

# **Why unpaid female labour matters: How to use Time Use Studies to evaluate it?**

To be presented at:

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Division for Social Policy and Development  
Social Integration Branch

**Expert Group Meeting on  
“Care and Older Persons:  
Links to Decent Work, Migration and Gender”**

United Nations Headquarters, New York  
5-7 December 2017

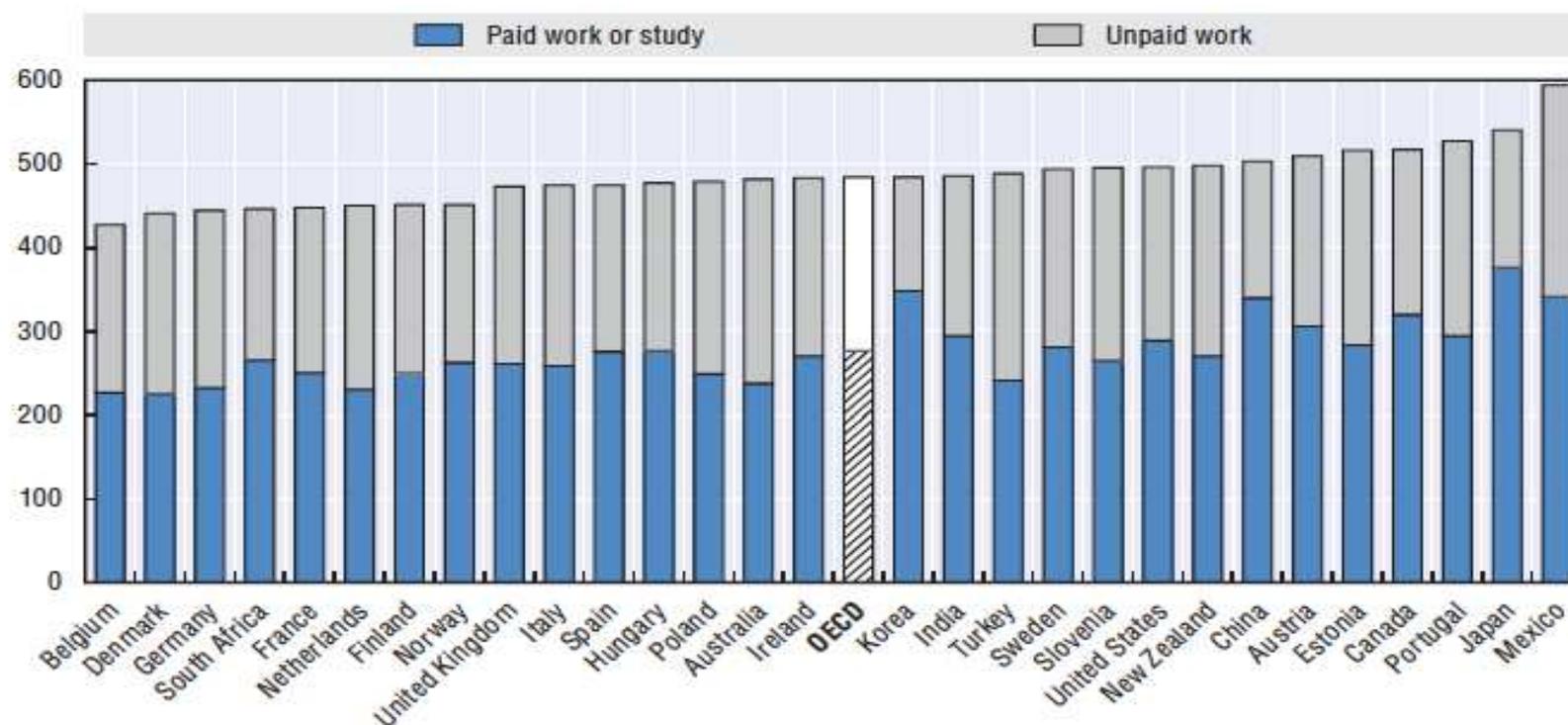
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# System of National Accounts (SNAs) and Unpaid Work

