



MALAWI

NEXT STEPS: Qualitative Investigations

Qualitative Investigations in BRACC

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Crossroads Hotels | 12 February 2020

Introduction

- Qualitative studies aim to provide explanation and understanding of complex psychosocial issues
- These studies are the most useful in answering humanistic ‘why’ and ‘how’ questions
- Qualitative research gives meaning to statistical figures (quantitative research); the two complement each other

Objectives of a qualitative study

- Explore how people think over their problem/issue e.g. poverty
- To understand the reasons they think the way they think
 - Helps to connect issues on the ground
 - Suggest relevant and winning interventions
 - Unearths changes that can't be captured with figures

Research approaches in BRACC programme

- Combine Qualitative and quantitative in a sequenced and iterative manner
 - Expect to do two to three qualitative studies
- **Baseline**
 - Understanding of the program
 - Level of readiness for the program among the community
 - Expectations among the participants
- **Midline**
 - Contextual changes that might affect outcomes
 - How well the program is being implemented
- **Endline**
 - Outcomes that mean to program participants
 - Unintended effects
 - Why (or why not) did a program have an effect(s)

Processes in Qualitative Investigation

- Develop guides/instruments for investigation
(often based on gaps observed/unexpected findings in quantitative data)
- Sampling households from each category of beneficiaries
- Train enumerators
- Pretest
- Correct the errors in the instruments
- Field work
- Transcription
- Analysis (nVivo?) & write-up

Aims

- Understand well-being/poverty from a community perspective
- Resilience and drivers of vulnerability
- Differentiated understanding of vulnerabilities
- Capture improvements at household level
- Propose the right interventions from a community perspective
- Feedback in coordination efforts

Proposed methodologies in BRACC Qual. Investigations

- The qualitative studies will use the following methods:
 - Sex/gender disaggregated FGD
 - KII
 - Krishna's stages of progress
 - Life histories
 - In depth qualitative interviews with adult men and women may be employed in later stages of BRACC (aspirations, risk aversion and self efficacy)

Methodologies cont.

1. Stages of progress

- Tested in 5 countries (Uganda, Peru, India, Kenya and USA)
- Identifies stages through which rural household pass on their way to prosperity
- Stages of progress are defined as poor, non poor and prosperous (community defined) Krishna (2005)

Methodologies cont.

2. Life Histories

- Life histories are used in research on poverty in low and middle-income developing countries
- People are asked to document their life over a period of time. It is a personal account of their life, in their own words and using their own personal time lines

Outcomes

- Provide feedback to stakeholders for improved coordination and BRACC programme
 - Modification where possible
- Provide better explanation to the significant changes in the project sites
- Document best practices that can inform other similar initiatives (e.g., Titukulane)