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# **POTENTIALS AND LIMITATIONS FOR ENHANCING CHILD WELL-BEING IN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES**

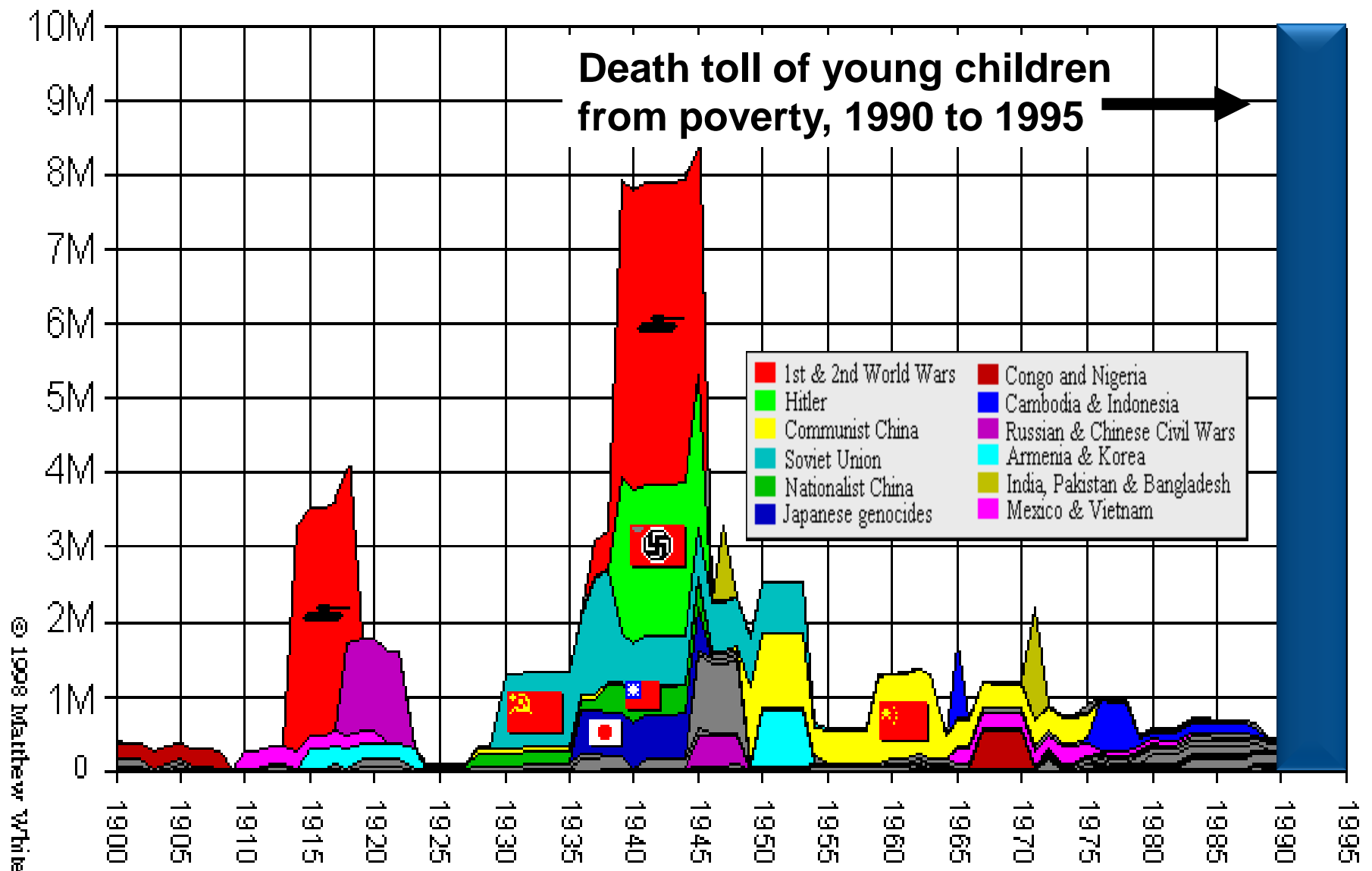
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# Child poverty and quality of government - a global look

- Dept. of Sociology, University of Gothenburg
- Quality of Government (QoG) institute, University of Gothenburg
- School for Policy Studies & Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research , University of Bristol
- WORLD Policy Analysis Center, UCLA
- MACHEQUITY project, McGill, Montreal
- National Centre for Geocomputation, NUI Maynooth



## Death toll of young children from poverty, 1990 to 1995





# Severe deprivation among children

<b>Water</b>	Only access to surface water / nearest source of water more than 15 minutes away. Children < 18 years old.	
<b>Food</b>	Anthropometric measure (height and weight) 3 standard deviations below median for references group. Children < 5 years old.	
<b>Sanitation</b>	No access to a toilet of any kind in the vicinity of their dwelling. Children < 18 years old.	
<b>Health</b>	Not been immunized against diseases or had a recent illness involving diarrhoea and had not received medical advise or treatment. Children < 5 years old.	
<b>Shelter</b>	More than five people per room and/or with no flooring material. Children < 18 years old.	
<b>Education</b>	Never been to school and not currently attending school. Children 7 to 17 years old.	
<b>Information</b>	No access to radio, television, telephone or newspaper at home. Children 3 to 17 years old.	

