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A study of the marriage role expectations of junior college students

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A STUDY OF THE MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS OF
JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

A Thesis
Presented to
the Faculty of the Department of Sociology
The University of the Pacific

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Sociology

by
Sylvia Duncan Braheny

May 1967

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Many problems in social relations have arisen from, or have been intensified by, the change in the United States from a society which was primarily rural in orientation and patriarchal in family organization to a complex, urban, mass society with its new pressures, new demands, new roles and new role concepts. The family as an institution has been under particular pressure, and we have seen an increasing change in family structure and function in response to continuing changes in other institutions and ideas.

One concept which has become increasingly pervasive over the past generation is that marriage should, as a major function, provide means of personal satisfactions of husband and wife, as opposed to the traditional view that the welfare of the family per se should supersede that of any of its individual members.

Paradoxically, as the desire for personal fulfillment in marriage has grown, the possibilities for conflict between husband and wife have also increased. Many of those who consider personal fulfillment a major function of marriage do not find the satisfactions for which they seek, and these individuals are among those who contribute substantially to the number of marriage break-ups today. When conflicts

arise, the other partner to the marriage is held at fault, rather than the nature of the relationship itself. This philosophy is illustrated not only by the numbers of marital break-ups, but by the high percentage of divorcés who remarry, many of them more than once, still seeking for the perfect relationship. The increasingly high divorce rate and its effect on the institution of marriage is a source of concern to many social scientists today although, as Kirkpatrick remarks, married persons in general today may be actually happier than those of former generations because many very unhappy marriages are now ended by divorce. Also, frequently divorce takes place not because the marriage is an extremely unhappy one, but merely because it is "not quite happy enough."¹

It should be stressed that many complex factors interact to contribute to the support or to the reshaping of any social institution. However, it is fitting to abstract any of these factors for purposes of study -- to learn more about the factor itself, and thus perhaps to shed some light upon the part it plays in the total process of change.

It has long been considered that one of the main sources of friction in modern marriages is the different

¹Clifford Kirkpatrick, The Family as Process and Institution (New York: The Ronald Press Company, 1955), p. 520.

concepts of role held by husband and wife.² This problem is especially significant in our times because of the change in generally held concepts of role in the United States from the sharply differentiated, traditional husband-wife types to a more equalitarian, less dichotomous concept. Whereas modern, equalitarian roles are often considered more *à propos* to modern life, studies have shown that it is differing views of the types of roles properly held by husband and wife which cause conflict in marriage rather than a traditionalist orientation per se.³

A fruitful area for study, then, would seem to be an inquiry into role concepts held by marriage partners or by potential marriage partners.

I. THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

It is the purpose of this study to explore the nature of the marriage role expectations of students who are enrolled in a junior college course in marriage and the family. By means of a questionnaire, students were assigned

²John Sirjamaki, The American Family in the 20th Century (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1953), p. 176.

³Sally L. Kotlar, "Instrumental and Expressive Marital Roles," Sociology and Social Research, XLVI (January, 1962), 186-194; R. F. Stuckert, "Role Perception and Marital Satisfaction," Marriage and Family Living XXV (November, 1963), 415-419.

ranks on a scale ranging from traditional to equalitarian views of marriage roles. Sub-scale scores were obtained in the areas of authority, homemaking, care of children, personal characteristics, social participation, education, and employment and support. By means of Pearson product-moment correlations it was determined whether the above scores were independent of sex, social status, dominance, self-acceptance, socialization and flexibility. *Hypothesis 2*

Although a great body of information, speculative, theoretical, and empirical exists regarding the state of marriage, comparatively little research has been done with those who are about to enter marriage. According to the United States Bureau of the Census the average age of men in the United States who marry is 22.8 years. Women marry at the average age of 20.6.⁴ Thus it can be seen that the junior college population may be held to be on the threshold of marriage.

Attitudes and behavior of all types, including those affecting roles played by husband and wife, and expectations of the types of roles to be played by the spouse are of vital importance to the success or failure of any marriage. Yet it is a truism to social scientists that attitudes and

⁴Statistical Abstract of the United States (Washington, D. C. United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1966), p. 63.

behavior of any kind do not spring full-blown in response to any situation, but are the product of the life experiences which have served to shape the complex nature of each individual.

One of the main purposes of college courses in marriage and the family is to help students clarify their thinking so that they may be enabled to assess more correctly the factors involved in building a successful marriage -- if possible before they are involved with a potential marriage partner. The findings of empirical research should prove helpful to both teachers and students of such courses in gaining insight into sources of conflict.

Because of the limitations of time and space, only a few aspects of marriage role expectations have been investigated in this study. Many other such studies would have to be undertaken in order to produce an authoritative work, but it is in accumulation of data such as this that the general body of knowledge grows.

Therefore, it is the general purpose of this study to add to the body of empirical knowledge available to teachers of junior college courses in marriage and the family. This in turn might aid in the organization and presentation of such courses so that they may be made more meaningful and more helpful to the students. Courses based upon the realities of life and dealing with contemporary attitudes and

problems, rather than with ideal images or out-dated concepts of what students' attitudes should be, might prove to be of benefit to many future marriages, and through these marriages to society as a whole.

II. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Marriage role expectations. Since the days of Mead and Cooley, roles have been consciously identified as meaningful aspects of human behavior. It has been frequently charged, however, that there are very nearly as many definitions of role as there are sociologists.

For purposes of this study, role is held to be synonymous with Parsons' definition: "A role is then a sector of the total orientation system of the individual actor which is organized about expectations in relation to a particular interaction context, that is integrated with a particular set of value standards which govern interaction with one or more alters in the appropriate complementary roles."⁵

Marriage roles, therefore, are those collections of patterns of behavior and values which are viewed as appropriate for marriage partners -- i.e., husband and wife. Each individual, it can be seen, will hold two marriage roles to

⁵Talcott Parsons, The Social System (Glencoe: The Free Press, 1951), p. 38.

be appropriate -- one for himself and one for his spouse.

Since we are not dealing with married persons, that is, persons who are already enacting these roles, the questionnaire given measures the expectations of those surveyed as to what behavior would be appropriate to husband and wife in the areas described. The subjects of the present study are close to the age of marriage and their marriage role expectations are presumably the product of their life experiences to this point; therefore it might be theorized that actual behavior in marriage, even though differing somewhat from expected behavior, should follow a course generally consistent with the expressed views of the subjects.

To summarize: Marriage role expectations are expectations regarding patterns of behavior and values which are deemed by the subjects of the study to be appropriate for themselves and their spouses after marriage.

Social status. There are many measures of social status, and many elaborately-worked out tables for computing the social status of individuals. W. Lloyd Warner, who is one of the foremost authorities in this field, has outlined a series of status characteristics and has devised methods of determining social class. His findings show that the most accurate single status characteristic is that of

occupation.⁶ In the interest of brevity, therefore, this characteristic was adopted as a means of ranking the study population.

No attempt was made to assign subjects to a definite social class. They were assigned a rank from one to seven according to the occupation of their fathers, using Warner's Revised Scale for Rating Occupation.⁷ For purposes of statistical correlation the rankings were broken into a lower and an upper group. The upper group was comprised of rankings one through four, and the lower, those from five through seven.

Dominance, self-acceptance, socialization, flexibility. In order to test the hypothesis that marriage role expectations are independent of certain "psychological clusterings,"⁸ the above-named categories were selected from scores obtained on the California Psychological Inventory.

For purposes of this study, Gough's definitions have been accepted. The measure of dominance is intended to

⁶W. Lloyd Warner, et.al., Social Class In America (Chicago: Harper and Row, Publishers, Inc., Harper Torchbook, 1960).

⁷Ibid., p. 140

⁸Harrison W. Gough, California Psychological Inventory Manual (Palo Alto: Consulting Psychologists Press, Inc., 1957), p. 5.

assess factors of leadership ability, dominance, persistence, and social initiative. Self-acceptance -- To assess factors such as sense of personal worth, self-acceptance and capacity for independent thinking and action. Socialization -- To indicate the degree of social maturity integrity, and rectitude which the individual has attained. Flexibility -- To indicate the degrees of flexibility and adaptability of a person's thinking and social behavior.

MRE. In the interests of brevity, the questionnaire known as the Marriage Role Expectation Inventory as developed by Marie S. Dunn will hereinafter be referred to as the MRE.

CPI. The test developed by Harrison R. Gough which is titled California Psychological Inventory will hereinafter be referred to as the CPI.

Traditional. For purposes of this study, the designation traditional when applied to marriage roles or marriage role expectations shall be defined as an attitude or attitudes stemming from the patriarchal view of marriage. In this view, roles of husband and wife are distinct entities. There is a form of behavior and thinking which in any given situation is proper to husband or to wife but not to both.

Equalitarian. For purposes of this study, marriage roles or marriage role expectations are categorized as

⁹Gough, California Psychological Inventory (Palo Alto: Consulting Psychologists Press, Inc., 1957), pp. 10-11.

equalitarian when they are based upon more or less interchangeable concepts of the roles of husband and wife. In contrast to the traditional role concept, which is rather rigidly institutionalized, equalitarian roles are flexible, and may differ from one family to another in response to varying needs or goals. Since the equalitarian concept is an emergent one, it is recognized as being unevenly developed. An individual might have a generally equalitarian role orientation and yet preserve traditional views in certain areas.

The total concept of a traditional or an equalitarian role orientation towards marriage in this study is dependent upon expectations in certain areas which are defined by Dunn as authority, homemaking, care of children, personal characteristics, social participation, education, and employment and support. The following definitions of these categories are based on Dunn's descriptions.¹⁰

Authority.

Traditional orientation -- husband. The husband is regarded as the head of the family. He has authority over how the income should be spent, and is the final authority over the conduct of the children and over their treatment by both parents.

¹⁰ Marie S. Dunn, Teacher's and Counselor's Manual for the Marriage Role Expectation Inventory (Durham: Family Life Publications, Inc., 1963).

Traditional orientation -- wife. The wife follows her husband's lead, recognizes him as the head of the family, and expects him to make the major decisions.

Equalitarian orientations for both. Husband and wife make joint decisions. They have equal authority over the children. ~~The person in authority at any one time is the one~~ who is present and/or the one most qualified to make the necessary decision.

Homemaking.

Traditional orientation -- husband. He does "outside" or heavy "men's work." He helps out with other work around the house only in emergencies. Doing "woman's work" robs the husband of status.

Traditional orientation -- wife. Housework and cooking are taken for granted as being the wife's duty. No help is expected from the husband except in emergencies.

Equalitarian orientation for both. Housework is the responsibility of both husband and wife. Whoever has time does it, or both do it together. Doing "woman's work" has no influence on the status of the husband.

Child Care.

Traditional orientation -- Husband. He supervises and

guides children. Although having final authority as a disciplinarian, he helps out with actual child care only in emergencies.

Traditional orientation -- wife. She is considered responsible for the care of the children. The main emphases are upon good physical care, and upon making the children "good" and obedient.

Equalitarian orientation for both. Both partners are seen as responsible for the children's care. There is also an emphasis on social and emotional adjustment rather than on obedience and conformity per se. Companionship between parents and children is often stressed.

Personal Characteristics.

