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BAYESIAN ESTIMATION OF POPULATION PROPORTION IN KIM AND WARDE MIXED RANDOMIZED RESPONSE TECHNIQUE

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Abstract: In this study, we have developed the Bayesian estimator of the population proportion of a sensitive characteristic when data are obtained through the Randomized Response Technique (RRT) proposed by Kim and Warde [12]. Superiority of the Bayesian estimators is established for a wide range of the values of the population proportion using simple Beta prior information. It is observed that the Bayesian estimators are better than the usual Maximum Likelihood Estimator (MLE) for small as well as moderate samples. The Proposed estimator is also compared with the Warner [29], Kim and Warde [12] and Kim et al. [13] estimators.

Keywords: Bayesian estimation, mean squared error, randomized response technique, simple random sampling.

1. Introduction

In human population surveys, estimation of population proportion of a stigmatized attribute (induced abortion, drug usage, tax evasion, etc.) with direct questioning method is a complex dealing. An evaluator may possibly collect deceitful answers from the study respondents when he/she uses conventional direct questioning approach. Due to various reasons, information about commonness of stigmatized attributes, in the population, is necessary. Originally, Warner [29] projected an effective method of survey to collect information about stigmatized attributes by providing privacy and secrecy to the respondents. Warner's procedure consists of two questions A and A^c to be answered on probability foundation. The simple random sampling with replacement (SRSWR) is assumed. The i^{th} selected respondent is requested to indiscriminately

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pick a question (A or A^c) and report yes if his/her real category matches with chosen question and *no* otherwise. The probability of a yes for i^{th} respondent is then given by:

$$P(yes) = \theta = p\pi + (1-p)(1-\pi)$$
⁽¹⁾

where p is the probability of selecting question A, and π is population proportion of individuals possessing the stigmatized attribute. The two questions are:

- A = do you belong to possess the sensitive attribute.
- $A^c =$ do you not belong to possess the sensitive attribute.

From (1) we get:

$$\pi = \frac{\theta - (1 - p)}{2p - 1}.$$

By the method of maximum likelihood, an unbiased estimator of π is:

$$\hat{\pi}_{ML} = \frac{\hat{\theta} - (1 - p)}{2p - 1}, \quad p \neq \frac{1}{2},$$
(2)

where $\hat{\theta} = \frac{n'}{n}$ and n' is the number of yes responses in the sample of n. The variance of the estimator given in (2) is shown to be:

The variance of the estimator given in (2) is shown to be:

$$Var(\hat{\pi}_{ML}) = \frac{\pi(1-\pi)}{n} + \frac{p(1-p)}{n(2p-1)^2}.$$
(3)

A big amount of developments and variants of Warner's RRT have been suggested by quite a lot of researchers. Greenberg et al. [8], Folsom et al. [7], Christofides [4], Odumade and Singh [20], Mangat [14], Perri [21], Singh and Horn [23], Kim and Warde [12] are some of the many to be cited. The interested readers may be referred to Chaudhuri and Mukerjee [3], Fox and Tracy [6] and Tracy and Mangat [26] for a comprehensive discussion on RRT.

Prior information about the unknown parameter is sometimes obtainable and can be used along with the sample information for estimation of that unknown parameter. This is Bayesian approach of estimation. Hard works done by researchers on Bayesian analysis of randomized response models are not very massive; nonetheless, attempts have been made on the Bayesian analysis of RRTs. Winkler and Franklin [28], Spurrier and Padgett [25], O'Hagan [18], Oh [19], Migon and Tachibana [16], Unnikrishnan and Kunte [27], Barabesi and Marcheselli [1, 2], Hussain et al. [11] and Kim et al. [13] are the major references on the Bayesian analysis of the RRTs.

The arrangement of the paper is as follows. In Section 2, we present the Kim and Warde [12] RRT followed by Bayesian estimation of population proportion and comparisons using Kim and Warde [12] RRT in Section 3. Section 4 contains the conclusions.

