

The background features a light blue color with a pattern of various-sized gears. A faint silhouette of a person in a suit is visible on the right side. In the top left corner, there is a blue L-shaped graphic element consisting of a vertical line and a horizontal line.

Collection Methods of time –use survey data

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Application of Time –use survey

- Time-use data can reveal the details of an individual’s “daily life with a combination of specificity and comprehensiveness” not achieved in any other type of survey data (UN, 1997).
- Time use statistics provides a comprehensive detail about how male and female in a country allocate time to various activities such as paid and unpaid work, domestic & care work, volunteer work, personal & leisure activities etc. Thus, time use data can paint a picture of socio-economic and demographic status of the individuals in the reference population by highlighting the patterns of time allocation for various activities.
- Time-use survey has emerged as a strong tool for generating gender statistics. As it was pointed out by various scholars that the scope of traditional statistical sources of labour force is limited to capturing paid work whereas the work done by women which is mostly unpaid labour is left outside these calculations.
- Time-use data provides a more comprehensive assessment of all the forms of work. These statistics capture different activities which will fall under the category of SNA (system of national account activities), Extended SNA and even Non-SNA activities.

Methodological Issues

1. Type of household survey

Independent/ Standalone or multi purpose (modular or integrated approach)

2. Classification of activities

3. Time samle

- Which Unit of time to be observed: - Should Time interval of minutes or hours within a day be recorded? Will that interval be 10 min. 15 min or 30 min
- Which days of the week: - Should all the seven days of the week be covered? Or only two days (one-week day and one weekend) will be suffice?
- Which Season: - Should all the seasons be treated equally? or Should time-use data consider seasonal variations in activities?

Data collection methods for TUS

1. Observation Method

- A person is delegated
- quality of data is not affected by level of literacy of the respondent
- Small communities
- May modify the behaviour of respondent and high cost

2. Time Diary method

- Large scale survey
- high literacy level – left-behind diaries
- Low literacy rate – retrospective diaries / recall diaries
- Light diaries or full diaries

3. Experience sampling methods (ESM)

Another method which is used to collect the time-use data is the ESM. In this method the researchers use various gadgets such as pager, beeper or programmed wrist watched to collect data

4. Stylized Questions

5. Smart Phone

Indian Experience

- first time-use survey in 1998-99
- The survey was a stand-alone type and conducted on the pilot bases in six selected states viz – Haryana, M.P., Gujarat, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya
- To collect data recall method and time-use diary was used. As the level of literacy is low in India trained interviewers were appointed for the task
- The rationale of the survey was: to capture activity patterns of individuals within households; assessing extent of SNA, extended SNA and Non-SNA activities in terms of time spent; providing alternative estimates for work force participation etc

Methodological Issues

- TUS in India was perceived as a toll for improving labour force and national income statistics and thus the focus has entirely shifted from unpaid care work which appears only as the secondary aim.
- The approach for data collection used was that of stylised questions approach which has high chances of errors. This disadvantage of stylized questions enhanced in a setting like India where there exist various socio-economic and gender biases.
- India is a very complex as well as diverse society so in order to capture the data on time-use there is a need to understand the meaning people attach to the household work. Most of the time the survey questioner is administered by the field investigators who have little understanding about the nuances of Indian society.

*Thank
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