

Influence of Parenting Styles on Temperament and Behavioural Problems of Young Children from Farm Families and Associated Factors

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Abstract: A study on influence of parenting styles on temperament and behavioural problems of young children from farm families and associated factors was carried out at University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad during 2019-20. The sample for the study comprised of 526 parents (302 mothers and 224 fathers) of rural farm families having children less than six years were selected through snow ball sampling technique from Dharwad, Hubli and Kalaghatagi talukas of Karnataka state. Child temperament scale and Child behaviour checklist developed by AICRP-CD (2001) was used to measure the temperament and severity of the behavioural problems among children. Results on analysis revealed that, higher percent of the children were found to have highly positive temperament. Chi square analysis showed significant association among 2-4 year 4-6 year children in case of mother's style of parenting and 2-4 year in case of father's style of parenting revealing that, children with high percentage of authoritative parents having children with highly positive temperament. A significant association was evident between child temperament and parenting style with respect to gender (female) and ordinal position (first born children) with high percentage of authoritative fathers and mothers having children with highly positive temperament. Majority of the children were found to have low behavioural problems and it was significantly associated with gender (female) with higher percentage of authoritative mothers having children with low behavioural problems. Behavioural problems among children was significantly associated with ordinal position (first born) with higher percentage of authoritative fathers having children with low behavioural problems.

Keywords: Temperament, Behaviour, Parenting, Authoritative, Authoritarian

1. Introduction

Home influence probably outweighs the effects of all other environmental impacts combined in determining the fundamental organization of children's behavior. Parenting is an activity that normally involves the children, parents and other family members in lifelong interaction. Authoritarian parents tend to lay down the law and mete out harsh punishments, while permissive parents set few or no limits. The authoritative parenting style, in which parents are warm, loving and still set definite limits, seems to be the most effective. However, a fourth style, the uninvolved parent, can create a number of problems for children that may follow them into adulthood.

Parents greatly affect their children's behavior. Children are like sponges--they model everything a parent does and incorporate what they see into their own lives. It is important that parents set the right examples for their children.

Parents tend to underestimate the influence that they have on their children. In 2011, the UK's Department for Education found that, children who are exposed to bad parenting are two times more likely to misbehave. Inconsistent disciplinary approaches, poor supervision and physical punishment are poor parenting attributes that can negatively affect children, regardless of their ethnicity and socioeconomic status.

1.1 Objective of the study

To elicit the influence of parenting styles on temperament and behavioural problems of young children from farm families and to know its effect with gender, age and ordinal position of children

2. Methodology

2.1 Research Design

A **correlational research design** was employed to study the influence of parenting styles on young children. Further, a **differential research design** was used to compare the parenting styles of father and mother with gender, different age cohorts and ordinal position of children

Population and Sample of the study: The population for the study comprised of Parents and children of less than six years from farm families.

The sample for the study comprised of 302 rural families (302 mothers and 224 fathers) having children less than six years were selected through snow ball sampling technique and with the help of Anganwadi teachers. These families were selected from three talukas of Dharwad district namely Dharwad taluka, Huballi taluka and Kalaghatagi taluka comprising of nine villages (seven villages from Dharwad

taluka, one village each from Hubballi and Kalaghatagi taluka). From each village 22 to 45 families were selected for the study. The total no of fathers was less due to non availability at the time of testing and single families

2.2 Tools used for the study

- 1) **Parenting style scale by Robinson *et.al.* (1995):** The scale was used to measure the parenting style (authoritative, authoritarian and permissive) based on the responses of the parent to the self reported questionnaire consisting of 30 statements to be ranked on a five point Likert scale ranging from never to always (authoritative = 13 items, authoritarian = 13 item and permissive = 4 items). For each parenting style, the scores are added up and divided by the number of questions in for that particular style to get the mean score for each parenting style. The highest score indicates the preferred parenting style of the individual parent.
- 2) **Child temperament scale by AICRP-CD (2001):** The scale was used to measure the temperament of the child. The tool consists of 38 statements consisting both positive and negative statements. Each statement is scored on three point likert scale ranging from 1- 3 (1 = never, 2=usually, 3=always). The scores indicate the intensity of temperamental traits observed in the child. The total score ranges from 38 to 114 and can be categorized as follows:

The reliability of the tool was found to be 0.851 on pre-testing of 40 children.

