

Original Research Article

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The Effects of Gender on Temperament of Twins in Khadar Zone, India

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ABSTRACT

Temperament refers to our inborn personality traits, which are genetic in nature. Gender is the range of characteristics pertaining to, and differentiating between, masculinity and femininity. Depending on the context, these characteristics may include biological sex, sex-based social structures, or gender identity. The present study was conducted in four districts namely; Hisar Fatehabad, Rohtak and Jind of Haryana state with the purpose of availability of maximum numbers of twins in the required age group. A sample of 296 pairs of twins in the age group for the study was chosen. Temperament was taken as dependent variable and gender was taken as independent variable. The Malhotra Temperament Schedule (MTS) developed by Malhotra and Malhotra (1988) was used to assess child's temperament. Result revealed that gender was significantly associated with emotionality ($\chi^2=5.44^*$), but non-significantly with sociability ($\chi^2=0.35$), energy ($\chi^2=0.16$), distractibility ($\chi^2=2.67$), rhythmicity ($\chi^2=0.19$), and total temperament ($\chi^2=1.03$) of twins. The results further revealed that the majority of male twins (29.8%) in low category of emotionality while as majority of female twins (82.1%) in high category of emotionality.

Keywords

Temperament,
Gender, Personality
traits, Twins,
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Introduction

Gender refers to the socially constructed characteristics of women and men- such as norms, roles and relationships of and between groups of women and men. It varies from society to society and can be changed. While most people are born either male or female, they are taught appropriate norms and behaviours- including how they should

interact with others of the same or opposite sex within households, communities and work places.

Temperament refers to our inborn personality traits, which are genetic in nature. The different ways infants interact with and react to their environment and experiences are reflective of their temperament, or behavioral style. All children have a temperament that

will influence their emotions and how they adapt to change in their environments (Steinberg, 2014).

Temperament defined as person emotional and behavioural modes of response to environmental events (Shaffer and Kipp, 2007). Temperamental characteristics indicate how children with many stresses may do well, while some with little or no stress have difficulty. While some children are mild and joyful, others are irritable.

Temperament is a recent and rapidly growing area in psychology as the role of temperament in influencing developmental pathways and outcomes has now been recognised. Extreme difficult temperament is often viewed as a risk factor for later behaviour problems (Hill, 2012).

Easy children are pleasant to care for and they may receive and give back plenty of affection and attention. The fussy, energetic and difficult child may cry and kick when given attention. As development unfolds, the fussy and difficult child may create problem to the caregiver and may receive less nurturance and affection. Temperament comprised of individual differences in reactivity, self-regulation, activity and attention that manifest themselves early in life through strong genetic or neurobiological basis. Syeda *et al.*, (2009) conducted that the differences between temperament of identical and fraternal twins due to their different environment, parents rearing practices and education do bring changes in their personalities.

The temperament possibly shaped by the prenatal environment and provides an opportunity to study the behavioral differences between pairs. Twin studies proposed that individual differences in temperament dimensions appeared during early childhood and those genetically influenced. Tellegen *et*

al., (2008) reported significant shared environmental influence on measures of two extraversion-related traits, Positive Emotionality and Social Closeness.

Twin Study suggest that individual differences in temperament, as measured at one age or another had different he pattern of changes that marked by genetically influences.

Objectives

To assess the effect of gender on temperament among twins in khadaar zone.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in four districts namely; Hisar Fatehabad, Rohtak and Jind of Haryana state with the purpose of availability of maximum numbers of twins in the required age group of 4 -10 years identified under UGC project of the department. A sample of 296 pairs of twins in the age group of 6 – 10 years will be taken. The dimensions of temperament will be assessed individually. A variable is the set of value that forms a classification. A value is anything which can be predicted. There were two types of variables in the study i.e. independent and dependent variable.

Temperament was taken as dependent and gender was taken as independent variable. The Malhotra Temperament Schedule (MTS) developed by Malhotra and Malhotra (1988) was used to assess child's temperament.

Results and Discussion

Associations of temperament of twins with gender in Khadar zone

Gender was significantly associated with emotionality ($\chi^2=5.44^*$), but nonsignificantly with sociability ($\chi^2=0.35$), energy ($\chi^2=0.16$),

distractibility ($\chi^2=2.67$), rhythmicity ($\chi^2=0.19$), and total temperament ($\chi^2=1.03$) of twins (Table 1). The results further revealed that the majority of male twins (29.8%) in low category of emotionality while as majority of female twins (82.1%) in high category of emotionality. It was concluded that there was no association of gender with all the variables of temperament in Bagar zone i.e., sociability,

emotionality, energy, distractibility, rhythmicity and total temperament of twins.

Gender was significantly associated with emotionality aspect of temperament. Walker *et al.*, (2001) also supported this association with investigation on temperament of preschool children as found that boys were more active, more distractible and less persistent than girls.

Table.1 Associations of temperament of twins with gender in Khadar zone

Variables	Temperament Scores			
	Khadar zone			
	Sociability			
Gender	Low	High	Total	χ^2
Boys	58	110	168	0.35
Girls	40	88	128	
Total	98	198	296	
	Emotionality			
Gender	Low	High	Total	χ^2
Boys	50	118	168	5.44*
Girls	23	105	128	
Total	73	223	296	
	Energy			
Gender	Low	High	Total	χ^2
Boys	54	114	168	0.16
Girls	43	85	128	
Total	97	199	296	
	Distractibility			
Gender	Low	High	Total	χ^2
Boys	51	117	168	2.67
Girls	28	100	128	
Total	79	217	296	
	Rhythmicity			
Gender	Low	High	Total	χ^2
Boys	38	130	168	0.19
Girls	27	101	128	
Total	65	231	296	
	Total Temperament			
Gender	Low	High	Total	χ^2
Boys	44	124	168	1.03
Girls	27	101	128	
Total	71	225	296	

*Significant at 5 % level of significance

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