Initiation of Sexual Behavior in the Marital Relationship

1987

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INITIATION OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE MARITAL RELATIONSHIP

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THESIS
Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the Master of Science degree in Clinical Psychology
in the Graduate Studies Program
of the College of Arts and Sciences
University of Central Florida
Orlando, Florida

Fall Term
1987
ABSTRACT

While traditional beliefs and some research show that men have been more likely than women to initiate sexual activity, recent research indicates that traditional patterns of sexual initiation may be changing especially for married couples. Also, patterns of initiation seem to be related to sexual satisfaction. Specifically, women who always take the initiative and those who never do are the least satisfied with their sex lives. Conversely, those wives who initiate sex half the time are very happy with their sex lives. Since it appears that initiation of sexual activity is related to satisfaction with sex, information regarding why a partner does or does not initiate sex would be useful to a marriage and/or sex therapist. It was expected, on the basis of previous research and theorizing, that the tendency to initiate marital sex would be related to the following: a wife's own approach/avoidance orientation to sex and the approach/avoidance orientation to sex of her husband as measured by Byrne's Sexual Opinion Survey (SOS), attitudes towards sex roles of oneself and one's spouse as measured by the Attitude Towards Women Scale (ATWS), and experiences
with pre-adolescent and adolescent genital self-stimulation. Patterns of correlation were analyzed to determine relationships between the following independent variables: husbands' and wives' approach/avoidance orientation towards sex, attitudes towards sex roles, and pre-adolescent and adolescent genital self-stimulation, and the following dependent variables: the number of times the wives take the initiative sexually, the number of times the husbands take the initiative sexually, and the resulting percentage that each takes the initiative sexually, as measured on a monthly basis. Husbands and wives gave relatively similar estimates of how often the husband initiated sex and how often it was mutually initiated. Both husbands and wives reported that the husband was more likely to initiate sex than the wife; however, wives reported significantly higher frequencies of wife initiated sex than their husbands did for wife initiated sex. Husbands were found to be more erotophilic on the Sexual Opinion Survey than wives. Also, wives tended to be more profeminist than their husbands as measured by the Attitude Toward Women Scale. Couples in which the husband experienced frequent pre-adolescent and adolescent masturbatory experience engaged in sexual activity more frequently. Initiation by the husband was negatively correlated with the wife's adolescent masturbatory
experience. Gender differences in the masturbation score were apparent with husbands having more experience with genital self-stimulation. The wife's Attitude Towards Women Score was negatively correlated with the couple's total amount of sex. It appears that the traditional pattern of husband's initiating more frequently still holds. It also appears that households of a more profeminist bent are engaging in less marital sex.
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INTRODUCTION

Some research shows that men have been more likely than women to initiate sexual activity. In separate studies, Bell (1976) and Rubin (1976) found that married women report not playing a dominant role in the sex act. Peplau, Rubin, and Hill (1977) reported that it is the atypical woman who has initiated a dating couple's first intercourse. Another study by Carlson (1976) found that the man initiates sex more often than the woman. Studies by Ehrmann (1959), Komarovsky (1976), and Peplau, Rubin, and Hill (1976) found the following to be the norm: the man is the active initiator of sexual intercourse while it is the woman who sets the limits by either passively going along with her partner's sexual advances or actively preventing him from having access to her body.

College students also stereotype the initiation of sexual activity as being the male prerogative. LaPlante, McCormick, and Brannigan (1980) tested three hypotheses. First, it was thought that students would stereotype initiating sexual intercourse as a masculine activity and refusing to have sex as a female activity. Next, it was believed that more indirect activities would be used to engage in sex and more direct activities would be used to avoid it and finally, more internally oriented students
were expected to be the initiators. Unmarried college student participants responded to 38 descriptions of 10 strategies for having sexual intercourse and 9 strategies for avoiding sexual intercourse. For each description, participants were asked whether men or women would be more likely to use a particular strategy, how frequently they personally had used the strategy to influence a date, and how frequently the strategy had been used on them in a sexual encounter. The results showed that students were stereotyped in their thinking in that they labeled strategies to have sex as being used by men and strategies to avoid sex as being used by women. It was found also that locus of control was not a determiner of sexual initiation; that is, the influencing stereotypes still prevailed.

