

USE OF TIME IN HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES
BY A SELECTED GROUP OF
OKLAHOMA HOMEMAKERS

By

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1957

Submitted to the Faculty of the
Graduate College of the
Oklahoma State University
in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for
the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
July, 1975

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer expresses genuine appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Florence McKinney, Professor and Head, Department of Home Management, Equipment and Family Economics, major thesis adviser, for her guidance, direction and interest prior to and during the study.

Appreciation is also expressed to Dr. Nick Stinnett, Associate Professor, Family Relations and Child Development; Dr. Christine F. Salmon, Associate Professor, Housing and Interior Design; and Dr. Elaine Jorgenson, Associate Professor, Home Economics Education, for serving on the thesis committee and for their encouragement and time devoted to the analysis of the manuscript.

Special thanks is expressed to Miss Sue Herndon, Assistant Professor, Home Management, Equipment and Family Economics, for allowing her class to pre-test the interview schedule.

Appreciation is expressed to Dr. Karen Kay Stewart, Associate Professor, Housing and Interior Design, for her timely assistance and encouragement and to Joyce Ryker for her patience and skill with the typing of this thesis. Special recognition is due Claudette Coleman, Mary Cundiff and Sylvester Combs for their unfailing support.

Dr. James L. Mosley, Acting President and Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma, is due special appreciation for his continued encouragement, understanding and assistance.

Gratitude is expressed to homemakers and their families who graciously gave of their time to participate in the study.

Sincere gratitude is expressed to my husband, Clifford, and my children, Diane, Gerald and LaDonna, for their understanding, patience and encouragement; and to Willa Combs, my sister, for her understanding support.

My late parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Ryan, are appreciated for having instilled in me an awareness of the significance of education.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

One of the most challenging aspects of home management relates to decisions regarding the use of resources, particularly the disposition of the homemaker's time used for homemaking work. Contrary to what was popularly assumed over the years, the homemaker of today, through technological advances, uses automatic equipment and convenience foods; but she still spends many hours on household work. Persons with small children and large families have particularly long hours.

Homemakers employed in the labor force also have long days as they combine homemaking work with employment work (Walker, 1969). Walker and Gauger (1973) concluded from their study that, if a woman could attach a dollar sign to what she does at home, she might decide how to allocate her time more satisfactorily between paid employment, non-paid work and leisure. The timing of various activities is frequently determined by conditions outside the home as well as within it.

Over the past years there have been changes in the nature of the family's work. While some of the changes have freed time, others simply have changed the way time is used.

Reasons for Making the Study

A number of problems are related to the ease of doing homemaking activities. These may be related to the age of the family members, family composition and size of the home. The hours spent in homemaking activities by the homemaker are also affected by the number of hours she works outside the home, the amount of planning of activities to be done and the assistance received from other family members. The reasons for making this study were as follows:

1. Many homemakers are employed outside their home.
2. Homemaking requires many hours.
3. Many homemakers need to manage their time more effectively.
4. Many problems and concerns have risen from unwise time management.
5. It was believed that homemakers could be helped through time management to overcome some of their problems.

There is also the possibility, and indeed a high probability, that the homemaker--after reviewing the present study--will be able to apportion her working hours both inside the home and out to better advantage so that her life will be made easier and will be greatly enriched.

Statement of the Problem

The problem of this study was to investigate the use of time by a selected group of homemakers to find out how much time is spent on the following activities: care of home,

clothing, financial management, care of family and self and food management. These activities were related to certain characteristics of homemakers and their families, namely: (1) size of the family, (2) age of homemaker, (3) place of residence, (4) size of the home, (5) amount of equipment in the home, (6) employment of the homemaker and (7) attitude toward selected household activities. Some basic assumptions for this study were made and are given below:

1. A one-day record of time spent in homemaking activities will be adequate for studying and comparing homemakers' use of time.
2. Tuesday would be a typical weekday to collect time records.
3. Having all the homemakers use the same day of the week for time records will provide a better comparison than free choice of weekdays.

Hypothesis

The amount of time spent in household activities is directly related to size of family, age of children, age of homemaker, place of residence, availability of household equipment and appliances, paid employment outside the home and attitude toward household activities.

Objectives

The objectives of the study were twofold: (1) to examine the amount of time spent in various activities by a specific group of the homemakers with whom the investigator was professionally involved in relation to size of family, age of homemaker, place of residence, size of home, household equipment available, employment of homemaker outside the home; and (2) to determine the attitude of homemakers toward selected household activities.

Specific objectives formulated for the study were:

1. To review the literature related to
 - (a) Time devoted to homemaking activities
 - (b) Questions asked concerning the disposition of time apportioned for the homemakers' activities
 - (c) Procedure used in other research studies on homemakers' use of time
2. To develop an interview schedule to determine time used by homemakers for major household activities in the following areas:
 - (a) Food management
 - (b) House care
 - (c) Clothing
 - (d) Care of family members and self
 - (e) Financial management

3. To determine the characteristics of the families involved in the study:
 - (a) Size of family
 - (b) Age of homemaker
 - (c) Location of home--rural or non-rural
 - (d) Rooms in the home
 - (e) Household equipment used in the home
 - (f) Employment status
 - (g) Attitude of homemaker toward selected activities
4. To draw implications from the data to help homemakers recognize the value of good time management in performing household activities.

Procedure of Study

The first step in conducting the study was to review literature related to time devoted to homemaking activities, the kinds of questions asked and the procedure used in other research studies. The second step was to develop an interview schedule for collecting data. The third step was to involve homemakers in the study through responses to the interview schedule. The fourth step was to tabulate the information from the completed interview schedules and data to determine frequencies and percentages of time of a 24-hour day used for homemaking activities. The final step was to develop an instrument as a guideline for the apportionment of time devoted to the household activities.

Permission was requested and approval granted by the Director of Cooperative Extension Service, Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma, to conduct the study. During the conference at which approval was granted for doing the study, it was decided that the study be done in Logan, Seminole and Okfuskee counties.

Within each of the counties selected, it was necessary to identify homemakers who were interested in participating in the program. Conferences were held with homemakers. The instrument to be used was discussed.

The subjects selected for the study were homemakers who attended a group meeting and met the following criteria:

(1) 18 years or over in age and (2) indicated a willingness to keep a record of one day's use of time--a Tuesday.

The interview schedule designed by the writer was used to collect certain characteristics of the homemakers and their use of time during one day.

Terminology Used in Study

The terms used in this study are defined as follows:

Activity - the condition of being active; movement, an action; doing (The World Book Dictionary, 1967 Edition).

Employed - working for pay; to work and receive pay (The World Book Dictionary, 1967 Edition).

Family - two or more persons living in the same household who are related to each other by blood, adoption, foster.

Homemaker - a woman (person) who manages a home and its affairs (The World Book Dictionary, 1967 Edition).

Household - all the people living in a house, family; domestic establishment (The World Book Dictionary, 1967 Edition).

Household Work - marketing, household management, household record keeping, food preparation, after-meal cleanup, house care, house maintenance, yard care, car care, washing, ironing, special care of clothing, physical and other care of family members; household work is the production of goods and services needed for the family to function in today's world (Walker, 1973).

Non-Employed - not working for pay (The World Book Dictionary, 1967 Edition).

Resource - wealth which includes time, energy, equipment and ability as well as money (Illinois Teacher for Contemporary Roles, Volume XVI, No. 2, November-December, 1972).

Tasks - a definite job to be done; work assigned or found necessary; any piece of work (The World Book Dictionary, 1967 Edition).

Time - any specified or defined period in question (The World Book Dictionary, 1967 Edition).

Limitations of the Study

This study is limited to the time spent for various activities in the home by 100 Oklahoma homemakers for a one-day period. The various homemaking activities will be noted by the participants, but the researcher will classify them into the following areas:

- (1) Food management
- (2) House care
- (3) Clothing
- (4) Care of the family
- (5) Financial management

The sample from which the data were collected was selected from three counties in the state of Oklahoma. The map presented in Appendix B shows the area and the county location.

Summary

This chapter contains a general overview of the investigation. The study is organized and presented in five chapters. Chapter I contains the introductions and background or basis for the study and the identification of the problem to be investigated. A study and review of related literature and research comprise Chapter II. In Chapter III are the presentation of the study design, the development of the instrument for the study and the data collection procedure used. Chapter IV deals with the analysis, interpretation and findings of the study. Presented in Chapter V are the summary of the investigation, the conclusion based on the findings, recommendations and suggestions for further research.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The review of the literature will be focused upon the statistics concerning women in the labor force, the influence of the Cooperative Extension Service and home economics research concerning the working woman.

Statistics Concerning Women in the Labor Force

According to the United States Department of Labor, more than 33 million women are in the labor force today, primarily for compelling economic reasons. In March, 1972, millions of the women in the labor force, including single women workers, were employed for the purpose of supporting themselves and others.

Nearly all the 6.2 million women workers who were widowed, divorced or separated from their husbands . . . particularly the women who were also raising children . . . were working for compelling reasons (U. S. Department of Labor, 1973, p. 1).

In addition, the 4.1 million married women workers whose husbands had an income below \$5,000 in 1971 almost certainly worked because of economic need.

It was conjectured that possibly 3 million more women might be added to this working force because of inadequate

(below the \$7,200 estimated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for an urban family of four) salaries of their husbands. About 3.3 million or 53 percent of the 6.2 million women who headed their families were gainfully employed in the labor market. Furthermore, more than three-fifths of these women were the sole wage earners in their families. In March, 1972, about 3.2 million of those 10.5 million mothers who had children under 18 years of age were helping to support their children.

The Influence of Cooperative Extension Service

The Cooperative Extension Service has, from the time of its inception, been interested in the family unit. At the present time, they realize the challenge faced by the homemaker because of the increased number of women who are working outside the home. It is conjectured by Extension that, by 1980, at least 60 percent of all women age 45 - 54 will be working. Most significantly will this increase in the working women have an impact on the family, particularly in the disposition of household tasks. There may not be the inevitable distinction between man's work and women's work. Extension points out that adjustments will have to be made.

Extension's focus is the family in the community and nation. Extension Service staff members work directly with those who are concerned with education for family and community living. Even in the present era of relative affluence,

families are not without problems. Extension home economics must channel its unique competencies to these problems. Areas of national concern are family stability, consumer competence, family health, family housing and community and resource development. Extension home economics program priorities focus on family-related programs and programs such as: decision-making regarding use of money, credit, time, skill and energy.

The clientele served by Extension includes young married couples, working women, parents and adolescents, adults preparing for retirement, disadvantaged, families with young children, small income families and rural and urban families.

Cowles and Dietz (1953) made a study of 85 Wisconsin homemakers on time spent on homemaking activities to see whether significant changes had occurred over the period of time since the early studies were made and to discover the factors exploratory of a high or low amount of time spent in various types of homemaking activities. Records for one week were kept by homemakers. Time sheets were used for recording all activities by five-minute intervals for seven consecutive days.

The Wisconsin study showed a decline in the number of hours spent in food activities and in sewing and mending and an increase in the time spent on family care and in purchasing and management. But the total time spent in homemaking per week went up as the household became larger.

This increase was apparent particularly in food preparation and clearing away and in care of the family.

Food preparation and clearing away increased from about 16 1/2 hours to 22 2/3 hours as the household size rose from two to seven or more persons. On the other hand, hours spent in care of the house and in sewing and mending tended to decline irregularly as household size increased.

Time spent in house care varied directly with the house size measured by the number of rooms. Homemakers living in two-story houses spent more time in house care than those living in one-story dwellings.

A study by Anderson and Fitzsimmons (1959) was made with Maude Wallace and home agents in 47 Virginia counties in addition to 190 homemakers working away from home for pay. Data were collected from questionnaires and a daily record of activities, including amount of time devoted to them in one week.

One hundred-ninety women returned schedules. Of these, 141 indicated they were employed full time, 47 part time, and two did not report the number of hours worked each week. Out of the 190 homemakers participating, 26 (14%) lived on farms.

