



Personality an essence of the person directs by birth order

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Abstract

The present investigation is to explore the Big Five Personality Traits of different birth order (firstborn, middle born, Lastborn). Sample of the study consisted of college students of different birth order (52 firstborn, 57 middle born, 56 Lastborn). Their age range between 17-26 years. Their education was above 12th standard. To assess personality traits 'NEO-FFI Questionnaire' was used. To test the hypothesis of the present investigation ANOVA was used. Finding of ANOVA reveals that there are significant difference between birth order and personality. Lastborn scored higher on N, O and A than middle born and firstborn. Middle born scored higher on E than firstborn and lastborn.

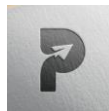
Keywords: Agreeableness, Birth Order, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Firstborn, Lastborn, Middle Born, Neuroticism, Openness, Personality traits.

The term personality has been used in a number of ways including the apparent features of a person. We can say that 'personality' as the essence of the person. It is a person's "true" inner nature. If a person want to understand others, want to make unique impression on others is equally important in understanding personality. The concept of personality has been defined by psychologists in several ways and it is the theoretical perspective which directs our attention to particular aspects of personality. Allport said that personality is the dynamic organization within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine his characteristics behaviour and thought. According to Weinberg & Gould, 1999 - Personality is the characteristics or blend of characteristics that make a person unique.

"Birth order" refers to order of child birth in a family. It can be firstborn or maybe one of many, or maybe even the last.

First born : Finding of several researches reveals that Firstborns are perfectionist, reliable, conscientious, list-makers, well-organized, critical, serious, scholarly; achiever, self-sacrificing, people-pleaser, conservative, supporter of law and order, believer in authority and ritual, legalistic, loyal, and self-reliant. Firstborns may choose professions such as science, medicine, or law. They may choose careers as accountants, bookkeepers, executive secretaries, engineers, or jobs involving computers. Firstborns are often also forced to follow in father's or mother's professional footsteps (Graham J, 1914)

Middle-born : Finding of several researches reveals that middle born being a mediator or one who avoids conflict, being independent and extremely loyal to a peer group. **Graham J, 1914** said in his theory that middle-born may be very competitive or very easygoing, the family "black sheep" or the peacemaker.

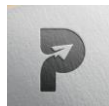


Last-born: Finding of several researches reveals that last born are typically the outgoing charmers, the personable manipulators, more carefree and vivacious. They can also be rebellious, critical, temperamental, spoiled, impatient, and impetuous — the “dark side” of the last-born. Last-born does not being taken seriously, first by their families and then by the world. They receive instructions from elder brothers and sisters do not ensure that last born are getting the facts of life (or anything else) very straight. Lastborns are used to being put down. (Graham .J, 1914)

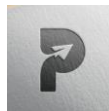
Review of literature

Table no. 1:- shows review of literature about birth order and personality traits

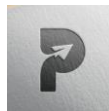
Authors (Year)	Design	Study Focus	N	Sample Composition	Birth Order Group	Findings
Klein,S (1984)	Between Family design	Birth order and personality (E)	147	US University Students (age range 17-24)	Firstborns, Middleborns, Lastborns.	Firstborns are less extraverted than middleborns and lastborns
Buunk,B (1997)	Between-family Design	Personality, birth order and attachment styles as related to jealousy (N)	200	Dutch adults (age $M=33$)	Firstborns, Lastborn	No significant results found between birth order and personality
Jefferson Herbs & McCrae (1998)	Between-Family design	Birth order and personality (N, E,O)	9664	US Adults (age: $M=56,2$, $SD=14.5$)	Firstborns, lastborn	No significant results found between birth order and personality
Jefferson tyrone, Jefferson Herbs & McCrae (1998)		Birth order and personality(E,O, A)	166		Firstborns, lastborn	Last born scored higher on E than firstborn
Phillips (1998)	Between family Design	Birth order and personality (N,E,O,C,A)	177	UK University age students (mean =20.3 years old)	Firstborns, lastborn	No significant results found between birth order and personality
Sulloway (1999)	Between family	Birth order and personality	17,779	Adult sample	Firstborns, lastborns	Firstborns scored higher on C,



