

Gender Awareness in Data Collection: Measurement and Valuation of Household Production

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This Presentation Deals With

- What is paradigmatic shift in feminist methodologies: data collection, data analysis and data use
- What do TUS data tell us?
- Application of TUS data including measurement and valuation of HH production
- Major issues and areas of concern

Statistical Paradigm

- The mission of most national statistical systems is 'to provide reliable, timely and credible social and economic statistics to assist decision making within and outside the government, and to stimulate research and promote informed debate relating to conditions of people's life.'

St Paradigm of NSOs

Three Areas

- UN SNA National Income Accounts
- Well-being of People
- Other areas of relevance according to their perception

Three Biases

- Market bias “economic” bias
- Socio-cultural bias –male bias
- Measurability bias (through conventional sources)

Database

- Partial and incomplete
- Distorted
- Inadequate

Human Activities

- SNA activities
- Non-SNA activities
- Personal services

What Do Time Use Statistics Tell Us?

- Comprehensive information on how people spend their time on different activities SNA, Non-SNA, Personal activities.
- Time use statistics are quantitative summaries of how individuals spend or allocate their time over a specified time period – typically over the 24 hours of a day or over the 7 days of a week on different activities
- Three components: Background information on Household & individuals, Context of activities: location, with whom, for whom, type of activity etc and time use

Brief History

- Early 1900s for understanding living conditions of working class families and lifestyle of people.
- Later on a variety of objectives, the problem of commuting, farming population
- In the 1960s and 1970s for design programs by mass media, for planning for transportation etc;
- 1970s onwards TUS data are seen as a major input in estimating and valuing unpaid work of women
- Since 1990s onwards netting SNA work and improving workforce st, national income st, understanding issues related to poverty, human development etc.
- In the recent years, the data are used by a few scholars to understand the total economy that constitutes paid (SNA) and unpaid (non-SNA) work.

TUS data for Improved macroeconomic aggregates

- With expanded boundaries of statistical paradigm, TUS provide improved macroeconomic aggregates

Workforce (SNA)

GDP (conventional)

Workforce (including non-SNA)

GDP (total)

Measuring all Forms of Work

- PFA (Beijing), UNDP HDR 1995 and 1993 SNA advocated data collection on All Forms of Work
- Informal Work (SNA)
- Subsistence Work (SNA)
- Unpaid domestic Work (Non SNA)
- Voluntary / Community work / Services (Non SNA)

Improved Estimates of Workforce

- This has been a major objective in developing countries
- Why is workforce not measured adequately in developing countries?
- How can time use data help?
- Estimates of specific components
 - informal sector
 - subsistence sector
 - flexibility of work
 - multiple jobs
 - simultaneous work

Valuation of Unpaid Work

Arguments against valuation

Why compare non comparables?

Not consistent with concept of economic value

It requires unrealistic assumptions

Arguments for valuation

To estimate total well being

To give visibility to unpaid work, to claims public resources

Unpaid work is not free, has a cost and is not unlimited – it is an economic good

It is a part of the macro economy and its dimensions need to be measured

Approach of Valuation

- Valuation of labour input
 - Replacement wage rate
 - generalist wage rate
 - Specialist wage rate
 - Opportunity cost
- Valuation of output generated
 - Converting time input in to output
 - Market prices for valuing goods and services

Problems with the Input method

- Assumptions in valuation – input method (replacement wage rate)
 - There are comparable jobs in the market
 - Market – non market work is comparable
 - Market – non market work is carried out with the same capital intensity
- Assumptions in valuation – input method (opportunity cost)
 - Job opportunities are available as per the qualifications
 - The wage rate will not decline when unpaid workers enter the market
 - Unpaid workers are well informed about market opportunities

Problems with the output method

- Assumptions in valuation – Output Approach method
 - Quality of products from different households is the same
 - Market prices are available for each output
 - The qualities of market product and domestic product are comparable

Advantages of Output Method over Input Method

- Time at home is elastic, output is not
- Output method fits well with the SNA framework
- However, input method is more popular due the data availability

Satellite Accounts of ESNA work

- Satellite Account is an extension of SNA, consistent but separate from SNA – prepared in the framework of national accounts
- Not institutionalised
- Not standardised

National Time Accounts

- National time accounts are basically a set of estimates of total income and expenditure of time
- They provide information on how people divide their time between SNA, ESNA and NSNA activities.

Advantages of National Time Accounts

- Comparing apples with apples
- Dynamics of changes taking place in a society
- Inter relationships between paid and unpaid work and its changes
- Better understanding of households & HH economy
- Socio cultural dimensions of life
- Improving modeling of our economic and social systems.

Time Use as Indicator of Wellbeing and Poverty

- Leisure as an indicator. (voluntary Leisure verses forced leisure) as against some norms of leisure: comparisons
- Time Stress: feeling of getting rushed, feeling of being pushed, not having enough time to rest: perceptions
- Time Poverty: time dimension of poverty or “time poverty” for a broader and more inclusive definition of poverty.
- Impact of time poverty is observed in terms of depletion of well being, depletion of human capital and depletion in the access to human capabilities and to productive economic work that forces households to adopt strategies that traps the poor in the vicious circle of poverty.

Time Poverty

- The poor have as much time as the non-poor. Since time is a major asset of the poor, Information on how they use their time to fight their multiple deprivations can provide useful insights into their poverty. It can reveal their constraints and the potential areas of interventions for poverty reduction
- Two sets of concepts are emerging: time stress and time burden, particularly of women and time allocation of the poor
- Intra household differences in poverty and feminization of poverty
- New area of understanding poverty

Time Use Data for Development Planning and Research

- Planning for employment in the labour market.
- Understanding child labour
- Care related policies.
- Time spent on collection of fuel wood, water, fodder, etc and on other drugerries are important to plan for public provisioning, infrastructure.
- Time spent on traveling and infrastructure / transportation planning.
- Planning for gender inequality (burden of work on men & women, particularly in female headed households).

Social Policy Designing and Research including Gender inequalities

- Issues in gender inequalities
- Pollution and its impact
- Social capital formation
- Problems of old & lonely, destitute, disabled.
- Cultural heritage and life style.
- Planning for media / telecasting
- TUS data have immense possibilities – can also be used with a wide range of other data sets

Assessment of the Use Made

Positive achievements

- about 60 developing countries have conducted TUS – small, big, good, bad
- Some uses have been made mainly by scholars, researchers, UN bodies

But

- TUS not yet mainstreamed in national data systems (4/56)
- Extremely limited use of data

Areas of Concern

Why are data not used?

- Limited awareness about the uses of data
- Limited capacity and funds for analysis of data
- TUS imposed by donor agencies – St off & policy makers do not appreciate the utility of data
- Uses of data are not illustrated enough by scholars / researchers
- Data are not up to the standard – problems with concepts and methods

(India, Philippines, South Africa, Argentina, Mexico, Benin etc)

Finally

- Lessons emerging from our assessment of 56 countries:
- There are trade offs, which need to be addressed carefully
- There is a need to develop a strategy for expanding and mainstreaming TUS in national st systems.
- Generation of awareness and competence to collect and use the data – establish its utility and create demand
- There is no one-size-fit-all model, but the quality of data should not be compromised
- Global organizations can play a role: UNSD, ILO, UNDP etc
- A lot is achieved, but a lot more needs to be achieved.

THANK YOU