

*The Process of Mate Selection and the Problem of
Cohabiting Couple's Adjustment for Marriage Contract
in the Case of Debre Markos Town*

By: Habtamu Belay

*A Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies
in partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Masters of Art in Social Psychology*

July 2010

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Ato Dame Abera, my advisor for his invaluable insights and comments throughout the various stages of this study.

It is commonplace to assign success to one's family for encouragement and support, my mother Birhan Yebeltal deserves due appreciation in this regard.

I also want to express my gratitude to Bizuayhu Mitiku who was always available with me and giving helpful reactions whenever I need her and also writing and typing this paper.

I am also indebted to the participants of this study and research assistants for their unreserved cooperation during the time of data collection. Debre Markos University students, Debre Markos Preparatory School, Abay Health College, Debre Markos municipality, Debre Markos Teacher Training College and Debre Markos town Administration Officials, teachers and students are the aforementioned research participants also acknowledged for their genuine commitments to fill in the questionnaire.

Table of Content

Contents	page
Acknowledgement	i
Table of contents	ii
List of tables.....	vi
Acronyms	vii
Abstract	viii

Chapter One

Introduction	1
1.1 Background to the problem	1
1.2 Statement of the problem	4
1.3 Research Questions	7
1.4 Objectives of the study	7
1.4.1 General Objective	7
1.4.2 Specific Objectives	7
1.5 Significance of the study	8
1.6 Delimitations of the study	9
1.7 Limitation of the study.....	9
1.8 Operational definitions of important terms	10

Chapter Two

Reviewing related literature.....	11
2.1 Mate selection process.....	11

2.1.1	Origins of mate selection.....	12
2.2	Dating and courtship process.....	13
2.2.1	Dating process.....	13
2.2.2	Courtship process.....	15
2.3	The love triangle process.....	16
2.4	Criteria for choosing a mate.....	18
2.4.1	Physical attractiveness.....	18
2.4.2	Age and success of a potential mate.....	20
2.4.3	Faith of a potential mate.....	20
2.5	Theories of mate selection.....	21
2.5.1	Complementary needs in mate selection process	22
2.5.1.1	Need for inclusion.....	22
2.5.1.2	Need for control.....	23
2.5.1.3	Need for affection.....	23
2.5.2	The filter theory.....	24
2.5.3	The stimulus value role theory.....	24
2.5.3.1.	Stimulus.....	25
2.5.3.2.	Value complementarities.....	25
2.5.3.3.	Role complementarities.....	26
2.5.4.	Reiss's wheel theory of love.....	27
2.5.5.	Gender difference in mate selection.....	28
2.6	An overview of studies on mate selection and marriage practices in the Ethiopian context.....	29
2.7	Cohabitation.....	31
2.7.1	Cohabitation as a substitute for Marriage.....	32

2.7.2 Purposes of Cohabitation.....	33
2.8 The Effect of Cohabitation	33

Chapter Three

Methodology

3.1 Target population	38
3.2 Sampling technique	38
3.3 Data collection instruments	39
3.4 Procedures of data collection	40
3.5 Data analysis techniques	40
3.6 Pilot study.....	41

Chapter Four

Results and Discussion.....	42
4.1 Results.....	42
4.1.1 Background characteristics of the Respondents	42
4.1.2 Respondents response on Mate selection criteria	44
4.1.3 Couples reasons for cohabitation.....	47
4.1.4 Couples adjustment problem for marriage contract.....	48
4.2 Discussion.....	50
4.2.1 Mate Selection Criteria	50
4.2.2 Gender Variation in Mate Selection Criteria.....	52
4.2.3 Reasons for Cohabitation.....	53

4.2.4 Cohabiting Couples Adjustment for Marriage Contract.....	54
---	----

Chapter Five

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation.....	56
5.1 Summary.....	56
5.2 Conclusions.....	58
5.3 Recommendation	59
References.....	61

Appendixes

List of Tables

- Table -1-** Demographic characteristics of the respondent
- Table -2A-** Respondents mate selection criteria
- Table -2B-** Friedman Test and ranks on variables of criteria of mate selection to examine the major criteria
- Table-3-** Regression Analyses to Test Hypothesis Concerning the Linear Relationships of the Five Criteria to Mate Selection.
- Table-4-** Independent samples t-test for mate selection
- Table -5-** Couples reason for cohabitation and their mean difference
- Table -6-** t-test for adjustment problems
- Table -7-** Cohabiting couple's adjustment problem measuring items

Acronyms

FIOR:	Fundamental Interpersonal Relations Orientation
NSFH:	National Survey of Family and Households.
Aji:	Adjustment items
SVR:	Stimulus-Value-Role

Abstract

This paper examines the process of mate selection and the problem of cohabiting couple's adjustment for marriage contract in case of Debre Markos town. Data were gathered by using questionnaire and interview. The items were scales of mate selection, reason for cohabitation and cohabiting couple's adjustment problem of marriage contract and the interview supplement the questions raised in the questionnaire.

Hundred eight (55 male and 53 female) participants were selected. Among the total respondents (91%) of the respondents were orthodox Christians and the majority of the participants were grown up in a middle class family which accounts (72%).

Comparison of mean difference, linear regression and t-test were computed to analyze the data. The major criteria to choose a potential mate in Debre Markos were economic capacity ($M=23.3, sd=.70$), and personal characteristics ($22.8, sd=.336$). There is no significant difference between men and women in mate selection criteria ($t(98) = 1.89, P>0.05$). At the same time these five criteria together do have very high predictive power that accounts $R^2 = .974$. That means the five criteria of mate selection together can predict 97.4% of mate selection.

The result on reasons for cohabitation revealed that people cohabit primarily for convenience purpose ($M= 3.02, sd = .73$). Racial background ($M=3.24, sd= .58$), unrealistic concept of expenditure ($M=3.18, sd=4.15$) and fear of birth before marriage ($M=3.18, sd=4.15$) were the major adjustment problems of cohabiting couples for marriage contract.

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background to the Problem

The process by which young adults find long-term partners are always been part of universal human culture and transmitted from generation to generation. However, most young women and many men did not have sex until they were engage to marriage. As we enter the 21st century, nearly all these conditions have changed. Young people typically spend more time searching for partner (Hutter, 1998).

In most societies, mate-selection process involves what social scientists call a marriage market. Cherlin, describe the marriage market as follows:

Sociologists and economists study, who marries, whom, they often make an analogy with labor market, in which people seeking employment look for employers who will hire them at an acceptable wage. In the marriage market, unmarried individuals (or their parents) search for others who will marry them (or their children). Instead of an acceptable wage, the searchers require that a partner have an acceptable set of desired characteristics such as a college education, good looks, a pleasant disposition and so forth. In other words resources are what I have that a partner might want; preferences are what I want a partner to have (Cherlin 2002, p 253).

Even though these metaphors are useful for unmarried persons in the marriage market, Black Well, (2000) described that mate preferences and resources are not provided in the market for all who are looking. However, David M. (1986) said that females tended to be more selective and discriminating than males in their mating choices.

It is obvious that men are more interested in physical attractiveness to date women and women are more interested in personal qualities and potential earnings. Regardless of the variations between men and women for mate preferences; personality dispositions and resources are important components to choose a potential mate.

Regarding this issue research evidences of Olson, (2000) described that personality characteristics, romantic love, physical attractiveness, economy and religion are significant variables in mate selection. However, are these characteristics equally weighted by men and women in their life long mate? Do men and women differ in their mate preferences? Why they are cohabited before marriage? Asking such kinds of questions is important for family researchers.

It is common believe that after choosing a prospective mate, people can be wedded or cohabited. Cherlin A, (2002) pointed out that cohabitation is increasingly viewed as a transitional stage between single hood and marriage and cohabiting relationship considered as an alternative to marriage.

However, Macionis, (1991) declared that although cohabitation tends to bring couples together for a limited amount of time and cohabitants may see each

other only at their best, cohabiting relationship does not imply as much commitment as a marriage and cohabitants rarely have children. Cohabiting practices are especially common on college and university campuses. It has many problems if cohabitants are not similar in any aspect of social life.

Adjustment difficulties to prepare for marriage contract emanated from many conditions. Hurlock, (2004) said that good adjustment to a mate is difficult when men and women have different racial, religious or social back grounds and thus, have different interests, values, and frames or reference. This usually leads either to lack of communication or to quarreling, both of which are hazardous to good marital relationships. An equally serious obstacle to good marital adjustment is highly romanticized concept of a mate built up before marriage.

Erickson also pointed out that young adulthood is characterized by “a crisis of intimacy – Vs- isolation” and he declared that those who can establish warm, intimate relationships with others especially with their spouse’s, children, in-laws and other relatives are happier and make better personal and social adjustment than those who isolate themselves from family members, (Erickson cited in Hurlock, 2004).

In relation to the above assumption, family researchers have developed a number of theories to explain how and why individuals choose a particular partner.

First, family theorists have maintained two contradictory theories. Olson, (2000) stated that people have the tendency to marry some one of the same ethnic group, educational level, and religious background. On the other hand,

the idea of complementary needs theory asserts that opposites attract, for example, the dominant person and a submissive person would be attracted to each other.

Second, the filter theorists asserted that a person of legal age could marry any unrelated person he/she choose from different classes or backgrounds. The filtering process is influenced by various factors such as propinquity, or nearness in time and place, social background such as ethnicity, age and socioeconomic status of a potential partner.

The third theory of mate selection is a stimulus-value-role theory. This theory argues that people are attracted to initial stimulus by comparing their value orientations and agreement of roles Delcampo, (1999).

However, there are limited evidences about the process of mate selection and the problem of cohabiting couples adjustment of marriage contract in Ethiopia. Even though, some western research evidences asserted that mate selection criteria are conducted through various behavioral characteristics differently from culture to culture and the reasons for people to make a cohabitation relationship differently, yet, it is not studied as a required standard.

There for, the researcher was interested to conduct study on the process of mate selection and cohabiting couple's adjustment problem for marriage contract.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

There are problems of mate selection process and cohabiting couple's adjustment problems of marriage contract. It is obvious that in our country,

especially in rural part of Ethiopia, elders conduct mate selection process when a son and a daughter fulfill the criteria that elders prefer. This activity affects young adults in two ways. First, the criteria did not consider the bridegroom proper age and economical maturity of the bride. Second, it influences both males and females engaged in to marriage without their consent and divorce might happen before they reach adulthood.

Many local sociological research findings asserted that the practice of marriage in Ethiopia has different forms; such as customary, religious and civil. In line with this Serkalem, (2006) found that the traditional and religious marriage are widely practiced and Solomon,(1992) findings also asserted that church marriage is the ideal type and the bride groom take communion in church and are entitled "worn special crown" on their wedding day.

In general, in Ethiopia in every corner of the country family involvement in mate selection influences the bride to choose their potential partner from their surrounding and to decide their own lifelong mate. However, the bride family expects the nobility of the girl is the relative in-laws nobility, which is characterized by honest, trustworthy, sociable and hard working. There is a saying that coincides with this attitude that is "see the mother and marry the daughter".

In Ethiopia, moral, religious and cultural grounds do not allow couples to live together before marriage (Serkalem, 2006). However, there are many contributing conditions to create conducive environment and to make the relationship happy.

In Debre Markos town and its surrounding areas mate selection was taken place through elders and parents by considering the girls cooking skill, nobility (her family presumed noble) or “chewa” and the boys economic potential takes into consideration, and the boy who has economic power can wedded the girl, (Solomon,1992). However, individuals’ preferences to choose their mate do make a good relationship, if the processes conducted by their own.

It is noticeable that People cohabit for various reasons with different types of relationship. Many family researchers commonly classified four types of cohabitation:

Links blanket: - Occurs when one partner depends or insecure that he or she prefers relationship with any one to being alone.

Emancipation: It is away to break free from their parents influence and value.

Connivance: A cohabiting relationship that involves one is giver and the other is taker, mainly man is for sex and women for economic, sexual and social reasons.

Testing: A cohabiting relationship for a true testing ground before marriage.

