

# **Moral Education and Child Development: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Japan**

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## **Abstract**

Pressure to perform, course overload, peer pressure, and bullying are some of the hardships many Japanese children face at school, potentially hindering the development of their cognitive and non-cognitive skills. We conduct an online randomized controlled trial aiming to mitigate these adverse effects by promoting self-confidence, self-control, well-being, and a satisfying school and social life. Our six-week, home-based program utilizes a dual approach: educating parents via weekly emails about their child's potential challenges and providing age-appropriate videos to their children. The videos are based on official moral education textbooks, ensuring alignment with national educational standards. The treatment is further divided into four arms differentiated by the video narrator. In addition to evaluating the effectiveness of the narrator, we analyze the impact of this low cost and highly scalable intervention on children's non-cognitive measures shortly after the conclusion of the program and in the long run, approximately half a year later, with the potential for further data collection.