

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG MALE GENDER ROLE
CONFLICT, HUSBANDS' PERCEPTIONS OF
FAMILY ENVIRONMENT, PRESENCE OF
CHILDREN, AND HUSBANDS'
PERCEPTIONS OF MARITAL
SATISFACTION

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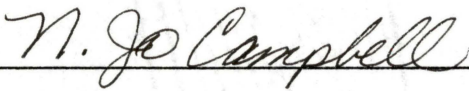
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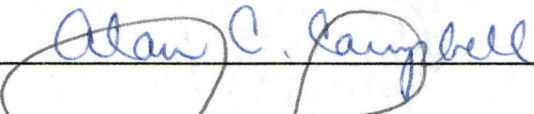
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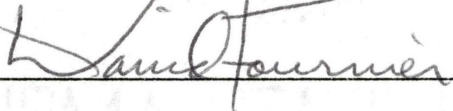
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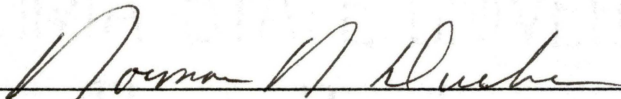


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ABSTRACT

The relationship among male gender role conflict, husbands' perceptions of family environment, presence of children, and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction was investigated in 70 men from a community in the south-central portion of the United States. All subjects were living with their spouse at the time of data collection. Data was collected using a mail out questionnaire packet format and the data was analyzed using bivariate correlation coefficients and multiple regression analyses. Results indicate that in families with underlying interactional features characterized by cooperation and closeness as well as stability and integrity, husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction are higher. Although analysis showed a significantly relationship between male gender role conflict and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction, this relationship can be accounted for using husbands' perceptions of family environment. This has strong implications for the need to assess the family environment when men report low marital satisfaction. Additionally, there is a need to address family environment issues when couples attend premarital counseling.

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INTRODUCTION
Introduction

Marital quality and satisfaction have been the subject of numerous studies for the past 3 decades and is likely the most frequently studied area within the social sciences (Lewis & Spanier, 1979). Many variables have been examined to explain why one marital couple is satisfied in their relationship while another couple is dissatisfied. These variables include such areas as economics (Brinkerhoff & White, 1978), job satisfaction (Gross & Arvey, 1977), premarital living arrangements (Lewis, Spanier, Storm, & LeHecka, 1977), presences of children (Miller, 1975; Rollins & Galligan, 1978), and gender role orientation (Antill, 1983; Schaupp, O'Connell, & Haupt, 1986).

A review of the research on marital quality in the 1960's by Hicks and Platt (1970) expressed, among other things, two important points that relate to the present

study. First, the research in the 1960's focused on isolated variables that were thought to be related to marital quality and secondly, the role of the husband was more crucial to marital happiness than social scientists had previously believed. Spanier and Lewis (1980) found that in the 1970's, men were more frequently included in the research regarding marital satisfaction and a consistent gender difference in respondents had been noted in reported marital satisfaction. Bernard, (1982) asserts that in reality, there are actually two marriages within each union and that these two marriages don't always harmonize with each other.

Numerous studies have addressed the relationship between sex-role orientation and marital satisfaction. A number of studies have shown that agreement between partners as to marital roles is an important variable in marital satisfaction (Aller, 1962; Cutler & Dyer, 1965; Stuckert, 1963; Westley & Epstein, 1960). Beutell and Greenhaus (1982) found that similarity between spouses in work role salience (i.e. similarity of importance placed on work versus non-work) decreased the intensity of the home-nonhome conflict within wives. These authors, however, did not examine the

effect on husbands. Nor did they look at the effect of salience on marital satisfaction. Several studies (Antill, 1983; Schaupp, O'Connell, & Haupt, 1986) found femininity to be positively related to the marital adjustment of both men and women. Other studies have found the relationship between gender-role and marital satisfaction more complex and include interactions between the degree of marital partners' marital sex-role congruence (adherence to tradition vs modern sex-role expectations within the marriage), the direction of incongruence (Li & Caldwell, 1987), and the type of incongruence that occurs (Bowen & Orthner, 1983).

One important related concept is gender-role conflict. O'Neil, Helms, Gable, David, & Wrightsman (1986) have defined gender-role conflict as, "a psychological state where gender roles have negative consequences or impact on a person or others" (pp. 336). Male gender role conflict consist of four factors: 1) success, power, and competition issues, 2) restrictive emotionality, 3) restrictive affectionate behavior between men, and 4) conflicts between work and family relations (O'Neil et al., 1986). Past research suggests that these areas have the potential to be highly related to marital satisfaction.

Although few empirical research studies have examined the effect of male gender role conflict on other characteristics, those that are available tend to show the importance it plays in moderating how men interact with the world in which they live. Scher (1980) has pointed out that ability to become intimate is an important component of the therapy process for men. Additionally, Good, Dell, & Mintz (1989) report that restricted emotionality and restrictive affectionate behavior toward men are both negatively correlated to help-seeking behavior. Retention of high levels of male gender role conflict seems intuitively antithetical to the ability to form an intimate relationship with others, including a marital partner.

One of the most consistent findings with regards to marital satisfaction is the impact of children. Research has repeatedly indicated that the inclusion of children in the family has a negative impact on the satisfaction within most marriages (Rollins & Galligan, 1978). Other studies have found the number of children and the spacing of those children to be unrelated to marital satisfaction (Figley, 1973; Miller, 1975).

Research on father's involvement has shown that increased paternal involvement will increase children's

identification with the father (Proudian, 1983), improve cognitive development (Goldstein, 1983; Kelley & Worrell, 1977), and increase nurturant aspects in children (Campbell, 1989). Ryder (1973) reports that husbands seemed to pay less attention to their wives when the couple had a new child. This attention is now going to the new child and given previously reviewed research, there seems to be positive results for the child and negative results for the marital dyad. However, Miller (1976) found an interaction between the number of children and companionship between the marital couple as related to marital satisfaction.

The importance of the family environment has been shown to be related to various aspects of individuals lives, such as academic achievement (Bradley, Caldwell, & Rock, 1988; Wood, Chapin, & Hannah, 1988), psychological symptoms (Holman & Woodraffe-Patrick, 1988; Mitchell, Cronkite, & Moos, 1983), and self-esteem (Cooper, Holman, & Braithwaite, 1983). Family environment has also been shown to be related to areas of interpersonal interactions such as family disturbances (Moos & Moos, 1976) and social competence (Bell, Avery, Jenkins, Feld, & Schoenrock, 1985).

The literature indicates abundant support for the important impact children have on marital satisfaction. The literature also suggests that fathers involvement with the family and family environment can affect both the children and the marital relationship. It is feasible that the presence of children, family environment, and gender role conflict all relate to marital satisfaction in interactive, complex, and unknown ways.

Statement of the Problem

The present study was designed to examine how the presence of children, husbands' perceptions of family environment, and male gender role conflict were related to the husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction. These relationships were examined individually as well as in combination. The relationships between the interactions among these characteristics and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction were also examined. The following three questions further clarify the problem of the study:

1. What is the relationship between male gender role conflict and husbands' perceptions of their marital satisfaction when family

environment and the presence of children are controlled?

2. What is the relationship between husbands' perceptions of family environment and husbands' perceptions of their marital satisfaction when male gender role conflict and the presence of children are controlled?
3. Does the presence of children affect the relationship or interact with the relationships between male gender role conflict, husbands' perceptions of family environment, and husbands' perceptions of their marital satisfaction?

This problem is important for several reasons. First, the study will add to the limited, but growing, body of literature regarding male gender role conflict. Second, it will be one of the first studies to address the relationship between male gender role conflict and marital satisfaction. Third, the study may provide new information regarding the relationship between the presence of children, male gender role conflict, and family environment, as well as any possible interactions between these variables, to therapists working with marital couples in conflict. Finally, the

study may provide new insights into how males view themselves and their roles in interacting with the world at large.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the present study was to examine the relationship between male gender role conflict, husband's perceptions of family environment, presence of children, and husband's perceptions of marital satisfaction. It is important to understand the background of these areas of research in order to understand the basis for the present study.

The feminist movement that began in the 1960's focused attention on the restrictive gender role socialization and sexism toward women (Freeman, 1984). Research on male gender role conflict is a more recent topic and has yet to be adequately examined. Terman (1938) and Burges and Cottrell (1939) were in the forefront of researchers to examine the relationship between gender and marital satisfaction. In both of these studies, men reported more marital happiness than did women. Recent research has shown this pattern to have continued (Veroff, Douvan, & Kulka, 1981). Numerous studies have attempted to broaden the scope of this research and have examined gender-role orientation

as it relates to marital satisfaction (Antill, 1983; Schaupp, O'Connell, & Haupt, 1986). These studies have consistently found that more feminine gender-role orientations are associated with higher marital satisfaction. Others studies have found that gender role orientation agreement between partners is associated with higher marital satisfaction (Aller, 1962; Cutler, & Dyer, 1965; Stuckert, 1963; Westley & Epstein, 1960). Similar to this, Bahr, Chappell, and Leigh, (1983) found that congruency of marital role expectations was also related to higher marital satisfaction. Male gender role conflict (which might be considered a type of internal congruency) has been shown to be inversely related to both help seeking (Good, Dell, & Mintz, 1989) and expressiveness (O'Neil et al., 1986), both being characteristics that seem intuitively related to satisfaction in a marital relationship. There has been no research specifically addressing the relationship between male gender role conflict and marital satisfaction and the present study was designed to examine if males with higher levels of gender role conflict will have lower level of marital satisfaction.

