



BEHAVIOURAL PATTERN OF SINGLE CHILD AND CHILD WITH SIBLING

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ABSTRACT

Development of a child is a quintessential phase along with growth. Although heredity and environment are the contributing factors in this phase, the specific influencers in shaping a child's behaviour are still debatable. This study is descriptive in nature. The study sample consists of 60 samples, 30 single children and 30 children with sibling between the age group 6 and 12. Convenient sampling technique was used to select the samples. Modified Child behavioural Checklist with 50 items comprising statement regarding activities of daily living, socialization and communication was used to assess the behavioural pattern of children from both groups. The study finding revealed that in Single child 80% (24) has moderate level and 20 % (6) has mild level behavioural problems. With regard to child with sibling 73% (22) has moderate and 27% (8) has mild level behavioural issues and none from both groups showed severe behavioural problem. It was noted that there is association between behaviour pattern of child with sibling with parenting style of father. The findings suggest that the child's behaviour is highly influenced by parenting style as children learn most behavioural pattern in the early ages where they get more access to parents than any significant others.

Keywords: single child, behavioural pattern, child with sibling, only child.

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INTRODUCTION

Children are not young adults. Often children are expected to behave well. A well-mannered child always brings joy to parents whereas a parent of child with poor mannerism brings shame and embarrassment.^[1] Even so, among the parental population, many do not understand that the essence of childhood is their imperfectness. Parents of generation alpha anticipate their heir to be perfect. Nevertheless, the behaviour a child hinge on multiple factors. The essential component is the presence or absence of sibling, projecting the development of behavioural pattern.^[2]

Stanley G. Hall once said “Being an only child is a “disease in itself” but results of many studies disapproved his theory. Alice Goisis, Professor of Demography and Deputy Research found that only children tend to be similar to children with sibling in their intellectual skills and also highlighted that singletons do differ from children with brothers or sisters in socializing and behaving.^[3]

Behaviour of a Child is often a great concern for parents whether they have single child or more. A survey conducted in 24 countries across the world by King’s College London regarding “Children having good manners” and released a fascinating report in 2023. Egypt ranked first where 97% of people said good manners as top parenting priority but only 52 % of adults from one of the developed countries prioritized good behaviour.^[4]

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

A pilot study to compare the behavioural pattern of single child and child with sibling between the age group of 6 and 12 years in selected villages, Madurai.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To assess the behavioral pattern of single child and child with sibling.
- To compare the behavioral pattern of single child and child with sibling between the age group of 6 to 12 years.
- To find out the association between the behavioral pattern of a single child and child with siblings with their selected demographic variables.

METHODOLOGY

Research Approach: quantitative research approach

Research design: Comparative Research design

Sampling technique: convenient sampling technique

Research setting: selected villages in Madurai

Target population: Children between 6 and 12 years

Sample size: 60 samples.

Description of tool

Section A: Demographic variable of child and parent

Section B: Modified behavioural checklist with 50 items.

Scoring method: Mild 1 – 17, Moderate 18 – 34, Severe 35 – 50

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Section – I: Description of demographic Variables

Table No. 1 describes the distribution of demographic variables of single child and child with sibling in frequency and percentage.

Table: 1 Frequency Distribution of demographic variables of single child and child with sibling

S. No	Demographic variable	Single Child		Child with Sibling	
		F	%	F	%
1.	Age				
	6 - 7 years	5	16.7	0	0
	7 - 8 years	5	16.7	5	16.7
	8 - 9 years	6	20	12	40
	9 - 10 years	5	16.7	7	23.3
	10 - 11 years	4	13.3	6	20
	11 - 12 years	5	16.7	0	0

S. No	Demographic variable	Single Child		Child with Sibling	
2.	Sex				
	Female	15	50	11	36.6
	Male	15	50	19	63.3
3.	Educational Status				
	Not attending School	0	0	0	0
	First standard	3	10	0	0
	Second	3	10	0	0
	Third	2	6.7	8	26.7
	Fourth	8	26.7	10	33.3
	Fifth	6	20	10	33.3
	Sixth	4	13.3	2	6.7
	Seventh	4	13.3	0	0
4.	Age of mother				
	21 – 25	3	10	0	0
	26 – 30	6	20	0	0
	31 – 35	13	43.3	7	23.3
	36 - 40	8	26.7	20	66.7
	41 - 45	0	0	3	10
5.	Age of father				
	26 – 30	3	10	0	0
	31 – 35	13	43.3	3	10
	36 - 40	9	30	17	56.7
	41 - 45	5	16.7	7	23.3
	46 - 50	0	0	2	6.7
	NA (deceased)	0	0	1	3.3
6.	Educational Status of mother				
	Secondary education	2	6.7	4	13.3
	Higher secondary	7	23.3	12	40
	Graduate	21	70	14	16.7
7.	Educational status of father				
	Secondary education	2	6.7	1	3.3
	Higher secondary	7	23.3	7	23.3
	Graduate	21	70	21	70
	NA (deceased)	0	0	1	3.3
8.	Type of work of mother				
	Home maker	7	23.3	15	50
	Coolie worker / Daily wages	4	13.3	2	6.7
	Own business	2	6.7	4	13.3
	Healthcare Professional	6	20	2	6.7
	Other Professional	11	36.7	7	23.3
	NA (deceased)	0	0	0	0
9.	Type of work of father				
	Home maker	0	0	0	0
	Coolie worker / Daily wages	6	20	0	0
	Own business	3	10	7	23.3
	Healthcare Professional	13	43.3	4	13.3
	Other Professional	8	26.7	18	60
	NA (deceased)	0	0	1	3.3