Data revealed how a selected group of Virginia homemakers, who work away from home for pay, are employed, how they divide their time among homemaking and other activities,

and what percentages they contribute to total money incomes of their families or households.

The median family size living at home was between three and four. The homemaker's day was divided into three parts: household production, including all foods work, house care, clothing care, outside work and shopping; personal activities, including eating, personal care and dressing, health care of self, care of family members and activities with them, church and community activities, sleep and rest, recreation and entertainment; and work for pay, including travel time to and from work.

The average time spent in homemaking activities by part-time workers was 49 hours per week; that spent by full-time workers was 31 hours for the week the schedule was kept. Homemakers listed many activities they would like to have more time for, most of which were in the personal group. Twenty-five percent of the total group, the largest number, said they would like more time for resting and entertaining. Twenty-five percent wanted more time for reading. Twenty-two percent wanted more time for sewing, and 13 percent wanted more time for church work.

Home Economics Research Concerning
the Work of Women

Since 1920 the home economist has been interested in the amount of time women work in their homes. A study by Walker (1967) concluded that homemaking tasks still demand time despite the many conveniences available. Many hours are used for work in and around the home, especially by mothers of small children and mothers with large families.

In the Walker study, data were collected from a stratified random sample of 1,296 husband-wife families in the Syracuse, New York, area. Each family completed a two-day time record. These records were distributed among the days of the week and the seasons of the year. Total time the homemaker used for her family's work was not less, on the average, than it had been 40 years earlier. With the technological advances, the time allocated for specific household activities seems to have decreased; but in actuality the total work time has remained the same.

The most important variable in the Walker study was that time used for household work by the homemaker varies with the total number of children in the family and their ages. The average time used for household work by all homemakers in the sample was about seven hours per day. However, the average family with no children dropped to five hours.

Walker concluded today's family does not have many choices as to how it will use its valuable time resource to

attain the level and style of living it wants. Time and money have become more interchangeable in providing the family's goods and service, according to Walker. From time use reported by homemakers in this survey, the predicted short work day of the future may still be a distant dream for women.

A study by Manning (1968) was conducted to develop a technique for estimating or predicting the work load in Indiana homes based on factors in the family and physical environment which affect time use. The most influential factors affecting time use varied from task to task so that no single set of criteria could be used for all families and all tasks.

The procedure used in data collection was selected to provide an opportunity to study time used by the same families in all four seasons of the year. One week's daily time records were obtained from 111 Indiana families for each season. Time spent in all household tasks averaged 52.9 hours per week for urban families, 54.7 for rural non-farm families and 55.4 for rural farm families.

Among the 111 Indiana households, the average total time spent by all families in 15 household tasks was 54.1 hours. In this study the greatest amount of time was spent in meal preparation, averaging 10.2 hours; household care averaged 7.9 hours; care of children averaged 6.8 hours;

while little time, 0.6 hours per week, was spent on financial planning and record keeping.

A study by Hall and Schroeder (1970) surveyed 1,200 homemakers in Seattle through questionnaires. Data from 229 questionnaires were returned and were usable. The results of the study showed that the average time spent in performing all household tasks by the Seattle homemakers was 49.3 hours per week. The most time-consuming task was meal preparation with 13.0 hours. House care ranked second with 10.8 hours.

Gitobu (1972) compared time-use patterns for household activities for employed and non-employed rural homemakers to determine how employed homemakers manipulate other resources to balance family-related and employment-related roles. Data for seven days were collected by use of time records and interview schedules from all family members over six years of age from 60 families in Cortland County, New York.

Employed homemakers used two hours less a day for household work than did the non-employed. Homemakers' time use also related to the number of children and age of the youngest. A variety of labor-saving equipment, commercial services and meals eaten out were other methods used by the homemaker to reduce time constraint, but showed only weak or no relationship to her employment.

Over the years there have been changes in the nature of the family's work. While some of these changes have freed time, others simply have changed the way time is used.

Many labor-saving devices commonly used today lighten the work load. Some changes in the family's work have made it physically easier to do, and many people mistake "easier" for "less time consuming."

Walker and Gauger (1973) claim the extent of services that each family provides for its members depends primarily on three factors: the number of children in the family, the age of its youngest child (or the age of the wife in the childless family) and the employment status of the housewife outside the home in the labor force. The purpose of their study was to learn how much difference each added child made and how much difference it made if the youngster was school age. It was also important to learn how household work time of family members was affected when the mother was employed. It was found that the total time of all workers varied from a low of five hours per day in childless households with employed wives to a high of 18 hours per day in large households with non-employed wives. The number of hours contributed was related to number and age of children, with increased time costs in families with young children and in families with many children. Time contributed by all workers was lower in families where the wife was employed.

A study by Harvey (1973) revealed that a typical housewife has the job of managing the household, caring for the

children and doing the housework. Society generally views her efforts as important, time consuming and basic to a healthy society. "Just being a housewife" is the world's most diversified and demanding job.

Harvey states that many a homemaker simultaneously operates a short order cafe, a one-day laundry service, a diversified purchasing agency, a child-care center, a continuous cleaning and home management operation and a 24-hour-a-day counseling service. In her spare time, she fills in with interior decorating, clothing manufacturing, child bearing, gardening, gourmet cooking and cost accounting. At the same time, officially, society is reluctant to put a monetary value on the homemaker's contribution. Under our economic accounting system, the value of the work performed by a woman employed as a housekeeper in someone else's home is counted in the economy, but that of a woman doing her own household work is not.

A report by Vanek (1974) indicates that women who are not in the labor force devote just as much time to housework as their forbears did. According to Vanek, the non-employed woman in 1924 spent about 52 hours per week in housework; in the 1960's she spent 55 hours per week in housework. The amount of time devoted to household work by women not employed outside the home has been stable, varying only within the range from 51 to 56 hours--certainly an insignificant disparity. It appears that modern life, with all the

technological advances which assumedly would decrease the burden of the homemaker, has not shortened the woman's workday by a significant margin.

Part of the reason for this phenomenon may lie in the apparent shift in the amount of time devoted to various tasks. The decrease in the time normally required for producing food and clothing may be compensated for in the increase in time for shopping. Certainly the expenditure of time in household management and in family care, for example, has increased to the extent that any conservation of time in other activities--such as in food preparation because of the use of automatic equipment and convenience foods--has been abrogated. Vanek cites as examples the decrease in the time necessary for laundry because of the efficiency of the modern washers and dryers. However, there has actually been an increase in the number of hours required for this task because of the larger wardrobes and the increased frequency of laundering. Vanek also cites the case of the increase of labor hours necessitated in child care. As the family size decreases, there was an accompanying decrease in the number of hours devoted to this task.

In the postwar decade, child care has focused on the child's social and mental development as well as on the traditional aspects of health, discipline and cleanliness. Thus Vanek accounts for the increase in expenditure of hours for child care.

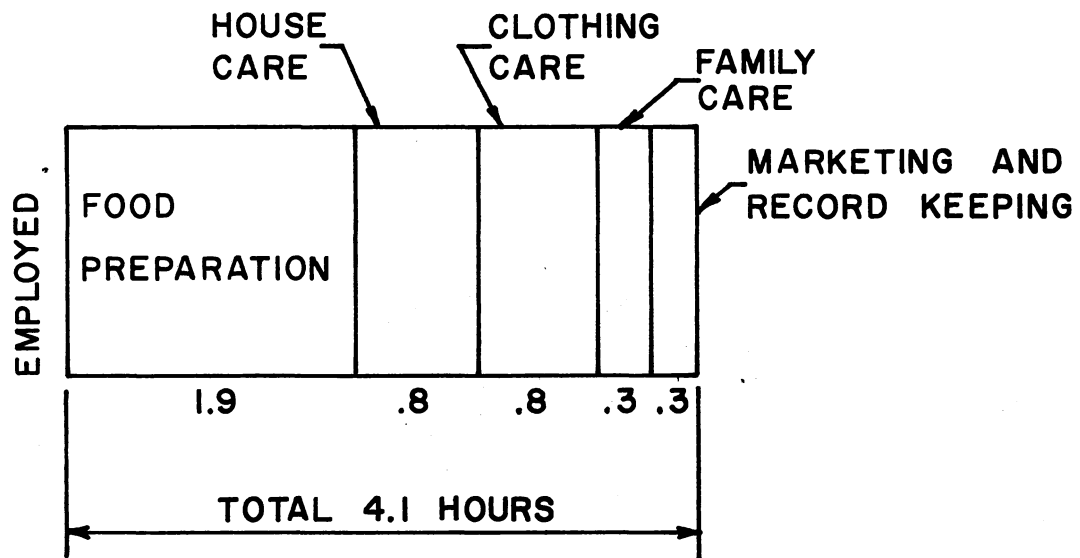
Significantly, Vanek points out that "the work week of the homemaker is longer than the work week of the average person in the labor force"--a phenomenon that should well illustrate the importance and worth of the homemaker.

Graphic Summary

The time of homemakers has been studied for a number of years by a number of different researchers. A review of four studies is summarized: (1) U.S.D.A., 1920, homemakers in cities over 100,000; (2) Hall and Schroeder in Seattle; (3) Walker with Syracuse, New York, homemakers; and (4) Wiegand homemakers.

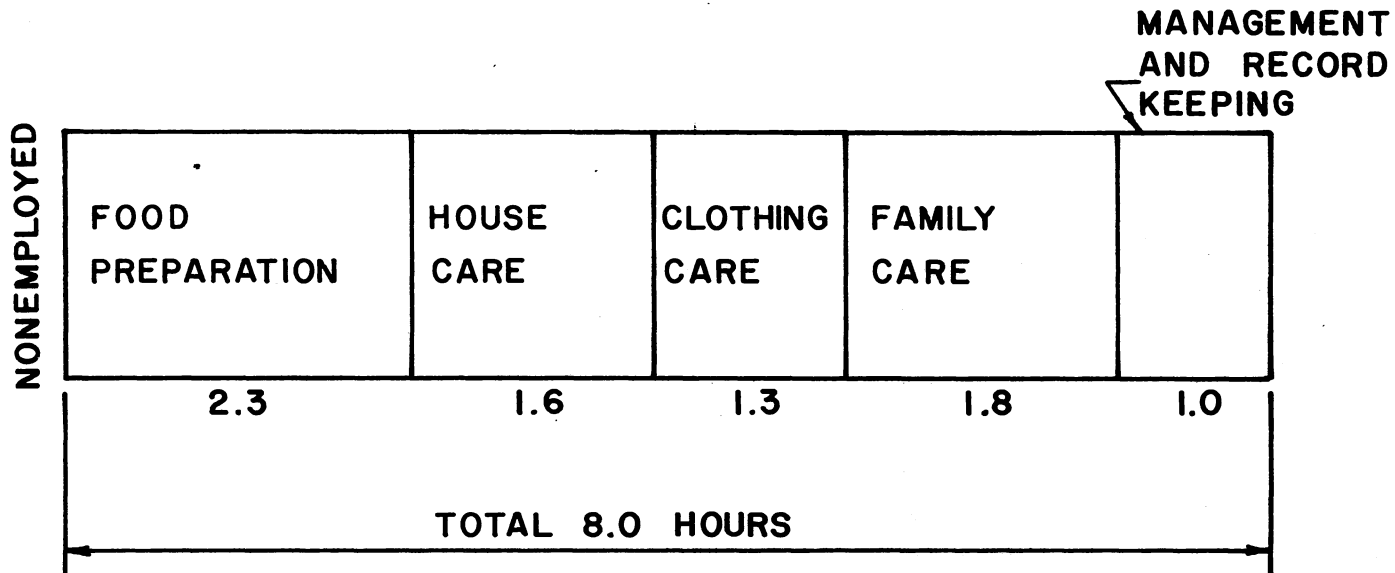
Figures 1 through 12 give a graphic comparison of hours spent by homemakers in various activities related to the home. These studies cover a period of 48 years, yet the total hours in homemaking have changed very little, amounting to about 50 hours per week. The time does differ for employed homemakers and those not employed outside the home.

Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 compare employed and non-employed homemakers' use of time in 1952 and 1967. Figures 5, 6 and 7 compare the employed, non-employed and all city homemakers' use of time in 1968. Figures 9, 10 and 11 compare employed, non-employed, all city and non-employed farm homemakers' use of time in 1952. Figure 12 shows all city homemakers' use of time in 1920.



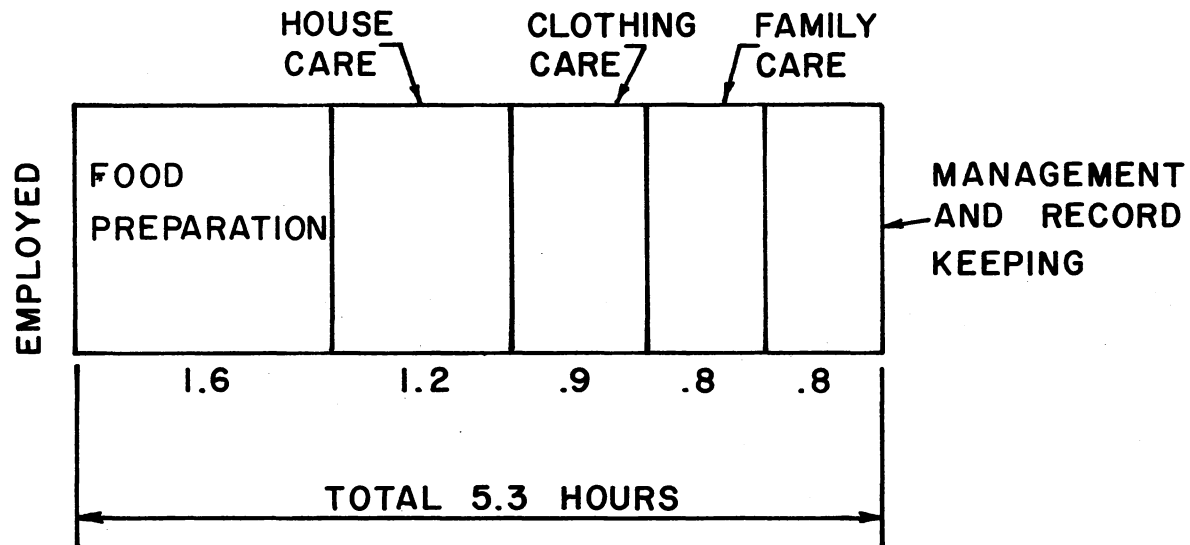
Source: Kathryn E. Walker, "Homemaking Still Takes Time," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. LXL, No. 8 (October, 1969), pp. 621-24.

Figure 1. Average Time Used Per Day in Household Work by Employed Urban Homemakers (Auburn, New York) in 1952



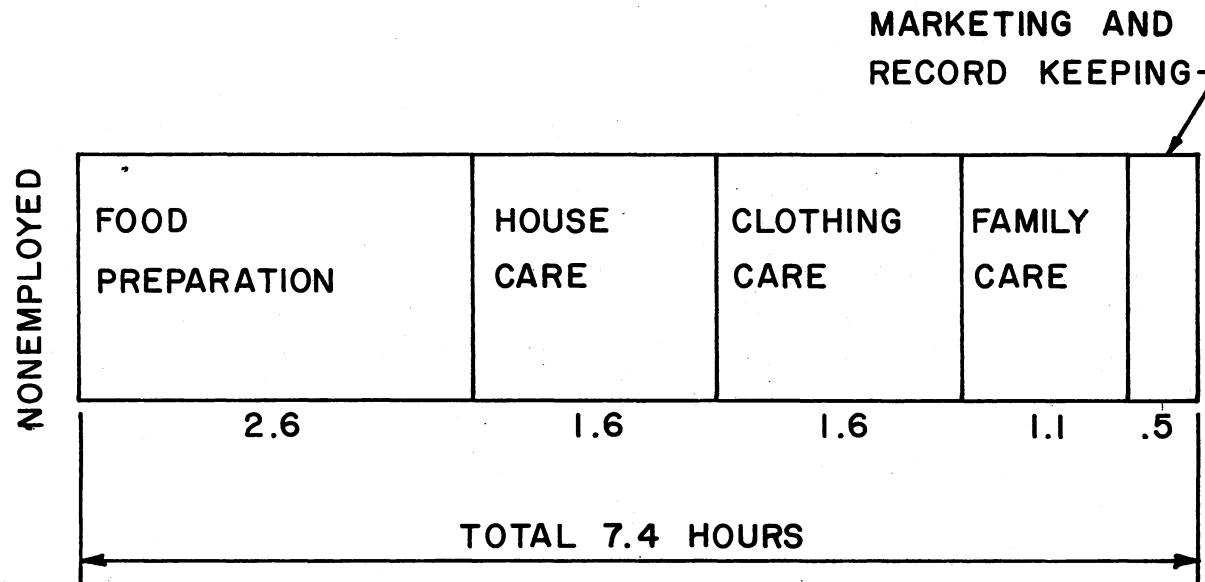
Source: Kathryn E. Walker, "Homemaking Still Takes Time," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. LXL, No. 8 (October, 1969), pp. 621-24.

Figure 2. Average Time Used Per Day in Household Work by Non-Employed Urban Homemakers (Auburn, New York) in 1952



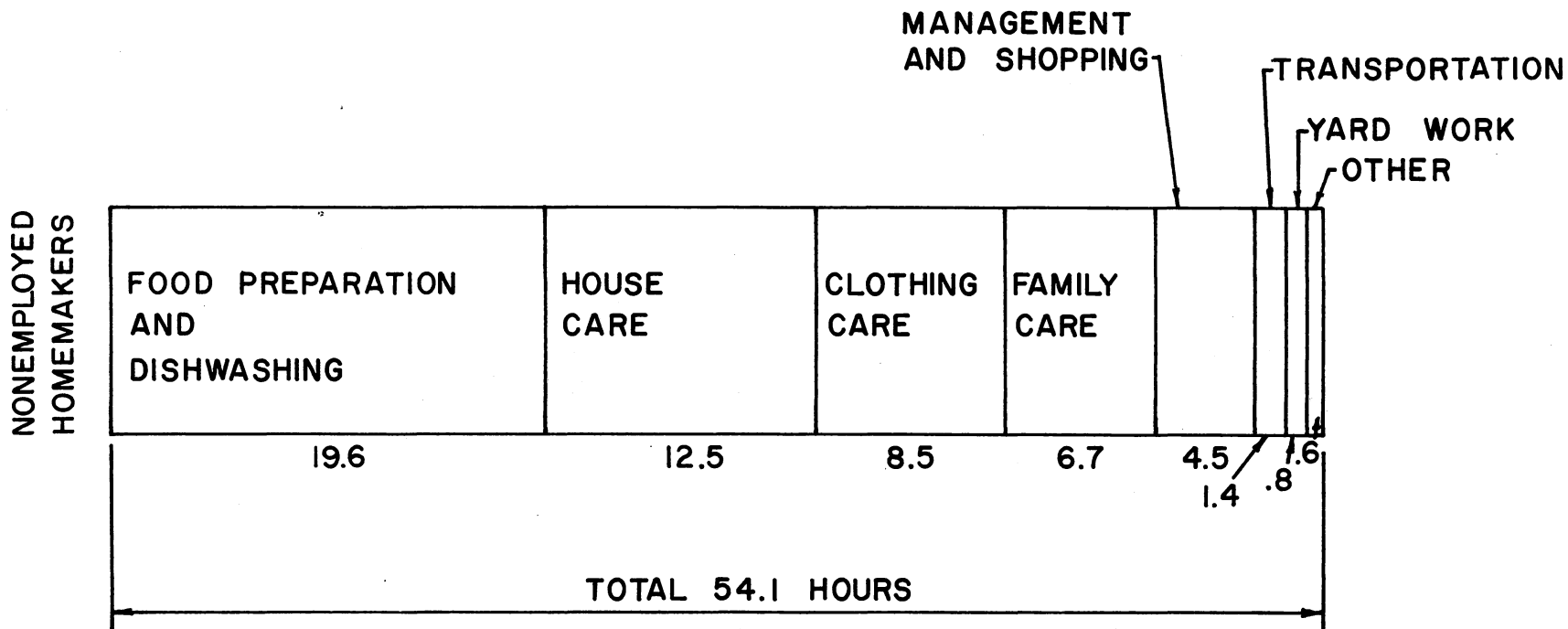
Source: Kathryn E. Walker, "Homemaking Still Takes Time," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. LXL, No. 8 (October, 1969), p. 622.

Figure 3. Average Time Used in Household Work in One Day by Employed Urban Homemakers (Syracuse, New York Area) in 1967-68



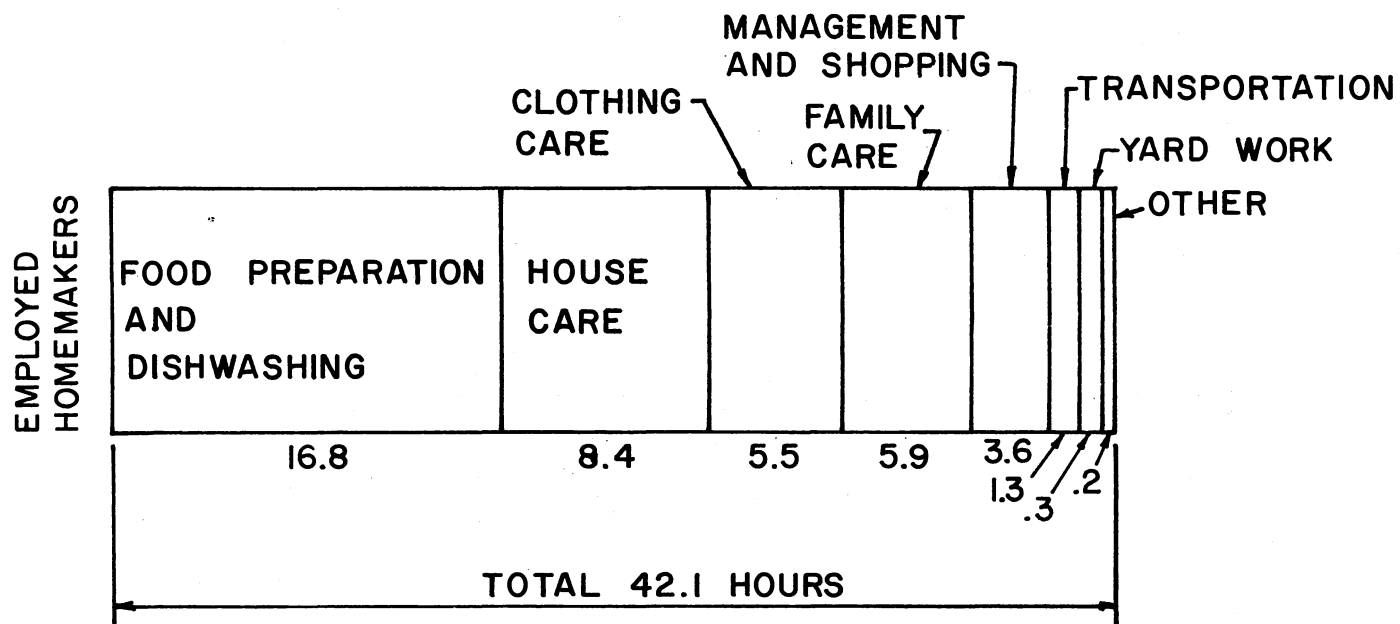
Source: Kathryn E. Walker, "Homemaking Still Takes Time," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. LXL, No. 8 (October, 1969), p. 622.

