

## ASSOCIATION BETWEEN WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION AND THEIR FERTILITY AND BETWEEN EMANCIPATION AND OTHER VARIABLES

Elma S. Herradura

This was a sub-study done on data gathered from four areas in Iloilo; an agricultural community (Lambunao); a fishing community (Estancia); a semi-industrial community (Passi) and a "services" community (Iloilo City). The data were obtained from questionnaires accomplished in connection with the fertility studies funded by the Aboitiz Foundation, at Central Philippine University, in 1977.

Though this sub-study was made mainly to determine the association between women's degree of emancipation and their fertility (number of pregnancies), it was also an attempt to compare the degree of emancipation of women of different ages, SES, level of schooling, and place of residence.

An emancipated woman in this study is one who has "a mind of her own." She has confidence in her competence and in the quality of her ideas, so she feels free to voice her opinions and feelings.

To determine the degree of emancipation of the women, their responses to the following questions were rated. These ratings were then added to get an emancipation score.

**Item 10.17** Important decisions involving family problems should be made by

- A. The father, as head of the family.
- B. Both the father and mother in consultation

If the respondent agrees completely that the decision be made only by the father, she is given 0 point. If she agrees with it only partially, she is given 1 point. If she agrees completely that the decision should be made by both father and mother in consultation, she gets 3 points; if only partially, she gets 2 points.

**Item 10.29** If a girl's parents object to her marriage to one whom they do not like,

- A. the young couple should get married just the same (if they are not minors.)
- B. the girl should obey her parents.

If the respondent completely agrees that the young couple should get married (Alternative A), she gets 3 points; if she partially agrees with it she gets only 2. If she completely agrees that the girl should obey her parents (Alternative B), she gets 0; if she agrees only partly with Alternative B, she gets 1 point.

**Item 10.a9** I can talk about national issues perhaps with more insight than other women I know.

If the R (respondent) says this is "de-

finitely true" in her case, she gets 3; if it is only "true", she gets 2 points. If she says such a statement is "not true," she gets 1; but if she says "definitely not true", she gets 0. A woman who takes active interest in and discusses national issues is likely to be one who is independent-minded and has broad interests beyond the family concerns; these are taken as marks of an emancipated woman.

Item 10.a 15 I usually don't hesitate to openly express my personal opinions in conversation/discussions.

If the R says it is "definitely true" that she does not hesitate to openly express her personal opinions, she gets 3 points; if she says "true" to this statement, she is given 2. If she says "not true", she gets 1; if she says "definitely not true", she gets 0.

Item 11.11 When choosing a husband/wife, one should in the order of importance

- A. follow the parent's advice
- B. get the approval of immediate relatives
- C. decide for himself/herself.

If the R ranks Alternative C first, she gets 3 points, if she ranks it second, she gets 2; if she ranks it third, she gets 1 point.

Table 1 gives the statistics on the emancipation scores of women in the three community groups. The barrio women obtained a median of 8.18, with SE of .195; their parameter median lies between 7.76 and 8.57.\* The town women had a higher median (9.14) than did the barrio group. The SE of the town group being .21, their parameter median lies between 8.73 and 9.55. The city

group obtained the highest median, 9.67. With SE of .25, their parameter median is estimated between 9.18 and 10.16.

The difference of .96 between the barrio and town women was significant (CR=3.39). The bigger difference of 1.49 between barrio and city yielded a CR of 4.73. But the difference of .53 between the town and city groups yielded a CR of only 1.65. The town and city women did not differ very much in emancipation and egalitarianism; both groups were more emancipated than their barrio sisters.

TABLE I  
STATISTICS ON EMANCIPATION SCORES  
OF WOMEN IN THREE TYPES OF  
COMMUNITIES

	Barrio	Town	City
No.	174	171	115
Mean	8.2	9.0	9.6
S.D.	2.05	2.15	2.11
S.E. <sub>m</sub>	.16	.16	.20
Median	8.18	9.14	9.67
Difference between Medians	.96	.53	1.19*
C.R.	3.36	1.65	4.73*
S.E. <sub>med</sub>	0.195	0.206	0.247
Estimates of Parameter Medians	7.76-8.57	8.73-9.55	9.18-10.16

\* between city and barrio groups

\* at the .95 level of confidence. This means that the odds are 95 to 1 in favor of the conclusion that the population median is between the two limits reported. These limits were determined with the use of the formula  $Med + SE_{med}$ . Only these limits and the  $SE_{med}$  are reported in the text and tables, not the product of  $1.96 \times SE_{med}$ .

