

General Report - Chapter 1: Statistical Activities of the ILO



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International Conference of Labour Statisticians
2 - 11 October 2013

Child Labour Statistics

Unpaid household services and child labour



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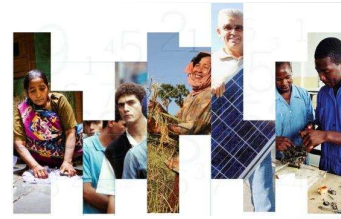
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Background from 18th ICLS



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- Paragraph 13 of the 18th ICLS Resolution on Statistics: *Children in other productive activities* includes children who perform *unpaid household services*, that is, the production of domestic and personal services by a household member for consumption within their own household, commonly called “household chores”.
- Paragraph 63 (ii) of the 18th ICLS Resolution: **‘the ILO should develop guidelines on the treatment of long hours by children in unpaid household services with respect to age and hours thresholds’** and report on the progress to the 19th ICLS.

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Background from 18th ICLS



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- Paragraph 62 of the 18th ICLS Resolution: ‘ILO and its partners should engage in the development of appropriate statistical methodologies for generating reliable estimates of children in the worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work, and special groups such as children living independently or on the streets’
- While paragraph 63 (i) had mentioned that ‘the ILO should give particular attention to the development of concepts and definitions for the worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work’
- The forthcoming ILO publication: **‘Manual on Sampling of Elusive Populations: Applications to studies of child labour’** .

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Task assigned by 18th ICLS



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To develop a globally acceptable standard statistical measurement criteria for identifying and classifying specific types of unpaid household services as child labour, based on the evidence on children's involvement in unpaid household services

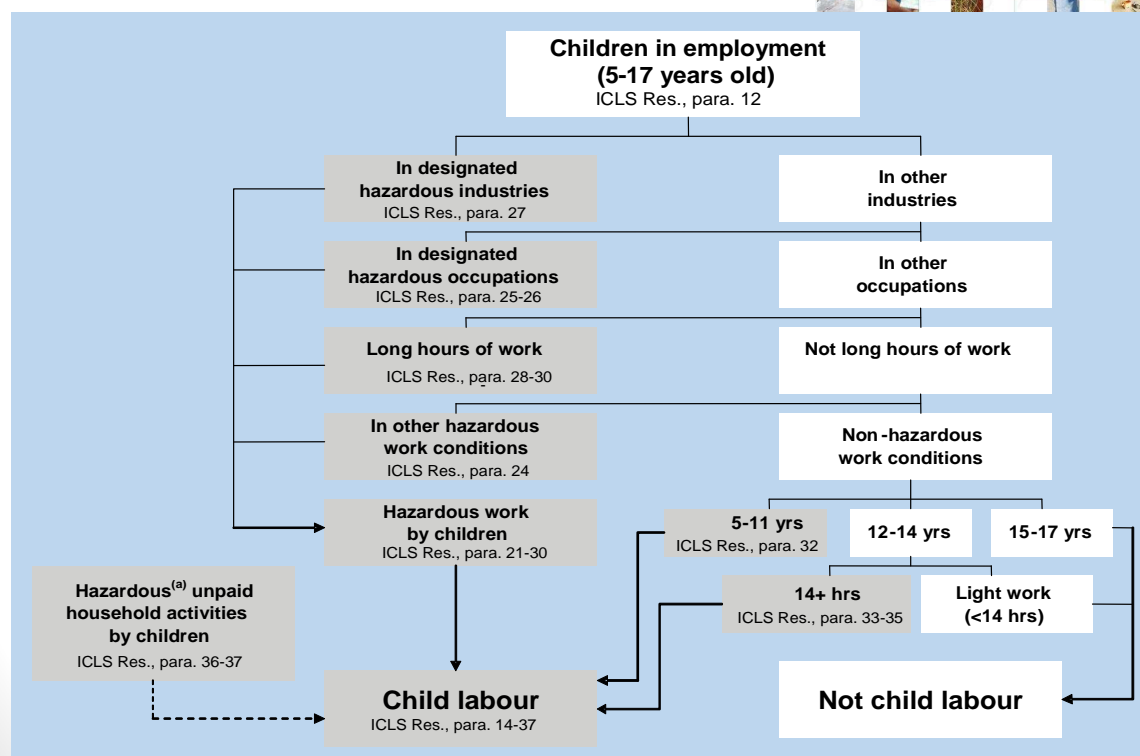
(This report is in compliance of the above task assigned to ILO)

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Child labour measurement framework



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10/10/2013

Characteristics of unpaid household services (UHHSs)



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- **UHHSs refer to the production of domestic and personal services by household members for consumption within their own household**
 - This form of activity lies outside the production of the SNA, i.e., is non-economic in nature
 - In contrast, the performance of household services in a third-party, paid or unpaid, is included within the SNA production boundary
 - Examples: Caring for siblings, sick, infirm, disabled or elderly household members; cleaning and minor household repairs, cooking and serving meals, etc.

