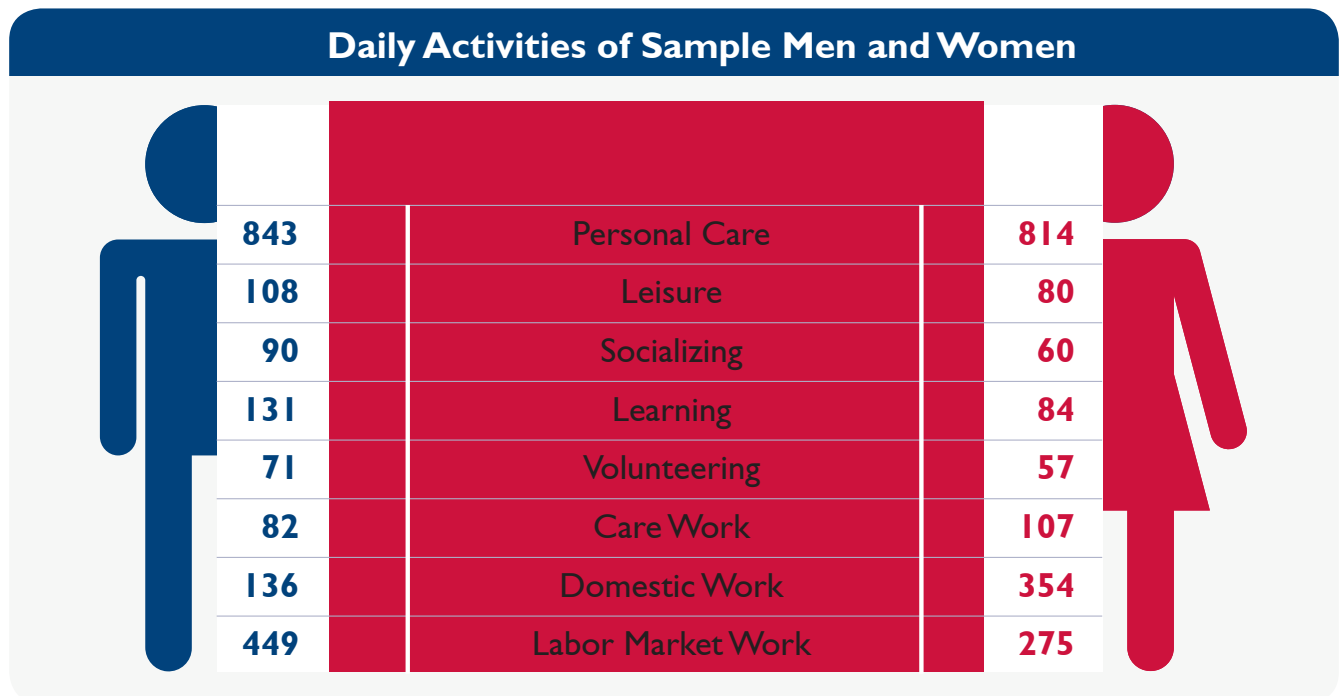


INFOGRAPHICS

Nepal Time Use Data for Enhancing Social Inclusion and Gender Equality

How do men and women from included and excluded social groups in Nepal allocate their time? Are those from excluded groups more likely to be time poor than those from included groups? Time use data provides answers to these questions and offers comprehensive insights into how individuals use their time in a variety of daily activities.

