A STUDY OF THE STAGES OF MORAL DEVELOPMENT
OF MARRIED COUPLES IN AN ANGLICAN PARISH

by

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ABSTRACT

Using the hierarchy of moral judgement stages developed by Lawrence Kohlberg as a theoretical framework, this study investigated the ways that adults make judgements about moral issues. Specifically examined were differences between the stages of moral development of husbands and wives, older and younger respondents, college and non college educated respondents, church attending and non attending respondents and working and non working women.

Respondents were sixteen married couples randomly selected from the parish list of St. Faith's Anglican Church, Vancouver. Data were collected by means of a structured interview, the Kohlberg Moral Dilemma Interview, Form A. A qualitative analysis of data from the interviews was done so that judgements of respondents could be assigned to stages in the hierarchy of moral judgements. Data were further analyzed using the Mann Whitney U. test, Wilcoxon Matched Pairs and Chi square.

The majority of respondents were found to be at a conventional stage 3 and 4 level of moral judgement with about one quarter able to use principled forms of judgement. Most respondents used a mixture of stage thinking in the resolution of moral dilemmas. Less than one quarter were consistent from stage to stage.

Over all, men and women tended to be at the same stage of moral development but husbands and their non working wives
were found to be at different stages. Husbands were at stage 4 and their wives stage 3. There were no differences between men and working women.

Working women tended to score higher on a test of moral judgement than non-working women. They were also better educated.

Neither age nor church attendance were found to be related to stages of moral development.

Respondents who had completed college scored higher on a test of moral judgement than respondents who had not completed college.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE CHURCH AS MORAL EDUCATOR</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEORETICAL BACKGROUND</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Meaning of Moral</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Meaning of Developmental</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stages of Moral Development</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics of Stages</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HYPOTHESES</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLAN OF THE STUDY</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THREE THEORIES OF MORAL BEHAVIOUR</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Theory</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psycho-analytic Theory</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive-developmental Theory</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH ON ADOLESCENTS</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADULTS</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. METHODOLOGY</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POPULATION AND SAMPLE</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATA COLLECTION</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Instrument</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Interview</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scoring</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATA ANALYSIS</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. ANALYSIS OF DATA</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAGES OF MORAL DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSISTENT AND UNMIXED RESPONSES</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF MEN AND WOMEN</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGE AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATTENDANCE AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORKING STATUS AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEORETICAL BACKGROUND</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESIGN OF THE STUDY</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINDINGS</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCUSSIONS</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMPLICATIONS</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCES</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX A</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX B</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX C</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Distribution of Moral Judgement Types of Couples by Major Stage</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Moral Maturity and Global Scores of Husbands and Wives</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Distribution of Moral Judgement Types by Actual Global Score</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Distribution of Ages of Respondents</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Many of the crises and turning points of adult life involve moral issues. Career change, divorce, child rearing and leisure to name a few, are events that involve issues of the right and the good. But it is not just the so called personal or private issues that can be called moral, even though the usual stereotype of moral issues is that they are interpersonal issues. Many public issues which generate active public debate are moral issues as well. The abolition of capital punishment, abortion on demand, soft drug use and amnesty for war resisters are examples of issues that have stirred the public conscience.

The current Watergate affair highlights a concern for the public and private morality of public officials. Inherent in the scandal is the conflict between loyalty issues and the maintenance of authority issues. The testimony of persons at the Watergate hearing is in fact a public chronical of the ways that people think about moral issues and act on them.

Adults are confronted through the media and in the events of their own lives with a number of moral issues that they must resolve(45). How do they do it? That is, what is the reasoning that people go through in order to resolve moral conflict? What do they consider relevant?
This study was undertaken to consider these questions. Although material has been developed by volunteer organizations like the church for moral education, very little is known about the way that adults in the church make decisions about moral issues. The purpose of the study was essentially exploratory and involved the acquisition of normative data regarding the moral development of married couples in a parish in the Anglican church.

The population was of interest to the writer as an adult educator in the church because one of the basic themes of religious education is moral and values education with adults. Over and above internal concerns, the church has an educational role extending beyond its own membership. As an institution it often finds itself on both sides of a public debate on such issues as abortion, capital punishment, drug use and amnesty. While this is frustrating, it is not surprising that a large institution finds no one simple answer to complex issues. Whatever the issue, it is important that the leadership of the church works on complex moral issues at the most mature level possible and that church adult education programs facilitate that process.

Many shortcomings in the church's programs of moral education can be related to an inadequate treatment of moral theory that fails to appreciate what moral judgement is and a lack of understanding of developmental psychology, which
leads to an ignorance of the ways that people actually make moral judgements (23) or what could reasonably be taught about them (28). This study will investigate the ways that adults in the church think about moral issues so that educational programs can be better implemented (34, 35).

The theory of Lawrence Kohlberg provides an effective model to explore the philosophical considerations inherent in a discussion of moral education and the practical concerns of a developmental psychology. These two foci, philosophical and psychological concerns, are discussed in this chapter in order to set a theoretical background to the study. The section on 'the meaning of moral' deals with the question of what moral discourse is for in human life and what constitutes a moral decision. The writing of Kurt Baier (9) is used to describe a formalist approach to morality which holds that the nature of duty is determined by principles rather than merely consideration of the consequences of action.

The section on the meaning of development lists the criteria by which behaviour change from childhood to adulthood is understood by the cognitive developmental theory of behaviour.

Finally, this discussion of the theoretical background is brought together in a description of Kohlberg's stage theory of moral development. Kohlberg orders moral judgements in a hierarchy of six stages. He suggests that as people grow through various stages from childhood to adulthood, so also in their ability to make moral judgements, they change by stages. These
stages are outlined in the theoretical background.

This model provides a structure in which to understand the ways that adults work on moral decisions and will help the educator clarify his understanding of the function of moral discourse. Data were collected and analyzed regarding some of the factors that influence the way adults work on moral decisions particularly age, sex, schooling and the work status of women.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Many studies of moral behaviour deal with morals from a so called value neutral position. That is, certain values, attitudes and behaviours are catalogued and described with no attempt to evaluate the values beyond a description of what seems to be the consequences if certain values are held. The assumption of formalists like Kohlberg is that certain ways of making moral decisions are better than others and that people can grow or develop in their ability to make moral judgements. This use of the concepts 'moral' and 'developmental' is explained in this section and the characteristics of Kohlberg's stage theory are described.

The Meaning of Moral

A major confusion often arises in sociology and psychology over the use of the term 'moral'. This usually centers around a confusion between cultural and ethical relativism and these two terms are discussed and a definition of the term moral is
In the sociological literature, moral and social development are usually defined as the internalization of the external norms of a given culture. This simply means that people learn what is generally acceptable and socially sanctioned behaviour even if that behaviour is sanctioned only by a subculture of the larger society. It is said that different people behave differently in different cultures or even in the same culture so that behavioural standards are quite relative. What is moral for one is not for another. From this, two statements tend to follow which confuse cultural and ethical relativism.

These are that a) moral principles are culturally variable for there are no standards accepted by all men, and b) such divergence is logically unavoidable because there are no rational principles which could reconcile these observed differences because there are no standards that all men ought to accept.

Statements a) and b) are often taken to mean the same thing, when they do not. It is quite possible to assert the cultural relativist stance that "everyone has his own values" without asserting the ethically relativist stance "everyone ought to have his own values". It is one thing to have a certain ethical opinion and quite another for it to meet standards and norms. In asserting that an ethical opinion needs to meet a standard it is implied that there is some way an ethical opinion could be judged correct other than from one's own relative viewpoint.
Here, one is confronted with a paradox. If presumption is to be avoided, it is necessary to question the arbitrariness of one's own culture and values, to be fair, to be objective. This concern not to impose one's own values or any one value as a universal is itself based upon the universal principle of justice which one holds and expects others to uphold if some kind of rational discussion is to continue. The principle of tolerance, which all cultural relativists must uphold, is itself not a relative or arbitrary principle. Thus the very basis on which tolerance of other cultures is justified precludes a relativist view of all cultures since that basis contains a non-arbitrary universal principle. Kohlberg states the difference between relativity and tolerance when he states that 'no moral beliefs or principles are absolutely valid' is quite different from stating that 'it is a valid moral principle to grant liberty and respect to any human being regardless of his moral beliefs or principles' (41:161).

This contrast points to the difference between holding to a principle and generating any obligation to blame and punish people who deviate from these principles. It may be denied that there are any precise rules for blaming and punishing all forms of stealing, without denying the basic principle of justice which makes it an obligation for people not to steal or lie or kill.

Even if the paradox is granted, it is often assumed that there would be no adequate means for determining what is moral;
and that there are no culturally universal criteria which might aid in defining the field of the moral. Kohlberg points out that it is no more true of morals that they are "evaluations of actions generally believed by the members of a given society to be either right or wrong" than it is of science that it is "beliefs about the world generally believed by members of a given society to be true or false"(41:163).

There may be disagreement in the scientific world about specific phenomena or even the formulation of some laws but there is no doubt about what science is for and what would constitute a scientific investigation. In the same way, moral philosophers may disagree about specific moral questions but they do agree about what morals are for and what moral principles would look like. Baier states that:

Morality is designed to apply in those cases where self interests conflict... When there are conflicts of interest we always look for a 'higher' point of view, one from which conflicts can be settled... By the 'moral point of view' we mean a point of view which is a court of appeal for conflicts of interest... Adopting the moral point of view means acting on principle. It involves conforming to rules even when doing so is unpleasant, painful or ruinous to oneself"(9:190).

Rational moral judgements then, are not applications of behaviour defined by a social group but are judgements about questions of right and wrong. These judgements are based on principles which are universal, reversible, inclusive, rational, consistent and grounded in ideals.

Mature moral behaviour is based on principle because it deals with those problems that cannot be solved by application
of the conventional wisdom contained in custom or law. Moral rules apply to questions that group wisdom can't solve. They apply in those situations where both sides cannot appeal to law or custom to defend their point of view. While the contemporary issues of social dissent and resistance to war are extremely complex, they are at heart moral issues. On the one hand a country makes laws, including laws about compulsory military service, for the good of its citizenry and expects those laws to be obeyed and has the power to enforce them. On the other hand, a significant number of citizens may appear to conventions regarding killing or injustice to disobey those laws. An appeal to the moral point of view may resolve the issue and indeed does for many people at some personal cost, for example, exile for the war resisters. It is important to notice that resolution of the problem is a matter of judgement rather than an appeal to other forms of law. Unlike laws and regulations, moral rules have not been laid down by anyone so that it is impossible to know the exact conditions under which behaviour is enjoined, forbidden or excepted. Moral maturity in a conventional sense means knowledge and consistent use of culturally prescribed behaviour, either custom law or tradition while moral maturity as used in this study means decision making (exercising judgement) at an increasingly principled level. The principles are for everybody (universal) and for the good of everybody alike (reversible).

