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# PERCEPTIONS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CONCERNING THEIR FATHERS 



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## CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

Fatherhood has been traditionally viewed as a social obligation which has not been recognized by American society as a male counterpart to motherhood (Josselyn, 1956). However, in the last several decades the role of the American father has been broadened as a result of many societal changes including increased leisure time for fathers resulting from a shortened work week, a greater proportion of mothers gainfully employed outside the home, and a trend toward greater equality between men and women. Research on the role of the American father has been limited. According to Nash (1965) and Benson (1968) in their reviews of literature concerning relationships between fathers and their children, it is evident that investigators have failed to study many aspects of the role of the father in child rearing.

Kagan (1964) concludes that most studies of psychological development report that a greater amount of data exists concerning children than parents or parent-child interaction and that research has focused on the mother primarily. Peterson, Becker, Hellmer, Shoemaker, and Quay (1959) support this view by reporting that in a review of literature on parent-child relationships written over the years 1929-1956,
at least 169 publications dealing with mother-child interpersonal relationships were published. Information on father-child relationships were included in only ten articles, one book, and one convention address. In a more recent review, Walters and Stinnett (1971) summarized 200 studies of parent-child relationships and emphasize the dearth of information on father-child relationships and the need for research in that area. One area in which there is little information available concerns the differential impact which fathers have on sons and daughters as reflected in the perceptions of children toward their fathers.

## Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to investigate perceptions of university men and women concerning their fathers. Differences in these perceptions are examined in relation to selected personality and background factors.

The specific hypotheses examined were:

1. There is no significant difference between male and female university students in terms of perceptions concerning their fathers.
2. No significant differences exist in perceptions of university students classified according to:
(a) Age
(b) College classification
(c) Number of children in the family
(d) Ordinal position
(e) Head of the household
(f) Education of the father
(g) Place of residence
(h) Source of family income
(i) Reasons for absence of a father-figure in the family
(j) Perceived childhood happiness
(k) Strength of discipline
(1) Agent of discipline
(m) Perceived closeness to father
(n) Perceived closeness to mother
(o) Amount of time spent with father
(p) Perceived closeness to peer group
(q) Behavior and personality characteristics
3. There is no significant difference in perceptions among respondents:
(a). Who perceived their mother as the primary source of discipline and those who perceive their father as the primary source of discipline.
(b) Who in rearing their children would use a different form of discipline than their father and those who would use the same type of discipline.
(c) Who in rearing their children would use a different form of discipline than their mother and those who would use the same form of discipline.
(d) Who perceive their fathers had the greatest influence on their lives and those who perceive their mothers had the greatest influence on their lives.

## CHAPTER II

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

## Influences of Fathers on the Development of Children

Despite the increased emphasis on the "fathering instinct," research on fatherhood has been limited. However, there are two areas which have received some research attention with respect to the role of fathering: (a) the effects of the father-son relationship on masculine development; and (b) the effects of father-absence on sex-role identification in boys and on family functioning, The neglect of the role of the father may have distorted understanding of the dynamics of development and have adversely affected the rearing of males (Nash, 1965).

## Effects of Paternal Deprivation

The research concerning the impact of paternal deprivation upon children has indicated the correlation of several factors. The specific reason for paternal absence is one important factor in influencing children. Illsley and Thompson (1961) found that the father's death had little adverse effect upon children, whereas his absence due to separation or divorce was more detrimental. Bernard (1956)
reported that the entrance of a new parent has a more adverse effect after the original parent's death than after divorce. Another important factor in the absence of the father and its effect upon children is the age of the child when the father is absent. Blaine (1963) suggests that one of the most traumatic periods to lose a parent is between the ages of three and six. Sutton-Smith, Rosenberg, and Landry (1968) agreed that although father-absence had a depressive effect throughout life, the greatest effects occur during early and middle chidlhood. The preschool period is important for the son's identification with the father, and lasting deficiencies may result if the father is absent at this time (Nash, 1965).

Sibling position of the child is a factor which is related to the effect of father-absence. Sutton-Smith, Rosenberg, and Landry (1968) reported that boys without brothers were more affected by paternal deprivation than those with brothers, that girls with younger brothers were more affected than other girls, and that only girls were affected more than only boys.

The mother's reaction to the absence of her husband is significant in determining how children are affected by separation from their fathers. Benson (1968) has stated that the wife's reaction to her husband's absence and the reasons why he is gone may actually influence the child more than the mere fact that he is no longer present in the home. Bronfenbrenner (1968) has pointed out that not only does
father-absence have a direct effect on children, but there is an indirect effect of the mother's behavior as well. For example, wives of prisoners of war and missing men in action in Vietnam had moderate to severe psychophysiological complaints and the majority had considered suicide. These women, sometimes consciously, used their poor health as a hold over their children to make them obey, and the children reported often having nightmares and separation anxieties (Toma, 1974).

Not only are there several factors operating in the father-absent situation, but there are varied consequences. Available research indicates that father-absence affects the aggressiveness of the son. Boys whose fathers are in the home are more aggressive than boys whose fathers are absent (Levin and Sears, 1956). This supports Sears'. (1951) finding that the father serves as an aggressive model for his son.

Burton and Whiting (1961) studied the absent father in relation to sex identity of the son and the possible role of cross-sex identity with the mother as a factor in certain types of delinquent behavior. Andry (1962) and Stephens (1961) also linked delinquent behavior with paternal deprivation. They found that homes where the father is absent produce a higher proportion of delinquents than homes in which the fathers were present. This is also true for homes where the father is present but fails to function as head of the household (Barker and Adams, 1962), thus suggesting that the
quality of life is of greater importance than formal structure, and some fathers may do their children harm as well as good (Benson, 1968).

Other behavioral difficulties have also been related to father-absence. Children with behavioral problems were more likely than those without manifest behavioral problems to have had extensive separations from their fathers, especially during the pre-school years. Stolz (1954) indicated that war-separated children displayed more serious behavior problems, more fears, and more tensions than boys whose fathers were absent for other reasons. According to Lynn and Sawery (1959), boys whose fathers were away for long periods of time evidenced poorer personality adjustment; greater immaturity, and poorer peer group adjustment than those whose fathers were present.

Research on the long-range effects of father-absence on females indicates that as women, females from father-absent homes tend to become dual-career wives more frequently than women who were not separated from their fathers during childhood (Bebbington, 1973). Furthermore, women from fatherabsent homes tend to be consistently less orgasmic than women from homes where the father was present (Fisher, 1973).

Benson (1968) has emphasized that the sex identification may be a problem for the male who is separated from his father. While Nash (1965) stated that boys reared without a father figure often fail to develop masculine attitudes, Greenstein (1966) failed to find any significant differences
between boys whose fathers were present and father-absent boys in any of the dimensions usually related to sex-typing. Biller (1968) reported that underlying sex-role orientation is more influenced by father absence than are the more manifest aspects of masculinity; vague or feminine orientation may persist despite the masculinity of certain aspects of the boy's behavior. Insecurity in their masculinity often leads father-absent boys to adopt excessive forms of compensatory behavior (Lynn and Sawery, 1959). These boys may give the appearance of a strong masculine orientation, but this behavior may not be a true expression of the sex-role orientation of the child.

Father's Influence on the Sex-Role

## Identification

Children learn about sex roles very early in their lives. They form their first responses in the context of how they are handled as infants. Theories of sex-role identification teach us that the most obvious pattern is for the father to be the model of masculinity for his son and for the mother to be the model of femininity for her daughter.

Although Lynn (1966) has made a distinction between identification with the masculine role and identification with the father, Benson (1968) has indicated that identification with the father conditions sex-role identification, and while masculine models are easily found, the father will probably exert the most prominent influence on the lives of
his children. Many studies demonstrate that the lack of fathering impairs the child's future sex orientation. A homosexual stage of development is normal for a boy before he makes heterosexual attachments, but he may remain fixed at the homosexual stage unless in his early childhood he has had an opportunity to learn his sex role from an affectionate male figure. Similarly, a woman may never develop good heterosexual relationships if she has had no opportunity in early childhood to develop an affectionate relationship with her father (Brazelton, 1970).

Thus, there are probably many reasons for the apparent greater tendency for females to become overtly dependent in the mate relationship. This is probably related to the findings of Fisher (1973) that females who have had strong, stable fathers are more likely to be consistently orgasmic than females who have had weak or absent fathers. The former group of females are more likely to feel that they can trust and depend upon the important males in their life. Mead (1965) reports that the father's relationship with his daughter is never the same as with a son. Father-daughter relationships are generally more affectionate and warm. The father's responses help the daughter develop her feminine role. Perhaps this is one reason that "feminine" women have a more favorable view of their fathers, and that "masculine" women feel less understood by their fathers during childhood (Wright and Tuska, 1966). A daughter treated with a combination of roughhousing, understanding, and unthreatening
silence will discover that she is cherished because she is a girl and will learn to trust herself with men and expect that men will be strong and protective in their care of her (Mead, 1965).

A girl's normal development of sex-role orientation depends upon her identification with a father figure (Johnson, 1963). Winch (1950) reported that males tend to identify with the functional parent (the parent who has the greatest influence upon the child's learning experiences); however, this finding did not apply for females. Nash (1954) indicated that strong father-daughter attachments are less inimical to the girl's normal development than are strong mother-son attachments to the development of the boy. Lansky, Crandall, Kagan, and Baker (1961) found that girls who were critical of their fathers were low in conformity to authority and low in identification with mothers. Biller and Weiss (1970) found that feminine behavior was related to the father's relationship to his wife and how he defines his role as a male and differentiates that masculine role from the feminine role of the daughter.

Benson (1968) reported that effeminacy is more likely to be the result of a poor father-son relationship than of a strong mother-son bond. The father's importance in the appropriate sex-role identification of the son has been emphasized by Johnson (1963) who indicated that although males initially identify with their mother, it is their identification with their father that is crucial in
appropriate sex-role learning. Adolescent boys who identify with their fathers and are highly masculine are better adjusted, more relaxed, happier, calmer, smoother in social situations, and more contented than boys who were not masculine (Mussen, 1961). In addition, boys who had favorable relationships with their fathers showed strong masculine interests, whereas those whose paternal relationships were less favorable showed more feminine interests.

The importance of the father as an object of masculine identification has been emphasized by Sopchak (1952) who found that among male college students, failure to identify with the father was more closely associated with trends toward abnormality than was the failure to identify with the mother. Osgood, Suci, and Tannebaum (1957) indicated that normal men identify more with their fathers than their mothers and more with both parents than do neurotic men.

