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THE FULFILLMENT OF LOVE AND BELONGINGNESS NEEDS
AMONG SINGLE PARENTS

Submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts, Lindenwood Colleges

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September 19, 1977

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ABSTRACT

The present study investigates the differences between single parents and married parents regarding (a) to what extent they fulfill their love and belongingness needs, and (b) what sources they enlist for this fulfillment. Nine hypotheses are tested using 50 subjects who were given a questionnaire developed for this study. No differences are found between married parents and single parents in the fulfillment of their needs. Differences are found in the sources they enlist for the fulfillment of their need for love, but no differences are found between groups for sources of fulfillment of their need for belonging. It is concluded that this study supports a more positive image of the single parent than past research implies, i.e., that the single parent is a fulfilled individual capable of meeting her love and belongingness needs in spite of the vast amount of discrimination experienced by her in this society.

This thesis is dedicated to my children.

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Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Study

Maslow and other psychologists have postulated the importance of every individual fulfilling basic physiological and psychological needs. However, cultural attitudes have a tendency to perpetuate an image of the single parent as one who inherently cannot fulfill her/his needs because s/he is considered "incomplete," alone, inadequate, and a deficient provider of an opposite sex role model. This superficial, but apparent, lack of elements in the lives of single parents leaves an image of these parents as stagnated in their growth and unfulfilled in their psychological and physiological needs. The purpose of this study is twofold: 1) to determine whether single parents can fulfill their basic needs; and 2) to identify the sources that allow for fulfillment of these needs.

Single parents have, for years, been inundated with the negative terminology regarding their status. Their situation is commonly referred to as: "incomplete families," "broken homes," "pathogenic families," "husbandless mothers," and "women without partners." These terms are laden with negativism connoting an abnormality among this group of people. This state of abnormality is an assumption with questionable justification. Moreover, these negative terms have negative

effects upon the children of single parents, thus hampering normal functioning and growth of the family unit.

From a personal viewpoint, I am a single parent actively involved in teaching single parent classes. As such, I am seeking new ways to support and teach single parents. This research gave me insights into the lives of single parents, which will assist me in my life and my teaching.

Another rationale for this study is to support the direction of research away from the disproportionately large number of studies involving the pathologies of single parent families. Herzog and Sudia in 1968 reviewed the literature in the area of research on the single parent family. They found most support the "classic" position, that is, the single parent family has a negative effect upon children. However, their conclusions of this review were as follows:

The count cannot be taken too seriously because aspects investigated and conclusions reached were so varied and so fragmentary. Most studies of fatherless homes look at only one area, or, typically, only a few slices of information within one area. It is interesting, however, that in the overall count the 'classic' view wins handily, but among the studies rated acceptable in method, the rough score is a tie: seven for and seven against the classic view. The acceptable group comprises a larger proportion of those challenging than of those supporting the classic view. (Herzog and Sudia, 1968, p.178)

Even though empirical data does not give conclusive evidence of the pathologies of these families, most researchers still study

only the ills of these parents. Maslow says that this perspective can only lead to a "crippled psychology" and the selling of "human nature short" (Goble, 1970, p.14). Research from a humanistic view is needed, not only to help change the image of man/woman, but to find answers as to what elements are necessary for the "healthy" single parent and their families. With the growing divorce rate, the number of single parent families will also increase. According to a statistic in a 1974-75 Senate study, "Thirteen percent of all children--some 8.3 million--are living in single parent families...."(Mondale, 1975 in Nelson et al., 1976, p.20). Therefore, with the number of single parent families steadily on the increase, it is imperative that we begin to discover how this group of people can get their psychological needs fulfilled.

Research Problem

In order to ascertain whether single parents can fulfill their needs, this study focuses on what Maslow refers to as "love and belongingness needs." "Love and belongingness" is a psychological need in Maslow's theory of needs hierarchy (discussed later), which emerges immediately upon fulfillment of basic physiological needs. It is a need which must be fulfilled as a prerequisite to the fulfillment of other needs, according to Maslow. For single parents, the absence of a spouse gives the appearance that their opportunities to give and receive love are more limited than the opportunities that married persons

have to exchange love between themselves. Focusing on the need to give and receive love seems to be an ideal area to examine the assumption that single parents do not get their needs fulfilled.

In a similar vein, the selection of belongingness needs are appropriate because single parents as a group are generally the object of societal discrimination, i.e., do not "belong" in mainstream America in the eyes of many. By focusing on this need, we can determine whether single parents indeed feel they do not "belong."

Hence, the research problem in this study is: What are the differences between single parents and married parents regarding (a) whether they fulfill their love and belongingness needs and (b) what sources each group enlists to fulfill these needs.

Definitions

The conceptual definition of "single parent" for purposes of this study is a female parent not legally married but possessing legal custody of at least one child who is less than 18 years of age. The functional definition is 25 women living in the St. Louis County area, within the Jackson Park School District, of middle socio-economic level. The conceptual definition of "married parent" for purposes of this study is a female parent legally married and possessing custody of at least one child who is less than 18 years of age. The functional definition is

25 women living in the St. Louis County area, within the Jackson Park School District, of middle socio-economic level. The conceptual definition of fulfillment of love and belongingness needs is the self-reported satisfaction of giving and receiving love, affection and the feeling of being an integral part of various social groups. The functional definition is the corresponding responses according to the key of the Love and Belongingness Questionnaire (Appendix A). The conceptual definition of "sources" for fulfillment of love and belongingness needs is the person, persons, or group the Ss report as the satisfier of their love and belongingness needs. The functional definition is the rank ordering of person, persons, or group on the questionnaire.

The sources for fulfillment of love needs are: friends, spouse, lover and family member. Family member is defined as any blood relative such as: parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, etc. Sources for fulfillment of belongingness needs are:

- 1) Group of friends - any group consisting of persons with whom one has a warm and caring relationship.
- 2) Neighborhood - street on which one lives.
- 3) Outside Neighborhood - any group of people one has contact with that does not live in one's immediate neighborhood.
- 4) Society - the total society or culture.
- 5) Other - to be filled in if one cannot apply any of the above to the questions being asked.

Format

This report will first discuss Maslow's theory of needs hierarchy as the frame of reference. It will also present the theories of Erikson and Horney that are consistent with Maslow's theory. Also included in Chapter II will be a review of some pertinent research in this area. Chapter III deals with the methodology which includes instrument development, subjects, and how selected, procedures for administration of questionnaire, and the strategy for data analysis. Chapter IV will present the results and a discussion of these results. Chapter V concludes this study, summarizing and evaluating the merits of the study. Also, the discussion in this final chapter addresses recommendations for further research and practical applications.

Chapter II

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

Frame of Reference

Abraham Maslow's theory of needs hierarchy (Maslow, 1970) is used as the frame of reference in this study.

The psychological datum of Maslow's work is the whole organism. He considers and studies specific thought, perception, and behaviour as an expression of the total organism. There is no

one cause producing one specific effect or one factor producing one factor...we should be sensitive to systemic and organismic changes...in which any single stimulus is conceived to change the whole organism, which then, as a changed organism emits behaviour changed in all departments ...behaviour emanates from the whole system. (Maslow, 1971, p. 76)

The following are the assumptions of Maslow's theory:

- 1) An individual is an integrated, organized whole, therefore the whole person is motivated, not just one part of him.
- 2) Almost all desires and drives are inter-related and motivation emphasizes the ultimate ends of needs, rather than the means used to reach these ends.
- 3) Persons are motivated by a number of needs which are species-wide, genetic or instinctual in origin and apparently unchanging.
- 4) Needs are psychological as well as physiological. Psychological needs are the true inner nature of man, but they are weak,

easily distorted and overcome by incorrect learning, habit, or tradition. Maslow states, "they are intrinsic aspects of human nature, which culture cannot kill, but only repress... and while these needs are easily ignored or suppressed, they are not bad but either neutral or good." (Maslow, 1970 in Goble, 1970, p. 37)

Thus, he challenged the assumptions made by some psychologists that instincts are strong, unchangeable or bad.

Maslow differentiates between basic needs and metaneeds or growth needs. Basic needs, or deficiency needs, include the most powerful and basic for physical survival such as food, oxygen, liquid, sex, shelter and sleep. Basic needs also include such things as affection, security, and the like. Basic needs are prepotent over metaneeds and are arranged in a hierarchical order. A need may be considered basic if it meets the following conditions:

1. Its absence breeds illness.
2. Its presence breeds health.
3. Its restoration cures illness.
4. Under certain, very complex, free-choice situations, it is preferred by the deprived person over other satisfactions.
5. It is found to be inactive, at a low ebb, or functionally absent in the healthy person. (Maslow, 1970 in Goble, 1970, p. 37)

Metaneeds are not arranged in a hierarchical order, but are equally potent and can be fairly easily substituted for one another. The metaneeds are as inherent in man as the basic needs are, and when they are not fulfilled the person may become sick. These meta-pathologies consist of such states as alienation, anguish, apathy and cynicism.

Once the physiological needs are satisfied, then the consummatory behaviour involved in this satisfaction serves as a channel for all kinds of other needs. Then, relatively isolable as these physiological needs are (as they have a localized somatic base), they cannot be said to be the only motivators. For as they are satisfied, "at once other and higher needs emerge and these, rather than physiological hungers dominate the organism. Then when these needs are satisfied, again new and still higher needs emerge, and so on. This is what we mean by saying that the basic human needs are organized into a hierarchy of relative prepotency (Maslow, 1970, p. 38)." Therefore, gratification becomes as important as deprivation for it releases the organism from the domination of physiological needs, permitting the emergence of other more social needs. Thus, if hunger is satisfied, it becomes unimportant in the current dynamics of the individual.

Once the physiological needs are sufficiently satisfied, the safety needs emerge. Since safety needs are usually satisfied in healthy adults, they can be best observed in neurotic adults and children. Children and neurotic adults need a predictable, consistent world and become anxious and insecure when these elements are lacking.

When the physiological and safety needs are met, needs for love, affection, and belongingness emerge.

Now the person will feel keenly, as never before, the absence of friends, or sweethearts, or a wife, or children. He will hunger for affectionate relations with people in general, namely, for a place in

his group or family, and he will strive with great intensity to achieve this goal.... Now he will feel sharply the pangs of loneliness, of ostracism, of rejection, of friendlessness, of rootlessness. (Maslow, 1970, p. 43)

In addition to the aforementioned needs, most people in our society have a need for a stable high evaluation of themselves, for self-respect, for self-esteem, and for the esteem of others. These needs are classified into two subsidiary sets. First, there are the desires for strength, achievement, adequacy, mastery and competence, confidence, and for freedom and independence. Second, there are desires for reputation and prestige (defined as respect from others), status, fame, and glory, dominance, recognition, attention, importance, dignity, and appreciation. Satisfaction of these sets of needs leads to feelings of self-confidence, worth, strength, capability and adequacy, of being useful and necessary in the world. Thwarting of these needs produces feelings of inferiority, weakness and helplessness.

Maslow described a still higher set of needs which he called metaneeds or growth needs. As the basic needs are satisfied, man moves toward these metaneeds and becomes motivated by them. Maslow added that the higher nature of man needed the lower nature as a foundation and without this foundation the higher nature would collapse. These metaneeds are interrelated and cannot be separated from one another. Maslow lists the following as growth needs: "wholeness, simplicity, perfection, necessity, completion, justice, order, aliveness, richness, beauty, goodness, uniqueness, individuality, effortlessness, playfulness, truth,

honesty, reality, meaningfulness, and self-sufficiency (Maslow, 1970, in Goble 1970, p. 46)." Persons that satisfy these meta-needs are more spontaneous, expressive, natural, and free, almost like they were on top of the hill and ready to coast down the other side. Truly, these people are self-actualized.

