

The Hidden Poor: Solving Time Poverty through Redistribution of Household Production

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Abstract

In this policy brief we start by presenting the Levy Institute measure of Time and Income Poverty (LIMTIP) estimates for the United States from 2005 to 2023 calculated based on the statistically matched American Time Use survey (ATUS) and Annual Social and Economic Supplements (ASEC) data. Next, we implement redistribution simulations to explore the potential of redistributing household production time shares, among working-age household members, to lift individuals and households out of time poverty. Our simulations include three scenarios based on equality, equity and opportunity costs principles. We focus on time poor households with at least two working-age individuals and segregate individuals into households where everyone is time poor (HH type I); at least one time poor and one time-non poor individual but no scope to bring household out of poverty (HH type II); and where time surplus of members exceeds time deficits (HH type III). We compare redistribution scenarios based on transition rates of individuals entering and exiting poverty across different types of time poor households. Further, we present the relative transition rates across subgroups of gender, age, education, employment status and presence of children. Overall, we find across all redistribution scenarios that significant share of individuals and households can exit time poverty, most pronounced in equity-based redistribution and in HH type III. Moreover, time poverty and number of hidden poor declines in all three scenarios and in all household types except HH type II. Our analysis points towards tailoring redistribution policies by household type and by composition of time-poor and time-non-poor individuals. This in turn could help support broader poverty alleviation efforts.

Keyword: Time Poverty, Income Poverty, Redistribution, household production, care work, gender equality, LIMTIP

1 Introduction

Redistribution of household production, which includes unpaid caregiving and domestic chores, has been identified as an important tool to achieve gender equality. The incorporation of the 3R (recognition, reduction and redistribution) strategy as a target in the United Nations sustainable development goals, is a testament to the decades of activism and advocacy emphasizing that gender inequality on this front cannot be justified in the name of “private family matter” rather is a matter of public policy. Redistribution can take place from households to the public and/or private spheres, as well as among household members. While all household members may share household work, evidence shows that it is disproportionately undertaken by girls and women globally (Addati et al., 2018).

Redistribution of household production responsibilities from women to men is important intrinsically for human rights and fairness concerns, it is also instrumental in achieving gender equality in labor market outcomes (Bruyn-Hundt, 1996; Elso, 2017; Esquivel, 2016). Studies have demonstrated that gender gaps in the workforce and the unequal sharing of household responsibilities can severely impede economic growth and development (Berik et al., 2009; Duflo, 2012; Elson, 2009). Yet, public policies and collective actions have been less than adequate, especially in poorer countries with constrained fiscal capacity, widespread absence of formal wage labor and weak welfare states. Moreover, in patriarchal contexts, cultural barriers restrict redistribution of household production, particularly unpaid care work from women to men and to the public and private spheres. While in some developed countries such as Norway and Sweden public policies have been able to promote gender-equitable sharing of household production, such as paid paternity leaves in addition to paid maternity leaves, they have attained limited attention and success in other countries.

The U.S. is not the exception. Issues related to lack of public provisioning of care infrastructure and services, widespread existence of childcare deserts, lack of paid parental leave laws among others have gained momentum. In 2021, the value of unpaid household work in the U.S. amounted to \$600 billion, constituting approximately 2.6% of the GDP (Reinhard et al., 2023). Moreover, like most other countries, we observe gender disparity in sharing of household work such that women disproportionately shoulder the burden. According to the 2018 American Time Use Survey, among adults aged 15 and older, women on average spent 5.7 hours per day on unpaid household and care work, compared with 3.6 hours for men. In other words, women spent 37 percent more time on unpaid household and care work than men (Hess et al., 2020). Additionally, the U.S. falls behind many OECD countries in effective childcare policies, spending only 0.4% of GDP on early childhood education and care (ECEC), compared to the OECD average of 0.8% (OECD, 2020). Notably, the U.S. lacks federal laws granting paid parental leave, setting it apart from other OECD nations. Around 51% of the U.S. population resides in childcare deserts, defined as census tracts with more than 50 children under the age of 5 and either no childcare providers or significantly limited options, resulting in a severe shortage of licensed child care slots (Malik et al., 2018).

The lack of public provisioning of care infrastructure and services, and the disproportionate burden

of household production on women, has implications for time poverty, both at the individual and the household/family level. Individual time poverty refers to the lack of time available individuals have to engage in activities that are essential for taking care of the household, its members, self-care, and paid work. At the household level, even if a single individual struggles to meet his responsibilities, the whole family is considered to be living under time poverty. In this framework, as pointed out in (**policybrief_USLIMTIP?**), it is not uncommon to see households with a mixture time time availability among its members. In fact, just over 20% of the working age population are not time poor, but live in a household where at least one person lives under time poverty. In spite of the growing recognition of the importance of time constrain and the responsibility of household production, the issue of time poverty has received limited attention in the U.S. partially due to data availability constraints.

Over the last decades, the Levy Economic Institute has been at the forefront of recognizing the importance of time for understanding income and poverty dynamics (Zacharias, 2011). As part of this work, they developed a new measure of poverty that incorporates the dimension of time into traditional poverty measures: The Levy Institute Measure of Time and Income Poverty (LIMTIP for short). This measure uses synthetic data in order to incorporate the value of time, or more specifically the amount of resources required to outsource the responsibilities that cannot be covered by the household members, into traditional measures of poverty thresholds. By incorporating this dimension, the LIMTIP not only provides a more comprehensive understanding of poverty but also allows for the identification of the hidden poor, i.e., individuals where their families do not have enough monetary resources to accommodate for the time deficits they face (Antonopoulos et al., 2017; Masterson, 2012; Zacharias et al., 2012, 2014, 2018, 2021).

While most of the earlier work on LIMTIP has focused on the analysis of Time Poverty in developing countries (Masterson, 2012; Masterson et al., 2022; Zacharias et al., 2018), recent work has extended the measure to the U.S. (Zacharias et al., 2024; **policybrief_USLIMTIP?**).¹ Similar to earlier work, one of the findings of (**policybrief_USLIMTIP?**) is that a large share of the population experience some level of time poverty, which translates into a significant share of households who are *hidden poor*, thus not captured by the official income poverty measure. However, this work also suggests that a significant share of time poor individuals and households could potentially exit time poverty if household production responsibilities were to be redistributed among its members (similar to Zacharias et al. (2021)).

