

Sibling Relationships during Middle Adulthood Years: Contact Patterns and Motivations

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KEYWORDS Siblings; middle adulthood; contact pattern; motivations

ABSTRACT The present investigation was an exploratory attempt to examine contact patterns and motivations with respect to age among siblings during middle adulthood years. A representative sample of 120 married adults (40-60 years) having at least one living biological sibling between the age differences of 1-4 years belonging to nuclear families of Udaipur city of district Udaipur of Rajasthan were selected. Adult Sibling Relationship Scale (ASRS) was developed, standardized and used to assess contact patterns and motivations among middle-aged siblings. The results of the study revealed that early and late middle-aged adults do not put forth a significant difference in the contact pattern with their sibling. Males reported to have regular phone contact with their siblings but it was not frequent, whereas females maintain frequent contact with their siblings. In-person contact motivation was almost similar both the age groups and for both male and female siblings. Obligations place demands on adults to maintain contact with their siblings. Contact by desire among siblings during middle years was reported to be very less; it was taken over by obligatory nature of contact motivations.