

A STUDY OF BIRTH ORDER AND BIG FIVE PERSONALITY  
THEORY AMONG MALAYSIAN UNDERGRADUATES

BY

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study aimed to discover the birth order effect on the Big Five Personality among Malaysian undergraduates. This research employs mixed-method approaches and 184 Malaysian undergraduates (65 firstborn, 56 middle born and 63 last born) participated through a survey, and 9 were interviewed. The aim of interviewing was to further on exploring the causes of sibling difference by arranging them into themes. The results showed that first born scored higher in Neuroticism, middle born scored higher in Conscientiousness and the last born scored higher in Extraversion, Agreeableness and Openness to Experience. However, the results of ANOVA showed no significant difference in the Big Five Personality for different sibling birth orders. Four themes were generated to explain the causes of sibling differences, which including family, personal experiences outside family setting, disorder and nature. This study supported no noticeable birth order effect on adult personality but sibling differences do occur in a family setting.