



# BIRTH ORDER AND YOUTH PERSONALITIES

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## ABSTRACT

**Aim:** "personality" can be defined as "the dynamic organisation within the individual of those psychophysical systems that determine an individual's characteristics, behaviour, and thought" (Allport, 1961, P.28). It incorporates feelings, perspectives, and points of view, and the context in which it is most clearly expressed is with other people. Birth order refers to the chronological order of a child's arrival into the world. The purpose of this study was to determine whether or not there is a correlation between the birth order of children and their respective personality qualities.

**Material and Methods:** An investigation with a sample size of around one hundred people was carried out using an online forum. The participants ranged in age from eighteen to thirty-five and were of both genders. For the purpose of data collection, we utilised both the Big Five Personality Inventory (Goldberg, 1992) and the purposive sampling method.

**Results:** There is no discernible pattern in the characteristics of children and adolescents that can be attributed to the sequence in which they were born (extroversion, agreeableness, conscientious, openness and neuroticism)

Keywords: Personality, Birth Order, Extroversion, Agreeableness, Conscientious, Openness, Neuroticism

## INTRODUCTION

The term "personality" refers to the distinctive ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving that develop as a result of interactions between a person's biology and their environment. The study of personality focuses on two main areas; the first is an understanding of individual variances in specific personality characteristics, and the second is an understanding of how the various pieces of a person come together as a whole. Both of these areas are interrelated to one another. This enables us to identify forms of leisure activities that are compatible

with personality, to identify personality types that have an influence on behaviour, and to monitor changes in personality type.

The order in which children are born into a family is referred to as the "birth order." People frequently believe that the sequence in which a person is born has a significant and long-lasting impact on their psychological development. It is commonly believed that the role that a youngster plays within the context of their family can permanently shape their personality features.

Researchers have been looking at the impact that one's birth order has on their personality for several decades, with controversial findings. Ernst and Angst came to the conclusion that "birth order does not appear to be a very strong influence in moulding personality in a definable way" after evaluating more than one thousand papers on this subject that had been published prior to 1981. (p.187). New theoretical and methodological improvements, on the other hand, contributed to a growth in interest in this research topic.

The results of a standard personality test such as the Big Five personality inventory reveal that children of the third order are more outgoing and agreeable compared to children of the first and second orders, who, respectively, are more conscientious and open. Children of the second order are more neurotic. However, the findings of the research indicate that birth order does not have a substantial impact on a person's personality qualities and has only a minor impact overall.

Definition of the key terms:

- Personality: "The characteristics or blend of characteristics that make a person unique" (Weinberg & Gould, 1999).
- Birth order: Birth order is the order in which a child is born.
- Extroversion: Extroversion is also known as extraversion, it is a broad personality trait that encompasses a number of more specific characteristics such as sociability, assertiveness, high activity level, positive emotions, and impulsivity (Lucas, R. E., & Diener, E. (2001)
- Agreeableness: The tendency to act in a cooperative, unselfish manner, construed as one end of a dimension of individual differences in the Big Five Personality model (APA ,2000).
- Conscientiousness: Conscientiousness is a personality construct that is a core determinant of health, positive aging, and human capital (APA, 2012).
- Openness: Openness to experience refers to a tendency towards intellectual curiosity, aesthetic sensitivity, liberal values, and emotional differentiation (McCrae, 1987).
- Neuroticism: Neuroticism is the trait disposition to experience negative effects, including anger, anxiety, self-consciousness, irritability, emotional instability, and depression (APA, 2017).

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Freese, J., Powell, B. & Steelman, L. a study comparing the within-family and between-family techniques was carried out in (1999). They employed 24 different measures of social attitudes, such as "support for existing authority" and "opposition to liberal social movements," both of which generally come under the Big-5 category "Openness to Experience," which was derived from the General Social Survey (GSS) (n = 1945). They conducted numerous regression analyses (four distinct models), utilising controls for a variety of factors including age, size, race, and the education level of the parents, among others. They acknowledged that there was a demand in the existing body of work for birth-order studies to make use of data collected from inside families.

