

Research Paper

Impact of Birth Order on Personality Traits of College Students

Dr. Umakant Subhash Gaikwad^{1*}

ABSTRACT

Objectives of the study: To search the impact of birth order on personality traits of college students. **Hypothesis:** There will be no significant impact found of birth order on personality traits among college students. **Sample:** The total sample comprised of 160 college students was selected. Birth order is used as type-E variable for the present research. Based on the Birth order, two groups of students were formed, namely students with First Born (N= 80) and students with Last Born college students (N= 80) belonging to Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar District Maharashtra state. Non-Probability Purposive sampling was used for the present study. **Research Tools** 1. Dimensional Personality Inventory (DPI):- developed and standardized by Mahesh Bhargava in 2002, is composed of 60 items. **Statistical Analysis:** “t” value Statistics is used for the present study. **Conclusions** 1. First born college students had significantly high Activity than the last-born college students (Passivity). 2. First born college students had significantly high Enthusiastic than the last-born college students (non-enthusiastic). 3. First born college students had significantly high Assertive than the last-born college students (Submissive). 4. First born college students had significantly high Trusting than the last-born college students (Suspicious). 5. First born college students had significantly high Non-Depressive than the last born college students (Depressive). 6. First born college students had significantly high Emotional Stability than the last-born college students (Emotional instability).

Keywords: Birth order, Personality traits, Activity-Passivity, Enthusiastic – Non- Enthusiastic, Assertive-Submissive, Suspicious-Trusting, Depressive-Non-Depressive, Emotional Stability – Emotional instability college students

Birth order refers to the position of a child within a family about their siblings. Birth order is a concept that refers to the order in which siblings are born within a family. Birth order is believed to have an impact on various aspects of a person's life, including their personality traits. For college students, their birth order may contribute to shaping their personality traits and influencing their behavior, relationships, and overall development during their academic journey. Research on birth order and personality has been a topic of interest among psychologists for many years. While some studies suggest that birth order has a significant impact on personality traits, others argue that the effects of birth order on personality may be more subtle or influenced by various other factors. (Personality Type and Birth Order of Women Engineering Students, 2019).

¹HOD Psychology, Arts and Science College Chincholi (Li), Tq-Kannad, Dist -Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Maharashtra, India

*Corresponding Author

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Birth order theory suggests that the position a person holds among their siblings can have lasting effects on their personality. (Kalkan, 2008) Firstborn children are often characterized as responsible, ambitious, and leaders. Middleborn children, on the other hand, are typically described as peacemakers, flexible, and social. Lastborn children are often seen as outgoing, creative, and charming. Impact of Birth Order on Personality Traits of College Students Research has shown that birth order can influence various personality traits of college students. For instance, a study conducted by Smith and Johnson found that firstborn college students tend to be more conscientious, organized, and achievement-oriented compared to their later-born siblings. Additionally, firstborns are often more likely to be perfectionistic and have higher levels of assertiveness and leadership abilities. Middleborn college students, on the other hand, are often more social and adaptive to different social situations. They have developed strong interpersonal skills and are often seen as peacemakers within their peer groups. Studies have also shown that lastborn college students tend to be more outgoing, creative, and charismatic. These personality traits may be a result of the unique dynamics and roles that individuals assume within their families based on their birth order. (Doron, 2009).

However, it is important to note that the relationship between birth order and personality traits is not a simple cause-and-effect scenario. There are conflicting findings and multiple factors that contribute to a person's personality, including genetics, upbringing, and individual experiences. Some researchers argue that the impact of birth order on personality may be overstated and that other factors, such as parenting styles and social influences, play a significant role in shaping personality traits (Personality Type and Birth Order of Women Engineering Students, 2019). Additionally, a study conducted by White, Campbell, and Stewart found that the relationship between psychological birth order (how individuals perceive their birth order) and lifestyle.

Overall, the research on birth order suggests that it does not have a significant and enduring influence on personality traits or intelligence. However, despite this lack of conclusive evidence, many psychologists and non-psychologists continue to believe in the importance of birth order in shaping personality. In fact, the effect of sibling status on people's personality traits has been an intensively studied topic for decades (Möttus et al., 2008). While some studies suggest that birth order may have some impact on certain aspects of a person's life, such as academic success or career choices.

