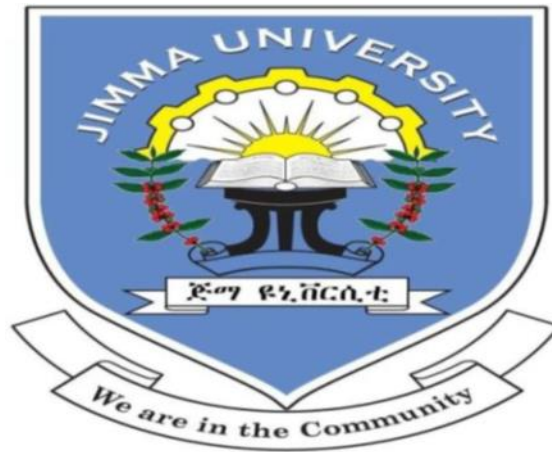


Major reasons for couples to cohabit, their adjustment problems and consequences for social acceptance among Jimma resident.



College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Department of Psychology

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November

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Jimma University
College of Education and Behavioral Sciences
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Major reasons for couples to cohabit, their adjustment problems and consequences for social acceptance, among Jimma resident.

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A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Psychology, Jimma University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Master of Art Degree in counseling Psychology

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 LETTER OF THESIS APPROVAL

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by **Tsion Abera** with the topic” **Major reasons for couples to cohabit, their adjustment problems and consequences for social acceptance among jimma resident**”. And submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of master of arts in counseling psychology complies with the regulation of the university and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

Approval of the Board of Examiners

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DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that this thesis research “Major reasons for couples to cohabit, their adjustment problems and consequences for social acceptance, among Jimma resident.” is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university and all sources of material used for this thesis have been duly acknowledged.

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This thesis for Master’s Degree in Counselling psychology studies has been submitted for examination with my approval as thesis advisor.

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Acronyms

DAS-----Dyadic adjustment scale

HIV/AIDS...Human Immune deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

RCS..... Reason for Cohabitation Scale

SPSS..... Statistical Package for Social Science

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine major reasons for couples to cohabit, their adjustment problems and consequences for social acceptance, among Jimma residents. This study used a qualitative methods research design and to support the research statistically quantitative method was employed by using purposive sampling techniques were used to select the samples of the study. Hence, using a survey data from 40 cohabiters and a semi-structured interview with 6 cohabiters, the study explored major reasons for cohabitation, and faced adjustment problems and effects of cohabitation on social acceptance. The quantitative data analysis was done using descriptive statistics, and chi-square and the qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analytic approach. According to the findings of the study shows that the main reason for cohabitation are: spending more time together, testing relationship, financial considerations, because of baby care, plans for marriage and pregnancy and the adjustment problems of cohabiting couples relationship distress and religious matter or difference in faith, disagreement. And consequences of social acceptance of cohabiting couples have lower social acceptance. The qualitative study showed that cohabitation increases the emotional and physical attachment of couples by relationship have less satisfied compared to married. However, the study identified that cohabitation is associated with lower commitment and insecurity in the relationship.

Key words: Cohabiting couple, Adjustment problem, social acceptance, Jimma

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Back ground of the study

Cohabitation may be narrowly defined as “an intimate sexual union between two unmarried partners who share the same living quarter for a sustained period of time” (Bachrach, Hindin, & Thomson, 2000). Union formation in general and cohabitation in particular, are characterized by increasing number and complexity, with the duration of cohabiting unions appearing to be lengthening (Haskey, 2001).

Cohabitation is a common experience worldwide, in united states it is an incident and common among less developed and low socio economic however, it has outspread to the American Middle class (Reinhold, 2010). Since then, cohabitation prior to marriage has become normative, with more than half of all current marriages preceded by cohabitation (Kennedy & Bumpass, 2008). A major reason for social scientific interest in cohabitation and marriage is because how and why individuals enter and exit romantic relationships have important implications for individuals and society writ large. For individuals, the quality and stability of romantic unions have been tied to adult physical and mental health (Hawkins & Booth 2005; Johnson & Wu, 2002). And social, psychological and academic outcomes for children (Amato, 2010). Because of this, marriage and cohabitation are contested areas of cultural debate (McLanahan, Amato & Furstenberg, 2007). Largely because welfare and tax policies can encourage or discourage one form of relationship over the other (Moffitt, Reville and Winkler, 1998). For instance, because many cohabiting relationships involve children, implications of cohabitation for the stability and quality of a future relationship likely also have repercussions on the well-being of the partners’ offspring (Brown, 2004). Thus, as cohabitation becomes prevalent, any benefits or detriments associated with cohabitation may be realized by an increasing proportion of the population, with both individual and societal implications (Kennedy & Bumpass, 2008). The adjustment problems have also been shown to be significantly related to jealousy, dominance, and psychological aggression (O’Leary, Smith Slep, & O’Leary, 2007). And some research has also shown that sexual coercion may also be related to several adjustment problems, including stress, social support, and marital dissatisfaction (Bodenmann, Lederman, & Bradbury, 2007). However, Aschalew and Martha (2009) contend that, although cohabitation is not abided

by the formality required by laws, it builds a family, and children are born from such union. They further argue that what happens in the family established by marriage happens in the family established by an irregular union. Thus, seen from economic, social and psychological perspectives, non-marital unions are functionally the same to marriage. Couples come into such relationship as a necessary union in the absence of legal marriage. Finally, there is convenient cohabitation which occurs when a couple chooses to live together as an alternative to living separately. This type of cohabitation is common in some communities where couples live together as a means of sharing living expenses.

1.2. Statement of the problem

Cohabitation is widely practiced as a way of minimizing the legal, social, ethical and spiritual commitments of marriage while apparently enjoying its benefits. Furthermore, the rise of cohabitation has caused the institution of marriage lose its meaning and social purpose (Coast, 2009). Scholars attribute the rise in cohabitation to the factors that cause other changes in patterns of family life such as increases in late marriage, non-marital childbearing and marital disruption (Smock, Lynne & Wyse, 2008). For instance, Axinn and Thornton (1992), found individuals who cohabited expressed more favorable attitudes toward divorce after cohabitation, net of prior divorce attitudes. Thus, because cohabiting relationships tend to be relatively short-lived, individuals who experience cohabitation may be more likely to embrace the temporary nature of romantic relationships. For example, awareness of relationship impermanence may reduce investment, potentially resulting in a poorer quality marriage and a lower threshold for dissolution (Qian, Lichter and Mellot, 2005). Similarly, there is evidence that people are less religious after cohabitation (Thornton, Axinn and Hill, 1992). Because attendance at religious services has been tied to greater marital quality and stability (Eggebeen and Dew, 2009). Reduced religious activity may translate into decreased marital quality (Thornton, Axinn, and Hill, 1992). Cohabitors have also been found to espouse less traditional attitudes than non-cohabitors (Woods and Emery, 2002). As well as less confidence in the relationship's future (Thomson and Colella, 1992).

These differences may stem largely from cohabitation's lack of institutionalization (Nock, 1995). In spite of its diffusion, cohabitation is not yet governed by strong consensual social norms and formal laws. Consequently, cohabiting couples may not receive as much social support as married couples due to the disapproval of cohabiting relationships or because of uncertainty in dealing with certain social situations (how to address a cohabiting partner, whether to treat them as a family member, etc.). Furthermore, the stress from this lack of social support may result in lower marital quality; this stress effect may amplify throughout the life course (Umberson et al. 2006). Additionally, relationship "inertia" may lead some couples to "slide into" cohabitation rather than making an explicit decision, resulting in some suboptimal marriages, in part because of marriage-specific capital (children, possessions, etc.) accumulated during cohabitation (Stanley, Rhoades and Markman, 2006). Recent research also supports the experience perspective. Kamp-Dush, Cohan, and Amato (2003) found, even when accounting for mechanisms through which individuals select into cohabitation, cohabiters continued to report poorer marital quality and increased marital instability.

Current researchers suggest that cohabitation puts couples at a greater risk of dissatisfaction because cohabiting couples lack mutual commitment and encounter infidelity compared to married couples (Rhoades, Stanely&Markman, 2009). According to McCafferty (2011), cohabiting couples have been found to show more conflict, less communication and feel less secure in their relationships. The author further stated that cohabitation has been associated with a number of other problems including abortions, marriage failures, depression, sexual abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. One of the factors associated with a divorce from a first marriage is also whether or not a person lived in cohabitation with a partner before marrying (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2012).

In Ethiopia, cohabitation was prohibited and considered as socially deviant behavior. However, as time went by, cohabitation of a man and woman was altered from the sinful category into the category of acceptable behavior (Aschalew& Martha, 2009). Due to its widespread existence and its gaining approval by the society, cohabitation has been given recognition and protection by the law (Meron, 2006). Currently, in

Ethiopia, there are considerable numbers of couples living in such non-marital relationship (Biru, 2000). Mehari (1995) stated that, the phenomenon of the living together of a man and a woman as husband and wife without concluding marriage is a fact that has been commonly practiced by the Ethiopian community for many years and it is a practice which is more prevalent in the urban areas of the country.

A number of people in Ethiopia are involved in cohabitating relationship and it is expected that the number of people who will engage in such union will increase in the future for various reasons (Aschalew & Martha 2009). Although people may recognize the high prevalence of cohabitation in recent times, there is little empirical evidence about why people are increasingly making the decision to cohabit. There are few researches conducted in the area of cohabitation from the legal, social perspective and the reason for cohabitation. However, the researcher did not come up with any study conducted on cohabiting couple's adjustment problem and their consequences of social acceptance in Ethiopia. And some research works on marriage and divorce also rarely addressed the issue. The fact that little empirical research has been carried out on such a crucial issue makes the topic pertinent and timely. Thus, the purpose of this study was to fill this knowledge gap and give justification in major reasons for couples to cohabit, their adjustment problems and consequences for social acceptance.

This research was answer the following basic questions.

1. What are the major reasons behind couple's decision to cohabit?
2. What are the adjustment problems, if any, faced cohabiting couples in jimma town?
3. What are the possible consequences of cohabiting couples on social acceptance?
4. Is there significant difference in gender in terms of social acceptance?
5. What are their level of satisfaction living in cohabitation?

1.3. Objectives

1.3.1 General objectives

The general objective of the study was to investigate major reasons for couples to cohabit, their adjustment problems and consequences for social acceptance, among Jimma resident.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

The specific objectives this study was:-

- To explain the major reasons behind couples' decision to cohabitation.
- To explain the adjustment problems, if any, faced by cohabiting couples in jimma town.
- To identify the possible consequences of cohabiting couples on social acceptance.
- To investigate differences in gender in terms of social acceptance .
- To explain the cohabited couples level of satisfaction.

1.4 significance of the study

The study is designed to explain the reasons of cohabited couples, problems and consequences of social acceptance. While these reason are important for understanding changing family patterns over the longer term, little is known about how people perceive cohabitation as a living arrangement and the motivations and meanings that underlie these perceptions. This type of knowledge is significant for understanding the continued growth and prominence of cohabitation in the family landscape. And the study is to give an awareness about cohabitations, their adjustment problems, challenges faced by cohabitators, and societal acceptances and it was also suggest important implications about the benefits and difficulties of cohabitation for young adults and individuals considering cohabitation. Finally, the paper is to explain the importance of addressing these problems for individuals who are cohabited couples and organizations, practitioners who are benefited. It develops awareness in the department of university and it was serve

as a secondary source of information for future comparison for those intending to carry out further research.

1.5 Delimitation of the study

This study is delimited by explaining major reasons for couples to cohabit, their adjustment problems faced by cohabiters and possible consequence of social acceptance, and difference in gender due to social acceptance. Thus, heterosexual cohabiting couples live in Jimma town were included in the study. The study did not include couples who got married after living in cohabitation. The study also excluded those who legally or religiously married. Due to the nature of the study, it is difficult to locate a specific area in which the research was conducted, saying that the study was geographically located in Jimma town. Hence, the conclusion of the study reflects the situation limited to the city under the study.

1.6. Limitations of the Study

The major limitations that the researcher faced during conducting this research was shortage of time and updated reference materials that serves as a literature review on the this topic. Although the present study attempted to provide new information regarding reasons for cohabitation their adjustment problem and effect of social acceptance, it has its own limitations. The study employed non- probability sampling technique, particularly, purposive techniques, to select the samples of the study. In nonprobability sampling technique, elements of the population have an unknown chance of being selected. Therefore, generalizability of this study is limited due to the nature of the sampling techniques. Moreover, the sample of the interview was also small and not representative in terms of socio-demographic status. With these limitations in mind, it is hoped that the present study effectvation novel information regarding adjustment problem and effects of social acceptance on cohabitation.

1.7 Operational definitions of terms

Reason for Cohabitation: social, economic and personal factors that lead couples to cohabitation.

Cohabitation: Cohabitation may be narrowly defined as “an intimate sexual union between two unmarried partners who share the same living quarter for a sustained period of time or living together as husband and wife without having a legal or religious marriage.

Couples: two peoples who have a romantic or sexual relationship

Adjustment problem: Challenges faced by cohabited couples (relationship distress, difference, in religion, life philosophy and household tasks).

Social acceptance: lack of support, not getting acceptance from their community and friends.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW LITERATURE

2.1. The Concept of Cohabitation

Cohabitation is defined as an arrangement where two people who are not married but having an emotionally intimate and sexual relationship with each other decide to live together (Elizabeth, 2000). Bachrach, Hindinand Thompson (2000), also defined cohabitation as an intimate sexual union between two couples who are not married sharing the same housing for a sustained amount of time. Studies have shown that cohabitation is different from the institution of marriage in different ways. Healy (2010) showed that, marriage is easier to define than cohabitation because marriage is a union that is considered permanent and has established social, cultural, and religious expectations. Trask and Koivunen (2006) stated that, cohabitation is a shared union between two individuals governed by private feelings while marriage is a public institution governed by explicit rules and laws about the rights and responsibilities of its members. Therefore, cohabitation and marriage are not the same phenomena. However, Aschalew and Martha (2009), contend that although cohabitation is not abided by the formality required by laws, it builds a family, and children are born from such union. They further argue that what happens in the family established by marriage happens in the family established by an irregular union. Thus, seen from economic, social and psychological perspectives, non-marital unions are functionally the same to marriage. On the other hand, Elizabeth argues that cohabitation is an easily broken relationship because it lacks commitment and social pressure which are associated with marriage (Elizabeth, 2000).

2.2. Reasons for Cohabitation

People choose cohabitation over marriage due to different reasons. Research works reported various justifications why couples make a decision to live together without being married. Cohabitation can also be viewed as a step in the mate selection process: Many individuals date and then decide to cohabit, often with the intention of eventually marrying (Cohan & Kleinbaum, 2002). In a mixed methods study, using a sample of 35 year olds and under cohabiting couples, In this paper found that couples come into cohabitation because it provides them with an opportunity to spend significant amounts of time together and gather information about whether a partner is a right person for marriage (Smock, Huang, Manning & Bergstrom, 2006). Similarly, in a qualitative study from Poland, Mynarska & Bernardi (2007) reported that, many adults choose cohabitation because it enables them to adjust each other before they decide to marry. Some researchers stated that couples would prefer to live together before making a lifetime commitment to marriage so that they learn how to balance their relationship, careers, and finances together(Rhoades, Stanley, & Markman, 2009). Mynarska and Matysiak (2010) found that, some couples see cohabitation as the natural step comes next to relationship development and a natural consequence of their love. As the relationship develops, they want to be closer and spend more and more time together and finally, they begin sharing their everyday life. Using a survey data in Britain, Coast (2009) reported that, couples usually believe that cohabitation is one element and a step to the process of marriage. Therefore, they tend to cohabit because they are engaged with an intention to marry each other. On the other hand, drawing data from a survey using a sample of Norwegian and Swedish cohabiting couples, according to Wiik, Bernhardt & Noack, (2010) found that, due to pressure from their partner, some couples may sense an obligation to live together and have sex with their partner. Thus, according to the authors, couples make a decision to cohabit because they feel they may lose their partner if they don't make their relationship seem more permanent by living together. Wyrach (1980) noted that many marriages are successful relationships in terms of economic benefits, mutual affection and companionship of the spouse. However, some couples feel that the commitments and burdens of marriage prevail over its advantages and engage in

cohabitation. As Aschalew & Martha (2009) stated, the fact that no costly legal dealings are required to establish and end non-marital relationship leads couples to engage into cohabitation.

