

Valuing Unpaid Care Work in Sri Lanka using the National Time Use Survey 2017

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Outline

Motivation

Data and definitions

Methodology

Results

Conclusions and Policy implications

Valuing unpaid care work is important because it

- (1) renders visible and *recognizes* the worth of unpaid care, and highlights how misleading estimates of GDP can be
- (2) promotes more “accurate and comprehensive” valuation of the work that takes place in economies (UNDP 1995) and
- (3) strengthens the argument that those who provide unpaid work to family or household members are entitled to a fair share and control over income generated by those members (Budlender 2013)

And in all of this, supports the right to care and be cared for

Recognizing unpaid care and its distribution between men and women

Is important for understanding unequal bargaining power within households and its impact on the allocation of time and money by men and women (Folbre, 2006)

Highly likely that unpaid care plays a role in the allocation of time of women – Sri Lanka's female labour force participation has been stagnant at around 35 percent for at least two decades (male LFP has been on average around 75 percent over the same period).

60% of women who are economically inactive, say because of housework.

National Time Use Survey 2017

First ever National Time Use Survey for Sri Lanka

17,376 persons > 10 years of age from 6,440 housing units selected for the Labour Force Survey 4th quarter of the same year – October – December 2017, sample of a PSU spread over 7 days

2 PAPI (paper based) questionnaires: Household survey and Time Diary – every 15 minutes within a 24 hour period

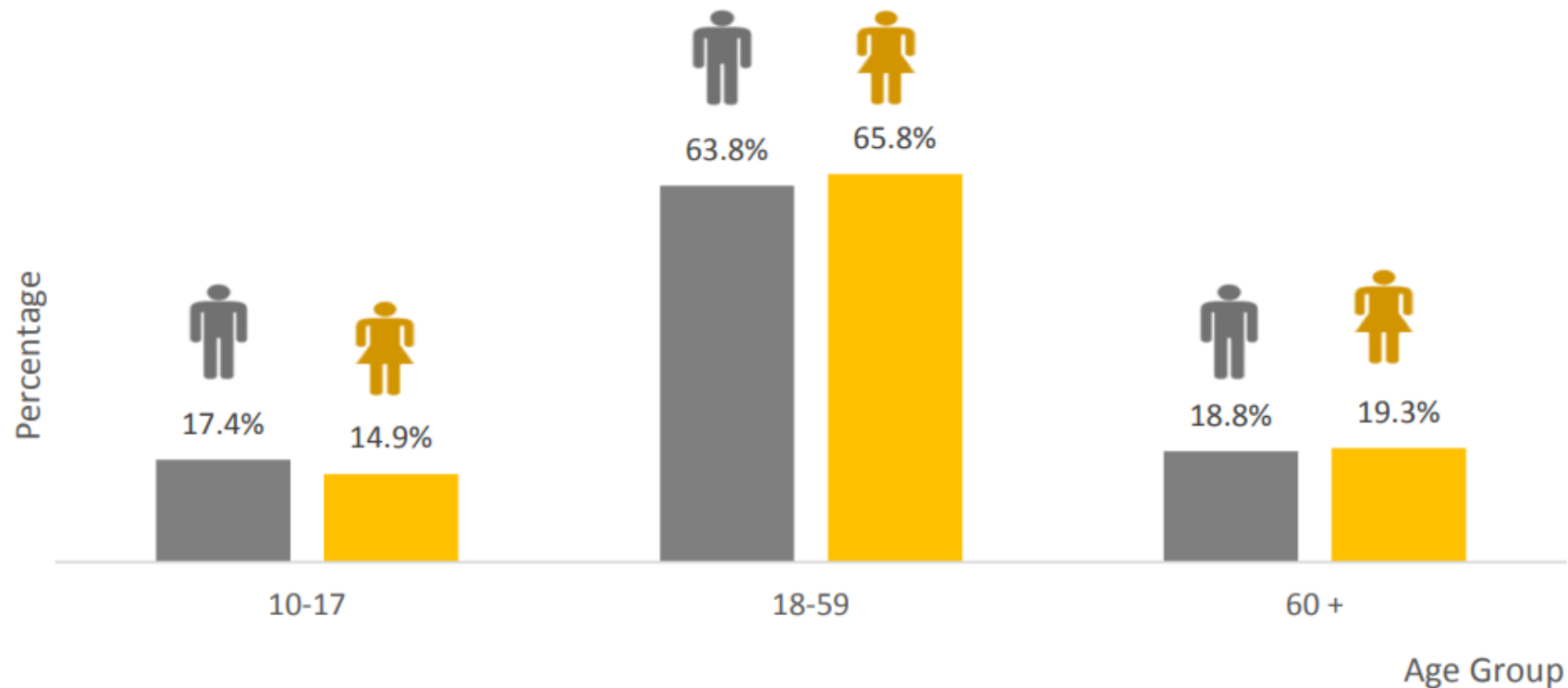
90.8 % diary completion response rate (15,451) – 15,451 respondents

Table 1.1: Sample allocation by sector for TUS - 2017

	Number of housing units
Sri Lanka	6,440
Urban	1,000
Rural	5,140
Estate	300

Description of respondents – age, sex

Figure 2.3: Age distribution of respondents by age group and sex



53.6 % female
46.4% male

16% 10-17 yrs
64.9% 18-59 yrs
19.1% 60+ yrs

	Time	What was the main activity? <i>Eg. Preparing dinner, Child caring etc.</i>	Code	What else were you doing at the same time? Eg. Watching TV, Listening radio etc.	Code	Where were you? Place/mode of transport Eg. home, in car, in bus, on foot etc.	Code	Who were with you? (Put X mark in the box)		
								Alone	With House-hold members	With Other known persons
0 a.m.	6.00-6.15							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	6.15-6.30							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	6.30-6.45							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	6.45-7.00							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	7.00-7.15							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	7.15-7.30							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	7.30-7.45							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	7.45-8.00							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	8.00-8.15							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	8.15-8.30							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

D. Please read the following example.

Eg: The day of filling the diary Mala spent her time from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. as follows.

