

The University of North Carolina
at Greensboro

JACKSON LIBRARY



..... CQ

..... no. 729

Gift of
Katherine Isabelle Buckley
COLLEGE COLLECTION

BUCKLEY, KATHERINE ISABELLE. Areas of Conflict in Living Arrangements of Three-Generation Families. (1970) Directed by Dr. Helen Canaday. pp. 133

An increasing number of older persons, along with changes in the functions of the family point to the need for understanding the relationships between three generations living in the same household. In the United States 23 per cent of the aged population living in families, are in three-generation families. In attempting to answer questions concerning this type of family living arrangement, a study of the opinions of each generation in three-generation households was made.

Three forms of a questionnaire were designed to obtain opinions from each of the three generations as to reason they lived together in one household, opinions about their living arrangements, and their feelings of interpersonal relationships resulting from the living arrangement.

The three generations of 57 families in the study were interviewed simultaneously, but separately, to gain individual opinions on the survey questions. The responses from each questionnaire were tabulated as a family unit and according to generation. The chi square test of significance was employed in examining relations between variables.

There was not a significant difference in the opinions that the three generations gave for living together in three-generation households. The chief reason given was that the widowed grandparent did not want to live alone. Lack of

adequate income to live independently was reflected in other reasons given.

There was a significant difference in the ways the three generations perceived their living arrangement problems in five areas: assuming responsibilities by adult children for their elder parents; providing a place in adult children's home for elder parents; paying of parents' expenses; transporting elder members; and visiting with family guests.

There was a significant difference in the way each generation viewed areas of social behavior. The findings revealed that the youth tended to feel criticized more than the parents and grandparents realized. The greatest number of conflicts occur between parents and children, especially concerning money, responsibilities, clothes, grooming, and manners.

The responses to the open-end questions further substantiate that three-generation family living is not considered ideal by those who participated in the study. The findings showed that the greatest conflicts involve interpersonal relationship and changing social customs. Responses indicated that all three generations value independence, privacy, and individuality. However, there are also indications of strong feelings of responsibility to protect and care for the aged and infirm family members.

APPROVAL PAGE

This thesis has been approved by the following
committee:

**AREAS OF CONFLICT IN LIVING ARRANGEMENTS
OF THREE-GENERATION FAMILIES**

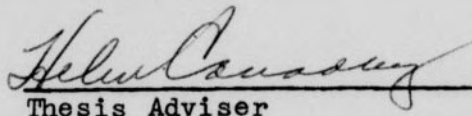
by

[*Katherine*] Isabelle Buckley

A Thesis 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
Master of Science in Home Economics

Greensboro
May, 1970

Approved by


Thesis Adviser

APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis has been approved by the following committee of the Faculty of the Graduate School at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Thesis Adviser

Helmut Canaday

Oral Examination
Committee Members

Emily H. Zuni

Nancy White

Rebecca M. Smith

April 6, 1970
Date of Examination

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author acknowledges her sincere gratitude to Dr. Helen Canaday, director of the thesis, for her patient and inspirational guidance throughout the study, to Dr. Emily Quinn, Dr. Rebecca Smith and Dr. Nance White, members of the graduate committee, for their valuable constructive criticism, to Dr. Carl Cochran and Dr. J. D. George for their assistance with the statistical procedures.

The author is indebted to the administrative staff of North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service for granting study leave for graduate training at University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Special appreciation goes to the people of Rockingham County who gave so generously of their time in interviews, and to the public school principals and teachers for helping to secure the data.

The author also acknowledges with appreciation the assistance given by Miss Jan Christensen, Mr. Edsel Gainer, and Miss Mary Gilbert Cole. Acknowledgment is also given to the computer center and the Adult Education Department at North Carolina State University at Raleigh for their valuable assistance.

The author acknowledges with appreciation the encouragement and assistance given by her mother and other family members during the period of graduate study.

Chapter	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	1
The Problem	4
Definitions of Terms Used	4
Descriptive Terms	5
Three-generation family	5
Elders Generation	5
Middle Generation	5
Youngest Generation	5
Multigenerational	5
Primary Husband-wife Family	5
Primary Individual Family	5
"Joint" Families	5
Sub-families	5
Limitations of the Study	5
Organization of Remainder of the Thesis	6
II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE	7
III. METHOD AND PROCEDURE	22
Selection of the Study Group	25
Description of the Study Group	27
The Research Instrument	36
Validity and Reliability of the Instrument	37
Categorizing, Coding and Analyzing the Responses	37
Summary	40

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	1
The Problem.	4
Definitions of Terms Used.	4
Descriptive Terms.	4
Three-generation family.	4
Eldest Generation.	4
Middle Generation.	4
Youngest Generation.	5
Multigeneration.	5
Primary Husband-wife Family.	5
Primary Individual Family.	5
"Other" Families	5
Sub-families	5
Limitations of the Study	5
Organization of Remainder of the Thesis.	6
II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE	7
III. METHOD AND PROCEDURE	22
Selection of the Study Group	22
Description of the Study Group	27
The Research Instrument.	36
Validity and Reliability of the Instrument	37
Categorizing, Scoring and Analyzing the Responses.	37
Summary.	40

Chapter	Page
IV. RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION	43
Reasons Why Three Generations Live in the Same Household	43
Treatment of Data.	43
Opinions Related to the Living Arrangements Viewed by Three- generation Families.	46
Treatment of Data.	46
Reasons for Living in Three- generation Household	52
Responsibilities to Elder Parents, as Viewed by Each Generation	54
Opinion on Transportation of Elder Family Member,	56
Action of Family Member, When Guests Come, As Viewed by Each Generation.	58
Interpersonal Relationships Viewed by Three-generation Family Living Together. . .	62
Treatment of Data.	63
Attitudes Toward Three-generation Family Living Expressed by the Three Generations. .	71
Treatment of Data.	72
How Do You Feel When Grandparents Take Part in Discipline of Grandchildren? . . .	72
Does the Grandparent Ever Take Sides with the Grandchildren When Parents Discipline?	72
On What Three Things Do Grandparents and Grandchildren Differ Most?	75
On What Three Things Do Children and Parents Differ Most?	75
On What Three Things Do Grandparents and Parents Differ?	78

Chapter	Page
What Three Things Do You Like Most About Living in a Three-generation Family? . . .	78
What Three Things Bother You Most About Three-generation Family Living?,	81
What Three Suggestions Do You Have for Other Families Considering Three- generation Family Living?.	81
V. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.	85
The Research Problem	85
Hypotheses	85
The Study Sample	86
The Instrument	87
Procedure.	87
Conclusions.	88
Suggestions for Further Research	92
BIBLIOGRAPHY	94
APPENDIX A Letter to Secure Sample.	96
APPENDIX B Form and Explanation for the Responding Student	98
APPENDIX C Questionnaire for Eldest Generation. . . .	100
APPENDIX D Questionnaire for Middle Generation. . . .	112
APPENDIX E Questionnaire for Youngest Generation. . .	123

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1 Background Information of Informants About Eldest Generation	29
2 Background Information of Informants About the Middle Generation	31
3 Background Information of Informants About the Third Generation.	33
4 Living Arrangements of the Fifty-seven Three-generation Families	35
5 Reasons Given by Each Generation for Living Together as a Three- generation Family	45
6 Opinion of Each Generation for the Best Living Arrangement for Active Grandparents.	49
7 Opinion of Each Generation for the Best Living Arrangement for Inactive Elders.	50
8 Reason For Deciding with Which Adult Child Elders Live	53
9 Responsibility of Adult Children for Elders as Stated by Each Generation	55
10 Opinions from All Informants Concerning Transportation for Elders	57
11 Opinions of Each Generation About Actions of Family Members When Guests Visit	60
12 Areas of Disagreement Between Parents and Children as Viewed by All Three Generations . .	64
13 Areas of Disagreement Between Grandparents and Children as Viewed by All Three Generations . .	68
14 The Three-Generations' Responses to "Does Grandparent Discipline Children?"	73

Table	Page
15 The Three Generations' Responses to "Does Grandparent Take Sides With Children?"	74
16 Areas of Disagreement Between Grandparents and Grandchildren as Perceived by the Three Generations	76
17 Areas of Disagreement Between the Children and Their Parents as Perceived by the Three Generations	77
18 Areas of Disagreement Between the Two Adult Generations as Perceived by the Three Generations	79
19 Things Liked Most About Living Together, as Stated by the Three Generations.	80
20 The Three Things that Bother the Three Generations About Living Together	82
21 Suggestions by the Three Generations for Persons Considering Multi-generation Households. .	83

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Today's mores are so strongly against adult children living in the same household with their parents that those who elect this arrangement feel apologetic and try to get social approval. An adult child who rears a family and becomes widowed may find that sharing the same home with a widowed mother is an enjoyable arrangement. Donahue advises that "society has probably withdrawn too much social support from multigeneration family as an acceptable pattern of family life" (Donahue, 1969, p. 40).

There are many persons in three-generation households who have learned to live happy and productive lives. On the other side are persons, living in the three-generation household arrangement, who are miserable and cause grief to all those with whom they come in contact. One's living arrangement can bring meaning to life or it can make one feel there is no reason to live. This seems particularly true of persons from the oldest generation as they try to make satisfactory living arrangements.

"To understand older people, their behavior and adjustment, one needs to understand the family in a key context" (Streib, Thompson in Tibbitts, 1960, p. 448).

Approximately two per cent of all husband-wife primary families in the United States are three-generational. This proportion has decreased only slightly in the past 50 years.

Eight per cent of all families--"husband-wife" and "other" families--are multigeneration involving about ten per cent of the population in the United States. Approximately 35 per cent of primary family members age 65 and over are in "other" families or in families with subfamilies and not in modal or typical families. The proportion of these older people to the other ages in these atypical families is 12 per cent as compared with five per cent of older people in the typical husband-wife families. The numbers of three-generation families have increased due to tremendous population increase (Beresford et al, 1969, pp. 3, 6, 15).

In every state, a new multigenerational family is evolving as a result of: moving and regrouping; divorce; widows of service men; changing jobs; earlier marriage and increased life expectancy. The available evidence suggests that circulating family members do obtain material advantages, in addition to any psychic rewards associated with living with relatives.

In North Carolina in 1968 there were 399,890 persons aged 65 and over, representing 7.8 per cent of the total population. The aged-over-65-population-increase during 1960-1968 was 23 per cent while the total population of the

state increased 12.4 per cent during the same period. Estimates from the United States Bureau of the Census and from North Carolina Population Center predict continued population-aged-over-65-increases through the 1980's.

In 1968, there were more than nineteen million people aged 65 and over in the United States. This is more than six times the number of older adults in 1900 (increasing from three million to over nineteen million). Census data reveals that in the United States 72 per cent of the men over 65 years are married and most all are living with wives. A few are heads of families without a wife. Of the women, over half (54%) are widowed, 36.4 per cent are married and nearly all live with husband. Ten per cent of the women are heads of families without a husband present. Three times as many women (30%) as men (11.6%) live alone. Of the men over 65 years old, nine per cent lived in homes of relatives (2% less than in 1950), and over twice as many women (17.5%) lived with relatives (4.9% less than in 1960).

The multigeneration family may need to be more clearly understood and helped to recognize and to cope with their problems in combining social and psychological resources, just as they combine their economic resources, to "fill the gaps" and strengthen their family, for the benefit of its members. One way to study multi-generation family problems is to investigate the satisfactions they derive from their living arrangements.

The Problem

The purpose of the present study was to secure and study data concerning the nature of three-generation families to (1) determine whether there were significant differences in the reasons that the three generations gave for living together; (2) determine whether there was a difference in the way each of the generations perceive the problems involved in their living arrangements; (3) determine whether there was a significant difference in the areas of behavior in which generations disagree with each other, with respect to interpersonal relationship.

Definitions of Terms Used

It is necessary to clarify certain terms employed in this study which would have a definite bearing upon its interpretation.

Descriptive Terms

Three-generation family indicates a family of three different generations living in the same household as a family unit.

The eldest generation is also called the first generation. Grandparent denotes eldest or the first generation.

The middle generation is the second generation and the parents of the young children in the home. This generation may also be referred to as the adult child of the eldest generation in the household.

The youngest generation denotes the children or youth in the three-generation home. They are children of the second generation and grandchildren of the eldest generation. They are also referred to as the third generation.

Multigeneration is a term used to denote any group of several generations of relatives living in the same household.

Primary husband-wife family is composed of the head of the household and the spouse who have established the household. This can also be called the typical family.

Primary individual family is one adult who has established a household living alone.

"Other" families are defined as families other than husband-wife, and children. They usually have a female household head.

Sub-families are parts of broken primary husband-wife families.

Limitations of the Study

There are several limitations to the study which should be pointed out. First of all, the subjects represent a selected rather than a random sample, thus the generalizations must be limited. In addition, the data were obtained by use of a structured questionnaire and only in a few open-ended questions were the subjects permitted freedom in stating answers or opinions.

Organization of Remainder of the Thesis

The arrangement of the remainder of the thesis was organized into chapters which include: a review of literature relating previous terms and methods used to assess relationships within the three-generation families and corresponding studies relevant to the problem; a detailed description of the methods and procedures used in the study; a description of the findings, and an overview of the study, findings, and conclusions. Recommendations for further research are included in the final chapter.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature reviewed in this chapter presents the research findings of persons concerned with the problems which have grown out of three-generation households. Of particular importance are the feelings of persons living in this kind of arrangement.

Smith, in discussing "Family Plans for Later Years," suggests that little attention is given to retirement or preparation for old age. In a survey of 490 married couples, three-fourths of the couples indicated that they had previous experience in living with parents-in-law. Fourteen per cent of those having had experience indicated it was a good idea. Fifty per cent said it would work sometimes while 35 per cent said it was "no good." More of those having tried the experience thought "well" of it than did those who had not tried it (Smith, 1954, pp. 36-40).

Smith's findings indicated that the size of the house or home was not considered a major factor in the success of three-generational living under one roof. In answer to the question "Do you plan to live with your children?", 15 per cent answered "Yes" while 85 per cent answered "No." Nearly one-fifth seemed undecided or "do not want their children to

feel obligated" or perhaps "it depends on the circumstance." Seventeen per cent of those having tried three-generational living indicated they would live with their children as opposed to 11 per cent, who had not tried it, said they would live with their children. Forty per cent of those surveyed were then living near the wife's parents and reported they often saw the older couple. A larger number of couples answered that they assisted the wife's parents more frequently than they did the husband's parents. Smith observed that more older couples were interested in government assistance than in how they could help themselves (Smith, 1954, pp. 36-40).