Sl. No.	Score range	Category
1	38 - 66	Less positive (Difficult)
2	67 - 94	Average (Slow to warm up)
3	95 - 114	Highly positive (Easy)

- 3) **Child behaviour checklist by AICRP-CD (2001):** The checklist was used to measure the severity of the behavioural problems among children. The tool consists of 72 items scored on a three point likert scale ranging from 1 to 3 (1= not true, 2 = Sometimes true and 3 = always true). The scores indicate the intensity of the presence of behavioural problems among children. The score range form 72- 216 with higher scores indicating the high prevalence and severity of behavioural problems.

The reliability was found to be 0.902 on pre-testing of 40 children.

Sl. No.	Score range	Category
1	72-120	Low
2	121-168	Average
3	169-216	High

Statistical analysis of the data:

- 1) **Chi-square test** was applied to find out the association between selected independent variables with parental practices of rural families.
- 2) **Modified Chi-square test** was applied where ever the frequencies were less than five.
- 3) **Correlation coefficient** was computed to measure the relationship between parenting practices and parental characteristics of rural children.

3. Results and Discussion

A close perusal of table 1, shows the distribution of children by child temperament. In case of mothers, it is clear that, 61.60 per cent of the children were found to have highly positive temperament followed by those children having average temperament (38.40%). With regards to father, majority of the children (83.90%) were found to have highly positive temperament followed by those having average temperament (16.10%). Findings indicated that both mothers and fathers parenting style resulted in positive and average temperament among their children. These are in line with study conducted by Slagt *et. al.*, (2016) where, results showed that children with positive parenting supported the differential susceptibility model in which children tend to had easy temperament whereas, children of negative parenting to had more difficult temperament.

The results of the table 2 shows the association between child temperament and parenting styles among children by age. Majority of the children irrespective of their age and parenting style higher per cent of the mothers (50.80% and 58.10% respectively for birth – 2 years, 71.20% and 45.00% among 2-4 years and 85.50% and 77.80% among 4-6 years) were found to have children with highly positive temperament followed by average temperament (49.20% and 41.90% for birth to 2 years, 28.80% and 41.00% for 2-4 years. The chi square was found to be highly significant showing association of child temperament with parenting styles among mothers with children 2-4 years. Regarding the children of 4-6 years, the table shows that highest per cent of the mothers with authoritative parenting styles (71.80%) were found to have children with highly positive temperament followed by those mothers with children having average temperament (26.90%). With regard to authoritarian mothers, more than half of them (52.40%) were found to have children average temperament followed by those mothers with children having highly positive temperament (47.60%). Chi square analysis showed significance among 4-6 year children with high percentage of authoritative mothers having children with highly positive temperament. Irrespective parenting style, their children had similar level of temperament. Lengua and Kovas (2005) found that during childhood, child's positive emotionality predicted more subsequent maternal acceptance, controlling for earlier acceptance, which indicated that child's positive temperament could elicit parental warmth.

Majority of the children irrespective of their age and parenting style higher per cent of the fathers were found to have children with highly positive temperament (87.90% and 60.00% respectively for birth – 2 years, 84.50% and 54.50% respectively among 2-4 years and 85.50% and 77.80% among 4-6 years). Analysis showed significance among 2-4 year children with high percentage of authoritative father having children with highly positive temperament.

A close perusal of table 3 highlights the association between child temperament and parenting style among children by gender. Irrespective of gender and parenting style more than half of the children were found to have highly positive temperament (64.80% and 53.30% among male and 66.40%

and 47.20% among female) followed by average temperament (35.20% and 46.20% among male and 33.60% and 52.80% among female). The chi square was found to be significant among female with higher per cent of children with authoritative mothers having highly positive temperament. Irrespective of gender and parenting style majority of the children were found to have highly positive temperament (83.50% and 63.30% among male and 88.20% and 63.60% among female) followed by average temperament (16.50% and 35.70% among male and 11.80% and 36.40% among female). The chi square value was found significant among female with higher per cent of children with authoritative fathers having highly positive temperament. Porter *et. al.*, (2005) studied child temperament and parenting style in Beijing, China and the western United States where, he found that male and female children emotionality was positively associated with authoritarian parenting in both cultures while child activity level was linked to more authoritative and less authoritarian parenting styles.