In understanding birth order, it is important to consider the impacts it can have on personality traits (Qing et al., 2021). While there has been extensive research on the effect of birth order on personality traits, overall, the consensus is that birth order has minimal influence on individual differences in personality traits. This conclusion is based on studies that have looked at factors such as parents' differential treatment of children and competition among siblings for attention. ## The Context-Dependent Nature of Birth Order Although there have been many studies examining birth order and its potential impact on various aspects of a person's life, such as intelligence, personality traits, and educational opportunities, the findings have been inconsistent. As a result, it is difficult to establish general models or laws that capture systematic processes across families (Rodgers, 2001).

Significance of Birth Order in Child Development

While the research on birth order's impact on individual differences in personality traits or intelligence is inconclusive, it is important to consider the context-dependent nature of birth order and the potential influences it may have on various aspects of child development.

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Therefore, while birth order may not have a consistent and significant effect on personality traits or intelligence, it is still worth considering its potential influence in understanding child development and family dynamics (O'Shea & Kirrane, 2008). In today's rapidly changing world, the significance of accurate weather forecasts cannot be overstated. While the impact of birth order on individual differences in personality traits or intelligence is minimal, it is still worth considering the potential influences of birth order in understanding child development and family dynamics. The impact of birth order on individual differences in personality traits or intelligence is minimal and inconclusive, it is still worth considering the potential influences of birth order in understanding family dynamics and child development.

Objectives of the study

To search the impact of birth order on personality traits of college students.

Hypothesis

There will be no significant impact found of birth order on personality traits among college students.

Sample

The total sample comprised of 160 college students was selected. Birth order is used as type-E variable for the present research. Based on the Birth order, two groups of students were formed, namely students with First Born (N= 80) and students with Last Born college students (N= 80) belonging to Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar District Maharashtra state. Non-Probability Purposive sampling was used for the present study.

Variables

A. Independent Variables

1) Birth Order

- First Born
- Last Born

B. Dependent Variables

- Activity-Passivity
- Enthusiastic – Non- Enthusiastic
- Assertive-Submissive
- Suspicious-Trusting
- Depressive-Non-Depressive
- Emotional Stability – Emotional instability

Research Tools

Dimensional Personality Inventory (DPI): The Dimensional Personality Inventory, developed and standardized by Mahesh Bhargava in 2002, is composed of 60 items. This inventory is designed to assess six significant dimensions of personality, which are as follows: Activity and Passivity Trait, Enthusiastic and Non-Enthusiastic Trait, Assertive and Submissive Trait, Suspicious and Trusting Trait, Depressive and Non-Depressive Trait, Emotional Instability and Emotional Stability Trait. The test constructor focused on establishing the reliability of the Dimensional Personality Inventory's various dimensions. The correlation coefficients for these dimensions are as follows: Activity and Passivity: 0.74, Enthusiastic and Non-Enthusiastic: 0.69, Assertive and Submissive: 0.79, Suspicious

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and Trusting: 0.82, Depressive and Non-Depressive: 0.66, Emotional Instability and Emotional Stability: 0.84.

Statistical Analysis

“t” value Statistics is used for the present study.

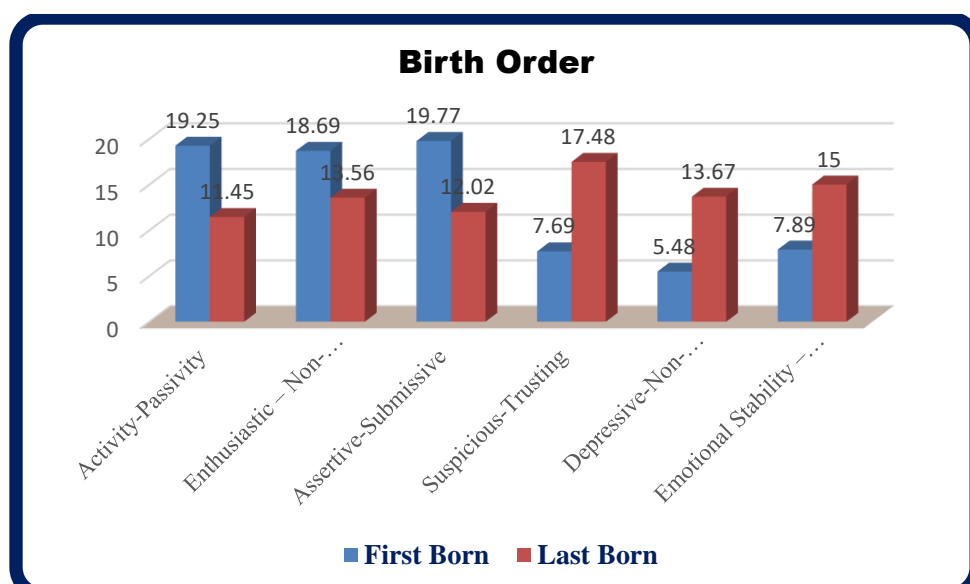
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Mean, Std. Deviation and t value of emotional intelligence and Anxiety, Stress and Depression among College students.

