Inclusion of Minorities

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Introduction

In March 2011, the International Institute of Social Studies launched the Indices of Social Development. Originally, the database consisted of six indices, but at that time, it was decided to "*… to remove the inclusion of minorities index from the set of indices for the time being, until more robust data becomes available.*" In February 2012, we are confident that this 6th indicator: Inclusion of Minorities has overcome these data weaknesses.

Inclusion of Minorities

The sixth measure, *Inclusion of Minorities*, measures levels of discrimination against vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees, or lower caste groups. This measure focuses upon whether there is systemic bias among managers, administrators, and members of the community in the allocation of jobs, benefits, and other social and economic resources regarding particular social groups. While there is not a large theoretical literature on the topic of 'discrimination' per se, there is a large empirical literature on specific categories of discrimination, for example where this is ethnically or racially motivated. The index does not include discrimination on the basis of sex, because the Indices of Social Development already includes a measure devoted exclusively to gender discrimination: the Gender Equality Index. In terms of its welfare benefits, the relationship between identity groups in a society has important consequences for the allocative efficiency of an economy, as norms of arbitrary discrimination lead to sub-optimal resource allocation by squandering human potential.

Table 1 summarizes the original indicators of the Inclusion of Minorities index.

Table 1: Indicators in the Original Inclusion of Minorities index

Indicator	Source	Nr. Of Countries
Level of perceived discrimination among blacks and mulattos, among all those in country self-identifying into these groups	Latinobarometer	17
Proportion of the public reporting that they are affected by discrimination due to skin colour or discrimination as immigrants	Latinobarometer	18
Percentage citing "discrimination due to skin colour" and "discrimination against immigrants" affects me	Afrobarometer	18
Proportion of population reporting that their economic situation is the 'same' as other ethnic groups in country	Afrobarometer	16
Proportion of population reporting that their political situation is the 'same' as other ethnic groups in country	Afrobarometer	4
Proportion of population reporting that their ethnic group is 'never' treated unfairly in country	Afrobarometer	16
Rating on level of uneven economic development along group lines	Fund for Peace	176
Level of ethnic tensions, International Country Risk Guide rating	International Country Risk Guide rating	140
Level of religious tensions, International Country Risk Guide rating	International Country Risk Guide	140
Proportion of the public who do not very much or not at all trust members of other religious groups	World Values Surveys	22
Proportion of the public who do not very much or not at all trust members of other nationalities	World Values Surveys	21
Proportion of the public citing "Being of the same social background" is very important or rather important for as successful marriage	World Values Surveys	22
Level of economic and political discrimination against minorities in country	Minorities at Risk	118
Proportion of the public who would reject members of another ethnic or caste group as neighbours	World Values Surveys	84
Proportion of the public who would reject immigrants or foreign workers as neighbours	World Values Surveys	84
Proportion of the public who would reject members of another religious group as neighbours	World Values Surveys	50
Proportion of the public who would reject other language group as neighbours	World Values Surveys	28

To create estimates of social institutions, the social development indices have compiled over 200 measures from 25 sources, including international organizations, comparative survey projects, rating agencies, and academic assessments. In general, the data sources are divided into two categories, reflecting the different methods via which the measures were generated.

Firstly indicators are divided between actionable indicators, which are based on direct measurement of social institutions and their outcomes, and perception-based indicators, based on assessments by public opinion surveys, private agencies and non-governmental organizations, of the nature of social institutions in that country. Actionable indicators are generally preferable to perception-based indicators, in that they are more responsive to changes in underlying social conditions, and cannot be influenced by changes in perception independent of substantive social change. However, because some norms and practices are difficult to measure directly, perception measures are sometimes needed to supplement these data.

We can then subdivide within each category, depending on the means via which the data are generated. Actionable indicators are either proxy variables based upon the measurable outcome of social institutions, or information on reported social behaviour taken from nationally representative surveys. Proxy variables in our dataset are those typically used in studies of social capital, such as per capita newspaper circulation, the density of international non-governmental organizations, or the reported number of ethnic or other violent street riots. Behavioural items taken from comparative, nationally representative survey projects include responses to questions such as the signing of petitions, domestic violence, or membership of voluntary associations.

