MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS OF DIVORCED MEN AND WOMEN,

by

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Definitions</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assumptions</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theoretical Framework</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rationale and Hypotheses</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>REVIEW OF LITERATURE</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sex-Role Attitudes</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage Role Expectations</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Role Behavior in Marriage</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summary of Relevant Literature</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>METHODOLOGY</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Subjects and Study Design</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Instrument</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statistical Analysis</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.</td>
<td>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Description of Sample</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tests of Hypotheses</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Comparison of Samples</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Description of Samples</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Mean Scores of Divorced Men and Women on the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Mean Scores on Items 38 Through 52 of the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Mean Scores of First-Married Men and Women on the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Comparison of Mean Scores for Divorced and Married Samples</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Mean Scores of Men on the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Mean Scores of Women on the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter I

Introduction

Divorces granted in the United States in 1976 numbered approximately 1,077,000. The number has increased every year after 1962 and more than doubled between 1966 and 1976 (National Center for Health Statistics, 1976:13). The divorced population now constitutes a substantial subculture in our society. The divorce rate in particular, and not just the frequency of divorce, seems to be of great concern in the United States. Many believe that the strength of American society rests upon the stability of individual marriages; thus, there has been alarm at the thought of disintegration of the family system (Sprey, 1966). However, divorce, once seen as a failure, is now coming to be regarded by some as "the creative solution to a problem" (Hunt and Hunt, 1977:6).

Through an intensive research program including 200 in-depth interviews and a national questionnaire survey conducted in 1976, Hunt and Hunt (1977) found the net result of the divorce experience in America not to be lasting embitterment, disillusionment or diminished capacity for commitment. Only a small percentage of the divorced shun the idea of remarriage. The great majority not only love and marry again, but they seemingly do these more wisely than before. Therefore, the Hunts characterized divorce not as the antithesis of marriage, but as an essential aspect to remaining
happily married in the system as one's needs change during the life span. Perhaps divorce is best seen as an adaptation by marriage that permits it to survive as an institution.

Less than fifty years ago, two out of three divorced people never remarried. Now divorce is more of an interval in married life, evidenced by the steady rise in the proportion of the divorced who remarry. One out of seven divorced people remarries within the first year after divorce. Four out of ten divorced men and slightly fewer women remarry within three years. Eventually, five out of six men and three out of four women remarry (Hunt and Hunt, 1977).

Through 1976, it was estimated that there had been a total of thirty to forty million in the world of the remarried (Norton and Glick, 1976). Norton and Glick (1976) found that 62 percent will stay married the second time.

Nearly all men and women who divorce in their twenties remarry, while men who divorce in their early forties have a three out of four chance, and women of this age category have a three out of five chance to do so. The middle-aged take longer to remarry than younger people. Blacks, poor men and well-to-do women all have less chance of remarrying, as do women with two or more children under 18 years of age. Most divorced people choose mates close to their own age and those who are also divorced (Hunt and Hunt, 1977).

The majority of the remarried report that they are satisfied, and the majority of second marriages are lasting. Hunt and Hunt (1977) found the chief reasons for wanting to remarry to be companionship, emotional needs and sexual needs. The utilitarian-traditional
concepts of marriage ranked low.

This low emphasis on traditional roles in marriage follows a general trend in American society toward a more egalitarian view of marriage roles. The family is changing its organization from the partriarchal-institution type with clear, defined family member roles based on a sex-dictated division of labor. In the emerging egalitarian-companionship type, the roles of husband and wife are no longer institutionalized, but reflect an equality in role enactment. The current emphasis is on more complete affectional, emotional and sexual relationships. The functions of marriage and the family have changed, resulting in this change in sex-role stereotyping (Williamson, 1970).

As a marriage takes place, then, patterns of role relations are set into action. Conceptions of the roles that should be fulfilled by a spouse are learned not only from one's family of origin, but also from the culture (Sarbin and Allen, 1968; Udry, 1971). Therefore, one brings certain role expectations for actions and qualities expected of a spouse into the marriage. However, interaction between the partners in a marriage further modifies and clarifies one's conception of his own role, as well as expectations of his role partner (Udry, 1971). It would seem that previous marital experience has an effect on the role expectations that one brings to a subsequent marriage.

The experience of a previous marriage creates different role requirements for subsequent marriages than normally exist in first
marriages. For example, about sixty percent of all divorcing people have children under eighteen years of age (Norton and Glick, 1976). The remarried person in this case not only has to define what his relation to his own children will be, but also possibly take on the role of stepparent. Problems may arise from financial responsibilities of alimony and child-support payments. Contacts with former spouses, maintaining old friendships and deciding on a residence in relation to the location of former spouses are other potential demands on one's role behavior.

As Hunt and Hunt (1977) documented the appearance of desire for remarriage among the divorced population, they pointed out that the divorced go through a time of critical examination. This involves developing criteria for their next marriage as well as analyzing their past relationship. Many define the type of person they are looking for as well as the type of partnership they desire. A number of women are looking for emancipation from the traditional dependency into an egalitarian marriage. Some men say they no longer desire a housekeeper-cook, but a friend; others now want a more egalitarian situation and a woman with her own career.

The large number of divorces granted each year in the United States has caused contemporary society to take a closer look at the concerns of the divorced population. In addition, the recent increases in the number of remarriages have led to a developing view of divorce as merely an interval in the marriage system. Whereas in the past the recognized premarital population was the single, never-married group (and therefore, usually the adolescent or young adult), there
is presently another substantial group--divorced persons--considering entrance into a marriage relationship.

What the divorced expect from a marriage relationship will no doubt be affected in some respects by what they have experienced in their former married relationship. The recognition of incompatibility in life styles, defective interactions and role changes as factors in divorce has increased, as changes in divorce laws within the past decade have suggested (Hunt and Hunt, 1977). In many aspects of our culture, emphases on individual growth and satisfaction and a decrease in sex-role stereotyping have altered relationships.

The large numbers of divorces and remarriages, experience in a marriage relationship, and a survival rate of 62 percent for second marriages are factors which open questions about the expectations which divorced people have regarding marriage. The intent of this study was to examine the marriage role expectations of the divorced population and how they compare to the expectations of married people who have not experienced the divorce process. It was hoped that the data would yield a descriptive summary that could be useful to educators, counselors and those trying to understand the role of divorce in the marriage and family system.

Purpose

The major purpose of this study was to describe and compare the marriage role expectations of divorced males and divorced females. In addition, the marriage role expectations of divorced men and divorced women were compared with the marriage role expectations of
men and women who were currently in their first marriages.

Definitions

The following definitions were used in this study:

Marriage role expectations: the roles that one expects himself to perform in a marriage and the roles that one expects his or her spouse to perform in a marriage as determined by the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument used in this study.

Divorced person: one who has legally terminated a legally sanctioned marriage relationship.

First-married person: one who is currently in a legally sanctioned marriage relationship for the first time in his or her life.

Assumptions

The following methodological assumptions were made for this study:

1. All respondents have been exposed to essentially the same culturally-defined sex roles.

2. All respondents will interpret the questionnaire items in the same manner.

3. All respondents will answer the questionnaire according to personal expectations rather than in an attempt to conform to cultural expectations.

Theoretical Framework

This study was based on the symbolic-interactional framework for the study of the family. The basic concerns of symbolic-interaction
theory fall into two major areas. The first, which is socialization, asks how a human organism acquires behavior, values, norms and attitudes relevant to the social unit to which he belongs. The organization of persistent behavior patterns, or personality, is the second area. Role-learning is one way these problems are handled (Stryker, 1959).

Within the framework, the family is conceived as a unity of interacting personalities. Each family member occupies a position or positions to which roles are assigned. The individual perceives role expectations held individually or collectively by other family members for his attributes and behaviors. The response of the others in the family can either reinforce or challenge the conception. Therefore, an individual defines his role expectations in a given situation in terms of a reference group as well as his own self-conception (Schvaneveldt, 1966).

"A role is an organized set of behaviors that belongs to an identifiable position, and these behaviors are activated when the position is occupied" (Sarbin and Allen, 1968:545). The implication is that the learning of a role must occur as a total, organized cognitive pattern rather than bits and pieces. The concept of role is seen as interactional, so role enactment always occurs in a social context. One learns not only expectations for his individual role, but also expectations for a complementary role (Sarbin and Allen, 1968).

Inherent to this discussion of role learning are the assumptions
of an interactional framework. The human infant is seen as asocial, with potentialities for social development. The best approach to man's social behavior is through analysis of society and observing his interactions; therefore, man must be studied on his own level. The human being is an actor as well as reactor, stimulated to act by symbols as well as physical stimuli. Symbols are learned through interaction with other people and give man the capacity to learn many shared meanings and values through symbolic communication. Therefore, man can stimulate others and evoke meanings and values in them (Schvaneveldt, 1966; Stryker, 1959).

Role learning generally occurs through several of these symbolic communication channels. In early childhood, children's role behavior is prompted and reinforced by parents. Another way in which roles are learned is through observation and imitation of the behavior of others. Children's role learning is facilitated through play activities, where other children prompt correct enactment of roles. Incidental learning, which, for example, may occur through mass media, is another way in which roles are acquired (Sarbin and Allen, 1968).

The distinction is made between role learning in childhood and role learning in adulthood. Learning in childhood consists primarily of learning how to behave or act in ascribed roles. In adulthood, the objective consists of learning achieved roles on top of the ascribed roles. Role expectations about achieved roles are usually learned through anticipation; that is, an individual can acquire expectations for achieved roles before occupying the position
Udry (1971) stated that the two major sources of marriage role expectations are one's parents and the mass media or general culture. While initial interaction between husband and wife may be governed by the expectations learned through these sources, subsequent interaction is governed by modified expectations resulting from practice in these roles. The process of responding to one another's role expectations results in redefinition of role behavior.

Role expectations are collections of cognitions (beliefs, subjective probabilities and knowledge) which specify rights and privileges, duties and obligations, of a person occupying a social position in relation to persons occupying other, complementary, social positions. The occupant is expected to perform certain acts and to perform them in certain ways. Role expectations can be seen as definitions for the limits or range of acceptable behaviors. Role expectations are not only seen as a rigid directive, however, but as allowing some freedom for the ways the end result is accomplished. The behavior of the performer as well as the behavior of the person with whom the performer interacts are influenced by role expectations (Sarbin and Allen, 1968).

A form of role theory has been used to explain marital dyad formation. Initial impressions between two members of the opposite sex are not dependent on personal interaction. What does guide the initial impact are stimulus variables, or cues formed on the basis of perceptions and known information. Stimulus characteristics are important in that the impact must be great enough to attract the other
individual. If a couple approximates equality in their stimulus variables, they may progress to the second stage of courtship, that of value comparison. Stimulus variables become less important, and the primary focus becomes information gathering by verbal interaction. In the second stage of dyad formation, role compatibility increases if the relationship is successful, but this stage lacks the intimacy of the third and final stage of marital choice (Murstein, 1976).

When a couple survives the stimulus and value stages, the third, or role, stage is entered. For most couples, they must be able to function in compatible roles for a successful marriage or relationship. The role stage is an evaluation of the perceived functioning of oneself and a partner in a dyadic relationship in relation to both the roles one sees for himself and those roles envisaged for the other. Role compatibility is measured by comparing expectations and perceptions of the fulfillment of expectations (Murstein, 1976).

**Rationale and Hypotheses**

In a recent study by Chadwick, Albrecht and Kunz (1976), disagreements about roles and role performance were found to be the most significant correlates of willingness to marry the same spouse again. In the same study, conformity of behavior to expectation and adequacy of role performance of self and one's spouse produced the strongest relationship to marital role satisfaction. Stuckert (1963) also found that for husbands, similarity between their own role concepts and expectations and those of their wives is the most important single factor in marital happiness.
Divorced couples have been shown to exhibit a significantly
greater disparity in their attitudes toward the marital roles of
husband and wife than married couples (Jacobson, 1952). Differences
in attitudes between divorced couples were approximately four times
as great as those between married couples. There were also significant
differences in the attitudes toward roles of spouses in marriage
between men and women; men were more conservative. Other studies also
document that differences in role expectations constitute a source
of conflict during marriage, that the greater the role conflict
between husband and wife, the lower the marital happiness of the
couple (Hurvitz, 1960; Ort, 1950).

Marriage role expectations have been measured in various efforts
to reflect social conditions. Data on the marriage role expectations
of adolescents and young adults have been used to test the effects
of transitions in the culture (Dunn, 1960; Empey, 1958; Henderson,
1956; Parelius, 1975). Other studies have attempted to determine
the relation of marriage role expectations to social background factors
(Axelson, 1963; Dunn, 1960; Llewellyn, 1975; Moser, 1961; Rooks & King,
1973; Snow, 1973; Staudt, 1952). The importance of marriage role
expectations is partially derived from their representation of nor-
mative trends in the society.

The lifetime chance that a second marriage will end in
divorce is only slightly higher than the risk that a first marriage
will. Those who remarry in middle age or later have less chance
of divorce than people their ages in a first marriage. About 66
percent of first marriages of people in the 25 to 35 years age group will last a lifetime, and so will 62 percent of second marriages in the same age group (Norton and Glick, 1976).

More than half the time, formerly marrieds who remarry choose other divorced spouses (Hunt and Hunt, 1977). Divorced people bring role expectations to the subsequent marriage that are a result of socialization from childhood, the culture and the previous marriage experience of interaction with a role partner. Congruence between the role expectations of divorced people may be an indication of their role compatibility and ability to sustain a dyadic relationship with each other.

Previous research has indicated that the experiences of marriage and, particularly, the divorce process result in movement towards an equalitarian view of marital role behavior. Therefore, the following null hypothesis was tested:

\[ H_1: \text{There is no significant difference in the marriage role expectations of divorced males and divorced females for any of the aspects of role behavior measured by the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument.} \]

The divorce risk in remarriage does not differ much from that for first marriages. The divorce process does create some aspects of role behavior that are unique concerns of the divorced population; however, there are many role requirements for remarried people that also exist in first marriages. Therefore, the following null hypotheses were also tested:
H₂: There is no significant difference in the marriage role expectations of divorced males and first-married males for any of the aspects of role behavior measured by items 1 through 37 of the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument.

H₃: There is no significant difference in the marriage role expectations of divorced females and first-married females for any of the aspects of role behavior measured by items 1 through 37 of the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument.
Chapter II

Review of Literature

Marriage role expectations are viewed as a part of sex-role orientations, developed through childhood socialization, education and experience in interaction with a role partner. They are indicative of trends within a society for family organization. The first section of relevant research will deal with general sex-role attitudes of males and females, or congruence of concepts related to male and female roles. The second section will look at studies of marriage role expectations and the trends they indicate, as well as the characteristics of the populations generally sampled. Finally, the importance that role expectations hold in the marriage system will be discussed.

Sex-Role Attitudes

McKee and Sherriffs (1957) used an adjective check list, rating scales and open-ended questions with men and women college students to determine how the students perceived each sex. In all methods, significantly more respondents regarded males more favorably than females; however, both males and females were regarded favorably by both men and women. MacBrayer (1960) also found that males were perceived favorably by both males and females.

