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MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS, MARITAL ADJUSTMENT
" AND PATERNAL INVOLVEMENT IN
DUAL-CAREER COUPLES

A Thesis
by
KAREN CURTIS-ELLER
"

Submitted to the Graduate School
Appalachian State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
MASTER OF ARTS

August 1982

Major Department: Psychology

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AND PATERNAL INVOLVEMENT IN
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Karen Curtis-Eller

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APPROVED BY:

Joyce G. Louch
Chairperson, Thesis Committee

Richard H. Lewis
Member, Thesis Committee

Jean W. Walls
Member, Thesis Committee

Joyce G. Louch
Chairperson, Department of

Psychology

Joyce V. Lawrence
Dean of the Graduate School

ABSTRACT

MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS, MARITAL ADJUSTMENT
AND PATERNAL INVOLVEMENT IN DUAL-CAREER
COUPLES. (August 1982)

Karen Curtis-Eller, B. A., M. A.,
Appalachian State University

Thesis Chairperson: Joyce G. Crouch

It has been suggested that, in the past ten years, changes in socialization definitions of male and female roles, coupled with increases in the numbers and percentages of women in the paid labor force, have strengthened the opportunities for and pressure for men to care for children. Researchers have asserted that the balance of responsibility has shifted with fathers taking on some of the nurturant functions traditionally associated with the maternal role.

Utilizing a 2 x 2 and a 2 x 4 factorial design, this exploratory study sought to examine the relationship between marriage role expectations, marital adjustment and paternal involvement. Instruments were The Marriage Roles Expectations Inventory, The Marital Checklist and the Paternity Inventory. Questionnaires

were received from 67 dual-career couples in North Carolina with an infant twelve months or younger. Chi square test analyses were performed on the obtained frequencies. A significant relationship was demonstrated between role expectations and marital adjustment. A significant relationship was demonstrated between role expectations and paternal involvement. Also, a significant relationship was demonstrated between marital adjustment and paternal involvement. Implications for future research were noted.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In loving gratitude and honor this thesis is dedicated to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Curtis, for encouraging and supporting me in my educational endeavors.

A special note of appreciation is expressed to Dr. Joyce G. Crouch for her insights, patience and un-failing belief in this student, without whom this thesis never would have become a reality.

Sincere thanks to Dr. Richard Levin and Dr. Joan Walls for their ideas and support of this research.

Also, I would like to express sincere appreciation to: Lisa Hollingsworth, my illustrious colleague, for her moral support and cherished friendship throughout my graduate years; Linda Bridges, for her undying friendship and superb ability to see the comic side in any disaster; to my husband for overlooking my moments of insanity; and to Pauline Harrison, for her administrative assistance from beginning to end.

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INTRODUCTION

Social and cultural changes have exerted profound influences upon the character and integrity of family life (Tasch, 1952; Ackerman, 1957; Nash, 1965; Biller, 1971; Lamb, 1975; Rieber, 1976). The roles of the primary family members, namely the father, mother and child, have been shaped by the existing cultural milieu. The history of the family indicates that its form has varied over time and with environmental changes.

In earlier years, the father's economic activities removed him from the home for much of the day, precluding him from the responsibility of child care. Men, in American culture, neither sought nor assumed active responsibility for the rearing of their children. As a result, our mode of childrearing evolved into one in which the mother was mainly responsible for the upbringing of the children of both sexes (Nash, 1965; Parke & Sawin, 1976; Reiber, 1976; Lamb, 1979).

It was assumed that men were not particularly interested in being with their children. This was especially true during the child's earlier years; infant care was clearly perceived as the province of women. The presumption of maternal preeminence developed partly

because mothers traditionally assumed major responsibility for child care. Since mothers performed most caretaking activities, the argument went, they must be the most important influences on their children's development (Nash, 1965; Lamb & Lamb, 1976; Richards, Dunn, Antonis, 1976; Parke & Sawin, 1976; Lamb, 1979).

Levin (1977) noted that not only are we socialized toward thinking of child-rearing as a woman's activity; we are also socialized to thinking of child-rearing as inappropriate to male functioning, excluding it as a major component of the male identity. Mothering was considered to be a central facet of the feminine role, but fathering was not included as an essential function of the masculine role. It was assumed that women had deep biological and subsequent psychological roots in mothering, but similar assumptions concerning the father were not made. In American society, in particular, fatherhood was perceived as a social obligation rather than as a state with inherent biological roots which were crucial to the development of psychological satisfaction. Fathers were generally undervalued in our culture (Ackerman, 1957; Nash, 1965; Liebenberg, 1969; Biller, 1971; Reiber, 1976).

Several researchers (Nash, 1965; Greenberg & Morris, 1974; Lamb, 1975; Rendina & Dickerscheid, 1976; Reiber, 1976; Lamb, 1977) began to review the literature

and noted that the matricentric concept of child care was reflected in the psychological and sociological research. In comparison to the mother-child interactions, there was little mention of the father's influence upon children. Even among those who did give the father attention, relatively few gave him an essential role. Many researchers began to argue that the father-child relationship needed more explicit attention than had been accorded in the past. It was suggested that both mothers and fathers play a crucial and qualitatively different role in the parental relationship (Nash, 1965; Parke & Sawin, 1976; Reiber, 1976).

Ackerman (1957) stated that child-rearing was not the exclusive function of motherhood but that it was a profoundly shared experience. He believed that men and women could receive an equal measure of respect for their contributions to family life and that each could be respected differently. Lamb (1975) continued this reasoning by urging psychology to increase its attention, in theory and research, to the role of the fathers as well as to that of the mothers.

Roles of the Father

Research concerning fathers has occurred within the context of social stereotypes and norms of American society. Several major categories of fathering have

been researched. In this study, it is necessary to review the traditional and emergent perspectives.

