

# Unpaid Care Work as a Barrier to Girls' Participation in Secondary Education

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NAS Committee on Population

Workshop on the Demographic Effects of Girls' Education in Developing Countries  
Irvine, California

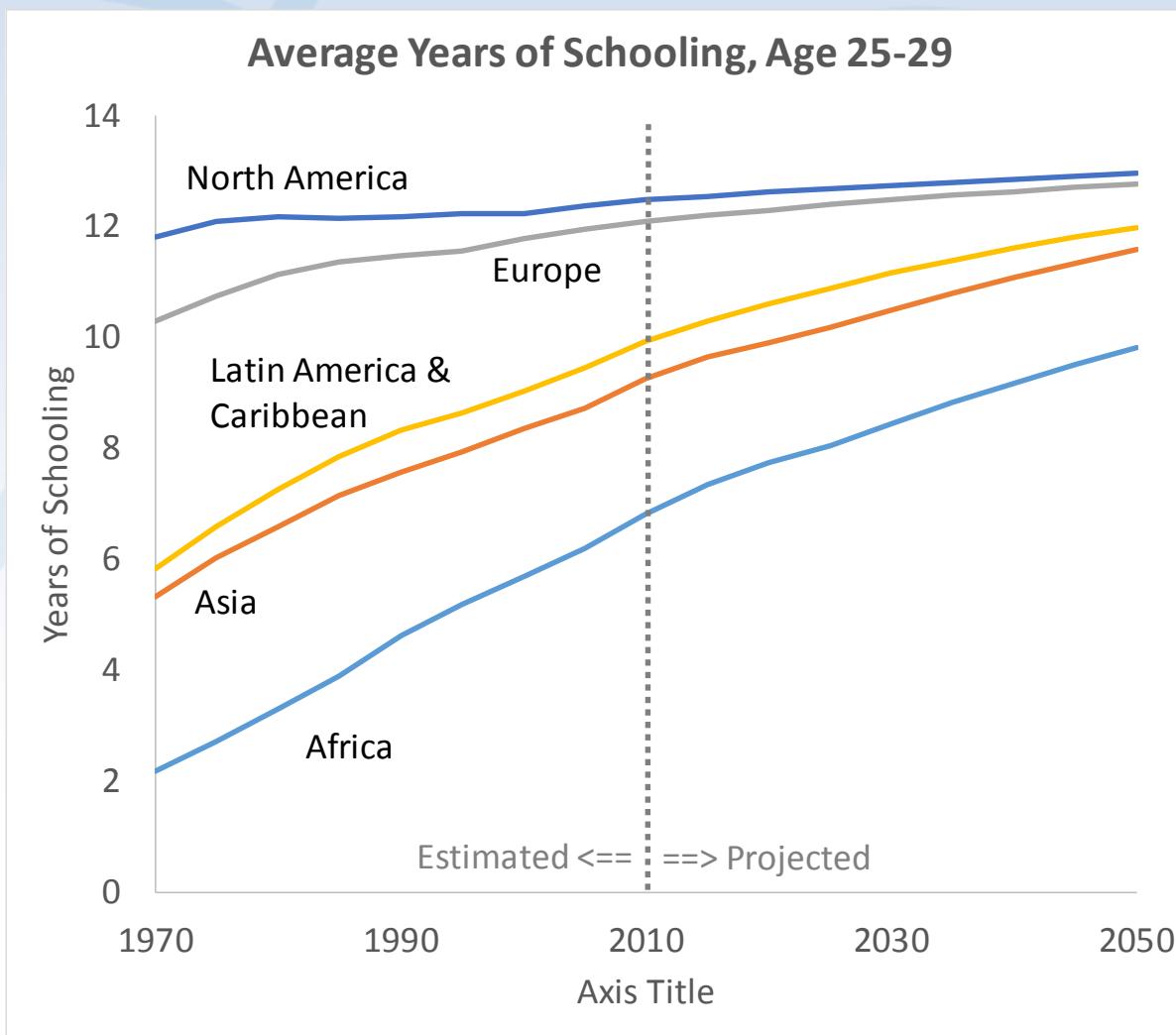
May 12, 2017



