# GENDER'S TIME UTILISATION PATTERN AMONG RURAL DWELLERS IN OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

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**ABSTRACT**

This study examined time usage pattern over a 24-hour period among rural dweller' in Ogun State, Nigeria. The study specifically assessed the socio-economic characteristics, average daily time allocation to work and pattern of unpaid care work of the rural dwellers. Data were obtained through an interview schedule from 240 rural dwellers collected through a three-stage sampling procedure. Data were collected on socioeconomic characteristics and average daily time allocation. The data were analysed using frequency counts, means, and multiple regression model. Findings from the study revealed that 54.4% of rural women and 67.5% of rural men were between age group 31-50 years. 20.0% of women spent an average of 4.9 hours on productive work when compare to 34.7% of men spending an average of 8.4 hours. 25.6% of women spent approximately 6.2 hours daily on reproductive work, which is higher than that of the 5% of men spending 1.1 hour per day. Cooking and domestic chores accounted for 88.0% of daily total time allocated for unpaid care work. Rural women's age at first marriage ($\beta$=7.08), education ($\beta$=4.11), income ($\beta$=1.32), value of assets brought into marriage ($\beta$=2.83), number of dependants ($\beta$=1.11), presence of co-wives ($\beta$=0.65), access to improved water sources ($\beta$=0.46), employment status ($\beta$=1.04) and decision making power ($\beta$=0.32) were the significant factors influencing their average daily time devoted to unpaid care work. It is concluded that an unevenly distributed burden of work exits, particularly unpaid care work with the women's' playing dominant roles in comparison to their male counterparts. Hence, policy issues aimed at reducing the labour burden of women's unpaid care, should focus more on improving rural livelihood strategies that are gender responsive.

**Keywords**: Labour burden, farm households, time poverty, unpaid care work

## INTRODUCTION

Asian Development Bank and United Nations Women (2018), define unpaid work as any economic activities that are directly not remunerated, which include tasks performed either at household level or family business, or domestic chores such as cooking, cleaning, fetching water and fuelwood, and the direct care of children, the sick and elderly. Folbre (2018) defines unpaid care work as non-market work carried out in households primarily by women but also to some extent by girls, men and boys. These activities even though are being recognized as work are often not documented or accounted for in the national accounts system.

Time is a limited resource and every individual daily allocate time in unpaid care work considered as work, because theoretically one could pay a third person to perform them. Typically, unpaid care work is allocated more time among women than men (Asian Development Bank, ADB, 2015) and due to gendered social norms, unpaid work is globally viewed as a female prerogative, making women across different races, socio-economic classes, regions, and cultures to allocate part of their daily time to unpaid care work. This unpaid care work coupled with paid productive activities, create "double burden" of daily work for women. Folbre, (2018), reveal unpaid care work is a major constraint to women's participation in activities outside the household, including paid work and labour market.

According to World Bank Group (2019), women make up 45.5% of the Nigerian labour force with greater number *in* agriculture *and non-*farm enterprise. Women, generally work as subsistence farmers, paid or unpaid workers on family farms or as entrepreneurs running on-farm, off-farm and non-farm enterprises. In recent time, there has been a significant growth in female labour force participation, however, little progress has been made in changing the pattern of distribution of unpaid work (ILO, 2018). According to ILO (2018), the last three decades had experienced a narrowed gap between women's and men's contributions to unpaid care work by seven minutes per day and as a result, women keep working longer hours than men.

Globally, women carry out 76% of the total amount of unpaid care work, which is three times more than men as documented by International Labour Organization, ILO (2018). Women who become overwhelmed with unpaid care work, often do not get leisure or self-care time. They are physically stressed and suffer exhaustion. Large number of women do admit to have experienced a severe burnouts in trying to strike for a balance. The Women Right Advocate (WRA) has identified the unequal share of unpaid care work as a key dimension of gender inequality and further considered in economic policy discussions as a constraint to both economic growth and women's economic empowerment (United Nations, 2016).

UNICEF (2016) assert that girls of 10 to 14 years spent approximately 50% of the time engaging in house chores than boys of the same age group. Girls at early age are usually socialized to be caregivers. A survey conducted in 2013 by the Pew Research Center found that United States working mothers spent an average of 14.2 hours per week on housework compared to fathers' 8.6 hours that are working (Parker, 2015). A time-use survey constructed in the same year in Mozambique revealed that while income-generating work of women was similar to that of men, house chores and caregiving were almost entirely women's responsibility (Arora, 2015). In spite of the above assertion, gender disparities in unpaid care work remain hesitant to change.

