

THE INFLUENCE OF BIRTH ORDER ON THE ATTACHMENT STYLE OF BLIS STUDENTS AT BESTLINK COLLEGE OF THE PHILIPPINES

ABSTRACT

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This study explores the potential relationship between birth order and attachment styles. Birth order refers to an individual's ordinal position within the family—such as firstborn, middle child, youngest, or only child—while attachment styles include secure, anxious, avoidant, and disorganized patterns of emotional bonding. The research aims to determine whether a significant correlation exists between these two variables. A correlational research design was employed, involving 106 Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS) students from Bestlink College of the Philippines. Participants were selected through purposive sampling to ensure alignment with the study's objectives. Data were collected using a researcher-developed and modified questionnaire, which assessed demographic information, personality traits, family dynamics, relational values, behaviors, and attachment styles. Among the respondents—predominantly female—the distribution of birth order revealed a higher proportion of middle children, followed by the youngest, firstborns, and only children. Personality assessments showed elevated scores in traits such as steadiness, influence, and conscientiousness, while dominance scored comparatively lower. This suggests a general tendency toward dependability and sociability rather than assertiveness. Within family settings, traditions and a sense of belonging were valued more highly than emotional expression and open communication. Interpersonal relationships were shaped by an emphasis on trust, communication, and appreciation. Notably, responsibility, accountability, and self-motivation emerged as the most prominent personal strengths, while emotional resilience appeared comparatively weaker. Regarding attachment styles, the secure pattern was most prevalent, with minor tendencies toward avoidant, anxious, and disorganized styles. A correlational analysis ($R = -0.01872$, $p = 0.849$) indicated no significant relationship between birth order and attachment style, thereby supporting the null hypothesis. The findings indicate that birth order does not significantly influence attachment styles among BLIS students at Bestlink College. Despite variations in birth order, the predominance of secure attachment styles suggests that other factors may play a more substantial role in emotional development. These results highlight the complexity of attachment theory and challenge common assumptions about the impact of familial positioning on psychological outcomes.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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