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THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILD IN PRESIDENT RAMON MAGSAYSAY STATE UNIVERSITY: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT: This research study aimed to investigate stories and expressions among the lived experiences of the selected illegitimate child student in President Ramon Magsaysay State University. Findings revealed that the illegitimate child know their rights in different ways like in the school and their family by telling them, through internet or social media by searching her/his rights and in the seminar by the discussion of different kind of laws. The findings also revealed how each respondent approach their life being illegitimate child. The participant also had different reaction or what they feel after knowing that they are Illegitimate Child but at the end of the day they accept it and continue their life like parents are legal or got married already because their parents always fulfill their responsibilities as their parents. Research has demonstrated that illegitimate children commonly suffered stigma, sense of belonging, damage of self – concept, difficulty in starting or maintaining relationship, not wanting to have children of their own, feeling compassion for others in similar situation, delinquency and etc. In the light of the foregoing findings, it was recommended that school should open the topic about illegitimacy to add knowledge about the specific meaning of Illegitimate Child, conduct seminars about illegitimacy because in our country we have insufficient knowledge about it, the illegitimate child should be encouraged to express her/his feeling so the society give an action about that and especially give them what they really deserved.

KEYWORDS: *Illegitimate Children, Child, Lived Experiences, Phenomenological, Delinquency*

I. INTRODUCTION

In today's generation, a lot of millennial are having unwanted pregnancy and most of them are ended raising the child alone, a lot of couples who are not legally married, adultery cases, a marriage that was later annulled, and the effect in this situation, illegitimate children are born. Illegitimate child is one born to parents who are unmarried at the time of his birth. In the past, such a child was legally known as "filius nullius" or "child of no one". Even subsequent marriage of the child's parents is insufficient to render him legitimate. Likewise, a child born to parents of a bigamous marriage is considered illegitimate but state law has changed to render them legitimate. In recent years, the law has largely abandoned the term illegitimate in favor of term "born out-of-wedlock" to describe such children.

In United States they had given an illegitimate child the right to inherit from his mother. However, paternal inheritance rights remain inconsistent. Most states do not automatically consider an illegitimate child to be the legal child of his father. These states allow the child to present evidence of his paternity although many of these states often demand that paternity be proven during the father's lifetime. Acceptable forms of evidence in various states include evidence of subsequent marriage to the mother or the father's legal acknowledgement of paternity. Some states will also allow DNA testing as proof, even after the father's death.

In the Philippines, children conceived and born outside a valid marriage are illegitimate unless otherwise provided in the Family Code of the Philippines (Article 165 of the Family Code). According in the Article 209 of the Family Code of the Philippines states that "pursuant to the natural right and duty of the parents over the person of their emancipated children, parental authority and responsibility shall include the caring for and rearing of such children for civic consciousness and efficiency and the development of their moral, mental and physical character and well being. relative thereto, Section 1 of Republic Act 9255 provides that: "Illegitimate children shall use the surname and shall be under the parental authority of their mother, and shall be entitled to support in conformity with this code. However, illegitimate children may use the surname of their father if their filiation has been expressly recognized by the father through the record of birth appearing in

the civil registrar or when an admission in a public document or private handwritten instrument is made by the father.

Republic Act 9225, however, clearly provides that an illegitimate child shall be under the parental authority of the mother unless the latter is unfit. Since your illegitimate daughter is already 12 years of age she may choose who among the parents she wants to stay with provided the same will serve her welfare. This finds support under Article 213 of the Family Code of the Philippines which states that “in case of separation of the parents, parental authority shall be exercised by the parent designated by the court. The study was conducted because there is a need for school to create a positive approach of the environment or society to illegitimacy. This research utilized the narrative inquiry or descriptive phenomenological approach to bring together a common understanding on Illegitimacy in President Ramon Magsaysay State University.

II. RELATED STUDIES AND LITERATURE

Berkov et. al. (June 2012) in their article, a child is legitimate if it is born in wedlock, or generally if its mother was married at some point during pregnancy. The concept of illegitimacy had existed since Roman times and earlier. Throughout history, societies had subjected illegitimate children to a variety of disabilities. In medieval Europe, illegitimate children had no legal relationship with either parent could not appear in court as a party or a witness and were barred from public office. In English common law, the illegitimate child was the child of nobody, or *folios nullius*. He could not inherit; his parents had no right to his custody; and he could not assert any rights against either parent for his support.