Perceptions-based measures can likewise be divided into two categories, depending upon the nature of the underlying data source. The first form of perception-based data come from the nationally representative public opinion surveys just mentioned, and include responses to those questions which ask the respondent to give their opinion on some issue, such as their level of confidence citizens feel in their civil society organizations, the level of discrimination women or minorities feel they encounter in their daily lives, or the trust people have in their fellow citizens. The second category consists in numerical ratings produced from expert assessments, in which academics, non-governmental organizations, and private rating agencies assess the nature of social institutions across countries. Such assessments have become more widespread in recent years, as researchers have sought to make social facts visible in quantitative analysis.

There were no proxy variables for the Inclusion of Minorities measure. In 2012, the data have been supplemented with two kinds of proxy variables:

1. Educational and Occupational Disparity between ethnic groups, aggregated from representative household surveys (Demographic and Household Surveys, Latinobarometer, Afrobarometer, International Social Survey Project):

   In equal societies, every member of every single group has the same right to pursue an education and has equal chances to get a job. If group information (in this case ethnicity) is available, it is possible to calculate the distance to the mean for every group. In more unequal societies, these distances will be larger. There will be more and less advantaged groups. The figure used for the Index is the average absolute (in mathematical sense) distance to the standardized mean in a given country for groups larger than three per cent of the population. By doing this, we are able to compare countries with different education systems.

   For Educational Disparity we use the distance to the standardized mean of obtained education in years (both men and women).

   For Occupational Disparity we use the distance to the standardized mean of people having an upper non-farm occupation (both men and women).

2. Labour force participation. OEDC data:

   These indicators measure the labour market participation of migrants versus native born people for 26 OECD countries.

Because the Public Perception Based variables in Table 2 drew largely on Latinobarometer and Afrobarometer, we included variables of the European Social Survey and two new Word Value Survey Items.

Table 2 summarizes the indicators for the Inclusion of Minorities index according to the categorization in actionable and perception-based types of indicators.

Table 2. Types of Social Institutional Indicators

	Actionable		Perception-based	
	Proxy variables	**Behavioural**	**Public opinion**	**Expert assessment**
Inclusion of Minorities	Educational and Occupational Disparity Labour force participation	Not want to have specific groups as neighbours.	Discrimination of specific groups in * Workplace * School * Political Parties * Police * Judiciary Perceptions of economic and political positions	Fund for Peace rating on: Uneven Economic Development along Group Lines Country Risk Guide rating on Level of ethnic tensions and religious tensions Minorities at Risk data about economic disparity

Table 3 shows the new indicators in the Inclusion of Minorities Index. Together with the old, they form the Index.