Koller found that three-generation households were recognized as a hazardous type of family living in which the combined virtues of diplomat, statesman and saint are needed. He indicated that problems did exist and could be simply stated. The problems were:

Elders have wielded the power in the past, it is not easy to relinquish it to the second generation. . . . Husband and wife have just begun to live lives independently and fear a threat to their newly found authority. . . . The youngest generation is baffled by splitting of authority among their elders and their own desire to be "grown up." . . . The eldest generation is faced with constant failing health and loss of status. . . . The youngest generation presses for freedom of thought and action. . . . The second generation is caught in the middle, but studies show they hold up well and report in favor of this type arrangement which solves some problem for them. (Koller, 1954, pp. 205-206).

Albrecht in studying parental responsibilities of grandparents observed that:

Responsibility denotes closeness, but grandparents who take this away from the parents of the children may be punishing the second generation; may need personal response and ego satisfaction; may need power over people; or may need something to do (Albrecht, 1954, p. 201).

She also indicated that parents who felt resentment over grandparent interaction with children had a feeling of guilt for working away from home.

Albrecht continued by saying:

Older grandparents are not likely to have full responsibility for children and there is no evidence that they want it. . . . Local culture holds parents responsible for their children but relaxes expectations, blames and gains with each successive generation. . . . Apparently, the closer the parent-relationship the more intense will be the feelings, emotions and responsibilities of family members (Albrecht, 1954, p. 204).

Smith, Britton and Britton (1958) by means of a questionnaire-interview studied three-generation families living in one household in central Pennsylvania. They studied 97 families in an urban community and 45 families in a rural village. From their findings they concluded that: About one-half of the 142 families interviewed gave finances as the reason for living together in one household. One-fourth of the families gave "death of a spouse" as the reason. Age, ill health and disability, loneliness, and the need of someone to care for a child were some of the other reasons given.

No financial arrangements were made by one-third of the urban families and one-fourth of the rural families. One-fifth of the urban families and one-third of the rural families indicated the living expenses were shared between the elders and their adult children living together. In the urban community 19 per cent of the elders' other adult children contributed to their parents' living expenses. Only half that many adult children in the rural community contributed to their parents' expenses.

Approximately 11 per cent of middle generation from both communities paid all household expenses which included the support of their parents. Of those families living in the grandparents' house, ten per cent of the middle generation paid rent for the family and also paid for the food the family ate.

Forty per cent of the families in both communities had been living together eight years or more. Eighty per cent of the families had lived together for more than one year. The Smith et al. (1958) study suggested that the length of time families live together indicates the arrangement may be considered fairly permanent and would influence one's attitude toward the arrangement.

They also reported that: About two-thirds of the elders in urban community and one-third of those in the rural area reported that they had a room to themselves. One-third in urban group and one-fourth of the rural group

reported that they lacked privacy and that the living arrangements were crowded.

Two-thirds of the elders and one-half of their adult children said that the best place for older people to live was in "their own home alone." Less than a fifth of the elders in both communities said the best living arrangements for elder parents would be to have one of the adult children live with the older couple. The middle generation mentioned private homes for the aged more frequently than did their aged parents.

In choosing the child with whom to live, after that arrangement had been decided upon, the elders and their adult children gave as first choice "the one they always got along with the best," and the second choice given was "the one who wants them most." A small number specified "daughter" or "one who can best afford it." The chief concern of the two older generations throughout the study was interpersonal relationships.

In answer to the question, "What responsibilities do you feel adult children should have toward their parents?", a majority of the elders and their adult children in both communities answered that a good son or daughter should provide care when sick, financial aid, a place to live or that the middle generation should go home and live with their parents, if necessary. In the urban community ten per cent of the parents and grandparents said that children should

give love but take no responsibility for them. Smaller percentages in the rural community answered adult children should take no responsibility. More elders than middle generations believed that adult children should take responsibilities for their parents and more elders than adult children suggested the elders "live alone" or in "private home for aged." The authors of the study suggest that this indicated more independence by persons living in urban than in rural areas (Smith et al., 1958, p. 20).

The Smith et al. study examined the degree to which parents and grandparents agreed on discipline of the children. The majority agreed on what was expected of the young children. One-fifth of the respondents said "sometimes"; a few said "always"; and only one respondent was reported to have said "never" (Smith et al., 1958, pp. 21-22).

Smith et al. (1958) found that: The grandparents reported they rarely interfered with discipline of the grandchildren. Usually the grandparents agreed with the parents and the parents usually agreed among themselves. One-fifth of the aged said sometimes they agreed with the discipline while only a few said they always agreed. Apparently the grandparents in this study did not play an active role in the discipline of grandchildren or they were unaware of playing an interfering role. Slightly more of the second generation said they disagreed with elders and more rural families than urban families were reported to

disagree. The children's responses were in the same proportion as their parents with only a slightly higher per cent of disagreement. Disagreements do not necessarily mean open conflicts, but it is logical even among amicable people for disagreements to occur. Chiefly these disagreements were reported to be over smoking and drinking, choice of radio programs, and children's discipline. "Ways of keeping house" seem to be a chief source of irritation among second generation in the rural community. Twice as many second generation parents in the urban community said they differed with grandparents over discipline. Fewer of the youngest generation reported any disagreements.

One-third of middle generation in the urban area and one-fifth in the rural community mentioned "help with the children" as the thing they liked best about living with their older parents. The next most appreciated was "help with meals and housework." One-third of middle generation parents in both communities said companionship, and 16 per cent said counsel and advice were the thing they liked best about living with their older parents.

Almost half of second generation said nothing bothered them about living together. Others most often mentioned specific personal traits; such as: "oldsters set in their ways," domineering, hypersensitive or that they had unpleasant habits. Eighteen per cent of the urban and 32 per cent of the rural community families reflected difficult

personal relationships. The youngest generation appreciated the cooking, sewing and household work done by grandparent. A few of the children mentioned companionship as the thing liked best about living with their grandparents.

The youth also mentioned their grandparents' personality traits and interpersonal relationships as bothering them. This was similar to their parents' comments. Nearly half of the youngest generation in each community said nothing bothered them about living with their grandparents (Smith et al., 1958, pp. 13-19).

Shanas (1962) reported on a survey of the living arrangements of older people in the United States. She found that thirty-six per cent of all older persons with children lived in the same household with at least one of their children. Less than one-half of all older people who lived with their children were still married; the remainder were widowed or divorced. Twenty-three per cent of all the aged women living in their children's household were widowed while only eight per cent of the men were widowed. The older the person, the more likely he is to live with his adult children (Shanas in Tibbitts and Donahue, 1962, pp. 460-462).

In case of young families broken by death, divorce, or a long absence of a husband, Donahue reported that the daughter and her children often returned to the home of her parents. She further stated that:

When older people join the families of their children and grandchildren, it is usually for reasons of (1) widowhood, (2) poor health, (3) frailty brought on by age, (4) low income, and occasionally loneliness. (Cavin, 1949, Smith et al., 1958) When a younger family moves in with older generation, it is usually for economic reasons. The pooling of limited resources results in an income that more nearly meets the family's needs, or the presence of a grandparent to baby-sit may free a mother to take a job. The reasons why a family doubles up is probably an effective variable in determining some of the problems that will be faced (Donahue, 1969, pp. 39-40).

Shanas (in Tibbitts & Donahue, 1962) suggests that older people tend to form their own households apart from those of their adult children. She stated that this does not mean that most older people are isolated from their children. She further reported on data from a broad study of health needs of older people in the United States which was made by the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Chicago (1957). The findings showed that most older people, with living children, are in close proximity to at least one child and that nine out of ten older people see their children within the week (36% of whom lived in same household). The majority of older people, with children (6 out of 10) live either under the same roof, within walking distance or only a short distance away, from at least one child (Shanas in Tibbitts & Donahue, 1962, pp. 459-463).

Nimkoff (1962) explains that grandparents in the United States have the reputation of being highly permissive with their grandchildren. This is a reflection, he believes,

of reduced status since the 1900's. Grandparents today have no responsible authority in what goes on with respect to property and economic control in their adult children's homes. Nimkoff also stated that "due to accelerated change, the cultural gap between grandparents and grandchildren has widened even more than that between parents and children, because the new generation is now thought of as the principal vehicle of change." Children in the 1900's showed respect for authority of elders because it was responsible authority. Parents and grandparents were held accountable by society for their children's behavior. Now there is more shrugging off family responsibility, since it is shared by the school bus driver, the teacher, playground director, Scout leader, Sunday School teacher, policeman, doctor, nurse, maid, baby-sitter, and many others, not to mention the influence of television. (Nimkoff in Tibbitts and Donahue, 1962, p. 411, 412).

Nimkoff further suggests that the relationship of the aged and their children is affected by two crucial variables: the number of children and location. Family size was being limited 40 to 50 years ago so there are fewer children to "look after" the aged parent. "Looking after" means personal attention and economic support. Since over half of the elders live alone it is important that they receive attention from someone (Nimkoff in Tibbitts and Donahue, 1962, p. 407).

Sussman and Burchinal studied effects of parental aid to married children with the goal of determining implications for family functioning. Their findings were:

Financial aid exchanged between parents and their married children is one of the activities which binds together nuclear units of the kin family network along generational lines (Sussman and Burchinal, 1962, p. 331).

Parental aid is given voluntarily based on feelings and sentiment held by parents for their children rather than upon legal or cultural norms (Sussman and Burchinal, 1962, p. 332).

Financial aid to married children intended to assist but not to direct their achievement goals of the family receiving the aid (Sussman and Burchinal, 1962, p. 331).

Parental aid has weakened financial autonomy norms of nuclear family units without replacing it (Sussman and Burchinal, 1962, p. 332).

Parental aid does affect family size, family continuity over time, family status, family behavior in times of crisis and retirement patterns (Sussman & Burchinal, 1962, p. 332).

Sussman and Burchinal also found that:

During the early years of the child's marriage the flow of aid is from parent to children. As children become middle age the stream of aid may be reversed, children now help their aged parents. Middle class-middle-aged children may be giving subsidies to young married children and aged parents at the same time. The frequent pattern is to turn to aged and often ailing parents after children have been aided in beginning of their marriages and careers (Sussman and Burchinal, 1962, p. 331).

Robins (1962) in surveying family relations of the aging parents living in three-generation households found that generally the widowed parent was living in the home of a daughter and son-in-law and usually at the suggestion of

the adult child. This appeared to be an easy solution for the care of an elderly parent. The arrangement often is a result of the elders' poor health, inadequate means of support or a combination of both (Robins in Tibbitts, and Donahue, 1962, p. 470).

In a cross-national survey, Stehouwer (in Shanas & Streib, 1965, p. 145-147) found that a smaller per cent (half as many) of elderly in Denmark live with adult children in three-generation household than live with children in Britain and United States. In spite of the fact that elderly live apart from their children, Stehouwer found that it did not affect the proximity of the nearest child and frequency of their contacts with their children. There is no difference in parent-adult child contact in Denmark, Britain and United States. Two-thirds of the elder parents reported they had seen their adult children "today or yesterday." One-third of the elders in Denmark as in the United States reported they lived within 10 minutes journey of their children. One out of eight elders in both Britain and Denmark said they had children within a 60 minute distance while in the United States the proportion was one to six. Most elders in all three countries were in close contact with at least one of the children.

Little is found in the literature relative to the influence of three-generation living on grandchildren in the household. Emphasis has been on relationship between

elderly parents and their adult children. In order to study the effect on grandchildren, Stone collected data from 5,102 high school students in the state of Washington. Six per cent (or 318) of 5,102 lived in households with grandparents. Grandmothers were in more than half of the families in the study while grandfathers lived with one-fifth of the families. In 30 per cent of the homes there were both grandmothers and grandfathers. Students were "matched" with a control group and each group was measured with the same research instrument. Neither type family seemed to have an advantage or disadvantage concerning intra-family relationships. The teen-agers in the three-generation families appeared to be socially minded and were more involved in activities with friends than those teen-agers in two generation families (Stone, 1962, pp. 287-288).

Donahue suggested that grandparents as a socializer for children may be a role to be developed. The family roles open to the grandparent generation in the modern family seem to be only those of household helper, babysitter, and handyman. These roles may be essential to families in which both the father and mother are gainfully employed and who are making strong efforts to earn more in order to gain a higher social status.

Donahue (1969) reported on the Streib and Thompson family studies (1960) which found that:

The older generation is as fully imbued with an achievement orientation as their children and expect--and enjoy--intrafamilial relationships which allow for the possibility that children may exceed their parents in accomplishing some of the more importantly valued goals in American society (Donahue, 1969, pp. 41, 42).

The parental role of grandparents has been strengthened (Nimkoff in Tibbits and Donahue, 1962, p. 411) since mothers of the children are employed away from home and grandparents are pressed into child care responsibilities. However, Albrecht (1954) found that while the grandparent role was a highly valued one, it did not entail responsibility for grandchildren. She found no evidence that the grandparent coveted such responsibility (Donahue, 1969, pp. 37-49).

Beresford and Rivlin in analyzing the 1960 census data related to the multigeneration family, suggested that:

Poverty not only produces strains which tend to disrupt husband-wife families, but it also causes relatives to group together in a single household to share expenses. It is worth noting that the category with the highest proportion of multigeneration families--non-white farm "other" families-- is also the weakest economically (Beresford and Rivlin, 1969, p. 8).

Studies (Albrecht 1954; Smith et al. 1958; Shanas 1962; Beresford and Rivlin 1969; Donahue 1969) have shown that there is about a fifty-fifty chance that the several generations will approve in the doubling up of households. Lower socio-economic groups are more favorable than affluent families. Those persons disapproving of this arrangement

give as their reasons: the belief that young families should be alone; that the views and aims of several generations are too different for compatibility; and that old people require a quiet life. Those persons approving of several generations sharing the same family "roof" give these reasons: The multigeneration family may provide the aged with meaningful and repeated contacts needed to retard degenerative changes (Weinberg, 1969, p. 53) and for those families who are too inadequately organized to cope with family "crises." It is obvious that these families are able to offer the elderly family member a place in the family circle and a position which commands respect (Donahue, 1969, p. 49).

CHAPTER III

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

By means of an interview-questionnaire a study concerning living arrangements and opinions about these living arrangements within three-generation families was directed by Smith, Britton and Britton in central Pennsylvania during 1956-58. In the present study similar questions are asked in North Carolina, a decade later, following tremendous social changes. This study in no way replicated the central Pennsylvania study.

Selection of the Study Group

Three generation families in three community areas of Rockingham County, North Carolina, were secured as subject for this study. Two areas were industrial towns and one was a rural village. The study group was secured through consolidated high schools, which included the families in the surrounding rural areas, as well as the families in the towns. Rockingham County, North Carolina was chosen for the study since it was one of the counties in which the investigator had previously worked and rapport with the county leaders had already been established.

The three community areas in Rockingham County secured for the study were Eden, Reidsville, and Stoneville.

