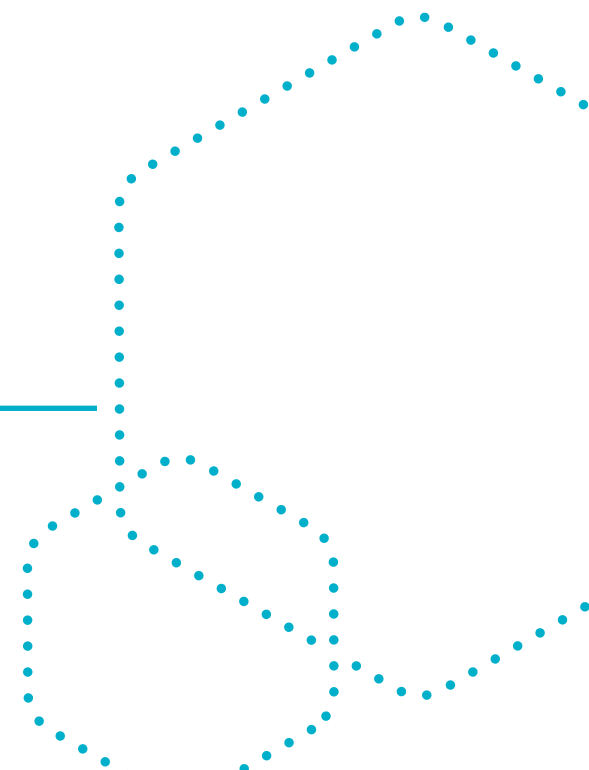


Ethically challenging situations in teachers' work – the role of school neighborhood socioeconomic status

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Background and aims of the study

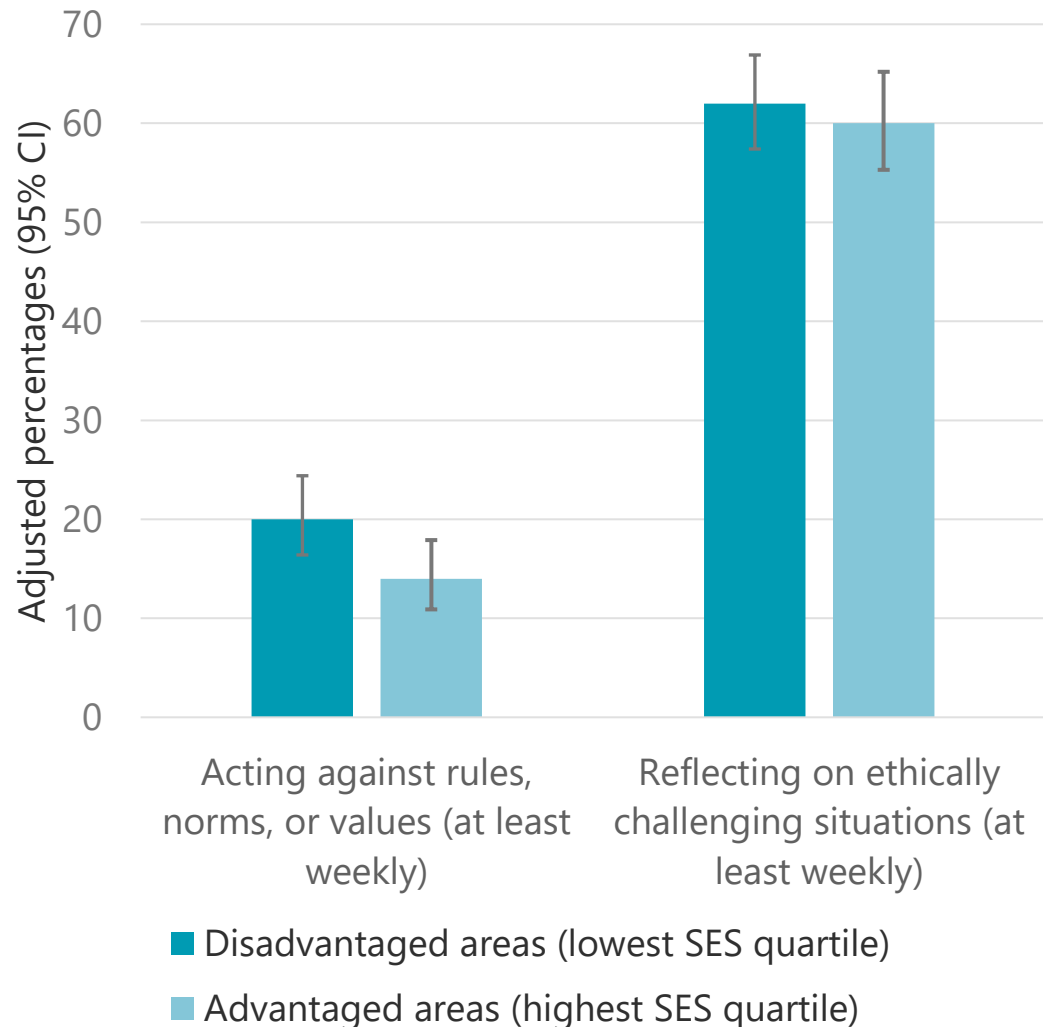
- Ethically challenging situations → e.g. **conflict between personal and environment's values or need to choose between non-preferred alternatives.**
- In the **teaching profession ethically challenging situations are common** and can lead to significant stress.
- Ethically challenging situations **may be more common in schools located in socially disadvantaged areas** → conflicts between educational needs and available resources.
- We investigated the **association between school neighborhood socioeconomic status (SES) and the prevalence of ethically challenging situations** among teachers.



Methods

- Data were from primary school teachers participating to **the Finnish Public Sector study in 2022** (n=1265, 80% women, mean age 49 years).
- **Experiences on ethically challenging situations** were assessed with two questions: In your work how often do you feel that you need to:
 - 1) *reflect on ethically challenging situations*
 - 2) *act contrary to rules, norms, or personal values* (at least weekly vs. less frequently).
- Survey data were linked to information on **school neighborhood SES** (mean household income, educational attainment, and unemployment rate - quartiles) obtained from **the national grid database**.
- **Log-binomial regression models** were used to analyze the relationship between school neighborhood SES and ethically challenging situations.

Results



Association between school neighborhood SES and ethically challenging situations (RR for lowest vs. highest SES quartile)

| | RR | 95% CI |
|---|-------------|-------------------|
| Acting against rules, norms, or values* | 1.43 | 1.01, 2.02 |
| Reflecting on ethically challenging situations* | 0.98 | 0.87, 1.11 |

*at least weekly

Thank you!

[Taking control of teachers' ethical distress; project webpage](#)

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