

Gender issues in the measurement of paid and unpaid work

Expert Group Meeting on
Methods for Conducting Time-Use Surveys
23-27 October 2000
New York

Country Report: PALESTINE
Time Use Survey-- A Palestinian Example

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1. Background

The lack of unbiased statistics on the situation of women and men in the Palestinian society has been recognized as a critical deficiency in the work of Palestinian Ministries in policy making process. The need for comprehensive set of data has been identified as a major problem and the production of statistics has given high priority.

The newly established Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) compiles the official statistics for Palestine. The production of statistics takes into account publishing all estimates by sex whenever it is possible. But Palestinian official statistics is still lacking some crucial areas related to women such as violence against women.

On the other hand, some research work and technical assistance missions that took place in PCBS indicated that some classical tools used for compiling official statistics are not totally adequate from gender point of view, such as, the household labor force survey.

The recognition of the above facts assumed the establishment of the focal point that takes care of gender orientation in all PCBS products. The Gender Statistics Program (GSP) was established in 1996. The main goal of establishing this program was to strengthen gender sensitive policy formulation, implementation and monitoring instrumental to sustainable development, by providing policy makers and planning bodies with unbiased and timely statistics that reflect gender issues in the Palestinian society.

Within the framework of the GSP, it was recognized that a time use survey is one of the potential instruments that will be used for providing data and verifying the accuracy of other tools used to measure women activities.

In 1998, the PCBS started planning for the time use survey in the country. The most important aim was to collect data on women activities in the informal sector and in the household, data that may shed light on important gender issues, such as the size of the informal sector in Palestine and the contribution of women in terms of time used. In addition to the relevant economic activities represented in the informal sector and the types of economic activities that women are engaged in. This survey was essential to provide statistics on the household work (cleaning, washing, preparing food etc.) and caring for children and elderly or disabled persons exclusively women's activities comparing to men.

PCBS had carried out the time use survey in the period of May 8th 1999-May 7th 2000 comprising complete year including the various seasons, ceremonies and feasts.

This survey gives reliable data on types of activities not usually being considered when analyzing gender issues, such as time used on transport, shopping, leisure, cultural activities, social contacts etc, and gives important information for those supplying government or private services within these fields of activities.

One of the main purposes of carrying out a time use survey is to use its results to measure and value unpaid work.

The measurement of unpaid work is one of the priority areas identified by Beijing Platform for Action for improvement of gender statistics and of policy formulation regarding women's work. The Platform urges Governments to conduct regular time use studies to measure unremunerated work and to improve methods to accurately reflect its value in satellite or other official accounts that are separate but consistent with core national accounts.¹

By repeating this survey, often once every ten years, the compiled survey data will enable us to identify the changes in the social infrastructure in Palestine, along with the changes in women reality and participation in the development process. Compiled data constitute a basic source for conducting analytical surveys on these changes based on different variables including socioeconomic reality, technological development, customs, traditions and religious trends in the Palestinian society.

After we conducted this survey, we can conclude if we should make a revision to the labor force survey definitions on work and work status, and if it is important to change these definitions to fit the Palestinian case, and we can also conclude if we should implement another survey that is important to give a clearer picture on the Palestinian women.

2. Methodology of the Time Use Survey

2-1 Objectives

The main objective of the time use survey is to provide sound statistics on the reality of women and men in Palestine. In particular, TUS provides statistics on the following areas:

1. All activities practiced by the Palestinians.
2. The average time spent in carrying out different activities by the individuals.
3. The percentage of individuals carrying out specific activities.
4. The social environment in which the activity is practiced.
5. The time spent by women in carrying out household activities and productive activities whether paid or unpaid activities.
6. Provide data on the time spent in different activities such as watching television, attending religious ceremonies and participation in sports activities.
7. The time spent in movement.
8. Other related issues.

¹ See the Strategic objective H.3 in the Beijing Platform for Action.

