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**Abstract**

A summary of 12-16 lines (or between 100 and 150 words) briefly reporting the research background, main questions, results and policy implications of the study. Your abstract should reply these questions: What is known and why is this study needed. (Background and motivation); What you do? What are the main outcome variables and what is the intervention? (Methods); What do you find? (Results); Which are the policy implications? (Discussion)

**Key words** : Keyword 1, Keyword 2, etc.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**JEL Classification**: CODE1; CODE2; etc.

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Table of Contents

[I. Introduction 1](#_Toc34406924)

[II. Context 2](#_Toc34406925)

[III. Conceptual Framework 2](#_Toc34406926)

[IV. Experimental design, data and empirical strategy 2](#_Toc34406927)

[4.1 Experimental design 2](#_Toc34406928)

[4.2 Data 3](#_Toc34406929)

[4.2.1. Sample (optional) 3](#_Toc34406930)

[4.2.2. Baseline survey 3](#_Toc34406931)

[4.2.3. Endline survey 4](#_Toc34406932)

[4.2.4. Administrative data 4](#_Toc34406933)

[4.2.5. Baseline balance 4](#_Toc34406934)

[4.3 Empirical Strategy 5](#_Toc34406935)

[V. Results 5](#_Toc34406936)

[6.1. [Outcome #1] 5](#_Toc34406937)

[6.2. [Outcome #2] 5](#_Toc34406938)

[6.3. [Outcome #3…] 5](#_Toc34406939)

[6.4. Heterogenous effects 5](#_Toc34406940)

[6.5. Robustness checks 5](#_Toc34406941)

[VI. Conclusions and policy implications 6](#_Toc34406942)

[References 6](#_Toc34406943)

[Tables 7](#_Toc34406944)

[Figures 9](#_Toc34406945)

[Appendices 10](#_Toc34406946)

[Appendix A 10](#_Toc34406947)

[Appendix B 10](#_Toc34406948)

List of tables

[Table 1: Baseline balance test 7](#_Toc35010621)

[Table 2: Treatment effects [outcome #1] 8](#_Toc35010622)

List of figures

[Figure 1: The density curve of the Pigou index 9](#_Toc35010642)

1. Introduction

Before starting this section, it is a good idea to review the following link: <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/how-write-introduction-your-development-economics-paper>

This section should be developed around the following issues (note that the order of the elements below can be changed):

* Hook: Motivation of your paper with a puzzle or problem, explaining why the topic is interesting (~1–2 paragraphs)
* Question: Clearly stated research question (~1 paragraph)
* Empirical approach: Brief explanation on how you answer the research question. (~1 paragraph)
* Detailed results (~3–4 paragraphs)
* Value-added relative to related literature: What are the contributions of your paper with respect to directly relevant literature (~1–3 paragraphs)
* Optional paragraphs: Robustness checks, policy relevance, limitations
* Roadmap: Outline the organization of the paper with key points and milestones (~1 paragraph)

A note on reviewing related literature:

* + Note that it is more and more frequent that the literature review is very narrow and included in the Introduction section (however, especially for the Interim and Final Report versions, it might be better to have this as a distinct section)
  + You should cite only sources that are crucially relevant to your research question
  + The literature review should also help you to demonstrate the value-added of your contribution
  + One of the scholars cited might be a referee for your paper: keep a neutral tone when describing past contributions
  + The absence of recent references suggests that the review is incomplete or the topic out- of-fashion

Please, note that any text that you borrow from another source should be carefully contained between quotation marks, and this, with a reference to the source (including page number) immediately following the quotation. Note also that copying large extracts (such as several paragraphs) from other texts is not a good practice and is usually unacceptable.

For a fuller description of plagiarism, please refer, for example, to the following web sites:

<http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/warning-when-you-must-cite>, and <http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/fair-paraphrase>.

PEP will be using a software program to detect cases of plagiarism.

1. How to insert the author name of one reference: ([Baah-Boateng](#_bookmark21), [2016](#_bookmark21))
2. How to insert remember different references in the text: ([Baah-Boateng](#_bookmark21), [2016](#_bookmark21), [2015](#_bookmark20); [Mueller](#_bookmark22) [et al.](#_bookmark22), [2018](#_bookmark22))
3. Context

This section should briefly characterize the setting in which your intervention is carried out, providing all relevant background information.

