

Rowan University

Rowan Digital Works

Theses and Dissertations

5-23-2000

Predictor of gender role attitudes: family composition or subject's gender

Viviann F. Olmedo
Rowan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://rdw.rowan.edu/etd>



Part of the [Educational Psychology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Olmedo, Viviann F., "Predictor of gender role attitudes: family composition or subject's gender" (2000).
Theses and Dissertations. 1722.
<https://rdw.rowan.edu/etd/1722>

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by Rowan Digital Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in Theses and Dissertations by an authorized administrator of Rowan Digital Works. For more information, please contact graduateresearch@rowan.edu.

PREDICTOR OF GENDER ROLE ATTITUDES: FAMILY COMPOSITION
OR SUBJECT'S GENDER

by
Viviann F. Olmedo

A Thesis

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement of the
Master of Arts Degree
of
The Graduate School
at
Rowan University
Spring, 2000

Approved by:

Professor

Date Approved 5/23/00

ABSTRACT

Viviann F. Olmedo

Predictor of Gender Role Attitudes: Family Composition or Subject's Gender

2000

Dr. John Klanderman and Dr. Roberta Dihoff
Master of Arts Degree in School Psychology

The purpose of this study was to investigate what would be the greater predictor of gender role attitudes: family composition (dual vs. single parent households) or the subject's gender on a population consisting of sixty-three college students ranging in age from nineteen through fifty-six.

Subjects were given a packet that contained four questionnaires related to: family composition/general information, parental responsibilities, subject's responsibilities and BEM inventory. All sixty-three subjects completed this survey to the best of their abilities.

The relationship between family composition (dual vs. single parent households), the subject's gender and their gender role attitudes (BEM scores) went unsupported.

MINI ABSTRACT

Viviann F. Olmedo

Predictor of Gender Role Attitudes: Family Composition or Subject's Gender

2000

Dr. John Klanderman and Dr. Roberta Dihoff
Master of Arts Degree in School Psychology

The purpose of this study was to investigate what would be the greater predictor of gender role attitudes: family composition (dual vs. single parent households) or the subject's gender. The relationship between family composition (dual vs. single parent households), the subject's gender and their gender role attitudes (BEM scores) went unsupported.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Dr. Christofer Bursk from Bucks County Community College for making available his interest and his students for my study.

Thanks to Vicky for her late nights in the computer lab.

I would especially like to extend my appreciation to Dr. John Klanderman and Dr. Roberta Dihoff for their continued supervision and patience throughout this process. Without these things I would have never made the deadline.

Finally, I would like to thank my family for all their love and support.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE	1
THE PROBLEM	1
NEED	1
PURPOSE	1
HYPOTHESIS	2
THEORY	2
DEFINITION OF TERMS	4
ASSUMPTION	5
LIMITATION	5
OVERVIEW	5
CHAPTER TWO	6
REVIEW OF LITERATURE	6
INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN	7
PARENTAL DIVISION OF LABOR	8
FAMILY CONFLICT	10
TRANSMISSION OF ATTITUDES	11
SUMMARY	12
CHAPTER THREE	15
DESIGN OF THE STUDY	15

SAMPLE-----	15
MEASURES-----	15
DESIGN-----	16
TESTABLE HYPOTHESIS-----	17
ANALYSIS-----	17
SUMMARY-----	18
CHAPTER FOUR-----	19
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS-----	19
TABLE 4.1-----	20
TABLE 4.2-----	21
CHAPTER FIVE-----	22
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS-----	22
SUMMARY-----	22
CONCLUSION-----	22
IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH-----	23
REFERENCES-----	24
APPENDIX A- Consent Form-----	26
APPENDIX B- Feedback Sheet-----	28

List of Tables

TABLE 4.1	-----	20
TABLE 4.2	-----	21

CHAPTER ONE

THE PROBLEM

NEED

In a world full of structures, systems and roles, people rely heavily on these to define themselves in society. The essence of exploring “who we are” and “what we do” helps us form an identity. This identity then becomes the building block by which we establish opinions, beliefs, values, and self- expectations. This ability to distinguish us from others is invaluable and a process that takes many of us years to accomplish.

