

Creative Component

Division of Family Tasks

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Introduction

The transition to parenthood has been viewed as a crisis (LeMasters, 1957; Dyer, 1963; Hobbs, 1965, 1968; Hobbs & Cole, 1976). A crisis is defined as "any sharp or decisive change for which old patterns are inadequate" (Hill, 1949:51). The addition of a family member causes change, adjustment, and reorganization of roles. However, expectant parents do not always perceive or prepare for these adjustments of roles prior to the birth of a first child (Kach & McGhee, 1982).

LeMasters (1957) found that all the couples in their study that said parenthood was a crisis for them had romanticized parenthood and felt unprepared for parental roles. More realistic training and preparation for marriage is available today, but not many couples get prepared for parenting (Rossi, 1968).

Perceptions of parental roles prior to the birth of the first child deserve attention. Parental roles at this time are of particular interest with the increase of women in the work force. Along with this change is a needed re-evaluation of attitudes between mothers and fathers with regard to their particular roles within the family. According to a study of college women, women are beginning to expect their husbands to take on more responsibilities and duties within the household in addition to their breadwinning roles (Parelius, 1975). The reason for this change is because women are also expanding their roles to include work outside the home. Studies have been done to examine the attitudes of working women and nonworking women concerning their attitudes of the traditional roles of housewife and mother.

According to Bird, Bird, and Scruggs (1983:63-64):

The employment of married women on such a large scale contributes to changes in the work and family role expectations of husbands and wives. As wives increasingly share the income provider role in the family, there is increased pressure on the husbands to share a larger proportion of parenting and household responsibilities.

However, limited studies have been done specifically on what husbands and wives expect their particular roles and the roles of their spouse to be within the household. This is especially true regarding husband's expectations.

The present study will examine expectant parents' role expectations. Role expectations are becoming of greater interest and importance. As the percentage of women in the work force increases, the interest in role expectations increases. This area of research is limited and deserves additional attention.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the present study is to examine parent role expectations before the birth of a child. The objective of this study is

To determine if there are differences between expectant parents' parental role expectations according to selected personal variables (sex of parent, employment status of wife, education of subject, parenting experience, and planning of pregnancy).

Limitations

1. The conclusions of this study are limited to parents enrolled in prepared childbirth classes at a clinic where women were seeking care from a specialist in obstetrics.
2. Subjects appeared to all be middle class.

Statement of Hypothesis

The following research questions will guide the present study: are

there any differences in parental role expectations as expressed by expectant parents prior to the birth of a child with regard to the following: a. sex; b. wives' employment status; c. education of subjects; d. parenting experience; e. planning of pregnancy. Analysis by frequencies and percentages were utilized.

Review of Literature

The present study is an attempt to enhance knowledge concerning the area of role expectations of expectant parents. Previous studies have examined parenthood as a crisis and as the transition to parenthood. Research on expectations of expectant parents has been limited and somewhat inadequate in the literature. Parenthood was first described as a crisis by LeMasters (1957). Other research has developed from the LeMasters study as an attempt to measure parenthood as a crisis (Dyer, 1963; Hobbs, 1965). Rossi (1968) and Hobbs (1968) both described the beginning of parenthood as a transition to parenthood as did Hobbs and Cole (1976) and Russell (1974). Unrealistic expectations concerning parenthood are mentioned in several studies (LeMasters, 1957; Dunn, 1960; Rossi, 1968) and parental role expectations were examined by Kach and McGhee (1982).

A second area of research related to parental roles is concerned with the division of household tasks. "A significant proportion of the economic activity in the United States involves exchange in which no money changes hands; much of this unpaid exchange is in the form of household production (Nickols & Metzen, 1978:85). Becker (1965) extended the theory of time allocation to include household tasks. He hypothesized that families allocated the time spent in market and household activities according to the members' abilities and efficiencies. Much research has been done on the time allocation and division of household tasks (Hedges & Barnett, 1972; Walker & Gauger, 1973;

Larsen, 1974; Walker & Woods, 1976; Nickols & Metzen, 1978; Ericksen, Yancey, & Ericksen, 1979; Huber & Spitze, 1981; Bird, Bird, & Scruggs, 1983).

A third area of literature related to parenting expectations and perceptions are the differences between the views of mothers and fathers. Several studies have reported differences between mothers and fathers in their expectations and perceptions of the parenting process (Dunn, 1960; Hobbs, 1965, 1968; Russell, 1974; Hobbs & Cole, 1976; Lovingood & Firebaugh, 1978; Rindfuss, Bumpass, & St. John, 1980; Kach & McGhee, 1982; Gilbert & Hanson, 1983; Hock, Gnezda, & McBride, 1984). Expectations of expectant mothers and fathers concerning parenthood has been limited.

Adjustment to Parenthood

Parenthood as a Crisis

The term crisis has a variety of meanings to different individuals and researchers, and research studies may use the term differently. The definition of crisis selected by researchers in studies of parenthood as a crisis is the one given by Hill (1949). A crisis is defined as "any sharp or decisive change for which old patterns are inadequate" (Hill, 1949:51). LeMasters (1957) conceived parenthood as a crisis when associating the addition of a family member as causing change, adjustment, and reorganization of roles. LeMasters used the conception as a basis for a research study on parenthood and parents' perceptions of a crisis with the arrival of a first child. He found that 83 per cent of the couples reported "severe" or "extensive" crisis in adjusting to the birth of their first child. A second study (Dyer, 1963) supported this finding in that 53 per cent of the couples in that study reported experiencing extensive or severe crisis after the arrival of the first child. However, Hobbs (1965) later reported that none of the couples in his study experienced extensive or severe crises, although all had reported experiencing some degree of crisis in their adjustment. The Hobbs study failed to verify

the conception of parenthood adjustment being felt as a crisis experience.

Parenthood as a Transition

Parenthood and the birth of a first child is a time of change, but there is disagreement between researchers in how this change is manifested in the perceptions of parents. Rossi (1968) states:

... the time is now ripe to drop the concept of "normal crises" and to speak directly, instead, of the transition to and impact of parenthood. There is an uncomfortable incongruity in speaking of any crisis as normal. If the transition is achieved and if a successful reintegration of personality or social roles occurs, then crisis is a misnomer.

According to Hobbs (1965 and 1968), the difficulties experienced by parents which may escalate crisis scores may be due to coping with confounding variables other than the child which may be complicating the adjustments of parents. He reported that couples did not experience extensive or severe crises in the adjustment of the birth of the first child. "... It would seem more accurate to view the addition of the first child to the marriage as a period of transition which is somewhat stressful" (Hobbs, 1968:417). Other studies have concurred that there is a transition rather than a crisis at the birth of the first child (Russell, 1974; Hobbs & Cole, 1976). Russell (1974) found subjects to perceive the adjustment as moderately stressful with 95.2 per cent of the males and 96.9 per cent of the females experiencing no more than moderate difficulty. Hobbs and Cole (1976) reported that over 90 per cent of the couples reported slight and moderate crisis in the adjustment to parenthood. These studies (Hobbs, 1968; Russell, 1974; Hobbs & Cole, 1976; Rossi, 1968) support the findings that initial parenting may be moderately difficult, but not extensive enough to be considered a crisis.

Ease of Transition

Hobbs (1968) believes that other variables may combine with the arrival of the child to compound the difficulty of the transition to parenthood. The

degree of difficulty of the transition to parenthood is defined by Steffensmeier (1982:319) as "the degree to which new situations and relational changes accompanying the birth of the first child are perceived negatively by the husband and wife." Variables may accumulate causing a great deal of stress that would account for a higher crisis score. Studies have reported that variables such as preparation for parenthood (LeMasters, 1957; Dyer, 1963; Rossi, 1968; Russell, 1974), realistic expectations (LeMasters, 1957; Dunn, 1960; Dyer, 1963; Rossi, 1968), and planned pregnancy (Dyer, 1963; Rossi, 1968; Russell, 1974) would help to ease the transition.

The adjustment is less difficult with preparation, realistic expectations, planned pregnancy, and coping techniques. Myers-Walls (1984) found that the ease of the transition to parenthood was related to coping strategies utilized by the mother. "Using strategies to cope with multiple role responsibilities is associated with fewer changes in living patterns and personal behavior after the birth of the first child, and with more positive reactions to the changes that do occur" (Myers-Walls, 1984:270). Successful coping strategies help the transition to be less difficult. Parenthood is a time of adjustment and change, but the burden of the adjustment will be easier with the adaptation of coping strategies.

Problems Faced by Parents

In several parenthood studies, parents were questioned as to problems they faced as new parents. These problems were thought to be the causes of crises or adjustment problems that parents experienced (LeMasters, 1957; Dyer, 1963; Hobbs, 1965; Russell, 1974; Sollie & Miller, 1980; Kach & McGhee, 1982). LeMasters found that all of the parents in his study had romanticized parenthood. The parents did not know the realities of the time the child would require of them. Problems reported by new mothers include exhaustion (Dyer, 1963; Hobbs, 1965; Russell, 1974; Sollie & Miller, 1980; Kach & McGhee, 1982),

loss of sleep (Dyer, 1963; Hobbs, 1965; Russell, 1974; Sollie & Miller, 1980; Kach & McGhee, 1982), feelings of neglecting husband (Dyer, 1963; Sollie & Miller, 1980; Kach & McGhee, 1982), feelings of inadequacy and extra work in the new role (Dyer, 1963; Sollie & Miller, 1980; Kach & McGhee, 1982), inability to keep up with housework (Dyer, 1963; Sollie & Miller, 1980), interruption of routines (Dyer, 1963; Hobbs, 1965; Sollie & Miller, 1980; Kach & McGhee, 1982), increased money problems (Hobbs, 1965; Sollie & Miller, 1980), being emotionally upset (Hobbs, 1965; Russell, 1974; Sollie & Miller, 1980), worrying about "loss of figure" (Russell, 1974), lack of time for self (Sollie & Miller, 1980; Kach & McGhee, 1982), and strains on the husband-wife relationship (Sollie & Miller, 1980). Fathers reported the following as being problems: loss of sleep (Dyer, 1963; Hobbs, 1965; Russell, 1974; Sollie & Miller, 1980; Kach & McGhee, 1982), adjusting to new responsibilities (Dyer, 1963; Sollie & Miller, 1980), upset schedules and routines (Dyer, 1963; Hobbs, 1965; Russell, 1974; Sollie & Miller, 1980; Kach & McGhee, 1982), ignorance of amount of time and work the baby would require (Dyer, 1963; Russell, 1974), financial worries and adjustments (Dyer, 1963; Hobbs, 1965; Russell, 1974; Sollie & Miller, 1980), suggestions from in-laws (Russell, 1974), lack of time for self and spouse (Sollie & Miller, 1980; Kach & McGhee, 1982), and strains on husband-wife relationship (Sollie & Miller, 1980).

With the arrival of a new baby, schedules must change and adjustments must be made. Adjustments are made in all areas and aspects of these new parents' lives. Adjustments are made in schedules, physical activities, energy, social lives and relationships, and role responsibilities.

Expectations of Parenthood

Individuals carry initial expectations of all new experiences encountered, and parenthood is not an exception. LeMasters (1957), Dunn (1960), and Rossi (1968) held the belief that individuals hold unrealistic expectations toward

parenthood in that these individuals are disillusioned in the "romantic notion" of marriage, and particularly of parenthood. LeMasters (1957) reported that all of the crisis group had romanticized parenthood. Rossi (1968) expressed feeling that there is lack of realistic training because the only preparation for parenthood includes reading, hearsay from family and friends, husband-wife discussions, and preparing the baby's room. These provide very little realistic knowledge, and at the same time cultivate unrealistic expectations. Experience and learning by doing are the characteristics of parent education in today's society, and ability in parenting would reflect an example of experience as a necessity for realistic expectations. Rossi believes that to get realistic expectations for parenting experience is necessary.

Dunn (1960) found that both adolescent boys and girls expected their marriage to be egalitarian in the areas of parenthood, and yet they expected the traditional practice of wife as homemaker and husband as breadwinner for the marriage roles. Dunn also found inconsistencies between the boys and girls in their realistic expectations of what the role of the spouse would be in homemaking. Eversoll (1979) views the mother-father dyad as parallel roles in which each role performer holds expectations of oneself and the partner. If these expectations of a dyad are mismatched, difficulties within the marriage and parenthood will occur. According to Moser (1961:43), "It is inferred that persons anticipating marriage would do well to discuss their attitudes and role expectations within the specific areas of the marital relationship, and not merely in general terms of likes and dislikes." Studying the initial expectations of preparenthood, Kach and McGhee (1982) found no significant differences between parents' initial expectations and their subsequent perceptions of parenthood. These parents, as a whole, had been realistic in their expectations. They did find differences, however, in other variables and the degree of correct expectations which included the mothers' perception of preparation for parenthood,

age, and number of years prior marriage.

Theoretical Orientation: Role Theory

The theory upon which this present research is based is role theory as it reflects the status and role of the mother and father and the expectations and behaviors that are associated with their position, particularly of the transition to parenthood and adjustment to the birth of a child. Status and role are two different but inseparable aspects of social structure. "Status is necessarily a relational concept; it characterizes a person in terms of a set of rights and obligations that regulate his interaction with persons of other statuses" (Deutsch & Krauss, 1965:174). The concept of role relates to expectations concerning the behaviors that are associated with certain rights and obligations, and these expected behaviors are viewed in relation to the positions, statuses, and roles of another individual. Nye and Gecas (1976) commented that the concept of role contains few major and many minor usages of the term. Deutsch and Krauss (1965) contend that there are three different definitions of usage of the term "role," and these include "prescribed," "subjective," and "enacted." The "prescribed" role is one in which a set of expectations are employed by society to an individual according to his position regarding his behavior and status in relation to another position. The "subjective" role "consists of those specific expectations the occupant of a position perceives as applicable to his own behavior when he interacts with occupants of some other position" (Deutsch & Krauss, 1965:175). The "enacted" role are those particular behaviors that are actually performed by certain positional persons toward others' positions. These three types of usage are assumed to be compatible for a particular status or position. However, Araji (1977) points out that because of one's environment or social structure the individual's role attitude may be inconsistent with role behavior.

Besides the confusion in the definition of "role," confusion is also present

when considering particular role expectations. "Role clarity refers to the degree of certainty or decreased vagueness with which expectations are defined" (Steffensmeier, 1982:320). It would be considerably efficient and helpful if there were a singular prescribed set of expectations of roles or positions, particularly of parenthood. According to Steffensmeier (1982), problems of adjustment result from the lack of clarity with regard to parenthood. Burr (1972) suggested that the consistency of expectations influence the adjustment to social roles. However, it is virtually impossible to have a singular prescribed set of expectations of parental roles. "The employment of married women, many who are partners in dual-career families and many with children, has contributed to problems in work and family role expectations (Coffey, 1985:28). The roles an individual performs reflect the attitudes and behaviors which he assumes to participate in the pattern. Each person performs many roles, and every role is as different as each individual himself.

The individual's formation of habits and attitudes begins at birth, and other things being equal, the earlier his training for a status can begin the more successful are alike, and a status which will be congenial to one may be quite uncongenial to another (Truzzi, 1971:93).

Linton, according to Truzzi (1971), also described two types of statuses, "ascribed" and "achieved." Those statuses that are "ascribed" are assigned, predictable, and trained for (sometimes from the moment of birth) regardless of innate differences and abilities. The "achieved" statuses are assigned through competition and individual effort and, minimally, require special qualities. Schlesinger (1985) suggested that individuals need to be flexible and cooperative to balance roles, since roles of family members are continually changing.

