

COLLEGE STUDENTS' ATTITUDES
TOWARD PEOPLE WHO MARRY
AT AGE 65 OR OVER

By

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1960

Submitted to the Faculty of the
Graduate College of the
Oklahoma State University
in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for
the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
May, 1970

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to express her appreciation to all who have contributed to this study.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to Dr. Nick Stinnett whose guidance, encouragement and patience greatly facilitated the completion of the study.

Gratitude is also expressed to Dr. Josephine Hoffer, Acting Head of the Department of Family Relations and Child Development, for her helpful attitude and critical reading.

Appreciation is sincerely expressed to the Oklahoma State University Research Foundation for support of, and interest in, this project. Thanks also go to Iris McPherson at the Computing Center.

Family, friends and associates are given special thanks for encouragement and support throughout the study.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Statement of Problem

Each year, the number of people age 65 and over increases by approximately one and one-half million. According to U. S. Census Bureau estimates, this constitutes 9.5 percent of the U. S. population with a total number of 19,129,000 as of July 1, 1968. For the first time in the history of the United States the number of persons aged 65 and over exceeded the number who are five years of age or younger (U. S. Department of Commerce, 1969).

The number of persons age 65 and over has risen rapidly in the past several decades. Continued increases in this population are indicated by Census Bureau predictions, but the rate of growth is expected to diminish. By 1970 the number is expected to increase to 19,600,000.

Predictions are that by 1980 the 65 plus population will number 23,063,000 and by 1990 this will have risen to 27 million. This will be an increase of 8.5 million or 46 percent in the 24-year period since 1966, amounting to an average yearly gain of 356,000 (U. S. Department of Commerce, 1967).

As medical research and a higher standard of living contributes to a longer life span it can be expected that the number of people past the age of 65 will continue to rise.

With the increase in the older population a rise has been seen in the number of marriages between persons in this age group. In a report by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (1963) it was indicated that the total number of all marriages was five percent less in 1959 than in 1949, however the number of marriages among older persons was up by more than one-third. Out of the estimated 1,494,000 marriages in the United States during 1959 about 11,500 of these were between older brides and grooms, both of whom were past the age of 65. About 35,300 (2.4 percent of the total) included a bride, a groom, or both who were past 65. This group showed the largest increase numerically and proportionately.

Only part of the variations in trends between all marriages and those of older persons can be attributed to changes in the age distribution of the population. The older population did increase faster than the younger group in the "marriageable ages" but this does not account for the numerical decrease in the total number of marriages.

Approximately 93 percent of these older brides and the older grooms had been married at least once before. Approximately 78 percent of the older brides and 73 percent of the older grooms were widowed and 13 percent of the

older brides and 18 percent of the older grooms had been previously divorced at the time of their marriage, in 1959 (Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 1963).

A look at the above data indicates that there exists an upward trend in the marriages of older persons even though the overall number of marriages is down. The largest increase is in the group where both brides and grooms are past the age of 65. Another indication was the majority of those marriages are re-marriages. There are no indications that this trend will reverse in the future.

The normal older person may have passed the period of violent personal upheavals and the main struggle for job success, fame, and social standing is over. But the marriage of an older couple is not free of its own unique problems (Lawton, 1956). It should also be stated that the marriage of the older person has its own unique rewards.

All people are affected by three aspects of perception: the way in which one is perceived by others, the way one believes he is perceived by others, and the way he perceives himself (Stinnett and Montgomery, 1968).

The role an older person tends to identify with and attempts to fill may be influenced by stereotypes he has formed largely from the attitudes which he perceives others have toward older people. Tuckman and Lorge (1954) found that:

College students, parents of college students, junior and senior high school students, and older people themselves subscribe to erroneous

and stereotyped statements about older people to a substantial degree.

It is desirable that more knowledge and understanding be obtained concerning others' attitudes toward the older person and specifically others' attitudes toward older marriages.

Need for Research

Since the number of older persons entering into marriage at age 65 or over is rapidly increasing, and since success of such marriages may depend in part on the attitudes and acceptance of family members and peers, an investigation of these attitudes seems warranted. Inasmuch as tradition implies that most people are married at an earlier stage in life, most research and classroom instruction has been concerned with this earlier period, ignoring the attitudes of younger generations toward such marriages.

Purpose of the Study

The overall purpose of this study is to determine the attitudes of college students toward older persons who enter into marriage and to relate such attitudes to certain social and psychological factors.

The specific purposes of this study were:

1. To compare differences in college students' Perception of Older Marriages Scale scores according to (a) sex, (b) age, (c) religious

preference, (d) residence, (e) socio-economic status, (f) presence of siblings, (g) sibling position, (h) parent's marital status, (i) exposure to a family relations course, (j) major influences on attitudes toward marriage, (k) amount of contact with older couples, and (l) perception of the most important factor in achieving marital success.

2. To determine if there is an association between the POM scores of college students and (a) age conservatism and (b) personality orientation.
3. To determine if there is a difference in perception of why older people enter into marriage after age 65 according to (a) sex, (b) age, (c) religious preference, (d) residence, and (e) socio-economic status.
4. To determine if there is a difference in the perception of the major problem facing people who enter into marriage after age 65 according to (a) sex, (b) age, (c) religious preference, (d) residence, and (e) socio-economic status.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Older Americans are expected to number more than 28 million by the end of this century, more than nine times as many Americans age 65 and over as there were in 1900 (Aging, 1967). According to population estimates the number of households in the United States is expected to rise to 84.4 million by July of 1985. In the latter ten years of this period the projected increases are concentrated in households with heads under 45 years of age and over the age of 65. Unlike the figures for younger age groups, the rate of expected increases for households with heads 65 years and over are quite regular throughout the projection period. This is because the population in this age group is unaffected by fluctuations in the number of births that occurred after 1920. During the period 1980-1985, the number of husband-wife households with heads over the age of 65 is expected to increase by 111,000 per year compared to a 64,000 annual net increase for the 1960 to 1966 period (U. S. Department of Commerce, 1968).

Tuckman and Lorge (1954) found that stereotyped and erroneous ideas about older people are subscribed to by a wide segment of the population. They look upon old age

as a period characterized by economic insecurity, poor health, resistance to change and failing physical and mental powers. Their responses seem to be a reflection of the cultural expectations toward the activities, personality characteristics, and adjustment of older people.

Golde and Kogan (1959) in a study to assess attitudes toward old people found that older people are believed to have less interpersonal qualities and relationships. But an interesting contrast indicated their respondents believed that companionship was one of the greater pleasures of older people.

Drake (1957) reports that studies generally show that among college students, women subscribe to stereotyped statements more often than men, and that the fathers of college students subscribe to the statements more often than the mothers.

Dinkel (1944) notes that religious affiliation and place of residence determine in part the extent to which students believe that children should support aged parents. He found that Catholics adhered most strongly, and persons with no religion, the least, to the belief that children should give support to older parents.

Kogan (1961) found that subjects with a greater degree of the nurturance personality factor indicated a more positive attitude toward older persons. Tuckman and Lorge (1958) report that individuals who have had more direct contact with a variety of old people tend to be

less negative in their attitudes toward aging than those whose acquaintance is more limited.

Bossard (1951) asserts that in the American marriage pattern most persons are married in their younger years; research and classroom instruction of family life are geared according to this fact. Marriages which are entered into during the later years of life have been grossly neglected. Marriages of older people have been considerably more common in the past decade. Annual totals indicate that, while the number of marriages decreased some five percent from 1949 to 1959, the number of marriages of older persons increased by more than one-third (Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1963).