# Townsend Global Micro Database (TGMD)

- DHS and MICS
- More than 100 countries
- More than 350 surveys
- Covering the period 1990 – 2015
- Organized in five rounds
- Different modules

	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5
Modules	1990-95	1996-00	2001-05	2006-10	2011-15
Core					
DHS					
MICS					
Specific					

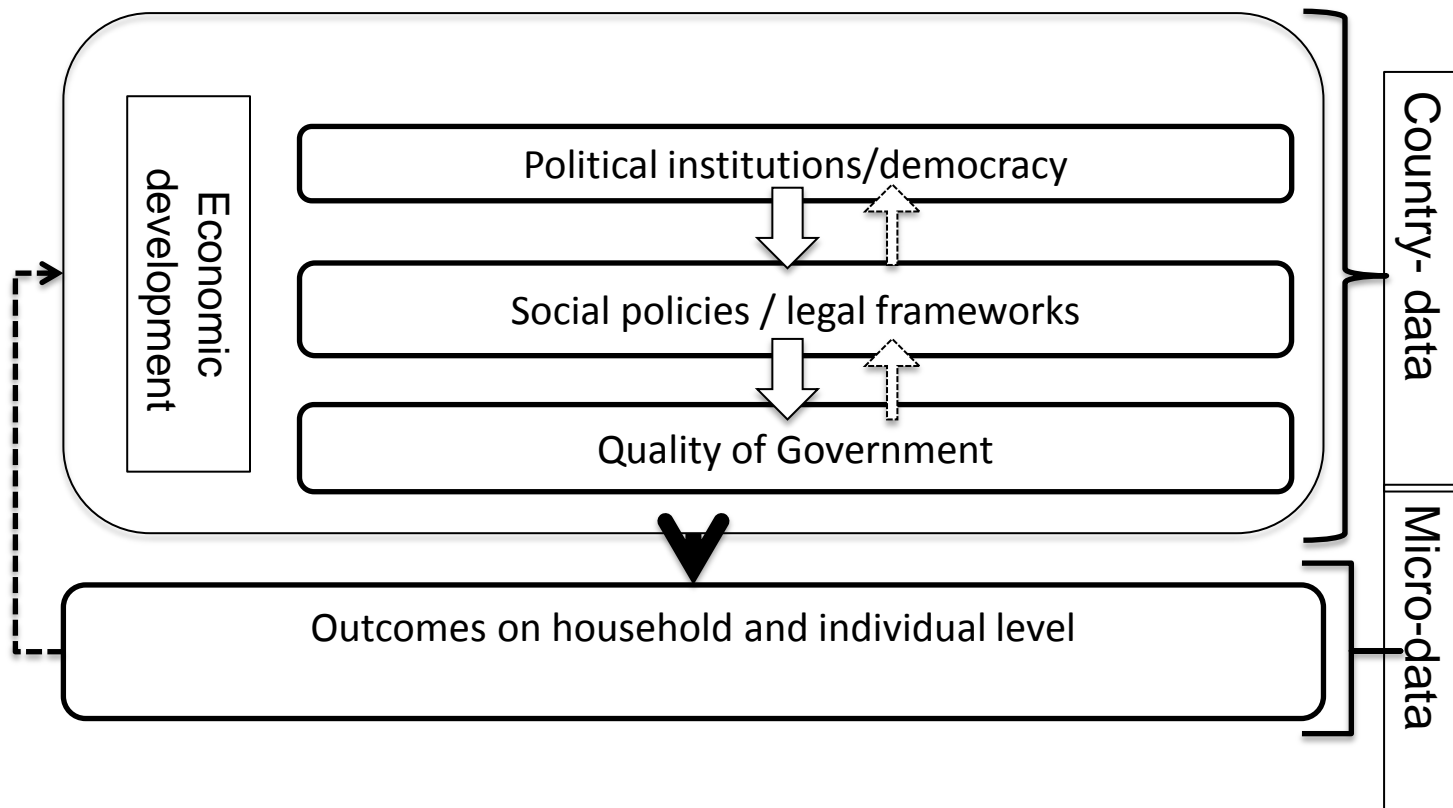


# The long-term challenges:

- Describe the reality – not easy but doable
- Explain the reality – difficult but necessary
- Change the reality – cannot be impossible



# Bringing different strands of research together



# Macro (country) data

- QoG database (<http://qog.pol.gu.se>)
- WORLD social rights data (<https://world.ph.ucla.edu>)
- MACHEQUITY (<http://machequity.com>)
- Uppsala Conflict database  
(<http://www.ucdp.uu.se/gpdatabase/search.php>)



# Bad governance and poor children: a

comparative analysis of government efficiency and severe child deprivation in 68 low and middle income countries. (Halleröd, Daoud, Rothstein & Nandy. 2013. *World Development*)

- What matters: Democracy, QoG, or GDP?

	QoG	Democracy	GDP
Lack of safe water	- sig	ns	ns
Malnutrition	- sig	ns	- sig
Deprived of education	ns	ns	- sig
Deprived of shelter	ns	ns	- sig
Deprived of sanitation	ns	ns	- sig
Deprived of healthcare	- sig	ns	ns
Deprived of information	- sig	ns	- sig



