README for When Student Incentives Don't Work: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Malawi

Overview

The code in this replication package constructs the analysis file from the three data sources using STATA. All data sources are primary data, as the authors collected the data in collaboration with AFF. One master file runs all of the code to generate the data for the 4 figures and 20 tables in the paper. The replicator should expect the code to run for about 4 minutes.

Data Availability and Provenance Statements

- There are multiple datasets included in the package: Survey datasets and exam score datasets.
- Survey questionnaires used to collect the data are included in the package.
- The evaluations are described on the projects Social Science Registry website: https://www.socialscienceregistry.org/trials/1119

Statement about Rights

- ☑ I certify that the author(s) of the manuscript have legitimate access to and permission to use the data used in this manuscript.

Summary of Availability

- ☑ All data **are** publicly available.
- ☐ Some data **cannot be made** publicly available.
- ☐ **No data can be made** publicly available.

Dataset list

- All datasets are provided in .dta format
- Variables are labelled. If not, a questionnaire used to collect the data (where variable names are linked to) are provided in the package.
- Several variables are dropped from the original dataset to prevent revealing the identity of an individual.

Dataset	Description
y1_raw.dta	Baseline and follow-up survey data + final exam score
y2_raw.dta	longer-term sample survey data + exam score
score_baseline.dta	baseline exam score
score_midline.dta	midline exam score

Structure of the dataset

Before you begin replication, please recover the following directory structure.

- Root directory: Replication_package
    - README.pdf and README.md should be saved here
- Subdirectories: code, data, document
    - code: all .do files must be saved here.
    - data: all .dta files must be saved under the subdirectory `data/raw`.
    - document: `Baseline_Stuent_Final.pdf`, `Followup_Student_Final.pdf`, and `Longer_Baseline_Student_Final.pdf` must be saved here.

Computational requirements

Software Requirements

- Stata (code was last run with version 16)
    - `estout`
    - `coefplot`
    - the program `config.do` will install all dependencies locally, and should be run once.
    - user-written programs are defined in `programs.do`

Memory and Runtime Requirements

Summary

Approximate time needed to reproduce the analyses on a standard (CURRENT YEAR) desktop machine:

- ☑ <10 minutes

Details

The code was last run on a **CISER Shared Windows Server 2019, 256GB, Intel Xeon E5-4669 v3 @ 2.10Ghz (2 processors, 36 cores)**.

Description of programs/code

- All programs are stored in a directory named "code".
- `malawi_student_incentive_master` will run all programs in sequence to clean dataset and generate all tables and figures.
- `config.do` contains parameters used by all programs. It also starts writing the log file and install necessary programs to run the program. If running in any order other than the one outlined below, your results may differ.
- `programs` contains user-written programs used in the analyses.
- `malawi_student_incentive_variable_generation` prepares the raw datasets into a analysis datafile, `merged_y1y2.dta`.
- `malawi_student_incentive_table` generate all tables in the main body of the article.
- `malawi_student_incentive_graph` generate all figures in the main body of the article.

Instructions to Replicators

- Edit `malawi_student_incentive_master.do` to adjust the default path
- Run `config.do` once on a new system to set up the working environment.
- Run `malawi_student_incentive_master.do` to run all steps in sequence.

List of tables and programs

The provided code reproduces:

- [x] All numbers provided in text in the paper
- [x] All tables and figures in the paper
- [ ] Selected tables and figures in the paper, as explained and justified below.

- Figures and Tables in the Main text

Figure/Table #	Programs	Line number	output file
Table 1	malawi_student_incentive_table	151-229	sample_comp1.tex
Table 2	malawi_student_incentive_table	232-344	balance.tex
Table 3	malawi_student_incentive_table	486-541	s_expectation.tex
Table 4	malawi_student_incentive_table	568-673	s_exam.tex
Table 5	malawi_student_incentive_table	737-913	s_extm_dist.tex
Table 6	malawi_student_incentive_table	915-979	s_intermediate.tex
Table 7	malawi_student_incentive_table	679-697	s_exam_long.tex
Figure 1	Not empirical		experimentaldesign.tex
Figure 2	Not empirical		s_rand_ann.tex
Figure 3	malawi_student_incentive_graph	102-129	understand_pct_58.png
Figure 4	malawi_student_incentive_graph	130-136, 140-166	expect_pct_58.png, expect_sub_58.png
Figure 5	malawi_student_incentive_graph	176-213	s_exam_58, s_exam_sub_58.png

- Figures and Tables in the Appendix

Figure/Table #	Programs	Line number	output file
Table A1	malawi_student_incentive_table	1269-1337	attrition.tex
Table A2	malawi_student_incentive_table	1390-1446	s_exam_subject.tex

Figure/Table #	Programs	Line number	output file
Table A3	malawi_student_incentive_table	1476-1581	s_exam_gender.tex
Table A4	malawi_student_incentive_table	1014-1060	s_intermediate_long.tex
Table A5	malawi_student_incentive_table	1583-1655	app_exam_intermediate.tex
Table A6	malawi_student_incentive_table	1672-1726	s_exam_standards.tex
Table A7	malawi_student_incentive_table	1743-1798	app_class_environment.tex
Figure A1	Not empirical		quiz1.png
Figure A2	Not empirical		quiz2.png
Table B1	malawi_student_incentive_table	1829-1950	feedback_balance.tex
Table B2	malawi_student_incentive_table	1339-1358	attrition_feedback.tex
Table B3	malawi_student_incentive_table	1955-2016	f_exam.tex
Table B4	malawi_student_incentive_table	2019-2068	f_additional.tex
Table B5	malawi_student_incentive_table	2071-2140	s_exam_a.tex
Figure B1	Not empirical		feedback1.png, feedback2.png, feedback3.png, feedback4.png, feedback5.png, feedback6.png
Figure B2	malawi_student_incentive_graph	230-273	f_exam.png, f_exam_pct_58.png
Table C1	lee bounds working.do	64-170	leebounds.tex
Table C2	lee bounds working.do	174-220	attrit_interact.tex