

Impacts of Parental Favoritism on the Personality and Sibling Relationship of the Students of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, San Isidro Campus

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Abstract:- Parental favoritism is when one or both parents display consistent favoritism toward one child over another. This study aims to evaluate the impacts of parental favoritism on the personality and sibling relationship of the students of the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, San Isidro Campus. The study used a descriptive research design that used a survey questionnaire to solicit data on the socio-demographic profile of respondents and to determine the respondents' perception about parental favoritism and its impact on their personality and sibling relationship. Analysis of the resulting survey data included descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentage, mean and correlation. The study consisted of 89 students from Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, San Isidro Campus. The majority of them or, 53 (59.55%) were male, many or 27 (30.34%) had 2 siblings and most or 38 (42.70%) were the eldest. Regarding their perception of parental favoritism, they agreed that parental favoritism negatively affects an individual in mental, social, and emotional aspects. Furthermore, parental favoritism also affects their relationship with their siblings. Last, the different variables have a significant relationship with their perception about parental favoritism. For the conclusions, the impacts of parental favoritism on children's personality and sibling relationships have been a significant issue in different fields, sectors, and even in the students' academics. Therefore, it is not a good decision to have parental favoritism on the family because of its effects on an individual.

Keywords:- Parental Favoritism, Personalilty, Sibling Relationship.

I. INTRODUCTION

Sibling relationships are among the longest-lasting in the family. These bonds are formed in early life and last into old age. Sibling relationships are typically defined as emotionally ambivalent since they are characterized by warmth and siblings' engagement in each other's life, as well as conflict and rivalry (1). Unfortunately, numerous factors affect the harmonious bond between or among the siblings. One of the reasons for the destruction of sibling relationships is because

of their parent. Parents are expected to spend their limited resources among their children appropriately to enhance parental fitness (2). However, kids may be selected to demand more resources than parents are selected to offer (3), resulting in family conflict over the distribution of parental investment.

Family Resource Group (2018) defines parental favoritism. According to them, parental favoritism is when one or both parents display consistent favoritism toward one child over another (4). It can include more time spent together, less discipline, and more privileges. (5 and 6) shown that most mothers and fathers favor some of their children over others in terms of closeness, confiding, and provision of support. This set of findings is consistent with earlier studies of parental favoritism in later life (7). (8) states that one reason for this is that parents should invest more in needier offspring. It only means that the offspring who do beg more receive more food or resources from their parents.

Although the assumption that parents should treat their children equally is widely held, treating children differently may reflect appropriate, sensitive parenting that is adjusted to each child's needs and characteristics (9). Receiving less favorable treatment than a sibling (e.g., being the object of more parental control and less affection) is positively associated with externalizing behavior, aggression, depressed mood, anxiety, and low self-esteem (10 and 11). It is also related to greater conflict and less affection between siblings (12).

Children's perceptions of favoritism have been shown to play an important role in the relationships between sibling relations. People are most likely to display negative behavioral reactions when they feel a disjunction between what they receive and what they think they deserve. Given this, irrespective of whether the child is favored or disfavored, perceived unfair treatment from parents may lead to maladjustment because it represents a disadvantage or benefits that the child feels are unwarranted (13). Like the students' academic performance, which may affect by different factors like the medium of instruction used and the impacts of the pandemic in school set-up (14 and 15), it is crucial to fix this matter. With this, the researchers want to determine the

possible impacts of parental favoritism on an individual's personality and their relationship with their siblings.

➤ **Objectives**

This study aims to evaluate the impacts of parental favoritism to the personality and sibling relationship of the students of the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, San Isidro Campus.

Specifically, the researchers desire to gain answers on the following objectives:

1. Describe the profile of the respondents in terms of their sex, number of siblings and birth order.
2. Determine the perceptions of the respondents about parental favoritism?
3. Determine the impacts of parental favoritism to the respondents' personality in terms of their mental, social and emotional aspect.
4. Determine the impacts of parental favoritism in sibling relationship?
5. Evaluate the relationship between the profile of the respondents and their perception about parental favoritism?

II. METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study used a descriptive research design that used a survey questionnaire to solicit data on the socio-demographic profile of respondents and to determine the respondents' perception about parental favoritism and its impact on their personality and sibling relationship. Analysis of the resulting survey data included descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentage, mean and correlation.

Locale of the Study

This study was conducted at Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, San Isidro Campus located at barangay Poblacion, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija during School Year 2020 – 2021.

Respondents of the Study

The study respondents were the high school and college students of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, San Isidro Campus in School Year 2020-2021.

Sampling and Sampling Procedure

The study respondents were the high school and college students of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, San Isidro Campus. Purposive population sampling was used since only those with Messenger and Internet connections were chosen to be the respondents.

Research Instrument

This section was composed of four parts—first, the survey questionnaire for the respondent's profile. Second, the perception of the respondent's about parental favoritism. Last, the impacts of parental favoritism on their personality and sibling relationship in terms of their mental, social and emotional. For the perception and impacts of parental favoritism, a five–point scale was used to indicate the degree of agreement on the item statements.

Scale	Verbal Interpretation
5	Strongly Agree
4	Agree
3	Slightly Agree
2	Slightly Disagree
1	Strongly Disagree

Data Gathering and Procedure

The first step in the data collection process was to ask permission from the Director of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, San Isidro Campus. After the approval, the researcher administered the survey questionnaire through the use of the Google Form. Before the actual administration of the test to the respondent, expert validation and pilot testing were done.

Ethical Consideration

Permission was sought from the Director of the Campus. Informed consent was given first before the respondent answer the questionnaire. Sufficient time was given to ask questions, the anonymity of the subjects and confidentiality of information was maintained.

Methods of Data Analysis

The following statistical methods were used:

1. Frequency counts, mean and percentage were utilized to describe students' socio-demographic profile and determine the perception and impacts of parental favoritism on the personality and sibling relationship of the respondents.

To compute for the weighted mean, each value must be multiplied by its weight. Products should then be added to obtain the total value. Total weight should also be computed by adding all the weights. The total value is then divided by total weight.

Ratings	Score Interval	Verbal Interpretation
5	4.20-5.00	Strongly Agree
4	3.40-4.19	Agree
3	2.60-3.39	Slightly Agree
2	1.80-2.59	Slightly Disagree
1	1.0-1.79	Strongly Disagree

2. Pearson correlation was utilized to determine the relationship between the socio-demographic profile of the students and perception about parental favoritism. All computations were done using Microsoft Excel.

III. RESULTS

The data obtained were organized, analyzed, and interpreted with the use of appropriate statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, weighted mean, and Pearson correlation.

A. Profile of the Respondent

Table 1 Sex of the Respondents

Sex	Frequency(F)	Percentage (%)
Male	53	59.55
Female	36	40.45
Total	89	100%

Table 1 shows the sex of the respondent. Out of 89, 53 or 59.55% were male while 36 or 40.45 % were female.

Table 2 Number of siblings of the Respondents

Number of Siblings	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
0	14	15.73
1	22	24.72
2	27	30.34
3	18	20.22
4	6	6.74
5	2	2.25
Total	89	100%

Table 2 shows the number of siblings of the respondents. Out of 89, 14 or 15.73 % has no sibling, 22 or 24.72 % has 1 sibling, 27 or 30.34 % has 2 siblings, 18 or 20.22% has 3 siblings, 6 or 6.74 % has 4 siblings and 2 or 2.25 % has 5 siblings.

Table 3 Birth Order of the Respondents

Birth Order	Frequency(F)	Percentage (%)
Eldest	38	42.70
Middle child	12	13.48
Youngest	23	25.84
Only child	16	17.98
Total	89	100%

Table 3 shows the birth order of the respondents. Out of 89, 38 or 42.70 % was eldest, 12 or 13.48 % was middle child, 23 or 25.84 % was youngest and 16 or 17.98 % was only child.