Figure 4. Average Time Used Per Day in Household Work by Non-Employed Urban Homemakers (Syracuse, New York Area) in 1967-68



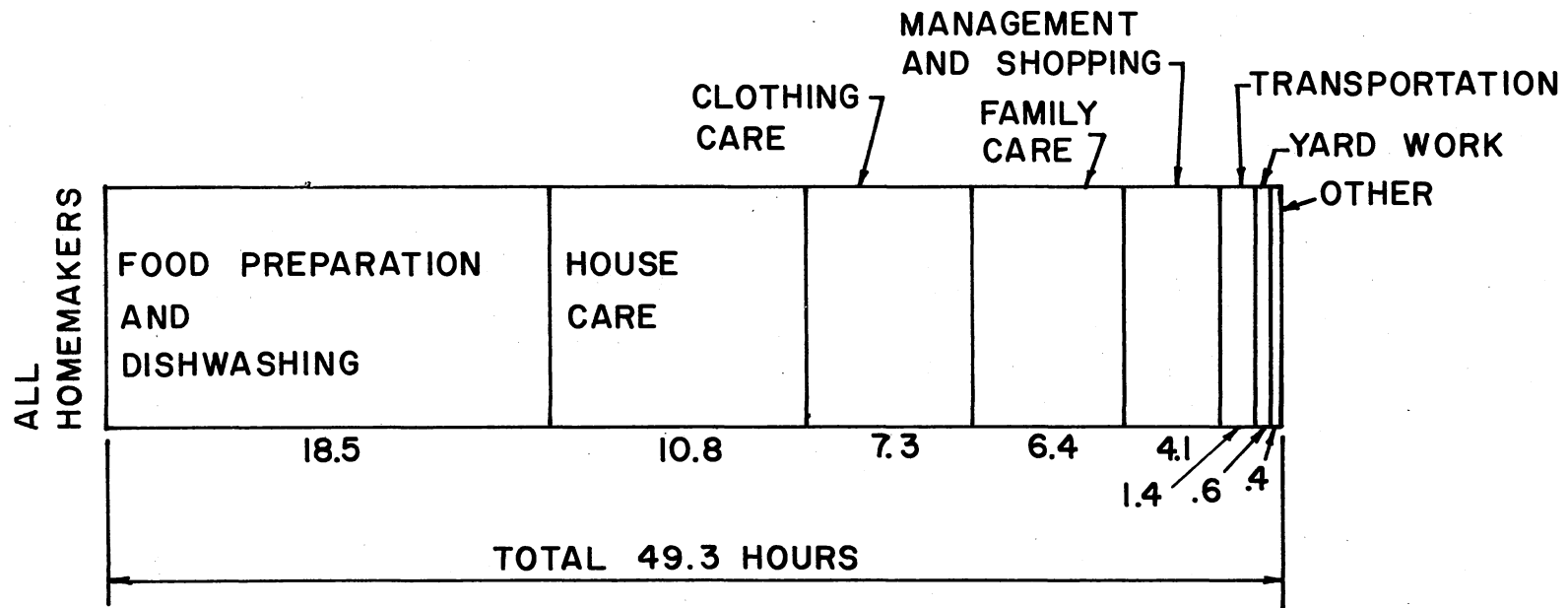
Source: Florence T. Hall and Marguerite P. Schroeder, "Time Spent on Household Tasks," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. LXII, No. 1 (January, 1970), p. 28.

Figure 5. Average Hours Per Week Spent at Household Tasks by Non-Employed City Homemakers (Seattle) in 1968



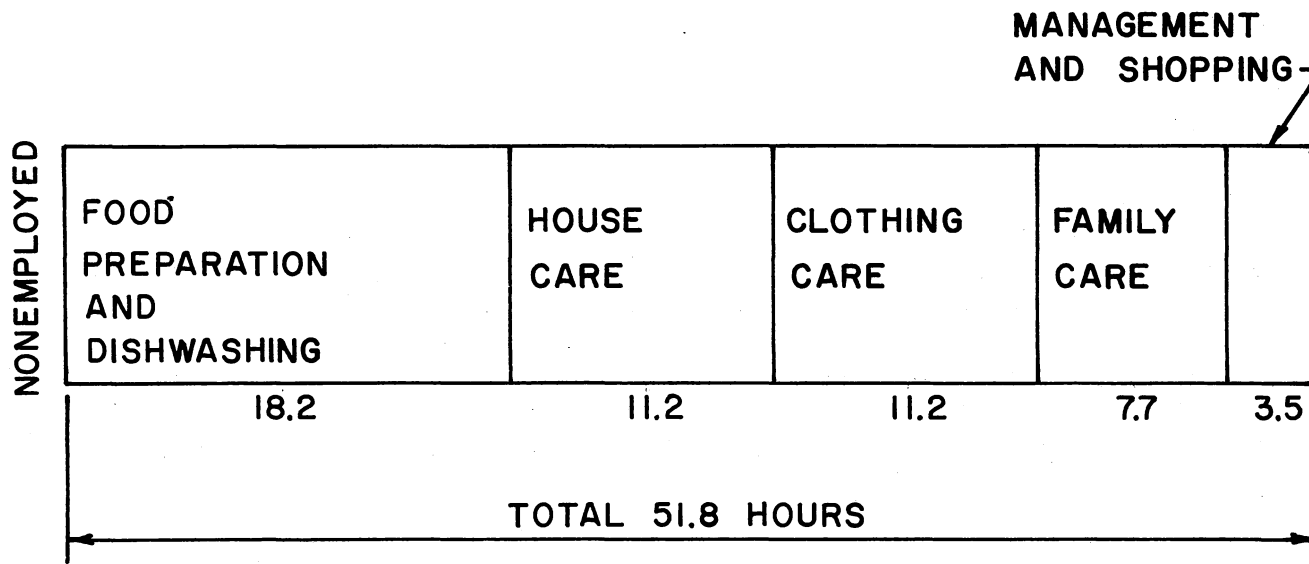
Source: Florence T. Hall and Marguerite P. Schroeder, "Time Spent on Household Tasks," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. LXII, No. 1 (January, 1970), p. 28.

Figure 6. Average Hours Per Week Spent at Household Tasks by Employed City Homemakers (Seattle) in 1968



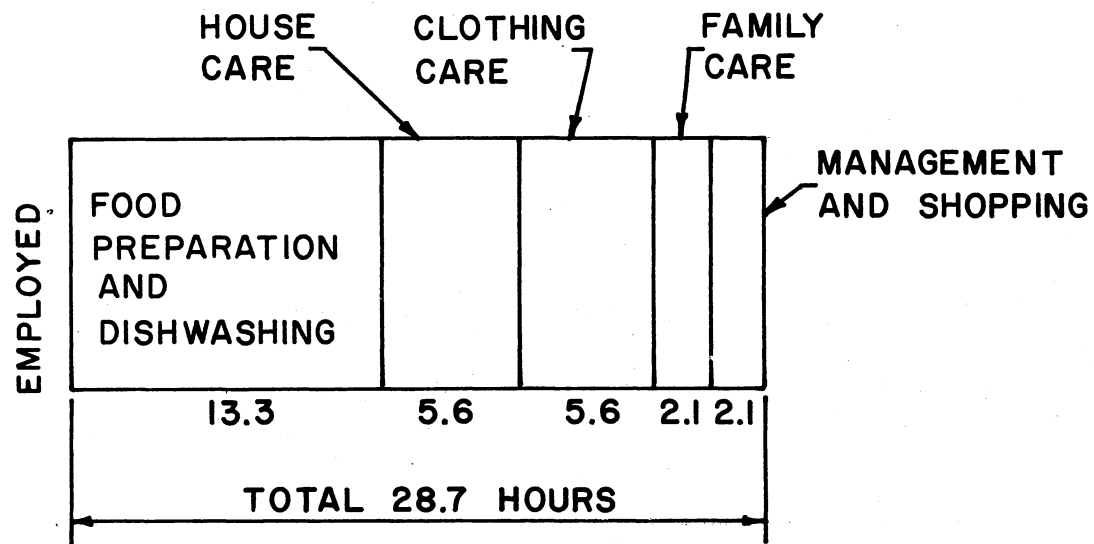
Source: Florence T. Hall and Marguerite P. Schroeder, "Time Spent on Household Tasks," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. LXII, No. 1 (January, 1970), p. 28.

Figure 7. Average Hours Per Week Spent at Household Tasks by All City Homemakers (Seattle) in 1968



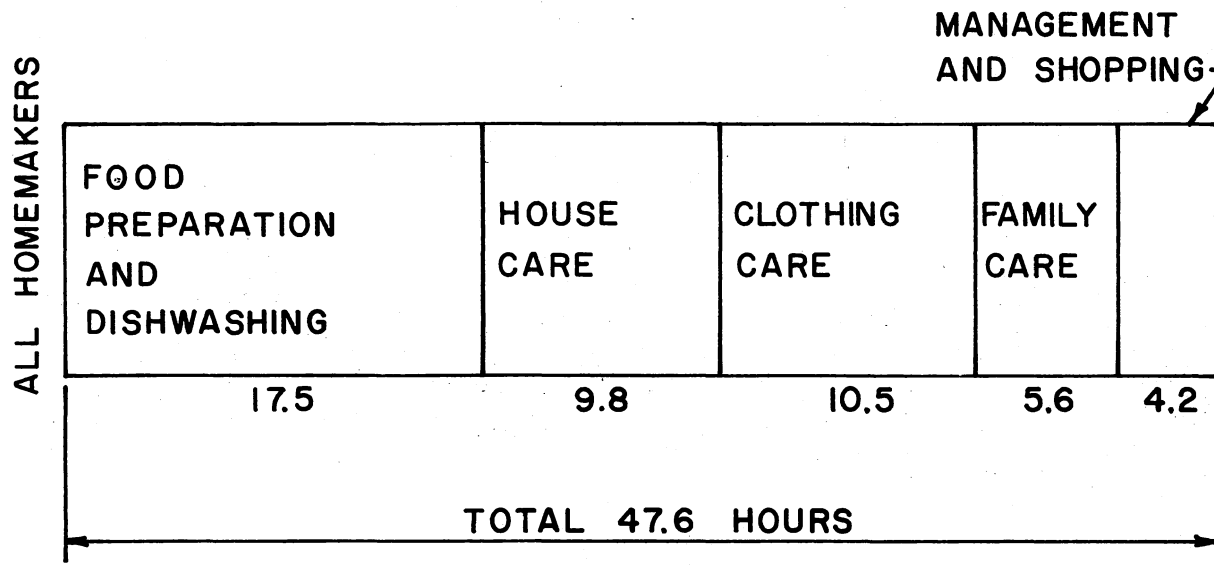
Source: Florence T. Hall and Marguerite P. Schroeder, "Time Spent on Household Tasks," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. LXII, No. 1 (January, 1970), p. 28.

