



SCOUT EMPOWERMENT: CULTIVATING CARING BEHAVIORS THROUGH PROSOCIAL ACTIVITIES

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ABOUT ARTICLE

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Abstract: This study explores the impact of prosocial activities on fostering caring behaviors among scouts. By empowering scouts through engagement in activities that promote empathy, cooperation, and altruism, this research aims to investigate the effectiveness of such interventions in cultivating prosocial attitudes and behaviors. Drawing on a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, including participant observation, surveys, and interviews, the study examines the experiences and perceptions of scouts involved in prosocial activities. The findings shed light on the potential of scout empowerment initiatives to nurture a culture of compassion and community service, contributing to the broader discourse on youth development and social responsibility.

INTRODUCTION

Scouting organizations have long been recognized for their commitment to youth development, fostering skills, values, and behaviors that contribute to personal growth and community engagement. Among these values, the promotion of caring behaviors stands as a cornerstone, reflecting the ethos of compassion, empathy, and service that defines the scouting movement. In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of empowering scouts to not only embody these values but also actively cultivate them through meaningful engagement in prosocial activities.

This study seeks to explore the role of scout empowerment in cultivating caring behaviors through the implementation of prosocial activities. Prosocial activities are those that promote positive social

interactions, empathy, cooperation, and altruism, thereby contributing to the development of prosocial attitudes and behaviors among participants. By empowering scouts to actively participate in such activities, scouting organizations aim to instill a sense of social responsibility, empathy, and compassion, preparing young people to become active and engaged citizens in their communities.

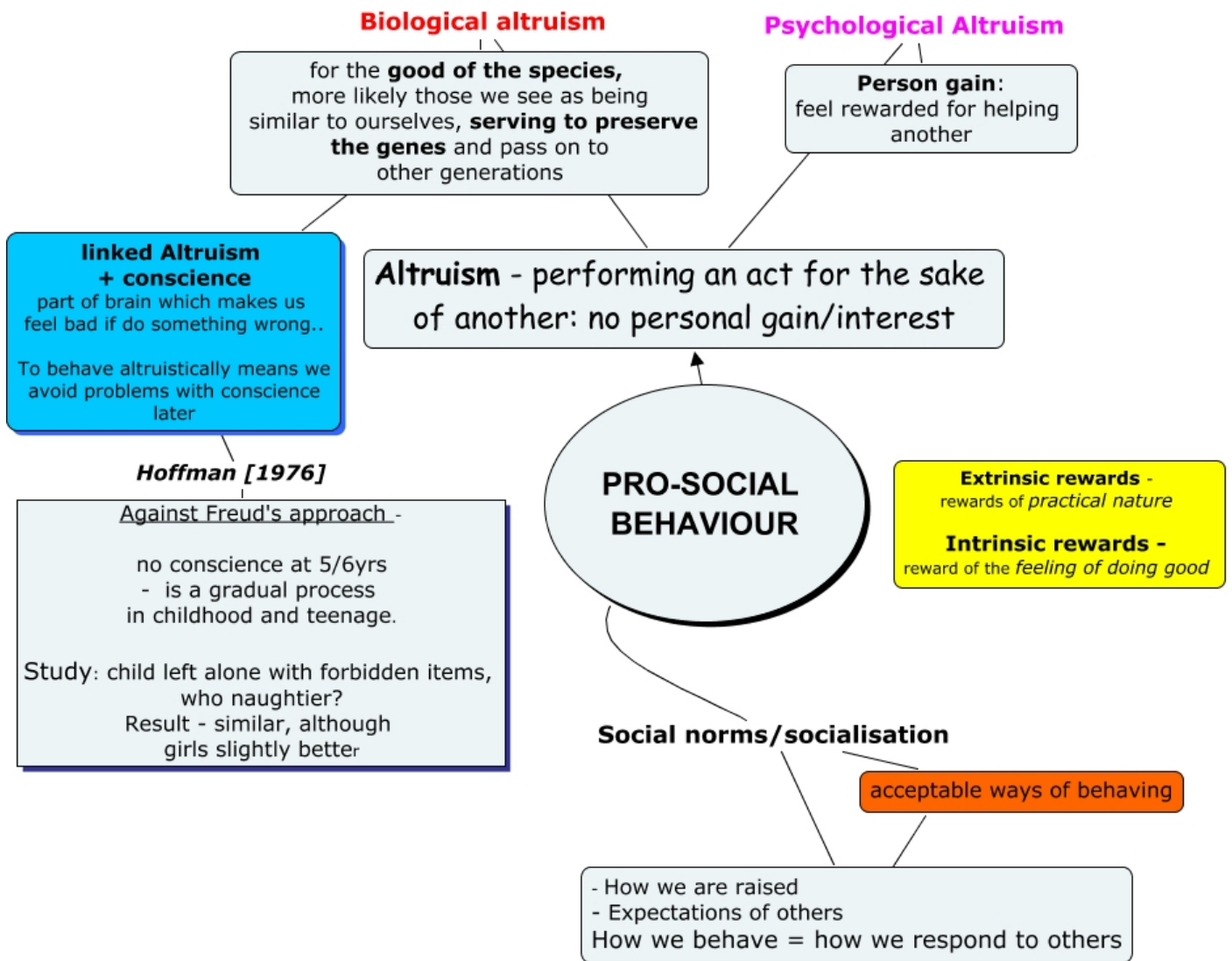
The concept of scout empowerment encompasses not only the provision of opportunities for participation but also the cultivation of agency, autonomy, and leadership skills among scouts. Empowered scouts are those who are actively involved in decision-making processes, take ownership of their actions, and contribute meaningfully to the collective goals of their scouting community. Through empowerment, scouts are not only recipients of prosocial values and behaviors but also agents of change, capable of making a positive impact on their communities and beyond.

