

POWER STRUCTURE OF STRONG FAMILIES

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Statement of Problem

Power is of central concern to many disciplines, including studies of power struggles between individuals, different social classes, races, the sexes, various religions, and nations. The concept of Family Power was considered of such importance that the theme of the 1972 annual meeting of the National Council on Family Relations was "Power, Politics, and the Family".

More research is needed on the concept of power in families, particularly in those identified as strong families. Virtually no research has been conducted to examine the power structure among strong families. In fact, little research has been conducted about strong families in general.

The concept, family strengths, implies that the stronger family is more desirable and it has been noted that, "societies with strong family systems tended to recuperate rapidly from conditions of adversity whereas the opposite types recovered only with great difficulty (Zimmerman, 1972, p. 325)." A study of strong families is especially desirable since the divorce ratio in the United States has increased from one out of 12 in 1900 to approximately one out of three today. The total number of divorces for any one year just exceeded the one

million mark for the first time in the United States (U. S. Bureau of Census, 1976). Most people consider a strong, satisfying family life among their more important goals. There are, however, few proven guidelines on how to achieve a successful, satisfying family life.

The magnitude of people's interest is demonstrated by the fact that in 1973, over 250,000 people attended week long seminar's conducted by religious leader Bill Gothard on what the power structure within the family should be (Gothard, 1975). Many Christian organizations have stated definite but very conflicting positions concerning power structure within the family. In his book, "Living Happily Ever After", Mumford (1973, p. 43) gave the extreme position as:

Christ was placed as head of the church and given authority over her. Just so, says the Bible, have I been placed as head of my wife and given authority over her.

Two sources among Christian leaders that present varying degrees of opposition are Robley and Robley (1974), and Hagin (1975). The Kenneth E. Hagin, evangelistic association, Inc., in 1976, broadcast daily, Monday through Friday, over 87 radio stations in 32 states, distributed numerous books and pamphlets, and had some television coverage (Hagin, 1976). More research is definitely needed to provide better guidelines to the large numbers of people seeking information on the family power structure that leads to a successful, satisfying family life.

Need for Research

Cromwell and Olson (1975a, p. XV) stated, "in spite of the growing interest in power, the multidisciplinary focus has generated

little collaboration and has produced only fragmented knowledge about how power affects various relationships and institutions." A great deal of research is needed to fill in the large gaps between family power as defined by the theorist and as measured by the researcher.

While there is practically no research available examining the power structure among husbands and wives in strong families, there is also a scarcity of research dealing with "Family Strengths".

... since the turn of the century a colossal amount of effort plus tremendous sums of money have been spent on the study, detection and treatment of emotional illness, very little is known about the development of strengths and resources in individuals and families. Knowledge about the range and nature of human strengths, resources, and potentialities is minimal (Otto, 1964, p. 143).

Most research done in the area of family has placed its emphasis on the pathology of the family (Otto, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1972). It is important to expand the understanding of what makes a strong family healthy to enable the professions of psychiatry, psychology, social work, and pastoral counseling to better assist families in developing their strengths, resources, and potentials. Children would benefit from "Family Strength" concepts being used for selection of parents by adoption agencies and for selection of foster parents.

... if child placement is to proceed on the basis of complementary needs, what the family has to offer (the pattern of family strengths) is an important criterion in the placement process (Kinter & Otto, 1964, p. 361).

Such research would make a needed contribution to the teaching of marriage and family living courses thus contributing to strong families growing stronger. Unfortunately, research concerned with family strengths is very limited and research concerned with the power structure of strong families is almost non-existent. The present

research was designed to obtain increased knowledge and understanding of the power structure of strong families.

Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of this study was to investigate the perceptions of high strength families concerning their family power structure. The specific purposes of this study were to:

1. Determine the perceptions of husbands and wives of high strength families concerning who usually makes the decision (usually husband, usually wife, or husband and wife about equally) concerning the following: (a) family finances, (b) childrearing, (c) religious matters, (d) where to spend vacation, (e) whether wife shall work, (f) where to live, (g) and whether husband changes jobs.
2. Determine whether respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions.
3. Determine the respondent's perception of who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take.
4. Determine if there is a significant difference in satisfaction with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions according to: (a) sex, (b) socio-economic status, (c) wife's employment status, (d) length of marriage, (e) degree of marriage happiness, (f) the degree to which spouse makes respondent feel good about self.
5. Determine if there is a significant difference in perceptions concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a

serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take according to: (a) sex, (b) socio-economic status, (c) wife's employment status, (d) length of marriage, (e) degree of marriage happiness, (f) the degree to which spouse makes respondent feel good about self.

Definition of Terms

Family Strengths: "are those forces, and dynamic factors in the relationship matrix which encourages the development of the personal resources and potentials of members of the family and which make family life deeply satisfying and fulfilling to family members" (Otto, 1975, p. 16).

Strong Families: "are those families whose members have a high degree of happiness in the husband-wife and parent-child relationships and whose members fulfill each other's needs to a high degree: the family is also intact with both parents present in the home" (Sauer, 1976, p. 5).

Family Power: as measured in the present study is reflected by who makes the decisions concerning major areas of family living and who wins when there is a serious disagreement about a course of action to take.

Description of Procedure

The questionnaire used in this study was designed by Dr. Nick Stinnett, Associate Professor, Family Relations and Child Development, to measure various marital, parental, and family interaction patterns

among families identified as strong families. The sample was composed of 72 husbands and wives representing 44 families. The husbands and wives were requested to complete separately the questionnaire and return it. Therefore, the sample does not always contain responses from both husbands and wives from the same family.

For this present study, data was examined concerning nine questions. One of the questions was open ended which gave the respondents the opportunity to answer the question in their own words. Categories were developed by the investigator from their responses. A second person (a family life specialist and experienced researcher) reviewed the categorization process. A percentage and frequency distribution was used to analyze the responses to the questions. The chi-square test was used to analyze the hypotheses for significant relationships.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

To the investigator's knowledge no research is available concerning the power structure of strong families. Therefore the following review of related literature is concerned with: (a) conclusions from research on family power, (b) power definitions, (c) power measurement, (d) the decision making process, (e) power and support, (f) family strengths, (g) power and marital stability, (h) power and marital satisfaction.

Conclusions from Research on Family Power

The concept of power in families or family power structure has been well studied within the last decade but with little concluded from the efforts. Safilios-Rothschild (1970, p. 539) began her review:

In reviewing the literature related to family power structure, one is struck by the abundance of research studies during this decade in the U. S. and abroad but also by the lack of conceptual and methodological sophistication.

The discontent echoed in her opening paragraph was repeated in every major article dealing with the power concept in the family field including those by Straus (1964), Straus and Tallman (1971), Olson and Rabunsky (1972), Sprey (1972), and Turk (1974). The discontent had two foci:

1. The work to date was poorly defined and poorly measured,

leaving little on which to count in further research or working with families.

2. The work was primarily focused at the power of the individual, usually in a dyadic relationship, and usually measured by the ability of the individual to achieve his own will at the expense of others.

The plea was for a systems concept of power which would account for the process rather than measuring power by the end achieved.

The discontent with the concept of power was summarized by Olson, Cromwell, and Klein (1975). They repeated the plea for power to be seen as a systems property of groups, for power to be seen as a circular causal process based on interaction, for power to be seen as a win-win situation (a non-zero-sum game where all participants may win or lose), and for power to be seen as a regulated and rule governed process to be understood as residing in relationship rather than as a property of self interest. The consensus is almost unanimous from the literature that the concept is an important one, the concept is multi-dimensional, and "decision" is the most consistent and easily measured variable. Power is a complex issue but central to the family system and certainly due for a great deal more study and research.

Power Definitions

It has been difficult to extract a coherent consistent pattern from the several definitions and typologies of power used in recent research. Straus and Tallman (1971, p. 384) defined power as "social interaction which controls the behavior of others". Straus (1964,

p. 318) defined power as "actions which control, initiate, change or modify the behavior of another member of the family". "Most investigators in this area have used interchangeably the terms 'family power' or 'power structure' and the terms 'decision-making', 'family authority' and 'influence'" (Safilios-Rothschild, 1970, p. 539). Phillips (1967, p. 36) endorsed a Weberian definition of power, that is, the chances of "a man or group of men to realize their own will" even against opposition. Hallenbeck (1966) developed a typology of "reward power", "coercive power", "legitimate power", "referent power", and "expert power". Olson and Rabunsky (1972) compared "predicted power", "process power", "retrospective power", and "authority" with a criterion measure of "outcome power" and found that none of the four variables proved valid. The only relationship found was that authority was related to both "process power" and "retrospective power". It was virtually impossible to cross validate the results of the studies because the variables had been defined so differently and the frameworks within which the research had been done were not consistent or even sometimes compatible.

Hawley (1963, p. 422) stated that, "every social act is an exercise in power, every social relationship is a power equation, and every social system is an organization of power". Commenting on this, Olson and Cromwell (1975, p. 5) wrote:

At the other extreme, concepts such as "influence," "control," "authority," "dominance," "assertiveness," and "decision making" have all been used to describe power. Not only have different conceptual and operational definitions been used for each of these terms, but sometimes the same definition has been used for different terms, and even different definitions for the same terms.

They continued:

... the complexity of power has rarely been fully explored. ... Is power the actual ability to influence another person's behavior, or is it just the potential ability to do so? Is power an intentional or non-intentional process? Is power overt or covert? Is power who decides or who does an activity? Is power who decides, or is it who decides who decides? Is power a process or an outcome? Does a power struggle mean there is a winner or loser, or is it possible for both individuals to win or lose?

Power has been a complex construct, composed of multi-dimensional concepts. Further work in the area will necessitate clarifying definitions, reworking the assumptions which determine the definitions, and attempting to identify the ways in which the variables influence each other. Turk (1974) said that it was clear the intentions (ends or goals) of persons are the key to the study of power, and that it was usually impossible to know the ends toward which behavior is oriented. He suggested that we begin to think of the action of family as emergent from the behavior of all family members. The real task was to identify the pattern of interaction by which an outcome is achieved and to describe the sequence of behavior leading to that outcome. In other words, he would like to reconceive the group process in terms of interactional patterns rather than power.

Power Measurement

Turk and Bell (1972) compared seven major measures of power, using them to assess power relations within 211 families.

Measures included:

1. Who usually won when there was a disagreement?
2. Who makes decisions for the family?
3. How they would spend a \$300 gift.

4. Who won a revealed difference discussion?
5. Relative number of instrumental acts initiated.
6. Index of directive control: a ratio of one's instrumental acts that are directive to all of one's instrumental acts.
7. Relative number of interruptions initiated by each person.

