

Time Allocation Pattern across Region and Gender: A case study of Pakistan

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Introduction

The locus of most economic decision-making are Households which plays its role as producers, investors and consumers.

Allocation of time to various activities is persuaded by economic and non economic factors which varies by gender of the individual members, particularly the gender division of household work/chores, is a useful indicator to assess social norms.

Time is a scarce resource. Time is usually divided in three main activities (1) labor market time (2) household production time and (3) Consumption time – include leisure time as well.

Objectives

To assess the allocation of time for different



Table 1. Average Working and Non Working Hours/week by AgeGroup

	10-14	15-25	26-45	46-60
Paid Working Hours				
Male	40 (2037)	50(17045)	52(27940)	51(11293)
Female	35(1234)	37(5456)	37(8323)	35(2895)
Unpaid Working Hours				
Male	12(14)	10(29)	11 (17)	7(15)
Female	9 (714)	11 (3100)	12 (5088)	12(1539)
Non Working Hours				
Female	25(2097)	38(14671)	46(22369)	35(7034)

Empirical Results

Table 2: OLS estimation for Paid Market Hours

DV: Paid Working Hours/week	Male	Female
Age	$1.014^{*}(0.000)$	0.564* (0.000)
Age ²	-0.013* (0.000)	-0.007* (0.000)
Married	-0.021 (0.907)	-3.425* (0.000)
Widow/Divorce	-1.417* (0.008)	-4.826* (0.000)
Education Years	0.073* (0.000)	0.158* (0.000)
Household size	-0.129* (0.000)	-0.034 (0.163)
Household Head	-0.359** (0.035)	3.229* (0.000)
Dummy		
Semi Skill	0.983* (0.000)	-8.516* (0.000)
Technician	-0.764* (0.002)	-0.711 (0.440)
Professional	-4.904* (0.000)	-6.235* (0.000)
Wages in Rs.	-0.019* (0.000)	-0.013* (0.000)
Urban	2.848* (0.000)	$2.684^{*}(0.000)$
Punjab	3.686* (0.000)	3.741* (0.000)
Sindh	2.643*(0.000)	7.214* (0.000)
Baluchistan	3.574* (0.000)	22.080* (0.000)
Constant	30.972* (0.000)	29.488* (0.000)
No. of Observations	58308	17898
R ²	0.0852	0.2484
F- statistics	287.08* (0.0000)	280.91* (0.0000)

activities (paid market work, unpaid market work and non market work), across different age groups, region and province

Theoretical Foundation

The theoretical foundation of this article is based on the Gary Becker (1965) path breaking article "Theory of allocation of Time".

It trends the allocation of time in Pakistan particularly focusing on time allocated to work (paid and unpaid work) and non working hours (time devoted to household work).

Model Specification and Data Sources

The factors influencing time allocation are model as

time_alloc_{gi} = $\beta_0 + \beta_1 PC_i + \beta_2 SE_i + \beta_3 LM_i + \mu_i$

The factors influencing time allocated to household work is specified as

time_alloc_{hhwrk} = $\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 PC_i + \alpha_2 SE_i + \alpha_3 LM_i + \varepsilon_i$

The data used in this study is taken from the Labor Force Survey (LFS) of Pakistan for the year 2014-15, conducted by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Source: Author's own estimation from LFS 2014-15 Values in parentheses shows the number of observations

Average paid market hours/week of male and female are higher for age group 26-45 and 15-45

Average unpaid market hours of male and female are higher in the age group 10-14 and 26-60

Average hours/week devoted to household work is higher for females especially for age group of 26-45.



Figure 4: Female Average Household Hours/week by Region and Province



Table 3: OLS estimation for Non Market Hours

Variablas	Female non working		
variables	hours/week		
Age	1.601* (0.000)		
Square of Age	-0.025* (0.000)		
Married	10.365* (0.000)		
Widow/Divorce	6.440* (0.000)		
Education Years	0.289*(0.000)		
Household size	0.062* (0.001)		
Household Income	0.0005 (0.418)		
Urban	0.9845*(0.000)		
Punjab	7.787*(0.000)		
Sindh	1.852* (0.000)		
Baluchistan	1.584* (0.000)		
Constant	4.472* (0.000)		
No. of Observations	46151		
R ²	0.2290		
F- statistics	1255.03* (0.0000)		

Conclusion and Policy Recommendation

The fundamental purpose of economic development is to improve the welfare of people. Successful policy will improve the human welfare. Unpaid and household workers will get benefit from such policies and the desired results without any unforeseen negative side effects will be achieved on other groups.

Descriptive Statistics





Average non market hours/week spent on child care and cooking are higher in both regions of Punjab. In order to design programs it is necessary to understand the current pattern of allocation of time and the issues which determine them effectively, as new policies/projects may alter these issues and change the patterns of allocation.

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