

**Meeting Data Requirements and Expectations During the Pandemic:
How NSOs can Overcome Quality of Employment Measurement Challenges¹**

Topic: Quality of Employment and the Covid-19 Pandemic

Title: Work-Life Balance: Determinants of housework and labour activities overload.

Abstract:

The Covid-19 pandemic has put an enormous pressure on National Statistical Offices (NSOs). Policymakers, academics and the public have been claiming for evidence to navigate this unprecedented phenomenon. This has put NSOs' capabilities and pertinence at the centre of the discussion, in a context in which the same policies undertaken to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic, have raised logistical and methodological challenges for the data collection processes.

Additionally, the pandemic affects different populations in different ways. For example, sexual division of labor has been exacerbated and low-quality jobs were the most affected, due to lack of stability and the impossibility of being undertaken online. Issues like internet access inequality became urgent, especially in middle and low-income countries. Therefore, it is necessary to mainstream a differential and intersectional approach in the data production and dissemination processes, which allow recognition and visibility of these differentiated situations through official statistics.

This paper aims to present the experience of Colombia's National Statistical Office (DANE, for its acronym in Spanish) in highlighting the effects of the pandemic on the quality of employment in our country. As such, two main challenges were identified:

1. **Adaptation of surveys:** regarding this issue, DANE included a "Health Emergency Situation" module in the National Time Use Survey, moreover with regards of the National Quality of Life Survey, we added several questions, regarding possible outcomes caused by the pandemic in terms education quality, labor modalities, public subsidies, among others. In addition, we modified the collection methodology to comply with the lockdown measures in place. The results allowed us to inform changes in the work-life balance and income by gender.

Whereas for the January-April 2021 period, the average time dedicated to paid labor activities by men was 9 hours and 2 minutes, women spent 7 hours and 39 minutes; with regards of unpaid labor activities, the time spent by men was 3 hours and 10 minutes, compared with 7 hours and 55 minutes by women.

These additional 4 hours and 45 minutes dedicated to unpaid labor by women, must be compared with 3 hour and 34 minutes in January-April 2017 period, suggesting that the pandemic worsened the unpaid labor gender gap. Regarding income, even though a similar proportion of male and female heads of household maintained the same income, in the January-April 2021 period, 10.4% of male heads of household no longer had labor income, while this proportion was 25.0% in the case of female heads of household. These results are similar to those found in the period between September-December 2020 –10.1% for men and 22.5% for women– suggesting different recovery rates by gender.

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2. **Emerging data needs:** DANE created the Social Pulse Survey (EPS, by its acronym in Spanish), a monthly survey dedicated to collect data on consumer confidence, subjective wellbeing, care networks, children's wellbeing, and menstrual management & planning. Through Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews we managed to collect data on people's perceptions regarding quality of employment indicators.

Regarding work-life balance, in June 2021 we found: 1) that more men are answering consistently not feeling overburden by work tasks (58.9%) than women (42%); and 2) that more women are consistently feeling overburdened by housework (25.2%) than men (12.8%). Equally, the EPS collected information about subjective well-being and mental health by sex and employment status. Women have been the most affected by feelings that impact their well-being. Between July 2020 and August 2021, on average 19.8% of women have felt tired, while this percentage is 15.8% for men. When contrasting August 2021 with the same period in the previous year, there is an increase of 3.5 p.p. for women and 1.8 p.p. for men.

Keywords:

<Pandemic>; <Colombia>; <Innovation>; <Official Statistics>; <Quality of Employment>

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1. Introduction

Amidst the covid-19 pandemic, the production of statistical information became even more important, as it is a fundamental input for the construction of policies and measures to respond to the health emergency and the resulting economic and social crisis. However, the production of this information quickly became a challenge for the National Statistical Offices (NSOs), making it necessary to adapt their traditional operations to avoid interrupting the production of information, as well as the creation of new operations that respond to urgent demands for information and make visible the realities faced by the people.

The pandemic has had a differentiated impact in some population groups, which has led to a momentum to highlight the importance of mainstreaming the differential and intersectional approach in the production and dissemination of statistical information. For example, people without access to the internet, or with informal jobs, have been particularly affected by the measures adopted to reduce the spread of covid-19. Similarly, the loss of access to paid domestic and care services, the closure of schools or care centres, and the pre-existing sexual division of labour, among other factors, have had an impact on women's withdrawal from the labour market and the increase in their overload regarding unpaid work activities (domestic and care work).

In line with the above, DANE's experience in the production of statistical information in the context of the covid-19 pandemic has been focused mainly in two streams:

a) Adaptation of existing survey operations:

To continue with the operations planned before the covid-19 pandemic and to produce relevant information for decision-making, it was necessary to rapidly adapt statistical operations to comply with the existing mitigation measures (e.g., lockdowns). An example of this is the Great Integrated Household Survey, which had to continue to be carried out on a permanent basis to be able to generate basic monthly labour market indicators. While this survey is normally carried-out as a face-to-face operative, for the first time DANE used a fixed telephone base to conduct the questionnaire through a CATI operative. Moreover, to guarantee responses by telephone in a time of uncertainty, the questionnaire was reduced from approximately 200 to 30 questions during the first four months of the pandemic. Subsequently, an information retrieval operation was carried out for those months when the form was reduced.

