Gender Issues in Data Collection, Sampling and Data Analysis

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Learning Objectives

At the end of this session participants should be familiar with:

- data collection options
- data analysis options
- gender issues related to data collection and data analysis
Data Collection Strategy

The strategy depends upon:

■ What you want to know
  • “Numbers” or “stories”

■ Where the data resides
  • Environment, files, people

■ Resources available
  • Money
  • Time
  • Expertise

■ Gender issues
Multiple Approaches to Data Collection

- **Quantitative methods**
  - Structured methods – censuses, household surveys, national income surveys, structured interviews, etc.

- **Qualitative methods**
  - In-depth interviews, observational methods, focus groups, participatory assessments, diaries, self-administered time-use reports, document reviews

- **Blend of the two**
Secondary Data Sources and Issues

- Statistical databases
- Sectoral ministry databases
- Local government records
- Project management records

Issues:
- Which ones might be easier or more difficult to obtain?
- How accurate and reliable are each of the data sources?

*Gender may be a factor*
Why data collection methods often are not gender sensitive

- Managers, researchers, and technical staff are not aware of gender issues in the policies and programs or lack experience with gender issues and methods.

- Surveys frequently interview only the (male) “household head.”

- Formal interviews are not an adequate way to capture information on sensitive topics.

- Women may not be able to speak freely in interviews or to attend or speak in community meetings.
Guidelines for Developing and Collecting Gender Sensitive Data

1. Conduct rapid exploratory studies to identify potential gender issues before planning evaluation studies.
   • Try to obtain data from men and women in their communities

2. Select a few critical goals, outcomes and indicators for monitoring and evaluating the gender outcomes and impacts.

3. Use a data collection strategy that adequately addresses all gender issues and constraints identified by the gender analysis or exploratory studies.

4. Combine quantitative and qualitative collection methods.
5. When household surveys are used, ensure that both men and women are interviewed.

6. Ask questions specific to men or women but maintain common core questions so responses can be compared.

7. Ensure women are interviewed when free to speak (without males or possibly their mother-in-law present).
   - Consider time of day, child care arrangements, safe settings.

8. Ensure interviewers speak the local language or have interpreters.

9. Conduct capacity building and gender awareness training for program staff.
### Checklist for Assessing the Gender Sensitivity of Data Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situations/Issues to avoid</th>
<th>Actions to ensure methods adequately address gender issues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Sex disaggregated data is available but not used</td>
<td>• Assess the availability of gender-responsive data before considering the need to collect new data.</td>
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<td>• Information is not collected from the right people</td>
<td>• Include additional questions on gender-specific topics</td>
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<td>• Household surveys are not the appropriate data collection method</td>
<td>• Use special methods to analyze gender differences in household decision-making and control of resources.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Inadequate analysis of gender differences in control of resources within the household</td>
<td>• Use special methods to study domestic and public violence</td>
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<td>• Budget time and resources for follow-up field visits to interpret and further explore statistical findings.</td>
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Data Analysis

Two Basic Types:

- Quantitative Data Analysis
- Qualitative Data Analysis
Quantitative Data Analysis

- Frequencies, percentage distributions
- Rates of change
- Cross tabulations
- Measures of central tendency
  - Means, medians and modes
- Measures of dispersion.
  - Standard deviation
- Analysis of relationships between variables
Social Micro-credit Study

The study found that less than 40% had significant control of resources.

- Full control: 18%
- Significant control: 19%
- Partial control: 24%
- Very limited control: 17%
- No control: 22%
Measures of Association

How strong is the association between two variables? (e.g., income and education)

Several different measures of association
  • Some measures of association range from 0 to 1
  • Others range from -1 to +1

Perfect Relationship = 1 or –1

Closer to 0: no relationship
Deterministic Statistics
(estimates/predictions)

- For every change in one variable, we expect an estimated amount of change in another variable.

- For example, simple linear regression:
  - Change in education ($x$) results in a change ($\uparrow\downarrow$) in income ($y$)
Deterministic Statistics: Economic Micro-credit Study

- For every 10% increase in male borrowing in the Grameen Bank, per capita spending by men increases .18.
  - So if male borrowing increases 20%, we would predict a .36 increase in per capita spending.

- For every 10% increase in female borrowing in the Grameen Bank, per capita spending by women increases .43.
Qualitative Data Analysis

- Data from narrative documents, open-ended interviews, focus groups, unstructured observations
  - Conduct content analysis: Identify common words, ideas, themes
  - Write on cards
  - Keep track of where they are located
  - Have a second person do the analysis
    - Compare results
    - Work out differences
  - Identify “quotable quotes”

- Greatest Risk: Bias
  - Hard to recognize things you don’t expect
Challenges in Qualitative Data Analysis

- Is the purpose of the analysis:
  - Exploratory and hypothesis generation?
    - Use qualitative methods
  - Generalization and testing of hypotheses?
    - Use quantitative methods
- Maintain uniqueness while seeking uniformities and patterns.
- Avoid selecting extreme or dramatic cases and implying they are typical.
- Careful sampling improves findings’ strength
Integrating quantitative and qualitative analysis

- Exploratory studies followed by surveys
  - For defining key concepts and identifying issues

- Quantitative and qualitative research in parallel
  - For understanding the setting

- Follow-up with qualitative research to interpret survey findings
  - For understanding why people responded as they did, and the context.
Gender Issues in Data Analysis

1. Ensure sex-disaggregated data analysis is conducted for all key individual level variables.

2. Avoid exclusive focus on household level data: *go into the household.*

3. Do not rely solely on comparison of male and female headed households for analysis of gender differences.
Gender Issues in Data Analysis


5. Explore cultural traditions and other factors limiting women’s control over productive assets and ability to take advantage of economic development projects.

6. Consider cultural traditions that would impact acceptance of family planning, education, employment, or other factors.
Group Exercise

- Use the questions you developed earlier to monitor and evaluate this project
  - How would you define and operationalize the key terms?
  - How would you measure your key terms? Specify indicators, data collection and data analysis methods, sampling strategy
  - What steps would you take to ensure that your data are gender sensitive?
- Enter this information and complete the Design Matrix.