

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2018.709.401>

## The Role of Family Structure in Personality Development of Twins in Five Cultural Zones of Haryana, India

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### ABSTRACT

#### Keywords

Personality, Family type, Nuclear family, Joint family, Culture, Traits and behaviour

#### Article Info

##### Accepted:

24 August 2018

##### Available Online:

10 September 2018

The family is the most important primary group in a society. It is the simplest and the most elementary form of society. The family is profoundly important to the developmental, emotional and cognitive growth of a child. Personality is defined as the characteristic set of behaviors, cognitions, and emotional patterns that evolve from biological and environmental factors. A pair of 200 twins in the age group of 3-6 years from five cultural zones of state Haryana was taken. Two variables were taken for the study. Family type was taken as independent variable and personality was taken as dependent variable. A Five Factor Personality Questionnaire (Cathy, 2011) was used for assessing the personality traits of preschool twins. Results revealed that personality was not significant related to family type of child in Bagar ( $\chi^2=0.21$ ), Nardak ( $\chi^2=2.63$ ), Khadar ( $\chi^2=1.09$ ), Mewat ( $\chi^2=1.61$ ) and Ahirwal ( $\chi^2=1.21$ ) zones.

### Introduction

The family is the most important primary group in a society. It is the simplest and the most elementary form of society. The family as an institution is universal.

It is the most permanent and the most pervasive of all social institutions.

The family is profoundly important to the developmental, emotional and cognitive growth of a child. Family is the single most important influence in a child's life. From their first moments of life, children depend on parents and family to protect them and provide

for their needs. Parents and family form a child's first relationships.

The nuclear family is the traditional type of family structure. This family type consists of two parents and children. The nuclear family was long held in esteem by society as being the ideal in which to raise children.

Children in nuclear families receive strength and stability from the two-parent structure and generally have more opportunities due to the financial ease of two adults.

The joint family structure consists of two or more adults who are related, either by blood or

marriage, living in the same home. This family includes many relatives living together and working toward common goals, such as raising the children and keeping up with the household duties.

Many extended families include cousins, aunts or uncles and grandparents living together.

This type of family structure may form due to financial difficulties or because older relatives are unable to care for themselves alone. Extended families are becoming increasingly common all over the world.

Personality traits, which can be described as differences between individuals regarding their behavior, thoughts, and feelings, can be seen as relatively stable in different situations and over time (Specht *et al.*, 2014).

Personality is defined as the characteristic set of behaviors, cognitions, and emotional patterns that evolve from biological and environmental factors.

Personality traits are defined as the relatively enduring patterns of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that differentiate individuals from one another and are elicited in trait affording situations (Roberts, 2009). Personality has been approached in quite different ways by many theorists.

Freud proposed that personality development is dependent upon early childhood experiences and largely determined by age five (Carver and Scheier, 2008).

There is a well-known positive association between family type and children's development, including health and academic performance.

This relationship is a potentially importance factor in the intergenerational transmission of

socioeconomic status and has been shown to be a robust finding across countries and time periods.

## **Objectives**

The present study aim is to find out the effect of family type on personality traits of twins in five cultural zones.

## **Materials and Methods**

The study was conducted in five cultural zones of Haryana state namely Khadar, Bagar, Nardak, Mewat and Ahirwal. A pair of 200 twins (400 twins) in the age group of 3-6 years from different villages was assessed depending upon the availability of the twins were taken as sample. Two variables were taken for the study.

Father's education was taken as independent variable and personality was taken as dependent variable. A Five Factor Personality Questionnaire (Cathy, 2011) was used for assessing the personality traits of preschool twins.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Associations of personality of twins with family type in five cultural zones**

Table 1 presented the associations of personality was not significant related to family type of child in Bagar ( $\chi^2=0.21$ ), Nardak ( $\chi^2=2.63$ ), Khadar ( $\chi^2=1.09$ ), Mewat ( $\chi^2=1.61$ ) and Ahirwal ( $\chi^2=1.21$ ) zones.

It was concluded that Personality was significantly related to family type of twins. Pollet *et al.*, (2010) proposed that parents might be more strict and overprotective towards their first born children, than they children become more submissive in response and behaviors.

**Table.1** Associations of personality with family type in five cultural zones

Variables	Personality scores			
	Bagar			$\chi^2$
Family Type	Low	High	Total	
Nuclear	14(17.5)	129(15.0)	26(32.5)	0.21
Joint	32(40.0)	22(27.5)	54(67.5)	
Total	46(57.5)	34(42.5)	80(100.0)	
Nardak				
Family Type	Low	High	Total	$\chi^2$
Nuclear	13(16.2)	11(13.7)	24(30.0)	2.63
Joint	34(42.5)	22(27.5)	56(70.0)	
Total	47(58.7)	33(41.2)	80(100.0)	
Khadar				
Family Type	Low	High	Total	$\chi^2$
Nuclear	21(26.2)	17(21.2)	38(47.5)	1.09
Joint	28(35.0)	14(17.5)	42(52.5)	
Total	49(61.2)	31(38.7)	80(100.0)	
Mewat				
Family Type	Low	High	Total	$\chi^2$
Nuclear	17(21.2)	13(16.2)	30(37.5)	1.61
Joint	21(26.2)	29(36.2)	50(62.5)	
Total	38(47.5)	42(52.5)	80(100.0)	
Ahirwal				
Family Type	Low	High	Total	$\chi^2$
Nuclear	16(20.0)	20(25.0)	36(45.0)	1.21
Joint	25(31.2)	19(23.7)	44(55.0)	
Total	41(51.2)	39(48.7)	80(100.0)	

\*Significant at 5 % level of significance  
 Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

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**How to cite this article:**

Poonam Rani and Bimla Dhanda. 2018. The Role of Family Structure in Personality Development of Twins in Five Cultural Zones of Haryana, India. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci*. 7(09): 3226-3229. doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2018.709.401>