

162

A SURVEY OF MARRIAGES DURING COLLEGE YEARS
ON A TEACHERS COLLEGE CAMPUS

by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	11
Chapter	
I. INTRODUCTION.	1
II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE.	4
III. PROCEDURE	14
IV. RESULTS	16
V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	51
APPENDIX.	58
LIST OF REFERENCES.	71

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Most colleges prior to World War II indicated the college was organized for single persons. Students who married were indeed the exception to the rule, and on some campuses marriage meant dismissal.

Of the more than four million undergraduate college students in the United States today, approximately one-fifth are married (Mace, 1962). This is believed to be an aftermath of the World War II married veterans' return to the college campus. The success of many of their marriages helped to influence public opinion towards the idea that marriage and education can go together.

With this changing scene on the college campus new problems have arisen both for college and university administrators and for married students.

Morton (1958) believed there was a need for competent studies to isolate some of the factors involved in the total relation of marriage to academic education. He thought it was difficult to keep a college curriculum from being abnormally and unhealthily affected by the marital status of the students.

Pfeiffer (1961) thought problems created for the college or university were a need for housing, counseling, employment

service, co-operative nurseries, more and different recreational activities.

Kirkendall (1956) suggested college authorities should re-evaluate their policies and plans in relation to the needs and circumstances of married couples, and emphasized the necessity for research on the problems and needs of campus marriages.

The purpose of this study was to secure information about college marriages which might indicate salient social, economic, health, and educational factors that perhaps could be useful to college administrators, advisers, counselors, and students.

This was a survey of undergraduate student marriages during college years on the campus of Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia, Kansas, to determine changes which occur after marriage in social, economic, health, and educational status. The couples were selected in each of three marriage patterns: (1) both husband and wife were students, (2) the husband was a student and the wife was not, (3) the wife was a student and the husband was not.

Specifically, the following questions were explored:

1. What differences existed among wives in the three groups with regard to (a) health, (b) educational goals, (c) economic standards, and (d) activities?

2. What changes in grade point averages occurred after marriage for men and for women in this sample?

3. After marriage, were there differences in the
(a) health, (b) educational goals, (c) economic standards, and
(d) activities of wives and husbands?

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The research on early marriages during college years is still somewhat limited and scattered, and it is still early for investigators to take a definite stand or make valid conclusions and statements regarding the effect this practice may have on society.

Abernathy (1960) pondered whether, as a highly technological society, it would be possible in returning to the pattern of early marriage to retain those values which went with postponed marriage (chastity before marriage, stability of marriage, benefits that derive from a closely knit family group, highly trained young people, and independence) or whether it would be necessary to settle for less emphasis on some of those values.

The median age for first marriages has been lowering steadily since the beginning of this century. The trend toward early marriage is significantly noticeable, also, among the educated group. Among white men in the age bracket 20 to 24 who had completed four or more years of college, only 16.2% were married in 1940, as contrasted with 33.1% in 1950. For white women, the percentages were 22.9% and 45.7% respectively (Glick, 1957).

Since 1950, studies indicate the proportion of married college students is high and increasing. Among the most frequent college ages, 18 to 24, about one of every six in college in 1956 was married (Glick and Carter, 1958).

A study of married students at Iowa State College completed in 1956 showed an increase in married students from 5% to almost 25% in the previous ten years. According to Rogers (1958), ". . . 20% of the students who graduated from Iowa State College marry during their enrollment."

On the University of Oregon campus the married undergraduates increased from 7.8% men and 3.8% women in the fall quarter of 1930 to 27.1% men and 10.1% women in the fall quarter of 1956 (Kirkendall, 1956).

If these can be considered typical studies, then it would appear this trend toward college marriages, which really took root after World War II, is continuing at a rather rapid pace.

The present concern, it would seem, is that young men and women at the peak of their physical and mental abilities are adding to educational achievements marriage responsibilities which are taking a toll of physical and intellectual reserve and causing a conflict of two major life goals. Successful completion of the academic program may be beyond reach, and these young people may be settling for careers other than originally planned.

Morton (1958) believed the married student often gets himself into serious difficulties because he may fail to clarify or rectify family, vocational, or social situations before starting a college course. He then runs into problems and tends to expect the college to bend its rules and make exceptions for him. He may also be neglectful in the areas of tardiness and attendance and may seek privileges in delaying reports, etc.

Morton also thought there was little proper evaluation of purely cultural and scholastic values on the part of many of the married students. He believed they looked upon everything largely as to how it would affect their own local and temporary situation. He suggested there was also sometimes a discordant element between them and the single students because of their different evaluation of much material and their different social reference.

Jensen and Clark (1958) conducted a study at Brigham Young University to compare students married all four of their college years with students single all four years. The main interest of the investigators lay in achievement, scholastic ability, and personality. Through this study it was hoped to support or discourage the popular assumption that, other factors being equal, married students perform at a higher level than do single students. A further postulation was that maturity would prove to be an important factor. Their results rejected the hypothesis that married students achieve a higher

level than single students, and maturity as a factor had little bearing in the achievement of single and married students.

Samenfink and Milliken (1961) found unmarried students somewhat higher in scholastic achievement than married, but the difference was not statistically significant. Their results also indicated marriage was not related to academic success and that marriage does not appear to be the major factor in scholastic achievement it was thought to be.

Both of the above mentioned studies compared students who had been married when they entered college, with students who were unmarried for the four year period. Cohen, King, and Nelson (1963) conducted a study to determine the effects of marriage on the academic achievement of students who marry while in college. They found marriage does not significantly affect grades of undergraduate students who marry while attending college.

Christopherson, Vandiver, and Krueger (1962), in a study of 203 married student couples made at the University of Arizona in 1959, found that though there were many similarities to young married people in other areas (non-student control group), there were interesting differences. A greater percentage of wives of the college group worked outside the home; the participation of husbands in household tasks was approximately the same (the traditional sexual division of labor had given way to a more equalitarian arrangement whereby young couples, in general, felt

free to interchange domestic work roles as a function of necessity and/or interests; thus the special circumstances of student couples was not particularly significant as a causal factor); reciprocal baby-sitting arrangements by student families was not the usual pattern (the husbands were the most frequent baby-sitters when the mothers were out of the home); the majority of student families received income from two or more sources (some financial subsidy was received by 38% of the student families and subsidies ranged from 5% of the total income to 80%); college students judged their marriages in a positive way to a greater extent than a negative way. These subjects were also asked to list specific advantages and disadvantages of college marriage as they saw them. The advantages most often mentioned were (1) "marriage acts as a stabilizing factor," (2) "common goals," and (3) "companionship." The most often mentioned disadvantage was "financial hardship." Responses to questions concerning perception of college marriage reflected considerable ambivalence. Though the positive responses were more pronounced than the negative, the authors believed if the matter of academic mortality among students was investigated there would be found a considerable number of married students who do not graduate. They felt it would be interesting to know "how frequently the epilogue seems as rosy as the prologue."

Marchand and Langford (1951), in their study of 44 married couples at Kansas State University, where both husband and

wife were attending school, the women (especially mothers) did not attempt to carry the load of school activities ordinarily borne by single college women. Mothers averaged 28 hours per week for school work as compared with 38 hours for non-mothers. Several women reported they had changed curricula because their interest had changed with the advent of a family. Some men and nearly all women indicated they participated in fewer extra-curricular activities because of their home responsibilities.

A study of Thorpe (1951) of 484 married student couples at Michigan State College revealed three-fourths of the husbands helped regularly with housework, and 84% of these couples budgeted their money.

Pfeiffer (1961), in her comparative study of young married undergraduate students in three marriage patterns at Ohio State University, found a steady increase in the number of married students from the first through the fourth year with the exception of a slightly larger percentage of undergraduate women at the third-year level compared to the fourth-year level. She felt this might indicate the increase in student marriages was just beginning to make itself evident among the female population of that school, or that women, perhaps, were marrying during their third year and due to pregnancy or financial reasons were finding it necessary to drop out of college. She found the mean age at marriage to be 19 years for the wife and 20.1 years for the husband. Other findings of comparable interest for the present study included:

1. In the group where only the husbands were students, 70% of the wives were employed with a 30 to 39 hour work week.

2. In the group where both were students, the largest source of monthly income was help from parents (23.3%).

3. Rent expenditures ranged from under \$30 to \$120 per month for total groups, and approximately two-thirds spent \$40 to \$70 monthly for food.

4. The couples were predominantly Protestant, wives 84.4% and husbands 82.2%.

5. In the group of non-student wives, 70% were high school graduates and 16.6% had one to two years of college; in the group of non-student husbands, 63.3% were college graduates and 19.9% had two to three years of college.

6. The education of the parents of these young couples had not exceeded high school for 61% of the mothers and 57.7% of the fathers. Only 17 parents of the total 90 couples held advanced degrees.

7. In general, the wives had a higher percentage of employed mothers (40%) than did the husbands.

8. Over one-fifth (22.2%) had never been engaged, over one-half (55.4%) were engaged less than one year, and 22.1% were engaged one to three years.

9. The three main reasons for marrying given by the total group were: (a) love for spouse, (b) common interests with spouse, and (c) to have a home.

