

Birth Order and Perceived Parenting Style among Young Adults

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ABSTRACT

Onward March 2020, life of the individual has been changed especially student's life either school or college because the Education system is going on online. Due to the online system, interaction with peers there was very less and more involvement with family. Aim of the present investigation to study the birth order and perceived parenting style among young adults. Sample is 200 college students taken from Delhi and NCR. Data collected through online. For data collection, used Parenting style scale and this scale is available in Indian context. For statistical analysis use Mean, SD and ANOVA. Result found that middle born child perceived less concern, responsiveness, warmth from parents as compared to first born and last born. Also conclude that first born gets more appropriate response from parents.

Keywords: *Perceived Parenting Birth-order Young Adults Gender*

Every research give new knowledge and validate existing knowledge. This present research wants to study the birth order influence on perceived parenting style among young adults. Birth order is the constant factor which is never change and its influences is continues whole life span. Initially, our whole development gets nurturance (environmental treatment) based on birth order (Nature/ biologically). In developmental psychology, Nature v/s Nurturance is the big issues faced during research. Both factors work simultaneously and we can't say which factor is most important. Even parents treat them according to their birth order. When child is born simultaneously parents emotion and expectation starts which affects the child and developed child's personality. Existing researches worked on adolescence group but we are trying to study young adults' perspectives regarding perceived parenting style because earlier parents-child relationship also important at this phase.

Parenting is a big support to any child in his/her life. In today scenario is needed more support and good relationship with parents to make better quality of life. Parenting style introduced by Baumrind (1968) and her theory of parenting style based on two factors. First factor is Warmth / Responsiveness and second factor is Demand, interaction of these two factors give three dimension of parenting style. This parenting theory revised and developed by Maccoby and add one more dimension of parenting style by interaction of

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Received: August 20, 2021; Revision Received: September 20, 2021; Accepted: September 30, 2021

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Responsiveness and Demand. Therefore, parenting style has four dimensions i.e., Authoritative, Authoritarian, Permissive and Uninvolved parenting style.

Responsiveness/ Demanding	High (Demanding)	Low (Demanding)
High (Responsiveness)	Authoritative style (Democratic)	Permissive style
Low (Responsiveness)	Authoritarian Style (Autocratic)	Uninvolved Style

The following four kinds of parenting are defined as:

- Authoritative (Democratic)-This parenting style is characterized by an optimum balance of responsiveness and demandingness. Democratic parents are warm but firm. Such parents are most concerned that their child understands why a rule is in place and the importance of following that rule, than in punishing the child for breaking it.
- Authoritarian (Autocratic)-It refers to be a rigid parenting style, such parenting style is marked by parental behaviors that are highly restrictive and very demanding. They are strict disciplinarians; use a restrictive, punitive style.
- Permissive (Indulgent)-It characterized by non-restrictiveness and high levels of responsiveness is known as permissive parents. These are very warm but undemanding. They are passive and indulgent and child is allowed to make many important decisions without parental input.
- Neglectful (Uninvolved)-This style of parenting low in both dimension (i.e., the degree of responsiveness and demandingness) is known as uninvolved parenting style. Such parents are not warm and do not place any demand on their child.

Onward March 2020, life style has been changed especially students' life either college or school students. Everything is going on virtual mode except family interaction in young adults' life. During this phase, young adults move to college life and meet with diversity like new peer group from different culture, become independent and explore world but due to covid life style has been change and live with family whole days. From present investigation we want to know the parents- child relationship according to young adults' perspective.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Antti (2019) looked at the birth order of adult children and the strength of their relationships with their parents: There is no evidence for the middleborn hypothesis. According to the neglected middleborn hypothesis, middleborn children should have poorer parental relationships than firstborn and lastborn children. Prior research into this topic, however, has yielded conflicting results. A large-scale, population-based sample of younger individuals from Germany was used to investigate the neglected middleborn hypothesis in this study. Contact frequency, emotional closeness, intimacy, and the amount of conflict participants expressed towards their mother and fathers were used to assess relationship quality. It was discovered that, middle borns reported less intimacy with their mothers in comparison to lastborns. In all other respects, however, middle borns were no different from firstborns or lastborns in terms of the quality of their relationships with their mothers and fathers. As a result, the study found no solid evidence for the middle-born effect.

