

Abstract

The main purpose of this study was to assess the altruistic and empathetic behaviors of primary school teachers and investigate the correlation between teachers' altruism and empathy across various districts in West Bengal, including Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Coochbehar, Hooghly, South 24 Parganas, and Howrah. A quantitative descriptive survey method and a cross-sectional survey research design were employed to gather quantitative data through a questionnaire. The target population for this study consisted of all government-aided primary school teachers in West Bengal. A multistage sampling method was used to select the schools, while a simple random sampling technique was applied to choose the teachers who participated. The dependent variables in this study were teachers' altruism and empathy, while thirteen independent or background variables were also considered. A self-developed Teachers' Altruism Scale and the Toronto Empathy Questionnaire (TEQ) were used for data collection. The study reveals several key findings regarding teachers' altruism and empathy across various demographic factors. Female teachers exhibited higher altruism and empathy compared to male teachers, with significant differences in both cases. Married teachers demonstrated higher levels of altruism, while unmarried teachers showed higher empathy, with both differences being statistically significant. Teachers from general categories outperformed those from SC, ST, and OBC categories in both altruism and empathy. Additionally, teachers from nuclear families exhibited higher altruism and empathy than those from joint families. Teachers with higher secondary education showed more altruism and empathy than those with graduate or master's degrees. Teachers from arts backgrounds also demonstrated greater altruism and empathy compared to those in science and commerce disciplines. Rural school teachers showed higher altruism and empathy than their urban and semi-urban counterparts. Furthermore, membership in social organizations was associated with higher altruism, though no significant correlation was found with empathy. Teachers who chose teaching as their first career exhibited higher altruism, while no significant differences were found based on work experience or religion. Correlation analysis showed a negative relationship between birth order and altruism, indicating that later-born teachers tend to exhibit less altruistic behavior. Altruism and empathy were weakly positively correlated, though the correlation was not statistically significant.

Keywords: *Altruism, Empathy, Primary School Teachers, West Bengal, Demographic Factors*