Moreover, Coast (2009) suggests people tend to cohabit because it provides them with the opportunity to define and specify the terms of their relationship regardless of the rights and duties existing in an official marriage. According to Manning et al. (2004), for some couples, the benefits of marriage cannot outweigh the potential psychological pain and financial cost of divorce. These people, thus, prefer cohabitation to marriage because cohabitation gives them the same benefits as marriage without the potential pain and cost of divorce. In line with this finding, a qualitative study by Huang et al. (2011) reported that, some couples choose cohabitation because the fear of divorce made cohabitation appear a low-risk means to experience a marriage like relationship without the risk of divorce. Furthermore, in a focus group research of men and women cohabiting couples in their 20s, Popenoe and Whitehead (2002) found that couples make a decision to Cohabit in order to find out whether their partner is the right person to be married with. If things don't work out, ending the relationship is easy since they do not need legal or religious permission to do so. Studies have shown that economic factors are one of the reasons behind couples' decision to cohabitation. As Hansen et al. (2007) argue, the tendency to cohabit has been associated with lower economic resources. Healy (2010) stated that there are higher rates of cohabitation in society in which there are limited resources. Moreover, Xie, Raymo, Goyette and Thornton (2003) reported that there is a negative relationship between cohabitation and economic resources. Thus, some people with limited economic resources perceive cohabitation as an alternative form of union formation to marriage. Drawing on interviews data with cohabiters from the working and lower middle classes in the United States, Smock et al. (2006) found that dating couples engage in cohabitation mostly to save money on rent and other living expenses. Kravdal (1997) argue that potential reasons for cohabitation among most couples are steady employment and the costs of the wedding. Smock et al., (2005) on the other hand suggested that lower income couples may delay or avoid marriage not only because of lack of money for a wedding but also because of fear of financial hardship if a marriage ends in divorce. Similarly, Wiik (2008) found that

cohabitation can serve as an alternative to a costly search for a partner during the time of economic insecurity. Therefore, young people who are facing economic uncertainty often prefer cohabitation to marriage. According to Farley(2014) found that qualitative study conducted in the United States, some non-religious people engage in cohabitation because they do not consider the religious or legal ceremony of marriage to be that essential. These people do not believe that a union will be stronger just because a priest or state official formally acknowledges the union. The motivation to cohabit has also been associated with the intention of establishing a family. Cohabitation may not offer legal protections or social support as that of marriage, it entails living conditions into marriage (Manning, Smock, & Majumdar, 2004). Thus, some young adults who desire to create a two-parent family context for their child tend to engage in cohabitation. Quantitative studies show that cohabitation may be the best alternative for some couples if they either do not feel ready to marry or do not believe in the institution of marriage (McCafferty, 2011; Rhoades et al., 2009). Moreover, Farley (2014) stated that some couples believe that marriage privileges patriarchal values. Thus, for people with such a belief towards marriage, cohabitation can be the best alternative. However, Seltzer (2000) found that for most couples, cohabitation is not a rejection of marriage, but it occurs as alternative when marriage is not desirable or convenient. In a quantitative study from Norway, Wiik (2008) reported that cohabitation entails relatively less economic and social commitment and it is usually viewed as more flexible and egalitarian than marriage. Thus, cohabitation is an attractive alternative to people with personal goals that might be interrupted by marriage or to people who cannot plan a marriage for financial reasons.

Sassler (2004) argued that this trend will not slow anytime soon and it may even change the way people view marriage as a whole. Research has provided cultural elements and economic aspects in explaining the popularity of cohabitation at the beginning of the 1970 (Coast, 2009; Smock, 2000). As Healy (2010) wrote, cohabitation has become more and more common because the social and cultural location of society has changed. Axinn and Barber (1997) noted that there might be a question how cohabitation got to this point since it was not too long ago

living together before marriage was seen as socially deviant. Thus, the authors suggest that cultural and economic factors are responsible for the rise in cohabitation.

2.2. 1. Socio-cultural reasons

Sassler (2004) stated that culture changes at various stages, and with a changing culture, there exists a change in social norms and what people find acceptable and socially deviant. Thus, over recent years, the practice of cohabitation has moved from being deviance to a current state of no longer being stigmatized. Healy (2010) found that cohabitation results from the transmission of a social idea about how to organize life. The author further stated that the issue of cohabitation flourishes in society through birth new generation that supports cohabitation, displacing traditional and societal values including the institution of marriage. Matthijs (2003) found that the trend of secularization, individualization and urbanization has contributed to the shift from collective to individual behavior. This trend, as Angel (2013) suggested, has led to less pressure to follow the norms and values about love and relationships set by family, religion and culture. Therefore, there came out changing attitudes and beliefs towards cohabitation and marriage. Similarly, Bumpass & Lu (2000) stated that the change in social attitudes towards sex outside marriage gave people an opportunity to make their own decision whether they marry or cohabit. Clarkberg (1999) also argued that less rigid gender roles and sexual identities allowed a greater degree of personal choice. Consequently, couples started to enjoy the opportunity of adjusting their relationships choosing to marry or to cohabit. Another important factor for the growth of cohabitation is that the institution of marriage has changed significantly leading to loss of confidence in its stability and strength (Popenoe & Whitehead, 2002). The authors argued that couples tend to cohabit in order to avoid the risk of divorce attributable to the increasing rate of marital instability. Furthermore, Ogunsola (2004) stated that marriages occur at older ages because people spent their longer time on getting educated and establishing careers. Therefore, during those years of singlehood, cohabitation can be a cost saver and guarantee of safe sexual fulfillment. The rise of cohabitation has also been attributed to

the sexual revolution. Matthijs (2003) argued that the introduction of contraceptive technologies and prevalent sexual permissiveness led premarital sex to grow widely and accepted in the past thirty years. Thus, cohabitation has become no longer associated with sin or socially unacceptable behavior. Therefore, people no more comply with the strict structure in which living together without being married is prohibited. Healy (2010) noted that cohabitation is rising for the reason that religion is not viewed as important as it was long ago. She argues that couples would be stigmatized if they live together without being married in the previous generations. However, as religion lost its authority, that stigma declined and more and more couples started to cohabit. Popenoe and Whitehead (2002), on the other hand, argued that the expansion of cohabitation is associated with the rise of feminism. The authors reported that traditional marriage, both in law and in practice, usually put male in leadership position. Hence, cohabitation, for some women, apparently avoids the rule of patriarchy and provides more personal independence and equality in the relationship.

2.2.2 Economic reasons

Clarkberg (1999) stated that the increase of female participation outside the home sphere point to changing culture. The author said that these days, women tend to spend an equal amount of time in educational institutions and in the labor force. Therefore, the idea that women are able to support themselves economically has decreased the gains they get from marriage and choose cohabitation instead. A similar study reported that as women gained economic opportunities, their dependence on men has become less strong (Becker 1981). This change, as Becker argues, has reduced the economic advantages and the need of marriage by providing alternative living arrangement to marriage. Consequently, marriage rates have decreased and cohabitation has increased. Cherlin (2004) argued that the decline in economic gain that men and women get from marriage has made them more hesitant to engage in marital unions. Cohabitation, instead, became an alternative because they can take advantage of the benefit from shared household without the economic risks associated with marriage. Also, Wiik et al. (2010) noted that both men and women no longer be motivated to getting married. The authors argue that

cohabitation is seen as an attractive alternative because couples can benefit from a romantic relationship without giving up a career because of household responsibilities associated with marriage. Oppenheimer (1997) wrote that the rise of cohabitation and delayed marriage is more directly related to the decline of men's position in the labor market. In line with this, Cohen (1999) stated that because marriage is usually associated with the ability of men to establish a base of living, reduction in their income makes them less competitive in the marriage market. Hence, because it requires lesser costs than marriage, cohabitation has emerged as an important option to marital union. Cherlin (2004) suggested that lower education levels and poorer employment status is associated with a tendency to cohabit. According to the author, since economic well-being is a key factor for the formation of marriage, people from poorer backgrounds often delays marriage due to inadequate economic resources. Thus, this makes them more likely to engage in cohabitation than well-educated people. Moreover, Clarkberg (1999) stated that increased job competition and delayed attainment of income have slowed the process of career development for many men and women these days. Therefore, short term unions like cohabitation, which help partners gather more information to determine who will make a suitable match, seem to be the attractive alternative.

2.3 Adjustment Problems of cohabited couples

People live in cohabitation faced different problems. Cohabitation is becoming increasingly common; in the United States, an estimated 50% (Bumpass & Lu, 2000) to more than 60% (Stanley, Whitton, & Markman, 2004) of couples live together before getting married. Despite the increasing prevalence of cohabitation and its link to relationship risks, not enough is known about cohabitation and its relation to dating and marriage. There is much discussion on whether cohabitation is "primarily a precursor to marriage, similar to marriage, or distinct from marriage, or similar to or distinct from being single" (Stafford, Kline, & Rankin, 2004, p. 232). On one hand, similar to marriage, cohabitation involves established patterns of behavior, shared living quarters, and, for a substantial number of couples, having a child (Brown & Booth, 1996). studies have suggested that cohabiting individuals have more depressive symptoms than do married individuals, (Brown, 2000; Brown, Bulanda, & Lee, 2005; Marcussen, 2005; Stafford et

al., 2004). Brown et al. (2005) showed that cohabiting individuals had more depressive symptoms than married individuals after controlling for economic resources, social support, and physical health. Additionally, Marcussen (2005) showed that remaining differences in depression between cohabiting and married individuals could be explained by differences in coping resources and relationship quality. In addition to depressive symptoms, cohabiting individuals, especially men, experience more problems with alcohol than do married and single individuals (Horwitz & White, 1998; Marcussen, 2005). These differences in alcohol problems persisted even after controlling for prior levels of alcohol problems, unconventionality, relationship characteristics, and demographic characteristics (Horwitz & White, 1998) and for socioeconomic factors, social resources, relationship commitment, and relationship stability (Marcussen, 2005). Finally, cohabiting couples have been found to report less commitment to their relationship and greater individual autonomy (e.g., Forste & Tanfer, 1996; Newcomb, 1986; Nock, 1995). Indeed, a large-scale random sample of engaged, married, and cohabiting individuals demonstrated that premarital and nonmarital cohabitation were associated with lower levels of interpersonal commitment (Stanley et al., 2004). Indeed, research has shown that individuals who cohabit before marriage tend to be of slightly lower socioeconomic status and slightly more liberal (Smock, 2000). In contrast, the experience explanation suggests that the act of living together before marriage may increase the risk for relationship distress. Stanley et al. (2006) states that in example, researchers have hypothesized that couples who cohabit before marriage (and especially before engagement) may be more likely to marry simply because the barriers to ending the relationship increase as a result of cohabitation (e.g., shared mortgage, pets, and furniture). The selection and experience explanations are not mutually exclusive, and both have received empirical support (Smock, 2000).

Research has yielded mixed findings on whether cohabiting couples have higher rates of disagreement than do married couples (Brown & Booth, 1996; Nock, 1995; Skinner, Bahr, Crane, & Call, 2002; Stafford et al., 2004), with most studies indicating that there is no difference between the two groups' rates of disagreement after a number of variables are controlled. Specifically, after controlling for various demographic and relationship variables, there were no significant differences between cohabiting and

married couples in the frequency of disagreements in the past year in the areas of household tasks, money, time spent together, sex, whether to have children, and in-laws (Nock, 1995); the number of couples who argue heatedly (Stafford et al., 2004); and the perceived levels of open disagreements (Skinner et al., 2002). Intimate partner violence is more common and more severe in cohabiting couples than in both dating and married couples (e.g., Brownridge & Halli, 2000; Kline et al., 2004; Stets & Straus, 1989). Men and women's reports of negative relationship quality (negative interaction, psychological aggression, lower relationship confidence, and lower relationship adjustment) were significantly associated with testing the relationship. Men reporting significant associations with physical aggression and lower levels of dedication were also more likely to report cohabiting to test the relationship (Rhoades, et al., 2009). As compared with married women, cohabiting women were approximately three times more likely to report being the victim of domestic violence and twice as likely to report being the perpetrator of that violence (Kessler, Molnar, Feurer, & Appelbaum, 2001).

2.4 Consequence of cohabitation

Cohabitation and marriage are not equivalent. On average, cohabiting couples with children have lower incomes than their married counterparts. Acs and Nelson also argues that difference in income reflects that the mother's age and education, as well as the father's employment status, are generally lower in cohabiting couple families than in married-couple families (Acs and Nelson, 2004). Cohabitors eventually split households more than married couples (Musick and Michelmores, 2014). Cohabitation has become more common over time (Manning & Smock, 2002; Schoen, 1992), yet the results of studies investigating its associated marital outcomes are mixed. Some research on long-term cohabiters (those who do not necessarily go on to marry someone) indicates their relationships are indeed less stable, less committed, and have lower relationship quality compared to marriages (Brown, 2004b; Bumpass & Sweet, 1989; Nock, 1995; Sarantakos, 1991; Stafford, Kline, & Rankin, 2004).

For two reasons, we expect the financial consequences of union dissolution to be different for formerly married and for formerly cohabiting couples. First, compared to married couples, cohabiters have an equal division of paid work (Snoeckx et al., 2008).

As a result, married women are more often financially dependent on their partners than cohabiting women. Second, cohabiters are less likely to have children, and they tend to be younger when ending a relationship (Batalova and Cohen, 2002; Brines and Joyner, 1999; Hamplova, 2002; Rindfuss and Vandenheuvell, 1990; Wu and Schimmele, 2005).

