

**MODIFICATION OF WARDROBES, DUE TO CHANGES OF WORKING
STATUS OF WIVES OF OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
EMPLOYEES AND OF HOME ECONOMISTS**

by

MARY ELIZABETH FOX HOUDEK

Bachelor of Science

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, Oklahoma

1954

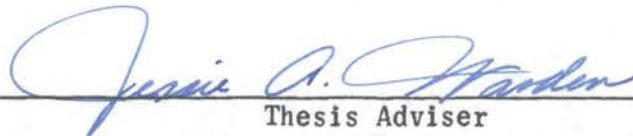
**Submitted to the faculty of the Graduate School of
the Oklahoma State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE**

May, 1961

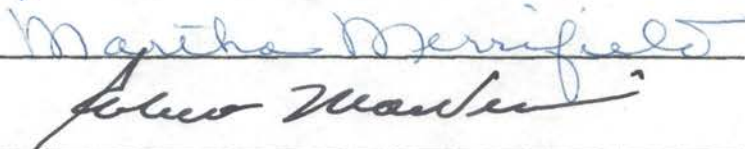
OCT 10 1961

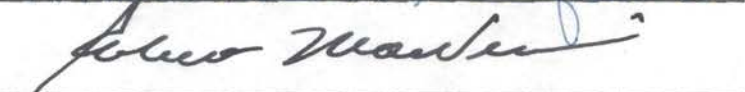
MODIFICATION OF WARDROBES DUE TO CHANGES OF WORKING
STATUS OF WIVES OF OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
EMPLOYEES AND OF HOME ECONOMISTS

Thesis Approved:



Thesis Adviser





Dean of the Graduate School

472389

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Sincere gratitude is expressed to Dr. Jessie A. Warden, Head of Clothing, Textiles, and Merchandising, for giving her patient and understanding assistance and guidance in my writing of this paper and to the other members of my committee, Miss Martha Merrifield and Milton Paschall; also, to Miss Sara Meador for her help.

My appreciation is extended to those clerical employees and home economists who consented to act as subjects for the research, the five persons who assisted in the pilot study and to the seminar class who contributed valuable suggestions.

To my parents, I am greatly indebted for their constant help in many different ways. To my daughter, Holly, I attribute the stimulus that kept me aware of the goal. Through the small amount of comprehension that a four year old may possess about a research paper she developed a spark of humor and incentive. These, to me, were invaluable.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE	5
III. METHOD AND PROCEDURE	18
IV. RESULTS.	23
V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.	48
BIBLIOGRAPHY	55
APPENDIX	57

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I. Clerical Employee's Indications of Changes in the Wardrobe Thought to have Occurred in Quantity and Quality of Outer Wear, Shoes and Lingerie Since Employment.	27
II. Home Economist's Indications of Changes in the Wardrobe Thought to have Occurred in Quantity and Quality of Outer Wear, Shoes and Linereie Since Employment.	28
III. Number of Clerical Employees and Home Economists Participating in Social and Civic Organizations Before and Since Employment	31
IV. The Amount of Washing, Ironing, Pressing and Mending Done Before and Since Employment, According to Clerical Employees and Home Economists.	39
V. Changes the Mothers Thought Occurred Due to Employment in Raising, Maintaining or Lowering the Standards of Appearances and Costs in Care of Family Clothing.	41
VI. Type and Amount of Home Sewing Done and For Whom Before and Since Employment by Clerical Employees and Home Economists	42
VII. Number of Clerical Employees and Home Economists Who Made Different Types of Garments Before and Since Employment.	45

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Today's woman is no longer only the keeper of the home. By 1958, 22 million women had joined the labor force of the United States. Seven million of these were mothers who had abandoned part of the homemaker role to work outside the home. Thirty-three percent of the working force in the United States in 1958 were women. The number is rapidly increasing.

The importance of this study is to establish some relationships concerning mothers working outside the home in the paid employment field and their clothing needs, interests and problems.

Reasons for a mother seeking paid employment are varied and complex. Some could be categorized within these few explanations. Educational opportunities have prompted her need for intellectual companionship and a continuing personal cultivation. She enjoys a multitude of household conveniences to make her day easier and give her more leisure time. A higher standard of living is prevalent and is an incentive for her to help supplement the family income. Many suitable jobs are available, transportation can be easily provided, child care facilities are at hand. Some seek employment from sheer necessity and others from deeper psychological reasoning. These are only a few of the motives to prompt women to work outside the home.

Perhaps the labor force, instead of a supplement, is in reality the woman's escape from the swirl of her complex existence. Regardless of its definition many more women are entering into paid employment every year.

Some women lunge into the labor force without calculating the effects of employment. With each individual case there are problems to overcome and questions to be answered. One standard question is this, "Can her salary overbalance the additional costs of child care, laundry, clothing, transportation and quick and easy foods?" This is only the financial problem; psychological and emotional problems must also be included in the overall question of "How much will the job cost her?"

The writer, herself, has been a working mother with a pre-school child. She seems to realize that many women rush into the element of outside employment without giving it due consideration. There are, of course, instances when work outside the home is necessary but frequently the mother fails to realize that her income is not all "take home pay." For this reason, the problem is of great interest to the author.

Two groups of working mothers have been selected. One group is clerical employees who are employed by Oklahoma State University and whose husbands are also employees of the University. The second group consists of Payne County Home Economists. Stillwater is the county seat of Payne County and the home of Oklahoma State University. The purposes of this study were:

1. To determine if the working mother thought there was a monetary change in her clothing needs due to her employment.
2. To determine if the mother thought there were changes in quantity or quality of her clothing since beginning employment.

3. To determine if clothing additions or deletions were necessary for her present wardrobe compared to her wardrobe before working.

4. To determine if the subject thought that her income was large enough to justify her employment considering other possible added expenses such as child care, family clothing expenditures, care of clothing costs, household help, transportation costs, and increased food bills.

5. To determine if the mother thought her employment caused changes in raising, maintaining or lowering the standards (referring to appearance) or costs in care of the family clothing with reference to washing, ironing, mending, pressing, and dry cleaning.

6. To determine if she did home sewing. If so, for whom and what garments were made before employment and were made since employment.

7. To determine some reasons why she said she sewed while employed.

8. To determine some reasons the working mother gave for seeking paid employment.

The writer believed that possible problems may have existed with the working mother, especially those of pre-school children, that did not financially justify her being out of the home much of the day. Under this opinion the writer has assumed the following points in the construction of this paper:

1. The working mother would require more clothing resulting from outside employment and a different kind of clothing than when she was a full-time homemaker. The amount would depend on her specific type of employment. Professional women would be affected by this more than the clerical employees.

2. There might also be deletions to the wardrobe of certain clothing items such as formals, tea or afternoon dresses, sports clothes and

flat shoes.

3. Due to the rise in clothing needs, there would be an increase in clothing expenditures for the working mothers. Her family's clothing expenditures might also be affected by her outside employment resulting from her lack of time to take sufficient care and planning of the wardrobe.

4. If the mother did home sewing before employment, the amount of sewing done will be lessened due to lack of time in the home since employment began. This, too, should have a marked effect on the clothing expenditures depending on the amount of home sewing done by the mother and for whom.

5. If the working mother had pre-school children or younger school age children, there would possibly be added child care expenses.

6. There was a possibility that the working mother might be lowering her standards with reference to care of clothing in laundering, ironing and mending while raising the costs of laundering and ironing. The costs of dry cleaning for the family clothing was likely to be raised.

7. The writer did not feel that most working mothers with pre-school children who were clerical employees and whose husbands were employed full-time could greatly benefit financially from their income. They were possibly working for other reasons than financial ones. Economically, they would be of as much or more value at home considering increased clothing expenditures, child care expenses, added food bills, transportation costs and care of clothing costs. The professional home economists might realize benefits from their incomes more than the clerical employees.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Current studies have not provided an abundance of literature on the working mother's clothing problem. Instead, the research has been an overall view of the dilemma of the working wife and mother.

This review of literature is concerned with women as workers outside the home and primarily concentrated on mothers of pre-school children in the paid employment field.

The problem of 'women and work' and of women's role in society generally has completely changed its complexion during the last few decades. It is no longer a question of what women are physically and mentally capable of doing. For experience has settled the long controversy about feminine abilities and has proved that women are fit for a much wider range of activities than merely those compatible with the commonly accepted idea of the 'weaker sex.' The emphasis has now shifted from the discussion of 'What can women do?' to one of: 'What should women do?'. Implicit in this question is an interest both in women's individual well-being and in the welfare of society.¹

According to the 1958 Handbook on Women Workers the majority of women continued to be homemakers, whether or not they also had jobs. Practically, one-third of the married women and many single women as well, were both workers and homemakers and over half of all women devoted full time to homemaking. The remainder of the women were in school or chronically ill and unable to work.²

¹ Alva Myrdal, and Viola Klein. Women's Two Roles Home and Work. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd., 1956, p. xi.

² 1958 Handbook on Women Workers. United States Department of Labor Publications. Women's Bureau Bulletin No. 266. Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1958, p. 5.