They concluded, "these measures are not very highly related to each other" (p. 222). Olson and Rabunsky (1972, p. 224) said:

A current myth regarding family research is that it is relatively simple to obtain a reliable and valid measure of the power structure in families. There is increasing evidence, that past measures of family power are plagued with serious conceptual and methodological problems.... In general, these studies all found a lack of agreement between the various power measures.

Safilios-Rothschild (1970, p. 540) concluded:

Family power ... is a multi-dimensional concept that is measured indirectly through behavioral acts in which the degree of one's power is put to the test. Thus, familial power can be measured through the outcome of decision making, the patterns of tension and conflict management, or the type of prevailing division of labor. None of these particular behavioral patterns can be identified alone with familial power; it is their total configuration that tends to reflect the prevailing model of power.

Olson, Cromwell, and Klein (1975) suggested measuring the structural properties of power through coalitions and interactions of all significant members of the system especially children and relevant kin. They also recommended measuring the reciprocal nature of power rather than the power of the individual, focusing on such processes as decision making, problem solving, conflict resolution, and crisis management. They proposed that researchers rely more heavily on observational methods of gathering research data, with increased concern for reliability and validity, and that the results from laboratory settings be compared with those of natural settings in

the family.

Power and the Decision Making Process

Decision making has been one variable within the construct of power which has received a great deal of study and which has shown a high degree of reliability as a measurable variable. Olson and Rabunsky (1972, p. 229) said, "the finding that the decision measures seem to have a greater degree of construct validity than do the power measures raises further questions about the usefulness of the power dimension". They commented further that the decision process is usually an interactive process, and that often the relative influence of each partner tends to be masked. Nevertheless, it would seem that decision making has been a kind of nexus for family interaction, and that it might well be a crucial variable around which future studies might focus. The decision making process has been important not only to the functioning of the system but to the personality formation and validation of individuals within the system.

Sprey (1972) assumed that the connection between the family power structure and the decision making process was, at best, a hypothetical one. Power has been a theoretical concept, not an empirical fact; he wanted further research tied to the real behavioral, measurable world. He proposed a reconceptualization of the family process as an ongoing power relationship within a context of conflict (implying a framework of exchange). He assumed that the individual was a decisional agent or that he had free will and that children affected the family negotiating process. His proposal did little to resolve the problems of individualism

and conflict orientation which seemed inherent to the power concept per se.

Little has been said about the role and power of children within the decision making process, other than the fact that the power distribution in a family system is always in a state of imbalance (the difference between individual personalities), and continually in process of change (through growth and development of the individuals and the system). This process would include cross relationships within the system: mother-child, child-mother, child-father, child-child, etc. Each of the dyadic relationships would be imbalanced and in a state of continuous change.

Power and Support

Another body of literature, related to and sometimes seen within the body of power literature, dealt with the variables of power and support or support and control. Explored by Straus (1964, p. 318) in his famous circumplex model, power was defined as, "actions which control, initiate, change, or modify the behavior of another member of the family". Straus (1964, p. 318) defined support as "actions which establish, maintain, or restore, as an end in itself, a positive affective relationship with another family member". He asked whether power and support were central axes of groups fulfilling socialization functions, and if so, what the consequences were of varying combinations of power and support for methods and outcomes of socialization. His analysis tied the model to Greek philosophical, psychoanalytic, family developmental, and parenthood literature. He concluded that the circumplex model was primarily useful as a tool of

analysis in understanding how the family's organization influences the modes of socialization.

The work of Baumrind (1972) utilized support and control to analyze types of parental authority and their effects upon the behavior of a preschool child. She used social learning theory to develop generalizations regarding parental practices and the development of independence in young children. She appealed for modeling, firm enforcement, conditional approval of behavior, high demands for achievement and high rationality, with a stimulating environment. The main thrust of her work indicated that authoritative parenting produces independent and achievement-oriented children.

Parents of the children who were the most self-reliant, self-controlled, explorative, and content were themselves controlling and demanding: but they were also warm, rational, and receptive to the child's communication. This unique combination of high control and positive encouragement of the child's autonomous and independent strivings can be called authoritative parental behavior (p. 202).

Cromwell and Olson (1975b, p. 28) pointed out that support has been a power issue; power attempted to shape behavior; support attempted to shape future behaviors by giving positive and negative feedback.

Although it has been assumed that the support dimension is independent of the power dimension, the authors believe that support has been defined and operationalized such that it actually is a power dimension. More specifically, support has been defined as giving praise and approving comments for desirable behavior. From a learning theory perspective, these types of comments are seen as positive reinforcement, which has been found to be a very effective way of controlling another person's behavior.

Safilios-Rothschild (1970, p. 549) pointed out that affective resources

influence the power dimensions of the family system:

In conclusion, it seems that theories about power structure will not become more sophisticated and valid, until the methodology of power structure studies improves considerably to include the detailed study of all aspects of power and from the point of view of all contributing family members as well as the study of underlying differential degrees of affective involvement of one family member in the other as important variables. ... It is probable that children do influence their parents about at least some decisions and are allowed to have some say in others.... Or is it, finally, the relative control of affective resources that determines the power dynamics between parents and children?

Not only could support be controlling, but control could be very supportive. Children have needed and counted on limits, expecting their parents to set boundaries. Parenthood literature has been full of admonitions to parents to set consistent expectations, and to enforce them kindly but firmly. This concept has been blurred by the realization that the same act may be supportive of one person and controlling of another in the same setting, or that a person may support himself by controlling another, or control himself in order to support the other. Thus, a comprehensive study of power structure must consider the variables of support and control within the family unit.

Family Strengths

Little research has been done concerning what makes a strong family (Otto, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1972, 1975). Gabler and Otto (1964, p. 221) noted:

... a unit survey of 11 professional journals from the fields of social work, psychiatry, psychology, and sociology for a period of 20 years (1942-62), totaling 11,354 articles were surveyed for definitions of family strengths. In addition, 64 books from these professions were reviewed.

This research yielded the following 15 categories of family functioning (Gabler & Otto, 1964, p. 222):

1. Family as a strength within itself
2. Strong marriage
3. Strength as parents
4. Parents help children to develop
5. Relationships within the family
6. Family does things together
7. Social and economic status satisfactory
8. Religious beliefs
9. Home environment
10. Activities in community affairs
11. Education
12. Capacity to change
13. Relationships with in-laws
14. Attitudes towards sex
15. Recognizing the need for and accepting help

Otto (1962, 1966) asked 27 families to list what they perceived as their family strengths, it was found that the affective aspects of family life, specifically the giving and receiving of love and understanding between spouses and parent-child, were the greatest source of family strength. It was also found that doing things together as a family and sharing religious convictions/moral values were important for a strong family.

Sauer (1976) studied 157 respondents from strong families and found that the five most frequently given responses to the question what has contributed most to your marriage satisfaction were respectively mutual respect and understanding, religious convictions, mutual love, good communications, and flexibility. The most frequently mentioned response that strong families would like to change was that they would like to have more time to spend together. A major finding in Sauer's study was that members of strong families enhance each other's self-esteem by complimenting and expressing appreciation to each other.

Otto (1963, 1975), in developing a framework in which to view family strengths, included the following criteria:

1. The ability to provide for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of a family.
2. The ability to be sensitive to the needs of the family members.
3. The ability to communicate.
4. The ability to provide support, security, and encouragement.
5. The ability to establish and maintain growth-producing relationships within and without the family.
6. The capacity to maintain and create constructive and responsible community relationships in the neighborhood and in the school, town, local and state governments.
7. The ability to grow with and through children.
8. An ability for self-help, and the ability to accept help when appropriate.
9. An ability to perform family roles flexibly.
10. Mutual respect for the individuality of family members.
11. A concern for family unity, loyalty, and interfamily cooperation.
12. The ability to use crisis or seemingly injurious experience as a means of growth.

Otto (1966, p. 23) viewed family strengths as constantly changing, "these 'strength factors' are not independent, but interrelated and that variations in these abilities, capacities, or strengths, occur throughout the life cycle of the family".

Zimmerman and Cervantes (1960) gave the following qualities of successful families:

1. Successful families have more intimate family friends and have more in common with their friends than do unsuccessful families.

2. The basic "social" family principle is that of common values. This unique, purposeful, common value principle begins with mating and extends through the life history of the family and outward in family friends.
3. In every city, in every degree of intimacy and in every measure of friendship similarity, the co-working of intimacy and similarity has been associated strikingly with success. The more friends are like each other, the more successful they are in avoiding divorce, desertion, juvenile arrest records and other phases of the breaking up of homes and domestic relations.
4. Having a child continue in high school is a positive function of child protection and of family success.
5. Parents with an ideal for their children, such as school continuance, can most thoroughly implement that ideal in the minds of the children by surrounding their household from the beginning with friends who also possess the same ideals.
6. The totality of all the impressions of life other than parental had been received by the children from members of friends' families.
7. Friendship between similar minded adults living in proximity over a period of years results in its most basic or primary type. The friendship of this type is between equals, is voluntaristic, involves common experiences and is not primarily for the appetitive pleasure or political, economic or social gain.

It was hypothesized by Reeder (1973), that certain family characteristics would aid problem solving behavior in families which included a mentally retarded child. The successful family:

(a) is integrated into society; (b) maintains an internal focus of authority, decision-making, and emotional investment; (c) has ties of affection and support among all members; (d) has open channels of communication; (e) has a centralized authority structure to coordinate problem-solving efforts; (f) has the ability to communicate and evaluate conflicting ideas according to their intrinsic merit rather than the status of their source; (g) is able to reach a consensus on family goals and related role allocations and expectations; (h) prefers specific value orientations (p. 1758B).

Ammons (1976) found that husbands and wives of strong families

who had a very vital, deep, meaningful, happy, and total relationship had: (a) been married longer than less vital respondents, (b) expressed a greater need for sex than less vital respondents, (c) expressed less need for aggression than less vital respondents, and (d) had a higher need for achievement than less vital respondents. Ammons (1976, p. 67) also found that these couples complement each other along the following dimensions:

1. Nurturance-exhibition. The wife's need to give help, sympathy and kindness was associated with the husband's need to be the center of things and to be noticed.
2. Succorance-Affiliation. The wife's need to receive help, encouragement and kindness from others was associated with the husband's need for people and his desire to form strong attachments.
3. Intracement-Succorance. The wife's need to understand and to empathize was associated with the husband's need to receive help, encouragement and kindness from others.
4. Affiliation-Dominance. The wife's need for people and to form strong attachments was associated with the husband's need to persuade and influence others.
5. Endurance-Nurturance. The wife's need to persevere or finish what is started was associated with the husband's need to give help and sympathy.
6. Affiliation-Sex. Among both husbands and wives the need for strong attachments was associated with the need for sex on the part of their mate.

