

## ALTRUISTIC BEHAVIOUR AND STREAM OF SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT

*Altruism is helping behavior that benefits individual or society without expectation of any rewards. The aim of the present study is to find out the altruistic behavior of secondary students who study in different stream of subject. The study was conducted on senior secondary students from various schools of district Bulandshahr. One hundred twenty subjects, aged 16-19 years were included in the sample. For this purpose 40 arts stream student, 40 science stream students and 40 commerce stream students were randomly selected. Altruism scale by Rai and Singh was used for data collection. Mean, SD and t-test were used to analyze the data. Results revealed that arts stream students have more altruistic behavior than science and commerce stream students and commerce stream students have more altruistic behavior than science stream students. The findings suggest a relationship between altruism and stream of subjects. This supports the integration of altruism within the school curriculum. The present study suggested to foster of character education and developed the altruistic behavior of ours students whereby they can become good citizen.*

**Key words: Altruistic behavior, Stream, Students.**

### INTRODUCTION

Human beings are human not because they have a beautiful and well shaped structure but because of some behaviouristic traits which actually make them a humane. One such type of trait is altruistic behavior. Altruism actually is a genuine feeling which makes individuals to do merciful deeds towards others even without getting anything in return for their help. It is a voluntary act done for the welfare of humanity. Such type of behavior is necessary for the present society for its prosperity. Such traits lead the society away from the social chaos and direct it towards social peace and harmony. So it is very necessary for us to foster this genuine feeling. This feeling should be inculcated by the family since birth. Family members should become the role model of their children to develop this feeling. Later school should provide such educations which not only prepare qualified citizen but altruist and unselfish one also. Altruism as 'behavior performed for the benefit of others' (Wilson, 1975). Altruism refers to voluntary actions intended to benefit another that are intrinsically motivated that is, acts motivated internal motives such as concern and sympathy for others or by values and self rewards rather than personal gains (Bandura, 1977). Modern

definitions of altruism state that it can be a form of pro-social behavior in which a person will voluntarily help another at some cost to themselves (Cardwell et al. 2002). Some other definitions suggest that altruism is the unselfish concern of an individual for the welfare of another (Carlson et al., 2004). Altruism as a voluntary behavior intended to benefit another-that is, behavior motivated by concern for others or by internalized values, goals, and self-rewards rather than by the expectation of concrete or social rewards, or the desire to avoid punishment or sanctions (Eisenberg et al., 1999). Therefore, it is our contention that altruism is the purest form of caring selfless and non contingent upon reward and thus the predecessor of pro social cognitions and behaviors (Smith, 1976). Altruism is a true selflessness with no expectation in any kind of advantage to oneself (Robinson and Curry, 2005). The present study on altruistic behavior is very important in modern world. Today the students are getting materialistic. The excess of materialistic behavior leads to many complex social problem in the society such as corruption, isolation from the members of the society, loneliness in the family and narrow mindedness and sometimes this materialistic behavior of the students makes them to do such

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hazardous action which even puts the nation in danger as terrorism. These narrow feeling should be checked in the beginning and the best way to avoid such complexities, is to develop the altruistic behavior in the students at senior secondary level. Students are matured enough to have clear understanding of this feeling. Altruistic behavior is unselfishly concerned for or devoted to the welfare of others this excellent feeling is opposed to egoistic behavior. It inspires individuals to give their time, energy, sympathy and money for the betterment of others, even when they receive nothing in return. If we may control this materialistic attitude to some extent, we may contribute in developing a healthy society, which will be free of all malice .Sharma & Anita (1996) found that the group oriented people were more altruistic than the inner oriented people. Barr & D' Alessandro (2007) investigated whether students' positive perceptions of their school's culture were associated with higher levels of empathy and prosocial behavior. Pang et al. (2011) found that the Japanese high school students saw value in an altruistic lifestyle the students already reported serving their friends, family and community. Pardo et al. (2013) found that children who turned out to be altruism in the DG performed better on an inhibition task than non altruistic did. Roberts & Unni (2013) found that subjective norms and perceived behavioral control had significant effects on volunteering intention.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To compare the altruistic behavior of arts and science stream students at senior secondary level.
2. To compare the altruistic behavior of commerce and arts stream students at senior secondary level.
3. To compare the altruistic behavior of science and commerce stream students at senior secondary level.

#### Following hypotheses formulated on the basis of objectives:

1. There is no significant difference between arts and science senior secondary students with regard to their altruistic behavior.
2. There is no significant difference between commerce and arts senior secondary

students with regard to their altruistic behavior.

3. There is no significant difference between science and commerce senior secondary students with regard to their altruistic behavior.