Benson (1968) concluded that it is likely that children will identify with the same-sex parent if that parent feels reasonably self-confident about his own sexual identity. However, there are other factors related to the sex-role identification. Several researchers have emphasized the importance of love and affection and of supportive, satisfying family relationships as factors influencing identification with parents (Mowrer, 1950b; Stokes, 1954; Payne and Mussen 1956; Kagan, 1961; Bonfenbrenner, 1961; and Mussen and Distler, 1959).

Parent-child identification encompasses how the parents and children perceive each other and under what conditions parents and children identify with each other. Lurie (1974) has suggested that one's mother is the person from whom the child must emancipate himself to make a transition to adult life. However, the father is the person with whom identification takes place, even when he is perceived negatively.

Kagan and Lemkin (1960) indicated that children from three to eight years of age saw the father as more confident, more punitive, and more fear arousing than the mother.

Females tended to choose their mothers as models, but viewed their fathers as the wiser, stronger, more affectionate, and more punitive parent. The mother was generally viewed as the more nurturant and nicer parent. The children tended to choose the same sexed parent as the model they wanted to be like and the one which they liked best.

Both transitional stage and sex affect perceptions of family life and family roles. Lurie (1974) reported that all stages and both sexes reported that the mother was the person they felt closest to. Fathers were more distant figures to their children; however, children of both sexes generally reported that they resembled their fathers, or their fathers and mothers more often than they reported that they resembled their mothers.

Father's Influence on Son's

## Relationships With Peers

Research indicates that the father-son relationship may influence the peer relationships of the son. Hoffman (1961) found that a warm relationship between father and son is conducive to good peer adjustment of the son. Perhaps the companionship with the father serves as a model for interaction with others. Benson (1968) has suggested that the father may be of great importance in determining his son's acceptance in the peer group because the father promotes masculine habits that may foster or interfere with the son's acceptance by other boys.

Cox (1962) found that a positive attitude toward the parent of the same sex is important for the establishment of warm relationships with peers. Helper (1955) reported that boys who conspicuously model after their fathers were likely to be rated high in social acceptance and adjustment in high school. Boys who perceived themselves to be more like their fathers than like their mothers were found to have more favorable relationships with their peers (Gray, 1959). Payne and Mussen (1956) reported that boys who were strongly identified with their fathers were calmer and more friendly in their social relationships than were boys who identified less with their fathers. Carlson (1963) found that children who identified with supportive parents were not only more acceptable to their peers, but were more self-accepting and less dependent upon current social relationships.

## Effects of Parental Control and Personality on Child Behavior and Adjustment

The personality characteristics of the parents are influential in determining the behavior and personality of their children. What the parent actually is has much more influence upon the child than the specific type of disciplinary techniques he uses. The child learns from his parents not so much by being taught, but by being exposed (Radke, 1946). Only when discipline is accompanied by love and security in the parent-child relationship can it lead to the capacity for self discipline (Mowrer, 1950a). Becker (1964) has also indicated that the degree of warmth and love used in dealing with children is vitally important in the kind of influence a parent has on a child.

## Child-Rearing Environments and

## Possible Effects on Children

The effects of varying degrees of parental control and nurturance upon the behavior and personality of children has been the subject of several studies. Baumrind (1967) found the children of permissive parents lacked self-control and self-reliance. Neither parent of these children made many demands of the children, and the fathers were weak reinforcing agents. These parents were less involved with their children and used love manipulatively. Furthermore, Baumrind (1967) found that children of restrictive parents were "less content, more insecure and apprehensive, less
affiliative toward peers, and more likely to become hostile or aggressive under stress" than were children of democratic parents (p. 81). The parents of these children were less nurturant toward their children and less involved with them. Elder (1963) found that both the highly permissive and highly restrictive parent appears unattractive to the child in comparison to the democratic parent.

Baumrind (1967) found that children of democratic parents were more socialized and independent than children from restrictive or permissive homes. These children were loving, conscientious, consistent, and secure in their relationships with their peers.

Although the type of control used is of great importance, the warmth of the parent-child relationship and differing attitudes of the mother and father must be considered. An inconsistent environment is created where one parent is very permissive and the other is very restrictive in controlling the child. In homes where attitudes of parents differ, children show more unfavorable behavior (Read, 1965).

## CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE Selection of Subjects

The subjects for this study were 89 male and 126 female university students selected from Oklahoma State University between the ages of seventeen and twenty-one, classified from freshmen to graduate students. The samples were selected from those enrolled in Oklahoma State University during the spring semester of 1974 and those associated with social fraternities and sororities on the Oklahoma State University campus.

The sorority chapters used were Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Xi Delta, Chi Omega, and Delta Zeta.

The fraternity chapters used were Farmhouse, Phi Delta Theta, and Phi Kappa Tau.

The presidents of the sororities and fraternities were contacted before the administration of the instrument to explain the purpose of the study and the nature of the instrument. The instrument was distributed and collected by the president of each chapter.

Measurement of the Background Variables

The first section of the instrument was composed of items concerned with personal background information of the respondents, including: (a) age, (b) sex, (c) college classification, (d) size of family, (e) ordinal position in family, and (f) family history. Also, included in the general information section of the instrument were the following items regarding the respondent's perceptions concerning himself and his relationships with his parents: (a) type of disciplinary control in the home, (b) agent of discipline, (c) degree of closeness of relationship with father, and (d) degree of childhood happiness.

## Description of the Instrument

A questionnaire entitled Attitudes Toward Parents Scale (Form F) by Itkin (1952) was used in this study. The Form F scale was designed to measure perceptions concerning fathers, and consists of 35 items, including 11 items answered "true or false," eight multiple-choice items, and 16 personality traits that are rated on a five-point scale from "possesses to a very great degree" to "possesses only a very slight degree or not at all."

A chi-square test was utilized in the investigation to determine which items on Itkin's Attitudes Toward Parents Scale (Form F) significantly differentiated those subjects scoring in the upper quartile and those subjects scoring in the lower quartile on the basis of total scores. All of the

35 items in the scale were found to be significantly discriminating at the .001 level, suggesting its usefulness with university students of the age groups represented in the present study. A key of Itkin's weights are included in the Appendix.

# CHAPTER IV 

## RESULTS

Description of the Subjects

## Background Information

A detailed description of the 215 subjects who participated in this study is presented in Table I. The respondents ranged from 17 to 21 years of age with the greatest proportion of the age category of 20 years ( $31.63 \%$ ). The respondents were classified as freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students, but the greatest proportion of the males were freshmen (28.09\%) or sophomores (28.09\%), and the greatest number of females were sophomores (26.98\%). Most of the subjects were the first born child (39.07\%) and had one brother or sister (30.23\%). The highest percentage of the sample ( $40.93 \%$ ) had lived in a city of over 50,000 population for a major part of their lives. Most of the subjects' fathers (33.49\%) were college graduates and 53.95\% reported that their family income was either salary, commissions or monthly checks with their father as head of the household (87.44\%).

TABLE I
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUBJECTS*

| Description | Males |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male |  |  |  |  | 89 | 41.40 |
| Female |  |  |  |  | 126 | 58.60 |

Age

| 17 or younger | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | .79 | 1 | .47 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 18 | 8 | 8.99 | 23 | 18.25 | 31 | 14.42 |
| 19 | 31 | 34.83 | 27 | 21.43 | 58 | 26.98 |
| 20 | 26 | 29.21 | 42 | 33.33 | 68 | 31.63 |
| 21 or older | 24 | 26.97 | 32 | 26.19 | 57 | 26.51 |

College Classification

| Freshman | 25 | 28.09 | 33 | 26.19 | 58 | 26.98 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Sophomore | 25 | 28.09 | 34 | 26.98 | 59 | 27.44 |
| Junior | 24 | 26.97 | 31 | 24.60 | 55 | 25.58 |
| Senior | 14 | 15.73 | 27 | 21.43 | 41 | 19.07 |
| Graduate | 1 | 1.12 | 1 | .79 | 2 | .93 |

Family Size

| 0 brothers or sisters | 13 | 14.61 | 22 | 17.46 | 35 | 16.28 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| 1 brother or sister | 25 | 28.09 | 40 | 31.75 | 65 | 30.23 |
| 2 brothers or sisters | 23 | 25.84 | 40 | 31.75 | 65 | 30.23 |
| 3 brothers or sisters | 16 | 17.98 | 27 | 21.43 | 43 | 20.00 |
| 4 or more brothers or | 12 | 13.48 | 9 | 7.14 | 21 | 9.77 |
| sisters |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Ordinal Position

| 1st born | 30 | 33.71 | 54 | 42.86 | 84 | 39.07 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 2nd born | 35 | 39.33 | 44 | 34.92 | 79 | 36.74 |
| 3rd born | 15 | 16.85 | 18 | 14.29 | 33 | 15.35 |
| 4th born | 8 | 8.99 | 6 | 4.76 | 14 | 6.51 |
| 5th born | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | .79 | 1 | .47 |

Head of Household

| Father | 80 | 89.89 | 108 | 85.71 | 188 | 87.44 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Mother | 6 | 6.74 | 12 | 9.52 | 18 | 8.37 |
| Step-father | 1 | 1.12 | 3 | 2.38 | 4 | 1.86 |

TABLE I (Continued)

| Description | Males |  | Fema1es |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Head of Household (Continued) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Step-mother | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Other | 2 | 2.25 | 2 | 1.59 | 4 | 1. 86 |

Father's Education

| Less than high school | 10 | 11.24 | 5 | 3.97 | 15 | 6.98 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| High schoo1 | 29 | 32.58 | 15 | 11.90 | 44 | 20.47 |
| Some college | 19 | 21.35 | 23 | 18.25 | 42 | 19.53 |
| College graduate | 19 | 21.35 | 53 | 42.06 | 72 | 33.49 |
| Graduate school | 12 | 13.48 | 27 | 23.02 | 41 | 19.07 |

Place of Residence

| Farm or country | 18 | 20.22 | 11 | 8.73 | 29 | 13.49 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Less than 25,000 population | 15 | 16.85 | 7 | 5.56 | 22 | 10.23 |
| 25,000 to 50,000 population | 25 | 28.09 | 51 | 40.48 | 76 | 35.35 |
| Over 50,000 population | 31 | 34.83 | 57 | 45.24 | 88 | 40.93 |

Source of Income

| Hourly wages, weekly checks | 18 | 20.22 | 15 | 11.90 | 33 | 15.35 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Salary, commissions, monthly <br> checks | 43 | 48.31 | 73 | 57.94 | 116 | 53.95 |
| Profits from private business | 27 | 30.34 | 34 | 26.98 | 61 | 28.37 |
| or profession | 1 | 1.12 | 4 | 3.17 | 5 | 2.33 |
| Savings and investments | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |

## Reasons for Father Absence

| Separation | 1 | 1.12 | 2 | 1.59 | 3 | 1.40 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Divorce | 4 | 4.49 | 4 | 3.17 | 8 | 3.72 |
| Military service | 6 | 6.74 | 5 | 3.97 | 11 | 5.12 |
| Death | 1 | 1.12 | 5 | 3.97 | 6 | 2.79 |
| Other | 1 | 1.12 | 6 | 4.76 | 7 | 3.26 |

*All of the above percentages are based upon the number of responses to the particular question.

