

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENGAGED COUPLES'
DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE MARRIAGE
ENDURE AND SELECTED SOCIAL AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS

By

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Statement of Problem

The three events which effect one's life most are birth, death, and marriage (Blood, 1969). He also states that of the three events, marriage alone is the only event with which a person has any influence or free choice, because birth and death are beyond his control.

This desire for some sense of lasting influence over life could perhaps explain why the practice of marriage remains so popular in modern society. The 1973 Population Reports (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1973) indicates that 78 per cent of all women and 72 per cent of all men were at that time, or previously had been married. Bernard concludes, in her book The Future of Marriage (1972, p. 269), that

...men and women will continue to want intimacy, they will continue to want the thousand and one ways in which men and women share and reassure one another. They will continue to want to celebrate their mutuality, to experience the mystic unity that once led the church to consider marriage a sacrament. They will therefore, as far into the future as we can project, continue to commit themselves to each other. There is hardly any probability that such commitments will disappear and that all relationships between them will become merely casual or transient.

Problems can be perpetuated from generation to generation by failure in the marriage relationship, even though the couple is able to avoid an actual divorce. As LaHaye (1968, p. 8) states:

One of the most common causes of emotionally disturbed people today is the average American home. Instead of experiencing security-building love between their parents, children all too often see and feel the traumas of hostility, hatred, and animosity between the two people they love most: their mother and father.

Goode (1961, p. 441-442) states that in the absence of positive feelings, couples maintain outward signs of marital togetherness.

Goode has called the latter case an "empty shell" marriage:

...The atmosphere is without laughter or fun, and a sullen gloom pervades the household. Members do not discuss their problems or experiences with each other, and communication is kept to a minimum....Their rationalization for avoiding a divorce is, on the part of one or both, sacrifice for the children, neighborhood respectability, and a religious conviction that divorce is morally wrong....The hostility in such a home is great, but arguments focus on the small issues, not the large ones. Facing the latter would, of course, lead directly to separation or divorce, but the couple has decided that staying together overrides other values, including each other's happiness and the psychological health of their children.

Since it is clear that marriage will remain as a social institution, the question becomes, how can a couple improve their chance of making the marriage a success? The problem is providing young adults with knowledge and insight adequate to make intelligent selections in marriage partners.

Stinnett (1969) states that though much of the marriage and family living literature has emphasized the importance of selecting a marriage partner who will best fulfill one's needs, perhaps it is more important to a successful marriage that an individual be aware of and seek to meet the needs of the mate. According to Satir (1967), one way of improving the chances of marital success is by helping the couple through counseling, to a better understanding of themselves and each

other. In speaking of the possibility of this type of counseling, she states, "Human beings are limited only by the extent of their knowledge, their ways of understanding themselves, and their ability to 'check out' with others" (1967, p. 97).

There is a tendency among some couples considering marriage to believe that physical attraction and the recitations of vows fill all requirements of a happy marriage (Morris, 1960). Others, such as Albert (1967, p. 38) report that among college youth in particular, "...there appears to be a growing regard for the importance of the personality traits and character in their choice of a mate." Marital competence has been said to be the ability to perform marital roles in such a manner as to fulfill in the mate certain important needs involved in the marital relationship (Stinnett, 1969). He also states that the Four Basic Needs are:

- (1) love--providing such qualities as affection, admiration, optimism, security, and emotional closeness;
- (2) personality fulfillment--helping one's mate to achieve potential and autonomy, and assisting in the mate's personality, social, and intellectual development;
- (3) respect--treating one's mate as an individual, avoiding habits which annoy mate, being a good listener, and providing encouragement and understanding;
- and (4) communication--expressing true feelings to one's mate and finding satisfactory solutions to disagreement.

As Robb, Bernardoni, and Johnson (1972) point out, prediction tests are applied to numerous life situations, such as success or failure in school, emotional stability, individual development, personal aptitude, individual performance, or intelligence and mental ability. While none of these had test results that could be accepted as infallible for each individual, all of them are recognized as helpful in planning and decision-making (Brown and Thornton, 1971). This

is also true in the area of predicting marriage success. As Stephens indicates in his book Reflections of Marriage (1968, p. 120):

Using the actuarial model, one can also say something about the life expectancy of marriages. One cannot predict with certainty about a particular marriage. Neither can we quote precise odds. However, we do have evidence that certain types of people are more apt to make successful marriages, are less prone to divorce, than are other types. The marital adjustment studies point to numerous signs. If, for a certain prospective marriage, the signs are generally good, that marriage stands an excellent chance for success. If the signs are generally negative, the future of that marriage looks bleak.

A number of marital prediction scales have been developed by researchers such as Burgess, Locke, and Thomas (1963), Locke (1952), Burgess and Wallin (1951), and Katz (1963). However, as Blood (1969, p. 59) points out, most of the items used on the tests are concerned with:

...the skill component of success in marriage. For example, items deal with happiness of family background, personal intelligence, education, income, religiosity, and sociability. These contribute to an individual's marital success, to be sure, but they affect his chances of success in marrying anyone. They fail to measure the compatibility of one particular couple.

The prediction tests also tend to overlook what might be one very important aspect of marital success: the degree of determination to make the marriage endure felt by the individuals. Therefore, it is the intention of this investigation, to examine the degree of determination among engaged couples to make their marriage relationship endure and to relate such determination to various social and psychological factors.

Purpose of the Study

The purposes for this study are:

- A. To determine the perceptions of individuals who are engaged concerning the degree to which they rate their determination to make their marriage endure.
- B. To determine the perceptions of individuals who are engaged concerning the degree to which they rate their engaged partner's determination to make their marriage endure.
- C. To examine the following specific hypotheses:
 1. There is no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the individual rates his engaged partner's determination to make the marriage endure.
 2. There is no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and each of the following variables:
 - a. Sex
 - b. Degree to which the respondent considers himself to be a religious person
 - c. Socio-economic status of the respondent
 - d. Degree to which the respondent is satisfied with the kind of person he or she is
 - e. Degree to which the respondent rates the happiness of his parent's marriage

3. There is no significant difference in marriage prediction scores according to the individual's degree of determination to make the marriage endure.
4. There is no significant difference in marriage prediction scores according to the individual's perceptions concerning the fiance(e)'s degree of determination to make the marriage endure.

CHAPTER II

SELECTED REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Lederer and Jackson (1968) state that since his existence in ancient primitive society, man has shown a great interest in improving his success in the relationship of the family unit. It, however, has been in the last 40 years that most of the studies documenting various correlates of marital success have been examined (Stephens, 1968). One element which would seem to have a great effect on marriage success, but which has not been extensively studied, is that of determination. Little research has been done on the value of determination in effective marital relationships. It is this writer's belief that determination will greatly effect the outcome of a marriage, either successful or failure, by the extent to which a couple will endure hardships in the effort to establish effective relationships. Because of the lack of research available on the subject of determination, other factors conducive to good marital relationships will be explored.

Sporakowski (1968), in tracing the history of marital studies, indicates that early research was greatly limited to the measure of adjustment in married couples. Bernard (1934) expanded efforts to include the assessment of marital adjustment and also predictive functions.

Traditionally, marital adjustment investigation has determined adjustment in one of three ways (Stephens, 1968): (a) ratings, in

which the researcher or acquaintances rate the marriage adjustment and success; (b) the use of divorce as a determinant of marriage success, assuming that couples still living together will have a greater degree of adjustment than couples who have separated; (c) questionnaires, which adopt a standard key to scale the degree of success in the relationship. From these efforts, a series of factors have been discovered that tend, in various degrees, to affect marriage success. Stinnett and Walters (1975) indicate several factors which they find to be related to a successful marriage, and which have served as a basis for the review in this research.

Factors Related To Marriage Success

Length of Acquaintance or Engagement

Burgess and Locke (1940, p. 382) state that dating is "a social engagement between two young people with no committment beyond the expectation that it will be pleasurable to both." Thus, dating provides a basis for determining compatibility before becoming emotionally involved. The best way to insure marriage success according to Landis and Landis (1973), is to increase the period of engagement, because this will give the couple a better opportunity to become aware of their inner needs and roles. Kirkpatrick (1963) agrees with this statement, as does Levinger (1965) and Saxton (1968), who stress that a longer acquaintance before marriage will allow the couple a greater opportunity to establish effective communication methods, learn what each expects from the marriage, and become self-aware of each other's needs and values. Albert (1967, p. 40) states that:

Courtship is a trying-out period. Difficulties that arise during this time are often glossed over because 'we love each other.' But rarely do they disappear after the wedding kiss; they are more likely to grow in importance. The longer the courtship, the greater the probability that the uniting process will be well-advanced prior to marriage and will continue after the ceremony.

Landis (1970) estimates that approximately one fourth of college engagements are broken, suggesting that as couples grow in this understanding, many tend to separate, and without this time-span of engagement-learning, the velocity of separation after marriage certainly would be much higher.

