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HOUSE FURNISHING PRACTICES AS THEY
RELATE TO THE FAMILY LIFE CYCLE AND
CERTAIN SELECTED FACTORS

by

Lillie Bradshaw Little

A Thesis Submitted to
the Faculty of the Graduate School at
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Approved by

Savannah S. Day
Director

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, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Thesis
Director

Savannah S. Day

Oral Examination
Committee Members

C. Paul Marsh

Elizabeth Hathaway

Madelaine B. Street

Eggar J. Bone

May 5, 1965

Date of Examination

280059

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The purposes of the study were as follows:

1. To identify the items of furnishings acquired by families and to determine how the items were obtained, length of ownership and plans for replacement, renovation or additions during the next year.
2. To determine the association between the amount of home furnishings items acquired by families and four stages in the family life cycle: (1) the beginning family; (2) the expanding family; (3) the teenage or launching family; (4) the middle aged family.
3. To determine the extent to which certain factors are associated with the adequacy of furnishings for the dining, living, and sleeping areas of the house.

An interview schedule was developed for collecting the data.

The respondents were homemakers chosen at random to represent an urban and rural county in each of the western, central and eastern sections of North Carolina. The interviewers were county home furnishing leaders selected by the Home Economics Agents of the six counties. Training sessions were held to assist the Home Economics Agents and the interviewers in understanding their roles in collecting the data.

When the interviews were completed, the data were coded and transferred to IBM cards. The Computing Center of the North Carolina State University at Raleigh prepared the tabulations.

A total of 328 respondents were included in the study. There were 11 beginning, 115 expanding, 148 teenage or launching, and 54 middle aged families.

An analysis of the specific items of furniture showed that a majority of the items for the dining, living, and sleeping areas had been purchased new and about one-third of these in the last five years. Only a few of the respondents indicated plans to replace, renovate or add furniture items in the next year.

A criteria for level of adequacy was developed for classifying the furnishings of the respondent's dining, living, and sleeping areas as to minimum, moderate, or liberal. The adequacy of furnishings for each of the areas were analyzed in relation to stage in the family life cycle, size of family, housing status, length of tenure, size of house, number of bedrooms, and level of living.

The results revealed no significant association between adequacy of furnishings for the dining and living areas and the four stages in the family cycle. However, the adequacy of bedroom furnishings was closely associated with the stages in the family cycle.

The size of the family was not found to be related to the adequacy of furnishings for anyone of the three areas. Housing status, size of house and number of bedrooms were closely associated with the adequacy of dining and bedroom furnishings but not with living room furnishings. Length of tenure was closely related to the ade-

quacy of furnishings for the sleeping area but not to those of the dining and living areas. The level of living was closely related to the adequacy of furnishings for all three areas.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Committee on Philosophy and Objectives of Home Economics of the American Home Economics Association states in its New Directions that one of its concerns with respect to family living is "housing for the family and equipment and furnishings for the household."¹

The Committee further states that fundamental to effective living is the competence to "create a home and community environment conducive to the healthy growth and development of all members of the family at all stages of the family cycle."²

Each period in the family life cycle has its own set of circumstances which pose their own unique problems. The house and its furnishings should provide for the individual needs and differences for the family members at all stages of development.

I. THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In general there is a gradual accumulation of furniture and furnishings as the family progresses through the stages of the life cycle. The problem for most families is one of using to

¹Committee on Philosophy and Objectives of Home Economics, American Home Economics Association, Home Economics New Directions, June 1959, pp. 4-5.

²Ibid., p. 9.

best advantage the income available for furnishings to most adequately provide for family needs at each stage of development.

The purposes of this study are:

1. To identify the items of furnishings acquired by families and to determine how the items were obtained, length of ownership, and plans for replacement, renovation or additions during the next year.
2. To determine the association between the amount of home furnishing items acquired by families and the stage in the family life cycle.
3. To determine the extent to which selected factors are associated with the adequacy of furnishing for the dining, living and sleeping areas of the home.

II. IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

There has been very limited research to relate the selection of furnishings to fit family needs at the stages of development.

The standards for adequacy of House Furnishings are steadily being revised upward. New furniture is continually being added to the market to satisfy family living requirements. The cost of all family living items, of which furniture and furnishings are an important part, creates quite a problem for many families.

As Anna Rutt very aptly states:

Buying furniture is a very important investment for most families. In many cases it not only exhausts the

family savings, but if the furniture is bought on the deferred payment plan, it also mortgages future income.³

Since major furnishing items are usually purchased only once or twice in a lifetime, it is quite important that the family invests wisely.

Manufacturers and dealers are continually striving to correlate styles, quality and quantity of furniture items to the family living needs and demands of a heterogeneous public. This is evidenced in the wide variety of styles and price range in the furniture available in today's market places.

Families faced with the decisions to purchase furnishings which involve large expenditures often seek advice on selection. Home Economists are in a position to give such advice. Effective assistance can be given only if there is understanding of available furnishings in relation to family needs.

Since the author is an extension specialist working in the areas of housing and furnishings, the findings of the study have special significance in planning and implementing extension house furnishing programs to meet the needs of North Carolina families.

These findings should also have significant implications for other educators whose programs involve homemakers and family

³Anna Hong Rutt, Home Furnishings, corrected second edition, New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1961, p. 7.

living activities and also the furnishings trade who manufacture and market furniture and furnishings for the home.

III. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Family. A group of persons related by blood, marriage or adoption, residing together in a dwelling, sharing a common table, and receiving its support from a common purse. Such a group is a family of husband, wife and children living at home.⁴

Family Cycle. Although each family is different in a variety of ways, there is a predictable sequential pattern through which families develop. This pattern may be considered in from two to eight stages. This study uses four classifications as qualified:

The beginning family. This stage includes those families without children who have been married for any length of time up to 5 years.

The expanding family. This stage includes those families having children up to 13 years of age or younger.

The teenage or launching family. This stage includes those families whose first-born child is 13 years of age until the youngest child has left home or becomes

⁴U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, U. S. Census of Population: 1960, General Social and Economic Characteristics of North Carolina, Introduction p. XVIII.

self-supporting.

The middle-aged family. This stage includes those families whose youngest child has left home or become self-supporting (21 years of age) until age sixty-two.

Furniture and Furnishings include those items of furniture and furnishings for the dining, sleeping and living area of the home (as listed on the schedule).

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Numerous studies have been conducted in relation to the stages of the family life cycle and the various facets of family living such as family living expenditures and family housing needs. However, very little information is available on the acquisition of furniture items or the relationship of these to family needs at the stages of the family cycle.

In this chapter the literature related to the family life cycle, family housing values, socio-economic scales and related furnishing studies is reviewed.

I. THE FAMILY CYCLE

The concept of the family life cycle probably began in 1902 when Rowntree, an Englishman, published a study of poverty in York, England, describing alternating periods of want and comparative plenty in the life of a laborer.⁵ He showed how these periods fluctuated with the presence or absence of the dependent children upon the family. A similar study of South Carolina mill workers in 1917 by Sydenstricker and King also recognized the importance

⁵ Irma H. Gross and Elizabeth W. Crandall, Management for Modern Families, second edition, New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1963, p. 151.

of the family life cycle.⁶

Bigelow (1931) refined the concept of the family life cycle using seven stages related to the use of money by the family: establishment of the family, acquisition cost of the children, the elementary school period, the high school period, college, a period of recovery or discovery, and a period of retirement.⁷ He suggests that it is difficult to settle upon any one clear cut system of delineating the stages of the family life cycle for all families when he says:

The length of each of the stages in the typical cycle and the extent to which there is overlapping vary from family to family, depending upon the age of the parents at the time of their marriage, the time of the arrival of their first child, the number and spacing of the children, and the amount and type of education with which they are provided.⁸

Glick (1947) suggested four stages in the life cycle: marriage, child bearing and rearing, children leaving home, and the dissolution of the family.⁹

The entire approach of the National Conference on Family Life held in Washington, D. C. in 1948 was based on the family

⁶Ibid., p. 152.

⁷Howard F. Bigelow, "Money and Marriage", Chapter XVII in Marriage and the Family, Becker and Hill, eds., Boston: D. C. Heath Company, 1942, pp. 382-386.

⁸Ibid., p. 386.

⁹Paul C. Glick, "The Life Cycle of the Family", Marriage and Family Living, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, February, 1955, Reprint U. S. Dept. Commerce.

life cycle, emphasizing and recognizing the major stages: beginning, expanding and contracting families. From that time considerable emphasis has been placed on the importance of the family life cycle and an increasing amount of data has become available.

Since 1948, Agan (1950), Bigelow (1950), Bonde (1950), Glick (1955), and Duvall (1957), among others have described the family cycle. Each has suggested stages through which the family passes, but there is no basic conceptual difference among formulations. They do vary in the degree of specificity with which the stages of the life cycle are described.

Glick defined the family life cycle as the series of changes through which the family passes from its formation until its dissolution.¹⁰ During these stages the family may differ in size, its place of residence, employment of family members, income and net worth.

According to Duvall, the family life cycle is a way of taking a long look at family life.¹¹ Each family is at a stage in the normal cycle of family life.

Stages in the Family Life Cycle

Glick asserts that within the life cycle of a given family certain demographic and economic changes take place. Changes in

¹⁰Paul C. Glick, "The Family Cycle", American Sociological Review, XII, pp. 164-174, April 1947.

¹¹Evelyn Millis Duvall, Family Development, Chicago: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1957, p. 4.

age at marriage, size of completed family, and length of life have greatly affected the pattern of family formation, development and dissolution.¹² Significant characteristics will be described for each of the stages in the life cycle when it appears that changes in furnishing the home would be made.

Marriage or the beginning family. The beginning stage in the family life cycle is the period directly following marriage and before the first child is born. This is a period of adjustment and of the formulation of long time goals for family living.

Earlier marriages have become more common during recent years. According to the North Carolina State Board of Vital Statistics, in 1963 the median age of a young man entering marriage for the first time was 21.5 and the median age for the bride was 19.5 years. Both were more than a year younger than the corresponding person entering marriage in 1953.¹³

This is a period of establishment in which the major financial problem is to provide a home. Gross and Crandall state, "In spite of wedding presents, the young couple is usually forced to buy a considerable amount of home furnishings and equipment."¹⁴

¹²Paul C. Glick, "The Life Cycle of the Family," Marriage and Family Living, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, February 1955.

¹³Population and Divorce Statistics, N. C. State Board of Health. Statistics by permission of Glenn A. Flinchum, Chief Public Health Statistics Section.

¹⁴Irma H. Gross and Elizabeth W. Crandall, Management for Modern Families, second edition, New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1963, p. 164.

In a study of young married couples living on Long Island in 1950, Pissaro found that their savings at marriage ranged from nothing to somewhat over \$5,000. The eleven couples who lived in unfurnished apartments spent from \$1,200 to \$2,000 to furnish their homes. A number of families felt their furnishings were inadequate and planned additional expenditures. While these couples were above average in financial resources, this is indicative of the important role savings have in establishing a home.¹⁵

Inventory studies indicate that families accumulate their possessions over a period of time. Van Cycle found in her study of furniture purchases in Flint, Michigan in 1951 that 28 per cent of the furniture owned by 419 spending units was from 1 to 5 years old, 25 per cent from 6 to 10 years, 27 per cent from 11 to 20 years old, and the remaining pieces range from 21 to 160 years of age.¹⁶ The fact that inventories are not completely assembled at once does not lessen the impact of purchasing the nucleus of these items during the first years of married life.

In 1963 Clark and Warren made a study in New York of contributions made to newly married couples by their parents. These

¹⁵Grace Lucille Pissaro, Some Experiences of Twenty Young Married Couples in Meeting Regularly Recurring Expenses and Making Savings. Unpublished Master's Thesis, Cornell University, 1950, pp. 71-74.

¹⁶Calla Van Cycle, Consumer Use and Purchase of Furniture in Flint, Michigan, 1951. Michigan Agr. Exp. Sta. Tech. Bulletin 233, October 1952, p. 3.

contributions were classified into three types--goods, money, and services.¹⁷

The median value of the contributions during the first year of marriage was \$495, or 7 per cent of the median parental income. A major portion of this amount was cash gifts. In all but a few instances, the value of the contributed goods and services was small and did not require a large sum of money at any one time.¹⁸

In the first year approximately 40 per cent of the families contributed furnishings and household equipment. The percentage of contributions decreased in the following years.¹⁹

This study indicated that families of a high economic position make a high amount of contributions while those of a low economic position make a low amount of contributions. However, the evidence did not support the hypothesis that the families of high economic position give goods and money and the families of low economic position give services.²⁰

Agan suggests as a rule of thumb that roughly one fourth of the value of a house be devoted to furnishings. This indicates

¹⁷Alma Beth Clark and Jean Warren, Economic Contributions Made to Newly Married Couples By Their Parents, Dornell University Agr. Exp. Sta., May 1963, p. 3.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 4.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 15.

²⁰Ibid., p. 5.

that in the first years of marriage furnishings are likely to be financed largely through accumulated savings, gifts, or through the use of credit.²¹

Major considerations of the beginning family relative to home furnishing are the amount of money to be spent, the items to be purchased, desired characteristics, and the appropriate time of purchase. Articles purchased, usually, are expected to provide for basic needs and yet fit into the completely furnished home in later years.²²

According to Rutt:

The needs, activities, objectives, and social status of families, as well as their financial situations, modify the amounts to be invested in home furnishings. The ownership of a house justifies a larger investment than tenancy. The family that is likely to move often would naturally buy less expensive things that can be disposed of readily. . . . Any plan of procedure should take into account the fact that the untrained person is likely to buy things she will not want later. Neither should one disregard the fact that decoration is far from static and new materials may produce furniture more desirable.²³

The expanding or child bearing stage. The expanding family is characterized by the birth of children and the rearing of these children. Glick used the average interval between marriage and

²¹Tessie Agan, The House, Its Plan and Use, Rev., New York: Lippincott, 1956, p. 260.

²²Irma H. Gross and Elizabeth A. Crandall, Management for Modern Families, Second edition, New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, p. 167.

²³Rutt, op. cit., p. 213.

the birth of the last child for the childbearing stage.²⁴ Duvall further classifies this group into these stages: (1) childbearing families (oldest child from birth to 30 months), (2) families with pre-school children (oldest child from 30 months to 6 years), (3) families with school children (oldest child from 6 to 13 years).²⁵

Among American families giving the child a place of his own and readapting the family housing for his comfort and convenience has become the norm. There is a conscious effort to provide the kind of facilities in which the child may grow at his best, explore without hurt or restraint, and to learn from active manipulation how to master his environment and develop his own skills. This would naturally influence not only the items of furniture acquired by the family during this period but also the style, quality and characteristics.²⁶

According to Duvall the costs of the family at the childbearing stage tend to increase because it is during this period that the past, present, and future needs of the family are simultaneously part of the family budget. The first baby comes on the heels of the establishment stage of the family, when payments for

²⁴Glick, op. cit., p. 5.

²⁵Duvall, op. cit., p. 4.

²⁶Ibid., p. 202.

furniture, equipment, house, car and other high cost items are still being made.²⁷

"Making do" is one way of balancing the budget during this stage of the family life cycle. Many couples feel that the household can be kept simple and inexpensive while the children are growing, with furnishings that are expendable and with little importance put on appearance. Later, when the children are old enough to appreciate quality furnishings and to share their care, the old, inexpensive, scarred items may be replaced.²⁸

The age of the head of the family is a good indication of the stage in the life cycle, because the interaction of biological, economic, legal, religious and social factors propel most Americans along a course in which common events occur within a fairly narrow age span. The dominant pattern in the 1960's is early marriage (bride and groom in their twenties), a relatively short child bearing period (last child born before parents reach 30), last child marrying and leaving home by the time parents are 50, and the death of one partner by the middle of the late 60's.²⁹

The teenage and launching families. The teenage stage is not differentiated from the child bearing stage in Glick's classi-

²⁷Ibid., p. 207.

²⁸Ibid., p. 210.

²⁹Paul C. Glick, David McHeer and John C. Beresford, "Family Formation and Family Composition: Trends and Prospects" revision for paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Chicago, Dec. 29, 1959. Mimeo.

fication. In fact, there is apt to be overlapping of these stages depending upon the length of the child bearing stage. However, Duvall defines it as the period when the oldest child reaches 13 years of age until the last child reaches age 20. She further defines the launching family from the time the first child leaves home until the last child leaves home.³⁰

Both the teenage and the launching stages are periods when family members are intensely concerned about the house and its facilities. Changes in family living during this period are related to the growth and maturation of the children and the changing status of parents.³¹

According to Duvall:

Now the teenager's need for acceptance in larger social circles makes him (even oftener when she is a girl) push for nicer, better, bigger, more modern furnishings and equipment. The house that some years ago was child proofed and stripped of all breakable elegance, now must bloom in the styles of the period as teenagers see the house as a reflection of themselves and their family.

