



A STUDY TO ASSESS THE AFFECT OF BIRTH ORDER ON PERSONALITY TRAITS OF ADOLESCENTS STUDYING IN UCON FARIDKOT, PUNJAB.

Mental Health Nursing

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Human have their own unique character traits. Each individual has different way of thinking, behaviour, and emotions. Psychology of personalities is the study of human personality and how it distinguishes between people and people. Birth order of a child significantly affects the ideology and personality a client possesses and special attention must be given to how learning their birth order may affect them. **AIM :** The aim of study to assess the affect of birth order on personality traits of adolescents studying in university collage of nursing, faridkot, Punjab. **MATERIALS AND METHODS:** The convenient sampling was used to collect the data. Sampling size was 77 adolescents. A standardized tool EYSENCK'S PERSONALITY QUESTIONNAIRE - R (EPQ - R) containing 90 Questions was used to assess the personality traits. **RESULT AND FINDINGS :-** The data was analyzed by ANOVA test. Most of the adolescents (67%) were having neuroticism personality and remaining (10%) having extraversion Personality. There was no significant association between birth order and personality traits. There was significant association between Gender, Number of siblings, Place of staying, Type of family and Occupation of mother at the level of significance ($p < 0.05$). **CONCLUSION:** The study concluded that there was significant association between place of staying, type of family, maternal occupation, number of siblings and gender at the level of significance ($p < 0.05$).

KEYWORDS

Personality traits ,Birth order ,Adolescents.

INTRODUCTION

Birth order is an individual's and rank by age among siblings. Human have their own unique character traits. Each individual has different way of thinking, Behavior and emotions. Birth order refers to the order a child is born in their family, e.g-First born, Second born. Since Adler's time, the influence of birth order on the development of personality has become a controversial issue in psychology. Psychologists disputes in Modern theory Personality states that are Big five:-Personality traits, conscientiousness, Extraversion, agreeableness and Neuroticism. In his 1996 Book *Born to Rebel* "Frank Sulloway" suggested that Birth order had powerful affect on the on the Big Five Personality traits. He argued that First born were much more conscientious and socially dominant, less agreeable, and less open to new ideas compared to later born.

¹Scientists believes that genes the environment leads to variable in personality. Personality theories in psychology aim to provide a frame work to understand human personality, including the causes and motivation for thought, behaviour and social Interactions. Personality theories are the result of hypothesis, experiments, case studies and clinical researched by scientists in the psychology and human Behaviour field.²

The field of personality theories continues to grow and change as more research opportunities arise and studies are completed. Psychodynamic theories-In which proposal of the id, ego and super ego. Freud saw these three parts of mind as the basis of human personality. Traits theories-It proposes that people's personalities varies according to which basic personality traits are more dominant. Humanistic theories-It Propose that someone's personality depends heavily on what they think themselves- who they believe they are. Social cognitive theories- Behaviourism, Social learning theory, Expectancy-value theory. Biological theories- In which theories assert that Brain structure and Neurophysiology are what determine your personality traits.³

Various studies have been carried out to see the affect of birth order on behavior and other person and parents are able to see the minimum affect of the birth order at the age of 15-21 years. Relative to first and last born children, middle -children are believed to experience less interaction and receive less attention which negatively affects self-esteem of this child. Last-born children are believed to be the most creative, emotional, extraverted, disobedient, irresponsible and talkative (Herrera, et. al. 2003).⁴

It is also well known that the younger generation is more rebellious, open, and fun (Paulhus, 1991). The youngest child, on the other hand,

faces the challenges of being pampered and develops an extraordinary sense of inferiority (Brink & Matlock, 1982). The birth order theory is popular because the explanations for the differences in personality among siblings with different birth orders are intuitive and reasonable to compute. Furthermore, numerous variations in birth order may give the impression that the birth sequence plays an important role in personality development (Kevin, 1988).⁴

Everyone is familiar with the stereotypes of the smart, responsible eldest child, the rebellious babies of the family, and the easygoing middle child. Two studies published in the last three years have finally discovered that our position in the family has an effect on our intelligence and personality. Both are observing and experiencing themselves as they repeat the described role, encouraging internal role identity (Stewart et al., 2001). It might be time to reconsider birth order as a true influence on who we grow up to be.⁴ Research has keen interest in finding the link between birth order and personality traits. Therefore, the current study will be conducted to assess the affect of birth order oh personality traits on adolescents studying in UCON Faridkot, Punjab. . The aim of the study is to find out the affect of birth order on personality traits of students.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

A descriptive study to assess the affect of Birth order on personality traits of adolescents studying in UCON Faridkot, Punjab.