Another adaptation was made to the National Time Use Survey (ENUT by its acronym in Spanish), whose field operation was adapted so that it could be carried out in a non-presential manner as initially designed. Given that the ENUT must be conducted every 3 years by law and given its high level of detail on daily time use activities, it was not appropriate to compromise the completeness of the form to conduct it by telephone, as this would alter the comparability with the two previous ENUTs.

To achieve this, it was necessary to build and implement a biosecurity protocol, following the standards of the health authority, as well as to design and implement an outreach campaign which sought to reduce the risk of infection and limit the rejection rate. On the latter issue, it's important to highlight that for those households that expressed fear of covid-19 infection, as a last alternative to ensure their participation in the survey, the possibility of collection via telephone was offered. Thanks to these measures, 98% of the selected sample was covered.

Likewise, to capture relevant information during the pandemic, the ENUT's "Health Emergency Situation" module was added, including questions related to the effect of the health emergency on households. Similarly, questions related to the time spent shopping online and disinfecting objects and

food were added, considering the importance of these activities within the pandemic context. Finally, DANE made the necessary adjustments to the ENUT to allow for the early publication of results, that is, publications prior to the end of the collection year, the only time at which results were presented in previous applications of the survey. These partial results correspond to the four-month periods September-December 2020 and January-April 2021². This decision was made, by recognizing the need to generate information on time-use before the end of the collection year.

b) New statistical operations:

In addition to adapting pre-existing surveys, DANE identified the need to create new statistical operations that would respond specifically to the impacts of Covid-19. An example of this is the Social Pulse Survey (EPS by its acronym in Spanish), an operation that started in July 2020 and whose main objective is to "take the pulse" of Colombian society through perceptions of economic performance, subjective well-being and networks of support and trust. With Colombia's entry into the OECD, DANE, as a statistical office, was already planning to generate an operation on measures of subjective well-being. With the advent of the pandemic, the implementation process increased its need and broadened its thematic spectrum.

The EPS is conducted through a telephone operation, and its results are published monthly. In addition, the survey targets only heads of household or spouses, and is representative for the country's 23 main cities.

This paper aims to use the statistics produced by DANE amidst the health emergency to present an analysis of the quality of employment from the approach of the Decent Work concept, specifically the dimension "work-life balance", and considering a gender perspective. With this objective in mind, in addition to this introduction, the conceptual precisions in which the analysis is framed are initially presented, followed by descriptive statistics from the ENUT and the EPS, which show some of the effects of the covid-19 pandemic on work times and work overloads. The fourth section proposes an ordered logit model on the determinants of work overload (paid and unpaid). Finally, some conclusions and recommendations are presented.

2. Conceptual framework for analysing employment quality through the Decent Work approach.

To precisely outline the conceptual framework, it is necessary to address the conceptual elements of Decent Work as a rigorous and recurrent approach to the quality of employment concept, which has been accepted and implemented by local and national governments, and which has an solid body of knowledge comprised of several publications and studies, which allow geographical, inter-temporal and internal comparisons.

The emergence of Decent Work, as a conceptual framework for analysing the state and evolution of labour relations, was proposed at the 1999 International Labour Conference by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The fundamental concept of "productive work that is fairly remunerated and carried out in conditions of freedom, equity, security and respect for human dignity" (ILO, 1999), proposed at that conference, was broken down into four dimensions: i) rights at work, ii) employment opportunities, iii) social protection, and iv) social dialogue.

² At the time of publication of this document, the results for the May-August four-month period and the annual results of the ENUT have not yet been published.

As a conceptual instrument for characterisation, analysis and inter-regional and inter-temporal comparison of the state of industrial relations, Decent Work has several expert views supporting its use: Ahmed (2003), demonstrated that the achievement of Decent Work objectives is related to economic growth and human development, and that such achievement does not require the precondition of high per capita income, thus avoiding a developmentalist perspective of macroeconomic preconditions in order to obtain better multidimensional approaches to the labour issue and the circumstances that relate to or condition it. For Sen (2005), the Decent Work approach offers several advantages of an extended analytical coverage, combining a positive approach (existing labour rights) with a normative one (labour rights to be recognised). In addition, it has an inclusive approach, encompassing all people involved in the labour market: unemployed, wage earners and the self-employed.

The relationship between Decent Work as a national strategy and state policy in Colombia can be illustrated from three aspects: i) the components of the constitutional articles referring to different themes associated with Decent Work, ii) the ILO conventions that the country has ratified and iii) the explicit inclusion of Decent Work as a guiding element of labour policy. In relation to the first element, in 12 articles of the Political Constitution of Colombia, an express mention to different dimensions and themes of Decent Work³ is made. On the second point, Colombia has ratified 61 ILO conventions (8 fundamental, 3 governance and 50 technical conventions). Finally, Decent Work has been considered as a strategy or public policy objective in the national development plans of the last five presidential terms⁴.

2.1. Multidimensional framework for measuring and analysing Decent Work

The study by Anker et al. (2003), which constitutes the conceptual framework for the analytical work of this paper, postulates a 6-dimensional approach, whereby they propose to address the measurement of Decent Work in the following structure:

- Job Opportunities.
- Productive Work.
- Work in Conditions of Freedom.
- Safety at Work.
- Dignity at Work.
- Equity at Work.

It is in this last dimension that the analytical core of our study can be found. Equity comes not only from the perspective of constitutional equality and the elimination of discrimination, but also in the search for harmony between family life and work.