Following (**policybrief_USLIMTIP?**), this policy brief we explore this possibility further. Using the new estimates for LIMTIP for the U.S., we provide insights into how redistributing household production can reduce incidence of poverty not only of individuals, but also of the households they live in. To do this, we consider three redistribution scenarios based on equality, equity, and opportunity costs principles and assess the change they could have in time poverty on working-age (18-64 years) household members.

¹This is in addition to the work done for Levy Institute Measure of Economic Well-Being (LIMEW).

In the next section we start with briefly describing the LIMTIP measure and our estimates for the US. We then move on to identifying the different types of households experiencing time poverty, the redistribution scenarios, followed by results and policy implications.

2 LIMTIP: A New Measure of Time Poverty for the United States

Poverty is a multidimensional concept that goes beyond the simple notion of lack of income. In addition to income, poverty can be understood as a lack of access to resources, including time. The LIMTIP is a metric that, in addition to income poverty, incorporates aspects of time poverty that better captures the control household have on their resources. In this framework, time poverty refers to a scenario wherein people may not have any time left after engaging in activities that are essential for taking care of the household, its members, self-care, and paid work. At the household level, we consider an even more restrictive definition. Under the assumption that individuals with time surpluses are unable or unwilling to help those with time deficits, we consider a household to be time poor if at least one member is time poor.

As described in ([policybrief_USLIMTIP?](#)) and ([wp_qmatch?](#)), the LIMTIP is built using a synthetic dataset that combines information from the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) and the Annual Social and Economic Supplements (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS). For the identification of time poverty, using weekly hours as unit of analysis (168hrs per week), we identify the amount of time individuals would have left (X_{ij}) after engaging in required activities for taking care of their share of responsibilities (α_{ij}) taking care of the household and its members (R_j), personal maintenance (M), and paid work (Commuting T_{ij} and time spent at work T_{ij}). This is expressed in the following equation (see Equation 1):

$$X_{ij} = 168 - M - \alpha_{ij}R_j - D_{ij}(L_{ij} + T_{ij}) \quad (1)$$

The minimum time required for each of the components in Equation 1 are estimated using a mixture of assumptions, the synthetic dataset and the ATUS dataset (see ([wp_qmatch?](#)) for details).

At the household level, however, we assume that individuals with time surpluses are unable or unwilling to share and redistribute some of the responsibilities of those with time deficits. In this framework, a household is considered to be time poor as long as there is one person with time deficit living in the household.^[2] To identify time poverty status, we only consider the time deficits of household members age 18 or older.] This is expressed in the following equation (see Equation 2):

$$X_j = \sum_{i=1}^{I_j} \min(X_{ij}, 0) \quad (2)$$

Once household time deficits are identified, we can adjust the official income poverty thresholds to account for time deficits, after monetizing its value. For the U.S. case, we use a three-year average

Table 1: 4-Way Classification Based on Time and Income Poverty: LIMTIP

(a) Individuals				(b) Households			
	Income Poverty		Total		Income Poverty		Total
	Poor	Non-Poor			Poor	Non-Poor	
Time Poverty				Time Poverty			
Poor	3.5%	21.7%	25.2%	Poor	6.0%	39.4%	45.4%
Non-Poor	11.9%	62.9%	74.8%	Non-Poor	9.8%	44.8%	55.6%
Total	15.4%	84.6%	100%	Total	15.8%	84.2%	100%

hourly wages for the industry private households obtained from Merged Outgoing Rotation Groups (MORG) to value the household time deficit. This value represents the amount of income may be required to outsource some of the time responsibilities, and eliminate time poverty. The adjusted poverty line, and the LIMTIP, is then calculated as:

$$Z_j^{adj} = Z_j + 52 * wage * |X_j| \quad (3)$$

where *wage* is the price we use to give a monetary value to the time deficits the household j faces, and Z_j^{adj} is the adjusted poverty line. Intuitively, households that are not time poor will not change status compared to the official poverty estimates. However, households that are time poor could have their poverty status change if, after considering the adjusted poverty line, they fall below it. This group of households are considered to be the hidden poor.

Using this information, it is possible to classify individuals (and households) into four categories based on their time and income poverty status. In Table 1, we present the averaged shares of individuals across years 2005 to 2023. By construction, individuals living in non-time poor households will face the same poverty status as the official poverty estimates, because the poverty line is not adjusted. Thus, they are of little interest to us. Instead, our focus is on individuals living in time poor households, because they are the ones where the hidden poor are to be found. Based on the information in Table 1, whereas 25.2% of individuals are time poor, 45.4% of individuals live in time poor households. This implies that there is a lot of scope for redistribution of household production responsibilities among working-age members to lift individuals and households out of time poverty.

Across the years of available data, individual level time poverty has shown a small increasing trend from 2008 to 2023 from about 21.4% to 25.0% (see Figure 1). Perhaps the most notable change across years has been the sudden decrease in time poverty in 2020, which is likely due to the pandemic and the lockdowns that followed. Over the same period the official poverty estimates shows a slight rising trend between 2005 to 2014 and then starts to decline, with the exception

of 2023. When we adjust for time deficits, the LIMTIP estimates shows a higher level of poverty across all years, around 3-5 percentage points higher, which represent the hidden poor.

Overall, while some trends can be observed in terms of time and income poverty, the changes have been relatively small. This suggests that the problems related to time poverty and the hidden poor are persistent, but show little heterogeneity across years. Because of this, the rest of this policy brief will focus on average results across all years.