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the personality traits of adolescents studying in UCON.
2. To assess the association of personality traits with birth order of adolescents studying in UCON.
3. To assess the association of personality traits with selected demographic variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A descriptive research approach was employed to carry out the study to assess the birth order affect on personality traits in adolescents studying in University College of Nursing Faridkot, Punjab. was the B.sc nursing 1st year (1st semester) students studying in University College of Nursing Faridkot, Punjab. Original data were collected from the 77 B.sc nursing 1st year (1st semester) students studying in University College of Nursing, Faridkot using convenient sampling technique.

The data was collected from 29/May/2023 to 1/June/2023. Formal permission was taken from the principal of University College of Nursing, Faridkot, Punjab. The researcher introduced herself to the subjects and then explained about the purpose of gathering

information, importance and the nature of study. A written informed consent was taken and confidentiality of data was assured. Tool was given to the study subjects to assess their socio-demographic variables and personality traits. To fill the tool, each study subjects took 15-30 minutes data collected from study subject.

The tool consist of two parts. Part A – Socio-Demographic data and Part B – The Eysenck Personality tool revised (E.P.Q-R) is a 90 items Questionnaire which include for components Psychoticism, Extraversion, Neuroticism and Lie. The demographic tool was validated by the experts of University College of Nursing Faridkot, Punjab. The standardized tool Eysenck Personality Questionnaires Revised (E.P.Q-R) was purchased from Prasad Psycho Private Limited. The reliability of Eysenck Personality tool revised (E.P.Q-R) subscales was demonstrated by internal consistency levels. Satisfactory level of internal reliability were found for the E (0.74 – 0.84), N(0.70 -0.77), L (0.59 -0.65) subscales. Data were analyzed by using descriptive and inferential statistics per our study objective stated earlier. Statistical significance (p value) was set at 0.05 for the tests involved.

Results:

Most 74(96.1%) of participants were female and most 49(63.6) of them were belong to age 19-20 years. In context with Birth order most of the adolescents 59.7 % were first born and 20.8% were second born and 19.5% were last born. Most of adolescents 88.3% were cared by both parents Majority of adolescents 50.6% identified as sikh and 46.8 % identified as Hindu. Majority of adolescents 68.8% follow vegetarian diet. Most 28.6% of adolescents had two siblings. Majority of adolescents 71.4 % live in the hostels. Majority of adolescents 58.4% belongs from nuclear families. 29.9 % fathers of adolescents completed secondary education while 28.6 % have senior secondary education and 29.9 % had graduated or above that level. 26.0% mothers of adolescents having graduated, 28.6% having secondary education, 14.3 % having primary education and 26.0 % mothers were illiterate. Most of fathers of adolescents 44.2 % were farmer. Majority of mothers of adolescents 85.7% were housewives. Majority of adolescents 26% family falls in the income range of Rs. 20000-40000 and 26 % family income Rs.10000-20000.

Table No.1: Frequency & Percentage of Socio-demographic Variables of Participants N=77

S No.	Demographic Variables		Frequency	Percent
1	Gender	Male	3	3.9
		Female	74	96.1
2	Age	17-18	23	29.9
		19-20	49	63.6
		21-22	5	6.5
3	Birth order	First Born	46	59.7
		Second Born	16	20.8
		Third-to- Last Born	15	19.5
4	Primary Care giver	Single parent	7	9.1
		Both parents	68	88.3
		Grand parents	2	2.6
5	Religion	Hindu	36	46.8
		Sikh	39	50.6
		Muslim	2	2.6
6	Eating Habits	Vegetarian	53	68.8
		Non vegetarian	24	31.2
7	No. of siblings	1	47	61.0
		2	22	28.6
		3	5	6.5
		4	1	1.3
		5	2	2.6
8	Place of Staying	Hostel	55	71.4
		PG	2	2.6
		Own home	19	24.7
		Ranted home	1	1.3
9	Type of Family	Nuclear family	45	58.4
		Joint family	28	36.4
		Extended family	4	5.2
10	Education of Father	Illiterate	2	2.6
		Primary	7	9.1

