
UNIT 5 CARE ECONOMY AND FEMINIZATION OF LABOUR*

*Adopted from Unit 4, Block 2, MGSE-009

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5.1 INTRODUCTION

This unit familiarises the reader with the basic concept of work at home and the role that women play in various capacities to make it comfortable for other family members. It dwells upon the need to quantify women's work at home and the process that can be followed for it.

5.2 OBJECTIVES

After studying this Unit, you would be able to:

- Analyze household work in economic terms;
- Highlight the role of care economy in the household;

- Estimate the extent of women's contribution to household care economy; and
- Estimate contribution of care economy to the National economy.

5.3 WOMEN IN THE HOUSEHOLD

This section discusses the role of women in the context of household and family. It gives an account of the various tasks performed by women within the household.

5.3.1 Concept of work

For understanding the nature of care economy within the household, we must first understand the concept of work as it has been defined in economic context.

Work is any activity or expenditure of energy that produces services and products of value to other people (Fox 1984:2).

Work is an activity that has been related with production of goods or services.

Work is invariably associated with production, with the manufacture of some sort of goods or services for exchange in a market, in opposition to consumption which is defined as 'non-work' or 'leisure time activity' (McDowell & Pringle 1992:122).

Based on economic connotations, work or activities are divided into two kinds:

- Economic work /activity – All those activities which give an income are called economic activities. These are also referred to as production of goods and services.
- Non-economic work/activity – All those activities which do not give any income in return are called non-economic activities.

This division of work into economic and non-economic activities is strengthened in household and family when work performed outside the home. It brings an income that is considered economical and therefore important. However, it is not necessary that work would always fetch wages, salaries or income in cash. For instance, the work that a woman performs in the household is considered non-economic despite its importance for the smooth running of the household and work as enabling factors for the husband and other members to go out, work without any household worries and fetch an income required to meet the family expenses.

Within the economic framework, the definition of work gives no cognizance to cultural and emotional work performed by women along side with work that gives them economic returns.

5.3.2 Women and Work

The relation between women and work is multi-layered owing to its existence both within and outside the home. Women have always been a part of the informal cash economy that has traditionally existed in the communities. They have been managing the household economy by taking up the responsibility of the entire household work. Their role remained active even after the formal production in factories and other specialized workplaces started taking place. So the shift was not from leisure to work but from inter-familial to employer-employee-working relations. This changed their work patterns, and the work got sharply differentiated into wage –non-wage work or a paid - unpaid work. Their formal entry into the labour market fetched them wages in cash compared to their earlier work that fetched them no income in cash. Therefore, it has been argued that concept of work should be broadened to include the varied types of tasks performed by women in and outside the home either for self-consumption or for exchange and as unpaid or paid labour (Delphy, 1992:20).

Within the domestic sphere, work performed by women is characterized by the following:

- **Multiple nature of work** – The work scope ranges from reproductive to productive work activities which takes women from one role to another simultaneously.
- **Enabling environment for others** – The work performed by women at home comprises the basic tasks such as cooking, cleaning, washing, child care and looking after old and sick members of the family. It also includes looking after guests and maintaining kinship networks.
- **Invisibility** – Tasks performed by women at home are not noticed. It is assumed that the household equilibrium is maintained on its own.
- **Low status** – The household tasks are regarded low status since they do not fetch any income.

The economics of domestic work/life with a focus on relations between household work and productive work by women has been explained in terms of patriarchal relations and control within the household (Delphy: 1992 and Walby: 1986). It is argued that housework takes place within a domestic or patriarchal mode of production in which men exploit woman's labour. This argument is based on the following observations –

- 1) men gain a lot on consumption and leisure from women's household work;
- 2) while evading their share of housework and child-care, men receive services for which they do not have to pay;
- 3) since woman is not a dependent, men don't have to pay; and,

- 4) Woman produces his labour power which he exchanges for a wage which he controls.

In case of changes within the domestic productive relations (e.g single woman, changing husbands), Walby, sees them as a part of a shift from private to public patriarchy; with male control of individual woman in families and households giving way to public patriarchal control : the state and labour market. This indicates continuation and extension of patriarchal control over women's lives though in a different context.