Eden, in Leaksville Township, was a highly industrialized area with population of about 20,000. It was primarily a textile manufacturing area with an average income larger than the state average because the majority of the people received their incomes from industry. The median education of adults was eight years. Substandard housing ranged from 36.5 per cent to 49.9 per cent except in new development area. There was good community spirit and community-industry cooperation. The town of Eden had a separate city school system.

Reidsville Township was a tobacco production, marketing, and tobacco manufacturing area with textiles and other manufacturing as relative newcomers. It is located in the southern part of the county with population of about 18,000. The income of the township was lower than state average since this township included more farm income than Leaksville Township. The median education of the adults was eight years. The range of substandard housing was 36.5 per cent to 49.9 per cent. The town was highly organized in community activities and supports a separate city school system.

Stoneville, a village of 1,000, located in the farming township area of Mayo with a population of about 5,000. It had a small furniture and textile industry and had a tobacco market. Fifty per cent of the housing was substandard. The median education of adults was seven years.

Stoneville's consolidated high school was a part of the county school system. Civic clubs, a golf course and churches composed the social life of the population.

The school principals of ten high schools of the county were written and visited by the investigator who explained the purpose of the study and the procedure to be used (See Appendix A). The addresses and telephone numbers of three-generation families were secured from the students attending junior and senior high schools.

Each student who responded in the affirmative to living in a three-generation family received a written explanation that their family would be contacted by letter for permission to visit and discuss with them their opinions about living in a three-generation household. The note further explained that by permitting the visit they would be participating in research being done through the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. They were also told that their opinions might be of some help to other families considering a three-generation family arrangement (See Appendix B).

One hundred nineteen (119) names of three-generation families were received from five of the eleven schools. Sixty-three families lived in Eden area; 36 lived in Reidsville area; and 20 were from the Stoneville area. Of the 119 names 25 were of non-white families. Since, for cultural reasons, only white families were included in the

study the non-white families were not interviewed.

The remaining 94 names of three-generation families became further reduced after the interviews began. Fourteen families were not qualified as three-generation families at time of interview due to following reasons: eight elders had died or moved away, and six youths responding had misunderstood the request. Twelve families were not available for such reasons as: the eldest generation was too feeble to answer questions or too seriously ill. Eleven families were not willing to cooperate due to lack of interest and understanding.

The 57 remaining three-generation families from the three communities were interviewed. The data from families in all three communities were treated as one group.

Many families were not accustomed to making plans ahead; therefore, the investigator visited within a few hours of the call or the next day; otherwise another call had to be made to "catch" all three generations at home at the same time. The visits had to be made at the family's convenience, not in an orderly geographical sequence. Sometimes the three generations in the same family worked on three different shifts and Saturday was the only day when they were all at home.

In the telephone call and upon arrival at the home for the interview, the investigator identified herself by name, affiliation with the Agricultural Extension Service

and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She also referred to the high school where the name of the family had been secured.

The purpose of the study, the instructions, including the request not to sign name, were given both as written instructions as well as verbally to each informant. Each informant was asked to work separately and not to discuss questions. When necessary, the investigator helped interpret what was needed from each question to each family member. The eldest and middle generations took approximately one hour to fill in the questionnaire. The grandchildren's interview took somewhat less time.

The investigator secured questionnaires answered by all available family members. There were 195 questionnaires completed from the 57 three-generation families which included 50 elderly women, ten elderly men, 55 middle generation women, 11 middle generation men, 42 girls and 27 boys of the youngest generation. Responses from open-ended questions were used in the study from all 195 completed questionnaires.

However, responses from only one questionnaire for each generation in the 57 families (171 questionnaires) were computed statistically with chi square test. Due to the large majority of adult women respondents in the study, the women's questionnaires were used for the eldest and middle generation replies. When there were no female respondents

of the generation in the household, the male respondents were used. Families in which there were more than one youth questionnaire completed, the choice was based on the one having turned in the family name at school. If more than one youth turned in the family name, the middle aged child was chosen rather than eldest or youngest child.

Description of the Study Group

Nineteen middle generation fathers worked in textile mills or tobacco factories. Over a fourth of the middle generation fathers were in business or public services. Three were farmers and two did not work. Twenty-one fathers were not living in the home so were not counted as a part of the study group. Of the 43 mothers and grandmothers working out of the home, over half worked in mills, eight in clerical positions, seven in public services, and two in teaching. From observation, it appeared that in the 47 families studied, five families were living quite comfortably, twenty-three families were moderately comfortable, twenty-three families had meager living conditions, and six families appeared to be in destitute circumstances.

Twenty-three of the families studied were rural families and thirty-four were from the towns. Three families mentioned having moved into the county within the past 15 years. Five elders or entire families had moved from one community to another in the county but this move was not

recent. All other elders, in the three-generation families of the study, had lived in the same community most of their adult lives. The middle and youngest generation family members had always lived in same community.

The background information concerning the eldest generation informants of the families is summarized and presented in Table 1. Among the eldest generation family members, 88 per cent were women and 12 per cent were men. whose ages ranged from 45 years to 100 years. Eighty-eight per cent were between the ages of 56 and 85 years. Sixty-nine per cent were maternal grandmothers. Eighty-five per cent of the eldest generation members were widowed.

About ten per cent were married and living with their spouse in three-generation families. Fourteen per cent worked away from home either full or part time, over 40 per cent worked at home full time and about 20 per cent worked at home part time. Twenty-five per cent did not work at all.

Forty-three per cent of elders said they were in good health and 57 per cent indicated they were in fair to poor health. Forty-four per cent reported they had physical handicaps.

The background information of middle generation informants is presented in Table 2. Ninety-eight per cent of middle generation informants were women who ranged in ages from 30 to 65 years. Over half of all the middle generation

Table 1
 Background Information of Informants
 About Eldest Generation (N = 171)

Descriptive Factors	Percentage
Sex	
Male	12
Female	88
Total	<u>100</u>
Age Range	
45-55	3
56-65	21
66-75	37
76-85	30
86-100	9
	<u>100</u>
Relationship to the family	
Maternal grandmother	69
Maternal grandfather	14
Paternal grandmother	13.5
Paternal grandfather	0.0
Other - (aunt & great grandmother)	3.5
	<u>100.0</u>
Marital status	
Married	11
Widowed	85
Divorced	4
Single	0
	<u>100</u>
Work status	
Work away full time	9
Work away part time	5
Work at home full time	42
Work at home part time	19
Does not work at all	25
	<u>100</u>
Health status	
Good	43
Fair	46
Poor	11
	<u>100</u>

Table 1 (continued)

Background Information of Informants
About Eldest Generation (N = 171)

Descriptive Factors	Percentage
Handicaps	
Blind (or cannot see well)	4
Deaf (or cannot hear well)	9
Crippled	11
All three	7
None	56
Other handicaps (palsy, high blood pressure, arthritis, heart condition)	13
	<u>100</u>

Table 2

Background Information of Informants About
the Middle Generation (N = 171)

Descriptive Factors	Women %	Men %	Family %
Sex			
Male		02	
Female	98		
Age range			
30-35	13	6	
36-45	52	33	
46-55	30	23	
56-65	3	6	
66-75	0	0	
Not counted (not in house)	2	32	
	100	100	
Marital status			
Married			63
Divorced			25
Widowed			10
Single			2
			100
Work status			
Work away full time	63	58	
Work away part time	8	1	
Work at home full time	23	6	
Work at home part time	0	0	
Do not work	4	2	
Not counted (not in house)	2	33	
	100	100	

women were 36-45 years of age and one-third were 46-55 years of age. Sixty-three per cent of the middle generation women were married with husbands present, twenty-five per cent were divorced. Ten per cent of middle generation were widowed. Approximately 70 per cent of the mothers in the middle generation worked away from home, either full or part time.

Only two per cent of the middle generation informants were men. Of the middle generation male spouses of the female informants, 33 per cent were 36-45 years of age, 23 per cent were 46-55 years of age and 32 per cent did not live in the three-generation family household, so they were not counted.

Among the middle generation men, 58 per cent were in full time employment, six per cent were at home full time working on the farm, one per cent worked part time, and 33 per cent were not counted, since they did not live in the household.

The background information concerning the youngest generation is presented in Table 3. Twenty-six of the youth informants were boys and 31 were girls. Their ages ranged from 12 to 21 years. Ninety-three per cent were 13 to 18 years of age. Forty per cent of the families had children who were teen-agers only. Forty per cent of the families had both teen-agers and young children. In eight per cent of the families there were children of all ages. Thirty-one

Table 3

Background Information of Informants
About the Third Generation (N = 171)

Descriptive Factors	Percentage
Sex of youth informant	
Male	45.6
Female	54.4
	<u>100.0</u>
Age of youth filling in questionnaire	
12 years old	3
13 years old	11
14 years old	14
15 years old	22
16 years old	13
17 years old	19
18 years old	14
19 years old	0
20 years old	2
21 years old	2
	<u>100</u>
Age range of all children in the 57 three-generation households	
All 0-12	4
All teens	40
All over 19	1
Young children and teens	40
Teens and over	7
All ages	8
	<u>100</u>
Family size	
One child at home	31
Two children at home	29
Three children at home	14
Four children at home	19
Five children at home	5
Six children at home	0
Seven children at home	2
	<u>100</u>

per cent of the families had only one child at home, 29 per cent had two children at home, 14 per cent had three children and 19 per cent of the families had four children. There were five to seven children living in seven per cent of the households of the study.

Living arrangements of the three-generation families are described in Table 4. In 64 per cent of the families a member of the middle generation was head of the household. This proportion corresponds to the number of married husband-wife families in the middle generation. Twenty-eight per cent of the families lived in the grandparent's house, probably resulting from the 25 per cent of the middle generation who were divorced and the ten per cent who were widowed or the two per cent who were single.

In this study the three-generation families' living arrangement appear to be permanent. Sixty-two per cent of the families had lived together in the same household ten years or more.

In answer to the question, "Has the family lived together always?", 44 per cent of the families answered "Yes." In answer to inquire about living space, the findings show that 33 per cent grandparents share a bedroom with other family members. Fifty-six per cent of the grandparents reported they had a separate bedroom but they shared family bathroom.

In answer to the inquiry about arrangements for living

Table 4
 Living Arrangements of the Fifty-seven
 Three-generation Families

Descriptive Factors	Percentage
Living arrangement	
Live in oldest generation's house	28
Live in middle generation's house	64
House jointly owned or rented	6
House owned by another relative	2
Length of time lived together as a three-generation family	
1-3 years or less	19
4-6 years	11
7-9 years	8
10-15 years	33
16 years and over	29
Always lived together	44
Amount of living space for elder	
Share bedroom with others	33
Separate bedroom, share bath	56
Separate bedroom and bath	5
Complete separate accommodations	6
Arrangements for living expenses	
Elders having no income, middle generation pays all	21
Elders sharing in family living expenses	59
Elder's other children contribute	2
Elders furnishing most all expenses	4
Elders furnishing house and personal expenses, and middle generation pays all household expenses	14

expenses, the findings showed that 21 per cent of the grandparents had no income and the middle generation paid all expenses. Fifty-nine per cent of the grandparents shared in the family living expenses. Fourteen per cent grandparents furnished the house and own personal expenses, and the middle generation paid all household expenses. Only two per cent of elders' other adult children contributed to elder parent's living expenses which is considerably less than the 10 per cent who did contribute in the Smith et al. study.

The Research Instrument

An adaptation of the Smith, Britton and Britton Questionnaire was reproduced in three forms. Each form was the same, but each directed specifically toward one of the three generations (see Appendices C, D, and E).

The three forms of the instrument were developed to obtain information from one member of the three generations in the study group on 32 identical fixed-alternate questions.

Fixed-alternate questions refers to the type question to which the respondent checks from a number of suggested answers the one statement nearest to the way he feels. These questions were concerned with the reasons the three-generation families had agreed to their living arrangements, and the problems which had been created as a result. Another concern was that of the interpersonal relationship which had developed.

A cover sheet accompanied the instrument. It gave

the purpose of the study and the directions for answering the questions. Some background information was requested and used in determining the variables.

Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

Since the questionnaire was an adaptation of a widely used instrument, the items in this questionnaire were evaluated by professional colleagues and judged to secure desired information. Satisfactory results affirmed face validity.

Intra-family reliability of the answers was checked by including in each of the three forms descriptive information to be filled in by the respondent. Answers to the open-ended questions were compared with the answers of the other two members of the family. The three were consistent in the information they gave. Since there was no way of rechecking the answers of each informant, the reporting of factual material was the only means of determining if there was reliability in answers given by the three family members.

Categorizing, Scoring and Analyzing the Responses

In coding and tabulating the data, each family set of three questionnaires was given a number--00 through 56. In addition each generation was given a number: one for eldest; two for middle; and three for youngest generation. The extra family members were coded four for elder, six for

middle and six and seven for youngest.

Questions on which the entire study group must select only one of the fixed-alternate answers were treated as one unit. In coding, each answer was given a number 0-9.

In questions for which more than one answer could be given, each answer was coded and tabulated 0 or 1 and each fixed-alternate answer was statistically analyzed using chi square to compute the opinions of the generations in the entire study group. The instruction cards to compute the desired results were also coded, tabulated and key-punched.

The coding and tabulating of the data were done in such a way so that the data could be computed with chi square and analyzed to determine the degree of similarity or dissimilarity in opinions between the three generations.

In addition to the fixed-alternate questions, eight open-ended questions concerning attitudes of the three generations toward multigenerational family living were included. The coding of the data from these open-ended questions was subject to judgment of the investigator; therefore, because of the questionable reliability, the data were not computed statistically.

All statistical treatment was computed at the computation center at North Carolina State University at Raleigh, North Carolina. The statistical treatment of the data and their findings are presented in Chapter IV.

In analyzing the data, the questions relating to the

three hypotheses were grouped together and the data relating to each hypothesis are discussed.

Hypothesis 1. There is no difference in the reasons that the three generations gave for living together.

To investigate hypothesis one, the data used were from the question stating "The present living arrangements are a result of:" with eleven fixed-alternate answers (Appendices C, D, and E). Responses of the three generations are reported in Table 5.

Hypothesis 2. There is no difference in the way each of the three generations perceive the problems involved in their living arrangement.

Data used to investigate Hypothesis 2 were from following questions in all three forms of the research instrument (see Appendices C, D, and E):

Opinions on "the best possible arrangement for active, healthy elder people" were stated in seven fixed-alternate answers. The results are reported in Table 6.

Opinions on "the best possible arrangement for elderly people who cannot care for self" (six fixed-alternate answers). The results are reported in Table 7.

How should elder persons choose with whom to live if that living arrangement is decided upon? (six fixed-alternate answers). The results are reported in Table 8.

