



A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON ATTITUDES OF THE SIBLING TOWARDS THEIR MULTIPLE DISABLED BROTHER/SISTER

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INTRODUCTION

In most societies throughout the world, siblings grow up together and spend a good deal of time of their childhood socializing with one another. Sibling relationships are often longer than any other relationship within the family and it is there that the brothers and/or sisters develop self-identity, social skills, companionship within the family. Multiple disabled (MD) children, on the other hand, due to low intellectual growth, function with a limited capacity in comparison to normal children. Hence social functioning of these children is found to be affected and this is closely related to the degree of impairment. When a disabled child is born, there is an emotional and sometimes financial impact on the family.

Definition of Multiple Disabilities: According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's (IDEA), multiple disabilities refer to –concomitant [simultaneous] impairments (such as intellectual disability-blindness, intellectual disability-orthopedic impairment, etc.), the combination of which causes such severe educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in a special education program solely for one of the impairments.

Characteristics of Multiple disabilities:

- | Intellectual Functioning,
- | Adaptive Skills,
- | Motor Development,
- | Sensory Functioning and
- | Communications Skills.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The present study is significant in terms that it provides important insights concerning the non-disabled sibling's approach, indulgence, and understanding toward the individual with developmental disabilities. This will be beneficial towards the family with a member who has special needs to understand the other sibling's side, opinion, thoughts, and perception. This will have an important contribution to the following persons and groups in the society—

- | Siblings: they will get a better understanding of their attitude towards their MD brothers and/or sisters and their problems. It will bring harmony and lessen the feeling of isolation, rejection, or rivalry. Parents: They will be aware and correct the division of their attention to the children and will be able to know the other sibling's side about the situation.
- | Psychologists: it will help them to communicate, deal with, and serve with better understanding on the individual whether disabled or normal siblings.

- | Future researcher: it will serve as a guide and reference in conducting similar studies that would enable them to expand their knowledge and improve and develop other aspects related to this study that needs attention.

PURPOSEOFTHISSTUDY:-

- | Siblings are a very special part of the lives of many children. Siblings may acquire many of the social and cognitive skills which are intrinsic to social development in their interaction with each other (Furman & Buhrmester, 1985). Siblings are often motivated by each other to take risk and accept new challenges which will support increased mastery in motor and visual perceptual development. Siblings are oft motivated by each other to take a risk and accept new challenges which will support increased mastery motor and visual perceptual development. There has been increased research into the impact upon the children having a sibling with multiple disabled. The sibling relationship is unique in its permanency and therefore has a major influence on several aspects of personal development.

HYPOTHESIS:

- | There will be no significance difference between the attitudes of elder brother and younger brother of MR+VI
- | There will be no significant difference between the attitudes of elder sister and younger sister of MR+VI
- | There will be no significance difference between the attitudes of elder brother and younger brother of MR+HI
- | There will be no significant difference between the attitudes of elder sister and younger sister of MR+HI
- | There will be no significant difference between the attitudes of elder brother and younger brother of MR+VI
- | There will be no significant difference between the attitudes of elder sister and younger sister of MR+VI
- | There will be no significance difference between the attitudes of elder brother and younger brother of MR+HI
- | There will be no significant difference between the attitudes of elder sister and younger sister of MR+HI
- | There will be no significant difference between the attitudes of younger sister of MR+VI and MR+HI

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Sibling relationships-the developmental importance, influences on relationships and experiences with others, and the dissemination of information. It is often assumed that the character and influence of the sibling relationship change as one of the siblings experiences physical or mental delays although the controversy regarding the specific impact of disability or illness remains.

