UNPAID WORK AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Unpaid work is one of the relevant phenomena influencing everyday life of individuals, economic situation of enterprises as well as research interest of scientists not only in abroad, but also in Slovakia. However, there are no any relevant researches on unpaid work, its forms, its range and mostly its consequences on social and economic development in Slovakia. The aim of this article is to summarize particular results of the original field research on unpaid work in Slovakia, which was realised in 2011 -2012 on Slovak households. In the article, we stress the importance of the unpaid work in the socioeconomic development in Slovakia, regarding to the particularities of unpaid work in different types of households and regarding to the different characteristics of particular regions.

Introduction

Socioeconomic development is characterised with specific particularities in each historical period. These particularities arise from different history, potential of the country, and mostly from the ability of the country to utilize this potential. Endogenous factors of socio-demographic development are more and more mixed with the exogenous factors. Many countries (mostly small open economies, such is also Slovak Republic) are not able to cope successfully with the pressure that is caused by exogenous environment and conditions. This is one of the reasons why counties should focused more on the endogenous possibilities of socioeconomic development. Within the endogenous factors, they should accent the most valuable production source – human labour.

To assecurate balanced socioeconomic development, it is necessary to consider all conditions which influence economic and non-economic activities and efficiency of particular agents in the countries. In the open economies, four sectors influence each other – households, companies, government and foreign relationships. Importance of the households sector is confirmed by many data, e.g. ration of final consumption of households on GDP –in

average,this ratio is 60 % (in Slovakia, this ratio was more than 55 % in 2012 [1]). Importance of the households is not only in the consumption. They represent also supply side of an important production factor – labour. Consequently, the human labour participates on the production of goods and services that are realised on the market and that are included in the total GDP of the country. On the other side, households´ labour is very often linked with products and activities that are not offered on the market to satisfied needs of other subjects (and households do not get any payment for them). Results of these activities do not have particular value expressed in money terms, but importance of them is obvious. These activities could be marked simply as the unpaid work performed in the households.

The aim of this paper is to stress importance of the unpaid work of households in the socio-demographic development of Slovak Republic, to compare amount of unpaid work in Slovakia and other countries of European Union and to outline some of the factors that caused differences in the amount and structure of unpaid work in Slovak regions. This paper is based on the results of the original research and secondary data.

Unpaid work as subject-matter of the scientific researches

Many of the foreign specialists have focused on the unpaid work in the last decades (e.g. Anderson, D. and M., Kelliher[2], Anger, S. [3], Pannenberg, M. [4], Shi, H. H., Wang, Y.[5] and others). On the other side, many countries (including Slovakia and Czech Republic) do not stress importance of this phenomenon, yet. In Slovakia and Czech Republic, unpaid work was analysed only roughly, in respect to the interaction between jobs and family life, equality or inequality of men and women and division of the work within the family or in respect to voluntary work. From time to time, there are partial researches regarding the relationship between the unpaid work and labour market. However, these researches focused more on the labour policy, labour market equilibrium, non-paid or mal-paid work and problems of the primary and secondary labour market.

Unpaid work is frequently considered as natural work that exist from earliest recorded time and that represent natural feature of each family and household. Considering this fact, is there any sense to focus on unpaid work in details? What kind of contribution we can get by knowing the extent and structure of the unpaid work? To answer these and many other questions, we must consider every work as a meaningful activity that has particular meaning and result. Unpaid work, as well, can be understood as such activity and that is why it could be perceived as a scientific subject matter. Up to now, scientific researchers have confirmed, that it is very difficult to answer these questions, mostly because unpaid work must be

analysed from the multidisciplinary point of view. It is not only economic phenomenon, but also psychological, sociological, demographical, cultural, mathematical and statistical.

Our intention to understand and analyse real status of the unpaid work, to find motives for unpaid work and its consequences on particular economic agents in Slovakia led to our first main research for years 2011-2012. This research was part of the VEGA 1/1141/11 project – "The Labour Market in the Specific Context of the Unpaid Work, the Measurement of Unpaid Work Value and its Impacts into Households, the Business Sector and the Economy" [6]. The main aim of the project was to quantify the value of the unpaid work and to evaluate the effects of the unpaid work on the households, the business sector and Slovak economy. The first step to fulfil the aim of the project was to identify particularities of the labour market in Slovakia in context with the labour supply of the households. Furthermore, motives for the time distribution between the paid job and family life were analysed. Chosen results were published by the team members, e.g. Uramová, M. – Tuschlová, M. [7], Uramová, M. – Tuschlová, M. - Hronec, M. [8], Kaščáková, A. – Nedelová, G. [9], Uramová, M. – Hronec, M. [10], Orviská, M. – Huňady, J. [11]. This project was successfully finished in 2013. Our new project, VEGA 1/0935/13 „Unpaid work as a potential source of socio-economic development of society and the determinant of individual`s well-being "[12] for years 2013-2016 started afterwards. The aim of this project is to analyse influence of the unpaid work on the socioeconomic development, considering the regulation functions of the particular levels of public governments and the acting and behaviour of individuals with the goal to increase their well-being. Up to now, motives to unpaid work were determined (Huňady, J – Orviská, M. [13], Kaščáková, A. – Nedelová, G. – Považanová, M. [14]). In the following text, we present chosen results of the first project, completed with the notes arising from the second project.

