

CARE WORK AND MEASURING WELL-BEING

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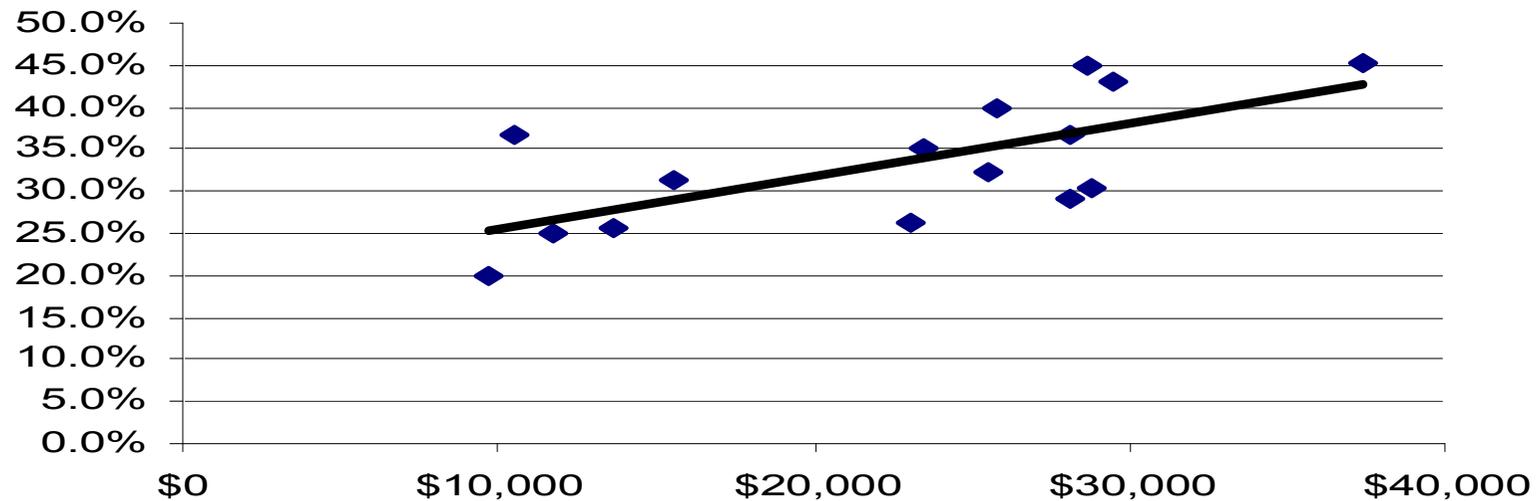
'Production' and Economic growth

- Economic development expands market activities
 - ▣ Increases in female labor force participation
 - ▣ Leading to production relocated from home to market
 - ▣ Generates remarkable pictures of economic growth indicated by GDP and household income
- Critiques to this
 - ▣ Market-centered notions of 'production' is problematic
 - ▣ 'Well-being' should include goods and services produced outside the market
 - Implicit income or household consumption
 - ▣ Improving national income accounts supplemented by non-market production
 - ▣ Time Use Surveys used for measuring non-market activities

Care and Well-being

- Care work among non-market activities
 - ▣ who it benefits (dependents)
 - ▣ the social relations in which it takes place (e.g. unpaid family labor)
 - ▣ or the nature of the labor process (often involving personal interaction and personal connection).
- Importance of care work in measuring well-being
 - ▣ Time spent on care is a necessary resource for developing human's capabilities
 - ▣ but difficult to meet care needs and substitute with market replacements
 - Demand increases; ageing society
 - Supply decreases; female employment and shifts in gender norms
 - Occupies the significant share of total non-market work even in developed economies

Relationship between GDP per Capita and Percentage of Women's Non-Market Work Devoted to Primary Child Care Activities



Source: Economic Development and Time Devoted to Direct Unpaid Care Activities: an analysis of the Harmonized European Time Use Survey(HETUS) (Folbre and Yoon, 2009)

Measuring Care with Time Use Data: Issue of Concept

- Conventional Measurement of Care Work
 - Based on specific care *activities*
 - feeding, bathing, reading aloud to a child, or teaching a child
 - Broader measurement such as *availability* or *responsibility*
 - *Who was available during the activity, who was in your care*
 - *Other unpaid non-market activities contributing to development of human capabilities*
 - food preparation, housework, and shopping activities
- Inconsistencies in measuring care work across time use data
 - Most surveys focus on specific activities
 - Care work taking place as secondary activities
 - Intensity of care work

Comparisons of Four English-Speaking countries' time use survey on Definitions of Child Care

	U.S. (2003)	Canada (1998)	Australia (1997)	U.K. (2000)
Primary Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •'looking after children' •logistical/managerial activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no supervision •separate travel category related to child care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •'minding children' •logistical/managerial activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No supervision •no travel or logistical care
Secondary Child Care	a special question on 'in your care'	a special question about 'looking after children' care	•Child care as secondary activities 'were you doing anything else?'	•Child care as secondary activities
With whom 'were with' 'who else was there'	Yes, 'being in the same room'	yes	yes	yes

Source: what is child care? Lessons from time-use surveys of major English-speaking countries (Folbre and Yoon, 2007)

Measuring Care with Time Use Data: Issue of Perspective

- From whose perspective should we measure?
 - ▣ From the point of view of care-givers
 - Time allocation of productive population like mothers between market and non-market activities
 - Associated with care as burden
 - ▣ From the point of view of care-recipient
 - Measuring well-being of subgroups or dependents
 - Similar to child poverty
 - Reduction in parental time does not necessarily mean reduction care time received by a child
 - Associated with care as resource for human capabilities
 - There are many reasons why the reduction in parental time would not be fully replaced with other forms of paid and unpaid care

Conclusion

- □ Need to take into consideration care work in measuring well-being
- Need to conduct and improve time use surveys to measure care work
 - Reach a consensus on what care is
 - How to reflect the consensus in time use surveys
- Need to produce statistics on care sector on a regular basis
 - Keep track of distribution of total time resources between unpaid and paid care sector
 - And show how this is related to economic development
 - Then we could assess if we are making progress without depriving dependents of care needs