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IMPACT OF FOSTER CARE ON HISPANIC/LATINO FOSTER
MOTHERS' MARITAL RELATIONSHIP

A Project
Presented to the
Faculty of
California State University,
San Bernardino

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Social Work

by
Mario David Copenhagen


June 2003

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June 2003


Approved by:



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May 22, 2003

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ABSTRACT

This research project surveyed Los Angeles County licensed Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking foster mothers to assess the impact of foster care services on their marital relationship and its effects on the foster mother's role. Among the areas explored in this project were the Hispanic/Latino women self-perception, the fluctuation of Latino women's dependency, and the level of marital satisfaction expressed by foster mothers after starting providing foster care service.

The author developed an objective quantitative closed-ended survey questionnaire, the marital re-definition scale (COPE), which name derived from the researcher last name (Copenhaguen). This instrument was used to test the hypothesis and the data was scored by summing the items it contained. The sample of this study was composed by 30 Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking licensed foster mothers who ranged in age from 26 to 67 years. Findings indicate that the areas that most impact the foster mother's marital relationship are: improved education and personal independence, participation in out of home activities, and increased marital changes after fostering. The results of this study demonstrate the need

for further research and deeper exploration in the understanding of the impact of foster care services on Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking foster mother's marital relationship.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to acknowledge the foster parents who participate in this study as well as foster parents all over the world who have opened their hearths and homes to our children.

DEDICATION

Mi más profundo agradecimiento a mi esposa y a mi hijo, por darme todo el cariño y apoyo necesario. También le doy gracias a mis padres quienes me brindaron todo el amor que inspiró mi perseverancia y dedicación. A todos ellos le dedico este proyecto de investigación.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Problem Statement

Although people will consistently identify "family" as more important than anything else, their understanding of the meaning of family differs. For some, family means parents and children. For others, family includes a large extended network of relatives and for others still, family extends beyond blood ties to feelings of kinship with significant people such as godparents, tribe or clan members, and best friends. Some of these differences in perspectives relate to cultural influences, ethnic background, traditions, and customs defined by each family. Despite all differences, most of the families are structured around a husband and a wife (Crumbley, 1997).

As Cross-Tower (1999) noted, the family as an institution has changed significantly over the years. Each culture has a different interpretation of what it expects a family to be. No matter what the culture, society has particular expectations of a family and, in some cases when those expectations are not met, is entitled to intervene.

Cross-Tower (1999) stated that over the last decade, numerous research projects, funded by grants and private monies, have been undertaken to help professionals to understand child abuse and our current methods of combating it.

In Los Angeles County, Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking families commonly includes non-relatives in their immediate or extended families. This researcher believes there are numerous reasons such as love for children, community need, adoption, or to protect a specific child, that motivate Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking couples to become licensed or certified foster parents in order to legally offer their home and supervision for dependent children.

The researcher's personal work experience indicate that the impact of the foster Care system on the couple's marital relationship modify the family structure, traditional roles, and cultural trends. Further, the impact of the foster Care system on the couple's marital relationship seems to affect the interaction between the foster mother and foster father (husband or significant other) despite the cultural context and the family's community interaction (Hispanic and Latino words and/or

conceptions are used without distinction in this study, as well as the word "Latina" means Latino women).

As Andrade (1980) noted, the Hispanic population continue to increase in number and proportion in the United States, awareness appears to be growing in both the public and private sectors that the needs and potential of this linguistically, culturally, and racially distinct group must be addressed.

The image of Latino in the social science literature suggests that theories of family organization and change must incorporate a multicultural, ecological perspective and view the family in terms of interaction of its members with an environment controlled by the majority culture and its institutions (Andrade, 1980).

As Andrade (1980) also noted, when human service providers, administrators, planners or evaluators determine that they need more information about Hispanic families, they can turn to a number of frequently cited studies or academic reviews for assistance that clearly illustrate the nature of the stereotype which pervade the social science literature:

The Mexican family is founded upon two fundamental propositions: (a) the unquestioned and absolute supremacy of the father, and (b)

the necessary and absolute self-sacrifice of the mother. The mother's role has from times unknown acquired an adequate qualification in the term *Abnegation*, which means the denial of any and all possible selfish aims. These two fundamental propositions in the family derive from more general "existential" value orientations or, better, generalized socio-cultural assumptions which imply an indubitable, biological, and natural superiority of the male. (Diaz-Guerrero, 1955, p. 411)

Purpose of the Study

In general, whether a couple or one adult becomes a licensed or certified foster parent within the Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking community, it is typically the foster mother who participates actively in trainings and takes responsibility for most decisions in regards of foster care duties. Accordingly, it has been observed by the author that within a short period after they became legally authorized, and while providing foster care services, Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking foster mothers get divorced, remarry, or change their family structure, dynamics, and interaction in just a few years. This modification or redefinition of the foster mother's marital relationship, based on her new role and perspective is the focus of the current research project.

The researcher's work experience indicates that in California, the number of licensed or certified family foster homes has not kept pace with the demand for placements, particularly for Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking family caregivers. Considering that the licensing's rules and regulations affect the particular style of an individual family, Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking foster families reorganize their daily interactions around a different family role under the standards of State and County Licensed Foster Family Home Codes and Regulations (California State Codes & regulations Chapter XXII Session VII Foster Family Homes, 2000).

The purpose of this research project is to find new answers, better understanding, and clarification about the factors that change the foster mothers' marital relationship. Among the areas to explore in this project, are Hispanic/Latino women self-perception, the fluctuation of Latino women's dependency, and the level of marital satisfaction expressed by foster mothers after starting providing foster care service.

A better understanding of the impact of Foster Care on Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking licensed foster

mothers and their marital relationship, will allow for establishing new strategies for recruitment, retention, and training, in order to provide more stable and permanent foster family homes. Finally, the study may bring clarification to the peculiar changes in Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking foster mothers, who in traditional households find themselves restructuring their marital relationship along with new personal perspectives and interest in their lives.

In summary, the present study will attempt to demonstrate that Hispanic/Latino foster mothers' marital relationships are more likely to be redefined under the impact of the foster care services. This redefinition includes but is not limited to: change on marital status, intimate relationships, and personal independence.

Significance of the Project for Social Work

Research and evaluation on such matters as the impact of the foster care service on the foster mothers' marital relationships, may enhance the well being of children and families within our society, as well as strengthen professional cultural competence in social work and social justice. It is expected that the findings

of the current study will contribute to social work practice by increasing the level of cultural competence and social diversity, qualities that are strongly emphasized in the Ethical Standards of the NASW Code of Ethics, (2000).

The significance of the project for social work would be translated into needed understanding of the Hispanic/Latino foster mothers' personal perspective, towards the improvement of the services provided to children and families and the modeling effects in their own lives. The information obtained could facilitate policy development and allocation of future resources, and contribute and expand knowledge and cultural understanding of Hispanic/Latino foster mothers who find themselves culturally challenged while protecting dependent children.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

The author is not aware of studies by the Department of Children and Family services or any other child welfare agency in California assessing the impact of providing foster care service on the marital relationship of Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking foster mothers. Consequently, the present study considered several aspects of the Hispanic/Latino women's culture, traditional roles, and society stereotypes.

Hampson and Tavormina (1980) discuss that twenty two of twenty nine mothers in families in which both parents were present reported that raising and disciplining the foster children was their primary duty, only seven mothers said the responsibilities was shared equally by both parents. It should also be noted, however, that the seven mothers who reported that the father was equally involved were all from families with higher level of education and income.

As Rivera (1994) noted, within the Latino community, Latinas' identities are defined by their roles as mothers

and wives. For Latinas, cultural norms and myths of national origin intersect with these patriarchal notions of a woman's role and identity. Those within the Latino community expect Latinas to be traditional, and to exist solely within the Latino family structure (Rivera, 1994).

Considering Latino foster families with economical difficulties, Lindsey (2001), noted that as poor families and marital functioning can have adverse effect on children in the general population, there is no reason to suspect the effect on foster children would be less. The same author remarked that in fact, because of their conflictive and adverse histories, the effects may be worse for foster children, and that foster care workers need to be aware of potential signs of difficulties in family and marital functioning that can affect the well being of foster children so they can monitor placement for potential problems.

McFadden (1996), noted that foster parents face many stresses in their family life, whether they provide kinship care, general care, specialized foster care, or treatment care. Critical issues for foster families include maintaining open boundaries while sustaining cohesion and integrity of the core family structure.

