MISSING DIMENSIONS OF POVERTY DATA

A Proposal for Internationally Comparable Indicators of Employment

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Version updated by: October 2009

This document contains a modified version of the survey questions proposed in the paper ‘A Proposal for Internationally Comparable Indicators of Employment’ \(^ {1}\) prepared for the May 2007 Workshop on Missing Dimensions of Poverty Data. The paper recommended that these questions – or a refinement of them – might be considered a ‘module’ that could be added to nationally representative individual or household surveys. This module suggests a set of indicators of employment, the first six relating to quality of employment and the last to quantity of employment. These indicators are not all new; however it is proposed that when absent, they should be included alongside the employment data already being collected in individual/household surveys to provide a richer understanding of employment quality.

**INDICATORS**

**Protection:**
1. Informal employment
2. Responses to shock

**Income:**
3. Income from employment (including self-employed earnings)

**Time:**
4. Under/over employed (prefer to work more/less than at present)
5. Multiple activities (number of income generating jobs)

**Safety:**
6. Occupational hazard (accidents, illnesses, and workplace exposures)

**Perceptions:**
7. Respectful and fair treatment at work, perceived possibilities for advancement and autonomy

**Quantity:**
8. Discouraged workers (prefer to work but have stopped searching)

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1. **PROTECTION (TO BE ASKED OF ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS)**

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**NOTE QUESTIONS E1 THROUGH E6 SHOULD BE ASKED IN THE STANDARD MANNER ASKED IN THE HOUSEHOLD OR LABOR FORCE SURVEY IN THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THE SURVEY IS BEING IMPLEMENTED. SEE THE CHILE SURVEY (ON OPHI WEBSITE) TO SEE THE QUESTIONS USED THERE, WHICH WERE TAKEN FROM CHILE'S CASEN HOUSEHOLD SURVEY.**
2. RESPONSES TO SHOCK (TO BE ASKED OF RESPONDENT)

E7. During the last 12 months, your household income:
1. Increased \(\rightarrow\) Go to E10
2. Remained constant \(\rightarrow\) Go to E10
3. Decreased

E8. The reason your income decreased is:
1. Yes
2. No
99. Don't know/No answer

1. Had less sales or there was less work, but they were still working.
2. The involuntary loss of a household member's job.
3. Shut down or bankruptcy of the family business.
4. Sickness, serious accident or death of a household member who had an income.
5. A household member who had an income left the home.
6. Natural disaster (Drought, frost, flooding, earthquake, etc.).
7. Reduction in the income received from someone who is not part of the household (for example, fewer remittances from abroad).
8. Other.

E9. What did you do in response to this decrease in your income?
1. Yes
2. No
99. Don't know/No answer

1. Spent savings/sold assets/furniture/livestock/etc.
2. Went into debt or borrowed money
3. Those who worked had to work more
4. Other household members started working
5. Received a State subsidy
6. Received help from an NGO/Church
7. Reduced food/consumption
8. Received help from family or other people outside the household
9. Started to sell household goods
10. Started to do another informal activity

E9_5 Which? Specify.

E9_10 Which informal activity? Specify.

E10. If a household member lost their job, would your household have enough savings to get by for 3 months without someone from the household getting a job?
1. Yes
2. No
99. Don't know
3. SELF-EMPLOYED INCOME (ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS)

[After Questions on Income from Employment]

E11. How much do you usually take home in a regular period?

[Time Unit]
- Day: 1
- Week: 2
- Month: 3

**To be asked after standard question on hours worked.**

4. OVERWORK & UNDERWORK (RESPONDENT ONLY)

E12. Considering the total number of hours worked last week, would you like to work fewer hours at the expense of a reduction in income?

1. Yes
2. No

Only the interviewee answers

E13. Considering the total number of hours worked last week, would you like to work more hours in order to increase your income?

1. Yes
2. No

Only the interviewee answers

5. MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES (ALL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS)

E14. Do you have another or other occupations aside from your main occupation (secondary activity or occupation)?

