Gender inequality in intergenerational flows in Costa Rica

Conference: Macroeconomic Aspects of Intergenerational Transfers Saly, Senegal. June, 2016

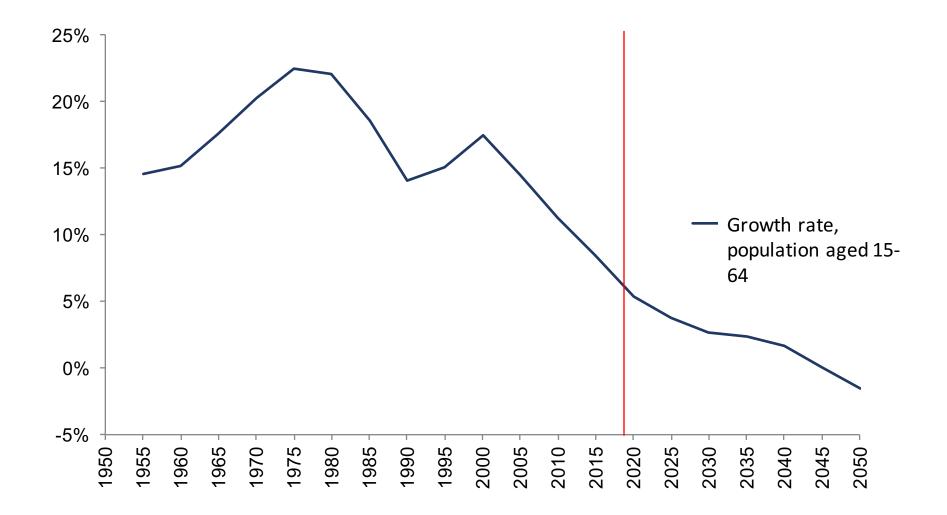




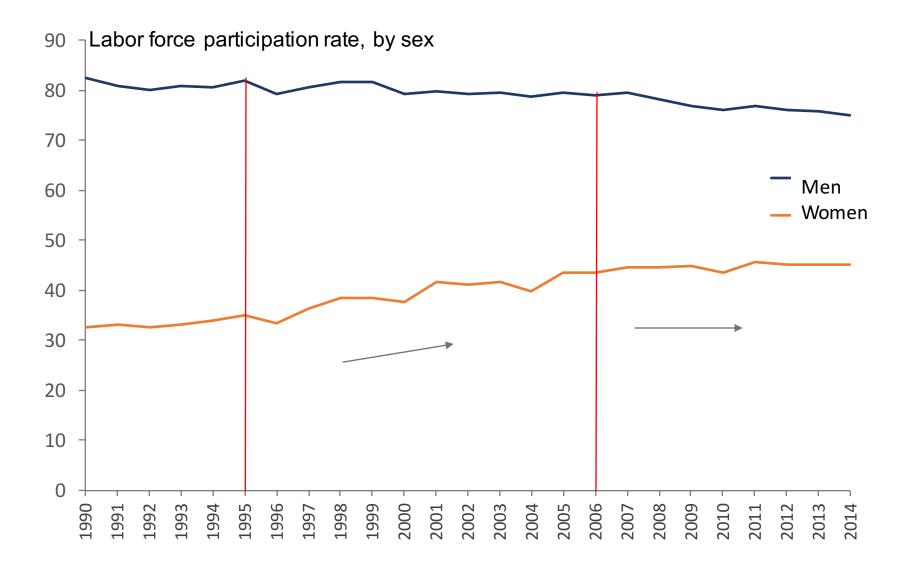


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Background: Ending the demographic dividend



Cultural and social transformation



Why is this important?