- Market valuation of income or expenditure (value added)
- SNAs inc. some non-market consumption/expenditure, e.g., owner-occupation and imputed rental value
- What is not in the Market Sphere? What is done at 'home' or in the Domestic Sphere
- ....e.g. care, domestic work, education, DIYs,...
- Invisibility, non-monetised and 'non-value'
- **BUT:** Domestic sphere essential for market (care, production and reproduction of labour)
- Entitlements to services (e.g. health, old age support) through the market, e.g. employment, unless based on citizenship
- Gendered domestic work → women's work not visible
- In non-citizenship based social support system women qualify for support through partners/husbands

**Figure 1. Total working time in OECD and selected developing countries: total minutes worked, paid and unpaid, per day. (1998-2009)**

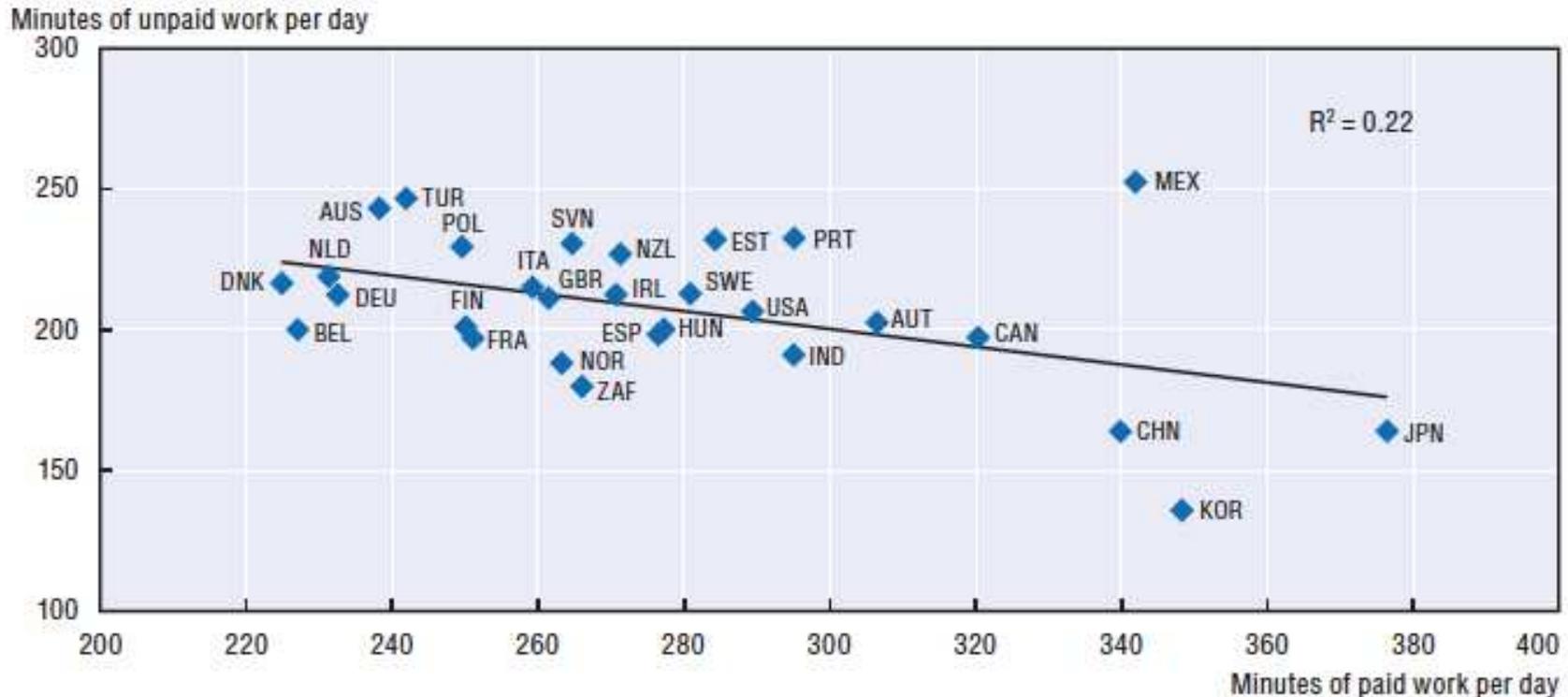


Note: Travelling time related to paid and unpaid work is included in the respective categories. See Figure 1.1 for country-specific notes.