Stinnett and Montgomery (1968) found that significant differences existed in southern college students' attitudes toward older marriages, as measured by the POM Scale, according to sex, religion, amount of previous contact with older people, residence for major part of life, education and occupation of the head of the respondent's family of orientation. Most favorable attitudes were shown by: males; Protestants; those reporting considerable previous contact with older people; those who reported living in a rural area for the major part of their lives; those who reported the education of their family head as graduate level; and those who reported the occupation of their family head as farmer.

Tuckman and Lorge (1953), in an instrument to measure

attitudes toward old people, included the statement, "They should not marry." This was agreed with by: ten percent of the 20-29 age group; eight percent of the 30-51 age group; ten percent of the men; and seven percent of the women.

Ruth Albrecht (1954) in referring to marriages of older people indicates that it is difficult for older people to marry after their children become adults. Marriages among older people are often regarded with amusement by some and are met with vigorous objections from their children.

In studies conducted by Lowenthal and Haven (1968) on interaction and adaptation patterns of older persons, they noted that the happiest and healthiest of their older subjects seemed to be people who were, or had been, involved in one or more close personal relationships. They reason that the existence of such a relationship might serve as a buffer against age-linked social losses.

Kutner (1956) found that married older people tended to be better adjusted than single people. He cites an interesting case:

Mrs. Y., aged 64, was a rather attractive, well groomed woman whose looks belied her years. She seemed conscious of this fact as she laughingly remarked that she used to look like a "wreck." She had gradually reached a point where she had not cared much about her appearance and had failed to have her missing teeth replaced. She did not know why Mr. Y. took an interest in her since she had neglected herself quite badly. There was a twinkle in her eyes when she said that she guessed her husband just had a need to rehabilitate people. Now, she has upper and lower dentures and also has been undergoing

treatment by a dermatologist for "old age itch."

Mrs. Y. spoke with a good deal of warmth about the fact that she had never dreamed that she could respond to marriage as she had. She felt like a youngster again and now was convinced that love was not something restricted to those in their twenties and thirties. When her first husband had died 20 years ago, she guessed she had given up being a female. Out of a mistaken sense of loyalty to him, she did not even consider remarrying. That was wrong, she now realized. "People need to have something to live for, otherwise life is just a bore."

Bernard (1956) reports that studies seem to show that those who marry late in life have, generally, better prospects for success, than those who marry at younger ages. In many cases the failure of first marriages can be largely attributed to the immaturity of the individuals. Age often removes many of the difficulties that beset the marriages of younger persons without destroying the basic satisfactions to be derived from good marriages. She further points out that:

The high proportion of successful remarriages, especially among the widowed, suggests that the loneliness of their years might well be assuaged if older men and women were encouraged to remarry.

Although attitudes cannot be changed at will she concludes that an attitude sympathetic toward love and romance in the later years might be helpful.

Lawton (1956) relates examples from one home for older people.

During a 21 year period there were 29 marriages. Most of these were of couples each one of whom had lost a mate by death during residence in the home. In a few instances a bachelor fell in love with a widow and married her. It is the opinion of the

head of the home that these marriages have proved far more congenial and happy than most others contracted at younger periods of life. The average age for men was 69 and for women 67.

He states that the need for love on the part of the older person is as great as it was in earlier life and that with increasing age and experience, marriage is apt to go better. Second marriages end less frequently in divorce than first ones. He believes that the union of an older couple is not free of its own unique problems. One of these may be the "interference" of children of previous marriages. In stating a plea for the older person he asks that they be allowed the "right to be romantic, so long as we violate no law or city ordinance."

Summary

The review of literature on attitudes toward older persons and their marriages indicates the following:

1. The number of older Americans has increased greatly during this century. Projections are that the number will continue to rise.
2. Many people view old age in light of stereotypes they have developed. These may often be erroneous and derogatory in nature.
3. According to one previously conducted study, various background factors may influence attitudes of young people toward older persons who marry during the later years. These may include sex, religious preference,

place of residence, amount of contact with older couples, education and occupation of the family head.

4. Marriages of older people are becoming considerably more common.
5. Marriages entered into by older people are often met with disapproval, however, studies indicate that married older people tend to be better adjusted than single older people.
6. Older marriages may have a better chance for success than younger ones because of the increased maturity of the individuals. Age has also removed many of the difficulties that young marriages undergo.
7. The marriage of an older couple may have its own unique problems. One of these problems may be children of previous marriages.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

Selection of Subjects

The subjects for this study were Oklahoma State University students who were enrolled in the undergraduate marriage course, Family Relations and Child Development 3142 during the spring semester, 1969. The marriage course, offered by the Department of Family Relations and Child Development, is composed of undergraduate students which represent the various colleges of the University. A total sample of 454 students was obtained by means of a self-administered questionnaire. The students were single, primarily Protestant, white and between the ages of 18 and 24.

Instrument

The questionnaire used in this study was developed for the purpose of investigating college students' perceptions of older persons who enter into marriage at age 65 or over. Items were also included in the instrument to obtain certain background data from the students such as sex, age, race, religious preference, residence, presence of siblings, sibling position, marital status

of parents, exposure to a previous family relations course, sources of influence concerning attitudes toward marriage, amount of contact with older couples, and socio-economic status.

Socio-economic status of the subjects was measured by the McGuire-White Social Class Index (1955) which uses occupation, source of income, and education as indicators of social status.

POM Scale

To measure the degree of favorableness of attitudes toward marriages which occur among persons 65 years of age and over, the Perception of Older Marriages Scale (Stinnett and Montgomery, 1968), referred to as the POM Scale, was used. Each of the six items in this Likert-type scale is characterized by five degrees of response: (a) strongly agree, (b) agree, (c) neutral, (d) disagree, and (e) strongly disagree. The answers are scored so that the most favorable response is given the highest score and the least favorable, the lowest score.

In an item analysis conducted by Stinnett and Montgomery (1968), all six of the items included in the POM Scale were found to be significantly discriminating between the upper and lower quartile groups at the .001 level of significance.

Ori Scale

An adapted, shortened version of the Bass Ori Scale

was included in the test instrument to determine the self-interaction-task orientation inventory of the respondents.

This orientation inventory is a measure of personal aspiration and indicates the types of satisfactions and rewards a person most prefers and those he least prefers. The items include three alternative kinds of satisfaction: getting the job done (task orientation); having a happy time with others (interaction orientation); or gaining some self satisfying ends (self orientation).

An example of the items is "one of the greatest satisfactions in life is: (a) recognition for your efforts; (b) the feeling of a job well done; (c) the fun of being with friends." The shortened version of the Ori Scale consisted of 15 items.

Test-retest reliabilities reported for the three sub-scales are as follows: self orientation, .73; interaction orientation, .76; and task orientation, .75. These results were based on 84 college students taking two administrations of the Ori Scale a week apart.

Age Conservatism Scale

Included in the test instrument was the age conservatism scale which Kutner (1956) describes as basically an "attitude toward age index." It is used to measure an individual's expectations concerning appropriate behavior for older persons. The age conservatism scale was developed by Kutner from a large number of items and the final scale was reduced to four items. Using the

Gutman scaling technique, a coefficient of reproducibility of 91.5 percent was obtained.

The following four items were included on the scale.

1. Older people should dress more conservatively than young people.
2. Older people ought to go around with friends their own age rather than with young people.
3. You can't expect older people to accept new ways of doing things.
4. It is undignified for an older person to be interested in the opposite sex.

These were answered with (1) strongly agree, (2) agree, (3) undecided, (4) disagree, (5) strongly disagree. Strongly disagree was given five points; strongly agree received one point with intermediate answers receiving points in between. Those receiving fewer points were considered low conservatives or youth oriented. Those with a higher number of points were thought to be high conservatives or age oriented.

Analysis of Data

A percentage and frequency count was used to analyze various background characteristics of the subjects.