Humans rights

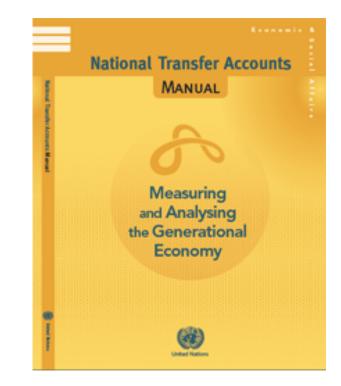
 Freedom to choose to work in the labor market or not: Reduce the constraints that limits opportunities in the labor market

Economic implications

- Gender dividend
- Reduce negative impacts of aging (public finances)

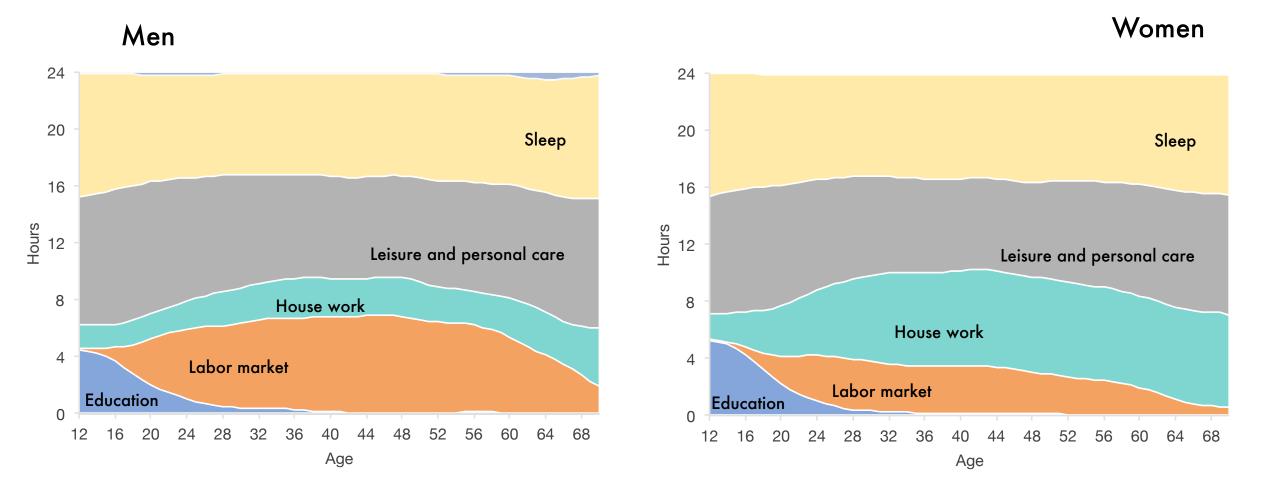
Data and methods

- Household income surveys
 - 2004 and **2013**
- Time use survey **2011**, Metropolitan Area
- Preliminary