The claim that higher stages of moral judgement are more
mature is not based on an assumption that they are more complex or sophisticated. This may only reflect verbal skill. It is based on the fact that the decisions are increasingly more principled, inclusive, universal and consistent.

The sense in which morality is used in this study is that morality applies to judgements that are made about right and wrong, that the moral point of view is a higher point of view than decisions based in law or custom, and that the moral point of view is appealed to when problems of conflicting interest cannot be solved from other points of view.

One of the aims of the study is to determine the degree to which adults are able to use the moral point of view and if using it, the level of reasoning employed to resolve the conflict.

The Meaning of Developmental

Kohlberg establishes criteria for the application of the term 'developmental' to the description of behaviour. Behaviour which changes in response to new or novel experience is not necessarily developmental in his view and he takes some care to define the way that 'developmental' is used in relation to moral reasoning(38).

1. Developmental involves a change in the general shape, pattern or organization of response rather than change in the frequency or intensity of emission of an already patterned response.

2. Developmental involves newness; a qualitative difference in response; a response which is different
in form or organization. It is not a novel way of doing an old thing nor is it a long forgotten behaviour that is recalled for the situation.

3. Developmental involves an irreversible process. It cannot be reversed by the conditions and experiences that gave rise to it. It cannot be extinguished by negative reinforcement.

These general criteria are applied to a stage theory of moral development which has several characteristics and which identify it as a developmental model for understanding change in moral behaviour (37, 32, 41).

Stages of Moral Development

Piaget was one of the first to investigate the stages of moral development of children. His observations of the ways that children make up rules for games and justify them caused him to divide the moral development of children into two stages (55). The first stage he called heteronomy. This is a morality of constraint characterized by the young child's inability to separate rules from the person who made them, the interpretation of rules rigidly regardless of the situation, the definition of wrong by what is punished and by a regard only for the physical consequences of acts not intention. The autonomy of later childhood is characterized by the ability to see rules as the result of group agreement, the ability to account for intention in behaviour and the ability to make moral judgements independently of sanctions alone.
Kohlberg's development of Piaget's original conception of moral stages provides the theoretical structures for this study (31). His six stage scheme incorporates many of Piaget's concepts but is more elaborate and follows the development of the child well beyond the preadolescence of Piaget's study. Stages 1 and 2 of Kohlberg's scheme incorporate most of the elements described by Piaget as heteronomous and autonomous morality.

Like Piaget, Kohlberg is interested in studying the reasons people give for their behaviour rather than the behaviour itself. He divides the forms of thought that people use into six stages of moral development. There are three levels of moral thinking, each containing two stages. The stages are outlined here and appear in Appendix B in expanded form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stages of Moral Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level I</strong> Preconventional or Premoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level I Stage 1: Punishment and Obedience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level I Stage 2: Instrumental Relativist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level II</strong> Conventional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level II Stage 3: Personal Concordance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level II Stage 4: Law and Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level III</strong> Post Conventional or Principled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level III Stage 5: Social Contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level III Stage 6: Individual Principles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Characteristics of Stages

The developmental model for understanding behaviour change implies that change occurs in an ordered sequence through various stages. This stage theory has certain characteristics which are reviewed here.

**Invariance.** The stages are sequential, progressive and invariant. This means that each stage is gone through in order from stage one to six and no stage is skipped in the progression upwards, though persons may stop developing at any stage. In the early childhood years there is a pressure upwards and in late adolescence there is a tapering off. Progression to higher stages is dependent on completion of lower stages. Stage 2, for instance is a necessary prerequisite for stage 3 but progression is not automatic. Development depends on a variety of environmental factors.

**Quality.** The difference in modes of thinking is qualitative rather than quantitative. Each mode is an increasingly sophisticated way of perceiving moral phenomena and not just a different preference depending on a person's upbringing. The use of higher stages is by definition a better way of dealing with moral questions because it can cope with more and different input than lower stages(41:214).

**Equilibrium.** The use of higher stage thinking leads to greater equilibrium for the organism. There are fewer situations
that cannot be handled and fewer decisions that have to be decided as crises. Persons with higher stage thinking can deal with more dissonance than those at lower stage thinking.

Integration. The movement from lower to higher stages is by integration and differentiation of the lower stages. Each new stage contains some of the elements of the old but is a more inclusive and flexible framework for dealing with moral conflict. It is capable of making more subtle distinctions in decisions. Situations are less black and white.

Irreversibility. The stages are irreversible. Individuals prefer to use the highest stage of reasoning available to them and once achieving that stage do not revert to previous stages(39, 41, 61, 67). All previously used stages are available to an individual and can be used and understood, depending on the circumstances. Nevertheless, for serious moral discussion an individual uses the stage of discourse most characteristic of him and does not revert to lower stages.

Universality. The stages are universal, that is they can be assumed for all cultures. Cross cultural studies by Kohlberg show that though the content of moral decisions may differ from culture to culture, the form of the decision making is a universal cross-cultural phenomenon(32, 37). Though children in Taiwan, Yukatan, Turkey and the U.S.A. all live in quite different societies, the form of their thinking in relation to moral dilemmas in the culture is similar. All
may go through the stages from 1 to 5.

The differences between form and content is readily seen by reference to other developmentalists like Erickson(21) and Havighurst(27). The ego development stages of Erickson's scheme describe the emotional content to decision making and the life tasks of Havighurst's scheme describe the social content. In other words they describe 'what is going on' in the life of a person; they describe the content. The stages of moral reasoning described by Kohlberg are the form in which decisions are made. The content is a much more obvious quality than the form. An adolescent, for instance does not care that he uses formal or principled forms of thinking but he does care that he is having an 'identity crisis'.

The stages of moral development refer to the form in which moral decisions are made and these stages are characterized by sequentaility, invariance, quality, equilibrium, integration, differentiation, irrefersibility and universality.

HYPOTHESES

Based on the theoretical background presented in the preceding pages and on research findings discussed in the following chapter, seven research hypotheses were formulated to guide this investigation of moral development among adults in an Anglican parish.

1. Most respondents will be at the "conventional" stage in their making of moral judgements.
2. Most respondents will make unmixed and consistent responses to situations requiring moral judgement.

3. Men are at a higher stage of moral development than women.

4. The age of respondents is not related to their stage of moral development.

5. Attendance at church is not related to the stage of moral development.

6. Working women tend to be at a higher stage of moral development than women who do not work.

7. Respondents who have completed college tend to be at a higher stage of moral development than respondents who have not completed college.

PLAN OF THE STUDY

This chapter has outlined the basic need for information regarding the decision making of leadership in the Anglican church in the area of moral judgements. It has described the way that the terms moral and developmental are used in the study and outlines the characteristics of Kohlberg's stage theory of moral development.

The second chapter is a review of literature relating to three theories of moral behaviour. The cognitive-development approach is reviewed in some detail with particular reference to Lawrence Kohlberg and his associates.

Chapter 3 describes the procedures for collecting and
analyzing data and the development of the instrument together with scoring procedures.

An analysis of the results of testing 16 couples with the Kohlberg moral dilemmas is contained in chapter 4 and chapter 5 summarises these results with a statement of implications for moral education in the church.
Chapter 2

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The search for a theoretical model to accommodate the various measures and indices of moral behaviour has resulted in three basic approaches; learning theory, psycho-analytic theory and cognitive-development theory. Many investigators have been influenced by more than one of the three main approaches, and in fact the theories have much in common.

THREE THEORIES OF MORAL BEHAVIOUR

Generally speaking, learning theory has tended to emphasize the behavioural aspect, psycho-analytic theory the feeling aspect and cognitive-development, as its name implies, the cognitive aspect of moral behaviour. Yet both psycho-analytic and learning theories may be based on the feeling aspect in that both assume that the satisfaction of certain needs produces feelings of pleasure. Both theories tend to be deterministic in the sense that learning theory has tended to state that if enough were known about a person's history, his behaviour could be predicted with a high degree of accuracy. Psycho-analytic theory has assumed that behaviour for which an individual may be unable to account consciously does not occur by chance and the individual is 'made' to behave as he does.

The traditional focus in the study of morals has been
socialization, that is, the ways in which an individual learns the behaviour appropriate to his culture and follows it (1, 7). As one sphere of behaviour, moralization of an individual by society results in a set of norms of social behaviour being internalized by the individual and conformed to apart from supervision. Learning theory and psycho-analytic theory tend to blur the distinction between socialization and moral development. In this study, the moral upbringing of an individual by society does not mean the learning of social norms but describes the process by which an individual becomes capable of exercising moral judgement which may actually bring him into conflict with the norms of his society.

This review of literature notes the assumptions of the three theoretical models and expands on the cognitive-developmental theory as a model for this study. Since it is assumed that the formation of conscience happens at an early age, most research concentrates on children and adolescents.

Learning Theory

In general, learning theorists have assumed that moral behaviour and values are acquired by the same kind of processes as any other behaviour is learned. One can learn to be 'bad' in precisely the same way one learns to be 'good'. It all depends upon the kind of experiences one has, how one becomes socialized and what kinds of punishments and rewards have been applied. Learning theory thus sees training in good habits or the conditions of reinforcement of good behaviour as the
means for socializing the child. The family, church, school and clubs are expected to use example and teaching as a means to instill a conventional wisdom about acceptable behaviour in the child. This common sense approach to training in good habits unfortunately finds little support in studies of character formation (3, 4, 25, 26, 54). Hartshorn and May, in their studies of character formation of over 40 years ago, found little correlation between their various measures of character. These measures were honesty, co-operation and persistence. They found little consistency between the amount of exposure to moral training and indices of conscience, no consistent relationship between the amount of parental demands and conformity to these demands apart from the home and little stability over time in resistance to cheating. This means that all children cheated and that abstention one time was not predictive of abstention another time, even in the same kind of situation.

Techniques of childraising correlated with moral behaviour, not because of any content of parental teaching but because of a relationship of warmth and acceptance (54). Children more frequently model nurturant parents. This difference may be largely a class matter in that middle (11) class parents tend to use love withdrawal as a measure of control with children and lower class parents tend to use physical punishment (3). Burton's studies show that there is a correlation between punitive discipline and aggressive behaviour (19). Home punishment may lead to inhibition in situations of possible punishment but not in permissive situations. The conclusion of Peck was
that conforming behaviour may be determined by the **situation** but not by any internalized moral **standard** (54).

**B.F. Skinner - behaviourism.** The most extreme statement of the determinism of learning theory can be found in Skinner (63, 64). As a strong advocate of positive reinforcement he confines himself largely to indicating the ways that the probability of individuals behaving according to the requirements of a given socio-ethical system can be increased. Unfortunately he never makes clear what the aims of a society should be. For him the idea of responsibility is misplaced for psychology and that to be moral is simply to conform to certain kinds of expectations of reinforcement which have their origin in reinforcement from others. To say that a person is 'held responsible' for an act is simply to say that he is usually punished for it.

