



THE IMPACT OF SIBLING BIRTH ORDER AND FAMILY-PEER ATTACHMENT ON PERCEIVED SOCIAL SUPPORT

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ABSTRACT :

This study explores the combined effects of sibling birth order and family-peer attachment on individuals' perceptions of social support. Previous research has suggested that both family dynamics and peer relationships significantly influence an individual's sense of support. Birth order, often seen as a determinant of personality traits and behavior, may play a role in shaping an individual's ability to form social connections and seek support. Additionally, family-peer attachment, which encompasses emotional bonds formed with both family members and peers, is crucial in understanding how individuals navigate social support systems. This research examines how variations in sibling birth order (e.g., first-born, middle, youngest, or only child) interact with family and peer attachment styles to affect the perception and availability of social support. The study aims to provide insight into how these factors together contribute to emotional well-being and coping mechanisms in individuals. Findings could inform interventions that target social support enhancement, especially in familial peer settings, fostering healthier emotional and social development across different birth order roles.

KEY WORDS: siblings birth order, family Peer attachment, perceived social support, first born and last born.

Introduction :

Impact of Sibling birth order on perceived social support

The influence of sibling birth order on an individual's psychological development and social experiences has been a subject of scholarly debate for decades. Birth order theory, initially introduced by Alfred Adler (1927), postulates that an individual's position within the family hierarchy profoundly impacts personality formation, behavioral tendencies, and social interactions. Firstborns are often characterized as responsible and achievement-oriented, middle children as adaptable and socially skilled, and last-borns as outgoing and attention-seeking, while only children develop unique traits due to the absence of sibling competition. These distinct characteristics inevitably shape an individual's perception and reliance on social support from family and peers, influencing their emotional well-being and resilience.

Social support, defined as the availability of emotional, instrumental, and informational assistance from one's social network, plays a crucial role in mitigating stress and enhancing psychological stability (Cohen & Wills, 1985). Research suggests that individuals with strong familial and peer support systems exhibit greater self-esteem, better coping mechanisms, and lower susceptibility to mental health challenges (Sarason et al., 1990). However, the extent to which birth order influences perceived social support remains an area requiring deeper exploration. Firstborns, often raised with greater parental expectations, may experience a strong sense of responsibility but also a heightened pressure that affects their perceived support. Middle children, frequently navigating a balance between elder and younger siblings, may develop strong peer attachments as a compensatory mechanism. In contrast, last-borns, typically receiving more parental attention, might perceive familial support more positively but rely less on external social networks.

The perception of social support is not solely determined by birth order but is also shaped by the nature of familial attachment and peer relationships. Attachment theory (Bowlby, 1969) suggests that secure parental attachment fosters confidence in seeking and accepting social support, whereas insecure attachment may lead to withdrawal or over-dependence on external networks. Given the intersection of birth order and attachment styles, it becomes imperative to assess how these factors collectively influence an individual's social support perception. While several studies have examined sibling dynamics and attachment patterns separately, a comprehensive analysis integrating both factors remains scarce. In contemporary society, where evolving family structures and shifting social paradigms redefine interpersonal relationships, understanding the impact of birth order on social support perception holds practical implications. This study seeks to bridge the gap in literature by systematically analyzing the correlation between sibling birth order and perceived social support, thereby contributing to developmental psychology, social support theory, and family studies. By exploring these intricate relationships, the research aims to provide valuable insights that can inform parenting strategies, mental health interventions, and social development programs aimed at fostering stronger and more supportive familial and peer networks.

Impact of family-peer attachment on perceived social support

Family and peer attachment play a pivotal role in shaping an individual's perception of social support, influencing their emotional well-being, social competence, and psychological resilience. Attachment theory, first introduced by Bowlby (1969), posits that early relationships with caregivers form the foundation for future interpersonal bonds, impacting how individuals seek, interpret, and respond to social support. Secure familial attachment fosters a sense of emotional security, enhancing one's ability to navigate social interactions and form stable peer relationships. Conversely, insecure attachment may lead to difficulties in trust, reliance on external validation, or an aversion to seeking support altogether (Ainsworth et al., 1978). Given that social

support is a fundamental buffer against stress, anxiety, and mental health challenges (Cohen & Wills, 1985), understanding the intricate interplay between family and peer attachment is essential in assessing its perceived impact.

While family attachment provides the initial framework for emotional security, peer relationships become increasingly significant, particularly during adolescence and adulthood. Peers serve as alternative support systems, compensating for familial deficiencies and reinforcing social connectedness (Rubin et al., 1998). The strength and nature of peer attachment are often contingent on early family dynamics, as securely attached individuals are more likely to form healthy, reciprocal peer relationships. In contrast, those with insecure family attachment may either over-rely on peers for emotional support or struggle with forming meaningful connections. The balance between family and peer attachment in shaping perceived social support is, therefore, a critical aspect of social development.