Over the last 50 years these “structures, systems and roles” have changed tremendously and have dislocated many older generations. Yet some have immersed from the black hole of ancient ideas and have adapted to a new way of life and thinking. Or have they? Just because we say we are more opened than past generations to working women, lesbianism, homosexuals, single mothers, diversity, step children and extended families does this really mean that we are honestly, as a society, excepting these things as the “norm”. Are we just a society overrun with political correctness or deep rooted revolutionary acceptance? This study will explore how people’s attitudes, specifically gender role attitudes, match up to their actions and the actions of others in their household, in order to observe if actions do speak louder than words.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to investigate what would be the greater predictor of gender role attitudes: family composition or the subject’s gender? This study will exam

what influences gender role attitudes. The two variables that will be looked at are: family composition, whether a subject comes from a dual parent household or a single parent households, and the subject's gender. What will be more important when it comes to forming gender role opinions, actions or words? Four questionnaires will be distributed: one will deal with family composition, the subject's gender and general background information such as age, marital status etc., a second will deal with traditionally assigned responsibilities (subjects' household chores), the third will deal with family organization (parental tasks), and a fourth questionnaire will be the BEM Inventory, which will be used to measure gender role attitudes of the subjects.

HYPOTHESIS

1-Those participants who come from single parent households, regardless of their gender, will have neutral scores on the BEM Inventory in comparison to those participants who come from dual parent households.

2- Females who come from two parent households will score higher in female characteristics on the BEM Inventory than in male characteristics.

3- Males who come from two parent households will score higher in male characteristics on the BEM Inventory than in female characteristics.

THEORY

During World War II the whole structure of social relationships as well as the economy changed. Men were drafted into the army and women into the labor force. Women were desperately needed because the boys were no longer there to provide for the families. Federal financing of day care centers were provided for. The new women workers were given skills that previously, they were not thought capable of. Women

instantly assumed positions of authority and responsibility unavailable to them till now. But what happened when the war ended? The returning soldiers were given the G.I. Bill and other veterans' benefits and women saw their childcare centers dismantled and their training programs ceased.

The first sign of new political life for women was established in 1961 when The Commission on the status of Women by President Kennedy was held and thoroughly documented women's second-class status. In 1967-1968 women were once again given a voice by reopening the feminist movement. Many came directly from civil rights organizations where they had been shunted into traditional roles and face with the self-evident contradiction of working in a "freedom movement" but not being very free.

Since the 1960's the increase of women's participation in the labor force and political arena has had both positive and negative consequences. Yet, this phenomenon of women entering the work force is no longer a fading fade but a reality and norm. Women find themselves putting a price tag on household hours and seeing unemployed hours as unprofitable for the family. Also, the rising educational levels for women have increased their motivation to obtain better employment and independence. Work has become a morale booster and also provides psychological support in stressful periods, such as during marital difficulties.

With the increase of women's employment there has been a modest increase in the participation of fathers in household tasks and childcare. This last statement suggests a shift in the "traditional roles" held by both mother and father. Because mother is no longer as available as she used to be, more and more, father finds himself working in the home with the kids. In turn, these children (the new generation) are being exposed

to diminishing ideas of men going to work and women staying home. This acceleration of the involvement of mothers in the paid labor force is probably related to the continuing trend toward more egalitarian sex role attitudes for the same period. Non-traditional families have increased substantially since the nineteen sixty's and will continue to rise. Colleges are filled with women education themselves in order to earn a better living and achieve financial independence. We find attitudes changing, but does this necessarily mean that the actions are changing? There seems to be a growing trend toward more egalitarian sex gender roles but are they being reinforce by actions? This study will take a closer look at these questions.

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Gender role attitudes- personal attitudes toward the societal place of man and women.

BEM Inventory- a scale used in measuring gender role attitudes in individuals through personality characteristics.

Family composition- who the subject lives with at home.

Family organization- chores that mothers and fathers do within the household.

Assigned responsibilities- household chores assigned to the participant of the study.

Non-traditional family- households where there does not exists the two parent, two children nucleus.

Egalitarian sex role- both males and females are seen to have equal role responsibility.

Dual-career Families- Families where both mother and father have a work related careers that are of equal importance.

