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Marital satisfaction of remarried couples.

Michael Russell. Lesperance
University of Windsor

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MARITAL SATISFACTION OF REMARRIED COUPLES

BY

MICHAEL RUSSELL LESPERANCE
B.S.W. University of Windsor, 1976

A Thesis
Submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies
through the School of Social Work
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Requirements for the Degree
of Master of Social Work at
The University of Windsor

Windsor, Ontario, Canada
1981
ABSTRACT

MARITAL SATISFACTION OF REMARRIED COUPLES

by

Michael Russell Lesperance

A total of fourteen couples filled out a two-part, self-administered instrument and completed a follow-up interview with the researcher. The instrument included a Marital Satisfaction Inventory as well as a questionnaire concerned with demographic variables. The sample population was composed of fourteen first-time married males and fourteen females who were married at least twice. The data was analyzed through the use of frequency tables.

The results of the study indicated that women in the sample were as satisfied, if not more satisfied, in their current marriage as they were in their previous marriage. The majority of the subjects indicated that the current marriage was satisfying. Also, women in the study indicated recurring problematic situations similar to the problems experienced in the former marriage.

The research supported the contention that marital satisfaction in a remarriage is a process which includes the existence of problem areas, not the absence of them. The determination based on a mature commitment to meet each other's needs would primarily predict marital satisfaction in a remarriage.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I sincerely wish to thank the most important person in my life. If it was not for Diana's encouragement,
understanding and stability of our own remarriage, this study may not have been possible. She was truly a light in the darkest nights and an anchor when all about me was in turmoil. I also wish to thank Todd and Tammy, my own step-children, for allowing me time away from them in order to invest in this research.

Lastly, I would like to express sincere thanks to all the couples who took part in this study. Without their volunteering to announce themselves as remarried couples, this research could not be possible. I wish them continued marital satisfaction in their remarriages.
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Nature of the Problem

Today in our society the institution of remarriage has undergone much change and stress. Social scientists have studied intensively the process and structure of marriage with all its various forms. The rise in the divorce rate has given way to the belief that the traditional social fortifications of marriage have been weakened to the point of collapse. Notwithstanding, the recent rise in remarriage among divorced couples has challenged this belief. Just as the divorce rates are soaring, the incidence of remarriages has been rising as well. As E. M. Nett (1976) has indicated:

The increase in the marriages of the formerly married as a percentage of all marriages is attributable to the increase in the divorce rate and the remarriage of divorced persons. (p. 69)

As Schlesinger (1970) observed, "remarriage appears to be an institutionalized way of reorganizing families which have been broken or disrupted by divorce" (p. 101).

Statistics indicate that the divorce rate has doubled since 1960 and that there were an estimated 970,000 divorces in 1974 in the United States alone. Wakil (1976) wrote of Canadian statistics and indicated that in the early 1900's
the figures on divorce rates (number of divorces per 100,000 population) were among the lowest in the Western world. He stated that in the years from 1968-1972 alone, "the divorce rate in Canada had almost tripled: from 54.8 in 1968 to 148.3 in 1972" (p. 390).

As the divorce rate has been steadily climbing in North America, so too has the rate of remarriage increased. Schlesinger (1977) wrote that in Canada about 18 per cent of the yearly marriage rates were second marriages (p. 62). In the United States this figure had reached about 30 per cent in 1974. Ester Walde, a prominent Chicago researcher of the 'blended family' indicated that divorces occur in all classes of society. Of the numerous divorces which have happened each year, it is estimated that four out of five divorced women will remarry. Consequently, about 75 per cent of all divorced people will remarry within the next five years.

Though it is true that there has been a high incidence of remarriage, it has not always been easy to remarry. As Norval Glenn (1977) has pointed out:

After about the age of 30, divorced females must seek new spouses in a less 'favourable' market than that for the divorced male. This occurs because (1) the sex ratio in their birth cohort has fallen below 100 due to the greater mortality of males, and (2) due to the double standard of 'aging' the value of the female on the marriage market has begun to decline, while the value of the male is often increasing. (p. 332)

Another important consideration that Glenn (1977) suggests
is that of 'roles.' Women have been changing the conventional role of wife and have been striving for equality in the re-marriage (p. 333).

Another important feature intrinsically apparent within a remarriage is the 'type' of family formed – namely, a 'blended family.' A blended family is typically a family structure where at least one partner in the marital dyad has been divorced and is remarried to another partner who may or may not be divorced. As well, there are usually children from a former marriage. For example, a typical blended family may be where a divorced woman with custody of her children marries a divorced man who may or may not have custody of his children. However, when the remarriage takes place, you have a 'blending' of both families.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this particular study was to investigate available literature on remarriage. Particular attention was given to 'common problem areas' of remarried couples which they would experience in their relationship, and whether these problematic areas in a remarriage relationship are applicable to a sample of remarried couples in the community. The researcher wanted to investigate the degree of 'marital satisfaction' in this sample of remarried couples, by exploring the absence or presence of these problem areas.
Chapter II will present a review of the literature on remarriage. Chapter III will state the methodology used by the researcher. Chapter IV will be concerned with the analysis of the data while Chapter V will contain recommendations and conclusion.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Introduction

This chapter will focus upon the review of the literature on remarriage. Sections will include: a statistical overview, husband-wife relationships, theoretical explanations as to the reasons why marriages fail, the components of marital satisfaction, multi-dimensional assessment of remarriage, and current sources used in predicting marital satisfaction.

A Statistical Overview of Divorce and Remarriage

One effective way of approaching the problem of remarriage is to determine its relationship to divorce. The statistics available were sometimes contradictory. Reingold (1976) stated some significant facts concerning divorce and remarriage:

1. The divorce rate has nearly doubled since 1960.
2. There were an estimated 970,000 divorces in 1974.
3. One out of three marriages ends in divorce.
4. Four out of five divorced men will marry again.
5. Three out of four divorced women will marry again.
6. One out of every four marriages is a second, third or fourth marriage by a widowed or divorced person.
7. Seventy-five percent of all divorced people remarry within five years.
8. It is estimated that close to a million children are affected by divorce. (p. 34)
Bernard (1956) was a pioneer researcher in the area of remarriage. She forwarded a statement mentioning that if anyone were to gather one hundred married couples together, there would be 18 of those couples who would be remarried. Later, she mentioned that about every eight married person - 12.5 per cent - has been married more than once.

Other researchers after Bernard also presented some similar findings. The American researcher, Schwartz (1958), revealed that the divorce rate tends to decrease during economic recessions and sharply increase during wars, after which there is a return to the level of the prewar trend.

Other American researchers with similar remarks were Albrecht (1979), Goldstein (1974) and the several Norton and Glick studies (1977). These researchers found that the divorce rate per 1,000 population for 1976 had doubled within the last 11 years. Also, over 60 per cent of all divorces involved children. Some major reasons cited for this increase in the divorce rate were - a liberalization of the divorce laws; changes in the traditional roles of women; acceptance of divorce as a reasonable alternative to an unhappy marriage; a decline in the fertility rates; and an increase in premarital conception.

A Canadian researcher, Schlesinger (1976) stated that 13.1 per cent of all marriages in Canada were remarriages. Whatever the reasons, divorce and remarriage have been steady-
ily climbing since the early 1950's. There seems to be a slight momentary pause in this rate of remarriage in the 1980's due to the slow process of the court system, the various mandatory requirements directing couples towards counselling programs and the other alternative life-styles other than marriage which many people enhance. The next section will focus upon why marriages fail.

Why Marriages Fail

A study by Albrecht (1979) in the United States using a screened sample of 843 people who had been divorced for the first time asked why both husbands and wives thought their marriages failed. The four largest causes of marital breakdown as gathered from the responses were - infidelity, loss of love for the spouse, emotional problems and financial problems. Other problems which inter-related with these four primary causes were - sexual problems, in-law problems, and neglect of the children. Hence, marital breakdown could be attributed to multiple causal factors.

From this same sample, people who later remarried mentioned that continued problems of finances and emotional difficulties recurred in their second marriages.

The single, most identified problem in the literature was 'role-related' problems. This problem, however, also related to the other causes of marital problems. Role related problems are those in which both the husband and the wife have different, and sometimes conflictual, perceptions concerning certain expressive and instrumental tasks. These
perceptual conflicts are due to the distinctly unique way
in which males and females are raised.

From the earliest parts of life, people are 'programmed'
'conditioned,' or 'scripted' into male or female roles.
Children witness mom or dad perform certain tasks and they
in turn record these tasks and soon reproduce similar com-
ponents of behaviour, particularly within the framework of
marriage. A problem develops when one spouse has a perception
of what their own 'role' function should be like. Since their
own parents act as models for their own representational
system, problematic situations occur unless the couple can
clearly delineate what in fact will be performed in the
relationship and by whom.

