

Baseline Data Collection: Data Collection Methods, Gender Sensitive Data Collection and Ethics

Summary of Data Collection Methods			
Data Collection Method	Description	Strengths	Limitations
Qualitative data	Captures people's experiences, opinions, attitudes and feelings.	-Potential to generate rich, detailed data -Results can pioneer new ways of understanding -Responds to local situations	-Conclusions may differ -Replication is difficult -Results are specific to the study participants
Quantitative data	Are quantifiable and are usually collected through a survey	-Is representative of the whole population - Is objective -Possible to compare with other studies	-Requires a large sample size -Can be very expensive -Data may lack depth -Requires complex statistical analysis
Operational Data	Data that is routinely collected	-Is readily available -Often inexpensive to collect	-May be incomplete -Complex procedures may be required to access the data

Principles to consider for gender sensitive data collection:

1. Women collect data from women; men collect data from men
2. Seek diversity in respondents
3. Avoid tokenism
4. Collect disaggregated data
5. Pay attention to diversity
6. Consider the environment where data is collected
7. Manage your expectations
8. Take time for data collection

You may require consent from:

1. Formal Research Ethics Board
2. National authority
3. State or district level authority
4. Village head, or similar political representative
5. Head of household, school, health department etc.
6. The individual who is the respondent
7. If the participant is a child (0-18 years) you may be required to obtain parental consent as well as assent from the child

Informed consent should include the following components:

- Background information about the project
- Information about the purpose of the study
- Information about what the participant will need to do
- Information about what are the risks of participating in the study
- Information about the benefits of participating in the study
- Information about how the participant can withdraw consent
- Information on how the data collected will be kept confidential
- Contact information for the lead organization/researchers
- A method to indicate (signature) that the participant agrees to participate

Prepared by:



Impact Consulting
Services Ltd.
www/impactcs.ca