

Open Data Watch: Documenting Gender Data Impact Stories

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"New sources of data and new methods of data analysis are changing what we know about the world. Open Data Watch tracks and supports this Data Revolution."

Open data watch is a non-profit NGO looking to change society with open data systems. Its aim is to make data transparent in all countries.

Objectives

The main objective of the internship was to investigate and collate gender data impact stories. This was about finding examples from around the world where the collection of data that had been sex-disaggregated had an impact, whether this is through policy change or cultural differences.

The point of this project, in the grand scheme, is that a collection of gender data impact stories can be used as a toolkit for advocacy and an example to show governments and leaders the need for gender data as well as open data.



Method

The overall method for this project was to start with desk research, move on to an open call for stories and then a final report and re-pository. During my time with Open Data Watch I was involved with the desk research where we collected stories from secondary sources as examples of the use of gendered data.

The desk research method that I was involved with focused on using the University of Manchester Library catalogue to find examples, re-ports and stories of where gender data had been identified, changed and impacted. We used a data value chain as an understanding of the movement of data from production to use and impact.

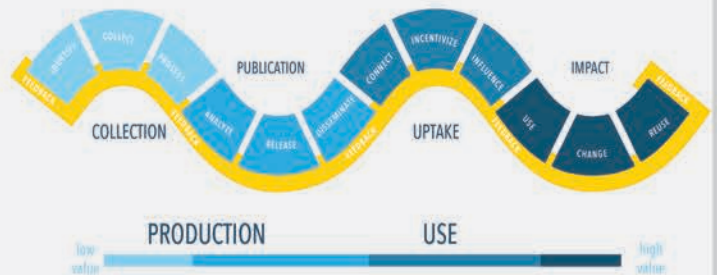
The Data Value Chain (pictured below) shows the many points at which a story may be at in terms of its relation to gender data impact. Some stories were at the very start of the collection process whereby a problem was identified and the correct data that needed to be collected was acknowledged. The chain moved all the way to the impact where some stories had already made changes to policy and processes.

Key Findings

My key findings were very broad especially as I was not working on the final stage of the project. I developed a database holding around 20 stories that recognised the use of gender data. From this I found one that represented the whole project and presented this to a company called Data2X who are working alongside Open Data Watch on this project.

The majority of my findings were related to the health industry but we decided to present Data2X with a story about technology as this was one of the biggest areas that failed to collect sex-disaggregated data and therefore failed to effectively change policy.

DATA IMPACT VALUE CHAIN



Results and Conclusions

Although there are stories out there that show how sex disaggregated data has made a change, there are only a few. The stories are evidence of why we need sex disaggregated data and how it can actually make a change.

There is also a need for a central store of sex disaggregated data stories and collections. This collection needs to be easily accessible world wide and free to use. It needs to be available in multiple languages and use lay language rather than technical jargon.

There is simply a need for more sex disaggregate data.



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