Methods and methodology

As an important part of both projects, we conducted field researches, by using the questionnaire method. In the first project, we inquired 1559 respondents – households and 4435 respondents – individuals. Our research was adequate and representative according to the gender, age and place of living of the respondents. From all individual respondents, there was 47.55 % of men and 52.45 % of women. Regarding the households, 937 of them (it means 60.1 %) live in the towns and 622 (39.9 %) live in the villages.In the second project, we conducted pre-research; we inquired 861 households and 2247 respondents. Our pre-research was adequate and representative according to the age of respondents, sex and place

of living (regions) and number of households' members. From all individual respondents, there was 48.7 % of men and 51.3 % of women. Regarding the households, 525 of them (it means 60.97 %) live in the towns and 336 (39.03 %) live in the villages. Regarding the place of living (town or village) and the sex, the first field research as well as the second pre-research is quite compatible.Now, we conduct the main collection of data that will serve as a fundament for further analysis and consequences of the unpaid work.

In this paper, we compare extent of the unpaid work in Slovakia and particular states of the European Union. Within these EU countries, statistical collection of the data by Time Use Surveys (or harmonised Time Use Surveys) was conducted. Although our research is not based on Time Use Surveys (where the data on spending day-to-day activities are collected in diaries), we can compare our data with Time Use Surveys results. Within the unpaid work activities, we focused on the extent of the time spent for food preparation, housekeeping, preparation and maintenance of cloths, growing ornamental plants, pet care, preparation and maintenance of furniture and cars, shopping and services, children care, adults care, volunteer work.Information about other European countries are available from the secondary data of The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), European statistical system Eurostat (mostly data on GDP per capita, age and gender structure of the population, unemployment rate and hours spent in paid jobs) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe a United Nations Development Programme. To analyse results of our primary research, we have used statistical methods such as mean values, analysis of variance (ANOVA) and independent samples test (T-test).

Unpaid work inSlovakia and other European countries

To determine socioeconomic development in Slovakia and other European countries, we will consider basic economic data, such as GDP per capita, population and its age and gender structure, ratio of the urban and rural population, unemployment rate, hours spent in paid jobs per week. Table 1shows above-mentioned data including extent of the unpaid work (in minutes per day) in Slovakia and particular EU states.

Table1 Basic socioeconomic features in the particular states of European Union (including Slovakia)[1]

[1]In case of Slovakia, data are based on our primary research (unpaid work). Within this research, we collected information about the time spent in paid jobs (hours per week, including studying) and in unpaid work. All the rest time cover leisure, sleeping and personal care. In Slovakia, maximum working time in paid job is legally set for 40 hours per week, it means 343 minutes per day. According to our research, average daily time spent in paid