5.4 GENDER AND DOMESTIC WORK: A CRITICAL REVIEW

There has been a very negative approach towards the labour of women. The planners have been completely ignoring the work done by women in the domestic sphere. The subsistence work and child care work which is unpaid is completely unaccounted. Similarly the enormous amount of labour that takes place in the informal sector remains completely invisible.

Many scholars believe that liberal philosophies tend to devalue labour and time devoted to the biological needs of human beings. They take the time spent on domestic chores for granted. There is no value for the time spent on cooking, cleaning, nurturing children, caring for old and disabled as these are not considered as productive work. Domestic sphere is taken to be governed by the instinct and is believed to be closer to nature than the social structure. These functions are seen as the natural duties of every woman, therefore women are being projected as the natural care giver. At the same time since the work is unpaid, it devalues and is not even considered as labour.

If we look at emancipating the women, we have to consider restructuring the private sphere also. Based on this logic, domestic sphere has not made a matter of policy intervention of any kind. The wider implication is that we fail to understand that limitations that women face in the public arena are naturally related to their roles in the household. Many feminist scholars argue that men can behave like disembodied rational agents because they have women to take care of their bodily and domestic needs. At the same time these women lead the lives of deprivation as their time is consumed in catering to their male folk. Many Marxist scholars see women's domestic labour as the basis of capital accumulation. German Feminist led by Maria Mies argues that men as well as capital benefitted from the women's demotion to unpaid subsistence work. The present oppression, subordination and subjugation of women is culmination of prolong domination of men over women, nature and colonies. For such scholars patriarchy and capitalism are interdependent and supplementary to each other.

Without downgrading the women's labour in care economy, we must emphasise that there is a need to create alternate society based on feminist understanding of labour.

Check Your Progress Exercise 1

Note: i. Use this space given below to answer the question.

ii. Compare your answer with the one given at the end of this Unit.

1. Define work in the context of gender.

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2. What is domestic work?

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5.5 INTRODUCTION TO CARE ECONOMY

This section introduces the concept of care economy and its role in family well being. It dwells upon the role and contribution of women to care economy that constitutes the backbone of a family /household.

5.5.1 Concept of Care Economy

Care economy originates at home and is deeply embedded in the family welfare. The care economy is the work done, usually in the domestic sphere, which keeps the labour force fed and clothed, and raises the future labour force, therefore ensuring that society operates effectively. In simpler terms, it means working to make sure that other members including children, old and sick members of the family are well looked after and lead healthy lives. The idea of care economy was developed from the experiences of women, their role as consumers and as unpaid labour at home.

Care economy represents the time spent on unpaid care for members of their household and communities. It also consists of time spent to make up for the spatial deficiencies in public infrastructure, including in the health, energy, water and sanitation sectors. Such activities range from providing long term health care to the chronically ill to fetching water and firewood (Chakraborty, Lekha S, 2006, Financial Express).

Gilman argued that the unpaid care labour of women at home is not compensated for by the income earned by their husbands. She describes care as a basic human sphere and considers the valuing of the sympathy and care of a mother in market terms as unthinkable.

Economic analysis has a history of inclusion of women's since 1930s of the reasons for wage differentials between men and women to the work on household production and time allocation during the 1960s and 1970s. In the 1950s, neoclassical economics pioneered the work towards a better understanding of the reasons behind the labour force participation of women. The work of Jacob Mincer centred around economically analysing the household sphere. It was an important step towards inclusion of women's work in mainstream economics. This process was intensified in the 1960s with the work of Gary Becker and other human capital economists that built the New Home Economics. They applied the market oriented concepts and models to household production. Time allocation analysis was used to explain the sexual division of labour at home and the inequalities within were explained through individual choices made under the assumption of utility maximization. Boserup in 1970 pointed out the importance of women's subsistence activities in rural areas and their underestimation in national income accounting. An impetus from the international women's movement since 1970s, the demand to emphasise and analyse all aspects of the invisibility of women's work, including domestic production.

Since the 1980s, there have been efforts to integrate gender into macroeconomics through two avenues: inclusion of women's unpaid work in national income accounts and the shift from micro to macro issues with the perspective of gender and development. With repeated lobbying for the importance of women's work at home, there has now been consent that it is important to value unpaid work:

- To give visibility to women's work and
- To establish women's claim on the national exchequer based on their contribution.
- To recognize the care economy as a 'productive space'.