- | Research Dunn, 1985; Furman & Buhrmester, 1985 on sibling relationships indicates that children can have an ambivalent feeling about their brother or sister with any kind of disabilities. The four factors which emerged were -- warmth, relative status, conflict, and rivalry. They found that same-sexed dyads more often reported feelings of warmth and closeness than did opposite-sex dyads.
- | Some of the emotions and characteristics mentioned in Fowell and Ogel (1985) are anger, guilt, acceptance of differences, fear of being involved, understanding, embarrassment, pride, loss, maturity, worry, loneliness, etc for the sibling of children with disabilities.
 - | Stoneman and Brody (1993) noted that in-home observations, siblings were very competent in selecting appropriate toys with which to interact when playing with a disabled sibling.
 - | Dunn (1985) describes it, tension can increase in proportion to the amount of time spent caring for a disabled child. In describing potential sources of stress in siblings of children with a disability.
 - | Gamble and Woulbroun (1993) distinguish between stressors in the sibling relationship which include the problems associated with peers and interactions with the larger community.
 - | Rivers and Stoneman, 2003 study reveals that siblings are often described as evil to their disabled counterparts.
 - | Hastings, 2003, Findings indicate more peer problems, more overall adjustment problems, and lower levels of pro-social behavior in families with disabled children.
 - | Rivers and Stoneman, 2003 study reveals that siblings are often described as evil to their disabled counterparts.
 - | Hastings, 2003, Findings indicate more peer problems, more overall adjustment problems, and lower levels of pro-social behavior in families with disabled children.
 - | Dyson (1999) found that the psychosocial functioning of siblings who had a disabled brother or sister showed greater stability in self-concept than siblings with non-disabled brothers/sisters. Siblings who reported higher levels of satisfaction with their relationships with brothers/sisters demonstrated a more positive representation of self-concept.

SOURCES OF DATA:

The purpose of this study was focused on the exploration of the attitude of the siblings towards their multiple disabled brothers/sisters. For this purpose, we have chosen a random sample of 105 participants from the districts of Howrah, Kolkata of West Bengal, India. The participants include 51 males and 54 females who hail from urban as well as rural backgrounds. The sample consisted of people from age groups below 18 years and above 18 years. The respondents are mainly from lower to lower-middle and middle-class socioeconomic backgrounds. No distinction is made in the gender of the multiple disabled individual.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOL:-

To understand the total aspects of the attitudinal tendency of the typical sibling towards their multiple disabled counterparts, we designed a questionnaire consisting of 30 questions. The questions were broadly classified into three sub-categories namely social, educational, and future perspectives. Each of the sub-categories certain number of questions that explore the various aspects of attitude. The following research questions were addressed to find out up to what extent do the brothers and sisters experience problems in the relationship with their MD sibling, with their parents, and with peers and external community; is their evidence to suggest that the presence of MD child in the family leads to undue demands on the brothers and sisters by their parents.

PROCEDURE:

All the siblings were personally contacted for the interview session, consent was taken from the entire participant regarding their interview. Individual interviews were taken from the participant for this purpose.

Scoring system:

For the evaluation purpose, quantitative analysis was considered. For the negative attitude score given 2 whereas for the positive attitude it was 0. so the maximum score of an individual would have been 60 and the minimum is 0.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE: 1

No of sample	Type of disability	Gender	Total score	mean	Stddev
12	Elder brother of VI& MR	M	410	34.16	7.30
10	ELDER SISTER OFVI&MR	F	328	32.8	9.295
12	YOUGER BROTHER OFVI& MR	M	394	32.88	5.81
18	YOUNGER SIS OF VI&MR	F	610	33.88	6.77
15	ELDERBR OTHER OFHI& MR	M	514	34.26	7.59
13	ELDER SISTER OF HI &MR	F	398	30.16	6.39
12	YOUNGER BROTHER OFHI &MR	M	402	33.5	8.27
13	YOUNGER SISTER OFHI&MR	F	426	32.7	6.02

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF SCORES:

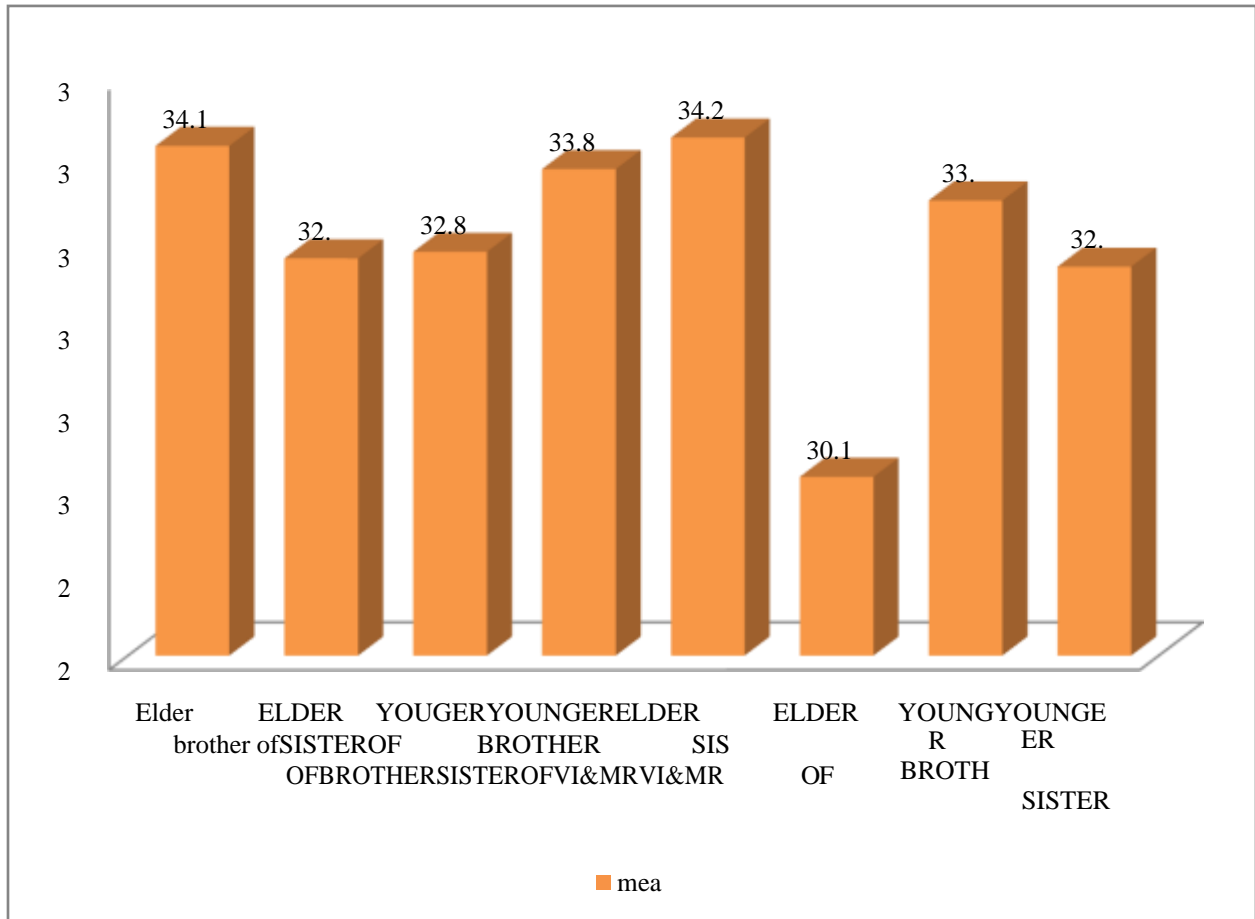


TABLE:2

TEST BETWEEN	T VALUE	SIG.
1. Elder brother (MR+VI)vs Elder sister(MR+VI)	0.710326	Sigat0.01
2. Youngerbrother(MR+VI)vs Youngersister(MR+VI)	0.652331	Sigat0.01
3. Elderbrother(MR+VI)vs Youngerbrother(MR+VI)	0.626043	Sigat0.01
4. Eldersister(MR+VI)vs Youngersister(MR+VI)	0.749447	Sigat0.01
5. Elder sibling (MR+VI) vs Elder sibling(MR+VI)	0.969923	Sigat0.01
6. Elder brother (MR+HI)vs Eldersister(MR+HI)	0.179042	Nosig
7. Youngerbrother(MR+HI)vs Youngersister(MR+HI)	0.804654	Sigat0.01
8. Elderbrother(MR+HI)vs Youngerbrother(MR+HI)	0.806267	Sigat0.01
9. Eldersister(MR+HI)vs Youngersister(MR+HI)	0.385825	Nosig
10. Eldersibling(MR+HI)vs Eldersibling(MR+HI)	0.780317	Sigat0.01
11. Elderbrother(MR+VI)vs Elderbrother(MR+HI)	0.972588	Sigat0.01
12. Eldersister(MR+VI) vs Eldersister(MR+HI)	0.821691	Sigat0.01
13. Youngerbrother(MR+VI)vs Youngerbrother(MR+HI)	0.534029	Sigat0.05
14. Youngersister(MR+VI)vs Youngersister(MR+HI)	0.631996	Sigat0.01

- | **TABLE:2** showing the comparison between the Elder Brother and sisters of VI+MR, mean score of Elder brother and sisters are respectively 34.16 and 32.8. which shows elder brothers are having more negative attitudes than that of the sisters. The T-value of those groups is 0.710 which means there is significance at 0.01.
- | **TABLE:2** showing the comparison between the Younger Brother and Sisters of VI+MR, mean score of Younger brothers and sisters are respectively 32.88 and 33.88. which shows Younger Sisters are having more negative attitude than that of the Brothers. The T-value of those groups is 0.652 which means there is significance at 0.01.
- | **TABLE:2** showing the comparison between the Elder Brother and Younger Brother of VI+MR, mean score of Elder brother and sisters are respectively 34.16 and 32.8. which shows elder brothers are having more negative attitude than that of the Younger brothers. T-value of those groups is 0.626 which means there is significance at 0.01.
