

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida2**

العلاقات العاطفية غير الشرعية للطلاب في الحرم الجامعي وعلاقتها بالصراع
القيمي: دراسة ميدانية بجامعة سعد دحلب البليدة 1 وجامعة لونيسي علي البليدة 2

Hamadi Dalila*

Blida2 University Lounici Ali -Algeria

Email: d.hamadi@univ-blida2.dz

ORCID N°: 0009-0003-6014-5105

Date of submission: 28/03/2026

Date of acceptance: 17/05/2026

Date of publication: 30/06/2026

Abstract:

المخلص:

This study aims to examine illicit romantic relationships on university campuses and their association with value conflict, with a particular emphasis on how students' illegitimate practices in the university environment are related to value conflicts.

يهدف البحث إلى دراسة العلاقات العاطفية غير الشرعية في الحرم الجامعي وعلاقتها بالصراع القيمي والتركيز على العلاقة التي تربط الممارسات اللا مشروعة للطلاب الجامعي في البيئة الجامعية وارتباطها بصراع القيم.

The descriptive analytical approach was adopted through the analysis and presentation of the phenomenon under study.

تم الاعتماد على المنهج الوصفي التحليلي من خلال تحليل وعرض الظاهرة المدروسة.

The findings of the field study indicate that illicit romantic relationships among university students reflect profound value conflict, to which multiple factors in both society and the university environment have contributed.

أظهرت نتائج الدراسة الميدانية أن العلاقات العاطفية غير الشرعية للطلاب الجامعي تشير لحالة عميقة من الصراع القيمي ساهمت فيه العديد من الأسباب المرتبطة بالمجتمع وبالبيئة الجامعية.

Keywords: Romantic relationships, illicit practices, value conflict, university student, university campus.

الكلمات المفتاحية: العلاقات العاطفية، الممارسات اللا مشروعة، الصراع القيمي، الطالب الجامعي، الحرم الجامعي.

*Corresponding author.

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

1- Introduction:

Universities are considered formal scientific institutions of great importance, as they constitute one of the fundamental pillars of society because of their two essential functions: providing individuals with knowledge and transmitting and consolidating society's culture. Like other social institutions, it is subject to numerous internal and external changes that may affect it and contribute to the emergence of unacceptable practices.

Given that the university environment represents a microcosm of society and an open setting in which all societal values and norms are established, the scope of human relationships within it expands. It cannot be denied that human nature is inherently social, as individuals constantly interact with others, forming networks of relationships. Humanity, therefore, is not limited to mere belonging to the human community; rather, it reflects the qualities it encompasses, making it both a moral and an aesthetic evaluative process.

Society produces and shapes these relationships in accordance with its values and culture, enabling its members to recognise what is legitimate as defined by prevailing values. Hence, it also determines the position and value of illicit romantic relationships. Love, in addition to being a psychological state, is also a social need that facilitates communication and social interaction, giving rise to social phenomena such as friendship and marriage, which are valued by society and embodied in explicit, clearly defined regulations.

As love is an emotion situated within the network of affective relationships, it is governed by certain controls; when one of these controls is absent, the relationship becomes illicit. This emotion is prevalent among young people, a stage characterised by awareness and the need to form such relationships, marking the beginning of thinking about stability. The initial signs of this need emerge from a relationship between a young man and a young woman, with the intention of forming a bond in accordance with religious and social values. However, this cannot occur within a framework of illegitimacy if the relationship serves merely as a means of satisfying sexual instinct, entertainment, and leisure time or because of any cultural or social determinism. Despite this, the social environment may, often unknowingly, generate spaces in which such emotions are practiced away from social control.

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

Considering that the stage of youth corresponds to the age at which students enrol in university, the university is one of the most important institutions concerned with preserving, constructing, and consolidating values. It seeks to build the personality of the conscious student and to prepare them for the professional world. University students represent the conscience of the nation and its future, as they shape the nation's image.

However, within the student milieu, romantic relationships may take a deviant trajectory, manifested in unethical behaviours such as seclusion and accompanying actions, including holding hands and exchanging vulgar expressions. In this way, the university may, in certain aspects, become an environment for such unacceptable behaviours and practices.