2. Kim and Warde Mixed RRT

To avoid the privacy problems in Moors [17] model, Mangat et al. [15] and Singh et al. [24] proposed alternative models to the Moors model. Specifically, Mangat et al. [15] proposed a random group method which can safeguard the privacy and anonymity of the respondents but it has an efficiency problem. Singh et al. [24] proposed models assumed simple random sampling without replacement which led to a high-cost survey compared with the Moors [17] model using simple random sampling with replacement. To circumvent these drawbacks of Mangat et al. [15] and Singh et al. [24] models, Kim and Warde [12] proposed a new randomized response model using simple random sampling. In Kim and Warde [12] RRM, each sample respondent, selected by simple random sampling with replacement, is asked to answer a direct question "I am a member of innocuous trait group". If a respondent answers yes, then he/she is directed to go to randomization device R_1 consisting of two statements (i) "I am a member of the sensitive trait group" and (ii) I am a member of innocuous trait group with pre-assigned probabilities T_1 and (1- T_1). If a respondent answers *no* to the direct question, then the respondent is requested to use randomization device R_2 , consisting of the statements of the Warner [29] RRT with pre-assigned probabilities p and (1 - p) respectively. The proportion of yes responses from the respondents using R_1 is given by:

$$\psi = T_1 \pi + (1 - T_1) \pi_I = T_1 \pi + (1 - T_1), \tag{4}$$

where π_i is proportion of individuals possessing innocuous trait. An estimator of π is defined as:

$$\hat{\pi}_a = \frac{\hat{\psi} - \left(1 - T_1\right)}{T_1}.$$

The variance of $\hat{\pi}_a$ is given by:

$$Var(\hat{\pi}_{a}) = \frac{\psi(1-\psi)}{n_{1}T_{1}^{2}} = \frac{(1-\pi)[T_{1}\pi + (1-T_{1})]}{n_{1}T_{1}}.$$

The proportion of *yes* answers from the respondents using R_2 is given by (1). Another unbiased estimator of π is given by (2) with variance given by (3).

Using $\hat{\pi}_a$ and $\hat{\pi}_{M}$, Kim and Warde [12] defined an unbiased estimator of π as:

$$\hat{\pi}^{\text{KM}} = \frac{n_1}{n} \hat{\pi}_a + \frac{n_2}{n} \hat{\pi}_{ML} \quad \text{for } 0 < \frac{n_1}{n} < 1.$$

The choice $p = \frac{1}{2 - T_1}$ provides equal privacy protection in both the randomization devices R_1 and R_2 . With this choice, variance of the estimator $\hat{\pi}^{\text{KM}}$ is given by:

$$Var(\hat{\pi}^{\rm KM}) = \frac{\pi(1-\pi)}{n} + \frac{(1-T_1)[\lambda T_1(1-\pi) + (1-\pi)]}{nT_1^2},$$

for $n = n_1 + n_2$ and $\lambda = \frac{n_1}{n}$, where n_1 and n_2 are the numbers of *yes* responses from the respondents using R_1 and R_2 respectively. The two problems with $\hat{\pi}^{\text{KM}}$ are apparent (i) the estimator may assume values outside the interval [0,1] and (ii) the variance of the estimator depends upon the numbers $(n_1 \text{ and } n_2)$ of respondents using randomization devices R_1 and R_2 .

3. Bayesian Estimation of using Kim and Warde (2005) RRT and Comparisons

In many practical situations where we have some uncertainty about our parameter of interest (π) which is formally given in the form of prior distribution (see Winkler and Franklin [28], and Spurrier and Padgett [25]), we use Beta distribution as a prior density for π which is quite natural and common choice in literature (see Barabesi and Marcheselli [1] and Hussain and Shabbir [9, 10]). The probability model for the π in the form of Beta distribution with α and β as hyperparameters is given as:

$$f(\pi | \alpha, \beta) = \frac{1}{\operatorname{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)} \pi^{\alpha - 1} (1 - \pi)^{\beta - 1} \qquad , 0 \le \pi \le 1.$$

Now we develop a Bayesian analysis of Kim and Warde [12] RRT assuming a simple random sample with replacement (SRRWR). A sample of size n individuals is drawn and Kim and Warde [12] RRT is applied to collect responses from the selected individuals. Also we assume that the number of respondents in each of the sub sample is known by some way.

