

MARITAL QUALITY IN FIRST MARRIED
AND REMARRIED FAMILIES

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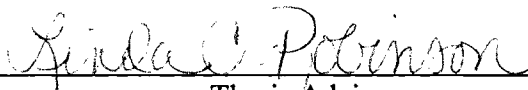
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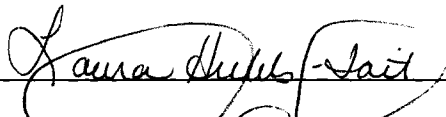
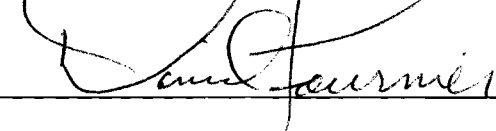
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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM

Introduction

The purpose of this study is to examine the marital relationship in first married and remarried couples. The Current Population Reports (1992) indicates a steady increase in remarriage in the United States over the past thirty-three years. In 1962, there were 345,000 remarriages. This number increased to 515,000 in 1971 and to 754,000 in 1980. In 1989, 837,000 remarriages existed (U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1992). Because remarriage is becoming a more common phenomenon in today's society, marital satisfaction in remarriage is an important area of study.

According to Visher & Visher (1979, 1993), many family clinicians and family researchers consider the marriage relationship to be the most important relationship in the family. It can be either a stress buffer or an added stress itself. A satisfying marriage can help a couple survive the tough times. Couples satisfied with their marriage will display more competent parenting skills, more efficient problem-solving techniques, and more satisfying family relationships. An unsatisfying marriage, on the other hand, weakens the entire family unit's ability to adapt to changes and function effectively. Given the complexity of remarried families, the central role of the marital relationship is underscored.

Research concerning marital satisfaction in remarriage does exist, but few clear conclusions can be drawn. Mixed results have been found for satisfaction in remarriage versus first marriages, remarriage satisfaction for men versus women, and the predictors for satisfaction in remarriage (Vemer, Coleman, Ganong, & Cooper, 1989). More research on marital satisfaction for men and women in remarriages, as well as for various remarried family types, is needed to add some clarity to this area of increasing interest.

After examining numerous studies of marital satisfaction, the following were identified as potential resources in marriage: personality issues, egalitarian roles, communication, conflict resolution, financial management, sexual relationship, leisure activities, children and parenting, and religious orientation (Fournier, Olson, & Druckman, 1983). Studies of marital satisfaction in remarriage indicate similar factors al operative in the relationship of remarried partners: doing things together, feelings of happiness about the spouse and children, social support, children, tender and compassionate communication, respect, intimacy, affection, conflict resolution, personality issues, and former attachments (Ganong & Coleman, 1990; Knaub, Hanna, & Stinnett, 1984; Kurdek, 1989; Schultz, Schultz, & Olson, 1991).

The questions posed by this study concern whether the marital relationship differs for men and women as well as among couples in first marriages, simple stepfamilies, and complex stepfamilies. Based on the results of family strengths and remarriage satisfaction, the factors studied are marital satisfaction, personality issues, egalitarian roles, communication, conflict resolution, financial management, sexual relationship, leisure activities, children and parenting, and religious orientation.

Theoretical Framework

The Double ABCX model (McCubbin & Patterson, 1983) in stress theory is an expansion of Hill's (1949) ABCX family crisis model (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989; Tschann, Johnston, & Wallerstein, 1989). The ABCX model explains the differences in how families adapt to stressor events or situations by examining personal, family, and social resources that help to meet the demands of the stressor and how the individual and family perceive the situation that leads the family into crisis. The Double ABCX model was developed to examine these same factors both before and after the crisis as they relate to the adaptation to the stressor situation.

Stessor

In the case of this research, remarriage is the stressor event . At this time, two families with different histories and sets of rules are joined. As these different histories and rules are brought together, the new family must renegotiate to determine a new set of rules. The new family also forces a reorganization of roles and relationships. The once single parent now must share the responsibilities of head of household with another adult. This redistribution of marital and family power usually results in the displacement of the oldest child's role as co-leader by the stepparent (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989). The stepparent also may be seen as "coming between" the parent and the child, thereby contributing to the child's feeling threatened by the stepparent and affecting the new marital relationship.

The addition of new family member(s) also opens the door for role ambiguity (Roberts & Price, 1989; Crosbie-Burnett, 1989; Giles-Sims, 1984). The biological parent

may feel confused as to how much energy to put into the new marital relationship versus how much energy to put into the relationship with the child. This confusion may lead to guilty feelings of both spouses: the biological parent may feel guilty because he or she now has another relationship to tend to that may take from the energy that would have been devoted to the parent-child relationship; the stepparent may feel guilty for interfering in the parent-child relationship.

Another source of role ambiguity is stepfamily expectations. One expectation for the stepfather is instant disciplinarian. The stepfather is expected to discipline the stepchildren as the biological father. The stepfather may not feel comfortable in this role because he is not the biological father, and the stepchildren may resist his authority (Roberts & Price, 1989). An expectation for the stepmother is that she is a replacement mother and has all the responsibilities of the position. She is expected to care for the stepchildren as if they were her own and is scoffed at by society when she makes a mistake (McGoldrick, Heiman, & Carter, 1993). Other societal perceptions of stepfamilies that lead to role ambiguity are instant love between stepparent and stepchild (Crosby, 1991; Visher & Visher, 1979), the wicked stepmother portrayed in popular fairytales such as Cinderella and Snow White, (Crosby, 1991) and the incest taboo (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989).

Another type of adjustment is boundary ambiguity. When children are involved in a remarriage, there is a link between two households (Boss & Greenberg, 1984). Non-residential children may visit on a regular basis; the custodial parent may be unpredictable in allowing for visitations of children to the non-residential parent and

stepparent; and family members may disagree on who they include as members of their family (Pasley, 1987). All three of these factors make boundary setting difficult (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989).

Resources

Resources (i.e. money, time, space, affection) must be redistributed (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989). Child support must be provided for children living with the other biological parent. Alimony payments to the former spouse may also be required (Crosby, 1991). When the parent remarries, he or she must provide for the new family as well as for the non-residential children. The stepparent of non-residential stepchildren may even need to help with child support payments now that there is an additional strain on the financial situation.

