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Recent role changes made by women and the effect these changes have had on marital adjustment

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TO THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH:

The research advisor,

Jack C. Finley

approves the research practicum of Nancy L. Sclar pre-
sented 12 June 1975.

APPROVED

Gordon Hearn, Dean, School of Social Work

12 June 1975

Portland State University

RECENT ROLE CHANGES MADE BY WOMEN AND THE EFFECT
THESE CHANGES HAVE HAD ON MARITAL ADJUSTMENT

by
Nancy L. Sclar

A Practicum
Submitted to
Portland State University

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degree of

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Sex Roles, A History

From insects to humans, gender is associated with specific behavior. Below the mammals there are sex differences in dominance that are correlated with androgen function on the inside, and with certain types of stimulation on the outside. In higher forms, the increasing complexity of brain development means increasing capacity for modification through experience and learned modes of adaptation to the environment.

By the time the primate level is reached, social influences have become so intricate and compelling as to clearly foreshadow culture.

According to Elizabeth Janeway in her article *Reflections on the History of Women*, in all cultures maleness and femaleness are institutionalized as status and become the core of the psychological identities of most individuals.

Sex roles as an index of social change may be misleading if considered apart from the total social context. Their relationship to the overall pattern determines their meaning at a particular time and place.

In the pages following the author will discuss a brief history of sex roles in various cultures. In this context sex roles may then be viewed on a continuum from Biblical times to present day.

Both in the chronicles of the Old Testament and in the determined efforts of the prophets to impose a moral order on a primitive and unruly people, women figure very prominently in the life of ancient Israel.¹

The Old Testament offers us a gallery of vivid female portraits starting in Genesis with Sarah and Abraham.

Most of the elements of the life of a simple, tribal, people are in Genesis. The obsession with the problem of succession and legitimacy seen in Sarah's sanctioning of her husband's relation with the slave girl Hagar for the purpose of producing a son; Abraham's concubines; the institution of the rite of circumcision; Sarah's determination to make Isaac the proper heir of Abraham rather than Ishmael; the arranged marriage between Isaac and Rebecca; Jacob's maneuvering, doubtless encouraged by his mother, to divest Esau of his birthright.

Daughterhood and sonhood are central themes of the Old Testament. This is most probably due to the problems of succession. The Hebrews understood that in order to survive they had to keep records. Descent was traced through the female line, and Josephus tells of the scrupulous and arduous keeping of the rolls by the priests for over two thousand years.

¹Stanton, Elizabeth Cady; *The Woman's Bible*. Coalition Task Force on Women and Religion, c. 1974

Throughout the Old Testament Israel is continually referred to as "the daughter of Zion," and her relationship to God is likened to that of the virgin bride to her husband. The image is crucial because it is an image of fidelity, the fidelity of the true marriage to which the husband is to be as faithful as the bride. "When the daughter of Zion strays from the path of righteousness, from faithfulness to her Lord, she is chastised by suffering and desolation. The daughter of Zion must not go whoring after false gods."²

The daughters of Zion are also known as the women of Israel and they, like the men, are called to judgment. The Hebrews brought both men and women under one divine power. One God, presiding over all his children without regard to sex or age, calling them all to judgment provided the foundation for feminine equality.³

During the ancient Minian Civilization the feminine role included working in the fields beside men as well as the more homely acts of weaving, making bread and pottery. Women could mingle freely, unveiled and bare-breasted, with men at the theater and other public events.⁴

²Smith, Page, *Daughters of the Promised Land*; Little, Brown and Co. c. 1970 p. 21.

³Ibid. p. 18.

⁴Seltman, Charles; *Women in Antiquity*; St. Martins Press c. 1956 p. 50.

Among the Mycenaens on mainland Greece, education for girls and boys was differentiated. Girls were trained for a domestic role, and boys for a more strenuous existence of fighting and hunting. Women of this society were still free, to move without restraint among the men and on occasion evidence leads scholars to believe women seem to have engaged in serious discussions with men.⁵

After the Dorian conquest, a military state was set up in ancient Sparta. Here women retained many of the freedoms they had enjoyed during former eras. Those freedoms somehow became preempted for channeling their energies into developing supermen of their sons rather than enriching their own personalities.

One of the paradoxes of history is that when Greek culture was at its peak, the position of women was the lowest. Athenian females were wards of one male relative or another from birth to death. The women were not alone in having their freedom curtailed, for the men also had to obey certain social sanctions concerning family manners.

Comparing the stoic republic of Rome to Athenian society a similar picture emerges. Women in this culture were also faced with the tutelage of men at every life stage.

⁵Linserling, Verna; *Women in Greece and Rome*; Abner Schram N. Y. c. 1973 p. 12).

During the period of imperial expansion, while Roman men were away conquering the world, the Roman woman increased her responsibilities and freedom. Before the end of the empire, women were entering all the professions, marriage came to rest wholly on the formal consent of the partners, and the wife was practically independent from her husband who had no actual power over her.⁶

The Middle Ages ushered in a new phase in the evolution of social sex roles. That freedom won at great cost by the woman of Ancient Rome was rescinded by the early Christian fathers. Women during the Middle Ages were irrationally hated, feared and degraded. The evil picture of women contrasting with the ideal of sexual asceticism was personified by the devil possessed witch.⁷

The downgraded woman became rehabilitated to a degree through the worship of the Virgin which counterbalanced the common belief of Eve, the temptress. Through docile obedience to the Son, the Virgin Mother became a mediator of salvation for sinful women.

Through arranged marriage, women came under the control of their husbands who in theory and by law had authority over them.⁸ In practice, the wives enjoyed high

⁶Ibid p. 58.

⁷Davis, John Landgon; *The Possessed Witch*; 1927 p. 27.

⁸Gage, Matilda; *Woman, Church & State*; Arno Press, N.Y. c. 1972, p. 89.

prestige because their domestic domain was the center of industry. This was especially true during the long wars when, as in Ancient Rome, much of the responsibility fell on their shoulders.

