

THE AMOUNT OF UNPAID WORK IN SLOVAKIA - COMPARISON OF SURVEYS

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Abstract

The article focuses on exploring the unpaid work of people in Slovak households. Eurostat methodology exactly lists certain activities in a household for which a person does not receive any remuneration. These activities are considered as unpaid work. The data are drawn from the results of the primary research carried out in 2012 by the international social research ISSP. Respondents were asked to express how many hours they spent weekly on average in unpaid work. The results of the both researches, from the point of view of weekly time spent for unpaid work in the household, the time spent in paid work and the monthly income are compared.

Key words: *unpaid work, gender inequality, income, questionnaire research*

1. Introduction

People do a lot of activities during a day. Some of them could be considered as work. For realizing some of them they get income, for some of them not. The group of activities that do not lead to income for people, the literature considers as unpaid work. A detailed explanation of unpaid work, from the macroeconomic point of view, is based on the division of all activities, according to the general production boundary, into two groups – productive activities (both economic and non-economic production), and non-productive activities (education, training, study, leisure and culture, personal care, etc). Economic production includes market and non-market production, e.g. the activities inside the System of National Accounts (SNA) production boundary. Non-economic production is outside the SNA boundary and includes unpaid household services, volunteering activities and community services.

According to the classification of Eurostat (European Communities, 2009) the following types of activity could be considered as unpaid work in households (Table 1).

Table 1. Type and description of the activities connected with household and family care classified as unpaid work

	Type of activity	Brief description of the activity
1	Food management	Food preparation, Dish washing, Food serving and other specified food management
2	Household upkeep	Unspecified food management, cleaning, heating and water, cleaning and maintenance of the yard around the house, other household upkeep
3	Making and care of textiles	Laundry, ironing, care of textiles, shoes, making textiles, handicraft and other production and care for textiles and shoes
4	Gardening and pet care	Gardening, tending domestic animals, caring for pets etc.
5	Construction and repairs	House construction and renovation, repairs to dwelling, furniture, vehicle repairs and maintenance, making equipment, other construction and repairs
6	Shopping and services	Purchases of goods and capital, commercial, administrative, healthcare, veterinary and other personal services and other shopping
7	Childcare	Physical care and supervision, reading, playing and talking with children, teaching and accompanying child, taking to and from school, nursery, other childcare activities
8	Help to an adult family member	Physical care of and help to a dependent (disabled) adult family member, other help to such a person
9	Volunteering	Volunteering is a freely chosen activity to help others, with no financial gain involved.

Source: Eurostat, 2006.

The aim of the paper is to estimate the amount of unpaid work in Slovak households and to compare the results to those of two other completed surveys.

2. Unpaid Work Survey Data

There are several ways how to obtain the data to analyse unpaid household work. The best source is a Time Use Survey (TUS) which provides a detailed account of humans' time use. At present 15 European Countries participate in this survey. In 2005, the pilot project was run in Slovakia, but further surveys were canceled. In some countries the Population Census Survey contains questions on housework. Other sources are occasional sociological surveys and

the second Quality of Life Survey or ISSP program offers data from some modules.

Analyzing the information possibilities, in Slovakia there is no data source for the analysis of the amount of unpaid work. The research team of the Faculty of Economics Matej Bel University prepared the primary research within the projects VEGA 1/1141/11 to acquire the unpaid work data in an appropriate range and structure. The research was implemented in 2012 in Slovak households. In the same year Slovakia carried out the survey ISSP Slovakia 2012, module “Family”, which contained questions connected with unpaid work in households.

2.1. Primary Research

The research was covered by the project of the Grant Agency VEGA “The Labour Market in the Specific Context of the Unpaid Work, the Measurement of Unpaid Work Value and its Impacts on Households, the Business Sector and the Economy”. The aim of the project was to estimate the amount and structure of unpaid work in Slovak households. The information tool was a questionnaire with 12 modules. Seven modules were devoted to individuals and 5 modules to households. Individuals were asked to inform about their:

- Socio-demographic situation
- How many hours a week they spent on average in unpaid work
- Information about their paid job
- Who helps with unpaid work in the household
- Opinion on range of unpaid work in future
- Motivation for unpaid work

Households provided information on child care, type of housing, city size and region.

