AN ALTERNATIVE ESTIMATOR IN STRATIFIED RR STRATEGIES

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Abstract

This paper addresses the problem of estimating the proportion $\pi_S$ of the population having some sensitive characteristics using stratified randomize response model based on Warner’s model. We have suggested a class of estimators for the population proportion $\pi_S$ using Searls (1965) technique. It is shown that under certain conditions the proposed class of estimators is more efficient than Hong et al. (1994) and Kim and Warde (2004) estimators. The optimum estimator in the class is investigated. It has been shown that the optimum estimator is more efficient than Hong et al. (1994) and Kim and Warde (2004) estimators. Since the optimum estimator involves the use of an unknown population parameter $\pi_S$, it has therefore little practical utility. Using an estimated value of the parameter $\pi_S$ in the optimum estimator, an alternative estimator has been investigated for use in practice.

Key Words: Randomized Response Technique. Stratified Random Sampling, Proportional Allocation, Optimum Allocation.

1. Introduction

In psychological surveys, a social desirability bias has been observed as a major cause of distortion in standardized personality measures. Survey researchers have similar concerns about the truth of survey results/findings about such topics as drunk driving, use of marijuana, tax evasion, illicit drug use, induced abortion, shoplifting, child abuse, family disturbances, cheating in exams, HIV/AIDS, and sexual behavior. The most serious problem in studying certain social problems that are sensitive in nature (e.g., induced abortion, drug usage, tax evasion, etc.) is lack of reliable measure of their incidence or prevalence. Thus to obtain trustworthy data on such confidential matters, especially the sensitive ones, instead of open surveys alternative procedures are required. Such an alternative procedure known as “randomized response (RR) technique” was first introduced by Warner (1965). It provides the opportunity of reducing response biases due to dishonest answers to sensitive questions. As a result, the technique assures a considerable degree of privacy protection in many contexts. Warner (1965) himself pointed out how one may get a biased estimate in an open survey when a population consists of individuals bearing a stigmatizing character A or its complement $A^c$, which may or may not also be stigmatizing. Later several authors including Mangat and Singh (1990), Mangat (1994),
Singh and Mangat (1996), Singh and Tarray (2012, 2014 a,b,c,d,e,f,g) etc. have modified and suggested alternative response procedures applicable to different situations.

Hong et al. (1994) envisaged RR technique that applied the same randomization device to every stratum. Stratified random sampling is generally obtained by dividing the population into non-overlapping groups called strata and selecting a simple random sample from each stratum. An RR technique using a stratified sampling gives the group characteristics related to each stratum estimator. Also, stratified samples protect a researcher from the possibility of obtaining a poor sample. Under Hong et al.’s (1994) proportional sampling assumption, it may cause a high cast because of the difficulty in obtaining a proportional sample from some stratum. To overcome this problem, Kim and Warde (2004) presented a stratified randomized response technique using an optimal allocation which is more efficient than a stratified randomized response technique using a proportional allocation.

2. Proposed model

Let the population be partitioned into strata, and a sample is selected by simple random sampling with replacement (SRSWR) in each stratum. To get the full benefit from stratification, we assume that the number of units in each stratum is known. An individual respondent in the sample of stratum ‘i’ is instructed to use the randomization device $R_i$, which consists of a sensitive question $(S)$ card with probability $P_i$ and its negative question $(S^c)$ with probability $(1-P_i)$. The respondent should answer the question by "Yes" or "No" without reporting which question card she or he has. A respondent belonging to the sample in different strata will perform different randomization devices, each having different pre-assigned probabilities. Let $n_i$ denote the number of units in the sample from stratum i and $n$ denote the total number of units in samples from all stratum so that $n = \sum_{i=1}^{k} n_i$. Under the assumption that these "Yes" or "No" reports are made truthfully and $P_i$(≠0.5) is set by the researcher, the probability of a "Yes" answer in a stratum i for this procedure is

$$Z_i = [P_i \pi_{Si} + (1 - P_i) (1 - \pi_{Si})]$$  \hspace{0.5cm} \text{for} \hspace{0.5cm} (i = 1, 2, ..., k), \hspace{0.5cm} (2.1)

where $Z_i$ is the proportion of “Yes” answers in a stratum i, $\pi_{Si}$ is the proportion of respondents with the sensitive trait in a stratum i and $P_i$ is the probability that a respondent in the sample stratum i has a sensitive question (S) card.

