

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/enumerator-experiences-in-violent-research-environments/>

This video video discusses the rise in academic surveys and field experiments conducted in the Global South, emphasizing the important role of survey enumerators in the process. These enumerators, who often have a university education, typically work as gig workers, contributing their skills to collect data for various research projects. They take pride in their work, valuing the professional development and opportunities for learning about their countries.

The authors highlight a lack of understanding regarding the experiences and working conditions of enumerators, especially in insecure contexts marked by violence or conflict. Risks faced by enumerators can impact data quality due to reported instances of violence, threats, and specific challenges in engaging with respondents. This video video study aims to shed light on this issue and emphasize the ethical considerations of placing enumerators in potentially dangerous situations.

Significant findings include the high percentage of enumerators feeling unsafe or fearing for their physical safety while conducting interviews. The study reveals challenges encountered, including violent encounters and difficulties ensuring respondents' cooperation. The authors advocate for better engagement with enumerators in the research design process, including considerations for their safety and mental health, as well as adapting survey questions to local contexts.

Lastly, the paper offers several recommendations for researchers to improve enumerator welfare and enhance data validity, such as establishing disciplinary norms for research in insecure areas, adapting research designs to minimize enumerator risk, and collecting feedback on enumerator experiences before and after data collection. By addressing these issues, the authors hope to foster a more ethical and effective research environment.