These traditional patterns of sexual initiation may be changing at least for married couples. Tavris and Sadd (1977), in their Redbook survey of 100,000 married women, found that 11% of the respondents said that they always or usually initiate sex and 4% said they never do. Forty-four percent of the respondents said they initiate sex about half the time and 42% said they did sometimes. Tavris and Sadd found that those women who always take the initiative and those who never do are the least satisfied with their sex lives. On the other hand, 80% of the wives who
initiate sex half the time are very happy with their sex lives. Tavris and Sadd measured the women's responses by asking the following questions: "How often would you say you initiate sex?" and "How do you let your partner know you are interested in sex?" The methods used to let their partners know they were interested in sex were as follows: 54% caress or cuddle him, 31.9% tell him, 37.8% touch his genitals, 13.5% flirt, 18% say he just knows, and 2.7% give other reasons.

Tavris and Sadd further investigated the reasons for the dissatisfaction of women who initiated sex all the time or not at all. The women who initiated sex all the time reported their husbands are passive, withdrawn, or sexually uninterested. Those who never initiated sex described themselves as inhibited, embarrassed, or worried that they might offend their husbands. Some said they already had sex more often than wanted. Tavris and Sadd believed that the fact that 80% of wives who initiate sex half the time are very happy with their sex lives is an indication of the changing nature of female sexuality; that is, they are taking responsibility for their own sexual happiness.

With a population of college students, Jesser (1978) also measured some of the same areas of sexual initiation as Tavris and Sadd. The respondents were composed of 56 male and 97 female students at a large midwestern
university. The four-part questionnaire covered the following topics: opinions or views pertaining to the way men or women deal with interpersonal aspects of sexuality, types of signals partners use as sexual initiatives, reasons for reluctance to have sex, and behaviors which "turn off" the other sex to sexual activity. The section dealing with interpersonal aspects of sexuality was heavily loaded with what was thought to be appropriate for women. Jesser found that college students used direct verbal requests for sex more often than any other technique. This technique resulted in equal success for males and females. Nontraditional females and males who were in a relationship were more likely to ask directly. Females, although they did ask directly for sex, were less comfortable in this role, although men were not offended by it.

In a more general way, the initiation of sex in a relationship can be seen as an example of locus of control. Catania, McDermott, and Wood (1984) argue that when locus of control is assessed in a sexual context, locus of control (LC) scale items should incorporate relevant features of the sexual situation. Two samples were recruited from introductory psychology classes at a western university. Using the Dyadic Sexual Regulation Scale (DSR), a measure of locus of control in a sexual context, the researchers found that increasing perceptions of
internal control were found to be associated with increasing frequencies of intercourse, oral sex from partner, orgasms occurring in dyadic situations, sexual relations, affectionate behaviors, increasing levels of dyadic sexual satisfaction, and decreasing levels of dyadic sexual anxiety. Specifically, planning for sexual experience shows that the individual believes that a cause and effect relationship exists between planning and desired sexual outcome and that the individual can use a plan to effect those sexual rewards. Two of the questions on the DSR scale read "I often take the initiative in beginning sexual activity" and "My planning for sexual encounters leads to good sexual experiences with my partner." Both of these questions deal with the use of sexual initiative. The study does not indicate what types of initiatives are used, by what gender, how often, or how they are received. The study also failed to confirm a relationship between LC and gender. The researchers pose a possible explanation for this result. They believe that the critical variable is pre-adolescent genital self-stimulation experience which reflects control over one's sexual situation and not gender per se. The researchers hypothesize that the study may have had proportionately equal male and females who had similar experiences in early genital self-stimulation and as a result there is no relationship between gender and
locus of control. One would further conclude that neither gender believes that they have significantly more control over the initiation of sexual activity.

