

# A Comparative Study to Assess the Social Maturity Among Adolescents with Or Without Siblings at Selected School, Puducherry”

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## **ABSTRACT:**

**Introduction:** Siblings play an important role in shaping the social development of adolescents through interaction, cooperation, sharing, conflict resolution, emotional support, and companionship. Adolescents who grow up with siblings may have more opportunities for developing social competence, interpersonal skills, and responsibility. **Objective of the study:** This study aimed to compare the social maturity among adolescents with or without siblings at selected school, Puducherry **Methodology:** A quantitative, comparative research design was employed with 100 adolescents aged 10–19 years, selected using a purposive sampling technique. Data were collected using a structured tool comprising demographic variables and a modified assessment scale. **Results:** A significant association was found between the level of social maturity and selected demographic variables such as parental occupation and family history of psychiatric illness. **Conclusion** Overall, the study reinforces the idea that social maturity is influenced by a combination of family environment, interpersonal experiences, and relational dynamics. The findings can guide parents, teachers, and school health professionals in promoting healthy social development among adolescents.

**Keyword:** social maturity, adolescents.

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Siblings play an important role in shaping the social development of adolescents through interaction, cooperation, sharing, conflict resolution, emotional support, and companionship. Adolescents who grow up with siblings may have more opportunities for developing social competence, interpersonal skills, and responsibility. In contrast, adolescents without siblings may have fewer chances for such social learning experiences within the family environment. Studies have shown that adolescents with siblings tend to demonstrate higher levels of social maturity compared to those without siblings. However, limited research evidence is available that compares the social maturity among adolescents with or without siblings in the Puducherry region.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

A Comparative study to assess the social maturity among adolescents with or without siblings at selected school, Puducherry.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

1. To assess the level of social maturity among adolescents.
2. To compare the social maturity among adolescents with or without siblings at selected school, Puducherry.
3. To associate the social maturity among adolescents with their selected demographic variables.

## **II. METHODOLOGY**

The design adopted was comparative research design. The setting of the study was Bharatha Devi English High School, Madagadipet, Puducherry. The period of data collection was two weeks. A total of 50 adolescents were selected using purposive sampling technique, among which 25 were with siblings and 25 were without siblings. The structured Social Maturity Rating Scale was used to assess the level of social maturity among adolescents. The gathered data were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics, and interpretations were made based on the objectives and hypotheses of the study.

**Inclusion criteria:**

- Adolescent school students who are available during data collected
- Adolescent must have at least one living biological sibling

**Exclusion criteria:**

- Adolescent school students who are not willing to participate in the study.
- Adolescent who cannot able to read and write English / Tamil

**DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH TOOL TECHNIQUE**

**SECTION A – Demographic Variables**

Demographic variables include age of child, gender, residence, parental occupation, family income (monthly), family type, number of siblings, birth order of child and family history of psychiatric illness

**SECTION B - Description of the tool used**

The tool used for the present study was a **structured Social Maturity Rating Scale**, developed to assess the level of social maturity among adolescents. The scale consisted of **40 statements**, each designed to measure different aspects of social behavior, interpersonal skills, emotional stability, and responsibility. The items were presented in a **five-point Likert format**, with response options ranging from “*Strongly Agree*” to “*Strongly Disagree*.”

**Scoring interpretation:**

Scoring	Interpretation
160 - 200	Highly socially mature
120 - 159	Moderately socially mature
80 - 119	Average social maturity
40 - 79	Low social maturity
Below 40	Needs significant improvement in social maturity

**DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

**Section A:** Description of the Demographic Variables among Adolescents With and Without Siblings at Bharatha Devi English High School, Puducherry.

**Section B:** Assessment of the Social Maturity among Adolescents with or without Siblings at Bharatha Devi English High School, Puducherry.

**Section C:** Comparison of Social Maturity among Adolescents with or without Siblings at Bharatha Devi English High School, Puducherry.

**Section D:** Association between the Level of Social Maturity among Adolescents with and without Siblings and Their Selected Demographic Variables.

