

Effect of Birth Order on a Child's Personality

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to determine the relationship between birth order and personality of a child. Using causal comparative research design and t-test for independent sample, it was found that the first born subjects (N=26) who attempted to live up to parents' standards and expectations achieved significantly high scores on the self acceptance, responsibility, achievement via independence and achievement via conformance subtest of the California Psychological Inventory (M=22.7, SD=8.76) than the last born (M=19.7, SD=8.86). It was found that high parental demand and expectations from of the first-borns resulted in greater scores on achievement via conformance scale and achievement via independence scale of the CPI than the last born children. The t scores were 7.07 and 2.2 respectively, $t(26) = \pm 2.021$, $P < .05$. This confirmed significant effect of birth order on achievement via conformance and achievement via independence. It was also confirmed that first-borns had significantly high scores on responsibility scale of CPI than last born, t score was 6.82, $t(26) = \pm 2.021$, $P < .05$, due to more exposure to adult models and the desire to reduce the parental fatigue. It was further found that parents appeared to be more attentive and affectionate toward their first-born children which might be the reason of their high scores on the self acceptance scale of CPI.

Keywords: Birth order, child personality, intelligence level, first-borns, last-borns.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Personality development and social behavior is an intriguing and frustrating topic in family socialization. Much of the appeal to study birth order stems from the common observation of those children who occupy different positions in the sibling order and experience different socialization environments. It is by virtue of their different relationships to parents as well as to other siblings that these differences can be expected to have personality consequences. After all, the family is the first primary group experienced by human beings as well as the first system of stratification. The research has tried to answer the extent to which birth order exerts a long-lasting and important impact on personality.

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Children of the same family are reared in the same environment. There is a sameness for all children in the same home, but psychological situation for each is different because of the birth order. Therefore, ordinal position becomes a factor in determining personality factors. Berger (2001) held that parents adopt different styles for different children depending on the age and birth order known as differential treatment. Many parents believe that there is a good reason to treat their children differently, but the children themselves typically do not see it that way. Parents tailor their child rearing practices to fit each child's unique personality. Such tailoring for each child makes logical sense but has a potential danger.

It is assumed that parents treat first-borns differently than later-borns. Parents are supposed to devote more attention to first-borns because they feel unpracticed at child rearing and are especially concerned about whether they are raising their children appropriately. But after raising one child successfully, parents gain considerable confidence and are not so apprehensive about the development of the later born. Their attitudes, expectations and skill in child rearing as well as their anxieties are modified as a result of the first experience. They tend to become permissive with later borns. Children internalize parental expectations with a resulting sense of stronger responsibility. A study by Santrock (2001) supports the assumption that parental demands and high standards established for first-borns may result in first-born realizing responsibility and have high academic and professional achievements than their siblings. This sense of responsibility is primarily to overcome parental fatigue. Therefore, the oldest child must fulfill parental surrogate functions for his/her siblings.

Santrock (2004) has found that oldest sibling is more dominant, competent, and confident than the younger sibling. He further added that the oldest sibling is expected to exercise self-control and show responsibility in interacting with young children. The oldest child is also expected to assist and teach younger siblings.

Much of the variation in children's adjustment to a new baby may have to do with the age of older child. According to Papila et al. (2001), the first-borns who are more than twenty four months older than the new baby show signs of depression, anxiety and hostility. On the other hand, less than two year old children are not yet mature enough to see the new comer as an intruder or threat. He added that they have a peculiar reaction to the new baby.

1.2 Characteristics of First-born Children

In view of the marked differences in family dynamics related to birth order, it is surprising that different characteristics are associated with first-born and later-born children. Campbell (1998) came up with the interesting idea that some glaring personality traits seem to be related to the order of a person's arrival in a family. The oldest child probably is a perfectionist, self-critical, most likely to succeed, most conscientious, reliable, conservative, able to enjoy the company of older people and mediator between parents and siblings. According to Romeo (1994), first-borns are more likely to be responsible. Since they are older, they are given the responsibility to take care of younger children, so it is not uncommon for them to assume a nurturing role. Often

oldest child is given tutoring responsibilities. Research has suggested that this tutoring

1.3 First-born who is the 'Only Child'

The only child has frequently been associated with symptoms such as dependence and jealousy. However, research findings suggest that only children do better than other children. Olszewski (1998) found a high level of parental demands and expectations to ultimate displacement and competition with parents. Only children have high self-esteem and socially adaptable. Only children seem to make more use of sibling rivalry.

