



WOMEN AND UNPAID WORK

Time Allocation of Urban Educated Women

Background

- Female Labour Force Participation (FLFP) in urban India has remained consistently low at around 20 per cent during 1987–2011.
- Unlike the international experience, increase in female education has not been accompanied by a commensurate rise in FLFP in India.

This factsheet is drawn from an ongoing Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE) and Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) study that holistically evaluates multiple constraints on FLFP within a single macroeconomic framework so as to inform policy better. This study builds and tests a structural model that explains observed changes in FLFP using data on urban, married women from the Time Use Survey (1998) and various rounds of the National Sample Survey (NSS). The model focuses on women's work participation, educational attainment, other characteristics, and time spent in the labour market, home production, and leisure.

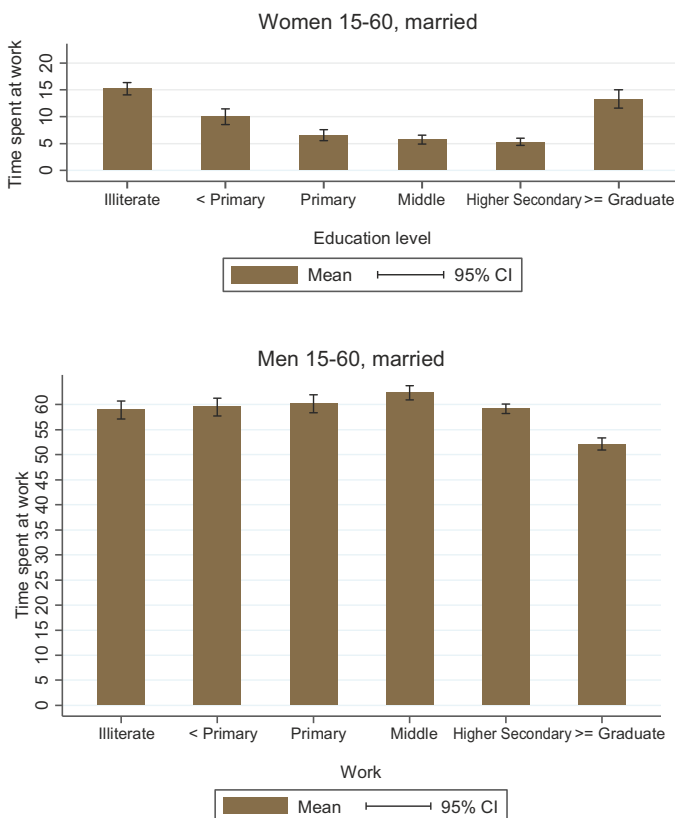
Facts and Figures

Throughout the brief, married women aged 15-60 years in urban areas are compared to their male counterparts.

Time spent at work

- Across levels of educational attainment, women spend significantly less time at work than men (Figure 1).
- On average, married women in urban India spend only 9.36 hours per week at work, while their male counterparts spend 58.71 hours.
- As women go from being illiterate to completing higher secondary schooling, work hours show a declining trend and then jump at the 'graduate and above' level. Even so, the average weekly time only reaches 13.32 hours at the highest education level.