B. Perceptions of the respondents' about parental favoritism

Table 4. Respondents' Perception about Parental Favoritism

Item Statements	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1. Favoritism happens in children with a single parent.	3.61	Agree
2. Favoritism usually happens in a broken family.	3.37	Slightly Agree
3. Parental favoritism causes children's rebellion.	3.72	Agree
4. Parental favoritism destroys	3.55	Agree

sibling relationship.		
5. Parental favoritism affects children's academic performance.	3.75	Agree
6. Parental favoritism causes family problems.	3.78	Agree
7. Children avoid their parents when they know that their parents are having favoritism.	3.80	Agree
8. Parental favoritism causes conflict between children and their parents.	3.71	Agree
9. Parents are not treating their children's equally.	4.01	Agree
10. Children are having a hard time being with their parents.	3.80	Agree
Average Weighted Mean	3.71	Agree

Table 2 shows the perceptions of the respondents about parental favoritism. Item statement number 9, "Parents are not treating their children equally." has the highest weighted mean, which is equivalent to 4.01 with verbal interpretation "Agree." It is followed by item statement number 7 and 10, "Children avoid their parents when they know that their parents have parental favoritism." and "Children are having a hard time in being with their parents." both have weighted mean, which is equivalent to 3.80 with verbal interpretation "Agree." Meanwhile, item statement number 2, "Favoritism usually happens in a broken family," has the lowest weighted mean of 3.37, which has verbal interpretation as "Slightly Agree." It is followed by item statement number 1, "Favoritism happens in children with a single parent." which has a weighted mean, which is equivalent to 3.61 with verbal interpretation "Agree." The average weighted mean is 3.71 with a verbal interpretation of "Agree."

C. Impacts of parental favoritism to respondents' personality

Table 5 Impacts of Parental Favoritism in Mental Aspect

Item Statements	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1. I overthink about all things.	3.98	Agree
2. I always compare myself to others.	3.97	Agree
3. I always feel useless.	3.88	Agree
4. I always think that my parents don't love me.	3.69	Agree
5. I always feel that they are not proud of me.	3.75	Agree
6. I feel that my parents are not giving me attention.	3.67	Agree
7. I feel that my parents love my siblings more than me.	3.64	Agree
8. I always think that my parents are being unfair all the time in anything.	3.71	Agree
9. I am always trying my best to make them proud.	4.12	Agree
10. I am always giving my best	4.03	Agree

just to reach their standards.		
Average Weighted Mean	3.84	Agree

The table above shows the impacts of parental favoritism on the children’s personalities in the mental aspect. Item statement number 9, “I am always trying my best to make them proud.” has the highest weighted mean, equivalent to 4.12 with verbal interpretation “Agree.” It is followed by item statement number 10, “I am always giving my best just to reach their standards.” which has the weighted mean, equivalent to 4.03 with verbal interpretation “Agree.” Meanwhile, item statement 7, “I feel that my parents love my siblings more than me.” has the lowest weighted mean, equivalent to 3.64 with verbal interpretation “Agree.” It is followed by item statement number 6, “I feel that my parents are not giving me attention.” which has the weighted mean, equivalent to 3.67 with verbal interpretation “Agree.” The average weighted mean is 3.84 with verbal interpretation “Agree.”