Hite (1976) in her published study The Hite Report, surveys a broad range of sexual issues: masturbation, orgasm, intercourse, and clitoral stimulation. Initiation of sexual behavior is not statistically surveyed although it is addressed in responses to open-ended questions. Many of the women express frustration and anger at male aggressiveness in their initiation of sex. The women reported many instances of avoiding the male initiative or passively acquiescing and then feeling raped or used. It must be remembered that the sample may have been biased in that women not only had to take the time to write about lengthy personal experiences, but they also had to write away for the questionnaires. Also, only 38% of the women in the Hite study were married. The reports also indicated that while men had taken the initiative in the past, women were now discovering their own sexuality and now wanted to use it for their own pleasure. This took the form of women desiring more foreplay, the initiation of lesbian relationships, and masturbation to achieve orgasm. In Beyond the Male Myth, Pietropinto and Simenauer (1977) point out that those who responded to Shere Hite's questionnaire had grievances to voice in the same way that
a cardiologist offering free heart examinations would be visited by those who believed they had heart problems.

Studies by Tavris (1978), Yankelovich (1984), and Schmidt Kirkpatrick (1980) indicate that attitudes are favorable toward women who initiate sex. Yankelovich found that the majority of young people believe that women should be as free to take the sexual initiative as men. Tavris found that a large number of men find it exciting when a woman takes the sexual initiative. Schmidt Kirkpatrick found that sexually satisfied couples desire egalitarianism in initiating sexual intercourse more so than dissatisfied couples.

Based on the studies and conclusions cited above, it is useful for marriage therapists to understand who initiates sex in marriage, why, and with what frequency. The purpose of this study was to determine the factors which are related to the tendency to initiate sex in both husbands and wives. It is expected on the basis of previous research and theorizing that the tendency to initiate marital sexuality will be related to the following: the wife's sexual approach/avoidance orientation and the sexual approach/avoidance orientation of her husband as measured by Byrne's Sexual Opinion Survey (SOS); attitudes toward sex roles and the attitudes of one's spouse as measured by the Attitude Towards Women
Scale (ATWS); and experience with pre-adolescent and adolescent genital self-stimulation. Byrne (1977) and colleagues have developed a conceptual framework which establishes a set of relationships between erotic stimuli, theoretical constructs, and sexual behavior. Gilbert and Gamache (1984) hypothesize that this construct may be related to willingness to engage in sexual behaviors; therefore, assessment of this dimension may help predict the type of behavior each person in the marriage is likely to exhibit. Specifically, emotional response to sexual stimuli, which has been labelled as the dimension of erotophobia-erotophilia, mediates evaluations of sexually explicit materials and is associated with overt approach and avoidance responses to erotica. Since this construct also may be related to willingness to engage in sexual behaviors or antecedents to sexual behaviors, assessment of this dimension might provide the clinician with information about marital sexuality. The ATWS is composed of 25 statements which describe attitudes towards various relationship styles and expectations for male and female role styles.

It was hypothesized that the tendency to initiate marital sexuality would be related to the approach/avoidance sexual orientation of oneself and one's spouse, one's own experience with pre-adolescent and adolescent
genital self-stimulation, and the orientation to sex roles of oneself and one's spouse. More specifically, it was hypothesized that the husbands' SOS scores would be positively correlated with their own frequency of initiation of marital sex and with their wives' frequency of initiation. It was predicted that the wives' SOS scores would be positively correlated with their own percentage of initiation. It was further predicted that the husbands' and wives' ATWS scores would be positively correlated with the percentage of wife-initiated sex or negatively correlated with husband-initiated sex. Finally, it was predicted that the husbands' and wives' frequency of pre-adolescent and adolescent masturbation would be positively correlated with the frequency of initiation.
METHOD

