

PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES AMONG FEMALES BROUGHT UP WITH SIBLINGS AND FEMALES BROUGHT UP WITHOUT SIBLINGS

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Abstract: The present study was designed to investigate about the personality difference among females brought up with siblings and females brought up without siblings. So, for this purpose, group data of 100 females was taken which constitutes of 50 females brought up with their siblings and 50 females brought up without siblings. The 16 Personality Factor Questionnaire was used as a primary research instrument. Results were computed and t test was applied to study the difference between the two groups.

Keywords: personality, single born, siblings, factors, children, birth order.

I. INTRODUCTION

Birth order is defined as a person's position by age among his or her siblings. Birth order is considered as one of the major factor which can have a profound and long lasting effect on psychological development. This concept has been repeatedly challenged by researchers, yet birth order continues to have a strong presence in popular culture. The word siblings are used for the children who are born from the same parents, or one can say that children who are brothers and sisters are called siblings. Every child has some individual characteristics which make him different from others. The individual differences between siblings occurs because of many reasons like a desire to have power, a wish to have a control over the situation, a craving to stand out from his or her siblings to get more love and affection from his/her parents. There is a lot of debate and discussion that whether birth order has an effect on child's personality or not. There is a lot of discussion that whether the presence of siblings would affect the child's personality or not.

A. Characteristics Of A Child Brought Up Without Siblings

An only child is a person who doesn't have any siblings, that is a child neither having a brother or a sister. A child having no siblings during his /her growing period would never lose the position of primacy and power which they hold in their family. They would remain the focus and center of attention in their family as the parents would be only concern about his/her growth and development. Spending more time in the company of adults than a child with siblings, only children often mature early and manifest adult behaviors and attitudes (McKibben, 1998).

However, it is often seen that parents of a single born child becomes over-protective for their children who in turn affects the child's personality. The problem occurs when the children who don't have any siblings are admitted in school. As they had remained the focus of attention in their family, they get used to that, but when they don't get the same amount of attention in their school, they face many difficulties. Children brought up without siblings have learned neither to share nor to compete, as a result, if they don't get sufficient attention and recognition, they might feel disappointed from themselves.

The children who don't have any siblings are considered somewhat different from those children who are brought up with their siblings. As they don't have any interaction with their siblings, they are brought around adults with whom they share their feelings and become the sole center of parental attention. Because of the above mentioned reason, the child who doesn't have any siblings may face difficulty in getting along with other children and may seek to have everybody's attention what he/she used to get in his/her home. Positive traits of the only child include a sense of maturity and a strong sense of self –control (Sorensen, 2008).

The child brought up without siblings often feel lonely and is always in search of a company outside the home. This search could result in finding a wrong company. Also a child brought up without any siblings learn to take responsibilities, as they know that they are the only child and they have to look after their parents, a sense of responsibility develops inside them.

B. Characteristics Of A Child Brought Up With Siblings

A child brought up with siblings learn many interpersonal skills like adjusting with others, sharing things with others, as they are sharing things with their siblings. They also learn tolerance and patience as they have to wait for their turn while a parent is giving attention towards his/her sibling. In this case, the child learns to divide his/her task which actually saves time and one can find new and creative ideas to solve any problem. A child with siblings would find a company in his/her growing years which is an extremely crucial thing in a child's growing years.

It is often seen that the first born have similar personality characteristics as the single born child. They are the center of attention till the arrival of the second born. They often feel dethroned due to the presence of the second born. The last born are often viewed as toy for the family. The last born are considered to be carefree and break rules easily. High parental expectations are attached with the eldest one whereas the youngest one receives a pampering environment just as the single born child. The eldest one is given the name as "small adults" whereas the youngest ones are given the name as "rebel" (Sulloway,1996).