Table 3: New Indicators in the Inclusion of Minorities index

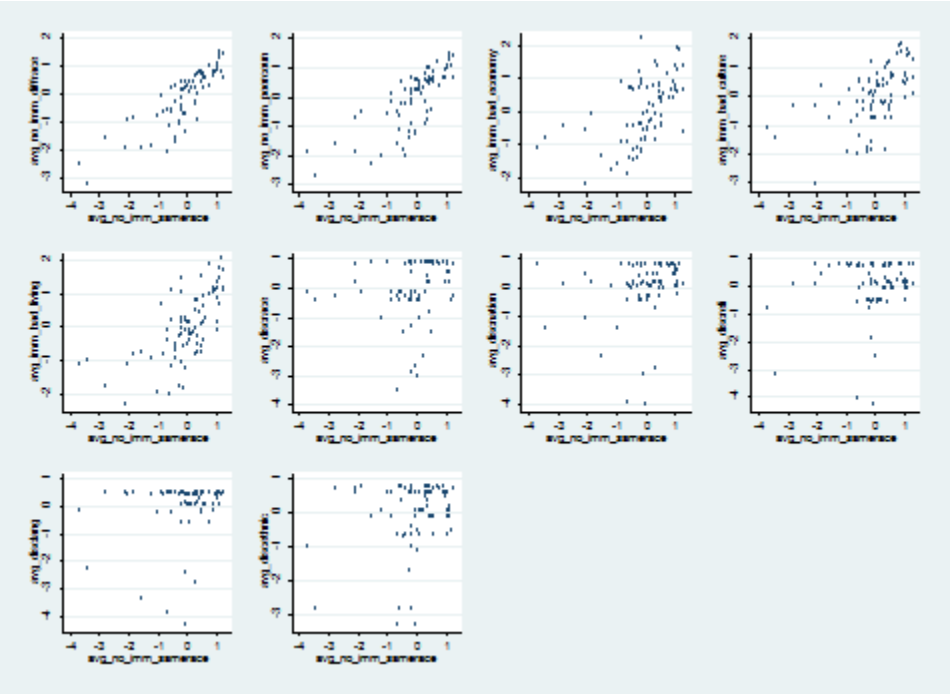
Indicator	Source	Nr. Of Countries
Proportion of the public who would reject Jews as neighbours	World Values Surveys	50
Proportion of the public who would "Prevent Labour Immigration"	World Values Surveys	50
Proportion of the public who are (strongly) against immigration (people of another race, from poorer countries)	European Social Survey	20
Proportion of the public who think "immigration is bad for economy"	European Social Survey	20
Proportion of the public who think "immigration is bad for cultural life"	European Social Survey	20
Proportion of the public who think "immigration makes country worse place to live".	European Social Survey	20
Educational Disparity Ethnic Groups	Various household surveys	75
Occupational Disparity Ethnic Groups	Various household surveys	58
OECD, Foreign/Native Labour Participation, across all educations	OECD Factbook	26

We tested, among others, also indicators from the European Social Survey Project, but these were found not to be measuring the same dimension. In the section on testing, we will elaborate more on this subject.

Testing indicators and the Inclusion of Minorities Index

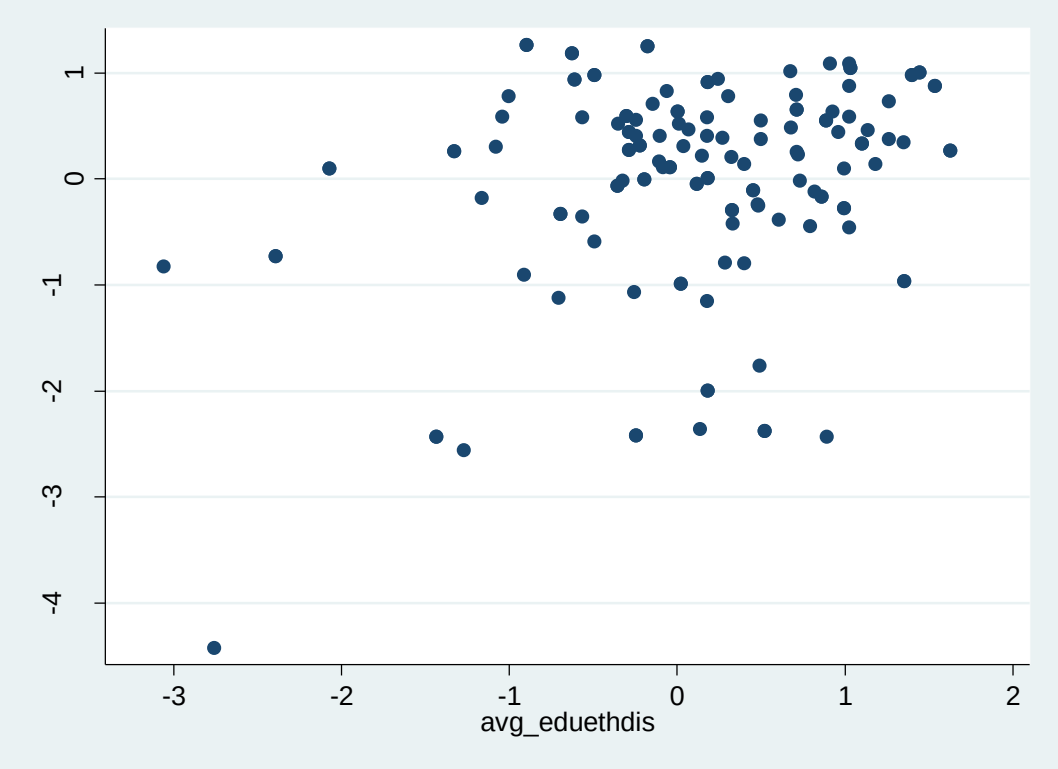
For each of the indicators we tested whether they correlate (both visually as numerically) with each other and we looked for outliers/strange observations. Below an example from the indicators on perceptions about immigrants (from the European Social Survey). This example shows that the opinions about immigration in Europe, generally speaking, correlate strongly with each other. On average, when respondents say that immigration makes the country a worse place to life or that immigration is bad for the economy, they are against immigration of people from the same and different race and people from poorer countries. Scatterplots such as these are one of the ways to see if the individual indicators measure the same dimension.