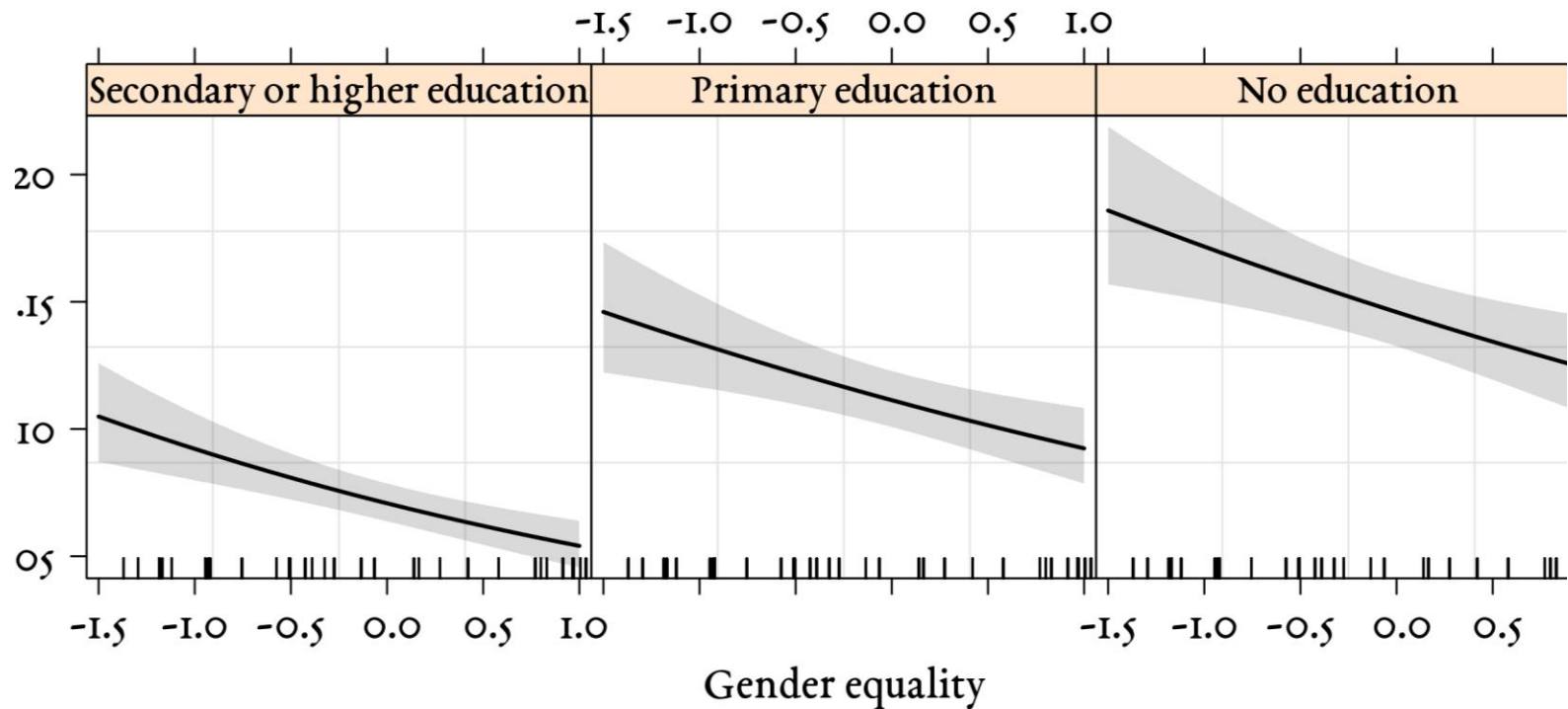
# The more gender equality, the less child poverty?

(Ekbrand & Halleröd, Working Paper)

- Mothers are often perceived as the key agent safeguarding the interest of children.
- More gender equal countries have less child poverty (possibly because of more resourceful mothers).
- But, what about children who has less resourceful mothers. (Is gender equality associated with better policies or do more resourceful mothers set the example for the less resourceful mothers?)
  - Malnutrition, education and healthcare