## Family Relationships Information

In addition to the background information, the questionnaire also contained items which elicited the student's perceptions of their family relationships (Table II). The greatest proportion of the students (74.88\%) felt very much loved by their fathers. In regard to childhood happiness they had a very happy childhood ( $60.93 \%$ ) with an additional $22.79 \%$ feeling it was above average in happiness.

Most students (46.51\%) reported their discipline to have come equally from theix fathers and mothers. The majority ( $66.05 \%$ ) reported the type of disciplinary control in the home was average, while only $2.79 \%$ reported that it was rough.

With regard to the closeness the students felt to their fathers, there were more students who reported being very close to their fathers (35.35\%) or above average in closeness (31.16\%) than there were students who reported being very distant (2.33\%).

In regard to father's perceived acceptance, most students felt that they were interested in almost all they do ( $86.51 \%$ ). Most fathers were considered not very domineering (54.42\%), while $36.74 \%$ of the students felt their fathers were very domineering.

The type of discipline from mothers was considered by most students to be average ( $58.60 \%$ ) as was the type of discipline from fathers (58.60\%).

TABLE II
PERCEPTIONS CONCERNING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

| Description | Males |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Feeling of Love from Father |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Very much | 65 | 73.03 | 96 | 76:19 | 161 | 74.88 |
| Above average | 7 | 7.87 | 10 | 7.94 | 17 | 7.91 |
| Average | 9 | 10.11 | 17 | 13.49 | 26 | 12.09 |
| Below average | 4 | 4.49 | 1 | . 79 | 5 | 2.33 |
| Very little | 3 | 3.37 | 1 | . 79 | 4 | 1.86 |
| Degree of Happiness in |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Childhood |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Very happy | 53 | 59.55 | 78 | 61.90 | 131 | 60.93 |
| Above average | 21 | 23.60 | 28 | 22.22 | 49 | 22.79 |
| Average | 11 | 12.36 | 12 | 9.52 | 23 | 10.70 |
| Below average | 3 | 3.37 | 5 | 3.79 | 8 | 3.72 |
| Very unhappy | 1 | 1.12 | 1 | . 79 | 2 | . 93 |

## Agent of Discipline

| Father | 11 | 12.36 | 5 | 3.79 | 16 | 7.44 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Father with help from mother | 13 | 34.83 | 16 | 12.70 | 47 | 21.86 |
| Father and mother equally | 34 | 38.20 | 66 | 52.38 | 100 | 46.51 |
| Mother with help from father | 10 | 11.24 | 32 | 25.40 | 42 | 19.53 |
| Mother | 3 | 3.37 | 7 | 5.56 | 10 | 4.65 |

## Type of Disciplinary Control

in the Home

| Rough | 5 | 5.62 | 1 | .79 | 6 | 2.79 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Somewhat severe | 13 | 1.4 .61 | 11 | 8.73 | 2.4 | 11.16 |
| Average | 59 | 66.29 | 83 | 65.87 | 142 | 66.05 |
| Somewhat mild | 9 | 10.11 | 24 | 19.05 | 33 | 15.35 |
| Mild | 3 | 3.37 | 7 | 5.56 | 10 | 4.65 |

## Closeness with Father

| Very close | 31 | 34.83 | 45 | 35.17 | 76 | 35.35 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Above average | 26 | 29.21 | 41 | 32.54 | 67 | 31.16 |
| Average | 22 | 24.72 | 23 | 18.25 | 45 | 20.93 |
| Below average | 8 | 8.99 | 13 | 10.32 | 21 | 9.77 |
| Very distant | 2 | 2.25 | 3 | 2.38 | 5 | 2.33 |

## TABLE II (Continued)

| Description | Males |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Father's Perceived Acceptance |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Too busy to give attention | 1 | 1.12 | 2 | 1.59 | 3 | 1.40 |
| Shows interest in school activities only | 8 | 8.99 | 3 | 2.38 | 11 | 5.12 |
| Acts as if in the way | 1 | 1.12 . | 4 | 3.17 | 5 | 2.33 |
| Interested in almost all | 72 | 80.90 | 114 | 90.48 | 186 | 86.51 |
| Not interested in what said | 4 | 4.49 | 3 | 2.38 | 7 | 3.26 |
| Degree of Control by Father |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Very domineering | 47 | 52.81 | 32 | 25.40 | 79 | 36.74 |
| Not very domineering | 36 | 40.45 | 81 | 64.29 | 117 | 54.42 |
| Submissive | 4 | 4.49 | 11 | 8.73 | 15 | 6.98 |

## Type of Discipline from

 Mother| Very permíssive | 1 | 1.12 | 1 | .79 | 2 | .93 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Permíssive | 20 | 22.47 | 21 | 16.67 | 41 | 19.07 |
| Average | 50 | 56.18 | 76 | 60.32 | 126 | 58.60 |
| Strict | 15 | 16.85 | 24 | 19.05 | 39 | 18.14 |
| Very strict | 3 | 3.37 | 5 | 3.97 | 8 | 3.72 |

## Type of Discipline from

 Father| Very permissive | 1 | 1.12 | 3 | 2.38 | 4 | 1.86 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Permissive | 13 | 41.61 | 23 | 18.25 | 36 | 16.74 |
| Average | 52 | 58.43 | 74 | 58.73 | 126 | 58.60 |
| Strict | 20 | 22.47 | 20 | 15.87 | 40 | 18.60 |
| Very strict | 3 | 3.37 | 5 | 3.97 | 8 | 3.72 |

## Perceived Difference in

 Rearing Own Children| More permissive than mother | 15 | 16.85 | 10 | 7.94 | 25 | 11.63 |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Same as mother | .57 | 64.04 | 106 | 84.13 | 163 | 75.81 |
| Less permissive than mother. | 15 | 16.85 | 10 | 7.94 | 25 | 11.63 |
| More permissive than father | 21 | 23.60 | 15 | 11.90 | 36 | 16.74 |
| Same as father | 60 | 67.42 | 97 | 76.98 | 157 | 73.02 |
| Less permissive than father | 7 | 7.87 | 13 | 10.32 | 20 | 9.30 |

TABLE II (Continued)


Degree of Closeness to Mother
During Childhood

| Above average | 45 | 50.56 | 60 | 47.62 | 105 | 48.84 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Average | 40 | 44.94 | 52 | 41.27 | 92 | 42.79 |
| Below average | 3 | 3.37 | 14 | 11.11 | 17 | 7.91 |

Degree of Closeness to Father During Childhood
$\begin{array}{llllllll}\text { Above average } & 39 & 43.82 & 59 & 46.83 & 98 & 45.58\end{array}$
Average
Below average

| 38 | 42.70 | 50 | 39.68 | 88 | 40.93 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 12 | 13.48 | 17 | 13.49 | 29 | 13.49 |

Parent Having Greatest
Influence on Child

| Mother and father equally | 52 | 58.43 | 73 | 57.94 | 125 | 58.14 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Mother | 17 | 19.10 | 36 | 28.57 | 53 | 24.65 |

Father
$\begin{array}{llllll}19 & 21.35 & 17 & 13.49 & 36 & 16.74\end{array}$

Amount of Time Father
Spent with Child

| More than average | 24 | 26.97 | 48 | 38.10 | 72 | 33.49 |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Average | 47 | 52.81 | 59 | 46.83 | 106 | 49.30 |

Less than average
$\begin{array}{llllll}18 & 20.22 & 19 & 15.08 & 37 & 17.12\end{array}$

Degree of Closeness to Peers
Very close
Above average
22
Average
Below average
26
32
Distant

| 4 | 4.49 | 7 | 5.56 | 11 | 5.12 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 5 | 5.62 | 0 | 0.00 | 5 | 2.23 |

In rearing children of their own, in relation to their mother, the majority of the respondents answered they would be about the same as their mothers (75.81\%). In rearing children of their own, in relation to their father, the majority of the respondents stated they would be about the same as their fathers ( $73.02 \%$ ) .

Most of the subjects reported the degree of closeness to their mothers during early childhood as above average ( $48.84 \%$ ). A total of $45.58 \%$ of the respondents reported the degree of closeness to their fathers during early childhood as above average.

With regard to which parent the students felt would have the greatest influence in determining the kind of person they would be, $58.43 \%$ of the males and $57.94 \%$ of the females said their mothers and fathers equally. The subjects (49.30\%) reported that their fathers spent an average amount of time with them. In regard to closeness to peers, 35.96\% of the males indicated average closeness, while $32.56 \%$ of the females indicated average closeness, and an additional $32.09 \%$ of the females felt very close to their peers.

## Self Perceptions of Subjects Concerning

## Behavior and Characteristics

Students were asked to respond to questions concerning their perceptions of themselves. Their responses are reported in Table III. It will be noted that considerable similarity between males and females was reflected in the

TABLE III

## SELF PERCEPTIONS OF SUBJECTS CONCERNING BEHAVIOR AND CHARACTERISTICS

| Description | Males |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Careless |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Almost always | 4 | 4.49 | 7 | 5.56 | 11 | 5.12 |
| Sometimes | 43 | 48.31 | 58 | 46.03 | 101 | 46.98 |
| Se1dom | 42 | 47.19 | 61 | 48.41 | 103 | 47.91 |

Hostilely Aggressive

| Almost always | 4 | 4.49 | 2 | 1.59 | 6 | 2.79 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Sometimes | 28 | 31.46 | 22 | 17.46 | 50 | 23.26 |
| Seldom | 57 | 64.04 | 102 | 80.95 | 159 | 73.95 |

Physically Active

| Almost always | 56 | 62.92 | 50 | 39.68 | 106 | 49.30 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Sometimes | 31 | 34.83 | 63 | 50.00 | 94 | 43.72 |
| Seldom | 2 | 2.25 | 13 | 10.32 | 15 | 6.98 |

Nervous and Tense

Almost always
Sometimes
Se1dom

| 11 | 12.36 | 18 | 14.29 | 29 | 13.49 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 34 | 38.20 | 65 | 51.59 | 99 | 46.05 |
| 44 | 49.44 | 43 | 34.13 | 87 | 40.47 |

Well-liked

| Almost always | 51 | 57.30 | 77 | 61.11 | 128 | 59.53 |
| :--- | ---: | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Sometimes | 38 | $42.70 \cdots$ | 44 | 34.92 | 82 | 38.14 |
| Seldom | 0 | 0.00 | 5 | 3.97 | 5 | 2.33 |

