

Training Workshop in Operationalizing a Field Survey Syllabus

Aaditya Dar*

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1 Course information

Instructor: Aaditya Dar

Email: aaditya@gwu.edu

Office: TBD

Office hours: TBD

Meeting time: 5-day program, 6 hours per day

Location: TBD

2 Course description

This course is designed for MPhil and PhD students in social sciences who are interested in carrying out their own empirical research study, or social scientists wishing to extend their toolkit to incorporate field studies.

It provides an introduction to topics in applied survey design and covers practical issues in setting up a field survey that are typically not included in a theory course on research methods.

The focus will be primarily on designing and implementing a quantitative field survey in development economics (with special emphasis on the areas of poverty, women's empowerment, environment, and happiness/satisfaction) in the Indian context, but we will also briefly discuss aspects of a qualitative research that are helpful in the formative stages of a quantitative data

*George Washington University. Address: Department of Economics, 2115 G St., NW, Monroe 340, Washington, DC 20052

collection exercise.

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Translate a research question to an empirical study
- Design a structured questionnaire
- Avoid common mistakes in survey implementation
- Understand the various practical issues in conducting their own survey

3 Course expectations

Active participation is critical for the success of this course. Each day of the course is divided into two parts: an interactive lecture-type morning session (9:30am to 12:30pm), and a problem-solving oriented afternoon session (2pm to 5pm). Students will work in teams to work out exercises and practical problems they are likely to face on the field and then we will discuss possible solutions. Potentially, field visits to assist with clarification of questions may be arranged if feasible. If students have some preliminary research ideas in the areas of poverty, environment, gender issues and happiness, we can also explore the possibility of having individual (or group) presentations on how they plan to operationalize their research on the last day of the training workshop.

4 Prerequisites

It is assumed that students have a basic understanding of various research methodologies. If you do not, then you will still be able to grasp the material presented in this course, but if you have that background then you will be able to gain much more.

5 Course materials

Recommended reading:

International Bank for Reconstruction, & Development. (2000). Designing household survey questionnaires for developing countries: lessons from 15 years of the Living Standards Measurement Study (Vol. 1, No. 2, p. 3). M. E. Grosh, & P. Glewwe (Eds.). Washington, DC: World Bank. available

online at <http://go.worldbank.org/ZAWINK6M10>

Optional reading:

Some good resources that are freely available on the internet are:

- United Nations. Statistical Division, & National Household Survey Capability Programme. (2005). Household Sample Surveys in Developing and Transition Countries (Vol. 96). United Nations Publications. available online at <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/HHsurveys/>
- <http://go.worldbank.org/Z78QLFJGX0>
- <http://go.worldbank.org/KA0MVCLB80>

In addition to the above, we will be also be referring to various other readings and a list of specific readings is outlined in the following section.

6 Curriculum

Session : Preliminaries of survey design

Topics: introduction to various international and national household surveys (LSMS, LFS, DHS, MICS, CWIQ, Census of India, AHS, NSS etc.), overview of entire process, survey planning, various types of data collection methods like PAPI, CAPI, CATI, CLT etc. and formative research (focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, discussion guides, semi-structured questionnaires)

Readings:

- http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTLSMS/Resources/3358986-1239390183563/LSMSworkshop_Session1a.ppt
- <http://www.fao.org/docrep/W3241E/w3241e06.htm#chapter5:personalinterviews>

Session : Questionnaire design

Topics: developing information areas, indicator list, qualities of a good questionnaire, sequencing of information, deciding on question approach/scale, developing content and wording, direct vs indirect questions, measurement and choice of scales, format of the questionnaire, show cards and aids, pilot

testing and modification.

Readings:

- http://www.iiep.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Cap_Dev_Training/Training_Materials/Quality/Qu_Mod8.pdf
- <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/G3658-2.PDF>
- <http://www.fao.org/docrep/W3241E/w3241e04.htm#chapter3:levelsofmeasurementandsca>
- <http://www.fao.org/docrep/W3241E/w3241e05.htm#chapter4:questionnairedesign>

Session : Specific topics in qre. design

Topics: screening questionnaire/ top sheet, household listing, kish grid, theme-specific modules

Readings:

- Census 2011 houselisting <http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011-Schedule/Index.html>
- NFHS 3 qre
- AHS qre
- NSSO qre http://www.mospi.nic.in/Mospi_New/Admin/publication.aspx

Session : Interview techniques

Topics: rapport building, use of language, gaining confidence of respondent, mannerism and body language, asking questions regarding date of birth, work, occupation, religion etc., avoiding bias in asking the question

Readings:

- <http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011-Documents/Updating%20of%20Abridged%20Houselist-English.pdf>

Session : Fieldwork logistics

Topics: project implementation plan, planning and preparation for launch of field work, recruitment of field enumerators, characteristics and background of a good enumerator, training of survey team, training manual, team structure, field movement plan, field visits, quality control during data collection, gender sensitization and ethical considerations in research.

Readings:

- http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011census/training/docs/Gender_mainstreaming_in_Census_2011.pdf
- http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTLSMS/Resources/3358986-1239390183563/LSMSworkshop_Session2.ppt

Session : Data entry and management

Topics: preparatory work for data entry, column coding, data coding, data punching, data checking, and quality norms in data management (double-entry).

Readings:

- http://unstats.un.org/unsd/HHsurveys/pdf/Chapter_15.pdf

Session : Sampling

Topics: random sampling, systematic sampling, stratified sampling, cluster and multistage sampling, appropriateness of sampling methods, calculations of sample size, sampling frame.

Readings:

- http://www.who.int/hiv/strategic/en/bss_fhi2000.pdf