The dating adolescent girl wants an attractive setting in which she can entertain her boy and girl friends....The rest of the family needs to be somewhat protected from the noisy activities of teenagers.

While the teenager is crowding the house with his or her dating, recreational, and work interests, younger siblings are growing up with their interests and needs to be taken care of. . . . At the same time, father and mother continue to be persons with rights and needs.

The house that fulfills this multidimensional demand for adequate facilities during the teenage stage has some tall stepping to do.³²

³⁰Duvall, op. cit., p. 13.

³¹Glick, op. cit., pp. 4-6.

³²Duvall, op. cit., pp. 308-310.

The trend toward more basic furnishings for the growing child's room is aptly stated by Kate Ellen Rogers. "As the child matures, no evidence of an outgrown stage of development remains to embarrass the adolescent occupant, for the few permanent furnishings are as simple and sophisticated as the parents own."³³

The middle aged stage. This is the time designated by Duvall when the children have left the nest until retirement.

The middle aged couple is likely to stay on in the family home after the children leave.

Remodeling may become a pleasant project for the middle-aged couple. They can refurbish around their particular interests rather than in terms of what the children need. After twenty to twenty-five years of marriage, a man and his wife usually have definite ideas about what is important to them in a home.³⁴

In the middle years the husband's income is still at or close to its peak, while living costs have dropped sharply as the children left home. The house is furnished, the car and the last baby are paid for, and the couple can relax and enjoy their earnings before retirement and the later years are upon them.³⁵

³³Kate Ellen Rogers, The Modern House U.S.A.: Its Design and Decoration, New York: Harper and Row, 1962, p. 177.

³⁴Duvall, op. cit., p. 414.

³⁵Ibid., p. 415.

According to Katona, Lininger, Mueller, spending on furniture and major household appliances rose to \$10.7 billion in 1962. Forty-two per cent of all spending units purchased furniture or household appliances.³⁶

The spending on household durables is heavily influenced by income level and lightly related to the age of the heads of the spending units and their stage in the family life cycle.³⁷ Major expenditures for household durables are most common among spending units in which the head is 25-34 years old. Average major outlays tend to parallel variations in income over age groups: income and major outlays were both at a maximum for age groups 45-54, and both were low for the very young and very old.³⁸

Much consumer behavior grows out of family situations that occur in a familiar cycle. A knowledge of the differences in expenditure for furnishings over the life cycle aids family economists in helping families to understand their needs, anticipate changes and make furnishings plans.

II. SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCALES

Several scales have been developed to reflect the prevailing average standard of cultural possessions, effective income,

³⁶George Katona, Charles A. Lininger, Eva Mueller, 1963 Survey of Consumer Finances, Monograph No. 34, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan, 1964, p. 39.

³⁷Ibid., p. 39.

³⁸Ibid., p. 40.

material possession and participation in the group activities of the community.

Sewell originally introduced a scale for measuring the socio-economic status of farm families in Oklahoma in 1940. There were 36 items in the scale related to the four major components of the socio-economic status of the farm family. In 1943 Sewell revised the scale into a shorter form that would be easier to use in classifying families. There were 14 items in this form. The scale was tested in three states, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Louisiana, to see if it could be used to measure the socio-economic status of farm families of other states with the same scale. The short form was validated in Oklahoma by a correlation between the ratings produced by it and those produced by the original scale.³⁹

Belcher and Sharpe found in 1952 that items on church attendance used in Sewell's study were not closely correlated with the socio-economic scale. As a result, the two items on church attendance were excluded and twelve items were used in their short form.⁴⁰

In 1950 Danley and Ramsey standardized a level of living scale for farm and non-farm families. The usual procedures in

³⁹William H. Sewell, The Construction and Standardization of a Scale for the Measurement of the Socio-Economic Status of Oklahoma Farm Families, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College Experiment Station, Technical Bulletin No. 9, April 1940.

⁴⁰J. C. Belcher and E. F. Sharpe, A Short Scale for Measuring Farm Family Level of Living: A Modification of Sewell's Socio-Economic Scale. Oklahoma A. & M. College Agr. Exp. Sta. Tech. Bul. T-46, 1952.

selecting items, which, when added together would constitute a scale, were followed. The first scale accepted as a completed scale was composed of 13 items most highly related to the two extreme occupational strata. The number 13 was established arbitrarily, because other scales made up of approximately the same number of items have shown to be reliable and valid measures of socio-economic status or level of living. A final 9-item level of living scale was then developed and tested. There were no significant differences between the predictive power of the two scales.⁴¹

There seems to be no conceptual differences in the validity of the level of living scales reviewed. However, since the Danley and Ramsey scale was developed for use with both farm and non-farm families, it was chosen for use with this study. The short 9-item form was used and is included in the schedule found in the appendix.

III. HOUSING VALUES

Since effective family living and furnishings are so closely associated with personal values, a brief review of some of the literature relating to housing values is included.

In a study by Cutler in 1947, an instrument was devised to help all members of the family clarify their thinking on what con-

⁴¹Robert A. Danley and Charles E. Ramsey, Standardization and Application of a Level-of Living Scale for Farm and Non farm Families. Cornell University, Agricultural Experiment Station, Memoir 363, July 1959.

stitutes housing needs and the values which should be considered in providing for housing needs. Members of families were given an opportunity to compare and combine their ideas concerning the house, its furnishings, and its surroundings.⁴²

Ten basic home values provided the core of the test. These values included beauty, comfort, convenience, location, health, personal interests, privacy, safety, friendship activities and economy.⁴³ The results indicate the usefulness of a device such as the home values test to help people think more realistically about their housing situation. The results also indicated that the verbalized and functional patterns for the three prestige classes studied were not alike.⁴⁴

In 1952 Beyer, Mackesey, and Montgomery conducted a pilot study of 1032 families in Buffalo, New York, to learn more about the concept of values in order to gain a better understanding of what American housing should represent.⁴⁵ In this study it was stated that "values are based on the totality of a number of fac-

⁴²Virginia F. Cutler, Personal and Family Values on the Choice of a Home, Cornell University Experiment Station Bulletin 840, November 1947.

⁴³Cutler, op. cit., p. 6.

⁴⁴Cutler, op. cit., p. 32.

⁴⁵Glenn H. Beyer, Thomas W. Mackesey, and James E. Montgomery, Houses Are for People. Research Publication No. 3, Cornell University Housing Research Center, 1955.

tors, such as an individual's ideals, motives, attitudes, and tastes, which are determined by his cultural background, education, habits and experiences."⁴⁶

This thought prompted Beyer to categorize individuals according to housing values into four groups on the basis of distinctive characteristics shown in their selection of housing. These groups are the economy value group, the family value group, the personal value group, and the prestige value group.

Beyer in 1959 conducted a study of housing and personal values in which he used a scale analysis technique for measuring the values related to housing.⁴⁷ Serious consideration was given to some 20 possibilities from which nine values were selected for study in relation to housing. The nine were as follows: (1) family centrism, (2) equality, (3) physical health, (4) economy, (5) freedom, (6) aesthetics, (7) prestige, (8) mental health, and (9) leisure.⁴⁸

The respondents were divided into three approximately equal groups, high, medium and low on the basis of their scores under the scale analysis technique. In all three groups family centrism and equality were the dominant values. The second ranking values

⁴⁶Beyer, op. cit., p. 49.

⁴⁷Glenn H. Beyer, Housing and Personal Values, Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, New York State College of Home Economics, Ithaca, New York, 1959, p. 6.

⁴⁸Ibid., pp. 18-19.

were physical health and economy.⁴⁹

The forced answer technique was used in this study also in an attempt to test the validity of the results of the scale-analysis technique. Generally, the four values that ranked highest under the forced answer technique usually ranked among the first four under the scale analysis technique sometimes in practically the same order.⁵⁰ Family centrism, equality, physical health and economy then were found by both types of analysis to be the dominant values in housing.

These value orientations obviously have an influence upon individual and particular housing requirements.⁵¹

Beyer further states:

Housing has highly significant social implications because it provides the shelter for our basic unit--the family. Almost every person is affected in his day to day living by the kind of house in which he lives.⁵²

In a study of rural housing in Garfield County, Oklahoma, in 1959, Montgomery, Sutker, and Nygren examined the relative importance of these six housing values: comfort, economy, family-centeredness, privacy, social prestige and beauty. The respond-

⁴⁹Ibid., p. 6.

⁵⁰Ibid., pp. 18-20.

⁵¹Ibid., p. 20.

⁵²Glenn H. Beyer, Housing: A Factual Analysis, New York: The McMillan Company, 1958, p.2.

ents indicated that comfort, economy and family-centeredness were first in importance.⁵³

When the relative importance attached to the six housing values was analyzed in terms of the variables, socio-economic status, family life cycle, and age, it was found that with few exceptions these variables were not related to the ranking of the values. Socio-economic status was associated with the importance of economy in that only 33 per cent of the persons with the high status chose this value as first or second in importance compared with 54 per cent of the respondents having a low economic status. Family life cycle was related only to the ranking of the value family-centeredness. Fifty-five per cent of the respondents at the earlier stages of the family cycle placed this value first or second as contrasted with 37 per cent of the later stages. Age in no way was significantly related to the relative importance attached to the six values studied.⁵⁴

Each of the studies reviewed indicated that personal values are an important factor in the choice of housing for the family. Since these values are determined by cultural background, education, habits and experiences, one would expect variations in the values held important by various groups in a community and by individuals within the groups.

⁵³James E. Montgomery, Sara Smith Sutker and Maie Nygren, Rural Housing in Garfield County, Oklahoma: A Study of Processes, and Values. Oklahoma State University Publication, Volume 56, No.2, August 1, 1959, p. 42.

⁵⁴Ibid., p. 43.

IV. VALUES RELATED TO FURNISHINGS

Goodyear and Klohr state:

The way of living chosen by families, that is, the kinds of houses, the way these houses are furnished, the kinds of food and clothing, the forms of recreation, the way that time, energy and money are spent, all reflect values sought in family living. Limited to varying extent by socio-economic factors beyond the control of the individual family, the goal values sought determine the quality of family living achieved. For families as well as individuals, values are derived from many sources. Some are imposed by cultural environment. Others come from intelligent choice made possible by acquiring the knowledge necessary for wise decisions.⁵⁵

In a study of 76 young rural North Carolina families in Stokes County, Carrie Holcomb found that there was a relationship between the socio-economic characteristics and the family goal values of families. Of special significance was the value placed by the mothers upon the children taking advantage of educational opportunities in order that they may attain a higher standard of living than possible for parents.⁵⁶

A study of Practices Followed by Consumers in Buying "Large Expenditure" Items of Clothing, Furniture, and Equipment was made in Lansing, Michigan, in 1950 by Van Syckle.⁵⁷ From

⁵⁵Margaret R. Goodyear and Mildred Chapen Klohr, Managing for Effective Living, New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1954, p.10.

⁵⁶Carrie C. Holcomb, Certain Socio-Economic Characteristics as a Reflection of Family Goal Values. Master Thesis 1959, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

⁵⁷Calla Van Syckle, Practices Followed by Consumers in Buying "Large Expenditure" Items of Clothing, Furniture and Equipment, Michigan State College, Ag. Exp. Sta., Lansing, Michigan, June 1951.

questioning of respondents six general values were important to them in making selections of purchased items. These values were: (1) durability, (2) easy or inexpensive upkeep, (3) efficient or satisfactory performance, (4) meeting a specific personal preference, (5) suitable to situation in which used. These were rated as most important, least important, or in-between.⁵⁸

In the selection of furniture both "efficient performance" and "suited to situation" rated 100% by respondents while "appearance" ranked 88%, "durability" 87%, "ease of upkeep" 71%, and meets a specific personal preference 68%.⁵⁹

Shopping around rated high as a source of information on buying furniture, and installment buying was found to be an important way of purchasing.

Van Syckle also studied 428 spending units in Flint, Michigan, in 1951. Furniture inventories were used to determine the kind and amount of furniture owned by families, the age of the furniture, the homemakers' preferences for style and wood finish, sources of information on buying. Seventy-five per cent of the furniture in the inventories had been acquired new, 25 per cent was old. Between 63 and 75 per cent of the respondents had no preference for style. There were significantly more homemakers of 35 years or older than young homemakers in this group. The

⁵⁸Ibid., p. 18.

⁵⁹Ibid., p. 21

younger group's preferences were about equally divided between contemporary and traditional furniture. About three-fourths had no preference for wood. When grouped by stage in the family life cycle, the percentage of spending units reporting renovation increased appreciably as the family advanced in years.⁶⁰

Forty-three per cent of the total spending units had bought furniture in a year and a few months period previous to the interview. The middle income group made relatively more use of installment credit and less of cash or charge accounts than either the lower or higher income group. The highest income group made more use of cash and charge account payments than either of the other two groups.⁶¹

In Nolan's study of 351 rural families in Pennsylvania, each of these factors, residence, occupation, education, rating of standing and value of inventory was associated with the selection of equipment and furniture. Three variables, occupation of the husband, education of the wife, and rating of the family were used to develop six status groupings representative of the diverse social roles found within the community studied. These status groups differed significantly in the items owned, quality of

⁶⁰Calla Van Syckle, Consumer Use and Purchase of Furniture in Flint, Michigan, 1951, Michigan State College, Ag. Exp. Sta., East Lansing, Michigan.

⁶¹Ibid., pp. 8-26.

furniture, and styles preferred.⁶² There existed a positive relationship between experiences with an item and a preference for it. In general, the data indicated that the preferences of the six status groupings did not differ as much as the levels of living attained.⁶³

The studies reviewed related to furnishings have indicated the values sought by homemakers in the selection of furniture, the age and type of furniture owned, the way furniture is purchased and some of the factors that influence its selection. However, none of the studies have related items and amounts of furnishings to the stages in the family life cycle.

⁶²Francena L. Nolan, Factors Associated With Preferences for Household Equipment and Furniture by 351 Rural Families. Bulletin 581, The Pennsylvania State University Agri. Exp. Sta., State College, Pennsylvania, Home Ec. Research Publication No. 124, January 1955, p. 35.

⁶³Ibid., p. 35.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

As families advance through the stages of the family cycle, their needs and preferences change. This study was designed to examine the furnishings owned by groups of North Carolina families at the four stages in the family cycle when it appears that changes in furnishings are likely to occur. These stages are: the beginning family, the expanding family, the teenage or launching family, and the older family.

Socio-economic factors such as age, family composition, place of residence, education, income, housing status, and level of living influence family living patterns. Therefore, the study was designed so that these factors can be related to the furnishings owned by families at each stage of the family cycle.

I. DEVELOPING THE INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

An interview schedule was developed for use in collecting the data. This schedule was divided into four parts. The first part was made up of screening questions designed to eliminate those respondents who did not fit one of the four stages of the family cycle included in the study. If the respondent did not fit one of these stages, the interview was terminated; if she did fit one stage, the schedule was completed.

The second part was made up of questions designed to provide personal data such as family composition, age, place of residence,

education, housing status, and socio-economic status.

The third section was planned to obtain the items of furniture owned for the dining, sleeping, and living rooms of the home and for information as to whether these items were a gift or purchased, length of ownership and plans for the next year.

The last section was designed to obtain information relative to decision making in the purchase of large expenditure items and the values held important in furnishing the dining, sleeping, and living rooms.

The schedule was pretested with fifteen homemakers living in Wake County. Interviews were made and completed with families fitting each of the four stages in the family cycle. This experience was valuable in the final refinement and phrasing of the schedule.

II. THE SAMPLING

In order to get a cross section sampling of North Carolina families, six counties were selected--two from the mountain area, two from the central (Piedmont) area, and two from the eastern area. In each area one county was more rural and one more urban. The six counties selected were:

Western Area - Urban: Buncombe
Rural: Madison
Piedmont Area - Urban: Wake
Rural: Lee

Eastern Area - Urban: New Hanover

Rural: Bladen

Figure I shows the location of the counties included in the study.

A letter was written and sent to the Home Economics agents in each of these counties explaining the proposed survey and asking if their county would cooperate with the study. The answer from each was in the affirmative.

The Federal Extension office in Washington agreed to draw the sample. For this, 1964 maps of the three rural counties were used to divide the area into segments which contained from 8-15 homes per segment. The segments to be used in the sampling were then drawn at random. City directories were used for drawing at random the names and addresses of the respondents for the urban sample.