Role conflict or role incompatibility may result when an individual is balancing multiple roles. "Implicit in the fact one's status set involves a wide variety of role relations and expectations is the possibility that he will find himself occupying positions with incompatible role requirements" (Deutsch &

Krauss, 1965:177). Role conflicts may occur for several reasons. Two different roles may require too much time or energy from one individual, or they may demand conflicting loyalties. An individual may or be expected to perform two roles with conflicting values. "Finally, some roles are incompatible with certain others simply because the culture defines them as incompatible" (Deutsch & Krauss, 1965:178). According to Burr (1972), Goode views role strain as developing stress within an individual developing from the difficulty to comply with role expectations. According to Myers-Walls (1984:268), "... individuals who attempt to fulfill multiple roles which involve conflicting expectations or an overwhelming number of tasks will have difficulty adjusting to these roles."

"The concept of role transitions refers to the process of moving in and out of roles in a social system" (Burr, 1972:407). The ease of role transitions may be influenced by a number of factors. Myers-Walls (1984) presents four coping strategies which ease role transition: (1) favorable definition of the situation, (2) establishment of a salient role, (3) compartmentalization, and (4) compromise of standards. These strategies were found to ease the transition to motherhood. Burr proposes that role transition can be eased by (1) learning the norms of the roles, before actually performing the role; (2) role clarity, or clearly set definitions with consistencies of role expectations; and (3) the degree of importance and abruptness of the transition procedure. The mentioned factors are described as influential in the ease or difficulty of role transition.

Rossi (1968) suggests that parenthood is a transitional period. The birth of the first child is seen as a process of moving into the role of being a parent, and it is viewed as being a rather abrupt change. With the arrival of the first child, new roles are derived and expected of the parents. Various factors influence the particular roles and expectations of new parents. Those which appear to be relevant include sex of parent, employment status of mother, education of parent, parenting experience, and planning of the birth.

Sex of Parent

Throughout history and society, roles and expectations have been prescribed according to the sex of parent. A variety of research has been completed comparing mothers and fathers in both ability to adjust to the arrival of a first child and role responsibility perceptions in the division of family tasks.

Hobbs (1965) found that mothers felt more crisis than the fathers with the arrival of the first child, and when the distribution between sexes was broken down, fathers were found to feel relatively less difficulty in adjusting than mothers (Hobbs, 1968). Russell (1974) also found that the mothers felt a significantly higher level of crisis than fathers did. Hobbs and Cole (1976) concur that mothers experience significantly more difficulty in adjusting to parenthood than fathers. However, in a later study done comparing parental role expectations before and after the birth of the first child, mothers and fathers were not found to differ significantly in problems related to parenthood adjustment (Kach & McGhee, 1982). The majority of these findings demonstrate that there are differences between mothers and fathers in relation to their perceptions of the difficulty of adjusting to this new parenting role.

Perception of parental role responsibility and expectations of the division of family tasks has been prescribed according to the sex of the parent for years. In the early 19th Century,

The ideology of domesticity and the new view of childhood combined to revise expectations of parenthood. The roles of husbands and wives became gradually segregated; a clear division of labor replaced the old economic partnership, with the husband now responsible for economic support and the wife's efforts directed toward homemaking and child rearing (Hareven, 1983:80).

Harriman (1982) referred to this type of segregation of roles as gender role specialization. Household tasks have been segregated according to husband's work

and wife's work until recently. With the increase of women in the work force, there has been a call for a reorganization of the division of family tasks. However, according to Scanzoni and Fox (1980), gender-related behaviors are changing slower than gender-related preferences.

Slocum and Nye (1976:81) state that:

In the provider role, goods and services needed by the family are produced or are obtained by an exchange of goods and services. The housekeeper role takes the goods and prepares them and maintains them for family use, including such cleaning or repair activity as may be required for their efficient use or conducive to the pleasure and comfort of family members.

Traditionally, the provider role has been the husband's responsibility, and the housekeeper role, the wife's responsibility. Research has attempted to compare parents' attitudes and behaviors in relation to the division of family tasks, because attitudes and behaviors are reportedly different (Araji, 1977; Scanzoni & Fox, 1980; Tavecchio et al., 1984).

Gilbert and Hanson (1983) studied the perception of working men and women toward parental role responsibilities and found that females rated the importance of these responsibilities as somewhat higher than the males, and in particular, significantly higher differences were found in the areas of emotional aspects and norms and values. Emotional aspects were meeting the child's emotional needs and handling the child's emotions, and the norms and values category involved teaching the child values and setting standards for the child. When the college women were compared five years apart in their attitudes and expectations of roles, Parelus (1975) found a sizeable shift toward feminism in the areas of work, financial responsibilities, and division of household labor. "With respect to the preferred division of family tasks, there appears to be a clearly observable tendency towards a less exclusively male and female division of tasks" (Tavecchio et al., 1984:233). Lovingood and Firebaugh (1978) found that wives and husbands both tended to perceive

that they themselves had more responsibility for household work than the spouse acknowledged. Araji (1977) found the attitudes of both the men and women reflected egalitarian views toward the division of family tasks.

The behaviors of men and women generally differed in the division of family tasks with the women providing the household roles and men providing little assistance with household chores and child care (Morgan et al., 1964; Walker, 1969; Larsen, 1974; Nickols & Metzen, 1978; Lovingood & Firebaugh, 1978; Vanek, 1983; Tavecchio, et al., 1984). Bartz (1978) however, did compare mothers' and fathers' childrearing tasks and found that both parents were generally involved and concerned with most childrearing tasks. Several studies that compared wives' and husbands' number of hours spent per week on household activities demonstrated that wives spent considerably more time in housework tasks (Morgan et al., 1964; Walker, 1969; Walker & Woods, 1976; Nickols & Metzen, 1978). Morgan et al. (1964) found that wives spent an average of 40 hours per week in housework and husbands spent four hours per week, and Walker (1969) found that wives worked 51 hours per week and husbands worked 11 hours per week on housework. Walker and Woods (1976) found that wives contributed 32.4 hours per week and husbands contributed 2.4 hours per week on household tasks. In addition, Nickols and Metzen (1978:90) state:

Sixty-five per cent of the husbands reported that they spent no time in housework. Those husbands who did contribute to housework time spent an average of seven hours per week. One-third of the wives in the sample contributed 40 or more hours per week to housework while less than 20 per cent spent less than 20 hours.

Other studies researched which tasks were to be done by each spouse. Activities that were considered the wife's tasks included: meal preparation, housework, diapering, making beds and vacuuming. Activities considered to be husband's tasks were: odd jobs, changing a fuse, and fixing a flat

bicycle tire (Larsen, 1974; Tavecchio et al., 1984). Some tasks are considered shared tasks and these include: tussling and cuddling children, reading to children, decorating house, buying a car and making vacation arrangements (Lovingood & Firebaugh, 1978; Tavecchio et al., 1984).

Thus, housework has generally been divided into husband's tasks and wife's tasks, and although more women have entered the work force, men do not proportionately contribute more time to housework.

Given the record of the past, the prospect for husbands taking on more housework is not good. However, if, as recent data suggests, attitudes about men's and women's responsibilities in the home change, then husbands may increasingly come to share home responsibilities with employed wives. But taking the past as a guide, it will be some time before these deeply ingrained attitudes and behaviors change in any substantial way (Vanek, 1984:186).

Employment Status of Wife

With the increase of women in the work force, there has been an increase of research on differences in families with wives that are employed and wives that are nonemployed. A variety of research has been completed that compares attitudes of employed and nonemployed women concerning motherhood and division of family tasks. "Two lifestyle patterns-career- and family-accomodated-have a built-in potential for role conflict as individuals attempt to combine family and career goals" (Regan & Roland, 1985:990). Slocum and Nye (1976) discuss the issue of wives sharing the provider role with husband and note the increase of women assisting in the financial role. Schlesinger (1985) also notes this role of being both employed and married as the fastest growing womens' role. Because this style of family life is growing, there is a "challenge to redefine roles and reallocate role responsibilities is a society that explicitly delineates sex roles" (Harriman, 1982:34). The challenge is to reallocate the role responsibilities and expectations of household tasks.

Women who are career-oriented are not placing as high a priority on family as nonemployed women but are placing high priorities on the career (Parelius, 1975; Hock et al., 1984; Maret & Finlay, 1984; Regan & Roland, 1985). Nonemployed women hold stronger beliefs than employed women that only the mother can provide the care a child needs (Hock et al., 1984). However, both groups demonstrated a change in attitude involving greater sharing of housework by husband and wife (Maret & Finlay, 1984). According to studies by Walker (1969) and Nickols and Metzen (1978), women's employment status affected the amount of contribution to the household tasks by wives, with employed women spending a little less time working in the home.

With the increase of women in the work force, husbands are pressured to contribute a larger proportion of time parenting and assuming household responsibilities (Bird, Bird, & Scruggs, 1983). However, presently, research has not found husbands to contribute more time to parenting or doing household tasks. According to Vanek (1983:177), "The sex-typing of housework is so deeply ingrained that the basic household tasks are not redivided when a wife enters the labor force." Studies on time allocation spent on household tasks found that the wife's employment may have a small, but limited, impact on the amount of time husbands contributed to the housework (Walker & Gauger, 1973; Walker & Woods, 1976; Nickols & Metzen, 1978). Other research indicated that men with employed wives did not change roles to provide more involvement with household tasks (Ericksen, Yancey, & Ericksen, 1979; Huber & Spitze, 1981; Harriman, 1982; Tavecchio et al., 1984; Schlesinger, 1985). Harriman (1982) and Schlesinger (1985) discuss the concern of role overload for employed women resulting from the husband's lack of increase in contributing to the household tasks.

Education of Parent

The literature on the effects of education on parents involvement has been varied. In the early 60's, levels of education were studied to see if the different levels would affect the amount of crisis felt or the difficulty of adjustment (Dyer, 1963; Hobbs, 1965; Hobbs & Cole, 1976). Dyer (1963) found that lower education of husbands only was related to greater crisis experience; however, Hobbs (1965) and Hobbs and Cole (1976) did not find the levels of education to affect crisis or adjustment.

The effects of education on parent involvement with regards to division of family tasks has varied. The educational level of husbands was not found to be related to the total time spent on housework (Walker & Woods, 1976). However, Nickols and Metzen (1978) found a weak relationship indicating that more highly educated husbands allocated a little more time than less educated husbands to household tasks, and Huber and Spitze (1981) also found that husbands with higher educational levels were more likely to contribute to household labor with wives that were highly educated.

Research has been done more often on the educational level of wives. Several researchers suggest that the educational level of wives had relatively little or no impact on the division of family tasks (Hedges & Barnett, 1972; Nickols & Metzen, 1978; Maret & Finlay, 1984). Maret and Finlay (1984) stated education may affect attitudes toward home responsibility, but education has little affect on behavior. Wives with less educational levels have been found to be more traditional and to rate parent responsibilities as more important than highly educated wives (Gilbert & Hanson, 1983; Hock et al., 1984). Parelus (1975) questioned college women and found that they expected their careers to be equally important as the husband's career, and they expected to share financial and household responsibilities. Rindfuss, Bumpass, and St. John (1980) defined education as important in

expectations toward female roles in that highly educated women were more acceptant of values, aspirations, and skills of nonfamilial roles. Regan and Roland (1985) also found highly educated women to commit themselves to values that are career-oriented and to be less likely to place family roles first.

Parenting Experience

Differences would be expected between parents expecting a first child and parents expecting a subsequent child, because the latter has had some experience with parenthood. Rossi (1968) stated that parenthood was learned through experience.

Dyer (1963) found that couples with a child under the age of six months were experiencing more crises and problems than couples with a child six months or older. Walker and Gauger (1973) and Huber and Spitze (1981) also demonstrated that the age of the child affected housework by increasing the amount of work needed to be done and with husbands contributing more with younger children in the family. As the number of children increase, the time spent in housework also increases for both the husband and wife (Walker & Gauger, 1973; Walker & Woods, 1976; Nickols & Metzen, 1978).

First-time parents and experienced parents have been studied as to the perceptions of the pregnancy and varied differences were found. Forer (1976) found that first-time parents were more likely to be overwhelmed than experienced parents by the pregnancy and parenthood, and Grossman, Eichler, and Winickoff (1980) also found first-time mothers to be more full of wonder than experienced mothers. Leifer (1980) found that first-time expectant women derived more satisfaction than women who have children already from their pregnancies that they were experiencing from the time of the study. Grossman, Eichler, and Winickoff (1980) found first-time pregnant women to place the pregnancy central to their lives and women who

have experienced pregnancy at least once before do not place the pregnancy central to their lives. They further found that both first-time and experienced mothers experienced positive adaptation; however, the first-time mothers experienced a genuine crisis period with pregnancy and experienced mothers experienced much smaller proportional crises. First-time fathers experienced more eagerness than experienced fathers.

Forer (1976) found that parents learned from parenting the first child by the time the second child arrived but the parents are not able to give the first child the attention that they did before the second child arrived. The parents experienced feelings of sadness and guilt because of this change of providing less attention to the first child. Young, Boyle, and Colletti (1983) found that parents had to make adjustments to the birth of a second child and found that mothers had profound guilt and sad feelings because they felt a significant change in their relationship with their first child. Kach and McGhee (1982) found that in their comparisons of first-time parents and experienced parents in their perceptions of roles that the first-time parents' post-birth responses were similar to experienced parents' pre-birth responses.

Planning of the Birth

Two gross generalizations about having babies--which may or may not be supported scientifically--are that many first children are not planned, and that men are less willing than women to accept parenthood responsibilities (Forer, 1976:208).

Anticipating socialization is a process of preparing for social roles through formal and informal training. Planning the pregnancy is a part of the process of anticipating socialization of the parenting role (Steffensmeier, 1982). When a pregnancy is planned, that individual doing the planning is preparing to enter the social role of parenthood. Whether a pregnancy is planned or unplanned may affect perceptions or expectations of parenthood.

Dyer (1963) and Russell (1974) both found that as parents increased their planning of the pregnancy their crisis score decreased. However, Hobbs (1965) did not find the planning of pregnancy to affect the crisis score. Leifer (1980) found that women who both planned and did not plan the pregnancies had all wanted children but had varied on when they planned on beginning a family. Different characteristics and perceptions have been identified for parents that had planned and for those who had not planned the pregnancy (Grossman, Eichler, & Winickoff, 1980; Leifer, 1980; Steffensmeier, 1982).

Planning of the pregnancy is an important issue to consider when examining role expectations.

... Most women began their pregnancies with positive or ambivalent expectations; only those with unplanned pregnancies reacted negatively in the early months. As pregnancy progressed, women increasingly viewed their pregnancies with ambivalence (Leifer, 1980:20).

Whether the pregnancy is planned or not will have substantial impacts on the woman's response to and experience of pregnancy (Grossman, Eichler, & Winickoff, 1980). Leifer (1980) found that all women, those with planned pregnancies and those with unplanned pregnancies, viewed their pregnancies with ambivalence as the pregnancy progressed. Grossman, Eichler, and Winickoff (1980) stated that women experiencing unplanned pregnancies tend to experience more problems during the pregnancy, after the birth, and tend to experience more adjustment difficulties than women with planned pregnancies. In Leifer's study (1980), four women out of 19 were classified as having unplanned pregnancies. These women experiencing unplanned pregnancies reported feeling unprepared as a result of being too involved in a job, not yet having a stable marriage, and not having enough money to support a child at the time. The feelings of being unprepared contributed to psychological unreadiness of an unplanned pregnancy. These women reported feelings of

disbelief, anger, and despair at confirmation of pregnancy.

