

EVALUATION OF ADLERS INSIGHT ON BIRTH ORDER IN THE AFRICAN
CONTEXT: A STUDY OF ADULT WOMEN IN IMARA DAIMA, EMBAKASI
WARD.

BY
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THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELLING IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELLING STUDIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL
LEADERSHIP UNIVERSITY.

AUGUST, 2015
NAIROBI - KENYA

DECLARATION

This Thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to the Almighty God who has been my guide through my academic journey. Thank you for the opportunity. Receive all glory and honor. I also dedicate this thesis to my dear husband James Wanjala who gave me overwhelming support and care as I embarked on my studies. Thank you for believing in me. My children, parents, friends, relatives and church who supported me in so many ways. Thank you.

Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance...

Proverbs 1:5

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to the almighty God who has always remained faithful in my academic journey. I give Him all the glory and honor. Thank you heavenly Father. Through His Spirit I have been able to expand my ability in knowledge and my prayer is that this knowledge will be of service in advancing His kingdom here on earth. In addition I want to thank my first supervisor Dr. Wangechi Wachira who has helped me in this journey as I pursued my Masters. Also my second supervisor Professor Peter Kariuki who has been a great source of knowledge. Thank you.

I also want to thank the entire fraternity of International Leadership University for giving me a conducive environment for learning.

ABSTRACT

This research investigates the psychological theory on birth order by Alfred Adler and its effects on personality of women in the African context. The study focuses on adult women aged 25-40 years from Embakasi South Ward in Nairobi County, Kenya. The central purpose of this study was to collect data on firstborns, second borns, middle borns, last borns and only children so as to find out whether Adler's argument on the various personalities on birth order applies in the African context. The findings were aimed at finding out whether this theory can be used in analyzing social behaviors and also assisting in counselling as well as assessing some personality differences in siblings which leads to better interaction with individuals in one's environment. In addition, this would help find out also if there are other factors that affect personality apart from birth order. The study revealed that there was need to find out other factors that affect personality apart from birth order. More so, it revealed that there are certain personality traits that Adler states that apply to the different birth orders. However, this is not the only thing that seems to affect the personality of the young adult women in the African context.

ABBREVIATION

NIV - New International Version of the Bible.

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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

This chapter discussed the background of the research studied, stated the problem and objectives of the research giving the significance of the research. It also attempted to find out the scope of the study and gave an indication on how the work will progress. Moreover, it gives the significance and conceptual framework of the research and operational definitions of some terms.

Background of the Study

Everyday around the world, many children are born. From different tribes, races and culture, of different gender and birth order. Some become first born, others second, third, fourth, or fifth, depending on the family they are in and when they were born, according to Mbiti (1991:87), birth matters. There is a great joy in the arrival of a child in the African context. He also continues on to say that the birth of a child is considered a blessing. Therefore this means that whether a child in a family is elder or not, it is a gift from God, in as much as we do not choose our birth order.

In all this, since we all belong to a family, we then have the possession of a certain ordinal position. This study is important to find out whether our birth order affects our personalities.

The ordinal position of the child within the family has been studied extensively in the western countries, and researchers conclude that a number of personality characteristics can be linked to order of birth. Being the oldest child or the youngest child or a child in between affects the psychological relationship the child has with parents and siblings. As each child comes into the family, he or she is given a special place in the family constellation and is treated accordingly.

To be sure, the characteristics attributed to children in each of the three positions- oldest, middle, youngest-will not apply to every child, but they will hold true generally for the population as a whole (Benner, 1985:158-164).

Many African communities have not only regarded birth as of importance but also the birth order. In that way, some children have been named as per their birth order in the family. It has become a solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed (Mbiti, 1991:87). If birth order in the African culture is of importance, does it affect one's personality? Meaning, does our external appearance and behavior, or social stimulus value, as our awareness of self as a permanent organizing force in our lives, affected by our order of birth? Or is it affected by a particular pattern or organization of measurable traits, both "inner" and "outer ones"? (Ruch, 1958:23). These are the various questions that this research will try to answer. It is to find out whether Alfred Adler's insight on birth order affecting personality, applies in the African context, of the adult women in Kenya as the target audience.

In terms of birth order affecting the personality of an individual, there has less research that has been done in the African context. Alfred Adler (1870–1937), an Austrian psychiatrist, and a contemporary of Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung, was one of the first theorists to suggest that birth order has a profound effect on an individual's personality.

So the question is, is Alfred Adler's theory on birth order of relevance in the African context?

Will it help us to psychologically help individuals in counselling circles to be able to know how to assess one's behavior in problem solving? Will it also assist in determining social stimulus

value of an individual? (Ruch, 1958:10) Thereby solving psychological issues that may underlie in an individual?

More so, in relation to the importance of this study it is to examine whether the theory can be applied in the field of psychology to enhance relationships of the women in the African context. Adler, a third born child in the family, argued that the position in the family leaves an indelible stamp upon the style of life. In addition, he stated that every difficulty of development is caused by rivalry and lack of cooperation in the family. (Forer & Still, 1976, 6).

However, in as much as many authors have stated that birth order may affect an individual's personality, it is of importance to note that there may be other things that may affect one's personality. Since there has no research that has been done in Africa on Alfred Adler's birth order affecting women, this study will find out whether it applies to the women in the African context. Women play an integral part in our society. They represent the greatest experience of love and fellowship which the child will ever have. Her task is to relate the growing child to herself psychologically, as he was formerly related to her physically. But she must also nourish the child's growing consciousness with true and normal conceptions of society, of work, and of love. In this way she gradually transforms the child's love for her and dependence upon her into a benevolent, confident, and responsible attitude towards society and the whole environment. This is the two-fold function of motherhood: to give the child the completest possible experience of human fellowship, and then to widen it into a life-attitude towards others. (Ansbacher and Ansbacher, 1956:37). Therefore, knowing that the roles that women play are important as they interact often with the environment in various ways, it is important to study if their birth order affects their personality, as they continue to interact in their various environment.

In this study, adult women of ages 25 to 40 of Imara Daima ward are being studied to find out whether Alfred Adler's insight on birth order affecting personality, applies in the African context.

Since it has long been theorized that the birth order of children can lay the ground work for psychological development and other meaningful lifetime experiences, Adler came along and decided to take a deeper look into the relationship between a child's birth order and their personality (Forer & Still, 1976:6).

Adler also states that there are other birth order factors that should be taken into consideration. These are; the spacing in years between siblings, the total number of children, and the changing circumstances of the parents over time (Isaacson 2004:29). Moreover, he talks on various personality traits being in various siblings. This is why it is important to be able to understand its effect on the relationships surrounding the individuals who are being studied (Isaacson 2004:29).

We cannot fail to mention other theorists that researched on birth order. Leman (2009:18) states that the order in which a person lands in their family can affect their life. Wallace (1999:150), adds on that it is not only the birth position, but it also has to do with the way the parent relates to the child in his spot, and some of it actually happens because of the spot itself. She also continues to say that each spot has unique challenges. She also came up with an equation that is;

Birth Order + Parenting = Behavior

This research will be useful to the intended audience who are the adult women of Imara Daima Ward, Embakasi County, Nairobi to determine if Alfred Adler's theory on birth order affects the personality or there are other factors that do so.

Definition of Terms

Literal definitions

- i. Personality- the combination of characteristics or qualities that form an individual's distinctive character.
- ii. Birth order- is the rank of siblings by age.
Birth order is the ordinal position of the child within the family (Forer & Still, 1976).
- iii. Women - the female human being, as distinguished from a girl or a man.

Statement of the Problem

There is the need to find out whether the positive and negative characteristic of Adler's birth order affects the personality of adult women in Imara Daima ward, since this theory has never been applied in the African context. To be able to understand one's personality is of importance because if it is not studied then it may result to one failing to see some personality disorders that may be present in an individual, which may affect their interactions in their environment. Also there may be a misunderstanding in communication of individuals if one does not understand the reason for certain behaviors in individuals. There are other factors that affect personalities of adult women in Imara Daima. These include extraneous variables such as environmental factors, economic factors and also social cultural factors. In the environmental factors, these includes the upbringing of the women who are the target beneficiaries and way of life. In economic factors, this includes being able to afford basic needs which also include education.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to investigate if Adler's theory on birth order applies in the African setting in the women of Imara Daima, Embakasi South, and Nairobi. The research was intended to help analyze one's personality in a psychological point of view.

Objectives of the Study

In this study, the objectives were;

1. To investigate whether Adler's argument of how first borns behave applies to adult women of Embakasi South, Nairobi.
2. To investigate whether Adler's argument of how second borns behave applies to adult women of Embakasi South, Nairobi.
3. To investigate whether Adler's argument of how middle borns behave applies to adult women of Embakasi South, Nairobi.
4. To investigate whether Adler's argument of how last borns behave applies to adult women of Embakasi South, Nairobi.
5. To investigate whether Adler's argument of how an only child behaves applies to adult women of Embakasi South, Nairobi.

