

# Gender Time Use Patterns: A Comparative Study of Malwa Region of Punjab

Ramandeep Kaur

MCMDAV College for women

**Abstract:** *The present study was conducted in the Punjab state of India. This paper focuses on questions related to gender division of labor and time use patterns of work and leisure between men and women. Division of labor by gender exists in almost all the societies, both for paid and unpaid work. The nature of specialized work done by women and men differs across place, time and in some cases over the life cycle. Generalizations need to be made only after a detailed analysis in a specific social context incorporating strata and other variables in addition to gender. The paper describes how work is distributed among men and women in SNA-activities, extended-SNA activities and non-SNA activities in the three villages selected for study which are from Punjab region. Time has been measured in hours and minutes per day for all the members of the household.*

**Keywords:** SNA activities, Extended-SNA, Non-SNA, Time use pattern, Gender Roles

## 1. Introduction

Daily activities are the key factor when analyzing a person's quality of life. First and foremost is the context of the household, within which each person carries out more or less defined roles. The roles covered are, in fact, a crucial variable when evaluating each person's quality of life. This angle of observation is particularly instructive when seen in terms of developments from a gender standpoint. Interpreting a woman's lifestyle according to the presence of symmetry or asymmetry of roles, accompanying this analysis along with the subjective perception of satisfaction as to daily activities, is an essential approach for determining the real satisfaction derived from the different aspects of a person's daily life. In addition to conventional indicators, newly conceived indicators taking into account the division of roles can be of great help when carrying out this kind of study. In this sense the analysis of individual time use in relation to household time use represents a significant step forward while studying quality of life.

Time use survey data are an important input to policy analysis. They provide information on the allocation of time to household production of substitutes for market output, as well as on the allocation of time to leisure activities. This information is typically missing in other household survey datasets. Time use studies were first used in the early 1900's as a means for analyzing various social phenomena and provided comprehensive information on lifestyle of families and pattern of social life as revealed by the allocation of time among several different human activities. Though time use surveys are useful to both developed and developing economies in improving their statistics on labour use and national income; there is a difference between the objectives of time use studies in developed and developing economies. In developed countries where official statistics provide fairly reliable information on market oriented activities, time use studies are used mainly as a source of information on activities not covered by official statistics, such as leisure, household work, family work etc. However, without access to information on time use outside the market, estimation of the models is inevitably limited to datasets that do not distinguish between the leisure time of a family member and

the time each one spends on household maintenance, management and care activities for other family members.

The data analyzed by the time use studies can meaningfully reveal the average time spent on housework and various agricultural and non-agricultural activities by men, women and children. It also tries to understand the household economy and how individuals spend their time on particular household activities. The time use studies can present a fairly good picture of the division of labor in Punjabi society. In a survey conducted in 1999, the Central Statistical Organization (2002; also Bhatia), listed 154 activities performed by men and women in nine groups, which were further classified into three categories: SNA-related activities, SNA-extended activities, and non-SNA activities. The System of National Accounts (SNA) views the entire scale of human activities as either economic or non-economic, drawing a line called production boundary between the two. For the purpose of analysis of data, the activities have been categorized as SNA, extended-SNA and non-SNA activities.

The **SNA activities** consist of primary production activities, such as crop farming, animal husbandry, forestry, fishing, processing, storage, mining and quarrying; secondary activities like construction, trade, business and services activities.

The **extended-SNA** includes three groups of activities, household maintenance, management and shopping for own household, care of children, sick, elderly and disabled and community services and help to other households.

The **non-SNA** activities consist of learning, social and cultural, mass media and personal care and self-maintenance activities.

## 2. Review of Literature

The most important differentiation in human societies is based on gender difference, that is, the biological distinction between men and women. There is some sort of identified division of labor based on gender in all types of societies.