The association between child temperament and parenting style ordinal position of the children is depicted in table 4. Among first born children, highest per cent of the children with authoritative parenting style were found to have highly positive temperament (62.10%) followed by average temperament (37.90%). When we consider children with authoritarian parenting style 56.50 per cent of the children were found to have average temperament followed by 43.56 per cent of the children having highly positive temperament. The results of the same table show that, irrespective of their ordinal position and parenting style more than half of the children were found to have highly positive temperament (68.10% and 58.30% among second born and 70.40% and 63.60% among later born) followed by average temperament (31.90% and 41.70% among second born and 29.60% and 36.40% among later born). However the chi square was found significant among first born children with higher percentage of children having authoritative mother with highly positive temperament.

The results show that irrespective of their ordinal position and parenting style higher per cent of the children were found to have highly positive temperament (90.50% and 64.70% among first born, 80.20% and 71.40% among second born) followed by average temperament (9.50% and 35.30% among first born and 19.80% and 28.60% among second born). However the chi square was found significant among first born children with higher percentage of children having authoritative father with highly positive temperament. Among later born children, highest per cent of the children with authoritative father were found to have highly positive temperament (87.00%) followed by average temperament (13.00%). Findings of Nezhad *et. al.*, (2014) found that positive parenting predicted children's temperamental persistence, even after autoregressive controls. Further the study pointed out that siblings of parents who have high levels of positive parenting are more similar to one another in having level of temperament.

Table 5 shows the distribution of children by behavioral problems. With respect to mothers, it is clear that, higher per cent of the children (82.12%) were found to have low

behavioral problems followed by children with average behavioral problems (15.56%) and high behavioral problems (2.3%). In case of fathers, almost all children (92.90%) were found to have low behavioral problems followed by children with average behavioral problems (6.20%) and high behavioral problems (0.90%). These results were supported by Talib *et. al.*, (2011) in which results indicated that for mothers and fathers positive parenting (authoritative style) had positive effects on children behaviour and school achievement which showed that children with positive parenting style tend to have less behavioural problems as compared to children who received the permissive and authoritarian styles.

The results of the table 6 shows the association between child behavioral problems and parenting styles by age. The results show that, irrespective of age and parenting style majority of the mothers (84.10% and 90.30% among birth to 2 years, 82.50% and 72.40% among 2-4 years and 84.60% and 66.70% among 4-6 years) were found to have children with low behavioral problems. The results of the same table depict that, irrespective of parenting style and age, higher per cent of the fathers (95.50% and 100% of birth -2 years, 88.70% and 90.90% of 2-4 years and 93.50% and 100%) were found to have children with low behavioral problems. These findings were supported by Aunola and Nurmi, (2005), Elgar *et al.*, (2007) which showed discipline, consistency or behavioral control used by the parents are related with less problems in children of any age. In this sense, specific parenting practices such as setting limits, communication, autonomy or monitoring are described as good predictors of adaptive behaviour among children.

The data presented in the table 7 depicts the association between child behavioural problems and parenting style by gender. With regard to mother parenting style, irrespective of gender and parenting style, higher per cent of the children were found to have children with low behavioural problems (84.00% and 77.30% among male and 86.10% and 70.30% among female) followed by children having average behavioural problems (12.30% and 22.70% among male 11.30% and 29.70% among female). However on analysis, the association was found significant among male children. With respect to fathers parenting style it is clear that, irrespective of gender and parenting style, highest per cent of the children were found to have children with low behavioural problems (94.00% and 92.90% among male and 90.20% and 100% among female children).

The association between behavioral problems and parenting style by ordinal position is depicted in the table 8. Majority of the authoritative mothers (85.40%) of first born were found to have children with low behavioral problems followed by those mothers with children having average behavioral problems (12.60%) and very meagre percentage of them (1.9%) with children having high behavioral problems. With regard to mothers with authoritarian parenting style, three fourth of them (73.90%) were found to have first born children with low behavioral problems followed by those mothers with average behavioral problems (26.10%). The chi square was found to be not significant.

Considering the second born, the results reveal that, highest per cent of the authoritative mothers (80.20%) of second born were found to have children with low behavioral problems followed by those mothers with children having average behavioral problems (16.50%) and three of with children having high behavioral problems. With regard to mothers with authoritarian parenting style, highest per cent of them (79.20%) were found to have first born children with low behavioral problems followed by those mothers with average behavioral problems (20.80%). The chi square analysis showed no significant association.

