

ASIA-PACIFIC

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

AP-MDG-SOCIAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Consolidated Reply*

AP-MDG-Social Knowledge Product

Understanding the female face of poverty : the Asia Pacific challenge



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THE FEMALE FACE OF POVERTY

Ten years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the lack of reliable national statistics on gender issues persists in many parts of the world.

In recent years, efforts to monitor the Millennium Development Goals further revealed the inadequacy of those statistics that were available. Despite some improvements over the years, much more needs to be done to develop adequate statistics that address gender concerns.

[Kofi Annan, former secretary General, United Nations, 2005](#)



INTRODUCTION

The UN Millennium Development Goals' prioritization of the eradication of poverty has raised the urgency for reliable poverty measurement to inform effective policy formulation and poverty reduction planning.

Despite the growth of many economies in the Asia Pacific region and considerable progress to alleviate poverty, the region as a whole continues to have the largest number of people living below the poverty line. There have been reports that the majority of these absolute poor are women.

A substantial number of studies indicate that women and men experience poverty differently. Feminization of poverty can mean¹:

- that women have a higher incidence of poverty than men
- that women's poverty is more severe than that of men
- that there is a trend to greater poverty among women.

An increase in the proportion of female headed households and the rise of female participation in low return urban informal sector activities are among some of the trends toward greater poverty suggested to be affecting women.

Increasing evidence has been amassed demonstrating that because of their weaker access to entitlements, women are generally more vulnerable to poverty and have less options for escaping poverty. Gender discrimination in the household and the market can result in the unequal distribution of resources leading to women experiencing a greater severity of poverty than men. Women also bear the brunt of poverty caused by economic downturns such as the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98, as well as government reductions in public spending for social services.

Establishing an empirical basis for monitoring the gendered effects of poverty, however, has posed a challenge due to the difficulties involved in collecting sex-disaggregated statistics. Systematic data collection on the feminization of poverty remains elusive. Existent data also does not offer sufficient basis for analyzing this phenomenon or advocating policies to address its causes. There is a need for more extensive work to identify appropriate indicators and to develop statistical research methods which can effectively measure the feminization of poverty.

¹ BRIDGE. Institute of Development Studies. "Briefing paper on the feminization of poverty", 2001.

QUERY AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The discussion began with a query from [Kim Robertson](#), a senior statistician currently a consultant to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Kim's question was about the challenge involved in measuring the feminization of poverty using the existing MDG1 indicators which are:

- Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day
- Poverty gap ratio
- Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

She raised the question of how to most effectively measure the feminization of poverty for MDG1. She particularly drew attention to the fact that traditional data surveys such as Household Income and Expenditure Surveys do not link the data collected to individuals within the household. Since income is measured at the household level, determining the extent to which the burden of poverty falls on individuals by sex is difficult. She asked COP members to share surveys, studies and methodological work demonstrating how household income or consumption could be linked to individual persons in the household or, in the absence of such linked data, on how women's income could be estimated from household income data, especially in agricultural income which accounts for a substantial proportion of income in the Pacific region. This would make possible important gender-based poverty analysis and help provide empirical information to monitor the feminization of poverty.

Summary Analysis

Poverty is recognized as a problem in the Asia Pacific region, and many studies have shown that it is a gender issue with women suffering more from poverty than men. Poverty data need be separately analyzed for women and men, as well as by age and other socioeconomic categories particularly deprived and socially excluded groups, in order to recognize and address the feminization of poverty and the gender impacts of household poverty.

However, measuring the feminization of poverty poses a challenge due to the difficulty involved in obtaining sex-disaggregated income data. In addition, clarity is needed in key definitions to measure the income poverty of individuals. While earnings can be sex-disaggregated, the earner may not control that income, often demonstrated in men's control over women's earning. Some countries use household expenditure data to measure poverty but here too data is not normally sex-disaggregated. Furthermore, who decides and how spending decisions are made in the household is a complex issue.

The challenge is further exacerbated by the multidimensional nature of poverty's impact on women and its inter-linkages with various other dynamics. Factors such as entrenched gender discriminations; many women's lack of access to education, capital and assets; customary laws and practices which place women in a vulnerable and subordinated status; unequal power relations between women and men in the household; gender disparities and labour

inequality in the formal and informal sectors all affect the feminization of poverty, yet their effects can be difficult to capture and quantify. While poverty can be particularly hard on women, women are not one uniform, homogenous group and various factors feed into the feminization of poverty. Whether the women are living in rural or urban areas, where women are in the life cycle, whether they are single mothers or widows are also key determinants in the prevalence of poverty among women.

While most countries rely on household income and expenditure survey data to produce aggregates to measure the poverty reduction targets for MDG1, the challenge faced in sex-disaggregating this data has made its use as a data source for feminization of poverty measurement less straightforward. The frequent omission of rural areas or households involved in agricultural production (of which poor women comprise a large part) from household and income expenditure surveys also adds to the difficulty in using this data to measure the feminization of poverty.

Ongoing work to develop effective and innovative ways of measuring poverty among women is needed. Some of the methods and indicators shared or proposed during the e-discussion to measure the feminization of poverty using income/expenditure methods for MDG1 were:

- 1) Use household income data with time use data to estimate individuals' income on the basis of his/her main daily activity. Correlate household income to individuals using (a) the information from household surveys about the proportion of males and females in each household and (b) time use data to estimate women's income proportions.
- 2) Use sex-disaggregated data on poverty headcount ratio and the poverty gap ratio in parallel with qualitative data.
- 3) Make use of administrative data to collect sex disaggregated poverty data. For example, in Korea the following indicators are used: "Percentage by sex on the proportion below poverty line" and "Percentage by sex on the public assistance beneficiary rate". These indicators are used to estimate "Poverty gap ratio".
- 4) Make use of linked data from "establishment surveys" to give an idea of the income generation pattern among men and women.

The ratio of female labour force participation rate to males was indicated as an indicator which could give a sense of economic opportunity in a country which could enable women to get out of poverty. It was pointed out, however, that this indicator would not capture much of women's work in the agricultural sector, in the informal sector, or women's unremunerated work which are substantial in many developing countries.

While the female-headed households concept of poverty from which the term feminization of poverty first originated may give an initial approximation to the link between gender and poverty, most contributors in the e-discussion were in consensus that sex-disaggregation of household headship was in itself

insufficient to adequately measure the feminization of poverty. As pointed out by a number of contributors, some female headed households are among the poorest and need special attention. In some countries, however, female headed households are not on average poorer than male households and, in fact, better off. In addition, some of the poorest women in the region may live in male headed households, including non-poor households, especially if these women are widows, disabled, single or victims of domestic violence.

Time use surveys for analysis of gender dynamics in the household and gender-based poverty

Time use surveys, which collect data on how members of households spend their time (work, leisure, in the home, outside of the home), were highlighted by contributors during the e-discussion as an important instrument for gender and gender-based poverty analysis.

By providing sex-disaggregated data identifying, classifying and quantifying the main types of activities that women and men engage in during a definitive time period, time use surveys supply a wealth of information on women and men's daily lives. Used singularly or in conjunction with other types of data, time use data makes possible myriad types of analysis and extrapolations typically not possible otherwise.

It is particularly useful for obtaining a glimpse into intra-household dynamics and the invisible "household economy" including women's reproductive and unpaid work. In the rural sector, time use surveys are useful for measuring the gender contributions of rural people in farm work. Time use surveys have the additional value of providing both micro-level data on the individual behaviors and lifestyle patterns of women, men and children as well as macro-level data on how the economic and social system built on household units operates through time. For the latter reason, it also has been recognized for the role it can play in improving the accuracy of national macroeconomic indicators such as GDP.

The following are some of the key uses and purposes for time use data highlighted by contributors in the e-discussion:

- To obtain sex-disaggregated poverty statistics from household income and expenditure data for the measurement of feminized poverty. Used in combination with other data (such as income), time use data can be used for a number of applications enabling analysis of gender-based poverty for policy and poverty reduction planning.
- To assess gender disparities between women and men at the household level in (1) the amount of time engaged in economic and non-economic activities and (2) time spent in paid and unpaid labour.
- To measure and value women's unpaid work. This involves placing value on, giving importance to and raising the visibility of women's care work, reproductive work and unpaid domestic work - caring for children, the old, sick

and the disabled- by quantifying it and estimating its market value, for example, in national income accounting systems.

- To improve estimates of all forms of work. To measure the amount of time spent on women's paid and unpaid work in society for the purpose of improving estimates of women's contribution to GDP and women's labour force participation. This is particularly relevant for developing countries where both women's contribution to economic production and female participation rates tend to be underestimated.
- At the macroeconomic level, to understand the relationship between national budgets and household time use for the purposes of policy and public planning.
- To examine the quality of women and men's lives and sense of wellbeing, and to accordingly make more effective policy decisions and public planning for women and men.

The applications and uses of time use data is wide ranging. Specific time use applications shared by contributors during the e-discussion were research work and analysis in areas ranging from developing methodology for more accurate national estimations of GDP to analysis of the political and social economy of care in a country to adolescent time use in developing countries.

Income poverty, time poverty & alternative measures for the feminization of poverty

While the income/expenditure/consumption conceptualizations of poverty are mainstays in poverty measurement, there has been growing change in how poverty is understood. A number of contributors to the e-discussion asserted that there needs to be a broadening of the way poverty is understood and measured. Poverty is multidimensional, and defining poverty strictly in terms of poverty lines and drops in income is limited and tends to conceal the true extent of poverty's impact on women.

"A critical limitation of MDG1 is the limited focus on income/expenditure poverty and hunger ... MDG1 needs to focus on the multi-dimensional nature of poverty," according to Jean D'Cunha of UNIFEM.

A report² contributed to the e-discussion by the World Bank attributed the increasing interest in measuring the use of time in past years to the growing recognition that time is one of our most fundamental resources, in some ways even more so than money. Time is equally distributed, and how it is used (well or wastefully) will determine the progress and well-being of an individual as well as families and the larger society. Understanding how time is used is crucial to removing limiting constraints on the poor.

² Blackden, Mark and Quentin Wodon. Gender, Time Use and Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa

The term “time poverty”³ originally emerged from observations of the “double workday” or sometimes “triple workday” of women characterized by work responsibilities in both the productive (market) and reproductive (household) spheres. It becomes clear that examining differences in how women and men use their time is important to understanding poverty. Time is a direct measure of individual poverty within the household. The physical and emotional toll on women of dual productive and reproductive responsibilities can be substantial, leaving women with time poverty defined and characterized by time stress and time burden.

Additionally, time poverty also impedes women’s ability to expand their capabilities through education and skills development and marginalizes them from access to important material and non-material resources. Strategies to alleviate women’s time stress and time burdens can contribute to reducing women’s poverty.

