

Relationship Between Self-perception and Machiavellianism among First Born and Last Born College Students

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to understand the relationship between self-perception and Machiavellianism among first born and last born college students. The study includes a sample of 120 including 60 first borns and 60 last borns college going students. The tools used in this study are self-perception measuring scale by K.G Agarwal(1962) and Behavior Orientation scale(Mach scale)by Dr Parveen Kumar Jha(1970) .The analysis of t-test results indicated that there was no significant difference of sub dimensions of self-perception (that is self-regard and self acceptance) although there was a noticeable mean difference between the level of self-perception and its sub scale self-regard among first born and last born college students where first born exhibited higher level of self-perception and high self-regard as compared to last born college students. t-test results also showed that there is a significant difference between Machiavellianism and its subscales among first born and last born college students. Last born have higher levels of Machiavellianism as compared to first born and also are higher in tactics , views and morality (sub scale of Machiavellianism) for the same. The analysis of correlation matrices exhibited a negative association between self-perception and Machiavellianism and results also showed that there was negative association between self-perception and views and morality sub dimensions of Machiavellianism.

Keywords: *Self-perception, Machiavellianism, College students*

The birth order is the order in which a child is born . The first child is normally the oldest child that is born into a family. The middle child is can be the second or third child all the way to the last born or the baby of the family. The birth order can change if there is a large difference in ages from one child to the next. A child who is the second born can change if the child has an older sibling that he/she was not raised with. The popular birth order concept was given by Alfred Adler.

Birth Order Types

According to Adler Birth Order theory there are four types of birth order. The first child is known as first born, In general, firstborn youngsters are found to be accountable, assertive, task oriented, perfectionist and supporters of authority. Many second born are also middle children. They usually feel inferior to older children because they do not possess their

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siblings advanced abilities. Last born are usually considered to be the family baby and always treated as a small child of the family no matter how old are they. They usually get enough extra attention from the family members and have greater self concept and perception of themselves. Only children are usually like first born. Only children mature very early as they grew up with adults and sometimes have trouble relating to peers.

Self-Perception

Self-perception means how we perceive our self. One's self-perception is defined by their self concept, self-expertise, vanity and social self. Self-concept paperwork a major part of self-perception. The Perceptions of Self states that all of us are not clearly so self-aware.

The theory of self-perception states that individuals create states of minds by watching their behavior and choosing on which behavior to react on. This hypothesis is based on a circumstance where there was no past demeanor on a subject due to need of encounter in that region. The hypothesis recommends that individuals see at their activities as an outer person and thinks why he reacted to that particular situation.

Machiavellianism

Machiavellianism is one of the developments in what's referred to as the 'Dark Triad', the other two being narcissism and psychopathy. Niccolò Machiavelli, a diplomat and philosopher inside the Renaissance whose maximum well-known work have become 'The Prince' (Il Principe). This notorious book espoused his perspectives that sturdy rulers must be harsh with their subjects and enemies, and that glory and survival justified any approach, even ones that have been taken into consideration immoral and brutal.

People who are high in Machiavellianism are very high in manipulation, only focused on their own goals and deceive others for their own good, lacks principles and values, can harm others to achieve their goal, lacks emotions only focused on success on any cost.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Yang (2002) conducted a study to look at self-concept, locus of management and Machiavellianism of 169 numerous middle grade students known as talented. Subjects consisted of ninety (31 boys, 18 girls). Self-concept, locus of management and Machiavellianism were assessed by self concept scale for youngsters and Machiavellianism by Mach 4 scale. Self concept was considerably and absolutely related with internal locus of control and with low Machiavellianism. Results showed that students with good self concept have low Machiavellianism.

