

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

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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”**

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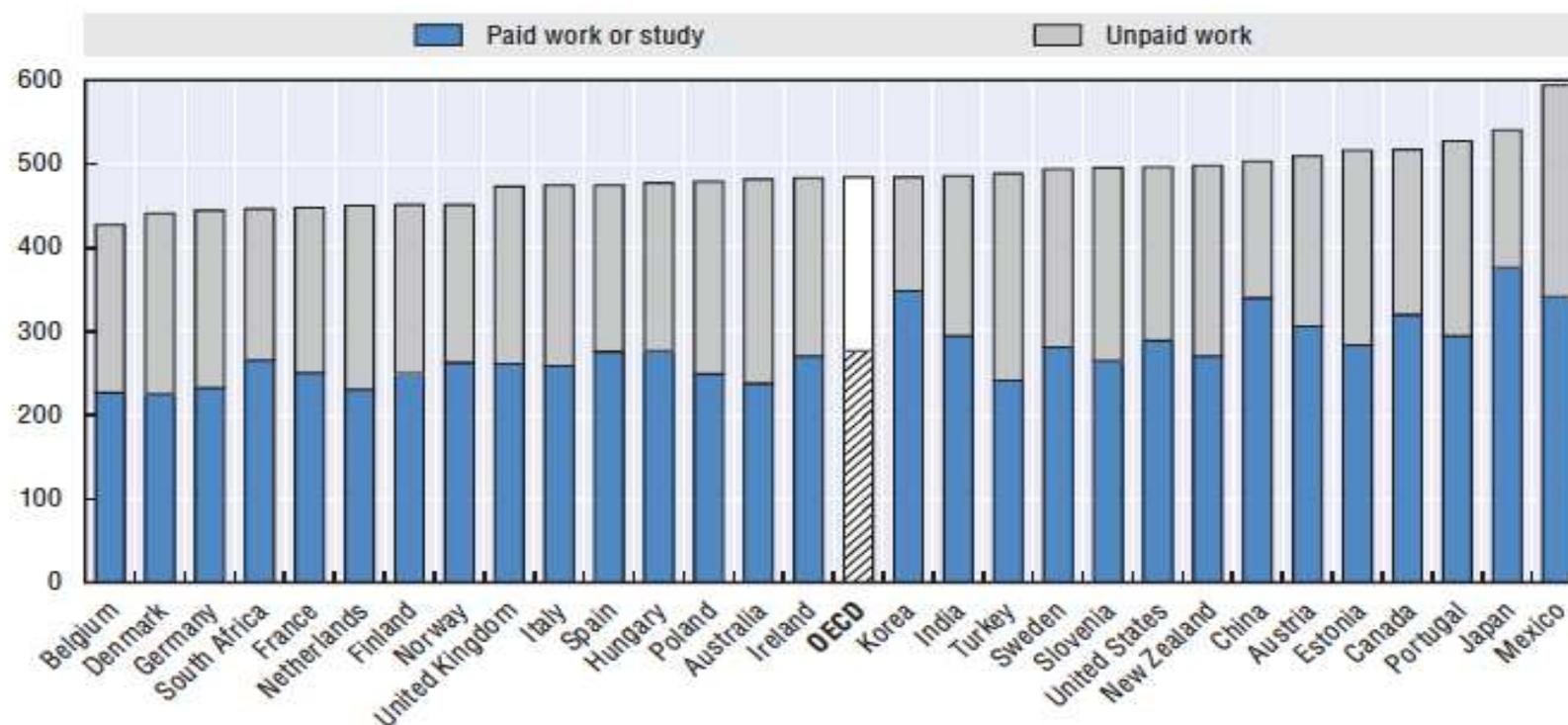
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Draft 2-Please do not quote.

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)