Country (year of the research)	Population (in thous.)	Men (in thous.)	Men (%)	Women (in thous.)	Women (%	urban population (%)	GDP per capita	Unemployment rate(%)	gross average monthly wages (US$, at current Exchange Rates)	avarage time spent in paid jobs and study (min/day)	unpaid work (min/day)	Personal care (min/day)	Leisure (min/day)	Other activities (min/day)
Austria (2009)	8428,9	4118,36	48,86	4310,56	51,14	67,9	36353	4,3	4149	306	203	642	280	9
Belgium (2005)	10787,8	5290,21	49,04	5497,58	50,96	97,5	33127	7,6	4606,4	227	200	684	326	3
Denmark (2001)	5592,7	2774,58	49,61	2818,16	50,39	87,1	32399	7,5	5646,8	225	217	659	329	10
Estonia (2000)	1339,8	618,09	46,13	721,67	53,86	69,5	17885	10	1139,6	284	232	631	287	6
Finland (2010)	5402,6	2653,57	49,12	2749,06	50,88	83,8	32254	7,7	4270,6	229	196	641	362	12
France (2009)	63457,8	30899,37	48,69	32558,4	51,31	86,4	29819	9,8	3794,6	202	190	747	293	8
Germany (2002)	81990,8	40231,54	49,07	41759,29	50,93	74,1	34437	5,5	3771,2	232	212	647	339	10
Hungary (2000)	9949,6	4725,59	47,5	5224	52,5	69,9	17295	10,9	1113,8	277	200	682	278	3
Ireland (2005)	4579,5	2292,76	50,07	2286,74	49,93	62,5	35640	14,7	5226,5	271	213	616	315	25
Italy (2009)	60964,1	29875,94	49,01	31088,21	50,99	68,5	27069	10,7	3061,4	273	210	670	279	8
Netherlands (2006)	16714,2	8302,62	49,67	8411,61	50,33	83,6	37251	5,3	4355,9	281	193	638	296	32
Norway (2010)	4960,5	2485,37	50,1	2475,11	49,9	79,7	46982	3,2	6665	237	199	621	377	6
Poland (2004)	38317,1	18473,94	48,21	19843,15	51,79	60,8	18087	10,1	1083,1	249	230	650	296	15
Portugal (1999)	10699,3	5185,74	48,47	5513,59	51,53	61,6	21317	15,9	1718,1	295	223	676	241	5
Slovakia (2013)	5480,3	2664,75	48,62	2815,58	51,38	54,7	20757	14	1274,6	360	222	...	...	...
Slovenia (2001)	2040,1	998,97	48,97	1041,09	51,03	49,8	24967	8,9	2404,5	265	231	628	311	5
Spain (2010)	46771,6	23117,22	49,43	23654,38	50,57	77,6	27063	24,8	2881,3	202	217	696	320	5
Sweden (2010)	9495,4	4734,98	49,87	4760,41	50,13	85,4	35048	8	4482,6	274	196	611	307	52
United Kingdom (2005)	62798,1	30954,21	49,29	31843,89	50,71	79,7	32474	7,9	4220,9	246	201	587	360	46

Source: Own elaboration according to primary research and secondary data from www.oecd.org[15], https://data.undp.org[16] and epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu[17].[2]

According the extent of the unpaid work, we can divide European countries into three groups. The first group includes Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom. In these countries, individuals spend from 190 to 215 minutes per day by unpaid work activities. In the second group, where extent of unpaid work is between 216 and 229 minutes per day, there are Denmark, Portugal, and Spain. In addition, Slovakia, where unpaid work of individuals found out from our research is 222 minutes per day, belongs also to the second group. The last group includes states in which unpaid work of individuals is 130 and more minutes per day. In this group, there are Estonia, Poland a Slovenia.

According to the data collected by the OECD and result from our research, it is obvious that unpaid work plays an important role in all chosen European countries and its extend is more than 3 hours per day (in case of individuals).

job is 6 hours (360 minutes) per day. However, these results do not include unemployed persons and many respondents work in more than one paid job.

[2] Within the OECD statistics Paid work and study include paid work (all jobs), travel to and from work/study, time in school or classes, research/homework, job search and other paid or study-related activities. Unpaid work includes routine housework, shopping, care for household members, childcare, adult care, care for non-household members, volunteering, travel related to household activities and other unpaid activities. Leisure includes sports, participating/attending events, visiting or entertaining friends, TV or radio at home and other leisure activities. Other activities include religious/spiritual activities and civic obligations and not categorized activities.

It is evident, that first group of states includes mostly countries with the high amount of GDP per capita and gross average monthly wages (Hungary is an exception). It is, however, not possible to clarify exactly any statistically significant socioeconomic characteristic that will influence extent of the unpaid work in particular groups of states. As we confirmed also by our research, extent of the unpaid work is influenced more by the non-economic motives then by the economic motives [18].

