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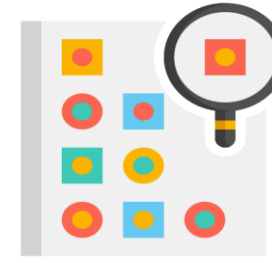
Introduction



First: Sample-Based Field Surveys



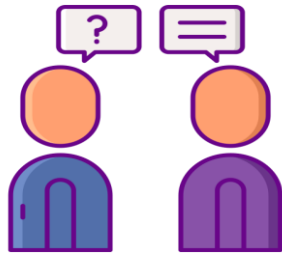
Why Field Surveys?



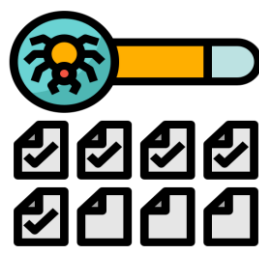
Challenges Facing Sample Surveys



Challenges of Questionnaire Design



Challenges of Face-to-Face Interviews



Challenges of Sampling – Data



Second: Administrative Records



Challenges of Using Administrative Records



Third: Weak legal frameworks and poor statistical awareness



Introduction

- Official statistics play a central role in any democratic society, as they provide essential support for public policy-making, the development of plans and programs, and evidence-based decision-making aimed at achieving sustainable development.
 - In light of the rapid advancements in the statistical field driven by information and communication technologies — and their impact on the evolution of statistical methods and practices — along with the growing reliance on official statistics for aligning with national agendas, the statistical sector faces numerous challenges. These challenges will be addressed in this presentation.
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Challenges Facing Sample-Based Field Surveys

- 1. Cost: Surveys require a substantial budget to cover the expenses of design, implementation, and data analysis.
- 2. Time: Conducting a survey is time-consuming, which may lead to delays in obtaining results.
- 3. Human Resources: Surveys demand a qualified team of field researchers and reviewers to ensure proper execution.
- 4. Questionnaire Design: Crafting an effective questionnaire is critical and can be complex, as it directly affects the quality of the data collected.
- 5. Face-to-Face Interviews: Relying on personal interviews can introduce logistical challenges and variability in data collection quality.
- 6. Sampling: Selecting a representative and statistically sound sample is essential, but often poses methodological and operational difficulties.

Challenges Facing Sample-Based Field Surveys

Cost Challenges

1. High Implementation Costs:

- Includes salaries for field researchers and supervisors.
- Travel and accommodation expenses.
- Training expenses for field staff.

2. Rising Costs with Larger Samples:

- As the sample size increases to improve statistical representation, both logistical and financial costs rise accordingly.

3. Technology Costs:

- Purchase or rental of data collection devices (e.g., tablets, smartphones).
- Development of software for data entry, synchronization, and analysis.

4. Sustainable Funding Difficulties:

- Surveys often rely on government funding or support from international organizations, making them vulnerable to delays or cancellations in the event of resource shortages.

5. High Costs of Monitoring and Quality Control:

- Data review and error correction require a specialized team and extended time.
- Field follow-up with unavailable respondents adds further expenses.

Challenges Facing Sample-Based Field Surveys

Time Challenges in Sample-Based Field Surveys

- Time-related issues are among the most significant challenges in conducting field surveys, as they directly impact data accuracy, cost-efficiency, and the usefulness of results. Key time-related challenges include:

1. Lengthy Preparation Period

- Extensive time is required for planning and preparing the survey, which can delay the entire study and postpone the availability of results.

2. Time-Consuming Data Collection

- Fieldwork can take a long time, especially when reaching respondents in remote or rural areas, often requiring complex scheduling and coordination.

3. Multiple Visits to Respondents

- Revisiting households or individuals who are not available during the initial visit extends the overall duration of data collection.

4. Revisits for Verification

- Follow-up visits are often necessary to verify responses or correct incomplete or inaccurate data, adding to the time burden.

5. Slow Data Entry and Processing

- When using paper-based surveys, data entry and processing are significantly slower, increasing the overall timeline for delivering results.

6. Delays Across Survey Stages

- Any delay in one phase of the survey — from preparation to data processing — leads to late results, reducing the relevance of the data for timely decision-making.

Challenges Facing Sample-Based Field Surveys

Human Resources Challenges in Sample-Based Field Surveys

- Field surveys face several human resource-related challenges that impact data quality and result accuracy:
 - 1. Shortage of Trained Personnel
 - There is often a lack of adequately trained staff to conduct surveys effectively.
 - 2. High Staff Turnover
 - Frequent changes in personnel disrupt continuity and affect the consistency of data collection.
 - 3. Low Wages
 - Insufficient compensation leads to reduced performance and discourages skilled professionals from participating.
 - 4. Gender-Based Workforce Dependence
 - Due to cultural norms, field research predominantly relies on female staff, which can pose additional recruitment and operational challenges.

Challenges Facing Sample-Based Field Surveys

Challenges Related to Questionnaire Design and Respondent Participation

a. Clarity, Simplicity, and Target Audience Suitability

The questionnaire must be clearly worded, easy to read, and appropriately tailored to the target respondents.

b. Refusal to Participate

Some members of the sample may refuse to complete the questionnaire, which negatively affects the accuracy and representativeness of the sample.

c. Difficulty Ensuring Reliability and Validity

Ensuring the questionnaire's consistency and validity is challenging, especially when it is occasionally completed by individuals outside the target group, requiring researchers to monitor and address this issue.

d. Respondent Resistance

Certain segments or individuals may reject participation in the survey due to purely subjective reasons, such as survey fatigue from receiving multiple questionnaires, unclear or poorly designed questions and examples, or skepticism about the survey as a valid scientific research tool.