Saroglou, V., & Fiasse, L. (2003). a study on Birth order, personality, and religion was undertaken among young individuals who came from a household with three children. Their research comprised both a description of the respondent's personality from their mothers as well as a standard Big-5 measure of personality that was obtained through self-reporting by the participants. All of the Big-5 measures showed significant and positive relationships between self-reports and mother reports, ranging from a correlation of  $r = .48$  for neuroticism to a correlation of  $r = .66$  for conscientiousness. In any of their statistical tests, there was not a single control to be found. This problem is only discussed in regard to the selection of the sample, in which it is stated that all of the participants had a middle-class socioeconomic status, lived in urban regions, and had at least some level of higher education (post-secondary school).

Paulhus, D.L., Trapnell, P.D., & Chen, D. a study on the effects of birth order on personality and achievement was conducted across four investigations with a total sample size of 1,022 households and including both student and adult samples. Collecting data from inside participants' own families allowed for greater control over a wider variety of variables. Participants compared themselves and their siblings across a number of different personality and achievement dimensions. First-born children were identified as the most successful and conscientious individuals across all four different data sets. People who were born later in life are considered to be the most rebellious, liberal, and amiable. During the personality ratings, it did not make a difference whether birth order was highlighted (to stimulate stereotypes) or not; researchers found the same thing either way.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### Problem Statement

Is there a substantial correlation between the sequence in which children were born and the characteristics that they exhibit as they grow older?

### Research Objective

Studying personality features in young people based on birth order is the goal of the examination.

### Variables

Independent variable: Birth order (first born, second born and third born)

Dependent variable: Personality traits (extroversion, agreeableness, conscientious, openness and neuroticism)

### Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are developed based on the aforementioned goals and will be put to the test on a sample of 100 persons.

- Based on birth order, there won't be any discernible differences in extroversion among young people.
- The order of birth will not significantly affect the conscientiousness of young people.
- Based on birth order, there won't be any discernible differences in the agreeableness of young people.
- Based on birth order, there won't be any discernible differences in the neuroticism of young people.
- Among children, openness and birth order will not significantly differ from one another.

### Research design

In order to identify the personality qualities among children based on birth order, a quantitative between-group research design was adopted in the study.

### Research sample

This study employed a strategy known as purposeful sampling. 100 persons of various ages from various regions of Kerala made up the study sample, of which 56 were first order, 30 were second order, and 14 were third order children. The sample includes people of various sexes, religious backgrounds, and geographic locations.

### Sampling criteria

#### Inclusion criteria

- Those who have given consent for the participation.
- Youngsters those who belong to the age category of 18-35.

#### Exclusion criteria

- Those who haven't given consent for the participation.
- Those who have mental retardation or mental disability.

### Tools

The following tools were administered to each participant in order to collect the required information.

1. Socio-demographic data
2. Big five personality inventory (Goldberg, 1992)

### Procedure

The participants were given an explanation of the goal of the study over the internet, and their desire to take part in the research was afterwards determined. The first thing that happened was that participants and the

researcher connected with one another through social media in order to build a rapport. After that, each participant received personalised instruction regarding the objective of the study, and they were also informed that the confidentiality of their response would be maintained. In the end, participants were given an online version of the Big Five Personality Inventory, which consisted of 50 separate questionnaires, along with specific instructions for completing each questionnaire using a scale of one to five points. The instructions was followed in order to do the scoring of the assessment, and the results were interpreted accordingly. It was not required of the participants in any way that they reveal any of their personal information.

#### Analysis of data

The collected data was analyzed using following statistical test:

- Mean, Standard deviation
- Kruskal Wallis Test

#### Ethical issues

1. Informed consent of each and every participant was acquired.
2. Confidentiality of the response were maintained.
3. The data collected will be solely used for research purpose.

#### DATA ANALYSIS

The purpose of the study was to determine whether or not there is a correlation between the order in which children are born and their subsequent personalities. The participants in the study were all between the ages of 18 and 35. The investigator came up with five hypotheses for the purpose of the investigation, and the results are shown below.