Literatures in western culture support cohabitation in some aspect like sharing of economy, sexual satisfaction and recreational purposes (Popenoe, 2008).

But cohabitants face many problems if they are not in the same geographical territory, social background and similarities in interest and values.

Therefore, the researcher is interested to conduct the study on the process of mate selection and the problem of cohabiting couple’s adjustment of marriage

contract. Thus, this study attempted to investigate mate selection criteria and the problem of cohabiting couple's adjustment for marriage contract.

1.3 Research Questions

In order to examine the process of mate selection and the problem of cohabiting couple's adjustment for marriage contract, the researcher formulated the following basic research questions:

1. What are the major criteria people use to choose a potential mate in Deber Markos town?
2. How much mate selection is predicted from mate selection criteria?
3. What are the major reasons for people to cohabit in Deber Markos town?
4. What are the major conditions that contribute to cohabiting couples adjustment problems of marriage contract in Debre Markos town?

1.4 Objective of the Study

1.4.1 General Objective

The general objective of the study is to assess the process of mate selection criteria and cohabiting couple's adjustment problem towards successful marriage contract in Debre Markos town.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

This study has the following specific objectives

- To explore the major criteria that people use to choose a potential mate in Debre Markos town.
- To explain how much mate selection is predicted from mate selection criteria.
- To identify the major reason for people to cohabit in Debre Markos

- To examine the major conditions that contribute to cohabiting couples adjustment problems of marriage contract in Debre Markos town.
- To provide research based information for other researchers.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The findings of the study gave important benefits for young adults by drawing an insight into the processes of mate selection that drives males and females engaged in to marriage and cohabitation as well as describing the problems associated with cohabitation.

The results have very important for concerned bodies such as governmental and non-governmental organizations which formulates social, legal, and marital and human rights policy. Youths also beneficial in developing awareness about the problems and obstacles of mate selection and problems of cohabiting couples adjustment for marriage.

Especially the findings are very important for cohabitants for clear understanding about financial cost of wedding ceremony.

The community also brings clear awareness about the relationship of cohabiting couples financial benefit and social support with one another.

The results have further help for anthropological, sociological and social psychological researchers to gain an insight into the current practices and problems which contributes adjustment problems of cohabiting couple's for successful marriage contract.

1.6 Delimitation of the Study

There was a probability of comprehensive information if this research has been conducted at national or regional level. However, due to time and financial constraints, this study was delimited to Debre Markos town only. Participants are cohabiting couples from the age range “between” (15-35) years and they were selected by using purposive sampling technique. Standardized questionnaire and interviews were employed to collect the data. The collected demographic data was analyze by using percentage and simple frequency and the main data was quantitatively computed by using standardized T-test linear regression and comparison of mean difference.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

This research do not concluded without limitations. Qualitative researchers stated that the nature of non-probability sampling techniques such as convenience, volunteer, purposeful and snowball sampling procedures might produce samples that do not accurately reflect or represent the characteristics of a population. However, this research uses purposeful sampling techniques because it allows the researcher to select those participants who provide the richest information from those who are directly involved participants and to obtain actual and detailed information from them. Another limitation for this research is financial constraints.

1.8 Operational definitions of important terms

Mate: Refers to other opposite sex individual with in a relationship.

Mate selection: Refers to the process of choosing the other opposite sex individual as a potential mate.

Courtship: A type of relationship between the unmarried men and women with permanent matting usually emerge.

Cohabitation: A living arrangement in which two opposite sex adults a man and women who are not married to each other but who have a sexual relationship, share the same house or apartment.

Cohabiting couples: It is a type of relationship that two opposite sex adults living together through cohabitation.

Convenience: Is a type of cohabitation that one is the giver and one is the receiver.

Togetherness: People live as a kind of cohabiting relationship together by creating intimate relationship.

Testing: A type of cohabitation that people cohabit for testing the compatibility of the relationship.

Adjustment problem: Cohabiting couples adaptation difficulties for marriage contract.

Chapter Two

Reviewing Related Literature

The purpose of this chapter is to assess related researches in relation to the process of mate selection and cohabiting couple's adjustment problem of marriage contract.

Research and materials review contributed to build a foundation for the current study and to identify gaps. The review literature focused on the theoretical explanation of mate selection and cohabiting couple's adjustment problems for marriage contract, then the studies done on the process of mate selection and cohabiting couple's adjustment problem for marriage contract from other countries experience and local studies.

2.1. Mate Selection Process

Hagedorn, R and Rinehart, H. (1981) described that mate selection can be left up to the man and woman involved (participant choice) or it can be taken entirely out of the couples hands (arranged by family or community elders), or it can be a combination of the two.

The process of mate selection drastically changed from the past to the present. One unmistakable trend in mate selection is that the process appears to be taking longer to day than in the past. A variety of factors, including concerns about financial security and personal independence has contributed to the change (Schaefer, 2005).

2.1.1 Origins of Mate Selection

The essence of mate selection has been started during the time of loose social organization in egalitarian society. After generations of loose social organization, individuals acquired some general understanding of heredity. But it is not difficult, however, to see how an incest-boo would simplify and strengthen the society structure by allowing relatives to band together in to a "clan" whose members could trust each other and support each other in fights or other mutual endeavors (William, J, 1968).

Today we may see indiscriminate mating as immoral and crude, but it was necessary for the preservation of species under primitive conditions of life. However, there is incest boo, which prohibits sexual relation with close relatives. In line with this issue, William asserted that the ban against incest allowed males to avoid battles over their sisters and mothers or lines of consanguinity. Since evidences indicates that polygamy and polyandry were common among primitive people, the early family units would have been different from those we know today and would have consisted of several women with a relatively close tie to one another and looser tie to one or more men.

In addition to this, Jackson and William, (1968) pointed out that in the 11th century, when crusades began; many of the nobles went off to war, leaving their wives at home. The men who did not go on the crusades tried to amuse the women; they wed them usually with extramarital sex in mind. During this time, they arouse the phenomenon of the troubadour, usually a noble, who went from castle to castle to entertain.

These troubadour Sang a Song and ballads about "romance" to entertain the women of the castle. In this case, they defined sex outside marriage or extramarital passion as "love" this activity was a clue to select who is the best fit for long life heterosexual relationship.

2.2. Dating and Courtship Process

Waller, (1987) distinguished courtship from dating. Dating refers to the pursuit of sexual pleasure as an aim in itself, where as courtship involves interaction with a person who is seen as possible marriage partner. True courtship sometimes emerges from the dating process in spite of all the forces, which are opposed to it.

2.2.1 Dating

As research evidences showed that the dating system was highly competitive. Males dated, if they had access to an automobile, had large supply of spending money, were well dressed, and were good dancers. Girls were date by their appearance, their ability to dance well.

Waller, (1987) described that the problem of dating is an integral part of boy's antagonism and their exploitative nature towards girls "thrill seeking". The "thrills" varied by sex; men sought sexual gratification while women sought to enhance their prestige by going out with the desirable men and gaining financial benefit, such as free admission to amusements, restaurants, theaters and the like. This resulted in dating becoming a bargaining relationship with exploitative and antagonistic overtones.

In line with this issue, Hutter M. (1998) asserted that in our collegiate culture, one begins to fall in love with certain unwillingness, at least with an ambivalent sort of willingness. Both persons become emotionally involved because of a summitry process in which each step powerfully influences the next step and the whole process displays a directional trend toward the culmination of marriage; the mores of dating breakdown and the behavior of individuals are governess through the older mores of the progressive commitment.

On the other hand, Waller opposed the idea of dating which was a root cause for courtship, his argument asserted that even though in most culture establishing male-female interaction; the date is concerned with albeit ephemeral boundaries, dating is not a true courtship, since it is supposed not to eventuate in marriage; it is a sort of dalliance relationship.

A date is among other things, an agreement to become a boundary-maintaining unit for a few hours. If a couple moves from casual, intermittent dating to seeing each other regularly, both they and others explicitly or implicitly begin to behave as though the couple had established a boundary that operates between dates as well.

To some extent this "just happened" with out the necessity of the real decision-making. One partner may object that the other is taking too much for grantees or alternatively complain that the person is "cheating: on the relationship. Broderick, C. (1979), O'Connor, M. and Silverman, J. (1989) pointed out that dating must develop as a system which is capable of monitoring their own behaviors, establishing their own efforts.

Moreover, Schaefer, (2005) declared that in many societies there have been explicit more declared or unstated rules that define potential mates as acceptable or unacceptable. These norms can be distinguished in terms of endogamy and exogamy. The shift from the single to the married states of individuals involves a major reorientation about basic goals and life-styles before they engaged to marry.

In conclusion, Waller's study summarized that dating is separate from courtship; he believed that courtship grew out of dating as one or both partners become emotionally involved. Nevertheless, unequal emotional involvement could lead to the person with "least interest" exploiting the other, thus repeating the debilitation the dating relationship.

2.2.2 Courtship

Broderick, C. (1979) described that the problem of men and women were emanate from an unconnected strange situation to tightly interconnected units in a relatively closed marital and familial system. It has at least three issues. First, how do the units come initially to have a higher rate of interaction with each other than with other units in the new environment? Second, how are boundaries set up and maintained around this fledging unit, and third how is the internal structure (rules of transformation, hierarchies of control etc) established and elaborate?

In addition to the above issues, Delcampo, (1999) asserted that "romantic love" like most human beliefs, attitudes and ways of behaving; it grew out of the social conditions and requirements of an era, and represented an adjustment to these conditions. In turn, it influenced the conditions themselves, and

triggered a series of changes, which exert influence on attitudes and behavior even today.

Research findings evidenced that earlier times romantic courtship become a common custom, largely because of the scarcity of women in the pioneer days. During pioneer day's, male compete for a few female by using romantic love as a persuader. The widespread belief that men were stronger, more vigorous, more courageous and more aggressive than the female placed emphasis, both directly and indirectly for romantic love, but a few females for whom the pioneers competition was appeared in a "small and helpless" fashion and they had to be "protected" by males. This view reinforced romantic attitudes before marriage.

2.3 The Love Triangle

This is fact, love is a prerequisite for creating conducive environment to sexual relationship between two opposite sex adults and many scholars in ancient time define love in different ways.

In ancient Greece, Plato gave credit with developing the nations of romantic love, but love was not associated with marriage. Plato defined love as the highest expression of human virtue. He distinguished three types of love; Agape (selfless love), Eros (selfish love), Philos (deep friendship or goodwill). Even though romantic love in any occasions may be important for dating and courtship process, social psychologists and family sociologists argue that if the relationship must be fulfilled all the three love making components(passion, intimacy and commitment).

According to Sternberg, the three dimensions of love triangle are commitment (the cognitive component), intimacy (the emotional component), and passion (the motivational component, (Sternberg cited in Olson, 2000). Figuratively the love triangle is:

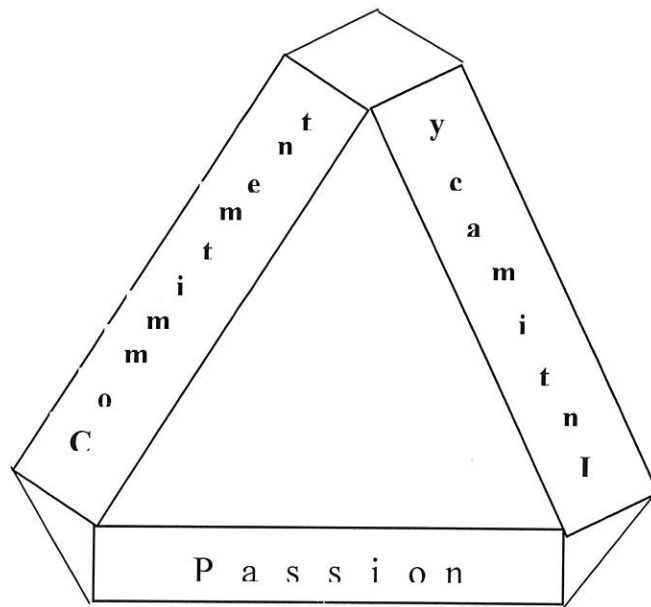


Figure -1 The Love Triangle, adapted from Olson, (2002), Marriage and the family.