Pressures from the community, the foster child and birth parents, affect the way in which the family functions.

Within the cultural system, particularly for Hispanic families, Rivera, (1994) noted that the influence of Catholicism throughout Latin America solidifies the image that Latinas are expected to follow dogma and be religious, conservative, and traditional in their beliefs. The proliferation of stereotypes, which are integral to institutionalized racism, obstructs the progress and mobility of Latinas.

McFadden and Ryan (1991), describe systemic albeit seemingly circular, family outcomes. They stated that the negative impact of the cumulative stress of fostering on the foster parents' marriage weakens the entire family's adaptive capacities. These authors found that stress related to fostering increases the foster mother's parenting efforts, which decreases the foster father's involvement, which then leads to marital dissatisfaction.

The literature reviewed indicates interesting areas associated with this research project. Considering that it is difficult to find previous studies in the specific topic the current study investigates, it would be appropriate to reinforce the need for more research led

by the foster care experience of the Hispanic/Latino foster family.

Theories Guiding the Study

Two fundamental theories, empirically tested, were considered to guide this study, the Ecological theory, and the family system theory. McFadden (1996), noted that the Ecological theory and the family system theory provide an overarching framework for considering the salient boundary issues of foster families. Further, McFadden described that the constant changes of foster parenting result in a steady moving state at risk of disequilibrium.

From an ecological point of view, Germain and Bloom (1999), noted that the natural support system within the Hispanic community is composed of: extended family; folk healers; religious institutions; and merchants and social clubs, which form the Hispanic network. It is necessary to consider the amount and quality of the interaction between the Hispanic network and the characteristics of the Hispanic/Latino women when providing foster care service.

Therefore, Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking women are acting against their cultural tradition when modifying the interaction of their marital relationship. Indeed, in terms of the ecology perspective, considering foster care services as the cause that impact the family and its environment as a unit, the response obtained through the coping mechanisms will determine the level of functioning or the collapse of the family.

On the other hand, Cross-Tower, (1999), noted that a family, especially in its role of raising children, is a complex and ever-changing system. Like any system, families must maintain some type of balance, continue a flow of information, and monitor the communication among their members. Families do this through a series of subsystems, boundaries, roles, and communication patterns (Cross-Tower, 1999).

Nichols and Shuartz (2001), noted that family problems are tenacious and resistant to change because they are embedded in powerful but unseen structures. The Strategic Structural model of Salvador Minuchin, (1993) remarked on the importance of the interaction, triggers, and/or family patterns that provide the structure for the Foster's couple interactions. Minuchin, Wai-Yung, and

Simon, (1996), noted that the family is the constructor of the identity of its members, therefore it must organize itself to fit the socio-cultural need in response of changed circumstances.

From the perspective of the family systems theories, this researcher examined the internal forces in the family constellation. In particular, the researcher focused on the level of marital dependency, the foster mother personal independency, the emotional attachment towards the husband or significant other, and the personal interaction with the community, in order to measure changes that the provision of foster care services has initiated.

Summary

From the Hispanic/Latino culture and traditions, as well as from the specific roles and responsibilities inherent in being a foster parent, Hispanic/Latino women who provide foster care services for dependent children find themselves changing their marital relationship. Exploring the factors and the nature of these changes is the focus of this research project. Besides the statistical findings, the study also interpreted the data

obtained based in the ecology and family systems theory. Nevertheless, this study will be open to discussion and will attempt to accomplish the integrated research roles of: increasing the profession's knowledge base and improve the effectiveness of our interventions with clients.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODS

Introduction

This chapter documents the steps used in developing the project. Specifically, the researcher decided on the appropriate study design, as well as the sampling and data collection and measurement instruments to be utilized. Considering the time limitations and the requirements of this research study, a final assessment of the data is analyzed and discussed.

Study Design

This study used a quantitative approach to measure the impact of foster care services in Hispanic/Latino foster mother's marital relationships. The researcher decided to develop an objective quantitative closed-ended survey questionnaire to evaluate the significant changes explored in this study. The limitations of this study were the lack of an individual interview to measure emotional implications on foster mothers, which omitted the presentation of in-depth qualitative information.

This study anticipated that changes in the marital relationship of Hispanic/Latino foster mother would follow the provision of foster care services.

Sampling

The population for this research project is Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking Los Angeles County licensed foster mothers. These foster mothers are not affiliated with foster family agencies; instead they provide services directly to the Department of Children and Family Services in Los Angeles County.

Once the researcher obtained the appropriate permission and documentation approvals, then he attended a number of foster parents association meetings, community colleges foster care education classes, and Department of Children and Families Services of Los Angeles County foster parents support meetings where volunteers participants received the survey questionnaire (COPE) by hand.

Selected from 500 licensed foster parents in the region, a simple random sample composed of 30 participants Hispanic/Latino foster mothers, who were between the ages of 26 to 67 completed the survey

questionnaire. The eligibility criteria to participate in the study showed the following: participants were adults women; residents of Los Angeles County; Hispanic/Latino origin or background; currently licensed foster parent since year 2000; Spanish speaking monolingual, or bilingual (Spanish and English speaking). Excluded participants are those who decline to participate in the study.

Data Collection and Instruments

The survey questionnaire was designed to be face-to-face, individual or in-group applied, with researcher assistance if needed (reading and/or writing facilitation), and not to take more than 20 minutes to complete. The survey questionnaire was provided in English or Spanish as requested by the participant, and the location for survey completion were the offices of the Department of Children and Families Services, Foster Parents Association of Los Angeles, and at the San Antonio Community College facility (where foster parents received regular annual training).

The researcher attended foster parents meetings and personally asked them if they were interested in

participating in this study. The researcher distributed the surveys among Hispanic/Latino licensed foster mothers.

In order to explore the dependent variable: "Impact of foster care over Hispanic/Latino foster mothers' marital relationship," this author developed the marital re-definition scale (COPE), which name derived from the researcher last name (Copenhaguen).

COPE included questions about several independent variables (the assumed or predicted causal variables): demographics, feelings and perceptions, and personal relationships. The developed scale (COPE) included questions used as examples from a number of pre-tested instruments as, the Short Acculturation Scale for Hispanics (SASH), questions 1 to 5 modified (Martin, 1987). From the Intimacy Scale (IS), questions 12 to 15 (Walker & Thompson, 1983). Finally, from Index of Marital Satisfaction (IMS) scale, were taken as examples questions 1 to 9 adjusted from the male to a female participant (Hudson, 1997). The rest of the questions were developed by this researcher from the literature reviewed, field work experience, and personal knowledge. The survey was pre-tested by colleagues and teachers who

found the scale to be understandable, not time consuming and having a high level of cultural competence.

The survey was carefully translated in Spanish and contains twenty four easy to understand questions designed to reach all socio-economic levels. Ethnic loyalty and cultural patterns were considered at the time of composing the questionnaire.

The limitation of the instrument appears to be the lack of qualitative input and lack of predictive validation and reliability. A copy of the survey scale questionnaire COPE is attached (see Appendix A Questionnaire).

Procedures

The researcher attended foster parents meetings and personally asked them if they were interested in participating in this study. At the time, participants were informed that participation was voluntary and that they had the right to withdraw their participation. After all the questions had been answered, the debriefing statement, which provide information and referrals, clarify the purpose, the goal, and the possibilities of the study, was read and a copy given to each participant.

This research study used the COPE survey. The researcher distributed the surveys among Hispanic/Latino licensed foster mothers and asked the participants to complete the survey. The Survey did not contain any identifying information and respondents were instructed to provide an "X" rather than a signature on the informed consent, the data was gathered exclusively by the researcher.

The surveys were completed before March 31, 2003. The schedule of data collection was from December 2002 to March 2003. The data gathering process began after the university Institutional Review Board approved the researcher's proposal. The results were analyzed by examining the marital interaction in relation to the foster care service. The findings from the sample were compared and contrast to each other.

Protection of Human Subjects

No participant identified data is included on any surveys. Anonymity of the participants was maintained. Participants were informed of the purpose of the study and told that any information gathered would only be reported as group results. Participants were instructed

to place an X on the dotted line of the informed consent before any information was provided (see Appendix B). The researcher kept private the information collected from the participants. The researcher stored all completed questionnaires at home and maintained the completed informed consents separately at the Department of Children and Family Services. These are kept in a sealed manila folder. The researcher is the only person with the access to data collected from the questionnaires.