- Mala got a nap with her child from 3.00 p.m. to 4 p.m. and got up at 4.00 p.m.
- Then she sewed cloths (as her economic activity) up to 5.00 p.m. while looking after her child.
- While she was sewing one of her neighbor visited and she was chatting with her from 4.15 p.m. to 4.25 p.m., but she was continuing her both activities while chatting.
- Mala's mother took the child with her to home at 4.30 p.m..
- Then from 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Mala was preparing dinner while watching the T.V..
- Incidentally she remembered that coconut for cooking has finished and she went to the boutique at 5.20 p.m. and bought coconut and came home at 5.30 p.m.
- Then she started cooking and watching the T.V. again and her husband joined with her chatting on 5.50 p.m.

	Time	What was the main activity? Eg. Preparing dinner, Child caring etc.	Code	What else were you doing at the same time? Eg. Watching TV, Listening radio etc.	Code	Where were you? Place/mode of transport Eg. home, in car, in bus, on foot etc.	Code	Who was with you? (Put X mark in the box)		
								Alone	Household members	Other known persons
9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. 12.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.	3.00-3.15	Sleeping				home		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3.15-3.30	"				"		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3.30-3.45	"				"		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3.45-4.00	"				"		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4.00-4.15	Sewing cloths as		Looking after		home		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4.15-4.30	her economic		her child		"		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	4.30-4.45	activity				"		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4.45-5.00	"				"		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5.00-5.15	Preparing dinner		Watching T.V.		home		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5.15-5.30	Went to boutique to buy coconut				On foot		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5.30-5.45	Preparing dinner		Watching T.V.		home		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5.45-6.00	"		"		"		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Categorization according to ICATUS 2016

