

# A Comparative Study of Altruism among the Undergraduate Boys and Girls of Joint and Nuclear Families

ARCHANA PANDEY

*Guest lecturer in M.L.K PG Collage Balrampur*

*Abstract— This study aims to investigate and compare altruistic behavior among undergraduate boys and girls of joint and nuclear families. Altruism, the selfless concern for the well-being of others, plays a crucial role in family dynamics and relationships. The research will explore how the family structure, whether joint or nuclear, influences the expression of altruism within the family unit. By conducting surveys, interviews, and observations, this study seeks to identify any significant differences in altruistic tendencies between joint and nuclear families. The findings of this research will contribute to a better understanding of how family structure impacts altruistic behavior, which can have implications for social interactions, support systems, and overall family well-being. A total of 60 samples were selected purposively from M. L. K. P. G. College, Balrampur (U.P.). To collect information, the Altruism Scale (Dr. S. N. Ray & Dr. S Singh) was used.*

*Indexed Terms- Altruistic behavior, Joint families, Nuclear families, Family structure, Altruism Scale.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Altruism, the selfless concern for the well-being of others, is a fundamental aspect of human behavior that has captivated the interest of researchers across various disciplines. Within the realm of family dynamics and relationships, altruism plays a crucial role in shaping interactions, fostering empathy, and strengthening bonds among family members. The differing structures of joint and nuclear families present unique social contexts that may influence the expression of altruistic behavior within the family unit. This comparative study seeks to delve into the complexities of altruism within joint and nuclear families, exploring how family structure impacts altruistic tendencies and the implications for social interactions, support systems, and overall family well-being. The concept of altruism has long been a subject

of fascination and inquiry in psychology, sociology, and evolutionary biology. Defined as the selfless concern for the welfare of others, altruism encompasses acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion that are motivated by empathy and a genuine desire to help others without expecting anything in return. In the context of family relationships, altruism plays a vital role in fostering emotional connections, providing support during times of need, and strengthening the fabric of familial bonds. The structure of the family unit, whether characterized by a joint or nuclear arrangement, can significantly influence the dynamics of altruistic behavior within the family. Joint families, typically comprising multiple generations living together under one roof, are known for their interdependence, shared responsibilities, and strong sense of kinship. In contrast, nuclear families consist of parents and their children living independently, often emphasizing autonomy, individualism, and a more limited circle of immediate family members. These distinct family structures create unique social environments that may shape the expression of altruism in different ways. Understanding how altruism manifests within joint and nuclear families is essential for gaining insights into the intricacies of family relationships and support systems. The comparative analysis of altruistic behavior in these two types of family structures can provide valuable information about the factors that influence altruism within familial contexts. By examining the impact of family composition on altruistic tendencies through a combination of surveys, interviews, and observations, this study aims to uncover the underlying mechanisms that drive altruism within joint and nuclear families. The significance of this research lies in its potential to deepen our understanding of how family structure influences altruistic behavior and interpersonal

dynamics within families. By exploring the variations in altruistic tendencies between joint and nuclear families, this study aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on family studies, sociology, and psychology. Through a comprehensive analysis of altruism in different family frameworks, this research seeks to shed light on the complexities of human behavior within familial contexts and its implications for social interactions and overall family well-being. In examining altruism among joint and nuclear families, this study will address key research questions related to the differences in altruistic behavior between these two types of family structures. By investigating how family composition influences altruistic tendencies, this research aims to uncover patterns, trends, and factors that shape altruistic behavior within joint and nuclear families. Through an in-depth exploration of the interplay between family structure and altruism, this study seeks to provide valuable insights into the dynamics of family relationships and the role of altruism in enhancing social cohesion and support networks within families. Overall, this comparative study of altruism among joint and nuclear families represents an important contribution to our understanding of human behavior within familial contexts. By examining the nuances of altruistic behavior in different family structures, this research aims to illuminate the complex interplay between family dynamics, social interactions, and altruistic tendencies. Through a detailed analysis of altruism within joint and nuclear families, this study endeavors to enhance our knowledge of how family structure influences altruistic behavior and its implications for interpersonal relationships, support systems, and overall family well-being. The family unit serves as the primary socializing agent, influencing the development of individuals' values, beliefs, and behaviors. Joint families, characterized by multiple generations living together, often emphasize collectivism, interdependence, and shared responsibilities. In contrast, nuclear families, consisting of parents and children, tend to prioritize independence, individualism, and autonomy. These distinct family dynamics may shape individuals' perceptions of altruism and influence their willingness to engage in selfless acts towards others. Gender also plays a significant role in shaping altruistic behaviors. Research suggests that societal norms and expectations regarding gender roles can

