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ATTITUDES TOWARDS HOUSEHOLD TASK ALLOCATION RELATED
TO TIME SPENT ACCOMPLISHING HOUSEHOLD TASKS

by

Robyn Ann Carling

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree

of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Home Economics and Consumer Education

Approved:

Major Professor

Committee Member

Committee Member

Dean of Graduate Studies

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Logan, Utah

1982

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Robyn Ann Carling

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ABSTRACT

Attitudes Towards Household Task Allocation Related
to Time Spent Accomplishing Household Tasks

by

Robyn Ann Carling, Master of Science

Utah State University, 1982

Major Professor: Jane McCullough

Department: Home Economics and Consumer Education

The purpose of this study was to analyze the relationship between attitudes toward the division of household tasks and the amount of time spent accomplishing them by Utah husbands and wives. The sample was 200 husbands and 203 wives residing in Iron, Washington, and Salt Lake Counties. A questionnaire was used to measure the respondents' attitudes toward the division of household labor and two, 24-hour time diaries were used to record time expenditures. Hypotheses regarding traditional and non-traditional attitudes related to the amount of time spent in traditional female tasks, traditional male tasks and time spent in all household tasks were tested. Analysis of variance and Pearson's Product Moment Correlation were used to analyze the data.

No statistically significant results were found when husbands' and wives' attitudes toward the allocation of household tasks were related to the amount of time spent in traditional female tasks, traditional male tasks, and total housework.

It was concluded that attitudes towards the division of household tasks as measured in this research did not predict or influence the amount of time spent accomplishing household tasks.

(71 pages)

INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

In the United States, household production is a significant portion of the economic activity involving work in which money does not change hands (Nickols & Metzen, 1978). Household production is commonly known as household work, household tasks, or housework. In order for the family to function, certain household tasks must be done. These tasks are an ongoing necessity and are usually accomplished by members of the family.

Despite changes in many aspects of our lives, the need for housework has remained. Changes may have occurred, however, in the amount of housework done, how often it is done, how it is done, or who does it (Boulding, 1972).

Traditionally, housework has been assumed to be women's role or main occupation. No law bans men from this occupation, but the weight of economic, social, and psychological pressures is against their entry into it (Oakley, 1974). According to past practices of society, women are responsible for care of children, meal preparation, shopping, and housecleaning. Men are the main bread winners and perform maintenance tasks around the house.

Scholars in many disciplines are currently interested in and researching questions concerning housework (Berch, 1978). Increased participation of women in the labor force, changes in laws, and

smaller families may all be contributing to this interest. The traditional division of labor is being questioned by many women and men because of changes taking place in society.

At present, most of the available research indicates that women are the main contributors to household work (Sanik, 1979; Walker & Woods, 1976). Some studies, however, show male participation increasing when wives enter the labor force or when there are small children in the family (Bahr, 1975; Bernard, 1972). Conflicting research findings raise questions about the current division of labor in the household such as "Are traditional roles changing?", and "Are more men likely to feel they should make additional contributions to household work than actually do so?".

Very little research is available concerning women and men's attitudes toward the division of household labor. According to Robinson (1977a) relatively few women desired more help with household tasks from their husbands. Oakley (1974) also reported that women felt their place was in the home and caring for the children, however, these data were gathered before the women's movement had made much impact on people's attitudes. Nye (1976) found that a large percentage of men felt they should be helping with household tasks while, very few actually did.

Justification

In today's society more women are in the labor force than ever before. In Utah 50.2 percent of women are employed (Hobbs, 1981). More predictions indicate that the percentage of women in the

labor market will not decrease in the future and will probably increase.

Recent research has focused on the relationship between the time spent in the labor market by wives and time spend doing household work by their husbands. Nickols (1976), Robinson (1977a), Vanek (1973), and Walker and Woods (1976) found that husbands did not increase their participation in housework as their wives' labor market time increased. This is seen by many as an inequitable arrangement that needs to be changed (Tognoli, 1979).

It is often assumed that attitudes predict or influence behavior. If this assumption is correct it would expect that men who feel housework should be done according to tradition are helping very little in the home and men who feel housework should be assigned in a non-traditional manner might be participating. If less traditional attitudes are related to increased participation, then direct efforts to bring about change could be focused on changing men's attitudes towards participation in housework.

Time studies measure the amount of time spent in household tasks, while questionnaire studies measure perceptions of husbands and wives about the division of household tasks. Many studies have been done using either a time diary or a questionnaire. Wheeler and Arvey (1981) recommended that "both types of data on household tasks responsibility are needed to understand division of labor in the family" (p. 18). With this method both attitudes and actual contributions can be measured and the differences explored.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between how respondents indicated household tasks should be allocated and how they were actually allocated according to their time diary records.

Conceptual Framework

The home, which is the central unit of society, is involved with activities of management much like that of a business. This activity is called home management and was defined by Ella Cushman as, "Using what you have to get what you want" (cited in Schlater, 1968, p. 2). In other words, the main concern of each household is using available resources to achieve goals.

Resources are either human or material and each household has different amounts of each available to them. Human resources include such things as talents and skills. The only resource available to everyone in the same amount is time, or the 24-hour day.

Resources can be used in a variety of ways. Sometimes there are competing needs and wants for the available resources. Each resource is usually allocated in order to achieve family or household goals. These goals range from long term important goals to short term less important goals.

There are certain tasks that need to be accomplished in order for a family to function. Accomplishing these tasks is usually a common goal of most families. These tasks include such things as food preparation, laundry, and the care of children and adults.

A major resource used to achieve these goals is time. Who contributes time to household tasks and how much is important to researchers as well as individual family members because of current changes in society.

The allocation of resources is an important part of the field of family resource management particularly as increased time demands are made on family members both inside and outside of the household. Current research is underway regarding resources used in accomplishing household tasks, attitudes towards the allocation of resources, and the actual allocation of resources used to complete the household tasks (Miller, 1979; Nickols & Metzner, 1978).

Theoretical Definitions

Allocation: the assigning of tasks or activities

Family: "a group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together" (AHEA's Washington Dateline, 1978, p. 1)

Household tasks: "activities performed in individual households that result in goods and services that enable a family to function as a unit" (Walker & Woods, 1976, p. 1)

Traditional: conforming to society's customs and practices

Non-traditional: not conforming to society's customs and practices

Non-traditional division of household tasks: indoor and outdoor household tasks not assigned primarily to men or women

Operational Definitions

Time diary: "a log of activities that individuals keep over a specified period, usually a full 24 hour day" (Robinson, 1977a, p. 6)

Allocation of household tasks: the way activities are assigned within an individual home

Family: two-parent, two-child Utah household

Household work: food preparation, dishwashing, shopping, housecleaning, maintenance of home, yard, car, and pets, care and construction of clothing and household linens, physical and non-physical care of household members, and management

Traditional division of household tasks: traditional female tasks include food preparation, dishwashing, housecleaning, care and construction of clothing, physical and non-physical care of household members. Maintenance of home, yard, and car were traditional male tasks.

