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LOST AND FOUND: EXPERIENCES OF ADOPTED CHILDREN IN DAVAO CITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

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Abstract

Adoption is a major life event for adoptive parents, extended family members, birth parents and especially, the children. Adoption is defined as the act of legally taking a child of other parents' and bringing the child up as one's own. International studies show that as children grow up, they develop a sense of their identity, they gradually develop self-concept and self-esteem ultimately, and they learn to be comfortable with themselves. The primary purpose of conducting this study is to know and understand experiences of the adoptees in Davao City, Philippines. Furthermore, it intends to identify the different ways of coping of the adoptees with this phenomenon. Using the qualitative-survey research, the researchers had a one-on-one interview, using open-ended questionnaire and used general thematic analysis among five (5) participants from Davao City. Based on the findings of the research, participants feel the love of their adoptive parents from childhood up to the present and are certainly grateful for being adopted by their adoptive parents. Adoptees are also coping on how to deal with some negative effects of adoption. Furthermore, for the influences, the respondents acknowledged their parents as their primary influence. The study shows that participants are living a positive life, a life full of love and acceptance from their adoptive families coping with some negative effects of adoption.

Keywords: Adoption, Adoptees, Adoptive Parents, Experiences, Coping Mechanism.
