

# Adjustment of Married Couples with Different Citizenship in Selected Municipalities of Batangas Province, Philippines

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**Abstract** - *This study was designed to assess the adjustment of married couples with different citizenship in selected municipalities of Batangas Province. The respondents were 174 mixed-marriage couples that were chosen through purposive convenient sampling. This study determined the profile of the respondents in terms of sex, age, nationality, nationality of partner, place of residency and length of relationship. A descriptive method of research was utilized and survey-questionnaire was its main tool. Questionnaires were distributed to the respondents and were retrieved to be tallied, tabulated, interpreted and analyzed. The statistical treatments used in the study were frequency and percentage, weighted mean and chi-square. Results showed that most of the respondents are female, 27 – 30 years old and are Filipinos with American, Schweiz, New Zealander, Japanese, Thai, British, German and Italian partners. Most are from rural areas and have relationship length of 4-7 years. Further, demographical adjustment showed that most are adjusted in both cultural and financial aspect; while psychological adjustment depicted that most are adjusted on psychosocial aspect and highly adjusted on emotional aspect. Correlating the profile and demographical adjustment of respondents showed significant relationship except for the place of residency while the profile and psychological adjustment of respondents also depicted significant relationship. Moreover, the implication of the findings of the study to the Filipino community is discussed thoroughly to guide couples to constructively look at their strengths and adjust on their differences with each other.*

**Keywords:** *Adjustment, Citizenship, Inter-racial Married Couples*

## INTRODUCTION

Marriage is the union of two people who wants to start a family. It is said to be a prerequisite in achieving a long lasting relationship. Ideally, love is the reason why people settle down, but in some cases it can be their parent's will, for the sake of money, security, and power while others are left without much of a choice. Most people pledge their vows with someone of the same race since they have commonalities; it is easy for them to compromise on things. However, not all marriages are within races, others marry across racial lines.

Meanwhile, marriage is viewed differently by couples of interracial marriages [1]. Marriage is a universal sentiment and compromise at best. However, adjustments, hassles, problems and confusions are part of its reality. People who enter a new culture almost inevitably suffer from

disorientation as physical and social environment offer new things which are hard to understand. Speaking in a second language much more than understanding its context also prove to be difficult and exhausting. The cultural differences encountered and sometimes inability to comprehend may produce a persuasive sense of insecurity [2]. It is inevitable for two people living together with differences in opinion, beliefs, attitude, and preferences. In addition, study [3] stated that dealing with in-laws is a tricky territory for the couple as they are expected to be respectful while disagreeing on multiple counts. The couples should set a few boundaries to avoid messy confrontations. It is also important to show support to one's partner and making the relationship a priority over how the couple's parents feelings. Proper handling of their relationship despite of their differences therefore, must be prioritized.

Mixed marriage brought about sharing of emotional and physical intimacy as well as various family tasks in different cultural context. Great emphases are given on emotional connections, commitment and the sharing of resources between individuals to overcome social and cultural difficulties so as to set their own living style, communication and social support system. Ultimately, tolerance and patience are indeed needed for the success of the mixed-marriage. As highlighted in the study [4], the difference in racial backgrounds and cultures are most likely to be the enriching aspect of the interracial couple's lives as this may be fulfilling for both when they share traditions and cultural beliefs important to each other along with building a new family of their own.

Filipino choosing to marry foreigners capitalized on opportunities for overseas migration which they believe could dramatically change their lives. Today, Filipinos can meet their future foreign spouses through mobile phones, friend referral, Internet-based chatting and even facilitation of a relative overseas [5].

Samonte [6] stated that marital satisfaction among Filipinas married to Japanese men was generally high and this is because Filipinas displayed perseverance to make the marriage work and for her to adjust to the host society. Empathy, flexibility and willingness to adopt perspectives other than one's own seem to contribute to the success of Filipina-Japanese marriages. Further, Filipinas are now a more varied group than the projected popular images such that they are assertive, independent-minded and willing to take risks. These characteristics may be a reflection of inner conviction to be resilient and confident in venturing a new world of experience in interracial marriage.