According to Scott (2007), today were talking about books featuring a person born out wedlock not bastard titles which is another matter entirely. For centuries, a child born outside of marriage was a cause for terrible shame. There were all manner of legal issues and the status of “bastard” had huge influence on how a person was perceived by society. But bastards were also a gift for authors and dramatists.

According to Ferriss (2012), the phrase “illegitimate child”, according to the AP’s perhaps belated entry in its online version, is “stigmatizing and unfairly so”, according to the stylebook editor David Minthorn. Like those following The New York Times Manual of Style and Usage, AP reporters are encouraged to replace the offending adjectives with phrases like “whose parents were not married”. Now, I had inveighed elsewhere against those who argue that politically sensitive descriptors are too clumsy, but you have to admit this one is a mouthful. Still, culturally attuned readers and listeners like Sigmund Roos, parent of two adopted children who weighed in on an NPR report last July that used the phrase “illegitimate children believe the adjective implies a cultural value that no longer has any currency and can be seen as insensitive or even offensive.

In the Philippines child support is an issue that unmarried mothers had to face when the child is born out of wedlock. It is often difficult to chase after fathers who have abandoned children to avoid responsibility. In general, children born outside a valid marriage is referred to as illegitimate children, but there are other reasons for illegitimacy: children born of couples below 18 regardless of the existence of marriage, children born of incestuous marriages, children born of adulterous relations between parents, children born of other void marriages specified under article 15, and children born of bigamous marriages.

In the study of Essig (2012), there has long been a lot of hysteria among US elites about children born “out of wedlock”. Ever since the 1965 Moynihan Reports claim that black families were failing because of the pathology of single motherhood policy makers and pundits not to mention more than a few sociologists had been running around screaming the sky is falling “illegitimate children are the problem not poverty, lack of access to anything like universal education, health care, not to mention those crazy European things like state-subsidized childcare.

In the Study of Motivation and Emotional (2015) by Wikiversity, it is natural for people to have psychological needs such as having warm, caring interpersonal relationships with others, or successfully completing individual goals and aspirations. All these examples assist in reinforcing positive emotional regulation in areas such as biological reactions, coping mechanisms, and social functions.

In the study of Jimeno (2017), tomorrow will be Valentine’s Day. With Filipinos having a reputation for being naturally romantic, expect restaurants, hotels and motels to be fully booked. Without wanting to be a square, I believe it timely to talk about the the worrisome trend, not only in the Philippines but worldwide too of the rising birth of children out of wedlock. In the study of Acosta (2015) as an illegitimate child, you have the right to use the surname of your father considering that you have been recognized as his daughter. Republic Act No. 9225 provides that: “Illegitimate children shall use the surname and shall be under the parental authority of their mother and shall be entitled to support in conformity with this code.

III. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The study aimed to investigate stories and expressions among the experiences of the selected illegitimate child student in President Ramon Magsaysay State University.

IV. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Locale:

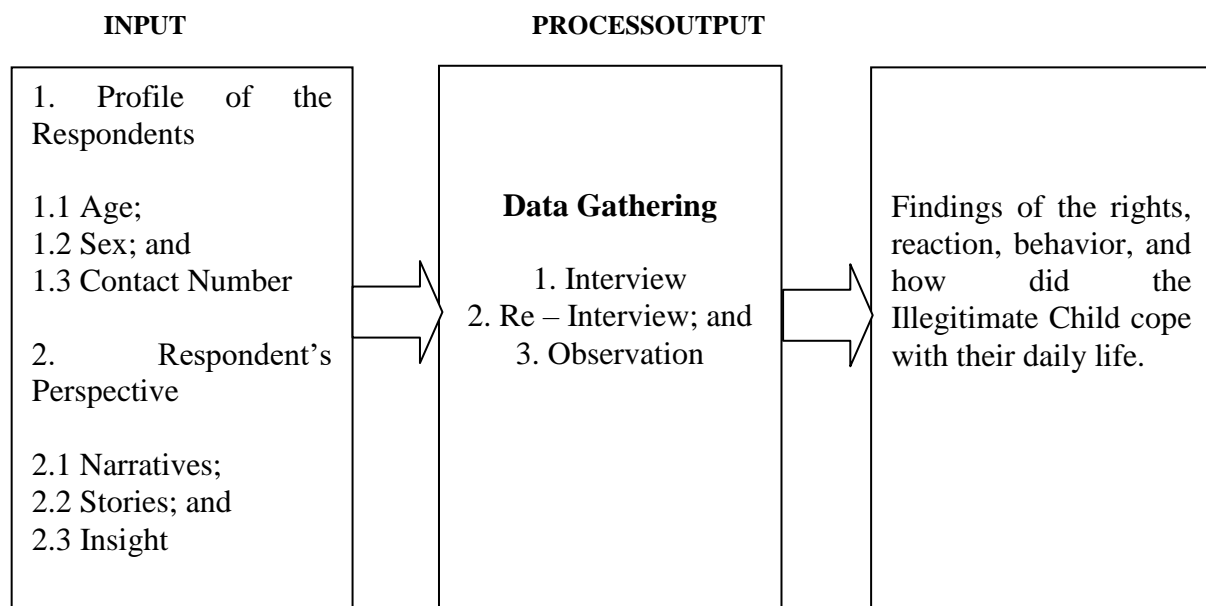
The study was conducted in President Ramon Magsaysay State University Senior High School Department.

