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EFFECTS OF MARITAL SATISFACTION
ON PARENTAL RESPONSE STYLES
OF INFORMANTS USING THE
PERSONALITY INVENTORY FOR CHILDREN (PIC)

DONITA MOORE PIPER

Effects of Marital Satisfaction
on Parental Response Styles
of Informants Using the
Personality Inventory for Children (PIC)

An Abstract
Presented to
the Graduate Council of
Austin Peay State University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

by
Donita Moore Piper
August, 1991

Abstract

This research was conducted to investigate the relationship between marriage satisfaction and perceived child behavior problems as measured by the Personality Inventory for Children.

The subjects were 34 married couples who volunteered from an Assembly of God Church in Clarksville, TN. The Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS) and the Personality Inventory for Children (PIC) was administered to each participant.

The Pearson Product Moment Correlation and descriptive statistics were computed to compare DAS scores with PIC scores. The results suggested that there is a significant positive relationship between father's marriage satisfaction and their perceptions of their child's cognitive development. No significant correlation was revealed between marriage satisfaction and parental perception of overall child adjustment.

This study suggests the need for further investigation into the effects of marital conflict on child adjustment.

Effects of Marital Satisfaction
on Parental Response Styles
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List of Tables

Table	Page
1. Differences Between DAS Responses for Mothers and Fathers.....	20
2. Correlations Between Parental Marriage Satisfaction and Child Behavior Problems.....	21
3. Correlation of Parental Factor Scores on the PIC.....	23
4. Correlations Between Marriage Satisfaction and Overall Child Adjustment.....	24
5. Differences Between Parental Responses on the PIC of Perceived Overall Adjustment Problems.....	25

To the Graduate and Research Council:

I am submitting herewith a Thesis written by Donita Moore Piper entitled "Effects of Marital Satisfaction on Parental Response Styles of Informants Using the Personality Inventory for Children (PIC)." I have examined the final copy of this paper for form and content and I recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Master of Arts with a major in Psychology.


Major Professor


Second Committee Member


Third Committee Member

Accepted for the Graduate
and Research Council:


Dean of the Graduate School

DEDICATION

The support of my family has been essential and I would like to dedicate this thesis to my husband John and my children, Heather and Sarah, for providing encouragement and supporting me in words and deeds throughout my study at Austin Peay State University. Their love has provided the strength I needed to persevere in attaining my education. Finally, this thesis is dedicated to my mother, Clara E. Moore, whose faith and love has always been a cornerstone in my life since the beginning of my existence.

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Table of Contents

	Page
List of Tables.....	viii
Chapter	
I. Introduction and Review of Literature.....	1
II. Methodology.....	15
III. Results.....	19
IV. Discussion.....	26
References.....	28
Appendix	
A. Standardized Test Instructions.....	31
B. Consent Forms.....	33

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Child rearing is influenced by various factors both within and outside of the family. The influence of the family unit upon the well-being of the individual plays a significant role in the behavior and feelings of each individual family member. An influencing factor often mentioned in the literature is the marital relationship.

Researchers suggest that when parents are dissatisfied with their marriages and conflict between spouses is elevated, parenting is often compromised (Emery and O'Leary, 1984). Marital disharmony is viewed as promoting inconsistencies in child rearing, not only between fathers and mothers but within the parent-child dyad (Emery and O'Leary, 1984). This view proposes that fathers and mothers may use different parenting techniques with the same child and each parent may exercise inconsistent strategies from one occasion to another.

Research on children of divorced parents similarly exhibits that the conflict associated with divorce, rather than the breakup of the family per se, is primarily responsible for many of the problems seen in children (Emery, 1988; Grych and Fincham, 1990). The impact of marital discord on children warrants attention because at least 40% of all children born in the late 1970's and early 1980's are likely to experience a parental divorce (Glick and Lin, 1986), and many more will live in intact

families marked by an excessive degree of parental discord (Grych and Fincham, 1990).

The family unit as a whole has received considerable attention for both diagnosis and treatment (Bowen, 1961; Josselyn, 1953; and Spiegel and Bell, 1959). According to Bell (1961), when the family brings a child to treatment, the problem must be accepted not as the symptom of an individual's disturbance but as an indication of disrupted relationships within the family. The symptom then is thought of as the outcome of a disruption in family interaction, most usually a breakdown in intrafamily communication, and not as the result of intrapsychic conflict (Bell, 1961). From this viewpoint, conflicts within the individual becomes the result rather than the cause of the disturbance.