³ The related articles are: Article 25 (right to work), 38 (the guarantee of the right of association), 39 (the right to form associations or trade unions without State intervention), 43 (equality between men and women, and special protection for maternity), 44 (fundamental rights of children), 45 (right of adolescents to protection and comprehensive training), 47 (right to welfare, rehabilitation and social integration), 48 (right to social security), 53 (obligation to issue the Labour Statute and to give the duly ratified international labour conventions the status of standards in domestic legislation), 54 (obligation of the State and employers to provide training and professional qualification), 55 (right to collective bargaining to regulate labour relations), and 56 (guarantee of the right to strike). Article 93 is not included in this compilation but is clearly required for the practical force of this compilation: it reaffirms the inclusion in the block of constitutionality of international treaties and conventions related to human rights, and which have been ratified by Congress.

⁴ All relevant information on the context of Decent Work in the Colombian government's public policy can be found at: <https://www.mintrabajo.gov.co/relaciones-laborales/derechos-fundamentales-del-trabajo/promocion-de-la-organizacion/trabajo-decente>

The lockdowns implemented as a mitigation strategy for the spread of covid-19 infection has generated complex effects in the increase in paid and unpaid hours worked. The need to simultaneously carry out work, care activities, school, entertainment, and other activities in the home raises concerns about how the covid-19 pandemic may have affected the balance between work and home life; a balance that had the slight physical boundary of being carried out in two different physical spaces, but with the pandemic, this boundary became blurry-at best- and inexistent most of the times. Several studies, mostly generated through surveys or sectoral studies, have identified these effects in developed countries: SHRM (2020), World Economic Forum (2020), The Guardian (2021).

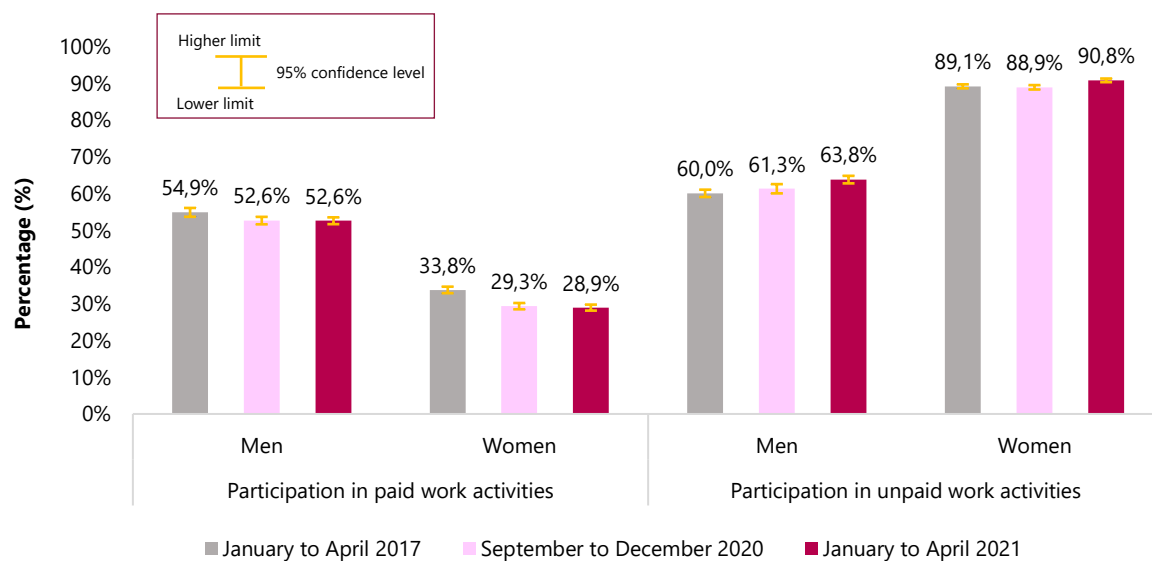
This study aims to address this empirical phenomenon with the following novelties or specificities:

- Conduct the analysis for a developing country.
- Take advantage of new statistical operations implemented in Colombia to analyse the effect of the Pandemic; and
- Conduct the study of this phenomenon within a rigorous conceptual framework, the conceptual dimension of Equity at Work (Anker et al., op. cit.), explored more precisely by Camacho et al. (2011) under the headings of "Decent Working Hours" and "Work-Life Balance".

3. Descriptive statistics: effects of the Pandemic on different analytical dimensions

The participation of the population in work activities, measured through the ENUT, is evidence of the sexual division of labour: men participate more than women in paid work activities, and women participate more than men in unpaid work activities. For the four-month period, comprised between January-April, in both 2017 and 2021, women's participation in paid work activities is at least 21 percentage points (p.p.) lower than that of men. In turn, the share of women participating in unpaid work activities is at least 27 percentage points (p.p.) higher than that of men.

