

J-PAL E-UPDATE NO. 3 - DECEMBER 2007

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL
Poverty Action Lab
 TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO ACTION



Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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Launch of J-PAL Europe at Paris School of Economics

Researchers from around the region have joined J-PAL's new regional office in Europe and are helping to spread the message of randomized evaluations. Based at the Paris School of Economics, J-PAL Europe will serve as a focal point on randomized impact evaluations of poverty programs in the region. [LEARN MORE](#)

J-PAL [IN THE PRESS](#)

J-PAL was featured on Nature on October 22, Field trials aim to tackle poverty
 "Faced with the multitude of problems that result from and contribute to poverty, how can you decide which strategy to use to tackle an issue? One innovative lab is borrowing ideas from the medical world in a bid to find out..." [LEARN MORE](#)

Take action and Deworm the World

Young Global Leaders around the world are taking action against parasitic worms persuaded by evidence of health and education benefits of deworming. Four hundred million school-aged children are infected with worms making them listless and sick, yet only 10 percent are being treated. The Young Global Leaders have launched Deworm the World, an initiative that responds to J-PAL's hard evidence and strives to improve access to education through supporting, implementing and advocating for school-based deworming programs. [LEARN MORE](#)



Speaking at Chatham House on the issue of women's equality, **Mrs. Blair features J-PAL study** "Women as Policy Makers: Evidence from a Randomized Policy Experiment in India." [LEARN MORE](#)

OTHER NEWS

France supports rigorous evaluation of new anti-poverty programs - Martin Hirsch, the French High Commissioner for Active Solidarity against Poverty, announced a five-million-euro fund to pilot anti-poverty programs along with rigorous evaluations of these programs during 2008. [LEARN MORE](#)

Spotlight on our Partners: Al Amana

J-PAL partner since 2006, Al Amana is a Moroccan micro credit association which seeks to achieve development through microfinance and micro-enterprise promotion. Created in 1997, Al Amana today serves more than 400,000 clients all over country and is among the twenty largest microfinance institutions in the world. J-PAL and Al Amana are running an impact evaluation study of microcredit in rural Morocco. [LEARN MORE](#)



READ India - In July, Pratham received \$9 million in funding to scale up their Read India program from the William and Flora Hewlett and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundations. [LEARN MORE](#)

Dean Karlan, J-PAL affiliate, wins highest U.S. award for young researcher. [LEARN MORE](#)

Is charging an answer?

Is charging an answer?

by Jessica Cohen and
Pascaline Dupas



Contrary to conventional wisdom, charging for bednets does not help ensure they are used appropriately, according to a recently completed study by J-PAL affiliate Pascaline Dupas and Jessica Cohen. In the randomized study carried out in Kenya, they find that women who receive free insecticide-treated bednets are not less likely to use them than those who paid for them. Charging only 75 cents reduced net take up by 75 percent, leaving the authors to conclude that bednets should be handed out for free. This argument is strengthened by the fact that if one family uses an insecticide-treated bednet their neighbours benefit from the reduced number of mosquitoes.

[Learn more about this paper.](#)

NEW PAPERS

Indoor air pollution, health and economic well-being, by Esther Duflo, Michael Greenstone and Rema Hanna. [READ](#)

Many children left behind? textbook and test scores in Kenya, by Paul Glewwe, Michael Kremer and Sylvie Moulin. [READ](#)

Repayment Frequency and Default in Micro-Finance, Evidence from India, by Erica Field and Rohini Pande. [READ](#)

Are Educational Vouchers Only Redistributive? by Eric Bettinger, Michael Kremer and Juan E. Saavedra. [READ](#)

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[The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab](#) (J-PAL) in the MIT Department of Economics is dedicated to fighting poverty by ensuring that policy decisions are based on scientific evidence. We run, promote the use of, and disseminate the results of randomized evaluations of poverty programs.