A relationship can start with only passion and later develop the other two components (intimacy and commitment). Commitment develops overtime if the relationship is positive that people express commitments when they move their relationship to a more advanced stage (from dating to engagement, from engagement to marriage). Intimacy involves the sharing of feelings and providing emotional support and it increases as closeness grows and deepens as a relationship matures. However, passion is usually expresses by teachings, kissing, and being affectionate, which linked to physiological arousal; it is also expresses through sexual interactions.

In line with, (Sternberg cited in Olson, 2000) identified eight types of love making relationships.

- Non-love (when there is no commitment, intimacy or passion)
- Liking (begins when there is just intimacy but no passion or commitment)
- Infatuation (Involves passion only)
- Empty love (there is commitment but no passion or intimacy)
- Romantic love (has both intimacy and passion, but it is lacking in commitment)
- Fatuous love (occurs when a couple is committed based on passion but not had the intimate relation)
- Companionate love (there is no passion, rather commitment and intimacy), and
- Consummate love (all the three components passion, intimacy and commitment are exist)

2.4 Criteria for Choosing a Mate

2.4.1 Physical Attractiveness

Many research findings asserted that physical attractiveness is one of the most other components of mate selection. Whitt and Berscheid cited in Olson, (2000) pointed out that the more physically attractive a person was, the more likely she or he was to have friends of other sex. As the same time the more physically attractive a person was, the less likely he or she was to worry about the partner's involvement with other people.

Most of us are aware of how good-looking we are as compared with other people, and we tend to use this "attractiveness capital" as bargaining chip in our negotiations with prospective partners, generally, "good looks" are a great asset (Hoog, 2004 and Myers, 2005). To support this idea, Aristotle said, "Personal beauty is a greater recommendation than any letter of introduction" (Aristotle cited in Myers, 2005).

Good physical matches may also be conducive to good relationships and increase someone's confidence; where as, less attractive people often has compensating qualities like achievement. Myers study findings revealed that women tend to be judged as more attractive if they have immature features and men are attractive if their faces suggest maturity and dominance, but evolutionary theorists defined attractiveness for female is, a woman who can give offspring and a man who is attractive, if he is hero and courageous. Thus, psychologists and socio-biologists might explain, "Males expressed no preference for physical appearance cues that correct with female reproductive capability. Physical preferences had even as light basis in genetic variation, then overtime male preferences for physical correlates of age, health and hence reproductive value would necessarily evolve". There fore, what is attractive is to you also depends on what you have adapted to.

According to Lynne Whitt, the importance of physical attractiveness persists even after years of marriage. Whitte found that men would report more sexual problems in their marriage if they believed that their spouse's attractiveness had decreased (E.g. the spouse had gained weight). This argument has shown

that sexual satisfaction with physical attraction among men continues throughout their life (Lynn white cited in Olson2000).

2.4.2 Age and Success of a Potential Mate

Researchers developed a mate profile based on a point that includes age, social status, humor and warmth. Although age is a great asset for selecting a potential mate researchers found that men tend to prefer younger women in dating process, but they did not continue because of age difference. Most men prefer a woman who becomes younger than they do.

Regarding maturity, males mature slowly, but age was a crucial point, which is labeled as the best mating gradient. The tendency of women to marry men is, a man who is better educated or more successful than they are because men tend to "marry down" in terms of age and status, but it can be difficult for successful older women to find an acceptable mate when they are old enough.

2.4.3 Faith of a Mate

The theme of biblical teachings concerning mate selection is people pray for him/her to save a higher dedication individuals have to each other (Rhoads, 2009). The primary purpose of church teachings about marriage is to bear and rear children and all forms of artificial birth control and abortion are restricted.

In relation to this point, Sanyak, (2008) stated that couples cohabitating before contemplating marriage are not acceptable and unlikely living together without get married are judged to have lower levels of dedication.

Religiosity plays a vital role in organizing society through moral values that continues with in the 21st century as a guideline for human behaviors. Religion

for believers see as an assistance to "find positive meaning both in ordinary daily events and in major life challenges" rather religion for non believers, how ever, can be seen as a weakness and inability in decision making (Serensen cited in Sanyak, 2008).

According to Sanyak, religious teachings did not support the uncertainty or impermanence association of cohabitation. Thus, he suggested that persons who cohabit are not willing to make the sacrifice associated with settling down.

In relation to the above declaration, Cherlin, (2002) asserted that how religion prohibit cohabitation. People who marry through religious marriage are less likely to divorce; they have the highest birth rates, they are less likely a women working outside the home, and they have the most conservative attitudes toward gender roles based on literal interpretation of the Bible.

2.5 Theories of Mate Selection

One of the continuing interests of family researcher has been attempted to define the factors that lead to a lasting relationship between a man and a woman. The two major concerns in this research is the process through which a mate to choose and the characteristics of mate, which are predictive of successes in the marital relationship. The theory generally, suggested that individuals who are most likely to be successful in the relationship. Similarities in a large number of characteristics such as area of residence, socio economic level, religious affiliation and many kinds of attitudes and values they experienced.

2.5.1 Complementary Needs in Mate Selection

The theory of complementary needs offers; in mate selection, each individual seeks within his or her field of eligibility for that person who gives the greatest promise of providing him or her with maximum need gratification (Winch, 1977).

This theory asserted that opposites attract—that people are attracted to someone else whose personalities do not complement their own, for example a dominant person and a submissive person would be attracted to each other. Complementary need theorists argue that interpersonal needs that claim to account for both what and why an individual's actions towards others.

Schutz, (1991) declared that all humans possess three needs in a greater or lesser degree to satisfy others. These are the needs for inclusion, control, and affection.

2.5.1.1 Need for Inclusion

Schutz said that the need for inclusion is the inner drive "to establish and maintain a satisfactory relation with other people with respect to interaction and association. It has to do with being in and out. In other words, a person wants inclusion from others or isolated from others. Schutz calls this need to "express inclusion". It is an urge to be worthwhile by making others feel important. He views the human desire to give attention and understanding others is conceptually different from the need to receive recognition from others.

2.5.1.2 Need for Control

Schutz defines the interpersonal need for control as "the need to establish and maintain a satisfactory relation with people with respect to control and power. It has to do with being on top or on the bottom. Schutz's FIRO theory recognizes that some people have a desire to be submissive and dependent as well as to have their paths laid out by others.

2.5.1.3 Need for Affection

The third interpersonal desire of the FIRO theory was "the need to establish and maintain a satisfactory relation with others with respect to love and affection. Where as, the need for inclusion had to do with being in or out, the need to affection has to do with being close or far. FIRO postulated that interpersonal needs are the desires of well-balanced individuals. Perhaps that is your experience.

The core of the theory has the following components:

	Inclusion	Control	Affection
Want from others	Acceptance	Guidance	Closeness
Expresses to others	Interest	Leadership	Liking

2.5.2 The Filter Theory

Even though incest taboo is under consideration, under the law, a person of legal age can marry any unrelated person he or she chooses. Nevertheless, an analysis of mate selection suggested that people tend to go through a filtering process to narrow the pool of possible mates to a few prospective candidates.

Individuals filtered out because of differences from one another. The influence of propinquity or nearness in time and space is the first filter. In other words, the pool of available partners consists of those living within the same geographic area or people with whom one is likely to come in contact. Although people now travel more extensively and have a broader range of social contacts, the pool of eligible partners is still influenced by the social circles we move on, the school or place of worship we attend, the job we hold, and the type of activities we choose to engage in, (Olson, 2000).

2.5.3 The Stimulus –value– Role Theory

Murstein, (1987) theorized that people are attracted to each other by an initial stimulus and then test their suitability for establishing a permanent relationship by comparing their value orientations and agreement of roles. He updated his SVR which has three indistinctive components and are not functional separately rather they work together to move a couple toward a committed relationship. Let us look at Murstein's description of the three components.

2.5.3.1 Stimulus

Murstein's first component said that people are attracted to each other initially by a particular stimulus, such as an attractive physique or popularity. Each person evaluates how attractive he or she perceives himself or herself to be. The stimulus may act as a form of magnetism that draws the couple together and that magnetism may be variously interpreted as love at first sight, magic, destiny or infatuation, rather whatever the stimulus tends to energize the relationship beyond the bounds of simple friendship, it depends upon the person's perception.

2.5.3.2 Value Complementarities

The second component of SVR theory expressed that after a successful exchange during the stimulus stage of attraction, the partners begin to advance to the value stage of the relationship, in which they assess the compatibilities of their basic beliefs and values. They often compare (indirect, conversational mode) of basic religious affiliation, attitudes toward money, work and people preferences for life style and leisure activities and feelings about character and personality.

Although physical attraction is very important in drawing a couple together, it cannot be overcome the strain of disagreement on many issues. Thus, value complementarities become more important in overcoming disagreement than physical attraction in selecting some one at the beginning and for an enduring relationship.

2.5.3.3 Role Complementarities

Merestén's third component said that comparing value complementarity the partners must begin assessing role complementarity or the extent to which they can establish a cooperative role relationship. Through interaction with each other, people discover each other's feelings and behaviors in terms of power and authority (who is going to be the boss), the division of labor (who will perform what tasks), and the expectations each individual has for establishing relationship with one another. Initially, each partner's separate values and roles emerge, but eventually negotiation may be necessary to achieve a workable balance role among parents.

Role complementarity can test only to a limited extent during courtship. The real test begins with marriage, where as cohabitation can provide some indications of a person's life style, but jointly dealing with each partner's style more apparent. Even though every one has different needs, needs tend to change throughout life and a person who might meet one's essential needs at age 20 could be incapable of meeting them at age 40. For example, one woman may desire a man who is assertive and dominant to "take charge" of her and their children, another might prefer a person who would support her professional career.

On the other hand, some men want their wives to be submissive; others admire an independent spirit of individualism life style. Therefore, there is no end to the possible personality types that people seek in a partner. Each couple must determine if their combination is a workable one. The three components of SVR theory serve to help individuals evaluate a dating relationship and

determine whether to continue or end it, often there was attraction, but value or role complementarity did not achieve.

2.5.4 Reiss's Wheel Theory of Love

This theory grows by Ira L. Reiss's (1988) that nurtured how love relationship begins. The theory features four important components: **Rapport** – the process of communication in which two people understanding and a sense of closeness. So, two people have rapport when they are "on the same wavelength".

Some people are quite skilled at building rapport with different types of people. They tend not to be excessively judgmental about others, and they listen and understand others. Good rapport between two people enables to read their **self-revelation**; which is the disclosing of personal information about one self. When two people first meet, they are usually very cautious and reveal little. Gradually, one person lets a few "secrets" slip out and the other person often reveals something very personal in return.

Reiss notes that rapport encourages self-revelation that in turn builds up what he calls **mutual dependency**; a relationship in which each person wants and needs the other persons. However, the process takes time. The final process in the development of love is what Reiss calls **intimacy need fulfillment**; the satisfaction that one receives from having personal needs leads him/her to greater intimacy. He describes his theory "wheel theory" of love between its four components.

2.5.5 Gender Difference in Mate Selection

The National Survey of Family and Households (NSFH) stated that men were more interested in physical attractiveness, while women were more interested in earning potential.

The known developmental psychologist Elizabet, J. Santrock, (1999) pointed out that males involved initiating the date (asking and planning it), controlling the public domain (driving and opening doors), and initiating sexual interaction (making physical contact, making out and kissing). According to Santrock, females script focused on the private domain (concern about appearance enjoying the date), participating in the structure of the date established by the male being picked up, having doors opened, and responding to his sexual approach.

Regarding the gender differences of men and women to choose a potential mate, Susan Sprecher, (1994) asserted that women were more willing to marry someone who was older, who earned more and who are more educated. Men were more willing to marry a woman who was younger, have no a steady job, who earned less and less educated.

In addition, Evolutionary theorists also suggested that the underlined functions of a mate choice is reproductive success and they proposed that men should seek young ,fertile and faithful women, while women should seek high status, resourceful, committed men, and both sexes should bargain for the traits that they themselves possesses (Petter M. Toodd, Lars Penke et.al (2007).