		Secondary	23	29.9
		Senior secondary	22	28.6
		Graduation or above	23	29.9
11	Education of Mother	Illiterate	4	5.2
		Primary	11	14.3
		Secondary	20	26.0
		Senior secondary	22	28.6
		Graduation or above	20	26.0
12	Occupation of Father	Govt. Job	14	18.2
		Private Job	29	37.7
		Farmer	34	44.2
13	Occupation of Mother	Housewife	66	85.7
		Govt job	5	6.5
		Private job	5	6.5
		Labourer	1	1.3
14	Family Monthly Income	Rs. 10,000.00 - 20,000.00	20	26.0
		Rs. 20,000.00 - 40,000.00	26	33.8
		Rs. 40,000.00 - 60,000.00	19	24.7
		Rs. 60,000.00 - 80,000.00	9	11.7
		Rs. >80,000.00	3	3.9

SECTION-I

Obejective -1 : To assess the personality traits of adolescents studying in UCON EXTRAVERSION N=77

Table : 2.1- Frequency and Percentage of Personality traits among adolescents studying in UCON

Level of Sten score Interpretation	Frequency	Percentage
Low Score	00	00
Average	00	00
Above average	08	80
High Score	02	20

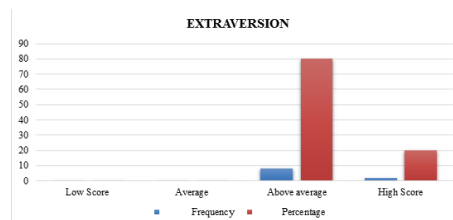


Figure 2.1- Bar graph showing the distribution of Extroversion personality according to level of Sten score interpretation

Table 2.1 and figure 2.1 depict that out of 10 Extraversion personality 80% had above average, 20% had high score.

NEUROTICISM

Table 2.2- Bar graph showing the distribution of Neuroticism personality according to level of Sten score interpretation N=77

Level of Sten score Interpretation	Frequency	Percentage
Low Score	00	00
Average	03	4.5
Above average	38	56.7
High Score	26	38.8

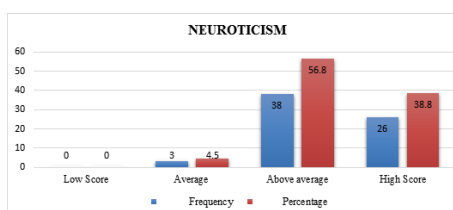


Figure 2.2- Bar graph showing the distribution of Neuroticism personality according to level of Sten score interpretation

Table 2.2 and figure 2.2 depict that out of 67 had neuroticism personality 4.5% had average, 56.8% had above average 38.8% had high score.

The table shows the results of analysis of personality traits according to EYSENCK'S PERSONALITY QUESTIONNAIRE -R (Psychoticism, Extraversion, Neuroticism and Lie) among adolescents studying in UCON, this tables includes various statistical measures such frequency and percentage value of Extraversion personality and Neuroticism personality. Based on data result no participant fallied in Psychoticism Personality and lie.

SECTION-II

Objective 2: To assess the association of personality traits with Birth order of Adolescents Studying in UCON

Table 3.1: Association of personality traits with Birth Order of Adolescents Studying in UCON N=77

ANOVA		Sum of Squares		F	P value	Result
Psychoticism	Between Groups	.563	2	.363	.697	NS
	Within Groups	57.386	74			
Extraversion	Between Groups	16.128	2	.532	.589	NS
	Within Groups	1121.040	74			
Neuroticism	Between Groups	.716	2	.028	.973	NS
	Within Groups	957.077	74			
Lie	Between Groups	5.569	2	1.740	.183	NS
	Within Groups	118.380	74			

The table shows the results of an analysis of personality traits (Psychoticism, Extraversion, Neuroticism, and Lie) among adolescents students studying at UCON based on their birth order (First Born, Second Born, and Third-to-Last Born). There is no significant association between personality traits and birth order of the adolescents.

SECTION-III

Objective -3: To assess the association of Personality traits with selected demographic variables

There are 5 variables having significant association with the personality traits.

Table 4.1: Association of Personality traits with selected demographic variables N=77

S No.	Personality traits	Demographic Variables									
		Gender		Number of Siblings		Place of Staying		Type of Family		Occupation of mother	
		F	Results	F	Results	F	Results	F	Results	F	Results
1	Psychoticism	.003	NS	2.23	S	2.052	S	4.912	S	.598	NS
2	Extraversion	6.087	S	.230	NS	3.229	S	.531	NS	.661	NS
3	Neuroticism	9.115	S	1.813	NS	4.965	S	2.211	NS	3.544	S
4	Lie	.087	NS	1.683	NS	.382	NS	.236	NS	.097	NS