In the 1960's most researchers of marital satisfaction focused on isolated variables (Hicks & Platt, 1970). These variables included occupational status, income, socioeconomic status similarity, and age at marriage (Hicks & Platt, 1970). There were also some attempts to examine interpersonal variable at this time. As early as 1964, Levinger found that higher levels of marital satisfaction were present when the partners focused on affective aspects of their relationship rather than instrumental aspects. Affective aspects refer to activities such as talking about feelings and empathizing with one's partner while instrumental aspects refer to activities such as daily chores. Additionally, Madden (1982) found that feelings of control over activities were related to higher levels of marital satisfaction.

Other researchers have begun to look at the relationship between the partners. Argyle and Furnham (1983) found that when the partners have shared interests, marital satisfaction is higher. Communication competency, good verbal communication, and congruency of communication have also been shown to be associated with higher marital satisfaction (Gottman & Porterfield, 1981; Navran, 1967; Speisman, Bartis,

White, & Costos, 1985). Higher levels of emotional intimacy between marital partners has also been shown to be related to higher levels of marital satisfaction (Hatch, James, & Schumm, 1986). Since many of these characteristics, especially communication and emotional intimacy, are characteristics of a positive family environment, the present study was designed to examine whether positive family environment is related to higher levels of marital satisfaction.

Giving the consistent findings that the presence (but not necessarily the number) of children decreases marital satisfaction (Figley, 1973; Miller, 1975; Rollins & Galligan, 1978), it is logical to assume that this pattern would not change when gender role conflict and family environment are considered. The importance of family environment has been shown to related to many aspects of an individual's behavior (Bradley, Caldwell, & Rock, 1988; Cooper, Holman, & Braithwaite, 1983; Holman & Woodraffe-Patrick, 1988; Wood, Chapin, & Hannah, 1988). Family environment has been further shown to affect aspects of interpersonal interactions (Bell et al., 1985; Moos & Moos, 1976). Two other important research findings add further significance to the manner in which the presence of children will

interact with other variables; 1) the positive effects father's involvement have on the children (Campbell, 1989; Goldstein, 1983; Kelley & Worrell, 1977; Proudian, 1983) and 2) the interaction found between the number of children and marital companionship on subsequent marital satisfaction.

The present study was designed to examine the amount of variance in husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction that is related to presence of children, husbands' gender role conflict, and husbands' perceptions of family environment.

Hypothesis

The following three hypotheses were made regarding the present study and were stated in terms of the null hypothesis:

1) Male gender role conflict is not related to husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction when family environment and the presence of children are controlled.

2) Husbands' perceptions of family environment are not related to husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction when male gender role conflict and the presence of children are controlled.

3) The variance in husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction cannot be accounted for using a linear combination of the variables of presence of children, husbands' gender role conflict, and husbands' perceptions of family environment, and the interactions among these variables.

Definition of Terms

Male Gender Role Conflict (MGRC) -- The score derived from the Gender Role Conflict Scale -- I (O'Neil et al. 1986). This score represents the amount of internal conflict or comfort an individual has regarding his self-rating in concrete gender-related situations. It is conceptually defined as a psychological state in which socialization regarding role expectation based on gender have negative consequences for the individual or some other person.

Family Environment -- The score derived from the Family Adaptability & Cohesion Evaluation Scale III (FACES III; Olson, Portner, & Lavee, 1985). This score represents the amount of perceived adaptability and cohesion within the family. It is conceptually defined as the underlying family interactional features operating in families characterized by cooperation and closeness as well as stability and integrity.

Presence of Children -- The presence or absence of any biological, adopted, or step-child under the age of 18 living with the subjects in their primary place of residence.

Marital Satisfaction -- The score derived from the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS; Spanier, 1976). This score represents the perceived amount of marital satisfaction one experiences within the marital dyad. It is conceptually defined as the level of cohesion, consensus, satisfaction, and affectional expression one gives and receive within the marital relationship.

Limitations of the Study

The scope of the study was limited by the researcher in several ways. First, the study dealt only with men's view of their marital satisfaction. As noted by past researchers (Bernard, 1982), women's view of the marriage and their marital satisfaction may differ. Thus, readers should take care when generalizing the results of this study to other individuals and subsystems within the marital dyad. Secondly, the study was limited to married men who were presently living with their spouse. Men who were separated from their spouse for reasons of marital discord, work restrictions, or other reasons were not

included and therefore restricts the generalizability of the results. The study was also limited to men living in a town having a population of about 35,000 and located in the geographical region of the south central United States.

This study was further limited since it is designed to utilize voluntary subjects. This did not allow the researcher strict control over some variables. Ethical considerations dictated the implementation of this design. However, subjects who chose not to participate were contacted in order to determine whether or not their non-participation was directly related to the research design or the research questions.

Summary and Overview of Remaining Chapters

Marital satisfaction research and several areas related to marital satisfaction were discussed here. These related areas included presence of children, sex role orientation, and family consideration. A statement of the problem was presented, and the purpose of the study was discussed. A rationale for this research was presented and the important terms specific to this study were defined. The limitations of the

study were presented along with a discussion of the impact these limitations have on the results.

The second chapter will present an historical analysis of marital satisfaction, family environment, the relationship between the presence of children and marital satisfaction, and male gender role conflict. The third chapter will discuss the methods of the study, including subject selection, instrumentation, procedures, and data analysis. The fourth chapter will present the results of the data analysis and the fifth chapter will present a summary of the study and conclusions reached. This chapter will also suggest recommendations for clinicians and recommendations for further research.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Introduction

In reviewing the research regarding marital satisfaction, it is evident that there are several salient related variables. It is also clear that many of the variables have been examined in isolation. The present investigation was designed to extend the existing information by examining the effect several new variables, in addition to any interactions, have on marital satisfaction.

The following review includes a discussion of the major research topics in marital satisfaction. The review will begin with a discourse of the early studies in marital satisfaction. Findings leading to an interest in affective and interactional aspects will be proffered. Then, the three areas most salient to marital satisfaction, the presence of children, family environment, and gender roles, will be presented. A brief summary and conclusion will be provided.

Early Research in Marital Satisfaction

The idea that some marriages were happier than others has been accepted for many decades. When marital quality first became the focus of scientific study, researchers centered their attention on the

association between marital satisfaction, stability, and demographic variables (Hicks and Platt, 1970). Some isolated variables were found to be associated with marital satisfaction but few related in any consistent manner or made any sizable contribution to the explanation of marital satisfaction. Many studies examining these variable even found conflicting results.

Ridley (1973), for example, found that satisfaction with one's work was consistently positively related to marital satisfaction in men but not in women. He concluded the difference to be that men get more interpersonal needs met through their interactions at the workplace and women get more interpersonal needs met through their interactions at home. Kemper and Reichler (1976), using a sample of 219 university students, also found work satisfaction was related to marital satisfaction but in both husbands and wives. However, the instrument used in this study was designed specifically for this study and no reliability or validity information was reported. Therefore, the result may due to artifacts of the instrument rather than any true relationship.

Other studies have shown no relationship between job satisfaction and marital satisfaction. Piotrkowski and Crits-Christoph (1981) used a sample of 198 women selected using a stratified random sampling method from the street list of a Massachusetts town. Using a simultaneous multiple regression method they concluded from their results that no relationship existed between these two characteristics in women. They used several self-report measures of job satisfaction and marital satisfaction. A second study by Locksley (1980) used a structured interview with a national sample of approximately 1,660 persons. Again numerous different measures of marital satisfaction were used and no relationship was found between job satisfaction and marital satisfaction in wives or husbands. Again, there are problems with reliability and validity information being weak and/or not reported.

The issue of the wife's employment outside the home has also been the focus of research in the literature. Axelson (1963) used 122 male subjects to determine if husbands with wives who were working had lower levels of marital satisfaction. He found that maternal employment did in fact decrease marital satisfaction in these men. However, he also found

difficulty in getting men to take the time to respond to the questionnaire. Given the mail survey type design of this research, there is also no means of determining a cause and effect relationship. It may be that low marital satisfaction has led to wives entering the labor force.

Nye (1961) used a sample of 1,993 mothers, all with children in grades one and ten, who had been married at least six years. He proposed to study the effect of maternal employment on marital satisfaction taking into account various contingent conditions. Nye concluded that the husbands' disapproval of the wives' employment status, whether that was a working status or a nonworking status, decreased wives' marital satisfaction. In other words, congruency between husbands' desires for or against maternal employment and actual maternal employment status was indicative of higher marital satisfaction for wives. This research points out the importance of looking at combinations of variables and not just a single variable in isolation. One important limitation is that in Nye's (1961) study, numerous chi-square analyses were repeatedly performed, thus increasing the possibility of type I errors.