The following story is an excellent example of care economy being in control of economic process:

Ali, an immigrant shopkeeper in London, has a friend called Dona. Dona gets information about some racists planning to attack Ali and does not know how to warn him. Complaining to the police is not of any use as they dismiss Dona's story as a product of paranoid fantasy. Dona knows that Ali keeps Charles, a business contact informed about his movements. The only way she can warn Ali is by breaking into Charles' room and leaving a message about the planned attack. Under utilitarian thinking and justice reasoning there is no reason for breaking into Charles' room. Charles is a self-centered egoist, who will be more

disturbed by his room being broken into than by Ali getting beaten up. From a justice perspective, there is no justification as Ali's life is not in danger, only his health and dignity. From a utilitarian perspective Charles' utility will decrease and Ali's further utility loss as a consequence of the bashing will be less than the utility gains by ten racist attackers. Does the very idea appear preposterous? If so, you value care as an end in itself. Sen encourages Dona to follow her "deeply held and resilient conviction that she must save Ali". Care is one's responsibility toward the community that one feels part of. Without responsibility, negative external effects will rapidly restrain the economic process, says the author.....Amartya Sen.

Care economy remains significantly invisible in quantitative terms, or at best undervalued, because of the restricted definition of 'economic activity' in national income accounting. Only market-oriented activities are considered 'economic'. It is interesting to recall in this context the famous economist Pigou's comment that if a housemaid employed by a bachelor were to marry him, national income would fall, since her previously paid work would now be performed unpaid.

Adam Smith, the noted economist recognized the role of care economy at home in molding the labour force of the future. He recognized that labour, like capital, is a produced factor. The type of changes in the economy has a bearing of care economy. For instance, cuts in health budgets and the draining of capable doctors from public to the private sector will cause longer waiting lists and queues in clinics. People who cannot afford expensive healthcare need more care at home. This will mean that women have to divert more time to care at home and less to other activities.

5.5.2 Women as Care Providers

The relationship between women and their role as care providers may be explained as following:

- **Economic scenario:** The changing requirements of the macro-economy have a direct impact on the domestic, household context in the form of greater demand on the time and resources of women to shape the evolution of the care economy.
- **Social position and class:** The structuring of the particular role which different categories of women assume in the economy of care is, clearly, a function of their broader social position, a fact which makes the arena of the care economy a terrain of complex, interlocking gender and class equations.
- **Time poverty may affect income poverty:** The public infrastructure deficit in rural areas may enhance rural poverty due to the skewed time allocation of women towards unpaid care work, which is otherwise available for income-earning market work.

- **Well-being and development:** Care (whether paid or unpaid) is crucial to human well-being and to the pattern of economic development. Some analysts emphasize the significance of care for economic dynamism and growth. Others see care in much larger terms, as part of the fabric of society and integral to social development. To overcome the gender bias that is deeply entrenched in systems of social protection and to make citizenship truly inclusive, care must become a dimension of citizenship with rights that are equal to those that are attached to employment.

5.5.3 Importance of Care Economy

There have been important debates within feminist economics on how to conceptualize the connections between the sphere of market-based capital accumulation (the commodity economy), on the one hand, and that of non-market-based social reproduction (the unpaid care economy), on the other, while giving full recognition to the real divisions and differences between them. This has drawn attention to the distinctions between different components that constitute the unpaid economy, throwing the spotlight on care and its distinct characteristics (the difficulty of raising productivity and the associated –cost disease).

There is a growing recognition across globe in lifting the veil of statistical invisibility of care economy.

5.6 GENDER IN CARE ECONOMY

The magnitude of the contribution of women in the care economy is alarming. Global estimates suggest \$ 16 trillion of global output is invisible contribution by the care economy and within that \$ 11 trillion is the non-monetised, invisible contribution of women.

The women's involvement in care economy is a continued process as following:

- **Composition of the family:** For all countries, having a (young) child in the household tends to increase the amount of unpaid care work done.
- **Life cycle approach:** Marriage tends to increase the amount of unpaid care work to be done by the women. With increasing age and advancing stage in life, there is a decrease in the care work performed by women.
- **Household income:** The amount of unpaid care work tends to decrease with increase in income, while being employed tends to decrease the amount of unpaid care work done by women.

