

Workshop on Effective Use of Data for Policy Making on Ageing

Counting Women's Work: Evidence from Vietnam

Measuring the gendered economy

Research team

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Overview

- Results from Vietnam's first time use survey
- Recognizing unpaid care work in terms of time
- Recognizing unpaid care work in monetary terms
- Conclusions

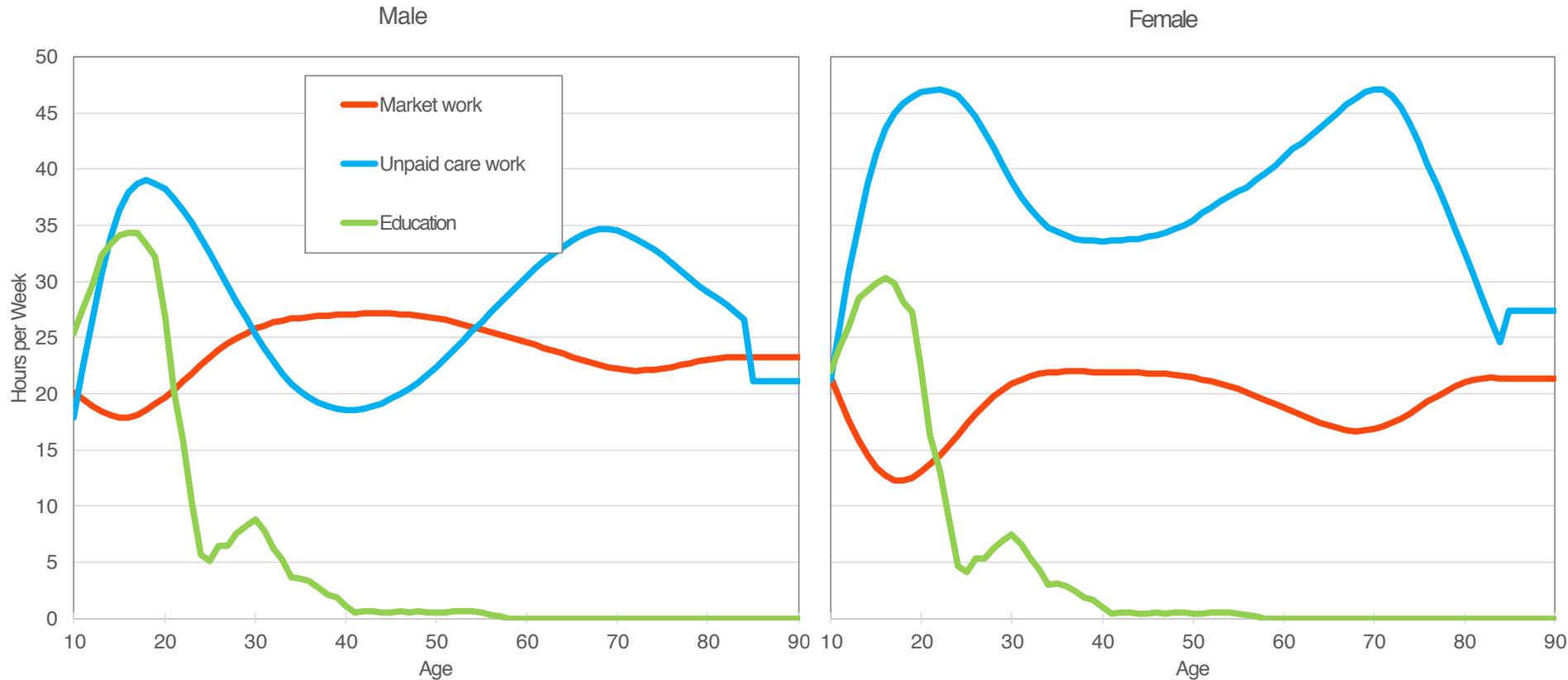
Vietnam Time Use Survey (VTUS)

- Pilot study in 6 cities
- In the field in 2014-2015
- 585 respondents age 10+
- 24-hour time diary
- Activities coded with UN's International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS)

