

学位論文の要旨 (論文の内容の要旨)
Summary of the Dissertation (Summary of Dissertation Contents)

論 文 題 目
Dissertation title

Impacts of Information Provision on Preferences for Infrastructures and Public Services Improvements:
Randomized Conjoint Field Experiments in Indonesia

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Information provision is commonly used to increase knowledge and awareness, which can, in turn, influence citizens to support public policy. Thus, information is considered as a policy instrument that can be used to influence behavioral change. There is no underlying theoretical basis in categorizing information types; thus, in principle, we consider that any type of treatment contains information to be delivered to the targeted population. Providing information is relevant in developing countries because of its low-cost and immediate impacts.

The main objective of this study is to estimate the impacts of information provision on the preferences of households toward infrastructure and public services improvements in Indonesia. Provision of adequate infrastructure and public services in developing countries remains a significant challenge. Notably, infrastructure is important for socio-economic development. This study was carried out in Surabaya (a representative of urban area) and Gili Gede (a representative for small and remote island), Indonesia. The type of information used in this research is related to information strategies. The experiment was conducted in a randomized field trial. The preferences were elicited using the stated preference method through randomized conjoint analysis. This method involves primary surveys in which respondents choose among hypothetical alternatives.

The dissertation consists of six chapters. Chapter 1 presents the research background, motivation, framework, objective, significance, and outline of the dissertation. Chapter 2 describes the literature review and methodology. The three analytical chapters are Chapter 3, Chapter 4, and Chapter 5. Chapter 3 tested the impacts of negative information related to government performance on preference changes toward infrastructure provision in a small and remote island. Gili Gede was selected as a case study of remote islands in Indonesia. The results show that providing information on past failed projects related to water and electricity provision led to diminishing preferences for the new hypothetical infrastructure projects, particularly the water attribute. The number of samples was 429 households. The findings suggest that providing negative information leads to a slightly decreased preference for the water supply attribute. The results of the heterogeneous analysis show that bridges are preferred by households without boat ownership. In terms of gender, females prefer health services, water supply, and quick electricity provision, but they are more likely to refuse the additional payment.

Chapter 4 examined the impacts of pecuniary and non-pecuniary information on the stated preferences and willingness to pay (WTP) for an improved waste collection and disposal program. Surabaya was selected as a case study of an urban area in Indonesia. The number of samples was 900 households. The results show that the pecuniary information increased the willingness to pay by 20.5% relative to that of no information, while the non-pecuniary information had a positive impact on the non-organic separation attribute. The non-pecuniary information decreased the WTP by almost 7% relative to that of no information, suggesting that there is a trade-off between preference for non-organic separation and additional monthly payment for an improved waste collection and disposal program.

Chapter 5 investigated the impacts of a brief descriptive message on the stated preferences and willingness to pay (WTP) for an improved water supply service. The study area was Surabaya. The brief descriptive message containing information on the daily water requirement for each person and household monthly expenditure on drinking water (gallon water) was presented to respondents in Surabaya city. The number of samples was 800 households. The results show that providing information influenced preferences for tap water quality, no supply interruption, and response to customer complaints. The information also influenced the respondents to be more likely to refuse a payment attribute in addition to the current monthly water bill. In addition, providing the information led to a slight increase in the WTP (by 4.77%) relative to that of no information.

Chapter 6 summarized the main findings of this study. Overall, the provision of one-shot information is still effective, provided that the content is specific and relevant to the purpose. Policy implications are formulated by considering the results of this study. First, the government might consider using simple and low-cost interventions, such as information provision to enhance support for public policy. Second, the government should consider the package that is influential in formulating policy related to improved provision of infrastructure and public services. This study also recommends areas for future studies based on the limitations and findings of this study. Since this study examined the impacts of information interventions on the stated preference of households, it cannot represent the real behavior of households. This study used simple information interventions, such as one-shot information provision strategies, and did not examine the long-term effect of the interventions; thus, further tests of whether the impact of information is long-lasting are advised.

備考 論文の要旨はA 4判用紙を使用し、4,000字以内とする。ただし、英文の場合は1,500語以内とする。

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