	Design	(N,E,O,C,A)				Laterborns scored higher on A and O
Paulhus, Trapnell & Chen (1999)	Within family design	Birth order effects on personality and achievement within families (E,O,C,A)	1,022	University Students and Adults	Firstborns, Laterborns	Firstborns scored significantly higher on C; laterborns scored significantly higher on O and A.
Michalski & Shackelford (2002)	Within family design	Birth order and personality (N,E,O,C,A)	380	US University Students (age $M=26$, $SD=9$)	Firstborns, Laterborns	Firstborns scored significantly lower on A than laterborns
Saroglou & Fiase (2003)	Between family design	Birth order, personality and religion (N,E,O,C,A)	122	Young adults (age $M=22.3$)	Firstborns, Middleborns, Lastborns	First borns scored significantly higher than middleborns and middleborns scored significantly higher than last borns in C. The relationships between birth order and N, E, O, A were not significant
Beck, Burnet, & Vosper (2006)	Within family design	Birth order and E	96	UK University students (age $M=21$, $SD=4.45$)	Firstborns, Laterborns	Firstborns scored significantly higher than laterborns on the facet dominance; laterborns scored significantly higher on the facet sociability.



Healey & Ellis (2007)	Within family design	Birth order, conscientious and openness to experience tests a family-niche model	161	UK University students (firstborns age $M=25.6$, $SD=9.4$; secondborns $M=23$, $SD=9.3$)	Firstborns, Laterborns	Firstborns scored significantly higher than secondborns on C. Firstborns scored significantly lower than secondborns on O.
Healey, M. (2008)	Within Family design	Birth order and personality (C and O)	203	NZ University students (age $M= 24.97$)	Firstborns, Secondborn, lastborn	Firstborns rated higher on C and secondborns were rated higher on O
Badger & Reddy (2009)	Between family design	Birth order on personality and academic sibling rivalry C	44	English speaking University students (age range 18-27)	Firstborns, Later born	Firstborns scored significantly higher on C than laterborns
Gordon, J. (2012)	Between family design	Birth order and personality (N,E,O,C,A)	122	Irish University students (age $M=26.25$, $SD=7.5$)	Oldest, Youngest, Middle, Other	No significant results found between birth order and personality
Emma Nelson & Emily Siblisky		Birth order and Personality	150	Burlington High School, USA	Older , Middle , Youngest	Positive correlation between birth order and personality
Julia Badger & Peter Reddy (2009)		Effect of birth order on personality traits and feeling of academic sibling rivalry	46	Native English speakers(age range 18-27)	First born , Lastborn	First born exhibiting higher levels of C than lastborn
Emily Merin Cole(2013)	Within Family design	Birth order & Big Five & Trait EI	42 set of siblings	Young Adults(Mean age = 24.7 yrs.) & (SD= 5.6 yrs.)	Firstborns, Middleborns, Lastborns	Firstborn scored significantly higher on C than lastborn, Middle born scored lower than both first and



						lastborn in N,Oldest and younger borns scored significantly higher than middle born on E & O
Grace wong & Chew ying (2016)		Birth order & Big Five personality dimensions			Firstborns, Middleborns, Lastborns	Middleborn scored higher on A & O than first and last born

N Note: N=Neuroticism; E=Extraversion; O=Openness; C=Conscientiousness; A=Agreeableness.

Objective

To assess the personality traits of firstborn, middle born and lastborn.

Hypothesis

H1- Firstborn would significantly higher on C

H2- Last born would significantly higher A & O than middle born and firstborn.

H3- Middle born would significantly higher on E and lower on N than firstborn and lastborn.

Sample-

A total sample of 165 adolescence and early adults of different birth order were selected randomly from various colleges of Bhiwani (Haryana) .there education is above 12th standard. The sample selected was in the age range of 17-26.