Non-traditional division of household tasks: men participating in food preparation, dishwashing, housecleaning, care and construction of clothing, physical and non-physical care of household members, women participating in maintenance of home, yard, and car

Task allocation score: The attitude of a respondent towards the division of household labor measured by a questionnaire a score of ten indicated a traditional attitude, a score of zero indicated a non-traditional attitude

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

History of Housework

The history of housework is referred to by many as a story of elimination (Ehrenreich & English, 1976). Urbanization and the mass marketing of labor saving devices are seen by most people as tools which decrease the amount of work done in the home. However, numerous studies do not support this view (Vanek, 1973; Walker & Woods, 1976).

Ehrenreich and English (1976) attempted to trace the history of housework. They concluded that during the pre-industrial era it was necessary for women to remain at home in order for the family to survive. Women produced everything that was consumed in the home including food, clothing, cleaning supplies, and medicine. The home could have been called a manufacturing center which required a variety of skills and the ability for endless work. Most of a woman's time was spent in producing goods which left little or no time for the care and maintenance of the home. "By all accounts, the pre-industrial revolution women were sloppy housekeepers by today's standards" (Ehrenreich & English, 1976, p. 11).

The nineteenth century brought numerous changes to the American way of life. Many people, including young women and children, began to sell their labor to factories. The tasks of producing soap, candles, cloth, and butter began to vanish from the home. Many people began to worry that, "With less and less to make in the home, it

seemed as if there would seem be nothing to do in the home" (Ehrenreich & English, 1976, p. 12).

Housework has not vanished even with more and more production moving to factories. Friedan (1974) stated that housework simply expands to fill the time available. Women have found additional things to do around the house and have raised the standards of house-keeping.

Despite the changes of urbanization, labor saving devices, and industrialization, various household tasks are still necessary although they may differ from tasks done in the eighteenth century and may be accomplished by different methods.

Traditional Division of Labor

The task of housekeeping is as old as the family itself and includes activities such as food preparation, child care, laundry, house-cleaning, and the maintenance of the yard and car (Nye, 1976). The performance of these tasks is necessary for the family to function and most are usually referred to as woman's work (Glazer-Malbin, 1976).

Throughout recorded history certain household tasks have been assigned primarily to the husband and others to the wife. It appears that the separation of responsibilities for males and females has resulted in an outside/inside dichotomy. In other words women perform tasks within the home and men are oriented to tasks outside of the home (Berger, 1979; Tognoli, 1979). Nye (1976) stated, "In traditional thinking, the husband brought home the bacon and the wife

cooked it" (p. 150). The division of labor according to sex seems to be bound by tradition and has long been taken for granted.

Traditionally, it has been the wife's responsibility to clean the house, prepare the meals, and care for the children while the husband is responsible to provide the income for the family through outside employment.

Reasons for the Division of Labor

In a marriage usually some division of labor takes place with some tasks performed only by the wife, some done solely by the husband, and others completed jointly (Bahr, 1975).

In every society, in every country, people have assumed that males and females are different not merely in basic anatomy, but in elusive qualities of spirit, soul, and ability. They are not supposed to do the same things, think the same way, or share the same dreams and desires (Tavris & Offir, 1977, p. 2).

The process of socialization is said to be a factor contributing to male and female sex roles which leads to a division of labor in the family. From birth children are encouraged to engage in "sex appropriate" play. Through rewards, punishment, and imitation or modeling, children learn what is appropriate in society (Tavris & Offir, 1977). Girls are taught to be feminine and boys are taught to be strong and masculine. Nearly all parents encourage some sex-type behavior in their children. For example, parents buy more trucks than dolls for their boys and more dolls than trucks for their girls (Tavris & Offir, 1977). Sex roles are also portrayed in the classroom, on television, in literature, in films, and by teachers (Angrist, 1969; Olsen, 1960; Tognoli, 1979).

A frequent explanation for the division of labor is physical strength. As men generally have greater physical strength than women, jobs requiring strength were traditionally men's responsibility; whereas, less physically strenuous tasks were completed by the females (Tavris & Offir, 1977). Women also bear and nurse children. Lack of strength and child rearing responsibilities are often cited as reasons for women to stay at home. Naturally someone had to procure food to feed the family so the men went off to hunt and gather.

Another rationale often used to justify the division of labor between men and women is rooted in psychology. Parsons' (1955) often quoted theory suggests that women handle emotional matters and men take care of physical and decision making problems. In other words, women are "expressive" leaders and men are "instrumental" leaders. This theory has been argued and debated for years (Parsons & Bales, 1955).

There are basically three reasons usually cited to explain the division of labor. They are childhood socialization, differences in physical strength and child bearing and rearing responsibilities, and psychological differences.

Current Division of Labor

Many changes have occurred in the United States which, in theory, could have had an impact on household tasks. Recent societal changes have affected what needs to be done, how much, and possibly who is responsible for which tasks (Nickols & Metzen, 1978). Researchers

are currently investigating the value of household production, the amount of time required to accomplish household tasks and the division of labor. Research conclusions often vary according to the method of data collection (Glazer-Malbin, 1976). Interviews, questionnaires, and time budgets are instruments typically used in data gathering. In this section of the review of literature, studies were reviewed on the basis of two methods used to gather the data, namely, questionnaires and time diaries.

Time Diary Analysis

In 1965-66 a time use study was carried out by Robinson and Converse at the University of Michigan. Vanek (1973) used the data to analyze the division of household tasks between men and women. A national sample of 1,244 married adult men and women was studied, however, the sample consisted of individuals not husbands and wives. This presented some limitations in the conclusions that can be drawn from the data. A time diary and a questionnaire were used as research instruments.

Female respondents were asked to estimate how many hours their husbands spent during the week helping with household tasks. Employed females said their husbands devoted about three hours per week to household tasks while non-employed females said their husbands spent two hours per week in household tasks. According to their time diaries married males spent about seven hours per week in household tasks with shopping accounting for about two and one-half hours per week. Vanek (1973) also reported that employed married women with

two to three children over four years of age contributed 40.2 hours per week to housework and non-employed women with two to three children over four years of age spent 56.9 hours per week in housework. Vanek concluded that housework in America is primarily the woman's responsibility.

In 1967-68 time use data were collected from 1,296 husband-wife families in Syracuse, New York. Walker and Woods (1976) used these data to study the amount of time spent in maintaining a household and the goods and services produced. Data were collected from wives through the use of two, 24-hour time diaries and a questionnaire. Seasonal and day of the week variations were taken into account since the data were gathered over a one year period. Household activities included food preparation, house care, family care, clothing care, marketing, and management.

Walker and Woods (1976) reported that the average time all family members devoted to household work was 10.5 hours per day. Seventy-two percent of the total household work time was contributed by full-time housewives and 62 percent by wives who were employed in the labor market. Husbands contributed 14 percent of the total household work time when wives were not employed and 18 percent when they were employed. Children accounted for the remaining five to ten percent.

Nickols (1976) analyzed longitudinal data which had been gathered by the Survey Research Center, University of Michigan. The sample consisted of 1,156 families in which both the husband and wife had been present in the home during all six years of the study, both were

less than 65 years old, and neither spouse had suffered from a disability that precluded work. Time spent in child care, home repairs, yard work, and shopping were not included in the study. In general Nickols found that traditional roles were reflected in the study, with the wives contributing the majority of the time spent in household tasks.