Fein (1978) described the major role in the traditional view as the aloof and distant father. In this category a father cares for his children primarily by succeeding in the occupational arena. In this view, men offer companionship and emotional support to their spouses and have relatively little direct involvement with their children (Nash, 1965; Rendina & Dickerscheid, 1976). Fein (1978) stated that while the men were symbolically important to children as close-to-home models of power and authority, they had little to do with actual parenting of the young. The traditional perspective on fathering generally conformed to social ideals and realities of the late 1940's and 1950's. Relatively few women were in the paid labor force more than temporarily and of those women only a small percentage were mothers with young children. Fathers went out to work and mothers stayed home with their children. The husband-breadwinner/wife-homemaker nuclear family was the norm of the times (Tasch, 1952).

The emergent perspective on fathering is based on the assumption that men are psychologically able to participate in a full range of parenting behaviors. The only parenting behaviors from which men were excluded by virtue of gender were gestation and lactation.

The emergent perspective sought to deal with the reality that increasing numbers of women were entering the paid labor force (Fein, 1978).

As the West entered a state of flux concerning gender and parental roles, researchers began to examine the shifts and trends that were supporting the possibility of new roles for males and females. Parke and Sawin (1976) stated that in the search for universal laws, social, economic and possibly medical developments and influences upon behavior have been ignored. They emphasized that the changing conditions of our times demand that we increase our knowledge.

Assaults on the nuclear family by the rapid increase in divorce, fathers gaining primary or joint custody of their children, and the rejection of the mothering role as the primary functions of women makes the elucidation of the nature of fatherhood essential (Lamb, 1976). It has been suggested that in the past ten years, changes in socialization definitions of male and female roles, coupled with increases in the numbers and percentages of women in the paid labor force, have strengthened the opportunities and pressure for men to care for children (Fein, 1976; Lamb, 1979). With increasing emphasis on the need for vocational and career options for both men and women, alternative mother and father roles began to emerge (Rendina &

Dickerscheid, 1976). Richards, Dunn and Antonis (1977) asserted that the balance of responsibility within the family has shifted with fathers yielding parental authority to mothers while taking on some of the nurturant and affectional functions traditionally associated with the maternal role. It was suggested that men were beginning to play a more active role in child-rearing (Reiber, 1976).

In addition, Schulte (1972) noted that many fathers appear negligent in the interests of their children. He suggested that in many cases, these men were lacking a clear understanding of their total role as the father of the family. Cronenwatt and Newmark (1974) emphasized that childbirth involved the addition of a new member to the family system. They stated that for the husband this may involve taking on the new role of father or readjusting a previously enacted role to incorporate another.

Fein (1976) conducted a study on postpartum role adjustment with 32 men and their firstborns. The major finding of this research was that the development of a relatively coherent role pattern of activities and expectation was more important in postpartum adjustment than development of a role of equal activity sharing in the home. Couples who agreed on the ways they would share and divide basic family tasks seemed to have an

easier time coping with the changes of postpartum family life than did other couples. Men in the study adopted one of the two roles thus described: a) the breadwinner or the b) equal parent role. Both were effective patterns of adaptation to the stresses and strains of life with their babies as long as both members of each couple felt comfortable with their particular role.

Marital Adjustment

The increased isolation for the nuclear family has made the marital relationship a more crucial element in the stability of a family's life (Cronenwatt & Newmark, 1974). Research has indicated that the best predictor of the husband's adjustive response to his child is his perceived marital adjustment during and following the birth (Wente & Crockenberg, 1960; Russel, 1974; Lamb & Lamb, 1976). Also, a perceived improvement in the marital relationship was associated with an easier transition to parenthood. High levels of adjustment were negatively correlated with a high degree of crisis (Wente & Crockenberg, 1976).

Childbirth has also been shown to enhance aspects of the marital relationship. Cronenwatt and Newmark (1974) noted four areas of improvement: 1) the father has esteem for his mate's response to childbirth and this strengthens the couples' affectional system,

2) the father feels that he is a member of a team which is capable of functioning well under stress, 3) the father views himself as a source of support, and 4) the father views himself as an important person in the childbearing process. Researchers continued to acknowledge that the father-child relationship cannot be understood independent of the father-mother relationship (Lamb, 1976).

Paternal Involvement

Greenberg and Morris (1974) investigated the father's involvement with their newborns. These researchers termed this involvement "engrossment." They believed that the potential for engrossment is considered innate and they hypothesized that it is the early contact with the infant which releases this potential. Parke and Sawin (1976) implied that throughout history, low father involvement has been extended to the conclusion that a low level of involvement is equivalent to a low level of competence. However, they pointed out that historically social and economic arrangements meant that fathers were allocated to other roles and that this need not necessarily imply that fathers are incapable of assuming a caretaking function.

Parke and Sawin (1976) compared frequencies and durations of specific caretaking activities with mothers and fathers while alone with their infants.

They found that mothers spent more time engaged in feeding and related caretaking activities but that fathers were just as nurturant as the mothers in that they touched, looked at, vocalized and kissed their newborns as often as the mothers. In this series of observational studies, fathers were interested in their infants and, if provided with the opportunity, did become involved. Therefore, Parke and Sawin stated that fathers could be capable and competent in the execution of caretaking activities, if provided with the opportunity.

Biller (1974) indicated that it was very important for the father to find some mutually satisfying activity to participate in with their infants. He stated that the father and mother should develop the view that both have definite day to day responsibilities for the infant's welfare. Biller believed that this sharing of responsibilities could also strengthen the husband-wife relationship and overall cohesiveness of the family. He suggested that this paternal participation was a vital segment in the development of the father-child relationship.