Hypothesis of the Study

The hypothesis of this study is as follows;

1. There is no relationship between Adler's perspective on birth order for first born adult women in Imara Daima.
2. There is no relationship between Adler's perspective on birth order for second born adult women in Imara Daima.
3. There is no relationship between Adler's perspective on birth order for middle born adult women in Imara Daima.
4. There is no relationship between Adler's perspective on birth order for the youngest born adult women in Imara Daima ward.
5. There is no relationship between Adler's perspective on birth order for only child adult women in Imara Daima.

Significance of the Study

Alfred Adler's theory on birth order suggests that the position a child significantly affects one personality. That means that there are common personality characteristics associated with birth order (Schafer, 2015). Our personality in turn affects our relationships and communication with

people around us. Leman (2009:30), a psychologist says that when a psychologist sees a client, he asks them to tell them about their earliest childhood memories, and it is in this, that the psychologist is able to tell the client about them.

In addition, he says;

We can confidently make this declaration because who you are today . . . your basic personality . . . your personal life philosophy . . . the secret to your entire outlook on life...is hidden within your earliest childhood memories. The fact is, your basic personality and underlying identity is as permanent and unalterable as the grain in a piece of oak. You can, however, grow and learn. You can undergo a life-changing conversion, you can adapt and change your behavior in various ways, but your old human nature never changes. (Leman 2009:25)

This then means that it is important to find out whether birth order influences an individual whether negatively or positively in the African context, thereby assisting one's social relationships in interactions in their specific environment. Moreover, this study has not been researched in the African context. This research will determine whether it does apply to the women in Embakasi County, Nairobi, who are the target audience.

This research will also contribute to other researchers in psychology that study more about personality and growth development being affected by birth order. It will also enable more research to be undertaken towards the same study on the men of the African context in relation to Alder's theory on birth order.

The Scope of the Study

The researcher carried out the study in Imara Daima, Embakasi ward, Nairobi. It examines adult women who are from the New Hope Church-Imara Daima, Villa Franca and those that are residents at Imara Daima Embakasi ward. The senior pastor and the chief of Imara Daima were contacted so that the process of the study would go on smoothly. The focus group are adult women aged between twenty-five and forty years of age. The scope of the study is to establish whether Alfred Adler's insight on birth position also applies in an African context. The ex-post

factor design will be used because the independent variable cannot be manipulated. The tool that is to be used is questionnaires because people will be able to express themselves with anonymity, eliminating bias. The study will be carried out from January 2015 to June 2015.

Theoretical Framework and Conceptual Framework

Adler (1870-1937) suggested that birth order influences personality. According to him, he argued that birth order can leave an indelible impression on the individual's style of life, which is a habitual way of dealing with the tasks of friendship, love and work (Forer and Still 1976:6). He added on in stating other birth order factors that should be considered. These are, the spacing in years between siblings, the total number of children, and the changing circumstances of the parents over time. On birth order, Adler states that first borns are conscientious, directive, goal oriented, rule conscious, exacting, organised, high in self -esteem, anxious, jealous, fearful, aggressive, conservative and competitive. The first born may also have the need to regain praise from their parents that they received before their siblings were born. Therefore, Adler says that the first born would still prefer to be the first and foremost and that he tends to feel entitled in rank (Forer and Still, 1976:8).

He continues to say that the middle or second child or children often have the sense of not belonging and that they fight to receive attention from parents and others because they many times feel that they are being ignored or dubbed as being the same as another sibling. He also says that they tend to have fewer pictures in the family photo album alone, compared to firstborns. Moreover Alfred Adler says that the second born must cope with a perfectionist first born and the fourth born must cope with a strong-willed third born. He also adds that the characteristic experience of the second born is that he has to catch up and someone seems to be ahead of him, a standard bearer against whom he measures himself. The middle child's

characteristics, according to Adler, are that he is surrounded by competitors. There is a standard bearer in front and a pursuer in the rear. He may feel squeezed into a small area in his search for significance.

Adler says that last borns are generally considered to be the family "baby" throughout their lives because of nurturing from many older family members and the example of their siblings. Last borns from large families tend to develop strong social and coping skills and may even be able to reach some milestones earlier. As a group they have been found to be the most successful socially and to have the highest self-esteem of all the birth positions (Forer and Still, 1976:9). According to Adler, the youngest child may feel weak and helpless because they compare themselves with older siblings who are able to do more things physically and socially. They may feel that they always have more growing up to do in order to have privileges they see their older siblings have. He further indicates that some last borns develop self-esteem problems if older siblings or parents take power away from them, so that they cannot make decisions or take responsibility. Due to a lack of power, some last born children may think in a grandeur manner, with big plans that never work out. One thing to note about the last born is that they are never dethroned.

Lastly, he or she of the only child never has a rival. Peers tend to be curiosities rather than competitors. However, they may have been pampered and never learned to share (Forer and Still, 1976:9). Therefore the relationship of birth order for adult women in Imara Daima will be examined to determine if their growth and personality are affected by their birth order. The shortcomings of this research are time constraints and financial resources to carry out the in depth research required to fully examine the hypothesis.

Factors Affecting Personality

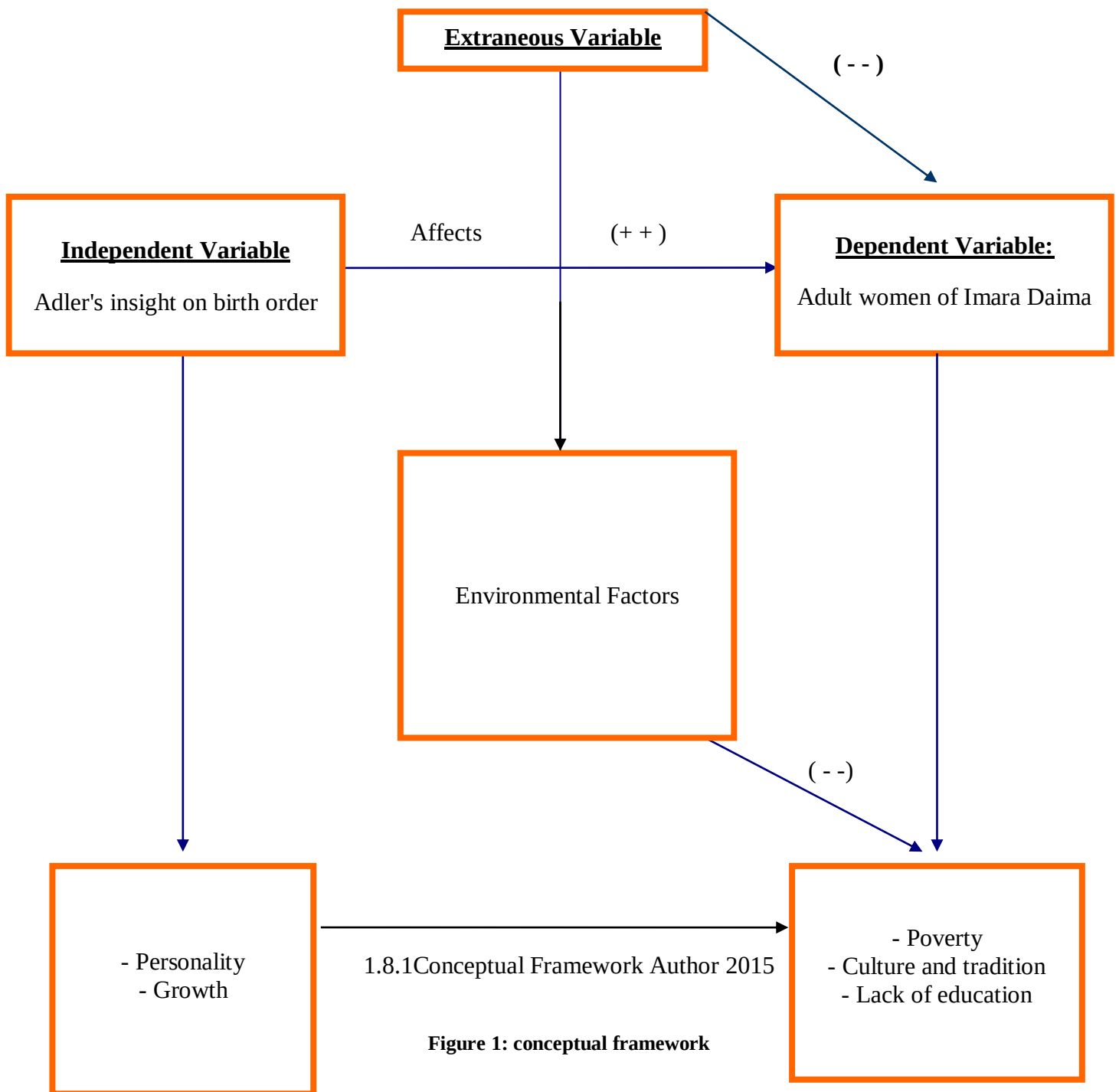


Figure 1: conceptual framework

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

According to Galvan, J. (2006), a literature review is not an annotated bibliography in which you summarize briefly each article that you have reviewed. While the summary of what you have read is contained within the literature review, it goes well beyond summarizing professional literature.