Gupta(2000) studied Birth order and locale as determinants of Machiavellianism Examined the impacts of birth request and district on Machiavellianism (i.e., control of others for one's own motivations) among 135 male students (matured 17–18 yrs) in India. The investigation utilized a $3 \times 3 \times 3$ factorial plan with 3 degrees of birth request (first, center, last) and 3 districts (city, town, town). Ss finished a Hindi form of the Mach IV scale by M. D. Gupta (1982) initially built by R. Christie and F. L. Geis (1970). An examination of change uncovered that last conceived Ss were the most Machiavellian, trailed by first and center conceived Ss. Ss from urban areas scored most noteworthy on the Mach IV scale, trailed by Ss from towns and towns. There was a critical association between birth request and district. *Berry, Margaret, Ostrowski and Finle(2000)* studied the effect of birth order and age of target on use of persuasive techniques. It has been said that first born have higher power and

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persuasive techniques as compared to last born children. In these researches of order of birth and age of goal have been confounded. The present study is about the age of the target and use of persuasive techniques. individuals use persuasive techniques on them who are younger to the or are of same age.

Gecas and pasley (2000) studied the effect of order of birth on self-concept become tested in a sample of adolescent men and women. Based upon self-theory, which suggests that the two essential methods of self-idea formation (e.G., meditated appraisals and social comparisons) are affected by the energy and position relationships related to ordinal role inside the circle of relatives, several hypotheses have been tested: (1) The self-reviews of only and oldest youngsters are extra advantageous than those of younger siblings; (2) center-borns have the lowest self-opinions; (3) these relationships are tormented by the intercourse and spacing of nearest sibling; and (four) the self-conceptions of oldest and only borns are more much like those in their parents than the self-conceptions of younger siblings and their parents.

METHODOLOGY

Aim

The present study aimed to see the relationship between self-perception and Machiavellianism among first born and last born college students.

Objective

1. To assess difference in the levels of self-perception among first born and last born college students.
2. To assess difference in the level of Machiavellianism among first born and last born college students.
3. To determine the relationship between self-perception and Machiavellianism among first born and last born college students.

Hypothesis

1. There will be a significant difference of self-perception among first born and last born college students.
2. There will be a significant difference of Machiavellianism among first born and last born college students.
3. There will be a significant relationship between Self-perception and Machiavellianism among first born and last born college students.

Variables

- Independent variable - Self-perception
- Dependent Variable- Machiavellianism

Sample Description

The total sample used in this study is 120 in which 60 are first born and 60 are last born college students. The age range is taken between 18-24 college students studying in bachelors and masters programme. and the data is collected from colleges of Delhi NCR. Purposive Sampling method is used to collect the data.

Research Design

Correlational Research Design is used in this study.

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Tools Used in the Study

- Self-perception measuring scale by K.G. Agarwal.(1962)
- Behavior Orientation Scale by Dr. Parveen Kumar Jha.(1970)

Statistical Analysis

T test and Correlation is used in this current study.

RESULTS

Table 1 Mean, SD, T scores for self-perception and Machiavellianism and there subscales among first born and last born college students.

Variables	Birth Order	N	Mean	SD	t-test
Self Acceptance	First Born	60	16.71	2.64	-.527
	Last Born	60	16.96	2.54	
Self-regard	First Born	60	10.50	27.28	2.044
	Last Born	60	9.86	26.93	
Self-perception	First Born	60	27.28	3.81	.550
	Last Born	60	26.93	3.11	
Tactics	First Born	60	44.61	9.60	-3.35**
	Last Born	60	50.33	9.05	
Views	First Born	60	49.7	10.67	-2.94**
	Last Born	60	55.80	11.81	
Morality	First Born	60	12.71	3.44	-3.73**
	Last Born	60	14.88	2.88	
Machiavellianism	First Born	60	106.78	13.08	-6.29**
	Last Born	60	120.98	11.59	

* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$

The above tabulated data shows the Mean, SD scores of self-perception, its subscales and also for Machiavellianism and its subscales among First Born and Last Born college students ((16.71, 2.64) and (16.96, 2.54) respectively). It shows that last borns have little higher self acceptance than first borns. Self-regard (sub scale) of self-perception among first born and last born shows mean, SD (10.50, 1.74) and (9.86, 1.65) respectively. It shows that first born have higher self-regard than last born college students. The mean and sd of overall self-perception among first born and last born shows (27.28, 3.81) and (26.93, 3.11) respectively. It shows that first born have higher self-perception than last born college students. The above table also shows mean SD scores for Tactics (sub scale), Views (sub scale), Morality (sub scale) and overall Machiavellianism. The mean, SD of tactics among first born and last born shows (44.61, 9.60) and (50.33, 9.05). It shows Last born have high Tactics than first born. The mean, sd of Views (sub scale) of Machiavellianism among first born and last born shows (49.75, 10.67) and (55.80, 11.81). It shows last born have more Machiavelli views than first borns college students. The mean, SD of Morality (sub scale) of Machiavellianism among first born and last born shows (12.71, 3.44) and (14.8, 2.88). It shows Last born college students have higher Machiavelli morality than First born college students. The Mean, SD of overall Machiavellianism among first born and last born shows (106.78, 13.08) and (120.98, 11.59) respectively. It shows the overall Machiavellianism of last born students are higher than first born college students.

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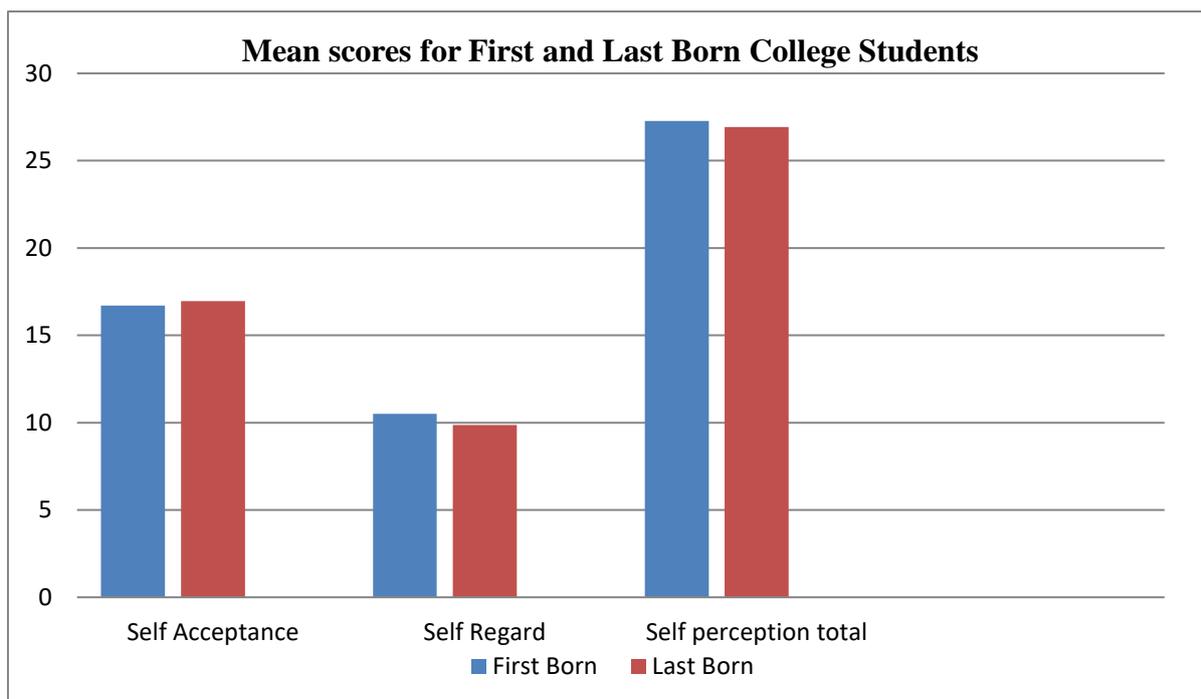


Figure 1 -Highlights the mean scores of the dimensions of Self-perception across First- and Last-Born college students.