Values constitute the rules governing ethics, behaviour, and actions and are shaped by social and human preferences. Their importance increases or decreases according to the degree of social acceptance. However, in reality, values have transcended this positive conception to a state in which contradictions emerge among them, giving rise to a new concept that was previously less widespread: value conflict. In this context, each value conflicts with another in an attempt to replace it, resulting in psychological disturbance that may escalate into behavioural conflict that fails to conform to society's values and norms. This phenomenon is more evident among university youth, who seek to assert themselves and consolidate their ideas in opposition to the values of their society. This creates a gap between their behaviour and their social values on the one hand and between their behaviour and society's values on the other, or, in another sense, a contradiction between the values they believe in and those upheld by society. Therefore, the following questions are raised:

- Does a student who engages in an illicit romantic relationship on campus reflect the presence of value conflicts?
- Does the university environment reflect the establishment and practice of illicit romantic relationships among students on campuses?

These findings lead to the following hypotheses:

- The establishment and practice of an illicit romantic relationship by a student on campus reflects the presence of value conflict.

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

- Universities play a role in the practice of illicit romantic relationships among students on campuses.

2-Study Concepts

This study focuses on defining the operational concepts of its principal terms.

2-1- Concept of Illicit Romantic Relationships:

The operational definition adopted is derived from the study's research perspective. It refers to a relationship perceived by both parties as a relationship of love without a legitimate bond, resulting in a set of practices and behaviours, such as withdrawing from general social relations; allocating extended periods of time within the university for meeting, seclusion and sitting in isolated places on campus; and accompanying actions such as holding hands, embracing, and kissing. Such a relationship is sometimes accompanied by a lack of awareness of its implications and significance in relation to the values and social norms from which the individuals originate, as well as the extent of its violation of the regulations governing the university institution and its infringement upon the sanctity of the university campus.

2-2- Concept of Value Conflict:

Value conflict refers to the absence of consistency and harmony within the value system as a result of its divergence and contradiction (Al Zyoud, 2006)

In this research paper, the operational concept is the value conflict experienced by university students between local societal values derived from a traditional culture governed by religion and morality and modern Western social values imported into Algerian society. Through this, youth attempt to find justifications and legitimising grounds for such values through certain deviant behaviours, such as modes of dress and engaging in relationships with the opposite sex without a legitimate bond.

2-3- Concept of the University Environment:

It is a microcosmic representation of Algerian University, encompassing all forms of relationships within the student milieu, including academic relationships, friendships, and romantic relationships between

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

male and female students, as well as all interactions at both the human and academic levels.

3- Study methodology:

3-1- Methods adopted in the study:

The method adopted is determined by the specificity of each subject, and the researcher resorts to the most appropriate method for the study. On this basis, the study relied on descriptive-analytical and statistical methods.

Descriptive-Analytical Method:

This method is considered an approach through which the researcher seeks to collect data and facts about social phenomena in a qualitative manner (Matouk, 2009). In this study, a descriptive-analytical method was employed to describe the phenomenon of illicit romantic relationships, identify their characteristics, and analyse the indicators associated with the phenomenon, paying particular attention to value conflict among university students, which is reflected in their relationships with the opposite sex within the university environment in an ethically unacceptable manner.

Statistical Method:

This involves transforming data into information and numerical indicators of statistical significance, which distance the researcher from error by requiring objective, precise handling of numerical data. It also includes the use of percentages and the arithmetic mean, which is consistent with the subject of the present study.

3-2- Study Instruments:

3-2-1- Observation

Observation is the act of monitoring social phenomena in the real world and recording events at the moment of their occurrence in the manner in which they occur (Matthews & Ross, 2016).

In this study, observation was adopted as the primary technique for collecting field data as an initial step to identify the characteristics of the

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

phenomenon of illicit romantic relationships. It was also used as a preliminary step in the exploratory study, particularly in topics considered taboo, which possess a certain specificity.

3-2-2- Questionnaire

The questionnaire consists of a set of questions that revolve around a specific topic and are presented to a sample of individuals for response. These questions are formulated clearly, do not require additional explanation, and are compiled into a questionnaire (Al Tir, 1995).

