#### DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 062 670

CG 007 216

AUTHOR TITLE

NOTE

Lunneborg, Patricia; Rosenwood, Linda W.

Need Affiliation and Achievement: Declining Sex

Differences.

INSTITUTION REPORT NO PUB DATE

Washington Univ., Seattle. Bureau of Testing.

BT-P-210 Apr 72 13p.

EDRS PRICE

MF-\$0.65 HC-\$3.29

DESCRIPTORS \*Achievement Need; \*Affiliation Need; Aspiration;

Behavioral Science Research; Females; Goal

Orientation; Males; Motivation; \*Needs; Psychological

Needs; \*Sex (Characteristics); \*Sex Differences;

Social Attitudes: Status Need

#### ABSTRACT

This study sought to replicate one in Bardwick's 1971 "Psychology of Women" which found that women were strictly interpersonal and affiliative. The expectation was that the traditional stereotypes of affiliative females and achievement-oriented males would not be as strong today as most people believe. Subjects were 465 college students who responded anonymously to a brief prospective survey for which a coding-by-example scheme was developed by the Burgau of Testing to measure need affiliation and need achievement. Of four chi square tests of differences between the sexes in the two needs under two stimulus conditions, only one reached significance, although all differences were in line with traditional expectations. It was concluded that six-stereotypes in regard to these needs are changing in the college population both by men becoming more concerned with interpersonal relationships and women with pride in school and work. The coding instructions and examples are appended for use by other researchers. (BW)

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Bureau of Testing
University of Washington
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Bureau of Testing Project: 210

Need Affiliation and Achievement: Declining Sex Differences

Patricia W. Lunneborg and Linda W. Rosenwood

Prominent researchers in the psychology of women continue to stress the importance of need affiliation and the secondary role which achievement needs play in the lives of American women. Horner (1970) feels that individual achievement and femininity continue to be viewed as two desirable but mutually exclusive ends. She cites the lower proportion of women college graduates today as compared to the past and the declining numbers of professional women. She posits that the real barrier to female achievement is a psychological one, the motive to avoid success. If a woman achieves, says Horner, she more than anything else expects social rejection as a negative consequence. This threat to her affiliative needs includes fear of being socially rejected, fear of losing one's friends or one's marriageability, fear of isolation or loneliness as a result of In contrast, successful achievement in men leads to their expecting increased satisfaction of affiliation needs. One could certainly hypothesize on the basis of Horner's observations that there would be greater concern with affiliation than with achievement in most samples of women surveyed.

Bardwick (1971) similarly says college men are preoccupied primarily with achievement and secondarily with affiliation, but that in college women affiliative motives are dominant and achievement motives secondary. Indeed, she says that until women become completely secure in their family (affiliative) relationships, they are not psychologically free to pursue work achievements. She contends women perceive the world in interpersonal terms and value themselves only insofar as they are loved by others.

Bardwick cites an informal study to prove her point in which she asked female college students what would make them happiest and what made them sad or angry. She reports that she was surprised that this highly educated group gave entirely interpersonal responses. Things that would make them happy were to marry, to have children, to make others happy. Things that would make them sad or angry were rejection by others, death or illness of someone specific. She contended that not one girl in the university gave an achievement type response to these questions, not one said school or occupational success would be a source of joy or sadness (p. 160).

The present study sought to replicate Bardwick's brief projective survey using college men as well as college women. The expectation was that these traditional stereotypes of affiliative females and achievement-oriented males would not be as strong today as most people, apparently including psychologists, believe. Schaeffer (1971), in commenting on a study of job values and desires which had found that males wanted power and profit and females wanted to help other people, pointed out this same study gave evidence of changing mores—of the cultural stereotypes regarding the sexes giving way to more humanistic expectations in regard to work. He warned that the present-day upheaval of sex-typed behaviors may have changed the variables assessed in this research done in the 1950s. While males today might be more humanistic (affiliative), women would be expected to show the influence of the women's liberation movement which is antipathetic to the "youth culture" and stresses striving, working, studying (Time, 1972).