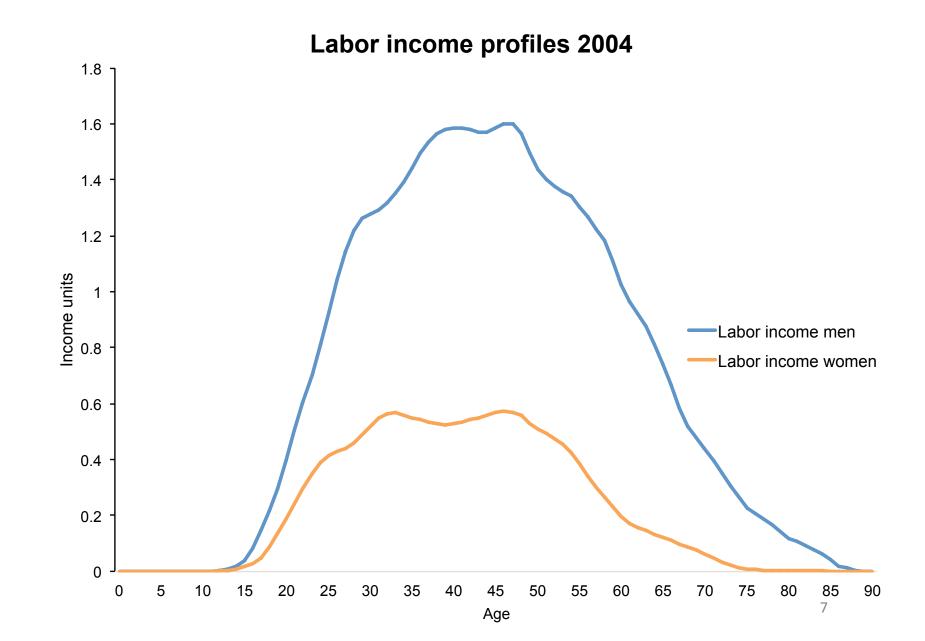


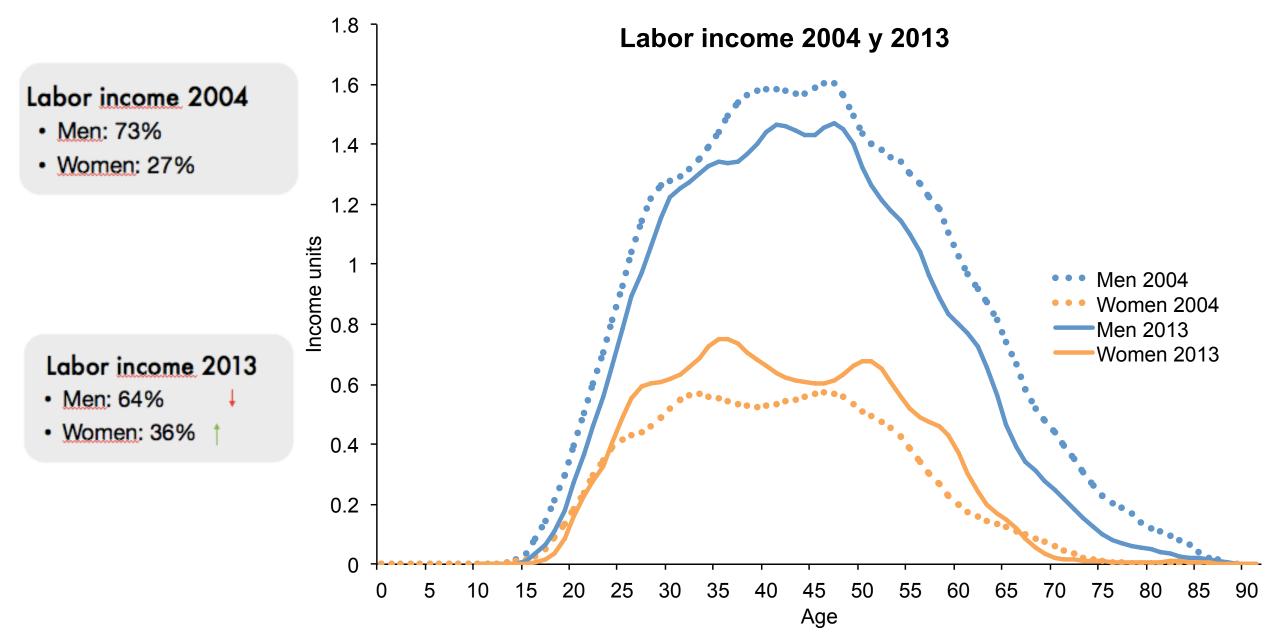


How do men and women distribute their time in Costa Rica?

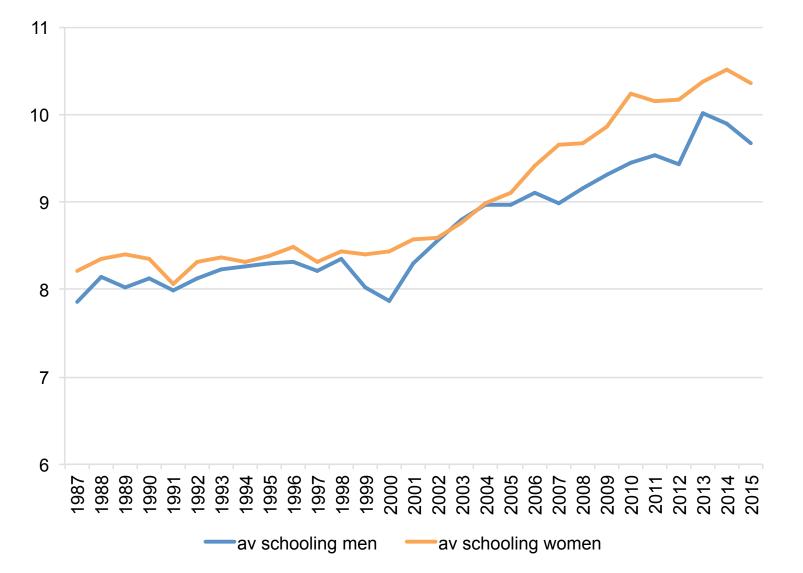


What happens to labor income profiles over time?

