

## **Abstract**

The sibling relationship is potentially the most important and unique as it is often the longest relationship experienced during one's lifetime. The main aim of this study was to study sibling relationship and to examine various factors underlying this relationship in order to add to the current understanding of the sibling relationship as very little research on sibling relationship has been done in Pakistan so far. It was also intended to examine how parental differential treatment affects the siblings' relationships in terms of warmth, conflict and rivalry and what role parental differential treatment, social comparison as well as gender, and birth order plays in it.

Purposive Sampling technique was used for selection of participants as sample was consisted of 141 participants and it was collected from sibling triads and dyads. Sample was comprised of both males and females, age ranged from 13 to 30 years. Sample was collected from different universities and homes. Appropriate statistical analyses were carried out including Descriptive statistics, Reliability analyses of scales, t test, Analysis of Variance, Correlation, and Regression analysis.

Results indicated that significant differences among first born, second born and third/last born siblings on warmth and differential parental treatment were found but no significant differences among first born, second born and third/last born siblings on conflict, rivalry and social comparison were found. Gender differences were not significant in sibling relationship, or on social comparison and self-esteem and differential parental treatment, and various significant correlations were found among various variables of the study supporting the hypotheses and significant predictors of warmth in sibling relationship was also found in the present study. The study helps in future researches regarding sibling relationships, birth order, differential parental treatment, self-esteem and social comparison especially in Pakistani context.