

# Principles of Research Design in Public Health (part II)

Robert Thomson, BA PgCE MSc, Psychologist  
*PhD in Public Health Program Coordinator*  
*Swiss School of Public Health+*

**Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research**  
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Module 1: Research Methodology, Unit 3: Research identification and Selection

# Mission, vision and objectives

The national health priorities are articulated in three documents: (1) the Health Strategy to the Year 2020; (2) the Lao Health Master Planning Study; and (3) the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES). The principles and visions of these documents have been included in the Sixth National Socio and Economical Development Plan (2006-10).

The Health Strategy to the Year 2020 was promulgated by the VIIth Party Congress in 2001 and has four basic concepts: full health care service coverage and health care service equity; development of early integrated health care services; demand-based health care services; and self-reliant health services. This then leads to six health-development policies:

- strengthening the ability of providers;
- community-based health promotion and disease prevention;
- hospital improvement and expansion at all levels, including remote areas;
- promotion of traditional medicine, integration of modern and traditional care, rational use of quality and safe food and drugs, and national pharmaceutical product promotion;
- **operational health research**; and
- effective health administration and management, self-sufficient financial systems, and health insurance.

# Strengths and weaknesses



- Calmly fish for examples, illustrate different approaches that might work in research settings in Laos.
- What works in one setting (here or abroad) may not be right in another.

# Dilemmas in health in Laos (I)

- **Land area:** 230,800 sq km (89,112 sq miles)
- **Total area:** 236,800 sq km
- **Population (2009 est.):** 6,834,942 (growth rate: 2.3%); birth rate: 34.9/1000; infant mortality rate: 77.8/1000; life expectancy: 56.6; density per sq km: 28
- **Capital and largest city (2003 est.):** Vientiane, 194,200



# Dilemmas in health in Laos (II)

## ***Conditioned by:***

- Geography and environment: mountains in north (2,800 m) with dense forests covering northern and eastern areas. The Mekong River (1,500 km).
- Economics: one of the 10 poorest countries in the world, subsistence farmers more than 80% . *Per capita* GDP around US\$400 per annum. Bad agricultural conditions, alternately floods and drought.
- History, culture, religion and politics?

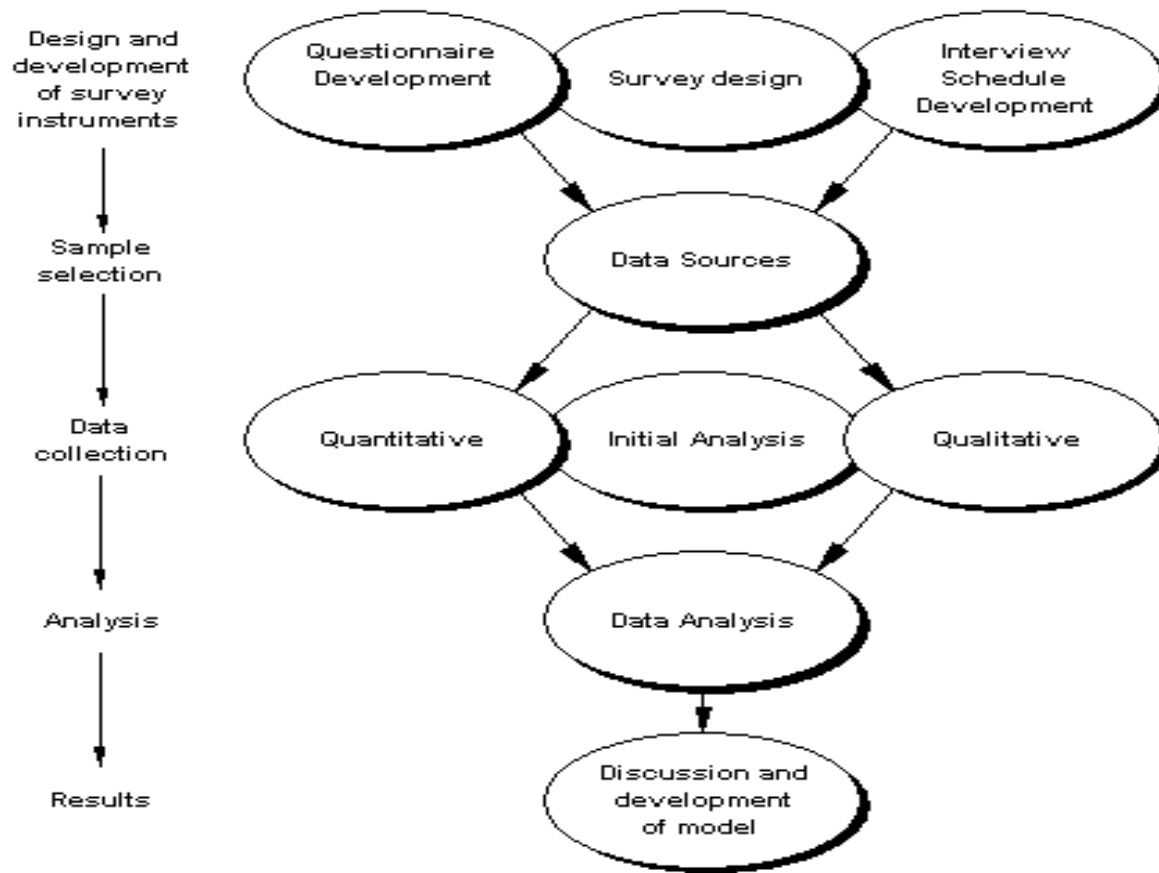
## ***Implications in relation to:***

- Research questions,
- Choice of methods,
- Cost,
- Ethics.



