

AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF FAMILY
PARTICIPATION IN ORGANIZED
COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

By

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CHAPTER I

THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Introduction

The ultimate goal of research in home economics is to maximize the satisfaction and well being of individuals and families through increasing knowledge and understanding of man and his immediate environment . . . (Schlater, 1970, p. 15).

Community activities provide a number of benefits to the family. These activities contribute to the human development of family members by providing leadership skills in various activities. The community provides services for the family, too. The Red Cross, for example, provides blood to those in need, gives swimming lessons to children and adults, and gives lessons on survival. The YMCA and YWCA provide swimming lessons and general recreation for school age children and families.

Families provide benefits to the community by contributing their time, energy, finances, and human resources. Communities help individuals and families form unity and develop closer ties with the programs they provide. This two-way flow of the family providing benefits for the community and the community providing benefits for the family highlights the interdependence and interaction between the two.

Individuals and families participate in community activities during their leisure time. Researchers (Brightbill, 1960; Anderson, 1961; Owen, 1969; and Tinsley, Barrett, and Kass, 1977) reported that in the last few years Americans had an increase in their amount of leisure time. The worklife of the average American family has changed in the past century, resulting in increased leisure time. A recent article (Forecast, 1977), reported shorter work weeks, paid for and longer vacations, and earlier retirement all contributed to an increase in leisure time. With the greater availability of time, leisure programs and activities for the family and individual can be expected to increase.

Researchers (Schlater, 1970) believe there are weaknesses in family programs today. Lack of concern for the family as a social institution results in limited support and participation in family programs. There is minimal research which examines community goals and programs which aid in family well-being. Further research (Schlater, 1970, p. 15) is needed so as to "provide a base for more fruitful and cooperative efforts to deliver programs needed by families of the future."

Few studies conducted concerned the organized community activities family members chose in their leisure time and why they chose them. This study was an exploratory study concerned with the interaction between the family and community activities. The study explored the types of

organized community activities, the frequency of family and individual participation in community activities, and the reasons for belonging to the community activities. An examination of family members' participation in organized community activities helped to provide for suggested program development in agencies, clubs, and other organizations concerned with the family.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this study was to examine the organized community activities of a selected group of families in Stillwater, Oklahoma, so as to better understand the nature of family participation in organized community activities. Specific objectives for the study were:

1. To identify the number, kind, frequency, and extent of organized community activities in which a select group of families participate.
2. To assess the motivation and satisfaction of the family as a whole in the organized community activities in which they participate.
3. To examine the relationship between selected socio-economic variables and the family participation in organized community activities.
4. To present a method by which the nature and extent of the family's involvement in community organizations can be presented visually.

Research Questions

In order to meet the previously stated objectives, the following research questions were explored:

1. What was the number, kind, frequency, and extent of organized community activities in which two-parent families and single-parent families participated?
2. How did families in the study view the benefits and contributions of participation in organized community activities?
3. What factors led to the satisfaction of the families in the study in the organized community activities in which they participated?
4. What was the relationship between the selected families' educational levels, income levels, occupations, two-parent families, and single-parent families and their family participation in organized community activities?

Assumptions

The major assumption for the study was: It was assumed that the family members involved in the study had accurate recall of leisure time activities during the interview.

Limitations

Limitations for the study were:

1. The study was limited to 15 families in the area of Stillwater, Oklahoma.
2. The study was limited to families that had one or more children present in the home.

Definitions

The following definitions described the terms used in the study:

Community--"Group of people inhabiting a contiguous geographic area, having common centers of interests and activities, and functioning together in the chief concerns of life" (Osborn and Neumeyer, 1933, p. 8).

Family--"Set of mutually interdependent organisms; intimate, transacting, and interrelated persons who share some common goals, resources, and a commitment to one another that extends over time" (Paolucci, Hall, and Axinn, 1977, p. 18).

Leisure Activities--Activities in which individuals participate when they have leisure time.

Leisure Time--A block of unoccupied time, spare time, or free time when individuals are free to rest or do what they choose. A time for relaxation and satisfying one's own particular aspirations (Brightbill, 1960).

Organized Community Activities--Group of persons organized to pursue group or individual interests. Activities are usually non-profit in nature, may have offices held, set criteria for membership, and set meeting times and places. Examples include: Job-related--union, farm, professional, or military; Civic--political, school-service; Educational--Extension Homemaker Clubs, 4-H, scouts; Recreational--sports, hobbies; Social--church, fraternity, or sorority; Volunteer Service--charitable.

Recreation--"Any activity voluntarily engaged in for the satisfaction it brings, whether it brings relaxation, fun, or the opportunity for self-expression" (Harris and Levey, 1975, p. 2287).

Volunteer Service--"Unpaid work contributed to community organizations, agencies, or institutions which provide benefits to the individual, family, or community" (Nickols, 1977).

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Community involvement depends upon one's leisure time and the use of it. If a person did not have leisure time, there probably would not be community activities or ways in which one could express individual talents. The interaction between the family unit and the community is of importance. Both depend upon each other for meeting specific needs.

Leisure time has increased over the last century. With this increase of time, there is a need to study activities that benefit the individual, family, and community. Participation in community activities is correlated with selected socio-economic factors which influence who participates in the activities. These factors were reviewed in this chapter. The Review of Literature consisted of four major headings: Leisure Time and Activities, Influences of Education on Community Activities, Participation and Involvement in Community Activities, and Volunteerism.

Leisure Time and Activities

Researchers (Lee, 1964; Owen, 1969; Tinsley, Barrett, and Kass, 1977; and Bryan, 1977) reported that there has

been an increase of leisure time in the United States over the last century. This increase of leisure time reflected on the nation's economy. The U.S. News and World Report (1977) indicated that leisure activities were the nation's number one industry when measured by people's spending. Leisure time activities increased in recent years and the expenditures involved have steadily risen. It was predicted that by 1985, the total spent for leisure activities will reach \$300 billion. This was almost a 200 percent increase from 1977.

Owen (1969) found that work affected leisure time of family members. In the last 60 years, the time spent in paid working hours of men decreased by almost one-third. The changing pattern of work was one of the main reasons for increased leisure time. Bryan (1977) stated that leisure was a central and dominant part of an individual's life, and that it was one's behavior and attitudes towards work that determined leisure rather than the other way around.

The increase in leisure time resulted from better education, job or career, and income. Owen (1969) stated that persons with better education knew how to utilize their time at work and leisure. He also stated that travel time to and from work and working conditions affected one's leisure time. These items took time away from what could be one's leisure time.

Tinsley, Barrett, and Kass (1977, p. 111) stated, "Ideally, individuals should be able to structure their leisure time so as to maximize general life satisfaction, raise self-esteem, and facilitate increased self-actualization." According to Statley and Miller (1972), leisure could add dimension and scope to life, and also, could renew one's spirit. Havighurst and Fiegenbaum (1959) suggested that there were two main types of leisure styles--community-centered and home-centered. Both styles seemed to be equally accessible to the middle-class, although the working class and large families were reportedly more family-centered.

Godbey and Parker (1976) found that the family was still important in developing leisure attitudes of its members. Other influences competed with shaping the family members' leisure behavior.

DeGrazia's (1962) study of the husband and wife's time at home and in leisure activities showed that on an average day homemakers spent an average of 13 hours at home. Of this time, they spent about five hours in leisure activities. Men, on the other hand, spent eight hours at home and approximately four and one-half hours in leisure.

Influences of Education on Community Activities

Researchers (Scott, 1957; Routhe and Newmark, 1958;

Hausknecht, 1962; villaneuva, 1965) reported that membership participation in community activities increased as education level increased. According to a recent article (U.S. News and World Report, 1977), participation in adult education was on the rise. Both adult education and childhood education helped persons develop and establish satisfaction for the leisure they had. Bostick (1969, p. 4) concluded that education for leisure from childhood through adulthood contributed

to the development of interests and activities that will be personally satisfying, contribute in some way to society, and in other ways result in pleasure or satisfaction for the individual.

Godbey and Parker (1976, p. 43) suggested that "education does not increase the opportunity to participate in leisure activities, but it does increase awareness and desire."

Angrist (1966) found that a college education affected leisure pursuits. The college educated tended to be more active overall than those who had no college education.

Yukic (1970, p. 10) stated that the task of education for leisure was mainly "to educate people to use their leisure wisely and thus contribute to their own individual growth as well as adding to a familial, group, or community level."

Brightbill (1966, p. 97) reported that education's greatest function was

to help all persons develop appreciations, interests and skills, and to shape the environment which will enable people to use their leisure, enforced or otherwise, in creative and personally rewarding ways. . . .

Participation and Involvement in Community Activities

A number of studies during the past 25 years have examined various aspects of family participation in community activities. Bell and Vogel (1968) concluded that the community gave the family an identity, provided the family with a specific status position, provided standards of behavior, gave the family a feeling of belonging, and also became a reference group for the family. The family, on the other hand, participated in community activities, established different interest groups, and created unity within the community.

Duvall (1977) was of the opinion that parents were "pressured" to participate in community activities because of their children's activities. Activities possibly included parent-teacher associations, youth-serving agencies, church programs, and athletic functions. According to Elmer (1945, p. 320),

The standard of living includes not only recognition of the cultural standards of the group and response of them but also actual participation in group activities and social organizations in both public and private activities.

Hawkins' (1951) study investigated the leisure time activities of 107 families in the Stillwater, Oklahoma area. The study concluded that the two main reasons families did not participate in many leisure activities together was lack of time and different individual interests.

Reissman's (1954) study found that people in higher level jobs (e.g., professional and managerial jobs) were more active and diverse in their social and leisure participation than those in low level jobs (e.g., operatives and laborers). The higher income group, more frequently than the lower class, belonged to at least one organization. The higher income group also tended to belong to a variety of organizations and to hold more leadership roles in the activities. The lower class family or individuals tended to limit their social interaction more to the immediate family, in contrast to the higher class person who more willingly went outside the family.

Scott (1957) researched membership and participation of 387 adults in a Vermont community. Findings showed more men than women were members of associations. Scott also found religious affiliation reflected one's participation in associations. Protestants tended to hold more memberships than Catholics or persons with no religious affiliation. The study found that married persons had a greater participation in groups than single persons. Home owners held more memberships than renters. Also, the variation in the number of community activities was greater between the upper and middle social class than between the middle and lower social class.

Babchuk and Booth (1969) found that 500 married couples in a midwestern state had a higher tendency to have membership in groups than single persons. Also, home

ownership was positively associated with membership in groups.

Dotson's (1951) study revealed that the social participation among 50 urban working class families in New Haven, Connecticut was mainly within the family groups. In at least 15 of the 50 families, leisure activities of husbands and wives together were dominated by their kin group. Two-fifths of the families had no intimate friends outside their own families. The large size of many of the families enabled them to carry on a self-sufficient social life. Active membership in this study tended to be concentrated in athletic and church groups. The author found that the higher a person's income and class status, the greater the social participation.

Komaronsky's (1946) study concerning social class in an organized group membership of 2,223 adults in New York City, found that each class had its own pattern of associations. The class structure was composed of unskilled, skilled, white collar, business, and professional occupations. The unskilled worker participated in very few clubs, with most of the participation concentrated in social, athletic, and religious type clubs. The skilled workers held 76 percent of their membership in union and fraternal lodge groups. The white collar male participated in a wide variety of groups and activities. Females in the "white collar" class usually found activity in such organizations as church, social clubs, and cultural clubs. The businessman

was in activities such as fraternal and masonic clubs. Both professional men and women were in activities that related to their careers. Other activities included cultural and civic clubs.

Adams and Butler's (1967) study involved 788 adults in Greensboro, North Carolina and explored the relationship between social participation and occupational status. The researchers divided the occupations concerned with in the study into seven categories. Findings showed that the upper-middle and middle class had the highest participation in commercial recreation. The unskilled group had minimal participation in the community. The highest percentage in participation of the upper-middle and the professional group was family recreation. The upper-middle had the highest church attendance. Family and relative visiting were the most frequent activities among the low white collar workers.

Bushee's (1945) investigation concentrated on the number of people involved in social groups at Boulder, Colorado. Of the adults in the 268 social organizations questioned, surprisingly, 29 percent of the adults did not belong to any social group, while the other 71 percent joined from one to sixteen groups. In attendance, women exceeded men three to two. Interest centered on religious and educational groups. Bushee stated that the large percentage who apparently lacked social life, presented a social concern.

Phillips' (1967) study of 600 adults in New Hampshire, found that happiness was "highly related" to social participation. Phillips suggested that the greater the participation in activities, the happier the adults were.

Skidmore and Cannon (1951) suggested that growth in similar community interests and activities usually enhanced a couple's happiness together. But, they added that stimulation and enjoyment could be added to living, by each family member having a number of things that were enjoyed alone or with some other group. One study (Burgess, Wallin, and Shultz, 1954) found that when working together in community projects, husbands and wives had a closer relationship with each other.

Routhe and Newmark's (1958) study concerned community participation of 50 full-time homemakers and 50 homemakers employed in secretarial positions in Columbus, Ohio. The study revealed that community participation was a part of women's roles in both groups. Eighty-four percent participated in at least one community activity, 75 percent participated in religious groups, 50 percent participated in social groups, and 25 percent in hobby and special interest groups. The most common reasons for participation were social and recreational in nature. The non-employed homemakers assumed almost all the responsibility for a family's involvement in school, civic, and service groups. The number of community groups the husband belonged to was related to the amount of time the homemakers spent in

community activities. Three-fifths of the homemakers participated in one or more community activities with their husbands, which were mostly religious or social in nature. Burgess and Cottrell (1959) reported that the proportion of the "very happy" family group, which engaged in all outside activities together, was 14 times as great as those family members who engaged in few or none of their outside activities together.

