

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/impact-of-english-instruction-on-labor-market-outcomes/>

This video discusses a research project aimed at examining the impact of English instruction in Mexico's elementary schools on labor market outcomes. The study stems from two observations: a widespread belief in non-English speaking countries that English proficiency leads to better job opportunities and the implementation of English instruction in developing countries over the past 25 years.

The researchers note that while there is substantial literature on the returns of English language skills in English-speaking countries, there is a lack of evidence from non-English speaking nations, especially Mexico. They constructed a unique database linking elementary school students to labor market outcomes over ten years after exposure to English instruction.

The research highlights key issues, including the variability in the adoption of English instruction across different schools and cohorts, which could bias results. The findings indicate that the average effect of English exposure on wages is negligible, but for high-achieving individuals, the effect is positive. The researchers suggest that the benefits may stem from improved job prospects in roles requiring English.

Two principal mechanisms are explored: first, that English instruction does not significantly enhance other cognitive skills but does improve English proficiency, and second, that students exposed to English may opt for less physically demanding jobs. The researchers acknowledge that their work is ongoing and aim to refine their estimates further. Overall, they express enthusiasm about the research's potential insights into educational policies and labor market dynamics in Mexico.