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Characteristics of unpaid household services (UHHSs)



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- There are large variations across countries, though in no country is the proportion of children performing household chores lower than 30 per cent
- The involvement of female children in household chores is generally more extensive and more intensive than that of male children
- Excluding household chores from consideration as child labour underestimates girls' involvement in child labour relative to boys

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Hazardous unpaid household services (HUHS)



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Unpaid household services performed

- For long hours
- In an unhealthy environment, involving unsafe equipment or heavy loads
- In dangerous locations, and so on.

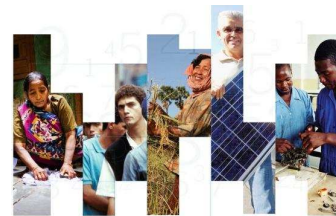
There is no agreed measurement standard regarding thresholds to be used for measurement of child labour. Therefore, this is an area requiring further conceptual and methodological development

Source: *Resolution concerning statistics of child labour, 18th ICLS*

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Unpaid household services and schooling



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School attendance for children performing only UHHSs

- There is no evidence of systematic disadvantage in terms of school attendance for children involved in household chores (19 out of 65 countries)

School attendance rates for children combining household chores with employment and for those only in employment

- Children combining household chores with employment are less likely to be in school than other children in 45 of the 65 countries

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Unpaid household services and schooling



Children's school attendance by the time intensity of their involvement in UHHSs

- Almost all of the 57 countries show a fall in school attendance moving from the seven and 14 to 21 and 28 weekly hours thresholds in household chores

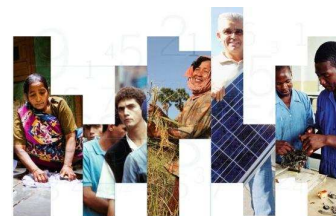
School life expectancy (SLE): total number of years of education that a child can expect to achieve in the future

- Children performing household chores can expect to survive in school for fewer years than other children in a number of countries

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Unpaid household services and health



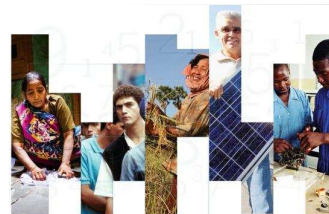
The limited literature on the health impact of children's household chores is inconclusive

- Inconclusive results could be in large part a product of shortcomings in the measurement of the health-chores relationship
- The common measures used for child health, e.g., reported illness/injury and Body Mass Index, do not capture the dynamic nature of the chores-health link
- Current health is affected by both the household chores performed in the present and in the past, and current household chores affect future as well as present health.

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Statistical criteria for classifying unpaid household services as child labour



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Econometric analysis of evidence-based data from 44 countries , 7-14 age group

A linear probability model of school attendance on working hours with a view to determining the extent to which involvement in chores is compatible with education and the existence of time thresholds beyond which involvement in household chores interferes with schooling was developed and its findings were:

- Being engaged in employment decreases the probability of attending school from the first hour of work and the effect becomes increasingly larger with the number of hours worked
- A threshold of 20 weekly hours beyond which household chores have a negative effect on children's school attendance

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Statistical criteria for classifying unpaid household services as child labour



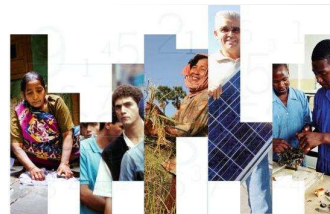
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- The 20 weekly hours threshold provides a useful possible guide in the identification of hazardous unpaid household services for the purposes of child labour measurement
- However, determining the working-hour threshold would be complicated for children performing both household chores and employment, who face tighter time constraints and might therefore be at greater risk of dropping out of the education system
- Some technical issues regarding thresholds of combined employment and unpaid household services need to be settled before full measurement of child labour on the basis of the general production boundary