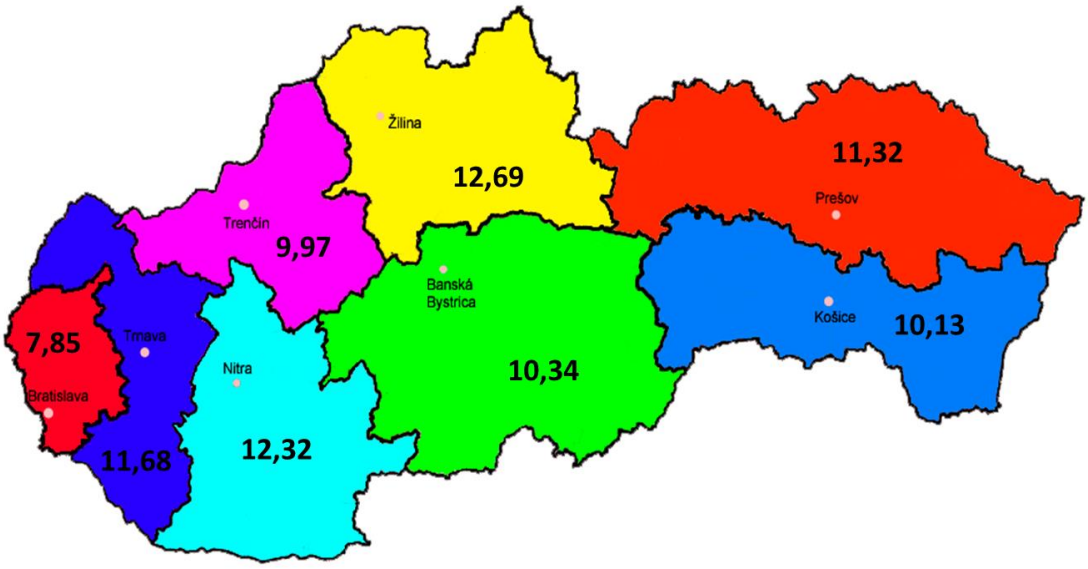
Unpaid work in the Slovak households

In this part of the paper we present basic results of the research linked with the households (we do not consider individuals any more). Unpaid work includes all the activities, including growing agricultural plants and breeding agricultural animals.[3]Picture 1 shows Slovak regions with the average time households spent by unpaid work (hours per day). Data include sum of the unpaid work performed by all household´s members, not a particular respondent.

The data shown on the map were collected in our first research in 2012. According to them, regions with the highest amount of unpaid work were Nitra, Žilina and Trnava. These regions, however, belongs to more advanced regions and it is unusual, that there is such a high extent of unpaid work performed in them. Pre-research in 2013 showed, that regions with the highest level of unpaid work are Košice and Prešov. Trnava region, on the other hand, belongs to the one of the lowest level (it is, however, necessary to confirm it by the research conducted these days). This result seems to be more accurate, because according to socioeconomic characteristics of particular regions, Trnava is one of the most developed and Prešov belongs to ones of the higher unemployment rate and lowest GDP (in total as well as per capita).

Picture1 Average daily unpaid work time in particular Slovak regions (in hours/day)

[3]In case of growing agricultural plants and breeding agricultural animal, these activities could be considered also as market activities (entering the market and being paid by customers, e.g. selling agricultural overproduction). Even though, we will consider these activities as part of unpaid work, because they primary serve for satisfying households´ needs.



Source: own elaboration.

By using the analysis of variance ANOVA, on the probability level α=0,05, we tried to find out, whether there are statistically significant differences between the extent of the unpaid work performed by households in particular regions. We found out, that minimal differences are in case of growing ornamental plants (statistically significant difference only between Žilina and Bratislava regions, BanskáBystrica and Bratislava regions, BanskáBystrica and Košice regions), pet care (difference between Bratislava and Trnava and Bratislava and Košice regions), building and reconstructions (difference between Bratislava and Žilina, and Bratislava a Prešov regions), adults care (difference between Bratislava and Nitra, Trnava and Nitra regions) and voluntarism (difference between Bratislava and Trnava, Trnava and BanskáBystrica, Trnava and Prešov regions). The biggest statistically significant differences are in case of food preparation and housekeeping. In case of child care, difference is only in case of Bratislava region, where the extent of unpaid work performed for this activity is much lower than in other regions. Bratislava region, as the most advanced one in Slovakia, is represented with the lowest amount of the unpaid work (less than 8 hours per day). It is evident that in case of evaluating the extent of unpaid work in regions, it is necessary to consider regional differences, such as regional GDP, total population, age and gender distribution of the population, rate of employment and unemployment and others (more about regional disparities inKožiak, R. – Uramová, M.[19], Borseková, K. – Petríková, K. – Vaňová, A.[20], Borseková, K. – Vaňová, A. – Foret, M.[21], Foltys, J.[22]). It seems, however, that characteristic with the strongest influence on the amount of unpaid work is the ratio of urban and rural population (this area must be analysed in more details).

Unpaid work in urban and rural environment

In the following text, we offer basic results regarding the amount of unpaid work in rural and urban areas. In Slovakia, there are 138 town (from which 8 are regional towns) and 2752 villages [1]. In our research, 937 households (it means 60,1 %) were from the towns and 622 (39,9 %) from rural environment. Following table shows average daily number of hours (eventually weekly number of hours – in case of children care, adults care and voluntary work) that households spend by particular activities of unpaid work.