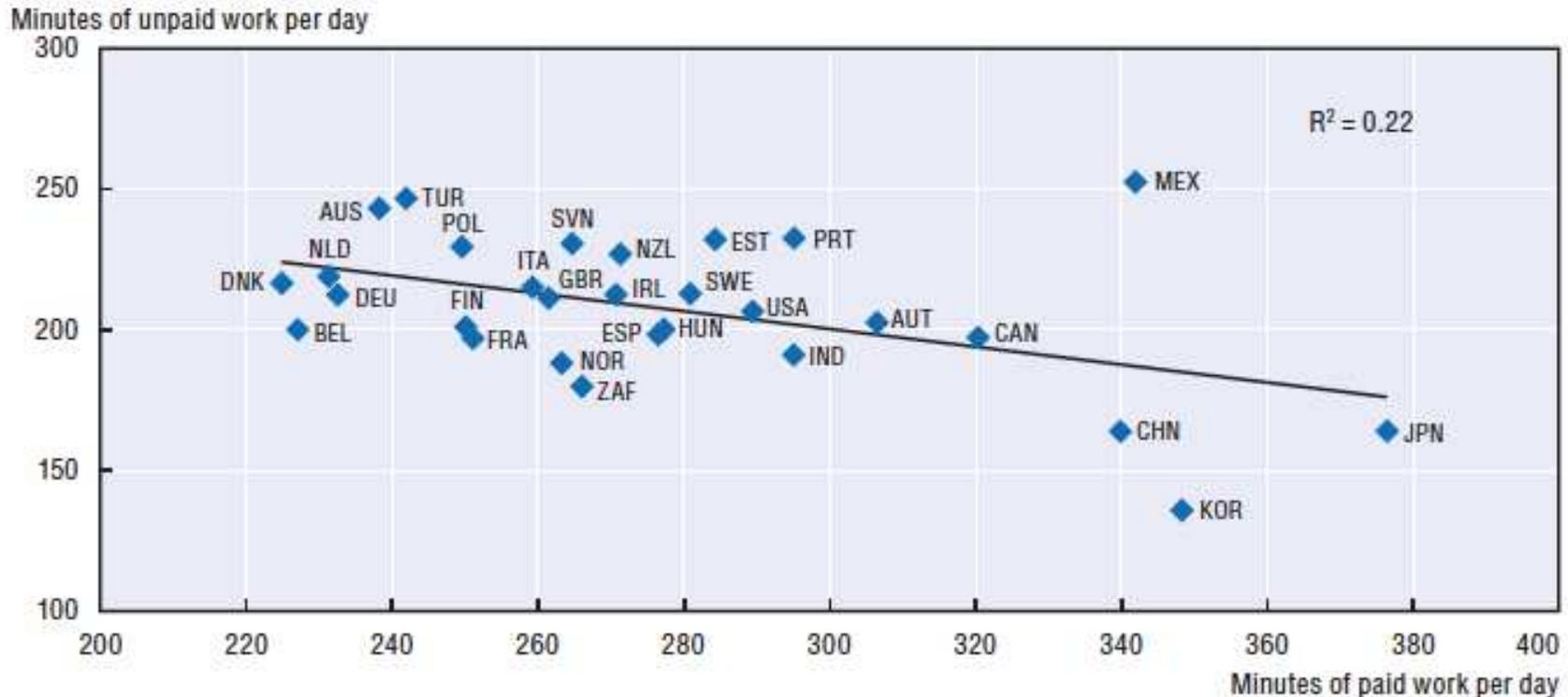


Note: Travelling time related to paid and unpaid work is included in the respective categories. See Figure 1.1 for country-specific notes.

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)