Despite extensive research on attachment theory and social support models, the interaction between family and peer attachment in determining perceived social support remains underexplored. While some individuals derive their primary support from familial bonds, others rely more on peer networks due to varying attachment styles, socio-cultural contexts, and personal experiences. Understanding these dynamics is particularly relevant in today's rapidly evolving social landscape, where traditional family structures are shifting, and peer relationships are increasingly mediated through digital and social platforms.

This study aims to examine the impact of family and peer attachment on perceived social support, offering insights into the psychological and social mechanisms that govern support-seeking behaviors. By investigating the extent to which secure and insecure attachments influence perceived social support from different sources, this research contributes to the broader discourse on emotional well-being, interpersonal relationships, and social adaptation. The findings hold practical implications for mental health professionals, educators, and policymakers in designing interventions that strengthen both family and peer-based support systems, ultimately fostering greater emotional resilience and social stability.

Objective of the study :

To Examine the Influence of Sibling Birth Order on Perceived Social Support

To Investigate the Role of Family-Peer Attachment in Shaping Social Support Perception

To Analyze the Interplay Between Birth Order and Family-Peer Attachment in Social Support Dynamics

To Assess the Psychological and Social Implications of Perceived Social Support Based on Birth Order

To Provide Empirical Insights for Enhancing Support Mechanisms Across Birth Order and Attachment Variations

Scope of the study

The scope of this study encompasses a multidimensional analysis of the impact of sibling birth order and family-peer attachment on perceived social support, with a particular focus on understanding the psychological, emotional, and social ramifications of these factors. This research extends across various demographic groups, considering individuals from diverse familial structures, cultural backgrounds, and social settings to provide a comprehensive perspective on how birth order shapes support-seeking tendencies and emotional reliance. It explores both the direct and indirect influences of familial positioning on attachment styles and examines how peer relationships either reinforce or compensate for familial support deficiencies. Furthermore, the study delves into variations across different age groups, socioeconomic backgrounds, and interpersonal environments, ensuring a holistic evaluation of social support perception. By integrating theoretical frameworks from attachment theory, birth order theory, and social support models, this research establishes a robust foundation for practical applications in psychological counseling, educational interventions, and family dynamics improvement strategies. The findings of this study have far-reaching implications, offering valuable insights to parents, educators, mental health professionals, and policymakers in fostering more effective support mechanisms that enhance emotional well-being, resilience, and social integration across varying birth order positions and attachment experiences.

Significance of the study

This study holds profound significance in the realms of developmental psychology, social support theory, and interpersonal relationship dynamics, as it seeks to elucidate the intricate interplay between sibling birth order, family-peer attachment, and perceived social support. By comprehensively examining these variables, the research aims to provide deeper insights into how familial positioning influences an individual's emotional resilience, support-seeking behaviors, and overall psychosocial development. Understanding these relationships is crucial for parents, educators, mental health professionals, and policymakers in designing interventions that foster stronger familial bonds and peer networks, ultimately enhancing emotional well-being and social adaptability. Additionally, this study contributes to the broader discourse on attachment theory by highlighting the compensatory or reinforcing role of peer relationships in shaping perceived social support, particularly in contexts where familial attachment may be inadequate or strained. In an era where social structures are rapidly evolving, with shifting family dynamics and increased reliance on peer networks, this research offers invaluable empirical insights that can inform counseling practices, educational frameworks, and social policies aimed at strengthening support systems. By bridging theoretical gaps and providing practical applications, this study serves as a foundational framework for fostering healthier, more resilient social relationships across different birth order positions and attachment style

Siblings birth order :

Ooi B. K. (2019), This study examined the long-standing question of whether a person's position among siblings has a lasting impact on that person's personality randomly. A total of 120 participants collected data is based on a questionnaire which was answered by the respondents. Thirty firstborns, thirty middle children, thirty lastborn, and thirty only children were recruited into this study by random sampling. The data analysis use a Spearman's

correlation test and Chi-Square test. Their personality was assessed by Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Personality Test (MBTI). Results indicated that the personality types vary among the participants. Participants of different birth orders did not differ significantly in personality overall. However, Spearman's correlation showed that birth order was correlated positively only with Sensing/Intuition personality with $r = -0.221$. It showed that the lower the order of birth, the more intuitive the person will be.

