

Measuring unpaid work in Tanzania

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1. Introduction

The National Bureau of Statistics in Tanzania conducted the Integrated Labour Force Survey (ILFS) in 2006 to which the Time Use Survey (TUS) module was attached. This was the first time this module is administered in the country at the national level. This came about as a result of strong proposal from the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) with support from the Poverty Eradication Division, then in the Office of the Vice President. The purpose was to gather data on the full extent of activities and particular work-related activities that are carried out by men, women and children in the course of their daily lives. Some of these activities, such as housework and care for others, are not considered as employment in the standard definition of the term. However such activities are critical for welfare of the country's people and the sustainability of the labour force required for employment.

2. Methodology and coverage

The Integrated Labour Force Survey sample was designed covered a total of 40,480 households in mainland Tanzania out of which at least eight thousand households were intended to be covered with the Time Use Survey module. This sample was a result of a multiple stage sample technique. There were five (5) questionnaires in total. The time use questionnaire was administered for seven consecutive days to each household member aged 5 years and above.

3. Analysis

3.1 Type of, and participation in Unpaid activities

In general all activities that human beings perform, are categorised into three categories namely; SNA production activities, SNA non-production activities, and Non-production activities.

Unpaid work¹ can be defined as either productive or non-productive activity that a person undertakes but which in turns this person is not compensated for by any means for the efforts and/or energy committed to that activity. The time use survey has revealed several activities that men, women and children in Tanzania perform but they are not paid for them. Some of these activities for which people are not paid are economic productive activities and others are no. Table 1 below provides distribution of interviewed individuals by category of activities to which they participate.

Table 1: Number of interviewed individuals by category of activities

SNA Category	Number	Percent
SNA Production activities	280,015	15.6
Non SNA Production activities	265,825	14.8
Non Productive activities	1,250,284	69.6
Total	1,796,124	100.0

From the above table, it becomes evident that most people who participated in an unpaid work do participate in non productive activities (about 70 percent).

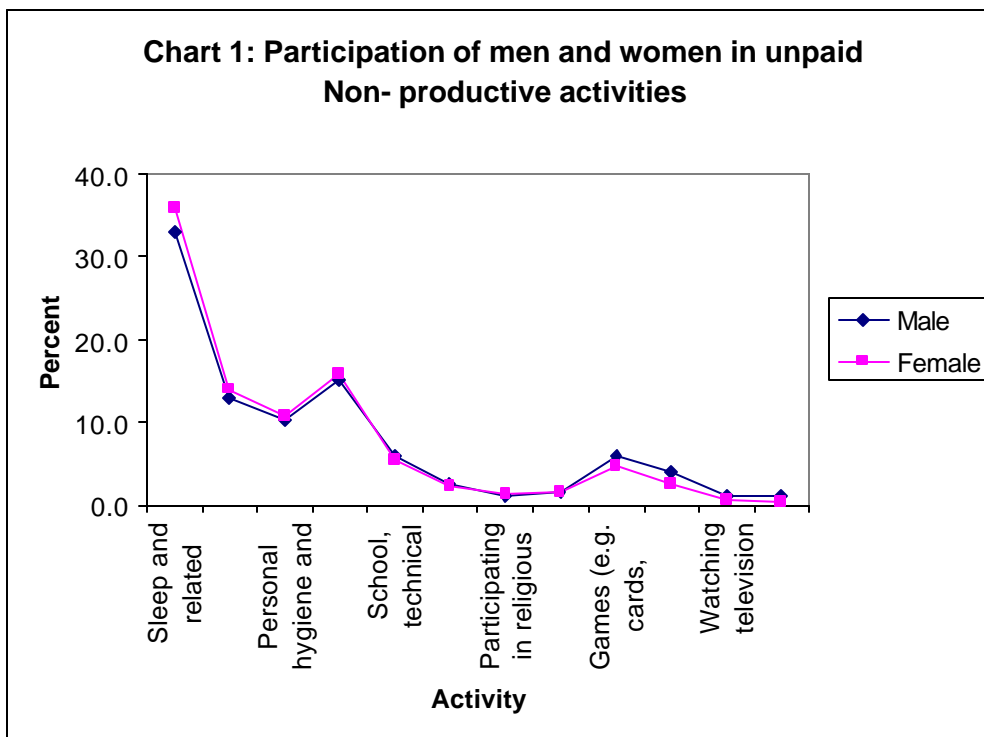
Among SNA production activities that are performed by men in Tanzania, Crop farming and market/kitchen gardening: planting, weeding and Travel related to primary production activities (not for est are the most leading for which men are not paid. Each of these has attracted over 27 percent of men followed by attending animals and fishing (12 percent) and water collection that attracted around 6 percent of men in the survey year 2006.

