

PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OF ADOLESCENT IN SCHOOL AND AFTER-SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Michaela LUKAČIKOVÁ

Abstract: *The report presents the results of research investigations which aim was to find if the generation of teenagers seems to be interested in prosocial behaviour for assistance in the school environment and beyond it. Simultaneously we give the results of the willingness to help high school students in connection with the family mood, time pressure, and the attractiveness and homelessness and financial assistance of friend and stranger.*

Key words: *prosocial behaviour, altruism, helping behaviour, adolescent, help*

Psychologists, sociologists, and research teams began to address the issue of pro-social behavior, helping others in the sixties of last century. The motion became the murder of Kitty became Geneves who was brutally murdered before her own house, and the offense looked on 38 neighbors without even picking up the phone and calling for help. This heinous act has become a rider breaking point of many studies, since one is willing to help even in normal everyday situations.

The main contribution of our paper is to find the status of help of young people (high school) in different situations. It is well known that in the cities governs anonymity. In smaller towns or villages, where almost everyone knows each other, knows their options, is the notion of anonymity rather hidden. Therefore, we also carried out research in a smaller town where anonymity is lost, and visualization of the specific situation of the research is more real. In the present issue of prosocial behavior deals for example Eisenberg (2002, 2006), Mussen (1990), Kagan (1981), Knight (1981), Hill (2004), Kohoutek (2002) and others.

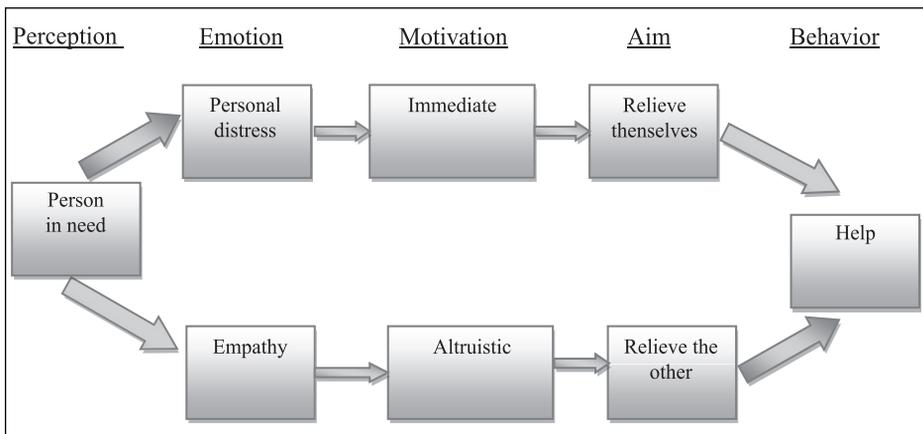
The definition of prosocial behavior is not clear. After studying the literary sources of domestic and foreign literature on pro-social behavior, we found that the authors used two parallel names, and prosocial behavior and altruism. In foreign literature also makes the concept of „helping behavior“ (Feldman, 1985; Bierhoff, 2002; Výrost, 2008), thus assisting behavior. What it means to be altruistic? What is the difference between prosocial behavior and altruistic behavior? Bierhoff (2002, p. 9) notes that the terms „helping behavior“, „prosocial behavior“ and „altruism“ are often confused and used

simultaneously. Differences between the three behaviors indicated as follows: „assist“ is a broader term that encompasses all forms of interpersonal assistance, the importance of „prosocial behavior“ is narrower. It indicates a situation where helping is motivated to help by their professional obligation and recipient is a person, not an organization, and the term „altruism“ shows on prosocial behavior that has different boundaries, thereby helping the motivation by helper, which is characterized by prospective income and empathy.

Nakonečný (2000, p. 105) refers to prosocial behavior (or „donor behavior“ - „helping behavior“) for altruism, too. This is either an expression of altruism, or the specific case of „emergency aid“, which is openly in research. Altruism may or may not be a sign of readiness to renounce their own good of another person or a whole group of people etc. It does not therefore relate to the victim (for example, altruistically motivated by financial contributions mean the same financial „sacrifice“, but not to sacrifice). Altruistic acts exist and there rises the question of what these crimes are motivated, when human nature is basically selfish.

Are people altruistic, or is our behavior always motivated by selfishness? Batson (1991, in: Kassin, 2007, p. 499) argues that aid is altruistic act in the case where the main aim of helper is to contribute to a person who needs it, regardless of the consequences for helping. According to Batson’s **empathy-altruism hypothesis** (Fig. 1) person, looking at people in need, has two emotional reactions: *personal distress* (guilt, anxiety, embarrassment and discomfort) and *empathy* (an insight, solidarity, understanding and compassion for another person). If dominates first reaction, we help because we want to get rid of own discomfort - *immediate „selfish“ motivations*. But if dominates the second response, people will help to ease the suffering of others - *the altruistic motivation*. Batson also says (in: Kassin, 2007, p. 499) that helping can often satisfy our selfish, but also noble motives.

Figure 1 Two ways of helping



We define the research problem by these questions:

What is the relationship between various types of pro-social behavior? In what

respect are the demographic variables /gender, completeness of the family/ to help others?

For goal of our paper, we have set to confirm the two hypotheses and to assume that there is a relationship between the child and completeness family and to helping others and that the girls help more over boys in the various situations in which they find themselves or the person requiring assistance.

