

UNITED NATIONS

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC**



Distr.
LIMITED

LC/L.2058
19 March 2004

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF EXPERTS
ON TIME-USE SURVEYS**

Santiago, Chile, 11 and 12 December 2003

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. Place and date of the meeting

1. The Meeting of Experts on Time-use Surveys took place on 11 and 12 December 2003 at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, Chile.

2. Attendance

2. Experts from Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Spain and Uruguay were invited to attend, and also representatives of United Nations organizations such as the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

3. Background

3. This event was organized by ECLAC and was attended by professionals from various substantive divisions at headquarters in Santiago (Women and Development Unit, Social Development Division, Statistics and Economic Projections Division) and from the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean (Social Development Unit) and experts in the area. The event was sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

4. The aim of the meeting was to discuss and exchange experiences in the preparation of time-use surveys (TUS) with regard to both methodological and conceptual aspects, taking into account the main difficulties and problems in their development. An effort was also made to analyze their quantitative contributions to results processing and to recognize the advantages of conducting such studies, thus assisting with developing a greater awareness of time organization and of all forms of work and employment.

5. This activity was organized around three subject areas: experiences in conducting TUS and their results, the main difficulties in the methodological design of TUS and possible proposals and issues to be considered in TUS analysis and the challenges that arise in the formulation of public policies.

4. Method of work

6. Each session of work began with a presentation by experts. Their reports were structured as follows:

- (a) Conceptual framework
- (b) Methodological design
- (c) Application in the field
- (d) Lessons learned
- (e) Technical recommendations for conducting time-use surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean

7. This last item was the starting point for a debate with all of the panel participants, and a summary was made of the conceptual, methodological, technical, operational and institutional recommendations.

5. Organization of work

8. The work was organized as follows:

Opening session

CURRENT STATUS

- Cristina García Saíenz, Spain, Autonomous University of Madrid: "Encuestas de uso del Tiempo en España: aspectos conceptuales y metodológicos" [time-use surveys in Spain: conceptual and methodological aspects]

FIRST PANEL

- María Eugenia Gómez-Luna, Mexico, INEGI: unpaid work in the system of national accounts, an application of the time-use survey, the case of Mexico.
- María de la Paz López, UNIFEM-Mexico: methodological considerations on time-use surveys in Mexico, background and some results.
- María José Araya: an approach to time-use surveys with a gender perspective.
- Teresa Lara, Cuba, ONE: the time-use survey, the Cuban experience.

SECOND PANEL

- María Rosa Renzi, UNDP: Nicaragua, two experiences with time-use surveys, civil society and the government.
- María Luisa Rojas, Chile, SERNAM and Lylian Mires, Chile, INE: information on the use of time in Chile, contributions to a gender perspective.
- Cristina Carrasco, Spain, University of Barcelona: work times, between home and the market, new approaches to results analysis.
- Rosario Aguirre, Uruguay, University of the Republic: time-use surveys and unpaid work, Montevideo 2003.

CONCEPTUAL, METHODOLOGICAL, TECHNICAL, OPERATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Presentation of the experts' recommendations for conducting time-use surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Presentation by the Secretariat of the draft text of the recommendations
- Review of the final text of the recommendations

Closing session

6. Documentation

9. At the beginning of the meeting the following documents were distributed:

- *Entender la pobreza desde la perspectiva de género* [understanding poverty from the gender perspective - in process of translation]. Working document presented at the Meeting of Experts on Poverty and Gender Issues, held in Santiago, Chile, on 12 and 13 August 2003.
- Report of the Meeting of Experts on Poverty and Gender Issues, ECLAC, Santiago, Chile, 12 and 13 August 2003.
- *Uso del Tiempo de los y las nicaragüenses* [time use of Nicaraguan men and women]. Government of the Republic of Nicaragua and the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses.
- *Trabajo Productivo y Reproductivo en el Ecuador* [productive and reproductive work in Ecuador], a paper presented at the technical meeting on the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the measurement of poverty, La Paz, Bolivia, 23-25 September 2003.

10. The following documents were also made available to participants: *Mujer y desarrollo series No. 40, Violencia contra la mujer en relación de pareja: América Latina y el Caribe. Una propuesta para medir su magnitud y evolución* and *Mujer y desarrollo series No. 50, Un acercamiento a las Encuestas sobre el Uso del Tiempo con orientación de género*.

11. At the end of the meeting, those attending were given copies of the papers presented by each expert at the meeting and a draft text of recommendations for the application of time-use surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean. The papers presented at this meeting may be found on the web site: <http://www.eclac.cl/mujer>.

B. SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS

1. Opening session

12. The meeting began with an address by Juan Carlos Feres, Chief of the Social Statistics Unit in the Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC, which emphasized the increasing interest of developing countries in conducting time-use surveys in their respective populations. He also stressed the need to make progress in constructing a system of surveys that would be appropriate to the internal diversity of the countries in the region. It was important to develop a classification of activities in accordance with international criteria in order to define the time period for conducting TUS and to ensure that the results were comparable. In that connection, he indicated that the discussions at the meeting would provide proposals to improve the design of TUS.

13. Ms. Sonia Montaña, Chief of the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC, expressed appreciation for the presence of the experts and the collaboration of the United Nations Population Fund and also for the collaboration of the Statistics and Economic Projections Division and the support of the Social Development Division. In connection with the work that had taken place for the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas, once the results of the TUS had been analysed, a framework would be needed in order to take a new look at the concept of work and of time distribution, so that the unpaid domestic production of households could be taken into account. Although such work did not follow monetary logic, it did meet needs and did contribute to social reproduction. TUS were thus a source of analysis that was not only practical and descriptive, but also took account of time distribution from an analytical focus that contributed to the social and economic valuation of work that was undervalued in traditional economics and was viewed socially as a non-productive activity.

14. In connection with the recommendations relating to work and the economy made by the Statistical Commission and the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, an international classification of activities for time-use statistics was to be developed. Time-use surveys were a contribution which, in addition to generating awareness of the value of domestic work, would help to develop indicators that would help to improve the quality of life and spread awareness of the way in which paid and unpaid work was distributed in society. They would also help to generate data for developing and supporting the implementation of more effective public policies for reducing inequalities, using concepts that were appropriate to the diversity of situations of men and women.

15. Lastly, María del Carmen Feijoo, Liaison Officer for Argentina with the United Nations Population Fund, referred to the important relationship between employment and unpaid domestic labour, emphasizing the need to attach value to domestic and care activities. The TUS should provide an analysis that would help to understand gender inequality in its broadest sense, and not only instrumentally, in order to bring visibility to areas that had previously been hidden from social and economic indicators.

16. It was also important to exchange experiences in the formulation of TUS, at both the methodological and conceptual levels, taking into account the main difficulties and obstacles involved, in order to move forward with actions to propose common guidelines for the application of this type of survey in the region.

2. Analysis of TUS

17. With regard to the current status of TUS specifically in Latin America, they had been conducted not only in Cuba (in 2001, by the National Statistical Office) and Mexico (in 1996 and 1998 the TUS was included as a module of the National Survey of Household Expenditure, in 2002 there was the National Time-use Survey), but also in the Dominican Republic (at the national level in 1995), Nicaragua (as a module of the National Household Survey for Measuring the Standard of Living in 1998) and Guatemala (included as a module of the National Survey on Living Conditions in 2000).¹ A TUS was currently being carried out in Uruguay.

18. According to the report of the United Nations Statistical Commission, presented at its thirty-second session in 2001, data collection activities on time use had been either completed or initiated in 24 developing and 22 developed countries since 1995.

19. In 2000, the United Nations Statistics Division had provided technical assistance to China, Mongolia, South Africa, Thailand, Cuba, the Philippines and Guatemala for the holding of surveys, or through participation in regional conferences on time-use surveys. There was growing international interest in conducting time-use studies and a demand for obtaining cross-country comparable data, which indicated a need to develop standards in order to achieve internationally comparable research.²

¹ Cuba is one of the pioneer Latin American countries in applying TUS. Some examples of studies related to time use are: the national time budget survey, fourth quarter of 1985, INSEI-CEE; national time survey, June 1997, ONE. In the case of Mexico, although the two TUS used different methodologies, the experience helped to formulate the first national time-use survey, which was conducted by the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information (INEGI) in 2003.

² In "Progress of a project on gender issues in the measurement of paid and unpaid work", United Nations Economic and Social Council, Statistical Commission, thirty-second session, 6-9 March 2001.

20. In addition to the reference to the TUS applications mentioned, it was recognized in the discussion that social changes, particularly those relating to the area of work, such as women's increased participation in employment and the increase in female-headed households, and also the social and economic view of non-market activities, had been accompanied by profound changes in traditional family models and even in family relationships; the division of domestic labour by sex, however, remained unchanged.