Powers (1974) also forwarded similar statements about
the impact of one's early childhood and its effects later on
in marriage and family relationships. Hence, in remarital
situations, conflicts can occur when a person has not ad-
justed to his or her individual identity roles nor to the
unique obstacles within the remarriage itself. The level of
satisfaction in a remarriage, therefore, is related to the
resolution of any role conflicts between spouses and the
various step-relationships within the familial context.

Heiss (1976) pointed out that agreement on role def-
initions was not enough for smooth interaction. Values and
beliefs from early childhood will also change. Other theorists
also postulated similar convictions.
Two theories that support the existence of 'role-related' problems were the theory of 'complimentarity' and the theory of 'homogeneity.' The former indicated that there was a tendency for spouses to attract mates with 'differences' rather than similarities. The latter introduced the notion that a spouse will choose a mate with a similar personality and common interests.

Heiss (1976) suggested that divorced people realized that even with a failure in one relationship there was a good possibility of meeting other compatible mates:

Most people are too sophisticated today to believe the old romantic myth that says marriages are made in heaven and one must wait until the one and only comes along. . . . The new notion is: there is a group of people who have the necessary personal and social characteristics required to make a particular person happy, and when one of these people is met, it is likely that after a time, love will occur and a long, lasting relationship result. (p. 33)

One of the positive aspects of remarriage was that the person who had earlier undergone a great deal of hurt, suffering and pain may well have a second chance at a heterossexual relationship within the context of a re-marriage.

Often, after a divorce, a person may think that 'the one and only' has failed them and hence there can be no other person. This type of thinking often produces deep-seated depression which further develops into withdrawal from the community and the eventual loss of self-esteem. Kiesler and Baral (1970) stated that people sought goals that they believed were attainable and 'gave up' when the
goal they had thought as desirable could not be achieved. Many divorced persons often dream of meeting another 'right' person yet encounter many cultural, moral and social stresses which deter the possibility of remarriage. These pressures often interfere with freedom in selecting another mate. The divorced person tended to feel hurried into finding someone else and, as a result, reproduced mistakes made in the past. In order to change this ongoing pattern of marrying the 'wrong' partner, it was important to focus on mate selection.

The Process of Mate Selection

Lewis (1976) has constructed a framework which involved six steps towards mate selection and cohesiveness:

1. The process of perceiving similarities.
   (a) Sociocultural background
   (b) Values
   (c) Interest
   (d) Personality

2. The process of achieving pair support.
   (a) Ease of communication
   (b) Positive evaluations of the other
   (c) Satisfaction with pair relationships
   (d) Validation of self by the other

3. The process of inducing self-disclosure.

4. The process of role-taking.

5. The process of achieving inter-personal role fit.
   (a) Observed similarities of personality
   (b) Role complimentarity
   (c) Need complimentarity

6. The process of achieving dyadic crystallization.
   (a) Progressive involvement
   (b) Functioning as a dyad
   (c) Boundary establishment
   (d) Identity as a couple. (p. 34)
The selection of a mate the first time around is predicated upon earlier psycho-sexual role performances and when the first-time marriage ends in divorce, the original core personality is unlikely to change. Will I make the same mistakes again? The literature indicated that 'basic mistakes' regarding relationships often occur (Berne, 1961; Adler, 1927).

Eisenstein was also consistent with this idea and wrote of 'neurotic choice' in mate selection. He explained this concept by stating that:

The neurotic choice of mate connotes a marital selection which in itself interferes with normal relationships or makes them so different that the displeasure exceeds the pleasure directed therefrom. (p. 5)

Up until this point the literature has focused upon the intra-psychic nature of people's early childhood and has emphasized that even though a person may go through the struggling process of marriage, separation and remarriage, the core personality remains the same. The hypothetical construct gathered from the literature thus far connotes that marital satisfaction is largely dependent upon a person's internal, dynamic framework and personality. In accordance with this construct a very significant point is also presumed—that is, marital dissatisfaction is dependant upon one's early childhood and intra-psychic representational system as well. Although the factors of marital satisfaction may not be the reverse of those for marital dissatisfaction, the pivotal point for a relationship lies in our psyche.
Adler's Theory

Adler (1927) postulated that persons have a particular 'style of life' which includes 'basic mistakes' people make in their relationships with one another. He also stated that this life style is formed very early in life.

Rudolph Dreikurs (1946) was a colleague of Adler's and was responsible for the development of many of Adler's hypotheses. One significant point was that there were 'connections' that could be made in the relationship between marriage and one's early childhood:

One factor which often influences the selection of a certain person is his resemblance to other persons previously objects of our affection. . . . Previous experiences with a person of the other sex influence our attitude in the first meeting with any new acquaintance. The more intense these earlier experiences were, the deeper their influence in regard to the establishment of new relationships: (p. 69)

Different authors (Adler, 1927; Dreikurs, 1946; Eisenstein, 1956; Berne, 1961) pointed out that one's early childhood experiences do affect the choice of a mate and hence the degree of satisfaction which could be found in the significant relationships later in life. Ellis (1976) mentioned that earlier 'irrational' thinking continues throughout one's life into adult relationships.

Adler (1930) mentioned that a person's basic mistakes were derived from decisions made in early childhood where the child was not capable of complete, rational thought and judgement. Piaget (1954) called this stage of life 'prolonged thinking' where a person's individual life plan was
formed. Part of this plan was the criteria for choosing a mate. This set of criteria was based upon the resemblance to one's parents and their relationship.

The researcher has mentioned that recent statistics in Canada have proven that the incidence of divorce and remarriage has increased. Part of why marriages fail was due to role upbringing which was taught in one's family system. People selected a particular type of mate due to vital, unconscious and basic mistakes learned in early childhood. Early theorists in the literature had validated the importance of what a person learns regarding marital relationships.

The Components of Marital Satisfaction

This section will focus upon the various interpretations found in the literature as to what are the components of marital satisfaction. No one person knows the ingredients of a happy, successful or satisfying marital relationship. However, many authors and writers have ventured their opinions and various forms of analysis towards understanding what constitutes a 'satisfying' marital relationship.

Certain authors in the literature (Eisenstein, 1956; Bernard, 1956; Duberman, 1926) have indicated that there were a number of intra-psychic and socio-economic factors responsible for divorce and the failure of a marital relationship. However, in spite of these deterring factors, Westoff (1975) stated that:
People agreed that remarriage was worth the costs they had to pay. The weight of all the advantages that remarriage brought far exceeded the weight of all the problems, no matter how complex or unexpected. In fact, a number of men and women regretted that they could not have had their second marriage first, and enjoyed it from the beginning. . . . They were sorry they had wasted so many years growing up, learning about life and themselves, living through earlier mistakes, now making it impossible for them to have the long blissful marriage they would like to have with their second partner. (p. 121)

Westoff (1975) wrote that the rewards of a remarriage were often:

1. happiness
2. super sex
3. openness without end
4. realistic expectations
5. greater tolerance
6. opportunity for women's liberation
7. a sharing of interests
8. a sense of humour
9. a greater motivation to succeed in the second marriage based upon the hindsight of the mistakes of the former. (p. 121)

Schlesinger (1976) also looked for key components of marital satisfaction. In his particular study, he found these features in a remarriage:

1. a higher intelligence in the new mate
2. a greater emotional maturity
3. a greater sense of responsibility
4. a deeper sense of affection and understanding
5. a desire on the part of the new mate to have children
6. a greater similarity in background thus encompassing mutual values and interests
7. a deeper sense of integrity and self-respect. (p. 108)

A most convincing statement by Schlesinger was:

Having learned something from the experience of the marriage breakdown and divorce (they) have been able to channel this knowledge into a maturing episode rather than a destructive one. (p. 112)
In another study, Schlesinger (1977) found further components of satisfaction among remarried couples. These were: emotional capability, agreement on lifestyle and goals, companionship, maturity, a healthy respect for oneself, respect for the mate, equality, empathy, knowing what one needs, wants and values, expecting imperfection, the ability to compromise, trust, making use of the first marriage experience, tolerance and compassion (p. 153). He also stated that there were a:

Cluster of responses which reflected residual personality damage carrying over from the first marriage, especially for the divorced ... and causing problems with the new spouse. (p. 153)

Schlesinger (1977) stated that the most significant problem for remarried couples was working out a state of togetherness and partnership after having experienced (at least on the part of one person) a process of union, loss and separation.

Locke and Klausner (1957) undertook a study which challenged the hypothesis that there was no difference in the degree of marital adjustment of divorced persons in subsequent relationships and persons married only once. Results indicated that "the divorced-remarried group achieved as high a degree of adjustment in present marriages as the persons married only once" (p. 281).

Monahan (1952) presented a study similar to the above and found that "those who remarry after divorce have almost as high a percentage of success in the second marriages as the rest of the population had in the first" (p. 281).
Mace (1978) detailed a ten-scale list of items which helped determine marital satisfaction. These were: common goals and values; commitment to growth; communication skills; creative use of conflict; appreciation and affection; agreement on gender roles; cooperation and teamwork; sexual fulfillment; money management; and parent effectiveness. The researcher used these ten components as basic variables of marital satisfaction in the Questionnaire which can be found in the Appendix.