Nickols (1976) reported that some changes had occurred during the years covered by the study. There had been a slight increase in the number of husbands participating in housework and also an increase in their time spent doing housework. During the first three years of the study, 1968 to 1970, 330 husbands reported that they had spent time doing housework; by the last year, 1973, 399 husbands had contributed time to housework. Husbands reported a slight increase in the amount of time devoted to housework from 1968 to 1973. In 1973 husbands contributed 2.4 hours per week compared to 1.9 hours per week in 1968. The number of wives involved in housework remained unchanged. Wives, however, reported a four hour decline in the amount of time spent in housekeeping over the six years, from 32.4 hours per week in 1968 to 28.4 hours per week in 1973.

In a report on 1965-66 Survey Research Center time data Robinson (1977a) looked at the allocation of household tasks among men and women. The study involved a sample of over 2,000 American adults and was from an urban, employed population. A time diary was used to gather the data.

Robinson (1977a) reported that housewives performed 53.2 hours of housework per week compared to employed women who spent 28.1 hours

per week in housework. Employed men contributed 11.3 hours per week to housework which was spent mostly in shopping and housecare. These figures do not include the time spent in child care. In general Robinson (1977a) found that over eighty percent of housework was performed by women.

Robinson (1977b) compared 1965 time use data to 1975 data gathered by the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center. He reported that men had increased their contributions to family care and women had decreased their time. Family care included housework, child care, shopping and helping others. In 1965 married employed men spent 9.0 hours per week in family care compared to 9.7 hours per week in 1975. On the other hand employed married women decreased their time spent in family care from 28.8 hours per week in 1965 to 24.9 hours per week in 1975. Married full-time housewives had reduced their family care time from 50 hours per week in 1965 to 44.5 hours per week in 1975.

Berk and Berk (1979) analyzed data from 750 husband, wife households. A 24-hour time diary completed by each husband and each wife was used to gather the data. All of the diaries were completed on weekdays. Saturdays and Sundays were excluded.

The analysis of both the husbands' and wives' data indicated that wives do most of the housework and child care. These findings agree with other studies done by Berk and Berk (1979), Oakley (1974), and Robinson (1977a). It also showed that husbands increased their help with household chores only slightly when their wives were employed. Berk and Berk (1979) stated, "That is, it is still probably

fair to say that employed wives hold down two full-time jobs: one in the market and one in the household" (p. 231).

Berk and Berk (1979) also analyzed when during the day husbands were most likely to participate in household tasks. They found that the wives' employment as well as when they were employed affected the husbands' household contributions. The wife's employment status made no difference in husbands' household help during the early morning hours. However, one-third of the husbands helped with dishwashing chores when their wives were employed during the evening hours. Berk and Berk (1979) concluded that husbands do very little around the house and when they participated depended on the wife's availability.

Sanik (1979) compared the 1967-68 data gathered by Cornell University (Walker & Woods, 1976) with its 1977 data to analyze changes in time spent in housework. Similar instrumentation and design had been used in both studies. In 1967 homemakers averaged 7.8 hours per day in household work compared to 7.5 hours per day in 1977. On the other hand, husbands spent 30 minutes more time per day in housework in 1977 than husbands in 1967, 1.7 hours per day compared to 2.2 hours per day.

Sanik (1979) also studied the amount of time spent in individual household tasks. The time spent by the homemaker in dishwashing, clothing care, and construction had declined in the ten year time span while a slight increase in the time spent in shopping activities had occurred. There was no significant change in the time spent in food preparation, home and yard care, physical and non-physical care

of family members, and management by the homemaker. The only significant difference in time spent in a specific household task reported by the husbands was an increase in time spent in the non-physical care of family members.

Data from 210 two-parent, two-child families in Utah were studied by McCullough (1980). The results of this study were similar to those reported by other researchers including Nickols (1976), Sanik (1979), and Walker and Woods (1976). Most household tasks were done by women. On the average, husbands contributed one hour and 47 minutes per day to household tasks compared to six hours and 37 minutes for wives. Husbands' contributions were mainly in the categories of "maintenance of home, yard, car, and pets", all tasks considered to be traditionally male. Women contributed to all household tasks.

According to time diary studies by Berk and Berk (1979), McCullough (1980), Nickols (1976), Robinson (1977a), Sanik (1979), Vanek (1973) and Walker and Woods (1976) women contribute the vast majority of time spent in household tasks and husbands contribute very little time.

Questionnaire Studies

Occupation Housewife, by Lopata (1971) was based on interviews of 205 housewives in the Chicago area. One part of her research concerned how much help husbands contributed to household tasks. Housewives were asked "level of responsibility" questions about various household tasks and reported their responses according to ten

categories ranging from "their responsibility, not mine" to "I do it, no help".

According to Lopata (1971) the largest percentage of wives checked the "I do it, no help" response for the following household tasks: cook the meals; wash, dry, put away dishes; beds, straighten, clean house; laundry, care of clothes; shop for food, other; and care of children, feed, bed. Husbands helped with money, bills, and finances. Contrary to these results, housewives reported in open-ended questions that their husbands helped with or shared household functions. Lopata (1971) concluded that more research was needed to clarify housewives' responses.

In 1972 Holmstrom studied 20 couples in which both the husbands and wives had professional occupations. Questions dealing with the division of household labor constituted one part of the interview. Holmstrom concluded that husbands were participating in household tasks. Wives usually cooked the dinner and did the grocery shopping and husbands emptied the garbage and trash, did repair work, and the heavy yard work. The tasks of cooking breakfast and washing dishes were usually shared. Financial tasks were randomly allocated. The tasks of ironing, vacuuming, and general cleaning were usually hired out. Four reasons were given for the allocation of household tasks (1) availability, (2) skills, (3) interest, and (4) enjoyment. Two-thirds of the women interviewed were satisfied with the division of household tasks in their families. Husbands reported that helping with the housework was a physical necessity or the only way to get the jobs done (Holmstrom, 1972).

Oakley (1974) gathered data from forty London housewives, all mothers between twenty and thirty years of age at the time of the interview. During an interview, wives were asked to assess their husbands as "high, medium, or low", on their participation in both housework and child care. The ratings were based on the share of the total amount of housework and child care done by the husband. According to Oakley (1974), "only a minority of husbands give the kind of help the assertions of equality in modern marriage imply" (p. 138). In this study fifteen percent of the husbands measured a high level of participation in housework and twenty-five percent measured a high level in child care as reported by their wives.

Bahr (1975) reviewed studies conducted in Germany, Greece, Japan, Russia, and the United States that dealt with the division of household labor, women's employment, and power. The studies Bahr reviewed were all based on questionnaire data. In general Bahr (1975) found that employed women's husbands help significantly more with household tasks than do husbands of non-employed women. However, women still contributed the majority of time spent in household tasks. Bahr also reported that the wife's power tended to increase with her employment.