Table 6 Impacts of parental favoritism in social aspect

Item Statements	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1. I don’t have many friends.	3.31	Slightly Agree
2. I lose my self-confidence when it comes in gaining friends.	3.47	Agree
3. I am ashamed of myself.	3.49	Agree
4. I feel shy talking to many people.	3.53	Agree
5. I always want someone to talk to.	3.61	Agree
6. I want some advice from others.	4.06	Agree
7. I post my thoughts in social media.	3.17	Slightly Agree
8. I feel afraid of people’s judgment.	3.78	Agree
9. I more likely to go outside than to stay in the house	3.63	Agree
10. I don’t associate with the people around me.	3.35	Slightly Agree
Average Weighted Mean	3.54	Agree

The table above shows the impacts of parental favoritism in the social aspect. Item statement number 6, “I want some advice from others.” has the highest weighted mean, which is equivalent to 4.06 with verbal interpretation “Agree.” It is followed by item statement number 8, “I feel afraid of people’s judgment.” which has the weighted mean, equivalent to 3.78 with verbal interpretation “Agree.” Meanwhile, item statement number 7, “I post my thoughts in social media.” has the lowest weighted mean, equivalent to 3.17 with verbal interpretation “Slightly Agree”. It is followed by item statement number 10, “I don’t associate with the people around me.” which has the weighted mean, equivalent to 3.35 with verbal interpretation “Slightly Agree.” The average weighted mean is 3.54 with a verbal interpretation of “Agree”.

Table 7 Impacts of parental favoritism in emotional aspect

Item Statements	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1. I easily get mad.	3.67	Agree
2. I always feel sad.	3.46	Agree
3. I cry a lot.	3.39	Slightly Agree
4. I always feel alone.	3.67	Agree
5. I pity myself.	3.35	Slightly Agree
6. I always feel down	3.52	Agree
7. I always feel happy.	3.55	Agree
8. I am always positive.	3.66	Agree
9. I am hurt.	3.47	Agree
10. I feel loveless.	3.51	Agree
Average Weighted Mean	3.53	Agree

The table above shows the impacts of parental favoritism in the emotional aspect. Item statement number 1, “I easily get mad” and item statement number 4 “I always feel alone” have the highest weighted mean equivalent to 3.67 with verbal interpretation “Agree”. Meanwhile, item statement number 5, “I pity myself.” has the lowest weighted mean, equivalent to 3.35 with verbal interpretation “Slightly Agree.” It is followed by item statement number 3, “I cry a lot.” with verbal interpretation “Slightly Agree.” The average weighted mean is 3.53 with verbal interpretation “Agree”.

D. Impacts of parental favoritism in children’s sibling relationship

Table 8. Perceptions regarding the effects of parental favoritism in children’s sibling relationship

Item Statements	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1. I always fight with my siblings.	3.55	Agree
2. I feel jealous of my siblings.	3.38	Slightly Agree
3. I always compare myself to my siblings.	3.42	Agree
4. We are not close with each other.	3.06	Slightly Agree
5. I always want to be better than them.	3.37	Slightly Agree
6. I always compete with them.	3.26	Slightly Agree
7. I easily get mad at them.	3.34	Slightly Agree
8. I don’t want to be with them.	3.04	Slightly Agree
9. I still love them no matter what.	3.97	Agree
10. I want to be close with them.	3.87	Agree
Average Weighted Mean	3.43	Slightly Agree

Table 8 shows the impacts of parental favoritism in children’s sibling relationships. Item statement number 9, “I still love them no matter what.” has the highest weighted mean, equivalent to 3.97 with verbal interpretation “Agree.” It is followed by item statement number 10, “I want to be

close with them.” which has the weighted mean, equivalent to 3.87 with verbal interpretation “Agree.” Meanwhile, item statement number 8, “I don’t want to be with them.” has the lowest weighted mean, equivalent to 3.04 with verbal interpretation “Slightly Agree”. It is followed by item statement number 4, “We are not close with each other.” which has the weighted mean, equivalent to 3.06 with verbal interpretation “Slightly Agree.” The average weighted mean is 3.43 with a verbal interpretation of “Slightly Agree.”