There were numerous sets of components of marital satisfaction as the literature suggested, some of which were repetitive. This particular section on 'components' of marital satisfaction can be summarized by a statement from Schlesinger (1977):

It is the willingness and determination based on a commitment to meet another's needs which make for success in remarriages. At the same time, the ability to give and take in a relationship is not innate; it is learned through trial and error, and through practice. The experience in the first marriage - the concrete experience of how one operates, what works and does not work, the power of intuition, the pitfalls and resentments - can be used to good advantage if the willingness exists. . . . Remarried couples seem to reflect that they have the determination to risk themselves. The previously married person has the ability to predict hazards, to know what to expect, to develop sensitivity and tolerance. There is also good evidence in our sample that, if the first marriage was a difficult experience, and if the sense of failure was very real, it can cause people to want to prove something to themselves, and to give more out of determination to work harder. . . . Determination in itself, though, does not make for success. It is the maturity which is the deciding factor. (p. 155).
Just as there were many components of marital satisfaction, there were also numerous tests and inventories produced to assess the psychometric scales used in measuring and predicting marital satisfaction. The following section will present certain studies and the perspectives of researchers concerned with the multidimensional assessment of marital satisfaction.

Multi-Dimensional Assessment of Marital Satisfaction

Social scientists have often been interested in the prediction of marital satisfaction. There have been many studies performed, countless numbers of questionnaires, tests and inventories used in measuring the predictability of marital satisfaction. A group of researchers (Messinger, Walker & Rogers, 1977) stated that one of the problem areas in the literature pertaining to remarriage was:

Research on the adjustment of family members to the stressful aspects of remarriage. No single study exists having these optimal characteristics: a longitudinal research design with a large random sample of remarried families in which members of the family were treated as the units of analysis. (p. 280)

Another author, Schlesinger (1976), stated that:

The lack of objective studies in the field (of remarriage) may partially explain why a number of the publications reflect the findings and feelings of the authors' professional experiences in Social Service Agencies. This raises the question of whether those remarried couples who do not seek professional help, and thus are assumed to be relatively happy in their remarriages, are even considered in the literature or whether the reader is exposed only to those in trouble. (p. 113)
What Schlesinger had pointed out was that these 'studies' were primarily psychologically orientated, and originated in the late 1920's and 1930's. Consequently, almost all of the researchers in this era looked at and were concerned with abnormal behaviour. Thus, troubled marriages and remarriages were primarily focused upon, giving a skewed picture of the actual degree of marital satisfaction.

Duberman (1926) mentioned that:

The earliest studies of reconstituted families were written in the 1920's; none dealt with more than ten subjects, and all were psychologically oriented. . . . There have been studies and articles on step-relations which emphasized psychological factors, but which lacked empirical data. However, there is no major literature on the sociological factors. (pp. 1-2)

One of the main problems found in the literature was that many of the marital satisfaction tests were performed by psychologists who had an expertise in research design and statistical ability. Social work validity research, on the other hand, had very few 'scientific' studies in this area. Polansky (1960) mentioned that:

The constituent sciences upon which social work rests - e.g., psychology, sociology, psychoanalysis, anthropology, economics, etc. - have as their end goals concise abstractions about individual and societal behaviour. In a field dedicated to active service, abstract laws are more likely to be drawn upon than actually formulated. So social work research has seldom undertaken to advance general theory as such. (p. 4)

The researcher has surveyed the literature and has placed certain authors and their respective studies under
the various categories presented by Messinger (1977):

1. Studies in which the sample is neither random nor representative of the remarriage population and conducted at one point in time. Two separate studies, Bernard (1956) and Schlesinger (1976) exemplify this category. The study is at best an exploratory effort, primarily descriptive and with little qualitative analysis.

2. Large random sample studies conducted at one point in time which permit analysis of sub-samples of respondents who were or are children of remarried parents. These studies included Bowerman and Irish (1962), and Morris Rosenberg, Thomas Langner and Stanley Michael. Information about the remarriage family is limited largely to demographic factors. These studies are methodologically superior but are limited in that all data were obtained from one member of the family.

3. Small scale random samples focusing upon one aspect of the remarriage family, conducted in the past. Lucille Duberman fitted this type.

4. Studies based on non-random samples such as remarriage families drawn from clinical populations. Such studies are useful for suggesting research hypotheses, but are dubious sources for generalizable findings. Irene Fast and Albert Cain (1966) provide this representative sample. (p. 281)

The essential argument which Messinger (1977) pointed towards was that many of these studies on remarriage were not based upon:

Procedures which permit a clear assessment of their validity, reliability and generalization. Rather than assess the research adequacy of each study as it is cited, the finding will be treated as suggestive—possibly valid, but unproven. (p. 282)

Selltiz (1976) stated that any measuring device or instrument that aimed at the predictability and predictive validity of research must include "the adequacy of the test
for distinguishing individuals who will differ in the future. (p.171). With respect to the specific measuring devices for marital satisfaction, Selltiz (1976) went on to state that:

What is essential in this approach to validation is that there be reasonably valid and reliable criterion with which the scores on the measuring instrument can be compared. (p.171).

The earliest studies on remarriage were those by several German authors and theorists in the 1920's (Ruhler, 1927; Stern, 1928; Wittels, 1927). Others in the 1930's were Kuhn, Mudroch, Neuman, and Von Lincke. The studies generated from this era were founded upon sociological rather than psychological precepts. They focused upon remarriage as they did marriage - a static goal to be obtained. Hence, their investigations emphasized a general, global structure which attempted to capture the basic social and enviromental factors within relationships.

Congruent with these earlier studies were other works by Terman (1938), Burgess and Cottrell (1939), Locke (1947) and many other researchers who tabulated self-administered dimensional items all focusing upon marital adjustment. As well, the basic test construction of many of these marital satisfaction inventories revealed predominant flaws in the design, which led to less reliability and validity for predicting marital happiness. The trend was now changing from a mere sociological scanning of remarriage to specific psychological test structuring.
Spanier (1976) suggested that:

Methodologists cannot ignore the clear continuing need that family researchers have for adequate measures....in order to assess the quality of adjustment in marital relationships. (p.15)

This was a new beginning in a more complex, scientific approach which challenged the forerunners of remarriage. Spanier (1976) went on to submit his own 'Dyadic Adjustment Scale' which was psychologically oriented than sociological.

In addition, Spanier and Cole (1974) opposed the earlier research formats by addressing the conceptual and measurement problems associated with marital adjustment scales.

Finally, the Norval Glenn and Charles Weaver studies in 1977 and the study by Snyder (1979) continue to substantiate the need for relevant, valid and highly reliable forms of testing. One critical observation made by Snyder was:

Researchers have adopted readily available instruments or have constructed their own measures with apparent disregard for either their validity or their appropriateness to the problem being investigated. (p.815)

Summary

The review of the literature was organized in such a way as to enhance the problem formulation concerning remarriage. A statistical overview indicated that trends in divorce and remarriage have steadily climbed over the past three decades. Several studies were selected to propose various reasons as to why marriages fail. This led to a hypothetical construct which espoused that marital satisfaction was in some way connected with early intra-psychic phenomenon. Specific theorists were selected to underline this hypothesis. A
section of this chapter then concerned itself with the numerous studies postulating derived components of marital satisfaction and then lastly, a focus upon the multidimensional assessment was selected to indicate the substantial difficulties in the reality of marital satisfaction predictors. The next chapter will focus upon the methodological process the researcher used in this study.
CHAPTER III
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter will be concerned with the specific research questions, the operational definitions used in the study, the particular research design, the data collection instruments, the population selection and sampling procedures, the analysis of data, and the limitations of the study.

Research Questions

In Chapter II, the views of various authors were presented on remarried couples and the unique combinations of problem areas a remarital relationship may endure. Schlesinger (1976) mentioned that remarried persons have learned from their marriage breakdown and were positively viewed as constructive in their remarriages. The researcher wanted to respond to this area and to find:

What core problem areas exist within the structure of the remarital relationship?

The researcher found in other areas of the literature that one of the most significant problems for remarried couples was working out a state of togetherness (Locke, 1957;
Schlesinger, 1977). Consequently, the second research question followed from the first:

How do couples who identify their problems in the remarital relationship cope?

**Operational Definitions**

The following operational definitions were used in the research design of this study.

*Marital satisfaction* was defined as a form of satisfaction in which both spouses indicated positive test scores in specific areas of remarriage - namely, the areas of communication, sexuality, appreciation and affection and finances. Combined with these test scores would be the couples' own admission of their motivation and determination for the continuing growth of the relationship.

