral behavior. To their parents, they are the living reminders of the consequence of their indiscretion. The difficulties they undergo feed their parents' guilt; affording them with material support lessens the deprivation they must contend with.

Mistress Analysis According to Level of Involvement

The Mistress data are analyzed in comparison to those without involvement (NR) and others directly or indirectly involved (OAR).

Mistresses significantly differ from non-involved respondents in their attitudes towards the propriety of affairs, their perceived causes and social sanctions. Although no significant difference is found regarding their attitude towards the legitimate family, there are significant differences in their attitude towards the adulterer and querida, perceived effects on the marriage as well as attitudes towards the illegitimate family.

Although differences are found between the responses of Mistresses and Other Affected Respondents with respect to their attitudes towards the querida, the adulterer, and the perceived effects on the marriage, these are not sufficient to warrant accepting that these two groups significantly differ in their overall perspective regarding the Querida system.

Propriety of the Affair

Although Noninvolved Respondents readily appraise infidelity as inappropriate behavior under all circumstances, Mistresses agree with them only in affairs being a violation of God's law. Mistresses are significantly more ambivalent in their perspective regarding the propriety of extra-marital intimacies. These differences in eight out of nine responses are significant at the $p=.01$ level or higher. See Table I.M.1.

This ambivalence may reflect the dissonance that mistresses experience and their attempt to cope with this discord that this illicit behavior brings. It is indicative of rationalizing infidelity given various mitigating circumstances.

Compared to OAR, Mistresses do not significantly differ in their overall attitudes toward the propriety of extra-marital relations. Mistresses however are found to have a somewhat more accepting stance regarding the acceptability of affairs for both sexes (Item 5, $p=.01$; Item 6, $p=.05$) than OAR. This can be seen in the light of their trying to justify to themselves and others, their own behavior.

Causes of Affairs

Significant differences are found between Mistresses and Noninvolved Respondents with regard to the reasons they attribute for having an affair. Mistresses are unsure of a wife's culpability (Item 14) in light of her husband's affair. While mistresses are also uncertain if having a good wife will deter a man from having an affair (Item 16 $p=.01$), Noninvolved Respondents posit that possessing a dutiful wife is a plausible preventive. Mistresses like NR cannot say if men are mainly responsible for affairs (Item 18) or if adultery runs in families (Item 17).

Mistresses also significantly differ from Noninvolved Respondents in their observations as to what may lead to an affair with significantly different weights given to almost two thirds of the choices given. See Figure I.M.2.

Analyzing the distribution of these choices indicates that Mistresses perceive far more reasons for an affair as plausible than NR. Citing a natural polygamous tendency among men reflects these women's presumption of normalcy and may be indicative of an accepted double standard.

Although the detrimental effects of an unhappy marriage are recognized, mistresses are more cautious than NR in solely laying blame on the wife and the marital relationship. Could it be perhaps that many women involved with married men, identify with the wife, perhaps visualizing themselves as occupying a similar position, if not taking on her role at some further date? Or could it be perhaps that to blame the wife would put the mistress in an offensive light which may provoke her lover to defend his wife at her expense? Instead, she may show an understanding of her lover's predicaments with his wife so she could gain ascendancy by being supportive. If she delicately half-defends the wife, she gets him to bolster his marital discontent while she can appear compassionate even to the "enemy". The resulting contrast puts her in a favored light.

Instead, mistresses play up a querida's more desirable qualities, which escape NR's notice. Mistresses are also aware that many of the other reasons for this phenomena can be attributed to chance or circumstances beyond anyone's control.

Societal Sanctions

There are significant differences in the perceived societal sanctions of Mistresses and Noninvolved Respondents. Mistresses, like NR, agree that affairs are cause for

separation (Item 23) and that this behavior is a breach of religious precepts (Item 8). Although Noninvolved Respondents feel that adulterous men lose community respect, Mistresses observe this is not true (Item 22 $p=.000$). Whereas Noninvolved Respondents would strongly oppose a close relative marrying someone known to have had an affair, mistresses are ambivalent as to whether past indiscretions should influence one's marital prospects. These differences are significant at a $p=.000$ level for both Items 10 and 21.