## Successfu1

| Almost always | 38 | 42.70 | 68 | 53.97 | 106 | 49.30 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Sometimes | 49 | 55.06 | 57 | 45.24 | 106 | 49.30 |
| Seldom | 2 | 2.25 | 1 | .79 | 3 | 1.40 |

Incentive

| Almost always | 8 | 8.99 | 9 | 7.14 | 17 | 7.91 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Sometimes | 49 | 55.06 | 67 | 51.17 | 116 | 53.95 |
| Seldom | 32 | 35.96 | 49 | 38.89 | 81 | 37.67 |

## TABLE III (Continued)

| Description | Ma1es |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Generous |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Almost always | 45 | 50.56 | 69 | 54.76 | 114 | 53.02 |
| Sometimes | 42 | 47.19 | 57 | 45.24 | 99 | 46.05 |
| Seldom | 2 | 2.25 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | . 93 |

Self-reliant

| Almost always | 54 | 60.67 | 82 | 65.08 | 136 | 63.26 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Sometimes | 32 | 35.96 | 36 | 28.57 | 68 | 31.61 |
| Seldom | 2 | 2.25 | 4 | 3.17 | 6 | 2.79 |

Moody and Emotional
Almost always
Sometimes
Seldom

| 14 | 1.5 .73 | 24 | 19.05 | 38 | 17.67 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 45 | 50.56 | 72 | 56.14 | 117 | 54.42 |
| 30 | 33.71 | 29 | 23.02 | 59 | 27.44 |

Obedient

| A1most always | 35 | 39.33 | 67 | 53.17 | 102 | 47.44 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Sometimes | 50 | 56.18 | 54 | 42.86 | 104 | 48.37 |
| Seldom | 4 | 4.49 | 5 | 3.97 | 9 | 4.19 |

## Steadfastness

Almost always
Sometimes
Seldom

| 46 | 51.69 | 79 | 62.70 | 125 | 58.14 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 39 | 43.82 | 41 | 32.54 | 80 | 37.21 |
| 4 | 4.49 | 5 | 3.97 | 9 | 4.19 |

## Honest

| Almost always | 76 | 85.39 | 117 | 92.86 | 193 | 89.77 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Sometimes | 11 | 12.36 | 8 | 6.35 | 19 | 8.84 |
| Seldom | 2 | 2.25 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | .93 |

Unpredictable
Almost always
Sometimes
Seldom

| 10 | 11.24 | 24 | 19.05 | 34 | 15.81 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | :--- |
| 47 | 52.81 | 62 | 49.21 | 109 | 50.70 |
| 13 | 34.83 | 40 | 31.75 | 71 | 33.02 |

## TABLE III (Continued)

| Description | Males |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Kind and Affectionate |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Almost always | 61 | 68.54 | 99 | 78.57 | 160 | 74.42 |
| Sometimes | 23 | 25.84 | 26 | 20.63 | 49 | 22.79 |
| Seldom | 3 | 3.37 | 1 | . 79 | 4 | 1.86 |
| Outgoing |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Almost always | 46 | 51.69 | 61 | 48.41 | 107 | 49.77 |
| Sometimes | 32 | 35.96 | 55 | 43.65 | 87 | 40.47 |
| Se1dom | 11 | 12.76 | 10 | 7.94 | 21 | 9.77 |

Good Self-Concept

| Almost always | 66 | 74.16 | 72 | 57.14 | 138 | 64.19 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Sometimes | 22 | 24.72 | 47 | 37.30 | 69 | 32.09 |
| Seldom | 1 | 1.12 | 6 | 4.76 | 7 | 3.26 |

Shy and Sensitive
$\begin{array}{llllllll}\text { Almost always } & 10 & 11.24 & 20 & 15.87 & 30 & 13.95\end{array}$
Sometimes
Se1dom

| 42 | 47.19 | 59 | 46.83 | 101 | 46.98 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 37 | 41.57 | 46 | 39.51 | 83 | 38.60 |

Cooperative
Almost always
Sometimes
Se1dom

| 55 | 61.80 | 96 | 76.19 | 151 | 70.23 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 34 | 38.20 | 30 | 23.81 | 64 | 29.77 |
| 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |

## Approves of Own Sex

| Almost always | 82 | 92.13 | 116 | 92.06 | 198 | 92.09 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Sometimes | 6 | 6.74 | 9 | 7.14 | 15 | 6.98 |
| Seldom | 1 | 1.12 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | .47 |

Leadership

| Almost always | 37 | 41.57 | 52 | 41.27 | 89 | 41.40 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Sometimes | 49 | 55.06 | 55 | 43.65 | 104 | 48.37 |
| Seldom | 3 | 3.37 | 19 | 15.08 | 22 | 10.23 |

TABLE III (Continued)

| Description | Males |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Desire to Achieve |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Almost always | 70 | 78.65 | 103 | 81.75 | 173 | 80.47 |
| Sometimes | 17 | 19.10 | 22 | 17.46 | 39 | 18.14 |
| Seldom | 2 | 2.25 | 1 | . 79 | 3 | 1.40 |

responses obtained. However, some marked differences between the males and females were observed in the way in which they perceived themselves.

Males considered themselves almost always physically active ( $62.92 \%$ ) while the larger proportion of females considered themselves sometimes physically active (50.00\%). The greatest number of males considered themselves as seldom nervous and tense (49.44\%). In comparison $51.49 \%$ of the females stated that they were sometimes nervous and tense and $34.13 \%$ reported they were seldom nervous and tense.

In regard to success, the majority (53.97\%) of the females reported that they were almost always successful. The majority of the males considered themselves sometimes successful (55.06\%).

Females were more obedient than were males with $53.17 \%$ of the females almost always did what they were told, while $56.18 \%$ of the males reported that they sometimes did what they were told.

> Responses to Itkin's Attitudes
> Toward Parents Scale (Form F)

Most of the males and females considered themselves very close to their fathers, and reported that their fathers generally had good reasons for any requests they might make. The majority indicated that they would like to be the same kind of parent that their fathers had been.

The majority did not believe that their abilities were underestimated by their fathers (63.72\%). The majority reported that their fathers were satisfied with them (72.56\%), had sufficient respect for their opinions (74. $88 \%$ ), took sufficient interest in whether or not they had friends (79.07\%), and treated them fairly when they were young ( $86.98 \%$ ).

The majority believed that their fathers were admirable (79. $28 \%$ ), one of their best friends (55.35\%), and that they considered the rearing of their children the most important job in life (48.84\%). Also, they believed that their fathers took a great interest in everything that concerned their children (64.19\%).

In terms of getting along with their fathers, $53.02 \%$ responded very well and an additional $27.91 \%$ responded well. A total of $30.70 \%$ rarely, if ever, felt free to ask their fathers intimate questions, but $29.30 \%$ indicated they sometimes asked their fathers intimate questions. Only 6.05\% did not respect their fathers while $42.79 \%$ did respect their fathers. The majority indicated that their fathers showed pleasure in what the children did ( $60.93 \%$ ) and $48.84 \%$ generally inclined to think well of their children. $37.67 \%$ indicated that their fathers often did little things to show affection. The majority of the respondents (66.05\%) indicated that their fathers enjoyed spending some of their time with their children.

The respondents generally rated their fathers average to very fair, unselfish, helpful, not sarcastic, considerate,
not bossy, agreeable, kind, not envious, affectionate, understanding, warm, not suspicious, sympathetic, courteous, and trustful. Responses to each item are represented in Tables IV, V, and VI.

## Relationship Between Scores and Selected Background Variables

In order to examine the hypothesis that there is no significant difference between the perceptions of males and females concerning their fathers, a Mann-Whitney $U$ test was utilized to compare the total scores on Itkin's scale. No significant difference was found ( $\mathrm{p}=.14$ ).

The Kruskal-Wallis one-way analysis of variance was used to examine perceptions of respondents on Itkin's Attitudes Toward Parents Scale (Form F) which were classified in terms of: (a) age, (b) college classification, (c) number of siblings, (d) ordinal position, (e) head of household, (f) education of father, (g) place of residence, (h) source of income, (i) love of father, (j) childhood happiness, (k) source of discipline, (1) type of discipline in the home, (m) degree of closeness to father, (n) father's acceptance, (o) perception of fathers authority role, (p) type of discipline from mother and father, (q) perceptions concerning rearing children of their own, (r) degree of closeness to father and mother in early childhood, (s) parent having the greatest influence in their lives, ( $t$ ) amount of time father spends with children, (u) closeness to peers. In

## TABLE IV

## RESPONSES TO ITKIN'S ATTITUDES TOWARD PARENTS SCALE (FORM $\bar{F}$ ) SECTION I



## TABEE IV (Continued)



## TABLE V

## RESPONSES YO ITKIN'S ATTITUDES TOWARD PARENTS SCALE (FORM F) SECTION II

| Item | Males |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| 12. My father: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Takes a very great interest in everything that concerns his children. | 55 | 61.80 | 83 | 65.87 | 138 | 64.19 |
| Takes a moderate amount of interest in things which concern his children. | 24 | 26.97 | 34 | 26.98 | 58 | 26.98 |
| Does not take very much interest in things which concern his children. | 5 | 5.62 | 4 | 3.17 | 9 | 4.19 |
| Takes little interest in things which concern his children. | 3 | 3.37 | 4 | 3.17 | 7 | 3.26 |
| Takes no interest in things which concern his children. | 2 | 2.25 | 1 | . 79 | 3 | 1.40 |

13. I get along with my father:

Very well.
We11.
Fairly well.
Not very we11.
Poorly.

| 46 | 51.69 | 68 | 53.97 | 114 | 53.02 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 22 | 24.72 | 38 | 30.16 | 60 | 27.91 |
| 14 | 15.73 | 11 | 8.73 | 25 | 11.63 |
| 4 | 4.49 | 8 | 6.35 | 12 | 5.58 |
| 3 | 3.37 | 1 | .79 | 4 | 1.86 |

14. In regard to taking my father into my confidence, I:

Feel free to ask him intimate questions.
$27 \quad 30.34$
Often ask him intimate questions.
$3 \quad 3.37$
$13 \quad 10.32$
16
7.44

Sometimes ask him intimate questions.
$26 \quad 29.21$
$37 \quad 29.37$
$63 \quad 29.30$
Rarely, if ever, ask him intimate questions.
$27 \quad 30.34$
$39 \quad 30.95$
66
30.70

