



# Unpaid domestic work: its relevance to economic and social policies

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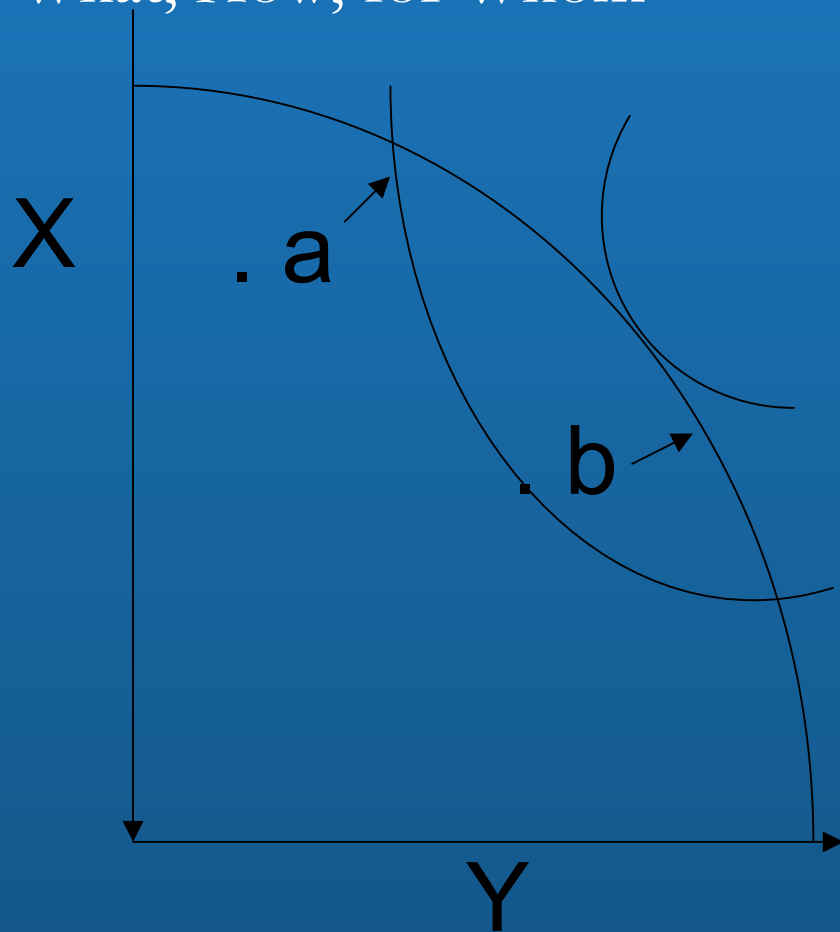
Conference on Unpaid Work and the Economy: Gender, Poverty, and the Millennium Development Goals”, Levy Institute, New York, October 2005

# The relevance of the unpaid work discussion

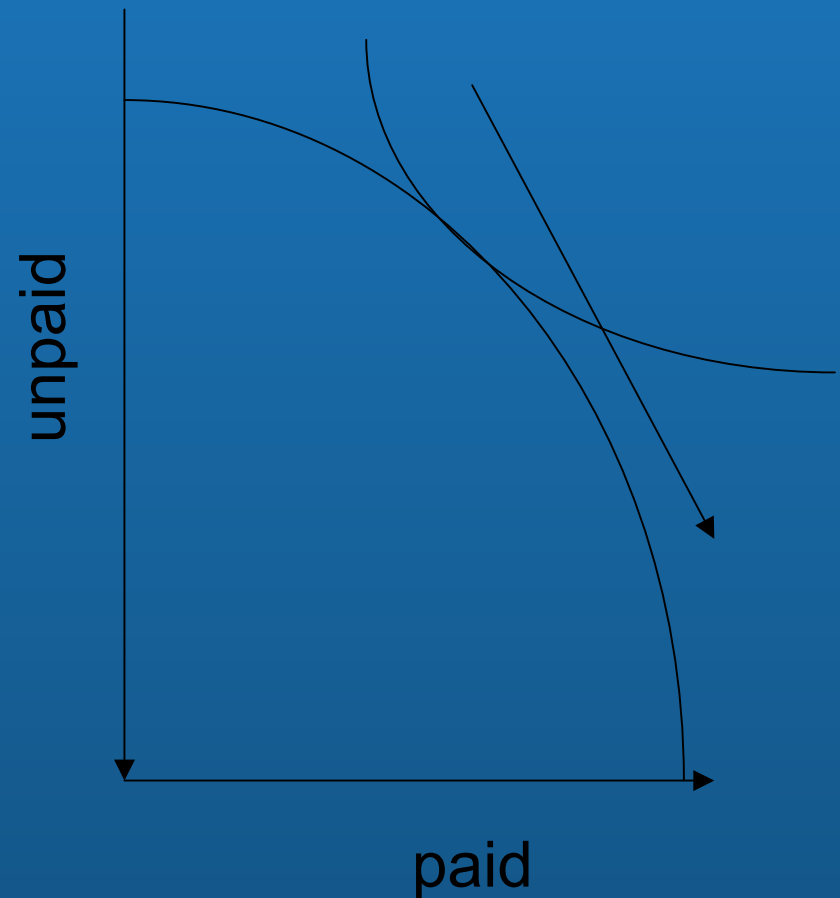
- Call for attention: the economy is more than just the market (οἶκος, household)
- Household are more than suppliers of labour, they produce and distribute goods and services
- Social preferences on production and Welfare (what, how and for whom to produce) have an implicit distribution function of paid and unpaid work
- And at the same time impacts on present and future welfare

