

## **METHODOLOGICAL GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING AND ANALYSING THE MISSING DIMENSIONS SURVEYS**

### **1. Make sure you have latest update of survey**

Note that the survey questions are undergoing periodic revision so please check to ensure you have the most recent version prior to implementation. The date of the last update will be posted on the website next to the survey file.

### **2. Advice on sampling**

Second, here are some links that give some guidance on selecting a sample and determining its size:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PD006>

[http://www.ifad.org/gender/tools/hfs/anthropometry/ant\\_3.htm](http://www.ifad.org/gender/tools/hfs/anthropometry/ant_3.htm)

[http://www.evaluationwiki.org/index.php/Survey\\_Sampling](http://www.evaluationwiki.org/index.php/Survey_Sampling)

Several researchers have inquired about whether sampling to test the Missing Dimensions ought to be purposive – focusing particularly on the income poor, say – or representative. We strongly recommend the latter for at least two reasons. First, the extent to which income poverty and other dimensions of poverty are correlated is an open question - and therefore, focusing upon a group such as the income poor might bias the outcome. Second, in testing the Missing Dimensions it is very useful to get an idea of both average levels for the various indicators and their distribution across a given population; having a sample that is representative at some level would best accomplish this goal.

### **3. Pretesting the survey**

Third, note that data collection efforts ought to involve external validity testing of the survey instrument prior to embarking upon larger scale data collection. External validity tests involve qualitative research (focus groups and/or interviews and/or participatory research) designed to assess if informants appear to be understanding the questions (or whether they need simplification) and whether the questions are capturing the concepts they are intended to measure. You might also want to probe if any concepts the informants perceive to be important to a given dimension are not included in the current version of the survey.

### **4. Technical notes for implementation of survey modules**

For implementing the survey, we've put together some technical notes for the Employment, Empowerment and Psychological & Subjective Wellbeing modules. Please see links on this page:

<http://www.ophi.org.uk/subindex.php?id=research0>

## **5. Data analysis**

Of course researchers will design a strategy to analyze data from the Missing Dimensions in light of their specific research question(s). However here are some general guidelines regarding types of analysis that could be undertaken:

The first (and essential) tests should examine the basic validity of the data (e.g., looking at the frequency of responses to ensure the response structure appears valid; basic correlation tests between indicators to ensure that indicators that purport to capture similar concepts are correlated and visa versa). For items with multi item or multi domain responses (e.g., the relative autonomy questions in the Empowerment module, and the multi-item scales in the Shame & Humiliation and Psych/Subjective Wellbeing modules) factor analysis would help to determine whether responses to items that are designed to measure the same concepts are in fact doing so (i.e., whether they load upon the same factor).

Having established the validity (or otherwise) of the data, the analyst should proceed by examining descriptive statistics by the variables of interest (of course this is something to be considered when determining what questions, socio-demographic and otherwise to add to the survey modules.)

The analysis could then proceed by construction of composite indicators for each dimension; this could be done by computing simple unweighted or weighted averages of indicators in each dimension, or by factor analysis (deriving a factor for each dimension).

If planning multivariate analysis, the researcher should then consider the relationships that ought to be tested - e.g. will the analysis seek to identify determinants of a particular dimension? Or their impact on another variable of interest, be it income poverty or something else? What sorts of controls will be needed to test these relationships? (Again the researcher should make sure the data needed for these regressions is being collected).

Finally the analyst might want to construct a multidimensional poverty index. Many such indices exist. Alkire and Foster (2008) in OPHI Working Paper no. 7 provide a simple and intuitive set of indices that provide a multidimensional analogy to the unidimensional FGT measures.

## **6. Please keep us informed of your experiences**

Finally, it would be very helpful for us if you could share with us the following materials after your fieldwork:

- \*your questionnaire & data analysis
- \*the results of any qualitative analysis
- \*experiences in implementing questions
- \*suggestions for how the questionnaires might be improved
- \*suggestions as to concepts that are missing from the questionnaire (whether they appear to be context-specific or more generally applicable)
- \*any other aspects of your field experience that seem important