Examining the low market participation rate of women in the Philippines: Is housework the missing link?

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OCTOBER 2, 2019

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Objectives

To provide:

-systematic evidence on how women's LFP is affected by housework

-directions for future researches in market and non-market work

Many studies done on housework-wage nexus, **focus on working samples**

Important: understand how housework affects **labor market participation** (e.g. how can women be economically productive?)

Facts on women

Achieved the MDG target ratios of girls/boys

PH is 8th in the global ranking of gender parity, two ranks higher than in 2017, PH only Asian economy in top 10

PH needs to achieve gender parity in the economic participation/opportunity and political empowerment

Women's LFPR is low: 47% (1990) and 51% (2018)

PIDS

What has been done to improve women's LFPR?

The PDP 2017-2022 outlines several strategies to encourage the labor force participation of women.

EO No. 12 (2017) intensify and accelerate the implementation of programs to attain zero unmet need for modern family planning by 2018

RPRH Law provides for the comprehensive delivery of reproductive and health services

deemed important in harnessing the demographic dividend

Housework-market work: Women

Housework tends to be dictated by **gender identity.**

Time is a limited resource and its allocation has implications on labor market outcomes.

PH has one of the **highest fertility rate** in the region at around 2.7 children born per woman (PSA, 2018).

Housework-market work: Men

Holistic perspective, GAD framework the seeks to ensure both men and women benefit from development

The **market and non-market production of both men and women are necessarily interrelated**. the Philippine society is egalitarian (Medina, 1995)

There are **gains from the complementarity of spousal housework** in the Philippines.

RRL: LFP-Housework nexus

Becker's theory of the family (1991):
the division of housework is dictated by **comparative advantage.**

Women
Double burden
in their mid-life are engaged in high-intensity market work and substantial amount of non-market chores.

Data

2012 International Social Survey Program

Different topic each year

2002 and 2012 ISSP collects data on family and changing gender roles

attitudes towards gender roles

$$LFP = f(personal_{respondent}, HH\ chars, Y, \textbf{mom's work history}, HW_{respondent}, HW_{spouse})$$

$$\textbf{HW}_{respondent} = f(personal_{respondent}, HH\ chars, Y, \textbf{attitudes}, personal_{spouse})$$

$$\textbf{HW}_{spouse} = f(personal_{spouse}, HH\ chars, Y, \textbf{attitudes}, personal_{respondent})$$

LFP 0/1; HW continuous variable

The error term in each equation is assumed to be IID. LFP and HW can be combined into multiequation systems in which the error terms share a multivariate normal distrtibution (Roodman, 2011).

Attitudes: 1. *When mother works, preschool child is likely to suffer*? 2. *When women work, family life suffers*? and 3. *Men's job is to earn money while women's job is to look after home*?