Figure 8. Average Hours Per Week Spent at Household Tasks by Non-Employed City Homemakers (Wiegand) in 1952



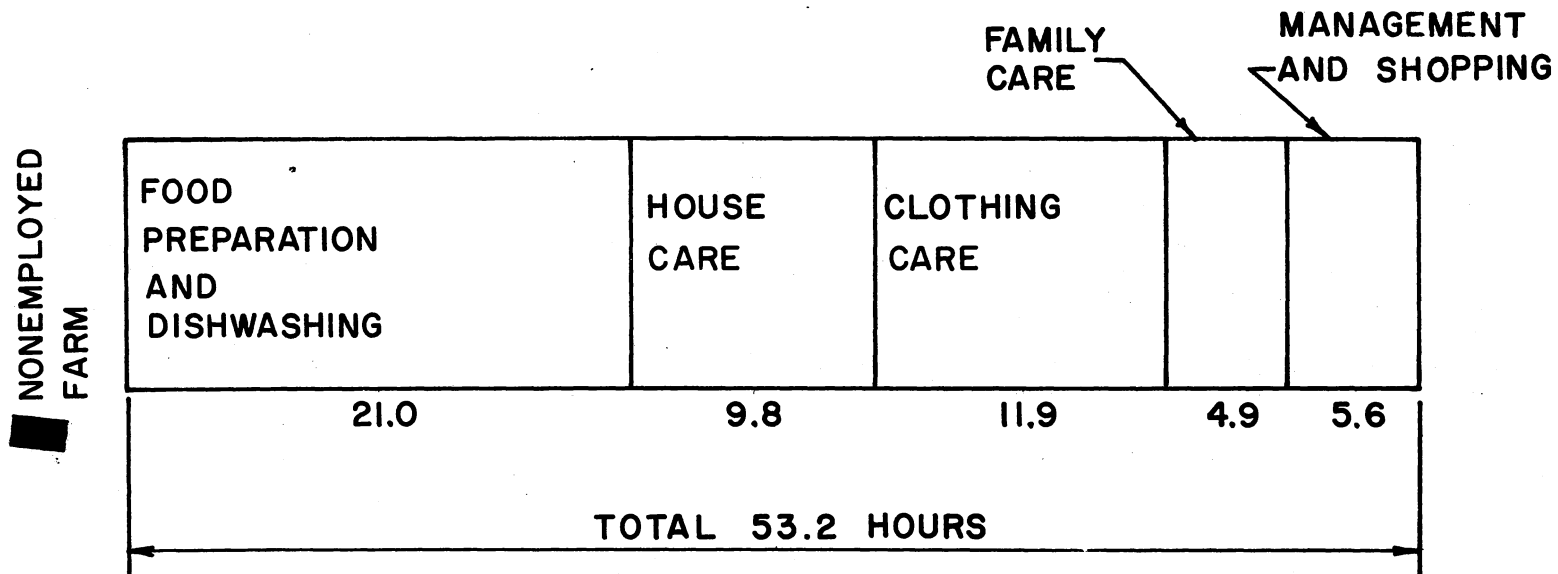
Source: Florence T. Hall and Marguerite P. Schroeder, "Time Spent on Household Tasks," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. LXII, No. 1 (January, 1970), p. 28.

Figure 9. Average Hours Per Week Spent at Household Tasks by Employed City Homemakers (Wiegand) in 1952



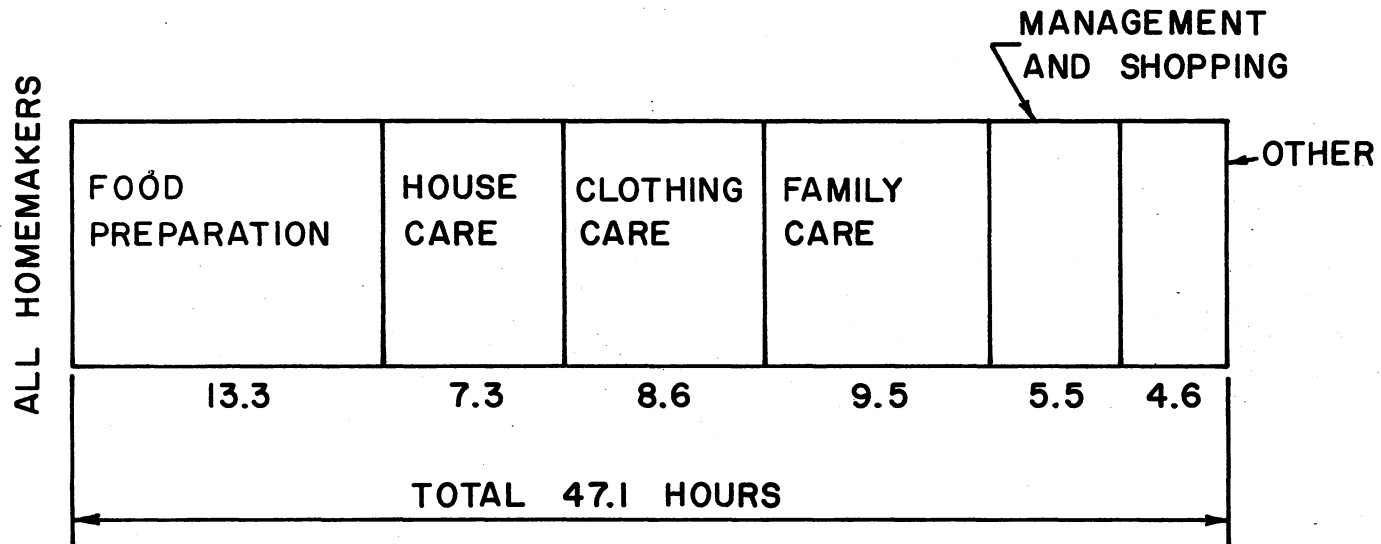
Source: Florence T. Hall and Marguerite P. Schroeder, "Time Spent on Household Tasks," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. LXII, No. 1 (January, 1970), p. 28.

Figure 10. Average Hours Per Week Spent at Household Tasks by All City Homemakers (Wiegand) in 1952



Source: Florence T. Hall and Marguerite P. Schroeder, "Time Spent on Household Tasks," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. LXII, No. 1 (January, 1970), p. 28.

Figure 11. Average Hours Spent Per Week at Household Tasks by Non-Employed Farm Homemakers (Wiegand) in 1952



Source: Florence T. Hall and Marguerite P. Schroeder, "Time Spent on Household Tasks," Journal of Home Economics, Vol. LXII, No. 1 (January, 1970), p. 38.

Figure 12. Average Hours Per Week Spent at Household Tasks by City Homemakers (Cities Over 100,000) in 1920 by the United States Department of Agriculture

Summary

This chapter contained a review of a number of studies related to time use of homemakers in household activities. From these studies, ideas were gleaned to be used in the interview schedule that would be set up in this study. The following chapter, Chapter III, will detail the method of procedure developed for this study.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

The study was designed to determine how a selected group of Oklahoma homemakers use their time in various household activities. Because the researcher was currently employed by the Cooperative Extension Service, Langston University, permission was requested and approval granted by the Director of the Cooperative Extension to do this study.

Selection of the Population

The counties of Logan, Seminole and Okfuskee in the state of Oklahoma were chosen for the location of this study. These counties were chosen because the researcher had some knowledge of the families and their needs, and the location was convenient, thus reducing the expense of the researcher for travel.

Another reason for choosing this location was that few studies have been conducted in this area, and the writer felt that those persons living here would be more open to filling out an interview schedule than a group in an area that is subject to frequent interviews or questionnaires.

Selection of the Sample

The sample was made up of 100 homemakers who attended previous extension group meetings, were 18 years of age and over and indicated an interest in time management and a willingness to keep a one-day record of time use.

Development of Interview Schedule

An interview schedule was developed for the gathering of data concerning the use of time for household activities by homemakers. The writer felt that the interview would permit study of homemakers for whom the written questionnaire was not applicable.

The interview schedule contained a series of eight questions followed by a sample time schedule and a suggested form for each participant to use in recording her use of time for one day. The eight questions asked for facts about the homemaker, her family, equipment, housing conditions and her attitude toward certain homemaking tasks (see Appendix C).

After the time schedules were collected from the homemakers, the researcher reviewed and combined the activities described into five groups (Appendix D). These five categories were the ones identified by other researchers and described in the review of the literature chapter. They were food management, care of home, care of clothing, care

of family and financial management. In the hand-tabulated data, these five phases were related to age of homemaker, size of family, size of home, ownership of selected equipment, employment status and attitude of homemakers toward selected household activities.

The interview schedule was pre-tested with a home management class who answered the questions and offered suggestions and comments for improvement of the questionnaire. Minor revisions were made in the form that was to be used with the selected homemakers; this is the form that appears in the appendix.

Collection of Data

Home visits were made by the researcher to the selected sample, the interview schedule was left with each homemaker and questions of the participants were answered. The interview schedules were collected during a meeting that had been previously scheduled at a date following the home visits.

Treatment of Data

After receiving the completed interview schedule, the writer tabulated the answers. All reported time was included in one of the five selected categories of time. Analysis of data in relation to the totals and percentages was computed and is discussed in Chapter IV.

Summary

This chapter included the procedure undertaken in this study. It consisted of a description of the sample selected for the study, explanation of the development of the interview schedule and description of the collection of data and the treatment of data.

Chapter IV presents an analysis of the data.

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The purpose of this chapter is to determine how 100 homemakers in three counties in Oklahoma use their time in household activities. Tables were developed to assist in depicting the relationship of the data between one dependent variable--time use of homemakers--and seven selected independent variables:

- (1) size of the family
- (2) age of homemaker
- (3) place of residence
- (4) size of home
- (5) amount of equipment in the home
- (6) employment of homemaker
- (7) attitude toward selected household activities

A detailed description of 100 homemakers who served as subjects for this study is presented in Table I. The sample of homemakers was divided into five age categories that ranged from under 30 years of age to 60 years and over. The greatest number of respondents were in the 30 - 39 and 50 - 59 year age groups. Forty-four percent of the respondents were in the 30 - 39 and 50 - 59 year age groups with 22 percent in each age group.

TABLE I
GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMEMAKERS

Characteristic	Number of Homemakers N = 100
<u>Age of Homemakers</u>	
Under 30	20
30 - 39	22
40 - 49	21
50 - 59	22
60 and over	<u>15</u>
<u>Size of Families</u>	
Live alone	10
2 - 3 persons	42
4 - 5 persons	26
6 - 9 persons	20
10 and over	<u>2</u>
<u>Place of Residence</u>	
Rural	38
Non-rural	<u>62</u>
<u>Employment Status</u>	
Employed	40
Unemployed	<u>60</u>

The families were divided into five size categories. The 42 percent had families consisting of 2 - 3 persons. Another 26 percent were 4 - 5 member families. The least number of homemakers (2.0%) had 10 and over in the family. The place of residence was combined into two categories of rural and non-rural. Sixty-two percent of the homemakers were non-rural residents. Sixty percent were not employed outside the home.

Table II shows the amount of time spent in the care of family members according to the size of the family. About 45 percent of the homemakers in the 2 - 3 member families spent 5 - 6 hours in the care of children. This is the largest number of homemakers. Seven homemakers (26.9%) in the 4 - 5 member families spent at least 3 but fewer than 4 hours, and 12 homemakers (46.1%) spent at least 5 but fewer than 6 hours.

It is surprising to note that the two homemakers with families of 10 and over persons spent less than 4 hours in the care of family while 70 percent of homemakers who lived alone spent 5 hours to 5 hours and 59 minutes in the activity.

TABLE II
TIME SPENT IN CARE OF FAMILY BY SIZE OF FAMILY

Time Spent in Care of Family	Size of Family									
	<u>Live Alone</u>		<u>2 - 3</u>		<u>4 - 5</u>		<u>6 - 9</u>		<u>10 & Over</u>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Response	0	0	2	4.7	0	0	1	5	0	0
Less than 2 hrs.	1	10	9	21.4	3	11.5	3	15	1	50
2 hrs. - 2 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	6	14.2	3	11.5	4	20	0	0
3 hrs. - 3 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	3	7.9	7	26.9	3	15	1	50
4 hrs. - 4 hrs. 59 min.	2	20	3	7.9	1	3.8	3	15	0	0
5 hrs. - 5 hrs. 59 min.	7	70	19	45.2	12	46.1	6	30	0	0

Table III shows the amount of time spent in financial management by the size of the family. Only 21 homemakers indicated they spent any time in financial management on the Tuesday used as report day.

Four (20%) of those 21 homemakers in the 6 - 9 member families spent less than 2 hours in financial management.

There is a possibility that, had another day of the week other than a Tuesday--the reporting day--been used, more financial management might have been reported. Of the 21 homemakers who spent time on financial management, 16 spent less than 3 hours; 8 spent less than 2 hours; and 8 spent more than 2 but less than 3 hours.

