

A Comparative Study to Assess the Behavioral Patterns of Single Child and Child with Siblings between the Age Group of 6-12 Years in Selected Areas of Mohali, Punjab

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Abstract

Introduction: The term behaviour encompasses other aspects outside the actions of the human mind and conscious behaviour. 1 There is a major departure from the usual in the pattern of behaviour that individuals exhibit. There are a variety of things that might have an impact on a child, including physical sickness, changes in the educational environment, changes in the family circle, peer pressure, and socioeconomic situation. In today's complicated culture, the family unit is the most important institution. The development of a child & social intelligence is significantly influenced by the members of the child's family. **Aim:** The study compares the behavioral patterns of single children and children with siblings aged 6-12 years in selected areas of Mohali, Punjab. **Methodology:** The research involved 120 children selected through disproportionate stratified random sampling. A modified Child Behavioral Rating Scale was utilized. **Results:** The study compared behavioural pattern of 50 single-child women and 50 children with siblings. Among single children, 41 (82%) showed an average level of behaviour, 6 (12%) good, and 3 (6%) poor. Similarly, 41 (82%) children with siblings had an average level, 5 (10%) good, and 3 (6%) poor. An unpaired 't' test compared behavioural scores between the two groups in the 6-12 years age group. The mean score for children with siblings was 30.36 ± 7.179 , while for single children it was 28.74 ± 7.464 . The p-value was 0.271, indicating no significant difference between the two groups.

Keywords: Comparative study, Behavioral Patterns, Single Child, Siblings, Age Group.

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INTRODUCTION

Children are vital to family and societal structures, bringing joy and responsibility. The sibling relationship, often considered one of the longest-lasting bonds, significantly influences a child's social and emotional development. With the Indian Human Development Survey noting an increase in single-child families due to financial and lifestyle considerations, understanding the behavioral implications of this trend becomes crucial.

Behavioral patterns in children, encompassing both conscious and subconscious actions, are shaped by various factors, including family dynamics, peer influence, and socioeconomic conditions. The rise in single-child families, coupled with observed behavioral challenges such as isolation and disinterest in school among some children, prompted this research. Existing

literature suggests that only children may face adjustment difficulties due to limited peer interaction, whereas children with siblings might benefit from social learning opportunities. This study aims to compare these behavioral patterns in the 6-12 age group, a critical developmental phase as per Erikson's "Industry vs. Inferiority" stage, where active participation shapes self-esteem and competence.

Aim: To compare the behavioural pattern of single children and children with siblings among Parents in selected areas.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The comparative study adopted a quantitative approach with a descriptive research design to assess and compare the behavioral patterns of single children and those with siblings. The study was conducted in selected

areas of Mohali, Punjab. The target population comprised children aged 6-12 years. A sample of 120 children was selected using disproportionate stratified random sampling, with 60 single children and 60 children with siblings. Inclusion criteria included children residing in Mohali aged 6-12 years and willing to participate, while exclusion criteria excluded children with diagnosed mental health conditions or chronic illnesses. A modified Child Behavioral Rating Scale was developed and validated by experts. The tool assessed behavioral patterns across domains such as social interaction, emotional regulation, and academic engagement. Content validity was established, and reliability was confirmed through a pilot study. Data were collected after obtaining ethical approval from the Institutional Ethical Committee and permissions from relevant authorities. Informed consent was secured from parents. The researcher administered the tool through structured interviews, ensuring confidentiality and anonymity. Data were analyzed using IBM SPSS Version 20. Descriptive

statistics (frequency, percentage) and inferential statistics (unpaired t-test, chi-square test) were employed. A p-value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

Findings related to the Scores of behavioural patterns among single child women and children with siblings are presented in Table 1. The comparison of the level of behavioral pattern of single child women and children with siblings states that out of 50 single children, the majority of single children, 41 (82%) had an average level of behaviour pattern, whereas only 6 (12%) had shown a good behaviour pattern. Only 3 (6%) single children had a poor level of behaviour pattern. Further, out of 50 children with siblings, the majority of children with siblings, 41 (82%) had an average level of behaviour pattern, whereas only 5 (10%) had shown a good behaviour pattern. Only 3 (6%) children with siblings had a poor level of behaviour pattern.

Table 1: Scores of Behavioural patterns of a single child between the age group of 6-12 years. N= 50

Category Score	Frequency	Percentage
Poor Behaviour Pattern (41-60)	3	6 %
Average Behaviour Pattern (21-40)	41	82%
Good Behaviour Pattern (0 -20)	6	12 %

Maximum = 60 Minimum = 0

Comparison of scores of the behavioural pattern of a single child and the child with siblings between the age group of 6-12 years is shown in Table 2. The unpaired ‘t’ test analysis of behavioural pattern scores of a single child and the child with siblings between the age group of 6-12 years states that the mean score for the children with siblings group was high (30.36 ± 7.179),

whereas the mean score for the single child group was (28.74 ± 7.464). The obtained unpaired T-test value is 1.106. The p-value is 0.271, which is greater than the significance level of 0.05. Hence, it was concluded that there were no significant differences in the means of the behavioural pattern of a single child and the child with siblings between the age group of 6-12 years.

Table 2: Comparison of scores of behavioral patterns of a single child and the child with siblings between the age group of 6-12 years. N= 100

Unpaired T Test	Mean	S.D.	N	Mean %	Unpaired Test	P-value	Table Value At 0.05	Result
Single child	28.74	7.464	50	47.90	1.106	0.271	1.984	Non Significant
Child with siblings	30.36	7.179	50	50.60				

Maximum =60 Minimum =0

DISCUSSION

Child behavioural patterns will change over time, and sometimes even on a daily or hourly basis, and it is important to recognise that this is completely normal and can be the result of a wide range of events and situations. A child development degree is useful for practicing professionals who are looking to gain more experience in their field, as well as for candidates who are interested in exploring alternative career paths. 12 Industry versus inferiority is the expression that Erikson used to describe the developmental demands of children between the ages of six and twelve. The kid is better able to perform the developmental goal when they can move about and actively participate in the activities that they do daily (Health Information of India). 13 Several studies conducted in India have shown that between 5 and 25

percent of children are affected by some kind of mental disease or maladjustment. The present study has been undertaken to assess the behavioural pattern of a single child and the child with Siblings between the age group of 6-12 years in selected areas of Mohali, Punjab.

Comparison with previous studies:

Dr. manisha patro and Dr bishwajit I *et al*, (2022) -A study evaluate a behavioural pattern of single child and child with sibling at age group of 5-15 year and result show Out of total 220 children (110- single child, 110 child with sibling) most of the Single child, 79(71.8%) had average behaviour pattern as compared to Child with siblings, whose maximum children97(88%) had good behaviour pattern. It is better to have at least 2 children

in a family than a single child, as siblings help a lot in modifying and shaping the behaviour pattern of a child.

Dr. Raj Krishnan (2023)- Conducted a comparative study to assess the behavioural pattern of a single child and the child with a sibling between the age group of 6-12 years in selected areas at Sagar (MP). The childhood period is important in life. During this period, the child undergoes a remarkable change in their life. Parents and school teachers have to understand the child's problem and solve it. Many single children have poor interpersonal skills, which results from less effective relationships. The parents must realize their problem and mingle with them, to help and guide the children to lead their lives healthily, both physically and mentally.

CONCLUSION

From the findings of the present study following conclusions were drawn that a single child had an average behavioural pattern. Children with siblings also had an average behavioural pattern. The unpaired t-test states there were no significant differences in the means of the behavioural pattern of a single child and the child with siblings between the age group of 6-12 years.

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