With the abovementioned, the researchers decided to conduct this study on the adjustment of married couples with different citizenships as well as its implication to Filipino community. The researchers were also interested to know on the reasons why foreigners opted to stay in the country after being married and their respective adjustments. This will impart knowledge and perceptions to the researchers about married couples with different nationalities. The researchers firmly believe that interracial marriages have great impact in the psychosocial and emotional temperament of couples with different citizenships and in turn to the family they are creating.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

This study aims to assess the adjustment of the married couples with different citizenships in selected municipalities of Batangas province. Furthermore, it aims to correlate the profile of the respondents with their demographical adjustments along culture and financial as well as psychological adjustments in terms of psychosocial and emotional aspects. The resulting relationships between the profile of the respondents and their respective adjustments can serve as basis for construction of useful implication to the Filipino community.

## **HYPOTHESIS**

This study worked on the premise that there is no significant relationship between the profile of the respondents and their demographical adjustments. Likewise, there is no significant relationship between the profile and the psychological adjustment of the respondents.

## **METHODS**

### **Research Method**

The research utilized the descriptive method as this was deemed appropriate in presenting facts concerning the nature and status of the study including survey and correlation. It describes and interprets what goes beyond mere gathering but also the tabulation of data that can be used in comparable statistical calculations. This method is more concerned with logical observable facts and involves element of interpretation of the meaning or significance of what is describe [7].

### **Participants**

Respondents of the study were one hundred seventy four (174) individuals purposively selected based on being part of a couple with different citizenship. It should be clearly noted that the respondents stipulated that they are married although as to what type of religion was not included in the study. Respondents were chosen through non-probability sampling, specifically purposive sampling as the most appropriate way of determining the target population or those involved in the study [8]. They came from five municipalities of Batangas found to have the greater number of interracial married couples. Twenty nine (29) of the respondents hailed from Balete, twenty one (21) from Malvar, eighteen (18) came from Talisay while seventy nine(79) were

found in Tanauan and twenty seven (27) from Cuenca. Respondents who answered the questionnaire were mostly Filipino since they are available and present during the conduct of the survey. When time and presence permitted, the foreign husbands or wives were the respondents and only one member of each couple answered the survey-questionnaire.

**Instruments**

The data used in the study were collected through primary and secondary data. Primary data came from interview with the couples who were pre-surveyed so as to prepare the survey-questionnaire appropriately. Secondary data came from books, unpublished materials, journals and electronic sources.

The self-constructed questionnaire was devised to determine the adjustment of couples with different citizenship. This was forwarded to the adviser, panels and experts for constructive criticism thus several revisions were made until the validated questionnaire was finally approved. This primary tool was composed of two parts: first part covered the profile of the respondents while the second part targeted the assessment of demographical adjustments in terms of culture and financial and psychological adjustments in terms of psychosocial and emotional aspects.

The researchers-constructed questionnaire was then distributed to the respondents and a four-point rating scale was used to rate each question with its corresponding verbal interpretation.

**Procedure and Data Analysis**

The researchers looked for municipalities of Batangas with high numbers of married couples with different citizenship. The researchers went through suggested channels such that they contacted the Local Government Unit- Statistics/Registrar’s Office to get data regarding married couples with different citizenships. However, very limited numbers were retrieved and researchers were advised to communicate with the barangay level of the different municipalities. Upon contact and permission of the couple or one member of the couple, answering of questionnaires were facilitated together with unstructured interviews and documentation such as picture taking with the respondents to supplement the analysis of the study later. Video and audio recording were not allowed as the respondents find these means a bit invasive to the family’s privacy.

The gathered data were then tabulated, tallied and subjected to statistical tools such as the frequency and percentage to present the distribution of the respondents according to their profile while weighted and composite means were used to analysed and interpret the assessments on demographical and psychological adjustments. Finally, chi-square test of independence was used to determine if significant relationships exist between the profile of the respondents and their assessments on demographical and psychological adjustments.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**Profile of the Respondents**

Tables 1 to 6 present the distribution of the respondents. These are presented in tabular form in terms of sex, age, nationality of the respondents, nationality of the partner, place of residency, length of relationship and type of residents.

Table 1. Profile of the Respondents in terms of Sex

Sex	f	%
Female	107	61
Male	67	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>100</b>

Sex is the sum of the structural and functional differences by which the male and female are distinguished. It can be gleaned from the table that majority of the respondents were female with frequency of 107 or 61 percent compared to male whose frequency is 67 or 39 percent.