The estimated number of respondents needed for the study was approximately 50 per county or a minimum of 300 for the state. Each of the respondents drawn in the sample was to be contacted and accepted or rejected according to the qualifications set up in the schedule for families needed to fit the four stages of the family cycle.

Two samples were drawn for each county. Sample number II was to be used in the event sample number I did not yield the desired number of respondents. Both sample I and sample II combined failed to yield the number of respondents needed for the study. So sample number III was drawn and used for the survey.

III. TRAINING THE INTERVIEWERS

The Home Economics agent in each of the six counties selected Extension House Furnishings leaders to do the interviewing. These were selected to minimize traveling and to equalize the number of interviews per leader in so far as possible.

A training session with the Home Economics agent and the leaders in each county was arranged. In this meeting the interviewers and Home Economics agents were instructed by the investigator in their responsibilities. The schedule was studied, the sample explained, and the supplies distributed. Practice sessions in interviewing were provided for the interviewers. A copy of the training agenda and the interviewing instructions are included as Appendix A.

IV. COLLECTING THE DATA

The interviewers were instructed to contact each homemaker in the sample. If the homemaker could not be located on the first call, two call backs were made before classifying the case as a noninterview. Approximately two weeks was the time period set for each group of interviewers to complete the interviewing. The schedules were edited by the Home Economics agent and forwarded to the investigator.

V. ANALYSING THE DATA

Answers to the screening questions included in the schedule

were used to classify each family as to size and stage in the family cycle.

Each of the 328 families was designated as a beginning, expanding, teenage or launching, or middle aged family according to the definitions given for these stages.

The family size was determined by the number of family members as a small, medium or large family. Those families with four or less members were classified as small families, those with five members as medium sized families, and those with more than five members were classified as large families.

The nine items in the Ramsey and Danley level of living scale were included in the interview schedule. The nine items, each assigned a value of one, were used in computing the level of living status of each family. The items were:

1. Water supply
2. Tub and shower bath
3. Piano
4. Washing Machine
5. Pressure cooker
6. Sweeper
7. Kind of clocks
8. Age of auto
9. Telephone

The families scoring eight or nine were rated as having a high level of living, those scoring five to seven were rated medium, and those scoring from one to four were rated low.

The items of furniture owned by families for the dining, sleeping and living areas of the home were used as an index to determine whether families had a minimum, moderate or liberal amount of furniture for these areas. Each item of furniture was assigned a weighted value. The values, when added together for the items of furniture in each room, were used to determine the adequacy of the furnishings.

In the dining area a score from one to three was used to designate minimum furnishings, a score from four to five moderate furnishings, and a score of six or over designated liberal furnishings.

In the living room a score of seven or less was used to indicate minimum furnishings, a score of eight to eleven moderate furnishings, and a score of twelve or over indicated liberal furnishings.

In those homes having more than four bedrooms, the interviewer was asked to use the master bedroom and the three other most often used bedrooms.

For bedrooms occupied by one person a score from one to five was used to determine minimum, from six to eight moderate, and nine or over liberal furnishings.

For the bedrooms occupied by two persons a score from one to six was used to determine minimum, seven to nine moderate, and ten or over liberal furnishings.

For the bedrooms occupied by three or more persons a score from one to seven was used to determine minimum furnishings, eight

to ten moderate, and eleven or over liberal.

After the coding was completed, the data from the schedules were transferred to IBM cards to facilitate tabulation and analysis.

Two hypotheses were developed to provide guidance for the study.

Hypothesis 1. There is a relationship between the amount of furnishings acquired by families and their stages in the family life cycle.

Hypothesis 2. There is a relationship between the amount of furnishings acquired by families at the various stages of the family cycle and the following factors: the size of the family, the housing status, the length of tenure, the size of the house, the number of bedrooms in the house and the level of living.

To test these hypotheses, the data were subjected to the chi square test of independence.

CHAPTER IV

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

In order to relate furnishings to family needs it was necessary to know some of the general characteristics of the families included in the study and the houses in which they lived.

I. THE FAMILIES

Family characteristics are a major factor in determining how families furnish their homes. Therefore, this study included information concerning stage in family cycle, size of family, education of homemaker, occupation of husband, gross annual income, and level of living. The data relative to each of these characteristics is shown in Table I.

Stage in family cycle. Only 3.4 per cent of the respondents were members of beginning families. Thirty-five per cent were expanding families, 45 per cent were teenage or launching families, and the middle aged group accounted for the other 16 per cent.

Size of family. Families with four or less members were classified as small, those with five members as medium, and those with more than five members as large.

Small families made up 56 per cent or over half of the total number of respondents. Medium and large families accounted for 21 and 23 per cents, respectively.

TABLE I
 GENERAL FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS
 (328 RESPONDENTS)

Family characteristics	Respondents	
	Number	Per cent
Stage in the family life		
The beginning family	11	3.4
The expanding family	115	35.0
The teenage/launching family	148	45.1
The middle aged family	54	16.5
Size of family		
Small	182	55.5
Medium	69	21.0
Large	77	23.5
Last year of school completed		
1st - 4th grade	6	1.8
5th - 6th grade	14	4.3
7th - 8th grade	49	14.9
1 - 3 years high school	62	18.9
4 years high school	127	38.7
1 - 3 years college	48	14.6
4 years or more college	22	6.7
Occupation of husband		
Farmer	81	24.7
Wage earner	121	36.9
Clerical	18	5.5
Business or professional	94	28.6
Unemployed, retired, disabled	10	3.0
No response	4	1.2
Gross annual family income		
Under \$3,000	51	15.5
\$3,000 - \$4,999	90	27.4
\$5,000 - \$7,499	84	25.6
\$7,500 - \$9,999	33	10.0
\$10,000 and over	31	9.5
Do not know	39	11.9
Level of living		
High	96	29.3
Medium	150	45.7
Low	82	25.0

Level of education. The homemakers were asked to indicate the highest grade completed in school. Approximately 21 per cent did not go beyond elementary school; 19 per cent attended from one to three years of high school and 39 per cent completed all four years. About 21 per cent continued their education beyond high school with 7 per cent completing four years of college.

Occupation of husband. The largest number of husbands, 37 per cent, were wage earners. The business or professional group included 29 per cent of the husbands, and 25 per cent, or one-fourth, were farmers. Three per cent indicated that their husbands were either retired or disabled.

Gross annual income. Approximately 27 per cent reported incomes between \$3,000 and \$4,999 and 25.6 per cent ranged between \$5,000 and \$7,499. These two groups made up 53 per cent of the respondents with incomes ranging between \$3,000 and \$7,499. Sixteen per cent reported incomes of less than \$3,000. Ten per cent received incomes between \$7,500 and \$9,999 while an almost equal number reported incomes of over \$10,000. A total of 12 per cent of the homemakers refused to answer or indicated they did not know the amount of annual income.

Level of living. Forty-five per cent of the families were classified as maintaining a medium level of living. Twenty-nine per cent of the families had a high level of living, and 25 per cent had a low level of living.

II. THE HOUSES

The study included information relative to place of residence, housing status, length of tenure, number of rooms in the house, and number of bedrooms.

Place of residence. An analysis of Table II shows that 33 per cent of the respondents lived on farms and 21 per cent were rural non-farm families. Forty-five per cent lived in urban areas of over 2500 while slightly less than 2 per cent lived in urban areas of less than 2500.

Housing status. A large majority, 74 per cent, of the respondents owned their homes. Sixteen per cent of the families rented homes and 7 per cent lived in rented apartments or owned the apartments in which they lived.

Length of tenure. More than one-third (38 per cent) of the respondents had lived in their present home less than five years. Twenty-six per cent reported living in their present home from six through ten years and an almost equal number (25 per cent) reported their tenure between eleven and twenty years. Only 11 per cent reported living in their homes for twenty years or over.

Number of rooms in the house. Sixty-six of the respondents lived in two, three and four room houses. Over one-half, or 182 of the families lived in five and six room houses. Houses with seven rooms and over were occupied by 80 of the families.

TABLE II
 GENERAL HOUSING FACTS ABOUT RESPONDENTS
 (328 RESPONDENTS)

	Respondents	
	Number	Per cent
Place of Residence		
Farm	108	32.9
Rural non-farm	69	21.0
Town less than 2500	5	1.5
Town or city over 2500	146	44.5
Housing Status		
Rent apartment you occupy	13	4.0
Rent house you occupy	52	15.9
Own apartment you occupy	9	2.7
Own house you occupy	244	74.4
Other*	10	3.0
Length of Tenure		
Less than 5 years	124	37.8
6-10 years	86	26.2
11-20 years	81	24.7
Over 20 years	37	11.3
Number of Rooms in House		
Two	1	0.3
Three	5	1.5
Four	60	18.3
Five	82	25.0
Six	100	30.5
Seven	54	16.5
Eight	17	5.2
Nine	6	1.8
Ten or more	3	0.9
Number of Bedrooms		
One	7	2.1
Two	114	34.8
Three	169	51.5
Four	33	10.1
Five or more	5	1.5

*Other includes parsonages, family homes or homes provided in some other way.

Number of bedrooms. More than one-half of the respondents lived in three bedroom houses. Slightly more than one-third had two bedrooms; one-tenth had four or more bedrooms. Only seven families lived in one bedroom houses.

III. AN ANALYSIS OF RESPONDENTS BY STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE AND SELECTED FACTORS

This section is a further description of the families and their houses as they are associated with certain factors. The factors that have been selected for analysis are: size of family, housing status, length of tenure, size of house, number of bedrooms, and level of living.

Size of Family - All of the beginning families were small in size (Table III). A larger proportion of the expanding and middle aged families were small than were the teenage or launching families. Over 68 per cent of the middle aged families were small.

The highest percentage of the medium size families were in the expanding stage of the life cycle; the highest percentage of the large families were in the teenage or launching stage.

Housing Status - An equal proportion of the beginning families rented an apartment and owned a house (Table IV). The number renting houses was about 10 per cent higher than those owning houses.

As the families progressed through the stages in the family cycle, a smaller proportion rented houses and a larger proportion

TABLE III
 RESPONDENTS CLASSIFIED BY STAGE
 IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE AND
 SIZE OF FAMILY

Stage in Family Life Cycle	Size of Family						
	Total	Small		Medium		Large	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Beginning	11	11	100				
Expanding	115	70	60.9	29	25.2	16	13.9
Teenage or Launching	148	64	43.2	33	22.3	51	34.5
Middle Aged	54	37	68.5	7	13.0	10	18.5

TABLE IV
 RESPONDENTS CLASSIFIED BY
 STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE AND
 HOUSING STATUS

Stage in Family	Housing Status										
	Total No.	Rent Apt.		Own Apt.		Rent House		Own House		Other	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Beginning	11	3	27.3	1	9.1	4	36.4	3	27.3	0	0
Expanding	115	7	6.1	3	2.6	24	20.9	74	64.3	7	6.1
Teenage or Launching	148	2	1.4	2	1.4	22	14.9	120	81.1	2	1.4
Middle Aged	54	1	1.9	3	5.6	2	3.7	47	87.0	1	1.9

owned their houses. The rise in ownership began with 27.3 per cent for the beginning families, rose to 64.3 per cent for expanding families, to 81.1 per cent for teenage or launching families, and to 87 per cent for the middle aged families.

Length of Tenure - Because of the classification requirements for beginning families, all of them had lived in their homes less than 5 years as shown in Table V. About 62 per cent of the expanding families had lived in their houses less than 5 years, 26 per cent from 6 through 10 years, and 11 per cent from 11 through 20 years.

The highest percentage of the teenage or launching families (33.8 per cent) had lived in their houses from 11 through 20 years.

As might be expected, the percentage of the middle aged families increased with each period of tenure.

Size of House - In this study those houses with two, three, and four rooms were classified as small houses; those with five and six rooms were classified as medium, and those with seven or more rooms were classified as large houses.

Almost one-half of the beginning families lived in small houses and a little over one-third lived in medium size houses (Table VI).

Over one-half of the expanding families, teenage or launching and middle aged families lived in medium size houses, with the teenage or launching families having the highest percentage in this category.

TABLE V
 RESPONDENTS CLASSIFIED BY
 STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE AND
 LENGTH OF TENURE

Stages in Family Cycle	Length of Tenure								
	Total	Less than 5 yrs.		6 thru 10 yrs.		11 thru 20 yrs.		Over 20 yrs.	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Beginning	11	11	100.0						
Expanding	115	71	61.7	30	26.1	13	11.3	1	0.9
Teenage or Launching	148	38	25.7	44	29.7	50	33.8	16	10.8
Middle Aged	54	7	13.0	9	16.7	18	33.3	20	37.0

TABLE VI
 RESPONDENTS CLASSIFIED BY
 STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE AND
 SIZE OF HOUSE

Stages in Family Life Cycle	Size of House						
	Total	Small		Medium		Large	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Beginning	11	5	45.5	4	36.4	2	18.2
Expanding	115	32	27.8	59	51.3	24	20.9
Teenage or Launching	148	18	12.2	90	60.8	40	27.0
Middle Aged	54	11	20.4	29	53.7	14	25.9

Over one-fourth of the large houses were occupied by families belonging to the teenage or launching and the middle age stages of the family cycle.

Number of Bedrooms - The beginning families had the highest percentage of houses with one and two bedrooms (Table VII).

Forty-four and 45 per cent of the expanding families had two and three bedroom houses respectively.

Sixty per cent of the teenage or launching families had three bedroom houses and about 13 per cent had four bedroom houses.

Forty-one per cent of the middle aged families had two bedroom houses and 44 per cent had three bedroom houses.

None of the beginning families had over three bedrooms. The teenage or launching families lived in homes with the largest number of bedrooms.

Level of Living - As shown in Table VIII a little over one-third of the beginning families had a low level of living as did slightly less than one-third of the teenage or launching families.

The percentage of families having a high level of living increased as the families advanced through the stages in the family cycle. There was a difference of 10 per cent between the number of beginning and expanding families with a high level of living. From this stage through the middle age stage the percentage increase was small.

However, the highest percentage of the families in each stage of the cycle had a medium level of living.

TABLE VII
 RESPONDENTS CLASSIFIED BY
 STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE AND
 NUMBER OF BEDROOMS

Stages in Family Life Cycle	Number of Bedrooms										
	Total	One		Two		Three		Four		Five or over	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Beginning	11	2	18.2	5	45.5	4	36.4	0	0	0	0
Expanding	115	3	2.6	51	44.3	52	45.2	8	7.0	1	0.9
Teenage or Launching	148	1	0.7	36	24.3	89	60.1	19	12.8	3	2.0
Middle Aged	54	1	1.9	22	40.7	24	44.4	6	11.1	1	1.9

TABLE VIII
 RESPONDENTS CLASSIFIED BY
 STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE AND
 LEVEL OF LIVING

Stages in Family Cycle	Level of Living						
	Total	Low		Medium		High	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Beginning	11	4	36.4	5	45.5	2	18.2
Expanding	115	19	16.5	64	55.7	32	27.8
Teenage or Launching	148	48	32.4	56	37.8	44	29.7
Middle Aged	54	11	20.4	25	46.3	18	33.3

SUMMARY

This chapter has described selected characteristics of the 328 respondents included in the study. The data presented reveal the following facts:

1. The teenage or launching families made up approximately 45 per cent of the total 328 families with the expanding families next in size with 35 per cent.
2. More than half, or 55 per cent, of the respondents were members of small families. The others were divided almost equally between medium and large families.
3. The largest percentage of the families lived in urban areas of over 2500 while the second highest number of families were farm families.
4. Twenty-one per cent of the homemakers did not go beyond elementary school; 19 per cent attended from one to three years of high school; 39 per cent completed all four years of high school; and 21 per cent continued with education beyond high school.
5. The largest group of husbands, 37 per cent, were wage earners, with business and professional following in second place, 29 per cent, and farming third, 25 per cent.
6. Less than 16 per cent had incomes under \$3,000. Over half of the families grossed between \$3,000 and \$7,499.
7. Almost half, or 150, of the 328 families had a medium

level of living.

8. Three-fourths of the respondents owned their homes.
9. The tenure of respondents in their present homes tended to be short. Over 37 per cent had a tenure of less than five years.
10. Approximately three-fourths of the families lived in medium sized homes with the largest number living in houses of six rooms.
11. Over half of the respondents lived in homes with three bedrooms.
12. All of the beginning families were small; the highest percentage of the medium size families were in the expanding stage; and the highest percentage of the large families were in the teenage or launching stage.
13. A majority of families in all of the stages owned their houses.
14. The highest number of beginning and expanding families had lived in their homes less than 5 years; the largest number of teenage or launching families had lived in their homes from 11 through 20 years; and the highest number of the middle age families had lived in their homes over 20 years.
15. About half of the beginning families lived in small houses and over half of the families in each of the other three stages lived in medium size houses. Over half of the large houses were occupied by the teenage

or launching and middle age families.

