GENDER Impact Platform

CGIAR

Integrating Gender into Causal Impact Assessments: understanding the scope of causal impact assessments and how to incorporate gender effectively

Overview of Impact Assessment Methodologies

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What is an impact assessment?

Impact:

A durable or long-term change in the condition of people and their environment **brought about by a chain of events** to which **research, innovations, and related activities** have contributed. It reflects the ultimate goal of development efforts. It may be positive or negative, direct or indirect, intended or unintended

IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

Objective assessment of a program's **outcomes and durable or long-term changes** resulting from research for development interventions. It is designed to study **causes of and/or contributions to change** by an initiative or intervention. It **can employ quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods** to measure changes in key outcomes and impacts over time.

CAUSAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

It focuses on identifying the **CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP** between the intervention and the observed changes. It is designed to **attribute the changes** observed to the innovation or intervention studied

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NON-CAUSAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

It assesses the **contribution of the program/innovation/intervention to the observed changes.** It does **not establish a direct causal link** between the program and the changes. The **observed changes cannot be definitively attributed** to the intervention itself.

QUANTITATIVE:
Effects-of-causes approach

QUALITATIVE:
Causes-of-effect approach

Diagram A

A drought affects some of the targeted areas

A: targeted population is observed 6 months before the intervention/innovation

An intervention that provides inputs and training is put in place

B: targeted population is observed 6 months after the intervention/innovation

A vs B are compared to assess the impact of the intervention on women's empowerment

Diagram B

An agricultural extension intervention/innovation is planned to be implemented in 12 villages (AG)

In five of these villages, farmers expressed interest in increasing women's participation and were enthusiastic about integrating agricultural extension with a gender-transformative component.

In 5 of the 12 villages, **an add-on gender transformative (GT) component** is implemented

(AG+GT)

In other 7 villages, **only the ag extension** intervention is implemented

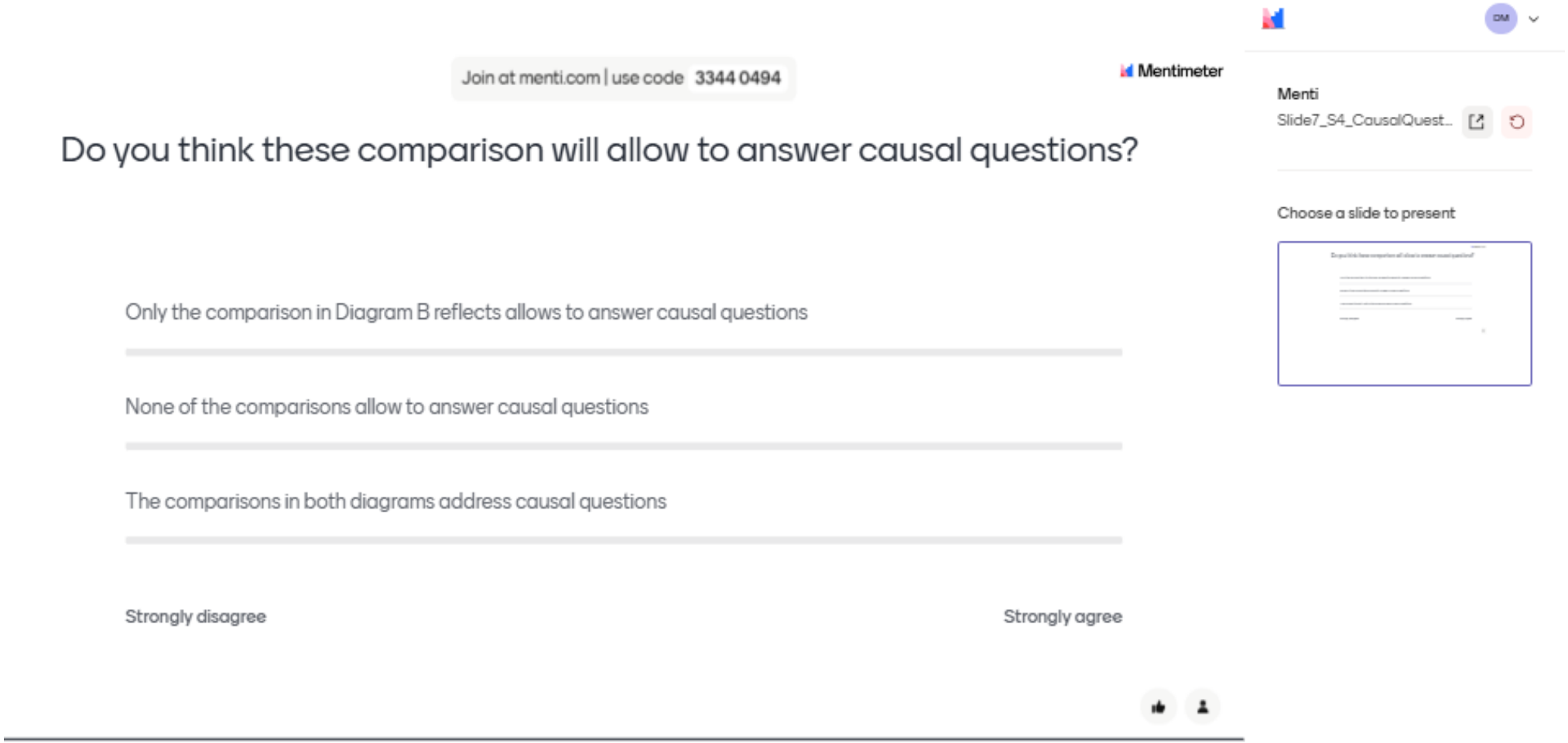
(AG)

