

Effect of Sex Matching of Siblings on Emotional Development

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Abstract: A special part of the family is the siblings. The brothers and sisters influence each other in their relationship providing physical and emotional contact at critical stages throughout their lives. The brothers and sisters are the vital components in the family system. The study intends to find the effect of sex-matching of siblings on emotional development. It has been hypothesized that four sub-groups based on sex-matching i.e., male sibling subject with another male (M-M), male sibling subject with another female (M-F), female sibling subject with another male (F-M), and female sibling subject with another female (F-F) would differ in regard to their emotional development. A final sample of 240 subjects were randomly selected equally (N=60) from four sex-matching groups of siblings i.e., M-M, M-F, F-M, and F-F. Emotional Stability Scale (Gupta and Singh, 1985) was used to ascertain the emotional development level of the subjects. Results indicated that F-M group showed the highest level of emotional development (M=7.778) while the F-F group showed the lowest level of emotional development (M=7.320). The M-M group (M=7.646) stood second and M-F group (M=7.327) stood third in the regard. The obtained F-ratio for these differences is found to be significant at 0.05 level of significance. The results also indicated that males had shown greater emotional development in the condition of same sex-matching where as females had shown more emotional development in the condition of opposite sex-matching.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A special part of the family is of course the siblings. Siblings provide a continuous relationship throughout the life. Siblings influence over their brothers and sisters even before they are born. The emotional responses of siblings found by many psychologists are: Females more emotionally expressive and males emotionally controlled (Malatesta et al., 1986). Boys are more active and aggressive and girls are more fearful and dependent (Feingold, 1994). Parents of boys reported more sibling rivalry than parents of girls (Carnic and Greenberg, 1990).

II. PROBLEM AND HYPOTHESIS

The problem is whether there exists any difference in emotional development of four sub-groups based on sex-matching i.e.,

- male sibling subject with another male (M-M)
- male sibling subject with another female (M-F)
- female sibling subject with another male (F-M)
- female sibling subject with another female (F-F)

It has been hypothesized that

M-F would be best developed (first)

F-M would stand second,

M-M would stand third and

F-F would be the least developed in regard to their emotional development and

Males would be more emotionally developed than Females

III. METHODOLOGY

Sample :

Initially a Sibling Biodata Form was administered to a large number of school going children studying in class I to class X and in the age ranges 5 to 15 years. A final sample of 240 subjects were randomly selected equally (N=60) on the basis of four sex-matching groups i.e., M-M, M-F, F-M, & F-F.

Tools:

SIBLING BIO DATA FORM, consisting about the basic demographic details of the siblings.

Measurement of Emotional Maturity :

Emotional Stability Scale developed by Dr. A. Sen Gupta and Dr. A. K. Singh (1985) was used to assess the emotional maturity of the subjects

IV. PROCEDURE

Data was collected in two steps. In the first step the Sibling Bio Data Form was administered to a large group of school going children studying in class I to X

In the second step the randomly selected sample of 240 subjects equally in four sub-groups of sex-matchings, 60 subjects in each group, were administered the emotional stability test.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table No: 1: Mean Emotional Maturity Scores

SUB GROUP	M-M	M-F	F-M	F-F
AVERAGE	7.646	7.327	7.778	7.320

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Table No: 2. Results

RANKING	HYPOTHEZIZED	RESULTS FOUND
First	M-F	F-M
Second	M-M	M-M
Third	F-M	M-F
Fourth	F-F	F-F

A perusal of Table 1 reveals that average emotional development scores of F-M is the highest and F-F is the lowest. The other sub-groups lie in between the two. To check the significance of these differences among the four sex-matching groups, an F-ratio was computed. The F-ratio was found to be significant at 0.05 level of confidence.

These significant results provide sound statistical ground to accept the research hypothesis refuting the null hypothesis in regard to differences in emotional development of four sub-groups of sex-matching.

However, the trend of difference is not as per the research hypothesis (Table No:2).

As hypothesized males are found to be more emotionally developed than females, in similar sex-matching i.e., M-M & F-F, while females are found to be more developed than males in opposite sex-matching i.e., F-M & M-F.

The reasons for observed trend in emotional development of siblings for F-M sex matching to secure first position is due to the modern society, advanced technology which has brought drastic changes in the society. Now a days more awareness on female status and rights of equality of females can be the valid reason for securing first position. Females are playing dual role of supporting family financially and also the vital role of nurturing. Females get more support from her brothers than sisters. Females are source of emotional catharsis leading to better emotional maturity. Males more developed than females in similar sex-matching (M-M) as sibling rivalry is observed more in males than females (Cric & Greenberg, 1990). It is possible that due to high sibling rivalry and source of external control both male siblings try to be better in emotional dealings in the family as well as outside.

It has been observed that female siblings (F-F) show more negative behaviours in the presence of another female child in the family (Byrant & Crockenberg, 1980) which supports the research findings of present study. The research focusses on the training of siblings of intellectually disabled.

Limitations

1. This study has been conducted at limited demographic population. Hence, results of this cannot be implied in larger populations.
2. This study can have cultural limitations. Being in patriarchal society, there are gender roles attached, which show in the sibling relationships too.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended to study on the other developments for a holistic approach.

VII. CONCLUSION

The study intends to find the effect of sex-matching of siblings on emotional development of four sub-groups based on sex-matching. A final sample of 240 subjects were randomly selected equally (N=60) from four sex-matching groups of siblings i.e., M-M, M-F, F-M, and F-F. Emotional Stability Scale (Gupta and Singh, 1985) was used to ascertain the emotional development level of the subjects. Results indicated that F-M group showed the highest level of emotional development while the F-F group showed the lowest level of emotional development. The M-M group stood second and M-F group stood third in the regard. The obtained F-ratio for these differences is found to be significant at 0.05 level of significance. The results also indicated that males had shown greater emotional development in the condition of same sex-matching where as females had shown more emotional development in the condition of opposite sex-matching.

VIII. REFERENCES

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