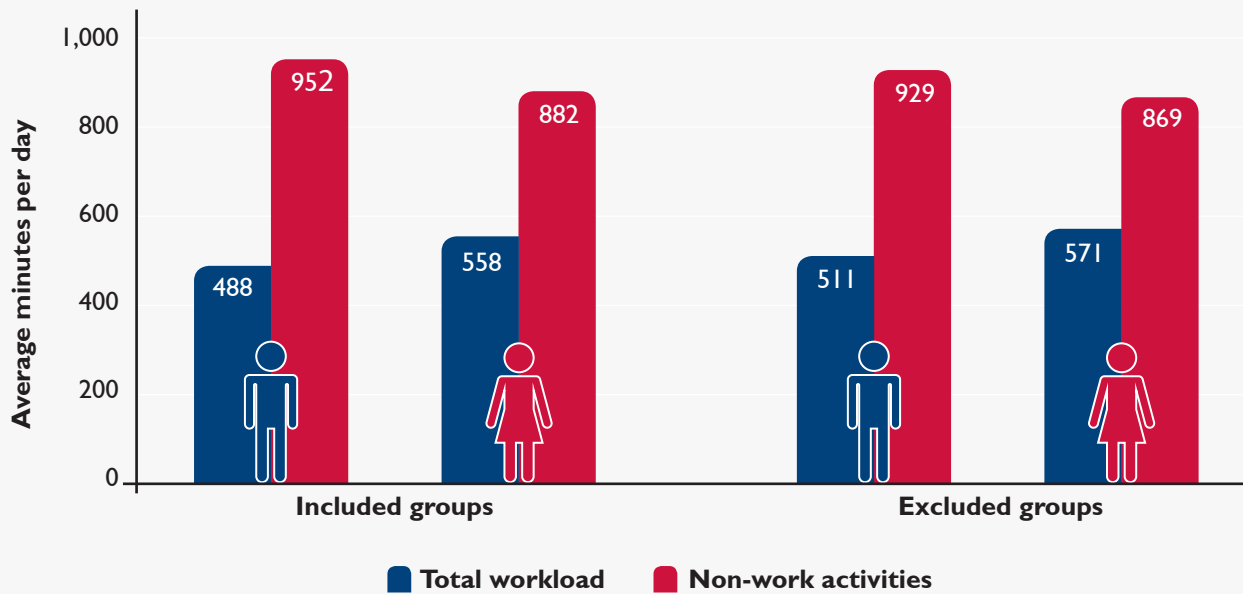
In particular, 2022 Time Use Survey is the first survey in Nepal that measures the time allocation by sex and by caste/ethnic groups. The survey involved interviews of one woman and one man from 3,500 sampled households in Bagmati and Madhesh Province. Such sex- and caste-disaggregated time use data is critical to understanding social stratification and gender inequality and showcase how it influences time use in work and non-work activities of women and men. These insights are fundamental for informing policy and program as well as for advocating for social change.



Note: Each number captures the average time spent on the corresponding daily activity of all sample men and women in the dataset. Given that it is an average time use across all our sample individuals, the sum of these averages by sex does not add up to 1,440 minutes. Personal care includes all activities related to self-care and maintenance including sleeping, eating/drinking, personal hygiene care, health care, resting, reflecting, and travel related to these activities.