The findings implied that female in general, regardless of the race, are more likely to engage in interracial marriage. This was probably due to the fact that female are more sensible and adaptive than male as they seek for security and contentment.

Table 2. Profile of the Respondents as to Age

Age	f	%
31 years & above	56	32
27 – 30 years	71	41
23 – 26 years	47	27
22 years & below	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>100</b>

This refers to the length of time during which a being or thing has existed; length of life or existence to the time spoken of or referred to.

It was shown in the table that majority of the respondents were 27-30 years old with the frequency of 71 or 41 percent. It was followed by age ranging from 31 years old and above with the frequency of 56 or 32 percent while 23-26 years old came last with the frequency of 47 or 27 percent.

The table revealed majority of the respondents were at their early adulthood and therefore their decision to marry interracially is anchored on sound judgment and a choice of their own.

Table 3. Profile of the Respondents according to Nationality

Nationality	f	%
Filipino	107	61
American	19	11
Arabian	22	13
Chinese	10	6
Others	16	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>100</b>

Nationality pertains to the racial identity of the respondents. Nationality normally confers some protection of the individual by the state, and some obligations on the individual towards the state. It can be gleaned from the table that majority of the respondents are Filipino with the highest frequency of 107 or 61 percent.

It was followed by Arabian with the frequency of 22 or 13 percent and American got the frequency of 19 or 11 percent. On the other hand, Others pertaining to Australian, British, German, Italian, Japanese, New Zealander, Schweiz and Thai, got the weighted mean of 16 or 9 percent and Chinese got the lowest frequency of 10 or 6 percent.

Findings revealed that most of the respondents who are engaged in interracial marriages are Filipino. Primary reason lies on the sampling location which is the Philippines. It can also be noted that other races reside in our country and this can be attributed to the nature of Filipinos being hospitable, loving, caring and affectionate as they treat foreigners the same way as they treat fellow Filipinos. They are loyal and easily give their trust to people who are important to them.

Table 4. Profile of the Respondents with regards to Nationality of Partner

Nationality	f	%
Filipino	67	38
American	23	13
German	22	13
Japanese	15	9
Arabian	13	7
Others	34	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>100</b>

Nationality of partner refers to the racial identity of the respondents' partner. Data disclosed that majority of the respondents have partners that are Filipino with highest frequency of 67 or 38 percent. It was followed by Others which include Australian, British, Chinese, Dutch, Italian, Malaysian, New Zealander, Pakistani, Schweiz and Thai with a frequency of 34 corresponding to 20 percent. Americans got a frequency of 23 or 13 percent, Germans got the frequency of 22 or 13 percent and Japanese got the frequency of 15 or 9 percent. Subsequently, Arabian got the lowest frequency of 13 or 7 percent.

The majority being Filipinos coincided with the number of foreigner-respondents who answered the questionnaire. In addition proliferation or openness to marry across races may probably due to the flourishing stage of faster communication and cheaper ways of getting in touch with the world. These technological advances provide access to Filipinos and other races to meet and be friends with them.

Table 5. Profile of the Respondents in terms of Place of Residency

Place of Residency	f	%
Poblacion	70	41
Barrios	104	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>100</b>

Residency refers to the type of community where the respondents live. Majority of the respondents were from barrios with the frequency of 104 or 59 percent while those from Poblacion has frequency of 70 or 41 percent. This may be because most people from barrios seek work overseas which give them chance for better life since working abroad offers more opportunities rather than working in their own country. Job interaction abroad opens more doors and

creates the chance to meet and be affiliated to people of different race increasing the chance of having interracial marriage.

Table 6. Profile of the Respondents as to Length of Relationship

Length of Relationship	f	%
12 years & above	0	0
8 – 11 years	55	32
4 – 7 years	85	49
3 years & below	34	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>100</b>

Length of relationship refers to the span or period of relationship of the couples of different nationality. Table 7 revealed that majority are married for 4-7 years with the highest frequency of 85 or 49 percent. Interracial marriages for 8-11 years with the frequency of 55 or 32 percent followed while those marriages for 3 years and below got the frequency of 34 or 19 percent. It can be deduced that since most of the couples have been together for 4-7 years, they already surpassed the challenges of difference in citizenships and survived the relationship making it more meaningful as they decide to stay together and be stronger for one another. Possibly, the trend of interracial union gets higher leading to more engagement of people to this type of union.