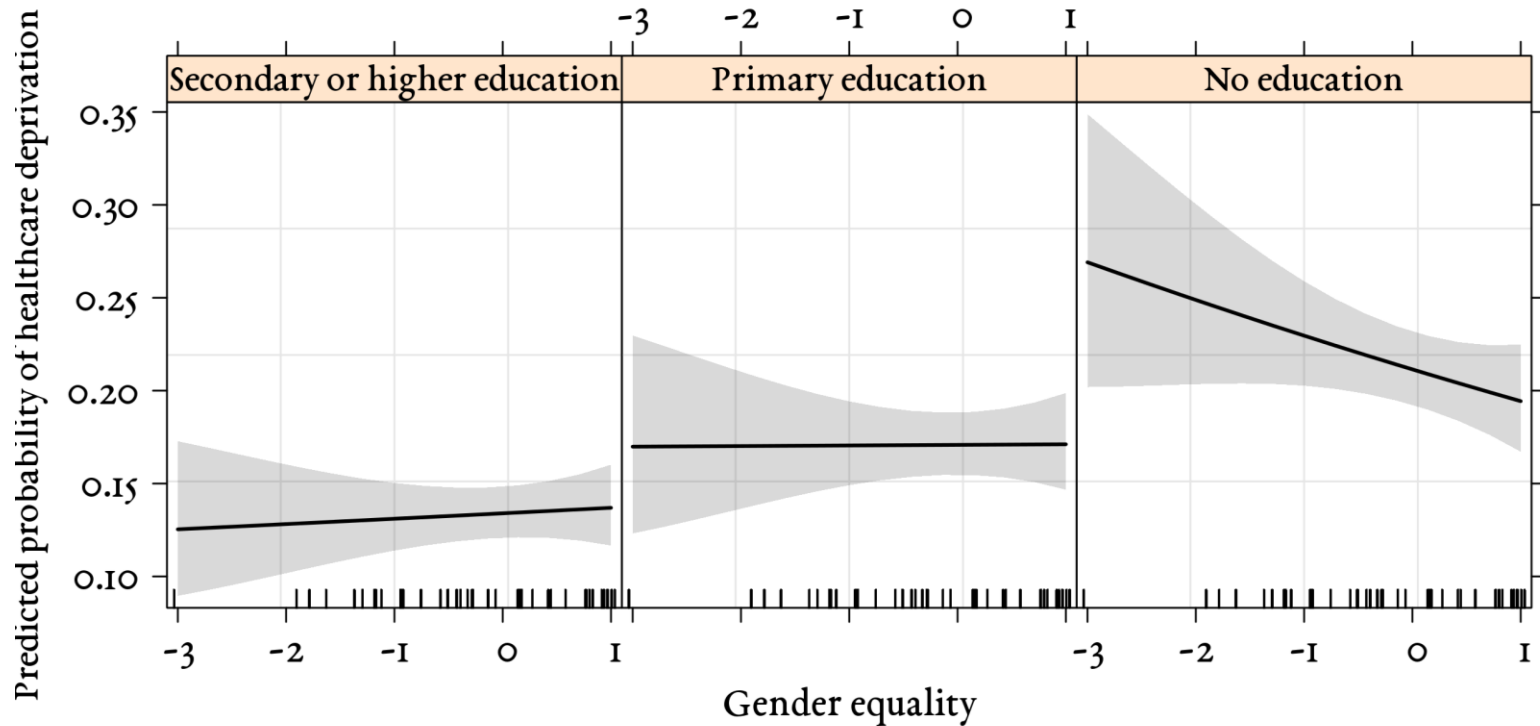


# Malnutrition by mother's education





# Deprived of health care by mother's education

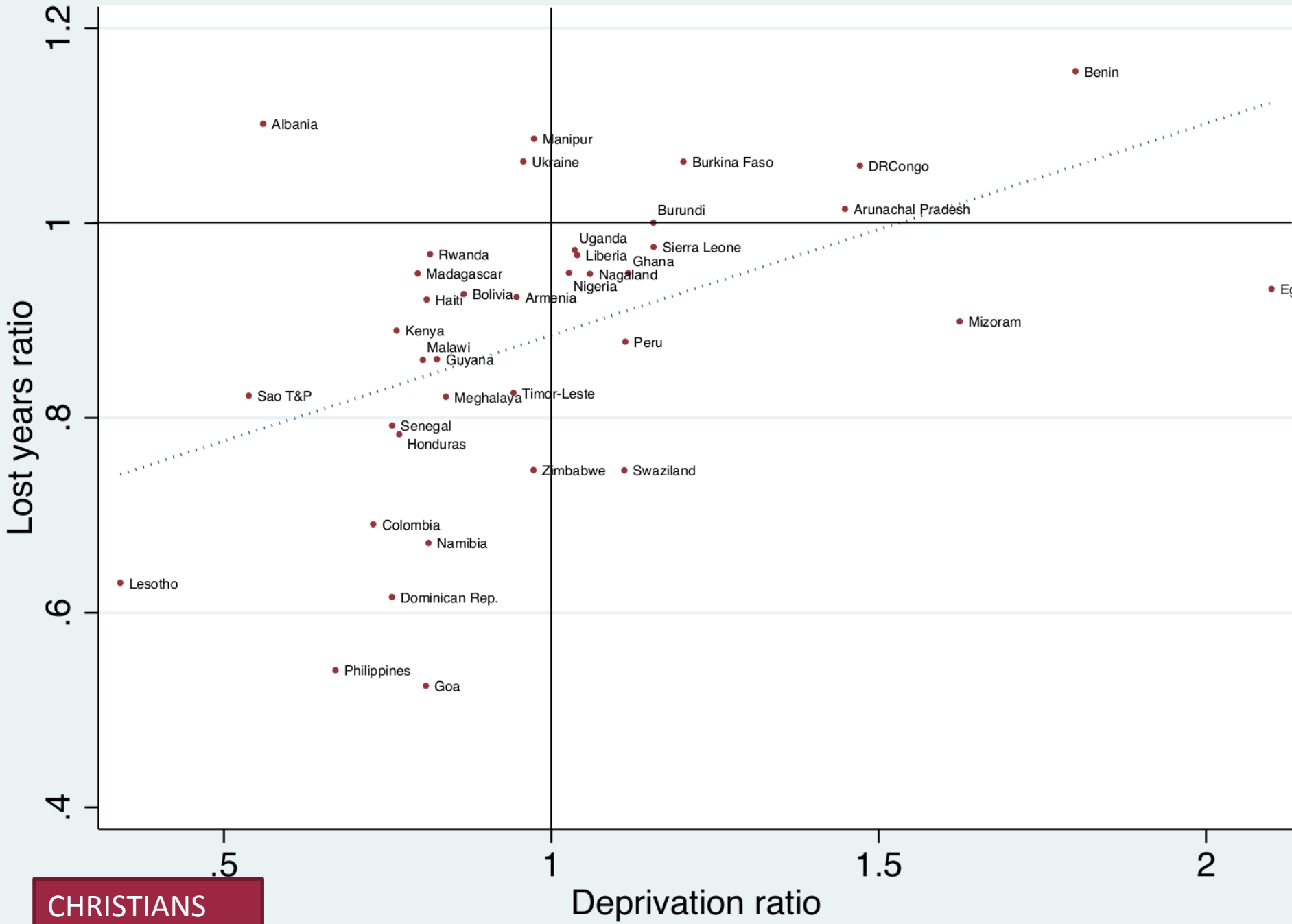