Time poverty is further taken up by Indira Hirway with her contribution to the e-discussion of an advance copy of a chapter on understanding poverty and time use of the poor (The chapter is part of a book scheduled to be published next year). She reiterates previous conceptions of time poverty such as time stress and time burden developed by her predecessors. In addition, her book introduces and proposes an additional concept of “time poverty” called “unfavorable allocation of time of the poor” based on an identification of two key dynamics that constrain poor households in their use of time. Her paper also proposes three sets of new types of indicators for measuring the time-related constraints of poor women and men. These are indicators to measure: (1) Time Stress and Time Poverty and (2) Poverty based on the allocation of time and (3) Gender and Poverty. Her paper applies an innovative methodology to conduct a sex-disaggregated analysis of Indian time use data for the effects of time poverty on ultra poor women and men. Her empirical findings show that women workers of ultra poor households are in the worst position in Indian society.

National statistical offices & affiliates: Production of time use data & gender statistics

Eleven national statistical offices (NSOs) and/or affiliates participated in the e-discussion sharing information and best practices primarily on national initiatives in conducting time use surveys. NSOs contributions on recent work in gender statistics and the availability of this data to the public were also shared. While most of the contributors were from the Asia Pacific region, there were as well some contributors from the European Union and Latin America enabling both valuable regional and interregional sharings.

³ The following are the current commonly accepted definitions of time poverty: Time poverty or time stress refers to the burden of work on the poor, mainly women, that restricts the choice that is available to the poor in selecting activities. It is also defined in the context of time burden of competing claims on individuals time that reduce their ability to make unconstrained choices on how they allocate their time. This leads to work intensity on the one hand and trade-offs among various tasks on the other hand.

The contributions appear to indicate that there has been an increase in the past years in the volume of time use data being collected and becoming available. Governments in a number of countries are investing in official time use surveys or, as in the case of some developing countries, conducting time use surveys with the assistance of donors or technical assistance from more developed countries.

As reported by one contributor, the EU has developed a harmonized European time use survey (HETUS). In 2000 through the region's centralized statistical agency, Eurostat, more than 20 EU countries participated in this harmonized survey resulting in a rich kaleidoscope of regionally comparable cross country data on the lives of European women and men. Several publications publishing the analysis emerging from this data were shared with COP members. Steps are being taken in the region to regularize this collection of harmonized time use data region-wide to provide time series.

The development of a harmonized household satellite account to measure the value of the household economy and household production – invisible and unaccounted for in economic data and in the system of national accounts - is also in progress in the region. Although the household satellite account does not link household income with individuals by sex and so does not separate value of work done by women and men, it is of particular importance from a gender perspective because it is here in the household economy where women predominantly work. Since value of work is based on time use surveys, it also could be possible to estimate the value of unpaid work by gender.

In the Asia Pacific, the region's two most populous countries have conducted official time use surveys. In 1999 India conducted one of the first official time use surveys of grand scale in the region (covering 18,600 households in six states). China just conducted its first large scale time use survey this year (2008) covering 16,661 households in ten provinces, and was still in the preliminary stages of examining the data.

Information shared on the Indian experience of time use survey provided insight into and is a good illustration of the massive and expensive undertaking involved in the planning, design and implementation process of a large-scale time use survey. As was shared by a contributor from the Indian government, formerly with India's national statistical office, the prospect of more complete measurement of GDP can serve as a powerful impetus for countries conducting such a survey. For India's 1999 survey, a key objective was to arrive at a better estimate of the value of goods and services produced, particularly in the household sector, in order to construct a more complete national income account. The Indian government recognized that – as a result of excluding the value of unpaid goods and services, particularly those produced for self-consumption within the household – GDP in India was most likely seriously underestimated. Analysis on the valuation of the time use survey showed that India's GDP could go up by a very substantial percentage if unpaid activities were taken into account.

Calls by the UN's Beijing Platform for Action for countries to develop "suitable statistical means to recognize and make visible the full extent of the work of

women and all their contribution to the national economy, including their contribution in the unremunerated and domestic sector” also factored into the Indian government’s decision to initiate a large-scale time use survey.

Establishing a comprehensive classification system for activities was an essential part of the survey process. Data was collected in three categories of activities: (1) System of national accounts activities; (2) Extended system of national accounts activities; and (3) Non-System of national accounts activities. While national accounts activities are those activities typically measured as economic/market activities contributing to GDP (such as formal employment activities), extended system of national accounts activities included many of the unpaid, reproductive activities shouldered by women (household maintenance, care children, sick and the elderly). Non-system national accounts activities are activities relating to learning, social and cultural activities, leisure, and personal care.

Using primarily data collected on activities from the extended system of national accounts, the economic contribution of women to the GDP of the country could be calculated. Analysis of the data was also useful in revealing differences in women and men’s allocations of time to paid and unpaid work, as well as gender differentials in time allocation to care work and leisure/personal activities. Survey results were later used by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to sensitize senior policy makers to gender discrimination in household activities.

As India has considerable socioeconomic, demographic, geographic and cultural diversity, survey design also put considerable care and planning into ensuring that all aspects of diversity in India’s population were captured in the population sampling.

A contributor from Korea also shared the Korean experience in collecting time use statistics. The National Statistics Office of Korea has conducted time use surveys (TUS) every five years since 1999, with the intention to collect information on how people spend their time during a 24-hour period.

Other national reports shared by contributors showed that national statistical offices and affiliated institutions in the region employed a diverse range of methodological approaches and techniques for the collection of time use data. A variety of data collection modes were applied in countries: self-completed diary (India, China); participant observation method (Nepal); recall interview method (Bhutan); combined modes such as interview method with self-completed diary (Mongolia), Republic of Korea (household questionnaire, individual questionnaire, self-diary). While a research institute had conducted a time use survey in Nepal, the national statistical office did not conduct official time use surveys. Alternatively, however, Nepal’s national statistical office did collect some time use data by including time use questions in its labour force survey. This addition of time use questions or a time use module to an existent regular survey is a method commonly advocated to make time use data collection feasible for countries not able to afford or preferring to defer the more exorbitant costs involved in conducting a full-fledged time use survey.

A contributor from Bhutan reported on Bhutan's index on Gross National Happiness (GNH). The index is composed of nine indicators (psychological wellbeing, health, education, community vitality, cultural diversity, ecological diversity, good governance, standard of living and time use). Time use is one of the indicators from which the index is constructed. The selection of time use as one of the indicators was based on previous research which had shown strong correlation between time use and the subjective well being of people. Since respondents to the survey were predominantly farmers and rural people, the survey was particularly effective in revealing gender disparities among rural women and men, and in determining the GNH of rural women purported to have the longest work hours in the country.

Contributions from the UNECE and UNECLAC provided valuable reports on the availability and status of time use and gender data collection, as well as efforts on gender-based poverty measurement, in their respective regions. The World Bank has done extensive studies on time use and gender economics. A contributor from the World Bank reported that the Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS) does not allow easy linkage of income to individuals. The survey does examine household income in female-head households compared to that in male-headed households. More information is being included in the survey on the dynamics of intra-household decision-making and on how to determine who makes the decisions at the household level.

National statistical offices and affiliates reported on a wide number of challenges encountered in collecting time use data and other gender statistics. Probably primary among them were the resource constraints faced by developing countries to conduct time use surveys which are costly. Some countries conducted the surveys through the help of donors. Others resorted to cost-saving methods to collect data as in the case of Nepal which incorporated time use questions into its labour force survey. Providing instigators with thorough and rigorous training is the most effective way to prepare them for the various types of challenges reported by national statistical offices bound to be encountered in the field. These include: having to deal with a largely illiterate population, incorrectly filled in diaries due to respondents' non-understanding, different perceptions of time particularly among rural people who often neither keep time in the conventional sense (ie. "clock time") nor wear watches. Since measuring women's unpaid work is a focus of the surveys, gender sensitization of instigators was important as well as the recruitment of female instigators. How to measuring multi-tasking and simultaneous activities remains a challenge in time use surveys. While official time use surveys provide a rich database of information on a nation's people, in the Asia Pacific region harmonization among countries and cross country comparability of this data is still largely not possible.

As one contributor pointed out, while the lack of gender statistics to support evidence-based policy formulation on gender issues is a problem, there is also a problem in basic public access to sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics. In a number of cases, the data may exist but in widely-dispersed locations or in format not easy to read and understand by the general public. Comprehensive gender statistics publications were recently produced by Thailand and Hong

Kong assembling gender statistics in one place, broken down by issues of importance in an accessible and user-friendly way. Proper packaging of gender statistics so that it can be analyzed and compared quickly and easily plays an important role in advancing gender policy and advocacy.

Recommended actions

The following are some suggestions for action from the contributions of the e-discussion:

- 1) Promote and strengthen the implementation of time use surveys and the use of time use data to inform gender policies, either as large-scale surveys or as time use modules in existent regularized surveys.
- 2) Where national level time use survey data collection is not possible, promote the implementation of smaller-scale surveys but ensure that these provide data of adequate quality and quantity for policy analysis.
- 3) Use time use data in combination with household surveys to measure the impact of poverty on women and girls. Adjunct this with qualitative surveys and focus group discussions to gather data on men and women's perceptions of and experience of poverty.
- 4) Promote analysis of time use data with output indicators in areas such as health, education, nutrition, and employment to better establish the processes and impact of/behind poverty on women and girls.
- 5) Ensure that time use surveys and gender statistics incorporate data collection and analysis by age, ethnicity, and other socioeconomic categories particularly deprived and socially excluded groups.
- 6) Promote strategies to alleviate women's time stress and time burdens, and to reduce women's time poverty.
- 7) Promote methodological work in the development of indicators which more effectively measure the feminization of poverty, including sex-disaggregated poverty headcount ratio, poverty gap ratio, and time poverty indicators
- 8) Promote further research and dialogue on the notion of "unfavorable allocation of time of the poor" which is proposed as an additional conceptual approach to "time poverty" (refer to paper prepared by Indira Hirway)
- 9) Promote greater research and methodological work in new indicators to measure the feminization of poverty, namely indicators for measuring the time-related constraints of poor women and men by: (1) Time stress and time poverty and (2) Poverty based on the allocation of time (refer to paper prepared by Indira Hirway).

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

[Yanghee Kim](#), a senior research expert from Korea, informed the group that in Korea, administrative records are used as a data source to measure poverty from a gender perspective. Instead of the standard Proportion of population below \$1(PPP) per day, they use percentage by sex on the Proportion below Poverty line and Percentage by sex on the Public assistance beneficiary rate.

[Clinton Rapley](#), an international development consultant, drew attention to a joint UNECE-UNICEF monograph, which mentions that most countries rely on household income and expenditure surveys to produce indicators related to MDG achievement, without recognising either the feminization of poverty or the monetization of barter trade.

[Christian Stoff](#), a statistician with UNESCAP's Statistics Division, suggested that time use data could be a useful basis to calculate women's income from "other sources". He also expressed the opinion that that using information on female-headed households from surveys is not fruitful, given that concepts of both a "household head" and a household in general are quite controversial and their definitions not clear-cut.

[Indira Hirway](#), an expert from India, shared an unpublished paper scheduled for publication she has recently written on how time use can be linked with several variables to understand the gender dimensions of poverty.