10. Couples who did homemaking tasks together indicated the three main ones were marketing, cleaning house, and laundry.

11. About one-half of the husbands and one-half of the wives said they had a budget.

12. When asked if they were unmarried, but knowing what they did now, would they still marry before finishing college, over three-fourths said "yes." Over 10% of the husbands indicated "no," and 10% of the wives were "uncertain."

13. Wives and husbands agreed that the five most discouraging aspects of a married student's life were: (a) constant financial pressure, (b) limited time for one another, (c) lack of recreational resources, (d) lack of time to participate in social or extracurricular activities, and (e) increased responsibilities.

14. Among advantages of being married while in college were listed "a greater appreciation of the value of higher education," "being able to work together toward common goals," and "companionship."

15. In advising friends about marrying in college, 40% of the husbands and 46.6% of the wives would advise "yes," and approximately the same number were "uncertain."

In a study to determine effects of undergraduate marriages, Medalia (1962) surveyed all graduates of the class of 1935 and one-half of the graduates of the class of 1955 at Georgia Institute of Technology. Specifically he attempted to

discover whether undergraduate marriages are less durable than those which have not had to undergo the strain of college years, whether this trend appears uniformly among all types of undergraduates, if undergraduate marriage interferes with scholastic achievement, and whether it tends to limit career choice after college thus producing frustration and dissatisfaction with work. He concluded that such marriage does not automatically seem to be associated with poorer or better adjustment in these three areas (familial, collegiate, and career adjustment) than is shown by men who deferred marriage till after graduation. He suggested that it all depends on the individual person.

Today there are about 40,000 married coeds 18, 19, 20, and 21 years old who attend college full time. Undoubtedly a substantial number of young women in college are contemplating marriage before graduation. Few people really know how college marriages work out. In a recent nation-wide study, Hill (1964) discussed the strains, dangers, and possible benefits of campus marriages. Questionnaires were sent to more than 100 women college graduates who were married before they received their undergraduate degrees in 1950. Replies came from nearly 100 women representing eight colleges across the nation. The findings were that college marriage, in general, can be quite successful - when both partners finish college, when they have enough money, and when both partners are emotionally mature. Another study confirming these findings was at Antioch College,

in Ohio, which has followed many of its on-campus marriages for 20 years and has found an overwhelming majority of them successful.

Maturity seemed to be the extremely important requisite for success in the marriages (after more than thirteen years, only 4 of the nearly 100 women in the study were divorced, and 3 of them were remarried). Many of these husbands were ex-G.I.s, matured by several years in an adult world. Almost every woman in the study went on to obtain her degree with little or no interruption, and this seemed to have an important bearing on the successful outcome of their marriages. Few of the women had regrets, but some admitted they had missed certain things because of their college marriages. The majority of the women, asked whether they would want their children to marry in college, said "yes," but had many reservations. They generally felt more reluctant about their sons' than they did about their daughters' marrying in college. One of the possible explanations for this paradox was a very practical reason for opposition to their childrens' marrying in college: the financial benefits their husbands received as veterans under the G. I. Bill of Rights are not available to their children. Both the Hill and Antioch studies made clear that success requires maturity and adequate finances. Dr. Clarence Leuba, of Antioch, warned: "The very success of student marriages in the past . . . could tempt immature, unprepared individuals to contract them hastily."

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

The sample was identified from statistical data available on registration cards and included at least ten couples in each of three marriage patterns: (1) both husband and wife were students, (2) the husband was a student and the wife was not, (3) the wife was a student and the husband was not. Other criteria for selection were: the couples had been married at least one year, and marriage had occurred after either or both had completed at least one semester in college.

A questionnaire was formulated covering the factors to be considered (Appendix, p. 58). In the construction of the instrument, the questionnaire of Pfeiffer (1961) was used as a guide. Upon completion it was submitted to three authorities for evaluation. Revisions were made and a pilot study with five married student couples was conducted. These couples were personally interviewed for validation of the questionnaire, and further revision was made.

Collection of data was done by means of individually delivered questionnaires preceded by a telephone call to the selected sample for explanation. A stamped, addressed mailing envelope was provided for the return of the completed questionnaire and a deadline return date was suggested verbally to each

couple. Of seventy-four questionnaires sent, sixty-six were returned. Several follow-up telephone calls were made in an attempt to obtain a more complete return of the sample.

An analysis of the compiled data was made by means of percentage comparison of responses and descriptive listings. Comparisons were made within and between the three classifications of groups.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Description of Sample

Total Sample

A total of 33 couples participated in this study. For comparison they were selected and classified into three groups: Group I, with both husband and wife attending college; Group II, with only the husband a student; and Group III, with only the wife a student.

Ages of wives ranged from 19 to 27 years with a mean age of 21.5 years. Ages of husbands ranged from 20 to 32 years with a mean age of 23.2 years.

The average age at marriage for the wives was 19.2 years and for the husbands 20.9 years. Ages of parents at marriage averaged 23.8 years for the husbands' fathers and 21.8 years for the wives' mothers, showing a comparative drop between generations of 2.9 years for husbands and 2.6 years for wives.

Only 3 of the total 66 husbands and wives indicated divorced parents.

Terminal education of all parents, ranging from less than eighth grade to advanced degrees, showed 31% high school graduates, 23.6% with some college, 5.3% college graduates, and 2.2% with advanced degrees. The interesting point noted here

was that all of the husbands and wives in Group I were planning to finish or had obtained their college degrees, and approximately three-fourths indicated interest in obtaining advanced degrees. In Group II, where no parents had completed college, nearly all the husbands were planning to finish their college degree, but only one-half of the wives planned to finish their degrees in the future. Approximately one-third indicated interest in advanced degrees. In Group III all the wives and about one-half the husbands planned to finish or already had finished their degrees. About one-third indicated interest in advanced degrees.

Approximately one-half of the wives' mothers were employed and less than one-sixth of the husbands' mothers were employed.

Parental attitudes toward the spouses before marriage and approval of these early marriages were reported to be positive by a majority of the couples.

The average semesters of college completed before marriage were 3.1 for all husbands and 2.78 for all wives. Four wives and four husbands had had no college before marriage.

Of the 33 couples, 15 had one child and 4 couples had two children. Babies were born to 9 couples before completion of a nine-month pregnancy term after marriage, indicating that pre-marital pregnancy was a contributing factor in 27.2% of these marriages.

Group I

Of the eleven couples in Group I, ages of wives ranged from 20 to 27 years with a mean age of 22 years. Ages of husbands ranged from 21 to 27 years with a mean age of 23.1 years. Ages at marriage for wives ranged from 18 to 23 years with a mean age of 20 years, and for husbands from 19 to 25 years with a mean age of 21.3 years. Comparative ages of their parents at marriage ranged from 19 to 27 years with a mean of 23.2 years for the husbands' fathers, and from 15 to 25 years with a mean of 22 years for the wives' mothers.

Only one husband in this group indicated divorced parents. His mother had remarried but he did not know the whereabouts or marital status of his father.

Maximum education of parents of the husbands ranged from less than eighth grade to college graduates with 28.5% of the fathers and mothers completing high school and 14.3% graduating from college. Parents of the wives were reported as having education from eighth grade to one advanced degree, with 27.3% high school graduates, 45.4% having some college, 9% college graduates, and 9% advanced degrees.

Approximately one-half (54%) of the wives' mothers were employed, with a work span of from 2 to 15 years. Only one mother in this group of husbands was currently employed although approximately one-half of them had been employed previously from 2 to 10 years.

Parental attitudes toward the spouses before marriage and approval of these marriages were reported to be positive. One wife reported both approval and disapproval of the marriage, indicating the parents would have preferred the couple to wait until after college graduation.

Husbands in this group had completed from none to 9 semesters in college prior to marriage with an average of 4 semesters, while wives showed an average of 3 semesters completed with a range of from none to 7 semesters.

As to the length of time these couples had known each other prior to marriage, the range was from 3 months to 6 years with an average of $2 \frac{1}{3}$ years. One couple had grown up together, two couples had not gone steady, while the rest reported going steady from 1 month to 3 years with an average of $1 \frac{1}{4}$ years. There seemed to be some variance in reporting these factors since one wife indicated the length of time she had known her spouse was 6 years and the husband reported 2 to 3 years. Another wife indicated 5 years and the husband reported only 3 years. Engagement periods were reported from 1 to 18 months with one wife reporting 11 months and her husband 1 month.

Six of these 11 couples had one child. Because of requested information in the questionnaire concerning wedding date and birth dates for children, it was possible to discover whether pre-marital pregnancy had been a contributing factor in these marriages. Babies were born to 2 couples before completion

of the nine-month pregnancy term after marriage, with one of these two reporting a premature birth due to a Caesarean section.

Group II

Of the twelve couples in Group II, ages of wives ranged from 19 to 24 years with a mean age of 20.9 years. Ages of husbands ranged from 20 to 25 years with a mean age of 22.1 years. Ages at marriage for wives ranged from 17 to 21 years with a mean age of 19 years and for husbands from 18 to 23 years with a mean age of 20.1 years. Comparative ages of their parents at marriage ranged from 18 to 36 years with a mean of 23.9 years for the husbands' fathers and from 16 to 26 years with a mean of 21.5 years for the wives' mothers.