Source: OECD's Secretariat estimates based on national time-use surveys (see Miranda, 2011).

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932381456>

**Figure 2. Trade off between paid and unpaid work in OECD and selected developing countries. (1998-2009)**

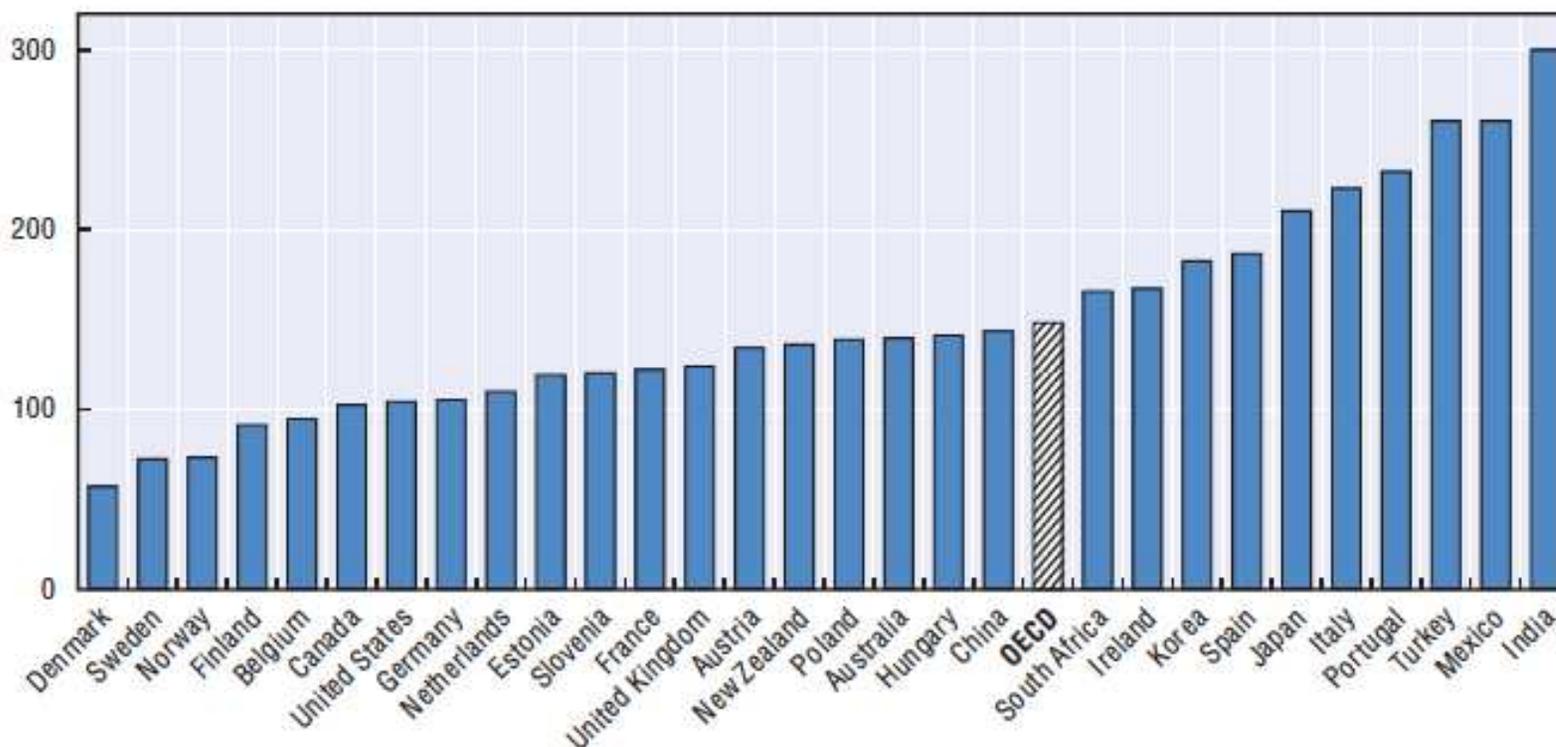


Note: Travelling time related to paid and unpaid work is included in the respective categories. See Figure 1.1 for country-specific notes.

