A Study of Time Use in Relation to Selected Homemaking Activities Carried on by Full-Time and Employed Rural Homemakers in Sevier County, Tennessee

Ocie Jones O'Brien

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Recommended Citation
To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Ocic Jones O'Brien entitled "A Study of Time Use in Relation to Selected Homemaking Activities Carried on by Full-Time and Employed Rural Homemakers in Sevier County, Tennessee." I have examined the final electronic copy of this thesis for form and content and recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science, with a major in Human Ecology.

Lorna J. Gassett, Major Professor

We have read this thesis and recommend its acceptance:

Mary Purchase, Claire Gilbert

Accepted for the Council:

Dixie L. Thompson

Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

(Original signatures are on file with official student records.)
To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Ocie Jones O'Brien entitled "A Study of Time Use in Relation to Selected Homemaking Activities Carried on by Full-Time and Employed Rural Homemakers in Sevier County, Tennessee." I recommend that it be accepted for nine quarter hours of credit in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science, with a major in Home Management.

Accepted for the Council:

[Signature]
Major Professor

We have read this thesis and recommend its acceptance:

Mary E. Purchase
Claire Gilbert

[Signature]
Accepted for the Council:

[Signature]
Dean of the Graduate School

July 29, 1958
A STUDY OF TIME USE IN RELATION TO SELECTED HOMEMAKING ACTIVITIES CARRIED ON BY FULL-TIME AND EMPLOYED RURAL HOMEMAKERS IN SEVIER COUNTY, TENNESSEE

A THESIS

Submitted to
The Graduate Council
of
The University of Tennessee
in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the degree of
Master of Science

by
Ocie Jones O'Brien
August 1958
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Need for the Study

Rural homemakers frequently request assistance in planning the use of their time because of the many demands made on them. The increased demands result from such factors as: 1) employment outside the home, 2) fewer persons to assist with homemaking, 3) increased responsibilities to their families and communities, and 4) changes in homemaking standards.

Each year more women and a higher percentage of married women seek employment outside of the home. In 1957 there were 21 million women employed in the United States. This figure represents more than one-third of all women fourteen years of age and over and one-third of the entire labor force (14, pp. 83-86).

Employment trends show a growing proportion of married women in the labor force. In March, 1957, employed married women numbered 11.5 millions, about 55 per cent of the female labor force. This was an increase from 40 per cent in 1947 and 30 per cent before World War II. Since 1947 a large proportion of these married women have been in the age group over 35 years. Between 1947 and 1950 the
number of married women over 35 years of age in the labor force had increased by 50 per cent. The number of married women under 35 years employed in the labor force increased 10 per cent during this same period (17, pp. 1-2).

There were 7 million working mothers with children under 18 years of age in the spring of 1957. The number included 2.6 million who had children under 6 years of age. The proportion of mothers of young children who work has increased during the postwar years (18, p. 4).

The increase in the number of employed married women is not limited to any one residence group. In March, 1957, one-fourth of the rural married women and one-third of the urban were working or looking for work (6, p. 15).

There are fewer persons in the home today to assist with homemaking tasks. The average size of the rural household, both farm and nonfarm, decreased sharply between 1940 and 1950, but has changed little since then. The increased number of marriages in 1940 created many small households (1, p. 14).

Fewer persons are employed as domestic servants in the United States than formerly. The number of private household servants in the United States decreased by 1,215,655 between 1930 and 1950 (19, p. 49) (20, p. 206) (22, p. 265).
Nickell and Dorsey, describing the role of the modern homemaker, say:

The rise of women in social importance has placed upon them responsibilities to the larger social group since rights and privileges always carry some obligations (12, p. 33).

Wiegand’s study shows that the time used for community participation by 16 per cent of the participants was 2.8 hours per week. The amount of time spent ranged from about 3 hours for farm and city homemakers to less than 2 hours for employed city homemakers (27, p. 35).

The rapid growth of organized activities among rural as well as urban residents is cited in Richardson and Bauder’s study of a rural community in Kentucky. However, data gathered in this study indicate a relatively small group assumes responsibility for conducting the organized activities in a community (15, pp. 1, 27).

In describing the change in the homemaker’s role, Hazel Kyrk says:

What has been happening in the home is in part the counterpart of what has been happening in the economy as a whole. . . . Less time is given to producing fundamentals and more to producing the amenities and comforts (10, p. 64).

Radio and television programs emphasize the importance of parent-child and husband-wife relationships and have developed a concern among women that they give these relationships due attention. These and other mass media programs bring knowledge of amenities and encourage a greater regard for the aesthetic aspects of homemaking. Homemakers’
standards of work performance are being influenced by the household facilities and equipment owned and the new products and services available on the market.

The 1950 Census shows that 46.4 per cent of the occupied dwellings of rural nonfarm families and 24.3 per cent of the rural farm families have private toilet, bath, and hot, running water; 90.3 per cent of the occupied dwellings of rural nonfarm families have electricity and 77.7 per cent of the rural farm dwellings (21, pp. 1-4).