2.6 An Overview of Studies on Mate Selection and marriage Practices in the Ethiopian Context

As we know Ethiopia is a multi-national state; different nationalities, religious and people's are living in every corner of the county. Different ethnic groups of the county have their own mate selection and betrothed process. For instance mate selection in Afare different from Wollega Oromos, and mate selection process in Gojjam is different from that of Hadere in the south east Ethiopia.

Muhammad Ahmad (1991) studied in the regions of Afar; marriage affected by a contract between the girl's father and the prospective bridegroom. When the daughter reaches to puberty, the father searches her husband from his relatives. He gave his daughter to his brother's son or his sister son. In this study, the Adoimara class of Afar (former Aussa); the arrangement of marriage did not consider economic background of the bride and the groom families. While among the Asoimara class of the Afars, marriage conducted with the poor and low class family was possible.

Nevertheless, the father of the daughter considered it beneath his dignity to give away his daughter to the man. So, marriage system of the Asoimara class affected by the class system.

On the other hand, the groom from the Adoimra class may suffer serious inquiry to get his lover because families of the bridegroom need criteria's that the bride should fulfill. In the First place, a boy should known, hero in war

expedition and the girl must be a cross cousin, and she belongs to a more respected clan.

More over, Ayele Hailu, (1991) studied Adere community's mate selection process and marriage practices. His findings had been shown that in Adere community sexual intercourse before marriage is illegal, let alone a person is found committing sexual intercourse, even seen chatting with a woman, he would be punished in public.

Hence male and female Adolescents have limited places and opportunities to become acquainted with each other, fore instance, some holidays such as Arrafa (Haji), Mouldid (the birth day of Prophet Mohammed) and other occasions especially at wedding ceremonies provide some good opportunities for them to meet, chat and even become engaged.

Asafa Tolerra, (1991) also studied marriage practices in Wollega, Horro Guduru society. Marriage requires a long process and passes through different stages such as Nagachu (betrothal), Missiracho (congratulation), Shanan (the coming out ceremony), Fuda (marriage), and Minjedebi (turning of the most best man or girls first visit to her parents after marriage).

Betrothed among Horro Guduru Oromo is very important occasion and many preliminary activities take place before marriage. Young boys father are attentive to choose a girl particularly her skills and attractiveness. He tells his boy's maternal uncles and aunts or other relatives to find a wife for his son to ask the girls family either they accept the demand or not.

The boy's father accepts all the information regarding the girl and her family paying more attention to the latter. He can easily know about the girl who is physically fit or pleasant disposition by looking at her family's characters. This explanation clearly shows that there is high involvement of parents for mate selection.

Mate selection practices in Debre Markos town and its surrounding areas were considering the nobility or “chewa” of the parents. That means the bride families must be no socially despised. The family is supposed to be on good terms with the surrounding people. So, the nobility of the family presupposes the nobility of the bridegroom (Solomon, 1992).

2.7 Cohabitation

All of us have witnessed for cohabiting relationships that have proven particularly valuable for the individuals involved. Oppoenhemer cited in Cherlin, (2002) defined Cohabitation: it is a way of forming a union that minimizes a person's loss or independence.

In relation to this, (Hilina, 2002) defined cohabitation; it is unmarried persons living together with sexual relations assumed and an irregular union which is a state of fact that create when a man and a woman live together as husband and wife with out having concluded a valid marriage.

2.7.1 Cohabitation as a Substitute for Marriage

There is some evidence to support the proposition that living together for a short period of time with the person that one intends to marry has no adverse

effects on the subsequent marriage. Cohabitation in this case appears to be very similar to marriage; it merely takes place during the engagement period.

The proposition above would appear to be less true when partners have prior experience with cohabitation or bring children before marriage. In this issue, (Cherline ,2002) & Popenoe, 2008) said that long lasting living together relationship is considered as a substitute for marriage and they argued that cohabitation is replacing marriage as the first living together experience for young men and women satisfies their relationship. However, cohabiting relationship tends to less satisfaction than marriage relationships.

Moreover, Popenoe, (2008) concluded that cohabitation were an acceptable long-term substitute for marriage and few cohabiting women would marry when they become pregnant. The growth of cohabitation could also provide an alternative to marriage for men who do not give value for commitment and receive only benefits of sexual satisfaction without getting married.

He also stated that the majority of young people believe that cohabitation is a good idea to living together before marriage. Cohabiting couples today believe that a trial marriage' will protect them from divorce.

Gender theorists in sociology might also declared that men are socializing in to valuing less commitment in his relationship. In line with this assumption, Glick and Spanier cited in Hutter, (1998) stated that the search to choose unrelated person shows no signs of diminishing. Freedom of adults to choose a potential mate diminishes pressure to marry.

Regarding this issue, demographers and social scientists conclude that the rapid rise in the number and extent of cohabiting unmarried couples is an alternative "Life style" and more as a normative phenomenon. Perhaps for the short-term principal type of cohabitation and probably for the post marriage. Cohabiting relationships of seniors and retired people who are typically cohabit for economic reasons. So, cohabitation and marriage relationships are qualitatively different.

2.7.2 Purposes of Cohabitation

David Olson, (2000) stated that people living together without marriage increase for recent years because of the growing social acceptance of cohabiting relationship. He stated that there are five reasons for cohabitation, such as economic advantages, time together, increased intimacy, less complicated dissolution and testing relationship before marriage.

Indeed, the prevalence of cohabitation has led to a new classification of couple's domestic partners that has gained legal recognition. Macklin cited in Hutter, (1998) predicted this out come the need to change legal status and practices that view living together as man and wife and having sexual relations without being married.

2.8 The Effect of Cohabitation

Cohabitation has various effects on marriage and the family system in different aspects. Cherlin, A. (2002) declared that cohabitation seems to be a new stage of intimacy that precedes or follows marriage. However, it has not produced major changes in patterns of marriage, divorce, and remarried.

Many studies have been found that those who live together before marriage has less satisfying marriages and they have high chance of eventually break up. One reason is that people who cohabit may be more restless of commitment and more likely to call it give up when problems arise. In addition to this, the act of living together may lead to future marriage more difficult.

The research findings of Mark, H. (1998), have shown that a freedom to have pre-marital and extra marital sexual experiences affect women than men. Because of double standard sexual practices of men are harmful and exploit women. This worsen activity discourages both men and women moral values for their life long relationship.

In addition, Waller, (1987) declared that due to premarital sex, females lost their virginity and the stigma attached to non-virgins are increased and they may not find a husband because they lost their virginity and lack o alternatives to find a mate in work sphere, females engaged for double standard male's.

Yet, they want ultimate marriage contract with their prospective mate.

Nevertheless, paradoxically the loss of virginity lessened their marital success and desirability as well as their eligibility (a man has wished to marry a virgin). The result was a frustrating relationship where there was a constant give-and-take revolving around sexual permissiveness and marital commitment.

The findings of Dafoe, (2002) suggested that there might be less motivation for cohabiting partners to develop their conflict resolution and support skills. Cohabiting couples who are already planning to marry each other in the near future have a chance of living together as married couples (Dafoe 2002).

Popeneo, (2008) study has shown that cohabiting couples report was people feel lower levels of happiness, lower levels of sexually matchlessness and lower satisfaction, and poorer relationships with their parents. One reason is that as several sociologists not surprisingly concluded after a careful analysis, in unmarried cohabitation” levels of certainty about the relationship are lower than in marriage.

Therefore, cohabitation is inherently much less stable than marriage and why, especially in view of the fact that it is easy to terminate, the breakup rate of cohabiters is far higher than for married partners. According to Popenoe, with in two years about half of all cohabiting relationships end in either marriage or a parting of the ways, and after five years, only about 10% of couples are still cohabiting.

Some researchers said that Popenoe’s findings were not widely known by the public at large, the fact that married couples have substantial benefits over the unmarried in terms of labor force productivity, physical and mental health, general happiness and longevity. There is evidence that these benefits are diluted for couples who are not married but merely cohabiting. A demographer in Chicago University, Linda Waite, (1999) summarized that the probable reasons for the benefits of marriage can be seen via in three ways.

1/ The long term contract implicit in marriage. This facilitates emotional investment in the relationships, including the close monitoring of each other’s behavior. The longer time horizon also makes specialization more likely; working as couple; individuals can develop those skills in which they excel, leaving others to their partner.

2/ The greater sharing of economic and social resources by married couples. In addition to economic benefit, cohabitation enables couples to act as a small insurance pool against life uncertainties, reducing each person's need to protect them from unexpected events.

3/ The better connection of married couples to the larger community includes other individuals and groups (such as in-laws) as well as social institutions such as churches and other religious institutions. This can be important sources of social and emotional support and material benefits.

In addition to missing many of the benefits of marriage, cohabiters may face difficulties that are more serious. Annual rates of depression among cohabiting couples are more than three times what they are among married couples. Moreover, women in cohabiting relationships are more likely suffer physical and sexual abuse. Some research has been shown that aggression is at least twice as common among cohabitants as it is among married partners.

In general, the effect of cohabitation was due to various reasons, like lack of commitment, financial reasons, and unwanted/unexpected pregnancy. Regarding this, Thomson and Colletta (1992) pointed out that the effects of cohabitation have seen in three ways of influences.

First, cohabiting couples who cohabit may have had poorer relationships than non-cohabitants. Couples may have chosen to cohabit in order to delay marriage because they perceive the threat of poorer relational stability and satisfaction. Second, cohabiting couples lack commitment for the institution of marriage than non-cohabitants. The third possibility suggested by Thomson

and Colletta was couples might view the relationships in "individual" terms rather than in "couple" terms. Therefore, cohabitants viewed themselves as two individuals and after marriage; they may have been more willing to pursue a divorce.

Furthermore, Popeneo, (2008) stated that cohabiting couples express lower levels of happiness, sexual enjoyment and wellbeing than married couples do and it leads marital failure. Therefore, divorce rate in cohabiting couples were "Sky Rocketing" issue.

Bumpass, L. (1991) in his Journal, "the impact of early marital factors on marital disruption" stated that couples who cohabit before marriage face greater chances of divorcing than couples who do not cohabit before marriage. Bumpass said that the lower level of stability and satisfaction that are associated with cohabitation are the cohabitation effect.

On the other hand, qualitative work by Manning and Smoke, (2005) has focused on the process of transitioning into cohabitation and indicated that few people make deliberate decision to begin cohabitation. Instead it seems to happen gradually often without clear communication between partners about the meaning of transition.

Chapter Three

Methodology

3.1 Target Population

The target population of this study was Debre Markos town residents. The town is located 300km North of Addis Ababa. It has been the main town of East Gojjam Administrative Zone. The total population of the town was 70857 from which 33916 were males and 36941 were females. Participants were in the age range “between” 15 – 35 that the researcher believes they are young adults and cohabiting couples might engage in this age group.

3.2 Sampling Technique

Participants were selected by using purposive sampling technique. The researcher decided to employ this method to get the richest information from those who are directly concerned with the questions raised. To reduce the task first, the researcher categorized the study areas into five groups (Debre Markos administration, Abay Health College, Debre Markos Preparatory School, Debre-Markos municipality and Debre-Markos University).

Then participants were selected from each category. To facilitate these activities, four research assistants were selected, and the researcher gave brief orientation for research assistants about how to collect the data and how they help respondents before the data collection process had been taken place. One hundred eight (108) participants were selected, of them 100 participants were selected to fill the questionnaire and 8 respondents (5 male and 3 female) were interviewed.

3.3 Data Collection Instruments

Data collection processes were carried out by using standardized questionnaire and interview. Questionnaires are standardized Likert scale type of question which is adapted (modified in to Ethiopian context), from Jerry Hanssen, Rhoads and Santrock. The questionnaires are grouped in to four sections.

First section contains questions related to the demographic characteristics of the participants.

Second section contains 23 items with a “5” point scale type from 1=Strongly Agree (SA) to 5=Strongly Disagree (SDA) related with criteria for mate selection.

