Growth Mindset Interventions at Scale: Experimental Evidence from Argentina

Researchers:
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Location: Salta, Argentina

Initiative(s): Post-Primary Education Initiative

Target group: Parents Secondary schools Students

Outcome of interest: Dropout and graduation Enrollment and attendance Student learning

Intervention type: Information

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This is one of the first evaluations of a “growth-mindset” intervention at scale in a developing country. I randomly assigned 202 public secondary schools in Salta, Argentina, to a treatment group in which Grade 12 students were asked to read about the malleability of intelligence, write a letter to a classmate, and post their letters in their classroom, or to a control group. The intervention was implemented as intended. Yet, I find no evidence that it affected students’ propensity to find tasks less intimidating, school climate, school performance, achievement, or post-secondary plans. I rule out small effects and find little evidence of heterogeneity. This study suggests that the intervention may be more challenging to replicate and scale than anticipated.