Looking at the later born children, it is clear that majority of the authoritative mothers (88.90%) were found to have children with low behavioral problems followed by those mothers with children having high behavioral problems (7.40%) and average behavioral problems (3.70%). However, in case of mothers with authoritarian parenting style, higher per cent of them (90.90%) were found to have children with low behavioral problems followed by those mothers with children having average behavioral problems (9.10%). However none of them were found to have high behavioral problems. The chi square was found to be not significant. results of the same table shows that, irrespective of parenting style and ordinal position, higher per cent of the fathers (96.90% and 81.20% of first born, 90.00% and 100% second born and 91.30% and 100% of later born) were found to have children with low behavioral problems. Irrespective of ordinal position of children and their parenting style children had similar behavioural problems. These findings are contradictory to results of study conducted by Tamrouti *et al.*, (2004) in which they pointed out that, perceptions of parents' differential treatment resulted in developing feeling of partiality among children. Further, results indicated that older children reported that they were experiencing more discipline and less warmth but less behavioural problems than their younger siblings where they are experiencing lower levels of self-esteem and greater internalizing problems.

4. Conclusion

Majority of the children were found to have highly positive temperament. Analysis showed significant association among 2-4 year 4-6 year in case of mothers style of parenting and 2-4 year in case of father style of parenting revealing that, children with high percentage of authoritative parents having children with highly positive temperament. Irrespective of age, gender and ordinal position of children and irrespective of parenting style children had positive temperament followed by average temperament. Majority of children found to have low behavioral problems. Irrespective of age, gender and ordinal position of children and parenting style children tend to have low behavioural problems followed by high and average behavioral problems.

Table 1: Percentage distribution of parents by child temperament

Child temperament	Mother		Father	
	n	%	n	%
Less positive (Difficult) (38-66)	-	-	-	-
Average (slow to warm-up) (67-94)	116	38.40	36	16.10
Highly positive (Easy) (95-114)	186	61.60	188	83.90
Total	302	100.0	224	100.0

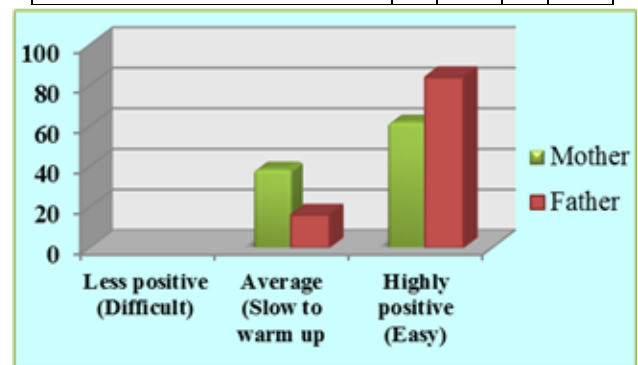


Table 2: Association between child temperament and parenting styles among children by age

Age	Child temperament	Mothers parenting style						X ²	Age	Child temperament	Fathers parenting style						X ²
		Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total					Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total		
		n	%	n	%	N	%				N	%	n	%	n	%	
Birth-2 Yrs (n=94)	Average	31	49.20	13	41.90	44	45.70	0.44 ^{NS}	Birth-2 Yrs (n=71)	Average	8	12.10	2	40.00	10	14.10	2.98 ^{NS}
	Highly positive	32	50.80	18	58.10	50	53.20			58	87.90	3	60.00	61	85.90		
	Total	63	100.0	31	100	94	100.0			66	100.0	5	100.0	71	100.0		
2-4 Yrs (n=109)	Average	23	28.80	16	41.00	39	100.0	6.46*	2-4 Yrs (n=82)	Average	11	15.50	5	45.50	16	19.50	5.44*
	Highly positive	57	71.20	13	44.80	70	64.20			60	84.50	6	54.50	66	80.50		
	Total	80	100.0	29	100.0	109	100.0			71	100.0	11	100.0	82	100.0		
4-6 Yrs (n=99)	Average	21	26.90	12	52.40	33	32.30	4.35*	4-6 Yrs (n=71)	Average	9	14.50	2	22.20	11	15.50	0.35 ^{NS}
	Highly positive	56	71.80	10	47.60	66	66.70			53	85.50	7	77.80	60	84.50		
	Total	78	100.0	21	100.0	99	100.0			62	100.0	9	100.0	71	100.0		

Ns- Non significant

*significant at 5 %

Table 3: Association between child temperament and parenting styles among children by gender