Raghav and Joshi (2011) examined the influence of gender, age and birth order on adjustment during adolescence. The study was conducted in urban area of Aligarh, district of Uttar Pradesh. A sample of 400 adolescents (200 girls and 200 boys), aged 14-17 years were selected randomly for the study. The Multistage Stratified Random sampling technique was

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used for the selection of the sample. The Adjustment inventory was used to collect the data. The data were analyzed by using mean, SD, correlation and t-test. The result of the study showed that age and birth order had affected the adjustment of adolescent boys and girls significantly and also indicated that adjustment of girls was higher among the girls as compared to boys. Parents gave affection to the youngest one. They had a feeling of sharing their things, cooperation and emotional bond with elders. On the other hand, 1st and 2nd born adolescents had a feeling of single child and jealousy with their siblings. They want to fulfill all the desires on their demands. Due to this conception, the difference between adjustment of 1st and 2nd born and 3rd and above born adolescents might have occurred. So, the gender, age and birth order had affected the adjustment of adolescents.

Falbo and Polit (1986) conducted six meta-analyses of 115 studies published between 1925 and 1984 in psychological journals and educational sources, involving both male and female subjects ranging in age from preschoolers to adults, and contrasts between only children and various comparison groups- first, only children were compared with all non-only children. In terms of birth order and family size, additional comparison groups were created. Small (two to four children), medium (three to four children), and large (five or more children) families were developed as comparison groups. Only children were compared to first and later born children in multi-child homes in terms of birth order. Achievement, adjustment, character, IQ, parent-child interactions, and sociability were among the topics investigated in the meta-analysis. Only borns outperformed all other people in terms of success and IQ, with the exception of firstborns and persons from two-child homes. Only children were found to be indistinguishable from firstborns and members of small families across all developmental outcomes.

Research Question

- Is birth order play important role in young adults?
- To study the influence of birth order on perceived parenting style.

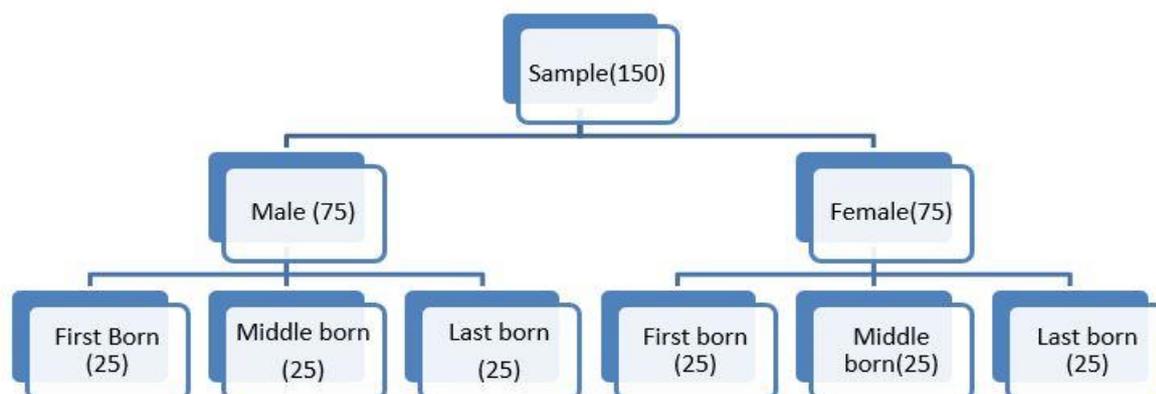
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Systematic planning and procedure are very important to get scientific outcome of the study. It is quantitative research in which we used survey method and collected data through Google form from young adults.

Sampling

Population of the present study is young adults of Delhi & NCR. Sample taken from this population for this study and total number of 150 sample size is investigate in which 75 males and 75 females. The participants were 18 to 25 years with a mean age of 21.34 years. Also, we divided the male and female group into birth order. Sample structure mentioned below:

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Psychological Scale Used

Parenting Style (Prof. Madhu Gupta and Ms. Dimple Mehtani)- 44 items which is divided into 4-domain that is Democratic, Autocratic, Permissive and Uninvolved parenting style.