Traditional orientation -- husband. The character and personal skills of "a gentleman" are emphasized. Traits such as honesty, respectability, ambition, and ability to earn a good living are important. The husband is seen as religious, faithful to his family, and capable of being the head of the family.

Traditional orientation -- wife. The character and personal skills of a "lady" are desirable. The wife is seen as respectable, thrifty, religious, hard-working and willing to sacrifice for her family. She should possess skills of

housekeeping and child care.

Equalitarian orientation for both. The emphasis is on the social skills and personality traits of a desirable companion for both husband and wife. Compatible personalities, congeniality and attractiveness are stressed.

Social Participation.

Traditional orientation -- husband. He is concerned with civic and world affairs but has little time for recreation. He chooses the family recreation or approves the choices of other members. Men's social activities are often separate from women's.

Traditional orientation -- wife. She tends to be uninterested in civic and world affairs, and regards politics as a masculine interest. She participates in women's activities, and chooses activities that fit into her husband's social life. In mixed activities she follows her husband's lead.

Equalitarian orientation for both. Participation in activities follows interest rather than sex lines. Both partners tend to have both individual and mutual interests.

Education.

Traditional orientation -- husband. Education is considered desirable for a job. Its chief value is vocational,

therefore education is more important for the husband, the "bread-winner."

Traditional orientation -- wife. Formal education beyond high school is considered of little value for a married woman. Knowledge of how to cook and to keep house are considered of more importance than other fields of knowledge.

Equalitarian orientation for both. Education is considered to be important for both husband and wife. Education is seen as a means of personal growth for both as well as for a vocational need.

Employment and Support.

Traditional orientation -- husband. It is the husband's duty to support the family. He would seek financial help from his wife only when absolutely necessary. His status is seen as influenced by his earnings -- either actual or potential. He has authority over how the money should be spent, and takes it for granted that remunerative work is one of the husband's primary functions.

Traditional orientation -- wife. The wife is seen as financially dependent upon her husband; it is "wrong" for her to contribute money to the household unless it is absolutely necessary or is for her personal "pin money."

There is no responsibility on the part of the wife for earning money. She works outside of the home only for charity, civic needs, or the church. She works only with her husband's permission, and avoids competition with men.

Equalitarian orientation for both. Both husband and wife share the responsibility for contributing financially if they are physically able and if this is compatible with family goals. The status of either husband or wife is not dependent upon income. The wife is regarded as free to combine a career and homemaking if she desires.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THESIS

The organization of the remainder of this research includes: (1) a review of the literature including research done by others; (2) a description of the sample used in this study and descriptions of the instruments and methods; (3) presentation and interpretation of the data compiled; and (4) summary and conclusions and suggestions for further study.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The social institution of marriage has been the subject of speculation and investigation since men first began to analyze themselves and their behavior. The history of social thought from Plato to the present day includes a vast body of literature pertaining to marriage and marriage partners.

When the study of sociology as a discipline began in the nineteenth century, the family was recognized as one of the primary groups which influence the social development of each individual and contribute to his values and to his perceptions of others as well as to his own self-concept. Not only Mead and Cooley, but Spencer, Sumner, Malinowski, Ward, -- almost every social scientist devoted time and space to theories regarding marriage as an important facet of existence.

After World War I, two factors contributed to an immense proliferation of studies of marriage, especially in the United States. One of these factors was the increasing emphasis upon empirical research as a support for the scientific method. The other was the realization that the nature of the family itself was changing in structure, function, and duration, and the desire to seek the causes of

this change.

In the 1930's and 40's many authoritative studies were undertaken which have become the basis for later research. No modern student of marriage and the family could proceed effectively without a knowledge of the work of such pioneers as Ernest W. Burgess, Paul Wallin, Harvey J. Locke, Leonard S. Cottrell, the Landises, Howard Becker and Reuben Hill, and from the psychological point of view, Lewis M. Terman.

Burgess and Wallin have pointed out that before World War I empirical studies were hampered by the fact that people considered love and marriage too intimate to discuss. Questionnaires on aspects of marriage, particularly sex relations, were not approved even in university research.¹ The concepts that love and marriage were subject to romantic, rather than scientific, principles and that the behavior of human beings was not subject to prediction or control also hampered early research.

With the increasing divorce rate which followed the war, the public in general became concerned as to the causes. The same conditions of change which fostered the divorce rate encouraged marriage research, and the development of instruments for testing and measuring aspects of marriage

¹ Ernest W. Burgess, et.al. Courtship, Engagement and Marriage (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1953), p. 11.

became the task of many sociologists and psychologists.

Analysis of the problems of modern marriage brought to light many aspects which modified the alarmists' views of the decline of the family as an institution, however. In contrast to the opinion of many laymen and some social thinkers who conceived that the modern rate of divorce reflected an unmitigated evil and who wished to return to the stable marriages of the past,² many students of the problem began to see our times as a transitional period in which a new type of relationship was evolving.

Far from seeing merely disruption and chaos, Parsons and Bales are of the opinion that a new type of family structure is evolving in relation to the generally changed social structure. They see the family as no less important than before, but more specialized in function. While there is a reduction in importance of the extended family, the nuclear family cannot be said to be declining -- merely changing.³

In the opinion of Sirjamaki, while the family in America is weaker in endurance than before, it is improved in quality. "American marriages now are on the whole, happier

² Pitrim A. Sorokin, The Crisis of Our Age (New York: C. P. Dutton and company, 1941).

³ Talcott Parsons and Robert F. Bales Family, Socialization and Interaction Process (Glencoe: The Free Press, 1955), p. 9.

and better integrated than they were in former times."⁴

While recognizing that a higher divorce rate was a symptom of change rather than an evil per se, many social scientists believed that an inquiry into causes of marital conflict could produce a more enlightened attitude on the part of marriage partners or potential marriage partners, and thus ameliorate the situation. While few held that marriages should invariably be held together, it was recognized that a high divorce rate cannot be conceived of as a positive good in so far as society is concerned when the family is so important as a unit of socialization.

One of the most assiduous workers in the field of marriage research was Ernest W. Burgess of the University of Chicago. As early as 1926 he was publishing studies on marriage.⁵ With such other noted authorities as Paul Wallin of Stanford, Harvey Locke of the University of Southern California, and L. S. Cottrell, Burgess has published several volumes in addition to his own work.

In 1945, Burgess and Locke emphasized the change in the American family. The authors made use of Weber's ideal-type method to classify and compare marriages

⁴Sirjamaki, op. cit., p. 195.

⁵Ernest W. Burgess, "The Romantic Impulse and Family Disorganization," Survey Graphic LVII (January 1926) 290-294.

cross-culturally, utilizing case histories to illustrate their points. They also gave an extensive report of the research current at that time, including their own work on marriage prediction and marital adjustment. A marriage prediction schedule, which became the basis for much later research, was published in this volume, as was other data compiled by research at Indiana University, the University of Chicago, and elsewhere.⁶

Burgess and Wallin published in 1953 a work which they proclaimed "the most extensive and intensive research yet made on courtship and the early years of marriage."⁷ One of the main aspects they studied was the type of factor contributing to success or failure in marriage. Basing their studies on the questionnaire previously evolved by Burgess and Cottrell for predicting success in marriage, they also included material intended to measure the adjustment of couples to engagement and to explore personality factors.⁸

This study has been criticized as being applicable only to white, middle-class couples. However, the nature of

⁶Ernest W. Burgess and Harvey J. Locke, The Family (New York: American Book Company, 1945).

⁷Ernest W. Burgess and Paul Wallin, Engagement and Marriage (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippencott Company, 1953).
Preface.

⁸Ibid.

the population of their study was clearly outlined by the authors, who also emphasized that their conclusions applied only to the first three years of marriage. They pointed out that much of the material should be taken as provisional, rather than conclusive, and called for further research.⁹ Nevertheless, this work is regarded as a classic of its type, and is certainly more valid than many small studies which have often been taken to be authoritative.

Taking the psychological rather than the sociological approach, Lewis M. Terman and his colleagues studied a group of 792 married couples. The study involved "an extended search for psychological and psycho-sexual correlates of marital happiness."¹⁰ The relationship between the scores the subjects made on marital happiness tests and some four hundred variables produced data which is still referred to as definitive, though the findings were published in 1938.

Even in a study on the scale of this one, however, Terman pointed out the limitations. Calling happiness of any kind a very complex phenomenon, and marital happiness no less complex, Terman expressed the opinion that the components of such a phenomenon were "in the strict sense qualitative

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Lewis M. Terman, Psychological Factors in Marital Happiness (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1938), p. v.

rather than quantitative and can never be measured as linear distances are measured."¹¹

Terman expressed the philosophy which has been prevalent in the twentieth century, however, when he said

...for practical purposes and for rough approximations even the most purely qualitative variables lend themselves to treatment by quantitative methods; or to put it more accurately, the objective effects of such variables are subject to quantitative expression.¹²

Terman's conclusion that a happy temperament in general produces a happy marriage has since been upheld by some research and challenged by others.¹³ However, his methods pointed the way for many later workers in the field.

Emphasis on role research within the general area of marriage study paralleled other approaches. Starting with the definitions of role as outlined by Mead and Cooley, many later students saw the applicability of the role concept.

According to Kotlar

Role research has assumed prominence in social psychology, social psychiatry, marriage counseling and in the sociology of the family because 'role,' a unifying concept, mediates between the social structure and personality structure and indicates the influence of societal norms upon behavior.¹⁴

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Bernard I. Murstein and Vincent Glandin, "The Relationship of Marital Adjustment to Personality," Journal of Marriage and the Family XXVIII (February 1966), 37-43.

¹⁴ Kotlar, loc. cit.

Becker and Hill, among others, point to the fact that both consciously and unconsciously both partners bring preconceived notions to their marriage as to the roles both they and their spouses will play as husband and wife.¹⁵ In the earlier patriarchal society where change was slow, role concepts could be fashioned from observation of a child's parents and other easily observable adults. Such concepts, with their definite characteristics and fixed boundaries, could be applied without much strain to the new family, and although individual differences existed, the general pattern could remain consistent.

In our time of rapid change, however, there are at least two major ways in which this pattern is less applicable. First, if the young couple reproduce roles which have been modeled on observation of the family in which they have been brought up, these roles may not fit the changed pattern of today's marriages in which many functions have been taken over by other institutional agencies. Secondly, the nature of the role concepts themselves may change because of outside influences impinging either consciously or unconsciously upon the individual. With the proliferation of such influences and the increasing mobility of modern life, it would thus be

¹⁵Howard Becker and Reuben Hill, (eds.) Family, Marriage and Parenthood (Boston: D. C. Heath and Company, 1955) p. 316.

easily conceivable that marriage partners, while seemingly compatible on the surface, might bring to the marriage widely differing concepts of the roles which they and their spouses should play.

As Dyer remarks "...conflict is a result of one person's not meeting another's expectations."¹⁶ Thus discrepancies between role expectations and role realizations might prove a central factor in marriage conflict.

Though marriage roles themselves have been the subject of many recent studies, the great body of research has been done with married or divorced couples. An attempt has been made to discover the causes of conflict in marriage after the marriage has taken place or even after the marriage has been terminated. Many of these studies have been of benefit for both theoretical and practical application. They have aided in the understanding of this component of the society in which we live, whether the objective is knowledge per se or whether the knowledge thus gained is to serve the functional purposes of marriage counselors, clergymen, teachers or others who deal with marital problems.