**Bandura - modeling.** Bandura is a reinforcement theorist who regards classical conditioning as insufficient to explain moral and social learning (11). He is critical of Skinner on the grounds that some quite complex forms of behaviour may appear in children under conditions that make it unreasonable to suppose that they have been built up by 'shaping'. In a study of imitation and modeling in children, Bandura found that observation of models had more effect in altering children's moral judgements than direct reinforcement. He further found that imitation of models would continue even in the absence of reinforcement by observers or models and that such imitation was especially
likely in circumstances where observers did not know how they were expected to behave and were provided with no standards other than that provided by the model. He makes a good case for the importance of adults as the child's model for social and moral learning if one is satisfied that experimental paradigms are actual tests of real life social and moral learning. However he offers no explanation as to how imitation or modeling actually operates.

Social learning and conditioning are extremely important aspects in the acquisition of moral behaviours. However, the results of character studies offer inconclusive and often contradictory results and the empirical studies of operant conditioning fail to account for complex forms of behaviour which arise without 'shaping'.

**Psycho-analytic Theory**

Psycho-analytic theory focuses on the mechanism of identification with parental authority as the means by which children are socialized(29). According to classical Freudian theory, an individual in early childhood models his behaviour after that of his parents for two reasons. The process of **anaclitic** identification means that he fears the loss of parental love and strives to be like them to please them, while **defensive** identification means that he fears the aggression of the bigger parents and wisely avoids conflict with them and gains approval by adopting their point of view. Failure to do this, that is to transgress, results in guilt and shame which act as controls
to behaviour. Guilt is taken to be conscious or unconscious awareness of the transgression of a standard and observable responses like self-criticism, self-blame, confession and offers of restitution are taken to be measures of guilt. Since identification and guilt are elusive qualities that are difficult to measure, investigators are required to use such projective measures as story completion(4) fantasy(59) recall or child rearing practises(19) and games(46). Hoffman points out that these measures are very indirect(29). Research on the effect of parental modeling indicates that punishment and love withdrawal are important measures of control but not necessarily effective teachers of desirable behaviour. Hoffman concludes that children are more concerned about receiving love than fearful of its loss and that the former is more effective than the latter(29). Rau found a negative correlation between doll play measures of aggressive fantasy and resistance to temptation behaviour in experimental situations. He concludes that punitive aggression by a parent leads to aggression by the child but not moral learning and that moral transgression may be a form of aggression against family authorities(58).

Aronfreed concludes that there is a correlation between the willingness to make self-blame statements and behaviour conformity, but that these self-critical responses were more likely when instructions and standards of evaluation were made explicit(4). When expectations were vague children were less inclined to be self-critical. He considers responses of self-blame, confession and offers of restitution to be for the purpose of
reducing anxiety by obtaining forgiveness rather than as pain inducing responses for the purpose of self-control(3). Deprivation of affection increases self-critical responses, due in large measure to the anxiety induced over the period of time of deprivation, in contrast to the immediate release of anxiety through swift punishment(5).

Offers of reparation as distinct from mere confession of wrong doing, were more likely to be made in conditions where subjects had some control over what their punishment would be, that is when they had decided the penalties for transgression themselves. Aronfreed found though that confession and reparation are quite distinct and independent measures of guilt(5). Confession and self criticism are responses that do indicate a need for approval and forgiveness but these responses increase with the social experience of the child and are not subconscious self punishing acts of aggression(4, 29, 33, 59). Self criticism has an important cognitive dimension because this act requires some appraisal of the situation and the ability to match results with instructions and expectations.

The difficulty with psycho-analytic theory is that the various concepts do not relate to one another in a logically tight system. It is not clear how forms of identification relate to one another nor how guilt, shame, confession and reparation are controls or measures of control of behaviour. Do the various measures of projection measure the same thing? Locating controls and inhibitions to behaviour in the super-ego means that psychological research has tended to under-rate the rational component
in moral behaviour(8, 14, 59) unlike the cognitive-developmental approach which tries to account for the role of the rational in moral behaviour.

Cognitive Developmental Theory

The cognitive-developmental approach is associated with the work of Piaget and his successors, especially Kohlberg. Stage theory is a well established model in psychology, exemplified by such writers as Erikson, Havighurst, and Gesell. Piaget was one of the first to use this construct in the study of children's moral judgements and his main argument is that the development of moral thought involves a progression over time through a series of stages, each stage characterized by a particular 'quality' called heteronomy and autonomy(55). A child is stimulated to develop in the quality of his moral judgements, as he is in other areas of life, by the quality and variety of social relations that require him to observe and adopt new roles. The ability to see and act out new roles is the ability to see things from a perspective different from one's own:

If moral development is fundamentally a process of the restructuring of modes of role taking, then the fundamental social inputs stimulating moral development may be termed 'role taking opportunities'(38:95).

The individual develops in a continuous process of assimilating new experience by interpreting it in terms which are currently meaningful to him and accommodating to new experience by reorganizing his own system of meanings to enable a more
adequate system of functioning to be attained. The focus of cognitive developmental theory is upon the human capacity for organizing experience into meaningful structures of increasing complexity and abstraction. Moral development requires not merely responsiveness to experience and training as in learning theory nor internalization of given prescriptions and proscriptions as in psycho-analytic theory, but an active organizing process by which things and the values attached to them can be seen in a new light. Cognitive structures are the rules for processing information. Cognition is an active connecting process rather than a passive repetition or storing of information(37, 41). This active connecting process is developed through the opportunity to take a variety of social roles which help develop the sense that the 'other' is in some sense like 'oneself' and that the 'other' is responsive to the self in a system of complimentary expectations. These reciprocal personal relationships are generalized into systems of justice(37, 40).

Piaget believed that the change from a morality of constraint and heteronomy to autonomy came through the child's active participation with peers and not from having it 'stamped in' from the outside by adults. The pressure to change came from without in terms of the child's environment (peers) and from within in terms of the child's developing capacity for more abstract thought (cognitive structures). He believed that the capacity for moral thought was set early in life and that immature moral judgement was a result of developmental retardation.
Kohlberg. The concept of development in Piaget is broadened by Kohlberg who advances a major theoretical framework for the consideration of moral judgement. He gives a much more adequate account of what moral judgements are rather than a simple account of how children made them, as did Piaget. Like Piaget, he stresses the cognitive component in behaviour organization and focuses on judgement ability rather than overt behaviour as does learning theory, or fantasy as does the psychoanalytic approach (32, 37, 41). This cognitive approach to morality locates the control of moral choices clearly within the competence of the ego. Moral learning is seen to be an age related sequence of changes in which higher forms of moral reasoning emerge from qualitatively different premoral attitudes and concepts (36, 39, 40). Though the changes from one stage to another are age and I.Q. related, there is no simple correlation between them. Changes occur through the individual's relation to his whole social world. Basic cognitive structures develop through the interaction between hereditary endowment (basic intelligence, maturation rate, health) and his environment (social class, child rearing practices of his parents and social stability). These all affect the pace at which the person advances through the stages.

Since cognitive theory stresses the ability to make judgements and sees change in this ability as related to intellectual growth and development, it might be asked whether tests of moral judgement ability are at base tests of verbal ability or intelligence. Kohlberg recognizes that, while there
is a parallel between forms of logical and moral thought
moral judgement is not a simple direct application of level
of intelligence to moral problems. Moral reasoning has its
own sequential development because of the inner logical order of
moral concepts. Intellectually, a person can be logically
advanced but morally retarded but cannot be logically retarded
and morally advanced. It is necessary to be cognitively mature
in order to reason with a high level of moral judgement but it
is also possible to be cognitively mature and morally retarded.
I.Q. is a necessary but not sufficient condition of mature moral
development (37, 41).

Alston asks whether there is any difference between
having and using a concept; whether a mode of reasoning is used
at the same time as the concepts needed for reasoning at that
level are acquired. He posits that a person may intellectually
have concepts but not use them (2:271). Rest, however, reports
that people seldom understand higher modes of thinking that
they do not use spontaneously (60, 61). Turiel found that people
were able to understand reasoning one stage above their own but
that reasoning two stages above only proved confusing for them (67).
It seemed that reasoning one stage above introduced enough cog-
nitive conflict that people were able to interact with the ideas
expressed even if they did not personally use them.

RESEARCH ON ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS

Kohlberg's studies of children indicate that they do
progress through clearly age related stages of moral development
from a premoral to conventional level(32, 33, 38, 41). Bull found
that thirteen is a critical age for children to move from a
premoral to conventional level(17, 18). By sixteen, a majority
of adolescents function at a conventional stage 3 or 4 level.
Some are at stage 5 and a very small percentage are still at
the stage 1 level.

Beck found in a study of high school students, that
introducing arguments above a conventional student's level of
reasoning promoted a temporary retrenchment at that position
but a long term move to principled forms of moral judgement(14).

Kramer's study of young adults and college students
uncovered a paradoxical finding regarding the irreversibility of
stages(43). A number of students, having obtained stage 4
or 5 by the end of High School, reverted to stage 2 in uni-
versity. He called this a functional regression from convention-
al to pre-moral egoistic instrumental hedonism ('do your own
thing') in order to deal with the pressure of identity crisis.
The conventional morality of parents is apparently rejected
in favour of a morality of self enhancement, without the recog-
nition of reciprocal obligations. The college students didn't
lose their stage 4 or stage 5 reasoning ability for they adopt
it again in their early twenties. Young working adults of the
same age did not seem to have to undertake the same regression
however.

Family antecedents. In another study of students, Haan
compared the moral judgement stages, family social background
and self ideal descriptions of Peace Corps and University of California, Berkeley students (24). She found that the type of students most likely to be involved in the Free-Speech Movement sit-ins were stage 2 and stage 6 students. Stage 3 (nice kids don't do that), stage 4 (it's against the law) and stage 5 (yes, the rules are dehumanizing but you contracted to come here of your own volition) tended to be minimally involved. The Independent Principled students (stage 5 and 6) reported more involvement in social and political matters through protest, more divergence from the ideas of their parents, who were themselves 'liberal' and a moderate amount of intra family conflict when they were growing up. Their self concepts emphasized interpersonal reactivity and obligation, self expressiveness and willingness to live in opposition.

Conventional students (stage 3 or 4) tended to be minimally involved in political groups and generally in agreement with their parents in most things. Their self concepts valued control, ambition, competitiveness and social skills rather than interpersonal responsiveness, doubting and rebellion. They report low intra family conflict in their growing up. The Instrumental Relativists (stage 2) were similar to the Independent Principled in political activity but where the Independent Principled students were critical, independent, involved, giving and responsive, the Instrumental Relativists were angry, disjointed, uncommitted and narcissistic. They reported that they had experienced high intra family conflict.
Identity. These findings are consistent with Marcia's study of moral development and ego identity states(50). Students who had experienced some ego identity struggle and who were able to express commitments to an occupation were found to subscribe to less authoritarian values than those students who reported no personal crisis and a high degree of commitment to parents goals, values and aspirations. These students were very inclined to endorse many forms of authoritarian values. This points to a close relationship between identity and moral maturity(also 42). Persons who are moving between stages in moral development are also in transition in identity issues.