With the rebirth of the classic spirit so long buried under the dogma of Medieval Christianity the feminine role, especially in upper class society, became enriched through women's participation in the revival of learning and a new intellectual comradeship between men and women developed. Even the average woman, trained for a domestic role and closely guarded before marriage, was familiar with the classics, literature, philosophy and the arts. The Renaissance's redress began in Italy and gradually spread over Europe. Women were free to develop their talents and tenderness, they contributed beauty, charm, and wit to the stimulating culture.⁹

The creativity found during the Renaissance was squelched by the upheaval that took place during the Reformation and the Industrial Revolution. The Puritans relived the Medieval fear of woman as temptress, which provided the rationalization for the witch hunts of that period.¹⁰

⁹Sachs, Hanelore; *The Renaissance Woman*; McGraw-Hill, N. Y. c. 1971, p. 30.

¹⁰Crow, Duncan; *The Victorian Woman*; George Allen Ltd. c. 1971, p. 23.

Changes in the work relations between men and women also adversely affected woman's social identity. With the rise of capitalization and the ensuing competition for jobs, women no longer shared directly in production as they did earlier in the period, and had nothing to offer in exchange for their support. Many functions were taken out of the home without allowing women to follow them. Increased professional standards depending on higher education put an occupation in healing and teaching professions beyond women's reach and left them captive within the four walls of their home.¹¹

The life of a poor woman took on proportions under the new factory system that exploited her as cheap labor for the profit of the wealthy.

The practice of female parasitism spread through all but the lowest classes until the work either became a source of misfortune and disgrace instead of a source of dignity and personal pride. The ideal of feminine charm centered on passive docility and clinging dependence on men.¹²

An exception to the revolutionary times was found on the continent in the American Colonies. Here the raw life

¹¹Boserup, Uster. 1970. *Woman's Role in Economic Development*, N.Y. St. Martins Press, p. 28.

¹²Schmachausen, Samuel; & U. F. Calverton; *Woman's Coming of Age*; A Symposium, Horace Liveright, Inc. N. Y. c. 1931, p. 105.

found on the frontier acted as a leveling agent for the all pervasive deterioration of woman's status seen in Europe. The individualism and courage found in pioneer women eventually seeped into the stuffy and proper atmosphere of Victorian drawing rooms and eventually paved the way for the Lucy Stones of more recent days..

A review of the changes in social sex roles throughout the development of Western culture as found in *Changing Women in a Changing Society* reveal their dependence on the prevailing social climate. Looking at women within the confines of the traditional patriarchal family any position, with the exception of those women below the poverty line, has fluctuated. These fluctuations have corresponded with periods of stress in which women have been appreciated as persons and have shared fairly equally with men, i.e., during the first and second World Wars. Or in other times when they have been treated like other disadvantaged "minorities".

During the early twentieth century to possibly fairly recent times traditional authoritarian family forms were retained from the farms of Middle America to blue collar families in urban cities. Marriage was a blend of contract and romance. The patriarchal mold survived in the wife's exchanging the name of her father for that of her husband.

The divergence of social roles became and still is today apparent in mixed social gatherings where the men and

women tended to gravitate apart. The social distance reflects the role division within the family. The husband provided a good living, and the wife a good home in which to live. This marked cleavage in social roles led to an overall discounting of the basic value affecting education of women. The prevailing attitude, accepted by both men and women is beautifully summed up in the Federated Women's Club motto found in Lynd and Lynd's study of Middletown, U.S.A. ("Men are God's trees; women are his flowers.")

Here a revolutionary shift begins between the sexual balance, largely due to the impetus of nineteenth century movements for women's rights. These movements and the employment of women go hand and hand along with the increasing industrialization and urbanization of the twentieth century.

As well as the social changes taking place consider the invention of the automobile, mass production of contraceptives and the development of a concept known as divorce, to resolve unhappy marriages. These changes had an extensive effect on social and sexual roles, including dating practices, courtship, mate selection and behavior of spouses after marriage.¹³

¹³Sullerot, Evelyn. 1971. *Woman, Society & Change*. New York McGraw-Hill, p. 78.

B. The Woman's Movement, Change is Accelerated

We have just passed through an extraordinary era lasting roughly from 1920 to 1960 in which women were satisfied overtly and possibly were even optimistic about their status.

There were in some circles of women an apparent anesthetizing of themselves to the feminists of an earlier era. These women who had been aggressive in the cause of winning equal political rights for themselves and future sisters. During the recent past it took an intellectual effort to remember and appreciate what the female suffragette had to fight against.¹⁴

During the late sixties and seventies the mood has changed. College students who seven years ago showed little interest in the status of women although they were involved in the concerns of other minorities are turning to, demanding and getting courses on the history, sociology, psychology and literature of women.

Betty Friedan's, *The Feminine Mystique*, commands more attention and is selling better now than when it first appeared in 1963. The woman's movement is a topic of interest even to the mass media. Furthermore, the issue of social roles for men and women has been filtering down through the socio-economic classes and Women's Lib has become a household

¹⁴Ibid p. 404

word.

How did this come about? Before looking at the cause and effect brought by the changes women have been making a cursory view of the movement that accelerated the changes might be warranted.

The women's movement has manifested itself in an almost infinite variety of groups, styles, and organizations. This diversity has grown from two separate origins. The two branches are often referred to as "reform and radical" and also may be categorized as women's rights organization and women's liberation.¹⁵ Unfortunately, these terms have little meaning because feminists rarely fit into the traditional spectrum of Left or Right. Structure and style rather than ideology more accurately separate the two different branches and borrowing from either side is commonplace.

Many organizations make up the women's rights branch, including the lobbyist group (Women's Equity Action League), and legal foundation (Human Rights for Women), over twenty caucuses in professional organizations, and separate organizations of women in the professions and other occupations. The most prominent "core group" of this section is the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.), which was also the first to be formed.

¹⁵*Changing Women in a Changing Society.* Joan Huber, ed. U of Chicago Press c. 1973, p. 33.

The activities of the "rights" branch tend to concentrate on legal and economic problems. These groups mainly consist of women - and men - who work and they are substantially concerned with the problems of working women. The style of these organizations are primarily top-down; tending to be traditionally formal, with elected officers, boards of directors, by-laws and other accruments of the democratic model.¹⁶

Conversely, the women's liberation branch consists of innumerable small groups, all of which are engaged in a variety of activities. Contrary to the popular myth these groups did not begin on campus. Although few of the founding members were students all were under thirty and had been political activits during that decade.¹⁷ Many came from the New Left and various civil rights organizations. Others found their way to the movement by attending various courses on women that had been offered in the numerous free universities that sprung up around the nation during the sixties.