Table II gives the statistics on the emancipation scores of the three age groups. The younger group had the highest median (9.32), with S.E. of .34. Their parameter median is estimated between 8.65 and 9.99. The middle group ranked second in emancipation scores. With their median 8.98 and S.E. of .19, their parameter median is between 8.61 and 9.35. The older group's median of 8.82 and S.E. of .19 place their parameter median between 8.45 and 9.19.

The difference of .34 between the younger and middle groups yielded a CR of .87. The difference of .16 between the middle and older groups gave a CR of only .59, while the difference of .50 between the older and younger groups resulted in a CR of 1.28.

TABLE II  
STATISTICS ON EMANCIPATION SCORES  
OF WOMEN IN THREE AGE GROUPS

	Younger	Middle	Older
No.	64	202	194
Mean	9.1	9.0	8.6
S.D.	2.19	2.16	2.16
S.E. <sub>m</sub>	.27	.15	.16
Median	9.32	8.98	8.82
Difference between Medians	.34	.16	.50*
C.R.	.872	.59	1.28
S.E. <sub>med</sub>	0.343	0.190	0.194
Estimates of Parameter Medians	8.65-9.99	8.61-9.35	8.45-9.19

\* Between Older and Younger groups.

Age did not seem to be related to the degree of the women's emancipation.

Table III gives the statistics on the emancipation scores of the three SES groups. The low SES group obtained a median of 8.52 and SE of .146; their parameter median lies between 8.23 and 8.81. The median and SE of the middle SES group were 9.54 and .257, thus placing their parameter median between 9.03 and 10.05. The high SES group had a median of 10.8 and SE of .544; their parameter median is estimated between 9.74 and 11.86.

The difference of 1.02 between the low and middle SES groups resulted in a CR of 3.46. Between the middle and high SES groups there was a difference of 1.26 which had a CR of 2.1. A CR

TABLE III  
STATISTICS ON EMANCIPATION SCORES  
OF WOMEN IN THREE SES GROUPS

	Low	Middle	High
No.	326	112	21
Mean	8.6	9.3	10.5
S.D.	2.10	2.17	1.99
S.E. <sub>m</sub>	.12	.20	.43
Median	8.52	9.54	10.8
Difference between Medians	1.02	1.26	2.28*
C.R.	3.46	2.1	4.07*
S.E. <sub>med</sub>	0.146	0.257	0.544
Estimates of Parameter Medians	8.23-8.81	9.03-10.05	9.74-11.86

\* Between High and Low groups.

of 4.07 was found for the difference of 2.28 between the high and low SES groups. It was clear that as the women rose in socio-economic status, they had more emancipation.

Table IV gives the statistics on emancipation scores of acceptors, non-acceptors, drop-outs and the unawares<sup>1</sup>. The acceptors were the most emancipated

(median = 9.35), followed by the non-acceptors (median = 8.81), then by the drop-outs (median 8.6). The unawares were the least emancipated (median = 6.8). The acceptors' parameter median lies between 8.96 and 9.74. That of the non-acceptors lies between 8.4 and 9.22. The parameter median of the drop-outs is estimated between 8.05 and 9.16; that

TABLE IV  
STATISTICS ON EMANCIPATION SCORES OF  
WOMEN IN FOUR FAMILY PLANNING PRACTICES

	Acceptors	Non-Acceptors	Dropouts	Unawares
No.	164	174	91	31
Mean	9.3	8.7		
S.D.	2.04	2.21	2.12	1.91
S.E. <sub>m</sub>	.16	.16	.22	.34
Median	9.35	8.81	8.6	6.8
Difference between Medians	.54	.21	1.8	2.55
S.E. <sub>med</sub>	0.20	.21	0.28	0.43
Estimates of Parameter Medians	8.96-9.74	8.40-9.22	8.05-9.15	5.96-7.64

Comparison of the Four Groups

Groups being Compared	Acceptors Non-acceptors	Acceptors Dropouts	Acceptors Unawares	Non-acceptors Dropouts	Non-acceptors Unawares	Dropouts Unawares
Difference between Medians	.54	.75	2.55	.21	2.01	1.8
C.R. of difference between Medians	1.86	2.20	5.425	.6	4.22	3.53

<sup>1</sup>Acceptors are users of family planning methods; non-acceptors are non-users; drop-outs stopped using the methods after some use; and unawares are ignorant of family planning methods.

of the unawares is estimated between 5.96 and 7.64.