16. The largest percentage of families in each stage lived in two and three bedroom houses.
17. A majority of the families in each stage of the family cycle had a medium level of living.

CHAPTER V

AN ANALYSIS OF FURNISHINGS AS THEY RELATE TO THE FAMILY LIFE CYCLE AND THE FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE THEIR SELECTION

A major purpose of this study was to analyse the items of furniture for the dining, living and sleeping areas of the homes of the 328 respondents included in the study. The objectives are restated here and followed with an analysis of furnishings owned by the families as associated with the stages in the family cycle and certain factors associated with the selection of furnishings.

1. The items of furnishings were identified as acquired by families and it was determined how the items were obtained, length of ownership, and plans for their replacement, renovation or additions during the next year.

2. The association was determined between the adequacy of home furnishings items acquired by families and four stages in the family life cycle:

- a. The beginning family
- b. The expanding family
- c. The teenage or launching family
- d. The middle-aged family

3. The extent to which certain factors were associated with the adequacy of the furnishings for the dining, living and sleeping areas of the house were determined.

I. SPECIFIC ITEMS OF FURNITURE OWNED BY FAMILIES

This section includes a compilation of specific items of furniture for the dining, living and sleeping areas for the homes studied. These data include information relative to acquisition of the furniture, the length of ownership, and plans to replace, renovate or add in the next year.

Specific Items of Furniture for Dining Areas

The number and types of furniture items for the dining areas of 321 families are shown in Table IX. Seven of the respondents did not list any dining furniture.

To simplify the classification of adequacy, dining chairs were listed as a group in terms of number needed to accommodate family members only or family members and guests. Therefore, this compilation does not reflect actual count of dining chairs but units or sets according to accommodation and the number of sets was counted as items.

A total of 1005 items of furniture for dining was listed with a majority of the specific items purchased new. Slightly more of the items of furniture were purchased used than were gift items. The number of used and gift items combined amounted to about one-third of the total number of furniture items.

Some families had more than one dining table and more than one set of dining chairs. Over two-thirds had dining tables and chairs to accommodate family members and guests. It was interesting that about one-third of the respondents chose china cabinets

TABLE IX
 SPECIFIC ITEMS OF FURNITURE FOR DINING AREAS
 ACCORDING TO POSSESSION
 (321 RESPONDENTS)

Item	According to Possession			
	Total	Gift	Purchased	
			New	Used
Table Space For Family Members	123	14	75	34
Dining Table For Family-Guests	250	35	177	38
Dining Chairs For Family Only	139	14	95	30
Dining Chairs For Family-Guests	239	30	173	36
China Cabinet	112	15	70	27
Buffet	85	16	53	16
Chest	30	9	17	4
Serving Cart	27	3	23	2
Total	1005	136	672	187

for storage. The number of chests and buffets combined were about equal to the number of china cabinets owned. Almost one-third of the respondents did not list storage items of furniture in the dining room and only 27 of the families listed serving carts.

About half of the furniture items in the dining areas were between 6 and 15 years old and about one-third were less than 5 years old (Table X). This pattern for length of ownership seemed to apply generally to each specific item of furniture as well as to the total group.

A small number of respondents had plans to replace, renovate or add furniture in the next year (Table XI). The plans were distributed generally between all of the dining items of furniture. However, the largest number of replacements were planned for dining tables and chairs, and the largest number of items to be added were storage items of furniture.

Specific Items of Furniture for Living Areas

A total of 3433 items of living room furniture was listed by the respondents as shown in Table XII. About one-tenth of these items were gifts. A slightly larger number were listed as used pieces of furniture and the remainder had been purchased new. One respondent listed no living room furniture.

There were 400 multiple seating units listed. About one-third of the total items were chairs of various types. It was interesting to note the large number of rocking chairs.

There were 469 end tables, 200 coffee tables, 12 game tables,

TABLE IX
 SPECIFIC ITEMS OF FURNITURE FOR DINING AREAS
 ACCORDING TO POSSESSION
 (321 RESPONDENTS)

Item	According to Possession			
	Total	Gift	Purchased	
			New	Used
Table Space For Family Members	123	14	75	34
Dining Table For Family-Guests	250	35	177	38
Dining Chairs For Family Only	139	14	95	30
Dining Chairs For Family-Guests	239	30	173	36
China Cabinet	112	15	70	27
Buffet	85	16	53	16
Chest	30	9	17	4
Serving Cart	27	3	22	2
Total	1005	136	682	187

TABLE XI
 SPECIFIC ITEMS OF FURNITURE FOR DINING AREAS
 ACCORDING TO PLANS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

Item	Plans for Next Year			
	Total	Replace	Renovate	Add
Table Space For Family Members	3	3	0	0
Dining Table For Family-Guests	8	3	3	2
Dining Chairs For Family Only	4	3	1	0
Dining Chairs For Family-Guests	6	2	1	3
China Cabinet	7	0	4	3
Buffet	5	2	0	3
Chest	3	0	0	3
Serving Cart	1	0	0	1
Total	37	13	9	15

TABLE XII
 SPECIFIC ITEMS OF FURNITURE FOR LIVING AREAS
 ACCORDING TO POSSESSION
 (327 RESPONDENTS)

Item	According to Possession			
	Total	Gift	Purchased	
			New	Used
Sofa	261	19	208	34
Sofa Bed	112	4	93	15
Cot	27	0	20	7
Upholstered Chair	657	60	545	52
Desk Dining Occasional Chair	183	16	149	18
Straight Chair	133	10	103	20
Rocking Chair	194	29	150	15
End Table	469	38	393	38
Coffee Table	200	16	176	8
Game Table	12	2	10	0
Study Table	23	4	18	1
Occasional Table	201	20	147	34
Chest	24	5	16	3
Desk	54	8	36	10
Cupboard	11	9	2	0
Wall Storage Unit	42	38	4	0
Bookcase	92	14	70	8
Credenza	5	1	3	1
Television	300	9	263	28
Hi-Fi or Stereo	117	10	96	11
Piano	68	8	27	33
Carpet or Rug	248	13	212	23
Total	3,433	333	2,741	359

23 study tables and 201 occasional tables, making a total of 1104 tables. This would give an average of three tables per living room.

Nearly every home had a television and a few homes had two sets. About one-third of the respondents had hi-fi or stereo equipment. Pianos were found in 86 homes and a majority of these were purchased new. Over two-thirds of the living rooms had carpets or rugs.

With a few exceptions the items were almost evenly divided in length of ownership between less than 5 years and 6 to 15 years (Table XIII). One hundred seventy of the 270 respondents had purchased carpets or rugs in the last 5 years. About one-tenth of the furnishings was over 15 years old.

There were only a few of the respondents who had made plans to replace, renovate or add living room furniture in the next year (Table XIV). A majority of the plans involved replacing or renovating sofas and upholstered chairs. Seven respondents had plans to replace carpets or rugs.

Specific Items of Furniture for Sleeping Areas

The data was collected regarding the furnishings for all of the bedrooms up to four for each respondent interviewed, or for a total of 869 furnished bedrooms.

Double beds were prevalent in the houses studied (Table XV). There was a small number of cribs, youth beds and cots in relation to the high percentage of expanding families.

TABLE XIII
 SPECIFIC ITEMS OF FURNITURE FOR LIVING AREAS
 ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP

Item	Length of Ownership			
	Total	Less than 5 yrs.	6-15 yrs.	16 yrs. over
Sofa	261	134	101	26
Sofa Bed	112	52	54	6
Cot	27	11	16	0
Upholstered Chair	657	288	301	68
Desk Dining Occasional Chair	183	76	85	22
Straight Chair	133	43	65	25
Rocking Chair	194	78	102	14
End Table	469	206	211	52
Coffee Table	200	108	75	17
Game Table	12	0	7	5
Study Table	23	12	8	3
Occasional Table	201	74	101	26
Chest	24	6	15	3
Desk	54	27	22	5
Cupboard	11	3	6	2
Wall Storage Unit	42	22	18	2
Bookcase	92	35	39	18
Credenza	5	1	3	1
Television	300	165	134	1
Hi-Fi or Stereo	117	75	38	4
Piano	68	29	22	17
Carpet or Rug	248	170	67	11
Total	3,433	1,615	1,490	328

TABLE XIV
 SPECIFIC ITEMS OF FURNITURE FOR LIVING AREAS
 ACCORDING TO PLANS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

Item	Plans for Next Year			
	Total	Replace	Renovate	Add
Sofa	14	7	6	1
Sofa Bed	4	1	2	1
Upholstered Chair	17	3	12	2
Desk Dining Occasional Chair	2	1	0	1
Straight Chair	2	1	1	0
Rocking Chair	5	1	4	0
End Table	2	2	0	0
Chest	1	1	0	0
Carpet or Rug	7	7	0	0
Total	54	24	25	5

TABLE XV
 SPECIFIC ITEMS OF FURNITURE FOR SLEEPING AREAS
 ACCORDING TO POSSESSION
 (328 RESPONDENTS)

Item	According to Possession			
	Total	Gift	Purchased	
			New	Used
Double Bed	689	65	527	97
Single Bed	317	32	234	51
Crib	82	11	57	14
Youth Bed	23	3	18	2
Cot	9	1	5	3
Dresser with Mirror	681	82	510	89
Chest for Storage	588	84	427	77
Double Chests	29	4	25	2
Wardrobe	95	11	55	29
Straight Chair	428	46	319	63
Upholstered Chair	193	26	147	20
Stool	104	18	70	16
Rocking Chair	146	31	96	19
Valet	26	6	18	2
Desk	142	18	100	24
Bedside Table	424	41	333	50
Small Rug by Bed	301	25	257	19
Room-Size Rug or Carpet	277	21	241	15
Total	4,554	525	3,439	592

The combined total of 1298 dressers and chests showed that many bedrooms had two storage items of furniture. In addition, there were 95 wardrobes, more than half of which had been purchased new.

The bedrooms contained 428 straight chairs, 193 upholstered chairs, 104 stools and 146 rocking chairs. These added together would average one seating space per bedroom. However, in reality many bedrooms had two or more chairs and many had no seating space.

Approximately three-fourths of the bedrooms had some kind of rug or carpet.

The number of gift and used items of furniture were about equally divided. Combined, they amounted to less than one-third of the items that had been purchased new.

According to Table XVI about 39 per cent of the items of bedroom furniture were less than five years old; 42 per cent of all items were from six to fifteen years of age; and 19 per cent were sixteen years or over in age. This general range of percentage seemed to apply to most of the specific items of sleeping furniture listed.

Only 29 respondents had plans to replace, renovate, or add bedroom furniture within the next year (Table XVII). Most of these plans involved either replacing or renovating a double bed, dresser with mirror, a straight chair or a bedside table.

TABLE XVI
 SPECIFIC ITEMS OF FURNITURE FOR SLEEPING AREAS
 ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP

Item	Length of Ownership			
	Total	Less than 5 yrs.	6-15 yrs.	16 yrs. over
Double Bed	689	200	324	165
Single Bed	317	148	133	36
Crib	82	52	23	7
Youth Bed	23	15	6	2
Cot	9	5	4	0
Dresser with Mirror	681	212	321	148
Chest for Storage	588	202	268	118
Double Chests	29	10	16	3
Wardrobe	95	39	35	21
Straight Chair	428	128	206	94
Upholstered Chair	193	66	92	35
Stool	104	39	43	22
Rocking Chair	146	58	58	30
Valet	26	15	4	7
Desk	142	66	56	20
Bedside Table	424	165	183	76
Small Rug by Bed	301	214	63	24
Room-size Rug or Carpet	277	122	109	46
Total	4,554	1,756	1,944	854

TABLE XVII
 SPECIFIC ITEMS OF FURNITURE FOR SLEEPING AREAS
 ACCORDING TO PLANS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

Item	Plans for Next Year			
	Total	Replace	Renovate	Add
Double Bed	10	7	3	0
Dresser with Mirror	4	2	2	0
Chest for Storage	2	0	2	0
Straight Chair	5	3	2	0
Upholstered Chair	2	2	0	0
Valet	1	1	0	0
Bedside Table	4	1	1	2
Room-size Rug or Carpet	1	1	0	0
Total	29	17	10	2

II. FURNISHINGS OF AREAS CLASSIFIED BY STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE AND LEVEL OF ADEQUACY

Each item of furniture for the dining, living and sleeping areas was assigned a weighted value (Appendix B). The values of the items of furniture found in each area selected for study were totaled together and used to classify the furnishings as minimum, moderate or liberal in adequacy.

Minimum furnishings for the particular area were those considered to be basic to the performance of the major activities of the area. In the classification of furnishings for moderate and liberal levels consideration was given to the inclusion of additional items which would add to the convenience and comfort of family members and guests.

Adequacy of Furnishings for Dining Areas

The level of adequacy for the dining area was reported for only one dining area per dwelling. The percentage of minimum furnishings for the dining areas decreased from 30 per cent for beginning families to 11.3 per cent for middle aged families (Table XVIII). Whereas, the liberal furnishings increased from 30 per cent for beginning families to 47.2 per cent for the middle aged families.

When the data were subjected to the chi square test of independence, no significant association was found between adequacy of furnishings in the dining area and the stage in the family life cycle.

TABLE XVIII

FURNISHINGS OF AREAS CLASSIFIED BY
STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE AND LEVEL OF ADEQUACY

Stages in Family Cycle	Level of Adequacy						
	Total	Minimum		Moderate		Liberal	
	No. of Areas	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
				Dining Areas			
The Beginning Family	10	3	30.0	4	40.0	3	30.0
The Expanding Family	110	25	22.7	49	44.5	36	32.7
The Teenage/Launching Family	148	28	18.9	61	41.2	59	39.9
The Middle Aged Family	53	6	11.3	22	41.5	25	47.2
				Living Areas			
The Beginning Family	11	1	9.1	4	36.4	6	54.5
The Expanding Family	115	3	2.6	36	31.3	76	66.1
The Teenage/Launching Family	147	5	3.4	44	29.9	98	66.7
The Middle Aged Family	54	0	0	17	31.5	37	68.5
				Sleeping Areas			
The Beginning Family	21	2	9.5	8	38.1	11	52.4
The Expanding Family	288	41	14.2	76	26.4	171	59.4
The Teenage/Launching Family	422	45	10.7	93	22.0	284	67.3
The Middle Aged Family	138	5	3.6	25	18.1	108	78.3

Adequacy of Furnishings for Living Areas

The respondents were asked to indicate the living area in which they entertained guests. This was the room used to determine adequacy of furnishings for the family living area.

Approximately two-thirds of all the living rooms of the respondents were liberally furnished. There appeared to be an increase in adequacy of furnishings on the liberal level for the living areas as the families progressed through the stages in the family cycle.

However, the chi square test revealed that the adequacy of the furnishings for the living areas was not significantly related to the stages in the family cycle.

Adequacy of Furnishings for Sleeping Areas

The respondents were asked to list the furnishings for each bedroom with a maximum of four bedrooms being reported in a dwelling. A total of 869 furnished bedrooms were classified as to adequacy.

A majority of the bedrooms were liberally furnished for the families in each stage of the family cycle. The percentage ranged from 52.4 per cent of the beginning families to 78.3 per cent of the middle aged families with liberal bedroom furniture.

Less than one-eighth of all bedrooms were found to have minimum furnishings and less than one-fourth of all bedrooms had moderate furnishings.

When the data were tested, it was found that the level of

adequacy of the furnishings for sleeping areas was significantly associated with the stage in the family life cycle.

III. AN ANALYSIS OF THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE ADEQUACY OF FURNISHINGS AND SELECTED FACTORS

The original plan for data analysis was to determine the association between the amount of furnishings acquired by families at the various stages of the family life cycle and the size of family, the housing status, the length of tenure, the size of house, the number of bedrooms and the level of living. The three-way relationship tables are included in Appendix C.

The plans for analyzing the data were changed after the statistical analysis revealed that the adequacy of furnishings was associated with the stages in the family life cycle only for the sleeping areas of the house. The family life cycle was eliminated from further analysis and the extent to which the selected factors were associated with the adequacy of furnishings for the dining, living and sleeping areas of the house was determined. The tables used to present the data in this section carry the same numbers as the original three-way tables.