The main and the most interesting question was: “How many hours weekly do you and members of your family spend performing the following activities?” Answers could cover of 13 unpaid housework activities.

The survey was implemented in April 2012 and it covered 4427 individuals and 1564 households. The sample was representative by gender, number of household members and region.

2.2. ISSP Slovakia 2012

The international Social Survey Program (ISSP) is the representative sociological research with the origins in 70th of 20th century. It is administered regularly in dozens of European and non-European countries: at present in 46 countries. The results of surveys enable a comparison of the dynamic changes in different countries on all continents. In 2012 Slovakia administered the modules Family and Health, and in 2015 the modules National Identity and Citizenship will be administered.

The questionnaire contains 52 socio-demographic variables. The module Family had 36 questions, but only four of them were connected with unpaid work in households. The sample involved 1128 respondents and the surveying was undertaken by the TNS research group.

The data were analyzed by statistical program package IBM SPSS 19.

3. Survey results

The data analysis was concentrated on the estimating the amount and structure of unpaid work in Slovak households.

The primary research project of the Grant Agency (VEGA) enabled us to summarize the household data. Using the survey data, total average unpaid weekly work in Slovak households is 74,53 hours. Analysis of individuals produced an average daily housework work time of 3,7 hours, i.e. 222 minutes. This data is comparable with housework time in other European countries (OECD, 2011). Further data analysis indicated statistically significant differences in the amount and the structure of unpaid work between males (M) and females (F) in the majority of activities (except pet care, tending edible plants and volunteering). Both, the t-test and the Mann-Whitney test and a 5 % significance level were used for statistical significance testing. The structure of unpaid housework according to the gender, represented by average weekly time and the other descriptive statistics could be in Table 2. The differences in males' and females' time spent on housework is present in all the surveyed countries and is considerable, especially in developing countries (Huňady – Orviská, 2012).

Table 2. The structure of unpaid work in Slovak households by the gender - descriptive statistics (hours per week per individual) –VEGA project

Gender		Food preparation	Household upkeep	Making and care of textiles	Gardening – tending ornamental plants	Pet care	Construction and repairs	Shopping and services
M	Valid	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831
	Missing	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
	Mean	3,28	2,99	,48	,80	1,68	2,06	2,52
	Std. Dev.	3,735	3,834	1,206	2,874	4,982	3,261	2,553
F	Valid	2115	2115	2115	2115	2115	2115	2115
	Missing	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
	Mean	8,53	6,03	2,87	1,41	1,75	,26	3,63
	Std. Dev.	6,592	4,994	3,352	2,624	5,023	,810	2,963

Table 2 continued:

Gender		Tending edible plants	Tending domestic animals	House construction and repair	Child care	Adult care	Volunteering	Unpaid work Total
M	Valid	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831	1831
	Missing	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
	Mean	1,43	,93	,97	3,29	,68	,39	21,41
	Std. Dev.	3,165	3,127	2,902	9,585	3,240	2,053	20,226
F	Valid	2115	2115	2115	2115	2115	2115	2115
	Missing	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
	Mean	1,53	,56	,28	6,96	1,50	,38	35,58
	Std. Dev.	2,926	2,141	1,432	19,016	7,973	2,894	31,216

Source: Primary research.

In the research ISSP Slovakia 2012 the questions about the weekly time devoted to housework were more simple. The total time devoted to housework was divided only into two groups – housework without childcare, childcare time. The total males' and females' housework time could be considered after summarizing both values. The questions also included the partner's opinion on the housework. The questions and the data analysis results is in Table 3.

Table 3. The structure of unpaid work in Slovak households by the gender - averages (hours per week per individual) – project ISSP Slovakia 2012.

