



Is the Mexican Youth an Agent of Change? An Analysis of Gender and the Heterogeneity of Time Use Patterns of Mexicans 15 to 29 Years Old

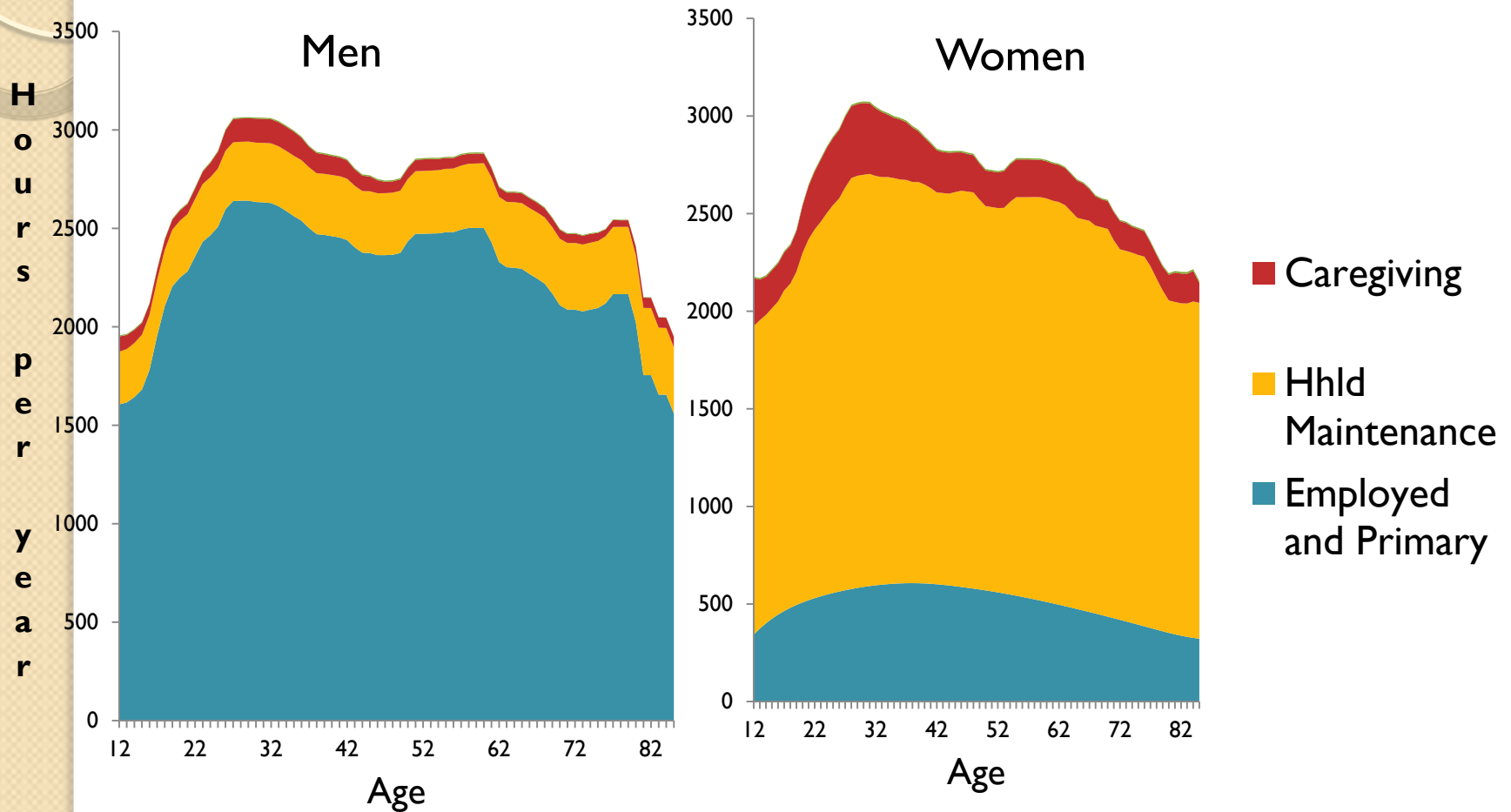
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Stylized facts: Important advances in gender equity in Mexico in the last three decades

- Female labor force participation increased from 17% in 1970 to 35% in 2000
- The percentage of women with college studies increased from 30% in 1980 to 47% in 2000
- The percentage of women in the Senate increased from 7% in the 1991-1994 period, to 24% in the 2006-2004 period (UNDP 2007)

However, the gender division of labor is still very traditional





Objectives

Identify whether there are any groups that show liberal time-use patterns and can later serve as change diffusers

Justification

It is imperative to analyze time-use patterns to understand changes in gender roles and expectations

Why is it important to identify innovators?

- Analysis of time use in Mexico shows **little variation** in time use patterns (Hernández and Rivero 2014)
- With the exception of few educated and young men, men have only slightly increased participation in domestic activities (Hernández and Rivero 2014)
- Despite increased female education, many young women spend their time in domestic activities (Pederzini and Rivero 2013)
- Youth unemployment has many young men out of school and employment (Pederzini and Rivero 2013)

What explains time-use patterns in Mexico?

