

The Impact of Vocational and Life Skills Training on Disadvantaged Youth: Evidence from the Dominican Republic “Juventud y Empleo”

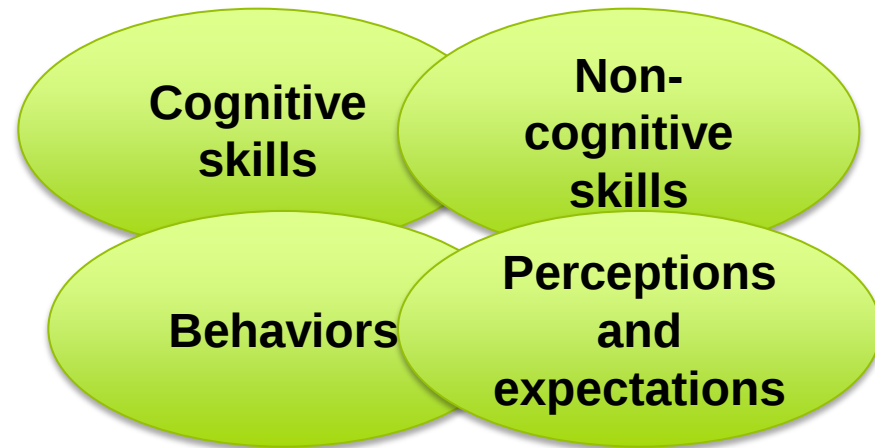
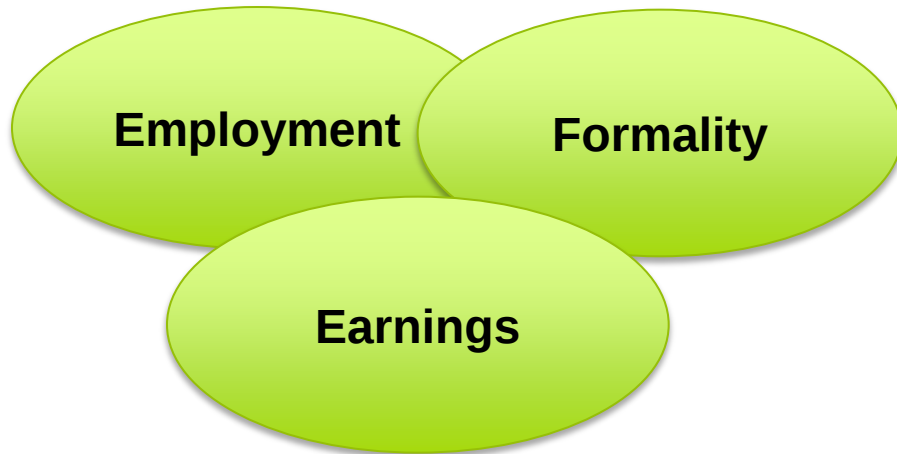
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Doha, March, 2014

What did we want to know about the youth training program?

Can it improve youth
employability?



Through which
channels?

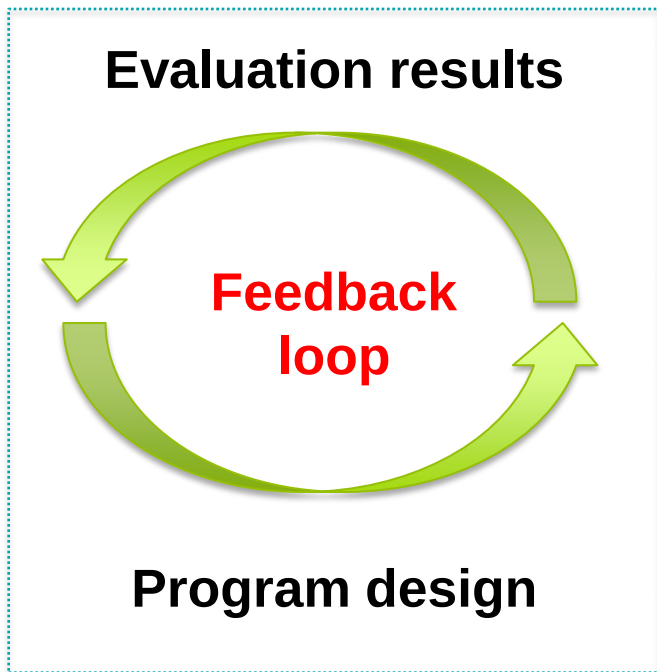


Should we continue implementing this type of programs?
If so, how can we improve them?

How did we set up the learning process?

