

Women's Unpaid Work – Albanian Case

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Abstract:

Unpaid work is the production of goods and services by household members that are not sold on the market. Some unpaid work is for the consumption within the family, such as cooking, gardening and house cleaning. The products of unpaid work may also be consumed by people not living in the household, e.g. cooking a meal for visiting friends, helping in a soup kitchen for homeless people, mowing the lawn of an elderly relative, or coaching the local football team.

At a national level, well-being is often peroxide by aggregate income or production per head (e.g. GDP per capita). However, neither measure is fully adequate if there is a considerable amount of unpaid work or if growth occurs because of substitution of paid for unpaid hours of work. Household production constitutes an important aspect of economic activity. Ignoring it may lead to incorrect inferences about levels and changes in well-being. Using the secondary data, this presentation presents the fact that women do much of the unpaid work. Neglecting to include it in wellbeing parameters, underestimates women's contribution to the economy and directly connected to gender inequality. Another very import negative aspect of neglecting it, is deprivation of women from social security schemes because for they unpaid work they are not paid and also not deposited their social security contribution.

Evaluation of unpaid work it would help employing cost benefit analysis to choose the most efficient and less costly way to provide the services covered by unpaid work.

Different studies and surveys conclude that house and family care seem to remain a woman's responsibility, following the traditional division of activities within the household. Thus, European women are characterized by a heavier load of domestic work and child care work, even if there are differences in relation to household income, household size and level of education.

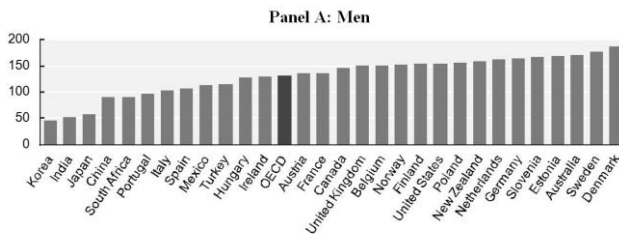
Albania it is one of the countries where the contribution of women in unpaid work it is more than 2 hours/ day and in the same time where the women are more exposed against social risks, caused from the lack of social contribution connected to unpaid work.

Key words: Gender Equality, Unpaid Work, Income, Albania, European Union

Unpaid work in OECD countries

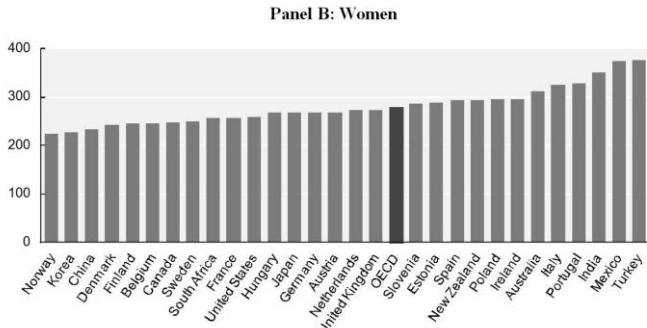
Worldwide women spend more time than men in unpaid work. The gender gap is on average 2 hours and 28 minutes per 24-hours day, but there is significant divergence across countries. For instance, Turkish, Mexican and Indian women spend per day 4.3-5 hours more on unpaid work than men in those countries, while the difference is only a little over one hour per day in the Nordic countries¹.

Figure Nr 1.² Minutes of unpaid work per day for the population aged 15-64 over the period 1998-2009



¹ OECD.(2011) "Cooking, Caring and Volunteering: Unpaid Work around the World". *Oecd Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers n°. 116*.Pg. 11.

² Ibid.Pg. 13.



In European Level it is a significant difference between men and women that do unpaid work, regarding the paid working hours.

Table 1³: Employees working less than 30 hours because of domestic work

COUNTRY	MEN	WOMEN	COUNTRY	MEN	WOMEN
BE	1.4%	98.6%	LT	1.0%	99.0%
CZ	4.2%	95.8%	LU	1.7%	98.4%
DK	6.5%	93.5%	HU	11.6%	88.4%
DE	3.3%	96.7%	NL	1.2%	98.8%
EE	1.6%	98.4%	AT	1.5%	98.5%
IE	3.3%	96.7%	PL	2.8%	97.2%
EL	4.8%	95.2%	PT	1.3%	98.7%
ES	2.1%	97.9%	SI	2.8%	97.2%
FR	5.2%	94.8%	SK	4.5%	95.5%
IT	3.1%	96.9%	FI	- *	- *
CY	1.4%	98.6%	SE	8.9%	91.1%
LV	6.0%	94.0%	UK	3.2%	96.8%
EU	3.2%	96.8%			