#### Procedure

Subjects consisted of 465 college students (279 males, 186 females) tested in undergraduate psychology classes as part of their subject-in-experiments requirements. A one-page H-A-S (Happy-Angry-Sad) survey contained Bardwick's questions, "What would make you happy?", "What makes you angry?" and "What makes you sad?" in addition to biographic items to secure major, class standing, sex, age, and employment status. The only biographic item of interest was sex, but it was embedded in the others to disguise the purpose of testing. Responses were otherwise given anonymously. Male and female student experimenters together read the instructions and collected the surveys on which subjects spent 5 minutes. When results of the study were later fed back to the classes, no subject reported having guessed the variables of real interest.

Fifty cases from an original 515 were randomly drawn for use in developing a scoring-by-example scheme. Using the definitions of n aff and n ach given in Bardwick's book, examples were drawn from these 50 cases to illustrate to raters what constituted scorable responses. Sad and angry responses were combined so that for each subject the rater was looking for the presence or absence of the two needs under just two conditions, happy and sad/angry. Each subject thus received four scores, a one or a zero for need affiliation, happy and sad/angry, and for need achievement, happy and sad/angry. Agreement between raters both of whom scored without knowledge of S's sex was 95.5%. One rater was the first author who had developed the scoring scheme; the other rater was a naive testing clerk who had no information about the study.

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The rating examples contained both examples of scorable responses and unscorable responses for each of the four scores. Happy examples of affiliation included "family," "dates," "to have those I love be happy." Not happy examples of affiliation included "people" (too general), "sex," "self-respect," "being appreciated" (doesn't say by whom or for what). Similarly, sad/angry examples of he affiliation motive were any reference to people close to the subject such as friends and parents, besides such words as "feeling left out," "isolation," "having people I love be sick," "when I hurt someone close to me." Not sad/angry examples were general references to death and loss; to qualify for need affiliation the response had to refer to important people is S's life. Thus, unscorable were "people being mad at me," "being taken advantage of," "hurting people," "losing." The example lists were expanded somewhat after the study, adding responses given by the subjects, and are given in Appendix 1.

#### Results

Of four chi square tests of differences between the sexes in the two needs under the two conditions, only one reached significance (< .01 level), that for affiliation-happy to which 46% of the females gave scorable responses compared with 29% of the males, in line with traditional expectations. The actual frequencies were as follows: affiliation-happy, 82/279 males, 85/186 females; affiliation-sad angry, 94/279 males, 75/186 females; achievement-happy, 122/279 males, 67/186 females; achievement-sad/angry, 78/279 males, 37/186 females. Thus tendencies were observed where the chi-squares were insignificant (> .05 level) for greater affiliation motive in college women and greater achievement motive in college men. However, such tendencies are a far cry from Bardwick's extreme findings.

As is obvious from the above frequencies, Ss gave lots of other kinds of responses than affiliation and achievement. What did make these college men and women happy, sad, and angry? The bulk of their responses were like those which outweighed power, leadership, profit, and fame in the study of job values on which Schaeffer (1971) commented. Even in the 1950s male subjects valued most jobs which led to self-expression and females valued self-expression above security and "helping other people." Today as well, typical sources of happiness in both sexes were internal and had to do with finding one's identity, defining personal goals, growing in self-acceptance and self-awareness. Typical sources of anger and sadness, again for both sexes, were external--war, pollution, poverty, injustice, overpopulation, ignorance. A common type of achievement response was one which actually is a fusion of both motives, that is, the person would be happiest if he could be good at helping other people, "a rewarding career where I can help others."

But in regard to the relative presence of need affiliation and need achievement in the sexes today, this study presents evidence of the breakdown of sex-stereotypes. Important is the lack of statistical significance to three out of the four differences which were in the direction of greater achievement in males and greater affiliation in females. It would thus be more accurate for psychologists to describe college men and women as currently both possessing these needs, with men becoming more concerned with loving and close interpersonal relationships and women more concerned with pride in school and work achievement.

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## Appendix 1

# Clerk's Instructions for Coding H-A-S Surveys

Each survey gets four scores, a zero or a one, for finding or not need affiliation and need achievement under two conditions: happy and sad-angry. It is possible that some surveys will receive a zero for all four scores. It is also possible that a survey will get points for all four needs. Record I point if the need is present, zero if it is not.