Far more mistresses observe the public as informing the wife (Item 34b $p=.001$) or husband (Item 34c $p=.01$) than Noninvolved Respondents. See Figure I.M.3.

Although no overt social detriment is observed by Mistresses, they are more aware of being squealed against and talked about than Noninvolved Respondents. This could be indicative of a hypersensitivity and paranoia on their part. Their uncertainty as to whether extra-marital behavior affects one's desirability on an intimate level may be indicative of questioning their self-worth where close interpersonal relations are concerned.

Attitude Towards Querida

Figure I.M.4 displays the characteristics that a querida feels she should possess in comparison to Noninvolved Respondents and other Affected Respondents.

Significant differences between Mistresses and Noninvolved Respondents occur in their view of the querida. Mistresses' view of queridas is very different from NR and OAR who see her position as undesirable. Mistresses being more uncertain in their responses show an insecurity regarding their position in general (Item 12) and in comparison to the wife in particular (Items 11 and 15). Low self-worth is apparent as seen in responses to Items 9 and 10. Mistresses appraise their taking advantage of their lover, something that NR are uncertain of (Item 13).

Significantly, Mistresses give more importance to their undemanding ways than NR. This can readily be understood in light of this being a primary consideration for the continuance of the affair.

Queridas are significantly less concerned with possessing a pleasing personality than NR expect. Compared to NR they are also significantly more conscious of their sexual prowess. Mistresses are significantly less concerned about their doing everything to please their men than OAR presume.

Attitude Towards the Adulterer

Mistresses are significantly more undecided than Noninvolved Respondents in their attitude towards adulterous men. While NR disagree that affairs are acceptable for men, Mistresses cannot decide whether or not this holds true (Item 6 $p=.000$). Like

NR, *queridas* are also uncertain if men take advantage of their women (Item 19) or if men are mainly responsible for affairs (Item 18). While NR feel the unfaithful man does not have the best of both worlds, Mistresses wonder if this might not be the case (Item 20 $p=.01$). NR assume that an adulterous man loses social standing, Mistresses speculate he does not (Item 22 $p=.000$). Mistresses are less likely to cite an adulterous man as losing from an affair than Noninvolved Respondents.

From this, it appears Mistresses perceive adulterous men with significantly more uncertainty than others without direct or indirect involvement with affairs. Mistresses' close interaction with adulterous men allow her to see him in a light different from his public persona. On the other hand, this same closeness may also predispose her to seeing him from a favorable bias since his person and behavior also greatly affects her perception of herself.

Both Mistresses and OAR are uncertain as to the extent of the adulterer's responsibility as well as his advantages in an affair. Mistresses, however, see the adulterer as bearing less public consequences than the OAR.

While Other Affected Respondents are uncertain whether an unfaithful man's reputation suffers because of an affair, they would not allow their daughters or sisters marry an adulterous man. Mistresses feel that society does not look down upon wayward men. Although uncertain, *Queridas* are less likely to judge unfaithful men as a poor marital prospect. This may also be due to her own emotional involvement in the affair and perhaps romantic notions of legitimizing her own status.

Effects on the Marriage

Mistresses and NR agree that affairs are reasonable cause for separation (Item 23) and that families suffer most from an affair (Item 24). Although both groups also agree that affairs do not help a marriage, Mistresses feel significantly less strongly about this than NR (Item 3, $p=.000$). While Mistresses are uncertain if a husband's regularly coming home to his wife makes affairs more acceptable, NR feel this is not so (Item 25, $p=.05$). While Noninvolved Respondents are uncertain if wives quietly bear their husband's infidelity, Mistresses feel they do (Item 26, $p=.001$).

It appears that Mistresses are of the opinion that although affairs may greatly disrupt the marriage, this is not always the case. A wife's passivity and a semblance of normalcy may mitigate the affair's possible disruptive potential.

