

EFFECT OF BIRTH-ORDER ON PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS

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ABSTRACT:

Aim of this research is to study the effect of birth order on personality characteristics. 400 subjects are randomly selected from different colleges from Aurangabad city. Neuroticism and Extraversion these two personality characteristics used for this research. For statistical analysis Mean, SD and t test was used. Results showed that there is a significant difference in the personality characteristic of neuroticism in the first born and last born, and there is significant difference between the personality characteristic of Extraversion in the first born and last born.

KEYWORDS:

Neuroticism, Extraversion, Birth-order, College students

An individual's personality is the combination of traits and patterns that influence their behaviour, thought, motivation, and emotion. It drives individuals to consistently think, feel, and behave in specific ways; in essence, it is what makes each individual unique. Over time, these patterns strongly influence personal expectations, perceptions, values, and attitudes.

According to Allport (1937) "Personality is dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical system that determine his unique adjustment to his environment."

The big five traits have been researched and validated by many different psychologists. (W.T. Norman 1963, McCra and Costa 1987 & Egan 1989, L.R. Goldsmith 1990 and Sinclair 1992) Trait theory on which many of our occupational questionnaires are based, states that by the time, our personality traits become more fixed and are thus capable of being reliably measured. Five factor model of personality is hierarchical organization of personality traits in term of five basic dimensions.

Openness: Appreciation for art, emotion, adventure, unusual, ideas, imagination, variety of experience, and curiosity.

Conscientiousness: Self-discipline, act dutifully and aim for achievement planned behaviour.

Extraversion: Surgency, tendency to find stimulation, company of others, positive emotions and energy.

Agreeableness: A tendency to compassionate and cooperative rather than suspicious and antagonistic towards others.

Neuroticism: A tendency to experience unpleasant emotions easily like anger, anxiety, depression.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Julia M. Rohrer, Boris Egloff and Stefan C. Schmukle (2015) examined the effects of birth order on personality. This study examined the long-standing question of whether a person's position among siblings has a lasting impact on that person's life course. They observed a significant decline of a 10th of a SD in self-reported intellect with increasing birth-order position, and this effect persisted after controlling for objectively measured intelligence. Most important, however, the researchers consistently found no birth-order effects on extraversion, emotional stability, agreeableness, conscientiousness, or imagination and concluded that birth order does not have a lasting effect on broad personality traits outside of the intellectual domain.

Rodica Loana Damian and Brent W. Roberts (2015) in their study on the associations of birth order with personality and intelligence in a representative sample of U.S. high school students using a between-family design and several background factors (i.e., age, sex, sib ship size, parental socio-economic status, and family structure), found that the average absolute association between birth order and personality traits was .02, whereas the one between birth order and intelligence was .04. In a between-family design, they found very small associations between birth order and personality, with an average absolute partial correlation of .02. The partial correlations between birth order and cognitive abilities were slightly higher, the average being .04, with a maximum overall association of .08 for verbal ability, where positive associations indicate higher scores for firstborns and concluded that the magnitude of the effects would indicate that birth order is not an important consideration to either of these outcomes.

Linda Blair (2011) a psychologist, studies how birth order affects personality. She states that middle-born children are diplomatic because they are often the sibling that is forced to compromise. Blair says last-born children are more outgoing, charming people who enjoy being the center of attention. They are more likely to be rebellious because it is easier for them to get away with breaking the rules than it was for their older siblings. She states that only children are more likely to be perfectionists. They are also responsible because they are good at planning, and organizing.

AIM OF THE STUDY:

Personality development is the major aspect in human development. Birth-order is the main part in personality development. Aim of the present research is to study effect of birth order on personality characteristics.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To study the effect of birth order on neuroticism.
2. To study the effect of birth order on Extraversion

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:

1. There will be significant difference in the personality characteristic of neuroticism in the first born and last born.
2. There will be significant difference between the personality characteristic of Extraversion in the first born and last born.

METHODOLOGY:

The Sample:

For the present study 400 samples was selected from various colleges of Aurangabad city. For this research random sampling method was used to selecting the sample. Male and female ratio was taken in equal sample size group. The subjects were included in the age range of 16 to 20 years.

VARIABLES:

Independent Variable:

Birth-order

Dependent Variables:

Personality Characteristics

Tools Used For Data Collection

NEO-PI-R

NEO-PI-R developed by Paul T. Costa and Robert R. McCrae. It provides five separate dimensions of personality neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to experience, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness. The domain scales show internal reliabilities, which range from .87 to .92. Facet scales shows internal reliabilities ranging from .58 to .82. Validity is high.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

The sample of the present study was selected from different colleges from Aurangabad city. The study was conducted on junior college students, and the age range was 16 to 20 years. The participants of various institutions were approached one by one and objectives of the study were explained in brief. All institutions provided us the facilities for data collection.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The study was delimited to Aurangabad City of Maharashtra.
2. The study has been confined to the junior college students studying in class XI and XII only.
3. Size of sample was delimited to 200 only.

RESULTS:

Showing the mean, SD and 't' score of Neuroticism in relation to birth order

Birth order	Mean	N	SD	t	Level of significance
First born (A1)	27.2550	200	6.2687	3.420	**
Last born (A2)	29.4350	200	6.6397		

't' significant at $p < 0.01$

*Significant at 0.05 level 1.97, **Significant at 0.01 level 2.60

It can be observed from the Table no. 1 that the mean score (27.25) of neuroticism in the first born is less than the mean score (29.43) of the last born. The 't' score of neuroticism in relation to birth order is

3.420, which is significant at .01 level. Graph no. 1 showing the mean scores of neuroticism in relation to birth order. The high scores on neuroticism indicate high on Anxiety, Hostility, Depression, Self-consciousness and Impulsiveness in the individual. In this study the last born are more inclined towards neuroticism when compared with the first born. On the basis of these scores it can be said that there is a significant difference in the personality characteristic of neuroticism in the first born and last born, i.e. birth order.

Showing the mean, SD and 't' score of Extraversion in relation to birth order

Birth order	Mean	N	SD	T	Level of significance
First born (A1)	25.5373	200	5.4323	2.329	**
Last born (A2)	26.7861	200	5.1903		

't' significant at $p < .01$

*Significant at 0.05 level 1.97, **Significant at 0.01 level 2.60

It can be observed from the Table no. 2 that the mean score (25.53) of Extraversion in the first born is less than the mean score (26.78) of the last born. The 't' score of Extraversion in relation to birth order is 2.329, which is significant at .01 level. Graph no. 2 showing the mean scores of Extraversion in relation to birth order. The high scores on Extraversion indicate Warmth, Gregariousness, Assertiveness, Activity, Excitement seeking and Positive emotions in the individual, whereas a low score indicates low level of Extraversion. In this study the last born are more Extraverts when compared with the first born. On the basis of these scores it can be said that there is significant difference between the personality characteristic of Extraversion in the first born and last born, i.e. birth order.

CONCLUSION:

1. There is a significant difference in the personality characteristic of neuroticism in the first born and last born. The last born are more inclined towards neuroticism when compared to the first born.
2. There is significant difference between the personality characteristic of Extraversion in the first born and last born. The last born are more Extraverts when compared to the first born.

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