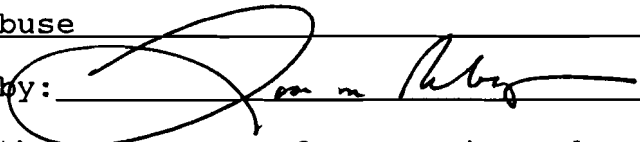


AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

Diane M. Downey for the Master of Science in

Psychology presented on July, 1994

Title: Egalitarianism and Women's Perception of  
Psychological Abuse

Abstract approved by: 

Despite more than 20 years of research on domestic violence, psychological abuse seems barely recognized as a major problem. Since psychological abuse is functionally equivalent and often a precursor to physical abuse, a better understanding of the psychological abuse could help in the planning of prevention and intervention programs.

This study examined the relationship between abused and non-abused women, egalitarianism, and perception of psychological abuse. It was hypothesized that abused women might perceive situations as less abusive and that it might be related to their level of egalitarianism. Thirty clients from battered women programs in Kansas served as subjects for the abused group. Thirty-one women from graduate classes at a mid-size Kansas university were the subjects for the comparison group. Perception of psychological abuse was determined by the subjects' responses to a set of questions after reading five written vignettes. The Sex-Role Egalitarian Scale (SRES) instrument was used to measure egalitarianism.

The data was analyzed through four 2 x 3 analysis of variance (ANOVA). The results indicated that, regardless of

past abuse or non-abuse, women in the moderate and high-egalitarian groups did not differ significantly in their perception of psychological abuse. However, women in the low-egalitarian group had a higher likelihood of perceiving the scenarios as significantly less abusive than the more egalitarian women.

EGALITARIANISM AND WOMEN'S  
PERCEPTION OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

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A Thesis

Presented to  
the Division of Psychology and Special Education  
EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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

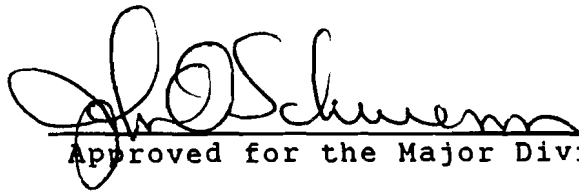
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by

Diane M. Downey

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Approved for the Major Division

  
Approved for the Graduate Council

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Mom and Dad, thank you for allowing me to forge my own personality and trusting me to make my own decisions. You taught me independence. You gave me love and support. I'm glad you had a large family or I wouldn't even be here. I would have missed the learning experiences with my brothers and the laughter with my sisters.

My friends, old and new, I thank you for keeping me in touch with reality and helping to preserve my sanity, what little there ever was of it. Your emotional support keeps me inspired to continue working toward my goals. I thank God for putting all of you into my life.

Many thanks to my thesis committee chairperson, Dr. Lisa Reboy, and to my committee members Dr. Cooper B. Holmes and Dr. Sharon Karr. Your input, ideas, corrections, edits, advice, and patience helped ensure a good final product. Thank you, Dr. Holmes, also, for the guidance through my two years at ESU.

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## CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

Violence is recognized as a major problem in our society. Constantly, we are warned to take special precautions - lock doors, stay out of rough neighborhoods, park in well-lit areas. Have you ever heard of taking precautions against your partner? With some form of domestic violence occurring in half of American homes (Dickstein, 1988), a woman's male partner is her most likely attacker. Home is not a place of safety for at least one quarter of our adult population.

Domestic violence occurs in many forms. The major categories are physical, psychological, property, and sexual (O'Leary & Murphy, 1992). These abuses occur at all levels of socioeconomic status. No race, religion, or ethnic group has been found to be unaffected. The terms violence, battering, abuse, maltreatment, and torture are used almost interchangeably in the literature. In this paper, abuse is the preferred term and the primary focus is psychological abuse. The term abuse was chosen because battering, violence, and torture have physical connotations and the word maltreatment does not convey the severity of the situation.

During the early 1970's, "the battered women's (BW) movement emerged from the broader women's movement" (Dobash & Dobash, 1987, p. 169). The first shelter specifically for

abused women in the United States opened in 1974. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) was established in 1978 to ensure a coordinated national effort and by 1982 there were 719 NCADV affiliated shelters. (Dobash & Dobash, 1987) Despite 20 years of work, abuse against women by their spouse or significant other still is not recognized or acknowledged by many. It continues today as a common, accepted practice, to some extent, in every culture (Martin, 1981).

In 1992, then-Surgeon General Novello declared domestic violence to be the leading health issue for women. It affects them both physically and psychologically. Victims of physical and psychological abuse tend to have a greater probability of depression (Straus, Sweet, & Vissing, 1989) and psychosocial problems (Tolman & Bhosley, 1991). Physical and psychological abuse have been implicated in learned helplessness (Walker, 1978), low self-esteem (Rosen, 1991), poor self-concept (Long, 1991), and many other mental health issues. Sometimes the physical symptoms are severe and, yet, psychosomatic in origin (Hoffman, 1984). An estimated 21% of women who use emergency surgical services are suffering from ailments directly related to partner abuse (Browne, 1993). One-third of women murdered in 1990 were killed by their partner (FBI, 1990).

The cost to society is immense. Domestic violence unnecessarily taxes the health care system, the education

system, and the legal system. Immeasurable is the cost of lives unfulfilled and the impact on children in these families (Biden, 1993).

### Definition of Psychological Abuse

Psychological abuse is defined as any pattern of psychological behavior which forces a change of action without any concern for the other person's rights or feelings (Tolman, 1992; Walker, 1979). The behavior is debilitating to the extent that the person believes it interferes with his or her ability to work, to interact with others, or to maintain good physical or mental health (Hoffman, 1984). The actual behaviors may be viewed on a continuum. On one end are the isolated incidents of hurtful behavior that can occur in almost any relationship such as temporary withdrawal, speaking sharply, and not listening. On the other end are the pervasive, severe psychological behaviors such as controlling or severely limiting another's actions and threatening to take away the children (Tolman, 1992).

According to Walker (1989), actions of abusers fit the Amnesty International definition of psychological torture. Amnesty International's definition includes isolation, verbal degradation, use of hypnosis and/or drugs, denial of powers, monopolizing perceptions, and threats.

Tolman (1992) uses several categories as a technique to assess psychological abuse. His categories are creation of

fear, isolation, monopolization, degradation, rigid sex role expectations, economic abuse, psychological destabilization, emotional or interpersonal withholding, and contingent expressions of love. Similarities can be seen between Amnesty International's definition of torture and Tolman's categories of abuse.

The impact of psychological abuse is functionally equivalent to physical abuse; they are both ways for one person to exert control and dominance over another (Tolman & Edleson, 1989). Psychological abuse leaves no bruises or broken bones, but it can be more debilitating as women's strengths are criticized. The devaluation is not readily accepted, but the constant reinforcement forces the women to adopt the abusers' assessment of them. The result is poor self-concept and extremely low self-esteem despite prior psychological health (Hoffman, 1984; Tolman, 1992).