Table 4.1 shows a significant association of Extraversion(p=0.016), and Neuroticism (p=0.003) with the Gender of adolescents. Males tend to score higher on Extraversion, while females tend to score higher on Neuroticism. There is a significant association of the Psychoticism with the number of siblings. There is no significant association of Extraversion and Lie scores with the number of siblings. There is a

significant association of Psychoticism scores (p=0.114), Extraversion scores(p=0.027) and Neuroticism traits with the place of stay (p=0.003). There is a significant association of Psychoticism trait with the type of family (p= 0.010). There is no significant association of Extraversion, Neuroticism, and Lie with the type of family.. There is a significant association of Neuroticism (p=0.19) with the occupation of mothers (p<0.05). There is no significant association of Psychoticism, Extraversion, and Lie scores with the occupation of mothers.

DISCUSSION

The findings are discussed in relation to the objectives, need for the study and related literature of the study.

Objective: 1. To assess the personality traits of adolescents studying in University College of nursing, Faridkot.

The study result represents personality trait in which most of adolescents 67 % were having neuroticism personality and remaining 10% having extraversion personality. The objective of the study is supported by this study.

Tamanna Gupta (2017) conducted a study that aimed to explore the personality trait of different birth orders. Sample of the study consisted 60 college students of different birth order (20 first born, middle born, last born). There age ranged between 17- 26 years. Their education was at least graduation and above. Selected subjects were tested by questionnaire method their psychological dimensions of neuroticism, extraversion, openness, agreeableness, and conscientiousness to assess personality traits NEO-FFI questionnaire was used. Collected data was analyzed by using ANOVA. Finding reveals that there was significant difference between different birth orders on personality traits²¹

Objective : 2. To assess the association of personality traits with Birth order of adolescents studying in university college of nursing , Faridkot

There was no significant association of personality traits with birth order.

Radicaloana Damian, Brent W. Roberts(2015):Conducted a study to tested birth order associations with personality traits and intelligence using Project Talent, a representative sample (N = 377,000) of U.S. high school students. Using a between-family design and several background factors (i.e., age, sex, sibship size, parental socio-economic status, and family structure), we were able to control for potential confounds, and estimate the links between birth order and outcomes across several different social categories. In addition to differences between firstborns and later borns across the entire sample, we also tested birth rank trends in a sub-sample of targets from sibships of three, raised by two parents. Overall, the average absolute association between birth order and personality traits was(.02) significant. whereas the one between birth order and intelligence was (.04) significant.²²

Objective 3 : To assess the association of personality traits with selected demographic variable .

There were significant association of the demographic variables like place of staying ,type of family ,maternal occupation, number of siblings and gender at the level of significance (p=<0.05) with the personality traits. The objective is supported by the study conducted by Ooi Boon Keat, putrimardina Ayu Bt Mazlin (2019) to examined the long-standing question of whether a person's position among siblings has a lasting impact on that person's personality randomly. A total of 120 participants collected data is based on a questionnaire which was answered by the respondents. 30 firstborns, 30 middle children, 30 lastborn, and 30 only children were recruited into this study by random sampling. The data analysis use a Spearman's correlation test and Chi-Square test. Their personality was assessed by Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Personality Test (MBTI). Results indicated that the personality types are vary among the participants. Participants of different birth orders did not differ significantly in personality overall. However, Spearman's correlation showed that birth order was correlated positively only with Sensing/Intuition personality with r = -0.221(non significant) . It showed that the lower the order of birth, the more intuitive the person will be.

CONCLUSION, LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The data was analyzed by ANOVA test. Most of the adolescents (67%) were having neuroticism personality and remaining (10%) having

extraversion Personality. There was no significant association of personality traits with birth order. There were significant association of demographic variables place of staying, type of family, maternal occupation, number of siblings and gender at the level of significance ($p \leq 0.05$) with personality traits.

Limitations of the Study

The Eysenck Personality Questionnaire Revised – (EPQ-R) is limited to assess the four domains of personality traits.

Recommendations

- On the basis of the findings of the study following recommendations have been made-
- Study can be replicated on a larger and more diverse sample.
- Longitudinal research can be conducted to track personality traits over time.
- Qualitative methods can be used to similar study.
- Exploratory study can be conducted on the relationship between birth order and personality traits in nursing.
- Cross cultural studies can be conducted to examine how birth order and personality may vary across different cultural contexts.
- A Study can be conducted to explore the impact of birth order on academic achievement and educational attainment.
- A study can be conducted to explore the relationship between birth order and leadership styles within the nursing field.

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