Figure 1: Time spent at work by urban, married women and men aged 15-60 years

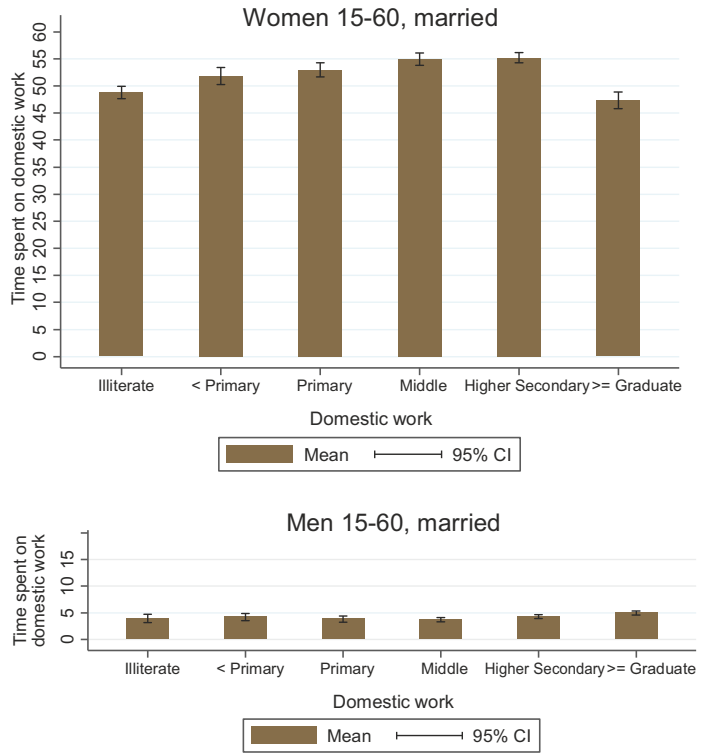


Time spent on domestic work

- Across education levels, women spend significantly more time on domestic work than men (Figure 2).
- On average, married women in urban India spend 51.85 hours on domestic work per week while their male counterparts spend only 4.18 hours.

- Average weekly time spent on domestic work increases for women – although at a declining rate – up to the higher secondary school level, and then falls sharply for graduates and above, but still remains at 47 hours per week.

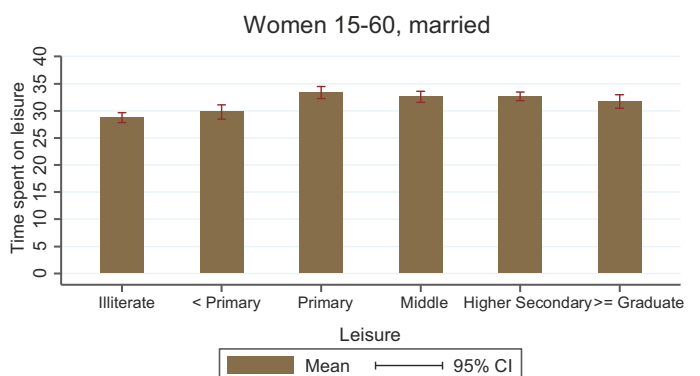
Figure 2: Time spent on domestic work by urban, married women and men aged 15-60 years



Time spent on leisure

- Men and women spend comparable time on leisure (Figure 3).
- On average, urban, married women spend 31.49 hours per week on leisure while men spend 28.11 hours.
- Leisure hours for women increase with education up to primary school and then begin to fall; the opposite is true for men.
- Men have slightly higher weekly leisure hours than women only at the 'graduate and above' level.

Figure 3: Time spent on leisure by urban, married women and men aged 15-60 years



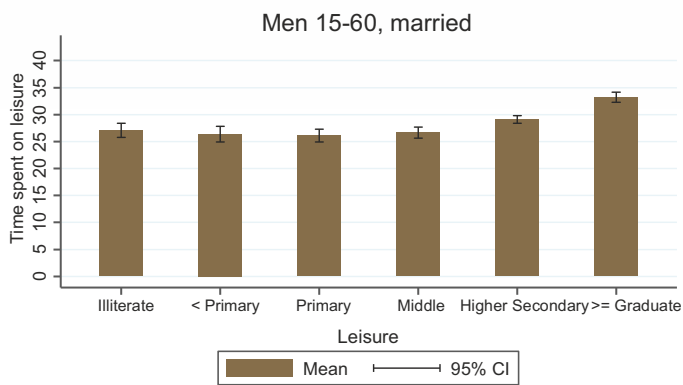
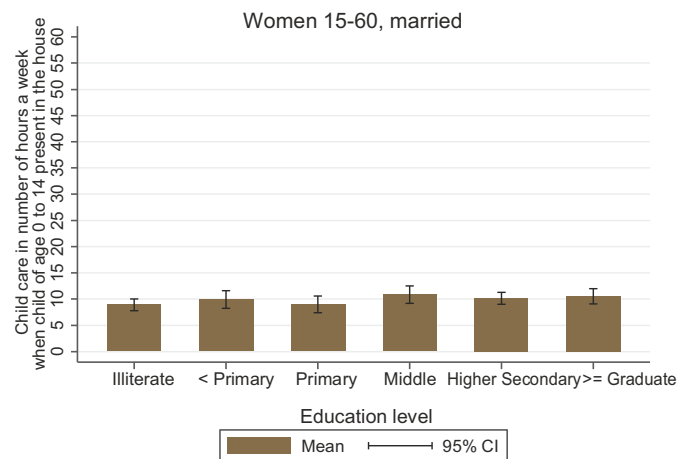


Figure 5: Time spent on child care in households with under-14 children, by urban, married women and men aged 15-60



Time spent on child care

- Across education levels, women spend significantly more time on child care than men (Figures 4 and 5).
- Average weekly time spent on child care with children below five years of age in the household by urban, married women and men is 12.68 hours and 2 hours, respectively.
- Time spent on child care with children below 14 years of age in the household by such women and men is 9.91 hours and 1.73 hours per week, on average, respectively.
- The gender gap in child care hours does not vary significantly across levels of education in both cases.