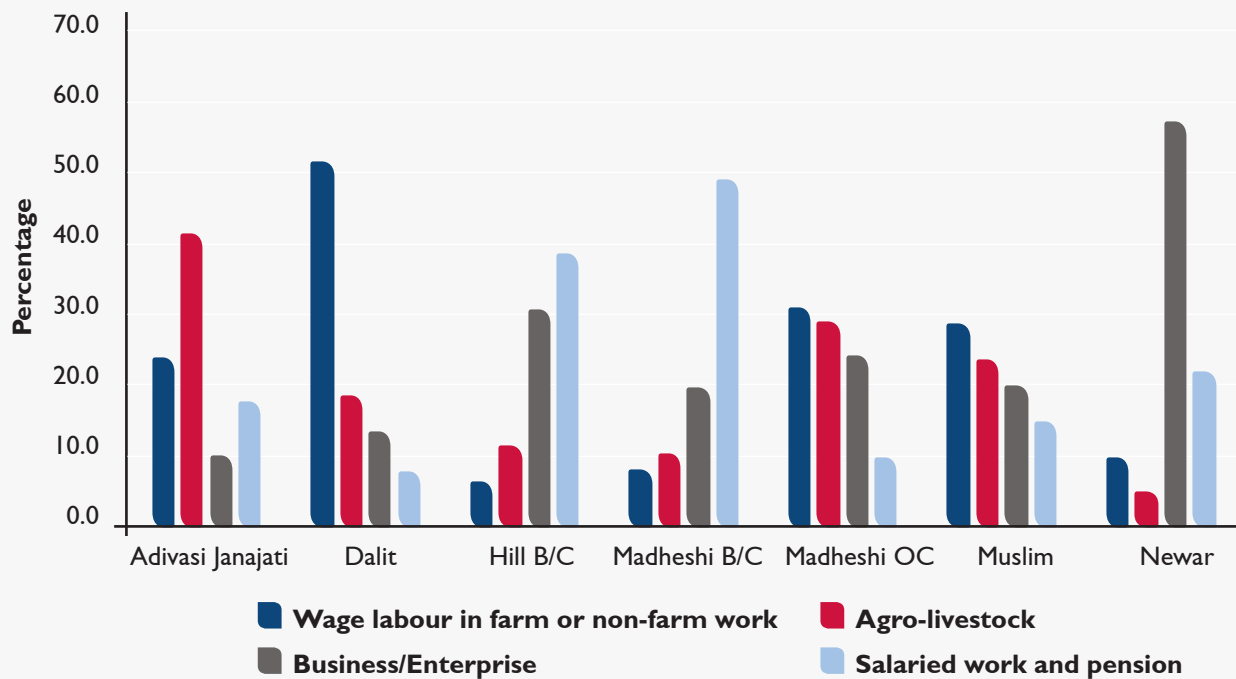
Nepali women particularly from excluded groups have a higher total workload in paid labor work and unpaid domestic and care work than their male counterparts, leaving women with less time for non-work activities.

Average Total Work and Non-work Activities by Sex and Social Group



Primary occupation significantly impacts daily time allocation of men and women. Men from Dalit and excluded Adivasi Janajati groups have higher dependency on wage labor and agriculture while included castes and ethnic groups have higher involvement in salaried jobs and business/enterprise such as trade, shops, restaurants and other service sector enterprises.

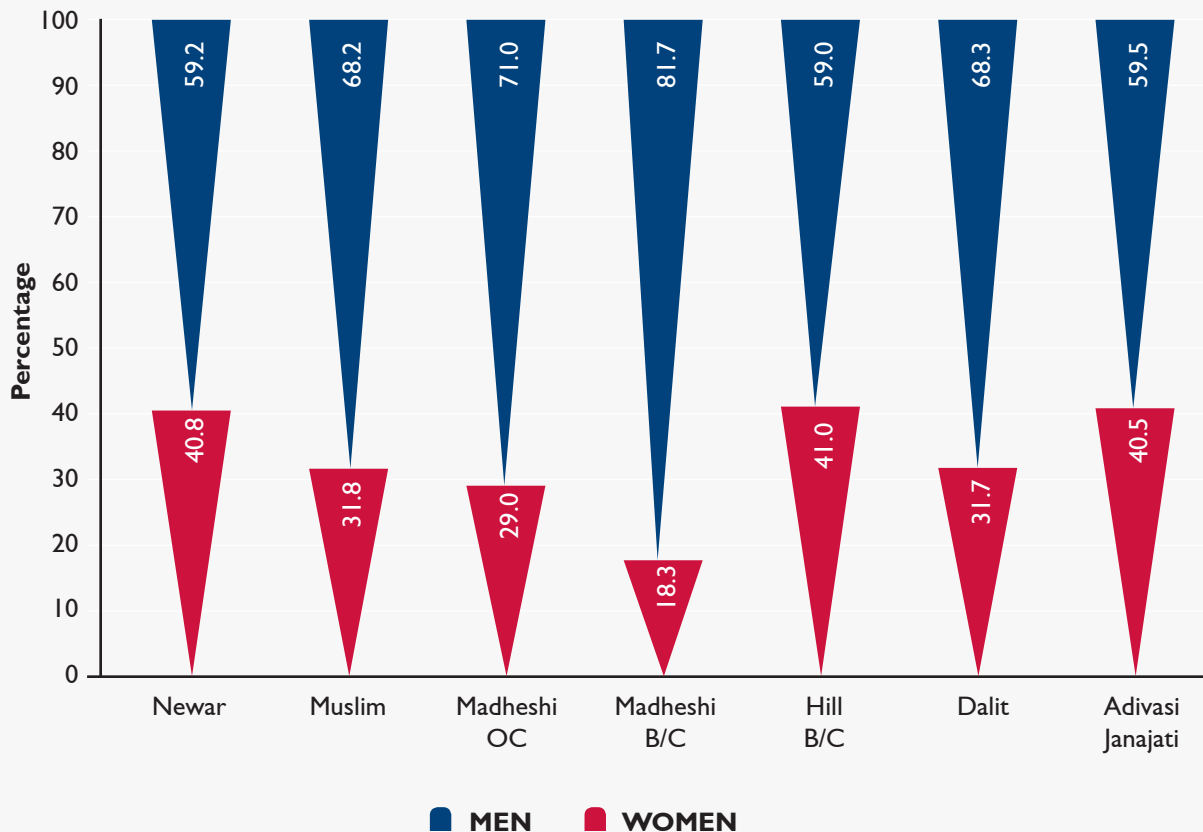
Primary Occupation of Men by Social Group



