

## A study on sibling relationship in adulthood across gender

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### ARTICLE INFO:

**Received** : 02.10.2012  
**Revised** : 25.04.2013  
**Accepted** : 23.05.2013

### KEY WORDS:

Sibling, Sibling relationship, Gender, Adulthood

### HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE :

Bandana, Kumari and Agarwal, Shalini (2013). A study on sibling relationship in adulthood across gender, *Adv. Res. J. Soc. Sci.*, 4(1) : 84 - 87.

### 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.

## INTRODUCTION

Siblings are people who share at least one parent. A male sibling is called a brother and a female sibling is called a sister. In more societies throughout the world, siblings usually grow up together and spend a good deal of their childhood, socializing with one another. The genetic and physical closeness may be marked by the development of strong emotional bonds such as love or enmity. The emotional bond between siblings is often complicated and is influenced by factor such as parental treatment, birth order and personality. A sibling relationship includes both overt actions and interactions between the sibling pair as well as the covert subjective, cognitive and affective components of the relationship .The implication is that sibling relationship can cantonal to exist when the sibling are separated by distance and time without ongoing sibling interaction. As with other

relationships ,sibling relationships can vary for example: some sibling may have a relationship of long duration with much contact ,closeness and commitment , while others may have a purely formal relationship with little or no contact or interest in one on other .Full siblings may full a greater commitment to the relationship than do siblings of other types .Such considerations indicate the need to assess existing relationship carefully before generalizing research results from one type of sibling relationship to another or to sibling in general (Cicilli 1985). Due to rapid industrialization and urbanization job scenario has also changed dramatically. The multinational companies with lucrative packages are mushrooming in the country which makes people to migrate from their native places to metro cities or even abroad to create distance among siblings. Job demands due to privatization create time conflict and leave no time for any type of contact. Hence, middle adulthood years are significant

juncture where adults should re-establish their ties with their siblings and invest more in the nurturance of sibling's relationship. Relationship is a pattern of intermittent interactions between two people involving interchanges over an extended period of time (Hinde, 1997). Sibling gender constellation also influences sibling's relationship and same sex sibling pairs report higher level of intimacy and less hostility than opposite sex dyads (Buhramester, 2004). This study was conducted to compare the sibling relationship across gender. The hypotheses framed for the study were – There exist no difference in sibling relationship in across gender.

## METHODS

The sample for the present investigation comprised of 120 married adults belonging to age range of 40-60 years, belonging to joint and nuclear families of Ruchikhad, Rajnikhand, South city areas of Lucknow city of Uttar Pradesh district. Random selection technique was done for selecting target sibling as the respondent. The age range (40-60 years) was further subdivided in two age cohorts :

- 40-50 years
- 50-60years

A sample of 60 was purposively selected from each age cohort making a total sample of 120. From the first age cohort *i.e.* (40-50 years) 30 males and 30 female were selected. Similarly from the remaining cohort *i.e.* (50-60 years) 30 male and 30 female were selected from Lucknow city.

Selected subjects were contacted personally for data collection. Data were collected using Adult Sibling Relationship Scale, developed and standardized was used

along with self constructed interview schedule to collect the data. The information collected was tabulated and interpretation was made by using appropriate statistical (Chi square test).

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The sibling relationship was scored on four dimensions; contact, emotional closeness, confiding, and conflict. These dimensions were assessed as high, moderate and low according to the scores obtained by the respondents (Table 1).

Data of Table 1 show that 58.33 per cent respondents had moderate contact pattern with their siblings and only 23.33 per cent of them showed high contact pattern with siblings while 18.33 per cent had low contact with their siblings. The table further shows that 30 per cent male had high contact, 65 per cent had moderate contact and only 5 per cent of them had low contact with their siblings while 16.66 per cent female showed high contact, 51.66 per cent had moderate contact and 31.66 per cent had low contact with their siblings.

Data of Table 2 shows that 55.83 per cent respondents had moderate emotional closeness with their siblings and only 33.33 per cent of them showed high emotional closeness with siblings while 10.33 per cent had low emotional closeness with their siblings. Table 2 also shows that 31.66 per cent male had high emotional closeness, 53.33 per cent had moderate emotional closeness and only 15 per cent of them had low emotional closeness with their siblings while 35 per cent female showed high emotional closeness, 58.33 per cent had moderate emotional closeness and only 6.66 per cent had low emotional closeness with their siblings.

Sr. No.	Contact pattern	Male (n=60)	Female (n=60)	Total (n=120)
1.	High	18(30.0)	10(16.66)	28(23.33)
2.	Moderate	39(65.0)	31(51.66)	70(58.33)
3.	Low	3(5.0)	19(31.66)	22(18.33)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis shows percentage

Sr. No.	Emotional closeness	Male (n=60)	Female (n=60)	Total (n=120)
1.	High	19(31.66)	21(35.0)	40(33.33)
2.	Moderate	32(53.33)	35(58.33)	67(55.83)
3.	Low	9(15.0)	4(6.66)	13(10.83)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis shows percentages

Sr. No.	Confiding	Male (n=60)	Female (n=60)	Total (n=120)
1.	High	13(21.66)	8(13.33)	21(17.5)
2.	Moderate	42(70.0)	44(73.33)	86(71.66)
3.	Low	5(8.33)	8(13.33)	13(10.83)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis shows percentages

Data of Table 3 show that 71.66 per cent respondents had moderate confiding with their siblings and 17.5 per cent of them showed high confiding with siblings while only 10.83 per cent had low confiding with their siblings.

