



The Secret Tax on Women's Time

隐秘的女性时间税

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571 Words

When studies revealed the **so-called pink tax**, showing in 2015 that personal **hygiene** products “for her” cost 13% more than similar products for men, it caused **outrage** and action. The **irony** that women, despite generally having fewer financial resources than men, are charged more for everyday goods and services even **spurred** French policymakers in 2014 to investigate this “secret tax” targeting women, and U.S. Congress in 2016 to introduce a “Pink Tax **Repeal Act**” prohibiting gender-based pricing discrimination.

2015 年，一项研究揭示了所谓的“粉红税”，它表明女性个人卫生产品的价格比男性同类产品贵 13%，这引起了人们的愤怒，人们开始对此采取行动。具有讽刺意味的是，尽管女性通常比男性拥有更少的经济资源，但她们在日常商品和服务上被收取的费用更高，这甚至促使法国政策制定者在 2014 年对这种针对女性的“秘密税”展开调查，也促使美国国会在 2016 年颁布了“粉红税废除法案”，禁止基于性别的价格歧视。

But, as interviews and studies across the world reveal, there is also an unaddressed pink tax on women's time: A global **epidemic** of women lacking time to conduct the activities of their everyday lives that men simply do not experience. Though a lack of time can be just as important for women's well-being as a lack of financial resources, losses of time often go **overlooked**. To pursue a more gender-equal future, we need to expand the notion of the pink tax to consider time as another vital resource in which women face inequalities.

但是，正如世界各地的采访和研究所揭示的那样，女性在时间方面还有一个尚未解决的粉红税：全球女性普遍缺乏时间来从事日常活动，而男

so-called *adj.* 所谓的 | They've found the flight recorder, the so-called black box. 他们发现了飞行记录器，即所谓的黑匣子。

◇ 背景知识

pink tax

粉红税，指某些产品在功能上相同或相似，但针对不同性别消费者的价格不同，一般来说，女性的支出更高。同样的材质、做工，甚至一模一样的商品，只要换成女性大概率会喜欢的粉色等颜色，再打上女性“专属”等标签，利润立马提升。这种生活中潜在的消费陷阱，被称为“粉红税”。

hygiene [ˈhaɪdʒiːn] *n.* 卫生 | Be extra careful about personal hygiene. 要非常注意个人卫生。

outrage [ˈaʊtreɪdʒ] *n.* 愤怒，愤慨；暴行 *v.* 使震怒，激怒 | Environmentalists have expressed outrage at the ruling. 环境保护主义者对这一裁决表示愤慨。

irony [ˈaɪrəni] *n.* 有讽刺意味的情况；反话，讥讽 | The irony is that when he finally got the job, he discovered he didn't like it. 讽刺的是，当他最终得到那份工作时，他发现自己并不喜欢它。

spur [spɜːr] *v.* 促使，刺激 | The

性根本没有经历过这种情况。尽管对于女性的幸福来说，缺乏时间和缺乏经济资源会造成同样的影响，但时间的损失往往会被忽视。为了追求一个更加性别平等的未来，我们需要扩大粉红税的概念，将时间视为女性面临不平等的另一个重要来源。

Women have less objective time than men: more things to do and fewer minutes in which to do them. Men have on average 5 hours more of leisure time per week than women—**equivalent to** 260 hours, or 10.8 full 24-hour days, each year. Why is there this time inequality?

女性拥有的客观时间比男性少：要做的事情多，做事的时间少。男性平均每周的休闲时间比女性多 5 个小时，相当于每年多 260 个小时，也就是 10.8 天。为什么会有这种时间不平等的情况？

At home, childcare and **chores devour** women's time. At work, women—even those who have the security of steady employment—face further unequal time demands. Women are more often asked and expected to take on “office housework”: necessary but non-promotable tasks such as taking notes, helping new hires get up to speed, bringing in cake for colleagues, or getting coffees for the office. Women are also less likely to **delegate** tasks to other employees than men, in part because they feel more guilt about **potentially** burdening their employees.

在家里，照顾孩子和做家务占据了女性的时间。在工作中，女性——即使是那些有稳定工作保障的女性——也面临着更多不平等的时间需求。女性更多地被要求和期望承担“办公室家务”：必要但不利于晋升的任务，如记笔记、帮助新员工跟上工作节奏、为同事带蛋糕或为办公室端咖啡。与男性相比，女性也不太可能将任务分派给其他员工，部分原因是她们对可能给员工带来负担感到更内疚。

How can we repeal the pink tax on time? First, we can address the objective pink tax with strategies to give women more free time overall.

我们怎样才能废除粉红时间税呢？首先，我们可以采取策略给女性更多
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agreement is essential to spurring economic growth around the world. 这项协议对于促进世界经济的增长是至关重要的。

repeal [riˈpi:l] v. 废除，撤消（法令） | The unjust law was finally repealed. 不合理的法律终于废除。

epidemic [ˌepɪˈdemɪk] n. （坏事的）盛行，泛滥；（疾病的）流行，传播 | Britain is suffering an epidemic of petty crime. 目前英国轻微罪案频发。

overlook [ˌoʊvərˈlʊk] v. 忽略，未注意到；视而不见 | He seems to have overlooked one important fact. 他好像忽略了一个重要的事实。

equivalent to 等于，相当于 | Eight kilometres is roughly equivalent to five miles. 八公里约等于五英里。

chore [tʃɔːr] n. 家务活，日常琐事 | We share the domestic chores. 我们分担家务。

devour [diˈvaʊər] v. 吞没，毁灭；虎吞狼咽地吃，吞食 | Her body had been almost entirely devoured by the disease. 她的身体几乎完全被疾病摧毁。