Women with planned pregnancies, in contrast, reported feelings of readiness or preparedness. Some of the factors that contributed to the sense of readiness were: feelings that they had recently matured and could cope with the demands, feelings that they had developed personally through their work first, and feelings of the marriage being stable and cohesive enough to be able to manage a family (Leifer, 1980).

Whereas the women experiencing unplanned pregnancies had negative reactions to the confirmation of the pregnancy, women experiencing planned pregnancies reported feelings of elation and relief (Leifer, 1980). Steffensmeier (1982) stated women with planned pregnancies were more likely to have prepared for parenthood and that they perceived competency and financial security. The planning of pregnancy affects perceptions and expectations of parents.

Method

Subjects

Subjects for this study were 23 couples enrolled in prepared childbirth classes sponsored by the Stillwater Women's Clinic. One of the groups met in a Lutheran church and two groups in a Baptist church. The data were collected in March and April 1986.

Instrument

A survey of related literature resulted in no appropriate instrument being found. Therefore, The Division of Family Tasks (Hinkley, 1986) was revised for use in this study (Appendix A).

The changes made in the Division of Family Tasks consisted of (1) deleting three items not related to infants, (2) rewording some items to make them consistent with age of infancy, and (3) repeating 16 family task items. Respondents were questioned as to their expectations of who would perform 16 family task items in the period of two weeks following birth. These 16 items were repeated in the section where subjects were to respond as to their expectations of who would perform the tasks in the period of six months following birth. With this addition, subjects were able to be compared to see if changes in expectations occurred. This section of the instrument consisted of 47 family task items that must be completed within the period of two weeks following birth, six months following birth, and when necessary. The subjects were to respond according to whom they perceived performing the task on a five-point scale ranging from Husband Mainly to Wife Mainly, and another category was included in which subjects could respond if their response was not one of the five categories. The items were concerned with the following divisions of family tasks: child care, meal preparation, maintenance and repair, kinship relations, finances, laundry, and household tasks.

The second part of the instrument, developed by the researcher, consisted

of demographic information to be filled out by the respondents and included the following information: (a) birthdate, (b) sex, (c) marital status, (d) wedding date, (e) number of children, (f) ages of children, (g) ethnic background, (h) education, (i) wife's employment status, (j) time wife works, (k) expected date of birth, and (l) planning of pregnancy.

Procedure

The instrument was distributed to couples at the prepared childbirth classes at the beginning of class sessions and completed during the class. The researcher made an introduction and briefly explained the instrument and its purpose. The researcher also explained that the instrument had to be filled out by husbands and wives separately so that one would not influence the other and cause the research to be invalid. The researcher was present at all times to answer questions and to collect the instruments as they were completed.

Analysis

The analysis of the data yielded primarily descriptive information. Frequencies and percentages of each response items were tabulated. The categories were collapsed for more efficient analysis. Variables studied included sex of subject, employment status of wife in family, education of subject, parenting experience, and planning of pregnancy.

Results

Description of Subjects

A detailed description of the 46 subjects who served as subjects for the present study is presented in Table I. Half of the respondents were male and half were female. Most of the respondents were experiencing first-time pregnancies (63%). Educational levels ranged from completing 8th to 11th grade to completing a graduate degree, with the greatest proportion completing one to three years of college or post-secondary training (39%). In a majority of the families (65%), the wife in the family worked, and of those, 63 per cent worked full-time. Sixty-three per cent of the respondents reported that the birth was planned. The ages ranged from 17 to 45, and the greatest proportion was in the age range of 20 to 24 (39%).

TABLE I
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUBJECTS
(N = 46)

Variables	Classification	No.	%
Sex	Males	23	50
	Females	23	50
Children	First	29	63
	Subsequent	17	37
Highest Grade Completed	8th - 11th Grade	1	2
	High School Graduate	10	22
	1-3 Years College or Post-Secondary Training	18	39
	College Graduate	11	24
	Graduate Degree	6	13
Wife Employment Status	Employed	30	65
	Unemployed	16	35
Status of Employed Wives (N = 30)	Full-time	23	77
	Part-time	7	23
Planning of Pregnancy	Planned	29	63
	Unplanned	17	37
Age	17-19	3	7
	20-24	18	39
	25-29	11	24
	30-34	9	20
	35-39	4	9
	40-45	1	2

Differences Between Males and Females
on the Division of Family Tasks*

Prepares meals

In two weeks following birth, females reported relatively equally among the alternatives of primarily husband task, task of both, and primarily wife task; however, the males (52%) responded that this task should be primarily done by both.

Within the six months following birth, females (65%) reported that preparing meals was primarily a female task with a few (35%) reporting it as a task for both husband and wife. The males responded in a similar manner.

The attitudes of both males and females changed from meal preparation being shared equally to being primarily a female oriented task after the six months period.

Yardwork

This task is reported by the majority of both males and females as a task for the husband within the two week period following birth.

After the period of six months following birth, a majority (61%) of females responded that this task was for husbands, but several (30%) also reported this would be a task for both husband and wife. The males reported similar expectations to the first period in that this would be a task for the husbands (91%).

During the two time periods, the males' attitudes were unchanged, and the females; attitudes changed to a more equalitarian attitude.

Dress the baby

The females responded to this task as being primarily a task for both husband and wife (57%), but also being primarily a wife task (43%) within the period of two weeks following birth. The males responded in the opposite

*See Table II on page 33

manner: the task viewed as being primarily a wife task (57%), but also a task to be shared (43%).

Both females and males responded that dressing the baby is for both husband and wife within a period of six months following birth.

The females' attitudes remained exactly the same in both response periods, and males' attitudes changed to a more equal division of task work.

Clean the house

The females (61%) and males (52%) reported that this task is one to be shared within two weeks following birth.

Within six months following birth, this task is viewed as a wife task by the females (65%) and a task for both by the males (52%).

Females' attitudes changed toward a more traditional household division while the males' attitudes remained the same in being an equally shared task.

Wash the dishes

Within the period of two weeks following the birth, females (48%) found this task to be one for both husband and wife as did the males (39%).

Within the period of six months following the birth, both females (65%) and males (52%) found this task to be primarily a wife task.

Both females and males changed their expectations of the responsibility of this task from the period of two weeks following birth to the period of six months following birth. They changed from equal sharing attitudes to a more traditional attitude where the wife displays this task.

Tend the vegetable garden

The greatest proportion of the females (39%) found this task to be primarily a husband's task during the two weeks following birth. The greatest proportion of the males (61%) also found this task to be for the husbands.

During the six months after birth, the females (39%) found this task to be shared between the husband and wife, and the males (43%) reported that they

had no garden.

The females' expectations changed from a husband task to a shared task from one period to the next, and males' expectations remained the same in that the task was primarily for the husband.

Provide the family's financial support

Both females and males defined this task as a task to be performed by the husband during the two weeks following birth.

During the period of six months following the birth, a majority of both females (52%) and males (70%) defined the task as primarily a husband task. However, both females (43%) and males (26%) also had a large number report this task as being a shared task.

The attitudes concerning providing the family's financial support remained relatively similar as far as a majority defining the task as one for the husband. However, both females and males reported more task sharing attitudes during the second period.

Set the table

A majority of females (61%) and males (74%) viewed this task as one to be shared two weeks following birth. A few of the females viewed this task as one for the wife (22%) and less as one for the husband (22%). A few of the males (22%) viewed this task as one for the husband.

Six months following birth, a small majority (57%) of the females and a majority (70%) of the males viewed this task as one to be shared. The remaining females and all but one male viewed the task as one to be completed by the wife.

In comparing the two time periods, the attitudes of both females and males remained unchanged in respect to a majority viewing the task as one to be shared. However, several subjects reported setting the table as the husband's task in the first period, but not in the second period.

Bathe/clean baby

A majority (61%) of the females defined this task as a task to be shared during the first two weeks, and a majority (61%) of the males defined this task as a task to be performed by the wife.

A majority of both females (65%) and males (52%) defined bathing the baby as a shared task during six months following birth.

Therefore, the females defined this task the same when comparing the two different periods, but the males changed their definition from a wife-oriented task to a shared task.

Launder clothes

This task was viewed by the females (57%) as primarily a wife-oriented task, while the males (39%) primarily viewed it as a shared task within the two week period following birth.

Within the six months period following birth, both the females (83%) and males (74%) viewed the task as a wife-oriented task.

When comparing the responses between the two periods, females were found to have similar attitudes in both periods with the task as a wife's task. The males' attitudes changed from the task being shared to being the wife's task.

Get up during the night to feed the baby

Females (70%) and males (61%) both reported that this task was to be performed by the wife during the period of two weeks following birth.

Females (70%) reported that this task was to be performed by the wife during the period of six months following birth, while a majority of males (52%) reported that the task would be performed by both husband and wife.

While females reported similar performance expectations of this task between the two time periods, the males reported more egalitarian performance expectations.

Buy groceries

Within the period of two weeks following birth, the greatest proportion of females (43%) and males (48%) expected the task to be performed by both the husband and wife.

Within the period of six months following birth, the females (51%) expected the task to be performed by the wife, and the males (57%) expected the task to be performed by both partners.

In comparison of the two time periods, the females' expectations changed from sharing the task to the wife performing the task. The males' expectations remained unchanged.

Play with baby

The majority of both females and males reported expectations of the wife and husband sharing the task of playing with the baby within the period of two weeks and the period of six months following birth.

Iron clothes

Both females and males expected that ironing would be the wife's task within the period of two weeks and the period of six months following birth. However, a few females and males reported that they would not iron at any time.

Plan family menus

The majority of both females (65% and 74%) and males (61% and 74%) defined this task as one to be a wife-oriented task within the period of two weeks and the period of six months following birth.

Get up during the night to change the baby

A majority (57%) of the females responded that this task would be shared by the spouses during the two weeks following birth. The males were evenly divided (48% each) in their responses of shared task and wife's task.

Within the period of six months following birth, the majority of both females (61%) and males (52%) responded that the task would be shared.

Both females and males had relatively similar attitudes in both periods in that the task would be shared with the addition of the males also responding that the task would also be the wife's responsibility in the second period.

Take care of car maintenance and repair

All but one female and all of the males defined this task as one to be performed by the husband.

Write or call relatives

A majority (61%) of the females reported that this task is one to be shared by both husband and wife, and a majority (52%) of the males reported that this task is a task for the wife.

Purchase clothing for baby

The majority of both females (83%) and males (74%) expected this task to be a wife-oriented task.

Minor household repairs

The females and males both expected this task to be a husband-oriented task.

Arrange visits with relatives

The majority of both females (91%) and males (78%) viewed this task as one to be performed by both husband and wife.

Send cards or gifts to relatives

The females (74%) and males (78%) viewed this task as one that would be the wife's task.

Plan family budget

The females (61%) and males (70%) both defined this budgeting task as primarily a shared task of the husband and wife.

Take baby to doctor (non-emergency)

The females (83%) defined this task as one that would be the wife's task.

The males were equally divided (48% each) in their responses between taking the baby to the doctor as being a shared task and the wife's task.

Paint the house

The majority of the females (70%) and males (83%) defined this task as one that would be a husband-oriented task.

Decide town or city where family will live

The majority of the females and males responded that this task would be a task to be performed by the husband and wife both.

Purchase major appliances

The majority of the females and males expected this task to be performed by both the husband and wife.

Decorate the house

The females' responses were equally divided (48% each) between the task being shared by the husband and wife and the task being done by the wife. The males' responses (57%) were that decorating would be primarily the wife's task.

Decide what car to buy

The majority of females (83%) and males (70%) responded to this task as one to be shared by the husband and wife.

Purchase minor appliances

The majority of females (70%) and males (78%) viewed this task as one to be performed by both the husband and wife.

Decide which house to buy or apartment to rent

The females and males defined this task as one to be shared by the spouses.

TABLE 11
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSES TO DIVISION OF FAMILY TASKS
ACCORDING TO SEX
(N = 23 FEMALES & 23 MALES)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within the period of two weeks									
1. Prepares meals:	Females	8	35	8	35	7	30	0	-
	Males	6	26	12	52	5	22	0	-
2. Yardwork:	Females	21	91	0	-	1	4	1	4
	Males	22	96	0	-	0	-	1	4
3. Dress the baby:	Females	0	-	13	57	10	43	0	-
	Males	0	-	10	43	13	57	0	-
4. Clean the house:	Females	4	17	14	61	4	17	1	4
	Males	9	39	12	52	2	9	0	-
5. Wash the dishes:	Females	5	22	11	48	7	30	0	-
	Males	6	26	9	39	5	22	0	-
6. Tend the vegetable garden:	Females	9	39	6	26	2	9	6	26
	Males	14	61	3	13	2	9	4	17
7. Provide the family's financial support:	Females	20	87	2	9	1	4	0	-
	Males	21	91	1	4	1	4	0	-
8. Set the table:	* Females	3	13	14	61	5	22	0	-
	Males	5	22	17	74	1	4	0	-

* = missing data

TABLE II (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
9. Bathe/clean baby:	Females	0	-	14	61	9	39	0	-
	Males	0	-	9	39	14	61	0	-
10. Launder clothes:	Females	2	9	8	35	13	57	0	-
	Males	6	26	9	39	8	35	0	-
11. Get up during the night to feed the baby:	Females	0	-	7	30	16	70	0	-
	Males	0	-	9	39	14	61	0	-
12. Buy groceries:	*Females	6	26	10	43	6	26	0	-
	Males	7	30	11	48	5	22	0	-
13. Play with baby:	Females	0	-	22	96	1	4	0	-
	Males	0	-	20	87	3	13	0	-
14. Iron clothes:	Females	1	4	6	26	13	57	3	13
	Males	1	4	4	17	14	61	4	17
15. Plan family menus:	Females	1	4	7	30	15	65	0	-
	Males	1	4	8	35	14	61	0	-
16. Get up during the night to change the baby:	Females	1	4	13	57	9	39	0	-
	Males	1	4	11	48	11	48	0	-

TABLE II (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within the period of six months									
17. Prepares meals:	Females	0	-	8	35	15	65	0	-
	Males	0	-	5	22	18	78	0	-
18. Yardwork:	Females	14	61	7	30	1	4	1	4
	Males	21	91	1	4	0	-	1	4
19. Dress the baby:	Females	0	-	13	57	10	43	0	-
	Males	0	-	13	57	10	43	0	-
20. Clean the house:	Females	0	-	8	35	15	65	0	-
	Males	1	4	12	52	10	43	0	-
21. Wash the dishes:	Females	1	4	7	30	15	65	0	-
	Males	2	9	9	39	12	52	0	-
22. Tend the vegetable garden:	Females	5	22	9	39	4	17	5	22
	Males	10	43	7	30	2	9	4	17
23. Provide the family's financial support:	Females	12	52	10	43	0	-	1	4
	Males	16	70	6	26	1	4	0	-
24. Set the table:	Females	0	-	13	57	10	43	0	-
	Males	1	4	16	70	6	26	0	-

TABLE II (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
25. Bathe/clean baby:	Females	0	-	15	65	8	35	0	-
	Males	0	-	12	52	11	48	0	-
26. Launder clothes:	Females	1	4	3	13	19	83	0	-
	Males	0	-	6	26	17	74	0	-
27. Get up during the night to feed the baby:	Females	0	-	7	30	16	70	0	-
	Males	0	-	12	52	11	48	0	-
28. Buy groceries:	Females	0	-	11	48	12	52	0	-
	Males	1	4	13	57	9	39	0	-
29. Play with baby:	Females	0	-	22	96	1	4	0	-
	Males	1	4	21	91	1	4	0	-
30. Iron clothes:	Females	0	-	4	17	17	74	2	9
	Males	0	-	2	9	19	83	2	9
31. Plan family menus:	Females	0	-	6	26	17	74	0	-
	Males	0	-	6	26	17	74	0	-
32. Get up during the night to change the baby:	Females	0	-	14	61	9	39	0	-
	Males	2	9	12	52	9	39	0	-
33. Take care of car maintenance and repair:	Females	22	96	1	4	0	-	0	-
	Males	23	100	0	-	0	-	0	-

