

Women's Empowerment and the Demographic Dividend

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Dakar, Senegal

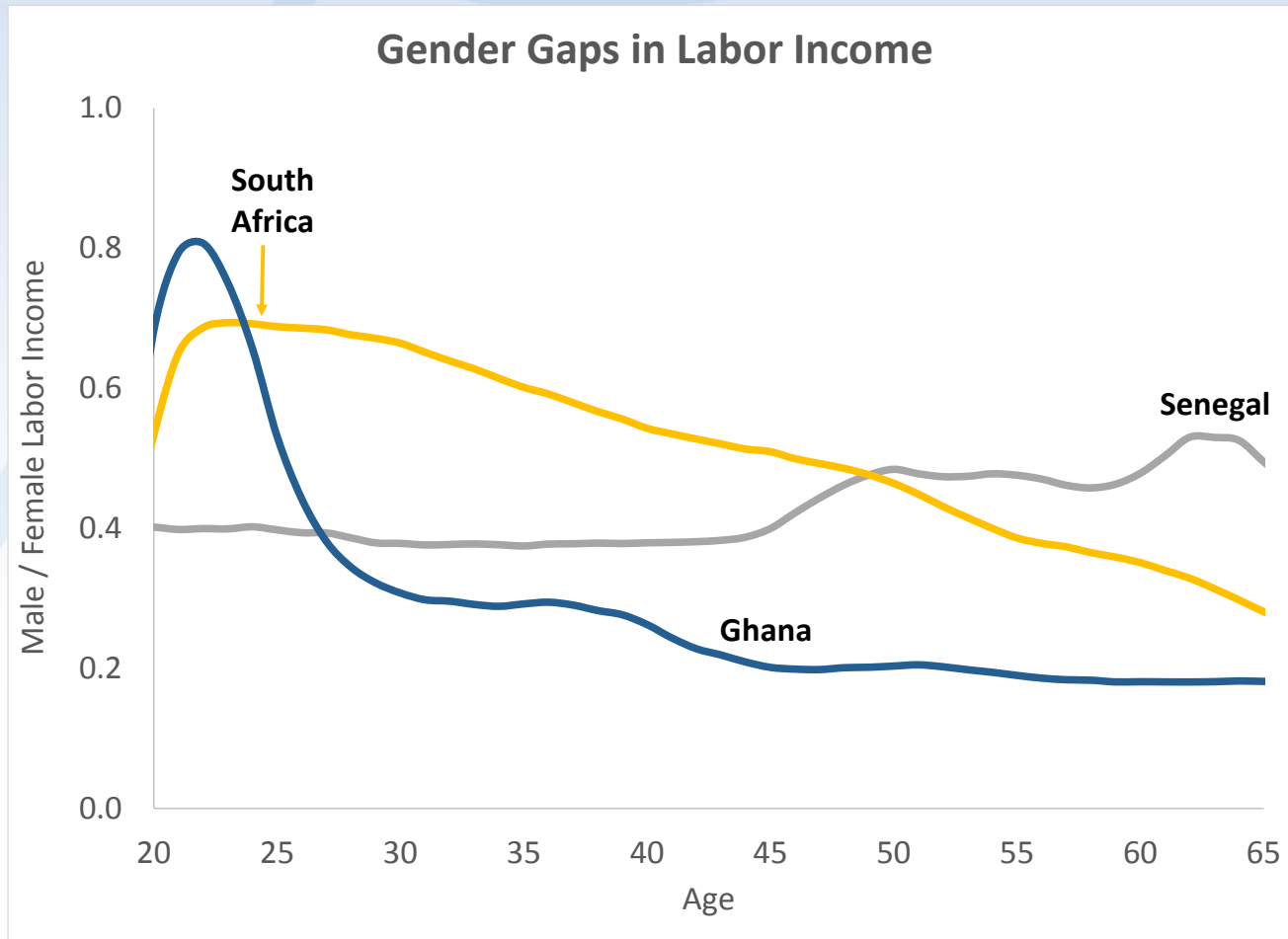
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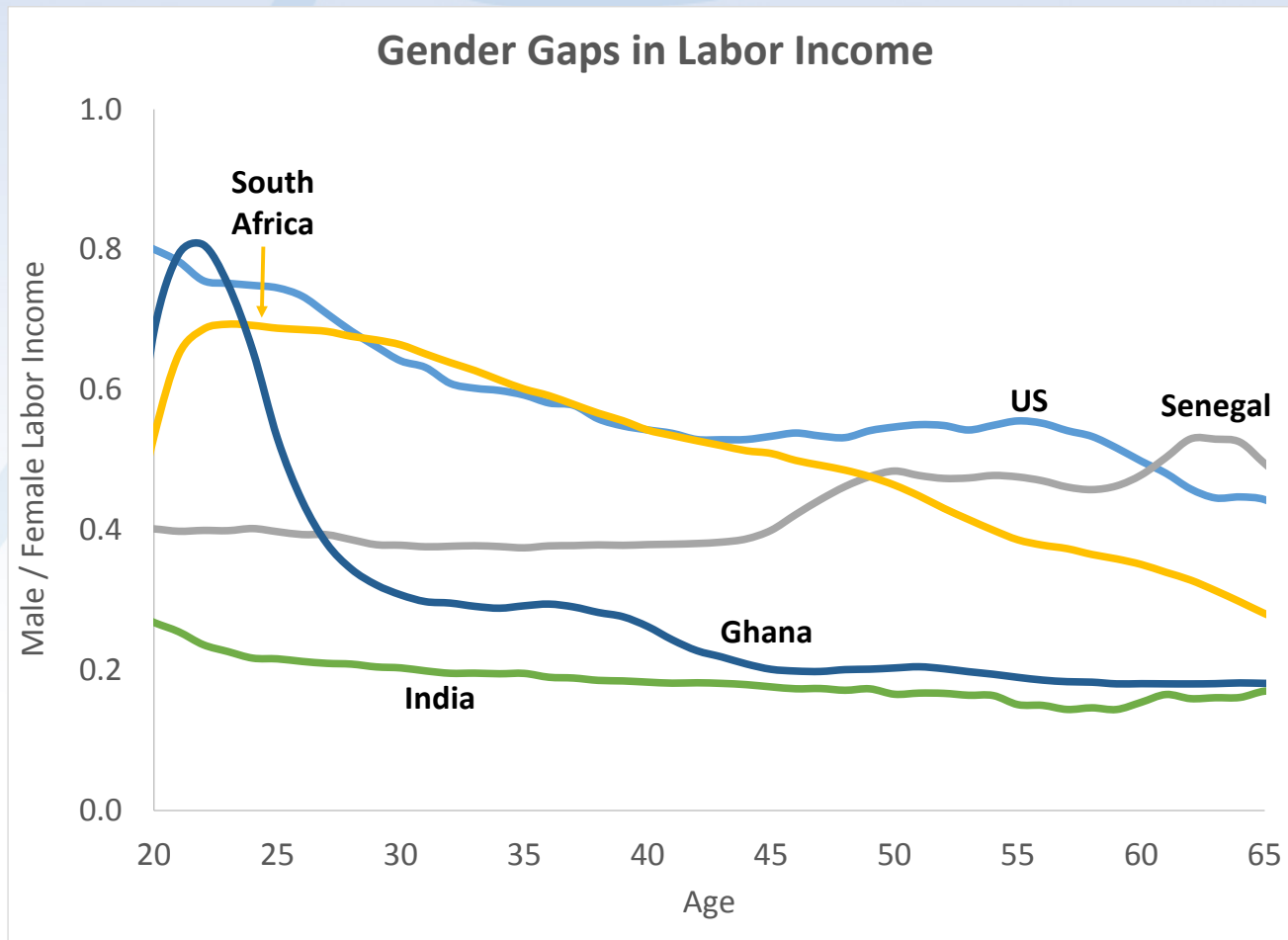
Gender Dividends

