

# A study on the relationship between self-concept and altruism

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## ABSTRACT

The study investigate the relationship between self concept and altruistic behavior. The self concept scale developed by Dr. Rajkumar Saraswat was administered on 60 adolescents including age group 15-20 year both male and female .The altruism scale by Dr. S.N. Rai also administered on the same sample it was found that the self concept related positively to altruistic behavior. Subjects having high self concept scores were more altruistic then those having low self concept scores.

**Key words-** Altruism , self concept, personality traits, sociability authoritarianism.

## Introduction

Various kinds of human behavior such as being generous ,sharing , doing a favor, making up a transgression, helping , modeling altruistic behavior of others were reviewed by krebe 1970. Under the term altruistic behavior the following common attributes are evident in this activity.

- 1.Other directedness, that is doing or giving something good to another and
2. Self sacrifice , either by making an effort or by giving up something on behalf of Another.

Ronald Cohen(1972) refers to the ' altristic paradox' which arises from the fact that mankind individually and collectively can be both cruel and kind of one and the same time . Man himself may be good or bad and capable of empathy and kindness ,but as a member of a social system,he is sometime mode (man is good) as in the rousseauesque or Marxian tradition man is essentially good and capable of kind ,and noble thought and acts. However, sometimes, he gets caught in bad societies that create bestial, selfish and inhuman behaviour. The opposite and pessimistic mode runs in a line from **Machiavelli to Hobbes** to Freud.

## Altruism and Personality trait :-

In an attempt to find out what kind of people are altruistic various trait oriented correlational studies were conducted ratings of others pencil and paper tests and behavioral measures were used to assess altruism .Altruism was found to correlate positively with ethical goodness emotional stability and social adjust.....of male children and adolescent with social extra version of female college students

with attractiveness as a friends sociability authoritarianism , political conservatism of male college students with social and religious values need or nurturance and need for autonomy of female college students

Three studies of college students defined altruism according to scores on pencil and paper tests Friedriche (1960) found low positive correlations between altruism as measured by Likert type questionnaire and measures of theism and Church attendance ; and low negative correlations for ethnocentrism and neuroticism .Riball (1963) observed that altruism females had high need for defined by the Edwards personal preferences schedule altruistic males scored high on need for endurance. Sawyer (1966) found that altruistic behavior did not correlate with authoritarianism.

Altruistic behavior is put forward by French sociologist comte. Used to express individual selfless behavior to the others. Altruistic behavior is a high level prosocial behavior, the motive of which is voluntary the actor does not help others to get material or social reward, instead the actor does this to per mote the happiness of others and to benefit other people.

### **Self concept**

Self-concept is a dominant element in personality pattern ,therefore the measurement of self-concept becomes essential .A variety of methods and techniques have been developed to measure self-concept .The problem of measuring the self-concept to a large extent still remains unsolved .The difficulty in conducting research in such an area is that the concept of self is not very well defined and is in the state of flux .There are several terms that are virtually synonymous with self-concept among them are “Self-image” the “Ego”, “Self-understanding”, “Self-perception” and “Phenomenal Self”.

Self-concept has been referred by Lowe (1961) as one’s attitude towards self, and by Paderson (1965) as an organized configuration ,of perceptions, beliefs, feelings, attitudes and values which the individual views as a part of characteristics of himself . Rogers (1951) defined self-concept as “An organized configuration of perceptions of the self which are admissible to awareness. It is compared of such elements as the perceptions of one’s characteristics and abilities , the percepts and concepts of the self in relation to others and to the environment , the value qualities which are perceived as associated with experiences and objects, and the goals and ideas which are perceived as having positive or negative valence. “Saraswat and Gaur (1981) described self-concept as “The self-concept is the individual’s way of looking at himself .It also signifies his way of thinking , feeling and behaving”.

### **Research object and methods:-**

Research object:-

The research adopts handy sampling. The questionnaires were handed out in Jat School and Jat college Kaithal and were collected timely after being finished. There were 80 students filling out the questionnaires with 66 effective questionnaires collected. The following tests were used during the studies.

Self concept questionnaires :-

Self concept questionnaires (s.c.q.) by Dr. Raj Kumar Saraswat, reader in Psychology dept. of education, NCERT (New Delhi) was used to test the level of self concept of the subject.

This inventory measure five dimension of self concept

- i. Physical
- ii. Social
- iii. Temperamental
- iv. Educational
- v. Moral

The inventory contains 48 items having five responses each.

**Reliability-** The overall reliability coefficient was found by test retest reliability method and it was found to .91 for the total self concept measure.

**Validity-** Expert opinion were obtained to establish the validity . Item of highest agreement and not less 80% of agreement were selected . Thus the inventory has high content and construct validity.

#### Altruism scale-

This scale was developed by D.R. S.N. Rai and Dr. Sanwat singh .This scale consist of 30 items . Each item has 3 alternatives . This scale is made for the age group of 10-19 yr.

**Reliability and Validity** – The test is highly reliable having reliability .84 and highly valid having validity +.63.

#### Results

Total 80 booklets were collected out of 66 found to be effective for the study. The raw scores and the corresponding interpretation is given in the table.

The overall results of the study are:

scale	Mean value	interpretation
Altruism	34.34	High altruism

Self concept	143.77	Average self concept
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### **Discussion -**

There is great positive relation found between level of self concept and altruistic behavior among the subjects. The study show that the subjects having high level of self concept also show a high level on altruism. This study are in compliance with previous research discussed in chapter of introduction.

Direction of future research:-

Sample size of this research is small, which leads to the limitation when conducting structural and statistical analysis on self concept and altruism. In the future research, the sample size will be enlarge to check the relationship between self concept and altruistic behavior. Also the deferent dimension can be individually study in relation to altruistic behavior the study is literally beneficial for the development of prosocial behavior the self concept of the adolescents.

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