Gender	Child temperament	Mothers parenting style						X ²	Gender	Child temperament	Fathers parenting style						X ²
		Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total					Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total		
		n	%	n	%	n	%				n	%	n	%	n	%	
Male (n=150)	Average	37	35.20	21	46.20	58	38.70	1.73 ^{NS}	Male (n=111)	Average	16	16.50	5	35.70	21	18.90	2.94 ^{NS}
	Highly positive	68	64.80	24	53.30	92	61.30			81	83.50	9	64.30	90	81.10		
	Total	105	100.0	45	100.0	150	100.0			97	100.00	14	100.0	111	100.00		
Female (n=152)	Average	39	33.60	19	52.80	58	38.20	4.27*	Female (n=113)	Average	12	11.80	4	36.40	16	14.20	4.94*
	Highly positive	77	66.40	17	47.20	94	61.80			90	88.20	7	63.60	97	85.80		
	Total	116	100.0	36	100	152	100.0			102	100.00	11	100.0	113	100.00		

Ns- Non significant

*significant at 5 %

Table 4: Association between child temperament and parenting styles among children by ordinal position

Ordinal position	Child temperament	Mothers parenting style						X ²	Ordinal position	Child temperament	Fathers parenting style						X ²
		Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total					Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total		
		n	%	n	%	n	%				n	%	n	%	n	%	
First born (n=149)	Average	39	37.90	26	56.50	65	43.60	4.50*	First born (n=112)	Average	9	9.50	6	35.30	15	13.40	8.28**
	Highly positive	64	62.10	20	43.50	84	56.40			Highly positive	86	90.50	11	64.70	97	86.60	
	Total	103	100.0	46	100.0	149	100.0			Total	95	100.0	17	100.0	112	100.0	
Second born (n=115)	Average	29	31.90	10	41.70	39	33.90	0.81 ^{NS}	Second born (n=88)	Average	16	19.80	2	28.60	18	20.50	0.30 ^{NS}
	Highly positive	62	68.10	14	58.30	76	66.10			Highly positive	65	80.20	5	71.40	70	79.50	
	Total	91	100.0	24	100.0	115	100.0			Total	81	100.0	7	100.0	88	100.0	
Later born (n=38)	Average	8	29.60	4	36.40	12	31.60	2.10 ^{NS}	Later born (n=24)	Average	3	13.00	1	100.00	4	16.70	
	Highly positive	19	70.40	7	63.60	26	68.40			Highly positive	20	87.00	-	-	20	83.30	
	Total	27	100.0	11	100.0	38	100.0			Total	23	100.0	1	100.0	24	100.0	

Ns- Non significant *significant at 5 % ** significant at 1 %

Table 5: Percentage distribution of parents by behavioral problems

Child Behavioral problems	Mothers		Fathers	
	n	%	n	%
Low (79 and below)	248	82.12	208	92.90
Average (80-109)	47	15.56	14	6.20
High (110-130)	7	2.32	2	0.90
Total	302	100.00	224	100.00

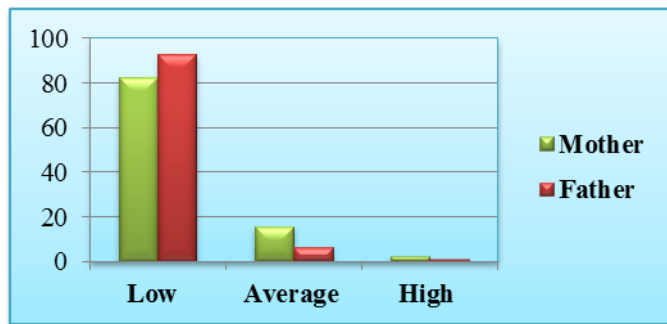


Table 6: Association between child behavioral problems and parenting styles among children by age