Maslow's theory further describes the process of self-actualization and the emergence of the "self." This process occurs after the basic needs are met, and represents the highest, fully-functioning and ideal condition of the human organism.

Supporting Theories

Erik Erikson has an elaborate and complex theory of psychosocial development and offers much to the understanding of healthy development. Within his theoretical framework, he postulates eight stages of man that could be integrated consistently with my frame of reference. Like Maslow's hierarchy of needs, each stage must be effectively reconciled before proceeding to the next stage of development. If any one of the stages are thwarted and left unreconciled, further healthy development will be hampered. As Erikson states, these stages are

...critical periods of development--criteria (identity is one) by which the individual demonstrates that his ego, at a given stage, is strong enough to integrate the timetable of the organism with the structure of social institutions. (Erikson, 1963, p. 146)

These eight stages are:

Basic Trust vs Mistrust - drive and hope
 Autonomy vs Shame and Doubt - self-control and willpower
 Initiative vs Guilt - direction and purpose
 Industry vs Inferiority - method and competence
 Identity vs Role Confusion - devotion and fidelity
 Intimacy vs Isolation - affiliation and love
 Generativity vs Stagnation - production and care
 Ego Integrity vs Despair - renunciation and wisdom
 (Erikson, 1963, p. 274)

Erikson, like Maslow, has included values within his framework. These values are integral to each stage and are the natural outcome of the resolution of that stage. Since explanation of the complexity of Erikson's theory is not relevant to this paper, this study will deal only with the dimension that is consistent with Maslow's dimension of love and belongingness. That is-- Intimacy vs Isolation - Affiliation and Love. After successfully finding a balance between the positive and negative aspects of each preceding stage, the adult is now ready to take the risk necessary to fulfill his/her need for intimacy and love. After the search for identity one must now be ready to abandon oneself and be willing to fuse with other. As Erikson states,

...body and ego must now be masters of the organ modes and of the nuclear conflicts, in order to be able to face the fear of ego loss in situations which call for self-abandon, in the solidarity of close affiliations, in orgasms and sexual unions, in close friendships and in physical combat, in experiences of inspiration by teachers and of intuition from the recesses of the self. The avoidance of such experiences because of a fear of ego loss may lead to a deep sense of isolation and consequent self-absorption. (Erikson, 1963, pp. 263-264)

This is one aspect of single-parenting that is overly laden with unexamined assumptions. In viewing the single

parent, she is usually assumed to be "alone," without an intimate partner, lacking close affiliation and unloved, as opposed to the married parent who is assumed to possess this intimacy due solely to her position. With Erikson, like Maslow, stressing the importance of love and intimacy, it is important for single parents and their development, and for the development of their children, to examine these assumptions. Unless one can give and receive love, one's ability to parent in a loving manner would be hampered, thereby hindering the development of the child.

Karen Horney, a follower of Freud, offers another concept that is consistent with this study's theoretical framework. Horney states that there are three basic areas of needs. These are: "1) moving toward, for example the need for love; 2) moving away from people, for instance the need for independence; and 3) moving against people, for instance, the need for power (Hall and Lindzey, 1957, p. 136)." To be a healthy adult one must integrate these three orientations to reduce anxiety and inner conflict. If the inner conflict is not resolved, one creates an idealized self, an image of what they think they are, and then tries to live up to this self. These forms of inner conflict can be resolvable "...if the child is raised in a home where there is security, trust, love, respect, tolerance and warmth (Hall and Lindzey, 1957, p. 136)." Again, we see the emergence of the same qualities: love, trust, and warmth.

It appears, therefore, that Maslow, Erikson and Horney postulate the importance of these qualities, not only for the healthy development of the adult, but in order to facilitate the healthy development of the child. These theorists and others have written volumes pertaining to these qualities. Are these theoretical qualities manifest in people's actual lives? This study, accepting the assumptions of these theories, attempts to ascertain if indeed the adults are satisfying and resolving their need for love.

After presentation of the above theoretical background for this study, we now proceed to a review of the literature. This review cites various empirical studies to justify the undertaking of the present one.

Review of the Literature

In some studies, the single parent family is seen as an uncontrollable contagious disease that is spreading throughout society. This "disease" is seen as a threat to the nuclear family. "Pathogenic" symptoms, such as poverty, deprivation, frustration, delinquency, promiscuous female children, male children with weak egos, male children expressing female traits, and unfulfillment of basic needs appear throughout the literature on the single parent family. D'Andrade (1973) studied 58 black working-class households and found: 1) that children

who had a father absent during their early years had a feminine response pattern on the Franck Test; 2) that paternal absence influenced the child's identity; and 3) that boys from households whose fathers left after early childhood perceive their male role as unrewarding and described themselves as less masculine.

In another study examining male children of divorced women, it was found that boys, as a defense of themselves and their mothers, expressed antisocial behaviour (Tooley, 1976). Hetherington (1972) studied the effects of the absence of the father on adolescent girls and concluded that girls from both divorced and widowed mothers exhibit precocious sexual behaviour. Another study examining the effects of paternal deprivations at early or late childhood found that father absence during adolescence increased the child's feeling of rejection. He further concluded that unless the mother can assume an authoritative role, children will fail to form a strong conscience, and retention of a good image of the father was better able to be sustained if the deprivation was caused by death in lieu of divorce. Numerous similar studies (Moss, 1976) could be cited showing the apparent pathologies of these families. However, although much of the research reveals negative results of the father-absent home, the evidence is not conclusive.

Bernhardt (1972) examined a child's perception of the father's roles in 4-, 7-, and 10-year old children. The null hypothesis of no differences between children with father and

children with no father was not rejected. She further found that as children grew older, their perceptions were congruent with societal expectations. Kelly (1970) examined single-parent and two-parent children in relation to self-concept and found "...that the emotional growth of children is not necessarily dependent upon the presence within the home of both parents, but that residence with at least one parent is vital (p. 47)." Atkinson and Ogston (1974) compared a number of variables between family absent and intact homes. Variables studied were: discipline, home and school activities, and cooperation. They concluded, "it appears on the basis of these results that the behaviour of children without fathers is neither more nor less deviant than that of children having fathers. They performed as well scholastically, generally participated in as many activities, and appeared to be equally cooperative and responsible around the home (Atkinson and Ogston, 1974, p. 220)." Behaviour differences between boys from intact homes and homes without fathers were compared with no appreciable difference found between these children (Calgary, 1974). Herzog and Sudia (1968) stated after their review of the literature, that when methodology was equalized, the count showing negative effects and no differences were the same. The inconclusive results of these studies suggest that single parent families may not be pathological after all. Could this be because most of the previous studies are psycholanalytic-based with heavy emphasis on male children, children from poverty stricken homes, and no focus

on the single parents themselves? Alternative research from a different theoretical framework and a perspective of the "health" of these families is needed before definite conclusions can be drawn.

Some researchers have suggested ways to begin to study the single parent family from alternative perspectives. Klingenmaier had several suggestions to aid the development of new research. She stated that we may have been preoccupied with the children of these families and suggests that it is the single parent who merits more concern. She further suggests we need to understand the structure of the family and its vulnerabilities, and thereby provide the services needed in order to aid these families (Klingenmaier, 1972). Somerville (1976) suggests the need for flexibility and acceptance of diversity with regard to the changing family patterns and roles for males and females. In a study interviewing members of a "Parents Without Partners" organization, it was found that by offering a support system to its members, they established a sense of well-being (Weiss, 1973). Another new dimension to research on the single parent family was achieved by Becker (1974). He did an experiment testing for creativity within the father-absent families. He found no differences between girls from father-absent and intact homes, but significant differences were found between father-present and father-absent homes on boys. The father-absent boys scored higher on all scales tested. He concluded his study by interpreting that mother influence is correlated with creativity.

This was the only study found in the literature that suggests the possibility of the single parent home having positive effects on the children. While the amount of work done is not enough to substantiate the "health" of the single parent and/or her family, it does provide an impetus for further research. Research from a different theoretical perspective which focuses on the "health" of these families without the exclusive preoccupation with the children of the single parent is needed. Burgess (1973) asserts that the development of the child depends upon how well the parent can function as a self-assured adult. The present study, therefore, is a measure of the single parent and her functioning as a fulfilled adult capable of meeting her basic needs. It is an alternative study that does not rely upon psychoanalytic theory for its theoretical perspective. Its focus is on the single parent, not the children, with emphasis on the "health" of the parent. It asserts the hypothesis that the single parent does not differ from the married parent in fulfillment of basic needs. Thus, this study is conducted as an example of an alternative approach to the study of single parent families. In the next chapter, the methodology of this study is detailed.

Chapter III

METHODOLOGY

Overview

This chapter describes the methods employed in conducting the research. First, the expected outcomes will be presented along with reasons for them. Second, the development of the instrument used to measure the hypotheses will be reviewed, along with the rationale for instrument and procedure used for standardization. The sample characteristics and selection, number and rationale for selection will also be discussed. Finally, the procedure for administering the questionnaire and the strategy for data analysis will be outlined in this chapter.

Expected Outcomes

After review of the literature and analysis of theory, the research question was refined as: 1) Do single parents differ from married parents in fulfillment of their needs for love and belongingness? 2) Do single parents and married parents differ in the sources they utilize for fulfillment of their love and belongingness needs? An instrument was developed to investigate these questions and to test the following hypotheses:

1. There will be no significant differences between single parents and married parents in fulfillment of their love and belongingness needs.

2. Single parents will report their children as a greater source of comfort and warmth than married parents.
3. Single parents will report their friends as their primary source of fulfillment.
4. Married parents will report their spouse as their primary source of fulfillment.
5. Married parents will report their family member as their second source of fulfillment.
6. Single parents will rank their family member or lover as their second source of fulfillment.
7. Single parents will fulfill their belongingness need through groups of friends.
8. Single parents will seek fulfillment through outside neighborhood groups as a second source.
9. Married parents will report neighborhood and society as their greater sources of fulfillment of their belongingness need.

The rationale for hypothesis #1 is that single parents, in spite of their apparent "aloneness", are not necessarily isolated from close, warm, caring relationships. The need for love and belongingness is the same for single people as it is for any healthy functioning adult regardless of preferred life style. As these needs are basic to human development, the single parents seek fulfillment of their needs as any other healthy adult does.

Hypothesis #2 was drawn from the same assumptions. Since the single parent seeks fulfillment of her basic needs, but does

not have a mate legally bound to her, she utilizes more available options for fulfillment. One of the available options is the children of this parent. The healthy single parent needing caring, warmth and comfort will allow more freedom of expression between herself and her children for the flow of these love and intimate qualities in order to meet her needs.

The rationale for Hypotheses #3 through #6 is that single parents fulfill their needs through different sources than married parents. Lacking an active, loving, adult mate in their life style, the single parent needs to seek comfort and love through sources outside the immediate family unit. Therefore, the single parent needs to utilize her friendships and develop them into caring and intimate relationships in order to find fulfillment. The married parent who has an active and loving mate will utilize this resource for her fulfillment. Also, the single parent breaking from the traditional style of parenting (two-parent) will not have as close a relationship established with her parents and other family members as the married person. She, therefore, will find a lover as her second source of fulfillment, whereas the married parent will maintain the closeness with her family members.