# Overview

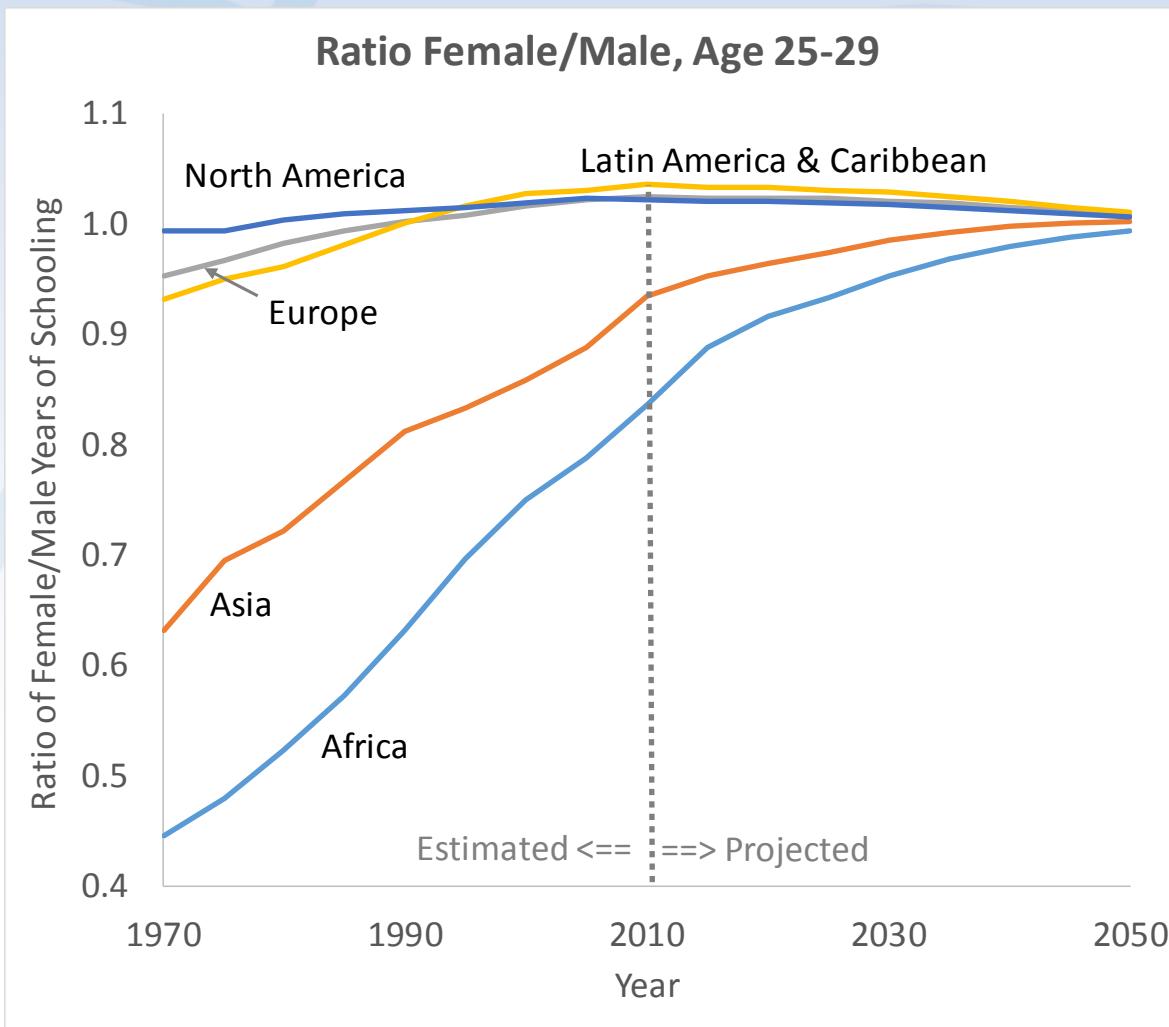
- Much progress closing education gaps, but secondary and tertiary gaps are larger than primary in some regions.
- How we measure gaps makes a difference.
- Could be different way girls participate in the economy compared to boys?
- If so, what policy responses would governments and advocates want to consider?

