

Summaries of Research

These studies will be presented during conference breakout sessions on Thursday, January 24th.

Entrepreneurship Programs in Developing Countries: A Meta Regression Analysis

Presenter: Dr. David Robalino, World Bank

Authors: Dr. Yoonyoung Cho and Dr. Maddelana Honorati, World Bank

Theme: Entrepreneurship

Status of Research: Final Results

Country of Focus: Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa

Description: This study was aimed at finding effective designs of entrepreneurship programs that are suitable to improve labor opportunities through entrepreneurship, and utilized a meta-regression analysis which synthesized 37 impact evaluations examining individual entrepreneurship programs. Overall findings indicate that improving labor outcomes, including employment and earnings, seems more difficult than changing intermediate outcomes such as business knowledge and practices. Both vocational training and access to finance was found to have larger impacts than other interventions with regard to labor market activity. In the case of youth, the largest effects come from providing access to credit. Business training can also contribute to increased earnings among youth and improve their business performance.

Family Structure and Integration to Labor and Marriage Markets: the Case of Senegal

Presenter: Karine Marazyan, PSE

Authors: Isabelle Chort and Phillipe De Vreyer, University Paris Dauphine

Theme: Participation & Empowerment

Status of Research: Intermediate Results

Country of Focus: Senegal

Description: This research attempts to examine the impact that the age of accessing the labor market and getting married has on the household structure, in a context where most jobs and marriages are arranged inside kinship networks. Such a project requires accurate data on family structures, on the one hand, and individual life paths, on the other. The data came from the Poverty and Family Structure survey. The findings indicate that contributors such as education and networks (measured by membership in the Brotherhood of murids, polygamy of the father, and foster care experience in the past) affect entry into the labor market. The extent of the effects differs by generation. The network effect is found to be smaller for the younger generation. The results further show that, while the decision to marry generally followed the decision to engage in work for older generations and intermediate youth, these two decisions are uncorrelated. This may reflect the difficulty to remain single in a country where marriage is a highly-valued social institution. Therefore, young people get married regardless of their employment status.

Is Stable and Satisfactory Employment the Impossible Dream for Today's Young People: Preliminary Results from the ILO School-to-Work Transition Surveys in Sub-Saharan Africa

Presenter: Sara Elder, International Labour Organization

Theme: Vulnerable Youth

Status of Research: Preliminary Results

Countries of Focus: Liberia, Malawi, Togo

Description: The School-to-Work Transition Survey (SWTS) is a survey that generates relevant labor market information on young people aged 15 to 29 years, including longitudinal information on transitions within the labor market. The SWTS serves as a unique tool for demonstrating the increasingly tentative and indirect paths to decent and productive employment that today's young men and women are facing. The ILO is implementing a widespread research program on youth transitions, using SWTS as the base of the project, which allows the user to assess the characteristics of youth who are still in school, employed or self-employed, unemployed, or outside of the labor force for reasons other than full-time study. Then survey results are used to estimate stages of transition based on the premise that a young person has completed his/her transition only when in stable or satisfactory employment. Preliminary results are in for the first round of surveys in three African countries – Liberia, Malawi, and Togo. The presentation will focus on these results in order to unravel what the paths of transition look like for young people in countries where stable employment in the formal sector is rare, and how conditions of work are reflected in views of job satisfaction.

A Review of Rigorous Evidence on Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship

Presenter: Shawn Powers, J-PAL Youth Initiative

Authors: Marianne Bertrand and Bruno Crépon, J-PAL

Theme: Skills & Job Placement

Status of Research: Review Paper – Final Results

Country of Focus: Various

Description: This study reviews rigorous evidence on youth interventions in African countries in an effort to identify good practices as well as gaps in knowledge. The review examines what is known about policies to foster employability amongst youth, facilitate transition into the labor market, address unemployment and underemployment, and promote entrepreneurship. The review finds that the strongest evidence is related to human capital acquisition, while there is a need for much more research on job training, entrepreneurship, and policies designed to reduce information imperfections. In some cases where evidence from Africa is lacking, research from other contexts will be considered for possible lessons for research and policy.

Entrepreneurship Training among University Graduates: Evidence from a Randomized Trial in Tunisia

Presenter: Madhi Barouni, World Bank

Authors: M. Patrick Premand and Mme. Stephanie Brodmann, World Bank

Theme: Entrepreneurship

Status of Research: Final Results

Country of Focus: Tunisia

Description: This paper presents experimental evidence on a new entrepreneurship track that provides business training and personalized coaching to university students in Tunisia. In Tunisia, both the graduation rate from university and the unemployment rate among tertiary-educated youth have been increasing steadily. As part of a development policy loan aiming to support a broad set of employment policies, an innovative entrepreneurship track was introduced into the tertiary curriculum in academic year 2009-2010. Undergraduates in the final year of "licence appliquée" were given the opportunity to graduate with a business plan instead of following the standard curriculum. Using randomized assignment of the entrepreneurship track among applicants, the study identifies impacts on labor market outcomes one year after graduation. The findings indicate that the entrepreneurship track was effective at increasing self-employment, but the effects are small in absolute terms. In addition, the employment rate among beneficiaries remains unchanged, pointing to a substitution from wage employment to self-employment. The evidence shows that the program improved the participant knowledge of business skills and expanded networks, and affected a range of behavioral skills. Participation in the entrepreneurship track also heightened graduates' optimism towards the future shortly after the Tunisian revolution.