Table IV relates the size of the family to time spent in food management. In the 2 - 3 family size group, 35.7 percent of the homemakers spent 2 to 2 hours and 59 minutes in food management. In the group of homemakers who lived alone, 50 percent spent 3 to 3 hours and 59 minutes. In the 6 - 9 member family group homemakers, the largest group of homemakers (35%) spent 3 to 3 hours and 59 minutes in food management.

Although the smallest number of homemakers spending time in food management was in the 5-or-more-hour category, there were 7 of the 100 homemakers who spent as much as 5 hours or more per day in food management. Three of the

TABLE III
TIME SPENT IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BY SIZE OF FAMILY

Time Spent in Financial Management	Size of Family									
	<u>Live Alone</u>		<u>2 - 3</u>		<u>4 - 5</u>		<u>6 - 9</u>		<u>10 & Over</u>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Response	8	80	35	83.3	23	88.4	11	55	2	100
Less than 2 hrs.	0	0	3	7.1	1	3.8	4	20	0	0
2 hrs. - 2 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	3	7.1	1	3.8	4	20	0	0
3 hrs. - 3 hrs. 59 min.	2	20	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0
4 hrs. - 4 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	0	0	1	3.8	0	0	0	0
5 hrs. - 5 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	1	2.3	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE IV

TIME SPENT IN FOOD MANAGEMENT BY SIZE OF FAMILY

Time Spent in Food Management	Size of Family									
	Live Alone		2 - 3		4 - 5		6 - 9		10 & Over	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 2 hrs.	1	10	6	14.2	4	15.3	4	20	0	0
2 hrs. - 2 hrs. 59 min.	4	40	15	35.7	9	34.6	3	15	0	0
3 hrs. - 3 hrs. 59 min.	5	50	13	30.9	7	26.9	7	35	1	50
4 hrs. - 4 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	5	11.9	4	15.3	4	20	1	50
5 hrs. and over	0	0	3	7.1	2	7.6	2	10	0	0

7 were in 2 - 3 member families, and 2 each in 4 - 5 member and 6 - 9 member families.

Table V shows the time spent in care of the house by the size of family. Of the homemakers who lived alone, 40 percent spent 3 hours to 3 hours and 59 minutes in house care. Whereas the most time spent by the 2 - 3 member families was 4 hours to 4 hours and 59 minutes, 26.9 percent in the 4 - 5 member group spent 2 hours to 2 hours and 59 minutes in house care as did 30 percent of the families in the 6 - 9 member group.

Seventy percent of the people who lived alone spent from 3 hours to 4 hours and 59 minutes in house care. This could be because they were older or more meticulous in their work. The two homemakers in the 10-and-over families spent 3 hours to 5 hours in house care.

Time spent in house care was more evenly divided. Of the 88 responding to the question, 37 spent less than 3 hours, 40 spent 3 hours but less than 5 hours, and 11 spent 5 hours or more.

Table VI shows the time spent in care of clothing by homemakers according to the size of their families. The greatest proportions of those respondents having 6 - 9 children (35%) reported spending less than 2 hours per day in care of clothing; the smallest proportion (10%) was reported by those living alone.

TABLE V
TIME SPENT IN CARE OF HOUSE BY SIZE OF FAMILY

Time Spent in Care of House	Size of Family									
	<u>Live Alone</u>		<u>2 - 3</u>		<u>4 - 5</u>		<u>6 - 9</u>		<u>10 & Over</u>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Response	2	20	3	7.1	5	19.2	2	10	0	0
Less than 2 hrs.	0	0	9	21.3	4	15.3	3	15	0	0
2 hrs. - 2 hrs. 59 min.	1	10	7	16.6	7	26.9	6	30	0	0
3 hrs. - 3 hrs. 59 min.	4	40	8	19.0	2	7.6	3	15	1	50
4 hrs. - 4 hrs. 59 min.	3	30	11	26.1	3	11.5	4	20	1	50
5 hrs. and over	0	0	4	9.5	5	19.2	2	10	0	0

TABLE VI
TIME SPENT IN CARE OF CLOTHING BY SIZE OF FAMILY

Time Spent in Care of Clothing	Size of Family									
	<u>Live Alone</u>		<u>2 - 3</u>		<u>4 - 5</u>		<u>6 - 9</u>		<u>10 & Over</u>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Response	6	60	23	54.7	12	46.1	5	25	0	0
Less than 2 hrs.	1	10	8	19.0	6	23.0	7	35	0	0
2 hrs. - 2 hrs. 59 min.	2	20	6	14.2	3	11.5	3	15	0	0
3 hrs. - 3 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	3	7.1	3	11.5	2	10	2	100
4 hrs. - 4 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	0	0	1	3.8	3	15	0	0
5 hrs. and over	1	10	2	4.7	1	3.8	0	0	0	0

The greatest proportions of those who reported spending 2 - 3 hours in care of clothing were expressed by respondents living alone (20%).

The highest proportions of those respondents spending 4 - 5 hours in care of clothing were expressed by those with 6 - 9 members in the family (15%) while the second largest proportion of respondents reporting this much time in care of clothing was expressed by homemakers in 4 - 5 member families (3.8%).

It is reasonable that the families with 6 - 9 members would spend more time in clothing care.

Table VII indicates the time homemakers spent in house care by the age of the homemakers. Of the 22 persons in the 30 - 39 age range, five (22.7%) spent less than two hours in house care and five (22.7%) of the homemakers in the same age range spent 2 - 2 hours and 59 minutes in house care while two (9%) spent 5 hours and over. Eight (53.3%) of the age range of 60 and over spent 4 hours to 4 hours 59 minutes in the care of the home.

Table VIII shows the amount of time spent in care of the family by age of homemaker. Five (22.7%) homemakers in ages ranging from 30 - 39 spent 3 hours to 3 hours 59 minutes in care of their family compared to two (9.5%) in the 40 - 49 age group, two (9.1%) in the 50 - 59 age group, and one (6.6%) in the 60-and-over age group. This is understandable because homemakers in the 30 - 39 age group most

TABLE VII

USE OF TIME IN CARE OF THE HOME BY AGE OF HOMEMAKER

Care of Home	Age of Homemaker									
	Under 30		30 - 39		40 - 49		50 - 59		60 & Over	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No time recorded	3	15	3	13.6	3	14.2	2	9.0	1	6.6
Less than 2 hrs.	3	15	5	22.7	3	14.2	2	9.0	2	13.3
2 hrs. - 2 hrs. 59 min.	6	30	5	22.7	7	33.3	4	18.1	1	6.6
3 hrs. - 3 hrs. 59 min.	4	20	3	13.6	2	9.5	7	31.8	2	13.3
4 hrs. - 4 hrs. 59 min.	2	10	4	18.1	5	23.8	3	13.6	8	53.3
5 hrs. and over	2	10	2	9.0	1	4.7	4	18.1	1	6.6

TABLE VIII

USE OF TIME IN CARE OF FAMILY BY AGE OF HOMEMAKER

Care of Family	Age of Homemaker									
	Under 30		30 - 39		40 - 49		50 - 59		60 & Over	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Response	1	5	0	0	1	4.8	1	4.5	0	0
Less than 2 hrs.	5	25	4	18.1	3	14.2	2	9.1	2	13.3
2 hrs. - 2 hrs. 59 min.	1	5	5	22.7	2	9.5	3	13.6	1	6.6
3 hrs. - 3 hrs. 59 min.	4	20	5	22.7	2	9.5	2	9.1	1	6.6
4 hrs. - 4 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	1	4.5	3	14.2	3	13.6	2	13.3
5 hrs. and over	9	45	7	31.7	10	47.6	11	50.0	9	60.0

likely have young children in the family and there is a need for more care of family members.

A total of 31.7 percent of homemakers in the 30 - 39 age group spent 5 hours and over in caring for their families. Ten (47.6%) homemakers in ages ranging from 40 - 49 spent 5 hours or more in care of family. Eleven (50%) homemakers, ages 50 - 59, spent 5 hours and over in caring for their families. Nine (60%) homemakers in the 60-and-over age group spent 5 hours and over in the same tasks. The 60-and-over age group probably did special things and had plenty of time because they are unemployed.

Regardless of the age group of homemakers, the largest proportion in each category spent 5 or more hours in the care of family.

Table IX shows the time spent in care of clothing by age of the homemaker. In the 40 - 49 age group, 23 percent of the homemakers spent less than 2 hours in care of clothing. In the 60-and-over age range, 40 percent spent 2 hours to 2 hours 59 minutes, while in the under-30 age group, 15 percent spent 3 hours to 3 hours 59 minutes in clothing care. Nine percent of the 30 - 39 and 50 - 59 year olds spent 4 hours to 4 hours 59 minutes. Six percent of the 60-and-over age range spent 5 hours and over. Nine percent in the 50 - 59 age group spent 5 hours and over.

TABLE IX

USE OF TIME IN CARE OF CLOTHING BY AGE OF HOMEMAKER

Care of Clothing	Age of Homemaker									
	Under 30		30 - 39		40 - 49		50 - 59		60 & Over	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Response	13	65	9	40.9	12	57.1	8	36.3	4	26.6
Less than 2 hrs.	4	20	4	18.1	5	23.8	5	22.7	3	20.0
2 hrs. - 2 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	3	13.6	3	14.2	3	13.6	6	40.0
3 hrs. - 3 hrs. 59 min.	3	15	3	13.6	1	4.7	2	9.0	1	6.6
4 hrs. - 4 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	2	9.0	0	0	2	9.0	0	0
5 hrs. and over	0	0	1	4.5	0	0	2	9.0	1	6.6

Table X describes the use of time in financial management by age of homemaker on a Tuesday. Of the 100 homemakers, 77 did not indicate time that could be classified as financial management. In the 40 - 49 age group, about 28 percent (6) of the homemakers spent 2 hours to 2 hours 59 minutes in financial management. Only four (18%) of the 50 - 59 year olds spent any time, and that was less than 2 hours. One of the 60-and-over age group spent 5 hours and over.

Ten percent of the under-30 year olds spent 2 hours to 2 hours 59 minutes in financial management.

Table XI describes how the age of the homemaker relates to the use of time in food management. The highest percentage, which was 45 percent, was the under-30-year-old group who spent 2 hours to 2 hours 59 minutes in food management. The 40 - 49 age group was the second highest with 38 percent spending 3 hours to 3 hours 59 minutes.

Only four percent of the 50 - 59 age group spent less than 2 hours. Thirteen percent of the 60-and-over age group spent over 5 hours; also 13 percent of this same age group spent 4 hours to 4 hours 59 minutes in food management. The percent of homemakers spending 2 hours to 2 hours 59 minutes in food management decreases as their age increases.

TABLE X

USE OF TIME IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BY AGE OF HOMEMAKER

Financial Management	Age of Homemaker									
	Under 30		30 - 39		40 - 49		50 - 59		60 & Over	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Response	17	85	19	86.3	13	61.9	18	81.9	10	66.6
Less than 2 hrs.	0	0	2	9.0	1	4.7	4	18.1	1	6.6
2 hrs. - 2 hrs. 59 min.	2	10	1	4.5	6	28.5	0	0	3	20.0
3 hrs. - 3 hrs. 59 min.	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 hrs. - 4 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	0	0	1	4.7	0	0	0	0
5 hrs. and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6.6

TABLE XI

USE OF TIME IN FOOD MANAGEMENT BY AGE OF HOMEMAKER

Food Management	Age of Homemaker									
	Under 30		30 - 39		40 - 49		50 - 59		60 & Over	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than 2 hrs.	3	15	5	22.5	3	14.2	1	4.5	3	20.0
2 hrs. - 2 hrs. 59 min.	9	45	7	31.8	6	28.5	6	27.2	3	20.0
3 hrs. - 3 hrs. 59 min.	5	25	8	36.3	8	38.1	7	31.8	5	33.3
4 hrs. - 4 hrs. 59 min.	3	15	1	4.5	3	14.2	5	22.7	2	13.3
5 hrs. and over	0	0	1	4.5	1	4.5	3	13.6	2	13.3

Table XII describes how time was spent in care of house by size of house. In regard to homemakers who lived in 3 - 4 room homes, about five percent spent 5 hours or over in house care. Twenty-five percent of homemakers with 7 and over rooms in the home spent 4 - 4 hours and 59 minutes. Ten percent spent over 5 hours in the home with 7 and over rooms. Sixteen percent of homemakers with 5 rooms in the home spent less than 2 hours; also, 16 percent spent 2 hours - 2 hours and 59 minutes with the same amount of rooms.