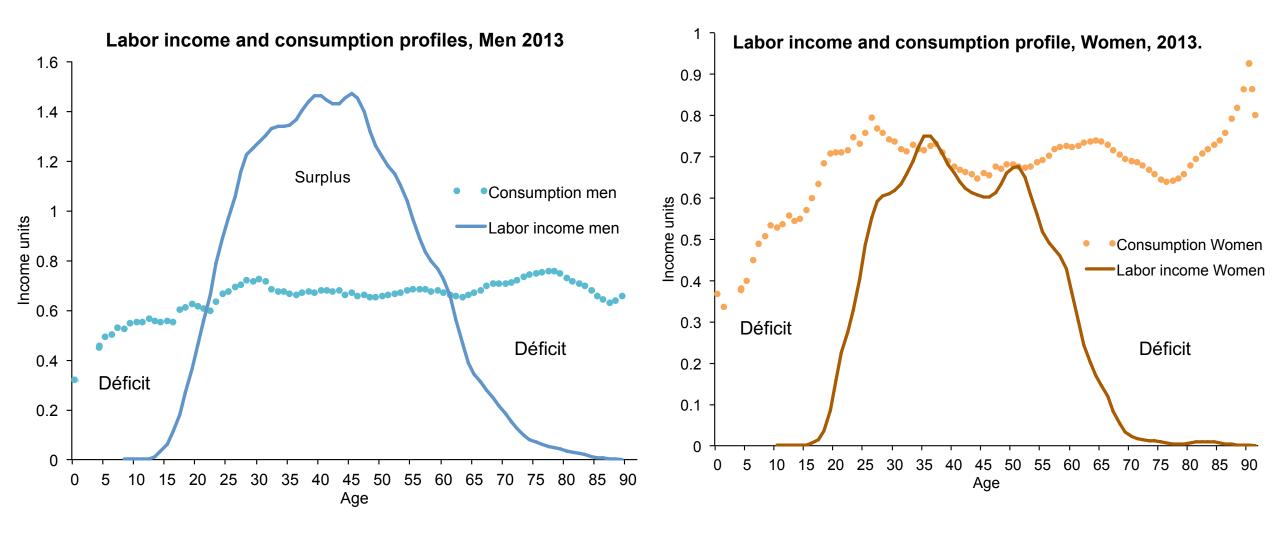


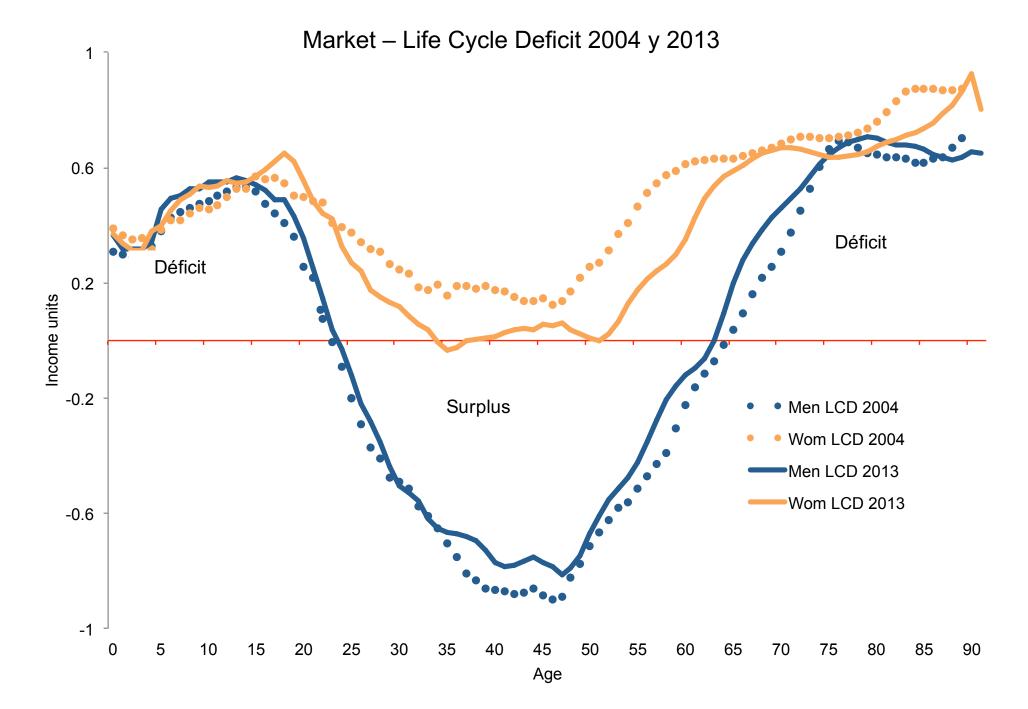


Average years of schooling by sex, Costa Rica, 1987-2015