**2. Assessment of the Respondents on their Demographical Adjustment**

The succeeding tables present the assessments of the respondents in their demographical adjustment. Demographical adjustments were classified in terms of culture and financial.

2.1 Culture is the accumulation of values, forms of expressions, religious beliefs, occupational choice and the like for a group of people who share a common language and the environment.

The assessments of the respondents on the demographical adjustment as to culture were determined through the weighted mean with its corresponding interpretations. Table shows that majority agreed that they join in activities that their partners traditionally do with the lowest weighted mean 2.86. Likewise, they agreed that they eat/cook foods that their partners love to eat and they give emphasis on values that their partner consider culturally important with a weighted mean of 2.92 and 3.22 respectively.

Findings revealed that respondents love to share and be involved in activities and happenings that their partners’ traditionally do so as to be completely part of their partners’ life. They want their partners’ family to accept and love them and they prepare themselves to the happenings that their partner’s culture required.

This is probably due to the fact that they enjoy each other’s company aside for the love that make their marriage be in good track. On the other hand, giving emphasis on values that their partner consider culturally important shows that Filipinos can easily conform and adapt to their partner’s culture as a way of showing love and importance to them.

This is similar to the study [9], which indicated that for intercultural relationships to persevere, a degree of cultural adjustment must occur, which can facilitate adaptive outcomes such as cognitive flexibility, improved social competence, increased self-awareness, and personal growth.

Table 7. Respondents’ Assessment of their Demographical Adjustment in terms of Culture

After the marriage, I...	WM	Interpretation
1. give emphasis on values that my partner consider culturally important.	3.22	Agree
2. conform with my partner’s belief.	3.20	Agree
3. changed my religion that is same with my partner.	3.26	Strongly Agree
4. strived so hard to learn more about his/ her language.	3.06	Agree
5. try to learn more about my partner’s family customs and tradition.	3.14	Agree
6. celebrate events that is a part of my partner’s cultural traditions.	3.30	Strongly Agree
7. respect my partner’s family orientation.	3.50	Strongly Agree
8. join activities that my partner traditionally does.	2.86	Agree
9. eat/cooks what my partner loves to eat.	2.92	Agree
10. never let our cultural differences interfere our marriage/relationship.	3.52	Strongly Agree
<b>Composite Mean</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>Adjusted</b>

To sum it up, the respondents are adjusted as to demographical aspect specifically in terms of culture with the composite mean of 3.20. This finding denotes a positive cultural adjustment which illustrated how the Filipino culture and their adapting capabilities help the interracial relationship to stay stable and safe from marital dissatisfaction.

This was parallel to the findings that marital satisfaction among Filipinas married to Japanese men was generally high. Filipina displayed perseverance in doing everything possible to makes things work within the marriage and as such adjusts to the host society. Filipinos in general are known for their international perspective, their open mindedness, and tolerance of differences [6].

2.2 Financial. Finance may be defined as the art and science of managing money which includes financial service and financial instruments. It is also referred as the provision of money at the time when it is needed.

Table 8. Respondents' Assessment of their Demographical Adjustment as to Financial

After the marriage, I...	WM	Interpretation
1. let my partner take charge of our money.	3.37	Strongly Agree
2. support all the financial decisions of my partner.	3.31	Strongly Agree
3. assure that money will never be a cause for quarrel.	3.38	Strongly Agree
4. respect my partner's decision to invest on business that he/she wants	3.32	Strongly Agree
5. never dig up issues regarding money.	3.36	Strongly Agree
6. let my partner manage our home expenditure.	3.05	Agree
7. give my fair share when it comes to our finances.	3.05	Agree
8. make sure to spend our money wisely so that it will not lead to matters of argument.	3.25	Strongly Agree
9. let my partner buy what he/she wants as long as it is reasonable.	3.39	Strongly Agree
10. let my partner handle our money.	2.87	Agree
<b>Composite Mean</b>	<b>3.24</b>	<b>Adjusted</b>

It can be gleaned in table 9 that respondents strongly agreed that they let their partners buy what their partners want as long as it is reasonable with a weighted mean of 3.39. Probably this was due to reason that they did not want their partner to feel being controlled. Meanwhile, some of the respondents agreed that they let their partner handle their money with a weighted mean of 2.87. Possibly, this is because they have genuine trust and want to show unconditional love to their partners.