Time Use Results

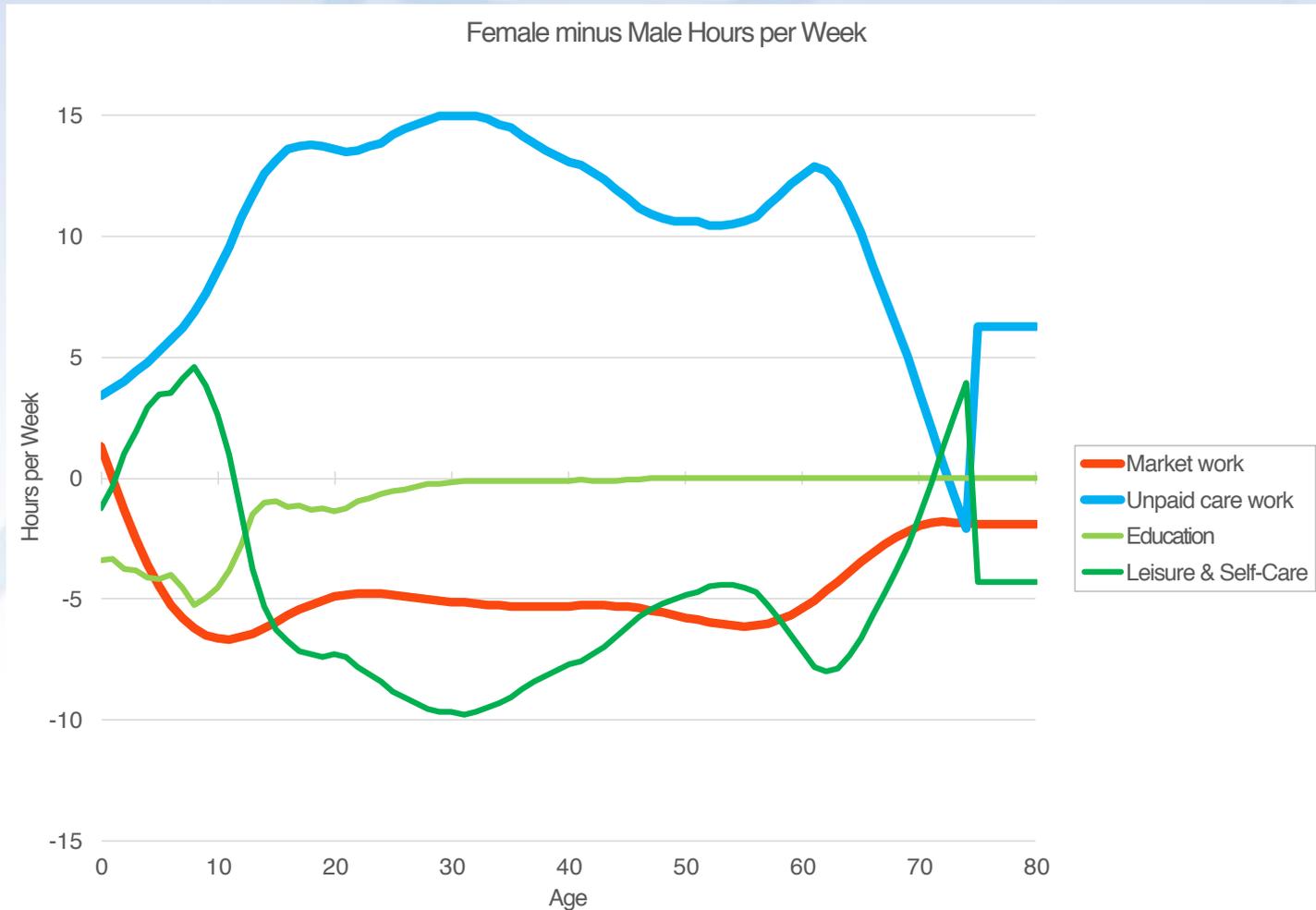
- Results simplified into four activity groups
 - Unpaid care work: time spent in direct care activities like childcare or eldercare, and general housework like cooking, cleaning, household maintenance and management.
 - Market work: paid work and unpaid work for family farms and businesses
 - Education: time spent in school and outside of school studying
 - Leisure and self-care

Time Use Results



Note: time for leisure and self-care not shown because of different scales.