# Social preferences on production have an implicit distribution function of paid and unpaid work

What, How, for Whom



What, How and for Whom

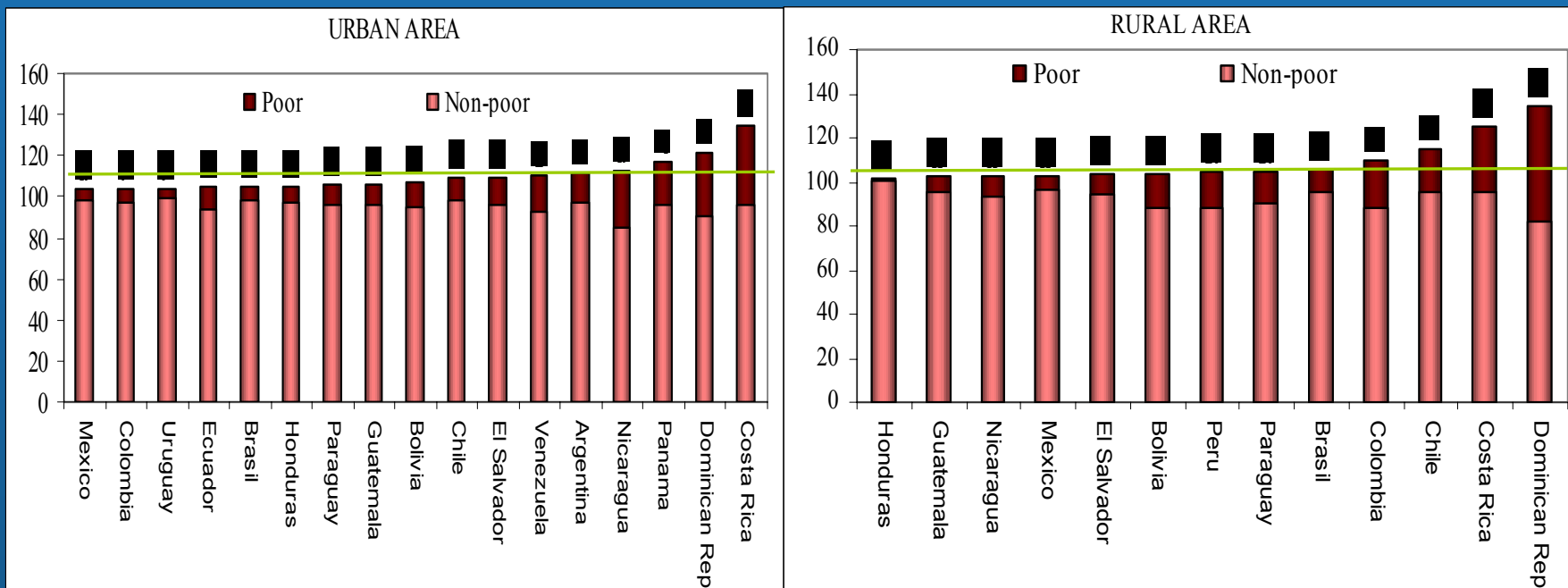


# The relevance of the unpaid work discussion

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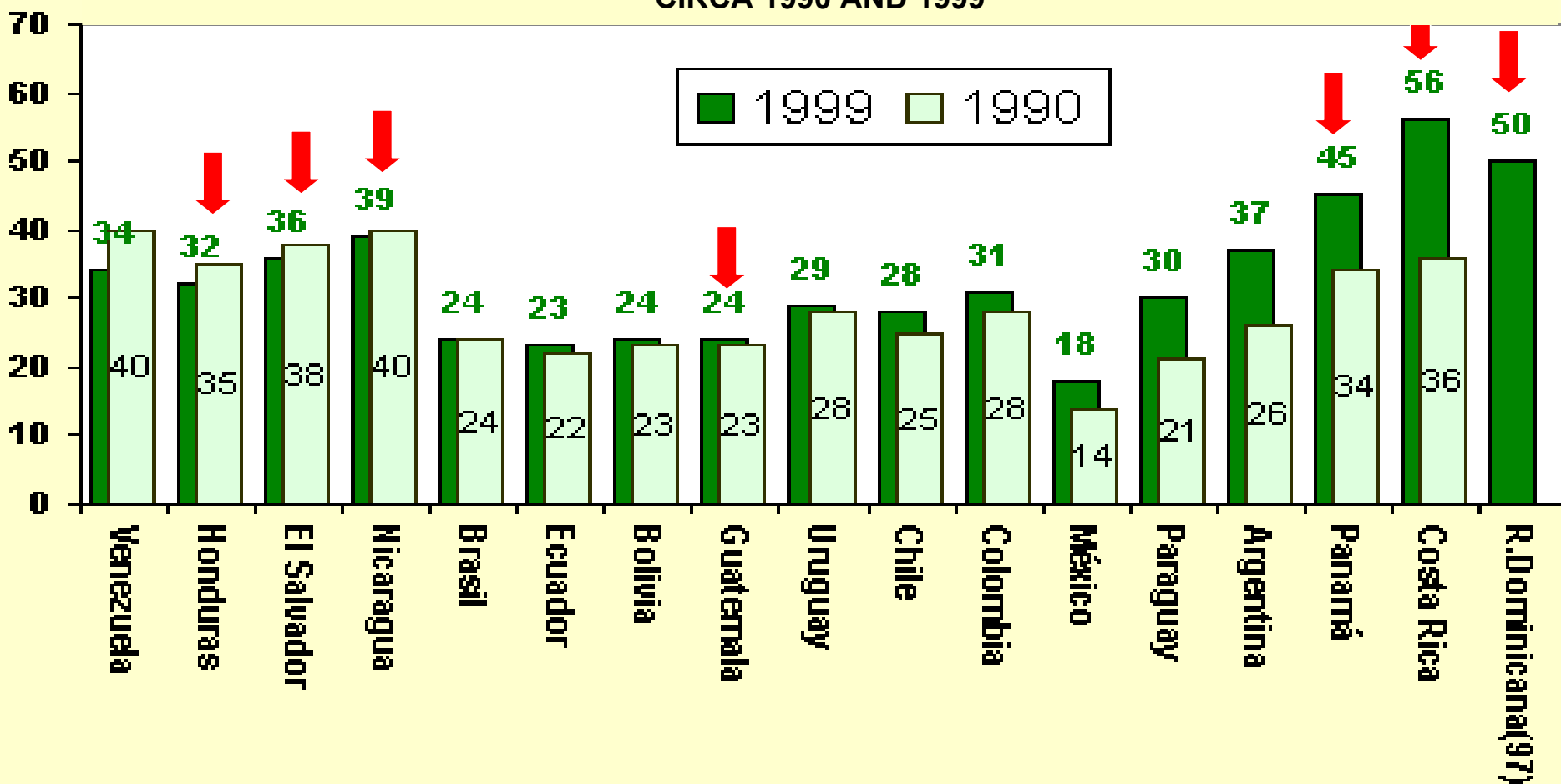
In all countries in the region, the feminine index of poverty reaches values above 100 among 20-59 year-old population, age in which feminine vulnerability towards poverty is bigger.

Latin America (selected countries): Feminity index in the 20-59 age bracket, poor and non-poor households, urban and rural areas, circa 1999

