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SEEKING COUNSELING AND PAIRED HUSBANDS AND
WIVES NOT SEEKING COUNSELING.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro,
Ph.D., 1973
Sociology, family

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A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MARITAL ROLE
EXPECTATIONS OF PAIRED HUSBANDS AND
WIVES SEEKING COUNSELING AND PAIRED
HUSBANDS AND WIVES NOT SEEKING
COUNSELING

by

Eugene David Anderson

A Dissertation Submitted to
the Faculty of the Graduate School at
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Doctor of Philosophy

Greensboro
1973

Approved by

Dissertation Adviser
This dissertation has been approved by the following committee of the Faculty of the Graduate School at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dissertation Adviser

Oral Examination Committee Members

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It was the purpose of this study to determine what differences, if any, existed between the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling in eight specific role expectation categories. The role expectation categories examined were total role, authority role, homemaking role, care of children role, personal characteristics role, social participation role, educational role, and employment and support role.

It was hypothesized that two groups composed of husbands and wives seeking counseling and husbands and wives not seeking counseling would differ in their specific role expectations. It was also hypothesized that the two groups would not differ in the number of couples which expressed equalitarian expectations and traditional expectations. Equalitarian expectations were defined as a sharing of roles disregarding sex. Traditional expectations were defined as a distinct dichotomy of role prescriptions played within the marriage and family based on sex as advocated by society. Finally, it was hypothesized that the group of husbands and wives not seeking counseling would have a significantly greater and positive correlation in their responses to items on a marriage role expectation inventory than those husbands and wives seeking counseling.
The subjects were 52 legally married couples seeking counseling and 52 legally married couples not seeking counseling. The latter group also reported not having had marriage or family counseling in the past. The subjects were matched on three variables. These were race, number of years married, and number of dependent children in the home. In addition, age and number of marriages were sufficiently controlled to insure no statistically significant differences.

The data were collected using Dunn's *Marriage Role Expectation Inventory*. Scores and frequency distributions were examined by using the two way analysis of variance, chi square test, and the Pearson Product Moment Correlation.

Significant differences at the $p < .05$ level were found between the scores of the two groups in five role expectation categories. These categories were total role, authority role, personal characteristics role, social participation role, and education role. Significant differences between the two groups at the $p < .05$ level were not found in the care of children role, employment and support role, and homemaking role categories. A significant difference at the $p < .05$ level was found between all husbands and all wives in the employment and support role category.

A significantly higher number of the husbands and wives seeking counseling fell within the traditional range of marital role expectations. In contrast, a significantly
higher number of the husbands and wives not seeking counseling fell within the equalitarian range of marital role expectation. The significance was found at the p < .05 level.

No significant differences were found between the correlation values for the group of husbands and wives seeking counseling and the group of husbands and wives not seeking counseling at the p < .05 level.

It was concluded that husbands and wives seeking counseling express more traditional expectations toward marital role playing whereas husbands and wives not seeking counseling express more equalitarian expectations toward marital role playing. It was also concluded that husbands and wives not seeking counseling do not have a significantly greater and more positive correlation in their responses to items on a marriage role expectation inventory than husbands and wives seeking counseling.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This field study required the support and cooperative efforts of many individuals.

The writer is especially indebted to Dr. Richard H. Klemer, Professor of Child Development and Family Relations, School of Home Economics, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, adviser and committee chairman for his support and encouragement. Appreciation is also expressed to other members of the committee: Dr. Philip W. Cooke, Professor, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. E. M. Rallings, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Dr. Rebecca M. Smith, Assistant Professor, School of Home Economics, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Dr. J. Allen Watson, Associate Professor, School of Home Economics, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The assistance and advice of Dr. Carl M. Cochrane, Lecturer, School of Home Economics, University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Dr. H. Carl Henley, Lecturer, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was invaluable in the programming and the analysis of the data.
The writer acknowledges the encouragement of Dr. Albert L. Johnson, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Many individuals and agencies assisted in the data collection process. Acknowledgement is made to them for their assistance (Appendix A).

Finally the writer expresses deep appreciation to his wife and children for their patience, understanding and support during the time span of this investigation.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIST OF TABLES</th>
<th>vii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHAPTER</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. INTRODUCTION.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypotheses.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothesis I.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothesis II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypothesis III</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definition of Concepts.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husbands and Wives.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage Role Expectations.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeking Counseling.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Seeking Counseling.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role Expectation Categories</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Role Expectation.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Role Expectations.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Role.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authority Role.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homemaking Role.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of Children Role.</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Characteristics Role</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Participation Role</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Role.</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment and Support Role</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. METHOD AND PROCEDURES</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjects.</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedures.</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruments.</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Study</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Techniques for Controlling Variables</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistical Analysis</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IV. RESULTS OF ANALYSIS

Matched and Control Variables

Matched Variables
Control Variables

Hypothesis I

Total Role Expectation
Authority Role Expectation
Homemaking Role Expectation
Care of Children Role Expectation
Personal Characteristics Role Expectation
Social Participation Role Expectation
Employment and Support Role Expectation
Education Role Expectation

Hypothesis II
Hypothesis III
Undecided and Strong Opinion Responses

V. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Expectations Toward Marital Role Play

VI. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary
Conclusions
Recommendations

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX A
LIST OF INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES ASSISTING IN DATA COLLECTION

APPENDIX B
FORM F, MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATION INVENTORY

APPENDIX C
FORM M, MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATION INVENTORY

APPENDIX D
GENERAL INFORMATION FACE SHEET
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Analysis of Variance: Total Role Expectation</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Analysis of Variance: Authority Role Expectation</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Analysis of Variance: Homemaking Role Expectation</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Analysis of Variance: Care of Children Role Expectation</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Analysis of Variance: Personal Characteristics Role Expectation</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Analysis of Variance: Social Participation Role Expectation</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Analysis of Variance: Employment and Support Role Expectation</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Analysis of Variance: Education Role Expectation</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Chi Square: Expectations Toward Marriage Role Play</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Correlation Values of the Total and Individual Role Expectations</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Conversion of Correlation Values into z_r Values and z Scores</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The classic basis for family role theory has been the premise that two individuals involved in a marital union have certain role expectations for themselves and for each other. By definition these role expectations were the attitudes one person has about how he himself and his spouse should behave within the framework of marriage. Usually these expectations have been formed prior to marriage and have frequently undergone change after marriage (Komarovsky, 1968).

Klemer (1970) stated that sociologists have been fascinated for years with the theory that differences in marital role expectations account for all or most of the difficulties in marriage. But there has been considerable disagreement when testing specific hypotheses. Mangus (1957) stated that the integrative quality of marriage has been reflected in marital role congruency. Others stated that role congruency has been only one of several factors which determine the integrative quality of marriage (Mowrer, 1935). Hobart and Klausner (1959) stated that there has been no relationship between the integrative quality of marriage and role congruency.
However, not only have there been few intensive studies of marital role expectations (Bott, 1968) but there have been few family studies including responses from both husbands and wives (Salifios-Rothschild, 1969). Admittedly, there have been a number of research studies in the literature dealing with marital role expectations. However, none of the studies reviewed encompassed more than two or three marital role expectations as reported by both husbands and wives. Furthermore, little has been learned about the male's marital role expectations because of his nonavailability as a research subject.

Though accepted role theories have indicated that incongruency in role expectations produce strain on marital relationships, little evidence has been found to support the thesis that husbands and wives seeking counseling express more incongruency in their marital role expectations than do husbands and wives not seeking counseling.

Two fundamental questions have been raised by this study. First, what are the marital role expectations of the husbands and wives seeking marriage or family counseling, and how do their expectations compare with husbands and wives not seeking marriage or family counseling? Secondly, are the marriage role expectations of husbands and wives seeking marriage or family counseling less positively correlated than the marriage role expectations of husbands and wives not seeking marriage or family counseling?
Therefore, the purpose of this study was to determine what differences, if any, existed between the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling in eight specific role expectation categories.

**Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses have denoted the specific focus of this study and list the eight specific role expectation categories to be studied.

**Hypothesis I.** There will be a significant difference between the scores obtained on a marital role expectation inventory by husbands and wives seeking counseling and husbands and wives not seeking counseling at or below the .05 level of probability in each of the following role expectation categories:

1. Total Role Expectation
2. Authority Role Expectation
3. Homemaking Role Expectation
4. Care of Children Role Expectation
5. Personal Characteristics Role Expectation
6. Social Participation Role Expectation
7. Educational Role Expectation
8. Employment and Support Role Expectation


**Hypothesis II.** There will be no significant difference between the number of husbands and wives seeking counseling and the number of husbands and wives not seeking counseling who fall in the equalitarian and traditional ranges (see pages 5 and 6 for definitions) of total role expectations.

**Hypothesis III.** The correlations between husbands' and wives' marital role expectation scores in each of the eight categories for the group not seeking counseling will be significantly greater, in the positive direction, than the correlations for the group seeking counseling. The significance will fall at or below the .05 level of probability.

**Definition of Concepts**

The basic concepts used in this study have been defined below.

**Husbands and wives.** This concept was defined as males and females who have been united legally into a marital relationship sanctioned by society. The concept marital relationship referred to monogamous marriages.

**Marriage role expectations.** This term has generally been defined as the way one marital partner feels that the other partner should behave within the framework of marriage (Dyer, 1962, p. 372). For purposes of this study marriage role expectations referred to the scores on Dunn's (1963)
Marriage Role Expectation Inventory obtained from each husband and wife (Appendix B and Appendix C).

Seeking counseling. This concept has been related to the actual seeking of help with a marriage or family problem from either a qualified private practitioner or a private or public agency sanctioned by society to provide family or marriage counseling. The qualified practitioner is defined as one who has received one or more years of graduate work and supervision in rendering clinical services.

Not seeking counseling. In contrast, this concept has been related to the absence of seeking or having sought help with a marriage or family problem.