[Jean D'Cunha](#) from UNIFEM, quoting from a recent UNIFEM publication, drew attention to the following key issues with regard to measuring the feminization of poverty: (1) While earnings can be sex-disaggregated, the earner may not control or benefit from that income. (2) It is possible to disaggregate the poverty headcount ratio and the poverty gap ratio by sex and other variables. (3) Time poverty is an important form of poverty for women and girls as it marginalizes them from access to material and non-material resources of different kinds and contributes to their lack of capacity in different spheres of life.

Two other members, [Ramaiah Avatthi](#), a social inclusion expert from India, and [Ghulam Nizamani Azad](#), senior representative and advocate from the disability community, supplemented Dr. DCunha's recommendations by highlighting that the category "female" is not homogenous ; there is also a hierarchy among women based on class, religion, caste, race, educational background, political power, and level of consciousness etc., and therefore statistical surveys must collect information about women in terms of these indicators as well.

[Heinrich Brungger](#) from UNECE's Statistical Division shared information about UNECE's online database of sex-disaggregated statistics; online manuals on how to mainstream gender into official statistics; as well as online analyses of economic differences between men and women at UNECE.

[Simone Cecchini](#) from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean provided links to some interesting documents on time-use surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean which have been published in English, and which offer an excellent overview on poverty and inequality in the region from a gender perspective (see Related Resources).

[Diana Steele](#), from the World Bank, shared information about how the Living Standards Measurement Study surveys collect information about household income. She also shared several studies looking at time use and gender economics and explained the importance of time use data.

[Cynthia Lloyd](#) from the Population Council, New York, shared a paper written by herself and some colleagues on the gender differences in Time Use among adolescents in developing countries

[Kyoko Kusakabe](#), a gender specialist from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, shared her perspective on analysis of time use data from Nepal, and from a study on street vendors in Cambodia.

[Mi-Young An](#), from Handong Global University, Korea, shared information about an analysis on Korean Time Use survey for UNRISD, for a project she conducted on the political and social economy of care.

COUNTRY LEVEL EXAMPLES (in alphabetical order)

An important outcome of the discussion was the sharing of information by several National Statistical Offices and other agencies working in countries across the Asia Pacific that have been working on gender statistics and time use surveys. The forum provided a unique opportunity for such producers of data to interact with substantive experts who use this data as a basis for policy advocacy and formulation. Another achievement of the forum was in facilitating a mutually beneficial “north-south” exchange of information.

BHUTAN

[Karma Galay](#) from the Centre of Bhutan Studies shared information with the group about the collection of Time Use data as part of a larger survey on Gross National Happiness (GNH) conducted by Bhutan in 2007. He also informed members about the survey’s purpose; methodology; sources of funding; challenges; and key results. This post was much appreciated by Iris Niemi from Statistics Finland, who has shared it with her colleagues in the European Union.

CHINA

[An Xinli](#), Senior Statistician with the National Bureau of Statistics, China, shared information about China’s first ever Time Use Survey, which was conducted in 2008 over ten provinces. She provided details of its scale, funding, methodology and results.

EUROPEAN UNION

[Iris Niemi](#) of Statistics Finland is one of the senior members of the team responsible for initiating the Harmonised Time Use Surveys (HETUS) project in Europe. She shared some very valuable information on this project, including guidelines, brief analyses of data, and links to the web database of the HETUS findings. She also called attention to the need to value unpaid work in monetary terms, in order to be compared with GDP data. Links to several informative documents on this topic were also provided by her (see Related Resources for more details).

[Johanna Varjonen](#) from the National Consumer Research Centre, Finland shared her analytical work as well as reports on her work on measuring the value of unpaid household production as part of a statistical working group of Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Communities).

[Karin Winqvist](#) from the European Commission described current initiatives in the European Union on time use surveys and shared several documents on these initiatives and time use analysis (see Related Resources).

HONG KONG

[Billy Li](#) from the Statistics Department of Hong Kong shared with us an annual publication entitled Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics which has been released every year by the Census and Statistics Department since 2001. (see Related Resources for more details) He also informed the group that sex-

disaggregated data are collected from all household surveys conducted by C&SD and are readily available to the public.

INDIA

[Rajnath Pandey](#), formerly with the Central Statistical Organization, India, shared information about the Indian Time Use Survey he had supervised in 1999, which was the first time use survey in any developing country. He also shared briefly the key results of the survey and its use by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (see related resources for more details)

MONGOLIA

[Oyunchimeg Dandar](#) from the National Statistical Office of Mongolia shared information on Time Use initiatives in Mongolia (see Related Resources for more details), describing the nature and scale of the exercise and sources of funding and technical support.

NEPAL

[Rudra Suwal](#) from Central Bureau of Statistics, Kathmandu, Nepal shared valuable information about a small scale time use survey conducted in Nepal in the mid seventies by a research institution from Tribhuvan University, as well as time use data collected through Nepal's labor force survey (see Related Resources for further details).

PACIFIC STATES

[Kim Robertson](#) from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, SPC Gender Statistics Project, made the initial query on how to measure the feminization of poverty using existent MDG1 indicators and on what is the most effective way to measure the feminization of poverty.

[Alick Nyasulu](#) from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community shared information on some of the challenges faced in measuring poverty among women in the Asia Pacific and approaches for overcoming these challenges.

THAILAND

[Tongta Khiewpaisal](#) from UNDP shared the information that UNDP Thailand in collaboration with the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security produced the Report on Thailand Gender-Disaggregated Statistics 2008. With this Report, the information about women and women's issues in Thailand can be found in one place, broken down by issues of importance, in a way that is easily accessible, user friendly, and can be analyzed and compared quickly and easily.

PARTICIPANT LIST (in order of contribution)



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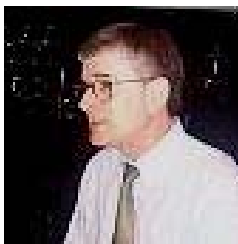
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RELATED RESOURCES

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS

* Documents can also be accessed by COP members on AP-MDG-Social workspace at www.cop.mdgasiapacific.org. See feminization of poverty query in “general discussion” under “group forum”.

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WEBSITE LINKS

<http://www.women.gov.hk/eng/research/research.html>

Information about gender-related research and statistics available in HK

<https://www.testh2.scb.se/tus/tus/>

A user-friendly web data base for users with which anyone can easily produce their own tables and graphics using several background variables and time use categorization of forty nine activities or groupings

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/timeuse/Welcome.html>

This section of the UNECE website presents relevant information on methods and practices of TUS, at both national and international level. It is intended to be a valuable resource for countries planning a TUS.

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.09.gender.htm>

UNECE provides a forum to interested users of gender statistics for exchanging views and experiences about topics relevant to gender analysis, with a view to increase awareness for the necessity to include more systematically a gender perspective in policy formulation and regulatory directives.

<http://www.gnh-movement.org/conference.php>

This website provides information on the International Conference on Gross National Happiness which brings together thinkers, activists, community leaders, government officials and policy makers, academics, students, business leaders and managers; artists and persons of good faith to engage in a joint effort to understand happiness as a public good.

<http://www.stmarys.ca/partners/iatur/>

The website of the International Association for Time-Use Research, which aims to be a scientific organization that fosters exchange of ideas dealing with time use

RESPONSES IN FULL



Kim Robertson

[Facilitator's note: posted by Kim Robertson on 4th September, 2008]

I just submitted the below to the UN blog ... and would be very interested in feedback from this group about alternative measures for Goal 1 which are gender sensitive ...

How do you measure the increasing feminisation of poverty with the existing targets and indicators under Goal 1, specifically for 1.1 Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day, 1.2 Poverty gap ratio and 1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption?

I have been involved in poverty analysis using quantitative data and have not been able to find measures from 'traditional' data sources such as Household Income and Expenditure Surveys to show the relative positions of women and men as these surveys do not link incomes (or expenditures) to people in households.

Thanks,

Kim Robertson



Yanghee Kim

[Facilitator's note: posted by Yanghee Kim on 20th September, 2008]

Dear Mr. Rego,

We use administrative records to get data for those indicators in Korea. Instead of Proportion of population below \$1(PPP) per day, we use %, by sex on the Proportion below poverty line and %, by sex on the Public assistance beneficiary rate. These two indicators are also used for estimating the Poverty gap ratio.

I understand that the World Bank regularly estimates Proportion of population below \$1(PPP) per day based on incomes or consumption levels derived from

household surveys. Consumption is preferred to income, though. Please refer to World Bank (2003). *Poverty Reduction Strategy Sourcebook, vol.1. Core Techniques: Poverty Measurement and Analysis*.

By definition, Poverty gap ratio is the mean distance separating the population from the poverty line (with the non-poor being given a distance of zero), expressed as a % of the poverty line. Formulas for calculating this are different depending on the data being used, either individual or household. Again, we rely on administrative data for this. Regarding the Share of poorest quintile in national consumption, World Bank again uses household survey data.

I am sorry that I have no magic wand.

Best,
Yanghee Kim



Kim Robertson

[Facilitator's note: posted by Kim Robertson on 23rd September, 2008]

Its great to have input on these variables, their analysis and where we statisticians magic them up from ... I am wondering if anyone knows of any country or survey who has tried to systematically link all sources of household income (consumption would be nice but very difficult and not practical) to individual persons in the household? That way we could do some very interesting gender based analysis ...

In the surveys that I have analysed income from wages and salaries and sometimes 'business' type activities are linked to persons but agricultural income (of which we have a considerable amount in the Pacific) either from sale of goods or 'home consumption' is not linked in any way. Obvious problems with the person controlling the money from any sales - I can see that IF I was going to do something like this with any 'unlinked' income I would make some assumptions about a) who produces what kind of food/goods in the home and develop ratios to allocate income pro-rata based on a persons main daily activity and b) who does the actual 'selling' of the goods (in the Pacific this is very commonly women).

Even if income isn't linked to people this points to the value of having indicative 'time use' type information to develop the ratios for the productive/income generating activities.

I welcome any other ideas, opinions and discussion about this.

Too technical? Sorry!

Kim



Clinton Rapley

[Facilitator's note: posted by Clinton Rapley on 24th September, 2008]

Greetings – UN ECE (Europe) and UNICEF recently teamed to produce an interesting monograph that assesses capacities of Commonwealth of Independent States and Southeast European countries to produce MDG-relevant statistics. Since many are developing their national capacities, the monograph may also be of interest to the AP MDG-Social Community.

The monograph notes that most countries rely on Household income and expenditure survey data and Living standard measurement surveys to produce indicators related to the poverty reduction target of MDG 1; feminization of poverty is not addressed nor are problems associated with monetizing barter trade, although these are recognised problem areas in both sets of countries (and presumably may be the subject of further studies).

UN Statistics has placed online its comprehensive monograph on design and use of household surveys << <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/hhsurveys/> >>. The full monograph (2005 edition) is 4.2 MB but selected chapters of interest can be downloaded or read online.