- *Economics*: Comparative advantage of men in market work and women in nonmarket work. Household Maximization (Becker, 1981)
- *Relative Resources*: The individual with the most resources negotiates its way out of it (Shelton & John, 1996)
- *Time availability*: Men and women participate in housework and childcare to the extent that there are demands on them to do so and they have available time
- ***Ideology*: women and men with more egalitarian attitudes will have a more equal division of household labor**

Hypotheses

- As adults show few variation in patterns, the **probability of finding innovators among the youngsters will be higher**
- These innovators are more educated than their cohort
- Schooling will have a larger effect on differentiating time-use patterns among youngsters than among other adults

Data

- National Time Use Survey (INEGI 2009)
- 17,000 Households
- All individuals 12 years old and older
- Questionnaire form
- Information on daily-life activities for week prior to the survey

Methodology

- 1) Latent class analysis run to distinguish groups with liberal time use patterns
 - Separate groups distinguished for each sex/age group
- 2) Logistic models for men and women to weight the effect of age, schooling and its interaction on the probability of being in a liberal time-use pattern

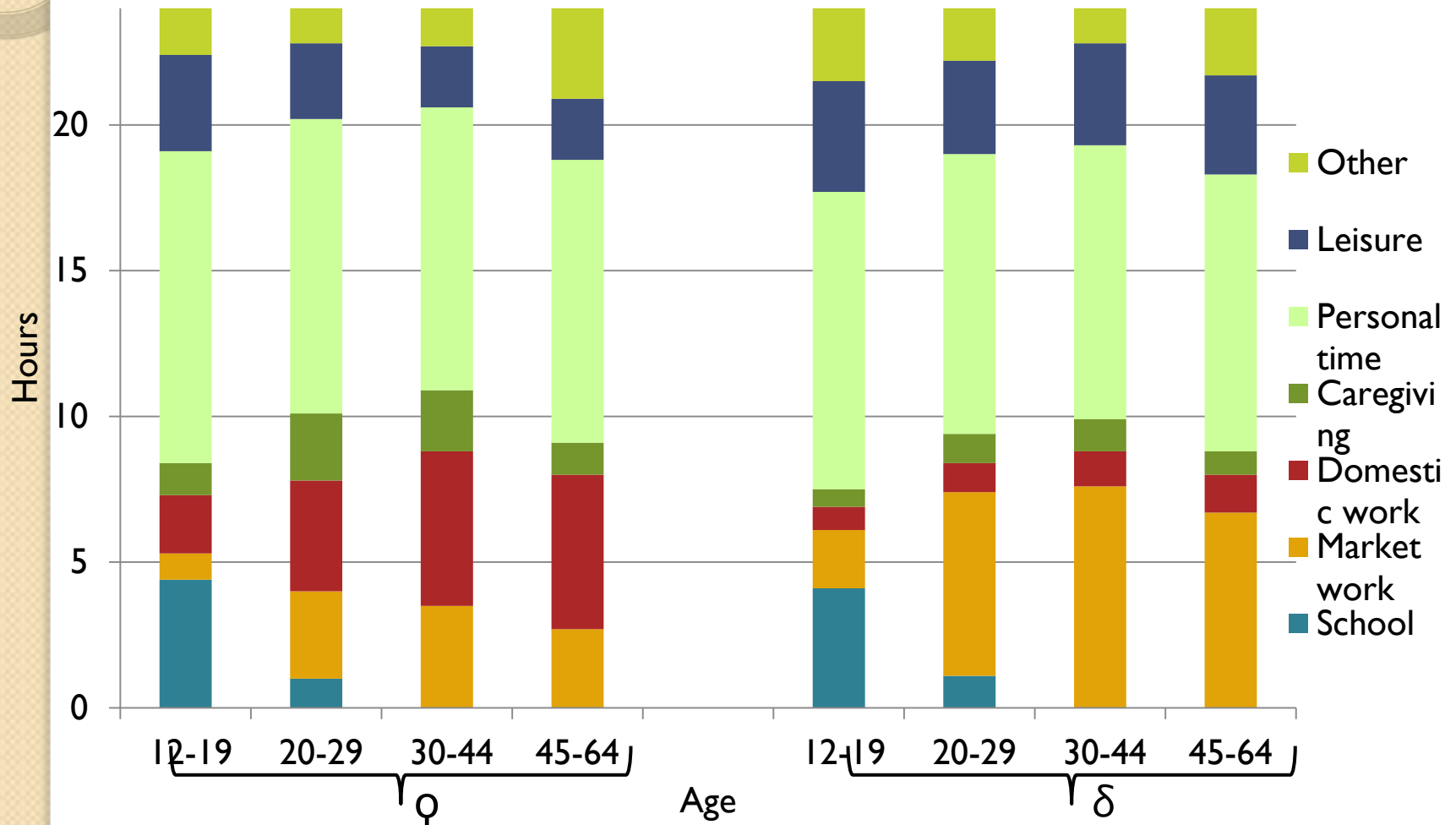
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- 1) Latent class analysis run to distinguish groups with liberal time use patterns
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- 2) Descriptive analysis of difference in schooling level between liberal and non-liberal time-use patterns, by age and sex

Mean daily number of hours dedicated to various activities, by sex and age group



Characteristics of liberal time users

	12-19		20-29		30-44		45-64	
	φ	δ	φ	δ	φ	δ	φ	δ
School								
Market work								
Domestic work								
Caregiving								
Personal time								
Leisure								
% of population	9.4	22.8	10.9	13.7	1.0	1.2	69.3	0.0

Differences in school achievement between liberal and conservative groups - youngsters

School achievement	12-19				20-29			
	Lib φ	Cons φ	Lib δ	Cons δ	Lib φ	Cons φ	Lib δ	Cons δ
Clear underachievers	30.5	12.6	9.5	40.7	1.0	24.0	1.0	23.6
Underachievers	32.1	32.1	25.8	36.2	7.0	36.3	7.4	39.3
Overachievers	37.4	37.4	65.7	23.1	92.0	39.7	91.6	37.0
% of population	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

All differences are significant with $p < 0.01$

Conclusions

- Presence of “innovator” groups among youngsters is questionable
- Differences in behavior in these age groups is more a question of social class and education – (but reverse causation) than of changes in behavior
- Pretty pessimistic future for private changes in the short run



Thank you!

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