Table 2 Unpaid work in towns and villages (hour/day or hour/week)

living in villages and towns (yellow - statistically significant difference)													
	family identification		time spent for:										
	no. of family members	no. of children up to 14 years	food preparation	house keeping	preparation and maintanance of cloths	growing ornamental plants	pet care	preparation and maintanace of furniture, cars	shopping and services	children care (weekly)	adulst care (weekly)	volunteer work (weekly)	total unpaid work in family (weekly)
city (937)	2,62	0,27	14,22	10,13	4,17	2,44	4,1	2,26	7,87	13,3	2,66	0,64	61,79
village (622)	3,16	0,34	17,45	14,64	4,95	3,53	5,26	3,57	8,08	13,6	3,19	1,53	75,8

Source: own elaboration.

Our analysis confirmed that there are statistically significant differences in most of the unpaid work activities regarding the place of living (in either towns or village). In most of the activities, households in villages spend more time by unpaid work than households in towns. Exceptions are pet care, shopping and services, children care and adults care. In case of these activities, there is no statistically significant difference according to place of living in town or village.

Not only households, but also individuals spend different amount of time by unpaid work according to their place of living. Even more, gender play important role in case of extent of unpaid work, as well. Following table shows average daily (eventually weekly) amount of unpaid work according to the gender and place of living division of respondents.

Table3 Unpaid work according to gender of respondents and place of living

unpaid work according to the sex and place of living (yellow - no statistical diffeence)												
	sex	food preparation	house keeping	preparation and maintanance of cloths	growing ornamental plants	pet care	preparation and maintanace of furniture, cars	shopping and services	children care (weekly)	adulst care (weekly)	volunteer work (weekly)	total unpaid work (weekly)
willage	male	2,86	1,00	1,00	,81	1,76	2,20	2,12	2,63	,60	,50	15,49
	female	8,33	6,11	2,77	1,48	1,70	,24	3,14	5,86	1,39	,47	31,49
	total	5,73	4,81	1,63	1,16	1,73	1,17	2,65	4,31	1,01	,49	24,69
town	male	3,22	2,40	,52	,70	1,53	1,68	2,54	3,13	,62	,22	16,55
	female	7,88	5,52	2,67	1,23	1,76	,25	3,71	6,80	1,37	,26	31,44
	total	5,72	4,07	1,67	,98	1,65	,91	3,16	5,07	1,02	,24	24,51

Source: own elaboration.

Our analysis confirmed, that regardless the place of living women spend much more time by unpaid work activities than men. Exception are only preparation and maintenance of cars and furniture (in case of this activity, men both in towns as well as villages spend more time by performing this unpaid activity than women). What is, however, interesting, there is no statistically significant difference in case of pet care and volunteer work (regardless the gender or place of living).

Conclusion

In the paper, we tried to focus on the importance of the unpaid work, not only in Slovakia, but also in every modern economy. We collected data in the original researches conducted in Slovakia. Besides them, we used also data of the OECD and official European databases. Although our researches were based on different methodology than other European surveys, we confirmed that extent of unpaid work in Slovakia (222 minutes per day performed by individuals) is similar to the situation in chosen European countries. Regarding the extent of unpaid work, we included Slovakia to the same group as Denmark, Portugal, and Spain. This result confirmed our expectation and it is obvious that unpaid work is a significant characteristic of all economies regardless the fact, that it is not included in the standard GDP calculation, yet.

Our analysis confirmed also other expectations regarding the relationship between the extent of unpaid work and gender, place of living (town or village) and region. In Slovakia, there are eight regions with strong regional disparities in socioeconomic characteristics. Our research confirmed that Bratislava region, as the most advanced area of Slovakia, is linked with the lowest amount of unpaid work. On the other side, households in regions with lower GDP and average monthly wages performed much more unpaid work. It is, however, not clear yet, which socioeconomic characteristics influence the extent of unpaid work the most. We

also confirmed that rural environment is much stronger influenced by unpaid work than urban areas. Exceptions are pet care, shopping and services, children care and adults care – households in towns and villages spend similar amount of time by these activities.

Actual European surveys, as well as our primary researches testified that unpaid work covers important part of daily activities of individuals and households. It is necessary to continue with the research, not only in particular countries, but also in cooperation of more states. Countries, such as former transitive economies, can utilize mutual history and similar problems to find out more characteristics and relations relating to unpaid work.

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