Four of the differences between groups were found significant. These were the difference of .75 before the acceptors and the drop-outs (CR = 2.20); the difference of 2.55 between the acceptors and the unawares (CR = 5.425); the difference of 2.01 between the non-acceptors and the unawares; and the difference of 1.8 between the drop-outs and the unawares (CR = 3.53). Three of these significant differences were in comparisons involving the unawares, indicating that the unawares clearly differed from the other groups in degree of emancipation.

The statistics on the emancipation scores of the six educational groups are given in Table V. The group of 67 wo-

men who had college degrees or higher appeared the most emancipated, with a median of 9.95 and SE of .29. Their parameter median lies between 9.38 and 10.52. But as can be seen in Table V, each educational group did not score consistently higher than the group immediately below it, so on the basis of the medians (or of the means), one cannot easily say that as their educational attainment increased, the women became more emancipated. For example, Group 5 got a slightly lower median (9.25) than the group below it (Group 4) which got a median of 9.41. The more surprising figure is the median of Group 1 (8.5). This is the group without any schooling<sup>1</sup>; yet its median is higher than that of Group 2 (7.62) and that of Group 3 (8.13).

TABLE V  
STATISTICS ON EMANCIPATION SCORES OF  
WOMEN IN SIX EDUCATIONAL LEVELS

	1	2	3	4	5	6
No.	10	68	195	93	27	67
Mean	8.4	7.7	8.8	9.16	8.6	10.00
S.D.	1.42	2.05	2.12	2.17	2.15	1.91
S.E. <sub>m</sub>	.45	.25	.152	.225	.414	.233
Median	8.5	7.62	8.13	9.41	9.25	9.95
S.E. <sub>med</sub>	0.56	0.311	0.190	0.282	0.518	0.292
Estimates of Parameter Medians	7.41-9.59	7.01-8.23	8.36-9.10	8.86-9.96	8.23-10.27	9.38-10.52

<sup>1</sup>Probably the ten women who had had no schooling at all comprised a group too small to yield a median score truly indicative of their emancipation. (Ten is much smaller than the next smallest group, Group 5, which was composed of 27; the biggest group, Group 3 had 195). Or the ten women could have been the more emancipated of their group, hence audacious enough to agree to be interviewed despite their being unschooled.

The parameter median of Group 1 lies between 7.41 and 9.59; that of Group 2 between 7.01 and 8.23; that of Group 3 between 8.36 and 9.10; that of Group 4 between 8.86 and 9.96 and that of Group 5 between 8.23 and 10.27.

Despite the fact that each succeeding educational group did not consistently get higher emancipation scores, the analysis of variance did reveal an F of 9.48

(almost three times the required F for 5/400 df) on the emancipation scores of the six groups. The Duncan Multiple Range Test was applied in order to find out between which groups were the differences significant. Of the  $RP_2$  differences, only the difference of 1.04 between Group 5 and Group 2 approximated the value required for significance at the .05 level of significance. Of the

RESULTS OF DUNCAN MULTIPLE RANGE TEST APPLIED TO  
MEANS OF EMANCIPATION SCORES OF THE SIX  
EDUCATIONAL GROUPS

Educational Group	6	4	3	1	5	2
$\bar{X}$	10	9.16	8.76	8.7	8.63	7.69
N	67	93	195	10	27	68

$\bar{N} = 32.79$   
df = 31.79

$SE_m = 0.363$   
With df = 31.79, tabled value for  
 $RP_2 = 2.888$

$RP_2$  COMPARISONS (Critical value for  $RP_2 = 1.0483$ )

Groups Compared	Means being Compared ( $RP_2$ )	Difference	Significance
6 and 4	10 - 9.16	.84	Not S
4 and 3	9.16 - 8.76	.40	Not S
3 and 1	8.76 - 8.7	.06	Not S
1 and 5	8.7 - 8.63	.07	Not S
5 and 2	8.63 - 7.69	1.04	barely S

Tabled Value for  $RP_3 = 3.035$

$RP_3$  COMPARISONS (Critical Value for  $RP_3 = 1.1017$ )

Groups Compared	Means being Compared ( $RP_3$ )	Difference	Significance
6 and 3	10 - 8.76	1.24	S
4 and 1	9.16 - 8.7	.46	Not S
3 and 5	8.76 - 8.63	.13	Not S
1 and 2	8.7 - 7.69	.01	Not S

four  $RP_3$  differences, only the difference of 1.24 between Group 5 and Group 3 was significant. Of the three  $RP_4$  differences, the difference of 1.3 between Group 6 and Group 1 was significant. The two  $RP_5$  and one  $RP_6$  differences were found significant.