Volume 5 Issue 10, October 2016

[www.ijsr.net](http://www.ijsr.net)

Licensed Under Creative Commons Attribution CC BY

Mair (1999) is of the opinion that the biological division of humans into males and females is the basis of the most elementary social stratification everywhere. Gender is defined in the context of socially and culturally accepted behavior and relations between male and female. In the traditional societies, the gender roles are more rigid as compared to the modern industrial societies. The gender roles also vary with reference to castes and classes, that is, the socio-economic strata of the society.

Social or, more specifically, gender division of labor is an important aspect of human social organization. The knowledge of how work is distributed between men and women in a particular society yields insights, among other things, into its [i] quotidian life, [ii] time use and time budgets, [iii] patterns of work and leisure, and [iv] social inequalities.

Anthropologists propose that historically men and women have different roles because of their biological differences. In the opinion of functionalists in sociology smooth functioning of the family and its continuity necessitates the assignment of different roles to men and women. This results in social differentiation. As women bear children, they were given the role of socializing the offspring in addition to home making. Consequently, the role of bread winning for the family was given to men.

Conflict sociologists, on the other hand, assert that confinement of women to domestic roles and their subordination were due to the emergence of private property. As men were engaged in economic activities, they became property owners. As a result, they dominated women by depriving them of economic independence and control over wealth.

The feminists argue that gender differentiation is not biological rather it is cultural. It means assignment of domestic roles for women and non-domestic roles for men was not due to their biological differences. However, it was due to cultural practices and consequent pattern of socialization.

Thus, there are various viewpoints regarding gender role differentiation. Women were restricted to the roles of reproduction and home making to large extent in past societies. Men were held to be the bread winners. Men enjoyed supremacy over women, both in family and in society. Contrasting this scenario of male supremacy over status and wealth, the contribution of women to family and community has largely gone unnoticed.

Women have always significantly contributed to the economy all over the world. In older times women contributed significantly in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry etc. However, their contributions have not been properly evaluated and duly recognized. In this regard Bennholdt and Thomson write that,

Women do two-thirds of the entire world's work. In exchange they receive ten percent of all income and own a mere one percent of the entire world's means of production. On the contrary, men perform one-third of the world's work

and are rewarded with ninety percent of the income and ninety one percent of means of production. (Quoted in Meis, Thomson 1988:159)

Similarly Hindu law maker Manu asserted that, "Since woman is weak, she is unfit to enjoy freedom." She should always be kept under a man's protection. Such opinions present different shades of reflections of cultural beliefs of people in general. In other words, inferiority of women is not inborn; rather it is enforced on them by cultural practices and consequent attitudes prevalent in a community.

In case of the traditional Indian society, the division of labor has been based on gender and age. According to the cultural norms, children particularly girls and the aged persons are not assigned any physical work that requires hard labor. But the range of activities of the adult persons is determined by gender. Generally, the adult men are assigned the roles in the productive process so that they can cater to the material needs of women, children and the aged persons. On the other hand, the women are assigned household roles like cooking of food, cleaning the house, care of children, sick and the elderly etc. Thus the division of work among men and women is not arbitrary; rather it is socially and culturally defined. However, in actual practice this normative framework is not followed rigidly as in many situations women are involved in work which supplements productive activities. Moreover, women's involvement in some production related work does not diminish their role in household work, because culturally only women are supposed to carry out such work in the Indian society. Thus women are burdened with dual roles -household work and economically productive work.

This study attempted to figure out the *gender division of labor in agricultural households* as it exists in the Malwa Region of Punjab state of India. It was intended to find out how work is distributed among men and women, of different age categories, types of families, marital status and agrarian strata in agricultural households in the Punjab countryside. In the last few decades, Punjab state of India had experienced radical changes in its rural economy and society under the impact of green revolution, the processes of cultural modernization, political militancy, and in-migration and out-migration. It was, therefore, imperative to discover and document what changes are taking place at the grass roots in the Punjab country side. The present study gave due weightage to how people define labor, work, non-work and leisure. Thus, it had a pronounced social anthropological orientation.