It was parallel to the study that most of interracial marriages have good pecuniary regulation because they have a good source of income [10]. Money is not considered the center of the marriage and money is the least of the hindrances that each couple experienced.

Generally, the respondents are financially adjusted with the composite mean of 3.24. This finding indicates that couples have positive adjustment towards financial aspect and flexibility of the Filipinos to create a budget and satisfy the standard of different races. Further, it implies capability of balancing the financial needs of their family.

Boa [11] indicated that mixed-marriage couples are stable. Their satisfying marriage had viewed their misunderstandings as a challenge and they utilized or built their resources to overcome these challenges in a way that they had not destroyed the marriage or their level of satisfaction.

### 3. Assessment of the Respondents on their Psychological Adjustment

The succeeding tables present the assessment of the respondents on their psychological adjustment in terms of psychosocial and emotional.

3.1 Psychosocial is one's psychological development in, and interaction with, a social environment. It was first used by Erik Erikson in his stages of psychosocial development.

Table 9 reveals that majority of the interracial couples strongly agreed that they assure to attend important family meetings with a weighted mean of 3.37. Additionally, they agreed that they bond with important people in their life despite their differences with a weighted mean of 2.99, and make friends with their partner's acquaintances and that they plan gatherings to learn more about their partner's culture with a weighted mean of 2.82 and 2.63 respectively.

Findings mainly pointed to the fact that they do not want their partners' family and acquaintances to be disappointed and spare them from feeling unimportant.

Table 9. Respondents' Assessment of their Psychological Adjustment According to Psychosocial

After the marriage, I...	WM	Interpretation
1. make friends with my partner's acquaintances.	2.82	Agree
2. hang out with my partner's friends.	3.02	Agree
3. join family activities of my partner.	3.02	Agree
4. prefer to spend my leisure time in knowing the likes and dislikes of my partner's family.	3.34	Strongly Agree
5. try to establish a good relationship with his/her family.	3.27	Strongly Agree
6. assure to attend important family meetings.	3.37	Strongly Agree
7. act in a way acceptable to his/her surroundings.	3.29	Strongly Agree
8. plan gatherings so I can learn more about their culture.	2.63	Agree
9. bond with important people in his/her life despite of our differences	2.99	Agree
10. allow my partner to mingle with his/her friends.	3.18	Agree
<b>Composite Mean</b>	<b>3.09</b>	<b>Adjusted</b>

They also want sense of attachment and acceptance in the relationship which is basically a need to maintain a relationship. This also allows them to know their partners better. Additionally, they plan gatherings so that they can learn more about their culture to establish belongingness transcending every possible barrier between the couple.

This was parallel to the study [12] on interracial couples which revealed that they have healthy family relation and they have not experienced disapproval from their partner's family despite of their differences. Language barrier issue is not a major problem, as well as logistics, cultural barriers and traditions. Coping resources included humor, learning about the other's culture, communication, personal preparation, working towards common goals, and religion. These couples were found to have attitudes of commitment to their marriage, each other, and people around them and a belief that they were not that different from their partner.

In general, the respondents are psychosocially adjusted with the composite mean of 3.09. This specifies that respondents have affirmative regulation

as to psychosocial. This only implies that they are willing to learn and adapt to the environment of their partners. Furthermore, it also indicates that they have higher sociability that they are able to get along to people of different orientation and values.

It is easy enough to find a potential mate who is similar to oneself in many aspects, but practically impossible to find one who is exactly similar. As a result, there are always of dissimilarity, so the two individuals must learn to accept various differences and adjust to them [13].

3.2 Emotion is a mental state that arises spontaneously rather than through conscious effort and is often associated by physiological changes [14]. Emotion is often the driving force behind motivation, positive or negative.

