

Financial literacy and consumer protection

Xavier Giné World Bank

Motivation

- The combination of technology, financial liberalization and public and private partnerships have brought about a proliferation of financial products.
- About 2,000 million individuals could enter the financial system in the next 20 years.
- Yet, it is not clear that individuals are wellequipped to make sound financial decisions
 - Financial consumers may not necessarily choose the most cost-effective product or the one most suitable to their needs

Motivation

• From the industry standpoint, consumers fail to compare and remain misinformed because financial institutions shroud prices to maximize profits

 Many governments around the world have introduced legislation to improve disclosure and transparency.

Example: Credit Brochure, Mexico





Example: Credit Brochure, Mexico

APR = 267%iCon EQUIPA-T www.equipat.com.m> mi negocio está bien surtido! Préstamos desde \$4.000.00 iFesteja 💵 con nosotros equipando tu negocio! 9/12 meses **EN ESTAS FIESTAS PATRIAS QUEREMOS APOYARTE** 5.71. mensal Solicita tu crédito y llévate un regalo sorpresa* Les Maria i Pregunta por nuestros Acércate. Somos tu solución. AT desde el 267% info mativo, cálculo al 15 de agosto de 2011. rrestamos para tu negocio, fácil y rápido. 5080 5050 Ciudad de México 01800 508 0505 Lada sin Costo

APR = 107%



What do we do?

- Implement two studies to answer the following questions:
 - What is the quality of information provided to lowincome customers interested in savings and credit products?
 - Do Fls offer the product that best meets the customer needs, in terms of cost and intended usage?
 - Is the cost information provided sufficient to make informed decisions?
 - Are Fls complying with transparency rules?
 - How effective are current disclosure forms?

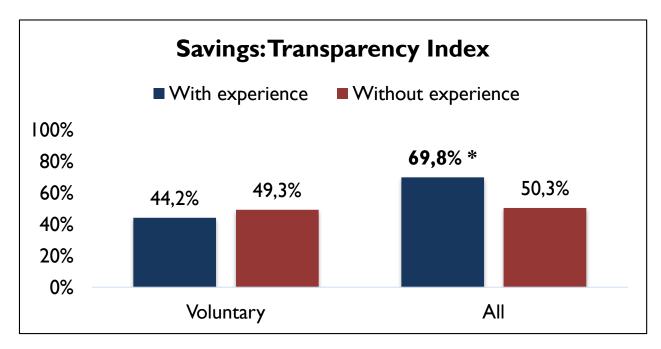
Audit Study

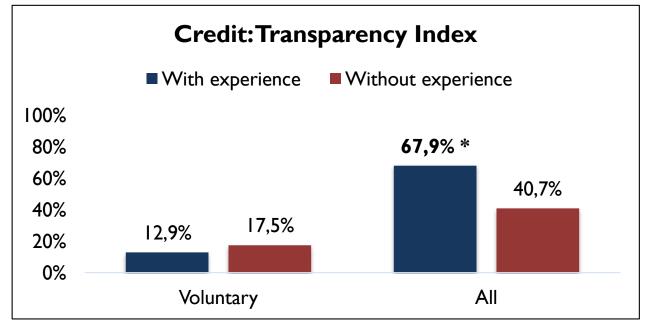
- Trained low income "shoppers" interested in credit and savings products visit financial institutions to assess the (quality of) information provided by the staff
- Savings Scripts differed along:
 - Specific savings needs: 780 USD in Peru, 350 USD in Mexico and 215 USD in Ghana in a Checking account or Fixed Term deposit.
- Credit Scripts differed along:
 - Over indebtedness: Asked for a loan representing 20% or 70% of their household income.

Audit Study

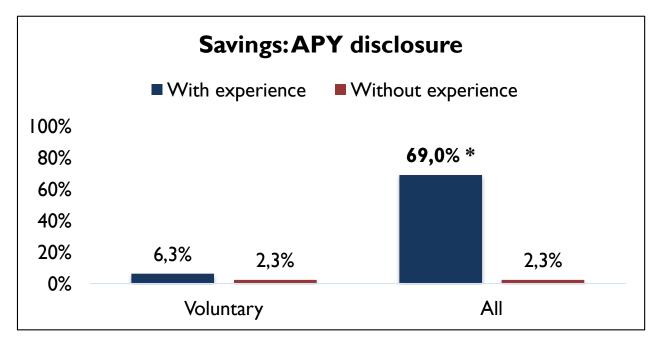
- Both Scripts differed along:
 - Financial Literacy: Neophytes and Experienced
 - Awareness of Competition: Among experienced shoppers, half mention a previous high interest rate offer, the other half mentioned a low interest rate.
 - <u>Formal dress:</u> Shoppers were encouraged to dress formally on alternate interactions with the lender.

