

Increasing women's access to newer opportunities: A multi-year Indian SAM analysis for women's work

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It is recognized that women work under harder conditions mainly in developing countries and most of their work is not marketed. At the same time such non-marketed work supports in building both human capital and in subsidizing public expenditure on welfare goods. The major barrier that women face which prevents them from competing in market work is "care work" which involves over-burdening domestic duties. Moreover, this work is unpaid and unvalued which implies that women involved only in care work are "invisible" in economic terms. In this paper we develop two Social Accounting Matrices (SAMs), one for the year 2003-04 and one for 2009-10. The SAMs will incorporate non-market work for women by generating a shadow value-added by using minimum wages for labour (for first order approximation) by imputing remuneration or from data, whichever is possible. To make gender aware analysis useful to policy makers so as to make a difference to the well-being of women, innovation is necessary in evolving models that recognize behavioral differences by gender. As a first step we will attempt to identify all kinds of work carried out by women, which comprises both work in the market as well at home, describing the latter as "non-market work". In a national accounting framework, work needs to be linked to value-added and to overall GDP. Market work is linked to value added and GDP through wages. We recognize that non-market work has no visible wages and so it is difficult if not impossible to measure it. We quantify such work by the imputed value method as noted above.

The SAMs will have nine sectors: (1) Agriculture (2) Mining and Quarrying (3) Agro Processing (4) Other Manufacturing (5) Ready-made Garments (6) Capital Goods (7) Construction (8) Other Services (9) Public Administration. These sectors have been dis-aggregated based on the industries that women are typically more involved with. The SAMs will analyse 20 types of households: according to work status, seven types each for male and female (Own Account Worker, Employer, Unpaid Family Worker, Regular Employee, Casual Labour in Public Activities, Casual Labour in Other Activities and Non-market Work) and based on MPCE levels, three types each for rural and urban households. The data sources which will be used for the study are (1) the all-India Input-Output Tables for 2004-05 and 2007-08 (updated to 2009-10) published by the Central Statistical Office in India; (2) National Accounts Statistics for both years to use control totals for sector production, value added, savings for households, government transfers, household consumption, government consumption, capital, remittances; (3) the National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO) survey data rounds on Household Consumption Expenditure and Employment and Unemployment for 2004-05 and 2009-10 (61st and 66th rounds) to estimate consumption and employment patterns across households and workers and to also get estimates of non-market work (The NSSO is an organization under the Ministry of Statistics conducting socio-economic surveys of representative samples in the country. The survey period usually extends from July to June.); (4) Indian Government Budget documents for subsidies and tax revenues; (5) Census 2001 and 2011 for estimating actual number of workers by sector for the two study years; and (6) Indian Labour Bureau Publications for minimum wages by type of economic activity.

The paper attempts to find the possible demographic dividend of women's workforce participation. We recognize that policy changes are likely to have differential impacts on women. We use models that allow macro policy analysis with a gender perspective to conduct various simulations. Specific policy variations would be run on the two SAMs to understand how an external trade or tax shock would create demand for women's market work and impact non-market work.

The major policy alternatives would provide alternatives with different entities replacing the non-market work by women. We would also analyse the impact of women substituting non-market work with market work with equal wages on the economy. Also, we would examine higher government expenditure helping women.