What responsibilities do you think adult sons and

daughters should have for their older parents? There were nine fixed-alternate answers. Since each respondent could have more than one answer, the entire group studied was treated by employing the chi square test on each answer given. The results are reported in Table 9.

How do you think transportation should be solved? Only the first choice answers were computed. The results are reported in Table 10.

What happens in three-generation families when guests come? The answers were in four parts: (a) when the grandparent had guests, (b) when the grandchildren had guests, (c) when the rest of the family had guests, and (d) reasons elder left. The results were reported in Table 11.

Hypothesis 3. There is no difference in the areas of behavior in which generations disagree with each other.

Data used to investigate Hypothesis 3 were from the question in all three forms of the research instrument about disagreements between parents and children, also grandparents and children. There were 38 fixed-alternate answers. Each respondent could check item that the children were criticized for by each adult generation. Since each respondent could have more than one answer, the entire group was treated with chi square test on each answer given.

Summary

A selected group of 119 families was secured through

high schools of Rockingham County, North Carolina, for purpose of studying conflicts in three-generation families.

The study was carried out by questionnaire-interview in fifty-seven all-white, three-generation families living in three communities which were predominantly textile and tobacco manufacturing, and tobacco production. Eighty-five per cent of the eldest generation were widowed and sixty-nine per cent were maternal grandmothers of the youngest generation. Eighty-eight per cent of the elder-generation family members were between the ages of 56 and 85 years. Sixty-three per cent of the middle generation were married, 25 per cent were divorced and ten per cent of middle generation informants were widowed. Ninety-three per cent of the youngest generation informants were 13-18 years of age.

Sixty-four per cent of the families lived in the middle generation's home and 28 per cent in the grandparent's home. Sixty-two per cent of the families had lived together in the same household for ten years or more. Fifty-nine per cent of the grandparents shared in living expenses. Thirty-three per cent of the elders shared a room with other family members.

The research instrument was an adaptation of the Smith, Britton and Britton Questionnaire which was reproduced in three forms. Each form was the same, but each was directed specifically toward one of three generations.

The validity of the instrument was checked by

professional colleagues. Intra-family reliability of the answers was checked by including in each of the three forms descriptive information to be filled in by each respondent.

The study group responses were coded and tabulated according to family, also according to generation within the family.

The entire study group responses were treated with chi square test on each question or in the event of several responses, the chi square test was applied to each answer.

In analyzing the data, the findings were grouped according to the hypothesis to which the question was related.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

The present study was an attempt to identify the problem areas expressed by three-generation family members living in the same household. The three hypotheses, stated in the null form are presented below:

There is no difference in the reasons that the three generations give for living together in one household.

There is no difference in the way each of the three generations perceive the problems involved in their living arrangement.

There is no difference in the areas of behavior in which generations disagree with each other.

Reasons Why Three Generations Live in the Same Household

One of the purposes of this study was to determine whether significant differences existed between opinions that three generations in 57 households gave for living together.

Treatment of Data

The fixed-alternate survey question, consisting of nine reasons for living together was administered to each of

the three generations. The significance of difference between the responses of each generation was determined by the chi square test. Only those significant at .05 or better probability level are reported.

The findings revealed that there was no significant difference in the opinion of the three generations as to reason given that they were living in one household. However, there were different reasons given by the families which are described and presented in Table 5.

It is of some note that the opinions of the generations were very similar. Of particular interest is the number of persons in each of the three generations who indicated the reason the grandparent was living in the household was that the grandparent was widowed and "did not want to live alone." There was agreement in the opinion of the three generations relative to the item "grandparent not able to live alone." It can be observed that the grandparents are less willing to admit their dependency than the other two generations are. All three generations agree that the eldest generation members share in the families' living expenses.

Two of the reasons given for living together in three-generation household, specifically indicated an economic factor. Only four per cent of the grandparents, seven per cent of the parents and three per cent of the children specified "Grandparent lacked enough income to live alone." There was almost complete agreement between the three

Table 5

Reasons Given by Each Generation for Living
Together as a Three-generation Family

Reason for living together	Grand- parent's opinion N=57 %	Parent's opinion N=57 %	Child's opinion N=57 %
Mother works away, grand- parent needed	11	9	9
One parent of children deceased	5	2	5
Parents of children divorced	11	12	11
Grandparent widowed, did not want to live alone	44	40	46
Grandparent not able to live alone	12	18	14
Grandparent lacked enough income to live alone	4	7	3
Home for elders not available	0	0	0
Family not willing to accept Old Age Assistance	0	0	0
Elder shares in living expenses	14	12	12
Total	100	100	100

Chi square 3.2

16 df not significant

generations in answering the question "Living expenses were less by living together and sharing the total income resources." There is an indication that inadequate income is a mutual problem at least for 12 per cent of families. It appears that when the per cent responses for the two economic reasons given by all three generations were combined nearly one-fifth live together for financial reasons. It is not easy for older people to be financially dependent on their children nor is it easy for adult children to admit their parents are dependent on them.

Opinions Related to the Living Arrangements

Viewed by Three-generation Families

A second purpose of the present study was to determine whether significant differences existed between opinions of the three generations in the way they perceive the problems involved in their living arrangement.

Treatment of Data

The significance of difference between the responses of each generation on living arrangement problems was determined by employing a chi square test of significance.

Fixed alternate-choice survey questions which were used to compare the three generations' opinions about the living arrangement problems of three-generational family living are:

1. Opinions on best living arrangements for active,

healthy elders.

2. Opinions on best living arrangements for elderly people who cannot care for themselves.

3. Opinion on reason most important in deciding which adult child to live with, if this is the living arrangement considered.

4. Opinions on responsibilities that adult sons and daughters should have for their older parents. The entire study group was treated separately with chi square test run on each of the nine fixed-alternate answers because the respondents could have more than one reply to this question.

5. Opinions on how the transportation problem for elders should be solved.

6. Opinions on what happens when the three separate generations have guest to visit in the home. The chi square test was employed for the separate answers on each of the four parts of the question. The four parts were (a) when grandparents have guest, (b) when grandchildren have guests, (c) when rest of family entertains, (d) reasons for grandparent leaving.

The opinions of each generation for the best living arrangements for older people was secured through this statement on the instrument:

Oftentimes living arrangements are changed according to age and health conditions of the elder family member. Keeping this in mind, make a choice for active senior family members and one for very elderly in need of protection and assistance.

Each informant was then asked his opinion about "the best possible arrangement for active, healthy older people" with seven fixed-alternate answers. The tabulation of the answers is presented in Table 6. The greater number of respondents for each generation indicated agreement in their choice for the active, healthy elder, that is to "Live in own home near relatives," with over three-fourths of the grandparents, two-thirds of the parents and over half of the children selecting the response. Nearly 20 per cent of the parents and children said "live with adult child" as compared to nearly ten per cent of the elders. More of the elders preferred for the adult children to move into their home rather than to do the moving.

With a chi square score 17.05 there seemed to be some variation in the opinions between the generations, but with 12 degrees of freedom, the difference was not significant.

The opinions of each generation for the best living arrangement for elderly people who cannot care for themselves are presented in Table 7. The findings indicate that the generations agree fairly closely but the majority of responding families were not clearly "decided" on one choice. Over one-third of the grandparents and children, and nearly one-half of the parents said "Live with one of adult children." This result might have been expected since this is the arrangement commonly practiced and accepted in this part of

Table 6

Opinion of Each Generation for the Best Living
Arrangement for Active Grandparents

Opinion on best living arrangements for active, healthy elders	Grand- parent opinion N=57 %	Parent opinion N=57 %	Youth opinion N=57 %
Live in own home near relatives	77	64	56
Live in own home at a distance from children	0	5	7
Live in apartment among own age mates	5	0	5
Live in community subsidized housing	0	7	7
Live in home for elders	2	0	2
Live with adult child	9	19	19
Have adult child live with them	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	100	100	100
Chi square 17.05	12 df	not significant	

Table 7

Opinion of Each Generation for the Best Living
Arrangement for Inactive Elders

Opinions on best living arrangements for inactive elders not able to care for themselves	Grand- parent opinion N=57 %	Parent opinion N=57 %	Youth Opinion N=57 %
Live in own home with aid from community services and relatives	12	21	23
Live in home for elders	16	7	12
Live in nursing home	11	9	12
Live in retirement village	2	2	3
Live with one adult child	35	45	39
Have adult child live with them	<u>24</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>11</u>
Total	100	100	100

Chi square 8.87 10 df not significant

southeast. It is especially practiced among families in the middle and lower socio-economic areas.

Twenty-three per cent of the youngest generation indicated that older people should "Live in own home, with services needed provided by community agencies, friends or family" while 21 per cent of their parents and only 12 per cent of their grandparents' response were the same. This may indicate that the parents and children are more oriented toward community agency services than are their elders. The eldest generation member may realize their own limitations more realistically, and may be more fearful as to who will give aid when it is needed. One-fourth of the grandparents said "Have adult children live with them" with a lesser per cent agreement from their adult children (16%) and grandchildren (11%). This difference may reflect independent traits for all three generations. Only nine per cent of the adult children and 12 per cent of the grandchildren felt the oldsters should "live in home for elders or nursing home." The divided choices suggest mixed feelings with respect to the oldsters being independent and responsible for themselves. There appeared to be mixed feelings among the adult children and the grandchildren about the ways in which the oldsters should be cared for. The difference in opinions between the generations was not significant when treated with the chi square statistic.

Reasons for Living in Three-Generation Household

In Table 8 the findings presented show that the three generations were in fairly close agreement when answering the question: "How should an older person choose with whom to live, if that living arrangement is decided upon?" Nearly half of the elders and adult children agreed that-- "the one they get along with best"--is most important. Fewer grandchildren (30%) made this choice. Over one-third of each generation replied "the one who wants them." One would expect the older persons to indicate this since "being wanted" is so important to them. In this study it seemed equally as important to each of the three generations. Seventeen per cent of the youth and 12 per cent of the elders answered "the one who needs them" as best reason, but only three per cent of the middle generation valued this reason. It is interesting to note that elders did not elect to live with the adult child who was the most financially secure. Neither did they elect to live with the unmarried adult child, nor did they elect to live with the one who was childless. The literature reviewed did indicate that the single, divorced or widowed daughters frequently cared for their elder parents. The differences in the opinions in answer to this question were not significant (16.29) when treated with the chi square test.

Table 8

Reason for Deciding with Which Adult
Child Elders Live

Reasons for choosing which adult child to live with	Choice considered best		
	by: Grand- parent N=57 %	by: Parent N=57 %	by: Child N=57 %
The one that wants them	37	37	35
The one needing them most	12	3	17
The one they get along with best	47	46	30
The one most financially secure	4	11	14
The one with no children	0	2	0
The one not married	0	2	2
No comment	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	100	101	100
Chi square 16.29	12 df	not significant	

Responsibilities to Elder Parents,
as Viewed by Each Generation

What responsibilities should adult sons and daughters have for their older parents? In answering the question, each of the informants could express as many as five opinions. The findings are presented in Table 9. The adult children showed a strong feeling of responsibility toward providing a place in their own home for the elder parent; taking care of parent when ill; helping to make decisions and arrangements for them; paying their expenses; doing housework and showing concern with other attentions. The grandchildren's responses were similar to those of their parents. Among responses from grandparents, three responsibilities stood out above the others. Ninety-three per cent said they needed help in "making decisions and arrangements." Eighty-six per cent said they needed "concern shown with personal attention," and 79 per cent wanted "care when sick." These responses indicate that elders show strong desire for independence and many want protection and support only when absolutely necessary.

Each of the nine fixed-alternate answers to the questions was treated using the chi square test. The findings show that there was significant difference in opinion between generations on three of the nine suggested responsibilities. Nearly one-fifth of the elders said the adult children should have no responsibility. Only four per cent of adult

Table 9

Responsibility of Adult Children for Elders
as Stated by Each Generation

Responsibility of adult children for elders	Grand- parent %	Parent %	Youth %	Chi Square*	Probability
They should have no responsibility	19	4	2	14.16	.001
They should show concern with letters, visits, gifts, and telephone	86	79	83	0.97	
They should go home and live with elder	5	5	12	2.66	
They should provide a place in own home when elder is not able to care for self	63	90	72	10.87	.01
They should help pay expenses	42	74	65	12.64	.01
They should help make decisions and arrangements so parent is well pro- vided for	93	84	79	4.59	
They should take care of parent if they are sick	79	90	88	2.90	
They should do parents' housework	44	37	39	0.63	
Other responsibilities	7	0	7	4.19	

* with 2 df

children and two per cent of grandchildren agreed. The difference in opinion was significant at .001 level. Ninety per cent of adult children, 72 per cent of grandchildren and 63 per cent of elders said "adult children should provide a place in own home when elder is not able to care for self." The difference in opinion was significant at .01 level. Seventy-four per cent adult children, 65 per cent grandchildren and only 42 per cent elders said adult children should pay expenses for elder parents. The difference in opinion was significant at .01 level.

Opinion on Transportation of Elder Family Member

Transportation for elder member of the family has become a major concern--transportation is needed for church, shopping, the doctor, for legal and financial business, also for recreational activities. Each of the three generations was asked "How do you think the problem should be solved?" with seven fixed-alternate answers. The respondents were asked to indicate two choices. The results are shown in Table 10. Half of the elders and nearly half of the parents replied "Elders should drive own car." This proportion corresponds to fact that nearly half of grandparents are reported in good health and 61 per cent are less than 75 years of age. Only one-third of the youth shared the feeling that elders should drive. The next most frequent answers by all three generations indicated that the family

Table 10
Opinions from All Informants Concerning
Transportation for Elders

Suggestions for solving elders' transportation problem	Grand-parent's opinion N=57 %	Parent's opinion N=57 %	Youth's opinion N=57 %
Elders to drive own car as long as possible	50	47	35
A transportation "pool" should be organized and provided for all oldsters	2	12	14
Family should transport own relatives	39	25	32
Neighbors should invite elders	5	12	7
The church should provide transportation	2	4	0
Youth should share in transportation of elders	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>
Total	100	100	100
Chi square 23.24	10 df	significant at .01	

should transport the elders. This does not suggest who would do the driving. The three generations did agree that transportation would be provided. Twelve per cent of the grandchildren responded "Youth should help transport the elders." None of the parents responded that the youth should help with transportation and only two per cent of the elder were in agreement. This may suggest that some youth are more confident in their own driving ability than they are of elder's ability to drive. It might be that the youth had not been driving long enough to be considered experienced. Both sets of adults appeared to have more confidence in their own ability than in the youth's driving ability.

Another interesting point is that some parents and youth have become more community service oriented than have the grandparents, as shown in different replies to "transportation pool should be organized and provided for all oldsters."

The elders' responses reflect independence since they indicated they should either transport themselves or that the family should do it. The difference in opinions on how to solve elders' transportation was significant at .01 level of significance.