Role expectation categories. For the purpose of this study this concept has been operationally defined as the specific role categories measured by Dunn's (1963) Marriage Role Expectation Inventory. Each category has been described below. For the purpose of this study each specific role expectation category was operationally defined as the score obtained on the marriage role expectation inventory by each husband and wife.

Total Role Expectation. Dunn (1963) has related the Total Role Expectation to traditional attitudes and egalitarian attitudes toward marital role interaction. Traditional attitudes were defined as a distinct dichotomy of role prescriptions played within the marriage and family
based on sex as advocated by society. Equalitarian attitudes were defined as a sharing of roles disregarding sex.

**Individual role expectations.** The **Authority Role Expectation** referred to decision making within the marriage and family whereas the **Homemaking Role Expectation** referred to the division of labor within the home. The **Care of Children Role Expectation** simply referred to the division of child care tasks assumed by each marital partner within the home. The **Personal Characteristics Role Expectation** referred to the desirable personal traits and to the background of each marital partner whereas the **Social Participation Role Expectation** referred to social and personal interaction outside the home. The **Education Role Expectation** referred to the level of formal education each marital partner was expected to achieve. The **Employment and Support Role Expectation** simply referred to the division of labor outside the home and to the financial contribution each marital partner was expected to make toward the support of the family.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There has apparently been no attempt to compare role expectations between husbands and wives seeking counseling and husbands and wives not seeking counseling in all eight role categories. However, certain research studies have related themselves to the general problem area of marital role expectations. These studies have served as a basis for the examination of the problem. Perhaps it should be mentioned that studies frequently reported findings pertaining to several different areas. However, in the following citations only those findings which were relevant to this study were mentioned.

Total Role

Ort (1950) hypothesized that the amount of self-judgement of happiness or unhappiness was related to the conflict between role expectations and actual behavior, and role expectations for the spouse and the roles played by the spouse as perceived by the subject. A schedule was used to collect data from 50 married couples. Ort found that the number of conflicts in the marriage were related to the self-happiness rating by the individual. There was a -.83 correlation between role conflicts and happiness.
Significant differences were also found between role expectation of the self and the mate, and the roles played by the self and the mate.

Lu (1952) studied the adjustment of 603 married couples living in the Chicago area who had previously been included in a study by Burgess and Wallin. The subjects' adjustment was correlated with power distribution. Of the 603 couples, 34.66% of the marriages were dominated by the husband, 34% were equalitarian, and 31.34% of the marriages were dominated by the wife. The equalitarian or democratic marital relationship was positively correlated with satisfactory marriage adjustment and the husband or wife dominated marital relationship was positively correlated with an unsatisfactory relationship.

Jacobson (1952) compared the marital role attitudes between 100 divorced couples and 100 married couples. A personal interview was used to collect data. It was concluded that the divorced couples differed more in their marital role attitudes than the married couples did. The divorced female tended to be more equalitarian than her former husband. In contrast, 25 married females had a more traditional marital role attitude than their husbands.

Couch (1958) studied 32 married couples for the purpose of extending the use of role theory in further understanding sources of conflict or stability in marriage.
Findings indicated that the degree of consensus on role and accuracy of role taking tended to increase with length of marriage. However, the relationship between satisfaction of performance and length of marriage was more complex and, while related to length of marriage in some ways it was not a simple relationship (p. 354).

Wives married longer than 2 years felt more adequate in the role they played than wives married less than 2 years. Husbands tended to rate their wives' performance higher than their own but this was not found to be a tendency with the wives.

Married students from the University of Minnesota were studied by Luckey (1960) to determine the relationship between marital satisfaction and congruent self-spouse concepts. Only 116 couples scoring high on the Locke-Terman items were included in the final phases of the study. Marital satisfaction was found to be associated with wives seeing their husbands as their husbands saw themselves but marital satisfaction was not found to be related to the wives in this manner.

A marital role inventory was used by Hurvitz (1961) with 104 married couples to determine the various roles played by both husband and wife. The husbands reported 10 basic roles. These included the following:

1. Does jobs around the house.

2. Helps his children develop by being a friend, teacher and guide.
3. Earns a living and supports the family.
4. Does work around the house when needed.
5. Practices religion and philosophy of the family.
6. Serves as a sexual partner to his wife.
7. Serves as a male role model for his children.
8. Decides when his family is still divided after discussing an issue.
9. Represents and advances his family in the community.
10. Helps in managing the family's income and finances.

The wives listed 11 basic roles. These included the following:

1. Helps earn a living if needed.
2. Practices religion and philosophy of the family.
3. Cares for the daily needs of the children.
4. Serves as a companion to the husband.
5. Serves as a homemaker.
6. Serves as a sexual partner to the husband.
7. Serves as a female model to her children.
8. Represents and advances the family in the community and socially.
9. Helps the children develop by being their friend, teacher and guide.
10. Helps manage the family's income and finances.
11. Decides when her family is still divided after discussing an issue.
Stuckert (1963) used a configurational approach in studying the relationship between role perception and marital role satisfaction. Concern was expressed that there had not been agreement as to the relationship between the modes of perception and marital satisfaction. Couples between 19 years and 26 years of age were randomly selected and included in the study. Two major findings were presented. First, marital success was dependent on the wife's accurate perception of her husband's expectations. Secondly, marital success was dependent on similarities between the husband's role concepts and expectations, and those of his wife.

Tharp (1963) stated that marriage research has lacked an empirical description of marital roles. He subsequently studied 300 couples prior to their marriage and 128-141 of the couples after 18 years of marriage. Two primary conclusions were drawn. First, in many of the couples role dimensions were not the same for both sexes. Finally, role enactments sometimes differed from role expectations.

Cutler and Dyer (1965) raised the question

when a young married person finds that his spouse engages in behavior that violates his expectations what kinds of actions does he engage in to deal with this disturbance (p. 196)?

To answer this question 60 couples were administered a questionnaire which was answered independently by the husband and the wife. Husbands were found to adopt a wait and see attitude but the wives wanted to discuss the violation
or react negatively. Husbands were found to talk more openly about financial matters but not about sexual matters. In the area of spending time at home, wives were six times more critical of husbands. One major finding indicated that a negative reaction on the part of one partner did not necessarily result in a reciprocal negative reaction on the part of the other partner.

Kotlar (1965) compared 50 maritally adjusted and 50 maritally maladjusted couples with respect to their perceptions of each other and themselves to determine if there was a relationship between role perception and marital happiness. An interpersonal check list was used to collect the data. Husbands and wives in the adjusted group described themselves as having more similar role attitudes than the mates in the maladjusted group. This finding was in accord with other studies in which the conclusion was drawn that adjusted couples see themselves as being more similar in expectations than maladjusted couples (p. 290).

David (1967) studied 123 client families of Family Service Association in the metropolitan area of Toronto, Canada. All of the families included in the study had volunteered. A questionnaire was used to obtain information on many of the activities which were a part of family living, such as child rearing practices, division of labor, and affection. It was found that a greater proportion of lower-class families tended to be equalitarian than middle-class
families. A dominant wife pattern was observed frequently in upper-class families.

Mowrer (1969) interviewed 1180 wives for the purpose of eliciting conceptions of their own role and their husbands role. He concluded that

the contemporary American family is characterized by a fluidity of role differentiation determined to an appreciable degree by the exigencies of the moment. Family integration would seem, accordingly, more a complementarity of timing of differential roles in that a considerable degree of parallel role taking would inevitably lead to increased conflict as each spouse does not take the same role at the same time (p. 539).

**Authority Role**

Heer (1958) correlated family dominance with employment of the wife. He studied 138 couples using oral interviews as a means of collecting data. Approximately one-fourth of the couples in the working class sample had employed wives and approximately one-fourth had unemployed wives. The same ratio of the sample existed for middle-class wives. All families had at least one child. It was found that in both middle and lower classes the working wife exerted more influence in family decision making than did the non-working wives.

Blood and Wolfe (1960) found that two decisions were basically the husband's and two were basically the wife's. Husbands tended to make decisions about the job and the car. Housewives tended to make decisions about their work and
household food. The most common husband and wife disagreements centered on money, children and personality. However, only the wives were included as subjects.

Kenkel (1961) related dominance, persistence, self-confidence and spousal roles in decision making. There were 25 student couples included in the study. The major findings have been listed below.

1. When the male was found to be less dominant the female was found to have more influence on decision making.

2. When the female was found to be high in dominance she had less influence than others on the decisions made by the male.

3. When males were persistent, they tended to have less influence on their spouses.

4. When females were less persistent they tended to have as much influence or more than those females with a more persistent attitude.

5. There did not seem to be any difference between the more and less confident males and attempts at solving problems.

6. Females who were confident tended to outperform males in problem solving more than the less confident females.
Wilkening and Morrison (1963) found that 13 out of a possible 23 decision areas tested were ordinarily shared by 61 farm families who were used as research subjects. Only 6 were typically made by the husbands and 3 by the wives. The husbands' decisions usually pertained to the farm enterprise while the wives' decisions pertained to money spent for food, wall papering the home and entertaining for dinner. Major investments and decisions about the children were commonly shared.

**Homemaking Role**

Skidmore, Smith, and Nye (1949) conducted a survey study of married veterans for the purpose of ascertaining family characteristics and to study their marriage counseling needs and problems. The sample was composed of 50 families at the University of Utah. Questionnaires were completed by both husbands and wives. More than 84% of the wives stated that their husbands helped with housework. It was concluded that

> the traditional family pattern of the husband being the breadwinner and the wife the housekeeper no longer is preponderant among these young married people (p. 103).

Hoffman (1960) correlated the employment of mothers on parental power relations and the division of household tasks. An interview and a questionnaire were used to collect data from 324 intact families with at least one older elementary school age child. It was found that employed
mothers participate less in household tasks than unemployed mothers. Working mothers were also viewed as having more power than non-working mothers. It was also found that working mothers have less decision making power in household matters than non-working mothers.