#### MATERIAL AND METHOD

Present study is survey based on the information collected through a scale. All the students of senior secondary school of U.P. Board situated in urban areas of district Bulandshahr, of age group 16-19, constituted the population of the present study. A sample of 120 students from different stream, who were aged above 16 and studying in senior secondary level, constituted the sample. First we got a list of all senior secondary schools situated in urban areas of dist. Bulandshahr from DIOS office. Now we selected two boys' and two girls' senior secondary schools by using the random sampling after that 120 students were selected on the basis of random sampling technique.

Table 1: Structure of Sample

Gender	Stream	No. of Students	Total
Boys Students	Arts	20	60
	Science	20	
	Commerce	20	
Girls Students	Arts	20	60
	Science	20	
	Commerce	20	
Total			120

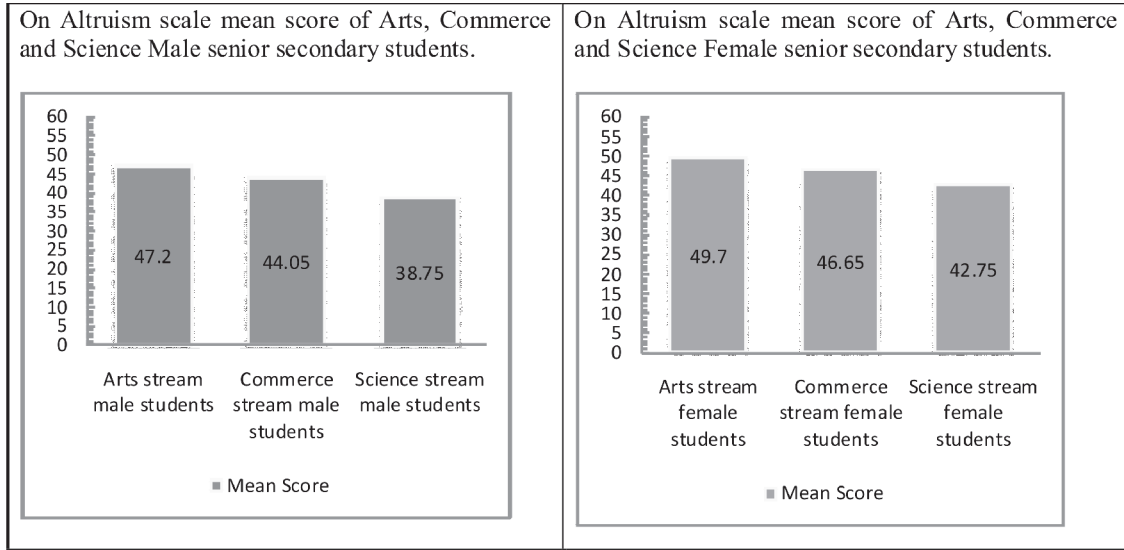
The tool used in the present study is Altruism Scale developed by Dr. S.N.Rai and Dr. Sanwat Singh to measure altruistic behavior. The scale has been prepared in Hindi with 30 items. Each item has three alternative responses say - altruistic, egoistic and neutral. Two marks for altruistic, one for neutral and zero for egoistic was awarded to each item of the maximum score was 60 and minimum score was zero. The nature of test is group test. The reliability coefficient was 0.84 with reliability index of 0.92 which was statistically significant. Validity coefficient of the

test is 0.63. After scoring the researcher organized the data according to the objectives and hypothesis as formulated in the study for accuracy and completeness, whole data is checked before it is tabulated. The statistical devices used their Mean, SD and 't'-test.

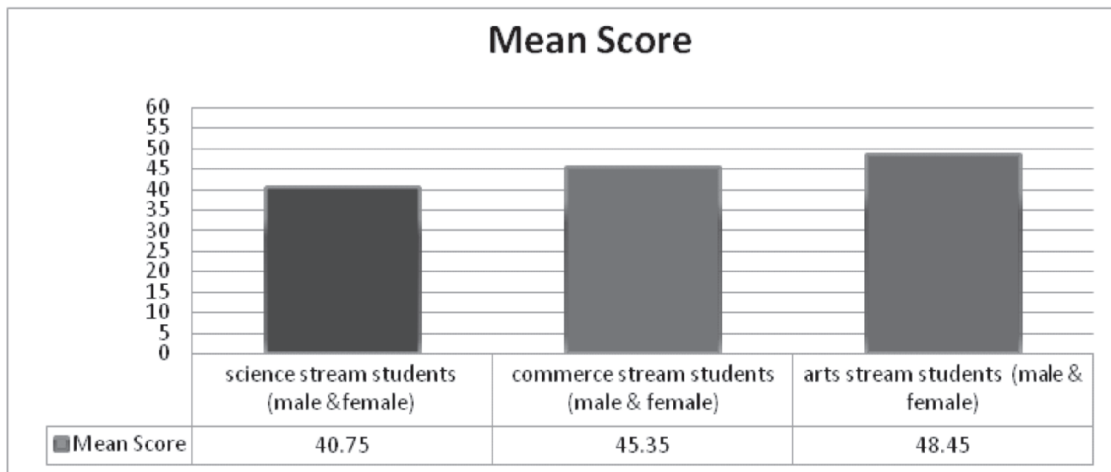
**RESULT**

After scoring the data were described and analyzed in the light of formulated objectives and hypothesis.