Source: OECD's Secretariat estimates based on national time-use surveys (see Miranda, 2011).

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**Figure 3. Women do more unpaid work (female less male unpaid work), minutes per day. (1998-2009)**

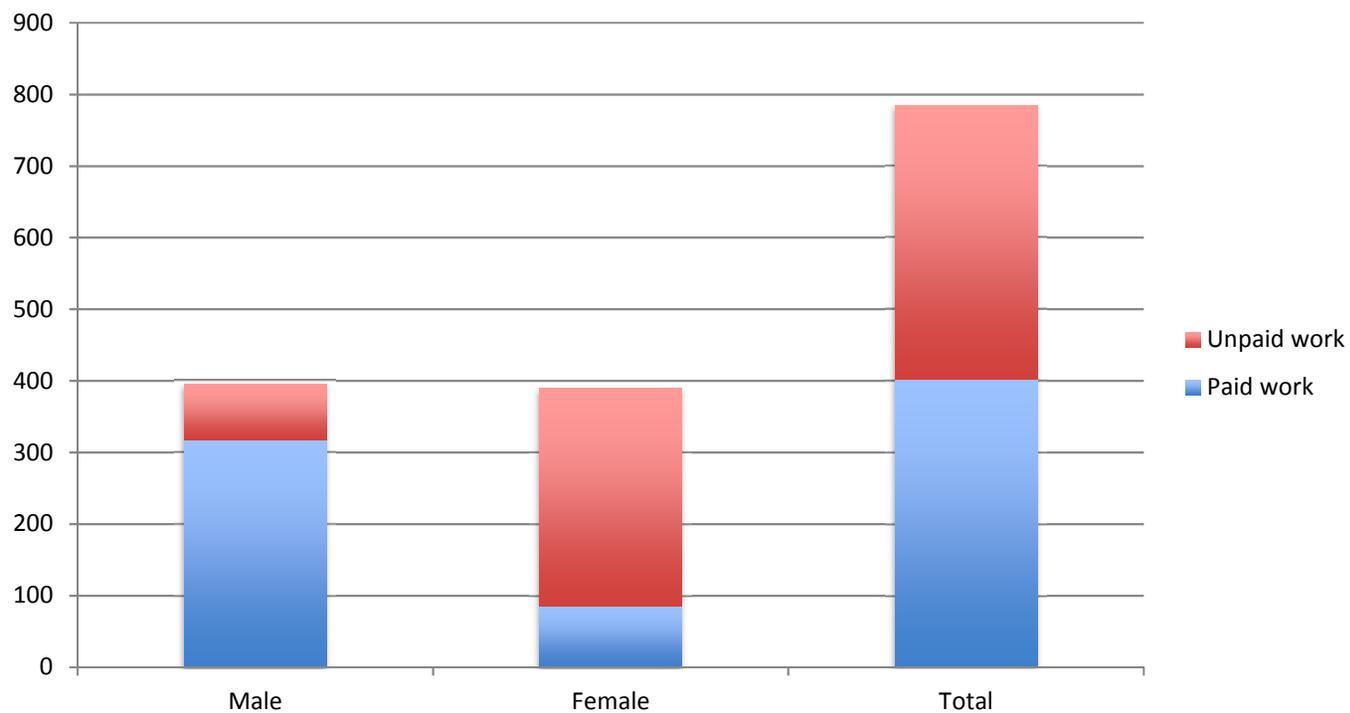


Note: See Figure 1.1 for country-specific notes.

Source: OECD's Secretariat estimates based on national time-use surveys (see Miranda, 2011).