The target of psychological abuse is the very essence of a woman's being, her self-concept. She may no longer be sure who she is or how she feels as she questions her own sanity and perception of reality (Tolman, 1992). Her actions may no longer be her own as the person she used to be has been twisted beyond recognition by her partner's manipulations. The longer the psychological abuse continues, the more likely the woman is to believe she is in the best relationship she can hope to achieve (Hoffman, 1984). This lowering of expectations supports a lowered

self-concept.

Psychological abuse lays the foundation for possible physical abuse. Though psychological abuse does occur in the absence of physical abuse, the reverse is not true. The function of physical abuse negates the possibility of its existence without the concurrent existence of psychological abuse (Shepard & Campbell, 1992; Tolman, 1992). Sometimes physical abuse ceases, but the psychological abuse continues. The psychological abuse is reinforced by the belief physical abuse may recur. It often does (Graham, Rawlings, & Rimini, 1988).

#### Recognition of Psychological Abuse

In the first in-depth study of psychologically abused women, subjects claimed "the abuse crept up on them" (Hoffman, 1984, p. 39). This implies they did not recognize previous behavior as abusive. The most widely held theory on why many women do not recognize the psychological abuse they experience is related to socialization (Tavris, 1992). Women are raised to value relationships above all else. Women are seen as the homemakers and the peacekeepers. With those roles comes the societal belief women are responsible for anything that goes wrong within those realms (Walker, 1983). As people internalize this message, many women also assume the responsibility for improving a relationship. It is only since women have been allowed to become better educated and have taken on more roles in society that the

behaviors to which women have been subjected have been more widely viewed as abusive (Tavris, 1992).

### Factors Related to Recognition of Psychological Abuse

As socialization appears to be a factor in recognizing psychological abuse, studies examining the relationship between sex roles and abuse were reviewed. DeGregoria (1987) measured women's sex role attitudes and their perception of psychological abuse. Subjects read five vignettes describing interactions between a heterosexual couple and answered a series of questions about the appropriateness of the couple's actions. Nontraditional women were more likely to accurately perceive abuse than traditionally sex-typed women. DeGregoria used the Attitude Toward Women Scale (AWS) (Spence & Helmreich, 1972) instrument to determine traditional and nontraditional sex role attitudes.

As of this writing, DeGregoria (1987) is the only published study examining the relationship between sex roles and perception of psychological abuse. Due to the paucity of research on psychological abuse and sex roles, studies on victims of physical abuse were reviewed. Warren and Lanning (1992) compared sex role traits of physically abused and non-abused women. Using the Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI) (Bem, 1974), physically abused women were more likely to be traditionally sex-typed as feminine while the non-abused women were more often sex-typed as masculine or androgynous.

Since nontraditional women are less likely to become involved in physically abusive relationships, possibly they are better able to perceive the abusive potential prior to escalation.

Not all studies provide such clear cut results. Worth, Matthews, and Coleman (1990) studied college courtship violence and sex roles. They did not detect any significant differences between the masculine and feminine scores on the BSRI of abused and non-abused women. They did find that 50% of the abused/abusive group belonged to fraternities or sororities while only 8% of the non-abused/non-abusive group were members. A possible implication is these groups may hold more traditional attitudes toward women or romantic relationships, but still claim more egalitarian values with respect to their professional lives.

Coleman and Straus (1986) suggest the lowest rates of conflict and violence occur in egalitarian marriages. Finn (1986) and Gentemann (1984) found a significant relationship between traditional sex role attitudes and approval of violence. Conventional sex role preference is one factor which seems to contribute to a woman being a more likely victim (Spence, Losoff, & Robbins, 1991). This provides support for Koss' (1985) social control model of victimization which hypothesizes socialization through sex role training to accept certain beliefs and attitudes reinforces women's victimization.



A common problem with many of the studies is a failure to account for contextual effects when assessing people's attitudes and behaviors with respect to sex roles and attitudes. People's attitude and behavior at work may differ from their attitude and behavior at home. Beere (1979) reviewed 202 instruments intended to measure gender-related constructs and found them to be lacking in several areas. The problem most important for this study is that the items inadequately sampled the defined domains. Another shortcoming was that the instruments tended to emphasize the roles of women only. The Sex-Role Egalitarian Scale (SRES) (Beere, King, Beere, & King, 1984), however, is designed to address these shortcomings.

### Egalitarianism

Beere, et al. (1984) define egalitarianism as "an attitude that causes one to respond to another individual independently of that other individual's sex" (p. 564). The SRES is an instrument designed to measure egalitarianism in several contexts. King and King (1993) determined the "relevant aspects of an adult's life" (p. 564) and created the domains of marital roles, parental roles, educational roles, social-interpersonal-heterosexual roles, and employment roles. The dimensions of equality include qualification or ability, obligation or duty, right, opportunity, and consequences (King & King, 1993).

## Summary

Psychological abuse is recognized as a negative influence in the lives of its victims, but research on the subject is still scanty. Most of what is known is based on research of physical abuse. Part of the problem is that few of the victims of psychological abuse alone find their way into shelters because most shelters must reserve their space for the women in current physical danger (Star, 1978).

Psychological abuse is difficult to define, but it is just as difficult to understand why people appear to perceive it differently. Do women who get involved with psychologically abusive men not recognize the behavior as abusive? Is there a difference in attitudes toward egalitarianism between these women and the women who do not get involved with men who are psychologically abusive? By comparing data collected using the Sex-Role Egalitarianism Scale (SRES) (Beere, et al., 1984; King & King, 1993) and five vignettes depicting couples in different situations, this research will explore whether perception of psychological abuse is a differentiating factor for women who get involved with psychologically abusive men.

## Purpose of Study

The focus of this study is the ability of women to perceive psychological abuse in intimate male-female relationships. Though women are capable of being psychologically abusive toward their male partners, male

privilege and greater power and status in our society creates an imbalance in favor of men in most male-female relationships (Dobash & Dobash, 1979). Psychological abuse is the least likely type of abuse to be detected (O'Leary & Murphy, 1992) and is often a precursor to physical battering. Many women do not recognize the abuse until they are deeply involved in the relationship. Specifically, the purpose of this study is to determine if there are differences between women who perceive situations as psychologically abusive and women who do not. The importance of identifying factors that may differentiate women who are adept at detecting psychological abuse from those who do not is in helping all women detect and avoid abuse. Recognition of psychological abuse prior to enmeshment may permit different outcomes of the relationship. This study will examine the following factors prior involvement in physically or psychologically abusive relationships, socioeconomic status, age, perception of male-female relations, and egalitarianism.

### Research Questions

The questions this study is designed to answer are as follows:

- 1) Do women in abusive relationships perceive abuse differently from women who do not enter such relationships?
- 2) If there appears to be a difference in perceptions, is it related to differences in egalitarian views?

3) Is there an interaction between egalitarianism and perception that is unrelated to being a member of either group?

4) Does the gender of the victim have an effect in the perception of abuse in the scenarios?