¹ Unpaid work in the context of this presentation has included those who reported not being paid at all, paid in terms of food, accomodation and other, paid in terms of all needs, others, and those with not applicable responses.

On the other hand, the two activities that attracted more men are the same that attracted women with over 31 percent of women each. They are followed by water collection (16.3%) and collecting firewood (4 percent).

The SNA non-production activities that engage most men were found to be Travel related to household maintenance, management and shop, Cooking, making drinks, setting tables and serving (with more than 10 percent of men) and more interesting is that the third important activity that attracted more men is Participating in the ILFS/TUS. Women, on the other hand, were involved in Cooking, making drinks, setting tables and serving (29.8 percent), Physical care of children: washing dressing, feeding includi (11.8 percent), and Cleaning up after meal (11.3 percent). Other activities that attracted between 5 percent to 9 percent of women were found to be Preparing food (grinding, milling, cutting, heating water, chopp), Cleaning house and surroundings, Care of clothes and other textiles (sheets, curtain, etc), Travel related to household maintenance, management and shop, and Preparing food and cooking where cannot distinguish. With exception of Preparing food (grinding, milling, cutting, heating water, chopp), the remaining above activities attracted between 5 to 9 percent of men as well.

The participation rate into non-productive activities seem to follow similar pattern between men and women for each of the activity though women are slightly on the higher side (Chart 1).



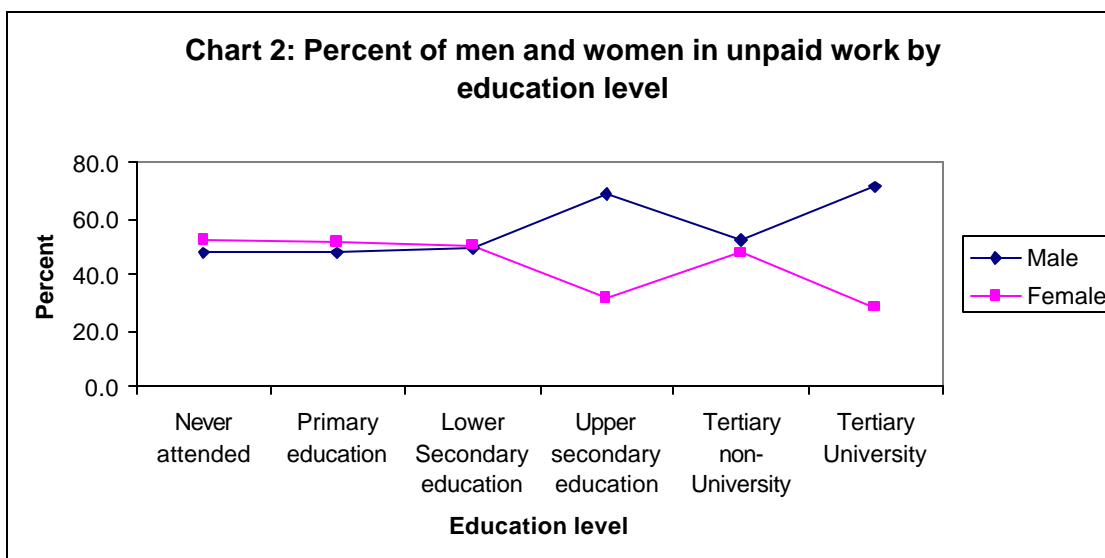
Participation in an un-paid work shows different patterns amongst men and women residing in rural and urban areas, Table 1 below. For instance, about 25 percent of the men in rural areas reported to have taken part into sleeping and related activities, it is around 26 percent of their urban counterparts who reported taking part into the same activity. These difference are not very significant due to the fact that every human being needs a bit of sleep in every 24 hours circle. Participation in other un-paid activities differ following the nature of residence. Rural related activities such as crop farming and marketing, travel related to primary production, attending

animals and fish farming appear to have attracted more men and women in rural areas compared to their urban counterparts.