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN  
EMANCIPATION AND  
FERTILITY

The multiple correlation was computed to determine the proportion of the variance in fertility that was dependent

upon the extent of the women's emancipation. The  $R^2$  or coefficient of multiple determination obtained was .045, which meant that 4.5% of the variation in fertility was associated with emancipation. Though this is a low  $R^2$ , it indicates a greater association between fertility and emancipation than between fertility and the four cultural factors<sup>1</sup> as perceived by the women, or between fertility and the other psychological variables studied in the main investigation.

Tabled Value for  $RP_4 = 3.131$

$RP_4$  COMPARISONS (Critical Value for  $RP_4 = 1.1366$ )

Groups Compared	Means being Compared ( $RP_4$ )	Difference	Significance
6 and 1	10 - 8.7	1.3	S
4 and 5	9.16 - 8.63	.53	Not S
3 and 2	8.76 - 7.69	1.07	Not S

Tabled Value for  $RP_5 = 3.199$

$RP_5$  COMPARISONS (Critical Value for  $RP_5 = 1.1612$ )

Groups Compared	Means being Compared ( $RP_5$ )	Difference	Significance
6 and 5	10 - 8.63	1.37	S
4 and 2	9.16 - 7.69	1.47	S

Tabled Value for  $RP_6 = 3.250$

$RP_6$  COMPARISONS (Critical Value for  $RP_6 = 1.1798$ )

Groups Compared	Means being Compared ( $RP_6$ )	Difference	Significance
6 and 2	10 - 7.69	2.31	S

<sup>1</sup>The cultural factors studied in the main study were (a) awareness and receptivity of their social environment to birth control beliefs and practices; (b) receptivity of innovations and change; (c) the non-authoritarianism and (d) non-fatalistic tendencies of people around them.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Town and city women had greater emancipation than the barrio women.

2. The higher their socio-economic status, the more emancipated were the women.

3. Age was not associated with the extent of emancipation.

4. Acceptors tended to be more emancipated than any other "practice" groups. The least emancipated were the unawares.

5. The college graduates were more emancipated than the other educational attainment groups. The increase in educational attainment among the non-college graduates was not consistently accompanied by an increase in emancipation.

6. Though more closely associated with fertility than the other psychological variables, emancipation was not a very good predictor of fertility.

## COMMENTS

Conclusions 1, 2, 4 and 5 (its first sentence) are not surprising. Life near the centers of population where there are more and better means of communication and more to communicate, and under conditions that allow greater freedom from the drudgery of physical labor, lends itself to a greater degree of emancipation, as defined in the second paragraph of this report. Though the degree of emancipation was not observed to increase with the increase in years of schooling, the college graduates were seen to be significantly more emancipated than the other groups with less schooling. This fact seems to show that a high level of education, represented by completion

of college work, conduces to a steady degree of emancipation. If a certain level of intelligence is required for completion of college, then it may also be said that level of intelligence is needed for a woman to attain a noticeable degree of emancipation.

The findings of the study seem to point out that if emancipation of women is to be enhanced, for reasons in addition to those of family planning, then factors that nurture intellectual development be promoted — education, effective communications, stimulating environment, leisure for engaging in activities that help them to transcend animal nature.

It should be noted that although degree of emancipation was not shown to be a good predictor of fertility, it had greater association with fertility than did the four cultural factors which were the main variables of the study. These cultural factors had been suggested by earlier studies of a scope bigger than that of the CPU study. The investigator feels that if she had studied this factor with research tools primarily designed to assess emancipation, rather than just using whatever obtained data she identified as getting at emancipation, that the association between this and the focal variable, fertility, might have been found significant.

If such a study revealed a still insignificant association, then one can strongly suspect that psychological variables which have been dealt with in similar fertility studies so far, should be studied together with physiological or biological factors, not by themselves.