Like its sister branch, it tends to be predominatly white, middle class and college educated. For the most part members are homogeneous and tend to form friendship networks. Most groups have no requirements for membership, (other than female sex), no dues, no written and agreed-upon structure

¹⁶Ibid p. 33

¹⁷Ibid p. 34

and no elected leader.

For the most part the different styles and organization of the two branches has largely derived from the different political educations and experiences of each group of women.¹⁸ Women of the "rights" branch were trained in and had used traditional forms of political action while the "liberationist" branch inherited the loose, flexible, person-oriented attitude of the youth and student movements. Intramovement differences are often perceived by the participants as at cross purposes, but it is their essentially complementary goals which has added to the movements strength.

Ideologically moderate feminists or the "rights" branch of the movement see the unfinished business as that of equality. Groups such as the National Organization for Women have taken the initiative in pressing for long overdue equality of opportunity in employment and social legislation, for the funding and establishment of adequate child care facilities, and for the winning of women's basic right to control what happens to and within their bodies. For this organization of moderates the key to equality lies in women's participation in government. This participation would eventually bring about a realignment of national and

¹⁸Ibid p. 35

international priorities.¹⁹

For radical feminists the unfinished business of the first movement is the dissolution of patriarchy which includes its social as well as political forms as well as psychological attitudes and the various types of thinking it generates. Unlike the moderates this branch argues that to gain power within existing economic or political structures is a meaningless goal. They feel that the patriarchy directly profits from sexism through the nuclear family to capitalist organizations. As they believe patriarchy to be the prototype for existing forms of social organization and psychological conditioning, the programs of feminism must then be revolutionary in character and shape. On this basic theory radical feminists view women's liberation as "the ultimate revolution."²⁰

Probably no one living in the Victorian World, Colonial America, or even the era of the Suffragettes would comprehend the complexity of forces that invade today's views of social roles. The beginning transformation of marriage and family roles is among the revolutionary changes of the Twentieth Century.

¹⁹*The Woman's Movement Social & Psychological Perspectives,*

²⁰*Ibid* p. 19

C. Husband's Attitude to Woman's Role Change as a
Factor in Marital Adjustment

Little, if any research has been done in areas of marital adjustment and role change. As women are becoming increasingly involved in the job market researchers are investigating the effects this has on the marital adjustment of wives as well as husbands.

The study most applicable to this paper is Catherine Arnott's study, "*Husband's Attitudes and Wives Commitment to Employment*."²¹ Her study examined the relationship between married women's role commitment and their husband's preferences in the context of attitude to autonomy. The study covered women's roles ranging from career-commitment to career-repudiation, attitudes varying from complete dependency to extreme autonomy and marital relationships ranging from enthusiastic support to overt opposition. From the study she made some interesting deductions in light of the topic to be covered in this paper, of what the future holds for the institution of marriage and the nuclear family as we know it.

Ms. Arnott proposed three hypothesis in her study:

I. Wives who state agreement between themselves and their husbands regarding role preference favoring her

²¹Arnott, Catherine C., *Husbands Attitude and Wives Commitment to Employment*, Journal of Marriage and the Family, Nov. 1972, p.673.

present role will tend to answer "No" to the question: "In the future, are you planning to change from your present role?"

Wives who state agreement between themselves and husbands regarding role preference, but not favoring her present role will tend to answer "Yes" to the question: "In the future are you planning to change from your present role?"

II. Wives who state that they occupy the role they prefer contrary to their husbands preference, will tend to have a higher mean score on the autonomy inventory than ~~wives who state than wives who state~~ that they occupy the role their husbands prefer contrary to their own preference.

III. When faced with resolving tension over wives role the mean score on the attitude inventory on items related to husband adjustment will be higher for women liberal on autonomy than for women conservative on autonomy.

The mean score on items related to self adjustment will be lower for women liberal on autonomy than for women conservative on autonomy.²²

The first two hypothesis made by the researcher were substantiated. Women do seek, maintain, and restore congruency between self-concept, role behavior and the role preference of their husbands; conservative women tend to

²²Ibid p. 676.

do so through self-deception and self-adjustment, moderates through self-deception and expectation of mutual adjustment, and liberals through tolerance of temporary tension in anticipation of husband adjustment.²³

The influence of their husband's attitude was unquestionable among the women studied, yet it did not generally seem to have the impact that self-concept had on role-involvement. Conservative, moderate and liberal women alike emphasized that their current preferred role suited their interests. With those classified as conservatives in this study this factor plus the higher autonomy scores of their husbands suggest that it is not just the men who keep women in the home.

When assessing the participants attitude to their autonomy Ms. Arnott's study upheld a direct association with socio-economic status, education and a strong interest in current employment; participants attitudes were also inversely associated with children and with interest in religion. Attitudes to autonomy taken in context with those sociological variables appeared to have an ultimate relationship to the women's commitment to employment.

The group of women who were categorized as conservatives on a standardized test of autonomy had a clear traditional role to which they and their husbands subscribed.

²³Ibid p. 683.

The liberals seemed skilled in hammering out innovative relationships with their husband's cooperation.

Insight or predictions into the future of American marriage may be gained by studying those who are reshaping woman's roles in innovative ways.

Wives pressing forward in a search for their own individuality were not leaving their husbands behind. The strain of transition was matched by a greater tolerance of marital tension, and the independence of wives was met by husbands pride in their wives accomplishments and individuality.

Predictably the conservative relationships will continue their alliance with traditional roles of the past. For the more liberal relationships the future seems promising. As women's work means challenge rather than underemployment, it can enrich their marital relationships and take some of the pressure off the intimate interdependencies which led to increased marital and family problems in past years.

The women in the middle, moving out from the traditional role, but with neither strong commitment nor clear norms, who, according to the study cited, seemed to have inadequate support from their husbands as they moved away from their traditional behavior and also fewer ways of coping with marital role tension are the bearers of the brunt of rapid social change in women's lives today.

It is these women that, I suspect, have led me to the topic of this paper.