Two couples indicated divorced parents; one wife whose parents were married at age 17 and who, herself, was married at age 18; and one husband whose father and mother were married at ages 26 and 16 respectively and who, himself, was married at age 20.

Maximum education of parents of the husbands ranged from eighth grade to some college with 50% of the fathers and mothers completing high school and 16.6% having some college work. Parents of the wives were reported with education from less than eighth grade to some college, with 33.3% high school graduates and 29.1% having some college.

Fifty per cent of the wives' mothers were employed with a work span of from 1 to 15 years. Only two of the husbands' mothers were currently employed although one-third of them had been employed previously from 1 1/2 to 10 years.

Parental attitudes toward the spouse before marriage and approval of the marriages were reported to be positive with two exceptions. Two wives reported parental indifference toward the spouse preceding marriage but approval of the marriages.

Husbands in this group had completed from none to 6 semesters in college prior to marriage with an average of 3 semesters, while wives showed an average of 2.6 semesters completed with a range of from none to 6 semesters.

As to length of time these couples had known each other prior to marriage, the range was from 8 months to 5 years with an average of 1 3/4 years. One couple reported they had known each other since grade school and another said they were childhood friends. These couples reported they had gone steady from 4 months to 5 years with an average of 1 1/3 years. One couple in this group showed a variance in reporting this factor since the wife answered they had never gone steady, and the husband reported one year. Engagement periods ranged from none to 18 months with an average of 7 months.

Six of these 12 couples had one child and 2 of the total couples had two children. Babies were born to 4 couples before completion of a nine-month pregnancy term after marriage.

Group III

Of the ten couples in Group III, ages of wives ranged from 19 to 25 years with a mean age of 21.7 years. Ages of husbands ranged from 21 to 32 years with a mean age of 24.6 years. The average age at marriage for wives was 18.7 years and for husbands was 21.5 years. Comparative ages of their parents at marriage ranged from 20 to 36 years with a mean of 24.2 years for the husbands' fathers and from 15 to 35 years with a mean of 21.8 years for the wives' mothers.

There were no divorces indicated in this group of parents.

Maximum education of parents of the husbands ranged from less than eighth grade to college graduates with 15% of the fathers and mothers completing high school, 20% having some college, and 15% graduating from college. Parents of the wives were reported as having education from eighth grade to one advanced degree with 30% high school graduates, 25% having some college, and 5% college graduates.

Of the wives' mothers, 40% were employed with a work span of from 2 1/2 to 10 years. Thirty per cent of the husbands' mothers were employed with a work span of from 1 to 22 years.

Parental attitudes toward the spouse before marriage and approval of these marriages were reported as positive with five exceptions: one wife reported parental indifference toward the

spouse preceding marriage and disapproval of the marriage because of religious differences; one couple reported approval of the spouse before marriage but no approval of the marriage because of an elopement; one wife reported disapproval of the spouse preceding marriage but approval of the marriage after an elopement which was not reported to the parents until 3 months later; and one husband reported parental indifference toward the spouse preceding marriage but approval of the marriage.

Husbands in this group had completed from none to 7 semesters in college prior to marriage with an average of 2.3 semesters, while wives showed an average of 2.75 semesters completed with a range of from none to 5 semesters.

As to the length of time these couples had known each other prior to marriage, the range was from 7 months to 8 years with an average of $2 \frac{3}{4}$ years. One couple reported they had known each other since childhood. These couples reported going steady from 6 months to 3 years with an average of $1 \frac{1}{2}$ years. These couples were in agreement as to length of time they went steady with one exception in which the wife reported 3 years and the husband, never. Engagement periods were reported from 1 to 15 months.

Three of these 10 couples had one child and 2 of the 10 couples had two children. Babies were born to the 3 couples with one child each before completion of a nine-month pregnancy term after marriage.

Comparison of Wives from Groups I, II, and III

Health

All wives in the three groups reported excellent to good health. More wives in Group I showed a slight drop in health status after marriage than wives in the other two groups.

Frequency of number of visits to physicians after marriage showed a slight decrease for approximately one-third of the wives in Group I and one-half of the wives in Group II; an increase for approximately one-fourth of the wives in Group II and one-third of the wives in Group III; and approximately one-half of all the wives reported no change.

The majority of all the wives reported approximately their same status as to frequency of visits to dentists, and three-fourths of these 33 wives had not visited student health either before or after marriage.

Educational Goals

All the wives in Groups I and III indicated a desire to finish their degrees, while only one-half of the wives in Group II planned to finish. One notable difference was the number of wives from Group I who showed interest in obtaining advanced degrees (54%) in comparison to negligible interest indicated by wives from the other two groups.

Economic Standards

Twenty-five of the total 33 wives had been employed prior to marriage with a drop to 14 currently employed. As was expected, approximately 60% of Group II wives were employed with a 40 to 57-hour work-week. Approximately 50% of Group I wives were employed with a 14 to 25-hour work-week. Only 2 of 10 wives in Group III were employed, one working 8 hours weekly and the other working 45 to 55 hours weekly. The interesting fact noted here was the complete reversal in Group III of employment before and after marriage: 8 of 10 wives were employed before marriage and 8 of 10 wives were not employed after marriage.

Only 2 of 11 wives in Group I and 2 of 10 wives in Group III followed budgets, but 7 of 12 wives in Group II followed budgets. As to responsibility for spending income, 27.3% or 3 of the wives in Group I reported sole responsibility, 63.6% or 7 reported shared responsibility with husbands, and 9% or 1 reported the husband had sole responsibility. Wives in Group II reported sole responsibility in 16.6% or 2 instances, 33.3% or 4 reported shared responsibility with husbands, and 50% or 6 reported the husband had sole spending responsibility. Reports from wives in Group III indicated sole responsibility for 40% or 4 of the wives, shared responsibility with husbands for 50% or 5 of the wives, and husband responsibility indicated by 10% or 1 wife. Because of the wide discrepancies in

reporting monthly "take home pay" and how it was spent, it was not deemed wise to compare these results. In Group II, however, it was noted that 5, or 41.6% of the wives, were the sole source of monthly income (with 2 of these reporting some parental help) and 2 wives were supplying approximately 60% and 70% of total monthly incomes.

Activities

Participation in all types of activities after marriage was reported to be less active than before marriage by approximately 73% of wives in Group I, 67% of wives in Group II, and 30% of wives in Group III. Eighteen per cent of wives in Group I, 33% of wives in Group II, and 60% of wives in Group III reported participation as about the same. One wife each from Groups I and III reported more active participation.

Activities with friends of the same sex were reported to be less frequent after marriage by the majority of wives from Groups I and II and 60% of Group III wives. Forty per cent of Group III wives reported activities to be about the same as before marriage.

With friends of the opposite sex, activities were reported to be less frequent after marriage by 64% of Group I wives, 58% of Group II wives, and 50% of Group III wives. Twenty per cent of Group I wives, 40% of Group II wives, and 50% of Group III wives reported activities to be about the same as before marriage.

All Group I wives were members of Protestant churches before and after marriage. Group II wives all were members of Protestant churches before marriage, but 1 of 12 had changed membership to the Catholic church and 3 were no longer members of any church after marriage. Group III wives reported 7 Protestant memberships, 2 Catholic memberships, and 1 non-membership before marriage with the 2 Catholic memberships changing to non-memberships, 1 Protestant changing to Catholic, and the non-member remaining a non-member after marriage.

Regularity of church attendance for wives in Group I decreased for 5, increased for 1, and remained the same for 4. For Group II wives, attendance decreased for 7, increased for 2, and remained the same for 3. For Group III wives, attendance decreased for 4, increased for 1, and remained the same for 5.

The majority of all wives in the three groups engaged in all or some social and recreational activities with their spouses. The majority also reported occasional engagement in social activities not including their spouses. Twenty-seven per cent of Group I wives, 25% of Group II wives, and 10% of Group III wives reported they never engaged in social activities not including their spouses. About one-half of Group I wives, two-thirds of Group II wives, and one-half of Group III wives had engaged in new social or recreational activities after marriage because of their spouses' interest in them. Two wives in each of Groups I and II and one in Group III had dropped social

and recreational activities because of lack of their spouses' interest, while two wives in each of Groups I and III and one in Group II had been able to persuade their husbands to engage in new social or recreational activities after marriage.

The majority of wives in all groups had participation from their husbands in housekeeping jobs. Reasons for helping were most frequently checked as the husband's belief that the wife did not have time to do it all herself. Three wives in Group II and two wives in Group III reported non-participation by husbands.

Comparison of Grade Point Averages Before and After Marriage

Husbands

Comparative grade point averages for student husbands before and after marriage in Group I showed an increase for 10 of 11 husbands after marriage with 1 not reporting. In Group II there was an increase for 9 of 12 husbands, 1 decreased, and 2 remained the same. Thus, nearly 83% of Group I and II student husbands showed increased grade point averages after marriage with an individual average increase of .378.

Wives

Comparative grade point averages for student wives before and after marriage in Group I showed an increase for 7 of 11 wives, with 2 not reporting, and 2 remaining the same. In Group III there was an increase for 7 of 10 wives with 3 not

reporting. Thus nearly 67% of Group I and III student wives showed increased grade point averages after marriage with an individual average increase of .191.