Table no. 2 shows sample Characteristics (n=165)

Parameter	Variable	N
Education qualification	U.G & P.G.	165
Age group	17-19	50
	20-22	50
	23-26	65
Family	Joint family	75



	Nuclear family	90
Gender	Male	68
	Female	97
Location	Urban	80
	Rural	85
Birth order	First born	52
	Middle born	57
	Lastborn	56

Research design –

Multi group design was used in the current study.

Tool :-

NEO-FFI

NEO-FFI questionnaire [McCrae and Costa, 1992] was used as a tool of data collection. This is self – administered questionnaire in which the participant bases their responses on their personality. The 60-item NEO Five-Factor Inventory (NEO-FFI) was developed to provide a concise measure of the five basic personality factors (Costa & McCrae, 1989). For each scale, 12 items were selected from the pool of 180 NEO Personality Inventory (NEO-PI) items, chiefly on the basis of their correlations with validimax factor scores (McCrae & Costa, 1989). The instrument uses a five-point Likert response format. Two-week retest reliability is uniformly high, ranging from 0.86 to 0.90 for the five scales (Robins, Fraley, Roberts, & Trzesniewski, 2001), and internal consistency ranges from 0.68 to 0.86 (Costa & McCrae, 1992). The NEO-FFI has been translated into several different languages and shown validity and utility in a number of different contexts; it is one of the most widely used measures of the Five-Factor Model (Pytlik Zillig, Hemenover, & Dienstbier, 2002).

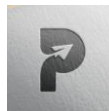


Table no.3 shows description of NEO- five factor inventory (FFI)

S.NO.	Factors	Item numbers
A	Neuroticism	12
B	Extraversion	12
C	Openness	12
D	Agreeableness	12
E	Conscientiousness	12

Procedure --

For the present study the Researcher individually contacted students during their college hours by prior appointment from the teachers of concerned college authorities. The objectives of the study were clearly explained to the participants. After establishing sufficient rapport with them, the tools for study were administered. After making clear about the study they filled the bio-data sheet. The students were requested to read the structured instructions carefully provided for answering each scale before giving their response. They were assured that the response would be kept confidential and used for study for Research purpose only. They were given the NEO- Five factor inventory. The researcher administrated the questionnaire to 165 college students. After obtaining the response of the subjects, scoring was done accordingly to the guidelines specified in the test manuals.

Statistical analysis --

To test the hypothesis of the present investigation, ANOVA was computed by using SPSS version 20.

Ethical consideration

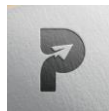
The aim of the study was clearly defined to the participants and the participation was fully voluntary. Consequently, participants fully agreed to take part in the study. In addition, participants were told that they can withdraw at any time if they feel to do so. During the data collection process, privacy was maintained and confidentiality of information was assured.



Result and discussion

Table no. 4 shows mean and SD of firstborn, middle born and lastborn on personality trait.

		N	Mean	S.D.
N	F	52	24.88	5.04
	M	57	19.40	6.30
	L	56	28.80	8.50
	Total	165	24.32	7.81
E	F	52	25.13	4.60
	M	57	31.84	7.49
	L	56	29.91	5.96
	Total	165	29.07	6.74
O	F	52	24.52	4.13
	M	57	21.53	5.22
	L	56	32.52	7.22
	Total	165	26.20	7.36
A	F	52	23.79	6.82
	M	57	26.16	4.25
	L	56	31.70	5.63
	Total	165	27.29	6.50
C	F	52	28.00	4.72
	M	57	27.96	5.72
	L	56	28.41	6.34
	Total	165	28.13	5.62

**Table no.5 shows F value of firstborn middleborn and lastborn on personality**

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
N	Between Groups	2520.109	2	1260.055	27.239	.000
	Within Groups	7493.866	162	46.258		
	Total	10013.976	164			
E	Between Groups	1282.937	2	641.469	16.831	.000
	Within Groups	6174.190	162	38.112		
	Total	7457.127	164			
O	Between Groups	3627.227	2	1813.613	55.802	.000
	Within Groups	5265.173	162	32.501		
	Total	8892.400	164			
A	Between Groups	1797.945	2	898.973	28.399	.000
	Within Groups	5128.091	162	31.655		
	Total	6926.036	164			
C	Between Groups	6.844	2	3.422	.107	.899
	Within Groups	5179.483	162	31.972		
	Total	5186.327	164			