Johannis' and Rollins' (1960) study on decision making and social activities found that the mother and father usually decided who would participate in various activities involving family members. Although most decisions were jointly made by two or more family members, significantly more parents than teenagers decided what affected the family's social activities.

Another study (Villaneuva, 1965) investigated rural families and their leisure activities. This study examined husband and wife's leisure activities in 310 rural Tennessee farm families. Villaneuva found that wives engaged in more leisure time activities than husbands. Findings also showed that husbands and wives who had completed at least eight years in school had more leisure activities than those with less education. As in Arrington's study, which is reviewed next, Villaneuva found that the participation among wives 50 years and older was greater than those under 50. Also, more wives than husbands attended church, clubs, and organization meetings.

A study by Arrington (1966) of 219 rural Alabama families headed by husbands 45 to 64 years old found that a larger percentage of "young husbands" (35 percent) participated in community activities, than "older husbands" (28 percent). Wives in the age range of 50 to 66 had a higher frequency of participation than any other group. Also, with increased leisure, there was increased participation in activities. There was a positive relationship between family income and membership in community activities; also, the higher the family income the more money spent on the activities.

Searls' (1966) study found that homemakers with college educations and homemakers married for 11 years or longer, tended to have a high activity level in the "self-enrichment" leisure area. Findings also revealed the homemakers' husbands, if in the "high social class," tended to have high participation in "self-enrichment" activities.

Another study concerning women by Angrist (1966) reported that the highest participation in community activities among married women, occurred for those in their late thirties, those who had children in school, and those who held no job outside the home. The study revealed that women's leisure time increased when all her children reached school age.

Robinson (1977), reporting on a survey of the time use of 2,000 American adults, stated that housewives spent

far more time in formal organizational activity (excluding religious activity) than employed women. Also, housewives spent twice as much time as employed men in organizational activity. Robinson observed that the individual participant or participants most often were the beneficiaries of involvement in community organizations instead of providing benefits to the community, such as in a philanthropic organization where a contribution was made to the well-being of society. Robinson theorized that since most of the organizational participation of housewives occurred during the week and most of it revolved around organizations which provided direct benefits to family members, the participation was viewed as "obligatory." In other words, participation in community organizations was part of the expected role behavior of the nonemployed wife.

Booth's (1972) study of 800 adults 45 years and older in two Nebraska urban areas showed men exceeded women in the number of group memberships, but women exceeded men in the commitment of time to groups.

Volunteerism

Mueller (1975) outlined why families voluntarily contributed their time to community organizations. First, families participated in community organizations so that one or more family members could benefit from the organization; for example, parents desired that their child or children be in Scouts, and in order to more fully

participate, one parent became a volunteer leader. A second reason why people work as volunteers was related to the human capital theory; that was that many volunteer organizations provided both training and information for their members, thus individuals spent their time in volunteer community organizations in order to acquire skills and knowledge. For example, a woman participated in a hospital volunteer program in order to learn more about the workings of a hospital. Mueller concluded that a primary reason why the women in her sample contributed a great deal of time to volunteer work was to build and maintain their own human capital.

The U.S. News and World Report (1977) estimated that approximately 40 million people were involved in volunteerism in the United States. ACTION (ACTION, 1974) the national governmental agency in charge of monitoring and encouraging volunteerism in the United States, reported increases as members moved up the social class scale. Participation was positively correlated with an increase of education.

Komarovsky (1946) noted in her study of New York City residents that participation in volunteer associations increased as members moved up the social class scale. Participation was also positively correlated with an increase of education.

Morgan, Sirageldin, and Baerwaldt (1966, p. 140) reported that "in 1964 American families, on the average,

spent 87 hours per year of their time doing volunteer work, with 57 percent of all families doing some such work."

The study indicated that families started active volunteer participation when they were permanently settled in their jobs and the community, were known better, and belonged to several organizations.

Summary

Researchers believed that there was an increase of leisure time in the United States in the last few years. Because of this increase in leisure, research indicates community organizations and activities could be affected. Summaries of several completed studies showed that a family's participation in organized community activities increased as the level of income, education, and class status increased.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH PROCEDURES

Introduction

The purpose of the study was to examine participation in organized community activities of a selected group of families in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The following areas were researched to determine the extent and participation of the family in organized community activities:

- (1) number, kind, and frequency of community activities,
- (2) stage of the family life cycle,
- (3) income level of family,
- (4) length of family's residence,
- (5) educational level of father and mother,
- (6) occupation of father and mother,
- (7) family structure (two-parent, single-parent),
- (8) family size.

Development of the Instrument

On the basis of the previously stated objectives, the researcher felt that a questionnaire administered during a personal interview was the best method for securing the data for the study. The questionnaire was concerned with

obtaining data from the families involved in the study about their participation in organized community activities. The questionnaire was developed by the researcher and provided the participants with an opportunity to respond freely. The questionnaire included: background information of each family (number of family members, age of each member, educational level of the parents, parent's occupation, income of family, and length of residence in Stillwater), satisfaction with activities, which member/s decided what activities in which the family participated, type of organizations in which the family was involved, primary purpose for involvement, the average time spent each month in individual activities, number of years that members had belonged to activities, and an evaluation of their involvement as to whether they received more benefit from each activity or gave more to the activity. The researcher then coded the answers according to a key made previous to the interviews.

The researcher interviewed the husband and the wife together or the single-parent in every family. The questionnaire was read to the participants by the researcher, who also recorded the answers that were given.

In the following chapter, a description of the organized community activities of each case was presented. Data was also summarized for all families. The researcher then "mapped" the families' participation according to their answers. The "map" consisted of a diagram and

attempted to outline each family's participation. Answers concerning the type of activities of family members, the number of activities, and evaluation of each members' involvement (whether they received more benefit from each activity or whether they gave more to the activity) helped the researcher diagram the map. If a family member reported that more was given to an activity than received, the researcher drew an arrow from the family member to the activity. If a family member reported that more benefit was received than given, the researcher drew an arrow from the activity to the family member.

Type of Research

Franklin and Osborne (1971, p. 184) defined a case study as "a method of organizing data for the purpose of analyzing the life of a social unit--a person, a family, a culture group, or even an entire community." Best (1977, p. 119) stated that the case study "probes deeply, and intensively analyzes interaction between the factors that produce change or growth." Best (1977, p. 119) also revealed that a case study could contrast and compare typical aspects of the individual cases "for the purpose of arriving at a greater understanding of human behavior, or for the purpose of discovering new generalizations."

Holmstrom (1973, p. 183) suggested that many researchers conducted studies with large samples to provide for more representation, but case studies were conducted

because they focused on "one clear-cut group. . . ."

Case studies could complement already existing studies and could be compared to them.

The researcher's justification for choosing a case study as the type of research was:

- (1) A case study provided opportunities to focus in-depth on selected families within the community.
- (2) A case study provided opportunities to develop a new method that could be used for and in future research.

Selection of Sample

The sample consisted of families in which both parents and children were present in the household and families composed of a single-parent and children. The study was a case study of 15 families living in the Stillwater, Oklahoma area. The families were chosen by random selection from the Stillwater city directory. Kerlinger's (1973) random number tables were used to select the page numbers in the city directory. After finding the page numbers, the researcher then selected the first eligible family on each page. Eligibility was determined by the presence of two-parents and at least one child listed in 10 families, and the presence of a single-parent listed as the head of the household and at least one child in five families.

Description of Population

Stillwater, Oklahoma, was the area studied in this research project. It was centered around the campus of Oklahoma State University. As of 1977, Stillwater's population was 39,300. The Oklahoma State University campus was the largest college in Oklahoma, and educated over 20,000 students. Stillwater's assets also included a modern 145 bed hospital; an airport, which was one of the five largest in the state; seven public schools; and 40 churches. The main employment in Stillwater consisted of professional, managerial, and technical jobs. As of 1977, the average family income in Stillwater was \$9,200.

Characteristics of Sample

In the sample, the mean age of the fathers was 40 years old. The two-parent mothers' mean age was 40. One of the five single parents was a grandmother who was 58 years old, thus increasing the mean age of the single-parent mothers above what it would otherwise have been. The other four single-parent mothers' mean age was 35.5 years.

The average family size of the 15 families interviewed was 3.5 members. The two-parent families' mean size was 4.1 members, while the single-parent families' size was 2.6 members. The single-parent families had substantially fewer members than the two-parent families.

The average number of children per family in the study was 1.8. The average number of children in two-parent families was two, while the one-parent families had 1.6 children.

The average age of the children in the study was 10.8. In the two-parent families, the average age of the children was also 10.8, while in the one-parent families, the children's average age was 14.

Table I summarizes the educational attainment of the fathers and mothers in the study. All participants had at least graduated from high school. All of the fathers had some college, with 60 percent college graduates or above. Five of the 15 mothers had college educations or above. There was no major difference between the two-parent mothers and the single-parent mothers in educational level.

Table II summarizes the occupations of the families in the sample. Four-fifths of the fathers were either professionals or managers and administrators. Of the two-parent mothers, 40 percent were homemakers while the remainder were employed as professionals or managers and clerical workers. Of the single-parent mothers, 40 percent were employed as professionals and laborers, respectively. All of the single-parents were employed.

Table III presents the sample's income levels. Fifty percent of the two-parent families had an income level of

TABLE I
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EDUCATION
LEVEL OF FATHERS AND MOTHERS

Education Level	Fathers		Two-Parent Mothers		Single-Parent Mothers	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
High School Graduate	0	0	4	40	2	40
Some College	4	40	3	30	1	20
College Graduate	3	30	2	20	1	20
Graduate School	3	30	1	10	1	20

TABLE II
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF OCCUPATIONS
OF FATHERS AND MOTHERS

Occupations	Fathers		Two-Parent Mothers		Single-Parent Mothers	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Professional	6	60	1	10	2	40
Managers and Administrators	2	20	2	20	0	0
Sales Workers	1	10	0	0	0	0
Clerical	0	0	3	30	0	0
Laborers	0	0	0	0	2	40
Service	0	0	0	0	0	20
Homemakers	0	0	4	40	0	0
College Student	1	10	0	0	0	0

\$25,001 to \$40,000. The majority of the single-parent families' income was \$9,001 to \$15,000 for 1977.

TABLE III
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILY
INCOME LEVEL

Income	Two-Parent Families		Single-Parent Families	
	n	%	n	%
\$ 3,000 and under	0	0	0	0
\$ 3,001 - \$ 6,000	0	0	1	20
\$ 6,001 - \$ 9,000	1	10	1	20
\$ 9,001 - \$15,000	1	10	3	60
\$15,001 - \$25,000	3	30	0	0
\$25,001 - \$40,000	5	50	0	0
\$40,001 and over	0	0	0	0

Regarding length of residence, 60 percent of the single-parent families had lived in Stillwater one to ten years, compared to 40 percent of the two-parent families (Table IV). Among two-parent families, an equal percentage (40 percent) had lived in Stillwater one to ten years and ten to twenty years. Of the two-parent families, 20 percent had lived in the Stillwater area for 21 years and

over; this was the same percentage of the single-parent families who indicated their length of residence to be 21 years and over.

TABLE IV
FAMILIES' LENGTH OF RESIDENCE

Length of Residence	Two-Parent Families		Single-Parent Families	
	n	%	n	%
One to 10 years	4	40	3	60
10 to 20 years	4	40	1	20
21 years and over	2	20	1	20

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

Introduction

One of the advantages of a case study is that it provides opportunities to focus in-depth on selected families within the community. This chapter focused on each of the 15 families in the study. The organization of the chapter includes: (a) a brief case summary of each family in the study, (b) a "map" which visually presents each family's participation, and (c) a summary of all families participating in organized community activities, with a comparison of two-parent families and single-parent families. Those factors related to organized community activities include:

- (1) family composition
- (2) satisfaction of the family in organized community activities, ranging from
 - (a) completely dissatisfied
 - (b) dissatisfied
 - (c) somewhat dissatisfied
 - (d) neutral
 - (e) somewhat satisfied
 - (f) satisfied
 - (g) completely satisfied
- (3) family decision making on participation in organized community activities
 - (a) wife decides
 - (b) husband decides

- (c) husband and wife decide
- (d) each member decides on his or her own
- (4) types of activities in which family participates
 - (a) job-related
 - (b) civic
 - (c) educational
 - (d) recreational
 - (e) social
 - (f) volunteer service
- (5) purpose of participation
 - (a) self-development
 - (b) benefit to children and family
 - (c) contribution to community
- (6) number of activities participated in each month in comparison to income, education, and occupation

The researcher had a difficult time determining if the children's school activities such as choir and orchestra would be classified as community activities. All school activities were therefore included as leisure activities in the study and may account for the high percentage of the children's participation in the community.