One approach to the role concept of marriage has been neglected, however, and that is the one which deals with the

¹⁶William G. Dyer, "Analyzing Marital Adjustment Using Role Theory," Marriage and Family Living XXIV (November, 1962) 375.

marriage role expectations of young people who are not yet married. If knowledge of conflict in marital roles is to be of greatest help, it would appear to be axiomatic that an awareness of roles which are prevalent in our society and an awareness of personal expectations and how they concur with or diverge from those of others would be tools of great value for a young person to acquire. The increasing emphasis in courses in marriage and the family both at the high school and at the junior college level is evidence that educators, at least, are becoming aware of the needs of the general public in this area and are attempting to do something about it.

Marie S. Dunn in studying marriage role expectations of high school students in Louisiana worked out a marriage role expectation inventory with which she rated her subjects as traditional or equalitarian in their role concepts.¹⁷ Dunn attempted, in addition to developing the instrument, to determine the extent to which students reflect "companionship-equalitarian" or traditional conceptions of marriage roles and to further determine whether a relationship exists between role expectations and socio-economic status, place of residence, marital status, and sex.¹⁸

¹⁷ Marie S. Dunn, "Marriage Role Expectations of Adolescents" (unpublished Doctoral dissertation, Florida State University, 1959).

¹⁸ Ibid.

Dunn's subjects were 436 white high school seniors enrolled in urban and rural public high schools in Louisiana. Dividing her inventory into seven sub-scales on authority patterns, homemaking, care of children, personal characteristics, social participation, education, and financial support and employment, Dunn obtained scores on these as well as on the total inventory.¹⁹ More than half of Dunn's group agreed with equalitarian items in all sub-scales of the inventory, and less than half agreed with traditional items. Responses concerning care of children, personal characteristics, and social participation reflected equalitarian role expectations more often than other areas. Traditional views were more often expressed with regard to homemaking and financial support and employment.²⁰

Dunn found difference of response by sex more significant than differences associated with her other variables, and pointed to the possibilities for future conflict in unrealistic expectations which contrasted with present-day practices, for example the large numbers of subjects who did not expect that wives would work.²¹

Calling for further research in the area of marriage role expectations, Dunn concludes that rather than viewing certain expectations as "right" or "wrong" it is important to

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

be aware of the diverse definitions of masculine and feminine roles today. She sees an emergent pattern of equalitarian role concepts and concludes that

...emphasis (should) be placed upon development of understandings and interpersonal skills that will make it possible for each couple to build a pattern of relationships that will serve its own needs.²²

Several further studies have been based upon Dunn's work. Alvin J. Moser in his 1960 study cites Kuhn's contention that the adjustment of roles in marriage is more important to happiness in marriage than factors of personality or background.²³ Emphasizing that role concepts, while directly related to conflict or happiness in marriage, are not formed in marriage but in childhood and youth, Moser also holds that factors leading to particular role concepts should be identified, and that whereas today's changing roles make this task more difficult, they also make it more urgent.²⁴

Using the MRE, Moser surveyed students in Tampa, Florida. His findings support those of Dunn that there is an increasing tendency towards equalitarian concepts of roles but

²²Marie S. Dunn, "Marriage Role Expectations of Adolescence," Marriage and Family Living, XXII (May, 1960), 104.

²³Becker and Hill, op. cit., p. 330.

²⁴Alvin J. Moser, "Marriage Role Expectations of High School Students" (unpublished Master's thesis, Florida State University, 1960).

that this development is uneven with regard to different areas of behavior. Moser found no significant relationship between the total MRE scores and his variables of sex, social status, religion, mental maturity, number of siblings, sex of siblings, and experience in a high school course dealing with family relations. Sub-scale scores agreed with the findings of Dunn that more equalitarian views were expressed in the areas of social participation, personal characteristics, and care of children, and least equalitarian in homemaking and support and employment.²⁵

In 1961 Norman Selby Gould used the MRE in his doctoral dissertation on "Marriage Role Expectations of Single College Students as Related to Selected Social Factors." His subjects were students enrolled in a family relations course at California State Polytechnic College. Gould's variables were age, sex, educational level, occupational objective, pre-marital status, religious affiliation, social class and place of residence. His general findings supported those of Dunn and Moser that more equalitarian than traditional responses were made. However, he pointed out that his results showed no either-or aspect of equalitarian or traditional role expectations -- the responses were along a continuum. On the total MRE scores, Gould found a significant

²⁵Ibid.

relationship between sex and marriage role expectations with males holding the more traditional views. Other variables were independent of the total scores but showed significant associations on the sub-scales.²⁶

A further study using the MRE was made by Juanita J. Busbice in 1962. Titled "Marriage Role Expectations and Personality Adjustments," Busbice's work used the Minnesota Counseling Inventory to test the personality factors of emotional stability, social relationships, mental maturity and family relationships. Busbice concluded that a significant relationship existed between emotional stability and marriage role expectations with the more emotionally stable subjects having more equalitarian expectations. Other variables were independent of total MRE scores. Her findings on the general orientation of traditional versus equalitarian role expectations supported the unanimous view of an emerging equalitarian concept. However, most of the scores on the MRE fell in the middle range with few at either end of the scale.²⁷

The above studies formed the only available source of

²⁶ Norman Selby Gould "Marriage Role Expectations of Single College Students" (unpublished Doctoral dissertation, Florida State University, 1961).

²⁷ Juanita J. Busbice, "Marriage Role Expectations and Personality Adjustments" (unpublished Master's thesis, Northwestern State University, Louisiana, 1962).

data on marriage role expectations. Though they show a general pattern of equalitarian roles becoming more prevalent in our society, they do not agree on factors related to the formation of equalitarian role concepts. Whereas many thorough studies have been made on married subjects, no large body of data is available specifically investigating role concepts of unmarried persons within the framework outlined. More research is therefore called for in order to contribute to the general knowledge of this subject.

CHAPTER .III

SAMPLING AND METHOD

I. STUDY SAMPLE

The subjects of this study were members of two classes ~~in Marriage and the Family at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, California.~~

The college is a two-year, tuition-free, "junior college" supported jointly by the State of California and by the local school district. It has an enrollment of approximately 3,500 full and part-time day students and 3,000 evening students.

The town of Stockton has a population of 97,000 and is situated in the heart of a farming community although it is only 80 miles from San Francisco and the large urban San Francisco Bay area. Although formerly completely agricultural in orientation, the area is becoming increasingly industrialized.

Ten of the original members of the college classes under study dropped out before completion of the data. Four were not included because of marital status. The remaining students in the classes, consisting of 28 male and 34 female students, or a total of 62 single students,

were retained for the study.

The ages of the subjects ranged from 18 to 25 with the largest number, fifty percent, being nineteen years of age. Ten percent of the students were aged 18, and only five percent were over the age of twenty-one.

Half of the students were Protestant in religion, 30% were Catholic, and the rest professed no religion or other religions such as Buddhism. None of the students was of the Jewish faith. The great majority were of the white race, although there were three negro students, two Japanese, and two Chinese.

Students were assigned a social status rating based upon the occupations of their fathers, and using Warner's Revised Scale for Rating Occupations as a measure of status.¹ Although ten percent of the subjects were in the highest group, with a ranking of one, only one student was ranked at seven, the lowest occupation group. Forty percent of the subjects were in categories two and three and 20% each in categories four and five.

II. THE INSTRUMENTS

Two instruments were used in obtaining the data for the study in addition to a data sheet regarding occupation

¹Warner, loc. cit.

and income of parents.

The first instrument, the Marriage Role Expectation Inventory, was devised by Marie S. Dunn. It is published by Family Life Publications, Inc., Durham, North Carolina, 1963. The inventory is described by the author as

an exploratory pencil and paper test to help students and counselees prepare for marriage and family living by recording, evaluating and comparing what is expected of the self and of a marriage partner in seven areas of behavior.²

There are two forms of the instrument, form F for females and form M for males. These are, however, scored by the same key, as the questions are merely rephrased for each form.

The areas explored by the MRE are authority, homemaking, care of children, personal characteristics, social participation, education, and employment and support. Seventy-one items are included in the inventory. In 34 items the subject is to respond in terms of strong agreement, agreement, uncertainty, disagreement or strong disagreement with statements describing marital behaviors and attitudes indicating and equalitarian relationship with the marriage partner. In the remaining 37 items, the same responses are called for in regard to statements indicating a traditional view of marriage roles.

²Dunn, Teachers and Counselors Guide to MRE.

The indication of "strong" agreement or disagreement is regarded by the author primarily as a tool for counseling. In scoring the inventory "strong agreement" and "agreement" are weighted the same as are "strong disagreement" and "disagreement."³

The original items used in constructing the inventory consisted of unstructured responses by students with regard to role expectations. Controls used to limit and define the nature of the statements written included conceptual definitions of equalitarian and traditional roles, criteria used in formulating and editing statements, and consensus of opinions of judges who were known to be familiar with the concepts involved. Internal validity was obtained by selecting the final items for each category in terms of the degree to which they differentiated between the extreme groups on the various measures. No statement was used in the final form which failed to discriminate at the five percent or higher level of confidence.⁴

A split half correlation coefficient computed on scores of 50 respondents on the odd-numbered and on the even-numbered statements was used to demonstrate the

³Dunn, Teachers and Counselors Guide to the MRE.

⁴Ibid.

reliability of the 71 item inventory. The coefficient of .95 corrected by the Spearman-Brown formula to .975 compares favorably with those reported in the literature for attitude scales developed by the method of summated ratings. The author feels that in computing norms, local norms should prove more valuable than national or regional ones.

Therefore norms are not included in the data accompanying the MRE.⁵

The MRE has been used as a teaching aid on both the secondary and the college levels. It has also been used as a counseling aid and as a basis for research, Chapter II. It is an easily administered test and can be completed by the subjects in one period of class time.

In scoring the MRE Dunn has chosen as "correct" answers strongly agree or agree to equalitarian items and strongly disagree or disagree to traditional items. By this method of scoring, the answers counted are those which indicate equalitarian role expectations. The author explains that this method is not intended to place value on equalitarian responses, but simply to facilitate scoring. A high score thus reflects equalitarian expectations and a low score shows traditional expectations. The highest possible score would be 71 and the lowest 0.

⁵ Ibid.

Dunn divides the scores as follows:

0-18 Traditional
19-35 Moderately Traditional
36-53 Moderately Equalitarian
54-71 Equalitarian

Individual scores are also obtained for each subject on the sub-scales previously mentioned. In order to gain a more rounded picture of the nature of each individual's role expectations, sub-scores should be computed as well as total scores.⁶

The second instrument used in this study is the California Psychological Inventory as developed by Harrison G. Gough and published by Consulting Psychologists Press Inc., Palo Alto, 1957. The CPI is described by its author as "intended primarily for use with 'normal' (non-psychiatrically disturbed) subjects. Its scales are addressed principally to personality characteristics important for social living and social interaction."⁷ In contrast to many other similar instruments which have been developed primarily as clinical aids, the CPI then, is particularly applicable to a group of the nature of the subjects of this study.