Group I Husbands and Wives

Health

All husbands reported excellent to good health with no change in health status after marriage. Wives reported excellent to good health after marriage with approximately one-third showing a slight drop in health status by a change from excellent to good health.

Frequency of visits to physicians by husbands after marriage showed a slight increase for approximately one-fourth and a decrease for one-sixth. Approximately one-third of the wives showed a slight decrease in number of visits when compared to the year preceding marriage.

Frequency of visits to dentists by husbands and wives after marriage showed the same ratio: approximately one-half reported no change, one-third reported a decrease, and one-sixth reported an increase when compared with visits preceding marriage.

The majority of all the husbands and wives had not visited student health either before or after marriage.

Educational Goals

Ten of the 11 wives and 9 of the husbands indicated a desire to finish their degrees; 2 husbands and 1 wife had already obtained their degrees; and 54% of the wives and all of the husbands reported interest in obtaining advanced degrees.

Three husbands and 4 wives of the 11 couples had changed their major field of concentration after marriage: 2 husbands changed from business and political science to biology and 1 from business to graduate work in men's physical education; 2 wives changed from English and mathematics to business, 1 from music to elementary education, and 1 from art to secondary education.

Forty-six per cent of the husbands reported carrying increased credit hour loads, 27% reported a decrease, and 27% reported the same after marriage. Sixty-four per cent of the wives reported carrying decreased loads, 27% reported the same, and 9% reported an increase of one hour.

Some of the reasons given for different credit hour loads after marriage by husbands were:

Have more study time. No playing of football or track.
 Working more. (Decreased load.)
 Only needed 6 hours to complete degree. Also working full time and half of the semester driving to Topeka every day to work. (Decreased load.)

Reasons given by wives for decreased loads were:

Have all my housework to do. Baby needs a lot of time and interferes with study time.
 Had baby between semesters and needed time to adjust.
 Fewer hours because I feel I should spend the time with our baby.

So I can devote more time to our house. Lost one baby during early pregnancy - expecting another in late summer.

Due to work and hours of work. Since baby's birth due to added housework.

Less hours during semester child was born due to classwork needing to be made up the previous semester of pregnancy.

Of the 11 husbands, 72.7% indicated more hours per week spent on studying, while 63.6% of the wives reported their study hours to be about the same as before marriage.

The majority of husbands and wives listed reasons for the wife attending college mainly as "enabling her to obtain a degree and education to help later in life," or "a personal goal." Only 2 wives listed the reason "to be a better wife and mother" as the most important.

All the husbands and wives, with one exception, believed their spouse was a help in obtaining a college education. One wife was "uncertain."

Economic Standards

The majority of the husbands and approximately one-half of the wives were employed after marriage. Eight wives were employed before marriage and 5 after; 8 husbands were employed before marriage and 9 after. Average work hours per week for working wives dropped from 35.7 to 20 after marriage. For working husbands, average work hours per week dropped from 44.5 to 27.8. Two husbands were not counted in these averages. One reported 168 hours weekly employment before marriage, occupation "Army," and dropped to 35 to 38 hours after marriage. The other

reported employment with no specified hours before marriage, occupation "Navy," and was working 20 hours weekly after marriage.

The majority of husbands and wives reported shared or equal responsibility for spending the family income. Three couples showed disagreement in their answers: two wives reported equal responsibility with one husband indicating the wife, and the other husband indicating himself, as taking greater responsibility for spending income. One wife reported she took the total responsibility and her husband indicated equal responsibility.

Only one husband followed a budget for spending money before marriage and approximately 45% indicated a plan for spending family income after marriage. One wife followed a budget for spending money before marriage and only two wives or 18% indicated a plan for spending family income after marriage, showing some disagreement in husband and wife answers.

Rent expenditures ranged from \$60 to \$100 and estimated food expenses ranged from \$35 to \$90 monthly. Three couples had parental financial help, 5 had loans, and 2 had scholarships or fellowships. All rated living quarters as satisfactory. Seven couples lived in furnished or unfurnished apartments, 2 in trailers, and 2 in unfurnished rented houses.

Child care arrangements were varied with the father caring for the children while the mother worked or attended

classes, use of a paid babysitter coming to the residence, nursery school, mother caring for the child during the day and the father caring for the child while the mother attended night classes.

Activities

None of these husbands and wives changed religious affiliation after marriage; all were Protestant before and after marriage.

Regularity of church attendance after marriage remained the same as before marriage for 3 couples, increased for 2 couples, and decreased for 1 couple. Three husbands increased their attendance while two wives decreased their attendance and one wife remained the same; two husbands reported the same attendance as before marriage with their wives showing a decreased attendance. Nearly all of these showed wives decreasing to approximately the same level as the husbands' attendance.

Participation in all types of activities after marriage was reported to be less active than before marriage by approximately 64% of the husbands and 73% of the wives. Twenty-seven per cent of the husbands and 18% of the wives reported participation as about the same, and one husband and one wife (not the same couple) or approximately 9% reported more active participation.

Activities with friends of the same sex were reported to be less frequent after marriage by the majority of husbands and wives. With friends of the opposite sex, activities were reported less frequent after marriage by 54% of the husbands and 64% of the wives, while 27% of the husbands and 20% of the wives reported activities to be about the same as before marriage.

The majority of husbands and wives engaged in all or some social and recreational activities with each other. Only one couple reported engaging in "very few of them" with the spouse. Forty-five per cent of the husbands and 27% of the wives reported they never engaged in social activities not including their spouses. Fifty-five per cent of the husbands and 73% of the wives reported occasional engagement in social activities not including their spouses.

Five of the wives but only two of the husbands had engaged in new social or recreational activities after marriage because of their spouse's interest in them. Two wives and one husband had dropped such activities because of the lack of their spouse's interest in them and two wives and two husbands had been able to persuade their spouses to engage in new activities after marriage.

The majority of husbands participated in some house-keeping jobs. Joint responsibility showed most frequently in marketing, heavy housecleaning, dishwashing, washing of clothes, and carrying out of trash and garbage. The majority of wives

had sole responsibility of meal preparation, light housecleaning, and ironing.

Group II Husbands and Wives

Health

All husbands and wives reported excellent to good health after marriage with negligible change in health status.

Frequency of visits to physicians by husbands after marriage showed a slight increase for approximately one-half. Approximately one-fourth of the wives reported a slight increase and one-half reported a slight decrease in number of visits when compared to the year preceding marriage.

Frequency of visits to dentists by husbands and wives after marriage showed nearly the same ratio: approximately two-thirds reported no change, and nearly one-third reported a decrease when compared with visits preceding marriage. Only one husband and one wife reported an increase.

Approximately two-thirds of all the husbands and wives had not visited student health either before or after marriage. Approximately one-fourth had decreased their visits after marriage.

Educational Goals

Six of the 12 wives and 11 of the 12 husbands indicated a desire to finish their degrees. One husband and one wife had

already obtained their degrees, and one wife and seven husbands reported interest in obtaining advanced degrees.

Since these wives were not in school, there was no tabulation of change in the major field of concentration. All 12 husbands reported no change in the major field after marriage.

Seventeen per cent of the husbands reported carrying increased credit hour loads, 25% reported decreased loads, and 58% reported the same after marriage.

Of the 12 husbands, nearly 60% indicated more hours per week spent on studying after marriage as compared with time spent before marriage.

All husbands except one indicated their wives were a help in obtaining a college education. No reason was given by the one who answered "no."

Economic Standards

About 60% of the husbands and 60% of the wives were employed after marriage. Nine wives were employed before marriage and 7 after; 6 husbands were employed before marriage and 7 after. Average work hours per week for working wives increased from 30 to 43 after marriage. For working husbands, average work hours per week increased from 23.6 to 40.5.

One-third of the husbands and wives reported shared or equal responsibility for spending the family income. One-half reported the husband had greater responsibility. One couple

showed disagreement in its answers, the wife reporting the husband took the responsibility and the husband indicating shared responsibility.

Two husbands followed a budget for spending money before marriage, and 6 or 50% indicated a plan for spending family income after marriage. Four wives followed a budget for spending money before marriage and 7 wives or approximately 60% indicated a plan for spending family income after marriage. There was some disagreement in approximately 25% of husband and wife answers.

Rent expenditures ranged from \$32 to \$85 and estimated food expenses ranged from \$40 to \$80 monthly. Five couples had parental financial help, 3 had loans, and 1 had a scholarship. Only 1 couple of the 12 rated living quarters as unsatisfactory. Seven couples lived in furnished or unfurnished apartments, 3 in trailers, and 2 in unfurnished rented houses.

Child care arrangements were similar to Group I with an exception: the largest number were cared for by the mother.

Activities

Ten of 12 husbands and all 12 wives were members of Protestant churches before marriage. One husband reported no church affiliation before or after marriage, 1 was a member of the Catholic Church before and after marriage, and only 1 of the 10 Protestant husbands changed his affiliation to "none" after marriage. After marriage 8 wives remained Protestant, 3 were

no longer members of any church, and 1 wife, whose husband was Catholic, changed membership to the Catholic Church.

Regularity of church attendance after marriage remained the same as before marriage for 3 couples, decreased for 3 couples, and increased for 2 couples. Three husbands reported the same attendance, while their wives decreased theirs, and one husband increased his attendance with his wife decreasing hers. Again as in Group I, the level of the husband's attendance was the determining factor.