Description of Individual Families

Two-Parent Families

Family I was composed of a father aged 41, a mother aged 37, a daughter aged 10, and a son aged 14. The father held a professional job, while the mother was a homemaker. The father and mother rated their family's satisfaction in organized community activities as completely

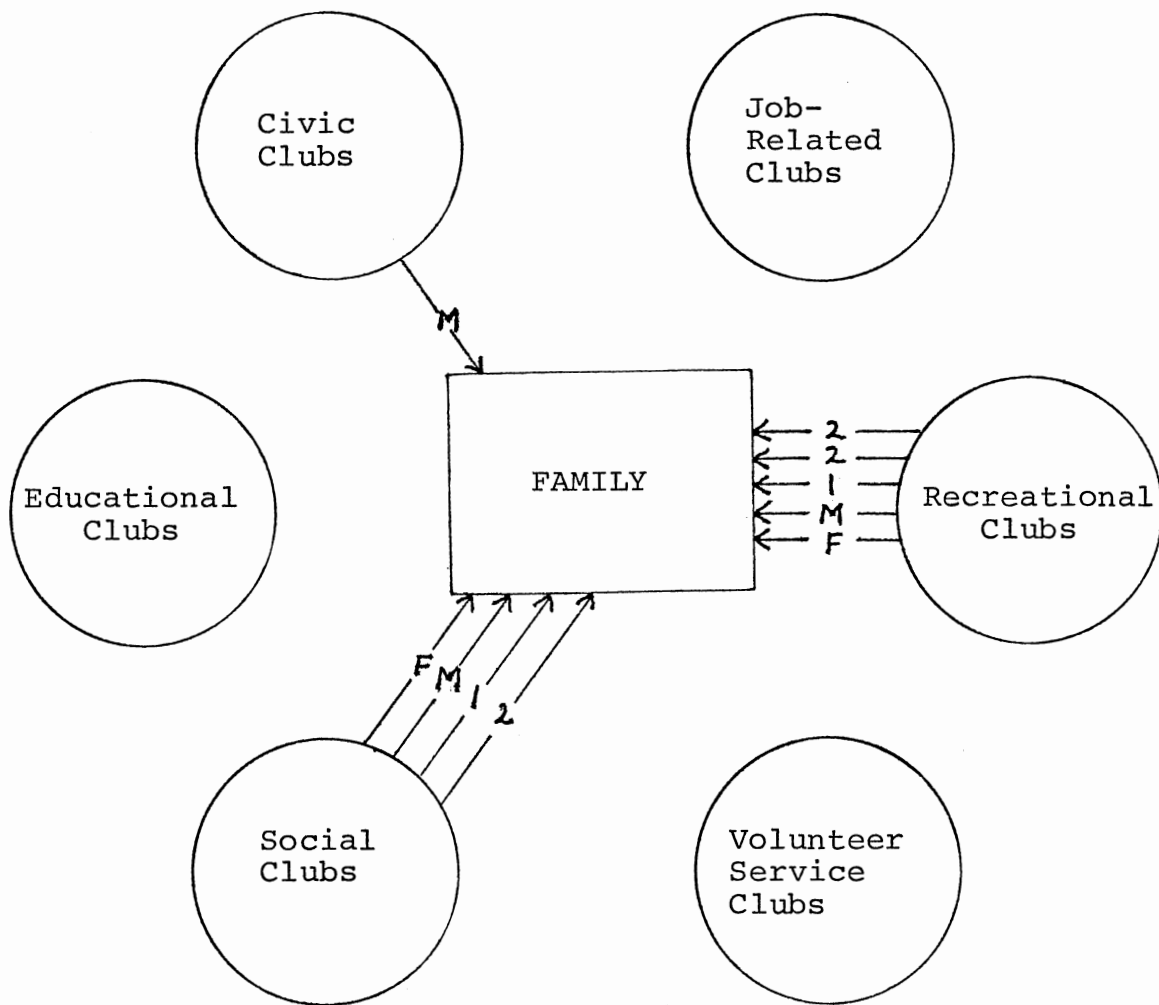
satisfied. Each member decided on his or her own as to activities in which to participate.

The father participated in one recreational activity and one social activity. The mother participated in one civic activity, one recreational activity, and one social activity. The daughter participated in two recreational activities and one social activity. The son participated in one recreational activity and one social activity. Family I participated in one recreational activity and one social activity together. The rest of the activities were done separately. The family had a total of 10 activities in the community.

Of the two organized community activities in which the father participated, he listed one for self-development and one for benefit to children and family. The mother listed two activities as self-development and one for benefit to children and family. The daughter's and son's activities were all for self-development.

The father spent a total of 27 hours per month in community activities. The mother spent 18 hours, while the daughter spent 25 hours and the son spent 18. Their total participation hours in organized community activities were 88 hours, which averaged 22 hours per family member. Figure 1 visually represents Family I's community participation.

Family II was composed of a father aged 44, a mother aged 46, one daughter aged 15, and two sons aged 18 and 10.



Contributions (to and from family)

_____	F	_____	Father
_____	M	_____	Mother
_____	1	_____	Child
_____	2	_____	Child

Figure 1. Family Participation Map - Two-Parent Family I

The father held a professional type job, while the mother was a homemaker. The father and mother rated their family's satisfaction in organized community activities as satisfied. The father and mother jointly decided what organized community activities in which the family participated.

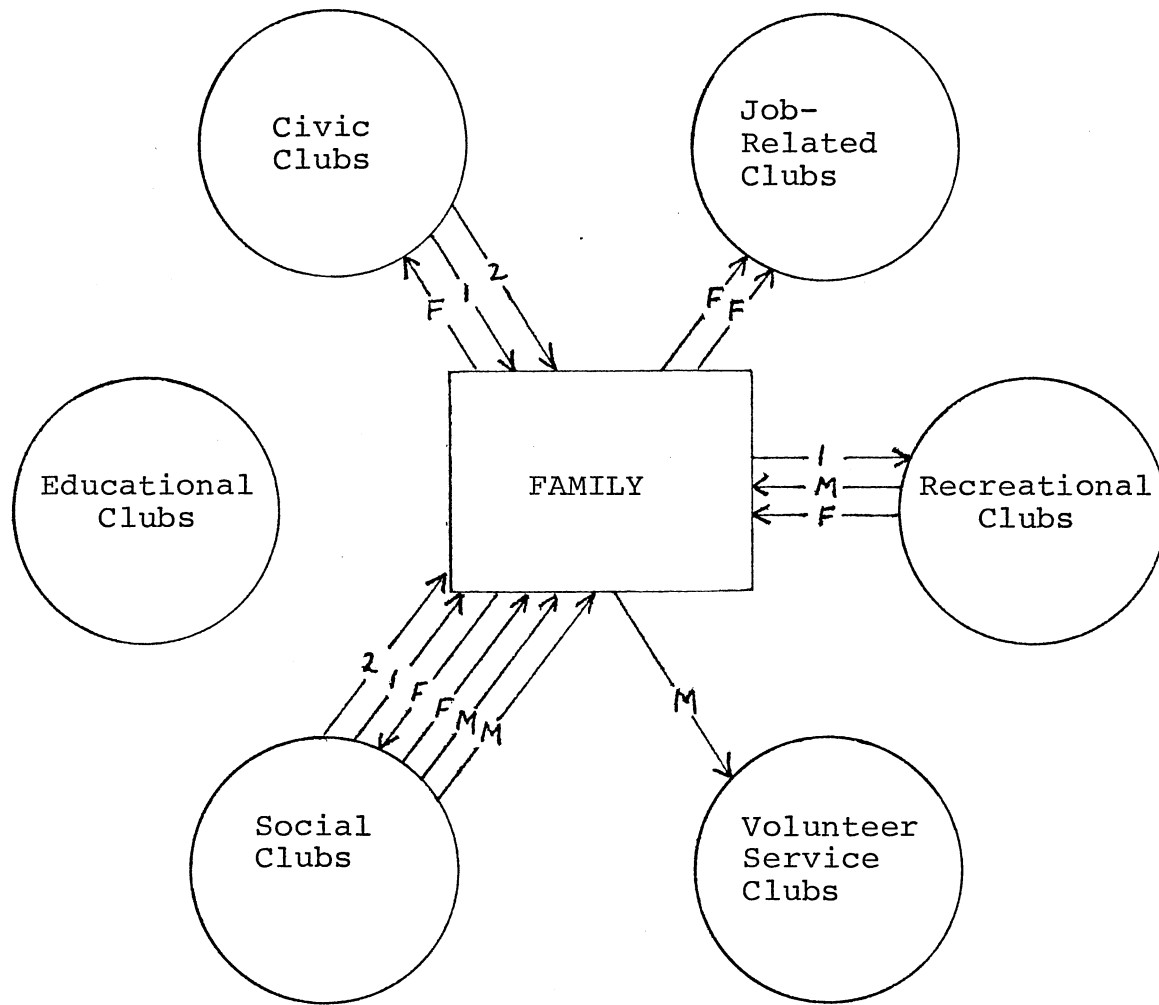
One son aged 18, did not participate in any organized community activities; therefore, he was not included in the following explanation. The son was neither attending school nor working at the time of the interview. The father participated in two job-related activities, one civic, one recreational, and two social activities. The mother participated in one recreational activity, three social activities, and one activity of volunteer service. The daughter participated in one civic activity, one recreational, and one social activity. The 10 year old son participated in one civic activity and one social activity. The family as a unit participated in one social activity together, while the father and mother participated in one recreational activity together. The family had a total of 16 activities.

Of the six organized community activities in which the father participated, he listed two as self-development, one as benefit to children and family, and three as contributions to the community. The mother's five activities were listed as three for self-development and two for

contribution to the community. Both the daughter's and son's activities were listed as self-development.

The father spent a total of 46 hours per month in participation in the community. The mother spent 49, while the daughter spent 26 hours and the son spent 28 hours. Their total participation hours in organized community activities was 149 hours, an average of 37 hours per family member. Figure 2 visually represents Family II's community participation.

Family III was composed of a father aged 39, a mother aged 39, and two sons aged 17 and 12. The father held a sales type job, while the mother held a clerical job. The father and mother rated their family's satisfaction in organized community activities as satisfied. In Family III, each member decided on his or her own as to their participation in organized community activities. The father participated in two job-related activities, three civic, one educational, one recreational, and one social activity. The mother participated in one civic activity, two recreational, and three civic activities. The older son participated in three recreational activities and three social activities. The younger son participated in one educational, one recreational, and one social activity. Family III participated in one social activity together, while the father and mother participated in one recreational activity together. All other activities were done separately. The family had a total of 23 activities.



Contributions (to and from family)

_____	F	_____	Father
_____	M	_____	Mother
_____	1	_____	Child
_____	2	_____	Child
_____	3	_____	Child

Figure 2. Family Participation Map - Two-Parent Family II

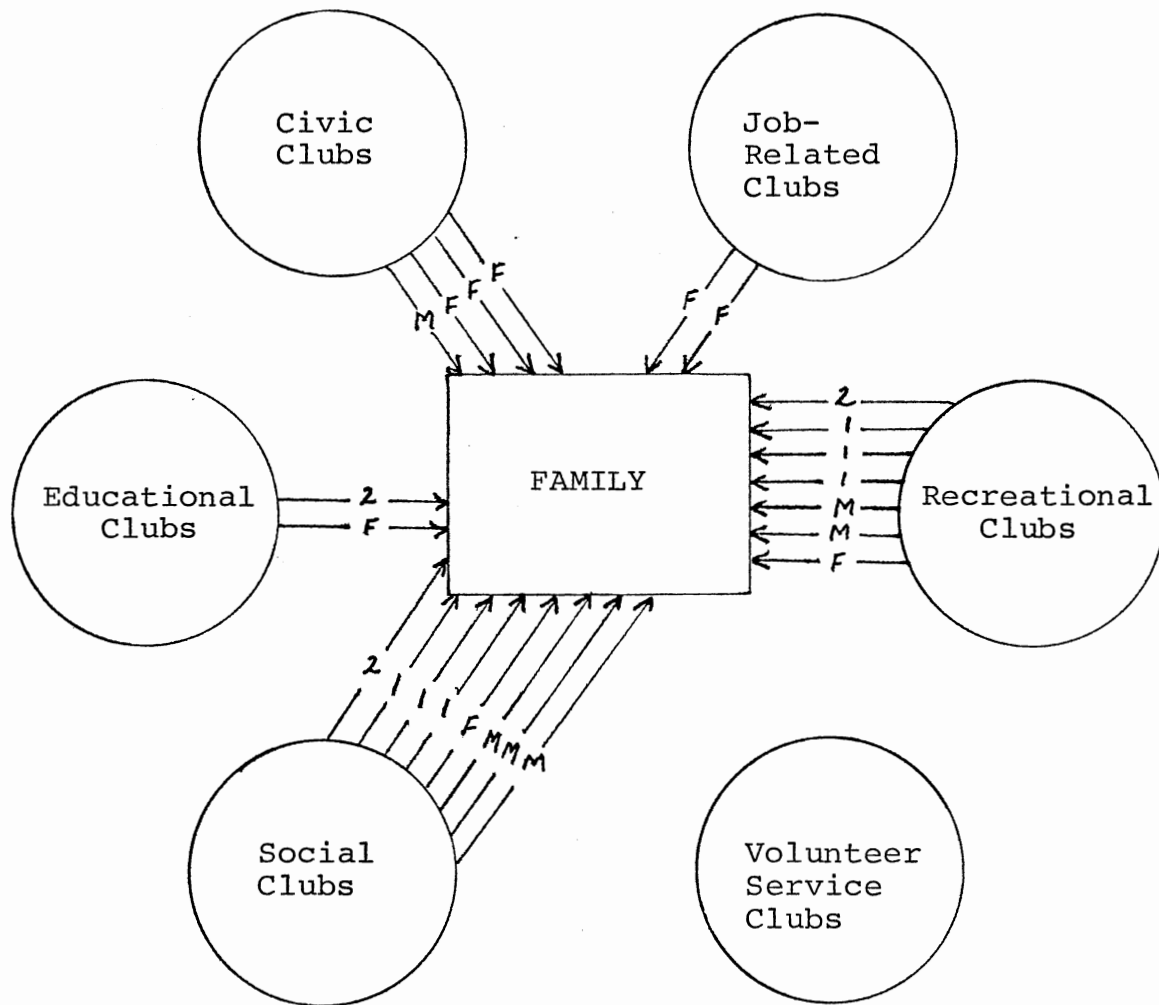
Of the father's eight activities, he listed four as self-development, two as benefit to children and family, and two as contribution to community. The mother listed three as benefit to children and family. Both sons listed their activities as self-development.

