

# A Review of Earlier Works on Time Poverty around the World: A Period of 2000 to 2018

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## ABSTRACT

Women's empowerment and gender equality have become prominent issues in global development discourse and practice. The equal share of opportunities in the professions has led professionals such as development agencies, donors, corporations and non-governmental organizations to view women as crucial actors in solving poverty and a host of other social and economic problems, not just victims of poverty. Women's empowerment is not only a function of increasing wealth and income but is also related to the idea of how women use their time. In this way, they are behind in some aspects of life, one of which is time poverty. Time poverty means having less time than others because of commitments or unpaid housework. Extensive literature in this field was studied to analyze the term time poverty broadly.

Key Words: Gender, Unpaid Work, Time Poverty

## 1. Introduction

There was a time when male society was dominant everywhere and continually exploited women's positions. Men controlled every law and custom according to their interests and willingness. However, over time, and because of societal advances, women protested against men. They also demanded equality inside and outside the home. After many struggles, they succeeded and started work by teaming up with men. A basic assumption is that increasing women's income improves their family's health, well-being and food security, as they would use this increase for family development and growth (Chant, 2016).

Women's empowerment and gender equality have become prominent issues in global development discourse and practice. The equal share of opportunities in the professions has led professionals such as development agencies, donors, corporations and non-governmental organizations to view women as crucial actors in solving poverty and a host of other social and economic problems, not just victims of poverty (Cornwall & Edwards, 2010; Prgl, 2015). However, this was not the end, but it was the starting point of a long journey because there is still a long path to go. Women's working outside does not mean they are equal to men. Drawing on the literature on time poverty (Bardasi & Wodon, 2010; Noh & Kim, 2015; Arora, 2015), women's empowerment is not only a function of increasing wealth and income but is also related to the idea of how women use their time. In this way, they are behind in some aspects of life, one of which is time poverty.

Time poverty means having less time than others because of commitments or unpaid housework. Time is a scarce resource, and women often lack independence and autonomy over time and its use, increasing time poverty (Bardasi & Wodon, 2010; Chant, 2010; Noh & Kim, 2015). People experience time poverty, especially in the paid labour market or when doing unpaid housework over long hours. They have less time for rest or leisure (Bardasi & Wodon, 2010). If we take a closer look at the Indian lifestyle, we find that men are responsible for earning money while women have to stay home to do household chores. Women perform their duties without receiving a fixed sum of money. As the more advanced Indian society works, men and women earn money to get more facilities in their lives. However, the saddest part of life is that women still do odd jobs around the house. Women often indulge in domestic work, care work, and subsistence farming, which are unpaid, according to social and cultural norms. It also helps to define and reproduce a rigid gendered division of labour in which women disproportionately work in areas that are often invisible and unrecognized in patriarchy (Bardasi & Wodon, 2010; Grassi et al., 2015). Women work double shifts (one is a job and another is around the house) compared to men. Time poverty among women is mainly due to their triple workload in the productive, reproductive and social spheres (Grassi et al., 2015: VI). They have less time to rest or take care of themselves. Because of this work distribution, men have more money while women suffer from financial inequality.

*Time poverty* is a multidimensional phenomenon that focuses on human well-being in multiple aspects, such as illness, low literacy rate, inadequate housing facilities, gender discrimination, insufficient means to improve life, etc. Equality means that men and women must have equal responsibilities and rights. This idea of equality considers their income or consumption and their ability to make decisions, including how they manage their time (Bardasi & Wodon, 2006). Suppose women earn money in addition to unpaid housework. In this case, men should also have the same responsibility and help women fulfill family responsibilities. The problem of time poverty and income inequality can be addressed by improving their thinking. Time use and time poverty studies are

interested in understanding women's compromises after an inappropriate amount of time in coerced circumstances (Blackden & Wodon, 2006). As equal to Western culture, Indian male society should change their way of thinking and contribute to household chores alongside their work or business. Indian women also have the right to have enough time for their personal affairs. Due to working hours and family commitments, women have less time and money and are overburdened. Sociological approaches suggest understanding time poverty as an emerging social inequality that results from being overwhelmed by the interaction of work and family relationships.

In contrast, less attention had paid to free time distribution (Epstein & Kalleberg, 2004). Globally, women perform the vast majority of domestic chores, including housekeeping and childcare; even when employed part-time or full-time, the time women spend on unpaid care work is more than double that of men (Kulshreshtha & Singh, 2005). However, the latter is largely unreported in the System of National Accounts (SNA) accounting framework; although households derive significant benefits from these activities, it has not been considered part of their economic contribution to family income. When men provide help and share family responsibilities, both have enough time for personal happiness.

