

SAMPLES IN GENDER STUDIES

Iryna Lupan

Volodymyr Vynnychenko Central Ukrainian
State Pedagogical University (CUSPU), Ukraine



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SAMPLING is a method of survey in social sciences

Gender studies study gender and sexuality in the fields of literature and language, history and political science, sociology, psychology and anthropology, cinema and media studies, human development, law, medicine, and others.

Each of them has its own specific research methods, but many social sciences use sample surveys.



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Sample survey is a survey that describes the following features:

- the survey refers to a finite set of elements called the target population;
- from the population a sample of elements is selected, that is, some subset of the population;
- in most surveys, the population elements form a selective basis or scheme, that is, there is a rule of matching between the elements of the population and the sample units;
- the value of the studied variable is measured for each sample item;
- on the results of measurements calculate estimates of the parameters of the target population.



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Methods of sampling design can be probabilistic and non-probabilistic

For probabilistic samples, one can estimate and describe the probability of selecting a particular element from the general population and estimate the confidence intervals for the obtained estimates of population parameters. However, the selection of elements should be based on a frame, for example, on the phone book, mailing list, etc. Unfortunately, such a frame does not always exist.



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Methods of sampling design can be probabilistic and non-probabilistic

Nonprobable methods are used in cases where a probabilistic selection is impossible (due to lack of resources, lack of time, lack of sampling frame, refusal of respondents to participate in the survey or nonresponse) or the lack of necessity for its conduct.

Nonprobabilistic methods are based on individual judgments of the researcher on the inclusion of elements in the sample, so it does not allow to objectively access the accuracy of the study results.



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Example of convenience sampling

In Gender impact survey ([GIS],2007) investigators hoped to conduct a full survey. However, not all employees have agreed to participate in the survey or have not completed it. Moreover, it was not possible to form a simple random sample. Therefore, researchers pointed out that the findings may not be suitable for the employees of the university.

Gender impact survey (2007). Interim Report Submitted by The Center for Gender and Development Studies The University of the West Indies.

Retrieved from <https://www.mona.uwi.edu/managementreports/studiesandsurveys/stt-gender-impact-survey.pdf>



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Example of combining of haphazard and quota sampling

For the survey of transgender people (Bauer et al., 2017), the sample was formed in two stages. At the first stage, as a spontaneous one: the questionnaires were sent through social networks (in particular Facebook); and on the second - from those who agreed to participate in the survey, a posteriori a quota sample was formed, taking into account demographic indicators - age, province of residence, language status, etc. The sample size was 588 and 311 persons, respectively, in the first and in the second stages.

Bauer GR, Braimoh J, Scheim AI, Dharma C (2017) Transgender-inclusive measures of sex/gender for population surveys: Mixed-methods evaluation and recommendations. *PLoS ONE* 12(5): e0178043.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0178043>



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Example of a large haphazard sample

But spontaneous (or haphazard) sample can be very large. For example in the National Transgender Discrimination Survey (Grant et al. 2011) the final size of the sample was more than 6 500 participants. Nevertheless, it was impossible to apply methods of probabilistic selection in this case, hence the sampling was still spontaneous.

Grant, Jaime M., Lisa A. Mottet, Justin Tanis, Jack Harrison, Jody L. Herman, and Mara Keisling (2011). Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. Washington: National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Retrieved from <https://transequality.org/issues/resources/national-transgender-discrimination-survey-full-report>



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Example of snow-ball sample

Often, when it is not possible to make the sampling frame and objects of survey consists a very small part of the population, a **snow-ball** sample may be useful.

In the investigation, described by Scheim et al. (2015) at the first stage only 16 people were surveyed. Each of these individuals three coupons was given to interview three additional participants and gift cards in case of involving the same persons. Thus, in total, 433 people with an unconventional orientation were involved in the survey.

