Strengthened Coordination Mechanism for Gender Statistics in China

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I. Introduction

- When?

- The origin of gender statistics in China was promoted and advocated after the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995.

- The concept of gender statistics in China began to be researched and introduced.

- The Chinese Government attaches great importance gender issue, about gender equality in the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China pointed out:
  - The People’s Republic of China women in political, economic, cultural, social and family life and other aspects shall enjoy equal rights with men.
- **Launch** *The Protection Law of Women's Rights of The People's Republic of China.*
  - it's the law to protect the legitimate rights and interests of women and promote gender equality.
  - It gives full play to the role of women in the socialist modernization construction.

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- **How?**
  - The Chinese Government has promulgated two programs successively. They are:
    
    *The China National Program Women's Development.*
    *The China National Program Child Development.*

    (here shorten form referred Two Programs as below.)
- How?

- In this Two Programs, put forward the tasks, the main target and corresponding measures of the development of Chinese women and children, in order to ensure and promote the development of women and children.
- Now it was carried out the decade development program (2011-2020).

- In Two Programs (2011-2020):
  - There are total 109 major objectives.
    - of which 57 for women
    - 52 for children
  - and also there are respective strategies measures.
  - Some objectives are disaggregated by sex.
  - All these objectives should be completed in this period.
For example(1):

- About women’s education
  - Increase to 95 percent the retention rate of children in nine-year compulsory education, ensure that girls enjoy equal access to nine-year compulsory education, and eliminate the phenomenon of girls dropping out of school.

For example(2):

- About women’s participation in decision-making and management
  - Urge the department concerned to progressively raise the proportion of women among deputies to People’s Congresses and Committee Members of the People’s Political Consultative Conference (PPCC) at all levels.
For example(3):

- About children and health
  - reduce infant mortality rate to less than 10 per thousand and that of children aged under 5 to less than 13 per thousand.
  - Reduce the mortality rate of infants and children under 5 among the floating population.

- Gender statistics in China was mainly based on the monitoring statistics work of this Two Programs
- National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS) is responsible for this work.
II. The Coordination Work Mechanism

In China, there is an organization: The National Working Committee on Children and Women (NWCCW).
- It’s the coordination of the department under the State Council.
- and it’s responsible for the development work on women and children.

- Basic function of NWCCW:
  - Coordinate and push the relevant government ministries to maintain the rights and interests of women and children.
  - Coordinate and promote the relevant departments to formulate and implement Two Programs,
Basic function of NWCCW:

- Coordinate and push the relevant departments to provide the necessary financial support for the development of women and children.

- Guide, supervise and check the work of the committee for women and children in the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities level.

The member units of NWCCW:

- The member units of NWCCW was approved by the State Council.
- It is composed of 33 ministries and social groups.
- In each member unit there is a ministerial leader that takes charge of implementing Two Programs.
- These members included Education Ministry, Health Ministry, Culture Ministry, Ministry of Justice, Manpower Resource Ministry, China Disabled Persons' Federation, etc.
- NBS is one of these member units.
Each member has its responsibilities of the development on women and children.

- For example:
  - Education Ministry is in charge of protecting the right educated of all children. Both for girls and boys.
  - Ministry of Justice is in charge of enhancing related law of protecting the right of women and children.
  - The main task in Health Ministry is to provide health care for women and children, reduce maternal mortality and infant mortality, reduce the incidence of birth defects, improve the birth population quality.

- The main duty of NBS

  - provide statistics data on women and children.
  - strengthen the comprehensive statistical work of development on women and children both in national and provincial levels.
  - establish the statistics monitoring system of women's and children's condition,
  - create and perfect gender statistics database.
- The work mechanism (NWCCW and its member units) is played an important role of gender statistics in China.
- Because of utilizing this work mechanism, it’s easy to consider, introduce, improve gender statistics perspective, especially in the government ministries.

- Based on this work mechanism, gender statistics work in China be promoted.
- At present, NBS is in charge the gender statistics data collection
- Some data are collected from NBS (for example population survey), Some from the related ministries, the member units of NWCCW.
III Gender Statistics System

In order to monitoring and evaluation the status of development on women and children, the statistical monitoring systems was established by NBS.
- It included the statistical indicators related the target of Two Programs.
- It laid a foundation for gender statistics system.

◆ In 2006

To promote gender statistics, the State Council in China issued the key point indicators directory on gender statistics of Two Programs, it requested provinces and related ministries must be:
- attach great importance to and strengthen the leadership,
- establish and improve the system of gender statistics report,
- collect and report the gender statistics data in time.
- So that it's created the system guarantee and work basis for gender statistics data collection.
- It's benefited to create gender perspective and improve the consciousness of gender statistics in ministries.

◆ sub-summary:
- The coordination mechanism for gender statistics in China based on three favorable conditions:
  a. The organization, NWCCW and it’s member units.
  b. Two Programs (national plan action)
  c. The monitoring statistics system.
- Under this work mechanism, gender statistics work could be promoted and improved.
IV. Achievements and Challenges

With the security of the organization mechanism and the constraints of statistical system, the gender statistics has been continuously perfected and developed in China, have also made gratifying achievements.

◆ Especially it great supported by UNICEF and UNPFA, through the project activities related to the gender statistics.

◆ the project activities we had:
  - gender statistics training,
  - gender statistical publications,
  - gender statistical database,
Achievement

- More statistics data disaggregated by sex are more than before.

It’s proved that the gender perspective has been impacted gradually in the statistics work.

The main achievement

- Comparison of indicators collected in the booklet on the Women and Men in China
- strengthened gender statistics training

organized gender statistics training and international exchange, invited domestic gender statistics experts to lecture at the training workshop.

- carried out gender statistics analysis

Using Census, Labor Force Survey, Time Use Survey analyze gender statistics data. Such as: used the data on Time Use Survey analyze time utilization of unpaid work by gender and employment status in China, also by urban and rural, aged.
Average time use of non SNA-productive activities by weekday/weekend (2008)

It shows clearly that food preparing time for women is longer than men both in weekday and weekend.

Average time of Unpaid work by aged and by gender (2008)

This graph indicates women spend much more time than men on unpaid work. And cooking is main unpaid work.
Challenges

Although there were some achievements of gender statistics in China, but there are also many problems, facing many challenges.
- There is still a gap on gender statistics indicators.

  such as the indicators of income and poverty by gender.

- data sources limited

  some data by sex group still limited by the survey.

- it's weakness on the ability of statistical analysis and research by gender.

  the ability of analysis needs to be enhanced further.

V. Future Plan

Cooperation

- During the cycle in 2011-2015, there is an important cooperation project between NBS and UN agency (UNICEF and UNPFA).

- That is continuously to improve the indicators set up and data disaggregated by sex collected and used.
Choose the China Disabled Persons' Federation as the first pilot work of the department statistics.

Through the first pilot, explore the model for the future in the multi-sectoral cooperation to strengthen gender indicator setting.

Dissemination

From this year the publication on women and children will be released publicly, both in Chinese and English version.

In publication included hundreds of indicators on women and children in education, employment, health, security, culture, sport, etc. And many data disaggregated by sex were collected.

It will be used widely and become useful gender statistics publications.
Conclusion

- The National Bureau of Statistics of China has been committed to promoting gender statistics.
- In the future will continue to play an important role, cooperate with relevant ministries and UN agencies, actively participate in international organizations plan of action.
- Hope to create a new situation on gender statistics in China.

Thanks for your attention