Lovingood and Firebaugh (1978) analyzed household task performance roles of husbands and wives. This study was a part of a larger project titled, "Financial and Household Management of Families in Transition." Data were collected from 100 couples in four Ohio towns who had just had their first child. Twenty-five identical questions were asked to the husband and to the wife about who makes

and who implements certain household decisions. A five point scale was used to measure the responses. A score of one designated "husband always" and a score of five designated "wife always". Scores ranging from 1.0 to 2.5 were considered to be the husband's role, scores from 2.5 to 3.5 indicated a shared role, and scores from 3.5 to 5.0 were part of the wife's role.

According to Lovingood and Firebaugh (1978) both husbands and wives perceived themselves as having more responsibility than did their spouse. The responsibilities were divided along traditional lines with the husband buying the car and life insurance, making housing arrangements and household repairs. Wives were responsible for decorating and furnishing the house, preparing dinner, doing the grocery shopping, contacting the doctor, performing child care, doing the laundry, preparing breakfast for husbands on work days and doing the evening dishes. Husbands and wives generally shared keeping track of money and bills. In general the conclusions of this study were that women were more responsible than men in decision implementation (Lovingood & Firebaugh, 1978).

Wheeler and Arvey (1981) analyzed data from a subset of families of a larger study conducted by Arvey and Gross in 1977. The sample consisted of 68 husband, wife families in a Southeastern city. A lengthy questionnaire was used to investigate the division of labor between husbands and wives. Researchers used only households in which both the husband and wife had responded to the questionnaire.

Wheeler and Arvey concluded that husbands and wives were not assuming non-traditional roles, a conclusion that is in agreement

with other similar studies. Husbands and wives took responsibility for tasks they enjoyed which were in line with the traditional division of labor in the family (Wheeler & Arvey, 1981).

According to questionnaire studies by Holmstrom (1972), Lopata (1971), Lovingood & Firebaugh (1978), and Wheeler and Arvey (1981) when men contribute time to household tasks it is mostly in the areas of yard work, household repair, emptying the garbage, and money management. Bahr (1975) was the only author who concluded that husbands helped significantly more with the household tasks when their wives were employed.

Attitudes Towards the Division of Household Labor

There is little research available concerning attitudes towards the division of household labor. Typically, when an attempt has been made to measure these attitudes, one question is usually the basis for the results.

Robinson (1977a) analyzed data from a national survey dealing with Americans' use of time in 1965-66. The sample consisted of 2,000 male and female respondents between the ages of 18 and 65. Two time diaries and an interview were used to gather the data. The results of the diaries were reviewed earlier in this review of literature. During the interview married women were asked, "Do you wish your husband would give you more help with the daily household chores?" In response, just 19 percent of the women answered that they wanted more help. Robinson (1977a) suggested that women receive some type of personal satisfaction from doing housework and that they

are never satisfied with their husbands' standards of housekeeping as reasons why so few women desired additional help from their husbands.

According to Oakley (1974) women feel that it is their natural role to be the housekeeper and to care for the children. Oakley asked forty women what they would think of a marriage in which the wife went out to work and the husband stayed at home to look after the children. Thirty out of the forty women interviewed rejected the idea of reversed roles. One woman replied,

I don't agree with men doing housework-I don't think it's a man's job. . . I certainly wouldn't like to see my husband cleaning a room up. I don't think it's mannish for a man to stay at home. I like a man to be a man (Oakley, 1974, p. 156).

Other explanations given by Oakley's respondents were that women are more efficient than men and women cannot earn as much money as men (Oakley, 1974).

Nye (1976) collected data on housekeeping as a part of a large research project on family roles conducted in 1970. The data were gathered from 210 couples living in Washington who had a child in the third grade. Each husband and wife filled out identical questionnaires.

Respondents were asked one question about their attitudes towards the division of household labor. The question was, "Who do you think should do the housekeeping?" Answers could vary from "husband always" to "wife always". Nye reported that 70 percent of the men said they should share the household tasks, while 54 percent of the women said men should share the household tasks. Nye also asked, "Who does the housekeeping?" Fifty-six percent of the men

said they shared the housekeeping tasks. Wives reported that only 39 percent of their husbands shared household duties. Nye pointed out that husbands and wives perceive household duties and performance differently. He also reported that neither spouse was satisfied with his or her performance as a housekeeper.

Miller (1979) investigated how a sample of 191 Utah husbands and wives thought household tasks should be allocated and how they actually were. Data were collected as a part of a regional research project, "An Interstate Comparison of Urban/Rural Families Time Use." A questionnaire was used to measure respondents' attitudes toward their behavior in the allocation of household tasks. Miller (1979) reported that husbands on non-employed wives were significantly more traditional than husbands of employed wives. Their behavior scores were also more traditional than husbands of employed wives but not significantly higher. Employed wives had less traditional scores on both attitude and behavior, however, the differences were not significant. Urban/rural residence, educational level of husband and wife, difference in educational level between husbands and wives, family income, and husband's occupation were not related to attitudes toward or behavior of husbands and wives in the allocation of household tasks.

From studies reviewed in this section by Miller (1979), Oakley (1974), and Robinson (1977a) it was found that most women's attitudes were traditional and they did not want or expect their husbands to help with household tasks. On the other hand, Nye (1976) found that over one-half of both husbands and wives studied thought that men should share the household tasks.

Summary

According to the research reviewed, people still devote a substantial proportion of time to housework, however, which tasks must be done and the amount of time spent on them has changed. Traditionally, tasks accomplished within the home are the wife's responsibility and tasks outside of the home are the husbands responsibility. This division of labor is still apparent in the majority of research findings, particularly those based on time diary studies, and contradicts the popular assumption that husbands are contributing more time to household tasks. The household tasks to which men contribute the most time are maintenance of the yard and home, and taking out the garbage. There are very few exceptions to these findings.

In general, women's attitudes towards the division of household tasks are very traditional. They feel they should bear the responsibility for most housework. Husbands in one study felt they should share the household tasks and in another study were less traditional in their attitudes when their wives were employed. Although some research suggests that both husbands' and wives' attitudes are changing, these changes do not yet seem to be reflected in the amount of time husbands spend in household tasks.

Hypotheses

Based on the review of literature the following hypotheses were proposed:

1. There is a positive relationship between the wife's task allocation score and the amount of time spent in traditional female household tasks.

2. There is a positive relationship between the husband's task allocation score and the amount of time spent in traditional male household tasks.

3. There is a negative relationship between the wife's task allocation score and the amount of time spent in traditional male household tasks.

4. There is a negative relationship between the husband's task allocation score and the amount of time spent in traditional female household tasks.

5. There is a positive relationship between the wife's task allocation score and the total housework time of the wife.

6. There is a negative relationship between the husband's task allocation score and the total housework time of the husband.

7. There is no difference in the total amount of time spent in household tasks by wives according to how they think household tasks should be allocated.

8. There is no difference in the total amount of time spent in household tasks by husbands according to how they think household tasks should be allocated.

METHODS

Study Design

The data for this study were a portion of the data collected as Utah's part in the NE113 research project, "An Interstate Comparison of Urban/Rural Families' Time Use." The research was initiated by Kathryn Walker of Cornell University. It was organized during 1975 with the purpose of gathering information of urban/rural family time use. Utah participated along with ten other states including New York, California, Oregon, Connecticut, North Carolina, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Utah's study was financed by the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station.

