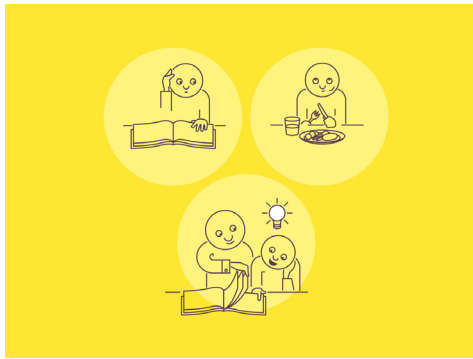


Student Worksheet – Economic Sciences Prize 2019

Research that helps us fight global poverty



Human living standards have improved in recent decades, yet many people are still stuck in extreme poverty.

The 2019 Laureates in Economic Sciences – Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer – have used field experiments to find new ways of fighting poverty.

In order to reduce poverty around the world, it is important for children to attend school and receive a good education. It is also important to ensure that they receive medical care and vaccines to stay healthy. The three Laureates' research deals with how to find the best ways to solve problems in low- and middle-income countries, such as improving children's school results and health.

When the Laureates conducted studies in Kenya and India, their field experiments showed that the most effective method for boosting student's school results was to adapt instruction to individuals. As a consequence, more than five million Indian school children have received specially adapted remedial tutoring.

The Laureates also conducted field studies about child health. For example, they examined ways to persuade more parents to have their children vaccinated. When health care staff began travelling out to villages – instead of having families visit their health centres – the number of vaccinations increased. Even more families had their children vaccinated when they also received a bag of lentils as a bonus.

The Laureates' research has shown what methods work the best in order to solve some of the major problems associated with poverty. Their studies also help political leaders to choose the measures in which they should invest their resources.

Vocabulary list

FIELD EXPERIMENT A field experiment is an experiment that is not conducted in a laboratory, but instead in a natural setting such as a school or a health centre.

VACCINATION A method for preventing diseases.

What do you think?

What is the most important thing about the Laureates' work?

Alfred Nobel wanted the work of the Nobel Laureates to "have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind". What will be the greatest benefit of the 2019 Laureates' achievements?