A debriefing statement was given to each participant. Participants received information on who to contact for information on the results of the study. A list of counseling resources was included in the debriefing (see Appendix C).

Data Analysis

This study used a quantitative approach to analyze the data. The quantitative data include descriptive statistics to describe participants in relation to their original cultural background by stating how many of them fell into each category. Further, inferential statistics were utilized to determine the probability that a

relationship between two variables existed within the population from which it was drawn.

The Marital Redefinition Scale (COPE) collected information about demographics, marital satisfaction, experience in foster care, changes in significant others, and personal feelings. An evaluation of the responses was conducted noting areas of convergent answers. A Pearson correlation was used to specify the direction and the magnitude of the association between significant variables results. Finally, the responses were summarized by using frequency analysis and reported by means.

The level of measurement was considered to select the statistical test utilized. After considering dependent criterion variable and independent predictor variables in this study, it was decided to utilize Parametric Statistical Tests. $P = .01$ was the statistical rejection level used for hypothesis.

Summary

All the answers to the questions were examined and assessed. A basis summary of the surveys were completed and analyzed applying statistical methods using the SPSS software program.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

Demographics

The mean age of the respondents was 45.03. Twenty respondents (66.6%) were 40 years old or older with the other (33.3%) between 26 and 39 years old. Twenty-four respondents (80%) were married, ten (10%) single, and ten (10%) divorced. A higher number of respondents (53.3%) spoke Spanish only, and a lower number of respondents (16.7%) spoke more English than Spanish. Twenty-six of the participants (86.7%) spoke Spanish only as a child, and four (13.3%) of the participants spoke more Spanish than English as a child.

Nineteen of the participants (63.3%) reported thinking only in Spanish, and two participants (6.7%) reported thinking more in English. Consistent with these percentages, eighteen respondents (60.0%) reported speaking only Spanish with friends, while a lower number of respondents (6.7%) reported speaking more English with friends. Twenty-two of the thirty participants (73.3%) reported to have improved their education since becoming a foster mother. Seven participants (23.3%) reported

educational improvement after starting providing foster care services. Fifteen participants (50.0%) reported increasing the family income since becoming foster mothers. Twelve participants (40.0%) reported no changes in the family budget. A lower number of three participants (10.0%) reported decreased family income since becoming foster mothers.

Analysis and Correlations

Considering the independent variable, *marital satisfaction before fostering*, eleven participants (36.7%) reported to be very satisfied, while on the variable *marital satisfaction after fostering*, nineteen (63.3%) reported to be very satisfied. A Pearson correlation indicates significant at the 0.01 level, ($r = .509$, $P = .004$, $N = 30$). The mean of *marital satisfaction before fostering* is 2.80 with Std. Dev = 1.19. The mean of *marital satisfaction after fostering* is 3.23 with Std. Dev = 1.17. Eight participants (26.6%) increased marital satisfaction after fostering.

The independent variable, *marital dependency before fostering* indicated that six participants (20.0%)

reported being very independent before fostering, while *marital dependency after fostering* seventeen participants (56.7%) reported being very independent after fostering, an increment of eleven participants (36.6%). However, there was no significant correlation (Pearson product-moment correlation) between those independent variables.

Considering the independent variable *marital changes before fostering*, three participants (10.0%) reported changes all the time (marital instability), while on the variable *marital changes after fostering*, six participants (20.0%) reported changes all the time. A Pearson correlation indicates significant at the 0.01 level, ($r = .468$, $P = .009$, $N = 30$). The mean of *marital changes before fostering* is 3.33 with Std. Dev = .99, a mode of 4. The mean of *marital changes after fostering* was 2.90 with Std. Dev = 1.18, a mode of 4. Three participants (10.0%) increased the marital changes after fostering.

The independent variable *happiness before fostering* indicated that thirteen participants (43.3%) reported being very happy before fostering, while *happiness after fostering* indicated that twenty-one participants (70.0%)

reported being very happy after fostering, an increment of eight participants (26.6%) reported to be very happy. The mean of *happiness before fostering* was 1.83 with Std. Dev = .91, while the mean of *happiness after fostering* is 1.37 with Std. Dev = .67, a mode of 1 for both variables.

The independent variable *emotional dependency before fostering* indicated that two participants (6.7%) reported to be emotionally independent before fostering, while *emotional dependency after fostering* indicated that ten participants (33.3%) reported to be emotionally independent after fostering, an increment of eight participants (26.6%) reported to be emotionally independent. The mean of *emotional happiness before fostering* was 1.73 with Std. Dev = .91 a mode of 1, while the mean of *emotional happiness after fostering* was 2.57 with Std. Dev = 1.19, a mode of 4 for both variables.

In regards of the independent variable *out of home activities before fostering*, eight participants (26.7%) reported all the time or frequently activities out of home, while on the variable *out of home activities after fostering*, nineteen participants (63.3%) reported out of home activities after fostering. The mean of *out of home activities before fostering* is 2.97 with Std. Dev = .89,

a mode of 3. The mean of *out of home activities after fostering* is 2.17 with Std. Dev = 1.05, a mode of 1. Eleven participants (36.6%) increased the *out of home activities after fostering*.

Another remarkable finding is the result of a T-Test utilized for the variables of *emotional dependency before and after fostering*, and *out of home activities before and after fostering*. Both variables are significant on the .01 level. Therefore, we can conclude that Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking foster mothers generally are more emotionally independent from their husbands after fostering, and that they have more "out of home activities" after fostering (See attached Appendix D for frequency tables and attached Appendix E for graphics).

Summary

The results of this study demonstrate that increases in marital satisfaction, happiness, independency and marital changes reported by foster mothers, took place after starting providing foster care services. Furthermore, the results indicated that important significance is reflected by the increase in foster

mothers *emotional independency* and *out of home activities* after starting fostering.

This project research demonstrates that Foster care services impact the Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking Foster Mother's marital relationship through improved personal education and personal independence, increased participation in out of home activities, and amplified marital changes after starting fostering.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of foster care services on Hispanic/Latino Foster mothers' marital relationship. In order to do that this researcher attempted to identify the factors that appear to modify and/or re-shape Hispanic/Latino Foster Mother's marital relationship once they started providing foster care services.

As suggested by previous literature, the image of the Latino population in the social science literature suggests that theories of family organization and change must incorporate a multicultural, ecological perspective and view the family in terms of interaction of its members (Andrade, 1980). This study attempted to accomplish that perspective by maintaining an open criterion in constructing the measurement instrument and by considering Hispanic/Latino characteristics that shape Hispanic/Latino family traditions.

As mentioned earlier, Cross-Tower (1999), noted that a family, especially in its role of raising children, is a complex and ever changing system. Like any system,

families must maintain some type of balance, continue a flow of information, and monitor the communication among their members (Cross-tower, 1999).

Data in the present study support the hypothesis that foster care services affect the interaction between foster mothers and the foster father by demonstrating that changes, such as improved education and personal independence, participation in out of home activities, and increased marital changes after starting fostering, modify the marital relationship.

It seems reasonable to accept that if the respondents felt that marital changes occurred after starting providing foster care services, and their relationship with their husbands or partners has been modified, there is a strong indicator that it is a direct consequence of providing foster care services. For example, daily interacting with abused children and their families, and providing foster children with clearly tailored house rules, may affect the family's roles as well as the family structure and the power distribution.

Considering that the respondents reported that after starting fostering they have increased their personal education and participation in out of home activities, as

well as increased their marital satisfaction, thus, the changes in their individual role as a foster mother directly leads to changes in their marital relationship. For instance, being in charge of foster children's basic needs and reporting progress and special incidents to the appropriate parties, taken responsibility managing the care of deprived children, might positively influence their personal self-esteem, self-assurance, and social desirability.

This researcher interprets the results of this study as suggesting that the foster care services, whether changing the family's mother role or modifying the functionality of the foster family, impacts the Hispanic/Latino foster mothers' marital relationship, re-shaping the Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking women foster mother role towards a more rewarding one.

Limitations

There are several potential limitations to this research: One possible limitation in this study is the homogeneity of the sample; the strong criteria utilized for qualification in this study may potentially pre-determine the level of responses. A second possible

limitation is the likelihood that respondents will base their responses on their most recent marital relationship incidents rather than their overall experience with their spouse/partner.