Participation in all types of activities after marriage was reported to be less active than before marriage by approximately 42% of the husbands and 67% of the wives. Fifty per cent of the husbands and 33% of the wives reported participation as about the same and one husband or approximately 8% reported more active participation.

Activities with friends of the same sex were reported to be less frequent after marriage by 92% of the wives and 50% of the husbands. Twenty-five per cent of the husbands reported activities as about the same, and 25% reported them as more frequent. With friends of the opposite sex, activities were reported as less frequent after marriage by 67% of the husbands and 58% of the wives; 25% of the husbands and 42% of the wives reported activities to be about the same as before marriage.

The majority of husbands and wives engaged in all or some social and recreational activities with each other. Two

couples reported engaging in "very few of them" with the spouse. All of the husbands and 75% of the wives indicated they occasionally engaged in social activities not including their spouses, and 25% of the wives reported they often engaged in activities not including their spouse.

Two-thirds of the wives and one-fourth of the husbands had engaged in new social or recreational activities after marriage because of their spouse's interest in them. Two wives and 2 husbands had dropped such activities because of lack of their spouse's interest in them, and 1 wife and 7 husbands had been able to persuade their spouses to engage in new activities after marriage.

The majority of husbands participated in some house-keeping jobs. Three wives reported non-participation by husbands. Reasons given were: it is not a man's work, does not have the time, and wife does not wish it. Joint responsibility showed most frequently in marketing, light and heavy housecleaning, dishwashing, washing of clothes, and carrying out of trash and garbage. The majority of wives had sole responsibility for meal preparation and ironing.

Group III Husbands and Wives

Health

All husbands and wives reported excellent to good health with no change in health status after marriage.

Frequency of number of visits to physicians after marriage was the same for the majority of the husbands and over one-half of the wives. Approximately one-third of the wives reported a slight increase when compared to the year preceding marriage.

Frequency of number of visits to dentists by husbands showed a decrease for one-half, with approximately the same status for the remaining husbands and all wives.

The majority of all husbands and wives had not visited student health either before or after marriage.

Educational Goals

Four husbands had completed their degrees and 2 husbands and all wives of the 10 couples indicated a desire to finish their degrees. Four husbands and 3 wives reported interest in obtaining advanced degrees.

Two wives had changed their major fields of concentration after marriage: 1 from business to business education and 1 from business to elementary education.

Thirty per cent of the wives reported increased credit hour loads, 10% reported a decreased load, and 60% remained the same as before marriage. Forty per cent of the wives indicated hours per week spent on studying were about the same as before marriage, while 20% reported less, and 20% reported more.

All the wives, with one exception, believed their spouse was a help in obtaining a college education.

Two of 10 wives were employed after marriage, one working 8 hours and one working 45 to 55 hours per week. All husbands were employed after marriage, working an average of 48 hours weekly. Two husbands were not counted in this average since they did not report weekly working hours. Eight wives were employed prior to marriage with an average work-week of approximately 27 hours. One wife did not report hours worked so was not counted in this average. Nine of 10 husbands were employed before marriage (one did not report). The average hours worked per week were 53. Two husbands failed to report so were not counted in the average of hours.

One-half of the husbands and wives reported shared or equal responsibility for spending the family income. Nearly all the rest reported wife responsibility. Only two husbands were reported as having sole responsibility.

The majority of all husbands and wives did not follow a budget either before or after marriage.

Rent expenditures ranged from \$30 to \$125 and estimated food expenses from \$15 to \$90 monthly. Two couples had parental financial help, 3 had loans, and 1 had a scholarship. All except one couple rated living quarters as satisfactory. Three couples lived in furnished or unfurnished apartments, 2 in trailers, 4 in unfurnished rented houses, and 1 in their own home.

For child care arrangements, all utilized the services of a paid babysitter. Only one couple reported the father also

cared for the child during the wife's night classes and on his day off.

Activities

Six husbands and 6 wives were members of Protestant churches before and after marriage. One wife and 2 husbands claimed no membership before or after marriage. One husband was a member of the Catholic Church before and after marriage and his wife changed membership from Protestant to Catholic. One husband was a member of the Christian Science Church before and after marriage and his wife changed her membership from the Catholic Church to none. The tenth wife, Catholic before her marriage to a Protestant husband, changed her membership to none.

Regularity of church attendance after marriage remained the same as before marriage for 3 couples. Two husbands increased their attendance to their wives' unchanged levels, while three wives decreased their attendance to their husbands' levels (which remained unchanged), one husband increased his attendance to meet his wife's decreased level, and one husband decreased while his wife increased her level of attendance.

Participation in all types of activities after marriage was reported to be about the same as before marriage by 60% of the wives and 50% of the husbands, less active by 30% of the wives and 20% of the husbands, and more active by one husband and one wife (not the same couple). Two husbands did not answer.

Activities with friends of the same sex were reported to be less frequent after marriage by 60% of the wives and 20% of the husbands, and about the same by 40% of the wives and 70% of the husbands. With friends of the opposite sex, activities were reported to be about the same as before marriage by 50% of the husbands and wives, and as less frequent by 50% of the wives and 40% of the husbands.

The majority of husbands and wives engaged in all or some social and recreational activities with each other. Only one couple reported engaging in "very few of them" with the spouse. Thirty per cent of the husbands and 10% of the wives reported they never engaged in social activities not including their spouses. Sixty per cent of the husbands and 90% of the wives reported occasional engagement in social activities not including their spouses.

Five wives and one husband had engaged in new social or recreational activities after marriage because of their spouse's interest in them. Only one wife reported dropping such activities because of the lack of her husband's interest in them. Two wives and two husbands (different couples) had been able to persuade their spouses to engage in new activities after marriage.

The majority of husbands participated in some house-keeping jobs. Two wives reported non-participation by husbands because the husband "did not want to." Joint responsibility

showed most frequently in breakfast preparation, dishwashing, marketing, heavy housecleaning, carrying out of trash and garbage, and washing of clothes. The majority of wives had sole responsibility of main meal preparation, light housecleaning, and ironing.

Opinions and Goals

The majority of husbands and wives in Group I indicated "love for spouse" as the most important reason, in their opinion, for students marrying while in college. "To have a home" was given as the second most important reason by approximately one-half of the husbands and wives. About one-fourth listed pregnancy as a second most important reason.

The same was true for Group II. In Group III, the most important reason given by the majority of husbands and wives was also "love for spouse." However, as the second most important reason, "to satisfy sex drive" was listed by 4 wives and 1 husband, or approximately one-fourth of the total group. Seven husbands and 2 wives, or approximately one-half of the group, listed "to have a home" as their second most important reason, approximately one-fifth listed "pregnancy," and 1 husband simply listed "they don't know any better."

Asked whether they would again marry before finishing college (with this acquired experience and in an unmarried state), all of the husbands and 9 of the wives in Group I answered "yes." One wife did not answer, and 1 was "uncertain." In Group II, 10

husbands and 10 wives answered "yes." Two husbands and 1 wife answered "no," and 1 wife was "uncertain." Qualifying comments were:

Yes, but not so early in college career.

Yes, I feel that our lives together are happier now and more so now that we have our baby.

I don't think it's wise for a couple to marry if one or both have 4 years to complete.

In Group III, 6 husbands and 6 wives answered "yes," 3 husbands and 3 wives answered "no," and 1 wife answered "uncertain." Her comment was: "I am not sorry that I married when I did but it could have been a lot easier going to school if I didn't have our two children."

In Group I, about one-half of the husbands and wives ranked insufficient income as one of the chief causes of discouragement in student marriages. Other answers checked included: in-law interference, dependency on parents, necessity for employment, too little time for housework, and too little time for recreation. The following reasons were added to the list: childishness on the part of one or both, learning to budget money properly, too little time for rest, and too early pregnancy. In Groups II and III the majority of the husbands and wives also ranked insufficient income as one of the chief causes of discouragement in student marriages.

Ranked by over one-half of the husbands and wives in Group I as the most important advantage in student marriages was "happiness." Approximately one-fourth ranked "working

together for specific goals" as most important. In Group II, slightly less than one-half of the husbands and wives ranked "happiness" as the most important advantage in student marriages. Approximately one-third ranked "working together for specific goals" as most important. In Group III, two-fifths ranked "working together for specific goals" most important, and nearly two-fifths ranked "happiness" as the most important advantage.

Asked for opinions as to answering a friend concerning the advisability of marrying while in college, 7 Group I couples answered "uncertain," 1 husband and 2 wives answered "get married," 1 husband answered "stay single," and 2 couples did not answer. Qualifying comments from wives were:

It's entirely up to the two people concerned and their specific situation.

It would depend on the person's background and ability to provide an income. I don't feel there is a set answer to this question. Everyone is different.

Take birth control pills because I have found them to be safe. An unexpected child, no matter how greatly loved, puts a great deal of added strain mentally, physically, and emotionally on a marriage. Also I would advise the immediate purchase of hospitalization to prevent drainage of savings.

Depends on goals and degree of determination.

Comments from husbands were:

I wouldn't give advice on a matter such as this only on the basis of my experience.