## TABLE V (Continued)

| Item | Males |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Wouldn't think of asking him any intimate question. | 6 | 6,74 | 19 | 15.08 | 24 | 11.16 |
| 15. Check whichever of the following terms best. describes your feelings toward your father: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I idealize my father. | 10 | 11.24 | 12 | 9.52 | 22 | 10.23 |
| I admire my father. | 33 | 37.08 | 55 | 43.65 | 88 | 40.93 |
| I respect my father. | 42 | 47.19 | 50 | 39.68 | 92 | 42.79 |
| I do not particularly respect my father at all. | 2 | 2.25 | 8 | 6.35 | 10 | 4.65 |
| I do not respect my father at all. | 2 | 2.25 | 1 | . 79 | 3 | 1.40 |
| 16. Check whichever of the following descriptions most nearly fits your father: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is always critical of his children, and nothing they do seems to please him. | 2 | 2.25 | 1 | . 79 | 3 | 1.40 |
| Is rather critical of his children, and is not often pleased by what they do. | 16 | 17.98 | 9 | 7.14 | 25 | 11.63 |
| Is not very critical of his children, but on the other hand, does not show. particular pleasure of what they do. | 10 | 11.24 | 7 | 5.56 | 17 | 7.91 |
| Often shows pleasure at what his children do, and often praises them for their accomplishments. | 46 | 51.69 | 85 | 67.46 | 133 | 60.93 |
| Very seldom complains about his children, and is liberal in his praises of them. | 10 | 11.24 | 23 | 18.25 | 33 | 15.35 |

TABLE V (Continued)

| It em | Males |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| 17. I consider my fa |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Always willing to think only the best of his children. | 27 | 30.34 | 51 | 40.48 | 78 | 36.28 |
| Generally inclined to think well of his children. | 44 | 49.44 | 61 | 48.41 | 105 | 48.84 |
| Neither inclined to think only well or only poorly of his children. | 7 | 7.87 | 9 | 7.14 | 16 | 7.44 |
| Sometimes inclined to be critical of his children. | 8 | 8.99 | 4 | 3.17 | 12 | 5.58 |
| Always ready to think only the worst of his children. | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 18. My father: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Never does. Iittle things for his children to show. affection or consideration. | 4 | 4.49 | 7 | 5.56 | 11 | 5.12 |
| Seldom does little things for his children to show affection or consideration. |  | 11.24 | 13 | 10.32 | 23 | 10.70 |
| Sometimes does little things for his children to show affection or consideration. |  | 23.60 | 40 | 31.75 | 61 | 28.37 |
| Often does little things for his children to show affection or consideration. | 39 | 43.82 | 42 | 33.33 | 81 | 37.67 |
| Is always doing little things for his children to show affection or consideration. | 12 | 13.48 | 23 | 18.25 | 35 | 16.23 |

19. In my opinion, my father:

Is so attached to his children that he wants to have them around all of $\begin{array}{llllllll}\text { the time } & 12 & 13.48 & 20 & 15.87 & 32 & 14.88\end{array}$

TABLE V (Continued)

| It em | Males |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Enjoys spending some of his time with his children. | 59 | 66.29 | 83 | 65.87 | 142 | 66.05 |
| Likes to spend a. little of his time with his children. | 11 | 12.36 | 18 | 14.29 | 29 | 13.49 |
| Does not like to spend time with his children. | 6 | 6.74 | 5 | 3.97 | 11 | 5.12 |
| Dislikes very much spending any of his time with his children. | 1 | 1.12 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | . 47 |

TABLE VI
RESPONSES TO ITKIN'S ATTITUDES TOWARD PARENTS SCALE (FORM F) SECTION III

| Trait | Males |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| 20. Fair |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Very great degree | 34 | 38.20 | 54 | 42.86 | 88 | 40.93 |
| Greater than average degree | 38 | 42.70 | 47 | 37.30 | 85 | 39.53 |
| Average degree | 15 | 16.85 | 20 | 15.87 | 35 | 16.28 |
| Less than average degree | 2 | 2.25 | 4 | 3.17 | 6 | 2.79 |
| Very slight degree or not at a11 | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | . 79 | 1 | . 47 |

21. Selfish

| Very great degree | 4 | 4.49 | 5 | 3.97 | 9 | 4.19 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Greater than average <br> degree | 10 | 11.24 | 4 | 2.17 | 14 | 6.51 |
| Average degree | 13 | 14.61 | 9 | 7.14 | 22 | 10.23 |
| Less than average degree | 18 | 20.22 | 30 | 23.81 | 49 | 22.79 |
| Very slight degree or <br> not at all | 44 | 49.44 | 72 | 57.14 | 116 | 53.95 |

22. He1pful

| Very great degree | 40 | 44.94 | 52 | 41.22 | 92 | 42.79 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Greater than average <br> degree | 35 | 39.33 | 41 | 32.54 | 76 | 35.35 |
| Average degree | 10 | 11.24 | 23 | 18.25 | 33 | 15.35 |
| Less than average degree | 1 | 1.12 | 5 | 3.97 | 6 | 2.79 |
| Very slight degree or |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| not at all | 2 | 2.25 | 4 | 3.17 | 6 | 3.26 |

23. Sarcastic

| Very great degree | 6 | 6.74 | 2 | 1.59 | 8 | 3.72 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Greater than average degree | 7 | 7.87 | 9 | 7.14 | 16 | 7.44 |
| Average degree | 23 | 25.84 | 16 | 12.70 | 39 | 18.14 |
| Less than average degree | 22 | 24.72 | 26 | 20.63 | 48 | 22.33 |
| Very slight degree or not at all | 27 | 30.34 | 65 | 51.59 | 92 | 44.65 |

## TABLE VI (Continued)

| Trait | Males |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| 24. Considerate |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Very great degree | 31 | 34.83 | 49 | 38.89 | 80 | 37. 21 |
| Greater than average degree | 36 | 40.45 | 52 | 41.27 | 88 | 40.93 |
| Average degree | 14 | 15.73 | 15 | 11.90 | 29 | 13.49 |
| Less than average degree | 6 | 6.74 | 8 | 6.35 | 14 | 6.51 |
| Very slight degree or not at a11 | 2 | 2.25 | 0 | 0.00 | 2 | . 93 |
| 25. Bossy |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Very great degree | 7 | 7.87 | 9 | 7.14 | 16 | 7.44 |
| Greater than average degree | 17 | 19.10 | 7 | 5.56 | 24 | 11.16 |
| Average degree | 19 | 21.35 | 30 | 23.81 | 49 | 22.79 |
| Less than average degree | 23 | 25.84 | 41 | 32.54 | 64 | 29.77 |
| Very slight degree or not at all | 22 | 24.72 | 37 | 29.37 | 59 | 27.44 |

26. Agreeable

| Very great degree | 17 | 19.10 | 40 | 31.75 | 57 | 26.51 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Greater than average |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\quad$ degree | 36 | 40.45 | 50 | 39.68 | 86 | 40.00 |
| Average degree | 26 | 29.21 | 27 | 21.43 | 53 | 24.65 |
| Less than average degree | 9 | 10.11 | 6 | 4.76 | 15 | 6.98 |
| Very slight degree or <br> $\quad$ not at al1 | 1 | 1.12 | 2 | 1.59 | 3 | 1.40 |

27. Kind

| Very great degree | 37 | 41.57 | 62 | 49.21 | 99 | 46.05 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Greater than average degree | 32 | 35.96 | 48 | 38.10 | 80 | 37.21 |
| Average degree | 15 | 16.85 | 13 | 10.32 | 28 | 13.02 |
| Less than average degree | 3 | 3.37 | 0 | 0.00 | 3 | 1.41 |
| Very slight degree or not at all | 2 | 2.25 | 3 | 2.38 | 5 | 2. 33 |

28. Envious

| Very great degree | 2 | 2.25 | 3 | 2.38 | 5 | 2.33 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Greater than average <br> degree | 14 | 15.73 | 2 | 1.59 | 16 | 7.44 |

## TABLE VI (Continued)

| Trait | Males |  | Females |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| Average degree | 16 | 17.98 | 12 | 9.52 | 28 | 13.02 |
| Less than average degree | 23 | 25.84 | 31 | 24.60 | 54 | 25.12 |
| Very slight degree or not at all | 34 | 38.20 | 77 | 61.11 | 111 | 51.63 |
| 29. Affectionate |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Very great degree | 21 | 23.60 | 41 | 32.54 | 62 | 28.84 |
| Greater than average degree | 28 | 31.46 | 38 | 30. 16 | 66 | 30.70 |
| Average degree | 28 | 31.46 | 30 | 23.18 | 58 | 26.98 |
| Less than average degree | 8 | 8.99 | 12 | 9.52 | 20 | 9.30 |
| Very slight degree or not at a11 | 4 | 4.49 | 5 | 3.97 | 9 | 4.19 |

30. Understanding

| Very great degree | 23 | 25.84 | 46 | 36.51 | 69 | 32.09 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Greater than average <br> degree | 37 | 41.57 | 41 | 32.54 | 78 | 36.28 |
| Average degree | 21 | 23.60 | 26 | 20.63 | 47 | 21.86 |
| Less than average degree | 6 | 6.74 | 4 | 3.17 | 10 | 4.65 |
| Very slight degree or <br> not at all | 2 | 2.25 | 7 | 5.56 | 9 | 4.19 |

31. Cold

| Very great degree | 1 | 1.12 | 4 | 3.17 | 5 | 2.33 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Greater than average degree | 8 | 8.99 | 4 | 3.17 | 12 | 5.58 |
| Average degree | 7 | 7.87 | 8 | 6.35 | 15 | 6.98 |
| Less than average degree | 18 | 20.33 | 14 | 11.11 | 32 | 14.88 |
| Very slight degree or not at all | 54 | 60.67 | 95 | 75.40 | 149 | 69.30 |

32. Suspicious

| Very great degree | 4 | 4.49 | 5 | 3.97 | 9 | 4.19 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Greater than average <br> degree | 9 | 10.11 | 4 | 3.17 | 13 | 6.05 |
| Average degree | 19 | 21.35 | 14 | 11.11 | 33 | 15.35 |
| Less than average degree | 19 | 21.35 | 29 | 23.02 | 48 | 22.33 |
| Very slight degree or | 38 | 42.70 | 37 | 57.94 | 111 | 51.63 |

## TABLE VI (Continued)

| Trait | Males |  | Females |  | Tota1 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | \% | N | \% | N | \% |
| 33. Sympathetic |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Very great degree | 13 | 14.61 | 36 | 28.57 | 49 | 22.79 |
| Greater than average degree | 33 | 37.08 | 40 | 31.75 | 73 | 33.95 |
| Average degree | 26 | 29.21 | 35 | 27.78 | 61 | 28.37 |
| Less than average degree | 14 | 15.73 | 9 | 7.14 | 23 | 10.70 |
| Very slight degree or not at a11 | 3 | 3.37 | 5 | 3.97 | 8 | 3.72 |
| 34. Courteous |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Very great degree | 33 | 37.08 | 52 | 41.27 | 86 | 40.00 |
| Greater than average degree | 35 | 39.33 | 41 | 32.54 | 76 | 35.35 |
| Average degree | 15 | 16.85 | 25 | 19.84 | 40 | 18.60 |
| Less than average degree | 3 | 3.37 | 4 | 3.17 | 7 | 3.26 |
| Very slight degree or not at all | 2 | 2.25 | 3 | 2.38 | 5 | 2.33 |
| 35. Trustfu1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Very great degree | 51 | 57.30 | 71 | 56.35 | 122 | 56.74 |
| Greater than average degree | 20 | 22.47 | 33 | 26.19 | 53 | 24.65 |
| Average degree | 8 | 8.99 | 12 | 9.52 | 20 | 9.30 |
| Less than average degree |  | 4.49 | 3 | 2.38 | 7 | 3.26 |
| Very slight degree or not at all | 4 | 4.49 | 5 | 3.97 | 9 | 4.19 |

addition to these factors, there were twenty-three background variables related to male's and female's selfperceptions. The results of these analyses are presented in Table VII.