In a subsequent study (McKee and Sherriffs, 1959), one hundred unmarried male and one hundred unmarried female college students were
questioned about their beliefs and attitudes toward sex roles. Women tended to believe that men wanted women to possess more traditionally stereotyped feminine characteristics than masculine characteristics. Men, however, believed that women wanted men to have the favorable qualities of both sexes and to an equal degree. When women described their ideal male, he was almost exactly what the men believed the women wanted. Women's self-descriptions contained more traditional sex stereotypes than men's self-descriptions. Men regarded their self-descriptions more favorably than women regarded their own self-descriptions. These findings indicate that there are discrepancies in the attitudes of males and females toward the roles of men and women.

Steinmann and Fox (1966) studied the female role perceptions of 837 American women and 423 American men. This sample included respondents ranging in age from their late teens to their seventies, both black and white, and from various socioeconomic classes and occupational statuses. Most women described themselves with strivings balanced between self-realization through self-achievement (extrafamily strivings) and self-fulfillment through nurturing or achievement of others (family-oriented or intrafamily strivings). The authors concluded that most of the women were what they wanted to be—that is, their self-descriptions were similar to their descriptions of an ideal woman. However, they did not see themselves as what they think men want, which was a woman with little self-assertiveness and self-achievement, but with strong intrafamily, nurturant strivings.
In contrast, there was agreement between the female's ideal woman and the male's perceived ideal woman. MacBrayer (1960) also found a lack of agreement between males and females as to desirable characteristics of the opposite sex.

The concepts of self, ideal woman and man's ideal woman were also compared by Rappaport, Payne and Steinmann (1970). Forty-five married and 45 single college women were sampled. Single women were significantly more family-oriented than the married women in perceiving self and ideal woman. The married women and single women, however, both perceived man's ideal woman essentially alike, with a strong family orientation. The married woman was more concerned with personal growth and development outside the family context, but then they had all decided to go to college full-time and were childless.

In a replication of the Rappaport, Payne and Steinmann (1970) study, Voss and Skinner (1975) compared perceptions of the female sex-role held by college women in 1969 and 1973. Both married and single women in each sample believed a man wants a woman to have a strong family orientation. Single women perceived themselves to be more family-oriented than did married women. However, married women attributed a greater family orientation to an ideal woman than did the single women. In the 1973 sample, both self-descriptions and one's ideal woman were perceived as more self-achieving and less family-oriented than by the 1969 sample. These results indicate a change in attitudes away from traditional stereotypes toward concern with
personal growth and development outside the family context. However, only college students were sampled.

Braverman et al. (1972) studied the sex-role stereotypes of married and single males and females, aged 17 to 60 years, with various levels of education. It was found that in those who seek education beyond the high school level, sex-role stereotypes cut across the sex, socioeconomic class and religion of respondents. Sex-role perceptions did vary as a function of maternal employment, however. Concepts of the ideal man and ideal woman in both men and women subjects closely paralleled male and female sex-role stereotypes. Masculine characteristics, however, were positively valued more often than feminine characteristics. Positively valued feminine traits reflect warmth-expressiveness. The ideal woman is seen as less aggressive, less independent, less dominant, less active and more emotional. Positively valued masculine traits formed a cluster entailing competence--objective, active, competitive, logical, wordly, ambitious, skilled in business. The ideal man is seen as less religious, less neat, less gentle and less expressive. The sex-role differences were considered desirable by college students.

Melton and Thomas (1976) compared black and white college students' values concerning mate selection. It was found that blacks tend to attach greater importance to the instrumental dimension than whites, and that there is little difference between blacks and whites in degree of importance attached to the expressive dimension. The lower the socioeconomic class, the greater the importance attached
to instrumental values. Black males do not expect to be able to provide satisfactory income and are more sensitive to female qualities enabling her to share in this task.

Halas (1974) looked at perceived childhood socialization experiences and attitudes and behaviors of 63 mature women, all of whom were married or previously married. A large majority of subjects in each group reported being exposed to stereotyped childhood socialization regarding career aspirations, education, recreational literature and romantic aspirations of marriage. These women's adult lives were characterized by low levels of education, few employable skills and traditional attitudes and behavior. Subjects who recalled wide social experiences and a lack of stereotyped reinforcement reflected more liberal attitudes and behavior. In a projective exercise, however, all subjects tended to place their own needs below those of their husbands and children, to meet their own needs through extraordinary effort after their families' needs were met, and to rationalize their behavior in instances where they put their own needs ahead of their families'.

**Marriage Role Expectations**

Burgess and Locke (1953) have postulated that the American family is in a transition from a period of institution to a state of companionship. In the rural, patriarchal family, the roles of mother and father (wife and husband) were highly institutionalized, but social change has influenced marital roles. It is the stated contention of these authors that in the present family arrangements, the roles
of mother and father are seeing a more democratic, equalitarian arrangement.

To test whether the equalitarian family has become institutionalized in American society, Dyer and Urban (1958) measured family role expectations of single college students and married male students and their wives. Generally, age, year in school, religion, community of origin and marital happiness of parents remained constant in analysis. One questionnaire indicated single students' expectations of future marriage roles, while another for married students indicated their actual marriage roles and the roles they desired. In the areas of childrearing, decision-making and recreation, there were high levels of agreement among all groups in the sample. In the areas of finances, there was a great deal of disparity, leading to the conclusion that there are no established norms. Regarding household tasks, there appears to be a more traditional division of labor; however, in those areas generally considered male or female work, there is not a high level of agreement.

While there was general agreement between married men and married women in terms of practice and desire, there was much less agreement between single men and single women and between the married and single populations. The married people tend to operate more in terms of equality than the singles. The conclusions of Dyer and Urban include support for the idea that changes in behavior are made after marriage as marital role expectations held while single are adjusted. Also, the adjustment in their study was towards equality, although there were notable exceptions.
Many studies were carried out on marriage role expectations of young people, as it is believed that they tend to carry more of the values of transitions within society. Also, in the past, adolescents and college students were considered the recognized premarital population. Today, however, the increases in the divorced population and remarriage rates have opened a new population contemplating marriage relationships.

Empey (1958) looked at role expectations of young women (high school seniors and college students) regarding marriage and a career, as compared with those of their male contemporaries. About eighty percent of the college women preferred marriage to a career. Two-thirds of the men and women felt that the most important duty of women to society is to marry and have a family. Most of the other third felt it was to combine marriage and a career. Overall, women felt a greater responsibility than men to maintain family serenity. In addition, the type of work preferred by high school students tended to perpetuate existing sex roles.

While developing an instrument to collect data concerning the nature of adolescents' marriage role expectations, Dunn (1960) studied 436 white, high school seniors enrolled in southern urban and rural public high schools. Her instrument, the Marriage Role Expectation Inventory, consisted of a form for each sex with 71 items to which respondents indicated their agreement on husbands' and wives' roles. Items fell into seven areas of behavior and served as a basis for conceptual definitions of traditional and equalitarian roles.
Responses concerning care of children, personal characteristics and social participation reflected equalitarian role expectations more often than other phases of family interaction. Equalitarian views were expressed by fewer respondents in the areas of homemaking and financial support and employment. The males expressed more equalitarian expectations related to homemaking, while in other areas, girls were more equalitarian. Whereas the majority of girls expected housekeeping to be their responsibility, the majority of boys saw earning the living to be their responsibility. Attitudes toward the wife's working were negative on the part of both sexes. It is suggested by Dunn that the trend in the American family will be toward a companionship-equalitarian type. The concept of "equality," however, is presented as a multidimensional one, with the degree to which role expectations reflect equality being influenced by the individual situation in which it is expressed.

Moser (1961) used Dunn's (1960) inventory to investigate different variables and their contributions to the formulation of marriage role expectations. Moser's subjects were 354 white, twelfth-grade, urban high school students. Like Dunn, he did not find sex differences on the total scale, but in the areas of authority, homemaking and employment. Dunn reported that more lower-class than upper- or middle-class respondents agreed with traditional concepts of child-rearing, education and financial support, while other expectations were independent of social class. Moser reported a smaller association for the factor of social status, but points out that his sample was less diverse than Dunn's sample.
Dunn's Marriage Role Expectation Inventory was used also by Geiken (1964) as a guide to develop a Family Responsibility Inventory for use with married couples and single adolescents. Geiken used only the three areas of authority patterns, child care patterns and housekeeping tasks. Married couples reported more frequent sharing in authority patterns, followed by child care, and they reported that housekeeping tasks were least shared. The more "mental" the tasks, the greater was the sharing. In housekeeping task performance, the more often the task was performed, the less sharing occurred.

More frequent sharing of household tasks was also reported when there were no children, when children were younger than 5 years and when the wives were employed full-time or going to school. In the area of childrearing, more sharing occurred when children were older, the longer the couple had been married, and in entertaining children in the afternoon when the wife was employed. Managing and planning spending were shared more often by couples in their first year of marriage. High school girls expected to share in all tasks more than boys did, except for the agreement on separation of housekeeping tasks. Unlike Dunn's sample, boys put less emphasis on sharing and more on division of family responsibility than did girls.

Rooks and King (1973) studied 112 black adolescents' marriage role expectations as measured by Dunn's Marriage Role Expectation Inventory. In general, marital role expectations were equalitarian.
The one exception was in homemaking, when males expected it to be a shared activity and females expected to do more of the work. There were no significant differences in expectations between those adolescents from broken or intact families or between those from patriarchal, equalitarian or matriarchal families. Significant social class differences were found in the areas of economic support and employment, where more traditional responses came from the lower-class males than from the middle-class males. Family organization among blacks supports the hypotheses that an American trend is toward equalitarian expectations and that social class is not a limiting factor.

Snow (1973) found no significant differences in marriage role expectations of adolescents from intact families and adolescents in child care institutions. Females from intact families were more equalitarian, while there was no significant sex differences in those from institutions.

Parelius (1975) assessed emerging attitudes of female college students toward various dimensions of adult sex roles between 1969 and 1973. The data suggest a substantial shift toward equality in division of labor in the home and economic responsibilities. However, a minority in both groups would forego marriage or motherhood to maximize occupational success. Overall, their goals imply a re-structuring of the family, not its dissolution.

A cross-cultural study of marital role preferences (not necessarily expectations) was carried out by Kalish, Maloney and
Arkoff (1966). A strong equalitarian position was taken by college women in Japan, and Japanese-American females in Hawaii and Los Angeles and Caucasian-American females showed greater preferences for equalitarian marital roles than males. Japanese-American males and females were the least equalitarian, however. The university students' preferences in Japan were not typical of general Japanese culture.

Hunt and Hunt (1977) have really made the first attempt to look at expectations of the divorced for remarriage. From 200 extensive interviews, they feel that expectations will vary greatly, but that past experience will modify one's preferences. Many subjects they interviewed expect a more equalitarian relationship in their next marriage. Others expressed preference for a more companionship-type relationship, while still another wanted a wife with a career and interests of her own.

It is recognized that variables other than sex may be important to marriage role expectations. Older persons may have a diminished parental role and greater interest in companionship. A younger person may have greater expectations in childrearing and a home-oriented female. Axelson (1963) found that the husband with a working wife is more likely to exhibit beliefs functional for the emergence of the democratic family than the husband of a nonworking wife. Geiken (1964) reported that couples without children shared more tasks and that there was more sharing when the wife was a full-time employee or going to school. Other studies report various effects for social
background factors, such as age, education, race, social class, religion and parents' marital and employment status, on marriage role expectations of youth (Llewellyn, 1975; Parelius, 1975; Vogel, et al., 1970). Jacobson (1952) found no significant relationships existing in attitudes of different sexes and marital status groups and the variables of age, education and occupation. This study will be conducted with an awareness that certain variables other than sex may cause the responses of divorced persons to vary over certain expectations.

Role Behavior in Marriage

Udry (1971) has stated that marital experience affects one's role expectations by modifying and clarifying one's conception of his own role and the role of the one with whom he interacts. If marital disturbance, which is usually implied in divorce, results from, or is a correlate of, role-conflict, it would then be worthwhile to look at the similarities in role expectations of the divorced. Also, the importance of role expectations for marriage could not be overlooked. This section reviews literature relevant to role enactment in marriage.

Tharp (1963) has stated that marital disturbance may be understood as a lack of satisfactory role reciprocations. The differences between role expectations and role enactments are seen as crucial to marital outcome. Tharp attempted to identify dimensions of marriage roles and specify differences in role behavior between disturbed and nondisturbed couples. In his study of married couples, different role patterns were found for expectations and enactments in
both spouses. Also, there was a discrepancy between role-sharing expectations and togetherness expectations. The husband who valued personal togetherness did not necessarily extend this principle to the sharing in childrearing and family decision-making. Wives who value togetherness, however, were likely to expect role-sharing.

Quick and Jacob (1973) attempted to differentiate normal and disturbed couples by role conflict and emotional problems. The measurement of satisfaction with role reciprocations successfully discriminated between couples where one or both partners were seeking counseling and those who were not ("normal" couples). It was also found that role conflict and emotional conflict do not seem to constitute two distinct difficulties.

In an earlier study, Jacobson (1952) found that divorced couples exhibited a significantly greater disparity in marital role attitudes than married couples. Differences in attitudes were four times as great for divorced couples as married. Ort (1950) had previously tested the hypothesis that the self-judged happiness in marriage depends upon, or at least is related to, the number of conflicts between role expectations and roles played by the subject and the subject's mate. Data from fifty male students and their wives indicated that the greater the conflicts reported by the subject, the lower the happiness rating. In addition, males reported more conflicts resulting from unrealized role expectations for the subject's mate than females. The results also indicated that there were definite roles expected of the male and female in marriage.
Stuckert (1963) found that it is important for marital satisfaction that the wife accurately perceive her husband's role. For wives, marital satisfaction correlated highest with the extent to which their perception of their husband's expectations correlated with the husband's actual expectations. For husbands, similarity between their own role expectations and those of their wives is the most important single factor in marital happiness. Hobart (1958) had also found that post-marital disillusionment appears especially characteristic of the area of marital roles, as well as personal freedom, having children, in-law relationships and other values.

Axelson (1963) took the task of determining the significance of the emerging roles of the working wife. In studying the marriage role definitions of 122 husbands of working and nonworking wives, he found that husbands of working wives are more likely to exhibit the personal beliefs and characteristics consistent with the democratic family than husbands of nonworking wives. Both groups of husbands considered the wife's employment as detrimental to preschool children. When no reference was made to the age of children, husbands of nonworking wives believed it is not good for the mother to be employed, while only one-half of the husbands of working wives agreed to this.

Husbands of nonworking wives thought a working wife would be less of a companion, whereas husbands of working wives generally did not. Both categories of husbands considered economic competition from a working wife a threat. Husbands of working wives were more willing
to make some sacrifice for their wife's career. Twice as many husbands of nonworking wives as husbands of working wives indicated good marital adjustments.

Chadwick, Albrecht and Kunz (1976) analyzed marital satisfaction and role activity of 775 households. Social background factors, adequacy of family role performance, husband-wife consensus about family expectations and performance, and conformity of spouses' behavior to expectations were variables. Disagreement about roles and role performance were the most significant correlates of willingness to marry the same spouse again. Conformity of behavior to expectation and adequacy of role performance of self and spouse produced the strongest relationship to marital role satisfaction.