### **Objectives of the study**

The specific objectives of the present research are as follows:

- 1) The main objective of the study was to grasp and describe the gender division of labor as it exists in the different strata of agricultural households in the Malwa region of Punjab.
- 2) The gender division of labor was studied in terms of time allocation for work and leisure for men and women.
- 3) An attempt was made to ascertain if disparities exist in the way work is distributed between gender groups.

4) Similarly, an attempt was made to determine how patterns of work and leisure vary among different age groups, type of families and marital status of the respondents.

### 3. Methodology

The study was essentially a descriptive study and avoided specific hypotheses for the simple and sufficient reason that few studies on Punjab are available in the chosen field of research. Certain working hypotheses, for example, that women are withdrawing from agricultural operations, that large landholders now prefer supervision to manual work; that migrant labor has significantly displaced local labor in agricultural operations; that women continue to be burdened with housework despite their education and (sometimes) employment outside home – will indeed be kept in mind, but they will not restrict or constrain the inquiry.

Since the study was empirical, the primary data has been collected from three villages from nine blocks of Patiala District of Punjab. A list of villages of these blocks was procured from village directory of Patiala district and villages were ranked according to the levels of socio-economic development. The criteria used to determine these levels were as follows:

- 1) Distance from a town/city
- 2) Institutional facilities
- 3) Land-ownership pattern
- 4) Number of farm machinery
- 5) Literacy rate.

**Table 5.1:** Gender wise average time spent weekly (in hours) on SNA, extended- SNA, and non -SNA activities in all the three villages

	Ditupur		Lang		SularGharat	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
SNA	35.48	16.58	36.42	19.01	27.98	26.83
Ext. SNA	1.48	31.35	1.69	37.17	3.38	24.75
Non-SNA	131.04	120.07	128.89	111.82	136.64	116.42

The analysis of data presented in the preceding table indicates that both male and female respondents from all the selected villages spent a higher proportion of time in non-SNA activities. It was observed that a large number of respondents watched television or listened to radio during their leisure time. However, the time spent by women on non-SNA activities was significantly lower as compared to the men. This indicates that women spent more time on extended-SNA activities as compared to the men. The women from Ditupur and Lang spent much lesser time on SNA activities as compared to the women of SularGharat. This might be explained in terms of the economic status of the villages. SularGharat is a comparatively lesser advanced village as compared to Ditupur and Lang and that is why, the women from this village participate in SNA activities in order to supplement the family income. On the other hand, the average time spent by women of SularGharat on an extended- SNA activity was comparatively lower to the women of Ditupur and Lang. This might be explained in terms of the fact that the women of economically less developed village spent more time on SNA activities and therefore they have lesser time available for the extended-

The villages were assigned scores based on the above mentioned criteria and were accordingly classified as developed, moderately developed and less developed. From the three lists of villages, one village from each list was selected randomly for the study. Keeping in view the time and financial constraints of the researcher, a random sample was drawn from the agricultural households of each village for the purpose of present research. The lists of households were procured from the Panchayat records of the respective villages. In terms of the size of population, the villages differed from each other significantly. Ditupur is composed of 156 agricultural households, Lang 328 agricultural households and SularGharat 91 agricultural households. Because of the significant variation in the number of agricultural households of the three villages, it was considered appropriate to draw 30 percent random sample from Lang, 40 percent from Ditupur and 50 percent from SularGharat. Thus a total of 99 households were selected randomly from Lang, 63 from Ditupur and 45 from SularGharat.

### 4. Results and Discussion

The three types of activities in the selected villages have been described and the analysis pertaining to them has been presented in the ensuing pages.

#### Time spent on various types of activities according to gender.

The gender wise average time spent weekly on the three types of activities in the three villages under study has been presented in Table 5.1 given below.

SNA activities. That is, why the men from SularGharat spent more time on extended- SNA activities as compared to the men from Ditupur and Lang. On the other hand, the men from Ditupur and Lang spent more time on SNA activities as compared to the men from SularGharat. This might be due to the fact that the participation of women of SularGharat in SNA activities is to a greater extent as compared to the women from the other two villages which are comparatively more advanced as compared to SularGharat. As the women from SularGharat participate to a greater extent in SNA activities, the men from this village have more time available to them for extended-SNA and non-SNA activities. Thus, the variation in the time spent on various types of activities by men and women of the selected villages is influenced by the level of economic development of the villages.