Age At Marriage

Lasswell (1974, p. 238) states that in 1973, 55 per cent of men under 35 were single and 45 per cent of the women were single. This trend points to a change in the popular age to marry. What these statistics indicate is that currently more young people, particularly women, are delaying first marriage, although just as many as ever will probably marry eventually.

According to Lasswell (1974), age itself may not be the critical factor so much as the kinds of problems that go with being young and married in our society--lack of employment opportunities and consequently insufficient financial resources; insufficient experience in coping with problems; disapproval, or at least lack of support, by parents and society; and the fact that so many very young couples have actually been running away from home or from loneliness.

Stephens (1968, p. 119) states that couples could possibly improve their chances of marital success simply by waiting a few years before

getting married, since "as people grow older, their chances of making a successful marriage increases." The importance of age is explained by Albert (1967, p. 38-46). He states:

The capacity to withstand frustrations develops with maturity. When one's marriage partner fails to live up to expectations (which are often unrealistic in the beginning), the extra edge of maturity may be needed to provide toleration of the other's shortcomings without excessive impatience and disillusionment.

This factor of age appears to be consistently significant in a number of studies (Kirkpatrick, 1963; Burchinal, 1965; Roundtree, 1964; and Monahan, 1953).

Recently, (U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1972), the age at first marriage seems to be going up; and in 1971, the largest number of persons under 35 years of age remained single since the turn of the century. From the standpoint of stability of the marriage, then, men who marry between the ages of 27 and 31 and women who marry at about 25 seem to have waited long enough to maximize their chances at a durable relationship (U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1970).

Getting married in the teen years, according to Lasswell (1974), is unquestionably the worst time to marry, not only in terms of stability of the marriage, but in terms of the reported satisfaction which the marriage brings to the couple. Couples who marry in their teen years rate their marriage as significantly less satisfactory than do those who were married later. It may not be the age itself that is the critical factor but the fact that late marriage is associated with more education, better financial conditions, more social and familial approval, and higher social class. The studies of Terman (1938), Burgess and Cottrell (1939), and Landis and Landis (1958), support the

generalization that there is a greater probability of unhappiness in marriages contracted at an early age. These studies are in accordance with the more recent study done by Landis and Landis (1968, p. 121) who state that "all the studies show that the chances for happiness in marriage are less when men marry before the age of 20 and when women marry before the age of 18."

Happiness of Parent's Marriage

In their proposed book Together In Marriage And The Family (1975), Stinnett and Walters state that the one element which seems most strongly related to marriage success is the happiness in the marriage of the parents. Landis (1963) states that children from happily married parents have self-evaluations which make it easier for them to establish positive associations with the other sex than have children from unhappy marriages. Landis found that children from unhappy marriages had greater difficulty in making friends with the other sex in early adolescence, and they tended to have less confidence in associating with the other sex than was true of children from happy marriages. Stinnett and Walters (1975) also state that if the parents of an individual were happily married, he or she is statistically more likely to have a happy marriage, and less likely to become separated or divorced. On the other hand, if one's parents were unhappy or divorced, the statistical probability of his experiencing an unhappy marriage, or becoming divorced, is greater. While Stephens (1968) does not indicate that parental happiness is this important, he does agree that it plays an important part in the marriage success.

Personal Childhood Happiness

In his book The Individual, Marriage, and the Family, Saxton (1968, p. 210) states that "major studies since 1937 have agreed that a person's background is the single most important factor determining marital success." The person most likely to have a successful marriage has the following background characteristics: (a) parents who are happy in their marriage; (b) a happy childhood; (c) lack of conflict with the mother; (d) home discipline that was firm, but not harsh; (e) a strong attachment to the mother; (f) parental frankness about sex; (g) infrequency and mildness of childhood punishment; (h) lack of conflict with the father; and, (i) attitudes toward sex that are anticipatory and free from disgust or aversion (Saxton, 1968).

Reason For Marriage

Kirkpatrick (1963) reports that entering marriage because of love or common interests are positively related to later marriage success and happiness. Murstein (1967) states that couples with more successful marriages chose each other on the basis of role compatibility as seen by the respective members of the couples (interperceptions) and as viewed by one member alone (intrapercptions). On the other hand, Landis (1970) points out the danger of marrying for the wrong reasons. The desire to escape an unhappy home situation, to fill a personal need for affection, to overcome loneliness, to hurt someone, or because of pregnancy, all are related to lower degrees of marital success.

Determination

Determination has two aspects according to Blood (1969): committing oneself to the person even if a more intriguing one turns up later, and applying skill and effort to the marital success. The importance of skill development is seconded by Folkman and Clatworthy (1970), who stress that a major determinant of marital success is the couple deciding that the marriage merits the effort required to learn how to live together. Brown and Thornton (1971) point out in their discussion of predictive testing, that one weakness of such instruments is their inability to assess the degree or quality of the individual's motivation. This influence of motivation would also play an important part in the role of marriage. Religious concepts often play an important part in the degree of this determination, both to succeed and to strive for correction of differences and problems (Thompson, in Mead, 1968). However, the decision as to the permanence of the relationship must be faced by every couple (Blood, 1969).

Flexibility

Folkman and Clatworthy (1970) describes flexibility as the couple accommodating themselves to the kind of life they both want to live. Several studies comparing happily and unhappily married persons indicate that this ability to give or to change, plays an important part in the marriage success (Landis and Landis, 1973). Satir (1972) indicates that one goal for a family is to develop an "open system" which can flexibly adapt to forces (both from within and outside the family) that result in the need for new and different relationships. All of the individual

needs and wishes of each marriage partner cannot be met in marriage, and the success of the relationship requires a recognition that life always offers both compensation and disappointment, and a practice of compromise and flexibility (Landis and Landis, 1968).

Love

The concept of love has been over-used and under-defined in much of modern society according to LaHaye (1968). There has been a tendency to equate love with "ringing bells" or a "tingle", and to assume that a lack of these manifestations means an absence of love. In The Exorcist (Blatty, 1971, p. 370), the old priest, Father Merrin states to his younger acquaintance, Father Karras, "How many husbands and wives must believe they have fallen out of love because their hearts no longer race at the sight of their beloved!"

Several have attempted to correct this misconception by defining love as it effects relationships in life and in marriage. Folkman and Clatworthy (1970, p. 38) state that love is "...the overwhelming concern of one person for the other." Landis and Landis (1968, p. 132) expand the concept and indicate:

You love a person if his well-being, his growth toward his greatest potential in all facets of his personality, matters to you as much as your own, probably not more, but as much.

Love also involves the aspects of sexuality and the desire to give and receive physical pleasure. As Udry (1966, p. 199) states, love contains "...a strong emotional attachment, with at least the components of sex desire and tenderness."

Perhaps the best known description of love is that found in the Bible:

Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out.

If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him....Love goes on forever. (I Corinthians 13: 4-8, Taylor, The Living New Testament, 1967)

Jacobi (1953) states that love and power are said to be closely interacting: where love rules, there is no will power, and where power predominates, love is lacking. Hieger and Troll (1973) state that young adults place a great value on romantic love in mate selection, more so than did their parents and grandparents. They state that romantic love is used more as the basis for spouse selection than the more practical criteria, such as shared values and interests, homogamy of religious background, financial stability in marriage, and sexual compatibility. Mace (1974) states that it is in the family that we learn to love and to be loved, and thus to be friendly and cooperative; or learn to hate and to exploit others, and thus to be aggressive and acquisitive. At the core of the family is the marriage relationship and the success or failure of the family finally depends on the success or failure of the marriage.

Emotional Maturity

Emotional Maturity involves an awareness of one's own needs and values, and an awareness of the needs and values of other people and society at large (Saxton, 1968). Landis and Landis (1968, p. 114) state:

Emotional maturity can be defined as the level of development of one's ability to see oneself and others objectively, to be able to discriminate between facts and feelings, and to act on facts rather than feelings.

Stein (1972, p. 280), in his presentation of qualities that contribute to marriage success has stated: There is evidence that the following qualities contribute to marriage success: (a) being empathic; (b) having inner resources to enjoy oneself; (c) having the capacity to confront and resolve differences; or else to allow the other to be different; (d) having the courage to share all of oneself; (e) being appropriately other-centered; (f) having the security to tolerate suggestions and at times criticisms; (g) having the inclination to help the other actualize himself; and (h) being able to engage in meaningful nondefensive communication.

Role Expectations

It was discovered by Stinnett and Walters (1975) that a great deal of marital conflict, and personal dissatisfaction with marriage, is caused by one mate having very different intentions and expectations for himself and the marital relationship than that held by his partner.