Byrne's Sexual Opinion Survey, the Attitudes Towards Women Scale, and questions regarding pre-adolescent and adolescent genital self-stimulation were distributed to 180 married couples. The sample population of married couples was drawn from the professional ranks of the Orange County Public School System, including administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, exceptional education staffing specialists, and school psychologists. Married graduates and graduate students from the University of Central Florida psychology department and faculty members of that same department were asked to participate. The subjects ranged in age from their early twenties to their late fifties. Data on age was not obtained to reinforce the subjects' anonymity. The rate of return was 18%. Each couple received a packet with two separate questionnaires, a large self-addressed stamped envelope for the questionnaire's return, and an informed consent letter. Instructions specified that return of the questionnaire by both couples indicated consent to participate in the study. The couple was advised to keep the consent form for their information and to ensure their total anonymity.
Each member of the married dyad reported his or her gender and the number of times in the last month the following had occurred: the number of times the subject had initiated sex, the number of times the spouse had initiated sex, and the number of times that initiation had been mutual. A monthly tally was taken to guard against the variances of an unusual week. Frequency of adolescent and pre-adolescent masturbation was also queried. Finally, the couple was advised that for methodological reasons the questionnaires needed to be completed separately and without consultation and that for the participants to be included in the study, both partners needed to complete the questionnaire.

There was no follow up to remind the subjects to return their questionnaires. Due to the conditions of anonymity, it was impossible to know who had returned their questionnaires and who had not. Further data on demographic variables was not obtained due to the reason cited above to insure the participants' anonymity.
RESULTS

Sexual Initiation Scores
Raw Scores

Before examining the relationships between the predictor variables and the dependent variables, initiation scores were examined to determine the following: 1) what the actual pattern of initiation was, and 2) the reliability and validity of the responses. Husbands' and wives' responses to the question of initiation by the husband, wife, or mutually initiated are indicated in Table 1.

The table indicates that husbands and wives gave relatively similar estimates of how often the husband initiates sex and how often it is mutually initiated; husbands' and wives' reports on these issues were not significantly different from each other. Both men and women typically reported that the husband was more likely to initiate sex than his wife was likely to initiate, $t(29) = 4.05$, $p < .001$; however, there was not agreement between spouses as to how often the wife-initiated sex. Wives reported significantly higher frequencies than their husbands did, $t(27) = 4.18$, $p < .001$. Thus, it appears that in this sample, husbands and wives were generally in agreement as to how often sex was initiated by the husband.
or was mutually initiated, but that their estimates of how often the wife initiated systematically differed.

**Agreement Between Husbands' and Wives' Reports of Sexual Initiation**

In order to check the validity of these reports, two analyses were done. One simply compared the raw scores for husbands and wives to see how closely they agreed. The second correlated the husbands' and wives' scores to see if they were statistically associated. The number of couples whose scores were no more than 2 units apart was 25. A unit constituted an act of sexual initiation. There were 25 out of 32 couples for when the raw score was no more than 2 units apart. As another check on agreement between husbands' and wives' reports, scores on each of the three initiation questions were correlated. The correlations between raw scores are indicated in Table 2. Table 2 shows that husbands' and wives' reports were in partial agreement with reports of mutually initiated sex, \( r(31) = .21, p = .13 \); but that agreement was somewhat greater for reports of husband initiated sex \( r(30) = .79, p < .001 \) than wife-initiated sex \( r(30) = .59, p < .001 \). Further, a composite score (TOTSEX) computed by summing the three individual estimates was highly reliable. These findings suggest that the most appropriate measure of sexual initiation is not the percentage of times the wife initiates sex, since these scores are less reliable, but the percentage of times the
husband initiates sex. The moderately high levels of agreement between husbands' and wives' suggest that it is reasonable to combine the husbands' and wives' reports to form a composite score for the couple. Thus, the percentage of husband-initiated sex was computed by adding the husbands' and wives' estimates of how often the husband initiates sex and dividing the score by the sum of husbands' and wives' estimates of husbands' and wives' and mutually initiated sex. These scores ranged from .00 to 1.00 and were used as the dependent variable in subsequent analyses. Since this new dependent variable is the inverse of wife-initiated sex, all predictions were simply reversed in direction.