The family unit must be viewed within the context of the specific and distinct ways each family member perceives his/her experience in the day-to-day interaction within the family. These interactions engender feelings of satisfaction or dissatisfaction about self, others, and family role which in turn reflect the success or failure of the family support structure as a whole (Bell, 1961).

Can parental differences and marital dissatisfaction be harmful to children? Do conflicting messages from parents so confuse children that they may begin to have emotional difficulties? Inconsistent parent-child interaction has

often been linked to negative child outcomes (Block, Block, Gjerde, 1986; Hetherington, Cox, and Cox, 1981).

In recent research examining inconsistent parenting and levels of marital satisfaction, family conflict, and depression, Stoneman, Brody, and Burke (1989) found that mild marital and individual distress reported by fathers strongly predicted both inconsistent fathering and lack of parental agreement concerning discipline. Effects found for fathers and their daughters were more vigorous than those found for any other parent-child combination (Stoneman, et al., 1989). The strength of the relationship between fathers and daughters was similar to findings obtained by Goldberg and Easterbrooks (1984) with much younger children. When fathers experience distress, fathering seems to be differentially interrupted for girls.

The findings of Mulhern and Passerman (1981) provided a possible explanation for the greater association between distress and parenting for fathers as compared to mothers. They found that mothers were more responsive to small irregularities in their child's behavior than were fathers and were able to adjust their means of discipline in a way that was more responsive to child behavior. If this is the case, mothers may respond to more subtle feedback from their children even in compromised parenting situations, while fathers may wait until children's behavioral changes become more conspicuous (Mulhern and Passerman, 1981). Thus, the

correlation between inconsistent parenting and maternal distress may be weaker than those for fathers (Bell and Chapman, 1986). Fathers, on the other hand, may be more influenced in their child rearing practices by their marital and personal satisfaction than by child behaviors (Bell and Chapman, 1986).

Kuczynski (1984) suggested that when too many cognitive demands are placed on the parent during times of marital stress, a state of "automatic parenting" occurs. This concept is based on the premise that when parents experience marital distress, they choose less cognitively effortful, more automatic parenting strategies rather than more intentional strategies, such as rational guidance (Kuczynski, 1984).

In general, it appears that a family emotional climate, characterized by parental conflict and marital unhappiness, has negative implications on child adjustment. Because marital conflict and dissatisfaction can be manifested in various ways, frequencies, and intensities, all marriages are characterized by conflict to some degree (Grych, and Fincham, 1990). One instrument that has been used to measure the degree of marriage satisfaction in marriages is the Dyadic Adjustment Scale.

The Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS) was developed by Spanier (1976). Based upon a review of the literature on marital adjustment, Spanier and Cole (1976) describe marital

adjustment as a process, the result of which is determined by the degree of: (1) troublesome marital differences; (2) interspousal tension and personal anxiety; (3) marital satisfaction; (4) dyadic cohesion; and (5) consensus on matters of important to marital functioning.

The Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS) is primarily a Likert-style 32 item questionnaire which uses 5,6, and 7 point response formats. The theoretical range of scores of the total DAS is 0 to 151. The ranges for the subscales are: Dyadic Cohesion, 0-24; Dyadic Consensus, 0-65; Dyadic Satisfaction, 0-50; and Affectional Expression, 0-12. The mean total composite score for the DAS is 101 with a standard deviation of 28.

Factor analysis of the DAS identified four factors: dyadic satisfaction, the degree to which the couple is satisfied with the present state of the relationship and is committed to continuance; dyadic cohesion, the degree to which the couple engages in activities together; dyadic consensus, the degree to which the couple agrees on matters of importance to the relationship; and affectional expression, the degree to which the couple is satisfied with the expression of affection and sex in the relationship (Spanier & Filsinger, 1983). Research by Kazak, Jarmas, and Snitzer (1988) indicated weak support for the presence of four subscales. Despite the lack of support for separate factors, they indicated that the DAS is an instrument which assesses

one general dimension of marital satisfaction and caution clinicians not to utilize the subscales as valid and reliable measures of components of marital satisfaction (Kazak et al., 1988).