More than one third of women from both excluded and included groups on average are employed as household helpers.

On average, Nepali men spend 7.5 hours and women spend 4.6 hours per day, respectively, on paid labor market work. Overall, men’s involvement in paid labor is nearly double that of women in all caste and ethnic groups irrespective of their inclusion status. Highest involvement of men in paid activities is among Madheshi B/C followed by Madheshi OC and Dalit.

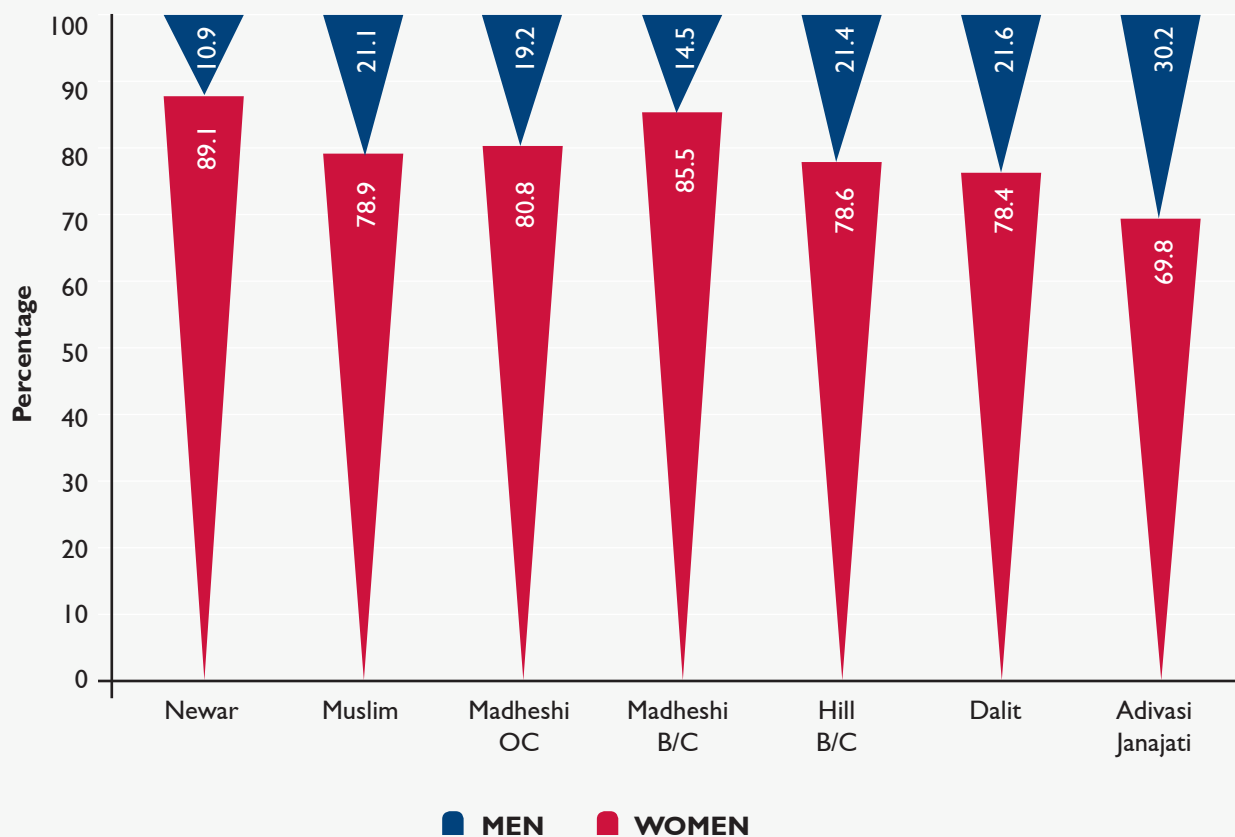
Distribution of Total Household Work Hours in Paid Economic Activities by Sex and Social Group