These studies indicate that the movement away from conventional to principled morality involves considerable struggle and creative conflict(15, 24, 50, 65). Haan further suggests that the struggle is even more difficult for women, who are expected to be 'nice' and conventional.

Sex differences. There are a number of studies that report difference in moral behaviour between boys and girls. Bronfenbrenner notes that the use of psychological discipline fostering guilt and self criticism results in a different internalization for boys (guilt over the effects of their behaviour) than for girls (anxiety over loss of parents love(16). Aronfreed states that girls seem to rely more than boys upon external definitions of moral consequences and are more likely than boys to give story endings involving apology on projective tests(6). Hartshorne and May found that girls would
cheat more than boys on tests where they thought there was no possibility of detection(25). Girls were more aware of socially acceptable responses and showed greater moral 'knowledge' on paper and pencil tests. Lehrer however points out that many sex differences are in fact class differences(46). She found that lower class boys cheated more than middle class boys but the reverse was true for girls. Also, many tests have a built in sex bias. Girls cheat more on paper and pencil tests and boys cheat more in achievement oriented games(46). A halo effect surrounds girls because they are expected to be 'nice'. Teachers and parents report less cheating by them on social histories(59).

**ADULTS**

The concept of development through age related stages serves less well in research on adults than it does with children(10, 12, 53):

> We shall not understand the psychological realities of adulthood by projecting forward the issues that are salient in childhood, neither the issues that concern children themselves, nor those that concern child psychologists as they study cognitive development...(53:121)

The maturation model breaks down in studies of adulthood simply because the developmental goal of maturity is commonly taken to be adult knowledge, adult success and adult social conformity. Maturity has usually meant being adult(38). Bayley states:

> Maturity as a general concept applied to adults is neither a specific point in time nor a static condition that extends over a span of years, but is rather a complex series of ever changing processes...each characteristic may be thought of as having its own schedule(12:127).
The adult must engage in certain life tasks for which there is a socially prescribed timetable for ordering the major events of life(21, 27). There are certain cultural expectations regarding age appropriate behaviour so that it is appropriate to refer to behavioural change during adulthood as responses to the various crises that must be dealt with. But development in the Piagetian and Kohlberg sense means a change in the pattern and organization of responses rather than a change in the frequency of an established response. The moral crises of Identity, Intimacy, Generativity and Integrity which Eriksen defines may all well be dealt with at the same stage 3, or 4 level all through adulthood. Maturity, for the developmentalist requires not just new information but a new structure of response. Cognitive transformation is clearly not the key to adult moral development.

Kramer reports that he sees no further increases in moral judgement maturity after age 25(43). In fact, High School scores are highly predictive of adult scores in moral maturity. He reports that continued growth in moral maturity in late adolescence and early adulthood is characterised more by a decrease in the use of the two lowest stages than an increase in the higher stages. Adult development is primarily a matter of dropping out of childish modes of thought (pre­mental) rather than the formation of new or higher modes. The trend is to a reduction in the use of different stages other than the preferred stage, that is stage consistency rather than transition. Kramer further notes that if a person has not mastered stage 5
by adolescence he will not do so in early adulthood but will more likely move from stage 3 to 4. This simply underlines the difficulty involved in acquiring principled forms of thought.

The Haan study (24) found that some 23% of the men under 25 employed stage 3 reasoning but Holstein (30) found very few men over 30 employing stage 3 reasoning (3 out of 53). In her study of families in Piedmont City, California she found that nonworking mothers tended to use stage 3 as a preferred stage whereas fathers found stage 4 a much more functional morality in business. The majority of the men were at stage 4 or 5. She suggests that the world of work stimulated development in moral reasoning. They then moved into a stage, the concepts of which they already understood. All the working mothers in her Piedmont study were at stage 5.

Both Hostein and Kramer found that adults tend to be predominantly at the Conventional level of Moral reasoning and that women tend to be stage 3 and men stage 4 (30, 43). Holstein's sample ranged in age from 34-60 and she found that age bore no significant relation to the level of moral judgements. Conflict in adult life may lead to greater consistency between thought structure and action in a person who has achieved some identity integration. Life experience is continually matched and sometimes forced to fit a moral view (38, 44). The experience of dissonance between modes of thinking and actual life experience will lead to greater efforts to reduce dissonance by avoiding
situations and ignoring information that contradicts one's belief (22). It leads to dogmatic assertion of one's position and perhaps rigidity in consideration of right and wrong (22, 44).

Though some studies of moral development have included investigations of young adults (24, 30, 43) very little work has been done in studies of the moral development of adults over thirty. No work has focused on a sample chosen from a church related population. Only one study briefly alluded to the influence of working status of women on their moral development (30). This study had such a very small percentage of working women that no conclusions were drawn from it.

Thus, these three areas, adults over thirty, church related adults and working wives were the focus of interest in this study.
Chapter 3

METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the procedures used for the collection and analysis of data and includes a description of the development of the instrument together with interviewing and scoring procedures (51).

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The population for the study consisted of all married couples who were on the parish list of St. Faith's Anglican Church on January 15, 1973, between the ages of 30 and 70 years. This parish is in the South Kerrisdale area of Vancouver and would be considered typical of middle class, urban, residential parishes in the Anglican Church of Canada. Because of the anticipated difficulty in administering the research instrument to a few couples who were in poor health they were eliminated from the population.

As is typical of most parishes, the name of a person on a list does not indicate either regular attendance or high commitment but at a minimum does signify some connection with the church. It usually means that at least one person in the household is an active member of the parish.

A sample of 16 couples was chosen at random from the population.
DATA COLLECTION

Data were collected by means of a structured interview with each person in the sample. This procedure was developed by Kohlberg (32) and a copy is contained in Appendix A.

The Instrument

The instrument for conducting the structured interview consists of 4 stories, each containing a moral dilemma. These dilemmas are not standardized tests of individual differences but rather useful tools for examining the reasoning process of individuals on moral questions. The focus of the instrument is on the moral judgement of individuals rather than on their moral behaviour. In each interview, the point of the story is to find the center of a person's thinking, his orientation to the conflict in the dilemma and the structure of his thought.

Three forms have been developed by Kohlberg. Each form contains a different group of stories all designed to explore the same basic issues. They can be used as pre test and post test instruments. Issues are the basic unit around which a conflict develops in situations requiring moral judgement. Form A deals with 8 issues and these are listed in Appendix B. This form was chosen because all the scoring manuals use these particular stories as illustrations for scoring procedures so it made the task of scoring the dilemmas much easier.

The focus in each interview is not upon the reasons people give for doing the things they do but upon the reasons people think are moral reasons for what they do. As stated earlier
in the theoretical background, moral reasons are the reasons appealed to when reasons of affection, self interest, prudence, law keeping and ignorance are in conflict. Moral reasons have an arbitrating or refereeing function in human discourse.

The interview was designed so that respondents would be forced to see an issue and its implications under different conditions. Respondents were continually pressed for answers that would reveal basic commitments beyond initial responses that tended to be superficial. This process involved some discomfort both for respondents and for the interviewer. The questions numbered in the schedule helped to standardize the interview but areas which arose in the interview which were not covered by the predetermined questions were freely pursued by the interviewer.

The Interview

Interviews were requested by letters sent to a random sample of parishioners. The letter was followed with a phone call arranging an appointment. If prospective respondents refused to participate, further names were drawn from the list. Twenty-four couples were contacted in order to obtain 16 who were willing to participate. Each interview took about 2 1/2 to 3 hours to complete. It was conducted by giving the printed form to one of the persons and asking him or her to complete it on his own, while the investigator interviewed the spouse and wrote a verbatim account of the respondents answer. After the interview was completed, the roles were reversed and the first
respondent was asked to take the form and edit it to see if there was anything he would like to add while the investigator went over the answers of the other respondent to clarify any that were not clear or to pursue issues that had been answered simply 'yes' or 'no'.

This was considered to be the best strategy since pretesting had shown that written answers alone proved too cursory to make a judgement on; interviewing couples together only proved confusing and taped interviews were too costly to transcribe. The order of the interviews of husbands and wives was alternated so that it was not always husbands or wives who were interviewed first.

Scoring

Even though manuals are available for scoring the dilemmas, they do not cover all the possible forms of phrasing and orientation to problems that appear in interviews. The manuals are rough guides at best. They were obtained from The Institute for Moral Education Research at Harvard University in mimeographed form and are in continual revision by Kohlberg and his associates(66).

A score for each story was arrived at by examining the scores on each issue and making a judgement as to the stage of thinking they represent. Basically, a score was assigned for each story rather than for each issue. In general, story scoring tends to correlate highly with issue scoring as Kramer reports(43). A completed protocol is contained in Appendix C
showing issue scores and story scores.

From the story score, two other scores are calculated, a Global Score and a Moral Maturity Score (M.M.S.). The Global Score represents an overall estimate of the habitual orientation in a person's reasoning. It is compiled from each of the story scores and may be either a pure score or a mixed score. A pure score represents thinking that is all at one stage. It is one number like 2, 3, 4 or 5. A mixed or transitional score represents thinking that is a combination of two stages. It is composed of a major stage which means that at least 50% of the thinking is at that stage and a minor stage which means that at least 25% of the thinking is at that stage. It is written with the major stage appearing first and the minor second, e.g., 4(3).

The Moral Maturity Score is also an overall estimate of stage use resulting in a number which is sensitive to variance in the use of stages in thinking. It also provides a more useful number of statistical calculations. It can range from 100 (pure stage 1) to 600 (pure stage 6). For example, the Global and Moral Maturity Scores are calculated as follows:

1. The final score for each story is listed.

2. A weight of 3 is assigned for a pure score. For a mixed or transition score, a weight of 2 is assigned to the major score and 1 to the minor.

3. The totals for each stage are added and converted to a percentage.
A respondent may receive for example a score of 4(3) on the first story, 4 on the second, 3(4) on the third and 4 on the fourth. Thus:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Story 1:</th>
<th>Stage 3</th>
<th>Stage 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4(3)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story 2:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story 3:</td>
<td>3(4)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story 4:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stage 3: \(\frac{3}{12}=25\%\)

Stage 4: \(\frac{9}{12}=75\%\)

Totals: 3 9

The Global Score is 4(3).

