



**De La Salle University – Dasmariñas**  
**GRADUATE PROGRAM**

**THE ESSENCE OF LONG LASTING AND FUNCTIONAL  
MARRIAGE: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY**

A Master's Thesis  
Presented to  
the Faculty of the  
College of Education Graduate Studies  
De La Salle University – Dasmariñas

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts in Education  
Major in Guidance and Counseling

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**ABSTRACT**

**Title of the Research:** THE ESSENCE OF LONG LASTING AND FUNCTIONAL MARRIAGE:  
**Author:** A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY  
**Degree:** HAZEL ANN D. TELMO- LEGASPI  
**Major:** Master of Arts in Education  
**Date of Completion:** Guidance and Counseling  
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This phenomenological study was conducted to unfold the essence of long lasting and functional marriage. It looked into the assumed factors such as intimacy, communication, and marital satisfaction in having a long lasting and functional marriage. The study used qualitative design.

The researcher used purposive sampling technique in choosing the participants. The participants were residents of Indang Cavite and whose marriages were solemnized by the Roman Catholic Church. The criteria used were that they must have been married for 25 years up to 50 years and that they must have been happily living together as proven through the Marital Satisfaction Inventory scale. The researcher provided guide questions in conducting interviews. The study used an Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis in doing the data analysis.

The study assumed that the participants' lived experiences in general would unfold the essence of their long lasting and functional marriage. It resulted into 13 superordinate themes forming 4 essences (PASS) that unfolded a long lasting and functional marriage, namely:



presence (companionship, availability, and intimacy), attitude (commitment and fidelity, mutual and deep understanding, respect, love, and trust), skills (spousal roles and capabilities, parenting skills, and problems solving skills), and status (the couple having successfully navigated adjustment stage and has reached marital satisfaction).