Olsen (1960) studied family responsibilities and social class. Using census tract data 391 wives were studied for social class differentiation. Interviews were held with the subjects. Two major conclusions relating to role expectations were drawn. The first, and perhaps the most significant conclusion was that the distribution of responsibility tended to decrease as the class position increased. Responsibilities assumed by husbands, both alone and jointly with their spouses, were found to be greatest in the middle-class families. Finally, it was concluded that the tendency for middle-class husbands to assume more household responsibility was most noticeable in tasks related to the masculine role and was noticeably absent in tasks related to the traditional feminine role.

Hoffman (1963) correlated parental power relations with the division of household tasks. The sample included 89 working wives and 89 non-working wives. The husbands were not interviewed. It was hypothesized that the wife's outside employment would force the husband to participate in household tasks. It was established that husbands do in fact participate more. One interesting finding, when
recalling studies previously cited, was that there was no difference in husband-wife power between working and non-working women in the matched sample though in the total sample working women did have more power.

**Care of Children Role**

Elder (1949) stated,

> the traditional conception of the family holds that the father is head of the house, that the mother is entrusted with the care of the house and of the children . . . . Today, these values are being discarded by those who are creating developmental families, based on inter-personal relations of mutual affection, companionship, and understanding, with a recognition of individual capabilities, desires, and needs for the development of each member of the family, be he father, mother or child (p. 78).

To support these statements 32 fathers were interviewed. It was found that approximately three-fourths of the sample were predominantly developmentally focused with their children. In contrast, the subjects tended to view their wives as being traditional in their role as a parent.

Underwood (1949) was also interested in determining how fathers viewed their father-child relationship. All 20 veterans interviewed had at least one child between 2 and 5 years of age. Of the 20 fathers, 14 stated that they thought of their relationship to their child as that of companion and pal and 17 saw themselves as a teacher or guide to their children. Only 1 father viewed his role as a disciplinarian and 1 other father viewed himself as an elder to be respected.
Turner (1954) surveyed common characteristics among persons seeking professional marriage counseling. Included in the sample were 74 couples from which one or both spouses were seeking counseling. One of the major findings was the wives' complaint that their husbands were unwilling to help out about the house or give much attention to the children.

Emmerich (1962) mailed a questionnaire to both parents of 225 children in an attempt to relate parental role variations to the parent's sex and the child's sex and age. It was found that mothers were generally more nurturant and less restrictive. Both parents tended to exert more power toward the child of the same sex than the child of the opposite sex. It was determined that parental nurturant-restrictive patterns varied in relation to the child's age, especially toward sons.

**Personal Characteristics Role**

Buerkle, Anderson, and Badgley (1961) were interested in relating altruism, role conflict and marital adjustment. The sample studied was composed of 186 couples affiliated with religious organizations and 36 couples involved in marriage counseling. A test battery was used to collect the data. The concept altruism, that is sympathy and adaptability, was rejected as a general factor associated with adjusted interaction in marriage.
Katz, Goldston, Cohen, and Stucker (1963) paid 39 volunteer couples to answer three questionnaires in their laboratory and to take the spiral and ball test. They were interested in finding the relationship between need satisfaction, perception and cooperative interaction. It was concluded that the degree to which the husband's personality needs were satisfied was reflected in his evaluation of, and his ability to interact effectively with, his spouse. The same finding applied to the wives in the group. However, the wives who had their needs highly satisfied described their husbands more favorably than the wives in the low satisfied need group.

Cuber (1965) stated,

we have found in our non-clinical sample abundant evidence that the interplay of two people, and not simply the personalities of either, resulted in the kinds of relationships which exist (p. 54).

He compared 45 non-clinical cases to 45 clinical cases on certain sex practices, results of sexual behavior, and miscellaneous circumstances. No significant differences were found.

Steinmann and Fox (1966) studied male-female perceptions of the female role. Ten cluster samples totaling 837 women and six cluster samples totaling 423 men were included in the study. An inventory of feminine values was used to collect the data. It was concluded that women were pretty much what they wanted to be but not what men wanted them to
be. Even though 70% of the men were liberal in their view of women, the women saw men wanting them to be strongly family oriented. In addition, it was concluded that the women studied did not have a clear understanding of what men were expecting of them. However, the men were not consistently clear in all areas of their expectations.

Taylor (1967) related role perception, empathy and marriage adjustment. Comprising the sample were 50 adjusted and 50 maladjusted couples. A prepared questionnaire was used to collect data. It was concluded that the differences between the two groups supported the contention that conflicting messages may lead to difficulties in interpersonal relationships.

Social Participation Role

Wallin (1950) asked 163 women to complete a questionnaire and agree to an interview. The focus of the study centered on sex roles and cultural contradictions. It was concluded that a large number of college women feel they are expected to pretend to be inferior to men while viewing themselves as equal or superior.

Helfrich (1961) was interested in determining the expected role of the executive's wife. Questionnaires were used to collect data from 50 subjects. It was determined that the executive's wife was expected to care for the home, husband and children. She was also expected to entertain
his business associates and their mutual friends. In addition, she was expected to represent him as she participated in social and civic affairs.

Babchuk and Bates (1963) used schedules while interviewing 39 couples to determine their pattern of primary social relations. It was concluded that husbands initiate more mutual friendships for married couples than do wives. It was typically agreed to by both partners that the husband was dominant in social participation.

**Education Role**

Rose (1951) asked 256 students at the University of Minnesota to complete a questionnaire. On the basis of the data collected it was felt that there was a certain inconsistency, lack of definitiveness and realism for potential adult roles. It was determined that the women classified as being better off were not using their educational experience as well as the poorer women students in preparing for the future.

Glick and Carter (1958) related marriage patterns and educational level. There were approximately 9,000 persons married between 1947 and 1954 included in the study. The data indicated that the husband and wife had a similar educational level. Higher educational attainment was correlated with greater marriage stability. The better educated women tended to continue work longer after marriage and
tended to postpone childbearing longer than women with less education. Men who married and continued to live with their wives tended to have more education and income than men with broken marriages or men who remained as bachelors. It was suggested that the factors which encouraged persons to continue their education also discouraged them from dissolving their marriages.

**Employment and Support Role**

Mott (1950) studied 337 married students to correlate their conceptions of marital roles with status. It was determined that women who work full time tend to view their role in a conventional manner and women who work part time tend to view their role in a companionate manner. Husbands were more willing to conceive of the wife's role as companionate if she was not employed full time.

Gianopulos (1957) was interested in determining if marital conflict was influenced by the extent to which the husband approves or disapproves of his wife's employment. The sample studied was composed of three groups. The first group of 32 couples was composed of working wives and disapproving husbands, the second group of 43 couples was composed of working wives and approving husbands, and the third group of 59 couples was composed of non-working wives and their husbands. A marriage adjustment scale was used to rate the marriage. It was concluded that there was greater
conflict in the group of employed wives and disapproving husbands but all three groups had some elements of conflict.

Blood and Hamblin (1958) investigated the effect of the wife's employment on the family structure. The sample was composed of 160 couples. One-half of the wives were employed full time and the other half were full time housewives. All couples had been married at least 1 year but no longer than 6 years. The wives had been in their role 1 year or longer. It was determined that working wives did not have more influence in decision making. Both groups appeared to be equalitarian.

Powell (1961) examined the relationship between maternal employment and household tasks. A set of schedules and tests were administered to 130 middle-class mothers and their children. It was concluded that fewer household tasks were performed by employed mothers than non-employed mothers when children of elementary school age were in the home. Maids and other adults performed more household tasks in the homes of employed mothers than in the homes of non-employed mothers when the oldest child in the home was of preschool or early elementary school age.

Nye (1963) studied the marital interaction of 1,993 mothers. The thesis was presented that conflicting definitions of the mother role will result in more arguments and disagreements in the families of employed mothers. It was concluded that dissatisfaction with the wife's occupational
role by either the wife or the husband was in fact related to poor marital adjustment. However, no determination could be made as to which factor came first.

Axelson (1963) correlated marital adjustment and marital role definition of husbands of employed and unemployed wives. Data were collected with questionnaires from husbands only. It was concluded that the employed wife continued to be perceived as a real threat by males. Husbands of working wives, however, were not as traditional in their role expectations of her but did indicate a significantly greater amount of poor marital adjustment.

Scanzoni (1968) compared 160 existing marriages with 110 dissolved marriages. A block stratification sample method by social class was used to select subjects from existing marriages. Court divorce records were used as a source to collect subjects for the dissolved marriage sample. The existing marriage sample tended to be characterized by convergence over role expectations and rewards pertaining to employment of the husband and wife. Dissolved marriages tended to be characterized by a divergence over occupational norms and behavior of the husband and the wife.

Kaley (1971) used questionnaires to collect data on 60 subjects, of whom 35 were females and 24 were males. It was found that males and females differed significantly in their attitudes about the married professional woman's ability to
meet both home and career demands effectively. Males tended to feel that both roles could not be fulfilled effectively. Age, education, race, and the amount of professional experience did not affect the finding. It was concluded that society has not changed its overall traditional attitude toward married women who are employed.

In summary, the studies cited above indicate the general interest in examining marital role expectations and marital roles. However, the role categories examined in each study were limited in number or did not include both husbands' and wives' responses. There was no indication that a comprehensive study has been reported comparing the marital role expectations of husbands and wives seeking counseling with the marital role expectations of husbands and wives not seeking counseling.
CHAPTER III

METHOD AND PROCEDURES

This study has used a survey approach. Specific variables were controlled so that inferences could be made when comparing two groups of husbands and wives. One group of husbands and wives was seeking marriage or family counseling and the other group was not.

Subjects

Subjects for the seeking counseling group were obtained from 4 family agencies, 2 church sponsored programs, 3 community mental health centers, 2 state psychiatric hospitals, 2 university affiliated medical centers, 2 private practitioners, and 1 school social work program. The majority of the subjects lived in urban areas of the piedmont section in the state of North Carolina. Subjects for the not seeking counseling group were obtained from 3 homemakers, 1 study group, and 1 women's club. In addition, individuals were asked to participate. The majority of these subjects also lived in urban areas of the piedmont section in the state of North Carolina.