To the best of this author's knowledge, there has been no research done on the power structure of strong families and all conclusions in this area must be arrived at indirectly.

Power and Marital Stability

Johnson (1975) studied a selective sample of wives of 104 Japanese-American couples in Honolulu, the ethnic group having the

lowest divorce rates in the islands. Interviews of the wives lasted from two to five hours and included open ended questions and specific questions in the following areas:

- (1) Financial - who budgets, pays bills, decides on how money is spent.
- (2) Social - who decides on how to spend an evening, what friends and relatives to see.
- (3) Major decision - who decides on changes in jobs and residence.
- (4) Child-rearing - who disciplines, decides on activities (p. 185).

The results of the wives perceptions of decision-making in these four major areas are (p. 187):

	<u>Husband Dominant</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Wife Dominant</u>
Financial	37%	18%	45%
Social	12%	60%	28%
Major decisions	48%	50%	2%
Child-rearing	2%	40%	58%

From this, one would conclude that most of the Japanese-American marriages in Honolulu exhibit an equalitarian structure. However, Johnson (1975) found that on the basis of the wife's evaluation of authority, rather than on the basis of decision-making, the numbers of male dominant marriages became considerably higher. The husband's authority is vested in his culturally prescribed status as head of the family. The elevation of the male was frequently depicted as a key factor in family stability. Authority has its source in the cultural system and its norms, while power stems from group functioning and the enactment of social roles. Authority implies the right to power whether or not it is exercised in actual social roles. By using authority as an attribute to gender, which varies cross-culturally, one can explain the persistence of male dominance concurrently with equalitarian decision-making.

Wife-dominant marriages were few in number and generally were the result of the husband's almost total social or emotional withdrawal from the family. In the wife-dominant marriages, the wives were so dissatisfied that many were seriously considering divorce.

Both partners supported the norms regarding the male-female hierarchy in 25.0% of the male-dominant marriages. Having worked out a balance of power that did not compromise quality in a companionate relationship. However 66.0% of the male-dominant marriages involved some separation between husband and wife both emotionally and in the realm of daily activities. The husbands tended to use two means to prevent the decline of authority, the use of silence as a control and the pursuit of independent social activities outside the home.

Oppong (1970) found that narrowing the gap in age, education, and percent of money provided to meet family needs all significantly made joint consultation on domestic matters more likely and easier.

This study of an ethnic group with endurance does not necessarily mean strong families. As stated by Cuber and Harroff (1963, p. 141)

a:

... 'stable' married pair may, on the one hand be deeply fulfilled people, living vibrantly, or at the other extreme entrapped, embittered, resentful people, living lives of duplicity in an atmosphere of hatred and despair.

Turk and Bell (1972) studied a random sample of 211 metropolitan families with respect to who makes the decisions in the family and found 21.5% of the families to be husband dominant, 28.1% to be wife dominant and 42.2% to be equalitarian. When asked who the real boss was, 76.0% replied the husband. When asked who usually won a disagreement, the husband and wife both indicated that the husband won 39.0%,

while the husband and the wife both indicated that neither won 36.0%. It is interesting to note that the questionnaires indicated husband dominance while the observations indicated equal dominance.

Power and Marital Satisfaction

Lu (1952), Blood and Wolfe (1960), and Centers (1971) examined the relationship between decision-making and marital satisfaction. High levels of marital satisfaction were found most frequently among equalitarian couples, slightly less among husband-dominant couples, and by far the least among wife-dominant couples.

Corrales (1975) compared authority (legitimate power) and control (power that is interactional in nature) with marital satisfaction in a nonrandom sample of 394 Catholic and Lutheran couples in Minnesota who were in their first marriage, who were less than 35 years of age at marriage, and who had been married six years or less. From an authority level approximately 60.0% of both husbands and wives perceived their relationship as husband-dominant. Approximately 31.0% perceived their relationship as equalitarian and approximately eight percent as wife-dominant. There was a slight tendency for wives to report husband-dominance and for husbands to report wife-dominance. However, at the interactive level (control), marriages appear to be heavily equalitarian (66.9%). The husband-dominant marriages (authority) had the highest levels of satisfaction, the pattern being slightly more marked among wives. There was no difference in the husbands' satisfaction in equalitarian and wife-dominant authority structures but the wives were more satisfied in equalitarian than in wife-dominant structures. It is of interest that wives who classified

themselves as dominant had by far the lowest marital satisfaction score.

At the interactive level (control), Corrales (1975) found the marriages to be heavily equalitarian (66.9%). Equalitarian interaction structures had the highest marital satisfaction and wife-dominant (control) structures had the lowest marital satisfaction.

Raven, Centers, and Rodrigues (1975) interviewed 410 wives and 337 husbands in an urban population and found that the very satisfied respondents attributed the basis of power to the spouse as referent power (authority)(49.0%), legitimate power (20.0%), expert power (27.0%), coercion (2.0%), and reward power (3.0%). The not at all satisfied respondents attributed the basis of power to the spouse as referent power (authority)(21.0%), legitimate power (10.0%), expert power (26.0%), coercion (42.0%), and reward power (0.0%). Authoritarians were most likely to attribute referent power to their spouses; this was also the largest response from the equalitarians but the equalitarians relied heavily upon legitimate power and the authoritarians did not.

Hurvitz (1965) studied a random sample of 104 middle class couples and found that:

... wives who have control roles which are male authoritarian, conservative, and traditional, with authority lodged primarily in the husband and father, and with concomitant attitudes of male superordination and female subordination, are more likely to be happy in marriage than wives who have control roles which are democratic, liberal, and companionship, with authority shared by both the husband and wife and with concomitant attitudes of equalitarian responsibility within the family (p. 31).

Summary

The review of literature concerning power structure in families suggested the following:

1. The concept of family power structure has been well studied within the last decade but with little concluded from the efforts due to lack of conceptual and methodological sophistication.
2. The work to date had been poorly defined and poorly measured, leaving little on which to count in further research or working with families.
3. The work was primarily focused at the power of the individual, usually in a dyadic relationship, and usually measured by the ability of the individual to achieve his own will at the expense of others.
4. The plea was for a systems concept of power which would account for the process rather than measuring power by the end achieved.
5. The consensus was almost unanimous that the concept was an important one, the concept was multi-dimensional, and the concept was complex and certainly due for a great deal more study and research.
6. It has been difficult to extract a coherent consistent pattern from the several definitions and typologies of power used in recent research.
7. It was virtually impossible to cross validate the results of the studies because the variables had been defined so

differently and the frameworks within which the research had been done were not consistent or even sometimes compatible.

8. Little has been said about the role and power of children within the decision making process, other than the fact that the power distribution in a family system is always in a state of imbalance and continually in process of change.
9. Another entire body of literature, related to and sometimes seen within the body of power literature, dealt with the variables of power and support.
10. The support-control concept has been blurred by the realization that the same act may be supportive of one person and controlling of another in the same setting, or that a person may support himself by controlling another, or control himself in order to support the other.
11. Most people consider a satisfying family life as one of their more important lifetime goals yet there are few guidelines concerning how such a goal can be achieved.
12. Marriage and family success are strongly associated with various affective aspects of family interaction such as the presence of love and understanding, participation in family activities, a high degree of religious orientation, and the presence of intimate family friends of similar values.
13. Family strengths are constantly changing and interrelated

with variations occurring throughout the family life cycle.

14. The successful family maintains an internal focus of authority, decision-making, and emotional investment with a centralized authority structure to coordinate problem-solving efforts.
15. Couples from strong families with a very vital, deep, meaningful, happy, and total relationship have a tendency to: (a) be married longer, (b) express a greater need for sex, (c) express less need for aggression, (d) have a higher need for achievement, than do couples with a less vital relationship.
16. Couples from strong families with a very vital, deep, meaningful, happy, and total relationship have a tendency to complement each other along the dimensions of nurturance-exhibition, succorance-affiliation, intraception-succorance, affiliation-dominance, endurance-nurturance, and affiliation-sex.
17. The ethnic group having the lowest divorce rates in Hawaii have a husband dominant authority structure and an equalitarian decision-making process.
18. Husband-dominant marriages (authority) that are equalitarian at the interactive level (control) have the highest marital satisfaction for both husband and wife.
19. Wife-dominant marriages are often the result of the husband's social or emotional withdrawal from the family and are sometimes unstable and usually unhappy.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

Selection of Subjects

The 72 respondents representing 44 families of this study were obtained throughout the 77 counties in Oklahoma. Cover letters (see Appendix) explaining the research study and assuring anonymity, were sent to approximately 90 families. Questionnaires were included for both husband and wife. They were requested to complete the questionnaires separately and not to compare answers. Therefore, the sample does not always contain responses from both members of the same family. A stamped, self-addressed envelope was included with each questionnaire. The data were obtained during the months of March and April, 1975.

The cooperation of the Cooperative County Extension Service was utilized in collecting the sample. The Extension Home Economists were considered to be reliable professionals to recommend strong families due to their training and competence in the area of home and family life, the degree of contact with families in their county, and their concern for (as well as the tradition of Home Economics) strengthening family life.

The Extension Home Economists in each of the 77 counties in Oklahoma were sent letters requesting that they recommend two or

more families in their county whom they felt were strong families. They were provided with guidelines for consideration in selecting these families. The general guidelines were:

1. The family members appear to have a high degree of happiness in the husband-wife and parent-child relationships.
2. The family members appear to fulfill each others needs to a high degree.
3. The family is intact with both parents present in the home.
4. The family must have at least one school age child, 21 years or younger living at home.

An additional criteria was that the respondent must rate their marital happiness and satisfaction in the parent-child relationship as satisfactory or very satisfactory on the questionnaire.

The Instrument

The questionnaire was designed by Dr. Nick Stinnett, Associate Professor, Family Relations and Child Development Department, at Oklahoma State University. It was designed to measure various aspects of family life which a review of the literature indicated were important components of family strength.

The questionnaire was presented to a panel of four judges, all of whom held advanced degrees in the area of family relations. They were asked to rate the items in terms of the following criteria:

1. Does the item possess sufficient clarity?
2. Is the item sufficiently specific?
3. Is the item significantly related to the concept under investigation?
4. Are there other items that need to be included to measure the concepts under investigation?

There was a high degree of agreement among the judges that the items met the four criteria. Suggestions made by the judges were incorporated into the final version of the instrument. A pre-test was also utilized including 20 families. Further modifications concerning the wording of questions and overall length of the questionnaire were made as a result of the pre-test.