RESULT TABLES

Table No.1: Showing birth-order wise mean and S.D. of dimension of parenting style

DP= Democratic Parenting Style

AP= Autocratic Parenting Style

PP= Permissive Parenting Style

UP= Uninvolved Parenting style

Dimension	Birth-Order	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
DP	First born	50	31.06	7.99
	Middle born	50	29.38	9.19
	Last born	50	30.50	7.61
AP	First born	50	26.10	5.20
	Middle born	50	27.36	7.39
	Last born	50	25.98	7.57
PP	First born	50	21.02	5.37
	Middle born	50	22.32	6.07
	Last born	50	22.24	6.92
UP	First born	50	11.42	5.78
	Middle born	50	14.86	6.97
	Last born	50	13.64	7.12

Table No.2: Showing the comparison among birth order on Dimension of parenting style

Dimension		ANOVA				
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
DP	Between Groups	73.173	2	36.587	.531	.589
	Within Groups	10119.100	147	68.837		
	Total	10192.273	149			
AP	Between Groups	58.440	2	29.220	.629	.534
	Within Groups	6825.000	147	46.429		
	Total	6883.440	149			
PP	Between	53.080	2	26.540	.699	.499

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Dimension		ANOVA				Sig.
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	
	Groups					
	Within Groups	5578.980	147	37.952		
	Total	5632.060	149			
UP	Between Groups	304.173	2	152.087	3.431	.035
	Within Groups	6515.720	147	44.325		
	Total	6819.893	149			

DP= Democratic Parenting Style
PP= Permissive Parenting Style

AP= Autocratic Parenting Style
UP= Uninvolved Parenting style

DISCUSSION

Birth order is the constant factor which is never change and its influence simultaneously found in the behavior of individual. The concept of birth order initially developed by Adler (1928) who talked about characteristic of different birth order which makes individual to unique. When child born, parents treat them accordingly and also learned many things from first born child to last born. Parents' expectation also developed their child which reflects in behavior of child in young adults' phase. Earlier experiences and parent-child relationship developed young adults' personality. Aim of the study to measure the influence of birth-order on perceived parenting style among young adults. A psycho-social theory of development psychology given by Erikson (1964), he is also explained that young adults developed intimacy v/s isolation where they involved in new relationship and happy live with it, if they struggling this phase then developed feeling of loneliness and isolated.

From table No.1, mean score of dimensions of parenting style explain that first born (M=31.06) is highly follow the democratic parenting style as compared to middle born (M=29.38) and last born (30.50). First and last born are almost same in democratic parenting style (Price, 2008). Another dimension of parenting style is Autocratic, in this style middle born (M=27.36) perceived high score as compared to first born (M=26.10) and last born (M=25.98). This mean score explain that middle born perceived more restriction and less responsiveness from parents compared to other birth order.

On Permissive dimension of parenting style, mean score explain that middle born (M=22.32) and last born (M=22.24) are perceived same level of responsiveness and control but first born (M=21.03) is perceived less this dimension. In last dimension of parenting style which is uninvolved style, middle born (14.86) has high score as compared to first born (M=11.42) and last born (M=13.64).

Table No.2 reflects significant difference of dimension of parenting style among birth order (Armitage, 2007). The analysis explains that there is statistically significant difference in uninvolved dimension of parenting style in regards to birth order by using one way ANOVA. As we can see that democratic parenting ((2,147) =.53, $p > 0.05$), autocratic parenting ((2,147) =.62, $p > 0.05$), permissive parenting ((2,147) =.69, $p > 0.05$) and uninvolved parenting ((2,147) =3.43, $p < 0.05$). There are no significant differences found in democratic, autocratic and permissive dimension of parenting style. Therefore, objectives of

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this study successfully found which stated that birth order play important role at this phase of life. As parents, it is necessary to know the child's emotion and give support according.

CONCLUSION

Present investigation found that middle born child perceived less concern, responsiveness, warmth from parents as compared to first born and last born. Also conclude that first born gets more appropriate response from parents. These finding help the counselor and parents to modify the ways of behavior towards middle born child even young adults' phase also.

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Acknowledgement

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

Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

How to cite this article: Srivastava S. K. & Shashi (2021). Birth Order and Perceived Parenting Style among Young Adults. *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 9(3), 2224-2229. DIP:18.01.212.20210903, DOI:10.25215/0903.212