The use of stylized questions in time-use surveys in Latin America

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Time-use data collection in Latin America by NSO

Specify needs	Design	Build	Collect	Process	Analyse	Disseminate	Evaluate
Mechanisms for the advancement of women Central Banks	Face-to-face interviews Stylized questions All household members	Questionnaire Database Indicators	Training of interviewers Data collection	Codify variables Construct variable aggregates Data validation	Indicators Total work time Paid and unpaid work	Upload data to NSO website	Evaluation?
Objectives: Gender inequality in time use Care economy Paid work Unpaid work Total Work Satellite accounts	Module, questions or Independent survey? Level of disaggregation of activities? Reference period? Simultaneous activities	CAPI: Need to desig specifi software and database	Urban/rural po ulati n Difficulties with response rate Revisit scheme	Weekly or daily aggregates Level of aggregation of activities ICATUS-CAUTAL-National Classifier	Chronological analysis? Intra-household analysis Time-poverty Care dynamics Unpaid work economic value	Disseminate database Basic indicators Products tailored to different users	

Public policy

Stylized questions or diaries?

Diaries

- Argentina (2)
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Chile
- Venezuela

No national representativity

Data were not published nor used for public policy

Stylized questions

- Argentina
- Cuba
- Chile
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Mexico
- Honduras
- Paraguay
- Uruguay
- Brazil
- Costa Rica
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Guatemala
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Peru

- Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru had built satellite accounts
- El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Uruguay had valued unpaid work
- Uruguay has used the data to create and monitor their integrated national care system
- El Salvador has used the information to promote public policy on care

Set of questions, modules or independent surveys?

		Stylized questions	Diaries
Set of questions	● Brazil (since 1992) ● Bolivia ● Dominican Republic ● Colombia ● Ecuador ● Honduras ● Mexico	☑ Rich socio-demographic context variables ☒ Design dependent on parent survey ☒More aggregated data ☒ Reference period might be confusing ☒ Time consuming	☒ Difficulties on managing the dynamics of a diary within the parent survey
Modules	● Argentina ● Brazil ● Cuba ● Costa Rica ● Dominican Republic ● Ecuador ● El Salvador ● Guatemala ● Mexico ● Nicaragua ● Uruguay		
Independent survey	● Argentina ● Bolivia ● Chile ● Colombia ● Costa Rica ● Cuba ● Ecuador ● El Salvador ● México ● Panama ● Paraguay ● Peru ● Uruguay ● Venezuela	☑Rich detail of activities ☒ High cost jeopardizing periodicity ☒ Difficult to track complete under or over reporting of times	Argentina Bolivia Chile Venezuela

Why diaries have not been successful in Latin America?

Interviewers

- Require special training since time-use surveys with diaries are very different instruments than those usually used by the NSO

Left behind questionnaires were not filled or filled without providing enough context to later classify the activities.

