

## SDC 2019 Annual Meeting Abstracts

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**Title: It's about time: An analysis of the intra-household allocation of children's time for three countries**



More recently, concurrent with the global call for recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid domestic work to promote gender equality under Sustainable Development Goal 5, there is renewed focus on time allocation research that tracks different types of non-market time uses, such as childcare, chores, and leisure. Surveys typically collect information on the socio-economic characteristics of household members, and infrequently ask about time spent on daily activities unless it is a central purpose of the project. As a result, there is relatively little evidence on how children's time is allocated in developing countries. At the same time, how children spend their time in formative years is particularly consequential, because it determines not only their current happiness and productivity, but also their future productivity. We study children's time use patterns in Ethiopia, India, and Vietnam, using a component of the Young Lives Longitudinal study that had not been fully explored. We develop a framework that describes how children's time use varies within household, and show empirically that intra-household patterns reflect the relative productivity of children's time spent on work, study, and leisure. Investigating intra-household differences in time use using household fixed effects regressions, we document a large leisure deficit for girls, highlighting a gender gap that has received little attention. We then analyze the leisure gap and find that it emerges at an early age, and is widely spread along the entire wealth distribution. Furthermore, leisure-poor girls are more likely to reside in poor households than leisure-poor boys, suggesting that girls are more likely to face a double burden of wealth and time poverty. Our findings relate to the literature on time poverty of women in developing countries, and have implications for promoting gender equality under Sustainable Development Goal target 5.4 on unpaid care and domestic work.