Table 10. Respondents' Assessment of their Psychological Adjustment in terms of Emotional

After the marriage, I...	WM	Interpretation
1. try to do my partner's habitual interests such as sports, movies, etc.	3.44	Strongly Agree
2. avoid things that would hurt his/her feelings.	3.43	Strongly Agree
3. never let him/her feel that we are different.	3.39	Strongly Agree
4. feel happy in fulfilling a wife/husband's role.	3.66	Strongly Agree
5. support decisions that will make him/her happy.	3.55	Strongly Agree
6. never say things that will make him/her upset.	3.58	Strongly Agree
7. do things that will make him/her feel special.	3.51	Strongly Agree
8. try to understand him/her every time we had an argument.	3.21	Agree
9. make special things to make him/her feel loved.	3.10	Agree
10. respect his/her decisions to avoid arguments.	3.49	Strongly Agree
<b>Composite Mean</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>Highly Adjusted</b>

Table 10 shows that majority strongly agreed that they feel happy in fulfilling a wife/husband's role with a weighted mean of 3.66. Meanwhile, some of the respondents agreed that they try to understand their partners' every time they had an argument and that they make special things to make their partners feel loved by them with a weighted mean of 3.21 and 3.10 respectively. It can be noted on the findings they do

not want simple misunderstandings to lead to a more serious problem that can ruin the marriage. Furthermore, as a couple, they accepted each other's responsibility letting them to be involved in each other's lives.

In addition, giving special things than can make their partners feel that they are being loved shows that action matters, it must be seen or felt for it to be real. People are embodied with emotions, the very reason why it takes an effort to prove that someone important.

This was justified in [15] which stated that couples had a strong sense of commitment to their spouse, and to marriage as an institution. They believed that the love they had for each other was key to their success and all of the couples stated in one form or another their belief in love to overcome any differences they have. They believe that love has a tendency to override everything. This perception also influenced what these couples saw as stressors.

To sum up, the respondents are highly adjusted with the composite mean of 3.44. This specifies that respondents have high affirmative regulation as to emotional. This indicates that respondents are well adjusted to the relationship that they chose. Interracial marriage was not an exception in managing a contented and sound union of two people who accept each other despite differences.

In interracial marriage, embracing the things that partners have in common as well as their differences is one in many ways to succeed. The difference in racial backgrounds and cultures are likely to be some of the most enriching parts of every couple's lives. Bringing these things together proved to be even more fulfilling for both of them and sharing traditions or cultural beliefs with each other has been considered most important as they build their lives together [16].

#### 4. Relationship between Profile of the Respondents in Demographical Adjustment and Psychological Adjustment

#### 4.1 Demographical Adjustment

Table 11 presents the significant relationship between the profile of the respondents and their assessments on demographical adjustment.

The computed Chi-Square value for the test of significant relationship between the respondents' sex, age, nationality, nationality of partner and length of relationship with their assessment on demographical adjustment of married couples with different citizenship revealed computed values greater than the critical values at 0.05 level of significance with their respective degrees of freedom, thus the null hypothesis was rejected and all were found to be significant. Sex significantly influenced the demographical adjustment of couples with different citizenship mainly because females are more likely to engage in interracial marriage because they are sensible that they much willing to accept and understand well the differences between them and their partners. Also, women commit to interracial marriage as they find more security from those men with different nationality since they can better provide sufficient financial support. Females have expressed higher need for security and self-satisfaction.

Moreover, age significantly influenced the demographical adjustment of married couples as they are in adult age which denotes their experiences in dealing and overcoming problems. This is parallel to the findings in [1] showing likelihood of being in an interracial relationship declined steadily with the age of the respondent. They found out that age significantly influenced marriage and interraciality.

Nationality is also significant because many Filipinos work abroad and their tendency is to get along with people. Hence, it basically teaches them about other people's nationality and culture as well as provides better understanding of the differences. This was parallel with [18] in saying that people who work abroad have a chance to be culturally aware and ignites understanding about other people and their perspectives.

Table 11. Relationship between Profile and Demographical Adjustment of Respondents

Personal Variables and Assessment of Demographical Adjustment	Computed Value	Tabular Value	Degree of Freedom	Decision Ho	Interpretation
Sex	17.545	7.815	3	Reject	Significant
Age	48.447	12.592	6	Reject	Significant
Nationality	59.108	21.026	12	Reject	Significant
Nationality of Partner	29.296	15.507	8	Reject	Significant
Place of Residency	4.318	7.815	3	Accept	Not significant
Length of Relationship	79.442	12.592	6	Reject	Significant

People with international exposure come to understand the value of dialogue between individuals from different cultures and between people with different points of view.