The analysis of variance was used to examine the following null hypothesis:

1. There is no significant difference in the PCM scores according to (a) sex, (b) age, (c) religious preference, (d) residence, (e) socio-

economic status, (f) presence of siblings, (g) sibling position, (h) parents' marital status, (i) exposure to a family relations course, (j) source of influence on attitudes toward marriage, (k) amount of contact with older couples, and (l) perception of the most important factor in achieving marital success.

The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to test the following null hypothesis:

2. There is no significant association between POM scores and (a) age conservatism, and (b) personality orientation.

The chi-square test was used to test the following null hypotheses:

3. There is no significant difference in perceptions of why older people enter into marriage after age 65 according to (a) sex, (b) age, (c) religious preference, (d) residence, and (e) socio-economic status.
4. There is no significant difference in the perception of problems facing older people who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to (a) sex, (b) age, (c) religious preference, (d) residence, and (e) socio-economic status.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Description of Subjects

Table I presents a detailed description of the subjects who participated in this study. The sample consisted of 454 students who were enrolled in the undergraduate marriage course, Family Relations and Child Development 3142 during the spring semester, 1969. There were 202 males and 252 females.

The respondents were primarily between the ages of 18 and 24. The greatest proportion fell in the 19 to 20 age group (58%) with the smallest proportion (1%) in the 25 and over age group. Over 98 percent of the subjects were white.

The respondents were predominantly Protestant (85.8%) while seven percent were Catholic. The percentage of respondents comprising the other religious groups were as follows: Mormon (.2%), Jewish (.2%), Other (4.4%), and no religious preference (2.4%).

The largest proportion of respondents (28.6%) listed a city of over 100,000 as their place of residence for the major portion of life with the smallest proportion (7.3%) having lived in a city of 50,000 to 100,000. Over

seven percent reported being an only child and 43.2 percent indicated they were the oldest child in the family. Responses show that 86.1 percent of the parents were living together at the time of the study. A majority of the subjects (67.6%) had not previously been enrolled in a family relations course.

Most of the subjects were in the middle class (78%), as determined by the Maguire-White Index of Social Status (1955). The source of greatest influence on attitudes toward marriage was reported as being parents (72.1%). The largest proportion of respondents (59%) reported having had moderate contact with older couples.

TABLE I
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUBJECTS

Variable	Classification	No.	%
Sex	Male	202	44.5
	Female	252	55.5
Age	17-18	32	7.0
	19-20	263	58.0
	21-22	144	32.0
	23-24	10	2.0
	25-over	5	1.0
Religious Preference	Catholic	31	7.0
	Protestant	389	85.8
	Jewish	1	.2
	Mormon	1	.2
	None	11	2.4
	Other	20	4.4
Residence for Major Part of Life	On farm or in country	81	17.9
	Small town under 25,000	106	23.4
	City of 25,000-50,000	99	21.8
	City of 50,000-100,000	33	7.3
	City of over 100,000	134	29.6

TABLE I (Continued)

Variable	Classification	No.	%
Presence of Brothers or Sisters	Yes	419	92.3
	No	35	7.7
Sibling Position	Oldest Child	182	43.2
	Intermediate Child	114	27.1
	Youngest Child	125	29.7
Parent's Marital Status	Living together	390	86.1
	Separated or divorced (no remarriage)	16	3.5
	One parent deceased (with no remarriage)	20	4.4
	Divorced (with remarriage)	16	3.5
	One of parents deceased (with remarriage)	11	2.4
Previous Family Relations Course	Yes	147	32.4
	No	307	67.6
Socio-Economic Status	Upper	20	4.4
	Upper-middle	183	40.3
	Lower-middle	171	37.7
	Upper-lower	78	17.2
	Lower-lower	2	.4
Source of Influ- ence of Attitudes Toward Marriage	Parents	326	72.1
	Peers	80	17.7
	School	28	6.2
	Church	18	4.0
Amount of Contact with Older Couples	Considerable	55	12.1
	Moderate	268	59.0
	Very little	131	28.9

The Item Analysis

The chi-square test was employed in obtaining an index of the validity of the items in the Perception of Older Marriages Scale, in order to determine if each item significantly differentiated between those subjects

scoring in the upper quartile and those scoring in the lower quartile on the basis of the total scale score. All of the six items on the POM Scale were found to be significantly discriminating at the .001 level as indicated by Table II.

TABLE II

ITEM ANALYSIS BASED ON COMPARISONS OF THE UPPER
AND LOWER QUANTILES OF TOTAL PERCEPTION OF
OLDER MARRIAGES SCALE SCORES

Item	df	χ^2	Level of Sig.
1. Persons aged 65 and over should not enter into marriage.	4	132.22	.001
2. Two persons who enter into marriage after age 65 have a good possibility of achieving a successful marriage.	3	123.28	.001
3. "There is no fool like an old fool" applies very much to those who marry after age 65.	4	123.52	.001
4. Most of the marriages entered into after age 65 are happy marriages.	4	87.90	.001
5. It would be embarrassing to have a relative marry after age 65.	3	145.24	.001
6. It is too difficult for persons over age 65 to adjust to a new marriage.	4	127.48	.001

The chi-square test was also used in a similar item analysis of the age conservatism scale, as that scale had not, to the investigator's knowledge, previously been used

with college students. The four items included in the Age Conservatism Scale were found to be significantly discriminating at the .001 level, as shown in Table III.

TABLE III
ITEM ANALYSIS BASED ON COMPARISONS OF THE UPPER
AND LOWER QUANTILES OF AGE CONSERVATISM
SCALE SCORES

Item	df	x^2	Level of Sig.
1. Older people should dress more conservatively than young people.	4	113.92	.001
2. Older people ought to go around with friends their own age rather than with young people.	4	132.70	.001
3. You can't expect older people to accept new ways of doing things.	4	112.16	.001
4. It is undignified for an older person to be interested in the opposite sex.	4	65.04	.001

Examination of Major Hypotheses

The one-way classification analysis of variance was utilized to determine the relationship between Perception of Older Marriages Scale scores (POM scores) and the following variables: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) religious preference, (d) residence, (e) socio-economic status, (f) presence of brothers or sisters, (g) sibling position, (h) parent's marital status, (i) previous exposure to a

family relations course, (j) source of influence on attitudes toward marriage, (k) amount of contact with older couples, and (l) perception of the most important factor in achieving marital success. The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to determine if a significant association existed between POM scores and: (a) age conservatism and (b) personality orientation.

The chi-square test was employed to determine if a significant difference existed between perceptions of the major reason older people enter into marriage at age 65 or over and the following variables: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) religious preference, (d) residence, and (e) socio-economic status. The chi-square test was also used to determine if there was a significant difference in the perception of the major problem facing older people who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to: (a) sex, (b) age, (c) religious preference, (d) residence, and (e) socio-economic status.

Hypothesis I(a). There is no significant difference in POM scores according to sex.

In order to examine this hypothesis the one-way classification analysis of variance was applied. As Table IV indicates, an F score of 8.58 was obtained, showing that a significant difference does exist at the 0.01 level with females showing a more favorable POM score than males. This concurs with a study done by Stinnett and Montgomery (1968). It may also be

associated with the results obtained by Kogan (1961) which indicated that subjects with a greater degree of the nurturance personality factor showed a more positive attitude toward older people (assuming that females have more of the nurturance personality factor).

TABLE IV
F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO SEX

Description	No.	\bar{X}	SD	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Sex</u>					
Male	202	22.22	3.44	8.58	0.01
Female	252	23.17	3.42		

Hypothesis I(b). There is no significant difference in POM scores according to age.

Table V shows that an F score of .08 was obtained when the one-way classification analysis of variance was used. This shows there is no significant difference according to age groups. Mean scores of the five groups vary only slightly. The present results suggest that age (within the age range covered in this study) is not a significant factor in influencing attitudes toward older marriages.