# Rising Education Overall



Source: Data from Lutz, Butz, and KC (2014), provided by Wittgenstein Center for Demography and Global Human Capital

# Falling Gender Gaps

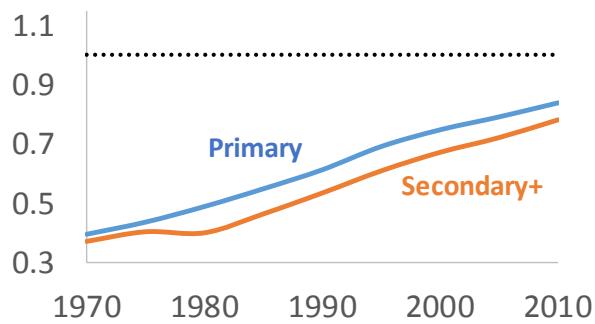


Source: Data from Lutz, Butz, and KC (2014), provided by Wittgenstein Center for Demography and Global Human Capital

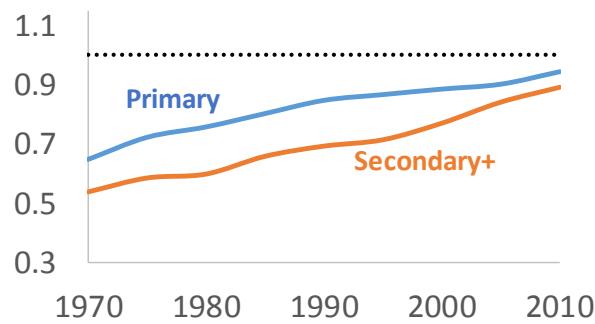
# Different patterns by region and level of schooling

Female/Male Ratio of Educational Attainment, Age 25-29 by Region:

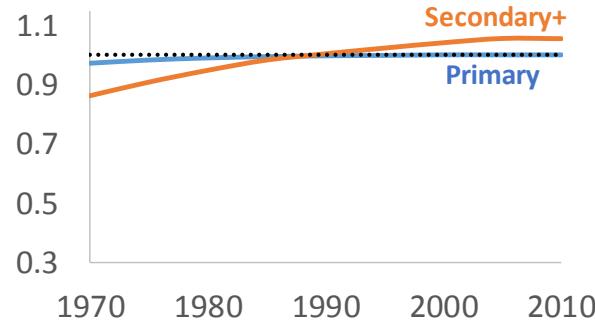
Africa



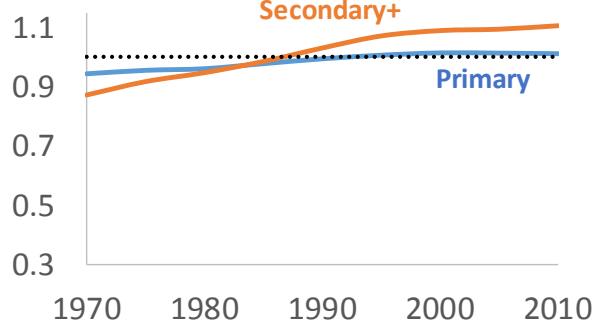
Asia



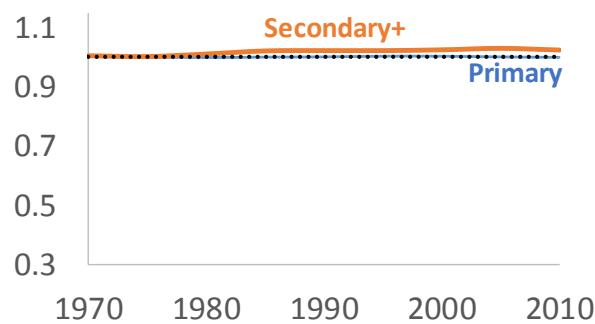
Europe



Latin America & Caribbean



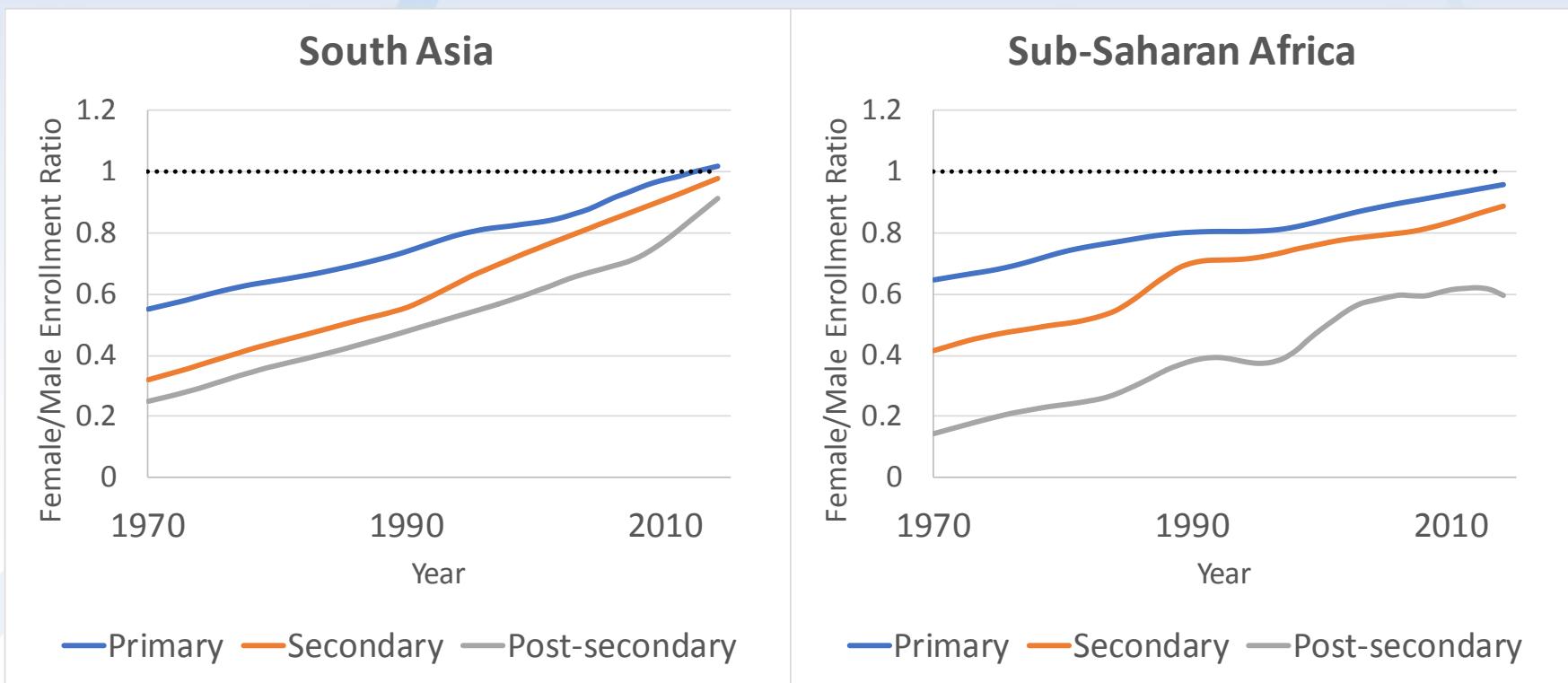
North America



Source: Data from Lutz, Butz, and KC (2014), provided by Wittgenstein Center for Demography and Global Human Capital