Both groups of subjects were composed of 47 legally married white couples and 5 legally married black couples.
The husbands and wives in the seeking counseling group had the following characteristics: The number of children in the home under 18 years of age ranged from 0 to 6. The length of marriage ranged from 1 to 32 years. Only 6 marriages in the seeking counseling group were classified as a second marriage for one or both of the marital partners. The husbands and wives in this group were predominantly Protestant and had at least a high school education. The age for husbands and wives ranged from 16 years to 50 years.

The husbands and wives in the not seeking counseling group had the following characteristics: The number of children in the home under 18 years of age ranged from 0 to 4. The length of marriage ranged from 1 to 31 years. Only 4 marriages in the not seeking counseling group were classified as a second marriage for one or both of the marital partners. The husbands and wives in this group were also predominantly Protestant. All husbands and wives had at least a high school education. The age for this group ranged from 17 years to 56 years.

No precise measurement was applied to determine social class. However, it was apparent that the majority of the husbands and wives fell within the middle class because of the activities in which they were involved. For example, club memberships have been accepted as middle-class activities. In addition, most of the agencies from which the
husbands and wives were drawn have traditionally served middle-class clients.

**Procedures**

Individual contacts were made with various agencies and private practitioners in the piedmont area in the state of North Carolina. The scope and purpose of this study were explained. In addition, explanations were given as to the nature of the instruments and what instructions should be given to the clients participating in the study. It was clearly explained that the instruments, which consisted of Dunn's (1963) *Marriage Role Expectation Inventory* and a *General Information Face Sheet* (Appendix D), should be administered to clients who met certain criteria. The criteria for eligibility consisted of the following: Clients must have a well defined marriage or family problem, have been seen in counseling interviews less than 5 times, and have agreed to participate in the study voluntarily. In addition, both the husband and wife must have contact with the agency even though one might have been considered the primary client. Some agencies allowed their clients to take the instruments home whereas other agencies allowed their clients to complete the instruments in the agency. The completed inventory and face sheet were subsequently returned to the writer by mail or were picked up by the writer from the agency. A completed profile sheet with scores and interpretative
comments about each couple was returned to the agency and to the private practitioner. The profile sheet was coded in accordance with a pre-arranged agency code number to protect the identity of the client.

Individual contacts were made with representatives of several clubs and groups to obtain subjects for the not seeking counseling group. The scope and purpose of the study were explained. Instructions were given as to how club members were to complete each inventory and face sheet. The criteria for eligibility to participate in the study included the following: Each club member had to volunteer. Each club member had to agree to ask their spouse to participate in the study. Finally, the two spouses had to agree to complete the inventories and face sheets without consulting each other. The husbands and wives returned the instruments by mail or some other means. A pre-arranged code number was assigned each husband and wife to protect their identity.

Both groups completed the inventory and face sheet on a self-administered basis during March, April, and the early part of May, 1972.

**Instruments**

Dunn's (1963) Marriage Role Expectation Inventory was used to obtain marriage role expectations in the eight categories described previously. The General Information Face
Sheet was used to collect personal information from each subject.

Dunn's inventory consists of two forms, Form F for females and Form M for males. There are a total of 71 items in each form. On 34 items the subjects respond to equalitarian oriented questions by circling strongly agree, agree, uncertain, disagree or strongly disagree. In the same manner the subjects respond to 37 traditionally oriented items. The inventory is divided into seven areas of role behavior expectation. These include authority, homemaking, care of children, personal characteristics, social participation, education, and employment and support. A total marriage role expectation score is obtained by simply adding the total scores in each of the seven areas.

The inventory is scored in the following manner: Strongly agree or agree answers to equalitarian items and strongly disagree or disagree answers to traditional items are counted as a correct score of +1. All other answers are scored 0. The higher the score the more equalitarian the subject tends to be.

The inventory has been used with adolescents, college students and adults. It has also been used with single, engaged and married couples.

Reliability. Dunn (1963) established reliability utilizing a split half correlation coefficient computed on the scores of 50 subjects on the odd and even number items in
the inventory. The coefficient of .95 was corrected to .975 utilizing the Spearman-Brown method.

Validity. Unstructured responses from adolescents concerning their role expectations furnished the original items. From these responses 111 items were selected by 13 professionally qualified judges. The final items were selected in terms of the degree to which they differed between the extreme groups on various measures. Only items which discriminated at the 5% level or higher were used.

Preliminary study. There apparently has been no previous research attempt to use Dunn's inventory intact with married adults. However, Geiken (1964) used a modified form of the inventory to study 190 couples in three role categories. These categories included housekeeping, child care, and authority. Marriage counselors have also used the inventory as an adjunct to pre-marriage, marriage, and family counseling.

A pilot study (Anderson, 1972) was initiated to test the appropriateness of the instrument for this study. Graduate students and middle-class housewives were contrasted in their marital role expectations. In all 17 female students and 15 housewives were included in the study. The mean age for the students was 27.8 years and the mean age for the housewives was 29.0 years. The age range for the students was 22 years to 55 years of age. The age range for the housewives was 23 years to 37 years of age. Of the 17
students 11 were or had been married. All 15 housewives were living with their husbands. Dunn's inventory was self-administered to both groups. Significant differences at or below the .05 level of probability were found in all eight role categories. The students were found to be more equalitarian than the housewives in their marital role expectations, a predictable result.

The Spearman-Brown split half method was used in determining reliability on all 71 items. A reliability coefficient of .82 was established with the students and a reliability coefficient of .86 was established with the housewives. Both reliability coefficients compared favorably with the reliability coefficient of .975 established by Dunn (1963) in her original study. Brief follow-up interviews were held with some of the students and housewives to determine if the instrument seemed appropriate. No major questions were raised by the subjects.

An informal study was initiated to determine the usefulness of the instrument with adult males. The inventory was self-administered to 17 male graduate students who ranged in age from 23 years to 48 years. The mean age was 28.11 years. Of the 17 males 11 were married. The Spearman-Brown split half method was again used in determining reliability on all 71 items. A reliability coefficient of .71 was established.
Dunn (1963) has arbitrarily established scores for the total role expectations of Traditional (0-18), Moderately Traditional (19-35), Moderately Equalitarian (36-53), and Equalitarian (54-71). No explanation has been given for the differentiation. On the basis of the data collected from the study of female graduate students and middle-class housewives, the **Traditional Role Expectation** range was established to encompass those scores falling from 0 to 53. Many housewives scoring within the moderately equalitarian range in the pilot study were known to have traditional expectations. The **Equalitarian Role Expectation** range was subsequently established to encompass those scores falling from 54 to 71.

**Techniques For Controlling Variables**

Three variables were used for matching purposes in this study. Van Dalen (1966) stated that matching on more than 2 or 3 variables could limit the possible number of subjects who might be included. The variables selected for this study were race, length of marriage, and the number of dependent children in the home.

Race has been recognized by Simpson and Yinger (1953) as affecting family interaction. For the purpose of this study race was defined as a group of physical characteristics which place an individual in either the Negroid or Caucasian racial group. All other racial groups were excluded. Race was precisely matched in this study.
The length of marriage and the number of dependent children in the home were selected for matching variables because of their relationship to developmental tasks found within the family life cycle as depicted by Duvall (1957). Marital role expectations have been influenced by the stage of the family life cycle in which the couples fall. The length of marriage, for the purpose of this study, referred to the time lapse from the legal ceremony which united one woman and one man in marriage. The number of dependent children in the home referred to the number of children under 18 years of age belonging to the husband and or to the wife who were residing in the home.

In all cases the length of marriage was matched within a 2 year range. For example, if one couple in one group had been married 4 years, then the matching couple in the other group had to be married within the range of 2 to 6 years.

The range used for matching the number of dependent children was 0 children, 1-2 children, and 3 or more children.

An attempt was made to match precisely as possible on the number of marriages experienced by couples in both groups of subjects. This was not always possible but the majority of the couples were precisely matched.
Finally, it was believed that by matching on length of marriage and number of dependent children, and as closely as possible on the number of marriages, that the age variable could also be controlled. Age was recognized as a third variable closely related to the family life cycle concept.

**Statistical Analysis**

The *t*-test was used to determine if there were significant differences between the mean scores of the two groups on the variables length of marriage and number of dependent children. Race was matched precisely. To determine if there was a significant difference between the number of marriages each group had experienced a chi square test was used. A one way analysis of variance was used to determine if there were significant differences between the mean ages of the two groups of husbands and wives.

A two way analysis of variance was used to contrast the difference between the two matched groups and the husbands and wives in each marital role category. The Tele Storage and Retrieval System (TSAR) was used through the computer program facilities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The F-Max Test was used to establish homogeneity of variance.

A chi square test was used to determine if there was a significant difference between the number of couples seeking counseling and the number of couples not seeking counseling.
who fell within the equalitarian range or the traditional range of marital role expectation.

To determine the correlation between the couples' marital role expectations in the group seeking counseling and the group not seeking counseling the Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used through the computer program facilities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This test was applied to all eight categories. In addition, a test (Walker & Lev, 1953, pp. 255-256) was used to transform correlation values into $z_r$ values and $z$ scores to determine if the group of husbands and wives not seeking counseling had a significantly greater correlation in the positive direction than the other group. Finally, the $t$-test for related measures was used to determine if there was a significant difference between the average correlations of the group seeking counseling and the group not seeking counseling.

A chi square was used to test for significant differences in the number of undecided and opinionated scores between the group seeking counseling and the group not seeking counseling.

Statistical differences at or below the .05 level of probability were considered significant.
CHAPTER IV

RESULTS OF ANALYSIS

The results of the statistical analysis of the data obtained from the two groups of husbands and wives are reported in the following sections.

**Matched and Control Variables**

*Matched variables.* When utilizing a t-test for determining the difference between two independent means a t value of .37 was obtained when comparing the mean number of children between the group of husbands and wives seeking counseling and the group of husbands and wives not seeking counseling. This value was not significant at $p < .05$. The same test was used to compare the mean number of years of marriage between the two groups. A t value of .09 was obtained and it was not significant at $p < .05$. Race was precisely matched and no statistical test was indicated.

