



## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BIRTH ORDER AND PERSONALITY TRAITS AMONG MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS OF SHAHEED BENAZIR BHUTTO UNIVERSITY

Aqsa Kalhoro<sup>1</sup>, Dr Fozia Amir Siddiqui<sup>2</sup>, Shahana Mumtaz<sup>2</sup>, Dr Sanam Soomro<sup>3</sup>, Dr Riaz Ahmed Mangi<sup>4</sup>, Dr Abdul Razzaque Nohri<sup>5, 6\*</sup>, Aisha Qasim<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lecturer Institute of Public Health, People's University of Medical and Health Sciences for Women PUMHSW SBA.

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor. Department of Psychology, University of Sindh Jamshoro.

<sup>3</sup>Lecturer, Community Medicine Department, People's University of Medical and Health Sciences for Women PUMHSW SBA.

<sup>4</sup>Assistant Professor, Community Medicine Department, People's University of Medical and Health Sciences for Women

<sup>5</sup>Senior Pharmacist, Health Department, Government of Sindh

<sup>6\*</sup>MSPH Candidate, Department of Community Medicine, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences, Jamshoro

<sup>7</sup>Lecturer, Hamdard University Karachi

**\*Corresponding Author:** Dr Abdul Razzaque Nohri

\*Email: [razaquenohri@gmail.com](mailto:razaquenohri@gmail.com)

### Abstract

The birth order plays a very important role in a child's life because the family is the first social surrounding or system to which a child is exposed. The purpose of the study was to measure the relationship between birth order (1<sup>st</sup> born, middle born, last born and only single born or only child) and personality among male and female students of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University SBBU Shaheed Benazir Abad SBA. The research method was Quantitative method and comparative study. There was a sample of (N=89), with Female=30 and Male=59. For assessment of birth order, TIPI-Ten Item Personality Inventory Scale was used among all 1<sup>st</sup> born, middle born, last-born and only born participants. For statistical analysis, Spearman's correlation test, Chi - Square test and ANOVA was used. Results indicated that the personality types vary among the participants. The participants of different birth orders did not differ significantly in personality. There is no significant relationship between personality and birth orders. However, Spearman's correlation showed significant relationship between Extraversion and Conscientiousness, Conscientiousness/ Openness to Experience, Extraversion / Openness to Experiences and Agreeableness / Openness to Experiences.

**Keywords:** Birth order, Personality, TIPI

### INTRODUCTION

Birth order refers to an order in which a child is born in their family. Examples for birth order are 1<sup>st</sup> born, middle born, last born and only single born child. Sometimes it is believed that birth order is

having effects on individual's personality.

“The word personality itself stems from the Latin word *persona*, which refers to a theatrical mask worn by performers to either project different roles or disguise their identities. Personality is the characteristic patterns of thoughts, feelings, and behaviours that make a person unique. It is believed that personality arises from within the individual and remains consistent throughout life”. Fundamentally people have their own special character qualities. Every individual has various perspectives, acting and inwardly. Character is how you anticipate that somebody should act over the long haul. The character qualities are conduct components that represent your character, for example, active, liberal, or eagerness. Nonetheless, a few specialists recommend that separated from naturally foreordained development, the personality of character is a non-convertible organic substance (McCrae & Costa, 2008).

The request in which an individual is naturally introduced to their family assumes a significant part in the person's advancement of character, character, knowledge, and profession decisions. (Stewart et al., 2001). The familial climate is the principal bunch experience a kid has and the kid's part in their family impacts the improvement of the kid's individual character characteristics. In families, youngsters realize what is important and significant to their folks and kin and they contend with their kin for different jobs before they locate their own specialty in the family (Stewart et al., 2001). As kids are associated into their families, the youngsters make a spot for themselves and no two kids make a spot for themselves precisely similar, even if they are indistinguishable twins. The implying that an occasion will have on a specific youngster's mental improvement relies solely on that kid's translation of the occasion (Romeo, 1994). First-borns have an extraordinary situation in the family. The most seasoned youngster has the best option of specialty in the family framework. The specialty is frequently reflected as resolute tirelessness trying to satisfy their folks. This is normally done in a customary design by means of accomplishment in school and mindful conduct. They are more scrupulous and accomplishing in examination with the youngster siblings (Paulhus, Trapnell, & Chen, 1999).