Would depend on maturity of couple.

Depends upon so many variables that I cannot say.

I think it best to offer a wife something more than night work, theme typing, and a tired husband, etc.

Depends on maturity and financial condition.

Depends upon couple. If truly in love, have known each other for a reasonable length of time, and have a means of support, I would by all means encourage the marriage.

For Group II opinions concerning advice to a friend as to the advisability of marrying while in college, 2 couples answered "stay single," 4 husbands and 3 wives answered "get married," 4 husbands and 6 wives answered "uncertain," and 2 husbands and 1 wife did not answer. Qualifying comments from wives were:

Would depend entirely on who was asking. As for myself, I am happy with my husband and son.

Stay single until at least a senior.

Depends completely on individuals. College marriages take a lot of love, patience, understanding and stability.

It depends entirely on the individuals. Some couples aren't mature enough to face such a responsibility.

You have a great deal of responsibilities and you have to be ready to accept them.

Comments from husbands were:

If you think you can handle it and you are ready to accept the responsibilities of marriage.

Depends on each individual, but in the case of the more mature people, I would highly advise it.

Depends on individual. I don't think I'd say one way or another because this is his decision alone.

Group III opinions concerning advice to a friend as to advisability of marrying while in college showed 3 husbands and 2 wives answering "stay single," 3 husbands and 2 wives answering "get married," and 3 husbands and 4 wives answering "uncertain." Qualifying comments from wives were:

Stay single unless you think you are mature enough to handle responsibilities of marriage.

It would depend on circumstances. It is easier for the wife to go to school because she is not the breadwinner.

If little schooling left, do as they desire. Otherwise, careful consideration should be done concerning all matters, particularly their goals in life.

Hard to tell someone else the right thing to do - in my case I would get married.

Comments from husbands were:

Each person has his own personality, environment, and situation to consider. Therefore each should be advised differently.

Get married if you love each other enough and have enough money.

Group I future occupational and educational goals were reported unchanged by 7 husbands and 9 wives (with 1 reporting "just consolidated and strengthened"), and as changed by 4 husbands and 2 wives (with 1 reporting "much more meaningful").

Suggestions from husbands of Group I for college administration concerning its responsibility to married students were:

Orientation for students is a drag for a married 24 year old. It is, in my opinion, geared for wet-nosed freshman girls. The testing was repetitious from past schools and should be selected for the individual student since it cost me two days work for nought.

Exposure to students of how college marriages work and the responsibility to be accepted.

Plan more programs for married students. Provide satisfactory housing at a reasonable rate.

None unless the colleges would consider working toward getting another G.I. Bill through.

To provide better housing, washing facilities, and nursery recreational areas.

Just keep treating them like any other student.

I feel that their responsibility to married students differs from their responsibility to unmarried students.

From wives:

Why make a charge for Student Union if person cannot and will not be using it as in case of many married couples? None other than that to single students.

Better living facilities at reasonable prices.

I asked for a student loan. That was personal finance. I don't ask for privileges or special consideration - or advice.

I would like a nursery area and better housing.

They could be a great help in organizing a nursery school or other means for mothers in college to be assured that their babies were being properly cared for while they were in class - at a reasonable price.

I think they should take married students' outside responsibility into consideration along with grades when the student applies for loans.

The publication of this survey in The Bulletin would help to give students a picture of married life in certain areas they may not have considered.

For Group II future occupational and educational goals were reported unchanged by 8 husbands and 7 wives and as changed by 2 husbands and 2 wives. Comments from wives were:

I am more determined now to acquire an education because I realize how important it is to us in the future.
Not changed - maybe delayed.

Yes, before marriage I was satisfied with two years of college. Now I know how important it is for everyone (including a housewife) to have a degree.

Suggestions from Group II for college administration concerning its responsibility to married students were:

There should be more inexpensive housing projects.
Speaking from experience I feel that they should allow for more financial assistance to the married students.
Cheaper rent for married student housing.
Apartments should be furnished.

Group III future occupational and educational goals were reported unchanged by 7 husbands and 6 wives and as changed by 2 husbands and 4 wives. Two wives commented they were changed because before marriage they had had no plans for continuing their education.

Suggestions from this group for college administration included:

Help students find good jobs that meet the minimum wage law, instead of paying students 75¢ an hour.

They should consider the time and money shortage when giving extra, out-of-class assignments.

Low-cost, satisfactory housing - why not a college trailer court as other colleges have?

Teach students responsibility.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Thirty-seven married couples, on the Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia campus, were selected for participation in a survey of undergraduate student marriages during college years. They were classified into three groups: Group I, with both husband and wife attending college; Group II, with only the husband a student; and Group III, with only the wife a student. The couples had been married at least one year, and married after either or both had completed at least one semester in college.

A questionnaire was formulated around social, economic, health, and educational factors before and after marriage. The purpose was to secure information about each college marriage as to any salient changes which might have occurred after marriage, the knowledge of which perhaps could be useful to college administrators, advisers, counselors, and college students. Thirty-three couples returned the completed questionnaire.

Analysis of the data was made by means of percentage comparison of responses and descriptive listings. Comparisons were made within and between the three classifications of groups.

The first question explored concerned differences among wives in the three groups with regard to (a) health, (b) educational goals, (c) economic standards, and (d) activities.

No important difference in health status was found among wives of the three groups. There seemed to be a difference in educational goals. Only one-half of the 12 wives in Group II planned to finish their degrees, as compared to the 11 wives of Group I and 10 wives of Group III who all indicated a desire to finish. Fifty-four per cent of Group I wives showed interest in obtaining advanced degrees. There were some differences in economic standards among the wives. The largest number of employed wives, 60%, with the greatest number of weekly work hours, 40 to 57, was found in Group II. This is a similar finding to that of Pfeiffer (1961). Also in Group II, the largest number of wives followed budgets and were the sole source of monthly income. It was surprising to find, also in Group II, that one-half of the wives reported their husbands had sole responsibility for spending this monthly income. A majority of the other wives reported shared responsibility with husbands for spending income. Participation in all types of activities after marriage decreased in a similar ratio for wives in all groups. There were no notable differences found among the wives as to frequency of activities with friends and spouses. Only 5 of the total 33 wives reported non-participation by husbands in housekeeping tasks. This is a similar finding to that of Thorpe (1951).

The second question concerned differences in grade point averages of husbands and of wives before marriage and after. Of the 23 student husbands in Groups I and II, 19, or approximately 83% showed an increased grade point average after marriage with an individual average increase of .378. Of the 21 student wives in Groups I and III, 14, or nearly 67%, showed an increased grade point average after marriage with an individual average increase of .191. These results support the findings of Cohen, King, and Nelson (1963), Jensen and Clark (1958), and Samenfink and Milliken (1961).

A final question was asked in regard to extent of differences in the (a) health, (b) educational goals, (c) economic standards, and (d) activities of wives and husbands before marriage and after. There seemed to be no difference in health status after marriage for any of the husbands and wives. A majority of husbands and wives reported future occupational and educational goals as unchanged after marriage. The employment status remained about the same for the majority of husbands, but for the wives employment dropped from 75% to 42% after marriage. Approximately 25% of the total husbands and wives changed from no budgeting before marriage to a plan for spending family income after marriage. Approximately 36% of the total husbands and wives said they had a budget. Pfeiffer (1961) reported about 50% of total husbands and wives had a budget. As to participation in all types of activities after marriage, 50% of the

total husbands and wives reported they were less active, 40% reported about the same, and 10% reported they were more active than before marriage. Nearly 23% never engaged in social activities that did not include their spouses. The remainder occasionally engaged in some not including their spouses. The couples were predominantly Protestant, wives 76% and husbands 73%. Only one husband changed his religion after marriage, but 7 wives or 21% changed theirs. Other findings were:

1. The mean age of wives was 21.5 years and of husbands, 23.2 years. The average age at marriage for wives was 19.2 years and for husbands was 20.9 years. Pfeiffer (1961) showed mean age at marriage for wives was 19 years and for husbands, 20.1 years.

2. Only 3 of the total husbands and wives indicated divorced parents. It was assumed this was not a contributing factor to early marriage since only 3 reported "loneliness in the parental home" as a possible reason for students marrying while in college, and these 3 were from unbroken homes.

3. Of the 33 couples, 15 had one child and 4 had two children. Babies were born to 9 couples before completion of a nine-month pregnancy term, indicating pre-marital pregnancy was a contributing factor in 27.2% of these marriages.

4. The education of the parents of these 33 young couples had not exceeded high school for 31% of all parents.

Only 7.5% or 10 parents were college graduates. Pfeiffer (1961) showed 9% or 17 parents were college graduates in her study.

5. The wives had a much higher percentage of employed mothers (50%) than did the husbands (18%).

6. In the group of non-student wives, 25% had not exceeded high school, 58% had had some college, and 17% were college graduates; in the group of non-student husbands, 30% had not exceeded high school, 30% had had some college, and 40% were college graduates. These were quite different from Pfeiffer's (1961) findings which showed only 16.6% of non-student wives with some college, and 63.3% of non-student husbands as college graduates.

7. Rent expenditures ranged from \$30 to \$125 per month for the total groups, and approximately two-thirds spent \$40 to \$70 monthly for food. These findings concur with Pfeiffer (1961).