#### Time spent on various types of activities by age

The age and gender wise average time spent weekly on the three types of activities in Ditupur village has been presented in Table 5.2 (a) given below.



**Table 5.2 (a):** Age wise average time spent weekly (in hours) on SNA, extended- SNA, and non -SNA activities in Ditupur village

	12-18 years		19-35 years		36-55 years		56 years & above	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
SNA	4.47	0	1.53	7.9	10.51	9	9.57	0
Ext. SNA	0.38	4.55	0.30	8.55	0.35	9.55	0.45	8.55
Non-SNA	34.5	30.5	32.2	29.5	31.3	28.58	33.5	31.5

The analysis of data presented in the foregoing table indicates that the men from 12- 18 years of age spent the least amount of time on SNA activities whereas, the men in the age group of 36-55 years spent the highest proportion of time on SNA activities. In case of women, none of the younger women (12-18 years of age) and none of the older women (56 years and above) were engaged in SNA activities. However, some of the women from middle age categories (between 19-55 years) were spending some proportion of time on SNA activities. The lesser amount of time spent by the women on SNA activities can be explained in terms of the fact that in Punjab villages the women are generally not expected to participate in agricultural work. However, some women from the lower economic strata are forced to participate in the SNA activities because of economic compulsions. That is why some women from the middle age group and from the economically lower strata were spending some amount of time on SNA activities.

As regards, extended-SNA activities the men from all the age categories were spending very little amount of time on

these activities. This is due to the fact that the men are not expected to take up any type of household work. On the other hand, a significant proportion of time of the women was being spent on extended-SNA activities. The proportion of time spent by the younger women (12-18 years) was significantly lower as compared to the women from all other age categories. This might be due to the fact that younger women are going to schools and colleges for educational purposes.

With regard to the non-SNA activities, the data reveals that women from all the age categories were spending lesser time on such activities as compared to the men. This might be due to the fact that the women have to devote more time on extended-SNA activities and thus are left with lesser time for non-SNA activities.

The age and gender wise average time spent weekly on the three types of activities in village Lang has been presented in Table 5.2 (b) given below.

**Table 5.2 (b):** Age wise average time spent weekly (in hours) on SNA, extended- SNA, and non -SNA activities in Lang village

	12-18 years		19-35 years		36-55 years		56 years & above	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
SNA	5.54	0	10.35	9.5	14.55	10.5	7.54	0
Ext. SNA	0.40	5.55	0.35	9.45	0.40	10.5	0.55	7.54
Non-SNA	32.15	28.5	30.15	26.5	30.45	26.5	35.5	29.5

The analysis of data presented in the foregoing table indicates that the men from 12- 18 years of age spent the least amount of time on SNA activities whereas, the men in the age group of 36-55 years spent the highest proportion of time on SNA activities. In case of women, none of the younger women (12-18 years of age) and none of the older women (56 years and above) were engaged in SNA activities. However, some of the women from middle age categories (between 19-55 years) were spending some proportion of time on SNA activities. The lesser amount of time spent by the women on SNA activities can be explained in terms of the fact that in Punjab villages the women are generally not expected to participate in agricultural work. However, some women from the lower economic strata are forced to participate in the SNA activities because of economic compulsions that is why some women from the middle age group and from the economically lower strata were spending some amount of time on SNA activities.

As regards, extended-SNA activities the men from all the age categories were spending very little amount of time on

these activities. This is due to the fact that the men are not expected to take up any type of household work. On the other hand, a significant proportion of time of the women was being spent on extended-SNA activities. The proportion of time spent by the younger women (12-18 years) was significantly lower as compared to the women from all other age categories. This might be due to the fact that younger women are going to schools and colleges for educational purposes.

With regard to the non-SNA activities, the data reveals that women from all the age categories were spending lesser time on such activities as compared to the men. This might be due to the fact that the women have to devote more time on extended-SNA activities and thus are left with lesser time for non-SNA activities.