**Summary of Relevant Literature**

Due to changing attitudes and beliefs about sex roles and emerging equalitarian ideas in American society, a number of studies have examined the degree of traditional stereotyping in sex-role attitudes. The literature generally indicates that the shift toward equalitarian roles is a slow progression. For the most part, females favor equalitarian sex roles more than males. However, a few studies indicate that men have more equalitarian views about marriage roles. Traditional views are still retained in the areas of household tasks and financial management. Women tend to see themselves and their ideal woman as balanced between family- and self-orientations. Some traditionally masculine characteristics are desired by women. The majority of studies reveal that women perceive man's ideal woman
to be very traditional, someone the women do not desire to be. Although earlier studies show that men want a woman who has traditional feminine characteristics, more recently there has been a discrepancy between what men desire and what women believe they desire.

Studies of marital stability and satisfaction have shown that conflict in role reciprocations is inversely related to marital happiness. Similarity between role expectations and conformity of behavior to expectations have been correlated with satisfaction, happiness and willingness to marry the same spouse again. One study found greater disparity in role attitudes in divorced couples than in still-married couples. A similar disparity has been found in couples seeking counseling. Although role expectations and enactment appear to be important factors in marital stability, little has been written about the marriage role expectations that divorced people hold. An understanding of these expectations could be used in producing insight into the interpersonal understandings that will make it possible for a couple to build a pattern of relationships to serve its own needs.
Chapter III

Methodology

Subjects and Study Design

The sample of divorced men and women for this study was solicited from organizations created to serve various needs of the divorced population. Contact was made with the officers of Solo Parents in Blacksburg, Virginia, in order to request permission to attend a meeting of the organization. The purposes of this were to explain the rationale for this study and to ask members of the group for their cooperation in being a part of the sample. Questionnaires were mailed to all the men and women on this organization's mailing list.

It is recognized that the members of organized groups are not necessarily representative of the general divorced population. Hunt and Hunt (1977) found that many formerly married persons voluntarily participate in organizations which would be similar to Solo Parents as a means of getting back into social circulation. Usually a mix of supportive-educational services and social activities is offered. Women members usually outnumber men by a large margin, and the average social status of men is often lower than that of women. The divorced persons who seek membership in such an organization often may be searching for new-partner contacts, however, as well as have other characteristics that separate them from the
divorced who do not belong. Data from members of such organizations, while not necessarily applicable to all divorced persons, can be descriptive of a large number of divorced persons.

Additional respondents were sought through the non-credit program for divorced persons sponsored by the Department of Management, Housing and Family Development of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Reston, Virginia. A cover letter of introduction sent with the questionnaire also requested names and addresses of possible respondents from divorced persons. A sample from a study for a doctoral dissertation carried out in Tallahassee, Florida, was the final source of divorced persons.

A convenience sample of first-married men and women was obtained through students in classes at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and a church directory. These people represented a variety of statuses and geographical locations. The subjects were matched, as much as possible, to the divorced subjects in characteristics of age and educational level before responses were examined. Seven subjects were eliminated for this purpose. The final first-married sample was slightly older than the divorced sample (see Table 1).

A cover letter of introduction, a question sheet for descriptive information and the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument were mailed or given to each subject, along with a return envelope. Anonymity was assured. A total of 361 questionnaires were distributed, and 235 were returned. Responses were not included for analysis if any of the following conditions existed: (1) questions applicable
TABLE 1
COMPARISON OF SAMPLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptive Item</th>
<th>Divorced N=70</th>
<th>Married N=128</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>21-56</td>
<td>20-56</td>
</tr>
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<td>Mean</td>
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<td>40.727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>35.500</td>
<td>44.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode</td>
<td>35.000</td>
<td>48.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education(^a)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>2 - 8</td>
<td>2 - 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>4.700</td>
<td>4.617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>5.029</td>
<td>4.924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode</td>
<td>5.000</td>
<td>5.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>26(37.1%)</td>
<td>61(47.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>44(62.9%)</td>
<td>67(52.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\)1 = Less than high school  
2 = High school graduate  
3 = Some college, no college degree  
4 = Associate's degree  
5 = Bachelor's degree  
6 = Some graduate work, no graduate degree  
7 = Master's degree  
8 = Doctoral degree
to the respondent were omitted; (2) the respondent was neither currently legally divorced nor in a first marriage; or (3) they were excluded on the basis of age or educational level as described above. The usable sample for this study was 70 divorced persons and 128 first-married persons.

**Instrument**

The instrument was based on the Marriage Role Expectation Inventory developed for high school students by Marie S. Dunn (1960). Dunn's inventory is an exploratory test which assesses differing marriage expectations. It does not predict or determine marriage success. Her questionnaire consists of two forms (Form M for boys, Form F for girls), each of which contains 71 "identical items" written in the first person, expressed in terms of expectations concerning the adolescent's own marriage, and randomly distributed. The items make up seven subscales defining areas of behavior which are: authority patterns, homemaking, care of children, personal characteristics, social participation, education, and financial support and employment.

Thirty-four items express equalitarian conceptions, and 37 express traditional conceptions of marriage roles. Respondents indicate a choice of strongly agree, agree, uncertain, disagree, and strongly disagree to each item. A weight of +1 is assigned for strongly agree or agree to equalitarian items, and a weight of -1 is assigned for strongly agree or agree to traditional items. The sum of the weights determines the respondent's score on a continuum,
with higher scores (to +34) considered "equalitarian" and lower scores (to -37) considered "traditional." A split-half correlation coefficient was computed on the scores of fifty respondents. The resulting coefficient was .975, sufficient to permit the interpretation of a substantial degree of reliability in its use with high school students.

Thirty-seven items have been adapted from Dunn's Marriage Role Expectation Inventory (1960) for the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument (see Appendices A and B) for the present study. They are divided into the six subscales of authority patterns, household tasks, childcare, personal characteristics, social participation, and finances and employment. It was decided that the entire 71 items of the original Marriage Role Expectation Inventory of Dunn were not necessary due to their repetitive nature. In addition, some of the 71 items used with high school students were not believed to be appropriate for adults. Some of those items which were adapted were also reworded for greater ease in reading or to include words believed to be more common and up-to-date in everyday use. Items 1 through 37 were scored along the equalitarian-traditional scale. The most equalitarian response to each item was given a score of 5, and the most traditional response was given a score of 1.

Items 38 through 52 were added to assess expectations relevant to concerns of the divorced population. Included are four subscales covering four areas of role expectations. The first is stepchildren, and for these items, a score of 5 was assigned for responses indicating
a full incorporation of stepchildren from a subsequent marriage, and a score of 1 indicated low incorporation. For the second subscale, past financial responsibilities, high involvement of a new spouse in financial responsibilities from a previous marriage was indicated by a score of 5 and low involvement by a score of 1. For the last two subscales, contact with former spouse and relatives and place of residence, high acceptance of the former spouse was indicated by a score of 5 and low acceptance by a score of 1. Item 38 was considered separately, as it did not follow the directions of any subscale. Only the responses of divorced men and women were compared on these items.

Reliability was assessed by the Kuder-Richardson formula 20 for items 1 through 37. This formula is a measure of the internal consistency of the test material. A simple, unique value for any test is the resultant coefficient. The reliability coefficient for the data in this study was 0.89.

Statistical Analysis

Mean scores and frequencies for the various subscales and total scale were tabulated. T-tests were used to test for the significance of differences between mean scores of groups. For seven analyses on items 1 through 37, mean scores for the six subscales previously outlined and the total were used as dependent variables, and sex and marital status (divorced or first-married) were used as independent variables. For six additional analyses with divorced
men and women, mean scores for the four subscales in items 39 through 52 previously outlined, item 38, and the total of items 1 through 37 were used as dependent variables, and sex was used as the independent variable. A total score including items 38 through 52 would not be meaningful since these items do not measure the same equalitarian or traditional attributes as the rest of the instrument. The subscales defined by items 38 through 52 do not measure the same attributes either; therefore, these subscales will be analyzed separately.
Chapter IV

Results and Discussion

Description of Sample

A total of 198 respondents was included for analysis. The divorced sample consisted of 26 males and 44 females. This proportion, though not the most desirable, is nevertheless representative of the general divorced population. Statistics show that divorced men remarry sooner than women, and for every five unmarried women, there are only three unmarried men (U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1977, Table 2). The smaller proportion of males is also consistent with the finding that divorced males are outnumbered by females in many clubs and organizations and are therefore less accessible by these means. A greater proportion of divorced men than women find it easier getting into circulation, and, therefore, may not find it necessary to seek out groups for this purpose (Hunt and Hunt, 1977).

The divorced men ranged in age from 26 to 56 years, with the median age being 37.5. The divorced women were younger than the men, ranging in age from 21 to 50 years. The median was almost 35 years. This also follows the pattern revealed in the national data. The median age of divorced males is higher than that for females, although they both are a few years older than those in this sample (National Center for Health Statistics, 1976).

The divorced men had slightly more education than the divorced
women. Seventy-seven percent of the divorced men had at least a Bachelor's degree, and 23 percent had a Master's or Doctoral degree. Fifty-four percent of the divorced women had achieved at least a Bachelor's degree, and 16 percent had Master's degrees.

Ninety-six percent of the divorced men were currently employed—92 percent full-time. Eighty-six percent of the women, however, were currently employed, with only 77 percent employed full-time. Ninety-six percent of the men had been employed full-time during their most recent marriage, but only 48 percent of the divorced women were regularly employed during their most recent marriage, and only 36 percent were employed full-time. Sixty-five percent of the divorced men had incomes greater than $15,000, while only 14 percent of the women did.

The great majority of the divorced sample had been divorced one time. Ninety-six percent of the men and 93 percent of the women had experienced one divorce, and the rest had been divorced twice. The average length of their marriages was 13 years for men and 11 years for women. These figures are similar to national statistics, also. It has been found that half of all divorces occur within the first seven years of marriage; however, over a third occur after ten or more years of marriage (Norton and Glick, 1976).

Some women had been divorced longer than the men, but the average time divorced for both groups was slightly more than 2.5 years. More children were in the custody of mothers than fathers. Seventy percent of the divorced women had at least one child in custody,
but only 23 percent of the men did. The families were described in terms of a developmental stage on the basis of the ages of their children. The categories used were based on those of Evelyn Duvall (1967), with a few additions. The developmental stages of the families at the time of divorce as well as the time of answering the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument are given with other characteristics of the sample in Table 2.

The first-married sample consisted of 61 men and 67 women. The men were aged 20 through 56 years; the median age was 45 years. The first-married women were aged 23 through 56 years; the median age was 42 years. The first-married sample was slightly older than the divorced sample.

Ninety-eight percent of the first-married men were employed--93 percent full-time. Fifty-five percent of the first-married women were currently employed--33 percent full-time--compared to 86 percent of the divorced women, of whom 77 percent were working full-time. However, only 36 percent of the divorced women had been employed full-time during their most recent marriages. Twenty-eight percent of the first-married men had wives employed full-time, but only 11 percent of the divorced men had wives employed full-time during their most recent marriages.

Eighty-five percent of the first-married men had incomes greater than $15,000, compared to 65 percent of the divorced men. Eighty-five percent of the first-married women also had incomes greater than $15,000. The incomes of the first-married persons were
## TABLE 2
### DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptive Item</th>
<th>Divorced Men N=26</th>
<th>Divorced Women N=44</th>
<th>Married Men N=61</th>
<th>Married Women N=67</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>26-56</td>
<td>21-50</td>
<td>20-56</td>
<td>23-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>39.423</td>
<td>35.750</td>
<td>42.230</td>
<td>39.358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
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<td>34.750</td>
<td>45.375</td>
<td>42.750</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>3(11.5%)</td>
<td>8(18.2%)</td>
<td>10(16.4%)</td>
<td>16(23.9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>3(11.5%)</td>
<td>9(20.5%)</td>
<td>7(11.5%)</td>
<td>14(20.9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>9(34.6%)</td>
<td>8(18.2%)</td>
<td>16(26.2%)</td>
<td>17(25.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some graduate work</td>
<td>5(19.2%)</td>
<td>9(20.5%)</td>
<td>9(14.8%)</td>
<td>12(17.9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master's degree</td>
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<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>4(15.4%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Job Status</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed full-time</td>
<td>24(92.3%)</td>
<td>34(77.3%)</td>
<td>57(93.4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employed part-time</td>
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<td>3(4.9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not employed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Never employed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4(6.0%)</td>
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<td>Retired</td>
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<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
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</tr>
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<td>13(29.5%)</td>
<td>2(3.3%)</td>
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<td>$10,001 to $15,000</td>
<td>7(26.9%)</td>
<td>20(45.5%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,001 to $20,000</td>
<td>8(30.8%)</td>
<td>1(2.3%)</td>
<td>14(23.0%)</td>
<td>13(19.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,001 to $25,000</td>
<td>5(19.2%)</td>
<td>3(6.8%)</td>
<td>9(14.8%)</td>
<td>17(25.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,001 to $30,000</td>
<td>1(3.8%)</td>
<td>1(2.3%)</td>
<td>11(18.0%)</td>
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<td>$30,001 and over</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Years Married</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
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<td>0-33</td>
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<td>11.432</td>
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### TABLE 2 (Continued)

**DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptive Item</th>
<th>Divorced Men N=26</th>
<th>Divorced Women N=44</th>
<th>Married Men N=61</th>
<th>Married Women N=67</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td><strong>Education of Spouse</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than high school</td>
<td>1(3.8%)</td>
<td>1(2.3%)</td>
<td>19(31.1%)</td>
<td>9(13.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>13(50.0%)</td>
<td>10(22.7%)</td>
<td>10(16.4%)</td>
<td>10(14.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>7(26.9%)</td>
<td>7(15.9%)</td>
<td>19(31.1%)</td>
<td>9(13.4%)</td>
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<td>2(4.5%)</td>
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<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
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<td>15(22.4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some graduate work</td>
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<td>1(2.3%)</td>
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<td>1(1.5%)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Master's degree</td>
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<td>15(22.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
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<td>6(13.6%)</td>
<td>7(11.5%)</td>
<td>15(22.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Job Status of Spouse</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed full-time</td>
<td>3(11.5%)</td>
<td>35(79.5%)</td>
<td>17(27.9%)</td>
<td>61(91.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed part-time</td>
<td>4(15.4%)</td>
<td>11(18.0%)</td>
<td>3(4.5%)</td>
<td>1(1.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not always employed</td>
<td>10(38.5%)</td>
<td>9(20.5%)</td>
<td>26(42.6%)</td>
<td>1(3.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never employed</td>
<td>9(34.6%)</td>
<td>16(36.4%)</td>
<td>1(1.5%)</td>
<td>1(1.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>2(7.7%)</td>
<td>16(36.4%)</td>
<td>7(11.5%)</td>
<td>1(1.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Job Status During Most Recent Marriage</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed full-time</td>
<td>25(96.2%)</td>
<td>16(36.4%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed part-time</td>
<td>5(11.4%)</td>
<td>3(4.5%)</td>
<td>1(1.5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not always employed</td>
<td>1(3.8%)</td>
<td>16(36.4%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never employed</td>
<td>7(15.9%)</td>
<td>3(4.5%)</td>
<td>1(1.5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Children</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>0-6</td>
<td>0-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>1.462</td>
<td>1.886</td>
<td>2.525</td>
<td>2.313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>1.500</td>
<td>1.813</td>
<td>2.353</td>
<td>2.235</td>
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### Table 2 (Continued)
**Description of Sample**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptive Item</th>
<th>Divorced Men N=26</th>
<th>Divorced Women N=44</th>
<th>Married Men N=61</th>
<th>Married Women N=67</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Developmental Stage at Divorce</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No children</td>
<td>9(34.6%)</td>
<td>5(11.4%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest (birth to 30 months)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5(11.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest (2-1/2 to 5)</td>
<td>1(3.8%)</td>
<td>5(11.4%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest (6 to 12)</td>
<td>7(26.9%)</td>
<td>16(36.4%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest (13 to 19)</td>
<td>5(19.2%)</td>
<td>7(15.9%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest (20 to 24)</td>
<td>4(15.4%)</td>
<td>5(11.4%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest (25+), youngest (6+)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1(2.3%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Developmental Stage</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No children</td>
<td>9(34.6%)</td>
<td>5(11.4%)</td>
<td>8(13.1%)</td>
<td>12(17.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest (birth to 30 months)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5(8.2%)</td>
<td>5(7.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest (2-1/2 to 5)</td>
<td>3(6.8%)</td>
<td>2(3.3%)</td>
<td>3(4.5%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest (6 to 12)</td>
<td>16(36.4%)</td>
<td>6(9.8%)</td>
<td>7(10.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest (13 to 19)</td>
<td>4(15.4%)</td>
<td>10(22.7%)</td>
<td>9(14.8%)</td>
<td>9(13.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest (20 to 24)</td>
<td>2(7.7%)</td>
<td>2(4.5%)</td>
<td>25(41.0%)</td>
<td>24(35.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldest (25+, youngest (6+))</td>
<td>6(9.8%)</td>
<td>7(10.4%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No children in custody</td>
<td>11(42.3%)</td>
<td>8(18.2%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Children in Custody</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>0-4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>0.577</td>
<td>1.341</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>0.150</td>
<td>1.192</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Divorces</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>25(96.2%)</td>
<td>41(93.2%)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>1(3.8%)</td>
<td>3(6.8%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 2 (Continued)

DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptive Item</th>
<th>Divorced Men N=26</th>
<th>Divorced Women N=44</th>
<th>Married Men N=61</th>
<th>Married Women N=67</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Years Since last Divorce</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>0-7</td>
<td>0-13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>2.692</td>
<td>2.636</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>2.500</td>
<td>1.900</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intentions of Remarrying</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaged, to divorced person</td>
<td>2(7.7%)</td>
<td>3(6.8%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not engaged</td>
<td>24(92.3%)</td>
<td>41(93.2%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
on a combined basis of both spouses. The first-married sample had been married from less than 1 year through 34 years. The average length of the men's marriages was 18 years; the average length of the women's was 17 years. The married respondents had from 0 through 6 children. The average number was 2.5 for men and 2.3 for women. The developmental stages of the families are described in Table 2.

The educational levels of the divorced and first-married samples were very similar. The average respondent in each sample had a Bachelor's degree, although the women were less educated than the men. The first-married men had more education than did the first-married women, a pattern not unlike that for the divorced sample. Seventy percent of the first-married men had at least a Bachelor's degree, and 30 percent had a Master's or Doctoral degree. Fifty-two percent of first-married women had at least a Bachelor's degree, and 9 percent had a Master's degree.

Cross-tabulations were calculated to compare the education of spouses. Eighty-nine percent of the divorced men had more education than the previous wives, and the other 19 percent had the same amount as their wives. The divorced women were more of a mixed group. Thirty-six percent had more education than their previous husbands, and only 34 percent had less. If these figures are combined, the husbands had more education than the wives in 51 percent of the previous marriages of the 70 divorced persons, and the wives had more education that the husbands in 23 percent. In 26 percent of
the 70 divorced cases, the husband and wife had the same amount of education.

The comparison figures are similar for the married sample. Forty-nine percent of the men and 48 percent of the women were in marriages in which the husband had more education than the wife. In 36 percent of the men's and 39 percent of the women's marriages, husband and wife had the same level of education, and in 15 percent of the men's and 13 percent of the women's marriages, the wife had more education than the husband. It is to be expected that the responses of first-married men and first-married women should be more similar than those of divorced men and divorced women, as there are not 128 marriages represented. Questionnaires were sent to some husband and wife couples.

An analysis of the descriptive data revealed that the first-married and divorced samples were similar in several respects. The educational characteristics were alike in terms of average attainment and frequency spread in comparing the married and divorced groups. The average age was only slightly higher for the married respondents. Job statuses during marriage were also similar for first-married and divorced men and women. The married respondents had approximately one more child than the divorced and were generally in a later developmental stage. One-third of the divorced men had no children, which is two to three times the proportion of the other groups. The first-married respondents were married approximately 5 more years than the divorced had been, but the divorced had generally
been divorced only 2 to 3 years. The divorced sample shared many characteristics with the larger divorced population, on the basis of national census statistics.

Tests of Hypotheses

Marriage role expectations were assessed by groups of divorced men, divorced women, first-married men and first-married women. Item 1 through 37, on Form F for females and Form M for males, were given to all four groups to ascertain expectations in the areas of authority patterns, household tasks, childcare, personal characteristics, social participation, and finances and employment. The items were scored on an equalitarian-traditional scale, with the most equalitarian response scored 5 and the most traditional scored 1. The location of the items within the instrument and the attribute (equalitarian or traditional) measured by each item are found in Appendix C.

The divorced men and divorced women also responded to items 38 through 52, in order that their expectations relevant to step-children, financial responsibilities from a previous marriage, contact with a former spouse and relatives, and location of residence in remarriage could be determined. These four subscales were each scored on a continuum. The location of these items within the instrument and the key for their scoring are found in Appendix D.

In the following discussion of results, responses may be described as moderately equalitarian or traditional or as reflecting moderate disagreement/agreement. This description refers to responses
of agree or disagree, with scores of 4 and 2, respectively, as opposed to strongly agree or strongly disagree. The term "uncertain" or "undecided" is used as description when responses cluster around a score of 3.

The first null hypothesis tested was:

\[ H_0: \text{There is no significant difference in the marriage role expectations of divorced males and divorced females for any of the aspects of role behavior measured by the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument.} \]

Divorced women were significantly more equalitarian, at the .05 level, than the divorced men on the basis of the total mean scores. However, all mean responses of men as well as women were at least in the upper 30 percent of each possible scale score. The mean responses of divorced men and women for the first six subscales and the total of items 1 through 37 are given in Table 3. The scores for divorced men and women, respectively, on the total were 143.6 and 152.6, with the most equalitarian score possible equal to 185.0. On the subscales of authority patterns, household tasks, childcare, social participation, and finances and employment, divorced women gave more equalitarian responses than divorced men. The differences on finances and employment and authority patterns were statistically significant.

The last subscale, finances and employment, revealed the most significant difference. Mean scores obtained on each item in that subscale indicated that divorced men are significantly less equalitarian than divorced women, at the .001 level, in attitudes toward
employment of the wife. Fewer divorced men than women expect the wife to combine motherhood and a career or to share in earning the family's living (items 5 and 26). This was the area of role behavior in which divorced men were the least equalitarian. Women were least equalitarian in aspects of role behavior related to social participation.

Divorced females were also significantly more equalitarian, at the .01 level, than divorced males on the subscale of authority patterns. Items making major contributions to this difference are related to the areas of finances and decision-making. Women expect their opinions to carry more weight in money matters than the males expect them to carry. Also, the women expect to be more informed on the family's financial matters and more involved in family decisions than the men expect their wives to be.

It is possible that divorced women expect to play a more prominent role in financial matters and decisions in a second marriage because they have experienced employment and handling of their own business matters during divorce. Twice as many divorced female respondents were employed after divorce as before divorce. Brown, Perry and Harburg (1977) found that the attitudes of divorced women change significantly in the non-traditional direction during marital dissolution. Since divorced women must often take on the roles of caretaker and breadwinner, they may expect to maintain some aspects of these roles in remarriage. Also, Hunt and Hunt (1977) found that going to work helps a divorced woman to "level-off" by providing
**TABLE 3**

MEAN SCORES OF DIVORCED MEN AND WOMEN ON THE MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS INSTRUMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscale</th>
<th>Possible Range</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>S.D.</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>S.D.</th>
<th>t-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AUTHORITY PATTERNS</strong></td>
<td>35-7</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27.00</td>
<td>4.036</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>29.559</td>
<td>2.787</td>
<td>2.81**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOUSEHOLD TASKS</strong></td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23.654</td>
<td>3.286</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>24.705</td>
<td>2.833</td>
<td>1.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHILDCARE</strong></td>
<td>35-7</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28.273</td>
<td>3.165</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>28.912</td>
<td>4.173</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS</strong></td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24.385</td>
<td>3.710</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>24.341</td>
<td>2.578</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOCIAL PARTICIPATION</strong></td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22.500</td>
<td>2.550</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>22.659</td>
<td>2.542</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT</strong></td>
<td>25-5</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18.227</td>
<td>2.409</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>21.265</td>
<td>2.233</td>
<td>4.82*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>185-37</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>143.591</td>
<td>13.941</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>152.559</td>
<td>11.810</td>
<td>2.58***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significant at the .001 level
**Significant at the .01 level
***Significant at the .05 level
her with a positive and ego-building new status. If the divorced female does derive an improved self-image from this experience, she may not want to relinquish it at remarriage and return to a state of dependency and a social status derived from her husband.

Divorced women and men were in agreement in the area of personal characteristics. Although scores on this subscale were among the most equalitarian, divorced women were less equalitarian than men; however, the difference is negligible. Analysis of the mean scores for each item in this subscale revealed one significant difference, at the .03 level, between divorced men and women. More women than men considered it undesirable for the wife to be better educated than the husband. One divorced female respondent commented that it would be undesirable for the wife to have more education because the man's ego couldn't stand it. It is possible that other women may consider that a man with less education than his wife would be an inferior husband. This is a traditional conceptualization of roles. A mother with this belief may also fear contamination of children's ideas of desirable roles. Even if the wife would not believe this herself, she may fear social disapproval of the non-traditional situation.

The subscales of authority patterns, childcare, and finances and employment contained items relating to children that were not applicable to all respondents; therefore, respondents were not included in the analysis of these three subscales if any of these items were omitted on their questionnaires. The resultant sample
sizes of divorced men and women were 22 and 34, respectively. Role behavior with respect to childcare was one area in which divorced men and women consistently gave equalitarian responses. In past studies, it has been found that males and females show a high level of agreement on childrearing role expectations (Moser, 1961; Rooks and King, 1975) and are more consistently equalitarian in childrearing roles than in other areas of role expectations (Dunn, 1960; Dyer and Urban, 1958). The means for each item in the subscale were between 4.0 and 4.7, with two exceptions. Both divorced men and women were least equalitarian—with means of 3.3 and 3.8, respectively—in considering the combination of employment and motherhood for the wife. The only area of significant disagreement between divorced men and women in this subscale was responsibility for children after work and on holidays. The divorced women expect their husbands to feel more responsibility (significant at the .01 level) than the divorced men expect to feel.

It is only possible to speculate, with the information given, why divorced men were significantly less equalitarian than divorced women in the area of employment for the wife. This was also the one subscale out of six on which men were least equalitarian. It was shown in Table 2 that only 27 percent of the divorced men had wives who were regularly employed during the most recent marriage. Evidently, this is not an area of role behavior where the men expect a great deal of change. Perhaps the previous employment situation was satisfactory. Approximately one-third of the divorced men in
this study had wives who were never employed during their marriage, and the scores of these men were only moderately equalitarian in this area of role behavior. The expectations of divorced males in the area of finances and employment are not yet as equalitarian as in other areas of role behavior.

The relationships between stepparent and stepchild in remarriage are complex. Children may perceive stepparents as intruders, trying to take over for an absent parent. The parent or stepparent may also consider children as intruders, disrupting the new marriage (Hunt and Hunt, 1977). Five questions were asked of the divorced sample to determine their expectations regarding incorporation of stepchildren into a new marriage. The items were scored from 5 to 1, with a 5 representing the highest degree of incorporation.

Divorced women--with a mean response of 3.1 on item 38--were uncertain whether the stepchildren's real mothers would have as much of a voice in raising the children as they, themselves, would. This could reflect a general uncertainty in this area or an uncertainty about whether the stepchildren would be living in their natural father's (the respondent's) home. Divorced men--with a mean response of 2.6 on item 38--were also uncertain in this area, but tended to disagree that the stepchildren's real fathers would have as much of a voice in raising the children as they, themselves, would. This could also reflect a general uncertainty in this area, or it could reflect more of a belief that the children would live in the home of their natural mother and thus the stepfather (respondent) would
be more visible in the children's lives. In testing these expectations again, it might be of value to determine if the respondent expected the stepchildren to be living in his or her home.

The mean responses of divorced men and women on the four subscales made up by items 39 through 52 are presented in Table 4. Both divorced men and women tended to want full incorporation of stepchildren into the new marriage, with mean scores of 14.4 and 15.9, respectively. Those respondents who did not expect to have children living in their home were omitted from analysis. There was uncertainty on the parts of both men and women as to whether stepchildren would be adopted and whether the stepparent (respondent) would have as much responsibility as the natural parent in raising children. On both items, the responses of divorced men revealed that they expected slightly greater incorporation of stepchildren than the women. This may reflect to some degree the expectations that men would be more likely to have stepchildren in the home than women. Despite women's liberation and accompanying literature on father custody, women still constitute 90 percent of single parents (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1977, Table 5). There was less indecision about loving stepchildren. Both divorced men and divorced women agreed, at a moderate level, that they would love and treat stepchildren as their own.

Money is another tie that can still bind the divorced together. If alimony is paid, it generally does not end until the remarriage of the wife. Other financial responsibilities remaining from a
### TABLE 4

**MEAN SCORES ON ITEMS 38 THROUGH 52 OF THE MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS INSTRUMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item/Subscale</th>
<th>Possible Range</th>
<th>Divorced Men</th>
<th>Divorced Women</th>
<th>Total Divorced</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>S.D.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 38</td>
<td>5-1</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2.636</td>
<td>1.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEPCHILDREN</td>
<td>20-4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14.400</td>
<td>2.716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAST FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES</td>
<td>20-4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12.545</td>
<td>2.207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT WITH RELATIVES</td>
<td>20-4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11.346</td>
<td>2.607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESIDENCE</td>
<td>10-2</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>7.835</td>
<td>1.878</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>S.D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divorced Men</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>2.929</td>
<td>1.126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced Women</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>15.419</td>
<td>2.730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Divorced</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>11.914</td>
<td>2.592</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
marriage could include court costs, lawyer's fees, division of property and costs associated with children. Four questions were given to the divorced sample to assess their expectations concerning the involvement of a new spouse in their financial responsibilities from a previous marriage. The items were scored from 5 to 1, with a 5 representing the highest degree of involvement of the new spouse in past debts of a mate.

The divorced women in this sample were uncertain about sharing past financial responsibilities with a new spouse. Their responses showed slight disagreement with the statement that they would not monetarily help husbands meet financial debts from a previous marriage. However, the divorced women do not expect monetary help from new husbands in meeting their own previous debts. The divorced women were undecided about their involvement in child support matters from a husband's previous marriage.