Empowering Adolescent Girls: Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial in Uganda

Presenter: Nik Buehren, World Bank

Authors: Professor Imran Rasul, University College London and Nik Buehren, World Bank

Theme: Participation & Empowerment

Status of Research: Preliminary Results

Country of Focus: Uganda

Description: This paper evaluates the Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents (ELA) program, an intervention that attempts to simultaneously tackle the economic and health challenges faced by adolescent girls in Uganda, which is operated by the NGO BRAC. The program has two components: (1) the provision of life skills to build knowledge and reduce risky behaviors; and (2) vocational skills training to enable adolescent girls to start small-scale income generating activities. Using a randomized control trial, the study evaluates the impacts of the programme on empowering adolescent girls. The evaluation design involves comparing outcomes of adolescent girls who reside in 100 communities to receive the ELA programme (treatment group) with adolescent girls that reside in 50 control communities. The findings indicate that the programme significantly improves HIV and pregnancy related knowledge, as well as corresponding risky behaviors. On outcomes related to vocational training, the intervention raised the likelihood of girls being engaged in income generating activities, mainly driven by increased participation in self-employment. The results suggest combined interventions might be more effective among adolescent girls than single-pronged interventions aiming to either change risky behaviors solely through related education programmes, or to improve labor market outcomes solely through vocational training.

The Effects of Apprenticeship Training for Vulnerable Youth in Malawi

Presenter: Victor Orozco, World Bank

Authors: Prof. Mushfiq Mobarak, Yale University and Dr. Yoonyoung Cho, World Bank

Theme: Vulnerable Youth

Status of Research: Preliminary Results

Country of Focus: Malawi

Description: This study evaluates the impacts of vocational training apprenticeship combined with entrepreneurial support and life skills training on vulnerable youth's labor market outcomes and welfare in Malawi using a randomized controlled trial (RCT). The program is nationwide with small-scale pilots that provide training through apprenticeship from Master Craftpersons (MCs). The treatment group received apprenticeship training in the desired occupations including car repairing, tailoring, and hairdressing. Half of the treatment group was randomly assigned to a "pep talk" group that fosters positive attitude and encouragement. The findings suggest that the training program had large positive effects on skill level, investment in human capital, and psychosocial wellbeing. Yet, it did not yield significant positive effects on labor market outcomes. The results show that trained youth have better knowledge of trade and business, spend more time investing in learning and training and less time migrating for work opportunities, and present improved psychosocial wellbeing. An increase in HIV testing and a delay in marriage and births were also observed. The short "pep-talk" session was found to be effective with reinforcing the positive results. However, only limited evidence of new business activities and increased earnings are found from this short-term (average four months after training) evaluation. Overall the evaluation results indicate that apprenticeship training is relevant to foster entrepreneurship and provide alternative earning opportunities, particularly in the Sub-Saharan Africa setting.

Youth Employment in Northern Senegal: Creating Job Opportunities for Young People

Presenter: Dr. Damien Echevin, Université de Sherbrooke

Author: Dr. Damien Echevin, Université de Sherbrooke

Theme: Skills & Job Placement

Status of Research: Preliminary Results

Country of Focus: Senegal

Description: The goal of the Youth Employment Assessment in Northern Senegal is to identify innovative interventions that improve the employment conditions and earnings of young men and women in the context of weak job creation and low accumulation of human capital. The study addresses the key question of how to address supply-demand imbalances in youth employment in the context of Northern Senegal in order to create economic opportunities for young people. More specifically, the aim of the study is to conduct a targeted 'dual-client assessment' that will identify needs and opportunities for youth employment and business development in the agricultural sector in the St. Louis area in Northern Senegal. The rationale of the study focuses on the need to strengthen not just infrastructure for connectivity but also economic opportunities, especially for vulnerable youth, as well as to present youth employment as an entry-point to move out of poverty and economic stagnation. Preliminary findings show a strong rise in the training demand for youth in order to improve job opportunities, labor market participation, and wages. The lack of training of youth was the main factor hindering their employability.

Be the Change Academy - Kenya Impact Evaluation

Presenter: Ann-Katrina Bregovic, Peace Child International

Authors: Ann-Katrina Bregovic and David Woolcombe, Peace Child International

Theme: Entrepreneurship

Status of Research: Final Results

Country of Focus: Kenya

Description: The research objectives of this study were to evaluate if the approach of the Be the Change Academy (BTCA) had an actual impact on youth in the areas of increasing their business skills, improving their understanding of business mechanisms, increasing income and lowering youth unemployment rate for the long-term, decreasing youth poverty, and promoting gender equality and sustainable business approaches. Furthermore, the impact evaluation tried to determine a correlation between youth who had business training and success rate in small scale businesses and loan repayments, in comparison to youth who received a loan without any prior training. The approach of the BTCA is based on three major parts: training youth in entrepreneurial skills including creating their own business plans, giving youth access to non-collateralized loans, and creating a support network for young entrepreneurs through mentorship. Using the difference-in-difference method, the evaluation findings indicate that the youth from the groups who received training were more confident, able to improve their business skills and understanding of business mechanisms, and able to make the loan repayments effectively.

