



**ABSTRACT**

**NAME OF INSTITUTION:** De La Salle University – Dasmariñas

**ADDRESS:** City of Dasmariñas, Cavite

**TITLE:** Family Conflict Management Among Left Behind Overseas Filipino Workers’ Wives

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**FUNDING SOURCE:** Parents

**COST:** 12,000 PHP

**DATE STARTED:** June 2013

**DATE FINISHED:** March 14, 2014

**SCOPE AND COVERAGE:** The primary objective of the researchers is to identify the conflicts experienced by Overseas Filipino Workers’ wives, the perceived sources of such conflicts, their perceived outcomes, and their way of handling them. The study focused on the family conflict management of the said respondents. Furthermore, this study is limited only to the information gathered by the student researchers through the interviews done and not in



any way an expression or opinion of the faculty and of the administration.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The researchers utilized a qualitative research design specifically a thematic analysis qualitative design to determine the conflict management used by 10 left behind Overseas Filipino Workers' wives.

**RESULTS:**

The results for problem number two showed that the perceived conflicts experienced by left behind OFW wives are playing multiple roles, personality, attitude and behavior of children, setting their priorities, managing finances, relationship with extended families, unmet role expectations, decision making, contradictory ways of expressing love and attention towards children, and extra marital affairs. The results for problem number three exhibits that the sources of family conflicts of the left behind OFW wives were the lack of communication, work, total dependence of extended families, and parental absence under the category of structure, children's upbringing and children's development were under the history category, different principles under the category of values, and the last identified source was the need for intimacy and the need for independence. The researchers made use of the category by Meyer (2014) that will answer problem number 4



which explains the perceived outcomes of the conflicts experienced by left behind OFW wives. Realizations, and negative thoughts fall under the cognitive category, whereas, depression, anger, resentment, numbness, broken trust, worry, emotional recovery, contentment, and patience were under the emotional category, lastly, crying, answering back, reprimanding, going to friends, and writing to a journal dropped down to behavioral category. Problem number five answered the family conflict management used by left behind OFW wives. Results showed that understanding; communication, giving reminders, reprimanding, ignoring, involving the children, collaborating, discipline, prioritizing, budgeting, submission, and admitting mistakes and asking for forgiveness were the identified conflict management by the respondents.



**CONCLUSIONS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Diverse families experienced different types of difficulties. Left behind Overseas Filipino Workers' wives clearly explained how tough it is to be a parent alone. It is important for a family to identify the conflicts they usually encounter so that they could prevent those conflicts in reoccurring. These conflicts have their own causes, and some of the mentioned sources of conflict can also be the key in managing conflicts. If addressed instantaneously, root of conflict outcome. Conflicts have their way of affecting a person and these effects if not addressed and managed properly could create a greater deal of conflict later on. Families have their own effective ways of managing conflicts, whether an OFW family or an ordinary Filipino family. Whatever conflict management was done by a left behind wife, it was shown that it is important to address conflicts in order to sustain or even make the harmonious relationship grow stronger within the family. With all the results and conclusions gathered, the researchers came up with various recommendations. First, to couples which should be reminded that they should not compensate their absence just by material things it would be better to involve themselves in the lives of their children once in a while, they must spend more time communicating with each other the technology



available today. Second, for the left behind OFW wives that she should make herself ready for the transition in her child's life. Next, is for the Overseas Filipino Worker that they must get themselves involved in every situation in their family. And for the Filipino Workers, they should be sensitive enough to the feelings of their parents. Although they seek independence, they should at least involve their parents in their lives by frequently communicating with them, watching a movie with them or eating with them at the dining table. Lastly, for the future researchers who wish to conduct the same study, they could quantify the identified conflict managements to come up with appropriate variables and process of conflict management. With this, they could form theories that would apply to the Filipinos' process of conflict management. Or they could use the Thomas-Kilmann Inventory Scale (TKI) to be tested in the context of the Filipino families.



### Abstract

Even the most ideal families experience conflict from time to time. Conflicts can also happen when family members have different views or beliefs that clash. As problems arise, every family has its own way in managing family conflicts and even couples must face them together by managing these conflicts. But because the wife is the one being left behind in taking care of the family, she is the one who mainly chooses the best way to manage the issues and conflicts within the family. With this, the study focused on identifying the family conflict management of left behind Overseas Filipino Workers' wives. In order to achieve this goal, 10 left behind Overseas Filipino Workers' Wives were interviewed. The researchers made use of a semi-structured interview. The responses were then analyzed and synthesized by the researchers. Themes were constructed based on their responses as well. Results showed that most left behind OFW wives encounter conflicts with their children. Mostly, the conflicts they experience were caused by the structure of the conflicts. These conflicts have the most evident effect to the emotional aspect of the left behind OFW Wives. They manage these conflicts mostly through Communication and especially through Understanding. Considering the results that were gathered through the respondents, OFW families would be able to analyze, identify and improve the way they deal with the conflicts they experience. In light of the results presented hereby, the researchers suggest that a further analysis be carried out based on the present data obtained.