Adwait Murti, Dr. Nisha Kumari (2024), The purpose of the research is to find the correlation between birth order, attachment styles, and inferiority complex, to determine the degree of influence of each of the 3 variables. 85 participants were chosen between the ages of 18-25, they completed measures assessing birth order, attachment styles, and feelings of inferiority. Results revealed a significant positive correlation between birth order and attachment styles ($r = 0.340$, $p < 0.01$) and a strong positive correlation between birth order and the development of an inferiority complex ($r = 0.480$, $p < 0.01$). Significant positive correlation was found between attachment styles and inferiority complex ($r = 0.276$, $p < 0.01$). These findings suggest that individuals' ordinal position within the sibling hierarchy influences their attachment orientations and susceptibility to feelings of inadequacy or inferiority. Birth order and inferiority complex exert moderate influence on attachment styles.

Miss Kaizyn P. Vaghchipawala (2023), This research study aims to investigate the comparison between birth order and personality trait. The study will compare personality trait of individuals based on their birth order position (i.e., first born, middle born, last born and only born). The sample will consist of 320 participants with 80 participants (40 males and 40 females) in each birth order group. Participants will be required to complete a personality questionnaire that measures the Big Five personality traits (i.e., openness to experience, conscientiousness, extroversion, agreeableness and neuroticism). The study will use a quantitative research design, and data will be analysed using descriptive statistics and analysis of variance (ANOVA). The findings of this study are expected to contribute to the understanding of the role of birth order in shaping personality development.

Susan M. McHale, Kimberly A. Updegraff (2014), The authors review the literature on sibling relationships in childhood and adolescence, starting by tracing themes from foundational research and theory and then focusing on empirical research during the past 2 decades. This literature documents siblings' centrality in family life, sources of variation in sibling relationship qualities, and the significance of siblings for child and adolescent development and adjustment. Sibling influences emerge not only in the context of siblings' frequent and often emotionally intense interactions but also by virtue of siblings' role in larger family system dynamics. Although siblings are building blocks of family structure and key players in family dynamics, their role has been relatively neglected by family scholars and by those who study close relationships. Incorporating study of siblings into family research provides novel insights into the operation of families as social and socializing systems

Sharon Johnson (2014), This study aims to investigate the controversial concept of birth order and its effects on personality, self-esteem and satisfaction with life between 18-40 years of age and over 40 years of age. Participants ($n=200$) completed online questionnaires measuring birth order, personality, self-esteem, satisfaction with life and age. Correlations examined relationships between personality, satisfaction with life and self-esteem. ANOVA's tested differences between birth order and personality and birth order, personality, self-esteem and satisfaction with life between ages. Satisfaction with life positively correlated with extraversion and self-esteem, and negatively associated with neuroticism. Last-borns scored significantly higher on openness to experience than middle-borns. No age differences were found between all variables. Differences were found between birth order and openness to experience. Satisfaction with life was positively correlated with extraversion and self-esteem, and negatively associated with neuroticism. Findings will be contributable to lifespan developmental psychology.

Family-peer attachment

Gozde Nglufer (2016), The aim of the current study was to investigate the relationship between birth order, perceived parenting styles, and early maladaptive schemas. We aimed to investigate differences in schema domains and perceived parenting styles based on birth order status of individuals. For this purpose, 294 individuals participated in the study. They were between the ages of 18 and 30. Only participants whose parents were still married were included in the study. Also, participants were excluded if their parents had died and if they have adopted siblings. We conducted MANOVA analysis in order to figure out the differences in schema domains based on birth order; however, we could not support our hypothesis that firstborn and lastborn siblings differ in their schema domains. However, we found that lastborn siblings considered their mothers as more overprotective and anxious compared to firstborn siblings. Fathers' parenting style did not differ according to birth order. Finally, through regression analyses, we explored other predictor variables of schema domains. According to results, negative parenting styles significantly predicted schema domains. Both mothers' and fathers' style predicted Disconnection, Impaired Autonomy, and Impaired Limits. However, only parenting style of mothers predicted Other Directedness and High Standards schema domains. There were also some demographic variables that predicted schema domains. Males and younger people had higher Disconnection schema domain. Younger people also had higher Impaired Autonomy domain. Individuals with low education mother had higher Other Directedness domain. Finally, females and younger people had higher Unrelenting Standards schema domain.

Arti Kumari (2020), The present study examine birth order differences in adolescents' perceptions of parent-adolescent relationship from four different social classes (Class I, Class II, Class III, and Class IV) of G.B Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand. Forty adolescents were randomly selected as respondents from each social class of families making a total of 160 respondents for the analyzing birth order differences in adolescents' perceptions of parent-adolescent relationship among families of G.B.P.U.A. &T., pantnagar. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) revealed that adolescent having first born or second born or third born showed high significant difference in protecting, symbolic punishment, demanding, symbolic and object reward domains of relationship with both mother's and father's among class I and class II as compared to class III and IV. Whereas, rejecting, object punishment, indifferent and neglecting among birth order of class III and class IV have high level of significant difference.

