

Unpaid Work, the Millennium Development Goals, and Capital Accumulation

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Millennium Development Goals

- Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education
- **Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women**
- Goal 4 Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5 Improve maternal health
- Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development

MDGs and work

No goals, No targets, Two indicators

- Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector, which is an indicator for Goal 3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- Unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years, each sex, and total, which is an indicator for Goal 8 Develop Global Partnership for Development

Varieties of unpaid work

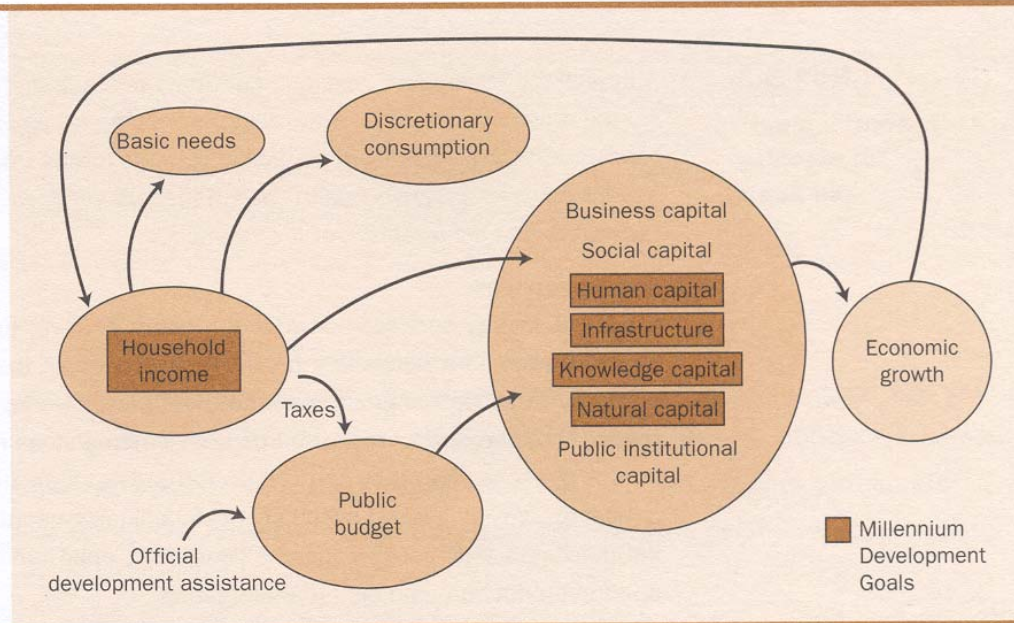
- SNA and non-SNA/ESNA
- In households
- In not-for-profit organizations, such as NGOs and churches
- In public services, such as education and health
- In enterprises producing for the market (mainly small enterprises)

MDGs and oda-supported capital accumulation

Sachs Report

- Goals are ends in themselves
- Goals are capital inputs into economic growth
- Commodities not capabilities approach to MDGs

Figure 3.1
Capital accumulation,
economic growth,
and the MDGs



Incorporating outputs produced by unpaid work

- Numbers of people with incomes of less than one dollar a day would fall
- Achieving MDG 1 would seem closer
- Inequality in the distribution of income would seem less
- Need to recalibrate poverty lines
- Need to rethink distribution measures

Non-market output and capital accumulation

- Limits on tax revenue
- Limits on foreign exchange earnings
- Trade-off between non-market and market output
- Trade-off between increasing productivity and maintaining quality in production of care

Reframing the vision of MDG achievement to include work

- Capital accumulation may extend working time
- Taxes paid in time may extend working time
- Extension of working time hampers achievement of MDGs

Implications for indicators

- Disaggregate time use data, not only by sex and age, but also by income percentile, labor market status, location etc
- Take account of time use in measuring income poverty and distribution
- Define time poverty, distinguishing cash poor/time poor and cash rich/time poor

Gendered time regimes

Combinations of paid work and unpaid care work

- male primary earner, female secondary earner, female carer
- male earner, female carer
- dual earner, female carer
- dual earner, dual carer

Conclusions

- Capabilities approach to MDGs requires accounting for time as well as commodities
- Infrastructural investment to reduce the amount of SNA non-market work
- Policies to reduce, support and redistribute unpaid care work