PEP call for Proposals

PAGE II – field experiments

Methodological approaches

Field experiments use controlled environments that make it possible to clearly identify the effect of a treatment and/or learn about micro-motives for behavior. See the Journal of Economic Literature article by Glenn Harrison and John List (2009) for a taxonomy of experiments, the J-Pal repository of articles from the Handbook of field Experiments (2017), and the Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (JEBO) special issue on Field Experiments in Developing Countries. The book “Field Experiments” by Alan Gerber and Donald Green is a useful tool for writing proposals.

We encourage researchers to think of creative ways to adapt well-known experimental protocols to answer research questions relevant to local barriers faced by females, farmers and youth in gaining access to income-generating activities and increasing their productivity. Original protocols will also be considered.

Examples of research questions that can appropriately be answered using a field experiment are offered below. This list is offered for illustration purposes and does not constitute an exhaustive list of research topics that will be selected for funding.

- Can delivery information on actual risk and return on investments in entrepreneurship activities increase credit demand and investments by correcting beliefs?
- Is there evidence that women shy away from competition? How competitive are female entrepreneurs against other female entrepreneurs? Against male entrepreneurs? In what ways does this gap in performance depend on how they earn their income (piece-rate, sale on a market)?
- Can referrals/ratings from previous employers/co-workers or current clients improve employment outcomes or sales performance?
Does physical distance from job opportunities hinder employment? Can transportation vouchers lead to improved success in finding a job? Or does location act as a signal, resulting in statistical discrimination?

Are some socio-demographic groups discriminated against, using fictitious resumes? Can you provide evidence on returns on specific skills (e.g., ICT) or attributes (e.g., gender, marital status, number of children) by sending fictitious resumes?

Does the process (random, based on merit, through networks) by which credit (or business training/ jobs) applicants are selected for credit/training/jobs affect their outcomes?

Are job candidates who find jobs through social contacts willing to accept a wage discount?

Does group liability, versus individual liability, affect take-up of microcredit differently for men, women, young people?

References