The maximum likelihood estimate of $\pi_{Si}$ is shown to be

$$\hat{\pi}_{Si} = \frac{\hat{Z}_i - (1 - P_i)}{2P_i - 1} \hspace{0.5cm} \text{for} \hspace{0.5cm} (i = 1,2,\ldots,k), \hspace{0.5cm} (2.2)$$

where $\hat{Z}_i$ is the proportion of "Yes" answer in a sample in the stratum i since each $\hat{Z}_i$ is a binomial distribution $B(n_i, Z_i)$ and the selections in different strata are made.
independently, the maximum likelihood estimate of \( \pi_S = \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \pi_i \) is easily shown to be

\[
\hat{\pi}_S = \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \hat{\pi}_i = \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \left[ \frac{Z_i - (1 - P_i)}{2P_i - 1} \right],
\]

(2.3)

where \( N \) being the number of units in the whole population, \( N_i \) to be the total number of units in the stratum \( i \) and \( w_i = (N_i/N) \) for \((i = 1, 2, \ldots k)\) so that \( w = \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i = 1 \)

As each estimator \( \hat{\pi}_i \) is unbiased for \( \pi_i \), the expected value for \( \hat{\pi}_S \) is

\[
E\left( \hat{\pi}_S \right) = E\left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \hat{\pi}_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \pi_i = \pi_S
\]

(2.4)

Since each unbiased estimator \( \hat{\pi}_i \) has its own variance, the variance of \( \hat{\pi}_S \) is

\[
\text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_S) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{w_i^2}{n_i} \left[ \pi_i (1 - \pi_i) + \frac{P_i (1 - P_i)}{(2P_i - 1)^2} \right]
\]

(2.5)

Under the proportional allocation (i.e. \( n_i = n (N_i/N) \) the variance of \( \hat{\pi}_S \) is given by

\[
\text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_S)_p = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \left[ \pi_i (1 - \pi_i) + \frac{P_i (1 - P_i)}{(2P_i - 1)^2} \right]
\]

(2.6)

Further, we assume \( P_i = P \) for all \( i \), (4.2.6) becomes the following

\[
\text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_S)_p = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i L_i^2
\]

(2.7)

where

\[
L_i = \sqrt{\left\{ \pi_i (1 - \pi_i) + \frac{P (1 - P)}{(2P - 1)^2} \right\}}
\]

(2.8)

The expression (2.7) is due to Hong et al. (1994).

Information on \( \pi_{si} \) is usually unavailable. But if prior information on \( \pi_{si} \) is available from past experience then it helps to derive the optimal allocation formula. The optimal allocation of \( n \) to \( n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_{k-1} \) and \( n_k \) to drive the minimum variance of the \( \hat{\pi}_S \) subject to \( n = \sum_{i=1}^{k} n_i \) is approximately given by

\[
\frac{n_i}{n} = \frac{w_i V_i}{\sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i V_i}
\]

(2.9)
Using (2.9) in (2.5), we get the minimal variance of the estimator \( \hat{\pi}_S \) as

\[
V_i = \left\{ \pi_{Si}(1-\pi_{Si}) + \frac{P_i(1-P_i)}{(2P_i-1)^2} \right\}
\]

which is due to Kim and Warde (2004). Further, under the assumption \( P_i = p \) for all \( i \), (2.10) becomes

\[
\text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_S)_O = \frac{1}{n} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i V_i \right\}^2
\]

which is due to Kim and Warde (2004).

In this paper, we have suggested a class of estimators for estimating the population proportion \( \pi_S \). We have shown that the optimum estimator of the class is more efficient than Hong et al. (1994) and Kim and Warde (2004) estimators. An alternative estimator based on estimated optimum values has been derived along with its properties.

