Dear DHS team and community members,

I have a question regarding applying sample weights (hv005) in the DHS datasets, particularly when calculating a representative Wealth Index (WI) for each cluster.

As I understand, the sample weights are provided at the cluster level, meaning all households within the same cluster share the same weight. However, this presents a challenge when trying to calculate a single WI value to represent the cluster. Without specific information about the sampling strategy or the relative importance of each household within the cluster, it seems that a simple arithmetic mean of the household WI values is the most straightforward approach.

However, this method assumes equal importance for all households within the cluster and does not account for potential variance within the cluster itself. As a result, it might overlook important intra-cluster disparities and may not fully represent the overall socioeconomic context of the cluster.

Given these limitations, I would like to ask:

1. Is there a recommended approach to aggregate household WI values into a single, representative cluster value while respecting the sampling design?
2. Are there additional resources or considerations regarding how intra-cluster variance can be incorporated into such calculations?

I would greatly appreciate any guidance or advice on this matter. Thank you for your time and for providing such valuable data for research.