2-2 Key Users:

According to the objectives of the TUS, there are three categories of potential users:

- Policy makers in the ministries such as: ministry of social affairs, ministry of labor, ministry of culture and public institutions, women unions.
- Researchers and universities, who will be able to make analytical research on the situation of women and the engagement of Palestinian women in the economy.
- PCBS will get the chance to study the accuracy of measurement of its classical tools used to address labor force.

2-3 Survey Plan

The time span of TUS was estimated to three years of which half a year for preparation and one year for the field operations. The survey plan included two user-producer dialogue workshops in order to get feedback from key users regarding the objective, the scope of the survey and the main indicators to be measured.

As far as management is concerned, a technical committee within PCBS was formed to plan, supervise and implement the survey activities. The technical committee was composed of statisticians, sampler, field work coordinator, programmer, and other experts from PCBS.

2-4 Survey Tools

The Time use questionnaire consists of three main sections namely:

Section No. 1. Household Questionnaire: This questionnaire involves the identification data and the household members record. It also contains the demographic and economic data for the household members, in addition to data on household properties and level of income. This part aimed to identify the socioeconomic conditions of the household in general.

Section No. 2. Individuals (10 years and above) Questionnaire: This questionnaire relates to the randomly selected individuals to complete the time record. The individual questionnaire involves data on the educational and employment reality of the individual along with information on the cultural status. This section is comprised of two main parts: The part targeting males and the part targeting females. This section aims to provide basic data on the individual to relate them to the data derived from the time record.

Section No. 3. Daily Record Questionnaire: This questionnaire involves data on the main activities of the individuals and the time spent in rendering those activities. This record also shows whether the activity was performed in return for a wage or unpaid along with information on whether the individual was accompanied by other individuals while performing the activity. Likewise, this record indicates the means of transportation used in performing the various activities in a 24 hours basis. In the adopted record of the TUS, the day was divided into temporal intervals varying from 15 minutes during the day and 30 minutes after midnight until 6:00 p.m. A list of recording location and mode of transportation were also included in the diary.

2-5 Sampling

The sampling frame is comprised of a comprehensive sample selected from the Population, Housing and Establishments Census 1997. This comprehensive sample consists of geographically approximate areas (in terms of number of households), namely the enumeration areas used in the Population, Housing and Establishments Census 1997. The enumeration areas units were used as primary sampling units in the first stage of the sampling process.

The sample of the TUS is a multistage stratified cluster random sample. The first stage involved the selection of a stratified random sample comprised of 240 enumeration areas. The second stage involved the selection of an average of 17 households in every selected enumeration area. The third stage involved the selection of two household members, one male and one female in the age group 10 years and above. The selections of household members from the households were made in the field by using random (KISH) tables.

The time use surveys sample distribution carried out every day a number of 11 household interviews during a whole calendar year. It covered 8,038 members distributed to 4,018 households.

2-6 Field work operation

During this stage, the implementation of the data collection took place. Quality control procedures were implemented to ensure the accuracy and consistency of collected information. This stage included training, data collection and field editing.