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932381494>

# Figure 4. Paid and unpaid work by gender in urban areas. Iran 2008-2009 (Minutes per day)



# How to evaluate unpaid work?

- Output of the unpaid work
  - Goods with market value
  - Need detailed info → Expensive to conduct
- Input (mainly time) needed to carry out the unpaid work
  - How much time? Time Use Study
  - How to evaluate time? Market income/wage
    - Opportunity cost (income foregone) of unpaid work
    - Replacement cost (market wage rate)
      - General worker (all unpaid work)
      - Specialist worker (e.g. cooking, care, education,...)

**Table 1. Average daily time allocated to main unpaid household activities.**

**Married housewives in urban areas. Iran 2008-09 (Hours: minutes)**

Unpaid Work	Domestic	Child care	Adult care	Children Education	Total
2008-09	05:50	00:36	00:04	00:06	06:36
%	88	9	1	1	100

- Similar distribution of time within provinces
- Provincial variation:
  - Lowest: Yazd 05:09
  - Highest: Ardebil 07:33
  - Why?
  - Paid work?(handicraft industry)
  - Help at home (Other females and males)
  - Domestic appliances
  - Understanding questions

$$V = \sum T_i \times W_i \times P_i$$

$V$  = Value

$T$  = Time

$W$  = Wage

$P$  = Population

$i$  = Province

## Market rates for household unpaid works (replacement method)

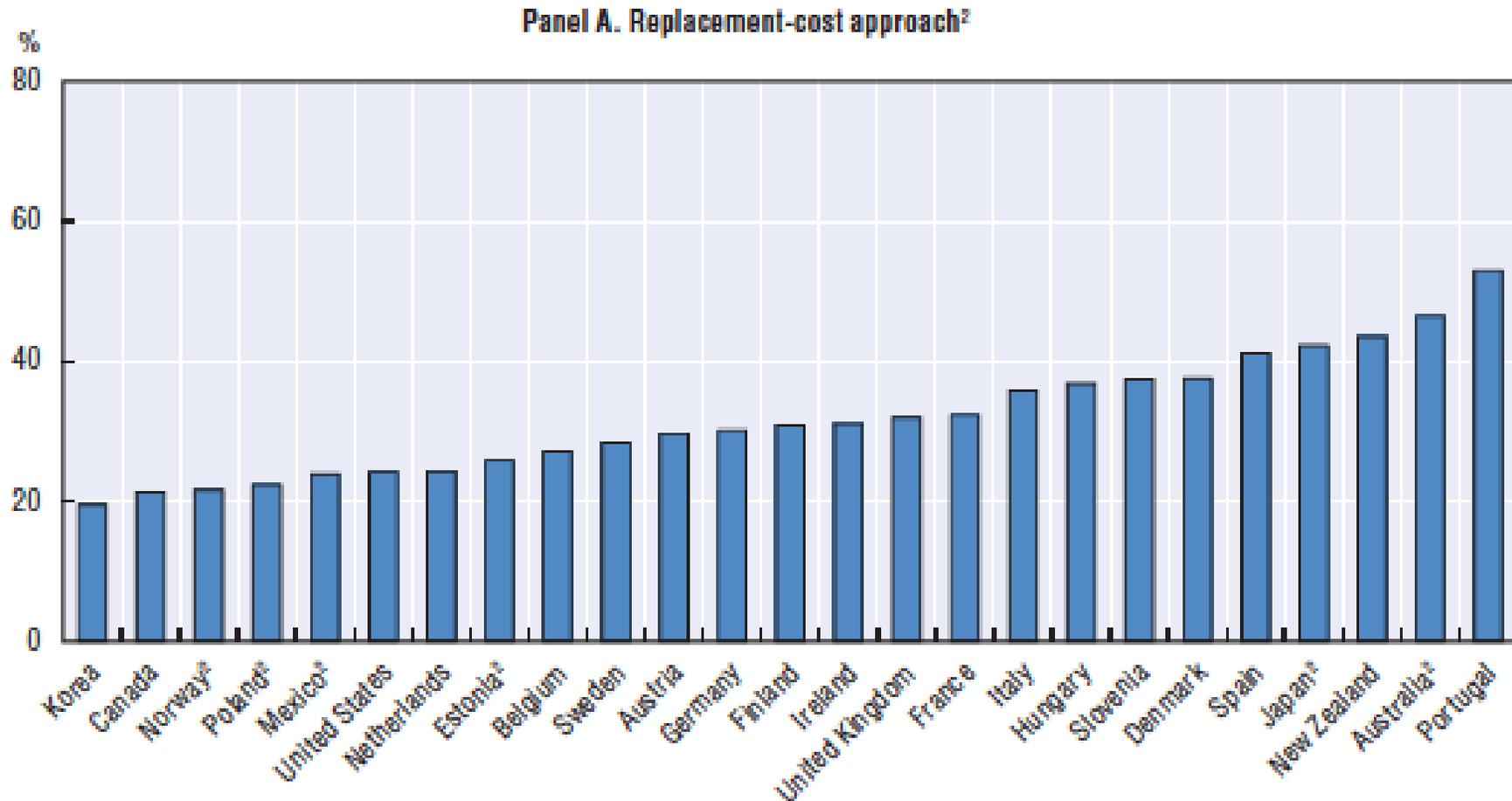
- $V = \sum T_i \times W_i \times P_i$  (V=Value, T=Time, W=Wage, P=Population, i=Province)
- General work (domestic and care)
- Specialist work (education)
- Labour markets:
  - Domestic work: agencies and personal contacts
  - Education: colleges and private hire
- Data collected:
  - Domestic work:
    - Wage domestic work agencies in 14 provinces (below pov. Line)
    - Others: estimate (Wage in 14/Pov. Line in 14) x Poverty line
  - Education (support at home up to early high school=mother's edu.)
    - Levels: primary, high school, university entrance exam preparation
    - Trained teachers (high pay)
    - Untrained teachers (low pay)
    - Survey of two educational colleges in provincial capitals
  - Population: % married urban housewives in censa of 1986 and 2006

