TEMPERAMENT, EMOTION REGULATION, PROSOCIAL MORAL REASONING: PREDICTING PROSOCIAL TENDENCIES AMONG IRANIAN EARLY ADOLESCENTS

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The aim of our study is to examine the mediating role of prosocial moral reasoning, emotion regulation and emotion lability in the relation between temperamental characteristics and prosocial behavior. A sample of 202 students (male=41.5%, M of age=12.8, SD=0.09) was interviewed about their prosocial moral reasoning. Their mothers also completed questionnaires on temperament, emotion regulation and prosocial tendencies. Path analysis indicated that model fit was good. Emotion regulation partially mediated the relation between effortful control and altruistic behavior. In addition, emotion lability mediated the relation between negative affectivity and altruistic behavior. Negative affectivity and effortful control predicted prosocial moral reasoning which in turn predicted public behavior. However, there was no indirect relation between temperamental indices and public behavior. Our discussion focuses on the non-homogeneity of prosocial behaviors and their cognitive and emotional antecedents.