The question of how do both full-time and employed homemakers take care of their homemaking responsibilities and meet the extra demands made on their time is often asked. In commenting on this question, Hazel Kyrk stated:

The one basic question that needs answering is how great is the time work load in the modern home? What is it now, what could it be reduced to, and what is it likely to be in the future?

She further comments that light on the question may be found if the investigator sees the new duties added by changed conditions, the changes in standards, and the increased time as well as money costs of the new mode of living (10, p. 64).

Many studies have been made on the use of time by both urban and rural homemakers. Few studies comparing the time use of rural full-time and employed homemakers have been made in the South. Data on the present allocation of time by the rural homemakers are needed to assist rural women in planning their time.
Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to compare the time used in certain homemaking activities and community participation by full-time and employed rural homemakers to determine:

1. If there are differences in the use of time for these activities by the two groups.

2. The relationship between time spent in these activities and such factors as:
   a. Family composition
   b. Ownership of household equipment
   c. Condition of the house
   d. Attitude of homemakers toward these activities

3. If employed homemakers use certain work simplification methods to a greater extent than do full-time homemakers.

4. If there is any significant difference in accomplishment measured in terms of work units completed.

5. If there is a difference in the participation in church and community activities between the two groups.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The early time use studies were made in the late 1920's and early 1930's by the Bureau of Home Economics and several Agricultural Experiment Stations (3) (13) (26) (28). These studies showed homemakers' use of time for a day and a week. The time spent on homemaking activities ranged from 55 to 66 hours a week. The largest proportion of time was spent on a few activities: namely, food preparation and clearing away, care of the house, and washing and ironing clothes in descending order.

Some studies, relating homemakers' use of time to family composition, reported that households having very young children spent more time on homemaking activities than homemakers without young children. Less time was spent on food preparation, house care and washing clothes in households having electricity, running hot and cold water, and labor-saving household equipment.

Later studies made in the 1940's and early 1950's by Warren, Dickens, Muse, Wiegand and Walker show the same trend of a large proportion of time spent on the same household activities (25) (4) (11) (27) (23).

The relationship between time used for specific activities and such factors as family composition, household
equipment and utility items, size of house and rooms used
daily, attitudes of homemaker toward household tasks, and com-
munity activities was pointed out in these studies. The rela-
tive amount of time used for different tasks was studied and
changes determined through comparisons with earlier studies.

The development and use of the homemaking work unit by
Warren and Walker made possible the comparison of work loads
in different households. More attention was given to the
reasons for variations in both work loads and work accomplish-
ment in different homes.

More of the later studies compared the time use of
rural farm, rural nonfarm, and urban homemakers and the em-
ployed and non-employed homemakers in each group.

In relating time use to family composition, Warren,
Muse and Wiegand related the increase in hours spent on home-
making activities to increase in size of household and de-
crease in age of youngest child (25, pp. 7, 82) (11, p. 61)
(27, p. 42).

Cowles and Dietz showed that time spent in food prepar-
ation, laundry, and physical care of family members increased
with family size, but that time for house care, sewing and
mending decreased as families increased in size (2, pp. 31-
32).

Walker's study showed the amount of time spent in
washing dishes was affected by the number of persons in the
household rather than the type of meals served or ages of family members (23, p. 187).

The effect of facilities and household equipment such as running hot and cold water and electric and/or gas ranges in reducing time spent in food preparation was reported in the studies made by Muse and Wiegand (11, p. 43). Wiegand in addition reports that homemakers owning freezers or electric mixers spent more time on food preparation than homemakers without either of these appliances (27, p. 20).

Walker's observations showed that the type of washer used had definite effect on the time spent in washing clothes. She found that an average of 35 minutes per week was spent when using an automatic washer as compared with an average of 2 hours and 5 minutes per week with a non-automatic machine (23, p. 73).

In commenting on attitudes toward time, Gross and Crandall make the following observation:

Time use is influenced by a person's attitude toward it. This attitude includes one's acceptance of time limitations and an understanding of time balance between work, rest and leisure, and one's willingness to exercise control of one's time (7, pp. 220-221).

Walker and Warren reported that homemakers tend to spend more time on activities liked and less on those disliked (23, p. 131) (25, p. 82). Some phases of foods work were most liked by one-half of all homemakers, full-time and employed, in both farm and urban households in Wiegand's
study. These homemakers wanted more time for foods work and sewing (27, p. 8).

According to the study made by Muse, her respondents spent one-fourth of their time on house care. These homemakers reported this task also to be most time consuming and tiring. The relation between attitudes and good equipment is shown by the small amount of cleaning equipment owned by these homemakers (11, pp. 61, 64).

Walker, too, points out the relation between equipment and attitude toward a particular task. Her study showed that the twenty-six homemakers who particularly liked washing clothes had good washing machines to do the job (23, p. 118).

The employment of the family may be a factor in the degree of participation by families in community affairs. Knight, in 1948, reported very little activity in affairs of the community by families of part-time farmers in eastern Tennessee (9, p. 138).

