

# The Prosocial Behavior of College Students at the City Park in Makassar

Dwi Yan Nugraha<sup>1,\*</sup> Aviva R Scholten<sup>1</sup> Muhammad Daud<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Faculty of Psychology, Universitas Negeri Makassar, Makassar, Indonesia*

\*Corresponding author. Email: [dwi\\_nugraha97@yahoo.com](mailto:dwi_nugraha97@yahoo.com)

## ABSTRACT

This research aims to look at the description of the prosocial behavior of students at the City Park in Makassar. This type of research is quantitative with descriptive methods. Subjects in this study were 1137 respondents obtained using a purposive sampling technique. Data from this study were obtained using a prosocial behavior scale, which contained 30 items. Data obtained from the subject's answers were analyzed by descriptive analysis test with crosstabulation using the GNU PSPP Statistical Analysis Software version 1.2.0. The results of this study showed that prosocial behavior is at a moderate level.

**Keywords:** *Prosocial behavior, students, City Park*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

City parks are one of the public facilities in urban areas that are arranged and formed to be utilized by all urban communities as social facilities. The city park, as one of Green Open Space, has a function for the beauty or aesthetics of the city and social interaction, as well as helping to improve the ecological and environmental quality around the park [1]. On holiday, the park is more crowded with visitors, and most of them are college students for various activities, such as sports, entrepreneurship, and music festival events [2].

The results of observations made by researchers while on holiday at the city park show that students tend to show behavior that is focused on their world, do not care about the surrounding environment, and only interact with specific individuals. Based on the observations, with a high level of density, it can affect the social behavior of students visiting the City Park, especially on prosocial behavior.

The previous research revealed that density could affect individual social behavior, one of which is for prosocial behavior. By looked at the effect of social density on adherence and prosocial behavior for cafeteria users, it showed that they tended to exhibit fewer respectful and prosocial behavior in high-density situations [3] — Dovidio et.al studied the effects of high density by comparing the prosocial behavior of individuals in urban and rural areas. The results of the study indicate that the more exceptional density, the

lower prosocial behavior in individuals [4]. Individuals who live in big cities have lower levels of altruism compared to those who live in small cities. It shows that the higher the level of density in the city, the more influential prosocial behavior for individuals [5].

The effects of density on the prosocial behavior of students who living in the dorms were obtained by using letter dropping techniques and seeing the responses of students who saw them [4]. The results showed that 63% of students who live in dormitories with high density returned letters to the office, 87% of students in moderate density dormitories returned the letters, and 100% of students returned letters to dormitories with low-density levels. Based on these results, it can be concluded that students who live in dormitories with high-density levels exhibit fewer prosocial behaviors than in other areas.

Student response to park density is one indicator of prosocial behavior measurement. The technique is by asking students what they would do if they saw foreign women lost in the dormitory [6]. The results showed that 53% of students said they would ignore them with a dormitory situation at a high-density level, 40% of students said they would ignore them in a moderate density dormitory situation, and only 23% of students said they would ignore them at the low-density level. Meanwhile, if the foreigner is a male, 44% of students said they would refuse to provide help with a high-density dormitory situation, 39% of students said they would refuse to help with a moderate density dormitory

situation, and 8% the student said they would refuse with a dormitory situation at a low density.

Prosocial behavior is a behavior carried out in the interests of other individuals, whether requested or not requested, and aims to have an impact on the welfare of the individual [7]. The behavior is beneficial to other individuals based on self-motivation.

There are six factors of prosocial behavior. First is to help while other individuals assist too. Existing prosocial behavior models will enhance the following behavior. Individuals tend to offer and provide assistance to others if they have previously seen others do the same. Second, it is time pressure. Individuals who are in a hurry and do not have much time tend not to help out others who require help, while individuals who have enough time tend to assist individuals in need. Third is similarity. It is closely related to liking, and it is also closely related to aid. Individuals will have more empathy and provide more assistance to other individuals who have similarities with them. Fourth, it is personality traits. Individuals who have high positive emotions, empathy, and self-efficacy are the ones who are most likely to pay attention and are willing to give help. The fifth is sexes. Men more often provide assistance or help when in danger. Women are more likely to provide help in safer circumstances. The sixth is a religious belief. Individuals who are committed to being religious are apt to spend more time doing social matters, like volunteering and donating compared to individuals who do not have religious commitments [8].

Makassar is one of the big cities in Eastern Indonesia. It has several city parks spread all over the city. Macan Park, Pakui Sayang Park, Pattimura Park, Refleksi Park, Fort Rotterdam Park, Maccini Sombala Park, and Indosat Park are the seven parks located in Makassar. The parks are designed to be recreational spaces. The number of visitors always increase, but the area of the park remained the same in size. Density in this case is defined as a large number of individuals within a space boundary. There are two aspects of density. First, spatial density occurs when a large or broad room is changed to be smaller or narrower, while the number of individuals remains. The second social density occurs when the number of individuals is added without the addition of an area of space [9].