Research also began to focus on affective and interactional variables and their effect on marital satisfaction. Levinger (1964) conducted a study focusing on the role of instrumental versus affective aspects of marital relationships. He used 60 middle class married couples, all of whom had children. He concluded that for both husbands and wives, affective aspects, such as talking to each other, giving each other praise, and inquiries about aspects of the partners day, were more important than instrumental aspects in determining marital satisfaction. In order to improve the instrumentation aspects of past research, the author measured instrumental and affective aspects of marital relationships in various ways. He included an interview session and a performance session for each couple. However, the participants were all middle class subjects thus limiting the generalizability of the study.

Navran (1967) also looked at interactional aspects of relationship. Using 228 married men and women, the author examined whether good communication behavior was related to positive marital adjustment. Using the Marital Relationship Inventory (MRI) and the Primary Communication Inventory (PCI) the correlation

coefficient between communication behavior and marital adjustment was found to be .82, indicating a high positive relationship. For verbal communication behavior, the coefficient was .91. These coefficients indicate that as positive communication, especially verbal communication, increases, so does marital quality. The instrumentation of this study was adequate, demonstrating each instrument was both reliable and valid. However, the selection of subjects capitalized on the extreme scores of marital adjustment thus violating the assumption of normal distribution. The strong positive relationship must be considered elevated, and the relationship existing within the normal population is likely to be lower than reported here.

Several researchers began examining the role premarital living arrangement had on levels of postmarital satisfaction. Studies examining the relationship between these two variables have shown conflicting results. A study evaluating the relationship between cohabitation and marriage was conducted by Newcomb and Bentler (1980). They identified couples who had made applications for a marriage license approximately one year prior to the

study. Of these couples, 162 completed initial data collection. Four years later, 68 couples completed the follow-up questionnaire. The follow-up questionnaire included an assessment of the couples premarital living arrangement and the Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Scale assessing marital quality. Using an analysis of variance to analyze the data, they concluded that there was no long-term difference between cohabitating couple and non-cohabitating couples with regards to post marital satisfaction.

Some studies have found mixed results in assessing the relationship between premarital living arrangement and marital satisfaction. DeMaris and Leslie (1984) examined the relationship between cohabitation and subsequent marital quality. They also used couples who had applied for marriage license in a large community in Florida. Again they identified individuals who had been married approximately one year. These authors used the Dyadic Adjustment Scale to measure marital quality. Their results, however, indicated that for women, premarital cohabitation was associated with lower levels of postmarital satisfaction. For men, however, no relationship was found.

Watson (1983) also investigated the effects of cohabitation upon subsequent marital adjustment. Using an identical procedure to identify marital couples who had been married approximately one year, he identified 161 possible subjects and obtained information from 84 couples. He used the Dyadic Adjustment Scale to measure marital adjustment and obtained information regarding the couples premarital living arrangement. His results support the hypothesis that premarital cohabitation is associated with lower levels of postmarital satisfaction in both men and women. However, in a three year follow up (Watson & DeMeo, 1987) using 102 couples of the 149 that were still available from the previously identified population, no difference in postmarital satisfaction was found between premarital cohabitating couples and non-cohabitating couples.

The attempts at understanding the antecedents of marital satisfaction illustrated here were largely unsuccessful at finding simple answers. However, the early research in marital satisfaction indicated the need for further research and the need for more complex studies.

Children and Marital Satisfaction

One of the most consistent findings in the literature regarding marital quality is the influence of children. The research invariably shows that the presence of children under the age of 18 decreases marital satisfaction for both husbands and wives.

In 1970, Renne conducted a study that examined various variables that related to marital satisfaction. She analyzed data from 5163 individuals in Alameda, California who were married and presently living with their spouse. The instrument assessing marital satisfaction was developed for the survey and consisted of 6 questions. The conclusions from this study indicated that the presence of children was associated with lower levels of marital satisfaction. However, the author does not indicate how the data were analyzed. She reported percentages of persons falling into the various categories (based on level of satisfaction and presence of children) and commented on the trends that occur.

Several years later, Miller (1975) conducted a study that attempted to show that child density was a salient variable related to marital satisfaction. Child density is the ratio of children to the years of

marriage. The author randomly chose 140 married individuals from a group of 212 living in the Minneapolis area. Marital satisfaction was measured with an eight item scale. Results did not support the author's hypothesis. No relationship was found between child density and marital satisfaction. Nor was any relationship found between the number of children and marital satisfaction. This leads to the conclusion that the presence of children is important but that the number of children and the amount of time between births is not.

This hypothesis is further supported by Figley (1973), who also conducted a study attempting to show that child density was related to marital satisfaction. The author used 122 couples consisting of faculty, staff, and male graduate students who responded to letters asking for participation. In this study, two established measures of the marital relationship were used, the Locke-Williamson Marital Adjustment Questionnaire and the Bienvenu Marital Communication Inventory. The results match Miller's (1975) results in that the presence of children was associated with lower levels of marital quality but that neither the

number of children nor child density were related to marital satisfaction.

Figley also found an interesting relationship between the stages of family life and marital satisfaction. There was a U shaped curve regarding this relationship indicating that marital satisfaction begins high and gets lower as the family moves toward the middle stages, i.e. as children enter the family. Then when the family reaches the later stages of family life, i.e. when the children leave the parents' home, marital satisfaction increases. The family life stages are 1) beginning family, 2) infant family, 3) preschool family, 4) schoolage family, 5) adolescent family, 6) launching family, 7) postparental family, and 8) aging family. Marital satisfaction was lower for those families where children were present, i.e. infant family through launching family.

This U shaped pattern regarding the relationship between the family life has occurred in numerous other studies using well established instruments such as the Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Scale (Spanier, Lewis, & Cole, 1975), 3 item scales designed for specific projects (Anderson, Russell, & Schumm, 1983) and a combination of several methods (Rollins & Cannon,

1974). The salience of the presence of children on marital satisfaction is impressive.

In attempting to understand more fully the relationship between the presence of children and marital satisfaction, Ryder (1973) recruited 112 couples who had married in the past 2 years. All subjects had applied for marriage licenses in the Washington D.C. area. About a third of the couples had children since their marriage, one third of the wives were pregnant, and one third remained childless. When asked about specific aspect of their marital relationship the wives with children indicated that they wished their husbands would pay more attention to them. The author concluded that some amount of companionship was lost with the inclusion of a child into the family.

Miller (1976) conducted a research project that addressed the relationship between presence of children, companionship, and marital satisfaction. Using 140 randomly selected married adults in the Minneapolis area, he measured various aspects of the marital relationship using a questionnaire developed specifically for this study. The author reports reliability coefficients ranging from .68 to .81. The relationship he found supports the hypothesis of Ryder

(1973). The data indicates that children have a direct impact on companionship between marital partners and through companionship, children affect marital satisfaction.

In another study related to children and marital satisfaction, Harriman (1986) enlisted 115 women and 90 men all of whom had a child in the last 12 months. One hundred and twelve subjects were first time parents, while the rest had at least one other child in addition to the newborn. Discriminant analysis results showed no difference between the marital satisfaction of first time parents and of those parents with other children.

Using the Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Short Form and a questionnaire design for this study to measure changes due to parenthood, she found that low attention paid to the subject by their spouse was related to marital satisfaction, indicating further support for the hypothesis that companionship between marital partners decreases with the inclusion of a child.

One aspect is important to note. This relationship between the presence of children and marital satisfaction does not seem to be present when adult children are sharing the same household with older parents. Suitor and Pillemer (1987) conducted a

study using 677 persons 65 years of age and older who were living with their spouse and had at least one child 18 years or older living in the household. They conducted structured interviews with these subjects and found no relationship between the presence of the children and marital satisfaction.

Family Environment Research

Researchers have examined how family environment affects various aspects of individuals' behavior and functioning. Recent articles regarding the association between family environment and academic performance have shown a consistent relationship that replicates earlier works. Bradley, Caldwell, and Rock (1988) examined how family environment was related to school achievement and classroom behavior. They used 42 normal 4th and 5th graders, representing a wide range of diverse backgrounds, from the Little Rock School district. They used the HOME Inventory to measure family environment, the students' SRA Achievement Tests to measure achievement, the Classroom Behavior Inventory to measure classroom behavior. Analyzing the results by means of a series of bivariate correlation coefficients, their results indicate that home environment is related to academic achievement and

classroom behavior. The more positive the home environment is, the higher the students' achievement and the lower the level of behavioral problems. However, there were some problems with this study. Due to the low sample size, caution should be used in generalizing the results. Additionally, the authors used a series of bivariate correlations, thus increasing the possibility that the results are due to chance.

In a study exploring adolescents' perception of family environment as related to achievement level in high achievers and low achievers, Wood, Chapin, and Hannah (1988) used 52 high school students from a small religiously oriented private school. The high and low achievers were categorized based on the Differential Aptitude Test and were matched on gender and grade. Family environment was determined using the Family Environment Scale. The results give further support that family environment is related to achievement showing that higher achievers have more positive family environments. Again, low numbers of subjects and a series of analysis of variance tests give cause to be cautious in generalizing.