ASSUMPTIONS

It is assumed that all participants will understand all the directions of the study and fill out the different questionnaire to the best of their ability. It is also assumed that all participants will partake in this study of their own free will.

LIMITATIONS

The study will have its limitations. The sample size will not be representative of all age groups or randomly selected, since it will be drawn from a convenient sample of Bucks County Community College undergraduate students who will receive credit for their participation. Also, the study will not be able to guarantee an equally representation of single parent households and dual parent households.

OVERVIEW

In chapter two there will be a review of the literature in relation to the topic. In chapter three there will be an explanation of the design of the study. In chapter four there will be an analysis of the results. In chapter five there will be the summary and conclusion.

CHAPTER TWO REVIEW OF LITERATURE

When it comes to gender-related attitudes, the family is one of the initial socializing agents influencing the attitudes of children from birth (Lindsey, 1994). Within the last thirty years the topics of gender role attitudes and family structure has seen as significant change. Since the 1970's, the gender role attitudes of both men and women have become less traditional (Helmreich, Spence, & Gibson, 1982) and according to Popenoe, (1993) 57% of women were in the labor force in 1990, up 38% since the 1960's. The traditional nuclear family of the 1950's was simply. This family form was based on a specific division of labor. The men went to work and were the head of the household making them the ones with the power and control over the decision making process. The women stayed at home, provided the majority of the childcare and assumed the job of the homemaker. As families have found themselves dealing with such issues as women entered the labor force, divorce and single family households the notion of egalitarian gender roles has become entrenched in our culture and serves as an ideal that many people want to follow. Survey show that people in the 1980's were more likely than in the 1960's to agree that it is appropriate for wives to have their own careers, that employed women can be good mothers, that husbands of employed wives should do more housework and childcare, and that wives should have equal say in making important family decision (Thornton, 1989). Currently, most wives share the breadwinning role with their husbands, with about

two-thirds of married women with children being in the paid labor force (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1992, Table 621). With the increase of women's employment there has been a modest increase in the population of fathers in household tasks and childcare (Hoffman, 1986). This last statement suggests a shift in the "traditional roles" held by both mothers and fathers. Because of this shift, the research suggests that family-of-origin non-traditionalism is significantly associated with offspring holding non-traditional gender role attitudes (Booth & Amato, 1994). Because mom is no longer as available as she used to be, more and more, dad finds himself working in the house with the kids. In turn, the children grow up to see this as normal, diminishing the ideas of men going to work and women staying home. As Thorton (1989) suggests, this acceleration of the involvement of mothers in the paid work force is probably related to the continuing trend toward more egalitarian sex role attitudes for the same period. But does this really change the children behavior and attitudes?

In a study done by Hoffman (1977), professional women were asked about difference in their general goals for sons and daughters. Most women who answered indicated that they would hold the same goals for both sexes. Yet, despite their non-traditional view of gender roles, the mothers had higher academic and occupational goals in mind for their sons than their daughters. During this Chapter the increase in employment of women, parental division of labor, family conflict and transmission of attitudes will be closely looked at.

INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN

As mentioned before, there has been an increase in women's participation in the work force since the 1960's. Current economic restraints, higher rates of divorce and the need to be better educated seem to be predominant influences in this decision (Hoffman, 1977; Popenoe,

1993). The participation of women in the labor force is also associated with changes from traditional to less traditional gender role attitudes (Gerson, 1985). In a study done by Janssens and Jan MAM they looked at the gender role attitudes of girls. These attitudes included their ideas on motherhood as well as their ideas on female roles in general. They examined whether the relations between mothers' employment status and their level of education and daughters' gender role attitude were mediated by mothers' own gender role attitudes and child-rearing style. The data demonstrated the importance of mothers in the development of their daughters' gender role attitudes. Having a working or non-working mother seems to affect the daughter's gender role attitudes. The more a mother works, the less she tends to employ a conformist child rearing style that results in more nontraditional attitudes of her daughter. Also consistent with the importance of mothers' in the development of their children's gender role attitudes is a study conducted by McLanahan and Booth (1989). The authors demonstrated that children from mother-only families value nontraditional gender roles as a direct result of being reared in a family structure that demonstrates the economic independence of women. In addition, McLanahan and Booth concluded that children reared in single-mother families value nontraditional gender role attitudes more than children from any other family structures. The increase of women's employment and the higher levels of education is no longer a fading fade, but a way of life here to stay.

