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NEWSLETTER

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## **The Impact of Student Leaders' Identity on Their Acquisition of Learning Opportunities: A Study Based on the Findings from 4,026 Junior High School Students via Propensity Score Matching**

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A STUDY published in *Education Research*, taking 4,026 junior high school students as samples and use the method of Propensity Score Matching to conduct data analysis, in order to explore two questions: Does the identity of student leader affect students' learning opportunities? And how big is the impact?

In terms of the data model, the dependent variable learning opportunities were subdivided into question opportunity, discussion and cognitive opportunities. The sample was divided into the student leaders and the ordinary students by Propensity Score Matches, where the two groups of variables can be as similar as possible, to eliminate bias, better for causal inference, the results are as follows:

- Preliminary descriptive statistics and differential analysis show that student leaders do get more learning opportunities than ordinary students in the natural state.
- The Logit model is established to analyze the factors that influence the identity of student leaders. Gender, academic ability and personality are all important factors that influence students to serve as student leaders. Female students are more likely to serve as student leaders, and students with strong academic ability and outgoing personality are more likely to serve as student leaders.
- The nearest-neighbor matching method is used to match the model, and the result is suitable. The Average Treatment Effect (ATT) was calculated to analyze the increase in learning opportunities brought by student leaders. The ATT of student leaders on students' opportunities to acquire the opportunities to ask questions, discuss, acknowledge and overall learning are 34.4%, 13.4%, 21.6% and 26.1%, respectively. It shows

that the identity has indeed brought improvement to students' learning opportunities.

Based on this, researchers believe that the current student leader system has become a lever for advantaged student groups to gain greater educational advantages, which aggravates the unfairness of educational process or learning opportunities and it is necessary to adjust the current student leader system.

*Source: Educational Research, 2020; 41(5):112-125.*