*Control variables.* To compare age differences between the individuals in the two groups of couples a one way analysis of variance was used. An F value of .20 was obtained and this value was not significant at $p < .05$. A chi square test was used to compare the number of couples in the two groups in which one or both partners were experiencing a
second marriage. A $X^2$ value of 0.37 was obtained. This value was not significant at $p \leq 0.05$.

**Hypothesis I**

The results of the statistical tests utilized in testing for significant differences at $p \leq 0.05$ between the mean scores obtained on the marital role expectation inventory by the husbands and the wives in the two groups of subjects have been reported in the following sections. The F-Max Test indicated homogeneity of variance.

**Total Role Expectation.** TABLE 1 shows the results of the two way analysis of variance when differences were tested in the Total Role Expectation category.

**TABLE 1**

Analysis of Variance: Total Role Expectation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Husbands and wives seeking counseling versus husbands and wives not seeking counseling</td>
<td>888.94</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>888.94</td>
<td>14.66*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All husbands versus all wives</td>
<td>73.92</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>73.92</td>
<td>1.22 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>69.23</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>69.23</td>
<td>1.14 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Error</td>
<td>12,373.88</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>60.66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = $p \leq 0.05$.

ns = not significant at $p \leq 0.05$. 
There was a significant difference between the mean scores of the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling at $p < .05$. The mean score for the group seeking counseling was 53.4 and for the group not seeking counseling 57.6. The Scheffé Test also indicated significant differences between the two groups of husbands and wives at $p < .05$. Therefore, Hypothesis I as it pertained to the Total Role Expectation category was accepted. The husbands and wives not seeking counseling were more equalitarian in their expectations than the husbands and wives seeking counseling.

**Authority Role Expectation.** TABLE 2 shows the results of the two way analysis of variance when differences were tested in the Authority Role Expectation category.

**TABLE 2**

Analysis of Variance: Authority Role Expectation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Husbands and wives seeking counseling versus husbands and wives not seeking counseling</td>
<td>17.89</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17.89</td>
<td>5.65*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All husbands versus all wives</td>
<td>.04</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.04</td>
<td>.01 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>.04</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.04</td>
<td>.01 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Error</td>
<td>645.44</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>3.16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* $= p < .05$.
  
  ns = not significant at $p \geq .05$. 

There was a significant difference between the mean scores of the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling at \( p < .05 \). The mean score for the group seeking counseling was 8.0 and for the group not seeking counseling 8.6. The value yielded by the analysis of variance, though significant, was low and therefore was not substantiated by the Scheffé Test. However, Hypothesis I as it pertained to the Authority Role Expectation category was accepted. The husbands and wives not seeking counseling were more equalitarian in their expectations than the husbands and wives seeking counseling.

Homemaking Role Expectation. TABLE 3 shows the results of the two way analysis of variance when differences were tested in the Homemaking Role Expectation category.

### TABLE 3

Analysis of Variance: Homemaking Role Expectation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Husbands and wives seeking counseling versus husbands and wives not seeking counseling</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>.68 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All husbands versus all wives</td>
<td>4.92</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.92</td>
<td>.89 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>.50 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Error</td>
<td>1124.23</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>5.51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\( ns = \text{not significant at } p < .05. \)
No significant differences were found between the mean scores of the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling at $p < .05$. The mean score for the group seeking counseling was 7.9 and for the group not seeking counseling 8.2. Therefore, Hypothesis I as it pertained to the Homemaking Role Expectation category was rejected.

Care of Children Role Expectation. TABLE 4 shows the results of the two way analysis of variance when differences were tested in the Care of Children Role Expectation category.

### TABLE 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Husbands and wives seeking counseling versus husbands and wives not seeking counseling</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>1.48 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All husbands versus all wives</td>
<td>.38</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.38</td>
<td>.19 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>.53 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Error</td>
<td>414.94</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>2.03</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$ns =$ not significant at $p < .05$. 
No significant differences were found between the mean scores of the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling at \( p \geq .05 \). The mean score for the group seeking counseling was 10.2 and for the group not seeking counseling 10.4. Therefore, Hypothesis I as it pertained to the Care of Children Role Expectation category was rejected.

**Personal Characteristics Role Expectation.** TABLE 5 shows the results of the two-way analysis of variance when differences were tested in the Personal Characteristics Role Expectation category.

**TABLE 5**

*Analysis of Variance: Personal Characteristics Role Expectation*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Husbands and wives seeking counseling versus hus-</td>
<td>26.33</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>26.33</td>
<td>16.64*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bands and wives not seeking counseling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All husbands and all wives</td>
<td>.94</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.94</td>
<td>.60 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>.02</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.02</td>
<td>.01 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Error</td>
<td>322.69</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = \( p \leq .05 \).

ns = not significant at \( p \geq .05 \).
There was a significant difference between the mean scores of the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling at \( p < .05 \). The mean score for the group seeking counseling was 6.4 and for the group not seeking counseling 7.1. The Scheffé Test also indicated significant differences between the two groups of husbands and wives at \( p < .05 \). Therefore, Hypothesis I as it pertained to the Personal Characteristics Role Expectation category was accepted. The husbands and wives not seeking counseling were more equalitarian than the husbands and wives seeking counseling in their expectations.

**Social Participation Role Expectation.** TABLE 6 shows the results of the two way analysis of variance when differences were tested in the Social Participation Role Expectation category. There was a significant difference between the mean scores of the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling at \( p < .05 \). The mean score for the group seeking counseling was 7.9 and for the group not seeking counseling 9.1. In addition to the significant differences between the two groups, the Scheffé indicated a significant difference between the husbands and the wives seeking counseling at \( p < .05 \). Hypothesis I as it pertained to the Social Participation Role Expectation category was accepted. The husbands and wives not seeking counseling were more equalitarian than the husbands and wives seeking counseling.
TABLE 6
Analysis of Variance: Social Participation Role Expectation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Husbands and wives seeking counseling versus husbands and wives not seeking counseling</td>
<td>68.08</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>68.08</td>
<td>20.85*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All husbands versus all wives</td>
<td>9.74</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.74</td>
<td>2.98 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>4.04</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.04</td>
<td>1.24 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Error</td>
<td>666.02</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = p < .05.
ns = not significant at p ≤ .05.

Employment and Support Role Expectation. TABLE 7 shows the results of the two way analysis of variance when differences were tested in the Employment and Support Role Expectation category. No significant differences were found between the mean scores of the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling at the p ≤ .05 level. The mean score for the group seeking counseling was 4.7 and for the group not seeking counseling 5.0. However, when testing for differences between the mean scores of all husbands and all wives an F value of 20.58 was found significant at the p < .05 level. The mean score for all the husbands was 4.5 and for all the wives 5.3. The
Scheffe Test also indicated a significant difference between husbands seeking counseling and husbands not seeking counseling at $p < .05$. Hypothesis I as it pertained to the Employment and Support Role Expectation category was rejected.

**TABLE 7**

Analysis of Variance: Employment and Support Role Expectation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Husbands and wives seeking counseling versus husbands and wives not seeking counseling</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>2.08 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All husbands versus all wives</td>
<td>37.23</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>37.23</td>
<td>20.58*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>5.56</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.56</td>
<td>3.07 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Error</td>
<td>369.11</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>1.81</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = $p < .05$.
ns = not significant at $p < .05$.

**Education Role Expectation.** TABLE 8 shows the results of the two way analysis of variance when differences were tested in the Education Role Expectation category. There was a significant difference between the mean scores of the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling at the $p < .05$ level. The mean score for the group seeking counseling was 8.1 and for the
group not seeking counseling. The Scheffé Test indicated a strong trend toward a significant difference between the two groups at $p < .05$. Therefore, Hypothesis I as it pertained to the Education Role Expectation category was accepted. The husbands and wives not seeking counseling were more equalitarian in their expectations than the husbands and wives seeking counseling.

**TABLE 8**

Analysis of Variance: Education Role Expectation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>$F$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Husbands and wives seeking counseling versus husbands and wives not seeking counseling</td>
<td>56.08</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>56.08</td>
<td>13.75*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All husbands versus all wives</td>
<td>6.23</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.23</td>
<td>1.53 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.77</td>
<td>.92 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Error</td>
<td>832.15</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = $p < .05$.
ns = not significant at $p < .05$.

**Hypothesis II**

The results of the statistical test utilized in testing for differences between the number of husbands and wives seeking counseling and the number of husbands and wives not seeking counseling who fell in the equalitarian or
traditional attitudinal ranges of the Total Role Expectation category have been reported below. A chi square test was used to test for differences.

TABLE 9 shows the results of the chi square when comparing the number of husbands and wives in each group who were either equalitarian, traditional, or mixed in their expectations toward marriage role play.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Both equalitarian</th>
<th>1 Traditional equalitarian</th>
<th>Both traditional</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Husbands and wives seeking counseling</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husbands and wives not seeking counseling</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ \text{df} = 2 \]

\[ \chi^2 = 7.44 (p < .05) \]

A \( \chi^2 \) value of 7.44 was obtained. This value was significant at the \( p < .05 \) level. Therefore, Hypothesis II was rejected because of the significance. More husbands and wives not seeking counseling were equalitarian in their marital role expectations than the husbands and wives seeking counseling.
In contrast, more husbands and wives seeking counseling were traditional in their expectations than husbands and wives not seeking counseling.

Equalitarian and traditional marriages were combined in "agree" and "disagree" categories. The number of husbands and wives who agreed and disagreed was examined to determine if there was a significant difference between the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling. A $\chi^2$ value of .19 was obtained. With one degree of freedom this value was found not significant at the $p \leq .05$ level.