PARENTAL DIVISION OF LABOR

As mentioned earlier, fathers are taking a more active role in household tasks and childcare (Hoffman, 1986). The employment of the mother calls for some changes within the family organization. Fathers find themselves responding to their wives jobs in a way that

increases this type of participation. As seen by Hoffman (1989), the increased participation of fathers in childcare and household tasks that often result from wives' employment seems to have a positive effect on children, lessen the mother's stress, and increases the father's self-esteem. Father involvement and nurturance has been shown to be positively associated with children's intellectual development; this is particularly true when fathers are interested in children's academic outcomes, assist with homework, and have high educational expectations for their children. Father involvement and nurturance are also positively associated with children's social competence, internal locus of control, and empathic ability (Rollins and Thomas, 1979).

Yet, it has also been seen that the number of hours that the wife works per week is the strongest single predictor of fathers' participation (Barnett & Baruch, 1987). This suggests that fathers' participation is less voluntary and more a necessary "evil" in order to provide adequate childcare and proper family functioning. The mothers' attitude toward the male role was also a major predictor of fathers' participation. When her attitude was liberal, he participated more than when her attitudes were traditional (Barnett & Baruch, 1987). Some perspectives also suggest that paternal nurturance and androgyny may be problematic for sons. The "male sex role paradigm" (Kalter, 1987) holds that the adjustment of young boys requires that they identify with their fathers and with the male role more generally. If this identification is problematic, sex role insecurity can result. A central assumption of this perspective is that it is easier for boys to develop an adequate male identity when the roles of mothers and fathers are clear and distinct. According to this view, in an egalitarian family, children may experience gender role confusion, with negative consequences for their personality development (Pleck, 1981)

This suggests that male roles are slowly moving toward a more egalitarian point of view when it comes to the role of the 1990's women. What is unsure is whether this egalitarian point of view will have a price.

FAMILY CONFLICT

Parsons and Bales (1955) argued that the traditional division of labor increased family solidarity for two reasons. First, husbands' and wives' roles were clearly defined; so little conflict rose over their expectations for each other. Second, specialization meant that men and women were interdependent, since each contributed what the other lacked. Given this stability of this traditional model, it seems likely that change in gender role expectations have increased the levels of conflicts in many marriages. Women hold more egalitarian attitudes than men do toward marriage and family life. Women with nontraditional attitudes may demand more decision-making power and more assistance from husbands with housework and childcare. It is likely then, that as many couples move toward more balanced arrangements, they do so in a stressed environment. Barnett and Baruch (1987) found that strains are placed on the marital relationship when women demand more help from their husbands. More generally, studies of gender attitudes show that nontraditional wives are less happy with their marriages than traditional ones are (Lueptow, Guss & Hyden, 1989). It is also probable that women's employment increases the risk of divorce. Time series analysis has shown that employment among married women is a significant predictor of the divorce rate (South, 1985). The usual explanation is that employment provides women with economic independence, thus giving them the freedom to leave the

relationship if they are unsatisfied. In addition, people in nontraditional families may hold attitudes that are more favorable to divorce, thus increasing their openness to this idea when marital conflict arises.

These notions suggest that nontraditional marriages experience more conflict and are more likely to end in divorce than traditional marriages.

TRANSMISSION OF ATTITUDES

So now exists a mother who is employed full time outside the home and a father who is starting to lend a hand with the housework and the children. What is expected to happen to the children's view of traditional gender roles?

According to Booth and Amato (1994), family-of-origin non-traditionalism is significantly associated with children holding nontraditional gender role attitudes. Children are finding it normal to have a mother who is an equal breadwinner and a father who washes dishes. Parental attitudes and lifestyles have also shown to affect their children's behavior. Axinn and Thornton (1993) demonstrated that maternal attitudes toward cohabitation predicted whether their daughters cohabitated. It is also well known that parental divorce increases the likelihood that children will divorce (Glenn & Kramer, 1987). According to this findings it seems possible that those raised in nontraditional families will be more likely to cohabitate, divorce or live in dual-earning marriages.