In 1958, there were 22 million women in the labor force. This was 33 percent of all workers and 36 percent of all women. The figure is interesting when one considers that in 1890 there were 3,704,000 women in the labor force, this totaling 17 percent of all workers and 18 percent of all women. In the last 60 years the population of women has almost tripled and the woman labor force has increased more than 50 percent.³

The predictions for the future estimates the population to be 193 million in 1965. We can expect to have 10 million more workers than in 1957. More than half of the additional workers will be women. The available labor supply of women must come from the 60 percent of the woman population 18-64 years of age who are not in the labor force. Therefore, the need for new women workers inevitably will call into the labor force many married women, including many mothers.⁴

It is certain that women will work, married and single. Also that the woman labor force is indispensable to our nation's economic stability. This was so well expressed by Erwin D. Canham, Chairman, National Manpower Council, in a talk to a Conference on Womanpower. Mr. Canham states,

What would happen if all working wives would give up their jobs . . . is that the economy would collapse and that we would not be able to perform the essential services needed. It would be a catastrophe and a disaster of incredible magnitude.⁵

Interesting to note was a remark by James P. Mitchell, Secretary of Labor, during a panel discussion of "Should Mothers of Young Children

³ Ibid., p. 4.

⁴ Ibid., p. 5.

⁵ National Manpower Council. Work In The Lives of Married Women. New York: Columbia University Press, 1958, p. 14.

Work?" Mr. Mitchell's own personal view was that the nation's economy needed women but he hoped not the mothers of pre-school children. He felt that a woman's place was in the home.⁶

The United States Department of Labor reported that most women work sometime during their lives, whether they marry or not. Women tend to have two work lives. The first begins when they finish their formal education, high school or college. Generally, they are 17 or 18 years of age. Usually, they marry and after four or five years of working, they quit their jobs to have children. In their early or middle thirties the children are in school and their family responsibilities are considerably decreased. Women are ready to go back to work.⁷

Seven million or about one-third of the 22 million women in the labor force had children under 18 years of age as recorded in March, 1957.

- 4½ million had children of school age, 6 - 17.
- 2½ million had one or more children of pre-school age, under 6.

It is estimated that one of every three mothers with children under 18 years of age was working in 1957. In taking the ages of children into consideration the ratio changes:

- Age 6 - 14, 2 out of 5 working mothers.
- Under 6, 1 out of 5 working mothers.

Most mothers preferred to remain at home until their children reached school age but once the child entered school there was a marked rise in the employment of mothers. Mention should be made that four-tenths of the mothers who were widowed, divorced or separated were in the labor

⁶ "Should Mothers of Young Children Work?" Ladies Home Journal, LXXV (November, 1958), p. 59.

⁷ 1958 Handbook on Women Workers, p. 42.

force and three-tenths of the mothers whose husbands were present were working.⁸

Motivations for wives and mothers to leave their homes and seek employment varied greatly. In 1900, according to Kathryn Weitzel in her article of "The Working Wife--Her Present Dilemma," women sought employment out of 'sheer necessity'. Today, she concluded, economic necessity still exists and is the greatest reason for women working. Along with this first qualified cause she listed the psychological desire to achieve outside the home, the need for socialization, the need for some women to escape, a desire for a higher standard of living, a lengthening life span coupled with earlier marriage leaves more years to accept employment after children are grown, the availability of work and the growing need for women in the labor force.⁹

There was certainly no disagreement in research, surveys or opinions that economic necessity was the first and foremost cause of women working. With many it was a case of 'sheer necessity.' However, many women confused the realism of 'keeping the wolf from the door' with the drive to 'improve their standard of living.' To some, supplementing the income was a necessity to pay for a child's education, help make payment on a house, buy a TV set or numerous other reasons.¹⁰

Within the same reference, Ferdinand Zweig estimated that among married women no more than about one in three went to work under economic pressure. The rest went to work to earn extras, or because they enjoyed

⁸ Ibid., p.p. 39-40.

⁹ Kathryn S. Weitzel, "The Working Wife--Her Present Dilemma." Journal of Home Economics, XLIX (November, 1957), p. 689.

¹⁰ Myrdal, and Klein, p. 86.

it.¹¹

For some women a job was psychologically necessary. The mother-wife role might not have completely satisfied. Her social life might be narrow resulting in boredom and perhaps some women felt they could contribute more to their family by participating in affairs outside the family circle. Others felt they must gain achievement outside the realm of the home.

Mr. Milton C. Lightner in a forum discussion about working mothers referred to individual educators as being so intent on preparing women for a career that they overemphasize this. Discontentment in married life is the result of overemphasis of having a career. In agreement with Mr. Lightner in the same discussion was Dr. Lyon White, Jr., sociologist. He felt that education for women was concentrated on a personal cultivation and training for a vocation. Educators gave no housekeeping skills in college and as the graduate entered into the routine of married life, she became restless with her new pattern of life and her ego was hurt.¹²

Dr. Mirra Komarovsky, sociologist, differed with her two colleagues in that she thought that the female college student must have her mind awakened. She insisted that a good liberal arts background was the best means of accomplishing this. This liberal education was preparation for a good family relationship and it is not necessary to teach housekeeping skills. All of the participants of the discussion believed in the cultivation of a woman's mind, her need for intellectual companionship and her appreciation of the arts. These things would make her a unified

¹¹ Ibid., p. 83.

¹² "Should Mothers of Young Children Work?", p. 156.

personality and enable her to enjoy a well rounded life without paid employment.¹³

Senator Frank J. Lausche of Ohio added to the discussion that some women who needed outside work for psychological reasons revealed symptoms of deeper problems.¹⁴

A statement that was expressive concerning this appears in Women's Two Roles Home and Work. "The economic pressure and desire for improvement is arbitrary and hard to define. Many women go to work under the emotional pressure of loneliness rather than under the economic pressure of low wages."¹⁵

Accompanying the economic and psychological problems of homemakers there were standing invitations beckoning to women from the outside. Myrdal and Klein described it as a wide range of suitable jobs within easy reach, good transportation available, easy provision could be made for the care of children, arrangements could be taken care of for time-consuming household duties and there were good training facilities for the prospective jobs. Too, there was increased leisure time for women to enjoy because of small families and inventions of continually new and improved household conveniences.¹⁶

The higher standard of living that is maintained in the United States today is another big incentive for women to go to work. It might be done through the attitude 'to keep up with the Joneses' or simply through personal satisfaction. Dr. Komarovsky said that the standard of

13 Ibid.

14 Ibid.

15 Myrdal, and Klein, p. 83.

16 Ibid., p. 80.

living would be lower if women did not work. In 1958 the average income of a working husband was \$4600 per year. The average income of a working husband-wife was \$6000 per year.¹⁷

At this juncture in our social history women are guided by two apparently conflicting aims. On the one hand, they want, like everybody else to develop their personalities to the full and to take an active part in adult social and economic life within the limits of their individual interests and abilities.¹⁸ On the other hand most women want a home and a family of their own.

It is, therefore, the charge of each mother to decide if outside employment is the best for her. There is no single or simple policy which can be invoked to deal with all the decisions and problems connected with their employment. A frequent recommendation for help to a mother in coming to a sound decision about working is professional counseling.

Complete counseling can help a mother to look at all sides of the question and come to a decision with which she can feel comfortable, not only against the doubts of others but also within herself. In many cases her decision should be: against working, against working until her children are older or against working full-time.¹⁹

A mother who accepts the two roles will find conflict and a period of adjustment. She might need the satisfactions of work but may acquire some new frustrations when combining work and home roles. She must have good physical health and a strong constitution to be able to cope with the demands of home and office and to meet the standards of a wife and mother.²⁰

All sources of information agree that the first responsibility is

¹⁷ "Should Mothers of Young Children Work?", p. 155.

¹⁸ Myrdal, and Klein, p. xii.

¹⁹ National Manpower Council, p. 140.

²⁰ Weitzel, p. 690.

to the home and family. In a survey that Mrs. Florida Scott-Maxwell conducted concerning this problem she found that most mothers feel they are not adequately fulfilling their duties to their husbands, their home life and mainly to their children.²¹

There existed a constant feeling of pressure with the added eight hour working day, the eternal housework problem, the errands that still had to be run, shopping, worries of children's care and family health. The employed mother found that there was very little time for relaxation.

The prospective working mother must remember that she is half of a partnership of marriage. Her husband's attitude in this problem must certainly be considered. Hazel Kyrk stated, "If there is any conflict at all--work at no price."²²

The husband must be made to feel that the wife is not infringing on his masculinity and that his role as 'breadwinner' is not being threatened. He must be in complete accord with the situation and be willing to accept his share of household responsibilities. The problems of two incomes would be involved and there must be complete agreement on handling of financial matters.

A mother's employment relative to her children's care and the effect of her absence from the home could present problems of great concern. Few will deny that a mother's place is in the home during the first three years of a child's life. Stella Applebaum in a Public Affairs Pamphlet entitled, Working Wives and Mothers thought that this must be qualified

²¹ Florida Scott-Maxwell, "Women Know They Are Not Men," Ladies Home Journal, LXXV (November, 1958), pp. 58-59.

²² Hazel Kyrk, Economic Problems of the Family. New York: Harper and Brothers Publishers, 1933, p. 113.

by a few 'if's.' 'If' that is where the mother wants to be and 'if' she is a genuinely happy person while caring for her children.²³

Weitzel was in somewhat of agreement with this as she stated, Experience has shown that aside from the monetary contribution a working mother can make to her children's welfare, she herself may be the kind of person who can be a better mother if she is not with her child all the time.²⁴

All authorities were in accordance with the fact that if mothers must work wait until their children were at least three years old. Dr. John Bowbly said,

Child care must have continuity or there is trouble. Children develop frustrations if abandoned before three. Some children who have never been the objects of the continuous care and companionship of a single human being can't love and can't learn from experience. They act from whim and are very sad, unreliable people, indeed.²⁵

Every aspect must be considered when deriving at what effect the mother's work will have on her children: the child's inherited intelligence, physical capacities and the parent's emotional stability.