In this chapter, the researcher presents a theory that has been covered before in the western world. Resources include books, journals and magazines.

Alfred Adler who was born in Vienna (1870-1937), was one of the first individuals who studied birth order affecting personality. According to Leman (1985:131), birth order refers to whether we were perhaps the first child born in a family or maybe one of many, or maybe even the last .Adler's insight on birth order affecting personality is key and is why the research examines whether the personality of adult women in an African context are affected by their ordinal position in their family. In this research, two major variables have been used; the independent and dependent variables.

Adler developed theories of personality that focused on a therapist's need to understand an individual within the context of social environment. According to Adler, character traits and behaviors derive primarily from developmental issues, including birth order (Topness, 2014:2).

As we study birth order, it is important to know the definition of personality. In as much as Allport (1937:10) says that there is still no universal consensus on the definition of "personality"

in psychology many have brought about various definitions of personality. Mischel Walter (1999:1), says;

Personality is a dynamic and organized set of characteristics possessed by a person that uniquely influences their environment, cognitions, emotions, motivations, and behavioral science in various situations. The word "personality" originates from the Latin *persona*, which means mask. In making changes the theatre of the ancient Latin-speaking world, the mask was not used as a plot device to *disguise* the identity of a character, but instead was a convention employed to represent or *typify* that character.

He also adds on to say that personality refers to the pattern of thoughts, feelings, social adjustments, and behaviors consistently exhibited over time that strongly influences one's expectations, self-perceptions, values, and attitudes. In addition, Adler says that personality is made up of the characteristic patterns of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that make a person unique (Forer & Still, 1976). Our thoughts, end up making up how we feel and behave are the beginning point of creating our lives.

A research was carried out in Canada that was to test the hypothesis that under the pressure of a moral dilemma firstborns will associate in the sense of conforming to the general moral law. Canadian boys from kindergarten to third grade of a large sample were presented with two toys, one to play with and one not to be touched. Subjects then saw a boy playing with either the forbidden or the allowed toy on television. Then, a control group saw no television. The subjects were then left alone and watched through a one-way screen. In this research, firstborns and only children were significantly more influenced by the conforming model than last borns, while behavior without a model or in the "nonconforming model situation" was not associated with birth rank (Finley et al. 1976:100).

David, B. 1973, did a study where a group of fifth graders were assessed and investigated in the research. It was discovered that more cheating was found in firstborns. In addition, another research found out that more cheating was found in firstborns than in later borns among male and female college students (Hetherington et al. 1964:250). As per the research, Hetherington et.

al 1964, and David (1973:245) found out that the first born are cheaters. This may be why Alfred Adler talks about the first born being a people pleaser, which makes them cheat so as to be safe. In a small sample of college females, Singer et al. (1966) states that firstborns cheated less than later borns when expecting a control, but more so when feeling safe. Wuebben (1967:258), told a group of male student volunteers who participated in the research, not to discuss an experiment they had participated in. After 1 week a questionnaire was given as to how many persons subjects had spoken to about the experiment. The result indicated that the firstborns that spoke about it were fewer than the last born. Therefore from this research, does it mean that firstborns more loyal than last borns?

According to Ansbacher and Ansbacher (1956:29), it is a common fallacy to imagine that children of the same family are formed in the same environment in as much as there is much which is the same for all children in the same home, but the psychological situation of each child is individual and differs from that of others, because of the order of their succession.

He goes on to say;

It is not, of course, the child's number in the order of successive births which influences his character, but the situation into which he is born and the way in which he interprets it. With this they gave an example whereby, if the eldest child feeble-minded or suppressed, the second child may acquire a style of life similar to that of an eldest child; and in a large family, if two are born much later than the rest, and grow up together separated from the older children, the elder of these may develop like a first child.

Alfred Adler talked about birth order positions: the first born, second born, middle child, lastborn and only child. According to Adler, the first-born child is generally given a good deal of attention and spoiling. Too often it is quite suddenly and sharply that he finds himself ousted

from his position. Another child is born and he is no longer unique. Now he must share the attention of his mother and father with a rival (Ansbacher and Ansbacher, 1956:30)

In addition, Adler states that first borns are perfectionistic, reliable, conscientious, list-makers, well-organized (Leman, 1985). In being well-organized, they develop a great talent for organization a striving to protect others may be exaggerated into a desire to keep those others dependent and to rule over them. (Ansbacher and Ansbacher 1956:30) they are as well critical, serious, scholarly; achiever, self-sacrificing, people-pleaser, conservative, supporter of law and order, believer in authority and ritual, legalistic, loyal, and self-reliant (Leman, 1985:131).

Another characteristic that he states about firstborns is that they may be more highly motivated to achieve than their younger siblings or may choose professions such as science, medicine, or law. He states that a greater number of firstborns also choose careers as accountants, book keepers, executive secretaries, engineers, or jobs involving computers. Firstborns typically go for anything that takes precision, strong powers of concentration, and exacting mental discipline. Adler also adds that a common characteristic of a firstborn is confidence in being taken seriously by those around him. It's no wonder that firstborns often go on to positions of leadership or high achievement. A research that was carried out indicates that fifty-two percent of United States presidents were firstborns, and only four have been last borns of their families (Leman, 1985).

Moreover, first borns may train to imitate their fathers or mothers; often playing the part of a father or a mother with his or her siblings. They look after them, teach them, and feel themselves responsible for their welfare. (Ansbacher and Ansbacher, 1956:30)

In addition, if another child is born, the first-born is not prepared for the new baby which in fact does deprive him of attention, love, and appreciation. He therefore begins trying to pull his mother back to him and thinking how he can regain attention. He or she fights for his mother's love and if the mother fights back at him, the child in turn becomes high-tempered, wild, critical,

and disobedient. When he turns against his mother, it often happens that his father gives him a chance to renew the old favorable position. With that the oldest children frequently preferring their fathers and lean towards their side (Ansbacher and Ansbacher, 1956:31).

Such a fight has been indicated to lasts long time, sometimes through a whole life. According to. Ansbacher and Ansbacher (1956:31), states that Adler says that oldest children generally show, in one way or another, an interest in the past. This is because at that point in time they were the center of attention, before they were “dethroned”. Since a first born child has lost his power into having attention, the small kingdom he ruled, understands better than others the importance of power and authority. When he grows up, he likes to take part in the exercise of authority and exaggerates the importance of rules and laws. Everything should be done by rule, and no rule should ever be changed; power should always be preserved in the hands of those entitled to it. Influences like these in childhood give a strong tendency towards conservatism.

Ansbacher and Ansbacher (1956) state that, since their experience, the greatest proportion of problem children are oldest children; and close behind them come the youngest children.

The second child is in a quite different position. From the time he is bom, he shares attention with another child, and is therefore a little nearer to cooperation than an oldest child. If the oldest is not fighting against him and pushing him back, he is very well situated. Throughout his childhood he has a pacemaker; there is always a child ahead of him, and he is stimulated to exert himself and catch up. (Ansbacher and Ansbacher, 1956:32) A typical second child is very easy to recognize. He behaves as if he were in a race, is under full steam all the time, and trains continually to surpass his older brother and conquer him.

Leman (1985) states that Adler says that if the second born senses he can compete with the older sibling, he may do so. But this would not be the case if the older sibling is stronger, smarter, etcetera. As per research, the second born typically shoots off in another direction, being somewhat completely different from first borns. The Bible also gives us many marvelous psychological hints, and the typical second child is beautifully portrayed in the story of Jacob. He wished to be the first, to take away Esau's position, to best Esau and excel him. (Genesis 25:19.NIV Bible)

The second child is often more talented and successful than the first because he or she trained more and there was someone ahead of him to emulate. According to Adler, a second born even when grown up and outside the family circle, often still makes use of a pacemaker by comparing himself with someone whom he thinks more advantageously placed, and tries to go beyond him (Ansbacher and Ansbacher, 1956:34).