1. Conceptual Framework

This section:

* 1. Clearly lays out the main outcomes of interest, which of them are primary to the analysis, which are secondary, and why, and how are the main outcomes defined in your dataset
  2. Explains the potential determinants and the impact/causal mechanisms of a given pol- icy/intervention, phenomenon or shock on the outcome(s)
  3. Allows to derive (conceptually or theoretically) the hypotheses being tested with the empirical models.
  4. May help to explain some (seemingly) unexpected or counterintuitive empirical results
  5. The interpretation of the empirical results needs to be done consistently with the developed conceptual framework
  6. Can be broken into further subsections, to explain each main hypothesis in detail (Hypothesis #1, Hypothesis #2, …)

1. Experimental design, data and empirical strategy

## Experimental design

This section explains in detail what the intervention in the study consists of. It must:

* Elaborate in detail when, where and by whom the intervention was delivered.
* Define treatment(s) and implementation. If there are there multiple treatment arms, are they exclusive or overlapping?
* Explain randomization procedure. How were individual observations assigned to treatment and control conditions?
* If applicable, consider adding a subsection titled “Potential concerns regarding the research design”, detailing the scope for contamination and other biases, and the measures that were undertaken to minimize these concerns.
  1. Data

This subsection should describe data sources, sampling, and data collection procedures used in your research, as well as relevant summary statistics for key variables. It can be useful to break this subsection into the subsections below, if applicable, or modify them according to the data collection instances/sources required by your research.

* + 1. Sample (optional)

You can use this section to describe the procedure by which the sample was constructed, before proceeding into the treatment allocation stage, if the procedure is complex enough to require a whole subsection. If procedure is very long, this section can be moved to an annex. Otherwise, you can include this information as an opening paragraph in the “Data” section.

* + 1. Baseline survey

This section must describe the baseline data collection procedure in your study, if applicable:

* Brief description of modules and questions
* Implementation: When and how did data collection and processing take place?
* Number of observations
* Any special considerations worth noting: Did you observe variations from the intended sample size? Did you face any particular challenges in collecting data? What measures did you take to prevent/palliate this problem, if applicable?
  + 1. Endline survey

This section must describe the endline data collection procedure in your study, if applicable:

* Brief description of modules and questions
* Implementation (when, how)
* Number of observations
* Any special considerations worth noting: Did you observe variations from the intended sample size? Did you face any particular challenges in collecting data? What measures did you take to prevent/palliate this problem, if applicable (attrition, non-compliance with the assigned treatment, etc.) and what measures do you plan to take to prevent them?
  + 1. Administrative data

This section must describe the administrative data sources used in your study either as baseline, follow-up, or endline data, if applicable. It must outline:

* Key variables
* Data sources
* Periodicity
* Number of observations
* Any special considerations worth noting
  + 1. Baseline balance

This section must present baseline summary statistics for the variables in the sample (obtained via survey or administrative sources). It must include:

* One or more baseline balance tables: See Tables section for an example. A brief discussion of balance results for key variables should follow, stating why it might be important to control for some of this in the model specification, if applicable.
* If your sample changed between baseline and endline data collection stages, it is a good idea to present balance on variables at both instances.

## Empirical Strategy

This section must present your strategy for statistical analysis. It must elaborate on the following:

* Statistical methods: What statistical methods will be used to analyze the data?
* Statistical model: State the functional form. Math equations must be entered as editable text and not as images.
* Multiple outcome and multiple hypothesis testing: How will the study address false positives from multiple hypothesis testing? If you plan to adjust your standard errors, what adjustment procedure will you use? (e.g., Family Wise Error Rate, False Discovery Rates, etc.). If you plan to aggregate multiple variables into an index, which variables will you aggregate and how?
* Heterogeneous Effects: Which groups have you anticipated could display heterogeneous effects? What lead you to anticipate these effects?

1. Results

This section should report the discussion and interpretation of the results based on the associated tables and figures. All tables and figures should be accurately cited in the text. In order to keep the main Table section as brief as possible, some less relevant but still necessary tables and figures can be moved into an Annex (see below). This section can be broken into smaller subsections where each main outcome of the research is discussed in detail.