8. When asked if they were unmarried, but knowing what they did now, would they still marry before finishing college, 80% of the total group answered "yes," 13% answered "no," and 5% were "uncertain." The remaining 2% gave no answer. These figures are similar to Pfeiffer's (1961) findings.

9. About 70% of all wives and husbands rated "insufficient income" as the most discouraging aspect in student marriages, which also concurs with Pfeiffer (1961).

10. Among advantages of being married while in college most often listed were "happiness," "working together for specific goals," and "companionship."

11. In advising friends about marrying in college, approximately 23% of the total group would advise "get married," 15% would advise "stay single," and 47% were "uncertain." The remaining 15% did not answer.

Limitations of this study were: the survey was conducted on one teachers college campus; the study was made on a selected sample and concerned only students enrolled in college for the academic year 1962-1963.

Implications for further research in this area would seem to point toward a follow-up study of these early college marriages after perhaps a ten year span. Not many longitudinal studies have yet been done, and these would perhaps present a different picture from the Hill (1964) study where husbands were largely veterans with considerable maturity. Retention and drop-out studies of wives, and divorce rate in these early marriages, on a nation-wide scale, would also be areas of particular interest for further study. Follow-up studies on the children of these marriages could be pursued for possible implications.

The writer would also concur with Moser (1961) that Dunn's (1960) Marriage Role Expectation Inventory might be revised for use among college students, and that such an inventory might become a valuable tool for teachers, counselors,

family life educators, and others who seek to assist young people in establishing mutually compatible roles in marriage.

Since it would seem college marriages are here to stay and are accepted across the nation as a normal part of the student body, several recommendations might be made to college administrators:

1. Consideration should be given to helping both husbands and wives continue their education.

2. Careful study should be made concerning problems and needs of campus married couples.

3. College administrators and married students both should study the possibilities which the college could offer the married students for a more meaningful marriage and family life on campus.

4. Administrators and counselors should perhaps encourage young couples to consider taking longer than the usual amount of time to finish college, and help them explore the possibility of borrowing money to complete their education.

5. From this study, it appeared the most consistent suggestions made to administrators by these young couples were needs for better housing at reasonable rates, help in organizing a nursery school for their children, and more financial help.

THE CONTINENTAL

1891



APPENDIX

A QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MARRIED COUPLES
OF WHOM ONE OR BOTH ARE COLLEGE STUDENTS AT
KANSAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE OF EMPORIA, KANSAS

Directions: It is important that you answer every question. In so far as possible, please answer the questionnaire independently of your spouse.

Group _____
Number _____

Date _____

Please indicate by a check which spouse is answering this questionnaire:

Husband _____ (Age _____)

Wife _____ (Age _____)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Concerning Your Parents

Father

Mother

1. Place of your parents' birth _____

2. Living _____

Separated _____ Divorced _____
If divorced, has either parent
remarried? _____

3. Age of your parents:

a. When married _____

b. At the present time _____

4. Maximum education of your parents:

Grades:

Less than 8th grade _____

8th grade _____

High School:

2 years _____

High school graduate _____

College:

Some college _____

College graduate _____

Advanced degrees (Specify) _____

Technical Training (Specify) _____

5. Check the one statement which best describes the area where you and your parents were living while you were at home.

- ___ a. City (Population _____)
 ___ b. Town (Population _____)
 ___ c. Rural Non-Farm
 ___ d. Rural Farm

6. Your father's occupation _____

7. Is your mother employed outside the home?

- ___ a. Yes
 ___ b. No

If "yes" indicate:

Occupation _____

Number of hours worked per week _____

Number of years employed _____

If "no" indicate:

Has she ever been employed since marriage? ___ Yes
 ___ No

Occupation _____

Number of years employed _____

B. Concerning Yourself

1. The number of your:

- ___ a. Brothers
 ___ b. Sisters

2. Counting the eldest as "1st," what was your place in your family? _____

3. Place of your birth _____ Present population _____

4. Indicate the church of which you were a member before marriage, and the church to which you now belong:

	<u>Before marriage</u>	<u>Since marriage</u>
a. Catholic	_____	_____
b. Jewish	_____	_____
c. Protestant	_____	_____
d. None	_____	_____
e. Other (Specify)	_____	_____

Comment:

5. Your age when married _____
6. Date you were married _____
7. How long before marriage had you known your spouse?

8. How long before marriage had you and your spouse "gone steady"? _____
9. How long were you and your spouse engaged. _____
10. The attitude of your parents toward your spouse before marriage was:
- _____ a. Approval
 - _____ b. Indifference
 - _____ c. Disapproval
 - _____ d. Did not know her (him)
11. Did your parents give their approval of your marriage?
- _____ a. Yes
 - _____ b. No
- Comment:
12. Did your spouse's parents give their approval of your marriage?
- _____ a. Yes
 - _____ b. No
13. Where and by whom were you and your spouse married?
(Check one in each list)
- _____ a. At home
 - _____ b. At church
 - _____ c. At the minister's home
 - _____ d. Elsewhere (Specify) _____
 - _____ e. By a minister
 - _____ f. By a priest
 - _____ g. By a judge
 - _____ h. By a justice of the peace
 - _____ i. Other (Specify) _____
14. Where and how did you meet your spouse? _____
15. Do you have children?
- _____ a. Yes
 - _____ b. No

If "yes," please give birth date and sex of each child:

II. EDUCATION

- A. Were you attending college when you married?
1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Number of semesters of college completed before marriage.
- B. Are you attending college now?
1. Yes
 2. No
- C. If you are not in college, specify highest grade completed: _____
- D. If you are attending college, check your rank at the present time:
1. Freshman
 2. Sophomore
 3. Junior
 4. Senior
 5. Graduate school
 6. Special
- E. Your college major:
1. Before marriage _____
 2. Since marriage _____
- F. The average number of semester credit hours carried:
1. Before marriage _____
 2. Since marriage _____
- If average number of course hours is different since marriage, indicate why:
- G. Your grade point average:
1. Before marriage _____
 2. Since marriage _____
- H. The average number of hours per week spent on studying since marriage as compared with before marriage is:
1. More
 2. Less
 3. About the same
- I. The place you studied the greatest number of hours:
- | | <u>Before marriage</u> | <u>Since marriage</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. At home | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Library | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Other (Specify) | _____ | _____ |

J. If wife is attending college, rank in order of importance (1, 2, 3, etc.) the following items which describe the reasons for attendance:

- 1. To get a degree
- 2. Wife wants a career
- 3. Husband desires it
- 4. Other relatives desire it
- 5. To have a broader outlook on life
- 6. To be a better wife and mother
- 7. To gain an education in order to help later in life, if needed
- 8. Personal goal
- 9. Other (Specify) _____

K. If husband is attending college, list in order the two most important reasons for attending:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

L. Do you feel your spouse is a help to you in your effort to obtain a college education?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Uncertain

Comment:

III. ECONOMIC FACTORS

A. Are you employed?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

If "yes" indicate:

Occupation _____

Number of hours per week _____

B. Were you employed during the year before marriage?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

If "yes" indicate:

Occupation _____

Number of hours per week _____

C. Our monthly "take home pay" is approximately \$ _____

D. Our income is obtained from these sources:
(Specify approximate amounts)

- ___ 1. G.I. Pay \$ _____
- ___ 2. Husband working \$ _____
- ___ 3. Wife working \$ _____
- ___ 4. Help from parents \$ _____
- ___ 5. Loan \$ _____
- ___ 6. Scholarship or Fellowship \$ _____
- ___ 7. Other (Specify) _____ \$ _____

E. On a monthly basis, it is spent as follows:
(Specify approximate amounts)

- 1. Rent and utilities \$ _____
- 2. Food \$ _____
- 3. Household supplies \$ _____
- 4. Recreation and vacations \$ _____
- 5. College education \$ _____
- 6. Clothes
 - Purchase \$ _____
 - Laundry and upkeep \$ _____
- 7. Automobile (taxes, tag, upkeep, payments, insurance) \$ _____
 - Running expenses (gas, oil, etc.) \$ _____
- 8. Life insurance \$ _____
- 9. Medical and dental expenses and health insurance \$ _____
- 10. Drugs and medicines \$ _____
- 11. Church and charity \$ _____
- 12. Savings \$ _____
- 13. Miscellaneous \$ _____

F. (Answer if a car owner) The car is used for:

- ___ 1. Transportation to school
- ___ 2. Transportation to work
- ___ 3. Other (Specify) _____
- ___ 4. Average miles driven per month _____

G. Who takes the greater responsibility for spending the family income?

- ___ 1. Husband
- ___ 2. Wife
- ___ 3. Equal

- H. Do you follow a definite plan or budget for spending the family income?
1. Yes
 2. No
- I. Did you follow a definite plan or budget for spending your money before marriage?
1. Yes
 2. No
- J. Your place of residence at the present time
1. Own home
 2. Unfurnished apartment
 3. Furnished apartment
 4. In-laws' house
 5. Rooming house
 6. Trailer
 7. Rented house furnished
 8. Rented house unfurnished
 9. College housing project
 10. Other (Specify) _____
- K. How would you rate your present living quarters?
1. Satisfactory
 2. Unsatisfactory

