



Time-Use Survey 2019

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Introduction

When we talk about labor and employment, the discourse is dominated by work that yields some kind of remuneration. However, with declining labor force participation rates and the burden of household chores typically falling on women in Indian society, it is important for us to ascertain how people allocate their time across areas - something that has been largely absent from statistical data. The Time Use Survey conducted by the NSO over the period of January to December 2019 seeks to bridge this gap. It is a comprehensive, one-of-a-kind survey that gives detailed information about the time disposition of men and women in both rural and urban areas, and how they go about allocating their time across various paid and unpaid activities. These also include volunteer work, unpaid domestic and caregiving activities, learning, socializing and self-care. Approximately 3,21,944 individuals from rural areas and 1,96,800 individuals from urban regions participated in the survey.



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Key Highlights

- 1. Female labor participation showed low levels when it came to employment and related activities at around 19% in rural areas (317 minutes a day) and a meagre 17% in urban areas (375 minutes). Male labor participation was significantly higher at about 56% in rural areas (with 434 minutes per day) and 60% in urban areas (514 minutes).** Overall, the average participation for rate for India hovered around the 38%, with Indians spending 429 minutes per day on such endeavors.
- 2. Production of goods for self-consumption has also formed an important component of the average Indian's day. Interestingly, women participated at approximately half the rate that men did in both rural and urban areas.** Rural participation rate, at 22%, showed a sizeable gain over its urban counterpart, which stood at 5.8%. On an average, Indians spent a little more than 2.5 hours a day in generating subsistence commodities.
- 3. Participation rates in terms of unpaid labor such as caregiving and other household services further reflected the gendered division of labor. With regard to household chores, women were found to partake in numbers that were 4 times as high as men across rural and urban areas.** Specifically, men and women contributed 98 and 301 minutes, respectively, of their day towards everyday errands in rural areas, with these figures being slightly lower at 94 and 293 minutes for men and women in urban areas.
- 4. Participation in volunteer work remained low on an average at about 2.4% across India, with greater parity between men and women in terms of both time allocation and participation.**
- 5. An overwhelming majority of Indians (86 to 91%) were found to engage in sports, media and culture as well as socializing and religious activities, with little difference between the figures for men and women across the country.**
- 6. Not surprisingly, all Indians (100%), regardless of gender, were found to take around 726 minutes on average for self-care and personal maintenance.**
- 7. While around 85.9% of children aged 6-14 spent around 430 minutes in learning activities, with consistent rates across regions and sexes, this drops to 29.2% when we look at the 15-29 age group. The older subsection spends the same amount of time, 430 minutes, on learning, but participation rates continued to persist around the 25-35% mark, registering lower numbers for rural areas and women overall.**
- 8. Altogether, only 36.2% of Indians were involved in paid work, which is in stark contrast to the 63.6 percent that engaged in unpaid work. More time on average was spent doing paid work than unpaid work, however, with time allocation prevailing at 413 and 289 minutes respectively.**

Read more: http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/publication_reports/Report_TUS_2019_0.pdf

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