The DAS is a well-known self-report questionnaire which measures marital adjustment. The questionnaire is an important instrument in that it assesses the individual's perception of the relationship as distressed or not and gives a good overall evaluation of the contentment or discontentment in the relationship (Spanier & Filsinger, 1983).

The DAS is a measure of the individual's adjustment to marriage, but also has been used to study the adjustment of the couple to their marriage (Spanier & Filsinger, 1983). It can be used in diagnosing relationships as troubled or not, in identifying potential problems in the relationship, and in measuring the effectiveness of treatment by comparing intake scores with post treatment scores as well as long-term follow-up (Spanier & Filsinger, 1983).

Spanier's scale was devised to assess the caliber of dyadic relationships and can be used to assess the various types of couple relationships, including unmarried cohabitation (Spanier & Filsinger, 1983). Most of the research on the DAS has been conducted on married couples and it has been translated into several languages for use with numerous nationalities and cultural groups (Touliatos, Perlmutter,

and Straus, 1990).

Because the marital relationship has often been considered to be the basic structural component of the nuclear family, its relationship to adult development, family processes, and child behavior has been assumed to be an important area of research (Kazak, Jarmas, & Snitzer, 1988). While it is unlikely that all expressions of marital dissatisfaction are stressful, it is meaningful to identify which dimensions of marital dissatisfaction are related to child problems.

Child adjustment is a global term that includes ingredients such as the adaptiveness and appropriateness of children's behavior, self-concept, achievement, and emotional well-being (Grych and Fincham, 1990). Understanding the relationship between marital satisfaction and child adjustment requires assessment of a wide range of adjustment indexes to discover what areas of adjustment are most affected (Grych and Fincham, 1990).

Hetherington, Cox, and Cox (1981) found that the degree of marital dissatisfaction and the amount of conflict children were exposed to had negative impacts upon child adjustment. Similarly, child adjustment problems were found to be more closely related with unhappy marriages that were characterized by tension, hostility, and combative parents than to marriages characterized by apathy and disinterest (Rutter et al., 1974).

Past research studies have documented the association between marital dissatisfaction and a realm of externalizing problems, such as delinquency/ antisocial behavior (Emery, and O'Leary, 1984); aggression (Johnston, Gonzalez, and Campbell, 1987; Wierson, Forehand, and McCombs, 1988); and conduct disorders (Jouriles, Murphy, and O'Leary, 1989; Wierson, Forehand, and McCombs, 1988). Much research has also been conducted to determine the association between internalizing child behaviors and marital satisfaction, such as anxiety/withdrawal (Wierson et al, 1988); and depression (Johnston et al., 1987; Peterson and Zill, 1986). Several studies have also indicated that cognitive competence (Long, Forehand, Fauber, and Brody, 1987; Wierson et al., 1988), grade point average (Long et al., 1987; Wierson et al., 1988), and social competence (Emery and O'Leary, 1984; Long, et al., 1987) are related to marital satisfaction.

While progress has been made in documenting the relationship between marital satisfaction and child behavior problems, few studies have explored the implications of marital satisfaction upon parental response styles as informants on an objective inventory, such as the Personality Inventory for Children (PIC), in the assessment of child psychopathology.

The PIC (Wirt, Lachar, Klinedinst, & Seat, 1977) appears to be one of the few instruments which has taken adequate precautions against invalidity produced by parental bias or

distortion. This is accomplished through the use of three validity scales: Lie, F, and Defensiveness. The PIC validity scales were designed to signal the clinician that the PIC profile may be invalid or misleading due to parental attitude during the assessment. This is an unusual feature in children's personality assessment and an important one because of the dependency on parental information when screening children for emotional disorders. The PIC's Defensiveness scale was designed to measure a parent's tendency to be defensive about a child's emotional problems. The Lie (L) scale was developed to reveal a parent's tendency to report only the child's most agreeable behaviors while refusing to acknowledge commonly occurring problems. The L scale is an important scale to this study because it was empirically constructed to determine defensive informant response sets. The L scale also reflects the absence of or admission of behavior problems, especially those categorized as delinquent and asocial, as well as the absence of or denial of family problems and psychological discomfort. The PIC's authors propose a classification rule of $>59T$ to signify defensiveness on the L scale (Wirt et al., 1977).

