



Philippines' NSO Experience in Cognitive Testing of Functional Difficulty

Washington Group Meeting 9
October 7-9, 2009
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Cognitive test process – what an experience!

- identify possible sources of difficulty or measurement error at each stage
- Explore and understand the diverse ways in which people answer survey questions
- Explain, interpret and document the answers, event and even the influence of the environment(in Qnotes)
- Require patience in asking for answers or probing for why answers were given in a certain way

Cognitive test process – what an experience!

- Long and tedious
- Requires persuasion and good note taking skills
- Emotionally depleting especially if the respondent is belongs to the low SES group
- Requires some knowledge of medical conditions especially to validate self-report ailments or determine health disparities (for functional difficulty)

Cognitive test vs. survey questionnaire set for measuring disability

- shorter question set for measuring disability
- Double-barrel questions reduced (although example to use a cell phone or to get to a new place still part mentioned)
- Better sequence of questions

Benefits to the Philippine NSO

- Exposure to a more rigid cognitive interview process vis-à-vis earlier WG and ESCAP projects
- Trailblazer in Asia and the Pacific on functional difficulty surveys
- Better understanding of the sector of persons with disabilities
- More confidence to explain the recommendations for 2010 census on difficulty framework and its limited questions

Possible Technical Assistance ?

- Refinement of the survey questionnaire on functional difficulty with leeway for cultural idiosyncrasies
- Development of questions not only for core domains but for optional domains depending on the country's development

Possible Technical Assistance ?

- Inter-phase with the government agencies and non-government agencies requiring statistics on persons with disability
- Introduction to cognitive testing, including analysis of its results for the NSOs



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