1.4 Characteristics of Last-born Children

In contrast, last-borns have always been thought to be more experienced. They are likely to be viewed as more confident. The younger child often develops a sense of inferiority. Likewise, the younger child may feel that the oldest child does not turn for support. Last-born children are supposedly more dependent on siblings without experiencing sibling rivalry. They are thought to be more dependent on interaction. Individuals occupy a position that is not secure, yet dependent. This position is throughout childhood. Since the oldest child makes them more superior and confident, it may also help keeping them from feeling inferior to survive and succeed.

2. Statement of the Problem

2.1 Problem

To study the impact of birth order on achievement motivation of 13

2.2 Objectives

1. To study the level of achievement motivation of adolescents.
2. To find the similarity in achievement motivation among first and last-born children.

oldest child is given tutoring responsibilities, teaching their younger siblings. The study suggested that this tutoring responsibility raises his or her intelligence level.

1.3 First-born who is the 'Only Born'

The only child has frequently been regarded as a 'spoiled brat,' combining undesirable symptoms such as dependency, egotism, lack of self-control, and emotional disorders. However, research findings suggest that in many ways the only child has advantage over other children. Olszewski-Kubilius (2000) held that although exposed to the same high level of parental demands and intrusiveness, an only child does not have to adapt to ultimate displacement and competition with siblings. They sustain close relationship with parents. Only children have low anxiety, are more assertive, have higher self-esteem and socially adaptable. In social relations both outside and inside the home, only children seem to make more positive adjustments than children distressed by sibling rivalry.

1.4 Characteristics of Last-born Children

In contrast, last-borns have always shared their parents with siblings. Likewise, parents tend to be more experienced, older and more relaxed in the parental role. Older siblings are likely to be viewed as models, superiors, pace setters or barriers. To stand out, the younger child often develops skills different from those in which the first-born excels. Likewise, the younger child may also exhibit a preference for the parent to whom the oldest child does not turn for advice and support. Buckley (1998) held that youngest children are supposedly more able to successfully pace themselves against older siblings without experiencing psychological exhaustion as the middle child(ren) may encounter. They are thought to develop good social skills fostered by constant peer interaction. Individuals occupying this position in family dynamics have been found to be secure, yet dependent, which has been attributed to having many caretakers throughout childhood. Since later-borns have to interact with siblings from birth, this makes them more superior at people-oriented tasks. Becoming good at social skills may also help keeping them from being overwhelmed by older siblings and to help them survive and succeed.

Statement of the Problem

1 Problem

study the impact of birth order on the self-concept, sense of responsibility and achievement motivation of 13-16 years old children.

2 Objectives

To study the level of achievement among first and last born adolescents.

To find the similarities and differences in the sense of responsibility among first and last-born adolescents.

2.3 Hypotheses

1. First-borns tend to:
 - be highly motivated to achieve success;
 - be responsible;
 - be perfectionist;
 - have high positive self concept.
2. Last-born tend to:
 - develop feeling of inferiority;
 - be most popular

3. Method and Procedure

3.1 Sample

A sample of 52 school going adolescents was randomly selected from various schools of Peshawar district. The sample consisted of 13 first-borns and 13 last-born boys and 13 first-born and 13 last-born girls. The age of respondents was between 13-18.

3.2 Sampling Procedure

The sample of 52 school going children was selected from various schools of Peshawar city. The criterion for the selection was their birth order i.e. only first and last-borns were selected. A letter and permission for participation form were mailed to the parents of children. The letter briefly explained the nature of the study, expectation from parents and the importance of their support and cooperation. Immediate return of the permission forms was requested. All forms were returned in time. Parents of children in the sample were contacted at home for further investigation.

The teachers of the children were also interviewed and significant information regarding children's achievement and responsibility was collected. All the teachers had Master's degree in their relevant fields and had more than five years of teaching experience.

3.3 Mode of Data Collection

Self-constructed questionnaire was designed to get the demographic data. A standardized test known as California Psychological Inventory (CPI), developed by Harrison Gough in 1956, was used as a tool to collect data. The test yields the scale scores on eighteen sub-scales. For this study, six best correlated sub-scales were selected. These included the scale on Self-acceptance (Sa), Responsibility (Re), Self-control (Sc), Achievement via conformance (Ac), and Achievement via independence (Ai).