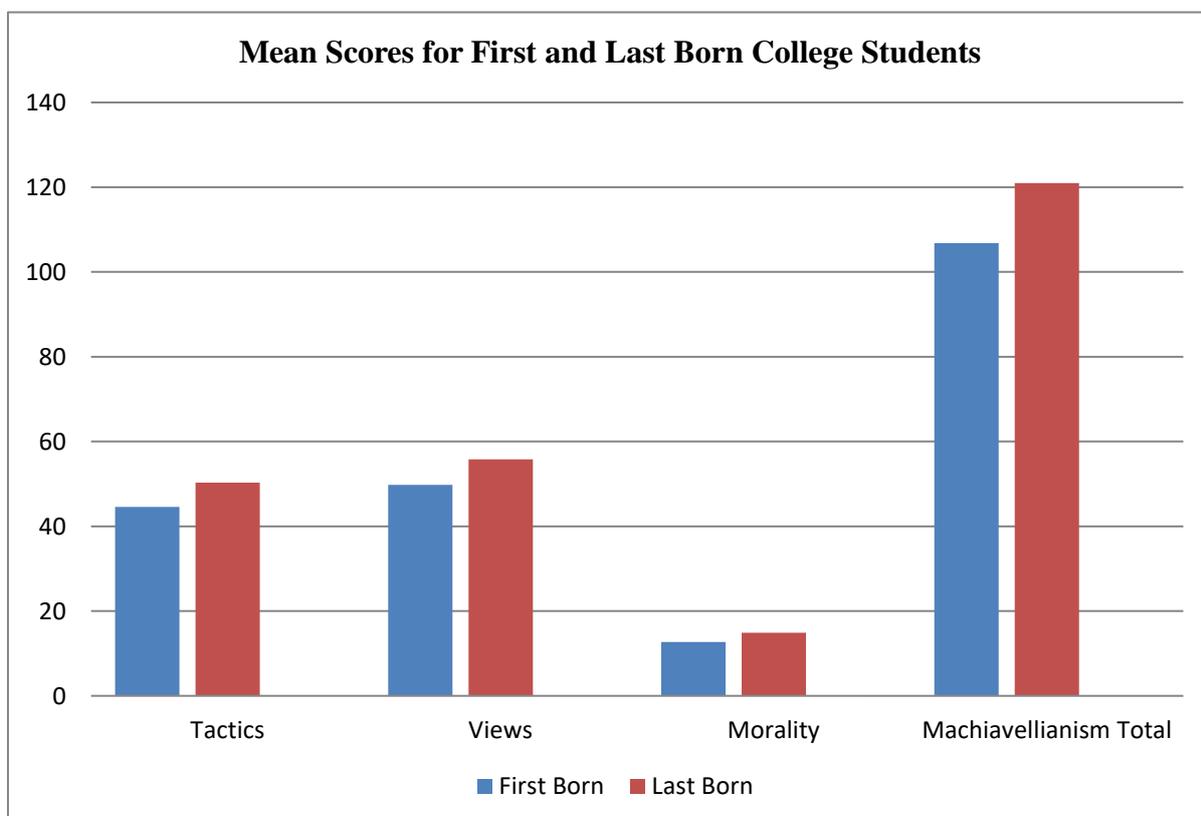


Figure 2- Highlights the mean scores of the dimensions of Machiavellianism across First- and Last-Born college students.

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Table- 2 Correlation matrix for self-perception and Machiavellianism and there subscales among first and last born college students.