21. In view of the new organization of spaces and times, there was an urgent need for conceptual and methodological tools that could adapt to the existing diversity, in order to cover the various forms of participation of individuals and particularly of women in society, and to recognize the specific features of each country in the region with a view to achieving a greater degree of gender equity and a higher level of social welfare.

22. In a study that was designed to gain information on the domestic labour structure within households, it was very important to consider the division of domestic labour by gender, as women and girls were known to perform the majority of such tasks. Gender had to be the first category for information analysis, in order to gain an understanding of how men and women distributed their time between domestic labour and other activities, and how their roles were differentiated by sex and by the different phases of the life cycle of family members.

23. Conceptual rigour should therefore be combined with a methodological design that took into account the gender perspective and, recognizing the situations of inequality in the composition of domestic labour, provided a more realistic view of social organization.

24. Time-use surveys appeared to be one of the most appropriate tools for contributing to making women's domestic labour within the household visible, as they would help to estimate the monetary value of domestic production and its relationship to the calculation of GDP, contributing to its value as a product. The production of goods and services that took place in the family sphere or which took place through unpaid labour was not accounted for in the System of National Accounts.

25. The implementation of TUS would provide knowledge about the changes and restructuring that took place as women entered the labour market, re-defining functions and gender roles within the family and, on a macro level, indicating the responsibilities that the State should assume.

26. Time-use studies could be multipurpose, providing information on how the population distributed its time according to different variables, showing the proportion of time allocated to which type of activity and for what purpose. Such surveys provided an information source that not only took account of inequitable situations, but also contributed to an awareness of the living conditions, activities and behaviours of individuals and their time distribution, which could help to visualize the kind of society that was being constructed.

27. There were thus significant aspects other than gender which were relevant to the analysis of the distribution of time and of paid and unpaid labour in view of their variation, for example, socioeconomic level, stage of the life cycle of the family group, and also the area of residence, urban or rural. The inclusion of those categories in the analysis helped to organize the information collected and enhanced the knowledge gained. It was a question of considering those aspects which were most significant with regard to inequalities in the composition of the different forms of work and employment, and in time distribution, in order to support the formulation of more efficient public policies with regard to the family, the gender balance, and the reduction of inequalities.

3. Presentations and debate

(a) The papers

28. The researcher and associate lecturer with the Autonomous University of Madrid, Cristina García Saínz, noted that time-use surveys were relatively new in Spain and had only been applied more widely since the beginning of the 1990s. The most significant included those carried out by the Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) and the Centre for Research on Social Reality (CIRES). In addition to those surveys, various research groups had carried out studies in the previous few decades to gain information on the time distribution of the Spanish population; as of 2002-2003, however, no official time-use survey had yet been conducted at the national level by INE (National Institute of Statistics). At present there the only surveys were those of the Basque Statistics Office (EUSTAT) and the recent time-use survey by the National Statistics Institute (INE).

29. In the mid-1990s a pilot study was carried out, in accordance with methodological criteria approved by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), but no national survey was carried out until October 2003. The first data from that survey were already available, and the definitive results were expected to be ready for the second quarter of 2004. Other organizations, such as the Institute of Women of the Ministry of Labour and autonomous community institutes, had undertaken time-use surveys. A team led by María de los Ángeles Durán was carrying out a project to include time use in the analysis of the social and economic structure, a CSIC survey (2003-2005) which included a state survey of the whole of the country and was subsidized by the Ministry of Science and Technology. The main objective of the project was to gain information on changes in and the status of performing unpaid work, observing the time distribution by activity, most of which related to the home, by sex, age, educational level, family and work status. The activities included were not arranged in a hierarchy, but simply subdivided into professional work, studies, voluntary work and domestic tasks, the latter being the main focus of the study. The interviewees were also asked to evaluate the economic and social prestige of domestic work.

30. The research has shown that the time distribution in Spain is unequal. One third is spent on paid work and two thirds on unpaid work. Spain is, together with Italy, one of the countries with the highest proportions of unpaid work in relation to the total work performed. Spain is also the country that has the largest proportion of women outside the labour market and unemployed. The type of survey to be carried out was directly related to the budget available, and only public organizations had the necessary economic and material resources to undertake a time-use survey and to apply the appropriate statistical tools.

