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Frustration Report for Week 2

Challenges Faced

While searching for and selecting the dataset, I feel we encountered a few difficulties in trying to identify what aligned most accurately with the expectations of the assignment. Since I have never previously worked with the World Data Bank, familiarizing myself with the platform was a bit daunting. There were many options to choose from for both data sets and indicators. There were a few obstacles I faced when selecting a dataset and indicators throughout this week's assignment. For example, in order to complete the dataset selection, I felt that it was important to make sure each indicator had available data across similar timeframes. There were some indicators that had gaps of data that I could foresee being an issue when it came to completing the rest of our project. I also thought there could be a combination of forming research questions before/after selecting the dataset that could help guide the initial indicator selection, however this was a bit frustrating as we did not know what kind of data would be available and if that data would be sufficient to answer any questions we formed later in the process.

Difficulties in Formulating Research Questions

For our research questions, we decided to divide the 60 questions evenly among our group. One challenge from this approach was trying to ensure that each of our questions were not duplicative of each other. There were some that had similar themes, however each one had a unique perspective.

It was also somewhat challenging to formulate questions based on the selected indicators. I would try to think of a way each indicator could relate to another and if their relationship would be significant enough to perform an analysis on. Looking back, many of our questions are based on the relationship between two variables. After our review in class, I feel that we should have included more questions that would fulfill the expectations to include questions centered around different types of analysis such as multiple linear regression, classification and clustering. However, this exercise did help us to realize that gap and we will be sure to include it in our project moving forward.

Strategies Used to Overcome Obstacles

For the challenge of selecting an initial database, I discovered an instruction manual for navigating the World Data Bank and understanding the definitions of each database and its indicators. This was helpful for me as a guide given that I had never worked with the World Data Bank prior to this project.

When it came to distributing the workload, each individual of the group was tasked with completing step 1 in Week 2's deliverables. As we regrouped, we were able to internally present our findings to come to a decision on which option we all aligned with most to move forward with the remaining deliverables for the week.

Constant communication among team members was key to our success with this week's deliverables. As we made progress, we made sure to check in with each other to provide support where needed. We also presented our findings and opinions and applied any feedback received on deliverables before uploading to our repository. I feel that the team's good rapport aided in our overall success thus far.

Reflections and Lessons Learned

If I were to restart this project again, I feel that carefully reviewing what was available in the World Data Bank would be helpful to understand the entirety of what options were available to us. Once I familiarize myself with my options, I feel that it would be easier to formulate initial base research questions to create a framework around what kind of indicators I should look to include or what databases I should focus on.

Overall, I feel that this experience has refined my approach to research and data analysis. As an analyst, there will be similar experiences where we will face challenges. However, this allows us to practice our research and analytics skills that could be applied in the "real world." Having the initiative and curiosity to seek out information that provides a solution is extremely important when it comes to data analysis.