

Gender equality indicators

Gender equality indicators at national, regional and local levels; identification of a gender perspective in statistics in order to establish feasible sets of indicators, with special attention to international comparability and policy relevance, common efforts of statisticians and policy makers



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Engendering indicators: overview

- Indicators and policy
- What makes an indicator engendered
- The making of indicators
 - Variants
 - Aggregation decisions



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Indicators?

An indicator is something that helps you understand

- where you are,
 - which way you are going,
 - how far you are from where you are going and
 - how far you are from where you want to be.
- A **good indicator** alerts you to a problem before it gets too bad and helps you recognize what needs to be done to fix this problem.

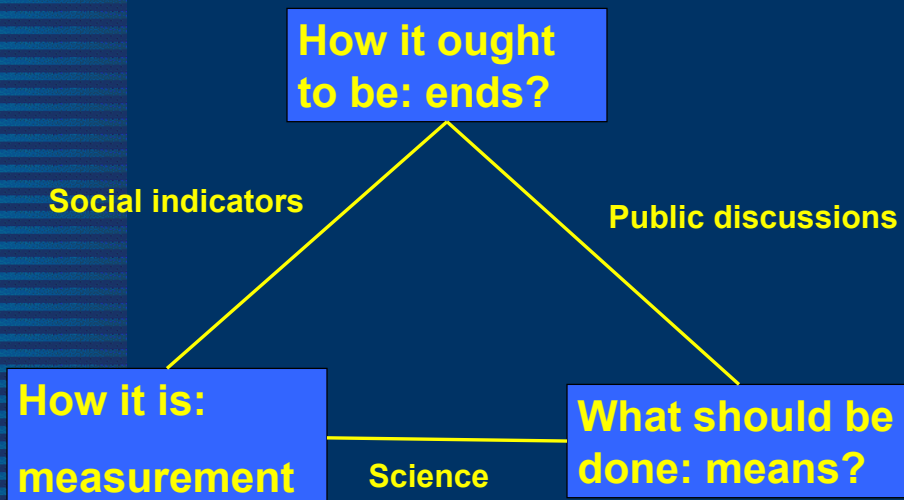
Maureen Hart, 1997



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Epistemology of the democratic process

(Sten Johansson, 2002)



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Expectancies of indicators (1)

(Monitoring-Engbersen, 1998)

- **attention** - pointing out/drawing attention to new problems and developments
- **description** – providing the factual basis for policy development
- **persuasion** supporting policy objectives by (often visual) presentation of data
- **warning signal** raise alarm when problems become manifest



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Expectancies of indicators (2)

- **policy sign** display strong and weak points
- **generating debate** use findings to make social problems subject of discussion
- **enlightenment** providing new ideas, new visions or new concepts
- **policy legitimation** as confirmation of launched policies: 'look for yourself!'



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Expectancies of indicators (3)

- **evaluation** has policy been effective?
- **action incitement** monitoring will yield 'something' which will 'incite' some policy action
- **social control** big brother (good or bad) is watching some identifiable social groupings
- **cognitive function** accumulate knowledge on risk factors
- **rendez vous function** interested parties and policy actors meet in the monitoring process



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I am a social indicator. Nice to meet you

- One number
- Normative: 'things are getting better?'
- Output-oriented: contrary to decision-making based on untested assumptions of cause and effect
- Domain validity



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BUT....

Underlying the choice of both policy objectives and the indicator is always some model of reality



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SUMMARY

In the system model

$$y = \Phi_{\beta}(x) + \varepsilon,$$

the social indicators are y



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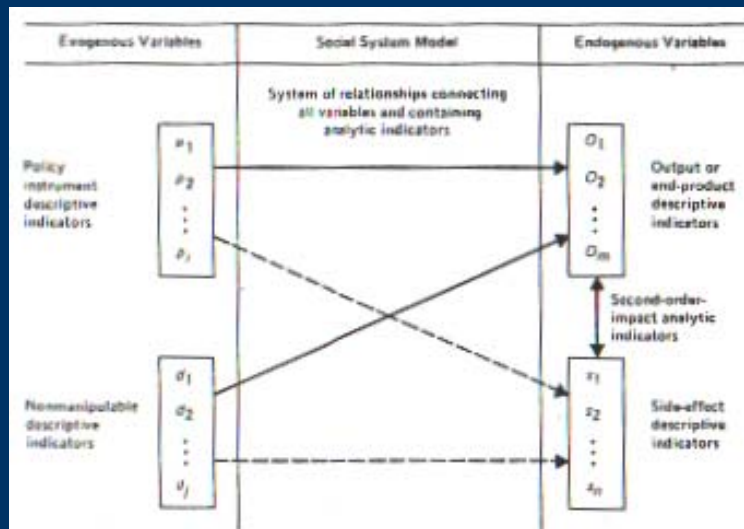


Figure 2.1. Relationships Among Output, Descriptive and Analytic Indicators

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ENGENDERED INDICATORS: distinguishing characteristics?