For the present study data from the following sections of the questionnaire (see Appendix) were used: (a) biographical information such as sex, age, socio-economic status, wife's employment status, length of marriage, and place of residence; (b) a series of seven items designed to obtain information on who usually makes the decision in specific areas of family life; (c) items designed to obtain information on whether the respondent is satisfied with the way he/she makes decisions; (d) items designed to obtain information on the respondents perceptions of who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement; (e) perceptions of the degree of marriage happiness; (f) perceptions of the degree to which spouse makes respondent feel good about self. The questions used to obtain the above information were fixed alternative and open ended.

Analysis of the Data

A percentage and frequency count was used to analyze the respondents' perceptions of who usually makes the decision about the following: (a) family finances; (b) childrearing; (c) religious matters; (d) where to spend vacation; (e) whether wife shall work; (f) where to live; (g) and whether husband

changes jobs.

A percentage and frequency count was also used to analyze: (a) whether respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions; and (b) who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take.

The chi-square test was used to examine the following hypothesis:

1. There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning whether the respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions according to: (a) sex, (b) socio-economic status, (c) wife's employment status, (d) length of marriage, (e) degree of marriage happiness, and (f) degree to which spouse makes respondent feel good about self.
2. There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take according to: (a) sex, (b) socio-economic status, (c) wife's employment status, (d) length of marriage, (e) degree of marriage happiness, and (f) degree to which spouse makes respondent feel good about self.

Categories were developed for the open ended question (when there is a serious disagreement between you and your spouse about a course of action to take who usually gets his/her way) by the investigator from the responses given. A second person (a family life specialist and experienced researcher) reviewed the categorization.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Description of the Subjects

A detailed description of the 72 subjects who participated in this study is presented in Table I. The sample consisted of 40.28% males and 59.72% females. Their ages ranged from 20 to over 50 years with the greatest percentage (79.17%) in the age group of 31-45 years.

Primarily, the sample was composed of rural, white, protestant, middle-aged, middle class individuals. Specifically, 88.89% designated their place of residence as either a farm (48.61%) or small town under 25,000 population (40.28%). Ninety per cent of the sample was white and 80.00% were protestant. The largest percentage of respondents were either from the upper-middle (50.00%) or lower-middle (29.17%) socio-economic class as measured by the McGuire-White Index of Social Status (1955). The majority (66.20%) of the sample had been married between 15 and 25 years, the range was from five to over 35 years of marriage.

TABLE I
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUBJECTS

Variable	Classification	No.	Per Cent
Sex	Male	29	40.28
	Female	43	59.72
Race	White	65	90.28
	Black	5	6.95
	Indian	2	2.78
Age	20-25	1	1.39
	26-30	5	6.95
	31-35	15	20.83
	36-40	21	29.17
	41-45	21	29.17
	46-50	2	2.78
	over 50	7	9.72
Religion	Catholic	12	16.67
	Protestant	58	80.56
	None	2	2.78
Socio-Economic Status	Upper	6	8.33
	Upper-middle	36	50.00
	Lower-middle	21	29.17
	Upper-lower	6	8.33
	Lower-lower	3	4.17
Years Married	5 - 9	7	9.86
	10-14	9	12.68
	15-19	27	38.03
	20-24	20	28.17
	25-29	5	7.04
	30-34	1	1.41
	35+	2	2.82
Number of Children	2	27	37.50
	3	29	40.28
	4	5	6.94
	5	7	9.72
	6	2	2.78
	12	1	1.39
	13	1	1.39

TABLE I (Continued)

Variable	Classification	No.	Per Cent
Residence	Farm or Country	35	48.61
	Small Town under 25,000	29	40.28
	City of 25,000 to 50,000	3	4.17
	City of 50,000 to 100,000	5	6.94
	City over 100,000	0	0
Wife's Employment			
Husband/Wife pairs (28 wives)	Not Employed	24	85.71
	Part Time	3	10.71
	Employed	1	3.57
Husband/Wife pairs (28 husbands)	Not Employed	24	85.71
	Part Time	3	10.71
	Employed	1	3.57
One Spouse Respondents (15 wives)	Not Employed	5	33.33
	Part Time	1	6.66
	Employed	9	60.00
One Spouse Respondents (1 husband)	Employed	1	100.00
Total Sample	Not Employed	53	73.61
	Part Time	7	9.72
	Employed	12	16.67
Primary Source of Income	Husband	68	94.44
	Husband-Wife Equally	4	5.56

Perceptions of Strong Family Members Concerning
Who Usually Makes the Decisions About Seven
Major Areas of Family Living

Percentage and frequency count was used to examine the perceptions of husbands and wives regarding who usually makes the decision about seven major areas of family living. The results concerning each of these perceptions are discussed below and presented in Table II.

Perceptions Concerning Who Usually Makes the Decision
About Family Finances

As shown in Table II, the wives of matched pairs tended to view the outcome of the family financial decision making process as one of equality (64.29%) while the husbands tended to view the outcome of the family financial decision making process as husband dominant (50.00%) and equalitarian (46.43%). Table III shows that among the one spouse respondents (only the husband or the wife responded to the questionnaire but not both, one husband and 15 wives), the most frequent response was equalitarian (73.33%). The most frequent response among all 72 respondents was equalitarian (58.33%) and husband dominant (37.50%). As shown in Table IV the least frequently mentioned response among the total sample was wife dominance (2.78%).

Perceptions Concerning Who Usually Makes the Decision
About Childrearing

Both the husbands (75.00%) and the wives (78.57%) of the matched

pairs tended to view the outcome of the childrearing decision making process as one of equality. Table II shows an equal proportion of both husbands and wives (17.86%) indicated wife dominance in this decision area. The most frequent equalitarian response (87.50%) was expressed by the one spouse respondents (only the husband or the wife responded to the questionnaire but not both, one husband and 15 wives; see Table III). Among the total sample, as Table IV shows, the most frequent responses were equalitarian (79.17%) and wife dominant (16.67%). The least frequently mentioned response was husband dominance (4.17%).

Perceptions Concerning Who Usually Makes the Decision

About Religious Matters

The perceptions concerning who usually makes the decision about religious matters is almost identical to the perceptions concerning who usually makes the decision about childrearing. The husbands and wives from Table II, the one spouse respondents from Table III, and the total of all respondents from Table IV all indicate that the decision about religious matters is made about equally with the frequency varying from (68.75%) to (78.57%). The second highest response among all three groups is that the wife usually makes the decision about religious matters with the frequency varying from (17.86%) to (21.43%). The least mentioned response is that the husband usually makes the decision about religious matters which for the total sample was (6.94%).

Perceptions Concerning Who Usually Makes the Decision

About Where To Spend Vacation

The most frequent response was that the decision about where to spend vacation was made about equally among the husbands of the matched pairs (88.89%), the wives of the matched pairs (82.14%), and among the one spouse respondents (80.00%). The second most frequent response was that the husband usually made the decision about where to spend the vacation, among the husbands of the matched pairs (7.41%), the wives of the matched pairs (17.86%), and the one spouse respondents (20.00%). The husbands more frequently indicated the decision about where to spend the vacation was equalitarian while the wives tended to more frequently report the decision was made usually by the husband. One spouse respondents responded in the same direction that the wives of the matched pairs did. Only one person in the entire sample responded that this decision was usually made by the wife.

Perceptions Concerning Who Usually Makes the Decision

About Whether Wife Shall Work

As shown in Table II, the most frequent response among the wives of the matched pairs (82.14%) was that the decision about employment of the wife is made about equally. Similarly the most frequent response among the one spouse respondents (81.25%) was equalitarian, (Table III). The husbands of the matched pairs perceive the decision about whether the wife shall work as follows: about equally (53.57%), usually wife (25.00%), and usually husband (21.43%). Only one wife from the matched pairs indicated that the wife usually

made this decision, and only two of the one spouse respondents indicated that the wife usually made this decision.

Perceptions Concerning Who Usually Makes the Decision

About Where To Live

As shown in Table III, about equally was the most common response concerning the decision about where to live among one spouse respondents (87.50%), wives of matched pairs (85.71%), husbands of matched pairs (67.86%) and total sample (79.17%). Least frequently mentioned was that the wife usually made the decision which varied from zero response among the wives of matched pairs to 7.14% among the husbands of matched pairs.

Perceptions Concerning Who Usually Makes the Decision

About Whether Husband Changes Jobs

The most common response among the wives of the matched pairs (59.26%) was that the husband usually made the decision about whether the husband changes jobs (Table II). The most frequent response among the husbands of the matched pairs (57.14%) was that the decision was made about equally. As shown in Table IV, the responses among the total sample was that the decision was made about equally (50.70%), the decision was usually made by the husband (46.48%), and the decision was usually made by the wife (2.82%).

Averages of the Perceptions Concerning Who Usually

Makes the Decision About Seven Major

Areas of Family Living

If the seven major areas of family living are assumed to have equal significance or equal importance and are averaged, the following results are seen: (a) 71.00% of all 72 respondents (Table IV) indicate that decisions are made about equally, (b) 20.20% indicate usually husband, and (c) 8.80% indicated usually wife. The highest response for about equally (76.36%) was given by the one spouse respondents (see Table III). As shown in Table II, the response that decisions are made usually by wife was most frequently reported by husbands of the matched pairs (11.79%). Similarly, the response, usually husband was more frequently given by husbands of the matched pairs (22.56%) than by the other two groups. Wives of the matched pairs were in close agreement with the husbands in reporting that decisions are usually made by the husband (21.03%).

Trends of the Perceptions Concerning Who Usually
Makes the Decision About Seven Major
Areas of Family Living

The overall trend is that decisions about seven major areas of family living are made about equally between husband and wife (71.00%), see Table IV. The trends in Table II and Table III indicate that the husband has more influence in family finances and whether husband changes jobs than he does in the other five areas of family living, while the wife appears to have more influence in childrearing and religious matters than in the other five areas of family living. The husband seems to have more influence in whether the husband changes jobs than the wife does in whether the wife shall work.

The one spouse respondents tended to indicate a higher percent-

age response for usually wife and a lower percentage response for usually husband in five of the seven areas of family living. The response was the same for where to spend vacation and larger for usually husband in religious matters than were the responses of the wives of the matched pairs. The wives of the matched pairs tended to give a larger response for usually husband and a lower response for usually wife than did the one spouse respondents. The one spouse respondents indicated a higher response for about equally than did the wives of the matched pairs in family finances, childrearing, and where to live. A larger percent was indicated by the one spouse respondents for usually husband in religious matters, a larger percent for usually wife in whether the wife shall work, and a larger percent for about equally for whether the husband changes jobs than did the wives of the matched pairs. In other words, the one spouse respondents appear to be more liberated women.

