Advancing Methodology on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective

Workshop on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective through Household Surveys
Santiago, Chile, 7-9 August 2018
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)

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

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

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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