Both Mistresses and OAR agree that engaging in affairs is a justifiable reason for separation (Item 23). Although Mistresses agree that affairs do not help a marriage, OAR agree to this statement more wholeheartedly (Item 3, $p=.05$). Both Mistresses and OAR agree that families suffer most from an affair, but OAR feel this significantly

more (Item 24). While Other Affected Respondents question if wives quietly bear their husbands adulterous behavior, Mistresses feel that wives do (Item 26, $p=.01$). Both groups are uncertain if affairs threaten a marriage, should the husband continue to come home to his wife (Item 25).

Other Affected Respondents appear more sympathetic to the detrimental effects on the family than the Mistress. This is understandable in as much should a Mistress empathize with the family, this would add on her an additional burden of guilt. In perceiving the wife as passively accepting, the mistress is also able to spread culpability, thus lessening her own.

Attitude Towards the Legitimate Family

While NR judge time and money spent on the affair as rightfully belonging to the legitimate family, Mistresses are less concerned with the misallocation of these resources (Item 27 $p=.01$). NR feel that meeting the material needs of the family does not lend legitimacy to an affair, Mistresses question the acceptability of affairs should the material needs of the legitimate family be met (Item 29 $p=.01$).

Compared to OAR, Mistresses downplayed the suffering of the family as a result of an affair (Item 24), as well as the rights of the legitimate family on the time and money spent on the affair (Item 29, $p=.01$).

From the above it can be seen that NR are more concerned than Mistresses on the material consequences of the family. Although for OAR, this is also a concern, they, like Mistresses, feel that providing for the family helps one cope with an affair but for OAR this does not negate suffering perhaps in other forms. Mistresses apparently see these hardships less. Perhaps this can be seen as a Mistresses coping to lessen guilt regarding her behavior affecting the family.

Attitude Towards the Illegitimate Family

Compared to NR, Mistresses feel strongly that children are the victims of their parents' indiscretion (Item 28). Mistresses estimate that queridas (Item 41b) and illegitimate children (Item 41c) lose most. These differences are significant at the $p=.01$ and $p=.000$ level respectively. Unlike NR who are unequivocal in their judgment that affairs are inappropriate even without illegitimate offspring, Mistresses are uncertain if an affair may be more acceptable if there are no illegitimate children (Item 30 $p=.01$). While NR are uncertain as to whether illegitimate children should be supported, Mistresses declare that they should (Item 31 $p=.05$).

Mistresses understandably feel the disadvantaged position she and her children are in more than NR. As mothers they empathize more with the difficulties their illegitimate children undergo.

While she can rationalize her own activity and bear the consequences of her misbehavior, it is difficult to rationalize the detrimental effects on her children who by traditional definition are not meant to be.

The Mistress questions her imprudence in bringing forth a child who not only reminds her of her guilt, but must bear the stigma of her indiscretion. Given her own willful entanglement, she debates if an affair and its personal consequences would not be better if innocent offspring are spared the disgrace and shame of being associated with illicit circumstance.

Contending with the constant difficulties her children undergo, unnecessary material deprivation would add insult to her children's injury.

Does Infidelity Run in Families?

Respondents whether affected, nationwide or noninvolved are uncertain if adultery follows familial patterns. Analysis of data shows that familial patterns do exist.

One hundred seventy respondents with direct and or indirect involvement with infidelity participated in the study. Tables I.9.1 and I.9.2 cross-tabulate the Affected Respondents into multiple categories. These tables show that a vast majority of the respondents fall into multiple categories.

Table 7. Distribution of Female Affected Respondents for Societal Survey on Infidelity

| Female=99 | Offspring | | Not Offspring | | SUB-TOTAL |
|-----------|-----------|----------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| | Mistress | Not Mist | Mistress | Not Mist | |
| Wife | 7 | 11 | 3 | 24 | 45 |
| Not Wife | 10 | 37 | 7 | 0 | 54 |
| Total 17 | 48 | 10 | 24 | | |

Table 8. Distribution of Male Affected Respondents for Societal Survey on Infidelity

| Male=71 | Offspring | Not Offspring | Totally |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|---------|
| Husband | 15 | 19 | 34 |
| Not Husband | 37 | 0 | 37 |
| Total | 52 | 19 | 71 |

Married respondents who have an adulterous parent are much more likely to have an affair than those whose parents had remained faithful. This is seen in the Chi square for these two groups which is found significant at a $p=.001$ level. One out of three of these offspring or 33% is likely to have an affair.

