

# OPHI

OXFORD POVERTY & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

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UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

# Missing Dimensions of Poverty Data

Jose Manuel Roche  
University of Oxford

*Tabita, Kenya*



*Rabiya, India*



*Stéphanie, Madagascar*



*Agathe, Madagascar*



*Dalma, Kenya*



*Ann-Sophie, Kenya*



*Valérie, Madagascar*





# Five “Missing Dimensions” of poverty data

Cited by poor people as important to  
their experiences of poverty

But largely missing from standard  
surveys

# The Problem of Missing Dimensions

- Human Development is the process of expanding the freedoms that people value and have reason to value (Sen 2000).
- Yet a critical bottleneck for empirical studies is the following: **in key areas of human development, internationally comparable indicators at the hh level are *missing*.**
- Such data as do exist are often of poor or uncertain quality, cannot be linked to other datasets, or are not widely available.
- HDI includes income, longevity, and education, but human development extends to other domains.

*This topic is thus an investment in our future ability to conduct high quality research on multidimensional poverty.*

# Does it matter for analysis?

Dimensions	Health	Educa- tion	Income
Individual 1	NP	P	NP
Individual 2	NP	NP	P
Individual 3	P	P	P
Individual 4	P	P	P



# Objectives

- Design brief yet rigorous survey modules to be included in multi-topic household surveys and generate internationally comparable data
- Enable measures and analyses of poverty to match poor people's experiences of poverty
- Enable quantitative exploration of dimensions that are instrumentally & intrinsically important
- To enrich policy, M&E, targeting, and poverty reduction initiatives

# From Dimensions to Indicators

- Identify *dimensions*: poor people & policy
- Identify *indicators* that generate *data* which are:
  - *comparable* – populations, time
  - *accurate* – insofar as is feasible for comparable data
  - *fulfil validity tests*
  - *statistically independent*
  - *demonstrated analytical value*
- **Process:** *collaborate* with others; build on their work
- **Concrete Output:** a short module for survey instruments implemented by standardly trained enumerators; Chapters for an LSMS *Designing HH Survey* book; optional modules easily available.

# Criteria for indicator selection

- International comparability
- Measure intrinsic as well as instrumental value of the dimensions proposed
- Identify *changes* in dimensions over time and between population sub-groups
- Experience with particular indicators to date:  
How frequently have they been fielded previously and found to be adequate measures for research purposes?

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Which five  
dimensions?

## QUALITY OF WORK

Informal employment, security and safety at work



## PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING

Happiness, satisfaction and a meaningful life



## EMPOWERMENT

Agency and the power people have to shape their lives



# FIVE 8-10 MINUTE SURVEY MODULES

## WITHOUT SHAME

Freedom from shame, humiliation and isolation



## PHYSICAL SAFETY

Freedom from violence against people and property



# Values: Voices of the Poor

Material Well-being

Freedom of Choice & Action

Security

Social Well-being

Psychological Well-being

Bodily Wellbeing

Mental Wellbeing

# Example: Voices of the Poor

Material Well-being (+)

Freedom of Choice & Action

Security

Social Well-being

Psychological Well-being

Bodily Wellbeing

Mental Wellbeing

# Quality of Life: Sen-Stiglitz- Fitoussi

Subjective measures of quality of life

Health

Education

The Balance of Time

Political Voice & Governance

Social Connections

Environmental Conditions

Personal Security

Economic security

# Quality of Life: Sen-Stiglitz- Fitoussi

**Subjective measures of quality of life**

**Health**

**Education**

**The Balance of Time**

**Political Voice & Governance**

**Social Connections**

**Environmental Conditions**

**Personal Security**

**Economic security (+)**



## ARE THEY REALLY MISSING?

Data on the MDGs arise from many sources  
The main ones:

National hh surveys,  
LSMS, DHS, CWIQ,  
and MICS.

Source: United Nations Development Group. 2003. *Indicators for Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals: Definitions, Rationale, Concepts & Sources.*

**TABLE A2.** Comparison of indicator coverage of four survey types

GOALS	LSMS	DHS	CWIQ	MICS <sup>a</sup>
<b>GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER</b>				
Proportion of population below \$1 per day <sup>b</sup>	• <sup>c</sup>			
Poverty gap ratio [incidence x depth of poverty]	•			
Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	•			
Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age	•	•	•	•
Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption <sup>d</sup>				
<b>GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION</b>				
Net enrolment ratio in primary education <sup>e</sup>	(•)	(•)	(•)	(•)
Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5	•	•	•	•
Literacy rate of 15–24 year-olds	•	•	•	•
<b>GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN</b>				
Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education <sup>f</sup>	(•)	(•)	(•)	(•)
Ratio of literate women to men, 15–24 years old				
Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	•	•	•	•
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	•		•	
<b>GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY</b>				
Under-five mortality rate		•		•
Infant mortality rate		•		•
Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles		•		•
<b>GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH</b>				
Maternal mortality ratio		•		•
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel		•		•
<b>GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES</b>				
HIV prevalence among aged pregnant women 15–24 years				
Contraceptive prevalence rate <sup>g</sup>		•		•
Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS				
Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria				• <sup>i</sup>
Proportion of population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures <sup>h</sup>				
Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis				
Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under DOTS				