**Table 1: Kruskal Wallis test on personality traits among youngsters based on birth order.**

Personality traits	Birth order	N	Mean value	Sig
Extroversions	First	55	51.63	0.77
	Second	29	47.31	
	Third	16	52.48	
	Total	100		
Conscientiousness	First	55	52.16	0.67
	Second	29	50.14	
	Third	16	44.35	
	Total	100		
Agreeableness	First	55	50.88	0.92
	Second	29	48.84	
	Third	16	52.25	
	Total	100		
Neuroticism	First	55	48.47	0.66
	Second	29	54.41	
	Third	16	49.96	
	Total	100		
Openness	First	55	52.42	0.74
	Second	29	47.41	
	Third	16	49.17	
	Total	100		

The Kruskal-Wallis test was used to determine the sorts of personality traits that are prevalent among young people in Kerala based on the order in which they were born, and those results are presented in Table 1. The aforementioned hypotheses were confirmed by the table's data.

Those who are considered to be first born have an average extroversion score of 51.67, whereas those who are considered to be second born have an average score of 47.37, and those who are considered to be third born have an average score of 52.52. Therefore, third-born children tend to be more extroverted than their siblings and other counterparts. The significant value of extroversion is 0.772, which is not significant at the level of significance 0.5. As a result, the null hypothesis is accepted, which states that there is no significant variation in the level of extroversion among young people that is based on their birth order.

Those who are considered to be first born have a mean value of 52.20 on the conscientiousness scale, whereas those who are thought to be second born have a mean value of 50.18, and those who are considered third born have a mean value of 44.37. Therefore, those who are born first tend to be more conscientious in comparison to their contemporaries. The significant value of conscientiousness is 0.667, which is not significant at the level of significance 0.5. Because of this, the null hypothesis is accepted, which states that there is no significant difference in the conscientiousness of young people based on their birth order.

Those who are believed to be first born have an average agreeableness score of 50.29, whereas those who are thought to be second born have an agreeableness score of 48.88, and those who are considered third born have an agreeableness score of 52.29. Therefore, those who are third born are generally more amiable than their contemporaries. The significant value of agreeableness is 0.924, which is not significant at the level of significance 0.5. As a result, the null hypothesis is accepted, which states that there is no significant variation in the degree of agreeableness among young people based on their birth order.

People who are believed to be first born have a mean neuroticism score of 48.29, whereas those who are thought to be second born have a score of 54.45, and those who are considered third born have a score of 50.00. Therefore, those who are born second are more prone to nervousness than their counterparts. The significant value of neuroticism is 0.661, which is not significant at the level of significance 0.5. As a result, the null hypothesis is accepted, which states that there is no significant variation in the level of neuroticism among young people based on their birth order.

On the openness scale, those who are considered to be first born have a mean value of 52.46, whereas those who are considered to be second born have a mean value of 47.45, and those who are considered to be third born have a mean value of 49.21. Therefore, firstborn children have a greater capacity for openness as compared to their peers. The significant value of openness is 0.736, which is not significant at the level of significance 0.5. As a result, the null hypothesis is accepted, which states that there is no significant difference in openness and personality traits among young people based on their birth order.



## MAJOR FINDINGS

There is no discernible pattern of extroversion among children and adolescents that can be attributed to birth order.

There is no discernible pattern of a more or less conscientious disposition among children based on their birth order.

There is no discernible pattern of agreeableness among children that can be attributed to their birth order.

There is no discernible pattern of neuroticism among children and adolescents that can be attributed to birth order.

There is no discernible pattern of openness or among younger people that can be attributed to their birth order.

There is a correlation between having a third kid and having a greater level of agreeableness and extroversion.

First-born children tend to have higher levels of both conscientiousness and openness than subsequent offspring.

There is a correlation between having a second kid and having a higher level of neuroticism.

## SCOPE FOR FURTHER STUDY

The research was carried out on a sample size that was not particularly large.

The next study might be carried out in a larger population, spanning a greater number of geographical places, and consisting of people who are affiliated with a variety of categories.

## CONCLUSION

Personality can be defined as the dynamic structure within an individual of the individual's psychophysical systems that are responsible for his characteristic behaviours and thoughts. The purpose of the evaluation is to investigate the effects of birth order on a variety of personality qualities, including extroversion, neuroticism, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness, among others. The Big Five Personality Inventory is used to do the analysis of the report. The information that was gathered was examined using a variety of statistical techniques, including the mean, standard deviations, and the Kruskal-Wallis test. The research study was quantitative in nature, and a between-group design was employed to find out how birth order affects the personality qualities of young people. The findings of the research indicate that there is no discernible pattern of birth order-related differences in the characteristics of young people's personalities.

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