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Subject: Merging BR and PR files - India - NFHS 1998

Posted by [Shah](#) on Wed, 01 Feb 2023 05:25:07 GMT

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Hi,

I am not able to merge PR and BR files for DHS 1998 data for India.

For children ages 6-18 in PR files, I want to know when did they mothers marry.

In PR file hv112 contains no observations so I can't directly get the mother's info from here.

A previous response said, "You want to match hv001 hv002 hvidx in the PR file with v001 v002 b16 in the BR file."

But the BR file for India, which is IABR42DT, does not have b16 variable.

Should I match on (hv001 hv002 hv003) and (v001 v002 v003)?

But hv003 and v003 are respondent's line no.

Not sure how it will be right to match?

Kind Regards,  
Harshit

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Subject: Re: Merging BR and PR files - India - NFHS 1998

Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 01 Feb 2023 14:11:29 GMT

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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

For your purposes, the BR file may be sufficient, without any merging. This is a child file, with b8 giving the child's age (for children who are alive). Almost all of the mother's data, such as her age at marriage, are included.

This file includes children who are not currently living with the mother (b9=4). Such children are not in the sample household and could never be matched with the mother (they would have b16=0 if b16 were included in the data).

Let us know if you need more than is in the BR file, but I think this will be sufficient.

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Subject: Re: Merging BR and PR files - India - NFHS 1998

Posted by [Shah](#) on Wed, 01 Feb 2023 14:31:51 GMT

Hi,

I should have been more specific.

I would need to merge it as I need child's education variables from the PR file.

To be more precise, I am trying to check the effect of when Children's mother marry on child's education.

PR file has child education but not their mother's date of marriage or any marriage info

BR file has date of marriage, but no education variables.

Ideally, there should be B16 in BR file because as per the questionnaire, the mother's were asked the line number of the children. However, there isn't any info regarding that.

Kind Regards,  
Harshit

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Subject: Re: Merging BR and PR files - India - NFHS 1998  
Posted by [Bridgette-DHS](#) on Wed, 01 Feb 2023 16:46:37 GMT  
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Following is a response from Senior DHS staff member, Tom Pullum:

We at DHS have put a lot of effort into procedures to match children in the KR or BR file with children in the PR file in the surveys that omitted b16. We have concluded that this is not possible without a lot of incorrect matches. You know that the child must be alive and living with the mother, which is captured with b9=0. Beyond that, all you have to work with is the child's sex and age in the PR file (hv104 and hv105 and the child's sex and age in the KR/BR file (b4 and b8). You can probably safely assume that the sex will be correct in both files. However, age is not enough to go on. For a specific child that DOES appear in both places, the two ages may not agree. Also you can have multiple children at the same age (for example, twins). There can be 2+ mothers (with their children) in the same household, but in this survey you do not even have hv112 to distinguish between 2+ possible mothers. Any procedure that does not use b16 will result in some spurious matches. I recommend that you use one of the more recent India surveys that does include b16.

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