

The Lecture Contains:

- ☰ Additional theoretical explanation
- ☰ Effect of positive mood
- ☰ Effect of negative mood
- ☰ Empathy-altruism hypothesis
- ☰ Negative-state relief model
- ☰ Empathic joy hypothesis
- ☰ Genetic determinism model

◀ Previous Next ▶

Additional theoretical explanation

- This lecture will highlight other theoretical explanations (besides the five-stage model, dispositional and social theories) for prosocial motivation :
 - Effect of positive mood
 - Effect of negative mood
 - Empathy-altruism hypothesis
 - Negative-state relief model
 - Empathic joy hypothesis
 - Genetic determinism model
- Let us now look into the details of all these explanations.

◀ Previous Next ▶

Effect of positive mood

- It has been observed that when need for help is clear and helping doesn't result in negative consequences, positive emotion aid to prosocial behaviour. This explanation adds to the other theories by showing the impact of good mood further enhances the possibility of providing help to the needy. However, it must be noted that this explanation assumes that the potential helper observes the need for help being clearly there and he/she won't be harmed in any way by providing help. For examples, while chatting happily with friends in a bus, it is quite likely that one may offer a seat to an elderly.

◀ Previous Next ▶

Effect of negative mood

- It may also be observed that when a person is in a mild negative mood and he/she gets an opportunity to have a good time while helping others (as the act of helping may be enjoyed by the helper), prosocial behaviour may result.

◀ Previous Next ▶

Empathy-altruism hypothesis

- The empathy-altruism hypothesis posits that there is dominant role of the feeling of potential helper's empathy – that is aroused in an emergency situation faced by the needy – in the helping behaviour. According to the hypothesis, when empathy is aroused, the potential helper actually gets a positive feeling by helping the needy. The hypothesis is presented below:

Emergency observed -> Empathy aroused -> Help provided to the victim as it gave good feeling to the helper

 **Previous** **Next** 

Negative-state relief model

- The negative-state relief model is based on the logic that the potential helper is in a negative mood when he/she comes across an emergency situation faced by the needy. The helper, through the helping behaviour attempts to manage one's own negative mood. The hypothesis is presented below:

Emergency observed -> Helper with negative affect -> Help provided to reduce helper's own negative affect



Empathic joy hypothesis

- The Empathic joy hypothesis is based on the assumption that a sight or news of emergency evokes empathy and a feeling to have a positive influence on the needy. The helping behaviour is thus dependent on the fact that he/she would feel good if the help improves the needy person's condition. The hypothesis is presented below :

Emergency observed -> Desire to have a positive effect on victim -> Help provided as it made the helper feel good out of a successful outcome

 **Previous** **Next** 

Genetic determinism model

- The Genetic determinism model is based on the assumption that there is an unconscious desire in us to help people who are genetically similar to us (e.g., siblings) so that they survive. The hypothesis is presented below:

Emergency observed -> Unconscious desire to help for those genetically similar -> Help provided to maximize the survival of similar genes

 **Previous** **Next** 