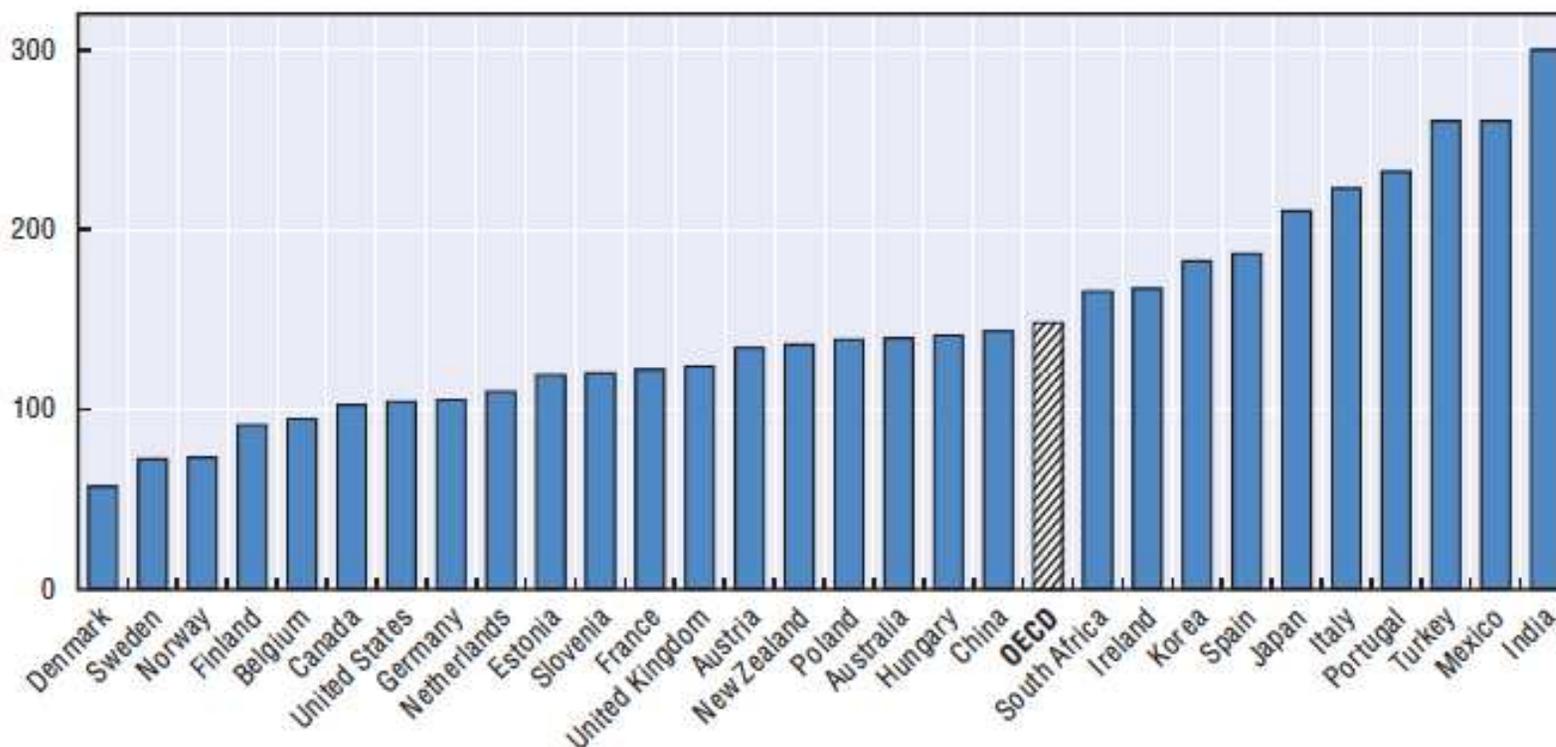


Note: Travelling time related to paid and unpaid work is included in the respective categories. See Figure 1.1 for country-specific notes.

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)