Hypotheses #7, #8 and #9 relate to the fulfillment of belongingness needs. As it is the need for a single parent to utilize friends for her fulfillment of love, the single parent needs to develop a group of friends in order to gain social acceptability and share a common value system. Her second avenue for

fulfillment would be groups outside her immediate neighborhood, such as women's rap groups, political organizations, parent groups, and school activities. The married parent living the traditional life style has inherently in this life style the acceptability and the shared value systems as deemed by the total society. Further, the majority of neighborhoods reflect the traditional style. That is, they are predominantly two-parent communities which also provides the married parent with an inherent common set of values and acceptability.

Instrument Development

In a review of available instruments, no instrument could be found that reflected the dimensions of Maslow's hierarchy of needs necessary for the purposes of this study. An instrument that would measure the two dimensions of this project was needed. First, the instrument needed to measure whether or not single parents felt their need for love and belongingness was fulfilled, and second, from what source they received fulfillment of these needs. With no appropriate instrument available, a new one needed to be developed.

The concept of love was analyzed into components associated with it along the lines of Maslow, Erikson and Horney. These components are: affection, caring, warmth, physical touching, and the sharing of intimate details of one's life. Also discussed and worked through were the various sources one could give love to and receive love from. These are: children, family members (any blood relative, i.e., parents, siblings, aunts,

uncles), spouse or lover and friends.

Belongingness was handled in the same manner. However, here several problems arose. First, Maslow speaks of belongingness in the same context with love without clearly distinguishing it from love. According to Maslow, if individuals fulfill their love need, they would be simultaneously fulfilling their need for belongingness.

Now the person will feel keenly, as never before, the absence of friends, or sweet-hearts, or a wife, or children. He will hunger for affectionate relations with people in general, namely, for a place in his group or family, and he will strive with great intensity to achieve this goal (Maslow, 1970, p.43)

On the level that one would feel like she belongs to the people she loves, this concept could be accepted. However, it seems that one needs to also feel there is a place for oneself in the larger scheme. Although Maslow states one needs to feel part of society, he does not clarify how a person fulfills this need apart from love and caring relationships. Through this analysis it was apparent that belongingness needs had to be distinguished more clearly from love needs. However, the clarity of belongingness, defining it and isolating its specific characteristics, was beyond the scope of this study. Measuring how individuals receive their feelings of acceptability, and the sharing of their value systems was within this study's scope. This shared value system and mutual acceptability of common life styles was seen as a necessary component of the belongingness need. Without these elements one's affinity to

the larger scheme would be impaired. Therefore, this sense of shared values and acceptability was seen as a method of discovering where the subjects acquired their sense of belonging to a larger context.

After this analysis of love and belongingness was completed, several methods were considered to measure these qualities. Although an interview self-report format would have been ideal for this study, it was ruled out because of the limited time available to analyze the bulk of data such an instrument would generate. A semi-structured questionnaire was the next best alternative.

The first questionnaire drawn up was comprised of open ended questions asking how and where each subject fulfilled her love and belongingness needs. Reviewing this questionnaire, it was decided the data would be too difficult to measure as it would not lend itself to statistical analysis easily applied to this project. A second instrument was developed, listing all people who can fulfill love needs and all groups that could fulfill the need for belongingness. The problem with this was that while the subject could respond to who and where they go for fulfillment of these needs, the data would not reveal the amount of love within the parent/child category. The interaction between parent and child was considered too important to be left out, so a new form was again required.

A third and final form was developed. This questionnaire was divided into three parts: first, to answer whether or not

they fulfill their love and belongingness needs; second, to discover how these needs were being fulfilled; and, third, to find out what factors they (the subjects) felt aided or hindered the fulfillment of love and belongingness needs.

(See Appendix A)

For the first section, Questions 1 through 36, an adapted version of the "Caring Relationship Inventory" developed by Everett L. Shostrom (1966) was used. This instrument was developed in line with Maslow's theory and the different dimensions of love. The first five scales of this inventory consist of affection, friendship, eros, empathy and self-love. Since all these dimensions are relevant to this project, questions from this inventory were used in order to answer whether or not the Ss' needs for love and belongingness were fulfilled. However, the inventory was primarily developed to test caring and love within a male-female relationship. Since this study was concerned with the dimension of love given and received from various sources, the Shostrom instrument required modification. Only the questions pertinent to the various components of love and belongingness were used. Questions pertaining to sexual expression were left out. The inventory was further modified to allow the respondents a place to name persons other than one that they originally named. This change was made in order to be consistent with the idea that love and belongingness needs could be fulfilled by more than one person. This change enables us to distinguish when a need was unfulfilled or just unfulfilled

totally by one person.

Part II, Questions 1 through 5, consist of questions about what part of Ss' love needs are fulfilled by their children. Respondents are allowed to answer, Yes, No or Not Applicable. The questions were developed by describing a given situation eliciting the need for love and comfort, and asked if they would allow their child to fulfill this need. The last two questions in this section ask directly if they feel and exchange love and affectionate touching between themselves and their child/children. It was reasoned that if love were absent between parent and child, the fulfillment of the parent's love need would be diminished.

The next set of questions, 6 through 15, pertain to where the persons would go to fulfill their adult need for love. Again, situations are given eliciting feelings of need for affection and love. Three major sources are given for possible answers. These are: family, friends and spouse/lover. Instructions state that they are to rank order these sources in the order they would go to first, second and third. Again, the questions begin with situations and end with asking directly who the most important source is for them to fulfill their need for love.

Questions 16 through 20 deal with their sense of belongingness. The Ss are asked directly to rank order the groups in accordance with their feeling that they shared a similar life style, values, and acceptability. This section was designed to measure a sense of belongingness and identification with groups outside one's immediate family and children.

The first three questions for Part II (21 through 23) ask directly if the Ss feel their love and belongingness needs are being met. This includes if they feel they are loved, if they are giving love and the acceptability of their life style. This was included primarily to allow for two options in measuring their fulfillment of love and belongingness, and to test for internal consistency.

Part III of the questionnaire asked each S to list five things she felt enabled and/or hindered fulfillment of her love and belongingness needs. The reasons for this section were several. First, each S could express what she personally felt contributed to fulfillment of needs. Second, *it might reveal* a pattern of similar responses within each group of subjects. Finally, there may be a relationship between the factors the Ss listed and the categories included in Part II of the questionnaire.

The questionnaire was given to a pilot group. This procedure was done in order to identify any aspect of the questionnaire that would need clarification before administration. Only two changes were necessary. One, in the instructions in Part I, it was necessary to make clear the option for adding another person's name than the one being rated. The second change was to substitute neighborhood for community. All subjects of the pilot group felt one's immediate environment or the street they lived on was more accurately described as neighborhood rather than community. These changes were made and the questionnaire was ready for administration.

Subjects

The Ss were twenty-five (25) single parents and twenty-five (25) married parents. Ss were all women, middle social-economic class, living in the Jackson Park School District of University City, Missouri. All had at least one child living in the home under the age of 18.

The geographic area was selected as it contained middle class parents, assuming that parents in this group had at least their lower needs (shelter, clothing, food) fulfilled.

Fifty subjects were selected primarily due to the number being ideal for manual analysis. While this limits many generalizations to be drawn, it is large enough to observe emerging patterns among the two groups. If common patterns prevail between and within groups, these findings will be the foundation for more in-depth studies.

Procedure for Administration

Standardization for test administration was accomplished by arriving at one set of instructions and one form of introduction to each subject. Each subject was greeted in the following manner: "Hello. I am Ann Bannes, a neighbor of yours, presently working on my Master's degree in Psychology. The focus of my work is on the single parent. I would appreciate it if you would answer a questionnaire I have developed in order that I may complete my research. It will take approximately 15 to 20 minutes. Your cooperation will be most helpful in making my project run smoothly. Please feel free to decline if you so desire."

Questions arising from the subjects included, what did I mean by love and belongingness, would I allow them to see the results, and would they remain anonymous. They were told that the qualities were not defined in precise terms, inasmuch as all I was seeking was how they felt about each question. Love could be their own definition--how they perceived it was the important aspect of this project. They were also told that results would be shared if so desired and that they did not need to write their names on the questionnaire. For those who felt hesitation, they were informed that the research was focusing on positive aspects of parents and the need in research to collect data directly from the parents themselves. Each S was treated in a positive manner with respect given freely as one parent to another. Only two persons refused. They felt the subject matter was too personal and did not wish to self-disclose. These refusals were accepted without any hesitation.

Before contacting Ss, a list was drawn up from the "Jackson Park Who's Who Book," which is the telephone directory for that school district. As each questionnaire was given, names were checked off the list. All those wishing follow-up on the research were duly noted.

Strategy for Data Analysis

Content validity was used as a measure for validation of the instrument. Internal consistency was employed as a measure of reliability. Comparing the responses from Part I of the

questionnaire with the last section of Part II was undertaken to see if indeed the subjects did not differ on these sections asking basically the same question: Are their needs for love and belongingness fulfilled?

Before compiling data on a work sheet, a Key was drawn up in order to score the positive responses and sources according to each group. (See Appendix B) In Part I all positive responses to each question were drawn up and placed on a worksheet with corresponding questions. The Key for Part I did not differ for married parents and single parents in line with Hypothesis #1.

Part II did show a difference according to Hypothesis #2. It was keyed to show married parents responding "Not Applicable" to two out of the five questions, with single parents responding "Yes" to all five.

Questions 6 through 15 show a pattern of rankings for married parents: (Key 2,3,1). The 2 is 2nd source--family member; 3 is 3rd source--friends; 1 is primary source--spouse. The single parents show a variability (3,1,2 or 2,1,3) with friends the primary in both, but lover or a family member as possible 2nd choice.

Questions 16 through 30 relate to belongingness. The patterns vary between married and single parents. Married parents are keyed, 3,1,4,2; one being for neighborhood, 2 for society, 3 for friends and 4 for outside groups. Single parents pattern is 1,3,2,4; one being group of friends, 2 for outside

neighborhood groups, 3 for neighborhood and 4 for society. (Refer to Hypotheses #7, #8, and #9.)

Questions 21 through 23 refer to Hypothesis #1--single parents and married parents do not differ in fulfillment of their needs. The Key is "Yes" for all three questions for both groups.

The Key together with all questions and sections of the questionnaire were placed on worksheets. Different statistical procedures were computed for each section. The t-test was computed for Part I and the last section of Part II, Questions 21 through 23, in order to ascertain if there were any differences between groups.

A t-test was also computed for Questions 1 through 5 in Part II to compare any differences between groups for Hypothesis #2.

Frequency distributions and percentages of responses according to each rank order were computed for Part II, Questions 6-15 and 16-20.

The open-ended questions in Part III were analyzed by their content. Part III was removed from the main body of the questionnaire and this section was randomized in order to eliminate researcher bias. Categories were ascertained for total pattern of responses. All random Ss were placed in the respective category. After this procedure, Part III was redesigned according to each group. Analysis was made on any emerging patterns.

Chapter IV

RESULTS

Results of Data

A t-test was run on Part I of the questionnaire in order to test results between groups. The differences in fulfillment of love and belongingness needs were not found to be significant. ($t = 1.72$, $df = 48$, $p < .05$)

A t-test was run on Part II in order to test differences between groups regarding the utilization of their children as sources of fulfillment. Significant differences were found. ($t = 2.42$, $df = 47$, $p < .05$)

A t-test was run for items 21-23 to test results of responses in order to see if the groups differ on this section as they did on the first section seeking the same measure. This is a partial measure of internal consistency, one aspect of instrument reliability. No differences were found. ($t = 1.16$, $df = 48$, $p < .05$)

Table I, Figures 1, 2 and 3 summarize the frequency distribution and relative distribution of responses to questions 6 through 15. These questions referred to sources for fulfillment of love needs.