The CPI does not yield a total score, as does the MRE, but measures eighteen "facets of interpersonal

⁶ Dunn, Ibid.

⁷ Gough, Manual of CPI, p. 5.

psychology." Separate scores are obtained on each of the eighteen scales, of which four have been used in this study. The scales were constructed by first defining the dimension to be measured, then assembling a preliminary scale of relevant statements which were administered, rated and corrected in order to provide thirty to forty items each possessing a demonstrable relationship to the behavior being studied.⁸

Two reliability studies for the CPI are available using the test re-test method. One study was done on high school students and the other on 200 male prisoners. These showed a generally high consistency of measurement with the exception of two items -- communality and psychological-mindedness. Neither of these two scales is used in the present study.⁹ Cross-validated studies of the inventory are listed in the manual for each scale on the CPI. In the case of the four scales used in the present study, comparisons tested out at the .01 level of probability in all cases.¹⁰

The CPI is used extensively in California in psychological assessment of individuals for purposes of

⁸ Gough, Manual of the CPI, p. 18.

⁹ Ibid., p. 19.

¹⁰ Ibid., p. 20.

school counseling, marital and pre-marital counseling. When the test is used in this way, the profile obtained by charting the several scores on the scales is studied, as well as individual high and low scores on each factor.

The four individual scales which were chosen for purposes of this study are those for the measurement of dominance, self-acceptance, socialization, and flexibility. None of these was reported by Gough to have a high correlation with any of the other three. Characterizing the existence of interactions and intercorrelations as tentative at this time, Gough does list several combinations which have been discovered to exist. Examples are a positive correlation of .65 between dominance and sociability, and a positive correlation of .50 between socialization and self-control.

III. PROCEDURE

Each student of the two classes in Marriage and the Family drew at random a number between 1 and 100. This became the code number for each student's data --- names were not required. During class time, the students completed the MRE which, in addition to scores on marriage role expectations, yielded data on age, sex, and religious affiliation. Students also answered a query as to occupation

and income of parents.

At another class period, students answered the CPI. (Some students needed additional time to finish at another class period.) Permission was obtained from students to use the data in a research study as well as to aid in class work. Cooperation was enthusiastic, perhaps in view of the anonymity promised.

Using methods of scoring outlined in the manuals accompanying both the CPI and the MRE, scores were obtained for each subject on the total MRE, on each of the MRE sub-scores of authority, homemaking, child care, personal characteristics, social participation, education, and employment and support, and on the psychological scales for dominance, self-acceptance, socialization, and flexibility.

A code was constructed to measure the status characteristic of occupation of father from one to seven according to Warner's Revised Scale for Rating Occupation.¹¹ Each subject was assigned to the status ranking of his parent's occupation.

Other studies involving the MRE use two methods which are not followed in the present study. First, subjects were divided into groups arbitrarily labeled traditional or equalitarian -- or, into traditional,

¹¹Warner, loc. cit.

moderately traditional, moderately equalitarian, and equalitarian.

Because of the unanimous view of previous studies of an emerging equalitarian concept, it was decided in the present study to arrange the responses to the MRE along a continuum rather than to divide them into categories. The validity of this approach is supported by the profile of the scores as they were obtained from the subjects, Figure I. Dunn characterizes individuals with a score of 0 to 18 as traditional.¹² By this criterion there were no subjects of the present study with traditional expectations of marriage roles.

Scores ranging from 19-35 are regarded by Dunn as moderately traditional. In the present study there were slightly less than 10% of the scores in this category, 6 males and 6 females. There is a break in the continuum here, but it occurs at the score of 33 for males and 32 for females, the next score in both cases occurring at 38.

Dunn labels as moderately equalitarian those scores falling between 36-53.¹³ The largest percentage of the subjects of the present study were in this group. Fifty

¹² Dunn, Teacher's and Counselor's Guide to Marriage Role Expectation Inventory.

¹³ Ibid.

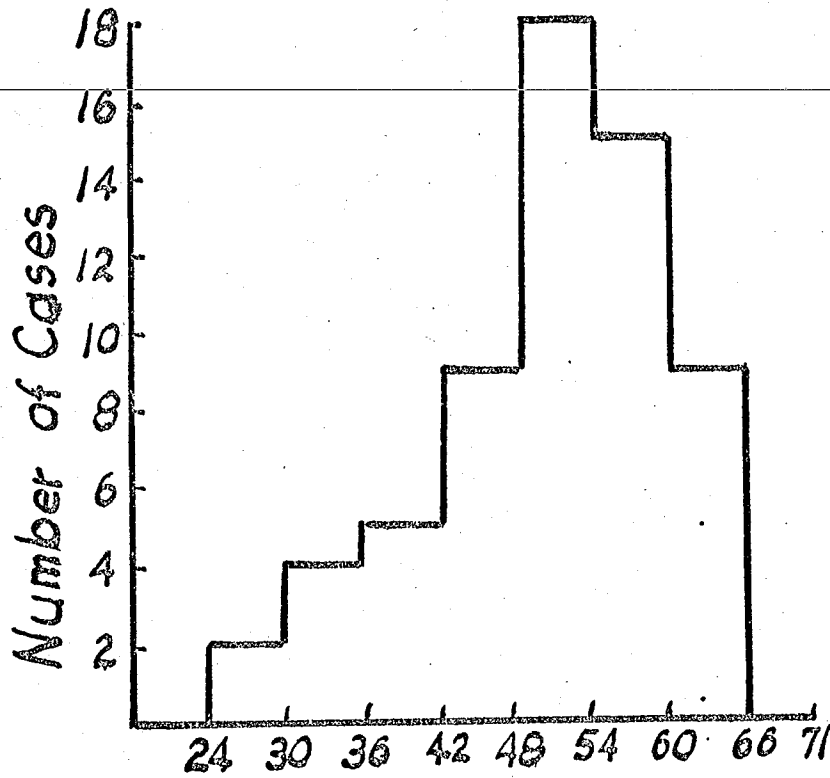


FIGURE 1
Distribution of MRE Scores
of Total Sample

percent of the total sample scored between 38-53. Of this number, an almost equal percentage was of each sex, 14 males out of the total of 28 males, and 18 females out of the total of 34.

Dunn's criterion for equalitarian role expectations, a score of 54-71,¹⁴ could be applied to 40% of the total sample of the present study. Here again an almost equal percentage of males and females scored between 54-71 -- eleven males and thirteen females. Although there is a slight break in the male scores at this point -- no scores between 52-55, the female scores continue without a break from 53-57.

Although the highest possible score on the MRE is 71, there were no subjects in the present study who scored above 65. The highest male score was 64 and there were three female subjects who scored at 65.

In contrast to the findings of Dunn, who contends that traditional conceptions of marriage roles are associated with males, rather than with females, it can be seen that the two sexes in the present study show a remarkably consistent pattern, Figures 2 and 3. The other most striking feature of this profile is the predominance of equalitarian rather than traditional views, but arranged

¹⁴Ibid.

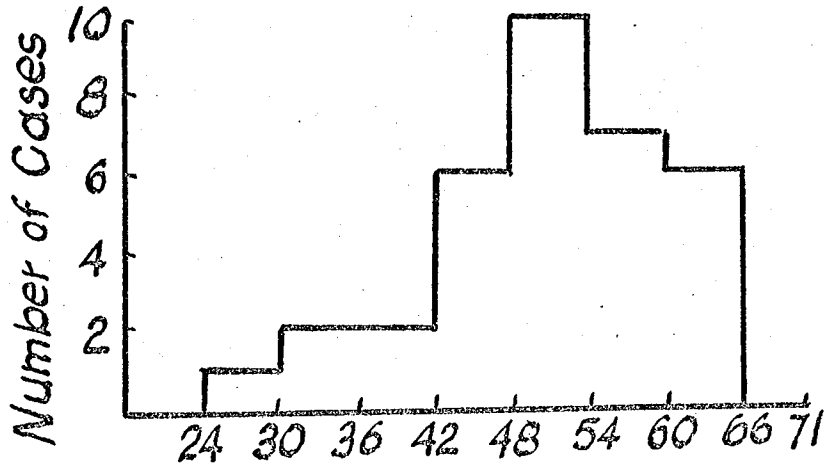


FIGURE 2
Distribution of MRE Scores
of Female Group

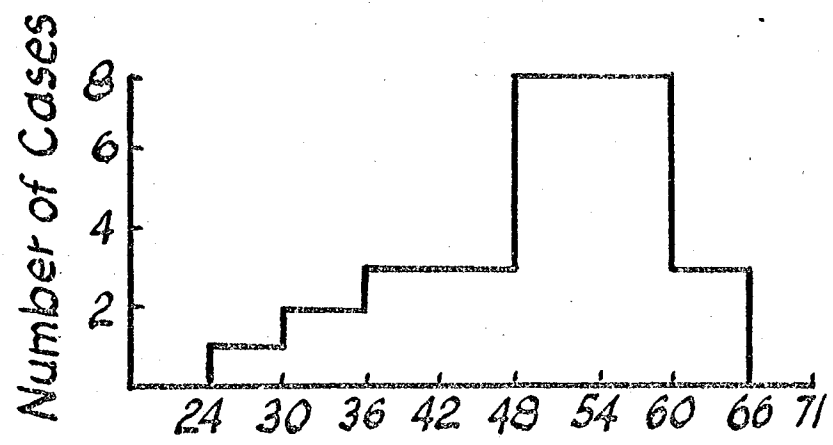


FIGURE 3
Distribution of MRE Scores
of Male Group

along a continuum rather than in distinct categories, Figures 1, 2, and 3.

The second method which has been used to characterize data obtained in other studies on the MRE but has not been used in the present study is the method of chi square analysis. Dunn, Busbice, Gould, and Moser obtained their relationships of MRE scores and sub-scores to selected variables in this fashion.

In an attempt to obtain more refined results, it was determined in the present study to use a more sophisticated method of analysis, the Pearson product-moment correlation.

Data obtained from the study were punched on cards. For each individual subject in the study there was a card which contained his overall score on the MRE, his scores on each of the sub-scales of the MRE, the code number for his social status, and the scores obtained from his responses to the CPI on the scales of dominance, self-acceptance, socialization, and flexibility.

The cards were then programmed into a computer which determined the correlations between each set of the above factors. In addition to the correlations computed for the total study sample, correlations were obtained in a like manner for all female subjects, for all male subjects,

for upper status subjects, and for lower status subjects.

The latter two categories were determined by dividing the occupational status groups into two sub-groups for purposes of study. The upper status group, which might be regarded as being comprised of upper and middle status occupations, contained the larger percentage of subjects, approximately 70%, and included occupational ratings one through four. The lower group contained status ratings five through seven, and corresponded in general to what are regarded as lower-middle class and working class occupations.

After the correlations were obtained from the computer, they were tabulated, and the five percent level of probability was used. In view of the small sample used in the present study, the t test was used to check the significance of the correlations obtained among the total sample, the female group, the male group, and the upper and lower status groups.

This chapter has presented a description of the sample, a description of the instruments, and the methods used to obtain the data which follow.

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

I. FINDINGS FOR TOTAL SAMPLE

For the total sample of this study, correlations are shown in Table I. No significant relationship is shown between the total score on the MRE and the variables of social status, dominance, and socialization.