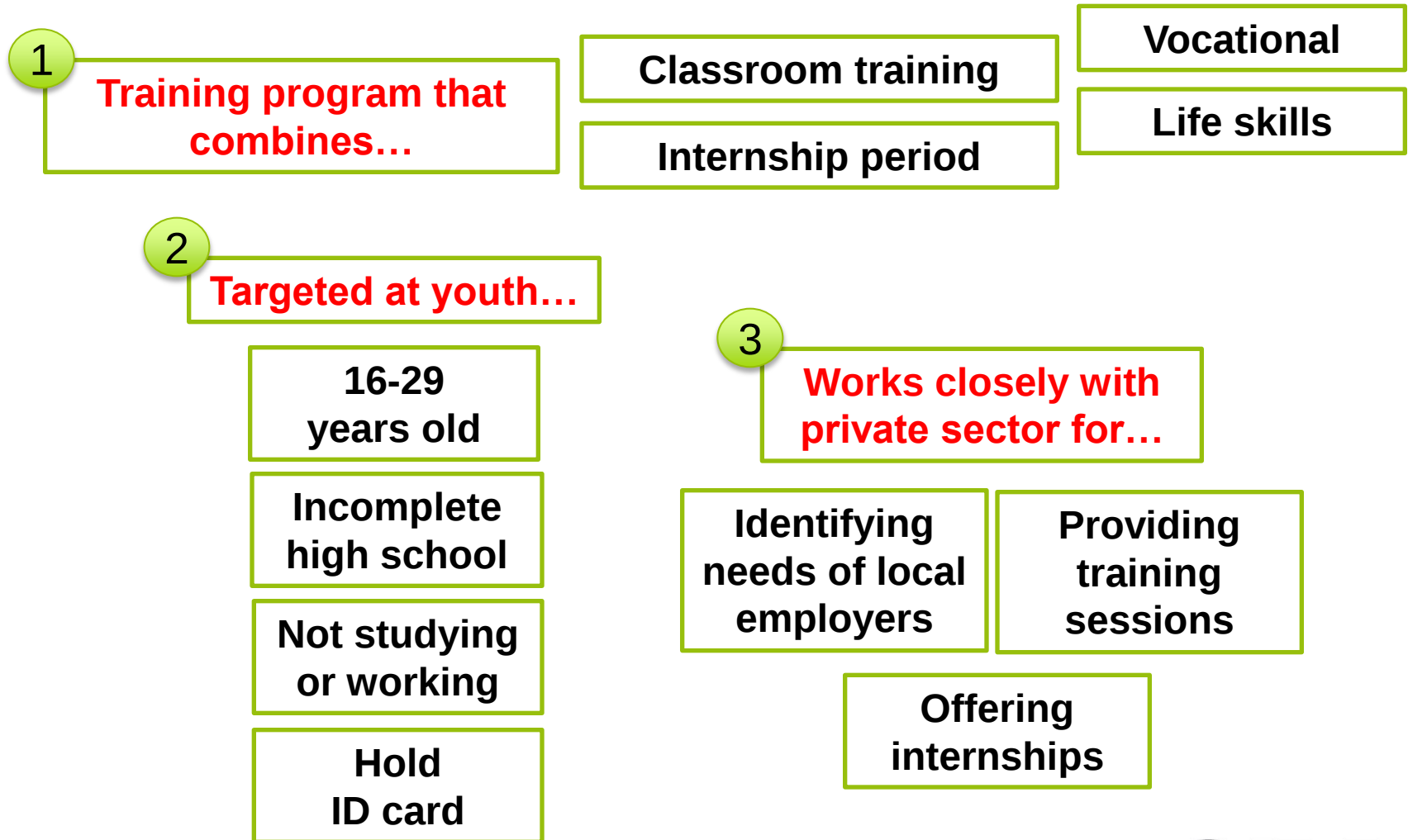
Randomized design was incorporated to the program since the beginning...

For this evaluation individuals were randomly assigned into two groups:



Per course:	20	15
In the program:	5,914	4,395
In the evaluation: sample	3,250	1,750

What is the “Juventud y Empleo” program exactly about?



And was there something special about youth employment in the Dominican Republic?

Not really...

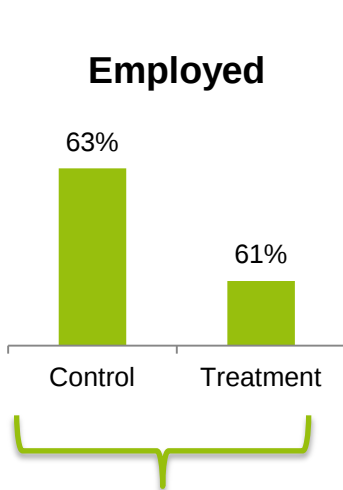
- Big challenge, but not more than in other countries.
- 34% of youth aged 18-29 not working nor studying.
- Youth unemployment = 2.3 * Adult unemployment.
- Youth informality = 2 * Adult informality.

Eligible youth at baseline...