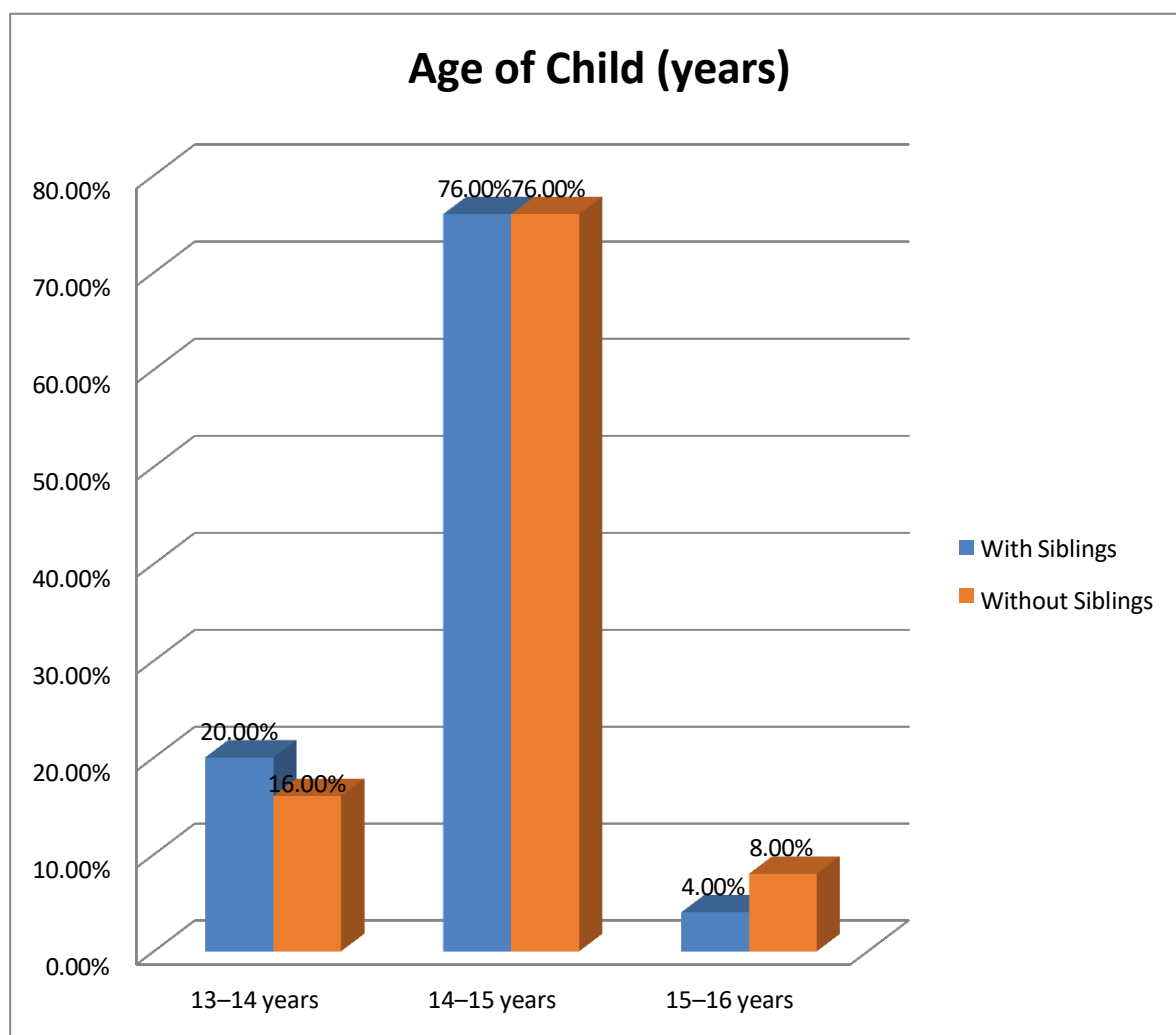
**Table 1: Frequency and Percentage-wise Distribution of Demographic Variables among Adolescents With and Without Siblings at Bharatha Devi English High School, Puducherry.**

(N = 25 + 25)

Demographic Variable	Category	With Siblings	Without Siblings
		n (%)	n (%)
Age of Child (years)	13–14 years	5 (20.0%)	4 (16.0%)
	14–15 years	19 (76.0%)	19 (76.0%)
	15–16 years	1 (4.0%)	2 (8.0%)
Gender	Male	13 (52.0%)	16 (64.0%)
	Female	12 (48.0%)	9 (36.0%)
Residence	Urban	12 (48.0%)	12 (48.0%)
	Rural	13 (52.0%)	13 (52.0%)