Ronan Burke (2008), This review examines studies on the impact of parenting on the development of children's sibling relationships. The studies link several parenting factors to sibling relationship development. The main findings are that differential parenting, marital discord and the expression of emotion through anger or depression can have an adverse impact on siblings. However, most of the research is primarily correlational and the causal factors involved in the nature of sibling interactions are both nuanced and complex. Researchers have used two main theoretical models, social learning theory and attachment to explain their findings. However, generalisability is weakened by a lack of diversity in the samples with white middle class participants predominant. More recent studies have examined bi-directional processes, the role of the wider system and the influence of a developmental psychopathology framework in understanding the nature of parental influence.

Thomas V. Pollet & Daniel Nettle (2009), Although middleborn college students commonly report worse family relationships than other birth orders, it is unknown whether this effect persists into adulthood. Therefore, we investigated the effect of birth order on self-reported family and friend relationships among a large sample of Dutch adults ($n = 794$). Middleborns did not differ from other birth orders in relationships with their father, mother, sibling or close friend. Middleborns do not prefer a friend over their father, mother or sibling more than other birth orders. Evidence for a "neglected middleborn effect" appeared only in a within family design for siblings. Firstborns were more likely to report very good sibling relationships and preferred a sibling over a friend. The results are discussed in terms of kin competition and inclusive fitness.

Daffnie Chinnappan, Vignanth Babu K G (2023), The study aimed at finding the role of attachment styles, perceived social support, and homesickness and among outstation students along with gender differences. A sample of 297 outstation students participated in the study. The Revised Adult attachment scale, Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support and the Utrecht Homesickness scale are used to assess the variables. Statistical packages for social sciences (SPSS) were used to analyse the data. The findings indicated that there is a significant negative correlation and positive between the dimensions of perceived social support and homesickness. It was also found that female out station students experienced higher levels of homesickness in comparison to male outstation students. The present research findings can enhance helping out-station or international student's psychological well-being. Educational schools can offer tools and assistance to aid students in creating more secure attachment patterns, such as peer support groups. Interventions can also be created to assist students in learning how to cope with grief, especially for those who might be more susceptible because of their attachment style.

Social support

Kerem Coşkun, Özkan Çikrikci & Yavuz Topkaya (2017), This article seeks to develop a theory about the importance of peer relationship among the oldest of the youngest children who have finished preschool education and already started primary school. In the study, observation was employed to collect data from 22 children. The data were analysed through the grounded theory approach, in which data are dealt with inductively. In the data analysis, written-up observations were processed with open coding, axial coding and selective coding. As a result of the data analysis, we argue that only children are inclined to get approval from their peers to extend their social interest and remain unresponsive; the youngest siblings compete for the teacher's interest and are inclined to attract attention and remain unresponsive due to acceptance difference; the oldest siblings conceive attracting attention as a way of compensating for loss of family interest.

Adrienne Iva Anderson (2013), The present study examined perceived social support from siblings as a predictor of adjustment to college. The transition from high school to college can be a distressing time for some if stressors and new challenges are not addressed adaptively. Perceived social support has been identified as an important resource for adjustment to college. Family support has specifically been studied; however, most of the research has examined support from parents. The sibling relationship is a less-studied dyad of the family. To our knowledge, there has been minimal research on how siblings help one another with transitions through life, specifically the transition into college. This study extended research on perceived social support by examining the sibling relationship. We also examined perceived social support from parents in order to see if this relationship was additive or whether one relationship, sibling or parent, fosters better adjustment. Results indicated that there was no significant relationship between perceived social support from a sibling and adjustment to college. However, social support from a sibling was related to a stronger relationship with that sibling

Muskan Abbi, Dr. Mamata Mahapatra (2023), This research study explores the impact of sibling relationships on the social competence and emotional competence of individuals. The importance of social competence and emotional competence in an individual's life has been established in the literature, and the study aims to understand how sibling relationships can influence these competencies in an Indian context. The researchers collected data from 200 young adults in the age range of 20 to 30, both male and female, using three scales – Emotional Competence Scale, Social Competence Scale, and The Sibling Relationship Questionnaire. The exclusion criteria for the study were individuals who did not fall within the age range or were single children. The results of the study showed a significant correlation between sibling relationships, social competence, and emotional competence. The data indicated a strong relationship between sibling relationships and social competence ($r = -0.203$) as well as emotional competence ($r = 0.210$). Sibling relationships provide individuals with opportunities to develop social norms, communication, cooperation, and conflict-resolution skills. Moreover, it helps in developing empathy and emotion regulation techniques. The study has significant implications for future research. The impact of sibling relationships on social and emotional competence can be studied based on gender, economic status, and birth order. Furthermore, sibling relationships can be explored in the virtual world as people are frequently engaged on social media.