2.5 Cohabiting couples and social acceptance

Social Acceptance of Cohabitation and the Value of Marriage in Poland. In some recent international comparisons, Poland has stood out as a country with a low level of social acceptance for cohabitation. For example, Soons and Kalmijn (2009) showed that the average level of social acceptance of a couple living together “under the same roof” without being married is lower in Poland than the European average. Cohabitation is now widely diffused among the U.S. population and is viewed as a normative event in the life course (Bogle & Wu, 2010; Manning, 2013). Diffusion theory indicates that the selectivity of cohabitation is U-shaped, declining as cohabitation becomes more common and rising only when cohabitation becomes nearly universal, making those who do not cohabit highly selective (Leifbroer & Dourleijn, 2006). Consequently, the union type differences in relationship quality that were documented a couple of decades ago may have diminished as cohabitation has become more widespread, much as the marriage advantage in well-being seems to have dwindled (Musick & Bumpass, 2012) and the negative influence of premarital cohabitation on marital stability has waned (Jose et al., 2010; Manning & Cohen, 2012; Reinhold, 2010). Similarly, Vanassche et al. (2012) showed that Poland belongs to the group of countries with a relatively high level of disapproval of alternative family types like cohabitation and a marked attachment to the institution of marriage. While in many European countries cohabitation has already become a viable and widely accepted alternative to marriage (Kalmijn 2007a; Kiernan 2004), in Poland the onset of the processes that lead to the adoption of more positive social attitudes towards cohabitation has been very recent. To provide a more detailed picture of the level of social acceptance for cohabitation, we can look at data from the European Values Survey 2008, which showed that the share of respondents who said they consider it acceptable for a couple to live together without being married was around 61 % in Poland. Clearly, cohabitation is not condemned by the vast majority of Polish

society. The share of people in Poland who indicated they accept cohabitation was close to the proportion observed in most Central and Eastern European countries. Nevertheless, the share was definitely smaller than in Western Europe, where it ranged from 75 to 90 %; and in Scandinavian countries, where about 95 % of the population surveyed said they consider it acceptable for couples to live together without being married. The limited degree of social acceptance of cohabitation and the high value placed on marriage may be largely ascribed to the influence of the Roman Catholic Church. According to the teachings of the Church, getting involved in intimate relations of any form that are not “legitimated” by a marriage can be regarded as a sin. According to data collected in the International Social Survey Programmed 2008, over 90 % of Poles were raised in the Catholic Church, compared with an average of 49 % in other European countries. Hence, the perception of cohabitation in Polish society may be to some extent related to the teachings of Catholic priests. Another factor that may negatively affect social attitudes towards cohabitation is related to the fact that, in Poland, this living arrangement has until recently been most common among the lower social strata and among people with adverse partnership experiences (Mynarska and Bernardi2007). While in general, the level of social acceptance of cohabitation is lower in Poland than in other European countries, it has been gradually increasing. Younger generations tend to have more positive attitudes towards such living arrangements (Mynarska and Bernardi,2007).Recent literature has emphasized that when young people make partnership choices that clash with social attitudes and norms, a deterioration in their relations with their parents may occur (Rosina and Fraboni2004; Di Giulio and Rosina 2007; Schroder 2008). Both the general social expectations regarding the transition to adulthood and the specific norms concerning union formation may be of importance. Many societies have certain norms regarding the status a person is expected to achieve after reaching some specific age in order to be regarded as an adult. In general, young people are usually expected to complete their education, find a stable job, leave the parental home and establish an independent life; and, ultimately, to become a potential source of support for their parents. These social expectations may also include getting married and forming their own family (Liefbroer and Billari, 2010). The norms that condition adulthood and maturity on marital status may overlap with social attitudes

towards living arrangements that are an alternative to marriage, such as cohabitation. These attitudes can be related to religious influences, such as the belief that living in a non-marital relationship is a sin. In societies where, from a moral point of view, marriage is considered the only “proper” route to family formation, and cohabitation is not regarded as an acceptable living arrangement, adult children who cohabit might be seen as failing to respect the rules their parents tried to teach them (Maslauskait, 2011). In some recent international comparisons, Poland has stood out as a country with a low level of social acceptance for cohabitation. For example, Soons and Kalmijn (2009) showed that the average level of social acceptance of a couple living together “under the same roof” without being married is lower in Poland than the European average. Similarly, Vanassche et al. (2012) showed that Poland belongs to the group of countries with a relatively high level of disapproval of alternative family types like cohabitation and a marked attachment to the institution of marriage. While in many European countries cohabitation has already become a viable and widely accepted alternative to marriage (Kalmijn 2007a; Kiernan, 2004), in Poland the onset of the processes that lead to the adoption of more positive social attitudes towards cohabitation has been very recent. As Shapiro and Keyes (2008) suggest, because marriage is a long-term social contract and is expected to be a permanent union, married persons are more embedded in social networks than unmarried persons. In contrast, the relative impermanence of cohabitation appears to discourage social investments into these unions (Eggebeen 2005). Cohabitors have also been found to espouse less traditional attitudes than noncohabitators (Woods and Emery 2002), as well as less confidence in the relationship’s future (Thomson and Colella 1992). These differences may stem largely from cohabitation’s lack of institutionalization (Nock 1995). In spite of its diffusion, cohabitation is not yet governed by strong consensual social norms and formal laws. Consequently, cohabiting couples may not receive as much social support as married couples due to disapproval of cohabiting relationships or because of uncertainty in dealing with certain social situations (how to address a cohabiting partner, whether to treat them as a family member, etc.). Furthermore, the stress from this lack of social support may result in lower marital quality; this stress effect may amplify throughout the life course (Umberson et al. 2006).

2.6 Cohabited couples and their relationship satisfaction

The role of cohabitation in the family life course appears to be shifting. Today's cohabiting unions are less likely to culminate in marriage and more likely to end through separation (Kennedy & Bumpass, 2011). Cohabitors less often report plans to marry their partner and serial cohabitation is on the rise (Vespa, 2014). Increasingly, cohabitors are not only partners but also parents together. One in five births are to cohabiting parents and nearly half of children will spend some time in a cohabiting family (Kennedy & Bumpass, 2011). Cohabitation now appears to have beneficial effects similar to marriage on psychological well-being, health, and social ties (Musick & Bumpass, 2012). And, the well-established positive association between premarital cohabitation and divorce documented in an extensive body of research in the 1980s and 1990s no longer holds for more recent marriage cohorts (Jose, O'Leary, & Moyer, 2010; Manning & Cohen, 2012; Reinhold, 2010). A study by Rhoades, Stanley, and Markman (2012) provides some evidence for this idea. Using a nationally representative sample of unmarried individuals in heterosexual relationships, Rhoades and colleagues found that cohabiting relationships, as opposed to non-cohabiting (that means:-dating) relationships, were characterized by more commitment but lower relationship satisfaction and other indices of relationship quality. Importantly, longitudinal follow-ups for a smaller portion of the sample showed that once individuals began to cohabit, commitment, relationship satisfaction and other indices of relationship quality decreased. Although cohabitors' amount of commitment may vary depending on the presence or absence of marital intentions (e.g., Poortman & Mills, 2012), they generally seem to invest less in their relationships than married individuals and couples, especially with regard to joint investments, such as having children or purchasing a house (e.g., Heimdal & Houseknecht, 2003; Kiernan, 2001). Hence, cohabitors will typically have fewer barriers than married couples to ending their relationships. Furthermore, Rhoades, Stanley, and Markman (2009) showed with a large national data set that individuals who cohabited prior to their engagement reported lower

levels of satisfaction (and other relationship-quality indices) and greater self-perceived odds for divorce than individuals who cohabited after they had gotten engaged or those who did not cohabit at all prior to marriage greater role balance (Marks, Huston, Johnson, & MacDermid, 2001).

2.7 Gender difference and cohabitation

Research has shown that cohabitation appears to carry different purposes and meaning for women and men. Rhoades, et al (2009) suggest that men and women engage in cohabiting unions with different levels of motivation to marriage. According to the authors states that women tend to perceive cohabitation as requiring a greater commitment than men do. Smock et al. (2006) argue that while both men and women are motivated to engage in cohabiting unions to pursue and develop an intimate relationship, men associate cohabitation less strongly to marriage than women. A survey data from Midwestern also reported that men tend to view cohabitation as a test drive of the relationship, while women tend to perceive it as a pathway to marriage with their partner (McCafferty, 2011). First, if cohabiting mothers contributed child care or her own wages to her children when at the same time her partner invested wages into his own human capital or a sole account, she will be disadvantaged when the union ends with no legal option to recoup her investments (Bowman, 2004). Further, men were less committed than women in cohabiting unions and were more likely to enter cohabitation to “test” the relationship (Rhoades, Stanley, & Markman, 2009; Stanley et al., 2004). Sassler and Miller (2011) argued that women were “waiting to be asked” to get married and have much less power than men to increase the commitment in their relationship. Because women have no legal protections and less power, cohabitation dissolution may be particularly difficult for women. Some unmarried mothers blocked visitation after union dissolution (Claessens, 2007), however, which may be particularly harmful to low-income, unmarried fathers who also lack legal protections. The father child relationship was viewed as central in low-income, unmarried families, and this relationship bound fathers to the family and to the mother (Edinet al., 2011). Edin and colleagues suggested that a shared child kept some low-income fathers in relationships they would have dissolved were it not for the child, a worldview they called

“Daddy, baby; momma maybe.” Given the potential for gender differences, mothers and fathers were examined separately. Studies have shown that gender differences exist in the perceived disadvantages associated with cohabitation. A qualitative study from New Zealand has shown that women perceive cohabitation as involving less commitment and legitimacy than marriage. Men’s perception about the disadvantages of cohabitation on the other hand is associated with limitations on their freedom as compared to singlehood (Elizabeth, 2000). This suggests that women may avoid cohabitation because it obstructs further commitment while men avoid it because it entails further commitment (Rhoades, et al 2009). Gender differences in relationship satisfaction were reported in many studies. Women were often less satisfied with relationships than men (Cunningham, et al., 1982; Fowers, 1991). Female relationship satisfaction is supposed to be connected with partners’ support and relational equivalence (Acitelli & Antonucci, 1994).

CHAPTER THREE

METHODS

3.1 Study Design

In order to undertake this research qualitative methods research design was employed, but which involves for supporting qualitative data, quantitative data, by using descriptive design was employed. According to Mason (2002), qualitative research method is considered to be important to a researcher for evaluating the nuance of many social phenomena in the standpoint of participants. On the other hand, according to Dawson (2003), statistics and numbers play important role in providing relevant and reliable information for making rational decisions in research study. Tashakkori&Teddlie (2003) noted that both qualitative and quantitative methods design can test the consistency of findings obtained through different forms of data collection. It also allows the researcher to use qualitative methods to add richness and detail description to the results obtained from the use of quantitative methods. The sequential exploratory design was employed to capture the best for qualitative approaches. The rationale for using this approach is that the qualitative data and their subsequent analysis provide a general understanding of the research problem. The qualitative data and analysis then explain those statistical results by exploring participants' views in more depth (Tashakkori&Teddlie, 2003). And to supporting the research quantitative analysis was employed. Therefore, the purpose of using description study was to identify problems contributing to cohabitation by obtaining qualitative results and also quantitative study was used for to see the relationship between cohabitation in terms of gender and social acceptance.

3.2 Study Area

This study was conducted in Oromia region, Jimma town. Jimma town was located 350 km the capital city of Ethiopia Addis Abeba . It is geographical center for the entire southwestern regions of Ethiopia. Roads radiating from it in four directions east, west, southwest and southeast linking Jimma to many zones of Oromia and south people, Nation, Nationalities, and peoples.

3.3 Target population

The target population of this study was Jimma town communities cohabited couples.

3.4. Variables of the Study

3.4.1. Dependent Variables

The dependent variables of the study were the four subscales (Time together, Testing relationship, because of baby and convenience) in Reason for Cohabitation Scale (Rhoades et al. (2009)). The scale included 30 items aimed at assessing why couples began to live with their partner prior to marriage. Each item in the subscales was rated on a five point scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) and 5 (strongly agree). Adjustment problems and level of satisfaction and social acceptance included 8 items rated on 1 (strongly disagree) and 5 (strongly agree).

3.3.2. Independent Variables

The independent variables have the socio demographic characteristics of the participant.

Age: Indicated the age group of respondents and respondents who were 18-19 were coded = 1, 20-25 = 2, 26-39 = 3, 40-64 = 4 and >65 = 5.

Gender: Indicated the sex of the respondents. Male respondents were coded 1 and females were coded 2.

Religion: Indicated the religious affiliation of the respondents. It was categorized in to: Orthodox Christian = 1, Protestant Christian = 2, Muslim = 3, Catholic = 4 and other = 5

Educational Level: Indicated the level of education participants have completed. It was categorized in to eight categories: Read and write only = 1, Primary complete = 2, Secondary complete = 3, Certificate = 4, Diploma = 5, BA/BSc degree = 6 and MA/MSc and above = 7.

Employment Status: Indicated whether participants had a job. It was categorized in to three categories: Employed = 1, unemployed = 2 and if, employed = 3.

Income Level: Indicated the level of income participants earn per month. It was categorized in to seven categories: No income = 0, < 1500 = 1, 1600 – 2500 = 2, 2600 – 3500 = 3, 3600– 4500 = 4, 4600– 5500 = 5 and > 5600 = 6.

Family employment status: whether the participant family had a job or not. It was categorized in to two: Have a job=1 and have not a job=2.

Family marital status: Indicated that the participant family marital back ground. It was categorized in to five: legally married=1, cohabited=2, separated=3, divorced=4 and other= 5.

3.5 Participants and Sampling Techniques

To attain the objective of the study, this study was included Jimma town communities who are heterosexual cohabited couples. This study was used purposive sampling technique to select the participants for the study based on the following criteria.

1. Cohabiting couples who were living in cohabitation at the time of data collection.
2. Cohabiting couples who were 18 years old and above. These groups were selected because in Ethiopia, according to the revised Family Code (2010), the minimum age for marriage is 18 years, indicating that living as husband and wife under the age of 18 is illegal. Accordingly, cohabiting couples under the age of 18 were not included in the study.
3. Cohabiting couples who were in a heterosexual relationship.
4. Cohabiting couples who were living in Jimma at the time of data collection. Jimma were selected because was suitable for the researcher. Besides, cohabitation is more prevalent in the city.

According to Kumar (1999) in purposive sampling technique, the researcher judges as to who can provide the best information to achieve the objective of the study. Hence, purposive sampling technique was employed to select the participants. According to Patrick (2008) states that purposive sampling also can be used to select participants based on their willingness to be studied or on their knowledge of a particular topic. This

involved conscious selection of participants by the researcher based on the inclusion criteria. The researcher used personal contacts and cohabiters friends as the first participants, who collaborated in helping the researcher find other cohabiters. Then the researcher approached other cohabiters based on the link created by the first participants and the people identified by them became part of the sample. Thus, the number of participants in qualitative research depends on the saturation of the data (Bryman, 2012). Depends on this the structured interview was administered to 40 cohabiters. Therefore, the researcher continues to sample relevant cases until no new insights are being collected from the data. Hence, six key informants were purposively selected for in-depth interview so that the researcher could collect detailed information on the issue of interest until saturation was achieved.

3.6 Data Collection Instrument

To get the required data for successful competition of this study the following data collection method has been used:-

Structured interview:-Such interviews involve the use of a set of predetermined questions and of highly standardized techniques of recording. Thus, the interviewer in a structured interview follows a rigid procedure laid down, asking questions in a form and order prescribed (Kothari, 2004). Therefore, to collect the qualitative data, Reasons for Cohabitation Scale (RCS), which was developed by Rhoades et al. (2009), was adapted based on the socio-cultural and psychological context of the study setting and couples satisfaction level was measured based on Funk & Rogge, (2007). Testing the ruler with item response theory of increasing precision of measurement for relationship satisfaction with the Couples Satisfaction The questionnaire also included the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants. The Reasons for Cohabitation Scale was developed to measure couples' reasons for cohabitation and it asks participants how strongly they agree or disagree with 29 potential reasons for cohabitation on a five-point response scale anchored at 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) (Rhoades et al., 2009).The scale includes three sub-scales. The convenience subscale includes 6 items

that measure the degree to which an individual was cohabiting because it will be suitable. The testing subscale includes 12 items that measure a desire to test the relationship through cohabitation. The time together subscale included 9 items that measure the degree to which individuals are cohabiting out of an intrinsic desire to have more time and intimacy with a partner and 3 items measure the degree to which individuals are to measure cohabitation because of baby care (Rhoades et al., 2009). To assess cohabiting couples' adjustment problem, Dyadic adjustment scale assessing quality of marriage and other dyads they have 17-item scale 4 and 2 for their disagreement in the physical affection of expression either married or cohabiting (Spencer, 1976). According to Fincham & Bradbury (1987) showed that the assessment of marital quality: 22-item scale designed to measure one's satisfaction in a relationship. The scale has a variety of items with different response scales and formats first it includes degree of happiness 1 item (1 = un extremely happy to 6 = perfect), all things considered, of their relationship it time spent together 2 items 1, all the time and 6, never., their feeling about couples relationship 19 items 1 not at all true and 6 completely. Hambleton (2005) suggested that instrument adaptation entails five essential stages: (1) instrument translation from the source language into the target language, (2) synthesis of the translated versions (3) analysis of the synthesized version, (4) back-translation, and (5) a pilot study. Accordingly, the instrument in the original language (English) was translated to the target language (Amharic) by two independent translators who were fluent in the original and desired language of the instrument. Next, the instructions, the items and the response format of the two translated versions of the instrument were compared with the original version of the instrument by an independent translator. The comparison was done regarding ambiguities and discrepancies of words, sentences, and meanings with the purpose of creating a single version. After synthesizing the two translated versions of the instrument, the new version will be evaluated by experts to make sure whether the terms or expressions are a good fit for the population for whom the instrument is intended. The synthesized and revised version of the instrument will be, then, translated back into English by an independent translator with the aim of evaluating the extent to which the translated version reflects the item content of the original version. Finally, a pilot study

was performed by applying the instrument using 30 samples that reflected the characteristics of the target population of the study.