TABLE V
F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO AGE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	SD	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Age</u>					
17-18	32	22.38	2.90		
19-20	262	22.83	3.70		
21-22	144	22.82	3.15	0.84	n.s.
23-24	10	21.40	3.44		
25-over	5	21.00	2.24		

Hypothesis I(c). There is no significant difference in POM scores according to religious preference.

As shown in Table VI, a significant difference in POM scores does exist according to religious preference. An F score of 3.72 indicates that the difference is significant at the .05 level. Those scoring highest in POM scores were Protestant students. They were followed by Catholics, those with no religious preference, and students who marked "other" as a religious preference, in that order. The finding that Protestants held more positive attitudes is consistent with the studies of Stinnett and Montgomery (1968) and Williams (1958).

TABLE VI
F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	SD	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Religious Preference</u>					
Catholic	31	22.65	2.17		
Protestant	389	22.93	3.20	3.72	.05
None	11	22.09	2.88		
Other	20	20.50	5.44		

Hypothesis I(d). There is no significant difference in POM scores according to residence for major part of life.

An examination of this hypothesis according to the one-way classification analysis of variance indicates that the obtained F score of 0.83 is not significant. Table VII shows that mean scores of the five classifications are extremely close. This finding is in contrast to the study of Stinnett and Montgomery (1968) which reported that place of residence was significantly related to POM scores, with those who had lived the major part of their lives in rural areas showing a significantly more favorable attitude toward older marriages. Numerous factors could account for this variation, one of which might be a regional difference. The Stinnett-Montgomery study was done in Florida, which it might be suggested,

does not have as great a rural orientation as does Oklahoma. Therefore, it is possible that there was a more distinct difference in attitudes toward older marriages according to residence for major part of life among the Florida respondents than among the more rurally oriented Oklahoma respondents. One might assume that although Florida is recognized as a retirement area, the Florida respondents may not have had a close, long term contact with older persons that might have been accessible to the Oklahoma respondents.

TABLE VII

F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE FOR MAJOR
PART OF LIFE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	SD	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Residence for Major Part of Life</u>					
On farm or in country	81	22.63	3.79		
Small town under 25,000	106	22.68	3.48		
City 25,000 to 50,000	99	23.28	3.01	0.83	n.s.
City 50,000 to 100,000	33	22.48	2.40		
City of over 100,000	134	22.51	3.76		

Hypothesis I(e). There is no significant difference in POM scores according to socio-economic status.

The utilization of the one-way classification analysis of variance to examine this hypothesis revealed that there was no significant difference in POM scores according to socio-economic status. Table VIII shows an F score of 1.24. The lower-lower class category was omitted because of the small number of cases.

TABLE VIII

F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

Description	No.	\bar{X}	SD	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Socio-Economic Class</u>					
Upper	20	23.65	2.83		
Upper-middle	183	23.00	3.36	1.24	n.s.
Lower-middle	171	22.57	3.85		
Upper-lower	78	22.24	2.80		

Hypothesis I(f). There is no significant difference in POM scores according to presence of brothers or sisters.

As indicated by Table IX there is no significant difference in POM scores according to the presence of brothers or sisters. The mean score for both groups is very close.

TABLE IX

F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO PRESENCE OF
BROTHERS OR SISTERS

Description	No.	\bar{X}	SD	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Brothers or Sisters</u>					
Yes	419	22.73	3.54	0.09	n.s.
No	35	22.91	2.34		

Hypothesis I(g). There is no significant difference in POM scores according to sibling position.

There is no significant difference in POM scores according to sibling position as given in Table X. However, examination of the table will show that those who indicated they are youngest children in the family show a higher mean POM score than do others. This is followed by the intermediate child and the oldest child, although there is no great difference between any of the positions.

Hypothesis I(h). There is no significant difference in POM scores according to parent's marital status.

In order to determine if a significant difference existed according to the parent's marital status, the one-way classification analysis of variance was applied.

TABLE X
 F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
 ACCORDING TO SIBLING POSITION

Description	No.	\bar{X}	SD	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Sibling Position</u>					
Oldest child	182	22.53	3.82		
Intermediate child	114	22.63	3.71	1.20	n.s.
Youngest child	125	23.14	2.86		

The F score of 1.60 indicates there is no significant difference between POM scores and the parent's marital status as shown in Table XI.

TABLE XI
F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO PARENT'S MARITAL STATUS

Description	No.	\bar{X}	SD	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Parent's Marital Status</u>					
Living Together	390	22.78	3.46		
Separated or Divorced (no remarriage)	16	21.44	2.63		
One of Parents Deceased (with no remarriage)	20	23.85	2.89	1.60	n.s.
Divorced (with remarriage)	16	21.63	4.84		
One of Parents Deceased (with remarriage)	11	23.36	2.50		

Hypothesis I(i). There is no significant difference in POM scores according to previous exposure to a family relations course.

When this hypothesis was subjected to the one-way classification analysis of variance, no significant difference was found according to previous exposure to

a family relations course. Table XII shows an F score of 0.26. Perhaps this finding simply reflects the fact that many of the respondents who reported having a previous family relations course had been exposed to very little or no material concerning the older person. This would seem to be a plausible explanation of why previous exposure to a family relations course is not a significant factor, in this study, in contributing to differences in attitudes toward older marriages.

TABLE XII
F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCE IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS EXPOSURE TO A
FAMILY RELATIONS COURSE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	SD	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Previous Family Relations Course</u>					
Yes	147	22.86	3.70	0.26	n.s.
No	307	22.69	3.34		

Hypothesis I(j). There is no significant difference in POM scores according to source of influence on attitudes toward marriage.

No significant difference was found when the one-way classification analysis of variance was utilized to determine if there was a difference in POM scores according to source of influence on attitudes toward marriage. The F score was 0.09 and the mean scores were very close as

shown in Table XIII.

TABLE XIII
F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO SOURCE OF INFLUENCE ON
ATTITUDES TOWARD MARRIAGE

Description	No.	\bar{X}	SD	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Source of Influence</u>					
Parents	326	22.80	3.48		
Peers	80	22.60	3.68	0.09	n.s.
School	28	22.61	3.20		
Church	18	22.67	2.83		

Hypothesis I(k). There is no significant difference in POM scores according to amount of contact with older couples.

The one-way classification analysis of variance was again used to examine this hypothesis. As shown in Table XIV an F score of 2.75 was obtained. This was not significant. By comparing mean scores of the three groups it can be noted that those who had considerable contact with older couples scored highest on the POM scale. Those with moderate contact scored next highest and those students who had had very little contact with older couples received the lowest scores. This finding is in contrast with the study by Stinnett and Montgomery (1968) which found a significant relationship between POM scores and

amount of contact with older persons, with those reporting a considerable amount of contact with older persons showing a more favorable attitude toward older marriages.

TABLE XIV
F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
ACCORDING TO AMOUNT OF CONTACT WITH
OLDER COUPLES

Description	No.	\bar{X}	SD	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Amount of Contact</u>					
Considerable	55	23.73	2.46		
Moderate	268	22.69	3.35	2.75	n.s.
Very Little	131	22.45	3.95		

Hypothesis I(1). There is no significant difference in POM scores according to perception of the most important factor in achieving marital success.

In examining this hypothesis the one-way classification analysis of variance was used. As the F score of 0.11 in Table XV indicates, there is no significant difference in POM scores according to perception of the most important factor in achieving marital success. It is interesting to note, however, that those who chose determination as the most important factor in achieving marital success received the highest mean score.

