PREFACE

Daily reports of violence, wars, and crimes for many years led social scientists to focus their attention on aggressive behaviour. However, in the last two decades, social scientists have become more and more interested in behaviour that might be considered the opposite of aggression. This behaviour consists of a variety of acts such as helping, aiding, sharing, donating, or assisting.

Certainly, dominance of prosocial behaviour instead aggressive one in human interactions is of prime necessity in the present anxiety age, which may lead them to prove themselves as the assets of the society. Because of this, the field of prosocial behaviour presents a perennial challenge to the social psychologists, specially, exploring the effects of certain factors on development of this vital aspect of human behaviour. Positively, it will be a service to the mankind to undertake researches at this aspect, and put forth the efforts with a motto in the mind to develop a true prosocial human by enriching those conditions which foster its development and at the same time, freeing him from detrimental effects of aggression. These efforts, consequently, will ascertain a harmonious and encouraging relations in every walk of their lives where they have to depend upon other persons in the society. The present study, which deals with the development of prosocial behaviour, has its worth and relevance, as it probes the effect of family structure, parental moral value and parental value pattern on the development of prosocial behaviour in the children.

In Chapter One of the thesis, the concept of prosocial behaviour and its development have been explained. Relevant studies pertaining to the effects of family structure, parental moral value and parental value pattern on the development of prosocial behaviour in the children have also been reviewed in this 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 analysis of data through various statistics have been summarised in Chapter Four. The discussion of findings has been splitted into two sections. The first section forms the content of Chapter Five wherein exclusively development of prosocial behaviour has been explained. Chapter Six is spared for the discussion of individual and interaction effects of family structure, parental moral value and parental value pattern on the development of prosocial behaviour in children.

A separate Chapter Seven on SUMMARY has been added to give a bird’s eye view of the whole study. It was found that parental moral value and parental
value pattern have their own saying on prosocial behaviour of the children while family-structure has not, when considered individually. However, interaction effect of age, family structure and parental moral value and of age and parental value pattern are found genuine.

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