



Research questions and “dummy tables”: Preparing a data analysis plan

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Overview

- From issues to research question
- Good research question:
 - Researchable
 - Can be answered with data
- Sub-question
- Dummy tables

From issues to research questions

- ✓ Issues/topics -- focus of study
- ✓ Research questions – specifics about the issue to be explored with data analysis

Framing a research question

- ✓ Specific
- ✓ Researchable
- ✓ Can be addressed with evidence from data analysis

Framing a research question

- *Do all children have equal access to quality primary education?*
- *How educational inputs in primary schools been used?*
- *What is the quality of primary school heads and primary teachers?*

Research question to sub-questions

- *Do all children have equal access to quality primary education?*
 - ✓ Did schools serving rural children have the same level of resources as those serving children from urban areas?
 - ✓ Did the difficulty of reading materials and activities of Grade 4 classes vary by the backgrounds of the pupils of such classes?
 - ✓ Did pupils attending public schools receive the same amount of instruction time as their counterparts private schools?

Dummy tables

- ✓ Bridging sub-questions and data analyses
- ✓ Operationalise research questions
- ✓ Planning data analyses
- ✓ Feedback to research questions