The PIC yields information on children and adolescent ages 6 to 16 years. An alternative form is available for 3 to 5 year olds. The questionnaire is completed by the parent, usually by the mother. Behaviors such as depression, psychotism, antisocial behavior, anxiety disorders,

and intellectual deficiencies can be identified from the 16 profile scales. The scales include Achievement (ACH), Intellectual Screening (IS), Development (DVL), Somatic Concern (SOM), Depression (D), Family Relations (FAM), Delinquency (DLQ), Withdrawal (WDL), Anxiety (ANX), Psychosis (PSY), Hyperactivity (HPR), and Social Skills (SSK). The PIC also contains a scale for general screening for Adjustment (ADJ), and three validity scales: Lie (L), Defensiveness (DEF), and F.

The PIC was developed using the methodological approach used by Hathaway and McKinley (1951) in the development of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI). The items on the PIC were drawn from case reports of disturbed children and clinical experience and was written with the intent of sampling relevant aspects of child adjustment. Empirical scales were obtained by contrasting the item responses of clinically diagnosed groups with nonclinical groups. The PIC's behavioral items were obtained from clinicians and parents and analyzed in a manner similar to the MMPI. Eight of the PIC scales were developed in this empirical manner while the other eight included items on a content-oriented basis. Behavior correlations for each of the PIC scales as well as validity for the instrument are summarized in the Manual (Wirt et al., 1977).

Development of an actuarial approach to the interpretation of information found in the PIC was gathered by

Lachar and Gdowski (1979), which provides specific guidelines for interpreting each scale. For each scale, higher T-score elevations depict an increased probability of deficit or psychopathology. Achenbach's (1981) concern about the effects of parental distortion suggest that very high F scales (greater than 80T) and adjustment scales may be indicative of psychopathology in the parent rather than the child.

The issue of discrepancy between mother and father observations of their children's behavior has been addressed in a study by Roskos (1974). In an attempt to determine the degree of correlation between mothers' and fathers' scores on the Personality Inventory for Children scales, Roskos tried to assess the advantage of having more than one parent complete the PIC for practical diagnostic purposes. Roskos also investigated the characteristics of mothers and fathers as informants to determine if they are equally sensitive to varying features of children's behavior and if there are differences in the factor patterns of mothers and fathers on the PIC.

The results of the Roskos study are as follows:

- (1) High correlations between parents indicated acceptable levels of intersource reliability between parents of clinic children on the PIC scales. Correlations between parents of normal boys was moderate, and low among parents of normal girls.

(2) Parental agreement in perception was affected by the behavior, sex, and age of the child.

(3) Interparental agreement on the classification of their child's behavior at the high ($T > 70$) and average ($T < 70$) ranges on the PIC scale was significant.

(4) Low parental agreement occurred on items pertaining to the discipline, management, and observation of children in everyday situation.

(5) Differences were found between mothers and fathers on their perceptions of behavior dimensions such as internalization, anxiety, somatization, aggression, and sex role.

(6) Neither parent rated children on the basis of a good-bad dimension or halo effect.

(7) Results of a factor analysis of the normal sample yielded three identical factors for both parents: Externalization, internalization, and severe psychopathology. Results of a factor analysis of the clinical sample yielded three factors for both parents: General maladjustment, internalization, and withdrawal.

Roskos's findings indicated an acceptable level of reliability between mothers and fathers of clinic children on the PIC (Roskos, 1974). Her study helped to point out the value of studying parental perceptions and aids in the interpretation of information obtained from either parent in the clinical research assessment of children (Roskos, 1974).

The investigations reported here contributed to an

understanding of the implications of marital disharmony and child adjustment problems. Roskos' study comparing mothers and fathers perception of their child's emotional problems serves as a model for assessing parental perceptions. Research on parental perception of their child's behavior problems has not been readily available in regard to their own marital satisfaction, especially as it pertains to the use of objective child behavior inventories.

The objective of this investigation is to study the relationship of objective test information obtained from fathers and mothers and the degree of child behavior problems perceived by them, based on marital satisfaction as indicated on the Dyadic Adjustment Scale. It is also a descriptive study comparing fathers and mothers as informants on the Personality Inventory for Children (PIC), a child behavior inventory.

