



Effect of Parenting Style and parental treatment on child's Personality: *Exploring Some Factors*

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Abstract : Present paper attempts to explore the effect of parenting styles and treatment on the child's personality. Importance of the subject and insufficient literature on parenting and personality as well as lack of combined studies of parenting with other psychosocial factors led to this paper. Through this paper we explore the impact of appropriate parenting styles and differential treatment the child receive as a result of some factors such as the birth orders, have a direct or indirect effect on one's personality. Major objectives of the paper include determining effect of Parenting Style and parental treatment on child's Personality, and the various factors that impact personality of an individual. The Brief HEXACO Inventory was employed to assess personality of a child. In addition, Sibling Inventory of Differential Experience (SIDE) to study the differential treatments, Parents as Social Context Questionnaire (Child Report) to explore how parenting styles affect personality. A total of 342 individuals between the age ranges of 17 to 25 participated in the study. Correlation Analysis and Regression Analysis was conducted on the data. It was concluded that several factors affect a child's personality which include but are not limited to the objectives taken up in this paper. It was determined that these factors play an essential role in the development of personality of an individual.

IndexTerms - Parenting style, parenting treatment, child's personality, birth order

RESEARCH CONTEXT

Effects of Parenting styles and parental treatment on personality

Psychologists, researchers and academia continue to work on parenting styles and its possible effects on children, outlining a variety of parenting styles over the years. Regardless of several researches, there is still no consensus over the right parenting style, with a majority of parents using trial and error to raise their children. According to Baumrind (1971) there are three basic parenting styles i.e. authoritarian, authoritative and permissive styles that impact a child's personality while research by Hosokawa and Katsura (2018) suggests that ineffective discipline in children can be attributed to authoritarian and permissive parenting styles. Psychological researches mention assorted parenting styles and how it impacts the child (Fujiwara, Kato and Sanders, 2011), while a recent study stated that personality traits and perception towards parents are formed in adolescence itself therefore parents and teachers should raise adolescents consciously and help develop positive personality traits in them, also implying the need for educating public about different parenting styles and how positive and negative parenting can affect individuals (Adlakha et al, 2018). Apart from parenting styles, the manner children in the same family are treated differently by their parents also plays a vital role. A study showed significant differential parental control between first and last born children of the same families (Mofrad and Uba, 2014). A research that examined the role of parenting styles with respect to adolescents' sleep patterns and symptoms of depression and anxiety concluded that there was high overlap between parenting styles of both parents, though with a different relation to adolescents' sleep. Adverse parenting styles were highly correlated with low sleep quality, negative mood, increased daytime sleepiness, and with increased symptoms of anxiety and depression. Adolescents with low positive and high negative parenting styles displayed the most unfavourable sleep-related personality traits showing that negative parenting styles affects personality negatively (Hatzinger, 2009) while another research revealed different patterns of parent differential treatment for siblings which depended on their age as well as gender (McHale et. al. 2001).

Literature review elaborates the role of not only parenting styles but also how children of the same family are treated and its impact on their personality among other factors but most of these researches were conducted in the late 1900s, for example a study showed that mothers show more response, control and expressive behaviour towards their younger born rather than older born and this differential treatment from parents, especially mothers can lead to a higher level of negativity and conflict amongst siblings (Brody et. al. 1987). In most families, parents have been seen to treat their children differently based on their age (Maccoby and Martin, 1983).

Traditional explanations of birth rank differences have focused on “differential parental treatment of children of different birth orders” (Paulhus, Trapnell, & Chen, 1999; Adler, 1927, 1928; Schachter, 1959; Zajonc, 1983) and “competition among siblings as they fight for a family niche” (Paulhus et al., 1999; Sulloway, 1996). There is an absence of sufficient literature in the recent times which makes it even more important to study the concept.

Factors that play such a principal role in determining one’s personality must be taken into consideration. It is necessary that we explore the effects of parenting styles and parental treatment on the personality of an individual, taking into account other variables as well and its effects on personality.

Birth order and personality

Similarly, several previous researches shed light on the effects of other factors in determining personality characteristics. Researchers have studied the impact of birth order, age gap, socioeconomic status, and gender as well as sibling interaction. A recent study found that those with higher birth ranks in fact attain better jobs and occupations and actually do complete more years of schooling in comparison to lower birth ranks (Herrera, Zajonc, Wiczorkowska & Cichomski, 2003) while another stated that firstborns are more Conscientious than later born (e.g., more responsible, organized, and academically achieving) and later born are more Open to Experience than firstborns (Healy & Ellis, 2006). A research study stated that in two child households, a larger age gap between siblings negatively affects personality traits of the youngest child (Golsteyn and Magnée, 2017) shedding light on the importance of age gap and its effect on personality. A study tried to see whether age gap affects the future success of children and the results showed that smaller age gaps have a negative impact on children’s future outcomes (Thoursie, 2009). Borghans et al. (2016) claimed that personality traits are necessary for successes in life and age gap may have an effect on personality traits like competitiveness, neuroticism, social skills, extraversion etc., for several reasons.

