

## **Consumers or Donated Impact of Civil Society Activity on Equality between Schools**

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Over the past several years many non-profits and businesses with social and value-laden agendas have become active in schools and educational institutions in Israel. These partnerships are manifested in various ways: through the development and distribution of curricular materials, volunteering in schools, funding existing programs and donating equipment and other resources. Given the independence of NPO's, this article deals with the concern that unchecked interventions may lead to widening gaps between schools in well-off areas and those in poorer areas.

This issue is studied by comparing schools on the basis of their socio-economy classification and the number, type and source of funding of their NPO curriculums and projects.

The research conclusion is that there are two patterns of relationships between schools and NPO's: consumerism and philanthropy. While the strong schools acquire the external curriculums and thereby enjoy freedom of choice as consumers in the free market, the schools in the poorer areas are being offered curriculums that different forms of philanthropy chose for them, according to their own agenda. The curriculums funded by the philanthropic agencies deal mostly with instrumental subjects whose main aim is to improve existing curriculums such as language and mathematics. Schools in well-off areas, on the other hand, enjoy varied curriculums that include non-instrumental subjects such as space science, special university curriculums and more.

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# **The Contribution of Assistance from the Bezeq Corporation to Improving the Situation of Families in Extreme Distress**

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The study examined the contribution of assistance provided by an association established by employees and pensioners of the Bezeq Corporation. The association, known as *Halav* (Milk, Bread and Eggs), aims at assisting children from families in extreme distress who suffer from a lack of food. Assistance is provided throughout the year to families with children aged 1 to 14 who are clients of welfare departments and who are known to suffer from food insecurity. Each family in the *Halav* Association program is issued a "Supercard" voucher, which enables them to purchase a monthly allotment of basic food products at the "Supersol" supermarket nearest to their home. The study compared a research group of 56 families that receive assistance from the *Halav* Association with a control group of 46 families with similar socio-demographic characteristics that do not receive assistance. Among the families participating in the study are those who are defined as being in "extreme distress" as well as those who are not defined as such but that showed low and very low food security. In addition, the adults experienced higher levels of food insecurity than did the children. Furthermore, levels of food insecurity among the families in the research group were found to be more severe than among those in the control group. The predictors of insecurity were state of health and number of children in the family: among families with four and more children, severe food insecurity was more prevalent than among families with fewer children. The findings revealed that assistance from the *Halav* Association contributed to improving the general situation of the families participating in the program. For example, it enabled the children to bring food to school, and improved the children's academic performance as well as their social

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