The time spent with family members also needs to be renegotiated (Crosby, 1991; Crosbie-Burnett, 1989). Spouses must now make time to spend with each other as a couple and with the children as a family. Spouses must make time to spend alone with biological children and stepchildren, non-residential as well as residential, to nurture these relationships. Space also needs to be redistributed because there are more family members living in one home. Different living arrangements may need to be worked out to accommodate new siblings. Children may be asked to share a room whereas in the past they have had a room of their own. Along with sharing time and space, the members of the new family also must adapt to the reality that the stepparent and stepsiblings will receive some of the biological parent's affections. The members will have to "share"

each other with people they have not had to share with in the past. All of these resources (i.e. time, space, money, affection) may be in short supply (Crosby, 1991).

Resources are a combination of “individual family members’ strengths and assets, the family’s capabilities of resistance vis-à-vis the stressor, and extrafamilial resources” (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989, p. 326). Individual resources include health, self-esteem, education, job skills, money and possessions, sense of control over the situation, openness to change, and communication skills (Boss, 1987). If the new spouse works outside the home, the addition of a second wage earner will increase financial stability and raise the standard of living. Family resources include shared interests and activities, common values, shared energy levels, shared religious practices, agreement on role division, feelings of unity, agreement about the children, and sharing common goals rather than having only individual goals (Olson & McCubbin, 1982; Papernow, 1993). Openness to change, communication skills, conflict resolution skills, realistic expectations about stepfamily life, the couple’s satisfaction in their sexual relationship, and the members’ ability to cope with stress from the present and the past are also resources for the entire family as well as for the individual. Support from friends and family as well as the community is an important resource in adjusting to the remarried family. Friends and family who offer emotional support and any help where needed (such as child care) offer a valuable resource to remarried couples (Dahl, Cowgill, & Admundsson, 1987; Knaub et al. 1984). How the family uses these resources will help determine how it copes with the stressor (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989).

Perceptions of the stressor

Perceptions of the remarriage will also help determine how the new family will cope with the remarriage. More positive perceptions of the remarriage (i.e., the remarriage is a chance to start over in a more satisfying marriage) add to the satisfaction of the family members. More negative ones (i.e., differences in beliefs create hardships) take away from the satisfaction in a remarriage (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989).

Crisis

The remarriage may or may not lead to a crisis event. The interaction of the resources and their use and the perceptions of the situation can indicate if a crisis situation is in the future. If the family goes into crisis, it will be unable to restore stability without a major change in structure and patterns of interaction. The family will need to renegotiate roles and rules in an attempt to adjust to the new family structure. Typical signs of a crisis are constant and outright conflict, avoidance (denial of negative feelings and problems), and divorcing to keep the single-parent family structure intact (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989).

Pile-up

Pile-up demands are additional demands on the family that relate to the remarriage, prior strains, normative developmental changes, outcomes of the family's attempt to deal with the remarriage, and ambiguity about the family situation (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989). Aside from adding new members to the family, remarriage may also result in a geographical move. Along with the move comes a change in peer group, school and/or work. Prior strains include the loss of the first family, either by death of a

spouse or divorce. Relationships with children from the prior marriage and the former spouse still exist and must be dealt with. As children reach their teen years, they may want to get to know their non-residential parent better. This creates a strain for the remarried family, especially if the relationship with the other parent is stressful or nonexistent. The birth of a new baby into the remarriage can be seen as either a joy, linking the family together, or as an added stress because it may be seen as another interference between the biological parent-child relationship. The outcomes of how a family attempts to cope with the situation may be adaptive or maladaptive. For example, a child who is resistant to the new family may be sent to live with the other parent. If the child or residential parent is not happy with this arrangement, more pile-up demands may result. The non-residential parent who is not supportive of the remarriage may also contribute to problems with respect to visitation, child support, or relitigation (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989).

New and existing resources

Existing resources may be enhanced or new resources may be developed in coping with the remarriage after the crisis. These resources might include marital and family therapy, self-help books, support groups, and increased communication within and between households. Friends of one biological family may also become friends to the new family members. Extended family, such as grandparents, aunts, and uncles, may also become a resource to new family members by offering support for the new family form as well as the new members. Also, if stepfamilies know that problems they are having are normal, their perception of these difficulties may be more positive.

Meaning attributed to the situation

The final and crucial factor in how a family adapts to the remarriage and a crisis is the meaning the family gives to the total situation (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989). If the resources are not utilized and the members see the situation as hopeless, rather than taking advantage of the resources and viewing the situation as a challenge, then the family will not adapt positively to the remarriage. This maladaptation is characterized by divorce or separation, sending children to live with the other biological parent, or a disorganization of the family such that members cannot get their needs met (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989). On the other hand, bonadaptation, or positive adaptation, is characterized by restructuring roles and rules and changing interaction patterns so that new family member(s) are integrated into the family. At this point, the family may begin to feel a sense of unity by having a family identity of its own, and still have permeable boundaries for visitation of non-residential children. In a bonadaptive family, members' needs are met, allowing for the continuing development of family and individual members.

Research problem

Remarried couples may experience unique difficulties due to the complexity of the family structure. Evidence also suggests that there are differences among types of remarried couples (i.e., simple vs. complex) in some areas of the marital relationship. From a stress theory perspective, these couples would be expected to experience unique pile-up stressors as they attempt to blend as a stepfamily. This pile-up may be

manifested by difficulty in particular aspects of the marital relationship, such as the parenting role and financial management.

Many studies have failed to find differences between first married and remarried couples, and the extent to which different types of remarried couples (wife first married/husband remarried, husband first married/wife remarried, and complex remarried) vary in their marital relationship has not been fully explored. It may be that the areas of strengths in remarried couples serve as resources which compensate for the unique stressors they experience. If so, then exploring differences in the marital strengths of first married and remarried couples may reveal specific areas in which different types of couples are especially strong or stressed.

Hypotheses

Based on Stress Theory and the lack of research concerning differences among the different remarried family types, the following hypotheses were examined:

1. First married and simple remarried couples will display higher levels of marital satisfaction than complex stepfamilies, yet there will be no difference in marital satisfaction between first married and simple remarried couples
2. Patterns of marital satisfaction will differ for men and women: women who were previously married will report lower marital satisfaction than women in their first marriage. However, marital satisfaction for men will not differ among the four family types (both first married, complex remarried, wife first married/husband remarried, and husband first married/wife remarried).