Data collection and instrumentation were standardized among all participating states. An individual state could, if desired, add additional questionnaires to the study. Coding was done in the same way in all states to facilitate the exchange and use of the data among the participating states.

Time use data were gathered using a time diary to determine how much time the wives and husbands contributed to household tasks. The respondents' attitudes toward household task allocation were measured by using a task allocation questionnaire.

Sample

Utah's sample consisted of 210 two-parent/two-children families. One hundred and five families were from a rural area and 105 were

from an urban area. The urban sample was selected from Salt Lake County and the rural sample was from Iron and Washington Counties. The names of possible participants were drawn randomly from lists of two-parent/two-children families. Each family selected was contacted by telephone to verify whether or not it was a two-parent/two-child family and if the homemaker would be willing to participate in the study. The procedure excluded families without telephones, with unlisted numbers, and those who had recently moved into the area. These exclusions might have caused a bias and resulted in a sample that was not totally representative of the population.

Instruments

The instruments used to gather the data for the study were a time diary and an information questionnaire. These instruments were developed and pretested at Cornell University by Kathryn Walker and Margaret Sanik.

Time Diary

The time diary was used in each household to keep a record of activities engaged in by family members. The time diary used in this study was a chart covering a 24-hour period. The chart was broken down into ten minute intervals horizontally and eighteen categories of time use were listed vertically. According to Robinson (1977a), this method of recording activities is considered fairly reliable. Its major advantage is that people are required to record their time use while it is fresh in their minds. (Appendix A)

Information Questionnaire

The questionnaire was developed to provide more detailed information about the respondents. This information included demographic data, meal and work patterns, and equipment used and owned. (Appendix B)

Household Task Allocation Questionnaire

A household task allocation questionnaire was used to collect data concerned with respondents' attitudes toward the division of household tasks. (Appendix C) Five questions were used to gather this information. The first question asked if there are some household tasks that naturally or logically belong to the husband or to the wife and if so what they are. Question two asked who performed a list of various household tasks in the ideal family. Question three asked respondents if household tasks in their family were assigned primarily according to (1) tradition or (2) who is there when it needs to be done. The fourth was, "If you work in the labor market, what kinds of things such as telephone calls, do you do related to your family while you are at work?" The final question asked, "In your family how was it decided who would do which household tasks?"

Data Collection

The data were gathered by professional interviewers. A video tape developed by Cornell University was used to train the interviewers to ensure that all participating states collected their data

in the same manner. Four interviewers collected Utah's data, two in the urban area and two in the rural area.

During the initial telephone call an appointment was made between the homemaker and interviewer. At the first interview the interviewer explained the instruments and helped the homemaker complete a diary of yesterday's time use. The interviewer left the questionnaires and a second time diary to be completed the next day. The homemaker filled in the time diary and the information questionnaire. A household task allocation questionnaire was to be completed separately by each spouse. The homemaker was requested to have the other members check the time diaries for accuracy. On the third day, the interviewer met with the homemaker to answer questions and review the instruments for completeness. Upon completion, the information was sent to Utah State University for coding and analysis.

Scoring of Responses

The scores computed for each respondent measured (1) how they thought household tasks should be allocated using the task allocation questionnaire and (2) how much time was contributed to household tasks as measured by the time diary.

The scores used to measure the respondents' attitudes towards the allocation of household tasks were computed from question three on the household task allocation questionnaire. Question three asked the respondents if household tasks in their family were assigned primarily according to (1) tradition or (2) who is there when it needs to be done. The list of household tasks included food preparation, dishwashing, shopping, housecleaning, maintenance of home,

maintenance of yard, maintenance of car, care of pets, care of clothing, construction of clothing, physical care of household members, and non-physical care of household members. Two categories that were included on the list, shopping and care of pets, were not used in computing respondents' scores because they cannot be defined as traditionally male or female tasks (Tognoli, 1979).

One point was given for each response indicating tradition as the basis for assigning household tasks. The range of possible scores were from zero to ten. A score from seven to ten was assumed to indicate a traditional attitude and a score from zero to three indicated a non-traditional attitude toward the allocation of household tasks. A score of four through six indicated neither a traditional or non-traditional attitude toward the allocation of household tasks.

The time diary was the basis for computing how much time was allocated to household tasks by the respondents. The total amount of time spent accomplishing various household tasks was computed for each 24-hour period recorded by the respondent. An average of the two days recorded was used because, "the average of day 1 and day 2 for households of specified compositions represented a more valid measure of the family's time use by depicting 2/7 of a week rather than 1/7 of a week" (Sanik, 1979, p. 210). Each respondent's time spent in household tasks was recorded in three ways (1) the amount of time spent in traditional female tasks (2) the amount of time spent in traditional male tasks and (3) the amount of time spent in total household tasks. For this study traditional female tasks included food preparation, dishwashing, housecleaning, clothing

care and construction, and physical and non-physical care of household members. Traditional male tasks included maintenance of home, yard, car, and pets. The amount of time spent caring for pets was included because the data collection procedure made it impossible to separate it from the time spent in maintenance of home, yard, and car. The amount of time spent in shopping and managing the home was also included in the total time spent in household tasks.

Statistical Analysis

Two statistical measures were used to analyze the data for this study, correlation and analysis of variance. Correlation refers to the relationship between two variables. The Pearson Product Moment Coefficient is a measure of linear correlation and will be used in this study. However, when two variables correlate this does not mean their either variable causes the other to change (Weinburg & Schumaker, 1974). This test measures the strength and direction of the relationship. The strength ranges from -1.0 to 1.0 with the strongest relationships being closest to the absolute value of one. The coefficient sign indicates the direction of the relationship, negative or positive. This test is considered appropriate for interval or ratio data; the task allocation scores were neither interval nor ratio, but the time scores were. However, the Pearson Product Moment Coefficient was used because there are currently no appropriate tests available. Hypotheses one through six were tested with the Pearson Product Moment Coefficient.

Analysis of variance, ANOVA, is the procedure used for testing differences among three or more means (Welkowitz, Ewen & Cohen, 1976). It measures any significant difference between means and indicates where the difference lies. It is also used to determine if the independent variable has any effect on the dependent variable and the strength of the relationship. In this study the independent variable was the respondents' score on the task allocation questionnaire and the dependent variable was the amount of time spent accomplishing household tasks. Hypotheses seven and eight were tested with ANOVA. Relationships were considered statistically significant if the F score was equal to or greater than .05.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE

The subjects for the NE113 research project were 210 two-parent, two-child families. A sub-set of the original sample was used for this research. It consisted of 200 husbands and 203 wives who had completed the task allocation questionnaire. About one-half of the sample was from an urban setting and the other half was from a rural area. Time use data were available for all respondents.

Age

The wives were between 21 and 57 years old with the median falling in the 26 to 30 category. The husbands' ages ranged from 22 to 57 years with the median being in the 31 to 35 category. The husbands in this sample were slightly older than the wives. Table 1 summarizes the ages of husbands and wives.

Education

The husbands' and wives' level of education was determined by the number of years of formal schooling completed. The education level of wives ranged from grade school through a master's degree. Two husbands had completed only grade school and nine had completed doctorate or professional degrees. Eighty-four of the 203 wives studied indicated "high school diploma" as the highest level of education completed. Husbands averaged a higher education level than wives as shown in Table 2.

