United Nations   Nations Unies

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-seventh session
4 - 15 March 2013
New York

INTERACTIVE EXPERT PANEL

Review Theme: Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS

Panel 5: Caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS

Recognizing and valuing unpaid care work

SATELLITE ACCOUNTS OF UNPAID WORK IN MEXICO: CARE AND SUPPORT AT HOME

by

FRANCISCO GUILLÉN MARTÍN[1]
Deputy Director of National Accounts
National Statistics Office
Mexico

---

[1] The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations nor the INEGI. Presented by: Francisco Guillén Martín, Raúl Figueroa Díaz & Alejandro García Cruz.
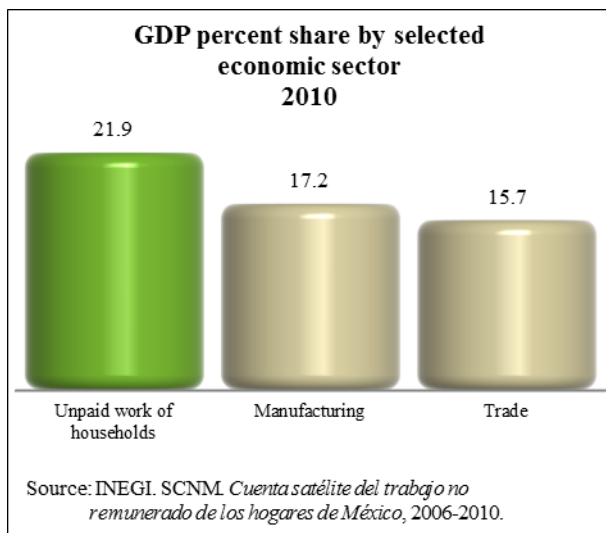
The role fulfilled by households in the production of necessary goods and services for guaranteeing the social reproduction of its members has a fundamental contribution for people´s welfare, despite its importance generally goes unnoticed by society because the majority of activities developed have been assigned socially and culturally according to the roles established within the family context.

In this regard, is particularly important to reveal the condition of such roles in the production of services directly consumed by households as well as the contribution to human capital formation, seen in terms of food preparation, housekeeping, mending of apparel or caring of family members.

Additionally, the quantification of services generated at home for consumption by its own members allows to clearly show the extent of work journeys, considering both market and unpaid work of households. By this way it is feasible to explain how the standard journeys with an average of 42.5 hours a week could easily reach about 67 hours in the same period.

Thus, several institutes such as the Women National Institute of Mexico (INMUJERES, Spanish acronym), UN-WOMEN, ECLAT and INEGI have supported the development of statistical analysis and public policies design among the region's countries to include relevant topics such as time use, economic valuation of unpaid work of households and the development of a specific satellite account.

The latter statistical tool, following the accounting rules and fulfilling the 2008 SNA, allows quantifying this phenomenon through the Unpaid Work of Households Satellite Account of Mexico (CSTNRHM, Spanish acronym), positively increasing the statistical base with the gender approach available in Mexico in order to provide information that supports decision-making about this topic.

GDP percent share by selected economic sector 2010

Source: INEGI. SCNM. *Cuenta satélite del trabajo no remunerado de los hogares de México, 2006-2010.*
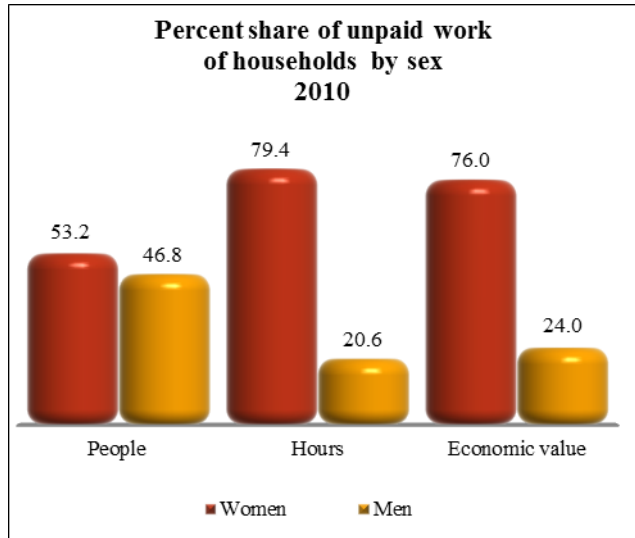
Among the main results achieved by Mexico with this initiative we can justly emphasize the economic value of unpaid work of households which was equivalent to 21.9% of total economy GDP in 2010, being above other important activities such as manufacturing industry which supplies a little more than 17 of each 100 MXN of GDP, or the economic contribution of trade, equivalent to 15.7% of total economy GDP.

Other important data to be emphasized is that the largest amount of work journeys falls on women with about the 80% of total working hours in household activities, four times above the time spent by males in the same type of works.