Dr. Anthony N. Molesy (2022), This article examines the role sibling position (birth order) plays in the development of social skills. It was realized that first borns perceive themselves as being treated differently from later children, are accustomed to being the centre of attention and tend to be high achievers. Last borns are perceived to be creative, outgoing, extraverted, disobedient and tend to resist the authority of the bigger siblings. They exhibit interpersonal skills but have an abnormally strong feeling of inferiority as result of being over pampered by their seniors. Only children are not independent and have difficulty in delaying gratification. They demand much love from their partners with unwillingness to reciprocate. They are also most often self-

centred, maladjusted, unlikable, anxious and dependent on others. The degree to which people tend to relate and communicate with others is influenced to some extent by their birth order.

Maya Rathnasabapathy (2018), This study attempts to examine the impact of number of siblings and order of birth on Psycho-social behaviour among Adolescents girls. The group consisted of 1218 adolescents girls in the age group of 13-18 years selected by convenient sampling method. Twelve Government schools were selected from twelve districts of Tamil Nadu. The results found that there is a significant difference between number of siblings and order of birth across the psychological and social factors such as emotional intelligence, resilience, stress, family environment, school problem, social problem and personal problems

Stephanie I. Kim (2012), This qualitative study explored East Asian and European American/Caucasian college students' perspectives of sibling relationships and birth status in relation to achievement drive, self-confidence, responsibility, family communication, and social support. Based upon previous findings on birth status and East Asian cultural values which heavily emphasize family hierarchy, East Asians were expected to show more distinct birth status patterns than Europeans. A total of 77 university students were interviewed by the principal investigator, and 48 interviews were randomly selected for qualitative analysis. Results showed that East Asians were more likely than Europeans to view their ethnicity as a factor that affected personality and family variables. Although the ethnic groups were similar in the levels of self-reported achievement drive, self-confidence, responsibility, family communication, and social support, more East Asians than Europeans perceived their ethnicity as influencing these variables. Birth status patterns of the two groups were generally similar, although they differed in relation to sense of responsibility for sibling(s) and parents

Christina R. Rogers (2017), This study investigated sibling support as a family resource in predicting school commitment across 7th-10th grade using a sample of 444 adolescents (Mages = 12.61, 13.59, 14.59, 15.58 years). Results showed that sibling support linearly increased and school commitment decreased and stabilized, independently, over time. Sibling support positively predicted school commitment in seventh grade and across time, suggesting that having supportive siblings may help to offset adolescents' declines in school commitment. Furthermore, having a brother enhanced this association versus having a sister. These findings provide insight into ways to help youth maintain school commitment across the middle- to high school transition.

Melody Zhang, Ziyu Wang (2021), This study examined the association between perceived family support and bullying behaviours among Canadian early adolescents and sought to identify the extent to which perceived family support would be comparable to perceived peer support. Adolescent gender and age were controlled to account for potential gender and age differences. Participants included students in grades 4 to 7 (N = 312) who completed measures of perceived social support from peers and family, and bullying behaviours. Hierarchical multiple regression analyses indicated that perceived family support had a significant, negative association with bullying behaviours among early adolescents. Moreover, perceived family support was found to be more significantly associated with bullying behaviours than perceived peer support. Findings corroborate the importance of perceived social support among early adolescents and emphasize a need to not only examine how perceived social support is associated with bullying behaviours, but to account for the significant role of the family during the early adolescence period.

Tiffany N. White (2009), The present study examined the relationships among perceived social support, mental health, and achievement in early adolescents, via analysis of an archival data set consisting of 390 middle school students. Specifically of interest was how various sources of social support (i.e., parent, classmate, and teacher) independently and uniquely predicted pathology (i.e., internalizing and externalizing symptoms) and wellness (i.e., life satisfaction) in youth. This study also examined the role of gender in the relationship between social support and mental health outcomes in order to delineate the specific types of support most salient to boys versus girls. Finally, this study explored the protective nature of high student academic achievement in the relationship between social support and mental health in order to determine if academic achievement moderated the relationship between social support and mental health. Results indicated that social support from all sources was inversely associated with both internalizing and externalizing problems, and associated in a positive manner with life satisfaction and achievement. Social support was a significant predictor of all mental health outcomes, with social support and life satisfaction evidencing the strongest relationship. The strength and magnitude of the associations between perceived support from various sources and student mental health were consistent across gender groups, evidencing no moderating effect.

