



A comparative study of Impulsive Behaviour among Adolescents in Relation to their Birth order and Emotional Intelligence

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Abstract : *The objective of the present research entitled “A Comparative study of Impulsive behaviour among Adolescents in relation to their Birth Order and Emotional Intelligence” was to explore how birth order and emotional intelligence influence the impulsive behavior of the adolescents. Birth order includes – first born, middle born, last born, only child and child with siblings. Six hypotheses were formulated- I. There will be difference in the impulsive behavior of those adolescents who are only child in the family in comparison to those who have siblings. II. Adolescents who*

are first born in the family will show more impulsive behavior than those who are middle born. III. Adolescents who are last born in the family will show less impulsive behavior than those who are only child. IV. Female adolescents will show more impulsive behaviour in comparison to male adolescents. V. There will be a significant difference in the emotional intelligence of male and female adolescents. VI. Impulsive behaviour and emotional intelligence of the adolescents will be negatively correlated. The research was conducted on a sample of 100 adolescents selected through incidental-cum-purposive sampling method, out of which 50 were male and 50 were female adolescents. The Impulsive scale constructed by Rai and Sharma and the Emotional intelligence inventory developed by Mangal and Mangal was used for measuring Impulsive behaviour and Emotional intelligence respectively. The mean, SD, product moment coefficient of correlation and critical ratio was computed for the analysis of the data. The obtained result revealed that impulsive behavior has nothing to do with birth order, because no significant cause and effect was found between birth order and impulsive behaviour of adolescent children. Secondly, it also came into light that impulsive behaviour and emotional intelligence of the adolescent will be negatively correlated. The researcher suggested for including Emotional Intelligence into the curriculum as it plays important role in the development of personality and career. Differentiation among children should not be done on the basis of the birth order. It was also suggested that the findings which came into light need to be explored on much large sample.

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Introduction :

Impulsive behaviour is characterized by the activity which is engaged in without due reflection or which cannot be suppressed. The concept of impulsivity covers a wide range of actions that are poorly conceived, prematurely expressed, unduly risky or inappropriate to the situation and that often results in undesirable outcomes. Adolescent is a transition stage between childhood and adulthood. It ranges between 13-20 years of age. The birth order is defined as a person's rank by age among his/her sibling. It is believed that birth order has a profound and lasting effect on psychological development of the child. Emotional intelligence is the ability to identify, assess and control the emotions of oneself, of others and of groups. The concept of emotional intelligence was proposed in 1990 as a form of social intelligence. The popularity of emotional intelligence during the past decade has led researchers to examine its potency in various areas of human functioning.

Purpose:

Impulsive behaviour are those behaviours which are engaged without due reflection and which cannot be suppressed. It is expected that there will be gender differences in impulsive behaviour and emotional intelligence. Specific traits are found in the children of different birth orders. The present research has the following purpose:

- The purpose of the present study was to measure the impulsive behaviour among adolescents in relation to their birth order.
- To see relationship between impulsive behaviour and emotional intelligence.
- To measure the impulsive behaviour among male and female adolescents.
- To see whether there is gender difference in emotional intelligence of adolescents.

Hypotheses:

Keeping in mind the objectives of the present study the following six hypotheses were formulated:

- I. There will be difference in the impulsive behaviour of those adolescents who are only child in the family in comparison to those who have siblings.
- II. Adolescents who are first born in the family will show more impulsive behaviour than those who are middle born.
- III. Adolescents who are last born in the family will show less impulsive behaviour than those who are only child.
- IV. Female adolescents will show more impulsive behaviour in comparison to male adolescents.
- V. There will be a significant difference in the emotional intelligence of male and female adolescents.
- VI. Impulsive behaviour and emotional intelligence of the adolescents will be negatively correlated.

Methodology:

- **Sample:** A sample of 100 students were drawn from four private schools and a college of Patna consisting of 50 male and 50 female, age ranging between 11 to 19 years. Sample was collected by incidental-cum-purposive sampling method. The sample were categorized on the basis of their birth order i.e., First born (N=31), Middle born (N=24), Last born (N=25), and Only child (N=20).
- **Research tools:** The following research tools were used for data collection:
- **Impulsive scale (IS)** constructed by S.N Rai and Alka Sharma. The test was designed to measure the impulsiveness of adolescents.