A third potential limitation is the lack of an open-ended interview to measure qualitative information about the implication of the marital changes for the rest of the family, including the foster children, and how this factor affect the family functioning. Finally, the researcher suggests that a fourth potential problem with this study is the use of too many similar questions that may reflect positive answers as the best choice, which seems sensitive for our population.

Recommendations for Social Work Practice, Policy and Research

It is recommended that this study be expanded using in-depth opened-ended interviews. Also, it is suggested that further research contemplate the use of a section in the survey questionnaire that permits the respondents to disclose their personal opinion, addressing the main topic, and/or to be used for comments to the researcher.

Although the sample in this study does not represent the entire Hispanic/Latino Spanish speaking foster

mothers in Los Angeles County, its information is useful to the field of social work at many levels. Information about foster parents' characteristics could improve the success in children's placements and increased quality of foster care services. Further, this study provides an overview into the relationship between foster mothers and foster fathers, while offering information that may be used to improve the foster care services.

Additionally, the findings of the study suggest that foster parents training policies should be modified to include understanding of the possible redefinition of the foster mothers' marital relationship, based on a new role and perspective, and the consequent reorganization of the family structure. On the other hand, an alternative preparation and selection for foster parenting may be the implementation of group discussion as opposed to just training.

In summary, these recommendations enforce the importance of providing more stable and permanent foster family homes for dependent children as well as the need for more research on this issue. The researcher suggest that accurate understanding of the impact of foster care into the Hispanic/Latino foster mothers' marital

relationship, will allow social workers to rely more comfortable in our foster care system.

APPENDIX A
QUESTIONNAIRE

COPE MARITAL REDEFINITION SCALE

Age:

Ethnic Background:

Foster mother since year:

Marital Status:

PART I

(Please, circle one answer)

1. In general, what language(s) do you read and speak?
 - 1- Only Spanish
 - 2- Spanish more
 - 3- English more
 - 4- Only English
2. What was the language(s) you used as a child?
 - 1- Only Spanish
 - 2- Spanish more
 - 3- English more
 - 4- Only English
3. What language(s) do you usually speak at home?
 - 1- Only Spanish
 - 2- Spanish more
 - 3- English more
 - 4- Only English
4. In which language(s) do you usually think?
 - 1- Only Spanish
 - 2- Spanish more
 - 3- English more
 - 4- Only English
5. What language(s) do you usually speak with your friends?
 - 1- Only Spanish
 - 2- Spanish more
 - 3- English more
 - 4- Only English

6. How the level of your education has improved since you started fostering?
- 1- Very improved
 - 2- Somewhat improved
 - 3- Little improvement
 - 4- None
- 7a. What was your marital status before you started fostering?
- 1- Married
 - 2- Separated/Divorced
 - 3- Widowed
 - 4- Never married
- 7b. What is your marital status now, after fostering?
- 1- Married
 - 2- Separated/Divorced
 - 3- Widowed
 - 4- Never married
8. How much the level of family income has increased since you started fostering?
- 1- Increased level of income per person (including foster payment and foster child in the calculation)
 - 2- Same income per person as before (including foster payment and foster child in the calculation)
 - 3- Decreased level of income per person (including foster payment and foster child in the calculation)
9. Before you started fostering, have you thought about foster care as a means to support yourself monetary and emotionally in anticipation of marital discord or divorce?
- 1- Very much
 - 2- I considered it
 - 3- Not at all
10. Which one of these statements describes you better?
- 1- I am a member of a foster parent association, and I have attended foster parents conferences.
 - 2- I am a member of a foster parent association, but I have not attended foster parents conferences.
 - 3- I am not a member of a foster parent association, but I have attended foster parent conferences.
 - 4- I am not a member of a foster parent association, and I have not attended foster parent conferences.

Part II

- 11a. Before you started fostering how did you feel about yourself?
- 1- Very satisfied
 - 2- Somewhat satisfied
 - 3- Somewhat dissatisfied
 - 4- Very dissatisfied
- 11b. After you started fostering how do feel about yourself?
- 1- Very satisfied
 - 2- Somewhat satisfied
 - 3- Somewhat dissatisfied
 - 4- Very dissatisfied
- 12a. How satisfied were you with your marital relationship before you began to provide foster care?
- 1- Very dissatisfied
 - 2- Somewhat dissatisfied
 - 3- Somewhat satisfied
 - 4- Very satisfied
- 12b. How satisfied are you with your marital relationship since you have began to provide foster care?
- 1- Very dissatisfied
 - 2- Somewhat dissatisfied
 - 3- Somewhat satisfied
 - 4- Very satisfied
- 13a. How would you consider your marital relationship before you started fostering?
- 1- Very independent
 - 2- Somewhat independent
 - 3- Dependent
 - 4- Very dependent
- 13b. How would you consider your marital relationship after you started fostering?
- 1- Very independent
 - 2- Somewhat independent
 - 3- Dependent
 - 4- Very dependent

14a. Before you started fostering, did you think about changes in your marital relationship?

- 1- All the time
- 2- Most of the time
- 3- Sometimes
- 4- Never

14b. After you started fostering, do you think about changes in your marital relationship?

- 1- All the time
- 2- Most of the time
- 3- Sometimes
- 4- Never

15a. Please, indicate your perception of your marital relationship before starting to foster, using the following scale:

- A = Never
- B = Occasionally
- C = Sometimes
- D = Often
- E = Frequently
- F = Almost always
- G = Always

- _____ 1-He always thinks of my best interest
- _____ 2-I am lucky to have him in my life
- _____ 3-He always makes me feel better
- _____ 4-He is important to me

15b. Please, indicate your perception of your marital relationship after starting to foster, using the following scale:

- A = Never
- B = Occasionally
- C = Sometimes
- D = Often
- E = Frequently
- F = Almost always
- G = Always

- _____ 1-He always thinks of my best interest
- _____ 2-I am lucky to have him in my life
- _____ 3-He always makes me feel better
- _____ 4-He is important to me

- 16a. How satisfied were you with your husband before fostering?
- 1- Very dissatisfied
 - 2- Somewhat dissatisfied
 - 3- Somewhat satisfied
 - 4- Very satisfied
- 16b. How satisfied are you with your husband now, after you started fostering?
- 1- Very dissatisfied
 - 2- Somewhat dissatisfied
 - 3- Somewhat satisfied
 - 4- Very satisfied
- 17a. How much time do you spend with your husband/partner Before fostering?
- 1- All the time
 - 2- Most of then time
 - 3- Little time
 - 4- No time at all
- 17b. How much time do you spend now with your husband /partner after starting fostering?
- 1- All the time
 - 2- Most of then time
 - 3- Little time
 - 4- No time at all
- 18a. Before you started fostering, how attached were you to your husband/partner?
- 1- Very attached
 - 2- Somewhat attached
 - 3- Somewhat not attached
 - 4- Not attached
- 18b. After you started fostering, how attached were you to your husband/partner?
- 1- Very attached
 - 2- Somewhat attached
 - 3- Somewhat not attached
 - 4- Not attached

- 19a. Before you started fostering, what feelings did you have for your husband/partner?
- 1- Very happy
 - 2- Somewhat Happy
 - 3- Confused
 - 4- Not happy
- 19b. After you started fostering, what feelings did you have for your husband/partner?
- 1- Very happy
 - 2- Somewhat Happy
 - 3- Confused
 - 4- Not happy
- 20a. Before you started fostering, how attached did you become to your husband/partner?
- 1- Very attached
 - 2- Somewhat attached
 - 3- Somewhat not attached
 - 4- Not attached
- 20b. After you started fostering, how attached did you become to your husband/partner?
- 1- Very attached
 - 2- Somewhat attached
 - 3- Somewhat not attached
 - 4- Not attached
- 21a. Before you started fostering, how much were you involved in outside home activities?
- 1- All the time
 - 2- Most of the time
 - 3- Sometimes
 - 4- Never
- 21b. After you started fostering, how much are you now involved in outside home activities?
- 1- All the time
 - 2- Most of the time
 - 3- Sometimes
 - 4- Never

- 22 Which one of these statements describes you better?
- 1- Being a Foster mother made me realize the very satisfactory relationship I have with my husband.
 - 2- Being a Foster mother made me realize the somewhat satisfactory relationship I have with my husband.
 - 3- Being a Foster mother made me realize the dissatisfied relationship I have with my husband.
 - 4- Being a Foster mother made me realize the very dissatisfied relationship I have with my husband.
- 23 How your level of education have improved since you started fostering?
- 1- Very improved
 - 2- Somewhat improved
 - 3- Little improved
 - 4- None
- 24 How much the level of family income have increased since you started fostering?
- 1- Very much
 - 2- No much
 - 3- Same as before
 - 4- Decrease

COPE MARITAL REDEFINITION SCALE

Edad:

Rasa o grupo étnico:

Madre de crianza desde:

Estado civil:

PARTE I

(Por favor, circular una respuesta)

- 1- En general, que lenguaje(s) habla y escribe?