TABLE II (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
34. Write or call relatives:	Females	0	-	14	61	9	39	0	-
	Males	1	4	10	43	12	52	0	-
35. Purchase clothing for baby:	Females	0	-	4	17	19	83	0	-
	Males	0	-	6	26	17	74	0	-
36. Minor household repairs:	Females	21	91	2	9	0	-	0	-
	Males	23	100	0	-	0	-	0	-
37. Arrange visits with relatives:	Females	0	-	21	91	2	9	0	-
	Males	0	-	18	78	5	22	0	-
38. Send cards or gifts to relatives:	Females	1	4	5	22	17	74	0	-
	*Males	0	-	4	17	18	78	0	-
39. Plan family budget:	Females	3	13	14	61	6	26	0	-
	Males	5	22	16	70	2	9	0	-
40. Take baby to doctor (non-emergency):	Females	0	-	4	17	19	83	0	-
	Males	1	4	11	48	11	48	0	-
When necessary									
41. Paint the house :	Females	16	70	6	26	0	-	1	4
	Males	19	83	4	17	0	-	0	-

TABLE II (Continued)

Item			Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
			Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
42. Decide town or city where family will live:	Females		1	4	22	96	0	-	0	-
	Males		4	17	19	83	0	-	0	-
43. Purchase major appliances:	Females		0	-	23	100	0	-	0	-
	Males		4	17	19	83	0	-	0	-
44. Decorate the house:	Females		0	-	11	48	11	48	1	4
	Males		0	-	10	43	13	57	0	-
45. Decide what car to buy:	Females		4	17	19	83	0	-	0	-
	Males		7	30	16	70	0	-	0	-
46. Purchase minor appliances:	Females		1	4	16	70	6	26	0	-
	Males		2	9	18	78	3	13	0	-
47. Decide which house to buy or apartment to rent:	Females		0	-	22	96	1	4	0	-
	Males		1	4	22	96	0	-	0	-

Differences of Perceptions on Division of Family Tasks

Concerning Whether or Not Wife is Employed*

Prepares meals

When the wife works, subjects (43%) expected the husband to prepare meals within two weeks following birth, and 33 per cent expected this task to be shared. However, when the wife is unemployed, the subjects (63%) expected the task to be performed by both partners.

When the wife works, the majority (67%) of subjects expected the wife to perform the task within six months following birth, and none expected this to be a task for the husband. When the wife is unemployed, the majority (88%) expected the wife to perform the task.

In comparing the two periods, the families with employed wives changed expectations from the husband primarily preparing meals to be wife primarily preparing meals. Those families with unemployed wives changed from a shared task to a wife's task.

Yardwork

The majority of subjects from both types of families, those with employed wives (90% and 70%) and families with unemployed wives (100% and 81%) expected the husbands to primarily perform this task within both time periods of two weeks and six months following birth.

Dress the baby

Within the period of two weeks following birth, subjects from families with employed wives were equally divided in their responses (50% each) of being a shared task and a wife task. Subjects from families with unemployed wives (56%) responded to this task as a wife's task.

Within the period of six months following birth, subjects from families with employed wives (63%) responded to this task of dressing the baby as a

*See Table III on page 47

shared task. Subjects from families with unemployed wives were equally divided in their responses (50% each) of this being a shared task and a wife's task.

Subjects from families with employed wives changed from being divided between the task being shared and being the wife's responsibility to being a shared task. Subjects from families with unemployed wives responded to the task in an opposite manner in that the task was first viewed as the wife's task and then equally divided between being a shared task and being the wife's task.

Clean the house

Within the period of two weeks following birth, the subjects from families of both employed wives (60%) and unemployed wives (50%) viewed the cleaning task as one to be shared by the husband and wife.

Within the period of six months following birth, the subjects from families of employed wives (50%) viewed this as a task to be shared, and the majority (56%) of subjects from families of unemployed wives viewed this task as one to be performed by the wife.

In comparing the two periods, subjects from families with employed wives maintained the same expectations for the task to be shared. Several of the subjects from families with unemployed wives changed their views from the task being shared to being the wife's task.

Wash the dishes

The greatest proportion of subjects from families of employed wives viewed this as a shared task within the two week period following birth. The subjects from families of unemployed wives were equally divided in their views (44% each) between this being a shared task and wife's task.

The greatest proportion of subjects from families of both employed wives (47%) and unemployed wives (81%) viewed this task as one to be performed by the wife within the six month period following birth.

The subjects from families of employed wives changed from the task being shared to being the wife's task. However, the percentage for the task being shared remained the same in both periods. The change was from 40 per cent in the first period viewing the task as the husband's task to only 10 per cent in the second period. The subjects from families of unemployed wives changed from being equally divided between shared and wife's task to being the wife's task.

Tend the vegetable garden

The majority of subjects from employed wife families (57%) and the greatest proportion of unemployed wife families (38%) expected this task to be the husband's task within the two week period following birth.

The greatest proportion of subjects from employed wife families (37%) expected this task to be shared within the six month period following birth. The subjects from unemployed wife families were divided equally (31% each) among the task being the husband's task and the task being shared.

Subjects from employed wife families changed expectations from the task being performed by the husband to performed by both, and subjects from unemployed wife families changed expectations from the task being performed by the husband to being equally divided by the husband and being shared. In addition, in both periods subjects from both employed wife families (20%) and unemployed wife families (25%) reported having no garden.

Provide the family's financial support

Subjects from both employed and unemployed wife families defined this task as one to be performed by the husband during the two weeks after birth.

The subjects from employed wife families (50%) defined this task as one to be performed by both spouses during the period of six months after birth. The majority (94%) of subjects from unemployed wife families defined this task as one to be performed by the husband.

Subjects from employed wife families changed from defining the task as being the husband's task to being shared, and subjects from unemployed wife families defined the task the same in both periods as the husband's task.

Set the table

The majority of subjects from both employed wife families (70%) and unemployed wife families (63%) defined this task as one to be performed by both spouses during the two weeks following birth.

The majority (70%) of subjects from employed wife families defined this task as one to be performed by both spouses during the six months following birth. The subjects from unemployed wife families equally defined (50% each) this task as being performed by both and by the wife.

Subjects from employed wife families defined the task the same in both periods. However, subjects from unemployed wife families changed from defining the task as a shared task to defining it as both a shared and wife task.

Bathe/clean baby

Within the period of two weeks following birth, the majority (53%) of subjects from employed wife families responded to this task as one to be performed by both husband and wife and 47 per cent responded that this is the wife's task. The majority (56%) of subjects from unemployed wife families responded to this task as one to be performed by both partners.

Within the period of six months following birth, the majority of subjects from both employed (57%) and unemployed (63%) wife families responded to this task as one to be performed by both husband and wife, and the other responses were that the task is the wife's task.

The subjects from employed wife families had similar responses from one period to the next in that the task would be shared. The subject's responses from unemployed wife families changed from being the wife's task to being shared.

Launder clothes

Within two weeks after birth, the greatest proportion of subjects from both employed (43%) and unemployed (50%) wife families responded to this task as one to be performed by the wife. In addition, there was a total of 33 per cent of the subjects that responded to the task as the husband's task and 75 per cent that referred to this as a shared task.

Within six months after birth, the majority of subjects from both employed (70%) and unemployed (94%) wife families responded to this task as one to be done by the wife. The remaining subjects except for one referred this as shared.

In comparing the two response periods, the majority of subjects remained the same in their responses of this being a wife's task. However, there was a major increase with both groups in the second period. The subjects became more traditional.

Get up during the night to feed the baby

The majority of subjects from both employed wife families (60%) and unemployed wife families (75%) expected this task to be the wife's task. The remaining expected the task to be shared within two weeks after birth.

The subjects from employed wife families were equally divided in their expectations (50% each) between the task being the wife's task and the task being shared within six months after birth. The majority (63%) of subjects from unemployed wife families expected the task to be the wife's task, and the others expected the task to be shared.

Subjects from employed wife families changed expectations from the task being the wife's in the first period to the task being both the wife's and shared. Subjects from unemployed wife families maintained same expectations in both periods of the task being done by the wife.

Buy groceries

The greatest proportion of subjects from families with employed wives (47%) and those with unemployed wives (44%) expected this task to be shared by the husband and wife within the period of two weeks following birth. Sixty-four per cent of the total number of respondents making up both groups expected this to be the husband's task.

The majority (63%) of subjects from families with employed wives expected the task to be shared, but 33 per cent expected the task to be the wife's within the period of six months following birth. The majority (69%) of subjects from families with unemployed wives expected the task to be the wife's and the other expected it to be shared.

In comparing the two response periods, the subjects from families with employed wives held similar expectations in that the majority in both periods expected the task to be shared. However, in the first period, 64 per cent of the respondents expected this to be the husband's task, but only one in the second period expected it to be the husband's task. Subjects from families with unemployed wives changed expectations from the task being shared to the task belonging to the wife.

Plan with baby

The subjects from families with both employed and unemployed wives expected this task to be divided equally between both spouses in both time periods.

Iron clothes

The greatest proportion of subjects from families with both employed wives (47%) and unemployed wives (81%) expected this task to be the wife's responsibility within the two weeks after birth, and the majority of subjects from employed wife families (73%) and unemployed wife families (88%) within six months after birth. In addition, subjects from families with wives that were employed in the two week period (23%) and in the six month period (13%)

reported that clothes would not be ironed.

Plan family menus

The majority of subjects from both employed (57%) and unemployed (75%) wife families reported that planning the menus would be the wife's task within two weeks following birth. The majority of subjects from both employed (63%) and unemployed (75%) wife families reported that this task would also be the wife's task within six months following birth.

Get up during the night to change the baby

Within two weeks after birth, the majority (57%) of subjects of employed wife families viewed this as a shared task, and the majority (56%) of subjects of unemployed wife families viewed this as the wife's task.

Within six months after birth, subjects of employed wife families were equally divided (47% each) in their views between being shared and being a wife's task. The majority (56%) of subjects of unemployed wife families viewed this as a task to be shared equally.

In comparing the two week period and the six month period, views of subjects from employed wife families were found to change from the task being shared to the task being both shared and done by the wife. Views of subjects from unemployed wife families were found to change from the task being the wife's task to being shared.

Take care of car maintenance and repair

The subjects from both groups found this task to be the husband's task.

Write or call relatives

The majority (63%) of subjects of employed wife families found this task to be one that would be shared, and the majority of subjects of unemployed wife families found this task to be one that would be the wife's responsibility.

Purchase clothing for baby

The majority of subjects of both employed (80%) and unemployed (75%)

wife families expected this to be the wife's responsibility.

Minor household repairs

The subjects in both groups expected this task to be the husband's task.

Arrange visits with relatives

The majority of subjects from both employed wife families (93%) and unemployed wife families (69%) expected this to be a task for both spouses.

Send cards or gifts to relatives

The majority of subjects from families with employed (73%) and unemployed (81%) wives responded to this task as one to be performed by the wife.

Plan family budget

The majority of subjects from families with employed wives (60%) and unemployed wives (88%) reported this as an equally shared task.

Take baby to doctor (non-emergency)

The majority of subjects from both employed (53%) and unemployed (88%) wife families responded to this task as one to be the wife's responsibility.

Paint the house

The majority of subjects from both employed wife families (73%) and unemployed wife families (81%) expected this to be primarily the husband's task.

Decide town or city where family will live

The majority of subjects from both families of employed wives (97%) and families of unemployed wives (75%) responded to this task as one to be shared.

Purchase major appliances

The subjects expected this task to be an equally shared responsibility.

Decorate the house

The greatest proportion (50%) of subjects of families with employed wives expected this task to be shared, and the majority of subjects of families with unemployed wives (63%) expected this to be the wife's responsibility.

TABLE III
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSES TO DIVISION OF FAMILY TASKS
ACCORDING TO EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF WIFE
(N = 30 WIVES EMPLOYED & 16 WIVES UNEMPLOYED)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within the period of two weeks									
1. Prepares meals:	Wives Employed	11	43	10	33	7	23	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	1	6	10	63	5	31	0	-
2. Yardwork:	Wives Employed	27	90	0	-	1	3	2	7
	Wives Unemployed	16	100	0	-	0	-	0	-
3. Dress the baby:	Wives Employed	0	-	15	50	15	50	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	7	44	9	56	0	-
4. Clean the house:	Wives Employed	9	30	18	60	2	7	1	3
	Wives Unemployed	4	25	8	50	4	25	0	-
5. Wash the dishes:	Wives Employed	12	40	13	43	5	17	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	2	13	7	44	7	44	0	-
6. Tend the vegetable garden:	Wives Employed	17	57	5	17	2	7	6	20
	Wives Unemployed	6	38	4	25	2	13	4	25
7. Provide the family's financial support:	Wives Employed	25	83	3	10	2	7	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	16	100	0	-	0	-	0	-
8. Set the table:	Wives Employed	7	23	21	70	2	7	0	-
	*Wives Unemployed	1	6	10	63	4	25	0	-

*=missing data

TABLE III (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
9. Bathe/clean baby:	Wives Employed	0	--	16	53	14	47	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	--	7	44	9	56	0	-
10. Launder clothes:	Wives Employed	6	20	11	37	13	43	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	2	13	6	38	8	50	0	-
11. Get up during the night to feed the baby:	Wives Employed	0	-	12	40	18	60	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	4	25	12	75	0	-
12. Buy groceries:	Wives Employed	10	33	14	47	6	20	0	-
	*Wives Unemployed	3	19	7	44	5	31	0	-
13. Play with baby:	Wives Employed	0	-	28	93	2	7	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	14	88	2	13	0	-
14. Iron clothes:	Wives Employed	2	7	7	23	14	47	7	23
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	3	19	13	81	0	-
15. Plan family menus:	Wives Employed	2	7	11	37	17	57	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	4	25	12	75	0	-
16. Get up during the night to change the baby:	Wives Employed	2	7	17	57	11	37	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	7	44	9	56	0	-

TABLE III (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within the period of six months									
17. Prepares meals:	Wives Employed	0	-	10	33	20	67	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	2	13	14	88	0	-
18. Yardwork:	Wives Employed	21	70	5	17	2	7	2	7
	Wives Unemployed	13	81	3	19	0	-	0	-
19. Dress the baby:	Wives Employed	0	-	19	63	11	37	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	8	50	8	50	0	-
20. Clean the house:	Wives Employed	1	3	15	50	14	47	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	7	44	9	56	0	-
21. Wash the dishes:	Wives Employed	3	10	13	43	14	47	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	3	19	13	81	0	-
22. Tend the vegetable garden:	Wives Employed	10	33	11	37	3	10	6	20
	Wives Unemployed	5	31	5	31	2	13	4	25
23. Provide the family's financial support:	Wives Employed	13	43	15	50	1	3	1	3
	Wives Unemployed	15	94	1	6	0	-	0	-
24. Set the table:	Wives Employed	1	3	21	70	8	27	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	8	50	8	50	0	-