The age and gender wise average time spent weekly on the three types of activities in village SularGharat has been presented in Table 5.2 (c) given below.

**Table 5.2 (c):** Age wise average time spent weekly (in hours) on SNA, extended- SNA, and non -SNA activities in SularGharat village

	12-18 years		19-35 years		36-55 years		56 years & above	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
SNA	4.25	0	8.55	14.25	8.55	12.3	6.54	0
Ext. SNA	1.15	5.25	0.55	7.15	0.35	7.25	1.55	5.15
Non-SNA	35.13	30	32.14	27.15	33.35	28.15	36.25	31.25

The analysis of data presented in the foregoing table indicates that the men from 12- 18 years of age spent the least amount of time on SNA activities whereas, the men in the age group of 36-55 years spent the highest proportion of time on SNA activities. In case of women, none of the younger women (12-18 years of age) and none of the older women (56 years and above) were engaged in SNA activities. However, some of the women from middle age categories (between 19-55 years) were spending some proportion of time on SNA activities. The lesser amount of time spent by the women on SNA activities can be explained in terms of the fact that in Punjab villages the women are generally not expected to participate in agricultural work. However, some women from the lower economic strata are forced to participate in the SNA activities because of economic compulsions that is why some women from the middle age group and from the economically lower strata were spending some amount of time on SNA activities.

As regards, extended-SNA activities the men from all the age categories were spending very little amount of time on these activities. This is due to the fact that the men are not

expected to take up any type of household work. On the other hand, a significant proportion of time of the women was being spent on extended-SNA activities. The proportion of time spent by the younger women (12-18 years) was significantly lower as compared to the women from all other age categories. This might be due to the fact that younger women are going to schools and colleges for educational purposes.

With regard to the non-SNA activities, the data reveals that women from all the age categories were spending lesser time on such activities as compared to the men. This might be due to the fact that the women have to devote more time on extended-SNA activities and thus are left with lesser time for non-SNA activities.

**Time spent on various types of activities according to agrarian strata**

Average time spent weekly on the three types of activities by various agrarian strata in village Ditungpur has been presented in Table 5.3 (a) given below.

**Table 5.3 (a):** Average time spent weekly (in hours) by agrarian strata on SNA, extended- SNA, and non -SNA activities in Ditungpur village

	0-5 acres		6-15 acres		16 acres & above		Landless	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
SNA	48.6	18.6	32.2	0	20.4	0	55.5	24.5
Ext. SNA	2.9	16.25	4.9	15.10	3.20	10.41	1.59	16.54
Non-SNA	83.55	74.50	91.85	85.75	131.2	120.4	73.85	66.85

The analysis of data pertaining to the time spent on various types of activities by gender and agrarian strata in Ditungpur reveals that men from the lower and medium economic strata were spending more time on SNA activities as compared to the men from the upper economic strata. This might be due to the fact that the men from economically well off families generally do not participate in agricultural activities themselves as they either supervise the agricultural work being done by agricultural labor or they lease out their land for cultivation. In case of women, those from lower economic strata were spending some time on SNA activities while the women from medium and upper economic strata were not participating in SNA activities at all. The women of the lower economic strata are forced to take up SNA activities due to economic compulsions.

As regards extended-SNA activities, the proportion of time spent by the men in such activities was consistently lower as compared to the time spent by the women in case of all agrarian strata. However, the women of lower agrarian strata were spending more amount of time on these activities as compared to the women from medium and upper agrarian strata. This might be due to the fact that the women of

medium and upper economic strata employ the women from lower economic strata for domestic work.

As regards non-SNA activities the women of all agrarian strata were spending lesser amount of time on such activities as compared to the men. This is due to the fact that the women are burdened with the domestic work and the some of the women from the lower economic strata also participate in agricultural work along with domestic work. Thus, the women are over burdened with work and have lesser time available for non-SNA activities. The burden of the work for the women from the lower economic strata is much more as compared to the women from the upper economic strata. That is why; the women of the upper economic spent significantly more time on non-SNA activities as compared to the women from the lower and the medium economic strata. Thus, the leisure time available to the women from upper economic strata is much higher as compared to the women of medium and lower economic strata.