Women spend close to 6 hours per day on an average on household domestic tasks, while men spend 2.25 hours per day on such activities. Time spent by women in domestic and care work is around three times higher than that of men. Highest involvement of women domestic and care work is among Newar followed by Madheshi B/C. Men’s involvement in domestic and care work is limited as helper.

Men allocate more time in paid labor market work, leisure, and personal care activities. More specifically, participation rates for leisure for included groups hover around 50% to 80% on average, compared to 10% to 50% for the excluded groups.

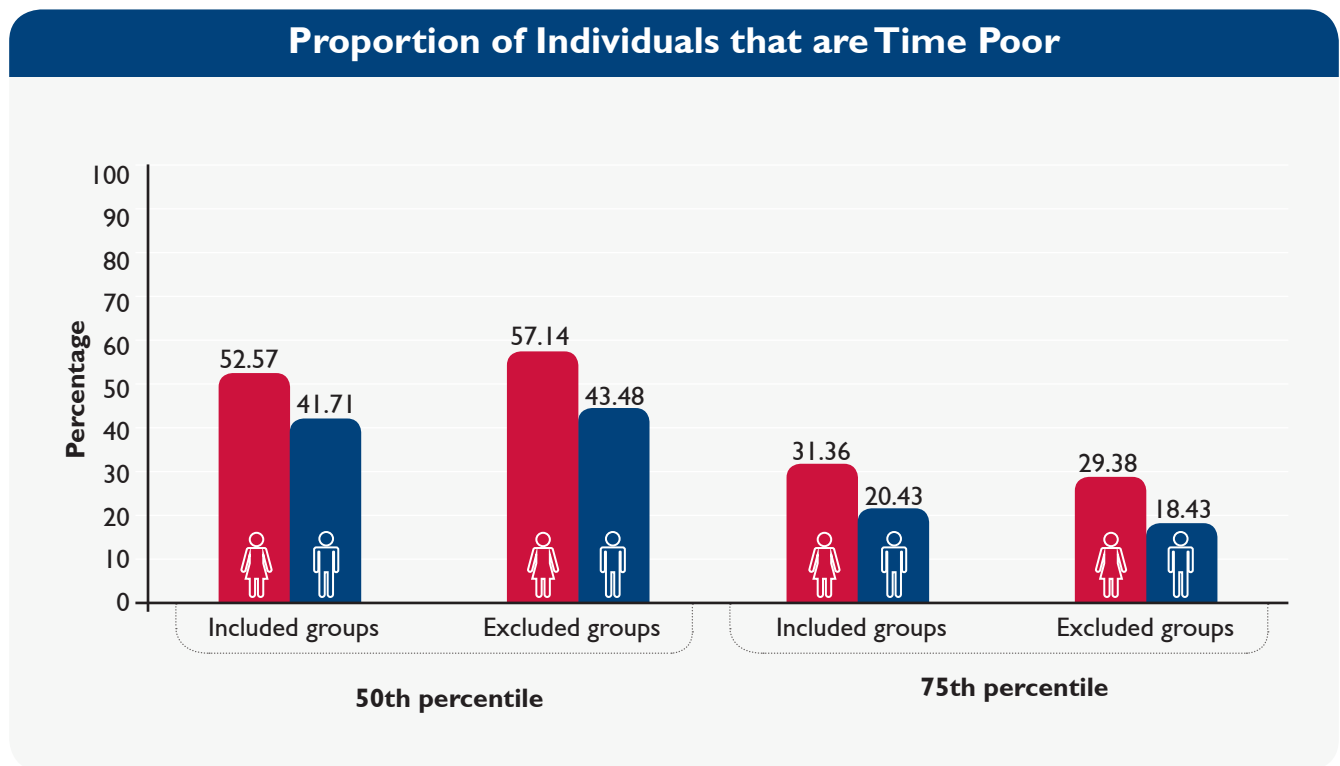
Distribution of Total Household Work Hours in Domestic and Care Activities by Sex and Social Group