Although this study parallels previous research, it differs in its focus upon marital satisfaction as a factor in parental perception of child behavior. The investigation will address the following hypotheses:

- (1) Endorsement of behavior problems on the PIC will negatively correlate to parental marriage satisfaction as indicated on the PIC.

- (2) Parents who indicate satisfaction with their marriage on the DAS will perceive their child's overall adjustment as measured by the PIC as better adjusted than

parents who indicate dissatisfaction with their marriage.

(3) There will be parental differences in perception of endorsed behavior problems of their child.

(4) Scores on Factors I, II, III, and IV on the PIC will correlate with DAS scores for couples who indicate marriage dissatisfaction.

CHAPTER 2

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study was to determine the degree of similarity between fathers' and mothers' description of their children on the Personality Inventory for Children (PIC) and to discover to what extent, if any, their perceptions are affected by marital satisfaction as indicated on the Dyadic Adjustment Scale.

The effects of a child's age and sex on parental responses were assessed separately for parents who are "satisfied" and "not satisfied" with their marriage.

Subjects

This study was comprised of subjects as follows:

(1) Sets of parents with children who are between the ages of 6 and 16.

(2) Sets of parents whose family is intact; intactness being defined as including only families whose natural parents or whose step-parents have lived with the child for at least two years and who were still living together.

Thirty-four sets of parents with children between the ages of 6 and 16 were asked to participate in the investigation. Subjects who volunteered were from the First Assembly of God Church in Clarksville, TN, a predominantly blue collar city of approximately 80,000 people. Parents of children who are receiving psychological services or who are attending special education classes were excluded.

Procedure

Parents were administered the PIC (Parts I and II) and the Dyadic Adjustment Scale which required approximately one hour to complete. Families were assigned random numbers to be used for identification on all research test materials to ensure confidentiality. The PIC was administered simultaneously to both parents at the church. Mothers and fathers were separated while taking the test to control for collaboration. See appendix A for set of standardized instructions and appendix B for participant consent forms.

Instruments

The Personality Inventory for Children (PIC) is a 600 item, true-false child behavior inventory, designed to be completed by the parent of a child being evaluated. The PIC has been revised so that users have a choice of using three shorter formats, a 131, 280, or a 420 item version. For this study, the 280 item (Parts I and II) format was used. Completion of Parts I and II provides an assessment of informant defensiveness and four broad-band factor scales: Factor Scale I, Undisciplined/Poor Self-control; Factor Scale II, Social Incompetence; Factor Scale III, Internalization/Somatic Symptoms; and Factor Scale IV, Cognitive Development. Part I of the PIC was administered to both parents by paper-and-pencil method and was hand scored with a PIC scoring key. Scores obtained from Parts I and II were recorded on the Revised Format Profile Form for children

ages 6 to 16 years. On each profile form, one side of the form was used for males and the other side was used for females.

The Dyadic Adjustment Scale is a self-report questionnaire which measures the individual's adjustment to marriage as well as the adjustment of the couple to their marriage. It can be used in diagnosing relationships as troubled or not and was administered to both parents in this study along with the PIC. The DAS is a primarily Likert-style 32-item questionnaire which uses 5,6, and 7-point response formats. Scores of the total DAS were used in this study. The theoretical range of scores of the total DAS is 0 to 151. Given the continuum of possible scores, this study assumed the same cutoff point as Burger and Jacobson (1979) that a couple is distressed when one partner has a total DAS score under 100.

Data Analysis

The scores obtained from parental responses on the PIC and the DAS were correlated using the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Formula by computer. The analysis yielded a Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient. A high negative correlation means that elevated scores of marriage satisfaction on the DAS tend to be associated with depressed scores on child maladjustment problems as endorsed on the PIC. A low negative correlation means that low scores (indicating marriage dissatisfaction) on the DAS tend to be

associated with increased child behavior problems as endorsed by parents on the PIC. A positive correlation means that elevated scores of marriage satisfaction are associated with elevated scores of scores of child adjustment problems. A correlation coefficient near zero means that there is no relationship between the two variables and that high and low scores on the DAS and the PIC are not associated in any predictable manner.