Adler states that the general characteristics of the middle-born child are the most varied and contradictory of all the birth positions. He or she may have the characteristics of being a mediator or one who avoids conflict, extremely loyal to a peer group, being independent and frequently being the child in the family who gets "lost." A middle child may be shy and quiet or friendly and outgoing, impatient and easily frustrated or laid back, taking life in stride. A middle-born may be very competitive or very easygoing, the family "black sheep" or the peacemaker (Leman, 1985:135).

Adler continues to say that in shaping middle-borns "branching off" is a powerful force. This principle says the second born will be most directly influenced by the first born and the third

born will be most directly influenced by the second born. “Influence” means that each child looks above and sizes up the older sibling. (Leman, 1985:135)

Middle children often describe their birth position as “out of place,” “misunderstood,” “fifth wheels,” or as “leftovers” who always got bypassed and upstaged by the younger or older siblings.” “I just didn’t get much respect” is a key distinguishing phrase for middle borns. Friends become very special to the middle-born child. This is how they obtain the cherished rewards and recognition that motivate all children. This then means that they are social, independent and extremely loyal to their peer groups. Middle-borns as well learn to negotiate, compromise and frequently work to avoid conflict (Leman, 1985:138).

Ansbacher and Ansbacher (1956:36), states that according to Adler, all other children can be dethroned, but never the youngest because he has no followers but many pacemakers. Being the baby of the family, probably makes him the most pampered. This faces the difficulties of a pampered child. But, because he is so much stimulated and has many chances for competition, he often develops in an extraordinary way, runs faster than the other children, and overcomes them all. The position of the youngest has not changed in human history; the oldest stories of mankind tell how the youngest child excelled his brothers and sisters. An example is where in German, Russian, Scandinavian, or Chinese fairy tales the youngest child surpasses all his brothers and sisters and is always the conqueror.

In the Bible we can find excellent descriptions of youngest children which coincide exactly with our experience. For example, the stories of Joseph, David, and Saul. Although Joseph had a younger brother, Benjamin, he was born when Joseph was seventeen years old, so that as a child Joseph was the youngest (Genesis 37, NIV Bible). Joseph’s style of life is typical of a youngest child. Even in his dreams he asserts his superiority. The others must bow down before him; he outshines them all. His brothers understood his dreams very well, which was not hard for them, since they had Joseph with them, and his attitude was clear enough. Ansbacher and Ansbacher

(1956:37) states that the feelings which Joseph aroused in his dreams they also had felt so they feared him and wanted to get rid of him. In the end from him being the last, however, Joseph became the first. We see that in later days he was the pillar and support of the whole family, as the youngest child so often is (Genesis Chp.42, NIV Bible).

There is also another mainstream of qualities in most last-borns. Besides being charming, outgoing, affectionate, and uncomplicated, they can carry also a dark side. They can be rebellious, critical, temperamental, spoiled, impatient, and impetuous. Adler says that last-borns carry the curse of not being taken seriously by their families and then by the world. Receiving instructions from older brothers and sisters obviously does not ensure that last borns are getting the facts of life (or anything else) very straight. Sometimes a youngest child will not admit to any single ambition, but this is because he wishes to excel in everything, be unlimited and unique (Leman, 1985:137).

The only child has a problem of his own. His rival is not a brother or sister; his feelings of competition are directed against his father. Therefore because of that, they are used to being put down. (Leman, 1985:137). As a result of this, a youngest child may suffer from extreme inferiority feelings; everyone in the environment is older, stronger, and more experienced (Ansbacher and Ansbacher, 1956:34).

Ansbacher and Ansbacher (1956:35) states that Adler says the second largest proportion of problem children comes from among the youngest, because all the family spoils them. A spoiled child can never be independent. An only child is pampered by his mother. She is afraid of losing him and wants to keep him under her attention. He develops what is called a “mother complex”; he is tied to his mother’s apron strings and wishes to push his father out of the family picture. This is because all attention is on him. Often, an only child is scared to death lest he should have brothers and sisters following him. He dislikes the idea of him having other siblings (Ansbacher and Ansbacher, 1956:35).

Adler states that firstborns and only children are more responsible, ambitious, organised, academically successful, energetic, self-disciplined, more temperamental, more anxious about their status (neurotic), more assertive and dominant (Sulloway, 1996:297).

An only child is often treated like an adult. This at times makes them feel they never had a childhood. Adler says that the labels describing firstborns also fit the only-born; but preceding each label. This means that if a first born is a perfectionistic, reliable, conscientious, well-organized, critical, serious, scholarly, cautious and conservative, then an only child will be super perfectionistic, reliable, conscientious, well-organized, critical, serious, scholarly, cautious and conservative. When an only child is a perfectionist, he or she usually moves toward one of two extremes. Either one of these the “discouraged perfectionist or he or she may become very critical, cold-blooded, and objective (Leman, 1985:139).

Moreover, the only child wants to be the center of attention all the time because he really feels that it is a right of his, and if his position is challenged, he thinks it a great injustice. Later in life, when he is no longer the center of attention, he has many difficulties. This then makes it difficult for him to interact in his environment. It has also been pointed out that another point of danger for his development is that he is born into a timid environment. Often, only children are found in a family where we could expect the parents to be able to have more children, but the parents are timid and pessimistic; they feel they will not be able to solve the economic problem of having more than one child. Therefore, the whole atmosphere is full of anxiety and the child suffers badly. However, if the children in a family are spaced many years apart, each child will have some of the features of an only child.

Other researchers have gone on to study on birth order affecting personality. In Bragg and Allen's (1970:371) book, *Ordinal Position and Conformity: A Role Theory Analysis* he mentions various experimentalists who did a classical experiment about the respondents waiting for an electric shock, which brought about a revival of interest in birth order studies. In one of his own

researches, he announced to 62 female psychology students the delivery of either a painful or a 'painless electrical shock. Arousal of anxiety was measured with two self-rating scales. Under the pain condition, firstborns indicated a higher level of anxiety than later borns and were willing to withdraw from the experiment in greater numbers. He mentions Darley (1966:374), who performed this same experiment, as well as Willems et al. (1972:376) and Weller (1962:378) with female college or university students. There was no association of being firstborn with reported anxiety or, in the Willems' Dutch sample, with avoidance. Interestingly, in this study middle children were less frightened than first or lastborn. Two mixed-sex samples did not report differential anxiety or differential wish to withdraw by birth order.

Then, the experimental setting was modified by Eisenmann (1965:381) and by Staples et al. (1961:381). In this former study a small sample of female students was given the choice between painless and painful shocks. Firstborns decided in greater number for painless ones. In the latter study first- and later born female students had to choose between participating in or refusing an experiment including shock. The decision to participate was independent of birth rank.

Landers et.al (1971:385), on a further study, had a different measure of anxiety introduced. A sample of high school males, while waiting for shock, had to report on perceived anxiety and do a tracking task. While the former measure was not related to birth rank, tracking errors were more frequent in firstborns in two of three trials. Weiss (1970:390) modified both setting and measure of anxiety of Landers et.al (1971:390) experiment. He tried to put a small sample of high school males under stress with arithmetic problems, sounds, and shocks. Change in heart rate, serving as a measure for anxiety, was independent of birth rank.

There was a different result that showed no difference for birth rank in scores after an experiment whereby a pilot study by Dohrenwend et al. (1967:402) was taken up by Suedfeld (1968, 1969:403) and Zuckerman et al. (1968:403), who gave a stress scale and an anxiety checklist to male student volunteers waiting for sensory deprivation.

However, because the above studies have been done in the western countries it is important to find out whether birth order affects personality of the women in the African context.

Frank Sulloway (1996:297) states that it is not only birth order that affects personality development. He contends that personality is shaped by a Darwinian struggle among children for parental attention.

The Independent Variable

The independent variable here is Alfred Adler's insight on birth order. There are various studies that have been done in the western countries in relation to this study and many conclusions have therefore been drawn. However, this theory has not been tried in an African context.

Alfred Adler believed that birth order was the way a child interpreted his or her perceived positions in the family, which is the most important to him or her (Kalkan, 2008:455).

He stated that birth order affects one personality and growth. However, other researchers have refuted Adler's theory by stating that there is a stronger relationship of personality traits to the psychological birth order rather than the actual birth order. They go on to say that the psychological birth order has a greater influence on how the children's personalities will be formed in their world (Kalkan, 2008:456).

Alfred Adler, (1964 :102) says that firstborns tend to be great believers in power and the laws. They tend to be conservative toward change, perhaps somewhat elitist in their views. On the other hand the second child is "a runner", looking for some area of success and more willing to follow another's lead. The middle child tends to be sensitive to mistreatment or unfairness, they are afraid they will miss out on their share. Then the youngest sets out to catch up to the others and is very ambitious. An only child according to Adler, is usually charming and congenial. His social behaviour is intended to please rather than to out do. An only child never has never had a rival therefore he may have been pampered and never learned to share.