A number of persons have investigated the participation of homemakers in community and church activities, comparing the participation between full-time and employed homemakers.

The full-time homemakers studied by Wiegand spent more time on community activities, an average of 3 hours a week, compared to employed homemakers' average of a little less than 2 hours (27, p. 35).
The tendency of homemakers to use less time for homemaking activities when active in community affairs or employed outside the home was reported in Warren's study. That the age of the homemaker influenced her participation in community affairs was another trend noted by Warren. More homemakers 35 to 54 years of age were more active in community activities than younger or older women. Another factor influencing community participation was the age of the children. Women with children under five years of age attended fewer outside activities than women with older children (25, p. 39).

The relation of homemakers' employment outside of the home to use of time in homemaking activities has been studied by some researchers.

Tuttle, in her study in rural Pennsylvania, observed that employed homemakers washed dishes less often, entertained less, and eliminated some household tasks. Fifty per cent of the employed homemakers in this study used their evenings for some household work. Tuttle observed that such activities as food preservation, laundering and sewing appeared to be moving out of homes of employed homemakers at a more rapid rate than from homes of full-time homemakers (16).

Employed homemakers studied by Wiegand prepared simple meals and often ate the noon meal on work days away from home (27, p. 41).
Knapp reports that twenty-five employed homemakers in Kentucky are eliminating some household tasks. Fifteen eliminated part of their ironing, fifteen discontinued part of the family sewing, and five no longer participated in community activities (8).

Many investigators have seen the need for having a means of comparing the amount of work done in different households. In 1936, Warren developed a quantitative measure of work in the home by means of work units adapted from a similar measure used in Agriculture (25, p. 65). Walker continued the development and refinement of these homemaking work units in her study in 1953 (23).

The homemaking work unit is used to compare the results of different methods of work in households having similar work loads. It can be used to calculate the average efficiency of a group and as a basis for comparing individual accomplishments.

Work units have been established for meal preparation, dishwashing, regular care of the house, washing, ironing, and physical care of family members, the six activities which investigation repeatedly indicates as being the most time consuming among household tasks.

The homemaking work unit is defined by Walker as the amount of work done in one hour under average conditions by one person (24).
CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE

Selection of Cooperators

Contacts to interest cooperators were made through home demonstration club meetings in the winter and early spring of 1958. In order to be eligible to participate in the study the women had to be:

1. Homemakers of farm or rural nonfarm families
2. Homemakers whose husbands were fully employed
3. Full-time and employed homemakers belonging to home demonstration clubs
4. Homemakers having children 18 years of age or younger living at home and supported from the family income.

Only women who worked regularly outside of the home for a minimum of 30 hours a week were classified as "employed." Only those women who had no employment outside of the home for pay were considered as "full-time" homemakers.

Collection of Data

The schedule used in the interview, the time record, and menu forms were pre-tested in Knox County, Tennessee, in April, 1958.
Personal interviews with the homemakers in their homes were made in May, 1958. Information regarding family composition, household equipment and conveniences, type and size of house, community participation, and attitudes toward homemaking activities was obtained. On this visit homemakers were provided with forms and asked to keep a record of their time for seven consecutive days and to list menus for the meals served during this period. Instructions for keeping the record were reviewed and left with the homemaker. A self addressed stamped envelope was given homemakers for returning forms to interviewer. For copies of Schedule, Time Use Form, Menu Form, and Instruction Sheet, see Appendix pages 41-52.

Method of Analysis

Data from the schedules, the time use forms, and the menus were transferred to work tables and summarized.

The work units for each subject for each activity were computed. Walker's definition of the homemaking work unit, "the amount of work done in one hour under average conditions by one worker," was used (24). The work load, an estimate in work units of the amount of time required to do a specific task or combination of tasks in a specific situation, was computed by Walker's method of totaling work units (24).
The "t" test was applied to measure the degree of significance of the differences between groups. Only differences significant at least at the 5 per cent level were considered "significant" (5, p. 118).
CHAPTER IV

INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Description of Cooperators

Twenty-eight full-time and 22 employed rural homemakers belonging to home demonstration clubs in Sevier County, Tennessee, returned the requested records.

The full-time homemakers were a little younger than the employed; their average being 35.2 years as compared with 39.6 years for the employed. The age difference between the two groups was not significant. There was a wide range in ages, between 22 and 54 years for the full-time and 25 and 51 for the employed. More than three-fourths of the full-time homemakers were under 40 years of age, and slightly less than one-third of the employed were under 40.

Almost one-half of the employed homemakers had educational training beyond the high school level. Slightly over one-fourth of the full-time homemakers had a similar training. Two homemakers in each group were college graduates.

More than 50 per cent of the homemakers in both groups were employed before marriage; 54 per cent of the employed, and 53 per cent of the full-time. All of the employed homemakers who worked before marriage planned to continue working
except one who was uncertain. Three-fourths of those who did not work before marriage planned to continue their present employment. Three-fourths of the full-time group who worked before marriage did not plan to go back into employment outside of the home. Two full-time homemakers who had not worked before marriage said they would like to go into employment sometime in the future.