CHAPTER 3

RESULTS

The study reported here involved a comparison of objective test information obtained from fathers and mothers on perceived child behavior problems and marital satisfaction as indicated on the DAS.

The questions asked of the data are presented below, followed by the statistical methodology employed, and an analysis of the results. The mean and standard deviations for the DAS Composite score for both parents is listed in Table 1. The DAS Composite score mean for fathers was 105.23, SD 16.57 and the DAS Composite score mean for mothers was 112.23, SD 14.52. While DAS Composite scores for both mothers and fathers were within the range of scores classified as "satisfied," mothers' DAS scores tended to be higher than that for fathers, indicating a greater level of marriage satisfaction. A T-test for related samples was conducted on the means of the two groups to determine if the differences between them was significant. The results of the analysis indicated a statistically significant positive relationship: $t(32) = -3.034, p < .01$.

Hypotheses I and II predicted that parental endorsement of child behavior problems on the PIC (Factors I, II, III, and IV), would negatively correlate with parental marriage satisfaction as indicated on the DAS. The results of this analysis are presented in Table 2. A Pearson Product-Moment correlation was used to determine if a significant correl-

Table 1

Results of the t-test Comparing Fathers' and Mothers'
Composite DAS Scores

Father DAS Scores		Mother DAS Scores	
<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
105.23	16.57	112.23	14.52

$t(32) = -3.034, p < .01$

$N = 34$

Table 2

Correlations Between Parental Marriage Satisfaction
and Child Behavior Problems

	DAS Correlation	Probability
Fathers		
PIC Factor I	-0.287	.100
PIC Factor II	-0.093	.601
PIC Factor III	-0.311	.073
PIC Factor IV	-0.389	.023 *
	DAS Correlation	Probability
Mothers		
PIC Factor I	0.116	.514
PIC Factor II	0.244	.164
PIC Factor III	-0.001	.996
PIC Factor IV	-0.059	.739

* significant

ation between the two measures was indicated. The results of the analysis suggest a significant relationship between fathers' DAS scores and Factor IV on the PIC, $r(32) = -.389$, $p < .05$. There were no significant correlations for other factor scores for fathers or for any of the mothers' factor scores.

Hypothesis III predicted that there would be parental differences in perception of endorsed behavior problems of their child. A Pearson Product-Moment correlation revealed a substantial relationship between parental scores on each of the four PIC factor scales as indicated on Table 3. Significant positive relationships were indicated between mothers' and fathers' scores on Factor I ($r(32) = .383$, $p < .05$), Factor II ($r(32) = .445$, $p < .01$), Factor III ($r(32) = .466$, $p < .01$), and Factor IV ($r(32) = .554$, $p < .01$).

Hypothesis IV predicted that parents who indicate satisfaction with their marriage will perceive their child's overall adjustment as better than parents who were dissatisfied with their marriage. Group statistical analysis did not reveal a significant correlation between marriage satisfaction and perceived overall child adjustment (Table 4). The mother group composite scores means ($M = 112.23$) on the DAS were significantly higher than those of fathers ($M = 105.23$), $r(32) = .633$, $p < .01$. A significant and positive correlation ($r(32) = .572$, $p < .01$) was also revealed between mother group composite score means ($M = 52.70$) and father

Table 3

Correlation of Parental Factor Scores
on the PIC

	Correlation	Probability
Factor I	0.383	.025*
Factor II	0.445	.008*
Factor III	0.466	.005*
Factor IV	0.554	.0007*

* significant

Table 4

Correlation of Marriage Satisfaction
and Overall Child Adjustment

	Correlation	Probability
Fathers	-0.311	.073
Mothers	0.248	.157

group composite score means (\bar{M} = 51.88) of overall perceived child adjustment on the PIC (Table 5).