Figure 1. Participation in work activities by sex
Net National Total. Jan-April 2017 / Sept-Dec 2020 / Jan-April 2021



Source: DANE, National Time-Use Survey

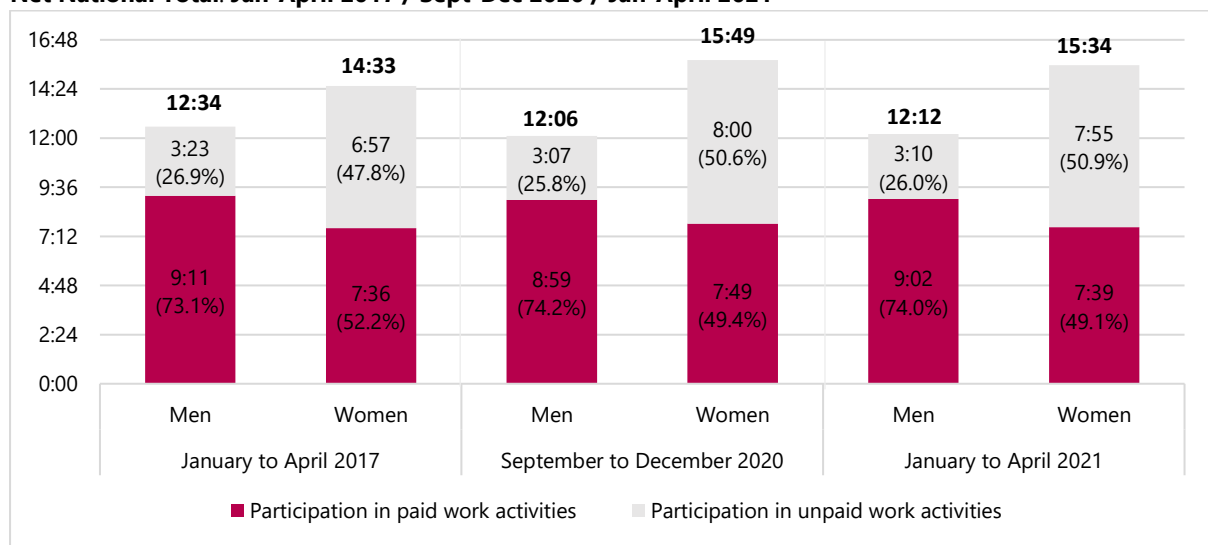
In the same line, in the four-month period, between January-April 2021, women spent on average a total of 15 hours 34 minutes per day on work activities (paid and unpaid), i.e., 3 hours 22 minutes more

than the total daily workload of men. In addition, women received remuneration for 49.1% of the time worked, while this percentage is 74.0% for men.

During the covid-19 pandemic, there were no statistically significant changes in the time spent by men and women in paid work activities. On the contrary, the time spent by women on unpaid work activities in January-April 2021 was 7 hours 55 minutes, i.e., 58 minutes more per day than in the same four-month period in 2017. Men's time spent on unpaid work activities decreased by 13 minutes, but the change is not statistically significant.

Thus, for the four-month period, between January-April 2021, the average of time spent daily by men on paid work activities is 1 hour 23 minutes more than that the average spent by women; and the average of time spent daily by women on unpaid work is 4 hours 45 minutes more than that of men.

Figure 2. Average daily time spent per participant in work activities by sex
Net National Total. Jan-April 2017 / Sept-Dec 2020 / Jan-April 2021



Source: DANE, National Time-Use Survey

Regarding unpaid work, it is observed that in activities such as food provision, women spent approximately twice as much time spent by men on a daily basis. Furthermore, in activities related to assisting people at home, between January-April 2017 and the same months of 2021, there was an increase of 37 minutes per day for women and 10 minutes per day for men. It is particularly noteworthy that in the same period, the time spent on passive care (being on standby) increased significantly, with an increase of 3 hours and 44 minutes, while the variation in time spent by men is 31 minutes, but it is not statistically significant.

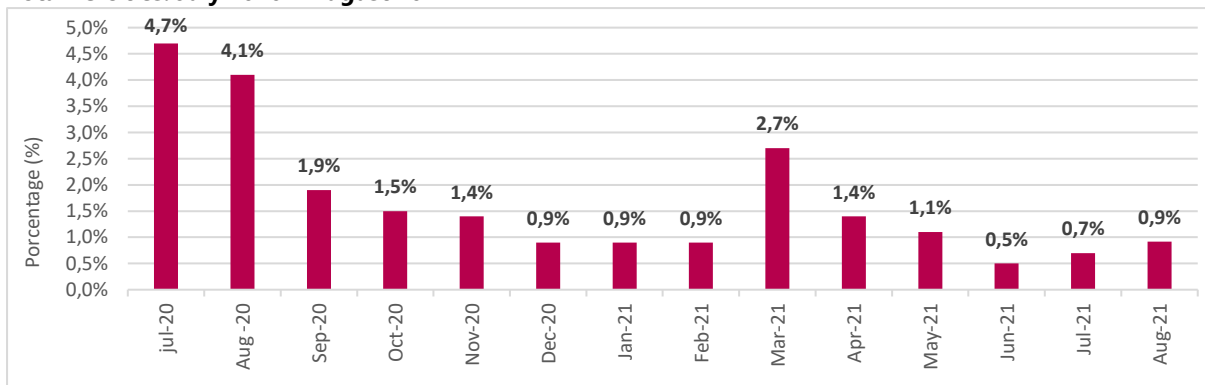
Figure 3. Average daily time per participant spent in unpaid work activities and their related activities by sex
National Total Net. Jan-April 2017 / Sept-Dec 2020 / Jan-April 2021



Source: DANE, National Time-Use Survey

Related to the above, and using the EPS as a source, it is observed that in July 2020, 4.7% of households had lost access to domestic work services, which represents an increase in unpaid work that must be satisfied by the household itself. However, with the reduction of restrictions to prevent the spread of covid-19, the percentage of households that lost access to paid domestic service decreased to 0.9% in August 2021.

