Counting Women’s Work: Evidence from Asia and Other Regions

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Why should we count women’s work?

• NTA’s fundamental purpose is to map how resources get from age groups with surplus to age groups with deficits
• How do these concepts change with a gender perspective?
• Why does it matter?
How to count women’s work?

1. Separate market-based NTA estimates by sex

2. Add National Time Transfer Accounts (NTTA):
   Household production satellite accounts
   +
   NTA framework
National Time Transfer Accounts

• Household production satellite accounts
  – Time use surveys tell us how much time people spent on unpaid care work (UCW)
    • Direct care for children, elders, sick, community
    • Indirect care through housework and household maintenance and management
  – Value time by an imputed market wage
    • Specialist replacement method

• NTA Framework
  – Adds age dimension
  – Impute consumption and transfers of unpaid care work time
Illustrative results

• Age profiles of production and consumption
• Costs of children
• The gendered economy
• Dependency
• Demographic dividends
Age profiles look different when we include UCW:

Example from US, 2009
UCW is a large part of human capital investment...

Note: Average of 25 countries around 2000-2010. Source: Vargha and Donehower working paper, calculations using NTA estimates from ntacounts.org & AGENTA and NTTA estimates from AGENTA and CWW.
... and of total costs of children.

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Women specialize in UCW, men in market work...

![Graph showing the difference in average hours worked per week, ages 30-50.](image)

- **Market Work**: Green bars
- **UCW**: Blue bars
- **Total Work**: Purple bars

The graph compares the average hours worked per week in market work, UCW, and total work for men and women across different countries, showing a trend where women specialize in UCW and men in market work.
... so men and women pay for children in different ways.
Relative dependency is different when UCW is included...

Change in Lifecycle Deficit from Adding NTTA

Synthetic Cohort LCD, Relative to Avg YL 30-49

United States, Germany, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Costa Rica, South Africa, India, Vietnam, Ghana, Senegal

Age 0-19  Age 65+
... so demographic dividends look different if you include UCW time.