# Demographic & Health Survey (DHS)

- DHS are large nationally representative population-based surveys that provide information on health, nutrition and demographic indicators on:
  - Characteristics of Households
  - Fertility
  - Family Planning
  - Other Proximate Determinants of Fertility
  - Fertility Preferences
  - Early Childhood Mortality
  - Maternal and Child Health
  - Maternal and Child Nutrition
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Female Genital Cutting
  - Malaria
- **The five topics are missing. However some countries' DHS have had particular questions relating to some dimensions.**

# Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) - UNICEF

- Provides economic and social data from 195 countries and territories
- particular reference to children's well-being
- The MIC4 (2009-11) surveys have the following modules:
  - Child malnutrition
  - Infant and Under Five mortality rates,
  - Child health
  - Water and Sanitation
  - Reproductive Health
  - Child Development
  - Literacy and Education
  - Child Protection
  - HIV/AIDS, Sexual Behaviour, and Orphans

**The five topics are usually missing.**

# Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS) - World Bank

In 1980, the World Bank initiated the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) to generate **policy relevant data** that illuminated the **determinants** of outcomes such as unemployment, income poverty, and low levels of education and health. The LSMS aimed to improve data quality, strengthen statistical institutes data-gathering and analysis, and make the data public.

LSMS surveys have been completed for about 34 countries.

Most are time series; some are panel data, and some include experiments.

# Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS) - World Bank

The words by which you can search the LSMS Datasets are:

- Agriculture
  - Community
  - Credit & Borrowing
  - Demography
  - Employment**
  - Expenses
  - Government Programs
  - Health and Fertility
  - Income
  - Migration
  - Savings
  - Services
  - Social Capital
  - Time Use
  - The dimensions are mostly missing; some countries include qx.**
- Assets
  - Consumption
  - Deaths in the Household
  - Education
  - Environment
  - Facilities Questionnaires
  - NGO Programs
  - Housing
  - Intra-Family Relationships
  - Millennium Development Goals
  - Non-Farm Household Businesses
  - Shocks
  - Subjective Assessments**
  - Vulnerability

## QUALITY OF WORK

Informal employment, security and safety at work



**Formal and informal employment, hazards, income, self-employment, responses to shock and fair treatment**

A good job is generally associated with being out of poverty. Yet many jobs pay less than \$1 a day, are unsafe and insecure. This module complements the standard employment module.

## EMPOWERMENT

Agency and the power people have to shape their lives



**Control over actions in public and private domains, how autonomy, coercion and the desire to please others shape action, and people's ability to effect changes at the individual and community level**

An important 2009 study of people in 15 countries asked those who had moved out of poverty how they had achieved this. Over 75 per cent attributed this to their own initiative.

## PHYSICAL SAFETY

Freedom from violence against people and property



**Violent crime and conflict-related violence against people and property (e.g. theft) and responses to violence**

Violence undermines development gains in areas such as education, health, employment, income generation and infrastructure provision.

## WITHOUT SHAME

Freedom from shame, humiliation and isolation



**Stigma associated with poverty, perceptions of respectful and unfair treatment, discrimination, isolation and humiliation**

Experiences of shame are regularly cited by poor people as painful aspects of poverty. Shame, humiliation and isolation can corrode social relations and lead people to turn away from public services.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING

Happiness, satisfaction and a meaningful life



**Happiness, overall satisfaction and satisfaction by domain, psychological wellbeing and meaning in life**

While psychological wellbeing is not necessarily a dimension of poverty, it is a vitally important aspect of people's lives.

## QUALITY OF WORK

Informal employment,  
Income, security and safety  
at work, fair treatment



A good job is generally associated with being out of poverty. Yet many jobs pay less than \$1 a day, are unsafe and insecure.

***Missing data:  
Quality of Employment***

## QUALITY OF WORK

Informal employment,  
Income, security and safety  
at work, fult treatment



A good job is generally associated with being out of poverty. Yet many jobs pay less than \$1 a day, are unsafe and insecure.

## Motivation

- Employment is the main source of income for most families in the world yet not considered in the depth it deserves.
- Having a good and decent job is generally associated with being out of poverty, whichever way poverty is defined.
- Employment can give a sense of self-respect and fulfilment (Sen 1975).

