

Young Voices: Results of the Young Adult
Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS 3) Qualitative Studies

***MAY NANGYARI NA:
MGA KUWENTONG
KABATAAN***

**(ADOLESCENTS TELL
THEIR STORIES
ON TEENAGE SEX AND TEENAGE MARRIAGE)**

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3RD YOUNG ADULT FERTILITY AND SEXUALITY STUDY
(YAFS 3)
QUALITATIVE STUDIES

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PREFACE

For a few decades now, there has been an ongoing discussion about adolescent sexuality, sex education, and reproductive health in the Philippines and in many parts of the world. The UPPI (University of the Philippines – Population Institute) has responded by providing quantitative data drawn from researches on a national scale. This book hopes to contribute to the ongoing discourse by providing qualitative data on the topic of concern.

The core purpose of this book is to present the main findings of a research on adolescent sexuality. Culled from the interviews with young women whose stories appear in the book, I named cultural influences that drive young women and their families to decide for teenage marriage after teenage sex and pregnancy. Generally, the increasing incidence of unplanned and mistimed sex among young people has been a matter of grave concern for parents, teachers, and church people. It is my hope that an awareness of these influences would be helpful in directing families to make decisions that could change the conventional response of families to teenage sex and pregnancy. Identifying these influences enables us to address them by offering alternative perspectives to the taken-for-granted responses that have emerged in young people's lives today.

The three Young Adult Fertility Surveys YAFS 1 (1984), 2 (1994), and 3 (2002) were already available to the public when I started conceptualizing my research problem. After my dissertation was approved in 2006, Dr. Michael L. Tan encouraged me to make the research findings available to a wider and international readership. As this book was being prepared for publication, the Department of Education pilot tested modules on Sex Education in different schools in the country. In view of these efforts, I hope that the insights from this study will generate healthy attitudes and approaches to adolescent sexuality.

Initially, the study was an earlier attempt to study the wedding rite of the Catholic Church by exploring the changes the sacrament of Matrimony may have undergone decades after Vatican II (1962-65). As a religious missionary, I wanted to make a contribution towards inculturation, making Catholic rituals