2.6.1 Field Work Training

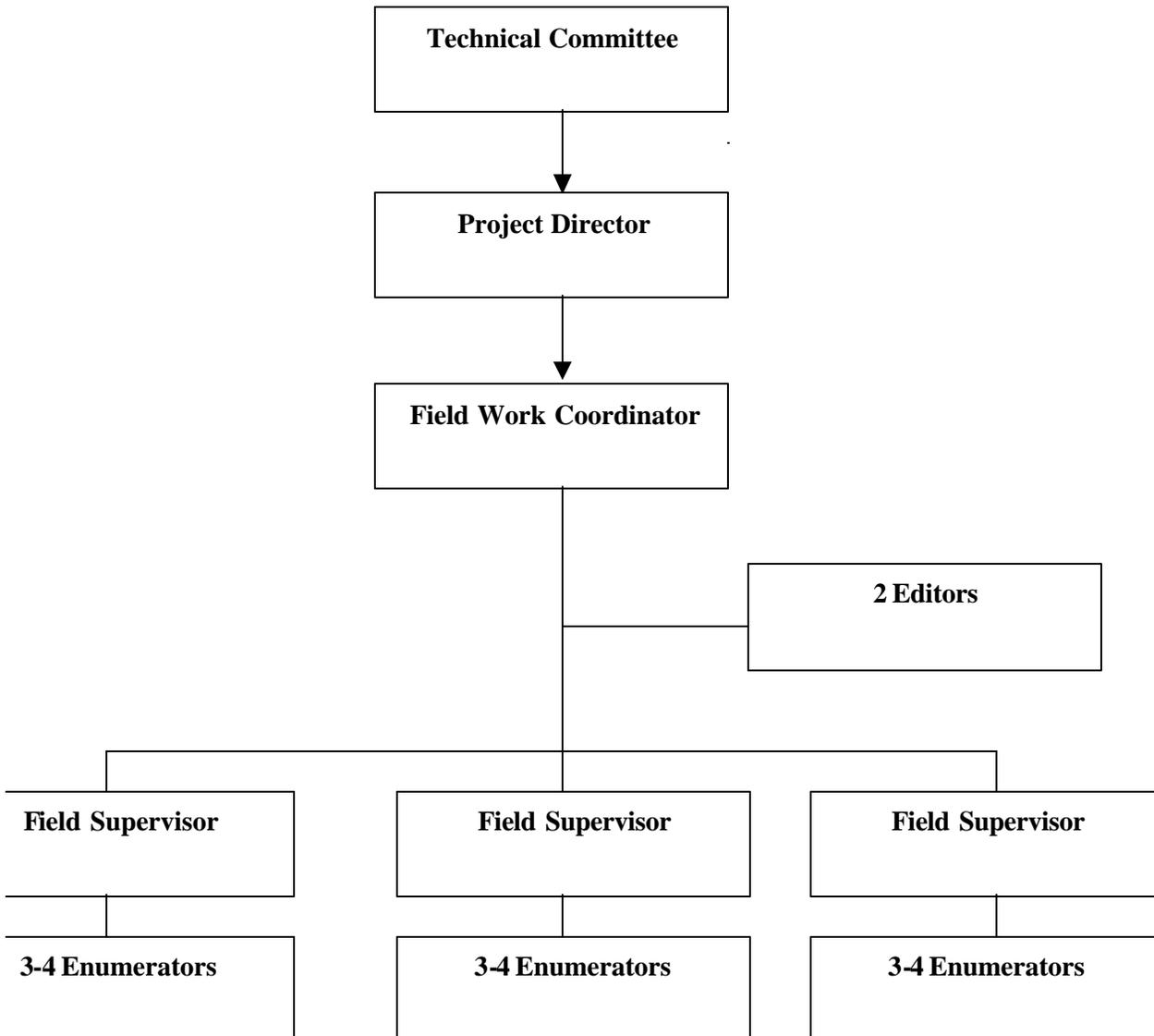
A thirty five- hour intensive training course was held for the field work team. The main objective of this course was to provide the field workers and supervisors with the required skills for the implementation of data collection. The course included two parts: one on the basic knowledge of field work ethics and skills. This part covered the issues related to the literature of survey implementation including the survey design, questionnaire design, supervising and field work techniques.

The second part included the specifications of the time use survey including the questionnaire, field work design, organizational chart of the field work team, supervision plan and other related topics. The training course included class lectures as well as field training. The total number of trainees was 35 persons. At the end of the training course, an examination was made, and upon the result of the exam and the performance during the course, seventeen persons were choosed to undertake the job.

The selection included two stages; selection of supervisors (3 persons) who gone through other training course in supervision of field work. The rest of the selected persons comprised the enumerators.

