

OPHI

Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative
Department of International Development
Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford

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INTRODUCTION

Focus

Focus

Constraint

Common
Issues

- Nationally representative surveys that give rise to internationally comparable data
- Dimensions of Human Development that are important and missing:
 - **Physical Safety**
 - **Empowerment**
 - **Ability to go about without Shame**
 - **Employment**
 - **Psychological & Subjective Well-being**
- Interconnections between variables
- Complements MDGs and income/cons data

Constraints

Focus

Constraint

Common
Issues

- Survey modules to be short (10-15 min).
- Questions must be proven to be effective
- Our work builds on others' work & ideas
- Resulting data to be comparable, able to track change, accurate, reliable, and valid; weaknesses to be explained.
- Data to test key claims and research questions.

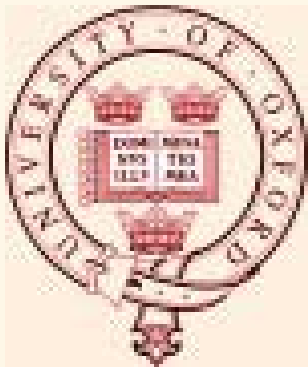
Common Issues

Focus

Constraint

**Common
Issues**

- Shortlists intend to catalyse debate & action; they are not final
- ‘Value judgements’ in selecting indicators
- Adaptive Preferences
- Supporting other actors



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***Missing data: PHYSICAL
SAFETY AND SECURITY***

Motivation

Indicators

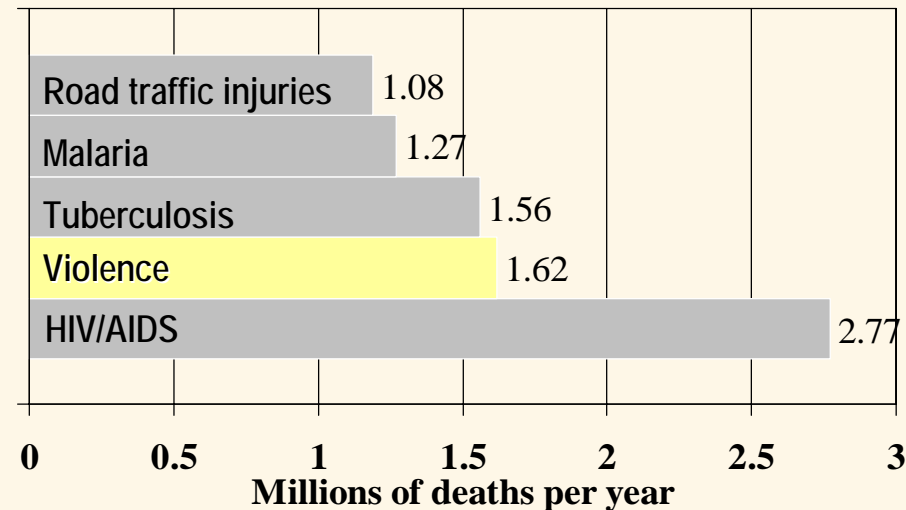
Value-added

Motivation

Why violence?

- Violence is not a given.
- Many multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and poor peoples live together peacefully.
- Violence undermines development gains, sustains poverty traps
- Violence impedes human freedom to live safely and securely
- Which poor groups are most vulnerable to violence

