The nuts and bolts of citizen-led, household-based assessments

Demonstrating scale at the global level: citizen involvement in assessing children

18th UNESCO-APEID International Conference
28th October 2016, Bangkok Thailand

Hannah-May Wilson, Program Manager
PAL Network Secretariat, Kenya
1. How the PAL Network was formed: A brief history
2. Our Philosophy: Why using citizens is so important
3. What role can citizen-generated data play in SDG Monitoring?
2016 13 Countries 3 Continents
2005

‘Invisible’ Problem!

Pratham
Every Child in School & Learning Well

Assumption?
Seema is a little girl. Her mother gave her a book. It had lots of stories and nice pictures. Seema reads it every morning on her way to school. She learned many words. Her teacher was very happy. The teacher gave Seema another book. It had more stories. She showed it to all her friends.

I go to school by bus. The bus has four wheels. It has many windows. It is blue in colour.

Hand star
day few
cat book
sing bold
“You cannot begin to be part of a solution until you understand the problem”
“Citizen-led surveys help demystify learning for mothers, fathers and family members—especially those who are not literate or do not have much schooling—and make it possible to see what learning looks like.”
FIRST OF ALL – What is citizen-generated data?

Citizen-generated data (CGD) is data that people or their organisations produce to directly monitor, demand or drive change on issues that affect them.

SECONDLY – How can this data help monitor progress towards achieving the SDGs?
In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, everybody needs to take part. If only the elite actors (government, global civil society, UN agencies, and others) are aware of what we are trying to achieve, we’ll never achieve it. Ordinary citizens must be included.

Citizen-generated data can empower citizens themselves to see the problem first hand, giving them a way to engage with political processes that may otherwise seem far away from them.

Citizen-led assessment data is the property of those citizens who collect it. PAL Network members are committed to the principle of open data so that citizens everywhere can use up-to-date information to inform and take action.
MORE AND BETTER DATA IS REQUIRED

• Citizen-led assessments are the largest scale national household surveys next to the national census. This means that huge amounts of data are collected that include vital information about those children most at risk of being left behind. The SDGs focus on equity means that this data can be used to monitor SDG indicators in equity and inequality.

• Citizen-led assessment data can open up opportunities for increased collaboration between government and civil society on collecting and sharing data.

• Citizen-led assessment data can complement, validate and enhance official and institutional data.

• Citizen-led assessment data can provide vital information that may be missing in government data coverage.
Muhammad Rashid Latif*, 19
2015 Volunteer, Layyah District
ASER Pakistan

“The findings collected and compiled by the ASER survey will give us information about the situation of education from every district in the country.

Once we know where each district stands, I would like to help ITA/ASER Pakistan in their advocacy efforts to convince the government to take some action.

The information we bring back will also help to determine whether my district qualifies for setting up Chalo Parho Barho (CPB) learning camps where out-of-school children can attend and learn to read”
Khalida Bajwa*, 32
2015 Volunteer, Layyah District
ASER Pakistan

“I feel that conducting the ASER survey is a noble cause; no one else is trying to identify the problems in our education system.

I hope that our efforts will pay off and that the government will use the data we bring back to take some action”