Low response rates or increase cost of revisiting

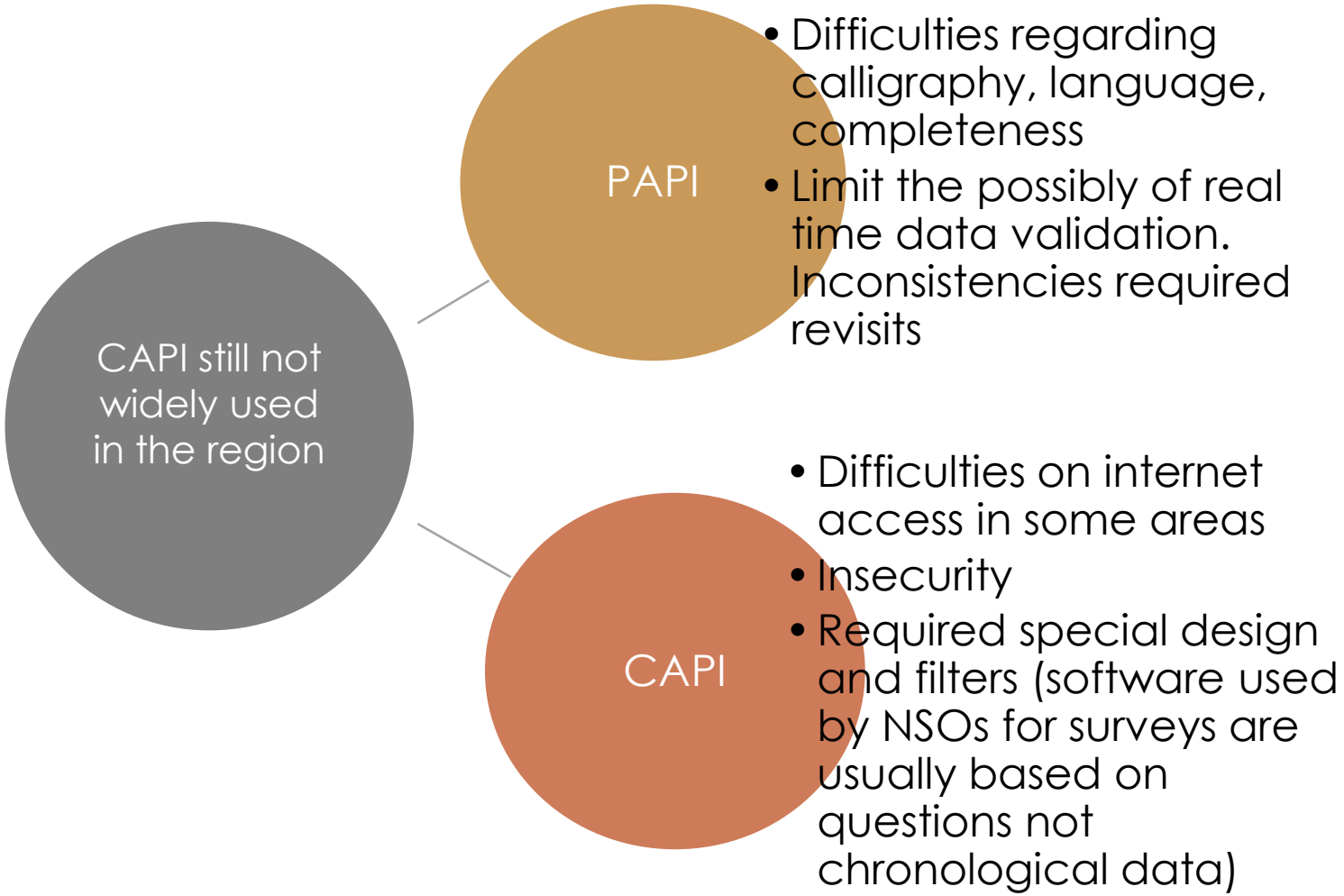
Respondents

- Have difficulties remembering activities performed every 15 minutes
- Feel uncomfortable giving such detailed level of information (ashamed, insecurity)

Open questions are highly sensitive to the repertoire of activities that the respondent has in mind, in this sense filling the diary does not necessarily reflect what the respondent did, but what he / she remembers and believes is relevant to record.

Unreported personal activities and care-related activities

Why diaries have not been successful in Latin America?



CAPI is by far the best option for diaries, since allow for filters, alerts, codification on real time, data consistency revision, etc.

However due to some difficulties to use CAPI in some regions or with particular populations, a mix of options has been used.

The use of mixed modes for capturing data (highly correlated with socio-economic characteristics of the population) could have effects on the quality of the data

Why diaries have not been successful in Latin America?