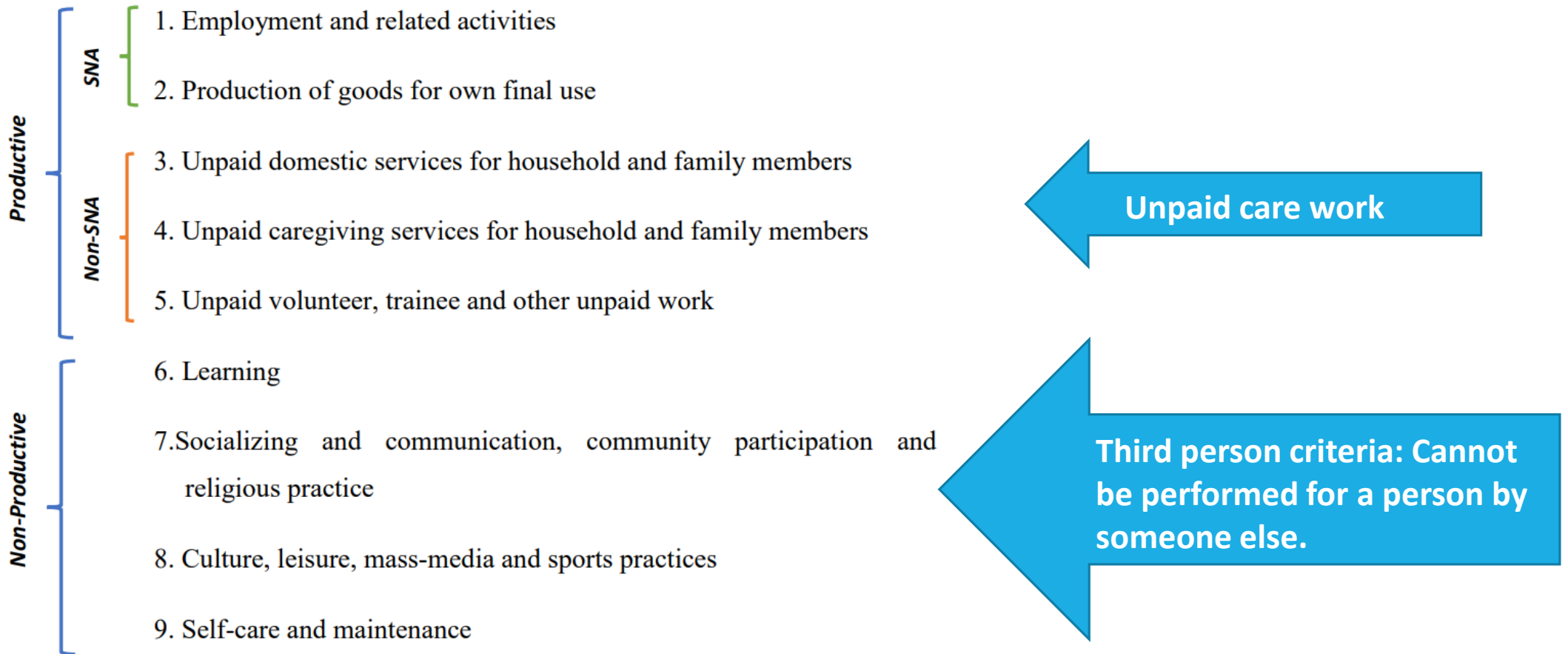


Figure 4.1: Participation rates in nine major activity categories by sex

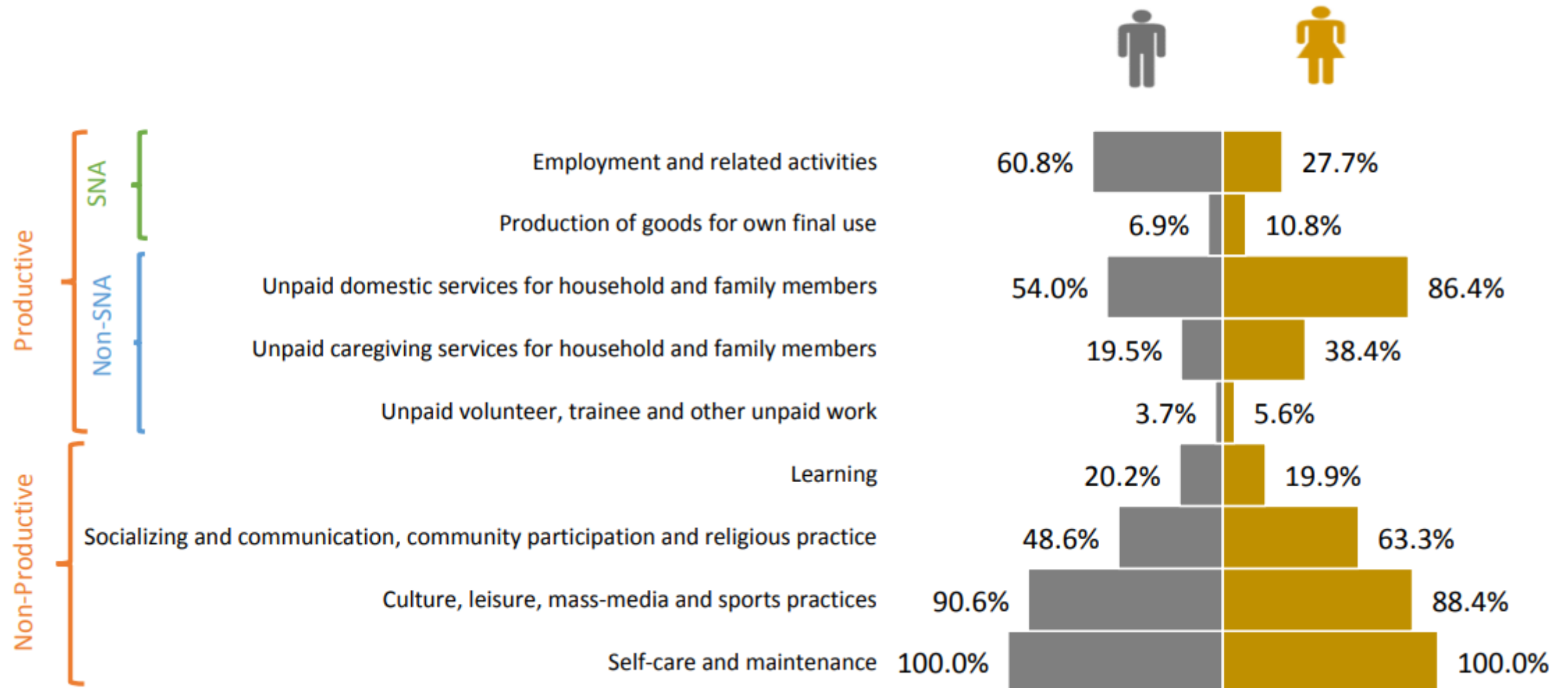


Figure 6.4: Participation rates in some unpaid domestic activities for household and family members aged 10 years and above by sex (2-digit level of ICATUS 2016)

