One has to deal with numerous problems in his day to day life because of which the field of problem solving presents a perennial challenge to the psychologists. Therefore, a better way of serving the mankind would be to undertake researches aimed at locating the problems one faces, suggesting solutions to them, and pin pointing the factors contributing to the problem-solving behaviour. The present study which deals with the problem-solving behaviour has its worth and relevance as it concerns the problem-solving behaviour and probes the effect of differences in problem solving in the special context of the individual differences in respect of the personality traits, intelligence, age, and sex.

The present study is an attempt to analyse the problem-solving behaviour of the subjects with varying personality, intelligence, age, and sex under different instruction-conditions. Certain personality traits, such as scholastic mental capacity, ego-strength, practicability, ergic tension, anxiety, emotional disturbance, etc. are thought to be relevant to the problem-solving behaviour. Intelligence also affects the problem-solving ability to a considerable degree. Age, too, contributes to the problem-
solving efficiency, though the role of sex of the subject seems to be controversial.

In Chapter 1 of the thesis the concept and the process of problem-solving behaviour have been explained. Relevant studies pertaining to the effects of personality, intelligence, age, sex, and direction (set) on the problem-solving behaviour have been reviewed in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 is devoted to elaborating the problems and respective hypotheses undertaken for investigation in the present study. Methodology adopted in the present research has been detailed in Chapter 4. Results of the analyses of the data through various statistics have been summarized in Chapter 5. The discussion of the findings has been splitted into two sections. The first section forms the content of Chapter 6 wherein the role of certain personality traits, intelligence, age, and sex in the problem-solving behaviour has been narrated. Chapter 7 is spared for the exclusive discussion of the effect of the directions on the problem-solving efficiency in general as well as in relation to personality, intelligence, age, and sex of the subject.

A separate chapter on SUMMARY has been added to give a bird's eye view of the whole study. It was found that personality, intelligence, and age have their own say in the problem-solving behaviour, but sex was not found effective in this respect. These variables when considered in various
combinations did not yield any significant effect on the problem-solving behaviour. Although positive direction improved the problem-solving ability to a considerable extent, it did not exert any differential effect due to facilitatory or inhibitory personality, low or high intelligence, young or old age, and male or female sex.

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Raipur

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( J.K. Ajvani )