Nationality of partner is found to be significant because partners with different nationalities have different culture and traditions that is hard to deal with since they are raised differently but because they are adjusted, they were able to keep the marriage working. Intercultural couples also have a strong commitment to the relationship and to one another, willing to make changes and accept the non-traditional and are more flexible and resourceful in dealing with differences than their same-culture peers [19].

The length of relationship significantly influenced the demographical adjustment of married couples with different citizenship may be because they live with each other for 4 to 7 years so couples strive so hard to make the relationship work increasing their adjustability.

This is similar to [11] that the interracial couples' satisfying marriage had viewed their misunderstandings as a challenge and they utilized these challenges in ways that do not destroy the marriage or their level of satisfaction.

In contrast, the computed Chi-Square value for the test of significant relationship between the respondents' place of residency and their assessment is 4.318 which is lower than the critical value of 7.815 at 0.05 level of significance with the degree of freedom 3, thus the null hypothesis was accepted and it is found to be not significant. Therefore, place of residency has no significant influence in the demographical adjustment of married couples with different citizenship. This is probably due to the fact that people are dynamic. They were able to adapt to changes in their environment as long as they have what they wanted and this is mainly the reason why the environment on which couples interact has no

significant relationship to the demographical adjustment of couples.

Brown [20] found that intercultural couples enter relationships more aware of possible conflicts, and have higher standards for their relationship in areas such as shared interests and the environment where they have to live because they are aware of the difficulties they will face because of their intercultural differences.

#### 4.2 Psychological Adjustment

The computed Chi-Square values for the test of significant relationship between the respondents' sex, age, nationality, nationality of partner, place of residency and length of relationship and their assessment on psychological adjustment of couples with different citizenship were found to be greater than the critical values at 0.05 level of significance, thus the null hypotheses were rejected and all are found to be significant. Hence, sex significantly influenced the psychological adjustment of couples with different citizenship. Women are more likely to marry men with different nationality because they were more understanding and patience than men especially Filipinos because they were known to have good qualities of a good partner such as being affectionate, loving, caring and understanding.

Asian women, particularly Filipinas, are well-known for their beauty, loyalty, commitment, and honor to the man they married to. This makes them ideal wives. It has been the trend lately for men from western countries to be fascinated and inclined to marry Filipinas for these distinct qualities.

Age significantly influenced the psychological adjustment of couples with different citizenship. The researchers believe that as a person matures, they become more adjusted and also the relationship becomes longer.

Table 12. Relationship between Profile and Psychological Adjustment of Respondents

The following Personal Variables and Assessment of Psychological Adjustment	Computed Value	Tabular Value	Degree of Freedom	Decision Ho	Interpretation
Sex	20.141	7.815	4	Reject	Significant
Age	17.955	9.488	3	Reject	Significant
Nationality	61.813	15.507	8	Reject	Significant
Nationality of Partner	56.818	15.507	8	Reject	Significant
Place of Residency	29.426	5.991	2	Reject	Significant
Length of Relationship	15.854	9.488	4	Reject	Significant

Couples grow in the relationship itself making them more adjusted to their differences and valuing more what they have. Foeman and Nance [21] believed that interracial couples work through unique interactive stages, in addition to those stages common to intra-racial couples, as they move toward establishing long-term commitments with each other.

Likewise, nationality significantly influenced the psychological adjustment of couples with different citizenship. This is because differences in a couples' race is not easy to deal with for a couple. They need to accept and respect each other in order to make the relationship succeed. Probably, this was due to the fact that adjustment of couples are basically about accepting each other's differences concerning traditions and beliefs they grew up with. People commit marriage because they believe that they finally find the person they will live with. Being aware of the fact that they love each other prompt them to accept each other's differences and adjust.

Lizardo [15] showed similarity with the study as the couples believed that the love they had for each other was key to their success and all of the couples stated in one form or another their belief in love to overcome any differences they have.

