

RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS: IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE

(This guide will be used for the interviews with low-income women. Exact wording will vary depending on language, location etc. The questions are meant to provide a framework for a discussion as opposed to being a rigid list that cannot be diverted from.)

A) Personal Background

1. How old are you?
2. What is your ethnic background? What language do you speak at home?
3. What did your parents do for a living? Can you say more about them (their education, income etc) (Probe: questions that would help determine their class location)
4. How would you describe your social class (caste) now?
5. What is your educational background? Do you have plans to further your education? How well do you read and write?
6. Do you belong to a religion? Are you active in a religion? Do you attend religious services?

B) Household / Family

1. What is your relationship status? (Probe: Have you never been in a relationship, or are you single, widowed, divorced, separated, legally married, or married by religious rights, live home together, commitment ceremony, or a visiting relationship?) If in a relationship, how long have you been in this relationship?
2. [If married]: At what age did you get married? Were you happy to be married (Probe: was it an arranged marriage or was it by choice?)
3. How many siblings do you have?
4. How many people live in your house now and what is each person's connection to you? (Probe: Is this person a lodger or renter, roommate, boyfriend, girlfriend, partner, wife, husband, mother, daughter, son, father, etc.) (Probe: Is this person your boyfriend, girlfriend, partner, wife, husband, mother, daughter, son, father, or some other family member, etc.).
5. Whom do you consider family? (Probe: Do some of them live elsewhere?).
6. Who is the head of your household? Why do you say this?
7. Do you have any children? What is their age/gender (sex)?
8. [If has children] Do your children go to school? Do the children help around the house? With earning an income?
9. How has your household membership changed over the last 10 years?
10. What kinds of decisions do you make in your household? Are there decisions which are made by you and others made by someone else in the household? Who makes the 'important' decisions in the household? How do you define what decisions are

- ‘important’? How free are you to make the kinds of decisions you want to make in your household? (*Probe*: What are the barriers constraining you from making those decisions?)
11. How has decision-making changed in your household over the last 10 years?
 12. What does an average day look like in your household? What do you and the members in your household do? Tell me about what you did yesterday from when you woke up till you went to bed?

C) Networks

1. Apart from people in your family and household who else do you spend time with in your neighbourhood?
2. Do you spend time with other people outside your neighbourhood? (*Probe*: Who are these people? Where do these people live? Do they live in the city? Do they live in a village?)
3. Are you a member of any group / organization? What type? How often do you meet? What do you do? Where is it located? Is it neighbourhood based?

D) Neighbourhood

1. How long have you lived in *this neighbourhood*?
2. How often do you travel outside *your neighbourhood*? Where do you go? How far do you travel? What do you do outside *your neighbourhood*? How has this changed over the last 10 years?
3. What is the best / worst thing about *your neighbourhood*? Is this a good / bad place to live? In what ways? How has this changed since you have lived here?
4. What are some of the greatest difficulties/vulnerabilities women face in *this neighbourhood*? To your knowledge, are these difficulties unique to low-income women?
5. Do you communicate with your neighbours? Do you have friends in your neighborhood? How many neighbours do you know by first name?
6. Do you know of any families in your neighbourhood who do not eat regularly or who go to bed hungry?
7. The last time you had an emergency who did you go to? Who helped you out? (*Probe*: was it for childcare, money, food etc)
8. Is *your neighbourhood* a safe place? Would you feel safe coming in/going out alone late at night?
9. Do you think your neighbourhood provides a healthy environment (*Probe*: socially? In terms of pollution?)
10. If you could choose, would you stay in this neighbourhood or would you prefer to move? If so, which other neighbourhood in the city would you move to? Why?
11. How do you feel the government and/or various organizations could help you? Do you think enough is being done?
12. Is there anything you would like to add about *your neighbourhood*?

E) City

1. Have you always lived in *this city*? If not, where were you born? And how often have you moved?
2. What are the spaces in *the city* that you access? (Probe: How often do you go to them? (NB For each one ask: Regularly? Occasionally? Rarely?))
3. Are the spaces you access different to the spaces that your spouse/partner access? (Probe: Why are they different?)
4. What is the longest (time or length) journey you've made inside *the city*? When was that? How did you travel?
5. What are the places in *the city* that you've seen? (Probe: try to get a sense of their mental map of the city. You may have to mention local site in *your city*).
6. Where in *the city* do you like to go? Do you go there? How often? If not why?
7. Which is the most exciting place in *this city*?
8. Which is the worst place in *the city* that you've seen?
9. Do you feel a particular connection to *the city*? How? Why?
10. Do you feel like people are friendly/helpful? Do you find it easy to have conversations with strangers?
12. Do you feel safe in the city? At all times or only at certain ones (e.g. not at night?) Are there areas in the city that you consider "no-go areas"? Are there areas you would like to go to but cannot? Why is that?
13. With the climatic changes that have been ongoing, do you think *your city* is equipped and capable of dealing with arising needs and vulnerabilities e.g. during a storm? Do you feel that you are considered / included in the services provided by your local authorities?
14. How well would you say you know (*your city*)? Can you name: your local councilor; the mayor of *your city*? (Probe: any other officials, city politicians, you might expect them to know?)
15. How have you developed your knowledge of *your city* (work, friends, family, travel, reading, other)?
15. What do you know about how *your city* works for you (e.g. knowledge of local elections, local politics, local councils, welfare system, education system, other)? (Probe: are they aware of what their entitlements are from the state such as welfare payments (e.g. pensions, maternity benefits), free school uniforms for kids, any free healthcare, free local transport
16. How has *the city* changed in the last 10 years, or in the time you've lived here?
17. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

Those are all of the questions I had today, and I want to thank you for taking this time out of your day to talk to me. Do you have any questions for me? They can be about anything you might like to know.



Example of Interview schedule or guide
GenUrb Research Training Modules: Interviews

Arrange time for a follow-up interview, if relevant.