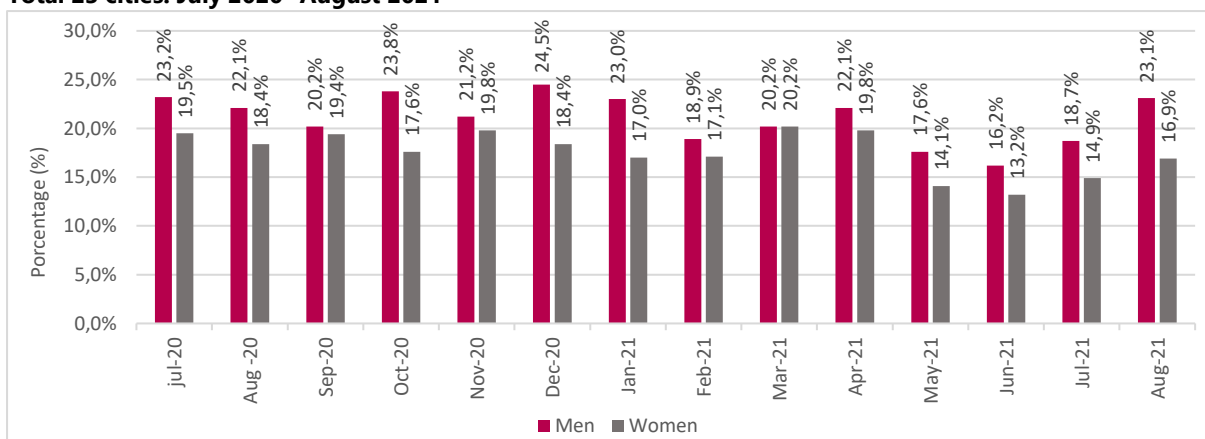
**Figure 4. During the last 7 days and as consequence of the lockdown, has your household stopped accessing or decreased access to some of the following services?
Percentage of household who answered "Housekeeper"
Total 23 cities. July 2020 – August 2021**



Source: DANE, Social Pulse Survey

Given the restrictions on access to support services for unpaid work, the increased demands for care work due to the closure of schools and care centres, and the need to carry out paid work activities within the household, the workload was increased. When analysing men's and women's perception of work overload (paid work), it is observed that men have a greater sense of burden compared to women. Between July 2020 and August 2021, on average 21.1% of men and 17.6% of women reported feeling overburdened with work tasks. In August 2021, compared to August 2020, there was an increase of 1.0 p.p. for men and a decrease of 1.5 p.p. for women.

**Figure 5. Percentage of people who feel overloaded with work tasks by sex
Total 23 cities. July 2020- August 2021**

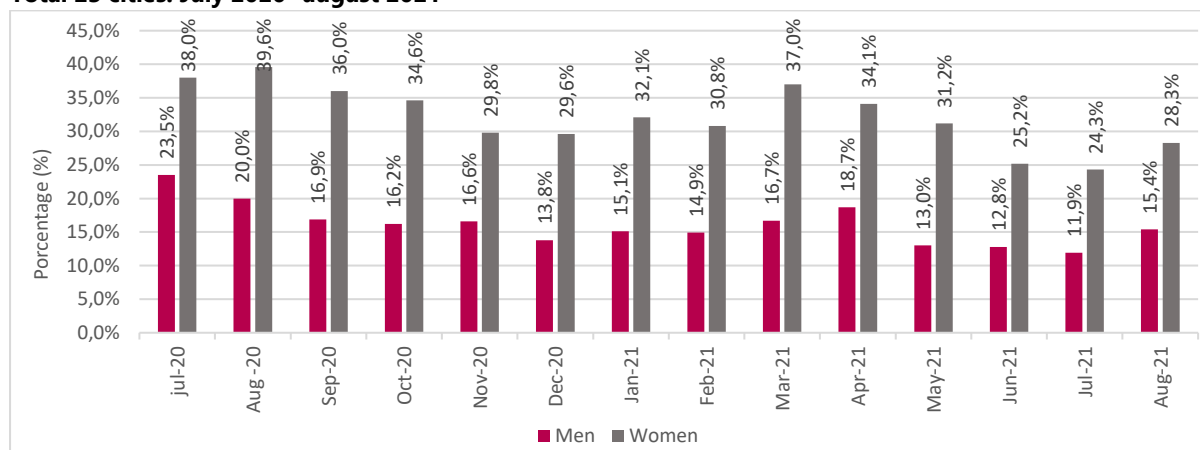


Source: DANE, Social Pulse Survey

On the other hand, the perception related to the overload of housework shows the opposite trend: the percentage of women who say they feel overburdened is higher than that of men in this situation, specifically a gap of more than 12 p.p. is observed over the period July 2020 - August 2021. In August 2021, there is a reduction of 4.6 p.p. in the percentage of men and 11.3 p.p. of women who feel

overburdened, compared to August 2020. This decrease in perception may reflect the economic reopening that has been taking place in recent months after confinements and the differentiated opening patterns by activities.