It is a good idea to revise section 7 in the following writing guidelines: <http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~pnikolov/resources/writingtips.pdf>

* 1. [Outcome #1]
  2. [Outcome #2]
  3. [Outcome #3…]
  4. Heterogenous effects
  5. Robustness checks

1. Conclusions and policy implications

* Some readers glance at the conclusion to decide to read the more or not: Good practice to restate the research question to show its pertinence
* Serves as a “policy brief” of your study: main findings, why they are important, what are the policy implications, and what are possible future research avenues.
* Do not draw conclusions that are not supported by your findings. Do not extrapolate.

References

Baah-Boateng, W. (2015). Unemployment in Africa: how appropriate is the global definition and measurement for policy purpose. *International Journal of Manpower*, 36(5):650–667.

Baah-Boateng, W. (2016). The youth unemployment challenge in Africa: What are the drivers? *The Economic and Labor Relations Review*, 27(4):413–431.

Mueller, V., Doss, C., and Quisumbing, A. (2018). Youth migration and labor constraints in African agrarian households. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 54(5):875–894.

Tables

Tables can be placed horizontally in a separate page for ease of reading if needed. Always check with mentor for preferred table format.

Table 1: Baseline balance test

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Mean** | |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Treatment** | **Control** | **Difference** | **P-value** | **N** | **Mean** | **SD** |
| Var #1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Var #2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Var #3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Var #4… |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Observations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Note:** ∗ *p <* 0*.*05, ∗∗ *p <* 0*.*01, ∗∗∗ *p <* 0*.*001. Specify units in which means are expressed if they differ across variables (eg. percentages, etc.)  **Source:** ALWAYS Indicate source (baseline survey, admin data, etc.) | | | | | | | |

Table 2: Treatment effects [outcome #1]

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Model 1** | **Model 2** | **Model 3** | **Model 4** |
| Treatment | xxx.xxx \*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* |
|  | (xxx.xxxx) | (xxx.xxx) | (xxx.xxx) | (xxx.xxxx) |
| Main control var #1 | xxx.xxx \*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* |
|  | (xxx.xxxx) | (xxx.xxx) | (xxx.xxx) | (xxx.xxxx) |
| Main control var #2 | xxx.xxx \*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* |
|  | (xxx.xxxx) | (xxx.xxx) | (xxx.xxx) | (xxx.xxxx) |
| Main control var #... | xxx.xxx \*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* |
|  | (xxx.xxxx) | (xxx.xxx) | (xxx.xxx) | (xxx.xxxx) |
| Constant | xxx.xxx \*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* | xxx.xxx\*\*\* |
|  | (xxx.xxxx) | (xxx.xxx) | (xxx.xxx) | (xxx.xxxx) |
| Observations |  |  |  |  |
| R2 |  |  |  |  |
| Fixed effects (if optional) | (YES/NO) |  |  |  |
| **Note:** ∗ *p <* 0*.*05, ∗∗ *p <* 0*.*01, ∗∗∗ *p <* 0*.*001.  **Source:** ALWAYS Indicate source (baseline survey, admin data, etc.) | | | | |

Always report standard errors for each estimate in parentheses. Check with mentor for preferred table format.

Figures

Remember that Figures and Tables must be self-contained (no need to read the text to understand them).

Example for inserting a figure:

Figure 1: The density curve of the Pigou index

.6

.8

E in [−Inf, 0.0] : 48.9

E in [0.0, 0.5] : 20.8

E in [0.5, 1.0] : 9.6

E in [1.0, Inf.] : 20.7

−2 0 2 4 6

The density: f(E)

.4

0

.2

Pigou Index

**Note**: …

**Source:** ALWAYS Indicate source (baseline survey, admin data, etc.)

Appendices

Appendix A

Insert the text of the appendix A

Appendix B

Insert the text of the appendix B

1. Please consult the following link: [*https://www.aeaweb.org/econlit/jelCodes.php*](https://www.aeaweb.org/econlit/jelCodes.php)*. B*y clicking on the JEL code links, you will find examples of keywords associated to specific domains. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)