**Interview Questions**

**A. General Relationship Questions**

1. What is your gender? Male | Female

2. What is the gender of your partner? Male | Female

3. What are your ages? You:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Partner:\_\_\_\_

4. What are your occupations? You:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Partner:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_+

5. Please describe your relationship with your partner:

relationship length

time spent collocated

time spent apart

how you met

If you’re not living together full time, please explain why.

When and how often do you see your partner in person?

*Explain in whatever way mskes sence to you, or via the terms below*

How satisfied are you with your relationship?

e.g., very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neutral, somewhat unsatisfied very unsatisfied

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Very satisfied | Somewhat satisfied | neutral | Somewhat unsatisfied | Very unsatisfied |
| How satisfied are you with your relationship? And the aspects below? |  |  |  |  |  |
| communication |  |  |  |  |  |
| your influence in the relationship |  |  |  |  |  |
| sexual relations |  |  |  |  |  |
| the way you and your partner spend leisure time |  |  |  |  |  |
| division of household tasks |  |  |  |  |  |
| amount of time spent with other family/friends |  |  |  |  |  |
| finances |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**B. Video Calling**

**1. General**

1. What video calling system do you primarily use to connect with your partner?

2. Why do you use this/these video calling system(s)?

3. When did you start video calling your partner? Have you ever stopped?

4. Why did you start video calling your partner?

5. What device / computer do you use to video call and why?

e.g., desktop computer, laptop, iPod, iPhone, video phone

**2. Video Phone Call**

This survey is predominantly interested in understanding how you use video calling beyond what would be considered the equivalent of a phone call. First, we will ask about video phoning though.

1. How often do you video call your partner where you talk in a similar manner to a phone call?

2. Beyond simply seeing the other person, is there any reason why you choose to use a video calling system as opposed to just a phone?

3. What do you normally talk about?

4. How would you describe the tone of conversation?

Positivity (acting cheerful, making interactions enjoyable)

Openness (encourage each other to disclose thoughts and feelings)

Assurances (stress commitment to one another)

Humour

Small talk and routine trivial everyday talk (about day to day matters)

Present overly positive image of self

Focus on plans for when together

Ruminate about positive relational memories

Hold back on negative aspects

Discuss conflicts

Avoid negative interactions

Argue

**3. Hanging Out**

We will now ask you questions specifically about activities you do with your partner when video calling that go beyond simply talking to them akin to a phone. This is the focus of our survey so please provide as much detail as possible.

1. Describe a typical time “hanging out" with your partner over a video call.

Where were you? Your partner? Public vs. private?

Where did you position our computer / laptop / device / camera?

Did you have any privacy concerns?

Did you face any technical challenges?

2. Are there any instances of “hanging out” over video that stand out in your mind as being different than the norm? Tell me about it.

3. Do you ever do shared tasks when hanging out? e.g., dishes, finances

4. Are there any specific routines or rituals you have?

**4. Intimate Acts**

We will now ask you questions specifically about intimate activities that you might do with your partner when video calling. And by intimate activities I mean things like kissing, hugging, being in the bathroom together, seeing the other person naked, virtual sex, or other intimate acts."

I recognize this might be sensitive a sensitive topic so please share what you are comfortable talking about.

1. Tell me about the last time you performed intimate acts with your partner over a video call

Where were you? Your partner? Public vs. private?

Where did you position our computer / laptop / device / camera?

Did you have any privacy concerns?

Did you face any technical challenges?

2. Are there any instances of performing intimate acts over video that stand out in your mind as being ‘different’ or ‘unusual’ ? Tell me about it.

3a. Are there any specific routines or rituals you have?

3b.Are there particular times when you tend to get together, e.g., mornings, during the workday, over meals, evening, nighttime, just before bed, sleeping, weekends?

4. Do you think your relationship with each other online is realistic, or do you tend to be on your best behavior ?

**5. Additional Uses**

1. Are there other activities you do while video calling that we haven’t touched upon? If so, please describe them.

2. Are there activities you’d like to do with your partner while video calling but it is simply too difficult? If so, why?

3. Do you ever use additional technologies in conjunction with your video calling system to perform the above activities?

4. Do you ever use other technologies instead of video calling? How does your activity differ on these from when you use video?

**Main points to cover?**

Reason for distance separation

Time difference in hours

How did they meet

Time known

Time as couple

Time apart in months

Visit frequency

Challenges with relationship

Strengths with relationship

Main communication tool

Reason for using video

Video system

Topics discussed over telephone

Activities over IM

Topics discussed over texting

Topics discussed over email

Methods to initiate video calls

Locations for video usage

Attributes of video routine

Conversation topics over video

Tone of conversation

Topics of conversation over video

Hanging out activities over video

Reasons for not hanging out on video

Challenges with video for hanging out

Intimate activities over video

Reasons for not doing sexual acts over video

Challenges with video for intimate acts

Privacy concerns

Technical challenges

People in LDRs exhibit many behaviours that serve as indicators of relationship satisfaction. Below is a partial list, culled from Stafford (2005), ~p9 and Table 3.1

* Positivity (acting cheerful, making interactions enjoyable)
* Openness (encourage each other to disclose thoughts and feelings)
* Assurances (stress commitment to one another)
* Social network (spending time with common friends)
* Sharing tasks (helping each other with things that need to be done)
* Conflict management (apologies,managing disagreements)
* Advice (giving opinions on matters that are going on in the other’s life)
* Joint activity: Engaging in activities (including leisure activities, and sharing tasks) that makes ones time together rewarding
* Humour
* Sharing activities (special rituals, specific routines)
* Small talk and routine trivial everyday talk (about day to day matters)
* Affection (display of fondness, kissing each other hello/goodbye, etc.)
* Provision of support in time of need
* Daily interaction, including talk.
* Spending time together on a day to day basis
* Frequency of contact by any means (p. 10)
* Self-presentation (so one looks good to the other)
* Talk tends to ratify one’s relationship

Other factors.
- cross residential, or dating couple?

-do they have  a face to face history, or is it mostly an online relationship?

Idealization factors:

* mostly positive exchanges
* Time spent together is high quality
* disagreements avoided
* don’t disclose or discuss undesirable attributes (or mask them)
* tend to be on best behaviours
* present overly positive image of slef
* avoid negative interactions
* focus on plans for when together
* ruminate about positive  relational memories
* day-dream about partners
* rarely used for negative purposes or arguments

lets one know the other is thinking of them (Stafford 2005 p 95)

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