METHODOLOGY :

AIM:

The aim of this study is to explore the impact of sibling birth order and family-peer attachment on individuals' perceived social support, examining how these factors may influence the level of support they feel they receive from their family and peer networks.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the relationship between sibling birth order (first-born and last-born) and perceived social support.
- To assess the role of family-peer attachment in influencing perceived social support.
- To investigate how different sibling birth orders affect the quality of family and peer attachment.
- To determine the combined effect of sibling birth order and family-peer attachment on perceived social support.
- Identify any differences in perceived social support across varying levels of family-peer attachment and sibling birth order.

HYPOTHESES

- H1: There is no significant relationship between siblings birth order and family attachment on perceived social support.
- H2: There is no significant relationship between siblings birth order and peer attachment on perceived social support.

RESEARCH DESIGN:

This study will employ a cross-sectional quantitative design to explore the relationships between sibling birth order, family-peer attachment, and perceived social support. The design will allow for the analysis of these factors at a single point in time and how they influence one another.

SAMPLE AND SAMPLE TECHNIQUES:

- Population: The study will target early adolescents aged 9 to 15.
- Sample size: The sample size will consist of 250 early adolescents to ensure the results are statistically reliable and have sufficient power for analysis.

SAMPLE TECHNIQUE:

Convenience sampling will be used to recruit participants from accessible groups like university students, youth programs, and social media platforms. This method efficiently collects data from early adolescents (9 to 15 years) with diverse sibling birth orders and family-peer attachment experiences.

INCLUSION CRITERIA:

Age: Participants must be between 9 to 15 years old.

Sibling Status: Participants must have at least one sibling (to allow for analysis based on birth order).

Family-Peer Attachment: Participants must report having family (e.g., parents or guardians) and peer (e.g., friends) relationships that they can evaluate in terms of attachment and support.

Informed Consent: Participants must provide informed consent before participating in the study.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA:

No Siblings: Participants who do not have siblings will be excluded, as the study specifically examines sibling birth order.

Age Outside of Range: Participants outside the age range of 9 to 15 years will be excluded.

Incomplete Responses: Participants who fail to complete key sections of the survey (e.g., birth order, attachment scales, or social support measures) will be excluded from analysis.

Non-English Speakers: If the survey is conducted in English, non-English speakers will be excluded unless translated versions are provided.

No Family-Peer Attachment: Participants who report no significant family or peer attachments will be excluded, as the study focuses on individuals with family and peer relationships.

VARIABLE:

- INDEPENDENT VARIABLE: Family-Peer Attachment
- DEPENDENT VARIABLES: Perceived Social Support

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS :**Descriptive statistics:**

Begin by summarizing the data using means, standard deviations, frequencies, and other descriptive statistics for birth order, family attachment, peer attachment, and perceived social support.

Correlation Analysis:

Use Pearson's correlation to explore relationships between family and peer attachment with perceived social support.

T-test.**TOOL USED :**

Inventory of peer and family attachment revised scale

Multi dimensional scale of perceived social support (mspss)

TOOL DESCRIPTION:

The IPPA-R is divided into three subscales:

Attachment to Mother

Attachment to Father

Attachment to Peer

Each subscale typically consists of 25 items (though this can vary slightly depending on the version) that are rated on a Likert scale from 1 (Almost never or never true) to 5 (Almost always or always true).

TO SCORE THE IPPA-R:

Reverse scoring: may be required for some negatively-worded items.

Sum the scores for each subscale to get a total score for each attachment domain (Mother, Father, and Peer)

Higher scores generally indicate stronger perceived attachment.

MSPSS Scoring Key

The MSPSS measures perceived social support in three domains:

Support from Family

Support from Friends

Support from a Significant Other

Each subscale has 4 items, rated on a Likert scale from 1 (Very strongly disagree) to 7 (Very strongly agree).

To score the MSPSS:

Sum the scores for each subscale.

The possible range for each subscale score is from 4 to 28 (4 items x 7 rating points).

Higher scores indicate higher perceived social support in each domain.

Interpreting the Scores

For both instruments, higher scores typically reflect more positive attachment or social support, while lower scores indicate more difficulties in those areas.

The IPPA-R focuses on attachment to key figures (family and peers), and the MSPSS focuses on the availability of social support.

CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION:

Peer and family attachment refers to the emotional bond, closeness, and sense of security that individuals feel in their relationships with family members and peers. It encompasses feelings of trust, understanding, and mutual care within these relationships, which can influence psychological development and well-being. Attachment to family and peers is central to social and emotional functioning, and it plays a significant role in shaping an individual's sense of identity and security.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION:

Peer and family attachment can be measured using self-report questionnaires that assess the quality of emotional bonds with family members (mother, father, siblings) and peers (friends). These tools may ask individuals to rate items regarding the degree of trust, communication, and emotional closeness they feel with these key figures in their lives. For instance, attachment to family may be assessed by asking how often a person feels understood or supported by their family members, while attachment to peers could be gauged by how connected or supported they feel by their friends.

CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION

Perceived social support refers to an individual's belief or perception that they have access to supportive relationships that provide emotional, instrumental, and informational support when needed. It is not about the actual level of support received, but rather how much an individual feels they are supported by family, friends, or other significant people in their social network. Perceived social support is critical for mental and emotional well-being, as it influences coping strategies and resilience in the face of stress.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION:

Perceived social support can be assessed through self-report scales that measure the extent to which individuals feel they have reliable and caring people available to them in times of need. For example, the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) asks participants to rate the degree to which they feel supported by family, friends, and significant others on a Likert scale. Items might include questions like "I get the emotional help and support I need from my family" or "I can count on my friends when I need them." The higher the score, the greater the perceived social support.

Result and conclusion :

First born : table 1:

In this sample of 125 firstborn individuals, 77 (62%) are male, and 48 (38%) are female. The gender distribution reveals a noticeable male bias among firstborns, with a higher proportion of males than females. The percentage of male firstborns is significantly higher than the female proportion, suggesting that, in this particular sample, there may be a tendency for more male children to be born first. However, it's important to consider that this result could be influenced by random variation or specific demographic factors. In larger, more diverse populations, the distribution of firstborns by gender is typically expected to be roughly equal, or close to 50/50, as there are no inherent biological reasons that would favor one gender over the other in the position of firstborn. Further analysis and larger sample sizes would be required to draw definitive conclusions about any potential patterns or trends in firstborn gender distribution.

Second born Table 2 :

Out of a total of 125 lastborn individuals, 81 (65%) are male, while 44 (35%) are female.

This indicates a higher proportion of males compared to females among the lastborn group. The gender distribution shows a significant skew towards males, with more than twice as many male lastborn as female lastborn.

The result suggests a notable gender imbalance in the distribution of lastborn, with a higher representation of males (65%) compared to females (35%). Several factors could explain this phenomenon, including cultural or familial preferences for a specific gender, demographic trends, or even random chance. However, it's important to note that this gender distribution is not necessarily reflective of the general population, and the sample size may influence the observed proportions.

Table 3 : (CORRELATION)

Relationship between Firstborn family & peer attachment and the Perceived Social Support

The Pearson correlation analysis found a weak negative correlation (-0.078) between firstborns' family and peer attachment and their perceived social support. However, the correlation was not statistically significant, as the p-value was 0.385, which exceeds the conventional threshold of 0.05. This suggests that there is no reliable or meaningful relationship between family and peer attachment and perceived social support among firstborns.

The lack of statistical significance in this analysis implies that variations in family and peer attachment do not substantially affect firstborns' perceptions of their social support. While a slight negative correlation was observed, its magnitude is too small to indicate a practical or impactful relationship. It is possible that other factors, such as individual personality traits or external circumstances, might play a more significant role in shaping social support for firstborns. Future research could explore additional variables or use larger sample sizes to better understand the dynamics between family attachment and perceived social support.

Table 4

Relationship between Lastborn family & Peer attachment and the Perceived Social Support

The Pearson correlation analysis reveals a very weak negative correlation of -0.020 between lastborns' family and peer attachment and their perceived social support. This indicates that there is almost no relationship between the attachment lastborns have with their family and peers and how they perceive their social support. The correlation value suggests that as attachment levels either increase or decrease, there is virtually no impact on perceived social support. Moreover, the p-value of 0.821 further emphasizes the lack of statistical significance, meaning that the observed correlation is likely due to chance rather than a true relationship. Consequently, this result implies that for lastborns, the strength of attachment to family and peers does not significantly influence their perception of social support. Therefore, other factors, beyond family and peer attachment, may be more important in shaping how lastborns perceive and experience social support.

T TEST (Table 5)

Relationship between Firstborn family & peer attachment and the Perceived Social Support

The paired samples t-test results indicate a statistically significant difference between firstborns' family and peer attachment and their perceived social support, with $t(124) = 11.832$ and $p < 0.001$. This suggests that the attachment to family and peers is significantly different from the perceived social support levels among firstborns. The negative mean difference of -0.47608 implies that firstborns tend to perceive lower social support in comparison to the strength of their family and peer attachment. This finding highlights that, despite having strong attachments with family and peers, firstborns may feel less supported socially, which could reflect challenges in social integration or a perceived lack of external resources. The significant negative difference emphasizes the importance of considering the complex relationship between attachment and social support, suggesting that stronger familial and peer connections do not necessarily translate into higher perceived support from these networks for firstborns.