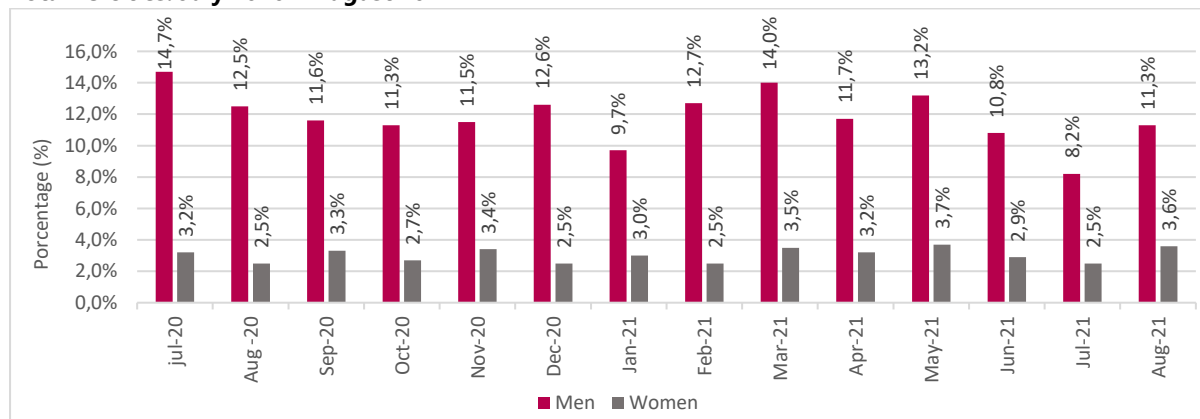
Figure 6. Percentage people who feel overloaded with housework, by sex
Total 23 cities. July 2020- august 2021



Source: DANE, Social Pulse Survey

The significant difference presented above is closely related to the gender gap in participation in housework: between July 2020 and August 2021, on average 11.8% of men reported not doing housework, while this percentage is 3.0% for women.

Figure 7. Percentage of people who do not perform housework by sex
Total 23 cities. July 2020 – August 2021



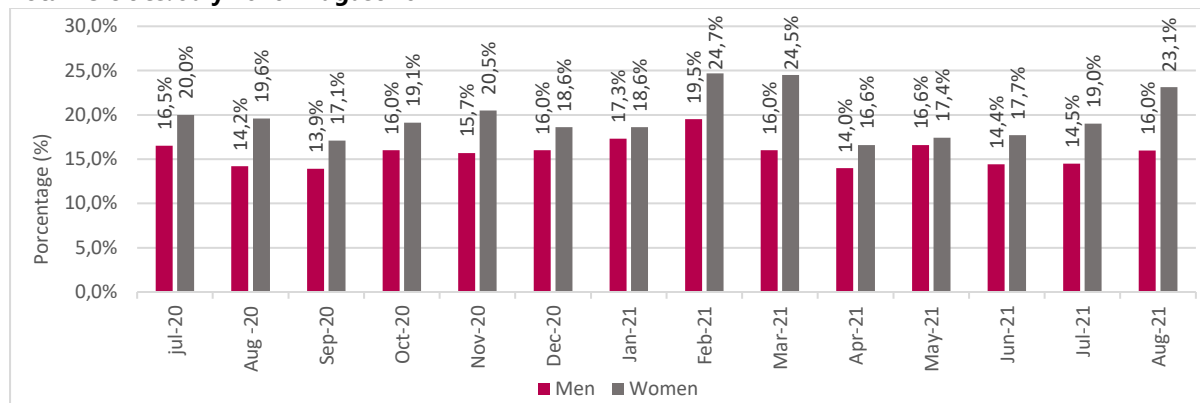
Source: DANE, Social Pulse Survey

Similarly, women have been the most affected by feelings that impact their well-being. Between July 2020 and August 2021, on average 19.8% of women have felt tired, while this percentage is 15.8% for men. When contrasting August 2021 with the same period in the previous year, there is an increase of 3.5 p.p. for women and 1.8 p.p. for men.

In the months of February and March 2021, the percentage of women who felt tiredness increased significantly compared to the previous months. These months coincide with the start of the school

calendar and the strengthening of containment and measures to prevent the spread of covid-19 in the face of a new peak of infection.

Figure 8. During the last 7 days have you felt... tired? By sex
Total 23 cities. July 2020- August 2021