31. The papers presented by the Mexican researchers Eugenia Gómez-Luna, Advisers' Coordinator, National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information (INEGI), and María de la Paz López, consultant with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), focused on describing the methodology used to compare unpaid domestic work in households in the framework of the 1993 System of National Accounts, with the results of the time-use survey conducted in Mexico in 1996 and 1998. For 1996, an inter-agency group prepared a questionnaire with a list of 27 possible options for activities; there were no questions about secondary activities. For 1998, an open questionnaire was used, in which the informant was requested to describe the activities carried out, in order to include more activities and not only the specific ones referred to in 1996. Although the two surveys used different methodologies, they were conducted as modules of the National Survey of Household Expenses, and so data were recorded on demographic characteristics, the occupation of household members, income, expenditure and household characteristics. Information was also obtained on income distribution and time use within the household by sex, age, family structure, and income and expenditure levels.

32. Those experiences contributed to the preparation of the first national time-use survey, which was undertaken by INEGI in 2002 for the purpose of recording the behaviour of women and men according to their employment status, educational level and civil status, so that the authorities would have information to facilitate inclusion of the gender focus in policy design.

33. Macrostatistics on unpaid domestic work were essential for understanding the link between the macro and the micro levels, through work; advantage should also be taken of national and international progress in theory and methodology, especially in services for self-consumption. It was thus important to realize that the macroeconomic measurement of unpaid domestic labour in households and TUS offered significant potential for the analysis and design of economic and social policies from an integral perspective.

34. In the context of a study published in the *Mujer y desarrollo* series, María José Araya referred to a comprehensive review of the implementation status of TUS carried out in Europe and in developing countries, emphasizing some general guidelines that had been considered in preparing the surveys, and also indicating the main United Nations recommendations with regard to harmonizing criteria. It was proposed in the study that the following issues be considered when analysing the structure of unpaid work in Latin America: (a) place of residence; (b) socioeconomic strata; (c) the gender variable; and (d) stages of the life cycle. That would make it possible to go beyond a comparison of the time allocated by men and women to performing various types of activities and to obtain more substantive and relevant information on inequalities in the composition of domestic labour. The information obtained would thus be of higher quality and comparable between countries, providing a basis for more effective public policies.

35. As for the joint work carried out by researchers from Chile, Lylian Mires, of the National Institute of Statistics (INE), and María Luisa Rojas, of the National Women's Service (SERNAM), referred to a study which had the aim of sounding public opinion as to the relationship between domestic-family responsibilities and work responsibilities, especially in the case of women who carried out paid work outside the home, in order to determine whether there was a contradiction between the two spheres of activity in relation to the sex of the individuals and to establish in what way both men and women had managed to deal with their responsibilities. Three levels of participation were distinguished for conducting the study: (a) senior responsible officer; (b) assistant; and (c) interviewer. The data from the interviewees were cross-referenced for variables such as sex, age, civil status, educational level, relationship to head of household and work status. There was a high percentage of participation by women, reflecting the fact that domestic-family responsibilities are mostly undertaken by women.

36. The representative of Cuba, Teresa Lara, Deputy Director General of the National Statistical Office (ONE), made a presentation on the process and the results of the time-use survey carried out by ONE in the municipalities of Pinar del Río, San Juan and Martínez, Habana Vieja, Bayamo and Guisa, with technical advice from the United Nations Statistics Division to ensure compliance with international criteria. The main objective was to obtain information from individuals on time use, in order to show the division of labour in the household and bring visibility to the unpaid work of women compared to that of men, in order to establish links with variables such as age, sex, educational level, economic situation and place of residence (urban or rural) and to carry out a cross-sectional analysis of the results with a gender focus. For this survey a self-completed questionnaire was used and three main groups of activities were defined: (a) relating to the production of goods and services within the boundary of the System of

National Accounts (SNA); (b) relating to the production of goods and services that are beyond the SNA boundary; and (c) activities not considered as productive of goods and services.³

37. The researcher emphasized that although the results of that experience were only characteristic and representative of the participating municipalities, some results were common to all and facilitated the measurement of women's contribution to the economic and social process, which was sufficient justification for a national-level survey.

38. María Rosa Renzi, Senior Economic Advisor and researcher with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and economic advisor with the regional office of UNIFEM in Mexico, described the experience of surveys in Nicaragua, one conducted by a civil society organization (FIDEG) in 1995-1996 and the other by the Government of Nicaragua in 1998, commenting on the results of both exercises and the patterns identified. The first TUS undertaken by the Government consisted of a module in the National Household Survey for Measurement of Living Standards (EMNV), which had a section on time use that applied to 50% of the total sample for that year's EMNV. The purpose of the module was to indicate how the division of labour manifested within Nicaraguan households, to test the hypothesis that men devoted themselves mainly to productive work and women to reproductive work, and that women, on entering the labour market, instead of being freed from reproductive work, were confronted with a double working day. The survey was conducted in order to investigate the main implications in terms of equality of opportunities and rights for men and women. The researcher also compared the information obtained in this study with the limitation of the concept of national accounts, which did not take into account the existing links and interrelationships between the monetary and non-monetary economy. The central idea was that traditional gender relations assigned domestic tasks to women without assigning them any economic value. Women's contribution to the economy was thus made invisible, and they were denied access to productive resources.