Time Use Results



Less time in education for girls, less time in rest, leisure for women

- At age 15, boys spends 4 hours per week more on education than girls
- Combining work in the market and home, a 25-year-old woman works a total of 7 hours per week more than a man and has 6 hours per week less for leisure and self-care
- The largest difference in leisure and self-care time is at age 41, when women have 10 hours less per week than men

Women do more total work and specialize in unpaid care work

- On average, women spent 39 hours per week on unpaid care work while men used 29 hours per week only
- Total work hours by sex and unpaid care work vs. market work, age 10+:

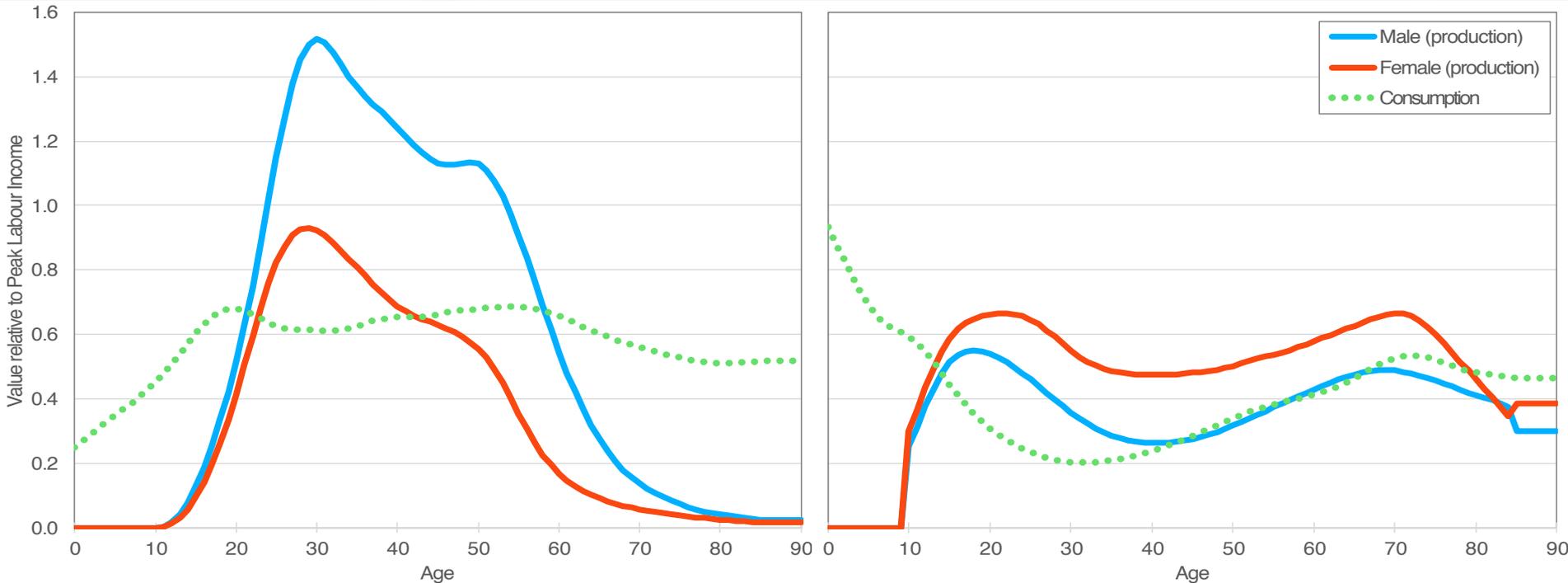
	Men	Women	
Market Work	21%	18%	39%
Unpaid Care Work	25%	36%	61%
	46%	54%	

(Women are 51% of the population age 10+)

