

Problem statement and the scientific quality of a survey

Exercise

ASSESSMENT GUIDE

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

Do you wish to assess the scientific quality of a survey or study? Follow the guide...

PROCEDURE STEP-BY-STEP:

Using an example of a survey/study drawn from your own survey experience or a student's work (Master II thesis), answer the following questions (it is possible that you will not have a response for some of the questions):

- 1) What were the **objectives** of the study? The beneficiaries? What role did the survey play in the development (or research) process?
- 2) What were the **issues at stake**? To answer this question, you must first identify the stakeholders involved in the conduct of this study: financial sponsors, commissioners, beneficiaries, those who carried out the study (including yourself). For each stakeholder, there were explicit and implicit issues at stake.
- 3) If the study/survey was part of a larger **survey cycle** or scientific study, what was its role within this ensemble: exploratory pre-study, validation of hypotheses, provision of complementary statistical knowledge regarding a subject already examined qualitatively, exploration of a specific subject in greater depth,... ?
- 4) What was the **subject** of the survey? (note: the subject is not the title of the report). Underline the terms that you view to be pre-notions, plurivocal terms, and ambiguous, obscure language. What more conceptual sets of terms (univocal, allowing the scientific analysis of the topic) can you propose to replace them?
- 5) Was there a clear **problem statement**? Do you still find it coherent and complete today? What dimensions would you add? What theoretical frameworks was it based on? Give a few examples of the categories of analysis used to process the data. Specify to which topic they applied. Are they exhaustive, exclusive, and relevant? What categories of analysis would you propose today? (specify for which topic)
- 6) What were the **geographic, social, and historical scopes** of the study? Were they defined correctly? If not, how would you define them today?