

J-PAL E-UPDATE NO. 6 - SEPTEMBER 2009

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL  
**Poverty Action Lab**  
 TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO ACTION



**MIT**  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

## J-PAL e-Update, September 2009

### Changing Lives Through Better Policy



J-PAL impacts lives every day. With a new and substantial gift from Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel, J-PAL will sharpen its focus on translating research into action by promoting the adoption of successful programs in new and more places globally.

More than 30 million people have been reached so far. [READ MORE](#) about our plans to get to 100 million by 2013.

### J-PAL Wins International Award

J-PAL received the 2009 BBVA Frontier of Knowledge Award for its innovative work in fighting poverty with scientific evidence. [READ MORE](#) about the award.



### Executive Training Online

J-PAL's weeklong executive education course on randomized evaluations is now available online. The course is offered annually in the United States, Europe and India to provide in-depth, practical training on how to run randomized evaluations. As an innovation, this year's course materials and lectures have been added to the MIT OpenCourseWare site. [CHECK IT OUT.](#)

### Spotlight on Our Partners: Spandana



Servicing more than 2.5 million poor women, Spandana is one of the largest and fastest growing microfinance institutions in India. Together with J-PAL researchers Esther Duflo, Rachel

Glennerster and Abhijit Banerjee, Cynthia Kinnan and the Centre for Micro Finance Spandana

### DEWORM INDIA

Ten million schoolchildren are set to benefit from the first, large-scale school-based deworming program in India. A joint initiative between four State Government departments in Andhra Pradesh and Deworm-the-World, the program aims to curb the prevalence of intestinal worms that cause anemia, growth retardation and can lead to poor attendance and school performance. [READ MORE](#)

### J-PAL EXECUTIVE COURSE IN SPANISH

J-PAL Executive Course in Spanish to be held at Pontificia Universidad Catolica, Chile, in December 2009. [READ MORE](#)

### NEW PAPERS

#### XAGRICULTURE

[Nudging Farmers to use Fertilizers: Evidence from Kenya](#)  
 By Duflo, Kremer and Robinson.

#### EDUCATION

[Peer Effects and the Impact of Tracking: Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation in Kenya](#)  
 By Duflo, Dupas and Kremer.

#### FINANCIAL ACCESS

[The Miracle of Microfinance? Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation](#)  
 By Banerjee, Duflo, Glennerster and Kinnan.

[Savings Constraints and Microenterprise Development: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Kenya](#)  
 By Dupas and Robinson.

[Do Social Interactions Facilitate Cooperate Behavior? Evidence from a Group Lending Experiment in India](#)  
 By Rohini Pande, Benjamin Feigenberg and Erica Field.

[Expanding Microenterprise Credit Access Using Randomized Supply](#)

carried out a seminal study on the impact of microfinance on the lives of poor people. In the study, Spandana rolled out its services across 52 previously unserved slums in Hyderabad, randomly selected from 104 slums, to allow for an assessment of the effects on microentrepreneurship and wellbeing of offering microcredit in urban slums.

Spandana's website is [www.spandanaindia.com](http://www.spandanaindia.com).  
The Centre for Micro Finance's website is [www.ifmr.ac.in/cmfi](http://www.ifmr.ac.in/cmfi).

### New Bulletin

Check out our new bulletin on strategies to combat service provider absenteeism.

[READ MORE](#)



### [Decisions to Estimate the Impacts in Manila](#)

By Dean Karlan and Jonathan Zinman.

### [Barriers to Household Risk Management: Evidence from India](#)

By Shawn Cole *et al.*

### [Remittances and the Problem of Control: A Field Experiment Among Migrants from El Salvador](#)

By Nava Ashraf *et al.*

### **GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY** [Power to the People: Evidence from a community-evidence monitoring in Uganda](#)

By Bjorkman and Svensson.xx

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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 achieve this objective by undertaking, promoting the use of, and disseminating the results of randomized evaluations of poverty programs.