There is some question how much effect roles have on marriage success, since some findings indicate little consistency on role-desire

over a passage of time, and it appears that role practices change with maturity (Udry, 1966). However, evidence exists that marriage success is negatively affected by extreme incompatibility in what roles the couple expect themselves and each other to play (Burr, 1971).

Clements (1967) states that an important variable related to marital stability is an awareness of the effect of one's behavior on one's spouse. Studies investigating the relation of marital interaction to marital satisfaction has suggested that marital interactions which satisfy personal needs may occur most often in well-adjusted marriages (Winch, 1958; Winch and Ktsanes, 1954). Accuracy of marital role perception, and similarity of conceptual structures, have also been related to marital satisfaction (Luckey, 1960; Tharp, 1963; Stuckert, 1963; and Katz, 1965). Clements (1967) states that the husband's role definitions and expectations may be more important to the early success of a marriage than the wife's. A greater proportion of the woman's life is family-related. Since our culture tends to define her role as centering around her family, there may be greater pressure on her to develop an accommodative pattern in relation to other members of the family. As Luckey (1960, p. 156-157) points out, if it is the wife who must make the greater adjustment in marriage, "...it is to the benefit of the relationship if she knows what she is adjusting to!" If she sees the husband as he sees himself, she is better able to make adjustments which bring more satisfaction to the marriage.

According to Stuckert (1963), family adjustment may be greatly affected by the extent to which the husband and wife are oriented toward both actual and potential role changes. Whether or not a marital partner responds consistently with the expectations of the other depends on

his own preformed concept of his role, his own expectations regarding the reciprocal role of his spouse, his perception of his mate's expectations of him, and the degree of correspondence between the two sets of role concepts and expectations. If these role concepts are similar, communication is easier and the relationship existing between the marriage partners is more satisfactory to both. If role perception is accurate, each partner is better able to anticipate the other's feelings and gear his own responses to the expectations of the other (Stuckert, 1963).

Mutstein (1971) discovered these traits in a study of couples who were "going steady" or were engaged: (a) persons became engaged to partners of similar degree of self-ideal-self acceptance; (b) the perception of the partner as similar or different depends on the degree of self-acceptance; (c) persons of low self-acceptance marry those whom they perceive as less desirable; and (d) perceived role fit between perception of fiance(e) and ideal spouse will be significantly greater than actual role-fit (self-perception by one partner and ideal spouse desired by the other partner).

Three sources of an individual's expectations for his or her roles in family life have been identified (Udry, 1966). They are: (a) concepts developed while a child, by watching adults that the child feels are significant; (b) mass media; and (c) interactions and practices that develop during the marriage itself.

Compatibility

Compatibility is defined as the extent to which a couple's intrinsic characteristics fit together (Blood, 1969, p. 37). In the area of

compatibility, two positions exist in research: (a) the theory of "heterogamy", which asserts that people tend to marry individuals who are different or opposite to themselves, and (b) the theory of "homogamy", in which persons select mates who have characteristics similar to their own (Holtz, 1968).

The Ktsanes sum up this position in their article "Do Opposites Attract, Or Does Like Marry Like?" (Cavin, 1969), by stating that people love and tend to marry those who fulfill their needs. Therefore, the marriage success would be affected by the degree to which the intrinsic needs of each individual (whether those needs are homogamous or heterogamous) fit with the characteristics of the marriage partner (Blood, 1969). Blazer (1963) supports this theory by stating that people who have similar relative strengths on the same or similar needs tend to marry, and that there is some association between increasing similarity of need patterns and greater marital happiness.

Relationship Factors

Evidence exists that marriage happiness results from a fulfilling relationship between the husband and wife (Hicks and Platt, 1970). Couples who are involved in the marriage experiences and with each other, judge their marriage to be happier than those who have little involvement in the relationship (Gurion, Beroff, and Feld, 1960). In two studies of American marriages, it was found that the desire for companionship is strongly related to marital adjustment (Blood and Wolfe, 1960a; Kirkpatrick, 1937).

It has been suggested that the level of anxiety between two persons is the determining factor in selection of marriage partners and the

ultimate success of the marriage. Individuals are able to come close to one another and stay close when the level of anxiety of one person is either reduced or not responded to by the other (Anonymous, 1969). Symonds (1970) agrees with this position and states that the success of a marriage depends on the interaction of the personalities of the partners. According to Morse, traits important to marital success are: relatively frequent expressions of affection, joint affection, and submission.

Partners who experience high satisfaction of their needs in marriage, as compared with those whose satisfaction is low are: (a) more favorable in describing spouse; (b) more acceptant of the spouse's suggestions when making judgments; (c) better able to coordinate their own motor responses with those of the spouse; and (d) more likely to confide in the spouse (Katz, Goldston, Cohen, and Stucker, 1963). On the other hand, a study by Matthews and Milhanovich (1963), found that unhappily married individuals felt they: (a) were neglected by their mates, and (b) received little appreciation, affection, companionship, or understanding from their mates.

Marital Attitudes

Holoubek and Holoubek (1973) state their belief that couples would have more chances of a successful marriage if they attended a premarital counseling program. Statistically, their chances of making their marriage successful would be much higher. Premarital counseling has as its chief purpose to help each engaged person to think seriously of marriage and to realize that adjustment of themselves to marriage and to each other implies effort.

Stinnett and Walters (1975) listed the attitudes which research has identified as resulting in marital dissatisfaction: (a) extreme jealousy; (b) one partner more dominant than the other; (c) one mate feeling superior to the other; or (d) one partner believing he is more intelligent than the other. The research studies concur that the most successful marriages have partners that display equalitarian and democratic attitudes toward each other.

Relationships With Inlaws

In a study done by Inselberg (1964), it was found that couples considered to be married successfully indicated a very high degree of closeness within a family, democratic practices, favorable relationships with one's inlaws or parental family, hopefulness, satisfactory sexual adjustment, and generalized satisfaction with married life.

The relationship between the couples and their inlaws often affect the success they feel in their marriage (Williamson, 1972). Studies generally indicate that if the relationship with the inlaws are good, then the marriage is more likely to be identified as successful (Flomenhaft and Kaplan, 1968; Karma, 1973), while problems with inlaws may shift to problems within the marital couple (Stinnett and Walters, 1975; Landis and Landis, 1963).

Common Interests

Kirkpatrick (1963) found that couples with common interests tend to rate a higher satisfaction to their marriage. Glenn and Keir (1971) state that common interests are conducive to stability of marriages. Saxton (1968) reports studies on the effects of mutual interests in

marriage success. He states that mutual interests in the home, children, romantic love, sex, and religion, along with a lack of interest in good times, commercial entertainment, and companionship to avoid loneliness, highly correlate with success in marriage. The study points out that possessing a shared interest in leisure activities has no correlation with marital happiness.

Cultural Backgrounds

Research tends to agree that similar cultural backgrounds such as education, socioeconomic level, race and nationality, are positively related to marriage success (Stinnett and Walters, 1975). Hicks and Platt (1970) also point out that great differences between the couple in these areas are often associated with marriage failure. Barry (1970) states that background and personality factors in husbands, not in wives, are associated with marital "success." The "healthier" the husband's personality, the more capable he is of being emotionally supportive and thus the less likely is severe and destructive conflict. Bumpass and Sweet (1972) state that differences in marital stability by education appear largely attributable to differences in age at marriage by education. On the other hand, the amount of the husband's education is higher for durable than for dissolved marriages. This is indicated by data reported by Glick (1957), Monahan (1961), and by the U.S. Census Reports (1953 and 1957).

Children

Kirkpatrick (1963) states that having a desire for children relates to marital satisfaction, but according to Udry (1966), research has discovered no reliable relationship between the presence or absence of children and marital adjustment. As Stinnett and Walters (1975) indicate, research in general indicates that for some couples the responsibility of rearing children is associated with decreased marriage satisfaction, while for other couples, rearing of children relates to, and is associated with increased marriage satisfaction.

There is evidence that having children before they are desired tends to be associated with poor marital adjustment, and there is also some suggestion that close spacing of children increases marital friction (Arasteh, 1971). Dyer (1963) states that the degree to which the advent of the first child represents a crisis event appears to be related to: (a) the state of the marriage and family organization at the birth of the first child; (b) the couple's preparation for marriage and parenthood; (c) the couple's marital adjustment after the birth of the child; and (d) certain social background and situational variables such as the number of years married, planned parenthood, and the age of the child.

In the study by Luckey and Bain (1970) of couples who rated themselves as satisfied and unsatisfied in their marriages, the following results were obtained: In the "satisfied" group, companionship was found to be very strong, whereas in the "unsatisfied" group it was found that children constituted the main and usually the only source of marital satisfaction. It is a plausible assumption that couples who

feel that children are the main source of satisfaction in a marriage will have, or at least desire, more children than couples who do not feel this way (Heath, Roper, and King, 1974). They also found that belief in children as contributors to marital stability was significantly related to ideal family size and expected family size.