1	2	3	4
Solo Español	Español mas	Inglés mas	Solo Inglés

- 2- Qué lengua hablaba usted cuando era niña?

1	2	3	4
Solo Español	Español mas	Inglés mas	Solo Inglés

- 3- Qué lengua habla usualmente en su casa?

1	2	3	4
Solo Español	Español mas	Inglés mas	Solo Inglés

- 4- En qué lengua(s) usted usualmente piensa?

1	2	3	4
Solo Español	Español mas	Inglés mas	Solo Inglés

- 5- Qué lenguaje(s) usted utiliza con sus amistades?

1	2	3	4
Solo Español	Español mas	Inglés mas	Solo Inglés

- 6- Desde que usted es madre de crianza, cuanto ha mejorado su educación?

1-	Ha mejorado mucho
2-	Mejóro algo
3-	Mejóro poco
4-	No ha Mejorado

- 7A- Antes de ser madre de crianza, cuál era su estado civil?
- 1- Casada
 - 2- Separada/Divorciada
 - 3- Viuda
 - 4- Nunca se ha casado
- 7B-Cuál es su estado civil ahora, después de haber comenzado a ser madre de crianza?
- 1- Casada
 - 2- Separada/Divorciada
 - 3- Viuda
 - 4- Nunca se ha casado
- 8- Desde que es madre de crianza, cuanto ha aumentado la entrada de dinero en su familia?
- 1- La entrada de dinero ha aumentado (incluyendo los pagos de la crianza en el total)
 - 2- La entrada de dinero es la misma (incluyendo los pagos de la crianza en el total)
 - 3- La entrada de dinero es menor (incluyendo los pagos de la crianza en el total)
- 9- Antes de ser madre de crianza, pensó usted en la crianza como una manera de mantenerse económicamente y emocionalmente, anticipando problemas en su matrimonio ó la posibilidad de divorciarse?
- 1- Lo pensé much
 - 2- Solo lo consideré
 - 3- No, no lo pensé
- 10-Cuál de estos enunciados la describe mejor a usted?
- 1- Yo pertenezco a una asociacion de padres de crianza, y he atendido conferencias de padres de crianza.
 - 2- Yo pertenezco a una asociacion de padres de crianza, pero no he atendido conferencias de padres de crianza.
 - 3- Yo no pertenezco a una asociacion de padres de crianza, pero he atendido conferencias de padres de crianza.
 - 4- Yo no pertenezco a una asociacion de padres de crianza, y no he atendido conferencias de padres de crianza.

Part II

11A.- Antes de ser madre de crianza, como se sentía acerca de usted misma?

- 1- Muy satisfecha
- 2- Más ó menos satisfecha
- 3- Un poco insatisfecha
- 4- Muy insatisfecha

11B.- Desde que es madre de crianza, como se siente acerca de usted misma?

- 1- Muy satisfecha
- 2- Más ó menos satisfecha
- 3- Un poco insatisfecha
- 4- Muy insatisfecha

12A.- Antes de ser madre de crianza, como estaba de satisfecha con su relación de pareja ó matrimonial?

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Muy | Un poco | Más ó menos | Muy |
| Insatisfecha | insatisfecha | satisfecha | satisfecha |

12B.- Desde que es madre de crianza, como está usted de satisfecha con su relación de pareja ó matrimonial?

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Muy | Un poco | Más ó menos | Muy |
| Insatisfecha | insatisfecha | satisfecha | satisfecha |

13A.- Cómo se consideraba usted en su relación de pareja/matrimonial antes de ser madre de crianza?

- 1- Muy independiente
- 2- Algo independiente
- 3- Dependiente
- 4- Muy dependiente

13B.- Cómo se considera usted en su relación de pareja/matrimonial desde que es madre de crianza?

- 1- Muy independiente
- 2- Algo independiente
- 3- Dependiente
- 4- Muy dependiente

14A- Antes de ser madre de crianza, pensó usted en cambios en su relación de pareja ó matrimonial?

- 1- Todo el tiempo
- 2- Bastante seguido
- 3- A veces
- 4- Nunca

14B- Desde que es madre de crianza, pensó usted en cambios en su relación de pareja ó matrimonial?

- 1- Todo el tiempo
- 2- Bastante seguido
- 3- A veces
- 4- Nunca

15A. Por favor, indique su percepción acerca de su relación de pareja ó matrimonial antes de ser madre de crianza usando la siguiente escala:

- A = Nunca
- B = Solo en ocasiones
- C = A veces
- D = Seguido
- E = Muy seguido
- F = Casi siempre
- G = Siempre

- _____ 1- El siempre piensa en lo mejor para mí
- _____ 2- Tengo suerte de tenerlo a él en mi vida
- _____ 3- El siempre me hace sentir mejor
- _____ 4- El es muy importante para mí

15B. Por favor, indique su percepción acerca de su relación de pareja ó matrimonial desde que es madre de crianza usando la siguiente escala:

- A = Nunca
- B = Solo en ocasiones
- C = A veces
- D = Seguido
- E = Muy seguido
- F = Casi siempre
- G = Siempre

- _____ 1- El siempre piensa en lo mejor para mí
- _____ 2- Tengo suerte de tenerlo a él en mi vida
- _____ 3- El siempre me hace sentir mejor
- _____ 4- El es muy importante para mí

16A- Cómo estaba usted de satisfecha con su pareja ó esposo antes de ser madre de crianza?

1	2	3	4
Muy Insatisfecha	Un poco insatisfecha	Más ó menos satisfecha	Muy satisfecha

16B- Cómo está usted de satisfecha con su pareja ó esposo desde que es madre de crianza?

1	2	3	4
Muy Insatisfecha	Un poco insatisfecha	Más ó menos satisfecha	Muy satisfecha

17A- Cuánto tiempo pasaba usted sola con su pareja ó esposo antes de ser madre de crianza?

- 1- Todo el tiempo
- 2- Bastante seguido
- 3- A veces
- 4- Nunca

17B- Cuánto tiempo pasa usted sola con su pareja ó esposo desde que es madre de crianza?

- 1- Todo el tiempo
- 2- Bastante seguido
- 3- A veces
- 4- Nunca

18A- Antes de ser madre de crianza, cómo estaba usted de apegada a su pareja ó esposo?

- 1- Muy apegada
- 2- Un poco apegada
- 3- Un poco desapegada
- 4- Desapegada

18B- Desde que es madre de crianza, cómo está usted de apegada a su pareja ó esposo?

- 1- Muy apegada
- 2- Un poco apegada
- 3- Un poco desapegada
- 4- Desapegada

- 19A- Antes de ser madre de crianza, cómo se sentía usted con su pareja ó esposo?
- 1- Muy feliz
 - 2- Algo feliz
 - 3- Confundida
 - 4- Infeliz
- 19B- Desde que es madre de crianza, cómo se siente usted con su pareja ó esposo?
- 1- Muy feliz
 - 2- Algo feliz
 - 3- Confundida
 - 4- Infeliz
- 20A- Antes de ser madre de crianza, cómo dependía emocionalmente de su pareja ó esposo?
- 1- Muy dependiente
 - 2- Un poco dependiente
 - 3- Un poco independiente
 - 4- Independiente
- 20B- Desde que es madre de crianza, cómo depende emocionalmente de su pareja ó esposo?
- 1- Muy dependiente
 - 2- Un poco dependiente
 - 3- Un poco independiente
 - 4- Independiente
- 21A- Antes de ser madre de crianza, estaba usted envuelta en actividades fuera de la casa?
- 1- Todo el tiempo
 - 2- Frecuentemente
 - 3- Muy poco
 - 4- Nunca
- 21B- Desde que es madre de crianza, está usted envuelta en actividades fuera de la casa?
- 1- Todo el tiempo
 - 2- Frecuentemente
 - 3- Muy poco
 - 4- Nunca