Researchers found many phenomena in the City park environment, particularly when the number of visitors increasing in holidays dominated by students. Some students are still considering beforehand even though they already know that other individuals need help. It is shown that the students at the city park area are less concerned with their surroundings. When other individuals are experiencing difficulties, several individuals in the vicinity do not try to help, mainly if they are strangers.

Prosocial behavior should be done when seeing other individuals experiencing difficulties or needing help from other individuals [10]. However, in reality, not all individuals immediately show a sense of sensitivity in providing service or assistance to other individuals, especially when they are in a crowded environment. Based on the phenomena obtained by researchers at the City Park, then research on the description of prosocial behavior of students at the City Park in Makassar needs to be done. In this study, researchers wanted to see the description in the City Park at Makassar, especially in a high-density park environment.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

This research uses a quantitative approach by agreeing on descriptive research. A descriptive study represents research that analyzes and presents systematic and accurate facts about participation or a particular field so that it is easier to understand [11]. This study consisted of one variable, namely prosocial behavior. Prosocial behavior is an action taken to provide help to individuals who need help and can provide benefits to others who are given help, either done without strings attached or only following personal needs. Prosocial behavior that is focused on this research is the prosocial behavior of students at City Park in Makassar, specifically in environments with high diversity.

This research was conducted at several city parks in Makassar city. The subjects in this study were students who visiting the parks. The selection of subjects in this study used a purposive sampling technique with the criteria of student respondents who visiting the city parks in Makassar.

The instrument used in this study was a scale of prosocial behavior and consisted of thirty items. The scale consists of six aspects proposed by Carlo & Randall, (2002), namely altruistic, compliant, emotional, public, anonymous, and dire prosocial behavior. The validity value's results of the correlation coefficient show that the item moves in the range of 0.232 to 0.650, so it can be said that the scale of prosocial behavior has good validity. The reliability coefficient value is 0.884, which means that the scale of prosocial behavior is reliable with functional categories. The data obtained were then analyzed with a descriptive analysis test using the GNU PSPP Statistical Analysis Software application version 1.2.0.

## **3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This study conducted 1137 respondents who are active students at universities in the city of Makassar and often visit City Parks in Makassar. In this study, there are more female respondents (61.92%) compared to male respondents. Based on the age group in table 1, the

frequency of visitors is dominated by 19-year-old citizens (62.53%).

**Table 1.** Description of age frequency

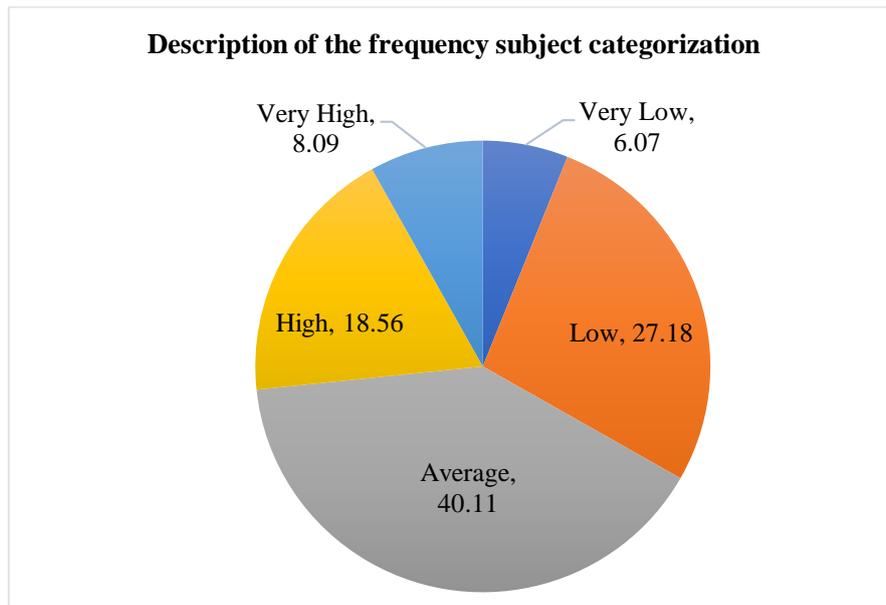
No	Age	Frequency	Percent
1	18	1	0.09
2	19	711	62.53
3	20	242	21.28
4	21	107	9.41
5	22	64	5.63
6	23	12	1.06
Total		1137	100

Subject analysis in this study uses categorization, which consists of five categories ranging from very low to very high, by looking at the mean (75.840) and standard deviation (5.080) obtained by the subjects [13]. The results of the analysis of the categorization of research subjects can be seen in the table below.