The purpose of using the questionnaire in the study was to gain a deeper understanding of the phenomenon under investigation. Presenting the questionnaire to respondents gives them full freedom to answer honestly and objectively. It comprises 35 questions divided into three sections.

3-3- Sample and Method of Selection:

To achieve the objectives of the study, a purposive sample was selected, as it is consistent with the nature of the subject, given that the study population is not clearly defined and must therefore be selected and identified by focusing on a set of characteristics. The sample consisted of 40 male and female students characterised as follows:

- The ages of the majority of the respondents ranged from 20 to 27 years.
- Most respondents were in the final years of university, particularly those with third-year undergraduate and first-year master's degrees.
- The respondents were distributed across several scientific and social specialisations: sociology, psychology, Arabic literature, law, economics, languages, medicine, biology, and aeronautics
- Most members of the sample were balanced in origin between rural and urban backgrounds
- The majority of the sample resided in urban and semiurban areas
- Most respondents were residing in university residences

4- Presentation, Construction, and Analysis of the Study Tables

On the basis of the previously presented characteristics of the sample, the principal tables in this study are presented. These tables were

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

constructed following the distribution of questionnaires, data collection, and their conversion into tables and percentages to establish links between the study indicators and to describe and analyse the phenomenon. Thus, the main tables are presented, statistically analysed, and sociologically analysed.

Table N°1: The Concept of Emotion among Students and Its Relation to Self-Control in an Unethical Situation by a Security Officer on a Campus

Number	Ranking of Values	Frequency	Percentage
1	Respect for parents	23	16.19
2	Religious motivation	17	11.97
3	Obedience and loyalty	12	8.45
4	Modesty	12	8.45
5	Chastity	14	9.85
6	Respect for others	11	7.74
7	Resisting desire	9	6.33
8	Commitment	15	10.56
9	Emotional control	15	10.56
10	Love	14	9.85
Total		142*	100

Note. In total, according to the respondents' selections.

The ranking of values according to priority among respondents reveals the extent of contradiction in prioritising values such as respect for parents, religious motivation, obedience, loyalty, and chastity in contrast to their daily behaviours, which reflect these values in a contradictory manner. These values retain cognitive beliefs that have not reached the level of daily practice. The placement of commitment to values and emotional control toward the lower ranks corresponds with respondents' behaviours. Considering love as a justification for engaging in illicit romantic relationships is contradictory, as it ranks last among the values. This finding indicates that love is not of significant importance to the student and that its

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

meaning and characteristics are not fully understood. This contradiction may be attributed to socialisation institutions failing to establish a coherent value system, to the university environment producing contradictory values, and to the nature of youth, characterised by fluctuating dispositions and limited social experience.

Table N°2: The Incompatibility of Illicit Romantic Relationships with Components of Societal Culture

Incompatibility of Romantic Relationships	Frequency	Percentage
Islamic religion	34	60.71
Customs and traditions	9	16.07
Family and societal values	5	0.89
Sanctity of the university	8	14.28
Other	-	-
Total	56*	100

Note. In total, according to the respondents' selections.

*The total exceeds the sample size because of multiple responses by participants.

The majority of students consider illicit romantic relationships incompatible with Islam, as they are regarded as the primary source for determining individual behaviour in terms of what is acceptable and unacceptable. This reveals a contradiction on the part of the student, particularly about engaging in illicit romantic relationships despite being aware that the provisions of Islam are clear and explicit concerning relationships with the opposite sex. Notably, customs and traditions, as well as family and societal values, which constitute important dimensions of the phenomenon, were not frequently selected by the respondents. This highlights a clash between the students' values and those of society in general. The sanctity of the university reflects a lack of respect for the moral values and ethical sanctity of the academic environment, as well as the role of gender mixing in reinforcing certain inappropriate practices.

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

Table N°3: Justifications for the Necessity of Illicit Romantic Relationships among Students

Necessity of Romantic Relationships	Frequency	Percentage
Filling leisure time	5	31.25
Getting to know the other party	4	25.00
Satisfaction of instinct	7	43.75
Total	16*	100

Note. Students who answered yes were included.