Adequacy of Furnishings According to the Family Size

For Dining Areas. The data in Table XIX revealed that over one-half of the dining areas were in the houses of small families and a majority of these had moderate and liberal furnishings. There was a slight increase in the percentage of dining areas with

TABLE XIX

FURNISHINGS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE OF FAMILY AND LEVEL OF ADEQUACY

Size of family	Adequacy of Furnishings						
	Total	Minimum		Moderate		Liberal	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Dining Areas							
Small	176	29	16.5	82	46.6	65	36.9
Medium	68	14	20.6	29	42.6	25	36.8
Large	77	19	24.7	25	32.4	33	42.9
Living Areas							
Small	182	4	2.2	57	31.3	121	66.5
Medium	69	1	11.4	20	29.0	48	69.6
Large	76	4	5.3	24	31.6	48	63.1
Sleeping Areas							
Small	450	44	9.8	99	22.2	307	68.0
Medium	191	17	8.9	48	25.1	126	66.0
Large	228	32	14.0	55	24.1	141	61.9

minimum furnishings as the families increased in size. The large families had the highest percentage of dining areas with minimum furnishings, the smallest percentage with moderate furnishings and the highest percentage with liberal furnishings.

Statistical analysis of the data revealed that there was no significant association between adequacy of furnishings for dining areas and size of the family.

For Living Areas. A majority of the living rooms of the families of all sizes was classified as having liberal furnishings. With one exception, the percentage of minimum, moderate and liberal furnishings for dining was about evenly divided for each classification of family size. The highest percentage of minimum furnishings was found in the houses of medium size families. About two-thirds of the living rooms in the houses of all family sizes were liberally furnished.

When subjected to the chi square test the adequacy of furnishings for the living areas was not closely associated with the size of the family.

For Sleeping Areas. Over two-thirds of the bedrooms were classified as liberally furnished. The large families had the highest percentage of the bedrooms furnished on the minimum level and the lowest percentage of those furnished on the liberal level. Whereas, the small families had the highest percentage of the bedrooms with liberal furnishings. The families of each size had

about one-fourth of the bedrooms with moderate furnishings.

The families tended to have moderate or liberal furnishings in the bedroom areas, irrespective of family size.

Analysis of the data indicated that family size was not a significant factor in the adequacy of the furnishings of respondent's dining, living and sleeping areas.

Adequacy of Furnishings According to Housing Status

For Dining Areas. About two-thirds of the dining areas of apartment dwellers had minimum furnishings for dining; one-third had moderate furnishings (Table XX). There were no liberally furnished dining areas in rented apartments. There were 19.6 per cent of the dining areas in rented houses with minimum furnishings, 45.1 per cent with moderate and 35.3 per cent with liberal furnishings. One-half of the dining areas of those families owning apartments were minimally furnished. Whereas a majority of the dining rooms of those owning houses had either moderate or liberal furnishings.

A high percentage of the dining areas of home owners had moderate or liberal furnishings as contrasted to the non-owners. The adequacy of furnishings for the dining areas was closely related to ownership.

There were only 10 of the total 328 respondents classified in the "other" category of housing status and these were not included in Table XX.

TABLE XX

FURNISHINGS CLASSIFIED BY HOUSING STATUS AND LEVEL OF ADEQUACY

Housing Status	Adequacy of Furnishings						
	Total	Minimum		Moderate		Liberal	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Dining Areas							
Rent apartment	12	8	66.7	4	33.3	0	0.0
Rent house	51	10	19.6	23	45.1	18	35.3
Own apartment	8	4	50.0	2	25.0	2	25.0
Own house	240	36	15.0	103	42.9	101	42.1
Living Areas							
Rent apartment	13	0	0.0	5	38.5	8	61.5
Rent house	52	2	3.9	18	34.6	32	61.5
Own apartment	9	0	0.0	2	22.2	7	77.8
Own house	243	6	2.5	73	30.0	164	67.5
Sleeping Areas							
Rent apartment	25	8	32.0	7	28.0	10	40.0
Rent house	129	25	19.4	41	31.8	63	48.8
Own apartment	22	1	4.6	3	13.6	18	81.8
Own house	667	55	8.2	143	21.4	469	70.4

For Living Areas. A majority of the living areas were classified as liberally furnished. About 78 and 68 per cent, respectively, of the living rooms belonging to owners of apartments and houses had liberal furnishings. There were no living rooms with minimum furnishings in rented apartments or in owned apartments and only a small number in the rented houses or owned houses.

The housing status was not significantly associated with the adequacy of furnishings for the living areas.

For Sleeping Areas. A majority of the bedrooms with minimum furnishings was found in rented apartments and houses. Whereas, bedrooms of families who owned their apartments and houses had a high percentage of liberal furnishings. The bedrooms of those families who rented apartments had the highest percentage of minimum furnishings as contrasted with the bedrooms of families who owned apartments with the highest percentage of liberal furnishings.

The chi square tests revealed that the adequacy of furnishings for the dining and sleeping areas and housing status were closely associated, but there was no significant association between adequacy of living room furnishings and housing status.

Adequacy of Furnishings According to Length of Tenure

The respondents were asked to indicate how long they had lived in their present house. The data were classified in periods of tenure as: less than 5 years, 6 through 10 years, 11 through 20 years, and over 20 years.

For Dining Areas. A majority of the families in each length of tenure had moderate and liberal furnishings for dining, with the percentage in each category distributed fairly evenly between the two levels (Table XXI). There was little difference in the adequacy of the furnishings for dining areas reflected according to the different lengths of tenure. The length of tenure was not closely associated with the adequacy of the respondents' dining furniture.

For Living Areas. About two-thirds of the living areas had liberal furnishings and almost one-third had moderate furnishings. The highest percentage of minimum furnishings was only 5.4 per cent for the over 20 year period of tenure, but this was the highest percentage of minimum furnishings for any length of tenure. The adequacy for both the moderate and liberal levels was almost evenly divided between the different lengths of tenure. There was little relationship between adequacy of living room furniture and length of tenure.

For Sleeping Areas. Analysis of the data reflected a large proportion of liberally furnished bedrooms for all lengths of tenure. However, there was a steady increase in adequacy from the less than 5 year period through the over 20 year period. On the other hand, the largest number of minimumly furnished bedrooms was owned by families with a tenure of less than 5 years and there was a gradual decrease of minimum furnishings as the tenure increased. The adequacy of furnishings for the sleeping areas was closely associated to the length of tenure.

TABLE XXI

FURNISHINGS CLASSIFIED BY LENGTH OF TENURE AND LEVEL OF ADEQUACY

Length of Tenure (Years)	Adequacy of Furnishings						
	Total	Minimum		Moderate		Liberal	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Dining Areas							
Less than 5	121	26	21.5	47	38.8	48	39.7
6-10	83	18	21.7	35	42.2	30	36.1
11-20	81	14	17.3	37	45.7	30	37.0
Over 20	36	4	11.1	17	47.2	15	41.7
Living Areas							
Less than 5	127	3	2.4	41	32.3	83	65.8
6-10	83	1	1.2	21	25.3	61	73.5
11-20	80	3	3.8	24	30.0	53	66.3
Over 20	37	2	5.4	15	40.5	20	54.1
Sleeping Areas							
Less than 5	327	51	15.6	80	24.5	196	59.9
6-10	221	20	9.0	57	25.8	144	65.2
11-20	221	15	6.8	48	21.7	158	71.5
Over 20	100	7	7.0	17	17.0	76	76.0

When subjected to the chi square test, the adequacy of the furnishings of the dining and living areas indicated little association with length of tenure. On the other hand, the increase in the adequacy of furnishings for the sleeping areas increased significantly as the respondents' tenure in present house lengthened.

Adequacy of Furnishings According to Size of Home

For Dining Areas. An analysis of the data in Table XXII reveals that the furnishings for dining areas tended to be minimum in small houses, moderate in medium size houses and liberal in large houses. There was a decrease in the percentage of minimum furnishings as the size of the house increased. Whereas, the percentage with liberal furnishings increased with the increase in the size of the house. Thus, the adequacy of the dining furniture was closely related to the size of the house.

For Living Areas. A majority of the living areas of all sizes of houses were liberally furnished. Approximately two-thirds of the living rooms had liberal furnishings and almost one-third had moderate furnishings. There were very few living rooms with minimum furnishings. The adequacy for both moderate and liberal furnishings was almost evenly distributed between the small, medium and large houses, indicating that the size of the house had little influence on the adequacy of the furnishings for the living room.

TABLE XXII

FURNISHINGS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE OF HOUSE AND LEVEL OF ADEQUACY

Size of House	Adequacy of Furnishings						
	Total	Minimum		Moderate		Liberal	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Dining Areas							
Small	63	27	42.9	28	44.4	8	12.7
Medium	180	27	15.0	82	45.6	71	39.4
Large	78	8	10.3	26	33.3	44	56.4
Living Areas							
Small	65	2	3.1	20	30.8	43	66.2
Medium	182	6	3.3	59	32.4	117	64.3
Large	80	1	1.3	22	27.5	57	71.3
Sleeping Areas							
Small	127	31	24.4	33	26.0	63	49.6
Medium	484	44	9.1	129	26.7	311	64.2
Large	258	18	7.0	40	15.5	200	77.5

For Sleeping Areas. The percentage of liberally furnished bedrooms increased from 49.6 per cent in small houses to 77.5 per cent in the large houses. In contrast, the percentage of minimally furnished bedrooms decreased from 24.4 per cent in small houses to 7 per cent in the large houses. The furnishings for sleeping increased significantly as the size of the house increased.

The statistical test showed that the adequacy of furnishings for the dining and sleeping areas was closely associated with the size of the house. A majority of families had liberally furnished living rooms regardless of the size of the house they occupied.

Adequacy of Furnishings According to Number of Bedrooms in the House

For Dining Areas. The largest percentage of the dining areas with minimum furnishings was found in the one bedroom houses (Table XXIII). The two bedroom houses had the highest percentage of moderate furnishings, whereas the three and four bedroom houses had the highest percentage of the liberal furnishings in the dining areas. There was a decrease in minimally furnished dining areas as the number of bedrooms increased, as contrasted with the increase in liberally furnished dining areas as the number of bedrooms increased. The adequacy of furnishings for the dining areas increased significantly as the number of bedrooms increased.

TABLE XXIII

FURNISHINGS CLASSIFIED BY NUMBER OF BEDROOMS AND LEVEL OF ADEQUACY

Number of Bedrooms	Adequacy of Furnishings						
	Total	Minimum		Moderate		Liberal	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Dining Areas							
One	7	4	57.1	2	28.6	1	14.3
Two	110	32	29.1	51	46.4	27	24.5
Three	166	21	12.7	72	43.4	73	44.0
Four	33	4	12.1	11	33.3	18	54.6
Living Areas							
One	7	0	0.0	3	42.9	4	57.1
Two	113	4	3.5	36	31.9	73	64.6
Three	169	4	2.4	56	33.1	109	64.5
Four	33	0	0.0	5	15.2	28	84.8
Sleeping Areas							
One	9	4	44.5	2	22.2	3	33.3
Two	226	35	15.5	58	25.7	133	58.8
Three	585	42	7.2	122	20.9	421	72.1
Four	123	11	8.9	19	15.5	93	75.6

For Living Areas. A majority of the houses had liberal furnishings in the living rooms, irrespective of the number of bedrooms. The percentage of moderately furnished living rooms ranged from 42.9 in the one bedroom houses to 15.2 in the four bedroom houses. Very few families had living rooms with minimum furnishings. The adequacy of the respondents' living room furniture did not appear to be influenced by the number of bedrooms in the house.

For Sleeping Areas. An analysis of the data in Table XXIII indicated a majority of the bedrooms in two, three and four bedroom houses were liberally furnished. The adequacy of the furnishings increased as the number of bedrooms increased.

The chi square test revealed that the number of bedrooms in the home were significantly associated with the adequacy of furnishings for the dining and sleeping areas of the home but not closely associated with the adequacy of the furnishings for the living areas.

Adequacy of Furnishings According to Level of Living

For Dining Areas. About three out of ten of the dining areas of the respondents with a low level of living had minimum furnishings (Table XXIV). About one-half of the dining areas of the respondents with a medium level of living had moderately furnished dining areas and about one-half of the families with a high level of living had liberally furnished dining areas. The level of adequacy for dining area furnishings increased as the level of living increased.

TABLE XXIV

FURNISHINGS CLASSIFIED BY LEVEL OF LIVING AND LEVEL OF ADEQUACY

Level of Living	Adequacy of Furnishings						
	Total	Minimum		Moderate		Liberal	
		No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Dining Areas							
Low	82	24	29.2	29	35.4	29	35.4
Medium	144	25	17.4	70	48.6	49	34.0
High	95	13	13.7	37	38.9	45	47.4
Living Areas							
Low	81	7	8.7	30	37.0	44	54.3
Medium	150	0	0.0	47	31.3	103	68.7
High	96	2	2.1	24	25.0	70	72.9
Sleeping Areas							
Low	201	38	18.9	62	30.8	101	50.3
Medium	390	42	10.8	89	22.8	259	66.4
High	278	13	4.7	51	18.3	214	77.0

For Living Areas. Over one-half of the living rooms had liberal furnishings. The percentage with moderate furnishings was between 25 per cent and 37 per cent according to the rise in the level of living. The families with a low level of living owned the largest number of living rooms with minimum furnishings. The level of adequacy of furnishings was highly associated with the level of living.

For Sleeping Areas. A majority of the sleeping areas of the families in each level of living category had liberal furnishings. However, there was an increase in adequacy of furnishings with each rise in the level of living. The families with a low level of living had the highest percentage of minimum furnishings for sleeping. The number with minimum furnishings decreased with each rise in the level of living.

The chi square test revealed that the adequacy of furnishings for the dining areas was associated with the level of living ($P \leq .05$). While the adequacy of the living and sleeping areas were closely associated with the level of living ($P \leq .01$).

IV. PARTICIPATION IN DECISIONS TO BUY EXPENDITURE ITEMS OF FURNITURE IN RELATION TO STAGES IN THE FAMILY LIFE CYCLE

A small percentage of husbands and wives made decisions individually to buy items of furniture (Table XXV). The husbands of the expanding and teenage or launching families and the wives of the middle aged families were most apt to make decisions to buy

TABLE XXV
 PARTICIPATION IN DECISIONS
 TO BUY EXPENDITURE ITEMS OF FURNITURE IN RELATION TO
 STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE

Participant	Stages in Family Life Cycle							
	Beginning (TN 11)		Expanding (TN 115)		Teenage-Launching (TN 148)		Middle Aged (TN 54)	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Husband Only	0	0.0	5	4.3	5	3.4	1	1.9
Wife Only	0	0.0	3	2.6	8	5.8	4	7.4
Husband and Wife	11	100	102	88.7	81	54.7	43	79.6
Husband and Children	0	0.0	1	.9	3	2.0	0	0.0
Wife and Children	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Parents and Children	0	0.0	4	3.5	51	34.5	6	11.1
Total	11	100	115	148	148	100	54	100

furniture alone.

All of the husbands and wives of the beginning families made decisions together when purchasing furniture. A high percentage of the parents of expanding and middle aged families also made joint decisions.

Only a small number of decisions were made jointly by husband and children and none were reported by wives and children.

In a little over one-third of the teenage or launching families the decisions to purchase furniture were made by parents and children.

V. VALUES HELD BY RESPONDENTS IN FURNISHING THE
DINING AREAS, LIVING AREAS AND SLEEPING
AREAS IN RELATION TO STAGE IN THE
FAMILY LIFE CYCLE

The respondents were asked to check three values held important to them in furnishing the dining, living and sleeping areas of the home. However, they were not asked to designate any order of importance for the values.

For Dining Areas. The six values listed for the dining areas were: comfort, family centeredness, convenience, economy, beauty and prestige (Table XXVI).

Of the six values listed for the dining areas comfort was the value chosen most often by the respondents in each stage of the family cycle. Family centeredness was chosen second by expanding and teenage or launching families and was considered equal in importance with convenience and economy by beginning families.

TABLE XXVI

VALUES HELD BY RESPONDENTS IN FURNISHING
THE DINING AREA IN RELATION TO
STAGE IN THE FAMILY LIFE CYCLE

Values	Stages in Family Life Cycle							
	Beginning (TN 40)		Expanding (TN 452)		Teenage-Launching (TN 586)		Middle Aged (TN 206)	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Comfort	11	27.5	141	31.2	165	28.2	66	32.0
Family Centeredress	9	22.5	113	25.0	175	29.9	40	19.4
Convenience	9	22.5	99	21.9	129	22.0	46	22.3
Economy	9	22.5	68	15.0	91	15.5	36	17.5
Beauty	0	0.0	23	5.1	23	3.9	13	6.3
Prestige	2	5.0	8	1.8	3	0.5	5	2.4

Convenience and economy ranked third and fourth respectively. Beauty and prestige were given little consideration.