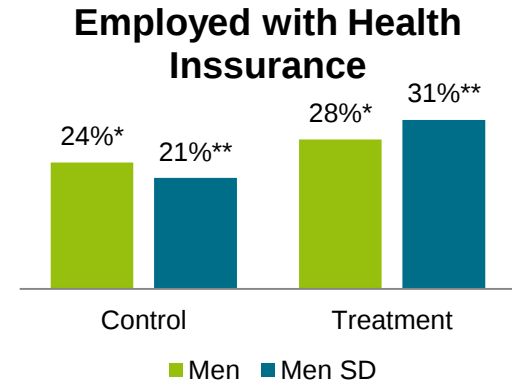
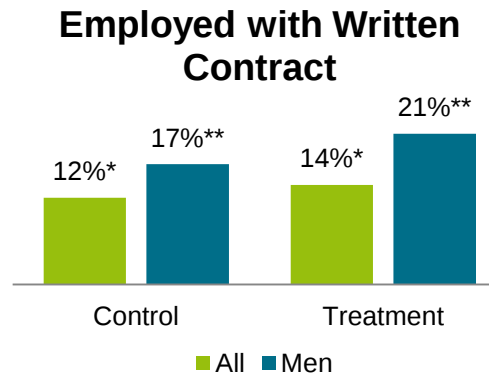
Characteristic	Average
Age	22 years old
Gender	60% females
Education	85% with incomplete high school or less
Work experience	20% with prior work experience
Unemployed	50% unemployed
Location	90% in urban areas; 35% in Santo Domingo

So, was the program effective in improving youth employability?

Follow up survey 18-24 months after graduation...



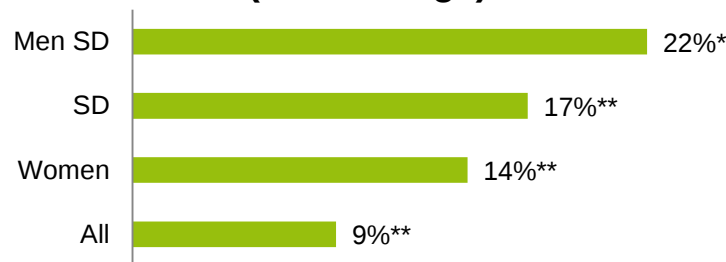
But...



No statistically significant impact on overall employment



Earnings among those Employed (Ln Earnings)

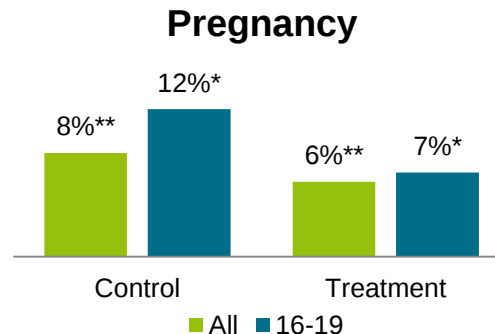
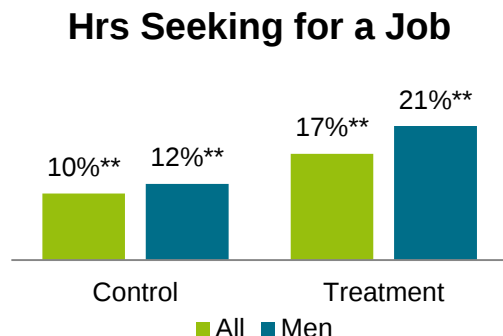


Statistically significant impacts on formality and earnings



Through which channels did this happen?

Increasing some desirable behaviors.... And decreasing others less so....



Changing expectations about the future... And improving non-cognitive skills...

Good health

Better education

Owning a business

Professional aspirations

Better life

Wealth position

CPS

Rosenberg

Grit

- Leadership
 - Conflict
 - Self-esteem
 - Relations
 - Organization
- Self-esteem
 - Ambition
- Persistency

What are the policy implications of the evaluation?

1

Training programs for at-risk youth have to potential to improve the **quality of employment**

Formality

(Up to 52%)

Earnings

(Up to 17%)

2

There are several **channels** through which such results may be triggered

Behaviors

Expectations

Non-cognitive skills

3

Some of these channels may be an objective in themselves for programs of this sort

Pregnancy!

(Up to 43%)

But, what do we still do not know?

We need to learn more about the role of **non-cognitive skills**...

Which **specific skills** are positively related to labor market participation?

Leadership?

Self-esteem?

Ambition?

By **how much** do we need to change such skills to impact youth employability?

0.10 std deviations?

0.4 std deviations?

More? Less?

Which **training program designs** can be effectively replicated and scaled up?

Duration?

Theoretical?
Applied?

Content?

What are the **relevant instruments** to measure (and interpret) non-cognitive skills development?

CPS?

Rosenberg?

Grit?

Thank You!
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