Table 6

Relationship between Lastborn family & peer attachment and the Perceived Social Support

The paired samples t-test results indicate a significant difference between lastborns' family and peer attachment and their perceived social support, with $t(124) = -16.212$ and $p < 0.001$. This shows that lastborns' attachment to family and peers differs significantly from their perceived social support levels. The negative mean difference of -0.55163 suggests that lastborns perceive lower social support compared to their attachment levels. Despite having strong family and peer attachments, lastborns report feeling less supported in social contexts, which may indicate difficulties in perceiving external support or a gap between their emotional connections and actual social resources. The significant negative difference underscores the complexity of social relationships for lastborns, as strong attachment bonds do not necessarily translate to higher levels of perceived social support. This finding highlights the need for further exploration of how attachment influences social support perceptions in lastborns, potentially influencing their social well-being.

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TABLES :

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Gender – First Born

Table 1: Gender – First Born

S. No.	Gender – First Born	No. of Respondents	% Of Respondents
1	Male	77	62
2	Female	48	38
	Total	125	100

Interpretation

The distribution of firstborns by gender shows that out of 125 individuals, 77 (62%) are male, while 48 (38%) are female.

Gender – Last Born

Table 2: Gender – Last Born

S. No.	Gender – Last Born	No. of Respondents	% Of Respondents
1	Male	81	65
2	Female	44	35
	Total	125	100

Interpretation

The distribution of lastborns by gender shows that out of 125 individuals, 81 (65%) are male, while 44 (35%) are female.

Correlation

First Born - Family & Peer attachment and Perceived Social Support

Table 3: Relationship between Firstborn family & peer attachment and the Perceived Social Support

Descriptive Statistics			
	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
First born Family & Peer Attachment	4.1979	.14819	125
Firstbornperceivedsocialsupport	4.6740	.41329	125

Correlations			
		First born Family & Peer Attachment	Firstbornperceivedsocialsupport
First born Family & Peer Attachment	Pearson Correlation	1	-.078
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.385
	N	125	125
Firstbornperceivedsocialsupport	Pearson Correlation	-.078	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.385	

	N	125	125
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Interpretation

The Pearson correlation analysis reveals a weak negative correlation (-0.078) between firstborns' family and peer attachment and their perceived social support, but this relationship is not statistically significant (p = 0.385). This indicates that variations in family and peer attachment among firstborns do not meaningfully influence their perceived social support.

Last Born - Family & Peer attachment and Perceived Social Support

Table 4: Relationship between Lastborn family& Peer attachment and the Perceived Social Support

Descriptive Statistics			
	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Last born Family & Peer Attachment	4.1150	.15574	125
Lastbornperceivedsocialsupport	4.6667	.34392	125

Correlations			
		Last born Family & Peer Attachment	Lastbornperceivedsocialsupport
Last born Family & Peer Attachment	Pearson Correlation	1	-.020
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.821
	N	125	125
Lastbornperceivedsocialsupport	Pearson Correlation	-.020	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.821	
	N	125	125

Interpretation

The Pearson correlation analysis shows a very weak negative correlation (-0.020) between lastborns' family and peer attachment and their perceived social support, with a p-value of 0.821, indicating no statistical significance. This suggests that the level of attachment lastborns have with family and peers has no meaningful impact on their perception of social support.

T-Test

First Born - Family & Peer attachment and Perceived Social Support

Table 5: Relationship between Firstborn family & peer attachment and the Perceived Social Support

Paired Samples Statistics					
		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	First born Family & Peer Attachment	4.1979	125	.14819	.01325
	Firstbornperceivedsocialsupport	4.6740	125	.41329	.03697

Paired Samples Test									
		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	First born Family & Peer Attachment - Firstbornperceivedsocial support	-.47608	.44985	.04024	-.55572	-.39644	-11.832	124	.000

Interpretation

The paired samples t-test indicates a significant difference between firstborns' family and peer attachment and their perceived social support (t = -11.832, df = 124, p < 0.001). The negative mean difference (-0.47608) suggests that firstborns perceive lower social support compared to their level of family and peer attachment.

Last Born - Family & Peer attachment and Perceived Social Support

Table 6: Relationship between Lastborn family & peer attachment and the Perceived Social Support

Paired Samples Statistics					
		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	Last born Family & Peer Attachement	4.1150	125	.15574	.01393
	Lastbornperceivedsocialsupport	4.6667	125	.34392	.03076

Paired Samples Test									
		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Last born Family & Peer Attachment - Lastbornperceivedsocialsupport	-.55163	.38043	.03403	-.61897	-.48428	-16.212	124	.000

Interpretation

The paired samples t-test reveals a significant difference between lastborns' family and peer attachment and their perceived social support ($t = -16.212$, $df = 124$, $p < 0.001$). The negative mean difference (-0.55163) suggests that lastborns perceive lower social support compared to their level of family and peer attachment.

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