



Does Financial Education Impact Financial Behavior, and if so, When?

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In a meta-analysis of 115 experimental impact evaluations, we find that financial education significantly impacts financial behavior and, to an even larger extent, financial literacy. These results also hold for the subsample of randomized experiments (RCTs). However, intervention impacts are highly heterogeneous: Financial education is less effective in low- and medium income countries; some target groups, such as low-income clients, or specific behaviors, such as borrowing, are difficult to influence; additionally mandatory financial education appears to be less effective. Thus, success depends crucially on increasing training intensity and offering financial education at a "teachable moment."

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