Table 1
Ages of Husbands and Wives

Age	Husbands		Wives	
	Number	%	Number	%
21-25	26	13.0	41	20.2
26-30	52	26.0	64	31.5
31-35	43	21.5	37	18.2
36-40	25	12.5	23	11.3
41-45	23	11.5	14	6.9
46-50	14	7.0	12	5.9
51-55	5	2.5	4	2.0
56-60	4	2.0	1	.5
Missing	8	4.0	7	3.4
Total	200	100%	203	99.9%*

*percentages are rounded off

Table 2
Education Level of Husbands and Wives

Highest level of education	Husbands		Wives	
	Number	%	Number	%
Grade school (1-8)	2	1.0	1	.5
Partial high school (9-11)	6	3.0	8	3.9
High school diploma	54	27.0	84	41.4
Vocational or technical training	5	2.5	5	2.5
Partial college no degree	52	26.0	61	30.0
Associate's degree	6	3.0	3	1.5
Bachelor's degree	55	27.5	36	17.7
Master's degree	11	5.5	5	2.5
Doctorate	4	2.0	0	0.0
Professional degree	5	2.5	0	0.0
Total	200	100%	203	100%*

*percentages are rounded off

Occupation

As table 3 shows, the majority of wives in this study, about 57 percent, indicated that they were full-time homemakers. Twenty-nine wives, the largest number employed in one category, reported they worked in clerical occupations. About one-fourth of the husbands were employed in the category "professional, technical, and kindred workers". Two of the husbands were employed in clerical occupations and none were full-time homemakers. The data are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3
Occupations of Husbands and Wives

Occupation	Husbands		Wives	
	Number	%	Number	%
Service workers	9	4.5	19	9.4
Laborers	10	5.0	0	0.0
Operatives	24	12.0	3	1.5
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	46	23.0	2	1.0
Clerical	2	1.0	29	14.3
Sales workers	27	13.5	16	7.9
Managers, administrators	27	13.5	2	1.0
Professional, technical, and kindred workers	53	26.5	15	7.4
Full-time homemakers	0	0.0	116	57.1
Missing	2	1.0	1	.5
Total	200	100%	203	100.1%*

*percentages are rounded off

Household Income

The respondents were asked to indicate their total household income, before taxes, for the previous 12 months. The incomes ranged from less than \$1,000 to over \$50,000. The median for household income was in the \$15,000 to \$19,000 category. The incomes of husbands and wives are shown in Table 4. McCullough (1980) stated, "the incomes of the families in this sample were close to the estimated incomes for the three counties for 1975" (p. 63).

Table 4
Household Income

Income	<u>Husbands</u>		<u>Wives</u>	
	Number	%	Number	%
Under \$1,000	1	.5	1	.5
\$1,000-\$1,999	0	0.0	0	0.0
\$2,000-\$2,999	0	0.0	0	0.0
\$3,000-\$3,999	2	1.0	2	1.0
\$4,000-\$4,999	1	.5	1	.5
\$5,000-\$5,999	0	0.0	0	0.0
\$6,000-\$7,499	7	3.5	7	3.4
\$7,500-\$9,999	16	8.0	16	7.9
\$10,000-\$11,999	22	11.0	21	10.3
\$12,000-\$14,999	38	19.0	37	18.2
\$15,000-\$19,999	46	23.0	48	23.6
\$20,000-\$24,999	28	14.0	30	14.8
\$25,000-\$49,999	30	15.0	30	14.8
\$50,000 and over	5	2.5	5	2.5
Missing	4	2.0	5	2.5
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	200	100%	203	100%*

*percentages are rounded off

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research was designed to study Utah husbands' and wives' attitudes towards the division of household labor and how their attitudes were related to actual contributions to household tasks. The respondents' attitudes were defined as traditional or non-traditional and were related to the time spent in traditional female tasks, traditional male tasks and total household tasks.

Task Allocation Scores

A task allocation score was computed for each of the 403 respondents. This score was computed from question three on the task allocation questionnaire which asked, "Are household tasks in your family assigned according to (1) tradition or (2) who is there when it needs to be done? These scores are referred to as the respondent's attitude or task allocation score. A point was given each time the respondent indicated tradition as the basis for allocating household tasks. Scores ranging from zero through three indicated non-traditional attitudes and scores ranging from seven through ten indicated traditional attitudes. The scores ranging from four through six indicated neither traditional nor non-traditional attitudes. The task allocation scores are summarized in Table 5. The mean task allocation score for the husbands was 5.6 with a standard deviation of 3.39. The mean score for wives was 5.98 with a standard deviation of 2.91. Wives in this study had slightly more traditional attitudes than the husbands.

Table 5
Husbands' and Wives' Task
Allocation Scores

Group	Husbands	Wives	Total
Traditional	97	100	197
Neither	46	66	112
Non-traditional	57	37	94
Total	200	203	403

Time Use Scores

Two twenty-four hour time diaries were used to record the amount of time husbands and wives spent in various household tasks. An average of the two days time was used. Each respondent's time spent in household tasks was computed in three ways (1) the amount of time spent in traditional female tasks, (2) the amount of time spent in traditional male tasks, and (3) the total amount of time spent in all household tasks. Table 6 indicates the household tasks that were considered to be traditional female tasks and traditional male tasks.

The total amount of time spent in household tasks included all of the traditional female and male household tasks plus the time spent in shopping and management. Tables 7 and 8 summarize the amount of time spent in various household tasks. Large standard deviations are typical for time use data because of the change in how people use their time from day to day (McCullough, 1980).

Table 6
Traditional Tasks

Female	Male
Food preparation	Maintenance of home
Dishwashing	Maintenance of yard
Housecleaning	Maintenance of car
Clothing care and construction	
Physical and non-physical care of family members	

Table 7
Time Spent in Household Tasks by Wives

Household tasks	Number	Mean minutes per day	s.d.
Traditional female tasks	203	318	138.34
Traditional male tasks	203	39	56.65
Total household tasks	203	396	154.56

Table 8
Time Spent in Household Tasks by Husbands

Household tasks	Number	Mean minutes per day	s.d.
Traditional female tasks	200	38	43.18
Traditional male tasks	200	45	77.10
Total household tasks	200	107	100.76

Analysis of Hypotheses

Table 9 is a summary of the hypotheses tested, the statistical treatment used, and the results.

Hypothesis 1

There is a positive relationship between the wife's task allocation score and the amount of time spent in traditional female household tasks.

The Pearson's r of .0915 showed a weak positive relationship between the wife's task allocation score and the amount of time spent in traditional female household tasks, however, it was not statistically significant. The P value was .194. As the wife's task allocation score increased, there was also a slight increase in the time spent in traditional female tasks by women.

Nye (1976) reported that 80 percent of the women he studied viewed the care of clothing as the woman's responsibility while only a small majority of the women felt that housecleaning and food preparation should be left entirely up to them. This suggests a non-traditional attitude towards the division of traditional female tasks. Over one-half of women's attitudes in the present study, one hundred and three, were not traditional (Table 7). These results were similar to Nye's study. Nye (1976) also reported that a considerably large proportion of the women performed the household tasks of housecleaning, food preparation and clothing care. The results of this study also suggest that the amount of time spent in traditional female household tasks was not influenced by the respondents' attitudes towards the division of household tasks.