Semi-structured Interview: was used for this study. Contents of semi-structured interview was age, sex, occupation, and residence. Understanding the issues of interest from the standpoint of the participants themselves is a driving concern of qualitative research method (Merriam, 1998). Thus, the research was employed a semi-structured interview which, according to Merriam, involves a schedule of open-ended questions followed by probing questions allowing the researcher to ask general questions to draw out more specific information. The inclusion of semi-structured interview in the study enabled the researcher to crosscheck the data collected through the questionnaire and used to elicit additional ideas from the respondents. Moreover, its flexibility allowed the researcher to extract rich information from the respondents (Kumar, 1999). Accordingly, an interview guide which included the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants was designed to get in-depth data from the interviewees.

3.6.1 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

A reliability test was performed to check the consistency and accuracy of the measurement scales. To maintain the validity, reliability and credibility of the research, different strategies used cross-checking of the gathered data with other sources, in depth understanding of the study issue and triangulation involve comparing and cross checking consistency of data derived by different means by using qualitative methods .

Pilot study is conducted, mainly to increase the reliability, validity and practicability of the questionnaire (Oppenheim 1992). It is also used to evaluate the instructions, response format, items and layout of the instrument for clarity (Cohen, Manion & Morrison, 2007). Accordingly, a pilot study was conducted using 30 samples who reflected characteristics of the target population of the study. Participants who found the instructions, response format or any item of the instrument unclear were asked to provide suggestions as to how to rewrite the statements to make the language clearer. Hence, instructions, response format and items of the instrument that were found to be unclear and confusing by most of the respondents were re-written. Some ambiguous and

difficult wordings of the instructions as well as the items were modified. Moreover items that were commonly misunderstood by most of the respondents were revised in order to avoid a source of confusion and error. The validity and reliability of this research was checked and made in the pilot in Agaro town. The pre-test was done in polite Agaro town residents. After the distribution of questionnaires and collected back by the researcher, necessary modification was made on some items. Additionally, the reliability of the instrument was measured by using Cronbach alpha test.

3.7. Data Collection Procedure

As stated above, structured interview questionnaires and semi-structured interview was used as the primary tools for data collection in this study. To collect the quantitative data, the researcher met the participants where and when it was convenient for them. In addition the researcher have received permission letter from the administration town to conduct the research. Then the researcher introduced herself to the participants and briefed them about the purpose of the study. After having the willingness of the participants to participate in the study, they were given the questionnaire. The date and time when the participants would return the completed questionnaire was set based on their preferences, after the response the research was collect carefully.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

To answer the research questions presented earlier, the following method of data analysis was employed.

- Descriptive qualitative data analysis was used to briefly describe the analyze data Leary (2004) suggested using descriptive statistics to describe and summarize the basic features of the quantitative data. Hence, the sociodemographic variables of the respondents and the major reasons for cohabitation were analyzed using frequencies and percentages.

- Descriptive qualitative data was used to analyze of adjustment problems was employed.
- Thus, to analyze differences in gender in terms of social acceptance chi - square was employed. Kothari (2004) stated that chi - square test is an important test amongst the several tests of significance developed by statisticians and the test is applicable in large number of problems. The test is, in fact, a technique through the use of which it is possible for all researchers to (i) test the goodness of fit; (ii) test the significance of association between two attributes, and (iii) test the homogeneity or the significance of population variance.
- Thus, a suitable approach to answer this research question was employed a semi-structured interview. The data from the semi-structured interviews was analyze using thematic analytic approach. This approach searches for certain themes in relation to the research questions across the data and reports experiences and meanings of participants (Braun & Clarke, 2006). It is also flexible and offers a more detailed and account of themes within the data.

Merriam (1998) describes qualitative research as requiring “...a powerful use of the researcher’s own mind and body in analysis and interpretation of the data” (p.21). Accordingly, the analysis was done by transcribing the audio taped interviews with the interview language (Amharic) and then translating to English as accurately as possible. This process was followed by coding, the purpose of which is to get from unstructured and messy data to ideas about what is going on in the data (Morse & Richards, 2002). The researcher read transcripts repeatedly to grasp the main issues and significant statements and phrases was highlighted. Then, the identified codes sorted into relevant categories by taking into consideration the objectives of the study. Finally, the main themes were identified and the categories were brought together and rearranged under the themes. The findings of the study, finally, was presented in a narrative explanation including the direct quotes of the participants.

3.9 Ethical Consideration

This study was done by respecting the respondent's dignity and maintaining their privacy. Humans are precious beings though they need to be treated as they are, so the researcher treats the subjects with great respect and humanity in addition the researcher have received permission letter from Jimma university department of psychology and from the town administrative to conduct the research. In this study no one was harmed including physical, psychological, social and all financial injuries are prevented by the researcher. It values objective and the researcher establish a strong rapport with the participants on the research rapport formation under taken through clarification of the purpose of the study telling them that provision of the information was totally depending on their willingness information guarantying, assuring confidentiality of their shared information, guarantying every response which came from them was highly respected and by telling them no need of writing their names. This strong rapport helped the researcher to get the consent and willingness of the participants, which was very crucial to get the necessary and reliable information data which in turn highly contributed the validity of the research and also the purpose of these study was explained to the respondents before data collection and provisions of the questionnaires and interview was taken after insuring their willingness to give their response.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

In this chapter, the data collected through both the questionnaire and interview are presented and analyzed. Sequential exploratory type design was employed to capture the best of both the quantitative and qualitative approaches. Hence, the results are presented in five phases. First, the quantitative results are presented displaying descriptive statistics. Then, the qualitative results are presented in terms of themes supported by quotations. Therefore, the integration of the quantitative and qualitative results occurred in the discussion session of the study.

4.1. Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis

A total of 40 cohabiters participated in the study. Hence, the analysis was done based on the data collected from 40 cohabiters. The socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents and the major reasons for cohabitation were analyzed using frequencies and percentages.

4.1.1. Socio-demographic Characteristics of Participants

In order to provide a clear picture for the readers about the participants of the study, the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents are summarized in the table below (Table 1).

Table1
Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Survey Participants

Variable		no	%
Sex	Male	26	65
	Female	14	35
	Total	100	100
Age	18-20	4	10
	21-25	17	42.5
	26-30	11	27.5
	31-35	6	15
	36-40	1	2.5
	41-45	1	2.5
	Total	40	100
Religion	Protestant Christian	11	27.5
	Orthodox Christian	18	45.0
	Muslim	11	27.5
	Total	40	100
Educational Level	Read and write only	6	15
	Elementary	3	7.5
	Highs School completed	7	17.5
	Preparatory	3	7.5
	Diploma	5	12.5
	Degree	15	37.5
	MA /MSC and Above	1	2.5
Total	40	100	
Monthly Income	No income	5	12.5
	< 1500	13	32.5
	1600 – 2500	4	10.0
	2600 – 3500	7	17.5
	3600– 4500	2	5.0
	4600– 5500	5	12.5

	> 5600	4	10.0
	Total	40	100
Employment status	Employed	23	57.5
	Unemployed	17	42.5
	Total	40	100
Family Employment status	Have a job	32	80
	Do not have a job	8	20
	Total	40	100
Family Educational Back ground	Literate	21	52.5
	Illiterate	19	47.5
	Total	40	100
Family Marital Status	Married	33	82.5
	Cohabited	4	10.5
	Separated	3	7.5
	Total	40	100

Table 1 above depicted that among 40 heterosexual cohabiters, a little more than half of the respondents (65%) were male whereas 35% were female. Regarding age of the respondents, only 2.5 % of the respondents were 36-40 and 41-45 while 42.5 % of them were 21-25. So, the majority of the participants were in the age range of 21-25. With respect to religion, the majority of the respondents (45%) reported that they were Orthodox Christian and 27.5 % of them reported that protestant Christian and Muslim religions. Data on educational status showed that 15 % of the respondents can read and write only whereas 17.5 % had high school completed, 37.5 % had BA/BSc degree and only 2.5% had MA/MSc and above. Similarly, some of the respondents who reported that they were unemployed (12.5%) reported that they had no monthly income. And on the data gathering of the reported 32.5% that they earn, < 1500birr and only 5.0 % of them reported they earn 3600-4500 birr per month. Data on the employment status also indicated that 57.5% of the respondents they were have employed and 42.5 % were unemployed. Data on family employment status also indicated that 80% of the

respondents' family have employed and 20% of the respondent's family have unemployed. Data on the family educational back ground 52.5% were literate and 47.5% were illiterate. Based on data of the family marital status 82.5% of the respondent's family were legally married and 10.5% were cohabited and only 7.5 % were separated.

4.1.2. Reasons for Cohabitation

As described in detail in the methods section, there are four distinct subscales that are part of the Reasons for Cohabitation Scale measuring the major reasons for cohabitation related to a desire for more time together, reasons related to convenience and reasons related to a desire to test one's relationship and because of baby. Participants' ratings of each of the reasons for cohabitation in the four sub-scales of the Reasons for Cohabitation Scale are presented in the table below (Table 2).

Table 2

Descriptive Statistics for Reasons for Cohabitation

No category	Item	Response				
		SD n (%)	D n (%)	U n (%)	A n (%)	SA
Testing Relationship Subscale						
	1.I had doubt about how I well could handle being in a serious relationship	3(7.5)	4(10)	2(5)	10(30)	22(55)
	2. I wanted to find how much work, He/she would do around the house before deciding about marriage.	0(0.0)	2(5)	7(17.5)	10(25)	21(52.5)
	3.I was concerned about how my partner handle money and wanted time to test out my concerns before marriage.	1(2.5)	3(7.5)	7(17.5)	8(20)	21(52.5)
	4. I want to test out our relationship before deciding marry.	3(7.5)	3(7.5)	4(10)	5(12.5)	25(62.5)
	5. I had doubt about us making it for the long haul.	3(7.5)	5(12.5)	7(17.5)	11(27.5)	14(35.0)
	6. I want to make sure we are compatible before deciding about marriage.	1(2.5)	4(10.0)	3(7.5)	13(32.5)	19(47.5)
	7. I have concerned about our relationship and thought living together will be good way to test out my concern.	3(7.5)	2(5.0)	6(15.0)	8(20.0)	21(52.5)
	8. I had concerned about whether I wanted to be with my partner long term.	3(7.5)	5(12.5)	4(10.0)	12(30)	16(40.0)
	9. I was concerned that he/she might not make a good husband/wife through living together would be a good way to find out.	2(5.0)	3(7.5)	3(7.5)	18(45.0)	14(35.0)
	10. It's the only way we will know if we are					

ready to get married.	0(0.00)	4(10.0)	8(20.0)	12(30.0)	16(40.0)
11. I want a trial run for marriage.	4(10.0)	2(5.0)	9(22.5)	10(25.0)	15(37.5)
12. I wanted to make sure we would both contribute to running the household	6(15.0)	2(5.0)	5(12.5)	8(20)	19(47.5)
Convenience sub scale					
13. To share household expenses.	3(7.5)	3(7.5)	8(20.0)	13(32.5)	13(32.5)
14. We were spending most nights together anyway.	2(5.0)	3(7.5)	4(10.0)	14(35.0)	17(42.5)
15. I could not afford the rent on my own.	5(12.5)	4(10.0)	4(10.0)	12(30.0)	15(37.5)
16. It was inconvenient to have some of my stuff at my place and some at my Partners.	3(7.5)	6(15.0)	6(15.0)	12(30.0)	13(32.5)
17. It was convenient	1(2.5)	4(10.0)	4(10.0)	16(40.0)	15(37.5)
18. It made sense financially.	0(0.00)	2(5.0)	4(10.0)	17(42.5)	17(42.5)
Testing time together subscale					
19. It was emotionally hard to be apart.	1(2.5)	2(5.0)	6(15.0)	14(35.0)	17(42.5)
20. To improve our sex life together.	2(5.0)	6(15.0)	4(10.0)	11(27.5)	17(42.5)
21. I thought it would be bring us closer together	4(10.0)	4(10.0)	1(2.5)	13(32.5)	18(45.0)
22. We could have more daily intimacy and sharing.	2(5.0)	1(2.5)	6(15.0)	12(30.0)	19(47.5)
23. I want us to have future together	4(10.0)	2(5.0)	4(10.0)	12(30.0)	18(45.0)
24. We don't have enough time together when we lived in separate place.	3(7.5)	3(7.5)	4(10.0)	11(27.5)	19(47.5)
25. I knew I want to spend the rest of my life with him/her.	2(5.0)	3(7.5)	1(2.5)	9(22.5)	25(62.5)
26. I want us to have more privacy.	3(7.5)	3(7.5)	4(10.0)	14(35.0)	16(40.0)
27. I love splendid time with him/her.	3(7.5)	2(5.0)	2(5.0)	13(32.5)	20(50.0)
Because of baby subscale					
28. We want to have another baby.	10(25.0)	5(12.5)	6(15.0)	9(22.5)	10(25.0)
29. Because with the cost of having and raising a baby it made sense.	10(25.0)	3(7.5)	6(15.0)	11(27.5)	10(25.0)
30. Because neither of us wanted to care a baby alone.	8(20.0)	6(15.0)	7(17.5)	10(25.0)	9(22.5)

Note. SD= Strongly Disagree D= Disagree U= Undecided A= Agree SA= Strongly Agree

As shown in Table 2 above, the frequencies of items in testing relationship subscale indicated that the majority of the respondents (4%) agreed that they moved in with their partner concerned that he or she might not make a good husband or wife. Similarly, 32.5 % of the participants agreed that they moved in with their partner so they could have compatible before deciding about marriage. Moreover, most of the respondents 27.5 % agreed that they moved in with their partner because they thought had doubt about us making it for the long haul. With respect to convenience subscale items, 35 % of the participants agreed that they moved in with their partner because they were spending most nights together anyway and because living together was only convenient while 4 % of them agreed they moved in together. On the other hand, 12 % of the respondents agreed that they moved in with their partner because living together made sense financially whereas only 12 % of them agreed that they moved in together because they could not afford the rent on their own. Regarding testing time togetherness

subscale items, the respondents (35 %) agreed that they moved in with their emotionally hard to apart and they want to get more privacy. Similarly, 30 % of the respondents agreed that they moved in with their partner they could have more daily intimacy and sharing and they want to future together. By respecting because of baby sub scale, while 27.5 % of the respondents agreed that they moved with the cost of having and raising a baby it made sense.

