

Advancing Methodology on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective



United Nations Statistics Division

UN Women

Workshop on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership
from a Gender Perspective through Household Surveys
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Respondent rules for data collection

Proxy vs. self-report

Proxy reporting = selected respondent (head of HH or most knowledgeable on topic) provides info for assets owned by HH member



Self reporting = selected respondent(s) provides info on assets he/she owns

- It captures people's self-perception of what they own rather than what somebody else (the proxy) believes they own.



No “gold standard” to assess accuracy of proxy vs self reported information, but **proxy reporting may be problematic due to:**

- Incomplete pooling of information within household
- Disagreement among household members about who owns a given asset
- Prevailing gender norms that may bias proxy responses

What does the available evidence say about proxy and self reported data?

Available research on other topics shows that:

- Tanzania = significant underreporting on male Labor Force Participation when proxy is used;
- Malawi = women's earnings significantly (45% lower on average) underestimated in 66% of households sampled;

EDGE-MEXA experiment in Uganda plus results from other pilots

=> recommending self-reported

Proxy vs self-report

Percentage point increase in prevalence of asset ownership, by sex, when data is self-reported (not proxied)

Country	Sex of respondent owner	Percentage point increase, reported ownership of principal dwelling	Percentage point increase, reported ownership of agricultural land
Georgia	Men	2	7
	Women	4	3
Mongolia	Men	10	[n.a.]
	Women	5	[n.a.]
Philippines (Cavite Province)	Men	7	[n.a.]
	Women	6	[n.a.]
Uganda	Men	11	10
	Women	14	5

Proxy vs self-report

- Thus, according to the results of the pilots, proxy reporting tends to **underestimate women's and men's ownership of assets.**
- This is **problematic for policy and program design** from a gender perspective, in such areas as women's empowerment, livelihood strategies and poverty reduction.

=> the key
recommendation
is:

NSOs are encouraged to collect **self-reported**, not proxy reported, data on individual-level asset ownership

Collecting self-reported data has implications for how respondent are selected for interview within households:

- the selection of respondents within households needs to be dealt with carefully
- it is recommended that respondents are interviewed alone
- when more than 1 respondent per household is being interviewed, the interviews should be conducted consecutively

Thank you

For additional information:
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