In the meta-analysis of only children research, Falbo and Polit (1986) found that children brought up without siblings have scored lower on sociability scale when the data was self-report, but there was no difference in sociability score when the method of measurement was changed to peer rating. The only child seemed to have a lower need to be sociable but was not lonely (Falbo, 1981). Intelligence has been a variable considered by several researchers. An analysis of 115 studies of only born reported higher levels of intelligence than people who have siblings (Falbo and Polit,1988). Polit (1987) explains that only children score higher on tests of verbal ability than children with multiple siblings. Rosenberg (1955) in his research found that the single borns had the highest self-esteem within a predominantly Jewish, male sample.

Sulloway suggests that children without siblings are more socially dominant as compared to children with siblings on the basis of research done by big five model. Only borns have been more inclined towards leadership or they are dominant than child with siblings (Sulloway, 1997). Snow et al. (1981) however, found that assertiveness in frustrating situations was highest in only children, second highest in first born, and lowest in later borns. Only children have better self-esteem and are higher achievers than children who have siblings. Only children are also often seen as high achievers, motivated children and successful persons in their life (Brophy, 1989).

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To study the difference in personality of females brought up with siblings and females brought up without siblings.

III. HYPOTHESIS

There would be significant difference in the personalities of the two study groups.

IV. METHODS

Participants

This study was conducted at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab, India. A sample of 100 females, aged 22-25years, were included. All the females who were included in the study, were students pursuing their Post-Graduate degree in various subjects, were staying in hostel provided by the University, belong to almost same economic status.

Total 100 females were included which were categorized into two divisions: 50 females brought up with siblings and 50 females brought up without siblings.

Measures Used

16Personality Factor Questionnaire

16 Personality Factor Questionnaire was used to assess the personality. 16 Personality Factor Questionnaire is a multiple choice personality questionnaire, which was developed over several decades of research by Catell. In an attempt to scientifically discover and measure the fundamental traits of human personality, Catell used the technique of factor analysis. This test was originally published in 1949. The 16PF fifth edition contains 185 multiple-choice items which were written at a fifth grade reading level. 16Personality Factor Questionnaire is an objectively scorable test devised to give the most complete coverage of personality in a brief time. The test has sixteen dimensions or scales and each of the sixteen scales bring an entirely new piece of information about the person. Table 1 shows the 16 dimensions of 16Personality Factor Questionnaire.

Data Analysis

Once the data was collected, the data was analyzed using SPSS 16.00 Mean, Standard Deviation, and t test.

TABLE NO.-1
The Sixteen Dimensions of 16PF - Questionnaire

SL NO	FACTORS	DESCRIPTION
1	Factor A	Reserved vs. Outgoing
2	Factor B	Less Intelligent vs. More Intelligent
3	Factor C	Affected by Feelings vs. Emotionally Stable
4	Factor E	Humble vs. Assertive
5	Factor F	Sober vs. Happy Go Lucky
6	Factor G	Expedient vs. Conscientious
7	Factor H	Shy vs. Venture Some
8	Factor I	Tough Minded vs. Tender Minded
9	Factor L	Trusting vs. Suspicious
10	Factor M	Practical vs. Imaginative
11	Factor N	Forthright vs. Shrewd
12	Factor O	Placid vs. Apprehensive
13	Factor Q1	Conservative vs. Experimenting
14	Factor Q2	Group-Dependent vs. Self Sufficient
15	Factor Q3	Undisciplined Self Confident vs. Controlled
16	Factor Q4	Relaxed vs. Tense

V. RESULTS

Frequency Distribution of scores on the components of 16 Personality Factor Questionnaire along with their mean and standard deviations were reported separately for females with siblings and females without siblings in Table 2 and Table 3, respectively.

t test was used for testing significance group difference between means of females brought up with siblings and females brought up without siblings. Table 4 shows the mean, standard deviation and t-ratio of both the groups along with Level of Significance.