Although both of these studies were conducted with predominantly Anglo population, there is support that this same phenomenon occurs within some minorities groups. Soto (1988) conducted a study to examine difference in the home environment of higher and lower achieving Puerto Rican children. He use fifty-seven 5th and 6th graders all of whom were in mainstream English speaking classrooms. Using the Majoribanks Family Environment Schedule to measure family environment and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills to measure achievement he found a similar pattern of association. Higher levels of achievement were associated with higher levels of family involvement and positive family environment.

Although there are numerous technical and methodological problems in all three studies, taken together they indicate a pattern of association between family environment and achievement. The diversity of methods, populations, instruments, and procedures reflect the salience of the relationship.

Other authors have examined how family environment is related to psychological aspects of individuals' lives. In a study that examined the relationship between family environment and symptom existence,

Mitchell, Cronkite, and Moos (1983) compared 157 community couples with 157 couple in which one of the partners was clinically depressed. Each depressed couple was matched by one couple living in the same neighborhood. Using the Family Environment Scale (FES) and analyzing the data with a 2 factor MANOVA, they concluded that negative family interactions and environments were related to clinical depression. The process the authors performed to match the couples did in fact control for many extraneous variable such as age, socioeconomic status, and education level. An important addition to the design would have been marital satisfaction and could easily have been included; however, the authors did not address this issue within the study.

Holman and Woodraffe-Patrick (1988) also examined how family environment was related to psychological symptomatology. They randomly selected 300 students from a junior high school, chosen to represent a wide cross-section of the general population, and asked them to complete the Piers-Harris Children's Self-Concept Scale and the conflict subscale of the Family Environment Scale. Using a simultaneous multiple regression, they found that family cohesion was related

to anxiety and happiness. However, it should be noted that factor analysis of the FES has revealed that the cohesion subscale alone does not represent a factor and should not be used by itself (Boake & Salmon, 1983; Fowler, 1982; Fowler, 1981). Therefore, it is necessary to question just exactly what these results are indicating.

In a study examining the relationship between family environment and family disturbances, Moos and Moos (1976) used 285 families obtained from various sources. These subjects were recruited through churches, newspaper ads, a local high school, a juvenile probation facility, and a psychological clinic. The authors defined family disturbances as problems with adolescents, psychological problems, and level of alcohol consumption. They concluded that family environment is related to family disturbances. Their results were obtained using a nonrandom sample and the authors do not report how they analyzed the relationship. Frequency of occurrence is discussed but no mention is made of data analysis.

Cooper, Holman, and Braithwaite (1983) investigated the relationship between children's self-esteem and perceptions of family cohesion and support,

aspects of family environment. Using 258 boys and 209 girls in the 5th and 6th grade of six randomly selected primary schools, they administered the Coopersmith Self-Esteem Inventory and a specially developed questionnaire measuring family cohesion and support. They found that lack of closeness in the family environment was related to lower levels of self-esteem in the children. Their use of frequency data when continuous variables were measured appears to have unnecessarily reduced the precision of the observed relationship and thus reduced the accuracy of the results. However, their selection process was satisfactory as was their return rate of 80%.

Several authors have begun looking at how family environment was related to more inter-personal aspects. Henton, Lamke, Murphy, and Haynes (1980) explored the relationship between family environment and the ability to deal with crises. They asked 182 first semester freshmen, 125 women and 57 men, at a large southwestern university to complete the Halpern's Crisis Scale, an instrument measuring one's reaction to crisis, and a questionnaire designed to gauge the availability and estimate the likelihood of receiving family support. Henton et al. (1980) found significant correlations

between the ability to deal with crisis and anticipated visits with family but the coefficients were small. The coefficients ranged from .27 for men to .21 for women. The authors make an unjustified assumption in equating the anticipation of family visits and the availability of family support with a positive family environment. Also in this study, the ability to find other alternatives to family support, such as student groups, was not controlled in any way. This factor could have a great impact on the importance the subjects placed on the presence or lack of family support.

Foreman and Foreman (1981) investigated the relationship between family environment and personality functioning. They used 80 high school students from three different psychology classes and asked them to complete the Family Environment Scale and the High School Personality Questionnaire. One aspect of how individuals relate to others, assertiveness, was found to be related to family environment. The results indicate that positive family environments are associated with higher levels of assertiveness. This study does not indicate how the classes were chosen and since a series of multiple regression analyses was

conducted, the possibility of a false significant relationship is increased.

In a study by Bell et al. (1985), social competence was examined in relation to family environment. The authors defined social competence as social self-esteem, interpersonal expressiveness, and satisfaction with peer relationships. The subjects involved in their study included 985 male and 1328 female freshmen from two southwestern universities who were recruited at the time of preregistration and during the first semester. Each respondent completed the Texas Social Behavior Inventory, the Bem Sex Role Inventory, and two instruments developed for this study, one measuring aspects of social competence and one measuring family environment. They statistically controlled for subjects' socioeconomic status, achievement levels, and the university they attended and used a canonical correlation to analyze the data. Their results indicate that family environment is positively related to social competence. The closer the families, the more socially competent the individuals within the family will be. One of the positive aspects of this studies is that the procedure used for analyzing the data, canonical correlation, is

appropriate given the type of variables used. Other research projects have used a series of univariate tests which increases the possibility of false positive results. These authors also use a variety of self-report instruments, thus addressing instrumentation issues.

Male Gender-Role Conflict and Marital Satisfaction

One area of research that has only recently begun to be addressed in the scientific literature is male gender role conflict. To understand how this concept is related to marital satisfaction, an examination of other gender related research is necessary.

One finding within the literature on marital satisfaction that appears to be very salient is the relationship between gender roles and marital satisfaction. In a study of 108 married couples living in a large metropolitan area, Antill (1983) examined the relationship between husbands and wives sex role orientation and marital happiness. The author used a 2 way ANOVA design to examine the relative impact of spouses' gender role orientation and found that femininity was positively related to marital happiness in both husbands and wives.

In a similar study, Schaupp, O'Connell, and Haupt (1986) examined the relationship among gender role self-concepts and marital adjustment. Using 107 married couples in a suburb of New York City, they also found that femininity predicted marital satisfaction for both men and women. In both of these studies, nonrandom samples were used, thus making their generalizability questionable. Antill identified and approached potential subjects at local supermarkets. However, the instruments used in both of these studies have excellent reliability and validity indices.

Other researchers have attempted to carry this research further and examined congruency of partner attitudes as it relates to marital satisfaction. Bowen and Orthner (1983) examined the relationship between the gender role congruency of married couples and their marital satisfaction. They used 331 military couples and classified them as one of four marital dyad types, two of which can be considered congruent and two incongruent. The congruent marital types consisted of both husbands and wives having traditional gender role attitudes (TT) or both husbands and wives having modern gender role attitudes (MM). The incongruent marital types consisted of traditional husbands and modern

wives (TM) and modern husbands and traditional wives (MT). The authors hypothesis was only partly supported. The results indicated that, as a whole, congruency of sex role orientation was related to higher marital satisfaction. However, when the four groups are separated in types (i.e. TT, MM, TM, MT), one incongruent marital type, MT, indicated similar marital adjustment as did congruent marital types. This contradiction indicates that some other variable or variables are operating upon marital adjustment of which the authors were unaware.

In order to account for the discrepancy found within these results, Li and Caldwell (1987) completed a study for the purpose of examining the effects of egalitarianism of marital sex role orientation on marital adjustment. They proposed that in the case of incongruency of marital sex role orientation, the direction of the incongruency would be more important than the incongruency itself. Their results do in fact support this contention and do account for the discrepancy found by Bowen and Orthner (1983). Li and Caldwell found that when the husband's marital sex role orientation was more egalitarian than the wife's, higher levels of marital satisfaction were reported,

and that when the husband's marital sex role orientation was less egalitarian than the wife's, lower levels of marital satisfaction were reported. These results were consistent using both husband and wife's reported marital satisfaction.

In another study, congruency of husbands and wives work role saliency was examined to determine its relationship to role conflict in women. Beutell and Greenhaus (1982) used 115 married college women, all of whom had at least one child at home. Each subject completed an instrument measuring inter-role conflict and work role salience (the importance place on work). Each subjects' spouse also completed an instrument measuring work role salience. Their results indicate that neither wives nor husbands work role salience alone predicted the wife's inter-role conflict but that if the husband and wife held congruent work role salience attitudes, the intensity of the wife's inter-role conflict was less than if they held incongruent work role salience attitudes. The authors did not gather data regarding the inter-role conflict of husbands. This study continues to show the importance that congruency has in relationship to marital interaction.

There have been numerous other studies looking at the how gender roles produce conflict within women. Generally, gender role conflict in women has been studied in the context of home-nonhome role conflict and athletic involvement. Past studies have shown that the home role is the most salient role expressed by women (Hall & Gordon, 1973; Poloma & Garland, 1971). Several studies have also shown women to experience conflict when working outside the home. Hall and Gordon (1973) examined whether working wives had higher levels of role conflict than did housewives. They sent a mail questionnaire and obtained 109 responses. Their results did indeed support this hypothesis. A series of t-test analysis were used and they found a significant relationship between employment and role conflict.