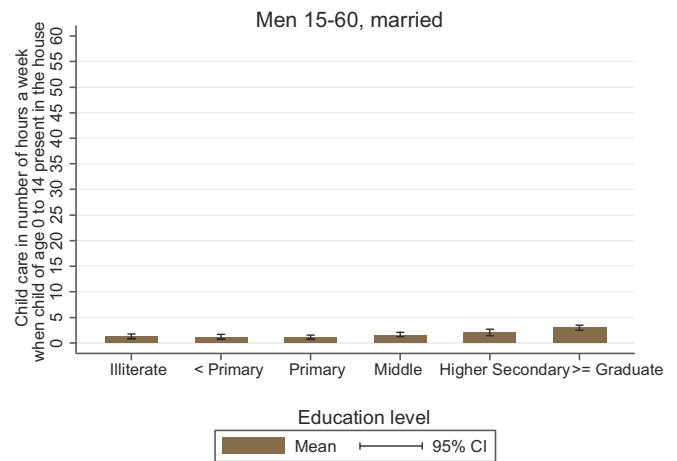
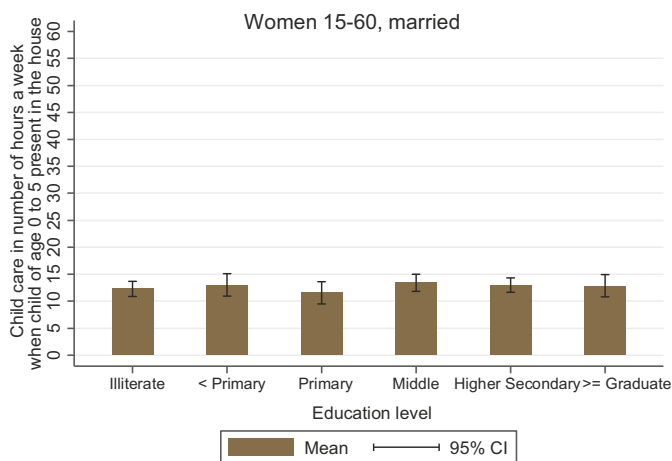


Figure 4: Time spent on child care in households with under-five children, by urban, married women and men aged 15-60



Time spent on extended child care and household chores

- Women spend more time on extended child care and other household chores (Figures 6 and 7).
- Extended child care includes time spent on both exclusive child care and other household chores such as cooking.
- Average time spent on extended child care in households with children below five years of age by urban, married women and men is 50.74 and 2.76 hours per week, respectively.
- Average time spent on extended child care in households with children below 14 years of age by such women and men is 48.73 and 2.44 hours per week, respectively.
- The burden of child care is mostly borne by women, even at the 'graduate and above' level of education.

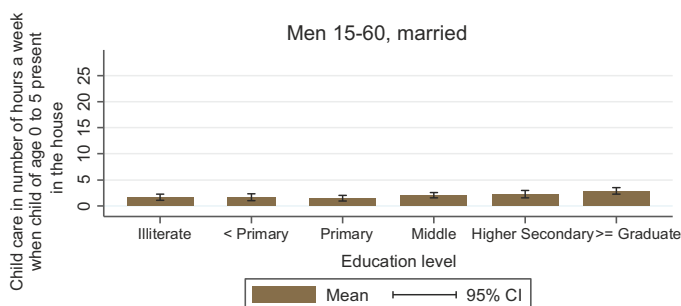


Figure 6: Time spent on extended child care in households with under-five children, by urban, married women and men aged 15-60