Correlations significant at the .05 level appear for the variables of self-acceptance and flexibility. A positive correlation between self-acceptance and an equalitarian view of marriage role expectations signifies that the higher the degree of self-acceptance, the greater the possibility is that these subjects will be oriented towards an equalitarian view of marriage role expectations, or that an equalitarian orientation towards marriage role expectations leads to a higher degree of self-acceptance, or that some outside factor is affecting both scores.

An interesting aspect of this finding is that it is the high correlation between these two factors in the male study sample which affects the score for the total study sample. The correlation between self-acceptance and a tendency towards equalitarian views is .4199 for males and only .2705 for females. It would appear from these figures

TABLE I
CORRELATIONS FOR THE TOTAL SAMPLE

Variables	Social Status	Dominance	Self Acceptance	Socialization	Flexibility	Total MRE Score
Total MRE Score	-.0824	.2474	*.2970	.1784	*.2605	
Authority	.0839	.2296	.2032	-.1434	.2361	** .7521
Home-making	-.1602	.0135	.1204	*-.3042	.0624	** .6802
Child care	-.1071	.1093	.1627	.0473	.1617	** .7183
Personal Character.	-.0442	.2201	** .3611	-.0419	.1431	** .7945
Social Particip.	-.0729	** .3844	** .3670	-.0881	** .3693	** .7972
Education	-.0510	.1444	.2164	-.1333	.2002	** .7123
Employment & Support	.0035	.0760	-.0358	-.1123	.0337	* .3116
Social Status		-.1175	** .3507	.1208	-.0776	
Dominance			** .6254	.1216	.0988	
Self Acceptance				.0833	.1641	
Socializ. Flexibil.					-.0640	

Group -- Total Sample *.05 Level .2500
df (N-2) 60 **.01 Level .3248

that for this particular group, at least, there is the possibility that an acceptance of personal worth might prove a basis for equalitarian views in the male student. A male who is less sure of his personal worth could be in need of the traditional, patriarchal views as supports for his self-image. The females, on the other hand, do not in our present society need the traditional role of subservient homemaker to enhance a self-image which would be favorably regarded by today's values.

Although this correlation between self-acceptance and equalitarian marriage role expectations is significant within sex groups, it is not significant within the social status groups. The upper status group shows a correlation of .2802, Table V, which is below the level of confidence for the number in this group, and the lower status group shows a correlation of .3264, Table IV, which, perhaps because of the small number of subjects involved, is also not significant.

With regard to the measure of flexibility, the two extremes on the scale are defined by Gough as follows:

High scorers tend to be seen as insightful, informal, adventurous, confident, humorous, rebellious, idealistic, assertive and egoistic; as being sarcastic and cynical; and as highly concerned with personal pleasure and diversion. Low scorers tend to be seen as deliberate, cautious, worrying, industrious, guarded, mannerly, methodical and rigid; as being formal and pedantic in thought; and as being overly

deferential to authority, custom, and tradition.¹

In view of these definitions, it is not surprising to find a positive correlation between more equalitarian expectations of marriage roles and higher flexibility. Here, however, in contrast to the correlation between equalitarianism and self-acceptance, the correlation obtained for either the male or female group alone is slightly lower than the level of significance, Tables II and III. It is only when the total number is joined together that the significance emerges. The theory of the more flexible person as holding more equalitarian role expectations, or vice versa, is supported by the overall characterization of equalitarian marriage roles as an emerging concept. Individuals with more rigid views would scarcely be as prone to accept new forms of behavior and values as would those with greater flexibility. In the same way, those who hold equalitarian views, with their less specific and more interchangeable marriage role expectations, can be seen to be more flexible.

A striking difference in the correlations between self-acceptance and flexibility can be noted when comparing the scores of the two status groups. The upper status group shows no significant correlation here, Table V, while

¹Gough, CPI Manual, p. 11.

the lower group has the highest correlation of all the groups, a correlation significant at the .01 level of confidence, Table IV.

The upper status group in this study seems to represent largely the middle-middle to upper-middle class, while the lower group corresponds roughly to the lower-middle and working classes. Considering the extent to which the middle class dictates the emergence of new role concepts in our society, it might be theorized that less flexibility would be needed by a middle class group to espouse these concepts than would be needed by a lower class group with its presumably lower general fidelity to middle class standards and values.

For the total sample in the present study certain sub-scores on the MRE show correlation with other variables chosen. In view of the findings of other research workers, the correlations between the sub-scores of the MRE and the total score present an interesting picture. One of the findings most stressed has been the uneven nature of the emergent equalitarian role concept. Dunn, for example, found traditional tendencies in attitudes towards homemaking, especially on the part of females, as well as traditional views of both sexes towards the areas of employment and support.² Busbice found equalitarian concepts predominant

²Dunn, "Marriage Role Expectations of Adolescents."

on the subscale of authority, but not so much so on social participation and personal characteristics.³ Moser found that his study population was most equalitarian in the areas of social participation, personal characteristics, and care of children, while being least equalitarian in the areas of homenaking and employment and support.⁴

The present study, on the other hand, shows for the total study sample, Table I, a high positive correlation, and one significant above the .01 level of confidence, between all sub-scales and the total MRE score, with the single exception of the scale on employment and support. Although the correlation for this latter sub-scale is below the .01 level of confidence, it still has a significant positive correlation with the total MRE score at the .05 level.

An examination of individual scores on the sub-scale of employment and support supports the consensus of other research workers that this is the area in which traditional tendencies are most likely to occur. However, the picture of a very uneven pattern of equalitarian concepts is not borne out by the correlations shown in Table I for the

³ Busbice, "Marriage Role Expectations and Personality Adjustments."

⁴ Moser, "Marriage Role Expectations of High School Students."

total sample. On the contrary, as has been shown, there is a significant positive relationship between each sub-scale score and the total MRE score.

This finding could be interpreted in several ways. It is possible that the time lapse between other studies and the present study has contributed to the further emergence of a more consistently equalitarian point of view. On the other hand, it is also possible that the nature of the present study population might contribute to such findings. For example, Dunn's original study was done in the south, where traditional concepts might be more entrenched than in California, the locale of the present study. The influence of the frontier and/or the influence of nearby metropolitan areas could affect the pattern of responses or the formation of attitudes in the present study sample. It is possible that the use of correlations, rather than the chi square technique might also have led to the findings noted. The nature of the study population and the method used, of course, must be considered in any comparison of the present data with that of other workers.

Taking the sub-scales in the order in which they appear in Table I, it can be seen that the sub-scale on authority, while positively correlated with the total MRE score, has no significant correlation for the total sample with any of the other variables chosen for this study. The

only significant correlation for this sub-scale in the entire study occurs with the female relationship to the scale on dominance. This will be discussed in part II, "Significance of Study with Regard to Female Population."

Homemaking is the next sub-scale reported in Table I. Here there is a negative correlation at the .01 degree of probability between the area of homemaking and socialization. A minus correlation between these two variables signifies that the more socialized an individual is, the less likely it is that his marriage role expectations will be equalitarian with regard to the activities of homemaking, or, that the more equalitarian an individual's expectations with regard to homemaking activities, the less highly socialized he is likely to be, or that some other factor influences both scores. At first glance, this would appear to be a paradoxical situation, since the emergent pattern in our society is an equalitarian role concept.

To analyze this finding, reference should be made to the same sub-scale in Tables II, III, IV, and V. Here it is discovered that the score for the total sample is affected by the male group and by the upper status group. There is no significant relationship between expectations on homemaking and the degree of socialization either in the female group or in the lower status group. There is a negative correlation

at the .05 level of probability in the male group and at the .01 level of probability in the upper status group.

One possible explanation for this finding could be that it is an example of cultural lag. Although equalitarian marriage roles are the emerging concept, there is a solid core of traditionalism still existing in the mores of our society, and no idea is more firmly rooted than that of "woman's work." A distaste for "woman's work" is encouraged by the early pressures on the male child to "be a man" -- a situation which some researchers contend is far more severe than the corresponding "be a lady" pressures on the female child.⁵ This is exemplified by the general acceptance of girls doing such traditionally masculine work as mowing the lawn or washing the car, while the picture of a boy washing dishes, arranging flowers, or sewing clothing is generally regarded as ludicrous.

Thus a more socialized male might, in conforming to the present "male image," cling to more traditional concepts of homemaking activities whereas the male who is more equalitarian in this regard does to some degree abdicate the image of "male superiority" which is still widespread in our society and which is bolstered by the concept of women's

⁵David B. Lynn "The Process of Learning Parental and Sex-Role Identification," Journal of Marriage and the Family XXVIII (November, 1966) 465-470.

work as somehow beneath the dignity of the superior being.

It has been noted that the upper status group in the present study is composed chiefly of upper-middle to middle-middle class subjects. Here again, to the degree that male superiority to "woman's work" is accepted as a basic premise of socialization, the equalitarian view of homemaking activities must be regarded as running counter to the trend. In the lower status group, an individual with equalitarian attitudes towards homemaking activities might be highly socialized or not when measured by the standards of the test used in the present study. Since his degree of socialization to his sub-culture would be measured by other criteria than that of his socialization to the larger, middle class dominated society, it might be theorized that no such negative correlation should be expected -- and in fact, no correlation appears.

Child care. In the area of child care, a high positive correlation with the total MRE score is shown for the total study sample. No significant relationship is shown between expectations on child care and any of the variables shown on Table I. The only significant correlation in the present study with regard to child care is that between social status and child care in the male group. This will be discussed in part III, "Significance of the Present Study with Regard to the Male Group."

Personal Characteristics. This sub-scale is one of the two most highly correlated with the total MRE score, although, as has been mentioned, six of the seven sub-scales are positively correlated with the total at above the .01 level of confidence.

Of the variables considered for the total study sample, the only one which is significantly related to personal characteristics is self-acceptance. There is a positive correlation of above the .01 level of confidence between these two factors.

This means that the more equalitarian the individual's view of personal characteristics, the higher the degree of self-acceptance, or the higher the degree of self-acceptance, the more likely the individual is to hold equalitarian views of personal characteristics. In addition, there is always the possibility that both factors are influenced by some other condition which is not being taken into account in the present study.

Unlike the previous sub-scales which have been analyzed, this sub-scale is highly consistent with regard to this correlation. There is a positive correlation at the .05 level of confidence between personal characteristics and self-acceptance in all four sub-groups; male, female, upper social status, and lower social status. The total of these added together puts the positive correlation for the total

study sample at above the .01 level.

Here, it would appear, is one of the most strongly emergent characteristics of the modern equalitarian view of marriage roles for the subjects of this study. Emphasis upon compatible personalities, congeniality and attractiveness in general are more highly correlated with a high degree of self-acceptance than are the former traditional images of family-minded husbands and wives with personal characteristics characterized respectively as the hard-working, ambitious head of the family, and the thrifty, self-sacrificing, homemaker wife. Since Gough more or less equates self-acceptance with a sense of personal worth, the link is clearly seen between this factor and a personal rather than an institutional criterion for personality characteristics of the self and of the spouse.