S. No	Demographic variable	Single Child		Child with Sibling	
10.	Monthly income of mother				
	Below Rs: 10000	7	23.3	2	6.7
	Rs: 10000 to 25000	7	23.3	9	30
	Rs: 25000 to 50000	9	30	5	16.7
	50000 to 1 lakh	6	20	9	30
	Above 1lakh	1	3.3	5	16.7
11.	Monthly income of father				
	Below Rs: 10000	3	10	0	0
	Rs: 10000 to 25000	18	60	12	40
	Rs: 25000 to 50000	8	26.7	11	36.7
	50000 to 1 lakh	1	33.3	6	20
	Above 1lakh	0	0	0	0
12.	Religious Background (family)				
	Christian	14	46.7	8	26.7
	Hindu	12	40	18	60
	Muslim	4	13.3	4	13.3
13.	Type of family				
	Nuclear	22	73.3	25	83.3
	Joint	7	23.3	4	13.3
	Joint extended	1	3.3	1	3.3
14.	Parenting Style of mother				
	Authoritative	3	10	2	6.7
	Authoritarian	9	30	22	73.3
	Permissive	18	60	6	20
	Uninvolved	0	0	0	0
15.	Parenting Style of father				
	Authoritative	6	20	5	16.7
	Authoritarian	14	46.7	18	60
	Permissive	8	26.7	4	13.3
	Uninvolved	2	6.7	2	6.7
	NA (deceased)	0	0	1	3.3

Section – II: Behavioural pattern of single child and child with sibling

Table. 2 depicts the distribution of Modified Child Behaviour Check List scores of Single Child and Child with sibling. It shows that in Single child 80% (24) has moderate level and 20 % (6) has mild level behavioural problems. With regard to child with sibling 73% (22) has moderate and 27% (8) has mild level behavioural issues.

Table .2 Distribution of Modified Child Behaviour Check List scores of Single Child and Child with sibling

	Mild (1 – 17)	Moderate (18 – 34)	Severe (35 – 50)	N
Single Child	6 (20%)	24 (80%)	0	30
Child with Sibling	8 (27%)	22 (73%)	0	30

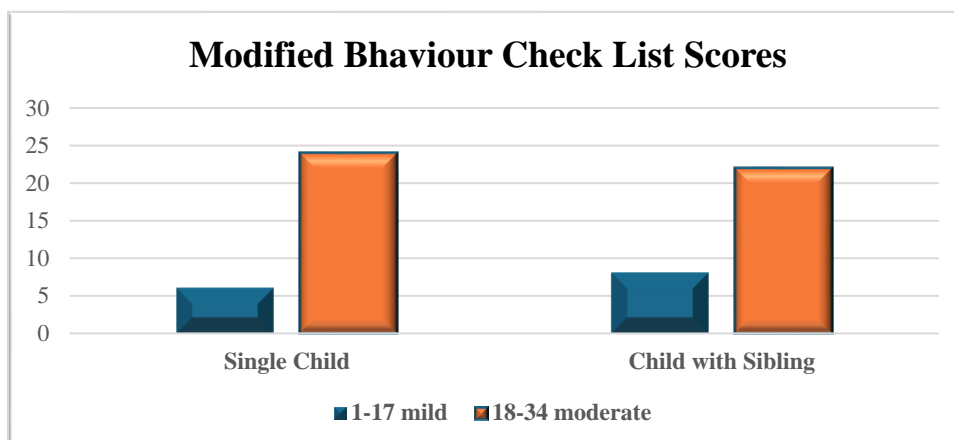


Fig: 1 Distribution of Modified Child Behaviour Check List scores of Single Child and Child with sibling

Section – III Association of behavioural pattern with demographic variable

The results denotes that there is association between behaviour pattern of child with sibling with parenting style of father with ($\chi^2 - 10.9$ and P Value – 0.02).

CONCLUSION

The results show that there is not much difference between the behavioural pattern of single child when compared to child with sibling. Also, most of the sample from both the groups has moderate level of behavioural issues. A study result by University of Cambridge indicates A loving bond between parents and their children early in life significantly increases the child's tendency to be 'prosocial', and act with kindness and empathy towards others.^[5] As, the study found the association between parenting style and behavioural issues in child, more than the presence or the absence of sibling parenting style is the most influencing factor in the development of child's behaviour.

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