Daily reports of violence, war and crime have for many years led social scientists to focus their investigation on aggressive behaviour. However, in the last two decades they have become more and more interested in behaviour that might be considered the opposite of aggression i.e., prosocial behaviour. Concepts such as altruism, charity, friendship, cooperation, helping, rescuing, sacrificing and sharing all involve prosocial behaviour. We live in society whose values require people to help and cooperate with others. Without such cooperation it would not exist.

Altruism is viewed as those acts which are motivated solely by the desire to make some other person or organism "feel better", with the action of the altruist being characterized by self sacrifice and not at all by self interest. Thus, people dominated by altruistic value certainly will be an asset to the society. Because of this, the field of altruism presents a perennial challenge to the psychologists, specially, exploring the effects of organismic and environmental factors on this vital aspect and put forth the efforts with a motto in the mind to make the human more altruistic by enriching those conditions which foster the altruism in human and at the same time freeing him from detrimental effects of other organismic and environmental factors. These efforts, consequently, will ascertain high level of altruism in every walks of their lives where someone needs their help. The present research which deals with altruism has its worth and relevance as it probes in to the effect of social facilitation in altruism in the context of individual differences as regards to sex and approval motive.

The present study is an attempt to analyse the effects of sex, approval motive and social facilitation on altruism.

In Chapter One of the thesis, the concept of altruism has been explained. Relevant studies pertaining to the effects of sex, approval motive and social facilitation on altruism have also been reviewed in these chapter. Chapter Two is devoted to elaborating the problems and respective hypotheses undertaken for the investigation in the present research. Methodology adopted in the present research has been detailed in Chapter Three. Results
of analyses of data through various statistics have been summarized in Chapter Four. The findings have been discussed in Chapter Five. A separate Chapter Six on summary has been added to give a bird eye-view of the whole study. It was found that sex, approval motive and social facilitation have their own independent saying but not joint in respect of altruistic behaviour of the subjects.

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(MISS HIMA CHAWDA)