3. Perceptions of communication, conflict resolution, financial management, and children and parenting will differ among groups as follows: first married families will have significantly higher positive agreement about these variables than simple remarried couples who will have significantly higher positive agreement about the variables than complex remarried couples.
4. First married and complex remarried couples will have significantly higher couple agreement about leisure activities than will simple remarried couples.
5. First married and simple stepfather couples will have significantly higher couple agreement about equalitarian roles than will complex remarried and simple stepmother couples.
6. First married couples will have significantly higher couple agreement about family and friends than will all types of remarried couples.

Because the literature does not suggest differences among family type in personality issues, sexual relationship, and religious orientation, these variables will not be included in the analysis.

Definitions of Terms

Complex remarried couples is used throughout this paper to mean couples in which both spouses have been in a previous marriage.

Complex stepfamilies are stepfamilies in which both spouses in the remarriage have children from previous marriages (Clingempeel, 1981).

Mutual child is a child born into the new marriage (Ganong & Coleman, 1988).

Non-residential child or parent refers to the biological child or parent living in a different home (Ambert, 1986).

Quasi-kin refers to the former spouse and his or her family to whom a parent is linked because children were born into the previous marriage (Clingempeel & Brand, 1985).

Remarriage is used throughout this paper to mean a marriage after the first for one or both of the spouses.

Residential child or parent refers to the biological child or parent living in the home (Ambert, 1986).

Simple remarried couples is used to mean throughout this paper to mean couples in which only one spouse has been in a previous marriage.

Simple stepfamilies are stepfamilies in which only one spouse in the remarriage has children from a previous marriage (Clingempeel, 1981).

Positive couple agreement refers to both spouses in a couple responding positively to items of a subscale (Fournier, Olson, & Druckman, 1983).

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Family Structure

Many studies have found no differences in global marital satisfaction between first married and remarried couples (Hobart, 1989, 1991; Glenn & Weaver, 1977, White & Booth, 1985). Some studies also have found no differences between a few specific areas of the marital relationship when comparing first married and remarried couples. Hobart (1991) found no differences in relationships with in-laws or conflict resolution skills. Larson and Allgood (1987) found that first married and remarried couples did not differ on intimacy. This same study did find that remarried couples have lower levels of conflict resolution skills than first married couples, and remarried couples were also found to have more conflict over children than first married couples (Larson & Allgood, 1987). Whether the stepfamily is simple or complex plays a role in marital satisfaction. Some studies have shown that more complex stepfamilies have lower marital quality than simple stepfamilies. One such study examined couple strengths and stressors in complex and simple Australian stepfamilies (Schultz et al, 1991). The seventy couples who participated were divided into complex and simple stepfamily groups. The researchers found that couples in simple stepfamilies experience higher levels of marital satisfaction than couples in complex stepfamilies. Schultz et al. (1991) also found that complex stepfamilies had lower mean scores on the Communication subscale of ENRICH than did

simple stepfamilies. The authors suggest that these poorer communication patterns may add to the problems experienced with their children and stepchildren and may have intensified their interpersonal problems.

Another study examined three hypotheses, one of which concerned the marital quality of couples in simple versus complex stepfamilies (Clingempeel, 1981). The results indicated that people in simple stepfamilies had higher marital quality than those in complex stepfamilies. One possible explanation offered by Clingempeel (1981) is that men in complex stepfamilies experience conflicting loyalties concerning stepchildren and natural children that result in problems for the husband-wife relationship.

Clingempeel and Brand (1985) also studied simple versus complex stepfamilies. They asked sixteen simple stepfather families, sixteen complex stepfather families, and sixteen stepmother families to complete the Dyadic Adjustment Scale and participate in two discussion tasks. All the couples had been married 6 to 36 months. The results supported the earlier study by Clingempeel (1981) that couples in simple stepfamilies report higher marital quality than those in complex stepfamilies. Clingempeel and Brand (1985) suggested the reason for this finding is that both spouses are linked to quasi-kin through the children which, in turn, is associated with greater role conflicts than if only one spouse was linked to quasi-kin through children.

However, Kurdek (1989) disagreed that spouses in simple stepfamilies were the happiest maritally. He examined the nature and correlates of marital quality for 458 pairs of husbands and wives in six types of newly married couples: four types without children --both are in their first marriage, both are remarried, husbands married for first time with

wives previously married, and wives married for first time with husbands previously married; and two types of stepfamilies with children--stepfather in first marriage and stepfather previously married. The participants were asked to complete eight self-report questionnaires. The results indicated that families in which both spouses were remarried were happier than any of the other family types. Kurdek (1989) offered two explanations for his finding. First, reporting high relationship quality may be a way of resolving dissonance concerning adapting to difficulties of combining remarriage and stepchildren and the ambiguities associated with the stepfather role. Second, high relationship quality may be characteristic of only the early stages of the remarriage in stepfather families.

Gender Differences

Many studies found gender to be a factor in marital satisfaction for remarried couples. A meta-analysis of research concerning remarriage (Vemer et al., 1989) found twenty-five studies comparing men and women in remarriages. An analysis of these studies found men were significantly happier in remarriage than women. One study used data from the General Social Surveys conducted by the National Opinion Research Center from 1972 to 1978 (Glenn, 1981). Each of the seven surveys contained information for approximately 1,500 first married and remarried people. The researchers reported remarried women to be less satisfied with the remarriage relationship than were remarried men. This pattern also held true for remarried black men and women, although the gender difference was greater. Glenn and Weaver (1977) used data collected by the National Opinion Research Center in 1973, 1974, and 1975 for the General Social Surveys. The results showed that remarried men were somewhat more

satisfied with their current marriage than remarried women. According to Kurdek and Fine (1991), mothers with low role ambiguity, high levels of optimism, and few myths about stepfamilies had high marital satisfaction, yet these predictors were more closely related to parenting satisfaction than marital satisfaction for stepfathers. Albrecht (1979) found the difference in marital satisfaction between men and women to be small and insignificant except when remarried men and women compared their marital satisfaction to the marital satisfaction of couples around them. In this case, men with mutual children perceived themselves to have higher marital satisfaction than men without mutual children. On the other hand, women without mutual children perceived themselves to be happier than women with mutual children.

However, other studies failed to support gender differences. One such study examined remarried families' perceptions of their marital satisfaction, family strengths, and adjustment to the remarriage situation (Knaub et al., 1984). Eighty remarried couples, in which at least one spouse had been previously married, participated. Each family had children living in the home and there was a living noncustodial parent. The results of the Marital Need Satisfaction Scale indicated no significant gender differences in marital satisfaction.

