Exercise 9: Writing up your birth registration completeness inequality findings for policy makers

Day 4: Friday, 5 August 2022, 11:00-13:00 (Bangkok Time)

1. After researching data quality and doing some edits on revised data, below is Poplandia’s final graphs and figures for birth registration completeness by sex, age group, and ethnicity, marital status, province etc. Write three bullet points summarizing what you think are the key takeaways from the analysis:

   1. Across all ages, Indigenous mothers have lower rates of birth registration compared to Marzian mothers

   2. Young unmarried Indigenous mothers are the least likely to register births.

   3. Those living in the Eastern part of the country, especially Eastern Isle, have no registry offices and are less likely to register births compared to other provinces.
Birth registration for young mothers by age groups and ethnicity, Poplandia, 2014

Birth registration completeness by Province, Poplandia, 2014
1. Now write 3 bullet points for why each of the above is important

Children who do not have their births registered may face greater challenges later in life. Birth certificates are often needed to enter school, to open a bank account, to apply for more lucrative types of employment, and to acquire identity documents such as a national ID or a passport. Without a birth certificate, already marginalized children may become further disadvantaged and may not be able to achieve their full potential.

2. Next write what the key 1-2 policy recommendations are for each of the key point above

   a. Awareness-raising and targeted campaigns for indigenous populations are needed to improve registration, especially among young indigenous mothers.

   b. Update existing legislation so that birth registration by unmarried or under-age mothers is not prohibited.

   c. Civil registry offices should be located in every town with a population of {20,000} or more. Increased mobile registration is needed to service those populations more than {10km} from a civil registry office.

3. Are there any areas where future research may be required? Any absolutely critical caveats that should be included? Write 1-2 bullet points for anything you think should be recommended.

   a. Further research needed to understand aside from geographical access, what are the cultural or other factors that may be preventing Indigenous mothers from registering their births.

   b. Work with MOE to investigate if they can start collecting usual residence data for school enrolment at the district or provincial level
4. If Poplandia only had budget and resourced to focus on one policy intervention, what do you think is the most important? What key point should they focus on and what intervention would make the most difference? Consider what would benefit the most people or what might make the most difference. There is more than one “right” answer here, but it may be helpful to select one of the themes from the last 3 questions.

a. What key point should Poplandia focus on and what intervention would make the most difference?

b. Using the 3 points from above, write 3-5 sentences summarizing:
   i. What the main issue is
   ii. Why it matters
   iii. What is the primary recommendation to address it, and/or
   iv. Any future research needed to understand more
   v. Bonus: Make a graph, chart, or infographic relaying your information

c. Educate registry staff so that young single mothers do not experience stigma when registering births.

Indigenous mothers have lower rates of birth registration compared to their Marzian counterparts. This holds true across all ages of mother, and all Provinces in Poplandia. In the Eastern Isle, where the population is nearly 90% Indigenous, birth registration rates are roughly half of those in the capital (50% compared to 99%).

Children who do not have their births registered may face greater challenges later in life. Birth certificates are often needed to enter school, to open a bank account, to apply for more lucrative types of employment, and to acquire identity documents such as a national ID or a passport. Without a birth certificate, already marginalized Indigenous children may become further disadvantaged economically, socially, and education-wise.

As much as {80%} of Indigenous communities live in remote areas, many of which are more than {20km} from civil registration centers. Greater access to civil registration centers is critically needed. Provinces with no registration offices, such as the Eastern Province and Eastern Isle, should be prioritized for increased access.

Further, {village chiefs} in Indigenous communities should be engaged to support awareness raising, and planning of instituting civil registration offices. A dedicated budget towards funding awareness campaigns and mobile outreach to improve birth registration within the Indigenous community, with special consideration for young, unmarried mothers should be considered to increase registration in the interim.