TABLE III (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
25. Bathe/clean baby:	Wives Employed	0	-	17	57	13	43	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	10	63	6	38	0	-
26. Launder clothes:	Wives Employed	1	3	8	27	21	70	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	1	6	15	94	0	-
27. Get up during the night to feed the baby:	Wives Employed	0	-	15	50	15	50	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	6	38	10	63	0	-
28. Buy groceries:	Wives Employed	1	3	19	63	10	33	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	5	31	11	69	0	-
29. Play with baby:	Wives Employed	1	3	28	93	1	3	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	13	81	3	19	0	-
30. Iron clothes:	Wives Employed	0	-	4	13	22	73	4	13
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	2	13	14	88	0	-
31. Plan family menus:	Wives Employed	0	-	11	37	19	63	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	3	19	12	75	1	6
32. Get up during the night to change the baby:	Wives Employed	2	7	14	47	14	47	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	9	56	7	44	0	-
33. Take care of car maintenance and repair:	Wives Employed	29	97	1	3	0	-	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	16	100	0	-	0	-	0	-

TABLE III (Continued)

Item	Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
	Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
34. Write or call relatives:								
Wives Employed	1	3	19	63	10	33	0	-
Wives Unemployed	0	-	5	31	11	69	0	-
35. Purchase clothing for baby:								
Wives Employed	0	-	6	20	24	80	0	-
Wives Unemployed	0	-	4	25	12	75	0	-
36. Minor household repairs:								
Wives Employed	28	93	2	7	0	-	0	-
Wives Unemployed	16	100	0	-	0	-	0	-
37. Arrange visits with relatives:								
Wives Employed	0	-	28	93	0	-	0	-
Wives Unemployed	0	-	11	69	5	31	0	-
38. Send cards or gifts to relatives:								
*Wives Employed	1	3	6	20	22	73	0	-
Wives Unemployed	0	-	3	19	12	81	0	-
39. Plan family budget:								
Wives Employed	6	20	18	60	6	20	0	-
Wives Unemployed	2	7	14	88	2	7	0	-
40. Take baby to doctor (non-emergency):								
Wives Employed	1	3	13	43	16	53	0	-
Wives Unemployed	0	-	2	13	14	88	0	-
When necessary								
41. Paint the house:								
Wives Employed	22	73	7	23	0	-	1	3
Wives Unemployed	13	81	3	19	0	-	0	-

TABLE III (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
42.	Decide town or city where family will live:								
	Wives Employed	1	3	29	97	0	-	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	4	25	12	75	0	-	0	-
43.	Purchase major appliances:								
	Wives Employed	3	10	27	90	0	-	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	1	6	15	94	0	-	0	-
44.	Decorate the house:								
	Wives Employed	0	-	15	50	14	47	1	3
	Wives Unemployed	0	-	6	38	10	63	0	-
45.	Decide what car to buy:								
	Wives Employed	8	27	22	73	0	-	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	3	19	13	81	0	-	0	-
46.	Purchase minor appliances:								
	Wives Employed	1	3	25	83	4	13	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	2	13	9	56	5	31	0	-
47.	Decide which house to buy or apartment to rent:								
	Wives Employed	0	-	30	100	0	-	0	-
	Wives Unemployed	1	6	14	88	1	6	0	-

Decide what car to buy

The majority of subjects from families with both employed wives (73%) and unemployed wives (81%) viewed this task as a shared responsibility.

Purchase minor appliances

The majority of subjects of both employed wife (83%) and unemployed wife (56%) families defined this task as one to be shared equally by both spouses.

Decide which house to buy or apartment to rent

The subjects from families of employed and unemployed wives defined this task as a shared responsibility.

Differences Between First and Subsequent Expectant Births
on the Division of Family Tasks*

Prepares meals

The greatest proportion of subjects that are expecting the first (45%) and a subsequent child (41%) birth expected that this task would be shared equally between the husband and wife for the period of two weeks after birth.

The majority of subjects that are expecting both the first (70%) and a subsequent (82%) birth expected that this task would be performed by the wife in the period of six months following birth.

The subjects expecting the first child and those expecting subsequent children changed their expectations from the task being shared in the first period to being the wife's task in the second period.

Yardwork

The majority (69%) of subjects expecting the first child and all of those expecting subsequent children expected this task to be the husband's responsibility within the period of two weeks following birth. The majority of subjects that are expecting both the first child (86%) and subsequent

*See Table IV on page 60

children (71%) also expected this to be the husband's task within the six month period.

Dress the baby

The majority of subjects from families expecting both the first child (52%) and a subsequent child (53%) defined this task as the wife's responsibility during the two week period following birth.

The majority of subjects from families expecting both first child (55%) and subsequent children (59%) defined this as a shared responsibility between the husband and wife in the six month period after birth.

The majority of subjects changed their views slightly from the first period to the second period of this responsibility being the wife's to one that should be shared.

Clean the house

A majority (52%) of subjects from families expecting the first child defined this task as the wife's task and 48 per cent as a shared task within the two week period following birth. The majority (53%) of subjects from families expecting subsequent children defined this as a shared task and 35 per cent as the husband's task.

A majority (62%) of subjects from families expecting the first child defined this task as the wife's task within the six month period following birth. Subjects expecting subsequent children were divided equally (47% each) in their differences between being shared and being the wife's task.

Subjects expecting their first child maintained the same definition of the task which was one which should be the wife's task. Subjects expecting subsequent children changed their definition from the first period. The majority defined the task as a shared task and 35 per cent as the husband's task in the first period. In the second period the respondents defined the task equally between being a shared task and a wife's task.

Wash the dishes

During the two weeks following birth, the greatest proportion of first child subjects (48%) reported that this would be a shared task, and the greatest proportion (41%) of subsequent child subjects reported that this would be the husband's task.

During the six months following birth a majority (66%) of first child subjects reported that this would be the wife's task, and a majority (53%) of subsequent child subjects reported that this would be a shared task.

In comparing the two week period and the six month period, there were differences in reported expectations among both first child subjects and subsequent child subjects. First child subjects reported changes from expecting the task to be shared to being the wife's duty. Subsequent child subjects reported changes from expecting the task to being the husband's duty to being a shared task.

Tend the vegetable garden

During the two weeks following birth, the subjects that did not already have children (41%) and the subjects that did already have children (65%) reported that this task would be the husband's responsibility.

During the six months following birth, the greatest majority (34%) of subjects that did not already have children reported that this task would be the husband's responsibility, and the greatest majority (47%) of subjects that did already have children reported this task would be shared.

Comparing the two week period and the six month period presents the subjects that did not already have children as maintaining the same expectations of this being the husband's responsibility. However, the subjects that did already have children reported changed expectations in the first period considering the task as the husband's responsibility and in the second period the task was to be shared.

In addition, 24 per cent of the subjects that did not have children in both periods and 18 per cent in the first period and 12 per cent in the second period of the subjects that did have children reported having no garden.

Provide the family's financial support

Within the two week after birth, the majority of subjects both without children (93%) and with children and the majority of subjects both without children (66%) and with children (76%) within six months after birth responded that this would be primarily the husband's responsibility. Thirty-one per cent of subjects without children and 18 per cent of subjects with children in the six month period responded to the task as a shared responsibility as compared to seven and six per cent, respectively, in the two week period.

Set the table

Both groups in both time periods responded that the should be a shared task. Additionally, 14 per cent of subjects without prior children and 24 per cent of subjects with prior children expected the husband to do the task within the two weeks, whereas only one subject with prior children expected the husband to perform the task in the second time period.

Bathe/clean baby

The majority (55%) of subjects without children prior to this study expected this task to be performed by the wife during the two weeks after birth. The majority (59%) of subjects with children prior to this study expected this task to be performed equally by both husband and wife.

The expectations of each group of subjects remained the same as the first period during the six months following birth.

Launder clothes

Fifty-nine per cent of the subjects without children prior to the present study expected the wife to do this task during the first two weeks after birth, and 59 per cent of the subjects with children prior to the study

expected the husband and wife to equally share this task of the laundry.

The majority of subjects both without (86%) and with (65%) prior children expected the wife to perform this task during six months after birth.

The subjects expecting their first child held the same expectations at the two week period and the six month period, and that was that the wife would do the task. The subjects expecting a subsequent child changed from the task being shared to the task being the wife's task.

Get up during the night to feed the baby

The majority of subjects in both groups (expecting first child (66%); expecting subsequent child (47%)) found this task to be one that would be the wife's responsibility within the two week period. The subjects not expecting their first child (71%) responded more vigorously that the wife would do the task in the second period than the subjects expecting their first child (52%) and more than the subjects responded in the first period.

Buy groceries

The majority of subjects expecting their first child (55%) believed that the task would be shared equally between the husband and wife during the two week period after birth. The greatest proportion (41%) of subjects not expecting their first child believed the task would be performed by the husband.

The majority of subjects of both those subjects expecting (52%) and not expecting (53%) their first child believed this task would be a shared task during the six month period after birth.

Subjects expecting their first child believed the task would be shared during the two time periods. Subjects not expecting their first child believed the task should be the husband's task in the first period and changed to believe it should be shared in the second period.

Plan with baby

The subjects expecting both the first child and a subsequent child believed

this task would be shared equally between husband and wife for both time periods.

Iron clothes

The majority of subjects expecting both first child (62%) and a subsequent child (53%) believed this task would be the wife's responsibility within the two weeks following birth. The majority of subjects expecting both first child (86%) and a subsequent child (65%) believed this task would also be the wife's responsibility within the six months following birth.

Plan family menus

The majority of subjects expecting both first child (59%) and a subsequent child (71%) expected this task would be the wife's responsibility within the period of two weeks after birth. The majority of subjects expecting both the first child (76%) and a subsequent child (71%) expected this task would also be the wife's responsibility within the period of six months after birth.

Get up during the night to change the baby

The greatest proportion of subjects expecting both the first child (55%) and another child (47%) responded to this as a task to be shared equally between husbands and wives during the two weeks following birth. A majority of subjects expecting both the first child (59%) and another child (53%) responded to this as a task to also be shared during the six months following birth.

Take care of car maintenance and repair

Both the subjects expecting the first child and those expecting another child defined this task as the husband's responsibility.

Purchase clothing for baby

The majority of subjects that are preparing for both the first child (76%) and a subsequent child (82%) defined the task as the wife's responsibility.

Write or call relatives

The majority (55%) of subjects expecting the first child defined this as the wife's duty, and the majority (65%) of subjects expecting another child defined this task as a shared duty between husband and wife.

Minor household repairs

The subjects defined this task as the husband's responsibility.

Arrange visits with relatives

This task is viewed as a task to be performed by both husband and wife by subjects preparing for the first and a subsequent child.

Send cards or gifts to relatives

This task was defined to be the wife's duty by the majority of subjects preparing for both a first child (86%) and a subsequent child (59%)

Plan family budget

The majority of subjects expecting their first child (70%) and a subsequent child (59%) responded to this as a shared responsibility.

Take baby to doctor (non-emergency)

The majority of subjects expecting their first birth (70%) and a subsequent birth (71%) responded to this as the wife's task.

Paint the house

The majority of subjects expecting both the first child (70%) and a subsequent child (88%) responded to this as the husband's chore.

Decide town or city where family will live

The majority of subjects expecting both the first child (86%) and a subsequent child (94%) reported that this task would be shared equally.

Purchase major appliances

All but four of the subjects reported that this would be a shared task.

TABLE 14

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSES TO DIVISION OF FAMILY TASKS
 ACCORDING TO PARENTING EXPERIENCE
 (N = 29 FIRST CHILDREN & 17 SUBSEQUENT CHILDREN)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within the period of two weeks									
1. Prepares meals:	First	9	31	13	45	4	14	3	10
	Subsequent	5	29	7	41	5	29	0	-
2. Yardwork:	First	20	69	6	21	1	3	2	7
	Subsequent	17	100	0	-	0	-	0	-
3. Dress the baby:	First	0	-	14	48	15	52	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	8	47	9	53	0	-
4. Clean the house:	First	0	-	14	48	15	52	0	-
	Subsequent	6	35	9	53	2	12	0	-
5. Wash the dishes:	First	7	24	14	48	8	28	0	-
	Subsequent	7	41	6	35	4	24	0	-
6. Tend the vegetable garden:	First	12	41	6	21	4	14	7	24
	Subsequent	11	65	3	18	0	-	3	18
7. Provide the family's financial support:	First	27	93	2	7	0	-	0	-
	Subsequent	14	82	1	6	2	12	0	-
8. Set the table:	First	4	14	19	66	6	21	0	-
	*Subsequent	4	24	12	71	0	-	0	-

* = missing data

TABLE IV. (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
9. Bathe/clean baby:	First	0	-	13	45	16	55	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	10	59	7	41	0	-
10. Launder clothes:	First	5	17	7	24	17	59	0	-
	Subsequent	3	18	10	59	4	24	0	-
11. Get up during the night to feed the baby:	First	0	-	10	34	19	66	0	-
	Subsequent	2	12	7	41	8	47	0	-
12. Buy groceries:	First	5	17	16	55	8	28	0	-
	*Subsequent	7	41	6	35	3	18	0	-
13. Play with baby:	First	0	-	25	86	4	14	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	17	100	0	-	0	-
14. Iron clothes:	First	2	7	6	21	18	62	3	10
	Subsequent	0	-	4	24	9	53	4	24
15. Plan family menus:	First	2	7	10	34	17	59	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	5	29	12	71	0	-
16. Get up during the night to change the baby:	First	0	-	16	55	13	45	0	-
	Subsequent	2	12	8	47	7	41	0	-

TABLE IV (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within the period of six months									
17. Prepares meals:	First	0	-	9	31	20	70	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	3	18	14	82	0	-
18. Yardwork:	First	25	86	3	10	1	3	0	-
	Subsequent	12	71	5	29	0	-	0	-
19. Dress the baby:	First	0	-	16	55	13	45	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	10	59	7	41	0	-
20. Clean the house:	First	0	-	11	38	18	62	0	-
	Subsequent	1	6	8	47	8	47	0	-
21. Wash the dishes:	First	2	7	8	28	19	66	0	-
	Subsequent	1	6	9	53	7	41	0	-
22. Tend the vegetable garden:	First	10	34	8	28	4	14	7	24
	Subsequent	5	29	8	47	2	12	2	12
23. Provide the family's financial support:	First	19	66	9	31	0	-	1	3
	Subsequent	13	76	3	18	1	6	0	-
24. Set the table:	First	0	-	18	62	11	38	0	-
	Subsequent	1	6	11	65	5	29	0	-

TABLE IV (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
25. Bathe/clean baby:	First	0	--	14	48	15	52	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	10	59	7	41	0	-
26. Launder clothes:	First	1	3	3	10	25	86	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	6	35	11	65	0	-
27. Get up during the night to feed the baby:	First	0	-	14	48	15	52	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	5	29	12	71	0	-
28. Buy groceries:	First	0	-	15	52	14	48	0	-
	Subsequent	1	6	9	53	7	41	0	-
29. Play with baby:	First	0	-	27	93	2	7	0	-
	Subsequent	1	6	16	94	0	-	0	-
30. Iron clothes:	First	0	-	2	7	25	86	2	7
	Subsequent	0	-	4	24	11	65	2	12
31. Plan family menus:	First	0	-	7	24	22	76	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	5	29	12	71	0	-
32. Get up during the night to change the baby:	First	0	-	17	59	12	41	0	-
	Subsequent	2	12	9	53	6	35	0	-
33. Take care of car maintenance and repair:	First	29	100	0	-	0	-	0	-
	Subsequent	16	94	1	6	0	-	0	-

TABLE IV (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
34. Write or call relatives:	First	0	-	13	45	16	55	0	--
	Subsequent	0	-	11	65	6	35	0	-
35. Purchase clothing for baby:	First	0	-	7	24	22	76	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	3	18	14	82	0	-
36. Minor household repairs:	First	28	97	1	3	0	-	0	-
	Subsequent	16	94	1	6	0	-	0	-
37. Arrange visits with relatives:	First	0	-	25	86	4	14	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	14	82	3	18	0	-
38. Send cards or gifts to relatives:	First	0	-	4	14	25	86	0	-
	*Subsequent	1	6	5	29	10	59	0	-
39. Plan family budget:	First	5	17	20	70	4	14	0	-
	Subsequent	3	18	10	59	4	24	0	-
40. Take baby to doctor (non-emergency):	First	1	3	10	34	18	62	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	5	29	12	71	0	-
When necessary									
41. Paint the house:	First	20	70	8	28	0	-	1	3
	Subsequent	15	88	2	12	0	-	0	-

TABLE IV (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
42. Decide town or city where family will live:	First	4	14	25	86	0	-	0	-
	Subsequent	1	6	16	94	0	-	0	-
43. Purchase major appliances:	First	3	10	26	90	0	-	0	-
	Subsequent	1	6	16	94	0	-	0	-
44. Decorate the house:	First	0	-	10	34	18	62	1	3
	Subsequent	0	-	11	65	6	35	0	-
45. Decide what car to buy:	First	9	31	20	70	0	-	0	-
	Subsequent	2	12	15	88	0	-	0	-
46. Purchase minor appliances:	First	2	7	21	72	6	21	0	-
	Subsequent	1	6	13	76	3	18	0	-
47. Decide which house to buy or apartment to rent:	First	1	3	28	97	0	-	0	-
	Subsequent	0	-	16	94	1	6	0	-

Decorate the house

The majority (62%) of subjects expecting the first child viewed this as the wife's task, but the majority of subjects expecting a subsequent child (65%) defined this as a shared task.