- Some population groups tend to have difficulties to manage time in intervals (children, elders, rural population) it was easier to gave aggregates of time for list of activities.
- Context variables are difficult to understand/explain therefore were not always incorporated into the story of the informants, cutting the flow of the interview.
- With the use of diaries, activities that are not perceived by the respondent as relevant might not get reported while in the list the NSO assures replies for activities that are relevant for the research.
- Low response rates, revisits to households are costly (specially in rural areas).
- Heterogeneity of the population made it really hard to code activities (geographical, economical, ethnical differences impact the type of activities and also the way that activities are described)
- Unpaid domestic and care activities are usually organized on a weekly basis, not daily, therefore it is important to have representation of all days of a week. One way to do it is assign interviewers a set of households for each day , however if the household members were not reachable the day after the assigned day, the interviewer will have to return on another day making hard for the respondent to remember activities at small time intervals.
- Some advantages of time-use data collected by diaries are not being used for analysis or public policy (simultaneous activities and chronological data) *Balance of resources, quality and real use of the data!*

Are stylized questions an option for time-use data collection?

Methodological soundness

Stylized questions allow to keep a vertical interview and translate ideas important for the research into questions easily understandable by the informant.

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Cost-effectiveness

Stylized questions are easily to incorporate in modules, does not require special software or equipment and the training of interviewers is less burdensome

Respondent burden

High response rates in the region for time-use surveys using questionnaires

Relevance

Data obtained with stylized questions has allow characterization of care demands in households, is being use to shed light on gender inequalities in the region.

Accuracy and reliability

What is received as an answer both in the diary and in the questionnaire are not facts but memories or even perceptions of these facts

Timeliness and punctuality

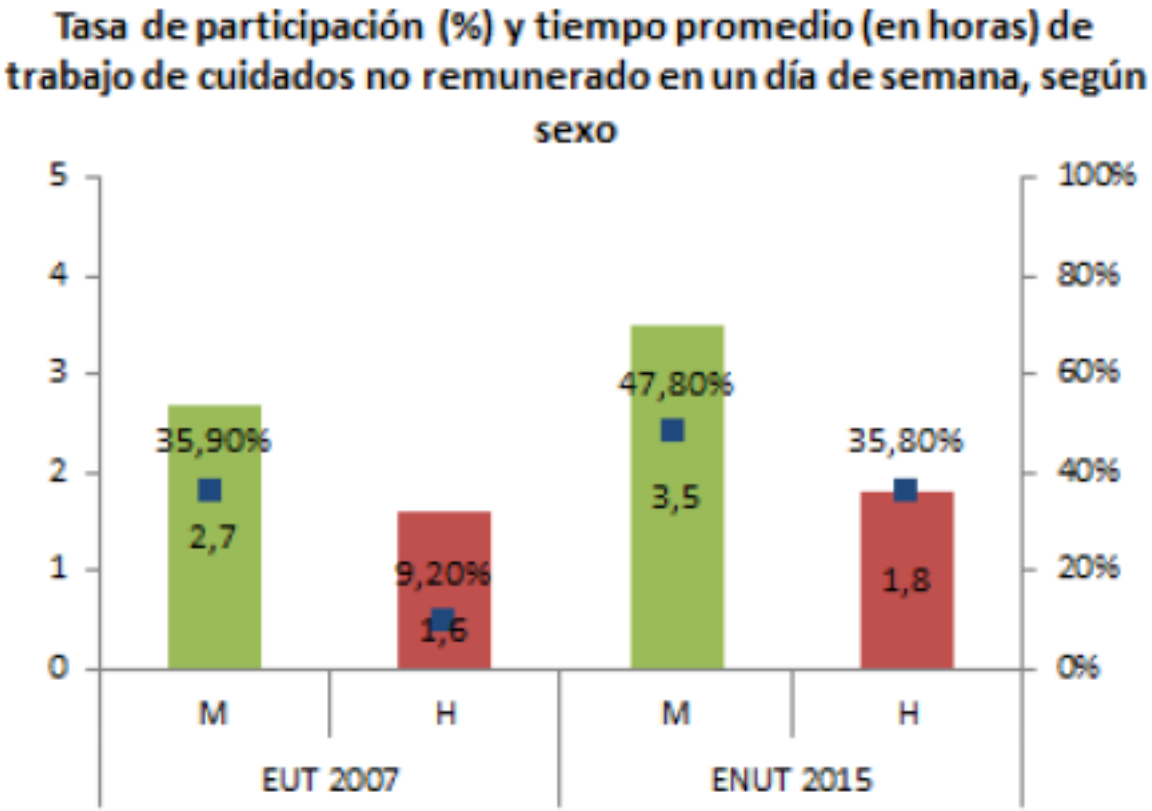
Stylized questions does not require codification or chronological analysis saving time in that process