TABLE II

FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE DESCRIPTION OF THE PERCEPTIONS OF STRONG FAMILY MEMBERS CONCERNING WHO USUALLY MAKES THE DECISIONS ABOUT SEVEN MAJOR AREAS OF FAMILY LIVING

Area	Husband's Response From 28 Husband/Wife Pairs						Wife's Response From 28 Husband/Wife Pairs					
	Usually Husband		Usually Wife		About Equally		Usually Husband		Usually Wife		About Equally	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Family Finances	14	50.00	1	3.57	13	46.43	10	35.71	0	0	18	64.29
Childrearing	2	7.14	5	17.86	21	75.00	1	3.57	5	17.86	22	78.57
Religious Matters	2	7.14	6	21.43	20	71.43	1	3.57	5	17.86	22	78.57
Where To Spend Vacation	2	7.41	1	3.70	24	88.89	5	17.86	0	0	23	82.14
Whether Wife Shall Work	6	21.43	7	25.00	15	53.57	4	14.29	1	3.57	23	82.14
Where To Live	7	25.00	2	7.14	19	67.86	4	14.29	0	0	24	85.71
Whether Husband Changes Jobs	11	39.29	1	3.57	16	57.14	16	59.26	0	0	11	40.74
Total Of Above	44	22.56	23	11.79	128	65.64	41	21.03	11	5.64	143	73.33

TABLE III

FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE DESCRIPTION OF THE PERCEPTIONS OF STRONG
 FAMILY MEMBERS CONCERNING WHO USUALLY MAKES THE DECISIONS
 ABOUT SEVEN MAJOR AREAS OF FAMILY LIVING

Area	One Spouse Respondents One Husband + 15 Wives					
	Usually Husband		Usually Wife		About Equally	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Family Finances	3	20.00	1	6.66	11	73.33
Childrearing	0	0	2	12.50	14	87.50
Religion	2	12.50	3	18.75	11	68.75
Where To Spend Vacation	3	20.00	0	0	12	80.00
Whether Wife Shall Work	1	6.25	2	12.50	13	81.25
Where To Live	1	6.25	1	6.25	14	87.50
Whether Husband Changes Jobs	6	37.50	1	6.25	9	56.25
Total Of Above	16	14.55	10	9.09	84	76.36

TABLE IV

FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE DESCRIPTION OF THE PERCEPTIONS OF TOTAL
 SAMPLE CONCERNING WHO USUALLY MAKES THE DECISIONS
 ABOUT SEVEN MAJOR AREAS OF FAMILY LIVING

Area	Total Response From All 72 Respondents					
	Usually Husband		Usually Wife		About Equally	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Family Finances	27	37.50	2	2.78	42	58.33
Childrearing	3	4.17	12	16.67	57	79.17
Religious Matters	5	6.94	14	19.44	53	73.61
Where To Spend Vacation	10	14.29	1	1.43	59	84.29
Whether Wife Shall Work	11	15.28	10	13.89	51	70.83
Where To Live	12	16.67	3	4.17	57	79.17
Whether Husband Changes Jobs	33	46.48	2	2.82	36	50.70
Total Of Above	101	20.20	44	8.80	355	71.00

Perceptions of Strong Family Members Concerning
Satisfaction With The Way in Which Respondent
And Spouse Make Decisions

Percentages and frequencies were used to examine the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning whether respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions. As shown in Table V, the response for satisfaction varied from (92.59%) to (96.43%). This very high response for satisfaction would normally be expected from strong families.

TABLE V

FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE DESCRIPTION OF THE SATISFACTION
OF HUSBANDS AND WIVES OF STRONG FAMILIES WITH
THE WAY IN WHICH RESPONDENT AND
SPOUSE MAKE DECISIONS

Respondents	Not Satisfied		Satisfied	
	F	%	F	%
Husband's Response From 28 Husband/Wife Pairs	1	3.57	27	96.43
Wife's Response From 28 Husband/Wife Pairs	2	7.41	25	92.59
One Spouse Respondents One Husband + 15 Wives	1	6.67	14	93.33
Total Response From All 72 Respondents	4	5.71	66	94.29

Perceptions of Strong Family Members Concerning Who Usually
Gets His/Her Way When There is a Serious Disagreement
About a Course of Action to Take

As Table VI illustrates, the highest proportion of wives of matched pairs (72.00%) indicated the wife usually won when there was a serious disagreement about a course of action to take. This group also gave the lowest response for the husband winning (8.00%). The most common response among husbands of matched pairs was about equally (56.00%). Husbands had the highest response for husbands usually winning (16.00%). The response of one spouse respondents (one husband + 15 wives) was very similar to the response of husbands of matched pairs.

TABLE VI

FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE DESCRIPTION OF THE PERCEPTIONS OF
HUSBANDS AND WIVES OF STRONG FAMILIES CONCERNING
WHO USUALLY GETS HIS/HER WAY WHEN THERE
IS A SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT

Respondents	Usually Husband		Usually Wife		About Equally	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Husband's Response From 28 Husband/Wife Pairs	4	16.00	7	28.00	14	56.00
Wife's Response From 28 Husband/Wife Pairs	2	8.00	18	72.00	5	20.00
One Spouse Respondents One Husband + 15 Wives	2	15.38	5	38.46	6	46.15
Total Response From All 72 Respondents	8	12.70	30	47.62	25	39.68

Examination of Hypotheses

Hypothesis I. There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning whether the respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions according to: (a) sex, (b) socio-economic status, (c) wife's employment status, (d) length of marriage, (e) degree of marriage happiness, and (f) degree to which spouse makes respondent feel good about self.

Hypothesis I(a): There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning whether the respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions according to sex.

The chi-square value was determined to be .472, therefore, no significant relationship was found between sex and satisfaction with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions.

Hypothesis I(b): There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning whether the respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions according to socio-economic status.

A chi-square value of 3.96 indicated that a significant relationship did not exist between socio-economic status and satisfaction with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions.

Hypothesis I(c): There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning whether

the respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions according to wife's employment status.

It was found that the wife's employment outside the home was significantly associated with a lower degree of the respondent's satisfaction with the way the respondent and spouse make decisions. With a chi-square value of 3.77, this was significant at the .05 level. It was found that 18.18% of the respondents where the wife was employed outside the home were not satisfied, while only 3.39% of the respondents of the unemployed wives were not satisfied.

Hypothesis I(d): There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning whether the respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions according to length of marriage.

No significant relationship was found to exist between length of marriage and satisfaction with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions. The chi-square value was 1.52.

Hypothesis I(e): There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning whether the respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions according to degree of marriage happiness.

A significant relationship was found to exist between the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning whether the respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions according to degree of marriage happiness.

The higher the degree of marriage happiness the greater the degree of satisfaction with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions. With a chi-square value of 8.13, this relationship was significant at the .004 level.

Hypothesis I(f): There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning whether the respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions according to degree to which spouse makes respondent feel good about self.

The chi-square value was 3.27, therefore, no significant relationship was found between the degree to which spouse makes respondent feel good about self and the satisfaction with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions.

Hypothesis II. There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take according to: (a) sex, (b) socio-economic status, (c) wife's employment status, (d) length of marriage, (e) degree of marriage happiness, and (f) degree to which spouse makes respondent feel good about self.

Hypothesis II(a): There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take according to sex.

TABLE VII

PERCEPTIONS OF STRONG FAMILY MEMBERS CONCERNING SATISFACTION
WITH THE WAY DECISIONS ARE MADE ACCORDING TO SIX
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUBJECTS*

Characteristics	Not Satisfied		Satisfied		χ^2	D.F.	Level of Sig.
	F	%	F	%			
<u>Sex:</u>							
Male	1	3.45	28	96.55	0.47	1	0.49
Female	3	7.32	38	92.68			
<u>Socio-economic Status:</u>							
Upper	1	16.67	5	83.33	3.96	4	0.41
Upper-middle	1	2.78	35	97.22			
Lower-middle	1	4.76	20	95.24			
Upper-lower	1	20.00	4	80.00			
Lower-lower	0	0	2	100.00			
<u>Wife's Employment:</u>							
Not Employed	2	3.39	57	96.61	3.77	1	0.05
Employed	2	18.18	9	81.82			
<u>Length of Marriage:</u>							
5 - 9 years	0	0	7	100.00	1.52	6	0.96
10-14	1	11.11	8	88.89			
15-19	2	7.69	24	92.31			
20-24	1	5.00	19	95.00			
25-29	0	0	5	100.00			
30-34	0	0	1	100.00			
35+	0	0	1	100.00			
<u>Degree of Marriage Happiness:</u>							
Very Happy	0	0	46	100.00	8.13	1	0.004
Happy	4	16.67	20	83.33			

TABLE VII (Continued)

Characteristics	Not Satisfied		Satisfied		X ²	D.F.	Level of Sig.
	F	%	F	%			
<u>Degree Spouse Makes Respondent Feel Good About Self:</u>							
Very Much	0	0	25	100.00	3.27	3	0.35
Much	2	6.90	27	93.10			
Some	2	13.33	13	86.67			
Little	0	0	1	100.00			
Very Little	0	0	0	0			

*While the number of cases in many of the cells was small, when the cell chi-squares were checked, and for some variables when the Fisher Exact Test was employed, the same conclusions were reached.

The chi-square test revealed that a significant difference was found to exist at the .04 level in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take. More than twice as many wives (60.53%) than do husbands (28.00%) perceive the wife as getting her way when there is a serious disagreement between husband and wife about a course of action to take. A larger proportion of husbands (56.00%) than wives (28.95%) perceive that the husbands and wives get their way about equally.

Hypothesis II(b): There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take according to socio-economic status.

No significant relationship was found to exist between the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take according to socio-economic status. The chi-square value was 10.98.

Hypothesis II(c): There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take according to wife's employment status.

No significant relationship was found to exist between the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take according to wife's employment status. Although not significant it is interesting that 30.00% of the respondents where the wife was employed indicated that the husband got his way when there was a serious disagreement about a course of action to take but only 9.43% of the respondents where the wife was unemployed indicated this. The chi-square value was 3.23.

Hypothesis II(d): There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take according to length of marriage.

A chi-square value of 9.44 was obtained which indicated no significant relationship between the perceptions of who usually gets his/her way and the length of marriage.