Family centeredness was not considered as important to the middle aged families as to the others. Economy was more important to beginning families than to the respondents in other stages.

For Living Areas. Seven values were listed for the living areas: prestige, family centeredness, comfort, economy, personal interests, beauty and economy.

Comfort was the value held important by over one-third of the respondents in each stage of the family cycle, followed by family centeredness in second place (Table XXVII). However, family centeredness was not as important in the middle aged families as in the others.

Economy was the third value chosen by respondents in all stages except the beginning families where personal interests were indicated as more important. Prestige was also a little more important to beginning families than to the families in the other stages. Economy was slightly more important to the middle aged families than to others.

For Sleeping Areas. The seven values checked by respondents as important in furnishing the sleeping areas were: comfort privacy, economy, health, personal interests, beauty and prestige.

Comfort was again the value chosen by a majority of the respondents (Table XXVIII). Privacy was the second choice in values and economy third. However, economy and health were equal in

TABLE XXVII

VALUES HELD BY RESPONDENTS IN FURNISHING
THE LIVING AREA IN RELATION TO
STAGE IN THE FAMILY LIFE CYCLE

Values	Stages in the Family Life Cycle							
	Beginning (TN 40)		Expanding (TN 452)		Teenage-Launching (TN 586)		Middle Aged (TN 206)	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Comfort	14	35.0	164	36.3	212	36.2	70	34.0
Family Centeredness	9	22.5	112	24.8	158	27.0	41	19.9
Economy	4	10.0	58	12.8	88	15.0	39	18.9
Personal Interests	6	15.0	45	10.0	58	9.9	18	8.7
Beauty	4	10.0	51	11.3	47	8.0	24	11.7
Health	1	2.5	17	3.7	20	3.4	9	4.4
Prestige	2	5.0	5	1.1	3	0.5	5	2.4

TABLE XXVIII

VALUES HELD BY RESPONDENTS IN FURNISHING
THE SLEEPING AREAS IN RELATION TO
STAGE IN THE FAMILY LIFE CYCLE

Values	Stages in the Family Life Cycle							
	Beginning (TN 30)		Expanding (TN 339)		Teenage-Launching (TN 439)		Middle Aged (TN 154)	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Comfort	9	30.0	101	29.8	132	30.0	41	26.6
Privacy	6	20.0	67	19.8	101	23.0	40	26.0
Economy	5	16.7	52	15.3	63	14.4	24	15.6
Health	5	16.7	48	14.2	59	13.4	21	13.6
Personal Interest	3	10.0	49	14.5	63	14.4	18	11.7
Beauty	1	3.3	22	6.5	20	4.6	8	5.2
Prestige	1	3.3	0	0.0	1	0.2	2	1.3

importance with the beginning families.

Privacy was more important to the middle aged families than to those in other stages.

SUMMARY

Analysis of the data included: (1) the specific items of furniture owned by families, (2) the adequacy of furnishings for the respondents according to the stage in the family cycle, (3) the relationship between the adequacy of furnishings, the stages in the family cycle and certain factors, (4) participations in decisions to buy items of furniture, and (5) the values held by respondents in furnishing the dining, living and sleeping areas.

About two-thirds of the items of furniture listed by the respondents for the dining, living and sleeping areas of the home were purchased new and the other one-third were gifts and purchased used items of furniture.

Between one-third and one-half of all items of furniture were less than 5 years old. A large proportion of the bedroom furniture had been owned longer than the living room furniture. About one-half of the dining room furniture was between 6 and 15 years old.

A small number of respondents had plans to replace, renovate or add furniture items in the next year.

The two hypotheses formulated to give direction to the study were:

Hypothesis 1. There is a relationship between the amount of furnishings acquired by families and their stages in the family life cycle.

Hypothesis 2. There is a relationship between the amount of furnishings acquired by families at the various stages of the family cycle and the following factors: size of the family, housing status, length of tenure, size of the house, number of bedrooms in the house and level of living.

To test these hypotheses, the data were subjected to the chi square test of independence.

The findings of this study partially supported hypothesis 1. The data revealed that the adequacy of furnishings were related to the stages in the family life cycle only for the sleeping areas. Therefore, hypothesis 1 was rejected for the dining and living areas but was not rejected for the sleeping areas.

On the basis of the findings, hypothesis 2 was partially accepted. The size of family factor was not found to be related to the adequacy of the furnishings for the dining, living or sleeping areas. Therefore, this factor was rejected.

The housing status, size of house, and number of bedroom factors were found to be closely associated with the adequacy of the dining and bedroom furnishings but not the living room furnishings. Therefore, these factors were accepted for the dining

and bedroom areas but rejected for the living areas.

Length of tenure was closely related to the adequacy of furnishings of the sleeping areas but not to the adequacy of furnishings for the dining and living areas. This factor also was partially rejected.

The level of living factor was found to be related to the adequacy of furnishings for the dining, living and sleeping areas. Thus, this factor was accepted in its entirety.

A large majority of the decisions to buy items of furniture were made by husbands and wives jointly for families in all stages in the family cycle. Children were involved in decisions to buy furniture primarily in the teenage and launching families. In about one-third of these families parents and children together made decisions to purchase furniture.

The three values held by a majority of the respondents as important in furnishing the dining, living and sleeping areas of the home are listed in the order of their choice.

For dining areas: (1) comfort, (2) family centeredness, (3) convenience.

For living areas: (1) comfort, (2) family centeredness, (3) economy.

For sleeping areas: (1) comfort, (2) privacy, (3) economy.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PURPOSES OF THE STUDY

Much emphasis has been placed in recent years on the changing needs of families as the families themselves change with their advance from one stage in the family cycle to the next and as they are influenced by various factors. Therefore, this study was planned to analyse the adequacy of furnishings for specific areas of the home for the stages in the family cycle when changes would most likely occur and also to analyse the adequacy of furnishings in relation to certain factors that appeared to influence their selection.

The specific objectives were to:

1. Identify the items of furnishings acquired by families and to determine how the items were obtained, length of ownership, and plans for replacement, renovation or additions during the next year.
2. Determine the association between the amount of furnishing items acquired by families and the stage in the family life cycle.
3. Determine the extent to which certain factors were associated with the adequacy of the furnishings for the dining, living and sleeping areas of the house.

STUDY PROCEDURES

An interview schedule was developed for use in collecting the data. The schedule was designed to: (1) screen the respondents in order to determine if they could be classified to fit one of the stages of the family cycle included in the study; (2) provide background information relative to family composition and housing; (3) obtain items of furniture owned for the dining, sleeping and living areas of the home; and (4) obtain information relative to decision making in the purchase of furniture items and the values held important in furnishing the designated areas.

The respondents were homemakers chosen at random from six North Carolina counties which were selected to represent the urban and rural families of the western, central and eastern sections of the state. A total of 328 homemakers were interviewed.

The interviewers were county house furnishings leaders selected by the Home Economics Agents of the counties used in the study and were trained by the researcher.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This section presents a summary of findings with respect to: (1) characteristics of the respondents and their houses; (2) an analysis of the respondents' furnishings as they were related to the family life cycle and certain factors that were associated with their selection; (3) decision-making and values held by respondents.

Characteristics of Respondents

The 328 respondents included 11 beginning, 115 expanding, 148 teenage or launching and 54 middle aged families. Fifty-five per cent were small families and the others were almost equally divided between medium and large families. The largest percentage of the families was urban. Thirty-seven per cent of the husbands were wage earners, 29 per cent business and professional and 25 per cent were farmers. Over one-half of the families had gross annual incomes between \$3,000. and \$7,499.; 42 per cent of these were under \$5,000. Almost half of the families had a medium level of living.

Three-fourths of the respondents owned their houses and 37 per cent had a tenure of less than five years. Approximately three-fourths of the families lived in five and six room houses and over one-half of the families had three bedrooms.

Analysis of Respondents' Furnishings

1. About two-thirds of the items of furniture listed by the respondents for the dining, living and sleeping areas of the home were purchased new and the other one-third were gifts and used items of furniture.

2. Between one-third and one-half of all items of furniture were less than 5 years old. A larger proportion of the living room furniture had been owned for a shorter length of time than the bedroom furniture. About one-half of the dining room furniture was between 6 and 15 years old.

3. Only a small number of respondents indicated plans to replace, renovate or add furnishings items in the next year.

4. There was no significant association found between the adequacy of furnishings in the dining and living areas and the stages in the family life cycle. However, the adequacy of the bedroom furnishings were closely associated with the stages in the family life cycle.

5. The size of the family was not found to be related to the adequacy of the furnishings for any of the three areas studied.

6. The data revealed that the housing status, the size of the house and the number of bedrooms were closely associated with the adequacy of the dining and bedroom furnishings but not to the living room furnishings.

7. The length of tenure was found to be closely related to the adequacy of furnishings for the sleeping areas but not related to the adequacy of furnishings for the dining and living areas.

8. The findings indicated that the level of living was related to the adequacy of the furnishings for all three of the areas included in the study.

Decisions and Values

While decisions and values were not a major part of this study, the data relative to these have important implications for furnishings.

A large majority of the decisions to buy items of furniture were made by husbands and wives jointly for families in all stages

in the family cycle. Children were involved in decisions to buy furniture primarily in the teenage and launching families. In about one-third of these families parents and children together made decisions to purchase furniture.

The three values held by a majority of the respondents as important in furnishing the dining, living and sleeping areas of the home are listed in the order of their choice.

For dining areas: (1) comfort, (2) family centeredness, (3) convenience.

For living areas: (1) comfort, (2) family centeredness, (3) economy.

For sleeping areas: (1) comfort, (2) privacy, (3) economy.

CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions are based on data obtained in this study of furnishings for the dining, living and sleeping areas of the home as they are associated with the stages in the family life cycle and as they are influenced by certain factors.

1. A majority of the respondents' furnishings was purchased new and a high percentage of these had been owned a relatively short length of time. About two-thirds of the items of furniture were purchased new and between one-third and one-half of the items were less than five years old.

2. There was a general lack of planning for the furnishing of homes. The data of this study indicated a very small percentage of the families had any plans for replacing, renovating or

adding furniture items in the next year.

3. There was a gradual increase in the adequacy of furnishings for the sleeping areas as families progressed through the stages of the family life cycle. The data revealed that the beginning families had the highest amount of minimum furnishings and the adequacy increased with each succeeding stage in the cycle.

4. With one exception, a majority of the living rooms had liberal furnishings irrespective of the stage in the family cycle or the selected factors. Statistical tests revealed the adequacy of living room furniture was associated only with the level of living factor.

5. The adequacy of the furnishings for the dining and living areas was not associated with the size of the family. However, the size of the family was closely associated with the adequacy of the furnishings for the sleeping areas.

6. The association between the adequacy of furnishings for the dining and sleeping areas and home ownership was highly significant. About 75 per cent of the families included in the study were home owners with a high percentage of liberal furnishings as contrasted with a small percentage of non-owners with a high percentage of minimum and moderate furnishings.

7. Both the size of the house and the number of bedrooms in the house were closely associated with the adequacy of furnishings for the dining and sleeping areas. As the houses increased in size and as the number of bedrooms increased, the adequacy of the dining and bedroom furniture also increased.

8. The length of tenure was related only to the adequacy of furnishings for the sleeping areas. As the length of tenure lengthened, the increase in adequacy of bedroom furnishings was highly significant.

9. The level of living was related to the adequacy of furnishings for all areas in the study. The level of adequacy increased for each area with the rise in the level of living.

10. The values held important by families vary to some extent according to the area being furnished. However, comfort was the value held most important in all stages for furnishing the dining, living and sleeping areas of the home. Family centeredness was second choice in furnishing the dining and living areas, but privacy was second for the sleeping areas. Convenience was the third choice for dining areas; economy was third for the living and bedroom areas.

It would appear that families were not aware or they were reluctant to admit that beauty and prestige influenced their choice in furnishings.

11. Family members were involved in decisions to purchase expenditure items of furniture. This was evidenced by the high number of decisions made jointly by husbands and wives and parents and children.

IMPLICATIONS

A major purpose of this study was to analyse the furnishings of families in relation to the stages in the family cycle and

the factors that influence their selection.

The analysis of the data and the conclusions drawn have particular significance to Home Economics extension personnel and others interested in planning home furnishings programs for North Carolina families.

1. The expanding and teenage or launching families make up a high percentage of the total families and are, therefore, the largest potential audience needing information and assistance relative to furnishings for the home.

2. With the high percentage of teenagers in our present population and the lower age of marriage trend, the number of beginning families establishing homes and the number of expanding families will increase rapidly. Early training of potential homemakers would enable them to better assume their responsibilities in establishing a home.

3. As the number of families who own their homes increases, it is logical to assume that these families will continue to be increasingly interested in the adequacy of the furnishings for their homes.

4. A majority of families own five and six room houses with three bedrooms and have incomes ranging from \$3,000. to \$7,500. Therefore, the amount of money available for furnishings is limited and careful planning is necessary if furnishings are to meet family needs.

5. The small percentage of families indicating plans for replacing, renovating or adding furniture point up a need for

increased emphasis on planning for the acquisition of furniture according to family needs.

6. Since little recognition was given to the value of beauty in furnishings, it would seem that more attention should be given to the development of the esthetic tastes of families in the selection of furnishings.

7. There is a strong parallel between the values held important by families in housing and in the furnishings for the house. The values, comfort, family centeredness, convenience and economy, which rated high in previous studies of housing, rated high in this study of furnishings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the interpretations of the findings in this study, it is recommended that:

1. Other factors not included in this study that might be expected to influence the selection of furniture should be investigated, such as: age of respondents, place of residence, education and income.

2. Studies such as this one be done in other states. This would make the findings of this and similar studies become more valuable as they are compared with other research.

3. This study be repeated using a stratified random sample which would provide a more concise basis for comparison of furnishings according to the stages of the family life cycle.

4. A study concerned with quality in relation to adequacy

and satisfaction would be a valuable contribution to planning for furniture needs and consumer buying.

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- Copy -

February 10, 1964

Dear Home Economics Agent:

An increasing amount of emphasis is being placed on the need to furnish the home according to family needs and preferences. Therefore, I have chosen "Home Furnishings Practices as They Relate to the Family Life Cycle" as the topic for my research. There has been little study done in this area. So the opportunity to find out first hand many facts about the home furnishing practice of our North Carolina families should be a real exciting as well as a beneficial experience.

This study is being made under the supervision of the School of Home Economics of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service. Dr. Cofer and your District Agents have also given their approval of the plans.

The data will be collected by the interview method. The families to be interviewed will be selected at random from six selected counties in the state. Two counties from the western part of the state, two from the central and two from the eastern area will be used. In each area one county selected will be more urban and the other a more rural county. Fifty homemakers in each county will be interviewed. This will make a total of three hundred (300) respondents included for the study.

I would like to use the following counties because they represent a cross section of the areas of the state and the population I wish to use:

Western - Urban: Buncombe
Rural: Madison
Central - Urban: Wake
Rural: Lee
Eastern - Urban: New Hanover
Rural: Bladen

The sample will be drawn for us and those to be interviewed will be mapped out so that you will have no responsibility for this part of the survey.

The interviewing will be done by House Furnishings leaders. Therefore, I will want you to designate from 6-8 leaders to attend a training session to receive instructions on interviewing. The 50 interviews per county divided between these leaders will not be a burden and will provide a learning experience that will be an asset to them as leaders.

I sincerely hope that you will find it possible to work with me and allow us to use your county as a part of this study. I do need to have your answer as quickly as possible in order to proceed with plans.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Lillie B. Little

Housing and House Furnishing Specialist

AGENDA FOR TRAINING INTERVIEWERS

1. Why we are here - Home Demonstration Agent
 - a. Greetings, purpose of meeting
 - b. Purpose of study and how the data will be used
 - c. Explanation of plans for the day

- II. Interviewing
 - a. The importance of the interviewer's job
 - b. Reviewing the questionnaire and asking questions
 - c. Practice in interviewing and editing

- III. Assignments for interviews
 - a. Explanation of procedures
 - b. Distribution of materials

- IV. Discussion

House Furnishings Practices As They Relate to the Family Life Cycle

Introduction:

I am helping with a survey that is being made under the direction of the School of Home Economics of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the North Carolina Extension Service. The purpose is to obtain information on how families acquire home furnishing items. This information will be used in planning educational programs. The answers you give will be confidential and will be used only to add in with the answers given by other homemakers who are being interviewed in the state.

First, I'd like to know about your family so I can group you with other families of the same size and type.