Table II, Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7 summarize the frequency distribution and relative distribution of responses to questions 16 through 20. These questions referred to sources for fulfillment of belongingness needs.

Table 1.

SOURCES OF FULFILLMENT OF LOVE NEEDS
AMONG SINGLE AND MARRIED PARENTS

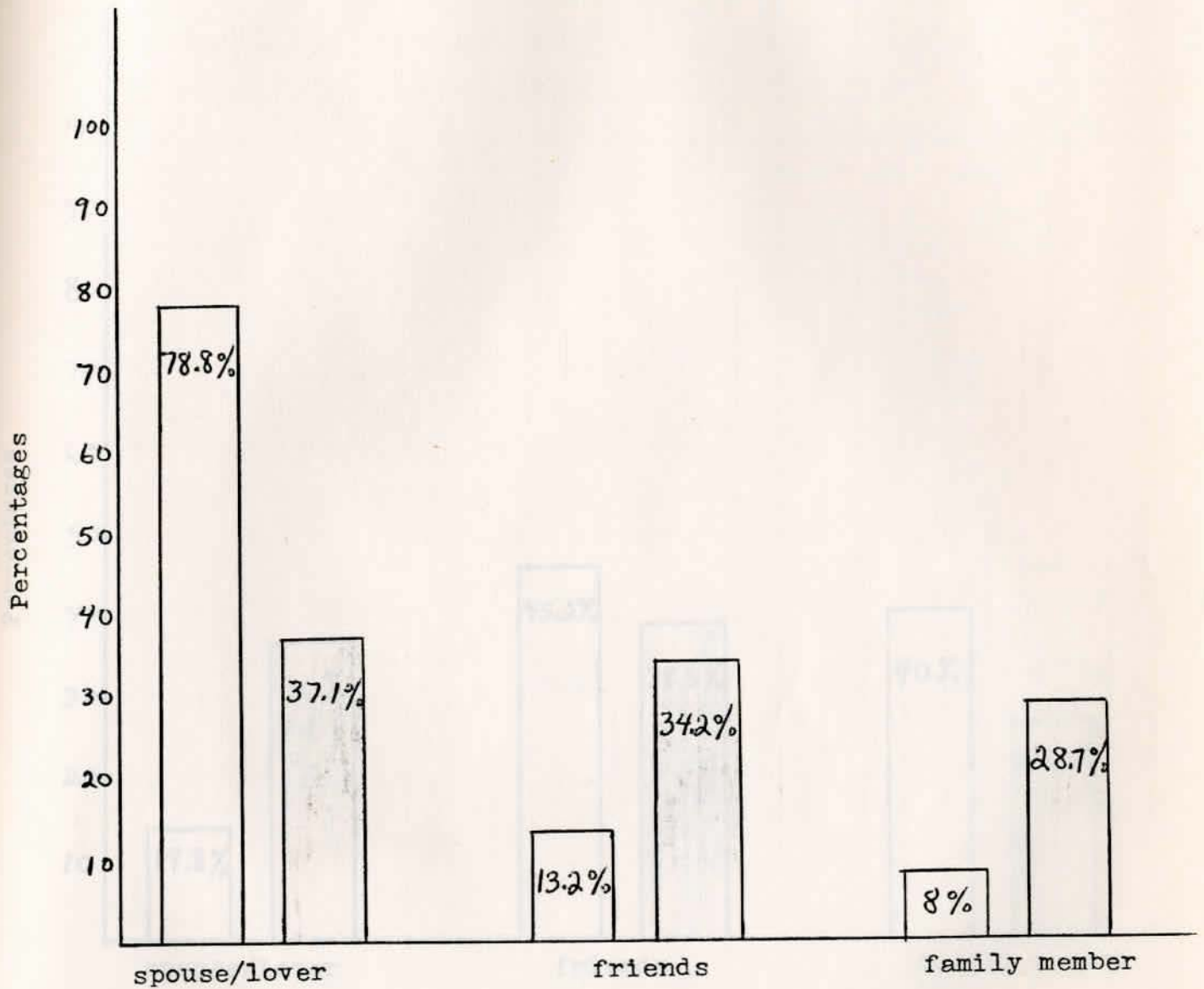
<u>Choices</u>	SOURCES OF FULFILLMENT		
	<u>SPOUSE/LOVER</u>	<u>FRIENDS</u>	<u>FAMILY MEMBER</u>
1st - Married	78.8% (197)	13.2% (33)	8% (20)
Single	37.1% (99)	34.2% (81)	28.7%(68)
2nd - Married	14.8% (37)	45.2% (113)	40% (100)
Single	36.0% (80)	38.3% (85)	25.7%(57)
3rd - Married	6.4% (16)	41.6% (104)	52% (130)
Single	28.6% (66)	26.4% (61)	45% (104)

NOTE: Numbers in parentheses are total number of responses.

Due to omitted responses among some of the single parents, percents do not sum to 100%, nor do number of responses add up to 250.

FIG. 1 Percent of 1st Choice Responses among married and single parents for fulfillment of their love needs

Married parents - solid area
single parents - shaded area



SOURCES

Fig.1 Percent of 1st Choice Responses among married and single parents for fulfillment of their love need

Married parents - clear area
 single parents - shaded area

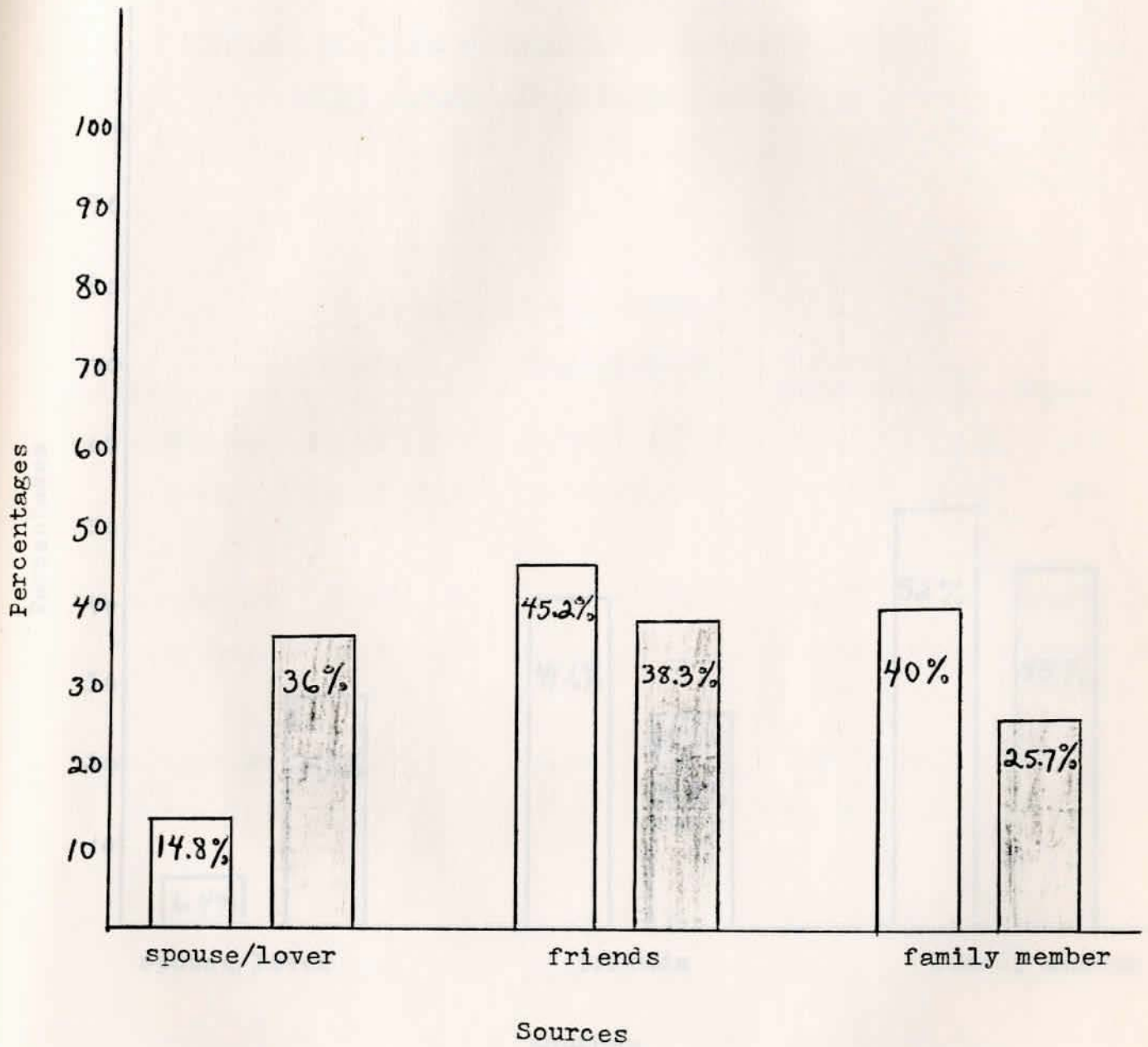


Fig. 2 Percent of 2nd choice responses among married and single parents for fulfillment of their love need

Married parents - clear area
 single parents - shaded area

Table 3.

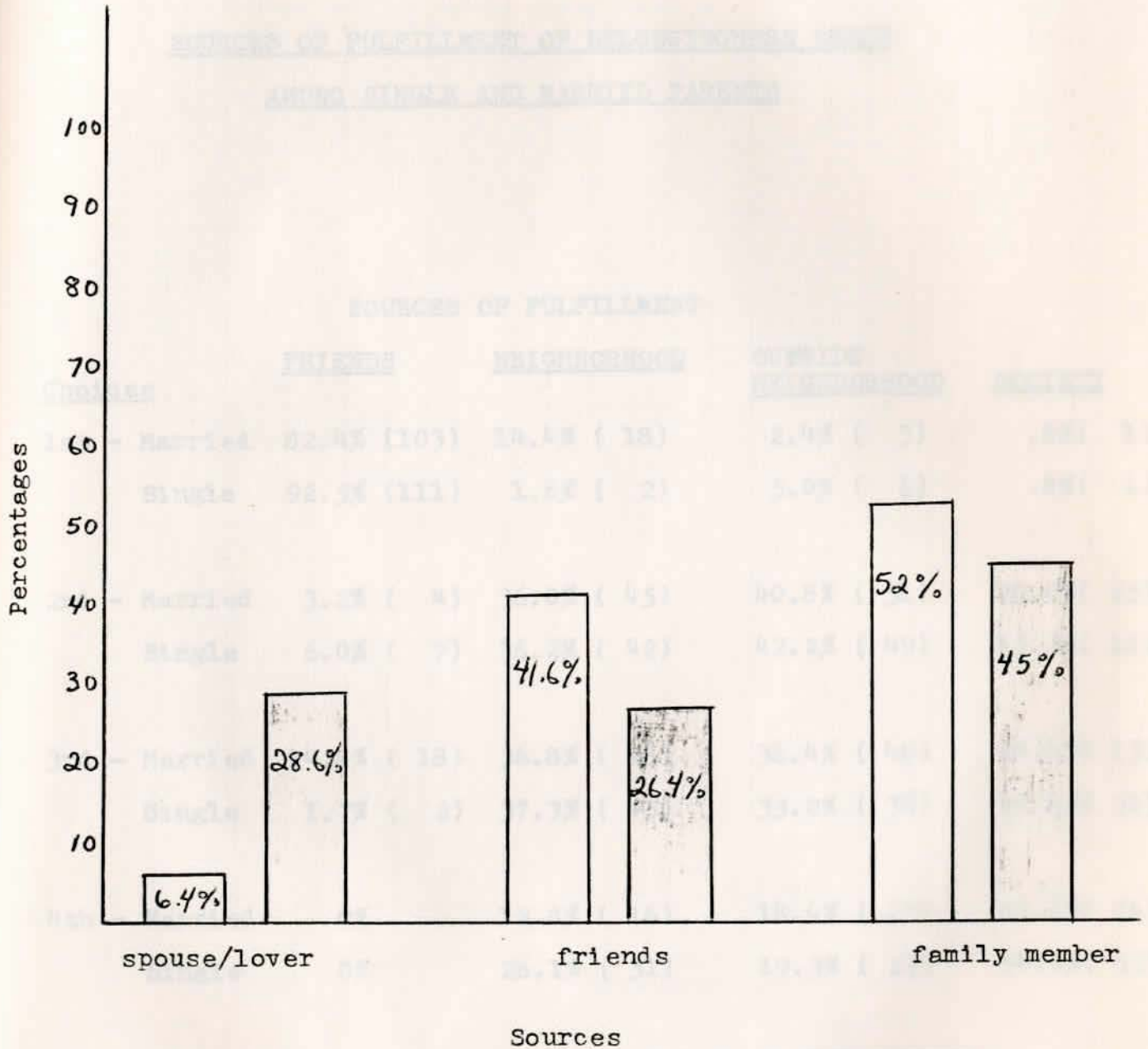


Fig. 3 Percent of 3rd Choice Responses among married and single parents for fulfillment of their love need