Simmel's role theory suggests that with the shift from dyad to triad there is a disruption of affection and intimacy. The third member is seen as an intruder.

Viewed in this conceptual system, married couples find the transition to parenthood painful because the arrival of the first child destroys the two person or pair-pattern of group interaction and forces a rapid reorganization of their life into a three-person or triangle group system. Due to the fact that their courtship and pre-parenthood pair relationship has persisted over the years, they find it difficult to give it up as a way of life. In addition, however, they find that living as a trio is more complicated than living as a pair. The husband, for example, no longer ranks first in claims upon his wife but must accept the child's right to priority. In some cases, the husband may feel that he is the semi-isolate....In other cases, the wife may feel that her husband is more interested in the baby than in her (LeMasters, 1957, pp. 354-355).

It is likely, according to Russell (1974), that the stresses and opportunities brought about by the entry of the baby into the family has some influence upon his parents' marital adjustment. It is also possible that superior marital adjustment contribute to experiencing less crisis in assuming the parenthood role for the first time. The items found most distressing to first-time parents were fatigue, loss of figure, money, and inlaw problems. Rollins and Feldman (1970) and Renee (1970) report a pattern of marital satisfaction over the life cycle: More relevant to adapting to the first year of parenthood may be (1) a pattern of communication which has resulted in effective

family planning and high marital adjustment; (2) high commitment to the parenthood role; and (3) good maternal health and a calm, nonproblematic baby.

Studies which used exclusively middle-class respondents (LeMasters, 1957; Dyer, 1963; Beauchamp, 1969) reported higher crisis scores than studies which drew upon a more representative sample (Hobbs, 1965 and 1968; Russell, 1974). This would suggest that social class is positively related to stress during the transition to parenthood. Yet neither Hobbs nor Russell found this true within their samples. Data from Russell's study (1974) do suggest however, that middle-class parents may experience fewer gratifications from the initial experience of parenthood than lower-class parents.

Communication

All marital conflict will not be eliminated by communication. A certain amount of conflict is present in any close relationship, as is pointed out by Walters, Parker, and Stinnett (1972). However, Nevran (1967), indicates that couples who judge themselves to be happily married, do tend to be more effective in their communication processes than unhappily married couples, and as is stated in The Christian and the Changing Family (Disciples of Christ, 1973), a lack of communication within the family often results in its experiencing a lack of vitality and in many cases breaking apart. Satir (1972) ranks the development of adequate communication patterns as one of the more important abilities that a family must learn for adequate success in their relationships.

Stuart (1969) states that successful marriages can be differentiated from unsuccessful marriages by the frequency and range of reciprocal positive reinforcements exchanged by both partners. Jones (1969) states that in creative relationships, each spouse has a strong sense of personal identity, and each seeks intimacy with the other. These couples always have an active dialogue, see each other as allies, and respect each other's autonomy. A sense of individual identity provides a husband and wife with the capacity to engage in dialogue. Scrutiny of the communication in good relationships reveals the involvement of the couple in an ongoing, flexible dialogue.

Income

Income has a greater effect on marriage than either education or occupation, as observed by Cutright (1971). Hicks and Platt (1970) and Saxton (1968) stress that economic stability is the key, whatever the actual earning level might be.

Locke (1951), in his comparison between happily married and divorced spouses, found that an income "adequate for the needs of the family" lessened the likelihood of divorce. Burgess and Cottrell (1939) also found a moderate positive relationship. When wide ranges of income and marital satisfaction are considered, as in studies of the entire U.S. population by the Census, there is a clear inverse correlation between income and divorced status, and even more between income and separated status.

Financial management is a major source of conflict and adjustment with persons at every income level. Stinnett and Walters (1975) indicate that the possibility for disagreement often arises over how the

money is to be spent. A failure on the part of the couple to coordinate their life interests, goals, and purposes increases the level of disagreement and results in greater dissatisfaction.

Occupation

Numerous studies have shown that divorce proneness is also inversely related to husband's occupational rank. Thus, Goode (1956), Kephart (1955), Monahan (1955), and Weeks (1943) have each shown that couples in which the husband's occupation ranks high have less divorce proneness than those where it ranks low. Part of this result may be attributed to the contribution of income, another part to the higher prestige of the professions and managerial positions.

As Saxton (1968) points out, the important thing for marital stability is that there be an adequate degree of vocational preparedness, in whatever area one chooses, and a lack of vocational ability can create numerous problems in the marriage. Studies have shown various other factors to be involved, such as (a) the level of income (Bernard, 1966); (b) job satisfaction (Ridley, 1973); (c) the degree of involvement in the work (Ridley; 1973); and (d) employment of the wife outside of the home (Axelson, 1963; Orden and Bradburn, 1969).

Religious Involvement

Stinnett and Walters (1975) stress that a positive association between religious involvement and marriage success has been indicated in numerous studies during the last 40 years. They state that couples who have strong religious belief and participation, tend to have less divorce and experience a higher rate of marriage success and happiness, than

those with little religious orientation. Many studies have linked marital adjustment to similarity of religious preference--particularly Chancellor and Monahan (1955), Landis (1949), Monahan and Chancellor (1955), Monahan and Kephart (1954), and Weeks (1943). Burgess and Wallin (1953) noted that frequency of broken engagements was lower for same-faith couples.

Some investigators indicate that this factor might not be due as much to the religious aspect as to the fact that religious people tend to be conventional. And generally, conventional people "...are less willing to seek divorce, and less able to face the truth about their marriages when they take marital adjustment tests" (Stephens, 1968, p. 129). However, much research does indicate that religious beliefs and the strengths that develop through those beliefs, have a positive association with marriage success (Stinnett and Walters, 1975).

Comfortableness

The degree of personal comfortableness within the couple may play an important part in the marriage relationship. Research by Hindman (1972) indicates that this aspect of comfortableness has an effect on many of man's personal involvements, and "...appears to be an extremely important factor involved in mate selection and marriage success" (Hindman, 1972, p. 3). For example, the marriage partner may fail to meet completely the needs of his mate (Landis and Landis, 1968). Burgess and Locke (1963, p. 439) state that "marriage satisfaction appears to be a resultant of the correspondence between the actual and the expected or a comparison of the actual relationship with the alternative, if the present relationships were terminated." Likewise, Blood and

Wolfe (1960b, p. 102) state that the "wife's marital satisfaction is computed by weighting her reported satisfaction with standard of living, companionship, understanding, and love and affection (plus the congruity of her expected and desired number of children), by the comparative importance she attaches to each of these five aspects of marriage."

Thus, the concept of comfortableness would indicate that the failure of having needs met would be of secondary importance, as long as the individual was comfortable in the situation. This concept of comfortableness was substantiated in a study done by Haun (1974), who found a positive relationship between comfortableness and marriage prediction scores.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

Selection of Subjects

The subjects for this study consisted of 143 couples who had publically announced their engagement and future plans to marry. Eleven additional questionnaires were returned by individuals, but were not used in the study, since one member of the couple (usually the male) failed to return his completed copy.

Names of couples in the study were selected by examining the Women's or Social Sections of 71 local Oklahoma newspapers, printed over approximately a five week period in the spring of 1974. The newspapers selected for examination included all that are received in the Department of Journalism and the Office of Public Information at Oklahoma State University, and compose approximately 30 per cent of the total number of 264 newspapers printed within the state of Oklahoma (Weis, 1973). (See Appendix A for a listing of the newspapers used in the sample selection.)

Every couple in the newspaper were included in the sample unless no address for the couple, or at least one of the parents, was given. From the engagement announcements, a total of 510 couples were located and a contact attempted by letter. Of the number contacted, questionnaires were completed and returned from 29 per cent.

One hundred and fifteen of the selected couples did not have a complete address given in their engagement announcement. Rather, the address would be listed simply as: Miss Stormy Brooks, Central State University, Edmond, Oklahoma, or: Miss Stormy Brooks, Enid, Oklahoma. The decision was made to include these couples even though the address might be inadequate. Bulk mailing was used to distribute the questionnaires, which meant that the letter would not be forwarded if the address was lacking essential information. Several letters were returned to us as undeliverable (though this is not the usual post office policy). Therefore, it is probable that some of the questionnaires sent out did not reach their destination at all. With this in mind, the percentage of return was probably actually higher than the 29 per cent.

The decision was made to avoid an attempted follow-up of the non-returned questionnaires. This decision was reached for several reasons: (a) It was the feeling of the researcher that if the original letters were undelivered because of an incomplete address, a follow-up with the same address would be futile, (b) a number of the engaged couples were planning spring weddings. It was felt that if the couple were unwilling to complete the first questionnaire mailed, then the chances were great that they would also ignore a second letter, arriving even closer to the wedding date and the hectic last-minute arrangements, (c) and finally, the decision was made that a failure to return a questionnaire could very well be due to wedding preoccupation or lack of postal delivery rather than any effecting bias.

