Chapter - Six

SUMMARY

We live in society whose values require people to help and co-operate with others. Without such cooperation it would not exist. Concept of altruism is of recent origin. The term altruism describes behaviour that is directed in a positive way and is given the name of positive social behaviours by Wispe (1978) which can be carried out only in situation in which the individual has the freedom to decide whether or not to help the actor intends to benefit another person and the act is performed as an end in itself and not as a means of fulfilling an alterior personal motive of an actor's various theories i.e.; exchange approach, normative approach, developmental approach, cultural approach have been proposed to explain the cause altruistic behaviour. The researches have also tried to throw light on those factors which determine the outcome of altruistic behaviour. The present research deals with such three factors i.e., sex, approval motive and social facilitation.

Sex is one of the important factors which is considered in relation to altruism. Most of the experiments (Latane & Darley, 1970; Pomozal & Clore, 1973; Clark, 1974; West et al., 1975) found that females are helped in general more than males. The traditional ideal in men dominating society for women is to be relatively submissive, while a man is expected to be more assertive, or dominating. Some studies have shown that females are more strongly committed to humanity ideals than males (Haffman, 1975). Diffusion of responsibility seems to occur frequently with females than with males, and also females may respond less frequently than males. Most researches (Cruder & Cock, 1971; Eagly & Crowley, 1986) show that there exists something like a "pure stimulus effect". This means that in our society, merely being females generate more aid from potential helpers, since we are socialized to believe that females are more helpless. Man may also be more likely to have the acquired skills necessary to help. Schopler an Batson (1965) an Schoplar (1967) found that males tend to help more a person who was high dependent. However, in his study Hoy-Chee (1992) did not observe any gender difference in respect of prosocial behaviour.

Motivation refers to the psychological processes that arouse, direct and maintain
behaviour toward a goal. Motives are so various and numerous that many clasifications have been proposed to group similar motives together or to identify basic motives underlying the others. The term approval motive was first coined by Crowne and Marlowe (1964) which has been used as an explanatory construct. It has been assumed that one agrees or disagrees with socially desirable or undesirable statements because of a motivational disposition which has been designated as approval motive. This has been designated on the assumption that one having high degree of approval motive would agree to greater number and varieties of socially desirable statements. A close review of literature of approval motive indicate seven tentative areas along which behaviour indicative of approval motive occur. These areas are (i) normative behaviour (ii) social conformity (iii) positive self presentation (iv) defensiveness (v) dependency (vi) social responsivenes (vii) social approval. These seems to be ground to believe that high approval motive may lead to high psychosocial competence and that it can be reasoned that high approval motive may lead to high altruistic behaviour (Tyler & Verma, 1988 ; Yinok-Lindaa, & Sharma (1987) Eisenberg, 1992; Rosha. 1992.)

The term social facilitation has been used to express the positive effects of working together or of the presence of others during work on the performance of subjects. Allport (1924) & Dashiell (1930) observed that subjects in the coacting group worked more vigorously and computed greater quantity of each of the tasks than subjects who worked alone. However, Husband (1937) and Pessin (1923) observed that the subjects performed in poorer before an audience than when alone. Zajonc (1965) has suggested a parsimonious way of explaining these contradictory effects. Two additional theories - distraction conflict theory and self-presentation theory - have been proposed to account for social facilitation effects. There seems to be great dearth of relationship between social facilitation and altruism (Guerin, 1993).

The present research intends to explore the relationship between altruistic behaviour and its certain determinants i.e., sex, approval motive and social facilitation.

The first problem is whether sex of the person plays any role in altruism. It is hy-
pothesized that males would exhibit more altruistic behaviour than females.

The second problem of the investigation is whether there exists any difference between high and low approval motive subjects in respect of their altruistic behaviour. It is assumed that the subjects with high approval motive would exhibit more altruistic behaviour in comparison to those with low approval motive.

