

## Chapter 10

# THE ROLE OF VALUE ORIENTATIONS IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GRATITUDE AND COMPASSIONATE LOVE IN TURKISH PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

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### INTRODUCTION

To be effective in the teaching profession requires a preparation on personal level, as well as preparation on professional knowledge and skills. Compassionate love, could be one of the personal features that will be promote during teacher education. According to Sprecher and Fehr (2005), who developed a scale of compassionate love to others and humanity, compassionate love could be defined as “an attitude including behaviours, thoughts, and emotions focusing on care, concern, and tenderness; and a tendency to support, help, and understand others”. As the reason to use the term compassionate love to name their instrument, rather than compassion, or altruistic love, they reported the inadequacy of the use of each concept alone; and the inclusiveness of the concept of compassionate love to both of the principles of compassion and love together. They found both the close other and humanity types of compassionate love differ significantly agross gender in favour of females, and related positively with empathy, helpfulness, volunteerism, and social support. Additionally, in their study, compassionate love has been found a stronger predictor of altruistic helping than is empathy. These findings are in consistency with the results of other studies reporting the associations of compassion with helping (Crocker & Canevallo, 2008; Sprecher, Fehr, & Zimmerman, 2007), trust and sharing (Fehr, 1993; Fehr & Russell, 1991), empathy, perspective taking, and forgiveness (Underwood, 2002; Underwood & Teresi, 2002).

As seen in earlier research findings, compassionate love could make people effective help providers. The capacity of compassionate love need to be developed in teachers, because by loving their students, and teaching with a compassionate love, teachers could be positive role models to their students, and they may positively influence the learning and development environment in their schools.

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in compassionate love in prospective teachers are recommended to focus on social-focus values (conservation and self-transcendence) besides developing gratitude in their students.

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