China's Experience in Conducting Time Use Survey

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PART 01

China has conducted three time use surveys.

Time Use Survey in China：2008、2018、2024

Year	Name of Survey	Type of Instrument	Mode of Data Collection	Number of Diary Days	Time Intervals in Diary	Sample Size
2008	The First Time Use Survey of China	Full diary	Face-to-face interview (Paper)	2 Days (1 Work day+1 Rest day)	10 min	Around 17,000 households, 37,000 persons
2018	The Second Time Use Survey of China	Light diary	Face-to-face interview (Paper)	2 Days (1 Work day+1 Rest day)	15 min	Around 20,000 households, 49,000 persons
2024	The Third National Time Use Survey of China	Light diary	Face-to-face interview (Paper+Mobile)	2 Days (1 Work day+1 Rest day)	15 min	Around 38,500 households, 107,000 persons

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PART 02

Main Experiences of China's third National Time Use Survey

Survey Scope & Respondent Demographics

1

Survey Scope： **31 provinces (including autonomous regions and directly-administered municipalities) and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps**

2

Survey Respondents：

Sampled households and their usual residents aged 6 years old and above

38,500 households and 107,000 persons:

——53,000 men and 54,000 women

——64,000 urban residents and 43,000 rural residents

Survey Content

Basic Information Form of Family Members

Diary

Open-ended Questionnaire

- **Diary Content**
  - **Primary activity categories**
  - **Use of Internet**
  - **With whom**
  - **Where**
  - **Simultaneous activity categories**

6 Primary Activity Domains

01 Personal Physiological Activities

02 Paid Labor

03 Unpaid Labor

04 Personal Discretionary Activities

05 Learning and Training

06 Transportation

13 Major Activity Categories

- Sleeping and Resting
- Personal Hygiene Care
- Dining or Other Meals
- Transportation
- Labor and Employment
- Learning and Training
- Housework
- Accompanying and Caring for Family Members
- Purchasing Goods or Services
- Seeking Medical Treatment
- Sports and Fitness
- Cultural Leisure and Entertainment
- Social Communication

Minimum Harmonized Instrument vs.China Activity Categories

Minimum Harmonized Instrument	China Activity Categories
1.Working in paid job or income generating activities	A05 Labor and Employment
2.Making goods for own household or family use	A05 Labor and Employment
3.Volunteer work	A13 Social Communication
4.Preparing and serving food and meals for own household or family members	A07 Housework (A0701 Cooking)
5.Cleaning own or family dwelling	A07 Housework (A0702 Laundry and Cleaning)
6.Maintaining and making small repairs in own or family dwelling	A07 Housework (A0704 Other Housework)
7.Cleaning and care of clothing and footwear of own household or family members	A07 Housework (A0702 Laundry and Cleaning)
8.Managing own household	A07 Housework (A0704 Other Housework)
9.Taking care of pet of own household or family	A07 Housework (A0703 Keeping Pets)
10.Shopping for own household or family	A09 Purchasing Goods or Services
11.Taking care of own (household or family) child	A08 Accompanying and Caring for Family Members A0801 Accompanying and Caring for Children's Daily Life A0802 Accompany and Tutoring Children's Learning
12.Taking care of or helping adults (own household or family)	A08 Accompanying and Caring for Family Members A0803 Accompanying and Caring for Elderly Family Members A0804 Accompanying and Caring for Family Members of Other Ages

