

Issues in time-use measurement and valuation

Lessons from African experience on technical and analytical issues

Jacques Charmes

Economist

Institute of Research for Development (IRD, Paris)

African experience

- Recent national time-use surveys
 - ◆ Benin 1998
 - ◆ Nigeria 1999 (pilot)
 - ◆ South Africa 2000
 - ◆ Madagascar 2001
 - ◆ Mauritius 2003
 - ◆ Tunisia 2005
- Modules in living standard surveys
 - ◆ Ghana 1991-92 and 1998-99

African experience

- Many local surveys on work time in agricultural and subsistence activities (Senegal, Cameroon, Guinea)
- Surveys on activity patterns and energy expenditure (Cameroon)

Planned surveys


- The African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD) of the Economic Commission for Africa is about to launch a program of time-use continuous household surveys in
 - ◆ South Africa
 - ◆ Uganda
 - ◆ Cameroon
 - ◆ Djibouti

Table: Time devoted to economic activity and to work, by gender in various countries.

	Benin (1998)			South Africa (2000)			Madagascar (2001)			Mauritius (2003)		
	Women	Men	Women / Men	Women	Men	Women / Men	Women	Men	Women / Men	Women	Men	Women / Men
SNA production	3h 55mn	3h 55mn	100%	1h 55mn	3h 10mn	61%	2h 55mn	4h 50mn	60%	1h 56mn	4h 56mn	39%
Extended SNA production : Domestic activities, carework	3h 28mn	1h7	310%	3h 48mn	1h 15mn	304%	3h 41mn	47mn	470%	4h 37mn	1h 13mn	379%
Work	7h 23mn	5h 2mn	147%	5h 43mn	4h 25mn	129%	6h 36mn	5h 37mn	118%	6h 33mn	6h 9mn	106%
% SNA in work	53.0%	77.8%	68.2%	33.5%	71.7%	47.0%	44.2%	86.1%	51.0%	29.5%	80.2%	36.8%

Technical Issues

- Notion of time
- Seasonality and sampling procedures
- Simultaneous activities



How to capture time slots of 10, 15 or 30 minutes among populations with no watch or clock?

The divides of the day among the Soussou of Guinea.

- Toxè singé raté The first cockcrow
- Toxé firindé raté The second cockcrow
- Subaha On very early morning
- Kuè yalan béré At the time when the night is cured
- Waliha Work hour (6 o'clock)
- Sogé xono When the sun is at its zenith in the middle of the day (noon)
- Sogé xono yanyi ra When the sun is at its zenith in the middle of the day (noon)
- Sèli fana The prayer (2 o'clock)
- Laxansara The frog hour
- Fitiri The decline of the day
- Sarafu The time when one play music (9 o'clock)
- Sa tèmui The time to go to bed
- Kuè tègi The middle of the night

Seasonality and sampling procedures

- Several types of surveys
 - ◆ Surveys with one-off observation
 - ◆ Repeated surveys with two or four observations in a year
 - ☞ Rainy season (short rainy season, long rainy season)
 - ☞ Dry season (short dry season, long dry season)
 - ◆ Surveys with continuous rotating sample (the total sample is distributed across the country and over the 12 months of the year)

Simultaneous activities

- When recording the activities of an entire day, many of them may occur simultaneously
 - ◆ Socialising can take place while working, travelling, preparing meals, etc.
 - ◆ Caring for children of adults can take place while working for market activities or for domestic activities as well as while socialising.
- These activities are very often under-reported because the interviewer does not repeat systematically the question
- Double-counting can be misleading and raises the question of weighting between the simultaneous activities

Political and analytical Issues

- Weak use of time-use surveys for policy purposes
- Weak use of time-use surveys for analytical purposes

Weak use of time-use surveys for analytical purposes

■ Common analyses

- ◆ by age group and sex
- ◆ by urban and rural areas
- ◆ by matrimonial status (not married, married, married to a polygamous)
- ◆ by employment status (own-account worker, wage-earner, family worker)

■ Uncommon analyses

- ◆ by socio-economic status of the household head
- ◆ by income group of the household
- ◆ by educational level of the individual
- ◆ by health status of the individual
- ◆ by proximity of infrastructures (health, education, market)

Weak use of time-use surveys for analytical purposes

- Why?
 - ◆ because time-use surveys are too often ad-hoc surveys rather than a section of a multi-purpose survey
 - ◆ because the publication of the surveys remains at the stage of preliminary results or descriptive results
 - ◆ because policy-makers do not make use of the results

Weak use of time-use surveys for policy purposes

- Why?
 - ◆ Because the results of the surveys remain at preliminary or descriptive stage
 - ◆ Because policy makers are not aware of the potential usefulness of time-use analyses
 - ◆ Because time-use surveys and time-use analyses remain an inter-UN agencies exercise

Conclusion

- Africa experienced a lot of surveys in the recent period
- But this experience is characterised by an under-use of the survey results by policy makers and even UN agencies
- Improving the awareness and interest of national institutions in the use of time-use surveys is therefore a major objective, together with the multiplication and repetition of such surveys.