influence how individuals express altruism. Traditionally, women are socialized to be more nurturing, caring, and empathetic, which may lead to higher levels of altruistic behavior compared to men. By comparing altruism between undergraduate boys and girls, this study aims to investigate potential gender differences in pro-social behavior within the context of family structure. The study will employ a mixed-methods approach to gather comprehensive data on altruistic behaviors among undergraduate students. Quantitative surveys will be used to collect information on participants' self-reported altruistic acts, attitudes towards helping others, and perceptions of social responsibility. Additionally, qualitative interviews will provide deeper insights into the underlying motivations and experiences that shape individuals' altruistic behaviors.

By examining altruism through the lens of family structure and gender, this study seeks to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on pro-social behavior. The findings of this research may have implications for understanding how family dynamics and gender roles influence individuals' propensity for altruism. Ultimately, by shedding light on the factors that shape altruistic behaviors among young adults, this study aims to inform interventions and policies aimed at promoting a more compassionate and empathetic society. The family structure has long been recognized as a significant factor influencing individual development and behavior. Joint families, characterized by multiple generations living together, often emphasize collectivism, interdependence, and shared responsibilities among family members. In contrast, nuclear families, consisting of parents and their children, typically prioritize individualism, autonomy, and self-reliance. These contrasting values and dynamics within different family structures may shape the altruistic tendencies of individuals growing up in these environments.

Furthermore, gender has been found to influence altruistic behaviors, with existing research suggesting that girls tend to exhibit higher levels of altruism compared to boys in various contexts. This difference in altruistic tendencies between genders may be attributed to socialization processes, cultural norms, and expectations regarding gender roles and behaviors. By examining altruism through the lens of

gender, this study seeks to explore whether such differences persist among undergraduate students in the specific context of family structure.

The undergraduate years represent a crucial stage in the transition to adulthood, marked by increased independence, exposure to diverse perspectives, and opportunities for personal growth and development. As young adults navigate the complexities of academic life, social relationships, and personal identity formation, their altruistic behaviors may reflect a combination of innate tendencies, learned behaviors, and environmental influences.

In conclusion, this comparative study of altruism among undergraduate boys and girls from joint and nuclear families holds promise for uncovering valuable insights into the complex interplay between family structure, gender, and pro-social behavior. By exploring these relationships, we can deepen our understanding of altruism and its implications for fostering positive social interactions and relationships within communities.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Charbonneau's (2002) study explored the relationship between emotional intelligence and pro-social behaviors, revealing a significant correlation with altruism among adolescents in a military training camp. This suggests a potential link between emotional intelligence and altruistic actions during adolescence.
2. Hing Keung (2005) highlighted gender differences in antisocial behavior but found no significant gender gap in pro-social behavior. The study indicated that delinquent behavior was associated with masculinity, while pro-social behavior showed positive associations with both genders, indicating nuanced influences based on gender norms.
3. Rashmi, Sharma, and Sushil (2010) investigated altruism in schoolchildren from joint and nuclear families, finding that children from nuclear families exhibited higher altruistic traits. Additionally, girls displayed more pronounced altruistic tendencies than boys, suggesting potential gender variations in altruistic behavior.
4. Salarzahi (2011) examined the relationship between Emotional Intelligence and Organizational Citizenship Behavior among staff, revealing a strong link between emotional intelligence and various dimensions of pro-social behavior, including altruism. This suggests the predictive utility of emotional intelligence in fostering altruistic workplace behaviors.
5. Anna Dreber's (2012) research on gender differences in altruism, risk-taking, and competition among adolescents showed that boys exhibited lower altruism and higher risk-taking tendencies than girls, shedding light on gender-based variations in social behaviors during adolescence.
6. Thomas Huber (2012) elucidated complex relationships between altruism, empathy, and spirituality, highlighting strong associations between altruism and spiritual experiences. Non-religious spiritual cognitions emerged as potent predictors of empathy and altruism, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of these constructs.
7. Hyun Jung Lee's (2013) investigation into the relationship between emotional intelligence and altruism among South Korean government officials revealed positive associations between emotional intelligence factors and altruistic behaviors in the workplace, emphasizing the role of emotional intelligence in promoting altruistic actions.
8. Pokorski's (2013) examination of altruistic aptitude across different age groups demonstrated a strong relationship between emotional intelligence and altruistic behavior. Despite a decline in emotional intelligence among seniors, high emotional intelligence was a reliable predictor of altruistic aptitude across age cohorts.
9. Muzamil Jan et al.'s (2013) assessment of emotional intelligence among girls in professional colleges highlighted high levels of self-awareness and self-motivation, alongside moderate levels of empathy and emotional stability. The study also observed commitment and altruistic behaviors, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of emotional intelligence and its implications for social behaviors.
10. Mandal and Mehera's (2016) investigation into the relationship between altruism and literature interest among higher secondary students revealed