Slightly less than one-third of the employed homemakers held clerical positions and more than one-fourth were professional workers; two were self-employed. The time employed homemakers have worked since marriage ranged from a few months to 10 years. The employed homemakers worked an average of 48 hours and 28 minutes per week outside the home, the median was 40 hours per week.

The difference in the average size of the households was slight; the full-time had 4.2 persons and the employed 4.1. Full-time homemakers tended to have more and younger children but this tendency was not significant at the 5 per cent level.

Differences in Time Used for Six Homemaking Activities

Six homemaking activities took 79 per cent of the total time used for all homemaking activities by the two groups: preparing meals, washing dishes, physical care of
family members, washing clothes, ironing clothes, and regular care of the house. This is similar to the 78 per cent shown in Walker's study (23, p. 206). Of the two groups, employed homemakers spent less time on each of the six activities, ranging from an average of 1 hour less for food preparation to 4 hours less for regular care of the house than the full-time homemakers. An average of 32 hours and 45 minutes was used for the six activities by the employed group and 45 hours and 14 minutes by the full-time group. See Table I, page 18.

The difference in the average total time is not significant due to the large variation in time used for each activity by individuals within the groups. The only significant difference in the average of time used for any one of the six activities was that for dishwashing. This difference is significant at the 1 per cent level. Dishes were washed on an average of 3 times a day by full-time homemakers and 2 times a day by the employed. Twenty of the 22 employed homemakers were away from home for lunch on five days of the week. The average number of meals served by them was 15.3 compared with 19.5 for the full-time group.

Two of the employed homemakers did not wash clothes and four did not iron clothes during the period records were kept.
TABLE I

COMPARISON OF AVERAGE TIME SPENT ON SIX HOMEMAKING ACTIVITIES

(by 28 full-time and 22 employed homemakers in Sevier County, Tennessee, spring, 1958)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Average Time Used During Week</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full-time Homemaker</td>
<td>Employed Homemaker</td>
<td>Difference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hrs.  min.</td>
<td>hrs.  min.</td>
<td>hrs.  min.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing meals</td>
<td>12 26</td>
<td>11 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washing dishes</td>
<td>7 44</td>
<td>5 33</td>
<td>2 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical care of family members</td>
<td>6 35</td>
<td>3 15</td>
<td>3 20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washing clothes</td>
<td>3 48</td>
<td>2 16&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1 32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ironing clothes</td>
<td>4 2</td>
<td>2 22&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1 40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular care of the house</td>
<td>12 5</td>
<td>7 59</td>
<td>4 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45 14</td>
<td>32 45</td>
<td>12 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> Two did not wash clothes.

<sup>b</sup> Four did not iron clothes.
Relationship between Time Used and Certain Factors Believed to Influence the Amount

Family Composition

As previously reported, there was little difference in the size of the households of the two groups, 4.2 persons for the full-time and 4.1 for the employed. The former had more and younger children than the latter. The three full-time homemaker's whose youngest child was under two years of age spent an average of 60 hours and 36 minutes per week on the six major homemaking activities, as compared with their group's average of 45 hours and 14 minutes. See Tables II and III, pages 20-21.

They spent an average of 14 hours and 38 minutes a week on physical care of family members whereas their group averaged 6 hours and 35 minutes for this activity. Time spent in washing clothes by these three homemakers exceeded their group average by an hour. The average time spent on physical care of family members and washing clothes decreased as the age of the youngest child increased. This agrees with the findings of Warren, Muse, and Wiegand that time spent on homemaking activities decreased with the increase in age of the youngest child (25, pp. 7, 82) (11, p. 62) (27, p. 42).
TABLE II

AVERAGE TIME SPENT BY 28 FULL-TIME HOMEMAKERS ON SELECTED HOMEMAKING ACTIVITIES BY AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD

(Sevier County, Tennessee, spring, 1958)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of Youngest Child</th>
<th>Per Cent Homemakers Having</th>
<th>Average Time for Six Activities</th>
<th>Physical Care</th>
<th>Washing Clothes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>min.</td>
<td>hrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2 years</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - 5 years</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - 10 years</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 10 years</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE III

AVERAGE TIME SPENT BY 22 EMPLOYED HOMEMAKERS ON SELECTED HOMEMAKING ACTIVITIES BY AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD

(Sevier County, Tennessee, spring, 1958)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of Youngest Child</th>
<th>Per Cent Homemakers Having Six Activities</th>
<th>Average Time for Physical Care</th>
<th>Washing Clothes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>hrs.</td>
<td>min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 2 years</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - 5 years</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - 10 years</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 10 years</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ownership of Household Equipment and Other Labor Saving Facilities

All of the homemakers cooperating in this study owned electric ranges, refrigerators, and washing machines. Forty-two per cent owned automatic washing machines. In fact, both groups of homemakers were very well supplied with labor saving equipment. See Table IV, page 23. While more of the employed homemakers tended to have such equipment the difference was not significant at the 5 per cent level.