Gender	Thinking of your own situation:		What about your spouse/partner?	
	On average, how many hours a week do you personally spend on household work, not including childcare and leisure time activities?	On average, how many hours weekly do you spend looking after family members (e.g. children, elderly, ill or disabled family members)?	On average, how many hours a week does he/she spend on household work not including childcare and leisure time activities?	On average, how many hours weekly does he/she spend looking after family members (e.g. children, elderly, ill or disabled family members)?
M	13,05	6,94	23,04	16,49
F	20,88	14,86	10,70	6,29
M	19,98		39,52	
F	35,74		16,99	

Source: Data analysis.

From the sociological point of view the under-evaluation of the males' housework by females and over-evaluation of the females' housework by males is interesting.

Comparison of surveys shows very similar estimates of the amount of unpaid work in Slovak households not only as a whole, but also by the gender. The differences are very small and insignificant. Subjective opinion on participation on the concrete housework activities as a result of ISSP Slovakia 2012 survey also corresponds with the distribution of housework time by gender detected in the VEGA project.

Table 3. The structure of respondents' participation in housework activities (proportions in %) - project ISSP Slovakia 2012

Gender		Food preparation	Small household repairs	Child and adult care	Shopping and services	Household upkeep	Making and care of textiles	Administrative services
M	Always me	1,0	53,8	1,5	1,8	,7	,9	10,7
	Usually me	1,3	38,4	3,0	2,9	1,2	1,2	20,4
	About equal or both	6,5	3,2	35,2	45,6	21,6	6,5	47,0
	Usually my spouse/partner	41,8	1,3	39,3	36,8	51,4	41,7	15,7
	Always my spouse/	47,5	,9	12,4	11,8	23,8	47,6	5,0
	Is done by a third person	2,0	2,4	1,5	,8	1,3	2,1	1,2
	Can't choose	,0	,0	7,1	,3	,0	,0	,0
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
F	Always me	66,7	2,8	23,6	20,8	31,7	67,0	13,6
	Usually me	27,9	4,4	39,5	34,3	51,6	27,9	22,1
	About equal or both	3,1	6,1	21,5	35,3	12,3	3,0	39,6
	Usually my spouse/partner	,4	51,0	1,5	6,0	1,1	,3	19,0
	Always my spouse/	,7	31,5	1,8	1,3	,3	,6	4,2
	Is done by a third person	1,2	4,3	2,1	2,3	3,0	1,2	1,5
	Can't choose	,0	,0	10,0	,0	,0	,0	,0
	Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Data analysis.

Both, the VEGA and ISSP surveys point out the different amount of males' and females' housework and their participation in unpaid work in households in Slovakia. Each survey has its own character and allows a deeper analysis of problem from specific point of view.

Both researches confirmed that unpaid work in households depends on the number of children aged up to 14 years. Also the type of municipality, the number of inhabitants of the city, and the region significantly influenced the time spent for unpaid household work. Analyzing the individuals, in addition to the gender unpaid work was influenced by age, education level, activity status and in the case of some activities also by income category. In all cases goodness of fit tests, 5 % significance level and correlation measures (Spearman's and Pearson's correlation coefficient) were used.

Analysis of VEGA project data discovered the impact of non-economic connections to unpaid work. Unpaid work in households in our country is still

strongly influenced by traditions and cultural patterns and while there is a positive and voluntary attitude towards unpaid work, this attitude is more common in women. In housework help is mostly offered by family members. Slovaks expect more or the same amount of unpaid work in households in the future (Martinkovičová, Kika, 2012).

4. Conclusion

The analyses of both ISSP Slovakia 2012 and VEGA project researches produced very similar results. They confirmed housework times comparable with the other European countries and a higher proportion of women's unpaid work in households. Also the data on the participation in the concrete activities in housework were in both researches very similar. Comparison of surveys confirmed good realization of the primary research. It has its own special economic character and it was prepared by the research team of VEGA project in 2012. This type of surveying has not been yet put into the practice in Slovakia.

The unpaid work is an important item in peoples' activity and contributes to economic growth. It's measurement, evaluation and deeper analysis allows a better more accurate analysis of the real output of the country, not all of which is traded on the market.

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