TABLE XV

F SCORES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN POM SCORES
 ACCORDING TO PERCEPTION OF THE MOST
 IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ACHIEVING
 MARITAL SUCCESS

Description	No.	\bar{X}	SD	F	Level of Sig.
<u>Factor</u>					
Being in Love	120	22.68	3.61		
Determination	67	22.96	2.85		
Having Common Interests	15	22.67	2.47	0.11	n.s.
Compatability	251	22.71	3.60		

Hypothesis II(a). There is no significant association between POM scores and age conservatism.

In order to determine if a significant association existed between POM scores and age conservatism, the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was used. A correlation coefficient of .15 was obtained. This did not indicate a significant association between POM scores and age conservatism, as shown in Table XVI.

Hypothesis II(b). There is no significant association between POM scores and personality orientation.

To determine if a relationship existed between Personality Orientation and POM scores, the separate scores

for self orientation, interaction orientation, and task orientation (obtained from the Bass Ori Scale) were correlated with the POM scores. As Table XVII indicates, the following correlation coefficients were obtained: POM scores and self orientation, .03; POM scores and interaction orientation, .12; and POM scores and task orientation, .14. These correlations were not significant, indicating that there is no significant association between personality orientation, as measured by the Ori Scale, and perception of older marriages.

Hypothesis III(a). There is no significant difference in the perception of why older people enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to sex.

The chi-square test was utilized to determine if a significant difference in perception of why older people enter into marriage at age 65 or over existed according to sex. As Table XVIII indicates, no significant difference existed. An interesting observation is that the reason chosen most often by both males and females was "companionship." The category, "feeling needed by someone," received the next highest number of responses. This finding is consistent with the results of Stinnett and Montgomery (1968).

Hypothesis III(b). There is no significant difference in the perception of why older people enter into marriage after age 65 according to age.

This hypothesis was examined by use of the chi-square

TABLE XVI
CORRELATION BETWEEN POM SCORES AND
AGE CONSERVATISM

Description	Pearson r Score	Level of Sig.
Age Conservatism	0.15	n.s.

TABLE XVII
CORRELATIONS BETWEEN POM SCORES AND
PERSONALITY ORIENTATION

Description	Pearson r Score	Level of Sig.
<u>Ori Category</u>		
Self Orientation	0.03	n.s.
Interaction Orientation	0.12	n.s.
Task Orientation	0.14	n.s.

TABLE XVIII
 CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN
 PERCEPTION OF WHY OLDER PEOPLE MARRY
 ACCORDING TO SEX

Perception of Reasons For Marriage	Male		Female		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
To have someone to look after physical and health needs	8	4.1	14	6.0		
Economic security	15	7.6	8	3.4		
Sexual Satisfaction	1	.5	0	0	6.54	n.s.
To feel needed by someone	57	28.9	73	31.1		
Companionship	89	45.2	114	48.5		
To give and receive affection	27	13.7	26	11.1		

test. As Table XIX shows, an obtained chi-square value of 10.28 indicates there is no significant difference in perceptions of why older people enter into marriage after age 65 according to age. "Companionship" received the largest number of responses in all age categories with the exception of the 25 and over age group. Here "companionship" and the category, "to feel needed by someone" received an equal number of responses.

Hypothesis III(c). There is no significant difference in perception of why older people enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to religious preference.

As indicated in Table XX, the chi-square value of 34.96 was significant at the .01 level, indicating a significant difference in perception of major reason older people enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to religious preference. Over five percent of the Protestants selected the category, "to have someone to look after physical and health needs" as the major reason for marriage in the later years, while none of the other religious groups chose this category. Those in the religious category, "none," gave the highest proportion of responses for both the reasons of "economic security" (12.5%) and "sexual satisfaction" (6.3%). The greatest proportion of responses for the category, "to feel needed by someone," as the major reason for marriage was given by Catholics (42.3%). Reasons for marriage chosen most by all religious categories were "to feel needed by

TABLE XIX

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF
WHY OLDER PEOPLE MARRY ACCORDING TO AGE

Perception of Reasons For Marriage	17-18		19-20		21-22		23-24		25-over		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
To have someone to look after physical and health needs	1	3.3	12	4.7	8	6.1	1	10.0	0	0		
Economic security	1	3.3	10	3.9	11	8.4	1	10.0	0	0		
Sexual satisfaction	0	0	0	0	1	.8	0	0	0	0		
To feel needed by someone	9	30.0	79	30.7	38	29.0	2	20.0	2	50.0	10.28	n.s.
Companionship	15	50.0	121	47.1	60	45.8	5	50.0	2	50.0		
To give and receive affection	4	13.3	35	13.6	13	9.9	1	10.0	0	0		

TABLE XX

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF WHY OLDER
PEOPLE MARRY ACCORDING TO RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE

Perception of Reasons For Marriage	Catholic Freq.	%	Protestant Freq.	%	None Freq.	%	Other Freq.	%	X ²	Level of Sig.
To have someone to look after physical and health needs	0	0	22	5.9	0	0	0	0		
Economic security	2	7.7	18	4.9	2	12.5	1	6.3		
Sexual satisfaction	0	0	0	0	1	6.3	0	0		
To feel needed by someone	11	42.3	107	28.9	5	31.3	5	31.3	34.96	.01
Companionship	12	46.2	174	47.0	7	43.8	8	50.0		
To give and receive affection	1	3.8	49	13.2	1	6.3	2	12.3		

someone" and "companionship," in that order.

Hypothesis III(d). There is no significant difference in the perception of why older people enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to residence for major part of life.

Examination of this hypothesis by use of the chi-square test indicated there is no significant difference in the perception of why older people enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to residence for the major part of life. Table XXI shows a chi-square value of 10.43. The factor "companionship" received the largest number of responses by all categories of residence.

Hypothesis III(e). There is no significant difference in the perception of why older people enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to socio-economic status.

Utilization of the chi-square test for the examination of this hypothesis shows a chi-square value of 6.64. As Table XXII shows, this chi-square value does not indicate a significant difference in the perception of why older people enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to socio-economic status. "Companionship" received the most responses in all socio-economic class divisions as the reason for entering marriage at age 65 or over. The lower-lower class division was eliminated because of the small number of cases.

TABLE XXI

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF WHY OLDER
PEOPLE MARRY ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE

Perception of Reasons For Marriage	On Farm Or In Country		Small Town Under 25,000		City 25,000 To 50,000		City 50,000 To 100,000		City Of Over 100,000		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
To have someone to look after physical and health needs	4	5.6	9	9.9	3	3.2	1	2.9	5	3.6		
Economic security	3	4.2	4	4.4	7	7.4	2	5.9	7	5.0		
Sexual satisfaction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.7		
To feel needed by someone	22	31.0	26	28.6	28	29.8	11	32.4	43	30.7	10.43	n.s.
Companionship	32	45.1	43	47.3	45	47.9	17	50.0	65	46.4		
To give and receive affection	10	14.1	9	9.9	11	11.7	3	8.8	19	13.6		

TABLE XXII

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF WHY OLDER
PEOPLE MARRY ACCORDING TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASS

Perception of Reasons For Marriage	Upper		Upper Middle		Lower Middle		Upper Lower		x ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
To have someone to look after physical and health needs	2	5.1	20	5.7	21	6.4	12	8.1	6.64	n. s.
Economic security	3	7.7	22	6.3	17	5.2	7	4.7		
Sexual satisfaction	0	0	1	.3	0	0	0	0		
To feel needed by someone	11	28.2	102	29.0	96	29.3	42	28.2		
Companionship	19	48.7	163	46.3	153	46.6	71	47.7		
To give and receive affection	4	10.3	44	12.5	41	12.5	17	11.4		

Hypothesis IV(a). There is no significant difference in the perception of problems facing older people who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to sex.