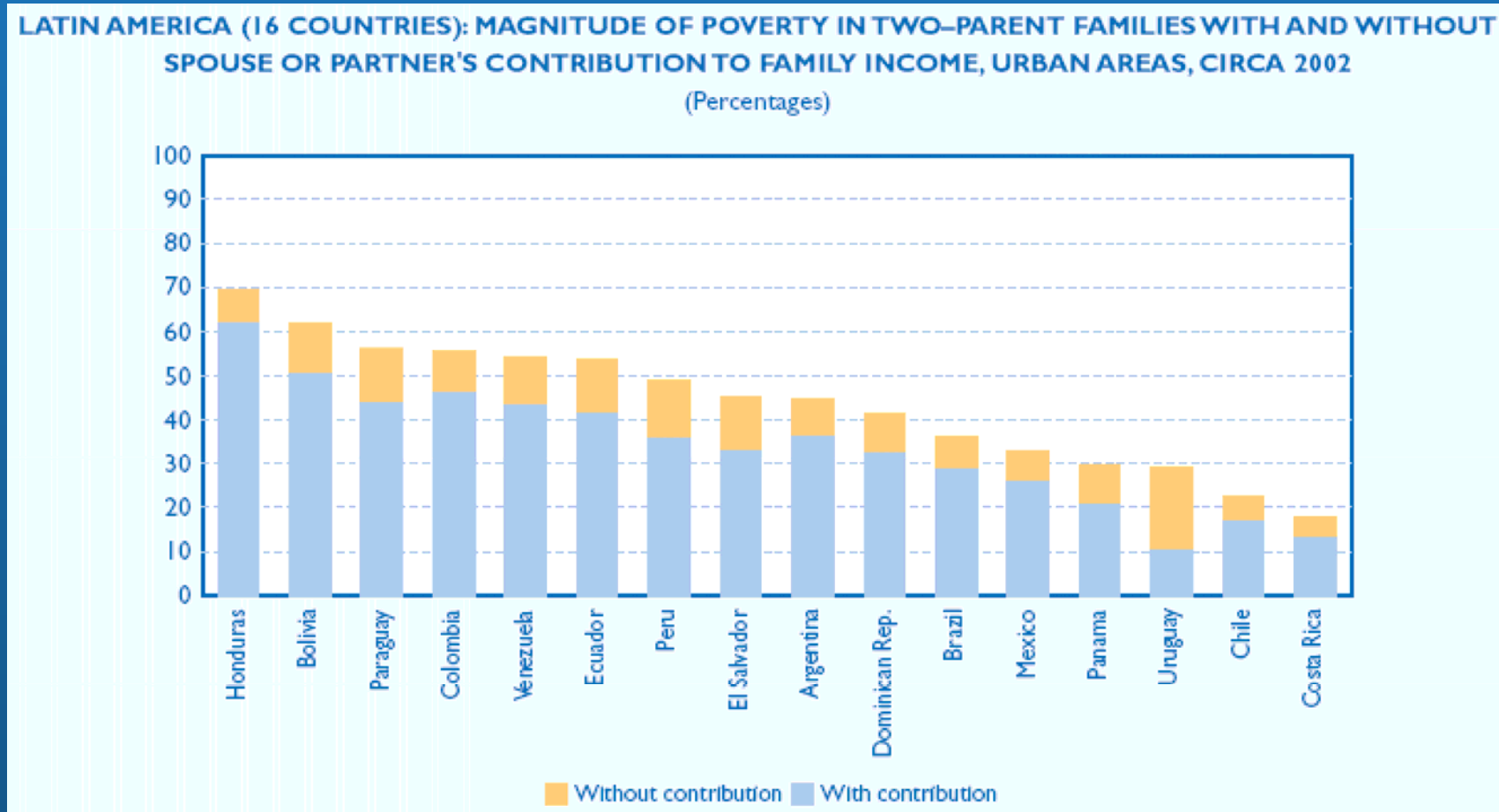


# Increase of indigent homes headed by women

PERCENTAGE OF INDIGENT HOUSEHOLDS HEADED BY WOMEN AND MEN, URBAN AREAS, CIRCA 1990 AND 1999

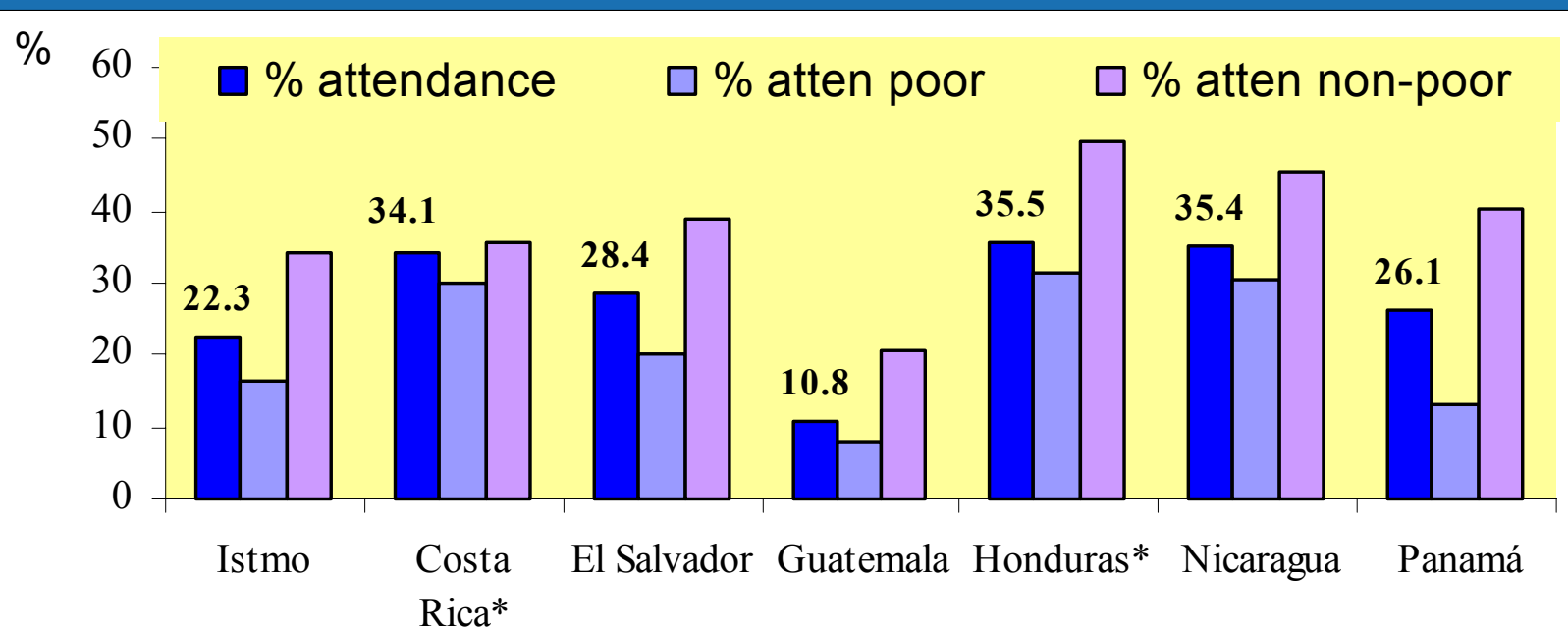


Women's contribution to the total income of home, particularly among the poor, is especially significant due to the latter's positive impact in poverty reduction



Source: ECLAC (2004) Social panorama of Latin America 2002–2003

# Attendance to educational centers 3-5 year-old poor and not poor children Central American Isthmus, 2000



\* Only 5 year-old children.

ECLAC, special tabulations countries' home surveys.


# Domestic Violence in Mexico, 2003

- 35.4% of women 15 years old and older, that live with a partner suffered emotional violence
- 27.3% economic violence
- 9.3% physical violence
- 7.8% sexual violence