Fifteen of the variables investigated in relation to the scores of the males on Itkin's scale revealed significant differences. Seventeen of the variables investigated in relation to the scores of the females on Itkin's scale revealed significant differences. Those variables which were found to reflect statistically significant differences among groups were then subjected to a Mann-Whitney $U$ test to determine those particular relationships between categories within the variables which accounted for the significance revealed by the Kruskal-Wallis one-way analysis of variance.

Head of household, love of father, childhood happiness, agent of discipline, degree of closeness to father, father's acceptance, perception of father's authority role, perceptions concerning rearing of their own children in relation to father, degree of closeness to father in early childhood, parent having greatest influence on their life, amount of time spent with father, aggressiveness, obedience, selfconcept, and taking charge of situations were significantly related to the males' positive perceptions of their fathers.

Love of father, childhood happiness, agent of discipline, type of discipline, degree of closeness to father, father's acceptance, perception of father's authority role, type of discipline from father, perceptions concerning

## TABLE VII

KRUSKAL-WALLIS ONE-WAY ANALYSIS OF SCALE SCORES CLASSIFIED BY SELECTED BACKGROUND VARIABLES

| Background Variable |  | Males |  |  | Females |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\overline{\mathrm{df}}$ | H | p | $\overline{\mathrm{df}}$ | H | p |
| 1. | Age | 3 | 4.56 | n.s. | 4 | 7.29 | n.s. |
| 2. | College Classification | 4 | 1.20 | n.s. | 4 | 7.44 | nos. |
| 3. | Number of Siblings | 4 | 1.20 | n.s. | 4 | 2.60 | n os. |
| 4. | Ordinal Position | 3 | 3.83 | n.s. | 4 | 2.60 | n.s. |
| 5. | Head of Household | 3 | 13.51 | . 01 | 3 | 3.61 | n 。S ${ }^{\text {o }}$ |
| 6. | Education of Father | 4 | 5.50 | n.s. | 4 | 6.85 | n.s. |
| 7. | Place of Residence | 3 | 1.73 | n.s. | 3 | . 28 | n.s. |
| 8. | Source of Income | 3 | 2.14 | n.s. | 3 | 1.04 | n.s. |
| 9. | Reasons for Father Absence | 4 | 1.44 | n.s. | 4 | 9.32 | n.s. |
| 10. | Love of Father | 4 | 36.37 | . 001 | 4 | 47.84 | . 001 |
| 11. | Childhood Happiness | 4 | 19.32 | . 001 | 4 | 33.49 | . 001 |
| 12. | Agent of Discipline | 4 | 12.94 | . 05 | 4 | 23.71 | . 001 |
| 13. | Type of Discipline | 4 | 5.79 | n.s. | 4 | 10.57 | . 05 |
| 14. | Degree of Closeness to Father | 4 | 36.59 | . 001 | 4 | 68.69 | . 001 |
| 15. | Father's Acceptance | 4 | 29.69 | . 001 | 4 | 27.46 | . 001 |
| 16. | Perception of Father's Authority Role | 2 | 7.11 | . 05 | 2 | 9.34 | . 01 |
| 17. | Type of Discipline from Mother | 4 | 6.71 | n.s. | 4 | 8.62 | nos. |
| 18. | Type of Discipline from Father | 4 | 5.26 | n.s. | 4 | 19.27 | . 001 |
| 19。 | Rearing Children in Relation to Mother | 2 | 2.60 | n.s. | 2 | 5.65 | nos. |
| 20. | Rearing Children in Relation to Father | 2 | 22.08 | . 001 | 2 | 28.68 | . 001 |
| 21. | Degree of Closeness to Mother in Early Childhood | 2 | . 15 | n.s. | 2 | 8.62 | . 05 |
| 22. | Degree of Closeness to Father in Early Childhood | 2 | 32.44 | . 001 | 2 | 37.84 | . 001 |

## TABLE VII (Continued)


rearing of their own children in relation to their father, degree of closeness to mother in early childhood, degree of closeness to father in early childhood, parent having greatest influence on their life, amount of time spent with father, being successful, being generous, good self-concept, and being cooperative were significantly related to the females' positive perceptions of their fathers.