Indeed, a few of the character credits of first-born kids incorporate characteristics, for example, keen, devoted, stable, and mindful responsible (Herrera, et. al., 2003).

First-borns are viewed as more splendid than their kin and work determinedly for their accomplishments.

Comparative with first- and last-born kids, middle born kids are accepted to encounter less collaboration and get less consideration which contrarily influences the confidence of this kid. Coming up short on the power of the principal youngster and the consideration earning regime of the most youthful kid, children in the middle job may feel "pressed out" of significance in their family. Regularly middle born have nothing about them that cause them to feel unique and deserving of their family's consideration (Stewart et al, 2001).

Middle born kids are accepted to be extremely jealous and attempt to get away from their jobs. Last born kids are accepted to be the most inventive, passionate, extraverted, defiant, flippant, and chatty (Herrera, et. al., 2003).

These youngsters are portrayed as continually battling to oppose the higher status of the initially conceived kid, while likewise looking for elective methods of separating themselves in their folks' eyes. As per the familial specialty the last-conceived kid grows, frequently this present kid's grown-up character is set apart by a sympathetic relational style, a taking a stab at uniqueness, and Birth Order 5 political perspectives that are both libertarian and antiauthoritarian (Paulhus, Trapnell, & Chen, 1999).

While high knowledge was credited to firstborns, lastborn were accepted to be more innovative and dilettantish. The psychological/mental underlying contrast applies fluctuating character qualities to the occupations in which they are related. For instance, first-borns are required to pick profession ways, for example, law and medication, while interestingly, lastborn are relied upon to become craftsmen, artists, and picture takers (Herrera et al., 2003).

A child's family role would then be able to ponder their character and in the long run how they

characterize themselves in the public eye overall. Role theory clarifies that there are three highlights that describe apparent family roles. Initial, a coordinated and intelligible arrangement of practices are related with a recognizable situation inside the family. At the point when the child is in a family setting, a family role is started up and the coordinating role practices are set off as the kid cooperates with kin and guardians. Second, as time advances and the child create, they cooperate routinely with the considerations, sentiments, and practices related with the job they play in setting when depicted by other relatives. Third, the child starts to customize the role. Both noticing and encountering the self in this cycle of rehashing the depicted role advances a feeling of job personality inside (Stewart et. al, 2001).

Most of the time, the 1<sup>st</sup> born kid tends to "parent" their younger siblings as they accept a place of control. First born kids have a kind preferred position over their siblings since they have best option of finding their specific specialty in the family. Overwhelmingly, the 1<sup>st</sup> born characterizes their role as endeavouring to satisfy their folks in a customary manner by prevailing in school and capable conduct. These children are seen as more reliable and accomplishing (Paulhus et al, 1999).

Socially, 1<sup>st</sup> born kids are likewise extensively less questionable and open to new experiences than later born kids. The subsequent grown-up character for these kids is extremely traditionalist and firm (Paulhus et al, 1999).

The only born kids are related with being the most scholastically fruitful and steady, ruined, and least affable among peers (Herrera, 2003). The only born kids are in an uncommon circumstance since they frequently invest a large portion of their energy within the sight of grown-ups which is both positive and negative for the kid. On the positive side, the lone kid is seldom disregarded and typically gave satisfactory time and backing contrasted with different youngsters. Be that as it may, just kids "are by and large more self-sufficient as far as close to home control, have more significant levels of activity or individual desire or inspiration, are more innovative as far as instructive or word related accomplishment, and have more grounded personalities" (Mellor, 1989, p. 229). Only born children are likewise inclined to many negative meanings because of pictures of over-defensive and over-included guardians that look to live vicariously through their kid that may influence their turn of events. Only born regularly feel their lives are under cautious examination and control by their families. They come up short on the important measure of self-governance and autonomy that youngsters in different positions appreciate (Mellor, 1989).