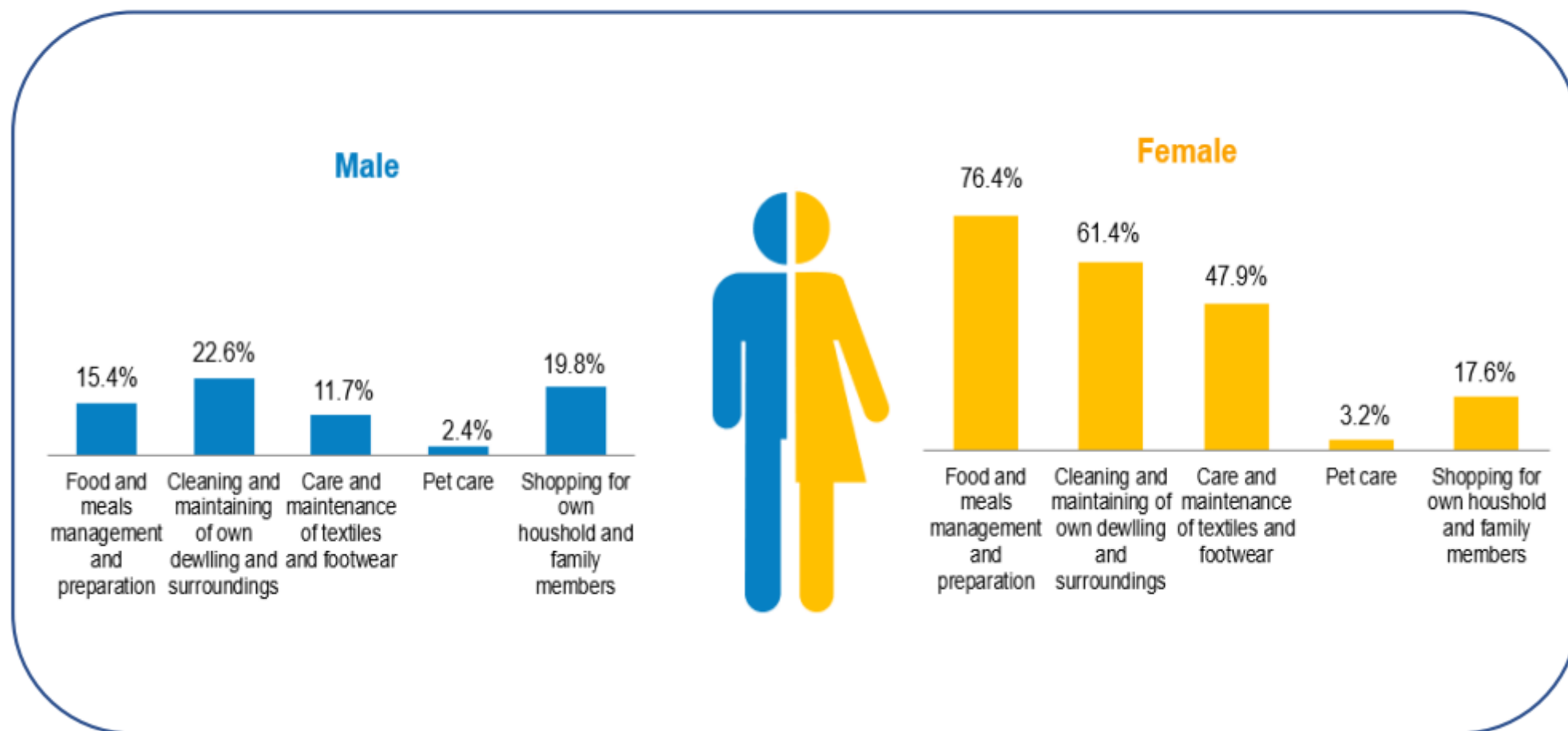


Figure 6.5: Participation rates in some unpaid caregiving activities for household and family members aged 10 years and above by sex (2-digit level of ICATUS 2016)

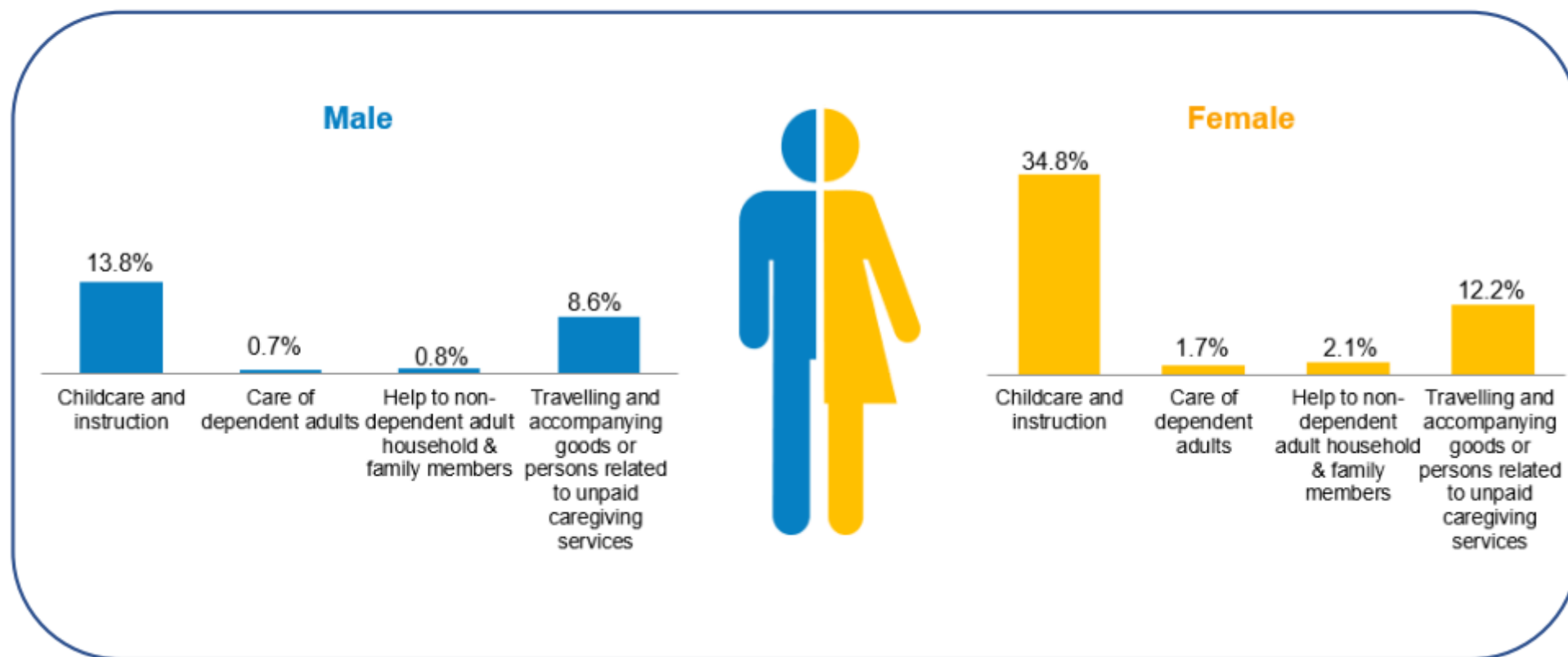


Figure 6.2: Participation rates in both house work and care work activities for 10 years and above population by sex (in one-digit level of ICATUS 2016)

