



J-PAL 350X: MEASURING HEALTH OUTCOMES IN FIELD SURVEYS

OCTOBER 1 – NOVEMBER 26, 2019

ABOUT THE COURSE

Travel with researchers to India and Kenya to see first-hand how rigorous health research is conducted in the field. This free, online course explores the fundamentals of field-based health research through immersive, documentary-style learning. Over the course of eight weeks, participants will learn how to measure individual and population health, select health indicators and measurement tools, and design surveys, as well as explore practical issues related to safety, hygiene, and ethics.

The course is hosted on MIT's edX platform and is available to everyone free of cost. [To register or learn more, visit <https://edx.org/course/jpal350x-measuring-health-outcomes-in-field-surveys>.](https://edx.org/course/jpal350x-measuring-health-outcomes-in-field-surveys)

WHAT TOPICS DOES THE COURSE COVER?

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 cover topics such as:

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

Case studies and exercises will be drawn from research conducted by J-PAL affiliated professors.

IN WHAT FORMAT IS THE COURSE TAUGHT?

Lecture videos and quizzes

Lecture modules will be released each week, and will be accompanied by graded quizzes. There will be one to two modules posted each week, with a total of 10 modules over the course of eight weeks.

Case studies and exercises

To complement each week's lecture, the course will provide supplementary exercises and case studies to apply the content from the lecture modules.

Time commitment

Learners can expect to spend three to four hours per week on the course through eight weeks of material.

VERIFIED CERTIFICATE

While the course is offered for free, learners can choose to upgrade to the certificate track for a \$99 course fee. Learners in the certificate track will maintain access to the course material on edX after the course end date and receive a certificate of achievement from MITx upon passing the course.

WHO SHOULD ENROLL?

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 around the world. Although not required, prior familiarity with basic public health and statistical concepts is recommended.

ABOUT J-PAL

The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) is a network of affiliated professors around the world who are united by their use of randomized evaluations to answer questions critical to poverty alleviation. J-PAL's mission is to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence.

INSTRUCTOR



DR. VANDANA SHARMA

Public Health Researcher

Harvard T.H. Chan School
of Public Health

Vandana Sharma is a public health researcher with expertise in maternal and child health, HIV, and gender issues. Her research includes randomized trials of community-based interventions to reduce maternal mortality in northern Nigeria and of interventions to reduce HIV transmission and intimate partner violence in Ethiopia. She is also conducting mixed methods research in humanitarian settings to understand gender-based violence in these contexts. She earned her MD from the University of Western Ontario and an MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where she was a Sommer Scholar.

For questions or to request more information, contact training@povertyactionlab.org.

To receive updates about this and other J-PAL courses, subscribe to our course announcements mailing list by visiting povertyactionlab.org/subscribe.

ABOUT MITx

MITx courses embody the inventiveness, openness, rigor and quality that are hallmarks of MIT, and many use materials developed for MIT residential courses in the Institute's five schools and 33 academic disciplines.