The father spent a total of 74 hours per month in organized community activities. The mother spent 51, while the sons spent 34 and 75 hours, respectively. Their total participation hours in organized community activities was 224 hours, which averaged 56 hours per family member. Figure 3 visually represents Family III's community participation.

Family IV was composed of a father aged 28, a mother aged 27, and two sons, both aged three. The father held a professional job, while the mother held a clerical job. The father and mother rated their family's satisfaction with the organized community activities as satisfied. The father and mother decided what activities in which the family participated.

The father participated in one recreational activity and one social activity. The mother participated in two social activities, while both sons participated in one social activity each. Family IV participated in one social activity together. They had a total of six activities.

Of the two activities in which the father participated, he listed one as self-development and one as benefit to children and family. The mother's purpose for



Contributions (to and from family)

F	Father
M	Mother
1	Child
2	Child

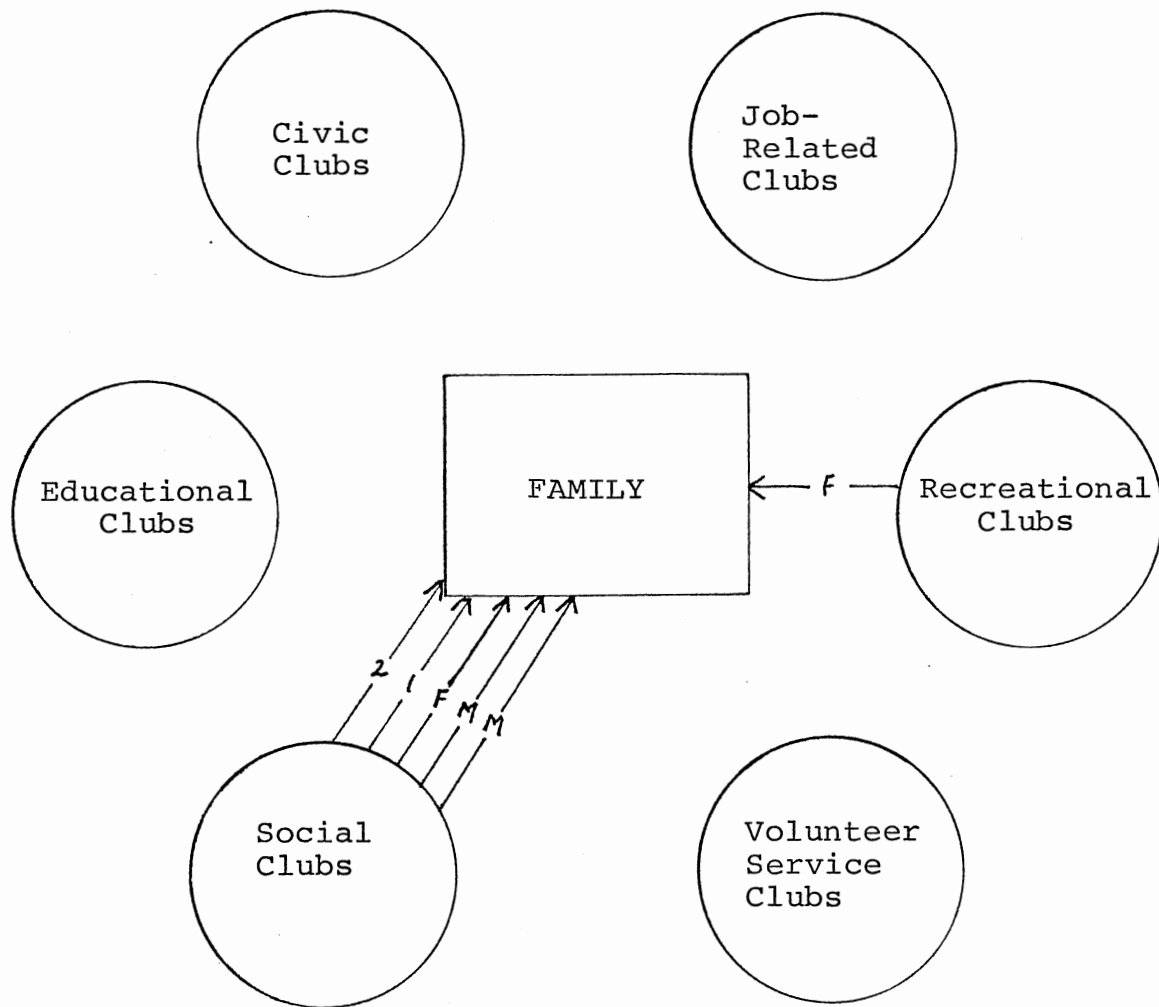
Figure 3. Family Participation Map - Two-Parent Family III

participation was also one for self-development and one for benefit to children and family. Both sons' activities were for self-development.

The father spent a total of 22 hours per month in organized community activities. The mother spent 16 hours, while the two sons spent 12 hours each. Their total participation hours in organized community activities was 62 hours, which averaged 15.5 hours per family member. Figure 4 visually represents Family IV's community participation.

Family V was composed of a father aged 50, a mother aged 46, and one son aged 14. The father held a manager type job, while the mother was a homemaker. The father and mother rated their family's satisfaction with the organized community activities in which they participated as completely satisfied. Each member decided on his or her own as to their participation in organized community activities.

The father participated in five civic activities, one educational, and six social activities. The mother participated in one civic, one recreational, two social, and one volunteer service activity. The son participated in two educational, one recreational, and one social activity. Family V participated in one social activity together, while the father and mother participated in one civic activity together. They had a total of 21 activities.



Contributions (to and from family)

_____	F	_____	Father
_____	M	_____	Mother
_____	1	_____	Child
_____	2	_____	Child

Figure 4. Family Participation Map - Two-Parent Family IV

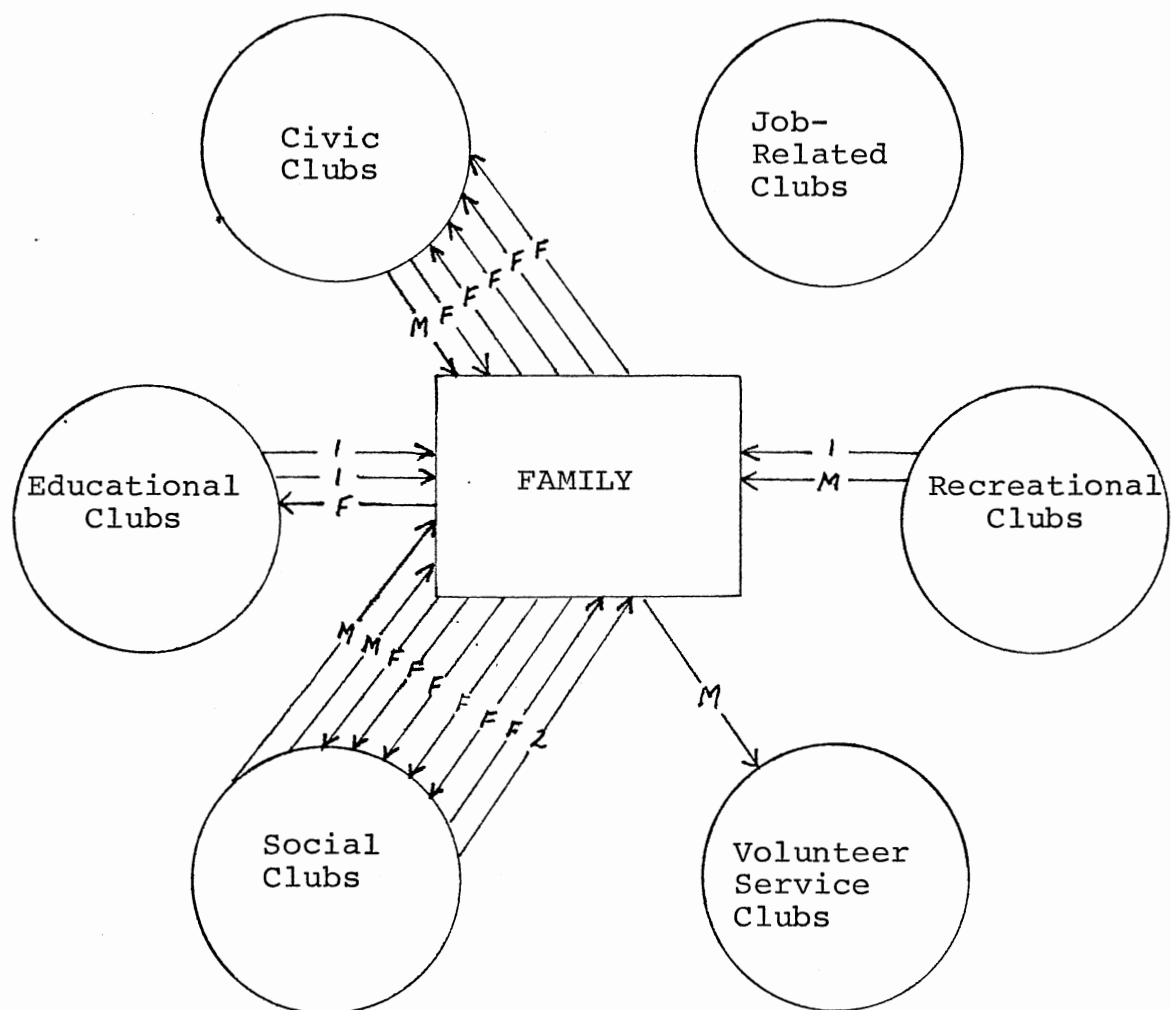
Of the 12 activities in which the father participated, two were listed as self-development, one as benefit to children and family and nine as contribution to community. The mother listed three activities as self-development, one as benefit to children and family, and one as contribution to community. The son's activities were listed as self-development.

The father spent an average of 38 hours per month in organized community activities. The mother spent 42 hours, while the son spent 39. Their total participation hours was 119 hours, which averaged 39.6 hours per family member. Figure 5 visually represents Family V's community participation.

Family VI was composed of a father aged 54, a mother aged 50, and one son who was 15 years old. The father held a managerial job, while the mother held a clerical job. The father and mother rated their organized community activities as satisfied. The father decided what organized community activities in which the family participated.

The mother did not participate in any organized community activities and will therefore not be included in the following explanation. The father participated in one recreational activity, while the son participated in five civic activities.

The father's purpose for participating in the recreation activity was benefit to children and family. The son's five activities were all self-development.



Contributions (to and from family)

_____	F	_____	Father
_____	M	_____	Mother
_____	1	_____	Child
_____	2	_____	Child

Figure 5. Family Participation Map - Two-Parent Family V

One-half hour per month was spent by the father in the organized community activity. The son spent 43 hours. For those family members who participated, the total participation hours in activities was 43.5 hours, which averaged 21.5 hours per family member. Figure 6 visually represents Family VI's participation.

Family VII was composed of a father aged 40, a mother aged 40, and one daughter who was 13 years old. Both the father and mother held professional jobs. The father and mother rated their family's satisfaction with the organized community activities in which they participated as satisfied. Each member decided on his or her own the activities in which they participated.

The father participated in one civic activity, two recreational, and two social. The mother participated in four job-related activities and one social activity. The daughter participated in two civic, one recreational, and two social activities. Family VII participated in one social organized community activity together. The other activities were done separately.

Of the five activities in which the father participated, he listed three as self-development, one as benefit to children and family, and one as contribution to community. The daughter's five activities were listed as self-development.