Challenges Facing Sample-Based Field Surveys

Challenges of Face-to-Face Interviews

a. Respondent Reluctance

- Sometimes respondents are unwilling to provide the requested information, either by refusing to answer certain questions or by not allocating enough time for the interview. Researchers need to be mindful of this and handle it tactfully.

b. Inaccurate Responses

- At times, respondents may not express their true opinions, instead adapting their answers to align with what they perceive the interviewer expects or prefers.

c. Interviewer Bias

- The manner in which questions are posed can influence respondents, potentially biasing their answers if the questioning style suggests a preferred response.

- D. The respondent may be unable to provide the required information due to difficulty recalling facts related to the question, or due to a lack of knowledge about the subject under study.
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Challenges Facing Sample-Based Field Surveys

Challenges of Face-to-Face Interviews

Fieldwork Challenges

- A. The tablet may disconnect from the internet when households are located in areas outside network coverage, making it difficult to reach them using GPS.
 - B. Due to Egypt's climate, the tablet may overheat because of high temperatures, which can interrupt the interview as the device may freeze or lag.
 - C. The device may shut down if both the main and backup batteries are drained during long interviews.
 - D. Some consistency checks may prolong the interview duration, causing a burden on the respondent.
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Challenges Facing Sample-Based Field Surveys

Challenges of Face-to-Face Interviews

(Cultural and Traditional Barriers)

a. Cultural and Traditional Constraints

- Cultural norms and traditions often hinder households' willingness to respond, especially when the field researcher is male.

b. Refusal to Answer Sensitive Questions

- Families may refuse to answer certain questions considered embarrassing, making it difficult for researchers to collect complete data and requiring them to use multiple approaches to obtain responses.

c. Lack of Public Awareness

- There is often limited societal awareness regarding the importance of statistics in planning and decision-making, which can reduce cooperation and participation.
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Challenges Facing Sample-Based Field Surveys

Challenges of Face-to-Face Interviews

(Cultural and Traditional Barriers)

d. Lack of Effective Survey Awareness Campaigns

- Limited promotion of sample surveys, due to their focus on specific populations rather than a full census, reduces respondent engagement.

e. Non-Response from Wealthy Households

- Refusal of affluent families to participate diminishes their representation in the sample.

f. Target Respondent Non-Participation

- When the intended respondent does not personally engage, many questions may remain unanswered or answered inadequately.

g. Respondent Misconceptions About the Researcher

- Respondents may mistakenly believe the researcher is affiliated with government or service agencies, such as those providing income support or jobs, which can affect their responses.



Challenges Facing Sample-Based Field Surveys

Challenges of Face-to-Face Interviews

(Quality Control Issues)

a. Repeated Visits by Field Quality Control Teams

- Frequent visits to households by quality control teams can lead to respondent fatigue and reluctance to cooperate.

b. Inconsistent Information During Follow-Up Calls

- When contacting households to verify data quality, responses may differ due to variations among the respondents providing the information.
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Challenges Facing Sample-Based Field Surveys

Master Sample Framework

a. Increased Burden on Sampling Units

- Sampling units face additional workload due to their use in updating processes and in designing survey samples that are conducted.

b. Potential for Greater Bias

- Samples drawn from the master sample may exhibit higher bias if the non-response rate is moderate or high.

c. Continuous Need for Updating

- Ongoing updates are necessary to maintain the master sample's efficiency and accuracy.

d. Limited Coverage of Changed Areas

- The master sample may not include areas or sampling units that have undergone sudden changes since its creation, which can result in it no longer being representative of the target population.
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Challenges Facing Sample-Based Field Surveys

Master Sample Framework

- e. The sample may be drawn from a population with a limited number of households, making it difficult to reach them due to wide geographic dispersion.
 - f. Due to internal migration, the researcher may find that the selected household has relocated to another area.
 - g. Data may be obtained from someone other than the target individual due to their absence.
 - h. The researcher may need to visit the household multiple times to obtain the required data.
 - i. Repeated visits to the same household to complete multiple questionnaires may increase refusal rates, reflecting a shortfall in the sample.
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Bias in Probability Sampling

- Non-Response Bias:

This occurs when selected individuals or households in the survey sample are unable or unwilling to complete the survey. Non-response bias arises when the observed value deviates from the population parameter due to differences between respondents and non-respondents.

- Response Bias:

Unlike non-response bias, response bias relates to the tendency of respondents to provide inaccurate or dishonest answers for various reasons.

- Selection Bias:

Selection bias happens when some units have different probabilities of being chosen that the researcher does not account for. Additionally, the sampling frame may not cover areas or units that have undergone sudden changes since its creation, making it unrepresentative of the target population.



Bias in Probability Sampling

- Self-Selection Bias:

A type of bias that occurs when individuals voluntarily choose to participate in a group or survey, which can lead to biased responses from that self-selected group.

- Participation Bias:

Bias arising from the characteristics of those who opt to participate in a survey or questionnaire, potentially skewing results.

- Coverage Bias:

Occurs when certain members of the population are not included in the sampling frame. Coverage bias arises when the observed value deviates from the population parameter due to differences between covered and uncovered units. For example, telephone surveys often suffer from coverage bias as they exclude households without phones.



Main Challenging in LFS

- **Labor turnover** rate for interviewers.
 - **Working off-line system** (Work without the Internet)in the field.
 - **Absence of HH Member** at Time of Visit.
 - **Targeted respondent** is not available during the visit.
 - **Hard-to-reach** locations, such as border regions.
 - **Coding** Occupations and Economic Activity Classification in the field.
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Thank you