Average time spent weekly on the three types of activities by various agrarian strata in village Lang has been presented in Table 5.3 (b) given below.

**Table 5.3 (b):** Average time spent weekly (in hours) by agrarian strata on SNA, extended- SNA, and non -SNA activities in Lang village

	0-5 acres		6-15 acres		16 acres & above		Landless	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
SNA	49.6	20.5	34.2	0	22.4	0	55.5	25.6
Ext. SNA	1.59	16.15	3.22	12.14	3.17	10.41	3.90	15.31
Non-SNA	87.5	70.50	88.20	82.2	85.12	83.2	80.85	72.10

The analysis of data pertaining to the time spent on various types of activities by gender and agrarian strata in Lang reveals that men from the lower and medium economic strata were spending more time on SNA activities as compared to the men from the upper economic strata. This might be due to the fact that the men from economically well off families generally do not participate in agricultural activities themselves as they either supervise the agricultural work being done by agricultural labor or they lease out their land for cultivation. In case of women, those from lower economic strata were spending some time on SNA activities while the women from medium and upper economic strata were not participating in SNA activities at all. The women of the lower economic strata are forced to take up SNA activities due to economic compulsions.

As regards extended-SNA activities, the proportion of time spent by the men in such activities was consistently lower as compared to the time spent by the women in case of all agrarian strata. However, the women of lower agrarian strata were spending more amount of time on these activities as compared to the women from medium and upper agrarian strata. This might be due to the fact that the women of

medium and upper economic strata employ the women from lower economic strata for domestic work.

As regards non-SNA activities the women of all agrarian strata were spending lesser amount of time on such activities as compared to the men. This is due to the fact that the women are burdened with the domestic work and the some of the women from the lower economic strata also participate in agricultural work along with domestic work. Thus, the women are overburdened with work and have lesser time available for non-SNA activities. The burden of the work for the women from the lower economic strata is much more as compared to the women from the upper economic strata. That is why; the women of the upper economic spent significantly more time on non-SNA activities as compared to the women from the lower and the medium economic strata. Thus, the leisure time available to the women from upper economic strata is much higher as compared to the women of medium and lower economic strata.

Average time spent weekly on the three types of activities by various agrarian strata in village SularGharat has been presented in Table 5.3 (c) given below.

**Table 5.3 (c):** Average time spent weekly (in hours) by agrarian strata on SNA, extended- SNA, and non -SNA activities in SularGharat village

	0-5 acres		6-15 acres		16 acres & above		Landless	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
SNA	65.7	39.0	55.6	22.2	48.4	0	70.5	42.5
Ext. SNA	4.01	14.31	3.45	13.38	3.50	11.45	1.48	16.35
Non-SNA	69.15	68.40	88.20	79.45	100.05	100	87.75	74.90

The analysis of data pertaining to the time spent on various types of activities by gender and agrarian strata in SularGharat reveals that men from the lower and medium economic strata were spending more time on SNA activities as compared to the men from the upper economic strata. This might be due to the fact that the men from economically well off families generally do not participate in agricultural activities themselves as they either supervise the agricultural work being done by agricultural labor or they lease out their land for cultivation. In case of women, those from lower economic strata were spending some time on SNA activities while the women from medium and upper economic strata were not participating in SNA activities at all. The women of the lower economic strata are forced to take up SNA activities due to economic compulsions.

As regards extended-SNA activities, the proportion of time spent by the men in such activities was consistently lower as compared to the time spent by the women in case of all agrarian strata. However, the women of lower agrarian strata were spending more amount of time on these activities as compared to the women from medium and upper agrarian strata. This might be due to the fact that the women of

medium and upper economic strata employ the women from lower economic strata for domestic work.