Women with an adulterous parent are also significantly more likely to have a spouse who has had an affair (Chi square $p=.001$, $df=1$). A little more than one out of every four of these offspring (27%) is likely to have an adulterous spouse.

Although direct causality cannot be established, these correlations cannot be lightly dismissed. The popular adages of "*Kung ano ang puno, siya rin ang bunga*" (The tree determines the fruit.), similar to the English, "Like father like son" or "*Pambayad utang ang anak na babae*" (Daughters are payment for their father's debts.) apparently hold truth.

Although evolutionary psychologists point to humanity's genetic predisposition to infidelity, (Time Magazine Aug 15, 1994) environmental influences are deemed more plausible explanation for the familial patterns found.

Children are inherently dependent on their parents for survival. As such parents are their first teachers and role models. Offspring identify with their parents later on modeling their adult behavior primarily on that of their same-sexed parent. The choice of marital partners are often consciously or unconsciously influenced by characteristics found in the opposite-sexed parent.

Should one's upbringing have included indoctrination about the "gospel truth" of men's lack of self-control and their intrinsic polygamous nature, probabilities are that infidelity would have a certain acceptance as a fact of life. This orientation, coupled with the perceived lack of traumatizing sanctions while reaping certain benefits, added on to the existing societal advocacy of the double standard, makes perpetuation of this phenomenon likely.

A chi square was done on wives and mistresses to determine if women in one role are likely to have taken on the other. The insignificant chi-square shows that having an unfaithful husband is not a likely reason to become a mistress. This may be seen as an affirmation of previously noted findings which show that women's involvement in affairs is more likely to be triggered by a perceived opportunity at something better rather than as a reaction to grievances. This may also be indicative of the deterrent effects of a wife's trauma and her identification with other wives.

Who Loses Most?

Figure AR.5 depicts the responses of adulterous Husbands, Mistresses, Wives, Offspring and Nationwide Respondents to Item 41 which asks, "Who loses most?"

The public sympathy lies with the legitimate family, the wife in particular considered most bereft. The mistress and the adulterous man are also seen as losing substantially. Societally, illegitimate children are assessed as losing the least.

Offspring see themselves as losing most. Perhaps because there are many more identified legitimate offspring respondents than illegitimate offspring respondents that these offspring sympathize most with the legitimate offsprings' plight. Offspring are hard put trying to identify who to put in second place. Illegitimate offspring, the querida and wife are seen as all suffering almost equally. The adulterous man also loses but not as much as all the other affected respondents.

Wives see the legitimate family as losing the most. They see themselves as losing as much as their children. Mistresses are also seen as shortchanged but not as much as the illegitimate children. Very little sympathy is given to the adulterous husband.

Mistresses, like wives, are mothers looking out for their children. They identify with the illegitimate offspring and see the illegitimate family as losing most. The wife is also recognized as bereft with her children seen as losing only slightly less than herself. Almost no pity is given her adulterous lover.

Adulterous men are most touched by their children. Illegitimate offspring are seen as suffering more than their legitimate siblings. Husbands are a bit more compassionate to their wives than mistresses. They admit they are not the primary losers in this game.

The Adulterous Husband

Despite husbands discounting their losses, they lose nonetheless. The affair calls for an investment in time, effort, affection and resources which even they admit rightfully belong to his legitimate family. This brings forth guilt that one must contend with. Coping with the deceit often compromises one's morality.

Lies are needed to keep the secret. More lies are needed to cover-up the previous lies. Since no secret remains secret forever, excitement turns to terror as covering up becomes increasingly tedious and discovery more and more imminent. Life becomes a network of lies. Intimacy is lost. Deceit becomes a way of life. Getting caught with all its dire repercussions is the dreaded occurrence.