Other consequences of this type of non-traditional family organization is that it especially seems to benefit female child because they obtain more desire to work outside the home, learning to combine family and work roles (Stephan & Corder, 1985). Working mothers also fulfill a role of future model for their daughters, who in turn, choose their mother as the person they most admire. Daughters also seem to score higher on social

adjustment, school performance and professional accomplishments (Hoffman, 1989).

The advantages for the son in these areas are ambiguous.

What is seen in males from dual-career families is that they are more likely those males from traditional families to expect to have their future wives balancing both roles (professional and mother) (Stephan & Corder, 1985). Yet, research indicated that although boys and girls are both encouraged doing well in school, some important sex differences in achievement pressure might exist. Sons are expected to be twice as hardworking and ambitious as daughters. Other traits more often desired in sons included intelligence, honesty, responsibility, and independence, self-reliant, aggressiveness and strong willed (Hoffman, 1977). As suggested by these findings children learn through modeling, direct teaching and parental expectations.

SUMMARY

The 1990's have been the decade of the women. No longer are women looked at only to breed and clean the house, but to serve as lawyers, doctors and CEO's. Along with this type of revolution there are men who are now facing the necessity of helping out within the household, not only as breadwinners, but also as responsible fathers and homemakers. Of course, with this new way of family organization exists a new generation of children who are exposed to different experiences of gender roles attitudes than their past generations. Young women are learning that it is possible to be good mothers and have a career at the same time, and young men are learning to wash dishes and cook dinner, or so it seems. The evidence does suggest that attitudes are changing about equality of gender roles. The norm is no longer a sole male bread-earner and his

happily married housewife. Non-traditional families have increased substantially since the 1960's and continue to be on the rise.

Colleges are filled with women educating themselves in order to obtain a better standard of living and financial independence. At the same time males are accepting and expecting their future wives or partners to have careers and to assist in household chores.

Yet, there does exist evidence that people still deep down inside label male and female gender roles in traditional ways. The findings suggest that these feelings can be tap into in an indirect way. So even though attitudes are changing there are some behaviors that point otherwise.

The research suggest that even though children are being raised in different family composition (dual vs. single parent households) there are still very significant differences between the way male children acquire gender role attitude and the way female children acquire gender role attitudes. Males in father-headed single-parent families have similar gender attitudes to those in mother-headed single-parent families and mother and father families. On the other hand, males who have a working mother have substantially more egalitarian attitudes. For females who come from father-headed single parent families they have more traditional gender attitudes than those from mother-headed single-parent families. However, the presence of a working mother produces significantly more egalitarian attitudes for females regardless of the family structure. (Wright & Young, 1998).

The role of women has always been seen as second place to males. It has taken many, many years for women to reach the positions they have today. The positive aspect of this change is that the males are also changing their attitudes toward the competence of

women in the work force, and home environment. Whether they are forced to help out with the kids and household tasks, or they just want to, they are doing it. This is the most important step, because hopefully the next generation will slowly start to change not only behavior, but also the ever more difficult, attitudes.

CHAPTER THREE DESIGN OF THE STUDY

SAMPLE

Thirty males and thirty-three females from Bucks County Community College served as the subjects for this study. Bucks County Community College is commuting college located in Newtown, Bucks County Pennsylvania. This sample ranged in age from nineteen to fifty six, with the average age ranging at twenty-three. These students varied in majors and interests. Forty-one subjects came from dual parent households, nineteen subjects came from single parent households and three subjects came from other types of households not specified.

MEASURES

This study investigated what would be the greater predictor of gender role attitudes: family composition (dual parent households vs. single parent households) or the subjects' gender (sex). Four types of questionnaires were used. The first will consist of eight questions that dealt with daily family chores that fathers and mothers do. Four were considered traditional female chores and four were considered traditional male chores. For each chore, subjects indicated whether mother, father or both parents performed the task. This questionnaire provides information regarding daily chores handled by parents. Interrater reliability was used to test each question on this survey. Three adults were asked to look over the questionnaire and give comments and suggestions in order to better improve this instrument. The second questionnaire consisted of ten

questions dealing with traditional responsibilities assigned to the children in the household. Five were considered traditional female chores and five will consider traditionally male chores. The subjects' indicated how often they perform each task: never, some of the time, or often. This questionnaire provided information regarding daily chores handled by each subject. Once again, interater reliability was used to test each question. The third will be the BEM Inventory, which consisted of a total of sixty items of which twenty are female personality traits, twenty are male personality traits and twenty are androgynous personality traits. They rated themselves using a Likert scale. The fourth questionnaire dealt with personal and family information such as age, sex, parental marital status, and with whom participants live with, etc.