The divorced men expected a little more incorporation than divorced women expected of a new spouse in past financial responsibilities. These men, however, were those without children or those not paying child support. These were excluded from the subscale score and the score for item 52, as these men could not answer all items in the subscale. The mean scores on each item in the subscale reveal trends for the total sample, however. The divorced men as a group were uncertain, but their responses showed more agreement with expecting complete responsibility for their own past financial debts and to help their new wives with their previous debts. These
responses reflect the same attitude that the divorced women had about their responsibilities. According to those who pay child support, there was uncertainty whether the new wife would have a voice in these matters. As far as the entire sample was concerned, if the wife were employed in the new marriage, the men expected more sharing of financial debts from any previous marriages more often than the women expected.

Divorced men and women are also uncertain as to whether they expect contact with relatives from previous marriages to be maintained. Tests on the mean scores of each item in this subscale revealed two significant differences, at the .01 level, between divorced men and women. Women agreed more than men, who were undecided, that husbands should maintain contact with their former relatives. Also, there was significantly more agreement on the part of women than men that the wife should maintain contact with her former relatives. Both men and women expect the wife to keep in touch with her former relatives more than they expect the husband to keep in touch with his. This finding is consistent with the literature on familial relations which reports that women in general are closer to kin of all sorts than are males, keep in touch with kin more frequently than men and consider kin more important than males do (Adams, 1968; Reiss, 1962). The moderate agreement that relatives should keep in touch and the tendencies to uncertainty are supported by research which shows that fewer divorcees than married women contact or receive help from their former spouse's kindred (Anspach, 1976). Anspach's
study also revealed that children's contact with an absent father's kin is minimal, and that the children are integrated into the kin network of their stepfather, which is supported by the expectations of both men and women in this sample.

The amount of contact with relatives of an absent father in Anspach's sample was related to the amount of contact with the absent father. Items of the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument, however, revealed that divorced men and women do not intend to participate in social activities with a former spouse. Responses relative to the expectation to not participate in social activities with a former spouse tended toward moderate agreement (as opposed to strong agreement). Women, more often than men, expressed less desire to be involved in activities with a former spouse. Comments written by some of the respondents indicated that they would expect to be involved in activities with a former spouse where children are concerned. Since more divorced women than men in the sample had custody of children, their tendency to expect to see less of a former spouse might be explained by the influence of children in maintaining ties. Future research on role expectations may investigate the influence of children's presence.

The responses of the divorced men and women revealed some uncertainty about whether the residence of former spouses would affect the choice of residence in remarriage. Their responses were slightly below the agreement level of the scale. There is an indication that the respondents think that where their own former
spouse lives will affect one's choice of residence when remarried more than where the former spouse of a new husband or wife might live. This is more pronounced for divorced men than women, and again may reflect the influence of children and wanting to be near them, as the women in this sample have custody of children more often than do the men.

In summary, hypothesis 1 stated that there would be no significant differences in any aspects of role behavior measured by the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument between divorced males and females. This hypothesis was not supported by the results of this study for the subscales authority patterns and finances and employment, and on the basis of the total score for items 1 through 37. Divorced females were significantly more equalitarian, at the .05 level, than divorced males in their marriage role expectations. Scores on the subscales of authority patterns and finances and employment were the major contributions to this finding. Divorced men and women were all moderately equalitarian in their expectations, however. The null hypothesis was also supported for the four subscales delineated by items 39 through 52 and item 38. Divorced men and women as groups were rather consistently undecided about their expectations in the areas of meeting previous financial responsibilities and contact with former spouses and relatives. There were tendencies for the location of a former spouse to not affect residential decisions. There was moderate agreement by both men and women to incorporation of stepchildren into a new marital relationship.
The following two hypotheses required a comparison between the divorced and first-married males and females. The marriage role expectations of married men and women were compared first to determine what differences, if any, existed between them. Table 5 contains the mean scores on the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument for first-married men and women.

Married men and women were all moderately equalitarian in their marriage role expectations. Although the difference was not significant, married females were more equalitarian than married males on the basis of the total score, with means of 145.1 and 140.3, respectively. With the exception of the fourth subscale, personal characteristics, married women were more equalitarian than married men on each subscale. This was the same trend as that evident for the divorced sample. Married men and married women were in agreement on personal characteristics. As with the scores for divorced men and women, married women were slightly less equalitarian than married men in this area, although the difference was negligible.

The results of this study reveal significant differences between married males and married females in three areas of role expectations. Married women were significantly more equalitarian than married men, at the .05 level, in the area of social participation. Mean scores on each item in the subscale revealed that married women expect to be more involved in the work and activities of the community than married men expect their wives to be.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscale</th>
<th>Possible Range</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>S.D.</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>S.D.</th>
<th>t-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUTHORITY PATTERNS</td>
<td>35-7</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>27.273</td>
<td>3.827</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>27.746</td>
<td>3.747</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSEHOLD TASKS</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>21.328</td>
<td>3.807</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>22.284</td>
<td>4.302</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILDCARE</td>
<td>35-7</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>28.545</td>
<td>3.805</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>30.284</td>
<td>3.171</td>
<td>2.75*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>23.770</td>
<td>3.074</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>23.433</td>
<td>3.244</td>
<td>0.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>21.557</td>
<td>2.790</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>22.522</td>
<td>2.376</td>
<td>2.11**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT</td>
<td>25-5</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>17.636</td>
<td>2.990</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>18.791</td>
<td>3.121</td>
<td>2.07**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>185-37</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>140.309</td>
<td>15.506</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>145.060</td>
<td>15.260</td>
<td>1.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significant at the .01 level

**Significant at the .05 level
Married women were also significantly more equalitarian than married men, at the .01 level, in the area of childrearing and, at the .05 level, in the area of finances and employment. Childrearing was the area of role expectations in which married men and women gave their most equalitarian responses. Those respondents who intend to never have children were excluded from analysis, as they omitted these items. Married women were consistently more equalitarian than males on each item in this subscale. They were significantly more equalitarian, at the .02 level, on items 31 and 32, expecting their husbands to be more concerned with the social and emotional development of children than the married men expected to be. Married men expected their major responsibilities to children to be provision of a home and good living and to make them mind more often than married women did, although the men's responses reflect a state of uncertainty.

Married men and women as groups also were undecided about whether they expected motherhood and a career for the wife to be combined. However, the first-married men were in mild disagreement with the combination, but first-married women were significantly less traditional, at the .05 level, showing moderate agreement on the combination. Similar to the findings for the divorced sample, first-married men gave their least equalitarian responses in the area of finances and employment, and it was also one of the least equalitarian area for first-married women. First-married women were slightly less equalitarian in their expectations in the area of household tasks.
In summary, the first-married women and men in this study were moderately equalitarian in their marriage role expectations. The first-married women were significantly more equalitarian, at the .05 level, than the first-married men on the two subscales of social participation and finances and employment and at the .01 level on the subscale of childcare. This sample was similar to that of divorced males and females in the findings that women were more equalitarian than men, particularly in their total scores and the sixth subscale, finances and employment. They also shared the characteristic of being most consistently equalitarian on the third subscale, childcare.

Since no significant differences existed between divorced men and women or between first-married men and women for the subscales of household tasks or personal characteristics, the differences between mean scores for the total divorced sample and for the total first-married sample could be tested for significance (Table 6).

All divorced and first-married respondents were moderately equalitarian in these two areas of role expectations, with mean scores of 72 to 81 percent of the possible total. However, the first-married respondents were significantly less equalitarian, at the .001 level, in the area of household tasks. At the .05 level of significance, divorced persons were more equalitarian than first-married persons on each item in this subscale. This means that the first-married, more often than the divorced, felt it was the wife's duty to do housework, cleaning, cooking and laundry and the husband's
TABLE 6
COMPARISON OF MEAN SCORES FOR DIVORCED AND MARRIED SAMPLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscale</th>
<th>Possible Range</th>
<th>Divorced (N=70)</th>
<th>Married (N=128)</th>
<th>t-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S.D.</td>
<td>S.D.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSEHOLD TASKS</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>24.314</td>
<td>21.828</td>
<td>4.46*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.029</td>
<td>4.086</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>24.357</td>
<td>23.594</td>
<td>1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.022</td>
<td>3.156</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significant at the .001 level
duty to do outside chores. This may, at least in part, be a reflection of the difference in the number of working women in the two samples. Only 33 percent of the first-married women respondents and 28 percent of the wives of first-married men were employed full-time, while 77 percent of the divorced women were currently employed full-time.

Geiken (1964) and Axelson (1963) reported more equalitarian attitudes toward housework roles when the wife was employed. Geiken (1964) found greater sharing of household tasks when the wife was employed full-time. If the divorced women plan to continue working after remarriage, have become accustomed to having help with housework, or did not like the way household tasks were allocated in the past marriage, their expectations for remarriage could possibly reflect an equalitarian attitude. Brown, Perry and Harburg (1977), studying the adjustment of women to marital dissolution, suggested that because women in divorce take on the "masculine" role of breadwinner and caretaker, more nontraditional sex-role attitudes help them adjust and may be adopted.

Axelson (1963) reported on the attitudes of husbands of working and nonworking wives. Those with working wives were more inclined to share household tasks. Since there was a minority of employed married women in the current sample, the more traditional attitudes on the part of the married respondents were consistent with Axelson's findings. According to this reasoning, it might have been expected that the divorced persons' responses would have been
more traditional because only 27 percent of the divorced men had wives employed during their previous marriage. However, there were 1.78 divorced women, of whom 86 percent were employed, for every divorced male in this sample. Hunt and Hunt (1977) also documented the desire on the part of a number of divorced men for a wife with career motivations. The divorced men in this sample had an average age of 39 years; 42 percent did not intend to have any more children; and, 35 percent did not intend to have children living in the house after remarriage. Therefore, this sample of divorced men may not be so interested in a home-oriented wife as would be a younger man with family intentions.

In summary, since there were no significant differences between divorced men and women and between married men and women on the two subscales of household tasks and personal characteristics, the scores for the entire divorced and the entire first-married samples in these areas were compared. The divorced sample was significantly more equalitarian, at the .001 level, in their expectations regarding division of household tasks. There were no significant differences between the divorced and first-married samples in the area of personal characteristics; however, the divorced respondents were slightly more equalitarian than the first-married respondents on this subscale.

The second null hypothesis tested was:
H₂: There is no significant difference in the marriage role expectations of divorced males and first-married males for any of the aspects of role behavior measured by items 1 through 37 of the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument.

Divorced and first-married men were all slightly less than moderately equalitarian in their role expectations. The total mean score for divorced men was 143.6, and the score for first-married men was 140.3. These scores are slightly below the possible total for consistent equalitarian responses, which would be 148.0. Although the differences were not significant, divorced men were more equalitarian than first-married men on the total and on the three subscales of personal characteristics, social participation, and finances and employment. Divorced men were significantly more equalitarian than first-married men, at the .01 level, on the subscale of household tasks, which is consistent with the difference between all the divorced and all the married respondents.

Divorced men and first-married men were in agreement about expectations regarding authority patterns and childcare. There was a very slight tendency for divorced men to be less equalitarian than married men in both these areas. The results of this study show that the most equalitarian score of married men is on the third subscale, childcare, and that the score for divorced men on this subscale is one of the two most equalitarian.

In summary, hypothesis 2 was supported for all aspects of role behavior measured by the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument except the second subscale, household tasks (see Table 7). Divorced
TABLE 7
MEAN SCORES OF MEN ON THE MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS INSTRUMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscale</th>
<th>Possible Range</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Divorced Mean</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Married Mean</th>
<th>t-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUTHORITY PATTERNS</td>
<td>35-7</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27.000</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>27.273</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSEHOLD TASKS</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23.654</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>21.328</td>
<td>2.71*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILDCARE</td>
<td>35-7</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28.273</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>28.545</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24.385</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>23.770</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22.500</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>21.557</td>
<td>1.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT</td>
<td>25-5</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18.228</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>17.636</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>185-37</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>143.591</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>140.309</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significant at the .01 level
men were generally more equalitarian than first-married men, although both were moderately equalitarian. On the subscale of household tasks, divorced men were significantly more equalitarian, at the .01 level, than first-married men.

The third null hypothesis tested was:

$H_3$: There is no significant difference in the marriage role expectations of divorced females and first-married females for any of the aspects of role behavior measured by items 1 through 37 of the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument.

Divorced women and first-married women were moderately equalitarian in their marriage role expectations; however, divorced women were significantly more equalitarian, at the .05 level, than first-married women. The total mean score for divorced women was 152.6, 82 percent of the possible total, and the score for first-married women was 145.1, 78 percent of the possible total. The scores of divorced women were more equalitarian than those of first-married women on each subscale, except the third, childcare (Table 8).

In the aspects of role expectations measured by the second subscale, household tasks, divorced women were significantly more equalitarian, at the .01 level, than married women. The consistent differences according to marital status for each sex contribute to the significant difference on the second subscale for the entire sample according to marital status (Table 6). The possible explanation for this difference was previously discussed.

Divorced females were the most equalitarian groups with respect to finances and employment. They were significantly more equalitarian,
TABLE 8
MEAN SCORES OF WOMEN ON THE MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS INSTRUMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscale</th>
<th>Possible Range</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Divorced Mean</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Married Mean</th>
<th>t-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUTHORITY PATTERNS</td>
<td>35-7</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>29.559</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>27.746</td>
<td>2.49***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSEHOLD TASKS</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>24.705</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>22.284</td>
<td>3.29**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILDCARE</td>
<td>35-7</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>28.912</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>30.284</td>
<td>1.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>24.341</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>23.433</td>
<td>1.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>30-6</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>22.659</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>22.522</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT</td>
<td>25-5</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>21.265</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>18.791</td>
<td>4.11*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>185-37</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>152.559</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>145.060</td>
<td>2.51***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significant at the .001 level
**Significant at the .01 level
***Significant at the .05 level
at the .001 level, than divorced men, and it was also revealed that they were significantly more equalitarian than married women, at the .001 level. This finding may also be a reflection of the greater number of divorced women than married women in the sample who were employed.

On the first subscale, authority patterns, divorced females were also significantly more equalitarian, at the .05 level, than first-married females. Divorced women may be more equalitarian in the areas of employment, finances and decision-making because of their employment status and experiences as a divorced person which require them to take on the roles of caretaker, breadwinner and family supporter. More divorced women than married women were currently employed. At least half of the employed married women also had an employed spouse, however, which was not true for any of the divorced women. The divorced female often has the sole responsibility for decisions and family support. It was previously discussed that employment builds a divorced woman's ego and self-image (Hunt and Hunt, 1977), and therefore, her expectations for herself in marriage may change.

In summary, hypothesis 3 was not supported for all aspects of marriage role expectations. Divorced women were significantly more equalitarian than first-married women on the basis of the total score and the subscale of authority patterns at the .05 level, for the subscale of household tasks at the .01 level, and for the subscale of finances and employment at the .001 level. On other subscales
with no significant differences, divorced women were more equalitarian than first-married women except the third, childcare. The trend is reversed on this one and may reflect compensation of the divorced respondents for feelings of loss of power or control.

Discussion

The results of this study indicate that divorced people are more equalitarian in their marriage role expectations than are first-married persons. There is no concise explanation for why the marriage role expectations of divorced men and women are more equalitarian than those of married men and women. The most evident is the finding of Hunt and Hunt (1977) that the vast majority of divorced men and women want to remarry for reasons of companionship and emotional needs. These are also aspects of interaction with greater emphasis in an equalitarian, as opposed to traditional, marriage. The possibility that the divorce process results in a shift toward a more equalitarian ideology needs further exploration.