Table:2 Shows the Frequency Distribution of Scores of 16 Personality Factor Questionnaire of Females without sibling (FWOS: N=50)

Class Interval	A f	B f	C f	E f	F f	G f	H f	I f	L f	M f	N f	O f	Q1 f	Q2 f	Q3 f	Q4 f
20-21	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
18-19	-	-	-	-	-	7	22	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
16-17	-	-	1	-	6	8	7	2	-	-	-	12	-	1	-	14
14-15	-	-	14	18	17	8	10	13	10	10	-	9	6	12	8	8
12-13	3	-	24	26	0	7	2	8	11	13	-	12	14	11	24	-
10-11	1	-	0	4	15	11	-	17	14	27	12	10	16	10	16	-
8-9	13	7	0	1	12	5	-	2	15	-	24	7	14	12	2	-
6-7	15	19	11	1	-	4	-	6	-	-	14	-	-	4	-	-
4-5	13	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-3	5	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mean	6.56	5.4	11.9	13	11.9	13	17.62	11.84	11.12	11.8	8.34	12.9	11.06	11.2	12.08	16.7
S.D.	2.38	2.02	2.87	1.71	2.68	3.71	2.13	2.95	2.2	1.71	1.36	2.69	1.81	2.7	1.43	2.36

Table 3: Shows the Frequency Distribution of Scores of 15 Personality Factor Questionnaire of Females with Siblings (FWS: N= 50)

CLASS INTERVAL	A f	B f	C f	E f	F f	G f	H f	I f	L f	M f	N f	O f	Q1 f	Q2 f	Q3 f	Q4 f
18-19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-
16-17	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	18	1	14	-	-	-	16
14-15	-	-	8	9	18	-	12	-	10	8	-	8	-	-	-	19
12-13	14	-	17	9	2	1	29	10	19	13	-	1	-	-	14	13
10-11	5	-	23	7	0	24	4	16	21	-	7	1	7	22	27	2
8-9	31	-	2	25	5	10	5	24	-	-	30	-	35	27	9	-
6-7	-	15	-	-	14	15	-	-	-	11	12	-	8	1	-	-
4-5	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-3	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mean	9.8	4.44	11.86	10.74	12.4	9.22	12.22	9.92	12.2	13.22	8.72	17.1	8.38	9.24	10.98	14.3
S.D	1.95	1.9	1.39	2.63	4.03	1.65	1.67	1.83	1.29	3.6	1.67	1.94	0.97	1.27	1.24	1.62

Table 4: Shows Mean, Standard Deviation and t-ratio of both the Groups along with Level of Significance

SL NO	Variables	Females without siblings		Females With Siblings		t-values	Level of significance
		Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation		
1	Reserved vs. Outgoing (A)	6.56	2.38	9.8	1.95	7.443	0
2	Less Intelligent vs. More Intelligent (B)	5.4	2.02	4.44	1.9	2.449	0.016
3	Affected by feelings vs. emotionally Stable (C)	11.94	2.87	11.86	1.39	0.178	0.859
4	Humble vs. Assertive (E)	12.98	1.71	10.74	2.63	5.058	0
5	Sober vs. Happy Go Lucky (F)	11.92	2.68	12.4	4.03	0.701	0.485
6	Expedient vs. Conscientious (G)	13	3.71	9.22	1.65	6.596	0
7	Shy vs. Venture some (H)	17.62	2.13	12.22	1.67	14.119	0
8	Tough-minded vs. Tender-minded (I)	11.84	2.95	9.92	1.83	3.911	0
9	Trusting vs. suspicious (L)	11.12	2.2	12.2	1.29	2.992	0.004
10	Practical vs. Imaginative (M)	11.8	1.71	13.22	3.6	2.513	0.014
11	Forthright vs. Shrewd (N)	8.34	1.36	8.72	1.67	1.248	0.215
12	Placid vs. Apprehensive (O)	12.92	2.69	17.1	1.94	8.919	0
13	Conservative vs. Experimenting (Q)	11.06	1.81	8.38	0.97	9.229	0
14	Group vs. Experimenting (Q1)	11.28	2.7	9.24	1.21	4.874	0
15	Undisciplined vs. Controlled (Q3)	12.08	1.43	10.98	1.24	4.12	0
16	Relaxed vs. Tense (Q4)	16.74	2.86	14.34	1.62	5.919	0