### 3. SUGGESTED ESTIMATORS

Motivated by Searls (1965), we have suggested a class of estimators of \( \pi_S \) as

\[
\hat{\pi}_{SI} = \lambda \hat{\pi}_S
\]

Where \( \lambda \) is a suitably chosen constant. The bias of \( \hat{\pi}_{SI} \) is given by

\[
B(\hat{\pi}_{SI}) = E(\hat{\pi}_{SI} - \pi_S) = (\lambda - 1)\pi_S
\]

The mean square error (MSE) of \( \hat{\pi}_{SI} \) is given by

\[
MSE(\hat{\pi}_{SI}) = E(\hat{\pi}_{SI} - \pi_S)^2 = \lambda^2 \left( \pi_S^2 + \text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_S) \right) - 2\lambda \pi_S^2 + \pi_S^2
\]

Minimization of (3.3) with respect to \( \lambda \) yields the optimum value of \( \lambda \) as

\[
\lambda = \frac{\pi_S^2}{(\pi_S^2 + \text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_S))} = \lambda_0 \text{ say}
\]

So, the value of \( \lambda_0 \) of \( \lambda \) at (3.4) is the optimum value of \( \lambda \) which will minimize MSE(\( \hat{\pi}_{SI} \)) at (3.3). Putting the value of \( \lambda_0 \) in place of \( \lambda \) in (3.3), we get the minimum MSE of \( (\hat{\pi}_{SI}) \) as

\[
\text{min. MSE}(\hat{\pi}_{SI}) = \frac{\pi_S^2 \text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_S)}{\pi_S^2 + \text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_S)}
\]

From (2.5) and (3.5) we have

\[
\text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_S) - \text{min. MSE}(\hat{\pi}_{SI}) = \frac{(\text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_S))^2}{\pi_S^2 + \text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_S)}
\]
which is always positive. Thus the proposed estimator $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ at its optimum condition is always better than usual unbiased estimator $\hat{\pi}_S$

**Proportional Allocation**

Under the proportional allocation (i.e. $n_i = n (N_i / N)$, the MSE of $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ in (3.3) is given by

$$\text{MSE}(\hat{\pi}_{SI})_p = \lambda^2 \left[ \pi_S^2 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i V_i \right] - 2\lambda \pi_S^2 + \pi_S^2$$

(3.6)

where $V_i$ is same defined earlier.

For $P_i = P$ for all $i$, (3.6) reduces to

$$\text{MSE}(\hat{\pi}_{SI})_p = \lambda^2 \left[ \pi_S^2 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i L_i \right] - 2\lambda \pi_S^2 + \pi_S^2$$

(3.7)

which is minimum when

$$\lambda = \frac{\pi_S^2}{\left\{ \pi_S^2 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i L_i \right\}} = \lambda_{0P}$$

(3.8)

where $L_i$ is same as defined earlier.

Substitution of (3.8) in (3.7) yields the minimum MSE of $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ under the proportional allocation and $P_i = P$ for all $i$, as

$$\text{min. MSE}(\hat{\pi}_{SI})_p = \frac{\left\{ \frac{1}{n} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i L_i \right\} \right\} \pi_S^2}{\left\{ \pi_S^2 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i L_i \right\}}$$

(3.9)

From (2.7) and (3.9) we have

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_S)_p - \text{min. MSE}(\hat{\pi}_{SI})_p = \frac{\left\{ \frac{1}{n} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i L_i \right\} \right\}^2}{\left\{ \pi_S^2 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i L_i \right\}^2} > 0$$

(3.10)

which shows that the proposed class of estimator $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ is more efficient than Hong et al.’s (1994) estimator $\hat{\pi}_S$ under proportional allocation and $P_i = P$ for all $i$.

**Optimum allocation**

Under optimum allocation (2.9), the MSE of $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ is given by
MSE($\hat{\pi}_{Si}) = \lambda^2 \left[ \pi_s^2 + \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i V_i \right)^2 \right] - 2\lambda \pi_s^2 + \pi_s^2 \tag{3.11}

where $V_i$ is same as defined earlier.

The MSE ($\hat{\pi}_{Si}$)$_O$ in (3.11) is minimized for

$$\lambda = \frac{\pi_s^2}{\left\{ \pi_s^2 + \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i V_i \right)^2 \right\}} = \lambda_{0O} \text{ (say)} \tag{3.12}$$

Thus the resulting minimum MSE of $\hat{\pi}_{Si}$ under optimum allocation (2.9) is given by

$$\text{min. MSE}(\hat{\pi}_{Si}) = \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i V_i \right)^2 \right) \left( \frac{\pi_s^2}{n} \right) \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \tag{3.13}$$

For $P_i = P$ for all $i$, (3.11) reduces to

$$\text{MSE}(\hat{\pi}_{Si}) = \lambda^2 \left[ \pi_s^2 + \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i L_i \right)^2 \right] - 2\lambda \pi_s^2 + \pi_s^2 \tag{3.14}$$

where $L_i$ is same as defined earlier.