# Determinants and dimensions of unpaid domestic work

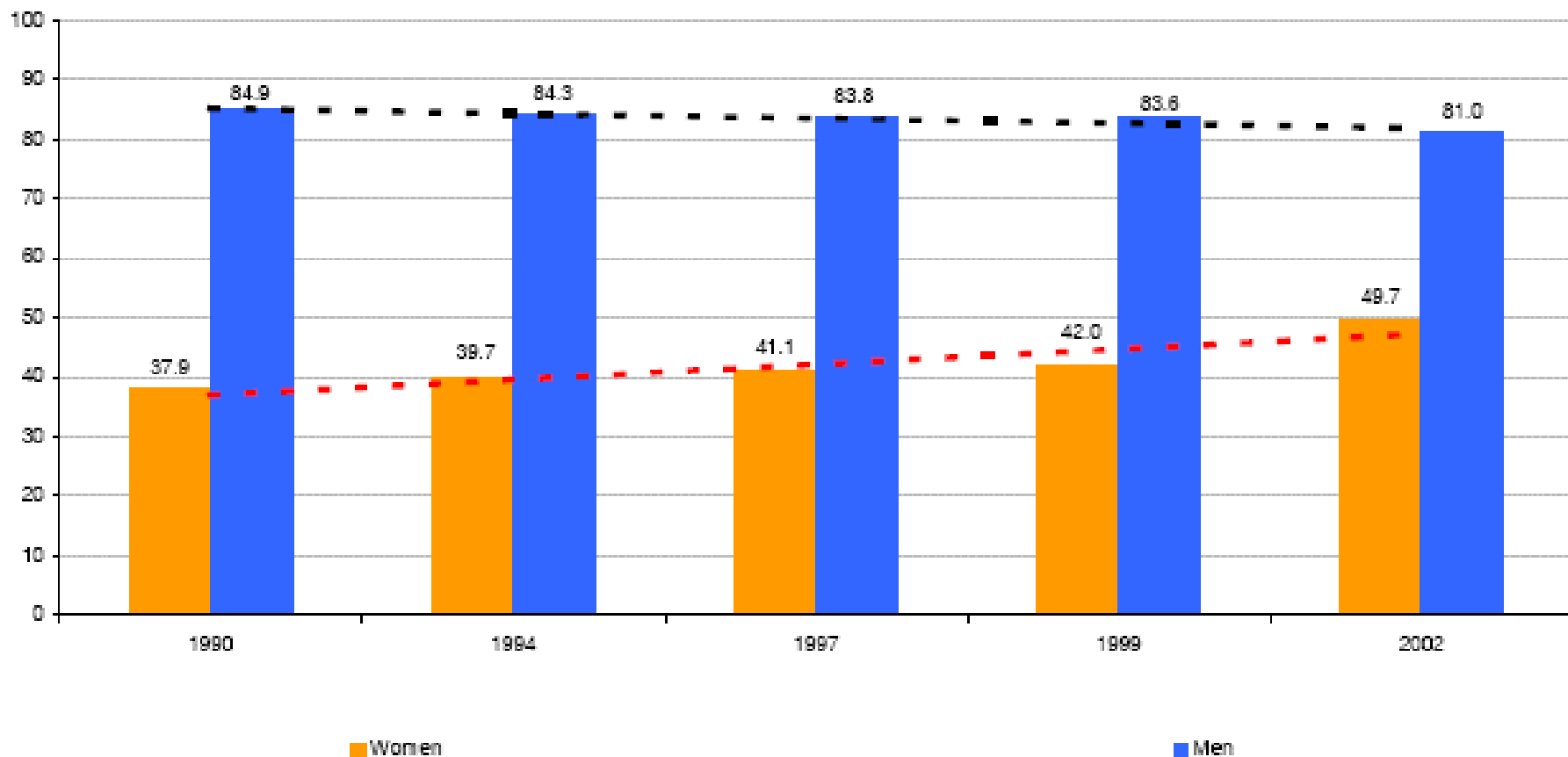
- It is a function of the domestic division of labour according to the sex-gender system and to individual behaviour
- Cultural representations and biological substance of the difference: body as flesh, mind and the unconscious (Lamas)
- Level of ‘outsourcing’ of domestic tasks to social and consumer services, public or private
- Distribution of resources and assets within the family (intra-family inequalities)
- The assemble of remuneration resources, social benefits and social infrastructure
- Public policies and resource allocation: State resources are heterogeneous and unequal (social security, fiscal policy, access to assets such as housing and basic services)
- The labour market, its structure, regulations, flexibility, wages and opportunities

# The movement from unpaid to paid work

- **Individual traditional conciliation: accumulation of tasks vs. new adjustment strategies: reduction of goals (in the work place, in the household and in birth rates?); delegation; sequential strategies; outsourcing (Durán)**
- Colective conciliation between productive and reproductive spheres
- Move from individual strategies to influence Social preferences from a Gender perspective (voice, power, rights, etc)  negotiation of spheres traditionally private; in relation to the legal side, the guarantee of the difference (Ferrajoli)
- Disappearance of “housewifery”: new equilibrium between the economy and the household, and as a result, gender equality must pave the way for a new welfare architecture (Esping-Andersen)

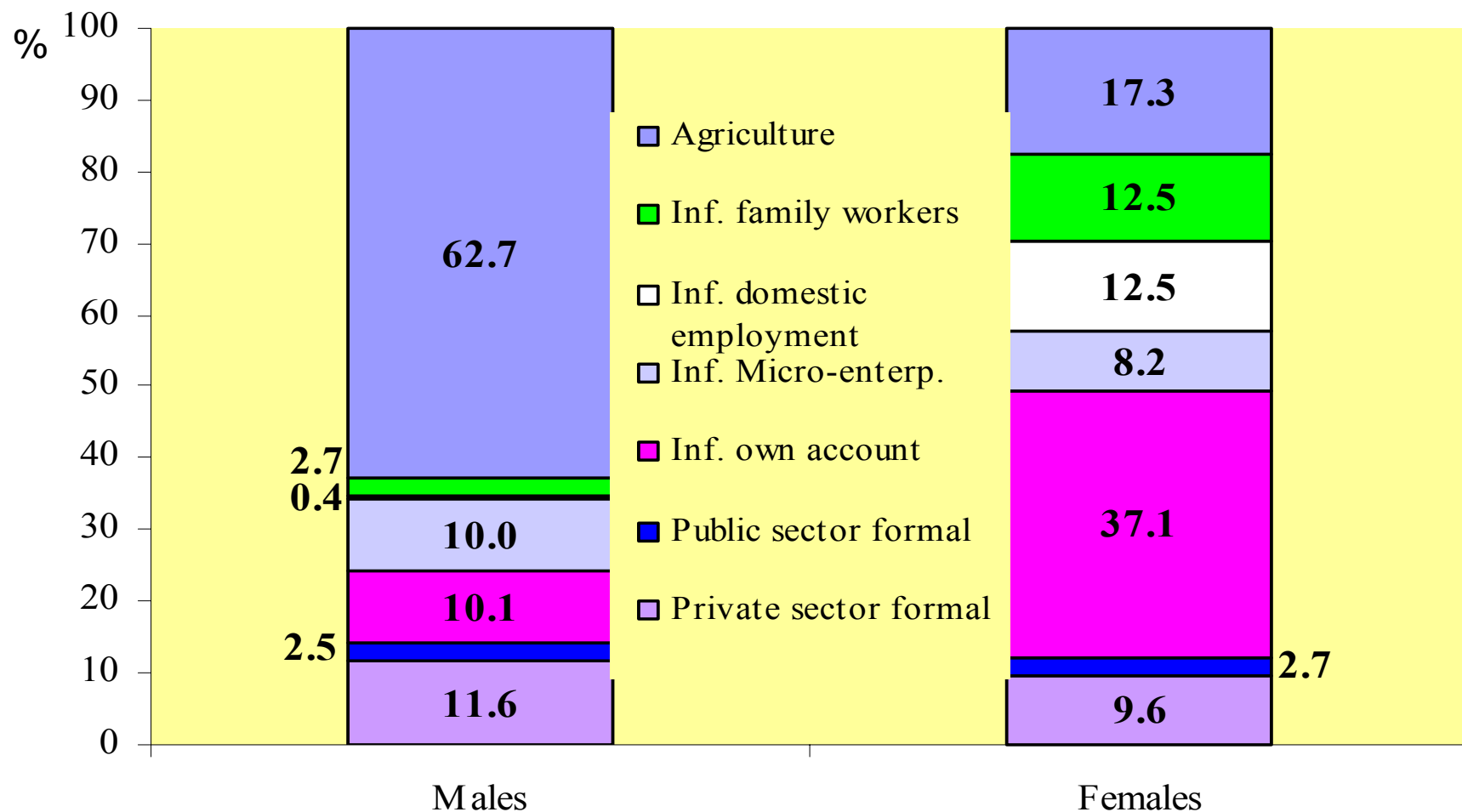
## LATIN AMERICA: ECONOMIC ACTIVITY RATES BY SEX, 1990-2002