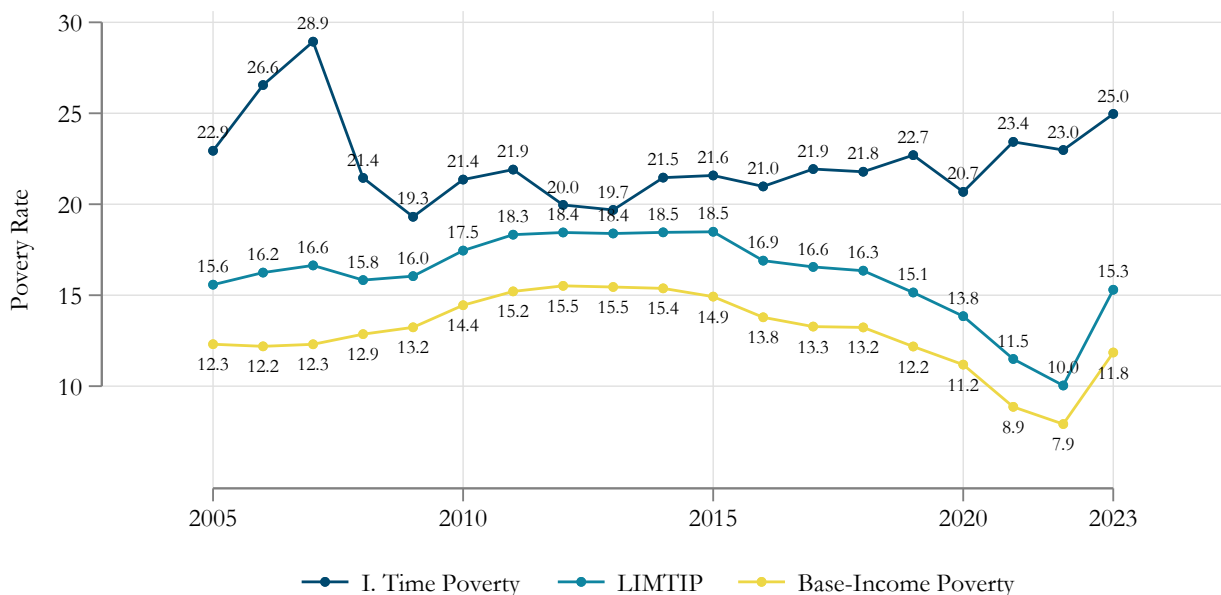


Figure 1: Trends of Time, Income and Limtip Poverty in the U.S.

3 Identifying the Problem

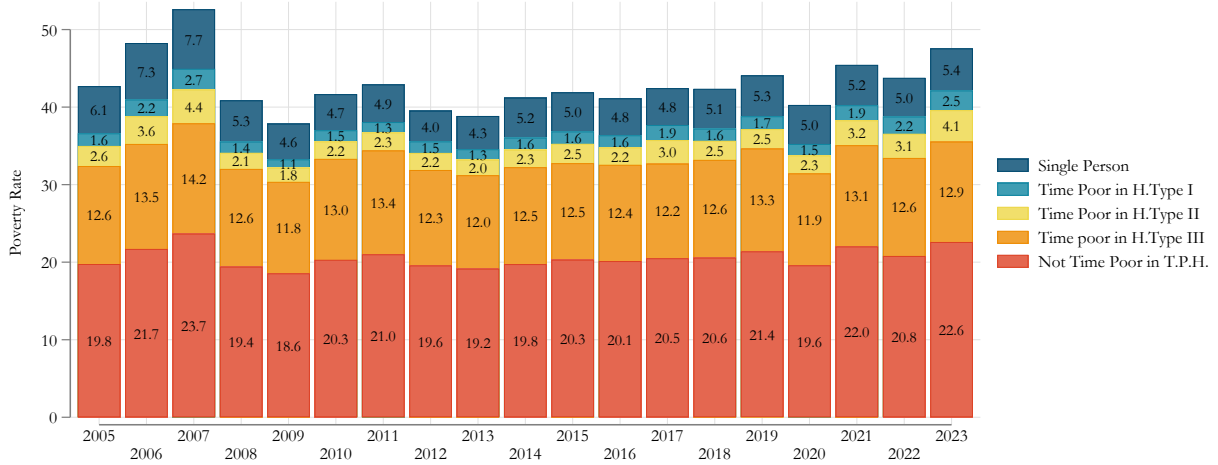
As suggested earlier, one of the strategies that could help reduce the problem of time poverty, and thereby the incidence of hidden poor, is the redistribution of household production responsibilities across all working age members in the household. At best, household members with time surpluses could take on more household responsibilities, reducing the burden of those with time deficits, and potentially lifting out household out of poverty. At worst, the redistribution could make the time deficits more equal among the household members, even if the household remains time poor.

Before we start analyzing the potential that redistribution could have in reducing time poverty, we must first identify the households where redistribution is possible. Specifically, we exclude from the analysis households that are not time poor, because the goal of the of the current analysis is to evaluate the potential of redistribution in lifting individuals and households out of time poverty. While non-time poor households could potentially benefit from redistribution, reducing the gaps of time surpluses among household members, resulting in more gender-equitable sharing of household work, this second order effect is beyond the current scope of this policy brief.

From the sample of individuals living in a time poor household we classify them into five different groups:

- **Single:** These are time poor individuals that live in a household where they are the only working-age person. In this case, redistribution is not possible, and thus are excluded from the analysis.
- **Time Poor in H. Type I:** These are time poor individuals who live in households where all working-age members are time poor. While redistribution is possible, and may help in reducing the time deficits of some individuals, and even allow some to transition out of time poverty, the household will remain time poor regardless of the redistributive scenario.
- **Time Poor in H. Type II:** These are time poor individuals who live in households where there are non-time poor members. However, the combined time surpluses is insufficient to lift the household out of time poverty.
- **Time Poor in H. Type III:** These are time poor individuals who live in households where there is enough time surplus to lift the household out of time poverty. Redistribution in these households can lift all working members of the household out of time poverty.
- **Non Time poor in a Time Poor household:** This last group consists of individuals with time surpluses living in a time poor household. The goal of the redistribution scenarios is to allocate household responsibilities in such a way that these individuals can help lift other household members out of time poverty. However, it is also possible that some of these individuals may end up experiencing time poverty in the redistribution scenarios.

Figure 2 provides a visual representation of the classification of working age individuals (18-64yrs of age) living in time poor households across the years. As it can be observed, about 40% of individuals were living in a time poor household. While this share shows a sharp increase between 2005 and 2007, it has remained stable from 2008 onwards, with a small increase across years that mimics the raise of individual time poverty observed in Figure 1. There is an additional 4-5% of individuals who are time poor but redistribution is not possible. From the rest, about 15% of individuals constitute our main group of analysis, i.e., those living in households where redistribution may be sufficient to lift the household out of time poverty. The remaining 20% are individuals who are not time poor but live in a time poor household.



Note: T.P.H.: Time Poor Household, H.Type I : All working age members are time poor, H.Type II: There are Non-time poor individuals Living in the HH, but time surplus is insufficient to Lift HH out of Time poverty, H.Type III: There is enough time surplus to lift HH out of time poverty.

Figure 2: Time Poverty classification, across time

In the next section, we discuss three redistribution scenarios wherein household responsibilities can be redistributed among working-age members, under different criteria. Nevertheless, we should keep in mind that we will only be analyzing the impact of redistribution on time poor households with at least 2 working-age members.

4 Redistribution Scenarios

The idea of redistribution of household production responsibilities follows the principle that everyone in a household should be able to carry out their **fair** share of household work. The question, however, is what constitutes a fair share?. In this section we present three different principles that could guide the redistribution of household production responsibilities among working-age members.