Condition of the House

The range in number of rooms in the houses occupied by the respondents was wide but most of the families lived in five- or six-room houses as the following figures indicate:

- Range in number of rooms: 2 - 9
- Average number of rooms: 6.4
- Median number of rooms: 6.0

Almost all of the full-time homemakers and half of the employed lived in houses of frame construction. The houses occupied by the families of full-time homemakers were older, averaging 26.2 years of age as compared to 17.6 years for the houses of employed. As the number of rooms in the house increased, beginning with five, the per cent used daily decreased. There was little difference between the number of rooms used daily by the two groups. The amount of time used in care of the house increased as the number of rooms used
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Full-time Homemakers</th>
<th>Employed Homemakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Per Cent</td>
<td>Per Cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washing machine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>automatic</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>40.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conventional</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>59.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>steam</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>59.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conventional</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>40.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustable ironing board</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>68.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacuum cleaner</td>
<td>78.6</td>
<td>90.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric food mixer</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>90.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure sauce pan</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>72.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freezer</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewing machine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>electric</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>59.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conventional</td>
<td>39.2</td>
<td>36.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot and cold running water</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>90.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only cold running water</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathrooms</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>90.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinks</td>
<td>96.0</td>
<td>95.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
daily increased up to seven rooms and then decreased. The average amount of time used for the care of the house was slightly greater for full-time homemakers but not significantly so. There was little relation between the age of the house and time used in caring for it.

Attitude of Homemakers toward Homemaking Activities

One-half of all homemakers mentioned food preparation as the activity they liked best. One-fifth of the two groups considered it the most time consuming activity but wanted more time for it. The second most popular activity was sewing. They wanted more time for this too.

Ironing clothes and care of the house were the least liked activities by over one-third of all homemakers. Ironing was considered to be the most tiring task and one of the most time consuming. These preferences and dislikes were the same as those reported by Wiegand and Muse (27, p. 8) (11, pp. 63-64). Fifty per cent of the homemakers who disliked ironing clothes had steam irons and adjustable ironing boards. More than 50 per cent of the homemakers disliking food preparation had electric food mixers and freezers. These observations may be some indication that equipment may be purchased to make disliked tasks easier, as pointed out by Walker (23, p. 118).

There appeared to be a tendency among the full-time homemakers disliking ironing clothes to spend more time on
this task, averaging 6 hours more than their group. Employed homemakers who disliked the same task spent an average of 30 minutes more time on it than their group. This same tendency appeared among full-time homemakers disliking food preparation, about an average of 4 hours more spent on the task than their group averaged. This tendency to spend more time on disliked tasks was different from the findings of Warren, Wiegand, and Walker (25, p. 82) (27, p. 8) (23, pp. 131, 137).

Use of Work Simplification Methods

Frequency of performing certain tasks and the work techniques used were analyzed in comparing the use of work simplification methods by the two groups.

About three-fourths of each group eliminated part of the ironing. Frequently the respondents commented, "I iron the sheets I use for guests but not those used for my family." The difference in the per cent of homemakers ironing sheets occasionally was significant at the 1 per cent level. Sheets were an item figuring prominently in their elimination scheme as the table below indicates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree of Frequency of Ironing Sheets</th>
<th>Per Cent of Homemakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occasionally</td>
<td>57.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About 25 per cent more employed homemakers than full-time ones planned meals for a week in advance, a significant difference at the 5 per cent level. The pattern of advance meal planning by the two groups is shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meals Planned in Advance</th>
<th>Per Cent of Homemakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For one day</td>
<td>39.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For two days</td>
<td>32.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For one week</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weekly grocery shopping was a practice followed by 60 per cent of all the women. There was practically no difference between the groups with regard to this practice.

Over 50 per cent of all homemakers dried dishes with a towel. Dishes were washed three times daily by 60 per cent of the full-time homemakers and slightly less than 20 per cent of the employed. Sixty-eight per cent of the employed group washed dishes twice a day as compared with 3.5 per cent of the full-time, a significant difference at the 5 per cent level. As previously mentioned the average time spent washing dishes was significantly different, but the difference appears to be explained in that the employed women served fewer meals.

Most homemakers had guests frequently for meals. Sixty-eight per cent of the employed and 46 per cent of the full-time entertained more often than once a month. Few
homemakers entertained overnight guests.

Although the participants in this study used their vacuum cleaners mainly for cleaning floors and rugs, one-third used them for dusting too. This differed from Tuttle's findings that 9 per cent of the cooperators used their vacuum cleaners to dust (16).

Another factor of work simplification studied was the use made of convenience foods. See Table VI, page 28. Over one-third of the homemakers used commercially packaged mixes most of the time. Over 80 per cent of the homemakers used three or more types of frozen foods and three or more types of canned foods most of the time. Bakery bread was used by over 60 per cent of the homemakers most of the time. Doughnuts and cookies were used by 60 per cent of the homemakers part of the time. Few homemakers used bakery cakes, using the commercially packaged mixes to make their cakes.