Third section is about reasons that people cohabit with 17 items of “5” point scale questions from 1=Strongly Agree (SA) to 5= strongly Disagree (SDA)

The fourth section contains cohabiting couple’s adjustment problem related questions with 11 items of “5” point scale and the scale is from 1=Strongly Agree (SA) to 5 Strongly Disagree (SDA).

Although questionnaires are assumed to yield the required information which is clearly answered by the respondents , interview also the most appropriate instrument to collect the data for this research, because interview is one of the major tools employed in this study in order to strength and crosscheck the responses made by the respondents through questionnaire. It allows the respondents to speak freely and then additional detail information has been obtained from them. The interview was developed to check weather the “5” scale items were adequately produced the required information. The interview

developed based on three categories such as Mate selection, Cohabitation and Adjustment related issues.

3.4 Procedures of Data Collection

The participants' educational levels were more than high school level. Even if the participants educational level is high school graduate and above, assumed to be filled the English version properly, but the Amharic versions of a questionnaire was used to minimize the ambiguousness of the vocabulary and unfamiliar terms.

The demographic information and the interview items were developed based on the demographic characteristics of the participants, the basic research questions and the reviewed related western literatures. The questionnaires were distributed for participants who were purposively selected by the help of research assistants collaboratively with the researcher with in 10 days. The interview took 5 days to conduct. At the end of 14th day research assistants collect the questionnaires from each participant. However, to obtained all the required information including the interview took 15 days.

3.5 Data Analysis Techniques

The data was analyzed by using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics was applicable to analyze the demographic characteristics of participants and it was calculated by percentage and frequency. Comparison of mean linear regression and t-test were used to analyze the difference between male and female in mate selection criteria, people's reasons for cohabitation and cohabiting couple's adjustment problem for marriage

contract. To simplify the task the researcher used statistical package for social science (SPSS 12.0 version). In addition, to analyze the association and prediction of mate selection from criteria of mate selection, linear regression has been computed.

3.6 Pilot Study

The instrument used to measure the process of mate selection and cohabiting couple's adjustment problem for marriage contract was tested for its reliability.

To test and improve the instruments, pilot study was conducted in the study site. Since the instruments were adapted from earlier studies in the western culture, it was mandatory to check its reliability. The reliability test was computed to examine the capacity of measurement scales.

The scales of reliability was 0.83 cronbach alpha for mate selection criteria items, 0.82 cronbach alpha for reason of cohabitation and 0.83 cronbach alpha for couples adjustment measuring items. The instruments used in the study generally measures mate selection criteria and cohabiting couple's adjustment problem for marriage contract (refer to appendix 2).

The questionnaires were administered for 20 respondents in the same population by selecting some teachers, students, and officials who are currently living in Debre Markos town. To check the items appropriateness and its reliability Cronbach alpha were computed and three questionnaires were not analyzed because of incomplete information and finally one item was corrected by the reverse code.

Chapter Four

Result and Discussion

This chapter deals with results and discussion. The results of mate selection criteria, people's reason for cohabitation and couples adjustment problem for marriage contract were analyzed and interpreted. Based on the findings obtained and the literatures found in local and western research findings discussions are presented in this chapter.

4.1 Result

4.1.1 Background Characteristics of the Respondents

Based on the responses obtained from Debre Markos residents, the characteristics of the respondents were analyzed in terms of age, sex, educational status, religion and social class as indicated in the table below:

Table -1- Demographic Characteristics of the Respondent

Source of Respondents	Age				Sex		Educational status			Religion				Social class		
	15-20	21-25	26-30	30-31	F	M	High school completed	Diploma	Degree	Orthodox	Muslim	Protestant	Catholic	High	Medium	Low
Municipal office	-	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	-	-	-	1	3	-
Debre Markos Town Administration Office	-	1	5	1	5	2	1	1	5	7	-	-	-		7	-
Debre Markos Preparatory School	2	8	2	3	3	12	-	2	13	13	2	-	-	5	7	3
Abay Health College	14	8	1	2	15	10	20	5		24	1	-	-		21	4
Debre Markos University	8	27	1	3	19	20	13	5	21	34	4	1	-	2	30	7
Debre Markos Teacher Training College	2	8	-	-	7	3	-	8	2	9		-	1		4	6
Total Respondent	26	53	11	10	50	50	35	22	43	91	7	1	1	8	72	20

Table-1 indicates that sources of the respondents were from Debre Markos town Municipal Office (4), Administration Office (7), Debre Markos Preparatory School (15), Abay Health Collage (25), Debre Markos University (39) and Teacher Training College (10).

This table generally disclosed that the majority of the respondents were from Debre Markos University, 20 male and 19 female and out of the total

respondents, the majority of the respondents were in the age “between” (21-25) which accounts 53%.

Table-1 above also shows that from the total (100) respondents (50 male and 50 female) 43 were degree holder, 35 completed high school level and 22 were diploma holders. From these results, the researcher pointed out that the majority of the respondents were degree holders.

On the other hand, the same Table above also shows religions of the respondents the largest samples (91%) was Orthodox Christians, (7%) were Muslim, and the remaining (2%) were Protestant (1) and Catholic (1).

In addition, the majority (72%) of the participants were grown up in a middle class family and other respondents (20%) and (8%) were grown up from low class family and high social class family backgrounds respectively. (Refer to table 1).

4.1.2 Respondents Response on Mate Selection Criteria

Table -2A- Respondents Mate Selection Criteria

Sex		SUCCESS	ECONOMY	PERSONALITY	RELIGION	ATTRACTIVENESS
F	Mean	1.7250	2.5400	2.2725	1.6733	1.4867
	N	50	50	50	50	50
	Std. Deviation	.62321	.75485	.38023	.74836	.50937
M	Mean	1.6000	2.1300	2.2925	1.6267	1.6333
	N	50	50	50	50	50
	Std. Deviation	.48445	.59813	.29081	.60098	.53558
Total	Mean	1.6625	2.3350	2.2825	1.6500	1.5600
	N	100	100	100	100	100
	Std. Deviation	.55888	.70820	.33692	.67565	.52519

Table-2A above indicated that respondents in Debre Markos town use different criteria to choose a potential mate. As the above table shows that economy, personal characteristics, success, religion and physical attractiveness are important criteria to choose a potential mate. Economy (M=2.33, sd=.708), personality (M=2.28, sd=.33), success (M=1.66, sd=.55) put in that rank order.

Table -2B- Friedman Test and ranks on variables of criteria of mate selection

Ranks		Test Statistics(a)	
Criteria of mate selection	Mean Rank	N	100
SUCCESS	2.32	Chi-Square	166.750
ECONOMY	4.03	df	4
PERSONALITY	4.17	Asymp. Sig.	.000
RELIGIOUSFACTOR	2.33		
ATTRACTIVENESS	2.17		

As we can see from Table 2b, personality and economical criteria of mate selection are the major ones as the mean rank indicates that accounts mean rank of (4.17) and (4.03) respectively. In the middle of the rank order, the respondents as criteria of mate selection have reported that success (2.32) and religious factors (2.33). The least criterion here is attractiveness that accounts for mean rank of (2.17). These mean ranks are significantly varied with each other as the result of the Friedman Test shows i.e., Chi-Square = 166.750, df =4, Asymp. Sig. = .000 level.

In addition to the above, the interview results obtained from some informant's; males prefer a Woman who is virgin, sociable and considerate and after living

together with him, a woman must strive for development. And females prefer the criteria to choose their potential mate as was a man who is intelligent, has good mannerism, financially earned enough amount of money and he respect his wife and other people too.

Table -3- Regression Analyses to Test Hypothesis Concerning the Linear Relationships of the Five Criteria to Mate Selection.

R Square (R ²) = .974						
Analysis of Regression						
Model		df	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	5	6268.905	1253.781	699.500	.000(a)
	Residual	94	168.485	1.792		
	Total	99	6437.390			

Regression Equation

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	3.007	.940			
Success	3.997	.293	.277	13.621	.000
Economy	4.833	.224	.424	21.545	.000
Personality	7.341	.459	.307	16.005	.000
Religious factor	2.880	.221	.241	13.010	.000
Attractiveness	2.798	.287	.182	9.763	.000

Table 3 clearly reveals that these five criteria together do have very high predictive power that accounts R² = .974. That means the five criteria of mate selection together can predict 97.4% of mate selection. H₀: R pop = 0, to test whether R differs from zero, F test is calculated, F (5, 94) = 699.5, P = .000. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected and we can conclude that the five criteria

together contribute to our differential prediction of mate selection across individuals.

Table -4- Independent Samples t-test for Mate Selection

		t	df	Sig (2-tailed)
Total mate	Equal variance assumed	1.897	98	.061
	Equal variance not assumed	1.897	90.771	.061

*p>0.05(2-tailed)

The data revealed by Table-4 shows that the non- rejection of the null hypothesis ($t(98) = 1.89$, $P > 0.05$). This means that there is no significant difference between men and women in mate selection criteria.

As it can be seen from Table, 2A clearly shows that men give more priority for physical attractiveness ($M=1.63$, $sd = .53$) than women ($M= 1.48$, $sd=.50$). This difference is not significant. While economy ($M=2.54$, $sd =.75$) for women and ($M=2.13$, $sd=.59$) for men implies that females give priority for economical criteria.

4.1.3 Couples Reasons for Cohabitation

Table -5- Couples Reasons for Cohabitation and their Mean Difference

Sex		Togetherness	Convenience	Testing
M	Mean	2.5200	2.9300	2.5267
	N	50	50	50
	Std. Deviation	.61208	.66632	.72481
F	Mean	2.5486	3.1150	2.7333
	N	50	50	50
	Std. Deviation	.83067	.79091	.75443
Total	Mean	2.5343	3.0225	2.6300
	N	100	100	100
	Std. Deviation	.72606	.73348	.74331

Table-5 reveals that there is a mean difference in reasons of cohabitation. Generally, among the three reasons of cohabitation, convenience (m=3.02 and sd =.73) is ranked first, testing (m=2.63, sd=.74) ranked second, and togetherness (2.53, sd=.72) ranked last. This clearly shows that people primarily cohabit for financial benefits (convenience) purpose.

As results obtained from interview, Cohabitation is important for creating intimate relationship between a man and a woman. For instance, a Woman in Debre Markos University expresses her reason for cohabitating as follows:

Cohabiting relationships does not have high responsibility in every social activities in your surroundings and cohabitation is important to know your mate intimately and friendly.

4.1.4 Couple's Adjustment Problem for Marriage Contract

Table -6- t-test for Adjustment Problems

		t-	df	Sig (2-tailed)
Adjustment problem	Equal variance assumed	.470	98	.639
	Equal variance not assumed	.470	95.328	.639

Table-6 indicates that fail to found significant difference between men and women with their adjustment problem for marriage contract ($t(98) = .47, p > .05$). The result implies that both men and women cohabit for the purpose of convenience, togetherness and testing their relationship before marriage without any significant difference.

Table -7- Cohabiting Couple's Adjustment Problem

sex		Adj. Item 1	Adj. Item 2	Adj. Item 3	Adj. Item 4	Adj. Item 5	Adj. Item 6	Adj. Item 7	Adj. Item 8	Adj. Item 9	Adj. Item 10	Adj. Item 11
M	Mean	2.74	2.88	2.22	2.160	2.90	2.36	2.34	3.14	3.40	2.30	2.88
	N	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
F	Std.	1.121	1.364	1.432	1.283	1.281	1.224	1.222	1.484	1.641	1.606	1.836
	Mean	2.88	3.48	2.08	2.06	2.42	2.22	2.42	2.44	3.08	2.42	2.86
	N	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
	Std	1.451	5.729	1.38	1.167	1.23	1.298	1.089	1.459	1.536	1.162	1.498
Total	Mean	2.81	3.18	2.15	2.11	2.66	2.29	2.38	2.79	3.24	2.36	2.87
	N	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	Std	1.292	4.154	1.40	1.22	1.27	1.257	1.152	1.506	1.589	1.396	1.667

As can be seen from Table-7 above, different conditions contribute for individual's adjustment problem for marriage contract. From the conditions listed above, racial difference (Aji 9), unrealistic concept of expenditures (Aji 2), fear of birth before marriage (Aji 11) have greater contributions to couples adjustment problems for marriage contract, with mean difference (M= 3.24, sd = 1.58), (M=3.18, sd = 4.15) and (M=2.87, sd=1.66) respectively. (Please refer to Appendix 1 about the items included and analyzed in Table 6 above).

