

A Comparative Study of Joint-Nuclear Family School Children of Different Birth-Order on Extraversion

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ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken to study of different birth order on extroversion among subjects to joint and nuclear families boys and girls having rural and urban background which was conducted in Madhubani and Darbhanga districts of Bihar (India). The sample of the study comprised of 400 subjects (200 boys and 200 girls). 200 subjects belonging to joint families and 200 belonging to nuclear families. 200 subjects belonging to rural areas and 200 subjects belonging to urban areas were randomly selected in class VII. Junior Eysenck Personality Inventory has been originally developed by Eysenck & Eysenck (1964) and Personal data sheet has been developed by the research scholar. Having collected the data through the questionnaire schedule, the data were tabulated according to the procedure for statistical treatment. The results revealed that rural first born boys of joint family were significantly more extrovert than urban later born boys of joint family later born rural boys as well as girls of nuclear family. The later born girls of urban nuclear family were significantly more extrovert than later born boys and girls of urban joint family, and later boys and girls of rural nuclear families. However, significant difference has been found between the groups of girls and boys as t-value is found statistically significant beyond 0.05 and 0.01 levels.

Keywords: Joint-Nuclear Family School Children, Birth-Order on Extraversion

In our society, for instance when people talk about their families, they usually mean a joint and nuclear family. The joint family may be preferred by people who desire more frequent contacts, greater cooperation, and closer relationship with relatives. The joint family forms had and have more in Indian society in which grandparents, two or more parents and their children live together, work together, but the joint families have also various problems. Interpersonal conflicts may exists. The joint family unit has greater economic need than small unit. But in American societies when people talk about their “families” they usually have in mind a nuclear family, a unit of composed of the husband, wife and children. Most people in American societies prefer to live in nuclear family. In contrast, various societies have or had the extended family as their ideal family pattern. In these societies many people do not be in such household, whether by choice or economy necessity. In recent decades very few societies including India, has significant proportions (over 20%) of their populations living in

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Received: July 10, 2019; Revision Received: August 16, 2019; Accepted: September 25, 2019

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extended family arrangement (Burch, 1967). Some people believe that extended families were common at one time in our society.

Studies have been conducted on Extroversion/Introversion and degree of neuroticism on Engineers, doctors, teacher and adolescents and by the authors like – Jang et al. (1996); Costa and McCrae (1994) et. al. But very few studies been conducted on children belonging to joint and nuclear families, rural and urban background and boys and girls birth order on extraversion. Eysenck suggested that extraversion is an outward directed personality orientation characterized by sociability, activity and interest in the public environment rather than inner directed attitudes and interests. He has many friends, needs to have people to talk and does not like study by himself. He craves excitement; takes chance often sticks his neck out; act on the spur of the movement and is generally an impulsive individual. He is found of practical jokes, always has a ready answer and generally likes change, he is care free, easy going, and optimistic and likes to “laugh and be merry”. He prefers to keep moving and doing things, tends to the aggressive and lose his temper quickly, altogether his feelings are not kept under tight control and he is not always a reliable person.

Adler, Freud and Jung suggested that birth order influences personality. He argued that birth order can leave an indelible impression on an individual style of life, which is one’s habitual way of dealing with the task of friendship, love and work. According to Adler first born are “dethroned” when a second child comes along, and this loss of perceived privilege and primary may have a lasting influence on them. Middle children may feel ignored or over looked, causing them to develop the so called middle child syndrome. Younger and only children may be pampered and spoiled, which was suggested to affect their later personalities (Adler, 1964). One modern theory of personality states that the big five personality’s traits of Openness, Conscientiousness, Extroversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism represent most of the important elements of personality that can be measured. Contemporary empirical research shows that birth order does not influence the big five personalities traits (Rohrer, Egloff, Schmukle, Stefan).

Aims and objective of the present study

Aims and objective of the study, as well as its methodological dimensions are as follows the study had been proposed to ascertain the effects of structural and functional dimensions of family on the development of personality traits in children. Thus family structure (joint and nuclear family) was considered as independent variables and personality traits (extroversion/birth order) were considered as dependent variables. In this context following hypothesis were formulated :

1. First born boys of joint family would be more extrovert than subjects of other groups.
2. The rural later born boys of joint family were found to be more extrovert than urban later born boys and girls of nuclear family..

Definition of Variables:

Joint Family: Joint family in this study will refers to a family in which parents, grand-parents, uncles, aunts and cousins live together.

Nuclear Family: Nuclear family in this study will refer to family in which only parents and their children live.

Rural Areas: Rural areas in this study refer to the areas that do not lie within the municipal limits.

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Urban Areas: Urban areas in this study refer to the areas lie within the municipal limits.

Extraversion: Extraversion is a personality type based on particular neutral structures which cause a rapid development reactive inhibition, strong inhibition and a slow dissipation of inhibition. The neurotic form of extraversion is seen as hysteric symptoms (Eysenck 1961).

Birth order: Birth order defined as an individual's rank by age among siblings, has long been of interest to psychologists as well as lay-people. Much of the fascination has focused on the possible role of birth order in shaping on personality and behavior.

METHODOLOGY

Sample

The sample comprised rural boys 19+31=50 (first-later born) of joint family, rural boys 14+36=50 (first-later born) of nuclear family, rural girls 11+39=50 (first-later born) of joint family and rural girls 9+41=50 (first-later born) of nuclear family. Similarly a comparative group of urban boys 11+39=50 (first-later born) of joint family, urban boys 11+39=50 (first-later born) of nuclear family and girls 18+32=50 (first-later born) of urban joint family and 5+45=50 urban girls nuclear family. Thus, altogether 400 students studying class VII of rural and urban high schools were selected randomly. The school under study was located in Madhubani and Darbhanga districts of Bihar. The age range of children was 11-13 years with mean age of 12.0 years.