In another study, Farmer and Bohn (1970) examined the effect reducing home-nonhome role conflict had on career interest. Using 50 working women, the authors requested that the subjects take the Strong Vocational Interest Blank for Women (SVIB-B) twice, once with the normal instructions and once with conflict reducing instructions. Their results indicate that gender role conflict is an important variable in career motivation.

They found that regardless of marital status, reducing home-nonhome conflict increased career interest.

Although they had a small sample, this is one of the few studies that manipulated the independent variable and is able to show a cause and effect relationship.

Other studies of female gender role conflict revolve around women's involvement in athletics. Athletics is considered a masculine activity in U.S. society (Wark & Wittig, 1979). Anthrop and Allison (1983) conducted a study to assess the perceived and experienced role conflict of high school athletes. The authors administered a survey to 133 female varsity athletes. Results, using a one-way ANOVA, indicated that those individuals participating in both socially approved female sports and non-socially approved female sport experienced more role conflict than did individuals participating in socially approved female sports alone.

Van Meter and Agronow (1982) conducted a study to examine how gender role conflict affects various other aspects of married college women's lives. One hundred and thirty-three subjects responded to a mail questionnaire. Using bivariate correlations, the result indicate that female gender role conflict is

associated with poorer health and lack of emotional support from the family. An important aspect of this research that related to the present study is that a strong relationship was found between role conflict and marital satisfaction. Higher levels of female role conflict were associated with lower levels of marital satisfaction.

Male gender role conflict has had significantly less attention in the literature. It was only in the late 70's and early 80's that theoretical writings began to address this issue (Lewis, 1979; O'Neil, 1981a; O'Neil, 1981b; O'Neil et al., 1986; Scher, 1981; Washington, 1982). These writings suggested that gender role conflict in women was related to areas of competition while gender role conflict in men was related to areas of relationship building. As of yet, there have been very few studies examining male gender role conflict empirically.

In one study by Davis and Walsh (1988), the authors examined the relationship between male gender role conflict and two variables of psychological well being, anxiety and self esteem. They used a sample of 304 males from a large midwestern university and asked the respondents to complete the Rosenberg Self-Esteem

Scale, the Gender Role Conflict Scale, and the Jackson Personality Inventory-Anxiety Scale. Their results support the hypothesis that gender role conflict is negatively related to psychological well being. Higher levels of male gender role conflict are related to higher levels of anxiety and lower levels of self-esteem.

O'Neil et al. (1986) compared men's gender role conflict with levels of expressiveness using the Personal Attributes Questionnaire. Subjects were 527 college students at two midwestern universities with an average age of 19.8 years. Using a MANOVA and subsequent univariate analysis of variance, the results indicate that those men with higher levels of gender role conflict indicated lower levels of expressiveness.

Good, Dell, and Mintz (1989) also found evidence that male gender role conflict affects how men interact with others. In a study examining the impact male gender role conflict has on help-seeking, they used 401 undergraduate men in undergraduate psychology courses. Employing a canonical correlation analysis of their data, results indicated that higher levels of gender role conflict were associated with lower levels of willingness to seek help. They concluded that the

popular myth of the "strong and silent" type of male who believes he doesn't need help from others is still very much a reality.

The sampling in each of these studies consisted of college students and did not include individuals outside the college setting. Although this method leaves much to be desired, the consistent pattern showing the effect gender role conflict has on men's lives is striking. In these studies, gender role conflict has been shown to be associated with men's ability to express themselves and willingness to form relationships, both important aspects within marital relationships.

Summary of Literature Review

Several salient aspects of the marital satisfaction literature were examined here. Much of the research indicates a likely relationship between presence of children, family environment, and male gender-role conflict and marital satisfaction. Affectionate interaction, attention to one's partner, and the ability to form relationships are all necessary components of marital relationships. The critical role presence of children, family environment, and gender role conflict have on affection, attention, and

relationship building is evident in this review of the literature. The conclusions reached from this literature review suggest that the presence of children, family environment, and male gender role conflict are related to the husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction.

METHODS

The methods and procedures of the study are presented in this chapter. For the purpose of presentation, the chapter is divided into four sections, namely, description of the subjects, description of the research instrumentation, description of the procedures, and data analysis.

Subjects

Subjects were obtained from a community having a large state university and located in the south central portion of the United States. A total of 309 potential participants were identified through the use of two telephone directories. Two hundred and seventy-nine were identified through a directory which lists familial composition and addresses (Johnson Directory Division, 1988) and 30 were identified through a telephone directory listing students within university housing. Due to the mobility of the student portion of the population, these members of the population were not identified in the first telephone directory. Thus, a sample based only on the first directory would not provide an accurate portrayal of the population. All potential participants were identified using a random numbers table. Of the 309 potential participants

contacted and furnished a questionnaire packet, 70 returned usable responses for a response rate of 23%. The total number of subjects in this study was 70.

The sample was composed of 70 men who were married and living with their spouses at the time of data collection. Subjects' ages ranged from 20 to 85 with a mean of 40.1 and a standard deviation of 15.0. The length of their marriages ranged from eight months to 67 years and 3 months with an average of 14 years and 1 months and a standard deviation of 15 years 0 months. The subjects' length of marriage indicated a concentration of marriages of shorter length with a few marriages being considerably longer. Thus, marriages of longer length may have had more effect on the results than would occur if subjects' lengths of marriage were normally distributed.

Seventy-nine percent of the sample were from a Caucasian ethnic background, 7% were from a Native American ethnic background, 3% were from a Black American ethnic background, 3% were from an Hispanic ethnic background, 1% were from an Asian ethnic background, and 9% listed their ethnic background as "other". Three percent of the sample did not complete high school, 23% had a high school diploma, 7% had a

associates degree, 27% had a bachelors degree, and 40% had completed a graduate degree. Fifty-six percent of the sample had children under the age of 18 in the home, while 44% percent did not.

Instruments

Four instruments were used in the study. The descriptions of the instruments follow.

Personal Data Sheet

The Personal Data Sheet was used to obtain demographics and background information from the subjects. An example of the Personal Data Sheet can be found in Appendix A.

Gender Role Conflict Scale - I

The Gender Role Conflict Scale - I (GRCS-I) was developed by O'Neil et al., (1986). It was designed to measure aspects of male gender role conflict. Male gender role conflict is defined as a psychological state where gender roles have negative consequences or impacts upon the person or upon others.

The GRCS-I consists of 37 statements concerning men's thoughts and feelings about their gender role behaviors. Subjects report the degree to which they agree or disagree with each statement on a six-point scale ranging from one (strongly disagree) to six

(strongly agree). Each statement expresses a gender-role conflict pattern and is scored such that a high score reflects and assumes an expression of gender-role conflict.

Validity. The instrument was factor analyzed using oblique rotation by O'Neil et al. (1986) and there were four factors found. The factors identified were: 1) success, power, and competition issues, 2) restrictive emotionality, 3) restrictive affectionate behavior between men, and 4) conflicts between work and family relations. Factor loadings on factor 1 ranged from .41 to .72, on factor 2 from .35 to .78, on factor 3 from .48 to .71, and on factor 4 from .45 to .70. Additionally, there were no items included on any factor that loaded more than .30 on any scale other than the scale with primary loading. The four factors explained 36% of the total variance.

It has also been shown that men who score high on the restrictive emotionality and restrictive affectionate behavior factors of the GRCS-I also scored lower on the Personal attributes Questionnaire (PAQ), an instrument measuring expressive characteristics (O'Neil et al. 1986).

Reliability. The reliability estimates of the GRCS-I were calculated using Cronbach's alpha (O'Neil et al. 1986). They were .85 on factor 1, .82 on factor 2, .83 on factor 3, and .75 on factor 4. Four-week test-retest reliabilities (N=17), calculated using the Pearson product moment correlation, were .84 for factor 1, .76 for factor 2, .86 for factor 3, and .72 for factor 4. Good, Dell, and Mintz (1989) found internal consistency reliability (N=401), using Cronbach's alpha, to be .86 for factor 1, .84 for factor 2, .88 for factor 3, .78 for factor 4, and .89 for the entire scale.

Family Adaptability & Cohesion Evaluation Scale III

The Family Adaptability & Cohesion Evaluation Scale III (FACES III) was developed by Olson, Portner, and Lavee (1985). It was designed to measure two dimensions of the family environment, family adaptability and family cohesion.

The FACES III consists of 20 items concerning the interpersonal relationship among family members. Subjects report the degree to which each statement describes their family on a five-point likert type scale ranging from one (Almost Never) to five (Almost Always). All responses to the items were totaled and

this totaled score indicates a cohesive, adaptive family environment. Thus the higher the score the more cohesive and adaptive the family environment. It should be noted that this is a modification of the original authors method of scoring.

Validity. Factor analysis of the FACES III indicates two factors present within this instrument (Olson, Portner, & Lavee, 1985). These two factor have been described as adaptability and cohesion. Factor loadings on cohesion range from .39 to .69. Factor loadings on adaptability range from .34 to .48. Additionally, items for the instrument were chosen only if they clearly loaded on only one factor. The correlation between the two factors was near zero ($r=.03$) and the correlation between the two factors in FACES III and social desirability ranges from .00 to .35.