Instrument

The questionnaire used in this research was developed in a previous study (Haun, 1974), and consisted of three sections (See Appendix B for a sample of the questionnaire form used). The first part of the questionnaire was designed to obtain background information such as age, religious preference, and social class. The McGuire-White Index of Social Status (1955) was used to determine the level of social class. This index uses source of income, occupation and education as indicators of social status.

The second section of the questionnaire used in the analysis of data in this study consisted of questions concerning respondent's perception of his/her own perception of determination to make their marriage endure. It also included the individual's rating of his partner's perception of determination to make the marriage endure.

Questions adapted from the Marriage Prediction Scale, developed by Burgess (Burgess, Locke, and Thomas, 1963), was also included in the questionnaire. Predictive factors of six major studies published in the area of marriage and family life were used as a basis for the scale.

Reliability and validity of the Burgess Scale was established by:

(a) a longevity study of 85 per cent of the original subjects. This included a Marital Adjustment Scale administered to 666 of the 784 original subjects approximately three years after the marriage. A correlation was obtained by Burgess between the marital-adjustment and the engagement-prediction scores of .41 for women and .43 for men. (b) Additional personal information was secured at the time of securing the

engagement data, including interviews with 226 of the couples. Later, 30 judges forecasted the probability of marriage success for each couple using a 14-point scale. A correlation score of .39 for women and .42 for men was found in the marital-adjustment study three years after marriage, which was almost the same as those secured from the engagement-prediction scores. The following statement sums up Burgess' presentation of the value of his study (1963, p. 331), "These studies... indicate that the level of marital adjustment at a later time can be predicted with considerable accuracy from data secured during engagement or marriage."

Analysis of the Data

A percentage and frequency count was used to analyze background information obtained in the returned questionnaires. The chi-square test was used to examine the following hypotheses:

1. There is no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the individual rates his engaged partner's determination to make the marriage endure.
2. There is no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and each of the following variables:
 - a. Sex,
 - b. Degree to which the respondent considers himself to be a religious person,
 - c. Socio-economic status of the respondent,

- d. Degree to which the respondent is satisfied with the kind of person he or she is, and
- e. Degree to which the respondent rates the happiness of his parents' marriage.

The one-way analysis of variance was used to analyze the following hypotheses:

1. There is no significant difference in marriage prediction scores according to the individual's degree of determination to make the marriage endure.
2. There is no significant difference in marriage prediction scores according to the individual's perceptions concerning the fiance(e)'s degree of determination to make the marriage endure.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Description of Subjects

A detailed description of the 286 subjects who participated in this study is presented in Table I. Fifty-one per cent of the respondents were female, and 49 per cent were male. Ages of the respondents ranged from 14 to over 29, with the largest number (59.32%) falling in the 23-24 year category. The smallest group, less than 1 per cent of the respondents, were under age 17, while the greater majority, 71.78 per cent, were between the ages of 19-24.

The majority of the subjects (47.90%), considered themselves to be moderately religious. Thirty-five per cent of the respondents indicated that they attended church services four or more times a month. Twenty-four per cent reported that they usually did not attend at all, as compared to 5.94 per cent who indicated that religion was unimportant in their lives.

An engagement period of between six and 11 months in length was reported by the greatest proportion of the sample (45.96%). An engagement of a year or more was reported by 18 per cent.

The social level of the sample was predominately middle class (79.30%). The majority of the respondents indicated a feeling of comfortableness with their fiance(e) (98.60%), and reported little conflict (62.59%) or jealousy (75.53%).

TABLE I
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUBJECTS

Variable	Classification	No.	%
Sex	Male	139	48.60
	Female	144	51.40
Age	14 and under	1	.25
	15 - 16	1	.25
	17 - 18	30	7.39
	19 - 20	79	19.46
	21 - 22	92	22.66
	23 - 24	35	29.66
	25 - 26	9	7.63
	27 - 28	6	5.09
	29 and over	8	6.78
Degree of Religiosity	Very much	42	14.69
	Much	90	31.47
	Moderately Religious	137	47.90
	Very little, if any	15	5.24
	Anti-religious	2	.70
Frequency of monthly church attendance	No times	69	24.21
	Once	43	15.09
	Two or three times	71	24.91
	Four or more times	101	35.44
Length of Engagement	Less than a month	2	.70
	1 to 5 months	102	35.79
	6 to 11 months	131	45.96
	12 months or more	50	17.54
Degree of self-satisfaction with the kind of person he or she is	Highly satisfied	52	18.25
	Satisfied	189	66.32
	Undecided	33	11.58
	Dissatisfied	11	3.86
	Highly dissatisfied	0	0
Educational Level	Elementary (8th grade)	0	0
	High School	75	26.32
	Two years of college	103	36.14
	College graduate	81	28.42
	Graduate work	26	9.12
Degree of Parental Happiness	Very happy	95	33.33
	Happy	102	35.79
	Average	53	18.60
	Unhappy	19	6.67
	Very unhappy	16	5.61

TABLE I (Continued)

Variable	Classification	No.	%
Social Class	Upper Class	23	8.07
	Upper Middle	121	42.46
	Lower Middle	105	36.84
	Upper Lower	32	11.23
	Lower Lower	4	1.40
Degree of comfortableness felt with the fiance(e)	Always very comfortable	191	67.02
	Usually comfortable	90	31.58
	Uncertain	2	.70
	Usually uncomfortable	1	.35
	Always uncomfortable	1	.35
Degree of conflict within the couple	None	47	16.43
	A little	179	62.59
	Moderate	52	18.18
	A good deal	8	2.80
	Very great	0	0
Degree of childhood happiness	Very happy	105	36.71
	Happy	120	41.96
	Average	49	17.13
	Unhappy	11	3.85
	Very unhappy	1	.35
Frequency of jealousy with the fiance(e)	Very often	10	3.50
	Often	41	14.34
	Uncertain	19	6.64
	Seldom	100	34.97
	Very seldom	116	40.56

Perceptions Concerning Determination
to Make Their Marriage Endure

Percentages and frequency counts were used to examine the perceptions of engaged couples concerning their degree of determination to make their marriage endure. The results concerning each of these perceptions is presented as follows:

Perceptions Concerning Degree to Which the Individual
is Determined to Make the Marriage Endure

As Table II illustrates, the largest percentage (50.69%) of the engaged individuals stated that they were determined to make their marriage endure even though they experienced some unhappiness. The next largest percentage (39.86%) stated that they would strive to make their marriage endure even though they experienced great unhappiness. The determination to make their marriage endure only if it brings satisfaction was reported by 4.54 per cent and the undecided response was reported by 4.89 per cent.

Perceptions Concerning Degree to Which the Individual
Rates the Engaged Partner's Determination to Make the
Marriage Endure

As Table III illustrates, the largest percentage (48.25%) of the engaged individuals perceived they were determined to make their marriage endure even though they experienced some unhappiness. The next largest percentage (42.65%) stated that they felt their partners would strive to make their marriage endure even though they experienced great unhappiness. The smallest proportion of the respondents (3.14%) were

TABLE II
 PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING DEGREE TO WHICH
 INDIVIDUAL IS DETERMINED TO MAKE
 THE MARRIAGE ENDURE

Degree of Determination	No.	%
Endure Even With Great Unhappiness	114	39.86
Endure With Some Unhappiness	145	50.69
Endure Only If It Brings Satisfaction	13	4.54
Undecided	14	4.89

TABLE III
 PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING DEGREE TO WHICH
 INDIVIDUAL RATES ENGAGED PARTNER'S
 DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE
 MARRIAGE ENDURE

Individual Rates Partner's Determination	No.	%
Endure Even With Great Unhappiness	122	42.65
Endure With Some Unhappiness	138	48.25
Endure Only If It Brings Some Satisfaction	9	3.14
Undecided	15	5.24

determined to make their marriage endure only if it brings them satisfaction. The undecided response was reported by 5.24 per cent of the respondents.

Examination of Hypotheses

Hypothesis I. There is no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the individual rates the engaged partner's determination to make the marriage endure.

When this hypothesis was examined by the chi-square test, it was found that a significant relationship existed between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the individual rates the engaged partner's determination to make the marriage endure.

As Table IV illustrates, a chi-square value of 152.78 was obtained indicating a significant relationship at the .001 level. Over 81 per cent of those respondents who reported that they were determined to make their marriage endure even if they experienced great unhappiness, also rated their partners as having the same high degree of determination to make the marriage endure. In contrast, 8.6 per cent of those respondents who reported that they were determined to make their marriage endure even if they experienced great unhappiness, rated their engaged partners as being determined to make the marriage endure only if minimal unhappiness was experienced.