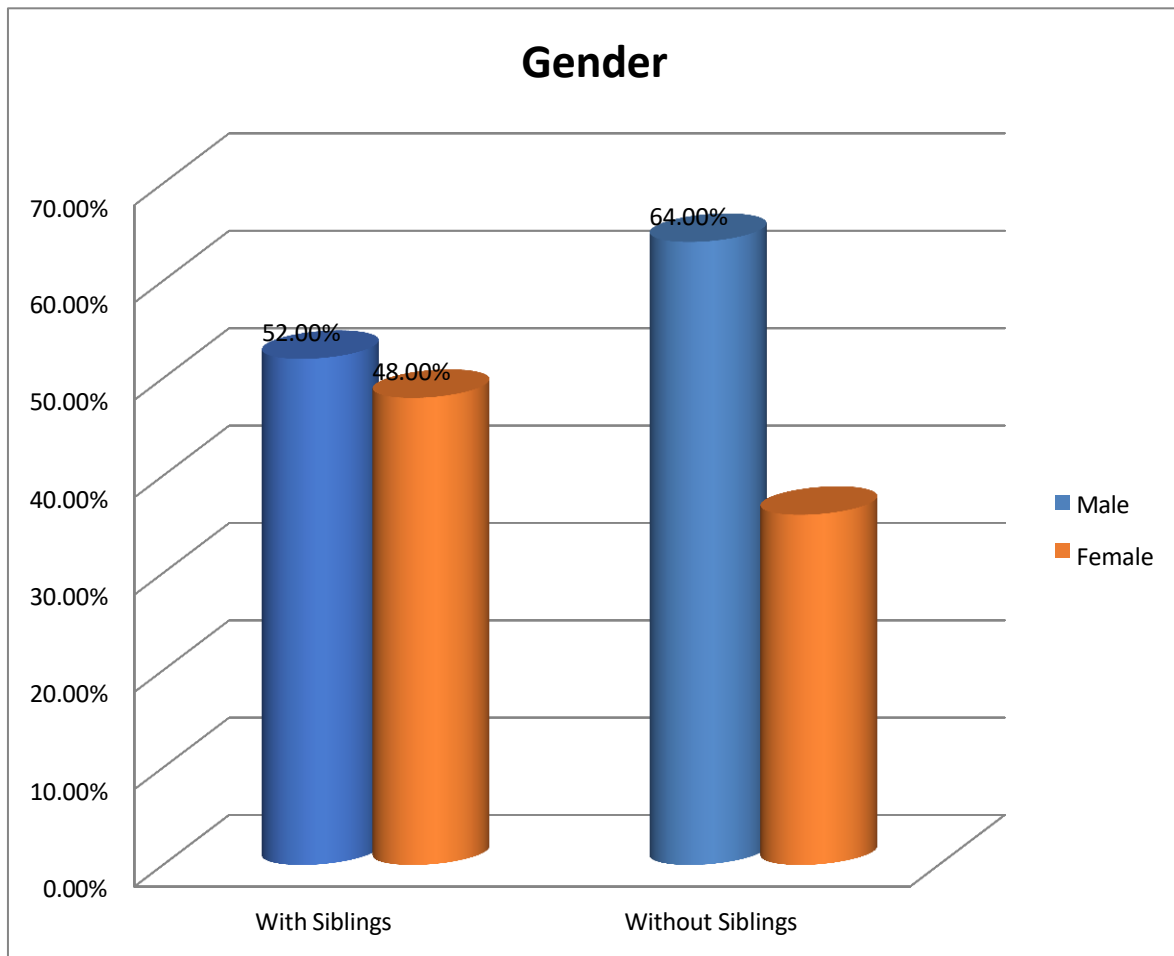
<b>Parental Occupation</b>	Government employee	0 (0.0%)	2 (8.0%)
	Private employee	9 (36.0%)	7 (28.0%)
	Self-employed	7 (28.0%)	6 (24.0%)
	Daily wages	9 (36.0%)	10 (40.0%)
<b>Monthly Family Income (₹)</b>	Below 10,000	0 (0.0%)	1 (4.0%)
	10,000 – 20,000	19 (76.0%)	19 (76.0%)
	20,000 – 30,000	6 (24.0%)	5 (20.0%)
<b>Family Type</b>	Nuclear	20 (80.0%)	21 (84.0%)
	Joint	5 (20.0%)	4 (16.0%)
<b>Number of Siblings</b>	None	25 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)
	1–2	0 (0.0%)	22 (88.0%)
	More than 2	0 (0.0%)	3 (12.0%)
<b>Birth Order of Child</b>	First born	25 (100.0%)	25 (100.0%)
<b>Family History of Psychiatric Illness</b>	Yes	2 (8.0%)	3 (12.0%)
	No	23 (92.0%)	22 (88.0%)

