

THE INFLUENCES OF SEX-ROLE ATTITUDE AND SEX-ROLE IDENTITY ON THE MARITAL SATISFACTION IN DUAL-EARNER COUPLES. Lee M.S. Faculty of Human Ecology, Catholic University, Yokkok-Dong, Puchon City, Kyungki-Do, 422-743, Korea.

The purpose of this study is to explore the influences of sex-role attitude and sex-role identity on the marital satisfaction in dual-earner couples.

The data of this study had been collected from a sample consisting of 370 dual-earner couples who live in Seoul city or Kyungki-Do. The categories of wives' jobs are professionals, office workers, and blue collars. The structured questionnaires, separated for husband and wife, had been collected from May to July, 1994. Using couple data, statistical techniques such as frequency, percent, mean, standard deviation, pairs t-test, Pearson's correlation, and multiple regression analysis, were used to examine the research questions of this study.

Major findings are as follows : First, wives' sex-role attitudes are more modern and flexible than their husbands' attitudes. So the wives support more egalitarian division of labor between men and women. Second, about 27% of wives and 30% of husbands have androgynous sex-role identity. So these men and women have both femininity and masculinity much more than others do. Third, wives' marital satisfactions are significantly lower than their husbands' marital satisfactions. This means that the present patriarchal family system is more unfavorable to women than men. Fourth, the wives' marital satisfactions are positively influenced by their androgynous sex-role identity and their feminine sex-role identity. But the husbands' marital satisfactions are positively influenced by their androgynous sex-role identity and their modern sex-role attitude.

In addition, the relatively older men and women are less satisfied about their marriage than the younger groups. And when wives' jobs are professionals, these couples' marital satisfactions are higher than other groups, but when wives' jobs are blue collars, these couples' marital satisfactions are lower than other groups.

This study concluded that we need education programs that can encourage men and women to have androgynous sex-role identity and to have modern and flexible sex-role attitude for their happy marriage especially in case of dual-earner couples.