Married parents - clear area
 single parents - shaded area

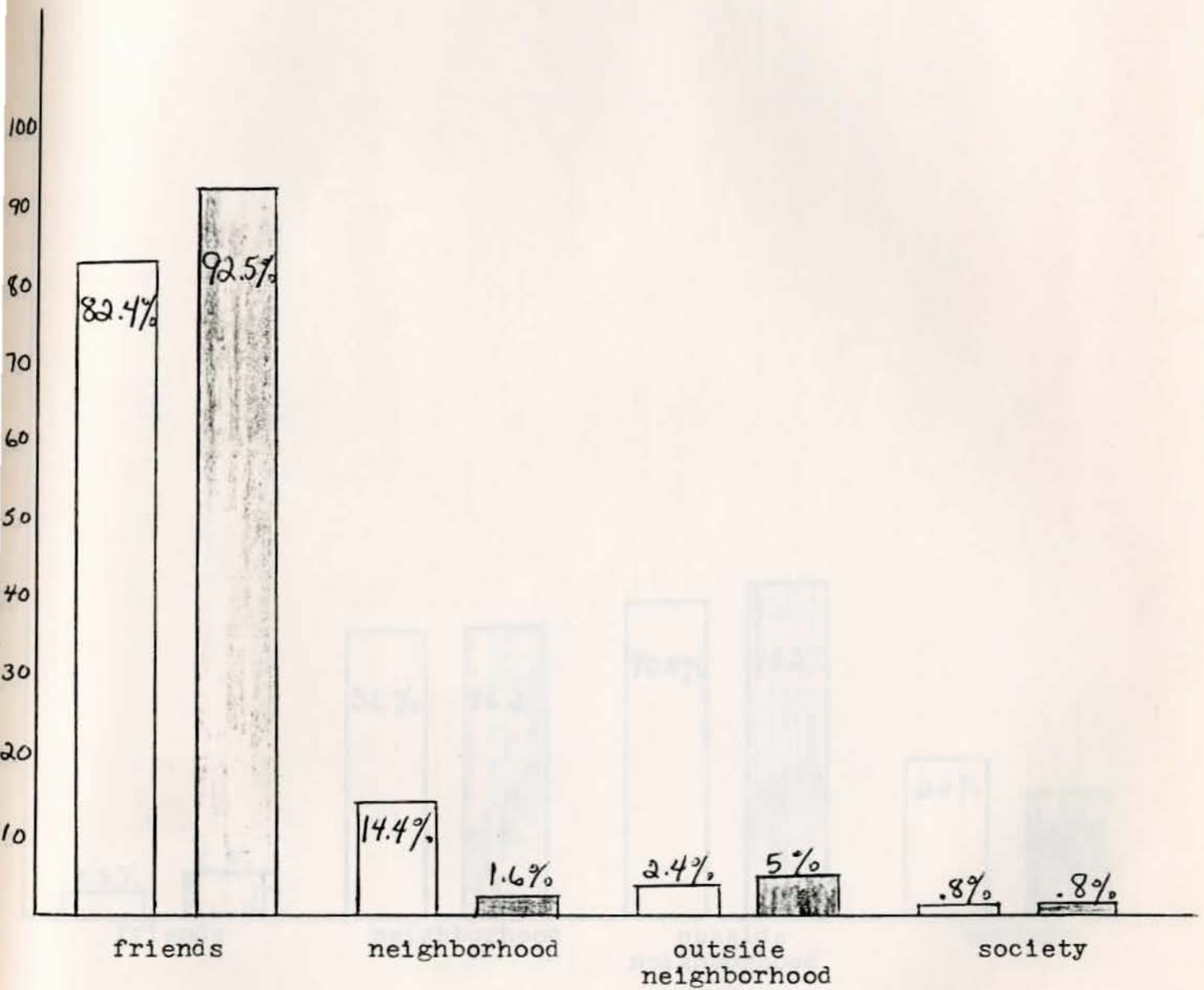
Table 2.

SOURCES OF FULFILLMENT OF BELONGINGNESS NEEDS
AMONG SINGLE AND MARRIED PARENTS

<u>Choices</u>	<u>SOURCES OF FULFILLMENT</u>			
	<u>FRIENDS</u>	<u>NEIGHBORHOOD</u>	<u>OUTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD</u>	<u>SOCIETY</u>
1st - Married	82.4% (103)	14.4% (18)	2.4% (3)	.8%(1)
Single	92.5% (111)	1.6% (2)	5.0% (6)	.8%(1)
2nd - Married	3.2% (4)	36.0% (45)	40.8% (51)	20.0%(25)
Single	6.0% (7)	36.2% (42)	42.2% (49)	15.5%(18)
3rd - Married	14.4% (18)	36.8% (46)	38.4% (48)	10.4%(13)
Single	1.7% (2)	37.3% (43)	33.0% (38)	27.8%(32)
4th - Married	0%	12.8% (16)	18.4% (23)	68.8%(86)
Single	0%	26.1% (31)	19.3% (23)	54.6%(65)

NOTE: Numbers in parentheses are total number of responses.

Due to omitted responses among some of the single parents, percents do not sum to 100%, nor do number of responses add up to 250.



Sources

Fig. 4 Percent of 1st Choice Responses among married and single parents for fulfillment of their belongingness need.

Married parents - clear area
 single parents - shaded area

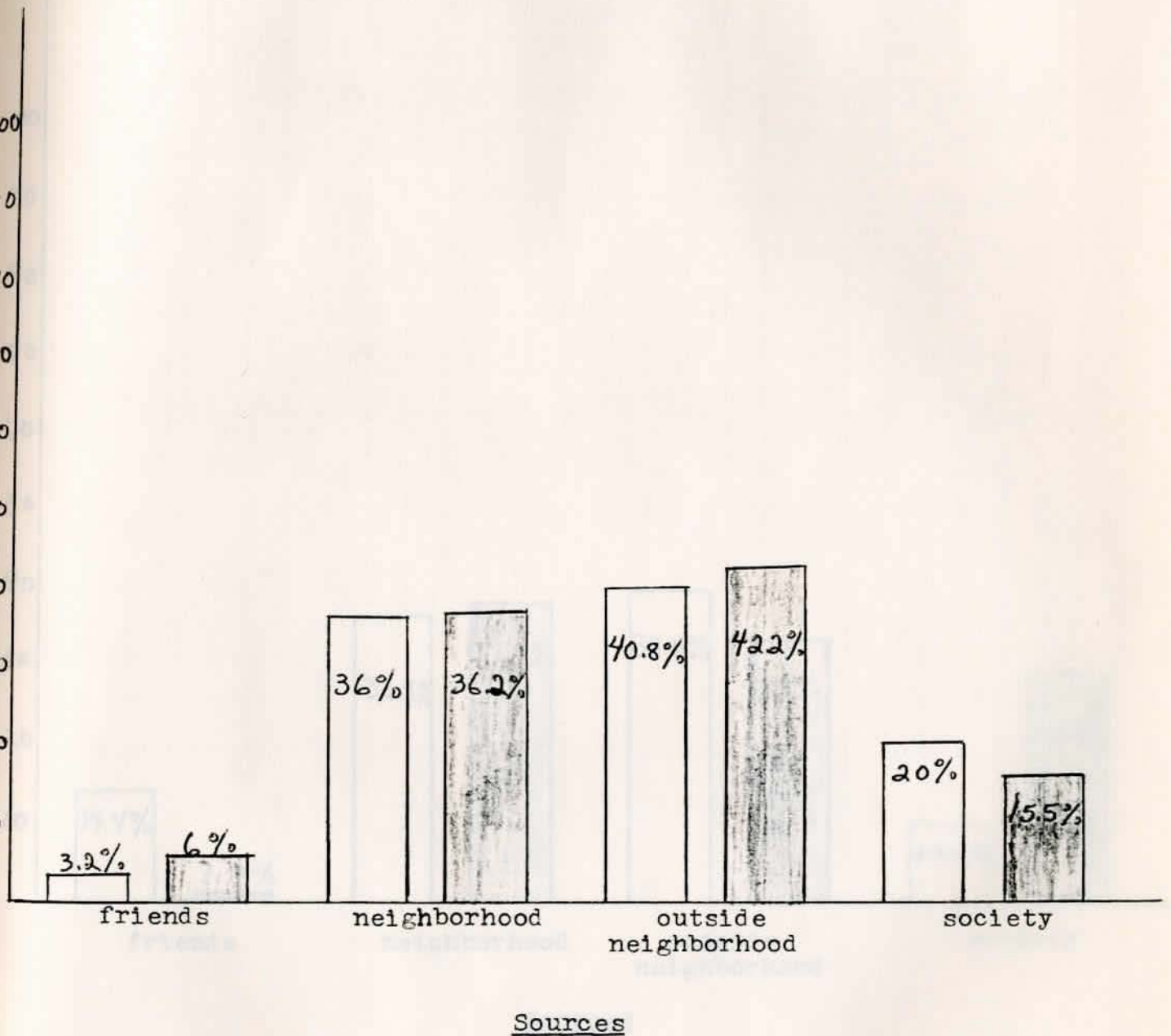


Fig. 5 Percent of 2nd Choice Responses among married and single parents for fulfillment of their belongingness need.