Individuals belonging to the bottom 20% excluded castes and ethnic groups, particularly women, are more likely to live in time poverty than those belonging to the top 20% most included castes and ethnic groups. Time poverty is measured in terms of total workload or the sum of contracted and committed time.

Time poverty rates is based on two different relative poverty thresholds—50th and 75th percentile of the total work time—for men and women from the top 20% most included and bottom 20% most excluded social groups.

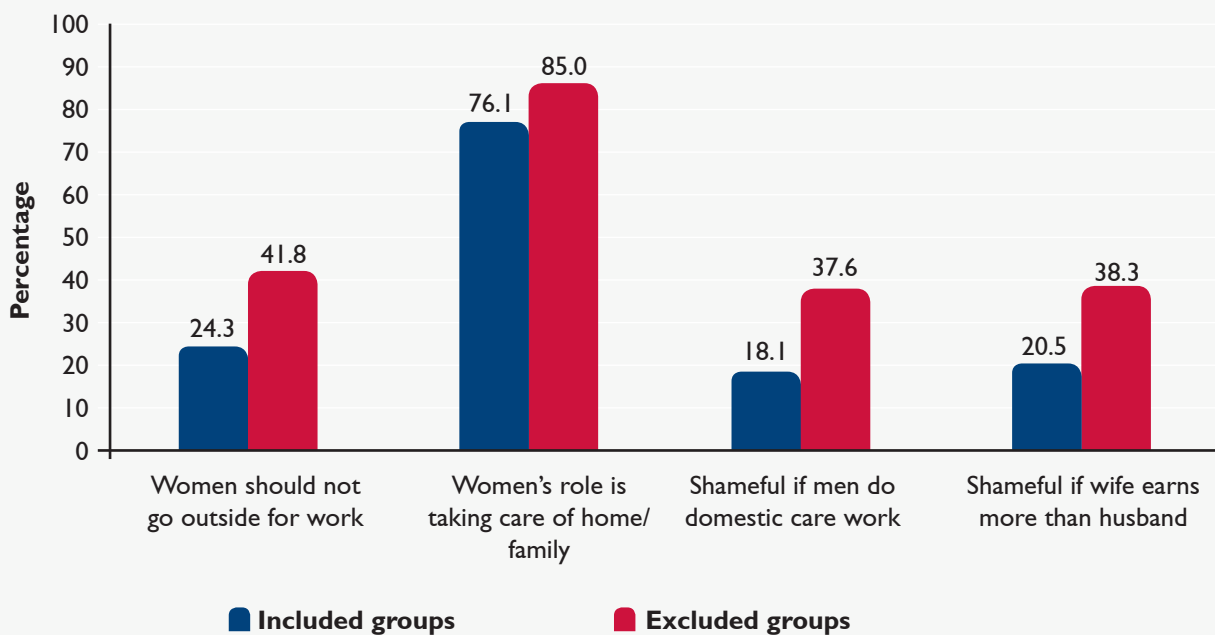
Below shows time poverty rates based on two different relative poverty thresholds—50th and 75th percentile of the total work time—for sex and caste/ethnicity from the top 20% most included and bottom 20% most excluded social groups.