Subjection of this hypothesis to the chi-square test shows that a significant difference does exist in perception of the major problem accompanying older marriage according to sex. A chi-square value of 13.33 indicates a significant difference exists at the .05 level. Table XXIII gives the frequency and percentage of responses according to sex. A larger proportion of males than females felt that "in-laws," "money," "sexual adjustment," and "adjusting emotionally to each other" would be problem areas. These results are similar to those reported by Stinnett and Montgomery (1968). This finding suggests that males perceive more serious problems associated with marriages entered into during the later years than do the females. This finding would seem to be related to the previously mentioned finding that females expressed significantly more favorable attitudes toward older marriages as indicated by POM scores.

Hypothesis IV(b). There is no significant difference in the perception of problems facing older people who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to age.

The chi-square test was again employed to examine this hypothesis. As shown in Table XXIV, a chi-square value of 15.09 indicates there is no significant difference in the perception of problems facing older

TABLE XXIII

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN
PERCEPTION OF MAJOR PROBLEMS ACCOMPANYING
OLDER MARRIAGES ACCORDING TO SEX

Perception of Problem	Male		Female		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
In-laws	24	12.0	22	9.2		
Money	27	13.5	17	7.1		
Sexual Adjustment	13	6.5	12	5.0		
Children (by previous marriage)	56	28.0	90	37.5	13.33	.05
Housing Arrangements	10	5.0	25	10.4		
Adjusting Emotionally to Each Other	70	35.0	74	30.8		

people who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to age. "Children (by previous marriage)" and "adjusting emotionally to each other" were chosen most frequently in most age categories.

Hypothesis IV(c). There is no significant difference in the perception of problems facing older people who enter into marriage after age 65 according to religious preference.

Table XXV indicates that a chi-square value of 4.59 does not show a significant difference in perception of major problems accompanying older marriages according to religious preference. "Children (by previous marriage)" and "adjusting emotionally to each other" were chosen most often by all categories of respondents.

Hypothesis IV(d). There is no significant difference in the perception of problems facing older people who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to residence for major part of life.

By employing the chi-square test to examine this hypothesis it was determined that there was no significant difference in the perception of problems facing older people who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to residence for major part of life. Table XXVI gives a chi-square value of 15.54. "Children (by previous marriage)" was chosen most often by all categories except the categories of city of 25,000 to 50,000, and city over 100,000. Those respondents whose residence was reported as city of 25,000 to 50,000 and

TABLE XXIV

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF MAJOR PROBLEMS
ACCOMPANYING OLDER MARRIAGES ACCORDING TO AGE

Perception of Problem	17-18		19-20		21-22		23-24		25-over		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
In-laws	2	6.3	27	10.3	15	11.3	1	10.0	1	25.0		
Money	3	9.4	28	10.7	10	7.5	3	30.0	0	0		
Sexual Adjustment	0	0	19	7.3	5	3.8	1	10.0	0	0		
Children (by previous marriage)	12	37.5	85	32.6	46	34.6	2	20.0	1	25.0	15.09	n.s.
Housing Arrangements	3	9.4	20	7.7	11	8.3	0	0	1	25.0		
Adjusting Emotionally to each Other	12	37.5	82	31.4	46	34.6	3	30.0	1	25.0		

TABLE XXV

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF MAJOR PROBLEMS
ACCOMPANYING OLDER MARRIAGES ACCORDING TO RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE

Perception of Problem	Catholic		Protestant		None		Other		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
In-laws	3	11.5	41	10.8	1	6.3	1	6.3		
Money	3	11.5	37	9.8	2	12.5	2	12.5		
Sexual Adjustment	3	11.5	19	5.0	1	6.3	1	6.3		
Children (by previous marriage)	6	23.1	127	33.6	6	37.5	6	37.5	4.59	n.s.
Housing Arrangements	2	7.7	30	7.9	2	12.5	1	6.3		
Adjusting Emotionally to Each Other	9	34.6	124	32.8	4	25.0	5	31.3		

city over 100,000 named "adjusting emotionally to each other" as the major problem faced by people who enter into marriage at age 65 or over.

Hypothesis IV(e). There is no significant difference in the perception of problems facing older people who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to socio-economic status.

By employing the chi-square test to examine this hypothesis it is shown in Table XXVII that there is no significant difference in the perception of problems facing older people who marry after age 65 according to socio-economic status.

TABLE XXVI

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF MAJOR PROBLEMS
ACCOMPANYING OLDER MARRIAGES ACCORDING TO RESIDENCE

Perception of Problem	On Farm Or In Country		Small Town Under 25,000		City 25,000 To 50,000		City 50,000 To 100,000		City Of Over 100,000		Level of Sig. X ²
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	
In-laws	10	13.9	11	11.8	4	4.0	5	13.9	16	11.6	
Money	7	9.7	11	11.8	8	8.1	3	8.3	14	10.1	
Sexual Adjustment	4	5.6	5	5.4	5	5.1	1	2.8	10	7.2	
Children (by previous marriage)	28	38.9	32	34.4	36	36.4	12	33.3	38	27.5	15.54 n.s.
Housing Arrangements	2	2.8	9	9.7	8	8.1	4	11.1	12	8.7	
Adjusting Emotionally to Each Other	21	29.2	25	26.9	38	38.4	11	30.6	48	34.8	

TABLE XXVII

CHI-SQUARE VALUES REFLECTING DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF MAJOR PROBLEMS
ACCOMPANYING OLDER MARRIAGES ACCORDING TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

Perception of Problem	Upper		Upper Middle		Lower Middle		Upper Lower		X ²	Level of Sig.
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
In-laws	2	5.1	41	11.6	44	13.4	16	10.5		
Money	4	10.3	32	9.1	33	10.0	11	7.2		
Sexual Adjustment	4	10.3	17	4.8	21	6.4	9	5.9		
Children (by previous marriage)	13	33.3	112	31.8	109	33.1	48	31.6	12.20	n. s.
Housing Arrangements	3	7.7	26	7.4	23	7.0	12	7.9		
Adjusting Emotionally to Each Other	13	33.3	124	35.2	99	30.1	56	36.8		

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

The overall purpose of this study was to determine the attitudes of college students toward persons who enter into marriage at age 65 or over.

The sample was composed of 454 Oklahoma State University students who were enrolled in the undergraduate marriage course, Family Relations and Child Development 3142 during the spring semester, 1969. The subjects were single, primarily Protestant, white, and between the ages of 18 and 24.

The instrument used in this study was developed for the purpose of investigating college students' perceptions of people who enter into marriage at age 65 or over. The questionnaire included the following: (a) items to obtain certain background data, (b) the Perception of Older Marriages Scale to determine college students' favorableness of attitude toward older persons who enter into marriage at age 65 or over, (c) Age Conservatism Scale to measure the individual's orientation with respect to age, and (d) a shortened version of Bass's Ori Scale used to obtain a self-interaction-task orientation of the subject.

The chi-square test was used in an item analysis of

the Perception of Older Marriages Scale and the Age Conservatism Scale to determine those items that significantly differentiated between those subjects scoring in the upper and lower quartile groups.

The one-way classification analysis of variance was used to determine if a significant difference existed between Perception of Older Marriage Scale scores according to (a) sex, (b) age, (c) religious preference, (d) residence for major part of life, (e) socio-economic status, (f) presence of siblings, (g) sibling position, (h) parent's marital status, (i) exposure to a family relations course, (j) source of influence on attitudes toward marriage, (k) amount of contact with older couples, and (l) perception of the most important factor in achieving marital success.

The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was utilized to determine if a significant association existed between POM scores and: (a) age conservatism, and (b) personality orientation. The chi-square test was used to determine if there was a significant difference in perceptions of why older people enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to (a) sex, (b) age, (c) religious preference, (d) residence, and (e) socio-economic status. The chi-square test was also used to determine if a significant difference existed in the perception of problems facing older people who enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to (a) sex, (b) age, (c) religious preference, (d) residence, and (e) socio-

economic status.

