Assignment 1

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One parameter in the census data that I believe is important in the Indian demographic study is the number of women whose main job is household work. Women have mostly been involved in labor-intensive, informal, and home-based work. They perform various tasks such as cooking, washing, cleaning, and taking care of the elderly and the children. The labor they contribute involves not only material ones but also emotional labor such as intimacy, holding the family together. Even though Indian women's education has risen, women's labor force participation rate (LFPR) has fallen. Around three out of four Indian women are neither working nor seeking paid work, due to which India is among the bottom ten countries in the world in terms of women's workforce participation.

The socio-cultural factors (mainly patriarchy) do not facilitate the entry of women into the workforce. Most of the domestic and care work falls to women, and most of this work is unpaid. Women are required to stay at home and do work that has no economic value or social respect. This prevents them from doing work with monetary value. Due to the prevalent patriarchy, many women might have developed biases and mindsets that motherhood is the primary responsibility of a woman, hence remaining at home. It is often noticed that when female members withdraw from work, their families take pride in it since this indicates that the males in the family are earning enough to provide a life of comfort for the family.

Indian women with moderate levels of education might have the chance to marry into wealthier families, so they don't need to engage in paid work to support the family. This explains the reason for a low LPFR, even among educated women. Most educated women are mainly valued for their ability to school the children and other domestic tasks that require one to be literate. This ideology has existed in the form of an unspoken social norm for many years, which resulted in most women thinking that this is their responsibility as a member of their family instead of finding work outside their homes. Apart from the various household tasks

discussed previously, many women have outside jobs but also have to work a "second shift" at home, which might make them feel depressed.

According to the 2019 Oxfam report, "Mind the Gap: State of Employment in India," Indian women do a cumulative 16.4 billion hours of unpaid work every day. Studies show that, on average, the women in India spend up to 577% more time than men in household and care work.

Policies are shaped depending on the current GDP of the country. A 2018 McKinsey report says that increasing women's participation at work by 10 percent can increase our GDP by $770 billion. But sadly, most of the previously discussed unpaid labor is not accounted for while calculating the GDP. Hence, adding this data would let India see a more realistic view of the GDP while also empowering women.