# Motivation

Two weaknesses of international comparable data:

- (1) Indicators based on model of employment in developed countries:** quantity of jobs vs. *quality*; wage-employment vs. *self-employed*; formal vs. *informal*
  - (2) Data often available in LFS but not multi-topic hh surveys**
- Our aim: to complement ‘traditional’ indicators to provide a deeper understanding of both the quantity and quality of employment.
  - Point of departure: list of basic indicators proposed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) included in the LABORSTA database of labour statistics.

# QUALITY OF WORK

Informal employment,  
Income, security and safety  
at work, fair treatment



A good job is generally associated with being out of poverty. Yet many jobs pay less than \$1 a day, are unsafe and insecure.

OPHI's employment module  
collects data on:

And complements the  
standard employment  
module

<b>Protection</b>	1. Informal Employment 2. Ability to withstand shocks
<b>Income</b>	3. Income from employment (incl. the self-employed)
<b>Safety</b>	4. Occupational hazard (accidents, illness, and workplace exposures)
<b>Time</b>	5. Under- & over-employment 6. Multiple activities
<b>Quantity</b>	7. Discouraged unemployment
<b>Perceptions</b>	8. Perceived meaning/value

## WITHOUT SHAME

Freedom from shame, stigma, discrimination, humiliation and isolation



Experiences of shame are regularly cited by poor people as painful aspects of poverty, and can corrode social relations and lead people to turn away from public services.

***Missing data:  
Without shame***

# WITHOUT SHAME

Freedom from shame, stigma, discrimination, humiliation and isolation



Experiences of shame are regularly cited by poor people as painful aspects of poverty, and can corrode social relations and lead people to turn away from public services.

- The stigma of poverty is a recurring theme among the poor; people often try to conceal their poverty to avoid humiliation and shame (The Voices of the Poor)
- Can result in increasing **isolation**  
*People are “able to participate less and less in the social ceremonies and traditions that once brought people together and helped to create and maintain the social bonds between people” (Narayan et al 2000a: 70), further corroding social relations in society.*
- Can undermine social relationships and provoke psycho-social maladies: low self-esteem, poor interpersonal relations, school-related difficulties, delinquency, social phobia, etc.
- Stigma may decrease access to social services.
- May fuel horizontal inequalities and spill over into conflict

# WITHOUT SHAME

Freedom from shame, stigma, discrimination, humiliation and isolation



Experiences of shame are regularly cited by poor people as painful aspects of poverty, and can corrode social relations and lead people to turn away from public services.

**OPHI's shame and humiliation module collects data on:**

<b>Shame</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Stigma of poverty</li><li>2. Shame proneness</li></ol>
<b>External experience of humiliation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Respectful treatment</li><li>4. Unfair treatment</li><li>5. Discrimination</li></ol>
<b>Internal experience of humiliation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. Accumulated experiences of humiliation</li></ol>

## PHYSICAL SAFETY

Freedom from violence against people and property, responses to violence



Violence undermines development gains in areas such as education, health, employment, income generation and infrastructure provision.

***Missing data:  
PHYSICAL SAFETY AND SECURITY***

# Motivation

- Value of security against violence: direct and indirect cost

Safety from violence is clearly valued for its own sake. Yet in addition to the direct costs of violence, the indirect costs and the threat of violence are very significant.

- Links with development and poverty traps

Violence undermines development gains, sustains poverty traps and impedes human freedom to live together safely and securely.

- Horizontal inequality

While Horizontal Inequality can cause highly antagonistic conflicts many multi-ethnic, multi-religious and poor peoples live together peacefully.

- Violence and Human Security

Violence perpetrated by individuals, groups and agents of states **within** countries has displaced wars between nations as the biggest impediment to human security in the post-war era.

# Indicators

1. Incidence of violence against **property**
  - Theft
  - Property destruction
2. Incidence of violence against **person**
  - Robbery, assault with and without weapons
  - Kidnappings
  - Explosions/ bombs
3. Perceptions of safety and violence

- Frequency of incident
- Injuries, deaths
- Perpetrators
- Weapons
- Location
- Reporting (formal/informal)
- Satisfaction with response
- Links between incidents/persons affected

- Likelihood of future victimisation
- Perceptions of change in violence over time
- Perceived safety in one's area
- Perception of violence vis a vis other threats
- Links btw incidents/persons affected

## EMPOWERMENT

Agency and the power people have to shape their lives



In an important 2009 study of people in 15 countries, over 75 per cent who moved out of poverty attributed this to their own initiative.