From the interview information, some individuals narrate how much economy is powerful and the attitude of the community affects cohabitants. Some informants said; before you marry, you should have economic power otherwise, Marriage without economic maturity leads the bride to become beggar within a month of the wedding celebration day. The interviewee said that people's attitudes towards cohabitants are negative and too much conservative, for instance if cohabitants do not celebrate their wedding ceremonies, rumors are exist.

4.2. Discussion

4.2.1. Mate Selection Criteria

Choosing a potential partner who is best fit or similar to yours in religious background, socio-economic status, educational success, personality characteristics and attractiveness plays a great role in mate selection process. These criterions jointly or independently contribute to choose a potential mate in Debre Markos town.

Waller, (1987) described that Men were dated, if they had access to an automobile, had large supply of spending money, were well dressed, and were good dancers. Girls were date by their appearance, their ability to dance well.

As the result indicated in Table-2 clearly showed, the major criteria to choose a potential mate in Debre-Markos residents were economic capacity ($M=23.3$, $sd=.70$), and personal characteristics (22.8 , $sd=.336$) regardless of sex difference.

Many theories argued that before selecting a mate, creating the first gradient is important fore instance, the stimulus value role theory asserted that stimulus may act as a form of magnetism that draws the couple together and that magnetism may be variously interpreted as love at first sight rather whatever the stimulus tends to energize the relationship beyond the bounds of simple friendship, it depends upon the person's perception.

Although physical attraction is very important in drawing a couple together, it cannot be overcome the strain of disagreement on many issues. Thus, value complementarities become more important in overcoming disagreement than

physical attraction in selecting some one at the beginning and for an enduring relationship. Each couple must determine if their combination is a workable one.

Schutz FIRO theory of need complementarity stated that the need for inclusion is the inner drive "to establish and maintain" a satisfactory relationship with other people with respect to interaction and association. People should balance their expectation and expression. For instance people expected from others like guidance, closeness and affection ate and should share their interest values and roles.

The above theoretical arguments show that personal characteristics and economy are the major criteria are that people initially attracted to create along life relationship for choosing a potential mate in mate selection.

In addition to this description, Olson, (2000) revealed that "the more we like and accept the habits and characteristics of our partner, the more satisfying the relationship" will be. Therefore, comfort with a partner's personal characteristics is important to a healthy relationship as an attractive physique.

As many psychology and sociology books showed that commitment develops overtime if the relationship is positive that people express commitments when they move their relationship to a more advanced stage (from dating to engagement, from engagement to marriage). Intimacy involves the sharing of feelings and providing emotional support and it increases as closeness grows and deepens as a relationship matures.

In general the results of this research are consistent with (NSFH) and other research evidences, which stated that mate preferences among women and men, men were more concerned than their partner to prefer physically attractive and younger than themselves and women were more eager to marry someone who has financially well adjusted man.^A

4.2.2. Gender Variation in Mate Selection Criteria

Although most research findings conclude that men preference is a woman who is, physically attractive and female preference is a man who is well in economic power. This research found that personality characteristics such as good communication skill, honest, considerate and a person who has sense of humor were important criteria for choosing a potential mate in Debre Markos town.

In this regard, social psychologists, Susan Sprecher, Quintin Sullivan and Elaine Hatfield, (1994) findings revealed that women were willing to marry someone who earned more and someone who had more education and men were more willing to marry a woman who did not to have a steady job, someone who earned less, and someone who had less education.

However, the finding of the present research has demonstrated that both men and women prefer a potential mate who have good personality and well in financial power. The tendency of women to marry men is, a man who is better educated or more successful than they are because men tend to "marry down" in terms of age and status, but it can be difficult for successful older women to find an acceptable mate when they are old enough.

Men and women are somewhat different to select their mate if age is their first criteria. Researchers found that men tend to prefer younger women in dating process, but they did not continue because of age difference. Most men prefer a woman who becomes younger than they do.

Family theories of mate selection explained that how and why individuals choose a prospective partner. The filter theory declared that the pool of prospective partner filtered out from different social backgrounds.

In line with this (Olson, 2000) said that the pool of eligible partners were filtered out from the social background such as ethnic group, socio-economic status and religious group of community. There for, the research findings of Debre Markos town strengthened the filter theory of mate selection.

In general, this research found that not only physical attractiveness, but also personality characteristics and economy are the most important assets for both sexes to choose a potential mate.

4.2.3 Reasons for Cohabitation

David Olson stated that the growing social acceptance of cohabitation increases the likely hood of couples for cohabiting. Table-5 shows that convenience ($M=3.02$, $sd = .73$) is the major reason for cohabitation in Debre Markos town. This means that people in Debre Markos town cohabit primarily for financial benefits and because of disliking unwanted expenses of wedding. In the same table, the result also indicated that there is a difference between men and women in the reason for cohabitation. But the difference is not significant ($t(98)=.47, p>.05$). Women were cohabit for convenience ($M=3.11, sd=.79$) and

testing ($M=2.73, sd=.75$) and men cohabit with mean difference of convenience ($M=2.93, sd=.66$) and testing ($M=2.52, sd=.72$).

In relation to this findings, Rhoads, Stanly and Markman, (2009) discovered that men were more likely cohabite to test the relationship with their partner and women were more likely cohabite for convenience purposes.

Therefore, the findings of this research are consistent with the findings of the western and local research evidences of Rhoads, Stanley and Markman, (2009).

4.2.4. Problems of Cohabiting Couples Adjustment for Marriage Contract

Most couple are interested to get married, but they often have difficulty to marry in a successful occasions. The researcher explores the major conditions, which contribute a lot for couple's adjustment problem for marriage contract.

In line with this, research findings of Santrock, (1999) declared the importance of racial background that "if there is a similarity in social backgrounds of husband and wife the easier the adjustment. However, even when their backgrounds are similar, adults have acquired a unique outlook on life and the more that outlook differs, the more difficult the adjustment will be.

The findings of this research yields racial background, financial problem, short period of courtship, and fear of birth before marriage were the major difficulties of cohabiting couples adjustment of marriage contract in Debre Markos town.

This implies that social system and religious believers of Debre Markos community affect cohabiting couple's adjustment of marriage contract.

In relation to this, Sanyak, (2008) explained that religious teachings did not support the uncertainty or impermanence association of cohabitation. Thus, he suggested that persons who cohabit are not willing to make the sacrifice associated with settling down if problems arise.

To sum up the conditions of adjustment problem, difference in racial backgrounds and cohabitant's financial concept contribute more for couple's adjustment problems of marriage contract. Subsequently, fear of birth before marriage was the third adjustment problems in Debre Markos town.

Chapter Five

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Summary

The main purpose of this research was to identify the process of mate selection and cohabiting couple's adjustment problem for marriage contract. The study involved 108 purposively selected samples from Debre Markos town. To obtain appropriate information for the above questions, 108 respondents were participated from Debre Markos town. To examine the main objective of this study, the following basic research questions were posed:

1. What are the major criteria for choosing a potential mate in Debre Markos town?
2. How much mate selection is predicted from mate selection criteria?
3. What are the major reasons for people to cohabit in Debre Markos town?
4. What are the major conditions that contribute to people's adjustment problem for marriage contract Deber Markos town?

To collect the data, questionnaires and interview were used. SPSS 12.0 version was employed to analyze the data. Both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis were applied. Consequently, descriptive and inferential statistics such as comparison of mean and t-test and linear regression were employed.

The findings of this research as indicated in table-2A, the major criteria's for mate selection in Debre Markos town were economic capacity ($M=2.33$, $sd = .70$), personality characteristics ($M=2.28$, $sd = .336$) and educational success

($M=1.66$, $sd=.558$) are put in the rank order. Similarly t-test results showed that the researcher fail to found significant difference between men and women in mate selection criteria ($t(98) = 1.89$, $P>0.05$). At the same time, Table-3 has been shown that the five criteria together do have very high predictive power that accounts $R^2 = .974$. That means the five criteria of mate selection together can predict 97.4% of mate selection.

On the other hand, the analysis on couple's adjustment problem demonstrated that the major conditions that contribute to cohabiting couples adjustment problem for marriage contract were racial difference, economic concept, fear of birth before marriage and short period of courtship as put in their rank order. Table, 5 also showed that there was a non-existence of significant difference between men and women on problems of cohabiting couples adjustment of marriage contract ($t(98) = .47$, $p > 0.05$).

Based on the findings of this research, we can recall that personality characteristics, economic potential and educational successfulness were the major criteria of mate selection in Debre Markos town.

As Table 5 indicated that couples were cohabited primarily for the purpose of Convenience ($M = 3.02$, $sd = .73$) and for testing their relationship before marriage with mean value ($M=2.63$, $sd=.74$) in Debre Markos town.

5.2 Conclusions

Based on the discussion made and major findings obtained in this study the following concluding remarks have been drawn up:

- A/ The major criteria to choose a potential mate in Debre Markos are personal characteristics, economic potential and successfulness. The results of the study may lead one to make an overall conclusion that mate selection criteria's of young adults have many preferable criteria's to choose their potential mate such as similarities in religion, attractiveness and social background. In this study, there appeared the non-existence of significant difference between men and women for mate selection criteria. At the same time the five criteria together do have very high predictive power that accounts $R^2 = .974$. That means the five criteria of mate selection together can predict 97.4% of mate selection.
- B/ The results of the study demonstrated that convenience type of cohabitation is the primary reason for couples to cohabit. Subsequently testing purpose was important reason to cohabit before marriage in Debre Markos town.
- C/ Of the aspects of cohabiting couples adjustment problem considered in this study, racial difference, concept of financial expenditure and fear of birth before marriage were the major conditions that contribute to cohabiting couples adjustment problem for successful marriage contract in Debre Markos community

5.3 Recommendation

Based on the major findings obtained and concluding remarks, here the researcher recommendations are forwarded:

- Traditional mate selection was the duty and decision of parents (of course now a day this practices is becoming minimal). While parents involvement in mate selection is crucial, Young adults can suggest their own decision, it will minimize some problems such as lack of self-confidence, divorce, extreme dependency and they can improve some social, economic and psychological distress up on them. As a result, the government and other non-governmental organizations or institutions should try to expand family education, education on marital adjustment so as to increase young adults self confidence to choose their potential mate by their own.
- Hence, economic potential is among the major criteria to choose a potential mate in Debre Markos residents and young adults who are unemployed, hardly find a mate. Therefore, the government and other concerned institutions should provide job opportunities, which generate income for the young people in Debre Markos town.
- Usually young adults have a tendency to select and date individuals who are equally or more attractive, wealthy and more compatible than they are. It is necessary to use the balanced sheet selection criteria. Because they can evaluate what they have and have not and what they are giving and getting in their relationship process. If the give and take is balanced, a mutually committed relationship will exist.

- Future studies are better to conduct a research on mate selection criteria and cohabiting couple's adjustment problem for marriage contract. Because it is crucial for social psychologists, sociologists and anthropologists who plays intervention, care management, conciliation and mediating people to create awareness rising and reduce adjustment problem of cohabiting couples for successful marriage.