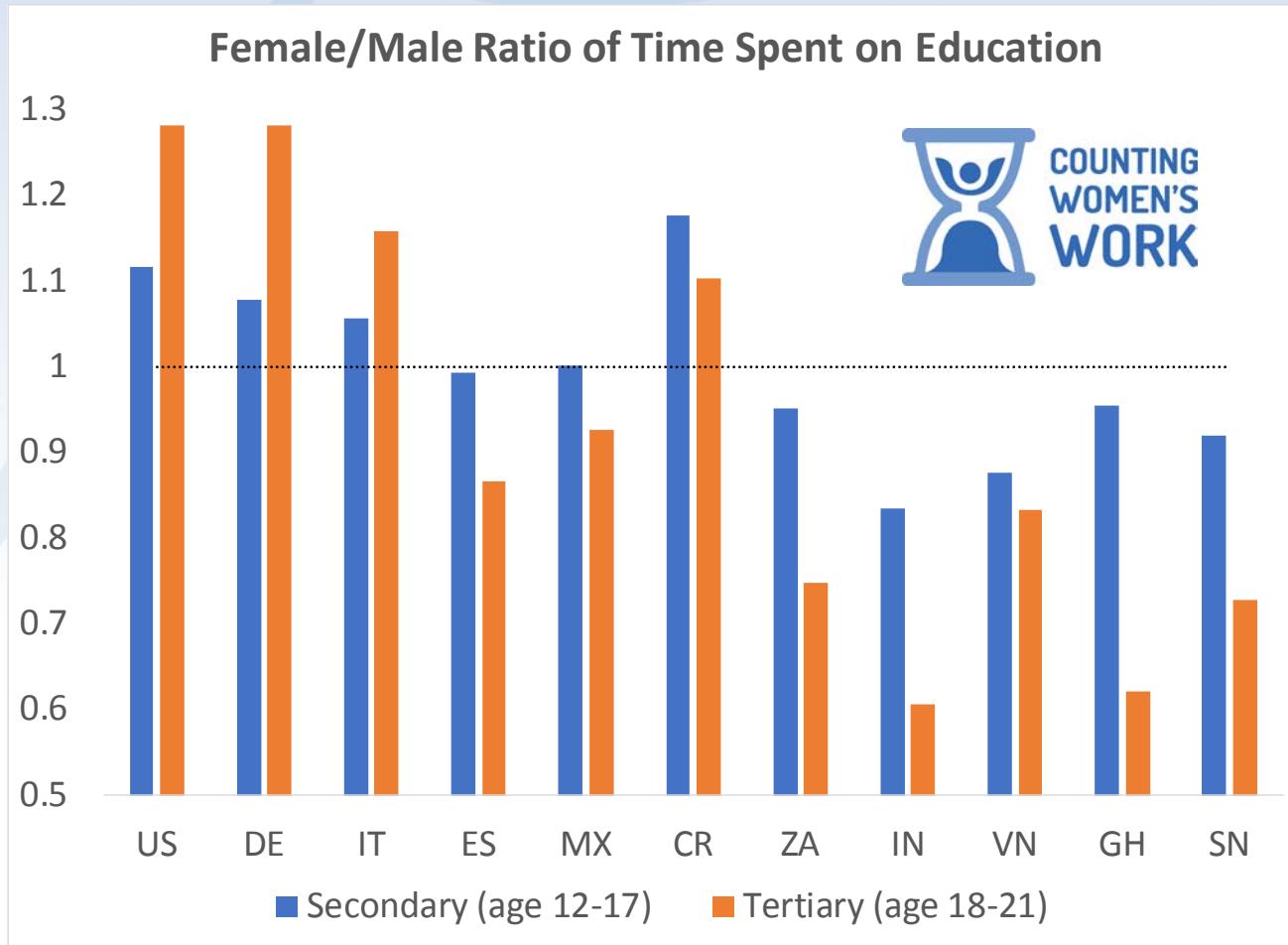
# Enrollment Patterns

Female/Male Ratio of Enrollments:



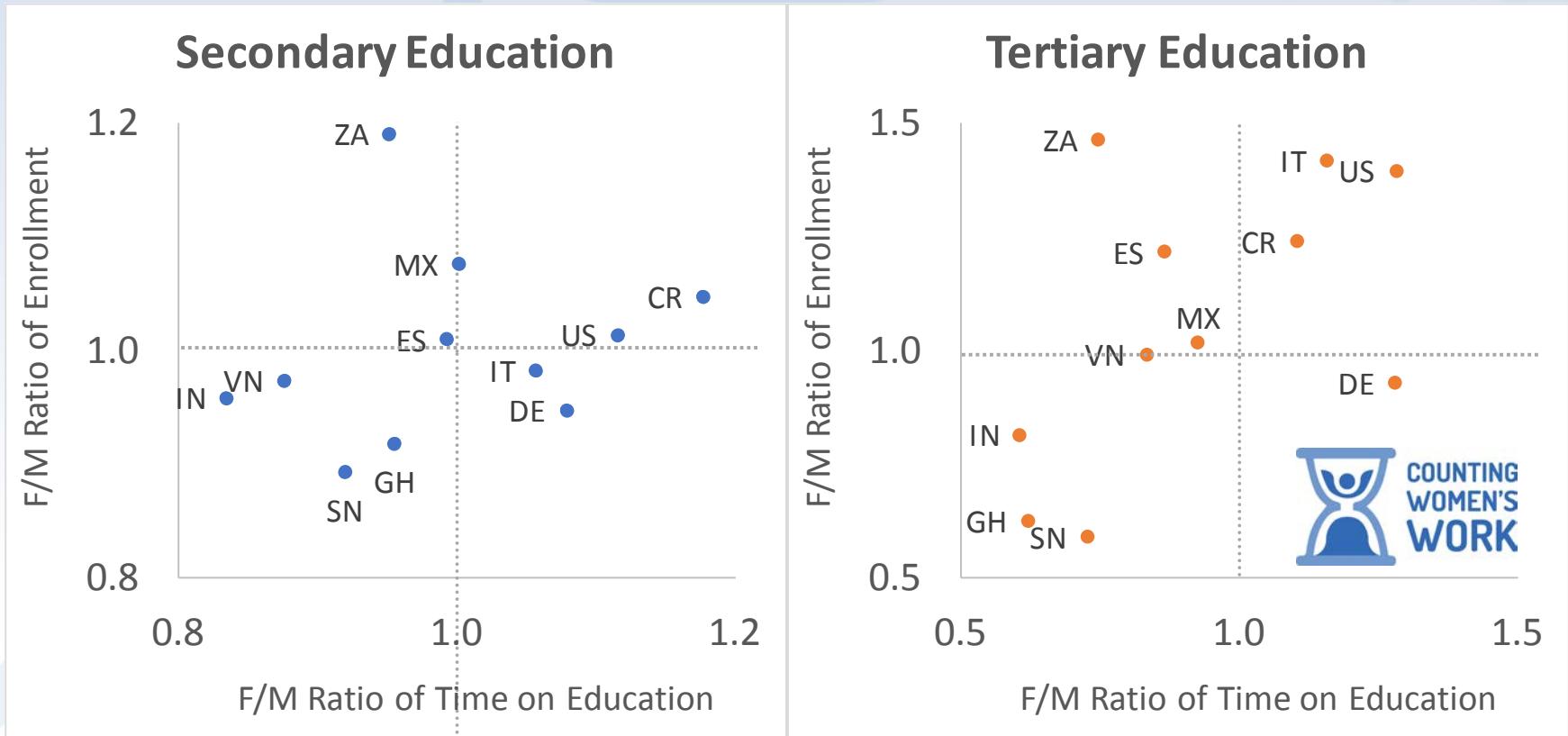
Source: World Bank World Development Indicators Database

# Beyond enrollment: time



Countries ordered by per capita Gross National Income (ppp-adjusted)  
Source: Data from Counting Women's Work and AGENTA