*Remarriage* was defined to mean a marital relationship where one spouse had been through the process of a previous marriage, separation and divorce, and a new legal marriage. This remarriage also included the existence of children from the former marriage.

*Parent effectiveness* was defined to include the use of discipline and communication within the step-relationships of remarriage. An effective parent included a level of satisfaction with oneself and to the other spouse.

*Step-relationship* was defined as the interaction between a child from the former relationship and the step-father in the remarriage.
Role was defined as the expected behaviour an individual member acted towards another within the remarriage.

Problems were defined as those areas selected by each spouse in the remarriage which were measured at a below average level score. Each spouse was asked to fill out a Questionnaire which measured problematic areas within the remarital relationship.

Independent Variables

Several independent variables were used in order that their adequacy as predictors of marital satisfaction among the remarried might be tested. These were selected from the various forms of measuring instruments found in the literature. They were as follows: age, sex, length of time married, marital status, religion, occupation of both spouses, income, and the number of previous marriages.

Dependent Variables

The primary dependent variable was the degree of marital satisfaction expressed by the remarried couples. Some studies in the literature focused upon remarriages to find out how successful, satisfied, stable, harmonious, cohesive, or adjusted they were and offered a plethora of concepts and determining factors which became redundant after a while. Only a few of the studies indicated reasons as to what may constitute poor and unsatisfying relationships. The researcher stress the positive side of remarital dyads as pronounced in the term 'satisfaction' as opposed to but not necessarily reciprocal of 'dissatisfaction.' In this perspective then, and from the available tests, the researcher
has selected a number of core factors indicative of a satisfying remarital relationship. These are:

- Common goals and values
- Commitment to growth
- Communication skills
- Creative use of conflict
- Appreciation and affection
- Agreement on gender roles
- Cooperation and teamwork
- Sexual fulfillment
- Money management
- Parent effectiveness.

These components served as indicators of marital satisfaction as gleaned from the literature reviewed. As well, this structure and selection of the specific variables helped the underlying purpose which was to describe systematically the facts and characteristics of the particular sample of the population and hence the area of interest of the study in a factual and accurate manner.

**Study Design**

The research design was exploratory-descriptive. Exploratory-descriptive studies are those which Tripodi (1969) described as:

(Seeking) to thoroughly describe a particular phenomenon. ... The purpose of these studies is to develop ideas and theoretical generalizations. Descriptions are in both quantitative and qualitative form. ... Sampling procedures are flexible and little concern is usually given to systematic representativeness. (p. 49)

Selltiz et al. (1959) described exploratory studies as having "the purpose of formulating a problem for more precise investigation or of developing hypotheses" (p. 51).
The exploratory part of the study was that of formulating a problem concerning remarried couples. The descriptive element was the degree of satisfaction within the sample of remarriages selected, as measured by the use of the Questionnaire and Interview Schedule. The literature described the various variables which affected satisfaction of remarried couples and the instruments selected specific questions related to each variable chosen by the researcher based on the literature.

Data Collection Procedure

The researcher used two data collection instruments. A Questionnaire (see Appendix A) was constructed based upon the numerous measuring instruments available in the literature (Locke & Wallace, 1959; Snyder, 1979; Terman, 1938). The Questionnaire was separated into two distinct parts. The first part concentrated upon the specific variables of a demographic nature, namely age, sex, education, religion, family size, occupation, income, number of previous marriages, and length of time married. The second part focused upon the evaluative variables drawn from the various existing instruments found in the literature. A particularly helpful instrument was that by Snyder (1979) which was used as the basic structure and format of the Questionnaire but was significantly shorter. In this latter part of the Questionnaire, there were 74 questions. Each
question was coded into a specific variable selected by the researcher. As well, each question had a fixed score which was tabulated after the respondent finished with the Questionnaire.

The researcher felt that a Questionnaire of this type had certain advantages such as standardized wording, explicit instructions, and an order of questions, all of which helped obtain information in a structured manner. The drawback in this type of Questionnaire was the impersonal nature which accompanies standardized tests.

In an effort to correct any error in its construction, the Questionnaire was pre-tested with five remarried couples. As a result of the pre-test, some changes were made in the demographic section of the Questionnaire.

The Questionnaire (Appendix A) was then precoded and mailed to the various members in the sample. Each Questionnaire had specific instructions and a self-addressed envelop in which to return the completed Questionnaire. A follow-up letter and a telephone call were also used.

The second data collection instrument, the Interview Schedule (Appendix B), was used by the researcher to elicit further personal information about the various difficulties and peculiarities the remarriage may have had. These specific questions within the Interview Schedule were drawn from a range of studies found in the literature.
Data Collection Instruments

The researcher constructed a Questionnaire (Appendix A) drawn from studies in the literature, specifically Snyder (1979). The Questionnaire had a demographic part and an evaluative part which was composed of ten evaluative categories. These evaluative categories were specifically selected from Mace (1978) which were common goals and values: commitment to growth; communication skills; creative use of conflict; appreciation and affection; agreement on gender roles; cooperation and teamwork; sexual fulfillment; money management; and parent effectiveness.

The wording of the questions was simple, concise with each question responding to a specific, coded variable. The questions were of a true and false nature and hence were fixed-alternative in construction.

The Interview Schedule was also constructed from existing studies in the literature. It was set in such a way as to provide structure without rigidity. The researcher used open-ended questions in the Interview (see Appendix A) in order to obtain further personal information on the degree of satisfaction within the remarriages. This was administered by the researcher at the various homes of the persons in the sample. Twenty-two questions were asked in the Interview Schedule. The studies of Schlesinger (197) were particularly helpful.
Population Selection and Sampling Procedure

The researcher focused upon the City of Windsor as the target population in securing the sample of remarried couples.

The researcher utilized the media available in the city, specifically the C.B.E. radio, C.B.E.T. television, C.K.W.W. radio, and an article was printed in The Windsor Star (see Appendix B). The main purpose for these media contacts was to ask for couples in remarried situations to volunteer for this study.

Twenty-four remarried couples responded to the media presentations by the researcher. Six couples in remarriage situations contacted the researcher indirectly, usually through a friend who had read the feature in the paper. Eighty per cent of the remarried couples who had contacted the researcher had heard about the study through the article in The Windsor Star. The remaining 20 per cent contacted the researcher after listening to the researcher on one of the radio stations in the city.

The researcher selected from the respondents the 14 couples who had a similar dyadic structure where the husbands were first-time married and the wives were all remarried at least once and had children brought into the remarriage. This eliminated the confusion by not mixing various types of remarital situations.
Analysis of the Data

Since the research was to be an exploratory study, the statistical analysis fell mainly into the descriptive category of condensing and summarizing the information. Frequency distribution tables were used as well as the application of central tendency. Chi-square was used only to demonstrate whether a specific relationship existed between two variables.

Limitations of the Study

These will be described in more detail in Chapter V. However, the size of the sample certainly influenced the outcome of the study. Bias could not be controlled in a way that would produce a sample representative of the total population. Also, the sample was non-random.

Summary

The study was exploratory-descriptive in nature. The methodology was designed to describe and study the influence of demographic and evaluative factors upon the degree of marital satisfaction of the remarried couples in the sample. Fourteen couples completed the study. Data was collected through a Questionnaire and an Interview Schedule (Appendix A). The next section will be concerned with the analysis of the data and presentation of the findings.
CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Chapter IV related to the research questions in the following manner. The first section of the chapter describes the sample population in terms of the demographic variables of age, sex, marital status, education, religion, family size, occupation, income and the number of years married.

The second section of Chapter IV describes the evaluative variables of the sample in terms of common goals and values, commitment to growth, communication skills, creative use of conflict, appreciation and affection, agreement on gender roles, cooperation and teamwork, sexual fulfillment, money management and finally parent effectiveness.

The third section of Chapter IV describes the important information gathered from the Interview Schedule (Appendix B) and summarizes the responses to the various research questions.

I. A Description of the Population:
   The Demographic Variables

   The description of the sample population was analyzed through the use of frequency tables. All of the subjects were Caucasian.
**Age.** The age range of the total sample was 20 to 54 years. The highest number of subjects fell in the 30-39 age range as indicated by Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male N=14</th>
<th>Female N=14</th>
<th>Percent Male</th>
<th>Percent Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>35.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50+</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\( \bar{x} = 37.6 \)

**Education.** The last grade completed in school ranged from grade six to graduation from university, as seen in Table 2. More men completed, or had university experience than did women. Three remarried women were still going to school at the time of the study. More women than men completed secondary education.

**Religion.** Examination of the religious affiliation of the sample population revealed that 12 subjects reported no particular religion, 10 subjects indicated Protestant, and two subjects reported Catholic.
Table 2

Education by Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male N=14</td>
<td>Female N=14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\bar{X} = 12.7

Family Size. All children came with their mother to the reconstituted family. Five families had one child, five families had two children, two families had three children and two families had four or more children. The mean number of children per family was 2.0 children.

