Harnessing Time-use Data for Evidence-based Policy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Full Report

WORK-LIFE BALANCE AND TIME USE: LESSONS FROM THAILAND

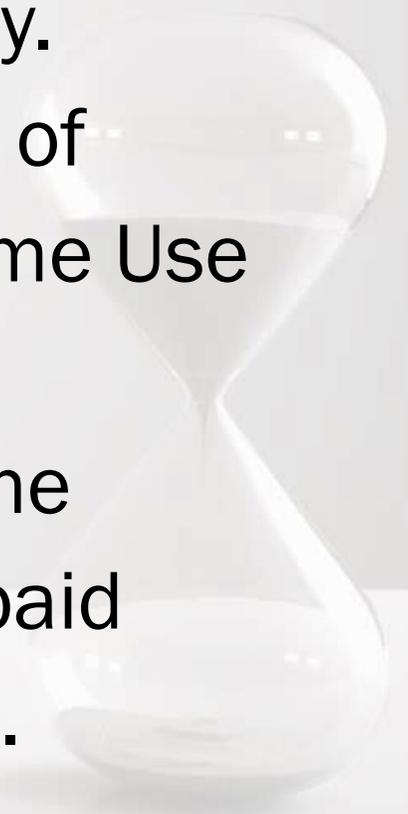Using data from the 2009 Thailand Labour Force Survey and National Time Use Survey

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BACKGROUND

- The proportion of women performing market work in Thailand during the past decades has increased considerably.

- This study analyzes intra-household time allocation of prime-aged husbands and wives using the 2009 Time Use and Labor Force Surveys from Thailand.

- The analysis focuses on the interrelation of their time allocations in four main activities: market work, unpaid domestic and care work, leisure, and personal care.

Remark : Primed-Aged – Aged between 25-60 year old

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- This paper addresses this gap by answering the following questions:

  ➢ Does husband's monthly wage affect wife's time in unpaid domestic and care work?

  ➢ Does wife's monthly wage have an effect on husband's time in unpaid domestic and care work?

  ➢ What determines the amount of leisure time spent by women and men?

SURVEY BACKGROUND

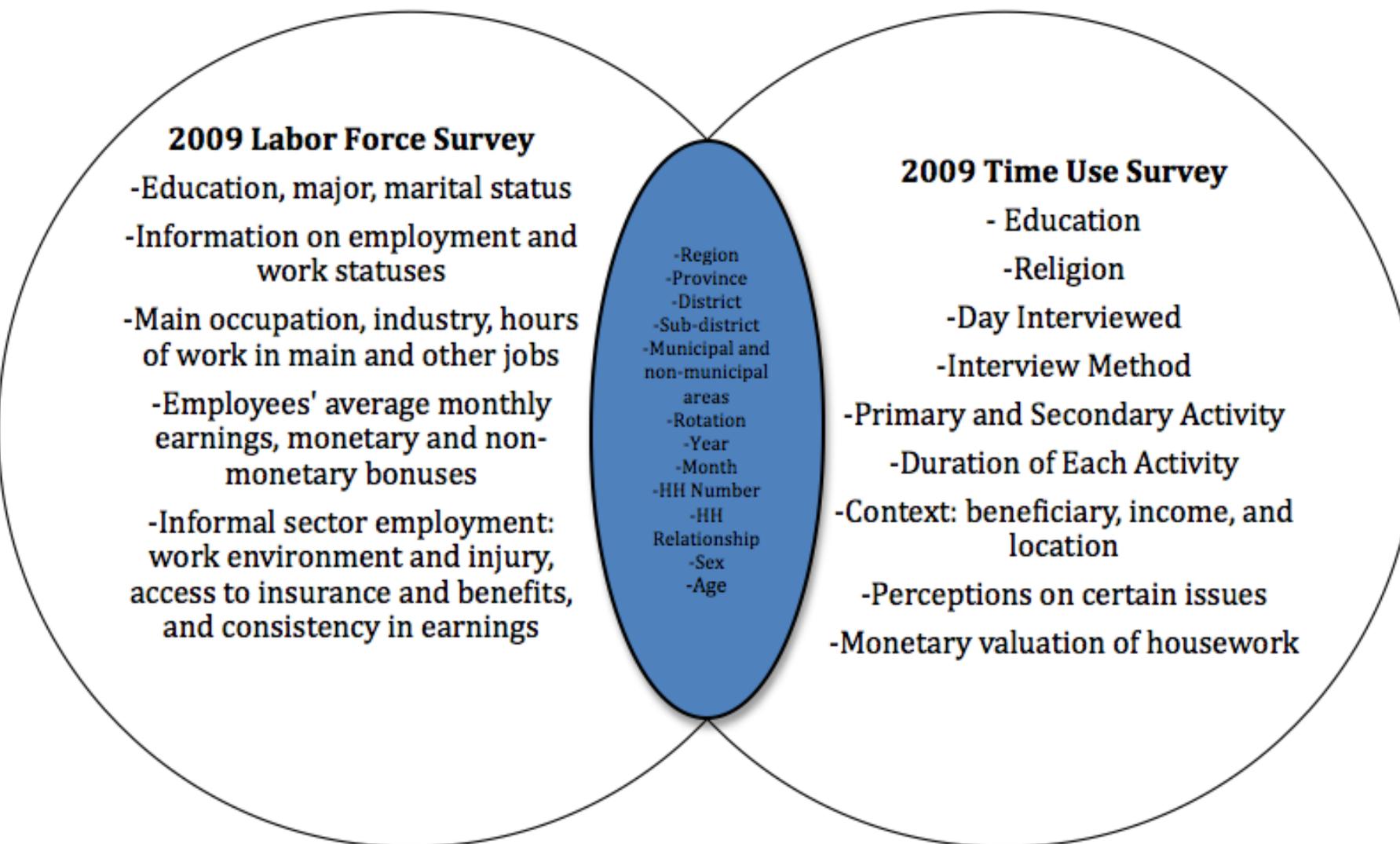## 1. The 2009 Labor Force Survey

- Collected by NSO from 75 provinces and Bangkok between July-September 2009
- A stratified two stage sampling method.
- First Stage, 5,976 EAs in total were randomly chosen from municipal and non municipal areas.
- In stage two, 79,560 households in total were randomly selected, at this stage each household member from each selected household are interviewed
- The LFS contains information on individual characteristics, Formal/Informal Employment