If a mother must work, then she should decide on the very best possible care for her children. The United States Department of Labor Publication No. 246 gave different child care facilities available but pointed to a serious gap existing in most of the communities studied between the demand for day care and the ability of existing facilities to meet the need.²⁶

²³ Stella B. Applebaum. Working Wives and Mothers. Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 188. New York: Public Affairs Committee, 1952, p. 8.

²⁴ Weitzel, p. 691.

²⁵ "Should Mothers of Young Children Work?," p. 154.

²⁶ Employed Mothers and Child Care. United States Department of Labor Publication, Women's Bureau Bulletin No. 246. Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1953, p. 28.

For the very young child, one might select home care in the child's own home or that of home care in another home. A relative or friend might keep the baby. It is necessary not to change the mother substitute but to let the child become accustomed to one other person than the mother, herself. There are day nurseries which usually take any age and any number of children. These are in opposition to the nursery schools. The actual school usually takes children from the ages of two to five. They act as a supplement and aid home training. The children are given earlier group experiences and try to establish an appreciation for the basic values of life. Kindergarden is the next step for pre-school youngsters, usually, taking children from five to six years of age. In some communities there are extended school services that take children from 6 - 14 after school hours and during school vacations.²⁷

The primary responsibility for the care and direction of the lives of young children rests with parents and especially the mothers. If a mother must work, it is necessary that she arrange for adequate care for her children.

In consideration of the working problem, there is a choice between part-time or full-time employment. Some women feel that part-time work will help them pay for the family vacation, new house, new car or narrow the gap between the cost of living and the fixed income. They can do this and still not be taken away from their families for an eight hour day. The ones that worked for outside interests say their working was more important than the money they earned. Some of this category had children and some did not. Others had been professionally or technically trained such as nurses, social workers and teachers. This part-time work gave

²⁷ Ibid., p. 11.

them an opportunity to use their skills.²⁸

In 1951 there were 11 million women employed in some type of part-time work. The average age was 35, few had pre-school children and the majority had full family responsibilities.²⁹

In summary of this review of literature it was found that from all indications approximately five million additional women will be in the labor force by 1965. This figure added to the 22 million current workers will mean that 27 million women, married and single, will be in paid employment.

There are now seven million mothers in employment. Opportunities are vast and encouraging; child care facilities are available; there are more technically and professionally educated women and better training facilities for specific jobs; a higher standard of living exists in the United States to lure women into the field of employment and a longer work span, due to early marriages, is occurring.

Most sources agree that women's two roles of work and home life can be managed without excessive strain when the woman possesses a strong mental and physical health, an aptitude for organization and whose family is willing to co-operate and share their part of the added responsibilities.

Economic necessity is ranked as the main reason for employment of women but the definition of 'economic necessity' is extremely vague. Is it actually the drive to improve one's standard of living or to make ends meet?

²⁸ Part Time Jobs For Women. United States Department of Labor Publications, Women's Bureau Bulletin No. 238. Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1951, p. 12.

²⁹ Ibid., p. 13.

Psychological motives are present and the belief is prevalent that the majority of young women are educated to be career minded. On the advent of marriage they are unable to adjust to the homemaker role, thus bringing discontentment and seeking stimulation from employment outside the home. Others feel their social life is narrow and contribute more to their families by staying abreast of affairs in the worker's world.

Part-time or full-time work is another relevant matter to be considered when contemplating work. Agreement seemed to follow the thought that one was not taken away from the family so much, shorter working hours prevailed and still the psychological and economic reasons were satisfied when the woman was engaged in part-time work rather than full-time employment.

Regardless of the type of job or the hours, the question of economy must be well analyzed. Will the outside employment justify the worker financially from being out of the home?

Effects on children bring the greatest concern from mothers as well as from people doing study in this field. Assumption is concurrent that mothers should remain at home during the first three years of a child's life to establish self-discipline patterns and behavior standards. At about the age of three the child is able to understand and accept the verbal assurances of the mother that she will return at the end of the day.

There appear instances, however, when it is advisable for the mother to seek employment outside the home, possibly, if she suffered from emotional disturbances or had little maternal feeling. If she remained at home with the child, she might cause very undesirable effects.

If after due consideration, the mother felt that she must have

paid employment, then the utmost of care should be applied in selecting the proper care facilities for her children.

'What should women do?' seems to be the immediate question. It is the privilege of each woman to make her own decision and to determine what is best for her situation and personality. She must determine what contributions to society she wishes to make and where she prefers to limit her time and energies.

As previously stated, this review of literature is not particularly concerned with the clothing problem of the working mother. More specifically, it forms a background for the problem undertaken concentrating on why a mother goes to work, the work pattern of women, problems encountered and the effects upon their children.

CHAPTER III

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

Acquiring data for this study was done through the use of a questionnaire. It is assumed that this would give accurate and complete information.

In preparation for constructing the questionnaire references on research methods were used. Good and Scates suggests the following nine points to be taken into consideration when compiling the questionnaire:

1. It must be short enough so that the respondent will not reject it completely and will not take too much time which might be a serious drain on the work of the respondent.

2. It must be of sufficient interest and have enough face appeal so that the respondent will be inclined to answer it and complete it. This does not necessarily mean that lone writing should be avoided. Some respondents may enjoy writing at length and expressing himself.

3. The questionnaire should obtain some depth to the response in order to avoid superficial replies. Enough time must be required to allow evaluation of factors which properly condition a decision.

4. This ideal questionnaire must not be too suggestive or too unstimulating. This is particularly true with reference to choices. One does not wish to "put words in the mouth" of the respondent or by using enticing phrases or names of courses, get him to check a lot of them which he does not want.

5. The questionnaire should elicit responses which are definite but not mechanically forced. Forcing his decision into a "yes" or "no" type of category is itself undesirable. The questionnaire should accordingly encourage definiteness without forcing it where it does not exist in the mind of the respondent.

6. Questions must be asked in such a way that the responses will not be embarrassing to the individual. It must always be made as respectable as possible to answer "no" or to give a neutral response. Otherwise the responses will show a strong tendency to be socially acceptable.

7. Questions must also be asked in such a manner as to allay suspicion on the part of the employee concerning hidden purposes in the questionnaire.

8. The questionnaire must not be too narrow, restrictive, or limited in its scope or philosophy. Questionnaires are almost always made from a certain point of view or form of reference but they should always hold the door open for obtaining other points of view.

9. The responses to the questionnaire must be valid, and the entire body of data taken as a whole must answer the basic question for which the questionnaire was designed. Validity is, in the main, a technical term, and will require some attention to the circumstances under which a questionnaire is administered. (30)

With this criteria as a guide, the questionnaire was constructed to try to fulfill the purposes of this study. Major topics included in the form were alterations in the wardrobe with relation to changes in quantity and quality of different types of garments since employment; changes in the washing, ironing, pressing and mending done by the mother before and since employment; changes reflected in raising, maintaining, or lowering standards and costs of care of clothing; the changes in the amount of home sewing done before and since employment for family members; the type of garments made at home and the types and cost of child care.

Objective type questions were used in securing the clothing data and personal statistical information. Good and Scates says

The check list form of questionnaire is particularly dependent upon completeness of the original list, so as to provide a convenient, suggestive list on which the respondents may check their answers. The recipient comes to depend upon the list for suggestiveness and for a classification of his responses, with the result that he is not so likely to write in additional items.

The closed form of questionnaire, employing check responses or similar answers, is commonly used to secure categorized data. This form is time-saving for both questionnaire and techniques, exercises a

³⁰Carter V. Good, and Douglas E. Scates, Methods of Research, Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., New York, 1954, pages 615-616.

directive influence in securing responses and greatly facilitates the process of tabulating and summarizing. (31)

Both check type and completion questions were used in this questionnaire. The check lists were used to acquire the clothing changes in quantity and quality, child care facilities used, reasons for seeking employment, education completed, household duties done before and since employment and questions concerning home sewing as to the type and amount done.

Three open end questions were included to attempt to reach the respondent's reaction to specific subjects such as if she feels that her employment has caused wardrobe changes, if she does home sewing while employed, for what reasons and if she thinks that her income is sufficient to justify her employment. The free-response questions may provide a more adequate picture of how the respondent feels about a topic, what it means to him and the background of his answer.

Personal information included husband and wife's employment; the number of years she has worked and the number of years she has been a full-time homemaker; reasons for seeking employment; years and type of formal education; professional and social organizations participated in before and since employment; number of children and their ages; the cost of care of children, either pre-school or school age.

Clerical employees of Oklahoma State University whose husbands were employed by the university were selected. This was to insure a fairly uniform group whose salary ranges would be somewhat comparable. It was intended that the husband be employed on a full-time basis theorizing that the wife would not absolutely have to seek outside employment. The

³¹Ibid, page 613.

subjects should be a mother with at least one pre-school or school age child living in the home. She should have been a full-time homemaker at least one year before entering the paid employment field. This would give her some basis for comparison of her working wardrobe and her homemaker wardrobe. The mother should have worked not less than eight months at the time the sample was taken. By working at least eight months she would have experienced at least two seasonal wardrobe changes.

Names of clerical employees were obtained from the Oklahoma State University Student Directory. Information from each prospect concerning the sample specifications was collected by either personal or telephone contact. From the initial list of some 50 clerical workers on the campus, only twenty would qualify.

Since twenty did not seem to be an adequate sample, it was decided to match this sample with that of twenty Payne County Home Economists. Stillwater is the county seat of Payne County.