Married parents - clear area
 single parents - shaded area

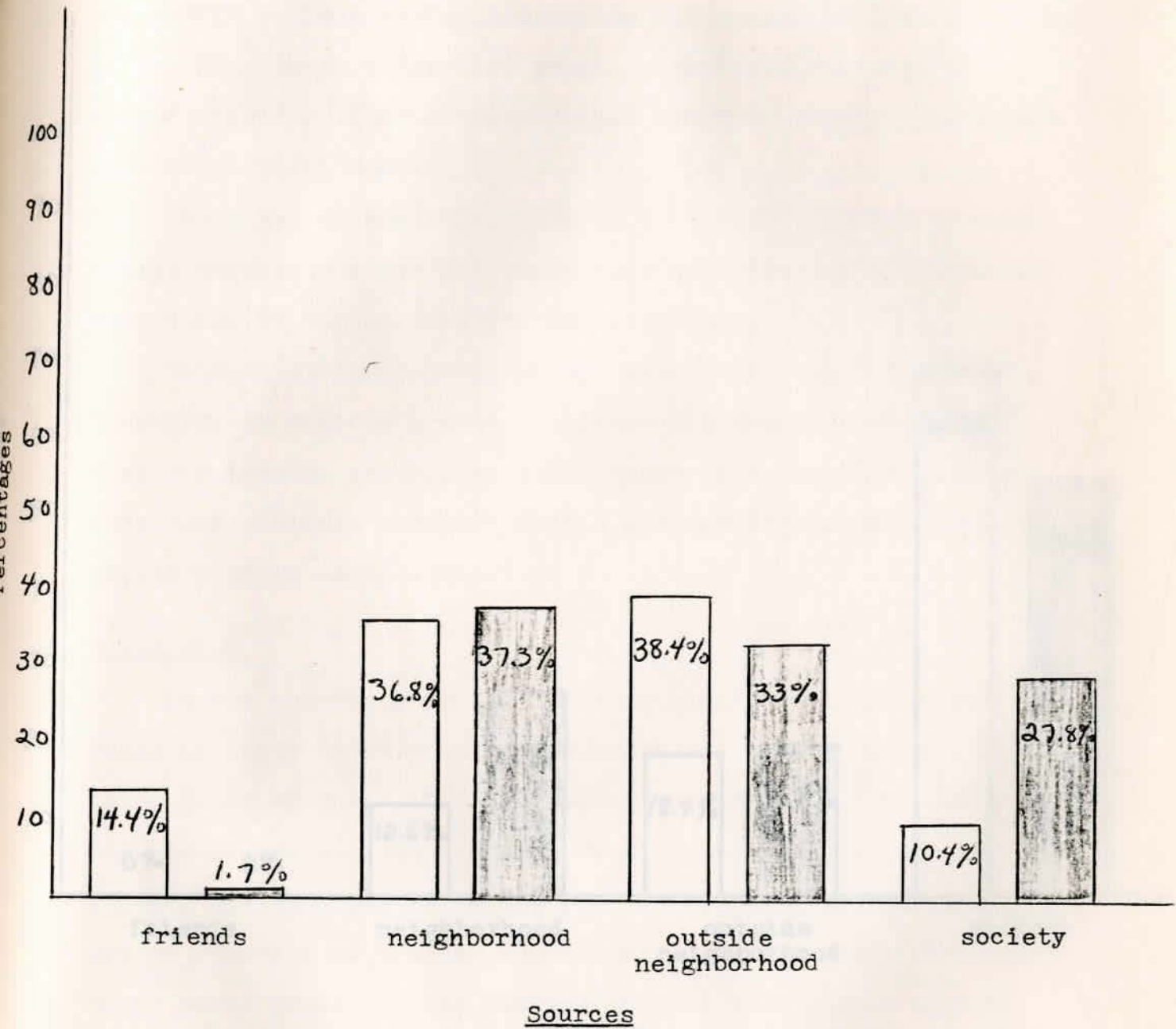
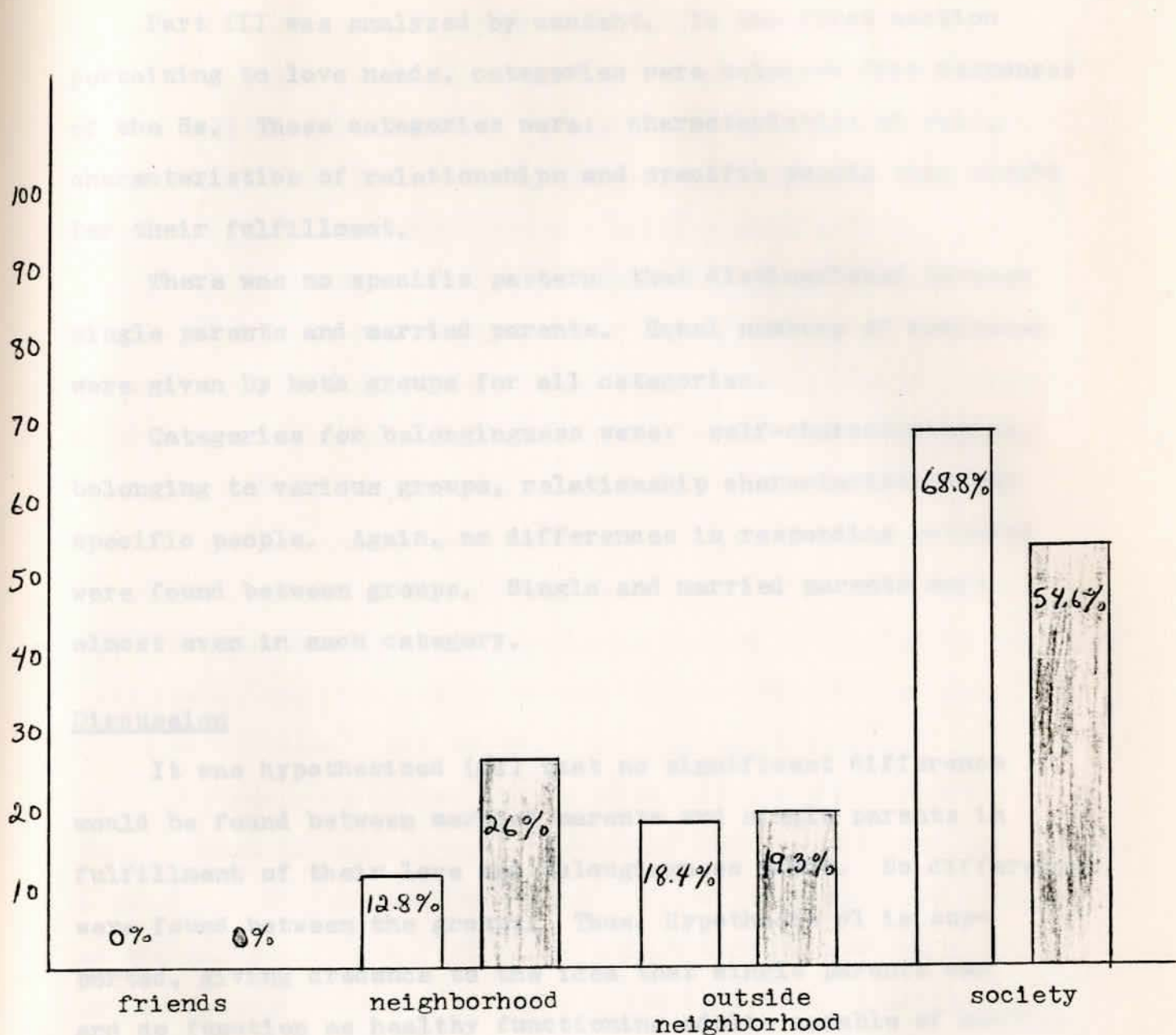


Fig. 6 Percent of 3rd Choice responses among married and single parents for fulfillment of their belongingness need.

Married parents - clear area
 single parents - shaded area



Sources

Fig. 7 Percent of 4th Choice Responses among married and single parents for fulfillment of their belongingness need.

married parents - clear area
single parents - shaded area

Part III was analyzed by content. In the first section pertaining to love needs, categories were selected from responses of the Ss. These categories were: characteristics of self, characteristics of relationships and specific people they sought for their fulfillment.

There was no specific pattern that distinguished between single parents and married parents. Equal numbers of responses were given by both groups for all categories.

Categories for belongingness were: self-characteristics, belonging to various groups, relationship characteristics and specific people. Again, no differences in responding patterns were found between groups. Single and married parents were almost even in each category.

Discussion

It was hypothesized (#1) that no significant difference would be found between married parents and single parents in fulfillment of their love and belongingness needs. No differences were found between the groups. Thus, Hypothesis #1 is supported, giving credence to the idea that single parents can and do function as healthy functioning adults capable of meeting their basic needs. These results suggest that single parents may not necessarily be hindered in their psychological development and that they are psychologically ready to continue their growth towards higher need fulfillment.

Hypothesis #2 stated that single parents will report their children as a greater source of comfort and warmth than married

persons. This was also supported as significant differences were found between groups. It would appear from these results that single parents are more open and receptive to expressions of love and intimacy between themselves and their children. As the single person finds herself needing love and intimacy, and as she does not have a legal mate, she begins to develop different avenues for fulfillment of these needs. As her children have the same basic needs for love, the single parent utilizes this resource as a part of her seeking fulfillment of this need. This does not imply, however, that the married parent does not have a warm and caring relationship with her children. Instead, the married parent, having an adult mate on a constant basis and as a reliable source of fulfilling her love needs, does not appear to rely on her children for fulfillment of these needs as the single parent does.

Hypothesis #3 states that married parents will report their spouse as their primary source of fulfillment, and Hypothesis #4 states that single parents will report their friends as the primary source. Hypothesis #4 was not supported as the single parents reported an equal distribution for fulfillment through all the various sources. Hypothesis #3 was supported as the majority of the married parents (78.8%) reported their spouse as their primary source. It would appear that the traditional view of the married parent having one primary source for her fulfillment of needs is supported. It has always been

held that the married women would seek their spouses as primary and this is confirmed in this study. However, the idea that the single parent needs to develop close and intimate relationships with friends in order to fulfill her needs is not given credence by this study. Apparently, the single parent seeks fulfillment not only through her children, but through her friends, lovers and family members almost equally. It does support the idea that the single parent does not live truly "alone", isolating herself and/or her family from the mainstream. In fact, the single parent utilizes all avenues open to her, the children, friends, lovers and her family.

Hypothesis #6 states that single parents will rank their family member or lover as their second source of fulfillment. This was not substantiated in this study. Single parents ranked almost all sources evenly. As stated by the first choice rating, single parents utilized all avenues of love and caring relationships. It appears that single parents are more open and receptive to intimate and caring relationship thereby leaving themselves many avenues for fulfillment.

The hypothesis that married parents would report their family member as their second source of fulfillment was not supported. The married parent reported friends and family members equally. These parents, when needing to go outside their nuclear family, develop close relationships with either family members or friends. Perhaps the traditional life style does not narrow their develop-

ment of intimate friends or leave them only open to members of their family. As the break from extended families has increased and is almost complete in our society, the married person apparently seeks fulfillment of her needs through other avenues.

Hypothesis #7 states that the single parent will fulfill her belongingness need through groups of friends. The data supports this hypothesis as 92.5% of all single parents ranked groups of friends as their 1st choice. The values shared, acceptability gained and influence from their friends apparently gives the single parent a strong sense of belongingness. However, this appears true also for the married parents as they too reported groups of friends as their first choice. This does not support Hypothesis #8 of this study which stated that single parents will seek fulfillment through outside neighborhood groups as a second source. Perhaps one achieves first her own system of values, integrates it into her internal structure and then forms her friendships from this basis. This would then account for the similarity of choices between both groups. Both married and single parents seek close and intimate contact with groups of friends who share their value system and would not develop this closeness with people different from them. The data further shows that society is the least important to both groups and that neighborhood and outside neighborhood groups are the second and third choices for fulfillment of belongingness needs.