Read through the examples and memorize the definitions of affiliation and achievement as they relate to the happy examples. Score the entire batch of surveys of these two needs under HAPPY first. Then read through the examples and definitions of aff and ach as they relate to the sad and angry examples. Then score the entire pool of surveys again for these two needs under SAD AND ANGRY.

Examples of responses under happy which would get 1 point for affiliation and 1 point for achievement:

To get a good job with enough money to have a stable, happy family Again, 1 point for aff and 1 for ach under sad:

To lose a good friend, doing poorly in school

Even when answers are flip such as "to be President of the US," score if possible -- this example would be ach.

# Affiliation motive

Refers to S's need to acquire love and to give love, familial love, love of people outside the family, heterosexual affiliation; the need to establish a loving, intimate relationship, to love and be loved; any mention of or reference to friends or family get scores, e.g., if "my wife had a baby."

#### HAPPY EXAMPLES

Roommate Family Friends Being with people I like Girls, girlfriends; a chick; my chick Someone to care for who also cares for me Knowing someone cares about me To meet a couple of people here that would be willing to let me know them Love Marriage Companionship Affection Security in love, home To be with the person I love Dates Good relationships

### NOT HAPPY EXAMPLES

People Being with people Security (source unidentified) Friendly people Friendliness Meeting new people People being happy Good company Belonging to groups **Parties** Sex Self-respect (self-love not affiliative love) To be secure and stable (personal security, not interpersonal security A phone call (too general) Feeling some personal success (too general) Positive reinforcement

Being with my husband and other friends Being with people I like Being successful in personal relationships Getting along with others Being desired by others Being a likeable person Being understood by those close to me Making other people happy To have those I love be happy Laking and sharing in the happiness of others People trusting me and letting me trust them in return A certain someone to call Meeting a groovy person To feel wanted

Negative reinforcement A warm female body A competent lover Others sharing my interests (no reference to relationship) Being treated right Being understood Being appreciated To be accepted for what I am Understanding and love toward one another (general, abstract, not S's wish to love or be loved) "If man would come to understand his neighbors and accept them as humans" (another abstract example) Realizing my full potential Bringing my sisters and brothers to love Christ

### Achievement motive

Refers to S's desire to do something independent of others, according to some criterion of excellence; refers to school work, world of occupations, career achievements; recognition and success for what one does, one's academic or professional role; refers to the wish to succeed in these achievements.

## HAPPY EXAMPLES

Job Money, more money only if earning it is specifically stated Financial security A rewarding career where I can help others Meaningful creative work To do interesting, productive research A responsible part-time job Success Recognition for a job well done; getting a raise Being complimented (not being appreciated); admiration by others If I knew what I wanted to do for my life's work

Working as a nurse
Praise
To be successful
Making up my mind about my career
Learning
To be able to study effectively
Get through school
Doing well academically

#### NOT HAPPY EXAMPLES

ERIC

"Getting some kind of revelation to know where I'm headed for' Finding my place in the world Fulfillment of my needs Self-appreciation Material possessions unless tied up to notion of earning them Nice home, nice car, etc. Doing my own thing Becoming the best person I can (personal not ach-oriented) Working at things I like (note generality) No money problems To have the ability to communicate Getting out of this place (as opposed

An "A" in psychology Good grades Solving a difficult problem To cool all of my classes Being smart To be brilliant without effort To be intelligent To create Achievement of a goal Accomplishing To be able to help someone Doing something useful with my life Fulfillment of my ambitions Helping those in need Doing something that makes other people feel good A sense of belonging to something of importance To be an independent, achieving person Becoming a good driver within the year Economic independence Helping others especially makes me happy To be able to eliminate as much injustice as possible from treatments of juvenile delinquents

To get out of college

Learning more about myself Being appreciated Knowledge, peace, understanding (personal, not job-linked) Getting the classes I want Money, more money Know what I'm doing in school Know where I'm going in life Feeling some personal success (too general) Positive reinforcement Negative reinforcement If I could make it to all of my classes all week To be caught up with homework Power (unless earned) Being myself

# Affiliation motive

Refer<sup>s</sup>to S's need to acquire love and to give love, familial love, love of people outside the family and to the possibility of losing love, being rejected, losing a loved one, being alone and separated from loving ones, parting from friends.