## CHAPTER 2

### METHODOLOGY

#### Subjects and Sampling Method

The researcher solicited and received the cooperation of battered women shelter directors in eastern Kansas. Thirty clients volunteered to be subjects for this study. A client is defined as any woman using the services at the shelter due to psychological or physical abuse by her male partner. No incentive was offered for assisting in the study, though the purpose of the study was explained.

Shelter clients' ages ranged from 17 to 55, but 77% were in the two middle age groups of 24 to 29 and 30 to 39 years of age. Thirty-six percent had a GED or a high school diploma while 2% never graduated from high school. Forty-three percent had some college education. No shelter client claimed more than \$25,000 annual income. Two percent resided with a husband or male partner.

The shelter clients were unsuccessful in engaging the cooperation of female friends who had not been in abusive relationships to use as a comparative group. Therefore, the researcher requested and received permission to entreat the assistance of students in graduate classes at a mid-sized Kansas university. Thirty-one students volunteered to be subjects for the comparison group.

The college students' ages ranged from 21 to 60 and were evenly distributed across the four age groups. Only

16% of the college students had less than a four year degree. Their income was relatively evenly distributed from less to \$10,000 to more than \$50,000. Thirty-nine percent of the students lived with a husband or male partner.

### Research Type and Design

This is a quasi-experimental design as it is not possible to randomly assign subjects to the abused and non-abused groups. The independent variables include the score of the Sex-Role Egalitarian Scale (SRES) and relationship quality (abusive or not). The dependent variable is perceived abuse operationally defined as the sum of scores on a series of vignettes described below.

### Procedures

All subjects were given four forms to complete. They included the informed consent form, the demographic questionnaire, a series of five vignettes, and the SRES. The informed consent was completed by each subject prior to the administration of the other forms (See Appendix A). The second form is a multiple-choice questionnaire addressing demographic information and abuse history (See Appendix B). Finally, the subjects completed the abuse vignettes and the SRES. Complete description of each instrument follows. The forms were in a packet in the order mentioned with the informed consent form on top, but not attached. The researcher and the service providers at the battered women shelters administered the forms to the clients. The

researcher administered the forms to the student subjects for the comparative group. All administrators read and followed the protocol provided by the researcher (See Appendix C).

### Instrumentation

Abuse Vignettes. To measure perception of psychological abuse, subjects read and responded to a set of five vignettes. The vignettes were slightly revised and updated versions of the vignettes used by DeGregoria (1987). Each vignette depicted an interaction between a couple. The vignettes were designed to depict only one type of psychological abuse. The types of abuse depicted are verbal degradation, economic deprivation, isolation, and social humiliation. One vignette was designed to be neutral.

Each vignette had a male and a female victim version. Each subject received a mix of one neutral vignette and two male and two female victim vignettes. The order of the vignettes were counterbalanced to avoid an order-effect.

Each vignette was followed by seven questions. The first six questions required a response using a 5-point, Likert-type scale which ranged from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The seventh question asked the subject to indicate who is responsible for the situation and to what degree (See Appendix D).

Sex-Role Egalitarian Scale (SRES). The SRES was the instrument used to measure egalitarianism. The SRES was developed to overcome some of the shortcomings of instruments designed to measure gender-related constructs. It was selected for this study because it focuses on specific gender roles more so than previous measures such as the Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI) or the Personal Attributes Questionnaire (PAQ) (Spence & Helmreich, 1978).

The SRES consists of 95 statements divided into five, 19-item domains. The five domains are marital roles, parental roles, employment roles, educational roles, and social-interpersonal-heterosexual roles. The format for responses is a 5-point Likert-type scale, ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

A normative measure, the SRES does not use cut-off scores to classify people as traditional or egalitarian. Rather, an individual's raw score is assigned a T-score or a percentile rank based on a normative sampling population (King & King, 1993).

Reliability for the subscales ranged from .81 to .91 and is .88 to .97 for the total score (Beere, et al., 1984). Internal consistency of each domain ranged from a mean item-total correlation of .46 to .55. The coefficient alphas ranged from  $\alpha = .92$  to  $\alpha = .95$ . The coefficient alpha of  $\alpha = .99$  for the full scale score is to be considered cautiously because the subjects-to-items ratio



was below acceptable standards (King & King, 1993). Hence, domain subscores can be used in separate analyses. The total SRES score and the marital domain subscore were used as measures of egalitarianism in this study.

### Analysis

The data was analyzed through four 2 x 3 analysis of variance (ANOVA) to answer the questions of this study. The independent variables for the first three ANOVAs were relationship quality (abusive or non-abusive) and egalitarianism as determined by the SRES marital domain subscore. The dependent variable for the first ANOVA was perception of abuse as measured by the mean sum total of the vignettes. The dependent variable for the second ANOVA was the mean sum total of the vignettes with female victims. The dependent variable for the third ANOVA was the mean sum total score of the vignettes with male victims. The fourth ANOVA used relationship quality and the SRES total score as the independent variables and the mean sum total of the vignettes to measure perception as the dependent variable.

## CHAPTER 3

## RESULTS

Scores for the Sex-Role Egalitarianism Scale (SRES) were grouped to create three levels of egalitarianism. Using the percentile ranking for the normative population of women in the SRES manual, the scores were divided into thirds. The high-egalitarian level were the scores at or above the 66th percentile, the low-egalitarian level were the scores at or below the 33rd percentile, and the moderate-egalitarian level were the ones in between the 34th and the 65th percentiles.

The first ANOVA compared the total vignette scores of the abused and non-abused women at the three egalitarian levels. The means and standard deviations for this analysis are in Table 1. Regardless of type of relationship involvement, the vignette scores of high-egalitarian and moderate-egalitarian women did not differ significantly from each other. These subjects appeared to accurately perceive abusive situations. There was a significant main effect with egalitarianism, though, as the low-egalitarian group differed significantly from the other two levels of egalitarianism. Both the abused and the non-abused women perceived the vignette scenarios as significantly less abusive than the women in the higher egalitarian groups [ $F(55,2)=4.86, p<.011$ ]. An interaction effect showed the low-egalitarian, abused women perceived the situations as

Table 1

## Means and Standard Deviations - Marital Domain

egalitarianism	relationship	mean	SD	N
high	abused	56.75	12.33	12
	non-abused	61.00	10.97	17
moderate	abused	60.64	12.48	11
	non-abused	62.70	13.14	10
low	abused	83.14	18.41	7
	non-abused	65.75	23.47	4