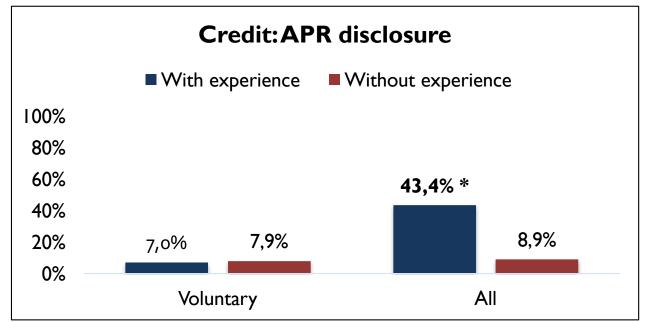
Transparency Index





Compliance with Law





Summary of Results

- Staff tends to dis-inform potential clients, especially neophytes
 - Staff does not disclose information unless prompted, resulting in too little voluntary provision of product information
- Misalignment of incentives between staff and potential client
 - Potential client typically ends up with more expensive product

Conclusions

- Disclosure and transparency policies are difficult to implement successfully because Fls have a strong incentive to undo them
 - They are insufficient to de-bias customers
- Basic guidance to consumers on the key questions to ask should be provided
- More effective disclosure forms could be developed

How do we improve disclosure?

| | CAR | ÁTULA DE CRÉDITO | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| (1) Nombre comercial del Producto |); | | | |
| Tipo de Crédito: CAT (Costo Anual Total) (2) | TASA DE INTERES ANUAL (3) | MONTO O LINEA DE CREDITO (4) | MONTO TOTAL A PAGAR O MINIMO A PAGAR (5) | |
| Sin IVA Para fines informativos y de comparación | | | | |
| PLAZO DEL CREDITO:(6) | (7) Fecha lím Fecha de corto | | • | |
| | COMIS | SIONES RELEVANTES (8) | | |
| Apertura: Anualidad: | | Reposición de tarjeta: Reclamación improcedente: | | |
| Prepago: Pago tardio (mora): | | Cobranza: Para otras comisiones consulte | | |

Summary-sheet for a credit product in Mexico

Vs.

Informational leaflet for a credit product in Mexico



What do we do?

 Understand the role of disclosure formats using a lab experiment where low-income consumers are incentivized to choose the financial product that best fits their needs.



Treatments

- Each treatment presented 5 or 10 credit or savings products with information on different terms.
- The terms of the products were simulated using distributions taken from the market and then they randomly assigned to participants.
- None of the participants received the same combination of products
- Participants could win additional money depending on correct answers.

Treatments

- Marketing brochures
- -Simplified format
- Mexico:
 - -Simple Table (only key terms)
 - Complex Table (other terms also included)
- Peru
 - Market designed format

Brochure: Credit, Peru



DEJA DE IMAGINARLO Y VÍVELO



PIDE TU SÚPER EFECTIVO* DE:

S/. 4,000 Y PÁGALO EN 36 CUOTAS DE:

S/.150

CONSULTA POR OTROS MONTOS DE RETIRO

Solicítalo en nuestras Agencias de Banco Ripley

Aprobación y desembolso al instante**



(*) Offerts vilidate con Tarjeta Rijeley hasta el 31 de discentre del 2013 T.C.E.A. máxima de 7-38/8/8; segin turifario vigente. Anó base de 38.00 das. (*) Aplican a la premoción los clientes con ofertas vigentes de sed 5.4000 en segin persona persona de la celebra de 1.000 en segin persona de 1.000 en



Simple format: Credit, Peru

BANCO AZTECA

1

PRODUCTO

Α

HOJA RESUMEN PARA CRÉDITO PERSONAL

Variables que deberás utilizar para comparar con otros productos**:

TCEA 45.78%

Total a pagar por el crédito (sin

1,8298/.

morosidad): Total a pagar por el crédito (con

1,897S/.

