

Approaches used to measure disability through Censuses, Surveys and Administrative sources

The National Experience of the British
Virgin Islands

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The British Virgin Islands

- Comprises of Tortola (largest island) Anegada Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke and other small islands in between totaling 68 square miles.
- 2010 Census revealed 28,054 persons.
- Road Town is the capital of the British Virgin Islands.
- US dollar is the legal currency.

Questions used to measure disability

- The questions form part of the regional questionnaire.
- The questions were exhaustive in the sense that we could not think of any disability that wasn't covered.
- Disabilities are things that can't be fixed and you therefore have to learn to adjust to them.

Questions used to measure disability cont'd

- We grappled with other conditions that could be considered disabilities and could possibly form part of census questionnaire.
- Examples include things like: Coping (under pressure).
- Down Syndrome
- Alcoholism

Testing of the questions

- The questions were never tested as there was no pilot of the questionnaire. We took them at face value and went into the field with them. We collected the information through the census so testing was never done.

Experience about how questions work in the field

- The issue of disability can be very sensitive for some.
- Some people would not admit to having a disability if not openly obvious.
- Some of the disabilities make people uncomfortable or feel less than others. Eg speech impediment.
- Some disabled persons are not in the public view.
- Some disabled persons are dangerous and are unaware.

Use of proxy respondent

- Since head of households knows the particulars of the person that resides in the household, they can answer questions about disability of the person if he or she is not present.

Translation of the question

- Respondents might not know in which category of disability they fall.
- A person who have a hearing disability might be affected in communication and speaking; ie one disability in the list could cause another in the list.
- We ask the question as it is and allow the respondent to suggest which disability they have.

Use of scale response categories

- Disabilities can range from one extreme to the next but such is not captured in the census.
- The Census does not use a scale response to measure disability and this results in limited analysis on this matter.

Results from the 2010 Census report on disability

- From the 2010 Census report we were able to compile tables on:
- Total number of persons who have no disability to some form of disability.
- Persons who have any form of disability by island.
- Persons who have any form of disability with relation to where they were born.

Results from 2010 Census Report on disability cont'd

- The number of disabilities whether it be no disability to four or more disabilities.
- The number of disabilities by island.
- The type of disability by difficulty level which would range from some difficulty, lots of difficulty to cannot do it at all.
- The type of disability by difficulty level and island.
- The type of disability by origin of disability.

Thank you

- Thanks for listening so attentively !!