

PILOT STUDY: IMPROVING SOFT SKILLS FOR SAUDI YOUTH

ASSESSING SOCIO-EMOTIONAL SKILL NEEDS AND PROVIDING SOCIO-EMOTIONAL TRAINING TO VOCATIONAL COLLEGE STUDENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA

Abstract

This pilot project will provide short-term Socio-Emotional Training to students in the Colleges of Excellence (CoE) in Saudi Arabia. The pilot seeks to assess the need for soft or socio-emotional skills (including work habits, problem-solving, communication skills and teamwork) by employers in Saudi Arabia, through an employer survey. Based on the results of the survey, the research team will design a blended learning course for the students to bridge the gap between the skills taught in the colleges and the skills required in the labor market. A pre and post assessment will be administered to a treatment group and a control group in order to assess the impact of the course on the socio-emotional skills of the students. GOSI data will also be used to track the students in the labor market to determine the impact of the course on employment and wages.

Expected Impact

Evaluate value of investment in soft skills training and, specifically, potential of soft-skills training to increase employment and identify opportunities to improve alignment of College of Excellence curriculum with employer needs.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

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PROGRAMS & POLICIES EXAMINED

- Socio-Emotional Training
- Colleges of Excellence

POLICY PARTNERS

- College of Excellence (CoE)



HARVARD Kennedy School
Evidence for Policy Design



Ministry of Labor
and Social Development
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



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