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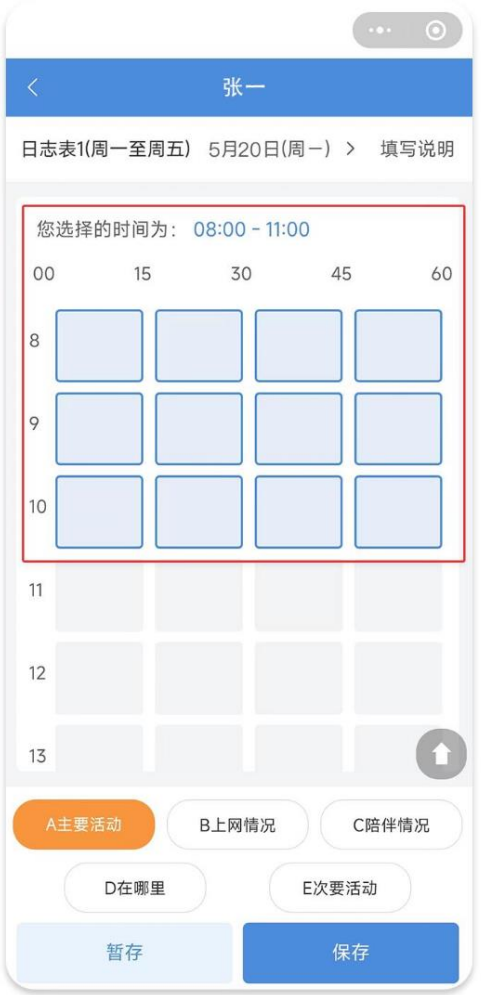
Minimum Harmonized Instrument vs.China Activity Categories

Minimum Harmonized Instrument	China Activity Categories
13.Education	A06 Learning and Training
14.Socializing and communication	A13 Social Communication
15.Community participation, civic and related responsibilities, and religious practices	A12 Social Communication
16.Cultural, entertainment and sports events	A11 Sports and fitness A12 Cultural Leisure and Entertainment
17.Hobbies, games and other pastime activities	A12 Cultural Leisure and Entertainment
18.Sport participation and exercising	A11 Sports and Fitness
19.Reading for leisure	A12 Cultural Leisure and Entertainment
20.Watching TV/Listening to radio or streaming	A12 Cultural Leisure and Entertainment
21.Sleep	A01 Sleeping and Resting
22.Eating and drinking	A03 Dining or Other Meals
23.Personal hygiene and care	A02 Personal Hygiene Care A10 Seeking Medical Treatment
24.Travel	A04 Transportation
25.Other	None

Electronic Data Collection



Light Paper Diary

Time	Primary activities	Use of Internet			With whom				Where				Secondary activities
		Internet access through mobile phone	Internet access through computer	Internet access through other devices	Not using internet	Family members	Classmates or colleagues	Other acquaintances	Strangers	Alone	Own home	Workplace or school	Other places	
0:00-6:45	A01				√					√	√			
6:45-7:15	A02	√				√					√			A1201
7:15-9:30	A0503	√7:15-7:30	√7:30-9:30			√							√	A1203
……														
22:00-24:00	A01				√					√	√			

Application of Time Use Data

- **3 statistics communiques released to the public(https://www.stats.gov.cn/english/StatisticalCommuniqu/)**
- **14 analytical reports submitted to the government**
- **28 research projects collaborated with universities**
- **1 statistical yearbook**
- **NBS Microdata Laboratory**