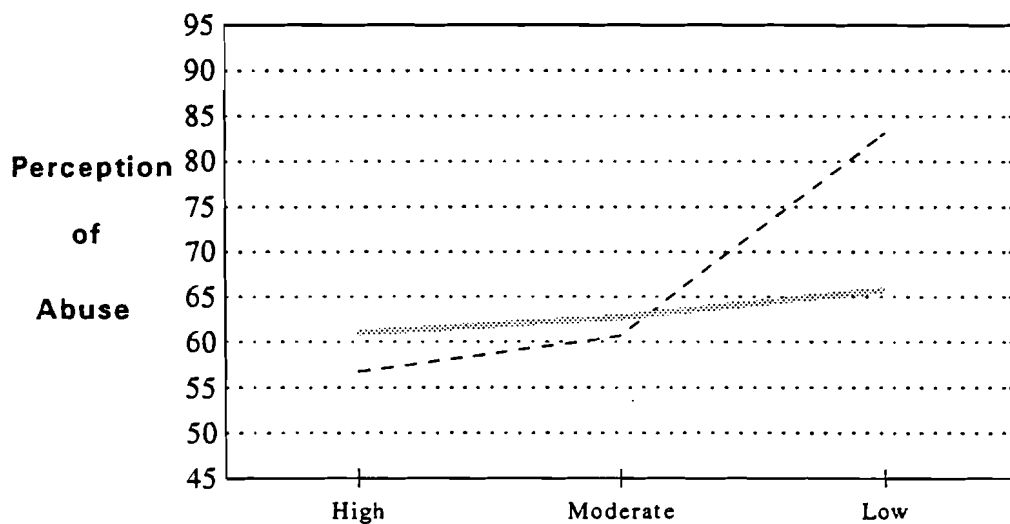
significantly less abusive than the low-egalitarian, non-abused women [ $F(55,1)=8.19, p<.006$ ] (See Figure 1).

The second ANOVA compared the scores of the vignettes depicting female victims only. The means and standard deviations for this analysis are in Table 2. Again, the abused and non-abused women at the three egalitarian levels were compared. As in the first analysis, high-egalitarian and moderate-egalitarian women did not differ significantly from each other. They appeared to accurately perceive the abuse in the vignettes. There was a significant main effect with egalitarianism as the low-egalitarian group differed significantly from the other two levels of egalitarianism. This group perceived the female victims situations as significantly less abusive than the more egalitarian women [ $F(55,2)=7.54, p<.001$ ]. There was not a significant interaction effect. There was no significant difference between the abused and the non-abused women (See Figure 2).

The third ANOVA compared the male victim vignette scores of the abused and non-abused women at the three egalitarian levels. The means and standard deviations for this analysis are in Table 3. The high-egalitarian and moderate-egalitarian women did not differ significantly and appeared to perceive the situations accurately. There was an interaction effect as the low-egalitarian, abused women perceived significantly less abuse than the low-egalitarian, non-abused women [ $F(55,2)=3.87, p<.027$ ]. The non-abused,

Figure 1

### Total Vignette Scores by Abused and Non-abused Subjects with Marital Domain Egalitarianism



	High	Moderate	Low
Non-abused Subjects	61	62.7	65.75
Abused Subjects	56.75	60.64	83.14

Egalitarianism

Higher vignette score = Lower perception

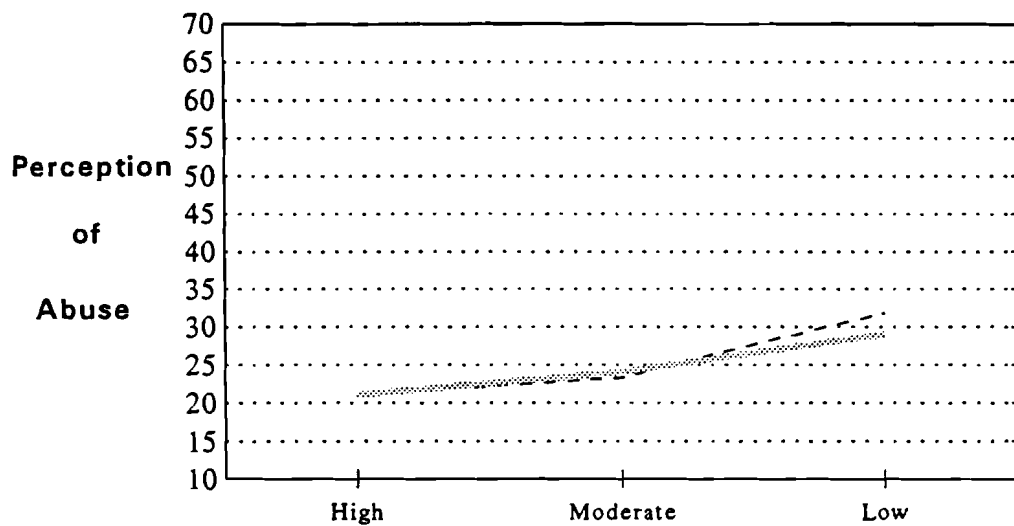
Table 2

## Means and Standard Deviations - Female Victim Vignettes

egalitarianism	relationship	mean	SD	N
high	abused	21.08	5.84	12
	non-abused	21.06	3.91	17
moderate	abused	23.36	6.56	11
	non-abused	24.10	7.39	10
low	abused	31.86	5.93	7
	non-abused	29.00	14.58	4

Figure 2

## Female Victim Vignette Scores by Abused and Non-abused Subjects with Marital Domain Egalitarianism



	High	Moderate	Low
Non-abused Subjects	21.06	24.1	29
Abused Subjects	21.08	23.36	31.86

Egalitarianism

Higher vignette score = Lower perception

Table 3

## Means and Standard Deviations - Male Victim Vignettes

egalitarianism	relationship	mean	SD	N
high	abused	24.17	8.79	12
	non-abused	25.71	6.47	17
moderate	abused	24.00	6.57	11
	non-abused	24.90	8.24	10
low	abused	35.29	11.70	7
	non-abused	21.25	6.65	4

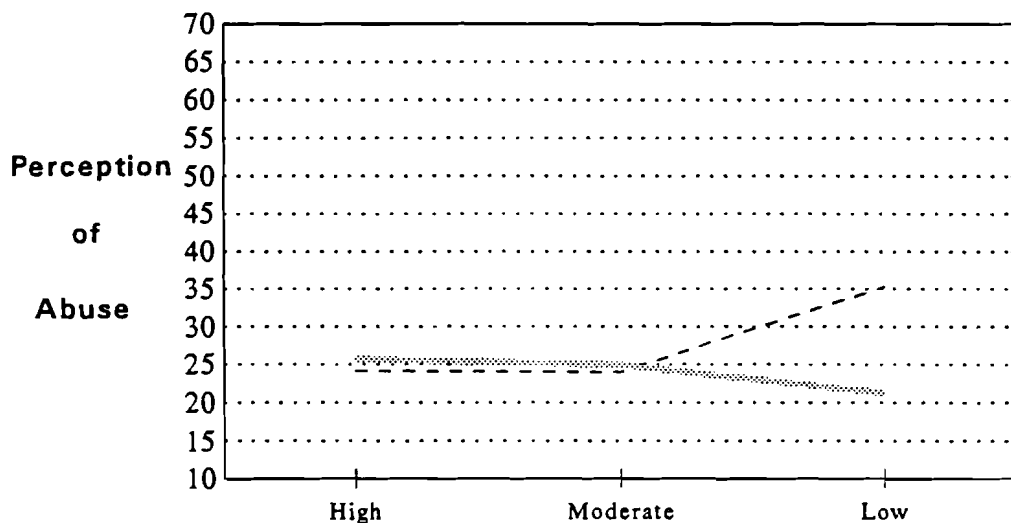


low-egalitarian women did not differ significantly from subjects at the other two levels of egalitarianism (See Figure 3). There was not a significant main effect.

