

Number of Siblings – Does It Have Any Impact on Quality of Sibling Relationship of Mentally Challenged Children?

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ABSTRACT The present study compared the sibling relationship of mentally challenged children with their mentally normal siblings across the number of siblings they have. The sample for the present study comprised of 150 mentally challenged children selected from 3 Rehabilitation Council of India recognized special schools of Delhi, their one mentally normal sibling and any of the parent. Sibling relationship was analyzed by administering “Sibling Relationship Scale” to one of the parents and mentally normal siblings of the mentally challenged children. Mentally challenged children with less number of mentally normal siblings reported better warmth/closeness and relative status/power than those having more number of mentally normal siblings. Moreover, presence of more number of mentally normal siblings created a rival and conflicting kind of relationship between them and their mentally challenged sibling.