Figure 1. Scatterplots of Indicators of the European Social Survey (2005)



The next scatterplot in Figure 2 shows the relationship between educational and occupational distance. Higher scores mean more inequality in country. The relationships in this scatterplot indicates that higher levels of inequality in education between ethnic minorities correlates with higher levels of occupational inequalities between ethnic minorities. Because these indicators are available for 58-75 countries this new measure proves to be a good proxy variable for the Inclusion of Minorities Index. Together with the OECD data, the index has now overcome earlier data constraints.

Figure 2. The relationship between Educational and Occupational Distance (several household surveys) (2005)



In search for new indicators we included several other variables. From the European Social Survey, we included perception based variables. Using factor analysis, we tested them to see whether there were outlier data. Results of the factor analysis, using the Principle Axis method, are displayed below in Table 4. Two factors were extracted, using the varimax rotation to obtain optimal results. As indicators have not been uniformly repolarized, no meaning should be attributed to the presence of a positive or a negative sign on the factor loading. Factor loadings have been highlighted to reflect the association of a particular cluster with that factor: blue cells represent indicators that have high loadings on cluster one, yellow an apparent different cluster.

Table 4: Results of Factor Analysis with European Social Survey data

Principle axis factoring, varimax rotation, first two factors only

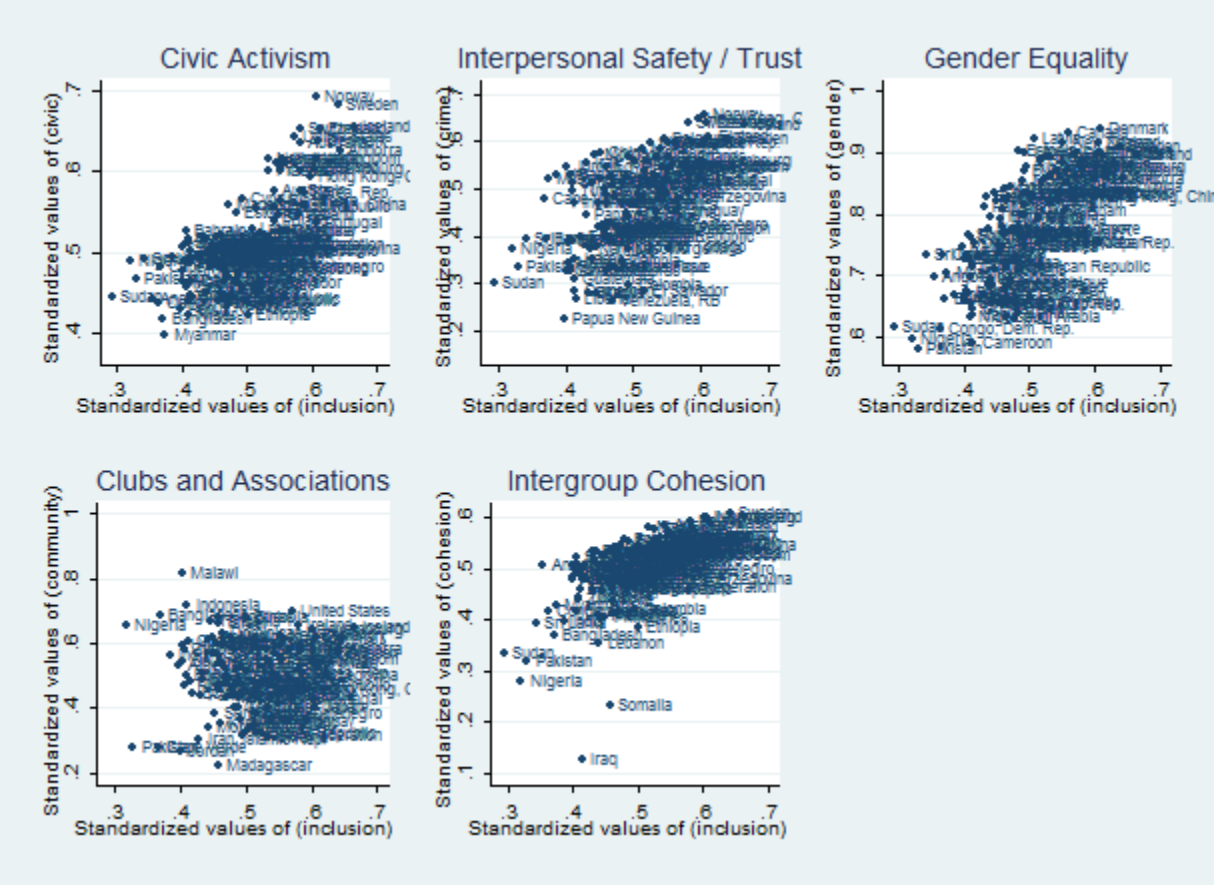
	Factor 1	Factor 2
Allow no immigrants of same race/ethnic group as majority.	0.9746	0.1681
Allow no immigrants of different race/ethnic group from majority.	0.9031	0.341
Allow no immigrants from poorer countries outside Europe.	0.9231	0.2359
Immigration bad for country's economy.	0.9514	-0.0721
Country's cultural life undermined by immigrants.	0.6649	0.2835
Immigrants make country worse place to live.	0.7323	0.4392
Discrimination of respondent's group: colour or race.	0.5655	0.4784
Discrimination of respondent's group: nationality.	0.0731	0.8368
Discrimination of respondent's group: religion.	- 0.2072	-0.5105
Discrimination of respondent's group: language.	-0.7967	0.4005
