Examining the Relationship Between Birth Order and Personality, and the Subsequent Influence of Complex Family Structure

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This studydeterminedif birth order has an influence on the Big Five personality traits (Openness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, Neuroticism, Conscientiousness), and whether being in a complex family skewed this correlation. Examples of complex families include divorced parents, death of a parent, introduction of step siblings, and being raised by a single parent.A demographic survey as well as the Myers & Briggs Personality Type Indicator questionnaire were constructed on Google Surveys and administered through Amazon's Mechanical Turk to 400 individuals. The remaining 70 accessed the survey through a shareable link. These participants ranged in age, residence, and birth order. The five sub scales corresponding to each personality trait were measured on the indicator to determine whether a subject exhibited the trait or not. In order to test correlations, a multivariate linear regression was run. There was significance for four out of five traits. To see the correlation in complex subjects, a series of t-Tests were run. Statistical significance was shown for three of five traits. The results suggested thatfirst born aremore likely to be conscientious but less likely to be extroverted, open, agreeable, and neurotic. Later borns followed opposite trends. Participants in complex families exhibited traits similar to later borns. Birth order's influence on personality and the effects of a complex family can help provide insight behind children's behavior. This study may allow parents to intervene in their children's life after a traumatic event in order to minimize cpnsequences such as depression,anxiety and even rebellious behavior.

1. As a part of this research project, the student directly handled, manipulated, or interacted with (check ALL that apply):

   ☐ human participants   ☐ potentially hazardous biological agents

   ☐ vertebrate animals   ☐ microorganisms   ☐ rDNA   ☐ tissue

2. I/we worked or used equipment in a regulated research institution or industrial setting: ☐ Yes   ■ No

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4. My display board includes non-published photographs/visual depictions of humans (other than myself):   ☐ Yes   ■ No

5. This abstract describes only procedures performed by me/us, reflects my/our own independent research, and represents one year's work only   ■ Yes   ☐ No

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