First, we use the simple egalitarianism principle that involves an equal division of total household production time among all working age members. Second, we redistribute conditional on the time available to people. Finally, in the third scenario, redistribution is guided based on the principle of opportunity cost of time, where those with higher wages (higher opportunity cost of time) are assigned less household production time.

For all scenarios, we only consider the redistribution of required household production activities R_j net of the portion met by other household members. Thus, the goal of the different scenarios is to simulate different α_{ij} values, which represent the share of required household production time that each household member takes on. We also impose the assumption that all household members are equally efficient at taking care of the household responsibilities. We outline the methods used for

implementing the scenarios below.

4.1 Scenario 1: Equal Shares

The first scenario considers the impact of redistributing household production such that all working-age members of the household are assigned an equal share of the required household production time. The new share is defined as:

$$\alpha_{ij}^E = \frac{1}{I_j} * (1 - \alpha_j^{nw}) \quad (4)$$

where α_{ij}^E represents the redistributed share of individual i ; I_j is the number of working-age persons in household j and α_j^{nw} represents the total share of all non-working age household members. While this principle aligns with the idea of equality, it overlooks time equity, by redistribution tasks without taking into consideration the time available of individuals.

4.2 Scenario 2: Time Available

The time available scenario is based on the principles of equity. In contrast with Scenario 1, this one suggests that household responsibilities could be redistributed relative to the available time individuals may have after setting aside the time for personal maintenance requirements and income generation ($Z_{ij} = 168 - M - D_{ij}(L_{ij} + T_{ij})$).

To implement this first we calculate the time available (Z_{ij}) for each individual, and recalculate the shares α_{ij}^A , using the ratio of time available to the total time available among working-age members. For individuals that do not have any time available ($Z_{ij} < 0$), we set their Z_{ij} to zero. This ensures that people who already suffer from time poverty are not assigned further tasks within the household. The new share is defined as:

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{ij} &= \max \left(168 - M - D_{ij}(L_{ij} + T_{ij}), 0 \right) \\ \alpha_{ij}^A &= \frac{Z_{ij}}{\sum Z_{ij}} (1 - \alpha_j^{nw}) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

4.3 Scenario 3: Opportunity Cost

The third possibility is based on the idea of opportunity costs along marginalist lines. The sharing rule depends on the earning potentials of individuals, such that individuals with higher potential wages are assigned a lower share of household production time. In principle, this would encourage the most productive members of the household to spend more time in paid work, while those with lower earning potentials would take on more household production responsibilities.

For example, if there are only two working-age adults, say husband and wife, and if the husband's potential hourly wage is twice as much as the wife, the wife would have to do twice as much work

as the husband.

$$\alpha_{ij}^O = \frac{1}{I_j - 1} * \left(1 - \frac{w_{ij}}{\sum w_{ij}}\right) (1 - \alpha_j^{nw})$$

Alternative:

$$rw_{ij} = \frac{\max(w_{ij})}{w_{ij}}$$

$$\alpha_{ij}^O = \frac{rw_{ij}}{\sum rw_{ij}} (1 - \alpha_j^{nw})$$

Because we do not have wage data for non-working household members, we use the potential/predicted wages for all working-age household members. To do this, we use a two-step procedure. First, we predict occupation and industry probabilities for all non-working individuals using a multinomial logit model. Second, we estimate a maximum likelihood Heckman selection model (Heckman, 1979) using the observed and predicted probabilities of belonging to specific occupations and industries, in addition to individual, household and spouse demographic characteristics. With this information, we predict wages based on the model that corrects for sample selection (see (`wp_qmatch?`) for details).

5 Results

As described in the previous section, we consider three scenarios to analyze the impact that redistribution could have on time poverty, focusing on individuals living in time poor households with at least two working-age members. In this section, we present the results of the redistribution scenarios and discuss the implications for time poverty and the incidence of hidden poor. Specifically, we analyze how effective are the redistribution scenarios in helping time poor individuals exit time poverty, as well as to what extent non-time poor individuals are affected by the redistribution scenarios, falling into time poverty. We refer to both of these as transition rates (into and out of time poverty). Since most of the results across time are similar, we focus on providing results that average the impacts of redistribution across all years.

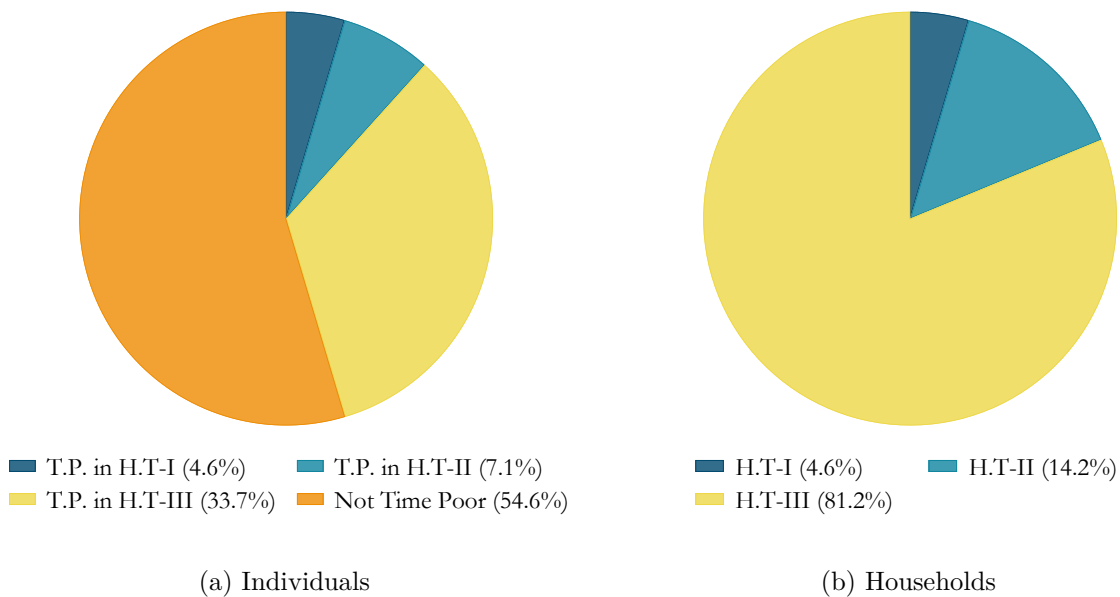
5.1 Redistribution Scenarios and Time Poverty: General Results

Figure 3 provides the distribution of individuals, and their households by type. Figure 3a shows that 54.6% individuals live in time poor households are not time poor themselves. These are the individuals that could help lift other household members out of time poverty, by taking on more household responsibilities.