**Table 2.** Prosocial behavior categorization

Formula	Interval	Category
$M+1.5 SD < X$	> 84	Very High
$M+0.5 SD < X < M+1.5 SD$	79-83	High
$M-0.5 SD < X < M+0.5 SD$	74-78	Average
$M-1.5 SD < X < M-0.5 SD$	69-73	Low
$X < M-1.5 SD$	0-68	Very Low

Based on the research subject categorization's analysis, the range of values of 84 and above is included in the very high category, the range of values from 79 to 83 is included in the high category, the range of values from 74 to 78 is included in the average category, the range of values from 69 to 73 is included in the low category, and the range values of 68 and below are included in the very low category. The results of categorization based on the mean and standard deviation are obtained from the total score of the subjects.



**Figure 1** Description of the frequency subject categorization

The highest category is "average" with 40,11%, whereas the lowest category is "very low," with only 6,07%. "High" category is in the middle with 18,56 %.

The gap between the "very high" and "high" is 10.47%, yet the gap between the "low" and "high" is 8.62%.

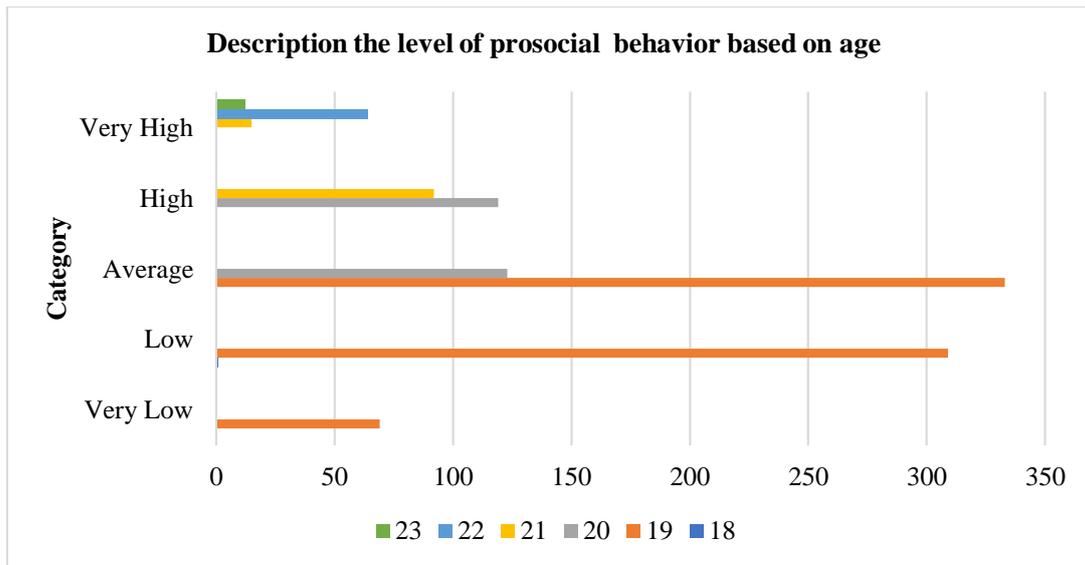


Figure 2. Description of the level of prosocial behavior based on age

Based on the results, it shows that only 19-year-old student exist in the “very low” and “low” categories, even though there is a single person for the 18-year-old student in the low category. For “high” and “average” categories, they only consist of two kinds of ages. There is a massive gap in the “average” category, 210 people, whereas there are only 27 people for the “high” category. The “very high” category contains 23-year-old, 18-year-old, and 21-year-old students. Moreover, the 18-year-old students have the most significant number of visitors.

Based on the results of data analysis that has been done, it can be seen that the level of prosocial behavior for the active students at City Park in Makassar is dominated in the medium category that is 456 out of 1.137 research subjects. These results are related to the initial observations made by researchers on holidays at City Park, showing that students tend to show behavior that is focused on their world, do not care about the surrounding environment, and only interact with specific individuals.

The results of observations made by researchers indicate that a high level of density can affect the social behavior of students visiting City Park, especially on prosocial behavior. The decline in prosocial behavior in individuals is caused by a decrease in sensitivity and social care for others and the environment. Many people still attach great importance to their success for themselves regardless of the circumstances of others around them. Individuals tend to be more individualistic and have an impact on the reduction of social attitudes in themselves so that later it will bring up materialistic attitudes and do not care about the environment [14].

