



INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH

PRESS RELEASE

ICMR releases the “National Guidelines for Data Quality in Surveys” to improve data quality of demographic, health and nutrition surveys in India

28th July 2021, New Delhi

July 28th, 2021, New Delhi: Prof (Dr.) Vinod Kumar Paul, Member NITI Aayog, released the ‘National Guidelines for Data Quality in Surveys’ in ICMR in the gracious presence of Secretary, Department of Health Research & Director General of ICMR, Prof (Dr.) Balram Bhargava. The ‘National Guidelines for Data Quality in Surveys’ aims to provide comprehensive guiding principles and best practices for mitigating errors and biases that may occur during survey design, data collection and analysis, thereby ensuring data quality in surveys, specifically for demographic, health and nutrition surveys.

The ‘National Guidelines for Data Quality in Surveys’ is an initiative of the National Data Quality Forum ([NDQF](#)), a multi-stakeholder, collaborative platform housed at the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Medical Statistics (ICMR-NIMS). The NDQF aims to guide advanced data quality monitoring, process audits and analytics, and capacity building of data collection agencies /producers to improve the quality of demographic, nutrition and health surveys.

These guidelines will be useful for a wide range of audiences working on health and nutrition viz., government and private data producers and users, national and regional level policymakers, and technical staff at the ministries and organisations, besides academic, research institutions and survey agencies for planning, designing and execution of sample surveys. The guideline provides steps to be followed during the three critical phases of field-based studies (preparatory, during, and post data collection). The guideline also offers tips for applying different machine learning techniques in assessing the quality of surveys, tips on using technology, and essential checklists in following the operational procedures for ensuring data quality.

Prof. (Dr.) V K Paul, Member, NITI Aayog said, “**National Guidelines for Data Quality in Surveys** is a much-needed resource for all those undertaking demographic, health and nutrition surveys and will go a long way to improve quality of data collected in the country and elsewhere”

Prof. (Dr.) Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research & Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research said, “We are delighted to release this valuable document entitled **National Guidelines for Data Quality in Surveys** and confident that these guidelines will help adopt best practices for generating good quality nutrition and health survey data.”

Dr. M Vishnu Vardhana Rao, Director, ICMR-NIMS, said, “Many Governmental as well as non-Governmental organisations conduct a number of important surveys to collect data on health and nutrition status of citizens of India. These guidelines entitled **National Guidelines for Data Quality in Surveys** will be a useful resource for those who are involved in planning and execution of surveys and will help improve data quality and evidence-based decision-making.”

Dr. Pronab Sen - Director, IGC India, New Delhi and Ex-Secretary, MoSPI and Chief Statistician of India, “I congratulate the National Data Quality Forum for publishing the **National Guidelines for Data Quality in Surveys**. It is the need of the hour as most decisions are now evidence-based and getting good quality data from the surveys is more important now than ever.”

Dr Niranjana Saggurti, Director, Population Council, New Delhi, “**National Guidelines for Data Quality in Surveys** release today makes it a unique contribution in strengthening health data ecosystem in India. I am sure that the document will be adopted by many data producing organisations/institutions to initiate the institutionalization process for ensuring data quality in surveys.”

About ICMR-NIMS: ICMR-National Institute of Medical Statistics is the premier medical statistics institute under the aegis of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi. The mandate of the institute is to complement the medical, health, epidemiology and surveillance, biomedical and behavioural research with development, application, and dissemination techniques in the statistical arena throughout India. This is achieved through statistical modelling, big data analysis and programme evaluation, technical and statistical consultation, education, and training as well as research and advocacy. ICMR-NIMS is designated by the National AIDS Control Organisation as the national institute since 2003 for estimation of HIV burden in India. It also hosts the Clinical Trials Registry-India (CTRI) intending to encourage all clinical trials conducted in India to be prospectively registered. For more information, visit <http://icmr-nims.nic.in>

About ICMR: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world. ICMR’s research agenda align with the National health priorities. During COVID-19 pandemic, ICMR has been instrumental in guiding public and private laboratories for testing, ensuring India’s response to pandemic is scientifically informed, and finding potential solutions for prevention and treatment of the disease. For more information, visit <http://icmr.gov.in>

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