Let $X = \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} Y_i$ be the number of *yes* responses from the respondents using R_1 , where Y_i is a Bernoulli random variable with probability of a *yes* given by (4). Now the conditional distribution of X given π is:

$$f_{X/\pi}(x/\pi) = \frac{n_1!}{x!(n_1 - x)!} (T_1\pi + 1 - T_1)^x (1 - T_1\pi - 1 + T_1)^{n_1 - x}$$

$$= \frac{n_1!}{x!(n_1 - x)!} T_1^{n_1} (\pi + d)^x (1 - \pi)^{n_1 - x}$$

$$= \frac{n_1!}{x!(n_1 - x)!} T_1^{n_1} (1 - \pi)^{n_1 - x} \sum_{j=0}^x \frac{x!}{j!(x - j)!} d^{x - j} \pi^j, \qquad (5)$$

for $x = 0, 1, 2..., n_1$, where $d = \frac{(1 - T_1)}{T_1}$. The last step in (5) follows by simply writing $(\pi + d)^x$ in its binomial expansion. Thus, the posterior distribution of π given X is:

$$f_{\Pi/X}(\pi/x) = \frac{\sum_{j=0}^{x} \frac{x!}{j!(x-j)!} d^{x-j} \pi^{\alpha+j-1} (1-\pi)^{n_1+\beta-x-1}}{\sum_{j=0}^{x} \frac{x!}{j!(x-j)!} d^{x-j} \beta(\alpha+j, n_1+\beta-x)} I(0 < \pi < 1).$$

Assuming a squared error loss function a closed form expression of the Bayesian estimator from the responses of the respondents using R_1 , is given by:

$$\hat{\pi}_{B_{1}} = \frac{\sum_{j=0}^{x} \frac{x!}{j!(x-j)!} d^{x-j} \int_{0}^{1} \pi^{\alpha+j-1} (1-\pi)^{n_{1}+\beta-x-1} d\pi}{\sum_{j=0}^{x} \frac{x!}{j!(x-j)!} d^{x-j} \beta(\alpha+j,n_{1}+\beta-x)}.$$
or
$$\hat{\pi}_{B_{1}} = \frac{\sum_{j=0}^{x} \frac{x!}{j!(x-j)!} d^{x-j} \beta(\alpha+j+1,n_{1}+\beta-x)}{\sum_{j=0}^{x} \frac{x!}{j!(x-j)!} d^{x-j} \beta(\alpha+j,n_{1}+\beta-x)}.$$
(6)

Let $T = \sum_{i=1}^{n_2} W_i$ be number of *yes* responses from the respondents using R_2 , where $W_i = 1$ with probability θ and $W_i = 0$ with probability $(1 - \theta)$, where θ is defined as in (1). The conditional distribution of *T* given π is:

$$f_{T/\pi}(t/\pi) = \frac{n_2!}{t!(n_2-t)!} (p\pi + (1-p)(1-\pi))^t (1-p\pi - (1-p)(1-\pi))^{n_2-t}$$
$$= \frac{n_2!}{t!(n_2-t)!} (2p-1)^{n_2} (\pi+g)^t (1-\pi+g)^{n_2-t}$$
$$= \frac{n_2!}{t!(n_2-t)!} (2p-1)^{n_2} \sum_{i=0}^t \sum_{j=0}^{n_2-t} \frac{t!}{i!(t-i)!} \frac{(n_2-t)!}{j!(n_2-t-j)!} g^{n-j-i} \pi^i (1-\pi)^j,$$
(7)

for $t = 0, 1, 2..., n_2$, where $g = \frac{(1-p)}{(2p-1)}$.

