

### **Abstract**

This study examined the mediation effect of identification with a sexual orientation in-group and the moderation effect of communal orientation on the relationship between a male respondent's sexual orientation and his helping tendency towards in-group members of the same sexual orientation. Previous researches on helping or prosocial behaviors largely focused on public helping, such as blood donation or volunteering. The current research narrowed down the focus onto helping an in-group member on intimate relationship issues, hoping to shed light on ways of promoting helping among different social groups. It was predicted that homosexual respondents would display higher helping tendency than heterosexual respondents. However, no significant result was found. Nonetheless, it was understood that identification with an in-group did not necessarily indicate in-group favoritism, which was a speculated reason for helping. Moreover, communal orientation was demonstrated to significantly predict helping, which replicated results from past researches by Clark, Oullette, Powell, & Milberg (1987).

*Keywords:* sexual orientation, in-group membership, helping, communal orientation