Can Tutoring with Volunteers or Virtual be High-Impact?
NSSA 2023 Conference

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May 9°, 2023

Tutoring Online Program

Tutoring Online Program targeting students in grades 6-8 from disadvantaged backgrounds (socio-economic status, language barriers, learning difficulties, ...)

Defining features of the program

Tutoring online:

- Using PC, tablet, smartphone
- Key during *lockdown*, currently allows to reach easily students in remote locations

Tutors are volunteer university students:

- Trained and supported by a team of pedadogical experts
- High intrinsic motivation ☐ quality of relationship tutor-tutee

#Fase2

La mia tutor? Si collega da Helsinki

di Sara De Carli | 12 maggio 2020

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Our Numbers in Italy

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1. NGO
2. NEW PLATFORM FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

TOP 2020
- 530 treated students, 529 control students
- 1975 volunteers

TOP 2021
- 769 treated students, 383 control students

TOP 2022
- 607 treated students, 530 control students

TOP 2023
- 492 treated students, 491 control students

Evaluation Design: Randomized Control Trial

TOP2020
- Constraint: Budget/admin capacity
- RCT Intensity of the tutoring: 0h, 3h, 6h per week

TOP2021
- Constraint: tutors
- RCT Intensity of the tutoring: 0h, 2h, 4h per week
- Limited support from pedagogical team

TOP2023
- Constraint: tutors
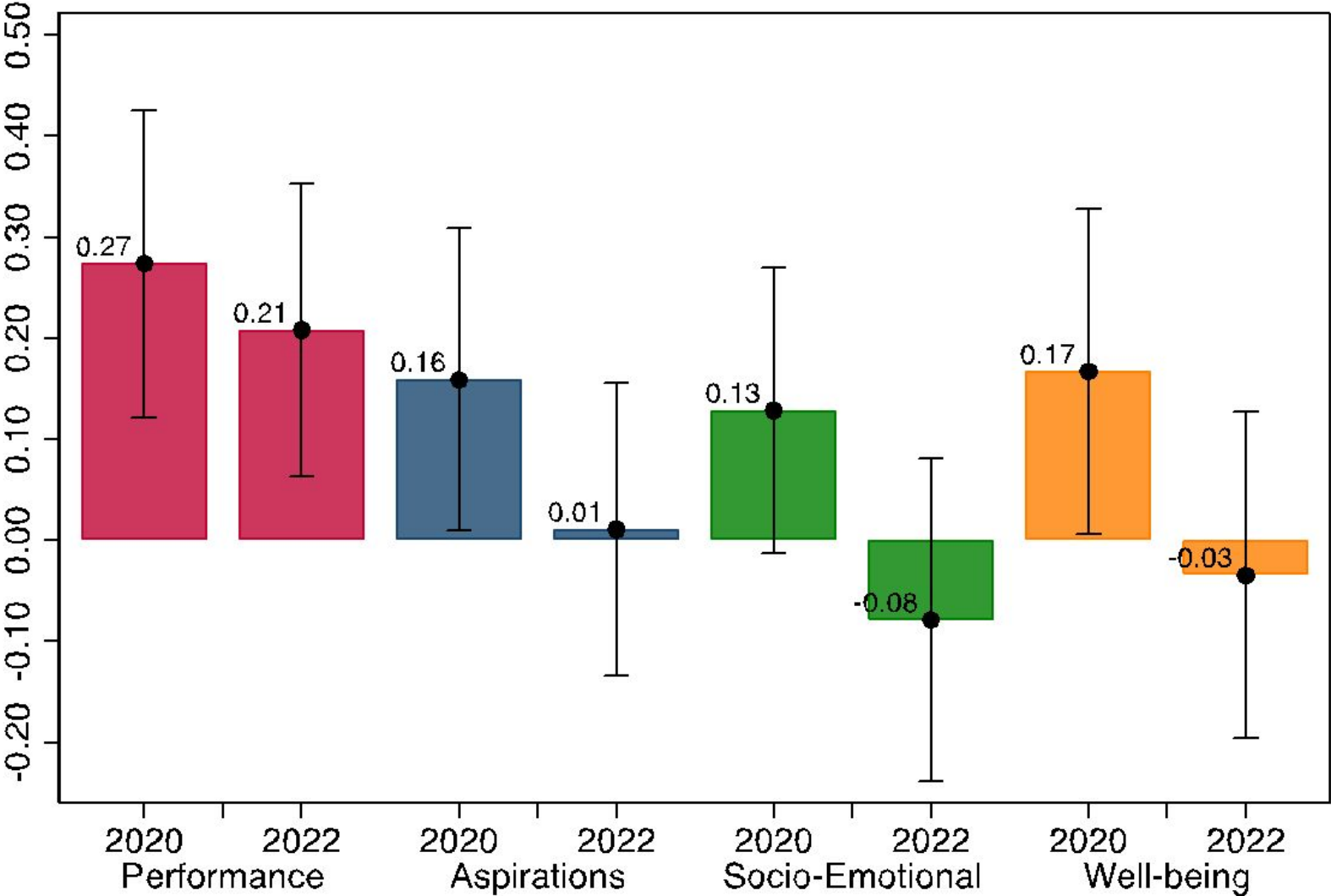- RCT: no tutoring, individual 3h, individual 3h + positive memory

TOP2022
- Constraint: tutors
- RCT: no tutoring, individual 3h, group 3h

Main Results

Impact of Individual Tutoring (3h per week)

Other main results

- **Tutoring intensity:**
  - key driver of the results on performance: double effect for 6h of tutoring
  - No differential effect on other outcomes

- **Group vs. Individual Tutoring**
  - Positive, but not statistically significant effect on performance for group tutoring in 2022

- **Heterogeneous treatment effects**
  - Stronger effect for low SES on performance and immigrants on well-being (in 2020)
  - No differential effects based on tutor characterists

- **Positive effect on tutors:** emphaty measure

Scale-up: Italy, Dominican Republic, and Brazil

Conclusion

- Tutoring Online implemented by volunteer university students is a **cost-effective** tool to improve students' achievements, also for those students who do not live close to universities

    - ~ 50-100 euro per student

- How to recruit and retain university students? Quality matters!

    - Pedagogical support and monitoring

    - Development of soft skills

    - Labor market signaling

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Thanks!

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