A total of 4.7 percent of homemakers living in 3 - 4 room houses spent 5 hours and more compared to 17.1 percent of homemakers living in houses of 6 rooms who spent 5 hours and more in care of the home. One reason why this occurred could be that larger houses take more time to clean.

Table XIII shows the employment status of homemakers by age. In the under-30 age group, 60 percent were employed whereas 93 percent of the homemakers over 60 were non-employed. It is possible that the older homemakers are retired. In the 30 - 39 age range, 59.1 percent of the homemakers were employed. The number of employed homemakers dropped off dramatically in the upper age groups.

Table XIV shows the place of residence by age of homemaker. Ninety-five percent of the homemakers under the age of 30 were non-rural, whereas 53 percent of the homemakers aged 60 and over were rural. Forty-five percent of the homemakers 50 - 59 years of age lived in rural areas, but

TABLE XII
TIME SPENT IN CARE OF HOUSE BY SIZE OF HOUSE

Time Spent in Care of House	Size of House (Rooms)							
	3 - 4		5		6		7 & Over	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No Response	3	14.2	2	8.3	4	11.4	5	25
Less than 2 hrs.	4	19.0	4	16.6	4	11.4	3	15
2 hrs. - 2 hrs. 59 min.	3	14.2	4	16.6	8	22.8	5	25
3 hrs. - 3 hrs. 59 min.	5	23.8	6	25.0	7	20.0	0	0
4 hrs. - 4 hrs. 59 min.	5	23.8	6	25.0	6	17.1	5	25
5 hrs. and over	1	4.7	2	8.3	6	17.1	2	10

TABLE XIII
EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HOMEMAKERS BY AGE

Employment Status	Age of Homemaker									
	Under 30		30 - 39		40 - 49		50 - 59		60 & Over	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Employed	12	60	13	59.1	8	38.1	6	27.2	1	6.6
Non-Employed	8	40	9	40.8	13	61.9	16	72.7	14	93.3

TABLE XIV
PLACE OF RESIDENCE BY AGE OF HOMEMAKER

Place of Residence	Age of Homemaker									
	Under 30		30 - 39		40 - 49		50 - 59		60 & Over	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Rural	1	5	9	40.9	10	47.6	10	45.4	8	53.3
Non-Rural	19	95	13	59.0	11	52.3	12	54.5	7	46.6

59 percent of the 30 - 39 age group of homemakers were non-rural.

Forty-five percent of the 50 - 59 year olds were rurally located. Fifty-two percent of the 40 - 49 year olds were rural. Five percent of the homemakers under the age of 30 lived in rural areas compared to 53.3 percent in the 60-and-over age group who lived in the rural areas. The younger homemakers seem to be non-rural and the older tend to live in the rural areas.

Table XV shows ownership of selected home equipment by homemakers. The largest percent of homemakers have essential equipment, as indicated by the 100 having refrigerators, 95 having gas or electric ranges and 97 having electric irons. Only 9 had dishwashers, 34 had clothes dryers and 40 had automatic washers.

Table XVI describes the total time spent in household activities on a Tuesday relative to employment status of homemakers. Thirty-five percent of the employed homemakers spent 16 to 16 hours 59 minutes in household activities. Of the unemployed homemakers, 21.6 percent spent 15 to 15 hours 59 minutes in household activities. Eighteen percent of the unemployed homemakers spent 14 hours to 14 hours 59 minutes.

Thirty percent of the employed homemakers spent 15 hours to 15 hours 59 minutes. Two percent of the unemployed spent 11 hours to 11 hours 59 minutes in household activities. Five percent of the employed spent this same amount of time.

TABLE XV

OWNERSHIP OF SELECTED HOME EQUIPMENT BY HOMEMAKERS

Piece of Equipment	Homemakers Owning Equipment			
	<u>By 75 or More</u> No.	<u>By 50 - 74</u> No.	<u>By 25 - 49</u> No.	<u>Less Than 25</u> No.
Vacuum Cleaner		69		
Electric Iron	97			
Automatic Washer			40	
Clothes Dryer			34	
Sewing Machine		73		
Gas/Electric Range	95			
Refrigerator	100			
Freezer		66		
Electric Mixer	75			
Electric Skillet		54		
Dishwasher				9

TABLE XVI

TOTAL TIME SPENT IN HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES ON A TUESDAY
RELATIVE TO EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HOMEMAKERS

Total Time Spent	<u>Employed</u>		<u>Not Employed</u>	
	No.	%	No.	%
11 hrs. or less	0	0	4	6.6
11 hrs. - 11 hrs. 59 min.	2	5.0	1	1.6
12 hrs. - 12 hrs. 59 min.	1	2.5	7	11.6
13 hrs. - 13 hrs. 59 min.	2	5.0	9	15.0
14 hrs. - 14 hrs. 59 min.	5	12.5	11	18.3
15 hrs. - 15 hrs. 59 min.	12	30.0	13	21.6
16 hrs. - 16 hrs. 59 min.	14	35.0	12	20.0
17 hrs. - 17 hrs. 59 min.	3	7.5	3	5.0
18 hrs. - 18 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	0	0
19 hrs. - 19 hrs. 59 min.	0	0	0	0
20 hrs. and over	1	2.5	0	0

Table XVII shows homemakers' attitudes toward selected household activities. Of the homemakers who said they really disliked certain household tasks, more named jobs identified with food management than any other category (see Appendix E).

Summary

Chapter IV has presented the analysis of data. Seventeen tables were developed to assist in depicting the relationship of the data between one dependent variable--time use of homemakers--and the seven selected independent variables: (1) size of the family, (2) age of homemaker, (3) place of residence, (4) size of home, (5) amount of equipment in the home, (6) employment of homemaker and (7) attitude toward selected household activities.

Chapter V contains the summary, conclusions and recommendations of this study.

TABLE XVII

HOMEMAKERS' ATTITUDES TOWARD SELECTED HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES

Selected Household Activities	Attitude of Homemakers													
	Really Enjoy		Like		Neutral		Dislike		Really Dislike		Not Applicable		No Answer	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Care of Home	76	29.2	156	27.5	52	22.9	11	11.3	1	7.1	3	7.5	1	33.3
Food Management	83	31.9	194	34.2	86	37.8	31	31.9	10	71.4	6	15.0	0	0
Care of Clothing	52	20.0	141	24.8	56	24.6	45	46.3	1	7.1	3	7.5	2	66.7
Financial Management	49	18.8	76	13.4	33	14.5	10	10.3	2	14.2	28	70.0	0	0

These categories are more than 100 because the single items were combined into column-related categories.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The overall purpose of this study was to investigate the use of time by a selected group of homemakers to find out how much time is spent on care of home, care of clothing, financial management, care of family and self and food management. These activities were related to certain characteristics of the homemakers and their families such as size of family, age of homemaker, place of residence, size of home, amount of equipment in the home, employment of the homemaker and attitude of homemaker toward selected household activities.

The population selected for the study was composed of homemakers who lived in Logan, Seminole and Okfuskee counties in the state of Oklahoma.

The sample consisted of 100 homemakers who were 18 years of age and over, had attended previous extension group meetings and had indicated an interest in time management and a willingness to keep a one-day record of time used in their homemaking activities. An interview schedule was developed which consisted of eight questions seeking facts about the homemaker, family, equipment and attitude toward certain

homemaking tasks and a form for recording use of time on a Tuesday.

After the time schedules were collected, the researcher combined the activities into five groups: food management, care of home, care of clothing, care of family and financial management. In the hand-tabulated data, these five phases were related to age of homemaker, size of family, size of home, ownership of selected equipment, employment status and attitude of homemakers toward selected household activities.

The homemakers were almost evenly divided in the five age categories. Those 60 and over represented the smallest group (15). Forty-two lived in 2 - 3 person families. Sixty-two were non-rural and 60 were not employed outside their homes.

Homemaking tasks still take much of the homemaker's time despite such technological advances as indicated by ownership of refrigerators, ranges, electric irons and electric mixers. The total time spent in homemaking activities on a Tuesday ranged from less than 11 hours (four homemakers) to over 20 hours (one homemaker). One-half of these 100 homemakers spent 15 to 17 hours.

The greatest amount of time spent by these homemakers was in (1) meal preparation, (2) household care and (3) care of family members. Very little time was spent on financial management. In other research studies (Hall and Schroeder, Weigand, Walker), meal preparation was also the most time consuming of the homemaking activities.

In the first category of variables--family care--size of the family had an impact on the expenditure of time of the homemaker in family care. In those families consisting of 2 - 3 members, the homemaker spent on the average 5 to 6 hours in care of the family, while the largest number of homemakers (19) in the study--with families consisting of 4 - 5 members--spent from 3 to 5 hours in family care. In the category of 6 - 9 family members, the largest number of homemakers (6) expended 5 to 6 hours in family care.

In the second household activity--financial management--only 21 of the 100 homemakers indicated spending any time on that Tuesday in financial management. For those responding, the amount of time was usually less than 3 hours.

In the third activity--food management--the expenditure of time of those who lived alone was less than 4 hours. About two-thirds of the 2 - 3 member families spent 2 to 4 hours in food management. Those in the 4 - 5 member families and those in 6 - 9 member families were rather evenly distributed over the five time groups. Those with 10 and over spent from 3 - 5 hours.

In the fourth activity--care of house--the expenditure of time ranged from less than 2 hours to 5 hours and over. Of the 88 homemakers using time that was categorized as home care, 37 spent less than 3 hours, 40 spent 3 hours but less than 5 hours, and 11 spent 5 hours or more.

In the fifth activity--care of clothing--46 homemakers did not indicate any time spent in this way on the record

day. Of those responding, less than 2 hours was spent by most homemakers, regardless of family size. One homemaker living alone reported spending more than 5 hours.

In the second category of variables--age of the homemaker--homemakers from all age groups were spread over the range of time, spending from less than 2 hours to over 5 in home care. The most time spent, by about one-fourth of the homemakers, was 2 hours to 2 hours and 59 minutes. More homemakers over 60 spent more time in care of the home than did younger homemakers. In respect to care of the family, only 3 homemakers did not report time spent in this way. Over 5 hours of time was spent by 46 homemakers. In every age group this amount of time was reported by the largest number of homemakers. In care of clothing, 46 homemakers from all age groups did not report any time. Those under 30 spent less than 2 hours to 4 hours, as did the 40 - 49 group. The 30 - 39 age group, as well as the 50 - 59 and 60 and over, spent from less than 2 hours to over 5 hours.

In respect to financial management, the under-30 group spent from 2 hours to 4 hours; the 30 - 39 group spent from less than 2 hours to 3 hours; the 40 - 49 group spent from less than 2 hours to 5 hours; the 50 - 59 group spent less than 2 hours; those 60 and over spent from less than 2 hours to over 5 hours. However, 79 of the 100 homemakers did not report any time related to financial management on this Tuesday. All homemakers reported some time in food manage-

ment. Over 50 percent of homemakers in each age group spent from 2 hours to 3 hours 59 minutes. The older homemakers tended to spend more time than the younger ones.

Considering the third category of variables--the size of the house--those homemakers living in homes of 3 - 4 rooms, 5 rooms, 6 rooms and 7 tended to spend about the same amount of time on the care of the house. While it varied from less than 2 hours to over 5, the average was approximately 2 to 3 hours. There was a trend toward the larger homes to have more homemakers spending more time on care of house.

As to the fourth category of variables--the employment status of homemakers--those employed spent from 11 hours to 20 hours and over, the non-employed spent from less than 11 hours to 18 hours as total time spent in homemaking activities on a Tuesday.

