

Correcting Erroneous Beliefs about Job Opportunities and Wages: a Field Experiment on Education Choices

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In a field-experimental setting, we provide 29,524 Dutch pre-vocational secondary education students from 244 schools with information about the job opportunities and hourly wages of occupations they are interested in. We study whether providing information improves the accuracy of students' often erroneous beliefs about job opportunities and hourly wages and shifts their preferences over occupations. Preliminary results show that, in the short term, providing information improves belief accuracy, mostly by correcting overestimations. Students who receive the information are also more likely to change their a priori favorite occupation. If they do so, they generally substitute it for an occupation with better prospects. To study the longer term effects of the intervention, we survey students set to graduate in 2020 and elicit their preferences over occupations and beliefs about occupational labor market prospects once more as well as their plans for the future. The survey is currently ongoing, but we will share preliminary results during the webinar.

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