Respondents of the Study:

Five (5) illegitimate children were interviewed in this study. All of them were Filipino. Four (4) children were living with their both parents and the other one illegitimate child was separated with her father.

Data Gathering Procedure:

Researcher used participant interviews protocol guided this study, however, the study evolved based on the participants and their descriptions of the illegitimate child phenomenon. Data was gathered using field notes and an audio recorder but before that the researcher make an agreement and has their permission to record the whole duration of the interview. Written consent to audio record interviews was obtained from the participants and their parents, if they are minors. The use of an audio recorder captured the interview and ensured the participants narrative was accurate. Audio recordings were transcribed verbatim. The field notes were useful in documenting immediate thoughts and reflections after each interview. This process was explained to each participant prior to the interview. Phase 1: Researchers conducted interview to chosen students to collect basic information about the study. Phase 2: Drawing and follow-up interviews and conducted after collecting basic information to deepen the understanding on their situations. Phase 3: The researchers assured that all information is treated with utmost confidentiality.



A Phenomenological Qualitative Design was the most appropriate for a subject as intimate as illegitimate child, particularly for a group rarely asked how its members conceptualized illegitimate child. This research applied the face to face interview were carried out at all interviews. The interviews had specified time limits of approximately 5 to 15 minutes. All interviews were carried out with the help of already prepared interview guide papers and were recorded alongside the respective questions. According to Easwaramoorthy M., et. al. (2006), interview is a conversation for gathering information. A research interview involves an interviewer who coordinates the process of the conversation and asks question and the interviewee who responds to the questions. Interviews can be conducted face to face or over the telephone. The internet was also emerging as a tool for interviewing. Interviews was appropriated method when there is a need to collect in-depth information on people's opinions, thoughts, experiences, and feelings.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Knowing their Rights as Illegitimate Children by their Family, School, Seminar and Internet

Five students in President Ramon Magsaysay State University gave their statement about where they know their rights as Illegitimate Child. The Illegitimate Children know their rights in different fields like their family explained it to them, in the school his/her teacher accidentally open the topic about the rights of

Illegitimate Children, the other one attended seminar and lastly she gathered the information in the Internet by searching.

Family

The Illegitimate Child easily understands at the young age because her family explained it to her very well. Explaining the real situation to their children is one of a good idea so he/she easily accepts the real situation and not feels the criticism of others.

Participants 1 commented, *"I knew my rights as illegitimate child because my family explained it to me"*.

School

In school they do not usually open the topic about Illegitimate Child because this is very sensitive topic and they thinking what the child would feel if the topic would open but it also good to open for the sake of the illegitimate child to help them to open their mind and also to know their rights.

Participants 2 commented, *"In school the teachers explained if what is the illegitimate child and what is the rights of being an illegitimate child then the teacher also gave an example situation so that I can understand it"*.

Participant 3 commented, *"In school also I learned to my teacher the rights of being an illegitimate child and to my classmate that we had the same situations"*.

Internet

The global computer network provides a variety of information and communication facilities, consisting of interconnected networks using standardized communication protocols. By the help of internet we can get information about anything and one of our Illegitimate Child knows their rights through this.

Participants 4 commented, *"I know the right of being an illegitimate child by watching news in the television and reading different articles regarding illegitimate children via internet"*.

Seminar

Seminar is a conference or other meeting for discussion. One of our participants his/her rights by attending seminar.