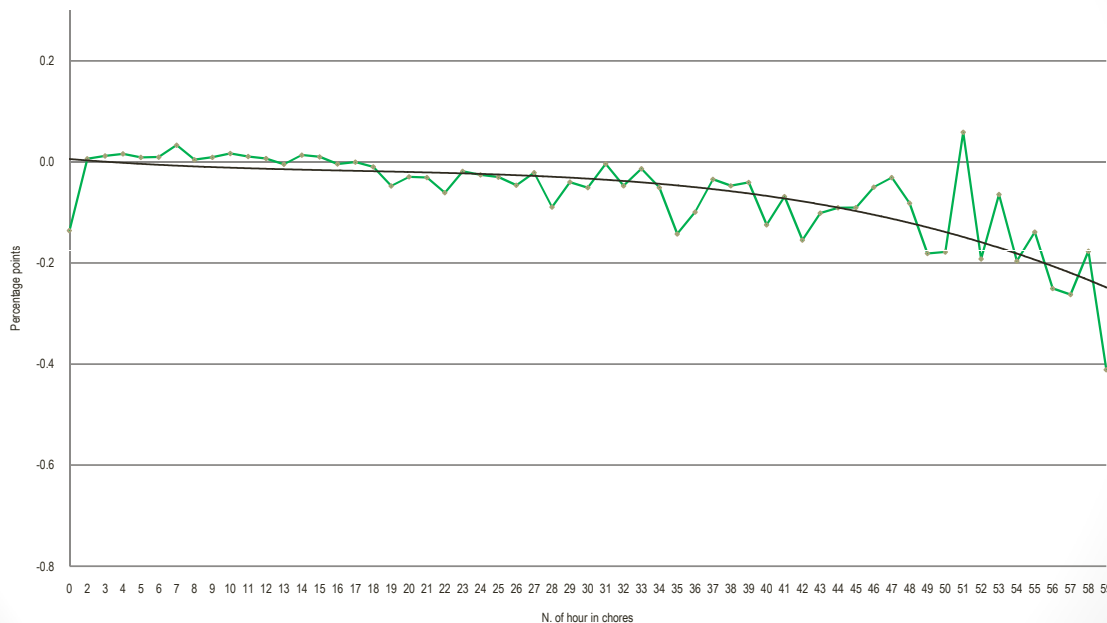
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Average of marginal effects of hours in household chores on the probability of attending school



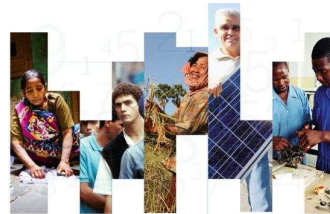
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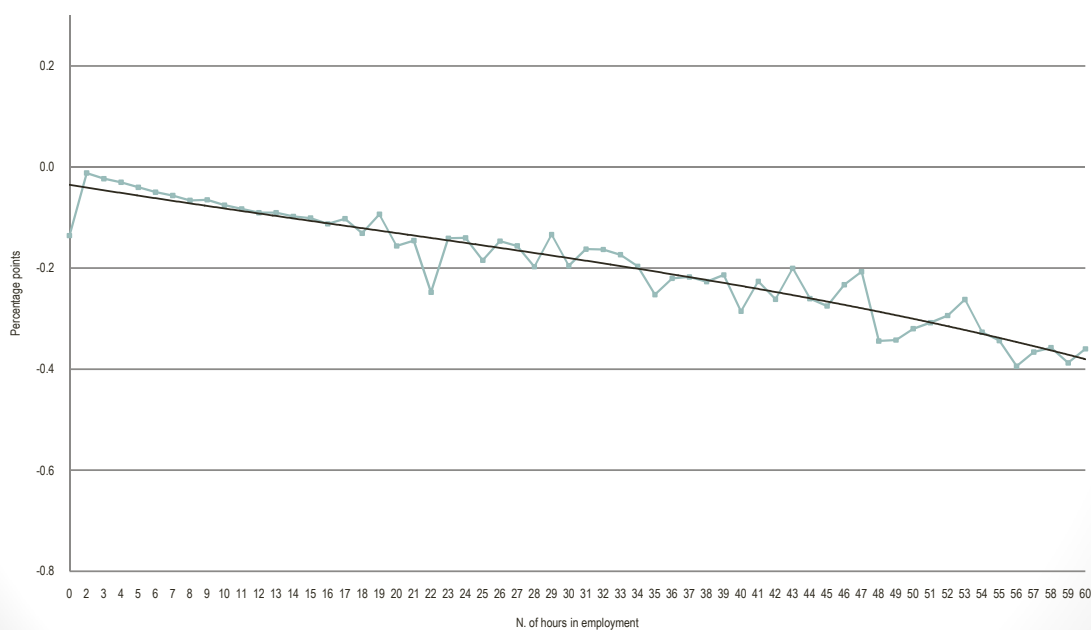
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Average marginal effect of working hours in employment on the probability of attending school



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Statistical criteria for classifying unpaid household services as child labour



Conclusions:

- Further work is required on the collection of statistics on children's activities: there is hardly any information outside the industrialized world on the health implications of the performance of household chores by children
- It is important that in the case of unpaid household services the term "hazardous" be understood as having a broader connotation than simply "hazardous economic activity" or the "hazardous work" in the context of the ILO's Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the WFCL Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

Request to 19th ICLS delegates:

- The ILO secretariat would appreciate the kind advice of delegations on the research in statistical measurement methodology towards greater precision in the measurement of child labour

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