Discussion for ‘Responsive & adaptive designs, and data quality’

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Dupriez & Solatorio (1)

Bold and innovative proposal.

If applicable, may provide:

- Substantial cost and burden reduction;
- More frequent estimates.

Relies heavily on:

- Sophisticated model and technology;
- Pre-existing complete (survey) data set to fit and test model.

Dupriez & Solatorio (2)

Key issues regarding approach as described:

- 'Univariate' and single target;
- Cost reductions may not justify 'data loss' from using reduced and variable sets of questions;
  - In many household surveys, main cost driver is reaching and 'opening' the household;
- Results for Indonesia very disappointing – could hardly be used to justify using the approach.

Dupriez & Solatorio (3)

Key issues regarding evaluation study:

- Sampling weights and other design information were ignored when fitting models and computing predictions.
- Some modeling choices are not best practice, and surely model fitting could be improved.
- Evaluation focused only on the case-level prediction success or failure – what about estimates of relevant population parameters derived from predictions?
- Evaluation covered only classification of households as poor or not.
- Predictive models fail badly to predict per capita income.

Wagner (1)

RD and ASD important innovations and additions to the survey taking toolkit.

Both respond to challenges increasingly faced by traditional (‘single design’) survey taking approaches.

Both require:

- Increased technical capacity of survey teams;
- Advanced capabilities of survey management software and IT infrastructure;
- Improved record keeping during survey operations to provide required data to support (re)design.

Wagner (2)

Challenges

- Local context and knowledge not easily transferable.
- Comparative studies rare / unavailable.
- Limited workforce capacity & availability.
- Some design options are not realistic in many countries (e.g. web survey taking × low internet coverage).

- But we have seen some examples of successful trials using mobile phones yesterday.

Axinn & Chardoul (1)

Focus on CAI and survey management software tools.

Tools discussed proved useful in promoting **quality measurement** in surveys, hopefully also leading to improved quality.

Comparative studies are rare, especially in developing world.

Quality indicators framework a welcome addition.

Axinn & Chardoul (2)

Some questions:

- Are survey management software tools freely available?
- Interviewer training & certification – how to manage for one-off surveys?

Moving forward

What can IUSSP+UNFPA & other players do to help:

- Assist with **capacity building** in countries where approaches seem feasible.
- Support development and usage of **generic survey administration software** that can support adoption of such new survey designs.
- Improve **documentation and dissemination of experience** with ASD and RD in real surveys, both successes and failures.
- Define/agree some **quality indicator standards**.

Final comments

No single innovation will resolve all difficulties or satisfy all needs, existing or emerging.

Most exciting developments center on:

- Combining data from different sources; &
- Using multiple methods / modes.

Researchers must resist temptation to oversell potential and undersell concerns / difficulties.

Collaboration across disciplines ever more important.

New data sources must meet quality standards similar to those in place for traditional sources.

Thanks for your attention!

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