- Male/female (sex-disaggregation)
- Domains
- Policy departments
- Gender specific effects of policy
- Expert characterisation
- Gender specific effects of policy and practices not experienced as gender-neutral by parties concerned

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THE MAKING (1): start lowest level in unit and content

	FEMALE	MALE	TOT
YES (working or poor or even female)	femyes	maleyes	TOTYES
NO (not working/not poor/not female)	femno	maleno	TOTNO
	TOTFEM	TOTMALE	TOTPOP

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THE MAKING (2): which why?

Participation: $femyes/femtot$

Share: $femyes/totyes$

Relative participation: $fempart/malepart$

Participation gap (ID): $fempart - malepart$

Relative share: $femshare/maleshare$

Shares distance (SR): $femshare - maleshare$

Inequality: correlation (yesno, malefem)

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THE MAKING (3): aggregation of content

- **Indicators: many, few or only one**
- **Implicit weighting by selection:**
which indicators and which domains?
Remedy: let them choose indicators and levels
- **Implicit weighting by statistical characteristics (range, mean, variance):**
Normalise (SIR, July 2002) and let them choose



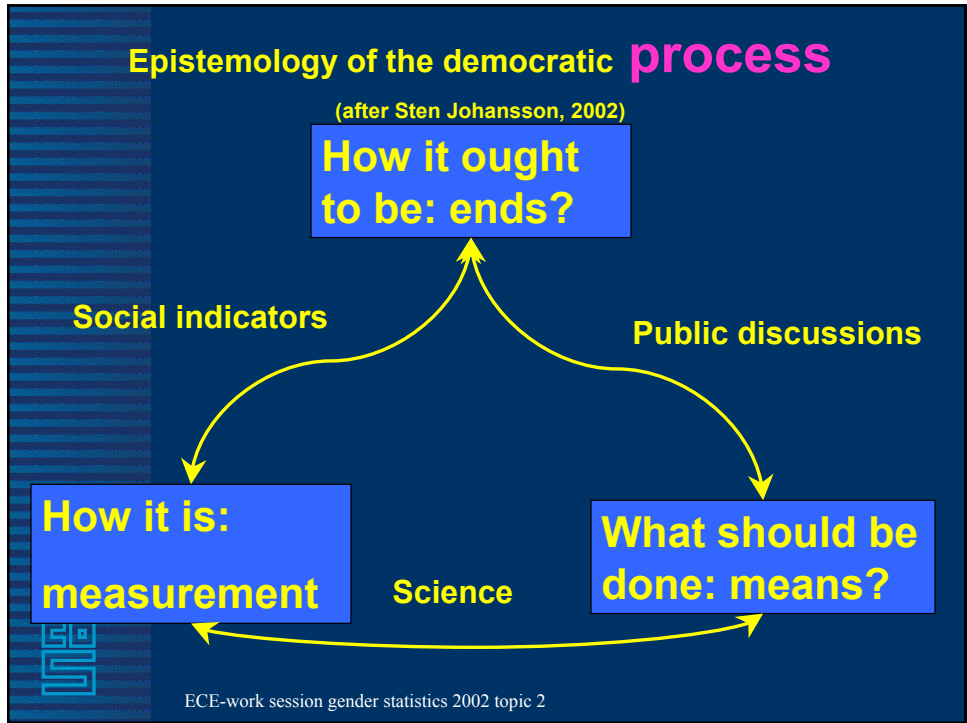
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THE MAKING (4): aggregation of unit level

- **Indicator: identical on all levels? Or relative measures across levels**
- **Implicit weighting by unit selection (see voting areas):**
Meaningful criteria: policy level, comparability and availability of data, cross-level fallacy
- *Remedy: study, think and offer suggestions*
- **Implicit weighting by statistical characteristics:** sample size, population size, aggregation by dependent variable
- *Remedy: study, think and offer suggestions*



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**GENERAL AND DECISIVE
SUCCESS MEASURE**

**Scale and frequency of its
use in public discussions
and policy practices**
(in spite of technical imperfection!!)

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SUCCESSFUL INDICATORS: HOW DID THEY DO IT?