- 22- Cúal de estos enunciados la describe mejor a usted?
- 1- Ser madre de crianza me hizo comprender lo felizmente satisfecha que estoy con mi pareja ó esposo.
 - 2- Ser madre de crianza me hizo comprender que estoy solo en parte satisfecha con mi pareja ó esposo.
 - 3- Ser madre de crianza me hizo comprender que estoy un poco insatisfecha con mi pareja ó esposo.
 - 4- Ser madre de crianza me hizo comprender que estoy muy insatisfecha con mi pareja ó esposo.
- 23- Desde que es madre de crianza, cómo ha mejorado su nivel de educacion?
- 1- Ha mejorado muchísimo
 - 2- Ha mejorado algo
 - 3- Ha mejorado muy poco
 - 4- No ha mejorado nada
- 24- Desde que es madre de crianza, cómo ha aumentado la ganancia de dinero para la familia entera?
- 1- Ha aumentado muchísimo
 - 2- Ha aumentado algo
 - 3- Es igual que antes
 - 4- Es menor que antes

APPENDIX B
INFORMED CONSENT

Informed Consent

The study that I am inviting you to participate in intends to explore the relationship you and your spouse or husband or companion, as affected by the foster care services provision. This study is conducted by a M.S.W. student Mario Copenhagen under the supervision of Dr. Ray Liles, assistant professor at California State University San Bernardino, Department of Social Work. The Department of Social Work Sub-Committee Institutional Review Board of California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) has approved the study. The study I am asking you to participate in intends to explore the relationship between the foster care service and the marital relationship of foster mothers.

In the present study, I am asking you to complete a marital redefinition scale (COPE). This scale will be focused around your personal relationship, cultural background and the impact that the foster care service may have brought in your life.

Please be assured that any information you provide will be held in strict confidence by the researcher. At no time will your name be reported. Also, be assured that you may withdraw of this study at any time. The Department of Children and Family Services will not know whether you participated or not. All the data collected will be analyzed with the only purpose of expanding the knowledge around the issues of foster care.

At the conclusion of the study (after June 2003), you may review a copy of the completed research's results in the California State University of San Bernardino, Pfau Library. For questions or concerns about the study you may contact Dr. Ray Liles, LCSW at (909) 880-5557. Please understand that your participation is voluntary and you may withdraw at any time or you may refuse to answer any question without any penalty.

I (Subject) am consenting to participate. I understand the purpose of this research study. (Please mark an "X" on the line). I am at least 18 years of age.

Mark

Date

Informacion de Consentimiento para los participantes

El estudio que le invito a participar intenta explorar la relación entre usted y su esposo, pareja, compañero y el efecto que tuvo el servicio de crianza de niños en esa relación. Este estudio es conducido por el estudiante de la maestria en trabajo social Mario Copenhagen, bajo la supervisión del Dr. Ray Liles, profesor en la Universidad de California, San Bernardino, Departamento de trabajo social. La institución del tribunal de revisión de la Universidad de California, San Bernardino (CSUSB), ha aprobado este estudio. El estudio que le pido participar intenta explorar la relación entre el servicio de crianza infantil y la relación matrimonial de la madre de crianza.

En este presente estudio, le pido completar la escala marital (COPE). Esta escala focalizará aspectos acerca de su relación personal, cultural, y el impacto que el sistema de crianza pudo haber traído en su vida. Por favor esté segura que la información que me dará, será estrictamente custodiada por mi y se mantendrá confidencial. En ningún momento su nombre será usado. Además, esté segura que usted puede dejar el estudio incompleto en cualquier momento. Toda la información colectada será analizada con el único propósito de expandir el conocimiento acerca del sistema de crianza. Al finalizar el estudio (después de Junio 2003), usted puede revisar una copia completa del resultado en la Universidad de California, San Bernardino, Pfeu Library.

Por alguna pregunta o interés, usted puede comunicarse con California State University San Bernardino – Department of social work, al (909) 880-5800. Por favor, entienda que su participación es voluntaria y que puede dejarla en cualquier momento ó puede no contestar preguntas sin riesgo de ninguna penalidad.

Yo (usted) acepto participar. Yo entiendo el propósito de este estudio.
(Por favor de marcar con una X en la linea). Yo tengo 18 ó más años de edad.

Marca

Fecha

APPENDIX C
DEBRIEFING STATEMENT

Debriefing Statement

You have just taken part in a study conducted by Mario D. Copenhagen as part of his studies at California State University San Bernardino.

The primary goal of this study is to test the correlation between the foster care service provision and the marital relationship of foster mothers. I will be measuring my hypothesis by using a developed scale of marital redefinition (COPE) in order to analyze the collected data. The intent is to test my hypothesis that the foster mother's marital relationship is redefined by the impact of the foster care services.

You may review the completed results of this study by visiting California State University San Bernardino, Pfau Library. For any questions or concerns, you may contact Dr. Liles, LCSW at (909) 880-5557.

If you have or experience any personal issue that this study has brought about, you may contact a local agency that is available in your community. The following are community agencies that can assist you in Spanish:

- Family Services of Pomona Valley – (909) 620-1776 (sliding scale fees)
- Family Counseling Service – San Gabriel (626) 285-2139
- La Puente Valley Mental Health Center – La Puente (626) 961-8971
- Options/The Family Center - Covina (626) 967-5103
- Santa Anita Family Service – Covina (626) 966-1755
- Bilingual Family Counseling Services – Ontario (909) 986-7111 (Sliding fees)

Please, do not discuss the nature of this study with any of your foster mother friends or relatives because I will maintain the information strictly confidential and it will only be used for the purpose of this study.

Aclaracion para los participantes

Usted ha tomado parte en el estudio conducido por Mario Copenhaguen como parte de de sus estudios en la Universidad de San Bernardino de California. El principal objetivo de este estudio es explorar la co-relacion entre el servicio de crianza infantil y la relación matrimonial de la madre de crianza.

Intentare probar la hipotesis mediante la escala de redifinision matrimonial COPE, para analizar los datos obtenidos. El objetivo es probar la hipotesis de que madres de criaza ven su relacion matrimonial o de pareja redefinida.

Toda la información colectada será analizada con el único propósito de expandir el conocimiento acerca del sistema de crianza. Al finalizar el estudio (despues de Junio 2003), usted puede revisar una copia completa del resultado en la Universidad de California, San Bernardino, Pfeu Library.

Por alguna pregunta o interés, usted puede comunicarse con California Sate University San Bernardino – Department of social work, al (909) 880-5800. Por favor, entienda que su participación es voluntaria y que puede dejarla en cualquier momento ó puede no contestar preguntas sin riesgo de ninguna penalidad.

- Family Services of Pomona Valley – (909) 620-1776 (sliding scale fees)
- Family Counseling Service – San Gabriel (626) 285-2139
- La Puente Valley Mental Health Center –La Puente (626) 961-8971
- Options/The Family Center - Covina (626) 967-5103
- Santa Anita Family Service – Covina (626) 966-1755
- Bilingual Family Counseling Services – Ontario (909) 986-7111 (Sliding fees)

Por favor de no discutir la naturaleza de este estudio con ninguna otra madre de crianza o familiares, porque esta informacion es estrictament confidencial y sera usada unicamente para el proposito de este estudio.