- **Emotional Intelligence Inventory (EI)** developed by Dr. S.K Mangal and Shubra Mangal. This test was used for the measurement of emotional intelligence in respect to four areas of emotional intelligence, namely: intra-personal awareness, inter-personal awareness, intra-personal management and inter-personal management.
- **Procedure of data collection:** The data collection was done in a single session during the school and college hours in 15 days.

Result and Interpretation :

Mean, standard deviation, t-ratio and coefficient of correlation by product moment method were computed for the analysis of the data. The interpretation of the result is done hypothesis wise with the help of statistical tables.

Hypothesis No. 1 : There will be difference in the impulsive behaviour of those adolescents who are only child in the family in comparison to those who have siblings.

Table no. 1 : Table showing mean, SD and t-value of the scores of impulsive behaviour of the only child and those having siblings. N = 100

Group	N	Score	Mean	SD	t-value	df	Level of significance
Only child	20	277	13.85	3.78	0.52	98	P > 0.05*
Having Siblings	80	1071	13.38	2.94			

*P value not significant at 0.05 level.

- Out of 100 samples of the present study only 20 samples were in the category of only child and 80 samples had siblings. The impulsive behaviour of the only child and those having siblings were analyzed.
- Result interpretation of table no. 1 reveals that the mean value of only child is high on impulsive behaviour than those who were having siblings. High mean value is indicating high impulsive behaviour in

only child. Thus, the mean value in table no. 1 supports the hypothesis no.1.

- SD value (3.78, 2.94) of scores of only child and children having siblings is indicating consistency in the responses of the sample. Thus, the responses are dependable.
- Since the difference between the mean was quite less of only child and children having siblings, the researchers were unable to come to a definite conclusion. So, in order to find and the significance of difference between the two means, t-ratio was computed which was not significant even at 0.05 level.
- No significant difference was found between the means of only child and children having siblings which accepts the null hypothesis. Though the mean value of only child is high in comparison to children having siblings but then also it cannot be concluded that only child will be high on impulsive behaviour in comparison to those children who have siblings. The difference between the mean might have occurred due to chance factor.

Pie chart showing the scores of impulsive behaviour of adolescents who were only child in the family and of those who had siblings.

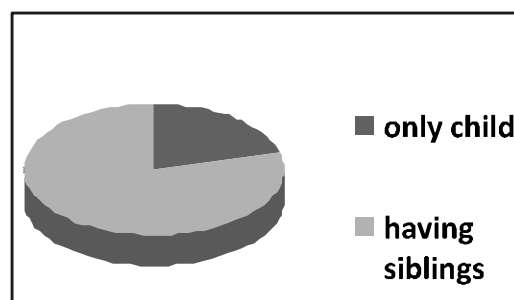


Fig No. 1

Hypothesis No. II : Adolescents who are first born in the family will show more impulsive behaviour than those who are middle born.

Table no. 2 : Table showing mean, SD and t-value of the scores of impulsive behavior of the first born and middle born (N= 55).

Group	N	Score	Mean	SD	t-value	df	Level of significance
First born children	31	400	12.90	3.16	1.04	53	P>0.05*
Middle born children	24	333	13.88	3.65			

*Not significant even at 0.05 level.

- Psychologists are of the opinion that impulsive behaviour of the adolescents will be related to their birth order. So, it was hypothesized that adolescents who are first born in the family will show more impulsive behaviour than those who are middle born.
- In the sample (N=100) of the present study 31 samples were first born child and 24 were middle born child. The mean value of first born child is less than the mean value of the middle born child. Thus the results in table no. 2 are indicating high impulsive behaviour in middle born child which is not supporting the hypothesis no. II.
- As there was negligible difference between the means of first born child and middle born child, the researchers wanted to test the significance of difference between the two mean which was also not significant even at 0.05 level. It can be said that the difference between the two mean was due to the chance factor. Thus, the result is outright rejecting the hypothesis no. II.

- Internal consistency in the responses of the sample was found as SD values were quite less to their respective mean.

Pie chart showing the impulsive scores of adolescents who are first born and middle born children in the family.

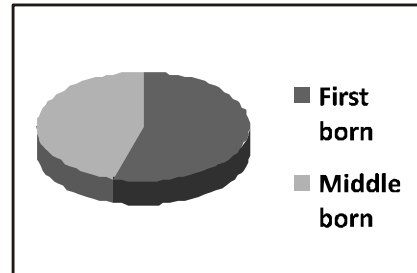


Fig No. 2

Hypothesis No.III : Adolescents who are last born in the family will show less impulsive behavior than those who are only child.