From the rest, 4.6% live in households where everyone is time poor (HH Type I), 7.1% live in households with at least one not-time-poor individual, but with insufficient time surplus to lift the

household out of time poverty (HH type II), and 33.7% live in households where there is enough time surplus to lift every household member out of poverty (HH type III). It is important to note, that only in household type III, redistribution could be helpful in lifting the entire household out of poverty.

In terms of household structure, Figure 3b shows 81.2% of the households could exit from time poverty, but the remaining 18.8% cannot do so, even if all working-age members were to take on more household responsibilities. This is because total household surplus is insufficient to overcome total household deficit. Nevertheless, it may be possible to reduce the time deficits of some individuals in household type II by reducing the time surplus of other members.



Note: H.Type I : All working age members are time poor, H.Type II: There are Non-time poor individuals Living in the HH, but time surplus is insufficient to Lift HH out of Time poverty, H.Type III: There is enough time surplus to lift HH out of time poverty.

Figure 3: Distribution of individuals by type

To understand the impact of redistribution simulation on these different types of household categories, across the three different scenarios, we will focus on transition rates (i.e the share of individuals who can exit or enter time poverty as a result of redistribution simulation). We will focus on individual experiences first. For individuals who are currently not time poor, the statistic of interest would be the share of individuals that fall into time poverty, whereas for time poor individuals, we will consider their poverty exit rate.

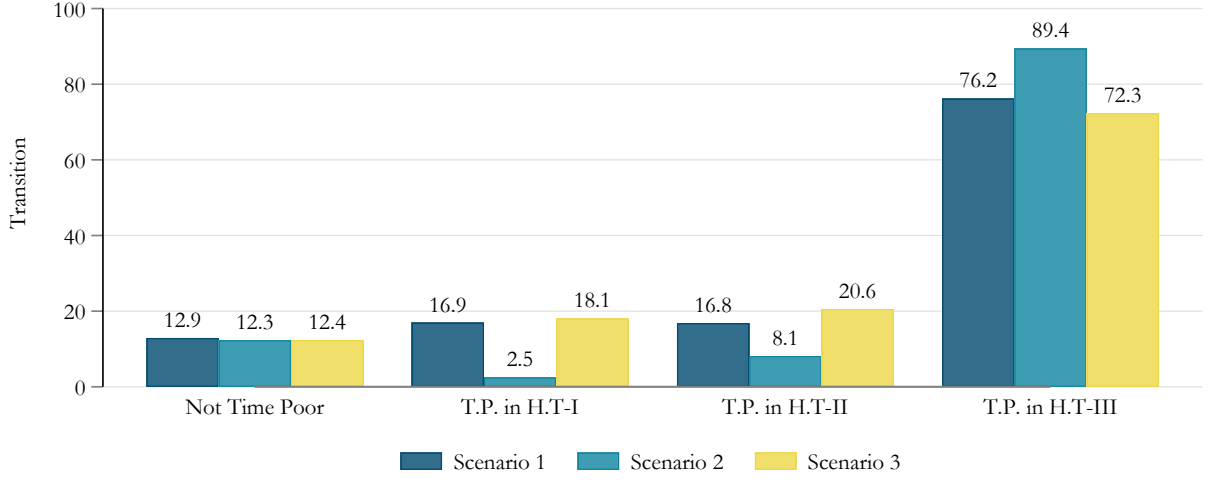


Figure 4: Transition rates by Redistribution Scenario

As observed in Figure 4, because all the redistribution scenarios are designed to redistribute household production responsibilities, without avoiding putting some individuals in time poverty, we observe that 12.3-12.9% of non time poor individuals will fall into time poverty across scenarios. While these probabilities are considerably similar across scenarios, it may not be the case that the same individuals are affected (see Figure 7 and Figure 8).

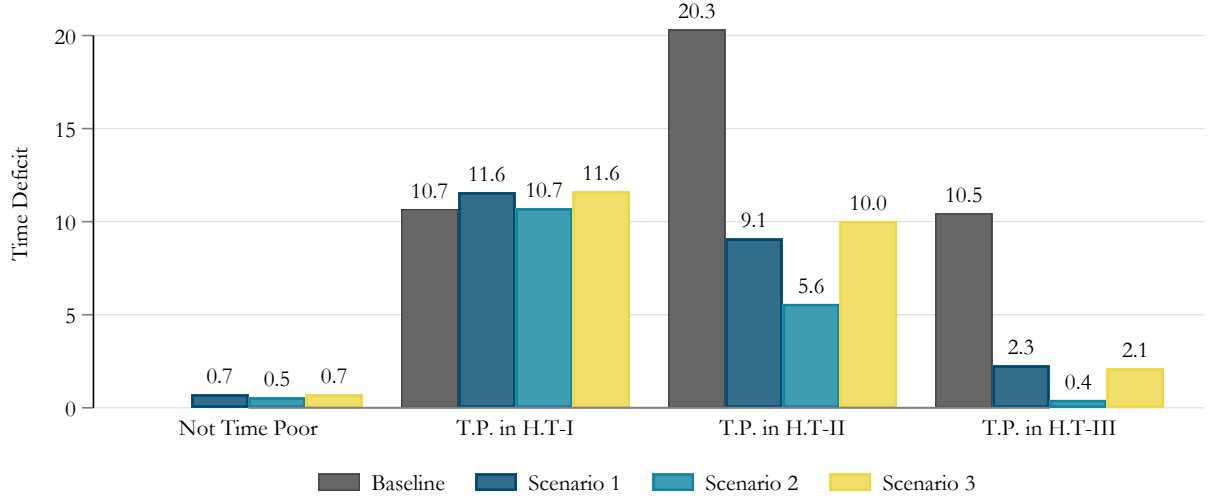
For the rest of the household categories, we observe that there is substantially more heterogeneity on the impact of time poverty across the different scenarios. For individuals in households where all members are time poor, the equal share and opportunity cost scenarios suggest that up to 17%-18% of individuals could exist time poverty, with the lowest exit rate (2.5%) under Scenario 2 (time availability scenario). The transition rates slightly increase in the second category of households with similar trend across scenarios.

Further, we observe that the transition rates are highest among HH type III, and within these type of households, in Scenario 2 compared to scenarios 1 and 3. This implies that in case where household's aggregate time surplus exceeds household's aggregate time deficits, equity-based principle of redistribution would allow for the highest rate of exiting poverty. The same principle maintains much lower transition rates in the other two household types where any decline in an individual's time deficit could result in pushing other individuals further into time poverty. Therefore, a lower share of individuals end up exiting poverty.