Discrimination of respondent's group: ethnic group.	- 0.5538	-0.4664
Distance to the standardized mean in education (years) across ethnic groups	0.9181	-0.3457
Distance to the standardized mean in occupation(upper nonfarm) across ethnic groups	0.9725	-0.1298
Employment rates of native-born and foreign-born population by educational attainment, low Ed	0.7251	-0.0424
Employment rates of native-born and foreign-born population by educational attainment, intermed Ed	0.6205	-0.4995
Employment rates of native-born and foreign-born population by educational attainment, high Ed	0.9428	-0.2197

Because the indicators of the European Social Survey were not univocally measuring the same phenomenon, we decided to exclude them from the Inclusion of Minorities Index.

Relationship with other Indices

The Indices of Social Development measure social development through six distinct indices. Figure 3 shows the relationship between the Inclusion of Minorities index and the other five. There is a strong correlation between the six indices, with the relationship between the Clubs and Associations measure as the major exception. The Inclusion of Minorities index correlates most strongly with the Intergroup Cohesion index. However, separating these dimensions from one another serves as a valuable tool for researchers and policy makers interested in the inclusion of minorities.

Figure 3. The relationship between Inclusion of Minorities and other Indices of Social Development for 2010



Conclusion

In March 2011, the Indices of Social Development wdrre launched. At that time, the database consisted of five indices. In this document we describe the indicators used for the 6th index: Inclusion of Minorities. Together with the other five, the Indices of Social Development are a valuable tool for measuring social development between countries and across time.

For indexing we use the same method as the other Indices: the Matching Percentiles Method. Because household surveys such as Latinobarometer, Afrobarometer, DHS, etc. simply did not include ethnicity or information about mother tongue in the 1990's, and because the lower threshold for minimum sources is 3, there are more observations for the years 2000's. For the next decennia, we believe that this new index will prove to be a valuable and reliable source, since more and more detailed data will become available.