Measuring Intra-Household Power and Decision-Making: Progress so Far

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Purpose of the Presentation

• What are we trying to measure and why?

• Task Force: Background and composition

• Progress so far: What have we learned?

• Next steps

• Discussions
Issues and Challenges

• Gender equality: Women increasingly fill important roles in positions of power in business, politics, justice, culture and sports

• Power and decision-making recognized as an important domain of gender equality

• 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

• The main question is, who decides?
  • Who decides how money is spent, how time is spent, who goes to work, when to have children?
Background

• Concept note, literature review…
• Business case gave arguments for
  • why intra-household power & decision-making is a distinct topic
  • why it merits investigation
  • what mandate there is for the work
  • what the value-added of statistics on this topic would be
• Linked to but different from division of labour (unpaid and paid)
• SDGs refer to ‘all levels’ of decision-making

• End 2016: ToRs developed & consulted across CES member countries
• Feb 2017: CES bureau established Task Force
Task Force

• NSOs of all CES member countries were invited to participate
• 21 members
• 19 countries and organizations
• Chaired by Pierre Turcotte, Status of Women Canada

Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Serbia, Italy, Canada, Mexico, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Turkey, Mongolia, Colombia, Belarus, Montenegro, Philippines, Armenia, Russian Federation, EIGE, OECD, Statistics Canada
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
ToRs: Activities

• Activities
  a) Compile an inventory of existing indicators, including information about the statistical surveys in which they are included;
  b) Evaluate the existing indicators in terms of conceptual validity, coverage, frequency, quality and standardization across sources and UNECE countries;
  c) Identify aspects of the topic for which there are currently no adequate indicators;
  d) Make proposals for methodological work to fill gaps where indicators do not exist or are poorly defined or where data availability is limited: such as by developing and testing new survey questions, or by conducting research to investigate how better to pose questions to collect valid data;
  e) Define headline and supporting indicators;
  f) Evaluate the prospect of the production of these indicators as official statistics;
  g) Analyze intra-household power and decision-making in selected countries, using available indicators;
  h) Draft recommendations for statistical offices based on findings from above activities.
Information-Gathering Exercise with TF Countries

• Key sub-topics identified:
  • Reproductive decision-making
  • Health care
  • Labour market participation
  • Social life and leisure time
  • Child-related matters
  • Household finances
    • Expenditure and saving
    • Resource allocation/sharing
    • Control over household finances and permission-seeking
    • Asset ownership
  • Perception of control, satisfaction, resolution of disagreements
Data Collection in TF Countries: Gaps & Challenges

- Several remaining gaps, e.g. health, child-related matters, satisfaction with decision-making processes & perceived control
- Methodological challenges, e.g.
  - Perception of q’s as intrusive → non-response
  - Need for respondent to be alone
  - Inaccuracy/impossibility of proxy responses (perception questions)
- Variation in wording, purpose, surveys in which they are included, samples and units of analysis
- Very little dissemination or communication of existing data on power and decision-making
TF Tentative Timeline

- **TF established**
  - Feb 2017
- **Collect info on current practice from TF members**
  - May-Sept 2017
- **Present to WSGS**
  - Nov 2017
- **‘Test’ analysis**
  - Dec 2017-Mar 2018
  - 2018
- **Gather more info, analyze**
  - 2018
- **Formulate, draft, consult & revise recommendations**
  - ... 2019
- **Present to CES plenary for endorsement**
  - Jun 2019
Key Upcoming TF Activities

• Present to Work Session on Gender Statistics in Belgrade (today)

• Face-to-face side meeting of TF in Belgrade

  → More country inputs → richer view of existing practice
  → Assign leads for work streams

• Looked at surveys, sources, questions, now need to look at indicators (what already exists, what could be done?)
Potential Questions for Discussions

• Are there other dimensions (e.g. reproductive decision-making, health care, labour market participation, etc.) of household-power and decision-making the TF should look at?

• Any other gaps in knowledge?

• Any other key activities the TF should be undertaking?
Thank you for your attention!

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To provide additional material:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/hhdecisions