Action of Family Members, When Guests Come,
as Viewed by Each Generation

To discover what occurs in three-generation families

when members of the family have visitors, an inquiry was made of all three generations. The results are presented in Table 11. To the question "What happens when grandparents have guest?", 61 per cent of elders, 42 per cent of adult children and 53 per cent of grandchildren said the grandparent visited with the entire families around. It is interesting to note that twice as many adult children as elders responded that the "family leaves." Twice as many parents and children as elders said "family was wanted, so they stayed." The findings show that there was not a significant difference in the opinion of the three generations about action of family when grandparent had guests.

A similar question, "What happens when grandchildren have guests?" was asked. The findings presented show that children indicated they have less privacy to visit alone with their friends than their elders reported. The parents' responses more nearly corresponded to the opinion of the children. There was not a significant difference in the opinions between the generations when the chi square test was employed.

In answer to the question, "What happens when the rest of the family entertains?", the findings show that the parents responded less frequently than did the elders and children that the "elder was wanted too, so stays." The elders and children replied that "elder usually left" less frequently than did the parents.

Table 11

Opinions of Each Generation About Actions of Family
Members When Guests Visit

Action of family members when guests come	Viewed by elder N=57 %	Viewed by middle genera- tion N=57 %	Viewed by youth N=57 %	Chi Square	df	Probability
When grandparents have guests:						
Visit with guests alone	18	16	9			
Visit with entire family	61	42	53			
Family leaves	7	14	11			
Family wanted, so stay	14	28	28			
Family not wanted, but stay	0	0	0			
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>101</u>	8.32	8	NS
When grandchildren have guests:						
Visit with friends alone	61	45	40			
Visit with entire family	35	46	47			
Have no place to visit	4	9	13			
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	6.83	4	NS

Table 11 (continued)

Opinions of Each Generation About Actions of Family
Members When Guests Visit

Action of family members when guests come	Viewed by elder N=57 %	Viewed by middle genera- tion N=57 %	Viewed by youth N=57 %	Chi Squares*	df	Probability
When rest of family entertains:						
Elder welcome, but leaves	32	32	28			
Elder really wanted, so stays	54	46	67			
Usually leaves	13	18	5			
No comment	2	5	0			
Total	<u>101</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>100</u>	9.67	6	NS
Reasons for leaving:						
Noisy and tiring	2	4	-			
Do not hear	5	8	-			
Interest different	7	8	-			
Have own interests	0	14	-			
No comment	86	66	-			
Total	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>		10.61	4	.05

The eldest and middle generations were asked for reasons the elder left when family entertains. Fourteen per cent of the middle generation and none of elders responded that elder had their own interests. The adult child also gave as reasons "noisy and tiring," "does not hear" twice as many times as did the elder generation. Eighty-six per cent of the elders did not comment to this question and 65 per cent adult child gave no answer. There was a significant difference at the .05 level in opinions between generations about action of elder generation when guest visited. Because there was a high per cent of "no answers," this question has little value to the study.

Interpersonal Relationships Viewed by Three-
Generation Family Living Together

A third purpose in the study was to determine whether significant differences existed in the way each generation viewed the areas of behavior in which generations disagree with each other.

To obtain information about intergenerational relationships, the third generation was asked about what their parents and also their grandparents criticized them. The other two generations were also asked about what things they thought the children felt criticized by their parents and also by the grandparents. Each adult had a chance to say what the other adult criticized the children for as well as

to indicate what they criticized the children for. The data are in Tables 12 and 13.

Treatment of Data

The fixed-alternate survey questions, consisting of 38 choices, were administered to each of the three generations. This gave basis for comparing the opinions of the three generations. The significance of difference between the responses of each generation was determined by chi square test. Only those significant at the .05 (or higher) level were considered. The sample population was treated with chi square test on each of the 38 variables.

In Table 12, data showing how each generation views the disagreements between parents and children are shown. There is significant difference in the opinions of the three generations on thirteen of the nineteen variables related to parent-child disagreements.

The thirteen areas are: friends; dating patterns; style of clothes; style and care of hair; style and use of make up; acceptance of responsibility; carrying out responsibility; care of room; earning money; spending money; use of the telephone; use of the car; school work.

There is a significant difference at .001 level in the way each generation viewed parent-child disagreement on "care of room" with highest chi square score of all the 19 variables tested. Parent and children agreed on this reason

Table 12

Areas of Disagreement Between Parents and Children
as Viewed by All Three Generations

Areas of disagreement between parents and children***	Viewed by grand- parent %	Viewed by parents %	Viewed by youth %	Chi Square*	Probability
Manners	46	53	46	0.74	NS
Promptness	28	47	35	4.67	NS
Friends	16	35	35	6.92	.05
Dating patterns	4	12	26	12.50	.01
Style of clothes	18	44	47	13.10	.01
Style and care of hair	28	35	56	10.15	.01
Style and use of make-up	12	4	19	6.90	.05
Eating habits	40	53	44	1.83	NS
Acceptance of responsibility	26	42	53	8.30	.05
Carrying out responsibility	30	47	63	12.73	.01
Care of room	35	70	68	18.28	.001

Table 12 (continued)

Areas of disagreement Between Parents and Children
as Viewed by All Three Generations

Areas of disagreement between parents and children***	Viewed by grand- parent %	Viewed by parents %	Viewed by youth %	Chi Square**	Probability
Earning money	4	18	46	30.31	.001
Spending money	26	46	**	4.61	.05
Use of telephone	21	40	51	11.13	.01
Use of TV	30	37	42	1.87	NS
Use of car	7	21	30	9.68	.01
Use of Hi-fi	11	19	19	2.13	NS
School work	26	44	51	7.58	.05
Other	14	12	16	0.29	NS

*2 df

**Dropped out--chi square completed with 1 df

***Each generation ranked in order the 10 areas which caused the most disagreement

for "nagging." Half as many grandparents (35%) said parents "nagged" children about "care of room." This conflict may indicate lack of space.

There is significant difference at .001 level in the way the three generations view the parent-child disagreements, on "earning money." Forty-six per cent of the children said parents nagged about earning money. Only 18 per cent of the parents and a mere four per cent of grandparents mentioned earning money as a subject for disagreement between parents and children. The researcher wonders if there may be varied interpretation of "earning money." Money is evidently a real concern in the families; perhaps the youths feel the need of earning money rather than ask a parent who doesn't have it to supply him. A corresponding 46 per cent of parents said they criticized the children over "spending money." The area of "earning money" was viewed differently by parents and grandparents at .05 level of significance.

"Carrying out responsibility" was an area of parent-child conflict in which the generations viewed differently at a .01 significant level. More children than parents and grandparents view this as an area for being "nagged." Acceptance of responsibility was listed separately as a parent-child conflicting issue. It was viewed differently by the generations at .05 significance level, meaning less difference in opinion on this issue. Perhaps more children default in "carrying out responsibility" than in "accepting

responsibility."

Five areas of social behavior which are subject to changing customs and styles are named as parent-child disagreements: Dating patterns, use of car, use of telephone, style of clothes and hair are all viewed differently by the three generations at .01 significant level. Other areas of social behavior, namely: style and use of make-up, choice and numbers of friends and their behavior, and school work were viewed by the three generations differently at the .05 significant level. In almost all cases more youth considered the area of social behavior a conflict than their parents did. In all cases (except one) parents' view of the parent-child conflicts was closer to the youth view than grandparents' view. More grandparents than parents considered style and use of make-up a problem. Grandparents' and parents' views are closer together on one area only--style and care of hair.

The parent-child areas of conflict having a high per cent (35% to 50%) of families reporting, but viewed alike by the generation as a problem are: Manners, promptness, eating habits and use of television.

In Table 13 is shown how each generation viewed the disagreements between grandparents and grandchildren. There is significant difference in the opinion of generations on only three of the nineteen variables related to grandparent-grandchild disagreements.

Table 13

Areas of Disagreement Between Grandparents and Children
as Viewed by All Three Generations

Areas of disagreement between grandparents and grandchildren***	Viewed by grand- parent N=57 %	Viewed by parent N=57 %	Viewed by youth N=57 %	Chi Square*	Probability
Manners	32	33	35	0.15	NS
Promptness	21	19	30	2.02	NS
Friends	21	21	26	0.59	NS
Dating patterns	5	7	19	7.07	.05
Style of clothes	21	26	35	2.87	NS
Style and care of hair	21	23	37	4.34	NS
Style and use of make-up	5	5	11	1.61	NS
Eating habits	35	26	32	1.03	NS
Acceptance of responsibility	32	21	28	1.66	NS
Carrying out responsibility	32	21	32	2.08	NS
Care of room	37	32	40	0.96	NS
Earning money	4	9	23	10.98	.01
Spending money	25	14	**	2.03	NS
Use of telephone	28	23	35	2.11	NS
Use of TV	23	25	32	1.26	NS
Use of car	5	9	14	2.62	NS

Table 13 (continued)

Areas of Disagreement Between Grandparents and Children
as Viewed by All Three Generations

Areas of disagreement between grandparents and grandchildren***	Viewed by grand- parent N=57 %	Viewed by parent N=57 %	Viewed by youth N=57 %	Chi Square*	Probability
Use of Hi-fi	5	18	19	5.52	NS
School work	26	5	26	10.81	.01
Other	47	16	37	3.31	NS

*2 df

**Omitted. Chi square computed with 1 df

*** Each generation ranked in order the 10 areas which caused the most disagreement.

"Earning money" as a grandparent-child conflict is viewed differently by the generations. This variable was the most significant when the test was employed. It was significant at the .01 level. Earning money can certainly be perceived to be an area of disagreement.

Twenty-six per cent of children said they were nagged by grandparents over school work. Twenty-six per cent of grandparents also reported they nagged children over school work. Only five per cent of parents said grandparents nagged about school work although 44 per cent of the parents said they, themselves, nagged the children over school work. The generations viewed the situation differently and their answers were significant at the .01 level. School work is an obvious area of disagreement in that schools require different kinds of assignment today as opposed to fifty years ago.

Nineteen per cent of the youth felt criticized by grandparent over dating patterns. Only five per cent grandparents and seven per cent parents said grandparents criticized youth over dating. The generations viewed differently the dating conflict between grandparents and grandchildren and their answers were significant at the .05 level when the chi square test was employed.

The grandparent-child areas of conflict reported by one-fifth to one-third of families, but viewed alike by the generations as a problem are: Manners, promptness, style of

clothes, hair style, eating habits, responsibilities, care of room, use of telephone, use of television. Quarreling among siblings and courtesy toward parents was listed as "other" disagreements.

Attitudes Toward Three-Generation Family Living

Expressed by the Three Generations

Findings in answer to open-ended questions are presented in this section. The open-ended questions, concerning attitudes toward three-generation family living are:

1. How do you feel when grandparents take part in discipline of grandchildren?
2. Does the grandparent ever take sides with the grandchildren when parents discipline?
3. On what three things do grandparents and grandchildren differ most?
4. On what three things do children and parents differ most?
5. On what three things do grandparents and parents differ most?
6. What three things do you like most about living together in a three-generation family?
7. What 3 things bother you most about living together in a three-generation family?
8. What 3 suggestions do you have for other families who may be considering three-generation-family living?

Treatment of data

The data from these questions were subject to judgment in coding. The questionable reliability of this procedure did not justify treating this data statistically, but is offered as valuable observational information.

How Do You Feel When Grandparent Takes Part in Discipline of Grandchildren?

The responses are summarized in categories and are presented in Table 14. It seems from examining the children's responses in Table 14, that nearly all the grandparents take part in child discipline. About one-half parents (28) give permission when child is in care of grandparent. Twenty-one grandparents said they took active part in discipline and about the same number of children (21) and parents (18) resent it. The number of grandparents reporting that they are taking active part in disciplining the grandchildren corresponds to the number fathers of children not living in the household.

Does the Grandparent Ever Take Sides With the Grandchildren When Parents Discipline?

The responses are presented in Table 15. From the number of responses recorded it must be noted that some respondents checked more than one answer. More children are aware that grandparent "takes sides" than is stated by the

Table 14

The Three Generations' Responses to "Does Grandparent Discipline Children?"

Type Response to: "Does grandparent discipline children?"	Grand- parents' Reply	Parents' Reply	Chil- dren's Reply
Grandparent does discipline, I resent it		18	21
Grandparent does discipline but agreeable with me		7	31
Grandparent does discipline, no comment on feeling			9
Grandparent disciplines very actively	21		
Grandparent should discipline when child in their care	8	28	
Grandparent disciplines mildly	9		
Grandparent never disciplines	10	7	7
No answer	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>
Total	57	71	77

Table 15

The Three Generations' Responses to "Does Grandparent Take Sides With Children?"

The Type Response to: "Does grandparent take sides with children?"	Grand- parents' Reply	Parents' Reply	Chil- dren's Reply
Emphatically yes, always, it is resented	5	16	20
Yes sometimes	2	12	13
Never	46	34	35
Declined comment	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	59	66	69

grandparent. Parent and children responses agree, indicating that it is resented by two generations. One-third of the families had only one child living in the home indicating that some grandparents are taking sides against parents.

On What Three Things Do Grandparents
and Grandchildren Differ Most?

The responses were classified and reported in Table 16. Parents seem to be more aware of the conflicts between youth and the elders over "activities," while all the youth expressed conflict over "habits of health, grooming, house-keeping chores." Thirty-eight of the youth reported conflict over changing social customs, indicating their annoyance in this area is greater than is their parents' and grandparents'. Youth is often reported as a "vehicle of change" and these findings suggest this might be true.

On What Three Things Do Children
and Parents Differ Most?

Findings are classified according to number responses made by each generation and are presented in Table 17. There was agreement by all three generations that the type and intensity of children's activities was a family conflict. More of the parents (37) reported conflicts relating to health, grooming, housekeeping than did the children and the elders. Obedience, quarreling and manners concerned more of the parents than the children and elders.

Table 16

Areas of Disagreement Between Grandparents
and Grandchildren as Perceived
by the Three Generations

Differences between grand- parents and grandchildren	Grand parents' reply	Parent's reply	Chil- dren's reply
The intensity, the type and quantity of children's activity	16	44	24
Habits of health, grooming, housekeeping and manage- ment	22	27	71
Changing social custom, manners, attitudes toward others	17	13	38
Conduct toward parents, quar- reling among siblings	17	10	6
No disagreements	4	14	4
No answer	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	90	124	149

Table 17

Areas of Disagreement Between the Children
and Their Parents as Perceived by
the Three Generations

Differences between parents and children	Response of grand- parent	Response of parent	Response of children
Quantity and type children's activities	21	23	34
Habits of health, grooming and housekeeping	11	37	24
Changing styles and social customs	10	16	44
Concern over education	5	4	9
Differences over money	9	8	9
Conduct toward parents (obedience), quarreling among siblings, attitudes toward family relations, manners	8	22	6
Replied no conflicts	3	9	7
No answer	<u>23</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>
Total	90	134	143

On What Three Things Do Grandparents
and Parents Differ?