Occupation. Approximately 70 per cent of the total sample was employed fulltime outside the home. The researcher found that five subjects held white collar jobs. Four of these were male. Five other subjects held blue collar jobs and five others held skilled jobs. Five other subjects held unskilled jobs. The remaining eight subjects were either
unemployed or did not state any particular occupational category.

**Income.** The researcher found that three families reported no income. Fifty per cent of the families earned wages of more than $14,000 per year. Table 3 indicates the breakdown of total family income into the appropriate categories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Per cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under $5,900</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$6,000-$7,999</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$8,000-$9,999</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000-$11,999</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$12,000-$13,999</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$14,000-$15,999</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$16,000-$17,999</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$18,000-$19,999</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $20,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No income reported</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>21.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Number of Marriages.** The sample population consisted of 14 couples. All men were in their first marriage. Twelve women were married for their second time. The remaining two women were married three times.

**Length of Current Marriage.** Table 4 indicates that one-half of the couples responded that their current marriage was 1-5 years in length.

### Table 4
Length of Couples' Current Marriage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Total N=14</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-5 years</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-10 years</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>28.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-15 years</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-23 years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ \bar{x} = 6.6 \text{ years} \]

**Summary of Demographic Variables**

Fourteen remarried couples responded to the study as couples. The average age of the sample population was 37.6 years old. More than one-half of the male subjects reported post-secondary education compared with only 20 per cent of female subjects. The majority of subjects reported no
religious affiliation. This was followed by Protestant subjects in second place and Catholic subjects in third. In the remarriages, the children came with their respective mothers. Approximately 70 per cent of the subjects reported fulltime employment outside the home. The approximate average income for the male subjects was $16,000 compared to $13,000 for the female subjects. Eight subjects reported no income. All men were in the first-time married category. The majority of the female subjects were married at least twice. The average length of the current marriage was 6.6 years.

II. Analysis of the Evaluative Variables of Marital Satisfaction

In Chapter II the researcher cited various psychometric tests which measured specific components of marital satisfaction. The Questionnaire (see Appendix A) was designed to measure 10 significant components of marital satisfaction. Each question was coded in order to measure below average, average and above average scores in relation to each variable. The following is the analysis of each coded variable.

**Common Goals and Values.** This variable measured the degree of congruency in each spouse—whether or not both persons in the remarriage were headed in the same direction. The results indicated that eight subjects fell into the below average range, 18 subjects achieved average scores and two subjects ranked above average. Average scores indicated
that each spouse responded that there was a harmonious direction in the remarriage. Consequently, 64 per cent of the subjects indicated that the remarriage had a positive direction in which both spouses reciprocated common goals and values.

**Commitment to Growth.** The average score of this variable indicated each spouse's commitment to keep the remarriage relationship targeted towards a positive goal. Eleven subjects fell into the below average category, of which 9 were male subjects. Fourteen subjects, or one-half of the sample population, were found to score in the average category. Of these, 10 were female and 4 were male. Three subjects, 2 female and 1 male, had achieved above average scores.

**Communication Skills.** This variable measured the level of existing communication patterns between each spouse in the remarital relationship. Below average scores would then represent "poor communication patterns," average scores were of the "ability to communicate" and above average scores would represent a "level of empathy and understanding" which indicated stability and a rewarding communication experience within the relationship.

Eleven subjects, of which 7 were male, reported poor communication skills. Fourteen subjects expressed average communication and 3 were found to have above average communication skills.

Of the 11 subjects who reported poor communication patterns, 9 of these subjects were found between ages
20-35. Those subjects between the ages 45-54 indicated higher scores in communication than the rest of the sample.

Creative Use of Conflict. This variable was used to measure the ability of each subject to handle anger in a mature and positive manner when the experience presented itself in the relationship. Creativity was viewed as positive when one spouse would involve the other in working out angry, conflictual experiences arising in the remarriage. Denial or suppression of anger, avoidance behaviour patterns and residual anger carrying over into other experiences would indicate negative and non-creative uses of conflict.

Eleven subjects, eight of whom were male, scored below average and hence were found to have less than satisfying experiences when conflicts involving anger arose. Twelve subjects achieved average scores and the remaining five subjects scored above average. Four of the five subjects who had scored above average were female, between the ages 30-39. Female subjects between the ages 45-54 indicated below average scores more times than men in this age bracket.

Appreciation and Affection. This variable measured the degree of consistent and daily demonstration of affection and appreciation within the remarriage. Eight subjects indicated scores in the average range and the remaining 20 subjects scored above average.

Agreement on Gender Roles. This variable measured the degree of comfort with one's expressive and instrumental tasks.
as husband or wife in the remarriage. Below average scores indicated an area of disagreement with one's role position within the remarriage and hence a high level of discomfort. Average scores would demonstrate agreement with one's role and above average scores would indicate complete ability to function and maintain one's role position.

One-half of the subjects were found to report scores in the below average range. Ten of these were male subjects. Twelve subjects scored in the average category and two subjects achieved above average scores.

Cooperation and Teamwork. This variable measured the ability of each subject to work together on important matters in the relationship as perceived by the subject. Below average scores would indicate disparity in the remarital relationship, whereas other scores would indicate more positive levels of cooperation and teamwork.

There were no below average scores. Four subjects, all male, scored in the average range. The remainder had scores in the above average category.

Sexual Fulfillment. This variable measured the degree, intensity and consistency of sexual expression within the remarriage.

Seven subjects achieved below average scores. Four of these subjects were women. Twelve subjects scored average and the remaining nine fell into the above average range.

Money Management. This variable measured the effectiveness of handling money and the existing financial concerns.
within the remarital relationship.

Four subjects fell into the below average range. Eleven subjects scored average and the other 13 subjects indicated above average scores.

**Parent Effectiveness.** This variable measured the degree of satisfaction a subject perceived of himself/herself as a (step)parent. A below average score would indicate that a subject perceived himself/herself to be a parent who took care of physical needs of the child, whereas an average score would indicate that one perceived himself/herself as effective in that more than the physical needs of the child were attended (i.e., emotional, psychological).

Approximately 53 per cent of the subjects indicated average scores. Eight male subjects responded in the below average range.

**Summary of Evaluative Variables**

This section of the Chapter detailed subject scores regarding the components of marital satisfaction as outlined in Chapter II. Since each variable was coded, the researcher scored the responses from the Questionnaire (see Appendix A) into "below average," "average" and "above average" categories. The highest number of below average scores fell into the variable category "agreement on gender role." This was followed by the other below average scores in the categories of "commitment to growth," "communication skills," "creative use of conflict" and "parent effectiveness."
The highest number of above average scores were found in the category of "cooperation and teamwork." This was followed by "appreciation and affection" and "money management" categories.

The category "common goals and values" indicated the highest number of average scores, followed by "commitment to growth and communication skills," and "parent effectiveness" had a high number of average scores.

The next section will focus upon the results of the information gathered from the Interview Schedule (see Appendix B).

Results of the Interview Schedule

The Interview Schedule (see Appendix B) was used to supplement the Questionnaire (see Appendix A) and to gather important information about the personal lives of the 28 subjects in the sample. The information is presented in such a way as to expand upon the components of marital satisfaction as described in Chapter II and to present a personal view of their remarriage from the subjects' point of view.

Questions throughout the Interview Schedule were addressed to each of the individual spouses depending upon whom the question was directed towards. The Interview Schedule cannot be considered an exhaustive checklist.
There were 19 questions in the Interview Schedule. The following will be concerned with the results.

**Question 1.** How do you rate your present marriage?

This Likert-scaled question was directed only to the female subjects. Two of the women responded that their marriage was about the same as before; five women stated that they were somewhat more satisfied while the remaining seven women indicated that they were much more satisfied in their present marriage.

**Question 2.** Compared with couples you have known, how would you rate the degree of overall satisfaction that you feel with your current marriage?

This question was asked of the 28 subjects as individuals. Two male and no female subjects thought that the current marriage was less satisfactory compared with other married couples they knew. Six male and five female subjects stated that their relationship was "as satisfactory" as other couples they knew. Five male and six female subjects mentioned that they saw the current relationship "as more satisfying" as other couples they knew. One male and three female subjects saw the current relationship "as much more satisfying" as other couples they knew.

**Question 3.** Compared with your expectations of marriage before your present marriage, how is your present marriage turning out?

This question was directed only to male subjects. One subject indicated that his present marriage "was much worse than he had expected." Four men stated that this was about
as they had expected." Six men stated that the marriage was "somewhat better than expected." The remaining three men responded with "better than expected."

**Question 4.** What sort of attributes were you looking for in a husband/wife?

This question was directed towards all subjects as individuals. The female subjects mentioned the following random attributes as those desired of their husbands: average intelligence, a sense of responsibility, emotional maturity, self-confidence, humour, patience, love, understanding, communication skills, desire to work together and the ability to discipline the children.