Experiences in a dysfunctional relationship and the divorce process may predispose an individual to equalitarian beliefs involving personal growth and self-fulfillment, quality of interpersonal relationships and the sharing of roles based on interests and needs. In a deteriorating relationship, one partner may become more independent as he or she seeks satisfaction elsewhere. Self-fulfillment may take on new importance in place of the utilitarian or practical aspects of interaction and role behavior. A wife who finds her husband out of work may take on job responsibilities. The husband
may find this loss of role and having to do housework or help with the children a threat to his masculinity. A frustrated wife in this situation may realize how beneficial it would be to have a partner willing to share roles rather than assign them on a traditional basis. A woman in a dissatisfying relationship or a divorced woman who finds herself newly employed and the experience to be ego-building may desire a spouse who will allow her to grow personally and be fulfilled by continuing to work and have some financial responsibility. As divorced persons go through periods of adjustment and self-analyzation, self-awareness, emotional fulfillment and companion ideas may become more salient to them, resulting in a desire for a new relationship that is less utilitarian and more personal.

There was greater agreement on marriage role expectations between married men and women than divorced men and women. Dyer and Urban (1958) found higher levels of agreement on marriage roles between married men and married women than between single men and married men or single women and married women. They postulated that changes are made in behavior after marriage that adjust marriage role expectations held while single. If interaction in marriage changes expectations, then perhaps interaction in the divorce process also further modifies expectations.

The greater variability in responses of the divorced men and women than in those of married men and women may at least in part be due to the overload of women in the divorced sample. Divorced women were found to be the most equalitarian group. This could be a function of both the divorce process and sex.
Twice as many of the divorced female respondents were employed full-time after their divorces as before their divorces. This may have influenced their expectations, as a previous study indicates more equalitarian attitudes and behavior in marriage roles when the wife is employed (Geiken, 1964). Brown, Perry and Harburg (1977), studying sex-role attitudes and psychological outcomes for black and white women experienced a significant attitude change in the nontraditional direction during marital dissolution. The women were tested from the time they first contacted a counseling service and 4 months later. Also, for white women, a nontraditional sex-role ideology served an adaptive coping function during marital breakdown. Race was not determined for the sample in the immediate study, but it is known that a substantial number of respondents was white. Divorced women may hold the most equalitarian expectations since the divorce process often requires them to take on autonomous and traditionally "masculine" roles and nontraditional sex-role attitudes may be more akin to their experience in divorce.

In general, women were more equalitarian than men on all subscales. This finding is consistent with past research in marriage role expectations. Dunn (1960) found that in certain areas--authority, childcare, personal characteristics and financial support--girls were more equalitarian than boys. The findings of Geiken (1964) supported Dunn's results, and those of Moser (1961) supported this difference for authority and employment. Snow (1973) reported that females from intact families were more equalitarian in marriage role
expectations than were males from intact families. Kalish, Maloney and Arkoff (1966) found that a strong equalitarian position on marriage role preferences was taken by college women in Japan and that Japanese-American and Caucasian-American females were more equalitarian than males. One possible explanation for this consistent sex difference could be the influence of various women's movements and consciousness-raising efforts of feminists. Another speculation is that in a traditional relationship women may be more dissatisfied than men, with the result of the equalitarian ideology being more favorable to females.

Women were more equalitarian than men on the subscale of authority patterns. This difference was significant for divorced men and women at the .01 level. If the samples are combined, women were significantly more equalitarian than men, at the .05 level, on this subscale. Divorced and first-married women were also more equalitarian than divorced and first-married men on the subscale of household tasks. For the entire sample, women were significantly more equalitarian than men on this subscale at the .05 level. There was also a significant finding in this study which indicates that divorced persons are more equalitarian than married persons in this area. Females were significantly more equalitarian than males, at the .05 level, in the area of finances and employment. This difference was significant not only for the entire sample, but also for the variable of sex within each marital status. Females were also more equalitarian in role expectations for the third subscale, childcare.
The difference was significant for the entire sample, but a breakdown by marital status reveals only a significant difference by sex for the married sample. Finally, females were more equalitarian than males in the area of social participation, significant at the .05 level for the married sample and the total sample.

The only subscale in which males were not less equalitarian than females was that titled personal characteristics. There were no significant differences for this subscale; however, there is a slight tendency for the males to be more equalitarian than the females. The mean scores for each item in the subscale revealed a tendency for men to consider personal characteristics other than being a good worker and faithful to the family more important than did women. Also, men did not consider it to be as undesirable for the wife to be better educated than the husband as the women did. There is no known explanation for this finding. The responses to these items, as well as any, could reflect satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the personal characteristics of a previous spouse.

Only in one area of expectations, that of childcare, were divorced women less equalitarian than first-married women. This difference was significant at the .07 level. This trend, which was also a slight reversal for divorced males, can possibly be explained by several factors. Single parents often find themselves in power struggles with children and report a loss of power. Without a supportive or powerful co-parent on hand, some may compensate by
being overly parental and worrisome. The single-parent family, striving for balance, is always subject to upset by the outside parent. The single parent may feel his or her role is unclear and threatened or be afraid of losing a child's loyalty. This could result in that parent's trying to maintain more control than the outside parent. The outsider may also be frustrated by a loss of influence or clearly defined value and try to compensate by seeking greater control. Divorced parents have reported that they worry more about children than when they were married and have a greater desire to see the children reflect their values (Hunt and Hunt, 1977). While all respondents in this study were moderately equalitarian in childrearing role expectations, it would be interesting to explore the trend for divorced parents to be less equalitarian than married parents with a more representative sample. While the expectations of divorced persons in other areas appear to become more equalitarian after divorce, childrearing attitudes do not shift in this direction and are even less equalitarian than those of married persons.
Summary

The divorced population today constitutes a substantial subculture in our society. The increasing number of divorces is an occurrence of great concern to many in the United States; nevertheless, it is becoming more of an acceptable solution to a problem. Some even consider divorce as an adaptation which permits marriage to survive as an institution, an interval in married life evidenced by the high proportion--five out of six men and three out of four women--who remarry (Hunt and Hunt, 1977).

In the past the recognized premarital population was the single, never-married group, usually thought of as the adolescents or young adults. The marriage role expectations of these groups have been studied by various researchers and methods. Role theory contends that role expectations are conditioned by environment, education and experience. Marriage role expectations, therefore, may be indicative of changing behavior, ideals and values of the American family and marriage systems. Burgess and Locke (1953) proposed that the American family is in a transition from a period of institution to a state of companionship, where the roles of husband and wife are arranged in a more democratic and equalitarian manner. An awareness of role expectations can be useful in family life education and counseling to emphasize development of interpersonal
skills and bases for building patterns of interaction which will enable people to enhance the quality of marital relationships. It is also hoped that an awareness of the marriage role expectations of divorced persons will be an aid to those trying to understand the role of divorce in today's marriage system.

A review of the literature reveals that marriage role expectations have usually been determined for groups of high school students or college students. It is generally concluded that females favor equalitarian sex roles more than males do. Females tend to see their ideal woman as having some characteristics traditionally considered masculine. They believe men want their ideal woman to be someone with traditionally feminine characteristics, nurturant and family-oriented. Recent studies, however, indicate a discrepancy between what men actually desire and what women believe they desire. The literature reveals that men also see their ideal woman as having some characteristics traditionally attributed to males. It would seem that the progression toward equalitarian ideas, at least, is occurring.

Little has been written about the marriage role expectations that divorced people hold, even though studies of marital satisfaction have shown that similarity between role expectations and conformity of behavior to expectations have been correlated with satisfaction, happiness and willingness to marry the same spouse again (Chadwick, Albrecht and Kunz, 1976). A recent study by Hunt and Hunt (1977) has indicated that although expectations for remarriage vary widely,
they tend to favor equalitarian ideals and that the reasons most
divorced people give for remarrying are companionship and emotional
needs.

The responses of 70 divorced persons and 128 first-married
persons to items 1 through 37 of the Marriage Role Expectations
Instrument were obtained and compared on the basis of their traditional-
equalitarian conceptualizations. These items measured expectations
for role behavior in the areas of authority patterns, household
tasks, childcare, personal characteristics, social participation,
and finances and employment. The divorced persons responded to 15
additional exploratory items (38 through 52), assessing their
expectations regarding stepchildren, financial responsibilities
from a previous marriage, contact with former spouses and relatives,
and residential location.

The findings of this study indicate that females, both
divorced and first-married, hold more equalitarian marriage role
expectations than males. Divorced females were significantly more
equalitarian than divorced males on the two subscales authority
patterns and finances and employment and on the total score for
items 1 through 37. They were also more equalitarian than divorced
males on the subscales of household tasks, childcare and social
participation. The divorced persons, males and females as groups,
were undecided in their expectations concerning involvement of a
new spouse in previous financial debts and contact with a former
spouse or relatives. Whereas they also seemed uncertain about having
as much of a voice as natural parents in raising stepchildren, they were moderately in favor of incorporation of stepchildren into a new marriage. The divorced persons also tended to expect that the decision of where to live in a new marriage would not be affected by the location of a former spouse of either partner.

Married females were more equalitarian than married males on their total score, although not to a significant degree. They were significantly more equalitarian on three subscales—childcare, social participation, and finances and employment. Divorced females were significantly more equalitarian than first-married females on the total score and three subscales—authority patterns, household tasks, and finances and employment. Divorced males were generally more equalitarian than married males and significantly more so on the second subscale, household tasks. The only subscale on which divorced persons gave less equalitarian responses than first-married respondents did was the third one, childcare.

It is possible that the divorce process does modify a person's marriage role expectations, especially in the case of females. If this proposal is valid, the modification is in the direction away from traditional role conceptualizations toward a more democratic, equalitarian arrangement. The literature indicates a slow progression within the total society towards a state of companionship. The divorce process may enable people to make this adjustment more rapidly.

Since the marriage role expectations of divorced females were the most equalitarian of the four groups in this study, perhaps
there is some indication that a marriage based on traditional expectations is less satisfying for a woman than a man. Most women in divorce, at least in this sample, experience new or renewed employment and a chance to handle their own finances and decisions. If not because they want to, many women have to assume more authority and responsibility after divorce than they did in marriage. In remarriage, they may not be willing to relinquish all the control this role makes them feel they have, either because they have come to like it or because they may not want to become dependent on a spouse again due to the possibility of a second divorce. Therefore, role expectations in the areas of authority and finances would be equalitarian.

The divorce experience, although widespread and more accepted today than before, usually involves some reflection on what went wrong and the faults of each spouse involved. It is not an easy, quick decision for most (Hunt and Hunt, 1977). Self-analysis and emotional, personal and intellectual qualities of a relationship rather than the practical, socially approved, traditional division of responsibilities. The evaluation of a past relationship may help formulate expectations for remarriage that involve a new style or change.

Many divorced persons seemed to have definite equalitarian role expectations for marriage in more traditional areas that will involve them and their spouse. In other dimensions, such as
childrearing, finances and former relatives, where ties to the former marriage remain, they seem less sure about what their roles are to be. There is no socially defined behavior against which to compare their experience, as there is with division of housework or allowing the wife to work. Absent parents may be unsure about what their role is to be, or the role may be so culturally ambiguous that for a group of divorced persons, behavior will be so spread over role choices that the expectations of the group seem uncertain or undecided. So many new channels of relatives and roles to be dealt with arise out of divorce that individuals have yet to decide how to deal with them. Perhaps further exploration of expectations will yield ways in which persons can be helped to make transitions.

Limitations

This study was conducted with a convenience sample, solicited from organizations serving the divorced population, students enrolled in college courses and acquaintances. The findings of this study, therefore, cannot be generalized beyond the participants. If the study were repeated with a random sample from the general population, it is possible that the scores for expectations would be quite different. Those who participate in organizations and college courses for the divorced may be more affected by societal trends and therefore more equalitarian in their expectations.

They were difficulties in obtaining divorced male respondents by the methods used. Greater accessibility may have resulted in a
more representative sample. When some questionnaires have to be omitted from analysis because of the possibility of inapplicable items, a larger sample is more desirable and necessary.

There are also problems in mailing a questionnaire. Those who feel that their behavior does not follow the norm may feel threatened or embarrassed and not return the instrument. Some divorced persons may feel they are expected to be more "liberal" and current, and if they have more traditional expectations would be fearful of admitting them. Persons with strong feelings about the institution of marriage, either against or for, may be more likely to return the questionnaire than those without such strong feelings.

Another limitation of this study is that it uses a cross-sectional design. To better determine if the divorce process itself affects marriage role expectations, those of the same people should be measured before and after divorce. In this study it is possible that the divorced persons were more equalitarian than the first-married persons before they experienced divorce.

Recommendations

Because this study was exploratory in determining the marriage role expectations of divorced persons, continued research is suggested to assess variables, other than sex, influencing their expectations. The first recommendation for further study is that the marriage role expectations of the same persons be assessed
before and after divorce, for reasons stated previously. It might also be valuable to wait and assess some expectations at the onset of a new marital relationship. Expectations regarding the relationship between stepparent and stepchild may differ depending on whether or not the stepchild is in the household regularly. The researcher may also want to consider the age of the stepchild or the age of the stepparent.

There is some indication in the literature that the employment status of a wife affects one's marriage role expectations. The marriage role expectations of divorced persons may be more affected by whether the wife was employed in the first marriage than by the divorce process. There are other variables that were not tested in this study, such as educational level and age, which may also affect expectations.

A final recommendation is that the format for assessment of expectations could be varied. Items which delineate more specific dimensions of roles might better determine a person's expectations.
REFERENCES


Henderson, J. The effect of one year's attendance at college upon attitudes toward family living of students of different social classes. Marriage and Family Living, 1956, 18, 209-212.


APPENDIX A

COVER LETTER AND QUESTIONNAIRE - DIVORCED SAMPLE
As a graduate student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, I am gathering information about marriage expectations of divorced men and women to complete the research for my Master's thesis.

Enclosed is a questionnaire with a return envelope. The questionnaire contains items that ask for some background information about yourself and your divorce(s), as well as questions about what you would expect in a future marriage. Please force yourself to answer every question applicable to you, even if you cannot find your exact response and must choose the closest one. There is no need to place any personal identification on the questionnaire, so your responses will be given anonymously.

If you know of anyone else who is currently divorced and might be willing to fill out a copy of this questionnaire, please supply their name(s) and address(es) on the back of this letter and return it with the questionnaire.

I hope that the information which I collect will be useful to family life educators, counselors and persons anticipating marriage. Thank you in advance for giving your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth L. Andress
Graduate Teaching Assistant
As a graduate student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, I am gathering information about marriage expectations of divorced men and women to complete the research for my Master's thesis. Jackie Simpson has suggested that you might be willing to help me.

Enclosed is a questionnaire with a return envelope. The questionnaire contains items that ask for some background information about yourself and your divorce(s), as well as questions about what you would expect in a future marriage. Please force yourself to answer every question applicable to you, even if you cannot find your exact response and must choose the closest one. There is no need to place any personal identification on the questionnaire, so your responses will be given anonymously.

If you know of anyone else who is currently divorced and might be willing to fill out a copy of this questionnaire, please supply their name(s) and address(es) on the back of this letter and return it with the questionnaire.