Bano A. (1998) determined that the coefficient of correlation was positive significant correlation.

3.4 Statistical Techniques

- ANOVA
- t- test
- Correlation
- Simple averages
- Standard deviations

4 Results and Discussion

The correlations between the variables were determined through a systematic procedure. The CPI. The resultant scores of the variables were subjected to ANOVA and correlation.

Table 1: Mean

	N=26
	X = 22
	SD = 8

Table 1 shows the bird's eye view of the children showed highest scores. The children are found to be more strongly dependent on others for emotional support toward confirming to authority. They are prone to guilt feeling, more likely to attempt to live up to their parents' high achievers and have liberal

Dr. Bano A. (1998) determined the validity and reliability of CPI for Pakistani population. The coefficient of correlation range from .41 to .88 with a median .65 which reveals positive significant correlation ($P < .01$ and $P < .05$) among CPI sub scales.

3.4 Statistical Techniques

- a) ANOVA
- b) t- test
- c) Correlation
- d) Simple averages
- e) Standard deviations

4. Results and Discussion

The correlations between the birth order and personality aspects were determined through a systematic procedure. The personality aspects were established by administering CPI. The resultant scores of the test were then put to statistical treatment using t-test, ANOVA and correlation.

First-borns	Last-borns
N=26	N=26
X =22.7	X =19.7
SD = 8.7	SD = 8.8

Table 1 shows the bird's eye view of the scores of the subjects on CPI test. First-born children showed highest scores on CPI (n=26, x=22.7, SD= 8.7). First-born children are found to be more strongly motivated toward achievement but more affiliated and dependent on others for emotional support. It is found that first-borns are more oriented toward confirming to authority. They are supposed to be more conscientious, more prone to guilt feeling, more cooperative, responsible, helpful and less aggressive. Attempting to live up to their parents' standards and expectations, these children are high achievers and have liberal thinking.

Table 2: Mean scores, SD, and t- value of first born and last born on different scales of California Psychological Inventory (CPI) (N=52)

Scale (N=48)	First born (N=26) M(SD)	Last born M(SD)	t Factor	
Sa	19.4 (3.52)	14 (2.63)	5.8	35.25 2.48
Re	27.5 (5.13)	18.7 (3.12)	6.82	38
Sc	35.81 (2.64)	35.6 (2.42)	1.02	0.65
Ac	29.3 (4.82)	26.4 (4.34)	7.07	5.32 45
Ai	16.4 (3.5)	14.2 (3.7)	2.2	5.2 5
Fx	8.7 (2.23)	16 (2.6)	-4.76	7.76 16

* Factor A represents mean between the first and last born.

* Factor B represents gender wise difference between the mean

Figure 1

The critical region in the t- Distribution for $\alpha = .05$

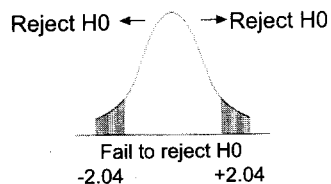


Figure 2

The critical region in the F - Distribution for $\alpha = .05$ and $df = 48$

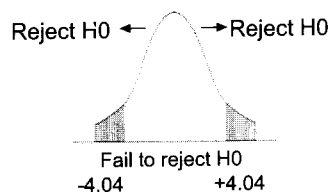


Table 2 presents the comparative CPI i.e Self acceptance (Sa). Re and Achievement via independence were better in their interpersonal there was no difference in their supported past studies regarding each. Overall, more positive traits reflected in their scores on Sa

Birth order theorist Morales (19) influences their personality char and outside of the home. M given more power and respons self-esteem.

The first-born subjects showed than the last born (M=14. SD= teach and tutor younger child findings of school psychologists achievement, theorizing that a family (as cited in Bianchi and borns had significantly high se two tailed. Furthermore, two effect for the birth order F (1. for gender was found in the st that the first-borns tend to ha and personally attractive. They ast-borns appeared to be self First-borns often think that the

Table 3: Correlation ma

	Sa
Birth order	**-.06
Sa	
Re	
Sc	
Ac	
Ai	

* $P < 0.05 = \pm 0.273$ two tailed
** $P < 0.01 = \pm 0.354$ two tailed

The correlation of self-accept that the self-acceptance sig achievement via independence respectively.