**Hypothesis III**

The Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to determine the relationship between the couples' marital role expectations in the group of husbands and wives seeking counseling and in the group of husbands and wives not seeking counseling. **TABLE 10** shows the correlation values. Significant correlations at $p \leq .05$ were found in 6 of 8 role expectation categories for the group of husbands and wives seeking counseling. The same number of significant correlations were found for the group of husbands and wives not seeking counseling.
TABLE 10
Correlation Values of the Total and Individual Role Expectations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role expectation category</th>
<th>Husbands and wives seeking counseling</th>
<th>Husbands and wives not seeking counseling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authority</td>
<td>.38*</td>
<td>.41*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homemaking</td>
<td>.48*</td>
<td>.45*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of Children</td>
<td>.45*</td>
<td>.58*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Characteristics</td>
<td>.41*</td>
<td>.17 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Participation</td>
<td>.22 ns</td>
<td>.34*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>.40*</td>
<td>.45*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment and Support</td>
<td>.18 ns</td>
<td>.20 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>.53*</td>
<td>.52*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = $p < .05$.
ns = not significant at $p \leq .05$.

The correlation values were then converted into $z_r$ values and z scores to determine if there were significant differences in the correlation values between the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling. The purpose of the $z_r$ conversion was to convert the correlations into normal distributions (Walker & Lev, 1953). No significant differences were found. TABLE 11 shows the results of the conversion procedure.


**TABLE 11**

Conversion of Correlation Values into $z_r$ Values and $z$ Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role expectation category</th>
<th>$z_r$ value for husbands and wives seeking counseling</th>
<th>$z_r$ value for husbands and wives not seeking counseling</th>
<th>$z$ score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authority</td>
<td>.40</td>
<td>.44</td>
<td>.198 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homemaking</td>
<td>.52</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>.148 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care of Children</td>
<td>.48</td>
<td>.66</td>
<td>.891 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Characteristics</td>
<td>.44</td>
<td>.17</td>
<td>1.337 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Participation</td>
<td>.22</td>
<td>.35</td>
<td>.643 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>.43</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>.297 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment and Support</td>
<td>.18</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>.099 ns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>.59</td>
<td>.58</td>
<td>.049 ns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$ns = \text{not significant at } p \leq .05.$

Therefore, Hypothesis III was rejected. There were no significant differences between the correlations of the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling.

One final statistical test was used. The $z_r$ values for the husbands and wives seeking counseling and for the
husbands and wives not seeking counseling were tested for differences using a t-test for related measures. A t value of .12 was obtained and found not to be significant at the p ≤ .05 level. It was concluded that there was no significant difference between the mean scores of the average correlations of the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling.

Undecided and Strong Opinion Responses

Chi square tests were used to investigate differences in the number of couples seeking counseling and couples not seeking counseling who fell above, below, or had one spouse falling above and one spouse falling below the mean scores for their respective group on the undecided and strong opinion responses. A X² value of .79 was obtained when comparing the two groups on the undecided responses. A X² value of .20 was obtained when comparing the two groups on the strong opinionated responses. Neither value was significant at p ≤ .05.
CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Perhaps at the onset of this discussion several general statements concerning the results of the statistical analysis should be made.

1. Five variables, of which four were related to the family life cycle concept, were adequately controlled to insure no significant differences between the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling.

2. The group of husbands and wives seeking counseling were more traditional in their expectations toward marital role play. The group of husbands and wives not seeking counseling were more equalitarian in their expectations toward marital role play.

3. In general the majority of husbands and wives in each group had the same expectations toward marital role play.

4. The husbands' and wives' responses in the not seeking counseling group were not significantly more correlated than the husbands' and wives' responses in the seeking counseling group.
5. The husbands and wives in the groups did not differ significantly on the number of undecided and strong responses in relation to their own respective mean score.

**Expectations Toward Marital Role Play**

The group of husbands and wives not seeking help obtained a significantly higher mean score in the Total Role Expectation category than the group of husbands and wives seeking counseling. As a result the husbands and wives not seeking counseling were considered more equalitarian in their expectations toward marital role play. This finding was further supported by the significantly higher number of the husbands and wives not seeking counseling who fell within the equalitarian range of marital role expectations. In contrast, a significantly higher number of the husbands and wives seeking counseling fell within the traditional range of marital role expectations.

In four of the individual role expectation categories significant differences were found between the mean scores of the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling. These four categories included the Authority Role Expectation category, the Personal Characteristics Role Expectation category, the Social Participation Role Expectation category, and the Education Role Expectation category. Within each of these
categories the husbands and wives not seeking counseling obtained a higher mean score. As a result the husbands and wives not seeking counseling were considered more equalitarian in their expectations toward marital role play within each of the four individual role expectation categories.

In three of the individual role expectation categories no significant differences were found between the mean scores of the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling. However, the husbands and wives not seeking counseling still obtained slightly higher mean scores in the Care of Children Role Expectation category, Homemaking Role Expectation category, and in the Employment and Support Role Expectation category.

The significant findings discussed above are compatible with Lu's (1952) findings. Lu implied that the less than equalitarian marital relationship was positively correlated with an unsatisfactory relationship. The husbands and wives seeking counseling expressed expectations less equalitarian than the husbands and wives not seeking counseling. Though it could not be determined that the husbands and wives not seeking counseling were better adjusted, it was determined that the husbands and wives seeking counseling were experiencing marriage or family problems.

In one individual role expectation category a significant difference was found between the mean scores of all
husbands and all wives. The wives as a group were significantly more equalitarian than the husbands as a group in the Employment and Support Role Expectation category. This finding is compatible with Kaley's (1971) conclusion that the overall traditional attitude toward married women working has not changed. However, in all other categories husbands and wives expressed the same expectations toward marital role play.

In summary, when significant differences were found the group of husbands and wives seeking counseling obtained a lower or more traditional mean score than the group of husbands and wives not seeking counseling.

One might speculate that two factors have led to the finding that husbands and wives seeking counseling are more traditional. First, couples with traditional expectations toward marital role play have been known to be rigid in role expectation and the subsequent fulfillment of the role. Rigidity has been known to lead to an uncompromising position. In turn an uncompromising position has led to conflict and the need for counseling. Finally, contemporary society has emphasized change and equalitarian attitudes. This emphasis by the society could have created strain in a traditional marriage and indirectly created a need for the couple to seek marriage or family counseling.

As reported in Chapter IV no significant differences were found between the correlation values for the group of
husbands and wives seeking counseling and the group of husbands and wives not seeking counseling. However, when comparing the relationship of the responses between husbands and wives in each group significant correlations were found in six role expectation categories for each group.

Husbands and wives seeking counseling had significant correlations in the Authority Role Expectation category, Homemaking Role Expectation category, Care of Children Role Expectation category, Personal Characteristics Role Expectation category, Education Role Expectation category, and the Total Role Expectation category. Husbands and wives not seeking counseling differed from the former in only two categories. This group did not have a significant correlation in Personal Characteristics Role Expectation category but did have one in the Social Participation Role Expectation category.

Neither group had significant correlation values in the Employment and Support Role Expectation category.

All correlations were in the positive direction. Only two significant correlations were under .40 indicating that the husbands and wives in each group agreed substantially in their expectations.

The general finding that no significant differences were found between the correlation values for the group of husbands and wives seeking counseling and the group of husbands and wives not seeking counseling appeared to be in
conflict with the findings of Mangus (1957), Kotlar (1965), and Scanzoni (1968). All three writers concluded that role incongruency is associated with poor marital adjustment. However, the general finding appeared to be compatible with that of Hobart and Klausner (1959) who found no relationship between congruency of roles and marital adjustment. Finally, Cuber (1965) concluded that those who seek marriage counseling are not radically different from those not seeking counseling. The second general finding of this study also appeared to be compatible with this conclusion.

Data have not been obtained which would allow a comparison of the level of adjustment between the two groups studied. However, it has been established that the husbands and wives seeking counseling had well defined marriage or family problems at the time of completing the face sheet and inventory. The husbands and wives not seeking counseling reported that they had never sought counseling for a marriage or family problem. Therefore, it has been assumed that whatever problems they have experienced have been handled within the home with the aid of some type of stabilizing mechanism. If this assumption is valid, then the group seeking counseling would have been expected to obtain lower correlation values leading to a significant difference between the correlation values of the two groups of husbands and wives. However, this was not the situation.
The writer has speculated that there is a difference between role expectations and role enactments. Tharp (1963) has subscribed to this theory. One major conclusion drawn by Tharp in his study of married couples was that role enactments sometimes differed from role expectations. Role enactments were not measured in this study only expectations of how roles should be enacted.
CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

Two major questions were raised by this study. First, what were the marital role expectations of the husbands and wives seeking marriage or family counseling, and how do their expectations compare with the husbands and wives not seeking marriage or family counseling. Secondly, were the scores of husbands and wives seeking family or marriage counseling less positively correlated than the husbands and wives not seeking family or marriage counseling.

Two groups of husbands and wives were studied. Each group was composed of 52 legally married couples. One group of husbands and wives was seeking marriage or family counseling and the other group of husbands and wives was not seeking marriage or family counseling. Both groups were matched on three variables which included race, length of marriage and number of dependent children. Two other variables were controlled. These included age and number of marriages. Three hypotheses were tested.

Hypothesis I stated that there would be a significant difference between the scores obtained on a marital role expectation inventory by the husbands and wives seeking
counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling. This hypothesis was accepted in four categories and rejected in three others. Significant differences were found in the Total Role Expectation category, the Authority Role Expectation category, the Personal Characteristics Role Expectation category, the Social Participation Role Expectation category, and the Education Role Expectation category at the $p < .05$ level. Significant differences were not found in the Care of Children Role Expectation category, and the Homemaking Role Expectation category. No significant differences were found between the husbands and wives seeking counseling and the husbands and wives not seeking counseling in the Employment and Support Role Expectation category. However, a significant difference between the mean scores of the husbands and wives at the $p < .05$ level was found in this role category.

