

**DELINEATION OF FACTORS RELATED TO
GROWTH MOTIVATION AND ALIENATION**

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CONTENTS

PART ONE : THEORY

INTRODUCTION	1 - 12
I GROWTH MOTIVATION	13 - 85
II ALIENATION	86 - 106

PART TWO : DESIGN

INTRODUCTION	107 - 108
III SAMPLES, VARIABLES, AND INSTRUMENTS	109 - 128
IV NEED HIERARCHY SCALE	129 - 138
V COMPOSITE ALIENATION SCALE	139 - 156
VI WORLD VIEW QUESTIONNAIRE	157 - 172

PART THREE : RESEARCH

INTRODUCTION	173 - 174
VII RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	175 - 211
VIII CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS	212 - 219
IX RESEARCH IMPERFECTIONS	220 - 222

APPENDICES

REFERENCES

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ABSTRACT

This investigation was designed to identify, through three interrelated studies, factors which affect growth motivation and alienation. Growth motivation subsumed Maslow's concepts of need hierarchy and self-actualization.

Study 1 tested Maslow's need hierarchy on a continuum. It measured individuals' growth along this hierarchy as a function of their educational level and socioeconomic status. Study 2 delineated the factorial structure and contextual antecedents of self-actualization. The contextual antecedents comprised five demographic factors (age, caste, socioeconomic status, exposure to mass media, and education) and two attitudinal attributes (world view and alienation). Study 3 investigated the multidimensional nature of alienation in terms of powerlessness, normlessness, meaninglessness, self-estrangement, and social isolation. It further verified the hypothesis that individuals' world view mediates between their response to education and their sense of alienation.

Subjects were 250 males and 110 females, randomly drawn from two different population groups. Data were collected through six inventories and analyzed by using bivariate and multivariate statistical techniques.

Study 1 established Maslow's need hierarchy with the exception that the third (belongingness-and-love) and the

fourth (esteem) level need categories take each other's hierarchical position. Individuals' growth along the need hierarchy was primarily a function of their educational level. Study 2 showed that self-actualization, measured by the Personal Orientation Inventory, could be conceived as a global construct. It had significant positive relationships with socioeconomic status, exposure to mass media, and education, and significant negative correlations with the components of alienation. From amongst demographic and attitudinal variables, education turned out to be the best predictor of self-actualization. Study 3 did not conclusively support the multidimensional nature of alienation. The mediation hypothesis was confirmed partially.

The results suggest that (1) Maslow's need hierarchy operates on a continuum. (2) The impact of education on individuals' movement toward self-actualization is small but significant. (3) Though education enhances individuals' sense of power, through the mediation of world view, it does not help them overcome their sense of normlessness, meaninglessness, self-estrangement, and social isolation.