The differences between the two groups was not great enough to be significant at the 5 per cent level. Although it appears that the employed homemakers use more of the selected work simplification techniques than did the full-time homemakers, the tests for significant differences do not support that impression.
TABLE V

FREQUENCY OF USE MADE OF CONVENIENCE FOODS
(by 28 full-time and 22 employed homemakers in Sevier County, Tennessee, spring, 1958)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Food</th>
<th>Frequencya</th>
<th>Full-time Homemakers</th>
<th>Employed Homemakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Per Cent</td>
<td>Per Cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercially packaged mixes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of time</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of time</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or more types of frozen foods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of time</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of time</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or more types of canned foods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of time</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of time</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakery bread</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of time</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of time</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doughnuts and cookies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of time</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of time</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

aMost of time - two or three times a week
Part of time - two to three times a month
Comparison of Work Units Accomplished

A homemaking work unit is defined by Walker as "the amount of work done in one hour under average conditions by one worker" (24).

Application of the information from Walker's report to the data obtained in this study makes possible the calculation of the work load for each of the homemakers studied in terms of the work unit. This work load is expressed in hours and minutes and can be interpreted as the amount of time the average homemaker from the Walker study would have spent on the task. Furthermore, comparison can be made between the calculated work load and the time a homemaker actually spent doing a particular piece of work. The work load expressed in time may be either more or less than the clock hours spent. One interpretation of the comparison between work load and clock hours is that the greater the ratio between the work units and the clock hours the more efficient is the worker than the average homemaker on whose performance Walker based the work unit. If the calculated work load is less than the time, the worker is less efficient than the average person. However, the calculation of the work unit does not take into consideration the quality of work. Therefore it is difficult to determine from the data available whether the quality of work has suffered when the ratio of the work load to time spent is more than one, and whether a ratio of less than one indicates
a slow worker or a worker with very high standards. This must be kept in mind when one makes the comparison. Table VI, page 31, shows a comparison of clock hours used and work units accomplished.

Community Participation

The participation of homemakers in church and community affairs was high. All homemakers participated in some of the activities in their communities and the majority participated in several. The average time spent by the two groups was 6 hours, 8 hours for the full-time homemakers and 5 hours for the employed. Wiegand's study showed the cooperators who participated in community affairs spent an average of 2 hours and 50 minutes a week, full-time farm and city homemakers an average of 3 hours, and employed city homemakers a little less than 2 hours a week (27, p. 35). The Sevier County full-time homemakers spent twice as much time per week on community affairs as Wiegand's full-time farm and city homemakers. The employed homemakers spent 2 hours more time than the cooperators studied by Wiegand. Besides their active participation in home demonstration work, most of the Sevier County cooperators took active part in functions relating to the church and Sunday School. Employed homemakers carried more responsibilities in parent organizations and church offices than the full-time homemakers; the latter were more active in
TABLE VI

COMPARISON OF CLOCK HOURS USED AND WORK UNITS ACCOMPLISHED
(by 28 full-time and 22 employed homemakers
in Sevier County, Tennessee, spring, 1958)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Full-time Homemakers</th>
<th></th>
<th>Employed Homemakers</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Time Used</td>
<td>Work Load to Time Used</td>
<td>Ratio of Work Load to Time Used</td>
<td>Time Used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meal preparation</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>.98</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washing dishes</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical care of family members</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washing clothes</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ironing clothes</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>.80</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular care of the house</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>.57</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>45.8</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>.95</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
the Sunday School and church auxiliary. Neither the difference between the groups in the number participating nor the time spent in community activity was significant at the 5 percent level.
CHAPTER V

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study was to compare the time used in certain homemaking activities and community participation by twenty-eight full-time and twenty-two employed rural homemakers in Sevier County, Tennessee, to determine if there were differences in the amount of time used and the work load accomplished and the factors contributing to differences. The cooperators were interviewed in the spring of 1958. They kept a record of their use of time and menus served for seven consecutive days following the interview. All participants were women whose husbands were fully employed and who had children eighteen years of age or younger. The employed homemakers worked 40 hours per week or more outside the home. The full-time homemakers had no paid employment.

Food preparation, washing dishes, physical care of family members, washing and ironing clothes, and care of the house took about 80 per cent of the time spent on all homemaking activities. Employed homemakers spent an average of 32 hours and 45 minutes compared with 45 hours and 14 minutes by the full-time group, the difference in time was not significant at the 5 per cent level.

The average time spent on physical care of family members decreased as the age of the youngest child increased.
Both groups of homemakers were well supplied with household equipment and facilities. There was an indication the women used their mechanical equipment more fully than is often observed. For instance, one-third of the homemakers used their vacuum cleaners for dusting as well as for cleaning rugs and floors. Women disliking house care and ironing clothes did not lack good equipment, but they spent more time on these tasks than other women.