For the purpose of research these associated factors, we took into account all the above mentioned variables directly or indirectly, and study them in the same research in the Indian context.

THE STUDY

Objectives:

1. To determine the various factors that impact personality of a child in the Indian context.
2. To assess the association between birth order and parenting style and treatment,
3. To determine the correlation between parenting styles and personality.
4. To ascertain the parental treatment and child’s personality.

Hypotheses:

1. There will be a correlation between birth order and personality.
2. There will be a correlation between parenting styles and personality.
3. There will be a correlation between (differential) parental treatment and personality.

Method

Sample

All participants were selected using purposive sampling method. A total of 350 individuals were approached from which 342 individuals finally participated in the study. 322 individuals were finally chosen as they fit the criteria that we needed and out of these, 135 were males and 187 were females. All the participants had at least one sibling and were in the age range of 17 to 25.

Measures

The individual data form was designed using Google forms and it was used to collect the basic data of all the participants.

Tools of data collection

Brief HEXACO Inventory

This was used to measure the personality of the participants. It is based on the HEXACO model of personality structure and is a 24 item brief scale made by Reinout E. de Vries from the University of Amsterdam.

The reason why it is called Hexaco is because it has six factors, or domains that include Honesty-Humility (H), Emotionality (E), Extraversion (X), Agreeableness (A), Conscientiousness (C), and Openness to Experience (O). Each factor has certain traits with characteristics indicating high and low levels of the factor. It has been used in several researches including Ashton and Lee, 2014; McGrath, Neilson et. al., 2018 etc.

As part of the study Test Retest was conducted in order to study the test retest reliability of Brief HEXACO Inventory (BHI). For this purpose 70 participants were re-approached and asked to refill part of the questionnaire. Out of these, 69 filled the questionnaire again.

S no.	Scale Domain	Test retest reliability
1.	Honesty humility scale	0.815
2.	Emotionality	0.900
3.	Extraversion	0.873
4.	Agreeableness (vs anger)	0.874
5.	Conscientiousness	0.662
6.	Openness to Experience	0.894

Parents as Social Context Questionnaire (Child Report):

This questionnaire was developed by Skinner et al., (2005) to measure the parenting styles as experienced by the children. It takes into account six core features of parenting styles and uses a motivational model to integrate and organize them. It measures how parenting style shapes child and adolescent outcomes. The questionnaire has two assessments of parenting styles, a parent and a child report, for use with children from preschool age to late adolescence. The six core features are:

Warmth- Expression of love, enjoyment, caring and affection.

Rejection- Active dislike, aversion and hostility, critical and disapproving.

Structure- Provision of information about pathways to reach desired outcome.

Chaos- Interferes or obscures the ends of pathways.

Autonomy support- Allow freedom of expression and action. Motivate child to attend, accept and value genuine opinions and preferences.

Coercion- This is a restrictive, over controlling autocratic style of parenting.

These core features were used in context of parenting styles that the parents adopt in order to raise their children.

DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis was done and Cronbach Alpha, to test the reliability of the scales, Test Retest reliability was checked for the scale which had low alpha reliability, Mean and SD of the data were calculated to know the average score of the data on each construct, Correlation Analysis was done through Pearson Product Moment correlation to know the extent to which the variables were related to each other and Regression Analysis was conducted to study the cause and effect or impact of one or more independent variable/s on a dependent variable.

DISCUSSION

Parenting Styles and personality

The data analysis shows that difference in parenting style leads to differences in a child's personality. According to the Correlation analysis, as parental warmth increases i.e. parents showcase affection and care, Conscientiousness increases in an individual. As parental rejection increases i.e. parents are critical, overly harsh and disapproving, Agreeableness (versus Anger) and Conscientiousness increases and Honesty/ humility of the child decreases and with increase in parental structure i.e. when parents are consistent and have clear expectations, demands and pathways decided, Agreeableness (versus Anger) and Conscientiousness increases in the individual. With increase in parental chaos i.e. unpredictable, inconsistent and erratic behaviour, the individual has less Honesty/ humility, Extraversion and Conscientiousness, when parental autonomy support increases, i.e. they allow child to be open and expressive, the Conscientiousness increases whereas Emotionality decreases.