Students who consider illicit romantic relationships necessary justify their position by the satisfaction of instinct in the context of difficulty in achieving it through legitimate means. This finding indicates that the university student perceives marriage or sexual relations merely as a biologically instinctive relationship that does not distinguish the rational individual. This occurs in the absence of adequate preparation to understand the essence of the relationship between the sexes. Furthermore, justifications for filling leisure time reflect a lack of awareness and intellectual engagement among university students, who spend their time engaging in instinct-driven and illegitimate behaviours.

Table N°4: Relationships between Values Influencing Student Behaviour and Engagement in Unethical Practices on Campuses

Unethical Practices	Religious Values (Frequency)	Religious Values (%)	Social Values (Frequency)	Social Values (%)	Ethical Values (Frequency)	Ethical Values (%)	Material Values (Frequency)	Material Values (%)	Total (Frequency)	Total (%)
Yes	3	37.50	14	73.68	15	83.33	11	64.70	73	69.35
No	5	62.50	5	26.31	3	16.66	6	35.29	19	30.64
Total	8	100	19	100	18	100	17	100	62*	100

Note. In total, according to the respondents' selections.

*The total is not based on the sample size but on respondents' selections.

The field study statistics reveal that the ethical values students cite for engaging in unethical practices are merely formal, superficial behaviours associated with civility, such as greetings and good manners. With respect to interactions with the opposite sex involving unethical practices, these are considered personal matters and are not to be shared with others, provided that they do not affect others. This suggests that Algerian students have become more like Western students, who define ethics in terms of proper

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

conduct toward others while considering sexual matters as individual freedoms. This clearly indicates that sexual deviations are associated with ethical values.

Religious values, which are ranked second, are considered formal beliefs rather than values that are actually practiced. Material values, on the other hand, accounted for a considerable proportion of the responses, indicating their dominance among students, in which achieving the goal takes precedence without regard to its legitimacy, as the end justifies the means. Notably, social values ranked lowest, reflecting a rejection of societal values perceived as restricting their desires, as well as traditional conservative values that do not align with contemporary aspirations and demands. This is attributable to the absence of value-based education within socialisation institutions, as well as the students' misconceived understanding of freedom and the resulting inappropriate practices.

Table N°5: The Extent to Which Algerian Societal Values are Considered a Barrier to Expressing Emotions Towards the Opposite Sex and Its Relationship to Students' Area of Residence

Area of Residence	Yes (Frequency)	Yes (%)	No (Frequency)	No (%)	Total (Frequency)	Total (%)
Urban	18	62.06	4	36.36	22	55
Rural	4	13.79	2	18.18	6	15
Semiurban	7	24.13	5	45.45	12	30
Total	29	100	11	100	40	100

Note. Table prepared by the researcher.

The data indicate that the majority of respondents agree that Algerian societal values constitute a barrier to expressing emotions toward the opposite sex. This suggests a lack of sexual education within socialisation institutions in Algerian society. However, this does not explain the behaviour of students of urban origin, who strongly assert that Algerian societal values are conservative, traditional, and restrictive. The group endorses legitimate relationships, whereas illicit relationships are rejected, as they violate established norms and the restrictions governing relationships between the sexes. Students, particularly those residing in urban and semiurban areas, attribute their behaviours to societal values to

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

justify and legitimise their deviant practices. The nature of urban life, with its various characteristics, imposes certain behaviours on students, whether willingly or unwillingly, to gain acceptance from their peers within the university environment. Students from urban areas are therefore more critical of Algerian societal values, which are perceived as taboo for expressing emotions.

Table N°6: Students' Perception of the Existence of Contradiction and Conflict between Their Values and Societal Values

Existence of Conflict	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	32	80
No	8	20
Total	40	100

Note. Table prepared by the researcher.

The highest proportion of students acknowledge a value conflict arising from contradictions between their personal values and those of society, particularly regarding relationships with the opposite sex. However, this acknowledgement is negative, as students perceive their contradiction and conflict as positive, while they view society and its values as negative. To translate these values into practice, they consider engaging in illicit romantic relationships on campus necessary, within a context where such values are accepted by a community that, at least in this respect, aligns with contemporary demands. This community is the university, whose members are students who form a subculture that exerts significant influence on society. This subculture perceives emotional or sexual practices on campuses as normal and acceptable.

