

Short update on national activities in gender statistics

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In the case of Brazil, the change of focus from a woman's approach to a gender approach is quite incipient. The national statistics institute has a very important role in facilitating this change. Demands for gender statistics are also growing in the country which makes necessary the production and dissemination of gender statistics. The fact that Brazil has now a woman in the Presidency of the country will help the growth of consciousness of the gender agenda. A few weeks ago, a woman, Dr. Wasmalia Bivar, was chosen by President Dilma Rouseff to be the new president of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics.

It is important to mention that there are experts in the academia producing studies in this field. Two important references in Brazil are: PAGU Institute from the State University of Campinas and IEG at the Federal University of Santa Catarina, which is responsible for an important gender related review¹.

In the structure of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, there is no specific area dedicated to gender statistics or gender activities. At the Division of Social Indicators of the Department of Population, we have been studying gender issues, more specifically the role of women in the labor market comparing to men, which is the main gender inequality in Brazil. There is no centralized coordination of gender statistics neither at the Institute nor at the government.

Our first experience on gender statistics was a publication with indicators on Census 2000 data. The goal of this effort was to support public policies at the federal level. The data was disaggregated by municipalities and disseminates in printed and CD-ROM format.

Since 2002, IBGE publishes a set of social indicators on women disseminated in a chapter of an annual official publication. These indicators are based on the national labor force household survey. It is a printed publication, including a CD-ROM. It is also possible to download the publication and tables at the IBGE website².

Nowadays we are also developing studies about time use with a gender perspective. Since 2009, our experts are participating at almost all events held by the International Association for Time Use Research (IATUR). The vice-president of this organization is Lara Gama, my colleague in IBGE.

In 2009, IBGE set up a pilot of a Time Use Survey in a sample of 10 thousand households. It is the first large scale experience of a time use survey in Brazil. Two instruments were used: paper diary

¹ <http://www.pagu.unicamp.br/>

Revista Estudos Feministas: http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_issues&pid=0104-026X

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<http://www.ibge.gov.br/home/estatistica/populacao/condicaodevida/indicadoresminimos/sinteseindicsociais2010/default.shtm>

(self report) and handheld computer (face-to-face interview). Time use will be a core topic in the regular schedule of IBGE's household surveys.

IBGE also participates in an inter-institutional committee called "Technical Committee on Gender Studies and Time Use" involving governments and international organizations such as the Secretariat on Policies for Women/SPM and Institute for Applied Economic Research/IPEA. This committee also has as permanent guests the International Labor Organization/ILO and UN Women.

One of the most important projects of IBGE in this moment is the development of an integrated system of household surveys. It includes the construction of a master sample which will present many advantages, such as sharing cost of listing and the execution of maps, a better knowledge of selected areas, the possibility to carry out richer analyses of results, besides the fact that new topics may be investigated in an easier way. Within this framework, it will be easier to investigate gender related topics. For instance, this system is being tested in October 2011 and we have already put a set of questions about the household head, which will provide inputs regarding women behavior. In all household surveys, IBGE does not have a criterion to select the household head, which brings difficulties to the analysis of relations within the household.

The set of questions to be tested:

The responsible person for the household is:

1. Only one resident
2. More than one resident

What is the main reason for selecting the person responsible for this household?

01. The person in whose name this house or apartment is owned
02. The person in whose name this house or apartment is rented
03. The person who pays the bulk of expenditure
04. The person who takes care of the household and the residents
05. The person who has the final word in major decisions for the residents
06. The person who is older
07. The person who has the higher income
08. The person who has the higher education
09. Because he is a man
10. Because she is a woman

On the subject of violence against women, IBGE has a partnership with the Secretariat of Policies for Women. This partnership is developing a research proposal to investigate at the city level, the existence and mandate of organisms responsible for policies for women, including the types of support to female victims of violence.

In the Technical Committee for Gender Studies (a 2-year project), we are developing a study on violence against women by first addressing the results of a research on victimization included in a supplement of 2009 PNAD (National Household Survey). A second goal in this project is to study international surveys experiences on violence against women to learn about sample size,

instruments and methodology, etc. We also intend to analyze the database of “central 180” which is a service proposed by the Secretariat of Policies for Women. This service is offered by SPM in order to receive complaints or reports of violence, complaints about the services network and to guide women on their rights and current legislation, directing them to services when needed. Besides the importance of the existence of a toll-free hot line, the service can be useful for gathering information to support policy designs, coping with violence. It may also help monitor the services provided by the network across the country. Currently, the database is updated monthly. Another step of this project is to evaluate the Manual of the United Nations on gender and violence with a national perspective.