Variables	self Acceptance	Self Regard	Self Perception	Tactics	Views	Morality	Machiavellianism
Self Acceptance	-----						
Self Regard	.290**	-----					
Self Perception	.885	.666**	-----				
Tactics	.153	-.001	.125	-----			
Views	-.225*	-.115*	-.229*	-.377**	-----		
Morality	-.210*	-.192*	-.265**	.339**	.306**	-----	
Machiavellianism	-.143	-.137	-.182*	.452**	.628**	.724**	-----

*p<.05, **p<.01

The above table shows the correlational matrix between the variables of the study. A bivariate Pearson correlation was calculated between self-perception, its subscales and Machiavellianism and its sub scales. The results showed that self-perception negatively correlated with Machiavellianism $r = -.182^*$, $p < .05$ which states that if self-perception increases Machiavellianism decreases and if self-perception decreases Machiavellianism will increase. The result also shows that there is a negative significant relationship of dimensions self-perception which is self acceptance and self-regard with views and morality dimensions of Machiavellianism. It also shows that self-perception is negatively correlated with views and Morality $r = -.229^*$ $p < .05$ and $r = -.265^{**}$, $p < .01$ respectively. The results also show self acceptance is negatively correlated with views and morality subscale of Machiavellianism $r = -.225^*$, $p < .05$ and $r = -.210^*$, $p < .05$.

Major Findings

1. There is no significant difference of sub dimensions of self-perception that is (self-regard and Self-Acceptance) among first born and last born college students.
2. The mean difference shows that first born have higher self-perception than last born.
3. There is a significant difference in the levels of Machiavellianism among first born and last born college students.

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4. The mean difference shows that last born have higher Machiavellianism than first born college students.
5. The result also shows that there is a significant difference in subscales of Machiavellianism which are tactics, views and morality among first born and last born college students.
6. The mean scores shows that last born are high in tactics, views and morality as compared to first born college students.
7. There is a Negative significant relationship between self-perception and Machiavellianism among first born and last born college students.
8. The result also shows that there is a negative significant relationship of dimensions of self-perception and views and morality dimensions of Machiavellianism.

DISCUSSION

The aim of this current research is to study the relationship between self-perception and Machiavellianism among first born and last born college students. For this current study sample of 120 college students are taken. Data is collected from the colleges and universities from Delhi NCR. The sample consists of First born and Last born college going students of the age group 18-24.

Hypothesis one states that there will be a significant difference in self-perception among first born and last born college students. The results showed that there is no significant difference in level of self-perception among first born and last born college students. Although it can be seen there is no significant difference but a mean difference is found which states that first born have higher self-perception than last born college students. Also it can be seen through the result that First born have higher self-regard than last born college students.

Second hypothesis states that there will be a significant difference in Machiavellianism among first born and last born college students. The results shows that there is a significant difference in Machiavellianism among first born and last born college students. It also shows that higher level of Machiavellianism in last born students as compared to first born college students. The results also show that last born are found to be higher in Tactics , Views and Morality subscale of Machiavellianism as compared to first born college students. Third hypothesis states that There will be a significant relationship between self-perception and Machiavellianism among first born and last born college students. The results show that negative significant relationship between self-perception and Machiavellianism which states that if self-perception increases Machiavellianism will decrease. The results also show that there is a negative significant relationship between the dimensions of self-perception(self acceptance and self-regard) and (views and morality) dimensions of Machiavellianism among first born and last born college students. The above hypothesis is supported by a research conducted by Demars (1999), he studied effect of self acceptance on Machiavellian traits. The results showed individuals higher in self acceptance were found to be low in Machiavellian traits such as tactics.

Future Recommendation

1. Research can be extended to other sections of society.
2. Relationship between self-perception and Machiavellianism can also be studied among school children and older population.

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3. Other variables like social competence, risk taking behavior and parental differential treatment can be studied.
4. First born and last born students of urban and rural areas can also be compared to see the effects of environment and other psychological variables.
5. Difference between Males and Females can be studied.
6. The age gap between siblings and how it affects their self-perception and Machiavellianism can also be studied.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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