

THESIS/DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

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Title : An Exploratory Study of the Motivational System for Parenthood
of Rural Married Couples No. of pages 228

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Statement of the Problem

Main Problem:

This study was undertaken to explore the overt and covert motives that constitute the motivational system for parenthood of 64 rural Aklanon married couples. It sought to generate hypotheses regarding the covert motives in having children and to investigate the relationship of these motives with overt ones.

Sub-problem:

Three independent variables namely sex, community (fishing vs. farming) and desired number of children were expected to significantly influence the covert motives.

Procedure

A newly-developed projective tool pretested by the author (1984), the Family Welfare Cards (FWC) was used to uncover the individual covert motives for parenthood. The Value of Children (VOC) attitudinal questionnaire of Bulatao (1975) was adopted to provide a corroborative measure of the social overt motives. Both instruments were administered individually to the 64 couple respondents. The FWC stories and VOC responses were noted verbatim by the field interviewers.

Treatment of Data

Two independent scorers rated the FWC protocols following the procedures outlined in the preliminary scoring manual. Interscorer reliability was found by correlating the scorer's ratings on each of the scoring categories. 2X2X2 analyses of variance were performed on the FWC scores to determine significant differences between groups. T-tests for matched groups were conducted to determine sex differences.

The data gathered from the VOC questionnaires were subjected to factor analysis to identify the social motives for parenthood. The relationships between the overt and covert motives was determined by correlating the scores on the FWC scoring dimensions with those on the VOC factors.

Qualitative Analysis:

The FWC protocols were further subjected to content analysis to probe deeper into the latent motives. Each story was formulated into an import; at the same time, Murray's needs-press categories were applied to identify both obvious and underlying motives. A sequence analysis was sometimes employed to uncover the covert motives, which usually became apparent after having evaluated several successive stories or the whole protocols. Then, each protocol was further analyzed side by side with the partner's protocols, to shed more light into the covert motives. In addition, a frequency count of the more common themes was undertaken to substantiate the inferences gleaned from the content analysis.

Findings

The interscorer reliability coefficients for the six FWC dimensions were found to be significant (0.45) indicating relative consistency between the two independent scorers.

From the FWC data, six covert dimensions were identified, namely: adequacy, self-gratification (+), and nurturance/affiliation as motives for having children; anxiety, self-gratification (-) and disruptive influences of children as deterrents to having children. From the VOC, the overt factors in having children were identified as self-fulfillment, realization of societal/marital duties, and the personal rewards from having children.

Sex differences were found on the self-gratification (+) dimension with the females scoring significantly higher than the male respondents. Community differences were also found to be significant on this dimension, with the fishing respondents scoring higher on this dimension as a motive for having children, and farming respondents scoring higher on the self-gratification(-) as a motive for not having children.

Significant differences occurred on the adequacy dimension in terms of the desired number of children. Respondents desiring less than three children felt more adequate and competent than those desiring more than three children. Although no sex differences were found in this dimension, significant male and female contrasts were gleaned. The wives were found to be the more capable, enduring, resourceful and in general, the more competent partner compared to their husbands.

No differences were found for the nurturance/affiliation dimension implying a basic need for affection and warmth.