Hypothesis II(e): There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take according to degree of marriage happiness.

The chi-square value was 3.15. Although not significant, the respondents with the highest degree of marriage happiness tend to have a higher percentage response for husband and wife getting their

way about equally and a lower response for the husband usually getting his way.

Hypothesis II(f): There is a significant difference in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take according to degree to which spouse makes respondent feel good about self.

There was no significant relationship between the perceptions of husbands and wives concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement and the degree to which spouse makes respondent feel good about self. The chi-square value was 9.98.

TABLE VIII

PERCEPTIONS OF STRONG FAMILY MEMBERS CONCERNING WHO USUALLY
GETS HIS/HER WAY WHEN THERE IS A SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT
ACCORDING TO SIX CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUBJECTS*

Characteristics	Usually Husband		Usually Wife		About Equally		X ²	D.F.	Level of Sig.
	F	%	F	%	F	%			
<u>Sex:</u>									
Male	4	16.00	7	28.00	14	56.00	6.49	2	0.04
Female	4	10.53	23	60.53	11	28.95			
<u>Socio-economic Status:</u>									
Upper	2	40.00	2	40.00	1	20.00	10.98	8	0.20
Upper-middle	1	2.94	19	55.88	14	41.18			
Lower-middle	4	25.00	6	37.50	6	37.50			
Upper-lower	1	20.00	1	20.00	3	60.00			
Lower-lower	0	0	2	66.67	1	33.33			
<u>Wife's Employment:</u>									
Not Employed	5	9.43	26	49.06	22	41.51	3.23	2	0.20
Employed	3	30.00	4	40.00	3	30.00			
<u>Length of Marriage:</u>									
5 - 9 years	1	14.29	3	42.86	3	42.86	9.44	12	0.66
10-14	0	0	5	55.56	4	44.44			
15-19	5	22.73	10	45.45	7	31.82			
20-24	1	5.88	9	52.94	7	41.18			
25-29	0	0	2	50.00	2	50.00			
30-34	0	0	0	0	1	100.00			
35+	1	50.00	0	0	1	50.00			
<u>Degree of Marriage Happiness:</u>									
Very Happy	3	7.69	18	46.15	18	46.15	3.15	2	0.21
Happy	5	20.83	12	50.00	7	29.17			

TABLE VIII (Continued)

Characteristics	Usually Husband		Usually Wife		About Equally		X ²	D.F.	Level of Sig.
	F	%	F	%	F	%			
<u>Degree Spouse Makes Respondent Feel Good About Self:</u>									
Very Much	1	5.00	11	55.00	8	40.00			
Much	4	14.81	9	33.33	14	51.85	9.98	8	0.27
Some	3	21.43	9	64.29	2	14.29			
Little	0	0	1	100.00	0	0			
Very Little	0	0	0	0	1	100.00			

*While the number of cases in many of the cells was small, when the cell chi-squares were checked the same conclusions were reached.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Most people consider a strong, satisfying family life among their more important goals in life. There are, however, few proven guidelines on how to achieve a successful, satisfying family life. Unfortunately, research concerned with strong families or family strengths is very limited and research concerned with the power structure of strong families is almost non-existent. The main purpose of this study was to investigate the perceptions of strong family members to obtain increased knowledge and understanding of the power structure of strong families.

The 72 husbands and wives representing 44 families comprising the sample were recommended as strong family members by the extension home economists in all counties in Oklahoma and also indicated on the questionnaire that they rated their husband-wife and parent-child relationships as either satisfactory or very satisfactory. In addition, the respondents had at least one child 21 years or younger, were primarily White, and predominately from rural areas and small towns. The data were collected during the months of March and April, 1975.

Percentages and frequencies were used to analyze the respondents sex, race, age, religion, socio-economic status, number of years married, number of children, place of residency, wife's employment

status, length of marriage, primary source of income, degree of marriage happiness, and degree to which spouse makes respondent feel good about self. In addition, the percentage and frequency count was used to examine the perceptions of husbands and wives regarding who usually makes the decision about seven major areas of family living. The chi-square test was used to examine the hypothesis regarding: (a) whether the respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions, and (b) who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take.

Results

The general pattern of the results of this study is that decisions about seven major areas of family living (family finances, childrearing, religious matters, where to spend vacation, whether wife shall work, where to live, and whether husband changes jobs) are made about equally between husband and wife (71.00%). The husband seems to have more influence in family finances and whether husband changes jobs than he does in the other five areas of family living, while the wife appears to have more influence in childrearing and religious matters. The husband has more influence in whether the husband changed jobs than the wife does in whether the wife shall work.

The perceptions of the husbands of the matched pairs, the wives of the matched pairs, and the one spouse respondents (only the husband or the wife responded to the questionnaire but not both, one husband and 15 wives) were different. It was interesting that

the perceptions of the wives of the matched pairs and the wives of the one spouse respondents were not the same. The husbands of the matched pairs tended to give a more frequent response for about equally in areas that might be considered male roles while the wives of the matched pairs tended to give a more frequent response for usually husband in the same areas.

The one spouse respondents tended to indicate a higher percentage response for usually wife and a lower percentage response for usually husband in five of the seven areas of family living. The response was the same for where to spend vacation and larger for usually husband in religious matters than were the responses of the wives of the matched pairs. The wives of the matched pairs tended to give a larger response for usually husband and a lower response for usually wife than did the one spouse respondents. The one spouse respondents indicated a higher response for about equally than did the wives of the matched pairs in family finances, childrearing, and where to live. A larger percent was indicated by the one spouse respondents for usually husband in religious matters and a larger percent for about equally for whether the husband changes jobs than did the wives of the matched pairs. In other words, the one spouse respondents appear to be more liberated women.

If the seven major areas of family living are assumed to have equal significance or equal importance and they are averaged, the following results are seen: (a) 71.00% of the total sample indicate that decisions are made about equally, (b) 20.20% indicate usually husband, and (c) 8.80% indicate usually wife. The highest response for about equally (76.36%) was given by the one spouse respondents.

The response that decisions are usually made by the wife was most frequently reported by the husbands of the matched pairs (11.79%). Husbands of the matched pairs (22.56%) were in close agreement with the wives of the matched pairs (21.03%) in reporting that decisions are usually made by the husband.

As would normally be expected from strong families, 94.29% of the total sample indicated satisfaction with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions. The most satisfied group was the husbands of the matched pairs and the least satisfied group was the wives of the matched pairs. This would correspond with the finding that where husband and wife indicated a different degree of marital happiness 77.78% of the time, the husband was the happiest.

A large proportion of wives of matched pairs (72.00%) indicated the wife usually won when there was a serious disagreement about a course of action to take. This group also gave the lowest response for the husband winning (8.00%). The husbands of the matched pairs indicated the husband and wife won about equally (56.00%) and usually husband (16.00%). The response of one spouse respondents (one husband + 15 wives) was very similar to the response of the husbands of the matched pairs.

The chi-square test was utilized to examine the hypotheses in order to determine if significant differences existed between the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning whether the respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions. No significant differences were found to exist in the perceptions according to: (a) sex, (b) socio-economic status, (c) length of marriage, and (d) degree spouse

makes respondent feel good about self.

The results indicated that significant differences existed in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning whether the respondent is satisfied with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions according to:

1. Wife's employment status (significant at the .05 level).

The wife's employment outside the home was significantly associated with a lower degree of the respondent's satisfaction with the way the respondent and spouse make decisions. It was found that 18.18% of the respondents where the wife was employed outside the home were not satisfied, while only 3.39% of the respondents of the unemployed wives were not satisfied.

2. Degree of marriage happiness (significant at the .004 level).

The higher the degree of marriage happiness the greater the degree of satisfaction with the way in which respondent and spouse make decisions.

The chi-square test was utilized to examine the hypotheses in order to determine if significant differences existed between the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take. No significant differences were found to exist in the perceptions according to: (a) socio-economic status, (b) wife's employment, (c) length of marriage, (d) degree of marriage happiness, and (e) degree spouse makes respondent feel good about self. Although not significant it was interesting that 30.00% of the respondents where

the wife was employed indicated that the husband got his way when there was a serious disagreement about a course of action to take, but only 9.43% of the respondents where the wife was unemployed indicated this. Also not significant, the respondents with the highest degree of marriage happiness tend to have a higher percentage response for husband and wife getting their way about equally and a lower response for the husband usually getting his way.

The results indicated that significant differences existed in the perceptions of husbands and wives of strong families concerning who usually gets his/her way when there is a serious disagreement between respondent and spouse about a course of action to take according to:

1. Sex (significant at the .04 level). More than twice as many wives (60.53%) than do husbands (28.00%) perceive the wife as getting her way when there is a serious disagreement between husband and wife about a course of action to take. A larger proportion of husbands (56.00%) than wives (28.95%) perceive that the husbands and wives get their way about equally.

Discussion

The strong families in this study tended to be more equalitarian than the following: (a) the ethnic group having the lowest divorce rates is Hawaii which was studied by Johnson (1975), (b) families with high marital satisfaction studied by Lu (1952), Blood and Wolfe (1960), Centers (1971) and Corrales (1975), and (c) the random sample studied by Turk and Bell (1972). The

implication was that it is desirable for the outcome of the decision-making process to be one of equality.

The finding that husbands have more influence in the specific areas of family finances and whether husband changes jobs and that the wives have more influence in the specific areas of childrearing and religious matters would support a concept of team effort. This would also compliment the findings of Ammons (1976) that couples with a very vital, deep, meaningful, happy and total relationship tend to compliment each other in various personality dimensions.

It was found that the husband has more influence in whether the husband changes jobs than the wife does in whether the wife shall work. In addition more than twice as many wives as husbands perceive the wife as getting her way when there was a serious disagreement between husband and wife about a course of action to take. These could be explained by cultural expectations and would compliment research by: (a) Hurvitz (1965) who found that wives with traditional control roles were happier in marriage, (b) Turk and Bell (1972) who found that 76.00% of the wives of an equalitarian sample perceived the husband as being the real boss, (c) Corrales (1975) who found that 60.00% of both the husbands and wives of an equalitarian sample perceived the marriage to be husband-dominant from an authority level, (d) Raven, Centers, and Rodrigues (1975) who found that the husbands and wives that were very satisfied attributed the basis of power to the spouse as referent (49.00%), (e) Johnson (1975) who found that in the ethnic group having the lowest divorce rates in Hawaii, the elevation of the male was frequently depicted as a key factor in family stability, and (f) Stinnett (1977) who found

that the high status of the husband in the community was positively associated with marital happiness whereas the high status of the wife in the community was not.