2.6.2 Data Collection

The actual field work started on May 8th 1999 and lasted to May 7th 2000. The field work team was divided into small groups. Each group consisted of 3-4 enumerators and supervisor. The following chart indicates the field work organization:



The sample was distributed to 366 days, comprising a total daily sample of 11 households. To undertake completion of the questionnaire, the enumerator starts the process by a first visit to the household. During this visit, the background questionnaire is completed, and the selection of one male and one female of the household members takes place. Each selected male and female are given a diary and the enumerator explains the methodology of completing the diary. In the second day, the enumerator conducts another visit to revise the filled information in the diary, and reviews the information with household member. A third visit is conducted in the next day to pick up and verify the completed diaries.

It is worth mentioning that we tested 3 different ways of diaries:

1. The Norwegian diary form used in 1990.
2. A diary form with pictures, developed by Mr. Gustav Haraldsen to make it easier for illiterate persons to remember their activities when field workers make their second visit.
3. A recall approach, with precoded activity list.

After a test of the different diaries, a modified version of the Norwegian diary form was chosen as the most appropriate to the Palestinian case.

Some special cases took place during the field work for illiterate respondents. In this case one of two options were made

1. If there is a household member who can take the job and fill the information of the diary for the selected person, the diary is filled by this household member.
2. If there is no person, either the enumerator or one member of neighboring household does the job under the supervision of the enumerator.

After collecting the data and editing it by the enumerator in the field, these questionnaires were submitted to the supervisor, who goes through these questionnaires to check the completion of needed information. In the case where specific mistakes were discovered the supervisor returns the questionnaire for call- check in the field.

After revising the questionnaire, the supervisor submits them to the central editor to review the collected information according to the editing manual, which was developed during an early stage. After this stage the questionnaire goes through the stage of coding.

2.7 Data Processing

At this stage questionnaires are coded, then data are entered into the computer. The coding process took place by the central editor according to coding manual which includes codes for the activities. This manual was developed based on the United Nations trial Classification of 1997 and we used the Eurostat Time Use Activity Coding List to add examples on each activity on the 2 digit level. Some additions on the list of activities were made to reflect the special case of Palestine.

For example we added the group “others” on the 2 digit group. We also improved the list of activity by adding other activities on the 3 digits that match the Palestinian situation, for example: Supervising, it becomes

- 56 Supervising
- 56.1 Supervising Children need care.
- 56.2 Supervising Adults need care.

One problem with the UN coding list is how to code “at work” which is no problem in the Eurostat classification: In some cases the coding of “primary production” and services for income and other production of goods not for establishments’ are hard to separate from the code “work for establishments”. But this can in many cases be checked through the answers in the questionnaires: if they grow vegetables, raise animals or sell products on the market.

After this stage, data entry operations took place for entering the collected information into the computer.

Some logical and consistency checks were loaded on the data entry program. A sample of entered data (10% of the questionnaires) was matched with the entered information to check the accuracy of the data entry.

A data set was developed and this data set gone through a process of data cleaning. This stage included checking the demographic data as well as consisting and range checks. At the end of this stage a user file comprising clean data set was prepared. Oracle 80 was used for entering the data, and SPSS. 8.0 was used for tabulation.

3. Tabulation

For the main findings reports a comprehensive tabulation plan was prepared that covers the data of the time activities on the first, second, and third level. An overall table for activities on the first, second, third level was prepared based on time among all, percentage doing the activities, time among those doing the activities total by sex. Background variables: sex, age, education, occupation and location were followed with time aspect.

A separate table on, time spent on various activity for paid work, percentage of persons who performed the activities and time spent by those who performed the activities by sex and region average for all days, hours and minutes was prepared to be presented in the main results report to reflect the situation of paid and unpaid work. Another table with the same information for the unpaid work was presented in the same report.

The estimation procedures of calculation for the main tables are:

For time spent on various activities = total time spent divided by total persons who did the activity.

Percentage who performed the activities= total persons who did the activities divided by total sample size.

Average time spent on the activity by those performing them = total persons who did the activity divided by total sample size.

4. Dissemination

For this stage we prepare a wide-range dissemination plan, at both national and sub-national level.

