

Attitude of Typically Developing Sibling Towards Hearing Impaired Sibling

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Abstract

A study on attitude of Typically Developing Sibling (TDS) towards Hearing Impaired Sibling (HIS) was conducted. The aim of the study was to know the attitude of TDS towards HIS. The objectives of the study were to identify the level of attitude of TDS, to assess dimension wise attitude of TDS and the association between independent and dependent variables. The data was collected from 40 samples (23 females and 17 males) consisting of 14-22 years old TDS having a HIS. A survey method with simple random sampling was used for the present study. The data was elicited by a self-developed tool, a questionnaire on attitude of TDS towards HIS with 21 and 51 items in the basic and specific data respectively. The tool was given special emphasis on three dimensions: relationship with sibling, relationship with parents and relationship with friends to study the attitude level. The results revealed that majority (70%) of the TDS had high attitude level and 30% had moderate attitude level. While (32%) of respondents had a low attitude level in the dimension of relationship with parents, while none of the respondents had low level of attitude in the dimensions of relationship with sibling and relationship with others respectively. It was found that TDS liked to take care (97%), encourage (96.5%) and enjoy the company (93.5%) of HIS. TDS feel that parents are more partial towards HIS (79.5%) and stricter towards TDS (72%), parents favour (50%) and spend more time (50%) with HIS, TDS feel that they have a smaller number of friends (91.5%) and friends avoid them because of their HIS (90%).

Key words: Attitude, Sibling relationship, Typically Developing Sibling, Hearing Impaired Sibling.

Introduction

Sibling relationships are often the longest-lasting relationship in individuals' lives (Cicirelli, 1995; Hernandez, 1997). Sibling relationship is one of the most important relationships in every stage of life and it represents one of the most powerful bonds and human interactions because siblings act as surrogate parents, informal teachers, and friends (Lobato, 1990; Davidoff, 2006). The sibling relationship is that of a socio-emotional and there is intimacy, competition, protection, jealousy and affection among siblings.

In sibling relationships, the most important aspect is communication with one another. A typically developing sibling having disabled sibling must face a lot of challenges and responsibilities and it may include both positive and negative aspects. Hence attitude plays a key role.

To understand the various issues faced by the typically developing sibling towards hearing impaired sibling the present study was conducted to know the attitude of typically developing siblings (TDS) towards hearing impaired sibling (HIS).

Need for the Study

Brothers and sisters are the first peers of hearing-impaired children. Yet in comparison, there is wealth of studies about parent-child relationships, while relatively little attention had been paid to the importance of sibling relationship. Most studies in this area have focused on siblings of children with other disabilities, while the studies regarding experiences of siblings of children with hearing impairment remains meagre.

This present study will help to address issues if any in terms of attitude of siblings. The typically developing siblings can be supported and helped if needed to build a good relationship with their hearing-impaired sibling.

Aim

The aim of the present study was to study the attitude of typically developing sibling towards hearing impaired sibling.

Objectives

- To identify the attitude level of typically developing sibling towards hearing impaired sibling.
- To assess the dimensions wise attitude of level of typically developing siblings.

Hypotheses

- The typically developing sibling does not differ in their attitude towards their hearing-impaired sibling.
- The attitude of typically developing sibling does not differ in dimensions wise.

Operational Definitions

Attitude: Attitude comprises of beliefs, feelings and behavioral tendencies or a general feeling or evaluation (positive/ negative) about Hearing impaired sibling.

Typically Developing Sibling (TDS): For the present study, typically developing sibling is defined as a sibling, who is related by blood and born to same parents, in the age group of 14 to 22 years having hearing impaired sibling.

Hearing Impairment: For the present study, hearing impaired is when one has difficulty in perceiving or identifying sound clearly due to auditory problems. The impairment may be unilateral or bilateral.

Hearing Impaired Sibling (HIS): For the present study, hearing impaired sibling is a sibling with mild, moderate-severe and profound kind of hearing impairment, studying in a special school.