Only approximately 16 per cent of those individuals who stated they were determined to make their marriage endure to the extent of experiencing some unhappiness, perceived their engaged partners would be

determined to make their marriage endure even though they experienced great unhappiness.

In contrast, most of those individuals who reported that they were determined to make their marriage endure even with some unhappiness, also rated their partners determination to make the marriage endure with minimal unhappiness (76.5%).

TABLE IV

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
INDIVIDUAL'S DEGREE OF DETERMINATION TO MAKE
THE MARRIAGE ENDURE AND THE DEGREE TO
WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL RATES THE
PARTNER'S DETERMINATION TO
MAKE THE MARRIAGE ENDURE

Individual's Degree of Determination to Make the Marriage Endure	Engaged Partner's Degree of Determination to Make the Marriage Endure				X ²	Level of Sig.
	Even With Great <u>Unhappiness</u>		Minimal <u>Unhappiness*</u>			
	No.	%	No.	%		
Even With Great Unhappiness	99	81.1	14	8.6		
With Some Unhappiness	20	16.4	124	76.5	152.78	.001
*Only if Marriage Brings Some Satisfaction and Undecided	3	2.5	24	14.8		

*Note: These represent collapsed categories. Minimal unhappiness represents the collapsed categories of some unhappiness, only if it brings satisfaction, and undecided.

Hypothesis II. There is no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and each of the following variables.

- A. Sex,
- B. Degree to which the respondent considers himself to be a religious person,
- C. Socio-economic status of the respondent,
- D. Degree to which the respondent is satisfied with the kind of person he or she is, and
- E. Degree to which the respondent rates the happiness of his parents' marriage.

Hypothesis II (A). There is no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and sex.

The chi-square value obtained showed no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and sex. As Table V indicates, a chi-square value of 1.07 was obtained.

Hypothesis II (B). There is no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the respondent considers himself to be a religious person.

The results indicate that there was a significant relationship between the individual's determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the person considers himself to be a religious

person. As Table VI indicates, a chi-square value of 19.13 was obtained reflecting a significant relationship at the .001 level.

TABLE V
CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL RATES HIS
DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE MARRIAGE
ENDURE AND SEX

Individual's Determination to Make the Marriage Endure	Male		Female		X ²	Level of Sig.
	No.	%	No.	%		
Even With Great Unhappiness	55	39.6	59	40.1		
With Some Unhappiness	70	50.4	75	51.0		
Only if Marriage Brings Some Satisfaction	8	5.8	5	3.4	1.07	n.s.
Undecided	6	4.3	8	5.4		

As Table VI illustrates, the majority of the respondents who rated their degree of religious orientation as very much (59.5%), reported they were determined to make their marriage endure even with great unhappiness, while only 28.3 per cent of those respondents who reported their degree of religious orientation as moderate-little indicated the same high degree of determination to make the marriage endure.

TABLE VI

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL RATES HIS DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE MARRIAGE ENDURE AND DEGREE TO WHICH THE RESPONDENT CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE A RELIGIOUS PERSON

Individual's Determination to Make the Marriage Endure	<u>Degree of Religious Orientation</u>						X ²	Level of Sig.
	<u>Very Much</u>		<u>Much</u>		<u>Moderate- Little*</u>			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Even With Great Unhappiness	25	59.5	45	50.0	43	28.3	19.13	.001
*Minimal Unhappiness	17	40.5	45	50.0	109	71.7		

*Note: These represent collapsed categories. Minimal unhappiness represents the collapsed categories of some unhappiness, only if it brings satisfaction, and undecided.

The majority of respondents rating their degree of religious orientation as moderate-little (71.7%), reported they were determined to make their marriage endure if they experienced minimal unhappiness, while only 40.5 per cent of those respondents who reported their degree of religious orientation as very much indicated the same degree of determination to make the marriage endure.

Hypothesis II (C). There is no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the socio-economic status of the respondent.

The chi-square value obtained showed no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the respondent's socio-economic status. As Table VII indicates, a chi-square value of .43 was obtained.

TABLE VII

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL RATES HIS DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE MARRIAGE ENDURE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF INDIVIDUAL

Individual's Determination to Make the Marriage Endure	<u>Individual's Socio-Economic Status</u>				X ²	Level of Sig.
	Upper & Upper- Middle*		Lower-Middle, Upper-Middle, Lower-Lower*			
	No.	%	No.	%		
Even With Great Unhappiness	60	41.7	54	38.3		
With Some Unhappiness	70	48.6	74	52.5	.43	n.s.
*Only if Brings Satisfaction & Undecided	14	9.7	13	9.2		

*Note: These represent collapsed categories.

Hypothesis II (D). There is no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the respondent is satisfied with the kind of person he or she is.

When this hypothesis was examined by the chi-square test, it was found that a significant relationship existed between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the respondent is satisfied with the kind of person he or she is.

As Table VIII illustrates, a chi-square value of 7.69 was obtained indicating a significant relationship at the .05 level. Over 52 per cent of those respondents who rated themselves as being undecided or dissatisfied with the kind of person he or she is, reported that they were determined to make their marriage endure even if they experienced great unhappiness. In contrast, only 25.0 per cent of those respondents who rated themselves as being highly satisfied with the kind of person he or she is, reported that they were determined to make their marriage endure even if they experienced great unhappiness.

Approximately 47 per cent of those individuals who rated themselves as being undecided or dissatisfied with the kind of person he or she is, stated they were determined to make their marriage endure to the extent of experiencing minimal unhappiness. In contrast, the majority of those individuals who rated themselves as being highly satisfied with the kind of person he or she is (75.0%), reported that they were determined to make their marriage endure with minimal unhappiness.

TABLE VIII

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL RATES HIS
DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE MARRIAGE ENDURE
AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE RESPONDENT
IS SATISFIED WITH THE KIND OF
PERSON HE OR SHE IS

Individual's Satisfaction with the Kind of Person He or She is							
Individual's Determination to Make the Marriage Endure	Highly Satisfied		Satisfied		Undecided & Dissatisfied*		Level of Sig.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Even With Great Unhappiness	13	25.0	77	40.7	23	52.3	7.69 .05
*Minimal Unhappiness	39	75.0	112	59.3	21	47.7	

* Note: These represent collapsed categories. Minimal unhappiness represents the collapsed categories of some unhappiness, only if it brings satisfaction, and undecided.

Hypothesis II (E). There is no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the respondent rates the happiness of his parents' marriage.

The chi-square value obtained showed no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the respondent rates

the happiness of his parents' marriage. As Table IX indicates, a chi-square value of 2.62 was obtained.

TABLE IX

CHI-SQUARE VALUE REFLECTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL RATES HIS DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE MARRIAGE ENDURE AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE RESPONDENT RATES THE HAPPINESS OF HIS PARENTS' MARRIAGE

Individual's Rating of the Happiness of his Parents' Marriage										
Individual's Determination to Make the Marriage Endure	Very Happy		Happy		Average		Unhappy and Very Unhappy*		X ²	Level of Sig.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Even With Great Unhappiness	38	40.0	35	34.3	25	47.2	15	42.9	2.62	n.s.
*Minimal Unhappiness	57	60.0	67	65.7	28	52.8	20	57.1		

* Note: These represent collapsed categories. Minimal unhappiness represents the collapsed categories of some unhappiness, only if it brings satisfaction, and undecided.

Hypothesis III. There is no significant difference in marriage prediction scores according to the individual's degree of determination to make the marriage endure.

The one-way analysis of variance was used to examine this hypothesis. An F score of .51 was obtained indicating that no significant difference existed in marital prediction scores according to the individual's degree of determination to make the marriage endure (Table X).

TABLE X

F SCORE REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN MARRIAGE PREDICTION
SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO INDIVIDUAL'S DEGREE OF
DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE MARRIAGE ENDURE

Individual's Degree of Determination to Make the Marriage Endure	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
With Great Unhappiness	114	153.24		
With Some Unhappiness	145	152.50	.51	n.s.
Only if it Brings Satisfaction	13	153.84		
Undecided	14	154.07		

Hypothesis IV. There is no significant difference in marriage prediction scores according to the individual's perceptions concerning the fiance(e)'s degree of determination to make the marriage endure.

The one-way analysis of variance was used to examine this hypothesis. An F score of 1.25 was obtained indicating that no significant difference existed in marital prediction scores according to the individual's perceptions concerning the fiance(e)'s degree of determination to make the marriage endure (Table XI).

TABLE XI

F SCORE REFLECTING THE DIFFERENCE IN MARRIAGE PREDICTION SCALE SCORES ACCORDING TO INDIVIDUAL'S PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING THE FIANCE(E)'S DEGREE OF DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE MARRIAGE ENDURE

Individual's Degree of Determination to Make the Marriage Endure	No.	\bar{X}	F	Level of Sig.
With Great Unhappiness	122	152.97		
With Some Unhappiness	138	152.52	1.25	n.s.
Only if it Brings Satisfaction	9	157.44		
Undecided	15	153.73		

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

The general purpose of this study was to determine the degree to which engaged individuals are determined to make the marriage endure and to relate such determination to various social and psychological factors. The sample was composed of 143 engaged couples who had publically announced their engagement and future marriage plans. The couples were selected from the Social and Women's Sections of 71 local Oklahoma newspapers in the spring of 1974. The sample members were primarily between the ages of 19 and 24, and were predominately middle class.