- Policies to achieve demographic dividends could have additional benefits for women and girls
 - Lower gender gaps in health and education
 - Less of women's time bearing and raising young children
- Could raise productivity at every age to realize gains in addition to the demographic dividend

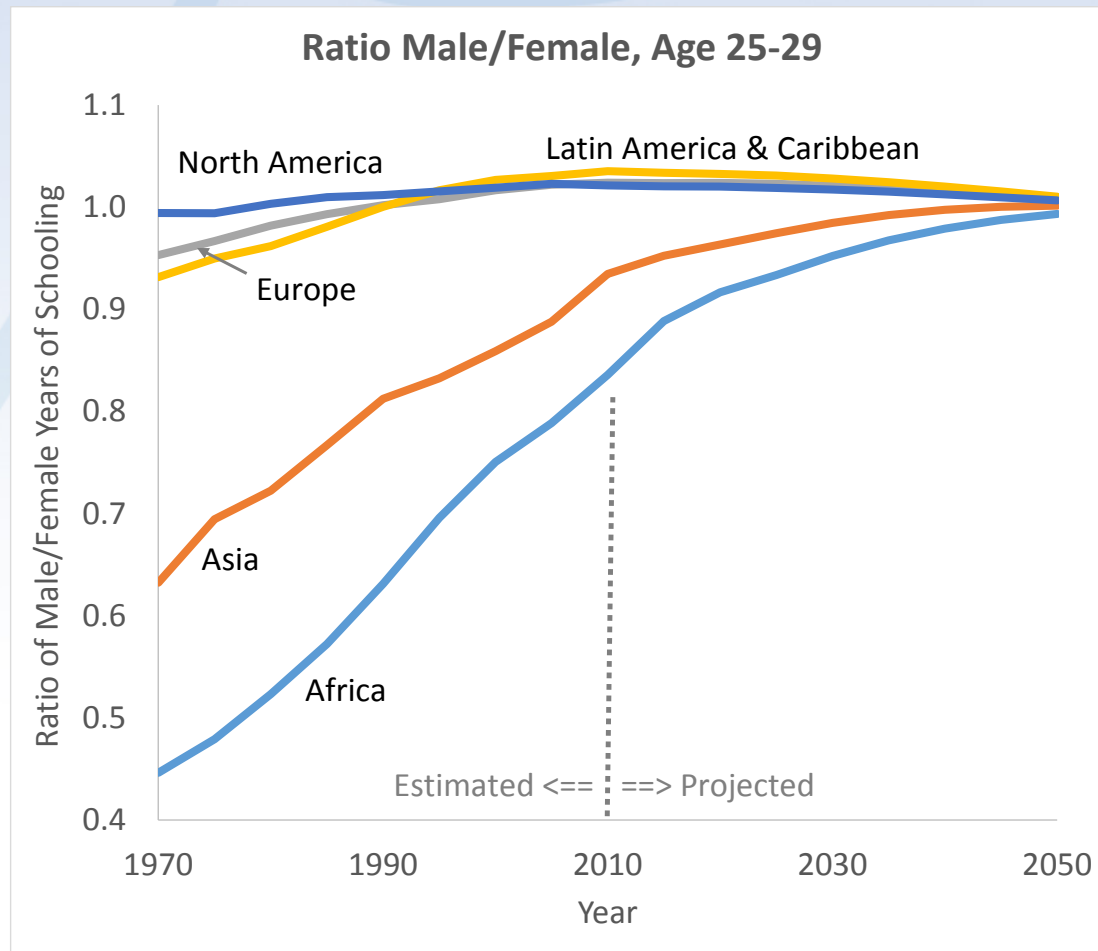
Gender gaps = opportunity to achieve gender dividends



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Reason for Optimism: Falling Gender Gaps in Education



Source: Data from Lutz, Butz, and KC (2014), provided by Wittgenstein Center for Demography and Global Human Capital

Policies to Realize Gender Dividends

- Remove barriers to women's economic participation
 - Supports human rights
 - Maximizes return from all kinds of development investment

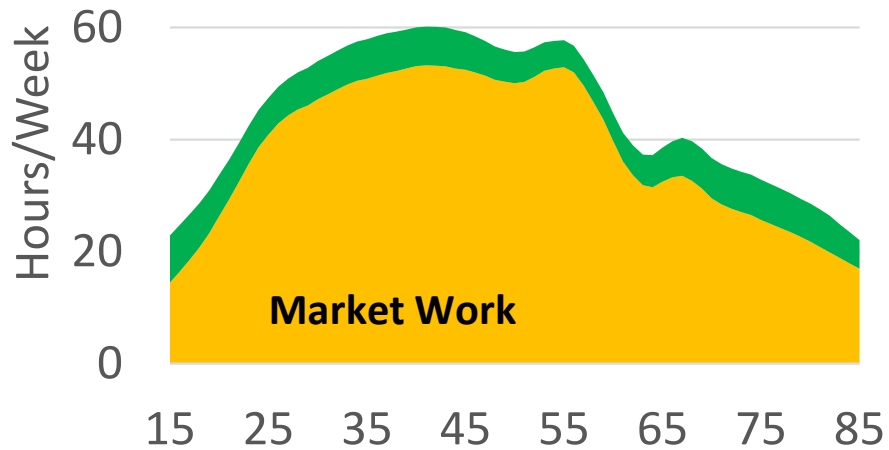
But what is missing in this discussion about women and work?