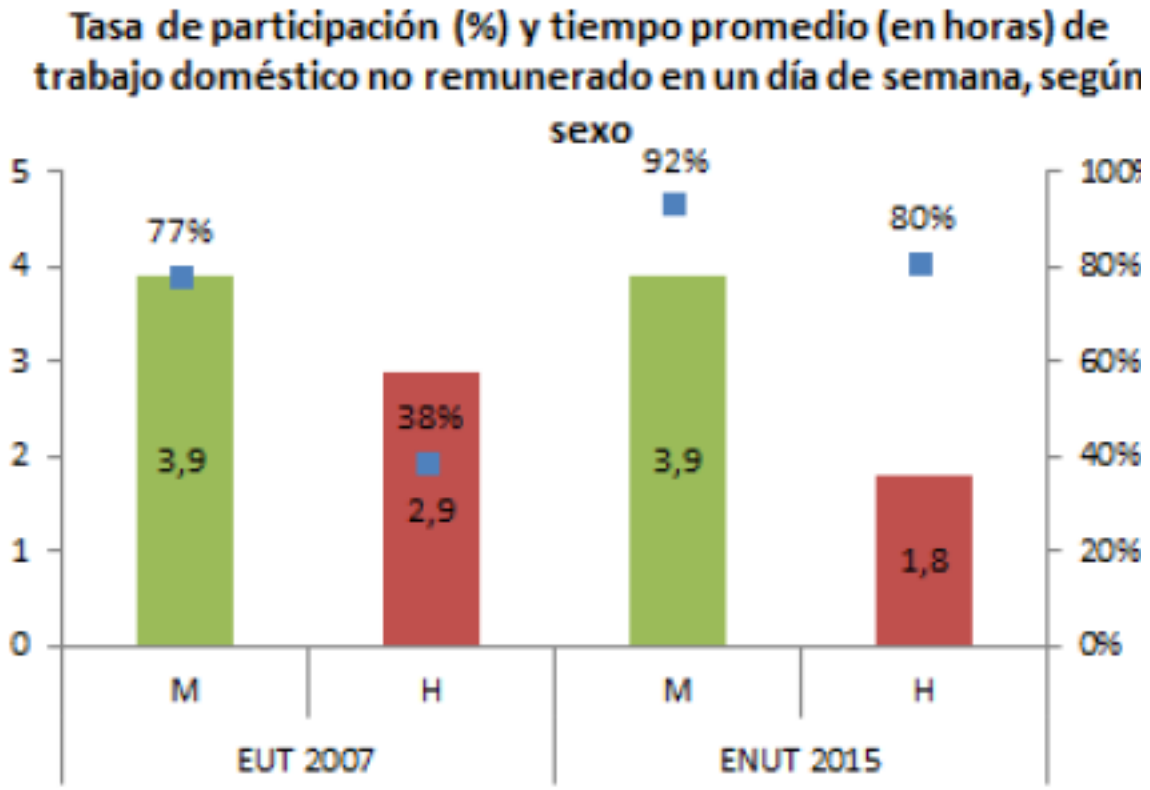
Stylized questions could be more accurate to measure time spend at a more disaggregated level of activities

Comparative pilot studies are needed

Challenges

Imagen 1: Trabajo doméstico y de cuidados, comparación EUT 2007 y ENUT 2015





Fuente: Elaboración propia en base a ENUT 2015 y EUT 2007, datos para la Región Metropolitana