The father spent a total of 34 hours per month in activities. The mother spent 20 hours, while the daughter

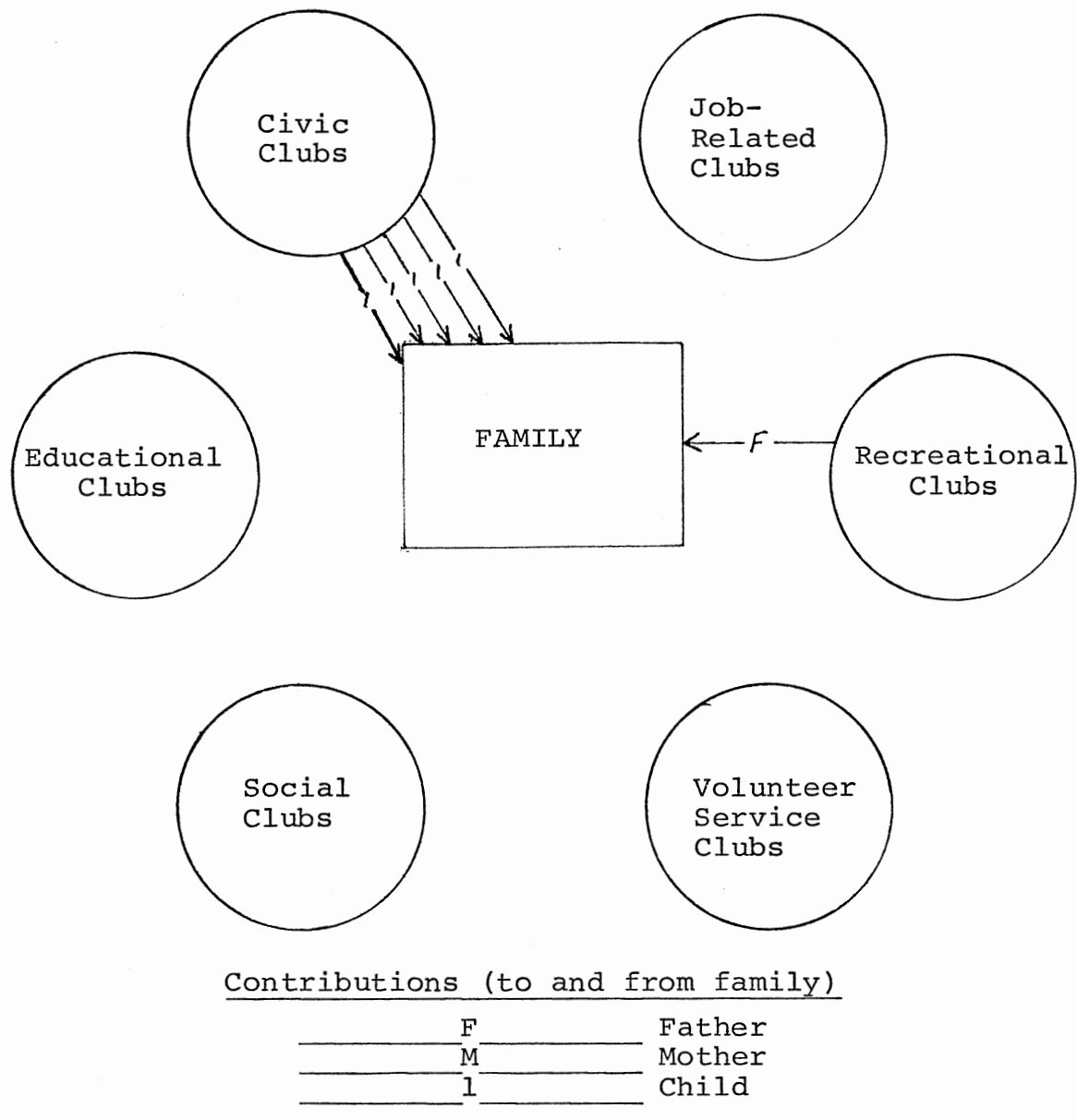


Figure 6. Family Participation Map - Two-Parent Family VI

spent 95. Practice in school activities (band and chorus) accounted for the daughter's high participation. The family's total participation hours were 149, which averaged 49.6 hours per family member. Figure 7 visually represents Family VII's community participation.

Family VIII was composed of a father aged 24, a mother aged 24, and two daughters, aged five and three. The father was a student, while the mother held a managerial job. The father and mother rated their family's satisfaction with the organized community activities in which they participated as neutral. The father decided the organized community activities in which the family participated.

All family members were engaged in one social activity. The mother and two daughters participated in one social activity together, while the father participated in a social activity separately. All family members' main purpose for participation was for self-development.

The father participated in organized community activities for two hours each month, while the mother and two daughters participated eight hours each. Their total participation hours was 26, which averaged 6.5 hours per family member. Figure 8 visually represents Family VIII's community participation.

Family IX was composed of a father aged 43, a mother aged 36, two daughters aged 12 and 14, and two sons aged 10 and 16. The father held a professional job, while the mother was a homemaker. The father and mother rated their

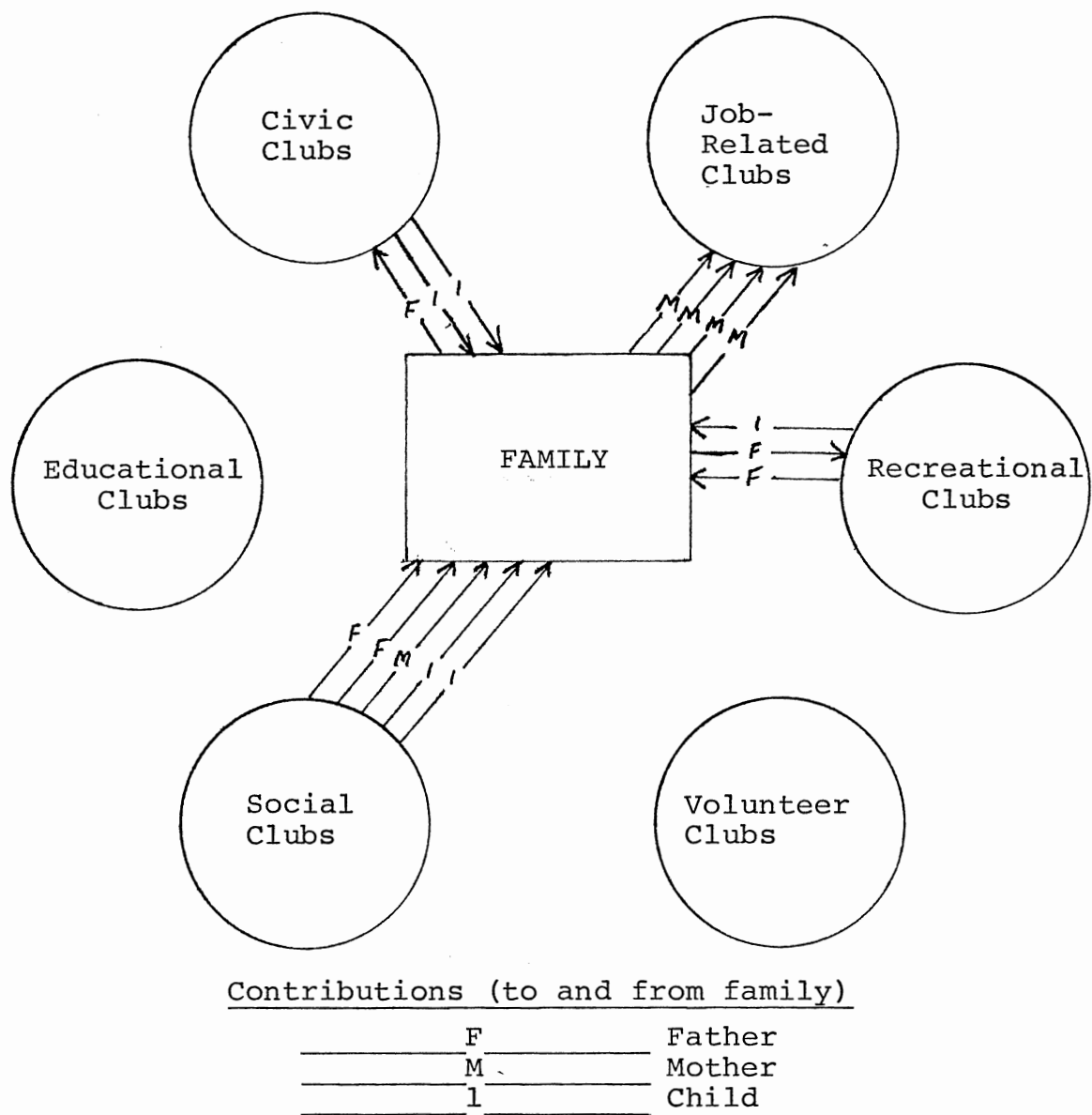
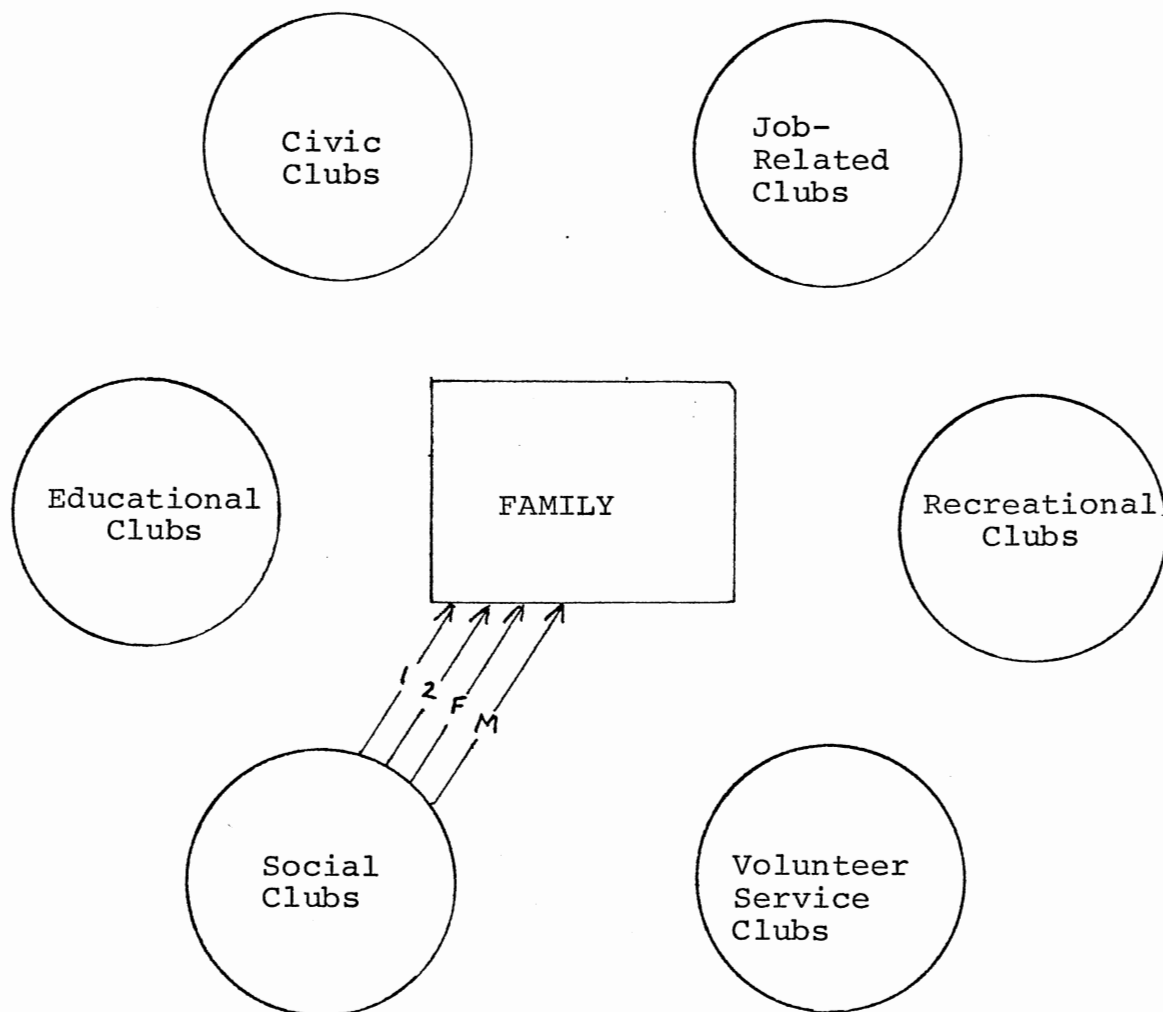


Figure 7. Family Participation Map - Two-Parent Family VII



Contributions (to and from family)

_____ F _____	Father
_____ M _____	Mother
_____ 1 _____	Child
_____ 2 _____	Child

Figure 8. Family Participation Map - Two-Parent Family VIII

family's satisfaction in organized community activities as satisfied. Each family member decided on his or her own the organized community activities in which to participate.

The father participated in two job-related activities, one civic, one recreational, and three social activities. The mother participated in one civic activity, one educational, one recreational, two social, and one volunteer service activity. Both daughters participated in one educational and one social activity. The oldest son participated in five civic activities and one social activity. The youngest son participated in one educational, one recreational, and one social activity. The family as a unit had a total of 26 activities. Family IX participated in one social activity together. The father and mother participated in one recreational activity together. The rest of the activities were done separately.

Of the father's seven activities, he listed six as self-development; the other activity was considered a contribution to the community. The mother listed three of her activities as self-development and the other three as contribution to the community. The four children's activities were all listed as self-development.