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND HYPOTHESIS ABOUT MARITAL ADJUSTMENT AND ROLE CHANGE

"Primacy of home duties and a dependent relationship on her husband have been traditional role expectations for American wives. Two current trends challenge the image of dependent homemaker. First, the dual role of home and employment is increasingly popular among married women; for some this means career commitment for others an additional source of revenue. Second the new wave of feminism stresses autonomy and self determination for women."¹

A. Woman's Role Changes as a Factor in Marital Disturbances

During the first year of graduate study the author's placement was at Marion County Family Court Services. One of the primary tasks was marriage counseling. As the year progressed the author and other counselors within the agency were struck by the numbers of couples coming in with similar complaints about their respective spouses.

Marion County is a predominately agriculturally based, rural county. The largest city is Salem, which is also the state capital. The agency, Family Court Services, enjoys an excellent reputation within the county and probably does the bulk of marriage counseling in the county.

Clients range throughout the socio-economic and educational scales. For the most part the clients similarities

¹Arnott, Catherine C., *Husbands Attitude and Wives Commitment to Employment*, Journal of Marriage and the Family, Nov. 1972, p. 673.

lie in their lack of access to a large metropolitan area, the absence of organized women's liberation groups other than information filtering down from the popular media and a commonality at the time came to the agency of experiencing marital problems.

Throughout the year women would come to an intake interview stating their general feelings of unhappiness, often expressed in depression, loneliness and a desire for a different kind of life.

Often women would express their desire for individuality apart from their family to the author as well as the other counselors in the agency. Women seemed to desire a change in their life. Many expressed hopes for continued or advanced education, employment outside their homes, and a desire for a shared and more intimate life with their husbands.

Husbands also came to the agency expressing a desire to have a woman counselor, "not part of this women's lib thing" talk to their wife and "straighten her out."

During the year the author began to wonder just what effect has the changing roles of women had on the marriages of America, if the couples that were being seen were indicative, that the women's liberation movement seemed to taking its toll on marriage.

CHAPTER III

METHOD

A. Background

A search of the literature revealed a total lack of research concerning the effect of feminism on modern marital relationships. Book upon book and a multitude of articles have been written about the women's movement but none of these has addressed itself to the issue of the movements effect on basic institutions of a woman's life.

To assess the effect on one institution, marriage, a research project was designed enabling the researcher to ascertain perceived role changes within the last two years and to determine if the subjects identified these changes as problematical in their marriage.

B. Development of the Instrument

In the process of developing an instrument to determine if role changes or liberalization of the wife had occurred the author began with a question to ascertain a couple's awareness of changes being made by women in the world at large.

Focusing on that change it was necessary to determine if a couple identified those changes in role as a part of their lives.

To narrow even further, a list of specific home and family duties was made up, featuring daily living tasks that

make up roles in people's lives. At the time the author believed if people were aware of change occurring in the world and if they believed change had taken place in their life then with the list provided couples could identify the changes made in their lives and make a determination about the effects these changes had on their marriage.

One further question was asked of the groups. If changes had occurred in their life did the couple feel that there was an effect on their marriage and if so was it positive or negative. With the information obtained the researcher could then draw some conclusions about the effect role changes were having on one of the basic institutions of a women's life.

C. Samples

Two agencies, Marion County Family Court Services and Tualatin Valley Guidance Clinic were used to obtain the study group, *i.e.*, those couples experiencing marital difficulties and seeking counseling.

Each agency agreed to have couples fill out the questionnaire at orientation or before an intake interview so that no counselor bias could be interjected.

A sample size of twenty couples was arbitrarily decided upon. The sample was one hundred percent of the couples that appeared *jointly* at the two agencies during a two month period.

1. Age_____, Sex_____, Married_____, Divorced_____
Widowed_____, Number of years married,_____

2. Do you think that some women are beginning to change
their traditional roles as wives and mothers?
Yes_____ No_____ Don't Know_____

3. Have any of these changes taken place in your own way
of life as a husband or wife? Yes_____ No_____
Don't Know_____

4. Listed below are some common tasks, please place the
letter that fits your home in each of the blank spaces
provided.

- A. Always done by husband
- B. Recently assumed by wife (within last two years)
- C. Always done by wife
- D. Recently assumed by husband (within last two years)
- E. Shared
- F. Neither husband or wife

_____ FAMILY WAGE EARNER	_____ INCOME TAX
_____ DISHES	_____ CARING FOR CHILDREN
_____ LAWN MOWING	_____ INITIATES MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION
_____ COOKING	_____ CHILD DISCIPLINE
_____ RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAR REPAIR	_____ HOUSE CLEANING
_____ TAKE CHILDREN TO DOCTOR OR DENTIST	_____ WASHING
_____ CAR WASHING	_____ IRONING
_____ CLEAN GARAGE	_____ INITIATES SEXUAL INTERCOURSE
_____ CHECK BOOK	_____ DECISIONS ABOUT MAJOR PURCHASES

5. If there have been changes in your role as husband or
wife, do you think they have caused any marital prob-
lems? Yes_____, No_____, No effect_____; or have they made
your life together better? Yes_____, No_____,
No effect_____.

To give further strength to the study a comparison group of twenty couples was randomly selected from the population at large.

Primary requirements of these couples were first, that they were married, and second, that they had not received marriage counseling during the past two years.

The purpose of the comparison group was to determine if their responses differed in pattern from those experiencing marital difficulties and if so could some hypothesis for another study be drawn from them.

CHAPTER IV

PROBLEMS

Problems occurred in three areas of the study:

A. Size of the Study Group Sample

The researcher originally planned study and comparison groups of forty couples each. The research study was conducted from January to March of 1975. During that time the nation, and the State of Oregon were experiencing an economic recession. Statistics from the agencies show a drop in intake during that period compared to previous years. The researcher feels this drop in intake was related to the financial difficulties experienced by the population.

After three months the researcher obtained a sample size of twenty couples in the study and in the comparison groups. The twenty couples represented the total number of couples who appeared together for an intake interview at the two participating agencies during January through March, 1975.

B. Obtaining the Comparison Group

The second significant problem experienced by the researcher concerned the comparison group.

A comparison group was sought that was representative of the general population.