DESIGN

Subjects were given a consent form to sign and a short explanation of the study they are about to engage. Afterwards they were given the packet that contained the four questionnaires. The order of the presentation was counter balanced to minimize the effect of administration order. They were given no specific time frame to fill out the packet. It was also be mention to them that they need not put their names on any of the questionnaires in order to ensure anonymity. They were given a debriefing statement with more detailed information on the study and how to get in touch with the experimenter for the results. Data was analyzed to see if there were any differences between family composition (dual vs. single parent households), the subject's gender and its effect on their gender role attitude. This was a predictive study.

TESTABLE HYPOTHESIS

Null Hypothesis

- 1- There will be no difference in participants' BEM Inventory scores, regardless of the composition of their households.
- 2- There will be no difference in female who come from dual parent household and their female and male BEM Inventory scores.
- 3- There will be no difference in males who come from dual parent household and their male and female BEM Inventory scores.

Alternative Hypothesis

- 1- Those participants who come from single parent households, regardless of their gender, will have neutral scores on the BEM Inventory in comparison to those participants who come from duo parent household.
- 2- Females who come from two-parent household will score higher in female characteristics on the BEM Inventory than in male characteristics.
- 3- Males who come from two parent households will score higher in male characteristics on the BEM Inventory than in female characteristics.

ANALYSIS

A two-way between groups ANOVA was used to compare and analyze the collected data. This tested the three null hypotheses corresponding to (1) the main effect of who they lived with (household composition), (2) the main effect of gender (sex), (3) and the interaction of who they lived with by gender. This was a between subjects study that used interval and ratio scales of measurement.

SUMMARY

The gender of the subject (sex) and whom they live with (family composition) was being compared in order to see which was the greater predictor of gender role attitudes. BEM scores were also examined. Sixty-three Bucks County Community College students served as subject for this study. A two way between subject ANOVA was used to analyzed the data in this predictive study.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

The purpose of this study was to investigate what would be the greater predictor of gender role attitudes: family composition (dual vs. single parent households) or subject gender (sex) on a population consisting of sixty-three college students ranging in age from nineteen through fifty-six.

A two way between subjects ANOVA analysis found no significance between (1) Subjects from single parent households and their BEM scores. These scores can be found on Table 4.1.

(2) There was no significance in females who came from two parent households and their BEM scores.

(3) There was no significance in males who came from two parent households and their BEM scores. Both of these results can be found on Table 4.2. The values were not within the critical range at 0.01 or 0.05 level of significance, therefore the null hypothesis was supported by this data regarding gender role attitudes.

Table 4.1

Multiple Comparisons

Dependent Variable		(I) LIVEWITH	(J) LIVEWITH	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.
BEMFEMAL	Scheffe	MOTHER	FATHER	1.6750	2.5052	.930
			BOTH	1.8402	1.3434	.602
			OTHER	1.2000	2.8156	.980
		FATHER	MOTHER	-1.6750	2.5052	.930
			BOTH	.1652	2.3320	1.000
			OTHER	-.4750	3.4002	.999
		BOTH	MOTHER	-1.8402	1.3434	.602
			FATHER	-.1652	2.3320	1.000
			OTHER	-.6402	2.6627	.996
		OTHER	MOTHER	-1.2000	2.8156	.980
			FATHER	.4750	3.4002	.999
			BOTH	.6402	2.6627	.996
BEMMALE	Scheffe	MOTHER	FATHER	.8675	.3858	.180
			BOTH	.2263	.2069	.754
			OTHER	-.4867	.4336	.739
		FATHER	MOTHER	-.8675	.3858	.180
			BOTH	-.6412	.3591	.372
			OTHER	-1.3542	.5236	.095
		BOTH	MOTHER	-.2263	.2069	.754
			FATHER	.6412	.3591	.372
			OTHER	-.7130	.4100	.396
		OTHER	MOTHER	.4867	.4336	.739
			FATHER	1.3542	.5236	.095
			BOTH	.7130	.4100	.396

Based on observed means.

