



TO STUDY THE RELATION OF BIRTH ORDER IN ALCOHOL DEPENDENT MALES IN A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL.

Psychiatry

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ABSTRACT

Background: The relation between substance abuse, delinquent behaviour with birth order of person is well studied. The study of birth order among alcohol related disorders is slightly less reported. Birth order data for male alcoholic showed that more cases were last born than first born among males.

Aim: To Study the Relation of Birth Order in Alcohol Dependent Males in a Tertiary Setting.

Methods: After the Institute Ethical Committee approval, 50 males coming in Psychiatry OPD fulfilling ICD-10 Criteria for alcohol dependence were selected and were compared with the 50 healthy controls selected from their relatives coming in OPD. Their respective socio-demographic data were observed. Statistical analysis was done using the latest SPSS version.

Results: 38% of alcoholic dependent males were having birth orders 2, 22% each among alcohol dependents were having birth order 3rd and 4th respectively, as compared to controls who had 44% birth order as 1

Conclusion: Higher birth orders or younger siblings were suffering from alcohol dependence condition as compared to their healthy controls.

KEYWORDS

Birth Orders, Alcohol Dependence.

INTRODUCTION

Various literature showed association between drug use and person's birth order. It was documented that younger born or last-born child are much more likely to use drugs like alcohol, nicotine and are involved in delinquent behaviours more as compared to their elder siblings¹. Some studies also showed that middle born children are engaged in substance abuse and delinquent children². Birth order studies for male alcoholic showed more cases were younger or last-born child³. According to Smart et al last-born child was represented more with substance problems specifically alcohol and it was reported that these later born become more anxious and responded in such a way^{4,5}. Furthermore, it had been shown that younger child are more rebellious by engaging in risky activities or sports to show their counteracting forces of being overshadowed by their elder siblings in family⁶. Since addiction is about gaining control of their lives by using mood enhancer substances this is clinically justification of last or younger born substance related activities which they regard as copying mechanism to face anxieties⁷. Last born child brought up by single parent or some caretaker are more involved in substance abuse or crime acts⁸.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Study was conducted in Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Jaipur, Rajasthan in a 6-month duration from January to June 2018. The Study included 50 cases visiting Psychiatry OPD in the Mahatma Gandhi Hospital fulfilling ICD 10 criteria for Alcohol dependence and 50 healthy controls selected from the relatives of cases matched on age.

Inclusion Criteria- Males fulfilling ICD_10 diagnostic criteria for Alcohol dependence and of respective age group- 20-50 years. Those who gave their consent and were cooperative.

Exclusion Criteria- Males of both groups suffering from any medical and Psychiatric comorbid conditions.

RESULTS

Table 1: Socio demographic characteristics of 2 Groups

Socio demography	Cases n=50	Controls n=50	Significance p<0.05
Age(years)	05	06	p>0.05 not significant
20-25	07	08	
26-30	15	16	
31-35	08	07	
36-40	09	11	
41-45	06	02	
46-50			

Religion	44	43	p>0.05 not significant
Hindu	04	04	
Muslim	02	03	
Sikhism			
Domicile	33	31	p>0.05 not significant
Rural	17	19	
Urban			
Education	03	01	p>0.05 not significant
Post Graduate	10	08	
Graduate	13	08	
High Secondary	13	10	
Secondary	09	15	
Middle school	02	08	
Illiterate			
Occupation	8	09	p>0.05 not significant
Professional	16	15	
Semi-Professional	22	21	
Arithmetic skill job	04	06	
Skilled Worker	10	11	
Unskilled Worker	40	38	
Unemployed			
Birth Order	09	22	p<0.01 significant df=3 Chi square = 8.832
1	19	15	
2	11	06	
3	11	07	
4			
Family types	36	29	p>0.05 not significant
Nuclear	14	21	
Joint			
Marital status	34	36	p>0.05 not significant
Married	12	13	
Unmarried	04	01	
Divorced			
Family Month Income (Rs)	08	05	p>0.05 not significant
<3000	10	07	
3001-5000	10	10	
5001-10000	13	13	
10001-20000	06	08	
20001-30000	02	04	
30001-40000	01	03	
>50000			

Table 1 showed that most of the cases belongs to age group 31-35 years

that is 30%, maximum cases were Hindu males 88%, maximum cases belonged to rural domicile 66%. Maximum Alcoholics cases were having nuclear type family 72% and were married 68%. Birth order of Alcoholic male cases was mostly 2nd (38%) or 3rd (22%) which was unlikely in controls where birth order was 1st (44%). Higher the birth order found in alcoholics and its statistical-significant when compared to controls (chi square=8.832 with df=3 and p<0.01).

Table 2: Birth Order difference between 2 study groups

Birth Order	Cases n = 50	Controls = 50
1st	09 (18%)	22 (44%)
2nd	19 (38%)	15 (30%)
3rd	11 (22%)	07 (14%)
4th	11 (22%)	06 (12%)

df=3, Chi square= 8.832, with p value<0.05 significant value.

Table 2 showed that there is higher birth order found in cases group and the difference among the study groups is significant with chi square value of 8.832 and p value less than 0.05.

DISCUSSION

Various studies have been conducted in past to study the relation of birth order among the person who are involved in alcohol addictions and other criminal acts. A study conducted by Smart et al⁴ in 1963 showed that younger siblings are involved more in risky behaviours and substance related disorders. A Study conducted in Sweden in 2006 concluded that younger born child is more using substances and is having more criminal thoughts as compared to their elder counterparts and it also reported that younger child in siblings were admitted for alcohol addictions more than their elder children.⁹ Sharf et al (2008) also showed that youngest child feels in order to have control on lives and to be more popular they tried various substances to fulfill their demands of attractions and control on others¹⁰. A study conducted by Eckstein et al also showed that younger child were tempered, socially involved and more substance addicted as compared to older child of family¹¹. 2002). Another study done by Sutherland et al¹² showed that middleborn or younger ones are more involved in delinquent behaviour including addictions when compared to their older siblings. Another study done by Laird et al¹³ concluded that younger ones took treatment for their binge drinking behaviour and more drug abuse activities.

CONCLUSIONS

Our present study concluded that the younger children of family with higher birth order were more involved in alcohol dependency as compared to their healthy controls.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST- NIL.

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