Thus, the posterior distribution of π given T is:

$$f_{\Pi/T}(\pi/t) = k \sum_{i=0}^{t} \sum_{j=0}^{n_2-i} \frac{t!}{i!(t-i)!} \frac{(n_2-t)!}{j!(n_2-t-j)!} g^{n_2-j-i} \pi^{\alpha+i-1} (1-\pi)^{\beta+j-1},$$

where

$$k = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=0}^{t} \sum_{j=0}^{n_2-t} \frac{t!}{i!(t-i)!} \frac{(n_2-t)!}{j!(n_2-t-j)!} g^{n-j-i} \beta(\alpha+i,\beta+j)}.$$

Under the squared error loss function a closed form expression of the Bayesian estimator of π based on the responses form the respondents using R_2 is given by:

$$\hat{\pi}_{B_2} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{t} \sum_{j=0}^{n_2-t} \frac{t!}{i!(t-i)!} \frac{(n_2-t)!}{j!(n_2-t-j)!} g^{n_2-j-i} \int_{0}^{1} \pi^{\alpha+i+1-1} (1-\pi)^{\beta+j-1} d\pi}{\sum_{i=0}^{t} \sum_{j=0}^{n_2-t} \frac{t!}{i!(t-i)!} \frac{(n_2-t)!}{j!(n_2-t-j)!} g^{n_2-j-i} \beta(\alpha+i,\beta+j)}$$

or

$$\hat{\pi}_{B_{2}} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{t} \sum_{j=0}^{n_{2}-t} \frac{t!}{i!(t-i)!} \frac{(n_{2}-t)!}{j!(n_{2}-t-j)!} g^{n_{2}-j-i} \beta(\alpha+i+1,\beta+j)}{\sum_{i=0}^{t} \sum_{j=0}^{n_{2}-t} \frac{t!}{i!(t-i)!} \frac{(n_{2}-t)!}{j!(n_{2}-t-j)!} g^{n_{2}-j-i} \beta(\alpha+i,\beta+j)}.$$
(8)

Now using (6) and (8), we may define the Bayesian estimator of π as:

$$\hat{\pi}^{\text{Prop}} = \frac{n_1}{n} \hat{\pi}_{B_1} + \frac{n_2}{n} \hat{\pi}_{B_2}.$$
(9)

Before moving towards formal comparisons of different estimators under study, we point out some computational issues related to our study. From (6), (8) and (9) it is apparent that the Bayesian estimator involves a large computation especially when the sample size and/or the number of *yes* responses is large. To deal with this difficulty we have written a program in *R* software (this program is available with the first author). As from the expression of the Bayesian estimator it is clear that it cannot be written as a linear function of the usual *MLE*, therefore, the approach of Samaneigo and Reneau [22] of using Bayes relative risk relative to an unknown true prior distribution for making comparison of Bayesian and Classical point estimators cannot be applied here. Chaubey and Li [5] used Classical approach to compare the Bayesian and Classical estimators and did not use a loss function. The same approach of comparison is used by Kim et al. [13] and we also follow the same approach in our study.

As it is obvious that the two estimators $\hat{\pi}_a$ and $\hat{\pi}_{ML}$ (and $\hat{\pi}_{B_1}$ and $\hat{\pi}_{B_2}$) are dependent. Moreover, unbiasedness property is not associated with $\hat{\pi}_{B_1}$ and $\hat{\pi}_{B_2}$. Therefor, to take care of biasedness and dependence issue we define the approximate Mean Squared Errors (*MSEs*) of the Bayesian $(\hat{\pi}^{Prop})$ and classical estimator $(\hat{\pi}^{KM})$, for a fixed value of π , as:

$$MSE\left(\hat{\pi}^{\text{KM}}\right) \approx \left(\frac{n_1}{n}\right)^2 MSE\left(\hat{\pi}_a\right) + \left(\frac{n_2}{n}\right)^2 MSE\left(\hat{\pi}_{ML}\right),$$