(Percentages)



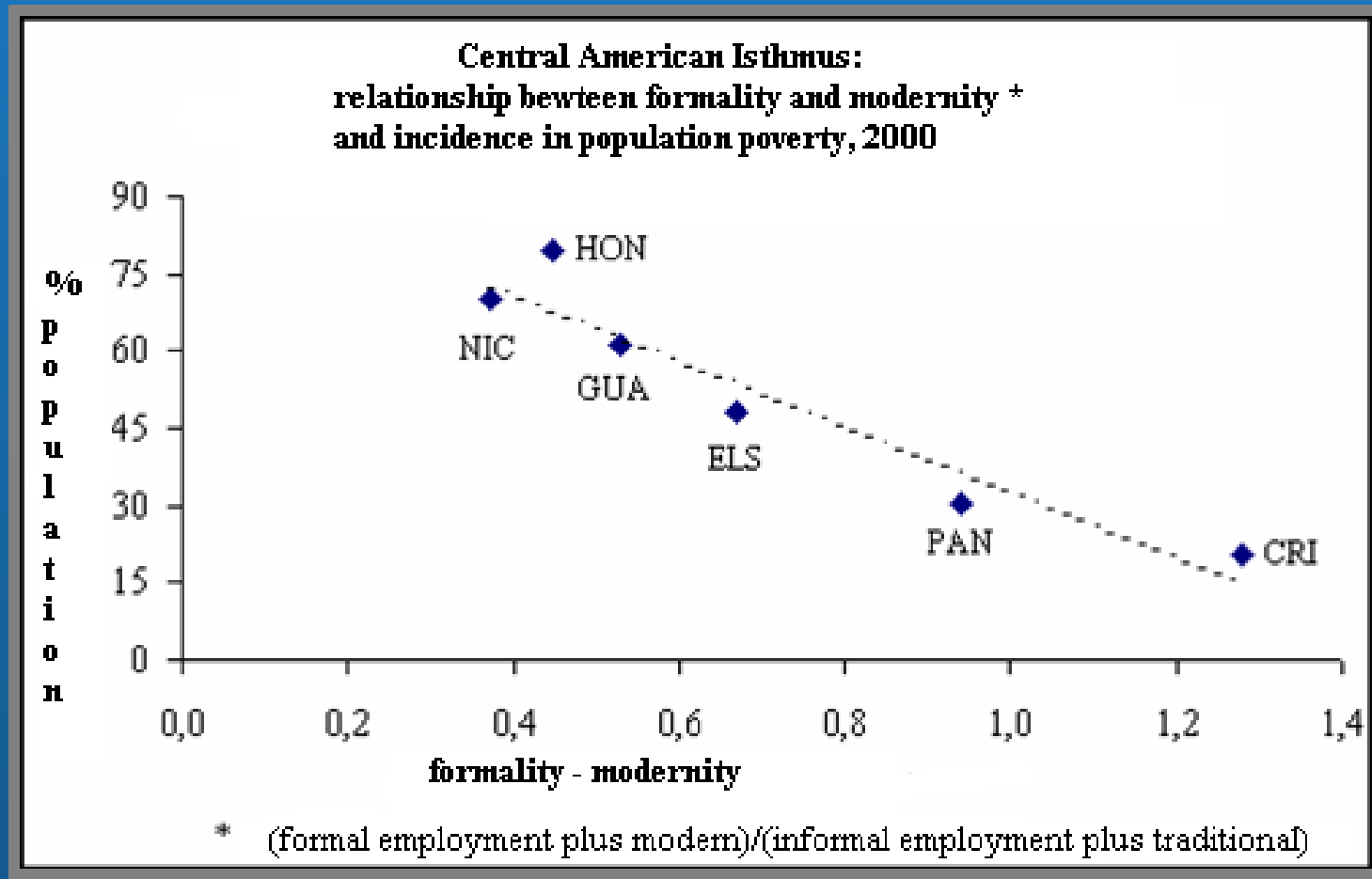
Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of estimates prepared by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC and special tabulations of data from household surveys conducted in the respective countries.