Results of Predictor Variables

Raw Scores

Prior to examining the predicted relationship, the following predictor variables were examined: husbands' SOS scores, wives' SOS scores, the husbands' ATWS scores, wives' ATWS scores, husbands' pre-adolescent and adolescent masturbation frequencies, and the wives' pre-adolescent and adolescent masturbation frequencies. Means and standard deviations for all predictor variables are shown in Table 3. Correlations between these variables are shown in Table 4. Significant correlations were found in the wives' pre-adolescent masturbatory experience and their adolescent
masturbatory experience, \( r(32) = .38, p = .016 \); the husbands' SOS scores and the wives' SOS scores, \( r(32) = .60, p < .001 \); and the wives' SOS scores and the wives' ATWS, \( r(33) = .37, p = .017 \).

**Gender Differences in the Predictor Variables**

Three significant gender differences were found in the predictor variables. Husbands' were found to be more erotophilic on the SOS than wives' \( t(31) = 2.53, p < 0.001 \), two tailed. Wives' tended to be more profeminist than their husbands' as measured by the ATWS \( t(32) = 2.65, p < 0.001 \). Husbands' also had more adolescent masturbatory experience than their wives' \( t(31) = 5.27, p < 0.001 \).

**Tests of Hypotheses**

The original hypotheses were tested by correlating each of the predictor variables with the composite score representing the percentage of sexual encounters initiated by the husband. This score, based on both husbands' and wives' reports, was selected as the best measure of how equalitarian the couples marital sex was, since agreement was relatively low on reports of wife-initiated sex. Since husband-and wife-initiated sex was assumed to be complementary, the significance of the predicted correlations were reversed for each prediction. Only one of these predicted correlations was significant. Initiation by the husband was negatively correlated with
the wife's adolescent masturbatory experience $r(27) = -0.36$, $p = 0.34$.

Since the original predictions were generally not supported, additional analyses were performed. In particular, the predictor variables were correlated with the total number of monthly sexual encounters reported by the couples. This score was computed by averaging together the husbands' and wives' reports of total sexual encounters per month. This score was correlated with the husbands' pre-adolescent masturbatory experience $r(27) = -0.52$, $p = 0.003$; and the husbands' adolescent masturbatory experience $r(27) = 0.36$, $p = 0.033$. The wives' Attitude Towards Women Score was negatively correlated with the couples' total amount of sex $r(27) = -0.31$, $p = 0.059$. 
DISCUSSION

This study was undertaken because recent research indicated that traditional patterns of sexual initiation could be changing especially for married couples. The purpose of this study was to determine the factors which were related to the tendency to initiate sex. It was expected that on the basis of previous research and theorizing that the tendency to initiate marital sex would be related to the following: an approach/avoidance orientation with regard to sex as measured by Byrne's Sexual Opinion Survey, attitudes towards sex roles as measured by the Attitude Towards Women Scale; and experience with adolescent and pre-adolescent genital self-stimulation.

The issue of sex in the marital situation appears to be a sensitive issue for most couples as reflected in the low rate of return of approximately 20%. Even more sensitive perhaps, was the issue of who initiates sex in the marital relationship. In the questionnaires that were returned, there were 12% missing scores on the initiation question in otherwise fully completed questionnaires. The lack of data with regard to the initiation question may have been due to the difficulty in remembering quantity and
who initiated over a month's long duration. A diary, included in the questionnaire packet, may have been helpful with this problem. The purpose of looking at initiation over the course of a month was to average out an unusual week where perhaps no sex had occurred due to extenuating circumstances, such as illness, a spouse traveling on business, visiting relatives, etc. More explicit instructions could have asked the couples their initiation habits in a typical, average week. The requirement that both members of the couple complete the questionnaire for participation also posed a problem. This researcher was told several times that one spouse would like to complete the questionnaire, but that the other spouse would not participate. This automatically excluded the couple from the study.