AG+GT and AG are compared to assess the impact of the GT add-on on women's empowerment

Impact Assessments

- Let’s discuss the previous diagrams
  - Do we think it is a causal impact assessment or a non-causal? Why?
  - Do we think through the comparisons can answer relational questions or causal questions?

Impact Assessments



Type of research questions

Relational/Correlational

- Relational questions **explore the relationships between two or more phenomena**, seeking to understand how they interact or influence each other. They often examine correlations.

Causal

- Causal questions investigate **whether one phenomenon directly influences or causes a change in another**. They typically require a comparative approach, assessing outcomes with and without an intervention to establish causality.

Impact assessments

Video taken form WB YouTube account (link)

Diagram C

An agricultural extension intervention/innovation is planned to be implemented in 12 villages (AG)

Researchers RANDOMLY separate the group of we villages into 2

In 5 of the 12 villages, **an add-on gender transformative (GT) component** is implemented

(AG+GT)

In other 7 villages, **only the ag extension** intervention is implemented

(AG)

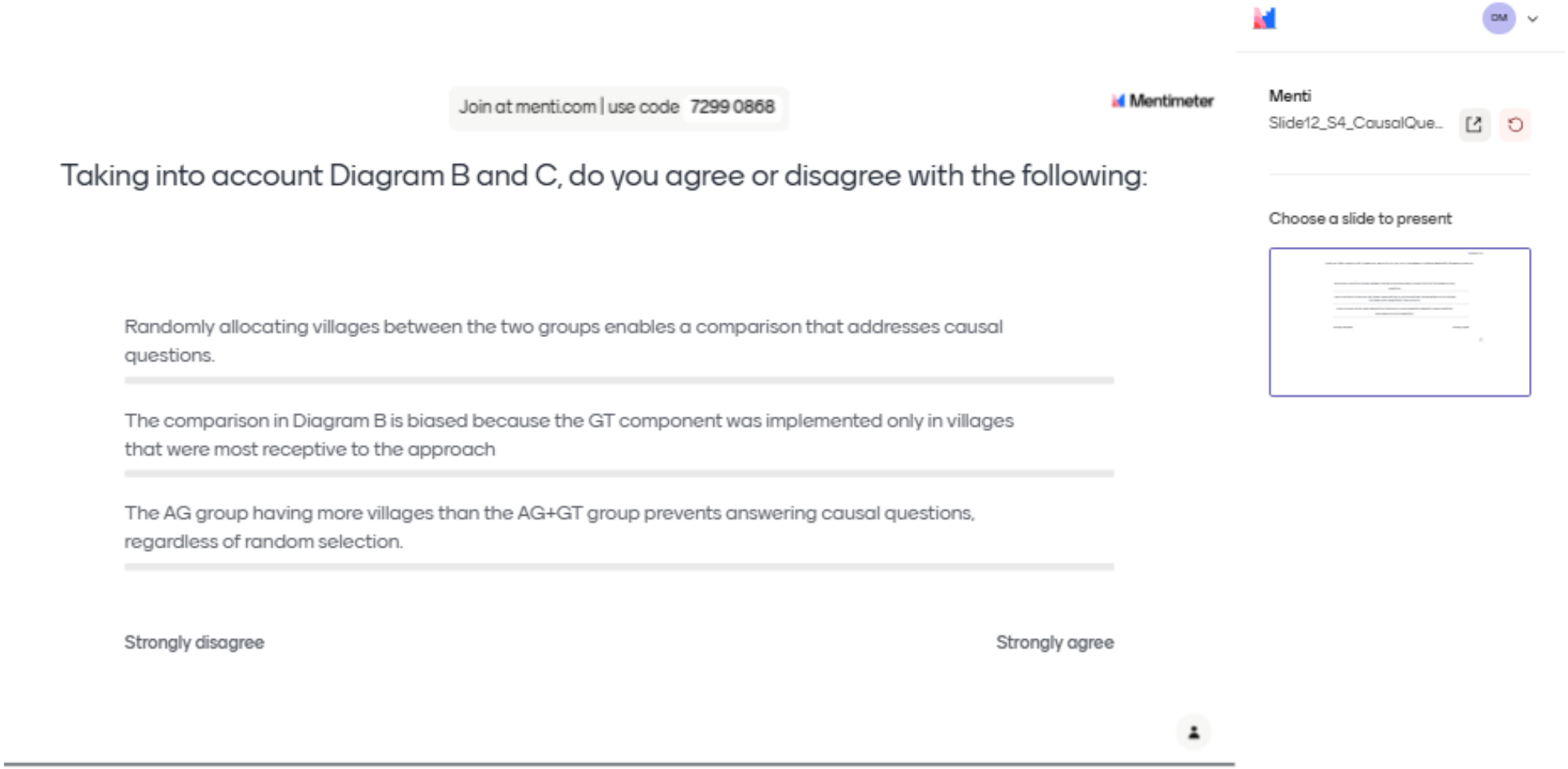
AG+GT and AG are compared to assess the impact of the GT add-on on women's empowerment

