

Surveys among deaf, blind and mentally disabled population :

Some experimental versions of adapted questionnaires.

Sébastien Fontaine, University of Liège [Belgium]

Expert Workshop: Protocol development for hard-to-reach and hard-to-identify groups in living conditions surveys to enhance cross-country comparative research

Date: 28th -30th of April 2014

Session III: Survey methods strategies for hard-to-reach and hard-to-identify populations - Data collection and indicator building (chair: Tóth István György)

Outline

- Disabled people in surveys ?
- 4 goals of adapted questionnaires.
- Specific methods : shorts demos .
- Conclusions.

I will talk about ...

- Sensory Disabled people
 - The Deaf;
 - The Blind;
- The Mentally disabled (slow, learning disability).

I will not talk about ...

- Physically disabled :
 - most of the time, no adaptation needed.
- Heavy Mentally disabled :
 - most of the time, no possible adaptation.

But where are they in surveys ? ...

- In large opinion and attitude surveys, the disabled people are technically excluded from the data collection, they are not taken into account because:
 - Institutions
 - Physically unable to participate : vague concept
 - For the Deaf : face to face is impossible
 - For the Blind : only the use of response cards is impossible
 - Mentally unable to participate
- There is almost no specific survey among disabled people, but if so, it is a survey about disability itself or limitations...

Why conduct quantitative surveys among the disabled?

4 GOALS

1. Comparison between disabled and non-disabled

- With random samples : NO
- With additional samples or specific oversampling among a specific population : YES

2. Bias reduction

- It is highly probable that “*ineligible*” and “*non-response because of a handicap*” are not “*at random*” and that a strong link exists between non-participation to surveys and the responses given to the survey questionnaire.
 - We consider that there is a high risk that people with a sensory handicap (and especially Deaf) will constitute a statistical particular group on some indicators used in the surveys.
- NMAR : we want to reduce the non-response bias induced by the lack of these people in standard surveys procedure;

This reduction, if any, will be very light.

3. Study populations with new tools

- New tools can be used in specific surveys among disabled populations.
- Some new adapted methodologies will allow to study populations so far little studied with quantitative methods.

4. Fight against a kind of discrimination

- The strict contact procedure leads to an exclusion of the people with an handicap.
- The general consequence of excluding people with a sensory handicap for sensory disabled people is that they are not represented in the data collection surveys.
- In the use of the opinion statistics, disabled people feel discriminated when results are extrapolated to the whole population, for example.
- Opinion surveys are part of public opinion and there is an ethical problem in excluding a part of the population from the data collection of opinion (*especially opinions concerning citizenship itself*).

Specific methods for the Mentally disabled

- Easy to read language
 - Questions are translated by experts
- Use of pictograms and smileys
- In some cases, it is possible to chose the easy to read version for everyone !



Is it worth it?

		Goals					
	Methods	1. Compare	2. Bias Reduction	3. Study a new pop.	4. Discrimination	Cost	Time
Deaf	Web-based (online or tablet-pc) questionnaire with sign-language	+	-	+	+	+++	+
Blind	Face to face with braille show cards	+	-	+	+	+	=
Mentally disabled	Face to face or web based with "easy to read" and pictos	+/-	-	+	+	+	=