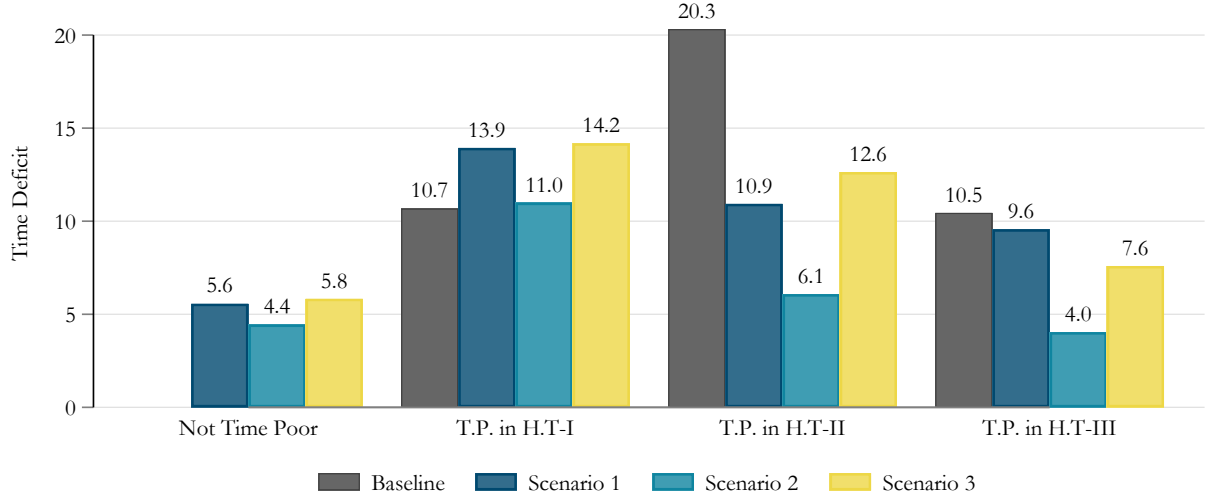
In sum, redistribution can be most effective in terms of helping people exit poverty, among household type III, with the highest exit rates in Scenario 2 followed by scenarios 1 and 3. On the other hand, opportunity cost principle (Scenario 3) can allow more people exit poverty in household types 1 and 2.

In terms of time deficits, as shown in Figure 5a, the average time deficits (in hours per week) that non-time poor individuals face is quite small, just around 0.7 hours. However, those who become time poor (non-zero time deficit), their time deficits increase in the range of 4.4-5.8 hours (see Figure 5b). Interestingly, for this subgroup, the Time availability Scenario (Scenario 2) has the lowest (negative) impact in moving non-time poor people enter time poverty by increasing their time deficits.

While such a case may suggest an improvement on the quality of life of some individuals, the redistribution scenarios also have implications in terms of time deficits other household members face. As shown in Figure 5a, average time deficit increase in roughly 1 hour for scenarios 1 and 3. However, as shown in Figure 5b, the time deficit for those who remain time poor increase in just over 3hrs. In general, while the availability scenario has smallest impact on transition rates, it also has the smallest impact in terms of time deficits, for those who remain time poor. !! AS to check again not clear!!



(a) Average Time Deficits



(b) Average Time Deficits (Excluding Zeros)

Figure 5: Time Deficits across Scenarios

The next group of interest are those individual living in households that cannot exit time poverty, but could reduce time deficits for some of their members (Household Type II). Interestingly, the poverty exit rates for these individuals are ver similar as for the previous group, with the time availability scenario having the lowest impact at 8.1%. In contrast, when we pay attention to the time deficits, its the equal share scenario that has the largest impact on time deficit.

At baseline, individuals in this group had in average a time deficit of 20hrs per week. Under Scenarios 1 and 3, the average deficit reduces to 9hrs and 10hrs respectively. However, under Scenario 2, it reduces to only 5.6hrs a week. While the time availability scenario is not as effective

in reducing time poverty, it may appear it is the most fair, as it redistributes both the gains and losses of time allocation more equally across household members.

The last group of interest are those individuals living in households where redistribution could lift all members out of time poverty. In this case, all redistribution scenarios do an excellent job at reducing time poverty, with exit rates of 72-89%. In contrast with the two previous cases, the time availability scenario has the largest impact reducing time poverty, with an exit rate of 89%. In terms of time deficits, given the success the redistribution scenarios have in reducing time poverty, the average time deficits is reduced to 0.4-2.3hrs per week. However, for those who remain time poor, the impacts in terms of time deficits are much smaller, with scenario 2 still representing the most efficient, reducing the deficit to just 4hrs per week.

As it would be expected, this reduction in individual time poverty also has an impact at the household. While non of the households Type I or II are able exit time poverty, as shown in Figure 6, between 65-87% of households Type III are able to exit time poverty, with Scenario 2 being the best at reducing time poverty.

