

ADOLESCENTS' PARENTAL-INVOLVEMENT AND SOCIAL IDENTITY: EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIAL EXCHANGE FOUNDATIONS ON PROSOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

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In an attempt to address the controversies surrounding basic origins of and motives for prosocial behaviour, the present study investigated adolescents' parental-involvement and social identity to confirm evolutionary and social exchange theorisations on altruistic behaviour. Two hundred and seventy-three secondary school students completed measures of parental-involvement, social identity, and prosocial behaviour. Data from regression analysis indicated that parental-involvement and social identity jointly predicted prosocial behaviour among adolescents. Further statistical explorations in the context of a multiple regression model revealed predictions of prosocial behaviour by father-involvement, mother-involvement, and social identity. This result suggests evidence of the expansion of evolutionary-based, kin-selected altruism driven by empathy, into non-kin selected altruism supported by social exchange, thus confirming socio-evolutionary origins of reciprocal exchange among humans. It therefore appears that selfish human behaviours may provide inclinations to be reduced or recycled into moulds of goodwill by consistent priming of positive tendencies buried in human pristine and evolutionary history, and this may, to some extent, increase altruistic behaviour if engendered from the period of adolescence.