ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC VALUATION OF WOMEN'S INVISIBLE HOUSEHOLD WORK: EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF GUJRAT DISTRICT

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Abstract

This research takes women's invisible work or hidden work into consideration and tries to analyze its economic value. Present research conducted in the Gujrat district of Punjab Pakistan. A triangulation method used to collect data from 286 female respondents was selected through the purposive sampling technique for this study. The economic value is analyzed by using the third person method. The results showed that women perform unpaid household tasks for seven hours a day. The economic value of that work is Rs 539 in a day. A woman performs a lot of household chores that are supposed to be her responsibility. She is making an effort to provide a peaceful and comfortable environment to make her home worth living. The present study suggested a convention on women workers and should develop a national policy to recognize the unpaid work of women and should adopt appropriate legislation and provide safety nets for them.

Keyword: Cultural barriers, Economic values, Household work, Unpaid work, Working women

INTRODUCTION

The word work is normally linked to the males i.e. tasks done by the males in the offices. On contrary, the work done by females at their home without any cost or pay in return is not regarded as work (Stamarski & Hing, 2015). In the words of Weiss, the impression of

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work is allied mostly with the males, dominant in the public world, who work to earn living. Within the private worlds of family or relations, all the daily chores done by the females are not regarded as work. For decades work has been defined as activities against which someone is paid off. When talking about what actually work is, the common phenomenon is that something which is hard, requires effort and paid in return (Weiss, 1960).

Most of the time of women, especially in a country like Pakistan, is spent doing household chores. They are not supposed to take part in economic activities and earn living instead they are confined to their homes. According to Urdinola (2017), males allocate most of their time to labor market activities, leisure, and sleep. Women, on the other hand, dedicate excessively more time to unpaid domestic housework. 35% to 50% of total work time is spent on unpaid non-SNA work (Antonopoulos, 2009; Hirway, 2011), it consists of daily errands for household maintenance like cleaning, cooking, shopping for own household, washing, etc. Care work like care of children, the sick, disabled and others that need care, and unpaid voluntary services. International Labour Organization (ILO) uses the term "workers with family responsibilities" for household unpaid workers (Heymann, 2004).

Women are an important part of society which plays their part in the best way to serve society. This study aims to focus on the work done by the women, which remains hidden or invisible in many aspects, and there is a strong need to address this lack of recognition. If this invisible work will be given an economic value it can greatly add up to the country's Gross Domestic Product.

LITERATURE REVIEW

All the routine tasks of women like cleaning, cooking, looking for children or treating sick people remain extracted from the category of work and normally invisible to the society. Arlene Kaplan has used the terms "non-productive workers" or "displaced

homemakers" for the women working at home. The remunerations and rewards received in return for the work done is the symbol of being important and worthy in the society (Ferree, 1976).

The reasons for the exclusion of UW from the edge of national income do not appear to be reasonable or valid. This paper argues that eliminating UW from national income shows the supremacy of patriarchal principles and brings male bias into macroeconomics (Hirway, 2015). According to the SNA document the five sectors that make up the total economy, the household is one of them (Salamon, 2010).

However, because the unpaid workers (mostly women) are engaged in their daily household chores so they are not able to take part in productive work, as a result, their participation rate in the labor market decline. It lowers the whole workforce in the economy (Hirway 2008). Due to the daily errands, a noteworthy figure of women does not take part in the labor pool. As this is not the most advantageous use of labor in the market, it is a loss to the macroeconomy (Ostry, 2014).

This research takes women's invisible work or hidden work into consideration and tries to analyze its economic value. Whatever a woman is doing at home, her routine daily chores are regarded as invisible work. Some scholars have also used the term "Non-Productive work" for women's invisible work. This study is focusing on assigning economic value to women's work and tries to find out how much a woman will be paid if she will perform all tasks of home outside in a marketplace or if she hires someone else for all her tasks then how much that person will take. To examine the economic valuation of women's invisible work.

METHODOLOGY

The total population of Gujarat according to the latest census of Pakistan is 2,048,008 of which 1022000 are female (Gop, 2017).

Through purposive sampling, technique data was collected from 286 female respondents, by using a mixed-method approach. The analysis starts with time-use surveys that measure the amount of time household members spend on a range of activities, to be included in this analysis, activities must satisfy a "third-party criterion," meaning that one could pay someone else to perform them (Bhat, 1999). The next step is to attribute a monetary value to the time spent providing care and household services. This is done by multiplying the time spent on each household task by the average wage for the same type of work in the market (Donehower, 2017). On the whole, it was analyzed from the collected data that women spend 7 hours per day doing household tasks that remain invisible. It shows that women spend 29% of per day doing household tasks. The economic value per hour is 77 Rs. The qualitative data were collected by using one-day diary observation. The dairy design was adapted by using guidelines given by Henz (2017). One weekday is taken from observation and the whole day was divided into shorter time intervals of 1 hour, starting from 04:00 am till 04:00 am of the next morning. The unpaid working hour per day, according to quantitative data was 7 hours per day, and the economic value for the 1-day unpaid working hour is Rs 539. According to qualitative data analysis, time spent on the unpaid working hour is 6 hours and 35 min and the economic value for that unpaid working hour is Rs 500.41. It can be observed from both values of qualitative and quantitative data that results are near to each other. Qualitative data results support the results of quantitative data. The concepts involved in this study are unpaid household work and Economic value. A questionnaire used to collect data was adapted by Pakistan Time Use Survey 2007 (Pakistan, 2007) and American Time Use Survey Questionnaire 2011-16 (America, 2016). The reliability test shows that Cronbach's Alpha value of unpaid work is 0.936 which is within the range of acceptable value. The value of Cronbach Alpha for economic value with 9 items is 0.942.

