Overview

OPHI aims to build and advance a more systematic methodological and economic framework for reducing multidimensional poverty, grounded in people’s experiences and values. To advance this human development and capability approach requires fundamental, sustained, multidisciplinary research and effective dissemination of that research.

OPHI draws upon strategies that have deliberately and effectively advanced economic ideas in the past. These strategies include:

- Research coordination
- The establishment of research networks whose agendas span theory and application
- The development of curricula and resources for teaching
- Engagement with the media
- Collaboration with policy actors
- The nurturing of a new generation of scholars and public intellectuals.

Network & Partnerships

OPHI is a research initiative within the University of Oxford housed in the Oxford Department of International Development, Queen Elizabeth House. It collaborates closely with other universities, research networks, development agencies, governments and international organisations.

OPHI emerged from and is actively involved in the Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA) www.hd-ca.org.

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To advance freedoms and human flourishing through systematic coordinated research and challenging action
Research

Our research aims to contribute to an integrated poverty reduction framework grounded in Amartya Sen’s capability approach and similar ideas.

This framework incorporates multiple dimensions, interconnections, and principles simultaneously in order to inform policy making and foster debate.

At present, OPHI’s research addresses two themes:

**Missing Dimensions of Poverty Data**
OPHI has identified five missing dimensions of internationally comparable poverty data – employment quality, empowerment, physical safety, the ability to go about without shame, and psychological wellbeing. Brief survey modules have been designed and fielding of these is ongoing. Data are being analysed to inform policy.

**Multidimensional Comparisons**
OPHI has developed and applied measures of multidimensional poverty and inequality, chronic poverty, and equality of opportunity, as well as robustness tests. Further methodologies of analysis as well as measurement are under construction.

Informing Policy

**Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**
OPHI created a new international measure of poverty for the United Nations Development Programme’s flagship *Human Development Report* and used the new MPI to compare acute poverty in 104 developing countries. The new measure and results were launched in July 2010 and feature in the 2010 UNDP HDR.

**National Poverty Measures**
National governments, including Mexico and Bhutan, have used OPHI’s methodology to create their own national measures of poverty and wellbeing that employ dimensions and indicators appropriate to their context.

Events & Workshops

**2010 June, July & Nov – MPI launch & research workshops**
- Inequality of Opportunities
- Multidimensional Poverty Index Launch
  - We launched a new international poverty measure with the UNDP Human Development Report Office.
- Multidimensional Poverty & Inequality: New Methods & Research Directions

**2009 May, June & Nov – events & research workshops**
- Events with Amartya Sen
  - Roundtable, Sheldonian Lecture and Seminar on Justice and Welfare Economics.
- Robustness Methods for Multidimensional Welfare Analysis
- Multidimensional Measures in Six Contexts

**2008 May & June – research workshops**
- Weighting in Multidimensional Poverty Measures
- Measuring Freedoms
- Multidimensional Poverty: Applications in Different Regions

**2007 May & June – OPHI launch & research workshops**
- Missing Dimensions
- Multidimensional Comparisons
For further details, see www.ophi.org.uk

Teaching

In addition to local teaching activities OPHI offers summer schools on capability and multidimensional poverty


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