

Wealth Ranking

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Description

- This is a card sorting exercise to elicit information about the socio-economic status of households in a community and the differences among them.
- The exercise works best with fewer than 150 households.

Objectives are to

1. identify different socio-economic groups.
2. investigate the impact of a specific intervention on those different groups.
3. investigate the criteria of defining wealth amongst local people.

Questions to guide discussion and analysis

- i. Which different socio-economic groups do exist in the region
- ii. what are the underlying rationalities for local people to define someone as 'rich' or 'poor'

Uses are to

- Understand how the community defines wealth and well-being.
- Understand the socio economic situation of different households.
- Get indicators for assessing the influence of the project on wealth and well-being of the various groups in the community

Materials

- Cards, pens baskets or cardboard boxes.



Participants

- Selected sorters from different segments of the community. These should be key informants who know the area and the people very well.
- The exercise may be done in separate groups as the results from such groups show a cross sectional view of the community. Five sorters from each group should be enough.



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Procedures

- Make a list of all the households to be used in the exercise and assign a number to each household.
- Write all the names of households on cards, number them and indicate if they are Female-headed households [FHH] or Male-headed households [MHH].

- Select sorters from the various groups in the community taking the following factors into consideration:
- gender, length of the person's residency in community; the longer the better, and role/status of person in the community; key players in the village are preferred.
- The resource poor must be represented
formants.



- Explain to the sorters that the purpose of the exercise is to define the different classes of wealth in the village.
- Agree on the criteria for categorising the different socio-economic status in the community.
- Create three baskets to represent each of the categories. For instance, a wealthy household can be one that has enough to eat, send their children to school and can be relied upon to help other household from time to time.



- Tell informants that the information has to be treated confidentially, as some people in the village might be sensitive to being called rich, poor or average.
- In private, ask each sorter to place the card for each family in one of the three baskets, piles according to whether the household name on the card is in the rich-medium-poor category. (Read out the name on the card if the sorter is illiterate).

- Shuffle the cards between sorters so that each starts with a random pile of cards. Discuss with the informant the characteristics associated with each pile the informant has made and the reasons for assigning a household to a particular basket.
- Count and record the each sorter's distribution of the cards.
- Read out all the names in each pile to allow the informant to make changes if she so wishes.



- After all informants have sorted their cards, work out the average position of each household. Average position or score is calculated by the number of cards placed in each basket divided by the total number of sorters. Express the results as percentages.
- Discuss with the people how one can travel from one pile to the other (how people become poorer or less poor).

	Rich	Average	Poor
cattle	30	15	3
Farm Production	50 bags maize	20 bags maize	5 bags maize
Children's education	Up to University	Up to Form 4	Up to Grade 7
Homestead	8 rooms with iron sheets	3 rooms with asbestos	2 rooms grass thatched
Area of land	8 acres	2 acres	1 acre
Farm implement	scotch cart, plough, harrows, cultivator, hoes	plough, harrow, hoes	hoes

Conclusion

- After the session, the team should crosscheck the information to ascertain whether the criteria fits for all the ranked cards.
- The session should end with an explanation of how to bring the differing number of categories of each group identified into some kind of comparable basis.

Questions?

Many thanks for your audience



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