Social Participation is the next MRE category. For the total study sample, more correlations are seen in this area than in any other. Whereas the total MRE score is related to two variables, and several other sub-scale scores are related to one, the sub-scale of social participation shows a positive correlation with three variables as well as being highly correlated with the total MRE score. These three variables are dominance, self-acceptance, and flexibility.

The positive correlation between dominance and social participation, which is significant at the .01 level, means that the more dominant an individual tests on the CPI, the more likely he is to have an equalitarian view of social participation, or the more equalitarian his views in this area, the more dominant he tends to be. It is also possible that this relationship is affected by outside factors not apparent here. In reviewing the dominance social participation relationship for the other groups studied, one finds a positive correlation also in the female group, Table II, but not in the male group, Table III. Both the lower status group, Table IV, and upper status group, Table V show a positive correlation at the .05 level.

In interpreting this finding, it can be theorized that the female relationship between dominance and social participation is clearly understandable. Traditional role behavior for social activities is equated with a subservient female attitude and is incongruous in our times with the behavior of a dominant female. Whether one quality reflects the other, or both are consequences of something else, still the unity of the pattern is clearly apparent. A review of the traditionally male-dominant marriage role would seem to preclude a positive relationship between dominance and social participation for males. A dominant male could be seen as more related to traditional marriage roles than to equalitarian

ones, while the traditional female role equates more logically with subservient rather than dominant characteristics. In fact, no significant relationship at all, either positive or negative, can be shown in the male group for the subjects of this study. One possible explanation of this fact could be that the male position is less clearly defined at this stage in our society and is still in a state of flux. To hold to the current masculine image it is still necessary to regard oneself as more or less dominant, and yet the modern social pressures and customs predispose the male to view as desirable at least a certain "togetherness" of social participation of husband and wife, and at least a minimum of participation on the part of his wife in community-centered rather than home-centered activities. It is also true that the subjects of this study have all had at least one year of college, and therefore would presumably have a more equalitarian view of social participation even though they are of a dominant masculine nature.

It might also be theorized that the positive correlation in both status groups between dominance and social participation could be related to this factor of higher than average education. The lower status students, while assuming at this point the status of their parents, might in some cases be involved in an upward social mobility as evidenced by their attendance at college. It is possible, therefore,

that their attitudes in some instances might reflect middle class rather than lower class standards.

Self-acceptance is the second psychological factor which has a significant positive correlation with the area of social participation in the total sample for the present study. The correlation for the group is above the .01 level, and reflects several other significant correlations. In both the female and the male groups, Tables II and III, the positive correlation between these two factors is at the .05 level. In the lower status group, the correlation rises to the .01 level, and it is only in the upper status group that no significant correlation is to be found.

A positive correlation between social participation and self-acceptance means that the more equalitarian an individual's orientation towards social participation, the higher his degree of self-acceptance, or that the greater an individual's self-acceptance, the more likely he is to have equalitarian views towards social participation. A third possibility is that both scores are being affected by an influence outside the scope of the present study.

In analyzing this finding, it might perhaps be most interesting to inquire why, of all the groups represented, only that of the upper status subjects failed to show a significant positive correlation. Obviously the relationship is not sex-related, since the male and female groups showed

the same type and extent of correlation. Since the lower status group showed the highest correlation of all, the finding appears to be linked to status.

It is possible that here again the middle class standards which prevail in our society show their effects. In order to accept a pattern of equalitarian social participation for himself and his spouse, it would appear that a lower status individual must have a firm sense of self-acceptance. He is running counter to the standards of his sub-culture, which more closely follow traditional than equalitarian patterns of social participation for husband and wife. The upper status individual, on the contrary, apparently does not feel personally threatened by equalitarian social participation -- he can preserve his self-image with, or without, a traditional pattern in this area.

The third psychological factor which is significantly correlated with social participation for the total sample of this study is flexibility. The pattern for this correlation is almost identical to the previous one. For the total study sample, there is a positive correlation between social participation and flexibility at the .01 level; for both male and female groups, a positive correlation at the .05 level; for the lower status group, a positive correlation at the .01 level, and for the upper status group, no significant

correlation.

The positive correlation means that the more equalitarian an individual's orientation in the area of social participation, the more flexible he is, or that the more flexible individual has a more equalitarian point of view towards social participation, or that some outside influence is affecting both factors. An interpretation of the finding of the correlation between these two factors which would appear theoretically plausible is the same interpretation given for the previous set of factors. The correlation appears to be linked to status rather than to sex, and would seem to be an additional reflection of the operation of middle class, as opposed to lower class standards. More flexibility is required of the lower status individual to espouse equalitarian views of social participation than is required for upper status subjects, regardless of the sex of the individuals.

The sixth sub-scale of the MRE is that on education. The responses of the total study sample on education are positively correlated at above the .01 level with the total MRE scores. There are no significant correlations with any of the factors studied for the total study sample. The only table which shows any significant correlation in this area is that for the lower status group, Table IV. Here there is a positive correlation at the .05 level between education and

flexibility. This finding will be discussed in part V, "Significance of Study with Regard to Lower Social Status Group."

The seventh and last sub-scale of the MRE is that of employment and support. This sub-scale shows the lowest correlation with the total MRE score, although there is a positive correlation at the .05 level between employment and support and the total MRE scale for the total study sample. Since all the other sub-scales were positively correlated with the total MRE scale at above the .01 level, however, the lower correlation of this sub-scale appears to be a significant finding.

This lower correlation for the total study sample is reflected in the other groups studied. In the female group there is no significant correlation between employment and support and the total MRE score. In the male group there is a positive correlation at the .05 level; in the lower social status group there is no significant correlation, and in the upper status group there is a positive correlation at the .05 level.

The positive correlation which shows up in the total sample means that the more equalitarian an individual's total marriage role expectations, the more equalitarian his views will tend to be in the area of employment and support, or vice versa, or that some outside influence is affecting

both scores. The importance of this finding, of course, is not in the positive relationship, which is found to some degree in the female and upper status groups, but in the lack of any significant correlation between the two factors in the male group and in the lower status group.

One possible interpretation of this finding could be that there is a reluctance on the part of individuals to give up their traditional notions towards employment and support in spite of an otherwise equalitarian outlook. The husband as breadwinner is a firmly-established concept in our society -- even though the percentage of wives employed outside the home has been increasing more rapidly with each new generation. For generally equalitarian-oriented females, an equalitarian outlook towards support and employment would be more easily acceptable than for males since females could be gaining masculine, hence higher status, attributes. A male, on the other hand, in relinquishing sole responsibility for support, is giving up a not inconsiderable source of his traditional status and must compensate for this in other ways.

It is possible that the status-linked difference in this correlation might be ascribed to the greater familiarity of the lower group with the working wife as a fait accompli. This group may have already accepted the necessity for the wife's contribution to family support, and thus have divorced

the fact from either a traditional or an equalitarian orientation.

The remaining categories in Table I are not, strictly speaking, germane to the present study, since they show the relationships between the other factors chosen rather than the relationships between these factors and the MRE or its sub-scales. However, it is interesting to note that for the total study sample there is a strong negative correlation at the .01 level between social status and self-acceptance. This finding means that the lower the degree of self-acceptance, or that some other influence is affecting both scores. The correlation is linked neither to sex nor to the division of status groups in the study, but is significant only when the total sample is regarded.

It could be theorized that this finding, which would appear to run counter to the generally-accepted relationship in our society, is related to the nature of the study sample. Thus, the lower status subjects, while still retaining the status of their parents, could see themselves as upward mobile, as has been previously suggested. They are presumably on a higher educational level than their parents, and could have a greater degree of self-acceptance than older people in the same status ranking -- the latter having perhaps accepted their own positions as permanent.

Some of the upper status students, on the other hand, by virtue of attending a junior college rather than a university, could conceivably have a lower degree of self-acceptance than adults in their status group would be likely to have, since the junior college has a generally lower status value.

The next category on Table I is that of dominance, which shows a high positive correlation with self-acceptance. These two factors are positively correlated at the .01 level not only for the total sample, but also for males, females, upper and lower status groups. This finding means that individuals who are high in dominance also have a high degree of self-acceptance, or that those who have a great sense of self-acceptance tend to be dominant, or that some other factor leads individuals to score high on both of these scales. Even though these factors are so consistently highly correlated with each other, however, they show different correlations with the other factors selected for this study, and thus they are properly regarded as separate entities, and not as manifestations of the same trait.

In summarizing the significant findings for the total study sample as shown in Table I, it should be reiterated that for this group there is a significant positive correlation between the total score on the MRE and all subscales of the MRE. Even though this correlation is

TABLE II
CORRELATIONS FOR FEMALE GROUP

Variables	Social Status	Dominance	Self Acceptance	Socialization	Flexibility	Total MRE Score
Total MRE Score	-.0378	.3095	.2705	-.0842	.2684	
Authority	.1711	*.3526	.1780	-.1299	.1852	** .7546
Home-making	.1259	.0813	.0432	-.1866	.1001	** .6508
Child care	-.0766	.0468	.1594	.1989	.2029	** .7149
Personal Character.	-.0765	.2450	*.3575	.0769	.2121	** .7888
Social Particip.	.0814	** .4680	*.3966	.0406	*.3789	** .7914
Education	-.0629	.2101	.1987	-.0571	.1756	** .7904
Employment & Support	.1400	.0946	-.0646	*-.3585	-.0295	.2526
Social Status		-.2168	-.3217	-.1320	-.0173	
Dominance			** .6822	.1190	.2782	
Self Acceptance				.2508	.2896	
Socializ. Flexibil.					.0639	

Group -- Females
df (N-2) 32

*.05 Level .3400
**.01 Level .4400

admittedly affected by the fact that each sub-scale score contributes to the whole MRE score, the correlation is high enough to point to the existence of a significantly consistent role concept. The two factors studied which had the greatest number of significant correlations with the MRE were those of self-acceptance and flexibility, with self-acceptance being by far the most significant --- showing correlations with five other categories. Studying the MRE sub-scale scores, it can be seen that the scale on social participation has the highest number of correlations with the other factors, having significant positive correlations at above the .01 level with dominance, self-acceptance, and flexibility. The only factor studied which had for the total sample no significant correlation with any other factor was that of social status.

II. FINDINGS CONCERNING THE FEMALE GROUP

The correlations achieved by the female group in this study are shown in Table II. Most of the significant findings have already been discussed in part I, "Significance of the Study with Regard to the Total Study Sample." However, there are two significant findings which appear in Table II and not in Table I.

The first of these is a positive correlation at the .05 level between dominance and authority. This means that

for the females in this study, the higher the score on the CPI scale of dominance, the more likely is an equalitarian view of authority in marriage, or that the more equalitarian the view of authority, the more likely the female is to be dominant, or that an outside factor is influencing both scores.

This finding is significant only for the female group in this study, and requires little interpretation. It would be strange in our society to find a dominant female who would not favor an equalitarian view of authority in marriage rather than a traditional one. There have been many eras in history when women have been able to exercise some authority within traditional roles, for example the Roman matrons, or the Chinese matriarchs. A completely equalitarian view of this area of marriage, however, possible today as never before, distributes opportunities for authority more evenly between the sexes, making authority a function of capability rather than of sex, and is a boon indeed to the dominant female.