An age effect was detected for Extraversion in the model, whereas gender and family size did not have an impact. The age effect held for the two sensitivity analyses and is suggestive of a birth order effect. 1<sup>st</sup>-born are more curious and cooperative and having more affiliative needs (Altus 1965).

The researcher selects this topic because according to previous literature, birth orders as the eldest, middle, youngest or the only single child in the family is having very little relationship or effects on personality traits. The researcher was highly motivated to find out such relationships between personality traits and birth orders or some effects of birth order on personality traits. So, it was an interesting topic for the elaboration and detailed analysis of the relationship between birth order and personality. The researcher had conducted the research on university students of Shaheed Benazirabad City of Sindh province of Pakistan. It was observed that there was no as such relationship or effects of birth order on personality.

### **Hypothesis**

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> born male or female students would be conscientiousness and agreeableness than middle and last born, while the middle-born male or female would be emotionally stable and agreeableness.
2. The last-born male or female would be extravert, openness to new experiences and emotionally

stable.

3. The only child may have some or all of personality traits with respect to their gender and age group.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

The cross-sectional research design and non-probability convenience sampling method was used to conduct the research study.

### **Sample**

In the study, the number of samples is N=89 and the sampling technique was random sampling to collect the samples. The participants were University students of Nawabshah SBA.

### **Inclusion Criteria**

Inclusion criteria for the proposed study was currently enrolled students of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University SBBU Shaheed Benazir Abad SBA.

### **Exclusion Criteria**

Other than students of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University SBBU or Pass out students of SBBU was not included.

### **Instruments**

1. Demographic form

A detailed demographic form was developed to collect the data which includes all required information needed for research purpose. The demographic form includes name (optional), birth order, gender, and age of the participants.

2. Ten Item Personality Inventory TIPI

The Ten Item Personality Inventory (TIPI), was developed in the USA by Gosling, Rentfrow and Swan (2003) was intended to quantify the elements of the Five Factor Model (FFM) of character. Gosling et al. (2003) observed that time is frequently an extravagance in examination and in this manner planned a short instrument that would consider speedy organization and translation. Hence, the TIPI requires roughly one moment to finish.

### **Data Collection Procedure**

First, permission was taken from concerned authorities. After this process, demographic form with Ten Item Personality Inventory Scale TIPI was sent to participants. As this is a time period where we are facing COVID-19 and it was difficult to collect the data via in-person mode, the researcher have made a google form which includes demographic form and TIPI scale and had sent to relevant participants. The instructions were clearly mentioned above the form so that participants haven't faced any kind of confusion during filling the questionnaire. Confidentiality and anonymity of the research participants was highly maintained. It was assured to participants that their information would be kept confidential and should only be used for research purpose.

## **RESULTS**

In the total sample of 89 participants, there were 59 (66.3%) male participants and 30 (33.7%) female participants. There were 4 kinds of birth orders which consists of 1<sup>st</sup> born, middle born, last born and only single child. Among all birth orders and gender, there were 33 1<sup>st</sup> born participants, 34 middle born participants, 17 last born participants and only 05 single or only 1 child. Along with that if we can deeply divide the data there were 22 (67.7%) male and 11 (33.3%) female 1<sup>st</sup> born participants, 22 (64.7%) male and 12 (35.3%) female middle born participants, 10 (58.8%) male and 07 (41.2%) female participants and 5 (100%) male

and 0 female only born participants had been included in the study.

Table 1 shows the total number of participants e.g male, female, 1<sup>st</sup> born, middle born, last born and only child. The results of test of independence Chi-square, that there is no significant differences between birth order by gender,  $\chi^2 = 3.007$ ,  $P = 0.391$ . Gender did is not significantly dependent on birth order. Both gender equally similar in term of the number being selected in participating in this study.