Eventually with increase in parental coercion i.e. strict and controlling behaviour, then Honesty/ humility and Conscientiousness decrease. It is clear that as parental behaviour and parenting styles differ changes occur in the individual significantly. Specifically, we can see that honesty and humility in first born are affected with the kind of erratic, unpredictable and undependable behaviours showed by parents towards them, their emotionality i.e. their need to form emotional, sentimental bonds is affected by the amount of freedom and encouragement given to them to accept, express and act and their conscientiousness i.e. their discipline and organisation is affected by the strict and controlling behaviour of their parents. Similarly, honesty and humility in second born i.e. their tendency to break rules for personal gain is affected by the parental rejection or the dislike, hostile and harsh behaviour and by their support to let the child freely express and act and their conscientiousness i.e. their desire to stay organised and carryout tasks in an accurate manner is affected by the intrusive and controlling parental behaviour.

Finally emotionality in third born i.e. their tendency to form sentimental attachments and feel empathy is impacted by the love, affection and care shown by the parents along with the support and encouragement provided to them and their agreeableness i.e. their tendency to be less judgemental, critical and compromise and coordinate is affected by the guidelines that parents provide regarding their expectations and demands from the child.

Birth Order and Personality

We can see from the tables that several factors of personality in individuals of different birth order are affected. Most of the correlations between various factors of personality like Honesty/ Humility, Emotionality, Extraversion, Agreeableness (versus Anger) and Openness to experience and birth order are negative, showing inverse relationship. Therefore increase in birth order would lead to decrease in these factors of personality. Whereas Conscientiousness has a positive/ direct relationship with birth order and increases

with increase in the birth order. Regression analysis shows us that different birth orders affect the personality of an individual like first born has significant impact on Honesty/ Humility, Emotionality and Conscientiousness factors of personality whereas there is insignificant impact on Extraversion, Agreeableness (versus Anger) and Openness to Experience factors of personality.

Birth order, second born has a significant impact on Honesty/ Humility, Extraversion, Agreeableness (versus Anger), Conscientiousness and Openness to Experience factors whereas there is insignificant impact on Emotionality factor. Birth order third born has a significant impact on Emotionality and Agreeableness (versus Anger) factors whereas there is insignificant impact on Honesty/ Humility, Extraversion, Conscientiousness and Openness to Experience factors. We can see that first born are generally most honest and have more humility in comparison to their siblings, they avoid manipulation and breaking rules as well as luxury; they are more emotional i.e. they have empathetic relationships and require emotional security and that they have higher conscientiousness i.e. they are organized and disciplined in their time and work. Likewise second born are generally honest and have humility i.e. they do not focus on personal gains and do not find pleasure in the luxuries of life, they are confident and enjoy social gatherings and attention, they are forgiving and less judgemental as well as compromising and cooperative, they make careful decisions, are organized and disciplined and they are imaginative, inquisitive, and creative. Finally, third born are generally emotionally involved in relationships, are empathetic and forgiving, they control their temper and easily cooperate with others.

Differential Parental Treatment and personality

Correlational analysis depicts that Honesty/ Humility and Emotionality are negatively correlated i.e. sharing an inverse relationship with (differential) parental treatment whereas Conscientiousness and Openness to Experience are positively correlated i.e. sharing a direct relationship with (differential) parental treatment. As differential parental treatment increases among siblings, the individual tends to have less Honesty/ humility and Emotionality while Conscientiousness and Openness to Experience increases. It is most visible in second born as regression analysis shows us that the most impacted individual is the second born and that their Honesty/ Humility and Conscientiousness factors of personality are affected due to differential parental treatment that they experience. This means that second born in comparison to their siblings are more inclined to break rules and work in a disciplined manner to strive for perfection and accuracy.

Finally, the last hypothesis stated that second born experience different familial treatment in comparison to other birth orders. Regression analysis stated that there was difference among the personality factors of all the birth orders which proved that second born receive different familial treatment in comparison to other birth orders. Second born, based on the age gap between them and their sibling/s, are more agreeable i.e. they compromise and forgive easily, they are less judging and based on (differential) parental treatment, Honesty/ Humility and Conscientiousness factors are affected i.e. based on the parental treatment they receive, they would be less manipulative, less tempted to break rules and less attracted to luxuries of life, as well as they maybe more or less organised in their work and time, more or less careful in making decisions and may strive for accuracy and perfection in their approach and finally based on their (differential) sibling interaction, the Openness to Experience factor is affected i.e. their inquisitiveness, creativity and use of imagination and their tendency to absorb art and beauty is affected. This shows us that there is different familial treatment towards second born individuals in comparison to other birth orders due to which their personalities are distinct.