The data gathered in this sample revealed that husbands' initiate sex more frequently than their wives and that wives' perceive themselves as initiating more sex in the marital relationship than their husbands' see them as initiating. In other words, there were systematic differences between the men and women with women reporting more wife-initiated sex than husbands' reported them initiating. This systematic difference in reporting could be due to any of the following reasons: initiation by the woman is a non-traditional form of behavior; therefore, if
she does take the initiative she may exaggerate its importance and thus its quantity. The example just mentioned indicate a misperception on the part of the wife. It may also be true that men do not want to admit that their wives' take as much initiative as they do perceiving it to be a threat to the male dominant traditional view. In this case, it may be the husband who has misperceived the situation. Another possible explanation may be that in the couples' minds, initiation may be perceived as a control issue with both spouses claiming a greater degree of control over their sex lives than in fact is true.

It was found that husband-initiated sex was not related to their Sexual Opinion Survey score or to the Attitude Towards Women Scale score as expected. To determine the reason for this, a closer look at Byrne's SOS measure is needed. While it does measure approach/avoidance tendencies towards sex, the specific questions are most relevant to erotic love. Specifically, the questions cover such topics as pornography, nudity, masturbation, homosexuality, group sex, fantasy, and multiple sex partners. It is possible that marital sex differs from erotic sex and therefore one's willingness or desire to engage in erotic sex is not relevant, or is different from, one's willingness or desire to engage in marital sex. Further research is needed to explore, if in
fact, marital sex and love are different from erotic sex and love and what predisposes an individual to engage in either.

The prediction that the husbands' and wives' ATWS scores would be correlated with the percentage of wife initiated sex or negatively correlated with husband initiated sex did not prove to be true. The theory that an equalitarian husband has a wife who initiates more frequently was not found to be true especially when one considers the following data. It was discovered that for couples in which the wives had high ATWS scores the frequency of sex that occurred in the marital relationship was lower. In other words, husbands of a profeminist bent are also married to profeminist wives', but this equalitarianism in the home does not result in him initiating less or her initiating more. Thus, in order to determine why there was no correlation between initiation and these measures, it is necessary to look at the correlation that did occur. The total frequency of sex for the couple was related to the husbands' masturbatory scores and the wives' ATWS scores, but negatively.

To examine more closely why equalitarian relationships with a profeminist bent have less sex, further research should explore the lifestyles of these couples. Even though the woman may espouse profeminist goals and be a
working professional, she in fact may still be the primary caretaker of the children and handle most of the household responsibilities. Hence, her interest in sex may be diminished due to fatigue. Another possible interpretation is that she may be engaging in extra-marital sex diminishing her interest in marital sex. It may also be true that as a feminist she may feel less compelled to attend to her husband's sexual needs and may be more assertive about saying "no." Job stress, financial concerns, and hostility towards men may also be factors diminishing her sex drive.

As expected, the husband's adolescent masturbatory score correlated positively with his SOS score. The wives' adolescent masturbatory score did not correlate with her SOS score. This perhaps indicates that women become more sexually active at a later age. The wives' SOS scores positively correlated with their ATWS scores. Thus, while feminist women may be cognitively more erotophilic, they may not act on their beliefs for the reasons cited above.

The research seems to indicate that traditional patterns of sexual behavior still hold in that men appear to have a stronger sex drive, but that this alone is not a good predictor of marital sex. Subsequent research should focus on total sexual encounters rather than the percentage of sex initiated by the wife and the percentage of sex
initiated by the husband and what factors other than sexual contribute to initiation. Issues specific to each couple such as length of time married, age of couple, number and ages of children in the home, the family's socioeconomic level, and degree of marital stress could all be measured. Another area of focus would be to determine the reasons for the discrepancy in perception of wife initiation. Finally, a measure of marital satisfaction should be included in order to determine the impact of satisfaction on sexual activity and vice versa.
APPENDIX A

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING AND RETURNING QUESTIONNAIRES
APPENDIX A

Instructions for Completing and Returning Questionnaires

1. Please read the information and consent form.

2. Decide whether or not you will participate. If you are willing to participate, please ask your spouse if he/she will participate. Both spouses' participation is needed for the questionnaires to be included in this study.