Olson and Cromwell (1975) in discussing the methodological issues in family power state that most studies have found considerable discrepancy in the responses of husbands and wives. This would support the conclusion that the perceptions of the husbands of the matched pairs, the wives of the matched pairs, and the one spouse respondents (only the husband or the wife responded to the questionnaire but not both, one husband and 15 wives) were different. The conclusion that the wives who were one spouse respondents were more liberated women than the wives of the matched pairs can be supported by the fact that 60.00% of the one spouse respondents were employed where only 3.57% of the wives of the matched pairs were employed.

The results indicated the wife's employment outside the home was significantly associated with a lower degree of the respondent's satisfaction with the way the respondent and spouse make decisions. There were two respondents in the sample where the wife was employed that indicated dissatisfaction with the way the respondent and spouse make decisions. One was a one spouse respondent who indicated: (a) she would like for her spouse to be a stronger leader, (b) her spouse was too slow in reaching conclusions or decisions, (c) her spouse refused to argue and avoided talking about a conflict situation, (d) her spouse often used sarcasm and complained, (e) he did not listen well, and (f) he was quiet and talked very

little. The other respondent whose wife was employed and who was dissatisfied was the husband of a matched pair who indicated: (a) he would like more personal attention from his wife, (b) she did not understand his feelings, (c) she did not express affection to him, (d) she had low interest in him, (e) they often put each other down, (f) they were often sarcastic with each other, (g) they often brought up the other's mistakes, (h) they did not enjoy talking to each other, (i) there was not much about the marriage to get excited about, and (j) she had no desire to do what he wanted to do. He perceived the outcome of the decision making process to be one of equality and the wife to win when there was a serious disagreement. Although the wife's employment outside the home was significantly associated with a lower degree of respondent's satisfaction with the way the respondent and spouse make decisions, the majority of the respondents where the wife was employed were very satisfied. Several of the employed wives indicated that they wished they did not have to work and that work schedules often interfered with family life.

Recommendations

There is a need for more research on the power structure of strong families. Studies such as this can provide a profile of characteristics for a variety of persons such as family life educators, counselors, social workers, and clergymen. Greater emphasis on the power structure of strong families can give more balance in family life education between examining the problems and potentials of family life. This information can assist

students as a therapeutic device to help them identify and develop strengths rather than concentrate upon problems and can assist counselors for both diagnostic and treatment purposes.

The following recommendations are suggested for future research:

1. It is suggested that this study be replicated with a national sample.
2. It would be beneficial to repeat this study obtaining a greater representation of lower socio-economic groups, various racial and ethnic groups, and a larger representation of urban families.
3. Family power is composed of multiple concepts. It is suggested that future research measure these concepts using both self-report and observational methods. The family member's perceptions can be measured by self report and the outsider's perspective can be measured by observational methods.
4. Conceptual clarification and measurement validation would be advanced by using multiple measures such as questionnaires, interviews in lab situations, interviews in non-lab situations, and audio-visual tapings.
5. Family power is a system property, it is therefore suggested that all significant members in the family be included in future research, including children and next of kin living in the same household.
6. Future studies of family power should include such

processes as decision-making, problem-solving, conflict resolution, crisis management, and support and control.

7. More emphasis needs to be placed on the interaction processes of power rather than on the outcome of such events.
8. A longitudinal study should be initiated to determine if the power structure among newly married couples is the same as the power structure among couples that have been married for a long period of time.

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APPENDIX


OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY • STILLWATER

 Department of Family Relations & Child Development
 (405) 372-6211, Ext. 6084

74074

April 7, 1975

Dear Friend:

With more families being broken by divorce and separation today than ever before, you and many other Americans are asking the question, "How can family life be made stronger and more satisfying?". The Department of Family Relations and Child Development at Oklahoma State University is conducting a state-wide research project which is attempting to find an answer to this question. There are many strong families and you have been recommended as a family that would be interested and qualified to help us gain greater understanding of positive family relationships.

We would like to ask you to participate in this research by completing the enclosed questionnaire. There is a questionnaire for you and one for your spouse. If possible, would you both complete the questionnaires (please answer them separately and do not compare answers) and return them in the self-addressed, pre-paid envelopes by May 1. If for some reason one of you can not assist with the research, we would greatly appreciate it if the other would send his or her questionnaire to us separately.

Your answers are anonymous and confidential since you are asked not to put your name on the questionnaire. Please answer each question as honestly as you can. We are not interested in how you think you should answer the questions, but we are interested in what you actually feel and do in your family situation.

It is expected that the information gained from this research will be of benefit to families and also of benefit to persons in the helping professions such as teachers, ministers, and counselors.

We appreciate your participation in this research. It is only through the contribution of persons such as you that we can gain greater understanding of marriage and family relationships.

Sincerely yours,

 Nick Stinnett, Ph.D.
 Associate Professor

NS/jg

Oklahoma State University
Division of Home Economics

Department of Family Relations
and Child Development

Your cooperation in this research project is greatly appreciated. Your contribution in a research project of this type helps us to gain greater knowledge and insight into family relationships.

Please check or fill in answers as appropriate to each question. Your answers are confidential and anonymous since you do not have to put your name on this questionnaire. Please be as honest in your answers as possible. There are no right or wrong answers.

1. Family Member: Mother _____ Father _____
2. Race:
 1. White _____
 2. Black _____
 3. Indian _____
 4. Oriental _____
 5. Other _____
3. Age: _____
4. What church do you attend? _____
5. Who earns most of the income for your family?
 1. Husband _____
 2. Wife _____
 3. Other _____
 4. Husband and wife
about equally _____
6. What is the educational attainment of the husband?
7. What is the educational attainment of the wife?
8. Husband's Occupation: _____
9. Wife's Occupation: _____
10. Major source of income for the family:
 1. Inherited savings and investments. _____
 2. Earned wealth, transferable investment _____

3. Profits, royalties, fees _____
4. Salary, Commissions (regular, monthly, or yearly) _____
5. Hourly wages, weekly checks _____
6. Odd jobs, seasonal work, private charity _____
7. Public relief or charity _____
11. Residence:
1. On farm or in country _____
2. Small town under 25,000 _____
3. City of 25,000 to 50,000 _____
4. City of 50,000 to 100,000 _____
5. City of over 100,000 _____
12. Indicate below how religious your family is: (rate on the 5 point scale with 5 representing the highest degree of religious orientation and 1 representing the least.)
- 1 2 3 4 5
13. How long have you been married to your present spouse? _____
14. If this is not your first marriage was your previous marriage ended by:
- Divorce _____
- Death of spouse _____
15. How many children do you have? _____
16. What are their ages? _____
17. Have you been satisfied with the number and spacing of children born to your marriage?
1. Yes, I am satisfied _____
2. No, Children were born too soon after marriage _____
3. No, Too many children were born _____
4. No, Spacing of children was too close together _____
5. No, Spacing of children was too far apart _____
6. No, Did not have as many children as desired _____

Please answer all the items in this questionnaire pertaining to parent-child relationships as they apply to your relationship (and your spouse's relationship) with your oldest child living at home.

18. Indicate the degree of closeness of your relationship with your child (oldest child living at home) on the following 5 point scale (with 5 representing the greatest degree of closeness and 1 representing the least degree).

1 2 3 4 5

19. What is the age of your oldest child living at home? _____

Is this child boy _____ or girl _____ ?

20. Indicate the degree of closeness of your spouse's relationship with your child (oldest child living at home) on the following scale (with 5 representing the greatest degree of closeness and 1 representing the least degree).

1 2 3 4 5

21. Please rate the happiness of your marriage on the following 5 point scale (5 represents the greatest degree of happiness and 1 represents the least degree of happiness). Circle the point which most nearly describes your degree of happiness:

1 2 3 4 5

22. Please rate the happiness of your relationship with your child on the following 5 point scale (5 represents the greatest degree of happiness and 1 represents the least degree of happiness). Circle the point which most nearly describes your degree of happiness:

1 2 3 4 5

23. What would you most like to change about your marriage relationship?

24. What do you feel has contributed most to making your marriage satisfying?

25. What do you feel has contributed most to making your relationship with your child strong?

26. What would you most like to change about your relationship with your oldest child living at home?

27. Some people make us feel good about ourselves. That is, they make us feel self-confident, worthy, competent, and happy about ourselves. What is the degree to which your spouse makes you feel good about yourself? Indicate on the following 5 point scale (5 represents the greatest degree and 1 represents the least degree).

1 2 3 4 5

28. (a) What exactly does your spouse do that makes you feel good about yourself?

(b) What exactly does your spouse do that makes you feel bad about yourself?

29. Indicate on the following 5 point scale the degree to which you think you make your spouse feel good about himself/herself. (5 represents the greatest degree and 1 represents the least).

1 2 3 4 5

30. What exactly do you do that makes your spouse feel good about himself/herself?

31. Indicate on the following 5 point scale the degree to which your child makes you feel good about yourself. (5 represents the greatest degree and 1 represents the least).

1 2 3 4 5

32. What exactly does he/she do that makes you feel good about yourself?

33. Indicate on the following 5 point scale the degree to which you think you make your child feel good about himself/herself. (5 represents the greatest degree and 1 represents the least.)