From an in-depth study of the literature regarding fatherhood, one discovers that the father has become a salient figure in the life of his child from conception onward. The father has the potential for significant

and differential impact on the psychological and social development of his child. However, most studies have questioned the mothers instead of the fathers (Nash, 1965). McIntire, Nass and Battisone (1974) specifically performed a study on females' misperceptions of male parenting attitudes and expectations. These women attributed less interest and involvement in early child-rearing to their male peers than was expressed by the men. The areas of misperceptions included housework, infant care and sex-role responsibilities. Thus, it appears essential to study the fathers' perceptions of their attitudes and behaviors in fatherhood. It is vital to assess the actual expectations and experiences of paternity and not rely on the culturally stereotyped roles which are ever subject to change.

Other methodological flaws pointed out the use of small, middle-class samples and the examination of the normal working day. Richards et al. (1977) concluded in their study on caretaking roles that a conscious effort should be made to avoid assessing only the normal working day. Since fathers are more likely to be at work and mothers more likely to be at home with the infant, the father's account of caretaking could possibly be distorted.

To avoid problems cited above, only dual-career couples were utilized in this research so that the

amount of time available for caretaking would be approximately equal for the husbands and wives. In addition, an attempt was made to secure a more heterogeneous population from the socioeconomic standpoint.

The focus of this research was to examine the relationships between marriage role expectations, marital adjustment and paternal involvement in the first year of life. The hypotheses generated for this exploratory study are as follows: a) couples who score high in role expectations will score high in marital adjustment, b) couples who score high in role expectations will result in the husband scoring high in paternal involvement, and c) couples who score high in marital adjustment will result in the husband scoring high in paternal involvement.

METHODS

Instrument Development

Upon consent from the publisher, an adaptation of The Marriage Roles Expectations Inventory was constructed (Dunn, 1960). After a review of the literature and a current test instrument, two inventories and a demographic variables list were developed. The first instrument was The Marital Adjustment Checklist (Buros, 1965; Meyerowitz, 1970; Buros, 1974; Earls, 1976; Wapner, 1976; Wente & Crockenberg, 1976; Manson & Lerner, 1979; McClure & Brewer, 1980). The second instrument was The Paternity Inventory (Tasch, 1952; Liebenberg, 1969; Pedersen & Robson, 1969; Meyerowitz, 1970; Harper, 1971; Cronenwett & Newmark, 1974; Greenberg & Morris, 1974; McIntire et al., 1974; Russell, 1974; Lamb, 1975; Lamb & Lamb, 1976; Parke & Sawin, 1976; Rendina & Dickerscheid, 1976; Wapner, 1976; Lamb, 1977; Manion, 1977; Richards et al., 1977; Fein, 1978; Peterson, Mehl, & Leiderman, 1979). Lastly, the demographic variables list was utilized (Nash, 1965; Harper, 1971; Russell, 1974; Earls, 1976; Rendina & Dickerscheid, 1976; Wente & Crockenberg, 1976; Richards et al., 1977). All instruments were

Likert-type scales with five responses available (five - strongly agree, four - agree, three - undecided, two - disagree, and one - strongly disagree).

The Marriage Roles Expectations Inventory assessed seven areas: authority, home-making, care of children, personal characteristics, social participation, education, employment, and emotional support obtaining either a High or Low score. High scores reflected a more egalitarian role orientation and low scores a more traditional role orientation.

The Marital Adjustment Checklist assessed problems in the area of communications, problem-solving, familial history, satisfaction with children, financial issues, leisure time, sexual satisfaction, childrearing, and role orientation, obtaining either a High or Low marital adjustment score.

The Paternity Inventory assessed areas of post-partum adjustment, role orientation and participation in care-taking functions obtaining either a High or Low paternal involvement score. This instrument also contained a behavioral assessment of care-taking functions such as feeding, diapering, bathing, dressing, rocking, and taking the infant on outings alone. These frequencies were not scored.

The demographic information obtained consisted of age, age of spouse, ethnic origin, religious

affiliation, education and occupation of both spouses, full- or part-time employment, income, length of marriage, health of child, type of feeding pattern, and whether or not the pregnancy was planned or unplanned.

Copies of these instruments are contained in Appendix A-D. Scoring procedure for all instruments is contained in Appendix E.

Procedure I

A pilot study was conducted to assess face validity of the inventories and to screen out methodological complications. Eighteen dual-career couples, with an infant under 12 months, were contacted in the Western North Carolina region. These couples were contacted through public and private child development centers.

Utilizing the N.C. State Government Statistical Abstracts, three cities of high (approx. 100,000) medium (approx. 50,000) and low population (approx. 10,000) were chosen in each of the main geographical regions of the state. These regions are the coast, the piedmont and the mountains. Seventy-two letters, eight in each city, were sent to public and private child development centers. These letters enlisted the aid of the directors in securing participants. Each letter contained a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the response. Follow-up letters were sent also.

A sample of 40 dual-career couples, with an infant under 12 months, in each city was anticipated.

Questionnaire packets were mailed to the child development centers to be distributed by the directors. Also enclosed was a letter thanking the director for his/her participation. Each couple received a questionnaire packet. The packet contained a cover-letter explaining the purpose of the study, ensuring confidentiality and thanking the couple for their time and cooperation. Codes were assigned to each packet and no names were requested. First, either spouse completed the demographic variables list. Next, the couple was instructed to complete the Marriage Roles Expectations Inventory separately. Following this, the couple was instructed to fill out the Marital Adjustment Checklist separately. Lastly, the father was asked to complete the Paternity Inventory. The couple was urged not to reveal their responses to their respective spouses. The couple was requested to complete the packet within two weeks. A prepaid, self-addressed manilla envelope was enclosed to ensure a higher return rate. Out of the 54 mailed, only nine were returned.

