

COMPARE THE PERSONALITY TRAITS OF SINGLE CHILD AND CHILD WITH SIBLINGS

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Article Received on
05 Nov. 2019,

Revised on 26 Nov. 2019,
Accepted on 16 Dec. 2019,

DOI: 10.20959/wjpr20201-16513

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to compare the personality traits of single child and child with siblings. This was an exploratory study of 80 adolescents between 17-19 years from selected colleges of Idukki District, Kerala. The tool used for the study is Big five personality Likert scale. The domains included in the scale are Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), and Openness (O), Agreeableness (A), and Conscientiousness (C). The scale uses a 5-point Likert Scale ranging from (1) very inaccurate to (5) very accurate. Result indicated that mean value of extraversion of single child is 22.68 and child with sibling is 21.87. Mean value of

agreeableness of single child is 25.11 and child with sibling is 26.14. in the case of conscientiousness the mean value of single child is 25.38 and child with siblings 26.84. Mean value of neuroticism mean value of single child is 22.62 and child with sibling is 21.88. In the area of openness the mean value of single child is 28.3 and child with sibling is 28.27. There is no statistical difference in the domains of personality (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, openness) between single child and child with siblings as the t calculated value is less than the t table value at 0.01 level.

KEYWORDS: Personality traits, Single child, Child with sibling, Adolescent.

INTRODUCTION

It is a common belief that siblings provide a necessary social environment for a child's normal development. There are two views in the existing literature regarding the welfare of singletons compared to those who have siblings. One view, originally proposed by early psychiatrists and psychologists and consistent with the popular thinking, sees only children as relatively problematic and disadvantaged. With only one child, parents are likely to yield to

the only child's demands. Overindulgence is more likely to characterize the parenting style for singletons and thus more likely to mold them into self-centered, dependent, temperamental, and maladjusted individuals. Singletons are also expected to be deficient in social skills because they do not have siblings to interact with. Early psychologists even called singletons as a "disease in itself" (G. Standley Hall,) and society would be better off if "there are no only children".

New researches suggest that growing up alone changes the structure of the brain. A study has found that children who grow up without siblings are likely to have different brain structure than those who do. Only children are often branded as selfish and spoiled compared to their peers who have brothers and sisters.

Historically, there have been reports that only-children receive excessive attention, mature precociously and due to the absence of siblings become selfish, demanding, dependent and moody in comparison to children with siblings. Some pieces of evidence do not confirm the stereotype about only-children, suggesting that they do not present personality problems more frequently than children with siblings.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

From July to August 2018, 80 adolescents between 17-19 years (40 singletons and 40 child with siblings) from selected colleges of Idukki district participated in the present study. The study population was determined by purposive sampling method. The inclusion criteria were adolescents in the age group of 17-19 years and willing to participate in the study.

The tool consists of two sections. The first section is about demographic details of respondents, whereas the second part consists of questions on personality. In the first section, respondents were asked to fill up about their demographic details include gender, and type of family. In the second part, forty four questions measuring the Big Five personality were presented. The five-factor model used hierarchical model of personality structure that describes most traits in terms of five broad factors: Neuroticism (N), Extraversion (E), Openness to Experience (O), Agreeableness (A), and Conscientiousness (C). The scale uses a 5-point Likert Scale ranging from (1) very inaccurate to (5) very accurate.

RESULT

Section I.

Table 1: Description of samples according to demographic characteristics.

Demographic variable	Frequency	Percentage
Gender		
Male	18	22.5%
Female	62	77.5%
Type of Family		
Joint	21	26.25%
Nuclear	59	73.75%

N=80

The demographic information of adolescents presented in Table 1 shows that majority are (77.5%) females and 73.75% are living in a nuclear family.

Section II

Table 2: Personality traits of single child and child with siblings.

Personality Traits	Single child		Child with siblings		t value
	M	SD	M	SD	
Extraversion	22.68	4.61	21.87	5.13	1.50
Agreeableness	25.11	5.67	26.14	5.77	1.53
Conscientiousness	25.38	4.64	26.84	6.36	2.28
Neuroticism	22.62	5.72	21.88	5.05	1.23
Openness	28.3	4.78	28.27	5.87	0.041

N=80

The table 1 shows that mean value of extraversion of single child is 22.68 and child with sibling is 21.87. Mean value of agreeableness of single child is 25.11 and child with sibling is 26.14. in the case of conscientiousness the mean value of single child is 25.38 and child with siblings 26.84. Man value of neuroticism mean value of single child is 22.62 and child with sibling is 21.88. In the area of openness the mean value of single child is 28.3 and child with sibling is 28.27. There is no statistical difference in the domains of personality (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, openness) between single child and child with siblings as the t calculated value is less than the t table value at 0.01 level.

DISCUSSION

The aim of the current study was to compare the personality traits of single child and child with siblings. The domains of the personality as per Big five likert scale were assessed. The result indicated that there is no difference in the personality traits of single child and child

with siblings. Supporting to the present study, Peter Dockrill(2017) had conducted a study to assess difference between personality traits and intelligence of single child and child with siblings. The result did not demonstrate any difference in terms of personality and intelligence between two groups.

CONCLUSION

Due to the small sample size of the current study, it is suggested that future studies should replicate this research by using a larger representative sample with a more balanced mix of gender. It is worth noting that this research was composed of 77.5% females, but only 22.5% of males. Therefore, this sample size may have limited the researcher's ability to generalize the findings. Besides that, the data are based on self-report, therefore, we believe that individuals may not be accurate and honest in their responses. As a conclusion, the present study found that there is a no difference in the personality traits of single child and child with siblings

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