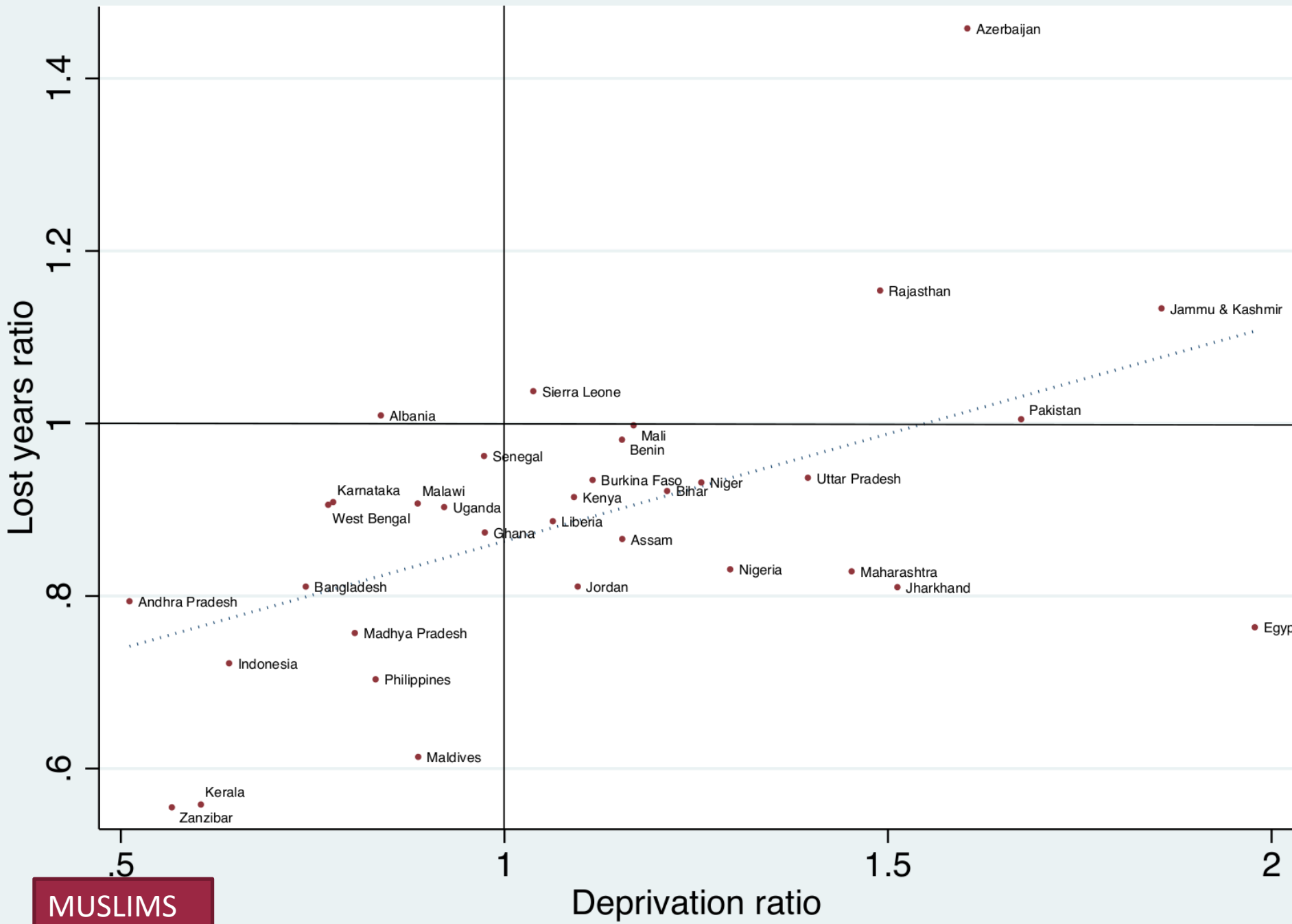


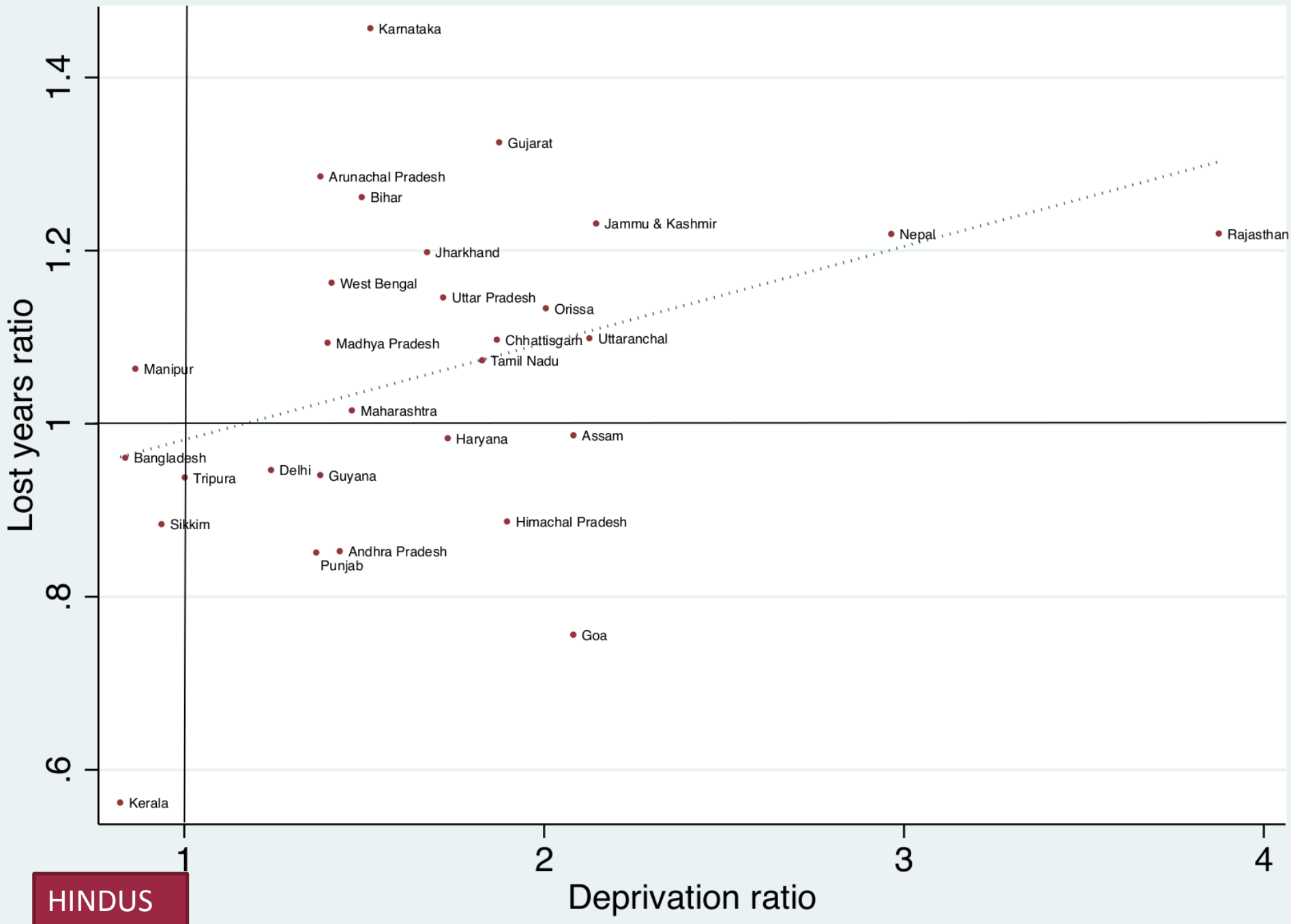
# Having faith in girls - the educational gender gap among