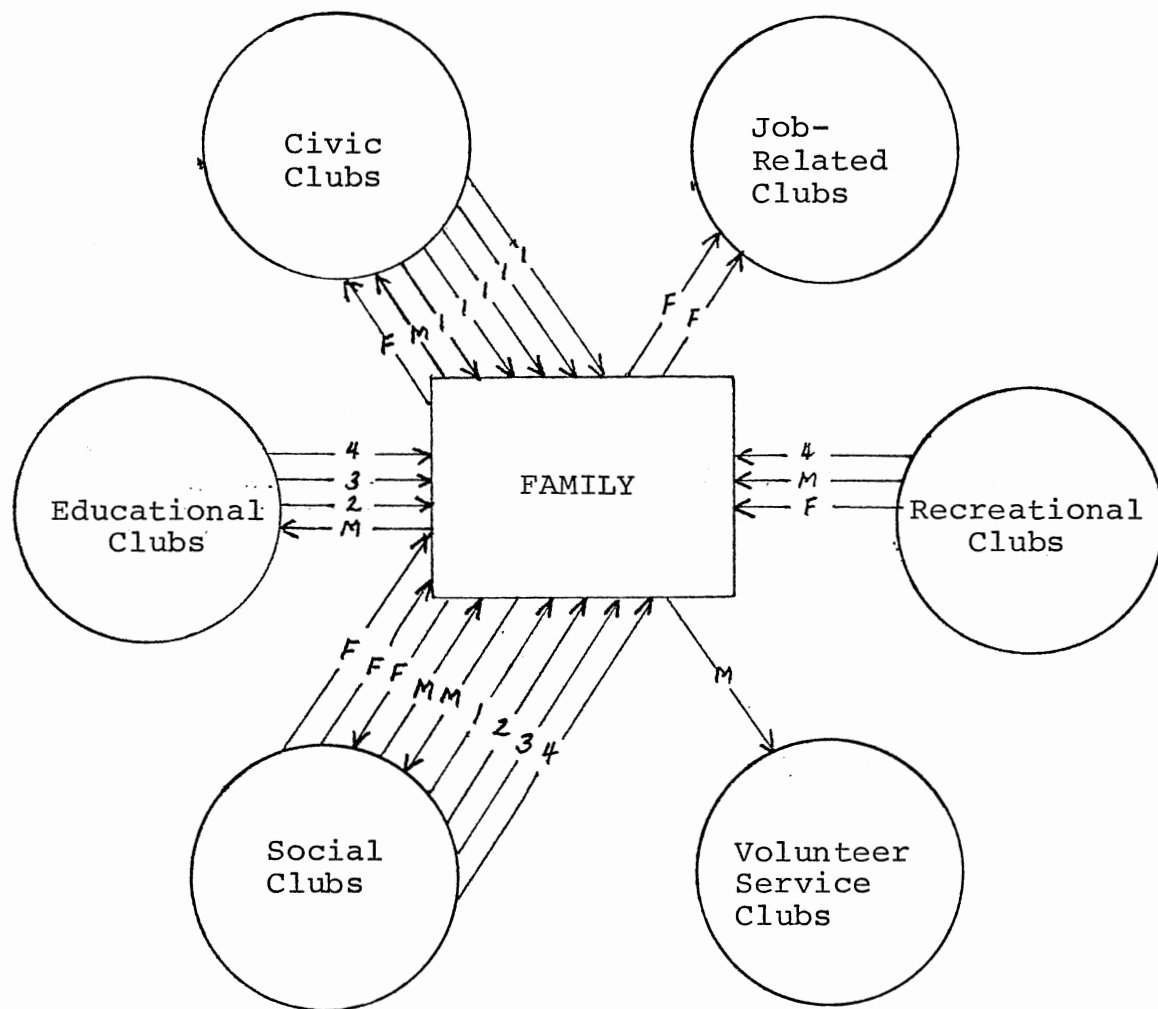
The father spent a total of 70 hours per month in organized community activities. The mother spent 54, the oldest daughter spent 14, the youngest daughter spent 34, the oldest son spent 36, and the youngest son spent 25

hours. The family spent a total of 233 hours per month, which averaged 38.8 hours per family member. Figure 9 visually represents Family IX's community participation.

Family X was composed of a father aged 39, a mother aged 33, one daughter 6 years old, and one son 5 years old. The father held a professional job, while the mother held a managerial type job. The father and mother rated their family's satisfaction with the organized community activities as completely satisfied. The father and mother decided together what organized community activities in which the family participated.

The father participated in four civic activities, one recreational, three social, and three volunteer service activities. The mother participated in one civic and four social activities. Both children participated in one social activity. Together as a family, they participated in one social activity. The father and mother participated in one social and one civic activity together.

Of the 11 activities in which the father participated, he listed five as self-development, one as benefit to children and family, and five as contribution to community. The mother listed three of her activities as self-development, one as benefit to children and family, and one as contribution to the community. Both children's activities were listed as self-development. The family had a total of 18 activities.



Contributions (to and from family)

_____ F _____	Father
_____ M _____	Mother
_____ 1 _____	Child
_____ 2 _____	Child
_____ 3 _____	Child
_____ 4 _____	Child

Figure 9. Family Participation Map - Two-Parent Family IX

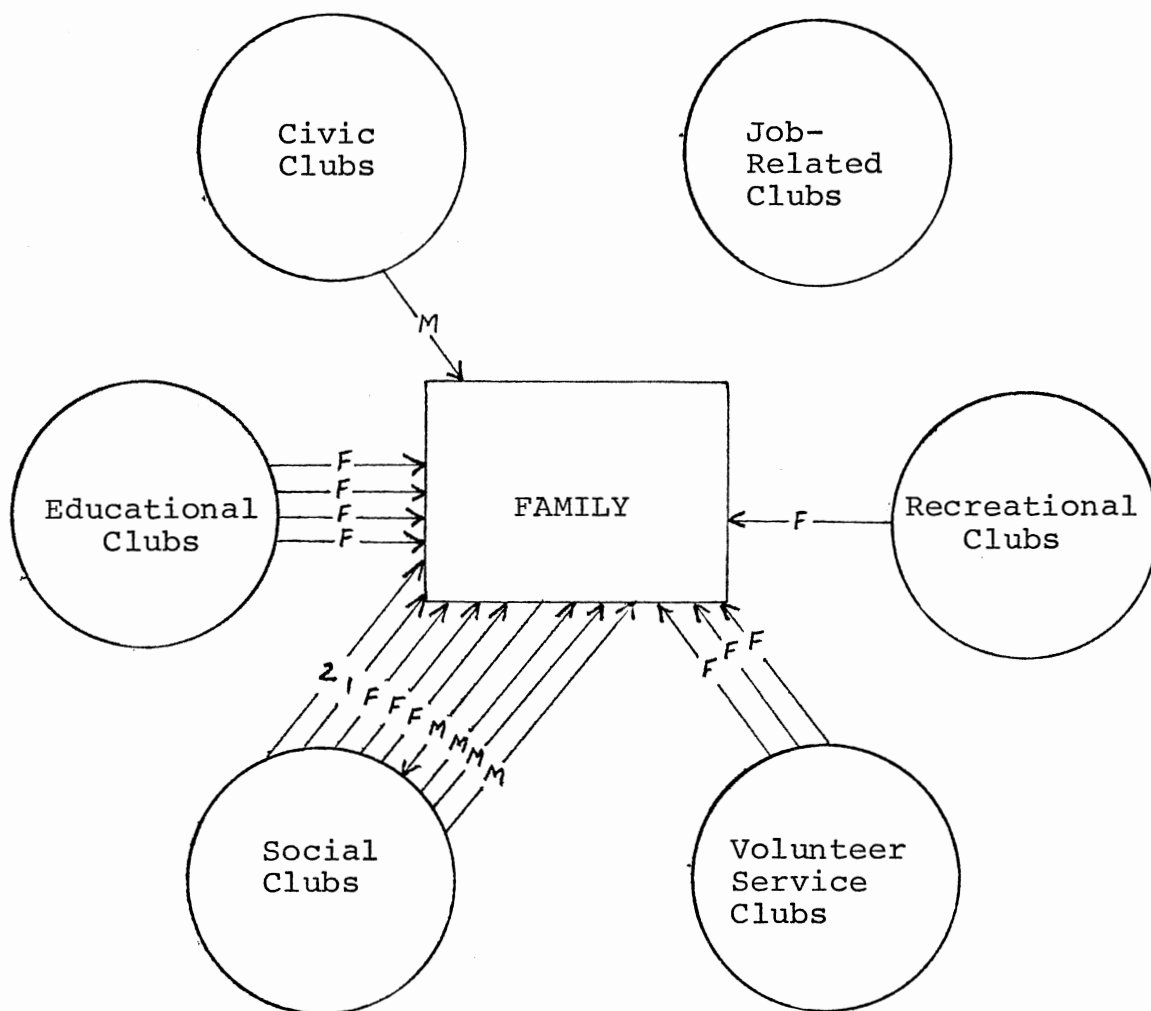
The father spent 42 hours per month in organized community activities. The mother spent 25 hours, while both children had 10. The family as a unit spent a total of 87 hours per month, which averaged 21.7 hours per family member. Figure 10 visually represents Family X's community participation.

Single-Parent Families

Family XI was composed of a mother aged 58, two daughters aged 17 and 18, and one son aged 14. The mother held a laborer type job. The mother rated the family's satisfaction with the organized community activities as neutral. Each member decided on his or her own what organized community activities in which to participate.

The 18 year old girl had no community activities, so was not included in the following explanation. She held a job in Stillwater, but did not attend school. The mother had one activity in civic activities and two in social activities. The 17 year old daughter had one educational activity. The son had two recreational activities. The family had a total of six organized community activities and participated in all of the activities separately. The primary purpose for all family members' participation was self-development.

The mother spent a total of 20 hours per month in activities, while the daughter spent two and the son spent



Contributions (to and from family)

_____ F _____	Father
_____ M _____	Mother
_____ 1 _____	Child
_____ 2 _____	Child

Figure 10. Family Participation Map - Two-Parent Family X

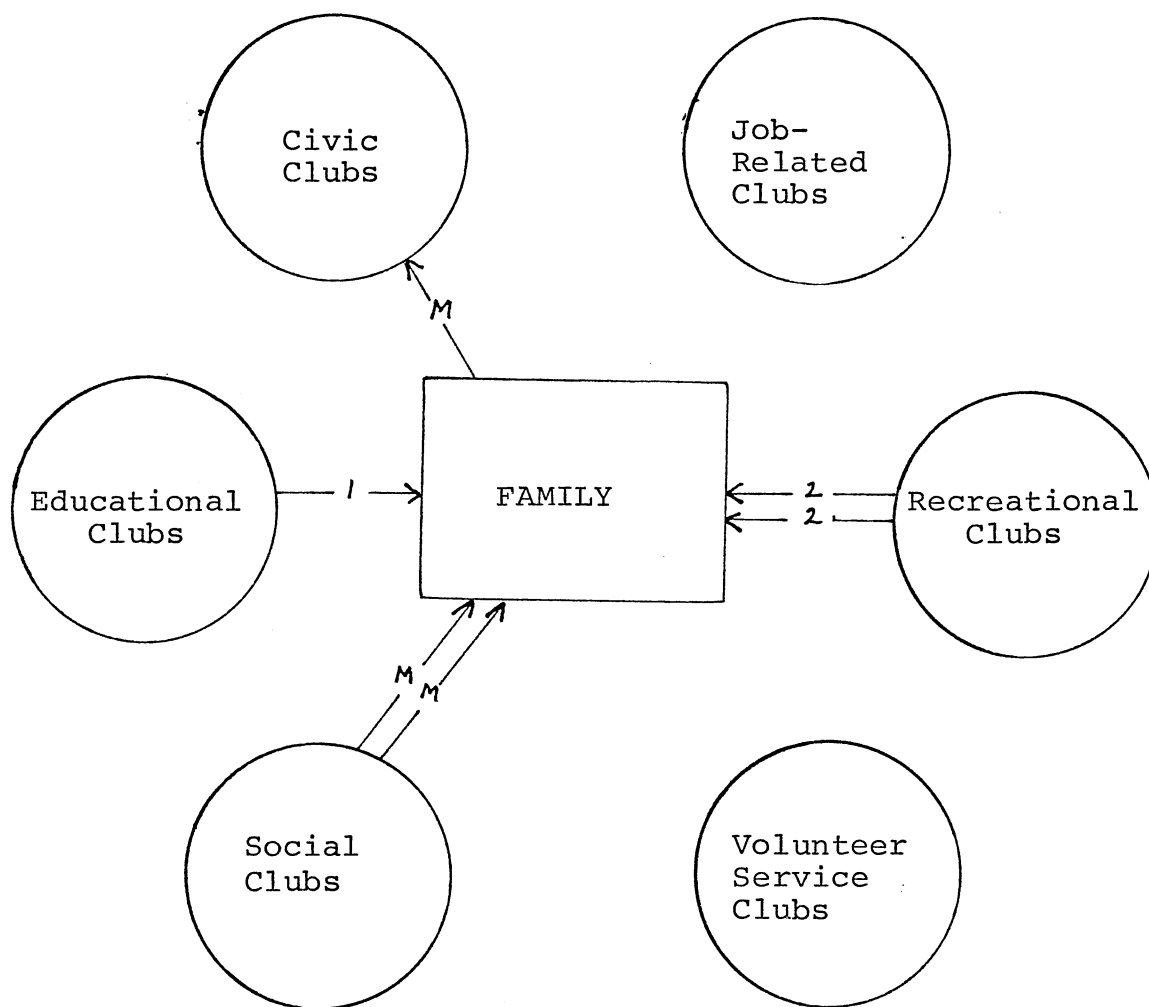
52. The family as a unit spent a total of 74 hours per month, which averaged 24.6 hours per family member. Figure 11 visually represents Family XI's community participation.

Family XII was composed of a mother aged 29 and a daughter who was three years old. The mother was a service worker. The mother rated their satisfaction in activities as neutral. The mother reported that she decided on any activities in which the family would participate. This family had no activities at the time of the interview. A figure was not included due to a lack of activities.

Family XIII was composed of a mother aged 43 and a daughter who was 17 years old. The mother held a laborer type job. She rated the family's satisfaction in organized community activities as somewhat satisfied. In this family, the mother decided the activities in which the family participated.

The mother participated in one civic activity, one recreational, three social, and one volunteer service activity. The daughter participated in one civic and two social activities. The mother and daughter participated in one civic and two social activities together.

Of the mother's six activities, she listed three as self-development, two as benefit to children and family, and one as contribution to community. The daughter's activities were listed as self-development.



Contributions (to and from family)

_____	M	_____	Mother
_____	1	_____	Child
_____	2	_____	Child
_____	3	_____	Child

Figure 11. Family Participation Map - Single-Parent Family XI

The mother spent a total of 31 hours per month in organized community activities, while the daughter spent 48 hours. As a family, they spent a total of 79 hours, which averaged 39.5 hours per family member. Figure 12 visually represents Family XIII's community participation.