3. If you as a couple decide to participate, both of you will need to complete the questionnaires separately and without consultation or discussion. After you have completed the questionnaires, and place them in the self-addressed, stamped envelope addressed to me, you may discuss the issues raised by the questionnaires.

4. Please return the questionnaire within 5 days.
Information and Consent Form

The purpose of this form is to provide you with information about a research project which we are conducting and to request that you participate in it as a subject. This study will investigate the correlates of initiation of sexual behavior in the marital relationship. The research is being conducted by Nancy Roberts-Cruce, as part of her master's thesis, and is being supervised by Randy Fisher, Ph.D., of the Department of Psychology at the University of Central Florida.

To participate in this study you must be married and currently living with your partner. Participation will require filling out four brief questionnaires. This should take no more than 15 minutes. For methodological reasons, we request that you and your spouse complete the questionnaires separately without consultation.

All information obtained in this study will remain anonymous. Your name will not be linked to the correlates or the actual behavior. You may refuse to answer any question. A copy of the completed study will be on file at the UCF library under the name of Nancy Roberts-Cruce.

The risks of participating in this study are minimal since all responses will remain anonymous. It is possible that participation will be beneficial in that marriage and family therapists will be provided with insight into what
factors influence initiation of sexual behavior in the marital relationship.

TO GUARANTEE YOUR ANONYMITY, KEEP THIS INFORMATION AND CONSENT FORM. RETURN OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE PACKET GIVES YOUR CONSENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY.
1. Identify yourself by circling the following choice: 
husband    wife

2. In the last month that you and your spouse had sex, how many times did you initiate sex, how many times did your spouse initiate, and how many times were mutually initiated?

Number of times I initiated sex ______
Number of times my spouse initiated sex ______
Number of times initiation was mutual ______

3. During adolescence (ages 13-18), I masturbated (monthly frequencies)

a. not at all
b. 1-2 times
c. 3-5 times
d. 7-12 times
e. 15 times or more
4. During pre-adolescence (ages 10-12), I masturbated (monthly frequencies)
   a. not at all
   b. 1-2 times
   c. 3-5 times
   d. 7-12 times
   e. 15 times or more
The Sexual Opinion Survey

Please respond to each item as honestly as you can. There are no right or wrong answers, and your answers will be completely confidential. Code the following statements using this response scale:

I strongly: 1: 2: 3: 4: 5: 6: 7  I strongly disagree

1. I think it would be very entertaining to look at hard-core pornography.
2. Pornography is obviously filthy and people should not try to describe it as anything else.
3. Swimming in the nude with a member of the opposite sex would be an exciting experience.
4. Masturbation can be an exciting experience.
5. If I found out that a close friend of mine was a homosexual, it would annoy me.
6. If people believed that I was interested in oral sex, I would be embarrassed.
7. Engaging in group sex is an entertaining idea.
8. I personally find that thinking about engaging in sexual intercourse is arousing.
9. Seeing a pornographic movie would be sexually arousing to me.
10. Thoughts that I may have homosexual tendencies would not worry me at all.
11. The idea of my being physically attracted to members of the same sex is not depressing.
12. Almost all pornographic material is nauseating.
13. It would be emotionally upsetting to me to see someone exposing themselves.
14. Watching a gogo dancer of the opposite sex would not be very exciting.
15. I would not enjoy seeing a pornographic movie.
16. When I think of myself seeing pictures showing someone of the same sex as myself masturbating, it nauseates me.
17. The thought of engaging in unusual sex practices is highly arousing.
18. Manipulating my genitals would probably be an arousing experience.
19. I do not enjoy daydreaming about sexual matters.
20. I am not curious about explicit pornography.
21. The thought of having long-term sexual relations with more than one sex partner is not disgusting to me.
The statements listed below describe attitudes toward various relationship styles. There are no right or wrong answers, only opinions. You are asked to express your feeling about each statement by indicating whether you agree strongly, agree mildly, disagree mildly, or disagree strongly. Please indicate your opinion by writing the letter A, B, C, or D in each blank which corresponds to your feeling about each statement. Use the scale below:

