

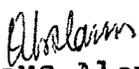
## PREFACE

India has been known through ages for its Unity in diversity. But the last few years have witnessed enormous spurt in the graph depicting terrorist activities in more than one part of the country. The terrorist borne kidnappings and killing, of innocent people in trains, buses, homes, offices and public places, may perhaps shake our very belief and conviction in the glorious heritage and exemplary sense of tolerance of Indian people. Our hearts bleed over violence, loot and arson, heinous killings, inhuman kidnappings and various sorts of brutal activities let loose by the misguided people tagged as terrorists. In view of this, the present investigator decided to investigate the kindest part of human being i.e. altruism in relation to personality traits and certain cultural variables. The need of the hour is to make earnest effort to encourage and develop a prosocial-altruistic society in India. The investigator does not make any lofty claims, but intends to inspire and suggest to the social scientists to pause and think for while over the prevalent grievous state of affairs of our country, and to contribute their share in promoting this great social virtue i.e. altruism in our present day society which is in a melting pot, lest our faith in goodness of human nature is shattered. If the *raison d'etre* of the

present work stimulates in any way the present day social scientists to undertake researches in this direction, or volte face in this respect, the author will deem that his humble effort has not gone in vain.

At the very outset, I wish to put on record my most sincere thanks to the supervisor of this dissertation, Dr. Ramji Srivastava, M.A., Ph.D., who always persuaded me and offered his precious time in completion of this work. He took active and sustained interest in the present piece of research, without which the work would not have reached this stage. I also wish to record my sincere thanks to my elder brother Mr. M. Ayub, Ex. Branch Manager, Life Insurance Corporation of India who always inspired me to undertake and complete this work. I take this opportunity to express my most sincere thanks to my wife and most loving children who, not only spared me from domestic chorus for a couple of years but also helped me in many ways through their active participation in the present research work.

Last but not the least, my thanks are also due to Sri Munna Singh, Proprietor of Krishna Typing Institute, Subzimandi, Azamgarh for his sincere and personal interest in the typing work of this dissertation. I shall be failing if I do not mention here the name of dear Lalloo alias Shameem Ahmad, who spared my time from domestic works for this investigation.

  
Qazi Ghaus Alam