Table No. 3 : Adolescents who are last born in the family will show less impulsive behaviour than those who are only child.

Group	N	Score	Mean	SD	t-value	df	Level of significance
Last born	25	338	13.52	3.79	0.29	43	P>0.05*
Only child	20	277	13.85	3.78			

*Not significant at 0.05 level.

- It was hypothesized that adolescents who are last born child will show less impulsive behaviour than those who are only child.
- The table no. 3 shows that the mean value of only child is high which means high impulsive behaviour as compared to the last born. Hence, it can be said that hypothesis no. III is proved on the basis of its mean value.
- SD was computed to see the consistency in the responses of the sample. And it was found that the SD value was quite less to their respective means, so the responses given by the sample were dependable.

- The difference between the two means was quite less. So, to find out the significance of difference between the two means t-ratio was computed which was not significant even at 0.05 level.
- Not significant difference indicates that the difference has occurred due to chance factor. Thus, the result is going partially in favour of hypothesis no. III.

Pie chart showing scores of impulsive behaviour of adolescents who are last born and only child.

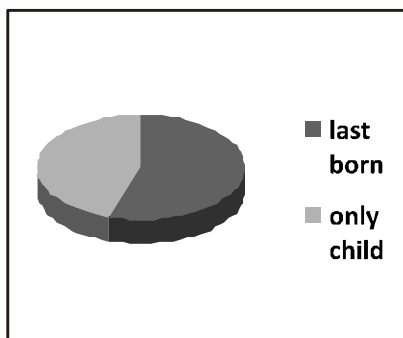


Fig no. 3

One of the purposes of the present study was to measure the impulsive behaviour among adolescents in comparison to their birth order. Hypothesis no. I, II and III were formulated for the analysis of birth order of the adolescents and their impulsive behaviour. The result of the present study reveals a significant finding related to birth order and impulsive behaviour. Out of three hypotheses, hypothesis no. I and III were partially proved. Hypothesis no. II was not proved. On the basis of this result it can be stated that impulsive behaviour is not related to the birth order of the adolescents. No significant effect was found of birth order on impulsive behaviour of adolescent children.

Ernst and Angst on the basis of the result of their study on a representative of 6,315 young men from Switzerland found no substantial effect of

birth order and concluded that birth order research was a “waste of time”.

Judith Rich Harris in the review of the research has also suggested that birth order effect may exist within the context of the family of origin, but they are not enduring aspects of personality. The result of the present study also supports that impulsivity has not become an enduring characteristic of personality due to the birth order of the children.

Hypothesis No. IV : Female adolescent will show more impulsive behaviour in comparison to male adolescents.

Table No. 4 : Table showing mean, SD and t-value of the scores of impulsive behaviour of female and male adolescents (N=100).

Group	N	Score	Mean	SD	t-value	df	Level of significance
Female adolescents	50	687	13.7	3.03	0.45	98	P>0.05*
Male adolescents	50	670	13.4	4.4			

*Not significant even at 0.05 level.

- It was hypothesized that female adolescents will show more impulsive behaviour in comparison to male adolescents.
- Result interpretation of table no. 4 is indicating high mean value of the female adolescent in comparison to male adolescent. So, the female possessed more impulsive behaviour than male adolescents. On the basis of the mean value, hypothesis no. IV is getting support.
- Internal consistency in the responses of the sample was measured as the SD values of both the group were quite less to their means.
- Critical ratio was computed to test the significance of difference between the means of scores of female and male adolescents which was not significant

even at 0.05 level. Thus, the t-value is not going in favour of the hypothesis no. IV.

- On the basis of the t value it cannot be said with full confidence that in every situation the female adolescents will show impulsive behaviour more than male adolescents.

Pie chart showing the scores of impulsive behaviour of female and male adolescents.

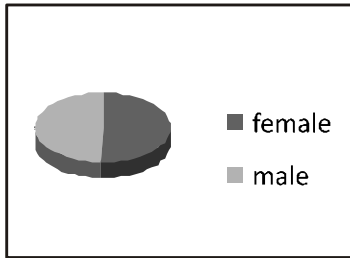


Fig. No. 4

Hypothesis No.V : There will be a significant difference in emotional intelligence of male and female adolescents.