The exigencies of household welfare internal to the well-being of the members of the family constitute a permanent element in the structuring of the economy of care and the central role which women play in it. However, the household is seen as a *consumer* of goods and public services rather than a *producer* which provides valuable inputs and resources into both public and

private economies. Women's contribution to the economy is largely in this hidden area of production which includes *care work, voluntary or civil society activity, subsistence production and work in the informal sector*. The invisibility of this activity means not only that it is underestimated or inaccurately measured, but it is also excluded from Gross National Product (GNP) and usually ignored when making policy decisions.

In India, the Time Use Survey (TUS) conducted by CSO in about 18,600 households in selected six states during July 1998-June 1999 revealed that on an average, a female spent 34.6 hours a week compared to 3.6 hours by a male in the care economy. The data reiterates the involvement of women in the smooth conduct of care economy as it exists.

Check Your Progress Exercise 2

Note: i. Use this space given below to answer the question.

ii. Compare your answer with the one given at the end of this unit

1. What is care economy?

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2. What is the role of women in care economy?

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5.7 ROLE OF CARE ECONOMY IN NATIONAL ECONOMY

This section evaluates the place of care economy within the context of domestic economy. It deals with care role of women in terms of its economic value and significance at the household and above levels.

5.7.1 Economics of Care Economy

Unpaid care work—the housework and care of persons that occurs in homes and communities of all societies on an unpaid basis—is an area that has

generally been neglected by economists, as well as by many development actors. CARE is a value that the modern economists have excluded from the sphere of the subject (Irene Van Staveren: 2001). In economics, the relevance of caring commitments was recognized by Amartya Sen (1981), Jon Elser (1983) and Robert Frank (1988). Feminist economists have also made contributions on caring labour. They have sought to demonstrate the critical function performed by women's unpaid labour – most of which pertains to the structuring of the system of care - in the politics of the wage relationship, urban settlement patterns, national productivity, competitiveness, and external (cross-border) trade.

The valuation of unpaid work and its inclusion into Gross Domestic Product (GDP), or into some measures of well-being, is a very complex and controversial matter. There have been many studies on valuation of unpaid work, particularly as they relate to gender issues, claiming that unpaid work is not valued and not included in the estimation of GDP. In developing countries, in particular, unpaid work/workers are grossly undervalued. Data from field work showed that supposedly non-worker women are on their feet for several hours for carrying out household duties. Their workday is often no shorter than that of a man who is recorded as a worker in principal capacity. This process revealed that methods that evaluate the value of each of the different tasks are not adequate to capture the total cumulative cost to women in terms of energy required for the multiple tasks they undertake.

The Census 1991, 2001 had special drive - sensitization and training of the enumerators - to probe and highlight the various dimension of 'work' that women undertake. Milk production (livestock care) even for purely household consumption, was included as economic activity for the first time; this inclusion is partly responsible for improvement in female Work Participation Rate (WPR) in Haryana as also in Punjab.

Studies indicate that where women do not have 'public' identifiable participation in gainful activities, the measurement through questionnaire even if done by women is not adequate. They may not be employed but they have a means of livelihood. As they may not be seeking work or willing to accept work except of certain kinds, suitable to cultural inhibitions, but these inhibitions are invisible in statistics. This indicates measurement failure. Given to understand that the conventional labour force surveys have not always been able to collect data from –difficult to measure sectors like unpaid work of women, it has been suggested that Time use surveys (TUS) should be used as a survey tool. Taking an initiative, the Government of India conducted its first national TUS covering six states in 1998-99. There is now a proposal to mainstream these surveys in the national statistical system. . The major sources of data - the Census of India and the National Sample Surveys have increased their attempts to recognize women's unpaid work.

There are usually two approaches to valuation of work:

- Input Method (valuation of the time spent on unpaid activities) and
- Output Method (valuation of the output generated from unpaid work).

It can be difficult to estimate monetary values for imputing prices to these (especially unpaid domestic work) services, given that there may be not suitable market prices for such outputs, incomes and expenditures.