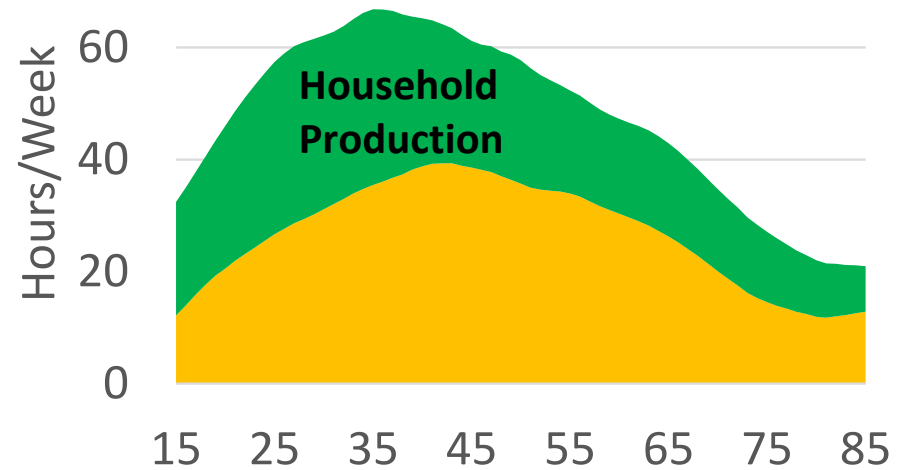
COUNTING WOMEN'S WORK

- Ghana

Male

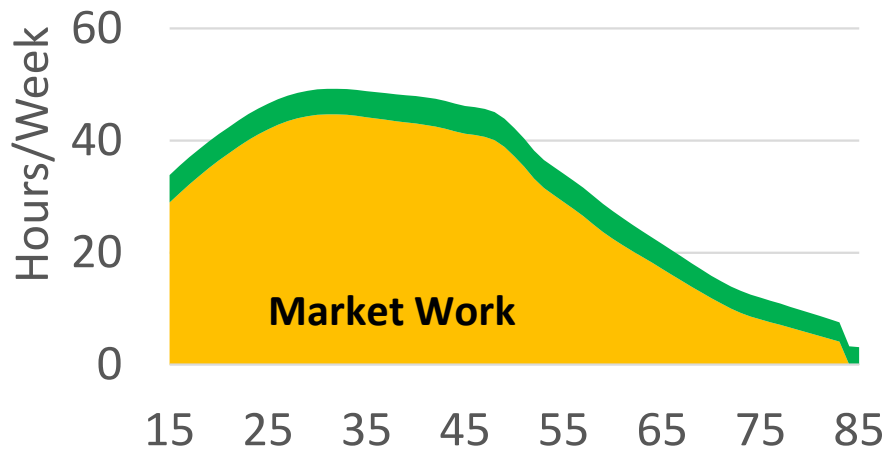


Female

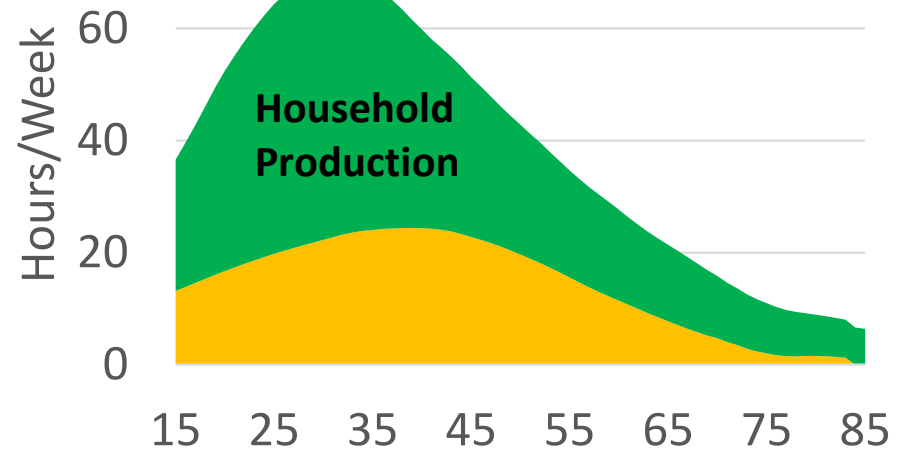


- Senegal

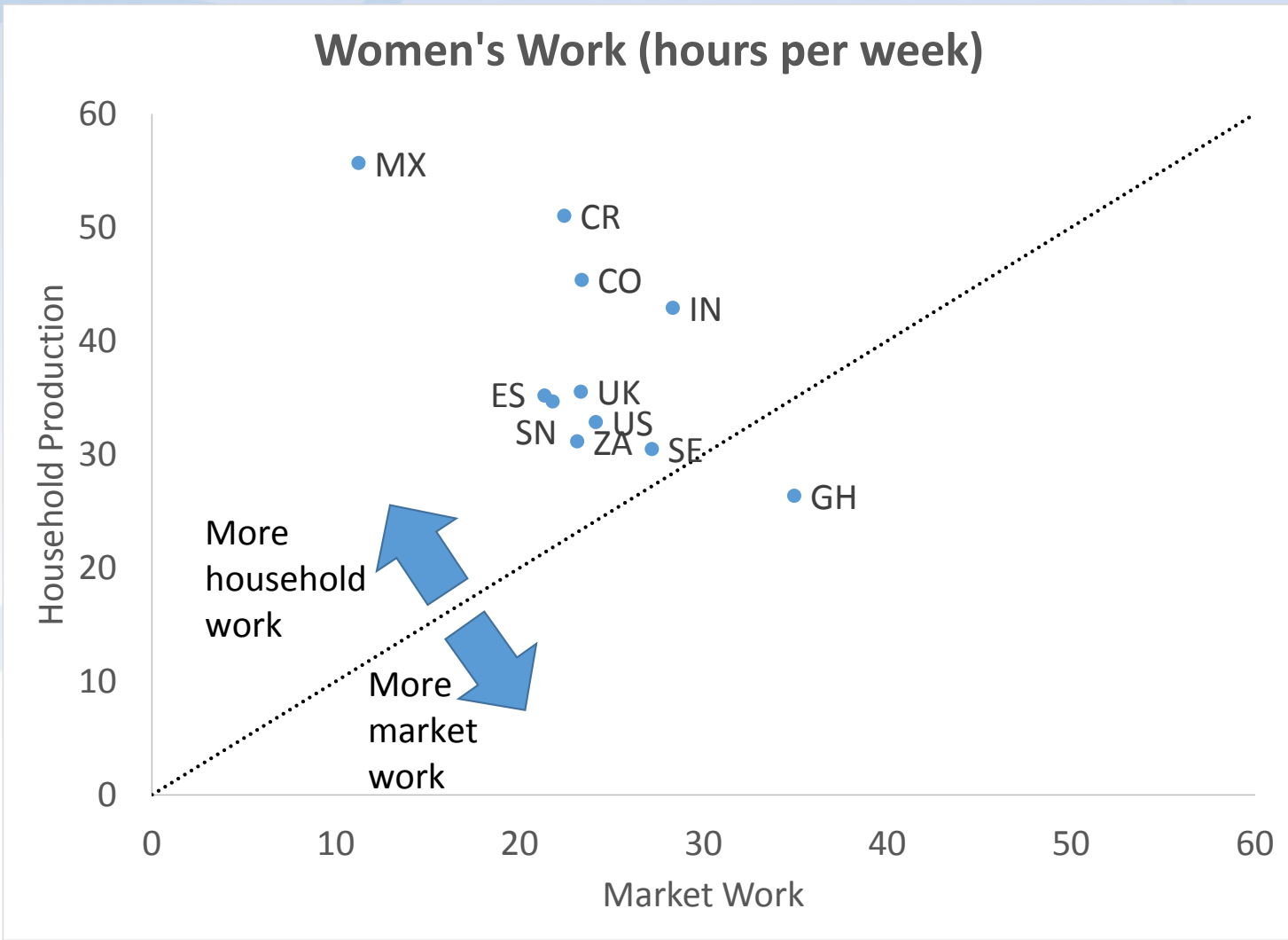