Hypothesis II stated that no difference would be found in the number of husbands and wives seeking counseling and the number of husbands and wives not seeking counseling who fell in the equalitarian and traditional ranges of total role expectations. This hypothesis was rejected at the $p < .05$ level. Husbands and wives seeking counseling fell more often in the traditional range of total role expectations. In contrast, husbands and wives not seeking counseling fell more often in the equalitarian range of total role expectations.
Hypothesis III stated that the correlations between husbands' and wives' marital role expectation scores in each of the eight categories for the group not seeking counseling would be significantly greater, in the positive direction, than the correlations for the group seeking counseling. This hypothesis was also rejected at the \( p < .05 \) level.

Conclusions

When matching husbands and wives seeking counseling with husbands and wives not seeking counseling, on the race, length of marriage, and number of dependent children in the home variables, and when controlling for the age variable and the number of marriages variable, the following conclusions can be drawn when comparing the two groups' marriage role expectations.

1. Husbands and wives seeking counseling express more traditional expectations toward marital role play whereas husbands and wives not seeking counseling express more equalitarian expectations toward marital role play.

2. Husbands and wives not seeking counseling do not have a significantly greater and more positive correlation in their responses to items on a marriage role expectation inventory than husbands and wives seeking counseling.
Recommendations

This study has been limited, as most of the studies reviewed, in that it only considered expectations of husbands and wives toward marriage role play. In addition, the majority of the participants in this study were white middle-class couples. In essence only expectations, and not behavior, were measured.

The assumption that there is a difference between role expectation and role enactment has been accepted by the writer. Therefore, measuring only expectations has limited the scope of this study. In the future, consideration should be given to determining what the differences are between marital role expectations and marital role enactments. Perhaps when such a study has been made a more accurate assessment of marriage and family role theories can be made.

It is further believed that it will be beneficial to the field of marriage and family relationships to conceptualize, define, and compare the types of problem coping mechanisms used by husbands and wives seeking counseling and by husbands and wives not seeking counseling.
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APPENDIX A
LIST OF INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES ASSISTING IN DATA COLLECTION

Miss Velma Bell
Family Service-Travelers Aid
Greensboro, North Carolina

Mrs. Katherine Buckner
Family Counseling Center
Durham, North Carolina

Mr. Jerreal R. Buchanan
Parkwood Baptist Church
Durham, North Carolina

Dr. Philip W. Cooke
UNC School of Social Work
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Mrs. Virginia Deal
Family Mental Health Services
Hickory, North Carolina

Mrs. Betty Dudley
Parkwood Homemakers Club
Durham, North Carolina

Miss Martha Edmonson
County Agricultural Extension Service
Durham, North Carolina

Mrs. Ruth Fuller
Dorothea Dix Hospital
Raleigh, North Carolina

Mr. George Hayes
John Umstead Hospital
Butner, North Carolina

Mrs. Francis Jacobs
Dorothea Dix Hospital
Raleigh, North Carolina

Mr. Edgar Mackey
Dorothea Dix Hospital
Raleigh, North Carolina

Mr. Blan Minton
North Carolina Memorial Hospital
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Mrs. Patricia Newman
W. H. Trentman Mental Health Center
Raleigh, North Carolina

Mrs. Alice Pierce
Family Service-Travelers Aid
Raleigh, North Carolina

Mrs. Isabelle Powell
The Forum
Greensboro, North Carolina

Dr. E. M. Rallings
Department of Sociology
UNC-G
Greensboro, North Carolina

Mr. Joe Short
Alamance Caswell Mental Health Center
Burlington, North Carolina
(Appendix A, List of Individuals and Agencies Assisting in Data Collection)

Mr. Floyd Sides  
Lutheran Institution Chaplaincy Advisory Committee  
Durham, North Carolina

Mrs. Linda Upton  
Parkwood Woman's Club  
Durham, North Carolina

Mrs. Lilly Wang  
Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, North Carolina

Mrs. Hazel Wishnov  
Durham County Mental Health Center  
Durham, North Carolina
APPENDIX B

File No.______________

FORM F
MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATION INVENTORY
by
Marie S. Dunn

On the pages that follow you will find brief statements of marriage expectations for husbands and wives. As you read these statements think about what you expect from your own marriage and indicate your opinion of each statement in one of the following ways:

1. If you strongly agree with a statement draw a circle around the letters SA.

2. If you agree with a statement draw a circle around the letter A.

3. When you are undecided as to your opinion of a statement put a circle around U.

4. If you disagree with a statement draw a circle around the letter D.

5. If you strongly disagree with the statement draw a circle around the letters SD.

As you read begin each statement with the phrase, "In my marriage I expect . . . ."

The Marriage Role Expectation Inventory is not a test. The only right and helpful answers will be those in which you truly show what you expect of your own marriage.

DO NOT CONSULT WITH YOUR COURTSHIP PARTNER, FIANCE(E) OR MARRIAGE PARTNER WHILE COMPLETING THIS INVENTORY.
Please Answer Every Question

Key for marking items below. SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; U = Undecided; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

SA A U D SD 1. that if there is a difference of opinion, my husband will decide where to live.

SA A U D SD 2. that my opinion will carry as much weight as my husband's in money matters.

SA A U D SD 3. my husband to help with the housework.

SA A U D SD 4. that it would be undesirable for me to be better educated than my husband.

SA A U D SD 5. that if we marry before going to college, my husband and I will do our best to go on to earn college degrees.

SA A U D SD 6. to combine motherhood and a career if that proves possible.

SA A U D SD 7. my husband to be the "boss" who says what is to be done and what is not to be done.

SA A U D SD 8. that I will be as well informed as my husband concerning the family's financial status, and business affairs.

SA A U D SD 9. my husband to leave the care of the children entirely up to me when they are babies.

SA A U D SD 10. my husband to be as interested in spending time with the girls as with the boys in our family.

SA A U D SD 11. that if I prefer a career to having children, we will have the right to make that choice.

SA A U D SD 12. that for the most successful family living my husband and I will need more than a high school education.
SA A U D SD 13. it will be more important for me to be a good cook and housekeeper than for me to be an attractive, interesting companion.

SA A U D SD 14. that being married will not keep my husband from going to college.

SA A U D SD 15. that the family "schedule" such as when meals are served and when the television can be turned on will be determined by my husband's wishes and working hours.

SA A U D SD 16. that my husband and I will share responsibility for work if both of us work outside the home.

SA A U D SD 17. that keeping the yard, making repairs, and doing outside chores will be the responsibility of whoever has the time and wishes to do them.

SA A U D SD 18. if my husband is a good worker, respectable and faithful to his family, other personal characteristics are of considerably less importance.

SA A U D SD 19. it will be more important that as a wife I have a good family background than that I have a compatible personality and get along well with people.

SA A U D SD 20. that almost all money matters will be decided by my husband.

SA A U D SD 21. that my husband and I shall have equal privileges in such things as going out at night.

SA A U D SD 22. that my husband's major responsibility to our children will be to make a good living, provide a home and make them mind.

SA A U D SD 23. that since doing things like laundry, cleaning, and child care are women's work, my husband will feel no responsibility for them.
(Appendix B, Form F continued)

SA A U D SD 24. week-ends to be a period of rest for my husband, so he will not be expected to assist with cooking and housekeeping.

SA A U D SD 25. that if my husband helps with the housework, I will help with outside chores such as keeping the yard, painting or repairing the house.

SA A U D SD 26. that my husband and I will have equal voice in decisions affecting the family as a whole.

SA A U D SD 27. that after marriage I will forget an education and make a home for my husband.

SA A U D SD 28. that I will love and respect my husband regardless of the kind of work he does.

SA A U D SD 29. to work outside the home if I enjoy working more than staying at home.

SA A U D SD 30. that both my husband and I will concern ourselves with the social and emotional development of our children.

SA A U D SD 31. it will be just as important for my husband to be congenial, love and enjoy his family as to earn a good living.

SA A U D SD 32. that it will be equally as important that as a wife I am affectionate and understanding as that I am thrifty and skillful in housekeeping.

SA A U D SD 33. that it will be my husband's responsibility and privilege to choose where we will go and what we will do when we go out.

SA A U D SD 34. to manage my time so that I can show a genuine interest in what our children do.

SA A U D SD 35. that I will let my husband tell me how to vote.
that my husband and I will take an active interest together in what's going on in our community.

that if I can cook, sew, keep house, and care for children any other kind of education for me is unnecessary.

that having compatible personalities will be considerably less important to us than such characteristics as being religious, honest, and hard working.

it will be only natural that my husband will be the one concerned about politics and what is going on in the world.

to accept the fact that my husband will devote most of his time to getting ahead and becoming a success.

that being married should cause little or no change in my husband's social or recreational activities.

that I will generally prefer talking about something like clothes, places to go, and "women's interests" to talking about complicated international and economic affairs.

that my activities outside the home will be largely confined to those associated with the church.

to stay at home to care for my husband and children instead of using time attending club meetings, and entertainment outside the home.

that an education is important for me whether or not I work outside the home.

that I will keep myself informed and active in the work of the community.
that since my husband must earn a living, he can't be expected to take time to "play" with the children.

that it is my job rather than my husband's to set a good example and see that my family goes to church.

it will be more important that my husband is ambitious and a good provider than that he is kind, understanding and gets along well with people.

it will be equally as important to find time to enjoy our children as to do things like bathing, dressing, and feeding them.

to fit my life to my husband's.

that managing and planning for spending money will be a joint proposition between my husband and me.

my husband to manage his time so that he will be able to share in the care of the children.

that having guests in our home will not prevent my husband's lending a hand with serving meals or keeping the house orderly.

that we will permit the children to share, according to their abilities, with the parents in making family decisions.

my husband to help wash or dry dishes.

my husband to be entirely responsible for earning the living for our family.

that staying at home with the children will be my duty rather than my husband's.

that an education for my husband will be as important in making him a more cultured person as in helping him to earn a living.
SA A U D SD 60. my husband to feel equally as responsible for the children after work and on holidays as I do.

SA A U D SD 61. my husband to make most of the decisions concerning the children such as where they will go and what they may do.