- GDP
- CPI
- Consumer confidence
- EU-structural indicators
- HDI
- (gender champion??): **work to do!**



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Invited papers

- Nature of indicators?
- Relation statistician – policy on indicators?
- Nature of engendering?
- Aggregation of content?
- Aggregation of units?



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Summary invited papers (1)

USA-Victoria Velkoff

Are statisticians able to offer sex-diaggregated, internationally comparable indicators as helpful data to policy makers?

- Yes they are: health, education and economic status.
- Next: assist policymakers (communication)



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Summary invited papers (2)

ESCWA – Ahmed Hussein

Can statisticians launch an international program to contribute to develop gender policy?

- Yes they can: awareness, publication, identification issues, database, spreading
- Ambitions
- Deficiencies statistics
- Priority issues



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Summary invited papers (3)

UNECE – Sofia & Tiina

Can statisticians involve policy-makers in international dissemination?

- Partly they can: relating issues and statistics in the UNECE database
- providing design
- best practices
- deficiencies in policy and data
- evaluation by objective/benchmarking
- evaluation of effectiveness complicated



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Contributed papers (1)

UK – Angelika Hibbett & Andrew Passey

- Gender statistics (ONS+WEU)
- 2001: Key indicators of women's position
 - identifying areas
 - identifying statistics and sources
 - select key statistics
 - provide baseline census of indicators
 - recent trends: figures presented
 - schedule maintenance: three step strategy
- Users: complete and accessible
- No users complaining on overload
- Last sentences



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Contributed papers (2a)

Georgia – Teimuraz Beridze

- Developments
 - Births and mortality
 - Labour from business surveys
 - Labour from hh surveys & census
- Other available data persons/hh.
- More is needed
- Statistics and indicators
- Statisticians and policy makers
- Last sentences



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Contributed papers (2b)

Albania – Valbana Jaupplari

- Since 1998 at high speed
- Achieved:
 - Good-looking database
 - Yearly publication
 - Network of gender focal points
- Ambitions:
 - Violence and crime
 - Female image in media **NEW**
 - Gender data from business surveys

Last sentences!!



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Contributed papers (3a)

FAO ^(new) – John Curry

Agricultural gender sensitive indicators

– Topic 1 approach? Exemplary bus.survey

- **The Framework**

- Levels: 1) field 2) intermediate 3) macro
- Questions on field-level (+ other levels)
- From questions to indicators (table 1)

- **Attributes of indicators (ECOSOC)**

- To be recommended
- Reliability?
- User-friendly?
- Relation statistics-policy?



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Contributed papers (3b)

UNESCO – Said Belkachla

- Clearly structured/direct/no fuss/no abbreviations/
warning other intern.org.: no key-info in intro
- Gender commitments in education
- Indicator system on education:
 - Disparity measure: gap (diff) or GPI (ratio)
 - Cross-sectional
 - Longitudinal
 - Facts and factors (measurement?)
- Building blocks for national strategies and action plans (!)



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Contributed papers (4)

Canada – Leroy Stone & Catherine Pelletier

Domains of gender indicators?

- 1) Status of women 2) Gender inequality 3) Gendering forces (=underlying mechanisms)

Basic considerations:

Type B versus type O: **fixed versus variable?**

Network of mechanisms: **unique for gender?**

Scientist or statistician: **theory and own initiative?**

Producing statistics outside the policy context

Exemplary analysis: children and household chores

Cultural variation versus stable inequality (O vs.B?)

Variation in time spent or in answering behaviour



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Reconsiderations (1)

- Engendering indicators means not only sex-disaggregation from existing sources, but also the use/development of new sources
- International incomparability is equivalent to interregional incomparability; just as their solutions should be.
- Engendered indicators should reflect policy priorities. Interregional or international differences in priorities cause the same type of weighting impediments



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Reconsiderations (2)

- Gaps between female and male scores on indicators should be presented as deviations from some benchmark value (policy objective or some theoretically plausible zero point)
- The obvious similarity of many gaps between female and male indicator scores and their trends (in ECE-region?) needs more attention and explanation.



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