

Only Mine or All Ours: An Artefactual Field Experiment on Procedural Altruism

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1. Questions

Do earning procedures affect altruistic consumption choices in the household?

Do husbands and wives differ in their altruistic choices under different earning procedures?

Emphatic YES to both!

2. The Procedural Consumption Game



- No strategic concerns
- Choices: private consumption bundle (personal clothing), or a joint consumption bundle (staple food)
- Value of each consumption bundle is Rs. 200



3. Subject Pool

- Location: New Delhi
- Subject pool: 210 married individuals
- Age: 33 years
- Length of marriage: 14 years
- Number of children: 3
- Monthly household income: Rs 5353
- Conflict over budget allocation decision: 8%

4. Treatments

No-effort treatment:

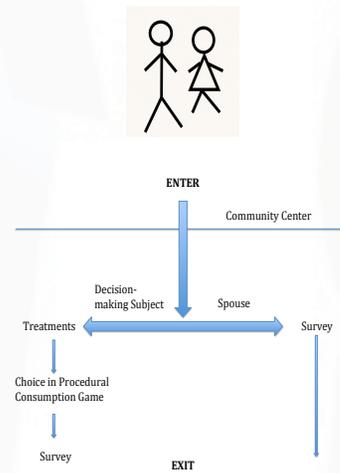
- Subject receives Rs. 200 to spend on the private or on the joint consumption bundle

Effort treatment:

- Subject participates in a real-effort task
- If successful, receive Rs. 200 to spend on the private or on the joint consumption bundle. If not successful receive only the show-up fee of Rs. 50



5. Experiment Protocol



6. Hypothesis

- H1: Choices are identical in the effort and the no-effort treatments. **Rejected**; p value = 0.01
- H2: Choices in the effort treatment are identical for males and females. **Rejected**; p value = 0.08
- H3: Choices in the no-effort treatment are identical for males and females. **Fail to reject**; p value = 0.8
- H4: Choices for males are identical in the effort and the no-effort treatments. **Rejected**; p value = 0.00
- H5: Choices for females are identical in the effort and the no-effort treatments. **Fail to reject**; p value = 0.45

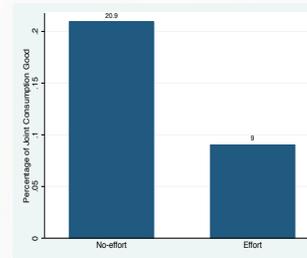


Fig 1: Percentage of Joint Consumption, by Treatment

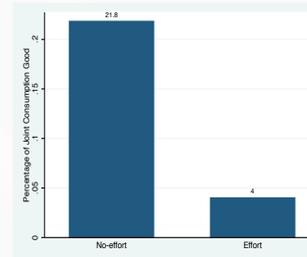


Fig 2: Percentage of Joint Consumption, by Treatment for Males

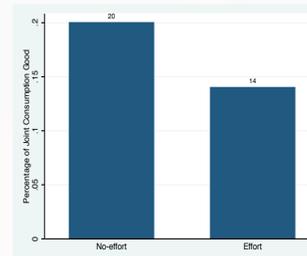


Fig 3: Percentage of Joint Consumption, by Treatment, for Females

7. Regression Results

- Men are 20 percentage points less likely to choose the joint consumption good in the effort treatment
- Women are only 1 percentage point more likely to choose the joint consumption good in the effort treatment (not statistically significant at 10% significance level)
- Men compared to women are 21 percentage points less likely to choose the joint consumption good in the effort treatment compared to the no-effort treatment
- Age, household income, savings and number of years married are all negatively associated with the choice of joint consumption good
- Response to conflict differs by gender. Female subjects reporting conflict are more likely to choose joint consumption, male subjects reporting conflict are more likely to choose the private consumption good

8. Conclusion

- Women's altruistic behavior remain independent of the earning procedure

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