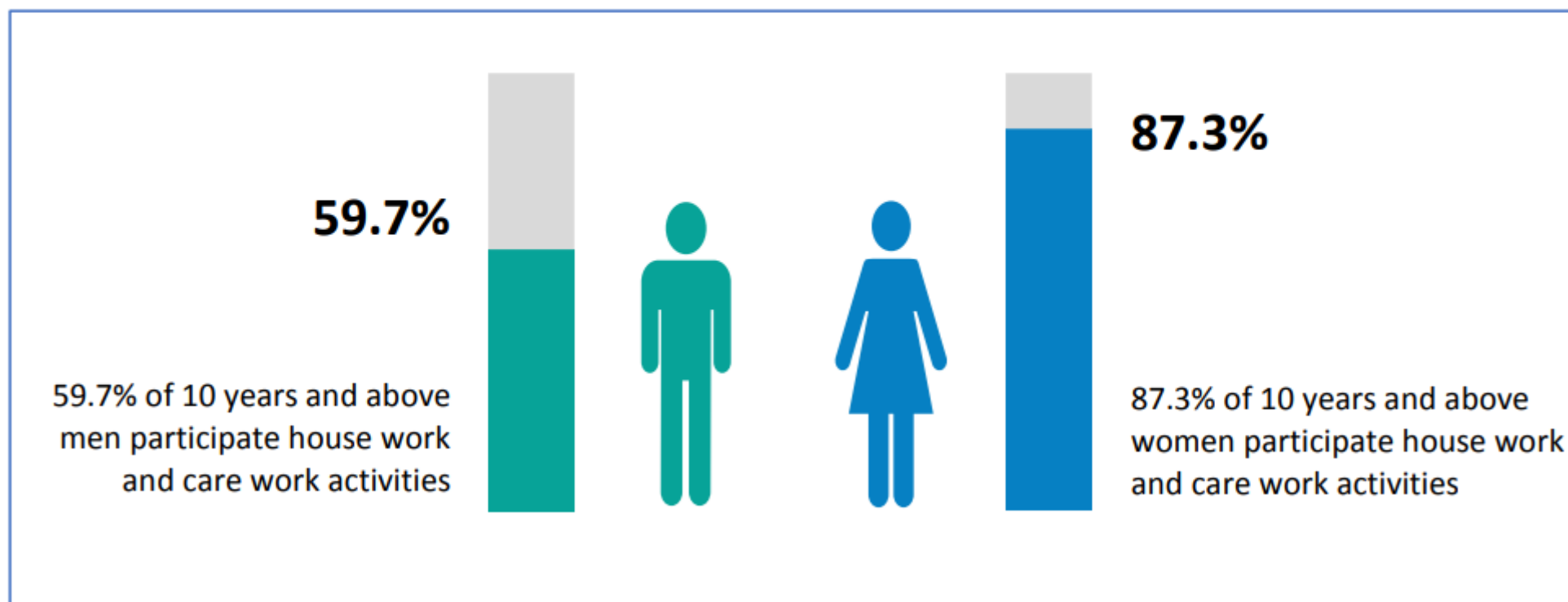


Figure 6.7: Mean actor time spent in both house work and care work activities for 10 years and above