ENSURING DATA QUALITY AND GENERATING RELIABLE ESTIMATES

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ASER, India

1. ASER = Annual Status of Education Report
2. 577 districts
3. 16,497 villages
4. 341,070 households
5. 569,229 children
6. More than 500 organizations
7. 25,000 volunteers
They are responsible for carrying out the survey in a district (1000).

A team of 2 carry out the survey in an assigned village. (25,000+)

Coordinate the survey in their respective states (70)
Trainings

TYPES OF TRAININGS

National Training (6 days)
- ASER state teams from across the country are trained on ASER processes for the year.

State Training (5-6 days)
- ASER state teams go back to their states and then train Master Trainers.

District Training (2-3 days)
- Master Trainers go to their districts and train surveyors on how to conduct the ASER survey.

1. Ensuring trainees are prepared for the survey
2. Ensuring standardization and completeness of information in the cascade model.
Trainings

I. Participant’s Understanding

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Quizzes
- To check participants theoretical understanding of ASER processes.

Mock Training
- All participants train on a part of the ASER process to build their training skills.

Field Visits
- Participants are observed in the field to evaluate their skills.

2. Standardization
1. Comprehensive training schedules
2. Manuals and formats: Translated into regional languages
3. Central team presence
Surveyor training

Survey weekend 1
(15 villages)

Survey weekend 2
(15 villages)

Monitoring and Recheck
During the survey

**Monitoring:** Quality checks carried out when the survey is in the field.

- **Phone monitoring**
  - MTs divide villages to call during the survey

- **Field monitoring**
  - Rectify mistakes on the spot
  - To assist weak surveyors
  - Village selection: surveyor performance
  - 8 villages in 2 weekends

- **Of surveyors by Master Trainers**

- **Of Master Trainers by the state team**

- **Call Centre**
After the survey

Handing over data
- Surveyors submit survey booklets to MTs

Desk recheck
- Detailed checking of survey booklets

Phone Recheck
- Call 8 HHs (2 from each section). Additional 4 HHs
  - Qs: Did volunteers come, if testing was done etc.

Field recheck
- Problematic villages identified by MT. Recheck of 12/30 villages.
**INTERNAL FIELD RECHECK**

- 20% of the monitored villages in 2014 were covered by the state teams.

- 21% of the rechecked villages in 2014 were covered by the state teams.

- Teams would visit “problematic” districts, where Master Trainers needed support.
- Districts that have always had a problem with partners.
- Problems with terrain/remote areas.

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**CROSS-STATE FIELD RECHECK**

**Purpose:** To maintain transparency in the recheck process and to ensure that the same standard of survey has been conducted across the country.

**District Selection Criteria**

1. Purposive selection: Analyzing data and team feedback
2. Random district selection
In 2014, approximately 64% of all villages were either monitored or rechecked.
Types of problems:
- Survey took place in the school
- Testing process was not followed correctly
- Households denied survey happened
- Large gap between surveyed and tested children

Action taken:
- Resurvey of the village (7% of villages were resurveyed in 2014).
- Village dropped from data
Data Entry

1. Data is submitted at entry centres.
2. Data centres track for survey completion to calculate entry capacity.
3. Data entry software has validations and checking of mandatory information (Eg: children’s information, school information etc.
4. Manual checks: 4 households out of 20 are entirely cross-checked. If issues are found, entry is re-done.
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