Due to the ineffectiveness of this method to yield an adequate sample, a supplemental method was utilized.

Procedure II

Utilizing the N.C. Vital Statistics at the Register of Deeds offices, a list of 1249 names of couples with an infant under 12 months was generated. These were gathered in six counties in the Western North Carolina region. Telephone listings were consulted to locate the couples. Calls were dialed randomly, every fifth name. A standardized telephone script, a copy of which is contained in Appendix F, was read to one member of the identified couple. The researcher stated her educational status, questioned for employment and the presence of an infant. The questionnaire was identified as a study on marriage and the family. Confidentiality was ensured. It was stated that the data would be used for research only and then destroyed. If the couple decided to participate, the address was rechecked and the questionnaire and a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return were mailed. Those who did not wish to participate were cordially thanked for their time.

Design

The design utilized was a 2 x 2 and a 2 x 4 factorial design. The independent variables were marriage roles expectations and marital adjustment. The dependent variable was paternal involvement.

RESULTS

Table I, p. 18, presents the total number of couples from which this sample was drawn. From the 214 survey forms mailed, 67 were returned, a rate of 31.3%.

The resulting sample of dual-career couples was relatively young (age 16 to over 30) from the lower to upper-middle socioeconomic class. They were primarily white Protestant, as can be seen in Appendix G. Most of the husbands were college-educated, while the wives were relatively equal in numbers of high school and college-educated. Occupations, as characterized by Hollingshead's Two-Factor Index (1957), appeared to be clustered at Levels II, III, V and VI, for the husbands (see Appendix H). Occupations for the wives were clustered at Levels II, IV and VI. The gross income of the majority of couples ranged from \$9,000 to over \$30,000 per year. Husbands were employed full-time, while one-third of the working wives were employed part-time. The length of marriage ranged from one day to over nine years. The infants in these families were 62.3% males and 37.3% females. The ages of the infants ranged from one day to twelve months, with the 9-12

TABLE I
NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF COUPLES CONTACTED
PER COUNTY OF RESIDENCE

Counties	N	%
Ashe	5	2.3
Avery	3	1.4
Buncombe	5	2.3
Burke	60	28.0
Caldwell	14	6.5
Catawba	17	7.9
Forsyth	24	11.2
Guilford	25	11.7
Watauga	61	28.5
Total	214	

month age occurring most frequently. All except one of the infants were bottlefed.

Table II, p. 20, presents the total number of couples in each Role Expectations category (Husband/Low - Wife/Low, Husband/Low - Wife/High, Husband/High - Wife/Low, Husband/High - Wife/High). These categories were derived from a median split performed separately on scores of husbands and wives.

Table III, p. 21, presents the total number of couples in each Marital Adjustment category (Husband/Low - Wife/Low, Husband/Low - Wife/High, Husband/High - Wife/High). These categories were derived from a median split performed separately on scores of husbands and wives.

A chi square analysis was performed on the obtained frequencies for Role Expectations x Marital Adjustment. Table IV, p. 22, and Table V, p. 23, presents these results for husbands and wives respectively. The results demonstrated a significant tendency for individuals scoring high on Role Expectations to also score high on Marital Adjustment. Also, individuals scoring low on Role Expectations tended to score low on Marital Adjustment ($\chi^2 = 24.99$, $p < .01$; $\chi^2 = 19.03$, $p < .01$).

A chi square analysis was performed on Role Expectations x Paternal Involvement using the Low-Low,

TABLE II

ROLE EXPECTATIONS
NUMBER OF COUPLES

Husbands-Wives	Husbands-Wives	Husbands-Wives	Husbands-Wives
Low-Low	Low-High	High-Low	High-High
21	12	12	22

TABLE III

MARITAL ADJUSTMENT
NUMBER OF COUPLES

Husbands-Wives	Husbands-Wives	Husbands-Wives	Husbands-Wives
Low-Low	Low-High	High-Low	High-High
23	11	12	21

TABLE IV
 THE NUMBER OF HUSBANDS IN EACH OF THE FOUR
 CLASSIFICATIONS DETERMINED BY ROLE
 EXPECTATION AND MARITAL ADJUSTMENT

Marital Adjustment	Role Expectations		Row Total
	High	Low	
High	O=23 E=16.75	O=10 E=16.25	33
Low	O=11 E=17.25	O=23 E=16.75	34
Column Total	34	33	67

($\chi^2 = 24.99, p < .01$)

TABLE V
 THE NUMBER OF WIVES IN EACH OF FOUR CLASSIFICATIONS
 AS DETERMINED BY ROLE EXPECTATIONS AND
 MARITAL ADJUSTMENT

Marital Adjustment	Role Expectations		Row Total
	High	Low	
High	O=21 E=16.24	O=11 E=15.76	32
Low	O=13 E=17.76	O=22 E=17.24	35
Column Total	34	33	67

($x^2 = 19.03$, $p < .01$)

Low-High, High-Low, High-High combinations of husbands and wives scores. These results presented in Table VI, p. 25, demonstrated a significant relationship between Role Expectations and Paternal Involvement ($x^2 = 12.72$, $p < .01$). When both husband and wife scored high in Role Expectations, the husband was more likely to score high in Paternal Involvement. When both husband and wife scored low in Role Expectations, the husband was more likely to score low in Paternal Involvement. Only minimal differences were obtained in the mixed categories (Low-High, High-Low).

