

Inclusion of Youth Perspectives in Surveys in Developing Countries

Children Should be Seen and Heard

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Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12

States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the rights to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

But in practice, children's perspectives are often overlooked.



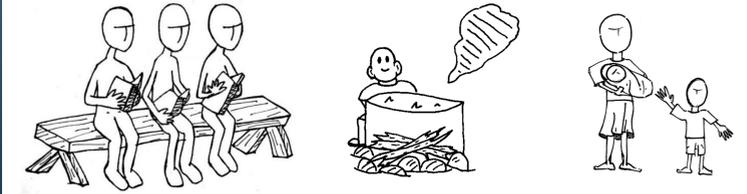
Existing Qualitative Studies

There are many qualitative studies that attempt to understand children's perspectives.

- Pros:**
- Ability to go in depth
 - Encourage participation
 - Child-appropriate methods
 - Child as co-researchers



- Cons:**
- Costly
 - Time intensive
 - Results not integrated into policy and programming
 - Not representative on the population level



Why Survey Research

Survey research and quantitative methods can be used to capture children's perspectives on a larger scale; large surveys are more often guide policy.

Survey methods with children need to provide **privacy** (for children's safety) and reduce **social desirability** bias, while not requiring **literacy**.

Goal: To create a methodology that conveys children's perspectives and can be used quantitatively throughout the Global South

Exploratory Work

Lessons learned from exploratory work in **Sierra Leone** (Summer 2017)



- Children shared what they perceived to be the "ideal child".
- Working in the context of schools leads to expectations about the researcher's goals.
- Question wording matters.
 - "Do you like this image?"
 - "Do you like what is happening in this image?"
 - "Do you like how this image is drawn?"

Next Steps: Pilot Study

A mixed methods pilot study will be conducted during summer of 2018 in **Tanzania**. Short animated **vignettes** will show scenarios related to work, education, and family life.

Tablets will run both survey software (for households/adult interviews) and animations (for interviews of 12-17-year-olds).

Exploring the smiley meter



Cognitive interviewing will explore interpretation of the scenarios.

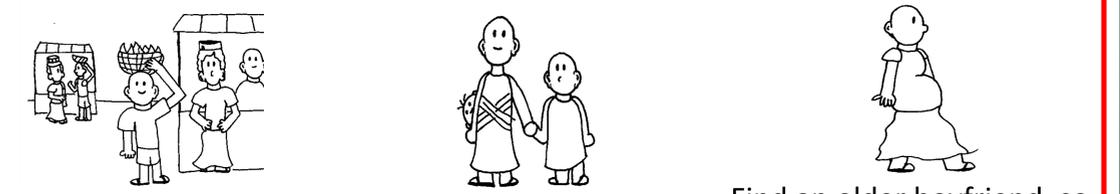
Qualitative approaches will help us understand if the response to the scenario reflects a child's own perspectives.

Example Vignette

Since father became ill, his family has tried hard to take good care of him. They spent all their money on medicines & food for him, but father does not get better. There is no one else to turn to. Now mother must work all day to get their food. The children do what they can to make him comfortable.

This girl has tried to keep up with school, but it is impossible to spend even small amounts of money on pencils and paper when father's needs are so great.

What should she do? She has some ideas.



- Make snacks and sell them in the market, before or after school.
- Go to the city to do domestic work to send money back for father.
- Find an older boyfriend, so she could stay in school. But there is a risk of getting pregnant.

Potential future themes



Acknowledgements

Minnesota Population Center
 (NIH/NICHD P2C HD041023)
 Human Rights Initiative Grant