

Gender and Rural Transport Initiative
Regional Workshop

Research Methods in the Context of PRSP and Gender Issues

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Session 3:

Data Collection Methods

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Road Map

1. Quantitative and qualitative data collection methods
2. The importance of integrated approaches
3. Special issues in collecting data on gender issues
4. Triangulation
5. Data collection methods used in the GRTI studies

1. Data collection methods

1. Quantitative methods

- Household surveys
- Time-use surveys
- Travel patterns
- Willingness to pay
- Attitude surveys
- Expenditure surveys
- Anthropometric studies
- Secondary data [government statistics, project records, research studies etc]

- Characteristics of quantitative methods
 - Random selection of subjects
 - Standard procedures
 - Questions asked in exactly the same way in each interview
 - Assumed to be objective and context neutral
 - Statistical analysis of findings
 - Can generalize to larger populations

Strengths and weaknesses of quantitative methods

- Strengths
 - Objective and uniform
 - Procedures clearly defined
 - Quantifiable and representative

- Weaknesses of quantitative methods
 - Cannot capture sensitive information
 - Imposes questions and format which may not reflect the ways that people think about many issues
 - Difficult to reach women
 - No rapport with respondent
 - Ignores contextual factors

Qualitative methods

- PRA techniques
- Focus groups
- Community meetings
- Observation
- Participant observation
- Case studies
- Key informants
- Photography

Participatory Rural Appraisal

- Community mapping
- Daily activity charts
- Paired rankings
- Seasonal calendars
- Time-lines
- Poverty mapping

- Characteristics of qualitative methods
 - Context specific
 - Develops rapport with subject
 - Able to explore sensitive subjects
 - Does not impose framework or responses

Strengths and weaknesses of qualitative methods

- Strengths
 - Allows respondents to define agenda
 - Able to address sensitive issues
 - Permits in-depth exploration
 - Explores contextual and historical perspective
- Weaknesses
 - Often non-random selection
 - Lack of documentation of interview process
 - Potential interviewer bias

2. The importance of integrated approaches

- Important to combine in-depth understanding with quantifiable and representative sample.
- Incorporates culture
- Permits multi-level analysis:
 - Subject or household
 - Community
 - Economic, political and institutional context

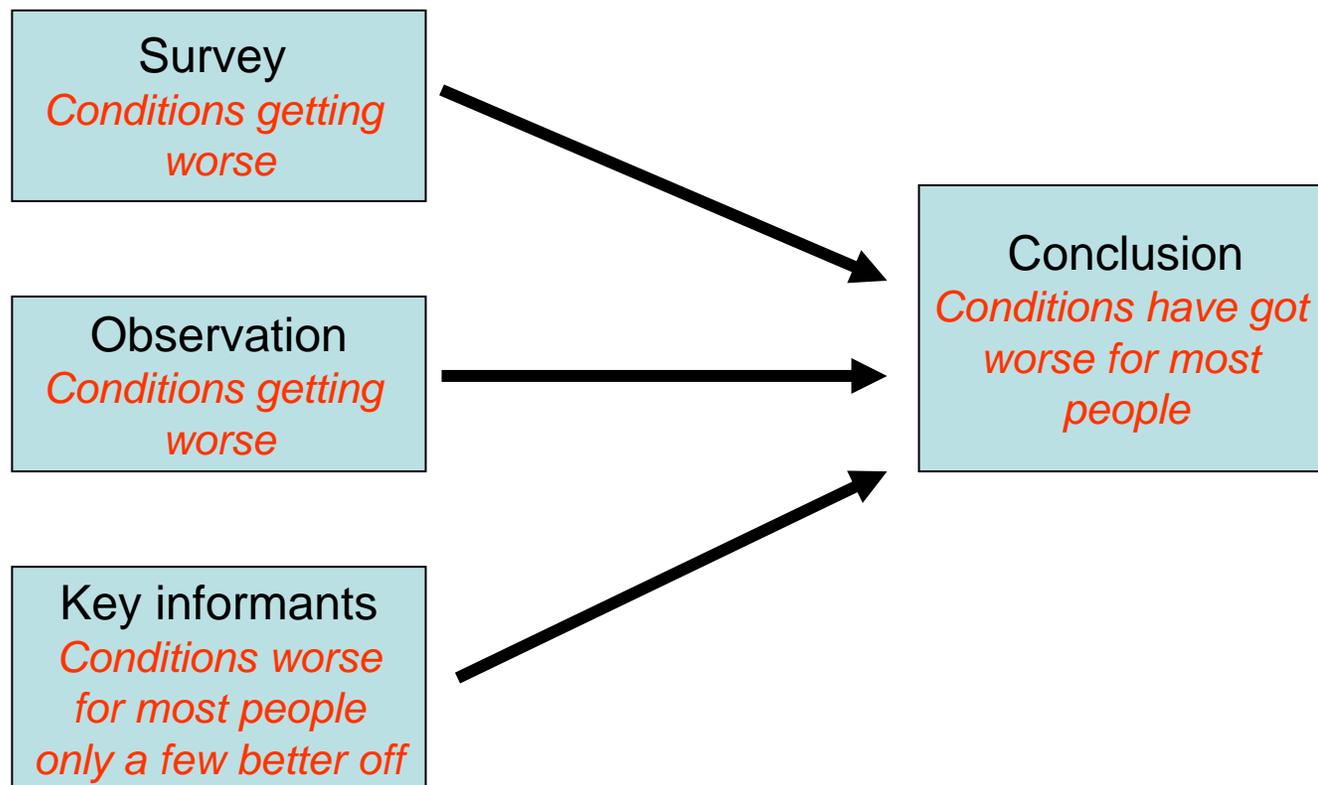
3. Gender issues in data collection

- Many surveys only interview household head
- Hard to reach women in many cultures
- Interview teams often mainly men
- Lack of awareness of gender issues
- Difficult to address sensitive issues with surveys
- Many very sensitive issues:
 - Domestic violence
 - Cultural constraints on travel, resource control
 - Empowerment at household and community level