## 2. The crux of Earlier Literature

**In 2000, Bittman and Wajcman** used the multinational time budget data archive and Australian Bureau of statistics 1992 and collected by the time diary method. The study reveals that the real work difference is minimal after combining the paid and unpaid work of men and women. Still, there is a difference in free time that reveals a paradoxical situation in the study. Women's time poverty is more significant than men's because their childcare responsibility is disproportionate. The study explored that qualitative techniques only capture women's free time, and a time use survey is the best source to calculate leisure time. The article suggested that a gender gap in leisure to be considered for policymaking by governments because it will depress the potential of women's work efficiency. Further 2005, **Sayer** presented his work on a secondary data basis from time diary data of the years 1965, 1975, and 1998 to check the time use trends and differences based on gender. A significant part of women's work is household work like cooking, cleaning, and daily care of the child. Men's Contribution to household activities also increased from 1965 to 1998. Women's paid work increased during the period, but their unpaid work remained the same as earlier, and the reason behind this is that men avoided unpaid work. He has focused on the broader area of research compared to earlier studies because the earlier studies focused only on unpaid work. Still, the present study includes time used for paid work, unpaid work, leisure time, and gender differences. Education has affected women's paid work and also affects the marriage decision and decrease in fertility rate. After marriage, the mother's responsibility has declined due to father-child care time increased, but the mother's time has not declined significantly. The study also expressed that technological advancement and frequency of 'eating out' also reduce the unpaid work burden on women. Due to unpaid work restrictions, limited opportunity for paid work to be left for women and indices of dissimilarity in time use has declined by 13.2 points. The study has suggested that women and men need time to narrow the gender gap. **Harvey and Mukhopadhyay, in the year 2007**, elucidated time and poverty under study under the title of "When Twenty Four-Hours is not enough: Time Poverty of working parents." by using LIM measurement and GSS 1992 and 1998. The study mainly targeted the deprived group as working parents, single parents and double parents with one or more two children. They revealed that it is approximately 45% of Canada's GDP if we evaluate unpaid work through market price. This study is needed to redefine the money poverty threshold by adding the real value in money in terms of time deficit. The study also organised free time as essential for one's health and additional free time. Men dominated the paid work, females dominated the unpaid work and committed and contracted work is considered productive work but one laying in a paid and another unpaid one. The main problem found in this study is the category of activity because few activities lay in more than one activity. The time has been subtracted from 24 hours to calculate the minimum required time for leisure. If market work and related activities surpass the minimum required time, we consider a household time-poor. The employed single parents have found time poor; for that reason, they allocate their time by spending money on market services. The study's core finding is that single non-employed parents simultaneously faced time and income poverty. **In 2007, Medeiros et al.** examined the gender inequalities in allocating time to paid and unpaid work among urban adults in Bolivia with the help of a 2001 household survey. They found that the role of paid workers compared to unpaid workers is significantly larger among Bolivia's urban adults. The study tried to explain the inequalities among gender but mainly focused on inequalities within women's groups as well as within the men's group. On average, the number of Bolivians engaged in unpaid work for less time is more than fewer Bolivians engaged in paid work for more time. The average four-hour gap has been found between men's and women's workforce during a week; on average, the number of unpaid work done by women is significantly large. Paid work has more important in Bolivia as compared to unpaid work. The trade-off between paid and unpaid work shows less time left for unpaid work after devoting much time to paid work. It had concluded that gender is an apex variable, but it cannot explain the reason for less or more work done by some people than others. The study has focused on a few aspects of time allocation; it has not examined families' demographic composition and class structure. **Bardasi and Wodon** have explained the no choice except to work