1. Specifically, the directions of the findings reflected by Mann-Whitney $U$ tests were as follows: Male university students whose fathers were the head of the household scored higher on Itkin's scale, i.e., reflected more positive perceptions of their fathers, than did those males whose mothers were reported to be the head of the household $(U=$ 2.91, $\mathrm{p}=.01$ ).
2. Male university students who reported that they were loved by their fathers very much reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those males who reported that they were loved only average $(U=4.43, p=.001)$, or somewhat below average $(U=3.26, \mathrm{p}=.001)$, or very little $(U=2.91, p=.01)$. Males who reported that they were loved above average by their fathers reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than students who reported they were loved average by their fathers $(U=12.00, p=.001)$. Males who reported that they were loved average reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who reported being loved by their fathers somewhat below average $(\mathrm{U}=13.50, \mathrm{p}=.001)$ 。
3. Similarly, female university students who reported that they were loved by their fathers very much reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than females who rated their fathers' love as above average $(U=3.07, p=$ .01), or average ( $U=6.06, p=.001$ ). Females who reported that they were loved above average by their fathers reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who felt that they were loved average ( $\mathrm{U}=18.50, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ), those who rated their fathers' love as below average ( $U=$ $3.00, p=.01$ ), or very little ( $U=2.50, p=.05$ ) .
4. Males who reported that they were very happy during their childhood reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than subjects who rated their childhood happiness as average ( $U=3.72, p=.001$ ) or who rated it as below average ( $U=2.19, p=.05$ ) . Males who rated their childhood happiness as above average reported significantly more favorable perceptions of their fathers than subjects who rated their childhood happiness as average ( $U=2.52, p=.05$ ). Males who rated their childhood happiness as average reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who rated their childhood happiness as below average ( $\mathrm{U}=15.00, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ) or very unhappy ( $\mathrm{U}=2.00, \mathrm{p}=.05$ ) 。
5. Females who indicated they were very happy during childhood reflected superior attitudes toward their fathers than females who rated their childhood happiness as above average $(U=2.24, p=.05)$ or average $(U=4.49, p=.001)$ or below average ( $\mathrm{U}=3.39, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ) . Those females who
reported childhood happiness to be above average reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who reported their childhood happiness as average ( $\mathrm{U}=2.94, \mathrm{p}=$ .O1), those subjects who rated their childhood happiness as below average ( $\mathrm{U}=24.00, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ) or very unhappy ( $\mathrm{U}=$ 4.00, $\mathrm{p}=.001$ ).
6. Males who reported they received discipline primarily from their father reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who reported that the main source of discipline was from their mothers with help from their fathers ( $\mathrm{U}=52.00, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ). Those subjects who reported that discipline was primarily from their fathers with help from their mothers reflected more favorable attitudes toward their fathers than those who reported their discipline from their mothers ( $\mathrm{U}=2.61, \mathrm{p}=.01$ ). Those males who reported that their discipline was from their fathers and mothers equally reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who reported their source of discipline was their fathers with help from their mothers ( $\mathrm{U}=2.15, \mathrm{p}=$ .05), or their mothers ( $\mathrm{U}=2.81, \mathrm{p}=.01$ ) 。
7. Females who reported that they received their discipline primarily from their fathers and mothers equally reflected significantly more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those subjects who reported their primary source of discipline was received from their fathers ( $U=$ 2. $20, \mathrm{p}=.05$ ), from their fathers with help from their mothers ( $\mathrm{U}=2.87, \mathrm{p}=.01$ ), from their mothers with help
from their fathers $(U=2.51, p=.05)$, or from their mothers $(U=3.49, p=.001)$. Those who reported their discipline was received from their fathers with help from their mothers had more positive perception of their fathers than those who reported they were disciplined by their fathers $(\mathrm{U}=31.50, \mathrm{p}=.001)$ or their mothers $(\mathrm{U}=22.00, \mathrm{p}=.001)$. Those subjects who reported their primary source of discipline as their fathers had more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who received discipline from their mothers $(U=10.00, \mathrm{p}=: 001)$.
8. Females who describe that the type of discipline they received in their home as mild had significantly more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who described their discipline as somewhat severe $(U=14.00$, $p=.001$ ). Those who reported their discipline was average had more positive perceptions than those who reported their discipline was somewhat severe $(U=2.67, p=.01)$.
9. Males who rated the degree of closeness to their fathers as very close reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who rated their closeness as average $(\mathrm{U}=3.81, \mathrm{p}=.01)$ or below average $(\mathrm{U}=4.23, \mathrm{p}=$ .001). Males who perceived their closeness to their fathers as above average had more positive perceptions of their fathers than those who considered it as average $(U=2.96, p=$ . 01 ) or those who considered it below average $(U=2.39, \mathrm{p}=$ .05) .
10. Females who rated their degree of closeness to their fathers very close reflected significantly more favorable perceptions of their fathers than females who rated their closeness as above average $(\mathrm{U}=4.34, \mathrm{p}=.001)$, average $(U=5.33, p=.001)$, below average $(U=5.41, p=.001)$, or very distant $(U=2.89, p=.01)$. Females who rated the degree of closeness to their fathers as above average reflected significantly more favorable perceptions of fathers than females who rated their closeness as average ( $\mathrm{U}=2.98$, $p=.01)$, below average $(U=5.40, p=.001)$, or very distant ( $\mathrm{U}=2.89, \mathrm{p}=.01$ ). Females who rated their degree of closeness to their fathers as average reflected significantly more favorable perceptions of fathers than females who rated their closeness as below average ( $\mathrm{U}=4.22, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ) or very distant ( $\mathrm{U}=2.77, \mathrm{p}=.01$ ). Females who rated their degree of closeness to their fathers as below average had more positive perceptions of their fathers than those who reported him as very distant ( $U=14.50, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ).
11. Males who perceived that their fathers were interested in almost all that they do reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who said they were interested only in how $I$ do in school ( $U=4.05, p=.001$ ), or not interested in what $I$ do ( $\mathrm{U}=3.27, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ). Those males who said their fathers were interested only in how $I$ do in school had significantly more positive perceptions of their fathers than those who said he is not interested in what I say $(U=9.50, p=.001)$.
12. Females who perceived their fathers were interested in almost all that they do reflected more positive attitudes toward their fathers than those females who perceived their fathers as too busy to pay attention to me ( $\mathrm{U}=$ 2.38, $\mathrm{p}=.05$ ), shows interest only in school $(\mathrm{U}=2.64, \mathrm{p}=$ .01), acts as if $I$ am in the way $(U=3.33, p=.001)$, or is not interested in what 1 say $(U=2.41, p=.05)$. Females who perceived their fathers as not interested in what I say reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who said their fathers were too busy to pay attention to me $(U=2.00, p=.05)$, shows interest only in how $I$ do in school $(U=3.00, p=.01)$, or acts as if $I$ am in the way ( $\mathrm{U}=4.00, \mathrm{p}=.01$ ) 。
13. Males who rated their fathers as not very domineering had more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who rated their fathers as very domineering ( $U=2.46, p=.05$ ) 。
14. Similarly, females who rated their fathers as not very domineering had more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who rated him as very domineering ( $\mathrm{U}=$ $2.79, \mathrm{p}=.01$ )
15. Females who reported the type of discipline they received from their fathers as very permissive reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who reported discipline from their fathers to be very strict $(U=4.00, p=.001)$. Those subjects who reported their discipline was permissive reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who reported their
discipline was strict $(U=2.95, \mathrm{p}=.01)$ or very strict $(\mathrm{U}=2.73, \mathrm{p}=.01)$.
16. Males who stated that they would rear their own children about the same as their father had more positive perceptions of their fathers than those who thought they would be more permissive than their fathers $(\mathrm{U}=4.82, \mathrm{p}=$ .001) 。
17. Females who in rearing their own children responded that they would be about the same as their father reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who said they would be more permissive $(U=4.42, p=.001)$ or less permissive $(U=3.54, p=.001)$. Those who reported that they would be less permissive had more positive attitudes toward their fathers than those who said that they would be more permissive $(U=76.50, \mathrm{p}=.001)$.
18. Those females who reported that they were very close to their mothers in early childhood reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who rated the closeness to their mothers as average $(U=2.69, p=$ .01) 。
19. Males who rated closeness to their fathers during early childhood as above average reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who rated their closeness as average $(U=2.51, \mathrm{p}=.05)$ or below average ( $\mathrm{U}=5.11, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ). Those who rated the closeness to their fathers in early childhood as average reflected more
favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who rated their closeness as below average $(U=4.66, \mathrm{p}=.001)$.
20. Females who rated closeness to their fathers during early childhood as above average reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who rated their closeness as average $(\mathrm{U}=3.78, \mathrm{p}=.001)$ or below average $(U=5.18, p=.001)$. Those subjects who rated the closeness to their fathers in early childhood as average reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who rated the closeness as below average $(\mathrm{U}=4.33, \mathrm{p}=.001)$.
21. Males who reported that both their mother and father equally influenced their lives reflected significantly more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who thought their mother was the greatest influence $(U=3.26, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ) 。 Those who reported their father was the greatest influence reflected more favorable perceptions than those who believed their mother was the greatest influence $(U=80.00, p=.001)$.
22. Females who indicated that both their mother and father equally influenced their lives reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who thought their mother was the greatest influence ( $U=4.37, p=.001$ ). Those who reported their father was the greatest influence reflected more favorable perceptions than those who believed their mother was the greatest influence ( $\mathrm{U}=2.60, \mathrm{p}=.01$ )。
23. Males whose fathers spent more than average time with them had more favorable perceptions toward their fathers than those who reported that they spent less than average
time with them ( $\mathrm{U}=4.02, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ) . Those males whose fathers spent an average amount of time with them had more positive perceptions of their fathers than those who reported he spent below average time with them ( $U=4.36, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ) 。
24. Females whose fathers spent more than average time with them reflected more positive perceptions concerning their fathers than students who reported their fathers spent an average amount of time with them ( $\mathrm{U}=4.21, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ) or less than average amount of time with them $(U=5.98, p=$ .001). Similarly, females who indicated that their fathers spent an average amount of time with them reflected more positive perceptions concerning fathers than those who reported their fathers spent less than average amount of time with them ( $\mathrm{U}=5.44, \mathrm{p}=.001$ ).
25. Males who reported that they were seldom aggressive had more positive perceptions of their fathers than those who reported that they were sometimes aggressive ( $\mathrm{U}=$ 2.35, $\mathrm{p}=.05$ ).
26. Males who reported that they almost always did what they were told reflected more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those males who said they were seldom obedient $(U=2.64, \mathrm{p}=.01)$.
27. Males who reported they almost always liked themselves had more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who sometimes had a good self-concept $(U=2.49, p=$ .05) 。
28. Males who showed leadership sometimes had more positive perceptions of their fathers than those who almost always took charge of the situation ( $\mathrm{U}=2.41, \mathrm{p}=.05$ ).
29. Females who perceived themselves as almost always successful reflected more positive attitudes toward their fathers than those who perceived themselves as sometimes successful ( $\mathrm{U}=2.47, \mathrm{p}=.05$ ).
30. Females who perceived themselves as almost always generous had better perceptions toward their fathers than those who perceived themselves as sometimes generous ( $\mathrm{U}=$ 2.83, $\mathrm{p}=.01$ ).
31. Females who reported that they almost always liked themselves had more positive perceptions of their fathers than those who sometimes had a good self-concept ( $\mathrm{U}=3.18$, $p=.01$ )
32. Females who perceived themselves as almost always cooperative had more favorable perceptions of their fathers than those who perceived themselves as sometimes cooperative $(U=3.09, p=.01)$.

## Discussion

The findings of this research support the research of Towry (1971) and Brooks (1964) on adolescents' perceptions of their fathers: In both studies, youth generally rated their fathers as fair, unselfish, helpful, not sarcastic, considerate, not bossy, agreeab1e, kind, not envious, affectionate, understanding, warm, not suspicious, sympathetic, courteous,
and trustful. In Brooks' (1964) study youth who reflected favorable perceptions of their fathers reported that they were very much loved by their fathers, were very happy during their childhoods, were very close to their fathers, were in the upper-lower socioeconomic class, received discipline from father and mother equally, and that their fathers were interested in almost everything they did.

In Towry's (1971) study, female youth who reflected favorable perceptions of their fathers reported that they were living with both parents, were very much loved by their fathers, had very happy childhoods, were very close to their fathers, their fathers were interested in almost all that they did, their fathers were very masculine, they would rear their children in about the same manner as their fathers, were influenced equally by both parents, and their fathers spent more than average time with them. In addition, females with positive perceptions of their fathers reported they were almost always cooperative, almost always physically active, sometimes nervous and tense, almost always self-reliant, sometimes moody and emotional, and almost always unpredictable. Males who had favorable perceptions of their fathers reported that they were very much loved by their fathers, had very happy childhoods, were very close to their fathers, that their fathers were interested in almost all they did, that they would rear their children in about the same manner as their father, that they were influenced by both parents equally, that their fathers spent more than an average amount of time with them.

In this study and those by Brooks (1964) and Towry (1971) the majority of the respondents attributed positive personality characteristics to their fathers, and positive perceptions of their fathers were related primarily to father-child relationships. Love of father, childhood happiness, discipline, closeness to father, and father's acceptance were significantly related to positive perceptions of fathers in each study for both males and females.

## CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this research was to examine the perceptions of male and female university students concerning their fathers in relation to selected personality and background variables. The study included 215 American born students between the ages of 17 and 21 enrolled at Oklahoma State University in the spring semester of 1974 .

A questionnaire, Attitudes Toward Parents Scale (Form F) by Itkin (1952) was used in the study. The Form F scale is designed to assess perceptions concerning fathers. In order to ascertain the usefulness of Itkin's instrument, an item analysis was undertaken utilizing a chi-square test. All of the items proved to discriminate between high and low scoring students $\left(Q_{1}-Q_{4}\right)$ at the .001 level of significance, reflecting the instrument's usefulness with the type of sample studied.

In general, the major results were as follows:

1. With regard to the closeness the respondents felt to their fathers, the majority reported being above average in closeness to their fathers or very close.
2. The greatest proportion felt very much loved by their fathers.
3. In regard to childhood happiness, the majority of students reported that they had a very happy childhood.
4. With respect to their father's perceived acceptance of them, most of the students reported that their fathers were interested in all that they did.
5. The majority perceived their fathers to be not very domineering.
6. The majority of the respondents indicated that they would rear their children in much the same manner that their fathers had reared them.
7. The majority reported that they had been influenced by their mothers and fathers equally.
8. The majority believed that their fathers were admirable, one of their best friends, and that they considered the rearing of their children the most important job in life.
9. The majority responded that they get along very well with their fathers, however, the majority rarely, if ever, felt free to ask their fathers intimate questions.
10. The majority respected their fathers and perceived their fathers as fair, unselfish, helpful, not sarcastic, considerate, not bossy, agreeable, kind, not envious, affectionate, understanding, warm, not suspicious, sympathetic, courteous, and trustful.
11. No significant difference was found between males and females in their perceptions concerning their fathers.
12. The following factors were found to be significantly related to male students' perceptions of their fathers:
(a) the parent who served as head of the household, (b) love of father, (c) childhood happiness, (d) agent of discipline, (e) degree of closeness to father, (f) father's acceptance, (g) perception of father's authority role, (h) perceptions concerning rearing children of their own in relation to father, (i) degree of closeness to father during early childhood, (j) parent having greatest influence on their life, (k) amount of time spent with father, (1) aggressiveness, (m) obedience, (n) good self-concept, and (o) leadership. 13. The following factors were found to be significantly related to female students' perceptions of their fathers: (a) love of father, (b) childhood happiness, (c) agent of discipline in the home, (d) type of discipline, (e) degree of closeness to father, (f) father's absence, (g) perception of father's authority role, (h) type of discipline from father, (i) perceptions concerning rearing of their own children in relation to their father, (j) degree of closeness to their mother in early childhood, (k) degree of closeness to their father in early childhood, (1) parent having greatest influence on their life, (m) amount of time spent with father, ( n ) being successful, (o) being generous, (p) good self-concept, and (q) being cooperative.