As regards non-SNA activities the women of all agrarian strata were spending lesser amount of time on such activities as compared to the men. This is due to the fact that the women are burdened with the domestic work and the some of the women from the lower economic strata also participate in agricultural work along with domestic work. Thus, the women are overburdened with work and have lesser time available for non-SNA activities. The burden of the work for the women from the lower economic strata is much more as compared to the women from the upper economic strata. That is why; the women of the upper economic spent significantly more time on non-SNA activities as compared to the women from the lower and the medium economic strata. Thus, the leisure time available to the women from upper economic strata is much higher as compared to the women of medium and lower economic strata.

The analysis of data pertaining to time spent on various types of activities by gender and agrarian strata reveals that

the women of lower agrarian strata were spending substantial amount of time on SNA activities while none of the women from medium and upper agrarian strata was spending any time on these activities. Moreover, the men from the lower agrarian strata were spending more time on SNA activities as compared to the men of medium and upper agrarian strata. In case of the extended SNA activities the women of lower agrarian strata were spending substantially more amount of time on these activities as compared to the women from the medium and upper agrarian strata. As regards non-SNA activities the women of all agrarian strata

were spending lesser amount of time on such activities as compared to the men. Moreover, the men of the upper agrarian strata were spending significantly higher amount of time on non-SNA activities as compared to the men from medium and lower economic strata.

**Time spent on various types of activities by type of families**

The village wise average time spent on different types of activities by type of families and gender has been shown in the following table.

**Table 5.4:** Village wise average time spent weekly (in hours) on different types of activities by type of families and gender

Activities	Nuclear						Joint					
	Ditupur		Lang		SularGharat		Ditupur		Lang		SularGharat	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
SNA	43.7	13.8	37.6	16.9	37.4	32.5	36.2	6.8	36.1	4.3	28.7	26.5
Extended SNA	2.8	32.1	2.31	48.4	8.2	24.8	3.4	33.4	3.5	36.9	10.8	25.1
NON SNA	120	112.8	128	111	123	117	129	128	125	112	128	118

The analysis of the data presented in the foregoing table reveals that the average time spent by the women living in joint families on SNA activities was significantly lesser as compared to the average time spent on these activities by the women living in the nuclear families, in the comparatively advanced villages of Ditupur and Lang. However, the situation is rather different in the economically less developed village of SularGharat. In case of this village quite a high proportion of women spent more time on SNA activities, both from the nuclear and joint families. This again, can be explained in terms of the level of economic development of villages. The women from economically less advanced village were participating to a greater extent in agricultural activities irrespective of the type of the family in which they lived. The average time spent by women on extended-SNA activities was consistently higher as

compared to men in both nuclear and joint families in all the three villages. However, the difference in the average time spent on such activities between men and women was lower in SularGharat. This can be explained in terms of greater participation of women of SularGharat in SNA activities because of which they get lesser time for extended-SNA and non-SNA activities. As regards non-SNA activities there is no significant variation in the average time spent by the men and women of both nuclear and joint families, but it is consistently lower for the women.

**Time spent on various types of activities by marital status**

The village wise average time spent on different types of activities by marital status and gender has been shown in the following table.

**Table 5.5:** Average time spent weekly (in hours) on different types of activities by marital status and gender in all the three villages

Activities	Unmarried						Married					
	Ditupur		Lang		SularGharat		Ditupur		Lang		SularGharat	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
SNA	4.47	0	5.54	0	4.25	0	10.2	5.63	11	6.55	8.21	8
Extended SNA	0.38	4.55	0.41	5.55	1.15	5.25	0.36	9	0.43	9.18	0.48	6.51
NON SNA	34.5	30.5	32.2	28.5	35.1	30	32.3	30	32.03	27.5	34	29