Because the questionnaire was originally designed for clerical employees, there occurred a few irregularities. Eight of the home economists were working from sheer necessity. Six of these were widows or divorcees with children and had no other source of income other than what they earned. The remaining two were working to help their husbands finish their education. Twelve home economists met all the qualifications of the original sample, except not all of the husbands were employed by Oklahoma State University.

During the fall semester of 1959, a pilot study was conducted using the questionnaire. Five working mothers were asked to participate. Three were secretaries and two were home economists. This was done to seek clarity of the questions, suggestions concerning length, revision

of questions, and interest and validity of the questionnaire. The study was of great help and resulted in clearing up some of the problems.

The final questionnaire was given to the subjects either by personal contact or through the mail. The mothers had previously been asked if they would co-operate in answering it. From each group of the twenty working mothers, nineteen responded and returned the questionnaires, giving an over-all sample of thirty-eight. One respondent in the clerical employee group had only worked three months. She was dropped from the sample. This left a total of thirty-seven. The results were then tabulated within each group and between the two.

A simple summation was made of each question on an analysis pad and recorded within each group. The results of each question was compared between the two groups to seek any significance from the finding. Relationships were established between some of the results. For example, the outstanding clothing changes in quantity and quality compared to the number of organizations participated in by the individuals and as a group.

Tables were used to show clothing changes, organizations participated in before and since employment, the amount of household duties done before and since working, and the types and amount of home sewing done. Some averages were used showing comparison of organizations participated in between the two groups and the ratio of working mothers with pre-school children.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS

In search of the findings of this research, tabulation was concurrent with each part of the questionnaire. The findings will be stated in the separate groups of clerical employees and home economists and then in comparison between the two. Purposes were related in the introduction and establishment of the findings will be made in conjunction with them.

An open end question was asked to determine if the working mother thought there was a monetary change in her clothing needs due to her employment. She was requested to explain any changes in wardrobe costs since beginning employment. It was found that eleven clerical employees expressed the need for a larger quantity of clothing in their wardrobe but no change in the quality. One of the eleven realized that she purchased more jewelry, belts, gloves, and scarves while working. The greater need for quantity was related to hose, shoes, sweaters, and skirts. There were fourteen clerical employees who desired more clothing. Another mentioned an increase in children's clothing because of the lack of time to care for the child's clothes. Three felt they needed a greater quantity as well as better quality especially in shoes, street dresses and handbags. One mother felt that her clothing expenses were much greater because she didn't have the time to do home sewing and her need for clothing was increased since employment. Another clerical employee expressed herself by saying that she could save \$400 a year

on clothing if she were not employed outside the home. Still another observation by a mother was an increase in the dry cleaning expense.

The home economists were not as specific in answering the open-end question as the clerical employees. However, seven of the nineteen sampled realized the need since employment for better quality and a larger quantity of clothing, therefore, raising their clothing expenditures. The need for better quality was expressed because of less time to care for their clothing. One home economist expressed herself by saying, "Better quality will give longer wear." Two mothers related that their clothing costs increased slightly but both continued to do much home sewing. In their cases increased quantity was apparent but the home sewing kept the initial clothing expenses lower. One home economist related that her clothing expenditures actually decreased because she was a nursery school teacher and wore only old clothing to work. As she expressed it, "In nursery school teaching, one wears only those things she wouldn't wear anyplace else." Another mother expressed a rise in dry cleaning costs and the need for many more hose.

In comparison of the two groups of clerical employees and home economists, it was found that no home economist expressed the need for a larger quantity without adding better quality while eleven clerical employees felt they needed a greater quantity alone. Seven home economists expressed the desire for better quality and a need for a larger quantity of clothing while only three of the clerical employees realized this same need of quality and quantity. One in each group mentioned the increased dry cleaning costs.

Only one subject of the 37 samples gave an actual monetary description of changes in clothing needs. This was a clerical employee who felt

that she could save \$400 a year on clothing if she were not employed. She gave no explanation of how she arrived at this figure or how she could save it. This purpose was related to what the mothers said in reference to any changes of their clothing expenditures.

Another check question was asked to determine if the mothers thought there were any changes in quantity or quality of their wardrobes since working. The clothing check list was designed to gain a more accurate account of the actual clothing needs of the mothers in comparison with the previous open-end question concerning monetary changes in the wardrobe.

Tables I and II show a need for more working type garments, such as blouses, skirts, sweaters, tailored dresses, street heels, dress heels, hose and slippers. Less quantity is needed in such items as housedresses and flat shoes. The majority felt that the same quantity was desired in housecoats, shorts, afternoon dresses, formals, sport coats, raincoats, jackets, dress coats, handbags, hats, bras, garter belts and panties. All felt that they needed the same number of hats except one who indicated the need for less since employment.

The clerical employees seemed to see very little need for lower quality of clothing as seen in Table I. Two felt they needed a lower quality in housedresses, one in housecoats and one in flat shoes. The majority of the mothers recognized the need for the same quality except in a few instances. The major indications for increased quality came with eight wanting better tailored dresses, seven better skirts and other blouses, four better street heels, three better quality handbags, dress coats, jackets, raincoats, and dress heels, two wanted higher quality in housecoats, shorts, blouses, sweaters, sport coats, girdles

and slips, and one each, better quality in bras, panties, flat shoes, formals and housedresses. One subject recognized the need for increased quality in most all of her clothing inventory. Others were spasmodic in their feeling of higher quality.

In this sample there seemed to be a trend that the home economists were more interested in and appreciated a higher quality of clothing as is well illustrated in Table II. The home economist indicated there was a need for many more working clothes. Thirteen of the nineteen sampled needed more blouses, sixteen, more skirts, fifteen, more tailored dresses, eighteen, more hose, eleven, more handbags and girdles, and ten, more sweaters. There were two home economists who needed more formals. One is a vocational home economics teacher and the other is an assistant home demonstration agent whose husband is a student at the university. Sixteen of the nineteen home economists saw the need for fewer housedresses, six needed fewer formals, five had deleted some flat shoes from their wardrobe.

As the home economists saw a need for increased working clothing, they also realized the advantage of a better quality clothing in similar items. As their needs increased, in other blouses, skirts, sweaters, and tailored dresses, so did their choice to a higher quality. Seven home economists preferred a higher quality of handbags as well as sweaters and tailored dresses; nine wanted better skirts, eight wanted better blouses and street shoes with medium or high heels after they began working.

Three home economists preferred a lower quality in handbags. They were a nursery school teacher, a librarian, and a research assistant. Among the home economists group there was one each who desired lower

TABLE I

CLERICAL EMPLOYEE'S INDICATIONS OF CHANGES IN THE WARDROBE
THOUGHT TO HAVE OCCURRED IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF
OUTER WEAR, SHOES AND LINGERIE SINCE EMPLOYMENT

Clothing Item	Changes in Quantity			Changes in Quality		
	More	Same	Less	Less	Same	Better
<u>OUTER WEAR</u>						
Housedress	0	9	8	2	14	1
Housecoats	1	15	2	1	16	2
Short, slim jims	2	11	4	0	14	2
Sport shirts and blouses	9	8	2	0	17	2
Other blouses	11	4	1	0	11	5
Skirts	15	4	0	0	12	7
Sweaters	8	8	0	0	15	2
Tailored dresses	12	6	0	0	10	8
Afternoon and Evening dresses	2	12	3	0	14	3
Cocktail dresses and formals	0	12	2	0	13	1
Sport coats	3	12	0	0	13	2
Raincoats	3	13	1	0	14	3
Jackets	6	11	0	0	14	3
Dress coats	3	13	1	0	14	3
Handbags	6	10	1	0	14	3
Hats	0	16	1	0	17	0
<u>SHOES</u>						
Flats	3	6	4	1	12	1
Street heels	1	5	0	0	12	4
Dress heels	7	8	1	0	14	3
<u>LINGERIE</u>						
Hose	14	4	0	0	18	0
Girdles	8	4	1	0	11	2
Slips	11	7	0	0	16	2
Bras	8	10	0	0	17	1
Garter belts	2	9	0	0	11	0
Panties	6	12	0	0	17	1
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE II

HOME ECONOMIST'S INDICATIONS OF CHANGES IN THE WARDROBE
THOUGHT TO HAVE OCCURRED IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY
OF OUTER WEAR, SHOES AND LINGERIE
SINCE EMPLOYMENT

Clothing Item	Changes in Quantity			Changes in Quality		
	More	Same	Less	Less	Same	Better
<u>OUTER WEAR</u>						
Housedress	0	0	16	0	16	1
Housecoats	4	12	1	0	12	5
Shorts, slim jims	4	9	4	0	13	3
Sport shirts and blouses	4	11	4	0	16	2
Other blouses	13	6	0	0	11	8
Skirts	16	3	0	0	10	9
Sweaters	10	7	1	0	10	7
Tailored dresses	15	4	0	1	10	7
Afternoon and Evening dresses	3	13	3	1	13	3
Cocktail dresses and formals	2	9	6	1	13	1
Sport coats	4	14	1	1	15	3
Raincoats	4	14	1	0	14	5
Jackets	8	10	1	0	13	6
Dress coats	4	13	2	1	14	4
Handbags	11	8	0	3	9	7
Hats	7	11	1	0	13	5
<u>SHOES</u>						
Flats	3	10	5	2	14	2
Street heels	13	5	1	0	11	8
Dress heels	3	15	1	0	15	4
<u>LINGERIE</u>						
Hose	18	1	0	1	15	2
Girdles	11	7	0	1	11	6
Slips	8	11	0	1	13	5
Bras	8	11	0	0	14	5
Garter belts	1	12	1	1	12	1
Panties	7	12	0	0	15	4
Others (Luggage, Jewelry, Gloves and Gowns)	3	1	0	1	1	1

quality in hose, girdles, slips, garter belts, dress coats, tailored dresses, afternoon dresses, formals, and sport coats. One subject felt that she needed more and better quality garments on each item except housedresses and flat shoes. She, fortunately, owned an interest in a dress shop which may have influenced her thinking.