APPENDIX D
FREQUENCY TABLES

Marital satisfaction before foster

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	very unsatisfied	7	23.3	23.3	23.3
	somewhat unsatisfied	3	10.0	10.0	33.3
	somewhat satisfied	9	30.0	30.0	63.3
	Very satisfied	11	36.7	36.7	100.0
	Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Marital satisfaction after foster

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	very unsatisfied	5	16.7	16.7	16.7
	somewhat unsatisfied	2	6.7	6.7	23.3
	somewhat satisfied	4	13.3	13.3	36.7
	very satisfied	19	63.3	63.3	100.0
	Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Marital dependence before foster

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very independent	6	20.0	20.0	20.0
	Somewhat independent	9	30.0	30.0	50.0
	Somewhat dependent	5	16.7	16.7	66.7
	Very dependent	10	33.3	33.3	100.0
	Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Marital dependence after foster

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	very independent	17	56.7	56.7	56.7
	somewhat independent	6	20.0	20.0	76.7
	somewhat dependent	3	10.0	10.0	86.7
	Very dependent	4	13.3	13.3	100.0
	Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Marital changes before foster

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	all the time	3	10.0	10.0	10.0
	often	2	6.7	6.7	16.7
	sometimes	7	23.3	23.3	40.0
	Never	18	60.0	60.0	100.0
	Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Marital changes after foster

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	all the time	6	20.0	20.0	20.0
	often	4	13.3	13.3	33.3
	sometimes	7	23.3	23.3	56.7
	never	13	43.3	43.3	100.0
	Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Before fostering out home activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	all the time	2	6.7	6.7	6.7
	frequently	6	20.0	20.0	26.7
	very few	13	43.3	43.3	70.0
	never	9	30.0	30.0	100.0
	Total	30	100.0	100.0	

After fostering out home activities

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	all the time	10	33.3	33.3	33.3
	frequently	9	30.0	30.0	63.3
	very few	7	23.3	23.3	86.7
	never	4	13.3	13.3	100.0
	Total	30	100.0	100.0	

Correlations

		after fostering happyness	before fostering happiness
after fostering happynes	Pearson Correlation	1	.499(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.005
	N	30	30
before fostering happyness	Pearson Correlation	.499(**)	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.005	.
	N	30	30

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Correlations

		Before fostering emotional dependency	after fostering emotional dependency
before fostering emotional dependency	Pearson Correlation	1	.081
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.672
	N	30	30
after fostering emotional dependency	Pearson Correlation	.081	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.672	.
	N	30	30

Correlations

		marital satisfaction before foster	marital satisfaction after foster
marital satisfaction before foster	Pearson Correlation	1	.509(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.004
	N	30	30
marital satisfaction after foster	Pearson Correlation	.509(**)	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004	.
	N	30	30

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Correlations

		marital satisfaction before foster	marital satisfaction after foster
marital satisfaction before foster	Pearson Correlation	1	.509(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.004
	N	30	30
marital satisfaction after foster	Pearson Correlation	.509(**)	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004	.
	N	30	30

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Marriage status before	11.948	29	.000	1.3000	1.0775	1.5225
Marriage status after	13.321	29	.000	1.2667	1.0722	1.4611

Paired Samples Statistics

		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	before fostering emotional dependency	1.73	30	.91	.17
	after fostering emotional dependency	2.57	30	1.19	.22
Pair 2	before fostering out home activities	2.97	30	.89	.16
	after fostering out home activities	2.17	30	1.05	.19

Paired Samples Correlations

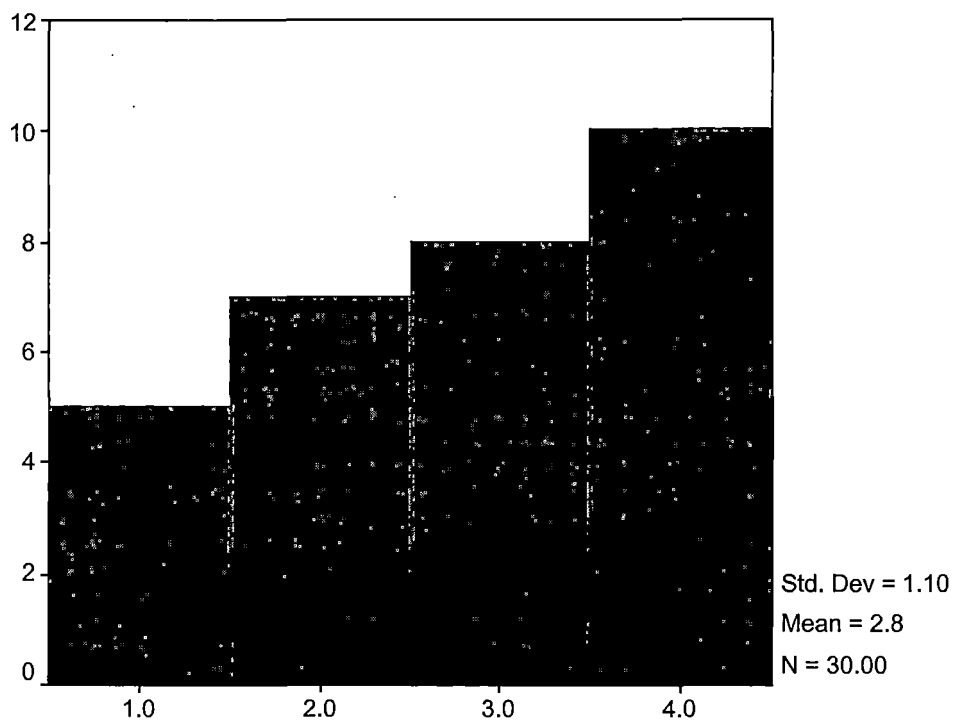
		N	Correlation	Sig.
Pair 1	before fostering emotional dependency & after fostering emotional dependency	30	.081	.672
Pair 2	before fostering out home activities & after fostering out home activities	30	.374	.042

Paired Samples Test

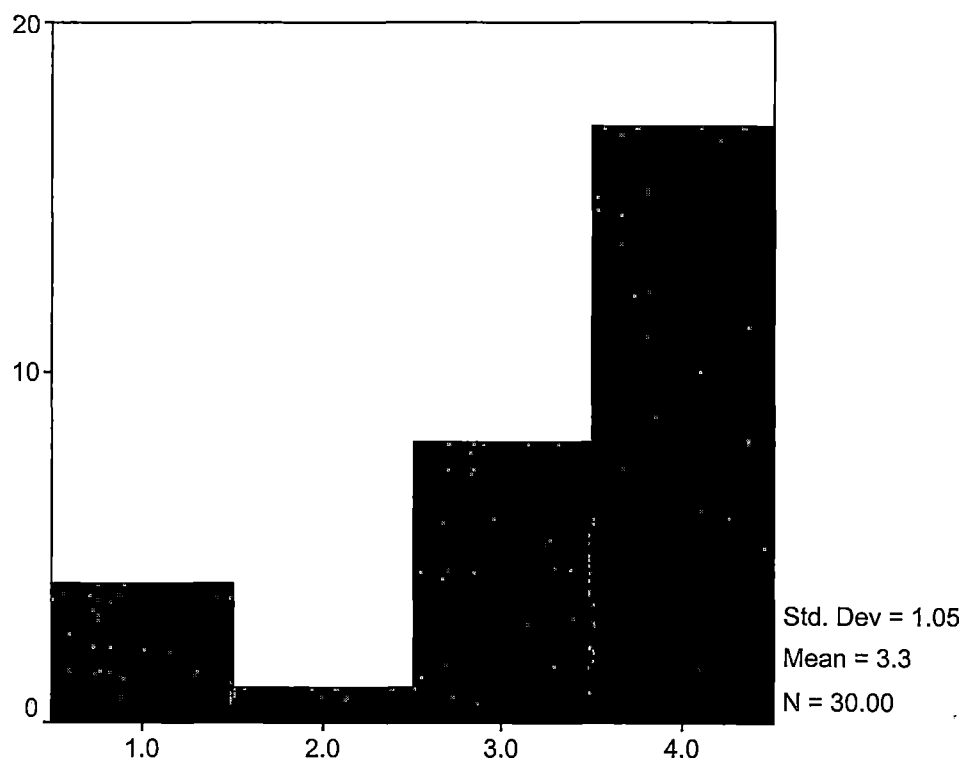
		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	before fostering emotional dependency - after fostering emotional dependency	-.83	1.44	.26	-1.37	-.30	-3.169	29	.004
Pair 2	before fostering out home activities - after fostering out home activities	.80	1.10	.20	.39	1.21	4.000	29	.000