The fourth ANOVA used the total SRES scores as the independent variable of egalitarianism. The means and standard deviations for this analysis are in Table 4. It compared the total vignette scores of the abused and non-abused women, also. The results were similar to the results of the first ANOVA. The high-egalitarian and moderate-egalitarian women did not differ significantly and appeared to accurately perceive the abuse in the scenarios. A significant main effect with egalitarianism was seen as the low-egalitarian women differed significantly from the other groups, perceiving much less abuse in the vignettes [ $F(55,2)=7.88, p<.001$ ]. A significant interaction was seen as the low-egalitarian, non-abused women were perceived significantly more abuse than the low-egalitarian, abused women [ $F(55,2)=6.18, p<.016$ ] (See Figure 4).

Figure 3

### Male Victim Vignette Scores by Abused and Non-abused Subjects with Marital Domain Egalitarianism



Non-abused Subjects	.....	25.71	24.9	21.25
Abused Subjects	- - -	24.17	24	35.29

Egalitarianism

Higher vignette score = Lower perception

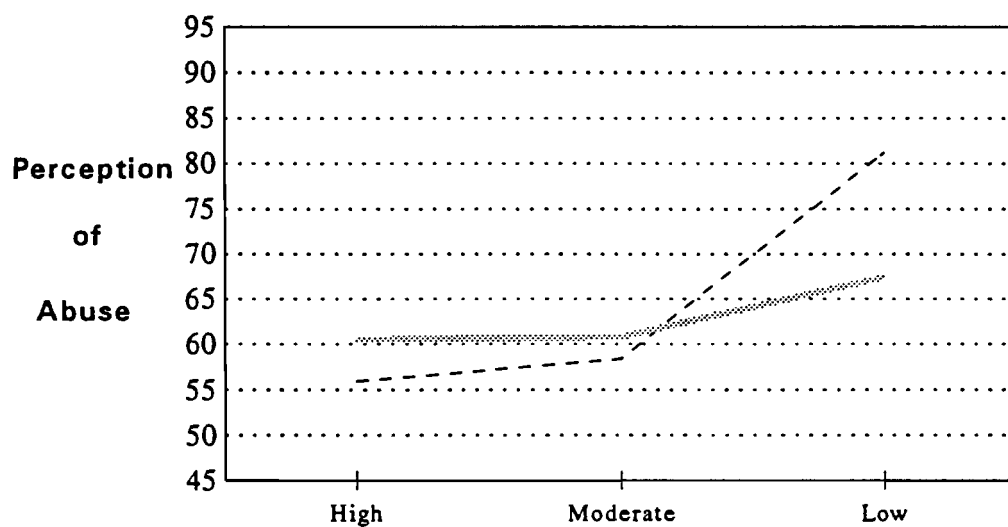
Table 4

## Means and Standard Deviations - Total SRES/All Vignettes

egalitarianism	relationship	mean	SD	N
high	abused	55.91	7.66	11
	non-abused	60.53	10.95	15
moderate	abused	58.40	15.43	10
	non-abused	60.78	13.53	9
low	abused	81.22	16.39	9
	non-abused	67.43	17.41	7

Figure 4

### Total Vignette Scores by Abused and Non-abused Subjects with Total SRES Score Egalitarianism



	High	Moderate	Low
Non-abused Subjects	60.53	60.78	67.43
Abused Subjects	55.91	58.4	81.22

Egalitarianism

Higher vignette score = Lower perception

## CHAPTER 4

## DISCUSSION

Do women in abusive relationships perceive abuse differently from women who do not enter such relationships? If only the factor of having once been in an abusive relationship is taken into consideration, the answer is no. No significant difference was found between abused and non-abused women in their ability to perceive abuse.

There does, however, appear to be an interaction between relationship quality (abusive or non-abusive) and egalitarianism, as measured by the Sex-Role Egalitarianism Scale (SRES) marital domain subscore. The analysis shows that women, in general, are more likely to perceive situations as abusive if they are high or moderate in their egalitarian views. Women in the low-egalitarian level perceived abuse less accurately than the high or moderate-egalitarian women. Hence, non-abused, low-egalitarian women were more likely to accurately perceive abuse than the abused women at the same level, but not as accurately as women at higher levels of egalitarianism.

It is important to understand that it is not just people who have been subjected to abusive situations who may not see the situations as abusive. People whose belief systems support a disproportionate distribution of control and power are also less likely to label a situation as

abusive. The less egalitarian one's views are, the more likely this is to occur. This is especially true when one considers the impact of egalitarian views about marriage on the perception of abusive patterns in intimate, male-female relationships. In fact, one may question the accuracy of those women from the lower egalitarian level who claimed to not be in an abusive relationship. According to these results, they are at highest risk to misidentify the abuse in their own relationship.

Does the gender of the victim have an effect in the perception of abuse in the scenarios? Recall that each scenario had a male victim and a female victim version in order to control for the effect of the gender of the victim. Results indicated that subjects who scored lowest in egalitarian views were more likely to perceive a situation as less abusive if the victim was a female. When a male was the victim, the low-egalitarian, abused women perceived much less abuse than any of the other groups. Hence, these results support the notion that one's attitudes with respect to egalitarianism affects one's ability to perceive psychological abuse.

Overall, this research supports the theory that socialization is a factor in women's difficulty in recognizing abuse. Inability to recognize abuse contributes to victimization which create a vicious circle and provides support to Koss' (1985) social control model of

victimization. Women who are more sex-role stereotyped with respect to intimate relationships appear to be more likely to have trouble seeing situations as abusive. When these rules and roles are taught by a patriarchal structure, male abuse toward women is considered normative, acceptable, and "non-abusive." This is especially supported by the fact that low-egalitarian, non-abused women perceived less abuse when the victim was a woman. The behavior was acceptable because it was by a man directed toward a woman. The same behavior by a woman directed toward a man was perceived as much more abusive by the same group.

Tavris (1992) claims it has only been since women have been allowed to take on more roles in society that certain behaviors have been viewed as abusive. In this study, over 75% of the abused women declared the role of mother as the most important role for them. Only 26% of the non-abused women made the same claim. Does this mean women who rate the raising of their children of utmost importance have a greater chance of being in an abusive situation? This is a possibility if women continue to receive and believe the message they are not as capable as men. They may see fewer alternatives and, hence, hold dearly to the roles of mother and wife regardless of the healthiness of the situation. They may go to extremes to ensure the economic welfare of their children, extremes that may include ignoring or denying abuse directed toward themselves as long as it keeps

a roof over the heads of their children.