I hope that the information which I collect will be useful to family life educators, persons anticipating marriage, and particularly to persons experiencing divorce or remarriage by providing a more objective basis for attitudes and decisions. Thank you in advance for giving your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth L. Andress
Graduate Teaching Assistant
QUESTIONNAIRE

PART I - BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Please answer all of the following questions by circling the appropriate answer or filling in the blank with the requested information. All responses will be completely confidential, so please answer every question.

1. Your present age (to the nearest year):

2. Your sex: (1) male (2) female

3. What is the highest educational level you have completed?
   (1) Less than high school graduate
   (2) High school graduate
   (3) Some college but no college degree
   (4) Associate's degree
   (5) Bachelor's degree
   (6) Some graduate work but no graduate degree
   (7) Master's degree
   (8) Doctoral degree

4. What is your current job status?
   (1) Employed full-time
   (2) Held part-time job
   (3) Employed some of the time (laid off, returned to school, began career, took time off, etc.)
   (4) Never entered the work force
   (5) Retired

5. What is your current occupation?

6. What was your job status during your most recent marriage?
   (1) Employed full-time
   (2) Held part-time job
   (3) Employed some of the time (laid off, returned to school, began career, took time off, etc.)
   (4) Never entered the work force
   (5) Retired

7. What was the age of your most recent ex-spouse at the time of your divorce (to the nearest year)?

8. What was the highest educational level completed by your most recent ex-spouse during the time of your marriage?
   (1) Less than high school graduate
   (2) High school graduate
   (3) Some college but no college degree
   (4) Associate's degree
   (5) Bachelor's degree
   (6) Some graduate work but no graduate degree
   (7) Master's degree
   (8) Doctoral degree
9. What was the job status of your most recent ex-spouse during the time of your marriage?
   (1) Employed full-time
   (2) Held part-time job
   (3) Employed some of the time (took time off, laid off, returned to school, began career, etc.)
   (4) Never entered the work force
   (5) Retired
10. What was the occupation of your most recent ex-spouse during the time of your marriage? ________________________________
11. What is your current approximate income?
   (1) Less than $5,500.
   (2) $5,501 to $10,000.
   (3) $10,001 to $15,000.
   (4) $15,001 to $20,000.
   (5) $20,001 to $25,000.
   (6) $25,001 to $30,000.
   (7) $30,001 and over.
12. How many times have you been divorced? ________________________________
13. What was (were) the length(s) of your previous marriage(s)?
   First Marriage: ________________________________
   Second Marriage: ________________________________
14. How long has it been since your most recent divorce? _______ Years _______ Months
15. How many children do you have from any former marriage(s) and what were their ages at the time of divorce? ________________________________
16. Do you have custody of children from any former marriage(s)?
   (1) yes  (2) no
   If yes, how many and what are their ages? ________________________________
17. Are you currently engaged to be married? (1) yes  (2) no
   If yes, has your intended spouse been divorced previously? (1) yes  (2) no
18. If you were to be married again, will you and your future spouse have children of your own?
   (1) My current feelings are that I would definitely like more children.
   (2) It is a possibility but I am uncertain.
   (3) I definitely do not want to have children from another marriage.
PART II - MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS INSTRUMENT
FORM M FOR MALES

The following are brief statements of marriage expectations for husbands and wives. As you read each statement, please think in terms of what you would expect for your own role and your spouse’s role in marriage, were you to marry again in the future.

To answer the questions, carefully circle the symbol that most closely represents your opinion about each statement. There are no right or wrong answers; the best choice is the answer which most nearly applies to your expectations. Please answer every question applicable to your situation.

**KEY**
SA - Strongly Agree
A - Agree
U - Undecided
D - Disagree
SD - Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

<p>| | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>1. that if there is a difference of opinion about where to live, I will make the decision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>2. that my wife’s opinion will carry as much weight as mine in money matters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>3. to help my wife with the housework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>4. that it would be undesirable for my wife to be better educated than I.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>5. my wife to combine motherhood and a career.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>6. that my wife will be as well informed as I concerning the family’s financial status and business affairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>7. it will be more important for my wife to be a good cook and housekeeper than for her to be an interesting and attractive companion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>8. that keeping the yard, making repairs and doing outside chores will be the responsibility of whoever has the time and wishes to do them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>9. if as a husband I am a good worker, respectable and faithful to my family, other personal characteristics are considerably less important.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>10. that my wife and I will have equal privileges in such things as going out at night.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>11. that I will feel no responsibility for laundry and cleaning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### KEY
- **SA** - Strongly Agree
- **A** - Agree
- **U** - Undecided
- **D** - Disagree
- **SD** - Strongly Disagree

#### IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

**SA**

**U**

**D**

**SD**

12. that if I help with the housework, my wife will help with outside chores such as keeping the yard, painting or repairing the house.

13. that my wife and I will have equal voice in decisions affecting the family as a whole.

14. that my wife will love and respect me regardless of the kind of employment I hold.

15. my wife to be employed outside the home if she enjoys working more than staying at home.

16. it will be just as important for me to be congenial, and to love and enjoy my family as to earn a good living.

17. that it will be equally important that my wife is affectionate and understanding as that she is thrifty and skillful in housekeeping.

18. that it will be my privilege and responsibility to choose where we will go and what we will do when we go out.

19. that my wife and I will take an active interest together in what's going on in our community.

20. that having compatible personalities will be considerably less important to us than such characteristics as being religious, honest and hard-working.

21. my wife to accept the fact that I will devote most of my time to getting ahead and becoming a success.

22. that being married should cause little or no change in my social or recreational activities.

23. my wife to stay at home to care for the children and me instead of using time attending club meetings and entertainment outside the home.

24. that my wife will keep herself informed and active in the work of the community.

25. my wife to fit her life to mine.

26. entire responsibility for earning the family living.
KEY
SA - Strongly Agree
A - Agree
U - Undecided
D - Disagree
SD - Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

SA A U D SD 27. that it will be exclusively my wife's duty to do the cooking and keeping the house in order.

SA A U D SD 28. that my wife and I will share household tasks according to individual interests and abilities.

IF YOU DO NOT INTEND TO HAVE YOUR OWN CHILDREN FROM ANOTHER MARRIAGE, YOU MAY OMIT THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND SKIP TO QUESTION 30.

IF THERE WILL BE NO POSSIBILITY OF CHILDREN LIVING IN YOUR HOME IN ANOTHER MARRIAGE, YOU MAY OMIT QUESTIONS 29 THROUGH 41 AND SKIP TO QUESTION 42.

SA A U D SD 29. to leave the care of our children entirely up to my wife when they are babies.

SA A U D SD 30. that if my wife prefers a career to having children, she and I will have the right to make that decision.

SA A U D SD 31. that my major responsibility to our children will be to make a good living for them, provide a home for them, and make them mind.

SA A U D SD 32. that both my wife and I will concern ourselves with the social and emotional development of our children.

SA A U D SD 33. to manage my time so I can show a genuine interest in what our children do.

SA A U D SD 34. it will be equally important for my wife and I to find time to enjoy our children as to do things like bathing, dressing and feeding them.

SA A U D SD 35. to manage my time so I will be able to share in the care of the children.

SA A U D SD 36. that my wife and I will permit the children to share, according to their abilities, with the parents in making family decisions.

SA A U D SD 37. to feel equally responsible for the children after work and on holidays as my wife does.

SA A U D SD 38. that if I have stepchildren, their real father will have as much of a voice in raising them as I will.

IF YOU DO NOT INTEND TO HAVE YOUR OWN CHILDREN FROM ANOTHER MARRIAGE, OR IF YOU DO NOT HAVE CHILDREN FROM A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE, YOU MAY OMIT THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND SKIP TO QUESTION 40.

SA A U D SD 39. that my wife will love and treat my children from a previous marriage(s) the same as children we will have together.
KEY
SA - Strongly Agree
A - Agree
U - Undecided
D - Disagree
SD - Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

SA  A  U  D  SD  40. that I will have as much responsibility in raising children from my wife's previous marriage(s) as she will.
SA  A  U  D  SD  41. that if I have stepchildren, I will adopt them.
SA  A  U  D  SD  42. that I will be completely responsible for my financial debts from a previous marriage(s) without the monetary help of my wife.
SA  A  U  D  SD  43. that if my wife works outside the home, she and I will share all financial debts from previous marriages of either of us.
SA  A  U  D  SD  44. that where my wife's former husband(s) lives will not affect the decision of where my wife and I choose to live.
SA  A  U  D  SD  45. that if I have stepchildren, I will love and treat them as my own.
SA  A  U  D  SD  46. that I will be responsible for maintaining contact with my former relatives from a previous marriage.
SA  A  U  D  SD  47. that I will not participate in any social activities with my former wife.
SA  A  U  D  SD  48. that my wife will not participate in any social activities with her former husband.
SA  A  U  D  SD  49. that where my former wife(s) lives will not affect the decision of where my wife and I choose to live.
SA  A  U  D  SD  50. that my wife will be responsible for her financial debts from a previous marriage(s) without my monetary help.
SA  A  U  D  SD  51. that my wife will be responsible for maintaining contact with her former relatives from a previous marriage(s).

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE CHILDREN FROM ANY PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S), OR IF YOU DO NOT PAY ANY CHILD SUPPORT, YOU MAY OMIT THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

SA  A  U  D  SD  52. that my wife will not have a voice in child support matters for children from my previous marriage(s).

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
PART II - MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS INSTRUMENT

FORM F FOR FEMALES

The following are brief statements of marriage expectations for husbands and wives. As you read each statement, please think in terms of what you would expect for your own role and your spouse's role in marriage, were you to marry again in the future.

To answer the questions, carefully circle the symbol that most closely represents your opinion about each statement. There are no right or wrong answers; the best choice is the answer which most nearly applies to your expectations. Please answer every question applicable to your situation.

KEY
SA - Strongly Agree
A - Agree
U - Undecided
D - Disagree
SD - Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

SA A U D SD 1. that if there is a difference of opinion about where to live, my husband will make the decision.
SA A U D SD 2. that my opinion will carry as much weight as my husband's in money matters.
SA A U D SD 3. my husband to help with the housework.
SA A U D SD 4. that it would be undesirable for me to be better educated than my husband.
SA A U D SD 5. to combine motherhood and a career.
SA A U D SD 6. that I will be as well informed as my husband concerning the family's financial status and business affairs.
SA A U D SD 7. it will be more important for me to be a good cook and housekeeper than for me to be an interesting and attractive companion.
SA A U D SD 8. that keeping the yard, making repairs, and doing outside chores will be the responsibility of whoever has the time and wishes to do them.
SA A U D SD 9. if my husband is a good worker, respectable and faithful to his family, other personal characteristics are considerably less important.
SA A U D SD 10. that my husband and I will have equal privileges in such things as going out at night.
SA A U D SD 11. that my husband will feel no responsibility for laundry and cleaning.
IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

SA  A  U  D  SD  12. that if my husband helps with the housework, I will help with outside chores such as keeping the yard, painting or repairing the house.

SA  A  U  D  SD  13. that my husband and I will have equal voice in decisions affecting the family as a whole.

SA  A  U  D  SD  14. that I will love and respect my husband regardless of the kind of employment he holds.

SA  A  U  D  SD  15. to be employed outside the home if I enjoy working more than staying at home.

SA  A  U  D  SD  16. it will be just as important for my husband to be congenial, and to love and enjoy his family as to earn a good living.

SA  A  U  D  SD  17. that it will be equally as important that as a wife I am affectionate and understanding as that I am thrifty and skillful in housekeeping.

SA  A  U  D  SD  18. that it will be my husband's privilege and responsibility to choose where we will go and what we will do when we go out.

SA  A  U  D  SD  19. that my husband and I will take an active interest together in what's going on in our community.

SA  A  U  D  SD  20. that having compatible personalities will be considerably less important to us than such characteristics as being religious, honest and hard-working.

SA  A  U  D  SD  21. to accept the fact that my husband will devote most of his time to getting ahead and becoming a success.

SA  A  U  D  SD  22. that being married should cause little or no change in my husband's social or recreational activities.

SA  A  U  D  SD  23. to stay at home to care for the children and for my husband instead of using time attending club meetings and entertainment outside the home.

SA  A  U  D  SD  24. that I will keep myself informed and active in the work of the community.

SA  A  U  D  SD  25. to fit my life to my husband's.

SA  A  U  D  SD  26. my husband to be entirely responsible for earning the living for our family.
KEY
SA - Strongly Agree
A - Agree
U - Undecided
D - Disagree
SD - Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

SA  A  U  D  SD  27. that it will be exclusively my duty to do the cooking and keeping the house in order.
SA  A  U  D  SD  28. that my husband and I will share household tasks according to individual interests and abilities.

IF YOU DO NOT INTEND TO HAVE YOUR OWN CHILDREN FROM ANOTHER MARRIAGE, YOU MAY OMIT THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND SKIP TO QUESTION 30.

IF THERE WILL BE NO POSSIBILITY OF CHILDREN LIVING IN YOUR HOME IN ANOTHER MARRIAGE, YOU MAY OMIT QUESTIONS 29 THROUGH 41 AND SKIP TO QUESTION 42.

SA  A  U  D  SD  29. my husband to leave the care of our children entirely up to me when they are babies.
SA  A  U  D  SD  30. that if I prefer a career to having children, my husband and I will have the right to make that choice.
SA  A  U  D  SD  31. that my husband's major responsibility to our children will be to make a good living for them, provide a home for them, and make them mind.
SA  A  U  D  SD  32. that both my husband and I will concern ourselves with the social and emotional development of our children.
SA  A  U  D  SD  33. to manage my time so that I can show a genuine interest in what our children do.
SA  A  U  D  SD  34. that it will be equally as important for my husband and I to find time to enjoy our children as to do things like bathing, dressing and feeding them.
SA  A  U  D  SD  35. my husband to manage his time so that he will be able to share in the care of the children.
SA  A  U  D  SD  36. that my husband and I will permit the children to share, according to their abilities, with the parents in making family decisions.
SA  A  U  D  SD  37. my husband to feel equally as responsible for the children after work and on holidays as I do.
SA  A  U  D  SD  38. that if I have stepchildren, their real mother will have as much of a voice in raising them as I will.

IF YOU DO NOT INTEND TO HAVE YOUR OWN CHILDREN FROM ANOTHER MARRIAGE, OR IF YOU DO NOT HAVE CHILDREN FROM A PREVIOUS MARRIAGE, YOU MAY OMIT THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND SKIP TO QUESTION 40.

SA  A  U  D  SD  39. that my husband will love and treat my children from a previous marriage(s) the same as children we will have together.
KEY
SA - Strongly Agree
A - Agree
U - Undecided
D - Disagree
SD - Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

SA A U D SD 40. that I will have as much responsibility in raising children from my husband's previous marriage(s) as he will.
SA A U D SD 41. that if I have stepchildren, I will adopt them.
SA A U D SD 42. that my husband will be responsible for meeting his financial debts from a previous marriage(s) without my monetary help.
SA A U D SD 43. that if I work outside the home, my husband and I will share all financial debts from previous marriages of either of us.
SA A U D SD 44. that where my former husband(s) lives will not affect the decision of where my husband and I choose to live.
SA A U D SD 45. that if I have stepchildren, I will love and treat them as my own.
SA A U D SD 46. that my husband will be responsible for maintaining contact with his former relatives from a previous marriage(s).
SA A U D SD 47. that my husband will not participate in any social activities with his former wife.
SA A U D SD 48. that I will not participate in any social activities with my former husband.
SA A U D SD 49. that where my husband's former wife(s) lives will not affect the decision of where my husband and I choose to live.
SA A U D SD 50. that I will be completely responsible for my financial debts from a previous marriage without the monetary help of my husband.
SA A U D SD 51. that I will be responsible for maintaining contact with my former relatives from a previous marriage(s).
SA A U D SD 52. that I will not have a voice in child support matters from my husband's previous marriage(s).

