

Do attitudes of men and women about gender equality affect women's economic empowerment?

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Background & Objectives

- Women's economic empowerment is an important pathway for Sustainable Development.
- Yet women, especially in Low and Middle-income Countries often face disempowerment, partly due to gender attitudes.
- Individuals' behaviors are largely determined by Gender attitudes that can be either traditional or egalitarian.
- Previous studies of gender-egalitarian attitudes and women's economic empowerment:
 - Have mixed results
 - Focused primarily on labor market outcomes
 - Seldom examine attitudes in couples
 - Do not adequately address endogeneity concerns

Research Questions:

- 1) What are the attitudes of men and women towards gender equality?
- 2) What is the relationship between men's and women's attitudes towards gender equality and women's time allocation on market and unpaid work?

Data and methodology

- We used data for 870 couples from the 2017/18 Uganda Time Use Survey (TUS).
 - Women's time use in 24hrs
 - Perceptions of gender equality
- Principal component analysis was used to create a composite index for measuring attitudes towards gender equality.
- Instrumental Variable multivariate Tobit model was used for empirical analysis, specified as:

$$y_{ji}^* = \alpha_1 \delta_{1i} + \alpha_2 \delta_{2i} + \beta_{ji} x_i + \varepsilon_j$$

- ✓ y_{ji}^* is the latent variable representing women's time use in market work and unpaid work
- ✓ δ_1 and δ_2 composite gender equality index of i^{th} wife and husband

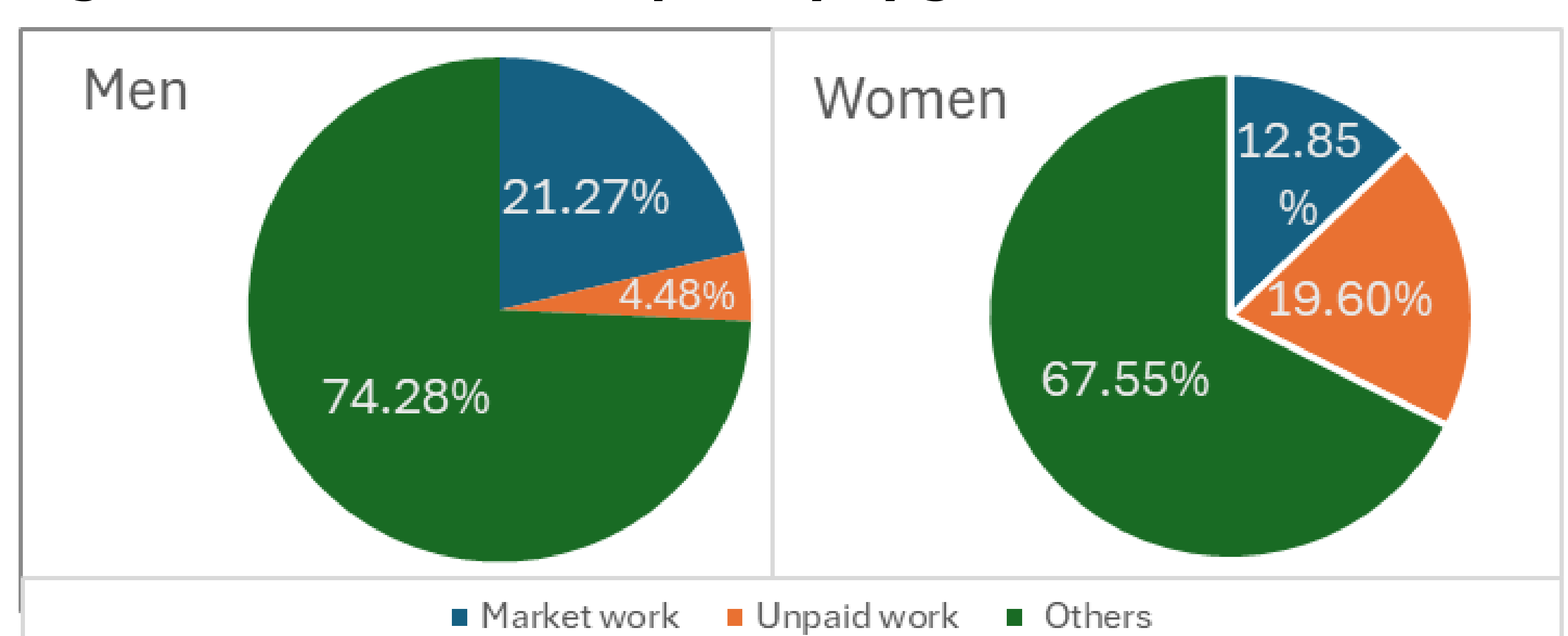
Results

Table 1: Summary statistics of composite gender equality index by gender

	Men (N = 870)	Women (N = 870)
Mean	-0.061	0.061
SD	2.369	2.036
Minimum	-3.33	-3.33
Maximum	3.437	3.437
Difference	-0.122	

The average composite attitude index is small for both men and women, indicating a low attitude towards gender equality.

Figure 1: Time allocation per day by gender



- Men spend more time in market work than women, whereas women spend more time in domestic work than men.

Table 2: IV Multivariate Tobit model estimates

Variables	Wife's Market work time	Wife's Unpaid work time
Husband's egalitarian gender attitudes	0.019*	-0.010*
Wife's egalitarian gender attitude	0.025***	-0.012***
Wife's education level – primary	0.001	-0.001
Wife's education level – secondary	0.063**	-0.032**
Wife's education level – tertiary	0.107***	-0.054***
Wife's age	0.009***	-0.005***
Wife's age squared	-0.000**	0.000**
Husband's education level – primary	-0.014	0.007
Husband's education level – secondary	0.026	-0.013
Husband's level - tertiary	0.029	-0.014
Husband's age	-0.003	0.001
Husband's age squared	0.000	-0.000
Dependency ratio	-0.119***	0.060***
Region dummies	YES	YES
Women's time on other activities	YES	YES
N	855	855
ρ_{12}	-5.467***	
Likelihood ratio test of ρ (chi2)	9347.70***	

*** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Conclusions

- Men and women have low attitudes towards gender equality
- Increased levels of gender egalitarianism lead to more market work time and less unpaid work time for women.
- Awareness on gender egalitarianism could improve women's economic empowerment.