His involvements make life schizophrenic as he needs to compartmentalize his relationships. He unwittingly becomes dependent on women for validation. Should either choose to kick him out, his ego is bruised with the unexpected rejection. For his women to get involved with someone else, an even worse blow is dealt his macho image.

Discovery inevitably brings hysterics and accountability. He is the focus of anger and pain. His security is threatened as the likelihood of his losing his home and family is very real. At best, he may be forgiven, but the damage is done. Despite remorse, suspicion becomes part and parcel of life. Lost trust is most difficult to recover. Even if one should elude disclosure, the unfaithful husband still needs to tackle the loss of self-respect and personal integrity. The unfaithful husband loses peace of mind and self-esteem. Perhaps an even bigger loss is the loss of respect and adulation of those who love him most. Even if he shakes off responsibility, he needs to wrangle with the pain of those closest to him.

Whether adulterous men agree or not, their reputations suffer. They are the topic of unsavory conversations and despite outward nonchalance they are shunned in close interpersonal relationships. Adulterous men are considered selfish and untrustworthy. In being a master of denial, the unfaithful man becomes insensitive to his own feelings and callous to the feelings of others.

The Mistress

In getting involved with a married man, the mistress often gets much more than she had bargained for. She risks so much for the prospect of gaining so little. As a mistress she lives with public scorn. The *querida* is seen as immoral. She is cursed and blamed for the affair. She is credited with cashing in on her man's inherent weakness. She is judged as the root of the anguish and disruption in the lives of the legitimate family.

Her reputation suffers as gossips scrutinize her every move. At best she is seen as foolishly naive. At worst, she is presumed untrustworthy, manipulative and mercenary. Knowing of her involvement with a married man, men eye her as something to play with. Women suspect her as a threat to their turf.

The affair and its need for secrecy limits her interactions. Cover-ups and lying come with the territory. Belittled and embarrassed, she becomes numb as she learns to shrug off condemnation not only from outsiders but often from those closest to her as well. Her support group is limited. Engaged in this illicit relationship, she cannot share with others a most important area of her life. She cannot shout out her joys nor seek solace for her troubles. Her family and friends may abandon her and look at her with disapproval. Should she be married, her children are likely to confront her with her lack of decorum.

Her lover becomes the focus of her existence. Precarious as her relationship is, she wrangles with insecurity. The toll of being better if not perfect is exacting. The relationship taxes her self-respect. Her self-worth is contingent on her lover's favorable

assessment. She loses the freedom to just be herself. She must be perpetually patient, and eternally attractive. Many times despite feeling used and played with, the woman involved with a married man cannot afford to lose her temper or vent her indignation lest she risk losing her lover.

She is the lady-in-waiting, making herself available to him without being able to depend on his being there for her. Emotionally invested she needs to put up with the inequity and be content despite the disparity in reciprocation. How often must she be relegated and expected to be selfless, understanding that her man has obligations elsewhere that he must meet.

The mistress submits to being less than number one, resigned to being lonely on holidays and special occasions knowing that her lover is out in public with his wife and family. They have rights; she is but dispensed privileges.

She is burdened with the obligations of marriage but enjoys none of its benefits. Should she have children, she is primarily a single parent, mother to children who society defines as mistakes, never meant to be. They are reminders of her indiscretion. In guilt, she witnesses the pain they must innocently suffer.

Should the relationship become more permanent, she is branded a home wrecker. Should the affair be shortlived, she needs to deal with rejection and degradation. While those around her are relieved of her disentanglement, she cannot cry out the pain of her bereavement. In her anguish, she can expect no sympathy.

The Wife

It is in the intimacy of marriage that one expects to find happiness. Women especially equate a husband and family as essential to their security and wellbeing. One to believe that her worth is anchored on her husband's approbation and being needed, the wife's self-esteem sinks as she sees herself replaced by another woman. A husband's affair shatters a wife's illusions of finding affirmation, completion and happiness in a loved one. Secrecy and deceit brings a loss of intimacy. She loses trust in someone she had entrusted her life to. The lack of sharing brings feelings of loss of recognition and respect. She loses her spontaneity, becomes wary and suspicious.