Home economists gave the impression of giving more consideration, time and thought to the clothing check list as they were more selective in their answers and gave more suggestions in the various columns. One suggested that she needed more gloves of less quality and another more luggage and jewelry of better quality.

Generally, the answers concerning clothing wardrobes suggested that home economists preferred slightly higher quality in some clothing articles but lowered the quality desired in a few items. The clerical employees chose very few items of lesser quality. The majority of clerical workers preferred to maintain the same quality of clothing regardless of their employment. As an over-all summation, home economists tended to express the need for more clothing since employment and desired a better quality.

Lending itself to a possible reason why home economists perhaps needed more clothing is a check type question. The subjects were asked to list organizations participated in before paid employment and currently participating in since paid employment.

Table III shows the comparison of the two groups. The clerical employees listed seventeen of the eighteen workers sampled as having at least one religious, professional, civic, social, fraternal, or other organization giving a total of 53 organizations for the entire sample. Since working began, sixteen clerical employees listed 44

organizations. This showed a drop of two employees participating in outside activities and a drop of a total of nine organizations. Religious work remained practically the same. There was a slight rise in the memberships in professional organizations. Membership in social and fraternal organizations indicated a slight drop of participation for clerical workers. It was interesting to note that, of the two clerical employees that had done graduate work, both were the only two to list membership in professional organizations. One listed nine participating organizations before and since working. (See Table III)

Sixteen home economists belonged to and participated in 117 organizations before working. Since paid employment began all nineteen home economists sampled belonged to at least one such organization and one subject belonged to and participated in ten organizations, as shown in Table III. The total number of organizations that the nineteen samples were affiliated with since employment were 159. The home economists showed a great rise in the professional organizations. Before employment six home economists belonged to eleven organizations. Since employment twelve home economists belonged to thirty-one organizations. A slight rise in the civic groups was indicated. Religious work remained somewhat the same since working had begun. Social and fraternal members and organizations had both increased.

In both samples of clerical employees and home economists, religious groups had the most membership and greatest number of organizations listed. There were very slight changes in membership in religious organizations of either of the two groups. However, the home economists listed more religious organizations and had more members participating. The professional listings, as well as those of civic organizations, were by far greater with the home economists.

TABLE III

NUMBER OF CLERICAL EMPLOYEES AND HOME ECONOMISTS PARTICIPATING IN SOCIAL
AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS BEFORE AND SINCE EMPLOYMENT

Organization Groups	Before Employment		Since Employment	
	Number of Participants	Number of Organizations	Number of Participants	Number of Organizations
<u>CLERICAL EMPLOYEES</u>				
Religious	11	18	10	17
Professional	2	2	3	4
Civic	3	6	3	4
Social	11	16	8	13
Fraternal	5	5	2	2
Others	5	6	4	4
Total	37	53	30	44
	(17 employees)		(16 employees)	
<u>HOME ECONOMISTS</u>				
Religious	15	24	15	25
Professional	6	11	12	31
Civic	7	10	10	13
Social	8	12	9	10
Fraternal	2	2	5	5
Others	3	4	2	3
Total	41	117	53	159
	(16 home economists)		(19 home economists)	

In tabulating the numbers of organizations, it was found that home economists belonged to an average of 8.4 organizations per person while the clerical employees belonged to an average of 2.8 organizations per person. This showed that as an average the home economists belonged to 5.6 more organizations per person than the clerical employees.

Due to the fact that the home economists participated in 115 more organizations than the clerical employees, this could very easily be one qualified reason for the need of more clothing.

An open-end question was asked in the questionnaire of each subject to determine if she thought that her income was large enough to justify her employment considering other possible added expenses such as child care, family clothing expenditures, care of clothing costs, household help, transportation costs and increased food bills.

The salary of the subjects was not known; however, the clerical employees on the Oklahoma State University campus would make in the general range of \$200 a month.

In answer to this question, thirteen clerical employees who were employed full-time replied that their income did justify their employment, two answered "yes" but were employed only half time. Each said she felt that if she had been working full-time, her salary would not be beneficial. By working half-time, they were able to maintain their home efficiently and still earn extra money. Two clerical workers were doubtful that their salaries were of any real monetary value. One answered that her income was not sufficient but gave personal satisfaction as a reason for working.

Five of the eighteen clerical workers had pre-school children to be cared for. Of these five, two answered doubtfully that their income

justified their employment, but gave reasons for enjoying being with adults and personal satisfactions. One answered definitely "yes" that her income justified employment. She felt that her children were being well cared for in her home and she returned home physically tired but not emotionally exhausted. The remaining two mothers answered "yes" but both happened to be earning a somewhat higher income than most of the clerical workers on the campus. One expressed herself as being bored with the thought of a "24-hour-a-day-seven-days-a-week mind occupier" of homemaking. She felt that her son was becoming "tied to his mother's apron strings" and needed to gain some independence. Momentarily, she expressed that there was not a tremendous advantage for her working.

The ten remaining employees who answered "yes" to the question of income justification began working after their children were in school. Most of these enjoyed the outside stimulation of adults, the "extras" that their income could earn for them such as a new car, a new home, the establishment of a savings account, new furniture, adequate funds for an annual vacation and helping to send their children through college. One of these mothers did specify that although her income was sufficient now, as a permanent, long-range plan, the net gain was not worth the confusion and the neglect of her home and family which inevitably existed.

As previously stated, the exact salary range was not known. However, it was almost certain that the professional home economist's over-all income was higher than that of the clerical employee. In answer to the question of the individual's income justifying their employment, it had been found that nine home economists definitely felt that their employment was qualified. Eight worked from necessity

and six of these had no other means of support. The remaining two were putting their husbands through college. One answered "no", she simply enjoyed working. She felt that she was acquiring up-to-date knowledge of her field, retaining professional interests, enjoying being with people, and was being made a more interesting homemaker.

In reference to this, it was found in the review of literature that Ferdinand Zweig estimated that among married women no more than about one in three goes to work under economic pressure. The rest go to work to earn extras or because they enjoy it. (32) As indicated in this study of the home economists group, about one in three had gone to work because of sheer necessity. Six of the nineteen sampled were working because of no other means of support.

Reasons given by the nine home economists who declared that their income was sufficient included being bored at home after finishing the house work, enjoying the extra money and meeting financial obligations. One home economist was working as her husband's assistant in the library and felt that she was adding a worthwhile contribution to his department. Another related that there was a great deal of satisfaction gained but that the rush involved was the only disadvantage. Included was a description, such as, "I am now so weary when at home that I am not constantly planning changes in slip-covering, curtains, etc. as I once did." She felt that she was actually saving money by being out of the home. One working mother said, "It makes a wife appreciate how tired her husband is when he comes home." Another answered that her check went for the payment on their farm.

Four of these home economists had pre-school children. Of the four one felt that her income did justify her employment but she didn't work

³²Myrdal, and Klein, Page XI.

for monetary reasons. Another was paying for their farm with her income. The third was putting her husband through college and felt working was a necessity. The fourth declined to answer the open-end question. However, in her answer to reasons for working, she expressed herself in this manner, "to keep us out of debt."

In answering the open-end question, the clerical employees seemed enthusiastic to have had the opportunity to express themselves and elaborate on this subject. The writer felt, however, that the home economists were more critical in the analyzing of their reasons for working.

Since there were eight home economists who felt it monetarily necessary to work, the comparison of this question was somewhat difficult. However, it was found that thirteen clerical employees definitely felt that their income was sufficient to justify employment while nine home economists agreed on this. In each set of samples there was one person who realized that her income was not sufficient but commented that she was working for reasons other than money. Five clerical workers and four home economists had pre-school children. Three of the clerical workers felt that their income justified their employment and two were doubtful. One home economist answered "yes" to this question and three of the mothers of pre-school children were working for financial reasons.

Other portions of the questionnaire which might relate to this question of the income being sufficient to justify employment was the amount of child care paid by the mothers.

Of the clerical employees there were five mothers paying for pre-school child care and two mothers paying someone for after school care

for their children. The average monthly range that clerical employees paid for nursery school was \$30-\$35. Baby sitting care with a pre-school child was \$55 in another case. The highest in the range was \$160 paid for a housekeeper and the care of a pre-school child. This mother said she did no housework. Another worker employed a housekeeper and also had her child in a nursery. Her monthly child care costs amounted to \$130. Lowest paid per month for baby sitting was \$7. This was paid for after school care by one mother. Both mothers who were paying the highest of the clerical workers expressed themselves as feeling that their income justified their employment. Both indicated in their answers that they preferred outside stimulation and adult contact. Their salaries were undoubtedly higher than the average clerical employee.

Four home economists were paying for the care of their pre-school children and three were employing help for after-school care. The average range was \$30-\$32 for nursery school. Three mothers paid this. Highest paid by a home economist was \$100 a month for a housekeeper of two school aged children and one pre-school aged child. The lowest of the child care costs was one who related that she paid about \$15 a year or an average of \$1.25 a month. Usually, the parents were with the child after school and the money involved was used in isolated instances when the parents were not available.