Christians, Hindus, and Muslims in 71 low- and middle-income countries and Indian states.

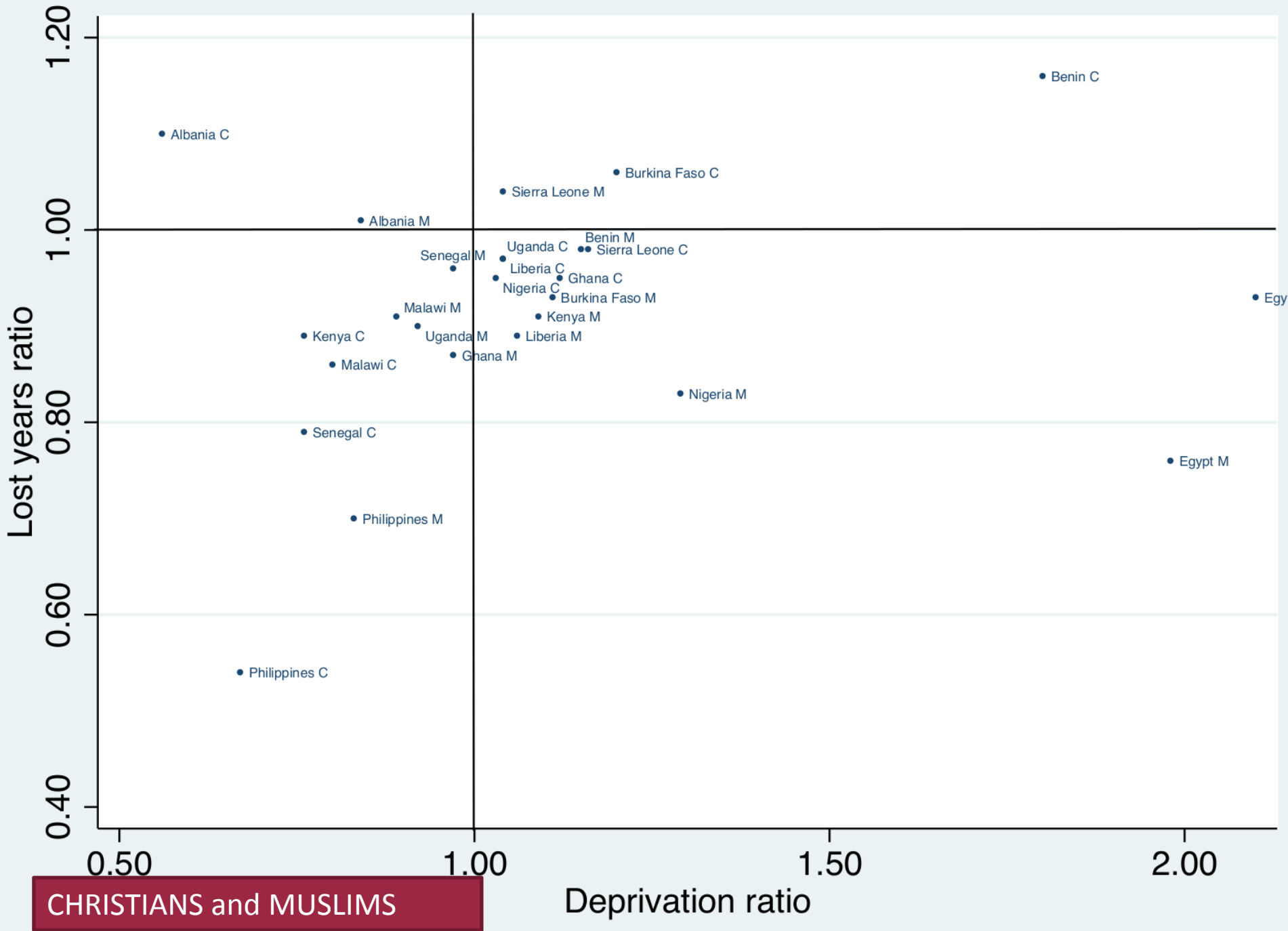
(Halleröd, Ekbrand & Nandy, submitted)