Addressing the burden of unpaid care work is important to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment as identified in the 5th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 5.4). The United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment established in September 2015, went further and highlighted the need to recognize, reduce and redistribute (3Rs) unpaid care work as one of seven important determinants of women's economic empowerment (United Nations, 2017b). According to Elson (2017), the 3Rs have been widely adopted by women right advocate as the framework for policies in addressing unpaid care work.

Despite the welfare role of unpaid care work in household welfare, it is commonly excluded from policy issues because of the misperception that it is difficult to value and therefore not relevant for policies. However, neglecting the unpaid work leads to wrong conclusion on the levels and changes of individuals' well-being. To gain a rich picture of unpaid care work in Nigeria, there is the need to analyse the allocation of time among a range of farm households' unpaid care activities as well as the determinants in Ogun State, Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study were to:

1 describe the socioeconomic characteristics of rural dwellers;
2 describe the average daily time allocation of the respondents;
3 describe the pattern of unpaid care work of the rural women; and
4 determine the socio-economic factors influencing rural women's unpaid care work in the study area.

**METHODOLOGY**

This study was carried out in Ogun State, Nigeria. Ogun State is one of the fastest developing states in Nigeria; lying in the south western part of the country between on latitud $6.2^0$N and $7.8^0$N and longitude $3.0^0$E and $5.0^0$E east of the Greenwich Meridian. The state is bounded on the west by the Republic of Benin and on the east by Ondo State. To the north is Oyo State while Lagos State and the Atlantic Ocean are to the south. Ogun State is made of up 20 local government areas. The state is divided by the Ogun State Agricultural Development Project (OGADEP) into four operational zones namely Abeokuta, Ijebu Ode, Ikenne and Ilaro zones.

Data for this study was obtained from primary source. This was collected from rural dwellers' in Ogun State using a well-designed interview schedule. The population of this study comprised of married dwellers' particularly husband and wife staying together under the same roof. Data collection involved completing a 24-hour memory recall on the type of unpaid activities and its associated time.

The study employed multistage sampling procedure to collect a cross-section of 240 rural dwellers. First stage was a simple random selection of one (1) block from each of the four (4) Agricultural Development Zone. In Stage two, randomly five (5) cells were selected from each block making a total of 20 cells. The third stage was a random selection of 12 rural dwellers' from each of the selected cells targeting a total of 240 rural dwellers.

Descriptive statistics, such as frequency counts, means, and multiple regression model were used to analyse the data. To assess the daily time allocation to both paid and unpaid work, respondents were asked to choose from a predetermined list of paid and unpaid activities. The activities were grouped into six categories based on Nigeria Way Project (NWP, 2019) into: i. Productive work, ii. Reproductive work, iii. Community work, iv. Personal care, v. Leisure and vi. Sleeping, and Resting. The amount of time spent per day on each activity was estimated for each respondent. These amounts were then disaggregated by sex and averaged across the number of respondents to determine how many minute women and men spent on average on each activity per day.

To ascertain the socio-economics factors that influence women's unpaid care work, this study employed multiple regression model as specified in equation 1:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \cdots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots + \beta_{11} X_{11} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (1)$$

Where: $Y_i$ = average unpaid work (hours/day); $X_1$ = age at marriage (years), $X_2$ = level of education (years); $X_3$ = monthly income (N); $X_4$ = main occupation (farming =1; 0 otherwise); $X_5$ = membership of social group (yes =1; 0 otherwise); $X_6$ = amount of assets brought into marriage (N); $X_7$ = number of dependants (share of children and elderly); $X_8$ = presence of co-wives and adult relatives (yes =1; 0 otherwise); $X_9$ = access to improved water source (yes =1 ; 0 otherwise); $X_{10}$ = employment status (employed=1; 0 otherwise); and $X_{11}$ = decision-making power (index).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
### Socioeconomic characteristics
Table 1 shows that 54.4% of rural women and 67.5% of rural men were between the ages of 31-50 years. Large number (49.2%) of the women were illiterate as only 30.4% had primary education while (32.5%) of male had no formal education. Majority (61.7) of the dwellers had 6 members per household. 51.3% of rural women had less than 10 years farming experience. However, 82.1% of rural men had more than 10 years of farming experience. This implies that men had more experience in farming than women. Women represent just 9.2% of landholders in terms of management control over an agricultural holding as owners or tenants, or through customary rights. However, 12.9% had access to credit. Women's access to land and property is central to women's economic empowerment, as land can serve as a base for food production and income generation, as collateral for credit and as a means of holding savings for the future. The results of women's access to land and credit was lower than that of men. Hence a gender gap exits in access to land and credit. Women were the main decision maker as regards education (76.5%), health (53.3%), food (75.4%), and clothing (61.7%), as a wide gender inequality gap in decision making participation within the household.