These findings showcase how siblings from the same family have different personality factors influenced by the variables. This research is in line with previous researches like Tesser, 1980; Ross and Milgram, 1982; Brody and Stoneman, 1990; Daniels et. al. 1985; Faust and Watermann, 2017, but it also adds to the previous literature by studying these factors together and coming to a more thorough result. These findings can be used to help parents understand how the treatment they provide to their children affects them. It could be used by counsellors and teachers to understand their clients and students better. They can also be used by individuals to acknowledge their siblings experiences and in forming over all better familial relationships.

LIMITATIONS

Regardless of its contribution, the study is not free of limitations. Further research can be done by including more factors or variables that are believed to be impacting the personality like temperament, peer relations, effects of extraordinary events and so on.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Other researches can also be done to explore the similarities and differences among birth orders that are claimed by several researchers as well as various articles. It would help to identify if there are any specific characteristics that are present in first born, second born or third born. An exploratory research which takes a more subjective approach could be done to understand why second born experience differential familial treatment and how it impacts their personality in particular.

CONCLUSIONS

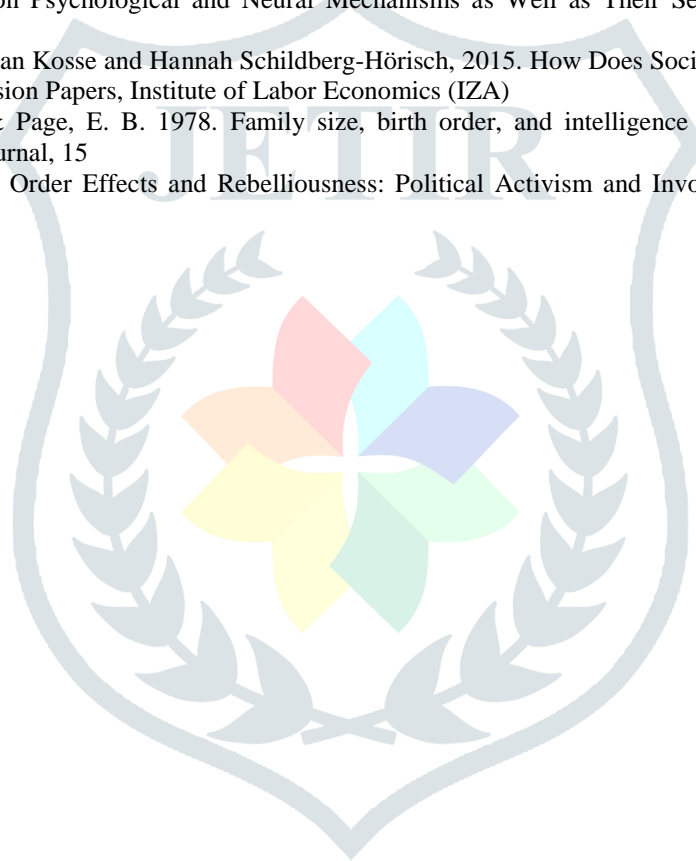
This research has helped us understand the impact of these variables on our personalities, making it clear which factor of our personality is more affected due to which independent variable. It also made it clear that in comparison to first and last born, middle born experience a difference in treatment and this leads to a completely different set of characteristics to be formed. Nevertheless there is also a need for further exploration to understand this phenomenon which is an integral part of psychology.

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Appendix-A, B (RESULTS)

Variables	Mean	SD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Birth Order	1.84	.749	-.057		1					
2. Age Gap	3.75	2.69	.007	.179**	-.008			1		
3. Differential Sibling Interaction	72.78	7.75	-.020	.109	-.166**	-.035	-.006	.109	1	
8. Differential Parental Treatment	54.59	8.80	-.188**	.132*	.022	.056	-.131*	-.025		1
13. Conscientiousness	13.56	2.75	.043	-.123*	.124*	.132*	.029	.012	.051	.113*
14. Openness to Experience	14.89	2.6	-.043	.041	-.050	.098	.062	.047	.139*	.135*
15. Warmth	13.1	2.50	-.009	.115*	.000	.043	.118*	.092	-.005	.140*
16. Rejection	8.21	2.98	-.246**	.066	.043	-.165**	-.240**	.088	.064	.097
17. Structure	12.12	2.67	-.199**	.011	.099	.036	.086	-.018	.009	.131*
18. Chaos	9.13	3.18	-.096	.060	.012	-.105	-.085	.080	.039	.060
19. Autonomy Support	12.97	2.93	-.029	.016	-.009	.085	.077	.017	.027	.136*
20. Coercion	9.18	3.12	-.059	.040	.058	-.077	-.139*	.085	.071	.068