The MSE ($\hat{\pi}_{Si}$)$_O$ in (3.14) is minimized for

$$\lambda = \pi_s^2 \left\{ \pi_s^2 + \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i L_i \right)^2 \right\}^{-1} = \lambda^{*0o} \text{ (say)} \tag{3.15}$$

Thus the resulting minimum MSE of $\hat{\pi}_{Si}$ under optimum allocation (2.9) and $P_i = P$ for all $i$, is given by

$$\text{min. MSE}(\hat{\pi}_{Si}) = \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i L_i \right)^2 \right) \left( \frac{\pi_s^2}{n} \right) \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \tag{3.16}$$

From (2.11) and (3.16) we have

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_S) - \text{min. MSE}(\hat{\pi}_{Si}) = \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i L_i \right)^4 > 0 \tag{3.17}$$
which indicates that the proposed estimator $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ is more efficient than Kim and Warde (2004) estimator $\hat{\pi}_{S}$ under the optimum allocation and $P_i = P$ for all $i$.

4. Numerical Illustration

In order to assess the amount of gain in efficiency due to $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ under proportional and optimum allocation over Hong et al. (1994) estimator $(\hat{\pi}_{S})_p$ (under proportional allocation) and Kim and Warde (2004) estimator $(\hat{\pi}_{S})_O$ (under optimum allocation), the percentage relative efficiency of $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ (under proportional and optimum allocation) over $\hat{\pi}_{S}$ (under proportional and optimum allocation) have been computed for different values $\pi_{SI}$, $\pi_{S2}$, $w_1$, $w_2$, $\pi_{S}$, $P = P_1$ and $P_2$ using the following formulae:

(i) The percent relative efficiency of the estimator $\hat{\pi}_{S}$ (under proportional allocation) with respect to the estimator $\hat{\pi}_{S}$ (under optimum allocation) is defined by:

$$\text{PRE}((\hat{\pi}_{S})_O,(\hat{\pi}_{S})_p) = \frac{\text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_{S})_p}{\text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_{S})_O} \times 100 \quad (\text{for } k = 2) \quad (4.1)$$

(ii) The percent relative efficiency of the estimator $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ (under optimum allocation) with respect to Kim and Warde (2004) estimator $\hat{\pi}_{S}$ (under optimum allocation) (from (2.10) and (3.13)) is defined by:

$$\text{PRE} (\hat{\pi}_{SI},\hat{\pi}_{S})_O = \frac{\text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_{S})_O}{\text{min}.\text{MSE}(\hat{\pi}_{SI})_O} \times 100$$

$$= \left(1 + \frac{1}{n \pi_{S}^2} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{2} w_i \pi_{i} \right)^2\right) \times 100 \quad (\text{for } k = 2) \quad (4.2)$$

(iii) The percent relative efficiency of the estimator $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ (under proportional allocation) with respect to Hong et al.’s (1994) estimator $\hat{\pi}_{S}$ (under proportional allocation) (from (2.7) and (3.9)) is defined by:

$$\text{PRE} (\hat{\pi}_{SI},\hat{\pi}_{S})_p = \frac{\text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_{S})_p}{\text{min}.\text{MSE}(\hat{\pi}_{SI})_p} \times 100$$

$$= \left(1 + \frac{1}{n \pi_{S}^2} \sum_{i=1}^{2} w_i L_i^2\right) \times 100 \quad (\text{for } k = 2) \quad (4.3)$$
### Table 4.1: Percent relative efficiency of the estimator \( \hat{\pi}_S \) (under proportional allocation) with respect to the estimator \( \hat{\pi}_S \) (under optimum allocation)

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<th>( \pi_{S2} )</th>
<th>( w_1 )</th>
<th>( w_2 )</th>
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| when n = 1000 |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| $\pi_{S1}$    | $\pi_{S2}$       | $w_1$            | $w_2$            | $\pi_S$          | $P = \pi_i$      |
| 0.08          | 0.13             | 0.7              | 0.3              | 0.095            | 134.39           |
| 0.08          | 0.13             | 0.3              | 0.7              | 0.115            | 109.41           |
| 0.28          | 0.33             | 0.3              | 0.7              | 0.295            | 103.65           |
| 0.28          | 0.33             | 0.3              | 0.7              | 0.315            | 101.32           |
| 0.48          | 0.53             | 0.7              | 0.3              | 0.495            | 101.70           |
| 0.48          | 0.53             | 0.3              | 0.7              | 0.515            | 100.50           |
| 0.68          | 0.73             | 0.7              | 0.3              | 0.695            | 100.65           |
| 0.88          | 0.93             | 0.7              | 0.3              | 0.895            | 101.14           |
| 0.88          | 0.93             | 0.3              | 0.7              | 0.915            | 101.14           |