The other significant correlation which appears in Table II but not in Table I is a negative correlation at the .05 level between employment and support and socialization. This correlation is also unique to the female group -- it does not appear on any of the other tables. This finding means that for the females of this study, the higher they score on socialization, the more traditional are their

views toward employment and support, or that the more equalitarian their views towards employment and support, the lower the score on socialization, or that some outside factor is affecting the scores which they are making in these categories.

One interpretation of this finding is that it reflects the generally lower correlation between views on support and employment and the total marriage role orientation. For the female group there is no significant correlation between employment and support and the total MRE score. Possible reasons for this have been discussed in connection with the scores on these factors for the total group. As to the sex-related nature of the correlation, it is possible that the more socialized female still subscribes to the image of the male breadwinner in spite of her changing views in other areas. Socialization implies conformity to prevailing social standards and it could be that such conformity would preclude an equalitarian point of view in this area. On the other hand, it is quite possible to theorize that a female non-conformist, scoring low on socialization, would favor equalitarian views on support and employment as a means of self-expression and general emancipation.

In summing up the significant correlations for females, it is apparent that the most striking aspect of this table is its similarity to the findings for the group as a whole

rather than the small number of differences which appear. The same major generalizations which were made for the total sample can be made for the female group -- namely, the high correlation of the sub-scores to the total score of the MRE, and the existence of more significant correlations in the areas of self-acceptance and social participation than in any others studied.

III. FINDINGS CONCERNING THE MALE GROUP

Table III lists the significant findings of the present study for the male group. The sub-scales of the MRE are positively correlated with the total score at the .01 level with the exception of the sub-scale on support and employment which is positively correlated at the .05 level.

The other significant correlations on Table III have all been discussed in the analysis of Table I with two exceptions. The first of these is a negative correlation at the .05 level between child care and social status. This means that for the males in this study, the higher the social status the more traditional the orientations were towards child care, or that the more equalitarian the orientation towards child care, the lower the social status, or that some other factor is affecting both scores. This correlation is found only in the male group, and does not appear in any other table.

TABLE III
CORRELATIONS FOR MALE GROUP

Variables	Social Status	Dominance	Self Acceptance	Socialization	Flexibility	Total MRE Score
Total MRE Score	-.2270	.1561	*.4199	-.3384	.2702	
Authority	-.0318	.0426	.2689	-.1730	.3358	** .7596
Home-making	-.1303	.0297	.2012	*-.3892	-.0131	** .7442
Child care	*-.3781	.1582	.3207	-.2354	.1442	** .7286
Personal Character.	-.0651	.1764	*.4427	.2176	.0386	** .8005
Social Particip.	-.0978	.2777	*.3730	-.2439	*.3733	** .8053
Education	-.0469	.0652	.2735	-.2219	.2479	** .6290
Employment & Support	**-.5689	-.0121	.2352	-.0759	.2189	*.3810
Social Status		-.0792	-.2604	.1936	-.1342	
Dominance			** .6349	.0838	-.2073	
Self Acceptance				.0099	-.1711	
Socializ. Flexibil.					-.2144	

Group -- Males
df (N-2) 26

*.05 Level .3700
**.01 Level .4700

This is a seemingly paradoxical finding which runs counter to the accepted trend of more equalitarian role orientation for the upper status group (which represents primarily the middle-middle to upper-middle class) and more traditional views for the lower group. This finding is supported by the other significant correlation which is unique to Table III -- a negative correlation at the .01 level between employment and support and social status. This latter correlation means that for the males in the present study, the lower the social status, the more equalitarian the views towards employment and support, or the more traditional are the views on employment and support the higher the status -- or, there is an outside factor influencing both scores.

One interpretation of these findings could be that they both reflect a realistic view of the male subjects towards the fact that in today's society it is in fact in lower status groups that more wives are gainfully employed and contribute to the support of the family even though this runs counter to the traditional picture of the husband as breadwinner. As a consequence of the employment of the wife, equalitarian views towards child care could conceivably be viewed in the same realistic rather than institutional way. This interpretation, however, does not explain the difference between the male and female views on these subjects -- no significant correlations, whether positive or negative, are

shown in these areas in the female group. It would require further study to say with any assurance whether this sex-related difference has any real importance or is merely a consequence of the nature of the male or female group in this particular study sample.

~~IV. FINDINGS CONCERNING THE LOWER SOCIAL STATUS GROUP~~

This group, Table IV, showed some striking similarities to the groups previously discussed, and at least one striking difference. Similar were the high correlations of the sub-scale scores with the MRE total score with the exception of the scale on support and employment. Also the category of self-acceptance shows several significant correlations with other factors as it does in the total sample group, the male group, and the female group.

The difference between the findings on the lower status group and those of the other groups is in the significance of the trait of flexibility, which is far more important here than for any of the rest. In the lower status group there are significant positive correlations between flexibility and the total MRE score, and between flexibility and social participation, both of which also appear in Table I and which were discussed in the analysis of the correlations for the total sample. In addition, however, two other positive correlations appear which are

TABLE IV
CORRELATIONS FOR LOWER SOCIAL STATUS GROUP

Variables	Social Status	Dominance	Self Acceptance	Socialization	Flexibility	Total MRE Score
Total MRE Score	.0613	.3037	.3264	.2749	** .6470	** .7107
Authority	.3795	.3758	.1554	.2076	.4368	** .7107
Home-making	.0206	-.2319	-.3179	.1076	.2675	* .4895
Child care	.0062	.0398	.2881	.4549	.3198	** .7661
Personal Character.	-.0107	.3446	* .5350	.3532	** .6260	** .9055
Social Particip.	.2192	* .5217	** .6253	.1559	** .6531	** .8094
Education	-.1713	.2187	.2906	.1189	* .5833	** .7008
Employment & Support	-.2867	.1542	-.1415	-.1174	.0476	.2938
Social Status		.2206	.1774	-.0437	-.2147	
Dominance			** .7676	.2574	.3509	
Self Acceptance				.4434	.3213	
Socializ. Flexibil.					-.1170	

Group -- Lower Social Status
df (N-2) 15

*.05 Level .4821
**.01 Level .6055

unique to Table IV. The first of these is a positive correlation at the .01 level between personal characteristics and flexibility. This means that the more equalitarian a lower status individual's views are towards personal characteristics, the more flexible he is, or that the less flexible a lower status individual is, the more he is inclined to traditional views of personal characteristics, or that some outside influence is affecting both scores.

Since an individual of lower social status would in general have to overcome a greater background of traditional orientation, and since views on personal characteristics have been shown to be one of the most strongly emergent components of the new equalitarian marriage role concept, it becomes apparent that flexibility would be of great importance, if not almost mandatory, for the individual to achieve an equalitarian orientation in this area.

The final significant correlation in Table IV is a positive correlation at the .05 level between education and flexibility. This means that for the lower status subjects of the present study, the more equalitarian an individual's views on education, the more flexible he is or vice versa, or that other factors are influencing both scores. This finding is similar to the previous correlation. Indeed it might be argued that the fact most worthy of note in this analysis is not the high positive correlation between

flexibility and several other factors for the lower status group, but the absence of significant correlation between flexibility and some factors such as authority, homemaking, child care, and employment and support.

It is possible that the discrepancy is caused by the extremely small size of this group, or that the exigencies of economic existence have led to a blurring of the strong traditional role separation in the areas last mentioned. This latter possibility would support the finding mentioned for the male group where, as has been reported, there exists a negative correlation between child care and social status and between employment and support and social status.

V. FINDINGS CONCERNING THE UPPER SOCIAL STATUS GROUP

The significant correlations for this group are shown in Table V. Here again, the sub-scales have a significant positive correlation with the total MRE score, and as with other groups, the category of self-acceptance shows important correlations with other factors. Unlike the findings on all other tables, however, Table V shows no significant correlation for the factor of flexibility with any of the other categories studied. A hypothesis could be proposed that flexibility is not so necessary to the attainment of an equalitarian orientation for an upper status individual as it would be for one of lower status because his background

TABLE V
CORRELATIONS FOR UPPER SOCIAL STATUS GROUP

Variables	Social Status	Dominance	Self Acceptance	Socialization	Flexibility	Total MRE Score
Total MRE Score	-.0685	.2163	.2802	*-.3172	.0691	
Authority	-.0262	.1861	.2816	-.2549	.1602	** .7800
Home-making	.0838	.0675	.1420	**-.4105	-.0541	** .7557
Child care	-.1981	.1435	.1105	-.1110	.0633	** .7016
Personal Character.	-.0455	.1599	*.3152	-.1783	-.1175	** .7483
Social Particip.	-.0235	*.3065	.2368	-.1706	.1993	** .7935
Education	-.0375	.1103	.2014	-.2163	.0072	** .7180
Employment & Support	-.2374	.0739	.1012	-.1311	.0532	*.3454
Social Status		-.1267	-.1554	.1389	.0434	
Dominance			** .5843	.0876	-.0445	
Self Acceptance				.0198	.0608	
Socializ. Flexibil.					-.0369	

Group -- Upper Social Status
df (N-2) 43

*.05 Level .3000
**.01 Level .3900

would in general be more in tune with emerging social concepts.

All of the significant correlations which appear in Table V have been previously discussed with the exception of the correlation between socialization and the total MRE score. Here there appears a negative correlation at the .05 level which is unique to this table. This finding means that for upper status individuals in this study, the more highly socialized they are, the more traditional their marriage role expectations would be, or the less socialized the individual, the more equalitarian his expectations, or that some outside factor is affecting both scores.

One possible explanation for this finding is that the emergent equalitarian marriage role is more accepted in this group of young people than in the culture to which they are supposedly socialized. To the extent, therefore, that these subjects take an equalitarian view of areas in marriage which have not yet been completely divorced in the larger society from traditional concepts, they would be running counter to the standards of socialization, and would score lower than more conforming individuals. Sources of emergent social patterns are found frequently in the traditional dissatisfaction of young people with the status quo, and perhaps we have here an indication of such a trend. Socialization inevitably reflects to a greater or lesser

degree the influence of traditional patterns of thought. The question of whether a lesser degree of socialization leads to equalitarian views of marriage roles or whether equalitarian role expectations lead to a less socialized attitude or whether a non-conformist orientation in a middle class individual produces both of these effects is beyond the scope of this paper, but the latter possibility is regarded as the most likely.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

L. SUMMARY

The present study has been an exploration of the nature of the marriage role expectations of junior college students. The hypothesis tested was that marriage role expectations are independent of sex, social status, dominance, self-acceptance, socialization, and flexibility.

The subjects of the study were the single students in two classes of Marriage and the Family at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, California. In order to obtain their expectations towards marriage roles in a testable form, the students were given the Dunn Marriage Role Expectation Inventory, which measures the subjects' expectations for the self and for the spouse along a seventy-one point scale from traditional to equalitarian. In addition to the total score for the Marriage Role Expectation Inventory, (title abbreviated in the study to MRE), scores were obtained for each subject on the sub-scales of the MRE regarding authority, homemaking, child care, personal characteristics, social participation, education, and employment and support. These scores also ranged from low -- traditional, to high -- equalitarian.

