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Pro-social Behavior of Bandung Schoolchildren:  
The Effects of Competition and Socioeconomic Status

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Abstract

Through some decades, experimental studies present fascinating findings which challenge economic theories. Samuelson rule predicted that people may contribute too few resources to public goods provision (free-rider problem), but facts presented that actually people could contribute much more because of certain factors. One suggested factor is pro-social behavior. Using tobit regression, this present research examines whether pro-social behavior is a naturally human's innate behavior or a nurtured behavior, specifically whether competitive environment and different socioeconomic status/SES influence pro-social behavior. The data are obtained from dictator game and post-experiment questionnaire about children's SES. By observing children, our research may shed light on the nature of pro-social behavior. The results of control treatment strengthen the notion that people are not always selfishly rational, but we found that children’s donation is doubled in competitive treatment which assures that pro-social behavior is a nurtured behavior. Further, school’s SES also significantly influences pro-social behavior.

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