UNIFEM has just released its “World’s women 2008-2009” which provides analyses of global trends in progress related to MDGs from a gender perspective and selected case studies / text boxes on access to services, exercise of rights and justice, and income and work. The full report is about 5.5 MB to download << <http://www.unifem.org/progress/2008/> >>.

Regards,

Clint



Christian Stoff

[Facilitator's note: posted by Christian Stoff on 17th October, 2008]

Dear colleagues,

With some delay, I can only agree with Kim's approach to obtain income estimates disaggregated by sex. Working as a statistician at UNESCAP, we frequently face requests on sex-disaggregated income data. However, since income is usually measured at the household level, linking it to individuals is not straightforward.

One way is to use the information from the household surveys on the proportions of females in each household in order to relate the household income to the individuals and then make some assumptions on the proportions of income generated by women from other sources. A "time use" type of information, preferably geographically disaggregated, may provide a reasonable basis for these assumptions. Also the data from "establishment surveys" (although rarely available in developing countries) may give an idea on the income generation pattern among men and women. I do not believe that using the information on female-headed households from the surveys is fruitful either, given that concepts of both a household head and a household in general are quite controversial and their definitions not clear-cut.

Unfortunately I am not aware of any country study following an approach using income data from households and linking it to men and women. If Kim has conducted such a study or knows studies based on household data, I would be definitely be interested in learning about them in order to be able to refer those requesting information on sex-disaggregated income to her or other papers. Also I wonder whether or not you would agree with my reservation about using female-headed versus male-headed households as a way of getting sex-disaggregated statistics. Thanks.

Best,
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Tongta Khiewpaisal

[Facilitator's note: posted by Tongta Khiewpaisal on 22nd October, 2008]

Dear colleagues,

I wish to share the information that UNDP Thailand in collaboration with the Office of Women's Affairs and Family Development under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security produced **the Report on Thailand Gender-Disaggregated Statistics 2008** (http://www.undp.or.th/newsandevents/2008/documents/GenderDisaggStatistics_Engreport.pdf) . Women's issues have sometimes been overlooked in policy planning, in part of a lack of information to support those policies. The problem has not only been a lack of data, but the data has often been dispersed, and has not always been easy to access. With this Report, the information about women and women's issues in Thailand can be found in one place, broken down by issues of importance, is easily accessible and user friendly, and can be analyzed and compared quickly and easily.

You could find the information on **the average income of households headed by men and women**, computer and internet literacy on men and women, number of women and men in the media, **number of hours women and men spend on household maintenance**, in specific areas.

With regards,
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Indira Hirway

[Facilitator's note: posted on 24th October, 2008 on behalf of Indira Hirway]

Dear Christopher,

It is nice to know that you are running a web-based Community of Practice [AP-MDG-Social] with statisticians, social development experts, social scientists and UN agencies interested in MDG and development issues.

Time use data can be useful in measuring feminization of poverty, as they provide data on intra household details of time use, which can be linked with several variables to understand the nature of gender based poverty.

I have recently written a paper entitled Understanding Poverty: Insights Emerging from Time Use of the Poor. This paper discusses the gender dimension of poverty as reflected in the time use. This paper is written for a book "Unpaid Work and Economy: Gender, Time Use and Poverty", which we are editing and which will be published soon by Palgrave, UK.

I am attaching a copy of this paper for you.

The paper as yet does not have bibliography or "references". This is being added at present. Please give proper acknowledgement while quoting the paper.

Thanks,

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Dr. Billy Li

[Facilitator's note: posted by Dr. Billy Li, Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong SAR, China, on 30th October, 2008]

Dear Mr Rego,

Thank you for informing us of the web-based Community of Practice (CoP) (discussion) on feminization of poverty run under your auspices. In reading the statistical issues discussed in the postings, I would like to share with you below the work we have been doing in this area.

In order to facilitate understanding of the situation of women and men in major economic and social spheres in HK, an annual publication entitled Women and Men in Hong Kong – Key Statistics has been released by C&SD since 2001. The publication provides a wealth of statistical information for supporting study on various social topics which should be of relevant interest to the CoP. A copy of the latest edition of the publication can be downloaded free of charge from the following link

[http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/products_and_services/products/publications/statistical_report/social_data/index_cd_B1130303_dt_latest.jsp].

Other than this publication, sex-disaggregated data are collected from all household surveys conducted by C&SD and are readily available to the public. More information about gender-related research and statistics available in HK (including a time use survey conducted during late 2001 - early 2002) can also be found at the website of the Women's Commission [<http://www.women.gov.hk/eng/research/research.html>].

I hope you would find the above useful. Please feel free to contact me if any further details are required.

Best regards,
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Iiris Niemi

[Facilitator's note: the message below is posted by Iiris Niemi from Statistics Finland on 31st October, 2008]

Dear Colleagues,

To tell you briefly about the Harmonised European Time Use Surveys HETUS, the original guidelines for HETUS were finalised in 2000 by Eurostat, see <https://www.testh2.scb.se/tus/tus/doc/KS-CC-04-007-EN.pdf>

More than 20 European countries participated in this volunteer survey including EU member states and non-members.

Time use surveys show clear differences in everyday activity patterns of women and men, especially in work loads regarding paid and unpaid work. Women do less paid work than men and clearly more unpaid domestic work. This is one reason for the feminisation of poverty.

In Finland we analysed time use in 10 HETUS countries with main focus on gender perspective. The tables and brief analyses will be found in the report How Europeans spend their time. Everyday life of women and men.

See web page:

http://www.mszs.si/eurydice/pub/eurostat/time_2004.pdf

Recently Statistics Finland and Statistics Sweden produced a user-friendly web data base for users. You will find it on the web page of Statistics Sweden. You can easily produce own tables and graphics using several background variables and time use categorization of 49 activities or groupings. The programme is found on the web page

<https://www.testh2.scb.se/tus/tus/>

Lots of background information and some basic tables can be used without permission and password from Statistics Sweden.

The second wave of HETUS started this year in some countries and more countries will start in the coming years. The revised Guidelines will be available in the beginning of next year.

A comprehensive table on Gender, work and time allocation around the world was recently produced by UNDP in "Human Development Report 2007/2008. Fighting climate change. Human solidarity in a divided world"

See Table 32 on page 342:

http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_20072008_EN_Complete.pdf

One important purpose of time use surveys is the requirement of making women's work visible. This was especially underlined in the women's world conference in Beijing 1995. Unpaid work should be valued in monetary measures in order to be compared with GDP.

Eurostat set up a task force that produced the following report in 2003: "Household Production and Consumption : Proposal for a Methodology of Household Satellite Accounts".
<http://www.uni-mannheim.de/edz/pdf/eurostat/03/KS-CC-03-003-EN-N-EN.pdf>

Following the Eurostat proposal e.g. Finland published the following report :Johanna Varjonen and Kristiina Aalto, Household Production and Consumption in Finland 2001. Household Satellite Account. Statistics Finland and National Consumer Research Centre 2006. (See PDF 2006_household satellite account) It is advertised on web page
http://www.kuluttajatutkimuskeskus.fi/?150_m=352&l=en&s=17

Best regards,
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Dr. R.N. Pandey

[Facilitator's note: posted by Dr. Rajnath Pandey, former Director of the Central Statistical Office, India, on 13th November, 2008]

Dear Colleagues,

Its a pleasure to know that Time Use Survey is being talked about as a tool to understand the feminization of the poverty.

I am really proud to be associated with the Indian Time Use Survey from its conceptualisation to the report writing. This survey was first of its kind among the developing countries. In this survey six States of India, namely Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Orissa and Tamil Nadu were covered. Though the survey was called a pilot survey, the sample size was 18600 households spread in the six States. Because of the large sample size, various results are statistically reliable. The fund required for this survey was arranged from the research fund of the Government of India. A detailed presentation was made to senior policy makers regarding the utility of the survey for the country and they agreed to allocate fund for this survey. In most of the other developing countries, this survey was conducted with the help of foreign fund.

Survey was planned and implemented by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. At that time I was posted in CSO and was in-charge of this survey. Prof. Hirway was the Chairman of the Advisory Committee constituted for this survey.

Data for this survey was collected during July, 1998 to June 1999 with the help of the investigators of the State Statistical Bureaus. Data processing and report writing was done by the CSO. As this survey was first of its kind in India, a number of challenges were faced. Biggest challenges were the canvassing of the questionnaire to largely illiterate population and getting their response on time spent on various activities. In rural areas a significant proportion of the population do not have much idea about exact time disposition. These challenges were handled by the rigorous training of the investigators and making it compulsory for them to stay in the sample villages. Rather than canvassing the questionnaire to the head of the family, these were canvassed to the eligible members of the households including women. To get the full cooperation of the women, female investigators were specifically deployed for this survey. Being the first survey of its kind, field investigators encountered a number of problems in the field which were referred to me in CSO. I replied to all the queries within three days of receipt.

The draft report of the Survey was discussed in an international Conference held at Ahmedabad, India during December, 1999. This Conference was organised in collaboration with the Statistics Division of UNESCAP. I think the report of this Conference is also available on the web site of the UN-ESCAP

Only one report of the Indian Time Use Survey, drafted by me, has been brought out. Unfortunately, this report is not available on line. However, important aspects of the Survey have been elaborated in a paper prepared by me the Expert Group meeting on Time Use Survey held in New York in Nov. 2000. A copy of the paper is attached.

Important findings of the survey are given in the attached paper. Very briefly, survey revealed that

- (i) The time spent by men in SNA activities were about three times than that by women. Even in the SNA activities, the proportion of women in unpaid work was substantially higher as compared to men.
- (ii) The time spent by women in Extended SNA activities, (which are currently not in SNA and can be delegated to others) was about 10 times of those spent by men.
- (iii) Among the non-SNA activities (which cannot be delegated), significant gender differences were observed in activities such as cooking, cleaning, care of children, care of sick and elderly, etc. In these activities time spent by women was many time more than men.

Survey results were widely used by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to sensitize the senior policy makers about the gender discrimination in the household activities.

Papers were also prepared by me, using the results of the survey, to calculate the economic contribution of the women to the GDP of the country through their participation in the extended SNA activities.

Another paper was also prepared to work out the Work Force Participation Rate (WPR) using the data of Time Use Survey. The WPR for women was substantially higher as per the Time Use Survey as compared to the conventional Employment-Unemployment Survey. This generated lot of debates about the correctness of the methodology of Employment Survey.

Though attempts are being made to include the Time Use Survey in the regular survey programme of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, no final decision has yet been taken.

(For further details please contact me at rajnath56.pandey@gmail.com)

Dr. R. N. Pandey
(formerly with CSO, India)
Additional Director General
Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India
New Delhi



Dr. Jean D'Cunha

[Facilitator's note: posted by Dr. Jean D'Cunha, Regional Programme, UNIFEM ESEARO, Bangkok, on 11th November, 2008]

Dear Mr. Rego,

Thank you for inviting UNIFEM to be part of this discussion on the feminization of poverty on the AP_MDG-Social Mailing list. UNIFEM East and Southeast Asia has just produced a publication entitled, "Making the MDGs Work for All: A Gender-sensitive Rights-based Approach to the MDGs (will shortly be on website). The publication highlights critical gender concerns related to each MDG goal, particularly for Asia, proposes a menu of gender sensitive targets and indicators for each goal that can be further adapted, and makes engendered recommendations for action drawing on the good practice of countries of this region and beyond.