The results of the study were as follows:

1. All items in the Perception of Older Marriages Scale and the Age Conservatism Scale were significantly discriminating between the upper quartile and lower quartile groups at the .001 level.
2. A significant difference was shown between Perception of Older Marriages Scale scores and sex of the respondent at the .01 level with females showing a more favorable POM score than males. A significant difference existed between POM scores and religious preference at the .05 level with Protestants receiving the highest score.
3. A significant difference was shown in perception of reasons people enter into marriage at age 65 or over according to religious preference at the .01 level. Larger proportions of all religious categories chose "feeling needed by someone" and "companionship" as the major reason for marriage past the age of 65. Variations occurred in other categories.
4. A significant difference was found in perception of major problems accompanying older marriages according to sex at the .05 level. A larger proportion of males than females felt that "in-laws," "money," "sexual adjustment," and

"adjusting emotionally to each other," would be problem areas. More women thought that "children (by a previous marriage)" and "housing arrangements" would present the major problems.

A general conclusion might be drawn from the study that perceptions of older marriages are largely independent of certain background factors. Those background factors which seem related to POM scores are sex and religious preference. Perception of reasons for marriage at age 65 or over is also largely independent of students' background factors. The one factor which does seem to be significantly associated with perception of the major reason for older marriages is religious preference. Only one factor--that of the sex of the respondents--seems to be related to perception of the major problem faced by older people who marry.

Limitations and Recommendations of the Study

This study was concerned only with those students enrolled in Family Relations and Child Development 3142 during the spring semester, 1969. This is considered a representative segment of the student population of Oklahoma State University, however it could not be regarded as representative of the total college student population of the United States. The sample was limited in that various regions of the country, racial, and religious groups were not represented. This investigator recommends that further studies be done in various sections of

the country which contain a broad representation of race and religious categories as well as other background factors in order that broader generalizations regarding college students' attitudes toward older marriages might be made.

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- _____ 10. Do you have brothers or sisters?
_____ 1. Yes
_____ 2. No
- _____ 11. If you have brothers or sisters, are you the:
_____ 1. Oldest child
_____ 2. Intermediate child
_____ 3. Youngest child
- _____ 12. What is your parents' marital status?
_____ 1. Living together
_____ 2. Separated or divorced (with no remarriage)
_____ 3. One of parents deceased (with no remarriage)
_____ 4. Divorced (with remarriage)
_____ 5. One of parents deceased with remarriage
- _____ 13. Have you had a previous family relations course in high school or college?
_____ 1. Yes
_____ 2. No
- _____ 14. Which one of the following do you feel has influenced you most in the formation of your attitudes toward marriage?
_____ 1. Parents
_____ 2. Peers
_____ 3. School
_____ 4. Church
- _____ 15. Has your contact with older couples (age 65 or over) been:
_____ 1. considerable
_____ 2. moderate
_____ 3. very little
- _____ 16. What is the occupation of the head of your family of orientation household (teacher, policeman, etc.): _____
- _____ 17. What is the primary source of the above income?
_____ 1. inherited savings and investments
_____ 2. earned wealth, transferable investment
_____ 3. profits, royalties, fees
_____ 4. salary, commissions (regular, monthly or yearly)
_____ 5. hourly wages, weekly checks
_____ 6. odd jobs, seasonal work, private charity
_____ 7. public relief or charity

- _____ 18. What is the highest educational attainment of the principal earner of the above income?
- _____ 1. completed graduate work for a profession
 - _____ 2. graduated from a 4-year college
 - _____ 3. attended college or university for two or more years
 - _____ 4. graduated from high school
 - _____ 5. attended high school, completed grade 9, but did not graduate
 - _____ 6. completed grade 8, but did not attend beyond grade 9
 - _____ 7. less than grade 8
- _____ 19.
- _____ 20. Which of the following, if any, do you believe to be major problems of older couples (past
- _____ 21. the age of 65)? Please check no more than
- _____ 22. three problems.
- _____ 1. housing
 - _____ 2. money
 - _____ 3. use of leisure time
 - _____ 4. poor health
 - _____ 5. not feeling useful
 - _____ 6. being dependent on their children
 - _____ 7. in-laws
 - _____ 8. finding a job
 - _____ 9. their marriage relationship
 - _____ 10. no problems
- _____ 23. Which of the following do you believe to be the happiest period of an individual's life?
- _____ 1. later years (past age of 65)
 - _____ 2. middle age years
 - _____ 3. young adult years
 - _____ 4. teenage years
 - _____ 5. childhood
- _____ 24. Which of the following do you consider to be the happiest period of an individual's married life?
- _____ 1. later years (past age 65)
 - _____ 2. middle age years
 - _____ 3. young adult years
- _____ 25. Do you feel that the marriage relationship of most older couples (past the age of 65) has become better or worse since the time they were first married?
- _____ 1. better
 - _____ 2. worse
 - _____ 3. remained about the same
 - _____ 4. undecided

- _____ 26. In general, do you feel most marriages become better or worse over time?
- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| _____ 1. better | _____ 3. remained about the same |
| _____ 2. worse | _____ 4. uncertain |
- _____ 27. Which of the following do you consider to be the three most rewarding aspects of the
- _____ 28. marriage relationship in the later years (past
- _____ 29. age 65)?
- | |
|---|
| _____ 1. economic security |
| _____ 2. having physical needs cared for |
| _____ 3. their standing in community |
| _____ 4. companionship |
| _____ 5. being needed by each other |
| _____ 6. affectionate relationship |
| _____ 7. sharing mutual interests |
| _____ 8. effectively expressing true feelings to each other |
| _____ 9. other _____ |
| _____ 10. none are rewarding |
- _____ 30. Which of the following, if any, do you consider to be the two most troublesome aspects of
- _____ 31. marriage relationships in the later years?
- | |
|--|
| _____ 1. economic insecurity |
| _____ 2. not having one's physical needs cared for |
| _____ 3. lack of companionship |
| _____ 4. lack of mutual interests |
| _____ 5. unsatisfactory affectional relationship |
| _____ 6. frequent disagreements |
| _____ 7. not being able to effectively express true feelings to each other |
| _____ 8. nothing is troublesome |
| _____ 9. other _____ |
- _____ 32. Which of the following do you believe to be the two most important characteristics of a
- _____ 33. successful marriage?
- | |
|---|
| _____ 1. respect |
| _____ 2. personality growth |
| _____ 3. emotional closeness |
| _____ 4. sexual satisfaction |
| _____ 5. sharing the same interests |
| _____ 6. effectively expressing true feelings to each other |
| _____ 7. having physical needs cared for |

- _____ 34. Which one of the following do you believe to be the most important in achieving marital success?
- _____ 1. being in love
 _____ 2. determination
 _____ 3. having common interests
 _____ 4. compatability

The purpose of the following questions is to determine your general attitude toward marriage relationships in the later years of life (past age 65). Please answer according to your own true feelings and not according to how you think you "ought" to answer. There are no right or wrong answers. Please be as frank as possible in your answers.

For each item below, indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree by checking the response which best describes your feelings.