The findings of Roberts and Price (1989) also supported the similarity of spousal perceptions of remarriage. This study used one hundred and twenty participants (60 wives and 60 husbands) who completed questionnaires they received in the mail. Wives had been previously married and had custody of children from that marriage; husbands, if married before, did not have custody of any children from that marriage. The couples

had been married from one to five years. The children living in the home were twelve years old or younger. The researchers assessed marital adjustment of the participants and how seven variables related to that adjustment. The variables included attachment to the former spouse, relationships with friends and families, former spouse's parental role, and parental roles of mother and stepfather. The results revealed no differences between these men and women.

Another study used a multimethod approach to examine the marital quality of couples in remarriages (Clingempeel & Brand, 1985). This study divided twenty-seven couples from complex stepfamilies and thirteen couples from simple stepfamilies into three levels (low, moderate, and high) of contact with quasi-kin. The results did not support the authors' contention that remarried women would be less satisfied with their remarriages than remarried men. The findings also revealed that simple stepmother and simple stepfather families did not differ on their level of marital quality, which was contrary to the authors' expectations. They expected stepmother families to experience lower marital quality due to fewer societal supports and greater role ambiguity.

Communication

In his study of correlates to marital satisfaction, Kurdek (1989) found that high expressiveness in communication (tender and compassionate communication) was a particularly strong predictor of positive marital satisfaction across all types of families studied: both spouses are remarried and the husband has stepchildren, both spouses are in their first marriage with no children, and the husband is in his first marriage with or without stepchildren and the wife is remarried.

Communication patterns of remarried couples also differ according to gender.

White (1989) used data collected by the Family Study Unit of the Palo Alto Veterans Administration Medical Center to examine the relationship between marital satisfaction and communication patterns. Data for fifty-six couples were used, and twenty percent of these couples were in a remarriage. Remarried couples were not differentiated from first married couples. Men responded to marital dissatisfaction with coercive communication, yet women responded to their dissatisfaction with affiliative communication. In a study concerning family strengths and remarriage (Knaub et al. 1984), thirty percent of the participants felt that positive communication patterns (i.e., honesty, openness, receptiveness, and sense of humor) were a strengthening factor in the remarriage relationship.

Religious Orientation

Another factor that plays a role in remarriage satisfaction is religion. One study examined correlates of marital satisfaction of remarried people (Albrecht, 1979). As indicated by the results, people who belonged to an organized religion were happier with their remarriage than those who did not belong to a religion. This study also found that individuals with spouses who regularly attend church had higher marital satisfaction than those whose spouses did not attend church. Also, couples in which both spouses belonged to the same denomination reported higher marital satisfaction than couples in which the spouses belonged to different denominations.

Gender Roles

Society expects step families to act "like the intact family next door, glorified in...comedies on television and the wicked stepparents of fairy tales" (McGoldrick et al., 1993, p. 435). Our culture places high expectations on motherhood so that the new mother coming in to "replace" the biological mother is met with expectations that "even a saint could not meet" (McGoldrick et al., 1993, p. 437). Therefore the role of stepparent has built-in role ambiguities, loyalty conflicts, guilt, and membership problems. Giles-Sims (1984) also examined the expected roles of the stepparent. She drew three conclusions from her study. First, stepparents were expected to share equally in child-rearing duties. Second, there was a gap between expectations and reality concerning the division of child care. Less than one third of the respondents in this study reported actual sharing of decisions regarding stepchildren. Third, stepparents who do not help raise their stepchildren are looked down upon by society, but not as much as biological parents are.

In a study of the division of household labor, Demo and Acock (1993) found that women in stepfamilies see themselves doing 67.8% of all the housework. This leaves only 32.2% being completed by husbands and children. How does this division of domestic labor relate to marital satisfaction in remarriage? Results concerning the impact of role assignment on the marital satisfaction for each spouse in the remarriage were contradictory. One study found equality to be unrelated to the marital quality for both husbands and wives in the remarriage (Kurdek, 1989). However, Guisinger et al. (1989) found that less traditional role assignments for remarried couples resulted in

higher remarriage satisfaction. In these families, men cooked more often and women did more repairs. The study also indicated that time in the remarriage interacted with role division as it correlated with remarriage satisfaction. In the first year of the remarriage, husbands' marital satisfaction was associated with their wives' happiness with chore division and their own satisfaction with decision making. The marital satisfaction for the wives in the first year of the remarriage was associated with their husbands contributing more to child care and with satisfaction regarding decision making power. These correlations continued through the third year of remarriage. Also in the third year the perception of the spouse concerning role division correlated with marital satisfaction of both husband and wife. The greater the difference in perceptions, the lower the marital satisfaction. The correlation was stronger for wives than for their husbands.

Children

The presence of children in the early years of marriage, as is often the case in remarriages, may inhibit the couple from developing a good relationship with each other (Visser & Visser, 1993). In a study in which remarried couples completed a self-administered questionnaire, Knaub et al. (1984) asked 80 remarried couples to identify areas of conflict in their marriage. Thirty-five percent of the respondents reported children (his, hers, and theirs) as the primary source of conflict in their marriage.

Contrary to popular belief, one study reported that stepchildren do not affect a substantial reduction in the quality of the remarriage relationship (White & Booth, 1985). Instead of influencing marital quality, stepchildren decrease the quality of family life and parent-child relationships. The parents with stepchildren reported they would enjoy

living apart from their children, believed the children caused problems, were dissatisfied with their spouse's relationship with the children, thought their marriage had a negative effect on their relationship with their own children, and wished they had never remarried (White & Booth, 1985). A study by Castro-Martin and Bumpass (1989) also found that children from a prior marriage did not lower marital satisfaction and odds of success in remarriage. These authors suggested the obligations to the children offset the additional strain on the marital relationship imposed by stepparenting.

A study by Roberts and Price (1989) was interested in parents' attitudes and behavior toward their children and stepchildren and the cooperation between the parents. The 120 husbands and wives completed the Children and Marriage subscale from the Enriching and Maintaining Relationship Issues, Communication and Happiness (ENRICH) Inventory. The results indicated that satisfaction in parental role responsibilities positively related to adjustment in remarriage.

