

Gender and the National Accounts

Notes for presentation to:

National Accounts Advisory Group

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Pulling together some threads:

Gender Equality Index

Ironmonger's work on HH Sector

Developments in health sector

Developments in education

Sex and Gender

- **Disaggregation by sex is not enough**
- **Gender includes roles in workplaces, families, and other organizations**
- **Issues of relative power**

Sex - biological differences between men and women

Gender - the culturally specific set of characteristics that identifies the social behavior of women and men and the relationships between them. (Married, divorced, in families with children, occupations, etc.)

Models of the Economy

- **Human capital model - more education and skills determines wage and labour market outcomes, and societal position**
- **Structuralist model - institutional barriers and societal norms lead to labour market outcomes**

Recommendations to SC

- **Increase disaggregation by sex and gender**
- **Broaden SNA to include the value of unpaid work**
- **Collect data on assets and liabilities of households by sex and gender roles**
- **Distinguish between income earned, expenditures, and discretionary power within the household**
- **Use of health and education by sex and gender**

Subset - for further details see p.23 ff.

Also recommendations for builders, users, and decision-makers.

A Broader View of the Economy

- **Formal Sector**
 - Production Activity
 - Market Transactions
- **Informal Sector**
 - Volunteer
 - Underground
- **Household Sector**
 - Household production
 - Caring
 - Leisure
- **Re-production Activity**
 - Conception and birth
 - Education and value imprinting

StatCan had done work on HH sector in the past. Some specific pieces re "underground", but not on a regular basis.

The Household Sector

- **Include value of activities of economic value**
- **About as large as the formal economy**
- **Valuation Issues**
 - **Time Spent**
 - » **Market alternative**
 - » **Minimum wage**
 - **Service Value**
- **Where to stop?**

Ironmonger - value outputs produced by HH; subtract "intermediate" goods and services to i.d. value-added. This avoids the direct valuation of time in HH sector, and allows for multiple activities.

VHW- 1992

% of GDP

Method	Canada	Low	High
NOC	30.6	24.3	56.4
GOC	46.3	35.7	78.8
RC	41.4	31.3	64.5

**Table 1 The Value of Household Work in
Canada, 1992 TS#27 (SC, National Accounts)**

NOC - net opportunity cost, based on hourly earnings by province and sex, after-tax. (\$10,000 per capita, 15+)

GOC - as above, before tax. (social opportunity cost) (\$15,000 per capita)

RC - time valued by the comparable occupational returns by type of activity (\$13,340)

The lowest percentage is in Alberta, the highest ratio is in Newfoundland. (The territorial numbers seem odd.)

Model Perspective

- **Gender Matters?**

$$y_1 = f(x, w, z)$$

$$y_2 = f(x, a, b)$$

$$y = y_1 + y_2$$

vs. $y = f(x, a, b, w, z)$

- **Scope Matters?**

Time constraints

Basis for expenditures

Valuation of health services

If two (or more) components of an aggregate have different variables on the right-hand side, then it is preferable to disaggregate, rather than trying to explain y only. Better statistical functions and additional information.

The notion of a budget constraint is common in economics. The development of a time constraint is less so. Adding other activities (HH and informal) may help in that regard.

If food is purchased from meal preparation at home, shifts in that activity may influence the total and the mix of food consumption.

With off-loading onto households (e.g., home care, early release), there is a general perception that health spending is under control. But the picture is incomplete if care by household sector is omitted.

Do What?

- **Plan on adding HH Sector**
- **Disaggregate by gender wherever possible**
- **Increase pressure on feeder systems to do so**
- **Identify areas where modelling can be improved through GBA.**
- **Where can GBA be helped by better data?**

Some action is required.

Do we do nothing?

Aggressively move to improve the accounts through the addition of satellite accounts to include the household sector, to add gender dimensions wherever possible, etc.