Table 4.2

Tests of Between-Subjects Effects

Source	Dependent Variable	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	BEMFEMAL	68.393 ^a	6	11.399	.575	.748
	BEMMALE	4.840 ^b	6	.807	1.717	.134
Intercept	BEMFEMAL	654.797	1	654.797	33.038	.000
	BEMMALE	546.564	1	546.564	1163.022	.000
LIVewith	BEMFEMAL	19.248	3	6.416	.324	.808
	BEMMALE	2.778	3	.926	1.971	.129
SEX	BEMFEMAL	1.056	1	1.056	.053	.818
	BEMMALE	.250	1	.250	.533	.468
LIVewith * SEX	BEMFEMAL	29.612	2	14.806	.747	.478
	BEMMALE	.197	2	9.849E-02	.210	.812
Error	BEMFEMAL	1109.879	56	19.819		
	BEMMALE	26.317	56	.470		
Total	BEMFEMAL	3076.330	63			
	BEMMALE	1606.658	63			
Corrected Total	BEMFEMAL	1178.272	62			
	BEMMALE	31.157	62			

a. R Squared = .058 (Adjusted R Squared = -.043)

b. R Squared = .155 (Adjusted R Squared = .065)

CHAPTER FIVE SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to investigate what would be the greater predictor of gender role attitudes: family composition (dual vs. single parent households) or the subject's gender (sex) on a population consisting of sixty-three college students ranging in age from nineteen through fifty-six. Subjects were given a packet that contained four questionnaires related to: family composition/general information, parental responsibilities, subject's responsibilities, and BEM Inventory. All sixty-three students complete this survey to the best of their abilities.

The relationship between family composition (dual vs. single parent households), the subject's gender (sex) and their gender role attitudes (BEM scores) went unsupported.

CONCLUSION

The results indicated that there is no significance on what factor is the greater predictor of gender role attitudes: family composition (dual vs. single parent households) or subject's gender (sex). The lack of relationship between these two may have been due to the disproportioned number of subjects coming from single parent households, nineteen and dual parent households, forty-one. Three households were placed in the other category.

IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

More research needs to be done in order to examine the difference that may emerge between dual parent households and single parent households. For future research, the researcher suggests using a larger sample of subjects. It is also recommended that one should use subjects from a variety of source in order to have a more representative sample.

REFERENCE

- Axinn, W.G., & Thornton, A. (1993). Mothers, children, and cohabitation: The intergenerational effects of attitudes and behavior. American Sociological Review, 58, 233-246.
- Barnett, R.C., & Baruch, G.K. (1987). Determinants of Fathers' Participation in Family Work. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 49, 29-40.
- Booth, A., & Amato, P.R. (1994). Parental Gender Role Non traditionalism and Offspring Outcomes. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 56, 865-877.
- Ex, Carine TGM, Janssens, & Jan M A M. (1998). Maternal Influences on daughters' gender role attitudes. Sex Roles: A Journal of Research, 38, 171-186.
- Gerson, K. (1985). Hard Choices: How women decide about work, career and Motherhood.
- Glenn, N., & Kramer, K.B. (1987). The marriage and divorces of the children of divorce. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 49, 811-825.
- Harris, Firestone, R.J. & Juanita M. (1998). Changes in predictors of gender role ideologies among women: A multivariate analysis. Sex Roles. A Journal of Research, 38, 239-252.
- Helmreich, R.L., Spence, J.T. & Gibson, R.H. (1982). Sex Role Attitudes 1972-1980. Personality and Social Psychology, 37, 1631-1644.
- Hoffman, L.W., (1989). Effects of Maternal Employment in the Two-Parent Family. American Psychologist, 44, 283-292.
- Hoffman, L.W., (1977). Changes in Family Roles, Socialization and Sex Differences. American Psychologist, 32, 644-657.
- Hoffman, L.W., (1986). Work, Family, and the Child. In M.S. Pollak & R.O. Perloff (Eds.), Psychology and work. Productivity, change, and employment (pg 173-220). Washington DC: American Psychological Association.
- Kalter, N. (1987). Long-term effects of divorce on children: A developmental vulnerability model. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 57, 587-600.