Procedure

The present study was carried out in the following phases:

Phase I: Identification of The Problem

Through the review of literature, it was found that sibling relationship plays a very important role in one's life. Child-parent relationships of children with disabilities have received some attention in the literature while studies of sibling relationships are relatively scarce.

Hence the investigators felt the need to study the attitude of TDS towards HIS.

Phase II: Formulation of the Tool

To assess the attitude of typically developing sibling towards hearing impaired sibling, the suitable ready tool was not available hence the investigator developed a tool for the present study.

Phase III: Identification of the School

In order to study the attitude of TDS towards HIS, a survey of schools for hearing impaired children was carried out in Bengaluru city. One of the schools namely Sunaad School for Hearing Impairment- Dr. S. R. Chandrasekhar Institute of Speech and Hearing, Bengaluru, granted the permission to conduct the study.

Phase IV: Selection of Sample

The sample for the present study consisted of 40 typically developing siblings with hearing impaired sibling (23 females and 17 males). The samples for the study were in the age group of 14 to 22 years of age.

Sampling Method

Simple random sampling method is defined as 'a randomly selected sample from a larger sample or population, giving all the individuals in the sample an equal chance to be chosen. In a simple random sample, individuals are chosen at random and not more than once to prevent a bias that would negatively affect the validity of the result of the experiment'. For the present study simple random sampling method was used to select TDS with HIS.

Phase V: Pilot Study

Pilot study is a small-scale preliminary study conducted in order to evaluate feasibility, time, cost, adverse events, and effect size (Statistical variability) in an attempt to predict an appropriate sample size and improve upon the study design prior to performance of a full scale research project.

A pilot study was conducted on the 10% of the total sample identified for the study. The purpose of the pilot study was to check the feasibility and reliability of the tool developed by the investigator for the study. The reliability of the tool was found out using split-half method by Brown Prophecy. Tool was tested for reliability and was observed to be reliable with the reliability co-efficient of $0.9428 > 0.70$.

Phase VI: Administration of the Tool and Collection of Data

Rapport Building

The investigators established a rapport with the respondents by explaining the significance of the research work and explained about the objectives of the present study. This helped the investigator to establish a cordial relationship with the respondents.

The data was collected by survey method. The respondents identified for the study were called over the phone and informed that the questionnaire will be sent through the hearing impaired sibling and were given brief introduction on the purpose of the research study. The respondents were informed that the information collected from them will be used for research purpose only and will be kept confidential. The investigator also informed the respondents to read the instructions carefully and there is no right or wrong answer. They were asked to duly fill all the questions.

Phase VII: Tabulation of Data

Tabulation is the systematic arrangement of the statistical data in columns or rows. It involves the orderly and systematic presentation of numerical data in a form designed to explain the problem under consideration. Tabulation helps in drawing the inference from the statistical figures.

The responses obtained were tabulated by the investigators. The positive and negative items were scored according to 'Strongly agree', 'Agree', 'Uncertain', 'Disagree', and 'Strongly Disagree' with the scores of '5', '4', '3', '2', and '1' for positive statements and '1', '2', '3', '4' and '5' for negative statements respectively.

Phase VIII: Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis is collection, examination, summarization, manipulation, and interpretation of quantitative data to discover its underlying causes, patterns, relationships, and trends. The statistical tests used to interpret the data for the present study are Mean, Standard Deviation and Chi-Square test of significance. The results analyzed are interpreted under the results and discussion chapter.

Phase IX: Report Writing

Based on the data collected the findings of the research study are presented in the form of interpretations and discussions.

Results and Discussion

Basic Data

- Majority of respondents (47.5 %) belong to the age group of 17-19 years and majority (57.5%) of the respondents are females.
- Majority (40%) of respondents are studying in PUC, 30% of them are pursuing their high school.
- With regard to the number of siblings, it was observed that 37.5% and 35 % of the respondents have one and two siblings respectively.

