

## Abstract

This exploratory study examined the effects of birth order, subject sex and sibling's sex on 'General Self' self-esteem (SE) in undergraduates, using survey data collected from a questionnaire that included demographic data and the Coppersmith Self-Esteem Inventory (Form A). Eighty-one first-born and 81 second-born non-freshmen undergraduates between the ages of 19 and 23 from a two-child family with four members were selected out from a larger sample for this study. The data was analyzed through the use of correlation techniques and three factor analysis of variance (2 X 2 X 2 design). The results indicated (1) first-born males had a significant higher 'General Self' SE than second-born males and first-born females but did not differ statistically from second-born females. (2) 'General Self' SE did not differ significantly in first-born females and second-born females comparisons, as well as in first-born females with same-sex sibling and cross-sex sibling comparison. (3) second-born females with older brothers did not differ significantly in 'General Self' SE compared with participants from all other sibling combinations. The findings were explained according to the Uniqueness Theory and the Social Comparison Process.