Apparently the bigger effect is in terms of the estimates of participation

Country	Year	Instrument	Paid Work	Unpaid Work				Personal activities	Total
			1) Employment and related activities	2) Own-use goods production	3) Unpaid domestic work for own household	4) Unpaid care of household members	5) Unpaid work for other households or the community and volunteering	6), 7), 8), 9) Personal activities	
Argentina	2013	module	2	0	1	2	2	0	7
Brasil	2012	questions	4	0	1		1	0	6
	2016	module	3	4	1		1	0	9
Chile	2015	independent	19	2	20	46	8	23	118
Colombia	2012	independent	13	7	16	13	13	26	88
	2017	independent	13	9	21	14	17	31	105
Costa Rica	2011	independent	5	10	40	32	20	24	131
	2017	independent	5	9	32	34	19	30	129
Ecuador	2012	independent	14	18	49	24	7	24	136
El Salvador	2010	module	4	4	15	19	9	16	67
	2017	independent	4	6	15	18	9	10	62
Guatemala	2014	module	1	2	6	3	1	0	13
	2017	module	1	2	6	3	1	0	13
Honduras	2009	questions	1	0	1	1	0	3	6
Mexico	2009	independent	3	7	27	18	3	12	70
	2014	independent	3	10	35	26	8	17	99
Panama	2011	independent	2	11	39	20	12	29	113
Paraguay	2016	independent	5	6	9	29	2	6	57
Peru	2010	independent	5	11	55	24	16	27	138
Rep. Dom	2017	module	4	1	1	1	1	9	17
Uruguay	2013	module	2	1	10	26	11	7	57
average independent			**8**	**9**	**30**	**25**	**11**	**22**	**104**
average module			**2**	**2**	**6**	**9**	**4**	**5**	**26**
average questions			**3**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**6**

Chile

Sección 3: Cuidados a niñas y niños de 5 a 14 años

¿Se identificó personas de 5 a 14 años? (excluya a el o la informante)	Sí		➡ Registre los nombres y complete la sección 3
	No		➡ Pase a la sección 4

LEA: AHORA VOY A PREGUNTARLE POR EL TIEMPO QUE UD. DEDICA A CUIDAR A _____ COMO POR EJEMPLO DAR DE COMER, LLEVARLE AL HOSPITAL, AYUDARLE A BAÑARSE, ETC.

RECUERDE QUE LE ESTOY PREGUNTANDO POR LOS DÍAS _____ Y _____ EN ESPECÍFICO.

		El último (día de semana)		y el último (día de fin de semana)	
		¿Realizó la actividad?	¿Por cuánto tiempo?	¿Realizó la actividad?	¿Por cuánto tiempo?
N31	Dar de comer	Sí / No ➡ H H : M M		Sí / No ➡ H H : M M	
N32	Bañar o asear	Sí / No ➡ H H : M M		Sí / No ➡ H H : M M	
N33	Vestir o arreglar	Sí / No ➡ H H : M M		Sí / No ➡ H H : M M	
N34	Aconsejar	Sí / No ➡ H H : M M		Sí / No ➡ H H : M M	

Challenges

- The number of selected activities, the order they appear in the questionnaire, the level of aggregation have an impact in the results. How to balance the objective of the survey without overburdening respondents?
- Overestimates or underestimates of total time (double counting of simultaneous activities) How to use CAPI filters to avoid this situation? How to adjust data to avoid this measurement error?
- "Leave no one behind" How to design instruments (including classifications relevant and pertinent to heterogeneous populations?
- Promote the use of time-use data for public policy
- Improve data communication and tailor messages for different audiences

Moving towards higher quality data

Agree on a level of aggregation of activities for international comparability purposes.

The agreed "list of activities"

- could be the base for designing stylized questions or light diaries.
- should allow flexibility for countries which would like to incorporate or have more granularity in the data

In Latin America time-use data has a great potential for public policy regarding the care economy, therefore measurement of care activities is crucial!

https://www.cepal.org/en/work-areas/gender-affairs
https://oig.cepal.org/en