- Majority (70%) of the respondents are first born while the remaining 30% are second born.
- It was found that majority of the respondents belong to Hindu religion (60%), 27.5% belong to Muslim religion, minority percentage (12.5%) are Christians.
- With respect to type of family of the respondents, it was found that majority (85%) of the respondents belong to nuclear families. Equal percentage (7.5%) of the respondents belong to joint and single parent families.
- It can be noticed that majority (92.5%) of the respondents' parents' marital status is intact and a least percentage of (7.5%) of the respondent-parents are separated.
- Cent percent of respondents were from urban Bangalore.
- Higher percentage (45%) the respondents' family monthly was between Rs.15,000/-20,000/-.
- Majority (50%) of the HIS belong to the age group of 14-16 years, while 32.5 % and 17.5 % of them belong to 11-13 years and 17-19 years age bracket respectively.
- With regard to the gender of HIS, majority (57.5%) of them are males and 42.5% of them are females.
- With regard to ordinal position, a majority (62.5%) of the HIS are second born, while lesser percentage (22.5% and 15%) of HIS are third born and first born.
- Cent percent of the respondents HIS reside at home and study in a special school from class 4th to 10th Standard.
- Cent per cent of HIS had hearing impairment due to birth defect.
- With respect to the degree of hearing loss majority (60%) of the HIS had profound degree of hearing loss, while lesser per cent (25% and 15%) of them had moderate- severe and mild degree of hearing loss respectively.
- It was found that 40% of them had sensorineural hearing loss and 25% of them had conductive hearing loss while, 35% of the respondents were unaware about their siblings type of hearing loss.
- The educational qualification of parents of the respondents. It was found out that majority (32.5%) of the mothers of the respondents had studied up to PUC but majority (30%) of the fathers of the respondents had studied below 10th Standard.
- Majority (72.5%) of mothers of the respondents were homemakers and majority (55%) of the fathers of the respondents were working in private sector.

Specific Data

Table 1 Overall Attitude Level of Typically Developing Siblings

Attitude Level	Category	Respondents	
		Number	Percent
Low	≤ 50 % Score	0	0.0
Moderate	51-75 % Score	12	30.0
High	> 75 % Score	28	70.0

Total		40	100.0

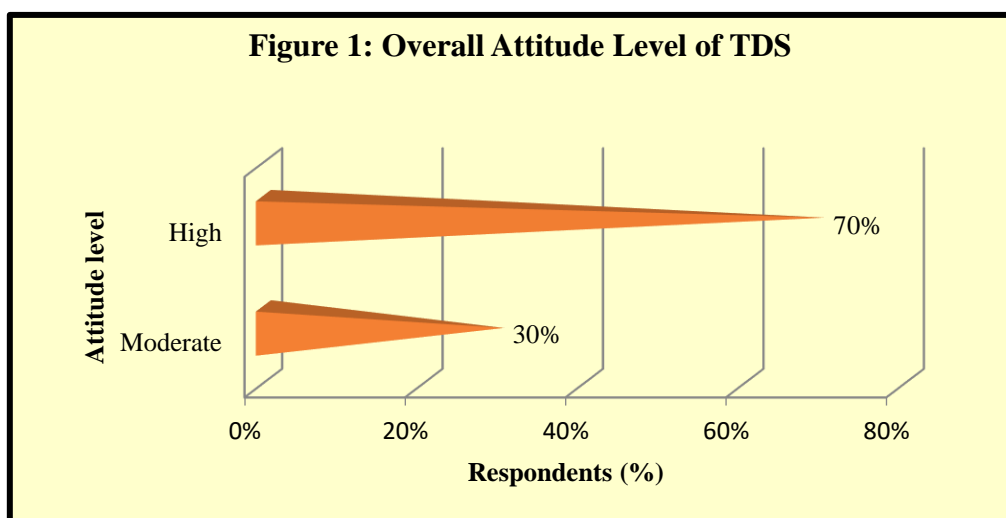


Table 1 and figure 1 denote the overall attitude level of typically developing siblings. It was found out that majority (70.0%) of the respondents had a high attitude level, while 30.0% of the respondents had moderate attitude level. It can also be observed that none of the respondents have low attitude level.