In terms of people, it was noted that the population that performed these activities was integrated 46.8% by males and 53.2% remaining by females.
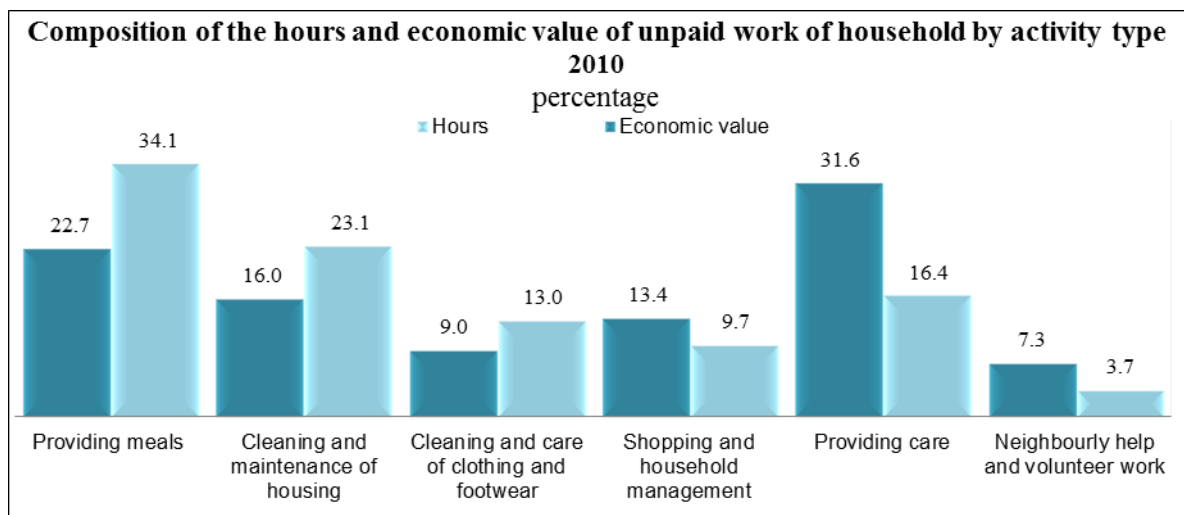
It is important to note that the results of the analysis show a wide gap in the reproductive life responsibilities of family members because during the last years men continue participating less in this activities i.e. in 2003 their share was 22% of the economic value of unpaid work and seven years later their share was 24%.

Notwithstanding, it is necessary to keep in mind that the percent share varies according to the sector analyzed because there are some activities where the growth rhythm is not so clear or could be reversed, meaning that males start participating a little more than women.

Thus, it is noted that the activities of Care and Support to family members is the topic with the highest economic value, signifying more than 30% of gross economic domestic work. On the other hand, food preparation is the most intensive in number of hours, but represents only 22.7%.

The former according that Care and Support activities have a market cost (price) by hour higher than the one used for valuing occupied hours in house cleaning and maintaining or food preparation which is more time consuming vis-à-vis those of Care and Support.
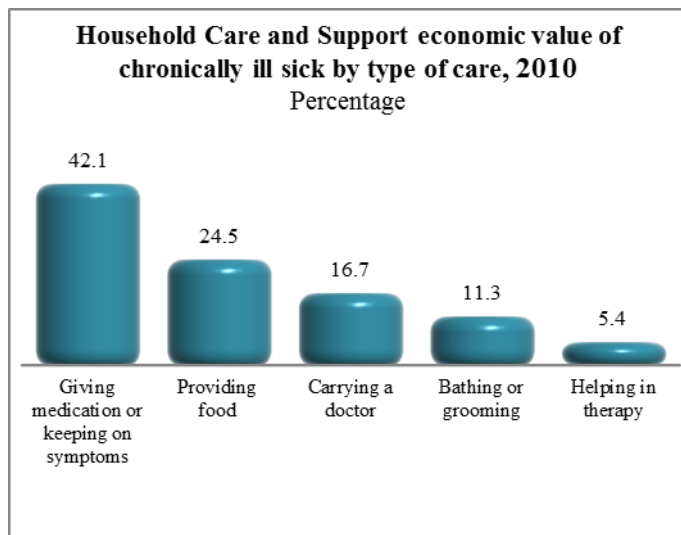

Moreover, it is estimated that Care and Support activities by family members are integrated by the time engaged to general care given to minors and seniors signifying 63.9% of the economic value of this segment and also by the school help and support to teenagers representing 21.8% and last health care with 14.3% of this activity value.

Looking to the figure of the value of health care given at home respect to national GDP it could be noticed that it is equal to about 1.0% of total economy GDP being an amount equal to 80% of the total value of the country's hospital services. These health care activities are related to the time spent with the chronically ill as well as the time spent with any other person that because of their health problems, or physically or mentally disability can't fulfill their own necessities, such as feeding, grooming or the help for therapies, medication supply or symptoms monitoring, among others. Also care to temporary ill persons needing some help for doing their activities or health care.

In this sense, the economic value of health care at home is composed by a 28.9% for temporarily ill sick while those for chronically ill are 36.1% leaving for physically or mentally handicapped people with the remaining 35.0%.

