INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF PUBLIC SECTOR DECISION MAKERS: EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH IN THE CONTEXT OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL IN INDONESIA

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Abstract	This research aimed to test the previous result of experimental research on decision makingÅ,Å by Dilla and Steinbart (2005), and to internalize the result in the context of a local governmentÅ,Å hospital in Indonesia. The subjects in this experiment were 80 members of the House ofÅ,Å Representatives in the Cilacap, Brebes and Purbalingga regions in Indonesia. They were askedÅ,Å to evaluate the performance of a fictitious local government hospital and decide whether or notto increase its budget allocation for the coming year. Half of the subjects were given instructionÅ,Å in the performance measures applicable to hospitals; the other half proceeded straight to theÅ,Å experimental task. The first group were labelled ŢŀÅeknowledgeable usersŢŀŕ; the latter group wereÅ,Å classified as ŢŀŜunknowledgeableÃ,Å group tended to use the unique information given to them to measure performance and makeÃ,Å budget allocation plans, whereas the unknowledgeable group used common measures. TheseÃ,Å results are consistent with Lipe and Salterio (2000), Dilla and Steinbart (2005) and Bawono etal. (2012), indicating that students may be reliable surrogates for real decision makers.Keywords: accountability, public sector, performance measurement, budget allocation plan,Å,Å knowledgeable and unknowledgeable, decision makers
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