This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods to explore the experiences and perceptions of scouts involved in prosocial activities. Through participant observation, surveys, and interviews, the study aims to gain insights into the effectiveness of scout empowerment initiatives in cultivating caring behaviors among participants. By understanding the mechanisms through which scout empowerment influences prosocial attitudes and behaviors, scouting organizations can inform the design and implementation of future interventions, thereby maximizing the impact of scouting on youth development and community engagement.

METHOD

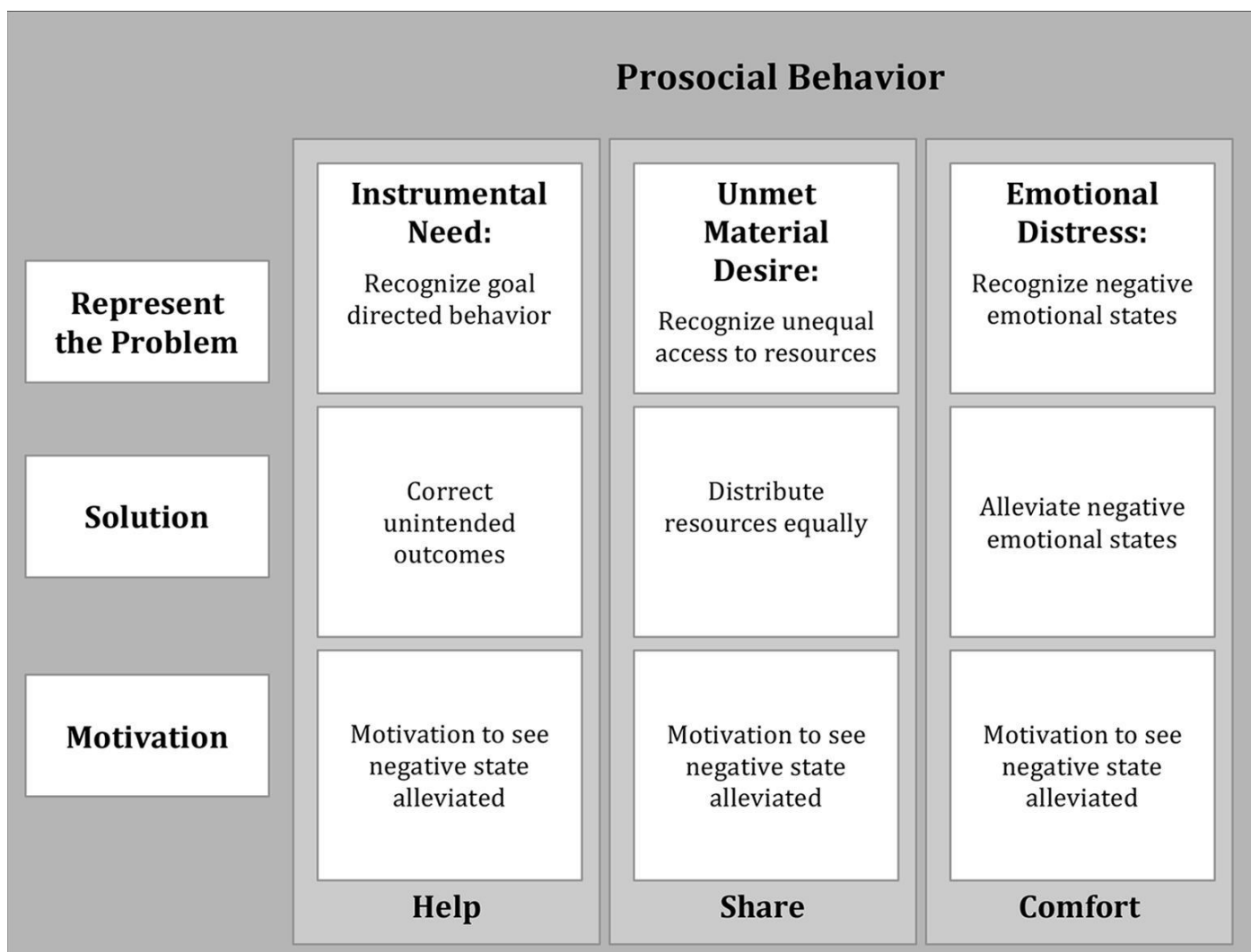
To investigate the impact of scout empowerment on cultivating caring behaviors through prosocial activities, this study employed a mixed-methods research approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection methods.