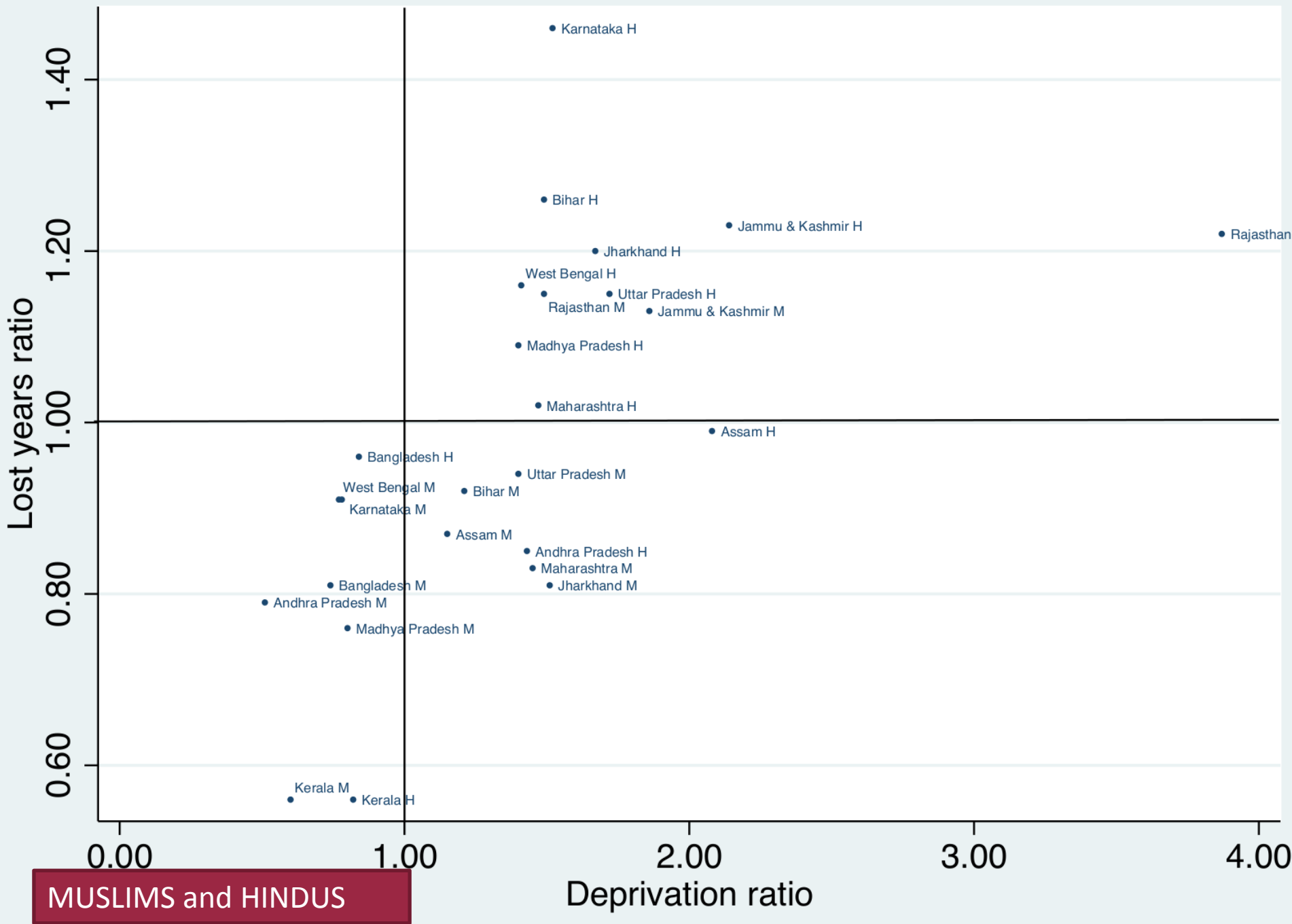
- Are girls larger risk of being deprived of education related to parents' religion?
- If sent to school, are girls more deprived of years of education and does it depend on parents' religion?