Decide what car to buy

The majority of subjects expecting both the first child (70%) and a subsequent child (88%) defined this as a shared task.

Purchase minor appliances

The majority of subjects expecting the first child (72%) and those expecting a subsequent child (76%) expected this to be a shared responsibility.

Decide which house to buy or apartment to rent

All but two subjects defined this task as a shared responsibility.

Differences Between Educational Levels

on the Division of Family Tasks*Prepares meals

The greatest proportion of subjects in the educational level category of high school graduation and below (45%) and the category beyond high school (43%) found this task to be one for both husband and wife to share during the period of two weeks following birth.

The majority of subjects with educational levels of both high school graduation and below (73%) and beyond high school (74%) found this task to be one for the wife during the period of six months following birth.

The subjects of both educational levels changed from expecting the task to be shared in the first period to expecting the task to be done by the wife.

Yardwork

The subjects of both educational levels found this task to be primarily

*See Table V on page 74

the husband's responsibility in the two week and six month periods following birth.

Dress the baby

Those subjects with educational levels of high school graduation and below (64%) defined this task as the responsibility of both husbands and wives during the first two weeks following birth. The subjects with educational levels beyond high school (57%) defined the task as the wife's responsibility.

Those subjects with educational levels of high school graduation and below (82%) and beyond high school (51%) defined this task as the responsibility of both during the first six months following birth.

The subjects with high school graduation and below held the same definition for both periods in that the responsibility is shared, and the subjects with beyond high school educations changed the definition from the wife's task in the first period to a shared task in the second period.

Clean the house

The majority of subjects with high school graduation and below (64%) and those who went beyond high school (51%) defined this task as a shared responsibility during the first two weeks following birth.

Subjects with high school graduation and below were divided equally (45% each) in their responses between the task being shared and being the wife's duty during the first six months following birth. The majority (57%) of subjects with beyond high school education defined the task as the wife's.

The subjects with high school graduation and below changed their definition of the task from being shared in the first period to being shared or the wife's responsibility in the second period. The subjects with education beyond high school changed their definitions from the task being shared to belonging to the wife.

In addition, in the first period, both educational levels had several respondents that defined the task as the husband's responsibility (27% and 29%), whereas only nine per cent from the high school graduation and below educational level defined it as the husband's task.

Wash the dishes

The majority of subjects with high school graduation and below (55% and 55%) and the group who went beyond high school (40% and 60%) viewed this task as a shared responsibility during both periods of two weeks and six months after birth. In addition, in the first period, both educational levels had several respondents define the task as the husband's chore (27%, 31%); however, only nine per cent from the beyond high school educational level did.

Tend the vegetable garden

A greatest proportion of respondents in the category high school graduates and below (45%) and those who went beyond high school (51%) viewed this as the husband's task during the period of two weeks after birth.

A greatest proportion of high school graduates and below (64%) and beyond high school (37%) viewed this as a shared task for both spouses during the period of six months after birth.

The views of both educational levels changed from the task being the husband's task in the first period to being a shared duty in the second period. In addition, some subjects from both groups reported that they probably would have no opinion on this task as they did not plan to have a garden.

Provide the family's financial support

During the period of two weeks and six months following birth, the majority of subjects from both educational levels reported that this would be the husband's responsibility. However, there were significantly less responses for this choice for the second period (55%, 63%) than for the first (82%, 91%).

Set the table

Within the two week period, the majority of subjects with both high school graduation and below (55%) and those respondents who went beyond high school (69%) responded to this task as to be a responsibility of both spouses. The majority of subjects with high school graduation and below (64%) and those who went beyond high school (63%) reported that this task should be a shared responsibility.

Whereas 27 per cent of those with high school and below educations reported this task as the husband's task, 17 per cent of those with beyond high school reported it as the husband's responsibility. Only 3 per cent of the respondents who went beyond high school reported the task as the husband's responsibility during the six months following birth.

Bathe/clean baby

Within the period of two weeks after birth, the majority (64%) of subjects who were high school graduates or below reported that this task was for both spouses equally, and the majority (54%) of subjects who were educated beyond high school reported that this task was for the wife.

Within the period of six months after birth, the majority of subjects who were high school graduates or below (82%) and those who were educated beyond high school (51%) reported that this task was for both husband and wife.

Those subjects who were high school graduates or below maintained the same expectations for both periods, but the beyond high school educated subjects changed from expecting the task to be done by the wife in the first period to expecting the task to be shared in the second period. However, in the second period, the percentages for the high school and below group were significantly higher.

Launder clothes

The majority (55%) of subjects who were high school graduated or below

believed that this task would be performed by both husband and wife within the period of two weeks following birth, and the majority (51%) of subjects who were educated beyond high school believed that this task would be the wife's responsibility.

The majority of subjects who were high school graduated or below (64%) and also those who were educated beyond high school (83%) believed that laundry was the wife's chore within the period of six months following birth.

Those respondents who were high school graduated or below changed from expecting the task to be shared in the two week period to expecting the task to be the wife's task in the six month period. Those subjects who have gone beyond high school maintained that the task belonged to the wife for both periods. Additionally, where 18 and 17 per cent of the subjects who had high school or less education expected the husband to do the task in the first period, only three per cent of the respondents educated beyond high school did.

Get up during the night to feed the baby

During the two weeks after birth, the majority of subjects who had high school and less educations (82%) and those subjects who went beyond high school (57%) believed this task to be the wife's responsibility. The majority of subjects with who had a high school and less education (82%) and those respondents who went beyond high school (51%) also believed this task to be the wife's responsibility during six months after birth.

Buy groceries

The greatest proportion of subjects not educated beyond high school (73%) and those educated beyond high school (40%) believed this to be a shared responsibility in the two weeks after birth.

A majority (73%) of subjects not educated beyond high school believed this to be a shared responsibility in the six months after birth, and a majority (51%) of subjects educated beyond high school believed this is to be the

wife's responsibility.

Subjects with no education beyond high school maintained the belief that the task is a shared responsibility in both periods, while the subjects with education beyond high school changed from the belief that the responsibility of this task is shared in the first period to the task is the wife's responsibility in the second period. In the first period, this task is the husband's task as reported by 18 per cent of those with less education and 31 per cent by those with more education.

Play with baby

The subjects of both educational levels believed this task would be shared equally between the spouses within both periods of two weeks and six months.

Iron clothes

Within the period of two weeks following birth, a majority of subjects with less education (64%) and those subjects who went beyond high school (57%) expected this task to be the wife's responsibility. The majority of subjects with less education (73%) and the respondents with more education (80%) also expected this to be the wife's task within the period of six months following birth. In addition, 20 per cent of those educated beyond high school responded that clothes would not be ironed in the two week period and 11 per cent responded likewise in the six month period.

Plan family menus

Subjects of both groups responded that this task should be performed by the wife in both time periods.

Get up during the night to change the baby

Fifty-five per cent of the subjects with educational levels of high school graduation and below primarily expected this task to be shared within both periods of two weeks and six months following birth. Subjects with educational levels of beyond high school also primarily expected this task to

be shared within both periods of two weeks (51%) and six months (57%) following birth.

Take care of car maintainance and repair

The subjects of both educational levels expected this task to be the husband's responsibility.

Write or call relatives

A majority of subjects that have less education (55%) and those respondents who went beyond high school (51%) responded to this task as one to be performed by both the husband and wife.

Purchase clothing for baby

The majority of subjects with less education (73%) and those subjects who went beyond high school (80%) expected this task to be the wife's task.

Minor household repairs

This task was reported to be the husband's duty by the subjects of both groups.

Arrange visits with relatives

The majority of subjects that have less education (82%) and those subjects who went beyond high school (86%) found this to be a shared responsibility.

Send cards or gifts to relatives

A majority of subjects with less education (55%) and those who went beyond high school (83%) believed this would be primarily the wife's responsibility.

Plan family budget

This task is expected to be a shared responsibility according to subjects with educational levels of high school graduation and below (73%) and those who went beyond high school (63%).

Take baby to doctor (non-emergency)

According to 91 per cent of those with less education and 57 per cent who went beyond high school, this task is expected to be primarily the wife's

responsibility. In addition, 40 per cent of those who went beyond high school reported that the task would be shared.

Paint the house

The majority of those subjects who did not complete high school or graduated from high school (91%) and those subjects that went beyond high school (71%) responded to this as primarily the husband's chore.

Decide town or city where family will live

Subjects from both educational levels viewed this as a shared task.

Purchase major appliances

Subjects from both educational levels responded to this as a shared task.

Decorate the house

The majority (55%) of subjects from the less educated group reported that this task would be shared equally. The majority of the subjects from the group who went beyond high school reported that this would be primarily the wife's responsibility.

Decide what car to buy

The majority of those subjects with less education (91%) and those subjects who went beyond high school (71%) expected this to be a shared responsibility.

Purchase minor appliances

A majority of those subjects with less education (64%) and those subjects who went beyond high school (77%) responded to this task as one to be shared equally by both husband and wife.

Decide which house to buy or apartment to rent

The subjects of both educational levels viewed this task as a responsibility to be shared equally by both the husband and wife.

TABLE V
DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSES TO DIVISION OF FAMILY TASKS
ACCORDING TO EDUCATION
(N = 11 H.S. GRAD & BELOW & 35 BEYOND H.S. GRAD)

Item			Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
			Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within the period of two weeks										
1. Prepares meals:	H.S. Grad & Below	4	36	5	45	2	18	0	-	
	Beyond	10	29	15	43	10	29	0	-	
2. Yardwork:	H.S. Grad & Below	11	100	0	-	0	-	0	-	
	Beyond	32	91	0	-	1	3	2	6	
3. Dress the baby:	H.S. Grad & Below	0	--	7	64	4	36	0	-	
	Beyond	0	--	15	43	20	57	0	-	
4. Clean the house:	H.S. Grad & Below	3	27	7	64	1	9	0	-	
	Beyond	10	29	18	51	6	17	1	3	
5. Wash the dishes:	H.S. Grad & Below	3	27	6	55	2	18	0	-	
	Beyond	11	31	14	40	10	29	0	-	
6. Tend the vegetable garden:	H.S. Grad & Below	5	45	3	27	1	9	2	18	
	Beyond	18	51	6	17	3	9	8	23	
7. Provide the family's financial support:	H.S. Grad & Below	9	82	2	18	0	-	0	-	
	Beyond	32	91	1	3	2	6	0	-	
8. Set the table:	H.S. Grad & Below	3	27	6	55	2	18	0	-	
	*Beyond	6	17	24	69	4	11	0	-	

* = missing data

TABLE IV (Continued)

Item			Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
			Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
9. Bathe/clean baby:	H.S. Grad & Below		0	-	7	64	4	36	0	-
	Beyond		0	-	16	46	19	54	0	-
10. Launder clothes:	H.S. Grad & Below		2	18	6	55	3	27	0	-
	Beyond		6	17	11	31	18	51	0	-
11. Get up during the night to feed the baby:	H.S. Grad & Below		0	-	2	18	9	82	0	-
	Beyond		0	-	15	43	20	57	0	-
12. Buy groceries:	H.S. Grad & Below		2	18	8	73	1	9	0	-
	*Beyond		11	31	14	40	10	29	0	-
13. Play with baby:	H.S. Grad & Below		0	-	11	100	0	-	0	-
	Beyond		0	-	31	89	4	11	0	-
14. Iron clothes:	H.S. Grad & Below		0	-	4	36	7	64	0	-
	Beyond		2	6	6	17	20	57	7	20
15. Plan family menus:	H.S. Grad & Below		0	-	5	45	6	55	0	-
	Beyond		2	6	10	29	23	66	0	-
16. Get up during the night to change the baby:	H.S. Grad & Below		1	9	6	55	4	36	0	-
	Beyond		1	3	18	51	16	46	0	-

TABLE IV (Continued)

Item			Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
			Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within the period of six months										
17.	Prepares meals:	H.S. Grad & Below	0	-	3	27	8	73		
		Beyond	0	-	9	26	26	74		
18.	Yardwork:	H.S. Grad & Below	9	82	2	18	0	-		
		Beyond	28	80	6	17	1	3		
19.	Dress the baby:	H.S. Grad & Below	0	-	9	82	2	18		
		Beyond	0	-	18	51	17	47		
20.	Clean the house:	H.S. Grad & Below	1	9	5	45	5	45		
		Beyond	0	-	15	43	20	57		
21.	Wash the dishes:	H.S. Grad & Below	0	-	6	55	5	45		
		Beyond	3	9	22	63	10	29		
22.	Tend the vegetable garden:	H.S. Grad & Below	2	18	7	64	0	-		
		Beyond	9	26	13	37	6	17		
23.	Provide the family's financial support:	H.S. Grad & Below	6	55	5	45	0	-		
		Beyond	22	63	11	31	1	3		
24.	Set the table:	H.S. Grad & Below	0	-	7	64	4	36		
		Beyond	1	3	22	63	12	34		

TABLE IV (Continued)

			Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
Item			Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
25. Bathe/clean baby:	H.S. Grad & Below		0	-	9	82	2	18		
	Beyond		0	-	18	51	17	49		
26. Launder clothes:	H.S. Grad & Below		0	-	4	36	7	64		
	Beyond		1	3	5	14	29	83		
27. Get up during the night to feed the baby:	H.S. Grad & Below		0	-	2	18	9	82		
	Beyond		0	-	17	49	18	51		
28. Buy groceries:	H.S. Grad & Below		1	9	8	73	2	18		
	Beyond		0	-	17	49	18	51		
29. Play with baby:	H.S. Grad & Below		0	-	11	100	0	-		
	Beyond		1	3	32	91	2	6		
30. Iron clothes:	H.S. Grad & Below		0	-	3	27	8	73		
	Beyond		0	-	3	9	28	80		
31. Plan family menus:	H.S. Grad & Below		0	-	3	27	8	73		
	Beyond		0	-	9	26	26	74		
32. Get up during the night to change the baby:	H.S. Grad & Below		1	9	6	55	4	36		
	Beyond		1	3	20	57	14	40		
33. Take care of car maintenance and repair:	H.S. Grad & Below		11	100	0	-	0	-		
	Beyond		34	97	1	33	0	-		