Participant 5 commented, *"I attended a seminar where we tackled about different kinds of law and one is about the rights of the illegitimate child rights"*.

How they cope with their Life Normally

In the Philippines illegitimate children are entitled to carry the surname of their fathers provided they were expressly recognized as shown in their record of birth or if there is an admission of their filiation by the father contained in a public (notarized) document or a private handwritten instrument. They are entitled to support and to inheritance when the father dies. However, an illegitimate child legitimate or entitlement to the estate of his father is only half of that of a legitimate child. While the parental authority of an illegitimate child shall be with mother, the father of an illegitimate who recognized him may be entitled to visitation rights to enable him to enjoy the company of the child, gave him love and share in the child's rearing and development. And we asked our respondent if how they cope with their daily life to gathered information if they are supported with their father/mother.

Participant 1 commented, *"My life is normal. I can always get what I want and I think that there is nothing wrong with my situation"*.

Participant 2 commented, *"I have normal life"*.

Participant 3 commented, *"There's no problem, I eat three times a day. All I need in life gave to me specially in terms of education"*.

Participant 4 commented, *"I still do what I did before nothing really changes because my dad and tita (stepmother) treats me very well especially my stepmother who treats me as if I was her daughter and also my siblings"*.

Participant 5 commented, *"I'll do the things that I'll make happy like playing volleyball together with my friends on that I forgot that I have someone lost in my family and I feel to them that I am complete"*.

According to the study of MARRIPEDIA an online social science encyclopedia on all matters related to family, marriage, religion, and sexuality that the rate of non-marital births has increased rapidly. In 1970, about 11 percent of all births were to unmarried parents; by 1990 that figure rose to 28 percent. By 2013 around 41 percent of all U.S births roughly 1.6 million births per year were to unmarried parents. The largest shares of non-marital births are to women aged 20 through 24 years. Unlike in past decades, most out of wedlock births today 58 percent are to cohabiting couples. Therefore, while the majority of those children had their biological mother and father present at birth many spend most of their life in a single parent family. From the very beginning

children born outside of marriage had life stacked against them. While many single mothers work and raise their children well despite the obstacles they encounter and keep living normally.

They Have Different Reaction After Knowing that they are Illegitimate Child

Being Illegitimate Child is not easy for them but eventually accepting it is the key to have a happy life and some other case about being illegitimate child is not totally hard because their parents was not able to get married because of some reason but they are happy living with each other and with their family. Like in our five (5) participants they had different reaction and feelings about their situation;

Participant 1 commented, “I understand my family because they told me that they are still studying that time but maybe soon they planning to get married”.

Participant 2 commented, It’s Ok on my part I feel that my parents is married never missed to love and care of me”.

Participant 3 commented, It’s fine for me as long as my parents didn’t separate”.

Participant 4 commented, “I felt little bit uncomfortable but I was able to overcome the thought because nothing will change if I let myself down because of it”.

Participant 5 commented, “When I know the truth about the situation of my parents I feel dawn to myself, my confident is going down I have more questions to myself that why it is happened to my parents? But when I saw the people and my family that loves me I accepted it with all my heart”.

According to the book of Motivation and Emotional (2015) by Wikiversity, it is clear that the type of environment in which a child is brought up in is crucial in their development of how they see themselves in the world now and in the future. Therefore, ensuring the child knows that they are in no way “illegitimate”, merely the relationship in which they were made is deemed illegitimate by society, allows a strong sense of self esteem and contentment to ensure. Thus the parents need to make it clear to the child that they are not responsible for the circumstances of the conception. It is clear that there are number of emotional impacts that an illegitimate child could be faced with, in particular the feeling of being an outcast, as well as inability to maintain relationships.

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

On the basis of significant findings of this study, the following conclusion are drawn: The illegitimate child knows their rights through their family, at the school, attended seminar and get information in the internet knowing their rights is very big deal because this is important to know. They cope their life normally with their parents or by supporting them. Even they have different reaction or feelings about knowing they are illegitimate child they accept it because that is their life and they sincerely accept it.

In the light of the foregoing findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are given: The school should open the topic about illegitimacy to add knowledge about the specific meaning of Illegitimate Child. Conduct an open forum for the illegitimate child to help them to overcome their unnecessary behavior. Give them what they really deserved. The Illegitimate Child should be encouraged to express his/her feeling so the society understand them. Replication of this study may include a wider scope for validation purpose.

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