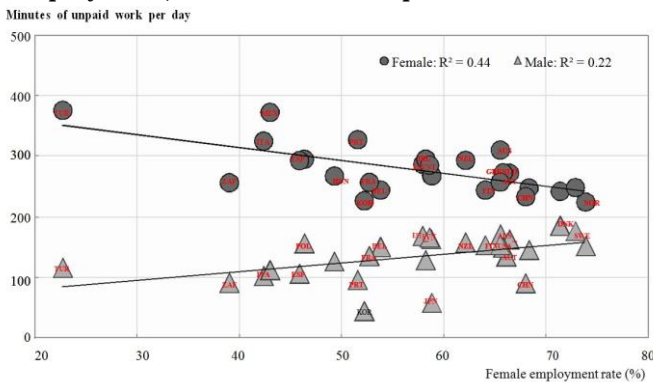
* Information not collected

During the last years, women have become increasingly active in the paid labour market and this it is the reason that they have decreased their unpaid working time. There is a strong negative correlation between a country’s female employment

³ Giannelli, C Gianna, et al. (2009) Size and Value of Unpaid Family Work in Europe. Pg 24.

rate and women's average unpaid working time. Part of the slack in unpaid working time is taken up by men, as shown by the positive correlation between a country's female employment rate and men's average unpaid working time. Yet, even in the country with the highest average unpaid working time among men – Denmark – men still devote less time to unpaid work than women in Norway, the country with the lowest female unpaid working time.

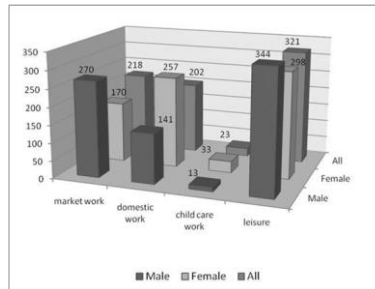
Figure Nr 2⁴. Men's unpaid work increases with national levels of women's employment, while women's unpaid work decreases.



Regarding the different groups of unpaid work the statistic shows that in the same trend men and women spent more time for domestic work compare to the child care work in the European level.

⁴ OECD.(2011) "Cooking, Caring and Volunteering: Unpaid Work around the World". *Oecd Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers n°. 116*.Pg. 14.

Figure Nr 35. Different categories of time use (minutes per day), males and females aged 20-74.



In European level, statistic shows that the comprehensive value of unpaid work plus unpaid family care work ranges between a minimum of 27.1% and a maximum of 36.8% of GDP. Unpaid family care work alone ranges from a minimum of 3.9% and a maximum of 5.8% of European GDP, depending on the applied methodology.⁶

Unpaid work in Albania

Due to their dual burden inside and outside of the household, recent transformations in Albania's economy and the labour market have put women in a particularly challenging position. Both women and men engage in paid and unpaid work, which contributes directly and indirectly to a household's economic situation. Albania undertook the first and the only Time Use Survey up to now in 2010-2011. This survey concluded that 95 per cent of women, aged 15-64 years old and only 37 per cent of men aged 15-64 years old, are engaged in housework, child care, food preparation, shopping, and other activities related to unpaid work in the weekdays. With equal number of hours in paid work, women's total work exceeds men's. Men spend significantly more time than women in paid work, both as to hours and minutes and in terms of the proportion undertaking

⁵ Giannelli. C Gianna., ed al. (2009) Size and Value of Unpaid Family Work in Europe. Pg 18.

⁶ Ibid. Introduction

paid work on an average day. Only 32 percent of women spend time in paid work compared to 56 percent of men.

On average, women's overall contribution to paid and unpaid labour is two hours more per day than men's. Work related to maintenance of household and family follows a deeply stereotyped.

Rural settings further increases the time burden on women. The study reveal the persistence of highly gendered roles in the use of time, corresponding to the general role model of men as individual breadwinners and workers, and of women as dependents and homemakers. Women's and men's time use patterns clearly challenge efforts which aimed at nurturing the economic independence of women as well as women's and men's joint reconciliation of the professional duty with their family responsibilities.

Table Nr 17: Proportions undertaking activities⁶ according to sex, Albanian population 10 years and older, all days.

	Women	Men	All
	<i>Percentage (%)</i>		
Paid work	32	56	44
Study	14	15	14
Unpaid work	91	40	66
Personal activities	100	100	100
Free time	97	99	98
Other	7	6	6

Conclusion:

Despite the improvements that have been made in terms of women's paid employment, unpaid work remains still a domain of their own. The gender gap in unpaid work is on average 2.5 hours more for women, while there are countries where this gap

⁷ UN. (2011) Albania Time Use Survey, 2010-11. Pg 12.

amounts to 5 hours. Albania is a country where the unpaid gender gap approaching the general average. The most acute problem in the country related to unpaid work is the lack of an adequate social system to protect women who work without being paid, by social risks, such as health and social insurance schemes, or pension and in the same time it is evident a highly gendered roles in the use of time, which make larger the gender inequality gap.

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