Results of Table 2 also show that 21.66 per cent male had high confiding, 70 per cent had moderate confiding and only 8.33 per cent of them had low confiding with their siblings while 13.33 per cent female showed high confiding, 73.33 per cent had moderate confiding and only 13.33 per cent had low confiding with their siblings.

Data presented in Table 4 show that 65.83 per cent respondents had moderate conflict with their siblings and 20 per cent of them showed high conflict with siblings while

14.16 per cent had low conflict with their siblings. It was also observed that 25 per cent male had high conflict, 63.33 per cent had moderate conflict and only 11.66 per cent of them had low conflict with their siblings while 15 per cent female showed high conflict, 68.33 per cent had moderate conflict and 16.66 per cent had low conflict with their siblings.

Data of Table 5 depict that 19.16 per cent of the respondents had very good sibling relationship, 56.66 per cent had good sibling relationship, 31.66% of them came under the category of having average sibling relationship, and 2.5 per cent had poor sibling relationship while no one came under the category of very poor sibling relationship (Fig. 1).

Table 6 shows that Chi square tabulated WAS was less

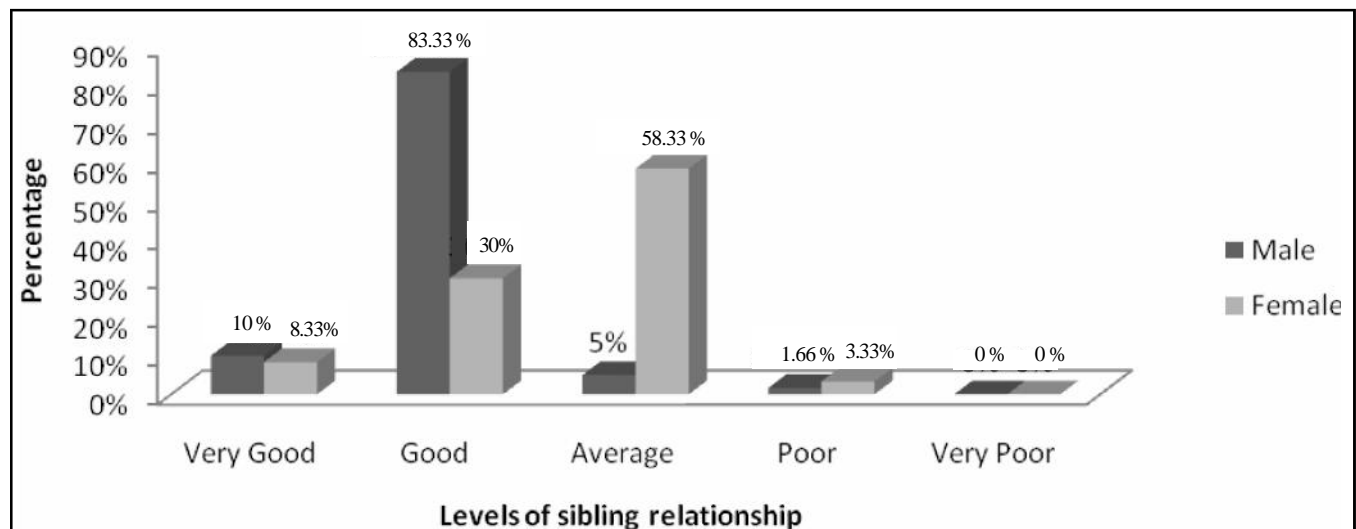
Sr. No.	Conflict	Male (n=60)	Female (n=60)	Total (n=120)
1.	High	15(25.0)	9(15.0)	24(20.0)
2.	Moderate	38(63.33)	41(68.33)	79(65.83)
3.	Low	7(11.66)	10(16.66)	17(14.16)

Note: Figures in the parenthesis shows percentages

Sr. No.	Interpretation	Male (n=60)	Female (n=60)	Total (n=120)
1.	Very good	6(10.0)	5(8.33)	11(19.16)
2.	Good	50(83.33)	18(30.0)	68(56.66)
3.	Average	3(5.0)	35(58.33)	38(31.66)
4.	Poor	1(1.66)	2(3.33)	3(2.5)
5.	Very poor	0	0	0

Variable	d.f.	X <sup>2</sup>	Level of significance
Gender	4	6.92 Significance	5

\* indicates significance of value at P>0.05



**Fig. 1 : Percentage distribution of respondents based on adult sibling relationship scale**

than Chi square calculated value at 5% level of significance, Hence, the Null hypothesis was rejected as there was significant difference in adult sibling relationship across the gender The findings of this study are at par with the study conducted by Nandwana and Katoch (2007).

**Conclusion:**

The study concluded that there was significant difference in adult sibling relationship across gender. Chi square tabulated was less than Chi square calculated value at 5% level of significance, Hence, the Null hypothesis is rejected as there was significant difference in adult sibling relationship across the gender. Males had more contact pattern with their siblings in comparison to female. Overall adult males had high

percentage of good sibling relationship than adult females.

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2<sup>th</sup>  
4<sup>th</sup> Year  
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