SA A U D SD 62. that it will be exclusively my duty to do the cooking and keeping the house in order.

SA A U D SD 63. that my husband will forget about an education after he is married and support his wife.

SA A U D SD 64. that my husband and I will share household tasks according to individual interests and abilities rather than according to "woman's work" and "man's work".

SA A U D SD 65. as far as education is concerned, that it is unimportant for either my husband or me if both of us are ambitious and hard working.

SA A U D SD 66. my husband to earn a good living if he expects love and respect from his family.

SA A U D SD 67. whether or not I work will depend on what we as a couple think is best for our own happiness.

SA A U D SD 68. that if I am not going to work outside the home, there is no reason for my getting a college education.

SA A U D SD 69. as our children grow up the boys will be more my husband's responsibility while the girls will be mine.

SA A U D SD 70. that my husband and I will feel equally responsible for looking after the welfare of our children.

SA A U D SD 71. that I will take full responsibility for care and training of our children so that my husband can devote his time to his work.
### SUMMATION OF SCORES

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SA or SD....... 0-OR.......
APPENDIX C

File No.__________

FORM M
MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATION INVENTORY
by
Marie S. Dunn

On the pages that follow you will find brief statements of marriage expectations for husbands and wives. As you read these statements think about what you expect from your own marriage and indicate your opinion of each statement in one of the following ways:

1. If you strongly agree with a statement draw a circle around the letters SA.

2. If you agree with a statement draw a circle around the letter A.

3. When you are undecided as to your opinion of a statement put a circle around U.

4. If you disagree with a statement draw a circle around the letter D.

5. If you strongly disagree with the statement draw a circle around the letters SD.

As you read begin each statement with the phrase, "In my marriage I expect . . ."

The Marriage Role Expectation Inventory is not a test. The only right and helpful answers will be those in which you truly show what you expect of your own marriage.

DO NOT CONSULT WITH YOUR COURTSHIP PARTNER, FIANCE(E) OR MARRIAGE PARTNER WHILE COMPLETING THIS INVENTORY.
(Appendix C, Form M continued)

Please Answer Every Question

Key for marking items below. SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; U = Undecided; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

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<td>SA</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>SD</td>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>that if there is a difference of opinion, I will decide where to live.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>that my wife's opinion will carry as much weight as mine in money matters.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>to help my wife with the housework.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>that it would be undesirable for my wife to be better educated than I.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>that if we marry before going to college, my wife and I will do our best to go on to earn college degrees.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>my wife to combine motherhood and a career if that proves possible.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>to be the &quot;boss&quot; who says what is to be done and what is not to be done.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>that my wife will be as well informed as I concerning the family's financial status and business affairs.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>to leave the care of the children entirely up to my wife when they are babies.</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>to be as interested in spending time with the girls as with the boys in our family.</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>that if my wife prefers a career to having children we will have the right to make that choice.</td>
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<td>that for the most successful family living my wife and I will need more than a high school education.</td>
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it will be more important for my wife to be a good cook and housekeeper than for her to be an attractive, interesting companion.

that being married will not keep me from going to college.

that the "family schedule" such as when the meals will be served, and when television can be turned on, will be determined by my wishes and working hours.

that my wife and I will share responsibility for housework if both of us work outside the home.

that keeping the yard, making repairs, and doing outside chores will be the responsibility of whoever has the time and wishes to do them.

if as a husband I am a good worker, respectable and faithful to my family, other personal characteristics are of considerably less importance.

that it will be more important that my wife has a good family background than that she has a compatible personality and gets along well with people.

that I will decide almost all money matters.

that my wife and I shall have equal privileges in such things as going out at night.

that my major responsibility to our children will be to make a good living, provide a home, and make them mind.

that since doing things like laundry, cleaning, and child care are "woman's work", I will feel no responsibility for them.
SA A U D SD 24. weekends to be a period of rest for me, so I will not be expected to assist with cooking and housekeeping.

SA A U D SD 25. that if I help with the housework, my wife will help with outside chores such as keeping the yard, painting or repairing the house.

SA A U D SD 26. that my wife and I will have equal voice in decisions affecting the family as a whole.

SA A U D SD 27. that after marriage my wife will forget an education and make a home for me.

SA A U D SD 28. that my wife will love and respect me regardless of the kind of work that I do.

SA A U D SD 29. my wife to work outside the home if she enjoys working more than staying at home.

SA A U D SD 30. that both my wife and I will concern ourselves with the social and emotional development of our children.

SA A U D SD 31. it will be just as important that I am congenial, love and enjoy my family as that I earn a good living.

SA A U D SD 32. that it will be equally important that my wife is affectionate and understanding as that she is thrifty and skillful in housekeeping.

SA A U D SD 33. that it will be my responsibility and privilege to choose where we will go and what we will do when we go out.

SA A U D SD 34. to manage my time so I can show a genuine interest in what our children do.

SA A U D SD 35. that my wife will let me tell her how to vote.
(Appendix C, Form M continued)

SA A U D SD 36. that my wife and I will take an active interest together in what's going on in our community.

SA A U D SD 37. that if my wife can cook, sew, keep house, and care for children, any other kind of education for her is unnecessary.

SA A U D SD 38. that having compatible personalities will be considerably less important to us than such characteristics as being religious, honest, and hard working.

SA A U D SD 39. it will be only natural that I will be the one concerned about politics and what is going on in the world.

SA A U D SD 40. my wife to accept the fact that I will devote most of my time to getting ahead and becoming a success.

SA A U D SD 41. that being married should cause little or no change in my social or recreational activities.

SA A U D SD 42. that my wife will generally prefer talking about something like clothes, places to go, and "women's interests" to talking about complicated international and economic affairs.

SA A U D SD 43. that my wife's activities outside the home will be largely confined to those associated with the church.

SA A U D SD 44. my wife to stay at home to care for the children and me instead of using time attending club meetings and entertainment outside the home.

SA A U D SD 45. that an education is important for my wife whether or not she works outside the home.

SA A U D SD 46. that my wife will keep herself informed and active in the work of the community.
SA A U D SD 47. that since I must earn the living, I can't be expected to take time to "play" with the children.

SA A U D SD 48. that it is my wife's job rather than mine to set a good example and see that the family goes to church.

SA A U D SD 49. it will be more important that as a husband I am ambitious and a good provider than that I am kind, understanding, and get along well with people.

SA A U D SD 50. it will be equally as important for my wife to find time to enjoy our children as to do things like bathing, dressing, and feeding them.

SA A U D SD 51. my wife to fit her life to mine.

SA A U D SD 52. that managing and planning for spending money will be a joint proposition between my wife and me.

SA A U D SD 53. to manage my time so that I will be able to share in the care of the children.

SA A U D SD 54. that having guests in our home will not prevent my lending a hand with serving meals or keeping the house orderly.

SA A U D SD 55. that we will permit the children to share, according to their abilities, with the parents in making family decisions.

SA A U D SD 56. to help wash or dry dishes.

SA A U D SD 57. entire responsibility for earning the family living.

SA A U D SD 58. that staying at home with the children will be my wife's duty rather than mine.

SA A U D SD 59. that an education for me will be as important in making me a more cultured person as in helping me to earn a living.
(Appendix C, Form M continued)

SA A U D SD 60. to feel equally as responsible for the children after work and on holidays as my wife does.

SA A U D SD 61. to make most of the decisions concerning the children such as where they will go and what they may do.

SA A U D SD 62. that it will be exclusively my wife's duty to do the cooking and keeping the house in order.

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(Appendix C, Form M continued)

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APPENDIX D

GENERAL INFORMATION FACE SHEET

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS

1. Sex (Check one):  M_____ F_____ Date:____________________

2. Race (Check one):  W_____ NW_____ File No:__________________

3. Age________________ 4. Birthdate__________________________

5. Marital Status (Check one):  Single_____ Married_____ Divorced____ Spouse deceased____

6. Length of marriage__________________________
   years & months

7. Number of marriages (Check one):  1_____ 2_____
   3_____ 4_____

8. Education (Check highest level completed):
   Elementary_____ Jr. High_____ High School_____
   Technical School_____ College_____
   Graduate School_____

9. Number of brothers__________ Number of sisters__________

10. Type of community in which childhood was spent (Check one):
    Country (isolated area, outside of city limits)_____
    Suburban Area (developed area adjoining city limits)_____
    Small Town (10,000 population or less)_____
    Small City (11,000 population to 20,000)_____
    Large City (21,000 population or more)_____

11. Type of community you are currently living in (Check one):
   Country (isolated area, outside of city limits)_____ 
   Suburban Area (developed area adjoining city limits)_____ 
   Small Town (10,000 population or less)_____ 
   Small City (11,000 population to 20,000)_____ 
   Large City (21,000 population or more)_____ 

12. Childhood Religious Training (Check one): Catholic______ 
   Jew______ Protestant (Specify)____________________ 
   None______ Other______________________________ 

13. Current Religious Belief (Check one): Catholic______ 
   Jew______ Protestant (Specify)____________________ 
   None______ Other______________________________ 

14. Number of your own children under 18 years of age in your home___________ 

15. Are your natural parents living together (Check one): 
   Yes______ No______ 

16. If not how old were you when their living arrangements were disrupted?__________________________ 

17. What was the reason for the disruption (Check one): 
   Death_____ Separation_____ Divorce_____ 
   Other______________________________ 

18. Which parent generally made family decisions: 
   Mother_____ Father_____ Neither (Specify)______
19. Do you work outside the home (Check one):
   Yes  No

20. If yes (Check one): Full time (Specify hours)
    Part time (Specify hours)

21. If yes, specify type of employment

22. Income: Please check your own earnings only:

   _____ 0-$5,000  _____ $11,001-$13,000
   _____ $5,001-$9,000  _____ $13,001-$15,000
   _____ $9,001-$11,000  _____ $15,001-and more

23. Have you ever formally asked for marriage or family counseling from some person or agency?
   (Check one): Yes  No