Table 1: Mean, S.D. and correlation values of variables, **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05, N = 32

Agreeableness (vs Anger)	.069	.073*	.125*	-.032	.062	-.014
Conscientiousness	.122*	-.132*	.118*	-.208**	.151**	-.227**
Openness to Experience	.028	-.001	.049	-.001	-.007	-.026

Table 2: Correlation values of variables of Brief HEXACO Inventory and factors of Parents as Social Context Questionnaire, **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05, N = 322

Regression Analysis-
Birth Order 1

Predictors	Model	Age	Family Type	Age Gap	D. Parental Treatment	D. Sibling Interaction	Warmth	Rejection	Structure	Chaos	Autonomy Support	Coercion	Obi SE	Su SE
Honesty Humility	R ² .33 F3.36	β .21 p .019	β -.18 p .046	β .019 p .832	β -.100 p .548	β -.151 p .048	β -.067 p .550	β -.032 p .770	β -.010 p .920	β -.267 p .025	β .083 p .503	β -.019 p .870	β -.063 p .505	β .143 p .128
Emotionality	R ² .35 F3.77	β .14 p .029	β .108 p .218	β -.057 p .521	β -.006 p .971	β -.063 p .491	β .133 p .226	β -.001 p .992	β -.109 p .286	β .059 p .612	β -.233 p .036	β .089 p .441	β -.135 p .148	β .012 p .898
Extraversion	R ² .109 F .893	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agreeableness vs Anger	R ² .187 F 1.67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Conscientiousness	R ² .24 F 2.28	β .141 p .149	β - .181 p .059	β .098 p .306	β - .002 p .984	β .245 p .015	β .102 p .393	β .184 p .116	β .097 p .380	β - .183 p .144	β - .125 p .345	β - .307 p .015	β - .064 p .524	β .316 p .002
Openness to Experience	R ² .054 F .417	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Birth Order 2

Honesty Humility	R ² .20 F 2.17	β - .079 p .372	β - .132 p .126	β - .022 p .809	β -.125 p .023	β -.124 p .151	β - .053 p .644	β - .304 p .027	β .185 p .127	β .145 p .244	β - .249 p .038	β .100 p .415	β .107 p .281	β .004 p .962
Emotionality	R ² .13 F1.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Extraversion	R ² .168 F 1.80	β - .013 p .884	β - .031 p .725	β - .146 p .115	β -.018 p .848	β -.015 p .866	β - .009 p .937	β - .082 p .554	β - .103 p .402	β - .174 p .169	β .007 p .953	β - .047 p .707	β .015 p .884	β .266 p .007
Agreeableness vs Anger	R ² .27 F3.26	β .056 p .510	β .244 p .003	β .325 p .000	β .114 p .205	β -.139 p .092	β .025 p .815	β .053 p .683	β .162 p .163	β .097 p .411	β - .071 p .533	β - .112 p .337	β - .180 p .058	β .040 p .660
Conscientiousness	R ² .26 F3.19	β - .105 p .215	β - .128 p .121	β .113 p .196	β .255 p .005	β -.017 p .832	β .005 p .963	β - .087 p .503	β - .067 p .564	β - .001 p .991	β .088 p .439	β - .261 p .027	β .042 p .657	β .008 p .931
Openness to Experience	R ² .18 F1.93	β .021 p .817	β .061 p .485	β .000 p .998	β .063 p .508	β -.203 p .021	β - .014 p .904	β - .109 p .426	β .084 p .491	β .147 p .241	β - .136 p .262	β - .153 p .218	β .045 p .653	β .235 p .016

Birth Order 3

Honesty Humility	R ² .32 F 1.68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emotionality	R ² .45 F 2.94	β .408 p .004	β .010 p .927	β - .102 p .395	β -.109 p .414	β .001 p .993	β .356 p .013	β .078 p .597	β .112 p .414	β - .202 p .246	β - .423 p .004	β .122 p .476	β - .153 p .226	β - .110 p .385
Extraversion	R ² .18 F.798	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agreeableness vs Anger	R ² .37 F2.08	β - .054 p .710	β - .003 p .982	β .129 p .316	β -.201 p .164	β -.158 p .237	β - .205 p .172	β - .138 p .382	β .264 p .077	β - .202 p .278	β .189 p .215	β .060 p .744	β - .249 p .069	β .012 p .930
Conscientiousness	R ² .24 F1.14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Openness to Experience	R ² .088 F.346	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-