

A study on sibling relationship in adulthood across gender

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ABSTRACT

Sibling relationships are total of the interaction (physical, verbal and non-verbal communication) of two or more individuals who share knowledge, perception, attitudes, and beliefs and feeling regarding each other from the time that one sibling becomes aware of the other. Adult siblings tend to distance themselves as they become more involved in findings themselves, investing in other relationships such as marriage or partnership, bearing and raising children, pursuing employment etc. It is during middle age, where assisting and guiding teenagers or launching children lead to "empty nest" where adults are left all by themselves. The present investigation was a descriptive study to examine sibling relationships with respect to gender among siblings during middle adulthood years. A representative sample of 120 married, unmarried adults of all the religions having one or more younger or elder sibling(40-60 years) belonging to nuclear, joint and extended families of some selected areas of Lucknow city were selected. Adult Sibling Relationship Scale (ASRS) developed and standardized by Shobha Nandwana and Madhur Kotoch (1947) was used to assess the sibling relationship among middle-aged siblings. The results of the study revealed that adults did not put forth a significant difference with their sibling. Males (83.33%) reported to have good relationship, while more than half of the female respondents had average sibling relationship. Very few respondents (2.5%) were sharing poor sibling relationship. Hence, the study concluded that there was significant difference in the level of sibling relationship across the gender.