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APPENDIX A

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Family Relations DIVISION OF HOME ECONOMICS and Child Development

## INFORMATION SHEET

Please answer the following questions as accurately as you can. It is important that you answer ALL questions which are appropriate. Your identity and your answers will be strictly confidential. Youx cooperation in this research project is greatly appreciated.

1. Sex (check one)
___ a. male
___ b. female
2. Age (check one)

3. Were you born in the U.S.?

Yes $\qquad$ No $\qquad$
4. My present classification is:

$=$| a. Freshman |
| :--- | :--- |
| b。 Sophomore |
| c. Junior |$\quad \square \quad$ e. | d.Senior <br> Graduate |
| :--- |

5. I have $\qquad$ brothers and sisters. I was number 123455 or more (circle one).
6. Who is head of your household?
a. father
b。 mother

co step father $\quad \square \quad$| d. step mother |
| :--- |

7. In school, your father completed:
$\qquad$ a. less than high school _ d. college graduate graduate $\quad$ e. graduate school
—_ b. high school graduate
8. The majority of my life so far, I grew up:
a. on a farm
b. in a community of less
than 2,500 population
in a community of 2,500
to 50,000 population $\quad$ d. in a community of
9. The main source of my family's income is:

10. If during your childhood, your father was absent for a long period of time (A YEAR OR MORE) indicate the reason for his absence:
a. separation
b. divorce
c. military service
$\square$ d. death
b. divorce e. other
$\ldots$ c. military service
11. In my home, I feel that $I$ am loved by my father:

12. With respect to happiness, I consider my childhood to be:

$\ldots$| a.very happy <br> bomewhat above <br> average |
| :--- |
| c. average |

d. somewhat below average
$\ldots$ e. very unhappy
13. In my family, the discipline $I$ received mainly from:

15. I would rate the degree of closeness that $I$ have with my father as:
__ a. very close $\quad$ b. above average $\quad$ d. below average
_C. average
16. In regard to my father's acceptance of me, I. find that my father (select the one answer which best describes your relationship):
__a. is too busy to pay much attention to me
$\qquad$ b. shows that he is interested only in how I. am doing in school
$\qquad$ Co acts as though I were in the way
d. .is interested in almost all that I do
$\qquad$ e. is not interested in what I say
17. In my own family, my father is:
__a. very domineering b. not very domineering c. somewhat submissive
18. Check the answer which most nearly describes the type of discipline you received from your mother:
—— a. very permissive permissive $\quad$ b. e. strict
___C. average
19. Check the answer which most nearly describes the type of discipline you received from your father:

| a. very permissive |
| :--- | :--- |
| b. permissive |
| c. average |$\quad=$ e. strict

20. In rearing children of your own, do you believe you will be:
___a. more permissive than your mother
_ b. about the same as your mother
_C. less permissive than your mother
21. In rearing children of your own, do you believe you will be:
$\qquad$ c. less permissive than your father
$\qquad$ your father b. about the same as your father
22. Which of the following describes the degree of closeness of your relationship with your mother during childhood?
_a. above average
b. average
c. below average
23. Which of the following describes the degree of cloesness of your relationship with your father during childhood?
___a. above average

- b. average
___c. below average

24. Which parent had the greatest influence in determining the kind of person you are?
_a. mother and father
equally
___ b. mother
_C. father
25. In terms of amount of time, do you believe your father:
$\qquad$ a. spent more time
with you than the average father
$\qquad$ b. spent an average
amount of time with you
$\qquad$ c. spent less time with you than the average father
26. Which of the following describes the degree of closeness to friends your own age?
$\qquad$ a. very close
$\ldots$ d. below average b. above average. c. average

Answer each item with a check in the column which most nearly describes you.

Almost
Always

| (a) | (b) | (c) | 27. | I am careless rather than deliberate. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | 28. | I am hostilely aggressive. |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | 29. | I am physically active. |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | 30. | I am nervous and tense. |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | 31. | I am wel1-1iked. |
| (a) | (b) | (c) |  | I can be counted on to do what I say I will do. |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | 33. | Things I undertake turn out well. |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | 34. | I need to be pushed to do things. |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | 35. | I am generous |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | 36. | I am self-reliant. |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | 37. | I am moody and emotional. |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | 38. | I do what I am told. |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | 39. | I make decisions and stick to them. |


| （a） | （b） | （c） | 40． | I am honest． |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| （a） | （b） | （c） |  | I am unpredictable． |
| （a） | （b） | （c） | 42. | I am kind and affectionate。 |
| （a） | （b） | （c） | 43. | I am outgoing． |
| （a） | （b） | （c） | 44. | I like the way that I am。 |
| （a） | （b） | （c） | 45． | I am shy and sensitive。 |
| （a） | （b） | （c） |  | I am cooperative． |
| （a） | （b） | （c） |  | I like being the sex that I am． |
| （a） | （b） | （c） |  | I like to take charge of a situation． |
| （a） | （b） | （c） | 49. | I desire to achieve． |

APPENDIX B

QUESTIONNAIRE

Following is a list of statements. which might be answered as true, false, or uncertain. If you believe the statement true of your father or your feelings toward your father, encircle the "TRUE" in front of the statement; if false, encircle the "FALSE" and if your answer might be "YES" and "NO" or "NOT CERTAIN," encircle "?".

| 1. | True | $?$ | False | I consider myself very close to my father. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2. | True | ? | False | My father generally has good reasons for any requests he might make。 |
| 3. | True | $?$ | False | I would like to be the same kind of a parent that my father has been. |
| 4. | True | ? | False | I believe that my father underestimates my ability. |
| 5. | True | ? | False | I.believe that my father finds fault with me more often than $I$ deserve and seems never to be satisfied with anything I do. |
| 6. | True | ? | False | I believe that my father has insufficient respect for my opinions. |
| 7. | True | ? | False | In my estimation, my father is insufficiently interested in whether or not $I$ have friends. |
| 8 。 | True | ? | False | In my judgment, my father did not treat me fairly when $I$ was young. |
| 9. | True | ? | False | I believe that my father is one of the most admirable persons I know. |
| 10. | True | ? | False | My father has been one of the best friends I have ever had. |
| 11. | True | ? | False | My father considers the rearing of his children the most important job in life. |

In each of the following you are given a preliminary statement which can be completed in any one of five ways or a question which can be answered in any one of five ways. Check whichever one of the alternative choices most closely approximates your own opinion or feeling.
__12. My father . . .
_(a) takes a very great interest in everything that concerns his children.
(b) takes a moderate amount of interest in things which concern his children.
$\qquad$ (c) does not take very much interest in things which concern his children.
$\qquad$ (d) takes little interest in things which concern his children.
$\qquad$ (e) takes no interest in things which concern his children.
_13. I get along with my father . . .
___(a) very•we11.
___(b) wel1.
$\qquad$ (c) fairly well.
$\qquad$ (d) not very well.
$\qquad$ (e) poorly.
_14. In regard to taking my father into my confidence, I . . .
___(a) feel free to ask him intimate questions.
$\qquad$ (b) often ask him intimate questions.
$\qquad$ (c) sometimes ask him intimate questions.
$\qquad$ (d) rarely if ever ask him intimate questions.
$\qquad$ (e) wouldn't think of asking him any intimate questions.
15. Check whichever of the following terms best describes your feelings toward your father:
$\qquad$ (a) I idealize my father.
$\qquad$ (b) I admire my father.
$\qquad$ (c) I respect my father
（d）I do not particular1y respect my father
$\qquad$ （e）I do not respect my father at a11．
16．Check whichever of the following descriptions most nearly fits your father．
＿＿＿（a）Is always critical of his children，and nothing his children do ever seems to please him．
$\qquad$ （b）Is rather critical of his children，and is not often pleased by what his children do．
$\qquad$ （c）Is not very critical of his children，but on the other hand，does not show particular pleasure of what his children do．
（d）Often shows pleasure at what his children do，and often praises them for their accomplishments．
＿＿（e）Very seldom complains about his children，and is liberal in his praise of them．

17．I consider my father ．．．
＿＿（a）always willing to think only the best of his children．
＿＿＿（b）generally inc1ined to think well of his children．
＿＿（c）neither inclined to think only well or only poorly of his children．
（d）sometimes inclined to be crítical of his children．
$\qquad$ （e）always ready to think only the worst of his children．
＿18．My father。。。
＿＿（a）never does little things for his children to show affection or consideration。
＿＿（b）seldom does 1ittle things for his children to show affection or consideration。
$\qquad$ （c）sometimes does litt1e things for his children to show affection or consideration．
（d）Often does little things for his children to show affection or consideration．
＿＿（e）is always doing little things for his children to show affection or consideration．
_19. In my opinion, my father . . .
___(a) is so attached to his children that he wants to have them around all of the time.
__(b) enjoys spending some of his time with his children.
(c) likes to spend a little of his time with his children.
(d) does not like to spend time with his children.
-
(e) dislikes very much spending any of his time with his children.

Following is a list of traits of personality. If in your opinion your father possesses a trait in a very great degree, encircle the "A" in front of the trait. If he possesses the trait to a greater than average degree, encircle the "B"; if he possesses the trait to about an average degree, encircle the "C"; if. he possesses the trait to a less than average extent, encircle the "D"; and if he possesses the trait only to a very slight. degree or not at all, encircle the " $E$ " in front of the trait.
20. A B C D E
21. A B C D E
22. A B C D E
23. A B C D E
24. A B C D E
25. A B C D E
26. A B C D E
27. A B C D E
28. A B C D E
29. A B C D E
30. A B C D E
31. A B C D E
32. A B C D E
33. A B C D E
34. A B C D E
35. A B C D E

Fair
Selfish
He1pful
Sarcastic
Considerate
Bossy
Agreeable
Kind
Envious

## Affectionate

Understanding
Cold
Suspicious
Sympathetic
Courteous
Trustfu1

APPENDIX C

## SCORING KEY FOR ITKIN'S ATTITUDES TOWARD <br> PARENTS SCALE (FORM F)

|  | T | ? | F |  |  |  | A | B | C | D | E |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1. | 4 | 3 | 2 |  |  | 20. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 2. | 4 | 3 | 2 |  |  | 21. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. | 4 | 3 | 2 |  |  | 22. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 4. | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |  | 23. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |  | 24. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 6. | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |  | 25. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |  | 26. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 8. | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |  | 27. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 9. | 4 | 3 | 2 |  |  | 28. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. | 4 | 3 | 2 |  |  | 29. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 11. | 4 | 3 | 2 |  |  | 30. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|  | a | b | c | d. | e | 31. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 32. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 33. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 14. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 34. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 15. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 35. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 16. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19. | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## VITA

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