Table No-1

Factors	Birth Order				df	t
	First Born		Last Born			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD		
Activity-Passivity	19.25	3.26	11.45	3.58	158	14.40**
Enthusiastic – Non- Enthusiastic	18.69	4.10	13.56	3.60	158	8.40**
Assertive-Submissive	19.77	2.97	12.02	4.32	158	13.22**
Suspicious-Trusting	7.69	3.22	17.48	4.03	158	16.97**
Depressive-Non-Depressive	5.48	3.57	13.67	3.74	158	14.16**
Emotional Stability – Emotional instability	7.89	3.44	15.00	3.18	158	13.57**

Significant at 0.01 = 2.62, 0.05* = 1.98**



From the above table, the mean score of Activity-Passivity of first born college students is 19.25, SD = 3.26 and Mean of Last born college students is 11.45, SD = 3.58. The obtained t value is 14.40 with a df of 158 was found to be statistically significant. It concluded that first born college students had significantly high Activity than the last born college students (Passivity).

Mean score of Enthusiastic – Non- Enthusiastic of first born college students is 18.69, SD = 4.10 and Mean of Last born college students is 13.56, SD = 3.60. The obtained t value is 8.40 with a df of 158 was found to be statistically significant. It concluded that first born

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college students had significantly high Enthusiastic than the last born college students (Non-Enthusiastic).

Mean score of Assertive-Submissive of first born college students is 19.77, SD = 2.97 and Mean of Last born college students is 12.02, SD = 4.32. The obtained t value is 13.22 with a df of 158 was found to be statistically significant. It concluded that first born college students had significantly high Assertive than the last born college students (Submissive).

Mean score of Suspicious-Trusting of first born college students is 7.69, SD = 3.22 and Mean of Last born college students is 17.48, SD = 4.03. The obtained t value is 16.97 with a df of 158 was found to be statistically significant. It concluded that first born college students had significantly high Trusting than the last born college students (Suspicious).

Mean score of Depressive-Non-Depressive of first born college students is 5.48, SD = 3.57 and Mean of Last born college students is 13.67, SD = 3.18. The obtained t value is 14.16 with a df of 158 was found to be statistically significant. It concluded that first born college students had significantly high Non-Depressive than the last born college students (Depressive).

Mean score of Emotional Stability – Emotional instability of first born college students is 7.89, SD = 3.44 and Mean of Last born college students is 15.00, SD = 3.18. The obtained t value is 13.57 with a df of 158 was found to be statistically significant. It concluded that first born college students had significantly high Emotional Stability than the last born college students (Emotional instability).

Frank Sulloway's "Born to Rebel" (1996) argued that birth order could predict personality differences, with firstborns being more conservative and later-borns more open to novelty.

The relationship between birth order and personality is complex and often subtle. While early theories and some research have suggested that birth order can influence personality, more recent and comprehensive studies have generally found weaker or inconclusive effects. It's important to consider other factors such as parenting styles, family dynamics, and cultural influences when assessing how birth order may contribute to personality development. Ultimately, individual differences are shaped by a wide range of factors, making it challenging to attribute specific personality traits solely to birth order.

CONCLUSIONS

- First born college students had significantly high Activity than the last born college students (Passivity).
- First born college students had significantly high Enthusiastic than the last born college students (Non- Enthusiastic).
- First born college students had significantly high Assertive than the last born college students (Submissive).
- First born college students had significantly high Trusting than the last born college students (Suspicious).
- First born college students had significantly high Non-Depressive than the last born college students (Depressive).
- First born college students had significantly high Emotional Stability than the last born college students (Emotional instability).

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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