Feminist scholars have long challenged the reluctance to measure or value women's unpaid work. Paradoxically, the female altruism exemplified by long hours of unpaid work has encouraged and enabled a masculine emphasis on more selfish pursuits such as the accumulation of financial wealth. Sometimes, the increase in women's unpaid labour results from -gender-blind policies, deigned to fulfil other social objectives. In addition, migration, stigma, culture/traditional practices, and engaging in supplementary work contribute towards increase in work burden for women or women's unpaid labour.

There is also a need to realize that under certain conditions, time devoted to 'non-market work' does raise family living standards, and failure to acknowledge this can lead to misleading comparisons of living standards among households of different composition.

There is recognition that women are mostly involved in the small enterprises and in non- market work (NMW), which makes their contribution to the overall economy invisible.

There is also a concern that the inclusion of unpaid labour in the GDP may have the 'perverse effect' of increasing the estimated incomes of households and societies, currently perceived as poor, and thereby reduce the concerns of policy makers at both national and global levels. The effort towards valuation of unpaid work must be to 'visibilise' women's economic contribution rather than to add it to estimates of GDP (and hence unnecessarily inflate the estimated incomes of the poorer households). The best way, as suggested, to 'visibilise' the type of work women do is through Time Use Surveys.

The parameters of inclusion of the unpaid labour in a national policy for inclusion are as following:

- Non-market work (NMW) has no visible wages so it is difficult, if not impossible, to link such work to GDP. There is a need to build a framework, including classification of different types of activities: both market work and NMW and quantify the total activity of a person; (give consideration to the possibility of movement from one type of activity to the other).
- Define the roles of women and types of contribution adding to the national economy, the compensation and the methodology,
- Move beyond simply counting hours and multiplying by an approximate hourly wage rate; look more systematically at household production

functions, which also include capital (houses and consumer durables and public investments in services such as water, electricity, and gas), human capital (education), and raw materials (including "intermediate inputs" such as convenience foods),

- Address the concept of opportunity cost in determining value of non-market work (use minimum wages to start with) and
- Calculate GDP by both including and excluding worth of unpaid labour.

5.7.2 Care Economy within National Economy

The amount of unpaid care work carried out, the way that the burden of this work is distributed among different actors, and the proportion and kinds of care work that are unpaid or paid, have important implications for the well-being of individuals and households, as well as for the economic growth and well-being of nations.

There is now a growing recognition across globe in lifting the veil of statistical invisibility of care economy. The magnitude of the contribution of women in the care economy is alarming. Global estimates suggest \$ 16 trillion of global output is invisible contribution by the care economy and within that \$ 11 trillion is the non-monetised, invisible contribution of women. It also shows that the value of unpaid work can be equivalent to at least half of a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Therefore, if the care economy is neglected this can have serious consequences for society and its productivity as it is neglecting the care of its most important resource - people.

In 1985 Nairobi conference that marked the end of UN Decade for women, was expressed the need to recognize the fact there had been an undercounting of women's work at all levels. In 1993, The United Nations Statistical Division extended the production boundary of the Systems of

National Accounts (SNA), by including the activities of unpaid work into the national accounting system as satellite accounts. This has provided a better understanding of women's contribution to the economy. On the basis of Time Utilization Surveys, it has been found that in industrial countries, women spend a little more than half of the total work time in unpaid activities. In developing countries, the proportion of total time spent on the unpaid household activities by women ranges from 76% in urban Columbia to 52% in the mountainous region of Nepal. In India, women in Gujarat scored the highest time spent (39.08 hours per week) on care economy activities, followed by Madhya Pradesh (35.79 hours) and Orissa (35.70 hours). The gender gap is most marked in India, where women spend nearly 10 times as much time on unpaid care work than men. Since women are responsible for a greater share of unpaid work in the care economy, they enter the labour market already overburdened with work. This dual work burden or unequal sharing of work borne by women is neither recognized in the data nor considered adequately in socio-economic policy making.

Time Utilization Surveys can provide valuable insights in fiscal policy making, especially in terms of public investment in infrastructure. Public investment in infrastructure like water and fuel can have positive social externalities in terms of educating the girl child and improving the health and nutritional aspects of the household. A World Bank study noted that easy accessibility to drinking water might lead to an increase in school enrolment particularly girls; in Madagascar, 83 per cent of the girls who did not go to school spent their time collecting water, while only 58 per cent of the girls who attended school spent time collecting water. However, the point to be noted is that though infrastructure investment lessens the stress of time-poor women; complementary employment policies are also required to avoid forced leisure; that is, to ensure substitution effect of unpaid work with market work.