39. In the context of this research, the economic contribution of women in the area of reproduction could be made visible by designing adequate tools for an objective recording of the information collected in the field, so that women's work could be visualized as a tax that was paid for proper market functioning. The differences between men and women, with specific data related to macro variables, would thus facilitate a greater understanding of the lack of neutrality of macroeconomic policies.

40. Rosario Aguirre, researcher and lecturer with the University of the Republic of Uruguay, described that country's recent experience of conducting a survey on time use and unpaid work in Montevideo in 2003, for the purpose of quantifying in time the global burden of work (paid and unpaid) and the division of that burden between men and women, establishing the division of domestic and care work in households and analyzing the relationship between paid work and unpaid work. The study was undertaken in view of the need to construct indicators to consider the degree of asymmetry of gender relations in the family unit, as the general increase in female activity rates presented in new terms the issue of their family obligations and how they were shared, an issue that arose not only at the macro but also at the micro level, that is, within families.

41. Cristina Carrasco, researcher at the University of Barcelona, analysed information from two data sources: the first, referred to as a non-androcentric survey of the active population, held in Barcelona in 2000, was designed to obtain as much information as possible concerning all the activities carried out by individuals in a household and to analyse the interrelationships and limitations among such activities,

³ In view of the high literacy rate, which is over 96% of the population, a self-administered questionnaire was possible.

studying in particular the differences and inequalities between men and women.⁴ The survey structure was a response to the need to consider the different meanings of time and not only to emphasize the quantitative aspect, in order to cover the more qualitative aspects of time, those most proper to the feminine experience relating to the life cycle and the related care for individuals. The second data source used was the Barcelona regional survey of the population's living conditions and habits, conducted in 2000 in the metropolitan area of Barcelona. The survey was an extensive questionnaire on the economic and social characteristics of the population and included a few questions relating to time use.

42. The presentation focused on the new efforts made in results processing, especially in relation to the surveys mentioned. The following was suggested as a focus for analysis: the interrelationship of time allocated to the different activities of family members and the interrelationship between the different activities, showing that some activities took place simultaneously and remained hidden as they were not registered as main activities. That showed another of the characteristics of work in the family home: its intense nature, that is, the intensity of the work in the sense of having to perform one task rapidly after another, or both simultaneously, including multiple and diverse activities. The most significant differences between men and women arose when considering the number of hours allocated to work in the family home, as the unemployed female population allocated twice as many hours as the unemployed male population and women that worked part-time allocated three times as many hours as men.

43. A new approach to the study of time organization was suggested, based on the methodology of hour bands, which could be used to reconstruct a day in the life of an individual and thus served to study gender differences in greater depth in relation to time organization and distribution, in particular time allocated to the labour market and to family domestic work. In that analysis, not only the degree of flexibility of each individual—that is, their availability of time and their versatility when combining different tasks within the same space of time—was observed, but also whether there were hour bands where the different household members could establish their relationships, or whether their schedules turned out to be to some extent incompatible. The hour-band analysis could be used to describe the work profile of women and men, reflecting the different behaviour of each sex: men focused on the labour market and women sharing their time between the two kinds of work. Indexes were also constructed in an effort to measure not only the inequality of women with men in the labour market, but also that of men in relation to women in domestic family work, which were also where the greatest inequalities were usually found. That type of methodological approach was thus proving fertile for analysis of the time organization of individuals in the household considered as a whole.

(b) Points of consensus

44. The experts agreed that the models traditionally used to analyze work focused on employment and not on unpaid domestic labour within the household, which was usually performed by women and girls. The issue was accordingly presented in terms of accounting, as value was assigned to activities that took place outside the home and not to those that took place within the home. Domestic work had remained invisible in the official statistics because the concept of production had been confused with market production, and labour with employment, so that any production of goods and services that took place within the family or as a result of unpaid work was not considered as work.

45. In that connection there was a consensus with regard to conducting regular time-use studies in order to measure unpaid work in quantitative terms, so that the intensity of domestic work could be

⁴ This survey was held in the context of a research project subsidized by the Women's Institute (Madrid) and carried out by a team from the University of Barcelona, led by Cristina Carrasco.

measured, as activities performed simultaneously could be quantified. It was important to include both paid and unpaid primary and secondary activities.