The Dependent Variable

The dependent variable is the adult women of Imara Daima. The women are between the ages of twenty-five and forty. This constitutes women who are the first, second, middle, youngest and only child order of birth position in the family. Women of Imara Daima, Embakasi ward may have other factors that could affect their personality and not only their birth order. This could be environmental factors. In environmental factors, things such as poverty, culture and tradition, financial constraints and a lack of education are some of the factors in the environment that may affect one's personality. There are also types of environment to consider as we study poverty in one's environment, education, tradition and culture and financial constraints being mentioned as those factors that influence one's personality in the environment.

The various types of environments include: physical, social, family, cultural and school environment. As we state other factors that could affect personality, it is important to know these types of environment. The physical environment includes influence of climatic conditions of a particular area or country on man and his living. The social environment is where an individual has their birth in their society. The sociologists emphasize that the personality of the individual develops in a social environment. It is in the social environment, that an individual comes to have moral ideas, social attitudes and interests. This enables him to develop a social 'self' which is another term for personality. The individual learns and lives there. Hence, the social environment has an important say in the personality development of the child. More so, it is important to also note that the family environment is the first that a child knows and it is his home. Family is the cradle of all social virtues. In the family environment, the child comes in contact with his parents and other family members. His likes, dislikes, stereotypes about people, expectancies of security and emotional responses all are shaped in early childhood. Therefore it is important to note that the type of training and early childhood experiences received from the family play an important role in the development of personality.

There is also the Cultural Environment whereby certain cultural traditions, ideals, and values etcetera, which are accepted in a particular society. All these factors leave a permanent impression on the child's personality. The school environment also may play an important role in molding the personality of the children because a significant part of a child's life is spent in school between the ages of 6 and 20 years. In the school, the teacher substitutes the parents. The school poses new problems to be solved, new taboos to be accepted into the superego and new models for imitation and identification, all of which contribute their share in molding personality.

According to Maccoby E, (2000: 51:2) culture is transmitted through language and the modeling of behavior when conditions permit humans to communicate through shared language, by living in the same historic period, and when they are sufficiently proximal to influence each other. He goes on to say that cultural influences which come from the overarching model on personality that we have is that though biological factors have an important role in shaping personality, they do not account for most of the variance. Ecology, among other factors, shapes the culture, which in turn shapes the socialization patterns, which shape some of the variance of personality. Also, Rohner (1986, 1999) has shown links that are reliable between socialization practices and personality.

He says both within and between cultures when parents accept their children (there is much hugging, comforting), the children become sociable, emotionally stable, have high self-esteem, feel self-adequate, and have a positive world view. When parents are rejecting (hitting, using sarcastic language, humiliating, neglecting), their children become adults who are hostile, unresponsive, unstable, immaturely dependent, and have impaired self-esteem and a negative world view.

Poverty could also be a factor that affects personality. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the term poverty means the state of being very poor: the state of lacking in a particular quality the state of not having enough money to take care of basic needs such as food,

clothing, and housing. Secondly it goes on to say that it is a deficiency or lack of something: poverty of emotion. According to Rev. Praveen J in an article, personality can be greatly affected with poverty. He brings in this statement on the basis of the orderly development of the human organism beginning in the mother's womb long before the baby's birth. Perhaps the most universally recognized condition of the human being is helplessness and passive dependency in early childhood.

This is because, usually the mother is the person who provides the child with fulfillment of his biological needs during infancy. In addition Rev. Praveen J. states that visual attention is a highly necessary thing here. Stimulation and deprivation are the outcome of caring children and effects of social isolation by a lazy care towards child affect his personality. An effect of enriching the environment is inevitable for active personality. Inappropriate care towards child in this early personality development period due to poverty survival may create lots of personality problems in child such as anxiety disorder, mistrust, in durability, aggressive behaviors, etc. thus there is a need of an active care in this period for child's absolute personality development.

Furthermore, illiteracy may also affect the personality of women apart from birth order.

Marianice in an article states that, illiteracy can affect human characteristics through abnormal psychological development and development of antisocial characteristics. For example, when a child cannot read at the expected level during his or her school years, he or she may begin to feel isolated. She adds on to state that many children begin to form antisocial behaviors in the earliest educational years. Children begin to mimic what they hear during oral reading and become adept at doing so in nearly perfect sync with those with whom he or she is reading. This leads to cheating from others written work to keep the fallacy of being a reader intact, thereby falsely protecting the ego. This is only one among many abnormal psychological responses that can grow from illiteracy during the earliest education years as mentioned by Marianice.

Summary

There are many authors who have been discussed in this chapter that have researched on Adler's insight on birth order and have supported this theory as one that does apply in affecting personality. This being the case, most of them seem to be in full agreement that it is the main factor affecting personality. Although one of the authors from the above readings, Topness (2014:2) points out that developmental issues as well could affect personality. Is it really true that birth order is the main factor affecting the personality of individuals?

Finley et.al (1976:130) did a research on the firstborns and only children which found out similarities in some of their personality traits. Therefore, because of this, can we conclude that the findings are true or can more research be done to find out more about this theory? What factors did they consider as they were carrying out the study? Was it from just one province in Canada that the research was done? If so, would it be different to carry out the research in another province in Canada? In addition, could the research of this study have been affected by the respondents being of different races?

It is therefore important to know that there could be other traits that they did not research on that can be investigated for the purpose of this same study. More so, David (1973), talks about firstborns being cheaters. However, it is interesting to note that Adler states that firstborns are rule conscious. How does one become rule conscious at the same time being cheaters? This is why it is important to investigate this theory so as to come up with a conclusion where necessary and further recommendations for research to be done.

Conclusion

There is a need to go on with the study to ensure that we find what causes various personality problems in our society today. Once this has been examined there will be improvement of lives and an increase in the development of a productive society.

In addition, it is important to examine whether Alfred Adler's theory is applicable in an African context, thereby seeing if there is a correlation between birth order and personality and growth

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter dealt with the description of the methods used in the study. It is organized under several sections as described below. The research design which included the research variables were presented followed by the location of the study. It also showed the research population and the techniques used to get the samples of this population. Time did not allow for a pilot study section meant to deal with how reliable and varied the study is. Finally the research instruments and the data collection and analysis were discussed.

Research Design

According to Kombo and Tromp (2011) research design can be thought of as the structure of research. They continue to say that it is the “glue” that holds all of the elements in a research project together. A design is used to structure the research, to show how all of the major parts of the research project work together to try address the central research questions.

The type of research design that was used is the ex-post factor design. This is because the independent variable in use would not be manipulated.

Population and Sampling

Target Population

Imara Daima county ward is in Embakasi, South ward and it carries a population of 70,641. The ward is approximately 3.9 square kilometres. From this population, a total of a hundred and fifty women have been selected to carry out the research. They are between the ages of 25 to 40 years old of different tribes in Kenya.

Sample

Webster (1985) states that a sample is a finite part of a statistical whose properties are studied to gain information about the whole.

The target population is a hundred adult women in Imara Daima County Ward of diverse Kenyan cultures ranging from ages twenty-five to forty who are either first born, second, middle, last born or only child. There are thirty of each ordinal position that will be chosen as samples in from a population of approximately 70,641 people.

Sampling Methods

The sampling method that the researcher used is the statistical method where

$n = 10\%$ of the target population.

The letter “n” here stands for the sample size.

Sampling Techniques

Orodho and Kombo (2002) state that sampling is the procedure a researcher uses to gather people, places or things to study. It is a process of selecting a number of individuals or objects from a population such that the selected group contains elements representative of the characteristics found in the entire group.

The sampling technique employed was a non-probability sampling called purposive sampling technique. This is because the research taken was used to collect focused information, where the researcher purposely targeted the women of Imara Daima ward as the study sample.

Data collection

Kombo and Tromp (2011) state that data collection as the gathering of information to serve or prove some facts. The major source of data used by the researcher was the primary source; questionnaires.

Instrumentation

The researcher used the questionnaire for the study. According to Kombo and Tromp (2011), questionnaires are research instruments that collect data over a large sample. The questions that were structured were of relevance in relation to the purpose, objectives and hypothesis of the

study, from the variables in the research. Questionnaires were used for this study because the population was literate and a large population was needed in a limited amount of time.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

This chapter presented the research investigating whether Alfred Adler's theory on birth order applies in the African context. The questionnaire was completed by 97 respondents out of 130 respondents. This represents 90% of the total number targeted. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the data. In the descriptive statistic scoring was used in each question. Section I assessed the firstborns, section II assessed the second borns and section III assessed the middle borns. Section IV of the questionnaire assessed the last borns and the last section, V assessed the only child.