In respect to the attitudes of homemakers to combined homemaking activities, there seemed to be a diversity of opinion with regard to the pleasure taken in these duties. Consequently, there would be a corresponding diversity in the time spent on such duties by the homemakers. These homemakers spent the most time in food-related activities and indicated this as an activity they really enjoy or like.

Conclusions

The following conclusions appear to be warranted: The investigator sought primarily to determine if the size of family, age of homemaker, place of residence, size of home, amount of equipment in the home, employment status and attitude toward selected household activities had a significant impact on the amount of time spent in household activities by homemakers.

The evidence presented in this study seemed to indicate that these factors do have an impact on time spent on household activities by homemakers in varying degrees.

In regard to size of the family, the expenditure of time on household activities by different size families indicated that as the size of the family increased there was no corresponding increase in the number of hours spent in these tasks. It can be assumed that the greater the number in the family, the greater sharing of household duties with the result that fewer hours are actually spent by the homemaker in these activities.

As the age of homemakers increased, there was a definite increase in the number of hours spent on household activities. This phenomenon might be attributed to the fact that the homemakers had more free time to indulge in the pleasurable aspects of homemaking once the family decreased. Then, too, older homemakers may not wish to move as rapidly as they once did. As might be expected, the larger home

necessitated a greater expenditure of the homemaker's time.

Full-time homemakers spent considerably more hours in household activities than did those employed. This might indicate that those with more time on their hands could enjoy the duties of homemaking, whereas those employed might consider efficiency in expediting the work as more important to allow time for outside-of-the-home activities.

Those whose attitudes toward household activities were favorable spent longer hours in the enjoyment of these tasks, whereas those who found housework tedious spent less time in performing the routine duties.

The greatest number of attitude responses in homemakers' activities was in food management, followed by care of the home and care of clothing. The least interest was shown in financial management. The statistics seemed to indicate neglect of financial management, but probably this aspect is actually an integral part of just about every facet of home-making and undoubtedly there is a greater expenditure of time on this activity than the statistics would indicate.

The researcher believes that there are common factors or guidelines that can be followed in encouraging persons to use time more advantageously, so that there is more time for extra activities after the necessary activities are completed.

Since the study was made, homemakers have commented that they are interested in becoming more involved in time management activities. They have expressed a desire to

participate in activities with their family and friends. Homemakers have shown increased interest in time management and have asked that lessons be taught in this area.

Homemakers' attitudes are a key factor in the amount of time spent in household activities. All homemakers interviewed expressed a need for time-saving methods. Some indicated they wanted free time spent with their families to be really free. They wanted ideas for ways to organize their work and plan ahead so that they could involve the skills of family members. Most homemakers indicated that, when time is limited, good family relationships are far more important than good housekeeping.

The evidence presented in this study shows that the amount of time spent in household activities is associated with the size of family, age of homemaker, size of home, employment status of homemaker and attitude of homemaker toward selected activities.

Recommendations

The findings of this study seem to support the following recommendations:

1. Additional research related to time use by homemakers in household activities be studied.
2. Additional research be undertaken to determine why homemakers use so much time in food management and house care.

3. Studies be conducted on how homemakers can spend less time on household activities.
4. The study be replicated with a similar group of homemakers in another area of the state.
5. A study be made to determine the amount of time that could be saved by the homemaker if she planned her time differently.
6. A study dealing with what homemakers are doing to decrease their time in household activities be conducted.
7. The results of these studies be disseminated in a manner valuable to homemakers to improve their time use.
8. A study be done with a larger group of homemakers in small towns and rural areas.
9. Extension home economists use this type of study in planning programs for homemakers.
10. A better-organized plan for household activities be undertaken for household duties and allow time for enrichment of leisure time.

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APPENDIX A
REQUEST AND PERMISSION
TO DO THE RESEARCH

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

LANGSTON UNIVERSITY**(405) 466-2387**

LANGSTON, OKLAHOMA 73050**P. O. BOX 970 - MOORE HALL 115**

September 11, 1974

Dr. James L. Mosley, Director
Cooperative Extension Service
Langston University
Langston, Oklahoma 73050

Dear Dr. Mosley:

My graduate program has progressed to a point that I am ready to begin my research problem. I am interested in "Time Management Among Homemakers."

The purpose of this study is to determine how homemakers use their time in the performance of household activities as related to food management, clothing, housecare, financial management, and care of family members.

I am interested to begin this study in the fall of 1974 in Logan, Seminole and Okfuskee counties.

I shall greatly appreciate a reply indicating your approval. Should you have any questions, I can arrange to be available at your convenience.

Respectfully yours,

Ruby D. King

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

(405) 466-2387



LANGSTON, OKLAHOMA 73050

P. O. BOX 970 - MOORE HALL 115

February 28, 1975

Mrs. Ruby D. King
Route 3
Kingfisher, Oklahoma 73750

Dear Mrs. King:

I received your letter of September 4, 1974 requesting the opportunity to do research for your graduate program in the specific areas of Logan, Seminole and Okfuskee Counties.

Let me assure you that I am in agreement with your interest in doing research meaningful to Extension for your Master's Program. You have my permission to proceed with the study as planned.

I would be interested in knowing the results of the study. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James L. Mosley".

James L. Mosley
Director of Extension

APPENDIX B

MAP OF COUNTIES FROM WHICH DATA WERE
COLLECTED FOR THIS STUDY

APPENDIX C

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Date _____

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE
General Information

Your cooperation in this research project is greatly appreciated. The absence of your name and address assures anonymity. Please check or fill in answers as appropriate to each question. The blanks at the extreme left of the page are for purposes of coding (do not fill in).

- _____ (do not fill in)
- _____ 1. What is your family size?
- _____ 1. live alone
- _____ 2. 2-3
- _____ 3. 4-5
- _____ 4. 6-10
- _____ 5. 10-over
- _____ 2. What ages are the children who live in your home?
1. no children _____
2. age of boys _____
3. age of girls _____
- _____ 3. Would you tell me your age within a 10-year range?
- _____ 1. under 20 years
- _____ 2. 20-29
- _____ 3. 30-39
- _____ 4. 40-49
- _____ 5. 50-59
- _____ 6. 60-69
- _____ 4. Where do you live?
- _____ rural farm _____ town (5,000-9,000)
- _____ rural, non-farm _____ town (10,000-15,000)
- _____ town (less than 5,000)
- _____ 5. How many rooms do you have in your home? _____
(do not include bathrooms, hallways, closets)

- ___ 6. Which of the following conveniences or pieces of equipment do you have in your home?
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| ___ vacuum cleaner | ___ refrigerator |
| ___ electric iron | ___ freezer |
| ___ automatic washer | ___ electric mixer |
| ___ clothes dryer | ___ electric skillet |
| ___ sewing machine | ___ dishwasher |
| ___ gas or electric range | |

- ___ 7. At the present time, are you employed outside the home?
- ___ no
- ___ yes, full time
- ___ yes, less than 20 hours per week
- ___ yes, less than full time but more than 20 hours per week

8. Some of us like to do certain tasks better than others. Please indicate your preference for the tasks listed below using this code:

RE - really enjoy
 L - like
 N - neutral
 D - dislike
 RD - really dislike
 NA - not applicable

If a task does not happen to be one you do, it should be marked NA.

Attitude toward:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| ___ regular care of house | ___ shopping |
| ___ special care of house | ___ sewing |
| ___ upkeep of house | ___ special food preparation |
| ___ washing | ___ food preservation |
| ___ ironing | ___ dishwashing |
| ___ record keeping,
financial planning | ___ meal preparation |

Now I would like for you to record your activities for one day. I will leave the sheets for your record. Please look below and see the example of one homemaker's record. After you have looked at it, please use the last page for your individual record for Tuesday, _____, 1974.

AN EXAMPLE OF A COMPLETED
ACTIVITIES TIME SCHEDULE FOR ONE DAY

Time of Day	Activities of the Homemaker	Amount of Time Spent
6:00	Get dressed	15 min.
6:15	Baby feeding	15 min.
6:30	Prepare breakfast	15 min.
7:00	Breakfast for 3-year-old	30 min.
7:30	Wash dishes	30 min.
7:45	Straighten living and dining room	15 min.
8:15	Bathe and care for baby - take outdoors for outdoor air	30 min.
9:00	Make beds and straighten bedroom and bathroom	45 min.
9:30	Put laundry in machine to wash; Iron the clothes from yesterday's wash	5 min. 30 min.
10:00	Continue ironing	30 min.
10:30	Clean kitchen	30 min.
11:00	Feed baby	30 min.
11:30	Prepare luncheon	30 min.
12:00	Clean up after luncheon and stack dishes	30 min.
12:30	Bathe and put to bed 3-year-old	30 min.
1:15	Rest period me (read)	45 min.
	and so forth	
	until	
10:00	Get ready for bed - sleep	10 min.

9. Please record how your time was spent on Tuesday, _____, 1974, in your various activities and the amount of time for each activity. If you need more than one page, use the backs of the preceding pages.

AN ACTIVITIES TIME SCHEDULE

Time of Day	Activities of the Homemaker	Amount of Time Spent

APPENDIX D

LIST OF HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES

LIST OF HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES

Food Management

planning meals	food preservation
preparing meals	clearing table
eating meals	washing dishes
serving meals	putting away clean dishes
packing lunches	shopping for food
storing	

Care of Home

making beds	mopping floors
picking up	washing walls
dusting	washing windows
sweeping	cleaning tub, sink and toilet bowl
vacuuming	painting
making repairs	

Care of Clothing

washing	folding
storing	ironing
pressing	mending
sewing	

Care of Family

caring for baby	caring for spouse
feeding	visiting with
bathing	sharing with
dressing	
playing with	caring for handicapped
	feeding
caring for children	visiting with
playing with	writing letters for
sharing	dressing and bathing
transportation	
sleeping	personal care

Financial Management

(Marketing, Management and Records)

shopping	storing purchased articles
clothing	going to bank
furnishings	keeping accounts
car care	
paying bills	planning for activities

APPENDIX E

HOMEMAKERS' ATTITUDES TOWARD SELECTED
HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES

HOMEMAKERS' ATTITUDES TOWARD SELECTED HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES

Household Activities	Attitudes of Homemakers*						
	Really Enjoy	Like	Neutral	Dislike	Really Dislike	Not Appli- cable	No Answer
Regular House Care	34	49	12	4	0	0	1
Special House Care	24	47	21	6	0	2	0
Upkeep of House	18	60	19	1	1	1	0
Washing	13	66	17	3	0	0	1
Ironing	5	33	28	32	1	0	1
Record Keeping	11	31	20	8	2	28	0
Shopping	38	45	13	4	0	0	0
Sewing	34	42	11	10	0	3	0
Special Food Preparation	27	34	31	3	3	2	0
Food Preservation	19	55	18	4	0	4	0
Dish Washing	4	45	24	23	4	0	0
Meal Preparation	23	60	13	1	3	0	0

*If there were two answers, the highest answer was chosen.

VITA²

Ruby D. Ryan King

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: USE OF TIME IN HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES BY A
SELECTED GROUP OF OKLAHOMA HOMEMAKERS

Major Field: Home Management, Equipment and
Family Economics

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in Oktaha, Oklahoma, January 26,
1934, the daughter of William and Lala Lambeth
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Education: Graduated from Dunbar High School,
Shawnee, Oklahoma, May, 1952; received the
Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics
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Professional Experience: Family Living Specialist,
Cooperative Extension Service, Langston Uni-
versity, Langston, Oklahoma, since 1972; Food
Service Supervisor, Morning Side Hospital,
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Supervisor, Oklahoma Medical Center, Oklahoma
City, Oklahoma, 1957-60.

Professional Organizations: Oklahoma and American
Home Economics Associations; American Associa-
tion of University Women; Phi Upsilon Omicron;
National Council on Family Relations; Langston
University Home Economics Council and Alumni
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