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
APPENDIX B

COVER LETTER AND QUESTIONNAIRE - FIRST-MARRIED SAMPLE
As a graduate student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, I am gathering information about marriage expectations to complete the research for my Master's thesis.

Enclosed is a questionnaire with a return envelope. The questionnaire contains items that ask for some background information about yourself as well as questions about your expectations for certain roles in your marriage. Please answer every question applicable to you, even if you cannot find your exact response and must choose the closest one. There is no need to place any personal identification on the questionnaire, so your responses will be given anonymously.

I hope that the information which I collect will be useful to family life educators, counselors and persons anticipating marriage. Thank you in advance for giving your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth L. Andress
Graduate Teaching Assistant
QUESTIONNAIRE

PART I - BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Please answer all of the following questions by circling the appropriate answer or filling in the blanks with the requested information. All responses will be completely confidential, so please answer every question.

1. Your present age (to the nearest year): _____________________________

2. Your sex: (1) male    (2) female

3. Your current marital status:
   (1) In my first marriage (for how long? ___ years ___ months)
   (2) Divorced
       (how long since your most recent divorce? ___ years ___ months)
   (3) Divorced and remarried
   (4) Never married
   (5) Other

4. What is the highest educational level you have completed?
   (1) Less than high school graduate
   (2) High school
   (3) Some college but no college degree
   (4) Associate's degree
   (5) Bachelor's degree
   (6) Some graduate work but no graduate degree
   (7) Master's degree
   (8) Doctoral degree

5. What is your current job status?
   (1) Employed full-time
   (2) Employed part-time
   (3) Have previously been employed but not currently employed (laid off, wanted time off, going to school full time, etc.)
   (4) Have never entered the work force
   (5) Retired

6. What is your current occupation? _________________________________

7. What is your current approximate income (combined if married)?
   (1) Less than $5,500.
   (2) $5,501 to $10,000.
   (3) $10,001 to $15,000.
   (4) $15,001 to $20,000.
   (5) $20,001 to $25,000.
   (6) $25,001 to $30,000.
   (7) $30,001 and over.
IF YOU ARE MARRIED, PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

8. What is the highest educational level your spouse has completed?
   (1) Less than high school graduate
   (2) High school graduate
   (3) Some college but no college degree
   (4) Associate's degree
   (5) Bachelor's degree
   (6) Some graduate work but no graduate degree
   (7) Master's degree
   (8) Doctoral degree

9. What is the job status of your spouse?
   (1) Employed full-time
   (2) Employed part-time
   (3) Has previously been employed but not currently employed (laid off, wanted time off, returned to school, etc.)
   (4) Has never entered the work force
   (5) Retired

10. What is your spouse's current occupation? ____________________________

11. What is your spouse's age (to the nearest year)? _________________

12. Do you have children? (1) yes (2) no
    If yes, how many and what are their ages? __________________________

13. What are your current intentions regarding children?
   (1) We have a child or children, but do not intend to have any more.
   (2) We have a child or children, and we may have more.
   (3) We do not have a child or children and do not intend to have any.
   (4) We do not have a child or children, but we may have a child or children.
PART II - MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS INSTRUMENT

FORM M FOR MALES

The following are brief statements of marriage expectations for husbands and wives. As you read each statement, please think in terms of how you expect the roles in your marriage to be carried out.

To answer the questions, please circle the symbol that most closely represents your opinion about each statement. There are no right or wrong answers; the best choice is the one that most nearly applies to you. Please answer every question applicable to your situation.

KEY
SA - Strongly Agree
A - Agree
U - Undecided
D - Disagree
SD - Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

SA  A  U  D  SD  1. that if there is a difference of opinion about where to live, I will make the decision.
SA  A  U  D  SD  2. that my wife's opinion will carry as much weight as mine in money matters.
SA  A  U  D  SD  3. to help my wife with the housework.
SA  A  U  D  SD  4. that it would be undesirable for my wife to be better educated than I.
SA  A  U  D  SD  5. my wife to combine motherhood and a career.
SA  A  U  D  SD  6. that my wife will be as well informed as I concerning the family's financial status and business affairs.
SA  A  U  D  SD  7. it will be more important for my wife to be a good cook and housekeeper than for her to be an interesting and attractive companion.
SA  A  U  D  SD  8. that keeping the yard, making repairs and doing outside chores will be the responsibility of whoever has the time and wishes to do them.
SA  A  U  D  SD  9. if as a husband I am a good worker, respectable and faithful to my family, other personal characteristics are considerably less important.
SA  A  U  D  SD 10. that my wife and I will have equal privileges in such things as going out at night.
SA  A  U  D  SD 11. that I will feel no responsibility for laundry and cleaning.
KEY
SA - Strongly Agree
A - Agree
U - Undecided
D - Disagree
SD - Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

12. that if I help with the housework, my wife will help with outside chores such as keeping the yard, painting or repairing the house.

13. that my wife and I will have equal voice in decisions affecting the family as a whole.

14. that my wife will love and respect me regardless of the kind of employment I hold.

15. my wife to be employed outside the home if she enjoys working more than staying at home.

16. it will be just as important for me to be congenial, and to love and enjoy my family as to earn a good living.

17. that it will be equally important that my wife is affectionate and understanding as that she is thrifty and skillful in housekeeping.

18. that it will be my privilege and responsibility to choose where we will go and what we will do when we go out.

19. that my wife and I will take an active interest together in what's going on in our community.

20. that having compatible personalities will be considerably less important to us than such characteristics as being religious, honest and hard-working.

21. my wife to accept the fact that I will devote most of my time to getting ahead and becoming a success.

22. that being married should cause little or no change in my social or recreational activities.

23. my wife to stay at home to care for the children and me instead of using time attending club meetings and entertainment outside the home.

24. that my wife will keep herself informed and active in the work of the community.

25. my wife to fit her life to mine.

26. entire responsibility for earning the family living.
KEY

SA - Strongly Agree
A - Agree
U - Undecided
D - Disagree
SD - Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

SA A U D SD 27. that it will be exclusively my wife's duty to do the cooking and keeping the house in order.

SA A U D SD 28. that my wife and I will share household tasks according to individual interests and abilities.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE CHILDREN AND DO NOT INTEND TO HAVE ANY CHILDREN, YOU MAY STOP HERE AND OMIT QUESTIONS 29 THROUGH 37.

SA A U D SD 29. to leave the care of our children entirely up to my wife when they are babies.

SA A U D SD 30. that if my wife prefers a career to having children, she and I will have the right to make that decision.

SA A U D SD 31. that my major responsibility to our children will be to make a good living for them, provide a home for them, and make them mind.

SA A U D SD 32. that both my wife and I will concern ourselves with the social and emotional development of our children.

SA A U D SD 33. to manage my time so I can show a genuine interest in what our children do.

SA A U D SD 34. it will be equally important for my wife and I to find time to enjoy our children as to do things like bathing, dressing and feeding them.

SA A U D SD 35. to manage my time so I will be able to share in the care of the children.

SA A U D SD 36. that my wife and I will permit the children to share, according to their abilities, with the parents in making family decisions.

SA A U D SD 37. to feel equally responsible for the children after work and on holidays as my wife does.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
PART II - MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS INSTRUMENT

FORM F FOR FEMALES

The following are brief statements of marriage expectations for husbands and wives. As you read each statement, please think in terms of how you expect the roles in your marriage to be carried out.

To answer the questions, carefully circle the symbol that most closely represents your opinion about each statement. There are no right or wrong answers; the best choice is the one that most nearly applies to you. Please answer every question applicable to your situation.

KEY
SA - Strongly Agree
A - Agree
U - Undecided
D - Disagree
SD - Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

SA A U D SD 1. that if there is a difference of opinion about where to live, my husband will make the decision.
SA A U D SD 2. that my opinion will carry as much weight as my husband's in money matters.
SA A U D SD 3. my husband to help with the housework.
SA A U D SD 4. that it would be undesirable for me to be better educated than my husband.
SA A U D SD 5. to combine motherhood and a career.
SA A U D SD 6. that I will be as well informed as my husband concerning the family's financial status and business affairs.
SA A U D SD 7. it will be more important for me to be a good cook and housekeeper than for me to be an interesting and attractive companion.
SA A U D SD 8. that keeping the yard, making repairs, and doing outside chores will be the responsibility of whoever has the time and wishes to do them.
SA A U D SD 9. if my husband is a good worker, respectable and faithful to his family, other personal characteristics are considerably less important.
SA A U D SD 10. that my husband and I will have equal privileges in such things as going out at night.
SA A U D SD 11. that my husband will feel no responsibility for laundry and cleaning.
KEY
SA - Strongly Agree
A - Agree
U - Undecided
D - Disagree
SD - Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

SA A U D SD 12. that if my husband helps with the housework, I will help with outside chores such as keeping the yard, painting or repairing the house.

SA A U D SD 13. that my husband and I will have equal voice in decisions affecting the family as a whole.

SA A U D SD 14. that I will love and respect my husband regardless of the kind of employment he holds.

SA A U D SD 15. to be employed outside the home if I enjoy working more than staying at home.

SA A U D SD 16. it will be just as important for my husband to be congenial, and to love and enjoy his family as to earn a good living.

SA A U D SD 17. that it will be equally as important that as a wife I am affectionate and understanding as that I am thrifty and skillful in housekeeping.

SA A U D SD 18. that it will be my husband's privilege and responsibility to choose where we will go and what we will do when we go out.

SA A U D SD 19. that my husband and I will take an active interest together in what's going on in our community.

SA A U D SD 20. that having compatible personalities will be considerably less important to us than such characteristics as being religious, honest and hard-working.

SA A U D SD 21. to accept the fact that my husband will devote most of his time to getting ahead and becoming a success.

SA A U D SD 22. that being married should cause little or no change in my husband's social or recreational activities.

SA A U D SD 23. to stay at home to care for the children and for my husband instead of using time attending club meetings and entertainment outside the home.

SA A U D SD 24. that I will keep myself informed and active in the work of the community.

SA A U D SD 25. to fit my life to my husband's.

SA A U D SD 26. my husband to be entirely responsible for earning the living for our family.
KEY
SA - Strongly Agree
A - Agree
U - Undecided
D - Disagree
SD - Strongly Disagree

IN MY MARRIAGE I EXPECT:

SA A U D SD 27. that it will be exclusively my duty to do the cooking and keeping the house in order.
SA A U D SD 28. that my husband and I will share household tasks according to individual interests and abilities.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE CHILDREN AND DO NOT INTEND TO HAVE ANY CHILDREN, YOU MAY STOP HERE AND OMIT QUESTIONS 29 THROUGH 37.

SA A U D SD 29. my husband to leave the care of our children entirely up to me when they are babies.
SA A U D SD 30. that if I prefer a career to having children, my husband and I will have the right to make that choice.
SA A U D SD 31. that my husband's major responsibility to our children will be to make a good living for them, provide a home for them, and make them mind.
SA A U D SD 32. that both my husband and I will concern ourselves with the social and emotional development of our children.
SA A U D SD 33. to manage my time so that I can show a genuine interest in what our children do.
SA A U D SD 34. that it will be equally as important for my husband and I to find time to enjoy our children as to do things like bathing, dressing and feeding them.
SA A U D SD 35. my husband to manage his time so that he will be able to share in the care of the children.
SA A U D SD 36. that my husband and I will permit the children to share, according to their abilities, with the parents in making family decisions.
SA A U D SD 37. my husband to feel equally as responsible for the children after work and on holidays as I do.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
APPENDIX C

ITEM LOCATION AND SCORING KEY FOR ITEMS 1 THROUGH 37
ITEM LOCATION FOR ITEMS 1 THROUGH 37

| Subscale and Attribute Measured | Role Described | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                | Husband | Wife | Husband & Wife |
| AUTHORITY PATTERNS             |         |     |                |
| Traditional                    | 1       | 25   | --             |
| Equalitarian                   | --      | 2, 6 | 10, 13, 36     |
| HOUSEHOLD TASKS                |         |     |                |
| Traditional                    | 11      | 27   | --             |
| Equalitarian                   | 3       | 12   | 8, 28          |
| CHILDCARE                      |         |     |                |
| Traditional                    | 29, 31  | --   | --             |
| Equalitarian                   | 35, 37  | 33, 34| 32             |
| PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS       |         |     |                |
| Traditional                    | 9       | 4, 7 | 20             |
| Equalitarian                   | 16      | 17   | --             |
| SOCIAL PARTICIPATION           |         |     |                |
| Traditional                    | 18, 21, 22| 23  | --             |
| Equalitarian                   | --      | 24   | 19             |
| FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT        |         |     |                |
| Traditional                    | 26      | --   | --             |
| Equalitarian                   | 14      | 5, 15, 30| --          |

SCORING KEY

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APPENDIX D

ITEM LOCATION AND SCORING KEY FOR ITEMS 38 THROUGH 52
ITEM LOCATION AND SCORING KEY FOR ITEMS 38 THROUGH 52

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APPENDIX E

MEAN SCORES ON EACH ITEM OF THE
MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS INSTRUMENT
### MEAN SCORES ON EACH ITEM

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MEAN SCORES ON EACH ITEM (Continued)

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<th>Divorced Women Mean/S.D.</th>
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*S1 - AUTHORITY PATTERNS
S2 - HOUSEHOLD TASKS
S3 - CHILDCARE
S4 - PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS
S5 - SOCIAL PARTICIPATION
S6 - FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT
S7 - STEPCOCHILDREN
S8 - PAST FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES
S9 - CONTACT WITH RELATIVES
S10 - RESIDENCE
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MARRIAGE ROLE EXPECTATIONS OF DIVORCED MEN AND WOMEN

by

Elizabeth Louise Andress

ABSTRACT

Marriage role expectations were assessed by the Marriage Role Expectations Instrument mailed to divorced men, divorced women, first-married women and first-married men. A convenience sample was obtained from Solo Parents in Blacksburg, Virginia, classes at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University campuses in Blacksburg and Reston, Virginia, and a church directory. The responses of 70 divorced persons and 128 first-married persons were obtained and compared on the basis of their traditional-equalitarian conceptualizations in six areas of role behavior--authority patterns, household tasks, childcare, personal characteristics, social participation, and finance and employment. In addition, the expectations of 26 divorced men and 44 divorced women were compared in the categories of incorporation of stepchildren, involving a new spouse in previous financial responsibilities, and acceptance of a former spouse or relatives.

Divorced females were significantly more equalitarian than divorced males on the subscales of authority patterns and finances and employment and on the total score. Married females were significantly more equalitarian than married males on the subscales
of childcare, social participation and finances and employment. Divorced females were significantly more equalitarian than married females on the total score and three subscales. Childcare was the only subscale on which divorced persons gave less equalitarian responses than married persons. Divorced persons were undecided concerning involvement of a new spouse in financial debts and acceptance of a former spouse. They were in favor of incorporation of stepchildren into a new marriage.