delegate [ˈdelɪɡeɪt] v. （把）（工作、职责或责任）委托，授权；选派 | Because Henry hated to delegate, he was always overworked. 由于亨利不喜欢授权下属办事，所以他自己总是劳累过度。

potentially [pəˈtenʃəli] adv. 可能地，潜在地 | The conflict is a

自由时间来解决客观存在的粉红税。

Time-saving **incentives** are one solution: Giving women money or **vouchers** to pay someone else to complete daily tasks that **erode** their free time—cooking, shopping, laundry, bringing children to school—or to shorten the time spent on tasks, like providing money to take a taxi instead of a bus. Buying time in this way **buffers** people from time-related stress. **Likewise**, time-saving services, such as on-site, backup childcare, or prepared **takeaway** meals can reduce time burdens. Research suggests that time-saving services buffer both higher and lower-income working women from time-related stress.

一种解决方案是提供节省时间的激励措施：给女性钱或代金券，让她们付钱给别人来完成耗费她们空闲时间的日常任务——做饭、购物、洗衣、送孩子上学——或者缩短花在各项目上的时间，比如提供钱让她们可以乘坐出租车而不是公交车。以这种方式购买时间可以缓解人们与时间相关的压力。同样，节省时间的服务，如现场服务、辅助育儿或准备好的外卖餐，可以减少时间负担。研究表明，节省时间的服务对高收入和低收入职业女性的时间压力都有所缓解。

Given that buying time is a **luxury** that few can afford, policy innovations are needed—and could be particularly impactful if they could be expanded and adapted to reach those with the lowest incomes around the globe. Time-saving policies should fit to the local context and tested for effectiveness. For example, in **field research** in Kibera, Kenya, women in informal **settlements** reported that meal and laundry services would be most helpful in saving time. The research team then worked with a local community center to study the effects of offering these time-saving services, finding that they reduced women's **perceived** burden of unpaid labor by 7% and resulted in a 5% increase in well-being over the course of the study.

考虑到购买时间是一种很少有人能负担得起的奢侈品，政策创新是很有必要的——如果这些政策创新能够扩大并适用于全球收入最低的人群，
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potentially serious situation. 这次冲突是一个潜在的严重问题。

incentive [ɪn'sentɪv] *n.* 激励，刺激，鼓励 | We want to give people incentives to use public transport. 我们想鼓励民众使用公共交通工具。

voucher ['vaʊtʃər] *n.* 代金券，票券 | The voucher can be used at most major supermarkets. 这种购物券可以在大多数大型超市使用。

erode [ɪ'rəʊd] *v.* 减少，削弱，损害；侵蚀，风化 | Repeated exam failure had eroded her confidence. 考试屡屡不及格削弱了她的自信心。

buffer ['bʌfər] *v.* 减少，减缓（伤害）*n.* 缓冲物，起缓冲作用的人 | Consumer spending is buffering the effects of the recession. 消费支出正在缓解经济衰退造成的影响。

likewise ['laɪkwaɪz] *adv.* 同样地，类似地 | The character of the lake has changed and the character of the surrounding area likewise. 湖的特色变了，湖周围的环境也跟着变样了。

takeaway ['teɪkəweɪ] *n.* 外卖食物，外卖餐馆 | Let's get a takeaway. 我们叫外卖吧。

luxury ['lʌksəri] *n.* 不常有的乐趣，难得的享受；奢侈品；奢华 | Hot baths are my favourite luxury. 泡个热水澡是我的最大乐事。

field research 实地调查，田野调查

它们可能会特别有影响力。节省时间的策略应该适合当地环境，并经过有效性测试。例如，在肯尼亚基贝拉的实地调查中，居住在非正式定居点的妇女报告说，提供餐饮和洗衣服务对节省时间最有帮助。研究团队随后与当地社区中心合作，研究提供这些节省时间的服务的效果，发现它们将女性感受到的无偿劳动负担减少了 7%，并且在研究过程中她们的幸福感提高了 5%。

Until we act, women will continue to pay the pink tax on time: doing more chores and childcare, more administrative and non-promotable tasks, worrying more about time, and falling further into exhaustion and **burnout**.

如果我们不采取行动，女性还要继续被困在粉红时间税里：做更多家务和照顾孩子，做更多行政性和不利晋升的任务，更担心时间，陷入更深的疲惫中。

settlement ['setlmənt] *n.* 定居点，聚居地；协议；解决 | The railway stations created new settlements. 这些火车站催生了新的定居点。

perceive [pə'si:v] *v.* 意识到，察觉到；看待，理解 | I perceived a change in his behaviour. 我注意到他举止有些改变。

burnout ['bɜ:naʊt] *n.* 精疲力竭，过度劳累；燃尽，熄灭 | Many of the teachers are suffering from burnout. 许多老师劳累过度。

➤ 脉络梳理

- Para. 1-2 由粉红税引出“粉红时间税”，指出女性面临“时间贫困”的问题
- Para. 3-4 分析女性时间更少的原因
- Para. 5-7 针对如何解决女性粉红时间税提出建议
- Para. 8 总结全文，呼吁采取措施

➤ 长难句拆解

主 语 同位语从句，解释说明 irony 让步状语

The irony that women, despite generally having fewer financial resources than men, are charged more for everyday goods and services

谓语 宾语 1 时间状语 宾补 1

even spurred French policymakers in 2014 to investigate this “secret tax” targeting women,

宾语 2 时间状语 宾补 2 伴随状语

and U.S. Congress in 2016 to introduce a “Pink Tax Repeal Act” prohibiting gender-based pricing discrimination.