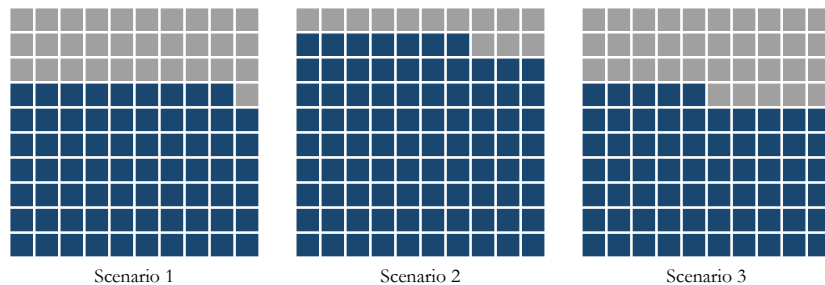


Figure 6: Transition probabilities for households

5.2 Redistribution Scenarios and Time Poverty: Heterogeneity

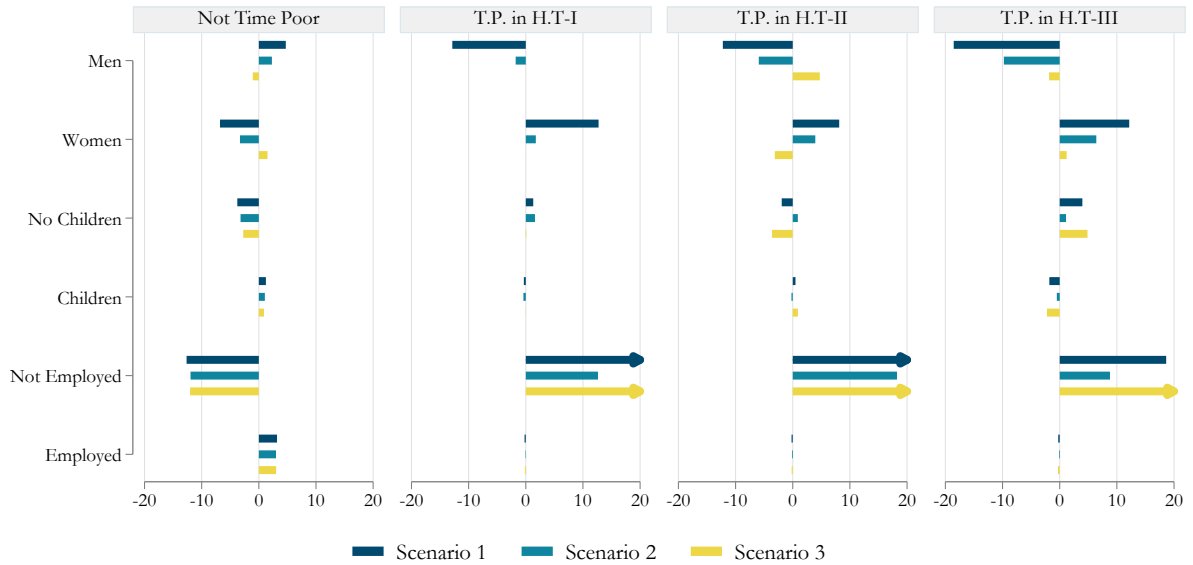
As suggested earlier, not all individuals were affected in the same way by the redistribution scenarios. For example, groups who are traditionally more vulnerable to time poverty, are also the most likely to benefit from intra household redistribution of responsibilities. To explore this further, in this section we present how the poverty transition rates varies across different groups of individuals. Figure 7 and Figure 8 present the difference between the group specific transition rate compares to the overall transition rate.

Under Scenarios 1 and 2, men have a higher probability of falling into time poverty compared to women, with a lower probability of exiting time poverty. This is particularly pronounced among individuals living in type-III households. Interestingly, Scenario 3, which is based on opportunity costs, shows the opposite pattern. Although we have shown that all scenarios help reduce time poverty, the opportunity cost scenario seem to attenuate the effect by perpetuating the gender roles

tied to earning potentials.

A second characteristics that tends to drive differences in time poverty is related to the presence of Children. In our results, however, their presence has mixed impact on transition rates. Under all scenarios, not time poor individuals living in households with children are more likely to fall into time poverty. However having children also increases the chances of exiting time poverty in Household Type II, while reducing it in Household Type III. The time availability scenario is the only case where the results are consistent across all household types, with children increasing the probability of falling into time poverty, but decreasing the probability of exiting time poverty.

The last group of interest considered in Figure 7 is based on employment status. Since time poverty is closely related to the time spent on paid work, we should emphasize that the share of time poor individuals among the not employed is much smaller compared to the employed. Because of this, the unemployed have an almost 0% probability of falling into time poverty, and those who are time poor, are far more likely to exit time poverty. Among the employed, while they are somewhat more likely to fall into time poverty than average, there are almost no significant differences in any other scenario.



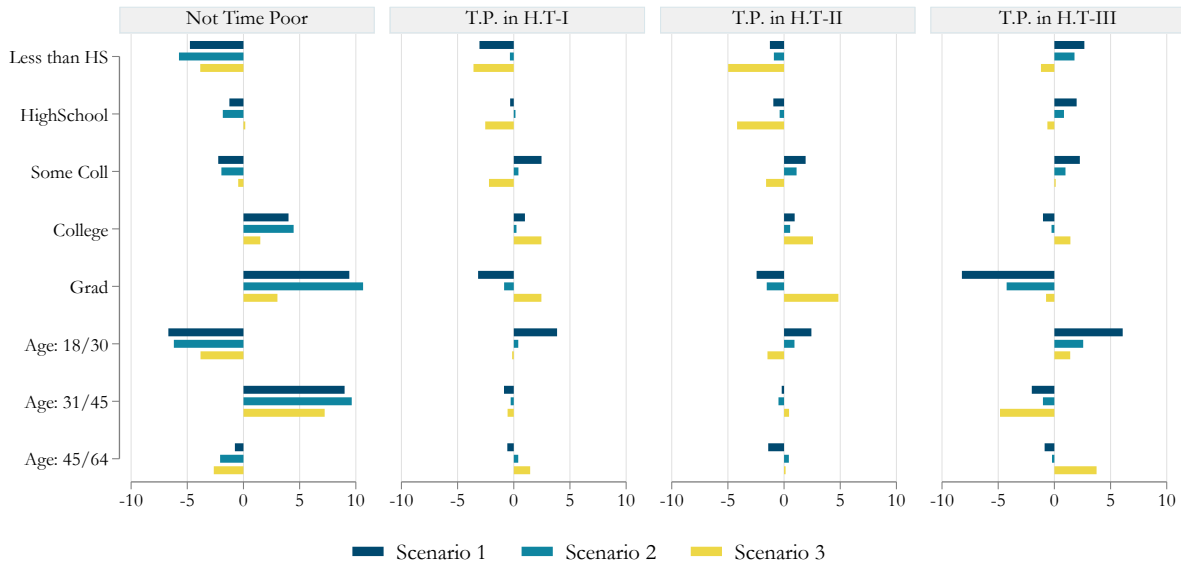
Note: The figure presents the difference between the group specific transition rate and the overall transition rate.

Figure 7: Transition probabilities Heterogeneity: Gender, Employment Status and Children Presence

In terms of education and age (see Figure 8) the patterns are less clear. Among non time poor individuals, those with higher levels of education seem to be the most likely to fall into time poverty. This pattern is observed for all scenarios, with but with a smaller impact under the opportunity cost scenario.

For time poor individuals, the patterns are less clear. When redistribution is driven by opportunity cost, higher levels of education increase the probability of exiting time poverty. However, the magnitude of the differences is small for type III households. For Scenarios 1 and 2, we can only observe some patterns for individuals living in type III households, where higher education reduce, rather than increase, the probability of exiting time poverty.

Finally, in terms of age, both the youngest and oldest individuals are less likely to fall into poverty, while also being the more likely to exit time poverty. This patterns may be a reflection that individuals in the age group 30-45 are most likely to be in the labor market, and thus are less flexible in terms of time allocation, and thus are less likely to be affected by the redistribution scenarios.