Another study which supported the relationship between stepchildren and remarriage satisfaction was conducted by Kurdek (1989). However this relationship was positively related in only one type of stepfamily, those in which both husband and wife had been previously married. If either the husband or wife was married for the first time, the presence of children was not significantly related to remarriage satisfaction. Compared to remarried families without children, husbands with stepchildren and wives with children reported higher marital quality. Two explanations have been offered for this finding. First, Giles-Sims (1987) suggests that a report of high relationship quality may be a way of resolving disagreement regarding adapting to difficulties related to the

combination of the remarriage, stepchildren, and ambiguities surrounding the stepfather role. The second explanation is that the high relationship quality of these couples may be characteristic of the early phases of remarriage only (Furstenberg & Spanier, 1987). Over time, the strong ties between husband and wife compete with the ties between mother and children and cause familial stress and marital discord.

Another study examined the influence of children from the husband's previous marriage on the marital adjustment in the remarriage (Hobart, 1991). Two hundred and thirty-two remarried families completed the Locke and Wallace Marital Adjustment Scale and an interview to assess marital adjustment. Hobart (1991) found that remarried couples in which the husband had children from a prior marriage had lower adjustment than husbands without such children. This relationship was significant for both husbands and wives.

Ambert (1986) also found that the residence of prior marriage children influenced remarriage satisfaction for stepparents. Stepmothers had greater marital satisfaction with live-in stepchildren yet stepfathers were not as affected by where the stepchildren lived. However, the ideal situation was one in which the stepchildren lived on their own. This study also reported that when the stepchildren lived with the other parent, the stepmother tended to feel the marriage would be happier without the stepchildren "who came for disquieting visits" (Ambert, 1986, p. 798). However, men with stepchildren living in the home felt they disagreed with their spouse more than when the stepchildren only visited (1986). Stepmothers with stepchildren between two and

twelve years old who lived with the other parent had lower satisfaction than stepmothers with young stepchildren living in the same house.

The parent-child and the stepparent-child relationships have been found to influence remarriage satisfaction. One study looked at thirty remarried families with children either living in the home or with the other parent (Dahl et al., 1987). The results were based on answers given during interviews with the couple and as many of the children as possible. The researchers found that a major factor in remarriage satisfaction was the way a spouse related to the children. In interviews of 232 remarried couples, Hobart (1989) found the most frequently mentioned benefit of having children was that the parent-child relationship creates stronger family bonds, children make for a happier home, and children create a more emotionally expressive home for both spouses.

Another study found that stepmothers' relationship with stepchildren correlated positively with marital satisfaction for both partners (Guisinger et al., 1989). The father-child relationship tended to become more positive in the first three to five years of remarriage, which caused problems for some marriages. As the father-child relationship grew more positive, stepmothers felt their relationship with the stepchildren deteriorated. As discrepancies between spouses' views of the child grew, wives became less satisfied with the marriage. If wives had positive relationships with their stepchildren, both spouses experienced high marital satisfaction. Discrepancies between the partners' perceptions of how wives related to their stepchildren were associated with both spouses' dissatisfaction with the remarriage by the third year (Guisinger et al., 1989).

In a study concerning the impact mutual children have on members of a stepfamily, having a mutual child had no effect on the marital relationship for either partner (Albrecht, 1979). Ninety-one percent of the remarried couples with children from the present marriage reported the remarriage was much better than former marriage(s), yet 86% of the remarried couples without mutual children reported higher marital satisfaction than in the previous one(s). Ganong and Coleman (1988) also found that having mutual children made no difference in remarriage satisfaction. However, Ambert (1986) found that couples with mutual children have higher remarriage happiness than those without. Papernow (1993) has suggested that whether or not a mutual child influences remarriage satisfaction depends on the developmental stage of the family.

The mix of children in the stepfamily (the husband's or the wife's children) plays a role in the marital satisfaction of remarried couples. One study interviewed 232 remarried couples concerning areas including his, her, and their children; effects of the (step)parent-child relationship on marital satisfaction relationship with former mates; and marital adjustment (Hobart, 1989). Husbands with live-in children from a prior marriage reported lower marital adjustment than husbands in families where only the wife had live-in children and/or the couple had mutual children. For women, marital adjustment scores were low if husbands had any children, living with them or elsewhere (Hobart 1989). Part of the explanation for these significant differences is found in the quality of relationships which were established in remarried families and the effects these relationships had on spousal relationships.

Social Support

Support from friends and family is a strong predictor of satisfaction in the remarriage relationship. In a study by Roberts and Price (1989), respondents completed the Friends and Family subscale from the ENRICH inventory. Seven predictors of remarriage adjustment were examined: attachment to former spouse through liking or loving feelings, relationship with friends and family, the former spouse parental role, marital communication, family cohesion, marital roles, and parental roles. The relationship with friends and family was the best predictor of marital adjustment in remarriage. The more satisfaction and comfort remarried couples experienced with family and friends, the higher their marital adjustment.

The positive relationship between social support and marital adjustment was also supported by Kurdek (1989). Participants completed the Social Support Questionnaire, which required them to list the initials of each person who offered help and support in each of twenty-seven areas and to rate the level of satisfaction with the overall support received in each area. A positive relationship was found for each of the six family types examined: both spouses first married without children, both spouses remarried with or without children, husband first married and wife remarried, husband remarried and wife first married, and husband first married and wife remarried with children.

CHAPTER III

METHOD

Participants

This study was a secondary analysis of data collected from a nationwide sample of 2437 couples who completed the ENRICH inventory. Half of the couples were in marital counseling and the other half were training to work with couples in marital enrichment programs or marital counseling. Participants in counseling completed ENRICH at the suggestion of the therapist. Those training to work with couples completed the ENRICH as part of their training (Fournier, 1994).

For the current study, a subsample ($N = 432$) of first married couples with children and remarried couples with children were selected. Due to the large number of couples in first married families with children ($N = 1105$) and complex remarried families with children ($N = 180$), random samples of 114 first married couples and 103 complex remarried couples were chosen using a table of random numbers. The subsample of simple remarried couples included 110 couples in which the wife was first married and the husband was remarried and 105 couples in which the husband was first married and the wife was remarried. All of the participants were Caucasian (white) (100%), most of whom were Catholic (49.5% of the men, 53.9% of the women). Other religions to which men and women respectively belonged included Protestant, 23.8% and 20.3%; Christian, 15.3% and 15.5%; Assembly of God, 2.8% and 2.3%; Jewish, 0.5% and 0.5%; and others, 7.6% and 7.2%. The mean age was 39 for men and 36 for women.