On the other hand, 22.5 % of the respondents agreed that they decided to move in with their partner they want to have another baby. Overall, the participants reported higher levels of reasons related to testing the relationship and convenience respectively.

4.1.3 Gender differences in cohabiting couples social acceptance

Table 5

Social acceptance scale		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
My family accepts my relationship with my partner	Pearson Chi-Square	12.716a	4	.013
	Likelihood Ratio	15.750	4	.003
	Linear-by-Linear Association	11.051	1	.001
	N of Valid Cases	40		
My partner's family accepts our relationship	Pearson Chi-Square	5.348a	4	.253
	Likelihood Ratio	6.388	4	.172
	Linear-by-Linear Association	4.572	1	.032
	N of Valid Cases	40		
My family would support our decision to adopt or have children.	Pearson Chi-Square	8.535a	4	.074
	Likelihood Ratio	10.604	4	.031
	Linear-by-Linear Association	8.058	1	.005
	N of Valid Cases	40		
My partner's family would support our decision to adopt or have children.	Pearson Chi-Square	4.731a	4	.316
	Likelihood Ratio	5.283	4	.259
	Linear-by-Linear Association	4.424	1	.035
	N of Valid Cases	40		
My partner and I have an active social life.	Pearson Chi-Square	10.372a	4	.035
	Likelihood Ratio	12.242	4	.016
	Linear-by-Linear Association	9.595	1	.002
	N of Valid Cases	40		
I feel as though my relationship is generally accepted by my friends.	Pearson Chi-Square	12.564a	4	.014
	Likelihood Ratio	14.535	4	.006
	Linear-by-Linear Association	6.080	1	.014
	N of Valid Cases	40		
I have a strong support system that accepts me as I am.	Pearson Chi-Square	10.484a	4	.033
	Likelihood Ratio	13.795	4	.008
	Linear-by-Linear Association	5.627	1	.018

	N of Valid Cases			
My partner's sociability adds a positive aspect to our relationship.				
		40		
	Pearson Chi-Square	10.484a	4	.033
	Likelihood Ratio	13.795	4	.008
	Linear-by-Linear Association	5.627	1.018	
	N of Valid Cases		40	

*P< .05.

The chi square test indicated that (see Table 05 above) there was significant difference in the pearson chi square social acceptance for cohabitation on the my family accepts my relationship with my partner $P = .003$, I feel as though my relationship is generally accepted by my friend there was a significance difference $p=0.014$. However, there was no significant difference on my family would support our decision to adopt or have children $P = .074$ and my partner's family accepts our relationship, $P = .235$.

4.2. Qualitative Data Analysis

A semi-structured interview was conducted, with men and women cohabiters, in order to find out major reasons for cohabitation in the study setting that couldn't be captured by a Western made standard survey instrument. The qualitative study was also used to identify the adjustment problems, consequences of social acceptance of cohabitation as perceived by the respondents. The data from the qualitative study are analyzed using thematic analytic approach as presented below.

4.2.1. Socio-demographic Characteristics of the semi structured interviewee Participants

The socio-demographic characteristics of the interview participants are summarized and presented in the table below (Table 5).

Table 5

Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Interview Participants

Variable		n
Sex	Male	4
	Female	2
	Total	6

Age	25-45	6
	Total	6
Religion	Protestant Christian	1
	Orthodox Christian	4
Educational Level	Elementary	1
	High school completed	2
	Diploma	1
	BA/BSc degree	2
	Total	6
Employment Status	Employed	6
	Total	6
Monthly Income	2600 – 3500	3
	3600-4500	2
	4600-5500	1
	Total	6
Family Employment status	Have a job	6
	Total	6
Family Educational Back ground	Literate	4
	Illiterate	2
	Total	6
Family Marital Status	Married	6
	Total	6

The table above (Table 5) indicated that the qualitative data was drawn from 6 participants consisting of 2 women and 4 men. The women's age ranged from 24 and 28 and the men's from 24 to 45. Four of the men respondents were Orthodox Christians while two of the woman respondents and was protestant Christian and Muslim. Regarding educational status, one of the women respondents and one of the men respondents had BA degree and the remaining one women respondent and one man respondent had high school completed and one of the male respondent had diploma and

also one of the male respondents had elementary school completed. One of the male and female respondents were employed and earned 3000 birr per month on average and one of the female respondents were earned 4000 birr on a month and three of the male respondents were earned 3500 to 5500 birr earned on average a month. All of the respondents were family job status were employed. Regarding family educational status were three of the respondents male respondents family and one of female respondents were literate and one of the male and female respondents were illiterate. Finally all of the respondent's family were legally married.

4.2.2 Major reason for Cohabitation

In the qualitative study, four broad areas of reasons for cohabitation were identified: Spending more time together, financial considerations, planning for marriage and pregnancy. Majority of the respondents reported more than one reason for living together with their partner. Almost all of the respondents indicated that they moved in with their partner because they wanted to spend more time together. They said that cohabitation was the consequence of their relationship development. When talking about her decision to move in with her partner, one of the respondents said:

We usually I love spending most of our time together. But, through time, we felt like we want to be together all the time. We thought we would be so close to each other if we moved in together and made a decision to move in. (Participant 1, male, 25)

In relation to spending more time together as a reason for cohabitation, another respondent described his experience as follows:

Before we moved in together, we would meet sometimes after work or on weekends. Then, through time we started spending most nights together over my place. Oh...finally it became very difficult for us to stay apart from each other. We decided to move in so that we would be able to spend more time together. (Participant 2, male, 27)

According to the interviewees' narrations, couples engaged in cohabitation because it enhanced their relationships by allowing them to spend more time together. Most of the respondents agreed that they came in to cohabitation because of their desire

for spending time with their partner and being closer to each other. Moreover, as their relationship developed, it would be difficult for them to be apart from each other. Therefore, they considered moving in together as a better alternative for staying closer with their partner. On the other hand, couples who did not have enough time to spend together when they were dating made a decision to move in to spend more time together. They believed that living together would bring them closer and enabled them to have daily intimacy.

Another important reason that was frequently raised by the respondents was financial consideration. Most of the respondents reported that they moved in with their partner because they could share the cost of rent and living expenses. In their perception, cohabitation was a less expensive living arrangement because it allowed them to merge their finances and save money by sharing living expenses. By living together, they could reduce the cost of sustaining two independent households. One respondent discussed the financial logic of cohabitation, particularly, when couples are already spending majority of their time together as follows:

We usually spent most of our nights together over my place, yet we were both paying for two separate houses. So, living together was a very rational choice for us because we can share expenses and save money by staying together in the same place. (Participant 3, male, 26)

Furthermore, those with limited financial resources and could not survive by themselves chose cohabitation as economically better alternative to share the cost of living expenses and diminish their financial difficulties. One respondent explained the connection between financial considerations and the decision to cohabit as follows:

Before I moved in with my partner, I was living with my baby in rental house. When I meet him and I love him, I was there alone paying the rent and covering my other expenses. I couldn't afford living by myself and also he really want living together after that I consider something he was a civil servant and he made good living condition to me and my baby . So, I considered moving in with my partner. (Participant 5, female, 28)

As the respondents described, the decision to cohabit was driven by economic benefits inherent in sharing a residence and household expenses. This would indicate that

lack of adequate economic resources encourages cohabitation among economically difficulties for people. Financial considerations not only encouraged entrance into cohabitation but also played a key role in expectations of cohabitating couples to make transition into marriage. When asked why they preferred cohabitation instead of getting married, most of the respondents expressed a desire to marry but perceived lack of financial stability or low income as preventing them from getting married. They preferred to stay in cohabiting relationship because of lack of perceived financial readiness for marriage. In this regard, one respondent expressed his feeling as follows:

We decided to stay together because we are not financially ready for marriage. We are both attending school and we thought we should finish our school and be financially ready before we get married. (Participant 5, female, 24)

4.2.3. Adjustment problem of Cohabited couples

Respondents were asked their perception about the adjustment problem of cohabitation based on their life experience. Majority of respondents reported that living together without being married had their so many problems. One respondent who had been living with her partner for about a year said:

After us living together one of the problem of cohabitation was our religious faith was different because of that in navigation of religious faith they have difficult for us. (Participant 5, female, 28).

Similarly another woman respondent who had been living with her partner for about three years described her feeling like the following:

The behavior you know about your partner before and after living together may not be the same.....there are a number of couples who end up in divorce because of not getting to know each other very well and like this one of my problem is don't calmly discuss our problems because of that most of the time they have disagreement between us. (Participant 6, female, 24).

Cohabiting individuals experienced a greater overall frequency of disagreement in the areas of money, religious matter, time together, household tasks, sex, and planning for a child. When asked about the problems of cohabitation compared to marriage, three of the respondents reported that cohabitation was very difficult and challenge full life because it was easier to end the relationship without going through the hassle of divorce and there partner doesn't respect their way life . Moreover, concluding cohabitating relationship did not label couples as 'divorced'. The following remark is illustrative of this assertion.

It will not be difficult to end the relationship. You just move out the way you moved in. Furthermore, the society does not give you attention to negotiate with your partner because of that easily divorced when you separate with your partner. (Participant 4, male, 45).

Similarly another male respondent who had been living with his partner living with two year described his feeling like the following:

The last two year was very difficult for me her families want to end the relationship but for us it was challenge full if you live with baby the way of custody was difficult for us and financially we are not strong. (Participant 1, male, 25).

Indeed, in living together with premarital relationship cohabiting individuals demonstrated that premarital and non-marital cohabitation were associated with lower levels of interpersonal commitment. And some of the respondents who had been living together with their partner describe their feelings like the following.

OH..... If I move with my partner after living together they have some problems related to demonstration of affection ohh..., and sometimes our philosophy of life doesn't much with her. (participant2, male 27).

Another respondent also said:

One of the problems you have with cohabitation is making plans for the future. It is difficult to make mutual plans for the future because you are not sure if you

have a future together. There is no guarantee about the relationship. (Participant 3, male, 26).

4.2.4 Consequences of social acceptance in cohabited couples

Cohabitation was effects on the couples according to their family, friends and society, which was raised by some of the respondents, was associated with the familial and social disapproval of living together without being married. Respondents reported that the society had lower value and respect to cohabitation compared to marriage. Cohabitation was not as socially accepted as marriage by the society. Unlike marriage, cohabitation was not a publically acknowledged and defined status reflecting clarity about the commitment and direction of the relationship. Moreover, it was perceived as deviant behavior from the point of view of culture and religion. Therefore, cohabiting couples were likely to receive less social value and respect from their family and community compared to married couples. In relation to this, one of the respondents said:

People have more respect when you are married because living together without being married is considered as sin in my religion. My parents would not also approve my relationship if they knew that I am living with my partner. (Participant 6, female, 24)

A respondent who moved in with her partner because she was pregnant expressed her feeling as:

Cohabitation does not give you the title 'wife and husband.' Sometimes it is very difficult how to introduce your partner to others, the father of my child? Or my husband? You will get confused. Besides, having a child out of marry lock is the family disgrace. The society has also lower respect when you give birth without being married. (Participant 5, female, 28)

The above remarks made by the respondents indicated that cohabitation was perceived as having lower status when compared to marriage. Women respondents particularly seem to believe cohabitation is a less respectable union than marriage. When asked if they recommend living together prior to marriage for others, most of the respondents reported that they would not recommend living together without marriage. In

this connection, one of the respondents said “*living together without being married is prohibited*” when seen from the religious perspective.

She said that she would recommend couples “*to wait until they get married.*” However, another respondent reported that cohabitation was “*not a good idea*” for couples who want to make sure if they are compatible before they make a decision to get married. He stated that:

Living together without being married is not a respectable idea for couples who want to make sure if they can make a good husband and wife before they get married. By their small f they would be legal, Because, I believe that most cohabitation end easily in divorce when couples rush in to marriage without knowing each other very well (Participant 1, male, 25)

Another respondent, on the other hand, reported she would not recommend other people living together without being married for the long run. However, she said that “*it is not bad for couples to live together if they have their own challenge also couples should be less committed.*”

4.2. 5 level of satisfaction in cohabited couples

Respondents were asked their perception about their level of satisfaction of cohabitation based on their life experience. Most respondents reported that living together without being married had satisfied. Some of the respondents explained that they aren’t satisfied by their relationship of cohabitation provided them with an opportunity to learn about and get to know each other before making the serious commitment of marriage. One respondent who had been living with his partner for about a year said:

Living together without married is really satisfied with me because I after living together am not getting suffer from longing her because all the time she is with me. (participant 2, male 27)

One of the respondents reported that living together without being married had their own benefit. Some of the respondents explained that cohabitation provided them with an opportunity to learn about and get to know each other before making the serious commitment of marriage:

When you live with your partner, you will get the chance to learn a lot about her. You can learn about her behavior. And, this will help you make a decision whether you want to live with her in the long run because of this am happy by this relationship by this she is a perfect romantic partner for me I really satisfied by her. (Participant 2, male, 27)

Majority of the participants reported that they are not that much satisfied by their premarital relationship.

Sometimes am not happy am getting into this relationship because totally am losing my faith, my family doesn't accept my relationship because of my partners religion was opposite from me by this am not satisfied by this relationship. (Participant 5, female 28)

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION

In this section, discussion and possible explanation of the results would be discussed.

5.1. Reasons for Cohabitation

The findings of the quantitative study showed that, among the five domains of reasons for cohabitation, most of the participants reported a desire for spending rest of their life together as their major reason for cohabitation. They agreed that they moved in with their partner to have more privacy. They moved in together so that they could have more daily intimacy and sharing. Testing the relationship is the other domain of reasons for cohabitation that was endorsed most following spending more time together. Most of the respondents rated a desire of getting to know a partner better before deciding about marriage most as a reason for cohabitation from this domain. They reported that they moved in with their partner to make sure compatibility before a commitment to marriage. Convenience-based reasons are the least rated domain of reason for cohabitation convenient was reported most strongly from this domain. They reported that they moved with their partner. Because of baby are the other domain of reason for cohabitation moving in together because it was neither of us wanted to care the baby alone.

As this result is similar with (Rhoades et al,2009), in a previous quantitative research conducted in the United States, using the same scale, couples reported a desire for more time together most strongly, followed by convenience-based reasons and testing the relationship .

As described above, the majority of the respondents in the present study reported that they moved in with their partner because they love spending more time with their partner. This finding is contrary to a study that found out that couples' primary reason for cohabitation is associated with wedding expenses and financial benefits of living together (Habtmu, 2010). The findings of the qualitative study also confirmed that couples make a decision to live together without being married because they want to spend more time together. Their decision to cohabit is urged by the feelings and attraction they have towards each other. This would suggest that couples engage in cohabitation because it allows them to have more intimacy by spending more time together. In this regard, a

prior qualitative research, in a different setting, reported that many couples cohabit to spend more time together and enjoy their relationship by being so close to each other (Smock et al., 2006).

Another reason for cohabitation that has been widely reported by the respondents in the quantitative study is testing the relationship. Couples cohabit to test their relationship and make sure if they are compatible before they make a decision to get married. This would demonstrate that couples come in to cohabitation because it enables them to get to know each other better and have the time to test out their concerns about their relationship before they make a decision to get married.