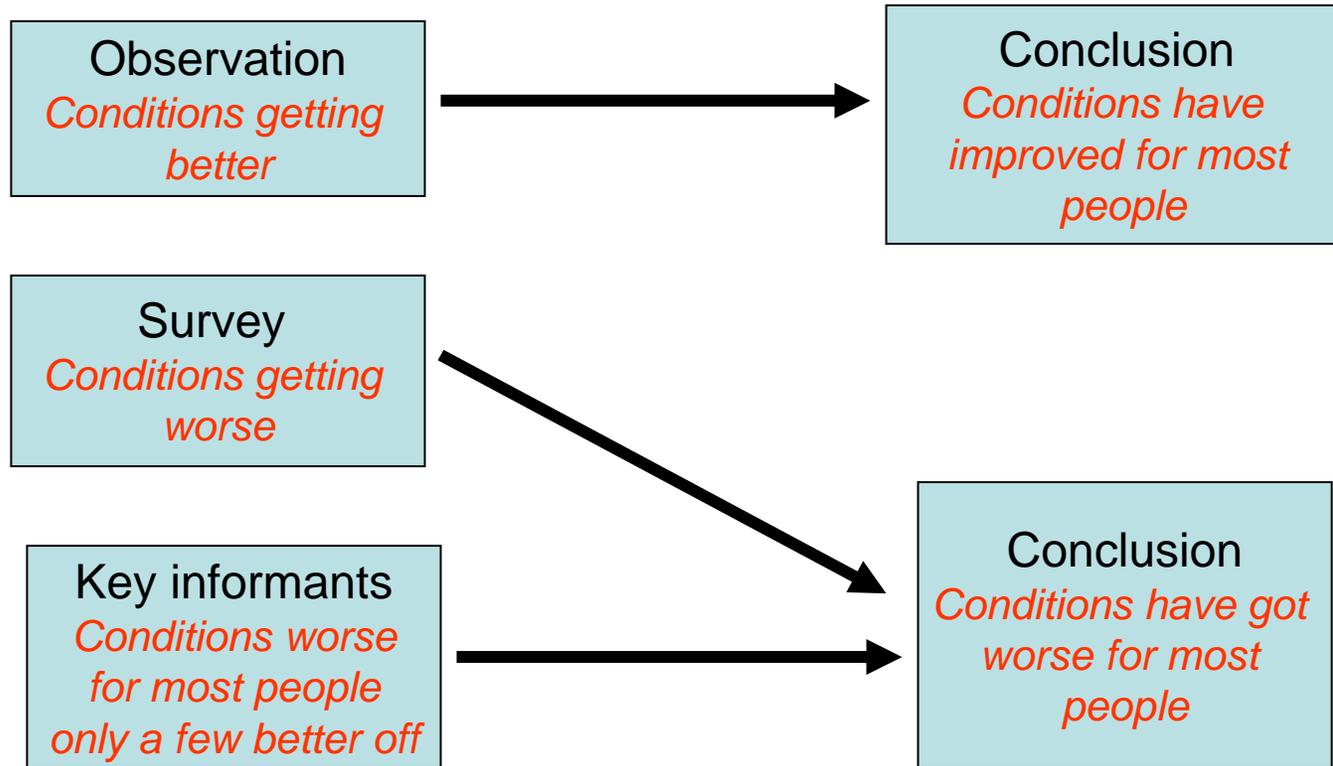
4. Importance of triangulation

- Comparing information from different sources for:
 - Consistency
 - In-depth analysis
 - Interpretation of findings
- Example: project impacts on income and wealth
 - Survey estimate
 - Observation in house
 - Observation in the community
 - Key informants
 - Focus groups
 - Photography

Triangulation: Consistent information from different sources that economic conditions have worsened in recent years



Triangulation: Inconsistent information from different sources on how economic conditions have changed in recent years



Planning for triangulation

- Building different indicators into study design
- Comparing findings from different indicators throughout study
 - Identifying inconsistencies
- Budget time and resources to go back to the field to check on inconsistencies

5. Examples of data collection methods used in GRTI studies

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- Ethiopia
 - Site visits and observation of kebeles
 - Focus group discussion with women household members
 - Community meetings and discussion with woreda councils
 - Discussion and interview with randomly selected women and men
 - Gender analysis review of secondary data

- Kenya: Nkone River Bridge
 - Stakeholder opinions on project
 - Proposed survey to collect opinions on project from random sample of the population
 - Collecting data on use of road and bridge [from observation]
 - Secondary data on agricultural production