Global Estimated Deaths due to Selected Health Problems



What violence? between people (including person and property) not against self

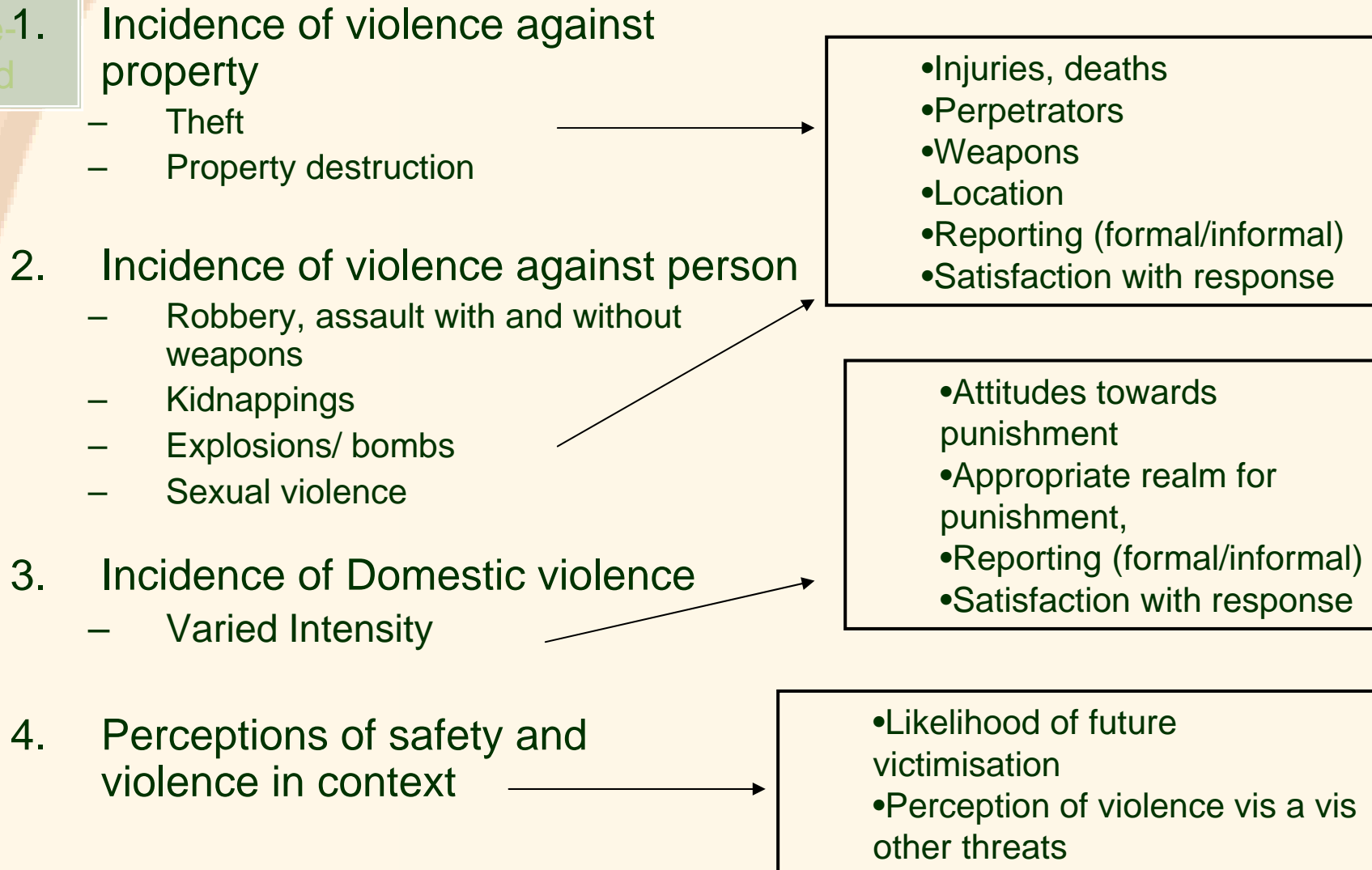
WHO definition: The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation.

Motivation

Indicators

Value-1.
added

Indicators



What can we do with this data?

Motivation

Indicators

Value-added

Vulnerable groups by:

- gender, age, ethnicity, religion, level of education, rural-urban status, migration status, etc (informs programs design/targeting)

Relationships between:

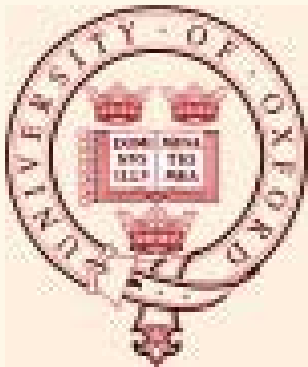
- Shame and humiliation and types of violence
- Violence and income/consumption
- Violence and health impacts
- Violence and eudemonia

Perpetrator profiles

Correlations between:

- attempted rape and rape
- attempted theft and theft/robbery
- geographic location and risk of violence, by type
- injury and likelihood of death by type of violence
- violence outside the home and inside the home
- Use of weapons and likelihood of injury
- Perceived threat vis a vis history of incidents

Disaggregate and re-aggregate data on violent crime and conflict



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Missing data: EMPOWERMENT

Motivation

Motivation

Indicators

Value-added

- **Agency:** the ability to act on behalf on what you value and have reason to value.
- **Empowerment:** an increase in agency. May consider institutions that make your actions effective.
- Both are important intrinsically and instrumentally.
- Current Data on Agency & Empowerment are weak:
 - (1) Few unique questions:** control of income; hh decisions
 - (2) Do not capture sense of coercion or value.**
- We propose:
 - Indicators of agency
 - Indicators of autonomy – capturing (2) above.
 - Limited institutional questions

Indicators

Motivation

Indicators

Value-added

- 1. Household Decision-Making** with respect to: expenditures, health, marriage, politics, religion, education. If you do not decide, could you?
- 2. Domain-specific Autonomy** (Ryan and Deci)
- 3. Political Empowerment**
- 4. Access to Credit**

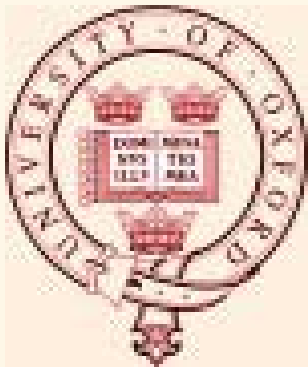
What can we do with this data?