China Time Use Survey Yearbook

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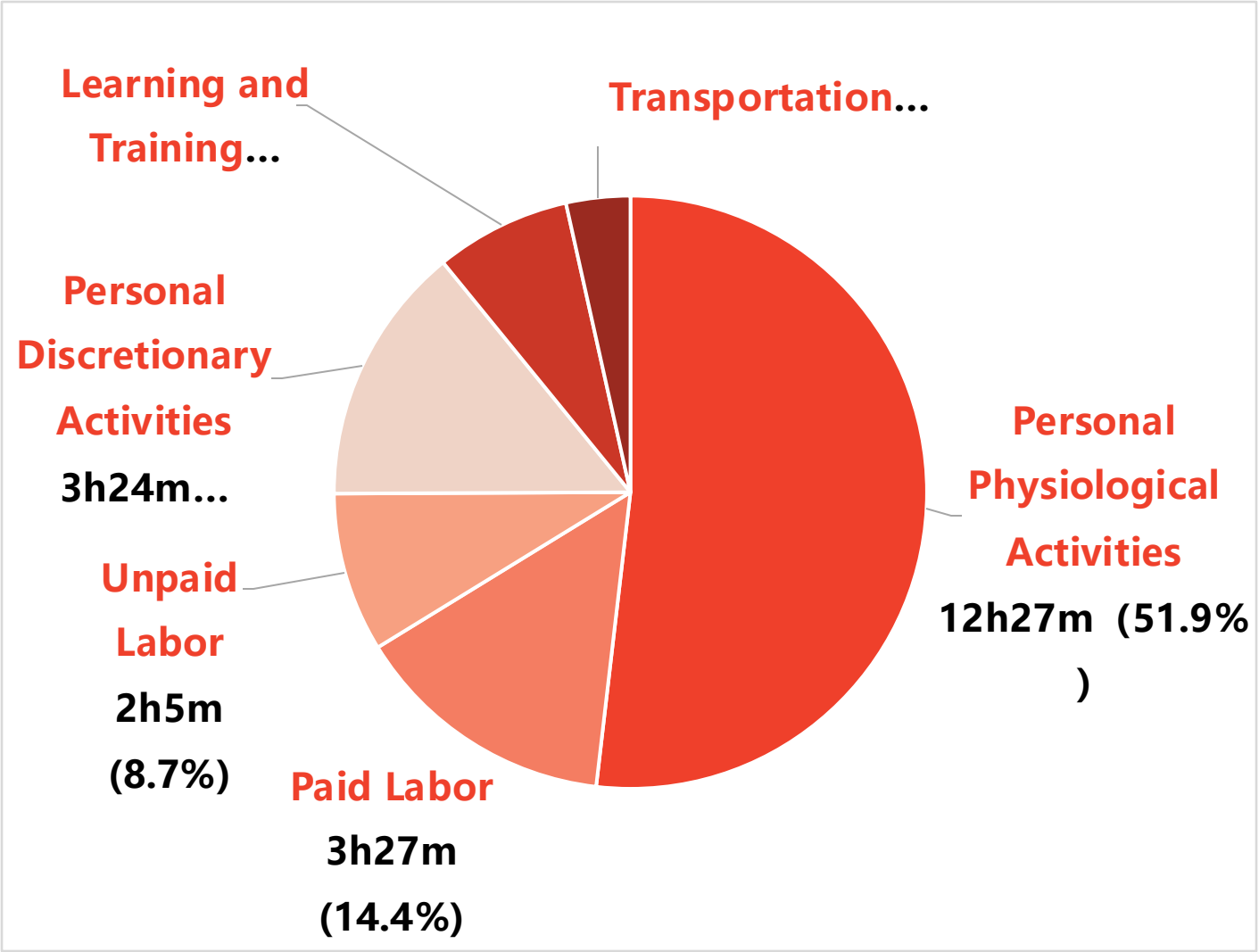
PART 03

Main Data Results of China's third National Time Use Survey

Main Data Results of 3rd TUS

(based on daily activities calculated over a 7-day week)



Residents' Time Allocation for a Day

Participants' Average Daily Time Use (Participation Rate)

- **Personal Physiological Activities: 12h27m(100%)**
- **Paid Labor:6h23m(54.1%)**
- **Unpaid Labor:2h45m(75.6%)**
- **Personal Discretionary Activities:3h30m(97.4%)**
- **Learning and Training:7h9m(25.1%)**
- **Transportation:1h2m(80.5%)**
- **Use of Internet: 6h3m(92.9%)**