### SAD AND ANGRY EXAMPLES

Family Mother, father, husband, wife boyfriend, girlfriend, parents, roommate--any reference to people close to S such as "my husband being unable to discuss things" or "my overprotective parents" or "my boyfriend mad at me" Feeling left out Feeling I don't matter to anyone Loneliness Isolation Separation; saying "goodbye" Being alone Rejection, alienation; turned down by a chick Being stood up Not getting enough contact with human beings Thinking about people I know and never see anymore Having people I love be sick Being away from people I love

To see people die\* Death of my father Losing someone\* When I miss someone\* Not being loved, liked People who make no attempt to understand me\* Being let down by a friend When someone I like puts me down Things that hurt people I like or love or am close to When I hurt someone close to me (not just anyone) When someone I know is sad When people I know get hurt Finding myself incapable of loving a person who so deserves it Meeting chicks w/boy friends (said by male) My relationships w/other people don't always satisfy me Not being able to be w/people I'd like to be with

\*These are exceptions to the rule that people must be close to S; seeing people die is very intimate just as "understanding" S is deeper than underestimating him.

# NOT SAD AND ANGRY EXAMPLES

Losing
Death, sickness (if someone dies)
Narrowmindedness of some people,
inability to see things my way
Remarks against myself or things
I like
People underestimating me
People being mad at me
When people are hurt and don't
deserve it
Sad faces; when someone else is sad
What is going on between people and
myself
When I can't communicate with others

Being taken advantage of
Hurting somebody's feelings
Hurting people
Heartless feelings toward others
Backstabbers
People refusing to help others
Not being understood
Personal inability (too general)
Feeling lost and incomplete and insignificant (too general)
Being stagnant--nonprogressive (too general)
Being married
Being hurt

To be scorable: References must be to important people in S's life; "some people" is too general, anyone is unscorable. Person must be close to S.

## Achievement motive

Refers to S's desire to do something independent of others according to some criterion of excellence and thus to not succeeding in academics, work, career, to not being recognized for one's accomplishments, to failure in achievement area, to fear of failure in ach; must refer to S's failure (not fear of failure or failure in others)

#### SAD AND ANGRY EXAMPLES

Studying in vain for hours Not getting answers correct on a test when I know them When I do poor on a test A low grade on a test When I don't get my projects done Not being able to study Wasting my time Worrying about grades When I get behind Not doing what I am supposed to do Copping out Failure To lose Losing When I make stupid mistakes; when something wrong about me is pointed out My weaknesses; knowing that I myself have many weaknesses to overcome Inability to explain (not communicate) Inability to cope with a situation; being caught in a situation from which there is no immediate escape or solution

A feeling of complete helplessness Being denied something I have earned or deserve When I let myself down Not being able to help someone who obviously needs it Pain in others that I can do nothing to help Not getting anywhere Not able to get a job; not being really into some field Inability to accomplish certain objectives . Wanting to do something I am not physically ready for Being unable to help someone who depends on you When others I'm just as good as are doing better Unsolved problems Not understanding explanations Being a neurotic housewife who just watches TV Having my time filled with things or people I consider a waste

### NOT SAD AND ANGRY EXAMPLES

a chance of

Failure to understand myself Helplessness (too general) Tests No money, not enough money When I lost things; losing something meaningful (too general) incompetence (must be S's) Desire to make money Anything I cannot get Being treated as not competent (hasn't failed) Being told I can't understand something Defeat of others I see around me When I can't communicate with others, say what I want Being discriminated against at work

Losing something I should have had

Criticism Frustration in classes (too vague) Time-consuming busywork Thought I may not be following best path thru life (what kind) Realization things in life aren't what you want Other people's bragging Selfishness Poverty Grade hassles (too general) Personal ability (too general) Feeling lost and incomplete and insignificant (too general) Being stagnant--nonprogressive (too general)