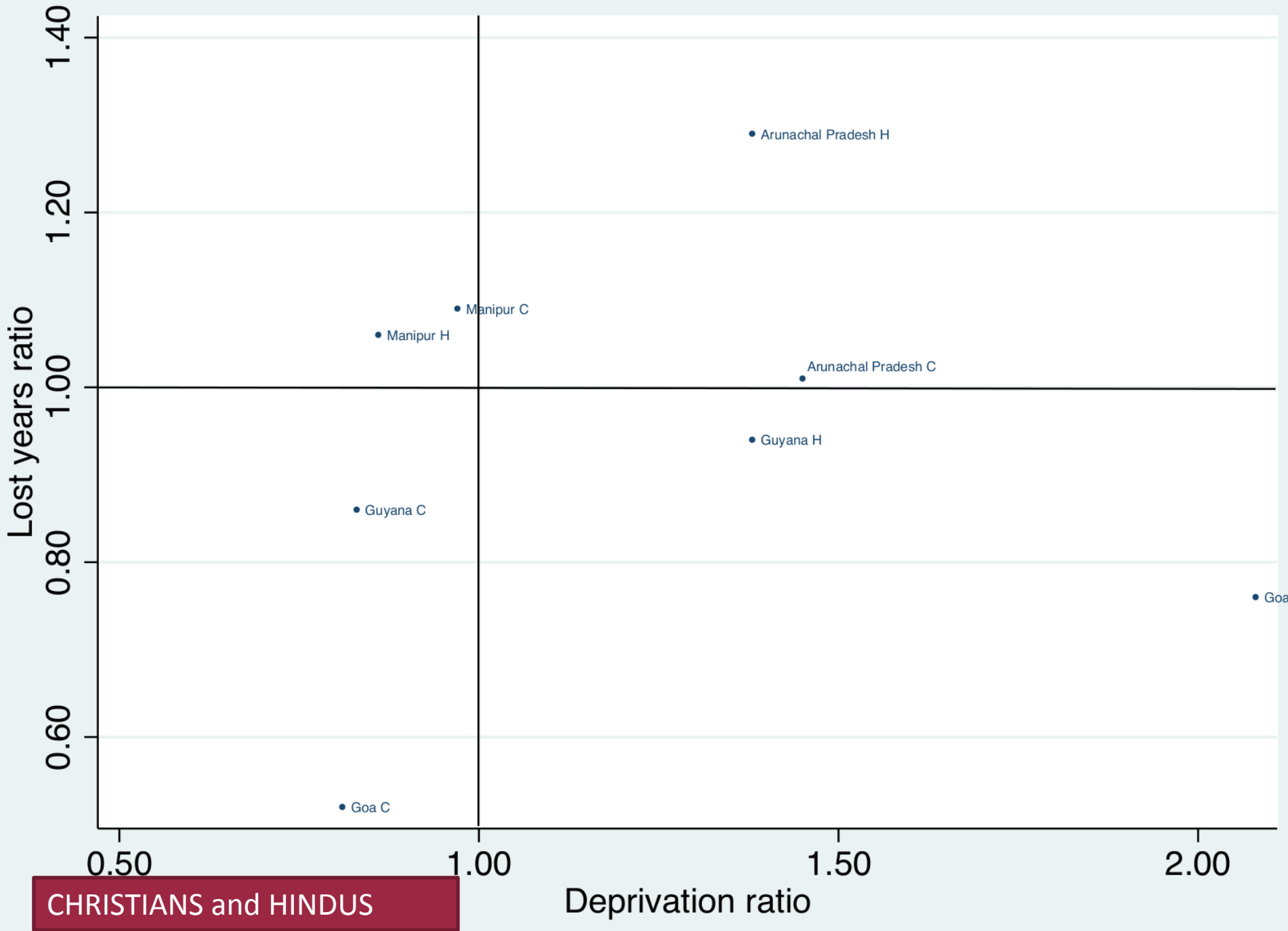












# What we need to do

- Integrate information of existing legislation
- How does the combination of legislation and QoG affect child poverty?
- Are borders important, i.e., are nation state always the important unite?
- Longitudinal studies and repeated measurement



# Problems and lacunas

- As it seems, existing measures of QoG do not discriminate between:
  - Different aspects of QoG.
  - The institutional setup and the outcome of the institutional setup.
  - Economic development and QoG.



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Government efficiency:

Government effectiveness (WBI)  
Regulatory quality (WBI)  
Functioning of government (EIU)  
Indicator of quality of government (IRCG)

Democracy and representation:

Political stability (WBI)  
Political rights (FH)  
Combined polity score (Polity IV)  
Electoral self-determination (CIRI)  
Electoral competitiveness (DPI)  
Chief executive a military officer (DPI)  
Finite term in office (DPI)  
Vote fraud (DPI)  
Municipal government (DPI)  
Vote share of the largest opposition party (DPI)

Human rights:

Civil liberties (FH)  
Freedom of assembly and association (CIRI)  
Political imprisonment (CIRI)  
Freedom of religion (CIRI)  
Freedom of speech (CIRI)  
Physical integrity rights (CIRI)  
Women's political rights (CIRI)

Rule of law:

Rule of law (WBI)  
Independency of the judiciary (CIRI)  
Legal structure and property right security (FI)

Transparency and accountability:

Voice and accountability (WBI)  
Control of corruption (WBI)  
Economic influence over media (FH)  
Political control over media content (FH)  
Legislative and regulatory media control (FH)  
Repressive action in relation to media (FH)  
Corruption perception (TI)



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Quality of government:



Indicators meant to measure different dimensions of governance are in reality measuring, more or less, the same thing = an approximation of GDP per capita

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# Problems and lacunas

- TGMD is not designed to measure children's living conditions.
- TGMD do not ask children about their well-being, focus on well-becoming.

# Change the reality

- How to reach the relevant political level
- How to reach the relevant public

# Thanks!

- Acknowledgments:
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