population by sex (in one-digit level of ICATUS 2016)

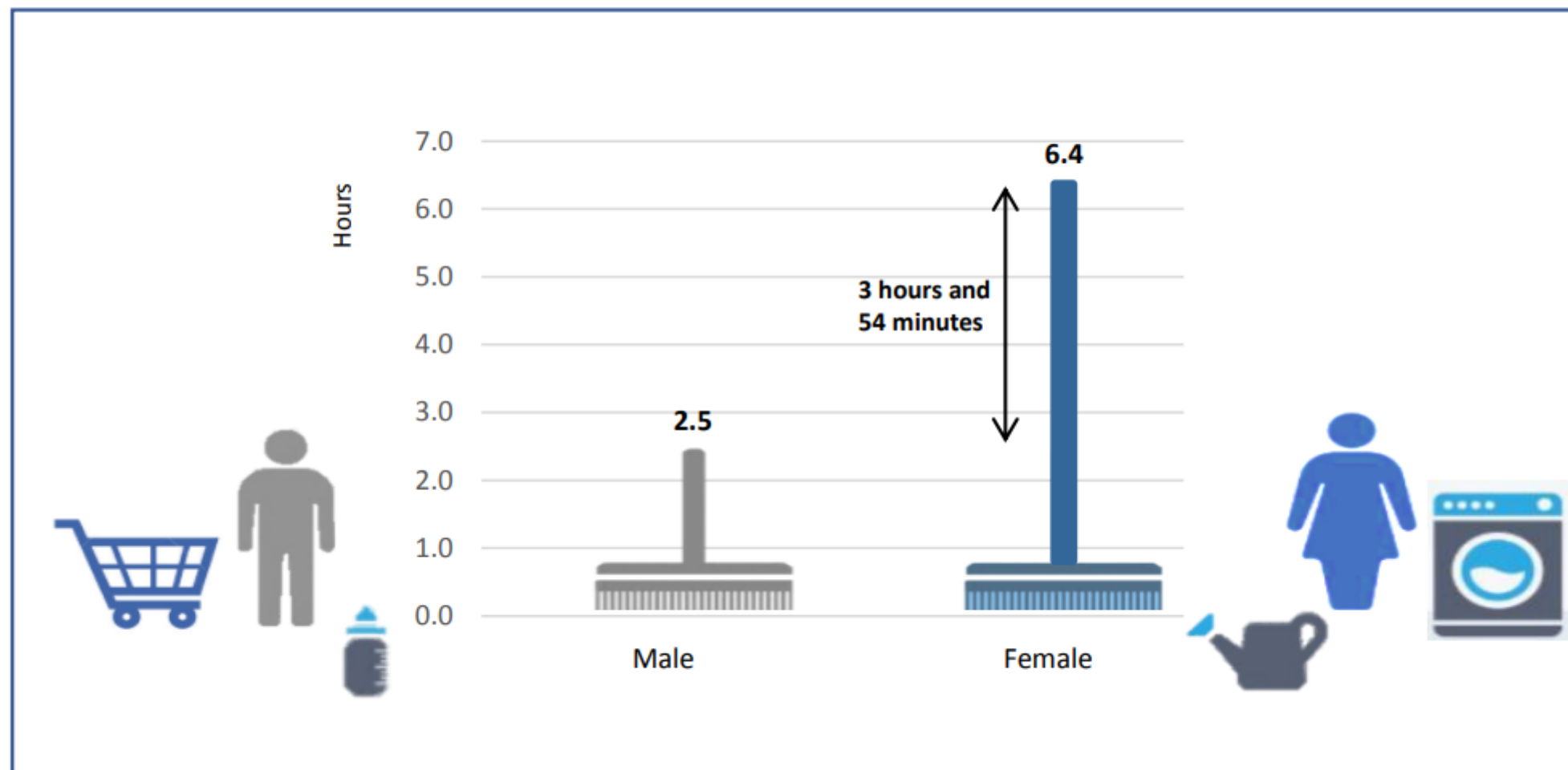
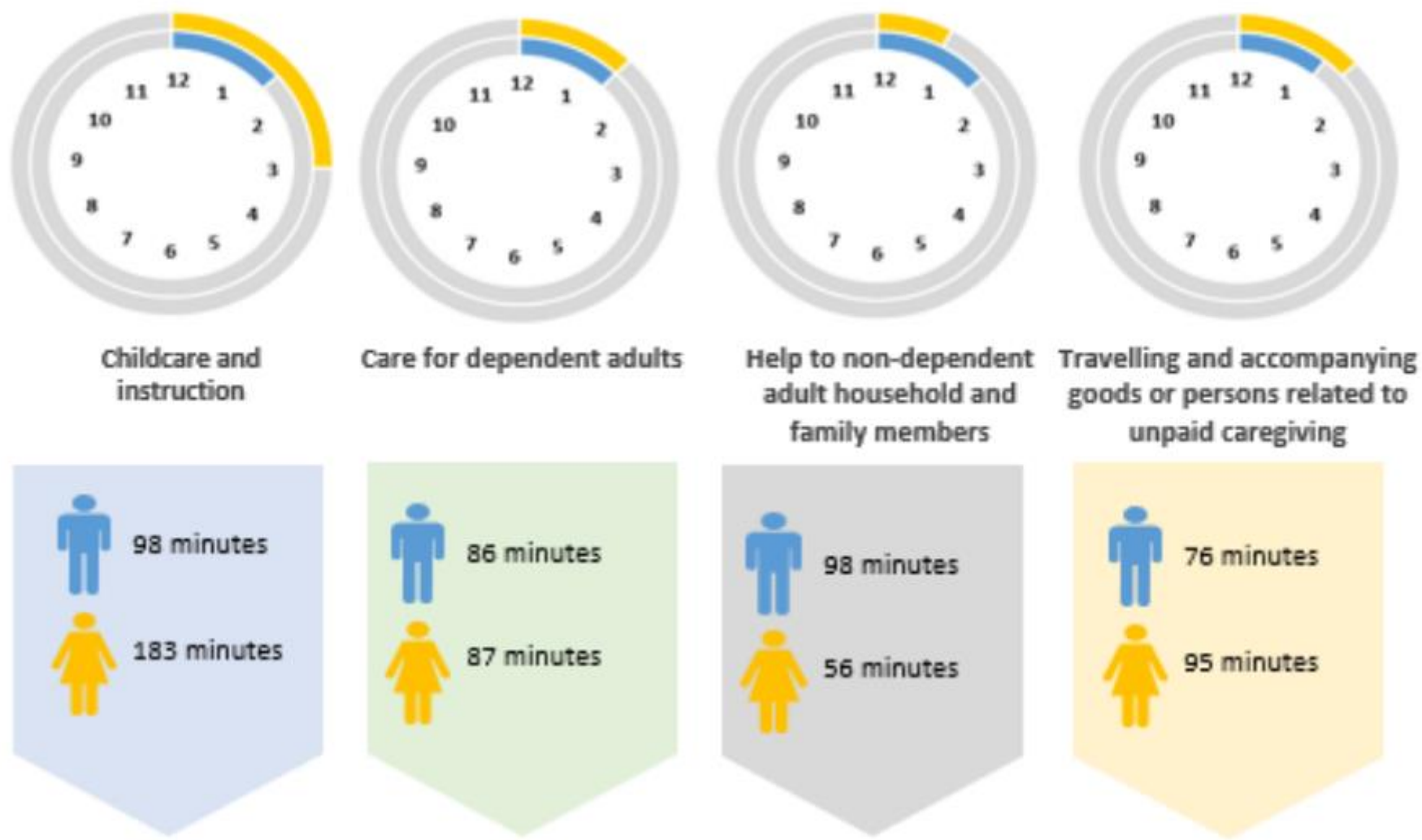