Therefore, it was found that majority of the typically developing siblings had high attitude level.

Table 2 Dimension wise Attitude Level of Typically Developing Siblings

Attitude Level	Category	Dimensions					
		Socio-Emotional		Parental relationship		Relationship with friends	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Low	≤ 50 % Score	0	0.0	13	32.5	0	0.0
Moderate	51-75 % Score	3	7.5	16	40.0	15	37.5
High	> 75 % Score	37	92.5	11	27.5	25	62.5
Total		40	100.0	40	100.0	40	100.0

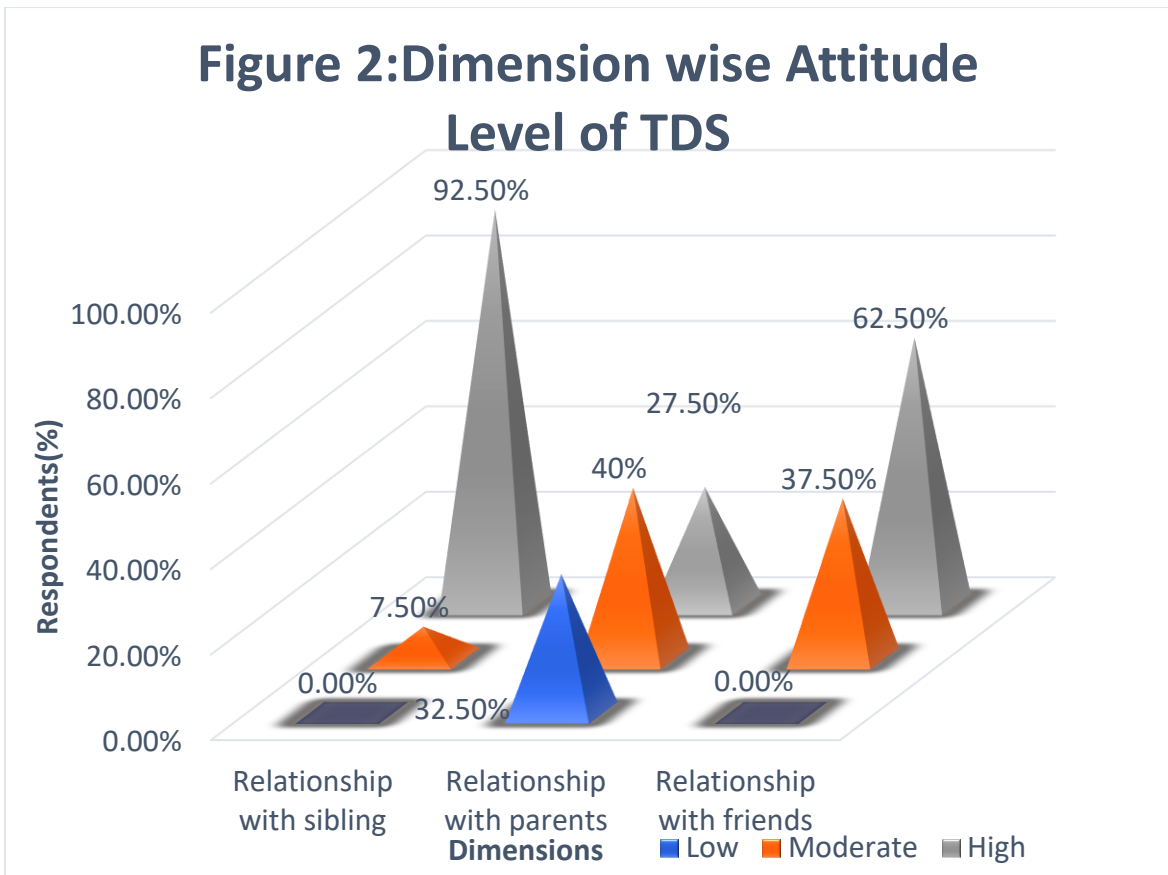


Table 2 and figure 2 indicates the dimension-wise attitude level of typically developing siblings. With regard to socio-emotional dimension, it is observed that majority (92.5%) of the respondents had high level of socio-emotional attitude, 7.5% of them had moderate level of socio-emotional attitude.

