

Women's Contribution to the Economy – the Philippine Experience

Romulo Aguilar Virola
National Statistical Coordination Board
Midland Buendia Building
403 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City, Philippines
E-mail: ra.virola@nscb.gov.ph

1. Introduction

The Beijing Platform for Action adopted during the Fourth World Conference on Women, United Nations (1995) recognizes that to successfully mainstream a gender perspective in support of gender equality, the generation of gender statistics must be institutionalized. It referred to the need to measure and reflect the participation of women and men in the economy in the context of the System of National Accounts (SNA).

The failure of statistical offices to produce gender sensitive indicators is partly due to the operational difficulties in data collection on such gender concerns as violence against women, prostitution, sexual harassment, etc. – issues that are shrouded in a “culture of silence”. The existing limitations of these statistical offices make it difficult to value unpaid housework. As a result, international bodies do not recommend its inclusion in the central framework of the SNA to preserve the comparability of indicators coming out of the SNA.

This paper presents a methodology to measure the contribution of women and men to the economy within the context and without altering the core structure of the Philippine System of National Accounts and shows some results based on the latest available data.

2. Framework

The SNA production boundary covers all goods produced and all services except those not intended for the market, Conference of European Communities, etc. (1993) . Thus, unpaid work which is mostly done by women such as domestic and personal services produced for own final consumption within households is excluded in the estimation of the Gross Domestic/National Product (GDP/GNP).

In order to measure more accurately the contribution of women to the economy, it is therefore important to adjust the conventionally estimated GDP for unpaid work. The shares of women and men in the major components of GDP/GNP are also computed to derive their respective share in the adjusted GDP/GNP. This is accomplished using the framework in Figure 1.

3. Estimation Methodology

The framework given in the previous section is operationalized by working on the production estimates of GDP and using the following procedures:

3.1. The conventionally-estimated GDP is first disaggregated by sex. For each of nine major economic activities, the Gross Value Added (GVA) is decomposed into the organized sector, GVA^o and the unorganized sector, GVA^u . For each activity, GVA^o and GVA^u are disaggregated by sex.

3.2. Unpaid work is computed for the employed, the unemployed and those outside the labor force with sex-disaggregation for each group.