Comparing unpaid care work in monetary units

Market Goods and Services
Production and Consumption

Unpaid Care Work
Production and Consumption

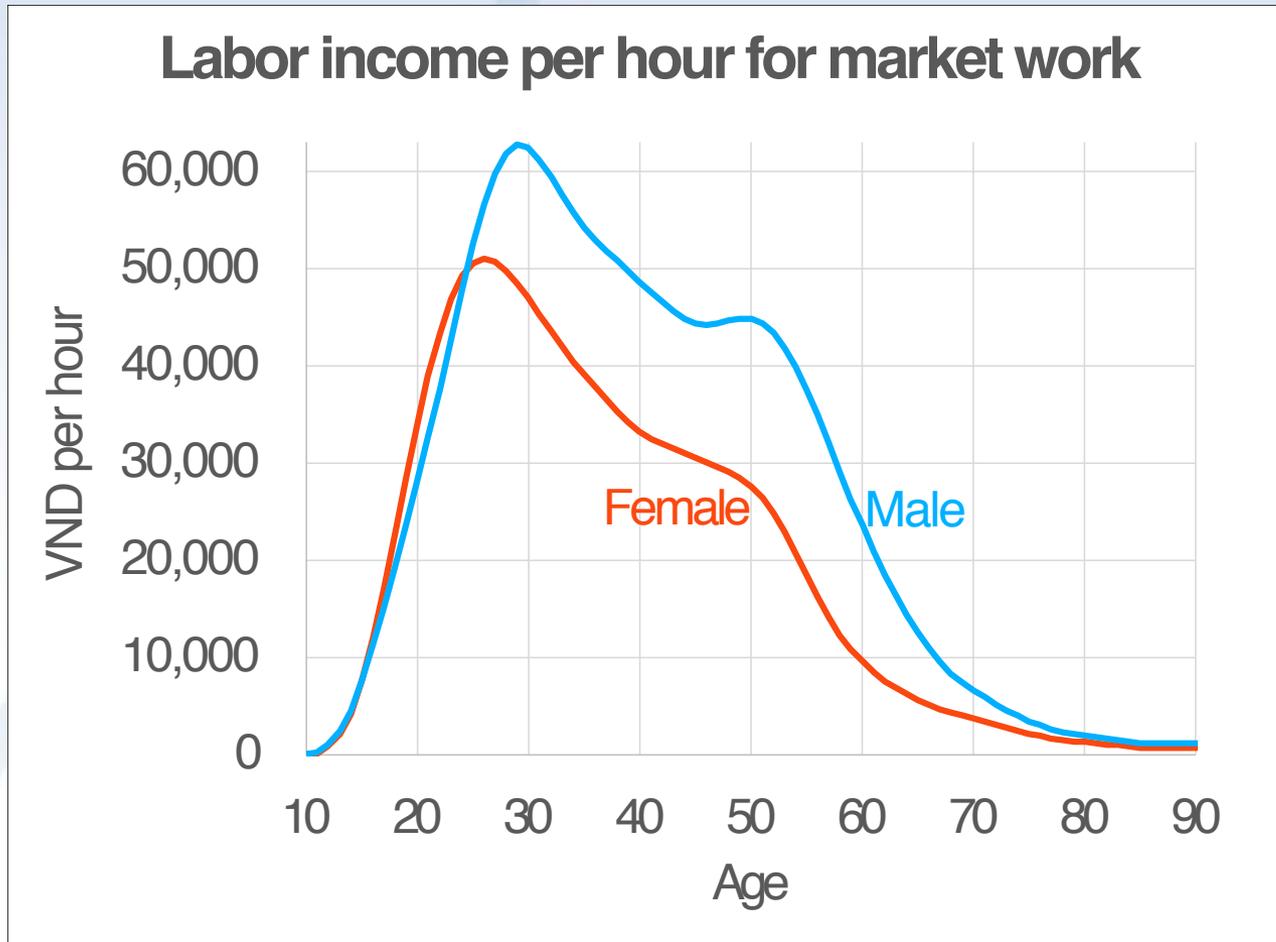


- Amounts relative to average market labour income ages 30-49
- Unpaid care work is valued at minimum wage

Comparing unpaid care work in monetary units

- Valuing unpaid care work
 - If unpaid care work is valued at minimum wage (about 15,000 VND/hour), it is equal to 48% of 2015 GDP
 - At lower replacement wages, it is equal to 17%
 - Market labour was 87% of 2015 GDP
- Age patterns
 - Children consume much more in care time than in market goods and services
 - Elders produce a lot in unpaid care work

Women paid less than men for market labour



- Differences emerge in mid-20s age group
- May change in the future with lower gender education gaps

Conclusions (1)

- Heavy housework and care responsibilities may:
 - Detract from time girls have for education
 - Limit ability of adult women to earn and income and pursue a career
 - Discourage women from marrying and having children
- Not recognizing unpaid care work underestimates women's contribution to the economy and household well-being
 - Valuing unpaid care work will result in better policies on gender, work, and human capital investment
 - Need for more and better time use surveys in countries around the world

Conclusions (2)

- Policies are needed to reduce the gender wage gap in market work
 - Provide infrastructure and social services to reduce time spent in strenuous household chores
 - Encourage more SME and MSEM for women to improve their incomes and empower women's voices in their families
 - Develop labour market to shift from insecure and low paid jobs to more stable employment
 - Give women access to credit, occupational skills to help them seek better opportunities in the labour market

Thank you!

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