IV. HEALTH

- A. Frequency of illness in the past 5 years:
1. Never
 2. Often
 3. Occasional
 4. Seldom
- B. Your health at the present time:
1. Excellent
 2. Good
 3. Fair
 4. Poor
- C. Your health during the year preceding marriage:
1. Excellent
 2. Good
 3. Fair
 4. Poor
- D. Number of visits per year to physicians during the year preceding marriage, excluding those visits specifically based on preparation for marriage:

- 1. None
- 2. One
- 3. Two
- 4. More (Specify how many) _____

E. Number of visits per year to physicians since marriage, excluding those connected with pregnancy:

- 1. None
- 2. One
- 3. Two
- 4. More (Specify how many) _____

F. Number of visits to dentists before marriage:

- 1. None
- 2. Once a year
- 3. Twice a year
- 4. More (Specify how many) _____

G. Number of visits to dentist since marriage:

- 1. None
- 2. Once a year
- 3. Twice a year
- 4. More (Specify how many) _____

H. Number of visits to student health before marriage:

- 1. None
- 2. Once a year
- 3. Twice a year
- 4. More (Specify how many) _____

I. Number of visits to student health since marriage:

- 1. None
- 2. Once a year
- 3. Twice a year
- 4. More (Specify how many) _____

V. ACTIVITIES (CAMPUS, SOCIAL EXTRA-CURRICULAR)

A. Since marriage, do you consider your participation in all types of activities to be:

- 1. More active than before marriage
- 2. Less active than before marriage
- 3. About the same as before marriage

B. Activities with friends of the same sex NOW as compared with the year BEFORE marriage are:

- 1. More frequent
- 2. Less frequent
- 3. About the same

- C. Activities with friends of the opposite sex NOW as compared with the year BEFORE marriage are:
- ___ 1. More frequent
 ___ 2. Less frequent
 ___ 3. About the same
- D. Do you engage in social and recreational activities with your spouse?
- ___ 1. All of them
 ___ 2. Some of them
 ___ 3. Very few of them
 ___ 4. None of them
- E. Do you engage in any social activities that do not include your spouse?
- ___ 1. Never
 ___ 2. Occasionally
 ___ 3. Often
- F. What social or recreational activities have you taken up since marriage because your spouse is interested in them?
- G. What social or recreational activities have you dropped because your spouse is not interested in them?
- H. What social or recreational activities have you been able to persuade your spouse to engage in which he (she) did not do before marriage?
- I. Indicate the regularity of your church attendance:

	<u>One year before marriage</u>	<u>Since marriage</u>
1. None	_____	_____
2. Less than once a month	_____	_____
3. Once a month	_____	_____
4. Twice a month	_____	_____
5. Three times a month	_____	_____
6. Four times a month	_____	_____

Comment:

J. Does your spouse attend church with you?

1. Regularly
 2. Occasionally
 3. Seldom
 4. Never

K. Do you have children?

1. Yes
 2. No

If you have children, what arrangements are made for their care during the day?

1. Father cares for the child (children) while mother works or attends classes
 2. A friend trades baby-sitting
 3. Paid baby-sitter comes to the residence
 4. Nursery school
 5. Day care center
 6. Child is taken to home of paid baby-sitter
 7. Other (Specify) _____

L. Answer either 1 or 2:

1. If husband participates in housekeeping jobs, rank in order of importance (1, 2, 3, etc.) the following statements which best describe his reasons for helping:

- a. Enjoyable
 b. Part of a husband's responsibility
 c. Such responsibility should be shared by husband and wife
 d. If both are earning money, both should share in these activities
 e. The wife does not have time to do it all herself
 f. Other (Specify) _____

2. If husband does not participate in housekeeping jobs, rank in order of importance (1, 2, 3, etc.) the following statements which best describe his reason for not helping:

- a. It is not a man's work
 b. Does not want to
 c. Does not have the time
 d. Not home at the necessary time
 e. Wife does not wish it
 f. Other (Specify) _____

- M. Indicate who participates in the following types of work within the home:

<u>Types of Work</u>	<u>Usual Responsibility of</u>		
	<u>Wife</u>	<u>Husband</u>	<u>Joint</u>
1. Preparation of meals			
Breakfast	_____	_____	_____
Main meal	_____	_____	_____
2. Washing and drying dishes	_____	_____	_____
3. Marketing	_____	_____	_____
4. Light housecleaning	_____	_____	_____
5. Heavy housecleaning	_____	_____	_____
6. Carrying out garbage and trash	_____	_____	_____
7. Laundry			
Washing	_____	_____	_____
Ironing	_____	_____	_____
8. Other (Specify) _____	_____	_____	_____

VI. OPINIONS AND GOALS

- A. Rank in order of importance (1, 2, 3, etc.) the following reasons why, in your opinion, you think students marry while in college:

- _____ 1. To have a home
- _____ 2. To show parents they are grown up
- _____ 3. Love for spouse
- _____ 4. Pregnancy
- _____ 5. Spur of the moment decision
- _____ 6. To satisfy sex drive
- _____ 7. Loneliness in parental home
- _____ 8. "Cure-all" for all problems
- _____ 9. Other (Specify) _____

- B. Knowing what you now know, would you marry before finishing college if you were unmarried?

- _____ 1. Yes
- _____ 2. No
- _____ 3. Uncertain

Comment:

- C. Rank in order of importance (1, 2, 3, etc.) the following problems which, in your opinion, may cause discouragement in student marriages:

- _____ 1. In-law interference
- _____ 2. Dependency on parents
- _____ 3. Insufficient income
- _____ 4. Less time for study

- 5. No place to study
- 6. Necessity for employment
- 7. Too little time for housework
- 8. Too little time for recreation
- 9. Too little time for grooming, personal needs, etc.
- 10. Other (Specify) _____

D. Rank in order of importance (1, 2, 3, etc.) the following items which are advantages of being married while in college:

- 1. More time with each other
- 2. More time to study
- 3. Joint income
- 4. Companionship
- 5. Working together for specific goals
- 6. Happiness
- 7. Other (Specify) _____

E. What suggestions do you have to pass on to the college administration concerning its responsibility to married students?

F. What are your occupational plans for the future?

G. What are your educational plans for the future?

H. Have the goals changed since your marriage?

I. If a friend asks you as to the advisability of marrying while in college, what would be your answer?

- 1. Stay single
- 2. Get married
- 3. Uncertain

Comment:

If you would like the results of this survey sent to you, please check here _____

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A SURVEY OF MARRIAGES DURING COLLEGE YEARS
ON A TEACHERS COLLEGE CAMPUS

by

MARIAN L. WILSON

B. S., Kansas State University, 1936

AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Family and Child Development

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Manhattan, Kansas

1964

A survey of undergraduate student marriages was conducted on the campus of Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia, Kansas, in the spring semester of 1963. The purpose was to secure information about college marriages which might indicate salient social, economic, health, and educational factors that could be useful to college administrators, advisers, counselors, and students. Specific questions explored were differences among wives in the three groups with regard to health, educational goals, economic standards, and activities; differences occurring after marriage for husbands and wives in these same categories; and changes in grade point averages of husbands and wives after marriage.

The sample was identified from statistical data available on registration cards and included at least ten couples in each of three marriage patterns: (1) both husband and wife were students; (2) the husband was a student and the wife was not; (3) the wife was a student and the husband was not. In addition, each couple had been married at least one year, and one or both had completed at least one semester in college before marriage. A questionnaire was formulated and a pilot study conducted. The revised questionnaire was delivered to the selected sample and of 74 sent, 66 were returned by mail. An analysis of the compiled data was made by means of percentage comparison of responses within and between the three classifications of groups, and by descriptive listings.

Few differences were found among wives of the three groups as to health and participation in activities. There seemed to be some differences in educational goals and economic standards. The 11 wives in Group I, 10 wives in Group III, and only one-half of the 12 wives in Group II indicated a desire to finish their degrees. Fifty-four per cent of Group I wives showed interest in obtaining advanced degrees, while little interest in advanced degrees was evidenced in either of the other groups. Group II had the largest number of employed wives, 60%, with the greatest number of weekly work hours, 40 to 57, and the largest number of wives who followed budgets and were the sole source of monthly income.

Nineteen, or 83%, of the 23 student husbands in Groups I and II, and 14, or 67%, of the 21 student wives in Groups I and III showed slightly increased grade point averages after marriage.

There seemed to be no important differences in health status or future occupational and educational goals after marriage for any husbands and wives. Employment status remained about the same for the majority of husbands, but changed for wives: 75% were employed before marriage and only 42% after marriage. Participation in all types of activities after marriage showed 50% of the total husbands and wives less active, 40% about the same, and 10% more active than before marriage.

Fifteen of the 33 couples had one child, 4 had two children, and babies were born to 9 couples before completion of

a nine-month pregnancy term after marriage indicating pre-marital pregnancy was a contributing factor in 27.2% of these marriages.

Education of the parents of these 33 young couples had not exceeded high school for 31% of all parents, and only 7.5%, or 10 parents, were college graduates.

Implications for further research would seem to point toward a follow-up study of early college marriages after a ten-year span with regard to drop-outs among husbands and wives, divorce rate, and adjustment of children born during the period spent in college.