Following this pattern, Chapter 1 on Engendering MDG Goal 1 Eradicating Extreme Hunger and Poverty, shows how and why : macro-economic policies need to be gender sensitive and pro-poor; poverty data need to be analyzed separately for women and men; MDG 1 needs to focus on the multi-dimensional nature of poverty; measures are needed to reduce time spent by women on unpaid care work; poverty, lack of food security etc has a greater impact on

women and girls than men and boys; nutritional data needs to be collected for both males and females. The chapter then proposes gender-sensitive rights based targets and indicators to monitor hunger and poverty and gender-sensitive strategies to achieve MDG goal 1.

ISSUES

Poverty data by sex and other socio-economic categories

Turning to the focus of your email discussion, we agree that poverty data need to be separately analyzed for men and women, as well as by age and other socio-economic categories, if we are to recognize and address feminization of poverty and the gender impacts of household poverty. However there is no clear definition or data on the income poverty of individuals. While earnings can be sex-disaggregated, the earner may not control that income, often demonstrated in men's control over women's earnings. Some countries use household expenditure data to measure poverty, but here too data is not normally sex-disaggregated. Further who and how spending decisions are made is complex. Empirical data and anecdotal evidence we have on poor migrant workers and small businesses show that women tend to control routine expenditure which is small and men bigger expenditures. Moreover who benefits from these expenditures is as complex. Empirical data and anecdotal evidence we have on poor migrant workers and post disaster contexts show women spending more on family needs and men on personal needs. Even if women do control expenditures, they may still be the poorest at home.

Disaggregation by sex and other variables to address poverty must be carried out at all levels of analysis and not just as overall totals. Poverty is presently measured only at household level. It is difficult to calculate individual measures of income or expenditure poverty or disaggregate global poverty indicator 1A on the basis of sex or other variables from current data. However the publication argues firstly that it is possible to disaggregate the poverty headcount ratio and the poverty gap ratio by sex and other variables, though the survey size may constrain such disaggregation. Second, poverty outcome indicators like illiteracy, poor nutrition and health etc indicate that more women than men are poor, but we have no direct measures of poverty to show this. Third, by using the poverty headcount ratio and the poverty gap ratio by sex together with qualitative data, it is possible to analyze global poverty indicators from a gender lens.

Multiple dimensions of poverty and its feminized face

A critical limitation of MDG 1 is the limited focus on income/expenditure poverty and hunger. A rights perspective asserts that poverty prevents the attainment and use of basic capabilities- the capability to have nutrition, shelter, education, take part in community life, etc. Women fare poorly on this, even when they are part of households not currently defined as poor under goal 1. Goal 1, target 2 only highlights nutrition, while education and mortality are captured to some extent in goals 2, 4,5,6. But important human rights issues like lack of personal security, liberty, exclusion and the multidimensional nature of poverty that women experience are not well addressed by the MDGs. Cambodia however has expanded its MDG goals and indicators for Goal 3 to cover some of these aspects.

Time poverty and its gender dimensions

Time is a direct measure of individual poverty within the household, permitting comparisons between males and females. Time use or time allocation surveys (as has been pointed out in the email discussion), can be used to measure poverty showing gender differences in the amount and kind of work, with the balance weighted against women. In fact time poverty is an important form of poverty for women and girls as it marginalizes them from access to material and non-material resources of different kinds and contributes to their lack of capacity in different spheres of life.

Female headed households and poverty

The feminization of poverty is primarily about the greater impact of all forms of poverty on women and girls. Household and government strategies to address poverty tend to overlook their impact on women and girls, only reinforcing poverty. While data on household headship can be used to identify poor women, feminization of poverty cannot be adequately measured in terms of the proportion of female headed households. The phenomenon has varied definitions and the structure of male and female headed households tend to differ. In most cases, female or male headship is a self proclaimed category. Female-headed households are also not on average poorer than male households in many countries.

Policies and programmes addressing hunger and poverty need to be grounded in data that identifies which households, regardless of headship, suffer hunger and poverty, and what the characteristics of these households and their members, especially women and children show. Most household data can be disaggregated in terms of income and headship; some female headed households are among the poorest and need special attention; some women in male headed households are seriously deprived in all areas of capability; some of the poorest women may live in male headed households, including non-poor male households, especially if these women are widows, disabled, single, victims of violence.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION: Improving poverty statistics and analysis from a gender perspective

- Develop and implement time use surveys and use results to inform policy and programme design/implementation
- Ensure that the survey is large enough to provide data of adequate quality and quantity for policy analysis, but it does not need to be representative at the national level
- Incorporate time use surveys as a module in other household surveys. As behaviour change takes time, a 3-5 year interval between time use surveys is adequate for policy and monitoring purposes
- Analyze this data to establish some of the processes that cause very different output indicators for health, education, nutrition, employment for men and women clearly showing the greater impact of poverty on women and girls
- Together with household surveys conducted to measure poverty, include qualitative surveys and focus group discussions to gather data on men's and women's perceptions of and experience of poverty. Also consider

age, other socio-economic variables like caste, income levels, household headship in qualitative surveys and focus group discussions.

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Dr. Ramaiah Avatthi

[Facilitator's note: posted on 13th November, 2008 by Dr. A Ramaiah, Chairperson, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai]

Dear All,

It is an interesting debate. My only submission to all working on the issue of feminisation of poverty is to keep in mind that the category called "female" is not homogenous as there is hierarchy among women based on class, religion, caste, race, educational background, political power, and level of consciousness etc., and these factors do determine their access to means of production and thus have implication for development. So those deal with data must classify women in terms of these factors. Otherwise, only one section of women would continue to benefit from whatever development initiatives we attempt, and the rest would remain deprived and excluded, and achieving MDGs would be difficult. Thus my request to those experts dealing with data is to classify data in terms of such factors, so that more attention could be given to those in more vulnerable situation, and thereby MDGs could be achieved faster.

With kind regards,
A. Ramaiah
www.tiss.edu/faculty/ramaiah



Ghulam Nabi Nizamani

[Facilitator's note: posted on 14th November, 2008, by Ghulam Nizamani Azad, Vice Chairperson of Disabled People's International (Asia Pacific chapter).]

Dear Ramaiah,

I am fully agreed with you. We also focus on Vulnerable among the vulnerables. Like when we talk about women we often forget Women with Disabilities. When we talk for People with Disabilities we forget minorities with disabilities or Rural based people with disabilities. When we talk about People with elder age we do same mistake. In such a sophisticated work of data collection or data management, we must keep eye on this important issue.

Regards
Ghulam Nabi Nizamani
President ASHA
VC (SA) DPI AP



Dr. Jean D'Cunha

[Facilitator's note: posted by Dr. Jean D'Cunha on 17th November, 2008]

Dear Mr Rego,

UNIFEM fully endorses the responses of Dr. A.Ramaiah, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and Mr Ghulam Nabi Nizamani, who is the Vice Chairperson of Disabled People's International. Sex disaggregation should not be a stand alone category. It should interact with other socio-economic variables like class, ethnicity, nationality, age, disability etc. Yes and most certainly the interface between disaggregation by sex and other socio-economic categories would show up the hierarchies between women themselves depending on where they are located in terms of class, ethnicity, religion, nationality, age etc.

Yours Sincerely

Jean



Oyunchimeg Dandar

[Facilitator's note: the message below is posted by Ms.Oyunchimeg Dandar, Director of Population and Social Statistics Department, National Statistical Office, Mongolia, on 19th November, 2008]

Dear Christopher,

We are currently in the process of analyzing and interpreting our Time Use Survey data of 2007. We should have an initial report by the end of November or early December 2008. Some information on our TUS initiatives are as follows:

- In 2007, The National Statistics Office of Mongolia launched a full scale Time Use Survey, based on its experiences and lessons learned in 2000. The survey covered a total of 3,135 households. The survey data collection took place on a quarterly basis, during the third week of March, June, September, and December of 2007. Data processing of the survey was done during the months of March through May of 2008. Time use data were then analyzed with UNDP/SIDA (refer to explanation below) technical and funding support; a consultant assisted the NSO in the preparation of its national report on the Time Use Survey.
- Mongolia ventured into the application of the TUS on 3 March 2000 and completed its first ever Time Use Survey (TUS) on a pilot basis, with support from UNDP Mongolia office. The latter's support provided the funds to design, collect and process data for the time use survey. In addition, the UNDP-APGEN Project (a regional project called Asia Pacific Project on Gender Equality), it obtained technical support for data analysis and report writing. The 2000 Mongolia Time Use Survey was a collaboration between the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour, the UNDP Project on Capacity Building for Poverty Alleviation-I and the National Statistics Office of Mongolia.

We expect that the TUS will give us gender-disaggregated information. We shall inform you in due course.

With best regards,

Oyunchimeg

Director of Population and Social Statistics Department, NSO, Mongolia



Karma Galay

[Facilitator's note: posted by Karma Galay from Centre for Bhutan Studies on 20th November, 2008]

Dear Mr. Christopher Rego,

Thank you for including me in this discussion on time use; its certainly a great pleasure and honour to be associated with this forum where the role of time use in understanding feminization of poverty is being discussed. I would also like to apologize for not getting back on time; as I said during our telephonic conversation, we are organizing the Fourth International Conference on Cross

National Happiness here in Bhutan from 24th to 26th of November 2008 and all of us at the Centre are busy arranging logistics and other details for it.

What was the purpose of the survey;

I am sure most of you heard about the concept of Gross National Happiness (if anyone is not familiar with the concept, just google the word and you will run into many hits). In 2005, the government of Bhutan asked the Centre for Bhutan Studies (where I work) to construct indicators to measure gross national happiness. Following this instruction, the Centre conducted an extensive background research and literature review and eventually decided on nine indicators: 1) psychological wellbeing, 2) Health, 3) Education, 4) Community vitality, 5) Cultural diversity, 6) Ecological diversity, 7) Good governance, 8) Standard of living, and 9) Time use.

The Centre came out with a long questionnaire on each of the variables. A pilot survey was carried out in nine districts from October 2006-February 2007; it covered 350 respondents. Following this some revisions were made to the questionnaires and another survey was carried out in 12 districts from December 2007 through March 2008 and this survey covered 950 respondents. So, the survey was conducted not exclusively for time use; it was carried out to test and validate the indicators of GNH that we have chosen. And time use was chosen as one of the indicators to measure GNH for a number of reasons but here, suffice it to say that previous researches have shown strong correlation between time use and subjective wellbeing of people.

