



Research Article

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Birth Order and Emotional Intelligence of the post graduate students of Manipur University

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Abstract: The present paper aims to explore the relationship between Birth order and Emotional Intelligence of the Postgraduate students of Manipur University. For this study, 201 postgraduate students from Social Science backgrounds were selected. A standardized tool was administered to collect the data. To find out whether there is any relationship between Birth order and the Emotional Intelligence of the students, Descriptive statistics and Pearson's coefficient of correlation was applied. The result shows no significant relationship between birth order and Emotional Intelligence of the post graduate students of Manipur University.

Keywords: Birth Order, Emotional Intelligence, Social background.

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INTRODUCTION

In today's competitive world, there is enormous pressure on the youth population. Particularly the students, to perform well to succeed in life. Children are expected to perform efficiently and effectively in every field of his/ her life. They become the centre of concern, not only in the level of Intelligence Quotient (IQ) but also their creativity, emotion, interpersonal skill, etc. These measures play a very important role for the person to be successful and well adjust in society.

There are some stereotypes that the firstborn siblings are smart, responsible, and rebellious and the middle-born child is easy-going. There is a myth amongst the family members as well as the psychologists that an individual's character, values, achievement strivings, and life success are determined by the family position that fate and the parents awarded to them. Birth order means the ordinal position that may be defined as rank in our sibling by age i.e., firstborn, middle born, last born, an only child, and twins.

Birth order is usually believed to have a lasting effect on psychological development of a child. The difference in the behaviour among the siblings may be attributed to birth order. There are two different types of Birth order: Actual birth order and psychological birth order. Actual birth order means the order in which a child comes into the world such as firstborn child, an only child, second-born child, or last born. Psychological birth order is also termed as perceived birth order.

Psychological birth order means the way a person sees or perceives a child's position.

When differences in the behaviour of children are found to correlate with birth order, they are usually explained by the variations in interactions with their parents and siblings associated with the unique experiences of being in a particular position among the family members.

Every child is believed to be born with some intellectual potential which grows and develops with the help of maturity and experiences. Similarly, one is also born with some innate emotional intelligence in terms of one's level of emotional sensitivity and emotional learning ability.

Our emotions play a very important role in providing a particular direction to our behaviour and shaping our personality according to development. Emotional Intelligence can determine the ability to identify, assess, and control the emotions of oneself, others, and groups. According to Singh (2006), Emotional Intelligence is explained as the ability of an individual to appropriately and efficiently respond to a vast variety of emotional stimuli being elicited from the inner self and the outer.

Emotional Intelligence can be described as a form of intelligence relating to the emotional side of life, such as the ability to manage one's own emotions and restrain impulses, and to handle interpersonal

relationships effectively. Daniel Goleman (1995) defined Emotional Intelligence as comprising emotional awareness (knowing one’s emotion), emotional management, motivation, empathy (recognizing emotions in others), and social skills (handling emotion).

Usually, the upbringing of the first child of the family differs from that of the middle child or last child or twins or single child. It has a long-term effect on the development of the child. Birth order plays a very important role in the development of a child.

The understanding of the Emotional Intelligence of a child is very much needed and is important as it also affects the life of a child. The study of Birth order and Emotional Intelligence is needed to understand how Birth order affects the Emotional Intelligence of the Post Graduate students of Manipur. The study will make the parents aware of how to deal with their children. To help parents understand how their expectation and behaviour towards a child affect their Emotional Intelligence. It will also help in predicting the Emotional outcomes in the later life of a child.

Objectives

- Find out the gender wise relationship between Birth Order and Emotional Intelligence of the respondents according to their social background.

Hypothesis

There will be no effect of Birth Order on the Emotional Intelligence of the Post Graduate students.

The present study is restricted only to the 201 students studying in the Post Graduate course of Social Science background of Manipur University. The students came from various districts of Manipur. The students were from Hill as well as from the valley region. The study is being conducted only on the students from the school of Social Science. The sample is selected through

incidental and purposive sampling methods. All the post-graduate students studying in the different departments from the school of Social Science and who are available on the day of appointment were taken as the sample.

For the present study, the data were collected through a standardized tool. For measuring the Emotional Intelligence of the respondents, Mangal Emotional Intelligence Inventory was developed and standardized by S.K. Mangal and Mrs. Shubhra Mangal were adopted. To get the related information regarding the Birth order of the respondents a Personal Information Schedule was developed by the researcher in consultation with the supervisor.

The collected data were classified and then tabulated according to the objectives of the study. The data were analysed by using percentages and Pearson’s coefficient of correlation.

The coefficient of correlation between Birth order and Emotional Intelligence is $r = 0.042$ which shows a low and positive correlation between the two variables. It shows that the Birth order is positively related to emotional intelligence but not strongly related to each other. The significant coefficient correlation value is $p = 0.556$, which is greater than 0.05 shows that there is no significant relationship between the Birth order and Emotional Intelligence of the post-graduate student studying at Manipur University.

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Correlation

		Birth Order	Native Place	Resident	Emotional Intelligence
Birth Order	Pearson Correlation	1	.061	-.073	.042
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.387	.302	.556
	N	201	201	201	201
Native Place	Pearson Correlation	.061	1	.070	.067
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.387		.327	.348
	N	201	201	201	201
Resident	Pearson Correlation	-.073	.070	1	.046
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.302	.327		.517
	N	201	201	201	201
Emotional Intelligence	Pearson Correlation	.042	.067	.046	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.556	.348	.517	
	N	201	201	201	201

The coefficient of correlation between Native place and Emotional Intelligence is $r = 0.067$ which

shows a low and positive correlation between the two variables. It shows that the Birth order is positively

related to emotional intelligence but not strongly related to each other. The significant coefficient correlation is $p = 0.348$, which is greater than 0.05 shows that there is no significant relationship between Birth order and Emotional Intelligence.

The coefficient of correlation between Resident and Emotional Intelligence is $r = 0.046$ which shows a low and positive correlation between the two variables. It shows that the Birth order is positively related to emotional intelligence but not strongly related to each other. The significant coefficient correlation is $p = 0.517$, which is greater than 0.05 shows that there is no significant relationship between Birth order and Emotional Intelligence.

The null hypothesis of the study is being accepted. There is no effect of Birth order on the Emotional Intelligence of the post-graduate students of Manipur University.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis, it is clear that the majority of the respondents who were firstborn, middle born, and last born were poor in Emotional Intelligence according to category wise. No significant difference was found between birth order and Emotional Intelligence. The birth order of a person whether firstborn, middle born, last born, single born and twins does not affect his or her Emotional Intelligence. The respondents whether they came from Hills region or Valley region it doesn't affect their Emotional Intelligence. Same as whether the respondents came from Rural or Urban areas it doesn't affect their Emotional Intelligence. The respondents were post-graduate students but, their poor emotional intelligence maybe they are trying to hide their true emotions. At this stage, every individual is very much attached to technology. The addiction to smartphones and computers makes us inseparable from them. Though it is a boon to humankind, there is a decrease in the understanding of emotions with one another. The study shows that Birth order does not play a significant role in Emotional Intelligence.

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