**Table 1: Socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents**

| Characteristics | Women | | Men | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Frequency | Percentage | Frequency | Percentage |
| **Age** | | | | |
| Less than 31 | 66 | 27.5 | 34 | 55.8 |
| 31-50 | 134 | 55.8 | 162 | 67.5 |
| 51-70 | 33 | 13.8 | 34 | 14.2 |
| 71 and above | 07 | 2.9 | 10 | 4.2 |
| **Education** | | | | |
| No Formal education | 118 | 49.2 | 78 | 32.5 |
| Primary | 73 | 30.4 | 120 | 50.0 |
| Secondary | 41 | 17.1 | 29 | 12.1 |
| Tertiary | 8 | 3.3 | 13 | 5.4 |
| **Household size** | | | | |
| 2-5 persons | 77 | 32.1 | 77 | 32.1 |
| 6 – 9 persons | 148 | 61.7 | 148 | 61.7 |
| 10 and above | 15 | 6.3 | 15 | 6.3 |
| **Years of farming experience** | | | | |
| 1-5 | 46 | 19.2 | 13 | 5.4 |
| 6-10 | 77 | 32.1 | 30 | 12.5 |
| 11-15 | 101 | 42.1 | 56 | 23.3 |
| 16 and above | 16 | 6.7 | 141 | 58.8 |
| **Land ownership** | 22 | 9.2 | 126 | 52.5 |
| **Access to credit** | 31 | 12.9 | 108 | 45.0 |
| **Monthly income** | | | | |
| Less than N50,000 | 163 | 67.9 | 48 | 20.0 |
| N50,000 - N100,000 | 66 | 27.5 | 168 | 70.0 |
| N100,000 and above | 11 | 4.6 | 24 | 10.0 |
| **Decision making participation** | | | | |
| Income main contributor | 72 | 30.0 | 188 | 78.3 |
| Education | 183 | 76.5 | 82 | 34.2 |
| Health | 128 | 53.3 | 99 | 41.3 |
| Food | 181 | 75.4 | 74 | 30.8 |
| Clothing | 148 | 61.7 | 68 | 28.3 |
| Shelter | 68 | 28.3 | 212 | 88.3 |
| Land use | 42 | 17.5 | 202 | 84.2 |
| Sales of crops and livestock's | 62 | 25.8 | 178 | 74.2 |

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

### Average daily time allocation of the respondents
Table 2 reveals the average daily time activity allocation in the study area. Women (20.0%) spent an average 4.9 hours on productive work. Men (34.7%) spent an average of 8.4 hours of their day on productive work, which represents 3.5 hours more on average than the women. This implies that women lose so much opportunities as a result of their unpaid care work engagement. 25.6% of women spent approximately 6.2 hours per day on

reproductive work, which is significantly more than the men (4.5%) respondents, who spent approximately 1.1 hour per day on average on reproductive work. 19.0% of women's personal maintenance time accounted for approximately 4.6 hours per day as against 17.4% of men who spent 4.2 hours per day on personal maintenance. Women (7.4%) spent an average of 1.8 hours, while men (11.9%) spent 2.9 hours per day on community activities in the study area. 27.7% of women experienced 6.5 hours of leisure, sleep, and rest time per day on average, while 31.8% of men spent 7.4 hours.

It is therefore confirmed that women divide their daily labour time, balancing both their own business activities and their domestic responsibilities. This strong gendered division of labour results in women spending less time on engagement in paid forms of labour than men, perpetuating their disproportionate access to financial resources and further limiting their access to credit and other inputs for their business. While it cannot be assumed that all women have the goal of growing their business, this division of labour could be preventing those who want to expand. Women allocated less time in productive, community, leisure, and rest. This indicates a large difference in women's amount of time devoted to paid work when compared to their men counterparts.