TABLE V (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
34. Write or call relatives:									
	H.S. Grad & Below	0	-	6	55	5	45	0	-
	Beyond	1	3	18	51	16	46	0	-
35. Purchase clothing for baby:									
	H.S. Grad & Below	0	-	3	27	8	73	0	-
	Beyond	0	-	7	20	28	80	0	-
36. Minor household repairs:									
	H.S. Grad & Below	11	100	0	-	0	-	0	-
	Beyond	34	97	1	3	0	-	0	-
37. Arrange visits with relatives:									
	H.S. Grad & Below	0	-	9	82	2	18	0	-
	Beyond	0	-	30	86	5	14	0	-
38. Send cards or gifts to relatives:									
	*H.S. Grad & Below	0	-	4	36	6	55	0	-
	Beyond	1	3	5	14	29	83	0	-
39. Plan family budget:									
	H.S. Grad & Below	1	9	8	73	2	18	0	-
	Beyond	7	20	22	63	6	17	0	-
40. Take baby to doctor (non-emergency):									
	H.S. Grad & Below	0	-	1	9	10	91	0	-
	Beyond	1	3	14	40	20	57	0	-
When necessary									
41. Paint the house:									
	H.S. Grad & Below	10	91	1	9	0	-	0	-
	Beyond	25	71	9	26	0	-	1	3

TABLE V (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
42.	Decide town or city where family will live:								
	H.S. Grad & Below	1	9	10	91	0	-		
	Beyond	4	11	31	89	0	-		
43.	Purchase major appliances:								
	H.S. Grad & Below	0	-	11	100	0	-		
	Beyond	4	11	31	89	0	-		
44.	Decorate the house:								
	H.S. Grad & Below	0	-	6	55	5	45		
	Beyond	0	-	15	43	19	54		
45.	Decide what car to buy:								
	H.S. Grad & Below	1	9	10	91	0	-		
	Beyond	10	29	25	71	0	-		
46.	Purchase minor appliances:								
	H.S. Grad & Below	2	18	7	64	2	18		
	Beyond	1	3	27	77	7	20		
47.	Decide which house to buy or apartment to rent:								
	H.S. Grad & Below	0	-	11	100	0	-		
	Beyond	1	3	33	94	1	3		

Differences Between Planned and Unplanned Pregnancies

on the Division of Family Tasks*Prepares meals

The greatest proportion (48%) of subjects whose pregnancy was planned viewed this as the husband's responsibility within the period of two weeks following birth. A majority (59%) of subjects whose pregnancy was unplanned viewed this as a shared responsibility.

The majority of subjects whose pregnancy was planned (69%) and those whose pregnancy was unplanned (82%) viewed this as the wife's responsibility within six months after birth.

Those subjects who planned the pregnancy changed attitudes from viewing this as the husband's responsibility in the first period to the wife's in the second period. Those subjects who did not plan the pregnancy changed attitudes from expecting the task to be shared to being the wife's task.

Yardwork

Both planned and unplanned pregnancy subjects expected the husband to do this within the period of two weeks after birth, and 76 per cent of each group expected the husband to also do this task within the period of six months.

Dress the baby

A majority (66%) of subjects who did plan this pregnancy planned for the wife to do this task the first time period. The majority (71%) of subjects who did not plan this pregnancy planned for the task to be shared equally.

A majority of subjects who did plan (52%) and those who did not plan (65%) this pregnancy planned for the task to be a shared responsibility in the second time period.

In comparing the two periods, the subjects who planned this pregnancy changed their attitudes from expecting the wife to do the task to the husband

*See Table VI on page 87

and wife equally doing the task. The subjects who did not plan this pregnancy maintained that the task would be shared in both periods.

Clean the house

Within the period of two weeks following birth, a majority of subjects who did plan (52%) and did not plan (65%) this pregnancy responded to this as a shared responsibility. In addition, 34 per cent of the planned pregnancy subjects and 18 per cent of the unplanned pregnancy subjects responded to this task as the husband's responsibility.

Within the period of six months following birth, the subjects who planned this pregnancy were equally divided in their responses (48% each) between shared and wife's responsibility, and a majority (65%) of the subjects who did not plan this pregnancy responded to this as a wife's responsibility. Additionally, only three per cent of the planned pregnancy group viewed this as a task belonging to the husband.

Subjects from the planned pregnancy group changed their responses from expecting the task to be shared in the first period to being equally divided between being a shared and a wife's task in the second period. Subjects from the unplanned pregnancy group changed their responses from expecting a shared task to expecting the wife's task. Also, husbands were not expected to be the primary sources of the task in the second period as in the first period.

Wash the dishes

The greatest proportion of subjects from the planned pregnancy group expected the husband to primarily perform this task within two weeks after birth, and a majority (65%) of subjects from the unplanned pregnancy group expected that primarily the task would be performed by both spouses equally.

A majority of subjects from both the planned pregnancy group (55%) and the unplanned pregnancy group (65%) expected the wife would primarily perform this task within the six month period after birth.

In comparing the two week and six month period, subjects from the planned pregnancy group changed attitudes from the husband doing the task to the wife doing the task. The subjects from the unplanned pregnancy group changed from the task being done by both equally to the wife doing the task.

Tend the vegetable garden

During the first two weeks after birth, 55 per cent of those that planned the child and 41 per cent that did not viewed this as the husband's chore.

During the first six months, 34 per cent of those that planned the child viewed the task as a shared task and 31 per cent viewed the task as the husband's chore. Those that did not plan the child were equally divided (35% each) between views in the same categories of shared and husband's task.

Both the subjects that did and did not plan the child changed views from expecting the husband to do the task in the two week period to expecting either the husband or both equally to do the task in the six month period. Several subjects reported having no garden in both periods.

Provide the family's financial support

Within the period of two weeks following birth, a majority of subjects that did plan (52%) and not plan (94%) the child expected this to be the husband's task. A majority of subjects that planned (59%) and not planned (65%) the child expected this to also be the husband's task six months after birth.

Set the table

Within two weeks following birth, the majority of subjects in the planned pregnancy group (69%) and the unplanned pregnancy group (65%) responded that this task would be a shared task. The majority of subjects in the planned pregnancy group (62%) and the unplanned pregnancy group (68%) responded to this task as a shared task also within the six months after birth. Seventeen per cent of the planned pregnancy subjects and 18 per cent of the unplanned

pregnancy group expected this to be the husband's task in the first period, and only three per cent expected likewise in the second period.

Bathe/clean baby

A majority (59%) of subjects with planned pregnancies expected the wife to assume the task within two weeks after birth, and a majority (65%) of subjects with unplanned pregnancies expected the spouses to share the task.

The majority of subjects with both planned (52%) and unplanned (71%) pregnancies expected the task to be shared between the husband and wife equally within six months following birth.

Subjects with planned pregnancies changed expectations from sharing the task to the wife's task between the two periods. Subjects with unplanned pregnancies maintained the same expectations for both periods.

Laundry clothes

Fifty-two per cent of the planned pregnancy subjects planned this to be the wife's task during the two weeks after birth, and 47 per cent of the unplanned pregnancy subjects planned this to be a shared task.

Seventy-nine per cent of the planned pregnancy subjects and 76 per cent of the unplanned pregnancy subjects planned this to be the wife's task during the six months after birth.

Planned pregnancy subjects maintained that this would be the wife's task in both time periods. Unplanned pregnancy subjects changed the expectations from planning to share the task to planning for the wife to do the task. Also, 35 per cent total subjects in the first period planned for the husband to do the task, whereas only three per cent did in the second period.

Get up during the night to feed the baby

The majority of subjects in the planned group (69%) and those who did not plan (59%) this pregnancy believed this would be the wife's task within the two weeks after birth. The majority of subjects that planned (55%) and did

not plan (65%) this pregnancy believed this would also be the wife's responsibility within the six month period after birth.

Buy groceries

Within two weeks following birth, the majority of subjects with both planned pregnancies (62%) and unplanned pregnancies (65%) reported this task as a shared responsibility. The majority of both planned pregnancies (52%) and unplanned pregnancies (53%) reported that this task would be a shared responsibility in the second time period also.

Play with baby

Both subjects that did and did not plan the child expected this task to be carried out equally between the husband and wife in both periods.

Iron clothes

Within the two week period following birth, a majority of subjects who both planned (52%) and did not plan (71%) this child expected this task to be the wife's responsibility. The majority of subjects who planned (79%) and did not plan (76%) this child expected this task to also be the wife's task within six months after birth. Several subjects who planned this child did not plan on ironing clothes in the two week (24%) or six month (14%) periods.

Plan family menus

Within two weeks following birth, the majority of subjects with planned pregnancies (59%) and unplanned pregnancies (71%) responded that this should be the wife's task. The majority of subjects with planned (69%) and unplanned (82%) pregnancies responded to this task as one that would be performed by the wife in the second time period also.

Get up during the night to change the baby

The greatest proportion of subjects who were expecting a planned (48%) and an unplanned (59%) child believed this task would be carried out equally by both spouses within two weeks after birth. A majority of subjects who were

expecting a planned (55%) and an unplanned (59%) child believed this task would be carried out also by both spouses within the first six months.

Take care of car maintenance and repair

Subjects of both groups expected the husband to perform this task.

Write or call relatives

Subjects that were expecting a child that had been planned were equally divided (48% each) in their responses between both spouses sharing equally and primarily the wife performing the task. Subjects that were expecting a child that had been unplanned (59%) responded that both spouses would perform the task.

Purchase clothing for baby

Eighty-six per cent of the subjects expecting a planned child and 65 per cent of the subjects expecting an unplanned child believed this to be the wife's task.

Minor household repairs

Subjects who have planned and unplanned pregnancies viewed this as the husband's responsibility.

Arrange visits with relatives

Both subjects that have planned (90%) and not planned (76%) the pregnancy responded that this task would be the equal responsibility of both spouses.

Send cards or gifts to relatives

The majority of subjects that have planned (79%) and not planned (76%) pregnancy responded that this responsibility would be carried out by both.

Plan family budgets

The majority of subjects with both planned (52%) and unplanned (88%) pregnancies responded to the task as an equal responsibility of both partners.

Take baby to doctor (non-emergency)

Sixty-two per cent of the subjects with planned pregnancies and 71 per cent of the subjects with unplanned pregnancies planned for this to be the wife's task.

Paint the house

Subjects expecting a planned child (52%) and those who were expecting an unplanned (65%) child believed this to be the husband's responsibility.

Decide town or city where family will live

The subjects of both planned and unplanned pregnancy groups defined this as an equally shared responsibility between the husband and wife.

Purchase major appliances

The subjects of both groups expected the task to be shared by both spouses.

Decorate the house

The subjects that did plan this birth were equally divided (48% each) in their responses of the task being done by both spouses and the task being primarily done by the wife. The majority (59%) of the subjects that did not plan this birth responded that this task would primarily assumed by the wife.

Decide what car to buy

Sixty-nine per cent of the subjects that did plan this pregnancy and 88 per cent of the subjects that did not plan this pregnancy reported this task as one to be performed by both spouses.

Purchase minor appliances

The majority of those subjects who planned this child (76%) and the group that did not plan this child (71%) defined this as a shared responsibility.

Decide which house to buy or apartment to rent

The subjects that did plan this pregnancy and the subjects that did not plan this pregnancy expected this task to be equally shared by both the husband and wife.

TABLE VI

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSES TO DIVISION OF FAMILY TASKS
 ACCORDING TO PLANNING OF PREGNANCY
 (N = 29 PLANNED & 17 UNPLANNED)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within the period of two weeks									
1. Prepares meals:	Planned	11	48	10	34	8	28	0	-
	Unplanned	3	18	10	59	4	24	0	-
2. Yardwork:	Planned	26	90	0	-	1	3	2	7
	Unplanned	17	100	0	-	0	-	0	-
3. Dress the baby:	Planned	0	-	10	34	19	66	0	-
	Unplanned	0	-	12	71	5	29	0	-
4. Clean the house:	Planned	10	34	15	52	3	10	1	3
	Unplanned	3	18	11	65	3	18	0	-
5. Wash the dishes:	Planned	12	41	9	31	8	28	0	-
	Unplanned	2	12	11	65	4	24	0	-
6. Tend the vegetable garden:	Planned	16	55	4	14	4	14	5	17
	Unplanned	7	41	5	29	0	-	5	29
7. Provide the family's financial support:	Planned	15	52	11	38	2	7	1	3
	Unplanned	16	94	1	6	0	-	0	-
8. Set the table:	Planned	5	17	20	69	4	14	0	-
	*Unplanned	3	18	11	65	2	12	0	-

* = missing data

TABLE VI (Continued)

Item			Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
			Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
9. Bathe/clean baby:	Planned		0	-	12	41	17	59	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	11	65	6	35	0	-
10. Launder clothes:	Planned		5	17	9	31	15	52	0	-
	Unplanned		3	18	8	47	6	35	0	-
11. Get up during the night to feed the baby:	Planned		0	-	9	31	20	69	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	7	41	10	59	0	-
12. Buy groceries:	Planned		5	17	18	62	6	21	0	-
	*Unplanned		3	18	11	65	2	12	0	-
13. Play with baby:	Planned		0	-	26	90	3	10	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	16	94	1	6	0	-
14. Iron clothes:	Planned		2	7	5	17	15	52	7	24
	Unplanned		0	-	5	29	12	71	0	-
15. Plan family menus:	Planned		2	7	10	34	17	59	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	5	29	12	71	0	-
16. Get up during the night to change the baby:	Planned		2	7	14	48	13	45	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	10	59	7	41	0	-

TABLE VI (Continued)

Item		Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Within the period of six months									
17. Prepares meals:	Planned	0	-	9	31	20	69	0	-
	Unplanned	0	-	3	18	14	82	0	-
18. Yardwork:	Planned	22	76	4	14	1	3	2	7
	Unplanned	13	76	4	24	0	-	0	-
19. Dress the baby:	Planned	0	-	15	52	14	48	0	-
	Unplanned	0	-	11	65	6	35	0	-
20. Clean the house:	Planned	1	3	14	48	14	48	0	-
	Unplanned	0	-	6	35	11	65	0	-
21. Wash the dishes:	Planned	3	10	10	34	16	55	0	-
	Unplanned	0	-	6	35	11	65	0	-
22. Tend the vegetable garden:	Planned	9	31	10	34	5	17	5	17
	Unplanned	6	35	6	35	1	6	4	24
23. Provide the family's financial support:	Planned	17	59	11	38	1	3	0	-
	Unplanned	11	65	5	29	0	-	1	6
24. Set the table:	Planned	1	3	18	62	10	34	0	-
	Unplanned	0	-	11	65	6	35	0	-

TABLE VI (Continued)

Item			Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
			Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
25. Bathe/clean baby:	Planned		0	-	15	52	14	48	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	12	71	5	29	0	-
26. Launder clothes:	Planned		1	3	5	17	23	79	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	4	24	13	76	0	-
27. Get up during the night to feed the baby:	Planned		0	-	13	45	16	55	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	6	35	11	65	0	-
28. Buy groceries:	Planned		1	3	15	52	13	45	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	9	53	8	47	0	-
29. Play with baby:	Planned		1	3	26	90	2	7	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	17	100	0	-	0	-
30. Iron clothes:	Planned		0	-	2	7	23	79	4	14
	Unplanned		0	-	4	24	13	76	0	-
31. Plan family menus:	Planned		0	-	9	31	20	69	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	3	18	14	82	0	-
32. Get up during the night to change the baby:	Planned		2	7	16	55	11	38	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	10	59	7	41	0	-
33. Take care of car maintenance and repair:	Planned		28	97	1	3	0	-	0	-
	Unplanned		17	100	0	-	0	-	0	-