The male subjects wanted their spouses to recognize their needs, to be understanding, to spend more time as a couple together, and to give emotional support.

**Question 5.** What were the major reasons why your previous marriage failed?

This question was asked only of the female subjects since none of the males had been previously married. Table 5 on the following page will indicate the list of reasons mentioned by the female subjects in the study as to why their previous marriages failed. The researcher also ranked the order of importance of each reason given.

**Question 6.** What are the major problems in the current marriage?

This open-ended question was asked of all 28 subjects. Table 6 indicates the problem areas mentioned by subjects as well as the particular rank in which they fall.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>Order of Importance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incompatibility</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication problems</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affectional relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(loss of love, affection)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money Management</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(miserliness or excessive spending)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional problems</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruelty or physical abuse</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infidelity</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desertion</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglect of children</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcoholism or drinking problem</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual problems</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age problem</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-laws</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prolonged absence of spouse</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irreconcilable differences</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 14 wives
Table 6
Problems Identified in Current Marriage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem Area</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial problems</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication problems</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dealing with anger (fair fighting)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict over children</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-spouse</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job conflicts</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional conflicts</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role problems</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-law</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical problems</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual problems</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 28

Question 7. Were you influenced in your decision to remarry? By whom?

This question was asked of the female subjects. One-half of the women responded that they were influenced to remarry. The main influences were: parents, relatives, friends, priests, doctors, ministers, teachers, peers, T.V., shows, books, magazines, conscience, culture, children, and age.
Question 8. Do you wish you would have had more time alone after your divorce?

There was unanimous agreement by all the female subjects. Almost 80 per cent of the women stated that when they were living alone with their children they tended to learn autonomy and self-confidence. They experienced the children as more mature after the initial impact of divorce and there was more peacefulness and structure in the mother-led family. Once remarried, they felt deprived of some of the acquired autonomy.

Question 9. What do you think are the most important components of a satisfying marriage?

This question was asked to all subjects as individuals. The researcher categorized these and charted their responses as shown in Table 7.

Question 10. What are the most difficult topics to discuss with your husband/wife?

This question was asked of all subjects. The female subjects mentioned such topics as: talking about feelings, dealing with the residual conflicts which carry over from day to day, housekeeping, spending time together, in-laws, personal habits, and spending time away from home.

The male subjects found the following topics difficult to discuss: sex, time spent alone or with male companions, feelings, and in-laws.
Table 7
Components of Marital Satisfaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good communication</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money management (financial security)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compatibility and complimentarity (common interests)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of humour</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maturity</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-solving ability</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability of both to change and grow</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising a family</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honesty and patience</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-respect</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 28

Question 11. What would your advice be to unmarried persons who were contemplating marriage to a person who was previously married?

The male subjects were asked to respond to this question. Some of the frequent responses were: "don't get into a serious relationship until you really explored the whole matter carefully," "find out what went wrong in the first
marriage," "find out about your likes and dislikes of the children," "take time to find an objective opinion about your situation," "get professional help," "you should be very clear in your mind that remarriage is not the same as a normal marriage," "know the person for a long period of time before jumping into marriage," and lastly, "know yourself first."

Question 12. What advice could you give to people who are planning to remarry about the involvement of friends, relatives, and parents in the planning?

This was asked of all subjects as individuals. Six subjects actually stated that they would use the opinions and advice from those close to them. Twenty subjects felt that no one really had enough expertise on the subject of remarriage to offer any valid advice. One male subject stated that he thought his friends were steering him away from the one he loved. Eight people stated that, if at all possible, "don't remarry - live together."

Question 13. Have you ever experienced a lowering of self-esteem or status in the community as a result of your remarriage?

This was asked of all subjects. Eleven female subjects stated that they were initially frowned upon by their parents, relatives, peers, and pastors or priests, and as a result lost some self-esteem. Eight males mentioned that they experienced a sense of isolation from the community, particularly a distance from friends who had married single girls. Thirteen females mentioned that after their divorce
they had felt like complete failures and that this feeling stayed with them until remarriage.

**Question 14.** In what way can you help your wife deal with her sense of loss and failure?

This was asked of all male subjects. Six men stated that they had more strength to help their wives as they had not gone through the emotional turmoil accompanying divorce and remarriage. Four men mentioned that they were overwhelmed by their wives' experiences and that they saw their wives as having courage to deal with just about any issue. Eleven men mentioned that love and attention could help. Nine stated that understanding, commitment and fidelity would help.

**Question 15.** How do you deal with the involvement of the natural father?

This was asked of the male subjects. Nine men mentioned that initially they were threatened by the natural father. Ten stated that they would like to work along with the natural father for the children's sake. Two stated that they would just leave things as they were and ignore the natural father altogether.

**Question 16.** Have you ever sought professional help in regards to your current marriage?

This was asked of all subjects. Three women said that they went for therapy prior to the onset of remarriage.

**Question 17.** Do you know of any community agencies you think might help remarried couples in their relationship?
This was asked of all subjects. Nine subjects felt that the existing Family Service Bureaus may be of some help. Seven mentioned their family doctor. Two stated they would take a chance and see a psychiatrist but did not want medication. Eighteen said that they would seek the assistance of their friends or relatives.

Summary

Chapter IV focused upon the results of the data collection instruments of the Questionnaire (Appendix A) and Interview Schedule (see Appendix B). Three sections focused upon the demographic variables of the population sample, the evaluative variables and finally, the results of the Interview Schedule.

Chapter V will focus upon a discussion of the results and will integrate the research questions and literature with the results. Conclusions and recommendations will also be given.
CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter examines the general research questions underlying the present research which are as follows:

1) What are the problem areas that exist within a remarriage as defined by the marital pair?

2) How do couples who live within a remarriage cope with these problems?

The discussion of these research questions is presented under three major headings: theoretical explanations as to why marriages fail, components of marital satisfaction and theories of predicting marital satisfaction. The discussion is followed by several conclusions and recommendations.

Why Marriages Fail: Theoretical Explanations

This section will look at studies which postulated rational explanations as to why a marriage breaks down. The researcher will then relate this to the results found in Chapter IV.

Albrecht (1979) asked a sample population of 843 recently divorced subjects to cite major reasons why their respective marriages failed. The largest number of responses were centered around infidelity, loss of love for the spouse, emotional problems, and financial problems. The
author also questioned a sample population of current remarried couples about what their major problems were and found the majority of the responses to be financial, emotional, and sexual in nature.

Both males and females in the present study identified their problems in the current remarriage to be financial, communication, dealing with anger and conflict over disciplining the children. The females described problems in their former marriage as centering around incompatibility, communication problems, affectional relations and money management.

Heiss (1976) mentioned that knowing one's role in a marriage was not enough for smooth interaction. In the present study, one result gathered from the Questionnaire cited that one-half of the subjects had a problem with agreement of gender role in the remarriage. This may indicate that these particular subjects were not actually prepared with the appropriate understanding of the structure of remarriage. Indeed, if role learning is based upon a belief structure (Powers, 1974) then many people today may have faulty, static views of marriage, divorce and remarriage.

Lewis (1976) demonstrated the importance of achieving certain steps in selecting one's mate. The author implied that in order to achieve dyadic crystallization and marital
satisfaction, there had to be continuous progression towards this goal of marital intimacy. The women in the present study stated that they wished they could have had a longer period of time alone with their children after divorce. It was during this period of time that they perceived themselves as gaining their strongest sense of autonomy and self-confidence. Certainly one of the requirements of constructive mate selection would be to feel strong and confident in one's self before new marriage.

Eisenstein (1956) described what he called the neurotic choice of mate selection. This meant that when a person has chosen a wrong partner, though the relationship may terminate, the factors involved in making the choice are buried deep within the psyche of the person. Consequently, the person may have a neurotic cognitive structure which will, unless changed, tend to reproduce continuous wrong choices of future mates. The present study indicated that those problems which the female subjects listed as major reasons why their previous marriages failed were comparatively similar in rank as those problems identified in the current marriage.

Adler (1927) postulated that in early childhood a person develops what is called a life style based on a degree of feeling of inferiority in his world. One of the particular dynamics of inferiority is that it affects one's physical, social and psychological development. The author generated the idea that certain character traits are manifested by this
inferior structured life style, these traits are timidity, shyness, indecision, increased need for support, submissive obedience, and general dependency on others. Adler's concepts correspond to what Powers (1974) defined as specific female role traits. These traits are gentleness, greater emotionality, and strong need for security and quiet. Hence, the female subjects in the study may be expected to remain within their social role, and it was this one problem more than any other in the present study which typified the structure of remarriage.

It would seem that the results in the present study support the findings of previous research, this being that persons carry into adult relationships basic mistakes or beliefs which are likely to produce problematic situations.

Components of Marital Satisfaction

This section will look at the existing studies of what constitutes satisfying marriages and relate these to the results from the present study.