The Moral Maturity Score is: \(\text{Stage 4} \times 75\% = 300\)

\(\text{Stage 3} \times 25\% = 75\)

\[= 375\]

It is important to note that a Global Score of 4(3) would not necessarily have a M.M.S. of 375. If a respondent received scores of 3(4), 4, 3(4) and 4 on the four stories he would receive a Moral Maturity Score of 363 reflecting that 66\% of his responses were at stage 4 and 33\% at stage 3. The lower Moral Maturity Score reflects more stage 3 use that is not obvious from the Global Score. The number 375 reflects more use of stage 4 reasoning. This example points out the usefulness of the Moral Maturity Score for it allows statistical calculations appropriate to ordinal data.

**DATA ANALYSIS:**

The question has been raised by some writers whether
the stages form an ordered hierarchy of progression or whether they are six different descriptions of moral attitudes that are somehow related but are in no order from 'higher' to 'lower' (2, 30). Calling them a hierarchy itself involves a value judgement. If the stages were given lettered designations they would imply no upward progression as numbers do.

The reasons why moral judgements can be assigned to an ordered hierarchy have been adequately defended by Kohlberg and these reasons are reviewed in Chapter 1 (37, 41). The literature supports the assumption that the data are sufficiently ordinal to use non-parametric tests appropriate to ordinal data (17, 30, 48, 60, 67).

Following Siegel (62), these statistical procedures were used:

1. Simple frequencies were used to compare the stage scores of all respondents.
2. The Mann-Whitney U. test was used to determine any significant differences between the scores of working and non-working women, college and non-college educated respondents, older and younger persons and those who attended church versus those who did not.
3. The Wilcoxon matched pairs signed ranks test was used to determine any significant differences between the scores of husbands and wives and between the scores of non-working wives and their husbands.
4. The Chi-square test was used to determine differences in the distribution of respondents by age and educational background.
Chapter 4

ANALYSIS OF DATA

The results of testing a group of 16 married couples with the Kohlberg dilemmas are analyzed and described in this chapter. Seven hypotheses were tested to determine whether people in the sample were predominantly "conventional" in their making of value judgements, whether these judgements were consistent, and whether there were significant differences between the Moral Maturity Scores of husbands and wives, working and non working women, college educated and non college educated respondents, older and younger persons and those who attend church and those who do not.

Appendix C contains further anecdotal material from the interviews illustrating responses typical of stage 4.

STAGES OF MORAL DEVELOPMENT

The study hypothesized that the respondents would be characterized as "conventional" in their making of moral judgements. The majority of respondents were at the conventional level. Three (10%) of the respondents were at the pre-moral stage 2 level, twenty (68%) were at the conventional level and nine (28%) were able to use principled forms of reasoning as their preferred orientation to the solving of moral dilemmas (Table 1). There was an equal number of people at stage 3 and stage 4. Moral Maturity Scores ranged from 200 (pure stage 2, husband) to
Table 1  
Distribution of Moral Judgement Types of Couples by Major Stage  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Husbands</th>
<th></th>
<th>Wives</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. %</td>
<td></td>
<td>No. %</td>
<td></td>
<td>No. %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1(P.O.)</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 00</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2(I.R.)</td>
<td>2 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3(P.C.)</td>
<td>4 25</td>
<td></td>
<td>6 37</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4(L.O.)</td>
<td>5 31</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 31</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5(S.C.)</td>
<td>5 31</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 25</td>
<td></td>
<td>9 28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6(I.P.)</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16 100</td>
<td></td>
<td>16 100</td>
<td></td>
<td>32 100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stage 1: Punishment and Obedience  
Stage 2: Instrumental Relativist  
Stage 3: Personal Concordance  
Stage 4: Law and Order  
Stage 5: Social Contract  
Stage 6: Individual Principles
500 (pure stage 5). The median Moral Maturity Score for all respondents was 368 which reflects a 4(3) stage of thinking (Table 2). The median M.M.S. for husbands was 368, the same as for all respondents and the M.M.S. for wives was 363. There was no statistically significant difference in the distribution of husbands and wives at the conventional level. \( X^2 = .533, p = .50, df = 1 \) The hypothesis that respondents will be predominantly conventional in their making of moral judgements is accepted.

These results are similar to those found by Hostein(30). In that study, 70% of the respondents were at the conventional level and 23% at the principled level. She found none at the pre moral level however and three at the stage 6 level, while in this study there were three at the stage 2 level and none at stage 6. Kohlberg(38) suggests that no more than 4-5% of the population are Independent Principled thinkers, so their absence in this study is not surprising.

CONSISTENT AND UNMIXED RESPONSES

The study hypothesized that respondents would make consistent and unmixed responses to situations requiring moral judgement. It was expected that because adults would presumably have settled on one modal stage of moral reasoning after age 25 that this modal stage would be a 'pure' type of response rather than a mixed or transitional stage. Respondents would use one type of justification within each story. It was further expected that not only would adults be consistent within stories but
## Table 2

Moral Maturity and Global Scores of Husbands and Wives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Couple No.</th>
<th>Husbands M.M.S.</th>
<th>G.S.</th>
<th>Wives M.M.S.</th>
<th>G.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>4(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>5(4)</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>5(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>3(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>3(2)</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>2(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>5(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>2(3)</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>4(5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>5(4)</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>3(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>3(4)</td>
<td>* 363</td>
<td>4(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>5(4)</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>4(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>5(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>* 368</td>
<td>4(3)</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>4(3)</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>4(5)</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>3(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>3(4)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*W*=40, \( p= .129 \)  
* = median
that they would be consistent from story to story. Even if they used mixed stage thinking they would use that same mixed stage in all the stories.

This did not prove to be the case. The majority of respondents used mixed stages. Eight (25%) used pure stages while 24 (75%) used mixed stage thinking (Table 3).

Scores were considered to be consistent if the same major stage was used in all four stories. It was not necessary that the minor stage be the same for all the stories. The eight respondents who used 'pure' type thinking were obviously consistent from story to story. There were four other respondents for a total of twelve (38%) who were stage consistent from story to story. Twenty (62%) of the respondents were inconsistent from story to story.

The hypothesis that respondents would make unmixed and consistent responses is not accepted.

The study hypothesized that men will be at a higher stage of moral development than women. It was expected, on the basis of other research (30, 38), that women would be predominantly stage 3 and men would be predominantly stage 4 in moral development. This was not the case.

The Moral Maturity Scores of the husbands ranged from 200 to 500. The median score was 368 which was the same as the median for all scores. This reflected a median Global Score of 4(3). The Moral Maturity Scores of wives ranged
Table 3
Distribution of Moral Judgement Types
by Actual Global Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>No. of Respondents</th>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2(3)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3(2)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3(4)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4(3)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4(5)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5(4)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
from 231 to 500 with a median of 363 reflecting a median Global Score of 4(3) also.

Exactly the same number of wives as husbands used stage 4, six wives and four husbands used stage 3 as a modal stage. There was no statistically significant difference in the distribution of husbands and wives at stage 3 ($X^2 = .202$, $p = .60$, df = 1). Husbands and wives both use stage 3 with equal frequency.

When the M.M.S. of the wives who do not work is compared with that of their husbands a difference appears. The median M.M.S. of wives who do not work is 325 reflecting a median Global Score of 3(4). The median score of their husbands is 400 reflecting a clear stage 4 level. The Wilcoxon Matched Pairs test shows a difference at the .02 level. ($N=8$, $W=3$, $p = .02$) Women who do not work tend to score at the stage 3 level, significantly lower than their husbands.

The median M.M.S. of wives who do work is 410 and that of their husbands is 368. There is no significant difference between the scores of husbands and wives who work. ($N=7$, $W=10$, $p = .50$)

The hypothesis was accepted with qualification. When the scores of all respondents were compared there was no significant difference between the level of moral judgement of men and women. When the scores of husbands and non working wives were compared, the husbands were seen to be at a higher stage of moral development. Husbands were predominantly stage 4 and
their wives were stage 3.

AGE AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT

The study hypothesized that the age of the respondents would not be related to the stage of moral development.

The ages of respondents ranged from 32-66 years (Table 4). The median age for all respondents was 43 years; for husbands, 46 years and for wives, 43 years. As would be expected with married couples, there was no statistically significant difference between the mean ages of husbands and wives. (U=113, p=.28)

There were no significant differences between the Moral Maturity Scores of those respondents older than the median age and those respondents younger than the median. (Mann Whitney U=102, p=.163) Even when the scores of those eleven respondents over age 50 is compared with those of the eleven respondents under age 40 there is no significant difference. (U=47, p=.20)

The hypothesis of no relationship between age and stage of development is accepted.

This result is consistent with the expectation that once adults reach the age of 25 their moral development stabilizes and remains at the same level throughout their adult life.

ATTENDANCE AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT

The study hypothesized that attendance at church will not be related to the stage of moral development.

Twenty-three (71%) persons report that they attended
Table 4

Distribution of Ages of Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Husbands</th>
<th></th>
<th>Wives</th>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31.25</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>34.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31.25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31.25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>31.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31.25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61-70</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
church at least once per month in the past year. Four state that they attended infrequently, about four to six times in the past year. Five others reported that they did not attend church at all, although their spouse did. The Sign Test indicates that wives attend slightly more frequently than their husbands. (N=9, x=2, p= .090)

The Mann Whitney U test indicates that there are no significant differences in Moral Maturity Scores between those who report they attend frequently and those who do not. Even when a comparison is made between the eleven respondents who attend at least four times per month and those five respondents who do not attend at all, no significant difference appears. (U=35, p>.05)

The hypothesis of no relation between church attendance and stage of moral development is accepted.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT

The study hypothesized that the educational background of the respondents will be related to the stage of moral development.

All respondents reported that they had completed high school. Sixteen (50%) had completed college; six wives and ten husbands. Five husbands reported that they had done graduate work. Nine respondents reported that they had done 'some college' but had not completed it for one reason or another; six wives, three husbands.

Of the husbands, 62.5% had completed college, compared
to 37% of the wives. None of the wives had done graduate work.

The Sign Test shows a significant difference in the schooling of husbands and wives. \( N=12, x=2, \ p= .02 \) Husbands tend to have higher education than their wives.

The median Moral Maturity Score for those completing college is 400 compared to a median of 315 for those not completing. There is a significant difference between the scores of those who have completed college and those who have not. \( U=62.5, \ p= .01 \) Those who have completed college tend to score higher. There is no significant difference between the scores of men and women who have completed college. \( U=34, \ p> .05 \)

The hypothesis that educational background is related to stage of moral development is accepted. The completion of college is positively related to the development of higher moral development.

### WORKING STATUS AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT

The study hypothesized that there will be a relationship between the stage of moral development and the work status of women.

Seven women reported that they work outside their home and nine have not worked since marriage. Five of the seven women who work have completed college while only one of the nine non working wives has. Six of the non working wives report that they had done 'some' college but did not complete the course. Women who work tend to have higher schooling than women who don't.
The result is not surprising in that higher education tends to lead to greater employability although it is not clear whether higher education leads to greater motivation to work outside the home.