Table No. 5 : Table showing mean, SD and t-value of the scores of emotional intelligence of female and male adolescents (N=100)

Group	N	Score	Mean	SD	t-value	df	Level of significance
Male adolescents	50	3081	61.62	9.09	0.31	98	P>0.05*
Female adolescents	50	3038	60.76	17			

*Not significant at 0.05 level.

- It was hypothesized that there will be a significant difference in emotional intelligence of male and female adolescents.
- The mean value of male adolescents is higher than that of female adolescents. So, the emotional intelligence of male adolescent was measured higher than the female adolescents. So, difference was found in emotional intelligence of male and female samples.
- Internal consistency was found on the

basis of the SD value in the responses of the sample.

- According to hypothesis no. V, there will be a significant difference in emotional intelligence of female and male adolescent. To verify this t-ratio was computed between the two means. No significant difference was found between the two mean which indicates that the difference has occurred due to chance factor. Thus, the result is going partially in favour of hypothesis no. V.
- The result may be attributed to the fact that at present the parents rear their male and female children alike. Female child is also getting opportunity and exposure at par to their male siblings. Hence, development of emotional intelligence is similar in male and female adolescents.

Pie chart showing the scores of emotional intelligence of female and male adolescents.

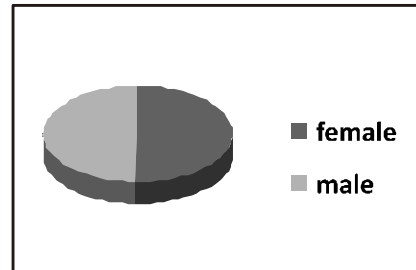


Fig No. 5

Hypothesis No.VI: Impulsive behaviour and Emotional Intelligence of the adolescents will be negatively correlated.

Table No. 6 : Table showing co-efficient of correlation between impulsive behaviour and emotional intelligence of the adolescents computed by product moment method (N=100)

Variables	N	Scores	r	df	Level of significance
Impulsive behaviour	100	1348	-0.34	98	P<0.01*
Emotional intelligence	100	6212			

*Significant at 0.01 level.

- It was hypothesized that impulsive behaviour and emotional intelligence will be negatively correlated.
- Table no. 6 is showing significant negative correlation was found between the scores of impulsive behaviour and emotional intelligence. Significant negative correlation indicates that adolescents who are high on emotional intelligence will exhibit low impulsive behaviour. With the help of their emotional intelligence they will be able to control impulsivity in them. Thus, the result is going in favour of the hypothesis no. VI.

Pie chart showing the scores of impulsive behaviour and emotional intelligence of adolescents.

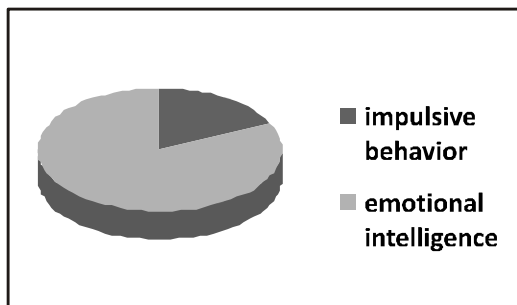


Fig No. 6

Findings :

In the light of the finding of the present study and obtained result the following findings were drawn;

- Difference in impulsive behaviour was found between the adolescents who were only child and those who had siblings.
- Middle born children were measured high in impulsive behaviour in comparison to first born children.
- t-value was not significant so it cannot be said with full confidence that first born children will show less impulsive behaviour than middle born children.
- Only child expressed more impulsive behaviour than the last born child but here also t-ratio was not significant even at 0.05 level.
- It can be concluded that impulsivity has not become an enduring characteristic of the adolescents due to their numerical position within the family in the sample studied.
- No gender difference was found in impulsive behaviour and emotional intelligence of adolescents.
- Significant negative correlation was found between impulsive behaviour and emotional intelligence.

Suggestions :

The researchers suggest the following points on the basis of the study;

- It was suggested that discrimination should not be done on the basis of the birth order of the child to control the impulsive behaviour of children.
- Parents should not be too possessive towards their only child and she should be encouraged to interact with cousins, brothers, sisters and with peer groups.
- As no significant effect of birth order on impulsive behaviour of the adolescents was found a study should be conducted on a large sample for the verification of the result.
- To adapt to the environment emotional intelligence should be developed in children.
- Researchers also suggested for introducing Emotional Intelligence into the curriculum because it plays a very important role in leadership, work life and career development.

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