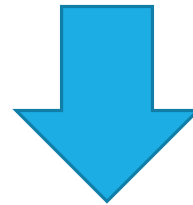
Figure 6.11: Mean actor time spent in some unpaid caregiving activities for household and family members aged 10 years and above by sex (in 2-digit level of ICATUS 2016)



Women were more likely than men to participate & spend more time in non-SNA productive activities, e.g. food preparation

76.4 percent of **women** spent **3 hours** per day in food preparation and management

15.4 percent of **men** spent **1 hour 18 minutes** per day in the same



The average Sri Lankan woman spent **1 hour 54 minutes** in food preparation and management

The average Sri Lankan man spent **12 minutes** on the same

Figure 6.13: Mean population time per day spent in both unpaid domestic activities and caregiving activities for population aged 10 years and above by sex (in one-digit level of ICATUS 2016)

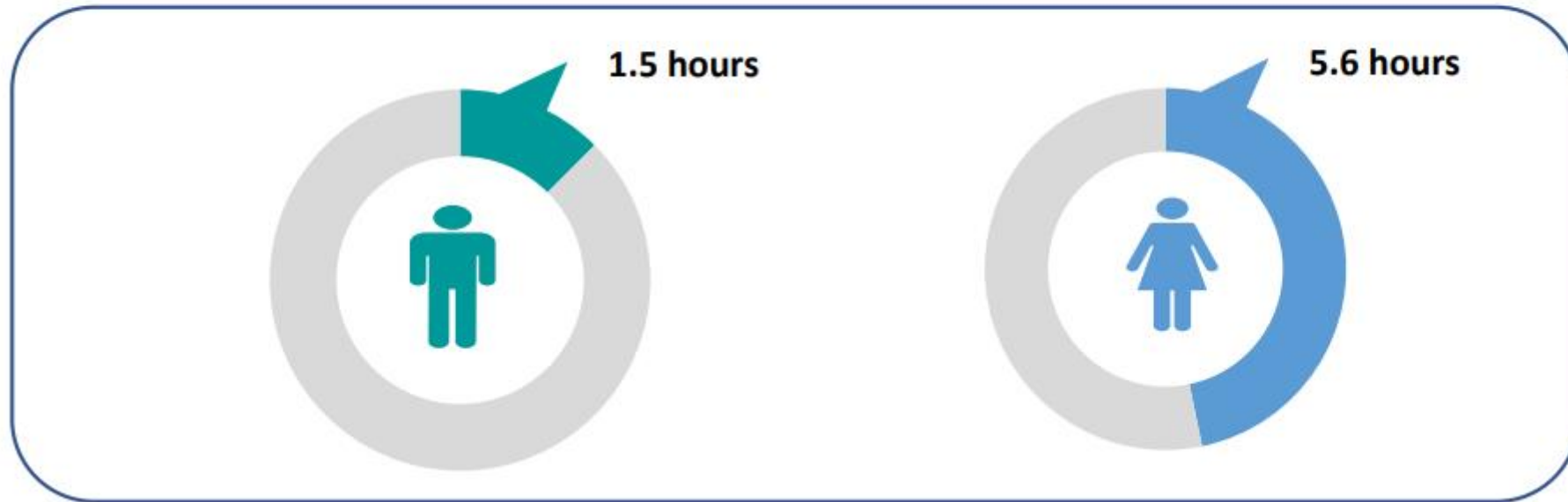
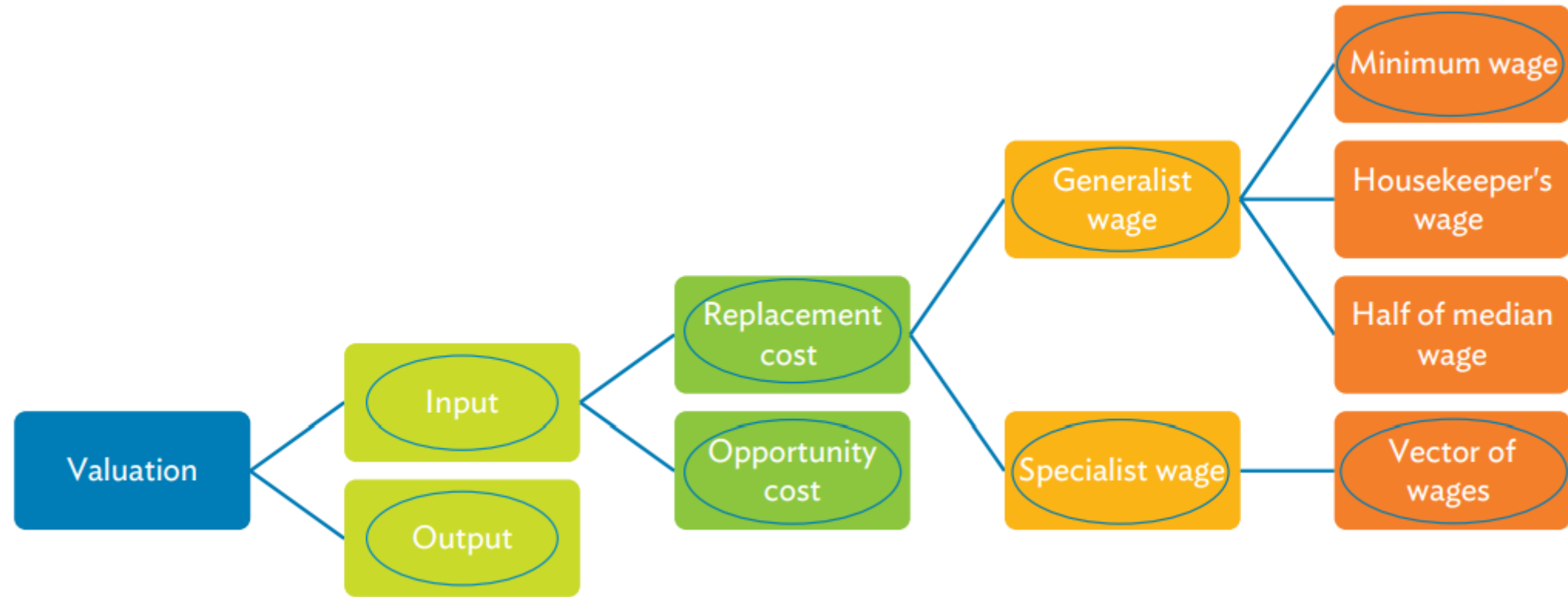


Figure 2: Methodology for Valuing Unpaid Care Work



^a “Vector of wages” refers to the wage distribution across specializations.

Source: Authors’ illustration.

Specialist wages



Wage data are derived from Labour Force Survey 2019

Table 1: Occupations used to calculate generalist wages

Generalist Wage Method	Occupation Used	Occupation Code
Lower Bound: Domestic and House Keeping ¹	Domestic Cleaners and Helpers	9111
Upper Bound: Specialist Teaching Jobs	Primary School Teachers	2341
	Early Childhood Educators	2342

Note 1: There is only one value for the category of domestic housekeeper in the LFS2019, so we only use the category of domestic cleaner/helper for the lower bound estimate of the generalist wage.

Occupation codes are derived from ISCO-08

Table 2: Generalist wages for Sri Lanka (daily wage rate), national estimates.

	Male	Female	All	Sample size
Lower Bound – domestic cleaners	824.18	600.00	615.38	255
Upper Bound – primary school teachers	1,951.65	2,051.28	2,030.77	304
Upper Bound – early childhood educators	1819.78	923.08	923.08	121
Minimum wage	500.00	500.00	500.00	-

Source: Research team calculations using unit data from LFS 2019; minimum wage from National Minimum Wage of Workers Act (Amendment) Act No. 16 of 2021

Though we present male and female wages here, we use the pooled wage to value unpaid care work – because we are interested in the job/task and not the gender of the person who does it. Also, male and female wages will embody market biases.