The median M.M.S. of those who worked was 410 reflecting a stage 4 orientation. The median M.M.S. for those who were at home was 325 reflecting a stage 3 orientation. There was a significant difference between the Moral Maturity Scores of working and non working wives. (U=16, p= .06) Working wives tend to score higher on a test of moral judgement than non working wives.

There were no significant differences between the scores of the seven women who work and the scores of all the working men. (U=47, p= .27) This is a further confirmation that the world of work provides the greater social experience necessary for growth in moral development.

The hypothesis that there will be a relationship between moral development and work status of women is accepted. Women who work tend to be higher in moral judgement ability.

SUMMARY

Seven hypotheses were tested in the study. Two hypotheses referred to the manner in which moral judgements were made by respondents and five hypotheses referred to factors in moral judgement making. These factors were sex, age, church attendance, working status of women and educational background.
The five hypotheses that were accepted showed that respondents were conventional in their judgement making, that age and attendance at church was not related to stage of moral development and that the working status of women and educational background of all respondents was related to moral development.

Respondents did not make consistent and unmixed responses to situations requiring moral judgement.

Men were not at a higher stage of moral development than women when all respondents were compared. However, the husbands of non working wives were found to be at a higher stage while the husbands of working wives were at a similar stage to their wives.
Chapter 5

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

Moral judgement is an increasingly important competence for adults in a time of rapid social change. Issues that involve questions of the right and the good confront adults both through the media and in the events of their own lives. Historically, adult educators have been concerned with values issues implicitly by teaching the values presumed necessary for good men to live in a democracy and explicitly by offering courses in value education (20, 47).

The church, which presumes to be a moralizing agent in society, is concerned that its leadership be enabled to work on complex moral issues at the most mature level possible and that church-related adult education courses facilitate that process.

This study investigated ways that adults in the church make judgements about moral issues so that educational programs can be better planned and implemented. The study makes a distinction between moral judgement and moral behaviour. Moral judgement is seen to be an intellectual capacity to decide what action would be considered right in a situation even if the actor does not actually do it or does it for reasons other than moral ones. Kohlberg (41:229) cites evidence that the higher one
is on the scale of moral judgement the more likely one is to do what is intellectually decided to be right.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The terms 'morality' and 'socialization' are often taken to mean the same thing. Morality in this sense implies the learning of external behaviour norms appropriate to a given culture and internalizing these forms so that they are followed apart from supervision. People learn what is generally socially sanctioned behaviour and morality in this sense means acting according to the conventional wisdom.

In this study, the moral point of view is taken to be a higher point of view than custom or law. It is the point of view appealed to when problems of conflicting interest cannot be resolved from other points of view. It is taken that some moral judgements are better than others because they are better examples of what moral judgements ought to look like.

Mature moral judgements in this study are moral judgements grounded in principle rather than social customs and laws. These principles are universal, reversible, inclusive, rational, consistent and grounded in ideals. The development from immature to mature moral judgement proceeds through six stages, according to Lawrence Kohlberg. These stages describe the form by which moral judgements are made and justified. The movement from stage to stage follows an orderly, invariant sequence and each stage marks an increasingly sophisticated way of perceiving moral phenomena and leads to greater equilibrium in moral conflict.
Each lower stage is integrated into the next higher stage and once higher stages are achieved individuals do not revert to the use of lower stages. These forms of making moral judgements are a cross-cultural phenomenon even where different societies have a quite different social content to moral decisions.

The stages of moral judgement examined in this study are:

- **Level I** Preconventional or Premoral
  - Stage 1: Punishment and Obedience
  - Stage 2: Instrumental Relativist

- **Level II** Conventional
  - Stage 3: Personal Concordance
  - Stage 4: Law and Order

- **Level III** Post Conventional or Principled
  - Stage 5: Social Contract
  - Stage 6: Independent Principled

**DESIGN OF THE STUDY**

Sixteen married couples between the years of 30 and 70 were chosen at random from the parish list of St. Faith’s Anglican Church in the South Kerrisdale area of Vancouver, to obtain data on their stages of moral development.

Seven hypotheses were tested in order to determine whether respondents would be conventional (stage 3 and 4) and consistent in their making of moral judgements and whether five factors (sex, age, attendance at church, working status of women and educational
background) would be related to the stages of moral development of the respondents.

Data were collected by means of a structured interview developed by Kohlberg. This interview schedule contains four stories each involving a moral dilemma (Appendix A). Respondents were pressed by questions in the interview to give reasons why they perceived certain actions in the story to be right or wrong.

The data analysis consisted of two parts. First, a qualitative analysis of material from the interviews was done so that the judgements of respondents could be assigned to stages in the hierarchy of moral judgements. This was done with the help of manuals obtained from The Institute for Moral Education Research, Harvard University.

Following the qualitative analysis, two scores were computed. The Global Score was compiled from the scores obtained on each of the four stories in the interview. This score represents an overall estimate of the modal stage used by a respondent in resolving moral dilemmas. The Moral Maturity Score also represents an estimate of stage use but it results in a number ranging from 200 to 500 that is much more sensitive to variance in the respondent's use of different stages.

Simple frequencies were compiled to determine the percentage of respondents who were conventional and consistent in their thinking. Chi square tests were used to determine significant differences in the distribution of husbands and
wives at the conventional level and to compare distributions of data like age, attendance, schooling and working status. The Mann-Whitney U. test was used to determine statistically significant differences in the Moral Maturity Scores of working and non-working women, college and non-college educated respondents, older and younger respondents and those who attend church versus those who do not. The Wilcoxon Matched Pairs Signed Ranks test was used to determine significant differences between the overall scores of husbands and wives and husbands and their non working wives.

FINDINGS

The majority of respondents were found to be at the conventional level. Sixty three percent of the respondents used either stage 3 or 4 and 28 percent were able to use principled (stage 5) forms of reasoning as their preferred orientation to moral dilemmas. Men and women used stage 3 and 4 with equal frequency.

The hypothesis that respondents would make consistent responses both within and between stories was not accepted. Seventy-five percent of the respondents used mixed stage thinking and only 25 percent used the same major stage in each of the four stories.

No statistically significant differences were found between the Moral Maturity Scores of husbands and wives. Men and women scored with equal frequency in all the stages. Over-
all, men and women were at the same stage of moral development. However, husbands and their non working wives were found to be at different stages, the husbands being predominantly stage 4 and the wives stage 3. Women who do not work tend to be at one stage lower than their husbands while women who work tend to be at the same stage.

Neither age nor attendance at church was found to be related to stage of moral development. This was consistent with the expectations that there are no further changes in moral development after age 25, and that church and non church people look to general cultural standards for the basis on which to make moral judgements.

Working women tended to score higher on a test of moral judgement than non working women. They also tended to be better educated. Working women tended to be stage 4 and non working women stage 3 in their stages of moral judgement.

Significant differences were found in the education of men and women. Overall, husbands tended to be better educated than their wives. Respondents who had completed college (median M.M.S.=400) scored higher on a test of moral judgement than respondents who had not completed college (median M.M.S.=315). Educational background was therefore related to stage of moral development.

DISCUSSION

Most adults in the study used at least two forms of
justification of moral judgements. These forms were typical of stage 3 and 4 which are the levels called conventional. Conventional moral judgement is a society-maintaining form of morality in that it tends to be determined by conventional norms enforced by social custom and sanction.

Stage 3 norms, for instance, are the norms that 'good' and 'nice' people follow. Behaviour advocated by stage 3 people is 'what everybody/nobody does'. These are the norms of close relationships and the standards of behaviour acquired through the conventional wisdom of the subculture or family to which one belongs.

Stage 4 norms are an extension of stage 3 for they are cultural norms codified by law so that they apply equally to all people. The maintenance of these laws to prevent social chaos is the aim of the stage 3 and 4 person.

About one quarter of the respondents were able to use principled forms of judgement(stage 5 and 6). Principled people see law as agreed upon regulations which can be changed by judicial interpretation. The function of law is to protect the rights of individuals rather than to restrain anti-social behaviour or disorder. The move to stage 5 thinking requires a quantum leap in the concepts one uses for moral judgement. Most people stay at conventional levels because it is a natural reflection of the cultural wisdom and easier to acquire. The move to stage 5 thinking is much more painful and difficult(15, 24, 50, 65) and involves creative conflict for its internalization.
It is not surprising, then, that the sample proved to be predominantly conventional in its moral judgement making. It is entirely consistent with the role of the entrepreneurial middle class that it be conventional and society maintaining.

The two variables in this study seen to be most influential in the development of moral maturity were education and work status of women. Both of these variables are related to the factor of social participation, identified by Kohlberg as the most important stimulus to the development of moral maturity. He states that the fundamental social inputs stimulating moral development may be termed 'role taking opportunities'(38:95). Both college education and work are life experiences that provide opportunities to observe and copy a variety of social roles.

Holstein(30) and Haan(24) both found that as young adults moved out of high school and college into the world of work, their Moral Maturity Scores increased. For women, the world of work entails a higher degree of social participation, responsibility and decision making than the world of homemaking. While husbands and wives are certainly both responsible, traditionally fathers assume an additional responsibility in providing material necessities for the family.

Stage 3 moral reasoning which is characteristic of homemakers is highly consistent with a maternal role. This role puts a high premium on the maintenance of warm relations within the family and self-sacrifice for the sake of loved
ones. It stereotypically considers intention, and the concept of 'meaning well' is central to the role. On the other hand, the stage 4 reasoning of husbands and working women puts a high premium on procedures for making decisions and the consistent application of rules. This is a functional morality in the world of work.

Since the working women had worked since marriage, it is not clear whether women who work were morally more mature than non working women from the beginning or whether they became more mature through the greater responsibilities associated with work. Since working women were better educated it is suggested that they were more mature from the start.

The most significant difference in the study was found between those who had completed college and those who had not. College education does not simply represent wider social experience than that provided by home making or even the world of work. The time at which that education occurs is important. Attendance at college usually occurs in late adolescence which is a time when values commitments are most under pressure to change. College attendance provides an opportunity to live a life style in which new social roles can be adopted and tested without loss of social position in a way that the working world does not. Proceeding from high school to work or marriage seldom provides the freedom to test alternative social roles in the way that college does. This does not mean that alternative roles cannot be tried elsewhere only that college gives more permission for it to happen.
The purpose of the study was to develop data about the ways that adults make moral judgements so that moral education programs may be better planned.

Adults are prepared to engage in more serious moral discourse than the church has provided opportunities. This implication arises, not from the findings of the study, but from a reflection on the process by which data were collected. It was observed that most respondents found the dilemmas intriguing and were prepared to work hard on them. Far from feeling embarrassed when their position was exposed, adults were most anxious to discuss the dilemmas and to contribute material out of their own experience that related to the stories. Respondents often remarked that they "hadn't had a work out like that for a long time" or that they should "do this kind of thing more often". It suggests that the technique of discussion of moral dilemmas will be welcomed by church members and dealt with as a serious learning situation.

