

SUMMARY

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project focuses on how decentralization would influence the provision of public goods and the relationship between different ethno-linguistic groups in ethnically diverse countries. In the first part of the project, we consider two types of decentralization: vertical and horizontal. Traditional wisdom believes that decentralization would enhance the provision of public goods. By studying the cases of Indonesia, Uganda and Kenya, the project addresses the questions of how much decentralization of either type, and/or what combination of the two are best suited for the quantity and quality of the production of public goods. The second part of the project focuses on the issue of decentralization under the context of diversity. The project aims to answer questions such as how decentralization influences power sharing among groups and how decentralization affects the distribution of resources between different ethno-linguistic groups. As the project is still in its initial stage, no substantial findings have been reported. We will continue our investigation in the fall semester.

STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

As the research assistant of this project, I was responsible for doing literature review for Professor Ranis and write summaries on Indonesia for the first eight weeks of this project. For the rest five weeks, I was in charge of collecting data from various sources, check the credibility of sources and compose an essay describing the process of Indonesia's decentralization.

THINGS I HAVE LEARNED

- i. How to conduct literature review.
- ii. How to construct a hypothesis and test it by existing evidence.
- iii. How to check the credibility of sources.
- iv. How to search for data in specific areas.
- v. How to plan research at the initial stage.

OPINIONS ON SRO

SRO is a great opportunity for someone who wants to understand how economic research is planned and conducted. For me, I have not only gained useful skills but also acquired a broad picture of economic research. During my stay in New Haven, I learned tremendously from Professor Ranis as I met with him frequently and regularly. Thanks to this program, I can have the opportunity to work with such a great economist. I am grateful to all who made the program possible. I am especially grateful to Professor Ranis. His kindness, patience and tolerance helped an inexperienced research assistant get through the most difficult times, and his insights into economic problems enable me to think more deeply. I highly recommend this program to everyone who wants to pursue graduate studies in the future, and I hope that more opportunities could be provided for those who are interested.