I. How large is your family?

	a. Who are the members of your family?	b. What is the age of each?	c. What members are not living at home?
Husband	:	:	:
Wife	:	:	:
Children	:	:	:
1.	:	:	:
2.	:	:	:
3.	:	:	:
4.	:	:	:
5.	:	:	:
6.	:	:	:
	:	:	:

(If family does not include both husband and wife, terminate interview.)

II. Do other persons live with you? If answer is yes, terminate interview.

_____ Yes

_____ No

For the families who do not have children either at home or away from home ask:

III. Have you been married five years or less?

_____ Yes

_____ No

If answer is No, terminate interview.

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Cols. Code Name _____ Address _____

Interviewer _____

I. Do not write in this space
Stages in Family Cycle
 _____ 1.
 _____ 2.
 _____ 3.
 _____ 4.

5 ()

II. Do not write in this space
Size of Family
 _____ 1.
 _____ 2.
 _____ 3.

6 ()

III. Place of Residence (check one)
 (If less than 10 acres and sell products \$250.00 or more,
 or 10 acres or more and sell products \$50.00 or more in
 1960, the residence will be considered a farm.)

Do you live

- _____ 1. On a farm?
 _____ 2. In the country but not on a farm?
 _____ 3. In town with less than 2,500 people?
 _____ 4. In town or city with 2,500 or more?*

7 ()

*Interviewers will be supplied with population data.

IV. What was the highest grade you completed in school?
 (check only one)

- _____ 1. 1st - 4th grades
 _____ 2. 5th - 6th grades
 _____ 3. 7th - 8th grades
 _____ 4. 1 - 3 years in high school
 _____ 5. 4 years in high school
 _____ 6. 1 - 3 years in college
 _____ 7. 4 years or more in college

8 ()

V. Occupational Status

1. Is your husband employed? (check one)
 a. _____ Yes b. _____ No
 2. (If Yes) What kind of work does your husband do?

Do not write in this space
Occupation of Husband
 _____ 1.
 _____ 2.
 _____ 3.
 _____ 4.

9 ()

3. Are you employed? (check one)

10 ()

a. _____ Yes b. _____ No

VI. What is your family annual gross income? (check one)

- _____ 1. Under \$3,000.
- _____ 2. \$3,000. - \$4,999.
- _____ 3. \$5,000. - \$7,499.
- _____ 4. \$7,500. - \$9,999.
- _____ 5. \$10,000. and over

11 ()

VII. Housing Status (check one)

- 1. _____ Rent the apartment you now occupy
- 2. _____ Rent the house you now occupy
- 3. _____ Own the apartment you now occupy
- 4. _____ Own the house you now occupy
- 5. _____ Other (Specify) _____

12 ()

VIII. Residence Tenure

1. How long have you lived in your present house?
(check one)

- a. _____ Less than 5 years c. _____ 11-20 years
- b. _____ 6-10 years d. _____ Over 20 years

13 ()

2. Do you plan to move in the next year? (check one)

14 ()

- a. _____ Yes b. _____ No c. _____ Don't know or
undecided

IX. Number of rooms in house, excluding bathrooms (check one)

- 1. _____ Two 4. _____ Five 7. _____ Eight
- 2. _____ Three 5. _____ Six 8. _____ Nine
- 3. _____ Four 6. _____ Seven 9. _____ Ten or more

15 ()

X. Number of bedrooms in house (check one)

- 1. _____ One 4. _____ Four
- 2. _____ Two 3. _____ Three 5. _____ Five or more

16 ()

XI. How do you usually take care of overnight guests for sleeping? (check one)

- 1. _____ Separate guest room 3. _____ Wall bed or cot
- 2. _____ Sofa bed 4. _____ Other (Specify) _____

17 ()

Do not write in this space (Level of Living Status)	
_____	1.
_____	2.
_____	3.

18 ()

Do you have: (Be sure to check one for EACH item.)

- 19 () 1. Both hot and cold running water?
 a. _____ Yes b. _____ No
- 20 () 2. An indoor bath with bathtub and shower?
 a. _____ Yes b. _____ No
- 21 () 3. A piano? (check one)
 a. _____ Yes b. _____ No
- 22 () 4. A washing machine? a. _____ Yes b. _____ No
 Is it
 a. _____ Automatic
 23 () b. _____ Semi-automatic
 c. _____ Combination washer-dryer
- 24 () 5. A pressure cooker? a. _____ Yes b. _____ No
- 25 () 6. An electric sweeper? a. _____ Yes b. _____ No
- 26 () 7. An electric clock? a. _____ Yes b. _____ No
8. An automobile? (If answer is Yes, indicate model year)
 a. _____ Yes b. _____ No
 _____ Year _____ Year _____ Year
- 27 ()
- 28 () 9. A telephone? a. _____ Yes b. _____ No

XIII. Furnishings for Dining Area

1. Where does the family usually eat?
 a. _____ Kitchen c. _____ Living room
 29 () b. _____ Dining room d. _____ Family room
 e. _____ Other (Specify) _____
2. Where do you usually dine when you have guests?
 a. _____ Kitchen c. _____ Living room
 30 () b. _____ Dining room d. _____ Family room
 e. _____ Other (Specify) _____
3. Items of furniture for dining (Using chart on next page, check appropriate column for each item owned.)

Cols.

Code

Do You Have	Have (1)	Gift (2)	1 Purchased		2 Length of Ownership			3 Plans for Next Year		
			New (3)	Used (4)	Less than 5 years (1)	6-15 years (2)	Over 15 yrs. (3)	Replace (1)	Renovate (2)	Add (3)
<u>Dining Table</u>										
31-32-33 () () () a. Table with space for family members only										
34-35-36 () () () b. Built-in bar and seating for family members										
37-38-39 () () () c. Dining table to accommodate family and guests										
<u>Dining Chairs</u>										
40-41-42 () () () d. Dining chairs for family members										
43-44-45 () () () e. Dining chairs for family and guests										
<u>Serving and Storage</u>										
46-47-48 () () () f. China Cabinet										
49-50-51 () () () g. Buffet										
52-53-54 () () () h. Chest										
55-56-57 () () () i. Built-in Storage										
58-59-60 j. Serving Cart										
Do not write in this space										
61 ()										

Cols. Code
 1 2 Deck 2
 2-18 Same as for Deck 1

Cols. Code

XIV. Furnishings for Sleeping Area

19 ()
 20 ()

1. Type of bedroom (check one) a. ___ Parent(s) b. ___ Child's c. ___ Guest
 2. No. of persons using this bedroom (check one) a. ___ One b. ___ Two c. ___ Three d. ___ Four or more
 (Use separate form for EACH bedroom. Check appropriate column for each item owned.)

21-22-23 () () ()
 24-25-26 () () ()
 27-28-29 () () ()
 30-31-32 () () ()
 33-34-35 () () ()
 36-37-38 () () ()
 39-40-41 () () ()
 42-43-44 () () ()
 45-46-47 () () ()
 48-49-50 () () ()
 51-52-53 () () ()
 54-55-56 () () ()
 57-58-59 () () ()
 60-61-62 () () ()

Do You Have	Have (1)	Gift (2)	1 Purchased		2 Length of Ownership			3 Plans for Next Year		
			New (3)	Used (4)	Less than 5 years (1)	6-15 years (2)	Over 15 yrs. (3)	Replace (1)	Reno- vate (2)	Add (3)
<u>Beds</u>										
a. Double										
1. _____										
2. _____										
b. Single										
1. _____										
2. _____										
3. _____										
c. Crib										
d. Youth Bed										
e. Cot										
<u>Storage</u>										
a. Dresser with mirror										
b. Chest for storage										
1. _____										
2. _____										
3. _____ Double										
c. Wardrobe										
d. Built-in										

Cols. Code
 1 3 Deck 3
 2-18 Same as for Deck 1

Cols. Code XIV. Furnishings for Sleeping Area (Continued)

Do You Have	Have (1)	Gift (2)	1 Purchased		2 Length of Ownership			3 Plans for Next Year		
			New (3)	Used (4)	Less than 5 years (1)	6-15 years (2)	Over 15 yrs. (3)	Replace (1)	Renovate (2)	Add (3)
<u>Chairs</u>										
19-20-21 () () ()										
22-23-24 () () ()										
25-26-27 () () ()										
28-29-30 () () ()										
31-32-33 () () ()										
<u>Other Items</u>										
34-35-36 () () ()										
37-38-39 () () ()										
40-41-42 () () ()										
43-44-45 () () ()										
46-47-48 () () ()										
49-50-51 () () ()										
52 ()										
Do not write in this space										
1.										
2.										
3.										

Cols. Code
 1 4 Deck 4
 2-18 Same as for Deck 1

Cols. Code

XV. Furnishings for Family Living Area

- 19 () 1. Where do family members usually gather for family activities? (check one)
 a. _____ Living Room b. _____ Family Room or Den c. _____ Game, Recreation Room d. _____ Other
- 20 () 2. Where does the family usually entertain guests? (check one)
 a. _____ Living Room b. _____ Family Room or Den c. _____ Game, Recreation Room d. _____ Other

(Use separate form for EACH living room and family room. Check appropriate column for each item owned.)

Do You Have	Have	Gift	1 Purchased		2 Length of Ownership			3 Plans for Next Year		
	(1)	(2)	New (3)	Used (4)	Less than 5 years (1)	6-15 yrs. (2)	Over 15 yrs. (3)	Replace (1)	Renovate (2)	Add (3)
<u>Seating Space</u>										
a. Seating unit for 2 or more:										
Sofa										
21-22-23	()	()	()	()						
24-25-26	()	()	()	()						
27-28-29	()	()	()	()						
30-31-32	()	()	()	()						
33-34-35	()	()	()	()						
Sofa-bed										
Cot										
Built-in seating unit										
b. Upholstered chair										
36-37-38	()	()	()	()						
39-40-41	()	()	()	()						
42-43-44	()	()	()	()						
45-46-47	()	()	()	()						
c. Desk, dining or occasional chair										
48-49-50	()	()	()	()						
51-52-53	()	()	()	()						
d. Straight chair										
54-55-56	()	()	()	()						
57-58-59	()	()	()	()						
e. Rocking chair										
60-61-62	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }						
63-64-65	{ }	{ }	{ }	{ }						

Cols. Code
 1 5 Deck 5
 2-18 Same as for Deck 1

Cols. Code

XV. Furnishings for Family Living Area (Continued)

Do You Have	Have (1)	Gift (2)	1 Purchased		2 Length of Ownership			3 Plans for Next Year		
			New (3)	Used (4)	Less than 5 years (1)	6-15 yrs. (2)	Over 15 yrs. (3)	Replace (1)	Reno- vate (2)	Add (3)
<u>Tables</u>										
a. End table										
19-20-21 () () ()										
22-23-24 () () ()										
25-26-27 () () ()										
28-29-30 () () ()										
31-32-33 () () ()										
b. Coffee table										
c. Game table										
d. Study table										
e. Occasional table										
34-35-36 () () ()										
37-38-39 () () ()										
1.										
2.										
<u>Case Goods</u>										
a. Chest										
40-41-42 () () ()										
43-44-45 () () ()										
46-47-48 () () ()										
49-50-51 () () ()										
52-53-54 () () ()										
55-56-57 () () ()										
58-59-60 () () ()										
b. Desk										
c. Cupboard										
d. Wall storage unit										
e. Bookcase										
f. Credenza										

Cols. Code
 1 6 Deck 6
 2-18 Same as for Deck 1

Cols. Code

XV. Furnishings for Family Living Area (Continued)

19-20-21 () () ()
 22-23-24 () () ()
 25-26-27 () () ()
 28-29-30 () () ()

Do You Have	Have (1)	Gift (2)	1 Purchased		2 Length of Ownership			3 Plans for Next Year		
			New (3)	Used (4)	Less than 5 years (1)	6-15 yrs. (2)	Over 15 yrs. (3)	Replace (1)	Renovate (2)	Add (3)
<u>Other</u>										
a. Television										
b. Hi-Fi or stereo										
c. Piano										
d. Carpet or rug										
Do not write in this space										
1.										
2.										
3.										

31 ()

Cols.	Code
1	7 Deck 7
2-18	Same as for Deck 1

Cols. Code

XVI. Decision-Making

1. Who participates in family decisions to purchase expenditure furnishing items? (check one)

- a. Husband only
 b. Wife only
 c. Husband and wife
 d. Husband and children
 e. Wife and children
 f. Husband, wife and children
 g. Others

19 ()

2. Do you have a budget for purchasing furnishings items? (check one)

- a. Yes
 b. No

20 ()

XVII. Values

Which three of the following values were most important to you in furnishing each of the following areas? (check three in each group)

1. Eating Area

- a. Prestige
 b. Family Centeredness
 c. Comfort
 d. Economy
 e. Beauty
 f. Convenience

2. Living Area

- a. Prestige
 b. Family Centeredness
 c. Comfort
 d. Economy
 e. Personal Interests
 f. Beauty
 g. Health

3. Bedroom Area

- a. Prestige
 b. Personal Interests
 c. Comfort
 d. Economy
 e. Beauty
 f. Health
 g. Privacy

21-22-23 () () ()
 24-25-26 () () ()
 27-28-29 () () ()

INTERVIEWING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR STUDY OF
HOME FURNISHING PRACTICES AS THEY RELATE
TO THE FAMILY LIFE CYCLE

1. General plans for the survey

An increasing amount of emphasis is being placed on the need to furnish the home according to family needs and preferences.

As families advance through the stages of the family cycle, their needs and preferences change. This survey is being made to study the furnishings that families have at four stages in the family cycle when it appears the changes in furnishings are most likely to occur.

The families to be interviewed will be selected by ~~stratified~~ random sampling from six counties in the state. Two counties from the western part of the state, two from the central, and two from the eastern area will be used. In each area one county selected will be more urban and the other a more rural county. Fifty homemakers in each county or a minimum of three hundred (300) respondents are to be interviewed.

The study is being made under the supervision of the School of Home Economics of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service at North Carolina State, the University of North Carolina at Raleigh.

2. Your part in this study

As an interviewer you have an important part in this study. Although many other people have given much thought and work to planning, much of the success of the study rests upon you as an interviewer. The materials you need for the interviews are being given to you by the Home Economics Agent. It is important that you contact each family in your designated area.

As an interviewer, your enthusiasm and approach will determine to a great extent the response that you receive from each homemaker that you interview.

The questionnaire has been designed to get the information needed to cover the objectives of the study. To get accurate answers so that the survey will give the desired results is important.

Your job will include the following:

- a. Study carefully the materials you are given.
- b. Make out your interview schedule so that you can complete the visits the week of _____.
- c. Study the questionnaire so that you can ask questions and write down answers quickly.
- d. Make your visits during the designated period of time. If you fail to find the homemaker on the first call, you are to call back two more times. Every family in your sample must be accounted for.
- e. Check questionnaires before you leave the woman's house after the interview.
- f. If you have comments, write these on each questionnaire after you leave the woman's house.

g. Return the questionnaires to your Home Economics Agent by

_____.

3. Meeting the Homemaker

When you receive an answer to your knock or ring, ask whoever comes to the door to let you speak to the homemaker.

A pleasant and friendly introduction usually secures confidence. Introduce yourself in a simple, friendly way and explain that you are assisting with an educational study to gain information on how families furnish their homes. Then ask for permission to come in and ask some questions about furnishings.

Remember, the foundation for a good interview is mutual friendliness and trust. Your call is a friendly visit. Try to make that impression on the women you visit. The more natural your introduction, the better.

4. Asking the Questions

Explain that the information is confidential and that all of the information will be put together and that no names will be used.

Ask about each item without emphasis or show of curiosity. Be business-like, friendly, noncommittal. Do not show any reaction to replies. Do not discuss your attitude or experience on any subject.

Ask the questions as they are worded and in the order in which they appear in the questionnaire. Try to get answers but do not suggest or force replies.

Each respondent should be provided with a copy of the interview schedule without the introductory page so that she can follow the questions as they are asked.

If the respondent's answer does not fit any of the appropriate answers, write the answer in the right-hand margin. If she refuses to answer or does not know the answer, write "Refused" or "Doesn't know" in the right-hand margin.

Blanks will be filled in with cross marks (X). Do not write in the left-hand margins. The right-hand margins and backs of pages may be used for additional comments.

Each question must have an answer.

The Introduction: This part of the schedule is composed of screening questions designed to eliminate those families that do not fit the four stages of the family cycle included in the study. The family will be disqualified:

- a. If it is not a husband-and-wife family.
- b. If the homemaker is over sixty-two (62) years of age.
- c. If the couple has been married five years or more and does not have children.
- d. If there are other than family members living in the home.
- e. If the family is non-white.

Questions I. and II. will be filled in from data obtained from the introductory questions. The interviewer will not fill in either box.