gender and geographical disparities. Girls exhibited higher levels of altruism and literature interest compared to boys, while urban students displayed greater levels of both traits. The positive correlation between altruism and literature interest suggests potential avenues for predicting altruistic behaviors based on literary engagement.

### III. OBJECTIVES

1. To examine how altruism manifests within joint and nuclear families, providing insights into the intricacies of family relationships and support systems.
2. To contribute to the existing body of knowledge in family studies, sociology, and psychology by analyzing variations in altruistic tendencies between different family structures.

### IV. HYPOTHESIS

- I. There is no significant difference in altruistic tendencies between joint and nuclear families.
- II. Family structure does not impact the expression of altruistic behavior within the family unit.
- III. Altruism does not play a significant role in shaping interactions or fostering empathy among family members.
- IV. The level of interdependence and shared responsibilities within the family unit has no effect on altruistic tendencies.
- V. There is no relationship between family structure and the strength of familial bonds as influenced by altruistic behavior.

**Participants:** A purposive sample of 60 undergraduate adolescent boys and girls, equally representing joint family and Nuclear family groups, was selected from Balrampur City in the Devipatan division and historic Awadh regions. Balrampur City is known for the temple of Pateshwari Devi, a Shakti Pitha, and has historical significance as part of the ancient Kosala kingdom.

**Tools:** The data collection for the study involved the use of the following instruments:

**Altruism Scale:** Developed by Dr. S. N. Ray & Dr. S. Singh and published by the National Psychological

Corporation (NPC) in Agra. This scale comprises 37 items that require "Yes" or "No" responses to assess altruistic tendencies among participants aged 14 to 19 years. The scale has shown reliability with a split-half coefficient of 0.49 and a test-retest reliability of 0.84.

**Procedure:** After the selection of the sample and acquisition of the required instruments, the Altruism Scale and Emotional Intelligence Inventory were administered to participants based on the standardized instructions provided with each inventory.

Particular	Altruism		
	M	SD	T
Boys	32.1	5.35	2.42 7
Girls	35.1	9.49	
Joint family	38.9	9.38	3.47 3
Nuclear family	34.2	6.94	
Correlation between Family structure and A	N= 30	r=.62	P=0.01

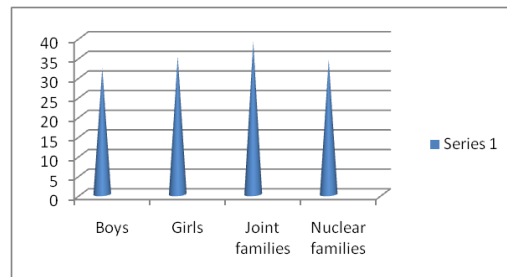


Figure: 1. Mean score for Boys ,Girls, Joint families, Nuclear families of Altruism.

Based on our research findings, several significant observations emerge:

**Gender Differences in Altruism:** The study indicates that undergraduate female students, regardless of whether they lived in Joint family or Nuclear family, demonstrate higher levels of altruism compared to male students with similar family backgrounds. This result contradicts the null hypothesis and is consistent with previous studies conducted by Anna Drebera et al. (2012) and Mandal M.B. and C. Mehera (2016),

which suggest that girls tend to exhibit greater altruistic tendencies, possibly due to their heightened empathetic emotions.

Impact of family structure on Altruism: Findings indicate that students with Joint family exhibit notably elevated levels of altruism in comparison to their counterparts with Nuclear family. This discrepancy highlights the pivotal influence of family structure in molding the values and ethics of their children. Joint families, benefiting from increased time and opportunities for direct engagement, are better positioned to nurture emotional, empathetic, and ethical growth in their children, unlike Nuclear families who may have restricted availability for such formative interactions.