E. Relationship between the profile of the respondents and their perception about parental favoritism

Table 9. Relationship between the Profile of the Respondents and their Perception about Parental Favoritism

Variable	Correlation Coefficient	Interpretation
Sex	0	No Correlation
Number of Siblings	0.2	Weak Positive Correlation
Birth Order	0.3	Weak Positive Correlation

Table 9 shows the relationship of sex, number of siblings, and birth order to the respondents' perception of parental favoritism. Overall, the relationship between the birth order and the number of siblings to their perception about parental favoritism has a correlation coefficient equivalent to 0.3 and 0.2, respectively, which means it has a weak positive correlation. Meanwhile, sex having a correlation coefficient equal to 0 has no relationship to their perception about parental favoritism. This implies that the relationship of the socio-demographic profile of the respondent and their perception about parental favoritism is weak positive to no correlation at all.

IV. DISCUSSION

In this study, five objectives were established to explain the impacts of parental favoritism on the respondents. The first objective was to describe the study population. According to the socio-demographic profile of the respondents, most of the respondents were male, many of them have 2 siblings and the majority of them were the eldest in the family.

The second objective was to determine the perception of the respondents about parental favoritism. The average weighted mean obtained is equivalent to 3.71, which has a verbal interpretation of “Agree”. Based on the result, it only means that parental favoritism negatively affects an individual. According to (16), disfavoring a child may produce more negative reactions of that child towards the parents, which may lead the parents to disfavor that child further.

The third objective was to determine the impacts of parental favoritism on the respondents' personality regarding its mental, social, and emotional aspects. The average weighted mean obtained in mental, social and emotional aspects was 3.84, 3.54 and 3.53 which had verbal

interpretation “Agree”, respectively. According to the (17), individuals tend to examine others to evaluate their own opinions and abilities (18). All participants indicated that they have compared themselves to their siblings at one point or another and used the result to interpret whether or not they are treated differently than a sibling. Participants indicated they compared themselves to siblings based on parental expectations, material gains, privilege and need. It is known that the type of relationship a parent has with their child has an impact on various domains in that child's life, specifically their emotional well-being. Subsequently, literature on family differences has convincingly demonstrated that Parental Differential Treatment has consequences for children's lives (19). In addition, it is believed that emotionally secure child-caregiver relationships are believed to facilitate close and trusting extended relationships, while insecure relationships with caregivers are believed to lead to conflictual, distant and less satisfying extended relationships with others (20). Interestingly, as people move across the life-course, they tend to reduce or avoid conflict and emphasize harmony in their relationships (21 and 22).

The fourth objective was to determine the impacts of parental favoritism on the sibling relationship. The average weighted mean obtained was 3.43 with a verbal interpretation of “Slightly Agree”. The sibling relationship is an important component of the family system (23). Subsequently, the communication that takes place in the sibling relationship impacts the relationship between the siblings and other family relationships (24). The participants noted that it has negatively impacted the relationship between their siblings at one point or another in their lives. (25) confirm this indicating that PDT is related to negative outcomes, not only for individuals but also impacting siblings and families.

The fifth and last objective was to evaluate the relationship between the profile of the respondents and their perception of parental favoritism. Based on the result, the relationship between the birth order and the number of siblings to their perception about parental favoritism was weak positive to no correlation. Interestingly, when people move across the life-course, they increasingly attempt to reduce or avoid conflict and emphasize harmony in their relationships (19 and 20). On the contrary, siblings may try to maintain harmony despite negative feelings emanating from perceptions that their parents in the past favor another child (17).

V. CONCLUSION

Currently, the impacts of parental favoritism on children's personality and sibling relationships have been a significant issue in different fields, sectors, and even in the students' academics. The majority of the respondents were male. Most of them have two siblings and were the eldest in the family. Respondents agreed that parent's favoritism affects their children. Children are always doing their best for their parents. And they need other people's attention. They are also emotional when they experience favoritism and uncomfortable with their siblings. Almost all respondents responded that parental favoritism harms children's

personalities and sibling relationships. It is not a good decision to have parental favoritism on the family because it affects the children's personality and the children's sibling relationship.

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