# Employed that are poor by occupational sector and sex, Central America, circa 2000

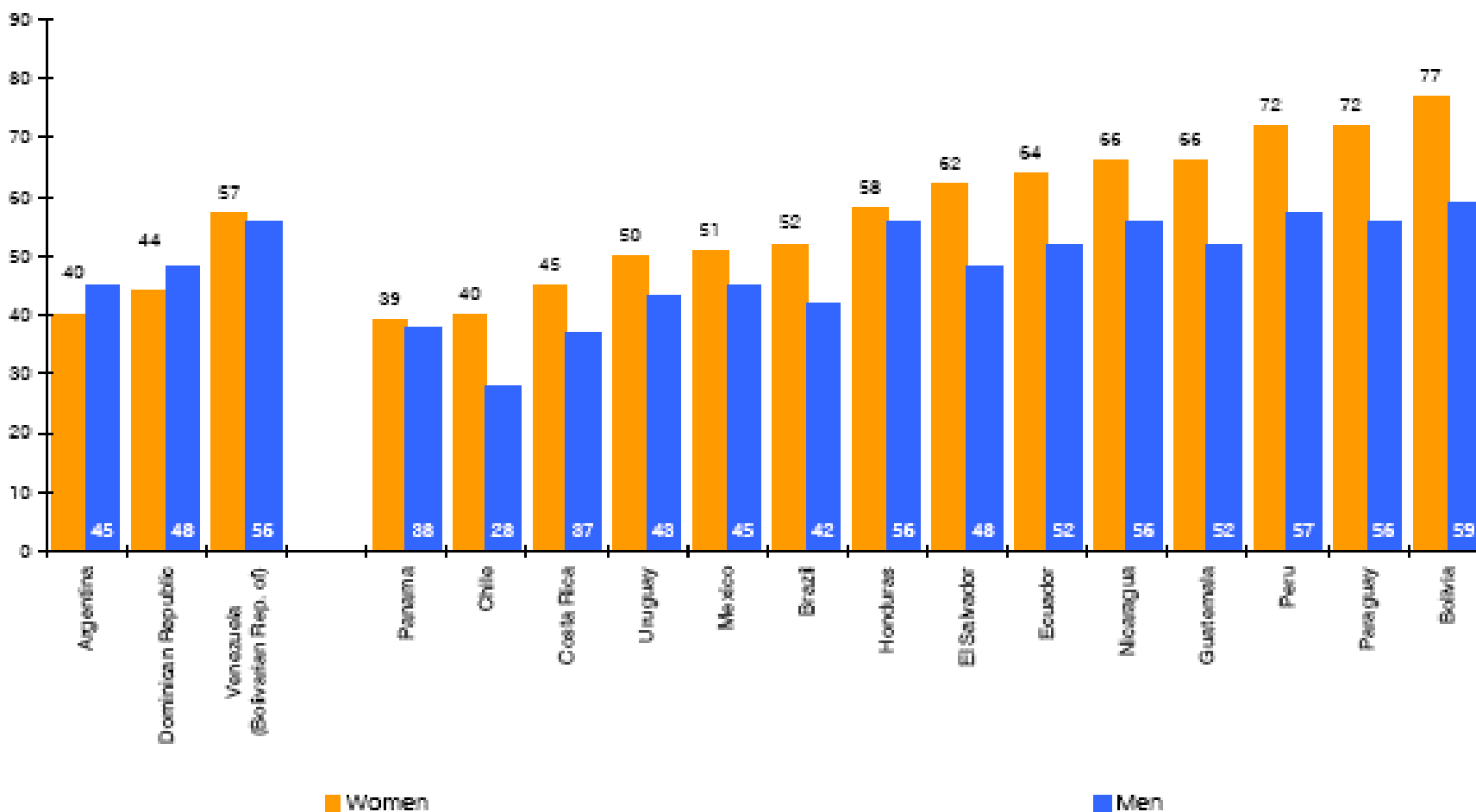


Source: ECLAC, on the basis of special tabulations of data from household surveys in the respective countries

# Poverty and quality of employment



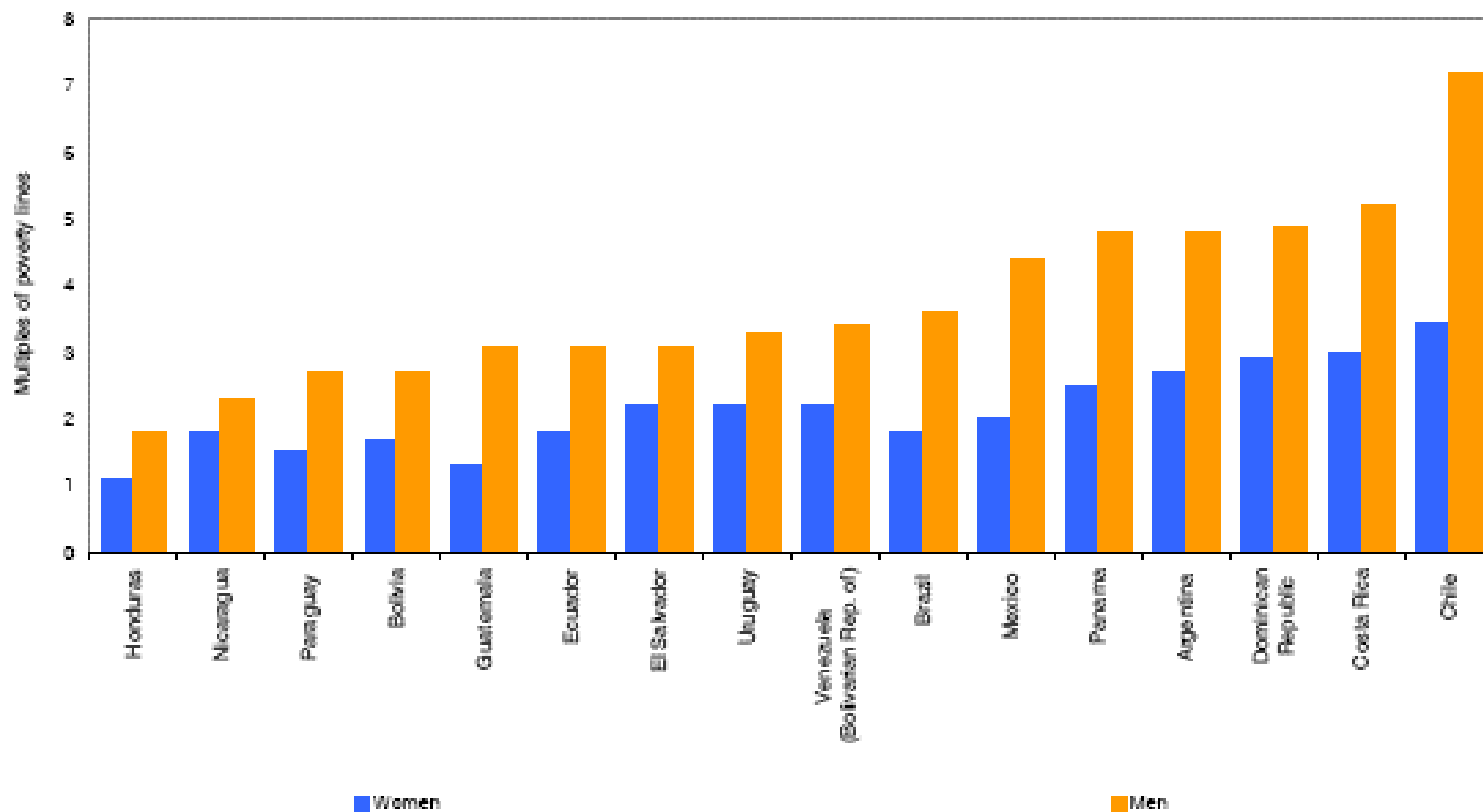
## LATIN AMERICA (17 COUNTRIES): FEMALE AND MALE POPULATION EMPLOYED IN LOW-PRODUCTIVITY SECTORS OF THE LABOUR MARKET, URBAN AREAS, CIRCA 2002 (Percentages)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations of data from household surveys conducted in the respective countries.