Numerous groups were considered by the researcher but none met the general population criteria. An example of the

complications was the selection of a school district from which a sample was to be randomly selected. This selection plan was thwarted by the passage of a law which prohibited school officials from making the names and addresses of its pupils available to the public.

A comparison group was finally obtained by randomly selecting houses in a variety of socio-economic areas of the city.

This selection method was very time consuming because the majority of the people initially contacted by the researcher refused to participate in the study.

One of the limitations of the study may be reflected in the willingness of the comparison group to participate when one out of two couples contacted were reluctant to cooperate in the research.

C. Limitations in the Questionnaire

Two inadequacies appeared in the questionnaire when the results were surveyed.

In the fourth question: "Listed below are some common tasks, please place the letter that fits your home in each of the blank spaces provided." The researcher failed to add the category "recently shared (within the last two years.)"

Seventy-five percent of the wives and eighty-five percent of the husbands in the study group; and seventy percent of the wives and sixty-five percent of the husbands in the

comparison group stated changes had taken place in their lives.

When looking at the results a maximum of ten percent of either husbands or wives responded in any question with an answer that indicated role change. Neither husbands nor wives in the comparison group stated that any task had recently been assumed by the husband or wife.

The researcher believes that a seventh category, recently shared, would allow the author to more accurately assess role changes.

The second deficiency in the questionnaire is noted in the wording of the last question. The question was confusing or redundant to many of the participants. Many participants stated the answers no or no effect were the same. Some participants also indicated to the researcher if they answered the first part of the question negatively the second part was superfluous. Table XXII and III allude to this confusion.

If the question had been reworded to include an and/or the researcher believes the confusion would have been eliminated.

CHAPTER V

RESULTS

The study group and comparison group had many similarities. All of the participants in each group were married. The age range for wives in the comparison group was twenty to sixty years and the mode was thirty-four years. The mean age of the wives in the comparison group was thirty-one years and nine months. The age range of wives in the study group was twenty-one to sixty-one years of age and the mode was twenty-six years. The mean age in the study group was thirty years nine months. The mean age of the husbands was thirty-six years five months in the comparison group, with a range of twenty years to sixty years and a mode of forty-four years. Thirty-three years nine months was the mean in the study group with a range of twenty-one to seventy-one, and a mode of thirty-six years.

A similarity was also found in the number of years married between the two groups. The mean for the number of years married for those participants in the comparison group was ten years, six months with a range of thirty-eight years to seven months. For those in the study group the mean was ten years, four months with a range of thirty-four years to six months.

The following pages illustrate the other results found in this study.

In answer to the question, (asked in Table I), a significant difference in the perception of husbands and wives in the study group was found.

There was a ten percent difference in the responses of husbands concerning their perception of women's changing roles in the world surrounding them.

Withing the comparison group the research project showed no perceptal difference but total agreement between husbands and wives.

Table II suggests that wives in the comparison group had startling similar responses to the question.

Ten percent more of the wives in the comparison group stated they had not changed their role than the women in the study group.

Within the comparison group the husbands and wives perceived their roles similarly.

The husbands in the study group have a significant difference in their perception of their wives role changes. Ten percent more of the husbands than wives in this group felt role changes had taken place in their life and twenty percent of the wives felt no changes had taken place. Fifteen percent of the men indicated they were unsure if any changes had taken place.

Table III infers little difference was found within the comparison group; five percent more of the women than men felt their husbands provided for the total families

TABLE I

Do you think that some women are beginning to change their traditional roles as wives and mothers?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP	95%	0%	5%
MEN'S STUDY GROUP	85%	0%	15%
DIFFERENCE	10%	0%	10%
WOMEN'S COMPARISON GROUP	100%	0%	0%
MEN'S COMPARISON GROUP	100%	0%	0%
DIFFERENCE	0%	0%	0%

TABLE II

Have any of these changes taken place in your own way
of life as a husband or wife?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP	75%	20%	5%
MEN'S STUDY GROUP	85%	0%	15%
DIFFERENCE	10%	20%	10%
WOMEN'S COMPARISON GROUP	70%	30%	0%
MEN'S COMPARISON GROUP	65%	25%	10%
DIFFERENCE	10%	5%	10%

TABLE III

FAMILY WAGE EARNER

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	40%	10%	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%
Men's Study Group	30%	0%	0%	0%	70%	0%	0%
Difference	10%	10%	0%	0%	20%	0%	0%
Women's Comparison Group	30%	0%	0%	0%	65%	5%	0%
Men's Comparison Group	25%	0%	0%	0%	70%	5%	0%
Difference	5%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%

¹Task always been done by the husband

²Recently assumed by the wife

³Always done by the wife

⁴Recently assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

monetary support. Five percent more of the husbands saw their wives as sharing this task than their spouses.

Within the study group ten percent more women than men felt their husbands provided for the family's support, and ten percent of the women felt they had recently assumed this task. Correspondingly twenty percent more of the husbands than their wives saw this task as shared.

Table IV indicates that between the husbands and wives of the comparison group five percent did not share the same perception of their roles in the specific task of dishwashing. Five percent more of the men than women felt they shared the dishwashing tasks.

The husbands and wives in the study group had differing perceptions. Five percent more of the men than women felt their wives always did the dishes and ten percent more of the women than their husbands saw this task as shared. Five percent of the men in the study group did not respond to the question.

As seen in Table V the men and women in the comparison group indicated a perceptual difference of fifteen percent. Fifteen percent more of the men felt they always mowed the lawn. Five percent of the women believed their husbands had just assumed that task. Five percent more wives felt neither of them mowed the lawn and five percent more women provided no response to the question.