Tools used

1. Personal data sheet has been developed by research scholar.
2. The Junior Eysenck Personality Inventory (J. E. P. I) has been developed by Eysenck & Eysenck (1964).

Procedure

The above mentioned tools in printed form were administered on middle school children (boys and girls) as per the instructions given the manual. After tabulating the data, the data were given statistical treatment to test the hypothesis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In order to test the hypothesis that first born boys of joint family would be most extrovert than subjects of other the observed data was further analyzed to see the effect of birth order on extroversion traits of personality. Such decision was taken because of the fact that birth order has been found to be significant factor influencing individual's social and personality traits as Singh & Sinha (1988) found that first born had a significantly higher mean acceptance score than the second born child. Khatri & Gupta (1988) found that first born improved better under positive reinforcement as compared to negative reinforcement, and last born improved better under negative reinforcement as compared to positive reinforcement. Gupta (1986) found that last born subjects were more Machiavellian followed by first and middle born subjects.

Thus for the purpose of statistical analysis data were tabulated according to family structure, sex, locale and birth order of the subjects, and mean extroversion scores of these groups were compared through t-ratio. The obtained results are presented in Table – 1

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Table – 1 Comparison of Mean Extroversion scores of subjects of Different Birth order

Family	Group	N	Mean	SD	SE	2	3	4	5	6	t-ratio 7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Joint family	1.Rural First-Born Boys	19	16.11	1.91	0.44	1.74	1.20	1.13	0.42	1.80	2.70**	1.98	0.27	1.96	0.61	1.46	3.56**	2.72	1.81	0.04
	2.Rural First-Born Girls	11	14.91	1.76	0.53		0.33	0.30	1.31	0.21	0.66	0.14	0.40	0.75	0.38	0.75	1.43	0.54	0.06	1.81
	3.Urban First-Born Boys	11	14.45	4.34	1.31			0.48	0.99	0.44	0.01	0.40	1.06	0.21	0.54	0.40	0.37	0.08	0.36	1.21
	4.Urban First-Born Girls	18	15.17	3.01	0.71				0.79	0.15	0.87	0.22	0.88	0.91	0.15	0.87	1.50	0.76	0.26	1.15
	5.Rural later-Born Boys	31	15.84	2.68	0.48					1.27	2.61*	1.42	0.13	1.66	0.42	1.29	2.97**	2.10*	1.33	0.41
	6.Rural later-Born Girls	39	15.05	2.52	0.40						1.02	0.09	1.40	0.93	0.90	0.28	0.85	1.91	0.16	1.89
	7.Urban Later- Born Boys	39	14.46	2.68	0.43							0.98	2.26*	0.35	0.80	0.50	0.87	0.18	0.77	2.88**
	8.Urban Later- Born Girls	32	15.00	1.98	0.35								1.55	0.90	0.58	0.82	1.94	0.86	0.09	2.14*
Nuclear family	9.Rural First-Born Boys	14	15.93	1.82	0.49									1.75	0.50	1.35	3.06**	2.21*	1.44	0.26
	10.Rural First-Born Girls	9	14.11	2.76	0.92										0.90	0.27	0.17	0.45	0.82	2.00
	11.Urban First-Born Boys	11	15.36	3.44	1.04											0.90	1.27	0.73	0.36	0.66
	12.Urban First-Born Girls	5	13.60	3.71	1.66												0.20	0.56	0.78	1.46
	13.Rural later- Born Boys	36	13.94	2.50	0.42													1.09	1.60	3.77**
	14.Rural later- Born Girls	41	14.56	2.46	0.38														0.65	2.89**
	15.Urban later-Born Boys	39	14.95	2.92	0.47															0.63
	16. Urban Later- Born Girls	45	16.09	2.57	0.38															

* Significant beyond 0.05 level

** Significant beyond 0.01 level

An inspection of Table – 1 would make it clear that rural first born boys of joint family were significantly more extrovert than urban later born boys of joint family later born rural boys as well as girls of nuclear family. The last born girls of urban nuclear family were significantly more extrovert than later born boys and girls of urban joint family, and later boys and girls of rural nuclear family. The rural later born boys of joint family were found to be more extrovert than urban later born boys and girls of nuclear family. Rural first born boys of nuclear family were more extrovert than urban later born boys of joint family. Similarly, rural first born boys of nuclear families were more extrovert than rural later born boys and girls of nuclear families.

The results clearly indicated that rural first born boys of nuclear and joint families and urban later born girls of nuclear families were more extrovert than subjects of other groups. This results can be explained in terms of magnitude of social support received by these two groups of subjects. It is general seen that firstborn boys do receive a lot of love, affection and interaction by the members of the family and outside family. Similarly later or last born girls are very dear to the parents because they are very much serviceable to parents and elders. This is why the children of these two categories are more extrovert than those of other categories.

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CONCLUSION

In the light of the results obtained and interpretation of the following conclusion are drawn:

1. First born boys of rural joint family and later born girls of urban nuclear family were found to be more extrovert than others.
2. The later born girls of urban nuclear family were significantly more extrovert than later born boys and girls of urban joint family, and later boys and girls of rural nuclear family.
3. Rural first born boys of nuclear families were more extrovert than rural later born boys and girls of nuclear families.

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Acknowledgements

The author appreciates all those who participated in the study and helped to facilitate the research process.

Conflict of Interest

The author declared no conflict of interests.

How to cite this article: D.P. Sahu (2019). A Comparative Study of Joint-Nuclear Family School Children of Different Birth-Order on Extraversion. *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 7(3), 286-291. DIP:18.01.033/20190703, DOI:10.25215/0703.033