Age	Child behavioral problems	Mothers parenting style						X ²	Age	Child behavioral problems	Fathers parenting style						X ²
		Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total					Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total		
		n	%	n	%	n	%				n	%	n	%	n	%	
Birth- 2 Yrs (n=94)	Low	53	84.10	28	90.30	81	86.20	1.23 ^{NS}	Birth- 2 Yrs (n=71)	Low	63	95.50	5	100.0	68	95.80	
	Average	8	12.70	3	9.70	11	11.70			Average	3	4.50	-	-	3	4.20	
	High	2	3.20	-	-	2	2.10			High	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Total	63	100.0	31	100.0	94	100.0			Total	66	100.0	5	100.0	71	100.0	
2- 4 Yrs (n=109)	Low	66	82.50	21	72.40	87	79.80	4.65 ^{NS}	2- 4 Yrs (n=82)	Low	63	88.70	10	90.90	73	89.00	0.16 ^{NS}
	Average	10	12.50	8	27.60	18	20.20			Average	7	9.90	1	9.10	8	9.80	
	High	4	5.0	-	-	4	3.70			High	1	1.40	-	-	1	1.20	
	Total	80	100.0	29	100.0	109	100.0			Total	71	100.0	11	100.0	82	100.0	
4-6 Yrs (n=99)	Low	66	84.60	14	66.70	80	80.80	4.29 ^{NS}	4-6 Yrs (n=71)	Low	58	93.50	9	100.0	67	94.40	
	Average	11	14.10	7	33.30	18	18.20			Average	3	4.80	-	-	3	4.20	
	High	1	1.30	-	-	1	1.0			High	1	1.60	-	-	1	1.40	
	Total	78	100.0	21	100.0	99	100.0			Total	62	100.0	9	100.0	71	100.0	

Ns- Non significant

Table 7: Association between child behavioral problems and parenting style among children by gender

Gender	Child Behavioral Problems	Mothers parenting style						X ²	Gender	Child Behavioral Problems	Fathers parenting style						X ²
		Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total					Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total		
		n	%	n	%	n	%				n	%	n	%	n	%	
Male (n=150)	Low	89	84.00	34	77.30	123	82.0	4.05 ^{NS}	Male (n=111)	Low	92	94.80	13	92.90	105	94.60	0.39 ^{NS}
	Average	13	12.30	10	22.70	23	15.30			Average	4	4.20	1	7.10	5	94.5	
	High	4	3.80	0	0.00	4	2.70			High	1	1.00	-	-	1	0.90	
	Total	106	100.0	44	100.0	150	100.00			Total	97	100.0	14	100.00	111	100.0	
Female (n=152)	Low	99	86.1	26	70.3	125	82.2	7.83*	Female (n=113)	Low	92	90.20	11	100.00	103	91.20	
	Average	13	11.3	11	29.7	24	15.8			Average	9	8.80	-	-	9	8.0	
	High	3	2.6	-	-	3	2.0			High	1	1.0	-	-	1	0.90	
	Total	115	100.00	37	100.0	152	100.00			Total	102	100.0	11	100.00	113	100.00	

Ns- Non significant *significant at 5 %

Table 8: Association between child behavioral problems and parenting styles among children by ordinal position

Ordinal position	Child behavioral problems	Mothers parenting style						X ²	Ordinal position	Child behavioral problems	Fathers parenting style						X ²
		Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total					Authoritative		Authoritarian		Total		
		n	%	n	%	n	%				n	%	n	%	n	%	
First born (n=149)	Low	88	85.40	34	73.90	122	81.90	4.84^{NS}	First born (n=112)	Low	93	96.90	13	81.20	106	94.60	6.60^{**}
	Average	13	12.60	12	26.10	25	16.80			Average	3	3.10	3	18.80	6	5.40	
	High	2	1.90	-	-	2	1.30			High	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Total	103	100.0	46	100.0	149	100.0			Total	96	100.0	16	100.0	112	100.0	
Second born (n=115)	Low	73	80.20	19	79.20	92	80.00	1.00^{NS}	Second born (n=88)	Low	72	90.00	8	100.0	80	90.90	
	Average	15	16.50	5	20.80	20	17.40			Average	7	8.80	-	-	7	8.00	
	High	3	3.30	-	-	3	2.60			High	1	1.20	-	-	1	1.10	
	Total	91	100.0	24	100.0	115	100.0			Total	80	100.0	8	100.0	88	100.0	
Later born (n=38)	Low	24	88.90	10	90.90	34	89.50	1.24^{NS}	Later born (n=24)	Low	21	91.30	1	100.0	22	91.70	
	Average	1	3.70	1	9.10	2	5.30			Average	1	4.30	-	-	1	4.20	
	High	2	7.40	-	-	2	5.30			High	1	4.30	-	-	1	4.20	
	Total	27	100.0	11	100.0	38	100.0			Total	23	100.0	1	100.0	24	100.0	

Ns- Non significant

** significant at 1%

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