Source: DANE, Social Pulse Survey

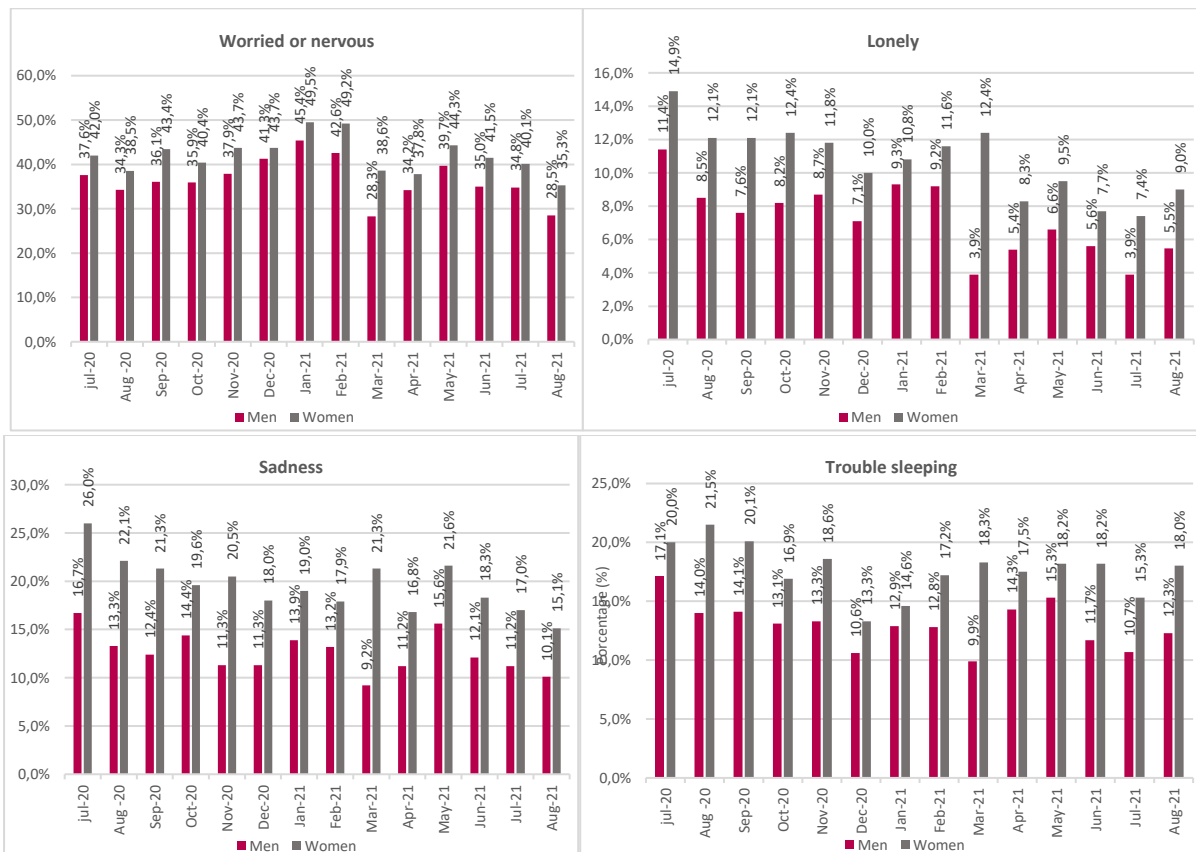
Likewise, women register higher prevalence than men in feelings such as worry and nervousness, loneliness, sadness, among others. Between July 2020 and August 2021, on average 42.0% of women have felt concerned and nervous, maintaining a higher proportion than men in the period of analysis (36.5%).

Similarly, women have expressed a higher proportion of feelings of loneliness throughout the analysis period. However, the data for August 2021 compared to August 2020 shows a significant drop for both men and women: for men this drop was 3.0 p.p. and for women it was 3.1 p.p.

As for feelings of sadness, for the month of August 2021 a difference of 5.0 p.p. is recorded between men and women, disadvantaging women. Over the whole period (July 2020-August 2021) an average difference of 7.0 p.p. is recorded against women.

In line with the above, it is observed that women have had greater difficulties in sleeping compared to men: between July 2020 and August 2021 on average 17.7% of women reported difficulties in sleeping, this percentage is 4.7 p.p. higher than that of men in the same situation.

Figure 9. During the last 7 days have you felt...? By sex
Total 23 cities. July 2020 – August 2021



Source: DANE, Social Pulse Survey

4. Determinants of overload: housework and work activities

In this section, an ordered Logit model was used to inquire about the possible influences over the individuals' feeling of being overworked and overburdened by housework. Such models estimate the relationship between an ordinal dependent variable and a set of independent variables. For our specific estimation purposes, this model has a categorical dependent variable which has a rank order that goes from very over-burned to little over-burned and not overloaded.

As indicated before, there are two different dependent variables used in this analysis. One measures work task overloads based on the questions: "During the last 7 days, compared to your daily routine before the start of quarantine/preventive isolation, do you feel that you are more overburdened with work tasks?" and for those that said yes, the following question: "How overburdened do you feel?". In order to approximate the association between the pandemic, work-life balance and the sexual division of labour, the same model will also be estimated, but using a measure of housework overload based on the question: "During the last 7 days, compared to your daily routine before the start of quarantine/preventive isolation, do you feel that you are more overburdened with housework?" and the question: "How overburdened do you feel?". The comparison between work overloads and housework overloads is possible because the survey questions have the same response options.

The choice of explanatory variables employed in the analysis was informed by the literature, as well as the review of the trends presented above in the descriptive statistics section. Given all these, the following econometric model is used for the analysis:

$$y_i^* = B_1 age_i + B_2 gender_i + B_3 dep_i + B_4 partner + B_5 poor_i + B_6 educa_i + B_7 gob_i + B_8 tired_i + B_9 T_t + u_i$$

$y_i = 2$ if the individual feels very overburdened

$y_i = 1$ if the individual is feeling a bit overburdened

$y_i = 0$ if the individual does NOT feel overburdened

Where age_i refers to the age of respondent i at the time of answering the survey probability of feeling over-burdened. Variable $gender_i$ is a dichotomous variable that provides information of the gender (male or female) of the respondent i . dep_i is the dependency ratio of respondent i household: the ratio between the considered dependent people (person aged under 21 and over 64) and the total number of household members. $partner_i$ is a dichotomous variable which assumes value 1 when respondent i household has a spouse or partner⁵. $poor_i$ is also a variable equal to 1 when respondent i household was categorized to be in a household with income poverty by year 2020. $educa_i$ is the educational level of respondent i (none, primary and secondary, high, technical, undergraduate and postgraduate).