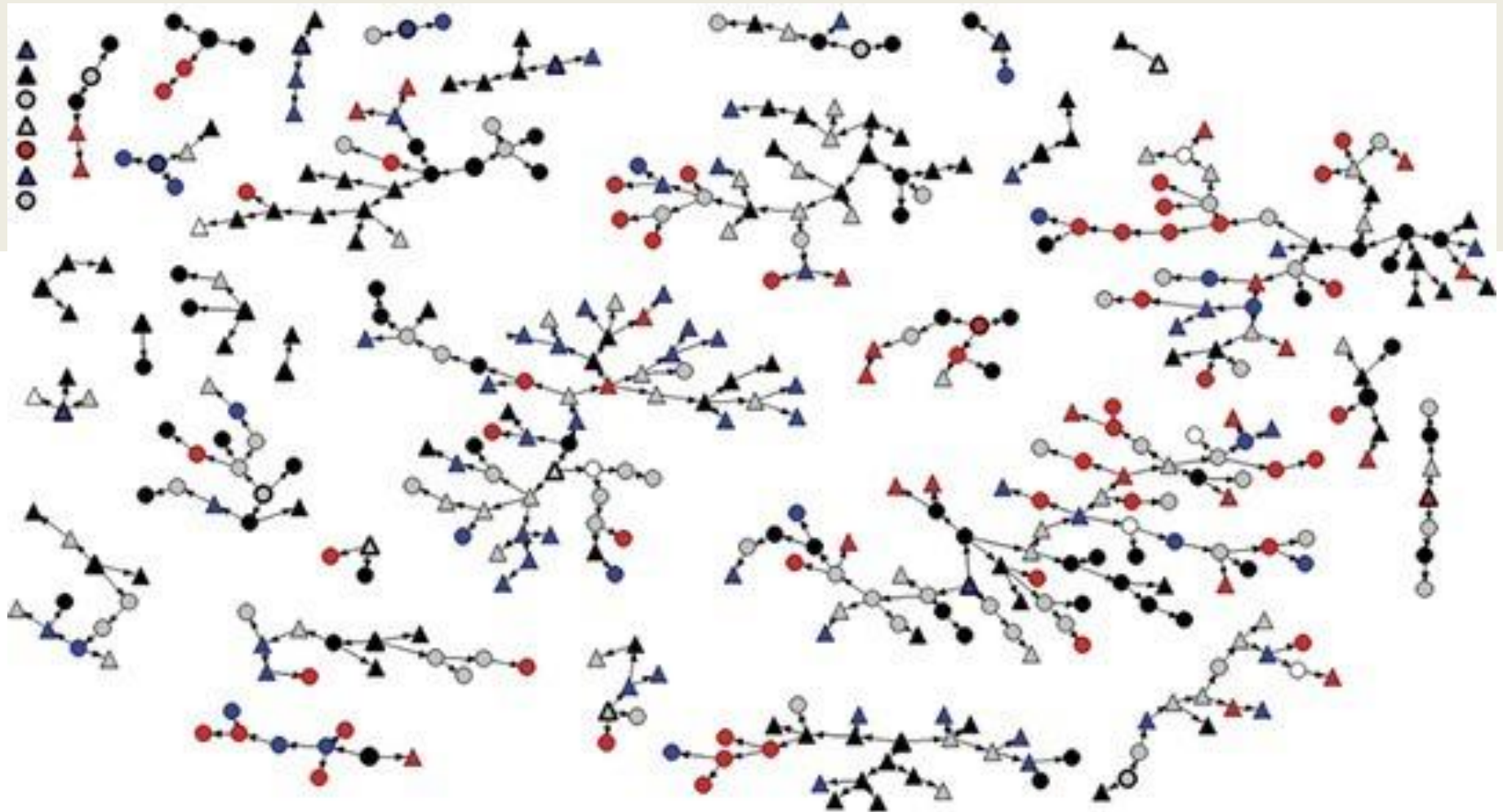
Scheim, A. I., & Bauer, G. R. (2015). Sex and Gender Diversity Among Transgender Persons in Ontario, Canada: Results From a Respondent-Driven Sampling Survey. *Journal of Sex Research*, 52(1), 1–14. <http://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2014.893553>



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Snow-ball sample



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If studies are conducted in the economic sphere or in the field of education, then the sampling frame can be a list of enterprises or educational institutions, lists of teachers and students, etc. Consequently, probabilistic samples can be used.

For example, the study (Falahati et al., 2012) examined the impact of gender on the relationship between financial attitudes, financial socialization and secondary socialization subjects facing financial problems among students in Malaysian universities.



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At the first stage, the list of all public and private universities in Malaysia was received. Then five public and five private universities were selected randomly. In each university 350 students were randomly selected from the general list.

That is 3850 questionnaires were distributed, of which 2519 questionnaires (65%) were filled completely. To study the investigated effect from the original sample randomly 461 students were selected.

Falahati, L. & Paim, L. Hj. (2012) Experiencing financial problems among university students: An empirical study on the moderating effect of gender. *Gender in Management: An International Journal*, 27 (5), 315-330. doi:10.1108/17542411211252633



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Two-stage sample

In the investigation of Matherly et al. (2017) **available** and **stratified** sample were combined. Researchers who studied attitudes toward higher education in male and female students and their parents (male and female) in the United Arab Emirates (OAU) sought to obtain a representative sample, but they were able to engage in the survey only universities that voluntarily agreed to participate in the study. In general, three state and two private universities have agreed to take part. Then, university administrators randomly selected 100 students. The survey should be done for these students and their parents. However, the final sample size was 461 sets (student, mother and father) or a total of 1383 questionnaires.

Laura L. Matherly, Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan & Nadia Amin (2017) An investigation of gender and generational differences in attitudes toward the importance of a college degree in the UAE. *Gender in Management: An International Journal*, 32 (8), 535-553.

doi:10.1108/GM-01-2017-0015



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The most probabilistic sample among these examples was used in the investigation of Suleman et al. (2018). The purpose of the study was to compare the level of satisfaction with the work of heads of secondary schools (men and women) in one of the provinces of Pakistan.