**Table 2: Average daily time activity allocation**

| Activities/Works | Women (Hrs/day) | Percentage | Men (Hrs/day) | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Productive work | 4.9 | 20.3 | 8.4 | 34.7 |
| Reproductive work | 6.2 | 25.6 | 1.1 | 4.5 |
| Personal Maintenance | 4.6 | 19.0 | 4.2 | 17.4 |
| Community service | 1.8 | 7.4 | 2.9 | 11.9 |
| Leisure, Sleep and Rest | 6.5 | 27.7 | 7.4 | 31.8 |
| Total | 24.0 | 100.0 | 24.0 | 100.0 |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

**Pattern of women unpaid care work**

Table 3 shows the average daily time allocation to main unpaid household and community activities. Women spent 27% of their time (6.5 hours) on unpaid work. This implies that unpaid work accounted for 27% on average of a 24-hour day. However, cooking accounted for 51.2% of the total time for the unpaid work. This is followed by cleaning and domestic chores (37.1%). This indicates that women are more overwhelmed with unpaid care work, and often do not get leisure or self-care time. Hence, are physically stressed and suffer exhaustion.

**Table 3: Unpaid average daily time allocation**

| Unpaid Work | Hours | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Cooking | 3.3 | 51.2 |
| Cleaning and domestic chores | 2.4 | 37.1 |
| Children and Adult care | 0:5 | 7.5 |
| Community Service | 0:3 | 4.2 |
| Total | 6.5 | 100.0 |

Source: Field Survey, 2019

**Determinants of women's unpaid care work**

Rural women's age at first marriage ($\beta$=7.08), education ($\beta$=4.11), income ($\beta$=1.32), value of assets brought into marriage ($\beta$=2.83), number of dependants ($\beta$=1.11), presence of co-wives ($\beta$=0.65), access to improved water sources ($\beta$=0.46), employment status ($\beta$=1.04) and decision making power ($\beta$=0.32) were the significant factors influencing their average daily time devoted to unpaid care work. A positive relationship existed between women's average age of marriage and unpaid work. The implication of this is that the earlier the aged women enter into the marriage, the higher their burden of unpaid care work. Level of education had a negative effect on the average daily time devoted by women to unpaid care work. This implies that educated women often use livelihood activities as an alternative to unpaid work. Also, income had a negative effect on women's unpaid work. This result confirmed the assertion of Singh and Pattanaik (2019) stated that income of the household is more important for women to demand paid work and exit from unpaid domestic work. The value of asset women brought into marriage had a negative effect on their unpaid work. The number of dependants influenced women's unpaid work positively. This implies that the higher the proportion of household member that dependants particularly under 14 and over 65 years, the more the women's likelihood to be engaged in more unpaid work. This is because, women are often devoting more care for children and elderly. The accessibility

of improved water sources and healthcare was used as a proxy for infrastructure. A negative relationship existed between the quality of infrastructure and women's unpaid work. This implies that provision of these services could reduce the time for unpaid care at household level. Inadequate technology and infrastructure require women to perform physically taxing and time-consuming unpaid work. Employed women have a lower burden of unpaid work compared to unemployed counterpart. Women decision making power exerts a positive effect on the time women participate on unpaid care work. It is assumed that women with more bargaining power are more likely to spend their time on productive activities that benefit them than unpaid work.

**Table 4: Determinants of women unpaid care work**

| Variables | B | Std. Error | t– values | P-value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age at marriage | 7.085 | 3.470 | 2.042 | 0.010* |
| Level of education | 4.111 | -1.947 | -2.111 | 0.055* |
| Income | 1.326 | -0.547 | -2.426 | 0.026* |
| Main occupation | 0.923 | -0.853 | -1.082 | 0.232 |
| Membership of social group/association | 0.377 | 0.281 | 1.341 | 0.557 |
| Value of assets brought into marriage | 2.834 | -1.299 | -2.182 | 0.021* |
| Number of dependants | 1.116 | 0.476 | 2.346 | 0.035* |
| Presence of co-wives and adult relatives | 0.658 | -0.226 | -2.911 | 0.000* |
| Access to water sources | 0.461 | -0.207 | -2.224 | 0.022* |
| Employment status | 1.042 | -0.343 | -3.041 | 0.003* |
| Decision making power | 0.323 | 0.114 | 2.844 | 0.011* |

. F-value 7.12, $R^2 = 0.79$

Source: Field Survey, 2019. Note:
* Significant at $p \leq 0.05$

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Findings from this study reveals that a gender gap exists in unpaid care work participation with the women playing dominant roles in comparison to their men counterparts. Hence, in order to reduce the burden of women's unpaid care, efforts of governments should be in the formulation and implementation of decent rural employment strategies that are responsive to gender issues.

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