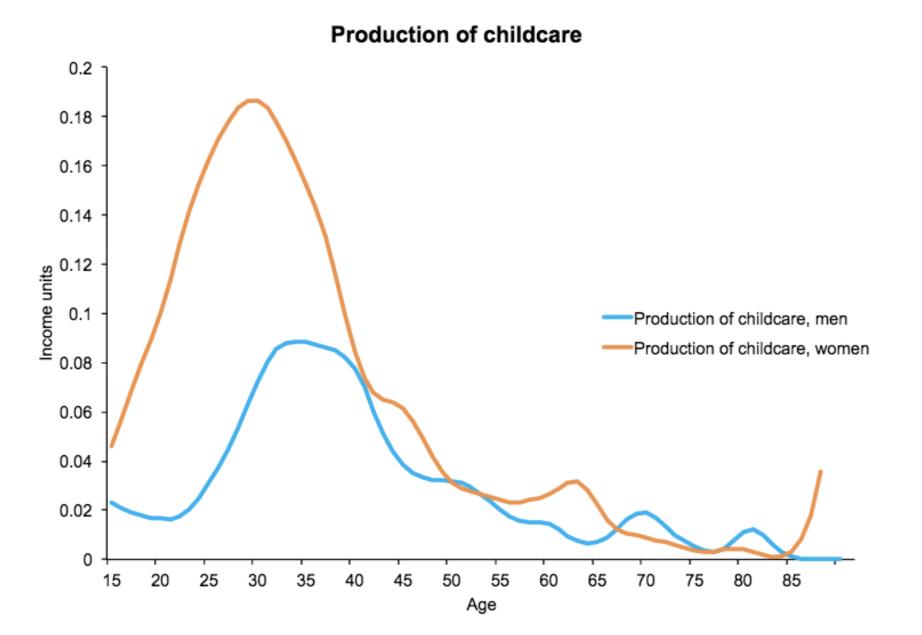


How are the life cycle deficit profiles by sex in Costa Rica?