46. It was emphasized that time-use studies with a gender orientation were a step that had to be taken in the effort to develop public policies that were capable of generating the economic and social valuation that was needed in order to integrate women into society. In that connection it would be interesting to establish cross references between information on domestic work and data on income and expenditure distribution, to examine power relations and decision-making within the family.

47. A conceptual viewpoint was needed that could include times and all forms of work in a single analysis which would not be purely instrumental and descriptive, but which could also show what was happening with the times of the labour market and those of domestic work.

48. One kind of work that could be undertaken in the countries in order to contribute to generating appropriate public policies would be to publicize the intrinsic value of domestic work, which would initially involve an estimate of its magnitude in quantitative terms, and a comprehensive study of the distribution of both paid and unpaid activities. It was therefore important to encourage such studies in order to stimulate debate and to evaluate previous experiences.

49. The experts recognized the need for a change of perspective in the statistical culture in order to understand the concept of gender not simply as one more category for a descriptive focus in TUS, but also as an epistemological concept, respecting the different characteristics of the persons studied. The concept of "otherness" was thus incorporated, and a broad conceptual analysis was encouraged that considered new categories appropriate to the reality to be measured, in order to achieve a cross-cutting analysis. It was not a question of homogenizing, or of changing cultural aspects that determined kinds of behaviour; the standardization should not result in a loss of information with regard to the diversity of each country, but rather the process of harmonization between different information collection tools was desirable to the extent that it facilitated inter-country comparisons.

50. In that connection, there was agreement on the need to include indicators to provide more specific information on gender roles in different situations and in turn to broaden the classification of activities for time use.

51. It was important to establish criteria for international harmonization, to adopt methodological designs and to develop appropriate standards to develop a classification of activities for time-use statistics, which were organized, complete and compatible with the economic activity classifications and which had the capacity to generate country-comparable information, while considering the individual characteristics of each. A methodological design was needed that could adapt to the particular features of each sector, while maintaining a general approach that helped to understand the panorama of paid and unpaid work in the region.

52. The main difficulties to be taken into account in the Latin American situation were the high percentages of illiteracy in the population, the difficulty of access to rural areas, which increased implementation costs, and the diffuse assimilation of time in hours in rural areas, which required consideration of industrial time, country time and domestic time, in a new configuration of times and spaces. Another difficulty was the limited access to up-to-date technology and limited resources.

53. Taking the above issues into account, pilot tests for urban and rural areas were recommended, in order to improve the implementation tool, estimate costs and evaluate the interviewer training programmes.

54. In summary, the theoretical points of consensus had to be transferred to the practical arena, in order to establish what kind of methodology was more appropriate for the construction of TUS and in what way domestic and paid work were distributed in society and to make progress in specific actions to promote the social and economic recognition of unpaid work. This would be of benefit to governments and to institutions as the data and practical information would be provided that was needed for the analysis and implementation of targeted public policies.

(c) Main difficulties and issues for debate

55. On the basis of the experiences mentioned, certain methodological difficulties were apparent which prevented the proper application of TUS in the region. The first problem was the length of the questionnaires, which often meant that the information obtained was not very useful for the purposes of the study, while the cost of the survey was increased. Another issue was the coding of activities, which was a very complex task. When open questionnaires were used, each action mentioned by the interviewee had to be coded, sometimes with unnecessary repetition of information. There was also the issue of time measurement units.

56. It was very important to consider what would be the most useful and efficient type of methodology for application in the developing countries. A definition was needed to indicate whether the time-use survey was proposed as a module in another survey or whether it was to be implemented as an independent survey, with its own recurrence period and/or whether it was part of the regular programme of official surveys. It seemed preferable for such surveys to be considered sufficiently important to be carried out independently, and that a fixed period be established in order to allow follow-up and comparison over the same time periods.

57. The debate focused on the construction of a system whereby the survey would be included within a general survey on household characteristics, and distribution of income and expenditure, so that the TUS would be included as a module and applied to a sub-sample of families selected from the sample of the household survey. Thus, data on socioeconomic level, stage of the life cycle and place of residence would be collected only once; also, the survey would collect only data and information referring to the time allocated to different types of activities, with the advantage that the structure would be briefer, simpler to apply and less costly.