The responses are classified and totaled according to the number of responses made by each generation and are presented in Table 18. Each generation responded in a similar way. The grandparents did not seem to be aware as their children and grandchildren that conflicts between the two adult generations were things relating to changing social customs and interpersonal relationships. The two adult generations mention "money" and "over concern for each other's health" as areas of conflict whereas the youth were not aware of it. As would be expected the parents and grandparents differed on ways of cooking, housekeeping and on child rearing practices.

What Three Things Do You Like Most About
Living in Three-Generation Family?

The responses to this question were tallied and are presented in Table 19. Each of the three generations seem to differ on "things liked most" about three generation living. The children gave more than one response each to the statement "love and companionship." Twenty-four middle generation expressed "love and companionship." Forty-six parents and 54 children showed appreciation for "help the elder gave." "Peace of mind" expressions were given by 21 elders and 15 middle generation. Only a small number gave

Table 18

Areas of Disagreement Between the Two Adult Generations
as Perceived by the Three Generations

Differences between grand- parents and parents	Response of grand- parent	Response of parent	Response of children
Child rearing practices	16	14	19
Ways of cooking and house- keeping	21	17	19
The way money is spent	4	9	-
Changing social customs, interpersonal relations	2	22	22
Overconcern for each other's health	13	13	
Replied "no differences"	10	9	14
No comment	<u>23</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>12</u>
Total	89	101	86

Table 19

The Three Things Liked Most About Living Together
as Stated by the Three Generations

Three Things liked most about living together	Grand- parent response	Parent response	Children response
Expressions related to:			
Love and companionship	49	24	77
It's fun, lively, enjoy- able, exciting	17		
"Peace of mind"--no worries over health and safety of elder or the children	21	15	
Less expense, less trouble, sharing elder's social security or OAA provides extra income		10	4
Elders useful or helpful including care of chil- dren	14	46	54
Like nothing at all	1	3	4
No answer	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	104	108	146

no reply.

What Three Things Bother You Most
About Three-generation Family Living?

Responses were totaled according to number made by each generation and are presented in Table 20. The three generations, as well as the families, are quite divided on what "bothers most." Twenty-seven elders named noise and confusion, 18 of the elders said difference in interest and understanding. Only a small number named "lack independence" and "lack privacy." There is closer agreement between parents and children responses, one-half naming "lack privacy," "difference in interest" and "lack understanding," also one-half of the children named "interference." It is interesting to note that 25 children said "not a thing" bothers.

What Three Suggestions Do You Have
for Other Families Considering
Three-generation Family Living?

The responses given by each generation were totaled and are presented in Table 21.

Almost all of the respondents in each generation gave two or more opinions or suggestions. The generational responses are similar. Especially do the parents' and children's responses agree. All of the elders advised "should

Table 20

The Three Things that Bother the Three
Generations About Living Together

Things that bother most about living together	Grand- parent's response	Parent's response	Children's response
Noise, confusion, commo- tion, quarreling	27		
Lack of independence	8	15	
Lack privacy, space and freedom	7	24	22
Interference		15	26
Difference in interest and activities, lack of understanding	18	22	29
No complaint, not a thing	10	13	25
No answer	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	85	101	104

Table 21

Suggestions by the Three Generations
for Persons Considering Multi-
generation Households

Suggestions to others concerning three- generation family living	Grand- parent response	Parent response	Children's response
Advised good idea-- I like it	3		2
Advised strongly against-- find another arrangement	27	18	20
Advised separate accommo- dations	19	23	23
Advised have a financial understanding	2	7	6
Advised elders should not interfere, should leave when family discussion starts	59	14	12
Advised depends on person- ality, have understanding on responsibilities, adapt, be considerate and cooperative	26	58	57
Family must care for older parents, it is their responsibility	1	5	
No comment	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>—</u>
Total	139	134	120

not interfere." One-half said "find another living arrangement."

The responses show that the elders do not feel three-generation family living the most ideal. They do admit problems exist and have indicated that interpersonal relationships cause the most concern. Understanding, adaptability, consideration, and cooperativeness are the key factors the second and third generations gave for making three-generation living a happy one.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the United States 23 per cent of the aged population living in family households, live in three generation families. In attempting to answer questions concerning problems of elders in three-generation households, a study of the opinions of each member in three generation households was made.

The Research Problem

The purpose of the study was to secure and analyze data that would ferret out the areas of conflict involved in three-generation households.

The objectives of the research problem were to determine:

1. The reasons for deciding to live together in a three generation household.
2. The financial physical and social arrangements involved in a three-generation household.
3. The areas of intergenerational relationships in a three-generation household.

Hypotheses

The hypotheses for the research are as follows:

There is no difference in the reasons that the three

generations give for living together.

There is no difference in the way each of the three generations perceive the problems involved in their living arrangements.

There is no difference in the areas of behavior in which the generations stated that they disagree with each other.

The Study Sample

Three-generation families living in the same household in three Rockingham County, North Carolina communities were selected to study. These communities were: Eden, in Leaksville Township, a textile manufacturing area of approximately 20,000 population; Reidsville Township of 18,000, producing and manufacturing and marketing tobacco; and Stoneville, village and rural area of 5,000 located in Mayo Township.

The three-generation families were located through students in the consolidated junior and senior high schools of the county. Students in five of the eleven high schools responded to the request. These five responding schools were located in three communities of the county (see Appendices A and B).

Members of each generation in 57 families were interviewed. Of the eldest generation 88 per cent were women and 12 per cent men. Eighty-five per cent of the eldest generation family members in the study were widowed. Sixty-nine

per cent of the three-generation families were mother-daughter combination. All except one of the middle generation informants were women. Sixty-three per cent were married and living with their husbands. Twenty-five per cent of the middle generation informants were divorced and ten per cent were widowed. Sixty-four per cent of the families in the study lived in homes owned by the middle generation and twenty-eight per cent lived in the grandparent's home. About seventy per cent of the second generation mothers worked away from home.

The Instrument

A questionnaire was prepared and reproduced in three forms. Each form was the same, but each was directed specifically toward one of the three generations (see Appendices C, D, E). The three forms of the questionnaire were designed to obtain opinions from the three generations about the reasons why the three generations lived together in the same household, opinions about living arrangements, and opinions about interpersonal relationships.

Procedure

The three generations of families in the study were interviewed simultaneously, but separately, to gain individual opinions on the survey questions. The responses from each questionnaire were coded and tabulated as a family unit and between generation. The chi square test of significance was

employed in examining relations between variables.

Conclusions

Hypothesis 1:

There was not a significant difference in the opinions of the three generations as to why the three-generation families of this study were living together in the same household. The chief reason given was that the widowed grandparent (half of whom were in ill health) did not want to live alone. Lack of money was given by one-fifth of the families although the lack of an adequate income to live independently was reflected in other reasons given. Some other reasons given were: "Grandparent not able to live alone"; "parents of children divorced, grandparent needed"; and "mother working away, grandparent's help was needed."

Hypothesis 2:

There was significant difference in the way the three generations perceived their living arrangement problems (see Tables 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11).

The three generations' opinions differed significantly on nearly one-third (5 out of 18 areas) of living arrangement problems described below.

There was a significant difference in opinions between the three generations at .001 level, concerning responsibilities that adult sons and daughters should take for their elder parents. The adult children and grandchildren showed

strong feelings of responsibilities toward their parent and grandparents and the elders showed considerable independence. Nineteen per cent of the elders said their adult children should not have to be responsible for their parents, while only four per cent of adult children and two per cent of grandchildren gave the same response.

About living arrangements for the eldest generation, there was a significant difference in opinion between the three generations at .01 level. Ninety per cent of the adult children, 72 per cent of the grandchildren and 63 per cent of the elders answered that "adult children should provide a place in own home for elder parent who is not able to care for himself."

There was a significant difference at the .01 level in opinion among the three generations in the way in which they answered the question "that adult children should pay expenses." Nearly twice as many (74%) adult children gave affirmative answer to the question, than did their elder parents (42%). The grandchildren responses (65%) were closer in agreement with parents.

The generations differed significantly at the .01 level on how to solve the elders' transportation problem. Each generation showed confidence in his own driving ability. The majority of all three generations said they would solve the transportation within the family.

The last three areas in which there was a significant

difference concerned elders leaving the room when guests of the other generations came. Overall responses to what happens when various family members have guests did not differ significantly, but reflected that each generation felt he did not have enough privacy. There was significant difference at the .001 level only between elders and adult children as a reason why elder parent left the room when guest visited.

Hypothesis 3:

The three generations were asked how they viewed the areas of social behavior about which parents and children also about which grandparents and children might disagree. Each generation had a chance to say what the other one criticized the children about, in addition to what they themselves criticized the children about.

There was significant difference in the way each generation viewed 13 areas of the parent-child conflicts, namely: care of room and earning money at .001 level; the dating, style of clothes, hair, use of telephone and car, and carrying out responsibilities at the .01 level; also friends, style and use of make-up, spending money, school work and acceptance of responsibility at the .05 level.

The three generations viewed differently the grandparent-grandchild disagreements at a significant level in only three areas of social behavior, namely: earning money and

school work at the .01 level, and dating at the .05 level.

An analysis of the intergenerational disagreements reveals a tendency for more youth to feel criticized by the parents in more areas of social behavior than the parents realize they criticize. About two-thirds of the grandparents expressed themselves (Table 12) toward the parent-child disagreements. The findings indicated that all three generations generally agree that only one-third of the grandparents are criticizing children on their social behavior.

The areas of disagreements receiving the largest per cent of responses, though agreed upon by the generations were: manners, promptness, eating habits, use of TV. The highest ranking parent-child and grandparent-grandchild concern with the greatest difference in generation views was "care of room" which possibly indicates a limited space, lack of privacy, lack of time. Care of room is something tangible which can be "seen" to "dicker" about, and could be a way of releasing tension. Other areas which the generations viewed differently were: earning money, responsibilities, dating, style of clothes and hair, use of car and telephone.

The responses to the open-end questions further substantiate that three-generation family living is not considered ideal by those who are involved in it. Findings show that the greatest conflicts involve interpersonal relationship and changing social customs. Responses indicate

that all three generations value independence, privacy, and individuality. However, there is also indication of strong feelings of responsibility of protecting and caring for the aged and infirmed family members.

Suggestions for Further Research

Even though the group studied was considered representative of white families in small textile manufacturing areas and in small tobacco farming and marketing areas, one of the obvious limitations of the study is the biased sample.

Further research should take into consideration the living arrangements and the opinions of three-generation families in a larger, more metropolitan area. Of all the elderly persons 50 per cent live in cities of 50,000 or more.

Families of differing socio-economic classes might be studied by matching sets of white and Negro three-generation families. An instrument might be devised to determine areas of conflicts and to compare interpersonal relationship differences. Other three-generation family comparisons which might be made are: (1) between husband-wife primary families and "other" multigenerational families; and (2) conflicts in families who have lived as three generations since the children were born, and conflicts in those families becoming three generations after children are teenagers.

Since the aged family members have come into close

scrutiny in research, there is need for readily available information into family processes taking place in this age span. An examination of cross-cultural or cross-class differentials would appear to be important in this area of study.

A longitudinal study on planning for living arrangements for the later years could reveal information that would be most helpful. The limited research studies, now available, show that people differ, in general, from one decade to another due to varied experiences resulting from rapid technological changes. For example, based on acceptance pattern of the 70 year olds today one cannot plan for housing for the 60 year olds ten years from now. Studies of the 40 or 50 year olds might be a sounder basis for study of retirement living arrangements to make projections ten to twenty years from now.

While an attempt was made to assess agreement between the generation family members in regard to their feelings about their living arrangements, the processes involved in the individual members' definitions of agreement were not examined. A study of family communication modes in relation to family living merits careful consideration.

Further research needs to be oriented toward acceptable housing, living arrangements and community services for the elderly in relation to the effects on their living patterns and family interaction.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albrecht, Ruth. Relationships of older parents with their children. Marriage & Family Living, 1954, 16, pp. 32-35.
- Albrecht, Ruth. The parental responsibilities of grandparents. Marriage and Family Living, 1954, 16, pp. 201-204.
- Beresford, John C. and Rivlin, Alice M. The multigeneration family. In Living in the Multigeneration Family. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan, Institute of Gerontology, 1969, pp. 1-21.
- Bureau of Census. Facts about older american. In Aging. Washington, D. C.: Administration on Aging, Social Rehabilitation Service, U. S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, 1969, 175.
- Donahue, Wilma. Living in four generation family. In Living in Multigeneration Family. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan, Institute of Gerontology, 1964, pp. 37-49.
- Koller, Marvin R. Studies of three generation households. Marriage and Family Living, 1954, 16, 3, pp. 205-206.
- Nimkoff, M. F. Changing Family Relationships of Older People in the United States During the Last Fifty Years. In Tibbetts, Clark and Donahue, Wilma, (Eds.), Social and Psychological Aspects of Aging. New York: Columbia University Press, 1962, pp. 405-414.
- North Carolina Population Center. Facts about older north carolinians. Raleigh, North Carolina: Governor's Coordinating Council on Aging, 1968.
- Robins, Arthur J. Family relations of the aging in three-generation households. In Tibbetts, Clark and Donahue, Wilma, (Eds.), Social and Psychological Aspects of Aging. New York: Columbia University Press, 1962, pp. 464-474.

- Shanas, Ethel. Living arrangements of older people in the United States. In Tibbetts, Clark and Donahue, Wilma, (Eds.), Social and Psychological Aspects of Aging. New York: Columbia University Press, 1962, pp. 459-463.
- Smith, William M., Jr. Family plans for later years. Marriage and Family Living, 1954, 16, 1, pp. 36-40.
- Smith, W. M., Jr., Britton, J. H. and Britton, J. O. Relationships Within Three-Generation Families. University Park, Penns: Pennsylvania State University, College of Home Economics Research, 1958, 155.
- Stone, Carol L. Three-generation influences on teen-ager's conceptions of family culture patterns and parent-child relationships. Marriage and Family Living, 1962, 24, pp. 287-288.
- Stehouwer, Jan. Relations between generations and the three-generation household in denmark. In Shanas, Ethel and Streib, Gordon F., (Eds.), Social Structure and the Family. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1965, pp. 142-162.
- Streib, Gordon F. and Thompson, Wayne E. The older person in a family context. In Tibbetts, Clark, (Ed.), Handbook of Social Gerontology. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1960, pp. 447-488.
- Sussman, Marvin B. Relationships of adult children with their parents in the United States. In Shanas, Ethel, and Streib, Gordon F. Social Structure and the Family. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1965, pp. 62-92.
- Sussman, Marvin B. and Burchinal, Lee. Parental aid to married children: Implications for family functioning. Marriage and Family Living, 1962, 24, pp. 320-331.
- Weinberg, Jack, M. D. Interpersonal relationship in multi-generation families. In Living in the Multigeneration Family. Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan, Institute of Gerontology, 1969, pp. 52-59.