This is similar with a qualitative study that found out that cohabitation as a testing of compatibility before deciding about marriage is a commonly accepted reason for cohabitation (Smock et al., 2006). Additionally, a qualitative research by Huang et al (2011) indicated that couples engage in cohabitation to test for compatibility and thus maximize the chance of a lasting marriage and minimize the chance of divorce. The third rationale to the practice of cohabitation is convenience. Some couples live together without being married out of convenience based reasons. They make a decision to live together because they are already spending most nights together or because it is inconvenient to have some of their stuffs at each other's house. They simply move in together because it is just convenient for them to live together. In this regard, a qualitative study by Stanley (2006) showed that many couples move in together for pragmatic reasons external to the relationship. Moreover, both the quantitative and qualitative study revealed that couples come in to cohabitation because of financial considerations. The increasing cost of living such as house rent and other household expenses these days, particularly in jimma town, makes cohabitation an attractive living arrangement where couples can merge their economic resources and share their expenses. The respondents reported that they decided to move in with their partner to share the house rent and other household expenses. By living together, they can share financial burdens of maintaining an independent household. This finding implies that couples are urged to cohabit in part by the economic strain they are experiencing. This is in line with a study which reported that one of the major reasons for couples to move in together is to share their financial burdens of living expenses (Kreider, 2010). Similarly, another qualitative research found

out that couples cohabit because they do not have adequate financial resources to survive by themselves (Sassler, 2004). Start living together and gradually transition in to living together without making an explicit decision to do so (Manning & Smock, 2005). However, the present study found out that couples cohabit because they are certain that they would eventually get married with their partner. Many couples in Ethiopia give marriage intention as their reason for cohabitation. They come in to the decision of living together because they believe that they want to spend the rest of their life with their partner. This would imply that couples who have the intention to get married in the future choose cohabitation as a temporary living arrangement which is followed by marriage later. In line with this finding, previous research has found out that couples report definite marriage plans for the future as a reason for moving in together (Manning & Smock, 2002).

5.2 Adjustment problems of cohabiting couples

In this study, the adjustment problems of cohabitation, as perceived by cohabiters, were identified. The finding of quantitative study showed that cohabiting individuals were more likely than married individuals to report problems with arguments, an inability to resolve conflicts, poor relationship commitment or security, insecurity about their partners' feelings, problems with a previous relationship, being damaged or hurt by a previous relationship, difficulties stemming from previous relationships, and disagreement about values and goals for the future. This result is consistent with a research that suggests, it has been found out that cohabitation enables couples should be their own problems in the disagreement of communication. Similarly, instead of the broad relationship areas that were viewed as most problematic for cohabiting individuals were problems in specific areas of their current relationship (especially finances and stress or unmet needs), individual problems (e.g., personality or health problems), general communication, arguments, and emotional affection or distance (Doss, Rhoades, Stanley, Markman, 2006). Together, these differences indicate that cohabiting relationships tend to be experienced as more volatile than marriages in that cohabiting individuals tend to argue more, find their relationships more unstable or insecure, and have more issues with past relationships and with future goals and values. However, we should note that the

impact of this volatility on future relationship functioning cannot be determined from these results. According to Another study Kamp Dush & Amato (2005) also showed that married individuals reported the highest level of subjective wellbeing, followed by cohabiting individuals, then by dating individuals. Combined, these results suggest that cohabiters may experience more problems with mental health issues than do married individuals. Additionally, the qualitative findings showed that couples in premarital living together would be there was disagreement and doesn't discuss their feeling. Similarly with cohabiting individuals to report an inability to resolve conflicts and problems in lack of physical affection or sex (Annie C. Hsueh, Kristen Rahbar Morrison, and Brian D. Doss, 2009). Finally, cohabiting couples have been found to report less commitment to their relationship and greater individual autonomy. This study is similar with Stanley et al. (2004) research paper of a large-scale random sample of engaged, married, and cohabiting individuals demonstrated that premarital and non-marital cohabitation were associated with lower levels of interpersonal commitment. The findings of this study indicated that in adjustment problems cohabiting couples are likely to feel insecure in their relationship because couples behavior before and after living together may not be the same and the unstable nature of cohabitation makes couples to invest less emotionally in the relationship.

5.3 level of satisfaction in cohabited couples

The findings of the qualitative study showed that, among the domains of level of satisfaction living in cohabitation, majority of the participants reported that they are not satisfied by their living together in cohabitation. This research paper similar with Rhoades et.al (2009) found that cohabiting relationships, as opposed to non-cohabiting (that means:-dating) relationships, were characterized by more commitment but lower relationship satisfaction and other indices of relationship quality. Gender differences in relationship satisfaction were reported in many studies. The finding of this paper showed that women's are lower relationship satisfaction by their relationship compared to men's. This research paper is consistent Cunningham, et al (1982) showed that women in cohabiting relationships often less satisfied than men.

Importantly, longitudinal follow-ups for a smaller portion of the sample showed that once individuals began to cohabit, commitment, relationship satisfaction and other indices of relationship quality decreased.

Most of the respondents viewed cohabitation as a way to spend time with and take care of their child, but they still had the option to leave if they became unsatisfied. And this result is similar with Kluwer & Johnson (2007), research paper mentioned on the respondents that the transition to parenthood has been shown to challenge couples' relationships.

The qualitative study found out that cohabiting couples by their relationship with spouses less satisfied. It is consistent with Rhoades, Stanley, and Markman (2009), research paper showed that a large national data set that individuals who cohabited prior to their engagement reported lower levels of satisfaction. The finding of this study less satisfied couples may choose to cohabit rather than get married, and the experience of cohabitation may make them even less satisfied.

5.4 Consequences of social acceptance for cohabited couples

In the quantitative result of respondents there is a significance difference in social acceptance of cohabitation in terms of gender male are more acceptable than female. In societies where, from a moral point of view, marriage is considered the only "proper" route to family formation, and cohabitation is not regarded as an acceptable living arrangement, adult children who cohabit might be seen as failing to respect the rules their parents tried to teach them (Maslauskait, 2011). The norms that condition adulthood and maturity on marital status may overlap with social attitudes towards living arrangements that are an alternative to marriage, such as cohabitation.

Analysis from result indicated from the interview participants is the familial, social disapproval especially religious disapproval of cohabitation. Similarly according to Maslauskait (2011) states that attitudes can be related to religious influences, such as the belief that living in a non-marital relationship is a sin.

The study found out that cohabitation is associated with lower social value and respect. In Ethiopia cohabitation was not a socially acceptable as like marriage. This makes cohabiting couples feel less respected and accepted by their family and the society

than their married counterparts. Similarly, Vanassche et al. (2012) showed that Poland belongs to the group of countries with a relatively high level of disapproval of alternative family types like cohabitation and a marked attachment to the institution of marriage. Moreover, although the role of social norms for validating relationships does not seem to be very powerful these days, social influence becomes strong when it comes to childbearing out of wed lock. Therefore, cohabiting couples with a child get less social support and respect from the society compared to married couples. This is consistent with a research which indicated that cohabiters receive less social support from their family and friends (Skinner et al., 2002). Thus, it affects their relationship negatively and restrains their relationship quality. The study found that Cohabitation was not as socially accepted as marriage by the society. Unlike marriage, cohabitation was not a publically acknowledged and defined status reflecting clarity about the commitment and direction of the relationship. Moreover, it was perceived as deviant behavior from the point of view of culture and religion. Therefore, cohabiting couples were likely to receive less social value and respect from their family and community.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. Summary

This study carries out to investigate major reason of cohabiting couples adjustment problem and there possible consequences on social acceptance, among Jimma town resident. In the study setting the semi structured interview that could not be captured by a Western made standard survey instrument, differences in reasons for cohabitation in terms of the socio demographic characteristics of the participants and investigated their adjustment problems and effects of social acceptance on cohabitation.

The study has tried to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the major reasons behind couple's decision to cohabit?
2. What are the adjustment problems, if any, faced cohabiting couples in jimma town?
3. What are the possible consequences of cohabiting couples on social acceptance?
4. Is there significant difference in gender in terms of social acceptance?
5. What are their level of satisfaction living in cohabitation?

A qualitative methods research design, which involves that for supporting qualitative data quantitative methods, was employed in order to carry out the study. Sequential exploratory design which is characterized by the collection and analysis of quantitative data followed by the collection and analysis of qualitative data was employed to capture the best of both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The participants of the study were heterosexual cohabiters living in Jimma resident. A total of 40 cohabiters (40 for the quantitative study and 6 for the qualitative study) were selected using purposive sampling techniques. Social acceptance scale was adapted based on the socio-cultural context of the study setting and administered to 40 cohabiters. Before the interview was administered to the participants, it was pilot tested on 30 cohabiters who reflect characteristics of the target population of the study in Agaro town. A structured interview conducted with 40 cohabiters and through purposively selected semi structured interview was also conducted with 6 cohabiters in order to collect the qualitative data. Descriptive statistics (frequency and percentage) were used to analyze the socio demographic

characteristics of the respondents, to find out the major reasons for cohabitation and their adjustment problems. A thematic data analysis of was used to analyze the level of satisfaction of cohabiting couples. Chi-square analysis was used to analyze gender difference between cohabiting couples through this males are more acceptable than female. Data from the qualitative study were analyzed using thematic analytic approach. The findings of the study indicate that the respondent's reasons for cohabitation. The study identified six major domains there are spending more time together, testing the relationship, financial considerations, plans for marriage, because of baby and pregnancy. The study found out that couples make a decision to move in together because they want to spend more time together. Couples' decision to cohabit is also driven by the need to test their relationship before making a serious commitment to marriage. The other major reason for cohabitation that was revealed in the study is sharing the financial burden of the house rent and other living expenses. The qualitative study also found out that plans for marriage is a reason for cohabitation among couples with marriage intentions in the future. And the other reason cohabitation is couples neither of us want to take baby alone. Moreover, the study identified that couples give pregnancy or birth of a child as a reason for cohabitation in order to co-parent their child together. The finding of adjustment problems cohabitation faced by most of the respondents was relationship distress and psychological distress. Majority of the respondents was religious matter, difference in aim and goal and in philosophy of life. Most of the respondents reported that physical affection expression or sex have faced some problems. Another effect of cohabitation emphasized from the respondents was familial, social and religious disapproval of cohabitation and females are influenced by cohabiting relationship. The study found out that cohabitation is associated with lower social value and respect. In Ethiopia cohabitation was not a socially acceptable as like marriage. This makes cohabiting couples feel less respected and accepted by their family and the society. Therefore, cohabiting couples with a child get less social support and respect from the society. Similarly the study found out that cohabiting couples by their relationship with spouses have less satisfied.

6.2. Conclusions

Couples make a decision to move in together without any commitment to marriage because of their desire to be intimate and close to each other. Couple's decision to cohabit is also driven by the need of reducing uncertainties about their relationship and determining compatibility before marriage. Cohabitation is perceived as a cheaper living arrangement because it allows couples to mitigate economic hardships by sharing residence and living expenses. Moreover, couples with marriage intentions in the future consider cohabitation as a short-term living arrangement that will be transitioned in to marriage later. Pregnant couples also come in to cohabitation because they perceive it as an alternative to marriage in raising their child together. Cohabitation offers greater interaction and interdependence among couples by allowing them to spend significant amount of time together.

Cohabiting individuals were more likely than married individuals to report some adjustment problems of the respondents with arguments, the inability to resolve conflicts, poor relationship commitment or, insecurity about their partners' feelings, and disagreement about values, making discision,philosophy of life and goals for the future.

Moreover, cohabiting couples reduce their expenses by merging their economic resources and sharing a residence. However, cohabiting couples experience a feeling of insecurity and uncertainty in their relationship and through this they have less satisfied by their relationship. And males are more acceptable than female living together in cohabitation. They also receive less respect and value from the society and religious institutions.

6.3. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were forwarded for cohabiting couples, couples considering cohabiting and other concerned bodies.

- Couples may be motivated to cohabit by different reasons and objectives, and that the meaning of cohabitation and how it is experienced may also differ for both partners.
- Therefore, couples who are planning to cohabit should openly discuss their motivations and reasons before moving in together. However, having mutual understanding about the nature of their relationship helps them to avoid a decline in relationship quality that is caused by having committed expectations for their partner and relationship. In our society, the experience of cohabitation has a tendency to lower commitment and delay of marriage among cohabiting couples. Hence, the researcher would like to advise cohabiters with marriage plans to have mutual commitment to transition their relationship into marriage because unfulfilled expectations of marriage may cause insecurity and instability.
- There is little information publicly available that could help couples to be counsel of the issue of cohabitation. Thus, relationship experts, counsellors, religious institutions and other concerned bodies should play their role in raising awareness about the meanings, benefits and possible consequences of cohabitation. This, therefore, could help individuals gain an understanding about cohabitation and develop realistic expectations about their relationship.
- Little empirical research, to the researcher's knowledge, has been conducted in the area of non-marital cohabitation. Therefore, further research should be carried out in order to fill this knowledge gap. Moreover, this study was carried out based on one partner's report of major reasons of cohabiting couple's adjustment problem and effects of social acceptance. However, there could be differences between couple differences in reasons and problems of cohabitation. Hence, it is suggested for future research to use data from both partners as couple-level data are practically necessary to test data in different perspectives of reasons, challenges or problems and their acceptance of family, friends and religious institutions and society for

cohabitation and in more meaningful ways. Additionally, it is important for future research to examine the different styles cohabitation are associated with relationship quality and stability of cohabiting couples.

- Generally, the university has to provide awareness creation on the issue of the negative effect of cohabitation specially department of psychology because based on the demographic characteristics of the participants in this paper the age group and educational status of cohabited couples majority of the respondents were university attended and they have adolescents.
- The concerned bodies such as counseling services, mass medias, university, religious institutions should provide channel to community to introduce pre-marital relationship and there adjustment problems and challenges of cohabitation .

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- C/ If, employed _____
- 5/ Monthly Income _____
- 6/ Religion A. Protestant Christian B. Orthodox Christian
 C. Muslim D. Catholic
 E. Other (Please specify) _____
- 7/Family Employment status A/Have a job B/don't have a job
- 8/Family educational status A/ Literate B/ Illiterate
- 9/Family Marital status A/married B/cohabited C/Separated
 D/Divorce E/ other _____

Section Two: Reasons for Cohabitation

Instruction: Below is listed statements describing reasons for cohabitation. Please read the statements carefully and indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement by putting 'X' mark in the boxes that represent your opinion.

Response Key: 1 = Strongly Disagree

2 = Disagree

3 = Undecided

4 = Agree

5 = Strongly agree

I moved in with my partner because,						
NO	Item	1	2	3	4	5
1	I love spending time with him/her.					
2	I wanted to find out how much work, He/she would do around the house before deciding about marriage.					
3	we could have more daily intimacy and sharing.					
4	I wanted to test out our relationship before deciding whether to marry him/her.					
5	I had doubts about us making it for the long haul.					
6	I wanted a trial run for marriage.					
7	I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my life with him/her.					
8	I want to make sure we are compatible before deciding about marriage.					
9	I have concerns about our relationship and thought living together would be a good way to test out my concerns.					
10	I had concerns about whether I wanted to be with my partner long-term.					
11	To share household expenses.					
12	it's the only way we will know if we are ready to get married.					
13	I was concerned that he/she might not make a good husband/wife and thought living together would be a good way to find out.					
14	Because neither of us wanted to care for the baby alone.					
15	we were spending most nights together anyway.					
16	I could not afford rent on my own.					
17	it was inconvenient to have some of my stuff at my place and some at my partners.					
18	Because with the costs of having and raising a baby it made sense					
19	Because we want to have another baby					
20	I wanted us to have more privacy.					
21	I had doubts about how well I could handle being in a serious relationship.					
22	it was convenient.					
23	it made sense financially.					
24	I was concerned about how my partner handles money and wanted time to test out my concerns before marriage.					
25	I wanted to make sure we would both contribute to running the household.					
26	To improve our sex life together.					
27	it was emotionally hard to be apart.					
28	I thought it would bring us closer together.					
29	we didn't have enough time together when we lived in separate places.					