Who conducted it (with their contact details)

The survey was conducted under the auspices of the Centre for Bhutan Studies. Of the nine indicators that I mentioned above, I worked on two of them: standard of living and time use. So the questions for the survey were designed by me and I also did the analysis of the data as well on these two indicators. For the field survey, we hired temporary surveyors and I participated in both the surveys till their end.

How was it funded

We had a support from the UNDP for construction of indicators for GNH.

Did it incorporate a gender dimension? How?

Because we were working on to construct indicators to measure wellbeing or happiness, it was important for the survey to cover people of different gender, age, residence, employment status, etc. So yes, the survey covered almost an equal number of men and women of different background. We followed the day reconstruction method in that respondents were asked to recall the activities that they did during the day (after they woke up until they went to bed) preceding the interview and approximate amount of time they spent on each of them. Analysis of time use and its relationship with happiness or wellbeing was done largely in terms of gender, age, residence (urban or rural), etc.

What were some of the challenges faced in conducting the survey?

Most of our respondents were farmers and not all of them had watch. so it was difficult to get precise amount of time spent on each of the activities they engaged in during the day preceding the interview. We did not follow the participant observation method that one of the discussants has mentioned here. Amount of time that takes for even a simple survey in our country is a challenge

by itself. Given the scattered settlements and rugged terrain, it takes a couple of days to go from one survey site to the other.

What were the key results?

The survey showed that women, particularly those in rural areas had much longer work hours than men. Obviously they made up for this long work hours by reducing their time to non-work activities such as sports and leisure.

Respondents in higher income brackets had shorter work hour than the poor ones. In terms of family structure, single parents had long work hours. Presence of children in the family also lengthen the work hours of respondents.

The correlation analysis showed that people who were spending long hours at work were not happy. It was seen that rural women, who had the longest work hours also had the lower levels of happiness. There was an inverse relationship between work hours and the quality of life: respondents who had longer work hours reported that their quality of life was poor.

People who participated in non-work activities such as religious activities, socializing, cultural events, sports and leisure were happier than those who didn't.

These were some of the findings. Those of you who are interested in reading the details can download the report that I wrote at www.ide.go.jp/English/Publish/Download/Vrf/pdf/432.pdf . This is the analysis of the pilot survey; I will soon post the findings of the second survey after the conference that I mentioned above.

What impact did it have on policy (particularly on gender sensitive policy formulation)

As the findings are just being discussed, I guess it is too early to say that the time use survey had any significant impacts on policy formulation. As one of the indicators of Gross National Happiness, time use certainly would have lot of impacts on policy formulation.

I would once again like to thank you for including me in the discussion. For those of you interested, I would also like to inform that the 30th Annual Conference of International Association of Time Use Research is scheduled for 1-3 December 2008 in Sydney, Australia. You can find out more about the conference at www.hotelnetwork.com.au/conferences/conferences/une

Best regards,

Karma Galay
Chief Research Officer
Centre for Bhutan Studies



Karin Winqvist

[Facilitator's note: posted by Karen Winqvist on 25th November, 2008]

Dear All,

Time use surveys (TUS) are useful for shedding light on many political issues relating to gender equality but also many other issues such as travel and life-course analysis. Unfortunately, finding sponsors for this multi-purpose surveys is quite difficult.

There are guidelines on Harmonised European TUS (HETUS) and data is collected to set up a data base with a flexible tabulation tool. In the EU it has been difficult to keep up the interest for TUS since they are expensive and complicated but nevertheless almost all Member States have conducted TUS around the year 2000. The data base is very useful to see how work - both paid and unpaid work is shared between women and men both type of tasks and the time allocated and sequencing. The database is hosted by Statistics, Sweden. The TUS has not been designed to measure poverty but analysis of time use and money spent could probably be used for that. Household expenditure surveys are normally carried out every 5 or every 10 years in the EU.

I attach the links to some EU publications with analysis of these issues.

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1073,46587259&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-80-07-135

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1073,46587259&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-BF-03-003

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1073,46587259&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-CC-03-001

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1073,46587259&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_product_code=KS-39-01-134

Regards,

Karin Winqvist

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Rita Reddy

[Facilitator's note: posted by Rita Reddy on 25th November 2008]

Dear Karin,

This is most useful and interesting. I was just talking about time use surveys last week and its usefulness in poverty mapping. Many thanks for this.

Rita Reddy

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Dr. Rudra Suwal

[Facilitator's note: the message below was posted on 25th November, 2008, on behalf of Dr. Rudra Suwal, Deputy Director, Central Bureau of Statistics, Kathmandu, Nepal. We are very grateful to him and his research colleague from CEDA, Tribhuvan for sharing the above paper]

Dear Mr Christopher Rego,

Thank you for your enquiry on the practices of time use survey in Nepal. Our office, Central Bureau of Statistics has not conducted such survey in the past. However, a research institution, CEDA at Tribhuban University Nepal conducted a time use survey in mid seventy. I contacted one of the research person involved in that survey and her research paper attached herewith. http://cop.mdgasiapacific.org/files/cop/11/Time_use_survey_Nepal.doc

With best regards,

Rudra Suwal



Heinrich Brünnger

[Facilitator's note: posted on behalf of Heinrich Brünnger, Director, Statistical Division, UNECE, on 27th November, 2008]

I'd like to share some information about our gender-related activities that may be relevant for you. UNESCAP and UNECE overlap in terms of membership concerning Russia, the 5 Central Asian countries, and the 3 countries in Southern Caucasus.

Especially for the Central Asian countries, a major challenge faced is the limited amount of data available for detailed analysis, which we try to address, together with ESCAP, in our capacity building activities for these countries.

From our activities on gender statistics, we would like to draw your attention to the following elements:

1. The provision through the UNECE on-line database of sex disaggregated data on topics relevant to policy analysis. Among the data sets provided, those concerning labour market contain the key indicators on participation to the labour market by sex, the latter being a major source of revenue and considerably impacting on their welfare. In particular, the gender pay gap figures indicate clear inequalities in take home earnings for women and men. The life balance section includes statistics from time use surveys, and about working patterns of couples and employment rates of selected sub-populations. Specifically on time use statistics, you may visit the following website

<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/timeuse/Welcome.html>,

where relevant methodologies are displayed, as well as statistical results from various countries.

2. Provision of on-line material for mainstreaming gender in member countries' statistical programmes. (see

[:http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/Welcome.html](http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/Welcome.html)).

Currently, UNECE, in collaboration with the World Bank and national experts in the UNECE region, is preparing a manual on developing gender statistics as part of official statistics. This manual covers among others topics methodologies for gender employment statistics, and gender statistics about entrepreneurship, agriculture, health, information and communication technology, education, and access to assets. The draft document can be found on-line (<http://unece.org/stats/documents/ece/ces/ge.30/2008/sp.1.e.pdf>) and we look forward to its finalization for the second half of 2009. The ultimate goal of the material provided on the website is to enable and reinforce the capacity of national statistical systems to produce and disseminate gender statistics that are relevant for the public and national and international users.

3. The UNECE provides a forum to interested users of gender statistics for exchanging views and experiences about topics relevant to gender analysis, with a view to increase awareness for the necessity to include more systematically a gender perspective in policy formulation and regulatory directives. You may find some interesting analysis of economic differences between women and men on the web pages of the recent work sessions on gender statistics that took place in October 2008,

(<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.10.gender.htm>) and September

2006 (<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2006.09.gender.htm>). The

approaches presented comprise among others impact analysis of sectoral policies (health, education, etc), differential impacts of economic developments and decisions on women and men in society, etc.

I hope this is of help to you. If you have additional questions, please contact Enrico Bisogno ([enrico.bisogno at unece.org](mailto:enrico.bisogno@unece.org)) from the Social and Demographic

Statistics Section of our division. He is our gender statistics specialist, currently on mission.

Kind regards
Heinrich Brüngger

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An Xinli

[Facilitator's note: posted on behalf of An Xinli, Senior Statistician, National Bureau of Statistics, China, on 27th November, 2008]

Dear All,

We conducted the first time use survey in China this year. The preliminary result was worked out right now. We will have an introduction in the coming IATUR 30th conference in Sydney, Australia. The questions you listed is answered as following according to our situation:

What was/ is the specific purpose of these surveys?

National Bureau of Statistics of China conducted a nationwide time use survey in 10 selected provinces in May, 2008. There are 4 specific purposes of this time use survey as following:

- 1) To measure the life quality in time-use aspects.
- 2) To improve the methodology on women' contribution to national economic and social development.
- 3) To develop the new measurement on women' unremunerated work.
- 4) To enlarge social statistics extent for the increasing demands from governments, NGOs and other social society.

Who conducted them (with their contact details)

NBS is responsible for this time use survey independently based on the pilot survey in 2005. All documents of the time use are prepared by the Department of Social, Science and Technology in NBS. The field work was undertaken by 10 provincial survey organizations which is responsible for ordinary household income and expenditure survey.

All households in this time use survey are the samples of urban and rural household income and expenditure survey in the selected provinces. It includes all urban sample and parts of rural sample in this time use survey. Samples are selected by the provincial staffs according to its geographic, economic and social characteristics. There are 16661 households and 37142 diaries received.

The respondent rate of household and person are 92.8% and 89% respectively.

How were these surveys funded

NBS spend the total cost for this time use survey. NBS allocated specific funds to 10 provincial organization of survey for all field work, training course to enumerator and the following data coding and inputting work. NBS paid all cost of printing questionnaires and two training course to the correspondent sample inspectors. The fund is excluded wages and other pensions of all relevant staffs at all level.

Did they incorporate a gender dimension? How?

Yes. We want to get time use data of all people aged 15 to 74 in the selected household to make analysis on women's contribution to economic, social and family life. All eligible people in the selected household regardless of ethnic group, sex and age groups have to fill in two days of diaries which is assigned to them. There are 18927 diaries of women and 18215 diaries of men in the final data file.

What were some of the challenges faced in conducting the surveys?

The big challenges we faced in conducting the survey is that some rural residents can not fill in the opened diary. Some respondents didn't understand the secondary activities and fail to keep it correct in the diaries.

What were the key results?

Time use survey provides rich information on Chinese daily life. It reflects some facts that women spend much more time on unpaid work than men with a high participation in economic activity. The workload of women is more than that of men regardless of urban and rural, coast and inland. The rural residents and urban residents have a different life patterns. Urban people have a regular life among the whole week while rural people have no obvious difference among whole week. Rural people have a lower life quality with heavy workload and less free time compare with urban people.

What impact did they have on policy (particularly on gender sensitive policy formulation)

Not yet. It's early to say what impact has done on policy. We just finished the survey and need time to make more analysis.

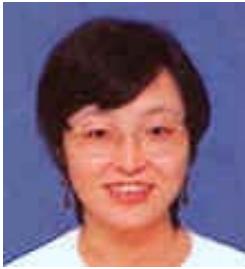
Have these kind of surveys now been regularised in China?

