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Is There Any Difference In Locus Of Control Among Females Brought Up With Siblings And Females Brought Up Without Siblings

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Abstract: **The present study was designed to investigate about the locus of control difference among females brought up with siblings and females brought up without siblings. So, for this purpose, group data of 100 females was taken which constitutes of 50 females brought up with their siblings and 50 females brought up without siblings. The Levenson's Locus of Control was used as a primary research instrument. Results were computed and t test was applied to study the difference between the two groups.**

Keywords: **locus of control, only borns, females, siblings.**

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept 'Locus of Control' was developed by Rotter in the year 1960. He originally named his concept Locus of Reinforcement. Rotter actually bridged the gap between Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology. He believed that behaviour was greatly guided by the use of reinforcements. It was considered that the punishments and rewards in turn shapes the way people interpreted the results of their own actions.

Locus of control means a person's generalized expectations regarding where control over upcoming events resides. In other words who is responsible for whatever is happening or what is responsible for the events that are occurring. However, it is similar to, but distinct from, attributions. According to Weiner, the Attribution Theory (1974) assumes that people try to determine what the people do and why they do that is attribute causes to the behaviour.

Rotter's (1966) locus of control, originally classified generalized beliefs that are concerning to what or who influences things or events with a bipolar dimension from internal to external control of future outcomes resides primarily inside oneself while "external control" means expectancy that control is outside oneself, either in the control of others or due to fate or by chance.

According to Levenson's Model (1973), there are three independent dimensions: Internally, Chance, and Powerful Others. For example, a person might believe that both internal factors as well as outside factors (powerful others) can influence the outcomes, but chance does not have an effect. People with an internal locus of control believe that they have a control over their destiny. They believe that their experiences are controlled by their own skills and efforts. On the other hand, people who tend to have an external locus of control tend to attribute their experiences to chance, fate, or luck.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

There is a lot of debate among psychologists and child development experts about whether or not birth order has an impact on a child's behaviour. In other words, there are some individuals who feels that whether any child is the oldest or youngest in his/her family, may determine some of his or her personal characteristics but there are other people who believes that these theories about the affect of birth order aren't true. The real truth is probably that the order of the birth can play a role in impacting the child's personality but it is not one factor that contribute to the total personality that the child develops (Lamb & Sutton-Smith,1982).

The oldest born and the only born are reported to take more internal responsibility for their actions (Falbo,1981). According to Falbo(1981), the oldest children had probably developed the sense of responsibility because most of times, they were put in charge and if anything negative happens, they had no other sibling to blame things on. Similarly, Phillips and Phillips (1994) found that only children tend to attribute to internal factors for others' job performance, as compared to the children brought up with siblings. First born and the only born weight lifters showed a more internal locus of control as well as a greater need for achievement than the later borns (Hall et al. 1980).

Among Alumni of a social work college, only borns felt that they had too much responsibility toward their families whereas child with siblings identified more with the role of the infantilized child (Lackie,1984). Other researchers also supported the idea that only children demonstrate more responsibility than the children with siblings (Hansson et al. 1978; Howrath,1980). In contrast, Walter and Ziegler (1980) found middle born to have a more internal locus of control than first or later born in families of three or more. They also found last borns in larger families to show a more external locus of control than last borns from smaller families.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To study the difference in locus of control of females brought up with siblings and females brought up without siblings.

4. HYPOTHESIS

There would be significant difference in locus of control of the two study groups.

5. METHOD

Participants

A sample of 100 females, aged 22-25years, were included in the sample who were studying in Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab, India. All the females who were included in the study, were pursuing their Post-Graduate degree in various subjects and were staying in hostel provided by the University. They belong to almost same economic status. Total 100 females were included in the sample who were categorized into two divisions: 50 females brought up with siblings and 50 females brought up without siblings.

Measures Used

For this purpose, Levenson's Locus of Control Scale was used to assess locus of control. The present scale is likert type scale with multiple choice responses presented in a continuum. Responses range from strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree to strongly disagree. In this five point scale, the responses are weight from 1 to 5 as shown below:

5 Strongly agree

4 Agree

3 Undecided

2 Disagree

1 Strongly disagree

Initially 150 statements were selected with an attempt to cover the whole range, i.e. powerful others, chance control, and individual control. But the final scale consists of 24 statements, 8 each for powerful others (P), chance control (C), and individual control (I). This scale has been reliably used by various investigations. The test-retest reliability for the present scale with N=200, retested after one week time, was found to be 0.76, by calculating co-efficient between two sets of scores of the same individuals on the same scale.

Data Analysis

Once the data was collected, the data was analyzed using SPSS 16.00 Mean, Standard Deviation, and t test.

6. RESULTS

Frequency Distribution of scores on the components of locus of control along with their mean and standard deviations were reported separately for females with siblings and females without siblings in Table 1.

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t test was used for testing significance group difference between means of females brought up with siblings and females brought up without siblings. Table 2 shows the mean, standard deviation and t-ratio of both the groups along with Level of Significance.

Table 1: Shows Frequency Distribution of Scores on Locus of Control of Females without Siblings and Females with Siblings. (FWOS:N=50; FWS:N=50)

Class Interval	Females Without Siblings			Females With Siblings		
	PO f	CC f	IC f	PO f	CC f	IC f
37-39	-	-	4	-	-	1
34-36	-	5	6	-	2	4
31-33	5	2	9	1	6	15
28-30	7	7	18	7	3	14
25-27	12	14	7	13	11	14
22-24	10	17	6	6	16	0
19-21	7	3	-	12	8	2
16-18	9	2	-	7	2	-
13-15	-	-	-	3	2	-
10-12	-	-	-	0	-	-
7-9	-	-	-	1	-	-
Mean	23.9	25.66	29.96	22.32	24.16	29.22
S.D.	4.59	4.32	3.78	4.90	4.7	3.41

Table 2: Shows Mean, Standard Deviation and t-ratio of both the Groups along with Level of Significance

Sr. No.	Variables	Females Without Siblings		Females With Siblings		t-value	Level of Significance
		Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation		
1	**Powerful Others (PO)**	23.9	4.59	22.32	4.9	1.664	0.099
2	**Chance Control (CC)**	25.66	4.32	24.16	4.77	1.647	0.103
3	**Individual Control (IC)**	29.96	3.78	29.22	3.41	1.028	0.307

*t value significant at .05 level 1.98 and 0.01 level 2.56

7. DISCUSSION

The present study was designed to investigate about the locus of control of females brought up with siblings and females brought up without siblings. Levenson's locus of control scale was used but the results does not show any significant difference between the two groups on all the three dimensions. The mean score females without siblings in the dimensions Powerful Others, Chance Control and Individual Control are respectively 23.90, 25.66 and 29.96 and the mean score of females with siblings in the same dimensions are 22.32, 24.16 and 29.22, which does not show significant difference in the two scores. Based on the scores, hypothesis is rejected. It means that there is not much difference in the locus of control of females brought up with siblings and females brought up without siblings.

There are some other factors also which controls the locus of control. For example the situation, the upbringing of the child, the environment in which the child is being brought up, the parents' mentality or thinking. Many researchers have

supported the results. Harris and Morrow (1992) found that birth order had no effect on self-perception of responsibility. Kirkcaldy (1992) also concluded that birth order has no effect on the work attitudes of college students.

8. FUTURE RESEARCH SCOPE

Further research can be done in this area with large sample size so have a higher confidence level. Also other variables can be added to have a vast understanding of the individuals who are brought up with their siblings and those who are brought up without siblings. Because of the familiar structure and dynamics, future research may benefit by doing research for birth order effects by comparing siblings of the same family.

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