Neuroticism

Results of ANOVA reveals that on neuroticism, **lastborn** have scored highest mean =28.80 in comparison to firstborn and middle born, 24.88 & 19.40 respectively (see table no.12).The F ratio for neuroticism is 27.239 and significant value is .000($p < 0.01$) (see table no. 13). It indicates that lastborn are more anxious emotionally unstable, moody and shy than first and middle born. This finding is in accord with some previous research. In one study Emily Merin Cole (2013) reveals that last born would significantly higher on neuroticism than middle born. Our hypothesis is accepted here that middle born is lower on N than first born and last born.



Extraversion

Results of ANOVA reveals that on extraversion, **middle born** have scored highest mean =31.84 in comparison to firstborn and lastborn, 25.13 & 29.91 respectively (see table no.12).The F ratio for extraversion is 16.831($p < 0.01$) (see table no. 13). It indicates that middle born is more social, assertive, talkative, and active. This finding is in accord with some previous research. In one study Klein (1984) reveals that first born are less extroverted than middle born and last born. Our hypothesis is accepted here that middle born is significantly higher on extraversion than first born and last born.

Openness

Results of ANOVA reveals that on openness, **last born** have scored highest mean =32.52 in comparison to firstborn and lastborn, 24.52 & 21.53 respectively (see table no.12).The F ratio for openness is 55.802 and significant value is .000($p < 0.01$) (see table no. 13). It indicates that last born are more open about their feelings and ideas than firstborn and middle born. This finding is in accord with some previous research. In the study of Sulloway(1999);Paulhus,Trapnell & Chen(1999) reveals that last born scored significantly higher on openness than firstborn and middleborn. Emily Merin Cole (2013) reveals that younger born significantly higher than middle born on O. Our hypothesis is accepted here that lastborn would be significantly higher on openness than firstborn and lastborn.

Agreeableness

Results of ANOVA reveals that on agreeableness, **lastborn** have scored highest mean =31.70 in comparison to firstborn and middle born, 23.79 & 26.16 respectively (see table no.12).The F ratio for agreeableness is 28.399 and significant values is .000($p < 0.01$) (see table no. 13). It indicates that lastborn are more cooperative, altruistic, tender mindedness, and straightforwardness. This finding is in accord with some previous research. In the study of Sulloway(1999);Paulhus,Trapnell & Chen(1999) reveals that last born scored significantly higher on agreeableness than firstborn and middle born. Our hypothesis is accepted here that lastborn would significantly higher on agreeableness than first born and middleborn.

Conscientiousness

Results of ANOVA reveals that on conscientiousness, lastborn have scored highest mean =28.41 in comparison to firstborn and middle born, 28.00 & 27.96 respectively (see table no.12). There is no significance difference were found between birth orders. It indicates all are equally dutiful, achievement striving, responsible. Our hypothesis is rejected here that their firstborn would be a significantly higher on conscientiousness than middle born and last born.

Conclusion

Finding reveals that there are significant difference between birth order and personality. Lastborn scored higher on N, O and A than middle born and firstborn. Middle born scored higher on E than firstborn and lastborn.



Hence, we can say that, child's personality development is a product of their biological birth order. Heredity plays an important role in anyone's personality development, for there are many things our parents cannot control.

So, I believe that a child's personality development comes from both their biological birth order and the way their parents raise them. A person's personality can change so I also think that if someone really wants to change their personality then it is up to them, and they can.

Practical implications of the study

The findings of the present study can be useful to researchers working on similar topics and can be useful to parents for effective parenting, can be useful to counselor for counseling; specifically vocational counselor.

Limitations

1. The data has been collected from only bhiwani city and nearby area, thus the results could not be generalized.
2. There are possible demographic predictors that were not included in this study, and thus prevent discovering some important data. This support further analysis and replication with this kind of prediction.

Acknowledgment

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