### CONCLUSION

Our research delved into the correlation between altruism and family structure among adolescent undergraduate students, taking into account the impact of gender. The key findings are as follows:

Adolescent girls exhibited higher levels of altruism compared to adolescent boys, indicating gender-based variations in altruistic tendencies.

Significant differences were noted between undergraduate students with Joint families and Nuclear families in both altruism. Specifically, students with Joint family demonstrated higher levels of both attributes than those with Nuclear families.

A positive relationship was identified between altruism and Family structure, indicating that individuals with big family structure are more likely to exhibit increased altruistic behaviors.

### REFERENCES

[1] Ashkanasy, N. M., & Daus, C. S. (2005). Rumors of the death of emotional intelligence in organizational behavior are vastly exaggerated. *Journal of Organizational Behavior*, 26, 441–452. doi:10.1002/job.320

[2] Batson, C.D. and Oleson, K.C. 1991. *Current Status of the Empathy-Altruism Hypothesis*.

Review of Personality and Social Psychology, 12: 62-85.

[3] Beal, D. J., Weiss, H. M., Barros, E., & MacDermid, S. M. (2005). An episodic process model of affective influences on performance. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 90, 1054–1068.

[4] Charbonneau, D. and Nicol, A.A. 2002. *Emotional Intelligence and Pro-social Behaviors in Adolescents*. *Psychol Rep.*, 90(2): 361-70.

[5] Drebera, A., Emma, V. Essenb. and Eva, Ranehill. 2012. *in Bloom: Gender Differences in Preferences among Adolescents*. Social Science Research, Network, 35(734): 88- 97. Online Available: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1804278>.

[6] Eisenberg, N., Leon, R. and Roth, K. 1983. Pro-social Development: A Longitudinal Study. *Developmental Psychology*, pp. 846-855.

[7] Huber, J.T. and Douglas A. MacDonald. 2012. *An Investigation of the Relations between Altruism, Empathy, and Spirituality*. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*

[8] Muzamil, J., Hyder, A. and Ruhi, N. 2013. *An Assessment of Emotional Intelligence among Girls Students Studying in Professional Colleges*. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR JHSS)*, 1(6): 22-26.

[9] Geng, Liuna; Li, Shasha; Zhou, Wenjun(2011) *Social Behavior and Personality: an international journal*, Volume 39, Number 3, 2011, pp. 309-319(11)

[10] Hyung, L.J. 2013. *The Relationship between Emotional Intelligence and Altruism among South Korean Central Government Officials*. *Social Behavior and Personality*, 41 (10).

[11] Keri A. Pekaar, Dimitri van der Linden, Arnold B. Bakker & Marise Ph. Born (2017) *Emotional Intelligence and job performance: The role of enactment and focus on others' emotion* *Human Performance*, Volume 30 - Issue 2-3

[12] Ma, K. Hing, 2005. *The Relation of Gender-Role Classifications to the Pro-social and Antisocial Behavior of Chinese Adolescents*. *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, 166(2):189-202.

[13] Mukul, M.B. and Mehera, C. 2016. *A Study on Altruism and Interest in Literature at Higher Secondary Level*. *American Journal of Educational Research*, 4(9): 689-694, Newark.

- [14] Pokorski, M., Faron-Lasyk, A. and Borecki, L. 2013. *Altruistic aptitude: age-dependent influence of temperament and emotional intelligence*. Adv Exp Med Biol, 788: 375-83. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-6627-3\\_51](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-6627-3_51).
- [15] Rashmi, S., Sharma, D.K. and Sushil, C.S. 2010. *A Comparative Study of Altruism Among the Boys and Girls of Joint and Nuclear Families*. Journal of Mental Health and Human Behavior, 15(2): 88-90.
- [16] Salarzahi et al. 2011. *A Survey of Relationship between Emotional Intelligence and Organizational Citizenship Behavior in Iran*. International Business and Management, 3(1).
- [17] Toussaint, L. and Jhon. R. Webb. 2005. *Gender Differences in the Relationship between Empathy and Forgiveness*. J. Social Psychology, 145(6): 673-685.
- [18] Mukul Baran Mandal and Chitralkha Mehera (2017) *Relationship between Altruism and Emotional Intelligence among Adolescent Children of Working and Non-working Mothers* Educational Quest: An Int. J. of Education and Applied Social Science: Vol. 8, Special Issue, pp. 389-398