*t value significant at .05 level 1.98 and 0.01 level 2.56

VI. DISCUSSION

16 Personality Factor Questionnaire has shown significant differences on Factor A, Factor B, Factor E, Factor G, Factor H, Factor I, Factor L, Factor M, Factor O, Factor Q1, Factor Q2, Factor Q3 and Factor Q4, whereas Factor C, Factor F and Factor N doesn't show any significant difference between the two groups. This means that out of 16 factors, 13 factors showed significant difference between the two groups which shows that there is a difference in personality between females brought up without siblings and females brought up with siblings.

Females brought up without siblings have scored higher on the following dimensions:

Factor B (Less Intelligent v/s More intelligent)

The two groups have shown significant difference between means. Females without siblings have scored higher ($M=5.40$) as compared to females with siblings ($M=4.44$). It means that females without siblings tend to be quick to grasp ideas, fast learners, intelligent, and have abstract thinking as compared to the females with siblings. Zajonc (1975) explains that only borns frequently score higher on intelligence and achievement tests than other children in the Confluence Model.

Factor E (Humble v/s Assertive)

Females without siblings have scored higher ($M=12.98$) as compared to females with siblings ($M=10.74$). It means that females with siblings are humble, mild, accommodating, and confirming by nature. They tend to give way to others, to be docile, often dependent, confessing, and anxious for obsessional correctness. On the other hand, females without siblings are assertive, independent, aggressive, competitive, stubborn, and dominant. They tend to be self-assured, hostile, authoritarian, and disregards authority. Only borns have been inclined toward leadership than child with siblings (Suloway, 1997).

Factor G (Expedient v/s Conscientious)

The higher score of females without siblings ($M=13.00$) indicated that they are more conscientious, preserving, rule-bound and have stronger super ego strength than females brought up with siblings ($M=9.22$) who have weaker super ego strength, expedient, evades rules, feels few obligations. Females with siblings are often casual and lacking in effort for group undertakings and cultural demands. Their freedom from group influence may lead to anti-social acts, but at times makes them more effective, while their refusal to be bound by rules causes them to have less somatic upset from stress whereas females without siblings tends to be exacting in character, dominated by sense of duty, responsible, planful, moralistic, and prefers hard working people to witty companions. Paulhas and his colleagues (1998) found consistent support in self-reports by both student and adult samples. Single born scored higher on conservation, conscientiousness, achievement orientation. Child with siblings scored higher on rebelliousness, openness and agreeableness.

Factor H (Shy v/s Venturesome)

The higher score of females without siblings ($M=17.62$) as compared to females with siblings ($M=12.22$) shows that females without siblings are venturesome, socially-bold, uninhibited, spontaneous. They are bold, ready to try new things, abundant in emotional response. Their think-skinnedness enables them to face wear and tear in dealing with people and grueling emotional situations, without fatigue. However, they can be careless of details, ignore danger signals, and consume much time talking. They tend to be pushy whereas females with siblings tend to be withdrawing, cautious, retiring, and timid. Mueller (1995) confirmed that only children had higher levels of initiative, aspiration, industriousness and self-esteem.

Factor I (Tough v/s Tender minded)

Higher score of females without siblings ($M=11.84$) proves that they are tender-minded, dependent, over protected, sensitive, day dreamers, artistic, and feminine. They are sometimes demanding of attention and are impractical. They dislike crude people and rough occupations. They tend to slow up group performance, and to upset group morale by unrealistic fussiness. On the other hand, the scores of females brought up with siblings ($M=9.22$) shows that they are tough minded, self-reliant, and realistic. They tend to be practical, masculine, independent, responsible, but skeptical of subjective, cultural elaborations. They are sometimes unmoved. Pytel (2006) mentioned that only children are imaginative by nature.