Figure no: 1



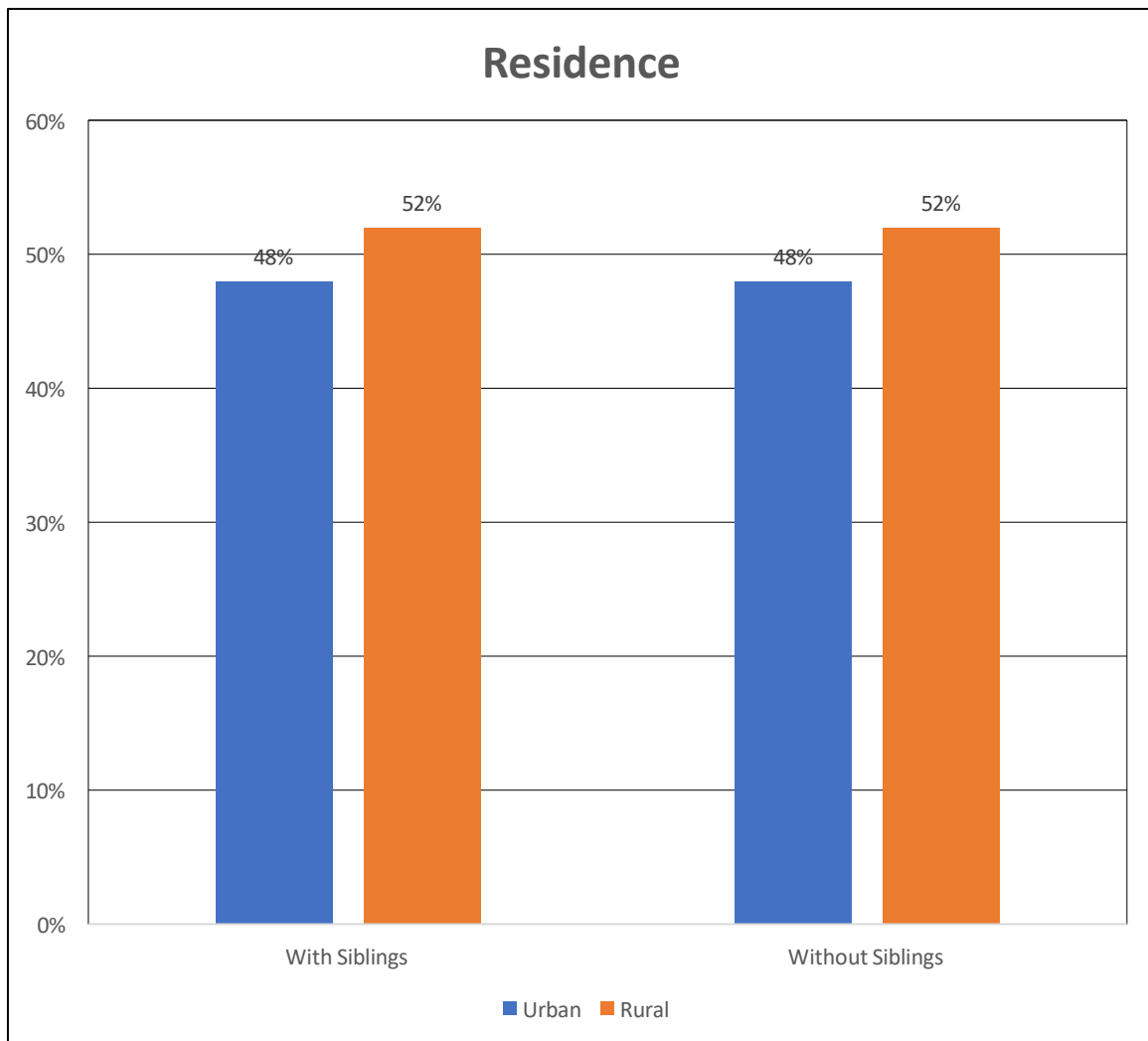
With regard to **age**, the majority of adolescents in both groups were 14–15 years old — 19 (76.0%) among those with siblings and 19 (76.0%) among those without siblings. Only 5 (20.0%) with siblings and 4 (16.0%) without siblings were in the 13–14-year age group, while a small proportion were aged 15–16 years (1 [4.0%] with siblings and 2 [8.0%] without siblings).