30	I want us to have a future together.					
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Section three : Adjustment problems of cohabiting couples (Dyadic Adjustment Scale (Spanier, 1976)

Instruction: Below is listed statements describing adjustment problems of cohabiting couples . Please read the statements carefully and indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement by putting 'X' mark in the boxes that represent your opinion.

Response Key:

1 = Strongly disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Undecided 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree

NO	Item	1	2	3	4	5
1	Relationship distress					
2	Matters of recreation					
3	Religious matters					
4	Demonstrations of affection					
5	Friends					
6	Sex relations					
7	Correct or proper behavior					
8	Philosophy of life					
9	Aims, goals and things believed important					
10	Amount of time spent together					
11	Making major decisions					
12	Household tasks					
13	Leisure time interests and activities					
14	Career decisions					
15	Do you kiss your partner?					
16	Do you and your partner engage in outside interests together?					

Time spent in together

1= More often 2= Once a day 3= Once or twice a week

4= Once or twice a month 5= less than amonth 6= Never

NO	Item	1	2	3	4	5	6
17	Have a stimulating exchange of ideas?						
18	Do you and your partner laugh together?						
19	Calmly discuss something						
20	Work together on a project						

These are some things about which couples sometimes agree and sometimes disagree. Indicate if either item below caused differences of opinions or were problems in your relationship during the past few weeks. (Please circle the number for “Yes” or “No.”)

1= yes

2=No

		1	2
21	Being too tired for sex.		
22	Not showing love.		

Section four; Satisfaction level of cohabiting couples living together (Fincham, F.D., Cui, M., Braithwaite, S.R., & Pasley, K. (2008). Attitudes towards intimate partner violence in dating relationships. *Psychological Assessment*, 20, 260-269)

Instruction: Below is listed statements describing Satisfaction level of cohabiting couples living together. Please read the statements carefully and indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement by putting ‘X’ mark in the boxes that represent your opinion.

1. Please indicate the degree of happiness, all things considered, of your relationship.

Extremely Unhappy	Fairly Unhappy	A Little Unhappy	Happy	Very Happy	Extremely Happy	Perfect
0	1	2	3	4	5	6

Most people have disagreements in their relationships. Please indicate below the approximate extent of agreement or disagreement between you and your partner for each item on the following list.

Time spent in together

1=All the Time 2=Most of the Time 3=More often than Not 4= Occasionally 5= Rarely 6= Never

NO	Items	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	In general, how often do you think that things between you and your partner are going well?						
2	How often do you wish you hadn't gotten into this relationship?						

Response Key:-

1=Not at all True 2=A little True 3= Some what True

4=Mostly True 5= Almost Completely True 6=Completely True

NO	Item	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	I still feel a strong connection with my partner						
2	If I had my life to live over, I would marry (or live with/date) the						

	same person						
3	Our relationship is strong						
4	I sometimes wonder if there is someone else out there for me						
5	My relationship with my partner makes me happy						
6	I have a warm and comfortable relationship with my partner						
7	I can't imagine ending my relationship with my partner						
8	I feel that I can confide in my partner about virtually anything						
9	I have had second thoughts about this relationship recently						
10	For me, my partner is the perfect romantic partner						
11	I really feel like part of a team with my partner						
12	I cannot imagine another person making me as happy as my partner does						
13	How rewarding is your relationship with your partner?						
14	How well does your partner meet your needs?						
15	To what extent has your relationship met your original expectations?						
16	In general, how satisfied are you with your relationship?						
17	How good is your relationship compared to most?						
18	Do you enjoy your partner's company?						
19	How often do you and your partner have fun together?						

Section five :- Scale for Assessing -gender difference in cohabiting couples of social acceptance

Directions: Please mark your agreement with each statement on the scale below.

1=strongly disagree, 2= Disagree, 3=, occasionally 4= Agree, 5=strongly Agree

NO.	Item	1	2	3	4	5
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1	My family accepts my relationship with my partner.					
2	My partner's family accepts our relationship					
3	My family would support our decision to adopt or have children.					
4	My partner's family would support our decision to adopt or have children					
5	My partner and I have an active social life					
6	I feel as though my relationship is generally accepted by my friends					
7	I have a strong support system that accepts me as I am.					
8	My partner's sociability adds a positive aspect to our relationship					

Appendix (A) 2
Jimma University

College of Education and Behavioral Studies

Department of Psychology

Interview Guide for Cohabitors (English Version)

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to do this interview. The purpose of this interview is to collect the data necessary to carry out a research investigating impacts that contribute to cohabitation among heterosexual couples in Jimma . The information you provide will be kept confidential and used only for research purpose. Your identity will not be disclosed to another party and no one will identify your response. Please feel free to expand on your answers to the questions I will be asking you. Your participation in this interview is completely voluntary. Therefore, if at any time you need to stop or take a break, please let me know.

1. Can you tell me how you came in to the decision of cohabitation?

2. What is the major reason for your cohabitation?

3. What is the major adjustment problems faced during cohabitation?

4. What are the effects of social acceptance in cohabitation?

5. What is your level of satisfaction in cohabitation?

ክፍል ሁለት፡ የፍቅር ጥንዶች ሳይጋቡ አብረው የሚኖሩባቸው ምክንያቶች መመሪያ፡ ከዚህ በታች የፍቅር ጥንዶች ሳይጋቡ አብረው የሚኖሩባቸው ምክንያቶች ተዘርዘረዋል። የተዘረዘሩትን ዓረፍተነገሮች በጥምና ካነበቡ በኋላ በዓረፍተ ነገሮቹ ምንጭል እንደሚሰማሙ ወይም እንደማይሰማሙ መልስዎን በያዘው ሳጥን ውስጥ የ 'X' ምልክት በማስቀመጥ ይመልሱ።

የመልስ መፍቻ፡

1 = በጣም አልሰማምም 2 = አልሰማምም 3 = እርግጠኛ አይደለሁም 4 = እሰማለሁ 5 = በጣም እሰማለሁ

ክፍቅር ጓደኛዬ ጋር አብሮ መኖር የጀመርኩት						
ተ.ቁ	ጥያቄ	1	2	3	4	5
1	ከእሱ/ሷ ጋር አብሮ ጊዜ ማሳለፍ ስለምወድ ነው።					
2	ለመጋባት ከመወሰናችን በፊት የቤት ውስጥ ስራ ምንጭል እንደሚሰራ/ምትሰራ ለማወቅ ስለፈለግኩ ነው።					
3	የበለጠ መቀራረብና መተሳሰብ ሊኖረን ይችላል በሚል ተሳብ ነው።					
4	እሱ/ሷን ለማግባት ከመወሰኔ በፊት የፍቅር ግንኙነታችን ምንጭል እውነተኛ እንደሆነ ለመፈተሽ ስለፈለግኩ ነው።					
5	ስለግንኙነታችን ቀጣይነት ጥርጣሬ ስለነበረኝ ነው።					
6	የትዳር ሕይወት ምን እንደሚመስል ማየት ስለፈለግኩ ነው።					
7	ቀጣይ የህይወት ዘመኔን ከእርሱ/ሷ ጋር አብሮ መኖር እንደምፈልግ ስላወቅኩ ነው።					
8	ለመጋባት ከመወሰናችን በፊት ተጣጥመን መኖር የምንችል መሆናችንን እርግጠኛ መሆን ስለፈለግኩ ነው።					
9	በፍቅር ግንኙነታችን ዙሪያ ስጋቶች ስለነበሩኝ እነዚህን ስጋቶች ለማጥራት አብረን መኖራችን ጥሩ መንገድ ነው ብዬ ስላሰብኩ ነው።					
10	አብረው/ያት በዘላቂነት ለመኖር ስለመፈለግ ስጋት ስለነበረኝ ነው።					
11	የቤት ወጪን ለመጋራት ነው።					
12	ለመጋባት ዝግጁ መሆናችንን የምናውቅበት ብቸኛ መንገድ ስለሆነ ነው።					
13	ጥሩ ባል/ሚስት ላይሆን/ትሆን ይችላል/ትችላለች የሚል ስጋት ስለነበረኝ ይህንን ስጋቱን ለማጥራት አብሮ መኖሩ ጥሩ መንገድ ነው ብዬ ስላሰብኩ ነው።					
14	ምክኒያቱም ልጅ ለብቻዬ ማሳደግ ስለማልችል።					
15	አብዛኛውን ምሽቶች አብረን በማደር እያሳለፍን ስለነበረ ነው።					
16	የቤት ኪራይን በራሴ መሸፈን ስላልቻልኩ ነው።					
17	አንዳንዶቹ ንብረቶቹ እርሱ/ሷ ጋር አንዳንዶቹ ደግሞ እኔ ጋር መሆናቸው አመቺ ስላልነበረ ነው።					
18	ልጅ ወልዶ በጋራ አብሮ የማሳደግን ሀላፊነትን ለማወቅ ነው።					
19	ሌላ ተጨማሪ ልጅ ለመውለድ ስለፈለግን ነው።					
20	ሙሉ ነጻነት እንዲሰማን በማሰብ					

21	ጠንካራ ትዳር ይኖረኛል ብዬ እነምት ስለነበረኝ					
22	ያለ ሁብት ሁኔታ ስለተስማማኝ					
23	ከገንዘብ አንጻር የተሻለና ምክንያታዊ ስለነበረ ነው።					
24	ለመጋባት ከመወሰናችን በፊት ስለ ገንዘብ አያያዙ/ዚ ስጋት ስለነበረኝ ይህንን ስጋት ለማጥራት ጊዜ እንዳገኝ ስለፈለግኩ ነው።					
25	ቤታችንን ለማስተዳደር ሁለታችንም የጋራ ድርሻ ሊኖረን እንደሚችል ማረጋገጥ ስለፈለግኩ ነው።					
26	የወሲብ ግኑኝነታችንን ለማዳበር ነው ።					
27	ተለያይተን ለየብቻ መኖር ለስሜታችን ከባድ ስለነበረ ነው።					
28	የበለጠ ያቀራርበናል ብዬ ስላሰብኩ ነው።					
29	ተለያይተን እንኖር በነበረበት ወቅት አብሮ ለመሆን በቂ ጊዜ ስላልነበረን ነው።					
30	ወደፊት አብረን እንድንኖር ፍላጎት ስላለኝ ነው።					

ክፍል ሶስት :የፍቅር ጥንዶች ሳይጋቡ አብረው በሚኖሩበት ጊዜ የ ሚገጥሙአቸው ችግሮች

መመሪያ: ከዚህ በታች የፍቅር ጥንዶች ሳይጋቡ አብረው የሚኖሩባቸው ጊዜ የሚገጥሙአቸው ችግሮች ተዘርዝረዋል። የተዘረዘሩትን ዓረፍተነገሮች በጥምና ካነበቡ በኋላ በዓረፍተ ነገሮቹ ምንያህል እንደሚስማሙ ወይም እንደማይስማሙ መልስዎን በያዘው ሳጥን ውስጥ የ 'X' ምልክት በማስቀመጥ ይመልሱ።

የመልስ መፍቻ: 1 = በጣም አልስማማም 2 = አልስማማም 3 = እርግጠኛ አይደለሁም 4 = እስማማለሁ 5 = በጣም እስማማለሁ

ተ. ቁ	ጥያቄ	1	2	3	4	5
1	ስለ ግኑኝነታቸው መጨነቅ					
2	ፍላጎትን መግለጽ					

3	አብሮ በግልጽ ያለ መዝናናት ችግር						
4	የሀይማኖት አንድ አለመሆን						
5	ጎደኞች						
6	ጾታዊ ግኑኝነት						
7	መልካም ስነ ምግባር ማጣት						
8	የሀይወት ፍልስፍና						
9	አላማ፡ ግብ፡ ጠቃሚ ነው ብለው የሚያምኑበት ነገር						
10	በአብሮነት የሚያሳልፉአቸው የጊዜ መጠን						
11	ውሳኔ የመስጠት አቅም						
12	የቤተሰብ አያያዝ ሁኔታ						
13	ትርፍ ጊዜን የሚጠቀሙበት ሁኔታና ተግባሮች						
14	ለስራ ያለው ውሳኔ						
15	ፍቅረኛህን /ሽን ትስማለህ/ሽ?						
16	አንተ/ቺ ፍቅረኛ አጋርህን/ሽን በውጭ አብሮ የመዝናናት ፍላጎት አላችሁ?						

አብረው በሚያሳልፉበት ጊዜ ያለው ሁኔታ

የመልስ መፍቻ፡ 1 =በዙዉን ጊዜ 2 = በቀን አንድ ጊዜ 3 = አንድ ወይም ሁለት ጊዜ በሳምንት 4 = አንድ ወይም ሁለት ጊዜ በወር

5 = ከወር ባነሰ ጊዜ 6 =የለም

ተ.ቁ	ጥያቄ	1	2	3	4	5	6
17	ሀሳብን የመለዋወጥ ብርቱ ፍላጎት አላችሁ።						
18	አንቺ/ት እና የፍቅር አጋርሽ/ር ደስተኛ ጊዜን ታሳልፋላችሁ/ትስቃላችሁ።						
19	በርጋታ ውይይት ታደርጋላችሁ።						
20	አንድ ላይ የስራ እቅድ ታወጣላችሁ።						

ጥንዶች አንዳንድ ጊዜ የሚስማሙበት እና የማይስማሙበት ጉዳይ አለ። ከዚህ በታች ከተገለጹት ውስጥ ለጉዳዩ ፍላጎት እንዳይኖርህ ያደረገውን መግባባት ያሳጣችሁን ሁኔታ ግለፅ።

እባክዎን የተስማሙበትን ወይም ያልተስማሙበትን ሀሳብ መልስዎን በያዘው ሳጥን ውስጥ የ 'X' ምልክት በማስቀመጥ ይመልሱ።

የመልስ መፍቻ፡ 1 = አዎን 2 =አይ

ተ.ቁ	ጥያቄ	1	2
1	በጸታዊ ግኑኝነት ጊዜ መድከም /ፍላጎት ማጣት		
2	ፍቅር አለማሳየት		

ክፍል አራት :የፍቅር ጥንዶች ሳይጋቡ አብረው በሚኖሩበት ጊዜ ያላቸው የደስታ ደረጃ

መመሪያ: ከዚህ በታች የፍቅር ጥንዶች ሳይጋቡ አብረው በመኖራቸው የሚያገኙትን የደስታ መጠን የሚገልጹ ናቸው::

በመሆኑም ዓረፍተነገሮች በጥሞና ካነበቡ በኋላ በዓረፍተ ነገሮቹ ምን ያህል እንደሚሰማሙ በማጤን መልስዎን በያዘው ሳጥን ውስጥ የ 'X' ምልክት በማስቀመጥ ይመልሱ::

እባክዎን ከራስዎ ሁኔታ ጋር በማገናዘብ የደስተኛነቱን ደረጃ ይግለጹ::

በጣም እጅግ ደስተኛ ነኝ	በመጠኑ ደስተኛ ነኝ	በትንሹ ደስተኛ ነኝ	በትንሹ ደስተኛ ነኝ	ደስተኛ ነኝ	እጅግ በጣም ደስተኛ ነኝ	ፍጹም ደስተኛ ነኝ
0	1	2	3	4	5	6