1 2 3 4 5

34. What exactly do you do that makes him/her feel good about himself/herself?

35. How would you rate the degree of commitment of:

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very Low
1. Your spouse to you.	—	—	—	—	—
2. You to your spouse.	—	—	—	—	—
3. Your child to you.	—	—	—	—	—
4. You to your child.	—	—	—	—	—

36. Rate the degree to which:

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low
1. Your spouse stands by you when you are in trouble.	—	—	—	—	—
2. You stand by your spouse when he/she is in trouble.	—	—	—	—	—
3. Your spouse is concerned with promoting your welfare and happiness.	—	—	—	—	—
4. You are concerned with promoting your spouse's welfare and happiness.	—	—	—	—	—

37. Rate the degree to which:

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low
1. Your spouse understands your feelings.	—	—	—	—	—
2. You understand your spouse's feelings.	—	—	—	—	—
3. Your child understands your feelings.	—	—	—	—	—
4. You understand your child's feelings.	—	—	—	—	—

38. Rate the degree of affection expressed by:

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low
1. Your spouse to you.	—	—	—	—	—
2. You to your spouse.	—	—	—	—	—
3. Your child to you.	—	—	—	—	—
4. You to your child.	—	—	—	—	—

39. Rate the degree of interest which:

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very low
1. Your spouse has in you.	—	—	—	—	—
2. You have in your spouse.	—	—	—	—	—

40. Indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your marriage relationship by circling the appropriate response. There are no right or wrong answers. The response code is as follows: SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; U = Undecided; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree:

- | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|---|----|
| 1. My spouse and I quarrel very often in private. | SA | A | U | D | SD |
| 2. My spouse and I quarrel very often in public. | SA | A | U | D | SD |
| 3. My spouse and I often put each other down. | SA | A | U | D | SD |
| 4. My spouse and I are often sarcastic with each other. | SA | A | U | D | SD |
| 5. My spouse and I often ridicule each other. | SA | A | U | D | SD |
| 6. My spouse and I often bring up each other's "mistakes" of the past. | SA | A | U | D | SD |
| 7. Our marriage satisfaction has declined over the years. | SA | A | U | D | SD |
| 8. My spouse and I do not feel as emotionally close to each other now as we did in the earlier period of our marriage. | SA | A | U | D | SD |
| 9. My spouse and I spend much less time together now than we did in the earlier period of our marriage. | SA | A | U | D | SD |
| 10. My spouse and I enjoy being with each other less now than we did in the earlier period of our marriage. | SA | A | U | D | SD |
| 11. In comparison with the earlier years of our marriage much more of the time that my spouse and I now spend together is duty time such as entertaining, participating in the children's activities at school, and participating in various church and civic activities. | SA | A | U | D | SD |
| 12. I feel that much of the life has gone out of our marriage. | SA | A | U | D | SD |
| 13. From the beginning of our marriage my spouse and I have never done many things together. | SA | A | U | D | SD |
| 14. From the beginning of our marriage most of the time that my spouse and I have spent together has been "duty" time such as entertaining and participating in various church and civic activities. | SA | A | U | D | SD |

15. From the beginning of our marriage I have received less satisfaction from our marriage relationship than from some other areas of life such as homemaking, career, children, and community involvement. SA A U D SD
16. From the beginning of our marriage my spouse and I have not had a strong emotional involvement with each other. SA A U D SD
17. Since the beginning of our marriage my spouse and I have not experienced a great deal of enjoyment in simply talking with each other. SA A U D SD
18. Since the beginning of our marriage my spouse and I have shared few common interests. SA A U D SD
19. While there is little open conflict between my spouse and me, neither is there much to really excite me about the marriage. SA A U D SD
20. My spouse and I enjoy doing many things together. SA A U D SD
21. I enjoy most of the activities I participate in more if my spouse is also involved. SA A U D SD
22. I receive more satisfaction from my marriage relationship than from most other areas of life. SA A U D SD
23. My spouse and I have a positive, strong emotional involvement with each other. SA A U D SD
24. The companionship of my spouse is more enjoyable to me than most anything else in life. SA A U D SD
25. I would not hesitate to sacrifice an important goal in life if achievement of that goal would cause my marriage relationship to suffer. SA A U D SD
26. My spouse and I take an active interest in each other's work and hobbies. SA A U D SD
41. Rate your degree of determination to make your relationship with your spouse satisfying; (rate on following 5 point scale with 5 representing greatest degree of determination and 1 representing the least degree.)

1 2 3 4 5

42. Rate your degree of determination to make your relationship with your child satisfying: (5 representing the greatest degree and 1 representing the least).

1 2 3 4 5

43. Rate your spouse's degree of determination to make your marriage relationship satisfying: 5 representing the greatest degree and 1 representing the least).

1 2 3 4 5

44. Rate your spouse's degree of determination to make relationship with child satisfying: (5 representing the greatest degree and 1 representing the least).

1 2 3 4 5

45. Please indicate below who usually makes the decision about each of the following:

	Usually Husband	Usually Wife	Husband and Wife about equally
1. Family Finances	_____	_____	_____
2. Childrearing	_____	_____	_____
3. Religious matters	_____	_____	_____
4. Where to spend vacation	_____	_____	_____
5. Whether wife shall work	_____	_____	_____
6. Where to live	_____	_____	_____
7. Whether husband changes jobs	_____	_____	_____

46. Are you satisfied with the way in which you and your spouse make decisions?

No _____ Yes _____

47. When there is a serious disagreement between you and your spouse about a course of action to take who usually gets his/her way?

48. When there is conflict (serious disagreement) between you and your spouse, how does he/she usually deal with it?

49. Please indicate how often your spouse responds to conflict (serious disagreements) in each of the following ways:

	Very often	Often	About half the time	Some- times	Hardly ever
1. Tries to avoid talking about it.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Tries to convince the other person why his viewpoint is wrong.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

	Very often	Often	About half the time	Some- times	Hardly ever
3. Tells the other person off.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Considers disagreements as a game of wits and tries to outmaneuver the other person.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Tries to identify exactly what the problem is, what are the feelings of each person about the problem, and the different ways of solving the problem.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

50. When there is a conflict (serious disagreements) between you and your spouse or another family member, how do you usually deal with it?

51. Please indicate how often you respond to conflict in each of the following ways:

	Very often	Often	About half the time	Some- times	Hardly ever
1. Try to avoid talking about it.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Try to convince the other person why his viewpoint is wrong.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. I consider a disagreement as a game of wits and try to outmaneuver the other person.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. I try to identify exactly what the problem is, what are the feelings of each person about the problem, and the different ways of solving the problem.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

52. Indicate below how much conflict you experience with your spouse: (5 represents a great degree of conflict and 1 represents very little conflict).

1 2 3 4 5

53. Indicate below how much conflict you experience with your child: (5 represents a great degree of conflict and 1 represents very little conflict).

1 2 3 4 5

54. Indicate below how much conflict your spouse experiences with your child: (5 represents a great degree of conflict and 1 represents very little conflict).

1 2 3 4 5

55. Rate the degree to which you are satisfied with the communication pattern between you and:

1. Your spouse

Very Satisfied _____
Satisfied _____
Uncertain _____
Dissatisfied _____
Very Dissatisfied _____

2. Your child

Very Satisfied _____
Satisfied _____
Uncertain _____
Dissatisfied _____
Very Dissatisfied _____

56. If the communication pattern between you and your spouse is good, what do you think has made it good? (If unsatisfactory, what do you think has made it unsatisfactory?)

57. If the communication pattern between you and your child is good, what do you think has made it good? (If unsatisfactory, what has made it unsatisfactory?)

58. We would like to get information about communication patterns in families. Indicate the degree to which each of the following applies to you, your spouse and your child. (5 indicates highest degree; 1 indicates lowest degree).

	You					Your spouse					Child				
1. Listens well	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
2. Tries to see things from the other's point of view	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
3. Communicates messages that are contradictory.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
4. Is sensitive to the feelings of others.	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

- | | You | | | | | Your spouse | | | | | Child | | | | |
|--|-----|---|---|---|---|-------------|---|---|---|---|-------|---|---|---|---|
| 5. Likes to talk more than listen. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. Rarely shares his/her feelings with others | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. Says directly what he/she thinks. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. "Hints" at what he/she wants rather than being direct. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. Does not let other know what is bothering him/her. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. Checks to be sure he/she understands what others are saying when the communication process is unclear. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
59. How often do you and your spouse talk together?
60. How often do you and your child talk together?
61. How often do your spouse and child talk together?
62. How often do you and your spouse do things together: (rate on the following 5 point scale with 5 representing very often and 1 representing very rarely).
- 1 2 3 4 5
63. What are two things which you most enjoy doing together?
64. How often do you do things with your child: (rate on the following 5 point scale with 5 representing very often and 1 representing very rarely).
- 1 2 3 4 5

65. What are two things which you most enjoy doing with your child?

66. How often does your spouse do things with your child? (rate on the following 5 point scale with 5 representing very often and 1 representing very rarely).

1 2 3 4 5

67. How much of a problem is today's busy pace of life for your family? (rate on the following 5 point scale, with 5 indicating it is a great problem and 1 indicating it is little or no problem.)

1 2 3 4 5

68. What things do you do to prevent this problem from hurting your family life?

69. From the following list of values which are often considered to be important in human development, please check the five (5) values which you consider most important for an individual to learn.

- 1. Determination and perseverance _____
- 2. Self-reliance _____
- 3. Seeing each person as having dignity and worth. (This involves respecting rights and needs of others.) _____
- 4. Moral courage. (Courage to stand by one's inner convictions) _____
- 5. Spiritual development _____
- 6. Cooperation _____
- 7. Honesty and integrity _____
- 8. Loyalty _____
- 9. Self-discipline _____
- 10. Feeling genuine concern and responsibility _____
- 11. Initiative _____
- 12. Intellectual inquisitiveness _____
- 13. Responsibility in performing tasks _____
- 14. Self-respect _____
- 15. Friendliness _____
- 16. Appreciation _____
- 17. Assuming responsibility for the consequences of one's own behavior _____

70. Following are fifteen basic, normal personality needs that everyone has in different degrees. In themselves, none of the needs is either good or bad. They are simply the needs that motivate and influence behavior. Each of these fifteen needs is described below in brief, general terms.

We are interested in how you see yourself in terms of the degree to which you have these needs. This should be what you feel most accurately describes your present level of each need, not the level which you feel you should have or the level which you want to have.

Score yourself on each of the needs. For scoring, use the 1 to 5 point scale. Circle the point on the scale which best describes your level of that need. Keep in mind that 1 represents the lowest level of the need, while 5 represents the highest level of the need.

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. ACHIEVEMENT - ambition, to succeed, to do one's best to accomplish something of great significance. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. DEFERENCE - dependence, to follow orders (and others), to conform, to be conventional. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. ORDER - neatness, to have organization, be systematic, and plan in advance; orderly schedule. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. EXHIBITION - attention, to be the center of things, to be noticed, to talk about oneself. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. AUTONOMY - independence, to be free in decisions and actions; to be nonconforming without obligations. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. AFFILIATION - need for people, friends, groups, to form strong attachments. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. INTRACPTION - need to know, to understand - what and why, to analyze and empathize. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. SUCCORANCE - to receive help, encouragement, sympathy, kindness from others. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. DOMINANCE - to be a leader, to lead, direct and supervise, to persuade and influence others. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. ABASEMENT - conscience, to feel guilty and accept blame; to confess wrongs, admit inferiority. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. NURTURANCE - to give help, sympathy, kindness to others, to be generous. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. CHANGE - variety, novelty, to experiment, try new things, experience change in routine. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13. ENDURANCE - perseverance, tenacity; to finish what is started, to stick to something even if unsuccessful. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

14. SEX - need for opposite sex, for sexual activities; to do things involving sex.
15. AGGRESSION - to attack contrary views, to criticize, to tell what one thinks of others.

Please go back and see if you have answered each question.

VITA

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Thesis: POWER STRUCTURE OF STRONG FAMILIES

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