Figure 2 presents the comparative scores of first-borns and last-borns on sub-scales of the Self acceptance (Sa), Responsibility (Re), Achievement via conformance (Ac) and Achievement via independence (Ai). The collected data revealed that the first-borns were better in their interpersonal relationships and achievements than last born, but there was no difference in their scores on self control (Sc). Results of the present study supported past studies regarding ordinal position and characteristics associated with birth order. Overall, more positive traits were assigned to the oldest than the last-borns which were reflected in their scores on sub scale of CPI.

Birth order theorist Morales (1994) believes that a child's position in the family greatly influences their personality characteristics, which in turn has an effect on their behavior inside and outside of the home. Morales further shows in his studies that first-borns are given more power and responsibility, therefore becoming confident, possessing higher self-esteem.

The first-born subjects showed high scores on self-acceptance scale (M=19.4, SD=3.5) than the last born (M=14, SD=2.65). Older siblings also have more opportunities to teach and tutor younger children, embedding leadership and intelligence. As per the findings of school psychologists Zajonc and Markus, birth order is inversely related to achievement, theorizing that additional children lower the intellectual stimulation in the family (as cited in Bianchi and Robinson, 1997). Statistical analysis identified that first-borns had significantly high self acceptance than the last-borns, $t(26) = \pm 2.021$, $P < .05$ two tailed. Furthermore, two factor analysis of variance also confirmed significant main effect for the birth order $F(1, 48) = 35.25$, $P < .05$; whereas no significant main effect for gender was found in the study, $F(1, 48) = 2.48$, $P > 0.05$. The hypothesis is confirmed that the first-borns tend to have good opinion of self and see themselves as talented and personally attractive. They are self-confident and verbally fluent, on the other hand last-borns appeared to be self-doubting, readily assume blame when things go wrong. First-borns often think that they are better.

Table 3: Correlation matrix for birth order and personality factors(N=52)

	Sa	Re	Sc	Ac	Ai	Fx
Birth order	**-.6	**-.7	0.16	**-.31	**-.31	*.36
Sa		**0.71	0.018	0.11	**0.41	-0.06
Re			-0.11	0.19	**0.4	-0.00
Sc				-0.01	-0.03	0.04
Ac					0.13	-0.20
Ai						0.069

** $P < 0.05 = \pm 0.273$ two tailed

* $P < 0.01 = \pm 0.354$ two tailed

The correlation of self-acceptance (Sa) with other personality traits in Table 3 suggests that the self-acceptance significantly correlated with the sense of responsibility and achievement via independence; that is the correlation coefficients were 0.71 and 0.41 respectively.

Birth order also positively correlated with responsibility. It was noticed that first-borns presented high scores on responsibility scale ($M=2.75$, $SD=5.13$) than last-borns ($M=18.5$, $SD=3.12$). The t-statistic revealed significantly high scores on responsibility sub-scale for first-borns than the last born, $t(26) = \pm 2.021$, $P < 0.05$, two-tailed. The two-factor analysis of variance supplemented significant main effect for the birth order, $F(1, 48) = 38$, $P < 0.05$; but no significant main effect for gender, $F(1, 48) = 1.45$, $P > 0.05$.

Table 3 projects significant correlation with self-acceptance and achievement via independence. The correlations are 0.71 and 0.4 respectively. The findings support the view that first-borns appear to be more confident and posing high self-control.

Both first and last-borns have strong feelings and emotions and make little attempt to hide them. They speak out when they are angry and annoyed. They emphasize personal pleasure. One of the stronger factors responsible for such behavior is too much attention and pampering by the parents. The present research found no significant difference in the score of first and last-born on self-control. Table 2 reveals that both first-borns and last-borns had somewhat similar scores on the self-control scale i.e. ($M=34.8$, $SD=2.50$) and ($M=35.7$, $SD=2.42$) respectively. The t-statistic failed to reveal significant difference in the scores on self-control of first and last-borns, $t(26) = \pm 2.021$, $P > 0.05$, two-tailed. The analysis of variance held no significant difference for birth order, $F(1, 48) = 1.45$, $P > 0.05$ and no significant main effect for gender, $F(1, 48) = 1.94$, $P > 0.05$. First-born subjects showed higher scores on achievement via conformance scale ($M=29.3$, $SD=4.82$) than the last-borns ($M=26.4$, $SD=4.34$). Statistical analysis shown in Table 2 revealed that first-borns had strong desire to do well in setting tasks and their expectations were clearly defined than the last born, $t(26) = \pm 2.021$, $P < 0.05$, two-tailed. Furthermore, the two-way analysis of variance showed significant main effect for the birth order $F(1, 48) = 5.32$, $P < 0.05$ and no significant main effect for gender $F(1, 48) = 1.45$, $P > 0.05$.