FACES III has also been shown to discriminate between "disturbed" families and "normal" families (Clarke, 1984). Disturbed families were defined as having at least one member diagnosed as suffering from schizophrenia or neuroses. In addition, FACES III has been shown to discriminate between families who have

received treatment and those who have never been in treatment (Clarke, 1984).

Reliability. Internal consistency estimates for the FACES III range from .67 to .68 (Olson, Portner, & Lavee, 1985). Test-retest reliability studies over four-week time intervals have yielded estimates ranging from .80 to .83 (Olson, Portner, & Lavee, 1985).

Dyadic Adjustment Scale

The Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS) was developed by Spanier (1976). This instrument was designed to measure the satisfaction of marital and other similar dyads. Marital satisfaction is defined as the level of cohesion, consensus, enjoyment, and affectional expression within the marital relationship.

The DAS consists of 32 statements concerning various aspects of a marriage or similar dyadic relationship. Subjects report the degree to which they and their partner agree or disagree to each statement as it concerns their dyadic relationship. On 27 of the items the subjects' responses may range from zero (always agree) to five (never agree). On two of the items subjects respond to how often activities occur within the dyad and the responses may range from zero (never) to four (every day). Two items ask respondents

to indicate if the following areas have been areas of disagreement in the past few weeks (yes or no) and one item ask respondents to indicate the degree of happiness with their dyad on a seven point scale (0 being extremely unhappy and 6 being perfectly happy).

Validity. A factor analysis using oblique rotation of the DAS indicated that there are four factors (Spanier, 1976). They are 1) dyadic satisfaction, 2) dyadic cohesion, 3) dyadic consensus, and 4) affectional expression. Factor loading on factor one ranged from .32 to .82, on factor two from .50 to .71, on factor three from .34 to .73, and on factor four from .48 to .57.

Content validity of the DAS was evaluated using three judges (Spanier, 1976). Items included in the instrument were judged to be relevant measures of dyadic adjustment, consistent with the nominal definition for dyadic adjustment, and carefully worded with appropriate fixed choice responses.

Criterion-validity of the DAS was demonstrated by the instrument successfully discriminating between married couples and divorced couples. Scores on the DAS also have high positive correlations with another widely used marital satisfaction inventory, the Locke-

Wallace Marital Adjustment Scale (Locke & Wallace, 1959). The resulting coefficients ranged from .86 to .88 (Spanier, 1976).

Reliability. The internal consistency estimates of the DAS, calculated using Cronbach's alpha, were .94 for factor 1, .86 for factor 2, .90 for factor 3, and .73 for factor 4. For the total scale the reliability coefficient was .96. Other researcher have found similarly high levels in reliability with coefficients ranging from .91 to .96 (Sharpley & Cross, 1982; Spanier & Thompson, 1982).

Procedures

Data were collected for this study in the spring of 1990. All potential participants, except those who had already returned a the questionnaire, were contacted one time via phone by persons not associated with the study and who were not aware of the purpose of the research. The purpose of this contact was to encourage the potential participants to complete the questionnaire.

The questionnaire packets contained two copies of the letter of informed consent (Appendix B; one to be signed and returned and one for the participants to keep), a personal data sheet, a copy of the GRCS-I, a

copy of FACES III, a copy of the DAS, and a postage paid, pre-addressed return envelope. The potential participants were informed that: 1) the information would be used in dissertation research; 2) the confidentiality of their responses would be carefully observed; 3) participation was voluntary; 4) the questionnaire would take about 20 minutes to complete, and 5) feedback on the results of the study would be available to them after completion of the study.

The personal data sheet (Appendix A) gathered demographic data about each participant. Each respondent was asked their age, marital status, length of marriage, ethnic background, education level, and age as well as gender and status (biological, adopted, or step-child) of children living in their home. After participants completed the personal data sheet, they completed the GRCS-I, FACESIII, and the DAS. Directions for completing these instruments and the answer sheets were included in the questionnaire packets. A postage paid, pre-addressed stamped envelope was included in the packet for easy mailing of the completed questionnaire.

All instruments were hand scored. There were three scores derived from the questionnaire instruments

(representing the variables previously identified) and used in the analysis of the data. These scores were male gender role conflict, husbands' perceptions of family environment, and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction. Presence of children was also used in the analysis of the data and was derived from the personal data sheet.

Analysis of Data

Since there was multiple independent variables, the data in this study were analyzed using a correlation matrix and a standard multiple regression procedure (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983) with MGRC (as measured by the GRCS-I), husbands' perceptions of family environment (as measured by FACES III), presence of children (as determined through the personal data sheet), and the interaction between these variables as the independent variables. The dependent variable consisted of husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction (as measured by the DAS). The alpha level was set at .05. The total amount of variance was determined to examine the predictive potential of all independent variables. In addition, the unique variance of each variable was examined to determine the

amount of variance each variable possessed separate from all other variables.

There are several assumptions regarding the use of multiple regression. These include that the characteristics are normally distributed within the population, the relationship between independent and dependent variables is linear, homoscedasticity (equal variability of error of predicted dependent variable scores throughout the range of the scores), and lack of multicollinearity. These assumptions were tested within this research project to insure the appropriate use of multiple regression analysis. Normality was tested by inspecting the histograms and analyzing the skewness of the data. Linearity was tested by inspecting the scatterplots of the variables. Homoscedasticity was tested by inspecting the standardized scatterplot of the residuals. Lack of multicollinearity was tested by inspecting the correlation matrix of the independent variables.

Summary

Subjects for this study were 70 married men who were living with their spouses at the time of data collection. The study examined the relationship the presence of children, husbands' perceptions of family

environment, and male gender role conflict had with husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction, both individually and in combination with each other. Husbands' perceptions of family environment were measured using the FACES III, male gender role conflict was measured using the GRCS-I, and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction were measured using the DAS. The procedures for the administration of the instruments consisted of a mail questionnaire packet and the data were analyzed using a multiple regression analysis.

RESULTS

Introduction

This chapter of the dissertation deals with the presentation of the results. The chapter has been divided into four sections. First, a brief description of the statistical procedure is presented. Then three sections which correspond to the null-hypotheses of the study are provided. Each of the final three sections includes a summary of the hypotheses, presentation of statistics, and an analysis of the findings.

Statistical Procedure

The null hypotheses investigated in this study were: 1) male gender role conflict is not related to husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction when family environment and the presence of children are controlled, 2) husbands' perceptions of family environment are not related to husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction when male gender role conflict and the presence of children are controlled, and 3) the variance in husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction cannot be accounted for using a linear combination of the variables of presence of children, husbands' gender role conflict, and husbands'

perceptions of family environment, and the interactions among these variables.

Three independent variables were used in this study which included male gender role conflict, husbands' perceptions of family environment, and presence of children. The one dependent variable used was husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction. The independent variable of male gender role conflict was operationalized as the score derived from the Gender Role Conflict Scale -- I (GRCS-I; O'Neil, et al., 1986). The independent variable of husband's perception of family environment was operationalized as the score from the Family Adaptability & Cohesion Evaluation Scale - III (FACES III; Olson, Portner, & Lavee, 1985). The independent variable of presence of children was determined using self report of any children presently living with the subject. Husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction was operationalized as the score from the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS; Spanier, 1976). An alpha level of .05 was established for the study. A total of 309 potential participants were contacted for inclusion in the study and 70 returned usable responses to the questionnaire, resulting in a return rate of 23%. In order to have an

80% chance of detecting an effect size of .15 at an alpha level of .05, power analysis indicates a need for 66 subjects (Cohen & Cohen, 1983). Since the present study exceeded this number, it was determined by the researcher that the power of this study was adequate.

A standard multiple regression procedure was used to analyze the data. Before analyzing the results, several assumptions underlying a standard multiple regression were tested to determine the appropriateness of this procedure. An inspection of the standardized scatterplot of the residuals indicated that the assumption of homoscedasticity was satisfied for this data. Second, an inspection of the scatterplots for the variables indicated no curvilinear relationships between the variables, thus satisfying the assumption of linearity. Third, an inspection of the correlation matrix (Table 1) revealed no high amounts of multicollinearity. However the correlation matrix indicated a significant correlation between husbands' perceptions of family environment and the presence of children ($r = -.420$, $df = 68$, $p < .001$) and also between husbands' perceptions of family environment and male gender role conflict ($r = -.290$, $df = 68$, $p = .015$). Although these correlations are

Table 1

Correlation Matrix Calculated Between Independent and
Dependent Variables

	Marital Satisfaction ^b	Male Gender Role Conflict	Family Environment
Male Gender Role Conflict ^a	-.272*		
Family Environment ^a	.361**	-.290*	
Presence of Children ^a	-.021	-.119	-.420***

N = 70.

^aIndependent Variable.

^bDependent Variables.

* p < .05.

** p < .01.

*** p < .001.

significant, they are not large enough to necessitate any alteration or deletion of the data (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983). Finally, an inspection of the histograms and analyses of skewness revealed the score to have an approximately normal distribution, thus satisfying the assumption of normality. The minimum scores, maximum scores, means, and standard deviations of male gender role conflict, husbands' perceptions of family environment, and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction are reported in Table 2.