RESULTS

The examination begins with time-utilize studies that measure, the measure of time family individuals spend on a scope of exercises. To be incorporated into this examination, exercises must fulfill an "outsider basis," implying that one could pay another person to perform them. The following stage is to credit a financial incentive to the time spent giving consideration and family benefits. This is finished by duplicating the time spent on every family assignment by the normal wage for a similar kind of work in the market (Donehower, 2017).

Demographic Data

Data shows that from total respondents 286, 20% of the respondents 57 were working women, and the rest i.e. 80% i.e. 229 were full-time housewives. Moreover, data shows that 42 respondents were having 1 kid i.e. 14%, 51 respondents were having 2 kids i.e. 18%, 112 respondents were having 3 kids i.e. 39% and 81 of them were having more than 3 kids i.e. 29%. Furthermore, data highlights that 22 out of the total respondents were living with 3 individuals that are 8 %, 34 of them were living with 4 individuals at home i.e. 12%, 75 respondents were living with 5 individuals i.e. 26% and 155 respondents were living with more than 5 individuals i.e. 54%. It was observed that females that have to take care of larger families were doing more invisible working hours than those who were living with fewer individuals. The following (Table:1) is giving the details of demographic data.

Table 1: Shows the Demographic Data

S#	Activity Status	No. of respondents
1	Working Women	57
2	Housewife	229
Total		**286**
	No. of Children	**No. of respondents**
1	1	42
2	2	51
3	3	112
4	More than 3	81
Total		**286**

Source: Study Survey-2018

Unpaid Working Hours of Women

The diary observations were taken from 71 respondents as one forth of 286. The data was selected for the further validity of quantitative data. The data was saturated till 35 entries and were used for further analysis. From the diary observations, the amount of time was concluded that women spend on unpaid household work. The economic value was estimated by multiplying the number of unpaid hours by the average wage for that task.

 After the analysis of dairy observations, it was observed that the most common task that every woman perform during her daily routine are: Preparing meals, cleaning dishes, doing laundry, filling water bottles, Shopping related to house management, Garden care, and child care. The unpaid working hour per day, according to quantitative data was 7 hours per day, and the economic value for the 1-day unpaid working hour is Rs 539. According to qualitative data analysis time spent on unpaid working hours is 6 hours and 35 min and the economic value of that unpaid working hour is Rs 500.41The details of each task are given in the table below:

Table 2: Shows the Number of Unpaid Hours

Household tasks	Time spent	Wage per hour in Rs	Economic Value
Preparing meal	2hours 30 min	85	212.5
Clearing dishes	1hour 10 min	80	93.33
Laundry	1hour 25 min	80	113.33
Child care	40 min	96	64
Filling water bottle	15 min	19	4.75
Gardening	15 min	22	5.5
Shopping	20 min	21	7
Total	6 hours 35 min		Rs 500.41

Source: Study Survey-2018

Economic value of unpaid hours

On the whole, it was analyzed from the collected data that women spend 7 hours per day doing household tasks that remain invisible. It shows that women spend 29% of per day doing household tasks. The economic value per hour is Rs. 77.

Table 3: Economic value of unpaid work

	Invisible Working Hours	Economic Value
Per Day	7 hours	539 Rs
Per Week	49 hours	3773 Rs
Per Month	210 hours	16170 Rs
Per Year	2555 hours	1,96,735 Rs

Discussion

This study was conducted to analyze the EV of UHW. For that purpose, literature was searched and read in-depth. There are a lot of tasks that a woman performs in her routine day. All those efforts of women remain invisible and remain unrecognized in society.

Many countries have started recognizing those efforts of women and include their economic value in GDP calculations. This increases their GDP level. It is assessed that if unpaid care work were appointed money-related esteem it would make up in the vicinity of 10 and 39 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Be that as it may, it is for the most part unrecognized and underestimated by policymakers and lawmakers (Stuart, 2014).

This research is in the context of Pakistan and tries to estimate the economic value of the work done by women. Women perform a variety of tasks from that task some important ones are taken into consideration. The tasks included in this study are preparing meals, clearing dishes, laundry, cleaning and dusting of the house, gardening, and child care, filling water and shopping for groceries. These activities are selected as they are the most commonly used task mentioned in previous research.

CONCLUSION

This study is the first of its kind in Pakistan, as up till now there is no research conducted to find out the economic value of women's unpaid household work. It will help the policymakers and the government design and implement policies that can help in recognizing the women's efforts towards the economy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Convention on women workers be conducted that should develop a national policy to recognize the unpaid work of women and should adopt appropriate legislation and provide safety nets for them.

2. If the unpaid contributions of women and men are properly recognized through social and economic policy by implicating regulations and institutions that must bring structural change in our society.

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