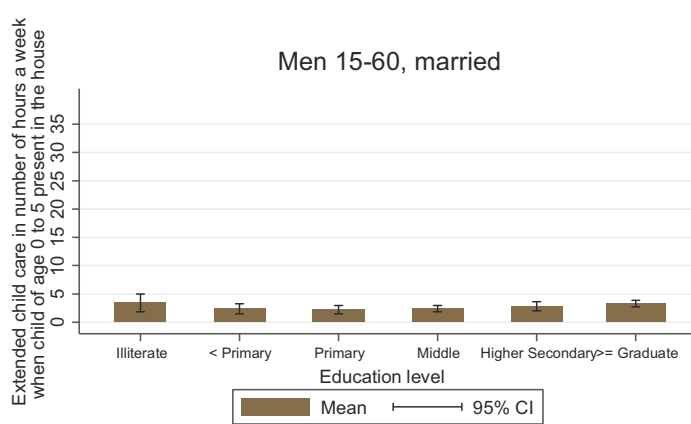
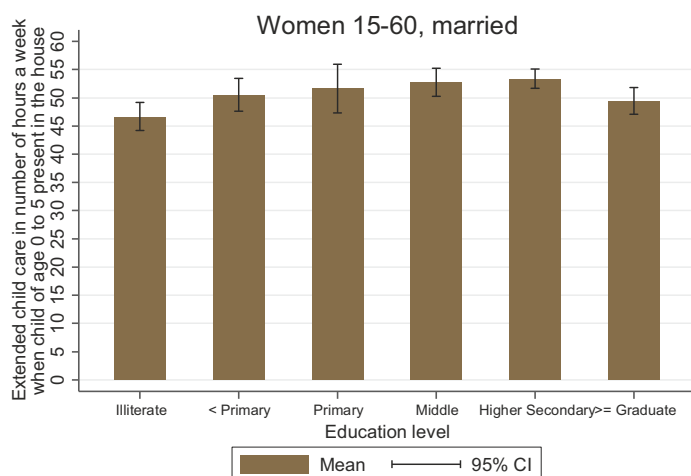
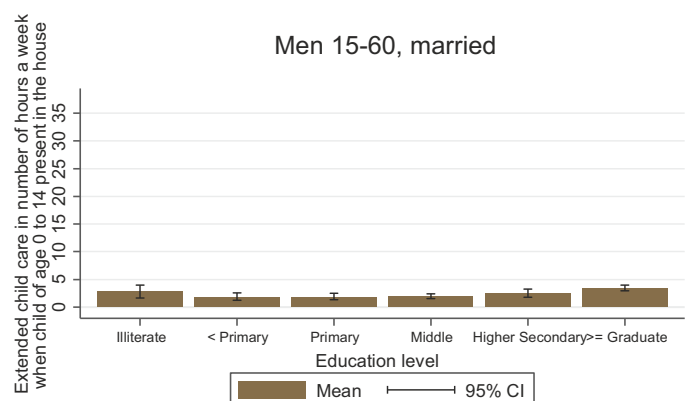
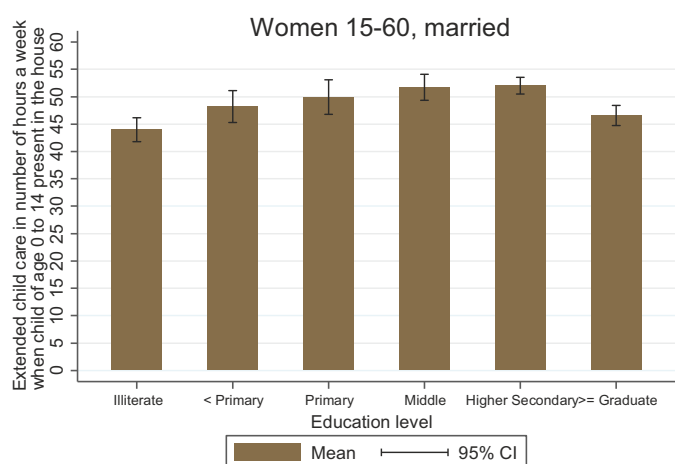


FIGURE 7: Time spent on extended child care in households with under-14 children, by urban, married women and men aged 15-60



Policy Implications

- Women disproportionately bear the burden of domestic work in the household, and thus face time poverty.
- Child care – a large component of domestic work – appears to be an important constraint on FLFP, even for educated women.
- Policies should focus on providing reliable and accessible child-care arrangements, and flexible working conditions for women.

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