Prosocial behavior is also influenced by the lack of sense of responsibility that individuals have in engaging themselves in emergencies when many other individuals have been involved in such emergencies [15]. However, when in an emergency, there is only one individual alone,

that person feels he has a sense of responsibility to provide help to other individuals. Environmental density factors could also influence prosocial behavior, thus impacting on individual social behavior, which results in reduced prosocial behavior [16]. Environmental conditions also influence helping behavior for individuals. The intended environmental conditions include weather, city size, and the degree of noise [17].

Additional data analysis related to the level of prosocial behavior based on gender showed that subjects who were women had higher levels of prosocial behavior than men, which was dominated at the level of prosocial behavior with a moderate category. There are differences in prosocial behavior between men and women. Men are more likely to be involved in helping activities in dangerous situations and require physical activity, while women help in situations that tend to provide emotional support, care for, and nurture [18].

Gender differences influence and shape different behavioral patterns. Women are considered more able to empathize and be able to control emotions when she interacts with other individuals, whereas men physically tend to be more aggressive. The results of this study indicate that men and women have different types of assistance.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the data analysis that has been done, it can be concluded that the description of the prosocial behavior of students at City Park in the city of Makassar, belongs to the average category. It stated that the number of subjects who have the “average” category of prosocial behavior of 456 respondents with a percentage of 40,11%. For further research, it is recommended to add the number of research subjects so that the results obtained can be generalized in general. It

is also suggested that researchers develop this study further by looking at the factors that influence prosocial behavior in students.

## REFERENCES

- [1] A. Rapoport, *Human aspects of urban form: towards a man—environment approach to urban form and design*. Elsevier, 2016.
- [2] S. Rahbiah, “Community’s characteristics and participation in the urban parks’ preservation in Makassar, Indonesia,” in *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 2019, vol. 260, no. 1, p. 12071.
- [3] A. Coleman, “Environmental Psychology and Urban Green Space: Supporting Place-Based Conservation in Philadelphia, PA,” 2014.
- [4] J. F. Dovidio, J. A. Piliavin, D. A. Schroeder, and L. A. Penner, *The social psychology of prosocial behavior*. Psychology Press, 2017.
- [5] J. P. Rushton, “Urban density and altruism: Helping strangers in a Canadian city, suburb, and small town,” *Psychol. Rep.*, vol. 43, no. 3, pp. 987–990, 1978.
- [6] E. M. Selhub and A. C. Logan, *Your brain on nature: The science of nature’s influence on your health, happiness, and vitality*. John Wiley & Sons, 2012.
- [7] C. Schott, O. Neumann, M. Bärtschi, and A. Ritz, “Public service motivation, prosocial motivation, prosocial behavior, and altruism: Towards disentanglement and conceptual clarity,” in 2016 EGPA Annual Conference, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 2016.
- [8] D. R. Van Tongeren and D. G. Myers, “A social psychological perspective on humility.” 2017.
- [9] Y. Hu, M. White, and W. Ding, “An urban form experiment on urban heat island effect in a high-density area,” *Procedia Eng.*, vol. 169, pp. 166–174, 2016.
- [10] E. C. Nook, D. C. Ong, S. A. Morelli, J. P. Mitchell, and J. Zaki, “Prosocial conformity: Prosocial norms generalize across behavior and empathy,” *Personal. Soc. Psychol. Bull.*, vol. 42, no. 8, pp. 1045–1062, 2016.
- [11] A. P. Rovai, J. D. Baker, and M. K. Ponton, *Social science research design and statistics: A practitioner’s guide to research methods and IBM SPSS*. Watertree Press LLC, 2013.
- [12] G. Carlo and B. A. Randall, “The development of a measure of prosocial behaviors for late adolescents,” *J. Youth Adolesc.*, vol. 31, no. 1, pp. 31–44, 2002.
- [13] T. H. Macan, C. Shahani, R. L. Dipboye, and A. P. Phillips, “College students’ time management: Correlations with academic performance and stress.,” *J. Educ. Psychol.*, vol. 82, no. 4, p. 760, 1990.
- [14] S. T. Fiske, *Social beings: Core motives in social psychology*. John Wiley & Sons, 2018.
- [15] R. Baron, N. R. Branscombe, and D. Byrne, “Social Psychology. 13th.” Boston, 2012.
- [16] J. T. Gross, J. A. Stern, B. E. Brett, and J. Cassidy, “The multifaceted nature of prosocial behavior in children: Links with attachment theory and research,” *Soc. Dev.*, vol. 26, no. 4, pp. 661–678, 2017.
- [17] R. McMullan, *Environmental science in a building*. Palgrave Macmillan Education, 2017.
- [18] A. H. Eagly, “The his and hers of prosocial behavior: An examination of the social psychology of gender.,” *Am. Psychol.*, vol. 64, no. 8, p. 644, 2009.