The questionnaire consisted of three sections which were utilized in the study: (a) a background information section; (b) questions adapted from the Marriage Prediction Scale, developed by Burgess (Burgess, Locke, Thomas, 1963), and (c) questions designed to ascertain: (1) the individual's determination to make the marriage endure, and (2) the individual's perception of his partner's degree of determination to make the marriage endure.

The chi-square test and the one-way analysis of variance were used to examine each of the hypotheses. The results of this study were as follows:

1. A significant relationship at the .001 level was found to exist between the degree to which the individual rates his

determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the individual rates the engaged partner's determination to make the marriage endure. The majority of those individuals determined to make their marriage endure even with great unhappiness, also rated their partners as being determined to endure the marriage with great unhappiness (81.1%). In contrast, 8.6 per cent of those respondents who reported that they were determined to make their marriage endure even if they experienced great unhappiness, rated their engaged partners as being determined to make the marriage endure only if minimal unhappiness was experienced.

2. There was no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and sex of the respondent.
3. A significant relationship at the .001 level was found to exist between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the respondent considers himself to be a religious person. More than twice as many of the respondents reporting themselves to be very much religious (59.5%) as those reporting their degree of religious orientation as being moderate-little (28.3%), indicated they were determined to make their marriage endure even though they experienced great unhappiness.
4. There was no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the socio-economic status of the respondent.

5. A significant relationship at the .05 level was found to exist between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the respondent is satisfied with the kind of person he or she is. A greater proportion of the respondents reporting they were highly satisfied with the kind of person he or she is (75%) than those respondents who were undecided or dissatisfied with the kind of person he or she is (47.7%), indicated they were determined to make the marriage endure if they experienced minimal unhappiness.
6. There was no significant relationship between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the respondent rates the happiness of his parents' marriage.
7. There was no significant difference in marriage prediction scores according to the individual's degree of determination to make the marriage endure.
8. There was no significant difference in marriage prediction scores according to the individual's perception concerning the fiance(e)'s degree of determination to make the marriage endure.

Discussion

The finding that a significant relationship existed between the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure and the degree to which the individual rates the engaged partner's determination to make the marriage endure seems to be related

to Adams (1951) suggestion that a very important factor in marriage success is the mutual determination of the couple to make the marriage succeed. This finding also coincides with other research indicating that individuals select marriage partners who have similar personality characteristics and values (Moss, Apolonio, and Jensen, 1971; Murstein, 1971; Sindberg, Roberts, and McClain, 1972).

The finding that those respondents having a greater degree of determination to make the marriage endure also rated their degree of religious orientation as very much, coincides with other research (Blood, 1969; Locke, 1951). Blood (1969) states that religiously active families have lower divorce rates than non-religious families. Locke (1951) and Zimmerman and Cervantes (1960) agree with this and state that both in the first and in the later half of marriage, there was significantly less divorce among couples who attended church regularly. Sunday school and church attendance before marriage is positively associated with marriage success (Landis, 1970). Also, research evidence indicates that church attendance is closely related to marital satisfaction for both husbands and wives (Stone, 1954; Burchinal, 1957; Chesser, 1957; and Blood, 1969). As Blood (1969) suggests, this research finding may be partially explained by the fact that the church is an institution devoted to the promotion of strong marriages and families as well as to the promotion of love--particularly the promotion of love in marriage and the family. Incorporation of these values, which religion tends to promote, probably results in the individual developing a higher degree of determination to make the marriage endure.

No significant relationship was found to exist between the individual's degree of determination to make the marriage endure and the

socio-economic status of the individual. This finding is in contrast to several research studies which indicate a significant positive relationship between socio-economic status and marriage stability. The present results suggest that degree of determination to make the marriage endure is not influenced by socio-economic status. However, it should be noted that the majority of the respondents were middle class.

Although the present study found no significant difference in the degree to which the individual rates his determination to make the marriage endure according to sex, many other studies have found significant differences in attitudes toward marriage according to sex (White, 1955; Williamson, 1965; and Walters, Parker, and Stinnett, 1972). Most of these studies have shown that males have a significantly more negative attitude toward marriage. However, the present results suggest that males and females go into marriage with the same level of determination to make the marriage endure.

The present study found no relationship between the individual's determination to make the marriage endure and the happiness of the parents' marriage. However, various research studies indicate that the one factor which seems to be most strongly related to marriage success is the happiness of the parents' marriage (Kirkpatrick, 1963; Hicks and Platt, 1970). This finding may be due to the fact that many individuals whose parent's have experienced an unhappy marriage, may have a high degree of determination to make their own marriages more successful.

The finding that there was no significant relationship between the individual's degree of determination to make the marriage endure and marriage prediction scores appears to suggest that determination is not

as important a factor in marriage success as are other factors such as happiness of the parent's marriage and compatibility of the couple. However, it is possible that if respondents had been asked to rate their determination to make the marriage succeed rather than endure, different results might have been obtained. The respondents may have felt if great unhappiness is experienced in the marriage, the relationship has failed and there is little point in being determined to make such a marriage endure. An important area for future research would be to examine the degree of determination to make the marriage endure and the actual success of married couples.

Areas of Possible Future Study

What is needed at this point are more studies, including a longitudinal study, to determine the relationship between determination to make the marriage endure and marital success and the actual marriage success for couples who have been married for various lengths of time.

Because respondents in this study were primarily from middle class families, future research on the subject of marriage determination should include individuals from various socio-economic levels.

The concept of determination (to make the marriage endure) as an indicator of marital success merits further study. Many instruments deal with marriage satisfaction (Hicks and Platt, 1970). However, these are based on the degree to which the couple internalizes various conventional practices. The couple's feeling of determination to make the marriage endure would seem to be of more importance than merely agreeing with established norms of marital life. Future research efforts might concentrate on the development of a marriage determination

instrument which could measure the couple's degree of determination to make the marriage endure.

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APPENDIX A

NEWSPAPERS USED IN THE SAMPLE

Ada Evening News	Latimer County News-Tribune
Ardmoreite	Lawton Community Guide
Atoka Co. Times	Lawton Constitution
Bartlesville Examiner Enterprise	Lincoln Co. News
Beaver Co. Democrat	Lindsay News
Big Pasture News	Logan Co. News
Bixby Bulletin	McAlester News-Capital
Black Dispatch	Medford Patriot Star
Blackwell Journal Tribune	Miami News Record
Blanchard News	Mountain View
Boise City News	Pauls Valley Democrat
Cherokee Messenger and Republican	Pawhuska Journal Capitol
Claremore Progress	Pawnee Chief
Cordell Beacon	Ponca City News
Daily and Sunday Oklahoman	Pond Creek Herald
Dewey News Record	Poteau News and Valley
Drumright Derrick	Purcell Register
Drumright Journal	Sapulpa Daily Herald
Duke Times	Sayre Sun
Duncan Banner	Seminole Producer
Duncan Eagle	Sequoyah County Times
Edmond Sun and Booster	Shawnee News-Star
El Reno American	Stillwater News Press
Eldorado Courier	Tipton Tribune
Elk City News	Tonkawa News
Enid Morning News	Tulsa Daily World
Fredrick Daily Leader	Vici News
Harper Co. Journal	Wagoner Record-Democrat
Hartshorne Sun	Wagoner Tribune
Hinton Record	Watonga Republican
Hominy News-Progress	Waurika News Democrat
Hughes Co. Times	Weatherford Daily News
Kingfisher Free Press	Wewoka Times
Kingfisher Times	Woodward Co. Journal
Kiowa County Democrat	Yale News
LaFlore County Sun	

APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRE USED IN THE RESEARCH

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS BY DRAWING A CIRCLE
AROUND YOUR SELECTION

Example:

Are you now engaged?