The research sample consisted of 100 students (number of girls N = 56, number of boys N = 44) of Secondary Vocational School in Medzilaborce from first to fourth grade. Age structure of respondents was 15-19 years (mean 17.2 years). Students come from a complete (N = 76) and incomplete (N = 24) families. We realized the research using our created questionnaire, which was created for high school youth, based on Kassín (2007, p. 502) and his ways where is the most likely received help.

Results and interpretation of results

The program SPSS 19 was used to evaluate the results that we have established a link between aid and the relationship of individual demographic variables using chi-square.

Table 1 Relationship of assistance in relation to demographic variables (complete/incomplete families) for the entire file (N=100).

	df	p
Help your favourite teacher	5	,999
Help no favourite teacher	5	,999
Help old woman in a hurry	5	,999
Help attractive woman in ankle sprains	5	,999
Help homeless	5	,999
Financial assistance to known person	5	,999
Financial assistance to a stranger	5	,999

Demographic variables completeness and incompleteness of the family is not in linear relation to different types of assistance (Table 1) due to p values greater than the chosen level of significance $p = 0.05$. Zero first hypothesis is not rejected, the result is not statistically significant and the difference in the sample and the expected frequencies may be due to random selection, and also the influence of education as one of the factors affecting the development of pro-social behavior.

To help your favorite teacher in the fall on the ice school students are very helpful. Up to 80 % of boys and 100 % of girls help their favorite teacher in this unfavorable situation, but only 54 % of boys and 30 % of girls in the same situation will help teacher who does not like. Personal aversion is strongly confirmed here. We confirmed the Kassín's theory (2007, p. 502), where assistance is available to those who like and who is

attractive for donor of help. It will be interesting to find the reasons not to help a person with who they are in everyday contact and who teaches and educates them.

Time distress was another phenomenon, which we examined in prosocial behavior. Do students help elderly person if they are in a situation that is very important for them (e.g., maturity exams), and time is precious? The results were not surprising, as literary sources suggest. 80 % of boys and 95 % of girls would not help the elderly. The remaining percentage of high school, what is a quarter of the total number of interviewed students, will help even in time distress.

Attractiveness versus social phenomenon of homeless. At first glance it seems that the result is clear in one hundred percent, but the results were interesting. 80 % of girls will help attractive girl against a person who is homeless. Although only a small percentage of our sample respondents 30 % of boys and 8 % of girls help a man who is in a bad social situation, which is a pleasing result.

The financial situation today is quite unfavorable. Crisis and related issues are quite often not only tilt, but there are also real. Especially in the study area. If for the asked students is the man known, with the funds will help 40 % of boys and girls 45 %. In contrast, to the unknown would not help at all boys and girls only in small degree, only 8 %. The financial situation has become more significant phenomenon than attractiveness.

Conclusion

Finally, we could claim that helping behavior disappeared from today's adolescent youth. Overall, we conclude, from which family a child comes does not affect their behavior to help. Popularity (in our case the teacher) and attractiveness were significant factors for assistance. About a quarter of respondents would help a person in need, even though they are in a hurry. We also confirmed the assumption that homelessness and financial assistance to a stranger is not seen as much as help close to gender.

Literature

- BIERHOFF, H. W. 2002. *Prosocial behaviour*. London: Psychology Press, 2002. 369 s. ISBN 0-86377-773-2
- EISENBERG, N. et al. 2002. *Prosocial development in early adulthood: A longitudinal study*. In: *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 82, 993-996. ISSN 0022-3514.
- EISENBERG, N. et al. 2006. *Handbook of child psychology: Social, emotional and personality development*. New York: Wiley, 2006. 1230 s. ISBN 0471-27289-2.
- FELDMAN, R. S. 1985. *Social psychology theories, research and applications*, New York: McGraw Hill Book Company. 420 s.
- HILL, G. 2004. *Moderní psychologie*. Praha: Portál, 2004. 283 s. ISBN 80-7178-641-1.
- KASSIN, S. 2007. *Psychologie*. Brno: Computer press, 2007. 771 s. ISBN 978-80-251-1716-3.
- KOHOUTEK, R. 2002. *Základy užití psychologie*. Brno: Akademické nakladatelství, 2002. 545 s. ISBN 80-214-2203-3.

- NAKONEČNÝ, M. 2000. *Sociální psychologie*. Praha: Academia, 2000. 287 s. ISBN 80-200-0690-7.
- VÝROST, J.; SLAMĚNÍK, I. 2008. *Sociální psychologie*. Praha: Grada, 2008. 408 s. ISBN 978-80-247-1428-8.

PROSOCIÁLNE SPRÁVANIE ADOLESCENTOV V ŠKOLSKOM I MIMOŠKOLSKOM PROSTREDÍ

Abstrakt: V príspevku sú prezentované výsledku výskumného šetrenia, ktorého cieľom bolo zistiť, či generácia teenagerov javí záujem o prosociálne správanie v súvislosti s pomocou v školskom prostredí i mimo neho. Súčasne podávame aj výsledky ochoty stredoškolákov pomôcť druhému v súvislosti s rodinným rozpoložením, časovou tiesňou, atraktivitou a bezdomovstvom a finančnou pomocou známemu a neznámemu človeku.

Kľúčové slová: prosociálne správanie, altruizmus, pomáhajúce správanie, adolescent, pomoc