The expectation that church members will provide moral leadership in the community is unrealistic. The moral development of the majority of frequent church attenders tends to be conventional and indistinguishable from infrequent or nonattenders. Moral standards seem to be learned from the wisdom of the dominant culture and not from the church community. While this does not mean that the church community cannot provide moral leadership at some time it does mean that the majority of people
are so identified with conventional forms of moral judgement that the provision of leadership would involve major shifts in their world view at a time of life that makes that unlikely.

The development of programs for moral education with adults requires consideration of differences in styles of moral judgement by adults as well as consideration of critical factors in the development of moral maturity.

This implies that since adults already have the "content" for their decision making then the focus of moral education in the church ought to be on forms of judgement making. Adults can be helped in understanding, in a more formal way, their own manner of judgement making so that they will be equipped with tools that they can use themselves to continue their own value analysis. The goals of value education are not simply either answers to questions nor value clarification alone, but some help in deciding what constitutes an adequate response to a moral issue. Alternatives can be proposed if people are dissatisfied with their own style. An appreciation for principled thought can be given to those at a conventional level.

Also, since much moral discussion tends to be theoretical and at a principled level, it will fail to be understood by those at a personal concordance conventional level(14, 67). This suggests that those who conduct educational programs in value clarification, social ethics and personal morality need
to remember that participants will be at a variety of levels of justification. Many will not be able to respond to materials or leadership that operates from a principled level, which the clerical leadership of the church tends to be.

On the other hand, many of the church's membership will fail to respond to justification which appears to them to be at an immature or inadequate level. Sensitivity to the differences between form and content in judgement making will help leaders enable moral education to happen at a more significant level for their group members.

Finally, it is commonplace to observe that different people have different understandings of right and wrong. It is not often appreciated that they have different reasons for their different understandings as well. This reminds us that persons have deep commitments to issues that deserve consideration and respect. Understanding the bases of moral judgements is no guarantee that conflicts in judgement can be resolved, but it does provide a rational base for attempting to resolve moral conflict.
REFERENCES
REFERENCES


APPENDICES

A to C
The purpose of these stories and questions is to get at your opinions and ideas of right and wrong. Please answer as fully as you can, writing down all the ideas and feelings you have rather than giving 'yes' or 'no' answers. If there is not enough space on the page use the other side of the page, noting the number of the question you are answering.

I would also like a minimum of biographical information from you so that we can see if there are differences between respondents. Thanks for your interest.

----------------------------------------

Respondent Number ______

Length of time you have been married ______

Wife: Do you work outside your home? Yes ______ No ______
      If no, have you worked since being married? Yes ______ No ______

Age ______

Years of Schooling:  1. ______ Grammar School
                     2. ______ Some High School
                     3. ______ High School Grad.
                     4. ______ Some College
                     5. ______ College, Nursing, Tech. Sch. Grad.
                     6. ______ Graduate Work

Where did you live for the first 18 years of your life?

Farm ______

Town ______ (approx. what size)

City ______

Do you attend religious services?

If 'yes', how many times per month in the past year? ______
III. In Europe, a woman was near death from a special kind of cancer. There was one drug that the doctors thought might save her. It was a special form of radium that a druggist in the same town had recently perfected. The drug was expensive to make, but the druggist was charging ten times what the drug cost him to make. He paid $200 for the radium and charged $2,000 for a small dose of the drug. The sick woman's husband, Heinz, went to everyone he knew to borrow the money, but he could only get together about $1,000 which was half what it cost. He told the druggist that his wife was dying and asked him to sell it cheaper or let him pay later. But the druggist said, "No. I perfected the drug and I'm going to make money from it." So Heinz got desperate and broke into the man's store to steal the drug for his wife.

1. Should Heinz have done that? Was it actually wrong or right? Why?
2. Is it the husband's duty or obligation to steal the drug for his wife if he can get it no other way? Would a good husband do it?

3. Did the druggist have the right to charge that much when there was no law actually setting a price limit? Why?

Answer the following only if you think he should steal the drug.

4. Does the wife have the right to expect him to steal the drug to save her life if there is no other way? Why?

5. If the husband does not feel very close or affectionate to his wife, should he still steal the drug? Why?

6. Suppose it wasn't Heinz's wife who was dying but it was his best friend. His family was not willing to steal the drug and his friend had no money also. Should Heinz steal for his friend in that case? Why?
7. Suppose it was someone dying who wasn't close to you, but there was no one else to help him. Would it be right to steal the drug for a stranger?

8. If it weren't his wife who was dying but the man's pet dog which he loved very much, would he be justified to steal the drug to save his beloved pet? Why?

Answer the next two questions if you think Heinz should not steal the drug.

9. Would you steal the drug to save your own wife's life? Why?

10. If you were dying of cancer but were strong enough, would you steal to save your own life?

Heinz did break in and stole the drug and gave it to his wife. He was caught and brought before the judge.

11. Should the judge send Heinz to jail for stealing or should he let him go free? Why?
12. The judge might think he would steal too if he were the husband. He might also think about having to uphold the law. How should he decide between the two?

IV. The drug didn't work, and there was no other treatment known to medicine which could save Heinz's wife, so the doctor knew that she had only about six months to live. She was in terrible pain, but she was so weak that a good dose of pain killer like ether or morphine would make her die sooner. She was delirious and almost crazy with pain, but in her calm periods she would ask the doctor to give her enough to kill her. She said she couldn't stand the pain and she was going to die anyway.

13. Should the doctor do what she asks and give her the drug that will make her die? Why?

14. Does the woman have the right to decide what to do with her own life in this case? Why?

15. When a pet animal is badly wounded and will die, it is killed to put it out of its pain. Does the same apply here?
16. Would you blame the doctor in any sense for giving her the drug? Why?

17. Suppose she had asked her husband for the drug, is that the same as for the doctor?

18. Some countries have a law that doctors could put away a suffering person who will die anyway, some do not. What would be right for the doctor to do where it wasn't against the law?

19. Should the law permit or prohibit it?

20. The doctor finally decided to kill the woman to put her out of her pain, so he did it without consulting the law. The police found out and the doctor was brought up on a charge of murder. The jury found him guilty even though they knew the woman had asked him. What punishment should the judge give the doctor? Why?
21. Would it be right or wrong to give the doctor the death sentence.

22. Do you believe the death sentence should be given in some cases? Why?
I. Joe is a 14-year-old boy who wanted to go to camp very much. His father promised him he could go if he saved up the money for it himself. So Joe worked hard at his paper route and saved up the $40 it cost to go to camp and a little more besides. But, just before camp was to start, his father changed his mind. Some of his friends decided to go on a special fishing trip, and Joe's father was short of money. So, he told Joe to give him the money he had saved from the paper route. Joe didn't want to give up going to camp, so he thought of refusing to give his father the money.

1. Should Joe refuse to give his father the money? Why?

2. What would be the most important reason for giving his father the money?

3. What would be the most important reason for refusing his father the money?

4. Does giving the money have anything to do with being a good son?

5. Does his father have the right to tell Joe to give him the money?
6. Who has the right to the money and the trip, the son or the father? Why?

7. What should be the authority of a father over a son in a case like this or in general? Why? What is the base of it?

8. Which is worse, a father breaking a promise to his son or a son breaking a promise to his father?

9. Why should a promise be kept?

10. In terms of fairness, what is the most important issue?
II. Joe wanted to go to camp but was afraid to refuse to give his father the money. So he gave his father $10 and told him that was all he made. He took the other $40 and paid for the camp with it. He told his father the head of camp said he could pay later. So he went off to camp and the father didn't go on the fishing trip.

Before he went to camp he told his older brother Alex that he really made $50 and that he lied to his father and said he'd only made $10. Alex wonders whether he should tell his father or not.

1. Should the older brother tell his father that Joe had lied about the money or should he keep quiet? Why?

2. What would be the best reason for telling his father, in this case or in general?

3. What would be the best reason for keeping quiet?

4. Does whether Alex should tell depend on what they've agreed before or whether Joe has told on him in the past?

5. Which is more important, being a loyal son or brother? What should a brother think of here? How should he choose between what he should do as a brother and a son?
APPENDIX B

DESCRIPTION OF STAGES

I. THE PRECONVENTIONAL LEVEL

At this level the person is responsive to cultural roles and labels of good and bad, right and wrong, but interprets these labels in terms of either the physical or hedonistic consequences of action, punishment, reward, exchange of favours or in terms of the physical power of those who enunciate the rules and labels.

Stage 1: The punishment and obedience orientation. The physical consequences of action determine its goodness or badness regardless of the human meaning or value of these consequences.

Stage 2: The Instrumental-relativist orientation. Right action consists of that which instrumentally satisfies one's own needs and occasionally the needs of others. Reciprocity is a matter of you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.

II. THE CONVENTIONAL LEVEL

At this level, maintaining the expectations of the individual's family, group or nation is perceived as valuable in its own right, regardless of immediate and obvious consequences. The attitude is not only one of conformity to personal expectations and social order but of loyalty to it, of actively maintaining and supporting and justifying the order and of identifying with the group or persons involved in it.

Stage 3: The "good boy-nice girl" orientation. Good behaviour is that which pleases or helps others and is approved by them. There is much conformity to images of what is majority behaviour.

Stage 4: The law and order orientation. An orientation toward authority, fixed rules and the maintenance of the social order. Right behaviour consists of doing one's duty, showing respect for authority and maintaining the social order for its own sake.

III. THE POST CONVENTIONAL, AUTHONOMOUS OR PRINCIPLED LEVEL

At this level there is a clear effort to define moral values
and principles which have applications apart from the authority of the groups and persons holding these principles and apart from the individual's own identification with these groups.

Stage 5: The social contract-legalistic orientation. Right action tends to be defined in terms of general individual rights and in terms of standards which are critically examined and agreed upon by the whole society. An emphasis on procedural rules for reaching consensus. It is the official morality of democratic government.

Stage 6: The Universal ethical principle orientation. Right is defined by the decision of conscience in accord with self chosen ethical principles appealing to logical comprehension, universality and consistency. These principles are abstract and ethical like the Golden Rule and not moral imperatives like the Ten Commandments. At heart these are universal principles of justice, of the reciprocity and equality of human rights, and respect for the dignity of human beings as individual persons.
Moral situations involve recurrent issues which are in conflict with one another. Issues define the concrete objects of concern or of value to the subject in the situation. It is a term describing the general units in a moral situation which are seen as in potential conflict with one another. They are the things to be defined and chosen between in the situation. Issues define the moral conflict.

In stories 3 and 4 there are conflicts between the druggist's demands for money, the wife's claim to live and the laws about stealing. As general recurring issues these are "I." property rights, "H!" value of life and "A." law. These issues are also called values. A person values law, property and life and these values come in conflict with one another.

