Designing Multi-topic Surveys with Learning Assessment

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Multi-topic household surveys typically collect data on...

- Socio-demographic information (age, sex, disability status...)  
- Education  
- Health  
- Labor  
- Household consumption/expenditure (food, food away from home, non-food)  
- Assets  
- Dwelling information (including water, sanitation and electricity)  
- Non-farm enterprises  
- Income  
- Remittances  
- Food security  
- Safety nets  
- Agriculture
Multi-topic household surveys

• Average interview length per household = 3 to 8 hours
• Interviews could spread over multiple visits
• Questions are often responded by proxy respondents with a help of other household members
• Interviews do not generally require privacy (for non-sensitive Q) of respondents or quiet place during the interview
• Very rich information of household and all of the members
• Able to link information across multiple topic areas
  • e.g. Household welfare with education status
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<tr>
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<th>MULTI-TOPIC</th>
<th>STAND ALONE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROS</strong></td>
<td>Data on various topics; allows comprehensive analysis; existing survey</td>
<td>Data can be collected in detail for the topic of interest; less enumerator</td>
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<td>infrastructure; cost-effective</td>
<td>and respondent burden</td>
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<td><strong>CONS</strong></td>
<td>Limited time can be allocated to each topic; enumerator and respondent</td>
<td>Limited data collected for topics other than the topic of interest; new</td>
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<td>burden; additional specialized training</td>
<td>survey infrastructure needed; intense specialized training</td>
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Integrated surveys

• Integrate a stand-alone (specialized) survey to a (existing) multi-topic household survey

• Multi-topic survey like LSMS surveys can identify households and individuals for follow-up assessments

• Data on the topic of interest can be collected in addition to data typically collected through multi-topic surveys
  • The data can be linked
Survey design options for integrating learning assessments into multi-topic surveys

1. Use full version or abbreviated version (selected questions) of learning assessments
2. Conduct learning assessments to all sampled households interviewed in multi-topic surveys or only to a subsample of those households
3. Conduct learning assessments to all the members of sampled households or only to a subsample of members
4. Conduct learning assessments simultaneously with other sections of the multi-topic surveys or separately at a later date (revisit)

Mix & Match options
Issues to consider (1)

• Sampling
  • Selection of households
    • Geographical locations, urban/rural areas, etc
  • Selection of household members
    • Age, sex, school attendance, etc

• Mode of interview
  • CAPI, paper, web-based

• Timing of survey (school year/holidays), boarding school children

• Special skill set required from enumerators
  • Additional training, pretest/pilot, mock interviews
  • What’s the team composition?
Issues to consider (2)

- Field Work
  - Locating (all or selected) household members
  - Getting consent to conduct assessments
  - Securing semi-private/quiet place to conduct assessments
  - Length of total interviewing time, respondent burden
  - Timing of learning assessment module (before the consumption module?)
Issues to consider (3)

• Learning assessment tools
  • For different age groups (early childhood, school-age, youth and adults)
    • Multiple types of learning assessments are currently used
    • Length: full length version, abbreviated version
    • Can a country cover all age groups in one survey?

• How often should the assessments be conducted? 3-5 years?

• Can we link the assessment for school-age children to admin data/school national assessments?
Way forward

• Decide on the assessment tools

• Methodological study/pilot
  • To test assessment tools (full version and abbreviated version)
  • Identify a reliable set of questions
  • To find whom the survey will be administered to
    • Households – number of EAs, number of households per EA?
    • Individuals – every member, selected member, adults, children, school-age members, male, female, parents, grandparents, employed, unemployed, members with work

...Guidelines???