Hoffman (1984) revealed that women who had been victims of psychological abuse did not appear to recognize it until they were enmeshed in the relationship. DeGregoria (1987) discovered traditionally sex-typed women perceived less psychological abuse than nontraditionally sex-typed women. This study contributes to this area by confirming the suspicion that women who have experienced abusive relationships do perceive abuse differently, but only if they also are low in egalitarianism. It suggests that abused women are neither all traditional nor all nontraditional which supports the results of Worth, Matthews, and Coleman (1990). There were differences in distribution between abused and non-abused women with respect to levels of egalitarianism. Forty percent of the abused women were in the high-egalitarian group, 37% in the moderate-egalitarian group, and 23% in the low-egalitarian group. Non-abused women, however, were more likely to score at higher levels of egalitarianism with 58% in the high-egalitarian group, 19% in the moderate-egalitarian group, and only 13% in the low-egalitarian group. However, being high or moderate in egalitarian views does not prevent a women from becoming involved with a psychologically or physically abusive man. Being low in egalitarian views may not allow a women to see when she is in an abusive situation.



There are several limitations in this study. First, since there is no reliable measure of abuse, this study had to rely on self-report of physical or psychological abuse. There may have been subjects who did not want to reveal their abusive situations or did not perceive their relationship as abusive. It may be that the women in the low-egalitarian group who claimed not to have been abused are not accurately perceiving their relationships. Remember, these same women perceived female victims as receiving less abuse than male victims.

The possibility of the vignettes not being pure measures of abusive situations is a confounding factor. More than one type of abuse may be perceived or subjects may read more into the scenarios. It has already been noted that victim gender was determined as an effect.

Though research has not shown demographics to be a factor in perception, there is conflicting evidence of their influence in sex-role attitudes (DeGregoria, 1987; King & King, 1985). The only major difference between the clients and the college subjects were the college subjects tended to have a little more education and higher income. Only five of the college students had less than a four year degree while 43% of the shelter clients only had some college education. No shelter client claimed more than \$25,000 annual income while the college students' income was relatively evenly distributed from less to \$10,000 to more

than \$50,000. Shelter clients tend to be at a lower socioeconomic level because these are the women who have no other resources. The difference in income is compounded by the higher education and the fact that 39% of the students live with a husband or male partner. However, these factors would most likely only affect the distribution of egalitarianism and not the actual outcome of this study. Other biographical data was collected, but it was not analyzed for this study.

An important limitation in most studies involving abuse is the post-facto nature of the research. Victims are usually interviewed after they have left the situation, even if temporarily. Without conducting a large scale, longitudinal study, there is no technique to determine if the women's views were different prior to involvement in the abusive relationship or if they changed during the course of the relationship. Since women in abusive situations often take on their partners' views in many areas (especially if the relationship is long-term), it is possible that the opinions received from some of the women are still those of their partners, especially if they have only recently left the situation.

#### Future Research

This study barely scratches the surface of an area in need of much more research. Many avenues of research could and should be developed. With respect to the data collected

during this study, one could investigate whether any of the other domains in the SRES are related to accuracy of abuse perception to the same degree as the marital domain. One could examine the impact on egalitarian level of variables such as passage of time since the last abusive relationship, length of relationship, or number of abusive relationships. Other analyses may include involvement in counseling or employment status. Another area of planned study is to determine if one of the types of psychological abuse depicted in the vignettes is perceived more accurately than the other types. For example, do people perceive verbal battering more accurately than they perceive social isolation? Again, egalitarian level and relationship quality would be the independent variables.

Further research on the effect of demographics on egalitarianism is needed in order to clarify whether there are other factors that put women at risk of not perceiving abuse. Since prevention is easier than intervention or cure, any information which adds to the knowledge pool of possible risk factors is important. Studies can be done on current intervention and prevention programs to determine if current knowledge is being used effectively.

Given that approximately 50% of the women in the United States will become victims of partner abuse, a longitudinal study is very feasible. This might involve creating a stratified sample of randomly selected subjects during high

school, or shortly thereafter, and following them for a period of years. Researchers could administer the SRES at different points in their lives and determine if their egalitarian level remains stable through an abusive relationship. The research could also determine if age, education, or other life experiences cause changes in a women's view of egalitarianism or whether an interaction of any of these variables are strong predictors for entering abusive relationships. Parallel studies could be conducted on men who abuse and on men who are abused. The latter will be difficult since there are relatively few men who report being abused and access to them is very limited.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A  
PARTICIPATION CONSENT LETTER

Participation Consent Letter

Read this consent form. If you have any questions, ask the data collector and s/he will explain the question.

You are invited to participate in a study investigating intimate male-female relationships. The purpose of this study is to determine if there is a difference in this area between abused women and non-abused women. The importance of this study is to use this information to help women.

Participation requires completing a total of four forms. Completion of these forms will take about one hour. The first form is this consent form. It is the only form which will have your name on it and it will be collected separately from the other forms.

The second form is demographic information. The third form is a set of five situations that require your response. On the last form, you will give your opinion about each of the 95 statements. Completion of all four forms is required for participation. Your confidentiality will be safeguarded.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you wish to terminate participation, you are welcome to do so. It will have no bearing on the treatment or services you receive. There is no risk or discomfort involved in completing this study.

If you have any questions or comments about this study, feel free to ask the data collector. Any additional questions may be directed to Diane M. Downey, 1114 Mechanic St. Emporia, KS. 66801.

Thank you for your participation.

-----  
I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the above information and  
(Please print name)  
have decided to participate in this study. I understand my participation is voluntary and I may withdraw at any time without prejudice should I choose to discontinue participation in this study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of participant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of data collector)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY THE EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN SUBJECTS

APPENDIX B  
DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Age
  - a) 17 - 23
  - b) 24 - 29
  - c) 30 - 39
  - d) 40 or above
2. Education
  - a) did not complete high school
  - b) high school diploma or GED
  - c) less than 2 years of college
  - d) more than 2 years of college
  - e) 4 year college degree
  - f) master's degree
  - g) doctoral degree
3. Employment
  - a) unemployed - looking for work
  - b) unemployed - not looking
  - c) less than 20 hours per week
  - d) 20 - 31 hours per week
  - e) 32 or more hours per week
4. Annual income
  - a) less than \$10,000 per year
  - b) \$10,000 - \$17,000 per year
  - c) \$17,001 - \$25,000 per year
  - d) \$25,001 - \$35,000 per year
  - e) \$35,001 - \$50,000 per year
  - f) more than \$50,000 per year
5. Household
  - a) live alone
  - b) live with roommate(s)
  - c) live with male partner or husband
  - d) live with children
  - e) other (specify)
6. Where do you live?
  - a) in a city
  - b) just outside the city limits
  - c) in a town
  - d) in the country/on a farm or ranch
7. Are you currently in a relationship with a male?
  - a) yes
  - b) no
8. Have you ever been in a relationship with a male?
  - a) yes
  - b) no

9. Have you ever been involved in a relationship that was physically abusive?

- a) yes
- b) no

If no, go on to the next page.

If yes, complete the questions on this page before continuing on to the next page.

9A. In how many physically abusive relationships have you been?

- a) one
- b) two
- c) three
- d) four
- e) more than four

9B. How long has it been since you left the last physically abusive relationship?

- a) still involved
- b) less than one month
- c) 1 - 6 months
- d) 7 - 12 months
- e) more than one year

9C. How long was the last physically abusive relationship?