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<td>$\pi_{S2}$</td>
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<td>$w_2$</td>
<td>$\pi_S$</td>
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<td>0.915</td>
<td>220.98</td>
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Table 4.2: Percent relative efficiency of the estimator $\hat{\pi}_{S1}$ (under optimum allocation) with respect to the Kim and Warde (2004) estimator $\hat{\pi}_S$ (under optimum allocation)
Table 4.3: Percent relative efficiency of the estimator $\hat{\pi}_{S1}$ (under proportional allocation) with respect to Hong et al. (1994) estimator $\hat{\pi}_S$ (under proportional allocation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$\pi_{S1}$</th>
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<th>$\pi_S$</th>
<th>$P = P_1$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
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<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>0.93</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.1 shows that the values of the relative efficiency are greater than 100 % for all parameter values tabulated. This shows the superiority of the Kim and Warde (2004) estimator $\hat{\pi}_S$ (under optimum estimator) over Hong et al. (1994) estimator $\hat{\pi}_S$ (under proportional allocation). Table 4.2 exhibits that the percent relative efficiency of the proposed estimator $\hat{\pi}_{S1}$ (under optimum allocation) with respect to Kim and Warde (2004) estimator $\hat{\pi}_S$ (under optimum allocation) decreases as sample size increases. It is observed that the percent relative efficiency is almost 100 % when the sample size is
large. Larger gain is observed when the sample size $n$ and $\pi_S$ are small. However, the percent relative efficiency is always greater than 100 % which establishes the superiority of the proposed estimator $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ (under optimum allocation) over Kim and Warde (2004) estimator $\hat{\pi}_S$ (under optimum allocation). Table 4.3 - exhibits that the percent relative efficiency of the proposed estimator $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ (under optimum allocation) with respect to Hong et al. (1994) estimator $\hat{\pi}_S$ (under proportional allocation) decreases as sample size and value of $P$ increase. Larger gain in efficiency is observed for small as well as moderately large sample sizes. However, the percent relative efficiency is more than 100 % for all parametric values considered here, therefore the proposed estimator $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ (under proportional allocation) is better than Hong et al. (1994) estimator $\hat{\pi}_S$ (under proportional allocation).

Finally from the above discussion we conclude that the proposed class of estimators $\hat{\pi}_{SI}$ under proportional as well as optimum allocations is better than the Hong et al.(1994) estimator $\hat{\pi}_S$ (under proportional allocation) and Kim and Warde (2004) estimator $\hat{\pi}_S$ (under optimum allocation).

Remark 4.1 – It is pertinent to note that the optimum values $\lambda_0$, $\lambda_{0P}$ and $\lambda_{0O}$ in (3.4), (3.8) and (3.12) respectively depend on the $Z_i$’s which can be estimated unbiased by sample proportion $\hat{Z}_i$ of the “Yes” answers. Hence it is suggested for the use of $\hat{\lambda}_0$, $\hat{\lambda}_{0P}$ and $\hat{\lambda}_{0O}$ respectively defined as

$$\hat{\lambda}_0 = \frac{\hat{\pi}_S^2}{\hat{\pi}_S^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i^2 \frac{\hat{Z}_i (1-\hat{Z}_i)}{n_i (2P_i - 1)^2}}$$

(4.4)

$$\hat{\lambda}_{0P} = \frac{\hat{\pi}_S^2}{\hat{\pi}_S^2 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i L_i^2}$$

(4.5)

and

$$\hat{\lambda}_{0O} = \frac{\hat{\pi}_S^2}{\hat{\pi}_S^2 + \frac{1}{n} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \hat{V}_i \right)^2}$$

(4.6)
where
\[
\hat{L}_i = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{\pi}_{Si} (1 - \hat{\pi}_{Si}) + \frac{P(1-P)}{(2P-1)^2}}{\sum_{i=1}^{k} \left\{ \alpha_i \hat{Z}_i + b_i \right\}}}
\] (4.7)

and
\[
\hat{V}_i = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{\pi}_{Si} (1 - \hat{\pi}_{Si}) + \frac{P_i(1-P_i)}{(2P_i-1)^2}}{\sum_{i=1}^{k} \left\{ \alpha_i \hat{Z}_i + b_i \right\}}}
\] (4.8)

For further discussion on this issue one can refer to Singh and Singh (1992) and Sampath et al. (1995).

