JUL 23, 2020

Clever Pennies: Honesty Oaths, Misreporting Performance, and MTurk

J Jobu Babin¹, Feng Haritima Chauhan¹, Liu¹

¹Western Illinois University

J Jobu Babin
Western Illinois University

ABSTRACT

Workers in online labor markets routinely misrepresent the value of effort, both through shirking and misreporting performance. We execute a field experiment on Amazon MTurk to determine whether honesty oaths impact the cost of worker lies. Employing a design that follows the “die roll” paradigm, we determine that oaths elicit more truthful behavior, although they primarily impact extreme lies. Oath-taking decreased the cost of misreporting by 12%. While shirking is widespread, oaths marginally decrease it. Male workers misreport performance more often on average than females, yet both sexes are equally responsive to oath-taking.

JEL Codes: D90, D91, C8, C93, J9

ATTACHMENTS

Supplemental Resources,
Clever Pennies- Honesty
Oaths, Misreporting
Performance, and MTurk
J. Babin, Chauhan, and
Liu .pdf

OPEN ACCESS

DOI:
dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bix7kfrn

Document Citation: J Jobu Babin, Haritima Chauhan, Feng Liu 2020. Clever Pennies: Honesty Oaths, Misreporting Performance, and MTurk. **protocols.io** <https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.bix7kfrn>

License: This is an open access document distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited

Created: Jul 23, 2020

Last Modified: Jul 23, 2020

DOCUMENT integer ID:
39647

Keywords: oaths, self-reporting, lying, MTurk, productivity, field experiment

ATTACHMENTS

Supplementa
l Resources,
Clever
Pennies-
Honesty
Oaths,
Misreporting
Performance
, and MTurk
J. Babin,
Chauhan,
and Liu .pdf

Protocol and questionannarie found in attached document