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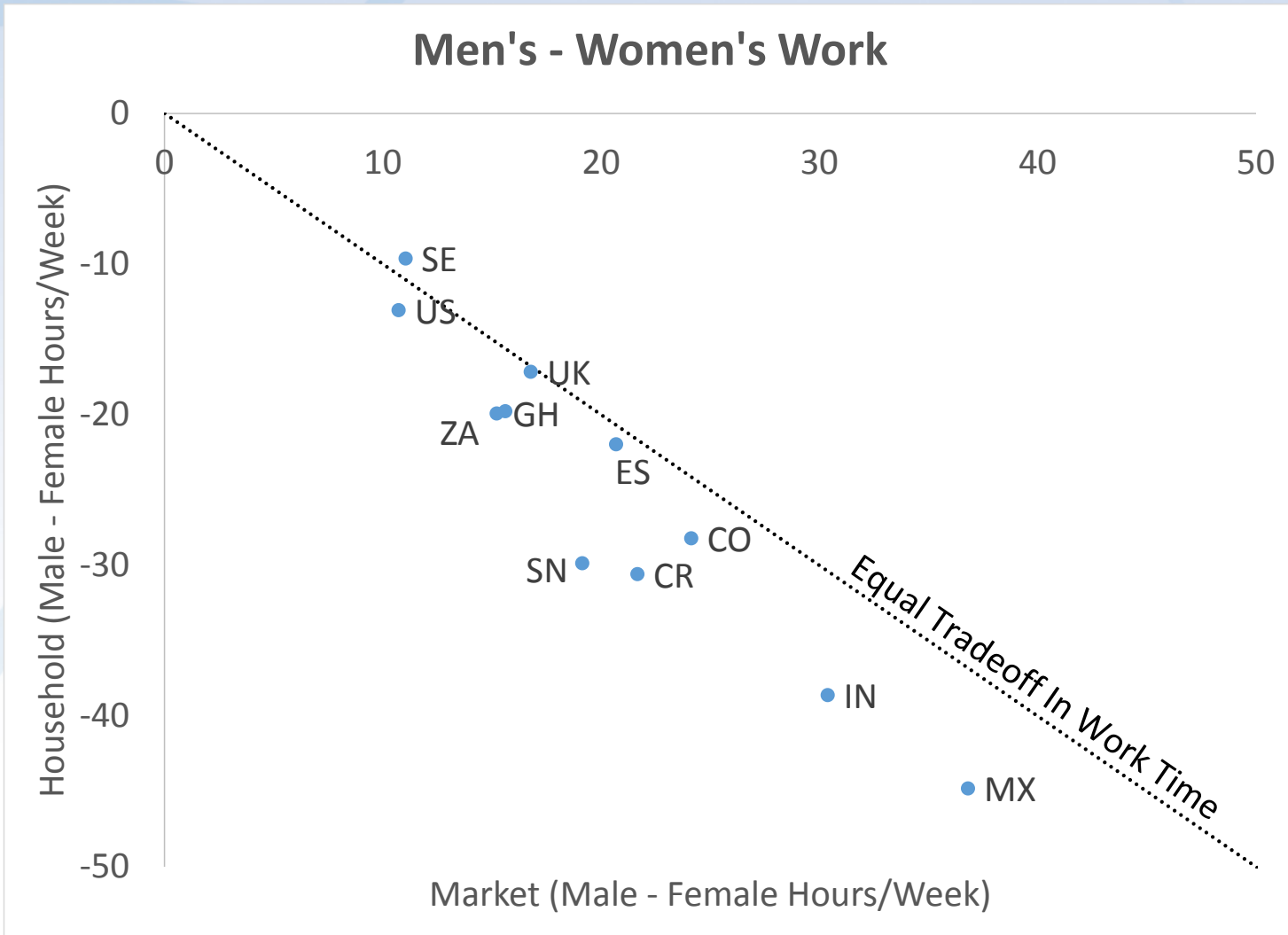
Female



Counting Women's Work



Specialization or inequality?



Data are averages, ages 25-55, from Counting Women's Work and Agenta project for Europe

Is all of this unpaid care and housework a problem?

- Gender equity, time poverty for women
- Reduces returns on education
- “Hides” a large portion of the total economy
- Could be a barrier to market labor participation

What to do?

- Recognize
- Reduce
- Redistribute