Considering the results of the study group, fifteen

TABLE IV

DISHES

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	0%	0%	45%	10%	45%	0%	0%
Men's Study Group	0%	0%	50%	10%	35%	0%	5%
Difference	0%	0%	5%	0%	10%	0%	5%
Women's Comparison Group	0%	0%	25%	0%	65%	10%	0%
Men's Comparison Group	0%	0%	20%	0%	70%	10%	0%
Difference	0%	0%	5%	0%	5%	0%	0%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

TABLE V

LAWN MOWING

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	40%	5%	10%	0%	25%	20%	0%
Men's Study Group	55%	0%	0%	0%	30%	5%	10%
Difference	15%	5%	10%	05%	5%	15%	10%
Women's Comparison Group	20%	0%	0%	5%	35%	25%	15%
Men's Comparison Group	35%	0%	0%	0%	35%	20%	10%
Difference	15%	0%	0%	5%	0%	5%	5%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

percent more of the husbands felt they always mowed the lawn. Five percent of the wives felt they had recently assumed this task and ten percent felt they had always mowed the lawn. Five percent more of the men than women felt this task was shared in their households and fifteen percent more of the women than men felt neither they nor their spouse mowed the lawn. Ten percent of the men within the study group did not respond to the question.

Between the husbands and wives of the comparison group in Table VI, five percent more of the women questioned than men felt they always did the cooking and five percent more of the husbands than wives felt they shared this role.

Among the study group perceptions differed significantly. Twenty percent more of the wives than husbands felt they took total responsibility for the cooking in the household and twenty percent more of the husbands than wives felt they shared this task. Ten percent of the women felt their husbands had recently taken over the job of cooking and five percent of the men felt they had always done the cooking for the family. Five percent of the men failed to respond to the question.

Considering the responses of the comparison group in Table VII, five percent more of the men than women felt their wives always did the washing and five percent more of the women than men believed that their husbands shared

TABLE VI

COOKING

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	0%	0%	65%	10%	25%	0%	0%
Men's Study Group	5%	0%	45%	0%	45%	0%	5%
Difference	5%	0%	20%	10%	20%	0%	5%
Women's Comparison Group	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%	0%
Men's Comparison Group	0%	0%	45%	0%	55%	0%	0%
Difference	0%	0%	5%	0%	5%	0%	0%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

TABLE VII

WASHING

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	0%	0%	70%	5%	25%	0%	0%
Men's Study Group	0%	0%	70%	0%	25%	0%	5%
Difference	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	5%
Women's Comparison Group	0%	0%	60%	0%	40%	0%	0%
Men's Comparison Group	0%	0%	65%	0%	35%	0%	0%
Difference	0%	0%	5%	0%	5%	0%	0%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

this task.

Responses between husbands and wives in the study group were similar to those in the comparison group. Five percent of the women felt their husbands had recently assumed the task of washing and five percent of the men failed to respond to the question.

Table VIII indicates ten percent more of the men than women in the comparison group felt their wives did the ironing and five percent more of the women than men felt this task was shared by their husbands. Five percent of the men failed to respond to the question.

Looking at the study group, fifteen percent more of the women than men felt they always did the ironing. Ten percent more of the husbands than wives viewed ironing as a shared task. Five percent of the men in the study group failed to respond to the question.

As seen in Table IX five percent more of the women than men in the comparison group felt their husbands always washed the car and ten percent more of the husbands than wives felt that the task of car washing was shared equally by their wives. A five percent difference occurred when that percentage of women indicated that neither they nor their husbands washed the car. Five percent of both the men and women failed to respond to this question.

Between the husbands and wives in the study group a greater difference in perceptions occurred. Twenty percent

TABLE VIII

IRONING

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	0%	0%	85%	0%	10%	5%	0%
Men's Study Group	0%	0%	70%	0%	20%	5%	5%
Difference	0%	0%	15%	0%	10%	0%	5%
Women's Comparison Group	0%	0%	65%	0%	25%	5%	5%
Men's Comparison Group	0%	0%	75%	0%	20%	5%	0%
Difference	0%	0%	10%	0%	5%	0%	5%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

TABLE IX

CAR WASHING

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	30%	0%	5%	0%	60%	5%	0%
Men's Study Group	50%	0%	0%	0%	40%	5%	0%
Difference	20%	0%	5%	0%	20%	0%	0%
Women's Comparison Group	20%	5%	0%	0%	50%	20%	5%
Men's Comparison Group	15%	5%	00%	0%	60%	15%	5%
Difference	5%	0%	0%	0%	10%	5%	0%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

more of the men than women felt they always washed the car, compared to twenty percent more of the women than men indicated that car washing was a shared task. Differences in perception between husbands and wives also occurred when five percent of the women stated they had recently assumed the car washing task.

The results in Table X indicate that five percent of the men in the comparison group felt their wives had always cleaned the garage, although none of the women indicated this as their perception. The remaining difference showed that five percent more of the women than men felt that garage cleaning was a shared task between husband and wife. Ten percent of the men and the women in this group did not answer this question.

Ten percent of the women in the study group had recently assumed the task of cleaning the garage. Five percent more of the wives than husbands in the study group felt that garage cleaning was a job that she and her husband shared. Ten percent more of the husbands than wives felt that neither of them cleaned the garage. Five percent of the men failed to respond to this question.

Table XI indicates the perceptions of husbands and wives in the comparison group are the same.

Variation in the study group is present in almost every category. Five percent more of the husbands assumed responsibility for the check book than perceived by their

TABLE X

CLEANING THE GARAGE

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	50%	10%	0%	0%	35%	5%	0%
Men's Study Group	50%	0%	0%	0%	30%	15%	5%
Difference	0%	10%	0%	0%	5%	10%	5%
Women's Comparison Group	20%	0%	0%	0%	60%	10%	10%
Men's Comparison Group	20%	0%	5%	0%	55%	10%	10%
Difference	0%	0%	5%	0%	5%	0%	0%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

TABLE XI

BALANCING THE CHECKBOOK

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	20%	10%	45%	5%	20%	0%	0%
Men's Study Group	25%	5%	20%	5%	35%	0%	10%
Difference	5%	5%	25%	0%	15%	0%	10%
Women's Comparison Group	10%	0%	20%	0%	65%	0%	5%
Men's Comparison Group	10%	0%	20%	0%	65%	0%	5%
Difference	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

wives. Twenty-five percent more of the women than men in the study group indicated the responsibility for the checkbook had always been theirs, and five percent more of the women than men indicated the wife had recently assumed the task of balancing the checkbook. Fifteen percent more of the men than women questioned felt the task of balancing the checkbook was shared and ten percent of the husbands questioned did not answer the question.

As shown in Table XII, five percent more of the husbands than wives in the comparison group state they have always been responsible for working on the income tax. Five percent of the women indicate that neither they nor their husbands are responsible for this task.