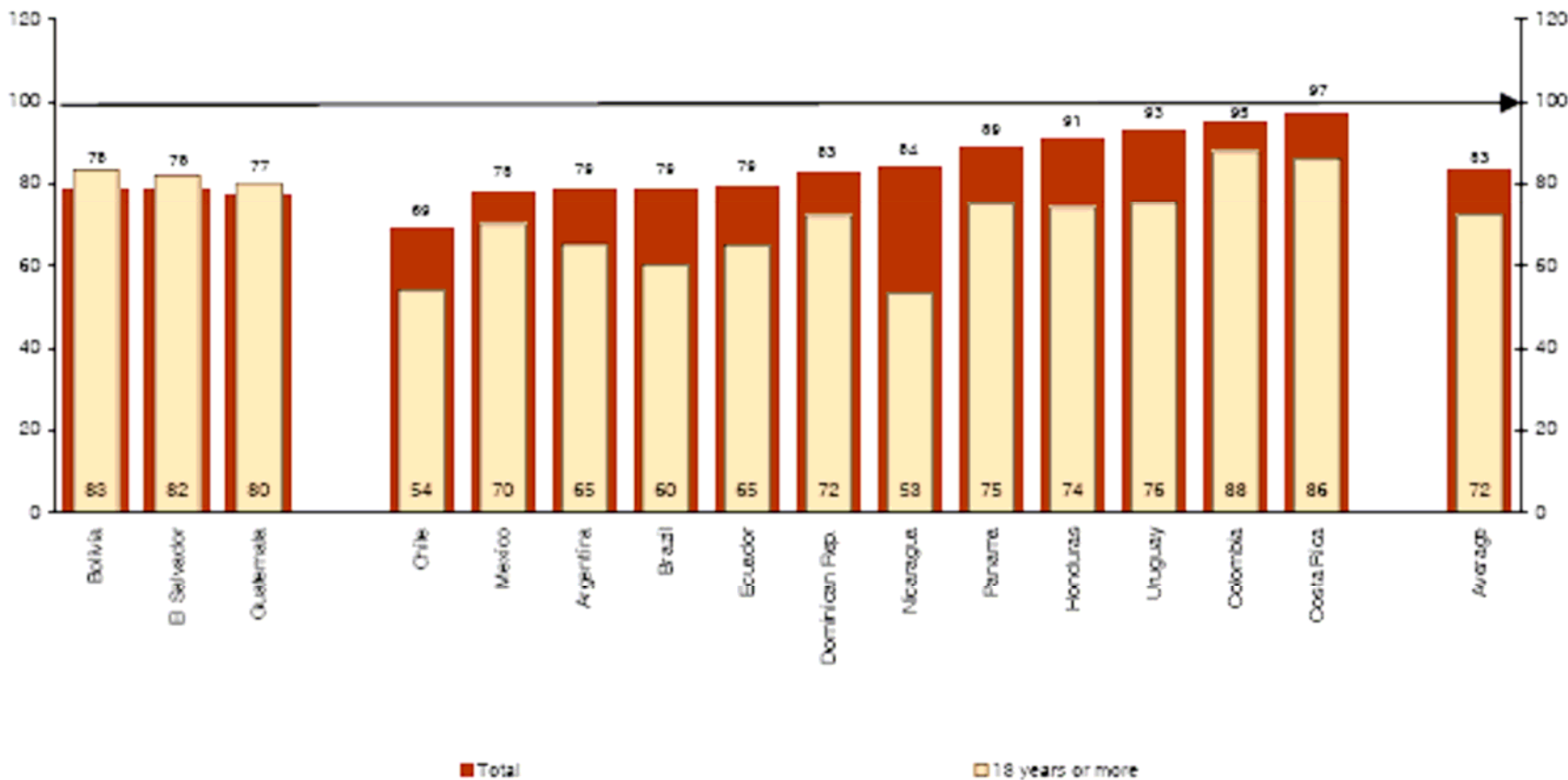
# LATIN AMERICA (16 COUNTRIES): AVERAGE INCOME OF WOMEN AND MEN EMPLOYED IN LOW-PRODUCTIVITY SECTORS OF THE LABOUR MARKET, URBAN AREAS, CIRCA 2002

*(Multiples of the respective per capita poverty lines)*



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations of data from household surveys conducted in the respective countries.

## LATIN AMERICA (15 COUNTRIES): RATIO BETWEEN WOMEN'S AND MEN'S AVERAGE HOURLY LABOUR INCOME, FOR ALL WORKERS AND FOR THOSE WITH 13 OR MORE YEARS OF EDUCATION, URBAN AREAS, CIRCA 2002 (Percentages)

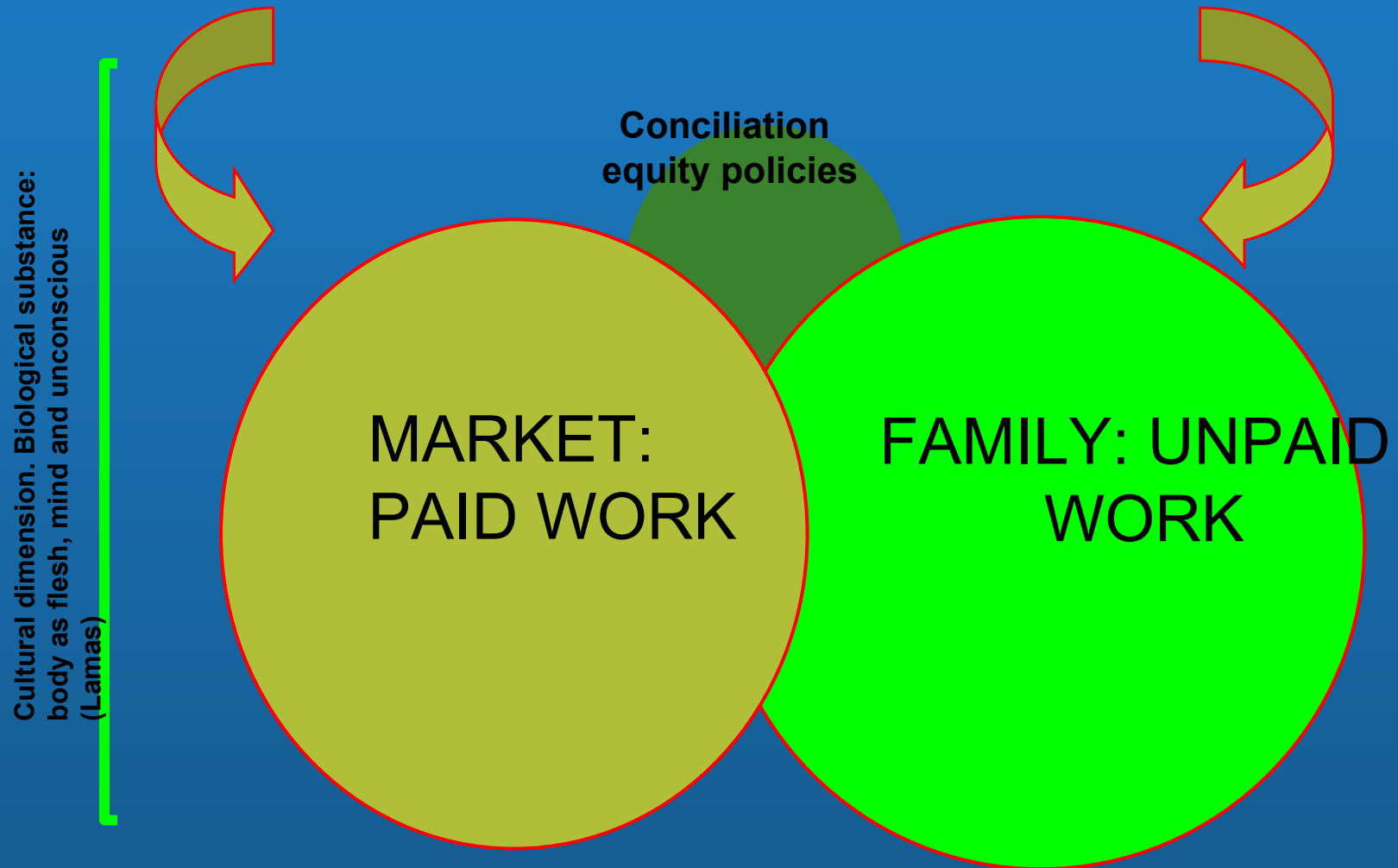


Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations of data from household surveys conducted in the respective countries.

