

Analysis of Gender Differences in Intra-household Time Allocation

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ABSTRACT: *Households are the locus of much economic decision making. Of the resources allocated within the household, time plays a crucial role in determining wellbeing of individual members. It is customary to discuss allocation of time among paid, nonpaid and care works in addressing gender divisions. The objectives of this study were to analyse the gender differences in time allocation within the rural households and to find out the determinants of the time allocation for nonpaid activities. The rules regarding allocation of resources within the household were captured using a collective model. It was hypothesized that each spouse makes decisions within his or her own sphere and responds to the other's decisions by altering the level of voluntary contribution to shared goods. The empirical model specified hours spent for nonpaid work by each spouse as the dependent variable and individual, household characteristics and partner's time allocation as independent variables. Two equations developed for husband and wife were estimated simultaneously using 2SLS technique. Data were extracted from the baseline survey carried out among rural households in Udukumbara village in Kandy district. Results reveal that husbands allocate more hours for both paid and nonpaid works and less hours for care works than those of wives. According to 2SLS estimation results, total land extent and education level have significant positive and negative effects respectively on nonpaid work hours of both spouses and presence of other adult has a positive significant effect on wife's nonpaid working hours. Interestingly, the results indicate that nonpaid work hours of one spouse has a negative significant impact on the other's nonpaid works indicating the members jointly make time allocation decisions.*

Keywords: *Collective model, gender differences, intra-household time allocation*

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