Table VII, p. 26, presents the results of an additional chi square analysis performed to determine Paternal Involvement among the Low-Low, Low-High, High-Low, High-High combinations of husbands and wives scores on Marital Adjustment. This analysis indicated a significant difference among cells ($x^2 = 10.7$, $p < .02$). Visual inspection revealed that when both husbands and wives scored high in Marital Adjustment, Paternal Involvement tended to be High. With couples who scored low in Marital Adjustment, Paternal Involvement tended to be low. Minimal differences were obtained in the mixed categories (Low-High, High-Low).

Frequency counts of the behavioral assessment in the Paternal Involvement could not be analyzed, since only 31 fathers assessed their weekly activities. In

TABLE VI
 THE NUMBER OF COUPLES IN EACH OF EIGHT CLASSIFICATIONS
 AS DETERMINED BY ROLE EXPECTATIONS AND
 PATERNAL INVOLVEMENT

Paternal Involvement	Role Expectations				Row Total
	Husbands-Wives Low-Low	Husbands-Wives Low-High	Husbands-Wives High-Low	Husbands-Wives High-High	
High	0=6 E=8.78	0=1 E=5.01	0=7 E=5.01	0=14 E=9.19	28
Low	0=15 E=12.22	0=11 E=6.99	0=5 E=6.99	0=8 E=12.81	39
Column Total	21	12	12	22	67

($\chi^2 = 12.72, p < .01$)

TABLE VII
 THE NUMBER OF COUPLES IN EACH OF EIGHT CLASSIFICATIONS
 AS DETERMINED BY MARITAL ADJUSTMENT AND
 PATERNAL INVOLVEMENT

Paternal Involvement	Marital Adjustment				Row Total
	Husbands-Wives Low-Low	Husbands-Wives Low-High	Husbands-Wives High-Low	Husbands-Wives High-High	
High	0=6 E=9.96	0=3 E=4.76	0=5 E=5.19	0=15 E=9.09	29
Low	0=17 E=13.04	0=8 E=6.24	0=7 E=6.81	0=6 E=11.91	38
Column Total	23	11	12	21	67

$\chi^2 = 10.7, p < .02$

addition, individual differences were extreme. The two activities in which fathers were least involved included bathing and going on outings with the infants alone.

DISCUSSION

The results of this research suggested a preliminary understanding of possible social, economic and cultural changes in paternal involvement in child rearing, at least among some segments of the population. There was statistical support for all the hypotheses. First, couples who scored high in role expectations scored high in marital adjustment. Second, in couples who scored high in role expectations the husband scored high in paternal involvement. Third, when couples scored high in marital adjustment, the husband scored high in paternal involvement.

The significant relationship between role expectations and marital adjustment is in agreement with earlier findings. Fein (1976) reported that marriage role expectations of husbands and wives were related to an effective pattern of adaptation to the strains of marital life. However, unlike Fein's results, the present study found that individuals whose scores suggested a more traditional marriage role expectation tended to score low in marital adjustment.

The present study also revealed that husbands who scored low in role expectations tended to be low in

paternal involvement, reflective of past research which described the traditional father (Fein, 1978). In the traditional view, described by many researchers, fathers offered companionship and emotional support to their spouses and had relatively little direct involvement with their children (Nash, 1965; Rendina & Dickerscheid, 1976). Traditionally the mothers assumed major responsibility for child care, especially during the infant stage (Nash, 1965; Lamb & Lamb, 1976; Richards et al., 1976; Parke & Sawin, 1976; Lamb, 1979). Men in this research, responding to this more traditional marriage role orientation, did not appear to assume active responsibility for the caretaking of their children.

In contrast to this viewpoint, these results indicated that husbands high in role expectations, i.e., a more egalitarian orientation, tended to score high in paternal involvement. Fein (1978) described this as the emergent perspective of fathering. This view was based on the assumption that men were psychologically able to participate in a full range of parenting behaviors, excluding gestation and lactation by virtue of gender. It has also been suggested that changes in socialization definitions of male and female roles, coupled with increases in the numbers and percentages of women in the paid labor force, may be strengthening

the opportunities and pressures for men to care for their children (Fein, 1976; Lamb, 1979). The relationship between high role expectations and the tendency to score high in paternal involvement supported the viewpoints of several researchers who have stated that alternative mother and father roles have been emerging with some husbands taking on some of the nurturant and affectional functions traditionally associated with the maternal role (Rendina & Dickerscheid, 1967; Richards et al., 1977; Reiber, 1976). Child-rearing can be an appropriate male function and a component of the male identity as pointed out by Levine (1977).

An intriguing finding in the present study was that paternal involvement with the infant was high only if both husband and wife were high in marital adjustment. While a number of studies have found that the perceived marital adjustment of the husband was related to the husband's response to the child (Wente & Crockenberg, 1960; Russell, 1974; Lamb & Lamb, 1976), these results suggested that their conclusion is most applicable when the couple are both high in marital adjustment.

The finding that husbands low in marital adjustment were low in paternal involvement agreed with findings by Wente and Crockenberg (1976), who reported

that low levels of marital adjustment were negatively correlated with a high degree of crisis and subsequent poor paternal adjustment to the infant.

Several methodological issues should be considered when interpreting this research. The instruments were recently developed and only face validity was established. Further reliabilities and validity analyses should be conducted. It might be necessary to add additional questions and to combine questions from all instruments to reduce the bulk of the questionnaire. Also, most of the questions are worded in the high role expectations, high marital adjustment and high paternal involvement direction; therefore, subjects could perceive directionality as the "right" response. This should be examined to determine influences on scores.

Another complication was the fact that only 31 fathers gave a behavioral frequency of their care-taking activities on the Paternity Inventory. Although this could be due to several reasons, it is possible that attitudes may be changing faster than the actual behaviors. It is also likely that the fathers were unable to estimate actual behaviors or that recall was poor.