Table 9
Summary of Hypotheses

Hypothesis	Statistical Treatment	Results
I. There is a positive relationship between the wife's task allocation score and the amount of time spent in traditional female household tasks.	Correlation	Rejected .0915 sig. @ .194
II. There is a positive relationship between the husband's task allocation score and the amount of time spent in traditional male household tasks.	Correlation	Rejected -.0833 sig. @ .241
III. There is a negative relationship between the wife's task allocation score and time spent in traditional male household tasks.	Correlation	Rejected -.0933 sig. @ .185
IV. There is a negative relationship between the husbands' task allocation score and the amount of time spent in traditional female household tasks.	Correlation	Rejected -.0207 sig. @ .771

Table 9
 Summary of Hypotheses
 (continued)

Hypothesis	Statistical Treatment	Results
V. There is a positive relationship between the wife's task allocation score and the total housework time of the wife.	Correlation	Rejected .0677 sig. @ .337
VI. There is a negative relationship between the husband's task allocation score and the total housework time of the wife.	Correlation	Rejected -.0665 sig. @ .350
VII. There is no difference in the total amount of time spent in household tasks by wives according to how they think household tasks should be allocated.	Analysis of Variance	Rejected .5917 sig. @ .526
VIII. There is no difference in the total amount of time spent in household tasks by husbands according to how they think household tasks should be allocated.	Analysis of Variance	Rejected .5412 sig. @ .616

Hypothesis 2

There is a positive relationship between the husband's allocation score and the amount of time spent in traditional male household tasks.

The relationship was weak with a Pearson's r of $-.0833$ with a P value of $.241$. Husbands did not spend more time in traditional male household tasks as their household task allocation scores became more traditional.

One might expect that husbands would spend a significant amount of time in the traditional male tasks of maintaining the house, yard, and car, especially if they thought it was their responsibility. However, it was not apparent in this research. In fact, husbands spent slightly less time in these tasks as their attitude scores became more traditional. The lack of available time to devote to these tasks, a dislike for them, or the presence of the wife at home could be possible explanations for the lack of time devoted to them. No other studies were found that could be compared with these results.

Hypothesis 3

There is a negative relationship between the wife's task allocation score and time spent in traditional male household tasks.

When the wife's time spent in traditional male tasks was related to their task allocation scores a negative relationship was found. Pearson's r was $-.0933$ with a P value of $.185$. This was not statistically significant, but was in the direction hypothesized. As wives' scores became more traditional the amount of time they spent in traditional male tasks decreased.

The lack of a strong relationship between the wife's attitudes and the amount of time spent in traditional male tasks might be due to a number of reasons. The wife might enjoy doing these tasks or gain a personal satisfaction from accomplishing them even though she might not think they are her responsibility. It may also be necessary for her to do these tasks in order for them to get done. The husbands' hours of paid employment or dislike of them could also influence the time wives spend doing them. Wives with traditional attitudes may also be traditionally unassertive.

Hypothesis 4

There is a negative relationship between the husband's task allocation score and the amount of time spent in traditional female household tasks.

The Pearson's r for husbands' task allocation scores and time spent in traditional female household tasks was $-.0207$ which was not statistically significant. The P value was $.771$. However, it was in the direction hypothesized.

The results of this study were similar to the findings of Nye (1976) who found that less than one-half of the husbands he studied thought it was the women's responsibility to prepare the meals, clean the house, and care for the clothing. The husbands, however, did not spend a significant amount of time in accomplishing these traditionally female tasks. One hundred and three of the husbands' attitudes in the present study were not traditional and they did not spend a significant amount of time in traditional female tasks.

Hypothesis 5

There is a positive relationship between the wife's task allocation score and the total housework time of the wife.

There was a weak positive relationship between the wife's task allocation score and time spent in total household tasks. Pearson's r was .0677 and was not statistically significant with a P value of .337. The amount of time wives spent in total household work did not increase significantly as their attitudes became more traditional.

Oakley (1974) reported that the women she studied held very traditional attitudes towards the division of household labor while, Nye (1976) reported that more than one-half of the women he studied thought that household tasks should be shared. In both studies, however, the women continued to do the majority of the housework. This research was similar to the study conducted by Nye (1976) with the women having slightly more traditional attitudes than men and continuing to do the largest proportion of the housework. This research also found that the wife's attitude alone does not predict or influence the amount of time spent in total household tasks. Possible explanations for the results might be that the wife enjoys doing them, has more time available, must do them or they won't get done, or she wants to fulfill the role for which she was socialized.

Hypothesis 6

There is a negative relationship between the husband's task allocation score and the total housework time of the husband.

The relationship between husbands' task allocation scores and their time spent in total household tasks was in the negative

direction but was not statistically significant. Pearson's r was $-.0665$ with a P value of $.350$. Wheeler and Arvey (1981) recommended that it was necessary to compare questionnaire data and time diary information in order to understand the division of labor but the questionnaire data did not predict the results obtained from the time diaries. Nye (1976) found that the majority of the men studied said that household tasks should be shared while only a small percent actually shared them. This suggests that there was no relationship between what they thought they should do and what they actually did. This study confirms Nye's work.

Hypothesis 7

There is no difference in the total amount of time spent in household tasks by wives according to how they think household tasks should be allocated.

The wives were grouped according to their household task allocation scores which were traditional, a score of 7 to 10, non-traditional, a score of 0 to 3, and neither traditional nor non-traditional, a score of 4 to 6. The wives who contributed the most time were those women with neither a traditional nor non-traditional attitude. (see Table 10). As shown in Table 11 when an analysis of variance was used to test for differences the results were not statistically significant. The time these women spent doing household tasks did not consistently increase or decrease according to their attitudes towards the division of household tasks.

Nearly half of the women in this study held traditional attitudes. This is similar to the results of Oakley (1974) and Robinson

(1977a), but contrary to the results of Nye's (1976) study. The amount of time spent in household tasks by the women in this study agrees with the conclusions of Berk and Berk (1979), Robinson (1977b), Vanek (1973), and Walker and Woods (1976). The majority of time families spend in accomplishing household tasks is contributed by women regardless of their attitudes toward the ideal allocation of household tasks.

Table 10
Time Spent in Household Tasks by Wives
According to Their Attitudes

Group	N	Mean minutes housework	s. d.
Traditional	100	400	149.32
Neither	66	404	162.95
Non-traditional	37	373	155.19

Hypothesis 8

There is no difference in the total amount of time spent in household tasks by husbands according to how they think household tasks should be allocated.

When examining the time husbands spent doing household tasks according to their attitudes, a trend could be seen. The men with non-traditional attitudes spent more time in household tasks than those men with traditional attitudes as shown in Table 12. The analysis of variance results, however, were not statistically significant as explained by Table 13.