for long hours in Guinea and describe the new definition of time poverty in 2010. They rely on the data of a 2002-03 survey of Guinea. They revealed the time poverty gap between rural and urban, male and female, and how to distribute their time between paid and unpaid activities. The disproportionate engagement of women in unpaid activities and household labour has been explored in the study by using decent working time as per updated guidelines of ILO. They also considered a new definition of time poverty, not only based on working hours but also by broadening up the term by addition of consumption poverty and extending the area of time poverty by redefining through need or choice. The study depicts the relationship of time poverty with education, demographic variables, religion, and the number of infants, child-adult, and senior people. The dummy variable is used for disabled people, geographical, and single women as household heads and estimated separate regression for males and females. The impact of marital status as the probability of more time poor than single women has been found, and differences found according to a different religions. Education has also indirectly correlated with time poverty; that is why time poverty is greater in rural areas than urban areas. The study has provided a new and broader picture of poverty through time, which is good for the policy implication in developing countries. Some aspects have been left due to the unavailability of data like child care and older and disabled persons considered secondary activities as limitations of the study. **In 2010, Abdourahman** used time-use data collected from the household questionnaire, dairy and millennium development goals and correlated with time poverty, a major issue as a second gender. The study analysed the distribution of social roles between men and women and their impacts on accomplishing the millennium development goals. Women work part larger than men if we add both paid and unpaid work, but women's larger part of unpaid work is considered un-estimated. As a single hand but played multiple roles, women devote longer hours than men; the main reason is the patriarchal foundation. In South Africa, women share almost double that of men in non –marketable production. The technologies have positively correlated with female workforce participation due to being a time-saving function. It has examined the linkage between monetary poverty, time poverty, and gender equity. The millennium development goals correlated with time poverty through different indicators of MDGs, showing a positive correlation between education, lower fertility, and lower infant mortality. The main focus of the study is to estimate the real value of unpaid work and incorporate it into national accounting through social accounting matrices. The infrastructure contributes significantly to heel time poverty in women by reducing the time burden. To achieve this, the government must take up a step to increase public investment in these areas. The study also defined that the actual data estimated with the calculation of unpaid work promote the success ratio of government policies and programs which reduced feminization poverty across the continent. **Spinney and Millward** have focused on time poverty and income inequality using data from Statistics Canada's General Social Survey on time use (GSS-TU) in 2010. They have explored the different types of time, like contracted time related to paid work or educational trailing, committed time, which is allied with unpaid work, necessary time, which is related to self-care, and leisure time left after the rest time deduction. They have revealed the gap between time poverty and income poverty and found that income poverty is less than time poverty. Due to their involvement in the structured and unstructured schedule, the time poor and time rich person has surveyed. However, no gap has been found in the use of recreational activity between time-poor and time rich. They have also expressed that engagement in physical activity is hurdled by income and time deprivation. The study also showed the gap between GDP per capita and economic well-being because GDP per capita does not reflect the opportunity cost of free time during a computation. **Kalenkoski et al. in 2011** presented their work "Time poverty thresholds and rates for the U.S. population," which identifies the time poverty and discretionary time using the multivariate regression technique. The study used data from a time-use survey of America from 2003-2006. The study exposed that due to the increased number of children; less discretionary time is left to individuals. It has been reduced by 35 minutes. Time poverty thresholds developed in this study which able to find who is time poor and compute the same within subgroups in the population. Lack of discretionary time constraints the individuals to engage in welfare-improving activities like education and leisure. **In 2012, a case study of Pakistan was conducted by Najam-us-Saqib and Arif (2012), and they** used a time-use survey in 2007, covering dairy records by most female samples. The study has categorized as working and non-working and focused on unpaid family helpers and self-employed. The study found that male time patterns were the same in rural and urban areas, whereas women spent more time in rural areas than in urban areas due to a lack of basic facilities or infrastructure. The majority of female workers spend three hours more on committed work, which is considered unpaid work. The incidence of time poverty is much higher among females in all categories of work except professional and service workers. **Another study in this area conducted by Chatzitheochari and Arber** showed that daily work and personal care activities would provide participation opportunities in leisure and social life in their discussion in 2012. The study relies on the data of the U.K. time use survey; 2000 has been used in this study that focused on the age group of 20-60 years as one weekday and one weekend day. The multivariate logistic regression model, R square, t-test, and log-likelihood have been used for analyzing time poverty. They have revealed that only twenty percent of male and female workers are considered time-poor, but the gender gap is slender. The occupation and family structure, like shift workers, unsocial hours of work, and marital status, have been affected by time poverty. The unskilled workers, a mother with a child and