This exploratory research introduced several implications for future investigations. It would be

informative to assess the different levels of paternal involvement from birth on using a behavioral count. The father's accurate log introduced at varying time intervals for a period of one to two weeks would probably obtain a more significant measure of paternal involvement than relying on recall. A knowledge of the father's preparation for parenting, such as courses, reading material, etc., might enrich our understanding of the father's confidence in performing caretaking functions. In this way, one could relate the male's lack of preparation in this society to his subsequent level of confidence and the frequency of performing routine caretaking functions with his child.

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REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

General Information Sheet

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

Directions: This information sheet is strictly confidential and will be coded. Accurate information is necessary. Please have this form filled out by only one spouse.

Sex: _____ Male _____ Female

Age:

- a. 16 to 20 years b. 21 to 25 years
c. 26 to 30 years d. 30+ years

Age of Spouse:

- a. 16 to 20 years b. 21 to 25 years
c. 26 to 30 years d. 30+ years

Ethnic Origin:

- a. Caucasian b. Black
c. Hispanic d. Other _____

Religious Affiliation:

- a. Catholic b. Protestant
c. Jewish d. Other _____

Education: Please circle highest level attained.

- | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Husband: | High School | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | |
| | College | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Wife: | High School | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | |
| | College | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

Occupation:

- | | | | | | |
|----------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Husband: | _____ | Full-time | _____ | Part-time | _____ |
| Wife: | _____ | Full-time | _____ | Part-time | _____ |

Income: (annually)

- a. \$8,000 and below b. \$9-18,000
c. \$19-29,000 d. \$30,000 and above

Years Married:

- a. 1 day to 3 years b. 3 years to 6 years
c. 6 years to 9 years d. 9 years to 12+ years

Health:

- | | | | | |
|----------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Husband: | a. excellent | b. good | c. fair | d. poor |
| Wife: | a. excellent | b. good | c. fair | d. poor |

Sex of Child: _____ Male _____ Female

Age of Child:

- a. 1 day to 3 months b. 3 to 6 months
c. 6 to 9 months d. 9 to 12 months

Health of Child:

- a. normal
- b. mentally handicapped
- c. physically handicapped
- d. other

Is Your Child Currently:

- a. breastfed
- b. bottlefed
- c. both a and b
- d. solid food
- e. both b and d

Was Your Child:

Planned _____
Unplanned _____

Thank you!

APPENDIX B

Marriage Roles Expectations Inventory

MARRIAGE ROLES EXPECTATIONS INVENTORY

Please do not consult with your spouse while answering questions.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please answer the following statements according to how you are feeling at this moment.

5 = strongly agree 4 = agree 3 = undecided
2 = disagree 1 = strongly disagree

	5	4	3	2	1
1. I feel that most of the time my spouse's opinion is as important as mine in financial matters.	-	-	-	-	-
2. If it is difficult for a husband and wife to reach a decision where to take a vacation, a husband should take the lead and have more "pull."	-	-	-	-	-
3. I believe that each spouse should share in household chores.	-	-	-	-	-
4. It will not bother me if my spouse is more educated than I am.	-	-	-	-	-
5. Both of us should be able to have the same opportunity to further our educational levels as our interests dictate.	-	-	-	-	-
6. I prefer that each spouse should feel comfortable in initiating intercourse.	-	-	-	-	-
7. I feel that it is appropriate for a woman to combine motherhood and a career if she so chooses.	-	-	-	-	-
8. When children are infants, I believe that fathers are as important caretakers as mothers are.	-	-	-	-	-
9. In our marriage, two important tasks of each spouse are to support the home adequately and rear our children responsibly.	-	-	-	-	-

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. | I feel that it is more important for a wife to be an attractive, interesting person than one who keeps a neat clean house. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 11. | It is fine for a woman to be the "aggressor" in lovemaking if she desires to. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 12. | I feel that both spouses' time or work schedules should determine when meals are prepared and served. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 13. | I believe that most husbands who exhibit emotions are understood by their wives. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 14. | Even if the husband makes more money than his wife, the wife should have a choice whether to work or not, according to her wishes. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15. | I feel that both spouses should take either an active role or an active interest in neighborhood activities. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 16. | It would give me great pleasure to talk about politics and world issues with my spouse, knowing that he/she shares this interest. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 17. | I feel that I admire women who are assertive and direct in a marital relationship. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 18. | In my marriage, I would like my spouse to be well-informed about economic and government issues as I am. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 19. | I believe I should be able to work at a job regardless of its importance or high pay. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20. | It is both our responsibility to see that our children attend church and that we are appropriate parental models. | - | - | - | - | - |

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21. | To share in or participate in the delivery and birth process of our children is one experience that I look forward to. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 22. | I believe that a husband and wife should be willing to adapt to each other's schedules. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 23. | For each other's personal growth, I feel that both spouses should feel free to pursue interests or activities outside the family. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 24. | I feel that if I allow my spouse to know the vulnerable side of me he/she will be very supportive and understanding. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25. | I feel that there are not many tasks in the home that only a woman can do. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 26. | I feel that our sexual relationship is enhanced by communicating each other's needs and/or wishes while we are making love. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 27. | Furthering an education is seen as an opportunity for both personal development and for obtaining a better job. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 28. | In my marriage, I would like to share in the responsibility of earning money. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 29. | I feel that most married couples should not be prevented from continuing their education just because they are married. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 30. | I feel that husbands and wives should share the responsibilities of the laundry, cleaning and childcare. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 31. | I believe that my spouse and I should play an active part in our children's lives; that is, my son/daughter should participate in activities with each of us. | - | - | - | - | - |

APPENDIX C

Marital Adjustment Checklist

MARITAL ADJUSTMENT CHECKLIST

Please do not consult with your spouse while answering questions.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please answer the following statements according to how you feel at this moment.

