



## **Comparison of Quality of Sibling Relationship between Mentally Challenged Children and Normal Siblings across Birth Order and Gender**

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**ABSTRACT** The present paper examines the difference in the quality of sibling relationship between mentally challenged children and their normal siblings across birth order and gender. Responses of a total of 343 respondents involving one (any) mentally normal elder sibling ( $n_1=122$ ) and one (any) mentally normal younger sibling ( $n_2=71$ ) and (any) parent of the mentally challenged children ( $n_3=150$ ) were analyzed for assessing quality of sibling relationship across birth order. Whereas, responses of a total of 210 respondents involving one (any) mentally normal male sibling ( $n_1=70$ ) and one (any) mentally normal female sibling ( $n_2=70$ ) and (any) parent of the mentally challenged children ( $n_3=70$ ) were analyzed for assessing quality of sibling relationship across gender. Sibling Relationship Scale was administered to assess the quality of sibling relationship between mentally challenged children and their mentally normal siblings. In the present study, analysis across birth order reflected no significant difference on any component of sibling relationship between mentally challenged children and their mentally normal elder or younger sibling. On the contrary, analysis across gender depicted significantly higher overall warmth/ closeness, nurturance and dominance between mentally challenged and mentally normal same-sex siblings than mentally challenged and mentally normal opposite sex siblings. However, no significant gender difference was seen on the components of conflict and rivalry of sibling relationship between mentally challenged children and their mentally normal siblings.