General finding

Demographic Data

Table 1: What is your birth order?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	First born	30	30.9	30.9	30.9
	Second born	19	19.6	19.6	50.5
	Middle born	28	28.9	28.9	79.4
	Last born	17	17.5	17.5	96.9
	Only child	3	3.1	3.1	100.0
	Total	97	100.0	100.0	

The researcher targeted adult women aged 25 to 40 years. The respondents who were given the questionnaire filled and returned were 97. The total number of firstborns were 30 which is equivalent to 30.9 %, whereas the total number of second born respondents that filled the questionnaire were 19 which is equivalent to 19.6%. The number of middle born respondents

were 28 which is equivalent to 28.9% and the last borns who filled the questionnaire were 17 which is equivalent to 17.5%. The only children respondents were 3 which is equivalent to 3.1 %. The cumulative percentage then of the returned questionnaire equals to 97 respondents which is equivalent to 100%.

Section I: Is there a Relationship with Adler Perspective on Birth Order on First Borns in the African Context?

The figure 1 shows the scores of the first borns. This is as a result of the following questions being asked;

1. People often say that I am self-sacrificing and self- reliant. [Yes=2 No=1]
2. I criticize and take things seriously. [Always sometimes never]
3. I tend to be rule conscious. [Always=3 Sometimes=2 Never=1]
4. I am thorough when doing a task. [Always=3 Sometimes=2 Never=1]
5. I am usually afraid to confront people even when I believe they are wrong.
[Always=3 Sometimes=2 Never=1]
6. I support peace at all costs [Always=3 Sometimes=2 Never=1]

From the above questions, the scores totaled up to 17.

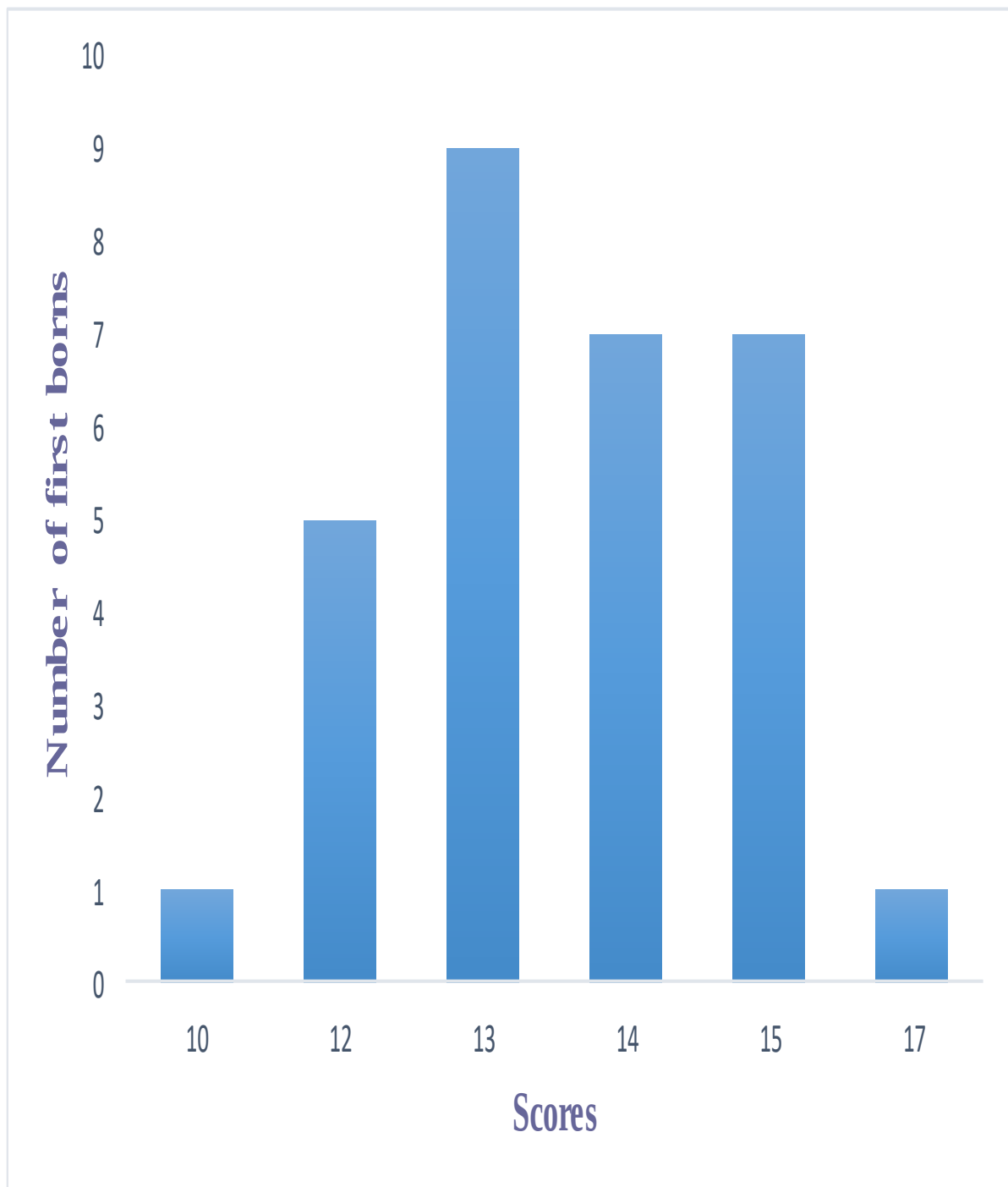


Figure 2: Scores of First Borns

Table 2: Scores of Firstborns

	Scores (out of 17)[x]	Number of Firstborns	fx
	10	1	10
	12	5	60
	13	9	117
	14	7	98
	15	7	105
	17	1	17
Total		30	407
Mean Score	13.56		
In Percentage	79.7%		

The above findings show the scores of the firstborns out of 17.1 scored 10, 5 scored 12, 9 scored 13, 7 scored 14, another 7 scored 15 and 1 scored 17. The mean score was 13.56 and the percentage mean score was 79.7%.

Section II: Is There a Relationship with Adler's Argument on Birth Order on Second Borns in The African Context?

This section has the findings of the second born respondents. The questions that were asked were as follows;

1. Do you strive to receive much attention? [Yes=2 No=1]
2. I consider myself as the most talented in the family. [Always=3 Sometimes=2, Never=1]
3. I try to outshine others. [Always=3 Sometimes=2 Never=1]
4. I consider myself the most successful in the family [Yes=2 No=1]

The above questions were out of 10.