**Figure 1:**



**Figure 2: The mean score of arts, commerce and science stream students on altruism scale.**



The mean score and standard deviation of arts stream student is m1 (48.45) & sd1 ( $\pm 4.87$ ), science stream students is m2 (40.75) & sd2 ( $\pm 6.13$ ) and commerce stream students is m3 (45.35) & sd3 ( $\pm 5.41$ ).

### STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

#### **For hypothesis no.1**

The calculated t- value of the difference between the mean of arts stream and science stream students is  $t = 6.22$  with  $df = 78$ , which is significant at  $p < 0.01$ . The first null hypothesis is rejected, concluding that the altruistic behavior of arts stream students is higher than science stream students ( $m_1 > m_2$ ).

#### **For hypothesis no.2**

The calculated t value of the difference between the mean of commerce stream and arts stream students is  $t = 2.69$  with  $df = 78$ . This is significant at  $p < 0.01$ , rejected the second null hypothesis, concluding that the arts stream students have more altruistic behavior than commerce stream students ( $m_1 > m_3$ ).

#### **For hypothesis no. 3**

Testing the significant difference between the mean of science stream students and commerce stream students, the calculated t value is 3.56 with  $df = 78$ , which is significant at  $p < 0.01$ . The third null hypothesis is rejected, concluding that the altruistic behavior of commerce stream students is higher than science stream students ( $m_3 > m_2$ ).

### DISCUSSION

From the above results, we conclude that arts stream students have more altruistic behavior than science and commerce stream students. Arts stream is an academic discipline concerned with the society and relationship with in a society. It is a systematic study of society, including patterns of social relationship, social interaction and culture so the student of arts have various qualities of civil society i.e. care of humanity, prosocial, empathy, volunteer work and giving money to a stranger more than the students of other stream. Arts stream students should have the quality to appreciate and respect diversity act with integrity as part of local, National global and professional communities. They should have interest in doing social work and to cultivate all the virtues. Codding & Steinberg (2004) found that the social and natural science students differed in their altruistic behavior for three variables - volunteer work, giving money to a stranger and buying a product for a good cause, social science students have done volunteer work for charity significantly more than natural science students. Social science students have

also given money to a stranger who needed it or asked for it significantly more than natural science students have also bought a product that they didn't need because it was for a good cause significantly more than natural science students. Now we have other conclusion that commerce stream students have more altruistic behavior than science stream students. Commerce refers the academic discipline which can be defined as a study of trade and business activities such as the exchange of goods and services from producer to final consumer. It denotes all those processes which help to break barriers between producers and consumers. Commerce stream students should have the quality to appreciate the social and ethical dimension of business and to make informed choice for the benefit of society. They should be obedient to the existing rule and regulations of the country. The various qualities of commerce stream students is more developed than science stream students i.e. sympathy, honesty and sincerity. On the other hand science study is not democratic, dogmatic and it cannot moral of aesthetic decision. Science is intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure of behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment, so the students of science are more practical, realistic, authentic & materialistic than that of other stream. Garza et al. (2010) observed that more socially integrated subjects are also more altruistic, as between centrality and reciprocal degree are positively correlated with the level of giving, even after controlling for framing and social distance which have been shown to significantly affect giving in previous studies.

The life of students is meant mainly for studies, to acquire knowledge, develop talent and upgrade their skills. A student, who devotes his full energy and time to his studies and other activities in the school, is always successful and can prove himself a good son of his motherland. India needs mentally alert, talented, bright, disciplined and responsible young men and women. Students are the backbone of any nation. During time of emergency, such as war, famine, flood, earthquake, storm and other kind of natural calamities, countrymen look towards the youth and student community. A good number of students are being given training on military matters under N.C.C. and training on social

working under Scout- Guiding and N.S.S. for making them able to assist the people and serve the nation.

### CONCLUSIONS

1. The altruistic behavior of arts stream students is higher than science stream students.
2. The altruistic behavior of arts stream students is higher than commerce stream students.
3. The altruistic behavior of commerce stream students is higher than science stream students.

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