Advancing Methodology on Measuring Asset Ownership and Entrepreneurship from a Gender Perspective

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Outline

• Overview of EDGE initiative, incl. policy relevance
• Objectives of pilot studies
• Select findings
• Next steps
Overview of EDGE initiative

Objective:

• Develop methodological guidelines on measuring asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective
  ─ Pilot proposed methodologies in select countries
  ─ Refine guidelines based on analyses of pilot data
  ─ Present guidelines to UN Statistical Commission
Policy relevance of EDGE mandate

- Individual-level data on asset ownership provide policy insights into:
  - Women’s empowerment, children’s well-being, and livelihood strategies

- Gender and entrepreneurship data provide policy insights into:
  - The determinants of women’s (men’s) entrepreneurship and the characteristics and performance of women’s (men’s) enterprises
  - How to foster entrepreneurship
Objectives of pilot studies
Objectives of EDGE pilots

1. Assess questionnaire design, incl. operationalization of key concepts

- Asset ownership
  - Types of ownership: Reported, Documented, Economic
  - Rights to: Sell & Bequeath

- Motivations & Aspirations
- Resources & Constraints

- Entrepreneurial participation
  - Enterprise performance
Assess questionnaire design (cont’d.)

• Module appended to existing household survey
  – Collects data on core set of assets (dwelling, agricultural land, non-farm enterprise assets, other real estate, financial assets)
  – Piloted by Maldives and Mexico

• Stand-alone household survey
  – Core assets + livestock, agricultural equipment, consumer durables, valuables, full entrepreneurship module
  – Piloted by Georgia, Mongolia, Philippines, and South Africa
  – In Uganda (under MEXA) we also tested different question phrasing
2. **Identify most robust and implementable respondent selection interview protocols**

- Up to 4 adult household members, proxy (Uganda/MEXA)
- Members of principal couple + a randomly selected 3rd member, proxy (Georgia, Mongolia, Philippines)
- Members of principal couple, proxy (Mexico)
- 1 randomly selected adult household member + spouse/partner, self-reporting only (South Africa)
- 1 randomly selected adult household member, self-reporting only (Maldives)

Interviewed separately and simultaneously, if applicable, by enumerator of same sex
3. Assess construction of key indicators

- EDGE guidelines to recommend core set of indicators for global and national monitoring
- Country tabulations of pilot data to contribute to the construction of indicators that:
  - best capture policy-relevant gender differences in asset ownership/control and entrepreneurship
  - facilitate cross-country comparability while retaining relevance to local country context
- Link to SDG Indicator 5.a.1: proportion of agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land
Select findings
Questionnaire design

Financial assets module asks about ownership and value of: commercial savings accounts, informal savings programs, microfinance accounts, equity, bonds, pension funds, and whole life insurance

- Categories not well understood by enumerators or respondents, despite focused training
- Few financial assets reported, suggesting confusion, low incidence and/or uncomfortableness disclosing
- Missing values on valuation of financial assets > 50%

Implications for redesign of module and appropriate host survey
Respondent Selection

- Standard practice of interviewing household head/most knowledgeable member likely to underestimate women’s exclusive asset ownership while overestimating men’s

- When multiple household members report on ownership status of all members, discrepancies are high and not easily reconciled
  - Respondents were identified as owners by others but did not consider themselves to be owners

- Because we expect behaviors related to ownership to be based on people’s self-perceptions of ownership, EDGE recommends collecting self-reported data, only
Indicator ownership constructs

- Overlap between ownership and rights to assets exhibits clear gender differences

  - In Uganda, share of male owners w/ rights to sell and bequeath > share of female owners w/ these right across all forms of ownership/all assets

- 78% of male exclusive reported dwelling owners also report the right to sell the dwelling vs 41% of female exclusive reported dwelling owners

  - Strongest overlap for documented ownership, but not 100%

  - Findings are being validated across EDGE pilots
Next Steps

- Continued analysis of pilot data
- Revision of methodological guidelines
- Submission of guidelines to UN Statistical Commission in March 2017
- Technical assistance to NSOs to build statistical capacities for collecting the data
Thank you!

For additional information:

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