other care responsibilities, have been influenced by time poverty. It also depicts that time-poor case in the context of men and women. It also classified the time quality as pure free time, contaminated free time, and fragmentation of free time. The study clarifies exacerbated quality of free time for women compared to men to their domestic responsibilities. **Antonopoulos et al. in 2012** studied the interlocking of time and income deficits: Revisiting poverty measurement informing policy response by exploring valid reasons for accounting for time deficits. The study covered Argentina, Chile, and Mexico countries and used SNA 1993 and LIMTIP to find income gaps and time deficits. They are concerned about poverty level time in household production and look over sufficient time to achieve this through adult members. It also identified time deficits as poverty coax. The study depicted the improvement in the availability of jobs and prominent pay with working length in a day. The nexus of income and unpaid work is linked implicitly only by time. The study revealed that the intensity of poverty is greater than statistical analysis. Employed household respondents had a time deficit than non-employed, and the incidence of time deficit was greater among income poor than income non-poor in all these countries. Single-headed households commenced (found) a higher poverty rate than married couples. The poor women are out-passing the poor men in all these countries, leading to the face of poverty which is more feminized. Employment and household time bind explored as double-time suffering variables among women who face time deficits. Double deprivation of time and income poverty was robust in women. The women worker is wounded combination of both time and income poverty. When women were employed, they suffered more time poverty than without employment. **After a gap of a year, Merz and Rathjen** used Amartya Sen's capability approach for real leisure time, which relates to well-being, CES utility function for substitution between money and time, which gives us a true picture of time/income substitution, Value judgment to find out satisfaction of life, and Multinomial logit for each interdependent multidimensional poverty regimes. They have focused on real leisure time and related it to time poor. It has revealed that the individual level, leisure time and income are less than the median, and net equivalence income is considered time and income poor. Some people are income-poor or time-poor, but some are facing both. Time and income poverty are associated with many variables like gender, age, education, occupation, working hours, nationality, family structure, and region. It also explored that women are more time and income-poor due to the other household obligation. The working hours as paid and unpaid work also diminished the real leisure time. The study has combined the two dimensions of poverty, time and income, used separately in earlier literature. **Gahagan and Tamene** have expressed their view on Time poverty among students of Jigjiga University in 2016." The study used FGT's headcount index of time poverty, probit model, and recursive regression to eliminate the infringement of the OLS assumption, which was calculated through STATA 10. The study has used its time poverty line of 4.4 hours relatively. The estimates of the probit regression model revealed a positive relationship between study time and time poverty and between students' academic performance and time poverty. The study has found that the CGPA scores increase by 0.064 points by increasing an extra hour of study time. Internet use has negatively affected study time; using Facebook for an additional 1 hour reduced one-third of study time and increased the time for religious activities, also increasing poverty. The study has depicted that time poverty and contracted time move in the same direction and due to increased study time by 1 hour, time poverty increased by 8% points. The study also expressed time poverty as study year-like; final year students are more time-poor than junior students. **In 2016 Rose** used Australian work, 2010 and life index. She collected data through interviews with 18 women who related to different occupations. The thematic coding process has been used. She has focused on employed mothers and how they manage their time. Under her study, 69.4 percent of employed mothers feel time-poor and pressed compared to 58 percent of employed fathers. Women used their resources efficiently with the help of multitasking methods, but it simultaneously increased the time pressure. The time pressure will remain the brunt issue for policymakers, so they must reconsider the flexibility of father job timing, and the caring responsibilities must be re-distributes between men and women. **Zacharias** used LIMTIP and the official poverty line based on income or consumption in 2017. He has used data of employed persons by Country, Sex, Weekly hours of employment and average. The study has concentrated on Argentina, Chile, Ghana, Korea, Mexico, Tanzania and turkey and riveted the incidence of time deficit of employed individuals. The study has revealed that job hours do not have much effect on both sexes, but women also bear unpaid work hours greater than men, and the official poverty line ignores the time deficit. It is possible that everyone's time-poor household may or may not be time-poor, which means time-poor on a household level. The study found that middle-income groups trade off time deficits, decreasing their expenditure or debt. The study showed that the gap between men and women is poor at the household level, whether their income and consumption share are high or low. The proportion of women in income and time poverty was higher than men due to a double bind. The study highlighted that an integrated perspective like full employment, decent work, and pay equity is necessary to achieve the target of sustainable development goals. **In 2018, Liangshu Qi and Xiao-yuan Dong** used the China time use survey and household income project of 2008 to figure the time poverty and comparison between men and women. The study revealed that time poverty concerns women who earn low wages, marry, and live with children due to their care responsibilities, low wage standard, and, over time. It has depicted that women work 8.7 hours more per week than men workers with a gender gap of 18.7 percentage points

### 3. Conclusion and Suggestions:

The study tries to establish the relationship throughout 18 years in the field of women's studies and mainly focuses on the work of gender unpaid work. It is a reason for the higher time poverty among women than men. In a nutshell, we can say that majority of the studies show the cause of time poverty and also put out a valuable suggestion as mentioned below:

1. Structural and normative changes like work-family policies must be taken up to fill the gender gap between paid and unpaid time use.
2. Future research must consider the temporal-spatial background and time poverty due to more working hours but low wages.
3. The government must remove the hurdle of physical activity participation by reducing time and income poverty.
4. To generate awareness among men and women about fair distribution of their responsibilities and focus on female unpaid family helpers who are monetarily poor. It must be considered to eliminate work long hours by improving education and minimum wage provision by the government.
5. Time poverty analysis should cover more areas than multidimensional poverty and other attributes of poverty. It also suggested that time and income is both considered in economic and social policymaking.
6. To tackle women's stress and time poverty, men must share the family's responsibility.
7. To achieve sustainable development goals, the government of the World should undertake serious steps.
8. The government must provide affordable care services to low-income families through balanced growth in working time and increasing minimum wage standards.

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