In addition to the variables mentioned above, other variables are included that may be associated with the dependent variable. gob_i is a dichotomous variable that takes a value equal to 1 when respondent i states that since the beginning of the quarantine he/she has received aid from social assistance programmes. In turn, $tired_i$ is also a dichotomous variable with a value equal to 1 when respondent i states that during the last 7 days you have felt tired. Finally, T_t seeks to capture the effects caused by unobserved characteristics that vary between t rounds.

4.1. Results

In this section, we present the results from the ordered logit models to see: (i) the determinants of feelings of paid work overload, (ii) the determinants of unpaid housework overload, and (iii) the possible differences between them.

From Table 1, we see that being an older household head or spouse is associated with a lower likelihood of being overburdened by work and housework. It means that feelings of overburden tend to decrease as ages increases. Being male is associated with a higher likelihood of feeling overburdened with paid work tasks, but a lower likelihood of being overburdened with housework. Being poor is associated with feeling more overburdened by housework, but less likely to be overburdened by work tasks. Having some education, compared to none, increases the likelihood of feeling overburdened by labour and housework activities. Having reported feeling tired, naturally, is also associated with higher levels of being overburdened by household and domestic chores. Receiving aid from social assistance programmes is only significant for household chores' overload and are non-significant for paid-work overload. Equally, if the household has a spouse or partner the results are only significant for household chore overload, and insignificant for paid work overload.

⁵ In other words, it means that when the variable turns 1 the household head has a spouse or a partner.

Table 1. Ordered logit models results

<i>Variable</i>	Work overloaded		Domestic work overload	
	Coefficient	Standard error	Coefficient	Standard error
Age	-0,12*	0,00	-0,01*	0,00
Male	0,14*	0,01	-1,11*	0,01
Dependency ratio	-0,00*	0,00	0,01*	0,00
Poverty	-0,12*	0,02	0,13*	0,01
<i>Employment</i>				
Employed	0,41*	0,03	0,16*	0,02
Unemployed	1,05*	0,02	0,12*	0,01
<i>Education level</i>				
Primary and secondary school	0,17*	0,03	0,11*	0,02
High School	0,41*	0,03	0,16*	0,02
Technical education	0,58*	0,04	0,18*	0,03
Professional and post-graduate	1,1*	0,03	0,41*	0,03
Government aid	0,11	0,01	0,26*	0,01
Tiredness	0,81*	0,01	0,68*	0,01
Spouse or partner	0,01	0,01	0,23*	0,01
Observations		117.656		117.656
Wald chi-square		9481		8925
Probability > Chi2		0		0
Pseudo R2		0,08		0,06

*p < 0.05.

Source: f

4.2. Discussion

The purpose of this paper has been twofold. It focuses on taking advantage on methodological measures taken as response to the challenges presented to DANE, as National Statistics Office, by Covid-19 pandemic. From there, it uses the information provided by the methodological measures, to present an analysis of the elements associated with feelings of work overload and housework overload. This is one of the first studies to use a subjective well-being survey in Colombia that systematically compares some determinants of paid-work overload and housework overload. By incorporating the measurements made by the Social Pulse Survey during the pandemic, it seeks to fill the information gap in the existing literature on work-life balance disturbances during prolonged periods of quarantine and isolation.

The findings of this document indicate that the factors that explain work overload and housework overload varies between man and women in Colombia, after considering time variation. Specifically, women are more likely to feel housework overload than men. In contrast, being men is associated with the feeling of paid-work overload. This is consistent with the argument that the gender division of labour determines that men and women have a greater participation in certain activities (Perez, 2013). Even in developed countries, women still are mostly in charge of childcare and housework, which means that women have spent less time on paid work and more time on household responsibilities than men (Ascher, 2020).

Following the same argument, the dependency ratio showed to be positively associated with housework overload. These findings are in line with studies reporting that the need for extra childcare is a dimension that has an impact on the quality of work-life balance (Granados, 2011). This impact affected mainly women, and therefore it can be assumed that they are more affected by the closing of public spaces and care public centres, like schools, than males. In fact, an emerging literature media coverage have indicated the impact of COVID-19 has deepened gender inequalities, given the power positions in home during lockdown circumstances (Hjálmsdóttir & Bjarnadóttir, 2021) (Alon, Doepke, Olmstead-Rumsey, & Tertilt, 2020).

The pandemic has not only affected public spaces and school, as enterprises were forced to implement home-based work. This has affected mainly parents work-life balance. In that sense it is not a surprise that the feeling of tiredness is associated with both types of overload feelings, which seems to have intensified during the pandemic.

Also, the model showed that government aid and being in a household is not associated with being work overloaded. This finding is consistent with the fact that households focalized by government programmes (like subsidies and cash transfers) are more likely to lack labour income and being out of employment. Equally, it is possible that this finding could be influenced by the characteristics of the Colombian labour market, although a more sophisticated analysis will be needed in the future to explore this result.

Overall, the assessment in this document provides a sexual division of labour benchmark by analysing the determinants of paid-work and unpaid domestic work overload during the COVID-19 crisis. Few National Statistics Offices in Latin-America have developed a survey to test household wellbeing during the crisis. The COVID-19 has been quite challenging for NSOs because they were forced to adapt to new the mechanisms for collecting information. The Social Pulse Survey is a new tool that provides information on the effects that the drastic measures taken to prevent coronavirus spread. From this information it is apparent that gender equality was heavily affected and that it is necessary to pay attention to it in public policies.

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