Monto calculado asumiendo que el cliente paga una (1) cuota con retraso.

| Cotización | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Crédito solicitado | 1,500S/. |
| | |
| (+) Total intereses a pagar | 322S/. |
| | |
| Comisiones | |
| Por envio físico de EECC | 0S/. |
| Penalidad por pago atrasado | 90S/. |
| | |
| Seguros | |
| Desgravamen* | 0.070% |
| Desempleo* | 0.000% |
| (+) Total seguros a pagar | 0.070% |
| | |
| Total a pagar por el crédito | 1,8295/. |

| 12 meses |
|------------|
| Mensual |
| 12 |
| 152S/. |
| 152.42\$/. |
| |

| Tasa de Interés | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Tasa de Interés Efectiva | 45% |
| Tasa de Interés Moratoria | 0.0% |

^{**}Se sugiere comparar con créditos personales con el mismo monto y plazo de pago.

Simple format: Savings, Peru

| MIBANCO | | 1 |
|--|----------------|---------|
| PROI Cartilla Informativa de Cuenta de Ahorros en | OUCTO Soles | A |
| Variables que deberás utilizar para comparar con otras institucion | nes** | |
| Con un saldo medio de 1000 | Sł., podrá | á ganar |

(Tasa de Rendimiento Efectiva Anual)

TREA

ł o perder en un mes:

Sin actividad¹ -8.35S/. Con Actividad² -32.35S/.

-10.11%

2. La ganancia con actividad asume dos consultas de saldo, dos depósitos u dos retiros al mes en ventanilla.

| TEA 2.0 | 2.00% | | |
|--|-------|--|--|
| , EECC | | | |
| Mantenimiento de cuenta Con saldo superior al saldo mínimo d. 1,500\$/. | GRATI | | |
| Con saldo inferior al saldo mínimo de 1,5008/. | 1057. | | |
| • Reposición de Tarjeta por perdida o | 1757. | | |

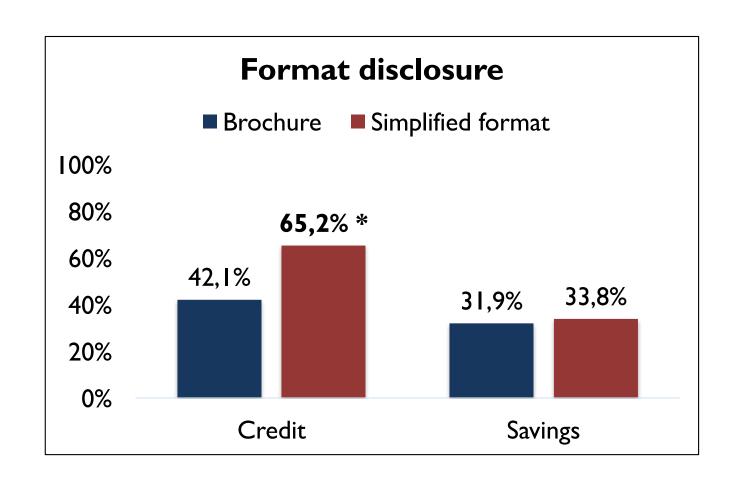
Tasa de Interés

| Comisiones de Uso de Ca | nales |
|---|----------------------|
| Caieros Automaticos Nenos de dos operaciones al Retiro de dinero u transferencias Consulta de saldo | GRATIS GRATIS |
| A partir de la 31 operacii ó n a • Retiro de dinero y transferencias | / <i>mes</i> 3St. |
| • Consulta de saldo | 251. |
| Cajeros Automaticos de Otra | |
| Retiro de dinero y transferencias | 587. |
| Consulta de saldo | 1357. |
| En Yentanilla: | |
| • Retiro de dinero y transferencias | 581. |
| Consulta de saldo | 7Sł. |

[&]quot;TREA calculado con un saldo medio de 1000 SI a un año. Deberá comparar con cuentas de ahorro con el mismo monto y plazo.

La ganancia sin actividad asume una consulta de saldo, un depósito y un retiro al mes en cajero automático propio.

Format disclosure: pooled



| | | Credit | | Savings | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|--|
| | A 11 | Financial Literacy | | Financial Literacy | All | Financial Literacy | |
| | All | No | Yes | All | No | Yes | |
| Brochures | -2.181*** | -1.564*** | -2.552*** | 0.048*** | 0.024*** | 0.063*** | |
| | (0.098) | (0.173) | (0.125) | (0.004) | (0.005) | (0.006) | |
| Simplified format | -8.362*** | -7.091*** | -9.041*** | 0.058*** | 0.028 | 0.074*** | |
| | (0.465) | (0.814) | (0.500) | (0.012) | (0.019) | (0.016) | |

Policy Recommendations

- Regulators should mandate not only terms but also format to facilitate comparison shopping.
- Formats are more effective than financial literacy at enhancing understanding and transparency
- Timing is important. Information should be provided before contracting the product.