The nationality of partner significantly influenced the psychological adjustment of couples with different citizenship. The researchers believe that people are raised with different beliefs and orientation. This implies that way of thinking significantly affects the way they interact with others and handling relationships since they were raised with different beliefs and orientation. This was parallel to [22] that interracial couples have the ability to trust and form enduring socio-emotional bonds with their partners.

Further, place of residency significantly influenced the psychological adjustment of couples with different citizenship. This is mainly because situations and environment in barrios gives meaning to the perception of an individual. Thus, the place where an individual creates interaction greatly influence by the way they perceive the environment.

They noted the importance of adapting to the other's changing needs. Both concepts of communication and flexibility can be measured by the enrich inventory [23].

Lastly, length of relationship significantly influenced the psychological adjustment of couples with different citizenship. Probably, this is because the longer the time they are with each other, the more

attachment was able to build with. Thus, they are able to know and adjust with each other's differences.

Embracing the things that each partner have in common as well as their differences is one in many ways to succeed. The different parts of the racial backgrounds and cultures are likely to be some of the most enriching parts of every couples lives [16].

##### 5. Implication of the findings of the study to the Adjustment of Couples to Filipino Community

All married couples go through periods of adjustment. Adjusting to marriage involves uniting two sets of perceptions, expectations, needs, goals, and personalities.

As the findings indicated, this study supports the need for strength-based model to work with couples by researching some of the strengths in coping that exist in successful intercultural marriages. This positive view of intercultural marriages will allow clinicians working with intercultural couples an in depth-look at how couples succeed in dealing with stress and coping. These strengths can then be used to build these resources in struggling couples. An underlying concept for work with intercultural couples should be a respectful stance of learning about a particular couple's experience and their view of challenges. The findings in this study supports the idea that not all intercultural couples face the same stressors and experiences as they merge two cultures in their relationship [24].

As the respondents recognize their assessment on demographical and psychological adjustment, it will become the basis on the researchers to establish a proper implication on the Filipino citizen in coping up the differences on other people with uncommon cultural orientation.

The researchers believed to work on problems that the respondents have identified, and not on commonly held beliefs or stereotypes. The respondents as the subjects of this study will not just help the researchers to have the possible outcome of this research, but will also help the couples to constructively look at what strengths and adjust on their differences with each other. The themes of seeing similarities between the spouses, learning about each partner's culture, supporting each other, personal preparation and seeking out support from others are all areas which the researchers can focus conversations to create a good and advantageous way of living in spite of their dissimilarity.

## CONCLUSION

In light of the findings of the present study, the researchers concluded that most of the respondents were female, mostly are 27 – 30 years old and are Filipinos with partners that are mostly Filipino since this number corresponded to the number of foreigner-respondents. Most came from rural areas and have relationship length of 4-7 years. Demographical adjustment revealed most of the respondents are adjusted in both cultural and financial aspect while psychological adjustment showed couples to be adjusted on psychosocial aspect and highly adjusted on emotional aspect.

The profile and demographical adjustment of respondents were found to have significant relationship to the adjustment of couples with different citizenship except for the place of residency. Meanwhile, the profile and psychological adjustment of respondents were found to have significant relationship with the adjustment of couples with different citizenship.

The implication of the findings of the study to the Filipino community is discussed thoroughly so that this will guide couples to constructively look at what strengths and adjust on their differences with each other.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

People who are engaged in interracial relationship must consider their capabilities to adapt to each other cultural environment to avoid misunderstanding and conflict dealing with each other's belief and in terms of financial aspect, the couple must be aware of the stability of their resources and learn to manage together for the growth of their family. The couple may observe first the behavior of each one including those of the family and friends where he/she commencing. With this, they will see what the nature of the family they are planning to join with. In terms of emotional, the couple may try to bond and get to know each other before committing themselves in matrimony. These will avoid broken family and will create a sound union for the partner.

Demographical and psychological adjustment is a great factor in managing a blissful family life. The couple should be ready in living with the world where their partners are used to. These should apply to both parties to have a greater chance of unity in decision-making in the family. To prevent allegations the couple has to use each other strength to maintain their

happy relationship despite of all the differences they may encounter in the future. It is truly important to have willingness to adjust to each other and acceptance in the disparity that they both have.

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