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Social Mediation in School

The team composed of Yann Algan, Nina Guyon and Elise Huillery has been engaged by “Le Fonds d’Expérimentation pour la Jeunesse (FEJ)” in the framework of a call to tender on the “prevention and battle against harassment in school” in collaboration with “France Médiation”. Their project is to evaluate the impact of social mediation policies implemented in primary and secondary schools on the prevalence of violence. It proposes to assess the level of well-being of the students, their parents, and the educational personnel, as well as the academic success of the students. This experiment also seeks to determine the mechanisms through which the program produces the observed effects.

The program will consist of training educational teams in the process of mediation with the pupils and their families, as well as in conflict management, and to train volunteer pupils in peer mediation. The impact of this program will be compared to that of a less costly system of “harassment awareness” led by the passage and operation of an inquiry on victimization conducted on students and educational personnel at the beginning of the academic year. Overall, the project will be developed in 280 educational establishments.

A qualitative balance sheet of practices will also allow for an understanding of the eventual difficulties encountered during the implementation of the project, but also the elements determinant of its success. Finally, a precise analysis of the costs and benefits generated by the action, taking into account the costs avoided due to the action, will be conducted. This evaluation will therefore allow for the development of research in educational economics on the non-cognitive determinants of academic success and on the evolution of these determinants with age.

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