አብረው በሚያሳልፉበት ጊዜ ያለው ሁኔታ

መግለጫ 1 =ሁልጊዜ 2 = አብዛኛውን ጊዜ 3 = ከሞላ ጎደል 4 = አልፍ አልፍ 5 = በጥቂቱ 6 =የለም

ተ.ቁ	ጥያቄ	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	በአጠቃላይ በፍቅር ጓደኛዎ በእርስዎ መሀል ሁኔታዎች በጥሩ ሁኔታ እየሄዱ እንዳሉ ምን ያህል እርግጠኛ ነህ/ሽ?						
2	በዚህ የፍቅር ግኑኝነት ውስጥ ፍላጎትህ/ሽ ምን ያህል መጠን ነው እንዳልተሞላ የምትገምተው						

የመልስ መፍቻ: 1 =በፍጹም እውነት አይደለም 2 = በትንሹ እውነት ነው 3 = በመጠኑ እውነት ነው 4 = በአብዛኛው እውነት ነው

5 = በአብዛኛው ሁሉም እውነት ነው 6 =ሙሉ በሙሉ እውነት

ተ.ቁ	ጥያቄ	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	በአሁኑ ጊዜ ከፍቅረኛዬ ጋር ጠንካራ ግኑኝነት አለ ብዬ አምናለሁ::						

2	ሌላ ተጨማሪ የህይወት ዘመን ቢኖር ኖሮ ማግባት የምፈልገው ይችሉ ነው።							
3	ግኑኝነታችን የጠበቀ ነው።							
4	አንዳንድ ጊዜ ለኔ ሲባል የተለየ ሰው ቢኖር ብዬ አስባለሁ።							
5	ከፍቅር ዳደኛዬ ጋር ያለኝ ግንኙነት ደስተኛ አድርገዎኛል።							
6	ከፍቅር ዳደኛዬ ጋር ያለኝ ምቹ የሆነ ግኑኝነት አለን።							
7	ከፍቅር ዳደኛዬ ጋር ያለኝ ግንኙነት የይቁረጣል ብዬ አላስብም።							
8	የጾታ አጋሬን ከምንም በላይ እተማመንበታለሁ/አተማመንበታለሁ።							
9	በቅርቡ ስለ ግኑኝነታችን የተለየ ሀሳብ ነበረኝ።							
10	ለኔ አጋሬ የፍቅር ዳደኛዬ ነች።							
11	እኔ ከፍቅር አጋሬ ጋር አንድ አምሳል የሆንኩ ያህል ነው የሚሰማኝ።							
12	እንደ ፍቅር ዳደኛዬ ሆኖ ደስታን የሚሰጠኝ ሌላ ሰው ይኖራል ብዬ አላስብም።							
13	ከ ፍቅር ዳደኛህ ጋር ላለው ግኑኝነታችሁ ምን ያህል ጥሩ ነው።							
14	ፍቅር ዳደኛህ/ሽ ምን ያህል ፍላጎትን ለሚሟላት ትተጋለች።							
15	የ ፍቅር ግኑኝነታችሁ ከዚህ ቀደም የነበረህን ሀሳብ በምን ያህል ያሳካው ይመስልሁል/ሻል?							
16	በአጠቃላይ ግኑኝነታችሁ ምን ያህል ጥሩ ነው።							
17	በአብዛኛው ሲነጻጸር ግኑኝነታችሁ ምን ያህል ጥሩ ነው።							
18	ከፍቅር ዳደኛህ/ሽ ጋር በመገዳገጥ ደስተኛ ነህ/ሽ?							
19	አንተና/ቼ የፍቅር ዳደኛሽ/ህ ጋር ምን ያህል ጊዜ ነው በመዘናናት የምታሳልፉት?							

ክፍል አምስት፡ የፍቅር ጥንዶች ሳይጋቡ አብረው በሚኖሩባቸው ማህበረሰብ ውስጥ ያላቸውን ተቀባይነት ደረጃ መለኪያ መስፈርት፡፡

መመሪያ፡ ከዚህ በታች የፍቅር ጥንዶች ሳይጋቡ አብረው በሚኖሩበት ጊዜ ያጋጠማቸውን ሁኔታ ያሳያል ስለሆነም ከዚህ በታች የፍቅር ጥንዶች ሳይጋቡ አብረው የሚኖሩባቸው ጊዜአት ያጋጠሙአቸው ችግሮች ተዘርዝረዋል፡፡ የተዘረዘሩትን ዓረፍተነገሮች በጥምና ካነበቡ በኋላ በዓረፍተ ነገሮቹ ምንያህል እንደሚሰማሙ ወይም እንደማይሰማሙ መልስዎን በያዘው ሳጥን ውስጥ የ 'X' ምልክት በማስቀመጥ ይመልሱ፡፡

መግለጫ፡ 1 = በጣም አልሰማማም 2 = አልሰማማም 3 = እርግጠኛ አይደለሁም 4 = አሰማማለሁ 5 = በጣም አሰማማለሁ

ተ.ቁ	ጥያቄ	1	2	3	4	5
1	ቤተሰቦቼ ከፍቅር ጓደኛዬ ጋር ያለንን ግኑኝነት ይደግፋሉ፡፡					
2	ከፍቅር ጓደኛዬ ቤተሰቦች ግኑኝነታችንን ይቀበላሉ፡፡					
3	ቤተሰቦቼ ልጅ እንዲኖረን ወይም አምጥቼ እንዳሳድግ ይፈልጋሉ፡፡					
4	ከፍቅር ጓደኛዬ ጋር ቤተሰቦቼ ልጅ እንዲኖረን ወይም ከሌላ ቦታ አምጥተን እንድናሳድግ ይደግፋሉ፡፡					
5	ከፍቅር ጓደኛዬ ጋር ንቁ የሆነ ማህበራዊ ግኑኝነት አለን፡፡					
6	ከፍቅር ጓደኛዬ ጋር ያለን ግኑኝነት በጓደኞቼ ዘንድ ተቀባይነት እንዲያገኝ አስባለሁ፡፡					
7	እኔነቴን ይቀበሉ ዘንድ ጽኑ ተጽዕኖ አደርጋለሁ፡፡					
8	የፍቅር ጓደኛዬ ተግባር መሆን በሌሎች ዘንድ በግኑኝነታችን መልካም አስተሳሰብ እንዲኖር አደርጋለሁ፡፡					

Appendix (B) 2
ጂማ የኒቨርሲቲ

የሰነ-ትምህርትና ባህሪ ጥናት ኮሌጅ

የሳይኮሎጂ ትምህርት ክፍል

Interview Guide

ሳይጋቡ አብረው ለሚኖሩ የፍቅር ጥንዶች ቃለ- መጠይቅ መመሪያ ስለ ትብብርዎ በቅድሚያ አመሰግናለሁ። የዚህ ቃለ- መጠይቅ ዋና አላማ የፍቅር ጥንዶች ሳይጋቡ አብረው እንዲኖሩ የሚያደርጓቸውን ምክንያቶች ለማጥናት አስፈላጊ የሆነውን መረጃ ለመሰብሰብ ነው። የሚሰጡት መረጃ ሚስጢራዊነቱ የተጠበቀና ለጥናቱ አላማ ብቻ የሚውል ነው። የመረጃ ሰጪው ማንነትም ለማንም አይገለጽም ። በመሆኑም ትክክለኛ።

1. ከፍቅር ጓደኛሽ/ህ ጋር እንዴት አብሮ ለመኖር ወሰንሽ/ክ?

- ከዚ በፊት ሳትጋቢ/ባ አብረሽ/ኸው የኖርከው/ሺው የፍቅር ጓደኛ ነበረህ/ሽ?
- ከዚህ በፊት አግብተሽህ ታውቂያለሽ?

2. ከፍቅር ጓደኛሽ/ህ ጋር አብረሽ/ህ ለመኖር የወሰንሽ/ክበት ዋና ምክንያት ወይም ምክንያቶች ምንድን ናቸው?

- ሳትጋቡ አብሮ መኖር እንድትቀጥሉ ያደረጋቸ ወይም የገፋፋችሁ ምክንያት ምንድን ነው?
- ከመጋባት ይልቅ አብሮ መኖርን ለምን መረጥሽ/ህ?

3. ሳይጋቡ አብሮ መኖር የሚያስከትላቸው አሉታዊ ተጽዕኖች ምንድን ናቸው?

- ሳይጋቡ አብሮ መኖር ከትዳር ጋር ሲነጻጸር ያለው አሉታዊ ተጽዕኖ ምንድን ነው?
- ከፍቅር ጓደኛሽ/ህ ጋር ሳንጋባ አብሬ መኖር አልነበረብኝም ብለሽ/ህ ታውቂያለሽ/ቃለህ? ምክንያትሽ/ህ ምንድን ነበር?

4: ከፍቅር ጓደኛሽ/ህ ጋር ሳትጋቡ አብሮ በመኖርሽ/ህ ደስተኛ ነሽ/ህ?

5: ከፍቅር ጓደኛሽ/ህ ጋር ሳትጋቡ አብሮ በመኖርሽ/ህ የደረሱብሽ/ህ ማህበረሰባዊ ወይም ባህላዊ ተፅዕኖ አለ?

Appendix C (1)
Interview Informed Consent Form (English Version)

My name is Tsion Abera. I am a post graduate student at jimma University department of Psychology. We have met here today in order to conduct an interview for a study that aims to find out major reason for couples to cohabit, their adjustment problems and consequences for social acceptance. I am conducting this study for the requirement of Masters of Degree in counseling Psychology. The study will not be possible without your partnership and participation. Therefore, I kindly request your participation by providing genuine information which is very imperative for the success of the study. The major objective of this study is to determine the reasons behind couples' decision to cohabitation. The study also examines the benefits and risks associated with cohabitation. The finding of this study could be helpful in providing genuine and constructive inputs for legislatures in making as well as revising laws regarding the legal rights and responsibilities of cohabiting partners, and the welfare of children born to cohabiting parents. It will also suggest important implications for young adults and individuals considering cohabitation. Your participation in the study is totally voluntary. You have the right to ask questions and to withdraw from filling the questionnaire any time you want to. The study poses no risk to its participants. However, some questions may make you feel uncomfortable since the issues raised will be too personal. Hence, you have the right not to respond to questions that seems uncomfortable to you. Based on your willingness, tape recording and note taking will be carried out while conducting the interview. The tape recording is important to facilitate transcription and keep the quality of the data. The information you provide is fully confidential and it will be used only for the research purpose. Your name will not be mentioned when writing as well as presenting the report and the questionnaires you filled will be destroyed after the study is completed. Your participation in this research will not affect your relationships with your partner, family and community since all the information you provide will be kept confidential. The interview will take 15- 30 minutes and it will be conducted when and where it is convenient for you. I would like you to sign below if you agree to participate in the study. If you have any question or concerns, you may contact me through the following .

Name of the researcher _____

telephone number: _____

Participant's Code _____

Date: _____

Signature _____

Appendix C (2)
Interview Informed Consent Form (Amharic Version)

የቃለ-መጠይቅ የስምምነት ቅጽ

ጽዮን አበራ እባላለሁ። በ ጂማ ዩኒቨርሲቲ የካውንሲሊን ሳይኮሎጂ ድህረ ምረቃ ተማሪ ነኝ። በ ጂማ ከተማ የሚኖሩ የፍቅር ጥንዶች ሳይጋቡ አብረው እንዲኖሩ በሚያደርጓቸው ምክንያቶች ላይ የሚያተኩር ጥናት እያጠናሁ ሲሆን ዛሬ የተገናኘነውም ይህንን ጥናት የሚያግዝ ቃለ-መጠይቅ ለማድረግ ነው። ጥናቱ የሚካሄደው በካውንሲሊን ሳይኮሎጂ የድህረ-ምረቃ ዲግሪዬን ማሟያነት ነው። የእርስዎ ተሳትፎና ትብብር ለጥናቱ መሳካት ከፍተኛ አስተዋጽኦ አለው። በመሆኑም ትክክለኛ የሆነ መረጃ በመስጠት እንድትተባበሩኝ በትህትና እጠይቃለሁ። የዚህ ጥናት ዋና አላማ የፍቅር ጥንዶች ሳይጋቡ አብረው እንዲኖሩ የሚያደርጓቸውን ምክንያቶች ማጥናት ሲሆን ጥናቱ ሳይጋቡ አበሮ መኖር የሚያስከትላቸውን ጉዳዮች ያካትታል። በተጨማሪም ጥናቱ ሳይጋቡ አብሮ ለመኖር ለሚያስቡ የፍቅር ጥንዶች ስለ ሳይጋቡ አብሮ መኖር አጠቃላይ ግንዛቤ ለመፍጠር ያግዛል። በጥናቱ ላይ የሚኖርዎት ተሳትፎ በእርስዎ ሙሉ ፈቃደኝነት ላይ የተመሰረተ ነው ። በመሆኑም ማንኛውንም አይነት ጥያቄ የመጠየቅ ሆነ የቃለ-መጠይቅ ሂደቱ ከተጀመረ በኋላም ቢሆን ሂደቱን የማቋረጥ ሙሉ መብት አለዎት። ይህ ጥናት በተሳታፊዎች ላይ ምንም አይነት ጉዳት አያስከትልም። ነገር ግን በቃለ-መጠይቁ ላይ የሚነሱ አንዳንድ ጥያቄዎች ጠለቅ ያለ የግል ህይወትን የሚጠይቁ በመሆናቸው ጥሩ ስሜት የማይፈጥሩ ሊሆኑ ይችላሉ። በመሆኑም ለመመለስ ፈቃደኛ ያልሆኑትን ጥያቄ ምላሽ ያለመስጠት መብት አለዎት። ፈቃደኛ ከሆኑ ቃለ-መጠይቁ በመቅረጹ ድምጽ ይቀዳል። ይህም የሚሆነው ጥራት ያለው መረጃ ለመስጠት እና ተጨማሪ ማብራሪያ ለመስጠት ስለሚረዳ ነው። የሚሰጡት መረጃ ጥራት ያለው መረጃ ለመስጠት እና ተጨማሪ ማብራሪያ ለመስጠት ስለሚረዳ ነው። የሚሰጡት መረጃ ሚስጢራዊነት የተጠበቀ ለጥናቱ አላማ ብቻ የሚውል ይሆናል። የጥናቱ ሪፖርት በሚጻፍበትም ሆነ በሚቀርብበት ወቅት የመረጃ ሰጪው ማንነት አይገለጽም። በተጨማሪም የሚሰጡት መረጃ ጥናቱ ከተጠናቀቀ በኋላ ሚስጢራዊነቱ በተጠበቀ መልኩ የሚወገድ ይሆናል። የሚሰጡት መረጃ ሚስጢራዊነቱ የተጠበቀ በመሆኑ ከፍቅር ጓደኛዎች ጋር ከቤተሰብዎ ወይም ከአካባቢው ማህበረሰብ ጋር ያለዎት ግንኙነት ላይ ተፅዕኖ አያሳድርም። ቃለ-መጠይቁ ከ 15 እስከ 30 ደቂቃ የሚፈጅ ሲሆን ለእርስዎ ምቹ በሆነ ጊዜ እና ቦታ ይከናወናል። በጥናቱ ላይ ለመሳተፍ ፈቃደኛ ከሆኑ ከታች በተዘጋጀው የስምምነት ማንኛውም አይነት ጥያቄ ካለዎት በዚህ ስልክ ቁጥር ሊያገኙኝ ይችላሉ፡- _____

የመረጃ ሰጪው መለያ ቁጥር _____

ቀን _____

ፊርማ _____