Piloting a Discrete choice experiment in Tunisia

Technology that enables incorporating preferences and values in measuring women’s empowerment for impact evaluations

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EFFECTIVENESS REVIEWS

• Conducted within the Global Performance Framework, the Effectiveness Reviews investigate impact of Oxfam’s projects.

• Random sample of ‘mature’ projects across six thematic areas.

• Projects implemented at individual, household or community level are evaluated (mainly) using quasi-experimental impact evaluation tools.

• First set of reviews was conducted in 2011/12. More than 50 quasi-experimental impact evaluations in 30 different countries.

• Strong investment in measurement approaches for ‘hard to measure’ concepts (Women’s Empowerment and Resilience)
MEASURING WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

Context-specific, multidimensional approach for measuring women’s empowerment

i. Define the characteristics of an ‘empowered woman’ in the context under analysis

ii. Translate the characteristics into context specific indicators

iii. Combine the indicators into one empowerment index which is used for evaluating the project

Builds on Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Alkire et al, 2013)
WEIGHTING: CHOICES IN COMBINING MULTIPLE INDICATORS

• How to combine multiple indicators into one multidimensional index?
  • Each characteristic has equal importance (equal weights).
  • Different characteristics have different level of importance. If so, who decides?

How to construct a multidimensional index for women's empowerment that reflects the perceptions of empowerment of women involved in the project?
HOW COMBINE MULTIPLE INDICATORS

• In collaboration with Natalie Quinn (University of Oxford) we piloted a Discrete Choice Experiment (DCE) in Tunisia:
  • Stated choice method (widely used in health economics and marketing).
  • Present hypothetical scenarios (women with certain characteristics), respondent asked to identify which one is more empowered.
  • Provide weights for individual indicators based on revealed preferences from the survey respondents.

• DCE was enabled by the use of digital data collection devices (CAPI).
DCE PILOT IN TUNISIA

- During the workshop: identified 14 indicators of Women’s Empowerment in Tunisia
  - 5 Personal
  - 6 Relational
  - 3 Environmental
- Each can take two levels (high/low)
- Standard DCE approaches really hard to implement with 14 indicators
DCE PILOT IN TUNISIA

With:
- 500 lines of Stata code

Generated:
- 1000 lines of Imagemagick code
- 5000 lines of SurveyCTO code
DCE PILOT IN TUNISIA

- Present profiles of three indicators
- Six questions
- 72 combinations
- Automated - no need for the enumerator to randomly choose combinations
- Optimised to increase meaningful comparisons.
DCE PILOT IN TUNISIA

• Integrated into existing fieldwork and evaluation process:
  • Short (1 hour) quantitative survey
  • 5-10 minutes available for DCE
  • Small sample of project beneficiaries and matched comparison group (N = 500-600)
  • Straightforward for enumerators and respondents

• Analysis of the data now..
This is an informal 'space' where Oxfam GB's technical advisors, researchers and programme colleagues can share current thinking, ideas, questions, learning and experiences with colleagues inside and outside the organisation. 

With in-house technical expertise, we undertake impact evaluations, research and grapple with other measurement challenges in support of Oxfam's projects, working with Oxfam's colleagues around the world to support good practice in evidence-generation and use.

We hope to share and explore technical evaluation tools and research questions that we encounter in our everyday work. This blog is intended for anyone who sees research, evaluation and measurement as essential tools for learning about and improving development work.