- a) less than one month
- b) 1 - 6 months
- c) 7 - 12 months
- d) 1 - 2 years
- e) 2 - 5 years
- f) 6 - 10 years
- g) more than 10 years

10. Have you ever been involved in a relationship which you believe was mentally, emotionally, or psychologically abusive?

- a) yes
- b) no

If no, go on to the next page.

If yes, complete the questions on this page before continuing on to the next page.

10A. How many mentally, emotionally, or psychologically abusive relationships have you been in?

- a) one
- b) two
- c) three
- d) four
- e) more than four

10B. How long has it been since you left the last mentally, emotionally, or psychologically abusive relationship?

- a) still involved
- b) less than one month
- c) 1 - 6 months
- d) 7 - 12 months
- e) more than one year

10C. How long was the last mentally, emotionally, or psychologically abusive relationship?

- a) less than one month
- b) 1 - 6 months
- c) 7 - 12 months
- d) 1 - 2 years
- e) 2 - 5 years
- f) 6 - 10 years
- g) more than 10 years



11. Have you ever been involved in counseling, therapy, or a support group?

- a) yes
- b) no

12. Do you consider yourself to be a person who supports equal rights for women?

- a) yes
- b) no

13. Which role is most important to you in your life?

- a) mother
- b) spouse/partner
- c) daughter
- d) employee/career women
- e) activist
- f) student

APPENDIX C  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR DATA COLLECTORS

### Instructions for Data Collectors

1. There are four forms to be completed by each participant. The first form is the consent form and should not be attached to the other three forms. The other three forms are: a) the questionnaire with demographic information on each woman; b) a set of five situations involving different couples; and c) the SRES.
2. Please review each form so are you familiar enough to answer any questions your clients may have.
3. When you ask your clients if they are interested in participating, read them the brief description about the study from the consent form.
4. Hand each client the packet of four forms. First, have the clients read and complete the consent form. When the consent forms are signed, collect them and sign as the witness/data collector. Allow the clients to complete the other forms in the order of their packet. They can take their time, but do not allow them to leave until they turn in their packet. Keep each client's packet of questionnaires stapled together.
5. If a group will be completing the forms at one time, please ask them not to consult each other. It is required that the information on each form be the perception of that individual.
6. If any client has a known mental illness, please write the diagnosis at the bottom, left-hand corner of the demographic information.
7. Please follow instructions or the results of the study will be questionable.
8. All participating centers will receive a copy of the results. Any questions may be directed to Diane M. Downey (316) 342-3593.

APPENDIX D  
VIGNETTES

This is a survey of opinions about intimate male-female relationships. Your views are important whether or not you are currently involved in such a relationship.

On the following pages are five situations involving different couples. Each situation is considered typical for the couple. Read and answer the questions on each page. Any comments may be made on the back side of the page.

Remember your responses are anonymous and confidential. Thank you for your help by agreeing to complete this survey.

READ THE FOLLOWING SCENE:

He hasn't been out without her in months and has been invited out to watch a ballgame. He approaches the subject carefully because the last time he wanted to go out, there was an argument and she did not speak to him for three days.

He: I've been invited to a ballgame tomorrow night. Mind if I go?

She: Yes. Who's going?

He: Bob and Mike.

She: Absolutely not. No husband of mine is going out with them.

He: They're okay guys. We'll just go watch the game and come right back.  
I'll be back no later than 10.

She: (Annoyed tone of voice) I said no.

He: I haven't been out with my friends in ages.

She: You can stay here with your family where you belong. Play ball with the kids, if you're so hot on the game.

Using the following 5-point scale, write in the answer that most closely matches your opinion.

Strongly Agree = 1    Agree = 2    No Opinion = 3  
Disagree = 4    Strongly Disagree = 5

1. She attempts to control him. \_\_\_\_\_
2. She uses her authority legitimately. \_\_\_\_\_
3. She limits his choices unreasonably. \_\_\_\_\_
4. She is behaving acceptably. \_\_\_\_\_
5. She is harsh to him. \_\_\_\_\_
6. She is insulting to him. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who is responsible for this situation? (Check one)
  - a. She is totally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. She is mostly responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. They are equally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. He is mostly responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. He is totally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_

**READ THE FOLLOWING SCENE:**

She hasn't been out without him in months and has been invited out to watch a ballgame. She approaches the subject carefully because the last time she wanted to go out, there was an argument and he did not speak to her for three days.

She: I've been invited to a ballgame tomorrow night. Mind if I go?

He: Yes. Who's going?

She: Judy and Marla.

He: Absolutely not. No wife of mine is going out with them.

She: They're okay. We'll just go watch the game and come right back.  
I'll be back no later than 10.

He: (Annoyed tone of voice) I said no.

She: I haven't been out with my friends in ages.

He: You can stay here with your family where you belong. Play ball with the kids, if you're so hot on the game.

Using the following 5-point scale, write in the answer that most closely matches your opinion.

Strongly Agree = 1    Agree = 2    No Opinion = 3  
Disagree = 4    Strongly Disagree = 5

- 1. He attempts to control her. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. He uses his authority legitimately. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. He limits her choices unreasonably. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. He is behaving acceptably. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. He is harsh to her. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. He is insulting to her. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Who is responsible for this situation? (Check one)
  - a. He is totally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. He is mostly responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. They are equally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. She is mostly responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. She is totally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_

**READ THE FOLLOWING SCENE:**

It's Saturday and they have decided to go to a movie later in the evening.

He: Let's go to the new Steven Segal movie.

She: Oh, please. Action and adventure and violence. I was thinking more of something along the lines of The Joy Luck Club.

He: That sounds so sappy. I'll probably fall asleep because it'll be so slow.

She: But Steven Segal movies always have the same plot. Doesn't that bore you?

He: But there is so much action. Come on. You know you won't mind checking out Segal's body. And afterward we can go to your favorite ice cream shop.

She: This sounds like bribery. I have a better idea. We can go to the new sandwich shop in the mall before the movie.

He: Sounds good to me. It's a deal.

Using the following 5-point scale, write in the answer that most closely matches your opinion.

Strongly Agree = 1    Agree = 2    No Opinion = 3  
Disagree = 4    Strongly Disagree = 5

- 1. He attempts to control her. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. He uses his authority legitimately. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. He limits her choices unreasonably. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. He is behaving acceptably. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. He is harsh to her. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. He is insulting to her. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Who is responsible for this situation? (Check one)
  - a. He is totally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. He is mostly responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. They are equally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. She is mostly responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. She is totally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_



**READ THE FOLLOWING SCENE:**

It's Saturday and they have decided to go to a movie later in the evening.

She: Let's go to the new Steven Segal movie.

He: Oh, please. Action and adventure and violence. I was thinking more of something along the lines of The Joy Luck Club.

She: That sounds so sappy. I'll probably fall asleep because it'll be so slow.

He: But Steven Segal movies always have the same plot. Doesn't that bore you?

She: But there is so much action. Come on. You know you won't mind checking out the beautiful women they always have in those movies. And afterward we can go to your favorite ice cream shop.