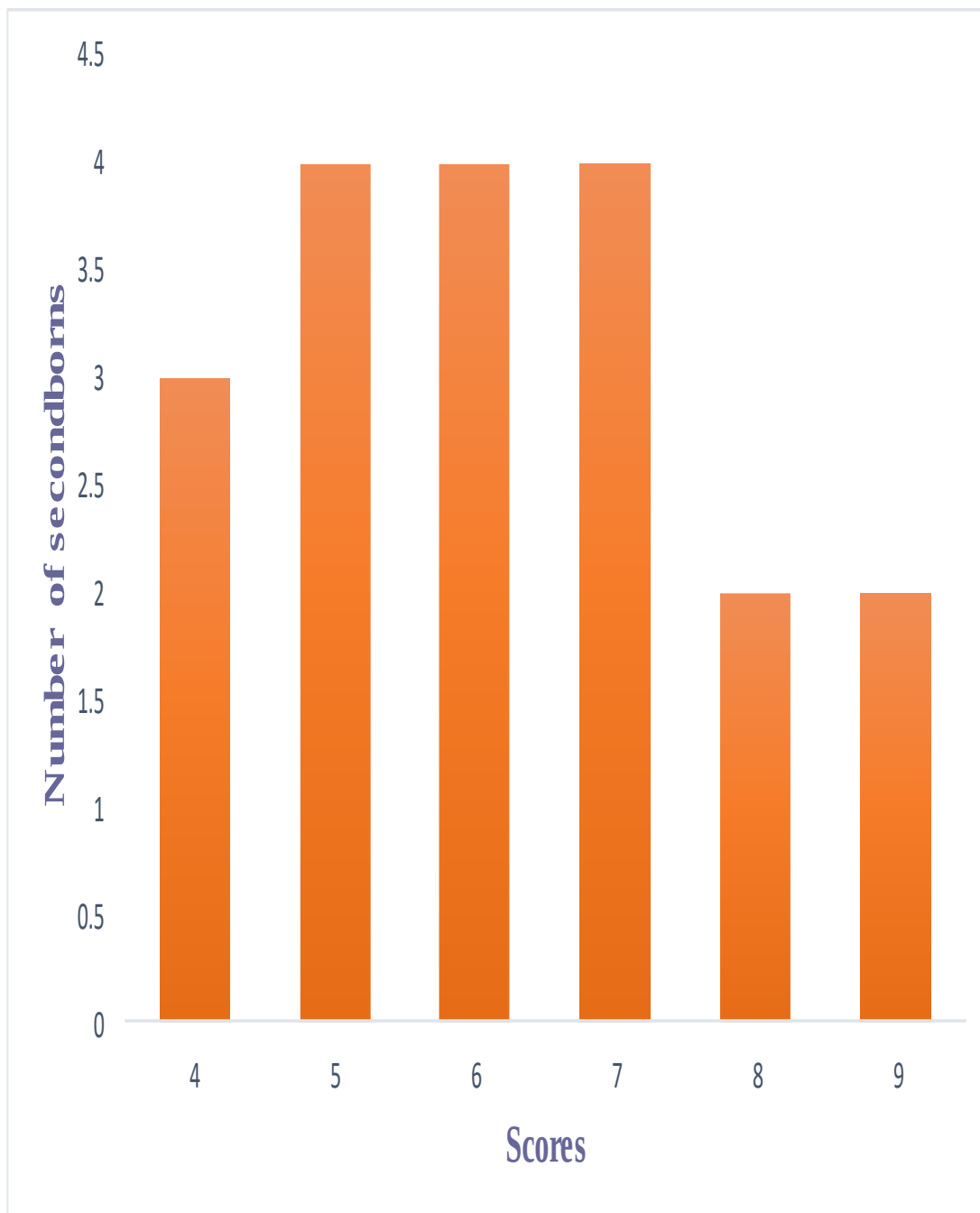


Figure 3: Scores of the Second Borns

The

graph

presentation shows the scores of the second born respondents who were 19. the majority of scores was 5, 6 and 7.

Table 3: Scores of the Second Borns

	Scores (out of 9)[x]	Number of Second borns	fx
	4	3	10
	5	4	60
	6	4	117
	7	4	98
	8	2	105
	9	2	17
Total		19	118
Mean Score	6.20		
In Percentage	68.8%		

The table above shows the scores of the second borns from the findings out of 9.3 scored 4,4 scored 5,another 4 scored 6 and 7 as well.3 scored 8 and 2 scored 9.this brought a mean score of 6.20 which is equivalent to 68.8%.

Section III: Is There a Relationship with Adler's Argument on Birth Order on Middle Borns in The African Context?

The set of questions that were in this section analyzed the middle borns. The score was out of 10.

Table 4: Scores Of The Middle Borns

	Scores (Out Of 9)[X]	Number Of Middle Borns	Fx
	6	3	18
	7	6	42
	8	13	104
	9	5	45
	10	1	10
Total		28	219
Mean Score	7.82		
In Percentage	78.2%		

The table above shows the scores of the questions that the middle born respondents were asked in section III. They were as follows;

1. Are you most easily frustrated when a situation arises? [Yes=2 No=1]
2. I am friendlier to my siblings than my friends.[Yes= 2 No =1]
3. I am very easy going [Yes=2 No=1]
4. I am shy and quiet. [Yes=2 No=1]
5. Do you generally avoid conflicts? [Yes=2 No=1]

The table shows the mean score of the middle born respondents which was 7.82 which is equivalent to 78.2%.

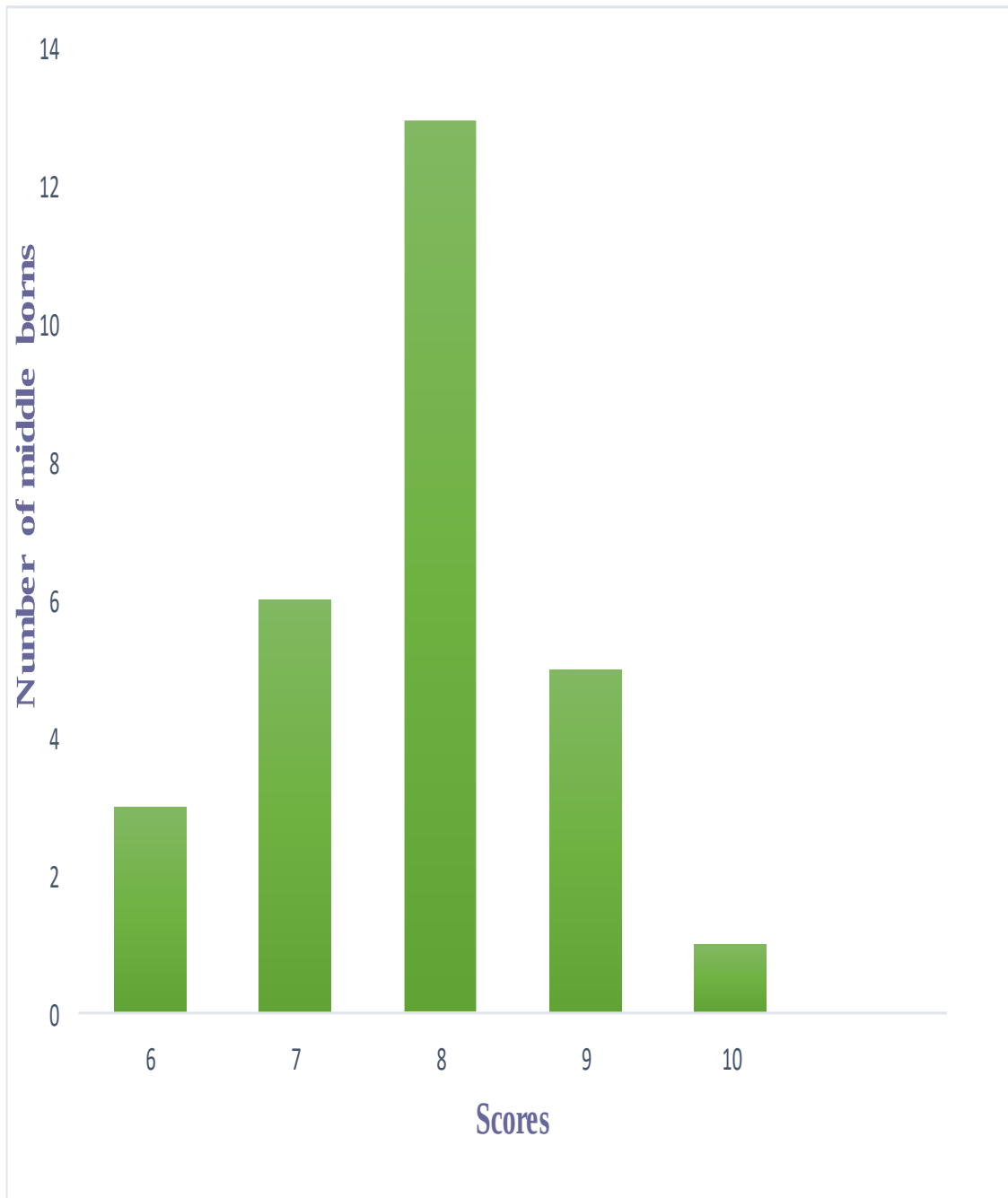


Figure 4: The scores of the Middle Borns

The figure above shows the findings of the middle borns. 3 scored 6, 6 scored 7, 13 scored 8, 5 scored 9 and 1 scored 10. This was out of 10.

Section IV: Is There a Relationship with Adler's Argument on Birth Order on Last Borns in the African Context?

The questions in this section were analyzing the last borns. The questions were out of 10.

They were as follows;

1. I consider myself easy to deal with in any situation [Yes=2 No=1]
2. I tend to be very impatient [Yes=2 No=1]
3. I tend to place myself in the position of other people when they are low. [Always=3 Sometimes=2 Never=1]
4. I value attention.[Always=3 Sometimes=2 Never=1]

Table 5: Scores of the Last Borns

	Scores (Out of 10)	Number of Last borns	fx
	5	2	10
	7	6	42
	8	3	24
	9	5	45
	10	2	20
Total		18	141
Mean Score	7.83		
In percentage	78.3%		

The table shows the findings of the last born respondents. The score was out of 10. In the 18 respondents, 2 scored 5, 6 scored 7, 3 scored 8, 5 scored 9 and 2 scored 10. The mean score was 7.83 and the percentage is 78.3%.



Figure 5: scores of the last borns

The figure above shows scores of the last borns and the number of the last born respondents. The total number of last borns were 18.

Section V: Is There a Relationship with Adler's Argument on Birth Order on Only children in the African Context?

The table above shows the scores of the following questions that the only child responded to;

1. I am super perfectionist. [Yes=2 No=1]
2. I love functioning in an orderly way and according to plan when I do everything.[Always=3 Sometimes=2 Never=1]
3. I am extremely assertive. [Yes=2 No=1]
4. Do you find comfort in hanging out with elderly persons? [Yes=2 No=1]

Table 6: Scores of the Only Children

Scores (Out of 9)		Number of only children	fx
5		1	5
6	1	6	
8	1	8	
Total		3	19
Mean Score	6.33		
In percentage	70.3%		

The only children scored a mean of 6.33 which is equivalent to 70.3%. 1 scored 5, another 1 scored 6 and another scored 8.