Youth Enterprise Inhibiting Factors and Opportunities

Presenter: Paul Omondi, Africa Data Information Network

Authors: Paul Omondi and Peter Mwangi, Africa Data and Information

Theme: Entrepreneurship

Status of Research: Final Results

Country of Focus: Kenya

Description: This study is a critical analysis of the patterns, challenges, and opportunities in youth enterprise. For the purposes of the study, it was assumed that despite the seemingly important role played by education, the critical factors in motivating youth entrepreneurship are vocational training and access to finance. Additionally, youth enterprise is characterized by informality. With these aspects in mind, the specific objectives of the survey were to: (1) establish the level of informality of youth enterprises in terms of registration status, (2) establish youth entrepreneurial engagement relative to level of education, and (3) establish characteristics of youth enterprise in the context of vocational training. The ultimate aim of this information is to influence decision making by identifying priorities that require specific interventions targeting youth. Overall, the results of the survey showed that a majority of businesses operate without formal registration. Analyzing youth entrepreneurial engagement with the level of education indicated that youth with higher education levels have a lower predisposition to venture into self-employment. In the context of vocational training, the results showed a correlation between training area and investment area.

Livelihoods, Employment and Policy: Behaviors and Attitudes of Youth in Three Rural Tanzania Regions

Presenter: Kennedy Oulu, In-Depth Consulting

Authors: Kennedy Oulu and Tawanda Charamba, Restless Development

Theme: Participation & Empowerment

Status of Research: Final Results

Country of Focus: Tanzania

Description: This study is a broader assessment of attitudes and behaviors of young people in sexual and reproductive health and rights, entrepreneurship and employment creation, and civic participation. Focusing on rural Tanzania, the overall objectives in the area of entrepreneurship, employment creation, and civic participation include: (1) determine the behaviors and attitudes of young people relating to entrepreneurship and employment; (2) assess the level of engagement and participation of young people in policy development, implementation, and review; and (3) suggest areas and ways of leveraging youth engagement and participation in entrepreneurship, employment creation, and policy making in Tanzania. Using a parallel mixed method design, the study generated several findings for men and women. In terms of earnings, the results showed

women earn less than men, but start earning earlier. Food was found to be the highest expenditure component. Land ownership was found to have parity, yet farm income for women was lower. Most businesses were informal, with higher engagement from women. The findings indicated that entrepreneurship skills encourage establishment of income generating activities but value chain skills that sustain businesses are lacking. With respect to policy engagement, the results highlight that despite low awareness, there is an interest to understand the policies.

When Does Employment Matter? Understanding Employment and Youth Participation in Violence in Africa

Presenter: Dr. Rebecca Wolfe and Tara Noronha, Mercy Corps

Author: Dr. Rebecca Wolfe and Jon Kurtz, Mercy Corps

Theme: Vulnerable Youth

Status of Research: Final Results

Countries of Focus: Kenya, Liberia, Somalia

Description: This research aims to understand when and how youth employment programs can foster stability in Kenya, Liberia, and Somalia. The hypothesis in this case is that whether a youth employment program will promote stability depends on the factors that led youth to participate in violence. Therefore, there should be a relationship between employment and violence when youth are provided with financial incentives to participate in violence (Kenya). However, when the prime motivator for violence is justice/status (Somalia) or forced recruitment (Liberia), employment will not be a strong predictor of violence. Additionally, the research looks at other factors that may affect youth participation in violence, including civic participation, discrimination, and self-efficacy. The study also highlights that training and other employment-related programs run the risk of raising expectations that cannot be met by market realities, thereby leading to frustration.

Testing what Works in Youth Employability—an Impact Evaluation in Kenya

Presenter: Thomaz Alvares de Azevedo, School to School International

Theme: Skills & Job Placement

Status of Research: Preliminary Results

Country of Focus: Kenya

Description: The purpose of this research is to test a comprehensive employability training program model and its impact on the employability and income generating capacity of a targeted youth group. Over 500 young women aged 18-35 from informal settlements around Nairobi will participate in the program, consisting of technical training in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), life skills training, work experience through internships, and job placement support. The evaluation design is a randomized controlled trial (RCT) where participants are randomly selected from a list of applicants and assigned to either the treatment or control group. The evaluation aims to examine participation in life skills training as part of a comprehensive employability model, comparing the impact on employability of youth who receive life skills training against youth who do not receive life skills training. The evaluation findings established that the training interventions in ICT and life skills succeeded in increasing test scores. Qualitative research in the form of exit interviews with participants and employers are still ongoing, but preliminary results suggest that participants are more confident in their skill set, more optimistic about getting a job, more likely to apply for jobs, and more likely to obtain a full-time position. This presentation will also discuss the ramifications of the RCT design in Kenya and present the steps taken to solve the many challenges faced during the implementation of program evaluation.