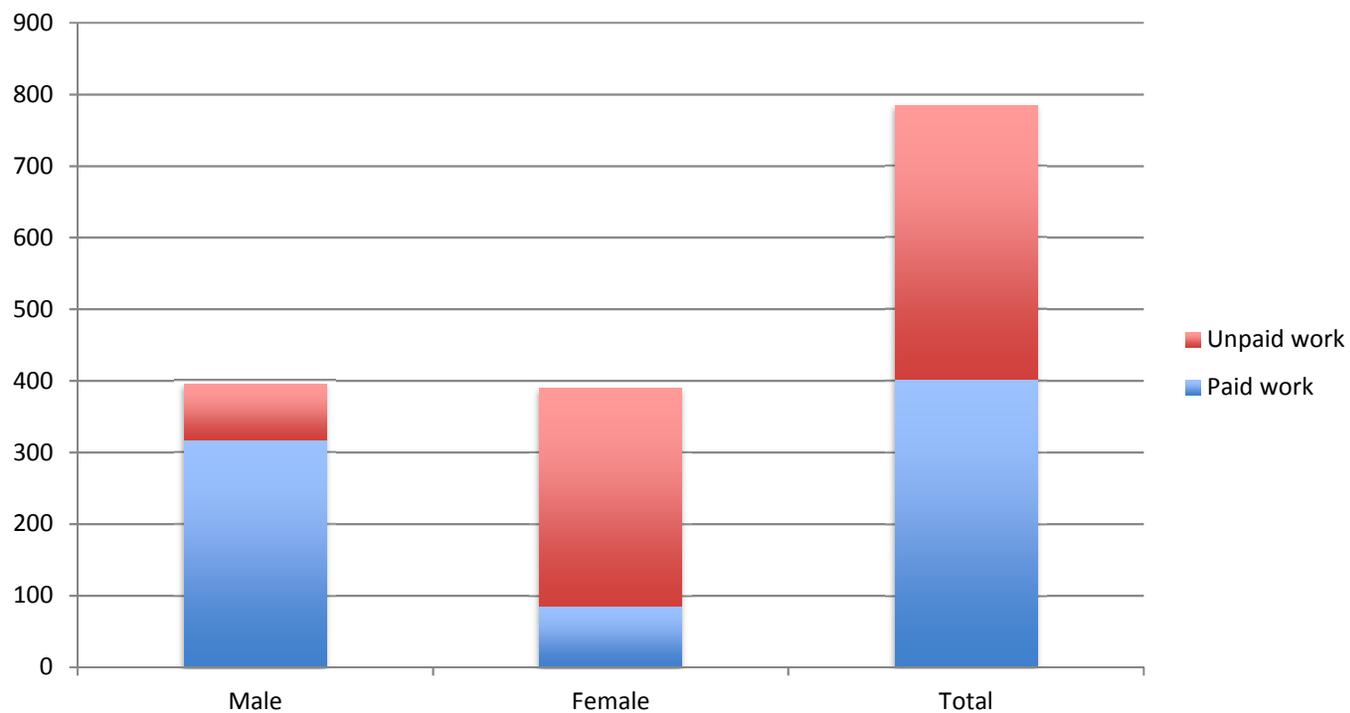


Note: See Figure 1.1 for country-specific notes.

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

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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 | |
| 2008 | 22,150 | 2,198 | 220 | 1,501 | 26,069 |
| % Urban non-oil GDP | 7.32 | 0.73 | 0.07 | 0.50 | 8.61 |
| 2009 | 24,664 | 2,448 | 245 | 1,672 | 29,029 |
| % Urban non-oil GDP | 7.38 | 0.73 | 0.07 | 0.50 | 8.69 |

- 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)