Although home economists had more children and lower in age, as an average the home economists were paying less for child care than the clerical employees. Of 37 children belonging to the home economists all but one was high school age or under. Clerical employees had 26 children ranging from seven months to twenty-one years of age. One home economist had a child that was a college student while three clerical

employees had children in college.

The review of literature indicated that one out of every five working mothers has pre-school children. These figures compared with this study in that nine out of thirty-seven mothers have pre-school children. This is a little over the one out of five ratio. (33)

Still another question in the questionnaire that might have had some bearing on the subject of whether the individual's income justified her employment was a check type question. It asked for the amount of washing, ironing, pressing and mending done before working and since working.

In answer to this, the clerical workers indicated that before working all of them but one did all of their washing. The one who did no washing answered that she did no housework before or since employment.

Since working, fifteen still continued to do all of their washing, two did some and two did none of it. In ironing, sixteen mothers did all of their own before working but only nine continued to do all of the family's ironing since working. Before working thirteen mothers did all of their own pressing. Since employment eleven did all of the pressing. Fifteen reported to have done all of the family's mending before working; since working thirteen did all of the mending. In both pressing and mending, there was only one clerical employee who did none.

Home economists corresponded with the clerical workers in that eighteen did all of their own washing before working and fifteen continued doing all of the washing since working. One in each group of before and since working did little washing. For a clear comparison see Table IV.

³³1958 Handbook on Women Workers, pages 39-40.

Seventeen home economists did all of the ironing before employment but since working only twelve continued to do all of it. One listed that she did no ironing since working. This listing of "none" was the only one in any column of the home economist's questionnaires. The answers remained the same in pressing with seventeen doing all of it before working, one doing some and one doing little. Since employment, the home economists maintained the same schedule with seventeen doing all of the pressing, one doing some and one doing little.

Again, seventeen home economists did all of the mending before working and two did little. Since working thirteen did all, two did some and four did little. One home economist answered "little" to all questions before working because at that time she had a maid and did little of her own household duties.

Generally, the home economists did more of their own work than did the clerical employees. Only one home economist listed "none" in any of the categories and that was she did no ironing since working. Three clerical workers did no ironing, and two did no washing since employment. (See Table IV)

Another question was asked concerning changes that the mothers thought occurred in raising, maintaining, or lowering the standards of appearance or costs in care of the family clothing with reference to laundering, ironing, mending, pressing, and dry cleaning. This question was in conjunction with the previous one except it dealt with appearances and costs rather than what the mothers actually did. These were to try and help the subjects analyze whether their employment was actually beneficial.

It was found that the clerical employees said they were raising

TABLE IV

THE AMOUNT OF WASHING, IRONING, PRESSING, AND MENDING DONE
BEFORE AND SINCE EMPLOYMENT, ACCORDING TO CLERICAL
EMPLOYEES AND HOME ECONOMISTS

Type of Own Work Done	Clerical Employees				Home Economists			
	All	Some	Little	None	All	Some	Little	None
WASHING								
Before Work	17	0	0	1	18	0	1	0
Since Work	14	2	0	2	15	3	1	0
IRONING								
Before Work	15	2	0	1	17	1	1	0
Since Work	8	5	2	3	12	5	1	1
PRESSING								
Before Work	12	2	3	1	17	1	1	0
Since Work	10	4	3	1	17	1	1	0
MENDING								
Before Work	14	12	1	1	17	0	2	0
Since Work	12	4	1	1	13	2	4	0

their standards of dress slightly more than the home economists. They were raising the costs more in dry cleaning, pressing, and ironing as well as their standards. The washing and mending standards were the same with the home economists and the clerical workers. No clerical worker was raising her mending costs while two home economists were.

Home economists seemed to be lowering certain standards of care of clothing more than the clerical employees. Three home economists said they had lowered their washing standards, one each said she had lowered ironing, pressing and dry cleaning standards and four had lowered their mending standards. Clerical employees had done less lowering of standards with only one lowering her standards in ironing and two in mending. No home economists had lowered the cost of care of clothing of any item. (See Table V.)

In the matter of home sewing the home economists far out-ranked the clerical employees in the amount done. A check type question was asked to determine the amount of home sewing done, for whom and what kind. For results of this question see Table VI.

There were no home economists who did not do some type of home sewing considering mending, alterations and the construction of new garments. However, there was one who did no construction of new garments. Most all of them did their own mending before working. The most significant decrease since working was the mending done for their husbands. A drop from fourteen to nine resulted. Generally, there was an over-all decrease in all types of home sewing done since employment began outside the home. Another outstanding decrease was in the making of new garments. The home economists who considered that they made most of the new garments for themselves were twelve before

TABLE V

CHANGES THE MOTHERS THOUGHT OCCURRED DUE TO EMPLOYMENT IN
RAISING, MAINTAINING, OR LOWERING THE STANDARDS OF
APPEARANCES AND COSTS IN CARE OF FAMILY CLOTHING

Changes in Standards in Types of Care Given	Clerical Employees			Home Economists		
	Raise	Maintain	Lower	Raise	Maintain	Lower
<u>WASHING</u>						
Appearances	1	14	0	1	14	3
Costs	2	13	0	5	13	0
<u>IRONING</u>						
Appearances	2	13	1	1	16	1
Costs	8	8	0	6	12	0
<u>PRESSING</u>						
Appearances	6	10	0	2	15	1
Costs	6	10	0	5	13	0
<u>MENDING</u>						
Appearances	1	13	2	1	13	4
Costs	0	16	2	2	14	0
<u>DRY CLEANING</u>						
Appearances	10	7	0	8	9	1
Costs	15	2	0	14	4	0

TABLE VI

TYPE AND AMOUNT OF HOME SEWING DONE AND FOR WHOM BEFORE AND SINCE EMPLOYMENT
BY CLERICAL EMPLOYEES AND HOME ECONOMISTS

Type of Sewing Done	Mending			Alterations			New Garments		
	Most	Some	None	Most	Some	None	Most	Some	None
<u>CLERICAL EMPLOYEES</u>									
<u>Before Working</u>									
Self	9	1	7	7	3	7	3	7	8
Husband	8	2	7	4	4	8	1	3	13
Children	9	2	6	8	2	7	4	5	8
Home	7	3	7	6	2	8	7	2	7
Others (Mother)	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
<u>Since Working</u>									
Self	8	2	7	5	4	8	2	5	10
Husband	7	2	8	3	2	11	1	1	15
Children	7	2	8	4	3	9	2	5	9
Home	4	4	8	5	1	10	4	4	8
Others (Mother)	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
<u>HOME ECONOMISTS</u>									
<u>Before Working</u>									
Self	17	2	0	13	6	0	12	6	1
Husband	14	3	1	8	5	5	0	7	10
Children	16	2	0	17	1	0	7	10	1
Home	15	3	1	13	5	1	14	3	2
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Since Working</u>									
Self	16	2	1	12	6	1	6	9	4
Husband	9	4	1	5	5	4	0	5	9
Children	17	2	0	16	3	0	4	13	2
Home	12	4	3	12	3	4	8	4	6
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

working and six since employment.

Although clerical workers did not do as much home sewing as home economists before or since employment, they had approximately the same percentage of decreases in home sewing done since employment. However, there were five clerical employees who did no home sewing of any kind. Eight did no construction of new garments before or since employment.

It is interesting to note that relative to sewing done for their husbands one clerical employee said she did most of the new garments for him before and since working while no home economist indicated she did most of the construction of new garments for her husband. (See Table VI.)

Before working sixteen home economists constructed dresses for themselves and sixteen continued to do so since working. This was the only clothing item that remained consistent. There was a decrease in the number of garments made since working. Table VII gives an accurate account of the items made by the clerical employees and home economists before and since working. It is again evident to see that home economists did much more home sewing than the clerical workers which would surely be expected.

The items made mostly by home economists were dresses, blouses, skirts, and costumes. More home economists make dresses than any other clothing article.

Clerical employees also showed a decrease in the amount of home sewing done since employment. Clerical workers made more dresses than any other clothing item. However, there was a drop from nine clerical employees to five who constructed dresses since working. Eight made skirts before employment and eight continued to make skirts since working.

This was the only article made that remained constant. Dresses, skirts and blouses were made by more clerical employees than any other items.

As with the home economists, the clothing articles constructed mostly by clerical workers were the working garments; dresses, blouses and skirts. Home economists made more costumes than clerical employees and the home economists mentioned that they made some home furnishing items such as curtains, bedspreads and slipcovers. There was a general decrease in the amount of sewing done in both groups of samples since employment outside the home. (See Table VII.)

To determine why the mothers sewed while employed outside the home an open-end question was asked of each. It was found with the home economists that one did no construction of new garment. The others did some type of home sewing. Since working, three sewed only to reduce costs, four did some home sewing to keep the clothing in repair and did minor alterations. Six mothers enjoyed doing home sewing and felt it very relaxing while eight realized they could have more clothes for less money, better quality, more style and better fit. One home economist expressed it as her way of creating something.

Eight clerical employees did no construction of new garments and five did no home sewing at all. Four of this group had a need for it when home sewing was done but actually did very little of it. They did make costumes, special dresses for children, alterations and did light mending. Another four mothers felt they could have a quality garment for less cost while five of them enjoyed sewing and gained much personal satisfaction from it. Two liked to sew because it was creative and one sewed because she couldn't find what she wanted in ready-to-wear garments.