Not yet. We really want to have this kind of survey regularly. But it's hard to say that now. We hope we can make a regularly survey mechanism in the future. Finally, I'm sorry to tell you that there is only Chinese documents available now. We need time to translate it next year. I only can provide our paper (English) to you after we come back from Australia next week.

Best regards,

An Xinli

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Kyoko Kusakabe

[Facilitator's note: posted by Kyoko Kusakabe on 30th November, 2008]

Dear Mr. Christopher Rego,

Thank you for including me in this very interesting discussion on the use of time use data in analyzing feminisation of poverty.

Time use data used together with other data (such as income) can provide meaningful insights - not only by analyzing the income per hour worked, but also by identifying the particular patterns in time use among the poor, especially poor women. Identifying such patterns will lead us to understand the bottlenecks of why they are not able to get out of time poverty (understanding that the poor are poor not only financially but also are time poor) and would be able to design better support for them. Are they spending too much time on water fetching, cooking, travelling, etc.?

We did a study on street vendors in Cambodia. Street vendors in Cambodia are mostly women. The time use information that we got through individual interviews during this study is not in detail, but a rough examination of their time use show that street vendors use very little time on household work (or we should say that they have hardly any time left outside spending time in the market - even time for sleeping was not enough). That does not mean that they are not responsible for household work, but they have to squeeze their responsibility in whatever time they would have between her busy time selling in the market (which can be up to 18 hours a day). In this particular context, time use is useful in showing how small profit margins are for small vendors by looking at her earning by hour, but it will not be useful to show her heavy burden both at home and at the market (the time spent for household chores for her will be short, although she is the one who is doing it - with help from her children, etc.). The issue of intensity of work still remains a problem. In this case, we need to see the sharing of task by household members - that is, time as resource needs to be analyzed vis-a-vis other members of the family to see how much the task is being shared - not only by showing the time that the women spends on household work.

Time use also carries with it cultural meanings. In a study in Nepal, the findings showed that being beside a baby while she/he is asleep is an important work that carries with it a spiritual meaning (to protect the baby from evil spirit). Analyzing time use needs to take into consideration the cultural context as well. This study recorded time use of illiterate women and men by providing watches to literate member of the family to record the time use. This was followed by individual discussions about the activities that they do, thus was able to understand the cultural meanings attached to the activities.

But even with such difficulty in harmonizing and analyzing, time use data would give excellent opportunity to find out productive activities of women that is often not reported. For example, small fishing activities that are done by women are not often reported, since these small fishes are for household consumption, and women are not considered as "fishers". By time use survey, such 'hidden' activities can be put forward (if the time use survey is in such detail). Time use data is also essential for mobility analysis (which, in the industrialized countries, is an often seen analysis) to show the relation between time spent and distance as well as purpose/frequency of travel. This has not been used much in feminization of poverty analysis (mainly because of lack of statistics) but can lead to important policy issues in terms of transportation, market and services planning (also an important analysis for disabled people).

Warmest regards,
Kyoko Kusakabe
Associate Professor
Gender and Development Studies
Asian Institute of Technology



Simone Cecchini

[Facilitator's note: posted by Simone Cecchini on 1st December, 2008]

Dear all,

Just a quick note on time use surveys at the end of this interesting debate. Colleagues at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)'s Gender Affairs Division have done quite a lot of work on time use surveys in the region (including seminars and workshops).

Although most content is in Spanish, I am aware of the following materials on time-use surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean which has been published in English:

- MDGs 2006 REPORT: A LOOK AT GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (see in particular pages 135-136, with other references scattered throughout the document):

<http://www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/xml/4/32704/MDGGender.pdf>

- Social Panorama of Latin America 2004, box IV.4, page 213:

http://www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/xml/1/20391/PSI-2004_Cap4.pdf

- Social Panorama of Latin America 2002-2003, box III.1, page 154:

<http://www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/xml/6/15086/ChapterIII2003ing.pdf>

This last document provided an excellent overview on poverty and inequality in the region from a gender perspective.

Hope this helps. Best regards,
Simone



Diane Steele

[Facilitator's note: posted by Diana Steele, World Bank, on 2nd December, 2008]

Dear Mr. Rego:

Thank you for asking us to participate in the Community of Practice web discussion. As has been noted by several of the other commentators, the measurement of income using Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) surveys does not allow the assigning of all sources of income to the individuals who earned the income or to know who had the final say over the use of the income.

We do, however, often look at household income in female-headed households compared to that of household income in male-headed households. We are also including more information on how household decisions are made and who makes the decisions within the household in current and future surveys.

The World Bank has done several studies looking at time use and gender economics. "Gender, Time Use and Poverty" is a World Bank Working Paper edited by C. Mark Blackden and Quentin Wodon that attempts to understand the links between gender, time use and poverty

(http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRREGTOPGENDER/Resources/gender_time_use_pov.pdf).

Gender in East Asia and Pacific includes a gender time use study

(<http://go.worldbank.org/4HTDTPIT0>)

The World Bank Gender Action Plan 2007-2010 (<http://go.worldbank.org/9P7W3KS0P0>) shows how the World Bank will be working on the issues over the next few years.

The LSMS believes that time use data is important for many reasons. It can show not only the differences between how men and women use their time, but also how children use their time for the benefit of the household, and sometimes to the detriment of their schooling.

Time use data are difficult to collect in the context of a multi-topic integrated household survey because of the complex nature of the topic, and the many ways that respondents think about time and time management.

My own anecdotal example comes from an interview I observed in Guatemala. At the time of the interview, the female respondent was (1) preparing snacks for her children; (2) preparing lunch for her husband; (3) preparing feed for the pigs; (4) watching the children's behavior; and (5) talking to the interviewer. When asked if she ever did more than one thing simultaneously, she responded "No, I can only do one thing at a time."

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Dr. Johanna Varjonen

[Facilitator's note: posted by Dr. Johanna Varjonen, Head of research, National Consumer Research Centre, Finland on 3rd December, 2008]

Dear Mr. Rego,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to get to see the discussion on this topical theme. Many important issues have already been taken into discussion.

34th CEIES seminar (organised by the European Commission) 2007, Helsinki, focused on measuring poverty. Some papers dealt with the care work and how to measure it. Papers are at the Eurostat web site. My paper dealt with the question if more unpaid household production is produced in the low income households than in higher income households. The paper shows that the amount and value of unpaid work was dependent on the life-stage of the family more than on income. However, the result may differ depending on how the income quintiles are formed. If households are ranked according to the income per hh member or total hh income, the results are different. If households are ranked into quintiles using oecd equivalence scales to make households of different sizes comparable the results look much the same as using incomes of total households. This was the case of Finland, where income distribution is fairly even among the population.

In measuring the value of unpaid work and looking at how it effects on the consumption of households, it is important to notice that the meals, care, cleaning the house and clothes are necessary services, so called life services. If they are not produced by household members, they must be provided anyhow: purchased from the market, provided by public sector or by barter. Life cycle perspective is presented in the paper (again from Finland) which shows the tremendous differences on unpaid household production in single person households compared to families with children.

Satellite account of household production was produced in Finland for the year 2001. It estimates the value of unpaid production separately for meals, housing, clothing and laundry, care of children and adults in need of care, and volunteer work on the national level and on household level in 10 different household types. Single parent households (which are mainly female-headed) presents one of the household types, but in other ways the satellite account does not separate value of work done by women or men. Value of work was based on time use surveys, so it could be possible to estimate the value by the gender.

Satellite account: see http://www.stat.fi/tup/julkaisut/isbn_952-467-570-6_en.html

Comparison of the value of unpaid work between Finland and Germany proved that comparisons necessarily need harmonising the method. Otherwise the results are misleading. See:

http://www.ncrc.fi/files/5194/2008_112_workingpapers_household.pdf

(Papers mentioned above:

Varjonen J, Aalto K (2007) Combining time and money for family well-being – life cycle perspective. Paper presented in the Nordic consumer policy research conference. 3-5.10.2007. Helsinki. The House of Estates.

<http://www.consumer2007.info/wp-content/uploads/family%20cons9%20Varjonenv2.pdf>

Varjonen J (2007) Household production as an economic resource for low-income families. 34th CEIES Seminar 10-11 September 2007, Helsinki. Finland. in:

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/dsis/ceies/library?=/ceies_seminars_31/perspectives_measurement/documents/full_papers/31_j_varjonenpdf/EN_1.0&a=d)

With best regards,

Johanna Varjonen, Dr.
Head of research
National Consumer Research Centre, Finland
email: johanna.varjonen@ncrc.fi
POBox 5, 00531 Helsinki, Finland



Dr. R.N. Pandey

[Facilitator's note: posted by Dr. Rajnath Pandey, formerly with Central Statistical Office, India, on 3rd December, 2008]

Dear Colleagues,

Taking care of the multiple activities is one of the well problems in the Time Use Survey. The TUS is a difficult survey and investigators are to be trained to probe the replies of the respondents which appears not reasonable, like the one quoted by the LSMS, World Bank.

In Indian TUS, such type of probing was done and total time spent on all the activities carried out simultaneously was proportioned equally among such activities. Though, this approach underestimates the time spent on certain activities, this was adopted to ensure that total time does not exceed 24 hours. This approach helped a lot in the validation of the data which had a number of consistency problems.

So TUS can be carried out successfully after taking care of such statistical problems.

Dr. R. N. Pandey
(formerly with CSO, India)
Additional Director General
Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India
New Delhi
Phone: 91-11-23018229



Cynthia Lloyd

[Facilitator's note: posted by Cynthia Lloyd on 3rd December, 2008]

Attached please find the published paper on time use (http://cop.mdgasiapacific.org/files/cop/11/Time_Use_among_Adolescents.pdf) that will be of interest to your group. I hope this is helpful and good luck with your work.

Cynthia
Cynthia B. Lloyd PhD
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Population Council
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Dr. R.N. Pandey

[Facilitator's note: posted by Dr. Rajnath Pandey, formerly with Central Statistical Office, India, on 4th December, 2008]

Dear Colleague,

In this paper Time Use Survey of a town, Allahabad, in India had been used for analysis. The Indian Time Use Survey, conducted in 6 States with a sample size of about 80,000 person (both urban and rural) also provides similar information. The results of this survey was available in Dec. 1999.

I feel data of this survey could have been also used to give better representation to Indian Population (larger sample size).

Dr. R. N. Pandey

Additional Director General

Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India

New Delhi

Phone: 91-11-23018229



Cynthia Lloyd

[Facilitator's note: posted by Cynthia Lloyd on 4th December, 2008]

Dear Dr. Panday,

Thank you for your comments. You are absolutely correct that the larger Indian data would have been excellent.

We were working with data that we were involved in collecting and where we were confident of the comparability and did not have the time or resources to undertake a more ambitious study. Hopefully this study will encourage others to replicate with larger and more representative studies to see if the findings hold up.

Cynthia

Cynthia B. Lloyd

Senior Associate

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Dr. Rudra Suwal

[Facilitator's note: posted by Dr. Rudra Suwal, Deputy Director, Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal, on 9th December, 2008]

Dear Sir,

There is no full fledged time use survey conducted in Nepal in recent past. However some questions are introduced in the Nepal Labor force survey (1998/99 and 2007/08).

