

## **Qualitative research skills workshop: a brief report**

**17<sup>th</sup> Nov. – 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2006**

**New Delhi (India)**

A twelve days research skills workshop was undertaken in Delhi (India) with our Southern partners, CORD. The participants in this workshop consisted of staff working at CORD (many of whom will be undertaking data collection in the field) and colleagues from Cambridge and Edinburgh.

The main focus of this workshop was to engage in in-depth discussions about qualitative research. It provided opportunities to critically discuss the various strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches to data collection that will be used to gather data in the RECOUP sub-projects. It explored ways of increasing trustworthiness and rigour in qualitative research. The workshop also enabled an exploration of contextual realities and how these might shape the strategies employed for data collection.

The workshop consisted of a range of sessions which focused on different areas, namely, interviews, group discussions, ethnographic fieldwork, ethical issues and data analysis. Each of these was critically discussed and a set of activities were undertaken by the participants, over a ten day period. In addition, two days were devoted to discussions on the four sub-projects, namely, Disability and poverty; Youth, gender and citizenship; Health and fertility and Skills research. Each of these sub-projects has a substantial focus on collecting qualitative data. (An outline of the workshop sessions as undertaken in India is given below).

A range of interactive sessions provided opportunities for active engagement which drew on participants existing knowledge and experiences; it also provided them opportunities to practice various research skills, while fostering an environment for critical reflection and evaluation. The sessions on the four sub-projects were particularly useful in enabling the development of a shared

understanding of each of the sub-projects amongst researchers from different institutions.

In their evaluation of this workshop our Indian participants were very positive about the experience. Amongst a range of other things, they noted that the sessions were “informative, interactive and lively”. The Northern participants also highlighted the many benefits of these discussions as these helped in developing a more in-depth understanding of the contextual issues and concerns. A range of suggestions have been put forth regarding the workshop, such as the need to include discussions on conducting life histories, more time needed to discuss practical details (for example, how many interviews can be conducted in one day etc). These suggestions have been invaluable and are being considered in restructuring and enriching the workshop programme.

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14/Dec/2006

**RECOUP qualitative research skills workshop, ISI, New Delhi  
17<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2006**

<i>Day</i>		<i>Focus of the Session</i>
17 <sup>th</sup> Nov. (Friday) <b>Day 1</b>	Morning	<b>Ice breakers. Providing an overview of the workshop</b>
	Afternoon	Introduction to <b>Qualitative research?</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> Nov (Saturday) <b>Day 2</b>	Morning	<b>Sharing data and experiences from the field</b>
	Afternoon	<b>RESEARCH DESIGN MEETING</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> Nov. (Monday) <b>Day 3</b>	Morning & Afternoon	<b>Interviewing</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> Nov. (Tuesday) <b>Day 4</b>	Morning	<b>Interviewing (contd.)</b>
	Afternoon	<b>Group Discussions</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday <b>Day 5</b>	Morning & Afternoon	<b>Group Discussions (contd.)</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov. (Thursday) <b>Day 6</b>	Morning	SKILLS research
	Afternoon	DISABILITY AND POVERTY research
24 <sup>th</sup> Nov. (Friday) <b>Day 7</b>	Morning	GENDER, YOUTH AND CITIZENSHIP research
	Afternoon	HEALTH AND FERTILITY research
25 <sup>th</sup> Nov. (Saturday) <b>Day 8</b>	Morning & Afternoon	<b>Ethnographic fieldwork</b>  Introduction to field work: listening, talking, participating, observing and recording field-notes outside of interviews and group discussion situations
27 <sup>th</sup> Nov. (Monday) <b>Day 9</b>	Morning & Afternoon	<b>Ethnographic fieldwork</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov. (Tuesday) <b>Day 10</b>	Morning	<b>Ethical issues in research</b>
	Afternoon	Introduction to <b>Data Analysis</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov. (Wednesday) <b>Day 11</b>	Morning & Afternoon	<b>Data analysis</b> Exercise for undertaking preliminary analysis of data
30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. (Thursday) <b>Day 12</b>	Morning & Afternoon	<b>Concluding and evaluating the skills workshop</b>