The third problem of present study is whether social facilitation has any say on altruistic behaviour of the subjects. It is expected that merely presence of other would increase the occurrence of altruistic behaviour.

The present study also dealt with the problems of interaction effect of any two or the three factors - sex, approval motive and social facilitation on altruistic behaviour of the subjects. It is hypothesized that there would exist genuine interaction effects of sex and approval motive, sex and social facilitation, approval motive and social facilitation and sex, approval motive and social facilitation in regard to altruistic behaviour of the subjects.

Stratified random sampling technique was adopted to select the final sample of 240 subjects. Firstly, a list of all higher secondary schools of Raipur was prepared and then eight schools were selected randomly to draw a primary random sample of 1100 students of XI Class with male - female ratio of 1:1. On the basis of Q₁ and Q₃, on approval motive scale subjects were selected. In this way, the sample comprised of four subgroups i.e; males with high approval motive males with low approval motives, females with high approval motives and females with low approval motive. Finally, 60 subjects were selected randomly in each of the four subgroups. In this way, a total of 240 subjects were selected randomly as the final sample. Half of the subjects in each subgroup (M=30) served as control group (solo condition) and another half served as experimental group (social facilitation).

Tripathi & Tripathi's "AMS" (1988) was used to assess the approval motive level of the subjects and ALTS constructed and standardized by Rai & Singh (1988) was used to obtain altruism scores. Altruistic behaviour was also determined in an experimental situation where
in sharing behaviour of subjects was studied.

A 2X2X2 factorial design will be used to study the effect of sex, approval motive and social facilitation on altruistic behaviour of the subjects. Thirty subjects will be studied for their altruistic behaviour in each cell of the factorial design.

Data were collected in two steps. Firstly, approval motive test was administered on 1100 students of XI class who served as the primary sample of the study. On the basis of $Q_1$ and $Q_3$ on approval motive test, 120 subjects scoring below $Q_1$ (low approval motive) and 120 subjects scoring above $Q_3$ (high approval motive) were selected randomly as the final sample. In this way, subjects were studied in each of the four subgroups. Out of which half ($M=30$) had performed in solo and another half were in experimental condition, where in they were tested for their altruistic behaviour in the presence of three other persons who served as audience only. These 240 subjects were studied for their altruistic behaviour in the second step. For the purpose, firstly altruism test was administred (testing situation) and secondly, the subjects were studied in an experimental situation. A altruistic behaviour check list was prepared to note down the sharing behaviour of the subjects. The main response measure was the number of pens shared by the subject with the co-participant in the experimental situation. Maximum scores of ‘4’ was assigned to the subject when he/she had given all the three pens to the co-participant, a score of ‘3’ was assigned to the subject when he/she had given two pens to the co-participant keeping only one for him/her - self, a scores of ‘2’ was given when he/she had given one pen to the co-participant and kept one for him/her - self returning the third to the experimenter, scores of ‘1’ was given when he/she had given only one pen to the co-participant and kept the rest two for him self/her - self and the minimum score of ‘0’ was assigned to the subject when he/she had not shared the pens at all with the co-participant keeping all the three pens for him/her - self only.

Obtained data were analyzed with the help of ‘F’ and CR statistics. In respect of the effect of sex on altruistic behaviour in contrast to the research hypothesis it is found that females are more altruistic than males that is, females scored high on altruism scale and shared
more of the received reward with the co-participant in comparison to males.

As expected, it is found that high approval motive subjects scored high on altruism scale and shared more of the received reward (more altruistic) with the co-participant as compared to low approval motive subjects.

In regard to the effect of social facilitation on altruism as it was hypothesized it is observed that the subjects shared more of the received rewards with the coparticipant (more altruistic) in the condition of social facilitation in comparison to the solo condition.

Regarding the interaction effect of above factors only two interaction effects - AM X SF, and Sex. X AM X SF - that too only in testing situation are found significant, requiring more data to reach to a conclusion in this regard.

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