- 4 User-producer meetings are to be organized in two levels for decision- makers and professionals, within the various institutions of the PNA, NGOs and selected private organizations
- Executive reports for high-level officials and decision-makers to focus on the findings and their policy implications.
- Analytical topical reports that can provide professionals, at various Palestinian Ministries/Institutions with specialized subject reports that goes beyond the situation of women's and men's paid and unpaid work and the time used at traditional women's activities such as housework, caring for children and elderly.

These reports will include reports on time spent on work for establishment, report on work not for establishment, report on time spend on social and leisure activities, time spend on housework activities, report on activities of education, culture activities, and report on the status of the Palestinian family.

- Posters to simplify the presentation of findings to be understood by lay person and the public at large
- Series of standard pamphlets on the Palestinian experience in planning and implementing the time use survey:
 - Pamphlet on planning the survey.
 - Pamphlet on the fieldwork structure.
 - Pamphlet on designing the sample.
 - Pamphlet on programming the data entry of the survey and dissemination.

5. Main result

The primary results for the time use survey for the period 8th May 1999 and 7th of May 2000 were:

The individuals spend their time as follows:

Personal care activities (sleeping, eating, and body care) are in the first place in the individuals' daily activities. It takes 45% of male time compared to 58% of female's time.

Leisure time (reading, watching TV, listening to music, sports, social activities and visits) is the second place in average 23% male and 22% for females.

Work comes in the third place for males; in the average male spend 21% of their daily time in work compared with 2% only for females. For females, household activities and care for the family are in the third place. Such activities consume 20% of females time compared with 3% only of male time. Educational activities are in the fourth place in average of 7% of both sexes time. In general very few members of the Palestinian society spend time in

voluntary activities (society service and helping other) in average of less than 1% of both males and females time spend in such activity.

The average time spent on employment in establishments is 7 hours and 31 minutes (7 hours and 39 minutes for male and 6 hours and 17 minutes for females). 24.6% of the people who filled in the questionnaires are employed in establishments, 43.9% for males and 5.2% for females.

For individuals aged 15 years and over, the average time spent on employment in establishments is 7 hours and 33 minutes (7 hours and 44 minutes for male and 6 hours and 18 minutes for females). 29.2% of the people who filled in the questionnaires are employed in establishments, 52.2% for males and 6.2% for females.

The average time spent on primary production activities (not for establishments) is 3 hours and 23 minutes. (4 hours and 15 minutes for males and 2 hours for females). The percentage of people spending time on the primary production activities is 7.6%. (9.3% for males and 5.9% for females).

The average time of people performing activities concerning household maintenance, management and shopping for the own household is 3 hours and 16 minutes. (1 hour and 20 minutes for males and 4 hours and 7 minutes for females). About 43.4% of persons practice cooking and preparing meal activities (78.2 for males and 9.0% for females). The average time spent on child, patient and elderly care for household members is one hour and 51 minutes (59 minutes daily for males and 2 hours and 12 minutes for females)

The average time spent on learning activities is 6 hours and 57 minutes. (6 hours and 47 minutes for males and 7 hours and 8 minutes for females). The percentage of people spending time on learning activities is 23.2%. (23.6% for males and 22.7% for females). The percentage of people spending time on reading activities is 11.8%. (9.5% for males and 14.1% for females).

On the average, Palestinian spends 11 hours and 7 minutes on personal care activities such as sleeping, eating and drinking. Males spend 10 hours and 50 minute on these activities and females spend 11 hours and 25 minutes. 55% of the people spend time on religious activities (49% for males, 61% for females).

The average time spent on mass media use activities such as reading newspapers, watching TV and video is 2 hours and 37minutes. (2 hours and 28 minutes for males and 2 hours and 47 minutes for females).

It is found that 58% of the Palestinian people travel on foot, 53% of males and 67% of females. In the West Bank, the percentage of people traveling on foot is 60%. (53% of males and 71% of females). In Gaza Strip the percentage is 57%. (53% of males and 62% of females).