Bernard (1956) mentioned that persons remarry for specific reasons which are love, support, pressure, status, neurotic compulsions, and reasons associated with role such as need for companionship and a desire for stability. When these issues were addressed to the subjects in the present study, the researcher noted some unique similarities and differences. All subjects stated they loved the partner in
their current remarriage. As well, the male subjects mentioned that they enjoyed the support from their wives. Very few subjects gave in to the pressures of family, friend, or Church. They cited that these people knew very little about what remarriage actually was. The existence of neurotic compulsions was already mentioned in the former section (Adler, 1927; Eisenstein, 1956; Powers, 1974).

Duberman (1926) focused primarily upon the problems responsible for non-satisfying remarriages. Problems such as child-rearing, money, sexual relations, religion, political differences, and recreation were said to affect the degree of satisfaction within a remarriage. Though these problems existed to various degrees in the present study, other studies were more refined and specific in presenting factors which had direct impact on the level of marital satisfaction a couple could experience.

Studies produced by Locke and Klausner (1957) and Monahan (1952) indicated that there was no difference in the degree of marital adjustment of divorced persons in subsequent marriages and persons married only once. The majority of the subjects in the present study perceived the current marriage as average or above average in satisfaction. Nineteen male subjects mentioned that their current marriage was as expected or better than expected. Eight female subjects cited that their present marriage was more satisfying than other couples they knew personally.
Westoff (1975) mentioned the rewards of a remarriage as being happiness, super sex, openness without end, realistic expectations, greater tolerance, opportunity for women's liberation, a sharing of interests, a sense of humour and a greater motivation to succeed. These coincided with a study by Schlesinger (1976) and confirmed the suggestion that a remarried person has learned something from the experience of the marriage breakdown and divorce, and could channel this information into a maturing episode rather than a destructive one.

The present study found that with respect to the remarried female subjects, seven persons mentioned they were much more satisfied in their current relationship. However, the majority of female subjects also wished they had more time alone between their previous marriage and their current marriage. This may indicate a need of support and companionship as well as the learned role of dependency and insecurity or inferiority.

Another Canadian study (Schlesinger, 1977) stated the importance of willingness and determination based on a commitment to meet each other's needs which makes for success in remarriages. The present study indicated that 11 subjects scored below average in the category of commitment to growth, nine of whom were male. Schlesinger (1977) also stated that a satisfying relationship needs to be learned because it is not innate. It is learned through trial and error.
Hence, it may be that the female subjects have indicated higher scores in the category commitment to growth due to their marital experience in the past. They can foresee and avoid the pitfalls whereas the previously single male, who also has the awesome task of instant fatherhood, may feel the intensity of what it takes to sustain a remarriage without the experience of a past marriage. Thirdly, using the notion of role theory, males are taught to be independent and consequently may not have experienced the awareness or impact of the importance of commitment in remarriage.

**Predicting Marital Satisfaction**

The researcher has chosen a number of theorists from the literature review in Chapter II to substantiate the importance of prediction in terms of a relationship. The researcher has used the term prediction in a psycho-analytical sense.

Bernard (1956) stressed that in a prediction instrument for marital adjustment, the person's early infancy is of vital importance.

Freud (1901) emphasized the psycho-sexual development of children and how problematic situations in adult relationships may have been unconsciously produced due to an element of importance in one's childhood.

Adler (1927) mentioned the term life-style which postulated that adult life events have, as their origin, the
early childhood relationships within the immediate family and close surroundings. Berne (1964) stated that in early childhood, a person makes vital decisions which affect him or her for the rest of his or her life. Consequently, the roots of any adult problem can be found in the early childhood as well. Steiner (1974) called this life-script.

The present study has indicated that common problems which existed in previous marriages tended to reoccur in the current marriage. Applying the psycho-analytic theories above, the subjects in the study would ultimately tend to reproduce early childhood mistakes in the current marriage. However, the majority of the subjects stated that they were satisfied in their second and third marriages. The researcher does not view this as contradictory, rather, the remarried couples may well be satisfied and continue to produce problematic situations. Spanier (1976) viewed remarriage as a process, and in this way the full reproduction of one's unconscious errors may not take place until well into the relationship. Schlesinger (1977), who did not agree with the psycho-analytic model, stated that a remarriage has an element of spousal determination which other first-time marriages do not have.

Perhaps the most conclusive findings come from the interesting connections between this study and the two studies performed by Snyder in 1979. Since both researchers used the similar type questionnaire, there were definite inter-relationships between his findings and my own. For instance,
one result of his rank-ordering of correlations indicated that "measures of a couple's affective and problem-solving communication are consistently the best single predictors of overall marital satisfaction." (p.817) In this study, slightly more than half the sample, 17 people, indicated average or above average scores in communication.

Another correlation between the two studies was that sexual satisfaction was ranked very high. In fact, sexual satisfaction and communication continue to predict global marital happiness at a significant high level. One slight difference between the two studies was that Snyder found more men than women expressing greater discontent in the area of sexual satisfaction while this study indicated the reverse.

From the discussion between specific past studies as outlined and described in the literature and this research project, the following conclusions, hypotheses, recommendations and limitations of the study are presented.

Conclusions

The major conclusions from the present study are as follows:

1) Women in the sample were as satisfied, if not more satisfied, in their current marriage as they were in their previous marriage.

2) The majority of both men and women in the study indicated that the current marriage was satisfying.
3) Some women in the study indicated recurring problematic situations, particularly in the areas of communication and finances, similar to the problems experienced in the former relationship.

4) Marital satisfaction was redefined to indicate that it is a process which includes the existence of problematic areas, not the absence of them. The determination based on a mature commitment to meet each other's needs would primarily predict marital satisfaction.

5) Conflicts within specific areas of the marital relationship may all evolve from the absence of intimacy or may themselves function as major obstacles to such intimacy when resolution of such problematic situations occur. On the other hand, such areas in the study as communication, sexual satisfaction and finances may all directly affect marital satisfaction but do not necessarily influence or determine satisfaction within the other areas of the relationship.

Apart from these specific conclusions are the following opinionated hypotheses:

1) The more positive and constructive the person is in himself prior to marriage, the better the chances of satisfaction during the marriage.
2) the more women break out of the confining traditional role structures, the greater their chances are in marital enhancement.

3) the more stable one's finances are the greater the potential for marital satisfaction.

4) divorced people who remarry make more mature and rational partners than do first-time married people.

5) the longer a person has to oneself after divorce the greater the quality of relationship in the remarriage.

6) women who remarry place greater value on the term 'commitment' than men.

7) earlier intra-psychic problems surface in the midst of later adult relationships.

Limitations of the Study

The limitations of the population-descriptive study was the inability to test hypotheses through the use of an experimental design. As well, the scope of the study was restricted to the self-administered reports gathered from the subjects. The personal, subjective information from the interview schedule also alerted caution to the researcher. Hence the veracity of the answers, both in the questionnaire and the interview schedule could never be certain. Lastly, with such a small sample size, the need for a greater sample is without question.

Recommendations

1) That a greater sample size be used to perform a
more qualitative study.

2) That social workers gain the added knowledge and expertise in the area of remarriage and the blended family so that efficient treatment and research can be carried out.

3) That social workers become familiar with the use of multi-variate analysis to assist them in the various marital and family tests which are administered in order to enhance diagnosis and assessment.
IMPORTANT: Please fill out the questionnaire and mail back to:

Mitch Lesperance
School of Social Work
University of Windsor
Windsor, Ontario

I would really appreciate it if you could mail this back as soon as possible as there is a threat of a mail strike.

Thank you.
QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer the various information below as it pertains to you. Answer all the categories.

1. **Age:**
2. **Sex:**
3. **Marital Status:** a) is this your first marriage? yes or no
   b) is this your second marriage? yes or no
   c) have you been married more than twice? yes or no
   d) other

4. **Education:** a) elementary school (gr. 1-8)
   b) secondary school (gr. 9-13)
   c) community college
   d) trade school
   e) university
   f) other

5. **Religion:** a) Catholic
   b) Protestant
   c) Orthodox
   d) Jewish
   e) No particular religion
   f) other
6. **Family Size:**
   a) Number of natural children
   b) Number of step-children
   c) Adopted children
   d) Other

7. **Occupation:**

8. **Income:**
   a) currently not employed
   b) under $5,999
   c) $6,000 - $7,999
   d) $8,000 - $9,999
   e) $10,000 - $11,999
   f) $12,000 - $13,999
   g) $14,000 - $15,999
   h) $16,000 - $17,999
   i) $18,000 - $19,999
   j) more than $20,000

9. **Number of years married:**
   a) first marriage
   b) second marriage
   c) other
Marital Satisfaction Questionnaire

The following are a number of statements. Read each statement and decide whether it is TRUE as applied to you or FALSE as applied to you. Answer EACH ITEM to the best of your ability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TRUE</th>
<th>FALSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. My spouse is usually sensitive to my moods.</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Our marriage has experienced no difficulty due to financial concerns.</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The husband should be the head of the home.</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. There are a few things which my spouse and I could never talk about.</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. We have a great sex life.</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. I find it easier sometimes to talk to a friend about certain things than to my spouse.</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Our income is quite sufficient to meet our necessary expenses.</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Whenever my spouse and I get angry, we generally remain quiet for long periods of time.</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. I came from a warm, loving family.</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. My spouse and I need help in improving our differences.</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Sometimes my spouse just can't understand the way I feel.</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. A husband should share equally in the responsibilities of feeding and clothing the children.</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. My spouse and I hardly ever discuss sex.</td>
<td>( )</td>
<td>( )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
14. My spouse always checks up on how I spend our money.