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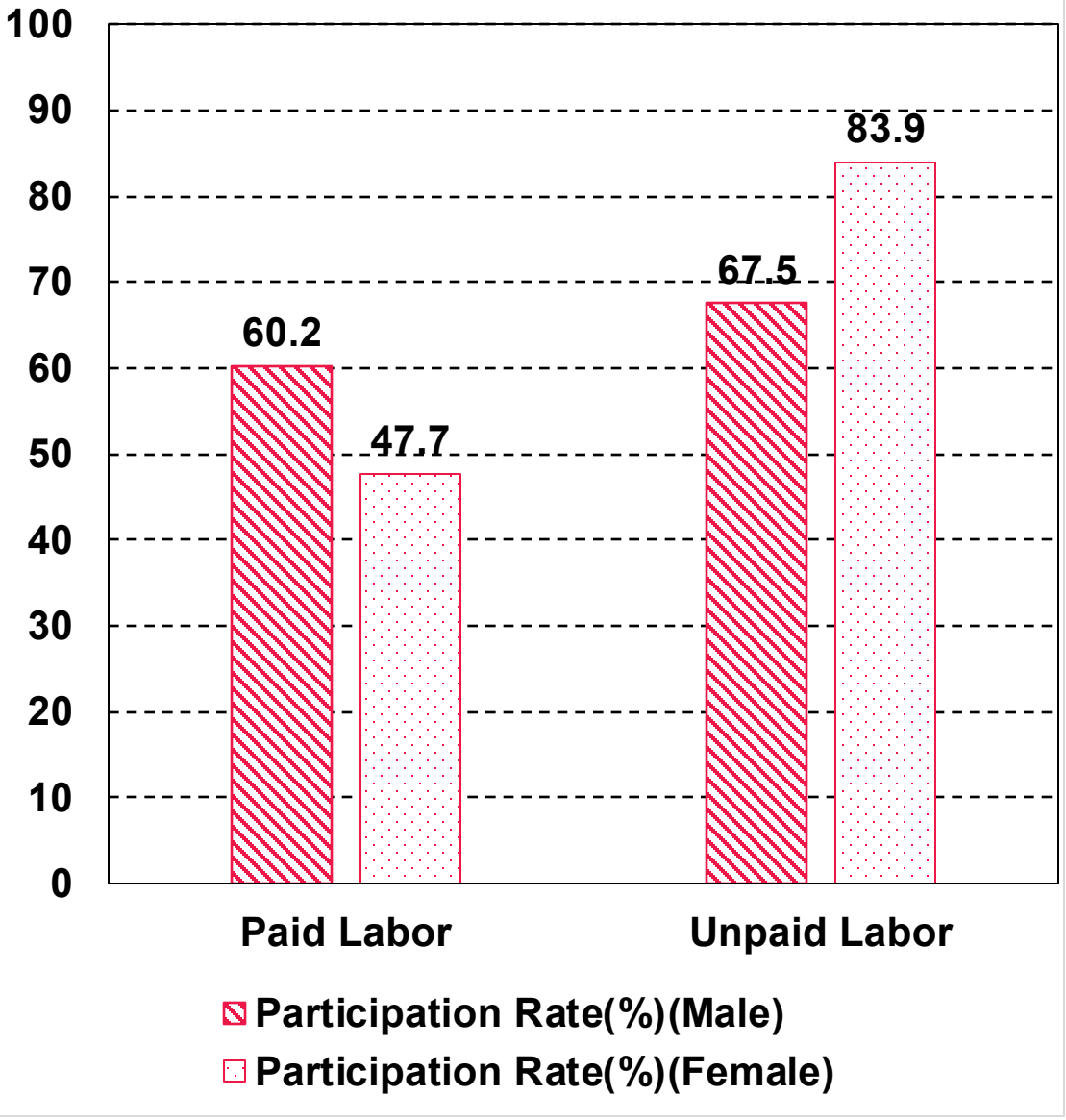
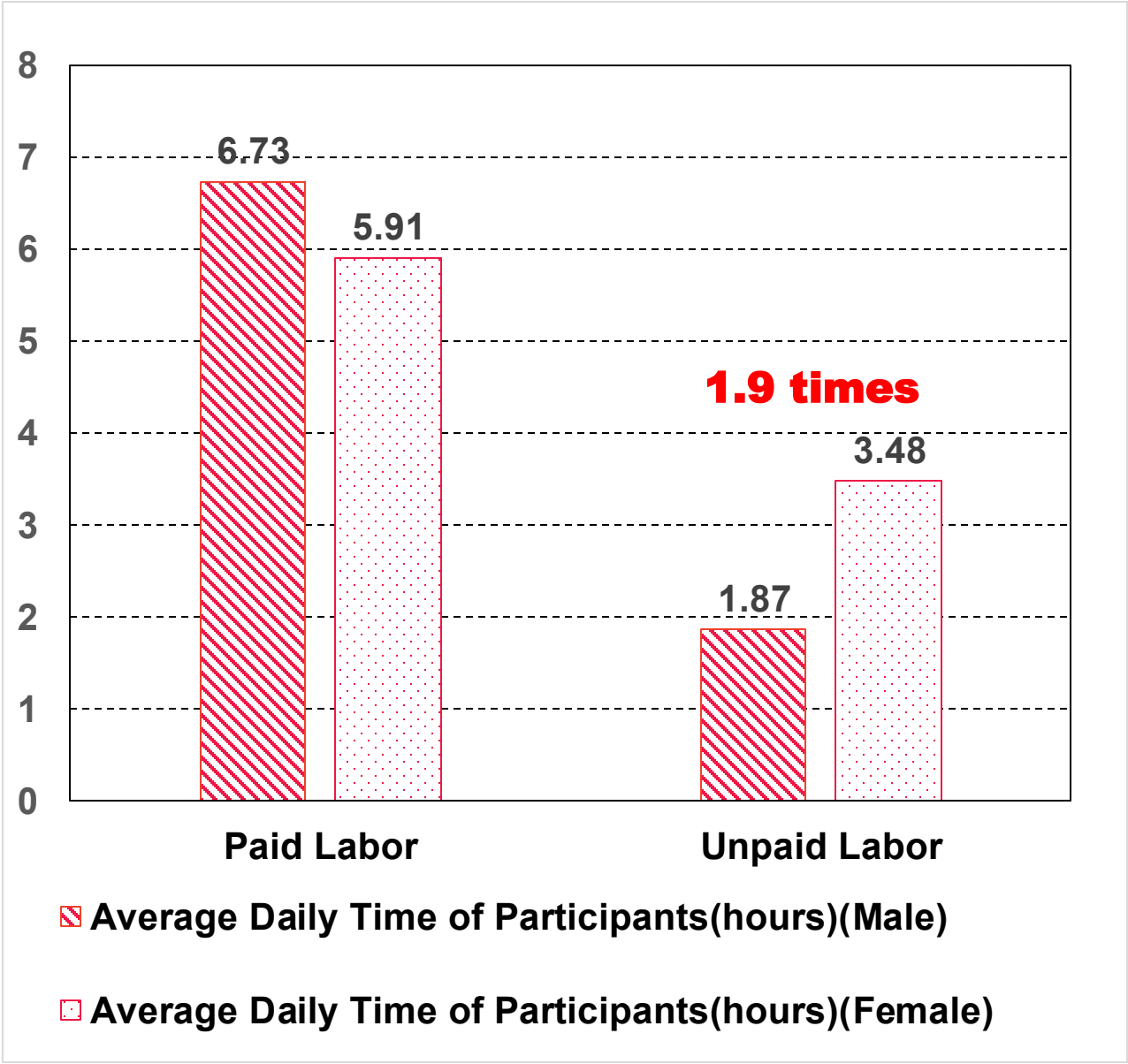
PART 04

Data Results of Paid and Unpaid Labor Time by Gender in China

Data Results of Paid and Unpaid Labor Time by Gender





Data Results of Unpaid Labor Time by Gender

- **Housework:**

2h27m (76.6%)(Female) vs. 1h21m (53.7%)(Male) 1.8 times

- **Accompanying and caring for family members**

2h1m (34.2%)(Female) vs. 1h24m (22.9%)(Male) 1.4 times

- **Gender gap in unpaid labor:**

2018: 1h48m
2024: 1h37m

11mins

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PART 05

Challenges and Next Steps in Better Collecting Time Use Data

Challenges

1. The reporting process takes a long time.
2. The cost of conducting surveys is relatively high.
3. The interval between surveys is relatively long.

Next Steps

01 **Improve the survey content and design.**

02 **Promote modern data collection methods.**

03 **Increase the frequency of surveys.**

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Thank you!

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