5 = strongly agree 4 = agree 3 = undecided
2 = disagree 1 = strongly disagree

	5	4	3	2	1
1. I see some things I would change about my mate if I could.	-	-	-	-	-
2. I have seldom considered the need for marital counseling for my spouse and me.	-	-	-	-	-
3. Most of the time, my spouse responds to my thoughts and feelings with understanding.	-	-	-	-	-
4. In any important decision, my spouse and I discuss the alternatives together.	-	-	-	-	-
5. My spouse and I have numerous things in common.	-	-	-	-	-
6. Our income is adequate to cover our current financial expenses.	-	-	-	-	-
7. My sex life is currently satisfactory.	-	-	-	-	-
8. A husband and wife should share the responsibility of housework when both are employed.	-	-	-	-	-
9. As I was growing up, my home life was very stable and happy most of the time.	-	-	-	-	-
10. The birth of our child has increased the happiness of our marriage.	-	-	-	-	-
11. My spouse and I discuss what is best for our child together and make most decisions as a team.	-	-	-	-	-

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12. | There are some times that I do not feel as "in love" with my spouse as I normally do. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 13. | I infrequently consider divorce as a possibility when our marriage is rocky. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 14. | My spouse displays his/her love for me in a variety of different ways. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15. | Our ability to compromise in times of disagreements is a positive aspect of my marriage. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 16. | I am usually satisfied with the amount of time I spend with my spouse. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 17. | My spouse and I can sit down and discuss our financial situation without getting into a big argument. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 18. | My spouse and I can sit down and discuss sex openly and without embarrassment. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 19. | A husband should share the responsibility of caring for the children such as feeding, bathing, clothing, etc. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20. | I consider my parents' marriage to have been satisfactory and fulfilling for them. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 21. | I think that raising our child can be a rewarding experience for my spouse and me. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 22. | I do not find that most of our arguments center around our child. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 23. | In my marriage, there are some areas that I am not totally satisfied with. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 24. | I feel very positive about our decision to get married. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25. | I am usually supportive whenever my spouse confides in me. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 26. | My spouse and I can talk about almost any subject. | - | - | - | - | - |

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27. | I enjoy just being with my spouse alone. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 28. | In our marriage, we decide how and when our money is to be spent and invested. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 29. | I believe that my spouse enjoys sexual activity as much as I do. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 30. | It is the responsibility of both husband and wife in earning the family income. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 31. | Having a child has not put a financial burden upon my spouse and me. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 32. | My spouse and I share the responsibility of the rearing of our child, most of the time. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 33. | I usually believe that my spouse and I can work out most difficulties that may arise in our marriage. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 34. | There is little in the manner in which my spouse displays affection that I would change. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35. | When arguing, my spouse and I steer clear of name-calling and insults. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 36. | I do not consider an extra-marital affair necessary for sexual variety and excitement. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 37. | When a child becomes ill, both parents should be equally willing to stay home from work and care for their child. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 38. | I consider myself to be happily married. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 39. | My spouse often takes my feelings and thoughts into consideration when discussing issues. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 40. | My marriage is a satisfying and fulfilling part of my life. | - | - | - | - | - |

APPENDIX D

The Paternity Inventory

THE PATERNITY INVENTORY

INSTRUCTIONS: To be completed by each father. It is important not to consult with your spouse as you complete these items.

Note: 5 (strongly agree) Place a check by the
 4 (agree) desired number.
 3 (undecided)
 2 (disagree)
 1 (strongly disagree)

	5	4	3	2	1
1. I do not find it difficult to relate to my infant this soon.	-	-	-	-	-
2. My most crucial role as a father is that of being an economic provider.	-	-	-	-	-
3. Most of the time I participate in the routine care-taking of my child.	-	-	-	-	-
4. I have had little trouble adjusting to the new set of circumstances my child has brought about.	-	-	-	-	-
5. My role in being a father is primarily that of being a breadwinner.	-	-	-	-	-
6. I will do almost anything to aid my wife in the routine care of our child.	-	-	-	-	-
7. I feel the responsibility of being a parent is rather pleasant.	-	-	-	-	-
8. My main role in parenthood is that of earning money and providing for my wife and child.	-	-	-	-	-
9. I will perform caretaking functions most of the time; whether or not I am asked or it is an emergency.	-	-	-	-	-
10. I am currently very satisfied with the birth of my child.	-	-	-	-	-

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. | A father's role includes physical caretaking functions such as feeding, diapering, etc. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 12. | I have taken on extra work around the house (washing dishes, making beds, vacuuming, etc.) since the birth of our child. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 13. | I consider the birth of my child as a peak experience in my life. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 14. | I feel that infant care should be shared by both husband and wife. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15. | I often help with bathing, diapering, etc. of my child. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 16. | I seldom feel neglected by the attention my wife gives to our infant. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 17. | I consider the physical caretaking of my child as the responsibility of my wife. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 18. | I am making a conscious effort to do equal caretaking of my child, during the time I am not at work. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 19. | I enjoy children when they are babies. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20. | I believe my influence began on my child at birth. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 21. | I spend time daily in the caretaking functions (bathing, dressing, etc.) of my child. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 22. | It has not been difficult adjusting to a new infant. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 23. | I feel the father is as important to the young infant as he is when the child grows older. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 24. | I feel confident in caring for my infant when my wife is not present. | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25. | I think we chose a good time to have a baby. | - | - | - | - | - |

26. Babies can get along fairly well without a father, in the home, as long as the mother is present. - - - - -
27. Performing routine care (such as feeding, diapering, bathing) is as crucial for the father as it is for the mother. - - - - -
28. I consider myself to be a traditional father. - - - - -

Recall the past week as accurately as possible.
Please check as each applies to you.