**Figure no: 2**



Concerning **gender**, male adolescents predominated in both groups — 13 (52.0%) among those with siblings and 16 (64.0%) among those without siblings — while females constituted 12 (48.0%) and 9 (36.0%) respectively.

Figure no: 3

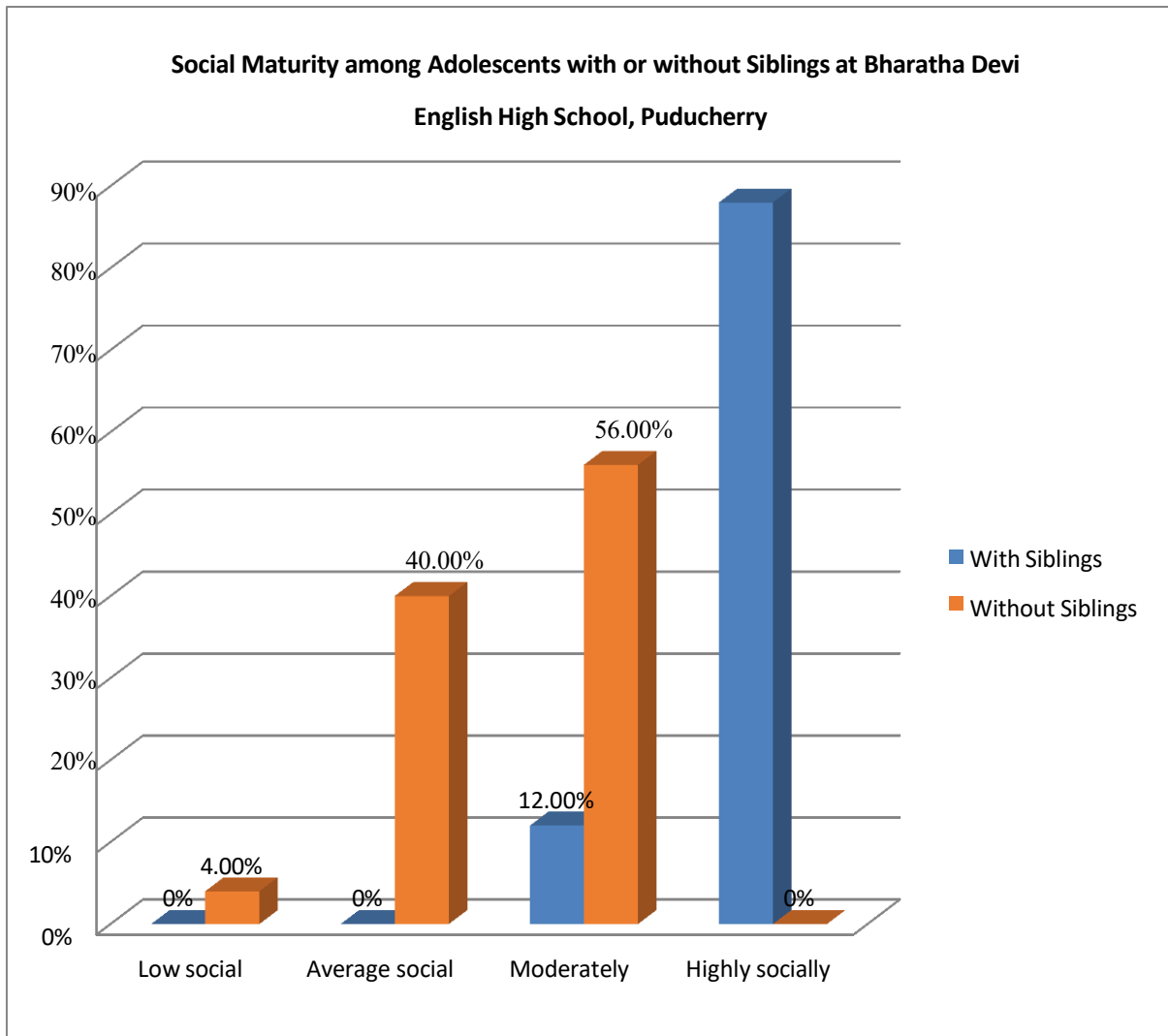


With respect to **residence**, equal proportions of adolescents (12 [48.0%]) from both groups lived in urban areas, while 13 (52.0%) from each group resided in rural areas.