Table 2

Minimum Scores, Maximum Scores, Means, Standard Deviations, and Normative Data of Male Gender Role Conflict, Family Environment, and Marital Satisfaction

	Score				Normative Mean
	Min	Max	Mean	SD	
Male Gender Role Conflict	55	190	125.7	27.85	----- ^a
Family Environment	42	91	69.6	9.83	63.9 ^b
Marital Satisfaction	118	170	144.1	11.77	114.8 ^c

a data not available

b obtained from Olson, Portner, and Lavee (1985)

c obtained from Spanier, (1976)

Presentation of Results

Hypothesis Number One

Null-hypothesis number one states that male gender role conflict is not related to husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction. This hypothesis was assessed using the Pearson r correlation coefficient and the standard multiple regression analysis. An examination of the correlation coefficient between male gender role conflict and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction revealed a significant relationship

between these two variables ($r = -.272$, $df = 68$, $p = .023$), indicating that male gender role conflict accounted for 7.4% of the variance in husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction. However, the results of the standard multiple regression analysis, presented in Table 3, revealed that the unique variance

Table 3

Summary of Results of Standard Multiple Regression
Analysis of Husband's Perception of Marital
Satisfaction

	beta	sr ²	t	p
Family Environment	.365	.094	2.73	.008
Male Gender Role Conflict	-.153	.020	-1.25	.214
Presence of Children	.114	.010	.89	.378

		R ²	F	p
All Variables		.171	4.54	.006

$df = 3,66$

shared by the variables of male gender role conflict and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction

($sr^2 = .020$, $df = 3,66$, $p = .214$) is not significant. This indicates that much of the variance in male gender role conflict was shared by the other independent variables. Therefore, null hypothesis number one is not rejected.

Hypothesis Number Two

Null-hypothesis number two states husbands' perceptions of family environment are not related to husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction. This hypothesis was assessed using the Pearson r correlation coefficient and the standard multiple regression analysis. An examination of the correlation coefficient (Table 1) between husbands' perceptions of family environment and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction revealed a significant relationship between these two variables ($r = .361$, $df = 68$, $p = .002$), indicating that husbands' perceptions of family environment accounted for 13.0% of the variance in husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction. The results of the standard multiple regression analysis (Table 3) revealed that the unique variance shared by the variables of husbands' perceptions of family environment and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction ($sr^2 = .094$, $df = 3,66$, $p = .008$) is

significant. This indicates that husbands' perceptions of family environment accounts for a significant amount of the variance in husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction beyond the other independent variables. Therefore, null hypothesis number two is rejected.

Hypothesis Number Three

Null-hypothesis number three states that the variance in husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction cannot be accounted for using a linear combination of presence of children, husbands' gender role conflict, and husbands' perceptions of family environment, and the interactions among these variables. This hypothesis was assessed using a standard multiple regression analysis. The results of the standard multiple regression analysis (Table 3) revealed a significant relationship between husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction and a linear combination of presence of children, husbands' gender role conflict, and husbands' perceptions of family environment ($R^2 = .171$, $df = 3,66$, $p = .006$). This indicates that a linear combination of presence of children, husbands' gender role conflict, and husbands' perceptions of family environment accounts for a significant amount of the variance in husbands'

perceptions of marital satisfaction. When all possible interactions between these variables were included, the total amount of variance in husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction accounted for increased to 21.7% ($R^2 = .217$, $df = 7,62$, $p = .027$). Although, this result indicates that all possible interactions account for an additional 4.6% of the variance in husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction, this increase is not significant ($p > .05$). Nevertheless, due to the significant relationship between husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction and a linear combination of presence of children, husbands' gender role conflict, and husbands' perceptions of family environment, null hypothesis number three is rejected.

Summary

Three hypotheses were investigated in this study. While a significant correlation ($p = .023$) was found between male gender role conflict and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction, analysis revealed that the unique variance shared by the variables of husbands' perceptions of family environment and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction is not significant ($p = .214$). Results of the analyses revealed a significant correlation ($p = .002$) between

husbands' perceptions of family environment and their perceptions of marital satisfaction. Additionally, analysis revealed that the unique variance shared by the variables of husbands' perceptions of family environment and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction is significant ($p = .008$). Finally, results revealed that male gender role conflict, husbands' perceptions of family environment, and presence of children did account for a significant amount of the variance in husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction. However, the interactions between these variables were not significantly related to husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The purpose the present study was to examine the relationship between husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction, male gender role conflict, husbands' perceptions of family environment, and the presence of children. The hypotheses (stated in null-hypothesis form) of the study were as follows:

1. Male gender role conflict is not related to husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction when family environment and the presence of children are controlled.
2. Husbands' perceptions of family environment is not related to husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction when male gender role conflict and the presence of children are controlled.
3. The variance in husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction cannot be accounted for using a linear combination of the variables of presence of children, husbands' gender role conflict, and husbands' perceptions of family environment, and the interactions among these variables.

The literature review of studies of marital satisfaction suggests that most previous studies have examined the relationship between isolated variables and marital satisfaction. Nevertheless, a consistent relationship has been found between the presence of children and marital satisfaction, leading to the conclusion that when children are present in the home, couples experience lower levels of marital satisfaction.

Studies examining the affective and interaction aspects of marital relationships have found both to be positively related to marital satisfaction. While gender role conflict in women has been studied in the context of home-nonhome role conflict and athletic involvement (Anthrop & Allison, 1983; Farmer & Bohn, 1970; Hall & Gordon, 1973; Poloma & Garland, 1971; Wark & Wittig, 1979), gender role conflict in men has been shown to be related to area of emotional attachment, affection, and intimacy. Given this past research, retention of high levels of male gender role conflict seems intuitively antithetical to the ability to form an intimate relationship with a marital partner.

The importance of the family environment has been shown to be related to areas such as academic

achievement, family disturbances, self-esteem, ability to deal with crises, assertiveness, and interpersonal expressiveness (Bell et al., 1985; Bradley et al., 1988; Cooper et al., 1983; Henton et al., 1980; Holman & Woodraffe-Patrick, 1988; Mitchell et al., 1983; Moos & Moos, 1976; Wood et al., 1988). Family environment has also been found to be related to satisfaction with peer relationships (Bell et al., 1985). This suggests that a relationship between family environment and satisfaction with marital relationships exists.

This study involved 70 married men selected from a community having a large state university and located in the south central portion of the United States. All subjects were living with their spouse at the time of data collection. The sample was primarily Caucasian and most had graduated from college with at least a bachelors degree. Approximately half of the sample had children under the age of 18 in the home. The instruments used to collect data were the Gender Role Conflict Scale-I (GRCS-I; O'Neil et al., 1986), the Family Adaptability & Cohesion Evaluation Scale III (FACES III; Olson, Portner, & Lavee, 1985), and the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS; Spanier, 1976). In addition, a personal data sheet was created to gathered

demographic data relative to age, marital status, length of marriage, ethnic background, education level, and age as well as gender and status (biological, adopted, or step-child) of children living in the subjects' home. The data were analyzed using bivariate correlation coefficients and a standard multiple regression procedure with an alpha level of .05. The independent variables were male gender role conflict, husbands' perceptions of family environment, and presence of children. The dependent variable was husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction.

The first hypothesis dealt with the relationship between male gender role conflict and husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction. A significant correlation was found between husbands' male gender role conflict and their perceptions of marital satisfaction ($r = -.272$, $df = 68$, $p = .023$). However, the amount of unique variance in husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction accounted for by male gender role conflict was 2.0% ($df = 3,66$, $p = .214$), indicating no significant contribution of male gender role conflict to husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction. Thus, while the results indicate that retention of low levels of male gender role conflict

are related to higher levels of perceived marital satisfaction, this relationship can be explained using family environment and the presence of children. Therefore, null hypothesis number one is not rejected.

The second hypothesis dealt with the relationship between husbands' perceptions of family environment and their perceptions of marital satisfaction. A significant correlation was found between husbands' perceptions of family environment and their perceptions of marital satisfaction ($r = .361$, $df = 68$, $p = .002$). The amount of unique variance in marital satisfaction accounted for by family environment was 9.4% ($df = 3,66$, $p = .008$) indicating a significant contribution of husbands' perceptions of family environment to their perceptions of marital satisfaction. These results indicate that a husband's positive perception of his family environment is related to a higher level of perceived marital satisfaction. Therefore, null hypothesis number two is rejected.

The third hypothesis dealt with the relationship between husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction and a combination of the variables of presence of children, husbands' gender role conflict, and husbands'

perceptions of family environment, and the interactions among these variables. A significant relationship was calculated between husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction and the presence of children, husbands' gender role conflict, and husbands' perceptions of family environment ($R^2 = .171$, $df = 3,66$, $p = .006$). When all possible interactions between these variables were included, the total amount of variance in marital satisfaction accounted for was 21.7% ($df = 7,62$, $p = .027$). Although, this indicates that all possible interactions account for an additional 4.6% of the variance in marital satisfaction, this increase is not significant ($p > .05$). These results indicate that when male gender role conflict, husbands' perceptions of family environment, and the presences of children are combined, they account for a significant amount of the variance in husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction. However, the interactions of these variables do not significantly add to this relationship. Null hypothesis number three is rejected.

