

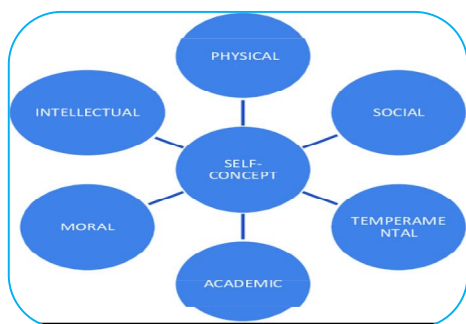


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## A STUDY OF ALTRUISM IN RELATION TO SELF CONCEPT AND CURIOSITY

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### ABSTRACT:

The study was designed to compare self concept and curiosity among high and low Altruism College going respondents. In this study two variables selected for empirical verification. 400 samples selected from different colleges and divided into male and female. Two hypotheses were formulated for verification. Bhargawa's DPS and Singh and Rai Altruism scale were administered on the respondents. Null hypothesis has been rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted.

**KEYWORDS:** Altruism, self concept, curiosity, pro social behavior.

### INTRODUCTION

The major problem to be studied is to examine the psychological and sociological aspects of altruism. The effort is to decide to investigate the relation between self concept and curiosity with altruism in context of college students of territorial areas. Though attempts to explain the behaviour to which the term applies are ancient, the term "Altruism" is of recent origin coined by a French philosopher and sociologist "August Comte" in "Encyclopedia of Britannica (1967); vol. 18. Most probably, he come to adopt this term from the Italian word "Altrui". Therefore, altruism refers to acts that bring benefits to other people. It has been taken from

the word "Alter" means "other" so altruism refers to acts that bring benefits to other people. The dictionary meaning of "altruism" is unselfish concern for the welfare of others. Altruism is pro-social behavior which has a very deep effect in the growth of personality and social grooming of the people. Experts like Bhatia (1987), Maculay & Berkowitz (1970), Wispe (1978), and Agarwal & Jain (1993) have stated that altruism is an act that aims at producing, maintaining or improving the physical and psychological welfare and integrity of others. Hamilton (1978) claimed that "Altruistic behaviour can be distinguished from other types of intra-specific social interactions." Psychologists believe that curiosity driven child development is very important to streamline all areas of life.

Curious children are always eager to ask the right type of questions and seek right kind of answers from people. Curiosity comes in a number of forms. In essence, all of them are important for optimum personality development. Curious children tend to be emotional, intelligent and smart with a keen sense of participating in all aspects of life. Curiosity is also essential to lean finer aspects of life. When your children are very curious, he or she can develop a mind that veers towards invention and discovery. Young children always believe that everything is possible in this world and the wonderful attribute of curiosity helps them in achieving all these possibilities. There is a widely held belief that children's curiosity becomes discouraged throughout the process of formal education.

According to Jirout, J. & Klahr, D. (2012), "Children are born scientists. From the first ball they send flying to the ant they watch carry a crumb, children use science's tools—enthusiasm, hypotheses, tests, conclusions—to uncover the world's mysteries. But somehow students seem to lose what once came naturally."

There's a familiar axiom: "Snooping around can lead to unexpected trouble." It infers interest is awful for you and prompts risky hazard taking conduct. Be that as it may, this thought of interest is quite obsolete in people, in any event. Interest the craving to approach novel and moving thoughts and encounters so as to expand one's information has for some time been related with scholarly interest, commitment with the world, memory, and learning. Presently, later research proposes that interest may likewise assume a job in our social connections. Studies have discovered that individuals who are interested are regularly seen in social experiences as all the more intriguing and connecting with, and they are progressively adept to contact a more extensive assortment of individuals. What's more, being interested appears to shield individuals from negative social encounters, similar to dismissal, which could prompt better association with others after some time. Interest is intensely connected with all parts of human improvement, in which infers the way toward learning and want to get information and expertise. (Zuss, M. (2012).

Self-concept has been generally conceptualized as representing the totality of the individual's thoughts and feelings with reference to oneself as an object. It may be either private (assessment of an attitude towards one's life situation on the basis of one's own feelings towards oneself) or social (evaluation of an attitude towards oneself in the light of social norms or others feeling towards oneself).

Self-concept has been treated as one of the important indicators of one's mental health (Burns, 1979; Feather, 1986; McCandless, 1967; Rosenberg, 1965; Warr, 1987; Wylie, 1979). Hence, in order to have an estimate of the mental health of the unemployed youth, their self-evaluation in their own eyes as well as in the eyes of other people needed to be analysed. Since we tend to define ourselves in terms of what we do, any change in occupational status may have implications for our self-concept. Also, it has been maintained that work plays a central role in the development of self-concept (Kelvin, 1981). Moreover, in a good number of studies by Winefield and his colleagues (Tiggemann & Winefield, 1984; Winefield & Tiggemann, 1985; Winefield, 1988) it has been suggested that securing a job particularly a good one has a positive impact on one's self-esteem.

Thus, it may be suggested that altruistic behaviour is affected by feeling, emotional arousal and cognitions of a person when a situation demands so.

### **OBJECTIVES:-**

### **HYPOTHESES:-**

1. The high altruist will score high on self-concept in comparison to low altruist.
2. The high altruist will score high on curiosity in comparison to low altruist.

### **METHODOLOGY:-**

**(A) Sample :-** About 400 schools going children between the ages of 14 to 16 years of Saran district area have been chosen for the purpose of the study. The sample area is various High Schools located in Saran District area of Bihar state. The samples belong to both rural and urban areas. Mentally healthy and sound samples were chosen for the study.

### **Tools:-**

- a. Differential personality scale by Bhargava
- b. Altruism scale by Rai & Singh, 1988

## **RESULTS**

### **Altruism and Self-concept**

Another component of the present study is self-concept which refers to an individual's self perception. Attempt was made to determine the effect of self-concept on altruism.

TABLE NO 1

variable	Group	No	Mean	SD	SE	t	df	P
Self concept	High Altruism	200	32.45	7.54	.53	7.11	398	.01
	Low Altruism	200	27.68	6.14	.43			

The result displayed that the people with high self-concept showed superiority over those with low self-concept in respect of altruism. Finding might be interpreted on the ground of higher degree of self confidence and self esteem, and lower degree of shyness. Thus, the last hypothesis is confirmed.

It was hypothesized that the high altruist will score high on curiosity in comparison to low altruist. An attempt was made to find the same. It was attempt to compare the children from high altruism and low altruism. Altruism scale was employed for assessing the high altruism and low altruism of the respondents. The mean, SD, SE and t was calculated.

t test was employed to examine the significance between the means and the result thus obtained were recorded in table given below.

### Altruism and Curiosity

TABLE NO -2

variable	Group	No	Mean	SD	SE	t	df	P
curiosity	High Altruism	200	117.10	12.07	.85	20.81	398	.01
	Low Altruism	200	93.37	10.98	.77			

In the light of the result displayed above table children from high altruism shows superiority on those children who belongs to low altruism in respect of curiosity.

Thus the second hypothesis was confirmed. Finding might be interpreted in terms of confidence level, self esteem, happiness and awareness, superiority complex and social interaction. Finding might be also interpreted in terms of better environment condition, proper opportunity, better exposure and lack of insecurity.

### CONCLUSION

1. The result indicates that high altruist will score high on self-concept in comparison to low altruist. Thus, this hypothesis is also retained.
2. There is a positive relation between children's altruism and their curiosity level in terms of confidence level, self esteem, happiness and prosperity in family, class awareness, superiority complex and social interaction. The hypothesis no two is confirmed in respect of curiosity and altruism.

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