The discrepancies between the hypothesis and the results of the data might be accounted for by the following reasons. First, the instrument itself may not have been sensitive enough to measure this sense of belongingness and how it is perceived, because belongingness was not sharply defined and the questions reflected this vagueness. Second, since both married parents and single parents selected friends, neighborhood and outside neighborhood groups higher than society, it would appear that both groups do gain their acceptability and a sense of shared values and fulfillment of belongingness through the same source. The differences in their life style apparently were not reflected in the fulfillment of their belongingness need. Being parents, neighbors, ^{and} part of the same school district, shared community activities might be the most important aspect and the common bond they share. This might give them all a feeling of belongingness stronger than if they were all single or married parents. It could be argued from the results that parents' sense of belongingness, married or single, is fulfilled by the very community they live in and are united by.

Part III contained open-ended questions and no hypothesis was stated. However, through content analysis, all responses fell into three different categories: 1) Self characteristics, these being--self-worth, ability to trust, receptivity to others, warmth and caring; 2) Relationship characteristics--openness with others, honesty, mutual respect, trust and caring;

3) Specific people--children, family, spouse, lover, and friends. Since the responses of both groups of subjects were equally distributed between categories, apparently all Ss feel the same factors are important in order to fulfill one's need for love. Without the feeling of self-worth, receptivity to others and the mutuality of relationships, fulfillment of one's needs would be hampered. Here again it would appear that one's life style is not the important determinant of fulfillment of love, but intrinsic qualities, inherent in one's self and one's relationships, are the preconditions for fulfillment of love.

The categories for belongingness were the same factors as love needs; self-characteristics, belonging to various groups, and the fulfillment from specific people. No differences in patterns were found here leading one to conclude that both groups find other factors more important than their life style in fulfillment of their belongingness need. The number of Ss equating belongingness fulfillment with love fulfillment does support Maslow's theory that if one fulfills her need for love, she simultaneously fulfills her need for belongingness. It appears from the subjects tested that belonging to their family unit or group is the strongest supplier of their belongingness need. Perhaps when one feels truly a part of a loving family group and intimate friends the basic need for belongingness is fulfilled. Perhaps these primary sources are the foundation from which all else emerges. If, indeed, one's foundation is strong then the need to belong to

groups outside the primary ones will be more easily facilitated and securely sought. Intimate family and friends were the basic source of fulfillment of the Ss' belongingness need.

In sum, both the married and the single parents fulfilled their love and belongingness needs, although their sources of fulfillment differed. This suggests that human growth and the striving towards further development need not be hampered by a chosen life style.

Chapter V

CONCLUSIONS

Summary of Study

This study began with the research question: "What are the differences between single parents and married parents in (a) whether they fulfill their love and belongingness needs and (b) what sources each group enlists to fulfill these needs."

Nine hypotheses were tested using fifty subjects who were given a questionnaire. The questionnaire was developed through extensive interpretation of Maslow's theory of needs.

The first hypothesis that there will be no significant differences between single parents and married parents in fulfillment of their love and belongingness needs was supported. There were no differences between the two groups in fulfillment of their love and belongingness needs. Hypothesis #2, that single parents will report their children as a greater source of comfort and warmth than married parents, was also supported. Differences between groups were found. Single parents utilized their children as avenues of support, love and caring. Single parents also chose their friends as one source for fulfillment, but also ranked their lovers and family members with almost the same percentages. This leaves Hypothesis #3, that single parents will report their friends as their primary source of fulfillment, not supported. However, Hypothesis #4, that married parents will

report their spouse as their primary source of fulfillment, was supported. Married parents reported equally their family members and friends as their second source for fulfillment, not supporting Hypothesis #5. Hypothesis #6, that single parents would rank their family member and lover as their second source, was also not supported. They chose each of these sources with almost equal proportion.

Regarding the fulfillment of belongingness needs, Hypothesis #7, which was that single parents will fulfill their belongingness need through groups of friends, was supported. Single parents did choose groups of friends as their first source of fulfillment. However, married parents also chose groups of friends as their first source, therefore, not supporting Hypothesis #8. Neighborhood and society were not chosen by married parents as their primary sources but as their last source, leaving Hypothesis #9 also not supported.

In sum, the basic research problem was answered. Single parents and married parents both fulfill their needs for love and belongingness, and the sources they enlist for fulfillment of their love need do differ between groups. Moreover, their need for belongingness and their sources for fulfilling it do not appear different between groups.

Evaluation of Study

Several aspects of this study are necessary to critique: first, its theoretical perspective; second, the instrument

development; and third, the population selected for testing.

There was difficulty with the theoretical perspective. When analyzing Maslow's theory, it was difficult to concretize. The concept of belongingness remained vague because the theoretical perspective did not provide enough guidance for clarification.

The instrument was adequate for the purposes of this project. However, the questionnaire was used without extensive measures of evaluation of its reliability and validity. A test-retest measure would have not only strengthened the instrument's reliability, but also the results of this study.

Questions in Part III asking each S to list five factors that hinder or enable the fulfillment of love and belongingness needs were too vague for a pattern within or between groups to emerge. Specifically asking to list traits, people or characteristics of their relationship would have produced data with more potential for discerning differences between the groups.

The third aspect of this study that was important for evaluation was the Ss tested. As the study assumed all Ss would have fulfilled their lower needs (food, shelter, clothing) a particular community was selected from which to draw them. The community selected has a population of middle socio-economic class. While Ss from this middle class community were needed to justify the assumption of this study, it greatly limits any generalization of the results. As the Ss are not representative of the total population it is difficult to discern if the results are indicative of this highly selected com-

munity or a true indication of the fulfillment of the single parent herself. Only further research with a more representative sample will answer these questions.

Recommendations for Future Research

This section contains two parts. The first part identifies possible future research drawn directly from the results of this study. The implications of this study in other areas are discussed in the second part.

Several areas emerge for possibilities of research after examination of the results of this study. The first is the single parent herself. As the results indicated, the single parent meets her needs of love and belongingness. She is capable of intimacy and expresses this through various people. She is one that is open to giving and receiving love from all available sources. This picture of the single person is not what one would conjure up from the numerous studies done on the single parent family (See Chapter II). This discrepancy raises many questions. If the single parent herself is capable of being a fulfilled individual, why do the children of these families show so many "pathological" symptoms? Are the "pathological" symptoms resulting from other studies due, in part, to other factors involved in the life of the single parent, and not directly resulting from the status of being a one-parent household? This study drew from a population of people who were not poverty stricken, or energy drained from pressure of

trying to feed, clothe or shelter their children in a decent environment. Many of the other studies used subjects from poverty areas, perhaps accounting for part of this discrepancy. Future research must find a method of controlling for such confounding variables as poverty, poor environmental conditions, and other discriminating factors.

Another important factor is the differences in the reported expression of love and caring toward the children by the two different groups. Follow-up research into the children of the one-parent groups could be done in order to ascertain the children's psychological well-being and the degree of development affected by being a one-parent household. It would appear that if these children have a strong, close relationship with their parent, their families might be a stronger unit than that of the married parent group. Would the results of this follow-up study reveal "pathologies?" Or would it reveal healthy children having their basic needs met and the possibility of a healthy environment in which to continue to grow? Could it be that a close, caring family unit is the most important factor in the rearing of children, rather than the status of their parent/parents?

While there was no difference found between the groups in the fulfillment of their needs, there was a greater variability within the married parent group. Are the assumptions underlying traditional views of the married parent false assumptions? It has been

assumed that if one had a legal partner, one's needs would be met by this person. From the results of this study, it would indicate that this might not be the situation within this group. An in-depth study of the married parents would reveal where the variability lies and if indeed their needs are always fulfilled by just being "married." The most fulfilled married parent may be finding other avenues for fulfillment just as the single parent has done.

The single parents in this study did not choose friends as their primary source of fulfillment. While this does not support the hypothesis, it raises many questions for future research in this area. The single parent chose friends, family members and lovers almost equally as her source of fulfillment. Would not this diversity of sources reflect a "completeness" to her life? Does it not question whether she is truly "alone?" Would not this wide range of people involved in her life have effects upon her children? Future research should focus on how the single parent's relationships with lovers, friends, and family members affect her life and that of her children.

Implications and Explorations

One of the most important implications of this study is the encouraging support it gives to the single parent. This support offers the single parent increased self-acceptance of her life style as a healthy and legitimate alternative form. The single parent, being a fulfilled individual, need not feel

hampered by the negative terminology often inflicted upon her and her children. As she gains more support she can stop living her life as an apology constantly trying to justify her situation. This new, positive image of the single parent has the potential to foster acceptance of her life style in other avenues of our society. If she continues in her growth and self-assurance, perhaps the social discrimination against her and her family will cease. This newly found assurance also has the potential to change the image of the single parent's living situation as a unique alternative family unit, with a closer knit relationship between her and her children; not "different," "incomplete," or possessing inherent "pathologies." This acceptance of the single parent status might further have a liberating effect upon persons choosing various alternatives to the traditional nuclear family. Research into the area of alternative family systems is definitely needed so that parents are free to choose a style of life consistent with their individual preferences.

Further research into the two-parent family unit is also needed. Assumptions about this family unit need to be examined. One of the main assumptions is that the two-parent unit is the "best" in which to raise children. If indeed the parent is unfulfilled, resentful of her role, and isolated from other avenues of fulfillment, would this really be better than a family headed by a single parent who was a fulfilled individual? Hostility,

anger, and resentment are usually stifling to both the parents and the children. Other variables contributing to the healthy family unit need to be examined.

Another assumption that is often overlooked is that both parents participate in rearing children when parents are legally married. There are many, many women legally married who have sole responsibility for the raising of the children. They have to be sole nurturer, disciplinarian, teacher, role model, clother, feeder, and in many cases financial helper with little or no cooperation of the husband. The husband, in this view, is considered the breadwinner and this was one of the roles that could not be taken away from him. But now more women are joining the work force often out of necessity. Women assuming this role in essence are more like single parents than married parents. Are all these "married" single parents raising children with pathologies? Do the children of the "absentee" father have the same traits as the children of the single parent? Research could shed light on this area.

Considering these implications, the success of the parent and the children may stem from other factors beyond the status of the parents. For example, healthy parenting might be more related to ego development. The more insights and self-knowledge one gains, the better able s/he is to cope with the responsibilities of raising children. If we as parents are truly autonomous, sensitive to personal needs, open, honest and capable of continual psychological growth, can we not also be capable of

allowing these same characteristics to emerge in our offspring? Comparing parenting styles with ego development would be another promising avenue of research.

Another area to investigate would be to examine closely the lives of the fulfilled single and married persons. In doing this, one could ascertain relative factors that would aid in the solving of problems and foster healthy development in all family units. Research could look at what factors contribute to successful parenting. Factors may be: style of parenting, education, value systems and their level of ego development. The results of this type of research could serve as a guide to the parent, one that would foster successful parenting regardless of type of parental situation chosen.

The children of the single parent need to be examined closely in order to see if they possess qualities that are becoming increasingly more important in our complex society. With the single parent using many resources for both personal fulfillment and in solving everyday problems around the house, fostering more independent, assertive, initiating and self-sufficient children might be the result. Many books on child rearing state that the parent should never do for the child what he can do for himself.

Whenever we do something for a child which he can do for himself, we are showing him that we are bigger than he: better, more capable, more deft, more experienced, and more important. We continually demonstrate our assumed superiority and his supposed inferiority. (Dreikurs, 1968, p. 194)

In this way, one fosters the feeling of adequacy, importance of self and responsible children. In contrast, the married parent may tend to assume many of the tasks of the children when the need for more help and one's time is not limited. As this may not necessarily be the best approach, the single parent due to lack of time and need for more help, might pursue another path. She might relegate responsibility to all the children thereby increasing their feelings of importance, self-sufficiency and responsibility. These qualities seem to be needed by all individuals in order to grow in the complexity of the American society. Research examining this theory could result in another dimension of the positiveness of the single parent life style.