P. O. Box 3077
 118 Myers Hall
 N. C. State University
 Raleigh, N. C.
 May 9, 1967

Dear _____

I am in the process of surveying all three-generation families in Rockingham County as a part of my graduate work in Child Development and Family Relations. It has been suggested that these families be located through junior and senior high school students. Will you help us find the students who are now living with two other generations (parent and grandparent) in one household?

You may be interested to know that, according to a recent large survey, one fourth of all persons over 65 years of age live with adult members of their families. The purpose of my study is to determine why this choice of living arrangement is made. You would advise other families about living in a three-generation family arrangement.

APPENDIX A

LETTER TO SECURE SAMPLE

If there are occasional differences, what are the reasons?

It is hoped that the results of the study may help other families with senior members in making living arrangements and adjustments.

A form is enclosed to secure needed information. I will come by your office to discuss this with you.

Sincerely,

Isabelle Buckley
 Graduate Student

Helen Canaday
 Associate Professor
 Home Economics
 UNC-6

P. O. Box 5097
118 Ricks Hall
N. C. State University
Raleigh, N. C.
May 6, 1969

Dear

I am in the process of surveying all three-generation families in Rockingham County as a part of my graduate work in Child Development and Family Relations. It has been suggested that these families be located through junior and senior high school students. Will you help me find the students who are now living with two other generations (parent and grandparent) in same household?

You may be interested to know that, according to a recent large survey, one-fourth of all persons over 65 years of age live with adult children and their families. The purpose of my study is to determine why this choice of living arrangement is made and what these families would advise other families about living in a three-generation family arrangement.

If there are occasional differences, what are the causes?

It is hoped that the results of the study may help other families with senior members in making living arrangement choices and adjustments.

A form is enclosed to secure needed information. I will come by your office to discuss this with you.

Sincerely,

Isabelle Buckley
Graduate Student

Helen Canaday
Associate Professor
Home Economics
UNC-G

Yes, I live in a three-generation household.

My name _____

My parents' name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

APPENDIX B

FORM AND EXPLANATION FOR THE RESPONDING STUDENT

I am a student at _____ and I am interested in the study of three-generation households. I am interested in the living arrangements of three-generation households and how they have changed over time.

I understand that this is a part of a study which will help other people in making living arrangements and also understand how grandparents become older.

Yes, I live in a three-generation household.

My name _____

My parent's name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

I understand that my family will be contacted by Miss Isabelle Buckley in order to give permission to visit us and ask our opinion about living in a three-generation household.

I understand that this is a part of a study which may help other families in making living arrangement choices and adjustment when grandparents become older.

Instruction Sheet

1. Purpose of the study:

According to a survey, one-fourth of the people over 65 years of age live with their families in the same household even though there are many other choices in living arrangements.

It is the purpose of this study to learn why this choice is made, and learn whether it is still considered the best arrangement after trying it.

What other the most suitable alternatives, overlooking cost, are you considering all the time. When there are none, what is the reason?

Those living in a separate household are in a position to complete this 3-

APPENDIX C

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ELDEST GENERATION

It is through completing a number of questions listed below that we hope to arrive at the truth. Your answers will be helpful in our adjustments.

2. Instructions:

1. The questionnaires for the three generations are alike except as to the questions addressed to each generation.

2. You should check the questionnaires separately, without consulting other members of the household. Each answer should be your own opinion.

3. Please sign your name.

4. The responses on all questionnaires will be compiled and analyzed without any identification.

5. Read all parts of the question before checking answers.

6. We appreciate your participation and hope that you will find it helpful in making decisions concerning living arrangements and adjustments to all generations.

Instruction Sheet

A. Purpose of the study:

According to a survey, one-fourth of the people over 65 years of age live with their families in the same household even though there are many other choices in living arrangements.

It is the purpose of this study to learn why this choice is made; and learn whether it is still considered the best arrangement after trying it.

Even under the most suitable situations, everything does not run smoothly all the time. When there are conflicts, what is the cause?

Those living in 3-generation households are in a position to advise others who may contemplate this 3-generation living arrangement.

It is through compiling a number of opinions linked with facts, gained in studies such as this, that others can be helped to make adjustments.

B. Instructions:

1. The questionnaires for the three-generations are alike except addressed to each generation.
2. You should check the questionnaire separately, without consulting other members of the household. Each answer should be your own opinion.
3. Do not sign your name.
4. The responses on all questionnaires will be compiled with many others without any identification.
5. Read all parts of the question before checking response.

We appreciate your participation and hope that from your honest opinion, others may benefit in making decisions concerning living arrangements and adjustments to the arrangement chosen.

Questionnaire for the Eldest Generation
in Three-Generation Family

A. General Information

1. Who is the older person(s) living in your home?

(Check ones which apply)

Daughter's mother

Daughter's father

Son's mother

Son's father

Other, specify _____

(Check one)

2. Is this third-generation family member:
married _____, widowed _____, divorced _____,
single _____?

(Check one)

3. Does this person work away from home full time _____,
part time _____, work at home full time _____, work at
home part time _____, does not work at all _____?

(Check one)

4a. How is the health of this person: good _____,
fair _____, poor _____?

(Check one)

4b. Are there physical handicaps: blindness _____, deaf-
ness _____, crippled condition _____, other _____?
Specify _____

(Check one)

5. Age range of older relative: 36-45 _____, 46-55 _____,
56-65 _____, 66-75 _____, 76-85 _____, 86-100 _____.

B. General Information - Other Persons in Home

(Circle one)

6a. Age range of your daughter (or daughter-in-law) of
the home:

30-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56-65.

- b. Age range of your son (or son-in-law) of the home:
30-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56-65, 66-75.

(Check one)

7. Their marital status: married ____, divorced ____,
widowed ____.

(Write in)

- 8a. Number children in the home _____.

(Write in)

- b. Ages of children in the home: ____, ____, ____, ____,
____, ____, ____, ____.

(Write in)

9. Age of youth filling in first generation questionnaire
_____.

(Check one)

10. Does the daughter (or daughter-in-law) work away
from home full time ____, part time ____, work at
home full time ____, part time ____, does not work
at all ____.

(Check one)

11. Does the son (or son-in-law) work away from home
full time ____, part time ____, work at home full
time ____, part time ____, does not work at all ____.

C. Living Arrangements

(Check one)

12. Does this three-generation family live in your
house? Yes ____, No ____.

(Check one)

13. Do you live in their home?
Yes ____, No ____.

(Circle one)

- 14a. How long has this family lived together as a three-
generation family?
1-3 yrs., 4-6 yrs., 7-9 yrs., 10-15 yrs., 16-20 yrs.

(Check one)

- 14b. Lived together always, since children were born.
Yes ____, No ____.

15. The present living arrangements are result of:

(Indicate 1st and 2nd choice of reasons)

- a. Mother of children works away, grandparent's help needed.
- b. One parent not living, grandparent's help needed
- c. Parents of children divorced, grandparent's help needed
- d. I am widowed and did not want to live alone
- e. I am not able to care for self
- f. My income not enough to live alone
- g. Home for elders too expensive, not suitable or too far away
- h. Subsidized housing units not available
- i. Family not willing to have me accept Old Age Assistance
- j. Living expenses less by living together and sharing income resources
- k. Other reasons, write in _____

16. How much private living space do you have?

(Check one)

- Share bedroom with another member of family
- Have separate bedroom, but share the bathroom with family
- Have private bath and bedroom
- Have separate living accommodations in the same house or attached house
- Other, specify _____

17. Arrangements for living expenses:

(Check one)

 No income of my own, adult child of the home pays all expenses I share in the living expenses My other children contribute to my expenses I furnish the house and most all expenses I furnish the house and have own personal expense money, adult children of the home furnish all other living expenses for the family Other, specify _____

D. Opinions about Living Arrangements and Responsibilities

18. Oftentimes living arrangements are changed according to age and health condition of the elder family member. Keeping this in mind, check one choice for active senior family members and one choice for elderly senior members who need some assistance.

a. I think the best possible arrangement for active, healthy older people is:

(Check one)

 Live in own home near family and friends as long as possible Live in own home at a distance from children Live in an apartment house among own age mates Live in a community-sponsored housing area grouped around church, shopping and recreation facilities Live in a home-for-elders Live with one of the adult children Have one of the adult children live with them.

- b. I think the best possible arrangements for elderly people who cannot care for self:

(Check one)

- Live in own home, but with services needed provided by community agencies, friends or family
- Live in a home-for-elders
- Live in a nursing home
- Live in a retirement village
- Live with one of the adult children
- Have one of adult children live with them.

19. How should elder persons choose with whom to live if that living arrangement is decided upon?

(Check one)

- The one who wants them
- The one who needs them most
- The one they get along with best
- The one who can best afford it financially
- The one who has no children
- The one who is not married.

20. What responsibilities do you think adult sons and daughters should have for their older parents?

(Check 5 in rank order of your opinion)

- They should have no responsibility
- They should show concern with letters, visits, gifts, telephone calls
- They should go home and live with older parent
- They should provide a place in own home when older parent is not able to care for self
- They should help pay living expenses of parents
- They should help make decisions and arrangements so that parents are well provided for

They should take care of parents if they are sick

They should do parents' housework for them

Other, specify _____

21. Transportation for older persons has become a major concern--transportation is needed for church, shopping, the doctor, legal and financial business, also for recreational activities.

How do you think the transportation problem should be solved?

(Indicate first and second choices)

Elders should drive own cars as long as possible

A transportation pool should be organized and provided for all oldsters

Each family should transport own elder members

Each family should invite the elder person to ride

The church should provide it

Youth should share in helping with transportation of elders

Other suggestion _____

22. What happens in three-generation families when guests come?

(Check the answer that expresses the most frequent practice in your household)

- a. When I have guests:

(Check one)

I visit with guests alone

I visit with whole family around

The family could stay, but chooses to leave

The family is really wanted, so they stay

_____ The family is not wanted, but they stay around.

b. When the grandchildren have guests:

(Check one)

- _____ They visit with own friends alone
 _____ They visit with whole family around
 _____ They have no place to visit by themselves.

c. When the rest of the family entertains:

(Check one)

- _____ I am welcome, but prefer to leave
 _____ I am really wanted and needed, so I stay
 _____ I usually leave because:
 _____ Too noisy and tiring
 _____ Do not hear well
 _____ Their interest different
 _____ I have own interests

23. Everything doesn't go smoothly all the time in any family. When there is disagreement, is it any of these areas:

(Rank in order the 10 items that you think the children feel most criticized for or "nagged" by the parents, also by the grandparent):

<u>Grandparent(s)</u> <u>rank</u>	<u>Parents</u> <u>rank</u>	<u>Item</u>
_____	_____	Manners
_____	_____	Promptness
_____	_____	Friends
_____	_____	Dating patterns
_____	_____	Style of clothes
_____	_____	Style and care of hair
_____	_____	Style and use of make-up
_____	_____	Eating habits
_____	_____	Acceptance of responsibility

_____	_____	Carrying out responsibility
_____	_____	Care of room
_____	_____	Earning money
_____	_____	Spending of money
_____	_____	Use of telephone
_____	_____	Use of TV
_____	_____	Use of car
_____	_____	Use of Hi-fi
_____	_____	Schoolwork
_____	_____	Other _____

24. How do you take part in disciplining your grandchildren?

25. Do you ever take sides with grandchildren when their parents discipline?

26. On what 3 things do you and your grandchildren differ most?

27. On what 3 things do grandchildren and their parents differ most?

28. On what 3 things do you and your daughter (son) or daughter-in-law (son-in-law) differ most?

29. What 3 things do you like most about living with your children and grandchildren?

30. What 3 things bother you most about living with children and grandchildren?

31. What three suggestions do you have for other grandparents or their families who are considering living together in the same house?

Instructions Sheet

A. Purpose of the study:

According to a survey, one-fourth of the people over 65 years of age live with their families in the same household even though there are many other choices in living arrangements.

It is the purpose of this study to learn why this choice is made, and learn whether it is still considered the best arrangement after trying it.

Each time the most suitable conditions, everything does not run smoothly all the time. When there are conflicts, what is the cause?

Those living in a household are in a position to advise and help to contemplate the 3-
generational living arrangement.

APPENDIX D

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MIDDLE GENERATION

It is hoped that the questionnaire will be linked with facts, gained in studies such as that, that others can be helped to make adjustments.

B. Instructions:

1. The questionnaires for the three generations are alike except addressed to each generation.
2. You should check the questionnaire separately, without consulting other members of the household. Each answer should be your own opinion.
3. Do not sign your name.
4. The responses on all questionnaires will be compiled with many others without any identification.
5. Read all parts of the questionnaires before making responses.

We appreciate your work, please see how they look from your honest opinion, others will benefit in making decisions concerning living arrangements and adjustments in the arrangement chosen.

Instruction Sheet

A. Purpose of the study:

According to a survey, one-fourth of the people over 65 years of age live with their families in the same household even though there are many other choices in living arrangements.

It is the purpose of this study to learn why this choice is made; and learn whether it is still considered the best arrangement after trying it.

Even under the most suitable situations, everything does not run smoothly all the time. When there are conflicts, what is the cause?

Those living in 3-generation households are in a position to advise others who may contemplate this 3-generation living arrangement.

It is through compiling a number of opinions linked with facts, gained in studies such as this, that others can be helped to make adjustments.

B. Instructions:

1. The questionnaires for the three-generations are alike except addressed to each generation.
2. You should check the questionnaire separately, without consulting other members of the household. Each answer should be your own opinion.
3. Do not sign your name.
4. The responses on all questionnaires will be compiled with many others without any identification.
5. Read all parts of the question before checking response.

We appreciate your participation and hope that from your honest opinion, others may benefit in making decisions concerning living arrangements and adjustments to the arrangement chosen.

Questionnaire for Middle Generation
of Three-Generation Family

A. General Information

1. Who is the older person living in your home?

(Check ones which apply)

- Wife's mother
 Wife's father
 Husband's mother
 Husband's father
 Other, specify _____

Note: The term "parent" or "he" is used throughout questionnaire for the older generation.

(Check one)

2. Is this older relative: married _____, widowed _____, divorced _____, single _____?

(Check one)

3. Does this relative work: away from home full time _____, away part time _____, work at home full time _____, work at home some times _____, does not work at all _____.

(Check one)

4a. How is the health of this relative: good _____, fair _____, poor _____.

