The prolonged dependence of human child on its parents has its psychological consequences. In the attachment, attraction, affiliation and the related motives usher the feelings of helplessness rooted in the earliest childhood. Murray has searched into the various aspects of these desires of interpersonal warmth by developing the concept of social motives. Schachter demonstrated the significant effect of anxiety, birth order, and sex on the affiliation motive in the experimental conditions. In the same line, the present study attempts to search into the effects of some of the psycho-social variables on the affiliation behaviour.

The first chapter of the thesis introduces the concept of motive in general and affiliation motive in particular. Some relevant studies dealing with the sources of affiliation have been reviewed. The second chapter specifies the main problems and hypotheses formulated to synthesize the study. In the third chapter of Methodology, details of the samples, the tools used, the design followed, and the procedure adapted have been elaborated. A separate chapter has been devoted for describing the data and its analysis.
In chapter five of the thesis results have been discussed in the light of our own hypotheses and relevant findings of previous investigations. The most remarkable finding of this study is that the subjects of adolescent age of both sexes showed no significant relation or difference in affiliation motive for any of the personality traits. This suggests that the personality traits influence the affiliative expressions at the stage of maturity before which it remains rather independent of the personality effects. In case of the adult male subjects personality trait of shy vs. venturesome and placid vs. apprehensiveness showed marked effect on affiliation motive. In case of the female subjects the personality traits of trusting vs. suspiciousness, affected by feelings vs. emotional stability, tough-minded vs. tender-minded, and low intelligence vs. high intelligence evinced significant influence on affiliation motive.

In general, anxiety is found to be significantly correlated with affiliation motive. Further, males of adolescent and adult age-groups showed significant difference in their affiliation motive by virtue of difference in their level of anxiety. Age and sex were not found to play any major role in the development of affiliation motive but the order of birth of the subjects seemed to have a greater say in affiliative behaviour.
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