Writing the first paper

Some observations and suggestions
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First: the Dagu project period

We are here now

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

Baseline Endline

Thesis defense
Reading literature in your field of study

- Actively searching, all the time
- Becoming a master of current literature in your field
Selecting appropriate references

- Backing up statements
- Preferably original peer-reviewed publications
- Review papers vs. single original studies
Selecting a suitable journal

- With whom are you communicating?
- Is the journal interested in the type of manuscript you have?
- Beware of the many new low-quality web-based journals!
Stay focused; avoid being drowned by data
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• *Plan analyses before, based on aims – run those analyses*

• *You should master the data, not the other way around*

• *Multivariable analyses should only be done when motivated (e.g. if adjustment for multiple confounders is needed)*
How to manage supervisors’ comments

• *Write detailed answers to each comment or suggestion*

• *This is also good training for the rebuttal letters you need to phrase when receiving reviewers’ comments from journals*
Communicating: solving problems along the way

• Ask supervisors or other advisors when the problem arises – don’t waste your and your supervisors’ time by running into the wrong direction!

• A public health paper is team work, not a solo performance!
This is the way we will discuss your papers!

- Which journal? Instructions?
- Aims: clear, logic?
- Title: fits with aims?
- Background, rationale?
- Methods fit with aims?
- Results as promised in aims?
- Discussion: Short summary, each finding discussed, validity
- Conclusions fits with results?
- Abstract reflects the study well?