Table 5

Differences Between Parental Responses on the PIC
of Perceived Overall Child Adjustment Problems

PIC Adjustment Scores	<u>M</u>	<u>SD</u>
Fathers	51.88	8.71
Mothers	52.70	8.16

N = 34

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION

This study investigated marital satisfaction as a factor in parental perception of child behaviors. The prediction that endorsement of behavior problems on the PIC would negatively correlate with parental marriage satisfaction as indicated on the DAS was supported statistically for fathers on Factor IV but not supported for the other three factors for fathers and no factors for mothers. Since the PIC is considered a valid instrument for assessing parental perceptions of child behaviors, the outcome suggests that there is a significant relationship between fathers' marriage satisfaction and their perceptions of their child's cognitive development. This finding supports previous studies concerning cognitive competence and marital satisfaction (Long, Forehand, Fauber, and Brody, 1987 and Wiersen et al., 1988).

It was also predicted that there would be differences in parental perception of child behavior problems. However, a significant relationship was observed between parental responses on each of the four PIC Factor scales. These findings did not support the study conducted by Roskos (1974).

No significant correlation was shown between marriage satisfaction and parental perception of child overall adjustment. This is inconsistent with research conducted by Grych and Fincham (1990) and Hetherington, Cox, and Cox (1981) who found that the degree of marriage satisfaction

had negative impact upon child adjustment.

Overall, the results of this investigations reveal mixed support for the predicted hypotheses. The degree of marriage satisfaction indicated by fathers suggests a greater perception of child cognitive problems. One explanation for the mixed results and the lack of significance may have been the restricted range of scores obtained from the sample. It is noted that the means for both mothers and fathers on the DAS Composite scores were within the average range. One of the major considerations that must be noted when reviewing these results is the nature of the sample population. The participants in this study were members of an Assembly of God Church. One cannot be sure how heterogeneous the sample is and conclusions cannot be drawn as to the type of group tested. Perhaps if a larger sample which included families indicating more dysfunctional child behavior problems or greater marriage dissatisfaction had been assessed, the hypothesis would stand.

Although significant correlations were noted in this study, generalizations should be viewed with caution. Further study into the effects of marital conflict on child behaviors is recommended.

Finally, it is recommended that a study of this nature be expanded to include additional variables such as race, social-economic status, and child self-report inventories.

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Directions

Personality Inventory for Children:

This inventory consists of statements about children and family relationships.

First fill in the information requested on the Answer Sheet, then read each statement in the booklet and decide whether it is true or false when applied to your child. If a statement is true or mostly true when applied to your child, use a No. 2 pencil to blacken the circle labeled T. If a statement is false or not usually true when applied to your child, blacken the circle labeled F.

In marking your answers on the Answer Sheet, be sure that the number of the statement agrees with the number on the Answer Sheet. Your marks should be dark and should completely fill the circle. Carefully erase any answer you wish to change. Do not make any marks in the booklet.

Continue to answer the inventory items until you completed both Parts I and II of the booklet.

Dyadic Adjustment Scale:

Most persons have disagreements in their relationships. Please indicate on your questionnaire the approximate extent of agreement or disagreement between you and your partner for each item on the questionnaire.

Consent Form

I am looking for volunteers to help me with research on a behavior inventory for children and adolescents. As part of this investigation, mothers and fathers will be asked to complete the Personality Inventory for Children (PIC) and the Dyadic Adjustment Scale. The PIC consists of true-false statements about a child's behavior and requires about 45 minutes to complete. The Dyadic Adjustment Scale is a 32-item questionnaire which measures marital satisfaction.

All data obtained will be strictly confidential and will be used for no other purpose than this study. So that confidentiality will be assured, I ask that you not put your name on the inventory sheets.

Since I am interested only in group information, I will not be interpreting individual inventories, therefore, I will be unable to give individual feedback to those who participate. Results of the investigation will be made available, however, once the investigation has been completed.

If you decide to participate, every effort will be made to administer the inventories at your convenience. You have the option of discontinuing participation at any time.

I would appreciate your assistance in this investigation. If you wish to participate, please sign below and return this sheet along with the PIC answer sheet and booklet. Thank You.

Donita M. Piper

I agree to participate in the present study being conducted under the supervision of a faculty member of the Department of Psychology at Austin Peay State University. I have been informed both orally and in writing, about the procedures to be followed and about any discomforts or risks which may be involved. The investigator has offered to answer any further inquiries as I may have regarding the procedures. I understand that I am free to terminate my participation at any time without penalty or prejudice and to have all data obtained from me withdrawn from the study and destroyed. I have also been told of any benefits that may result from my participation.

Name (Please Print)

Signature

Date