Most of them had some college or technical training; and most men were employed as professionals, managers, teachers, or nurses while most women were employed in sales, technical, or clerical fields. The couples had been in the present marriage for an average of sixteen years for men and twenty years for women, had an average of four children, and currently lived in a small city of 25,000 to 100,000 people. The average annual income reported was \$20,000 to \$40,000.

Instrument

The ENRICH inventory is part of the PREPARE-ENRICH inventories developed in 1981 by Olson, Fournier, and Druckman to assess individual as well as relationship issues for married couples and those considering marriage (Fournier et al., 1983). The items pertain to the individual, the partner, and the relationship rather than to marriage in general. All items, except the last ten items on the Circumplex Model, were answered on a 5-point Likert-type scale ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree." Couple agreement scores were used to measure consensus between couples regarding their perceptions of various areas of the marital relationship as positive aspects of their relationship. Therefore, except for the analysis of marital satisfaction for males and females, the unit of analysis is the couple rather than the individual. A high score indicated the couple agreed that they were satisfied with how they handled specific areas in their marital relationship and that they had realistic expectations concerning those areas of the relationship. A low score indicated that the couple did not agree that a variable was a positive aspect (Fournier et al, 1983).

The inventory contained twelve subscales: Idealistic Distortion, Personality Issues, Marital Satisfaction, Equalitarian Roles, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Financial Management, Sexual Relationship, Leisure Activities, Children and Parenting, Religious Orientations, and Family and Friends . Current Cronbach's coefficient alphas for internal consistency were similar to or higher than those originally reported (Fournier et al., 1983). The alphas for the subscales used in this study as reported in the current study and by Fournier et al. (1993) are respectively: Marital Satisfaction, .88 and .81; Communication, .85 and .68; Conflict Resolution, .83 and .75; Financial Management, .86 and .74; Leisure Activities, .67 and .76; Children and Parenting, .81 and .77; Family and Friends, .78 and .72; and Equalitarian Roles, .70 and .71. Test-retest reliabilities were also reported (Fournier et al., 1983) and are: Marital Satisfaction, .86; Communication, .90; Conflict Resolution, .90; Financial Management, .88; Leisure Activities, .77; Children and Parenting, .89; Family and Friends, .82; and Equalitarian Roles, .90. To examine face validity, a representative sample of articles from the literature concerning conflicts in relationships were reviewed and various conflicts were identified and categorized. The items and categories were then submitted to practitioners to review for relevance of the inventory to married couples. Two methods were employed to insure construct validity. The first was an analysis to correlate the scores on each subscale with over 100 other established scales assessing individual and marital topics. The second method insuring construct validity was a factor analysis on the entire scale, each category separately, and each category combined with an assessment of social desirability. A significant relationship was found between all twelve scales and the

Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Scale. Other significant relationships were found between the scales and existing measures of cohesion, independence, empathy, communication, equalitarianism, assertiveness, esteem, relationship conflict, and temperament (Fournier et al., 1983).

Design and Procedure

Each participant completed the ENRICH inventory. The inventory was administered to the couples to be completed individually by each spouse. Participants were told the purpose of the inventory was to learn more about themselves, their partner and their relationship. They were also told that ENRICH can help identify some strengths and problematic issues in their relationship and that there were no right or wrong answers. The participants were informed the results were not intended to predict their chances for marital success or to determine whether they should seek marriage therapy. The administrator assured the participants the results were confidential and only seen by themselves, their partner and their counselor or clergy. The administrator explained the usefulness of the results relied on the honesty of the answers. The participants were asked not to discuss the inventory with their partner while completing it. The couples were also encouraged to discuss the items on the inventory and feelings they experienced while taking it with each other once both had completed it. Couples without children at home were instructed to answer the ten questions concerning children as undecided and were told the question numbers. After the participants completed the inventory the administrator checked the answer sheets for completeness. Results were

sent to a centralized scoring facility and results were returned to the administrator within two weeks (Olson, Fournier, & Druckman, 1986).

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Means, standard deviations, and ranges for the various ENRICH subscales are reported in Table 1. Pearson correlations indicated a high degree of correlation between

Table 1 Here

Table 2 Here

Communication and Conflict Resolution ($r = .83$) (See Table 2). Because remarried couples may face particular stressors unique to their family form, the ability to resolve conflict would be a valuable resource. Therefore, conflict resolution was retained and communication was not included in further analysis (Cohen & Cohen, 1983).

Three one-way ANOVAs were used to examine the first two hypotheses (Bartz, 1988). Hypothesis 1 tested couple marital satisfaction among the four family types (both first married, complex remarried, wife first married/husband remarried, and husband first married/wife remarried). No differences in marital satisfaction were found across family types, $F(3, 428) = 2.10, p = .10$ (see Table 3). Hypothesis 2 concerned marital

Table 3 Here

satisfaction among the family types for women and for men. No differences were found among family types for either women, $F(3, 428) = 1.48, p = .22$, or men, $F(3, 428) = 2.26, p = .08$ (see Table 3). Therefore, marital satisfaction did not differ for the sample as a whole. Although no differences for men were anticipated, the hypothesized difference for women were not supported.

MANOVA was used to test the remaining four hypotheses for differences in the couples' perceptions of different aspects of married life among the four family types. A Box test (Stevens, 1992) indicated that the data were normally distributed $F(3, 428) = 1.24, p = .09$. Wilks Λ (Stevens, 1992) indicated differences among groups did exist, $F(3, 428) = 2.31, p \leq .001$ (see Table 4). Post hoc pairwise analysis indicated the

Table 4 Here

differences to be between both first married and complex remarried couples, $F(6, 423) = 5.12, p \leq .001$, and between complex remarried and husband first married/wife remarried couples, $F(6, 423) = 3.55, p \leq .001$, (Stevens, 1992). Univariate t-tests were used to indicated which variables differed for the groups in which differences existed (see Table 6). The variables that were shown to be different between both first married and complex remarried couples were Conflict Resolution ($p \leq .001$), Financial Management

($p \leq .05$), and Children and Parenting ($p \leq .001$) (see Table 5). Only one variable differed between complex remarried and husband first married with wife remarried couples: Children and Parenting ($p \leq .001$) (see Table 6) (Stevens, 1992).