Some of the work simplification techniques followed by the homemakers included: advance meal planning, weekly grocery shopping, use of convenience foods, washing dishes twice a day, and less ironing. The difference in frequency with which work simplification techniques were used by the two groups was not significant at the 5 per cent level.

Clock hours homemakers spent on activities were converted to work loads, using the work unit developed at Cornell University. However this calculation of the work load does not take into consideration the quality of work. The ratio of the work load to clock hours indicated that both groups were more efficient in washing dishes and physical care of family members, and less efficient in food preparation and regular care of the house. The full-time group were less efficient in ironing clothes and the employed were more efficient in washing clothes. The difference between the two groups in relation to their total efficiency of operation,
considering their work loads, was not significant at the 5 per cent level.

Rural homemakers, with time pressures, may find it helpful to look at the time costs of their homemaking activities by comparing their calculated work load with the actual time spent on these tasks. This analysis of use of time may be used by homemakers in determining their degree of efficiency in each activity and in making decisions regarding possible changes in their time pattern.
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BIBLIOGRAPHY


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Family Schedule

I. Family Composition

Number in Family:

Adults— Male - Ages____________________________

Female - Ages______________________________

Other____________________________________

Children in school: Elementary____, Junior High School____, High School____.

Age Homemaker: 20-30 ( ); 30-40 ( ); 40-50 ( ); 50-65 ( ); 65 and over ( ).

Education Homemaker________________________________

Husband's Occupation________________________________

II. Household Equipment

Washing machine: Automatic___, Conventional___, Dryer___,

Steam iron___, Adjustable ironing board___, Electric food mixer___, Pressure sauce pan___, Pressure canner___,

Refrigerator___, Freezer___, Freezing compartment in refrigerator___, Vacuum cleaner___, Sewing machine:

Electric___, Other___.

III. House

No. rooms___, No. used daily___, Age house___,

Construction material________________________________

Running hot and cold water___, Sink in kitchen______,

Full bath___, Shower___, Half bath_____.

Method of heating house: Furnace____, Circulator (oil)____, Stoves____, Open fireplaces_________________.
Type of stove and fuel used for cooking: Electric____, gas____, kerosene____, wood____, coal____.

IV. Attitude of Homemakers
Which homemaking task do you like best?______________________________
Which homemaking task do you like least?______________________________
Which tasks would you like more time for?______________________________
Which tasks do you consider most time consuming?_______________________
Which tasks do you consider most tiring?_______________________________
Which tasks do family members help with?_____________________________
If you have help other than family members, what do they do?____________
Would you like additional help? Family____, Others____

V. Comparison of frequency of performing certain tasks and work simplification methods used by full time and employed homemakers. How many times do you wash dishes a
day? ____ How do you dry dishes? Towel? ____ Air dry? ____ Do you plan meals in advance? No____, 1 day____, 2 days____, 1 week____.
Do you use the vacuum cleaner for dusting____, polishing and waxing?____
How often to you grocery shop? Weekly____, twice or more weekly____, less than weekly____.
Do you iron sheets? Always____, occasionally____, never____.
Do you iron bath towels? Always____, occasionally____, never____.
To what extent do you entertain? Guests for meals-- once month____, twice month____, more often____.
Overnight guests: Less than once month____, once month ____ , more often____. Serve refreshments at club meetings: Once month____, more often____, less often____.

VI. Do you use:
Commercial packaged mixes?
Not at all____, part of time____, most of time____.
Homemade mixes?
Not at all____, part of time____, most of time____.
Commercial frozen foods?
Meats: not at all____, part of time____, most of time____.
Vegetables: not at all____, part of time____, most of time____.
Fruits: not at all____, part of time____, most of time____.
Sea Foods: not at all, part of time, most of time.
Partial Meals: not at all, part of time, most of time.
Commercial canned foods:
  Meats: not at all, part of time, most of time.
  Vegetables: not at all, part of time, most of time.
  Fruits: not at all, part of time, most of time.
  Fruit Juices: not at all, part of time, most of time.
  Sea Foods: not at all, part of time, most of time.
Bakery products:
  Bread: not at all, part of time, most of time.
  Cakes: not at all, part of time, most of time.
  Pies: not at all, part of time, most of time.
  Doughnuts and Cookies: not at all, part of time, most of time.