TABLE VII

NUMBER OF CLERICAL EMPLOYEES AND HOME ECONOMISTS WHO MADE
DIFFERENT TYPES OF GARMENTS BEFORE AND SINCE EMPLOYMENT

Garment Made	Number of Clerical Employees		Number of Home Economists	
	Before Work	Since Work	Before Work	Since Work
Dresses	9	5	16	16
Blouses	7	5	15	10
Sleepwear	5	1	9	4
Coats	3	2	7	3
Suits	1	0	9	5
Shorts	1	1	9	5
Shirts	5	3	7	4
Skirts	8	8	15	12
Evening wear	3	1	7	3
Costumes	4	1	10	6
Others	1		2	1

(Children's clothes)

(Home furnishings, etc.)

The answers of the two groups of mothers sampled were much the same. However, eight home economists recognized they could have better quality for less cost in home constructed garments while only four clerical workers were in agreement with this. Other than this small difference, the reasons for sewing were much the same.

At various places in this research mention has been made as to why the mothers have gone to work. A check-type question was asked to try and determine why the mothers thought they were working outside the home. In analyzation of this question it was found that six home economists must work to support themselves and their children. Two were helping to finance the education of their husbands and their income was the only source of livelihood. Four were helping to pay for their homes, three to purchase household equipment, three to help finance the children's education. Of the nineteen sampled five home economists preferred outside stimulation and adult contacts and one disliked housekeeping. Many of the subjects answered with multiple reasons. Other reasons given were to retain professional standing, help send a niece through the university, help to buy a farm and supply extra income and another simply stated, "to keep us out of debt."

The clerical employees also answered with dual reasons on some of the questionnaires. The majority of this sample amounted to thirteen preferring outside stimulation and adult contact, three disliking housework, eight working to help purchase household equipment, three helping to finance the children's education, two helping to finance the husband's education, one helping to pay for a new home and one working because her child was becoming too dependent on "Mother."

In comparison of the two groups it was found that two in each group

were helping to finance the education of their husbands and three in each group were helping to finance their children's education. Thirteen clerical workers preferred outside contacts while five home economists gave this as their reason for working. Three clerical workers disliked housework compared to one home economist. Four home economists were helping to pay for a new home while only one clerical employee was helping in this same way, but eight clerical workers were aiding in the purchase of household equipment while only three home economists were helping in this way.

Basically, their answers were very much alike but it seemed apparent that more home economists were working from necessity than the clerical employees. This is discussed more fully in the conclusions and recommendations.

Another interesting point analyzed in the findings was the amount of education each sample completed. In the clerical employee group four had completed high school, five business college, two junior college, two had completed a four year college course and two had completed graduate work, assuming this is a master's degree.

Fourteen of the home economists had completed graduate work, five had finished a four year college curriculum and one had 17 hours of graduate credit and expected to finish the master's degree. The four who had done no graduate work were the two kindergarden teachers, the librarian and a saleslady.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

True to the assumptions, the clothing inventory revealed that the working mothers required more clothing resulting from outside employment and a different kind of clothing than wore while at home. It was further found that the professional home economists realized this need for increased clothing more than the clerical employees. Home economists indicated they required more working type garments such as blouses, skirts and dresses. Home economists preferred a higher quality of clothing. The clerical worker, also, realized a need for an increased number of the working type clothes but did not express as great a need as the home economists. Generally, the clerical employees were content to maintain the same quality. The home economists said they had lowered the quality of some items in isolated cases such as handbags, formals, housedresses, flat shoes, afternoon and tea dresses and sport coats.

In both groups sampled there were general deletions within the wardrobe such as formals, tea or afternoon dresses, housedresses, flat shoes and some of the subjects deleted sport clothes.

In reference to the rise of clothing needs, which was apparent from the clothing check list, it would seem logical that there would be a rise in the clothing expenditures. Generally, the trend was to agree that there was an increase in the clothing cost due to their

employment but only one subject, a clerical worker, expressed in monetary terms the exact change. She felt that she could save \$400 a year on clothing if she remained at home. Others, both home economists and clerical employees, inadvertently indicated that there was an increase in clothing expenses due to lack of time to do home sewing, increased dry cleaning costs and the need for a larger quantity and better quality in their wardrobe. The home economists preferred to dwell on the idea of higher quality and increased quantity and the clerical workers recognized the need of a larger quantity.

In drawing conclusions from this, the writer felt that there must be a rise in the clothing expenditures of both groups but the subjects failed to give direct answers to the open-end question asking to explain changes in wardrobe costs since beginning work.

Home economists seemed to demand more clothing than the clerical employees. One conclusion relating to this could be that they were more active in organizations than the clerical workers. Since most of the home economists were teachers or working professionally they perhaps were in positions where their clothes were noticed more.

It was evident from the analyzation of this research that the home economists did much more home sewing than the clerical employees before working and since working. Also, indicated was the decline in the amount of home sewing done since working in both groups. The percentage of decrease was approximately the same with the home economists and the clerical workers. The clothing articles constructed mostly before and since working were dresses, blouses and skirts; the working type garments.

Relative to the probable increased clothing expenditures for working

mothers, the lesser amount of home sewing done since working is another indication that the clothing budget must surely rise when the mother enters the labor force.

Along with the increased clothing expenses, mothers of pre-school children had additional financial burdens for child care. Mothers with younger school-age children, also, provided after school care which in most cases resulted with added expenses.

Contrary to the earlier assumptions, the general trend was not for the working mothers to lower her standards with reference to laundering, ironing and mending. The clerical workers said they raised their standards slightly but most said their standards remained the same. However, there was one mother who said she lowered her standards in ironing and two in mending. A few home economists said they lowered their washing standards and one each said she lowered her standards in ironing, pressing and dry cleaning. The clerical workers raised the costs as well as standards in dry cleaning, pressing and ironing. The home economists said they maintained their standards on an average but in both groups there was a significant rise in dry cleaning costs due to working. Another factor pertinent to this is that the home economists continued to do more of their own housework with reference to washing, ironing, pressing and mending than the clerical employees since employment.

The writer found it difficult to analyze the results in tabulation of standards of laundering, ironing, mending, pressing and dry cleaning. Standards are of a very personal nature peculiar to the individual. Perhaps, the home economists did not raise their standards due to the fact that they had high standards before working. This is a possibility because of their educational training and background.

Generally, it was assumed that the professional home economists would realize benefits from their income more than the clerical employees. In over-all generalizations, it was found that more home economists were working from necessity than the clerical workers. The majority of clerical employees gave reasons for working as preferring outside adult contacts and helping to purchase household equipment. Six home economists worked from sheer necessity. There were those home economists who preferred outside stimulation but the majority worked to help out financially.

The home economists belonged to an average of five more organizations per person than the clerical employees. They had, as an average, younger children, they paid less for child care, they did more of their own housework and they did more home sewing than the clerical workers.

From all indications, the writer felt that the clerical employees were working possibly for other reasons than sheer financial ones. The salaries were not known but it was assumed that the home economists were making more than the clerical workers. From the results of the study, the clerical workers incurred more expenses. They were paying more for child care than the home economists. Clerical workers did less housework, less home sewing, and were raising more of their standards and costs in care of clothing than the home economists.

From these facts, it seemed that the over-all expenses of the clerical employees incurred by their employment outside the home were greater and their salaries smaller than the home economists. However, when the clerical employees answered the open-end question of whether their income justified their employment, thirteen definitely answered "yes". In regard to some of the other questions asked, they seemed to

contradict themselves. These questions indicated they were definitely raising expenses due to their working. The writer felt that in answering the questionnaire some clerical employees were justifying their working in a convincing way for their own personal benefit.

Thus, conclusions are that the clerical employees were working more for outside contacts and not necessarily for large monetary rewards. The home economists were reaping more financial benefits from their income. Economically, it was felt by the writer that the clerical worker would be of as much or more value at home considering increased costs, but emotionally, perhaps she was in a better psychological position working.

In reviewing the results of this research, several points have become evident to the writer in which further investigation related to this field could be proposed.

One phase that should be studied is why more clerical employees desired to work outside the home, preferred adult contacts and why they did less housework while working, especially, when their income was relatively less than the home economists. Perhaps, the answers lie in the fact that the home economists had been trained as home makers and in home management procedures. As recorded in the review of literature Dr. Lyon White, Jr. feels that education for women is concentrated on personal cultivation and training for a vocation. They give no house-keeping skills in college and as the graduate enters into the routine of married life, she becomes restless with her new pattern of life and her ego is hurt. (34) Of course, most of the clerical employees in this sample had no college education, only four had completed college.

³⁴"Should Mothers of Young Children Work?" page 59.

Dr. Mirra Komarovsky, sociologist, gave her view on awakening the female mind as a good liberal arts background. This is preparation for a good family relationship and that it is not necessary to teach housekeeping skills. There is a definite need for the cultivation of a woman's mind, her need for intellectual companionship and her appreciation of the arts. These things will make her a unified personality and let her enjoy a well rounded life without paid employment. (35) Perhaps, the answer to why more of the clerical employees seek outside employment is in the lack of formal and advanced education.

Another topic concerns the clothing costs. The subjects reported that there was not a great change in the clothing expenditure but yet the clothing check list indicated a desire for an increased quantity and better quality in some instances. This would surely raise the clothing expenses. Do the working mothers have a full realization of how much it costs them to work outside the home? How much does the decline of home sewing actually affect the clothing budget?

The clerical workers, particularly, seemed to be justifying their employment but not financially as the questionnaire requested. It appeared more in the vein of giving "excuses" for their employment. This, of course, could be the wording of the questionnaire instead of illusive answers. With all indications pointing to increased expenditures relative to child care, less home sewing done, more clothing needed and the raising of costs of some household duties, such as laundering, ironing, and dry cleaning, does it seem possible that thirteen of the clerical employees can reliably feel that their income justifies their employment?