Factor Q1 (Conservative v/s Experimenting)

Scores (M=11.06) of females without siblings shows that they tend to be interested in intellectual matters and has doubts on fundamental issues. They are critical, liberal, and analytical and free thinking. They are skeptical and are more inclined towards experiment in life. And the scores (M=8.38) of females with siblings shows that they cautious and compromising in regard to new ideas. They tend to oppose and postpone change, are inclined to go along with tradition, are more conservative in religion and politics, and tend not to be interested in analytical thought.

Factor Q2 (Group Dependent v/s Self Sufficient)

Females without siblings (M=11.28) are self-sufficient and prefers own decisions. They are temperamentally independent, accustomed to going their own way, making decisions and taking action on their own whereas females with siblings (M=9.24) are group dependent, prefers to work and make decisions with other people, likes and depends on social approval and admiration. They tend to go along with the group and may be lacking in individual resolution. Koontz (1989) stated that only borns are self-sufficient.

Factor Q3 (Undisciplined v/s Controlled)

Females without siblings (M=12.08) are controlled, socially precise, or one can say that they have strong control of their emotions and general behavior. They are inclined to be socially aware and careful and regard for social reputation. On the other hand females with siblings do not bothered about social demands. Only children have a strong sense of self-control (Vercillo,1990).

Factor Q4 (Relaxed v/s Tense)

Between the two groups, females without siblings scored higher (M=16.74) which means that they are more tense, restless, frustrated, impatient whereas females with siblings (M=14.34) are relaxed, composed, satisfied. Only borns are more anxious, they tend to more tensed (Schacter,1959).

Females brought up with siblings have scored higher on the following dimensions:

Factor A (Reserved v/s Outgoing)

Scores (M=9.80) of females with siblings shows that they tend to be outgoing, emotionally expressive, ready to cooperate, attentive to people, and have good adaptability to situations. They readily form active groups and like occupations dealing with people. Females without siblings (M=6.56) are reserved, detached, critical, and tend to be stiff, and aloof. They like working alone, and avoid compromises of viewpoint. They are likely to be precise and rigid in their way of doing things whereas females with siblings are generous in personal relations, less afraid of criticism, better able to remember names of people.

Factor L (Trusting v/s Suspicious)

The high score (M=12.20) of females with siblings in this domain means that they are suspicious, mistrusting, doubtful in nature. They are hard to fool. They are often involved in their own ego, interested in internal, mental life. They are usually deliberate in their actions, unconcerned about other people. Females without siblings (M=11.12) are trusting, easy to get on with and free of jealousy. They are cheerful, uncompetitive, concerned about other people. They are punctual in nature.

Factor M (Practical v/s Imaginative)

Scores (M=13.22) suggests that females with siblings are imaginative, unconventional, unconcerned over everyday matter and are self-motivated. They are careless of practical matters and wrapped up in inner urgencies and are absent minded. On the other hand, scores (M=11.80) of females without siblings suggests that they are practical, conventional, regulated by external realities. They are anxious to do the right things, attentive to practical matters and are concerned over detail and are able to keep their head in emergencies.

Factor O (Placid v/s Apprehensive)

Scores (M=12.92) of females without siblings shows that they are self-assured, confident, mature thinking and has capacity to deal with things whereas females with siblings (M=17.10) tend to be moody, worrying and brooding.

VII. CONCLUSION

The results showed significant personality differences between females brought up with siblings and females brought up without siblings. Females brought up without siblings are reserved, humble, intelligent, conscientious, venturesome, and tender minded. They trust easily, are practical, placid, experimenting, self-sufficient, self-controlled and tense whereas females brought up with siblings are outgoing, assertive, less intelligent, expedient, and tough minded. They are suspicious, imaginative, apprehensive, conservative, group-dependent, undisciplined, and relaxed.

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