Table 11
 Analysis of Variance of Wives' Attitudes
 and Their Time Spent in Household Tasks

Source	Sum of squares	d.f.	Mean squares	F	Sign.
Between groups	25257.596	2	12628.7979	.526	.5917
Within groups	4800318.938	200	24001.5938		

Table 12
 Time Spent in Household Tasks by Husbands
 According to Their Attitudes

Group	N	Mean minutes housework	s.d.
Traditional	97	102	89.84
Neither	46	104	99.72
Non-traditional	57	120	118.42

Nye's (1976) research is the only available study that investigates men's attitudes towards the division of household labor related to their actual performance of household tasks. His study found that the largest proportion of husbands were non-traditional in their attitudes towards the division of housework which is similar to the husbands in this study. In this study as well as the research conducted by Lopata (1971), Nickols (1976), Oakley (1974), and Sanik (1979), men contributed only a small proportion of their time to household tasks and only a small proportion of the family's total household time came from men.

Table 13
Analysis of Variance of Husbands' Attitudes
and Their Time Spent in Household Tasks

Source	Sum of squares	d. f.	Mean squares	F	Sign.
Between groups	12552.3054	2	6276.1528	.616	.5412
Within groups	2007720.4063	197	10191.4746		

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Summary

This study analyzed the relationship between attitudes towards the division of household tasks and the amount of time spent accomplishing them by Utah husbands and wives. Hypotheses regarding traditional and non-traditional attitudes related to the amount of time spent in traditional female tasks, traditional male tasks and time spent in all household tasks were tested.

The data analyzed in this study were a portion of Utah's data gathered as a part of a larger study, "An Interstate Comparison of Urban/Rural Families' Time Use." The sample consisted of 210 two-parent, two-child families with one-half of the families living in a rural area and the other half residing in an urban area. Two hundred husbands and 203 wives were used in the present study.

A questionnaire was used to measure the respondent's attitude towards the division of household labor. Attitude scores were computed for both the husbands and wives by totaling how many times the respondent indicated tradition as the basis for assigning various household tasks. A high score indicated a traditional attitude and a low score indicated a non-traditional attitude.

The average time, as recorded in two 23-hour time diaries was used to measure the amount of time husbands and wives spent in various household tasks. The amount of time spent in traditional female tasks was the total number of minutes spent in food preparation, dishwashing,

housecleaning, care and construction of clothing, and physical and non-physical care of household members. The maintenance of home, yard, car, and pets were considered traditional male tasks and the number of minutes spent in these tasks was computed for both the husbands and wives. The total amount of time spent in all household tasks was also computed. The statistical tests used for data analysis were the Pearson's r and ANOVA.

The mean score for the wives' attitudes was 5.98, slightly above the mid-point on the scale indicating neither traditional nor non-traditional attitudes. When these scores were related to the amount of time spent in traditional female household tasks, traditional male household tasks, and total housework time no statistically significant relationships were found. The relationships between the wives' attitude scores and the amount of time spent in traditional female household tasks and total housework time were positive but not statistically significant. There was a negative relationship between the wives' attitudes and the amount of time spent in traditional male household tasks, however, it was not statistically significant.

Husbands' attitude scores were also slightly above the mid-point on the household task allocation attitude scale. The mean score of husbands was 5.6 indicating neither a traditional nor non-traditional attitudes. When attitude scores were related to the amount of time spent in traditional female household tasks, traditional male household tasks, and total housework time, no significant relationships were found. All three relationships were negative and were not strong.

Whether a husband who classified himself as traditional or non-traditional he did not spend significantly more or less time in total household work.

Conclusions

In conclusion, it appears that the respondents' attitudes as measured by the instrument used did not influence or predict the amount of time spent in household tasks. The mean scores for both husbands and wives ranged from traditional to non-traditional and the amount of time spent in traditional female household tasks, traditional male household tasks, and total housework did not increase or decrease significantly in the direction hypothesized. No other research which attempted to measure attitudes with a questionnaire and time use through a time diary could be located. No conclusions can be drawn as to whether any attempt to alter individual attitudes towards the division of household labor would result in a change in the amount of time spent in housework.

Limitations

1. The subjects for this research were two-parent, two-child families and would not have been a representative sample of the Utah population.
2. The respondents' attitudes were measured through a questionnaire which may not have been an accurate reflection of the respondent's actual attitude.
3. The household task allocation questionnaires were to be

completed separately by each husband and wife. There was no guarantee that this occurred.

Recommendations

Further research is needed to fully understand the division of household labor and the factors related to it. Other possible areas of study might be age at the time of marriage, the number of years a couple has been married, and some measure of childhood socialization. As changes have occurred within society the traditional division of labor persists. More research is needed to document the nature and causes of these changes.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Time Diary

		12 midnight		11 pm	
FOOD	Food Preparation				
	Dishwashing				
SHOPPING	Shopping				
	Housecleaning				
HOUSE	Maintenance of Home, Yard, Car, and Pets				
	Care				
CLOTHING AND HOUSEHOLD LINENS	Construction				
	Physical Care				
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS	Nonphysical Care				
	Management				
WORK (other than household)	School				
	Field				
NONWORK	Unpaid				
	Organization Participation				
PERSONAL MAINTENANCE	Social and Recreational Activities				
	Personal Care (if self)				
OTHER	Eating				
	Other				

Appendix B

Demographic Data

HOMEMAKER ADULT 11

1. What was the highest grade in school you completed? (IF DEGREE MENTIONED NOTE) From page 7 on questionnaire.
2. Last week were you employed?
FOR EACH EMPLOYED ASK: From page 7 on questionnaire.
4. What kind of work did you do?
(IF MORE THAN ONE JOB, ASK FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FIRST OR PRIMARY JOB) From page 7 on questionnaire.
10. Which category on this card represents the total income before taxes for your household in the past twelve months? This includes wages and salaries, net income from business or farm, pensions, dividends, interest, rent, Social Security payments, and any other money received by members of your household? From page 8 on questionnaire.

BLOCK OUT ONE LETTER ONLY

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N DK

Appendix C

Household Task Allocation Questionnaire

Name _____

Number _____

1. Do you think there are some household tasks that naturally or logically belong to the husband or to the wife?

yes _____

No _____

If yes, what are these?

Wife _____

Husband _____

2. A. In the ideal family who prepares the food?
 B. In the ideal family who washes the dishes?
 C. In the ideal family who does the shopping?
 D. In the ideal family who cleans the house?
 E. In the ideal family who does the home maintenance?
 F. In the ideal family who cares for the yard?
 G. In the ideal family who cares for the car?
 H. In the ideal family who takes care of the pets?
 I. In the ideal family who takes care of the clothing?
 J. In the ideal family who is responsible for the physical care of the household members?
 K. In the ideal family who is responsible for the nonphysical care of the household members?

3. Are household tasks in your family assigned primarily according to -

	Tradition	Who is there when it needs to be done
1. Food preparation		
2. Dishwashing		
3. Shopping		
4. House cleaning		
5. Maintenance of home		
6. Maintenance of yard		
7. Maintenance of car		
8. Care of pets		
9. Care of clothing		
10. Construction of clothing		
11. Physical care of household members		
12. Nonphysical care of household members		

4. If you work in the labor market, what kinds of things, such as telephone calls, do you do related to your family while you are at work?

<u>What Kinds of Things?</u>	<u>Approximately how Many Times Per Week?</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____

5. In your family how was it decided who would do which household tasks?