***Missing data:  
Empowerment***

# Why agency and empowerment?

## **Theoretical motivation:**

First, more freedom gives us more opportunity to pursue our objectives – those things that we value... Second we may attach importance to the process of choice itself. (Sen 2009, *The Idea of Justice*)

## **Importance in participatory accounts:**

'For me, what becomes important in freedom is doing something with self assurance, and at the end nobody opposes me and disturbs what I have done. Otherwise I become just a slave' (MoP informant, Kagera, Tanzania)

## **Prominence of freedom in international accords:**

Preamble to UN charter anchors the pursuit in progress in the broader context of 'larger freedom' and concept of freedom underlies many international covenants.

## **Congruent with psychological literature on autonomy as a basic need:**

Autonomy is "an essential aspect of health human functioning"... "there are not instances of optimal, healthy development in which a need for autonomy, relatedness, or competence was neglected" (Deci and Ryan 2000).

# Conceptual model

- Direct measurement of agency is essential, not proxies
- Empowerment is best understood as multidimensional

**Spheres:** Economic, Political, Social

**Domains:** Any area of life in which a person can exercise agency (spending, religious practice, education, health...)

**Level:** Individual/Collective; Macro/Meso/Micro

- Agency embodies autonomy (what one values and has reason to value) and efficacy (belief in ability to bring about change)
- Objective measures needed as concrete markers & to investigate adaptation

# EMPOWERMENT

Agency and the power people have to shape their lives



In an important 2009 study of people in 15 countries, over 75 per cent who moved out of poverty attributed this to their own initiative.

OPHI's empowerment module collects data on:

## SUBJECTIVE

- Control over personal decisions major expenditure (✓)
- Domain-specific household decision-making (DHS) ✗
- Global empowerment (WVS, Gallup) (✓)
- Ability to change aspects in life (Alsop et al 2006) (✓)
- Ability to change aspects in one's community (*ibid.*) (✓)
- Domain-specific Autonomy (Ryan and Deci) (✓)
- *Domain-specific Efficacy* (Bandura) (✓)

OBJECTIVE (Resource-based)

## PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING

Happiness, satisfaction  
and a meaningful life



While psychological well-being is not necessarily a dimension of poverty, it is a vitally important aspect of people's lives.

***Missing data: SUBJECTIVE AND  
PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING***

# Motivation

*Recent interest in Happiness:*

- Increasingly hailed as policy objective.
- Emotionally appealing, uni-dimensional, easy to capture.

*Why subj. and psych. wellbeing matters*

- Intrinsic and instrumental importance.
- Richer understanding of human experience and values.
- May explain behavior objective circumstances cannot.

*BUT... we argue for a slightly different focus than proponents of happiness...*

1. Focus on psychological indicators
2. Not goal in self but source of complementary information

# PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING

Happiness, satisfaction and a meaningful life



While psychological well-being is not necessarily a dimension of poverty, it is a vitally important aspect of people's lives.

**OPHI's psychological wellbeing module collects data on:**

<b>Psychological wellbeing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Meaning</li><li>2. Autonomy</li><li>3. Competence</li><li>4. Relatedness</li></ol>
<b>Subjective wellbeing</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. Life satisfaction (overall)</li><li>6. Life satisfaction (domains)</li><li>7. Happiness</li></ol>

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# Progress to date

# Progress to date (I)

- **Short listed indicators - Initial proposal**

- Launch of Missing Dimensions in April 2007
- Special issue of Oxford Dev Studies (Dec 2007) – presenting the modules & initial short lists

- **Expert review and consultation**

- Expert review: Launch workshop (Oxford), follow-up workshops (China, Uruguay, S. Africa), and meetings with govt officials (Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, Bhutan)
- HDR-net online discussion on dimensions, indicators, policy implications

- **Preliminary pilot testing**

- Gallup pilot tests: Bolivia, Ecuador, Kenya, Pakistan, Czech Republic.
- Focus group/qual testing of modules in Bolivia.

- **First nationally representative survey**

- Survey of Chile (early 2009) – sub sample of the ‘Encuesta de Caracterización Socioeconómica Nacional’ (CASEN)

# Progress to date (II)

- **Refinement, translation and test in various contexts**

- Design and analysis of survey module on agency in 3 Latin American countries (UNDP)
- Collaboration with CASE-LSE to define autonomy indicators for the UK
- PEP network mentoring (small-scale surveys in Chad, Nigeria, Sri Lanka)
- Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS), Philippines
- Collaboration with Twaweza in East Africa for nationally representative surveys on Empowerment
- Undertaking cognitive interviews and qualitative research in Bolivia, Tanzania & Philippines
- Numerous grants awarded to students for thesis fieldwork in 2008 and 2010

- **Analysis, validity test and policy analysis**

- Validity and reliability test of the modules – assessment of international comparability
- Call for paper proposal to analyze Chilean dataset (26 commissioned papers)
- Preliminary papers with analyses from Nigeria, Chad, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Latin America