The population of the survey was made by the heads of secondary schools. In the province, all government secondary schools for boys are headed by men, and all secondary schools for girls are headed by women. At the time of the study in the province there were 2108 state secondary schools. Accordingly, the number of heads of comprehensive educational institutions was 2108 people, of which 1386 were men and 722 women.

Suleman, Q. & Hussain, I. (2018) Job Satisfaction among Secondary-School-Heads: A Gender Based-Comparative Study. *Education Sciences*, 8(1):28. doi:10.3390/educsci8010028



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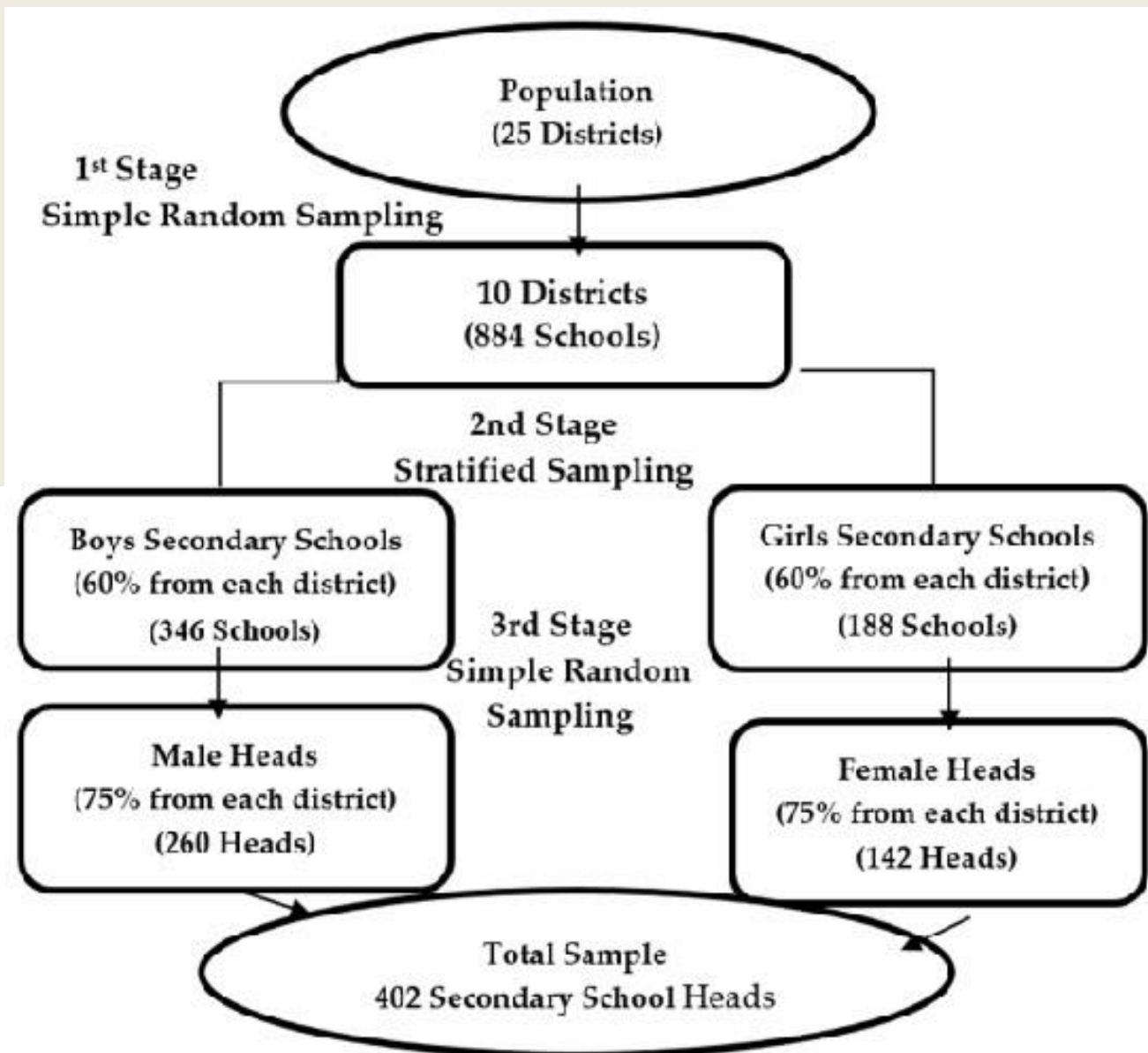
It was impossible to create a simple random sample for a number of reasons. Therefore, researchers applied a multi-stage sampling. In the first stage, 10 out of 25 districts were selected by simple random sampling. At the second stage, 60% of men's and 60% of women's secondary schools were selected from each district (cluster). In the third stage, 75% of male and 75% of female school-heads were randomly selected from school samples. The final sample consisted of 402 heads of secondary schools, of which 260 men and 142 women. Nevertheless, researchers note that the results may differ from the results obtained in other areas.



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3-stage sample



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Conclusion

Consequently, in gender studies more often non-probabilistic samples are used to detect and investigate certain phenomena, but probabilistic samples are also used, in particular, in gender studies in the field of education.



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Thank you!



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