and

$$MSE\left(\hat{\pi}^{Prop}\right) \approx \left(\frac{n_1}{n}\right)^2 MSE\left(\hat{\pi}_{B_1}\right) + \left(\frac{n_2}{n}\right)^2 MSE\left(\hat{\pi}_{B_2}\right)$$

where

$$MSE(\hat{\pi}_{a}) = E(\hat{\pi}_{a} - \pi)^{2} = \sum_{x=0}^{n_{1}} (\hat{\pi}_{a} - \pi)^{2} \frac{n_{1}!}{x!(n_{1} - x)!} \psi^{x} (1 - \psi)^{n_{1} - x}$$
$$MSE(\hat{\pi}_{ML}) = E(\hat{\pi}_{ML} - \pi)^{2} = \sum_{t=0}^{n_{2}} (\hat{\pi}_{ML} - \pi)^{2} \frac{n_{2}!}{t!(n_{2} - t)!} (\theta)^{t} (1 - \theta)^{n_{2} - t}$$
$$MSE(\hat{\pi}_{B_{1}}) = E(\hat{\pi}_{B_{1}} - \pi)^{2} = \sum_{x=0}^{n_{1}} (\hat{\pi}_{B_{1}} - \pi)^{2} \frac{n_{1}!}{x!(n_{1} - x)!} \psi^{x} (1 - \psi)^{n_{1} - x}$$
$$MSE(\hat{\pi}_{B_{2}}) = E(\hat{\pi}_{B_{2}} - \pi)^{2} = \sum_{t=0}^{n_{2}} (\hat{\pi}_{B_{2}} - \pi)^{2} \frac{n_{2}!}{t!(n_{2} - t)!} (\theta)^{t} (1 - \theta)^{n_{2} - t}$$

Using the Mangat [14] RRT, Kim et al. [13] proposed a Bayesian estimator which can be compared with proposed Bayesian estimator. Kim et al. [13] estimator $\hat{\pi}^{BK}$ is given by:

$$\hat{\pi}^{\mathrm{BK}} = \frac{\sum_{j=0}^{x} \frac{x!}{j!(x-j)!} h^{x-j} \beta(\alpha+j+1, n+\beta-x)}{\sum_{j=0}^{x} \frac{x!}{j!(x-j)!} h^{x-j} \beta(\alpha+j, n+\beta-x)}, h = \frac{1-p}{p}.$$

The *MSE* of the Kim et al. [13] estimator $\hat{\pi}^{BK}$ is given by:

$$MSE(\hat{\pi}^{BK}) = E(\hat{\pi}^{BK} - \pi)^{2} = \sum_{x=0}^{n} (\hat{\pi}^{BK} - \pi)^{2} \phi^{x} (1 - \phi)^{n-x},$$

where $\phi = p\pi + (1 - p)$. Also, when data are obtained by Warner [29] RRT with probability of a *yes* answer given by (4), the Bayes estimator of the population proportion π is given by:

$$\hat{\pi}^{W} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{t} \sum_{j=0}^{n-t} \frac{t!}{i!(t-i)!} \frac{(n-t)!}{j!(n-t-j)!} g^{n-j-i} \beta(a+i+1,b+j)}{\sum_{i=0}^{t} \sum_{j=0}^{n-t} \frac{t!}{i!(t-i)!} \frac{(n-t)!}{j!(n-t-j)!} g^{n-j-i} \beta(a+i,b+j)}$$

Its MSE is given by:

$$MSE(\hat{\pi}^{W}) = E(\hat{\pi}^{W} - \pi)^{2} = \sum_{t=0}^{n} (\hat{\pi}^{W} - \pi)^{2} \frac{n!}{t!(n-t)!} (\theta)^{t} (1-\theta)^{n-t}.$$