References

- Assefa, Tolera. (1991) **Marriage Practices among the Horro Guduru Oromo (North East Wellega)**. Unpublished materials, Addis Ababa University. Institute of Ethiopian Studies
- Ayele, Hailu (1991) **Marriage Practices among Adere Society**. Unpublished manuscript, Addis Ababa University. Institute of Ethiopian Studies
- Bublack, L. and Lichter, T. (2000). **Mate Selection among Married and Cohabiting Couples**. Journal of family issues. Vol. 21, No (3)
<http://ifisagepup.com>
- Bumass, L. (1991). **The Impact of Family Background and Early Marital Factors on Marital Disruption**. Journal of family issues. Vol.12, No (1)
- Buss, M. (1986). **Preferences in Human Mate Selection**. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. Vol. 50, No (3), Institute of Temple.
- Broederic,C. (1979). **Contemporary Family System Theory**. California Publishing companies.
- Cherlin, J. (2002). **Public and Private Families**. 3rd ed. New York: Mc Graw Hill publishing companies.
- Dafoe, W. (2002). **The National Marriage Project Piscataway**. Rutgers-University. <http://marriage.rutgers.edu/bara>
- David, H. Olson and Amy Olson, S. (2007). **Overview of Cohabitation Research**. [http://www. Prepare/enrich life Innovations, Inc](http://www.Prepare/enrich life Innovations, Inc).
- Delcampo, L. (1999). **Notable Selection in Marriage and the Family**. New Mexico University, Dushkin: Mc Graw Hill Company.
- Hagedorn, R. and Rinehart, H. (1981). **Essentials of Sociology**. Canada: Limited Toronto.

- Hilina Getachewu, (2002). **Revised family law for development**. Unpublished manuscript of Vision Ethiopia Congress for Democracy (VECOD). Addis Ababa.
- Hogg, A. (2005). **Social Psychology**. 4th ed, London, Pearson Prentice Hall
- Hurlock, B. (2004). **Developmental Psychology: a Life-Span Approach**, 5th ed. New Delhi, Tata: Mc Graw- Hill publishing company limited.
- Hutter, M. (1998). **The changing Family**. 3rd ed, USA, a Viacom company.
- Macionis, J. (1991). **Sociology**. 3rd ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall Engle Wood Clift's.
- Muhammed Ahmed (1991). **The Family the Marriage and the Divorce System among the Afars of Aussa in Wollo Province**. Unpublished manuscript, Addis Ababa University. Institute of Ethiopian Studies.
- Manning, W. and Smock, P. (2005). **Measuring and Modeling Cohabitation: Journal of marriage and family**. Vol. 67, No (6), Toronto.
- Murstein, B. (1987). **The Theory of Marital Choice and Courtship Processes**. Journal of Marriage and the Family. Vol. 29 No (6) New London: Connecticut.
- Myers, David. G. (1987). **Social Psychology**. (2nd ed) New York: Mc Graw Hill Publishing Companies.
- Olson, H. David and Defrain, J. (2000). **Marriage and the Family Diversity and Strengths**. 3rd ed. California: May field Publishing Company.
- O'connor, M. and Silverman, J. (1989). **Finding Love**. Creative strategies for finding your ideal mate. New York: Crown, Publishing Companies.
- Popenoe, D. (2008). **Should we live together? What young adults need to know about cohabitation before marriage?** , The national marriage

project, New Brunswick. http://www.smart_marriages.com/cohabit.html.

Reiss, I. (1988). **Wheel's Theory of Love.**

<http://www2.huberlinde/sexology/reiss1/html>

Rhoades, G. Stanley, S. and Markman, H. (2009). **Couples Reasons for Cohabitation: Associations with Individuals Well Being and Relationship Quality.** Journal of family issues. Vol. 30, No (2) Colorado.

Santrock, J. (1999). **Life-Span Development.** 7th ed. Boston: MC Graw Hill Publishing Companies.

Sanyak, U. (2008). **Effect of Religiosity on the Selection of Life Long Mate in Pentecostal Adult Church Attendants.** unpublished manuscript in Massachusetts, School of Social work.

Schaefer, R. (2005). **Sociology.** 9th ed. New York: MC Graw Hill companies.

Schutz, W. (1991). **FIRO Theory of Needs. The Interpersonal under World Science and Behavior Books.** California: A three dimensional theory of inter- personal behavior, Palo Alto.

Solomon Tesema. (1992). **Marriage, Family System and Funeral Customs of the Bichena.** Un published manuscript. Addis Ababa University. Institute of Ethiopian Studies.

Sprecher, S. (1989). **The Importance to Males and Females of Physical Attractiveness, Earning Potential and Expressiveness in Initial Attraction.** Journal of marriage and the family Vol. 21, No (2) Chicago.

Susan, S. Quintin, S. & Elaine, H. (1994). **Mate Selection Preferences. Gender Differences Examined in a National Sample.** Journal of personality and

- Social Psychology Vol. 66, No (6), American Psychological Association.
- Serkalem, Bkele. (2006). **Divorce**. Its Cause and Impacts on Women and their Children (UN published master's thesis). Addis Ababa University, Institute of Ethiopian Studies
- Sweet J, Bumpass L. and Call, V. (1988). **The Design and Content of the National Survey of Families and Households (NSFH)**. A working paper No (1), Madison: University of Wisconsin, Center for demography and Ecology.
- Thomson, E. and Coletta, U. (1992). **Cohabitation and Marital Quality and Stability: Quality or Commitment**. Journal of marriage and the family. Vol. 54, No 2, National Council on Family Relation.
- Waite L, (1999). **Cohabitation a Communitarian Perspective**.
<http://www.gwu.edu/ccps/documents//cohabit>
- Waller, W. (1987). **Principle of Least Interest in the Dating and Courtship Process**. USA, Barnard.
- William, J. and Jackson, M. (1968). **Marital Communication**. California: Institute of Palo Alto.
- Winch, R. (1977). **Theory of Complementary Needs in Mate Selection**. Journal of Marriage and the Family. Vol, 26, No (4) Evanston: North Western Publishing Companies.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Cohabiting couples adjustment-measuring items

Adj. Item1: Shortened period of courtship

Adj. Item2: Unrealistic concept of expenditures

Adj. Item3: Difference in religion

Adj. Item4: Lack of concept for one's ideal mate before cohabiting

Adj. Item5: Difference in backgrounds and social class

Adj. Item6: Difference in interest

Adj. Item7: Lack of fulfilling one's own mate needs

Adj. Item8: Fear of duties and responsibilities of marriage

Adj. Item9: Difference in race

Adj. Item10: Concept of financial independent before marriage

Adj. Item11: Fear of birth before marriage

Appendix 2

Reliabilities

Reliability Statistics for Mate Selection Criteria Measuring Items

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	No of Items
.836	.825	23

Item-Total Statistics

Item	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
Q.1	44.94	98.463	.452	.827
Q.2	46.69	104.763	.249	.836
Q.3	45.94	100.329	.395	.830
Q.4	47.06	110.463	.072	.838
Q.5	46.94	108.196	.290	.834
Q.6	46.13	90.250	.748	.810
Q.7	45.81	92.563	.700	.814
Q.8	46.00	96.267	.669	.818
Q.9	43.69	102.096	.454	.828
Q.10	46.44	100.396	.331	.834
Q.11	46.31	104.496	.321	.833
Q.12	46.31	104.496	.321	.833
Q.13	46.44	103.729	.287	.834
Q.14	46.38	108.783	.138	.838
Q.15	45.13	109.050	.026	.847
Q.16	46.63	107.850	.280	.834
Q.17	45.75	92.467	.780	.811
Q.18	46.63	103.983	.523	.828
Q.19	46.81	107.896	.284	.834
Q.20	45.25	92.333	.659	.816
Q.21	47.00	110.267	.079	.838
Q.22	47.00	107.733	.272	.834
Q.23	44.88	98.383	.406	.830

Reliability Statistics Cohabitation Reason Measuring Items

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	No of Items
.823	.827	17

Item-Total Statistics

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
Q1	46.1765	95.779	.071	.834
Q2	46.2941	90.221	.450	.813
Q3	46.0588	88.309	.409	.815
Q4	45.8235	84.904	.460	.812
Q5	45.1176	89.110	.373	.817
Q6	45.5294	88.390	.408	.815
Q7	46.2353	82.691	.698	.797
Q8	45.2941	99.846	-.106	.846
Q9	46.4706	94.140	.163	.828
Q10	44.4706	85.390	.571	.805
Q11	46.6471	91.243	.376	.817
Q12	46.1176	79.735	.700	.794
Q13	45.2353	85.941	.566	.806
Q14	45.6471	84.118	.589	.803
Q15	44.8235	88.529	.434	.813
Q16	44.8235	88.904	.520	.810
Q17	45.7059	86.471	.597	.805

Reliability Statistics for Couple's Adjustment Problem Measuring Items

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	No of Items
.834	.800	11

Item-Total Statistics

	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Squared Multiple Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha if Item Deleted
Q1	27.5882	150.882	-.459	.882	.872
Q2	27.7059	139.471	-.048	.795	.853
Q3	28.6471	125.118	.349	.734	.832
Q4	28.7059	117.846	.622	.623	.813
Q5	28.3529	119.868	.571	.689	.817
Q6	28.8235	112.404	.801	.869	.799
Q7	28.5882	111.882	.798	.929	.798
Q8	27.8824	109.110	.597	.642	.812
Q9	27.3529	104.993	.691	.734	.802
Q10	28.5294	101.015	.720	.790	.798
Q11	27.8235	96.654	.752	.870	.794

Appendix 3

Descriptive Statistics, Correlation, and Covariance Matrix for All Variables, $N= 100$

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Mate selection	100	31.00	83.00	46.8100	8.06375
Cohabitation	100	22.00	70.00	45.5100	9.80197
Adjustment	100	12.00	54.00	28.0500	8.23932
Success	100	1.00	3.50	1.6625	.55888
Economy	100	1.00	4.25	2.3350	.70820
Personality	100	1.75	4.13	2.2825	.33692
Religious factor	100	1.00	5.00	1.6500	.67565
Attractiveness	100	1.00	3.33	1.5600	.52519
Togetherness	100	1.00	4.57	2.5343	.72606
Convenience	100	1.00	5.00	3.0225	.73348
Testing	100	1.00	4.67	2.6300	.74331

Correlations

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1. Mate selection	-										
2. Cohabitation	.182	-									
3. Adjustment	.132	.277(**)	-								
4. Success	.716(**)	.227(*)	.172	-							
5. Economy	.767(**)	.155	.117	.477(**)	-						
6. Personality	.695(**)	.067	.117	.392(**)	.352(**)	-					
7. Religious factor	.583(**)	.122	-.084	.226(*)	.288(**)	.315(**)	-				
8. Attractiveness	.525(**)	.154	.065	.341(**)	.183	.296(**)	.333(**)	-			
9. Togetherness	.236(*)	.814(**)	.194	.254(*)	.163	.119	.189	.196	-		
10. Convenience	-.007	.650(**)	.237(*)	-.004	.100	-.022	-.015	.092	.262(**)	-	
11. Testing	.135	.843(**)	.231(*)	.212(*)	.089	.027	.061	.175	.477(**)	.471(**)	-

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Appendix 4

Addis Ababa University
School of graduate studies
Institute of psychology

Questionnaires

Instructions

The purpose of this questionnaire is to assess information about the process of mate selection and the problem of cohabiting couples adjustment problem of marriage contract. Young adults living in Debre Markos town filled the questionnaires.

Right at the outset, I would like to assure you that your responses will be used only for research purposes and will be kept confidential.

Thus, since the quality and success of this study depend on your kind and genuine information, hence you are kindly requests to provide your genuine responses to each item of the questionnaire/scale.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation and timely responses.

NB: Do not write your name.

I. Demographic Characteristics

1. Age

- a. <18 b. 18-25 c. 26-35

2. Sex

- a. Male b. Female

3. What is your level of educational status?

- a. Elementary school attended
- b. High school graduate
- c. Diploma holder
- d. Degree holder

4. What is your religion?

- a. Orthodox
- b. Muslim
- c. Protestant
- d. catholic
- e. Others specify _____

5. What is your and your families' social class?

- a. High class
- b Middle class
- c. lower class

II. Mate Selection Criteria Measuring Scales

Please read the following list of characteristics select the characteristic you desired in a potential mate by choosing either: 1 = Must, 2 = Desirable

3 = Not certain, 4 = Some what undesirable 5 = Very undesirable

No	Description	1	2	3	4	5
1	Is friendly and popular with others					
2	Is thoughtful					
3	Is intelligent					
4	Has an appropriate amount of schooling					
5	Is becoming elder than me?					
6	Owens or is buying a car or house					
7	Can hold down a job					
8	Wants children					
9	Rich					

10	Has a sense of humor					
11	Does not use addictive substances such as alcohol or tobacco					
12	Is not moody					
13	Is responsible for his or her own actions					
14	Is good at communicating					
15	Has an interest similar to mine					
16	Is considerate					
17	Is honest					
18	Has same religious beliefs					
19	Attends the same church I do					
20	Churchgoer					
21	Shows affection appropriately					
22	Physically and mentally healthy					
23	Is considered by most to be physically attractive					

III. Cohabitation Reasons Measuring Scales

Please, select the desired that the reasons of couples to cohabit before marriage.