Katzev, A.R., Warner, R.L. & Acock, A.C. (1994). Girls or Boys? Relationship of Child Gender to Marital Instability. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 56, 89-100.

Lueptow, L., Guss, M., & Hyden, C. (1989). Sex role ideology, marital status, and happiness. Journal of Family Issues, 10, 383-400.

McCreary, Newcomb, D. R., Sadava, D., & Stanley, W. (1998). Dimensions of the male gender role: A confirmatory analysis in men and women. Sex Roles: A Journal of Research, 39, 81-95.

Parsons, T., & Bales, R. (1955). Family socialization and interaction process. New York: Free Press.

Pleck, J.H. (1981). The myth of masculinity. Cambridge, MA : MIT Press.

Popenoe, D., (1993). American Family Decline, 1960-1990: A Review and Appraisal. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 55, 527-555.

Rollins, B.C., & Thomas, D.L. (1979). Parental support, power and control techniques in the socialization of children. In W.R. Burr, R. Hill, F.I. Nye, & I.L. Reiss (Eds.), Contemporary theories about the family (pp. 317-364. Glencoe, NJ: Free Press.

Snyder, Velasques, D.K., Clark, J. M., Means-Christensen, B., L., Adrienne, J. (1997). Parental Influences on gender and marital role attitudes : Implications for intervention. Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, 23, 191-201.

South, S., J. (1985). Economic conditions and the divorce rate. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 47, 31-41.

Stephan, C.W., & Corder, J. (1985). The Effects of Dual-career Families on Adolescent's Sex-role Attitude, Work and Family Plans, and Choices of Important Others. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 47, 921-930.

Stewart, A.J., & Salt, P. (1981). Life Stress, Life Styles, Depression, and Illness in Adult Women. Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 40, 1063-1069.

Thorton, A. (1989). Changing attitudes towards family issues in the United States. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 51, 873-894.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. (1992). Statistical abstract of the United States. 1992 (112 edition).

Wright, & Young, David, W. (1998). The effects of family structure and maternal employment on the development of gender-related attitudes among men and women. Journal of Family Issues, 19, 300-314.

APPENDIX A
CONSENT FORM

CONSENT FORM: GENDER ROLE ATTITUDES

This is a **COMPLETELY ANONYMOUS** survey about gender role attitudes. A graduate student in the Master's School Psychology Program at Rowan University is conducting this experiment. This course is devoted to learning about research methods and development.

Since some of the material is personal, let me emphasize that this is completely anonymous and you cannot be identified in any way. ***You are not to put your name on any forms.*** To further ensure anonymity you are to fill out your questionnaire in such a manner that the experimenter cannot see your responses. The student researcher has signed a code of ethics indicating that she will not examine the individual response forms that are gathered. The response forms will be gathered all together and submitted to the testing center on campus for transfer to a summary data set.

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete a short survey. You will be asked about your attitudes concerning gender roles. **YOU MAY REFRAIN FROM ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS.** As part of the class activity, this information will be coded into the computer using SPSS software and then analyzed.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the following individual:

Viviann Olmedo, Student Researcher 215-788-4452

CODE OF ETHICS

I, Viviann Olmedo, agree to follow the ethical guidelines of the American Psychology Association. I will not examine any of the collected questionnaires.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

YOUR SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

APPENDIX B
FEEDBACK SHEET

FEEDBACK FORM

Gender role attitudes are personal attitudes toward the societal place of man and women.

Difference in gender role attitudes have been found with regard to age, gender, parental influences, and self-concept.

The main objective of this study is to examine gender role attitudes in regards to your family composition (single vs. dual parent households), your gender and your gender role attitude, which will be measured by your BEM score.

For information regarding individual or overall results, please contact me at 215-788-4452, or via email at volmedo@home.com. Thank you for taking part in this study.

Viviann Olmedo
Graduate Student