Across all 12 villages, there are who are enthusiastic about integrating agricultural extension with a gender-transformative component and others that are a bit reluctant

Impact Assessments

- Let’s discuss the previous diagram
  - What is the key difference between Diagram C and Diagram B?
  - Do both answer causal questions?
  - Do you believe the comparison in Diagram C is better suited for answering a causal question than the comparison in Diagram B?

Impact Assessments



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Group exercise

Members of the women's group preparing food. Photo by C. de Bode/CGIAR

Impact Assessments: causal and non-casual

- In each group, read and discuss the following studies, focusing on the type of impact assessments they correspond to (causal or non-causal).
- To guide the discussion, think about:
  - Does the methodology used allows to answer causal questions or only relational questions?
  - Go back to the diagrams and comparisons previously discussed and try to identify which comparison the studies more closely relate to.

- Please nominate a facilitator and a rapporteur
- At the end of the group exercise, the rapporteur will present the key points discussed (~ 5 min per group)
- Time dedicate for discussion 15 minutes

Empowering women farmers through collective action: a case study of Khanizpur Hamlet, Odisha.

- **Motivation/Problem:** Technical and social constraints limit equitable participation in capture fisheries in low-income settings. Development programs often prioritize technical barriers, overlooking gender and social constraints.
- **Intervention:** The study compares two approaches to address gender constraints in fishing camps in Zambia: an accommodative approach focused on practical needs and a transformative approach that fosters critical consciousness through communication tools
- **Methods:** the Practical Gender Needs Approach (PGNA) was implemented in all camps. To ensure a mix of both temporary and permanent camps, the Gender Transformative Communication (GTC) tool was piloted in three of them, enabling a comparison between the two approaches (PGNA+GTC vs. PGNA).
- **Results:** the use of a transformative approach led to significant changes in gender equal attitudes and women's empowerment outcomes compared to only using an accommodative approach.

Cole, S. M., Kaminski, A. M., McDougall, C., Kefi, A. S., Marinda, P. A., Maliko, M., & Mtonga, J. (2020). Gender accommodative versus transformative approaches: a comparative assessment within a post-harvest fish loss reduction intervention. Gender, Technology and Development, 24(1), 48-65.

Gender transformative innovation: Women's inclusion in livestock vaccine systems in northern Ghana

- **Motivation/Problem:** Livestock ownership can empower women, but gender inequality limits access. Gender accommodative and transformative approaches are used, but their impact on empowerment is untested.
- **Intervention:** The Women Rear Project (WRP), a three-year research-for-development initiative (2019-2023), aimed to test gender accommodative (GAA) and gender transformative (GTA) approaches for livestock vaccine delivery.
- **Methods:** Authors randomly selected 10 VSLA-active communities across two districts, assigning five to GAA and five to combined GTA/GAA interventions. From these, they sampled 500 women and 100 men. HH were interviewed before and after the intervention. A series of FGDs and KIIs with various relevant stakeholders were also conducted.
- **Results**: In 2021, empowerment was seen as financial independence, decision-making, and self-reliance, expanding by 2023 to include acting without external restrictions. Women in GTA communities showed higher empowerment scores than those in GAA-only communities, with gender norms influencing empowerment and reporting.

Njiru, N., Galiè, A., Omondi, I., Omia, D., Loriba, A. and Awin, P. 2024. Gender transformative innovation: Women's inclusion in livestock vaccine systems in northern Ghana, Agricultural Systems, Volume 219, 2024, 104023, ISSN 0308-521X

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- Cole, S. M., Kaminski, A. M., McDougall, C., Kefi, A. S., Marinda, P. A., Maliko, M., & Mtonga, J. (2020). Gender accommodative versus transformative approaches: a comparative assessment within a post-harvest fish loss reduction intervention. Gender, Technology and Development, 24(1), 48-65.
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