Ten percent more of the men than women in the study group felt they had always taken responsibility for filing the income tax. Ten percent more of the wives than husbands in the study group indicated they had always been totally responsible for computing the family's income tax. A difference of five percent was found, between husbands and wives, when that percentage of women felt neither they nor their husbands made out the tax forms. Five percent of the men in the study group failed to respond to this question.

Table XIII indicates essential agreement within the comparison group. Five percent more of the husbands indicated they shared responsibility for the children than

TABLE XII

INCOME TAX

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	45%	0%	25%	0%	10%	20%	0%
Men's Study Group	55%	0%	15%	0%	10%	15%	5%
Difference	10%	0%	10%	0%	0%	5%	5%
Women's Comparison Group	35%	0%	5%	0%	55%	5%	0%
Men's Comparison Group	40%	0%	5%	0%	55%	0%	0%
Difference	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%

¹Always been done by the Husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

TABLE XIII

CARING FOR THE CHILDREN

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	0%	0%	25%	0%	45%	5%	25%
Men's Study Group	0%	0%	10%	0%	50%	10%	30%
Difference	0%	0%	15%	0%	15%	5%	5%
Women's Comparison Group	0%	0%	0%	0%	65%	20%	15%
Men's Comparison Group	0%	0%	0%	0%	70%	10%	20%
Difference	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	10%	5%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

their wives.

Within the study group the discrepancies appeared greater. Fifteen percent more of the women than men felt they always assumed the responsibility of child care and fifteen percent more of their husbands saw this task as shared.

A total of thirty-five husbands and wives in the comparison group did not respond to the question, and fifty-five percent of the men and women in the study group failed to respond.

As seen in Table XIV husbands and wives in the comparison group agreed that the task of initiating meaningful conversation was shared by both husband and wife.

Within the study group responses varied significantly. Ten percent more of the men than women felt that they always initiated meaningful conversation and fifteen percent more of the women than men felt it was their responsibility to initiate conversation. Five percent of the men felt their wives had recently assumed the task of initiating meaningful conversation. Five percent more of the husbands than their wives felt they had recently assumed this task. Ten percent more of the women than men felt this task was shared by themselves and their husbands. Five percent of the men made no response to this question.

Table XV indicates essential agreement between the husbands and wives of the comparison group. Five percent

TABLE XIV

INITIATING MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	0%	0%	15%	5%	75%	5%	0%
Men's Study Group	10%	5%	0%	10%	65%	5%	5%
Difference	10%	5%	15%	5%	10%	0%	5%
Women's Comparison Group	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Men's Comparison Group	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Difference	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

TABLE XV

CHILD DISCIPLINE

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	0%	0%	5%	0%	65%	5%	25%
Men's Study Group	0%	0%	0%	5%	60%	5%	30%
Difference	0%	0%	5%	5%	5%	0%	5%
Women's Comparison Group	0%	0%	0%	0%	70%	15%	15%
Men's Comparison Group	0%	0%	0%	0%	70%	10%	20%
Difference	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	5%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

more of the wives than husbands stated that neither husbands nor wives were responsible for the task and thirty-five percent of the men and women did not respond to the question.

Differences appeared within the study group. Five percent more of the women than men felt they had always disciplined the children. Five percent of the men stated they had recently assumed this task. Five percent more of the women saw child discipline as a shared task than their husbands. A total of fifty-five percent of the study failed to answer this question.

Results in Table XVI are strikingly similar between the comparison and study groups. Twenty percent more of the women than men in the comparison group feel they always assume the task of house cleaning. Twenty percent more of the husbands in this group see this task as shared between themselves and their spouse.

Within the study group, twenty percent more of the women than men indicated they assumed the responsibility of house cleaning. Ten percent more of the men than women see this as a shared task. Ten percent of the men in the study group failed to respond to this question.

Husbands and wives in the comparison group essentially agree on the division of responsibility for car repair. Table XVII indicates that five percent more of the women than men feel that this task is shared. Five percent of the men in this group did not respond to the question.

TABLE XVI

HOUSE CLEANING

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	0%	5%	45%	5%	45%	0%	0%
Men's Study Group	0%	5%	25%	5%	55%	0%	10%
Difference	0%	0%	20%	0%	10%	0%	10%
Women's Comparison Group	0%	0%	45%	0%	55%	0%	0%
Men's Comparison Group	0%	0%	25%	0%	75%	0%	0%
Difference	0%	0%	20%	0%	20%	0%	0%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

TABLE XVII

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CAR REPAIR

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	60%	10%	0%	0%	30%	0%	0%
Men's Study Group	85%	0%	5%	0%	10%	0%	0%
Difference	25%	10%	5%	0%	20%	0%	0%
Women's Comparison Group	55%	0%	0%	0%	45%	0%	0%
Men's Comparison Group	55%	0%	0%	0%	40%	0%	0%
Difference	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	5%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

Within the study group, twenty-five percent more of the men than women stated they always assumed responsibility for repair of the car. Ten percent of the women in the group indicated they had recently assumed this responsibility. Five percent of the men stated this task had always been done by their wives. Twenty percent more of the women than men stated they viewed this activity as shared.

As seen in Table XVIII, five percent more of the wives than husbands feel they are totally responsible for arranging for the children's health care. Ten percent more of the men than women in the comparison group see this as a shared task. Five percent more of the wives than husbands state that neither they nor their husbands are responsible for this task. A total of thirty percent of the participants in the group failed to respond to this question.

Within the study group, five percent of the women stated that this task had always been done by their mates. Five percent of the men stated this task had recently been assumed by their wives. Twenty-five percent more of the women than men felt they had total responsibility in this area. Fifteen percent more of the men than women saw this as a shared task. Within the study group sixty percent of the participants failed to answer this question.