Question III.: Population data for towns and cities in the study will be supplied to you.

Question IV.: Self-explanatory.

Question V.: Check (X) "Yes" or "NO" in answer. Write in the kind of work with any explanation that might be helpful in classifying. The interviewer will not fill in the box at the top of Page 3.

Question VI.: In the event the homemaker does not know or is not inclined to indicate the family's gross income, please write "Does not know" or "Refused" in the right-hand margin.

Questions VII. through XII.: Self-explanatory. The interviewer will not fill in the box under Question XII.

Question XIII. - Furnishings for Dining Area: Each listed item that is owned by the family should be checked (X) under the "Have" column - then under the other appropriate columns. (Only items related to dining have been listed. Disregard other items of furniture in the dining area that have no relationship to dining.)

Question XIV. - Furnishings for Sleeping Area: Each listed item that is owned by the family should be checked (X) under the "Have" column - then under the other appropriate columns.

Each questionnaire has forms for four bedrooms. Use one form for each bedroom up to four. If the family has over four bedrooms, use the four most frequently occupied rooms and disregard the others.

Items owned but not listed on the questionnaire may be written in and checked (X) in the appropriate column.

Question XV. - Furnishings for Family Living Area: Each listed item that is owned by the family should be checked (X) under the "Have" column - then under the other appropriate columns.

Many families have two or more rooms used for family living. Two forms are included. Use a separate form for Living Room and Family Room or Den. Please label the form accordingly.

Items owned but not listed on the questionnaire may be written in and checked (X) in the appropriate column.

Question XVI.: The answer needed for this question is the person or persons who usually or most often participate(s) in making family decisions to purchase furnishing items.

Question XVII.: The three values need not be indicated in the order of importance.

CRITERIA FOR CLASSIFYING FURNISHINGS
ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF ADEQUACY

<u>Dining Areas</u>	<u>Assigned Value</u>	<u>Living Areas</u>	<u>Assigned Value</u>	<u>Sleeping Areas</u>	<u>Assigned Value</u>
<u>Dining Tables</u>		<u>Seating for 2 or More</u>		<u>Beds</u>	
Table with space for family members only	1	Sofa	4	Double	3
Built-in bar and seating for family members	1	Sofa bed	3	Single	2
Dining table to accommodate family and guests	2	Cot	1	Crib	1
		Built-in seating	1	Youth bed	1
				Cot	1
		<u>Chairs</u>		<u>Storage</u>	
<u>Dining Chairs</u>		Upholstered	2	Dresser with mirror	2
Dining chairs for family members	1	Desk-dining or occasional	1	Chest for storage	2
Dining chairs for family and guest	2	Straight	1	Double chest	3
		Rocking chair	1	Wardrobe	2
				Built-in	2
<u>Serving and Storage</u>		<u>Tables</u>		<u>Chairs</u>	
China cabinet	1	End tables	1	Straight	1
Buffet	1	Coffee table	1	Upholstered	2
Chest	1	Game table	1	Stool	1
Built-in storage	1	Occasional	1	Rocking chair	1
Serving cart	1			<u>Other Items</u>	
		<u>Case Goods</u>		Valet	1
		Chest	1	Desk	1
		Desk	1	Bedside table	1
		Cupboard	1	Small rug by bed	1
		Wall storage unit	1	Room size rug	1
		Bookcase	1		
		Credenze	1		
		<u>Other</u>			
		Television	1		
		Hi-Fi or Stereo	1		
		Piano	1		
		Carpet or rug	1		

The following scale of values was used in classifying each of the areas as minimum, moderate or liberal in furnishings:

1. For dining areas.

Minimum	1-3
Moderate	4-5
Liberal	6 or over

2. For Living areas.

Minimum	7 or less
Moderate	8-11
Liberal	12 or over

3. For Bedrooms

	<u>For 1 person</u>	<u>For 2 persons</u>	<u>For 3 persons</u>
Minimum	1-5	1-6	1-7
Moderate	6-8	7-8	8-10
Liberal	9 or over	10 or over	11 or over

TABLE VII

ABSENCE OF RESPONDENTS' FURNISHINGS
ACCORDING TO STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE
BY TYPE OF FAMILY

Stage in Family Cycle	Stage of Family			
	Stage I		Stage II	
	Men 18-24	Women 18-24	Men 25-34	Women 25-34
Engaged (78 100)	10	10.0	10	10.0
	65	19.2	54	16.2
	54	16.2	43	13.1
	36	10.8	30	9.1
Engaged (78 50)	11	3.2	16	4.8
	70	1.9	27	7.9
	68	1.9	24	7.1
	37	1.1	15	4.3
Engaged (78 21)	11	0.5	14	0.6
	195	1.5	23	0.9
	172	1.3	21	0.8
	98	0.8	12	0.5
Engaged (78 100)	10	10.0	10	10.0
	65	19.2	54	16.2
	54	16.2	43	13.1
	36	10.8	30	9.1
Engaged (78 50)	11	3.2	16	4.8
	70	1.9	27	7.9
	68	1.9	24	7.1
	37	1.1	15	4.3
Engaged (78 21)	11	0.5	14	0.6
	195	1.5	23	0.9
	172	1.3	21	0.8
	98	0.8	12	0.5
Engaged (78 100)	10	10.0	10	10.0
	65	19.2	54	16.2
	54	16.2	43	13.1
	36	10.8	30	9.1
Engaged (78 50)	11	3.2	16	4.8
	70	1.9	27	7.9
	68	1.9	24	7.1
	37	1.1	15	4.3
Engaged (78 21)	11	0.5	14	0.6
	195	1.5	23	0.9
	172	1.3	21	0.8
	98	0.8	12	0.5

APPENDIX C

TABLE XX

ADEQUACY OF RESPONDENT'S FURNISHINGS
ACCORDING TO STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE
AND HOUSING STATUS

Stage in Family Cycle	Housing Status															
	Rent Apt.			Rent House			Own Apt			Own House						
	TN	Percentage			TN	Percentage			TN	Percentage			TN	Percentage		
	Min.	Mod.	Lib.		Min.	Mod.	Lib.		Min.	Mod.	Lib.		Min.	Mod.	Lib.	
	Dining Areas															
Beginning (TN 10)	3	33.3	66.7	0	4	50.0	25.0	25.0	0	0	0	0	3	0	33.3	66.7
Expanding (TN 110)	6	83.3	16.7	0	23	13.0	47.8	39.1	3	66.7	33.3	0	71	16.9	47.9	35.2
Teen-Launching (TN 148)	2	100	0	0	22	18.2	45.5	36.4	2	0	50.0	50.0	120	17.5	40.8	41.7
Middle Aged (TN 53)	1	0	100	0	2	50.0	50.0	0	3	66.7	0	33.3	46	6.5	41.3	52.2
	Living Areas															
Beginning (TN 11)	3	0	66.7	33.3	4	25.0	25.0	50.0	1	0	100.0	0	3	0	0	100.0
Expanding (TN 115)	7	0	28.6	71.4	24	0	29.2	70.8	3	0	0	100.0	74	2.7	32.0	64.9
Teen-Launching (TN 147)	2	0	50.0	50.0	22	4.5	36.4	59.1	2	0	0	100.0	159	2.5	22.0	50.3
Middle Aged (TN 54)	1	0	0	100	2	0	100	0	3	0	33.3	66.7	47	0	29.8	70.2
	Sleeping Areas															
Beginning (TN 21)	4	25.0	25.0	50.0	7	14.3	71.4	14.3	2	0	50.0	50.0	8	0	12.5	87.5
Expanding (TN 288)	12	33.3	25.0	41.7	57	28.1	36.8	35.1	7	14.3	28.6	57.1	194	8.8	23.2	68.0
Teen-Launching (TN 422)	7	42.9	28.6	28.6	60	13.3	25.0	61.7	5	0	0	100.0	344	9.6	21.8	68.6
Middle Aged (TN 138)	2	0.0	50.0	50.0	5	0	0	100.0	8	0	0	100.0	121	4.1	18.2	77.7

TABLE XXI

ADEQUACY OF RESPONDENT'S FURNISHINGS
ACCORDING TO STAGES IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE
AND LENGTH OF TENURE

Stages in Family Cycle	Length of Tenure															
	Less than 5 yrs.				6 thru 10 yrs.				11 thru 20 yrs.				Over 20 yrs.			
	TN	Percentage			TN	Percentage			TN	Percentage			TN	Percentage		
	Min.	Mod.	Lib.		Min.	Mod.	Lib.		Min.	Mod.	Lib.		Min.	Mod.	Lib.	
	Dining Areas															
Beginning (TN 10)	10	30	40	30		---	---	---		---	---	---		---	---	---
Expanding (TN 110)	66	18.2	43.9	37.9	30	26.7	50.0	23.3	13	38.5	38.5	23.1	1	0	0	100
Teen-Launching (TN 148)	38	23.7	31.6	44.7	44	15.9	40.9	43.2	50	18.0	48.0	34.0	16	18.8	43.8	37.5
Middle Aged (TN 53)	7	28.6	28.6	42.9	9	33.3	22.2	44.4	18	0	44.4	55.6	19	5.3	52.6	42.1
	Living Areas															
Beginning (TN 11)	11	9.1	36.4	54.5		---	---	---		---	---	---		---	---	---
Expanding (TN 115)	71	1.4	31.0	67.6	30	3.3	30.0	66.7	13	7.7	30.8	61.5	1	0	100	0
Teen-Launching (TN 147)	38	2.6	34.2	63.2	44	0	20.5	79.5	49	4.1	30.6	65.3	16	12.5	43.8	43.8
Middle Aged (TN 54)	7	0	28.6	71.4	9	0	33.3	66.7	18	0	27.8	72.2	20	0	35.0	65.0
	Sleeping Areas															
Beginning (TN 21)	21	9.5	38.1	52.4		---	---	---		---	---	---		---	---	---
Expanding (TN 288)	180	15.0	23.9	61.1	75	17.3	32.0	50.7	30	3.3	26.7	70.0	3	0	33.3	66.7
Teen-Launching (TN 422)	111	18.9	21.6	59.5	126	4.8	24.6	70.6	141	8.5	22.0	69.5	44	13.6	15.9	70.5
Middle Aged (TN 138)	15	6.7	33.3	60.0	20	5.0	10.0	85.0	50	4.0	18.0	78.0	53	1.9	17.0	81.1

TABLE XXII
 ADEQUACY OF RESPONDENT'S FURNISHINGS
 ACCORDING TO STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE
 AND SIZE OF HOUSE

Stage in Family Cycle	Size of House											
	Small			Medium			Large					
	TN	Percentage Min. Mod. Lib.			TN	Percentage Min. Mod. Lib.			TN	Percentage Min. Mod. Lib.		
	Dining Areas											
Beginning (TN 10)	4	25.0	75.0	0	4	25.0	25.0	50.0	2	50.0	0	50.0
Expanding (TN 110)	30	50.0	36.7	13.3	57	12.3	54.4	33.3	23	13.0	30.4	56.5
Teen-Launching (TN 148)	18	44.4	38.9	16.7	90	17.8	44.4	37.8	40	10.0	35.0	55.0
Middle Aged (TN 53)	11	27.3	63.6	9.1	29	10.3	34.5	55.2	13	0	38.5	61.5
	Living Areas											
Beginning (TN 11)	5	0	60.0	40.0	4	25.0	0	75.0	2	0	50.0	50.0
Expanding (TN 115)	32	3.1	28.1	68.8	59	3.4	32.2	64.4	24	0	33.3	66.7
Teen-Launching (TN 147)	17	5.9	35.3	58.8	90	3.3	31.1	65.6	40	2.5	25.0	72.5
Middle Aged (TN 54)	11	0	18.2	81.8	29	0	41.4	58.6	14	0	21.4	78.6
	Sleeping Areas											
Beginning (TN 21)	7	14.3	42.9	42.9	9	0	44.4	55.6	5	20.0	20.0	60.0
Expanding (TN 288)	61	24.6	26.2	49.2	153	9.8	32.0	58.2	74	14.9	14.9	70.3
Teen-Launching (TN 422)	38	31.6	18.4	50.0	250	11.2	25.6	63.2	134	3.7	16.4	79.9
Middle Aged (TN 138)	21	14.3	33.3	52.4	72	1.4	16.7	81.9	45	2.2	13.3	84.4

TABLE XXIII

ADEQUACY OF RESPONDENT'S FURNISHINGS
ACCORDING TO STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE
AND NUMBER OF BEDROOMS IN HOUSE

Stages in Family Cycle	Number of Bedrooms															
	One			Two			Three			Four						
	TN	Percentage			TN	Percentage			TN	Percentage			TN	Percentage		
	Min.	Mod.	Lib.		Min.	Mod.	Lib.		Min.	Mod.	Lib.		Min.	Mod.	Lib.	
	Dining Areas															
Beginning (TN 10)	2	50.0	50.0	0	4	25.0	50.0	25.0	4	25.0	25.0	50.0	0	0	0	0
Expanding (TN 110)	3	66.7	33.3	0	48	31.3	45.8	22.9	50	12.0	48.0	40.0	8	25.0	25.0	50.0
Teen-Launching (TN 148)	1	0	0	100.0	36	36.1	44.4	19.4	89	13.5	42.7	43.8	19	10.5	36.8	52.6
Middle Aged (TN 53)	1	100.0	0	0	22	13.6	50.0	36.4	23	8.7	39.1	52.2	6	0	33.3	66.7
	Living Areas															
Beginning (TN 11)	2	0	100.0	0	5	20.0	20.0	60.0	4	0	25.0	75.0	0	0	0	0
Expanding (TN 115)	3	0	0	100.0	51	2.0	31.4	66.7	52	3.8	34.6	61.5	8	0	25.0	75.0
Teen-Launching (TN 147)	1	0	100.0	0	35	5.7	34.3	60.0	89	2.2	31.5	66.3	19	0	10.5	89.5
Middle Aged (TN 54)	1	0	0	100.0	22	0	31.8	68.2	24	0	37.5	62.5	6	0	16.7	83.3
	Sleeping Areas															
Beginning (TN 21)	2	50.0	50.0	0	9	0	55.6	44.4	10	10.0	20.0	70.0	0	0	0	0
Expanding (TN 288)	3	33.3	0	66.7	101	17.8	28.7	53.5	151	11.3	28.5	60.3	29	17.2	13.8	69.0
Teen-Launching (TN 422)	3	33.3	33.3	33.3	72	20.8	19.4	59.7	265	8.7	24.9	66.4	73	6.8	15.1	78.1
Middle Aged (TN 138)	1	100.0	0	0	44	4.5	22.7	72.7	68	1.5	16.2	82.4	21	4.8	19.0	76.2

TABLE XXIV

ADEQUACY OF RESPONDENT'S FURNISHINGS
ACCORDING TO STAGE IN FAMILY LIFE CYCLE
AND LEVEL OF LIVING

Stages in Family Cycle	Level of Living											
	Low			Medium			High					
	TN	Percentage			TN	Percentage			TN	Percentage		
	Min.	Mod.	Lib.		Min.	Mod.	Lib.		Min.	Mod.	Lib.	
	Dining Areas											
Beginning (TN 10)	4	25.0	50.0	25.0	4	50.0	0	50.0	2	0	100.0	0
Expanding (TN 110)	19	36.8	36.8	26.3	60	16.7	53.3	30.0	31	25.8	32.3	41.9
Teen-Launching (TN 148)	48	29.2	31.3	39.6	56	17.9	46.4	35.7	44	9.1	45.5	45.5
Middle Aged (TN 53)	11	18.2	45.5	36.4	24	12.5	50.0	37.5	18	5.6	27.8	66.7
	Living Areas											
Beginning (TN 11)	4	25.0	50.0	25.0	5	0	40.0	60.0	2	0	0	100.0
Expanding (TN 115)	19	5.3	26.3	68.4	64	0	34.4	65.6	32	6.3	28.1	65.6
Teen-Launching (TN 147)	47	10.6	36.2	53.2	56	0	26.8	73.2	44	0	27.3	72.7
Middle Aged (TN 54)	11	0	54.5	45.5	25	0	32.0	68.0	18	0	16.7	83.3
	Sleeping Areas											
Beginning (TN21)	8	12.5	62.5	25.0	10	10.0	20.0	70.0	3	0	33.3	66.7
Expanding (TN 288)	39	28.2	38.5	33.3	159	13.2	28.3	58.5	90	10.0	17.8	72.2
Teen-Launching (TN 422)	130	19.2	28.5	52.3	158	10.8	20.3	69.0	134	2.2	17.9	79.9
Middle Aged (TN 138)	24	4.2	20.8	75.0	63	4.8	15.9	79.4	51	2.0	19.6	78.4