15. Anytime we argue, it ends up worse than when we started.

16. My spouse sometimes doesn't become sufficiently aroused for us to have intercourse.

17. Some issues in our marriage definitely need to be resolved.

18. When we argue, I find that my spouse frequently misinterprets the way I feel.

19. My spouse sometimes likes to engage in certain sexual practices to which I object.

20. My spouse has very little difficulty accepting criticism.

21. My spouse and I rarely have major disagreements.

22. It seems that every time my spouse and I argue, we go over and over the same old things.

23. I have no problem trusting my spouse with money.

24. My spouse and I rarely have sexual intercourse.

25. When my spouse and I disagree, my spouse will help us look for alternatives to which both of us agree.

26. I am satisfied in the way my spouse and I spend our free time.

27. A mother of young children should not work unless the money is really needed for the family.

28. My spouse hardly ever understands my point of view on things.
29. My spouse is sometimes modest or old-fashioned in his/her attitude towards sex.

30. Women should obey their husbands without question.

31. I am very satisfied when I have sexual intercourse with my spouse.

32. My spouse keeps many of his/her feelings inside.

33. I am not sure of the future of our marriage.

34. Whenever my spouse and I have differences of opinion, we can usually sit down and talk about them.

35. A woman's place is in the home.

36. I would like to improve the quality of our sexual relationship.

37. I have no difficulty trusting my spouse.

38. Regardless of when I am with my spouse, I still feel lonely.

39. I know my spouse enjoys sex as much as I do.

40. Whenever my spouse and I discuss our finances, an argument occurs.

41. I wish my spouse could spend more time in the things that I like to do.

42. Sometimes I don't feel that much love and affection towards my spouse.

43. I would like to have intercourse more often than I do now.

44. A woman has just as much right to choose a career as her husband.

45. My parents seldom had arguments.
46. I sometimes will not mention certain things to my spouse for fear that he/she will get angry.

47. My spouse just doesn't care about my sexual satisfaction.

48. I wish my spouse had more interests like mine.

49. A major role of a woman is that of a housekeeper.

50. When we argue about little things it often becomes a big argument.

51. If I wasn't married, I just may be happier.

52. My spouse and I are really very compatible.

53. Sometimes my spouse and I won't settle our differences for a number of days.

54. My spouse and I are more satisfied in our overall relationship than most other couples I know.

55. Every time we try and work on a family budget there's bound to be an argument.

56. A husband and wife should share in the overall responsibilities at home if both work outside the home.

57. My spouse and I are committed in working out our problems.

58. I might have been happier if I hadn't married my spouse.

59. The husband is the primary breadwinner.

60. I have always been happy in our relationship.
61. I don't share some things with my spouse because he(she) may get hurt.

62. My marriage is very successful.

63. My spouse and I both decide on how the family income is to be spent.

64. I think my marriage could be happier.

65. My spouse rarely refuses to have intercourse when I ask for it.

66. My marriage is not successful at all.

67. Our sex life is as satisfying as can be expected.

68. A woman's responsibility is to clean laundry, wash dishes and take care of the children.

69. Having children really enhanced the happiness of our marriage.

70. I have a difficult time in talking with the children.

71. My children really don't care what I feel.

72. Sometimes I think my spouse and I should have waited longer before having children.

73. Raising a family is a lot of work.

74. I am an important part in my children's lives.
INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Time Started: ____________________ Time Finished: ____________________

1. (To husband and wife) How do you rate your present marriage according to this scale:
   - Much less satisfied
   - Somewhat less satisfied
   - About the same
   - Somewhat more satisfied
   - Much more satisfied

2. (To husband and wife) Compared with couples you have known, how would you rate the degree of overall satisfaction that you feel with your current marriage? (scale)

3. (To husband and wife) Compared with your expectations of marriage before your present marriage, how is your marriage turning out? (use scale)

4. (To wife) What sort of attributes were you looking for in a husband? (Repeat this question to the husband.)

5. (To wife) What were the major reasons why your previous marriage failed?

6. (To husband and wife) What are the major problems you identify in your present marriage?

7. (To wife) Were you influenced in your decision to remarry?

8. (To wife) Do you wish you would have had more time alone after your divorce?

9. (To husband and wife) What are the most important components of a marriage?

10. (To wife) What are the most difficult topics to discuss with your husband? (Repeat with husband.)

11. (To husband and wife) What are the areas of most frequent disagreement?

12. (To husband) What would your advice be to unmarried persons who were contemplating marriage to a person who was previously married?
13. (To wife) What advice could you give to people who are planning to remarry about the involvement of friends, relations and parents in the planning?

14. (To husband and wife) Have you ever experienced a lowering of self-esteem or status in the community as a result of your remarriage?

15. (To husband) In what way can you help your wife deal with her sense of loss and failure?

16. (To wife) What advice would you give to divorced persons who are planning to remarry?

17. (To husband) How do you deal with the involvement of the natural father?

18. (To husband and wife) Have you ever sought professional help in regard to your present marriage?

19. (To husband and wife) Are there any community agencies you think might help remarried couples in their relationship?
To:

Mitch Lesperance

December 29, 1979

Dear Mitch:

I was indeed happy to learn that the workshop on the "Blended Family" sparked your interest and you are considering doing a thesis on role expectations of the stepparent.

I would be happy to send you my book, but it is still in press and they advise me that the publication date will be in late Spring or early Summer. Apparently, their work begins when mine ends. So although the manuscript is completed the book will not be available for some months.

My bibliography is enclosed, but as you will observe is heavily weighted toward general theory on the family with occasional materials on the remarried or blended family as they are available. I believe that you will find a general orientation to role theory as developed by sociologists and social psychologists is a good place to start to develop some basic understanding of the function of roles and what is meant by such additional concepts as "role strain, role ambiguity, role conflict etc.

Please keep me informed about your work and let me know if I can be of any further assistance to you. I would like very much to see what you develop and wish you good luck and much learning in this project of yours.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Esther Wald
Dear

As a graduate student in the School of Social Work Program at the University of Windsor, I am initiating a research project designed to learn more about remarried couples in the Windsor area.

My goal is to learn about the marital satisfaction of remarried couples and whether any current problems affect this level of satisfaction. I want each of you to know that any information you may share will be strictly confidential.

Attached is a copy of a questionnaire with a self-addressed envelope. After the questionnaires are returned, I will see each couple in a short interview.

I want to thank each one of you in advance for your cooperation in this effort. If you have any questions concerning this research effort, do not hesitate to contact Mitch Lesperance at the School of Social Work, phone number 253-4232, Extension 453. Once the study is completed, I will share with you the results.

Yours truly,

Mitch Lesperance
BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS


ARTICLES


Bohannan, P. J. Stepfathers and the mental health of their children. LaJolla, Calif.: LaJolla Western Behavioural Sciences Institute, 1975.

Bowerman, C. E. and Irish, D. P. Some relationships of stepchildren to their parents. Marriage and Family Living, 1962, 24, 113-121.


Schlesinger, B. and MacRae, A. The widow and widower in remarriage: Selected findings. Omega, 1971, 2, 10-18.


**UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL**


**WORKSHOPS**

Walde, E. The reconstituted family. Sponsored by the University of Chicago.
VITA AUCTORIS

Michael Russell Lesperance was born July 2, 1952 in Windsor, Ontario. In June, 1970, he graduated from Regina Munid College in London, Ontario. In September, 1970, he enrolled at St. Peter's Seminary and The University of Western Ontario. He graduated in May, 1973, with the Bachelor of Arts Degree. He then enrolled at The University of Windsor in the School of Education. He graduated in May, 1974, with the Bachelor of Education Degree. He held a supply teaching position with the Windsor Board of Education from 1974-1975. He then entered the School of Social Work in July, 1975, and graduated in May, 1976, with the Bachelor of Social Work Degree. He has held a position at Windsor Western Hospital Out-Patient Psychiatric Clinic. In September, 1979, he enrolled in the Master of Social Work program at The University of Windsor.

He intends to specialize in the area of marital and family therapy and has a keen interest in starting his own private practice in Southwestern Ontario. As well, he intends to complete a doctoral program in the near future.