

Syllabus – J-PAL 350x: Measuring Health Outcomes in Field Surveys

1. Administration

- Instructor: Dr. Vandana Sharma

2. Course Description

Travel with our team to India and Kenya to see first-hand how rigorous health research is conducted in the field. This eight-week course will focus on the fundamentals of field-based health research with an emphasis on measuring health outcomes in resource poor settings. The course will involve real-world examples from on-going research studies in India and Kenya, combined with exercises to provide practical insights about study design, measurement of health outcomes and data collection, as well as the common challenges and constraints in implementing health surveys in the field. Through a series of integrated learning modules, the course will focus on topics such as:

- Measuring individual and population health,
- Selecting health indicators,
- Measurement tools and selection,
- Questionnaire development and
- Ethical issues.

Cases and exercises will be drawn from research conducted by J-PAL.

JPAL350x is designed for people from a variety of backgrounds including those who are new to health research as well as managers and researchers from international development organizations, foundations, governments and non-governmental organizations from around the world.

3. Prerequisites

Although not required, prior familiarity with basic statistical concepts is recommended.

4. Module Videos and Quizzes

The module materials consist of videos and quiz questions. There will be a total of **ten modules** over the length of the course; please consult the schedule for a suggested timeline to follow.

5. Case Studies and Exercises

The course also includes several exercises and case studies that accompany most modules. These exercises explore the concepts and issues discussed in the videos. They include closed-ended questions and reflection question. We recommend following the timeline suggested on the course schedule to stay on track with the course exercises.

6. Course Structure

350x is a self-paced course; all material is available to participants when they enroll in the course. We recommend completing one to two modules per week. Learners who follow this plan can expect to complete the course material eight to nine weeks.

7. Course Modules

Module 1: Introduction and Pre-Course Survey

Module 2: Introduction to Health Research and Surveys

Module 3: Health and Measurement Concepts

Module 4: Types of Measures and Measurement Error

Module 5: Measuring Individual and Population Health Status

Module 6: Selecting Health Outcomes and Indicators

Module 7: Overview of Measurement Tools

Module 8: Development of Questionnaires and Selection of Measurement Tools

Module 9: Practical Issues in Data Collection

Module 10: Ethical Issues Related to Health Data Collection