

BIRTH ORDER AND PERSONALITY TRAITS AMONG UNDERGRADUATES

BY

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[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Birth Order and Personality Traits Among Undergraduates" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined birth order and personality traits among undergraduates, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of birth; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with birth and order. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model and the UTAUT. A sample size of 414 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 403 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.02). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.484$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 9.07, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.12$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on birth.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of birth order and personality traits among undergraduates is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

Few subjects attract as much policy interest in contemporary Nigeria as the question of birth. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of birth and order. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Adigun and Nwosu (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. A notable study by Osinachi and Nwosu (2017) argued that the impact of birth is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

In recent years, birth has emerged as a central theme in scholarly discourse on guidance and counselling. Economic pressures and resource scarcity frequently determine the pace at which birth advances in practice. Evidence assembled by Olawale and Bakare (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to birth. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. The aggregate picture emerging from Kalu and Aderemi (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between birth and the outcomes of interest. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Scholars have long recognised birth as a critical determinant of outcomes in guidance and counselling. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of birth are observed in their starkest form. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Kalu and Aderemi (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Dauda and Ekwueme (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding order. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

Debates on national transformation repeatedly return to the role of birth and its attendant dynamics. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of birth and order. The aggregate picture emerging from Eze and Adebayo (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between birth and the outcomes of interest. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in guidance and counselling. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by