APPENDIX E

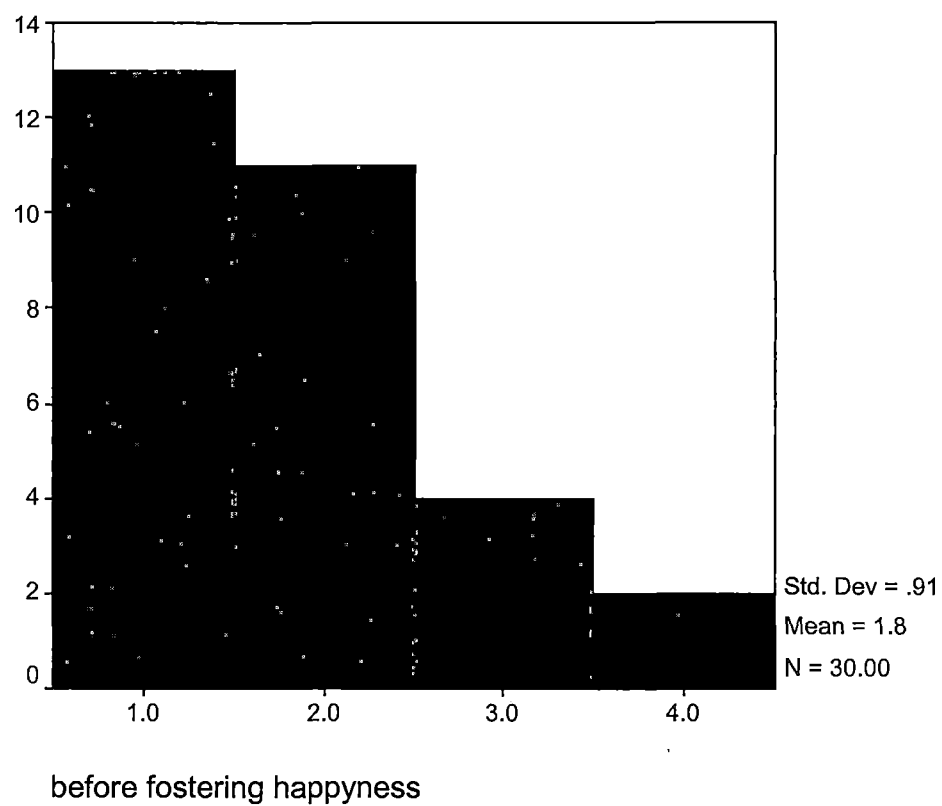
GRAPHICS

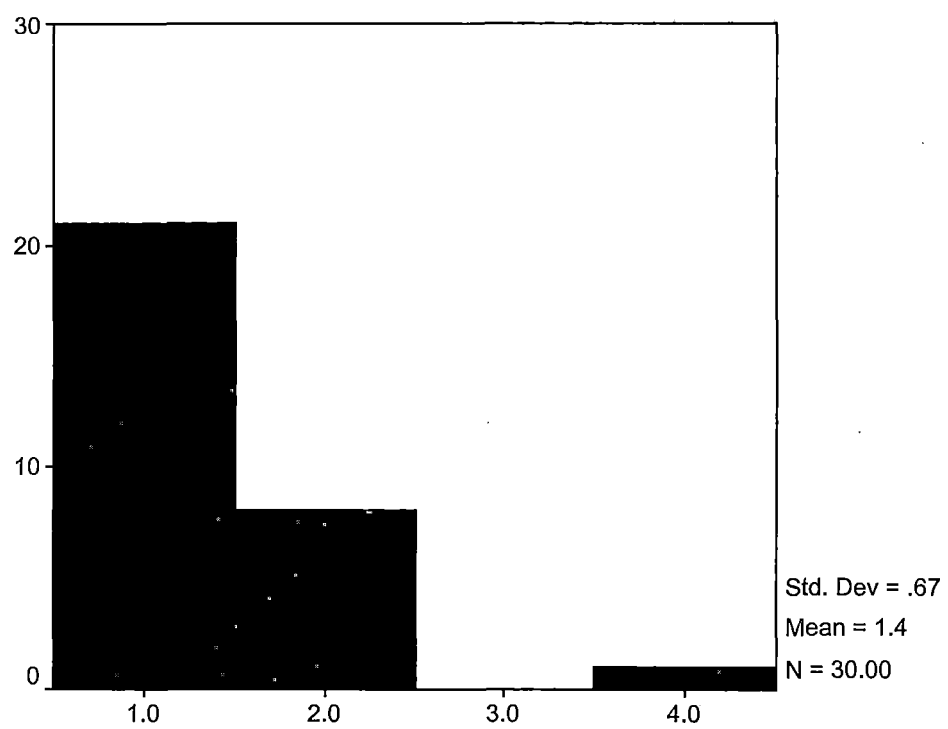


before fostering marital satisfaction

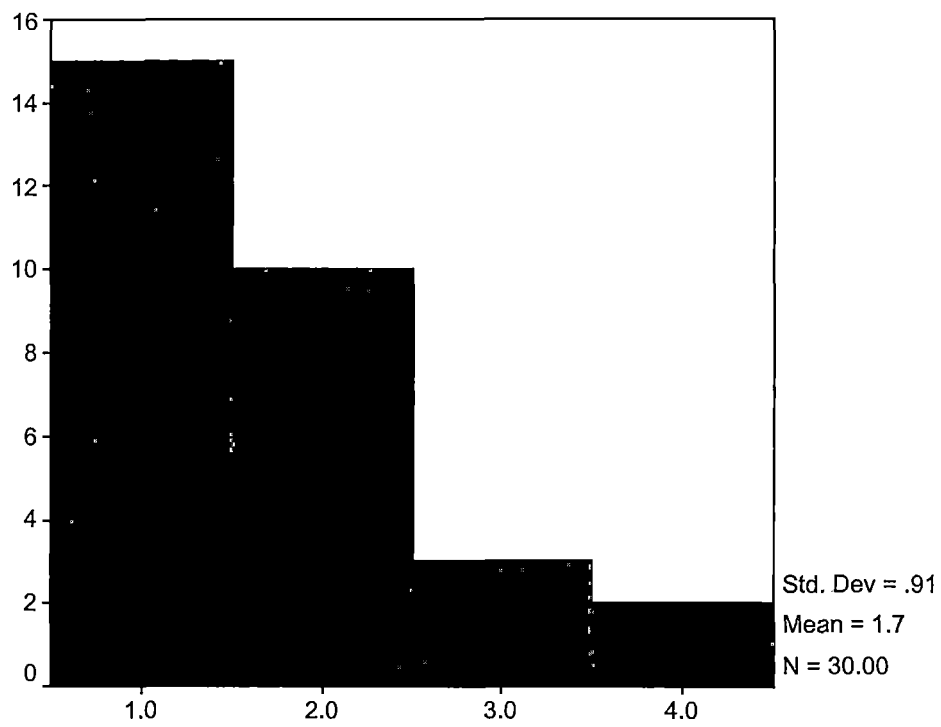


after fostering marital satisfaction

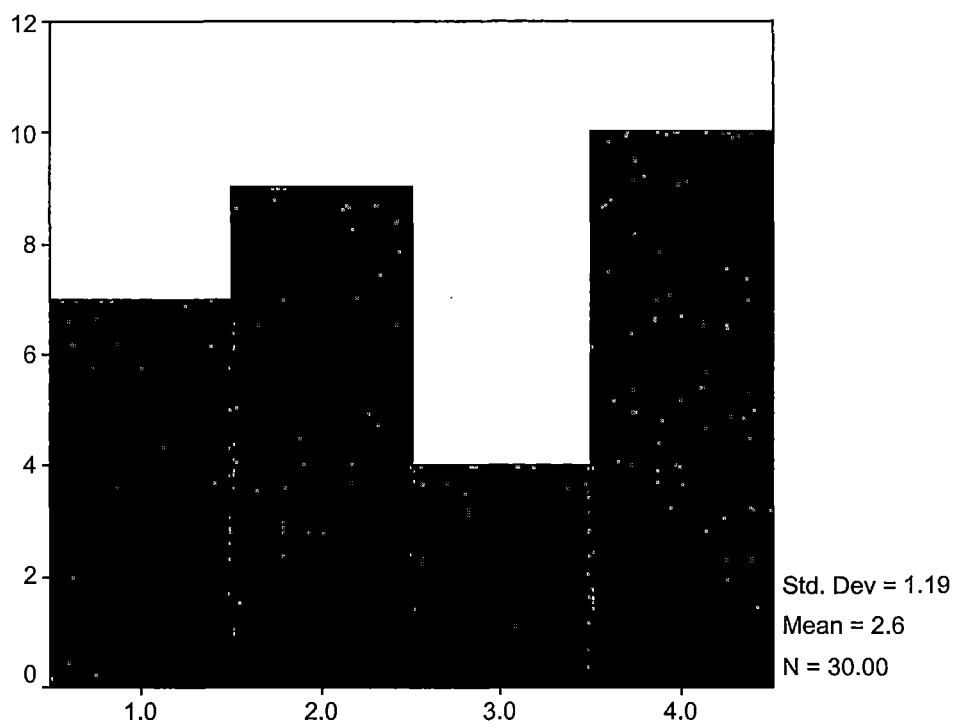




after fostering happyynes



before fostering emotional dependency



after fostering emotional dependency

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