Table 5 Here

Table 6 Here

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

The first three hypotheses were not supported by this study. The results indicated that the four family types (both first married, complex remarried, wife first married/husband remarried, and husband first married/wife remarried) did not differ in their perceptions of marital satisfaction. Also, no differences among groups were found for men nor for women.

The results of no differences in marital satisfaction for couples in all four family types are consistent with the findings of many other studies (Hobart, 1989, 1991; White & Booth, 1985; and Glenn & Weaver, 1977). However, other studies contradict these findings. Kurdek (1989) found couples in which both spouses were remarried had higher levels of marital satisfaction than couples in which both spouses were married for the first time or those in which the husband was married for the first time and the wife was remarried. Still other studies found that simple remarried couples were happier with their marriage than complex remarried couples (Shultz et al., 1991; Clingempeel, 1981; and Clingempeel & Brand, 1981).

One might expect to find higher levels of marital satisfaction in first married couples followed by couples in which only one spouse is remarried followed by couples in which both spouses are remarried. The more complex the married family is, the more stressors one would expect to find. For example, families in which both spouses are married for the first time do not have children from previous marriages or quasi-kin to fit

into their schedules or to require financial arrangements. Simple remarried families only have one set of quasi-kin to deal with, yet complex remarriages include quasi-kin from both spouses. However, according to this study, there were no differences in marital satisfaction among first married couples, couples in which one spouse is remarried, and couples in which both spouses are remarried. Stress theory suggests that an explanation for this finding may lie in the usage of available resources by the couples and their perceptions of the situation. Couples may use support groups in the community or church to help deal with problems they face in their family. Couples also may use other forms of resources, such as professionals in education or therapy, to help them cope with problems they encounter. Couples also may turn to family and friends for emotional support as well as helping with child care or helping out with finances, preparing meals, or other household tasks when the family is in need of support in difficult times. Couples may even be able to look within the relationship for creative methods of resolving problems.

Couples in various family forms also may have similar perceptions of marriage and family life. Although remarrying couples often idealize their future family relationships, society's understanding of remarried family complexity has increased over the past decades, as remarriage has become more commonplace. However, remarried couples may view their present marriage as a way to start over with additional family members rather than focusing on the hardships to overcome. Also, first married couples are not devoid of problems in their marriage and, due to their experiences from a previous marriage, remarried couples may have more realistic expectations than those

married for the first time. Remarried couples may not expect to always agree on issues whereas first married couples may expect to reach agreement all the time. Remarried couples also may realize that being a parent is not always easy, yet first married couples may expect all aspects of child-rearing to come naturally. The unrealistic expectations that first married couples may have might lead to difficulties in their marriage as they come to find out that marriage is not as easy or perfect as they thought. How a couple adapts to the stressors involved in their family type depends on the resources available and how they are used by the couple as well as how the couple perceives their situation (McCubbin & Patterson, 1983).

The remaining four hypotheses examined how couples in the four family types perceived particular areas of their married life. Differences were found between first married couples and couples in which both spouses were remarried in the areas of conflict resolution, financial management, and children and parenting. First married couples had higher positive agreement in these three areas than did remarried couples. A difference also was found between couples in which both spouses were remarried and couples in which the husband was in his first marriage and the wife was remarried. The latter family type had higher positive couple scores for children and parenting than did couples in the former type of family.

The result of higher positive couples scores for children and parenting of first married as opposed to complex remarried families and of husband first married/wife remarried families as opposed to complex remarried couples is supported by White and Booth (1985) and Ambert (1986). Remarried families are linked to quasi-kin through

their children. If both spouses previously had been married, two sets of quasi-kin must be accounted for in the lives of the partners, whereas only one set must be dealt with if only one spouse is remarried. Remarried families may also have to cope with visitation of children to another household or into their own. This situation has a large potential for stress, especially if the biological parents are bitter toward each other. Husband first married/wife remarried couples are unique from wife first married/husband remarried in that there is less likelihood for the presence of noncustodial children who may live with a different set of rules in the custodial home and who, according to Ambert (1986), come for “disquieting visits” (p. 798) that interrupted plans.

Although there is support for the finding that first married couples had higher positive couple agreement scores concerning conflict resolution than complex remarried couples (Clingempeel and Brand, 1985; Larson and Allgood, 1987), some evidence suggests no difference in conflict resolution between first married and remarried families (Hobart, 1991). Remarried families are a combination of two families. Each family has a different family history and a different set of rules and family traditions that now must be combined into one set of rules and traditions for a sense of family unity to develop. The family must negotiate which rules and which traditions the present family will keep, alter, or eliminate. The family must also negotiate any new rules and traditions to be included in the current family unit. In the negotiation process, remarried couples with children must keep the quasi-kin in mind and decide who will be included in the traditions of the remarried family. The greater link to quasi-kin also creates greater role conflicts (Clingempeel & Brand, 1985). The stepparent may not be clear as to his or her

role in the spouse's life or in the stepchild's life. Clingempeel and Brand (1985) also suggest greater conflict in remarried families may be a result of no societal role prescriptions to dictate the distribution of personal resources among stepchildren versus biological children.

Positive couple agreement about financial management was significantly higher for first married couples than for complex remarried families. When two people bring children from previous marriages into one family, money must be redistributed. If there are non-custodial children, the present couple may be required to pay child support. This strain on financial resources is further drained if both spouses have non-residential children or are required to pay child support. A remarried family often takes on the financial responsibilities of providing for two previously separate families.

No differences were detected among the four family types in their agreement about the following variables: Equalitarian Roles, Leisure Activities, and Family and Friends. The findings of similarities suggests that families in which one or both spouses are remarried are not as different from first married couples as might have been believed. Equalitarian Roles indicates whether the couple is more egalitarian, indicated by higher scores, or more traditional, indicated by lower scores, in their division of labor.

Although Guisinger et al. (1989) found remarried spouses may be more likely to take on more responsibility for what traditionally may be considered the other spouse's job, such as the husband taking part in cooking or caring for the children and the women doing more repairs around the house, this finding was not supported in the current sample. The findings of this study indicate that although some couples may be more equal in their role

division and others are more traditional, these differences do not vary by family form (Crosbie-Burnett, 1989; Crosby, 1991).

Couples in this study reported similar levels of agreement about family and friends. It would appear that many families believe family and friends to be an important part of their marital relationship. The moderate mean reported for Family and Friends suggests that although some families perceive family and friends as a positive part of their relationship, others see family and friends as a potential source of conflict. McGoldrick and Carter (1989) report that it is important for the couple to create an appropriate boundary between family of origin and family of marriage.