Table XIX indicates that five percent of the men feel they always initiate sexual intercourse in the comparison group. Ten percent more of the women than men in the

TABLE XVIII

TAKING THE CHILDREN TO THE DOCTOR OR DENTIST

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	5%	0%	55%	0%	10%	5%	25%
Men's Study Group	0%	5%	30%	0%	25%	5%	35%
Difference	5%	5%	25%	0%	15%	0%	10%
Women's Comparison Group	0%	0%	25%	0%	45%	15%	15%
Men's Comparison Group	0%	0%	20%	0%	55%	10%	15%
Difference	0%	0%	5%	0%	10%	5%	0%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

TABLE XIX

INITIATING SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	25%	0%	5%	0%	55%	10%	5%
Men's Study Group	30%	0%	5%	10%	50%	0%	5%
Difference	5%	0%	0%	10%	5%	10%	0%
Women's Comparison Group	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Men's Comparison Group	5%	0%	0%	0%	90%	5%	0%
Difference	5%	0%	0%	0%	10%	5%	0%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

comparison group feel that this is a shared task. Five percent of the husbands in this group stated that neither they nor their wives initiated sexual activity.

Within the study group more of the men and women felt that husbands always initiated sexual contact than was found in the comparison group. Five percent more of the husbands than wives within this group felt this was an area of their responsibility. Ten percent of the men indicated they had recently assumed this responsibility. Five percent more of the women in the study group felt this was a shared activity than their husbands. Ten percent of the wives stated that neither they nor their husbands took the initiative. Five percent of the women within this group and five percent of the men chose not to respond to this question.

As seen in Table XX ten percent more of the women than men in the comparison group feel that decisions about major purchases are a shared activity. Ten percent of the men failed to respond to the question.

Within the study group five percent more of the men than women indicate the decision process has been recently assumed by the wife. Five percent more of the wives than husbands stated they have always been responsible for these decisions. A difference of five percent is seen in column E, five percent more of the women than men see this as a shared responsibility.

As seen in Table XXI five percent more of the wives

TABLE XX

MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT MAJOR PURCHASES

	A ¹	B ²	C ³	D ⁴	E ⁵	F ⁶	No Response
Women's Study Group	20%	0%	10%	0%	70%	0%	0%
Men's Study Group	20%	5%	5%	0%	65%	0%	0%
Difference	0%	5%	5%	0%	5%	0%	0%
Women's Comparison Group	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Men's Comparison Group	0%	0%	0%	0%	90%	0%	10%
Difference	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%	10%

¹Always been done by the husband

²Recently been assumed by the wife

³Always been done by the wife

⁴Recently been assumed by the husband

⁵Shared

⁶Done by neither the husband or wife

TABLE XXI

If there have been changes in your role as husband or wife, do you think they have caused any marital problems?

	YES	NO	NO EFFECT	NO RESPONSE
Women's Study Group	70%	15%	5%	10%
Men's Study Group	40%	30%	15%	15%
Difference	30%	15%	10%	5%
Women's Comparison Group	35%	45%	10%	10%
Men's Comparison Group	30%	40%	15%	15%
Difference	5%	5%	5%	5%

than husbands in the comparison group felt that their role change had created marital problems. Five percent more of the women than men also felt that role changes had not had a negative effect on their marriage. Five percent more of the husbands than wives in the comparison group stated there had been no effect on their marriage, and twenty-five percent of the men and women did not respond to the question.

Differences in the study group were significantly greater. Thirty percent more of the wives than husbands questioned felt the role changes taking place in their marriage had caused marital problems. Fifteen percent more of their husbands felt these role changes had caused no marital disharmony. Ten percent more of the husbands than wives stated that role changes had no effect on their marriage and twenty-five percent of the participants did not answer this question.

Within the comparison group as seen in Table XXII, ten percent more of the wives than husbands stated that the role changes in their marriage had made their lives with their husbands better. Five percent more of the women than men stated the role changes had not made their life better. Five percent more of the wives than husbands stated that there had been no effect, and a total of forty percent of the husbands and wives failed to respond to the question.

As the table indicates ten percent more of the husbands than wives in the study group felt that their lives had been

TABLE XXII

If there have been changes in your role as husband or wife do you think they have made your life together better?

	YES	NO	NO EFFECT	NO RESPONSE
Women's Study Group	20%	45%	5%	30%
Men's Study Group	30%	35%	10%	25%
Difference	10%	10%	5%	5%
Women's Comparison Group	65%	10%	15%	10%
Men's Comparison Group	55%	5%	10%	30%
Difference	10%	5%	5%	20%

enriched by the role changes. Ten percent more of the women than men in the study group felt their lives had not been enhanced by the role changes that had taken place. Five percent more of the men than women stated there had been no effect and a total of fifty-five percent of the men and women in the study group did not respond to the last question.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS

A review of the findings of the instant study areas identify similarities between the study and comparison groups in age and the number of years they had been married. Similarities in socio-economic status can not be determined from the data collected. Other similarities occurred throughout the survey. There appeared to be little discrepancy between husbands and wives in both groups when they perceived some specific tasks. For example, washing, cleaning the garage, initiating sexual intercourse, and making decisions about major purchases. Similarities also appeared in one other area of the study. Different perceptions of roles between husbands and wives in both study and comparison groups were illicited in the final question, "Have these changes made your life together better?"

The author's hypothesis, role changes made by women has caused marital strife, was not substantiated by the research. The research did depict a vast difference in perceptions between husbands and wives, within the study group, about their roles in the relationship. Based on the results seen in Tables III through XX the author believes that this difference in perception was a contributing factor to the marital dissension experienced by the study group.

One other conclusion can be drawn from the data collected. Consistently throughout Tables III through XX the

comparison group reported a higher percentage of shared tasks by husbands and wives than the study group. Possibly the sharing of daily tasks lessens the potential for strife in a relationship.

At this time the author would like to propose an additional study: incorporating the changes in the questionnaire as noted in section C, Chapter IV, Problems. In addition to these changes also adding a question that would enable the participants to list the role changes that they perceived in their relationship. The author would also like to propose an additional standardized test for autonomy be given to the female participants. With this auxiliary information possibly some correlations might be made between this study and Catherine C. Arnott's research concerning *Husbands Attitude and Wives Commitment to Employment*,¹ as discussed in the introduction to this paper.

As previously noted the research did not substantiate the hypothesis but certainly raised some additional questions, see Table XXII, concerning the issues surrounding role changes within a marriage.

¹Arnott, Catherine C., *Husbands Attitude and Wives Commitment to Employment*, Journal of Marriage and the Family, Nov. 1972, p. 673.

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