**Table 2: Frequency and Percentage-wise Distribution of Social Maturity among Adolescents with or without Siblings at Bharatha Devi English High School, Puducherry (N = 50)**

Social Maturity Level	With Siblings (n = 25)	With Siblings (%)	Without Siblings (n = 25)	Without Siblings (%)
Low social maturity	0	0%	1	4.0%
Average social maturity	0	0%	10	40.0%
Moderately socially mature	3	12.0%	14	56.0%
Highly socially mature	22	88.0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Figure no: 4



**Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation of Social Maturity among Adolescents with or without Siblings at Bharatha Devi English High School, Puducherry (N = 50)**

Group	Mean	Standard Deviation (SD)
With Siblings (n = 25)	174.80	9.635
Without Siblings (n = 25)	129.72	18.082

**Table 4: Comparison of Social Maturity among Adolescents with or without Siblings at Bharatha Devi English High School, Puducherry (N = 50)**

Group	Mean	Standard Deviation (SD)	Mean Difference	t-value	df	p-value
With Siblings (n = 25)	174.80	9.635	45.08	11.001	48	0.001** HS
Without Siblings (n = 25)	129.72	18.082				

**Table 5: Association Between the Level of Social Maturity among Adolescents with Siblings and Their Selected Demographic Variables (N = 25)**

Demographic Variable	Category	Moderately Socially Mature	Highly Socially Mature	$\chi^2$ Value	df	p-value
		n (%)	n (%)			
Age of Child	13–14 years	1 (33.3%)	4 (18.2%)	0.478	2	0.787 NS
	14–15 years	2 (66.7%)	17 (77.3%)			
	15–16 years	0 (0.0%)	1 (4.5%)			
Gender	Male	0 (0.0%)	13 (59.1%)	3.693	1	0.005* S
	Female	3 (100.0%)	9 (40.9%)			
Residence	Urban	2 (66.7%)	10 (45.5%)	0.476	1	0.490 NS
	Rural	1 (33.3%)	12 (54.5%)			
Parental Occupation	Private Employee	1 (33.3%)	8 (36.4%)	0.048	2	0.976 NS
	Self-employed	1 (33.3%)	6 (27.3%)			
	Daily Wages	1 (33.3%)	8 (36.4%)			
Family Income (Monthly)	Rs. 10,000–20,000	3 (100.0%)	16 (72.7%)	1.077	1	0.299 NS
	Rs. 20,000–30,000	0 (0.0%)	6 (27.3%)			
Family Type	Nuclear	2 (66.7%)	18 (81.8%)	0.379	1	0.538 NS
	Joint	1 (33.3%)	4 (18.2%)			
Number of Siblings	None	3 (100.0%)	22 (100.0%)	—	—	Constant
Birth Order of Child	First Born	3 (100.0%)	22 (100.0%)	—	—	Constant
Family History of Psychiatric Illness	Yes	1 (33.3%)	1 (4.5%)	2.973	1	0.085 NS
	No	2 (66.7%)	21 (95.5%)			

\*- $p < 0.05$  significant, NS-Non significant

### MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- Among adolescents **with siblings**, a large majority of 22 (88.0%) were **highly socially mature**, while 3 (12.0%) were **moderately socially mature**. None of the adolescents with siblings were found to have low or average levels of social maturity.
- In contrast, among adolescents **without siblings**, the majority of 14 (56.0%) were **moderately socially mature**, followed by 10 (40.0%) who were **average socially mature**, and only 1 (4.0%) who had **low social maturity**. None of the adolescents without siblings were classified as highly socially mature.

### III. CONCLUSION

Overall, the study reinforces the idea that social maturity is influenced by a combination of family environment, interpersonal experiences, and relational dynamics. The findings can guide parents, teachers, and school health professionals in promoting healthy social development among adolescents.

### IV. RECOMMENDATION

- Schools should implement structured social skills development programs addressing communication, cooperation, empathy, and conflict management.
- Peer support groups and mentoring systems should be established to provide additional socialization opportunities for adolescents without siblings.

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