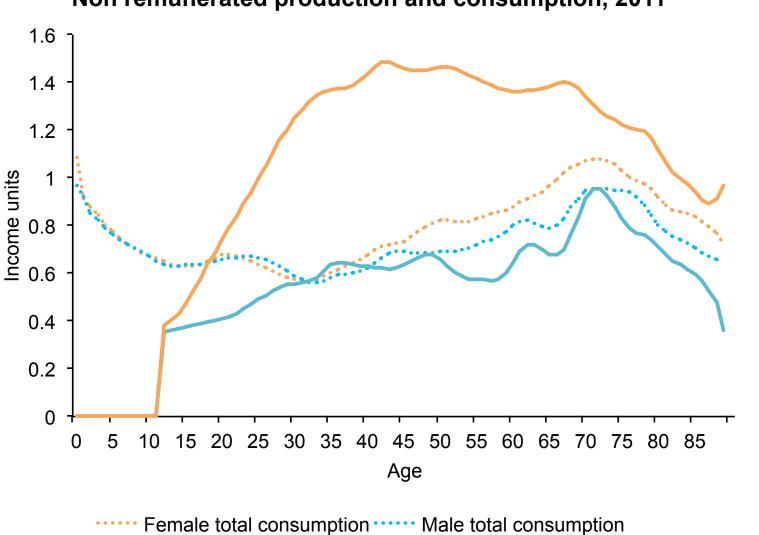


Including non monetary contributions in the LCD



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Including non monetary contribution into the LCD



Non remunerated production and consumption, 2011

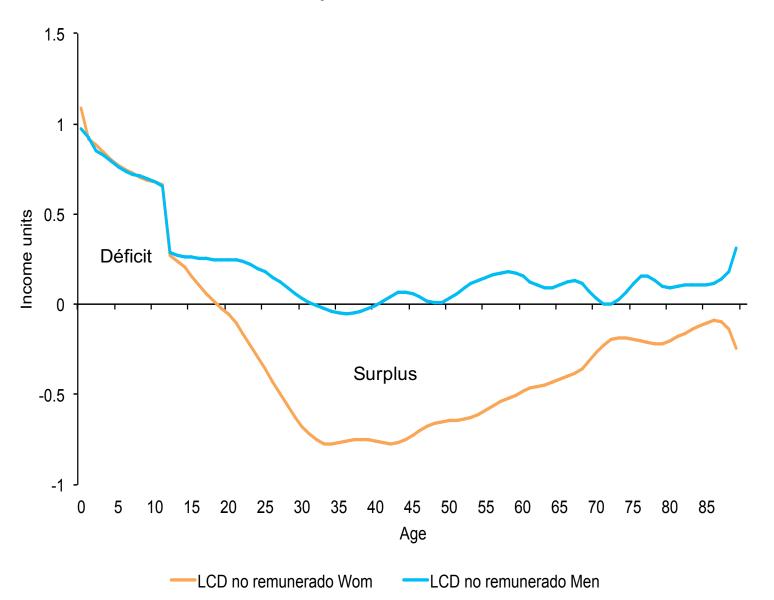
Women: Invest 5 hours and 35 minutes on hh production

74% of non remunerated production

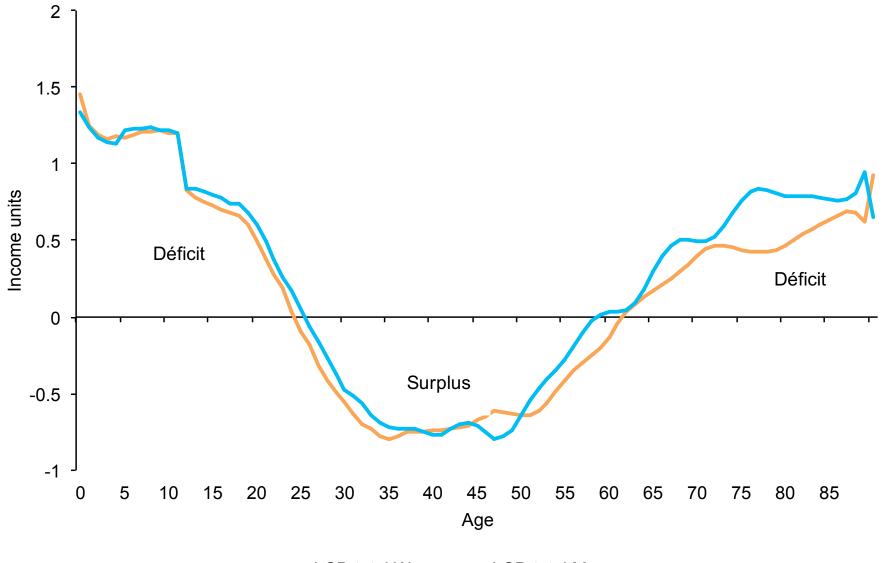
Total non market production 13% GDP (Metro)