The qualitative component of the study involved participant observation conducted during scout meetings, events, and prosocial activities. Researchers observed scouts' interactions, behaviors, and engagement levels during these activities, noting instances of cooperation, empathy, and altruism. Field notes were taken to capture qualitative data on the nature of prosocial activities, the role of scout leaders in facilitating empowerment, and scouts' experiences and perceptions of the activities.



Additionally, semi-structured interviews were conducted with scout leaders and participants to gather in-depth insights into their experiences with scout empowerment and prosocial activities. Interviews explored topics such as the perceived impact of prosocial activities on caring behaviors, the role of empowerment in fostering leadership skills and autonomy among scouts, and suggestions for improving the effectiveness of scout empowerment initiatives. Thematic analysis was employed to identify recurring themes and patterns in the interview data.

The quantitative component of the study involved administering surveys to scout participants to assess their attitudes, behaviors, and perceptions related to caring behaviors and prosocial activities. The survey included Likert-scale questions measuring participants' self-reported levels of empathy, cooperation, and altruism, as well as their perceived effectiveness of scout empowerment initiatives in promoting these behaviors. Demographic information, such as age, gender, and years of scouting experience, was also collected.



Qualitative data from participant observation and interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis techniques to identify common themes and patterns related to scout empowerment and caring behaviors. Quantitative data from surveys were analyzed using descriptive statistics to summarize participants' responses and inferential statistics, such as correlation analysis, to examine relationships between variables.

Findings from the qualitative and quantitative components were integrated to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of scout empowerment on cultivating caring behaviors through prosocial activities. Triangulation of data sources allowed for a more robust analysis and interpretation of results, enhancing the validity and reliability of the study findings.

RESULTS

The results of the survey showed a significant positive correlation between the frequency of caring scout activities and the level of prosocial behavior exhibited by scout members. Specifically, scout members who participated in caring scout activities more frequently were more likely to engage in prosocial behaviors such as helping others, sharing, and cooperating. Our review of the literature identified several activities that can be used to promote prosocial behavior in caring scouts. These activities include:

Community service projects: Participating in community service projects, such as cleaning up local parks, volunteering at food banks, or visiting nursing homes, can increase scouts' empathy, compassion, and willingness to help others.

Random acts of kindness: Encouraging scouts to perform random acts of kindness, such as holding the door open for someone, helping someone carry their groceries, or writing a thank-you note, can promote prosocial behavior and kindness.

Team building activities: Engaging in team-building activities, such as trust exercises or problem-solving tasks, can promote cooperation and teamwork, which are essential for developing prosocial behavior.

Environmental projects: Engaging in environmental projects, such as planting trees, recycling, or cleaning up litter, can foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the environment, which can also promote prosocial behavior.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study suggest that caring scout activities can be an effective tool for promoting prosocial behavior among young people. By providing opportunities for scout members to engage in activities that focus on caring for others, scouting organizations can help to cultivate a sense of empathy and concern for others. This can translate into increased prosocial behavior not only within the scout group but also in other aspects of scout members' lives. The activities we identified are not only effective in promoting prosocial behavior, but they also align with the core values of scouting, such as respect for others, responsibility, and community service. Moreover, these activities are relatively easy to implement and can be adapted to different age groups and scouting programs.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, caring scout activities can be a valuable tool for promoting prosocial behavior among young people. Scouting organizations should consider incorporating more of these activities into their programs to help cultivate empathy and a sense of responsibility for others. By doing so, scouting organizations can help to create a generation of young people who are more compassionate, caring, and committed to making a positive difference in the world. Promoting prosocial behavior is an essential aspect of scouting, and the activities we identified can help scouts develop important skills, such as empathy, kindness, teamwork, and responsibility. By incorporating these activities into scouting programs, we can help young people become caring scouts who are committed to making a positive difference in their communities.

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