A - Agree Strongly
B - Agree Mildly
C - Disagree Mildly
D - Disagree Strongly

____1. Swearing and obscenity are more repulsive in the speech of a woman than of a man.

____2. Women should take increasing responsibility for leadership in solving the intellectual and social problems of the day.

____3. Both husband and wife should be allowed the same grounds for divorce.

____4. Telling dirty jokes should be mostly a masculine prerogative.

____5. Intoxication among women is worse than intoxication among men.

____6. Under modern economic conditions with women being active outside the home, men should share in household tasks such as washing dishes and doing the laundry.

____7. It is insulting to women to have the "obey" clause remain in the marriage service.

____8. There should be a strict merit system in job appointment and promotion without regard to sex.

____9. A woman should be as free as a man to propose marriage.
10. Women should worry less about their rights and more about becoming good wives and mothers.
11. Women earning as much as their dates should bear equally the expense when they go out together.
12. Women should assume their rightful place in business and all the professions along with men.
13. A woman should not expect to go to exactly the same places or to have quite the same freedom of action as a man.
14. Sons in a family should be given more encouragement to go to college than daughters.
15. It is ridiculous for a woman to run a locomotive and for a man to darn socks.
16. In general, the father should have greater authority than the mother in the bringing up of children.
17. Women should be encouraged not to become sexually intimate with anyone before marriage, even their fiances.
18. The husband should not be favored by law over the wife in the disposal of family property or income.
19. Women should be concerned with their duties of childbearing and house tending, rather than with desire for professional and business careers.
20. The intellectual leadership of a community should be largely in the hands of men.
21. Economic and social freedom is worth far more to women than acceptance of the ideal of feminity which has been set up by men.
22. On the average, women should be regarded as less capable of contributing to economic production than are men.
23. There are many jobs in which men should be given preference over women in being hired or promoted.
24. Women should be given equal opportunity with men for apprenticeship in the various trades.

25. The modern girl is entitled to the same freedom from regulation and control that is given to the modern boy.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Wife</th>
<th>Husband</th>
<th>Both</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Husband</td>
<td>2.36</td>
<td>6.52</td>
<td>3.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>6.25</td>
<td>3.52</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>.5883*</td>
<td>.6356*</td>
<td>.1336</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wives' Report of Spouse Initiated Sex</td>
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<td>.7893*</td>
<td>.1573</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wives' Report of Mutually Initiated Sex</td>
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<td>.2036</td>
<td>.2087</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wives' Report of Total Sex</td>
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</table>

*p < .05*
## TABLE 3

MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS FOR THE PREDICTOR VARIABLES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Husband's SOS Score</td>
<td>76.5313</td>
<td>16.361</td>
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<td>Wife's SOS Score</td>
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<td>20.485</td>
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<td>Husband's ATWS Score</td>
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<td>9.045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wife's ATWS Score</td>
<td>60.7576</td>
<td>11.124</td>
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<tr>
<td>Husband's Pre-adolescent Masturbatory Score</td>
<td>1.5152</td>
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<td>Wife's Pre-adolescent Masturbatory Score</td>
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<td>1.119</td>
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<tr>
<td>Husband's Adolescent Masturbatory Score</td>
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<td>1.311</td>
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<td>Wife's Adolescent Masturbatory Score</td>
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### TABLE 4
INTERCORRELATION FOR PREDICTOR VARIABLES

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<td>Husband's Attitude Toward Women Scale Score</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note:  
- \( p < .05 \)  
- \( n = 30-33 \)
REFERENCES