He: This sounds like bribery. I have a better idea. We can go to the new sandwich shop in the mall before the movie.

She: Sounds good to me. It's a deal.

Using the following 5-point scale, write in the answer that most closely matches your opinion.

Strongly Agree = 1    Agree = 2    No Opinion = 3  
Disagree = 4    Strongly Disagree = 5

- 1. She attempts to control him. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. She uses her authority legitimately. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. She limits his choices unreasonably. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. She is behaving acceptably. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. She is harsh to him. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. She is insulting to him. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Who is responsible for this situation? (Check one)
  - a. She is totally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. She is mostly responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. They are equally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. He is mostly responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. He is totally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_

**READ THE FOLLOWING SCENE:**

Until recently, they both worked. He had been unhappy with his job and wanted to go to school. They decided they could afford it with careful budgeting so he is now in college while she continues to work.

She: What did you charge at Sear's for \$197?

He: I got new tires and had the oil changed.

She: Are you nuts? We can't afford that. I didn't budget for those things.

He: We have to keep the car up if it's going to last. We certainly can't afford a new car or a car accident.

She: You could have changed the oil yourself and the tires were fine.

He: It has been freezing out there and there is snow on the ground or you know I would have. As for the tires, I felt it was unsafe to drive with them worn the way they were.

She: Look, I'm the one working and I'm the one paying the bills. That means, I'm the one who makes the decisions. If you don't like it, leave. It won't matter to me.

Using the following 5-point scale, write in the answer that most closely matches your opinion.

Strongly Agree = 1    Agree = 2    No Opinion = 3  
Disagree = 4    Strongly Disagree = 5

1. She attempts to control him. \_\_\_\_\_
2. She uses her authority legitimately. \_\_\_\_\_
3. She limits his choices unreasonably. \_\_\_\_\_
4. She is behaving acceptably. \_\_\_\_\_
5. She is harsh to him. \_\_\_\_\_
6. She is insulting to him. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who is responsible for this situation? (Check one)
  - a. She is totally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. She is mostly responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. They are equally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. He is mostly responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. He is totally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_

**READ THE FOLLOWING SCENE:**

Until recently, they both worked. She had been unhappy with her job and wanted to go to school. They decided they could afford it with careful budgeting so she is now in college while he continues to work.

He: What did you charge at Sear's for \$197?

She: I got new tires and had the oil changed.

He: Are you nuts? We can't afford that. I didn't budget for those things.

She: We have to keep the car up if it's going to last. We certainly can't afford a new car or a car accident.

He: You could have changed the oil yourself and the tires were fine.

She: It has been freezing out there and there is snow on the ground or you know I would have. As for the tires, I felt it was unsafe to drive with them worn the way they were.

He: Look, I'm the one working and I'm the one paying the bills. That means, I'm the one who makes the decisions. If you don't like it, leave. It won't matter to me.

Using the following 5-point scale, write in the answer that most closely matches your opinion.

Strongly Agree = 1    Agree = 2    No Opinion = 3  
Disagree = 4    Strongly Disagree = 5

1. He attempts to control her. \_\_\_\_\_
2. He uses his authority legitimately. \_\_\_\_\_
3. He limits her choices unreasonably. \_\_\_\_\_
4. He is behaving acceptably. \_\_\_\_\_
5. He is harsh to her. \_\_\_\_\_
6. He is insulting to her. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who is responsible for this situation? (Check one)
  - a. He is totally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. He is mostly responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. They are equally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. She is mostly responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. She is totally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_

**READ THE FOLLOWING SCENE:**

They are out for the day with two other couples. The group decided on a French restaurant for dinner. He doesn't like the choice, but he was outvoted.

He: You know I hate French food.

She: I'm sure there will be something you'll like.

He: I already looked at the menu. Why can't we just go to the restaurant on the highway?

She: But everybody else wants to stay here. I do, too. Please, just try it.

He: (Annoyed tone of voice) I am not going to spend a lot of money for food I won't even enjoy.

She: Just have a salad and I'll cook you a steak when we get home.

He: That is stupid. We're leaving. (He starts walking in the direction of the car. He realizes she hasn't moved.) Come on.

She: (To the other couples) He's not feeling well.

The other couples offer her a ride home. She declines and goes with him to avoid a bigger fight later.

Using the following 5-point scale, write in the answer that most closely matches your opinion.

Strongly Agree = 1    Agree = 2    No Opinion = 3  
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**READ THE FOLLOWING SCENE:**

They are out for the day with two other couples. The group decided on a French restaurant for dinner. She doesn't like the choice, but she was outvoted.

She: You know I hate French food.

He: I'm sure there will be something you'll like.

She: I already looked at the menu. Why can't we just go to the restaurant on the highway?

He: But everybody else wants to stay here. I do, too. Please, just try it.

She: (Annoyed tone of voice) I am not going to spend a lot of money for food I won't even enjoy.

He: Just have a salad and I'll cook you a steak when we get home.

She: That is stupid. We're leaving. (She starts walking in the direction of the car. She realizes he hasn't moved.) Come on.

He: (To the other couples) She's not feeling well.

The other couples offer him a ride home. He declines and goes with her to avoid a bigger fight later.

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**READ THE FOLLOWING SCENE:**

He: Where's the paper? Why isn't it ever where it is supposed to be?

She: Bobby probably took it so he could read the comics.

He: Look, that paper is for me to read. If you kept an eye on him, this couldn't happen. Can't you do anything right?

She: I'll find Bobby.

He: It's not just Bobby and it's not just the paper. It's everything. The house is a mess. Supper is never ready on time. And you're not that great a cook anyway. I wish I could figure out how to stop you from wasting time gossiping with the neighbors all day so you'd do what you're supposed to do for me.

She: I don't gossip all day. I wish you could understand how much work...  
(He interrupts)

He: I know how much work it isn't. You're lazy. That is all there is to it. I don't know why I put up with you. Nobody else would even have you.

Using the following 5-point scale, write in the answer that most closely matches your opinion.

Strongly Agree = 1    Agree = 2    No Opinion = 3  
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  - d. She is mostly responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. She is totally responsible. \_\_\_\_\_

READ THE FOLLOWING SCENE:

She: Where's the paper? Why isn't it ever where it is supposed to be?

He: Bobbi probably took it so she could read the comics.

She: Look, that paper is for me to read. If you kept an eye on her, this couldn't happen. Can't you do anything right?

He: I'll find Bobbi.

She: It's not just Bobbi and it's not just the paper. It's everything. The house is a mess. Supper is never ready on time. And you're not that great a cook anyway. I wish I could figure out how to stop you from wasting time gossiping with the neighbors all day so you'd do what you're supposed to do for me.

He: I don't gossip all day. I wish you could understand how much work...  
(She interrupts)

She: I know how much work it isn't. You're lazy. That is all there is to it. I don't know why I put up with you. Nobody else would even have you.

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TO: All Graduate Students Who submit a Thesis of Research  
Problem/Project as Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirement for an Advance Degree

FROM: Emporia State University Graduate School

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Equalitarianism and Women's  
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Title of Thesis/Research  
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