- a. Yes
 b. No

1. Your sex
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
2. As a child, did your parents encourage you to respect the feelings of others?
 - a. Often
 - b. Moderately
 - c. Rarely
3. Do you consider yourself to be a religious person?
 - a. Very much
 - b. Much
 - c. Moderately religious
 - d. Very little, if any
 - e. Anti-religious
4. Do you consider your fiancé(e) to be a religious person?
 - a. Very much
 - b. Much
 - c. Moderately religious
 - d. Very little, if any
 - e. Anti-religious
5. Rate the degree of your own determination to make your marriage endure.
 - a. I am going to have my marriage endure even though I experience great unhappiness
 - b. I am going to have my marriage endure even though I experience some unhappiness
 - c. I am going to have my marriage endure only if it gives me satisfaction
 - d. I am undecided
6. Rate the degree you feel your fiancé(e) would be determined to make the marriage endure.
 - a. He/she would be determined to have our marriage endure even though he/she experiences great unhappiness
 - b. He/she would be determined to have our marriage endure even though he/she experiences some unhappiness
 - c. He/she would be determined to have our marriage endure only if it gives him/her satisfaction
 - d. I am undecided
7. What is the primary source of income of the head of your present family?
 - a. Inherited savings & investments
 - b. Earned wealth, transferrable investments
 - c. Profits, royalties, fees
 - d. Salary, commissions (regular, monthly, or yearly)
 - e. Hourly wages, weekly checks
 - f. Odd jobs, seasonal work
 - g. Public relief or charity
8. What is the occupation of the principal earner of your present family?

9. What is the highest educational attainment of the principal earner of your present family?
 - a. Less than grade 8
 - b. Completed grade 8, but did not attend beyond grade 9
 - c. Attended high school, completed grade 9, but did not graduate
 - d. Graduated from high school
 - e. Attended college or university for 2 or more years
 - f. Graduated from 4-year college
 - g. Completed graduate work for profession
10. Please rate how comfortable you feel with your fiancé(e).
 - a. I always feel very comfortable with him/her
 - b. I usually feel comfortable with him/her
 - c. I am not sure
 - d. I usually feel uncomfortable with him/her
 - e. I always feel uncomfortable with him/her
11. Rate how comfortable you think your fiancé(e) is with you.
 - a. He/she always feels very comfortable with me
 - b. He/she usually feels comfortable with me
 - c. I am not sure
 - d. He/she usually feels uncomfortable with me
 - e. He/she always feels uncomfortable with me
12. What do you think the length of time will be between your engagement and marriage?
 - a. Less than a month
 - b. 1 to 5 months
 - c. 6 to 11 months
 - d. 12 months or more
13. How much conflict is there between you and your fiancé(e)?
 - a. None
 - b. A little
 - c. Moderate
 - d. A good deal
 - e. Very great
14. Rate your degree of satisfaction with the kind of person you are.
 - a. Highly satisfied
 - b. Satisfied
 - c. Undecided
 - d. Dissatisfied
 - e. Highly dissatisfied
15. Do you and your fiancé(e) both desire to have children during marriage?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
16. How happy would you rate your childhood?
 - a. Very happy
 - b. Happy
 - c. Average
 - d. Unhappy
 - e. Very unhappy
17. Do you feel that the strength of your interest in sex, as compared with that of your fiancé(e) is:
 - a. Very much greater
 - b. Much greater
 - c. About the same
 - d. Much less intense
 - e. Very much less intense
18. Are there practices and opinions of your fiancé(e) that you hope to change after your marriage?
 - a. There are very many changes I will try to make
 - b. There are many changes I will try to make
 - c. I am undecided
 - d. There are few changes I will try to make
 - e. There are no changes I will try to make
19. What was the degree of happiness of your parent's marriage?
 - a. Very happy
 - b. Happy
 - c. Average
 - d. Unhappy
 - e. Very unhappy
20. What is the highest level of education you will have completed by the time of your marriage?
 - a. Elementary (8th grade)
 - b. High school
 - c. Two years of college
 - d. College graduate
 - e. Graduate work
21. Is your fiancé(e) jealous of you?
 - a. Very often
 - b. Often
 - c. I am not sure
 - d. Seldom
 - e. Very seldom
22. Are you jealous of your fiancé(e)?
 - a. Very often
 - b. Often
 - c. I am not sure
 - d. Seldom
 - e. Very seldom
23. What is the church affiliation of you and your fiancé(e)?
 - a. Only one of you is a church member
 - b. Neither belongs to a church
 - c. Both belong to same church
 - d. Belong to different churches
24. What is the frequency of your monthly church attendance?
 - a. No times
 - b. Once
 - c. Two or three times a month
 - d. Four or more times
25. Do you think you have practices and opinions that your fiancé(e) will try to change after you are married?
 - a. There are very many changes he/she will try to make
 - b. There are many changes he/she will try to make
 - c. I am undecided
 - d. There are few changes he/she will try to make
 - e. There are no changes he/she will try to make
26. Please write your age: _____

RATE YOURSELF IN THE FOLLOWING TRAITS BY CIRCLING THE PROPER LETTER.
 ANSWER SELECTIONS:
 (Very often: VO), (Often: O), (Undecided: ?), (Seldom: S), (Very Seldom: VS)
 Example: "I think of my fiancée) (VO) O ? S VS

1. I try to see things from my fiancée)'s point of view, even on occasions when our views differ VO O ? S VS
2. I try to understand my fiancée)'s feelings when he/she becomes angry with me VO O ? S VS
3. I try to express to my fiancée) that I recognize his/her feelings VO O ? S VS
4. I feel free to be open in expressing inner feelings or emotions when with my fiancée) VO O ? S VS
5. I feel free to express differences of opinion with my fiancée). VO O ? S VS
6. I feel I am putting on an act or a front when with my fiancée). VO O ? S VS
7. I discuss with other friends personal problems my fiancée) has revealed to me in confidence VO O ? S VS
8. I am honest with my fiancée) VO O ? S VS
9. I trust my fiancée) VO O ? S VS
10. I have a difficult time being interested in things my fiancée) finds interesting VO O ? S VS
11. I am committed to promoting the welfare of my fiancée) even when we are unhappy with each other VO O ? S VS
12. I question the motives behind things my fiancée) says or does . VO O ? S VS
13. I respect the wishes of my fiancée) when making important decisions VO O ? S VS
14. I am considerate of my fiancée)'s feelings VO O ? S VS
15. I see "faults" in my fiancée) VO O ? S VS
16. I say or do things which may tend to "put down" my fiancée) ... VO O ? S VS
17. I feel hostile toward my fiancée) when he/she does not act as I feel he/she should VO O ? S VS

RATE YOUR FIANCE(E) IN THE FOLLOWING TRAITS USING THE SAME CHOICES AS ABOVE

- My fiancée)
1. ...tries to see things from my point of view, even on occasions when our views differ VO O ? S VS
 2. ...tries to understand my feelings when I become angry with his/her VO O ? S VS
 3. ...lets me know he/she is aware of my feelings VO O ? S VS
 4. ...feels free to openly express his/her inner feelings or emotions when with me VO O ? S VS

- My fiancée)
5. ...feels free to express differences of opinion he/she has with me VO O ? S VS
 6. ...puts on an act or front when with me VO O ? S VS
 7. ...tells others personal problems I share with his/her in confidence VO O ? S VS
 8. ...is honest with me VO O ? S VS
 9. ...trusts me VO O ? S VS
 10. ...has a difficult time being interested in things that interest me VO O ? S VS
 11. ...is committed to promoting my welfare, even when we are unhappy with each other VO O ? S VS
 12. ...questions the motives behind what I say or do VO O ? S VS
 13. ...respects my wishes when making important decisions VO O ? S VS
 14. ...is considerate of my feelings VO O ? S VS
 15. ...sees "faults" in me VO O ? S VS
 16. ...says or does things which tend to make me feel that I have been "put down" VO O ? S VS
 17. ...expresses hostility toward me when I do not act as he/she thinks I should VO O ? S VS

CIRCLE THE APPROPRIATE CHOICES AS YOU JUDGE THEY APPLY TO YOU AND YOUR FIANCE(E)

Choices: Very much so 1
 Considerably 2
 Somewhat 3
 A little 4
 Not at all 5

Trait	My Fiance(e)					Myself				
1. Takes responsibility willingly	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
2. Dominating	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
3. A leader in school or other group	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
4. Able to make decisions readily	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
5. Easily influenced by others	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6. "Gives in" in arguments	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
7. Gets angry easily	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
8. Gets over anger quickly	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
9. Affectionate	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
10. Demonstrative	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
11. Sociable - makes friends easily	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
12. Likes belonging to organizations	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
13. Cares what people say and think	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
14. Has a sense of humor	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

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VITA

Kathy Anne Forman Harrison

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENGAGED COUPLES' DETERMINATION TO MAKE THE MARRIAGE ENDURE AND SELECTED SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS

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Personal Data: Born in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, September 7, 1951, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Joe Forman. Married on August 11, 1973 to Larry Dale Harrison. Mother of one daughter.

Education: Graduated from Cashion (Oklahoma) High School in May, 1969. Attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, from 1969-1975. Received the Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State in 1973, with a major in Family Relations and Child Development, Plan II, Early Childhood Education. Studied abroad the summer of 1970 in London, Paris, and Rome sponsored by the American Institute of Foreign Study. Completed the requirements for the Master of Science degree in May, 1975 at Oklahoma State University.

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