

research in brief

Role of the Home Economist

Job expectancies of an Extension home economist have changed in the last 10 years, yet few studies have dealt with this changing role. The purpose of this study was to determine the Extension home economist's perception of her role, determine the perception of the role as seen by home economics program committees, and determine the relationships between the perception of the role as seen by committee members and home economists and certain characteristics of the committee members and the home economists.

Questionnaires were received from 115 committee members in Iowa and from 49 Iowa Extension home economists. Responses to the 56 job functions were summarized by frequencies and mean scores.

The 10 functions with the highest mean scores as ranked by Extension home economists were:

1. Provide accurate and reliable information.
2. Plan for scheduled events to begin on time.
3. Teach home economics subject matter using radio, television, and newspaper.
4. Cooperate with other Extension home economists in the area to develop coordinated programs.
5. Provide answers to home economics questions through phone requests.
6. Collect ideas for future program efforts.
7. Provide publicity and other promotion.
8. Cooperate with other Extension staff members in developing a coordinated program.
9. Identify the university with program materials and program setting.
10. Participate with co-workers to develop effective office procedures.

"Home Economist's Role as Perceived by the Extension Home Economist and by Home Economics Program Committee Members." Elizabeth Walters Harrison. Master's thesis, Iowa State University, Ames, 1975.

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