Historically, the amount of time spent in market economy has never consistently been greater than that spent in care economy. But the attention paid by the economists unidirectional to the market economy skews any paid to latter. Macroeconomic policy makers have to realize that the allocation and efficiency of time we spent in care economy might be more important to economic welfare than that of market economy. The inferences from Time Utilization surveys need to be integrated in the formulation of public investment policies and pro-poor alternative macroeconomic strategies.

There is a need for a gender sensitive economic system, which must include the following:

- Collect and analyze time budget on a regular basis and the information should be integrated in the Indian statistical system for getting better statistics on the size of labour force of our country as well as the contribution of women to the economy – whether paid or unpaid.
- The present "gender-neutral" / "gender blind" budgets need to take into consideration the fact that men and women have different roles, responsibilities and resources in society. One of the major failures of budgets is the neglect of the unpaid "care economy" and recommendations should be made as to how this work could be valued or measured, and included in the budget.
- The perspective to macro-economic models needs to change by re-thinking the relationships between different areas of economic life such as the public and private sectors, the domestic, and the formal and informal economies.
- A parallel budget or "satellite accounts" should be set up that would focus on measuring and trying to quantify the value of unpaid output in the care economy. These would view caring labour in terms of market price and would make the division of labour which underpins this more explicit. It would also contribute to viewing sustainability in terms of sustaining society as well as the economy.

- Investment should be made in the care economy. This should incorporate greater provision of free public services such as health care and education. It should also incorporate an understanding of women's role in this economy and adjust policy accordingly - for example by making key services available free at the point of delivery.
- Gender-disaggregated data should be compiled for all the economic activities and set out in a –Social Accounting Matrix. This would give a better picture of how and why women's economic activity often goes unmeasured and under-valued. Data should be collected on variations in income, expenditure, and government spending *within* and *between* households and businesses, and within government committees and departments.
- Initiate development interventions designed only after taking into cognizance the issues of gender equality and care economy. For instance, while addressing AIDS, interventions aimed at reversing the epidemic need to take into account the excessive work-load that members of the household, usually women, shoulder in responding to the needs of sick family members. Therefore, appropriate development policies that focus on issues such as treatment, prevention, education, economic empowerment and violence against women, should be designed.
- The society should recognize and value the importance of different forms of care, but without reinforcing care work as something that only women can or should do, given the well-known and adverse consequences of such gendering: women's financial precariousness and their exclusion from the public domain.

There is enormous diversity in currently existing policy responses to care—arguably greater than that found for other contingencies such as illness or unemployment, and with differing implications for gender equality. Gender advocates have put forward a range of proposals that attempt to overcome the many disadvantages endured by most women because of their responsibilities for care giving, and sometimes to entice men to contribute more time to it. There are tensions, however, between the different proposals that have been put forward in terms of a wish to support and value care and to liberate women from the confines of care giving so as to enable their more active presence in the public sphere. There is a wide range of possible policy interventions: cash payments in the form of caregivers' allowance or citizen's wage (more gender-neutral than a mothers' pension); taxation allowances; different types of paid and unpaid leave from employment; social security credits and social services.

There should be strong advocacy efforts for the inclusion of unpaid contribution of women into the national economy. Some of the suggestions for which are following:

- Conduct Time Use Surveys; integrate unpaid work into the national

database;

- Integrate unpaid work into national policies, as and when it is feasible. This should be done not only by compiling satellite accounts but also by underlining the links between macro policies and unpaid work;
- Tap the network of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the villages, for initiating discussions and mobilizing masses for national level advocacy on the issue
- Public campaign to encourage men to share domestic work equally with women
- Draw adequate attention to market valuation of unpaid work by publicizing its inclusion in GDP

5.8 TERMS USED IN CARE ECONOMY

Care economy is represented by several terms. Some of them are:

5.8.1 Care Work

‘Carework refers, simply, to the work of caring for others, including unpaid care for family members and friends, as well as paid care for others. Caring work includes taking care of children, the elderly, the sick, and the disabled, as well as doing domestic work such as cleaning and cooking. As reproductive labor, carework is necessary to the continuation of every society. By deploying the term –carework, scholars and advocates emphasize the importance of recognizing that care is not simply a natural and uncomplicated response to those in need, but actually hard physical, mental, and emotional work, which is often unequally distributed through society (Meyer 2000). Because care tends to be economically devalued, many scholars who study carework emphasize the skill required for care, and the importance of valuing care.

