CHAPTER V
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS,
LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

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CHAPTER-VI
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS,
LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The major purpose of the present investigation was to undertake the effect of birth order and Size of the Family on Some personality Characteristics and Family Environment. This chapter contains a summary of the total investigation activities, the problem, objectives, hypotheses, sample as well as tools used in the study. This chapter also includes the main findings of the study, and suggestions for further research in this area.

5.1. Statement of the problem

The Statement of the present study is,

“To Study of Birth Order and Size of the Family on Some Personality Characteristics and Family Environment”

5.2. Objectives of the Study:-

Considering the variables measured in the study, the single factor design used for analyzing the data. Following objectives were formed.

1 To determine whether personality characteristics are influenced by birth order.
2 To determine whether personality characteristics are influenced by the size of the family.
3 To find out whether there are personality differences in terms of birth order.
4 To find out whether there is personality differences in terms of size of the family.
5 To explore whether birth order affects personality characteristics.
6 To explore whether size of the family affects family environment.
5.4. **Methodology**

**Sample:-**

The sample was drawn from the population of students seeking collegiate education in Aurangabad city, aged between 18 to 25. Since, the first born, middle born and last born Ss and one child family, small size family, medium size family and large size family Ss were in the study. The sample consists of students of senior colleges. It was chosen from the student belonging to Arts, Commerce and Science faculties, studying in U.G and P.G. initially 1400 college going students were selected from various colleges and out of them 700 were finally selected for study.

The sample size was 700. An index of the birth orders levels and family size levels-wise breakup of the subjects can be had from the following table.

**Sample Distribution:-**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First born</th>
<th>Middle born</th>
<th>Last born</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One child family</th>
<th>Small family</th>
<th>Medium family</th>
<th>Large family</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N =700
Variables:-

I) Independent Variables

A) Birth order:
   A1 First born
   A2 middle born
   A3 last born

B) Size of the family
   B1 One child family
   B2 Small family (only two children)
   B3 Medium family (only three children)
   B4 Large family (Four and above children)

II) Dependent variables:-

Dependent variables in this study are five personality traits measured by NEO-PI i.e. Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness, and Family environment measured by family environment scale i.e. Cohesion, Expressiveness, Conflict, Acceptance and caring, Active recreational orientation, Independence, Organization, Control.

5.5. Tools Used for Data Collection

Following tools were used for the collection of data:

5.5.1. Description of the Self-Information Schedule: This schedule was developed to collect the following facts about the subject.
   
   d) Demographic characteristics – Name, Sex, Age, Caste, Birth order, Number of family members,
   e) College, Class, Faculty.
   f) Family Income
5.5.2. NEO-Personality Inventory- Revised
Paul T. Costa, Jr., Ph. D and Robert R. McCrave, Ph. D.

5.5.3. Family Environment Scale (FES)
Constructed by Herpreet Bhatiya and N. K. Chadha, Department of Psychology University of Delhi.

5.6. Analysis of Data
The data were analyzed with the help of descriptive statistics i.e. Means and SDs, for different variables i.e. Neuroticism, conscientiousness, Extraversion, Openness, Agreeableness and Cohesion, Expressiveness, Conflict, Acceptance and Caring, Independence, Active-Recreational Orientation, Organization and Control. The above Statistics are reported birth order levels wise, as well as for the entire sample.

To evaluate Birth order level wise differences in the various variables employed in this research, One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) has been carried out with birth order as the independent variable and Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to experience, Agreeableness and conscientiousness as the dependent variables. And to evaluate Size of family wise differences in the various variables employed in this research, One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) has been carried out with size of family as the independent variable and Cohesion, Expressiveness, Conflict, Acceptance and Caring, Independence, Active-Recreational Orientation, Organization and Control as the dependent variables.
5.7. Results of the present study

1. There are significant differences between mean score of first born on neuroticism (25.52) is comparatively larger than the mean score of middle and last born on neuroticism. F value shows significant (F=38.439 (2,297) P < 0.01) difference between first, middle and last born on personality characteristics neuroticism, First born Ss scoring higher than middle and last born Ss. Thus, neuroticism in first-born is greater than middle and last born.

2. There are significant differences between mean score of first born on Conscientiousness (31.03) is comparatively larger than the mean score of middle and last born on Conscientiousness. F value shows significant (F=80.534 (2,297) P < 0.01) difference between first, middle and last born on personality characteristics Conscientiousness, First born Ss scoring higher than middle and last born Ss. Thus, Conscientiousness in first-born is greater than middle and last born.