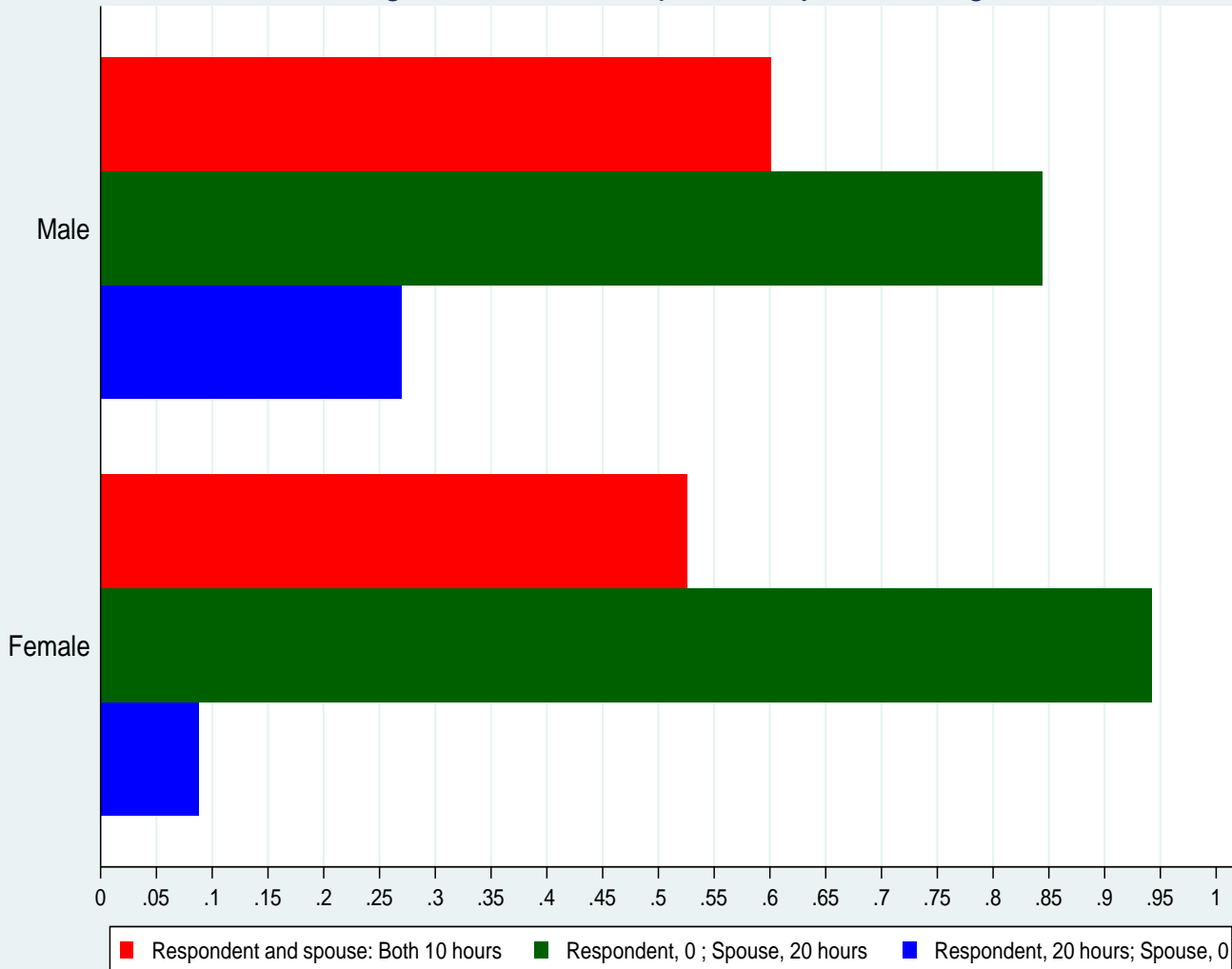|	Male respondent			Female respondent		
	LFP respondent	HW, respondent	HW, spouse	LFP respondent	HW, respondent	HW, spouse
Personal attributes						
Respondent: Age	–					
Respondent: College		+				
Married					–	
Partner: college						
HH characteristics						
Household size	–	+			–	
Number of toddler					+	
Family income	+			+		
Urban	–					
Luzon			+			
Housework						
Respondent				–		
Spouse	+			+		
Work History						
Mother worked				+		
Attitudes			–			–

Prediction exercise

Benchmark:

- 40-year old college graduate, **married** to **a partner who is a college graduate.**

-mother had worked when the respondent was young

-has **positive attitudes** towards gender roles (**disagrees** with the notion that preschool children and family life suffer when women work and with the dichotomy of men as earners and women as homemakers.

-family income of PhP20 000

-urban Luzon.

Prediction:

Probabilities of working are predicted by assuming different housework time

1) Each spends 10 hours (benchmark)

2) Respondent devotes 20 hours, spouse devotes none

3) Respondent devotes 0 hour, spouse devotes 20 hours

Figure 2: Predicted probability of working

Legend:
- Respondent and spouse: Both 10 hours
- Respondent, 0 ; Spouse, 20 hours
- Respondent, 20 hours; Spouse, 0

❑ Relative to the benchmarks, the probabilities of male and female's market participation are higher when they spend zero inputs to housework.

◦ **The increase in the female's probability of working relative to the benchmark is bigger compared to that of the male. (42 PP vs. 25 PP)**

❑ Probabilities of working for both male and female respondents are lower given 20 hours of housework and their spouses devote none.

◦ **The decrease in the female's probability of working is noticeably bigger. (43 PP vs 34 PP)**

Takeaways

Housework affects both men and women's participation in market work.

Important to craft policies that will help spouses to **perform productive and reproductive roles.**

Provide support to ease the burden of home-production (e.g. affordable and accessible quality child care services in the community)

Designing elderly care systems:

Elderly population (aged 60 and above) is still 6% (2000) and 7.5% (2015). 10% (2025) and 16% (2045)

The potential increase in **caregiving demand due to aging or health deterioration** could affect labor market outcomes such as **absenteeism and tardiness that will adversely affect labor productivity**.

Issues and ways forward

Women's contribution to society, not necessarily in the labor market.

What happens after the children have grown-up and started to go to school?

Productive and reproductive roles

Men, as household providers, are expected to participate in market work.

Equal role to play in rearing children

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Need to enhance the household presence of working men and strengthen their involvement in child-rearing/nurturing in the process

Data needs to mainstream research on care economy

❑ This paper provides an initial assessment of the effects of housework on the men and women's labor force participation and it has done so using a cross-section dataset.

❑ Use of panel data to establish the evolution of housework over the men and women's life course.

❑ Time use questions as riders to its existing surveys such as the LFS or APIS.
   o How much time is devoted to elderly care? Child care? Other housework?
   o When do they usually do these non-market work?

Quantify the effects of double burden or second shift

Understand time poverty

THANK YOU!