Please find attached file containing the relevant question sheet (NLFS 2007/08 and results from the NLFS 1998/99) for your review.

With best regards,

Rudra Suwal

Deputy Director, Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal



Mi-Young An

[Facilitator's note: posted by Mi-Young An, Assistant Professor, Handong Global University, Korea on 15th December, 2008]

Dear Colleagues,

I have been conducted an analysis on Korean Time Use survey for UNRISD, regarding the project for political and social economy of care. In the study, I analysed two time use survey data 1999 and 2004.

Description of survey and data

The National Statistics Office (NSO) has conducted time use surveys (TUS) every five years from 1999, with the intention to collect information on how people spend their time during a 24-hour period. The instrument for the 1999 TUS consists of two parts: the household characteristics questionnaire and the time-diary survey. The first part collected data on household characteristics, including composition of the household, nature of dwelling, car ownership, care for preschool children, and individual characteristics including gender, age, education, marital status, employment status, occupation, weekly working time, status of workers and subjective evaluation of time pressure and tiredness. In the 2004 survey, the household and individual questionnaires were separated and the instrument thus includes three parts: household questionnaire, the individual questionnaire for respondents 10 years of age and older, and the time-diary. In both surveys, all the household members aged 10 and older were asked to record their main and simultaneous activities in the time diary, which was structured in 10 minute slots for the designated two days.

The 1999 survey sample was generated from the multi-purpose household sample (HAFMP), which was derived from the 1995 population and housing census, using three-stage stratified sampling methods. The 850 enumerator districts were selected from the multipurpose household sample, using systematic sampling, and 20 households were selected in each enumerator district. The 1999 sample consists of 42,953 individuals aged 10 and older and 16,389 households from 850 enumerator districts. The 2004 TUS sample also was generated from the multipurpose household sample, which this time was derived from the 2000 population and housing census, using three-stage stratified sampling methods. The 850 enumerator districts were selected from the multipurpose household sample, using systematic sampling, and 15 households were selected in each enumerator district. The 2004 sample consists of 31,634 individuals aged 10 years and older and 12,651 households from 850 enumerator districts. The data from both surveys were subsequently weighted to be representative of the population aged 10 years above of the country as a whole. All the self-recorded activities in the time diary, in both the 1999 and 2004 data are coded into three-digit codes, which are divided into nine broad categories. The nine categories are 1) personal care activities; 2) employment; 3) study; 4) household maintenance ; 5) family care 6) voluntary service; 7) leisure; 8) travel; and 9) others. Personal care comprises activities such as sleeping, eating and drinking, personal hygiene and health care. Household maintenance comprises activities such as food preparation, clothes care, cleaning, purchasing goods for household care, and so forth. Family care comprises activities such as care for family members including infants, children, spouses, parents and other family members. Voluntary service comprises helping neighbours and volunteer activities. The 1999 data are designed according to 137 activity categories, and the 2004 data according to 125 activity categories.

Main findings

There are significant gender differences in time spent on paid and unpaid care work. In 1999, men spent 22 percent of their day on paid work while women spent 13 percent. Men spent two percent of a day on unpaid care work, while women spent 14 percent. This means women spent seven times more time on unpaid care work than men did, while the time women spent 11 on paid work was just over 59 percent of that men spent. In 2004, both men and women spent slightly reduced time on paid work, although significant gender differences remained. Males spent three percent of a day on unpaid care work while women spent 14 percent. In addition, men spent 21 percent of a day on paid work while women spent 12 percent.

It is possible to find out whole analysis in the attached file which also includes analysis on distribution of paid care providers and valuation and comparison of unpaid care work with various economic measures.

I hope you find the material useful.
Best,
Miyoung
Assistant professor
Handong Global University, Korea



Alick Nyasulu

[Facilitator's note: posted by Alick Nyasulu, Economic Statistician, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, on 11th December, 2008]

Firstly, the main standard way of measuring poverty is the head count ratio. In the case of feminine poverty, this would refer to the proportion of female headed households that live below a poverty line...usually referring to a \$1/day threshold.

The consensus in the multilateral organizations have generally looked at the notion that poverty is worse amongst female headed households. While this is true plus numerical ability to do so, some studies show the contrary. World Bank studies in Ghana show the opposite while similar studies in India do indicate poverty being worse amongst aged women. There are location and situational factors. Some approaches tend to use regression techniques to determine whether female headed households are indeed more poverty stricken. In the Pacific we can think of those female headed households that receive remittances working abroad particularly the seasonal workers in New Zealand and the men who work on fishing ships as an example. We perhaps need to look at femine poverty with due regard to the situations that govern the nature of headship. De jure female headed households may be seen as very poor by if the head is just de facto (with a spouse working abroad) it may not necessarily mean so.

Secondly, the other way of looking at female poverty is to look at the ease of economic opportunity..such opportunities generate the much needed incomes that often get people out poverty. Within the context of household surveys and other related economic surveys, an appropriate way of looking at poverty is to look at labour force participation rates by females relative to males....that effectively gives some indications on the level of poverty with a broader gender dimension.

Lastly, it is to state that measuring feminization of poverty is not a straight cut just as measuring poverty is not. While poverty seems to have been wide amongst females, there are indications that this is not always the case. Locational factors are also critical in determining poverty..for instance poverty might worse in rural areas than urban areas owing to lack of economic opportunities! It might be worse among rural women than their urban counterparts!!it might be worse amongst widows unlike single mothers!!! It a vicious circle with different manifestations I guess.

I hope you will these useful.
Many thanks,
Alick

Alick Nyasulu
Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Economic Statistician
Statistics and Demography Programme

BP D5
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New Caledonia



Dr. R.N. Pandey

[Facilitator's note: posted by Dr. Rajnath Pandey, formerly with Central Statistical Office, India, on 17 February, 2009]

Dear Marie,

I was going through the comments forwarded by you [compilation of posting and contributions received during winter break – COP closed briefly for holiday]. I have some problems with the suggestions offered by Dr. Alick Nyasulu regarding the use of ratio of female labour force participation rate to male participation rate as a proxy variable for female poverty. It is dangerous to be used for developing countries with substantial labour force in agriculture. Time spent in economic activities is the main criteria for identifying a person as worker. Due to this approach, even though unemployment rate in India is low, proportion of people living below poverty line is high. It is well documented that participation of women in such activities where payment is not made is quite high. Unless some payment/income variable is added to work participation rate, indicator will not depict the correct scenario. Of course, in developed countries with monetised economy this type of problem may not exist.

Regards,

Dr. R. N. Pandey
Additional Director General
Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India
New Delhi
Phone: 91-11-23018229



Alick Nyasulu

[Facilitator's note: posted by Alick Nyasulu, Economic Statistician, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, in response to a member's comment made on his previous posting, on 19th March, 2009]

Marie

My line of thinking is purely a matter of labour force participation but perhaps not exhaustive as Dr Pandey might assert. While, I don't have problems with Time Use surveys, let me state that a measure of economic activity is key in

ascertaining the level of opportunity available to the different genders. Labour force participation is surely one such activity. This includes how we classify occupations and asking specific questions in Censuses regarding what individuals do in their life. It is also important to consider income in broader context other than referring to a salary.

In terms of formal employment, I believe national labour force statistics from Provident Funds, Labour Departments, Population Censuses of Economically active persons by gender generally give heaps of information about employment by gender. Not to dismiss time use surveys, Household and Income expenditure surveys reasonably provide the severity of poverty in many countries and particularly the gender dimension of it. Some household surveys are integrated and structured in a way that cultural and social factor variables are captured. Such factors are critical in explaining the labour force outcomes particularly biasness against female employment and consequently gender related poverty. In small Island countries economic opportunities are limited and unemployment is quite high.

Some example in the Pacific Region! Countries like Kiribati with the main economic activity being males working on foreign shipping vessels and women just staying at home (Agriculture is almost non-existent with poor sandy soils and climate change effects). A Time Use approach only favours the males in the sense that Foreign Fishing Vessels do not employ women for reasons that we can ably speculate (possible sexual abuse), (Priorities of the People, Hardship in Kiribati, ADB, 2007) The time use may not be the best way in measuring feminine poverty given that the environment allows men to work on the vessels and the women are comfortable with it and accept it as a way of life. It is against this background that I think the ecology of a time use differs. My contention is that the marine life in such countries is of great monetary reward and the females are disadvantaged.

Similarly, I think when we look at female poverty, there is need to have a broader view. For instance employment in the formal market may reflect lack of opportunity that females have in school. Cultural and social factors might have an interplay in this. School enrollment and completion rates by gender (usually from education records) might explain some systematic disadvantages in access to employment and consequently poverty. All I am saying is that poverty and its various definitions need to be looked in a much wider perspective including its manifestatations such as cultural factors, education. As such the best measure of female poverty is to look at various approaches, not necessary time use techniques. Situations will defer from country to country just like the definitions of Poverty.

Thanks,

Alick Nyasulu
Economic Statistician
Secretariat of the Pacific Community, B.P. D5-98848,
Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia



Kim Robertson

[Facilitator's note : closing comments to the discussion on "Measuring the Feminisation of Poverty" from Kim Robertson]

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank the contributors for enriching our knowledge of the research methods, reports and other documentation, thoughts and ideas from the many and varied posts to the list about the feminization of poverty. It has taken me quite some time to follow up on all the different references and reports posted; in itself a rich repository of information and a credit to the contributors knowledge of the issues. The references to the 'national' reports were especially useful in seeing how methodologies can be applied in other contexts.

When designing and undertaking the surveys we need to remember that women are not a homogenous group and analysis needs to be done to highlight the most deprived and socially excluded groups.

Regarding the analysis of household income and expenditure survey data there seems to be a consensus that using the gender of the household head is not sufficient and we need to re-examine how we interpret existing data moving towards a new measure of household income in conjunction with the main daily activities of household members and living arrangements (relationships to a reference person) within the household.

There seems to be solid rationale for Time Use survey data to be used for poverty analysis, and a number of country studies and guidelines cited highlighted the usefulness of time use data in poverty analysis. The need for qualitative surveys and participatory research methods to learn more about the gender dimensions of poverty to complement quantitative analysis is critical in understanding poverty and developing appropriate pro-poor policies, particularly for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Time Use is also appealing because of its many other applications and uses, such as developing alternative household accounts and valuing women's unpaid contributions to household activities.

Finally I congratulate the innovative researchers developing indices measuring wellbeing. It seems that statistical analysts are now exploring indices as useful aggregate measures; as well as providing insights into other survey themes at their 'component' level. The challenge for us all is to continue with research efforts and develop time series information to show trends over time. I encourage list members to contribute to post references to poverty research and development to continue to share experience and expand our collective knowledge.

Warm regards to all and thank you again for your valuable contributions.

Kim

**Consultant, SPC Gender Statistics Project,
Human Development Programme,
Secretariat of the Pacific Community**