**Table 1: Shows mean of Birth Order According to Gender.**

Gender	First Born		MiddleBorn		Last Born		Only Child		Total		Chi Square P	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Male	22	67.7%	22	64.7%	10	58.8%	5	100.0%	59	66.3%	3.007	0.391
Female	11	33.3%	12	35.3%	7	41.2%	0	0.0%	30	33.7		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		

Table 2: The association between birth order and personality types has been checked through Spearman correlation r in Table 2. Which shows there is significant correlation between extraversion/conscientiousness, Extraversion / Openness to Experiences, Agreeableness / Openness to Experiences and conscientiousness/openness to experience.

**Table 2: Shows Spearman Correlation between personality traits.**

Personality Traits	Correlation	P-Value
Extraversion / Agreeableness	-.135	.207
Extraversion / Conscientiousness	.321**	.002
Extraversion / Emotional Stability	.160	.133
Extraversion / Openness to Experiences	.245*	.020
Agreeableness / Conscientiousness	.137	.201
Agreeableness / Emotional Stability	-.070	.513
Agreeableness / Openness to Experiences	.246*	.020
Conscientiousness / Emotional Stability	.186	.080
Conscientiousness / Openness to Experience	.298**	.005
Emotional Stability / Openness to Experiences	.189	.077

**Table 3:** Indicates the first born showing the highest mean scores for conscientiousness (mean=4.92. SD=1.33), middle born showed the highest scores for agreeableness (mean=4.71, SD=1.24), the last-born kids shows the highest scores for openness to experience (mean=5.62. SD=1.14) and only born child showed the highest scores for extraversion (mean=5.00, SD=1.62) and Emotional Stability (mean=5.10, SD=1.88). The extraversion is having statistically significant difference among 1<sup>st</sup> born, middle born, last born and only child with mean values of (m=3.67, m= 3.75, m=4.50 and m=5.00) with p- value 0.043. Also the 1<sup>st</sup> born, middle born, last born and only child with mean values of (m=4.52, m= 4.99, m=5.62 and m=5.30) with p-value 0.022 were also having significant mean difference with openness to experience.

Table 3: ANOVA Shows significance level.

Personality	First born		Middle born		Last born		Only one child f			P-value				
	N	Mean	S. D	N	Mean	S. D	N	Mean	S. D					
Extraversion	33	3.67	1.17	34	3.75	1.18	17	4.50	1.69	5	5.00	1.62	2.841	0.043
Agreeableness	33	4.35	1.27	34	4.71	1.24	17	4.53	1.22	5	4.20	1.35	.566	0.639
Conscientiousness	33	4.92	1.33	34	4.90	1.40	17	4.88	1.48	5	4.80	1.25	.013	0.998
EmotionalStability	33	4.21	1.42	34	3.94	1.38	17	4.50	1.38	5	5.10	1.88	1.292	0.283
Openness to Experiences	33	4.52	1.06	34	4.99	1.35	17	5.62	1.14	5	5.30	0.97	3.388	0.022

Hence it was proved that there is a significant relationship of extraversion  $p=0.043$  and openness to experience ( $p=0.022$ ) with all types of birth orders.

## DISCUSSION

The current study shows the findings are valid. First, this study includes unequal number of participants for gender and for the birth orders as well. That's why it was bit difficult to make the findings. However, gender is not equal to allow the findings to be generalized. There are a few suggestions from this research to ease future research process. As the researcher had used TIPI, but for future research could focus on other personality tests that might provide bigger picture and different point of views in gaining a clear understanding between birth order and personality. Moreover, it is a suggestion for future researchers that they should use other designs such as within-family to study the effects of birth orders so that misleading variables are well controlled. The results indicated that birth order has no relationship between personality types except the extraversion and openness to experience. There is also no significant difference between the birth orders according to gender. Hence it was concluded that the development of personality is not only related to birth order but also other factors are involved.

## CONCLUSION

This study contributes valuable insights into the interplay between birth order, gender, and personality traits. The findings suggest that certain personality traits are associated with specific birth orders, providing a foundation for further research in this field.

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