Note: The figure presents the difference between the group specific transition rate and the overall transition rate.

Figure 8: Transition probabilities Heterogeneity: Education and Age

5.3 Changes in LIMTIP: The hidden poor

While the discussion above provides a detailed picture of the potential impact that redistribution could have on time poverty, it is equally important to understand changes in terms of Adjusted LIMTIP estimates.

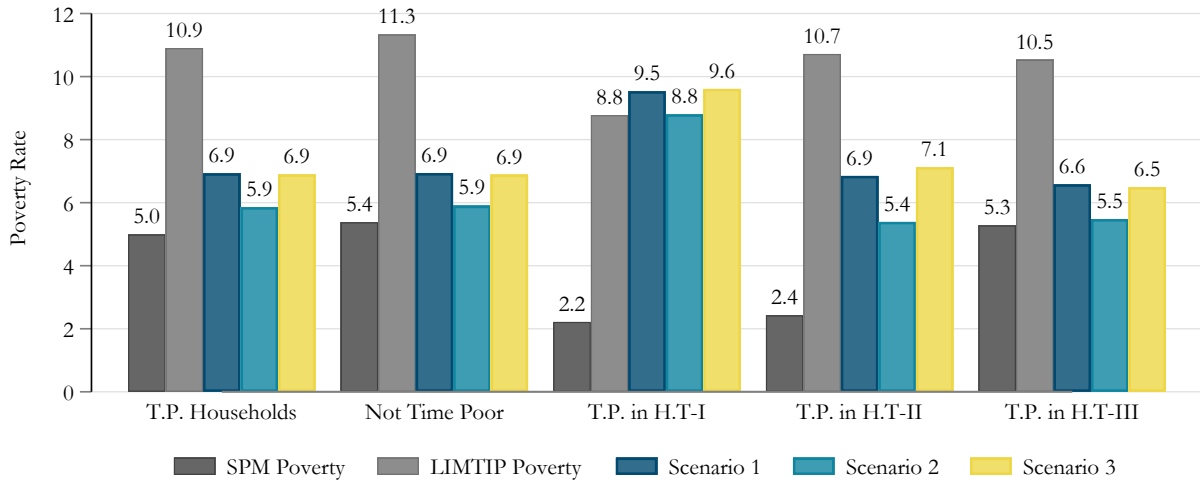


Figure 9: Changes in LIMTIP estimates across redistribution scenarios

In Figure 9 we present the poverty rates across the different redistribution scenarios, for the sample of households that we identify to be time poor. The first thing to consider here is that the incidence of official poverty and LIMTIP poverty in the sample is lower than the one observed in the general population (Figure 1). This is expected, since our sample of interest is restricted to time poor households, who are more likely to have members working, and hence less likely to be income poor.

Even in this sample we observe a large difference between the official poverty estimates and the LIMTIP estimates. While the official poverty estimates are around 5%, the LIMTIP estimates poverty to be closer to 11%, showing that 6% of the individuals in the sample are hidden poor. Given the success of the redistribution scenarios in reducing time poverty, we observe that the LIMTIP estimates are also reduced, with the time availability scenario showing the largest reduction in poverty rates, practically eliminating the incidence of hidden poor in the sample.

However, a detailed look across individuals suggests that such large improvements are not uniform across all groups. In households where all individuals are time poor, the redistribution scenarios worsen the poverty rates, albeit the impact is small. This happens because the aggregated time deficit of the household increases as some individuals who exit time poverty status. For households with some potential to reduce aggregated time deficits (H.Type II), we observe that the share of the hidden poor is greatly reduced from 8% to 3 to 5%.

6 Policy implications

Intra-household redistribution of household production could serve as an effective tool to reduce some individuals' time deficits and bring them out of time poverty. In addition, such redistributions could have well-being effects for the household as a whole in terms of more equitable sharing of

household production and even lifting households out of poverty

However, redistribution policy intervention to address time poverty would depend on household type, which would determine if only some individuals could exit time poverty or if there is enough time surplus to absorb time deficits, lifting the entire households out of poverty. Redistribution policy may not be effective in a household where everyone is time poor, infact it may end up increasing their LIMTIP poverty if nothing else. At best, it could allow for redistributing household production in a more equitable manner, however will not be able to bring households out of poverty. In such a case, the extent of time deficit experienced by individuals becomes important. Therefore, redistribution policies need to be tailored by type of household.

In this policy brief we segregated individuals by household type and presented how redistribution would play differently across these groups. Further, we assessed the impact across three different redistribution scenarios for household type. We find that all three redistribution principles significantly allow people to exit poverty, partiucularly in the type of households where the aggregate time surplus is greater than aggregate time deficits. We observed that the equity-based redistribution scenario serve as the most effective principle in lifting people out of poverty and in reducing poverty rate. !!add more on comparing the scenarios!!

Further, as the objective of estimating LIMTIP among other things is to make the hidden poor visible, the redistribution strategies proposed in this brief can potentially help solve the problem of hidden poor by reducing their time deficits and their time-adjusted poverty. The hidden poor are invisible in the offial poverty estimates, hence do not benefit from poverty welfare programs. Redistribution policy can help reduce the incidence of poverty for this group. We find that in all the redistribution scenarios the number of hidden poor declined and infact in the equity-based scenario, to a lage extent the hidden poor were eliminated.

While, examining redistribution among all working-age (18-64 years) members have merit in providing an overview of the potential of redistribution, it may end up redistributing household prodution time to youth or school/college going students as well as to those who are older (close to 64 years). Redistributing to these subgroups, may not be the most ideal situtaion as it could interrupt with human capacity building by disrupting individuals' education and health outcomes. Moreover, from an efficieny point of of view, these subgroups may be less efficient compared to other adults in the household. In this regard, our analysis opens door for further examining redistribution between men and women and focussing it on specific age-groups and even the intersection of the two. Such targeted redistribution policies would allow moving closer to achieving gender-equitable distribution of unpaid work

While intra-household reditribution is crucial, the role of redistributing some of the components of housheold production, particulary unpaid care work to the public sector cannot be overlooked. The role of the public sector needs to expand in terms of supporting some of the social reproduction needs of the household, to balance individuals' time constraints, particulalry for those in income poor households.

A time-adjusted measure of poverty is an effort to provide evidence on the crucial aspects of time poverty and a push towards devising public policies to address constraints associated with time resources in addition to income resources.

!!BTW who will enforce redistribution policy??!!

7 Conclusion

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