Issues examined in this study are:

A Rules and laws.
B Conscience as guilt or fear of punishment.
C Roles and obligations of personal affection and welfare.
D Roles and obligations of authority.
F Contract, Promises, Trust and Reciprocity.
G Punishment and punitive justice.
H Life and its value.
I Property values and rights.
APPENDIX C

SAMPLE PROTOCOL

Guidelines

1. The pages of the interview schedule were separated so that each dilemma could be analyzed separately in detail.

2. The issues were sidelined, that is identified by letter at the side of the page.

3. Responses to particular issues were collected and summarized at the end of the protocol.

4. A judgement was made, by reference to the manuals, as to the level of thought exhibited by the answers.

5. Scores for each issue were entered on the issue chart.

6. The procedure was repeated for each respondent for stories 3 and 4. After these stories were scored, stories 1 and 2 were done.

7. A story score was calculated on the basis of over 50% of the issue scores comprising a major stage and over 25% comprising a minor stage.

Answers and Sidelining

Sample protocol showing respondent's answers to questions of stories 3 and 4, sidelined, issue summary and issue table.

FORM A, STORIES 3 AND 4, RESPONDENT 6

1. Should Heinz have done that? Was it wrong or right? Why?

A NO, IT WAS ACTUALLY WRONG TO STEAL, BOTH MORALLY AND LEGALLY. HE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN SOME OTHER COURSE OF ACTION SUCH AS APPEALING TO THE COURTS OR THAT PART OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT DEALS WITH SOCIAL WELFARE OR ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE.

A THE CODE TO WHICH WE LIVE IS BASED ON THE TEN COMMANDMENTS WHICH STATE "THOU SHALT NOT STEAL". IF STEALING WAS RIGHT THEN EVERYONE WOULD HAVE TO KILL IN ORDER TO PROTECT WHAT HE HAD. THIS STORY GIVES AN EXTREMELY EXAMPLE OF HOW A PERSON CAN BE PUSHED BEYOND WHAT HE KNOWS IS RIGHT. THE DRUGGIST WAS CHARGING TOO MUCH BUT TWO WRONGS DON'T MAKE A RIGHT REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
2. Is it the husband's duty or obligation to steal the drug for his wife if he can get it no other way? Would a good husband do it?

C

I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS THE HUSBAND’S DUTY OR OBLIGATION TO STEAL. HE SHOULD DO EVERYTHING WITHIN HIS POWER TO OBTAIN THE DRUG SHORT OF BREAKING THE LEGAL AND/OR MORAL CODE. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, MANY GOOD HUSBANDS WOULD STEAL. THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE INDIVIDUAL AND HIS STRENGTHS. UNDER STRESS AND STRAIN ONE MIGHT STEAL EVEN IF YOU KNOW IT IS WRONG. IF YOU WERE DISTRAUGHT, NOT THINKING CLEARLY.

3. Did the druggist have the right to charge that much if there was no law actually setting a price limit? Why?

I

NO, THE DRUGGIST WAS BREAKING THE MORAL CODE AS MUCH AS THE ONE WHO STOLE THE DRUG. THE DRUGGIST HAS THE RIGHT TO CHARGE A FAIR PRICE BUT TO DEMAND UNREASONABLE PAYMENT IS MORALLY WRONG. THIS IS ILLUSTRATED IN SHAKESPEAR’S "THE MERCHANT OF VENICE". IN MOST CASES THE COURTS WOULD OBTAIN THE DRUG AS A MATTER OF NATIONAL WELFARE.

Answer the next two questions if you think Heinz should not steal the drug.

9. Would you steal the drug to save your own wife’s life? Why?

C

I DON’T THINK SO BUT THEN I HAVE NEVER BEEN PUT TO THIS TEST. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHAT I WOULD DO, UNDER MY PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES I DON'T BELIEVE I WOULD STEAL THE DRUG. I REALIZE THE TEMPTATION WOULD BE THERE BUT I BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE OTHER SOLUTIONS IF YOU KEEP CALM, TALK, PLAN AND PRAY.

If you were to steal, what would be a good reason?

C

THERE ISN’T A GOOD ENOUGH REASON. LOVE MY WIFE, STOP HER PAIN, KEEP HER LIVING, I SUPPOSE SELFISHNESS BECAUSE LIFE WOULD BE LONLIER WITHOUT HER. YOU WANT TO KEEP HER WITH YOU AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

10. If you were dying of cancer but were strong enough would you steal to save your own life?

C

I DON’T THINK SO. I THINK I WOULD FOLLOW THE SAME THINKING AS THAT GIVEN IN QUESTION 9. I'M SURE THAT MY CLOSE FRIENDS WOULD HELP ME WORK OUT A SOLUTION.
Heinz did break in and stole the drug and was caught and brought before the judge.

11. Should the judge send Heinz to jail for stealing or should he let him go free? Why?

G THE JUDGE MUST FIND HIM GUILTY AND HEINZ MUST PAY FOR THE DRUG BY INSTALMENTS IF NECESSARY. THE JUDGE SHOULD GIVE HEINZ A SUSPENDED SENTENCE AND PUT HIM ON PROBATION UNTIL THE DEBT IS PAID. THESE ARE EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES AND NOTHING WOULD BE GAINED BY JAILING HEINZ.

12. The judge might think that he would steal too if he were the husband. He might also think about having to uphold the law. How should he decide between the two?

G THE JUDGE IS IN THE VERY FORTUNATE POSITION THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE TO DECIDE BETWEEN THE TWO. THE LAW SAYS IT IS A CRIME TO STEAL AND PROVIDED HEINZ WAS PROVED GUILTY OF STEALING THEN THE JUDGE MUST UPHOLD THE LAW. BUT THE JUDGE CAN BE COMPASSIONATE AND SUSPEND THE SENTENCE AS LONG AS RESTITUTION IS MADE TO THE INJURED PARTY.

13. Should the doctor do what the woman asks and give her the drug that will make her die? Why?

H NO, MORALLY THE DR. CANNOT PLAY GOD. HE CAN EASE THE SUFFERING BUT NOT DO ANYTHING THAT WILL PROLONG HER LIFE BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOWINGLY TAKE HER LIFE. HOW DOES HE KNOW THAT A CURE MAY NOT BE FOUND BEFORE HER SIX MONTHS ARE UP?

14. Does the woman have the right to decide what to do with her own life in this case? Why?

H NO, THAT IS THE SAME AS COMMITING SUICIDE AND ALL OUR TEACHING PLUS THE LAW STATES THAT YOU CANNOT take a LIFE (YOUR OWN OR SOMEONE ELSE’s). THIS IS THE SAME AS PLACING YOURSELF ABOVE GOD AND IT IS AGAINST ALL THAT I HAVE BEEN TAUGHT AND BELIEVE.

15. When a pet animal is badly wounded and will die it is killed to put it out of its pain. Does the same apply here?

H THEORETICALLY IT PROBABLY DOES JUST AS MUCH AS YOU SHOULD NOT SPRAY FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES TO KILL INSECTS AS THEY ARE ALL GOD’S CREATURES, BUT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE SAME REASONING POWER AND IT IS ONE OF THE FAILINGS OF MAN THAT HE CONSIDERS IT MURDER TO KILL A HUMAN AND NOT A LOWER SPECIES OF LIFE.
16. Would you blame the doctor in any sense for giving the drug? Why?

A YES, FOR ALL THE REASONS IN THE PRECEDING QUESTION. HE SHOULD RELIEVE PAIN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BUT HE CANNOT TAKE A LIFE. THAT IS THE SAME AS KILLING UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

17. Suppose she had asked her husband for the drug, is that the same as for the doctor?

H YES, IT WOULD BE HARDER FOR THE HUSBAND TO REFUSE BUT HE MUST AS HE IS NOT GOD, AND AS STATED EARLIER A CURE COULD BE JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND HE MAY BE PREMATURE IN GIVING THE DRUG.

18. Some countries have a law that doctors could put away a suffering person who will die anyway, some do not. What would be right for the doctor to do where it weren't against the law?

A I STILL FEEL THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE A HUMAN LIFE REGARDLESS OF THE LAW. ALL OUR CHRISTIAN TEACHING TELLS US WE SHOULD NOT WILLINGLY TAKE A LIFE.

19. Should the law permit or prohibit it. Why?

A PROHIBIT FOR ALL THE REASONS STATED ABOVE.

20. The doctor finally decided to kill the woman.... What punishment should the judge give the doctor? Why?

G HE SHOULD BE GIVEN THE SENTENCE OF A MURDERER. THIS IS LAW AND IF THE SENTENCE IS ANYTHING LESS THEN THE LAW WILL HAVE NO MEANING. IT IS THE CODE BY WHICH WE LIVE AND WHICH JESUS CHRIST TAUGHT US. I.E. OBEY THE LAWS OF THE LAND.

21. Would it be right or wrong to give the doctor the death sentence?

G IF THE DEATH SENTENCE WAS THE SENTENCE FOR PREMEDITATED MURDER THEN HE SHOULD BE GIVEN THE SENTENCE.

22. Do you believe the death sentence should be given in some cases? Why?

G YES. THE DEATH SENTENCE SHOULD BE GIVEN FOR PREMEDITATED MURDER OR WHEN MURDER IS COMMITTED WHILE THE MURDERER IS COMMITTING A CRIME. THIS IS AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT ON CRIME IN OUR SOCIETY. NO ONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE ANOTHERS LIFE WITHOUT BEING WILLING TO GIVE HIS OWN.
Summary

Issues Stage Story 3

A Laws must be obeyed categorically or else chaos results. Laws are based on God's higher laws, the Ten Commandments. You can't take the law into your own hands as there are helps through the government if you follow the right procedures. You can always get help from your friends. Unable to conceive of government and authority not being helpful.

C Husbands are obligated to help wives short of breaking the law regardless of love for her. However, if he did steal because of his love for her, it would be because he were not thinking clearly.

G Heinz must be found guilty and make restitution. The law must be satisfied although nothing would be gained by sending him to jail. The judge can be lenient as long as the druggist is paid back.

I Druggist has freedom to charge a fair price but he breaks moral code when he charges an exorbitant amount. His rights are minimized because he played on someone else's misfortune. He was not being a 'good' druggist (role occupant).

Story 4

A Law is based on God's law, even when 'human' law could permit we must obey the higher law. The doctor is obligated to maintain the law.

C Doctor must relieve pain and not do anything to prolong painful life but he is bound by the role of good doctor and can't 'play God'.

G Doctor must receive all the penalties of murder because punishment acts as deterrent. Willingness to give up his own life as payment to satisfy the law.

H Life is from God and taking someone else's life or one's own life is the same as murder. Value of life lies in its being given from God. Inconsistent on this point since he allows killing by the state but not by the doctor.
### Issue Sheet

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Global Score 4, Moral Maturity Score 400

- Married 19 years
- Age 48 years
- Education College complete 5
- Lived in city
- Worship 4 times/month