5. Further Development

Motivated by Sampth et al. (1995) we consider a more generalized class of estimators for \( \pi_S \) namely
\[
\hat{\pi}_{Sab} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \left\{ \alpha_i \hat{Z}_i + b_i \right\}
\] (5.1)

which reduces to (i) \( \hat{\pi}_S = \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \hat{\pi}_{Si} \),
when
\[
\alpha_i = (2P_i - 1)^{-1}, \quad b_i = - (1-P_i) (2P_i - 1)^{-1}
\]

(ii) Singh and Singh (1992) type estimator \( \hat{\pi}_{SS} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \left\{ h_i \hat{Z}_i - (1-P_i) \right\} \)
when
\[
\alpha_i = h_i (2P_i - 1)\quad \text{and} \quad b_i = - h (1-P_i) (2P_i - 1)^{-1}
\]

(iii) the proposed estimator \( \hat{\pi}_{SI} = h \hat{\pi}_S \)
when
\[
\alpha_i = h (2P_i - 1)^{-1}, \quad b_i = - h (1-P_i) (2P_i - 1)^{-1}
\]

The mean square error of the estimator \( \hat{\pi}_{Sab} \) is
\[
\text{MSE} (\hat{\pi}_{Sab}) = \text{Var}(\hat{\pi}_{Sab}) + \left[ B(\hat{\pi}_{Sab}) \right]^2
\] (5.2)

Here
\[
\text{Var} (\hat{\pi}_{Sab}) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i^2 \frac{Z_i^2 (1 - Z_i)}{n_i}
\] (5.3)

\[
B(\hat{\pi}_{Sab}) = E (\hat{\pi}_{Sab}) - \pi_S = E \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i (\alpha_i \hat{Z}_i + b_i) - \pi_S \right\}
\]
\[
= \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \left[ \left( \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2P_i - 1} \right) Z_i + \left( b_i + \frac{(1-P_i)}{(2P_i - 1)} \right) \right]
\] (5.4)
Thus the MSE of \( \hat{\pi}_{Sab} \) is given by

\[
\text{MSE}(\hat{\pi}_{Sab}) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \left( a_i \frac{Z_i(1-Z_i)}{n_i} + \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \left( a_i - \frac{1}{(2P_1-1)} \right) Z_i + \left( b_i + \frac{(1-P_i)}{(2P_1-1)} \right) \right)^2
\]  

(5.5)

The mean square error of the estimator given in (5.4) is minimum if \( a_i = 0 \) and \( b_i = \frac{Z_i - (1-P_i)}{(2P_1-1)} \) and the resulting mean square error is zero.

The exact mean square error of the estimator \( \hat{\pi}_{Sab} \) is zero for the optimum values of \( a_i = 0 \) and \( b_i = \frac{Z_i - (1-P_i)}{(2P_1-1)} \). But the optimum value \( b_i \) needs the knowledge of \( Z_i \) for which the usual choice is \( \hat{Z}_i \), the proportion of “Yes” answers in a stratum \( i \).

Thus the substitution of \( a_i = 0 \) and \( b_i = \frac{Z_i - (1-P_i)}{(2P_1-1)} \) in \( \hat{\pi}_{Sab} \) given by (5.1) yields the estimator

\[
\hat{\pi}_{Sab} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \left( \frac{Z_i - (1-P_i)}{2P_1-1} \right) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} w_i \hat{\pi}_{Si} = \hat{\pi}_S
\]

which is the conventional unbiased estimator [ see Hong et al. (1994)]. Hence it is inferred that the estimator \( \hat{\pi}_S \) is the best estimator if one tries to formulate estimators better than the usual estimator \( \hat{\pi}_S \) proceeding in the direction of Singh and Singh (1992), [see Sampath et al. (1995) p. 248].

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References