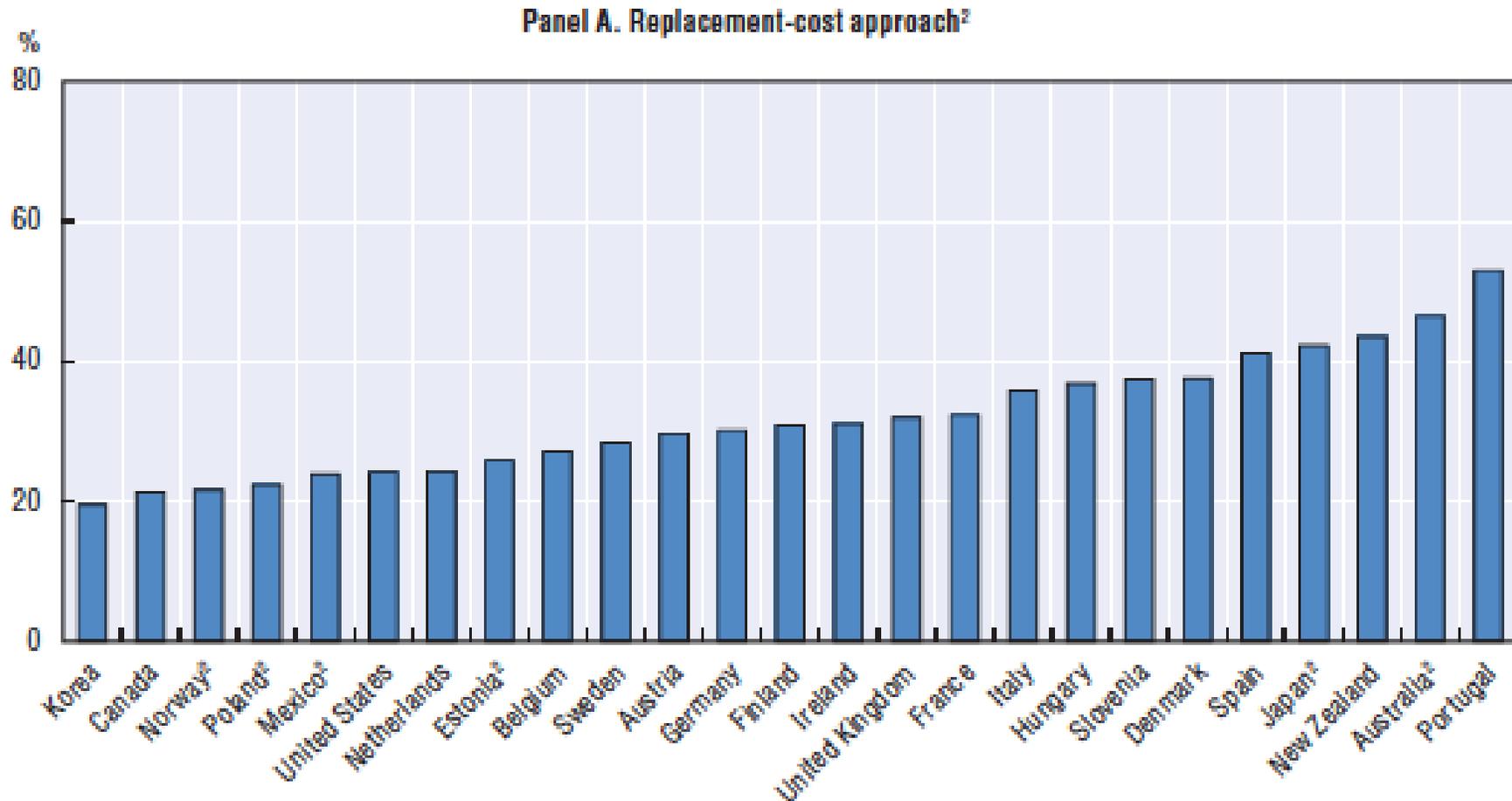
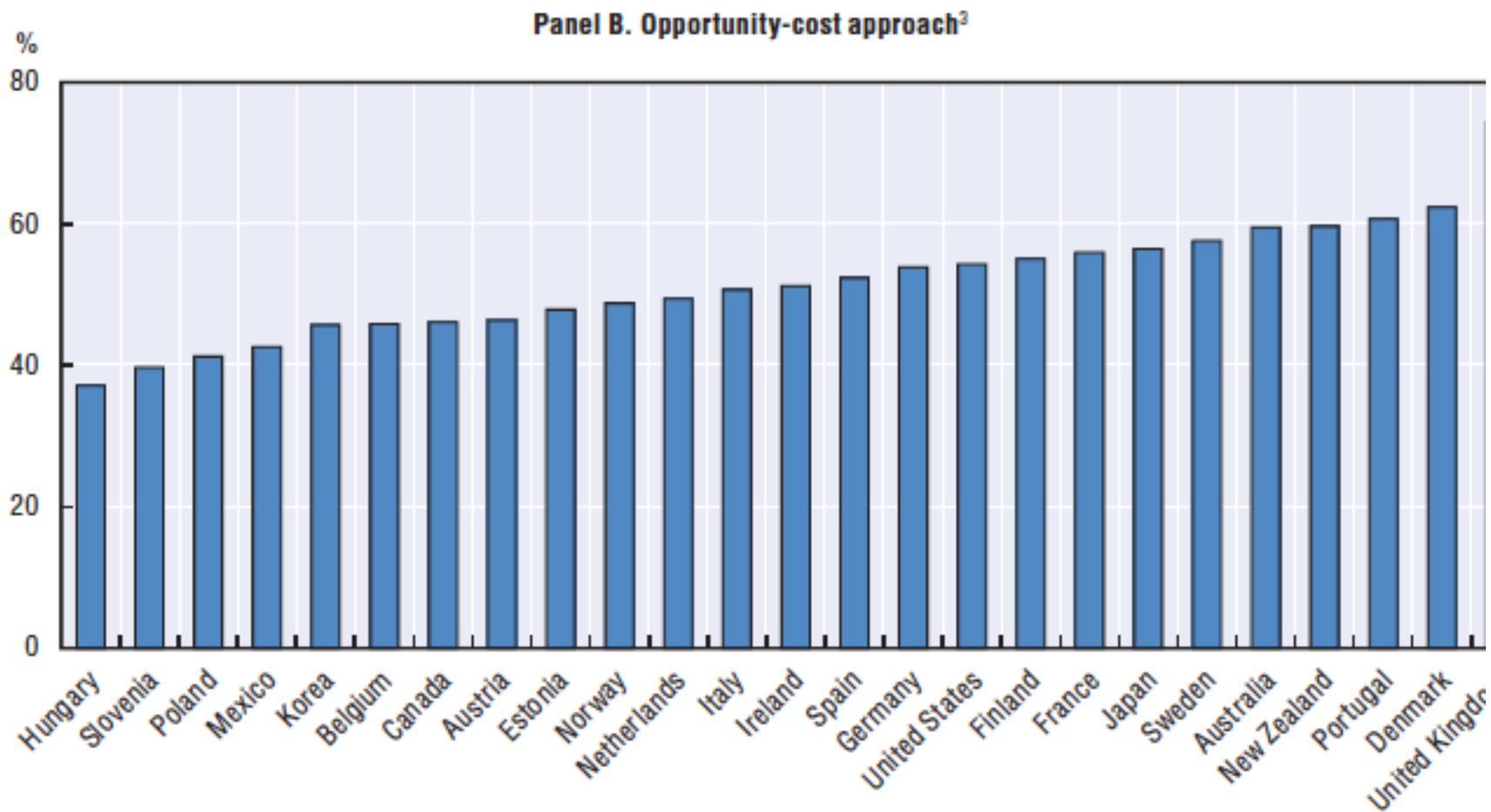


Figure 6. Estimated value of the unpaid work (male and female, 15-64 years of age) as a percentage of GDP in OECD countries. (1998-2009)



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!**