The analysis of the average time spent on different type of activities according to the marital status of the men and women reveals that the unmarried men from all the three villages spent lesser amount of time on SNA activities as compared to the married men. This situation might be explained in terms of the fact that a higher proportion of the unmarried men are expected to be continuing their education in schools and colleges and that is why they could not find sufficient amount of time for participation in the agricultural work. As regards women none of the unmarried women from all the three selected villages was spending any time on SNA activities. However, a number of married women were spending some time on such activities. From among the married women the highest proportion of them from SularGharat were participating in agricultural activities as compared to Ditupur and Lang. As regards extended-SNA activities, both unmarried and married men were spending

very little time on such activities. This might be due to the fact that men in Punjab are not expected to undertake any type of domestic work. In case of women the married women from all the three villages were found to be spending more time on extended-SNA activities as compared to the unmarried women. This again might be explained in terms of the fact that a higher proportion of the unmarried women are expected to be receiving education in schools and colleges and that is why, they could devote lesser time on domestic work as compared to the married women. As regards non-SNA activities, the time spent by married and unmarried men in all the three selected villages did not show any variation. A similar situation was found in case of women of all the three selected villages. However, the average time spent on non-SNA activities by women, whether married or unmarried was consistently lower than that spent by married and unmarried men. But the unmarried



women spent comparatively more time on such activities than married women as they have lesser burden of domestic work.

The village wise comparison reveals that the married women from SularGharat village spent significantly more time on SNA activities as compared to the married women of Ditupur and Lang villages. The higher participation of married women of SularGharat village in SNA activities can be attributed to the economic backwardness of the village which compels the women to engage in agricultural work for earning a livelihood.

## 5. Conclusion

To sum up, the study deals with the participation of men and women in three types of activities that is SNA (production related activities), extended – SNA (domestic and household activities) and non –SNA (leisure time and recreational activities). The findings of the study reveal that men spend a significantly higher proportion of time on SNA activities as compared to women. Men of upper economic strata spend comparatively lesser time on SNA activities in comparison to those of lower strata. The women of upper economic strata do not participate at all in the agricultural activities. However, women of lower economic strata are involved in number of agricultural tasks due to economic compulsions. The work participation rate of women of lower economic strata in production related activities has been found to be significantly higher in the economically less developed village as compared to the moderately and economically more developed villages.

As regards extended –SNA activities, they are confined only to women and there is hardly any male participation in domestic chores which can be attributed to the practice of patriarchy and the socio-cultural norms of rural Punjab. The household work is culturally defined as women's work and they do this work happily and willingly. As a matter of fact women internalize these cultural norms during the process of socialization right from their childhood and that is why they perceive that household work is their responsibility only. Although women of upper economic strata get the help of women from lower economic strata for the household work yet they take up activities like cooking and serving of food on their own shoulders. But the women of these economic strata are not overburdened with work as they do not participate in agricultural activities at all. The practice of employing women from lower strata as domestic help is prevalent to a greater extent in the economically more developed village as compared to the economically less developed village. The findings of the study also reveal that women respondents from all the three selected villages spend considerable time on taking care of children, sick and the elderly in their families in addition to the time spent on household activities. Thus, these women have lesser time available to them for recreational and leisure time activities (non-SNA) as compared to men.

This shows that there is gender inequality in the distribution of work. This inequality is more striking in case of women of the lower economic strata and especially from the economically less advanced village. The women of lower

economic strata from the economically less developed village participate in agricultural activities alongwith fulfilling their traditional role as housewives and spending considerable amount of time on extended –SNA activities in addition to the time spent on agricultural activities. Thus, these women from the lower economic strata are overburdened with work and have hardly any time for recreational or leisure time activities. Thus, the plight of women from the lower economic strata is pitiable and the process of modernization in Punjab villages has not helped in ameliorating the condition of these women.

## References

- [1] CSO. 2000. *Report of the time use survey 2000*. Central Statistical Organization, M/O Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.
- [2] Mair, Lucy.1999. *An introduction to social anthropology*. Second edition, Oxford University Press Delhi.
- [3] Manu.1993.As quoted in Sharma, C.L 1993 'Indian Women in Manu; in *Dimensions of womanhood*: (ed.) by Aggarwal, C.M 1993; Shri Almora Book Dept. Almora.
- [4] Mies, M. and V. Shiva.1993. *Ecofeminism*. Routledge