For comparison purposes, we have chosen a Beta prior with mean equal to 0.05 (i.e. $\alpha/(\alpha+\beta)=0.05$) for both the subsamples of the respondents using R_1 and R_2 . Figures 1-5 demonstrate the behavior of the *MSE*s of the estimators $\hat{\pi}^{Prop}$, $\hat{\pi}^{KM}$, $\hat{\pi}^{BK}$ and $\hat{\pi}^{W}$. This shows the robustness of Bayes estimators against the misspecification of prior distribution. From the Figures 1-5, we can observe that MSE of the proposed Bayesian estimator is less than the other competitor estimators over a wide range of π and is not much affected by changing T_1 . It has also been noted that the performance of the proposed estimator remains better no matter how many respondents used the randomization device R_1 or R_2 . For Instance, in Figure 5, $n_1 = 5$ and $n_2 = 20$ contrary to the case of Figure 1 where $n_1 = 15$, $n_2 = 10$. Moreover, the relative efficiency of the proposed Bayesian estimator decreases (as expected) as π moves from 0 to 1. Better performance of the proposed Bayesian estimator for large values of π depicts an important point that even in the case of misspecified prior distribution proposed Bayesian estimator performs better than the other estimators discussed in this article. This study shows that Kim and Warde [12] RRT should be used to gather the data and Bayesian estimation should be applied. For large samples, we have observed that relative efficiency of the proposed estimator decreases. This suggests using the proposed Bayesian estimation in a stratified random sampling protocol which could be a subject of the future studies.



Figure 1. *MSEs* of $\hat{\pi}^{Prop}, \pi^{KM}, \hat{\pi}^{BK}, \hat{\pi}^{W}$ for $n_1 = 15, n_2 = 10$ $T_1 = 0.6, \alpha = 1, \beta = 19$ and π ranging from 0 to 1.



Figure 2, *MSEs* of $\hat{\pi}^{\text{Prop}}, \pi^{\text{KM}}, \hat{\pi}^{\text{BK}}, \hat{\pi}^{\text{W}}$ for $n_1 = 15, n_2 = 10$ $T_1 = 0.7, \alpha = 1, \beta = 19$ and π ranging from 0 to 1.



Figure 3. *MSEs* of $\hat{\pi}^{Prop}, \pi^{KM}, \hat{\pi}^{BK}, \hat{\pi}^{W}$ for $n_1 = 15, n_2 = 10$ $T_1 = 0.8, \alpha = 1, \beta = 19$ and π ranging from 0 to 1.



Figure 4. *MSEs* of $\hat{\pi}^{\text{Prop}}, \pi^{\text{KM}}, \hat{\pi}^{\text{BK}}, \hat{\pi}^{\text{W}}$ for $n_1 = 15, n_2 = 10$ $T_1 = 0.9, \alpha = 1, \beta = 19$ and π ranging from 0 to 1.



Figure 5. *MSEs* of $\hat{\pi}^{\text{Prop}}, \pi^{\text{KM}}, \hat{\pi}^{\text{BK}}, \hat{\pi}^{\text{W}}$ for $n_1 = 5, n_2 = 20$ $T_1 = 0.6, \alpha = 1, \beta = 19$ and π ranging from 0 to 1.

5. Conclusions

We have presented the Bayesian estimation of the population proportion when the data are gathered through the Kim and Warde [12] *RRT*. Using a simple prior distribution, we have presented the graphs for some selected values of the design parameters and population proportion. We observed that when sample size is small, the proposed Bayesian estimators, even with misspecified prior information, perform better than the *MLE* and the Warner [29] and Kim et al. [13] Bayes estimators. Moreover, the performance of proposed estimator does not depend upon the number of respondents using either R_1 or R_2 . The proposed Bayesian estimator is bound to lie in [0,1] but this may not be case with Kim and Warde [12] likelihood estimator. Overall we may conclude the better performance of proposed estimator over that of Kim and Warde [12] *MLE* and Bayesian estimators based on Warner [29] and Kim et al. [13] *RRTs*.

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