Students who are minorities and who perceive no contradiction or conflict between their values and those of society constitute a more concerning group, as they are entirely detached from Algerian cultural identity. The existence of an illicit relationship reflects value conflict; even acknowledging this conflict reveals a profound contradiction. This is attributable to the nature of youth, which consistently assumes its own correctness, as well as to society's weakness in providing positive role models.

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

Table N°7: Patterns of Deviant Behaviour Prevalent on University Campuses

Patterns of Deviance	Frequency	Percentage
Sexual harassment	14	23.72
Cheating in examinations	13	22.03
Illicit romantic relationships	31	52.54
Other	1	1.69
Total	59*	100

Note. In total, according to the respondents' selections.

Illicit romantic relationships rank among the most prevalent on the university campus, confirming the decline in students' perception of the university's function and how this period is utilised. This is accompanied by the spread of sexual harassment, particularly affecting female students, attributed to immodest dress, as well as cheating in examinations through various modern means of communication. Consequently, the university may become a setting for multiple forms of deviant behaviour.

Table N°8: Relationships between Gender and Students' Opinions on Illicit Romantic Relationships on Campuses

Opinion	Male (Frequency)	Male (%)	Female (Frequency)	Female (%)	Total (Frequency)	Total (%)
Opportunistic	1	5	-	-	1	2.5
Fashion trend	4	20	3	15	7	17.5
Deficiency in socialisation	1	5	-	-	1	2.5
Violation of morals	4	20	4	20	8	20
Distortion of the university's image	1	5	2	10	3	7.5
Normal behaviour	7	35	8	40	15	37.5
Nonserious behaviours	2	10	3	15	5	12.5
Total	20	100	20	100	40	100

Note. Table prepared by the researcher.

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

The data indicate that the majority of students consider illicit romantic relationships on campuses to be normal and acceptable behaviours. Both male and female students share this view, although females constitute the majority. This suggests that female students may lack awareness of their behaviours, perceiving them as expressions of freedom and thereby diminishing their value through the adoption of unethical behaviours, particularly those related to emotional and sexual practices.

For male students, this perception is justified by the socialisation they have received within Algerian society, which grants them latitude as long as it does not bring dishonour. This reflects the response of female students to such differentiation, which is exploited by certain influences to instil ideas of equality and liberation in the absence of adequate awareness.

Both genders perceive unethical practices as a violation of morals, despite engaging in illicit romantic relationships on campuses. This highlights a sharp contradiction between what individuals consider legitimate in their own behaviour and illegitimate in others' behaviour. The perception of such relationships as a fashion or modern trend reflects self-assertion and display, particularly among males, who associate them with a superficial expression of masculinity rather than their substantive meaning. The classification of these relationships as nonserious behaviours among female students indicates a lack of adherence to the values of modesty and chastity, as well as a perception of them as a waste of time.

Table N°9: Students' Opinions on Considering Surveillance within the University as a Means to Limit Illicit Romantic Relationships

Students' Position	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	26	65
No	14	35
Total	40	100

Note. Table prepared by the researcher.

The majority of respondents indicated that surveillance within the university serves to limit the spread of this phenomenon. However, the intended surveillance does not refer merely to the formal presence of security personnel but rather to the effective exercise of their authority to maintain order and security. This leads students to reflect carefully before

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

engaging in any unethical behaviour and to recognise the importance of refraining from such practices, which diminishes the value of the student and negatively affects the university's image.

Table N°10: Security Officers' Detection of Students in Unethical Situations on a Campus

Detection by Security Officers	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	27	67.5
No	13	32.5
Total	40	100

Note. Table prepared by the researcher.

The data indicate that the majority of students engage in illicit romantic relationships, with indicators manifested in sexual practices. This confirms, from a practical and empirical perspective, that emotions are not clearly defined for them, as they are incompatible with illegitimate practices. For them, emotion is reduced to impulses and the satisfaction of desires, thereby violating the sanctity of the university campus as a space dedicated to work and knowledge.