Motivation

Indicators

Value-
added

- Measure agency and empowerment as missing dimensions of poverty
- Virtuous Circle: Empowerment and Human Development
- Empowerment and Development Outcomes:
 - Governance
 - Pro-poor Growth
 - Project Effectiveness



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***Missing data: SHAME AND
HUMILIATION***

Motivation

Motivation

Indicators

Value-added

- Absolute poverty has both material and social dimensions; shame and humiliation are particularly strong relational impoverishment dimensions.
- Absolute deprivation, while including hunger, also includes “being ashamed to appear in public”.
- The stigma of poverty is a recurring theme among the poor; people often try to conceal their poverty to avoid humiliation and shame.
- Can affect many aspects of social life.
- They are related to poverty and a myriad of psychosocial maladies.

Definition

Motivation

Definition

Value-added

- Shame: a “. . .global, painful, and devastating experience in which the self, not just behavior, is painfully scrutinized and negatively evaluated. . . is often accompanied by a sense of shrinking and being small, and by a sense of worthlessness and powerlessness. . . [it] is likely to be accompanied by a desire to hide or escape from the interpersonal situation in question. . . ” (Tagney).
- Humiliation refers to two different forms of experiences: an act (to humiliate someone or feeling humiliated) or a feeling.
 - An act (an external event): “humiliation means the enforced lowering of a person or group, a process of subjugation that damages or strips away their pride, honor or dignity.” (Lindner)
 - The feeling (an internal event): “the deep dysphoric feeling associated with being, or perceiving oneself as being, unjustly degraded, ridiculed, or put down--in particular, one’s identity has been demeaned or devalued” (Hartling and Luchetta)

Domains and value-added of data

Motivation

Indicators

Value-added

Shame

1. Stigma of poverty
2. Shame proneness

Humiliation

External experience of humiliation

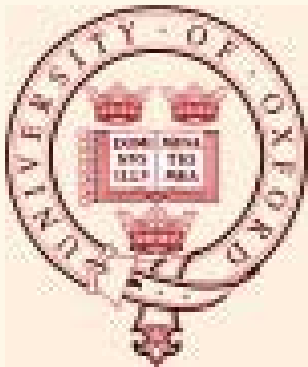
3. Respectful treatment
4. Unfair treatment
5. Discrimination

Internal experience of humiliation

6. Accumulated humiliation.

Shame

- Identify vulnerable groups
- Increase our understanding regarding:
 - If shame is an aspect of absolute poverty
 - If lower economic levels and shame-proneness are related.
 - If shame increases if poverty worsens, or vice versa, over time.
 - If the stigma of poverty is related to shame-proneness
 - If ashamed people are less likely to take actions to change their lives



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***Missing data: EMPLOYMENT
(QUALITY OF WORK)***

Motivation

Motivation

Indicators

Value-added

- Employment as a prominent economic indicator but ignored in multidimensional approaches to poverty, as an outcome of well-being
- Data. Two weaknesses of int. comparable data:
 - (1) **Indicators based on model of employment in developed countries:** quantity of jobs vs. quality; wage-employment vs. self-employed; formal vs. informal
 - (2) **Separation of work and family spheres:** LFS vs. LSMS

We therefore propose:

- A. Indicators for quality and quantity of employment
- B. Incorporate them into multi-purpose surveys

Indicators

Motivation

Protection 1. Informal Employment

Indicators

Value-added

Income 2. Income from employment
(incl. the self-employed)

Safety 3. Occupational hazard (accidents,
illness, and workplace exposures)

Time 4. Under- and over-employment
5. Multiple activities

Quantity 6. Discouraged unemployment

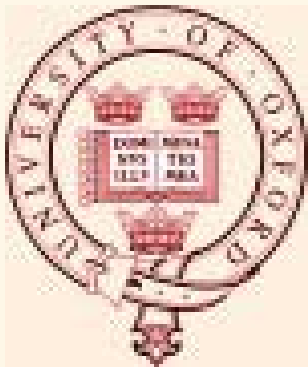
What can we do with this data?

Motivation

Indicators

Value-added

- Extent of gender disparities
- Household strategies to deal with risk (diversification in work; educational choices)
- Relation to other outcomes such as consumption, life-satisfaction, empowerment
- Effects of globalisation, market liberalisation



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***Missing data: PSYCHOLOGICAL
AND SUBJECTIVE WELLBEING***

Motivation

Motivation

Recent interest in Happiness:

- Increasingly cited as policy objective.
- Emotionally appealing, uni-dimensional, easy to capture.

Indicators

Value-added

Why subj. and psych. wellbeing matters

- Intrinsic and instrumental importance.
- Adds richer perspective to understanding human experience.

BUT... we argue for a deeper and more nuanced perspectives than proponents of Happiness...

Namely a focus on meaning and related indicators

Indicators

Motivation

Indicators

Value-
added

Psychological

1. Meaning
2. Autonomy
3. Competence
4. Relatedness

Subjective

5. Life satisfaction
(overall)
6. Life satisfaction
(domains)
7. Happiness

What can we do with this data?

Motivation

Indicators

Value-
added

- Identify vulnerable groups
- Explore inter-group relationships (psych and subj indicators)
- Explore relationships between ‘objective’ indicators – particularly those pertaining to poverty – and psych/subj indicators.
- Obtain richer understanding of (non-material) values and perceptions of ‘objective’ conditions.
- Contribute to – but not dominate – policymaking.