Conclusions

The statistical analysis of this data indicates that husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction is

related to male gender role conflict, husbands' perceptions of family environment and presence of children. The variable with the strongest relationship to husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction is husbands' perceptions of family environment. In families with underlying interactional features characterized by cooperation and closeness as well as stability and integrity, husbands' perception of marital satisfaction is higher. These results provide strong support for assessing the family environment of husbands in order to aid in evaluating their marital satisfaction.

Although, male gender role conflict was found to be related to husbands' perceptions of marital satisfaction, no significant relationship was found between these two variables when family environment and presence of children are taken into account. There is a significant correlation between male gender role conflict and husbands' perceptions of family environment indicates that lower levels of male gender role conflict are related to more positive perceptions of family environment. This significant relationship, may play a large role in accounting for the lack of relationship between male gender role conflict and

husbands' perception of marital satisfaction when family environment and presence of children are taken into account. The presence of children was not related to marital satisfaction.

The findings of this study are consistent with Bell et al., (1985). These authors found that positive family environment was related to higher levels of satisfaction in peer relationships. Although the present study did not examine peer relationships, it did study marital relationships. The present study demonstrated that positive family environment was related to higher levels of satisfaction in marital relationships.

However, these results are in conflict with Van Meter and Agronow (1982) who indicated that higher levels of female role conflict were associated with lower levels of marital satisfaction. These results are also inconsistent with those reported by Good, Dell, and Mintz (1989) who found that higher levels of male gender role conflict were related to lower incidents of help-seeking (another relationship which typically requires the development of expressive and emotional interactions). This inconsistency may be due to sampling bias within the results. A sizable

minority of non-respondents stated an unwillingness to answer questions relating to male gender-role conflict. This consistent bias may have affected the results due to a restriction of range or in some other systematic manner.

A surprising result is the inconsistency between the present study and numerous previous studies regarding the presence of children and marital satisfaction. Previous studies have consistently found that the presence of children in the family had a negative impact on marital satisfaction (Anderson, Russell, & Schumm, 1983; Renne, 1970; Rollins & Galligan, 1978; Spanier, Lewis, & Cole, 1975), while the present study found no relationship between the presence of children and marital satisfaction. There are several possibilities for this inconsistency. The previously mentioned sampling bias may have influenced these results as well. Additionally, there may be a systematic difference based on the geographic region or educational level of this sample. The present sample may, in fact, have different values regarding children in the family than previous samples due to the values of the region or their educational level. Another possible explanation is that due to an increase in the

use of effective birth control methods, couples feel they have more control of the timing of childbirth. They may feel more prepared for the child and perceive less marital disruption than previous subjects.

A number of problems and limitations were encountered in the process of implementing this research study which should be considered when interpreting these data. One problem encountered was that non-respondents expressed a consistent reason for not returning the questionnaires. A substantial minority of the non-respondents declined to participate due to the questions regarding male gender role conflict. They reported feeling vulnerable, insecure, insulted, and threatened by the questions on the GRCS-I. This systematic non-response may have affected the scores on the instruments, especially with regard to male gender role conflict. The resulting scores may not accurately reflect the relationship between marital satisfaction and male gender role conflict, family environment, and the presence of children. In replications of this study, it is recommended that interviews be used in order to gather more accurate information regarding male gender role conflict.

Another problem encountered in this study was relative to the education level of the subjects. Two thirds of the sample graduated from college with at least a bachelor's degree with 40% of the sample having completed a graduate degree. This skewing of the data toward higher education levels may have had a significant effect on the results, since this group may have different views of children, marriage, family environment, and male gender role conflict than individuals with less formal education. In replications of this study, it is recommended that education level be controlled in order to more accurately reflect the general population.

A final problem identified in this study was related to subjects' length of marriage. The subjects' length of marriage indicated a concentration of marriages of shorter length with a few marriages being considerably longer. Thus, marriages of longer length may have had more effect on the results than would occur if subjects' lengths of marriage were normally distributed. In replications of this study, it is recommended that a sample that reflects a normal distribution regarding length of marriage be used.

Recommendations for Clinicians

This study has important implications for clinicians working with couples and families. When working with couples it is important to assess the level of cooperation and closeness as well as stability and integrity within the family environment. Since family environment is significantly related to marital satisfaction, this assessment will increase the clinicians' level of knowledge regarding factors related to marital satisfaction.

Additionally, when working with men who report marital difficulty, it is important to assess their level of gender role conflict. This would be especially important when the man is uncomfortable discussing issues related to his family but is willing to address issues relating to himself. In this case, discussing his own gender role conflict may be much easier.

These results also have implications for working in premarital counseling or premarital planning. Discussing the effect family environment and male gender role conflict have on marital satisfaction with engaged couples may create an awareness that may prevent future marital difficulties and/or conflicts.

Recommendations for Future Research

Perceptions of family environment and marital satisfaction were restricted in this study to men. Past research has shown the men and women have different perceptions of marital relationships. Future research should replicate this study with the inclusion of wives' views of the family environment and marital relationship. Their perceptions could be examined separately, but a more advantageous and ambitious project would examine both wives' and husbands' perceptions in combination.

Future studies should also explore specific aspects of family environment or gender role conflict which are related to marital satisfaction. Determining if more specific aspects of family environment or gender role conflict are related to marital satisfaction would help enhance and refine our understanding of this relationship.

The present study was limited to marital relationships. Non-marital romantic dyads were not examined. Future research could study the effect gender role conflict and family environment have on non-marital dyadic satisfaction.

The present study was also limited to examining correlational relationships between marital satisfaction, male gender role conflict, family environment, and the presence of children. By using a correlational methodology to determine such relationships, causality can not be inferred. Future studies should examine if a causal relationship exists between family environment or gender role conflict and marital satisfaction. If a causal relationship exists, it would be important to determine if, by effecting a change in family environment or gender role conflict, an improvement in marital satisfaction results.

In future replications of this study, it is also recommended that a sample representing a wider diversity of ethnic and racial cultures be used. In addition, behavioral and/or observational measures of family environment, male gender role conflict, and marital satisfactions could be used either alone or in conjunction with self-report measures.

In summary, this study has helped clarify factors relating to marital satisfaction. Rather than looking at these factors separately, this study examined these factors in combination. A large majority of people continue to maintain marriage and marital satisfaction

as an important goal in their lives. Future research should build upon the present study in order to understand the complex factors that related to marital satisfaction and help develop methods for assessing, preventing, and treating marital problems and conflicts.

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APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A
PERSONAL DATA SHEET

Personal Data Sheet

This is a study focusing on husbands perceptions of various aspect of family and marital life. Please do not put your name on this form. Please indicate your responses in the spaces provided below.

1. Please write your age in months and years on the following line. _____ years _____ months
2. Please check your marital status on the following line. _____ single _____ married _____ divorced/separated
_____ widowed
3. Are you and your spouse presently living in the same household? _____ Yes _____ No
4. In what month and year did you marry your present spouse? Month _____ Year _____
5. Check your ethnic background.
_____ Asian
_____ Black American
_____ Caucasian
_____ Hispanic
_____ Native American
_____ Other
6. Check your highest level of education attainment.
_____ Did not complete high school
_____ Completed a high school degree
_____ Completed an associate's degree
_____ Completed a bachelor's degree
_____ Completed a graduate degree
7. In the area below, please list the gender, age, and status (biological child, adopted child, or step-child) of any children presently living with you at home.

	Gender	Age	Status
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____

Thank you for participating in this research study!

APPENDIX B
CONSENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH

This research study is designed to help understand the how men view themselves and their marital relationships. It is being use as a dissertation study. In agreeing to participate in this study, you will be asked to complete a series of short questionnaires. You participation is strictly voluntary and you may withdraw from the study at any time for any reason whatsoever. However, your decision to take the 30 minutes to complete the questionnaires will provide valuable information.

All information will be gathered in conformance with APA guidelines for human subjects participation. Your response will be completely confidential; no attempt will be made to attach your name to your responses nor will any responses be shared with anyone. The results of this study will only be reported as group data, not individual responses. If you should have any questions about this study, please contact James L. Campbell at (405)624-9063 or (405)744-6040. Your cooperation and effort is appreciated. Upon returning your responses, this page will be immediately detached from the remainder of your responses.

I have read these instructions and understand my rights. I further understand that this sheet will be immediately removed from the rest of the packet. I agree to participate in this study.

Name (please print)

Signature

Date

____ Check here if you would like feedback regarding the results of this study. The results of this study will be available upon it's completion. Include your mailing address below only if you want the feedback.

VITA

James Lloyd Campbell

Candidate for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Thesis: RELATIONSHIPS AMONG MALE GENDER ROLE CONFLICT,
HUSBANDS' PERCEPTIONS OF FAMILY ENVIRONMENT,
PRESENCE OF CHILDREN, AND HUSBANDS' PERCEPTIONS OF
MARITAL SATISFACTION

Major Field: Applied Behavioral Studies

Biographical:

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Organizations: American Psychological Association;
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