The chronically ill care includes persons with a terminal disease making them dependent and/or relying on continual Care and Support for fulfilling their needs (i.e. VIH/AIDS, Parkinson or Alzheimer among others)

Household Care and Support economic value of chronically ill sick by type of care, 2010
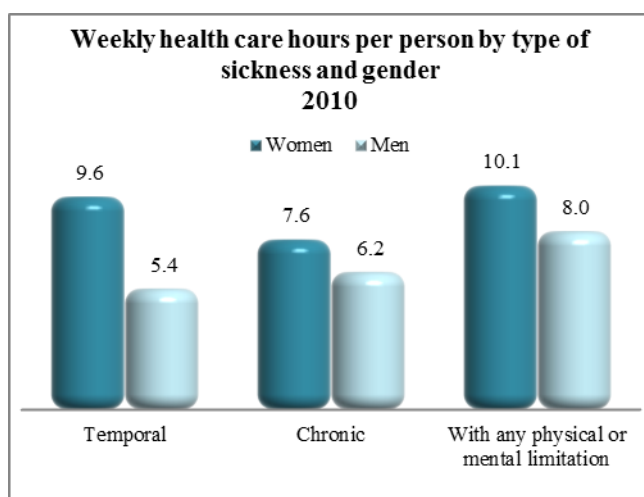Percentage

This care mainly composed by activities related with nursing services and monitoring and keeping an eye on symptoms signify 42.1% of the total. Followed by providing them food and beverages with less than a quarter of the total economic value from the chronically ill

Home health care and family responsibilities rises questions and challenges women role and equality in several social areas, especially in the family and work spheres.

Thus, it may be noted that the satellite account results show the roles according to the performed activity; in this case, women are the major time contributors in home Care and Support, about three quarters (72.4%) of the total economic value.

It is also observed that the women taking care of physically or mentally handicapped people spend more than 10 hours a week, more than those caring a temporary ill person (9.6 hours/week).

It should be noted that independently of the type of illness cared men have a minor participation vis-à-vis women, but in cases of chronically ill the gender participation is more equitable.

Satellite account data show that women are more able for challenging more

Weekly health care hours per person by type of sickness and gender 2010
■ Women ■ Men

problems than men by balancing their market work with the household tasks because they are the main suppliers of domestic labor and house care.

The disaggregation of the chronically ill segment seems like a challenge for other additional studies of the satellite account because knowing not only the type of care but also the specialty of each one, in other words by type of sickness, gets more complex as the searching for information involves questions beyond the statistical scope.

In Mexico, the National Survey of Time Use (ENUT, Spanish acronym) allows to divide the type of care in three major items (temporary, handicapped people and chronically ill) but as an area of opportunity remains the identification of the type of illness of the chronically ill)

The measurement of these facts has not only statistical implications such as the enlargement of the sample size for achieving meaningful data, but it is also a phenomenon involving different questions beyond health. In reviewing the statistics available in Mexico for care of people sick with VIH/AIDS such as the *National Survey about Discrimination in Mexico*, in 2010 we found that three in ten persons answered that they would not allow a person sick with VIH/AIDS living in their homes[2]. Under this context it is important understate that VIH/AIDS sick fulfill their needs compared with almost one third of the society that generates a discriminatory environment reducing their participation and full integration within the diverse areas of social life.

Thus, it could be said that the efforts to be done as statisticians is analyze how to ask informants to answer this type of questions and how to design the questionnaire and select correctly the supplementary features of the sample framework.

Currently, the ENUT available information allows knowing the number of sick persons by type of illness; thus, having those data would be helpful to link them with the number of persons that are really being cared and supported at home and those cared in private or public institutions. In other words, not only know the number of chronically sick people but have the certainty how many are being cared and those who are not showing opportunity areas for social and health systems.

Finally, it is mentioned that the Unpaid Work of Households Satellite Account of Mexico allows knowing the economic importance for society that non-remunerated work represents for women and men engaged in services for self-consumption at home, and also its relation with general economic activity as a whole and that the study covers the productive activities non remunerated at home that could be delegated into other person whether if provides a product or a service that could be interchanged. For constructing this satellite account information was required about the work-hours engaged for domestic labors and care also such as a salary that should be assessed at that moment.

In the first case, the hours engaged for this type of work were obtained from ENUT. On the other hand, for assessing the economic value of non-remunerated working hours it was used the salary by hour for similar activities at market price (replacement cost). This information was obtained from the National Survey of Occupation and Employment and from the System of National Accounts of Mexico.

---

[2] Consejo Nacional para Prevenir la Discriminación. *Encuesta Nacional sobre discriminación en México, 2010.*

The study considers the international guidelines of the 2008 SNA, EUROSTAT's Proposal for a Methodology of Household Satellite Accounts, also The Mexican Classification of Jobs, the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2002, and the Mexican Classification of Activities of Time Use.

Results of the "Unpaid Work of Households Satellite Account of Mexico", can be consulted at INEGI web site: www.inegi.org.mx

***