

# CARE WORK AND THE ECONOMY

Advancing policy solutions with gender-aware macroeconomic models

## Care Work and the Economy (CWE-GAM) & Levy Institute Intensive Course

### Session Brief: Day 4, Africa Timezone

#### “Estimating the Unpaid Care Sector”: Instructor & Facilitator- Jooyeoun Suh

##### Lectures:

The goal of this work is to increase the visibility of care. So, we want to measure and estimate the value to unpaid care to show the significance of it to the economy. This work uses time use survey diaries to try and capture all types of care including interactive, support and supervisory care. Supervisory care is the most difficult to capture but one strategy is to ask, “with whom?” for every activity to see if children are present. There are a few ways to place value on the unpaid care which are largely broken into input and output methods. The second part of the lecture included details on time use surveys and the data collection methods. Time use surveys can vary in their duration, time slot intervals, and elements included for each activity. The method of collecting the data includes paper light diaries, online/apps, and high-tech camera and GPS trackers.

##### Group Discussion:

**Depta:** In India and Nepal, food processing and procurement is really a separate category and I wonder how you consider this. Also, I am wondering if you have information on multitasking. I assume that if there is high supervisory care then there is high multi-tasking time. **Response:** When we look at US TUS, there is high supervisory. However, interactive is very highest for Korea. They define secondary activity as a very narrow restricted activity.

**Gerelmaa:** Is there any cross-continent comparison of GDP measurement? Is there a lot of change over time in time use and unpaid care work? **Response:** The time devoted to unpaid care work really has not changed very much in the past 20 years in Korea. But, in US, working mothers have increased time to interactive childcare over time.

**Izaskun:** what are the implications of different countries have different gender wage gaps when using an average specialist wage? What are implications of some countries valuing certain occupations more and differences in the resulting wages? **Response:** It is good to try all different wages (occupation vs industry level). It is good to use men and women separately and then an average wage and compare the results. Due to the difference in wages and the opposite difference in unpaid care hours, we would be perpetuating the gender wage gap.

**Zenzi:** How do you take into account countries with different income distributions, high unemployment, or high informality sector? Also, context of where data is being collected should help determine what is included in the unpaid care work tasks. Food preparation could be done for reselling which is something to consider. **Response:** when there is high unemployment, it is not necessarily realistic to do replacement because there is no one to do the care work. But then it might be good to use generalist/minimum wage. This will give you good justification for the methodology. We are missing the question about “for whom?” are you doing this care work. This would help us tease out what is going on.

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**Alemu:** can you use weighted average for specialist or generalist wages? Developed countries have different activities than developing countries. Have studies looked at the difference in these activities. Also, in your experience, what is any advice you have with TUS or difficulties you have experienced? **Response:** Yes, I used weighted but try everything and compare. Yes, I get frustrated but let's get excited by the data we have! Not all data is perfect but we can start with what we have and continue to push national statistical offices to collect the data, harmonize and link it to other surveys.

**Zenzi:** Is non-response/attrition an issue with time use survey data? How do you deal with that? In relation to questions you asked, in developing countries, I think it is important to look at time use at different income levels. This could come from linking time use survey to other surveys. **Response:** We check data quality by looking if people are not reporting sleeping, eating, bathroom. We would flag those as a bad sample. And there are people that are not good at recording their activities. These are often taken out before you get the data

**Deepta:** Is there any resources for us to read more about these data collection methods and the surveys? **Response:** yes there is a good recent paper that discusses this that I will share.