Conclusions

The research problem of this study was: What are the differences between single parents and married parents in (a) whether they fulfill their love and belongingness needs and (b) what sources each group enlists to fulfill these needs. The results showed the single parent to be a fulfilled individual with various people as sources of fulfillment. This is definitely a different image of the single parent from the one held by society. Since there is such a discrepancy between the image of the single parent as postulated by this study and the image perpetuated by society of a person "alone," "inadequate" and "unfulfilled," practical applications resulting from this study need to be undertaken.

One method of applying the results of this study would be the creation of a single parent resource center. This center could be staffed and run by single parents and offer various facilities designed to meet the needs of the single parent within her community. It would offer the support, the acceptance and the guidance needed by the single parent so that she could meet her needs (i.e., building warm, close and caring relationships with her children).

Another avenue needed to help change the image of the single parent is teacher training programs. Since a large portion of discrimination is fostered by the school system, one of society's chief socializing agents, programs to educate people involved within this system are necessary. These programs could help foster healthier attitudes and acceptance of the single parent.

A third application would be single parent classes. Parents with diverse backgrounds within these classes could be valuable learning facilitators. For example, the students of the class, having developed the various sources for fulfillment in their lives, could offer the support and means of development for those who have not developed these resources. Skills and styles of parenting could be shared that would facilitate a closer, warmer relationship between them and their children. Where and how they find the adult sources for fulfillment of their needs could also be discussed and practiced. Just

discovering that being a single parent does not necessarily mean being "alone" would be a most advantageous learning device. The development of a curriculum consisting of these aforementioned components could be easily designed and applied.

However, the above practical applications of this study are not meant to imply that this one study is sufficient to create all the changes needed. Much more research will have to be undertaken in order to end the controversy of past studies and to obtain enough support to eradicate discrimination against the single parent. Nonetheless, the results of this study do show the single parent as a fulfilled individual capable of meeting her love and belongingness needs. The single parent does not appear to be "alone." Rather, she has a fulfilling and unique style of living which utilizes many sources for meeting her love and belongingness needs.

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LOVE AND BELONGINGNESS QUESTIONNAIRE (Form 7-77)

Name (Optional) _____ Age _____ Date _____

The number of years you were or have been a married parent: _____

The number of years you were or have been a single parent: _____

Number of Children _____ Ages of your children: _____

Part I (Adapted from the Caring Relationship inventory by E.L. Shostrom)

Directions: This section consists of 36 true-or-false type statements describing your feelings and reactions toward a person you feel very close to. First, fill out the following:

Write the first name (or initials) of a person you feel very close to (whom you will be rating): _____

Relationship (Check one): Friend _____; Spouse _____; Lover _____.

Number of years in this relationship: _____

If the statement is TRUE or MOSTLY TRUE as applied to the person you have named, circle the T. If the statement is FALSE or NOT USUALLY TRUE, circle the F. However, if the statement does not apply to the person you named, but does apply to someone else, write the first name (or initials) of that other person in the space next to the questions. Please feel free to use this option as often as you feel it is necessary. See example b. below:

Examples: a. I care a lot for this person. (T) F
b. I share fun activities with her/him. T F Sara

(Do not leave any blank spaces.)

Name of person other than I named above:

- 1. I respect her/his individuality..... T F _____
- 2. I can understand the way s/he feels..... T F _____
- 3. I am bothered by fears of being stupid or inadequate with him/her..... T F _____
- 4. I am afraid to be myself with him/her..... T F _____
- 5. We share important common interests..... T F _____
- 6. I care even when she/he does things that upset or annoy me..... T F _____

Name of person
other than I
named above:

- 1. I have a feeling for what her/his experiences feel like to her/him..... T F _____
- 2. I really value her/him as an unique person..... T F _____
- 3. I feel deeply her/his most painful feelings..... T F _____
- 4. My relationship with her/him is comfortable and undemanding..... T F _____
- 5. I have tastes in common with him/her which others do not share..... T F _____
- 6. I do not feel free to show my weaknesses in front of her/him..... T F _____
- 7. I try to understand her/him from her/his point of view..... T F _____
- 8. My good feelings for her/him come back easily after quarrels..... T F _____
- 9. I do not like to hug him/her..... T F _____
- 10. I have a need to control his/her relationships with others..... T F _____
- 11. I require appreciation from him/her..... T F _____
- 12. I care for her/him even when she/he is "stupid".... T F _____
- 13. she/he seems to bring out the best in me..... T F _____
- 14. I feel I can say anything I feel to her/him..... T F _____
- 15. I can be aggressive and positive with her/him..... T F _____
- 16. I am afraid of making mistakes around her/him..... T F _____
- 17. My feeling for her/him has a quality of patience... T F _____
- 18. I appreciate her/him..... T F _____
- 19. I feel she/he is a good friend..... T F _____
- 20. My feeling for her/him has a quality of compassion or sympathy..... T F _____
- 21. I can be inconsistent or illogical with her/him.... T F _____
- 22. I can be both strong and weak with her/him..... T F _____
- 23. I am not afraid to show my fears to her/him..... T F _____

Name of person
other than I
named above:

- 30. my relationship to her/him is characterized by a deep feeling of camaraderie or comradeship..... T F _____
- 31. I have a feeling of appreciation of her/his value as a human being..... T F _____
- 32. I am afraid to show my tears in front of her/him... T F _____
- 33. I like to express my caring for her/him by physical touching..... T F _____
- 34. my relationship with her/him is characterized by trust..... T F _____
- 35. I am not able to expose my weaknesses easily to her/him..... T F _____
- 36. I feel she/he has infinite worth and dignity..... T F _____

Part II

Directions for questions 1-5: Circle YES, NO or NA (for "not applicable") according to your feelings in each question.

- 1. If you are feeling hassled, tired and discouraged, would you allow your child to give you encouragement and reassurance?
 YES NO NA
- 2. If you are just waking up and your child crawls into bed - you both cuddle for awhile without speaking - would this feeling of warmth and tenderness endure through the day?
 YES NO NA
- 3. If your washer breaks, your roof is leaking, the dog bites your next door neighbor and it finally gets to you - then your kid comes along gives you a big hug and says, "It will be okay, Mom" would this comfort you to a great extent?
 YES NO NA
- 4. Do you and your children express affection by physically touching?
 YES NO NA
- 5. Do you feel you receive as much love from your child/children as you give?
 YES NO NA

Directions for questions 6-15: Please rank order the 3 choices given. Place a #1 beside the one that would be the first source you would go to; a #2 beside the second source and a #3 beside the third source.

Example: Who do you go to the most for advice?

*Family Member 3 Friend 1 Spouse/Lover 2

(*including all relatives, such as parents, aunts, uncles, your brothers and sisters)

5. If the children have been noisy, bickering and generally misbehaving and you feel the need to get away from them to what extent would you go to your

Family Member _____ Friend _____ Spouse/Lover _____

7. If you are feeling generally discouraged regarding your method of child rearing to what extent would you turn for reassurance to your

Family member _____ Friend _____ spouse/Lover _____

8. If you are having a major crisis, i.e., accident, serious illness, loss of job, and you feel the need for comfort and support to what extent would you turn to your

Family member _____ Friend _____ Spouse/Lover _____

9. If you are feeling a general dissatisfaction with your life and you need warmth and affection in what order would you turn to your

Family Member _____ Friend _____ spouse/Lover _____

10. If you are feeling sad, lonely and need to cry, in what order would you be comfortable crying in front of your

Family Member _____ Friend _____ Spouse/Lover _____

11. In what order do you share affectionate physical stroking, hugging and touching with your

Family Member _____ Friend _____ Spouse/Lover _____

12. In what order do you feel secure revealing both negative and positive feelings and thoughts with your

Family Member _____ Friend _____ spouse/Lover _____

13. In what order do you feel loved by your

Family Member _____ Friend _____ spouse/Lover _____

14. In what order do you love your

Family member _____ Friend _____ Spouse/Lover _____

15. In what order do you feel you receive acceptance, warmth and caring from your

Family Member _____ Friend _____ Spouse/Lover _____

Directions for questions 16-22: You will have five groups to choose from; rank Order them: 1 for your first choice, 2 for your second, and 3 for your third, and 4 for your fourth. The groups you will be choosing from are:

- Group of Friends - any group consisting of persons with whom you have a warm and caring relationship.
- Neighborhood - street on which you live.
- Outside Neighborhood - any group of people you have contact with that does not live in your immediate neighborhood.
- Society- the total society or culture.
- Other - to be filled in by you if you cannot apply any of the above to the questions being asked. If you pick this option, please list the kind of group you're referring to.

16. List the order in which the following groups make you feel your life style is acceptable.

Friends _____ Neighborhood _____ Outside Neigh. _____ Society _____

Other (Specify): _____

17. List the order in which the following groups make you feel your values are acceptable.

Friends _____ Neighborhood _____ Outside Neigh. _____ Society _____

Other (Specify): _____

18. Rank each group in the order of its importance or influence to your life.

Friends _____ Neighborhood _____ Outside Neigh. _____ Society _____

Other (Specify): _____

19. List the order in which you feel the following groups actually share your values and life style.

Friends _____ Neighborhood _____ Outside Neigh. _____ Society _____

Other (Specify): _____

20. List the order in which you feel you are the most a part of -- that is, a strong sense of affinity.

Friends _____ Neighborhood _____ Outside Neigh. _____ Society _____

Other(Specify): _____

Directions for questions 21-23: Circle YES or NO.

21. In general, do you feel that your need to love is fulfilled?

YES NO

22. In general, do you feel that your need to be loved is fulfilled?

YES NO

23. In general, do you feel you are an acceptable part of the groups you associate with?

YES NO

Part III

1. Please state below five (5) things you believe enables or hinders you to fulfill your need to love and be loved.

ENABLES

HINDERS

- a. _____
 a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____
 d. _____
 e. _____

- a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____
 d. _____
 e. _____

2. Please state below five (5) things you believe enables or hinders you in fulfilling your need for a sense of belongingness.

ENABLES

HINDERS

- a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____
 d. _____
 e. _____

- a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____
 d. _____
 e. _____

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

KEY FOR QUESTIONNAIREPart I - Questions 1 through 36

1 - true	19 - true
2 - true	20 - true
3 - false	21 - true
4 - false	22 - false
5 - true	23 - true
6 - true	24 - true
7 - true	25 - true
8 - true	26 - true
9 - true	27 - true
10 - true	28 - true
11 - true	29 - true
12 - false	30 - true
13 - true	31 - true
14 - true	32 - false
15 - false	33 - true
16 - false	34 - true
17 - true	35 - false
18 - true	36 - true

The above portion of the key is the same for both married parents and single parents.

Part II - Questions 1 through 5

Married Parents	Single Parents
1 - Yes	1 - Yes
2 - NA	2 - Yes
3 - NA	3 - Yes
4 - Yes	4 - Yes
5 - Yes	5 - Yes

Part II - Questions 6 through 15

Rank Order will be for Married Parents	Rank Order will be for Single Parents
2 - 3 - 1	3 - 1 - 2 OR 2 - 1 - 3

Part II - Questions 16 through 30

Married Parents	Single Parents
3 - 1 - 4 - 2	1 - 3 - 2 - 4

Part II - Questions 21 through 23

21 - Yes
22 - Yes
23 - Yes

The above three questions also are the same for both married parents and single parents