Family XIV was composed of a mother aged 35 and a son aged four. The mother held a professional type job. She rated the family's satisfaction with the organized community activities as satisfied. The mother decided in which activities she and her son participated.

The mother participated in one social activity, while the son participated in one recreational and one social. The social activity was done together. The mother listed her activity as benefit to children and family, while the son's activities were listed as self-development.

The mother spent a total of two hours in organized community activities each month, while the son spent 16. A total of 18 hours was spent in organized community activities, which averaged nine hours per family member. Figure 13 visually represents Family XIV's community participation.

Family XV was composed of a mother aged 35, and two daughters aged 10 and 3. The mother held a professional type job. She rated her family's satisfaction with the organized community activities as completely satisfied. The mother decided in which activities the family participated.

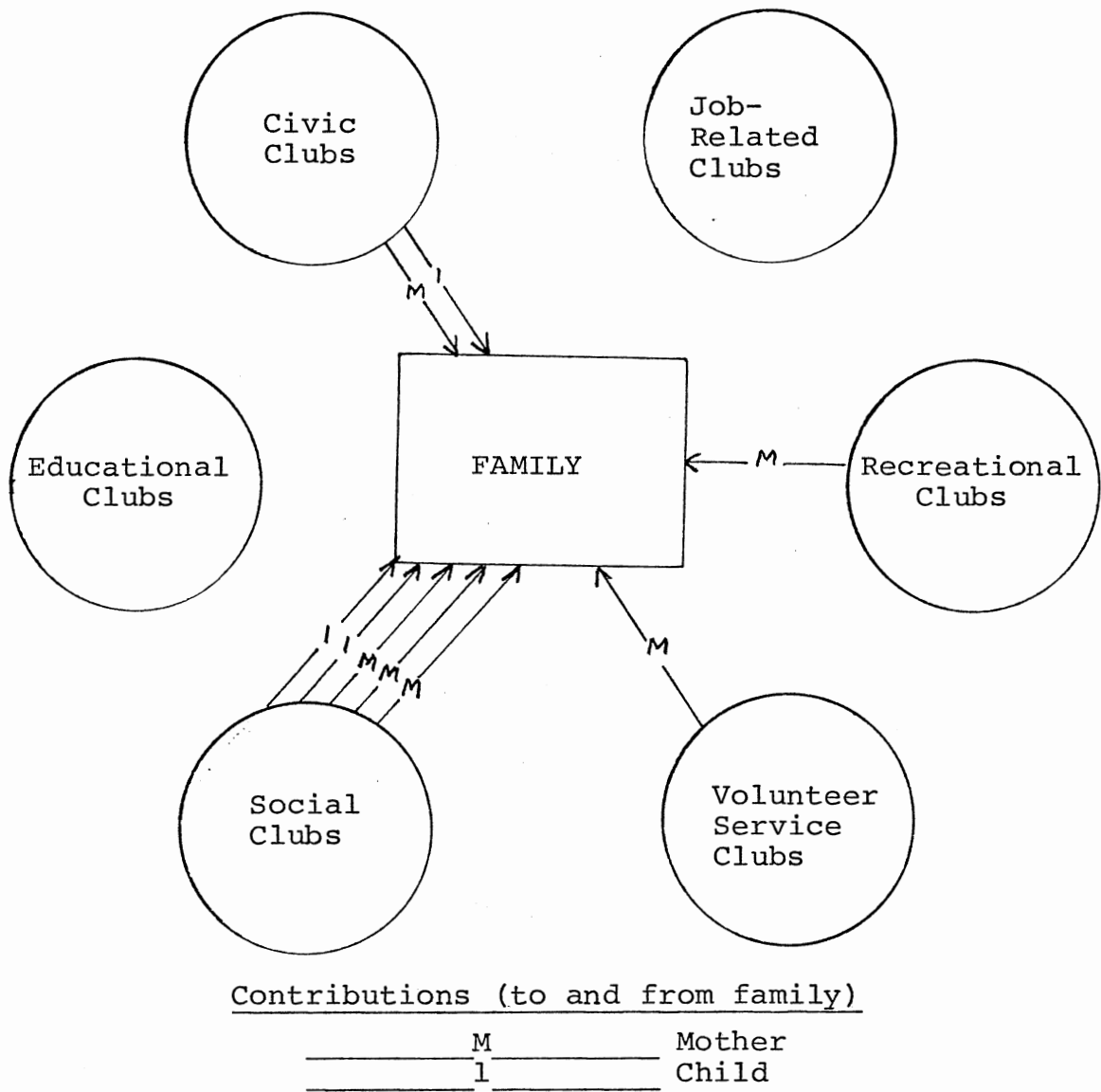


Figure 12. Family Participation Map - Single-Parent Family XIII

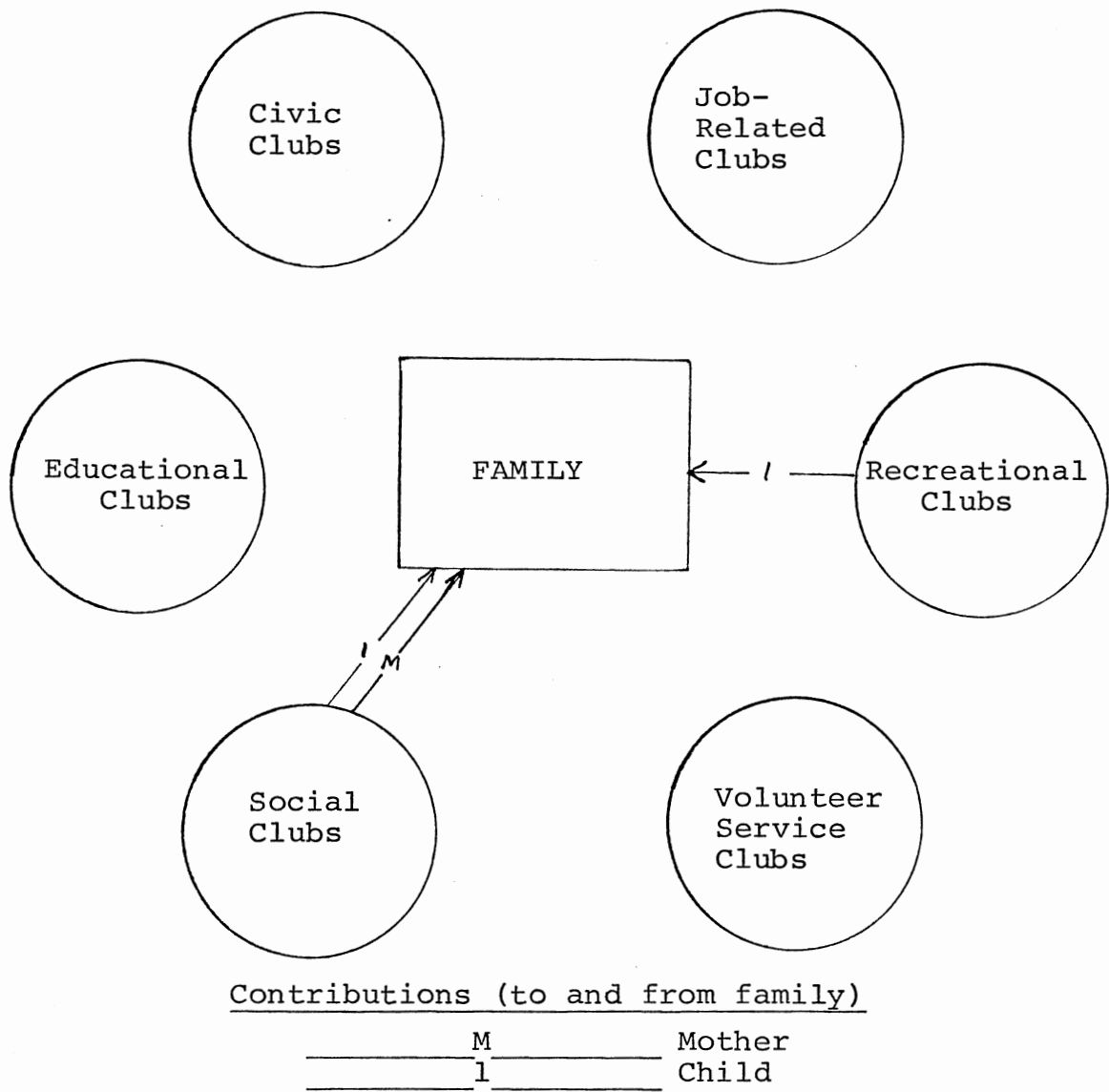


Figure 13. Family Participation Map - Single-Parent Family XIV

The mother participated in five job-related activities, one recreational, and two social activities. The older daughter participated in one educational, one recreational, and one social. The younger daughter participated in one social activity.

Of the eight activities in which the mother participated, seven were listed as self-development. The other one was a contribution to the community. Both daughters' activities were listed as self-development.

The mother spent 25 hours per month in organized community activities, while the older daughter spent 21 hours, and the younger spent eight hours. The family as a unit spent 59 hours, which averaged 19.6 hours per family member. Figure 14 visually represents Family XV's community participation.

Comprehensive Analysis

Of the 15 families in the sample, none rated their satisfaction in organized community activities as completely dissatisfied, dissatisfied, or somewhat dissatisfied. Ten percent of the two-parent families rated their satisfaction as neutral, while 40 percent of the single-parent families rated theirs as neutral. Twenty percent of the single-parent families rated their satisfaction as somewhat satisfied. Sixty percent of the two-parent families were satisfied with their activities, while only 20 percent of the single-parent families were completely

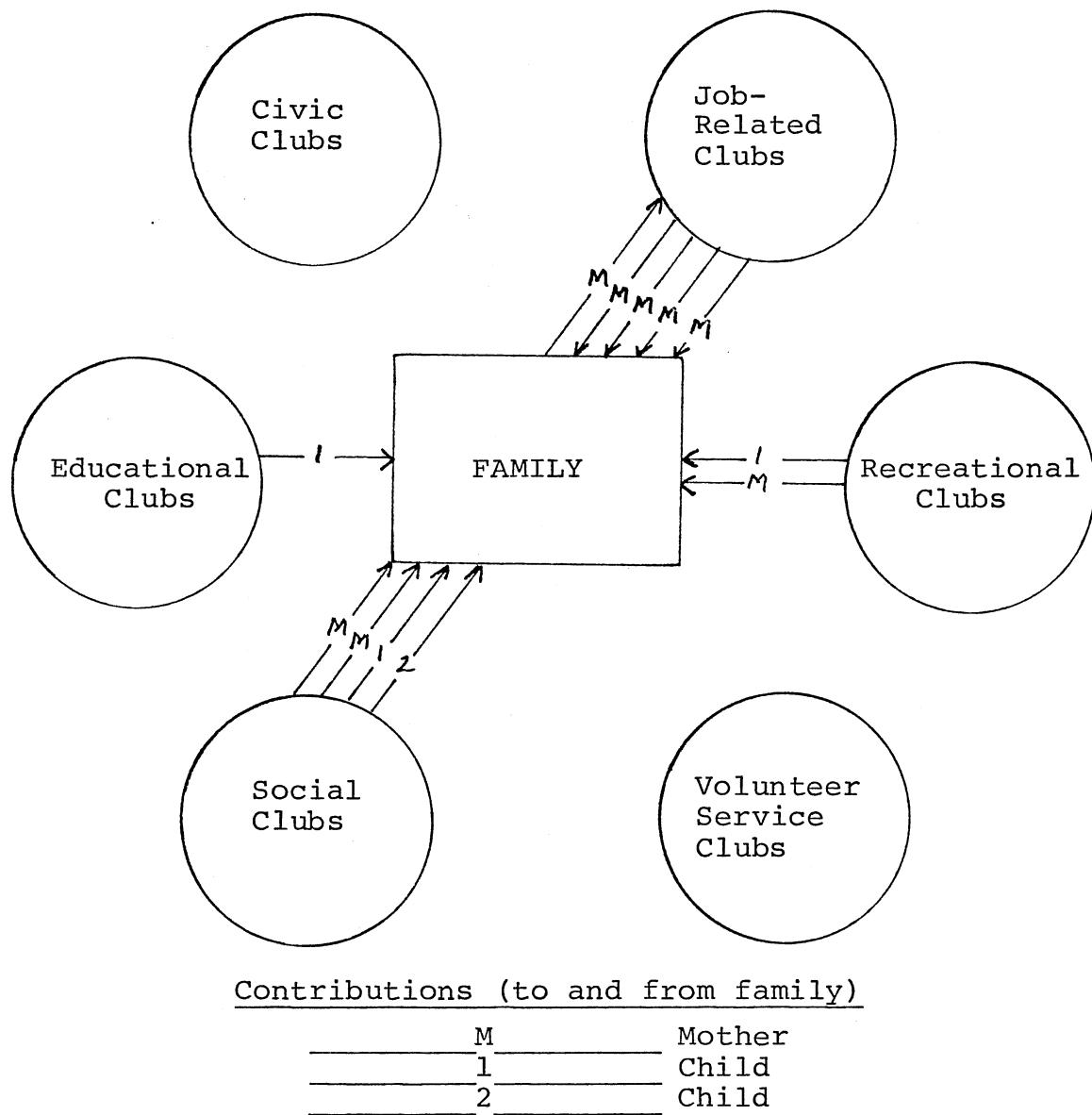


Figure 14. Family Participation Map - Single-Parent Family XV

satisfied. There was a substantially lower rate of satisfaction among the single-parent families than among the two-parent families. The researcher believed that the single-parent families had a tendency to give a more positive response to their actual satisfaction with organized community activities because of societal expectations with satisfaction of life.