Table 3: Unpaid Housework and Caregiving Activities, and Corresponding Occupations

ICATUS code	Activity description	Occupation	ISCO-08 Code
3	<i>Unpaid domestic services for household and family members</i>		
31	Food and meals management and preparation	Fast food preparers ^a	9411
32	Cleaning and maintaining of own dwelling and surroundings	Domestic cleaners ^b	5131
33	Do-it-yourself decoration, maintenance and repair	Domestic cleaners ^b	9111
34	Care and maintenance of textiles and footwear	Domestic cleaners ^b	9111
35	Household management for own final use	Office clerks	4110
36	Pet care	Pet groomers	5164
37	Shopping for own household and family members	Office helpers ^c	9112
38	Travelling, moving, transporting or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid domestic services for household and family members	Office helpers ^c	9112
39	Other unpaid domestic services for household and family members	Domestic cleaners ^b	9111

4	<i>Unpaid caregiving services for household and family members</i>		
41	Childcare and instruction	Childcare workers ^d	5311
42	Care for dependent adults	Health care assistants ^e	5321
43	Help to non-dependent adult household and family members	Health care assistants ^e	5321
44	Travelling, moving, transporting or accompanying goods or persons related to unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	Health care assistants ^e	5321
49	Other activities related to unpaid caregiving services for household and family members	Health care assistants ^e	5321
5	<i>Unpaid volunteer, trainee and other unpaid work</i>		
51	Unpaid direct volunteering for other households	Domestic cleaners ^b	9111
52	Unpaid community and organization-based volunteering	Office helpers ^c	9112
53	Unpaid trainee work and related activities	Primary school teachers	2341

Table 4: Specialist wages for Sri Lanka (daily wage rate), national estimates.

	Male	Female	All	Sample size
Fast food preparers	1500	600	975.82	34
Domestic cleaners	824.18	600	615.38	253
Office helpers	1,153.85	820.51	1,054.95	577
Health care assistants	1,457.69	1,230.77	1,257.86	100
Childcare workers	854.70	553.85	570.00	40
Primary school teachers	1951.65	2051.28	2030.77	304
Pet groomers and animal care workers	996.86	553.85	800	04 ¹

Source: Research team calculations using unit data from LFS 2019.

1. Sample size for pet groomers in the LFS 2019 was very small, hence estimates of wages are likely to be imprecise. However, in the absence of a close substitute we use the wages estimated from this data.

Calculating the value of unpaid work and care

$$V = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M P_i T_{ij} W_j$$

where

V = Annual monetary value of unpaid housework and caregiving services;

N = Sample size;

M = Number of unpaid housework and caregiving activities;

P_i = Sampling weight to extrapolate to the whole target population;

T_{ij} = Number of hours spent on unpaid housework and caregiving activities from the group of activities j per 24-hour period, scaled up to annually for the individual i ;

W_j = Hourly wage of the specialized occupations in group j for the valuations, using the generalist wage or specialist wage.

Table 5: Value of care work in Sri Lanka

	Male	Female	All
<i>Average daily value in rupees</i>			
<i>Generalist wage</i>			
Lower bound – Domestic cleaner	121.79	441.02	248.72
Upper bound – Primary school teacher	401.92	1455.39	820.77
Upper bound – Early childhood educator	182.69	661.54	373.08
Minimum wage	98.96	358.33	204.17
<i>Specialist wage</i>	164.90	577.01	322.15
<i>Total annual value, as a % of GDP*</i>			
<i>Generalist wage</i>			
Lower bound – Domestic cleaner	2.4	10.3	12.7
Upper bound – Primary school teacher	8.1	33.8	41.9
Upper bound – Early childhood educator	3.7	15.4	19.0
Minimum wage	2.0	8.3	10.3
<i>Specialist wage</i>	2.1	12.0	14.1

Source: Research team calculations using reported data from NTUS2017 and estimates from LFS2019. GDP estimate of Rs. 15,016 billion in 2019 was obtained from Central Bank (2021) at <https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/sri-lanka-economy-snapshot>

International Estimates of the Value of Unpaid Care Work

Country	Year	Methodology	% of GDP	Source
Nepal	1991	OB, GW, OC	47	Acharya (1993)
People's Republic of China		OB, HW, RC	33	National Statistical Office
El Salvador	1999	GW, RC	30	<u>Dúran and Milosavljevicc</u> (2012)
Gujarat State, India	1988	GW, RC	26	<u>Hirway</u> (2016)
Nicaragua	1999	GW, RC	23	<u>Dúran and Milosavljevicc</u> (2012)
France	2009–2010	OB, GW, RC	20	OECD and NSO
United Kingdom	2014–2015	OB, GW, RC	18	OECD and NSO
United States	2016	OB, GW, RC	16	TUS and BEA
Japan	2016	OB, GW, RC	16	OECD and NSO
Canada	2015	OB, GW, RC	14	OECD and Statistics Canada
South Africa	2010	OB, GW, RC	14	OECD and NSO
Germany	2012–2013	OB, GW, RC	14	OECD and NSO
Bhutan	2015	IB, GW, RC	10	Suh et al., 2020
Bhutan	2015	IB, GW, RC	15	Suh et al., 2020
Bhutan	2015	IB, SW, RC	16	Suh et al., 2020

Source: Suh, et. al., 2020

Conclusions and policy implications

The value of unpaid house work, care work and voluntary work that is conducted in Sri Lanka is by no means negligible

- 10.3 percent of GDP in the lowest scenario (minimum wage valuation), and 42 percent of GDP in the highest scenario.

The vast majority of this work is conducted by women

- 8.6 percent (lowest case) to 35 percent (best case) of GDP

Highlights the importance of this work and suggests the importance of policies that support, facilitate and complement this work

- Infrastructure – physical, like water, fuel, transport, and social – care infrastructure – market and state.

Limitations and next steps

Extend to include simultaneous activities?

- Estimates based on main activities, but activities such as childcare are often conducted simultaneously with other activities.

Develop policy tools such as care-expanded social accounting matrices and computable general equilibrium models.

- Such exercises in Turkey (Kim, İlkaracan and Kaya, 2019) and seven OECD countries (De Henau and Himmelweit, 2020) revealed that expanding care infrastructure had more potential for employment creation than a construction boom.

Combine with LFS data to examine effect of unpaid care on LFP

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