Table N°11: Students' Justifications for Engaging in Unethical Practices and Violations on Campuses

Students' Justifications	Frequency	Percentage
Permissible behaviour	3	7.5
The end justifies the means	7	17.5
A passing impulse	11	27.5
Youthful recklessness	14	35
Other	5	12.5
Total	40	100

Note. Table prepared by the researcher.

The data indicate that the majority of students attributed their engagement in unethical behaviours to several factors, including youthful recklessness. The stage of youth is characterised by an exploratory personality inclined to discover the unfamiliar, and, as socially recognised,

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

what is forbidden often becomes desirable. Students also justified their practices as passing impulses associated with this stage, during which awareness is still developing.

Moreover, some considered these practices as a means of achieving certain goals through such relationships, including enjoyment, filling leisure time, and forming multiple relationships with male or female students to appear sociable rather than withdrawn. Others regarded them as permissible, reflecting, in their view, a form of permissiveness derived from the absence of clear regulations governing social relationships within the university. This has led them to emulate Western models. Some also justified these behaviours as resulting from pressure exerted by the other party, out of fear of blackmail and its serious consequences. This is attributable to the absence of religious motivation among students, the disruption of their value system, and the diminished role of institutions responsible for guiding student behaviour toward positive conduct, as well as the decline of the university's role in fulfilling some of its fundamental functions.

Table N°12: Students' Positions on Considering the University as a Means of the Spread of Illicit Romantic Relationships

Students' Position	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	37	92.5
No	3	7.5
Total	40	100

Note. Table prepared by the researcher.

The findings indicate that the majority of respondents consider the university to be a contributing factor to the spread of this phenomenon. This is attributed to several reasons, including the prevalence of excessive freedom, which is often not utilised in beneficial ways. It is also linked to exposure to other cultures, particularly local cultures specific to different regions, and the perceptions they carry regarding this phenomenon. Furthermore, the absence of family supervision, as students are removed from the family environment and no longer subject to familial authority, particularly for male students, contributes to this situation. This allows them to act freely, compounded by the availability of significant leisure time not devoted to cultural or constructive activities within the university or other

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

institutions. All these factors interact to create a conducive environment for the emergence of such relationships.

5. Presentation and Discussion of Results

5-1- Presentation and Discussion of the First Hypothesis:

“The establishment and practice of an illicit romantic relationship by a student on campus reflect the presence of value conflict.”

The justifications provided by the university student engaged in an illicit romantic relationship reflect the extent of the contradiction in considering emotion as a means of justifying the violation of societal values, norms, and religious principles. Emotion is a noble feeling that embodies loyalty and respect. However, the results of the first hypothesis indicate that emotion, specifically love, serves as a false justification for achieving what the student seeks, namely, the satisfaction of sexual instinct through illegitimate and inappropriate means, which are inconsistent with the status of the individual as a member of a conservative society that defines the nature of relationships between the sexes. Society establishes controls and boundaries governing the formation and practice of relationships with the opposite sex. Notably, the value of love was ranked tenth, the lowest position among the hierarchies of values for students.

Despite the students' acknowledgement that illicit romantic relationships contradict values, morals, and religion, they continue to engage in them, considering them a manifestation of Western imitation, as well as a necessary part of culture and a requirement of contemporary life. Students also recognise that engaging in such relationships represents a transient feeling that ends with the beginning of another relationship.

The results of the field study related to the first hypothesis demonstrated the following:

- The concept of emotion, particularly love, among students is undefined and unregulated, as many engage in unethical practices that undermine the sanctity of love as an emotional need, and the multiplicity of relationships reflects this perception.
- There is a weakness in value-based socialisation among students within several socialisation institutions, particularly in sexual education that is associated with love with sexuality.

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

- University students are at a sensitive stage of life characterised by emotional, psychological, and social changes. In the absence of positive role models, value conflicts emerge alongside ambiguity in defining relationship boundaries.
- Students who are engaged in illicit romantic relationships reflect pronounced value conflict, which they attempt to justify and openly acknowledge, while they consider their own values to be correct through group consensus on the legitimacy of such behaviour. This represents a subcultural pattern among university youth that, although partial, exerts a negative influence on broader societal culture.