# The movement from unpaid to paid work

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- **Colective conciliation between productive and reproductive spheres**
- **Move from individual strategies to influence Social preferences from a Gender perspective (voice, power, rights,etc) → negotiation of spheres traditionally private; in relation to the legal side, the guarantee of the difference (Ferrajoli)**
- Disappearance of “housewifery”: new equilibrium between the economy and the household, and as a result, gender equality must pave the way for a new welfare architecture (Esping-Andersen)

# Dimensions of gender policies



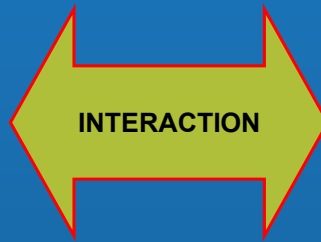
# Conciliation Policies

- Time distribution between paid and unpaid work (domestic care) tends to be difficult, but definitely not contradictory, according to conciliation policies.
- Social policies addressed to women and family bring into question two different types of policies: those that favour gender equity, facilitating women's equal participation in the labour market; and those that stress gender differences, supporting women's traditional role in the family and domestic responsibilities. Conciliatory measures could minimise the contradiction between the two (Draibe and Riesco, 2005).

# Gender-oriented policies: Two-way relationships exist between gender and family, on the one hand, and social policy institutions, on the other.

## PRODUCTIVE

- the right to work
- assets
- qualifications
- remunerations
- quality of employment
- labour market segmentations
- social protection
- work productivity
- labour life cycle
- the socialization of reproductive tasks



## REPRODUCTIVE:

### Family relationships


- sexual and reproductive rights
- demographic syndrome
- life cycle family members
- stability/ changes in family relationships
- family diversity
- family structure and risk diversification
- assembly of resources: income, social policy benefits and social infrastructure
- assembly of heterogeneous and unequal State resources (insurance, social policy, access to assets such as housing)
- distribution of domestic tasks
- unequal family use of assets and resources
- outsourcing of domestic tasks
- domestic violence
- seclusion in the domestic sphere

### Well-being oriented family policies

- social services that take over reproductive tasks
- social protection
- rights-duties social programmes
- population policies
- regulation through the law (marriage, divorce, domestic violence)

Fuente: Sojo (2003)

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# The Welfare State from a gender perspective

- ❑ To overcome hierarchical polarity of the market and domestic care;
- ❑ In relation to citizenship, equally important as the “decommodification” is the social provision of domestic tasks, which vary according to types of, composition and family cycles;
- ❑ Different forms of Welfare State according to: family type, level of women's autonomy, male participation, distribution of domestic care tasks, levels of inequality in the job market.

(Draibe y Riesco, 2005)

# Linkages of economic and social aspects through the labour market

- The sex-gender system: employment and conciliation
- Growth and employment volatility
- Price stability and job creation
- Formal and informal employment and social protection

# Macroeconomics transmission mechanisms

**Macroeconomic policies, external shocks, structural exchange policies with macroeconomic dimensions**

**Changes in relative prices**

**Changes in the level and composition of the labour demand**

**Inflation**

**Composition and level of public expenditure**

**Changes in investment**

**Unequal access to capital**

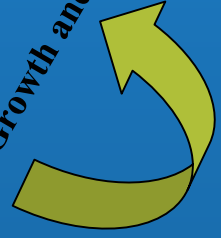
**Human capital accumulation**

**Remittances and exchange policy**

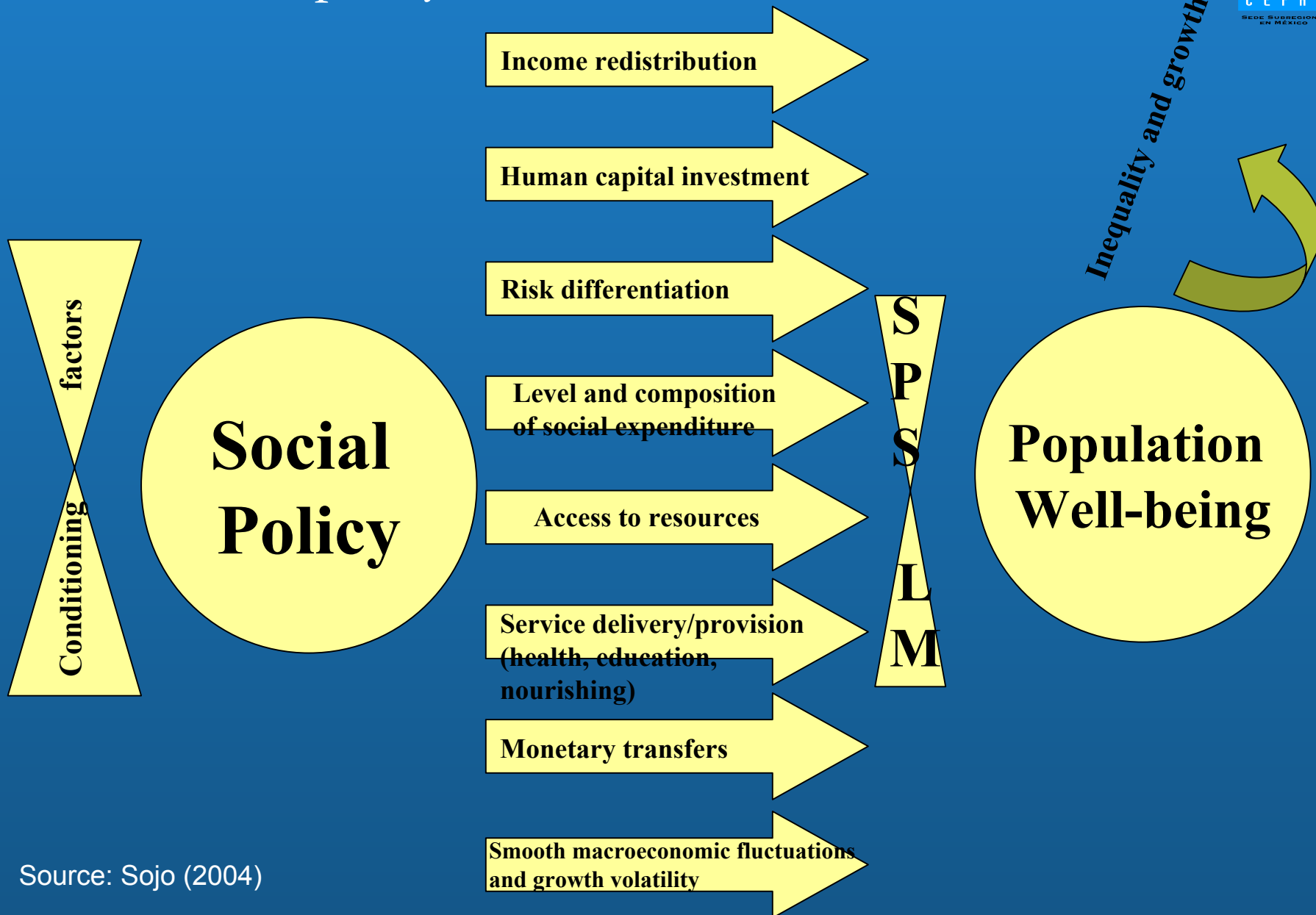
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**Population Well-being**

*Growth and inequality*



# Social policy transmission mechanisms



Source: Sojo (2004)