Perhaps, a deeper psychological and economic study could be done on this subject and give more accurate information. This research was to determine what the mothers thought in relation to the previous questions, not their behavior patterns.

Still another point of great interest to the writer is the effect on children, especially of pre-school age, when a mother leaves the home for outside employment.

Although many questions are left unanswered or unsatisfactorily answered, it is hoped that this investigation will be of some aid to teachers in their instruction. Several factors could be brought to the attention of their students either on a high school or college teaching level. The importance, first, of preparing themselves with a college education and for a possible career; helping students to determine and clarify values; the necessity of careful planning and decision making; the significance and purpose of home management, wardrobe planning, care of clothing and the judgment of when to select quality and quantity in clothing. These things could be of value to either the teacher or to the student as a consumer.

Thus concluding this study, it is hoped that some of the problems that face the working mother have been brought into a broader view. With five million more women coming into the labor force of the United States by 1965 certain realizations of the problems that face the prospective woman worker should be acknowledged. Perhaps, this study can contribute in some small way to expose the dilemma that can so easily exist with the working wife and mother and help her to solve her problem in the most advantageous way.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

- Good, Carter V. and Scates, Douglas E. Methods of Research. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1954.
- Kyrk, Hazel. Economic Problems of the Family. New York: Harper and Brothers Publishers, 1933.
- Myrdal, Alva and Klein, Viola. Women's Two Roles Home and Work. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul LTD, 1956.
- National Manpower Council. Work in the Lives of Married Women. New York: Columbia University Press, 1958.
- Wolff, Janet. What Makes Women Buy. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1958.

Articles

- Baers, Maria. "Women Workers and Home Responsibilities." International Labour Review, LXIX (April, 1954), pp. 338-55.
- Fleming, Eugene D. "The Second Income." Cosmopolitan. CXLIV, (February, 1958), p. 62.
- Freeman, Jean Todd. "My Working Doesn't Hurt Anyone." Ladies Home Journal, LXXV (October, 1958), p. 161.
- "Should Mothers of Young Children Work?" Ladies Home Journal. LXXV (November, 1958), pp. 58-59.
- Palmer, Hazel. "Problems of Working Mothers Emphasized at Arden House Conference on Womanpower." National Business Women, XXXVI (December, 1957), pp. 25-26.
- Renne, Ronald R. "Woman Power and the American Economy." Journal of Home Economics, XLIX (February, 1957), pp. 83-86.
- Scott-Maxwell, Florida. "Women Know They Are Not Men." Ladies Home Journal, LXXV (November, 1958), pp. 60-61.
- Weitzel, Kathryn S. "The Working Wife---Her Present Dilemma." Journal of Home Economics, XLIX (November, 1957), pp. 689-693.

Pamphlets and Government Publications

- Applebaum, Stella B. Working Wives and Mothers. Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 188. New York: Public Affairs Committee, 1952.
- _____. Employed Mothers and Child Care. United States Department of Labor Publication, Women's Bureau Bulletin No. 246. Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1953.
- Hottle, Althea K. How Fare American Women? Washington: American Council on Education, 1955.
- _____. 1958 Handbook on Women Workers. United States Department of Labor Publications, Women's Bureau Bulletin No. 266. Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1958
- _____. Part Time Jobs For Women. United States Department of Labor Publication, Women's Bureau Bulletin No. 238. Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1951.
- _____. Women As Workers--A Statistical Guide. United States Department of Labor Publication. Women's Bureau Bulletin No. D-65. Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1953.

QUESTIONNAIRE

IMPLICATIONS FOR WARDROBE CHANGES DUE TO
ALTERATIONS IN WORKING STATUS OF WIVES
OF ACADEMIC STAFF MEMBERS AT
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

1. State type of present employment and title of position. _____
2. State husband's present position of employment. _____
3. How many years were you a full-time homemaker before present employment? _____
4. How many months a year do you work in your present position?
 - _____ a. 9-10 months a year
 - _____ b. 12 months a year
5. How long have you held this position? _____
6. Check primary reasons for going to work.
 - _____ a. To help finance education of children.
 - _____ b. To help finance education of husband
 - _____ c. To help pay for your home.
 - _____ d. To help purchase household equipment and furnishings.
 - _____ e. Prefer outside stimulation of work or adult contacts.
 - _____ f. Dislike housekeeping.
 - _____ g. Others (list).
7. List other positions held since your marriage

<u>Position</u>	<u>Length of Service</u>	
	<u>Months</u>	<u>Years</u>
8. Check the last grade in school that you completed.
 - _____ a. Grade School
 - _____ b. Junior High
 - _____ c. High School
 - _____ d. Junior College
 - _____ e. Business College
 - _____ f. Four Year College
 - _____ g. Graduate Work

9.

<p>List organizations you have participated in</p> <p><u>Before Paid Employment</u></p> <p>Religious</p> <p>Professional</p> <p>Civic</p> <p>Social</p> <p>Fraternal or Lodge</p> <p>Others (list)</p>	<p>List those you are currently participating in</p> <p><u>Since Paid Employment</u></p>
--	--

10. List number of children living at home, giving sex, age and grade in school of each.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Grade</u>

11. If children are pre-school age, who cares for them during your working hours?

- a. Nursery school
- b. Baby sitter
- c. Housekeeper
- d. Grandmother
- e. Other relative
- f. Friend in their home
- g. Others (list)

12. If children are of school age, who cares for them after school hours?

- a. Housekeeper
- b. Baby sitter
- c. Grandmother
- d. In a friend's home
- e. Caref for self
- f. Parents
- g. Others (list)

13. Give an approximate monthly cost spent for child care due to your employment. (Not baby sitting costs for social activities.) _____
14. Check types of changes in quantity and quality of outer wear since employment began outside the home.

Item	Changes in Quantity Since Working			Changes in Quality Since Working		
	More	Same	Less	Lesser	Same	Better
a. Housedresses						
b. Housecoats						
c. Shorts, slim jims						
d. Sport shirts and Blouses						
e. Other blouses						
f. Skirts						
g. Sweaters						
h. Tailored, street Dresses						
i. Dresses for after- noon and Evening						
j. Cocktail dresses and Formals						
k. Sport coats						
l. Raincoats						
m. Jackets and coat sweaters						
n. Dress coats						
o. Handbags						
Shoes:						
p. Flats						
q. Street heels						
r. Dress heels						
s. Hats						
t. Others (list)						

15. Check types of changes in quantity or quality of lingerie since employment.

Item	Changes in Quantity			Changes in Quality		
	More	Same	Less	Lesser	Same	Better
a. Hose						
b. Girdles						
c. Slips						
d. Bras						
e. Garter belts						
f. Panties						
g. Others (list)						

16. Explain any changes in your wardrobe costs since beginning employment.

17. Check the amount of washing, ironing, pressing and mending you did before employment and you do since employment.

	All	Some	Little	None
a. <u>Washing</u>				
Before Work				
Since Work				
b. <u>Ironing</u>				
Before Work				
Since Work				
c. <u>Pressing</u>				
Before Work				
Since Work				
d. <u>Mending</u>				
Before Work				
Since Work				

18. Check any changes since beginning employment in raising, maintaining or lowering standards and costs of care of clothing. Standard, here, refers to appearance of your clothing.

	Raising	Maintaining	Lowering
a. <u>Washing</u>			
Standards			
Cost			
b. <u>Ironing</u>			
Standards			
Cost			
c. <u>Pressing</u>			
Standards			
Cost			
d. <u>Mending</u>			
Standards			
Cost			
e. <u>Dry Cleaning</u>			
Standards			
Cost			

19. If you do home sewing for yourself or for others, check the type and amount of sewing done before employment and since employment.

	<u>BEFORE WORKING</u>			<u>Alterations</u>			<u>New Garments</u>		
	<u>Mending</u>			<u>Most</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Most</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>None</u>
a. Self									
b. Husband									
c. Children									
d. Home									
e. Others (list)									

20. Check the type of new garments you make.

Item	Before Employment	Since Employment
a. Dresses		
b. Blouses		
c. Sleepwear		
d. Coats		
e. Suits		
f. Shorts, slacks, slim jims		
g. Shirts		
h. Skirts		
i. Evening wear		
j. Costumes		
k. Others (list)		

21. If you do home sewing while employed, for what purposes do you sew?

22. Do you think your income is sufficient to justify your employment? Explain your answer.

VITA

Mary Elizabeth Fox Houdek

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: MODIFICATION OF WARDROBES DUE TO CHANGES OF WORKING STATUS OF WIVES OF OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES AND OF HOME ECONOMISTS

Major Field: Clothing, Textiles, and Merchandising

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in Altus, Oklahoma, December 5, 1932, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Raymond H. Fox.

Education: Attended grade school in Altus, Oklahoma and Texarkana, Texas; junior high school at Saint Mary's Hall, San Antonio, Texas and Altus, Oklahoma; graduated from Altus High School in 1950; attended William Woods College, Fulton, Missouri, University of Alabama, University, Alabama, Guerre Lavagne Design School, Paris, France and received the Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University May, 1954; completed requirements for the Master of Science degree in Clothing, Textiles, and Merchandising in August, 1960.

Professional experience: Assistant Home Demonstration Agent, Bell County, Texas, 1956-1957; Graduate Teaching Assistant in Clothing, Textiles, and Merchandising, Oklahoma State University, 1958-1959.