- | **TABLE:2** showing the comparison between the Elder Sister and Younger Sister of VI+MR, mean score of Elder and Younger Sisters are respectively 32.8 and 33.88. which shows elder brothers are having more negative attitude than that of the younger brothers. The T-value of those groups is 0.749 which means there is significance at 0.01.
- | **TABLE:2** showing the comparison between the Elder Siblings and Younger Siblings of VI+MR, mean score of Elder and Younger Siblings are respectively 33.54 and 33.46. The T-value of those groups is 0.969 which means there is significance at 0.01.
- | **TABLE:2** showing the comparison between the Elder Brother and sisters of HI+MR, mean score of Elder brother and sisters are respectively 34.26 and 30.16. which shows Elder brothers are having more negative attitudes than that of the sisters. The T-value of those groups is 0.179 which means there are not significant.
- | **TABLE:2** showing the comparison between the Younger Brother and Sisters of HI+MR, mean score of Elder brother and sisters are respectively 33.5 and 32.7. which shows Elder brothers are having more negative attitude than that of the sisters. T-value of those groups is 0.804 which means there is significance at 0.01.
- | **TABLE:2** showing the comparison between the Elder Brother and Younger Brother of HI+MR, mean score of Elder brother and Younger Brothers are respectively 34.26 and 33.5. which shows Elder brothers are having more negative attitude than that of the younger. T-value of those groups is 0.806 which means there is significance at 0.01.
- | **TABLE:2** showing the comparison between the Elder and Younger Sisters of HI+MR, mean score of Elder and Younger sisters are respectively 30.16 and 32.7. which shows younger sisters are having more negative attitudes than that of elder sisters. The T-value of those groups is 0.385 which means there is no significant difference.
- | **TABLE:2** showing the comparison between the elder siblings and younger Siblings of HI+MR, mean score of Elder and Younger Siblings are respectively 32.57 and 33.12. Mean reveals that younger siblings are having more negative attitude than that of elders. T-value of that group is 0.780 which means there is significance at 0.01.