3. There are significant differences between mean score of middle born on extraversion (31.21) is comparatively larger than the mean score of first and last born on extraversion. F value shows significant (F=172.645 (2,297) P < 0.01) difference between middle, first and last born on personality characteristics extraversion, middle born Ss scoring higher than first and last born Ss. Thus, extraversion in middle -born is greater than first and last born.

4. There are significant differences between mean score of last born on openness (28.01) is comparatively larger than the mean score of first born on openness. F value shows significant (F=3.322 (2,297) P < 0.05)
difference between last and first born on personality characteristics openness, last born Ss scoring higher than first born Ss. Thus, openness in last born is greater than first born.

5. There are significant differences between mean score of last born on Agreeableness (29.40) is comparatively larger than the mean score of first and middle born on Agreeableness. F value shows significant (F=112.238 (2,297) P < 0.01) difference between last, first and middle born on personality characteristics Agreeableness, last born Ss scoring higher than first and middle born Ss. Thus, openness in last born is greater than first and middle born.

6. There are significant differences between mean score of one child families Ss (46.20) and small size families Ss (44.66) on conflict is comparatively larger than the mean score of large size families Ss (42.68) on conflict in this sub-scale, high score is indicative of low conflict and vice versa. F value shows significant (F=11.700 (3,396) P < 0.01) difference between large size families Ss one child, small size families Ss on conflict family environment. Thus Conflict in large size of families youth higher than one child families and small size families youth.

7. There are no significant differences between mean score of small size families Ss on expressiveness are comparatively not larger than the mean score of other size families Ss on expressiveness. F value indicate that the (F=2.952 (3,396) P > 0.05) there is no significant difference between size of family on expressiveness family environment further post-hoc comparisons i.e. L.S.D. shows significant difference between one child family and medium size family (L.S.D. 1.39 P < 0.05) and small and medium size family (L.S.D. 2.04 P < 0.05). Thus expressiveness in one
child families’ youth greater than medium size of families’ youth, and expressiveness in small size of families’ youth greater than large size of families youth.

8. There are significant differences between mean score of one child families Ss on Independence (32.20) is comparatively larger than the mean score of other size families Ss on Independence. F value shows significant ($F=13.924$ $\text{df}=3,396$ $P < 0.01$) difference between one child families Ss and small, medium and large size families Ss on Independence family environment. Thus Independence in one child family’s youth higher than small, medium and large size of family’s youth.

9. There are significant differences between mean score of small size families Ss on Organization (9.03) are comparatively larger than the mean score of other size families Ss on Organization. F value shows significant ($F=16.323$ $\text{df}=3,396$ $P < 0.01$) difference between small size families Ss and one child, medium and large size of families Ss on Organization family environment. Thus Organization in small size of family’s youth higher than one child, medium and large size of family’s youth.

10. There are significant differences between mean score of small size of families Ss on Control (15.04) are comparatively larger than the mean score of other size of families Ss on Control. F value shows significant ($F=3.554$ $\text{df}=3,396$ $P < 0.05$) difference between small size of families Ss and one child, medium and large size of families Ss on Control family environment. Thus Control in small size of families youth higher than one child, medium and large size of families youth.
11. There are significant differences between mean score of small size families Ss on Cohesion (57.49) are comparatively larger than the mean score of other size families Ss on Cohesion. F value shows significant (F=5.789 (3,396) P < 0.05) difference between small size families Ss and one child, medium and large size families Ss on Cohesion family environment. Thus Cohesion in small size of family’s youth higher than one child, medium and large size of family’s youth.

12. There are no significant differences between mean score of small size of families Ss and mean score of other size of families Ss on Acceptance and caring. F value shows not significant (F=1.178 (3,396) P > 0.05) difference between small size of families Ss and one child, medium and large size of families Ss on Acceptance and caring family environment. Thus there are no significant differences between in size of the families in Acceptance and caring family environment.

13. There are significant differences between mean score of one child families Ss (34.40), small size of families Ss (34.00) is comparatively larger than the mean score of large size of families Ss (32.04) on Active recreational orientation. F value shows significant (F=4.102 (3,396) P < 0.05) difference between one child families Ss and large size families Ss on Active recreational orientation family environment. Thus Active recreational orientation in one child families’ youth greater than large size of families’ youth, and Active recreational orientation in small size of families’ youth greater than large size of families youth.
5.8. Conclusions:

On the basis of data and discussion of results, the hypotheses were tested and verified. Some of them were retained and some were rejected. Following Conclusions were drawn:

1. Neuroticism is significantly more among First born than Middle born and last born.
2. Neuroticism is significantly more among Middle born than Last born.
3. Conscientiousness is significantly more among First born than Middle born and last born.
4. There is no significant difference at the level of Conscientiousness between Middle born and last born.
5. Middle born is found to be more Extravert than first born and last born.
6. There is no significant difference in Extraversion between first born and last born.
7. First born is found to be less Open than last-born.
8. There are no significant differences between middle born and last born about openness.
9. There are no significant differences between first born and middle born about Openness.
10. Agreeableness is high in Last born than Middle born and first born.
11. There is no significant difference between Middle born and first born about Agreeableness.
12. The Conflict in large size families Ss found high than one child families and small size families Ss.
13. The Conflict in medium size of families Ss found more than one child families and small size of families Ss.
14. Expressiveness in one child families Ss greater than medium size of families Ss.
15 Expressiveness in small size of families Ss greater than large size of families Ss.

16 Independence in one child families Ss higher than medium and large size of families Ss.

17 Independence in small size of families Ss higher than medium and large size of families Ss.

18 Organization in small size of families Ss higher than one child, medium and large size of families Ss.

19 Control in small size of families Ss higher than one child, medium and large size of families Ss.

20 Cohesion in small size of families Ss higher than one child, medium and large size of families Ss.

21 There are no significant differences among the all size of families in Acceptance and caring family environment.

22 Active recreational orientation in one child families Ss greater than large size of families Ss.

23 Active recreational orientation in small size of families Ss greater than large size of families Ss.

5.9. **Limitations of the study:**

Some limitations inherent in this study are;

5.9.1 The population was limited to UG and PG students from six selected degree college student faculties, Arts, Commerce and Science.

5.9.2 Religious factors are not considered in the study.

5.9.3 Socio-economic status of the respondents was not controlled.

5.9.4 Youths, between 18-25 age groups only are included in the study.
5.10. Suggestions for further study

For undertaking research in future on the concept of birth order, this researcher would have to agree with Stewart & Stewart (1995) and the trend that is study birth order in a more qualitative way. Breaking down the types of families that the siblings are involved in such as a blended families or adoption where the variable of position of rearing would be the contributing factor. The research may want to look at the influence of the interaction between the spacing of the siblings and their sexes. Does the first oldest male have different traits than the first oldest female? Is the Youngest boy seen differently than the youngest girl?

Another way to look at this issue is from the parental point of view. This research used self-report measures. Perhaps a survey of the parents regarding their children and what personality traits they attach to them could be compared to a self-report measure of the children and how they see themselves. As mentioned earlier, a view from the siblings could also be informative.

A more specific breakdown of participants could lead us to more direct information regarding birth or and personality. A study could be designed that singles out a birth position and then collects data to see what personality traits are significant among the group. This could be done for each position in separate measures. With this research we may be able to get a clear picture of what role, in general, each position takes on.

The most intriguing aspect of this kind of research would be how it could be applied to learning. If we could design research that could match up birth order and general traits of each position, we could perhaps design learning tools based on the specific strengths of birth order. Research could be done within the
classroom to see if when the teacher knows the student’s birth order, they could design some learning activities based on theses strengths and then compared tests results to a control group not using any directed learning.

Although the data collected in this study did not support the hypotheses, insight and information was gained by the design and implementation of the research. This researcher believes that the characteristics of birth order can be seen in individuals raised in certain positions, but in order to see the trends the sample must be large. The traits are subtle and need a large participation to bring them out. The surveys used were direct and easy to complete, making participation more likely. The research created a lot of conversation and speculation and more investigations into both psychological birth order and personality traits and birth order should be explored.

The results of this study seemed to warrant investigations in the following areas:

1. A longitudinal study should be conducted to determine if changes occur in Neuroticism, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Openness and Agreeableness of the same subjects over a long period pf time. By studying these dependent variables at various stages, the influence of various factors on the same subjects may be determined. Thus, the factors that cause differences in the five psychological variables of the first born, middle born and last born youths can be pinpointed. As will as family size and family environment.

2. A follow-up study using the same subjects could be made to determine if any change in Neuroticism, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Openness and Agreeableness had occurred.

3. Studies should be conducted in this area by controlling SES of the respondents.
4. Studies should be carried out using other standardized tools to validate the results of the study.

5. The study may be conducted using factorial design in order to study the main and interactive effects.

6. The same study may be replicated on another population to get wider generalization of results.

7. More studies are needed in the area of Neuroticism, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Openness and Agreeableness of first born, middle born and last born youths; since there is little research work in these areas. More studies using large samples and more colleges from different parts of the country may be conducted.