Table 2: Percent distribution of men and women participating in unpaid work by activity and area

Activity	Sex		Sex	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
Sleep and related activities	24.7	25.8	23.2	23.1
Eating and drinking	9.2	10.8	8.6	9.9
Personal hygiene and health	7.4	8.4	6.7	7.5
Doing nothing, rest and relaxation	11.8	10.6	10.4	9.6
Travel to and from work	0.6	3.0	0.2	1.2
Crop farming and market/kitchen gardening: planting, weeding	6.7	2.6	5.9	1.9
Tending animals and fish farming;	2.7	0.4	0.0	0.0
Collecting water	1.0	1.0	2.6	1.9
Travel related to primary production activities (not for est	5.5	2.2	6.0	2.6
Preparing food and cooking where cannot distinguish	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.2
Preparing food (grinding, milling, cutting, heating water, chopp	0.0	0.0	1.9	2.0
Cooking, making drinks, setting tables and serving	0.0	0.0	6.1	6.6
Cleaning up after meal	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.8
Cleaning house and surroundings	0.0	0.0	1.6	2.1
Care of clothes and other textiles (sheets, curtain, etc): w	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.5
Shopping for personal and household goods	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.0
Travel related to household maintenance, management and shop	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.7
Physical care of children: washing dressing, feeding includi	0.0	0.0	2.5	2.5
School, technical institute, college or university attendance	4.2	4.9	3.4	3.9
Travel related to media use	1.7	2.0	1.4	1.6
Participating in religious activities, religious services, p	0.8	1.0	0.0	0.0
Socialising with family (visiting family, eating out with fa	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.1
Games (e.g. cards, chess, draughts, etc.) and other pastime	4.4	4.7	3.0	3.2
Travel related to social, cultural and recreational activities	3.0	3.1	1.7	1.6
Watching television and videos	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.3

Level of participation in an unpaid work differs also with levels of education. It is however shocking that as men become more educated, the higher the possibility of being engaged into non-productive (unpaid) activities. The pattern is opposite for women. Chart 2 below presents this shocking finding.



The above chart demonstrates an interesting pattern and differences in unpaid work participation between men and women of different levels of education in Tanzania. At lower secondary education (Ordinary Level) and below men and women are having equal chances of taking up unpaid work activities (50 percent men and 51 percent women). But with upper secondary education (Advanced Level) fewer women (31 percent) engage themselves in unpaid work whereas the number of in unpaid work is more than twice as much as that of women (69 percent) do take part in an unpaid work activities (non productive activities). As it is observed from the chart it is interesting that when more men take part into the unpaid work activities less women are likely to participate and vice versa.

As an introduction part of this work presents, the survey covered all household members of age 5 years and over in selected households. It is, therefore important to take a look at the age pattern of the individuals who participated in the unpaid work activities during the survey period.

Amongst men participating in an unpaid work activities, those aged between 5 and 14 years are very likely to participate in unpaid work activities (48.1 for age 5 – 9 years and 48.9 percent for age 10 – 14 years). The number of men in ann unpaid work is minimal at the middle age group of 15 to 34 years and starts increasing from age of 35 years and over. The pattern is different amongst women whereby participation in an unpaid work activities seem to increase with age having it climax at the age group of 25 to 34 years. After this age participation declines as age increases and it is lowest at age 65 and or above. Table 3 below summarises these findings.

Table 3: Percent distribution of men and women participating in unpaid work by age group

Age Group	Sex	
	Male	Female
5 – 9	48.1	51.9
10 – 14	48.9	51.1
15 – 24	43.9	56.1
25 – 34	41.3	58.7
35 – 44	46.5	53.5
45 – 64	45.5	54.5
65+	49.1	50.9
Total	45.7	54.3

Conclusion

Measuring unpaid work and its contribution to the general well-being of individuals and communities is somewhat tricky. Some activities which may be termed as non-productive may be productive indirectly. The easiest way to determine the importance of unpaid work the well-being of people and communities is to compare time spent between what is termed as non-productive (unpaid work) activities and productive (paid) activities. The analysis of time spent for these productive and non-productive activities is unfortunately not presented here due to technical difficulties in the raw data provided. However, some quick findings of the survey that are published in the ILFS analytical report, show that non-productive activities consume more time as compared to productive activities. It is, therefore, important that when determining what contributes to the national accounts to give reasonable weight to some of the activities that are currently left out being non-productive.