With respect to parental relationship dimension, it was found to be at moderate level among 40.0% of the respondents. 32.5% of them had low level in this dimension and 27.5% of them had high level of attitude in the parental relationship dimension.

With regard to relationship with friends, it was found that majority (62.5%) of the respondents had high level of attitude and 37.5% of them had moderate level of attitude. Further, it was observed that majority (92.5% and 62.5%) of the respondents had high level of attitude in socio-emotional and relationship with others dimensions respectively.

It is interesting to notice that 32.5% of the respondents had a low level of attitude in the dimension of parental relationship, while having nil per cent of low level of attitude in the socio-emotional and relationship with others dimensions respectively.

Table 3 Dimension-wise Attitude Scores of Typically Developing Siblings

No.	Dimension	Statements	Max.	Attitude Scores
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			Score	Mean	SD	Mean (%)	SD (%)
I	Socio-Emotional	38	190	164.15	14.6	86.4	7.7
II	Parental relationship	9	45	27.75	7.9	61.7	17.7
III	Relationship with friends	4	20	16.00	2.5	80.0	12.7
	Combined	51	255	207.90	19.7	81.5	7.7

Above table 3 represents the dimension-wise attitude scores of typically developing siblings. It can be inferred that 86.4% had slightly higher level of scores in socio-emotional dimension and 80% of them had higher per cent of scores in relationship with friends- dimension. With regard to parental dimension it was noticed that the respondents scored a mean percent of 61.7%.

Further, it can be observed that combined dimensions mean per cent is 81.5%. It was noticeable that parental relationship dimension scores are slightly lesser when compared to socio-emotional and relationship with friends-dimensions.

Conclusion

The study conducted on attitude of typically developing sibling towards hearing impaired sibling revealed certain findings based on the results:

With regard to hypothesis 1: The typically developing sibling does not differ in their attitude towards their hearing impaired sibling. The hypothesis is rejected because in the overall attitude of TDS towards HIS it is seen that majority (70%) of the TDS had high attitude level and 30% had moderate attitude level. It was also observed that none of the respondents had low attitude level.

According to hypothesis 2: The attitude of typically developing sibling does not differ dimensions-wise. It is seen that with regard to relationship with sibling dimension, majority (92.5%) of the respondents had high level of attitude, 7.5% of them had moderate level of attitude. With respect to relationship with parents dimension it was found to be at moderate level among 40% of the respondents. Around 32% of them had low level in this dimension and 27.5% of them had high level of attitude in the relationship with parents' dimension. With regard to relationship with others it was found that majority (62.5%) of the respondents had high level of attitude and 37.5% of them had moderate level of attitude. Therefore, the hypothesis 2 is rejected as there is difference in attitude with regard to the three dimensions i.e., relationship with siblings, relationship with parents and relationship with friends.

Implications

The investigators based on the present study suggest the following.

1. Typically developing siblings must be given awareness about their hearing impaired sibling.

2. Parents need to balance their time and efforts in upbringing of their normal and special children.
3. Modules can be developed, and workshops can be conducted for the typically developing siblings to learn to cope up with a sibling with hearing impairment.
4. Special school settings should involve the siblings whenever possible to build good sibling relationships and bond between them.

Recommendations

The present study considered only three dimensions of attitude namely, relationship with siblings, relationship with parents and relationship with friends. Further the study can be conducted including other dimensions of attitude of typically developing siblings. Gender perspective can be added to sibling relationship to understand if there is any difference between sister –sister, Sister-brother and brother-brother relationship. Relations with relatives, neighbours and community as a whole as well as self-concept could be explored.

The study can be done in depth and detail, and intervention programmes can be included to see the variation in the results in the control and experimental group.

Findings of the study will be useful in assisting special educators, psychologists, educators, counsellors, parents and researchers to facilitate good well-being and overall beneficial ways of life for the typically developing siblings.

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