Measuring Intra-Household Power and Decision-Making

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12th meeting of the IAEG-GS
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• Power and decision-making recognized as an important domain of gender equality

• SDGs refer to ‘all levels’ of decision-making

• Official statistics on 'power and influence’ or 'women in decision-making roles’ usually limited to public sphere

• However, access to power outside the home may very well be limited if power is gender-divided within the home

• Linked to but different from division of labour (unpaid and paid). Who *decides*, not who *does*. 
• Feb 2017: CES bureau established Task Force
• NSOs of all CES member countries were invited to participate → 21 members from 19 countries and organizations
• Chaired by Pierre Turcotte, Status of Women Canada

Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Serbia, Italy, Statistics Canada, Status of Women Canada, Mexico, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Turkey, Mongolia, Colombia, Belarus, Montenegro, Philippines, Armenia, Russian Federation, EIGE, OECD, MPIDR
Objective: to make an inventory of indicators and sources and provide recommendations to statistical offices on measuring the gendered dimensions of intra-household power and decision-making
Existing research & methods

• Agricultural surveys and censuses
• Development programming esp. nutrition, rural development
• Demographic and reproductive health surveys
• Large-scale social survey programmes:
  • Generations & Gender Surveys
  • International Social Survey & European Social Survey
  • LSMS
  • MICS
• EU-SILC 2010
• Basic indicators produced with data from Turkey & Serbia
• Extensive analysis of
  • GGS wave 1
  • Canada: General Social Survey & Financial Capability Survey
• Analysis currently underway of Mexico’s ENDIREH
  ➔ to seek methodological insights & shape recommendations
Methodological considerations

• Sampling units:
  • individuals or couples
  • cost & feasibility
  • proxy responses
  • discordant responses

• Internal dynamics
  • preferences, values & attitudes
  • path-dependency
  • implementation vs. orchestration power
  • choice vs constraint

• Response bias
  • self-selection, social desirability, recall
  • presence of others
  • interviewer, instrument & mode effects

• Sensitive & complex topics
  • family formation, reproduction, relationships, finances, violence
Dimensions

1. Union formation, sexual & reproductive decision-making
2. Decisions about division of labour
3. Health-related decisions
4. Decisions about social life & leisure
5. Decisions about children’s education & upbringing
6. Financial decisions
7. Perception of control & satisfaction with decision-making
Where next?

• Consolidating recommendations:
  • recommended indicators (several sub-dimensions per dimension)
  • recommended questions & response categories
  • recommendations about survey methodology
  • recommendations about compilation & interpretation

• Next step: qualitative testing of questions in Canada early 2019
Thank you for your attention!

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