The figure shows a representation of the table of the only child findings that had a mean of 6.33 which is equivalent to 70.3%.

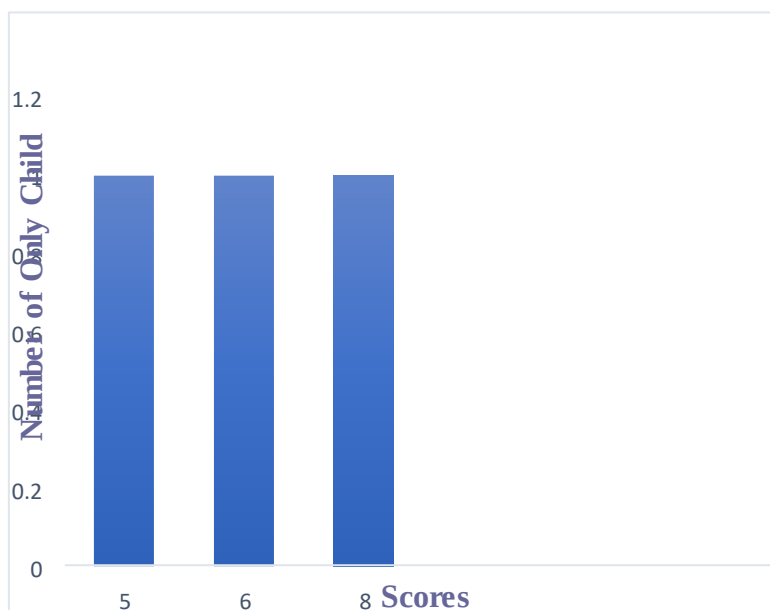


Figure 6: Scores of the Only Children

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Introduction

This chapter summarizes the findings of the study and presents the conclusion, recommendation and the suggestions for further research. The research is useful to assess psychologically certain behaviors in personalities of individuals. It also allows for a deeper understanding of the subtle nuances of each personality and personality qualities that are innate. This enables individuals to be able to interact with different individuals of their environments in harmony and to be able to diagnose personality disorders in individuals.

This research was conducted in Imara Daima, Embakasi South.

Summary of the Major Findings

The study has found out some characteristics of behavior of the various birth orders in the women who were the respondents of the study.

- i. From the findings, the majority of the respondents who participated were first borns. The firstborn respondents added to a total of 30, whereas the only children were the least with 3 only. It is evident that in the location of study they were not many only children respondents.
- ii. Adler states that first borns are perfectionistic, reliable, conscientious, list-makers, well-organized (Leman ,1985).In being well-organized, they develop a great talent for organization a striving to protect others may be exaggerated into a desire to keep those others dependent and to rule over them.(Ansbacher and Ansbacher 1956) They are as well critical, serious, scholarly; achiever, self-sacrificing, people-pleaser, conservative,

supporter of law and order, believer in authority and ritual, legalistic, loyal, and self-reliant. (Leman, 1985)

The research findings of the first borns had a total of 28 out of 30 firstborn respondents stating that they are self-sacrificing and self-reliant. This is more than 90% in agreement on Adler's theory. Therefore, the result from the findings show that Adler's theory on affecting first borns personality could apply. More so on another behavior on personality on firstborns being critics and taking things seriously, majority stated that they always and sometimes take things seriously. This then means that Adler's theory on birth order on first borns having a personality of criticizing and taking things seriously could apply to the women in the African context. More so, majority of the 30 firstborns stated that they always tend to be rule conscious. According to Adler's theory, the firstborns support peace at all costs. In the research findings, 23 out of 30 stated that they always support peace.

Therefore, with the total result of the mean score of the firstborn respondents being 13.56 which is equivalent to 79.9%, then there are high chances of the firstborn respondents having their personalities being affected by their birth position.

iii. The study concluded that the personality of second borns could be as a result of their position of birth. Majority of the respondents answered in line with Adler's perspective on how second borns behave. Most of them seemed to strive to receive much attention and to outshine others. In addition, many considered themselves as the most talented and successful in the family.

The second borns attained a percentage of 68.8% which is above average. This finding shows that not only birth order affects personality of individuals but also other psychological factors.

iv. According to Adler's theory middle borns are easily frustrated when a situation arises. More than half of this respondents stated that they get easily frustrated when a situation arises. Also, more than half of the middle born respondents stated that they are friendlier than their

siblings. This means that they are more social compared to their siblings. Another characteristic that seemed to stand out was that most said that they are very easy going and that they generally avoid conflicts. In summary, the middle borns scoring a percentage of 78.2 which is above average, shows high chances of the middle born respondent's personalities being affected by their birth order. However, the remaining percentage shows that there could be other factors that affect personality.

- v. Majority of last borns stated that they were easy to deal with in any situation. Most of them stated that they seemed to be very impatient. Almost half of the population stated that they tend to place themselves in the position of others when they are low and that they value attention. This then shows that there is influence from Adler's theory on birth order affecting personality of the last born respondents.
- vi. Despite the few percentage of only children present, Adler's theory on only children seem to contribute to their way of behavior. This score being 70.3% which is above average.

Conclusion

From the research of the study, it is evident that birth order can affect the personality of an individual. This is because of the results giving percentages which were above 65%.

However, this is not to say that the theory is the only one that affects the personality of individuals. This is because the scores of the findings have not added up to 100%. In as much as Adler stated that the spacing between the years of the siblings and the number of siblings may affect one's personality in their family (Isaacson, 2004), this may not only be the reason that the results were not 100%.

Recommendation

From the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations were made:

- i. A research to be done more on the middle borns and the qualities that they possess while finding out the spacing in between siblings and the number of siblings one has to find out whether the theory can be applied.

Recommendations for Further Research

- i. There is need for further research to be done to be able to find other factors that affect women's personalities, apart from birth order.
- ii. A research as well needs to be done on the adult men in the African context to investigate whether Alfred Adler's theory on birth order applies to them.
- iii. Due to the study having studied women between ages 25-40 years, the same research can also be done on older women from 41-65 years of age to find out whether there are any differences on the current research done.
- iv. There is also need to research on the spacing in years of siblings and the number of siblings affecting personalities in birth order.

Summary

This research was authored after an investigation was carried out on Adler's insight on birth order if it applies in the African context. The purpose of this study was to investigate if Adler's theory on birth order applies in the African setting in the women of Imara Daima, Embakasi South, Nairobi. The research was intended to help analyze one's personality in a psychological point of view. The outcome of the study proves that the hypothesis may be rejected because of birth order having an effect on the personality of individuals.

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<http://ow.ly/> (By: Rev. Praveen John M.Div, DCPC, (M.Sc) A Clinical Psychology Specialist & Philosopher)

APPENDICES**Appendix I**

Fill in the blank spaces by ticking as required. Do not write your name on the form for the purpose of confidentiality. Make sure that whatever you write is genuine and true to the best of your knowledge. Be assured that everything shall be kept confidential.

QUESTIONNAIRE**1. Please tick your birth order**

- ☐ Firstborn
- ☐ Second born
- ☐ Middle born
- ☐ Lastborn
- ☐ Only child

2. Number of siblings in your family_____**SECTION I (tick the appropriate answer)****1. People often say that I am self-sacrificing and self-reliant**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2. I criticize and take things seriously

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Never

3. I tend to be rule conscious

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Never

4. I am thorough when doing a task

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Not at all

5. I am usually afraid to confront people even when I believe they are wrong

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Not at all

6. I support peace at all costs

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Never

SECTION II**1. Do you strive to receive much attention?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2. I try to outshine others

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Not at all

3. I consider myself as the most talented in the family

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

4. I try to outshine others

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Not at all

5. I consider myself the most successful in the family

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

SECTION III.

1. Are you most easily frustrated when a situation arises?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2. I have more friends than my siblings.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

3. I am very easy going

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

4. I am shy and quiet

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

5. Do you generally avoid conflicts?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

SECTION IV

1. I consider myself easy to deal with in any situation

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. I tend to be very impatient

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. I tend to place myself in the position of other people when they are low.

☐ Always

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

4. I am super organized and super perfectionist.

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. I value attention

☐ Always

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

SECTION V

1. I am super organized and super perfectionist

☐ Yes

☐ No

2. I love functioning in an orderly way and according to a plan when I do something

☐ Always

☐ Sometimes

☐ Never

3. I am extremely assertive

☐ Yes

☐ No

4. Do you find comfort in hanging out with elderly persons?

☐ Yes

☐ No