- | **TABLE: 2** showing the comparison between the Elder Brother of VI+MR and Elder Brother of HI+MR, mean scores of are respectively 34.16 and 34.26. .T-value of those group is 0.972 which is significance at 0.01.
- | **TABLE: 2** showing the comparison between the Elder Sister of VI+MR and Elder Sister of HI+MR, mean score of are respectively 32.88 and 30.16. Mean shows that Elder sisters of VI+MR are having more negative attitude than that of HI+MR. T-value of those groups 0.821, which is significance at 0.01.
- | **TABLE: 2** showing the comparison between the Younger Brother of VI+MR and Younger Brother of HI+MR, mean score of are respectively 32.88 and 33.5 .mean shows that the Younger brother of HI+MR are showing more negative attitudes. T-value of those group is 0.534 which is significance at 0.05.
- | **TABLE: 2** showing the comparison between the Younger Sisters of VI+MR and Younger Sisters of HI+MR, mean score of are respectively 33.88 and 32.7 .mean shows that the Younger Sisters of VI+MR are showing more negative attitudes. T-value of those group is 0.631 which is significance at 0.01.

CONCLUSION

The major findings of the study are:-

- | All the siblings are showing some negative attitude towards their multiple disabled counterparts.
- | Though both of the sibling's i.e elder or younger are having negative attitudes elders are showing more negative than that of younger.
- | Both the brothers are sisters are having negative attitudes but brothers are having more than that sisters
- | Brothers of VI+MR children are having more negative than that of HI+MR
- | Sisters of VI+MR are having more negative attitudes than that of HI+MR
- | As stated in the characteristics of multiple disabled as children with VI+MR are needed more supports than HI+MR, So sibling of VI+MR both the elder and younger, brother and sister are having more negative attitudes than that of HI+MR.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY:-

The limitations of this study are

- ✓ This study is done in a very short period.
- ✓ More socio-demographic data should have been included.
- ✓ A comparison with siblings of other disabilities should have been done.
- ✓ A comparison with normal siblings should have been done.
- ✓ A comparison between the data from urban and rural respondents should have been done as well.
- ✓ Education all level and SES of sibling should be taken in consideration.

APPENDIX

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Questionnaire

SL.NO.	SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE	
1	You feel embarrassed on social occasions because of him/her.	YES/NO
2	Taking him/her outsides spoils your family pride.	YES/NO
3	You feel playing with him/her is just a wastage of time.	YES/NO
4	Your family is not like others.	YES/NO
5	You feel disappointed because of him/her.	YES/NO
6	You feel your parents love him/her more than you.	YES/NO
7	Your friend teased you because of him/her	YES/NO
8	You like to him/her in daily activities.	YES/NO
9	Your family reputation spoiled because of him/her.	YES/NO
10	You feel his/her problem is misincurable.	YES/NO

EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE		
11	You feel he/she will not able to go to school.	YES/NO
12	You feel he/she will not be able to pursue education in normal school.	YES/NO
13	You will never help him/her in studies	YES/NO
14	You will spend time for his/her education	YES/NO
15	You feel your parents should not spend money for his/her education.	YES/NO
16	You feel his/her education is just a wastage of money.	YES/NO
17	You feel that he/she must not continue education.	YES/NO
18	You feel his/her education is very costly.	YES/NO
19	You feel your parents give attention to his/her study.	YES/NO
20	You are very pessimistic about this/her slow progress.	YES/NO
FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES PERSPECTIVE		
21	You feel he/she is a burden to your family.	YES/NO
22	You feel he/she is the cause of economic constraining your family.	YES/NO
23	You feel your future life may be devastated because of him/her.	YES/NO
24	Your future decision will is dependent on him/her.	YES/NO
25	You feel you will not able to take care of him /her in the future.	YES/NO
26	You are worried about his/her future.	YES/NO
27	You feel the future responsibilities of your parents will be solely dependent on you.	YES/NO
28	You feel he/she will not be a productive member of your family.	YES/NO
29	You feel your future family life may be hampered for him/her.	YES/NO
30	You feel choosing a life partner will be difficult for you because of him/her.	YES/NO