2. The 2009 Time Use Survey

- For each household, the interview of TUS takes place after the LFS interview has been completed.
- The stratified three stage sampling method (First and second stages are the same with the LFS).
- In the third stage, one household member who was at least 10 years old was chosen to be interviewed from each household using simple random sampling and was interviewed after his or her LFS interview was completed on the same day.
- A 24-hour time diary for both a weekday and a weekend day in ten-minute slots.

Both datasets have identical household identification numbers.
This enables the merging of both surveys.
The TUS sample involves 65,044 households
while the LFS involves 65,499 households

VARIABLES USED TO MERGE THE LFS AND TUS DATASETS

2009 Labor Force Survey

-Education, major, marital status

-Information on employment and work statuses

-Main occupation, industry, hours of work in main and other jobs

-Employees' average monthly earnings, monetary and non-monetary bonuses

-Informal sector employment: work environment and injury, access to insurance and benefits, and consistency in earnings

-Region
-Province
-District
-Sub-district
-Municipal and non-municipal areas
-Rotation
-Year
-Month
-HH Number
-HH Relationship
-Sex
-Age

2009 Time Use Survey

- Education

-Religion

-Day Interviewed

-Interview Method

-Primary and Secondary Activity

-Duration of Each Activity

-Context: beneficiary, income, and location

-Perceptions on certain issues

-Monetary valuation of housework

Household Identification Number Variables
Region
Province
District
Sub-District
Area
Primary Sampling Unit
Rotation
Year
Month
HH Number

Additional Variables
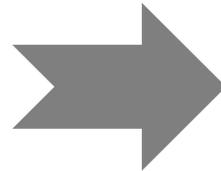Relationship
Sex
Age

FINAL DATA FOR THE STUDY

THE COMBINED 2009
LFS and TUS

THE STUDY

Total sample consists
of 181,736
individuals from
56,069 households.

59, 513 prime-aged
women and men (25-60
years old) from 26,047
couples' households

ADVANTAGE OF COMBINING THE LFS AND TUS DATASETS

- They provide more comprehensive information on the country's labor force, employment and earnings that the time use survey or the labor force survey data alone cannot capture.

- The merged dataset includes not only work-related statistics, but also the amount of time that the respondent spent on a variety of economic and non-economic activities in formal, informal, and domestic sectors throughout a day.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- Data is not available for secondary activity time, the analysis focuses on primary activities only. Admittedly, this is a limitation of the study as individuals who find it difficult to attain work-life balance are likely prone to multi-tasking.

- Data is not available for the simultaneous activities, the simultaneous activities are critical components of a time diary because they provide additional information about activities.

- Data is not available for all members in the household. To examine the correlation of household labour division, all members in the household should be a respondent.

KEY RESULTS PERTAINING TO TIME-USE PATTERNS

Participation rate (%) : Average Time (min per day)

	Activity	Women	Men
	Labor market work	76 : 468	92 : 514
	Household and care work	95 : 240	49 : 116
	Volunteer Work	3.4 : 197	2.9 : 214
	Socializing and religious practice	43 : 81	49 : 87
	Leisure	89 : 157	92 : 169
	Sleeping and self-cares	100 : 681	100 : 712

Participation rate (%) = number of wives/husbands participate in certain activities / total number of wives/husbands

KEY RESULTS PERTAINING TO TIME-USE PATTERNS

- Increases in men's time in market work and their hourly wages encourage their wives, especially those in rural areas, to allocate more time towards housework, care work, and market work, thus increasing the challenge of balancing market work and unpaid domestic responsibilities for women

- Increases in women's time in market work and in hourly wages is associated with their husbands shifting more of their time from unpaid work to market work so as to maintain their socially assigned role as the main breadwinners.

- Increases in the wife's hourly wage tends to increase her time in unpaid work, especially those in the urban areas suggesting that women tend to compensate for the perceived threat to their husband's breadwinner role by doing more household work.

INSIGHTS FOR POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS & LINK TO SDGS

❑ Parental leave laws in both the formal and informal sectors. (SDG 5 and SDG 8)

❑ Reducing gender wage gap and gender bias in hiring, promotion and retention. (SDG 5 and SDG 8)

❑ Expanding and increasing the effectiveness of its childcare subsidy program. (SDG 3 and SDG 5)

❑ Providing affordable quality day care facilities in both urban and rural areas. (SDG 3, SDG 5 and SDG 10)

THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE 2014 TUS

Improvements based on lessons learned from the study

- At the training stage, emphasize to collect secondary activities.

- 12 months data collection to see the pattern of the activities of the population.

Overall improvement

- Collecting the population who are over 6 years old in order to capture children activities

- All days of the week covered by assigning one day to each respondent. The enumerator will try to distribute reference days so that each day of the weeks is uniformly allocated to total number of respondents.

THANK YOU

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