TABLE VI (Continued)

Item	Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses									
		Husbands		Both		Wives		Others		
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
34. Write or call relatives:	Planned	1	3	14	48	14	48	0	-	
	Unplanned	0	-	10	59	7	41	0	-	
35. Purchase clothing for baby:	Planned	0	-	4	14	25	86	0	-	
	Unplanned	0	-	6	35	11	65	0	-	
36. Minor household repairs:	Planned	27	93	2	7	0	-	0	-	
	Unplanned	17	100	0	-	0	-	0	-	
37. Arrange visits with relatives:	Planned	0	-	26	90	3	10	0	-	
	Unplanned	0	-	13	76	4	24	0	-	
38. Send cards or gifts to relatives:	Planned	1	3	5	17	23	79	0	-	
	Unplanned	0	-	4	24	13	76	0	-	
39. Plan family budget:	Planned	7	24	15	52	7	24	0	-	
	Unplanned	1	6	15	88	1	6	0	-	
40. Take baby to doctor (non-emergency):	Planned	0	-	11	38	18	62	0	-	
	Unplanned	1	6	4	24	12	71	0	-	
When necessary										
41. Paint the house:	Planned	15	52	7	24	6	21	1	3	
	Unplanned	11	65	3	18	3	18	0	-	

TABLE VI (Continued)

Item			Frequencies and Percentages of Available Responses							
			Husbands		Both		Wives		Others	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
42. Decide town or city where family will live:	Planned		3	10	26	90	0	---	0	-
	Unplanned		2	12	15	88	0	-	0	-
43. Purchase major appliances:	Planned		2	7	27	93	0	-	0	-
	Unplanned		2	12	15	88	0	-	0	-
44. Decorate the house:	Planned		0	-	14	48	14	48	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	7	41	10	59	0	-
45. Decide what car to buy:	Planned		9	31	20	69	0	-	0	-
	Unplanned		2	12	15	88	0	-	0	-
46. Purchase minor appliances:	Planned		3	10	22	76	4	14	0	-
	Unplanned		0	-	12	71	5	29	0	-
47. Decide which house to buy or apartment to rent:	Planned		0	-	29	100	0	-	0	-
	Unplanned		1	6	15	88	1	6	0	-

Conclusions

The purpose of this present research was to examine expectant parent role expectations. The 46 subjects were enrolled in prepared childbirth classes in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

The subjects responded to a questionnaire with regards to their expectations of the division of family tasks between themselves and spouses for two time periods: (1) two weeks following birth and (2) six months following birth. The questionnaire covered the following areas: child care tasks, household tasks, maintenance and repair tasks, kinship relations tasks, and financial tasks.

Frequencies and percentage were calculated for responses to each item in relation to the following variables: sex of subject, employment status of wife, educational level of subjects, parenting experience, and planning of pregnancy.

Sex of Subject

The results found a few differences between males' and females' expectations of the division of family tasks. The task items of major differences involved dressing the baby, bathing the baby, laundering clothes, cleaning house, tending the garden, getting up at night to feed the baby, and writing or calling relatives.

For the two weeks following birth, the males expected their wives to dress and bathe the baby and share the laundry, but the females expected the opposite. The wives felt that the first two tasks (bathe and dress the baby) would be shared and the wife would perform the last task (laundry).

During the six month period following birth, the males expected to share the tasks of cleaning the house, getting up at night to feed the baby, and buy groceries; on the other hand, the females responded that they expected these three tasks to belong to the female. The males expected to contribute more than the females expected them to contribute. Females expected gardening

and writing or calling relatives to be shared, and the males expected the husbands to perform the former and the wives to perform the latter. Overall, the males and females generally held similar expectations.

Employment Status of Wife

Families where the wife was employed and families where the wife was unemployed had dissimilar expectations on the following family tasks: preparing meals, bathing the baby, getting up at night to change the baby, cleaning the house, buying groceries, writing or calling relatives and decorating the house.

In the two weeks following birth, subjects from families where the wife was employed considered meals to be the husband's task and bathing and changing the baby to be shared tasks, but the subjects from families where the wife was unemployed considered the first task (meal preparation) to be shared and the other two (bathing and changing the baby) to be the wife's task.

Six months following birth, subjects from families where the wife was employed considered all of the other tasks to be shared responsibilities, but subjects from families where the wife was not employed considered these tasks to be primarily the wife's responsibility.

The results demonstrated that the employment status of wife had some but not a lot of impact on expectations of the division of family tasks.

Education of Subject

Subjects whose educational level consisted of high school graduation and below (less educated group) and subjects who went beyond high school were compared on their expectations of the division of family tasks. The major differences included the following tasks: dress the baby, bathe/clean baby, launder clothes, buy groceries, and decorate the house.

Those subjects with less education expected that within the two week period following birth, the following tasks would be shared: dressing the

baby, bathing baby, and laundering clothes. Subjects with more education expected the wife to perform these tasks. Within six months following birth, the majority of subjects of both educational levels expected dressing and bathing the baby to be shared and the laundry to be done by the wife.

Six months following birth, subjects with less education expected buying groceries and decorating the house to be shared; however, subjects with more education expected these tasks to be the wife's responsibility.

Few differences were found between the educational levels, but those that were present found subjects with lower educational levels to express more egalitarian expectations and those with higher educational levels to express more traditional expectations.

Parenting Experience

Subjects expecting a first child and subjects expecting a subsequent child held dissimilar expectations on a few family tasks.

In the two weeks following birth, the tasks in which the two groups of subjects differed in expectations were cleaning house, laundering clothes, and buying groceries. Subjects expecting a first child expected house cleaning and laundry to be done by both spouses. Subjects expecting a subsequent child expected the first two tasks to be shared and the last one to be the husband's responsibility. Within the period of six months following birth, gardening was the only task in which the two groups differed only in expectations during that period with first-time expectant parents expecting the husbands to do the task and subsequent expectant parents expecting to share the responsibility.

With the tasks of washing dishes, bathing the baby, writing or calling relatives, and decorating the house, subjects differed totally. Within the first two weeks, first-time expectant parents expected dishes to be shared and bathing the baby to be the wife's task, and they expected both of these

tasks to become the wife's tasks within the first six months. In the first period, parents expecting a subsequent child expected the dishes to be done by the husband and bathing the baby to be shared, and they expected both to be shared tasks within the first six months after birth. Writing or calling relatives and decorating the house were expected to be the wife's responsibilities by first-time parents and shared responsibility by subsequent expectant parents.

First-time expectant parents and parents expecting a subsequent child held similar expectations of the majority of tasks, and in those that they differed first-time expectant parents were more traditional in their expectations than subsequent expectant parents.

Planning of Pregnancy

Although subjects who had planned and subjects who had not planned this pregnancy expressed similar expectations of the division of family tasks, differences were found in five tasks with regard to the first time period.

For couples who had planned the birth, preparing meals and washing dishes were expected to be the husband's tasks. Bathing the baby, dressing the baby, and laundry were expected to be the wife's tasks. Subjects that had not planned the child expected all of these tasks to be shared.

With the exception of these mentioned tasks, subjects expecting planned and unplanned pregnancies did not differ in their expectations of the division of family tasks.

Summary

Overall, according to the results of the present study, none of the variables studied had an impact on the division of family tasks. The subjects of this study tended to express more traditional role expectations than nontraditional expectations in regards to these items of family tasks. However, there was a noted general difference between the period of two

weeks following birth and six months following birth toward more egalitarian expectations in the first period. Tasks that were considered to be household tasks were expressed as needing to be shared. The husband's responsibilities were more numerous in the first period than in the second period. This finding shows that men are willing to help out with tasks not normally carried out while the wife is recuperating from birth. However after a short time, the couples seem to fall back into very traditional patterns even when the wife is employed. Vanek (1983) found that the wife's employment status did not affect allocation of housework. The present study found results, which were based on percentages and frequencies and not on statistical information, similar to the results of previous studies that the division of family tasks is divided along traditional lines of male and female roles (Larsen, 1974; Nickols & Metzen, 1978; Vanek, 1983; Tavecchio et al., 1984). However, this study did not support the differences in the following variables as indicated in past research: sex of subject (Hobbs & Cole, 1976; Gilbert & Hanson, 1983), employment status of wife (Walker, 1969; Parelius, 1975; Hock et al., 1984; Maret & Finlay, 1985; Regan & Roland, 1985), education of subject (Hobbs & Cole, 1976; Rindfuss, Bumpass, & St. John, 1980; Gilbert & Hanson, 1983; Regan & Roland, 1985), parenting experience (Forer, 1976; Grossman, Eichler, & Winickoff, 1980; Leifer, 1980; Young, Boyle, & Colletti, 1983), and planning of pregnancy (Russell, 1974; Leifer, 1980; Grossman, Eichler, & Winickoff, 1980; Steffensmeier, 1982).

Recommendations

It would be an interesting study to examine expectant parental role expectations and compare them to actual parental role behavior following the birth of the child. Scanzoni and Fox (1980) and Araj (1977) found that attitudes and behaviors are not always consistent.

A longitudinal study of parental role perceptions would also be a

valuable study, because past research noted that the age of the child influenced household tasks and perceptions (Walker & Gauger, 1973; Huber & Spitze, 1981).

Research should be done comparing different ethnic groups and socioeconomic groups. The present study engaged only white subjects who were possibly of similar social classes. A possible approach would be to gather data from other places rather than only prepared childbirth classes. Rossi (1968) stated that preparation and training for parenthood would affect an individual's transition to parenthood. The expectant parents show some concern for their childbirth by attending the classes, and fathers who are more involved in the birth may be more involved after birth.

As more researchers become interested in the field of role expectations and the division of family tasks and more studies are carried out, a better understanding of attitudes and behaviors will result. This information can be utilized in parent education programs to prepare marriage partners and parents-to-be for working out agreeable patterns of sex role behaviors in their subsequent marriages.

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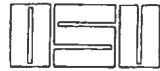
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APPENDIX A
INSTRUMENTS



Oklahoma State University

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY RELATIONS
AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA 74078
241 HOME ECONOMICS WEST
(405) 624-5057

Dear Expectant Parent:

I am a graduate student in the department of Family Relations and Child Development at Oklahoma State University. I am pursuing this study for a Master's degree project and would greatly appreciate your help. All of the answers will be anonymous so confidentiality is assured.

This is a study concerning the expectations of expectant parents regarding the division of family tasks in the household. The following questionnaire contains a list of tasks to be performed within the family. Please circle the number to the right that best corresponds to your expectations of how these tasks will be distributed in your family.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Melissa Johnson
Melissa Johnson

Althea Wright
Dr. Althea Wright

H=Husband mainly, HM=Husband more than wife, B=Both equally, WM=Wife more than husband, W=Wife mainly, O=Other (please specify)

WITHIN THE PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS AFTER THE BIRTH WHO SHOULD DO THE FOLLOWING:

	H	HM	B	WM	W	O	
1. Prepares meals	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
2. Yardwork	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
3. Dress the baby	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
4. Clean the house	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
5. Wash the dishes	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
6. Tend the vegetable garden	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
7. Provide the family's financial support	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
8. Set the table	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
9. Bathe/clean baby	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
10. Launder clothes	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
11. Get up during the night to feed the baby	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
12. Buy groceries	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
13. Play with baby	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
14. Iron clothes	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
15. Plan family menus	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
16. Get up during the night to change the baby	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____

WITHIN A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS AFTER BIRTH WHO SHOULD DO THE FOLLOWING:

17. Prepares meals	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
18. Yardwork	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
19. Dress the baby	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
20. Clean the house	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
21. Wash the dishes	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
22. Tend the vegetable garden	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
23. Provide the family's financial support	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____

	H	HM	B	WM	W	O	
24. Set the table	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
25. Bathe/clean baby	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
26. Launder clothes	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
27. Get up during the night to feed the baby	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
28. Buy groceries	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
29. Play with baby	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
30. Iron clothes	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
31. Plan family menus	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
32. Get up during the night to change the baby	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
33. Take care of car maintenance and repair	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
34. Write or call relatives	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
35. Purchase clothing for baby	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
36. Minor household repairs	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
37. Arrange visits with relatives	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
38. Send cards or gifts to relatives	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
39. Plan family budget	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
40. Take baby to doctor (non-emergency)	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
WHEN NECESSARY, WHO SHOULD DO THE FOLLOWING:							
41. Paint the house	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
42. Decide town or city where family will live	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
43. Purchase major appliances	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
44. Decorate the house	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
45. Decide what car to buy	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
46. Purchase minor appliances	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
47. Decide which house to buy or apartment to rent	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____

Part II. Please complete the following questions about yourself:

48. What is your birthdate: _____
month day year

49. What is your sex:

- ____ 1. Male
____ 2. Female

50. What is your marital status:

- ____ 1. Single
____ 2. Married

51. What was your wedding date: _____
month day year

52. Do you have other children:

- ____ 1. Yes
____ 2. No

53. If yes, what are the ages: _____

54. What is your ethnic background: _____

55. In school, what is the highest grade you completed:

- ____ 1. Less than 8th grade
____ 2. 8 - 11th grade
____ 3. High school graduate
____ 4. 1 - 3 years of college or post-secondary vocational training
____ 5. College graduate
____ 6. Graduate degree

56. Does the wife in the family work:

- ____ 1. Yes
____ 2. No

57. If so, how much does she work:

- ____ 1. Full-time
____ 2. Part-time

58. When is the expected date of birth: _____
month day

59. Was this a planned pregnancy:

- ____ 1. Yes
____ 2. No

Division of Family Tasks

ID _____

- 1 = HUSBAND MAINLY
 2 = HUSBAND MORE THAN WIFE/WIFE SOME
 3 = BOTH EQUALLY
 4 = WIFE MORE THAN HUSBAND/HUSBAND SOME
 5 = WIFE MAINLY
 6 = OTHER (please specify)

WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS WHO DOES THE FOLLOWING:

1. Prepares meals	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
2. Yardwork	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
3. Dresses the children	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
4. Cleans the house	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
5. Feeds young children	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
6. Washes the dishes	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
7. Tends the vegetable garden	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
8. Provides the family's financial support	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
9. Sets the table	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
10. Bathes/cleans children	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
11. Launders clothes	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
12. Gets up during the night to feed the baby	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
13. Buys groceries	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
14. Plays with children	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
15. Irons clothes	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
16. Plans family menus	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
17. Disciplines children	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
18. Supervises children	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
19. Gets up during the night to change the baby	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____

WITHIN A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS WHO DOES THE FOLLOWING:

20. Takes care of car maintenance and repair	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
21. Writes or calls relatives	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
22. Purchase clothing for children	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
23. Minor household repairs	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
24. Arrange visits with relatives	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
25. Sends cards or gifts to relatives	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
26. Plans family budget	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
27. Takes child to doctor (non-emergency)	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____

Division of Family Tasks
Page 2

- 1 = HUSBAND MAINLY
 2 = HUSBAND MORE THAN WIFE/WIFE SOME
 3 = BOTH EQUALLY
 4 = WIFE MORE THAN HUSBAND/HUSBAND SOME
 5 = WIFE MAINLY
 6 = OTHER (please specify)

WHEN NECESSARY, WHO DOES THE FOLLOWING:

28. Paint the house	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
29. Decide town or city where family will live	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
30. Purchase major appliances	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
31. Decorates the house	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
32. Decide what car to buy	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
33. Purchase minor appliances	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____
34. Decide which house to buy or apartment to rent	1	2	3	4	5	6	_____