58. In this connection, the Household Satellite Accounts (HAS) were presented as an option that could account in economic terms for the scale of unpaid domestic work. The aim was to estimate the monetary value of domestic production and its relationship to the GDP calculation, thus contributing to its valuation as a product and to generating information that was comparable with the other national aggregates, in order to obtain an additional accounting system that used statistical data to reflect the complexity of economic activity.

59. Another option suggested was to compare the TUS data with the results of employment, work, and living-standard surveys, as it would be interesting to relate the data on domestic work to information on income and expenditure distribution, and time and work distribution.

60. It was proposed that a time-use and work survey be conducted in order to measure the global burden of work of household members. Information could be collected on both paid and unpaid work within the household.

61. Another reason to account for domestic labour was connected with the allocation of fiscal budget resources, as not all policies, plans and programmes incorporated gender issues. Obtaining a global panorama of how work was distributed within the home in relation to the income level and other variables was a way of gaining knowledge about the social reality within the household, and on that basis family policies could be proposed that aim at a more equitable distribution of activities.

62. Recognizing that each TUS had its own special features in accordance with the objectives established, the place of application, the characteristics of the population and the resources for its financing, and also bearing in mind the efforts made in the conceptualization and methodological designs of the TUS, the experts indicated that there was still a long way to go in terms of achieving accounting systems that reflected the panorama of unpaid domestic work in each country, especially with regard to obtaining internationally comparable data. It was essential to continue to reflect on the different methodological designs, the definition of the type of questions (closed or open), the choice of questionnaires (use of one or more diaries for data collection, which could be filled in by the interviewer or self-completed, and in which more than one member of each family could participate), sample size, activities coding, the time period allowed for conducting the survey and processing of the results.

63. The issues for debate were considered as reference points for developing a set of recommendations for conducting TUS in Latin America that were representative in each country. It was also recognized that, apart from the high implementation cost, the first requirement was to work on establishing a clearer priority of issues.

C. CONCEPTUAL, METHODOLOGICAL, TECHNICAL, OPERATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

64. The participants in the Meeting of Experts on Time-use Surveys, held in Santiago, Chile on 11 and 12 December 2003, adopted the following recommendations:

1. Conceptual recommendations

1. To draft a document on the state of the art, showing the extent and limitations of the different methodological approaches to time-use measurement and including the lessons learned in countries where TUS have already been implemented, the main results and details of unit costs. This document could also include complementary information collected in the income, expenditure and living-standards surveys, offering possible alternative methods that include modules, according to the specific circumstances of the country.
2. To reach a common conceptual, and not only practical, framework, on the measurement of unpaid work and to refine a methodological approach to consider the issue of simultaneous tasks which are mainly carried out by women. It is a question of offering new perspectives for analysis in order to demonstrate that some significant activities are carried out simultaneously.

3. To give special attention to the definition of objectives, the formulation of concepts, and methodological development as the most significant aspects of the TUS implementation process, as the model that is established and applied can be used to interpret the results as a simple quantitative description of behaviours or can also be used to generate multivariate analysis, in order to integrate new elements that are needed in time measurement, and to contribute to generating information that is dynamic, less androcentric and less market-dependent, in the effort to achieve more egalitarian models.
4. To concentrate on a basic set of questions to be included in the time-use or living-standards surveys in order to relate time use to other issues, in order to save costs and to provide periodic follow up to the topics. The data offered by a time-use diary should be complemented by two kinds of information: (a) a survey that helps to consider aspects that are not reflected in time use (organization, management); and (b) a report on subjectivities, using a qualitative methodology that covers specific and individual issues and the ways in which people perceive their use of time. It is therefore recommended that quantitative surveys used in time-use studies be complemented with qualitative methods (in-depth interviews, personal histories, case studies).
5. To refine the conceptual and methodological focus. On the conceptual level, to make progress in the operational definition of other variables, particularly with regard to simultaneous activities, in order to be able to operate with new concepts that cover the diversity of situations in which women and men are operating. At the methodological level, to introduce a change in the formulation, in the sense that it is not sufficient to add the gender variable but that new categories have to be created that are appropriate to the reality that is to be measured, which implies in turn a change in category rankings and new orientations for interpreting results, in order to show up situations of inequality.
6. To give priority to the results and see processes which include new analysis objectives and capacity.
7. To evaluate the advisability of interviewing each member of the household or of selecting one member at random, which would help to shorten the interview time and increase the number of households.
8. To call for time-use surveys to be implemented in a progressive form that will allow modules to be added in order to cover a broader range of subjects. A survey system needs to be constructed.
9. To convene the countries to a meeting for review of activity classifications in order to work on the development of a classifying instrument that includes a broader and more complete taxonomy, considering domestic work as part of unpaid work, and making progress towards an integral vision in the operational definition of the variables that have to be taken into account in the TUS, which should be taken into account in the regional context.