1. Yes; indicate how many (E14a)
2. No; go to E15

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### 6. OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

**E15.** Have you suffered any accidental injury, illness, disability or other physical or mental health problem caused by work during the past 12 months?

[Regarding the main occupation]

1. Yes → **E15_1** when? Indicate month (1-12)
2. No → Go to **E19**
3. DK/NA → Go to **E23**

**E16.** Did any of these incidents lead to loss of work of one or more days?

1. Yes → **E16_1** indicate the number of days
2. No → Go to **E19**
3. DK/NA → Go to **E23**

**E17.** The most serious incident had:

1. No permanent effect.
2. A permanent effect, but you're able to carry on with the same job.
3. A permanent effect, but you're able to work, although not in the same job.
4. A permanent effect that prevents you from working at all.
5. DK/NA

**E18.** Thinking about the most serious of these injuries or health problems, how would you describe it?

1. Bone, joint or muscle problem which may affect (or is mainly connected with) arms, hands, neck, or shoulder.
2. Bone, joint or muscle problem which may affect (or is mainly connected with) hips, legs or feet.
3. Bone, joint or muscle problem which may affect (or is mainly connected with) the back.
4. Breathing or lung problem.
5. Skin problem.
7. Stress, depression or anxiety.
8. Headache or eye strain.
9. Heart disease/attack, other circulatory system.
10. Infectious disease.
11. Other (specify).
12. DK/NA

**E19.** Thinking about the place where you work:

1. Do you have clean water?
2. Do you have adequate toilets?
3. Are you exposed to uncomfortable work postures or spend long hours standing?
4. Are you exposed to cutting/gripping machines or hand tools?
5. Are you exposed to noise too loud to talk normally?
6. Are you exposed to extreme temperatures (high or low)?
7. Are you exposed to harmful chemicals, dust, fumes, smoke, gases or vapours?
8. Do you handle heavy loads?
9. Other, specify _________________

**E20.** How concerned are you (if at all) that this job might cause you physical or mental harm?

1. Very concerned
2. Somewhat concerned
3. Not very concerned
4. Not concerned
5. DK/NA

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 Differential Diagnosis
7. **PERCEPTIONS (TO BE ASKED OF RESPONDENT)**

**E21.** To what extent do you feel that

- a. Your boss and/or workmates treat you with respect at work? *Except self-employed workers.*
- b. Your boss and/or workmates treat you unfairly at work? *Except self-employed workers.*
- c. You make good use of your knowledge/abilities at work?
- d. You have the possibility to progress and improve at work?

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**E22.** How true are the following statements for you?

- a. I have discovered a satisfying purpose at work.
- b. I am motivated to give my best at work.
- c. At work I have a lot of autonomy and I can organise myself as I want.

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8. QUESTION ON DISCOURAGED WORKERS

E23. Why didn’t you look for work in the last four weeks?:*

1. Found work and will start in the next 30 days
2. Is waiting to hear the results of some applications

→ Alternatives 1 to 2 go to ... as unemployed

3. Doesn’t have anyone with whom to leave the children
4. Doesn’t have anyone with whom to leave the elder adults in the household
5. A relative is against it
6. Household tasks
7. Looks for work when they really need it or when it has been necessary
8. Has no money to cover the cost of looking for work
9. Thinks no one will give them work
10. Doesn’t have the necessary training to work
11. Doesn’t like work rules and schedules
12. The wages they offer are too low
13. Has sporadic work
14. Got tired of looking

→ Alternatives 3 to 14 go to ... as inactive

15. Chronic illness or disability
16. Student
17. Retired or pensioner
18. Rentier
19. Has no interest in working
20. Other reason

→ Alternatives 15 to 20 go to ... as inactive

*NOTE: THIS IS THE QUESTION ASKED IN CHILE’S CASEN SURVEY. RESEARCHERS SHOULD USE A FORM OF THE QUESTION SUITED TO THEIR CONTEXT (E.G., FROM NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD OR LABOR FORCE SURVEYS) OR ADJUST THIS ONE IF NONE EXISTS.