As seen in the Table 2, first-borns showed high score on Achievement via independence scale ($M=16.4$, $SD=3.51$) than the last-born ($M=14.2$, $SD=3.7$). First-borns had stronger drive to work well in settings that encourage freedom and individual initiative $t(26) = \pm 2.021$, $P < 0.05$, two-tailed. The two-factor analysis of variance showed significant main effect for the birth order $F(1, 48) = 5.2$, $P < 0.05$; and no significant main effect for gender, $F(1, 48) = 1.5$, $P > 0.05$. Table 3 reflects the correlation of achievement via independence, with birth order and behavior traits suggested that achievement via independence negatively correlated with birth order (-0.31), and positively correlated with responsibility (0.4) and self-acceptance (0.41). On the basis of results, it is proved that first-borns are more mature, forceful, strong, dominant, demanding, independent and self-reliant and last-borns lack self-insight and self-understanding. They are obedient and always compliant before authority.

Last-borns scored high on flexibility scale ($M=10.6$, $SD=3$) than first born ($M=8.7$, $SD=2.23$) as is mentioned in Table 1. Statistical analysis revealed that last-borns love change in life and were impatient and were even erratic than the first-borns, $t(26) = \pm 2.021$, $P < 0.05$, two-tailed. The two-factor analysis of variance showed significant main effect for the birth order $F(1, 48) = 7.76$, $P < 0.05$; and no significant main effect for

gender, $F(1, 48) = 0.067$, $P > 0.05$. Behavioral traits suggested that first-borns are therefore, concluded that last-borns are rebellious, prefer idealism and diversion. While the first-born is because of the

5. Suggestions and Limitations

On the basis of present experience and people from other fields of research, for example their emotional stability, one can use CPI test as a valid tool for first-born children in the research on their sacrificing nature and success.

Reliability of the results depends on the sample must cover people from all backgrounds and must disclose the relationship between norms and other environmental factors.

gender, $F(1, 48) = 0.067, P > 0.05$. The correlation of flexibility with birth order and other behavioral traits suggested that flexibility was more or less an independent trait. It is, therefore, concluded that last-borns appear to be more flexible than the first-borns. They are rebellious, prefer idealism and have a high concern with the personal pleasure and diversion. While the first-borns are formal and pedantic in thoughts. The rigidity of the first-born is because of the high degree of responsibility.

5. Suggestions and Limitations

On the basis of present experience, it is suggested that graduate students, scholars and people from other fields explore other aspects of behavior of first and last-borns for example their emotional sensitivity, dominance and intelligence. For the said reason one can use CPI test as a whole. It is also suggested that one must include the middle-born children in the research sample to answer questions about their adjustment, sacrificing nature and successful marital lives.

Reliability of the results depends on the size of sample. A large sample is required which must cover people from all domains of life. It also suggested that other researchers must disclose the relationship of education, socio-economic status, family size, culture norms and other environmental factors with birth order.

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Dynamics and Determinants of Dividend Payout: Evidence from Non-financial Firms

Abstract

This study examines the dynamics of dividend payout in non-financial firms listed in the Karachi Stock Exchange, which is also one of the very first examples of dividend payout in Pakistan among emerging markets. For dynamic panel data, we use the Areeda and Babiak and a 'proposed' model for Pakistani listed non-financial firms. The results show that earnings which clearly demonstrate a positive impact on past dividend per share to set a target dividend tends to be more significant for non-financial firms having the high growth rate and less instability to smoothing their dividend payout.

To find out the determinants of dividend payout, a regression analysis has been performed. It has been found that firms with high cash flow can afford larger free cash flow, which leads to higher ownership concentration and higher dividend payout policy. Besides, the size of the firm has a positive impact on dividend payout policy. The market value of their assets rather than their book value has a positive impact on dividend payout.

Keywords: Dynamics and Determinants of Dividend Payout, target payout.

1. Introduction

The behavior of dividend payout is an important issue in corporate finance and as well as for Pakistan. The literature on dividend payout policy by well known researchers has identified several determinants of dividend payout.

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