Implications for intervention

Positive couple agreement score for conflict resolution were low ($M = 35.81$) for all groups, especially the more complex the family was. This finding indicates that family life educators and therapists should address conflict resolution in their work with first married as well as simple and complex remarried families, although the need is more crucial for the remarried couples. Other areas of the married relationship that might be of particular concern for remarried couples would be children and parenting and financial management, due to the greater difficulty reported by remarried couples in these areas.

The finding of similar marital satisfaction scores between the four groups may be helpful to simple or complex remarried families in education or therapy. The professional can help the couples understand that just because they are in a remarriage, they don't have to expect to be less satisfied with their marriage than someone in a first

married family. Even though all four family types had similar perceptions of leisure activities, the scores were low. This indicates that couples in all family types may have trouble finding time to spend together. Using this knowledge, educators and therapists can help families discover things to do or manage their time better. The moderate level of satisfaction with family and friends indicates that couples may need help to clarify boundaries between their married relationship and their relationship with family and friends (McGoldrick and Carter, 1989).

Implications for further research

The findings of this study brought several questions to the surface for future research to investigate. One question involves the fact that wife first married/husband remarried families did not differ from complex remarried families yet husband first married/wife remarried families did: What factors contribute to the uniqueness of the husband first married/wife remarried couple so that it differs from complex remarried families and wife first married/husband remarried families do not. Second, do remarried couples have more realistic expectations than first married couples based on their experiences in the previous marriage? Finally, given that there do appear to be differences among family types in some areas of marriage, longitudinal studies would help to clarify the changes which may occur over time.

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Table 1Scale Means and Standard Deviations

	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>Theoretical Range</u>	<u>Actual Range</u>
Marital Satisfaction	45.09	31.21	0 - 100	0 - 100
Equalitarian Roles	51.60	22.20	0 - 100	0 - 100
Communication	31.18	28.78	0 - 100	0 - 100
Conflict Resolution	35.81	29.64	0 - 100	0 - 100
Financial Management	43.89	30.68	0 - 100	0 - 100
Leisure Activities	40.14	23.82	0 - 100	0 - 100
Children and Parenting	45.63	31.24	0 - 100	0 - 100
Family and Friends	49.47	26.40	0 - 100	0 - 100

* $p \leq .05$

Table 2

Correlation Matrix of Primary Variables

	<u>MS</u>	<u>ER</u>	<u>CM</u>	<u>CR</u>	<u>FM</u>	<u>LA</u>	<u>CP</u>	<u>FF</u>
MS								
ER	0.09*							
CM	0.78*	0.12*						
CR	0.75*	0.14*	0.83*					
FM	0.64*	0.16*	0.57*	0.53*				
LA	0.63*	0.13*	0.58*	0.64*	0.48*			
CP	0.46*	0.08	0.36*	0.40*	0.33*	0.28*		
FF	0.63*	0.10*	0.58*	0.57*	0.53*	0.60*	0.32*	

MS = Marital Satisfaction

ER = Equalitarian Roles

CM = Communication

CR = Conflict Resolution

FM = Financial Management

LA = Leisure Activities

CP = Children and Parenting

FF = Family and Friends

* $p \leq .05$

Table 3

Means and F Ratios For Analysis of Variance:
Marital Satisfaction by Family Type

	First Married $\underline{n} = 114$	Complex Rem $\underline{n} = 103$	WFM/HRM $\underline{n} = 110$	HFM/WRM $\underline{n} = 105$	$\underline{F} = (3,428)$
Couple Scores	71.46	65.52	67.23	67.01	2.1
Wives Only	34.69	32.51	33.04	33.19	1.48
Husbands Only	35.77	33.01	34.19	33.82	2.63

W = Wife FM = First Married
H = Husband RM = Remarried

Note. None of the \underline{F} s were significant at $p \leq .05$.

Table 4Means and Standard Deviations of Dependent Variables by Family Type

<u>Variable</u>	<u>First Married</u>		<u>Both RM</u>		<u>WFM/ HRM</u>		<u>HFM/ WRM</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
Equalitarian Roles	49.91	23.06	52.33	20.06	51.55	23.74	52.76	21.77
Conflict Resolution	42.11	29.76	30.00	29.24	35.09	27.32	35.43	31.32
Financial Management	49.91	29.52	41.55	30.70	43.36	30.63	40.19	31.41
Leisure Activities	42.98	23.00	39.32	24.98	39.27	23.53	38.76	23.93
Children and Parenting	53.60	30.83	33.30	28.85	44.27	33.14	50.48	28.26
Family and Friends	50.79	23.92	47.77	27.69	50.64	26.38	48.48	27.90

W = Wife
H = Husband

FM = First marriage
RM = Remarried

Table 5T-tests Between First Married and Complex Remarried Groups

<u>Variable</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>t-value</u>
Equalitarian Roles			
First Married	49.91	23.06	-0.82
Complex RM	52.33	20.06	
Conflict Resolution			
First Married	42.11	29.76	3.02*
Complex RM	30.00	29.24	
Financial Management			
First Married	49.91	29.52	2.04*
Complex RM	41.55	30.70	
Leisure Activities			
First Married	42.98	23.00	1.12
Complex RM	39.32	24.98	
Children and Parenting			
First Married	53.60	30.83	4.99*
Complex RM	33.30	28.85	
Family and Friends			
First Married	50.79	23.92	0.86
Complex RM	47.77	27.69	

 RM = Remarried

 * $p \leq .05$

Table 6

T-tests Between Complex Remarried and Husband
First Married/Wife Remarried

<u>Variable</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>t-value</u>
Egalitarian Roles			
Complex RM	52.33	20.06	-0.15
HFM/WRM	52.76	21.77	
Conflict Resolution			
Complex RM	30.00	29.24	-1.29
HFM/WRM	35.43	31.32	
Financial Management			
Complex RM	41.55	30.70	0.32
HFM/WRM	40.19	31.41	
Leisure Activities			
Complex RM	39.32	24.98	0.16
HFM/WRM	38.76	23.93	
Children and Parenting			
Complex RM	33.30	28.85	-4.34
HFM/WRM	50.48	28.26	
Family and Friends			
Complex RM	47.77	27.69	-0.18
HFM/WRM	48.48	27.90	

H = Husband
W = Wife

FM = First Married
RM = Remarried

*p .05

VITA

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