

New Study Highlights Unrecognized Domestic Work in Mexico



Mexico City, July 18 (teleSUR-RHC)-- More than half of the time Mexicans spend working goes unpaid, which disproportionately affects women who work three times more hours than men in domestic labor, a new study finds.

The National Institute of Statistics and Geography on the use of time in 2014 found that from each 10 hours Mexicans spent working, more than five hours are not paid, which increases even more across gender and ethnicity.

Overall, women complete 60 percent of working hours, whether paid or not, while men only 40 percent. The number triples for women when only considering unpaid domestic labor, while men work twice as many paid hours, the study, in collaboration with the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES), found.

For indigenous populations, the rate of unpaid working hours is slightly higher than the mestizo average with 58.6 percent. While paid labor for Indigenous men triples, indigenous women work four times more unpaid hours than their male counterparts.

At the same time, for indigenous populations 60 percent of working hours goes to self-employment, 32.8 percent to the labor market, and 8.7 to domestic labor.

The objective of the study, researchers claim, is to “make visible the importance of domestic production and its contribution to the economy and, more generally, how men and women use their time.” Praying, meditating and resting is what Mexicans dedicate the least time to, with only three hours per week, according to the study’s survey based on a sample of 19,000 homes.

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