**Table 2. Estimated annual monetary value of the main unpaid household activities of married housewives in urban areas. 2008, 2009 (Million US\$) and as % of GDP.**

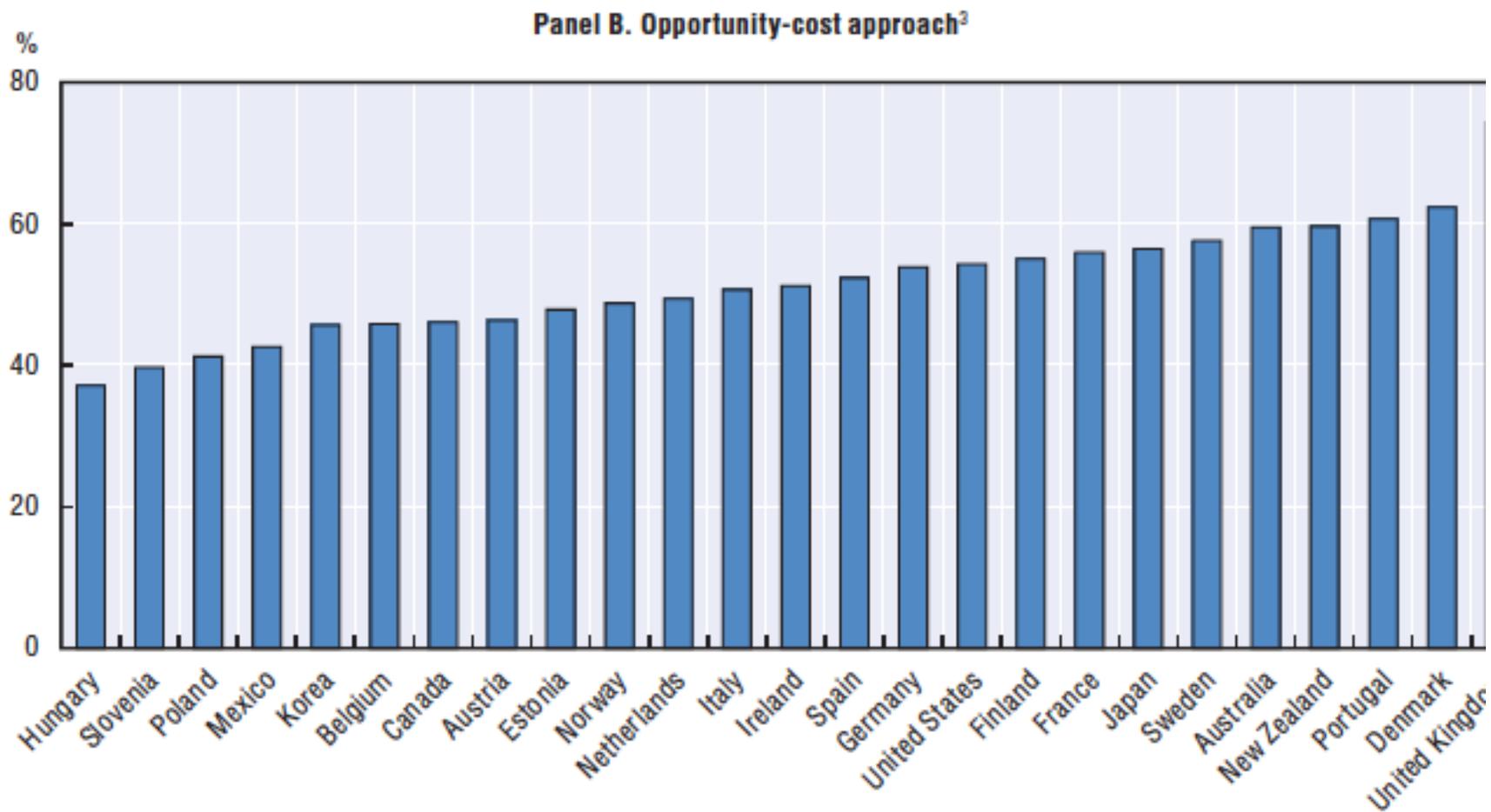
Year	Activity				Total
	Domestic	Child care	Adult care	Teaching	
<b>2008</b>	22,150	2,198	220	1,501	26,069
% Urban non-oil GDP	7.32	0.73	0.07	0.50	<b>8.61</b>
<b>2009</b>	24,664	2,448	245	1,672	29,029
% Urban non-oil GDP	7.38	0.73	0.07	0.50	<b>8.69</b>

- Unpaid work as percentage of total GDP (non-oil + oil): 7.6
- If include all urban and rural women: at least 15 % of GDP
- Figures comparable with findings from other countries, e.g. OECD (N.B. use average wage, opportunity cost method overestimates)...
- TUSI-2014/15 similar results TUSI-2008/09
- Household work – Female/Male: all ages 4.5, 60 & > =2.8

**Figure 5. Estimated value of the unpaid work (male and female, 15-64 years of age) as a percentage of GDP in OECD countries. (1998-2009)**



**Figure 6. Estimated value of the unpaid work (male and female, 15-64 years of age) as a percentage of GDP in OECD countries. (1998-2009)**



## Conclusions and Policy Implications

- 15 % GDP due to urban housewives unpaid work
- Make unpaid work visible in SNAs
- Value of unpaid work justifies Islamic '*NAFAGHEH*' (family upkeep) and '*OJRAT OL-MESL*' (compensation of wife labour)
- BUT...need to support women's rights to income and wealth without discrimination (esp. Islamic inheritance laws, e.g., daughter  $\frac{1}{2}$  son, wife only  $\frac{1}{8}$  of value of house/building, NOT land)
- Social policy: child care and pre-school education...
- ...Increase female LFPR...BUT...unpaid work may not decrease...
- Need cultural changes in gender roles at home
- Social support (e.g. health, education, pensions) directly to women
- **Women have earned their share of GDP, they should claim it!**