

An overview of time-use statistics: relevance, data collection methods and adaptation to crises

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A Time-Use Survey is a specialized household survey, which reveals the details of daily life...



TUS, sometimes called time budget surveys, aim to provide information on the **activities people perform over a given time period**—generally a day or a week—as well as how much time they spend on each of the different specified activities.



*United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:
A Critical Review of Selected TUS*

Main objectives of TUS

The analytical objectives for collecting time-use data revolve around 3 major themes:



1 To generate estimates on the **unpaid provision of services to the household and family members**, with particular emphasis on increasing visibility of women's work through better statistics on their contribution to society and the economy.

2 To generate estimates on **gender gaps in time spent on total workload** (paid and unpaid work)

3 To provide indicators on the **quality of life**, in terms of time-use patterns of people



Types of time-use measurement

The collection of time-use data can take place through:



An *independent* time-use survey is a **household survey concerned with the single subject of time use**. With this type of survey, survey scope and coverage, questionnaires, sample design and selection, training plans, field operational procedures, and data-processing systems are configured for this one purpose.

Multi-purpose household surveys, on the other hand, are amenable to either one of two approaches:

- (a) modular approach*, where the time-use component is a separate module; or
- (b) integrated approach*, where the time-use component is included with all other components in a single instrument.

UN (2005): *Guide to producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work*



Main data collection tools

Diary-based methods

FULL TIME-USE
DIARY



LIGHT TIME-USE
DIARY



STYLIZED
RETROSPECTIVE
QUESTIONS

UN Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use

Full time-use diary

A diary in which the respondent reports each activity in a sequential order from the time of waking up, including the time an activity began and ended through the 24-hours of the day.

Light time-use diary

The 24-hours of the day are accounted for in terms of a pre-identified comprehensive list of activity categories. For activities in which the respondent participated, the respondent reports the time when they did so.

How many hours in the last seven days did you spend on caring for children?

- Reference period is not necessarily 24 hours, it could be a calendar week;
- Reporting of activities is not arranged in sequential or chronological manner;
- Does not allow for tempo grams;

Before COVID-19

Solutions to modernize time-use data collection in line with ICATUS 2016 and SDGs

Adopted by
Statistical
Commission



Making the case for time-use data



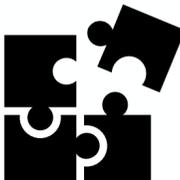
Promoting consistent concepts and definitions



Ensuring high-quality data



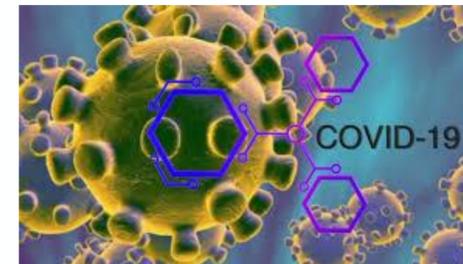
Applying latest technologies



Minimum harmonized instrument

After COVID-19

TUS during crisis



Minimum harmonized instrument



Digitalization



Data quality

Thank You

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