Source: Misra, J. (2007). Care work. In G. Ritzer (Ed.), *Blackwell encyclopedia of sociology*. Blackwell Publishing. Blackwell Reference Online. Retrieved June 13, 2007.

5.8.2 Caregiver

Caregiver is a generic term referring to a person, either paid or voluntary, who helps an older person with the activities of daily living, health care, financial matters, guidance, companionship and social interaction. A caregiver can provide more than one aspect of care. Most often the term refers to a family member or friend who aids the older person

Family members or friends frequently provide this type of care. In the child care field, however, the term *caregiver* refers to people who are paid for providing child care services. (Stebbins, 2001, p. 232).

Source: Department of Health and Human Services. (2005). Glossary of aging terms. Retrieved March 1, 2007, from <http://eldercare.gov/eldercare/public/resources/glossary.asp>.

Stebbins, L.F. (2001). *Work and family in America*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, Inc.

5.8.3 Care giving

"Care giving is the act of providing unpaid assistance and support to family members or acquaintances who have physical, psychological, or developmental needs. Caring for others generally takes on three forms: instrumental, emotional, and informational caring. Instrumental help includes activities such as shopping for someone who is disabled or cleaning for an elderly parent. Caregiving also involves a great deal of emotional support, which may include listening, counseling, and companionship. Finally, part of caring for others may be informational in nature, such as learning how to alter the living environment of someone in the first stages of dementia.

Sociologists generally limit their discussion of caregiving to unpaid workers. Caregivers are typically family members, friends, and neighbors. Sometimes caregiving is done by those affiliated with religious institutions. While caregiving of all types is also done by paid workers such as nurses, social workers, and counselors, this is paid work, and thus is not in the same category. Caregiving rarely refers to the daily care that parents provide for their children, because this is classified as parenting; however, caring for an adult disabled daughter would be considered caregiving because it is outside of the norm of expectations for older adults." (Drentea, 2007) **Source:** Drentea, P. (2007). Caregiving. In G. Ritzer (Ed.), *Blackwell encyclopedia of sociology*. Blackwell Publishing. Blackwell Reference Online. Retrieved June 13, 2007, from

<http://www.blackwellreference.com>

Check Your Progress Exercise 3

Note: i. Use this space given below to answer the question.

ii. Compare your answer with the one given at the end of this Unit.

1. Why women's work is has not been counted in national income?

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2. How can women's work be counted in national economy?

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5.9 LET US SUM UP

Women have largely been responsible for the running of their households. Their primary role has been to nurture the family through labour which is assumed to be there without any monetary gains. The various tasks performed by women are repetitive, monotonous and devoid of appreciation. However the work performed by them is difficult to measure in concrete terms for their complex nature. It is physical labour, emotional support and psychological care which together makes the distinct nature of woman's work. Against the vivid arguments for/against unpaid labour of women, it has been realised that women's domestic labour contributes not only to the household economy but also to the domestic economy of a nation. Therefore, it needs to be monetised and included while calculating for total economic gains at the national level.

5.10 UNIT END QUESTIONS

1. What is care economy? Elaborate the role of women in care economy.
2. Women contribute to the national income. Discuss this statement in the context of work performed by them at home.
3. Should the women's domestic work included in the national economy. Discuss.
4. Write short notes:
 - a. Women as caregivers
 - b. The gendered connotation of domestic work
 - c. The gender sensitive national economy

5.11 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISES

Check Your Progress Exercise 1

1. Activities, tasks, economic return
2. Household, family, care

Check Your Progress Exercise 2

1. Invisible work, household economy, drudgery
2. Nurturing, family sustenance, care of the members

Check Your Progress Exercise 3

1. Voluntary, social role, duty, family well being
2. Methods, approach, time spent survey

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