Non-market life cycle deficit



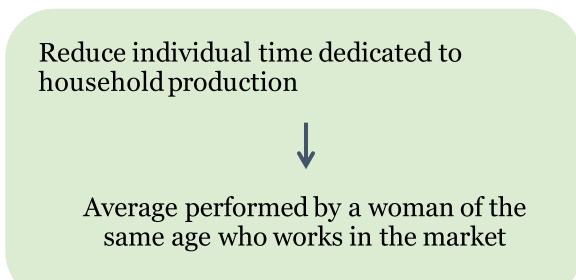
Full life cycle deficit: Market and non market

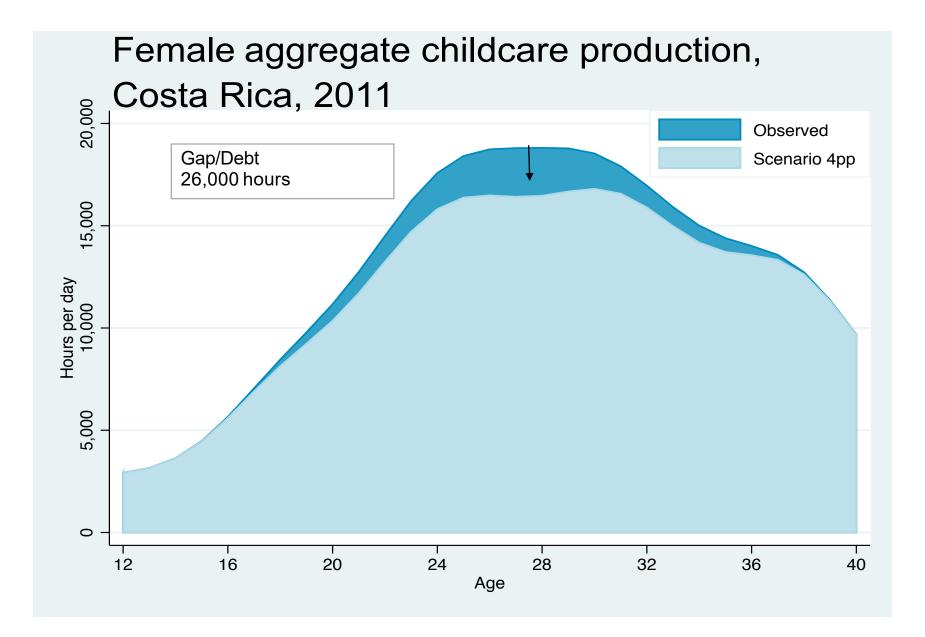


LCD total Wom ___LCD total Men

What is the "cost" of an increase in FLFP?

Increase 4pp female labor force participation Women not working → market Theoretical scenario Impact on time use





Conclusions

- Reduction of labor income gender gap, 2004 and 2013
- **Challenge**: Reduce barrier that household production presents in order to increase women's participation in the labor market
- **CWW is important:** Public policies cannot be based on the assumption that women can "migrate" from having the primary responsibility for house work to becoming active market workers (two full-time jobs)
- What can be done?

1. Delegate to the market:

High cost, so not available to all women. Wage \approx price of childcare

2. Public policies

- Costa Rica has a public childcare network that is only available to women in poverty: no national coverage
- Entrepreneurship as an alternative: Might increase share in informal sector
- Programs to encourage greater sharing of house work
 - Implies changing social and cultural norms
 - Public campaigns: Long-run effects

3. Change legislation

- The law allows only four months of maternity leave
- Paternity leave: Reduces discrimination againsst women in the labor market and may reduce the imbalance in house work. High cost: Difficult fiscal situtation: Fiscal deficit of 5.9%

Conclusions

Public policies aimed at reducing gender imbalance in housework might be a preventive measure

- In Costa Rica's accelerating aging process, who will take care of the elderly population?
- Are we going to lose the opportunity of the gender dividend?



Understanding the generational economy





Thank you

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