- _____ 35. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually talk to each other less than they did when younger.
- _____ 1. strongly agree _____ 4. disagree
 _____ 2. agree _____ 5. strongly disagree
 _____ 3. undecided
- _____ 36. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have more common interests than they did when younger.
- _____ 1. strongly agree _____ 4. disagree
 _____ 2. agree _____ 5. strongly disagree
 _____ 3. undecided
- _____ 37.
- _____ 38. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have less interest in each other as persons than they did when younger.
- _____ 1. strongly agree _____ 4. disagree
 _____ 2. agree _____ 5. strongly disagree
 _____ 3. undecided
- _____ 39. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have a greater degree of companionship than they did when younger.
- _____ 1. strongly agree _____ 4. disagree
 _____ 2. agree _____ 5. strongly disagree
 _____ 3. undecided

- _____ 40. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 are usually no longer physically attracted to each other.
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. strongly agree | _____ 4. disagree |
| _____ 2. agree | _____ 5. strongly disagree |
| _____ 3. undecided | |
- _____ 41. Husbands and wives past age of 65 usually have a greater understanding of each other than they did when younger.
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. strongly agree | _____ 4. disagree |
| _____ 2. agree | _____ 5. strongly disagree |
| _____ 3. undecided | |
- _____ 42. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually enjoy each other's company less than they did when younger.
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. strongly agree | _____ 4. disagree |
| _____ 2. agree | _____ 5. strongly disagree |
| _____ 3. undecided | |
- _____ 43. The love between husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually continues to grow and to become even more meaningful.
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. strongly agree | _____ 4. disagree |
| _____ 2. agree | _____ 5. strongly disagree |
| _____ 3. undecided | |
- _____ 44. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have less happiness in their marital relationship than they did when younger.
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. strongly agree | _____ 4. disagree |
| _____ 2. agree | _____ 5. strongly disagree |
| _____ 3. undecided | |
- _____ 45. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have less difficulty in expressing their feelings to each other than when they were younger.
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. strongly agree | _____ 4. disagree |
| _____ 2. agree | _____ 5. strongly disagree |
| _____ 3. undecided | |
- _____ 46. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have less affection for each other than when they were younger.
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. strongly agree | _____ 4. disagree |
| _____ 2. agree | _____ 5. strongly disagree |
| _____ 3. undecided | |
- _____ 47. Husbands and wives past the age of 65 usually have a more meaningful marriage relationship than when they were younger.
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. strongly agree | _____ 4. disagree |
| _____ 2. agree | _____ 5. strongly disagree |
| _____ 3. undecided | |

_____ 48. - 49.

Indicate your degree of agreement or disagreement to each of the following statements:

_____ 50. Older people should dress more conservatively than young people.

_____ 1. strongly agree	_____ 4. disagree
_____ 2. agree	_____ 5. strongly disagree
_____ 3. undecided	

_____ 51. Older people ought to go around with friends their own age rather than with young people.

_____ 1. strongly agree	_____ 4. disagree
_____ 2. agree	_____ 5. strongly disagree
_____ 3. undecided	

_____ 52. You can't expect older people to accept new ways of doing things.

_____ 1. strongly agree	_____ 4. disagree
_____ 2. agree	_____ 5. strongly disagree
_____ 3. undecided	

_____ 53. It is undignified for an older person to be interested in the opposite sex.

_____ 1. strongly agree	_____ 4. disagree
_____ 2. agree	_____ 5. strongly disagree
_____ 3. undecided	

_____ 54. - 55.

Please indicate your degree of agreement or disagreement with the following statements concerning people who enter into marriage after the age of 65:

_____ 56. Persons aged 65 and over should not enter into marriage.

_____ 1. strongly agree	_____ 4. disagree
_____ 2. agree	_____ 5. strongly disagree
_____ 3. undecided	

_____ 57. Two persons who enter into marriage after age 65 have a good possibility of achieving a successful marriage.

_____ 1. strongly agree	_____ 4. disagree
_____ 2. agree	_____ 5. strongly disagree
_____ 3. undecided	

- _____ 58. "There is no fool like an old fool" applies very much to those who marry after age 65.
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. strongly agree | _____ 4. disagree |
| _____ 2. agree | _____ 5. strongly disagree |
| _____ 3. undecided | |
- _____ 59. Most of the marriages entered into after age 65 are happy marriages.
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. strongly agree | _____ 4. disagree |
| _____ 2. agree | _____ 5. strongly disagree |
| _____ 3. undecided | |
- _____ 60. It would be embarrassing to have a relative marry after age 65.
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. strongly agree | _____ 4. disagree |
| _____ 2. agree | _____ 5. strongly disagree |
| _____ 3. undecided | |
- _____ 61. It is too difficult for persons over age 65 to adjust to a new marriage.
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. strongly agree | _____ 4. disagree |
| _____ 2. agree | _____ 5. strongly disagree |
| _____ 3. undecided | |
- _____ 62. - 63.
- _____ 64. Which of the following do you believe to be the two primary reasons why older people enter
- _____ 65. marriage after age 65?
- | |
|--|
| _____ 1. to have someone to look after physical and health needs |
| _____ 2. economic security |
| _____ 3. sexual satisfaction |
| _____ 4. to feel needed by someone |
| _____ 5. companionship |
| _____ 6. to give and receive affection |
- _____ 66. Which of the following do you believe to be the two major problems of older persons entering
- _____ 67. into marriage after age 65?
- | |
|--|
| _____ 1. in-laws |
| _____ 2. money |
| _____ 3. sexual adjustment |
| _____ 4. children (by previous marriage) |
| _____ 5. housing arrangements |
| _____ 6. adjusting emotionally to each other |
- _____ 68. - 69.
- _____ 70. - 71.
- _____ 72. - 73.

For each of the statements below please indicate which one of the three alternatives (possible answers), A, B, or C is most true, or most preferred, or most important to you by writing A, B, or C in the Most column.

Then choose the least preferred or least important of the three possible answers (A, B, or C) and write its letter in the Least column.

For every statement, be sure you mark one of the possible answers in each column. If A is entered under the Most column, then either B or C should be marked under the Least column, and so on.

Do not debate too long over any one statement; your first reaction is desired.

MOST LEAST

- | | | |
|-----|-----|---|
| () | () | 1. One of the greatest satisfactions in life is:
A. Recognition for your efforts
B. The feeling of a job well done
C. The fun of being with friends |
| () | () | 2. I like my friends to:
A. Want to help others when possible
B. Be loyal at all times
C. Be intelligent and interested in a number of things |
| () | () | 3. My best friends:
A. Are easy to get along with
B. Know more than I do
C. Are loyal to me |
| () | () | 4. I would like to be known as:
A. A successful person
B. An efficient person
C. A friendly person |
| () | () | 5. I enjoy:
A. Just being with friends
B. The feeling of accomplishment I have after doing something well
C. Being praised for some achievement |
| () | () | 6. If I had more time, I would like to:
A. Make more friends
B. Work at my hobby or learning something new and interesting
C. Just take it easy without any pressure |

- | MOST | LEAST | |
|------|-------|--|
| () | () | 7. I think I do my best when:
A. I work with a group of people who are friendly
B. I have a job that is in my line
C. My efforts are rewarded |
| () | () | 8. I like:
A. Being appreciated by others
B. Being satisfied personally with my performance
C. Being with friends with whom I can have a good time |
| () | () | 9. Nothing is worse than:
A. Having your self-esteem damaged
B. Failure at an important task
C. Losing your friends |
| () | () | 10. I like a leader who:
A. Gets the job done
B. Makes himself respected by his followers
C. Makes himself easy to talk to |
| () | () | 11. Which leisure time activity is important to you?
A. Watching T.V.
B. Chatting with acquaintances
C. Keeping busy with interesting hobbies |
| () | () | 12. I like:
A. Sincere praise for my efforts and accomplishments
B. Cooperative effort
C. Wisdom |
| () | () | 13. Which is important to you?
A. To know what you want to do
B. To know how to do what you want to do
C. To know how to help others to do what they want to do |
| () | () | 14. I am considerably disturbed by:
A. Hostile arguments
B. Rigidity and refusal to see the value of new ways
C. Persons who degrade themselves |
| () | () | 15. I would like to:
A. Be accepted as a friend by others
B. Help others complete a mutual task
C. Be admired by others |

VITA \

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Thesis: COLLEGE STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARD PEOPLE WHO
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