# Dilemmas in health in Laos (III)

- AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria
- Diphtheria, pertussis, polio and tetanus
- High infant mortality, underweight, and various childhood diseases
- Cholera
- Pneumonia and influenza
- Diarrhoeal diseases and dysentery
- Parasites, yaws, skin ailments, hepatitis
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Leprosy
- Iodine deficiencies and goitre
- Low accessibility to HCS
- Inadequate quality of care
- Low utilization of clean water and sanitation
- Insufficient financing in health sector



## Summary of a research design

Design instruments (questionnaire, survey , interview)

Sample selection, data collection (qualitative, quantitative), analysis

Results (discussion, dissemination, application)



## Sources

Institutions (international, bilateral, commercial)

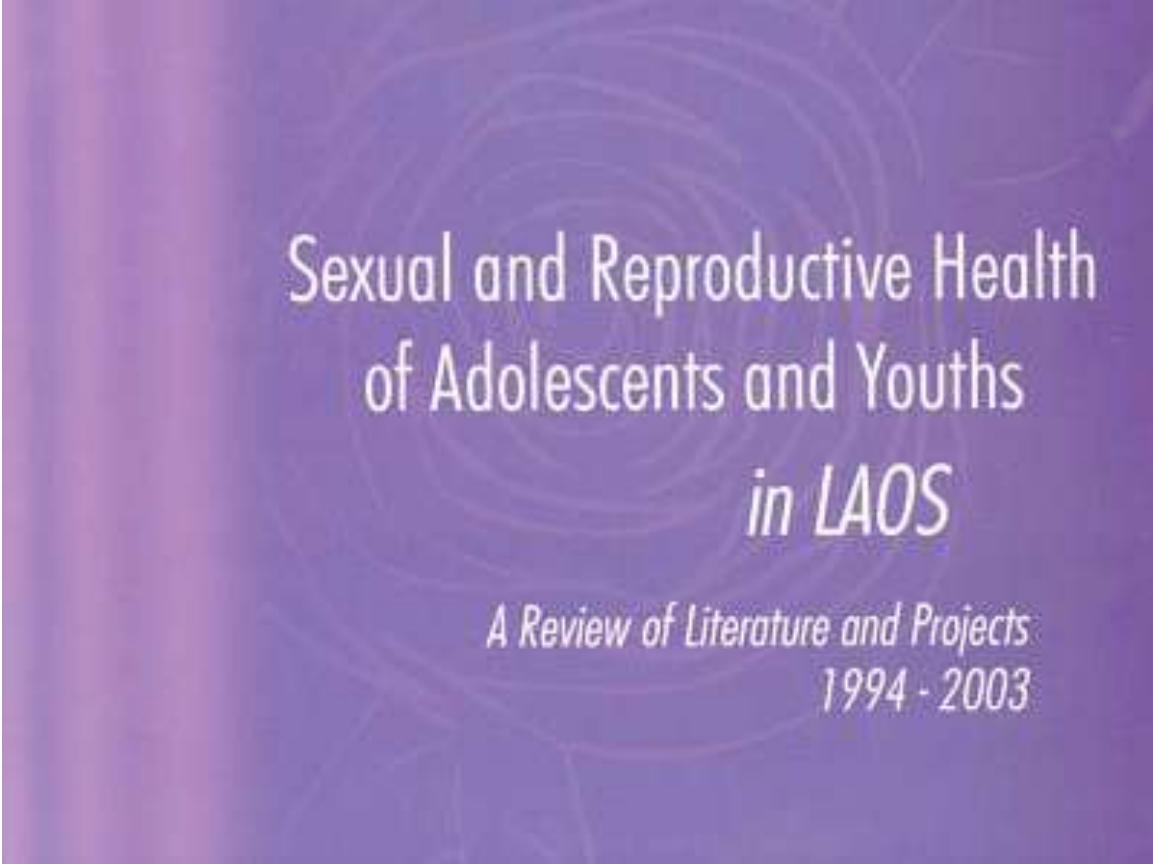






## Sources

Other countries in the region (comparability, comparison, cooperation)



Sexual and Reproductive Health  
of Adolescents and Youths  
*in LAOS*

*A Review of Literature and Projects  
1994 - 2003*

## **Sources**

Publications: scientific (peer reviewed journals, general access), popular (media).

# Exercise



There are  
No  
Shortcuts  
to any place  
worth going.