(Check one)

4b. Are there physical handicaps: blindness _____, deafness _____, crippled condition _____, other _____ specify _____

(Check one)

5. Age range of older relative: 36-45 _____, 46-55 _____, 56-65 _____, 66-75 _____, 76-85 _____, 86-100 _____.

B. General Information - Other Persons in Home

(Check one)

6a. Wife's age range: 30-35 _____, 36-45 _____, 46-55 _____, 56-65 _____.

6b. Husband's age range: 30-35 , 36-45 ,
 46-55 , 56-65 ,
 66-75 .

(Check one)

7. Marital status: married , divorced ,
 widowed .

(Write in)

8a. Number children in the home _____.

b. Ages of children in the home _____, _____, _____,
 _____, _____.

(Write in)

9. Age of youth filling in questionnaire _____.

(Check one)

10. Does the wife work away from home full time ,
 part time , work at home full time , some
 time , does not work at all .

(Check one)

11. Does the husband work away from home full time ,
 part time , work at home full time , part
 time , does not work at all .

C. Living Arrangements

(Check one)

12. Do you live in home of your parents or spouse's
 parents? Yes , No .

(Check one)

13. Does the parent live in your home? Yes ,
 No .

(Circle one)

14a. How long has your family lived together as three
 generations? 1-3 yrs., 4-6 yrs., 7-9 yrs., 10-15 yrs.,
 16-20 yrs.

(Check one)

b. Lived together always, since children were born.
 Yes , No .

15. The present living arrangements are result of:

(Indicate 1st and 2nd choice of reasons)

_____ a. Mother of children works away, grand-
 parent's help needed.

- b. One parent not living, grandparent's help needed.
- c. Parents of children divorced, grandparent's help needed.
- d. Grandparent widowed and did not want to live alone.
- e. Grandparent not able to care for self.
- f. Grandparent's income not enough to live alone.
- g. Home for elders too expensive, not suitable or too far away.
- h. Subsidized housing units not available.
- i. Family not willing to have older parent accept Old Age Assistance.
- j. Living expenses less by living together and sharing income resources.
- k. Other reason, write in _____

16. How much private living space is there for older relative of the family?

(Check one)

- Shares bedroom with another member of family
- Has separate bedroom, but shares the bathroom with family
- Has private bath and bedroom
- Has separate living accommodations in the same house or attached house
- Other _____

17. What are arrangements for living expenses?

(Check one)

- All living expenses furnished by middle generation of the home

- Parent pays own share of living expenses
- Parent's other adult children contribute to parent's living expenses
- Parent furnishes the house and most all expenses
- Parent furnishes the house and has own personal money, we furnish all other living expenses of family
- Other, specify _____
-

D. Opinion about Living Arrangements and Responsibilities

18. Oftentimes living arrangements are changed according to age and health condition of the elder family member. Keeping this in mind, check one choice for active senior family member and one for elderly senior family member who need assistance:

a. I think the best possible arrangement for active, healthy older people is:

(Check one)

- Live in own home near family and friends as long as possible
- Live in own home at a distance from children
- Live in an apartment house among own age mates
- Live in a community-sponsored housing area grouped around church, shopping and recreational facilities
- Live in a home-for-elders
- Live with one of the adult children
- Have one of the adult children live with them.

b. I think the best possible arrangement for elderly people who cannot care for self:

(Check one)

- Live in own home, but with services needed provided by community, friends or family

- Live in a home-for-elders
- Live in a nursing home
- Live in a retirement village
- Live with one of the adult children
- Have one of adult children live with them.

19. How should an older person choose with whom to live, if that living arrangement is decided upon?

(Check one)

- The one who wants them most
- The one who needs them most
- The one they get along with best
- The one who can best afford it financially
- The one who has no children
- The one who is not married.

20. What responsibilities do you think adult sons and daughters should have for their older parents:

(Check 5 in rank order of your opinion)

- They should have no responsibility
- They should show concern with letters, visits, gifts, telephone calls
- They should go home and live with older parent
- They should provide a place in own home when older parent is not able to care for self
- They should help pay living expenses of parents
- They should help make decisions and arrangements so that parents are well provided for
- They should take care of parents if they are sick
- They should do parents' housework for them
- Other, specify _____

21. Transportation for older persons has become a major concern--transportation is needed for church, shopping, the doctor, legal and financial business, also for recreational activities.

How do you think the transportation problem should be solved?

(Indicate first and second choice)

- Elder should drive own car as long as possible
- A transportation pool should be organized and provided for all oldsters
- Each family should transport own
- Each family should invite an elder to ride
- The church should provide transportation
- Youth should share in helping with transportation of elders
- Other _____

22. What happens in three-generation families when guests come?

- a. When older parent has guests:

(Check one)

- He visits with guests alone
- He visits with entire family around
- The family could stay, but chooses to leave
- The family is really wanted, so they stay
- The family is not wanted, but they stay around.

- b. When the children have guests:

(Check one)

- They visit with their friends alone
- They visit with entire family around
- They have no place to visit by themselves

- c. When the rest of the family entertains:

(Check one)

- Parent is welcome, but prefers to leave
- Parent is really wanted and needed, he stays

- ____ Parent usually leaves because:
- ____ Too noisy, tiring
 - ____ Doesn't hear well
 - ____ Not interested
 - ____ Has other interests

23. Things do not go smoothly all the time in any family. When there is disagreement, is it any of these areas?

(Rank in order the 10 items that you think the children feel most criticized for or "nagged at" by the parents, also grandparents)

<u>Grandparent(s)</u> <u>rank</u>	<u>Parents</u> <u>rank</u>	<u>Item</u>
_____	_____	Manners
_____	_____	Promptness
_____	_____	Friends
_____	_____	Dating patterns
_____	_____	Style of clothes
_____	_____	Style and care of hair
_____	_____	Style and use of make-up
_____	_____	Eating habits
_____	_____	Acceptance of responsibility
_____	_____	Carrying out responsibility
_____	_____	Care of room
_____	_____	Earning money
_____	_____	Spending of money
_____	_____	Use of telephone
_____	_____	Use of TV
_____	_____	Use of car

_____ Use of hi-fi
_____ Schoolwork
_____ Other _____

24. How do you feel when your parent takes part in disciplining your children?

25. Do your parents ever take sides with grandchildren when you discipline?

26. On what 3 things do your parent(s) and your children differ most?

27. On what 3 things do you and your children differ most?

28. On what 3 things do you and your parent(s) differ most?

29. What 3 things do you like most about living with your parents?

30. What things bother you most about living with parents?

31. What 3 suggestions do you have for other families who are considering living together in same house?

Introduction Sheet

A. Purpose of the study:

According to a survey, one-fourth of the people over 65 years of age live with their families in the same household even though there are many other choices in living arrangements.

It is the aim of this study to learn why this choice is made and how well it is still working. We would like to see if there are any changes in living arrangements that are being made.

Even under the most suitable situations, everything does not run smoothly all the time. When there are problems, what is the cause?

These living in arrangements are in a position to be studied in a general way.

APPENDIX E

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YOUNGEST GENERATION

It is hoped that a copy of this questionnaire will be sent to you with this letter. If you have any questions, please contact the person who sent you this letter. We would like to hear from you if you have any suggestions for making the questionnaire more helpful.

B. Instructions:

1. The questionnaires for the three generations are alike except for the questions asked.
2. You should check the questionnaire carefully, without showing it to anyone else in the household. Each answer should be your own opinion.
3. Do not sign your name.
4. The responses on all questionnaires will be compiled with any others without any identification.
5. Read all parts of the questionnaire before making responses.
6. We appreciate your participation and hope that your honest opinion, along with yours in making decisions concerning living arrangements, will be helpful in the arrangements shown.

Instruction Sheet

A. Purpose of the study:

According to a survey, one-fourth of the people over 65 years of age live with their families in the same household even though there are many other choices in living arrangements.

It is the purpose of this study to learn why this choice is made; and learn whether it is still considered the best arrangement after trying it.

Even under the most suitable situations, everything does not run smoothly all the time. When there are conflicts, what is the cause?

Those living in 3-generation households are in a position to advise others who may contemplate this 3-generation living arrangement.

It is through compiling a number of opinions linked with facts, gained in studies such as this, that others can be helped to make adjustments.

B. Instructions:

1. The questionnaires for the three-generations are alike except addressed to each generation.
2. You should check the questionnaire separately, without consulting other members of the household. Each answer should be your own opinion.
3. Do not sign your name.
4. The responses on all questionnaires will be compiled with many others without any identification.
5. Read all parts of the question before checking response.

We appreciate your participation and hope that from your honest opinion, others may benefit in making decisions concerning living arrangements and adjustments to the arrangement chosen.

Questionnaire for Youngest Generation
of Three-Generation Family

A. General Information about Eldest Generation

1. Who is the eldest person(s) living in home?

(Check ones which apply)

- Maternal grandmother
 Maternal grandfather
 Paternal grandmother
 Paternal grandfather
 Other, specify _____

Note: The term "grandparent" is used for the eldest generation throughout questionnaire.

(Check one)

2. Is this eldest relative married _____, widowed _____, divorced _____, single _____?

(Check one)

3. Does this relative work away from home full time _____, part time _____, work at home full time _____, work at home some times _____, does not work at all _____?

(Check one)

4a. How is the health of this relative: good _____, fair _____, poor _____?

(Check one)

4b. Are there physical handicaps: blindness _____, deafness _____, crippled condition _____, other _____?
Specify _____

(Check one)

5. Age range of eldest relative: 45-55 _____, 56-65 _____, 66-75 _____, 76-85 _____, 86-100 _____.

B. General Information - Other Persons in Home

(Circle one)

6a. My mother's age range: 30-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56-65, 66-75.

b. My father's age range: 30-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56-65, 66-75

(Check one)

7. Their marital status: Married , divorced , widowed .

(Write in)

- 8a. Number children living in the home _____
- b. Ages of children living in home: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

(Write in)

9. What is your age? _____ Sex? _____

(Check one)

10. Does your mother work away from home full time , part time , work at home full time , work some time . does not work at all ?

(Check one)

11. Does your father work away from home full time , part time , work at home full time , some times , does not work at all ?

C. Living Arrangements

(Check one)

12. Do you live in the home of the grandparent?
Yes No

(Check one)

13. Does the grandparent live in your home?
Yes No

(Circle one)

- 14a. How long has this family lived together as three generations? 1-3 years, 4-6 years, 7-9 years, 10-15 years, 16-20 years, write in the years _____.

(Check one)

- b. Lived together always, since the children were born.
Yes No

15. The present living arrangements are result of:

(Indicate 1st and 2nd choice of reasons)

- _____ a. Mother of children works away, grandparent's help needed.
- _____ b. One parent of children not living, grandparent's help needed.

- c. Parents divorced, grandparent's help needed.
- d. Grandparent widowed and did not want to live alone.
- e. Grandparent not able to care for self.
- f. Grandparent's income not enough to live alone.
- g. A resident center for elders too expensive, not suitable or too far away.
- h. Subsidized housing units not available.
- i. Family not willing to have older parent accept Old Age Assistance.
- j. Living expenses less by living together and sharing income resources.
- k. Other reason, write in _____

16. How much private living space is there for the grandparent?

(Check one)

- Shares bedroom with another member of the family
- Has separate bedroom, but shares bath with family
- Has private bath and bedroom
- Has separate living accommodations in same or attached house
- Other _____

17. What are arrangements for living expenses?

(Check one)

- My parents furnish all living expenses
- Grandparent shares in regular expenses
- Grandparent's other adult children contribute to his living expenses

- Grandparent furnishes the house and most all expenses
- Grandparent furnishes the house and has own personal expense money, my parents furnish all other living expenses of family.
- Other, specify _____
-

D. Opinions about Living Arrangements and Responsibilities

18. Oftentimes living arrangements are changed according to age and health conditions of the older family member. Keeping this in mind, make a choice for active senior family members and one for very elderly in need of protection and assistance.

a. I think the best possible arrangement for active, healthy elder people is:

(Check one)

- To live in own home near family and friends
- To live in own home even though at a distance from children
- Live in an apartment house among own age mates
- Live in a community sponsored housing area grouped around church, shopping and recreation facilities
- Live in a home-for-elders
- Live with one of the adult children
- Have one of the adult children live with them.

b. I think the best possible arrangement for elderly people who cannot care for self:

(Check one)

- Live in own home, but with services needed provided by community agencies, friends or family
- Live in a home-for-elders
- Live in a nursing home

- Live in a retirement village
- Live with one of the adult children
- Have one of adult children live with them.

19. How should an older person choose with whom to live, if that living arrangement is decided upon?

(Check one)

- The one who wants them most
- The one who needs them most
- The one they get along with best
- The one who can best afford it financially
- The one who has no children
- The one who is not married.

20. What responsibilities do you think adult sons and daughters should have for their older parents?

(Check 5 in rank order of your opinion)

- They should have no responsibility
- They should show concern with letters, visits, gifts, telephone calls
- They should go home and live with older parents
- They should provide a place in own home when parent is not able to care for self
- They should help pay living expenses of parents
- They should help make decisions and arrangements so that parents are well provided for
- They should take care of parents if they are sick
- They should do parents housework for them
- Other, specify _____

21. Transportation has become a major concern--transportation is needed for church, shopping, the doctor, for legal and financial business, also for recreational activities.

How do you think the problem should be solved?

(Indicate first and second choices)

- Elders should drive own cars as long as possible
- A transportation pool should be organized and provided for all oldsters
- Each family should transport own relatives
- Each family should invite an elder to ride
- The church should provide transportation
- Youth should share in helping with transportation of elders
- Other suggestions _____

22. What happens in three-generation families when guests come?

(Check the answer that expresses the most frequent practice in your household.)

- a. When grandparent has guests:
- He visits with guests alone
- He visits with whole family around
- The family could stay, but chooses to leave
- The family is really wanted, so they stay
- The family is not wanted, but they stay around.
- b. When we grandchildren have guests:
- We visit with our friends alone
- We visit with whole family around
- We have no place to visit by ourselves.
- c. When the rest of the family entertains:
- Grandparent is welcome, but prefers to leave
- Grandparent is really wanted and needed, he stays
- Grandparent usually leaves

23. Everything doesn't go smoothly all the time in any family. When there is a disagreement, is it any of these areas?

(Rank in order the ten problems you feel your parents and grandparent(s) criticize or "nag" you for.)

24. How do you feel when your grandparent takes part in disciplining the grandchildren?

25. Does your grandparent ever take sides with grandchildren when parents discipline?

26. On what 3 things do you and your grandparent differ most?

27. On what 3 things do you and your parents differ most?

28. On what 3 things do your parents and your grandparent differ most?

29. What 3 things do you like most about living with your grandparent?

30. What things bother you most about living with grandparent?

31. What 3 suggestions do you have for other 3-generation families who are considering living together in same house?