Blamed by her husband and society for her deficiencies she is convinced she is a failure. She is reduced by guilt and rejection, her efforts and sacrifices discounted. Insecure, she searches for answers none of which completely make sense.

As resources are diverted, impoverishment sets in. Time, effort, affection and finances are lost. She feels shortchanged and taken advantaged of. She is made to feel grateful for what is rightfully theirs.

Discovery brings out the worst in her, as she struggles to contain the torment she feels. She experiences an array of unpleasant emotions she never knew existed. Every little thing reminds her of her pain. She lashes out in her distress hoping to get rid of her anguish. In exhaustion, she often gets sick in her desperate need for care and reassurance.

Should she demand that she be accorded the love and fidelity due her, the wife may need to take a stand that could lead to the dissolution of her family. This is likely to further curtail her family's security and available resources.

Should she decide to stick it out and deny a problem exists in the hope of maintaining a semblance of family stability, she may need to swallow her self-respect and resign herself to more torment. Vulnerable either way, she feels degraded and abused.

She is embarrassed as her family is talked about in whispers. She feels sorry for herself and her children. She feels impotent in shielding them from pain. She feels guilty that she is unable to give them the ideal life she wishes them to have.

The Offspring

Offspring irregardless of age or legitimacy, suffer from an affair. The trauma and its effects linger. Infidelity and the consequent turmoil it brings rocks one's basic security. Offspring are deprived of stability and harmony they need to feel loved and secure. The loss of trust is most difficult to recover. Their capacity to love and feel loved by another is stunted. Relationships are hampered as they are afraid to commit themselves fully lest they again be betrayed. Confused role modeling affects their own heterosexual adjustment.

Young children may not be aware of the issues but are unduly stressed nonetheless. Although they may not understand, they are overwhelmed with the tension around them. Parents, cranky and troubled, often displace their hostility on their children. The child's wrongdoings are magnified, believing his parents, the child internalizes a sense of incompetence and unworthiness. They feel rejected, anxious and insecure. Young children not knowing if they are to blame for their parents fighting, tend to feel accountable and guilty.

Older offspring, aware of the issues, learn that they cannot trust those they love most. They feel vulnerable realizing that they cannot rely on their elders to look out for their best interests. The supposed protectors are the cause of pain. They become disillusioned with the parents they would like to look up to. They are sad and angry. They feel wronged and short-changed.

Offspring lose respect for a wayward parent. Confused they do not know who or what to believe. Resentful, they often rebel and refuse parental guidance in light of the parents' lack of moral ascendancy.

In their longing for recognition and acceptance, they are pressured to prove themselves as worthwhile and worthy of affection. Ashamed of their status, they hide in the shadows. In their rejection, they reject themselves. Often in the hope of being accepted, they learn to lie as they present fictional lives with an honorable ancestry woven in.

Discriminated and stigmatized, many are insensitive to the illegitimate offspring's plight. Impoverished by what they have never had. Their birth is met with mixed emotions. From the very beginning they are denied an honorable identity. Everyday tasks like filling out information forms reminds them of their parentage. By definition, legal or otherwise, they are "illegitimate" — "*anak sa pagkakasala*", "*anak sa labas*", unwarranted, unsanctioned, not meant to be.

Offspring carry the disgrace of their parents indiscretion. They are sensitive to those around them. They cringe as others gossip about their family. In learning to deaden their embarrassment, they become numb to others as well. Many lose their innocence as they prematurely take on adult responsibilities. They long for a full-time family. As affection and resources are divided, offspring are deprived materially and emotionally. With limited resources, many suffer financial hardship. The prospect of having but one parent or none at all is most distressing. Happy families are regarded with woeful envy.

Each individual directly or indirectly involved with infidelity, is transformed by the affair. Each has heartache uniquely his own. Like air in a balloon, pain fills all available space. It is immaterial to try to quantify whose suffering is more traumatic. Infidelity is a game wherein everyone loses. The only way to win is not to play.

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