Scores on dominance, self-acceptance, socialization, and flexibility were obtained for each subject from the Gough California Psychological Inventory, and a status rank from one to seven was assigned to each based on his father's occupation, in accordance with Warner's Revised Scale for Rating Occupation. Using Pearson product-moment correlations, relationships between the factors studied were established for the total sample, for the female group, for the male group, for an upper status group which consisted of the first four rankings on the Warner scale, and for a lower status group composed of the last three rankings on the Warner scale.

There were no scores on the MRE which could be defined as traditional according to the Dunn classification of a score of eighteen or below, and only ten percent of the subjects ranked as moderately traditional with scores from 19-35. Fifty percent of the subjects had scores ranging from 36-53, and thus would be classified by Dunn as moderately equalitarian, and the remaining forty percent ranked from 54-65 and could be called equalitarian. In the present study, the subjects' scores were regarded as an equalitarian-oriented continuum since there were no very low scores, no scores above 65, no really significant breaks in the pattern of scores and the scores of males and females followed similar lines, Figures 1, 2, and 3.

Correlations obtained from the study were tabulated in order to facilitate analysis of statistically significant relationships. For the total study sample, Table I, the hypothesis was sustained that marriage role expectations are independent of sex, social status, dominance, and socialization, since no significant correlations were obtained between the total MRE scores and these factors. The null hypothesis was not proved with regard to the traits of self-acceptance and flexibility, since positive correlations significant at the .05 level were obtained between the MRE score and these factors. These correlations signified that the more equalitarian an individual's marriage role expectations, the greater his self-acceptance and flexibility, or alternatively, that individuals with a high degree of self-acceptance and flexibility tend to have more equalitarian marriage role expectations, or that factors not considered in the present study affect scores on flexibility, self-acceptance, and marriage role expectations.

For the total study sample, all of the sub-scales of the MRE had a significant positive correlation with the total score. The sub-scale on support and employment was less highly correlated than the rest, but was still significant. The most meaningful trait studied was that of self-acceptance, which had a significant positive correlation with five other factors. The only factor included which showed

no statistically significant relationships with any of the others for the total sample was that of social status.

The tabulation of relationships for the female group brought out similar findings to that of the total sample, Table II. However there were no statistically significant correlations between the total MRE scores for females and the other factors studied. Dominance was more important in the female group than in the group as a whole, as this trait equalled self-acceptance in having two statistically significant positive correlations with other factors.

In the male group, as in the total sample, there was a significant positive correlation between self-acceptance and the total MRE score, Table III. Self-acceptance had again more significant relationships with other factors than any other one category. The unique finding for the male group, in contrast to the importance of flexibility in the total sample and of dominance in the female group, was the negative correlation between social status and the MRE sub-scales of child care and of employment and support. These correlations signified that for the males in this study, the higher their social status, the more traditional their views on child care and employment and support, or that equalitarian views on child care and employment accompanied low social status, or that some factor outside the present study was affecting the male scores on these

factors.

The lower social status group, Table IV, contained the smallest number of individuals in the study. Here flexibility was first in order of importance, having a positive correlation with the total MRE score, and statistically significant positive correlations with three of the MRE sub-scales. Self-acceptance was also important to this group, but social status and socialization showed no significant findings.

The upper social status group, Table V, showed fewer relationships in the category of self-acceptance than did any other group. In fact there was a smaller number of statistically significant correlations for this group than for any other. A finding unique to this group was the significant negative correlation between socialization and the total MRE score, and also between socialization and homemaking. These relationships implied that for the upper social status group in the present study, the more socialized the individual, the more traditional his view of marriage role expectations and of homemaking activities, or that those who had equalitarian views of marriage role expectations and homemaking activities were less socialized, or that some influence outside the scope of the present study was affecting the scores of this group in the aforementioned categories.

II. CONCLUSIONS

Before drawing any conclusions from the data which has been presented, the limitations of the present study should be outlined. First, this was not a sample of the general population. The study sample consisted of all the ~~single members of two classes in Marriage and the Family at~~ a California junior college.

Junior college students are not typical of the total population of the United States, or of California, nor are they typical of the total student population of these areas. They vary in many respects from both the secondary school population and from students in four year colleges and universities. For example, they are older than high school students, so presumably more mature in general, and they are a more select group, since junior college attendance, unlike high school attendance, is not mandatory. Though of the same age in general as students in the first two years of a college or university, junior college students differ in many important respects, such as ultimate life goals, numbers engaged in part-time study, et cetera.

The subjects of this study can be said to be representative of the general junior college population insofar as they correspond in age, sex, and year in

college.¹ It has not been determined whether they are representative of the junior college population in other respects -- for example, I.Q., educational goals, or innumerable other variables.

An additional limitation of the present study is the small number of subjects involved. An attempt has been made to compensate for the deficiency in numbers by using a more sophisticated technique by which to interpret the data obtained. A further limitation is the nature of the distribution of scores on the MRE. No subjects in the present study had scores regarded as traditional by the Dunn standards.

Any study, of course, is limited by the capabilities of the instruments used to really measure what the study wishes to determine. The qualifications of the instruments used in the present study are listed in Chapter III. Only additional research can show whether these are adequate tools. However, the evidence to date on both validity and reliability of both instruments would seem to justify their use in research of the type of the present study.

With the above limitations in mind, the following tentative conclusions might be drawn from the data obtained

¹Junior College Report on Active Enrollment in Graded Courses as of Spring 1966 Bureau of Education Research Form Number R-30A (Rev. 1-66) County 39 District 550-7000.

in the present study.

First, there exists an emergent concept of equalitarian marriage role expectations which differs from the traditional views of husband and wife as distinct entities. This conclusion has been supported by all of the available studies in the field, and is verified for the present study by the existence of many scores on the MRE which reflect equalitarian views, by few which reflect a moderately traditional orientation, and by none showing strictly traditional views. Support for this conclusion is also obtained in this study by the consistence of the correlations between the sub-scales of the MRE and the total score, thus contributing to the evidence of the existence of an identifiable concept on marriage roles rather than a series of unrelated ideas concerning the subject.

The second conclusion which might be drawn from the data presented in this study is that views on support and employment, while becoming more equalitarian, are not as completely freed from traditional role concepts as are those of the other areas investigated. This conclusion is supported by the fact that whereas support and employment had a significant positive correlation with the total MRE score, the degree of correlation was much lower than for any other sub-scale. The lower correlation appeared not only in the findings for the total study sample, but also in each of the

other groups studied -- male, female, upper and lower social status groups.

Third, the data from this study support the conclusion that the equalitarian concept of marriage roles is more strongly emergent in the junior college population than in the population at large. This trend is exemplified by the negative relationships between socialization and equalitarian views. Although this trend was not completely consistent with regard to all areas investigated, there was some evidence of it in each of the groups studied as well as in the total study sample. It was most strongly evidenced in the upper status group of this study, which consisted largely of middle-middle to upper-middle class students.

The fourth conclusion supported by this study is that there is no significant difference between the general role orientations of males and females. Although there were a few sex-related differences, the preponderance of the data pointed to extremely similar orientations by males and females, as evidenced by their total responses to the MRE and to the sub-scales of the MRE. Dominance appeared to be more significant to the female relationships with equalitarianism in some of the sub-scales, whereas self-acceptance was more related to equalitarianism in males than in females. Self-acceptance was important to females also, however, as shown by statistically significant positive correlations in

the female group between self-acceptance and some other factors.

In pursuing this latter line of thought, the fifth conclusion which might be drawn from the present study is that the traits of self-acceptance and flexibility are more related to equalitarian role concepts than are any of the other factors chosen. Flexibility could perhaps be regarded as a pre-requisite for any individual who is espousing an emergent rather than a traditional concept of any sort. The positive correlation between flexibility and equalitarian role concepts has verified this with regard to the subjects of this study. Even more significant, however, was the relationship shown between self-acceptance and equalitarian role concepts. Apparently, it could be theorized that a sense of personal worth contributes to the adoption of an equalitarian role orientation with its emphasis on individual, rather than sex-related attributes, and its abandonment of traditional supports to superior male status. The less secure individual, on the other hand, could be seen as clinging to tradition as defining a more identifiable role, whether it be the prestigious head of the household or the subservient homemaker wife. As might have been predicted, however, this tendency is accentuated in the male group -- a well-defined high status role is still more to be desired, it would seem, even by an individual with low self-acceptance,

than is a well-defined role of lower status.

In summarizing the conclusions to be drawn from the present study, it can be emphasized that psychological factors, in this case self-acceptance and flexibility, would seem to be more related to concepts of marital roles than factors either of sex or of social status. Theories as to the derivation of the psychological factors themselves would comprise a new aspect for study of the problem of marriage role expectations and as such are beyond the scope of this thesis.

III. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

As is perhaps the case with any small study, the data here reported tend to raise more questions than they answer. Some of these questions have been referred to in Chapter IV. Others are related to the nature of the study itself. Would these same findings have been obtained if this study had been made in a rural area? -- In another state? -- With a more diverse social class representation? -- With a larger number of students?

The latter questions could only be answered by duplicating the study under different conditions -- that is, the instruments would be the same, but the nature of the study sample would be different. For example, junior college teachers of courses in marriage and the family in

several states could be asked to obtain the same data from their students. A random sample could then be drawn from this large group which would presumably be more representative of the junior college population as a whole. Another method would be to do comparative studies on such comparable groups as university students, young people in the business world and junior college students.

It is possible that more statistically significant findings could be obtained with regard to social status if the subjects could be assigned a more clearly defined status position. This might be achieved by synthesizing many variables, rather than using only one measure as was the case in the present study. In addition to using more refined methods of obtaining status rankings, a future study could benefit from the inclusion of a wider range of status positions, specifically, more from both upper and lower classes.

Another suggestion for studying marriage role expectations would be to do a longitudinal study, following the same subjects over a period of years. In connection with this study, more instruments might have to be evolved in addition to the MRE in order to more adequately test actual role performance in contrast to expected performance. This type of study, of course, would be beyond the capabilities of any one graduate student because of the time

and expense involved. It could be conceived as a department project in a university, or could be carried out by some of the foundations engaged in marriage research or in general sociological studies.

Another suggestion for study which could be carried out by one student, would be to select one factor which has already been shown to be significant with regard to marriage role expectations, such as the factor of self-acceptance in the present study. Research in depth could be done on the relationship of the one factor to the emerging equalitarian marriage role concept.

Cross-cultural studies of marriage role expectations might also prove fruitful for further research. Questions to be asked in such studies might be whether equalitarian role concepts are more related to affluent societies or whether they are associated with a democratic political orientation regardless of affluence, whether they are accelerated at an equal rate with accelerating technology in emerging nations, whether they are more consistently held in Western rather than Eastern cultures, et cetera.

It can be seen from the above suggestions, which could be added to almost indefinitely, that the field of marriage role research, like that of social research in general, has infinite possibilities. More work is needed not only to verify current findings, but to achieve new ones. Much has

been accomplished, but much more remains to be done. The importance of applying scientific methods of study to this area of life, which so intimately concerns almost every human being, cannot be underestimated. The accomplishments in the physical sciences, which have so far completely out-stripped those in the social sciences, are proof of the power of man to enrich his environment. When we know as much about social processes as we do about material technology, and when we can apply what we know, our social lives will be as "affluent" as our material lives have become.

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