	Feeding	Diapering	Bathing	Dressing	Rocking	Taking on Outings Alone
0x						
1x						
2x						
3x						
4x						
5x						
6x						
7x						
8x						
9x						
10x						
11-13x						
14-16x						
17-19x						
20-22x						
23-25x						
26-28x						
29-31x						
32-34x						
35-37x						
38-40x						
41-43x						
44-46x						
47-50x						

APPENDIX E

Scoring Procedure

SCORING PROCEDURE

Test instruments were all scored with an identical procedure. A 5 (strongly agree) response was assigned a weight of 5 points, a 4 (agree) was assigned a weight of 4 points, a 2 (disagree) was assigned a weight of 2 points and a 1 (strongly disagree) was assigned a weight of 1 point. A 3 (undecided) response was not scored. Each instrument was scored for the husband and wife separately.

On the Paternity Inventory only, questions 2, 5, 8, 17, 26, and 28 were reversed. For example a 5 response would be assigned a value of 1, a 4 response would be assigned a value of 2, a 2 response would be assigned a value of 4, and a 1 response would be assigned a value of 5.

APPENDIX F

Telephone Script

TELEPHONE SCRIPT

My name is Karen and I am an Appalachian graduate student. I'm conducting a survey for my master's thesis and would like to know if you and your wife/husband are presently employed, either part-time or full-time?

Response: No. Thank you for your time.

Response: Yes. I would like to send you and your wife/husband a questionnaire in the mail. The questions are about marriage and the family. It is very easy to fill out and only takes about 20 minutes. You don't sign your name on it and the information will be used for research only and then destroyed. Would you be willing to participate?

Response: No. Thank you for your time.

Response: Yes. What is your mailing address? I will be sending you the packet in the mail shortly. Could you please fill it out as soon as you get it and mail it in the self-addressed, stamped envelope I will provide for you? Thank you very much.

APPENDIX G

Numbers and Percentages of Demographic Variables

NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

(N = 67)

	N	%		N	%
<u>Age</u>			<u>Occupation</u>		
Husbands			Wives	3	4.5
16-20 yrs	1	1.5	I	18	26.9
21-25 yrs.	15	22.4	II	4	6.0
26-30 yrs.	20	29.8	III	29	43.3
30-+ yrs.	31	46.3	IV	1	1.5
Wives			V	11	16.4
16-20 yrs.	3	4.5	VI	0	0.0
21-25 yrs.	24	35.8	VII	1	1.5
26-30 yrs.	24	35.8	VIII		
30-+ yrs.	16	23.9	<u>Income Level</u>		
<u>Ethnic Origin</u>			8,000-under	3	4.5
Caucasian	66	98.5	9-18,000	19	28.3
Black	1	1.5	19-29,000	26	38.9
Hispanic	0	0.0	30,000-up	19	28.3
Other	0	0.0	<u>Employment</u>		
<u>Religious Affl.</u>			Husbands		
Catholic	0	0.0	Full-time	66	98.5
Protestant	63	94.0	Part-time	1	1.5
Jewish	0	0.0	Wives		
Other	4	6.0	Full-time	51	76.1
<u>Education</u>			Part-time	16	23.9
Husbands			<u>Years Married</u>		
Grammar	1	1.5	1 day-3 yrs.	10	14.9
High Sch.	24	35.8	3 yrs-6 yrs.	31	46.3
College	42	62.7	6 yrs-9 yrs.	16	23.9
Wives			9 yrs-+	10	14.9
Grammar	2	3.0	<u>Sex of Child</u>		
High Sch.	31	46.3	Male	42	62.7
College	34	50.7	Female	25	37.3
<u>Occupation*</u>			<u>Age of Child</u>		
Husbands			1 day-3 mos.	10	14.9
I	4	6.0	3 mos-6 mos.	14	20.9
II	10	14.9	6 mos-9 mos.	18	26.9
III	18	26.9	9 mos-12 mos	25	37.3
IV	6	8.9	<u>Feeding Pattern</u>		
V	18	26.9	Breastfed	1	1.5
VI	10	14.9	Bottlefed	28	41.8
VII	0	0.0	Breast/Solid	12	17.9
VIII	1	1.5	Bottle/Solid	17	25.4
			Solid	9	13.4

*See Appendix

APPENDIX H

Hollingshead's Occupational Scale

HOLLINGSHEAD'S OCCUPATIONAL SCALE

- Category I Higher Executives, Proprietors of Large Concerns and Major Professionals
- Category II Business Managers, Proprietors of Medium Sized Businesses and Lesser Professionals.
- Category III Administrative Personnel, Small Independent Businesses and Minor Professionals.
- Category IV Clerical and Sales Workers, Technicians and Owners of Little Businesses.
- Category V Skilled Manual Employees.
- Category VI Machine Operators and Semi-Skilled Employees
- Category VII Unskilled Employees.

Residual Category VIII designed especially for this research. Full-time Students.

VITA

Karen Curtis-Eller was born in Morganton, North Carolina on December 12, 1956. She attended elementary schools in Glen Alpine and graduated from East Burke High School in June 1975. The following September she entered Appalachian State University, where she graduated, in August 1979, with a Bachelor of Arts, double majoring in Psychology and Sociology. Grade-point averages included: Psychology-3.75, Sociology-3.60, overall-3.00. In the fall of 1980, she entered Appalachian State University where degree requirements were begun towards a Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology. This degree was awarded in August 1982. Grade-point average was 3.65.

The author is a member of the American Psychological Association-student affiliate, Southeastern Psychological Association and the North Carolina Psychological Association.

Mrs. Curtis-Eller's address is P. O. Box 1312, Boone, North Carolina 28607.