VII. Other:
Is washing done at home? ________________________________
Is ironing done at home? ______ Is flat work sent to laundry? Always__, occasionally____, never___.
To what extent do you sew? None____, some of own clothes____, most of own clothes____; some of children's ______, most of children's____; mostly mending and repair work____. Were you employed before marriage?____ Type of work_________ How long_____ Years, ____ Months.
Do you expect to be a full time homemaker in the future or have employment outside the home? __________________________

VIII. Participation--Church and Community Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>No. Times Meet</th>
<th>Frequency of Attendance</th>
<th>Officer-Committee Chairman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Organization</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Auxiliary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. D. Club</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Clubs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IX. Employed Homemakers Only

What is the nature of your work? __________________________
How long have you been working? __________________________
How many hours do you work each week? ____________________
What are your plans for future work? _____________________
What do you like most about working? _____________________
Have you given up any activity because of your reemployment? In home____, in church____, in community____.
Have you made changes in methods of doing your housework?______________________________________________
Have you increased your work pace? _______________________
Do you do housework at night? ___________________________ 
Do you do housework on Saturday? _________________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>5th</th>
<th>6th</th>
<th>7th</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparing meals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washing dishes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical care of family members</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washing clothes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ironing clothes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular care of house</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total time for these tasks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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Meal Types

Breakfast Types

Type 1

Any number of easily-prepared foods

or

1 or 2 items requiring some preparation plus any number of easily-prepared foods

Type 2

3 dishes requiring some preparation plus any number of easily-prepared foods

or

1 time-consuming dish plus any number of easily-prepared foods

Examples of easily-prepared breakfast dishes: cold cereal, fruit juice, toast, beverage

Examples of dishes requiring some preparation: hot cereal, cooked fruit, eggs, bacon, sausage

Examples of time-consuming breakfast dishes: waffles, potatoes, hot breads

Noon and Evening Meal Types

Type 1

Any number of ready-prepared or quickly-prepared foods

Examples of ready-prepared foods: packaged foods, canned fruits, ready-to-serve leftovers, bakery products
Meal Types (continued)

Type 2

Left-overs somewhat changed in form plus Type 1

or

1 time-consuming dish plus 1 to 4 ready- or quickly-prepared foods

Examples of quickly-prepared foods: reheated left-overs, frozen or canned foods, hot sandwiches, canned soups, eggs, baked potatoes, weiners

Type 3

1 time consuming dish plus 5 or more ready- or quickly-prepared foods

or

2 or 3 time-consuming dishes plus Type 1

Examples of time-consuming dishes: fresh vegetables, meats, (chops, roasts), home-baked pies and cakes, puddings, creatively used left-overs, some salads

Type 4

4 or more time-consuming dishes plus Type 1
Explanations of Activities

Meal Preparation Time

Include: Preparing food for meals
        Setting the table
        Serving the food

Do not include: Packing lunches
                Preparing food for snacks
                Freezing or canning foods
                Preparing food for future use such as
gulp
quantity baking

If food is prepared during one part of the day to be
served at a meal later in the same day, this should be in-
cluded. If a double quantity is prepared, one-half for a
meal today and one-half for a meal tomorrow, the time should
be divided in half.

Dish Washing Time

Include: Clearing the table
        Putting food away
        Scraping, stacking, washing, rinsing, drying
dishes
        Putting dishes away
        Cleaning counter, range and sink

Do not include: Sweeping the kitchen or doing other regu-
lar cleaning jobs that you do after
washing dishes.

If dishes are air-dried and put away at the time of
preparing the next meal, include this time in dish washing
and not in meal preparation time. If the dishes are put
back on the table for the next meal, this table setting time
should be included as meal preparation time.

Time for Physical care of Family Members

Include: Bathing, dressing, feeding, putting children to
bed
        Taking children to and from school or the
doctor's office
        Preparing baby's formula and special food for
small children
        Caring for a sick family member
Do not include: Reading to, or playing with children  
Taking care of children at the same time you are doing something else

**Time for Regular Care of the House**

Include such daily or weekly tasks as:

- Bedmaking
- Putting rooms in order
- Caring for house plants
- Picking up clothes
- Caring for the furnace or stoves

Do not include:

- Mopping
- Vacuum Cleaning
- Sweeping
- Dusting
- Waxing

Tasks usually done less frequently than once a week in your home. These may be:

- Washing windows
- Cleaning bed springs
- Seasonal cleaning
- Special cleaning

**Time for Washing Clothes**

Include:

- Gathering soiled clothing and household linens
- Preparing equipment for use
- Sorting, spotting, washing, rinsing, hanging up or taking down clothes
- Putting clothes into and removing them from a drier
- Starching

Count number of tubs of clothes washed.

Do not include:

- Washing clothing by hand
- Washing blankets, curtains and other special items
- Any of wash-rinse cycle time that is used for other work

**Ironing Time**

Include:

- Sprinkling and ironing personal clothing and household linens
- Putting clothes away
Count number of pieces ironed -
   Allow each piece = 1 except
   2 towels or napkins = 1
   6 handkerchiefs = 1

Do not include:
   Ironing of unusual pieces such as ruffled curtains
   Pressing wool suits

**Time for Shopping and Keeping Household Accounts**

Include:
   Transportation time to and from store
   Shopping
   Keeping household accounts

Do not include:
   Keeping farm records or records relating to husband's work or business

**Time for Other Homemaking**

Include:
   Any work which you consider a part of your homemaking job:
   Sewing, mending, canning, freezing, gardening, working in flowers.

**Time for Community Activities**

Include:
   Transportation time to and from community activity
   Time spent in activity
   Telephoning and correspondence relating to activity