5-2- Presentation and Discussion of the Second Hypothesis:

“The university plays a role in the practice of illicit romantic relationships among students on campus.”

A university, as a social and educational environment, represents a microcosm of society that encompasses a range of human and social relationships among its members, particularly university students. However, these relationships may shift from a positive orientation to a negative one, specifically in the form of illicit romantic relationships among students. These relationships do not remain limited to their establishment but extend to their practice, even if such practices are superficial, informal, and illegitimate. Consequently, the university campus becomes a fertile ground for the spread of certain forms of deviant behaviour, particularly in the absence of strict security measures capable of limiting their proliferation.

The university, as an open environment, facilitates the spread of socially and morally unacceptable practices. This occurs through the circulation of distorted and permissive values within the student milieu, transmitted from one student to another. The findings of this study indicate that as students progress from one academic year to another, the number of illicit relationships increases, particularly in the absence of effective supervision and a moral and value-based framework capable of establishing ethical boundaries.

Furthermore, the absence of continuous cultural and recreational activities within the university, which could enable students to resist

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

material, instinctual, and sexual impulses, contributes to the repetition of such practices.

The results of the field study related to this hypothesis demonstrated the following:

- There is a decline in the university's performance, particularly in terms of values and discipline, amid cultural influences that undermine youth awareness and replace it with negative imitation. This is attributable to the absence of a structured policy to accommodate university youth in a manner consistent with their specific characteristics.
- There is a disconnection between university reality, particularly the informal sphere, which becomes a virtual reality for students, and actual social reality, which contributes to a negative perception of the university environment.
- The absence of serious and strict supervision, as a form of withdrawal from legitimate social control, encourages students to engage in illegitimate practices.
- The weakness of recreational, educational, and awareness activities within the university environment contributes to students' psychological and social emptiness, which may manifest as negative behaviours and practices on campus.

- Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it becomes evident that the student who engages in an illicit romantic relationship is, in the first instance, a victim of a society that has not provided opportunities for self-realisation and a victim of an institution that has not imposed strict regulations to limit negative and illegitimate practices within the university campus. The university, as an institution in itself, has lost some of its sanctity and value and has become a space for certain illegitimate practices, particularly illicit romantic relationships among university students.

At a second level, the student is also a victim of themselves, as they have become driven by instinctual and sexual impulses at the expense of their self-development and the preservation of their values, culture, and standards of proper and positive behaviour. All of this results from the

**Illicit Romantic Relationships among University Students on a Campus
and Their Association with Value Conflict: A Field Study at Saad
Dahlab University of Blida 1 and Ali Lounici University of Blida 2
Hamadi Dalila**

students' experience of value conflict, which renders them vulnerable to intellectual, religious, and cultural exploitation.

For this reason, university students' engagement in illicit romantic relationships reflects value conflict, and the university itself contributes to the establishment and practice of such relationships on campuses, alongside numerous other factors that vary according to the specific time and place. Nevertheless, these factors provide a general and preliminary understanding of the study's subject and highlight the need to further activate the university's role.

In conclusion, among the effective mechanisms that the university can adopt to address illegitimate behaviours within the campus and to prevent it from becoming a space for unacceptable practices are the enhancement of awareness within the university environment, the activation of psychological and social guidance, the support of cultural and sporting activities appropriate for university students, the establishment of clear legal frameworks regulating behaviour on campus, and, finally, the enforcement of strict regulations that deter behaviours incompatible with the university environment.

- Bibliography

- Al Zyoud, M. (2006). *Youth and values in a changing world* (1st ed.). Dar Al Shorouk.
- Matouk, J. (2009). *Methodology of social sciences and social research* (1st ed.). Dar Ben Merabet.
- Matthews, B., & Ross, L. (2016). *Scientific guide to research methods in the social sciences* (M. Al Jawhari, Trans.). Dar Al Kutub Al Misriyah.
- Al Tir, M. O. (1995). *Introduction to the principles and foundations of social research* (2nd ed.). Open University.