2. On the implementation of the time-use surveys

10. To reaffirm the importance and the need for countries to conduct independent time-use surveys, on a periodic basis that is part of the regular programme of official surveys carried out by the national statistical offices.

11. To take into account the dates on which information is collected.
12. To increase the efforts to interpret other surveys, for example the active population surveys which include time-use diaries and the time and work surveys, in order to gain more information on the organization of labour market times and household times. The aim is to observe how we live and how we work in order to achieve a greater degree of gender equity and a higher level of social well-being.
13. In addition to the periodic survey of the use of time (without reference to the place), to consider including specific modules in the household and living- and working-conditions surveys, in order to focus and provide information that is needed on voluntary work, domestic tasks and care provided for children, older adults, the sick, and/or dependent adults. This means including specific sections on time use in the integrated survey systems of other permanent surveys, in order to assign value to unpaid domestic work, and to support public policy formulation.
14. This would also make it possible to provide information that is vital to the follow-up on issues relating to the labour market structure, family arrangements and the social welfare systems which are part of the mandates for research received by United Nations organizations in the region. In this connection it was recommended that ECLAC expand the information sources considered in its studies in order to support this need.
15. To accompany the measurement of time use and unpaid work with a measurement of the forms of paid work, by including dimensions that take account of recent changes in the labour market, such as greater working flexibility, work at home, teleworking and flexible working hours. There was also emphasis on the need to consider the 24-hour cycle in order to observe the disruption that is caused to families by the large variety of working arrangements that are emerging.
16. To divide the time-use surveys into two main groups, in accordance with the conceptual framework: (a) identification of gender inequities within the home which are not visible in the public area and (b) measurement of unpaid work and its inclusion in the National Accounts.

3. On promotion and training activities

17. To request ECLAC and the academic centres in the region to make active promotional efforts to encourage the implementation of time-use surveys.
18. To request ECLAC to develop possible alternative methods, so that the countries feel that their difficulties and limitations are being taken into account. This would require the preparation of a document on the state of the art, to be presented at the regional meeting to be convened by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and by the Regional Conference on Women.
19. To request the Statistics Division and the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC to organize a regional-level technical meeting on the topic for producers and users of information, in the spirit of the two technical meetings on gender indicators held in the previous biennium, in the framework of the work programme of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.
20. Taking into account that a very significant aspect of such technical meetings is the exchange of experiences between producers of statistics and users of the information, to carry out follow-up

work with a view to transferring this exchange to the countries and to an implementation of the TUS that is more efficient and timely in terms of the results and the analysis, which may also reduce costs and encourage a greater use of resources. This requires an understanding between both parties that will help both with maintaining technical parameters and with transmitting in a clear and transparent manner the interests of the specialized organizations, researchers and teachers.

21. With the support of academic institutions, to increase and strengthen the analytical capacity of producers and users of time-use research with a gender focus.
22. To analyze technical aspects relating to TUS processing and analysis. It is suggested that ECLAC provide consultancy services in this connection, as it has done in the case of censuses.

4. Institutional strengthening

23. To request ECLAC to organize and disseminate the parameters that would enable the countries to make use of the information obtained from time-use research and enable the national statistical offices to carry out the necessary follow-up work so that such efforts will have a real impact on their surveys.
24. To generate regional research on time use in conjunction with the national women's offices.
25. To strengthen the coordination and cooperation of the national statistical offices with the national women's offices and to encourage inter-agency work in the national-level implementation and processing of TUS, which will also facilitate a greater use of the information and a more efficient use of resources.
26. To encourage closer contact between ECLAC and the offices responsible for national accounts with a view to producing new methodologies for collecting information to be used in developing satellite accounts as an element of national accounting, in order to move forward in the debate concerning the inclusion of unpaid domestic work in a satellite account and also in the set of macroeconomic indicators which reflect macro stability and balance, but not a comprehensive vision of socio-economic progress.

5. Dissemination

27. To disseminate to the mass media and to the institutions responsible for public-policy formulation the results of TUS in the countries where they have been held, in order to provide interested parties with information that will enhance their understanding of their country's situation.
28. To disseminate national and international conceptual and methodological progress, in order to make progress towards a standardization that would facilitate a quantification in time of the global work burden (paid and unpaid) and the division of this burden between women and men.

Annex 1

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