When asked who decided what organized community activities in which the family was active, the families had a choice of six answers: wife, husband, husband and wife, son, daughter, and each member decided on his or her own. Of the 15 families, the sons and daughters did not make any decisions for the family as a whole concerning participation of the family in organized community activities. In the two-parent families, 20 percent said the husband made the decisions as to the family's participation in organized community activities.

Thirty percent of the two-parent families said decisions were made by the husband and wife jointly, and 50 percent said that each member decided on his or her own in which organized community activities to participate. Of the single-parents, 80 percent of the mothers said they made the family's decisions, while 20 percent said that each member decided on his or her own.

The age of the children was a factor in the parents serving as the decision makers. Of the two-parent families where fathers decided the organized community

activities, the average age of the children was 7.6. When the husband and wife decided jointly, the average age of the children was 8.6, and when each member decided on his or her own, the average age was 13.2. Of the single-parent families, the average age of the children was 7.4 when the mother decided the activities in which the family participated. When each member decided, the average age was 16.3.

Table V shows the distribution of the organized community activities among the fathers, two-parent, and single-parent mothers. Social activities were the largest percentage of activities for both fathers and mothers, with the fathers reporting 36.4 percent of their organized community activities in this category, 50 percent of the two-parent mothers' activities were social, and 44.4 percent of the single-parent mothers' activities were social. The fathers' second highest activity was civic, comprising 27.3 percent of the organized community activities, while the two-parent mothers' second most frequent activity was recreational (15.8 percent) and the single-parent mothers' second most frequent community activity was job-related making up 27.8 percent of their involvement in organized community activities. Educational activities were the least frequently mentioned activity for all fathers and mothers. The average number of activities for the fathers was 5.5, while the two-parent mothers was 3.8 and the single-parent mothers was 3.6.

TABLE V
TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS BY FREQUENCY
OF MENTION BY PARENTS

Organizations	Father		Two-Parent Mothers		Single-Parent Mothers	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Job-Related	6	10.9	4	10.5	5	27.8
Civic	15	27.3	5	13.2	2	11.1
Educational	2	3.6	1	2.6	0	0
Recreational	9	16.4	6	15.8	2	11.1
Social	20	36.4	19	50.0	8	44.4
Volunteer Service	3	5.5	3	7.9	1	5.6

A comparison between children in two-parent families and single-parent families showed a major difference in the number of activities in which the children participated (Table VI). The average number of activities in which the two-parent sons participated was 3.3, while the single-parent sons participated in .8 activities. The two-parent daughters participated in an average of 3.6 activities, while the single-parent daughters participated in 1.6 activities.

Table VII presents the mean hours per month spent in each type of organizational activity by the parents. The fathers spent more time (15.6 hours) in the social activities than any other. Civic activities were the least

TABLE VI
TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS BY FREQUENCY
OF MENTION BY CHILDREN

Organizations	Two-Parent Sons		Single-Parent Sons		Two-Parent Daughters		Single-Parent Daughters	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Job-Related	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Civic	11	33.3	0	0	3	16.7	1	12.5
Educational	4	12.2	0	0	2	11.1	2	25.0
Recreational	7	21.2	3	75.0	4	22.2	1	12.5
Social	11	33.3	1	25.0	9	50.0	4	50.0
Volunteer Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE VII
MEAN HOURS PER MONTH SPENT IN
ORGANIZATIONS BY PARENTS

Organizations	Fathers	Two-Parent Mothers	Single-Parent Mothers
	Mean Hours	Mean Hours	Mean Hours
Job-Related	4.8	.6	2.0
Civic	10.2	1.8	1.2
Educational	.5	.6	0
Recreational	4.8	5.4	1.2
Social	15.6	16.6	9.6
Volunteer Service	2.1	4.2	1.6

participated in with .5 hours monthly. The two-parent mothers also spent more time in social activities than any other type of organization, with 16.6 mean hours per month. The second highest participation for two-parent mothers was in the recreational activities. The lowest participation was in both the job-related and educational activities, with .6 mean hours monthly for two-parent mothers. The single-parent mothers spent time in social activities more than in any of the other activities with 9.6 mean hours, while the second highest for the single-parent mothers was in job-related activities, with two mean hours. There was no participation in educational activities among these mothers.

Table VIII indicated the mean hours per month spent in each type of organized community activity by the children. None of the children had activities in job-related or volunteer service. The two-parent sons spent most of their time in social activities, with 11.2 mean hours monthly. Their second highest activity was in civic, with 6.75 mean hours. Of the single-parent sons, more time was spent in recreational activities, with 30 mean hours per month. The only other activities they participated in was social.

The two-parent daughters spent most of their time in social activities, with 13.5 mean hours monthly. Their second highest category of activities was recreational,

TABLE VIII
MEAN HOURS PER MONTH SPENT IN
ORGANIZATIONS BY CHILDREN

Organizations	Two- Parent Sons	Single- Parent Sons	Two- Parent Daughters	Single- Parent Daughters
	Mean Hours	Mean Hours	Mean Hours	Mean Hours
Job-Related	0	0	0	0
Civic	6.8	0	4.6	6.7
Educational	6.3	0	3.5	2.0
Recreational	4.1	30.0	5.9	.5
Social	11.2	4.0	13.5	4.0
Volunteer Service	0	0	0	0

with 5.9 mean hours. The single-parent daughters spent most of their time in civic activities, with 6.7 mean hours. They spent an average of four hours monthly in social activities, which rated as their second highest activity.

The average time spent in all community activities by fathers was 38 hours per month. Two-parent mothers spent an average of 29 hours in community activities, while single-parent mothers had an average of 16 hours. Two-parent sons spent 28 hours, while single-parent sons spent 34 hours in community activities. Two-parent

daughters spent 28 hours, while single-parent daughters spent seven hours. All participants in the study spent an average of 27 hours in organized community activities each month.

The fathers in the study listed 23 times that their primary purpose for participating in organized community activities was self-development. They listed contribution to the community 20 times. Both the two-parent mothers and single-parent mothers stated that the primary purpose for their participation was for self-development.

An analysis of income and how it was related to the number of activities in which families participated was of interest in the study. There were no families with income less than \$3,000 or with income of \$40,000 and over. The families in the income level \$3,001 to \$6,000 had an average of two activities per month. The families in the income level \$6,001 to \$9,000 had an average of five activities, while the families in the income level \$9,001 to \$15,000 had an average of seven activities. The families in the income level \$15,001 to \$25,000 had an average of 10 activities. The highest number of activities were found in families with an income of \$25,001 to \$40,000 with 21 activities per month. As the income level increased, the average number of community activities increased.

The educational levels of the parents in the study were also examined. A comparison was made between the

educational levels of the parents and the number of activities per family. The educational levels in the study were: one-to-eight grades, nine-to-eleven, high school graduate, some college, college graduate, and graduate school. There were no respondents with less than a high school education. The findings showed that there was a major difference in the number of activities and the father's educational level. The fathers in the study who reported they had some college, had an average of no family activities. Those who reported being a college graduate had an average of 19 family activities, while those reporting graduate school education had 17 family activities. The two-parent mothers who were high school graduates, had an average of 13 family activities. Those reporting some college, college graduate, and graduate school had an average of 16, 15, and 15 family activities, respectively. Single-parent mothers with high school educations and those with some college, both had an average of six family activities. There were no activities reported for the single-parent college graduate. The researcher felt that this was a reflection of the age of the single mother's child, who was three years old. The single mother with a graduate degree reported 12 activities.

The number of activities per mother was compared between employed mothers and non-employed mothers in the study. Employed mothers engaged in an average of three

activities per month, while non-employed mothers had an average of five activities per month.

The results of this study showed that each family unit had many individual interests. These interests were expressed in activities outside the unit; many times individually. Both family and individual community activities continue to show that each family is unique.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The purpose of this study was to examine participation in organized community activities of a selected group of families in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Fifteen families were randomly selected from the Stillwater city directory to participate in the study. Of the 15 families, 10 were two-parent families with children present in the home and five were single-parent families with children. Comparisons of the participation in organized community activities of the two family types were made.

The researcher personally interviewed each of the 15 families using a questionnaire. The findings were then analyzed by a summary of each family's organized community activities and a comparison of the father's, two-parent mother's, single-parent mother's, and children's activities. A "map" of each family's participation in organized community activities was drawn to provide a graphic display of their activities (Figures 1-14).

Conclusions

The following conclusions regarding variables related to the organized community activities were drawn. The relationship between a family's income and the extent of participation in organized community activities was that as family income level increased, participation in organized community activities increased.

The relationship between parents' educational level and the family's participation in organized community activities was such that as father's education level increased. The same positive relationship between mother's education level and participation in organized community activities was found for mothers in both two-parent and single-parent families.

The relationship between family structure (two-parent family compared to single-parent family) and their extent of participation in organized community activities was investigated. Both fathers and mothers in the two-parent families had slightly more activities than the single-parents. There was a major difference between fathers' and all mothers' participation in organized community activities. All fathers had an average of 5.5 activities, while all mothers had an average of 3.7 activities. Two-parent families reported that they were more satisfied with their participation in organized community activities than single-parent families.

In both two-parent and single-parent families with young children, the parents were the major decision makers as to the activities in which the family participated. Generally, in families with older children, each member decided on his or her own as to the participation in organized community activities.

Social activities were the largest percentage of activities for both fathers and mothers, while education was the smallest percentage. The children in the study spent most of their time in social and recreational activities.

The primary purpose for participation in community activities was self-development for all participants in the study. The fathers in the study reported the most activities. Non-employed mothers reported more activities than employed.

Recommendations for Further Study

After considering the data, the researcher recommended that:

- (1) The present study be repeated with a larger group of two-parent families and single-parent families to provide a broader outlook of family participation in organized community activities.
- (2) Further studies be conducted to expand the "mapping" system.

- (3) The "map" be used for families to evaluate their own family participation or to identify possible links families may want to make with specific community groups.
- (4) An evaluation of the "mapping" technique be made by professionals working with families to examine its value in helping families assess and plan for their participation in organized community activities.
- (5) An awareness by professionals of lower and lower satisfaction in organized community activities among single-parent families compared to two-parent families. This awareness would hopefully lead to expanded community programs where single-parents and their families could feel as much a part of the community as two-parent families.

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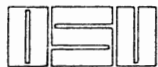
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APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

CORRESPONDENCE



Oklahoma State University

DIVISION OF HOME ECONOMICS
Department of Housing, Design and Consumer Resources

STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA 74074
HOME ECONOMICS WEST BUILDING
(405) 624-5048

January 25, 1978

I am conducting a study, for my master's degree at Oklahoma State University, on the family's participation in organized community activities. Your family is one of 15 randomly chosen to participate in this study. Your name will not be disclosed in reports of the findings, but the information you contribute will help provide for program development in clubs and other organizations concerned with the family.

I would like to interview you at a convenient time before February 12, 1978. I will be calling you to set up an interview time within the next few days. The interview should take approximately 45 minutes to one hour. Your time and information will contribute immensely to my study. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Diane Grizzell

As Miss Grizzell's major adviser for her research project, I want to assure you that her project meets the research guidelines established by the Division of Home Economics. We want to thank you for your interest and support of this effort.

Sharon Nickols
Assistant Professor

APPENDIX B

INSTRUMENT

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION INTERVIEW

Directions: Read to participants

This interview is being conducted to help define the community goals and programs in Stillwater, Oklahoma. It will help provide for future program development in clubs and organizations concerned with the family in the Stillwater area.

Please answer the questions as accurately as possible when the researcher asks. Your family will not be personally identified in reports of the research findings. Thank you.

Background Information

____ A. How many members are in your family?

____ B. What is the age of each member in your family?

____ Husband
 ____ Wife
 ____ Daughter

 ____ Son

____ C. What is the educational level of:

____ Husband	1. 1-8
____ Wife	2. 9-11
	3. high school graduate
	4. some college
	5. college graduate
	6. graduate school

____ D. What is husband's occupation?

- ____ E. What is wife's occupation?
- ____ F. Last year, what was your family's total income?
Please identify which category.
1. 3,000 and under
 2. 3,001 - 6,000
 3. 6,001 - 9,000
 4. 9,001 - 15,000
 5. 15,001 - 25,000
 6. 25,001 - 40,000
 7. 40,001 and over
- ____ G. How long has your family lived in the Stillwater community?
1. less than one year
 2. 1-10 years
 3. 10-20 years
 4. 21 and over
- ____ H. On a scale of 1-7, rate your satisfaction with the organized community activities in which your family participates. Please talk over and agree on one answer. (7 is the highest satisfaction)
- ____ I. In general, which member(s) of the family decides the organized community activities in which your family participates? Please talk over and agree on one answer.
1. wife
 2. husband
 3. husband and wife
 4. son
 5. daughter
 6. each member decides on his/her own

Directions: Please name the organized community activities of each member in your family. The following questions are vital to the study. Please try to be as accurate as possible.

Name of Organization	Type of Organization 1. Job-related 2. Civic 3. Educational 4. Recreational 5. Social 6. Volunteer Service	Primary Purpose of Being Active in Community Organization 1. Self-development of fulfillment 2. Benefit to own children/family 3. Contribution to community	On the average, how much time do you spend on this activity each month? (hrs).	How long have you belonged to this organization?	In evaluating members' involve- ment in activity, do you--	
					get more benefit than you give?	give more than you get?

VITA²

Diane Gail Grizzell

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Master of Science

Thesis: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF FAMILY PARTICIPATION
IN ORGANIZED COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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