According to the lowest threshold at the 50th percentile of total working time or 560 minutes (9.3 hours) per day, close to half or 49.04% of the sample individuals are time poor. This rate is significantly higher for women than men, regardless of social group. Time poverty rates are even higher for those, especially women, from excluded social groups.

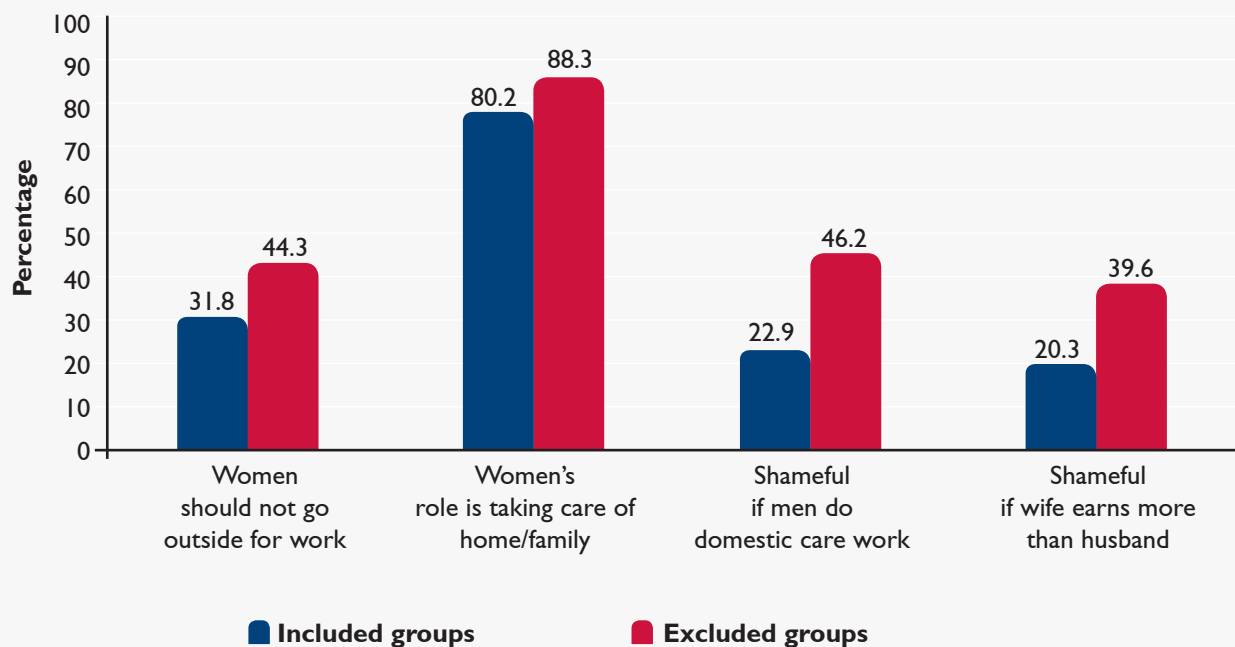
Despite change, in recent years the ideology of a gendered division of labor persists across social groups. In all caste and ethnic groups, above 75% of both the women and men think that women’s role is taking care of home/family. Ideology of gender division of labor that prescribes men to be breadwinners while women confine in domestic and caregiving roles appears to be higher among excluded groups than among the included.

Men’s Perception on Gender Roles by Social Group



Adivasi Janajati and Hill Brahmin Chhetri community has higher likelihood of men being involved in domestic and care work compared to other groups. This may be attributed to traditional egalitarian ethos in terms of labor division among Adivasi Janajati and better exposure to such values among part of hill Brahmin Chhetri community.

Women’s Perception on Gender Roles by Social Group



For more information

Further details can be found in the research report “Understanding Social Exclusion and Gender Inequality in Nepal through the Lens of Time Use Data” by Mukta S. Tamang and Phanwin Yokying. The report is based on the study “State of Social Inclusion in Nepal: A Study of Time Allocation” (SOSIN-SOTA) carried out by Central Department of Anthropology, Tribhuvan University and the East-West Center in 2022 with support from LASER-PULSE program led by Purdue University and funding from USAID.