Choose 1= strongly agree, 2=Agree, 3=Undecided, 4=Disagree, 5= strongly disagree

No	Description	1	2	3	4	5
1	Because I love spending time with him/her					
2	So that we could have more daily intimacy and sharing					
3	Because I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my life with					

	him/her					
4	Because I wanted us to have more privacy					
5	To improve our sex life together					
6	Because it is emotionally hard to be apart					
7	Because I want us to have a future together					
8	Because I wanted to find out how much work, he/she would do around the house before deciding about marriage.					
9	Because I wanted to test out our relationship before deciding weather to marry him/her					
10	Because I had doubts about us making it for the long haul					
11	Because I wanted to make sure we are compatible before deciding about marriage					
12	Because I wanted to be with my partner long-term					
13	Because it is the only way we will know if we are ready to marry					
14	Because I wanted to know how my partner handles money					
15	To share house hold expenses					
16	Because it made sense and not afford rent on my own					
17	Wants economic support from him/her					

IV. Adjustment Problem Measuring Scales

Please, select the feeling you desired about conditions for cohabiting couples adjustment problem for marriage contract. **Choose** 1= strongly agree, 2=Agree, 3= Undecided, 4=Disagree, 5= strongly disagree

No	Description	1	2	3	4	5
1	Shortened period of courtship					
2	Unrealistic concept of expenditures					
3	Difference in religion					
4	Lack of concept for one's ideal mate before cohabiting					
5	Difference in backgrounds and social class					
6	Difference in interest					
7	Lack of fulfilling one's own mate needs					
8	Fear of duties and responsibilities of marriage					
9	Difference in race					
10	Concept of financial independent before marriage					
11	Fear of birth before marriage					

Appendix 5

አዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ የድህረ ምረቃ ትምህርት ፕሮግራም የሳይኮሎጂ ትምህርት ተቋም

መጠይቅ

የዚህ መጠይቅ አላማ ሚስት ወይም ባልን ለመምረጥ የሚደረገውን ሂደትና ሳይጋቡ አብረው የሚኖሩ ጥንዶች ለህጋዊ ጋብቻ ያለባቸውን ችግር ለማጥናትና መረጃ ለመስጠት ነው።

መጠይቁ የሚሞላው በደብረ ማርቆስ ከተማ ነዋሪዎች ይሆናል።

በመጀመሪያ ሊረጋገጥልዎ የሚፈልጉት ነገር ቢኖር የእርስዎ መልስ ለዚህ ጥናት ብቻ የሚውልና ሚስጥሩም የተጠበቀ እንደሆነ ልገልፅልዎ እወዳለሁ።

ላደረጉልኝ ቀና ትብብርና በጊዜ በመመለስዎ በቅድሚያ አመሰግናለሁ።

ማሳሰቢያ በማንኛውም የመጠይቁ ገጾች ላይ ስም መጻፍ አያስፈልግም።

ክፍል አንድ

አጠቃላይ መረጃ

1. እድሜ ሀ/15-20 ለ/ 21 -25 ሐ/ 26 - 30 መ/ 31-35

2. የታ ሀ. ወንድ ለ. ሴት

3. የትምህርት ደረጃ

ሀ. የመጀመሪያ ደረጃ ትምህርት አጠናቅቄአለሁ መ. ድግሪ

ለ. ሁለተኛ ደረጃ ትምህርት አጠናቅቄአለሁ ሠ. ሌላ ካለ ይግለጹ

ሐ. ዲፕሎማ

4. ሐይማኖት ሀ. ኦርቶዶክስ ሐ. ፕሮቴስታንት ሠ. ሌላ ካለ ይግለፁ

ለ. መስለም መ.ካቶሊክ

5. የእርስዎ እና የቤተሰብዎ በማህበረሰቡ ውስጥ ያላችሁ የነጭ ደረጃ

ሀ. ክፍተኛ ለ. መካከለኛ ሐ. ዝቅተኛ

ክፍል ሁለት ዋና መረጃ

የትዳር አጋርን ለመምረጥ የሚያገለግል መመዘኛ መጠይቅ

የሚከተሉትን ዝርዝር ባህሪያት ካነበቡ በኋላ የእርስዎን ፍላጎት ለማሟላት ብቁ ነው ብለው የሚመርጡትን በሚያመለክተውን ቁጥር በተሰጠው ቦታ ላይ የ ✓ ምልክት ያስቀምጡ።

1. ተገቢ ነው
2. ይጠቅማል
3. ርግጠኛ አይደለሁም
4. አይጠቅምም
5. በጣም አይጠቅምም

ተ.ቁ	መግለጫ	1	2	3	4	5
1	ተወዳጅና ታዋቂ የሆነ/የሆነች					
2	ከሱስ ነፃ የሆነ/የሆነች ለምሳሌ ከአልኮል መጠጥና ሲጋራ ከማጨስ					
3	ውበቱ/ቷ/ ማራኪ የሆነ/የሆነች					
4	ፍቅር የሚሰጥ/ የምትሰጥ					
5	አሳቢ የሆነ/የሆነች					
6	እኔ የምከተለውን እምነት የምትከትል/የሚከተል					
7	በትንሽ በትልቁ የማታኮርፍ/የማያኮርፍ					
8	ለምትሰራው/ለሚሰራው ስራ ሃላፊነት የምትወስድ/የሚወስድ					
9	ጥሩ የመግባባት ችሎታ ያላት/ያለው					
10	ፍላጎቷ/ቱ ከእኔ ጋር ተመሳሳይ የሆነ/የሆነች					
11	ጥሩ የአካልና የአእምሮ ጤንነት ያለው/ያላት					
12	ተጨዋች የሆነ/የሆነች					
13	በእድሜ ከኔ የሚበልጥ/የምትበልጥ					
14	እኔ በምከታተልበት የእምነት ተቋም እንደ እኔ					

	የምትከታተል/የሚከታተል					
15	ጎበዝ የሆነ/የሆነች					
16	ስራ ያለው/ያላት					
17	የተማረ/የተማረች					
18	ልጅ የሚወድ/የምትወድ					
19	ቤት ወይም መኪና ያለው/ያላት					
20	ጠንቃቃ የሆነች /የሆነ					
21	ታማኝ የሆነ/የሆነች					
22	ሃብታም የሆነ/የሆነች					
23	ቤተክርስቲያን አዘዘውትሮ/አዘዘውትራ የሚሄድ/የምትሄድ					

ክፍል ሦስት

ሳይጋቡ አብረው የሚኖሩ ጥንዶች መለኪያ መጠይቅ

ጥንዶች ከህጋዊ ጋብቻ ይልቅ ሳይጋቡ አብሮ መኖርን የሚመርጡበትን ምክንያት በእርስዎ አመለካከት ከተሰጡት ዝርዝር ባህሪያት ትክክለኛውን መልስ የያዘውን ቁጥር በተጠቀሰው ክፍት ቦታ ላይ የ ✓ ምልክት ያስቀምጡ።

1. በጣም እስማማለሁ
2. እስማማለሁ
3. አልወሰንኩም
4. አልስማማም
5. በጣም አልስማማም

ተ.ቁ	መግለጫ	1	2	3	4	5
1	ከሱ/ሷ ጋር የፍቅር ጊዜ ለማሳለፍ					
2	በየጊዜው/በቅርብ ስለምንገናኝና ሀሳብ ስለመንጋራ					
3	ቀሪውን ህይወቴን ከሱ/ሷ ጋር ለማሳለፍ እራሴን ስለማውቅ					
4	ለእኔና ለእርሱ/ሷ ነጻነት ስለምንፈልግ					

5	የግብረ ስጋ ግንኙነታችንን አብሮ በመኖር ከፍተኛ ማድረግ ስለምፈልግ					
6	ከእርሱ/ሷ መለየት ለስሜቴ መጥፎ ስለሆነ					
7	የወደፊቱን ህይወቴን ከእርሱ/ሷ ጋር ማላለፍ ስለምፈልግ					
8	ከመጋባታችን በፊት እርሱ/ሷ በአካባቢ የሚሰራው ወይም የምትሰራውን ስራ ማወቅ ስለምፈልግ					
9	እርሱ/ሷን ከማግባቴ በፊት ግንኙነታችንን መፈተን ስላለብኝ					
10	ግንኙነታችን ረጅም ጉዞ አይሄድም ብዬ ስለምጠራጠር					
11	ከመጋባታችን በፊት መጣጣማችንን ርግጠኛ መሆን ስለምፈልግ					
12	ለረጅም ጊዜ አብሮ መኖር ስለምፈልግ					
13	ለጋብቻ ለመዘጋጀት በቅድሚያ መሞከር አማራጭ የሌለው መንገድ መሆኑን ስለማውቅ					
14	ጓደኛዬ የገንዘብ አጠቃቀሙ/ሟ እንዴት እንደሆነ ማወቅ ስለምፈልግ					
15	የቤት ውጪአችንን ለመጋራት					
16	ሳይጋቡ አብሮ መኖር ለእኔ ትርጉም ስላለውና በራሴ ተከራይቼ መኖር ስለማልችል					
17	ከእርሱ/ከእርሷ ድጋፍ ስለምፈልግ					

ክፍል አራት

ሳይጋቡ አብሮ የመኖር ችግሮች መመዘኛ መጠይቅ

ሳይጋቡ አብረው የሚኖሩ ጥንዶች ለህጋዊ ጋብቻ ዝግጅት ያለባቸውን ችግር ከተዘረዘሩት ባህሪት እርስዎ የሚስማሙበትን በሚስማዎ የሚፈልጉትን አማራጭ ተጠቅመው በተሰጠው ክፍት ቦታ የ ✓ ምልክት ያስቀምጡ።

1. በጣም እስማማለሁ
2. እስማማለሁ
3. አልወሰንኩም
4. አልስማማም
5. በጣም አልስማማም

ተ.ቁ	መግለጫ	1	2	3	4	5
1	አብረን የኖርንበት ጊዜ አጭር መሆን					
2	ከእውነታ የራቀ የወጪ ግንዛቤ					
3	በእምነት መለያየት					
4	አብሮ ከመኖር በፊት ስለጓደኛ በቂ ግንዛቤ አለመኖር					
5	ያስተዳደግ ሁኔታና የኑሮ ደረጃ ልዩነት					
6	የፍላጎት መለያየት					
7	የጓደኝነት ፍላጎት አለመሟላት					
8	በጋብቻ ምክንያት የሚመጣውን ተግባርና ኃላፊነት ለመቀበል መፍራት					
9	በዘር መለያየት					
10	ከጋብቻ በፊት በገንዘብ ራስን ለመቻል ማሰብ					
11	ከጋብቻ በፊት ልጅ መወለድን መፍራት					

Appendix 6

Addis Ababa University
School of graduate studies
Institute of psychology

Interview Guide Line

1. What qualities does your mate have that are important to you? Could you
Please tell me briefly; what are the major criterias to choose a potential mate, if
you think of your personal experience?
2. What are the most important qualities does the right mate have to have?
3. Why people cohabit rather than marry?
4. Is there any problem that cohabiting couples to adjust them for marriage contract?
Why?

Declaration

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been presented in any other university and that all sources of materials used for the thesis have been dully acknowledged.

Name: Habtamu Belar

Signature: *[Handwritten Signature]*

Date: 12-07-2010

This thesis has been submitted for examination with my approval as a university advisor.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