# Gender gaps: enrollment versus time

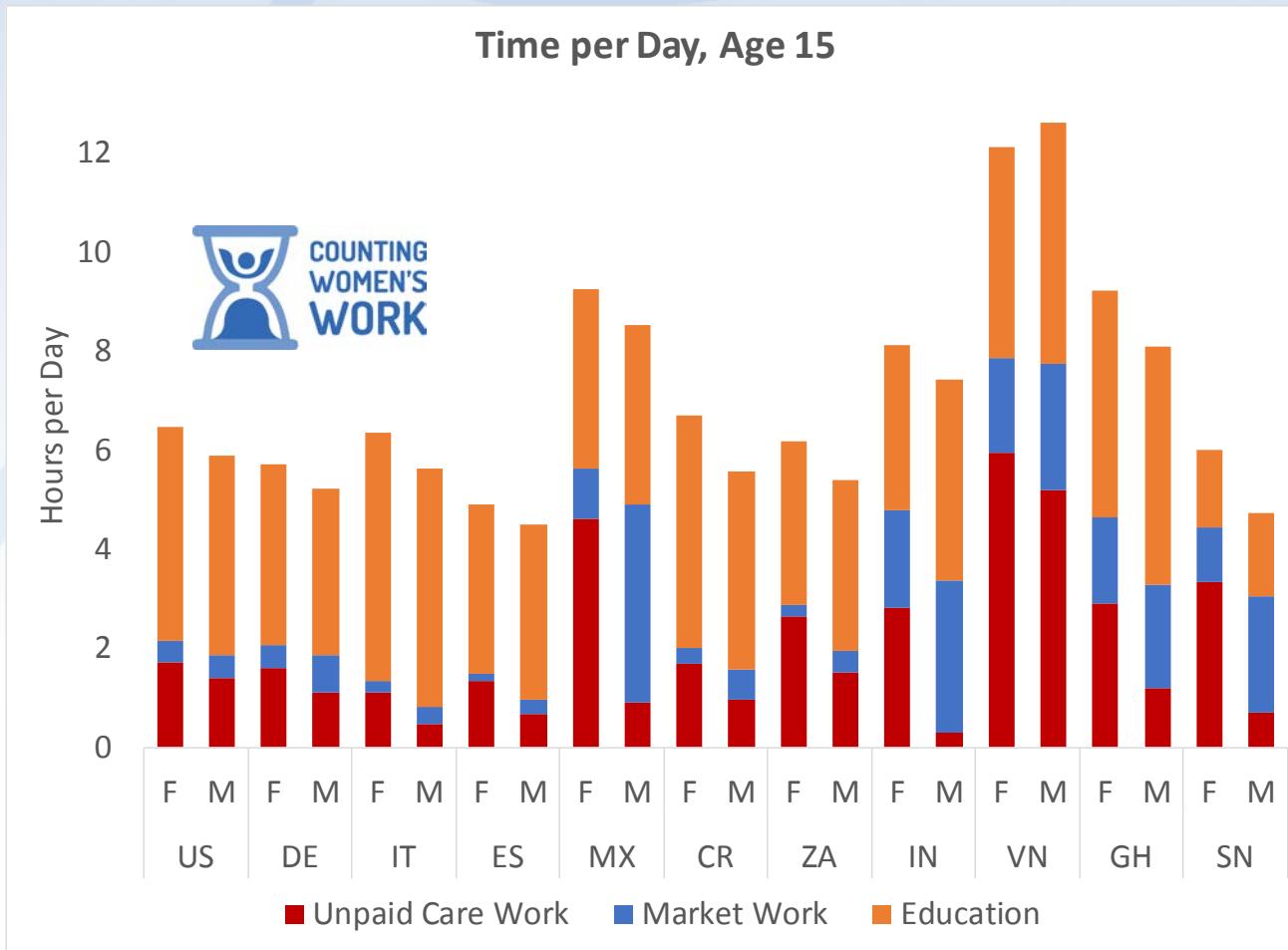


Countries ordered by per capita Gross National Income (ppp-adjusted)

Source: Time Data from Counting Women's Work and AGENTA, enrollment data from World Bank World Development Indicators Database

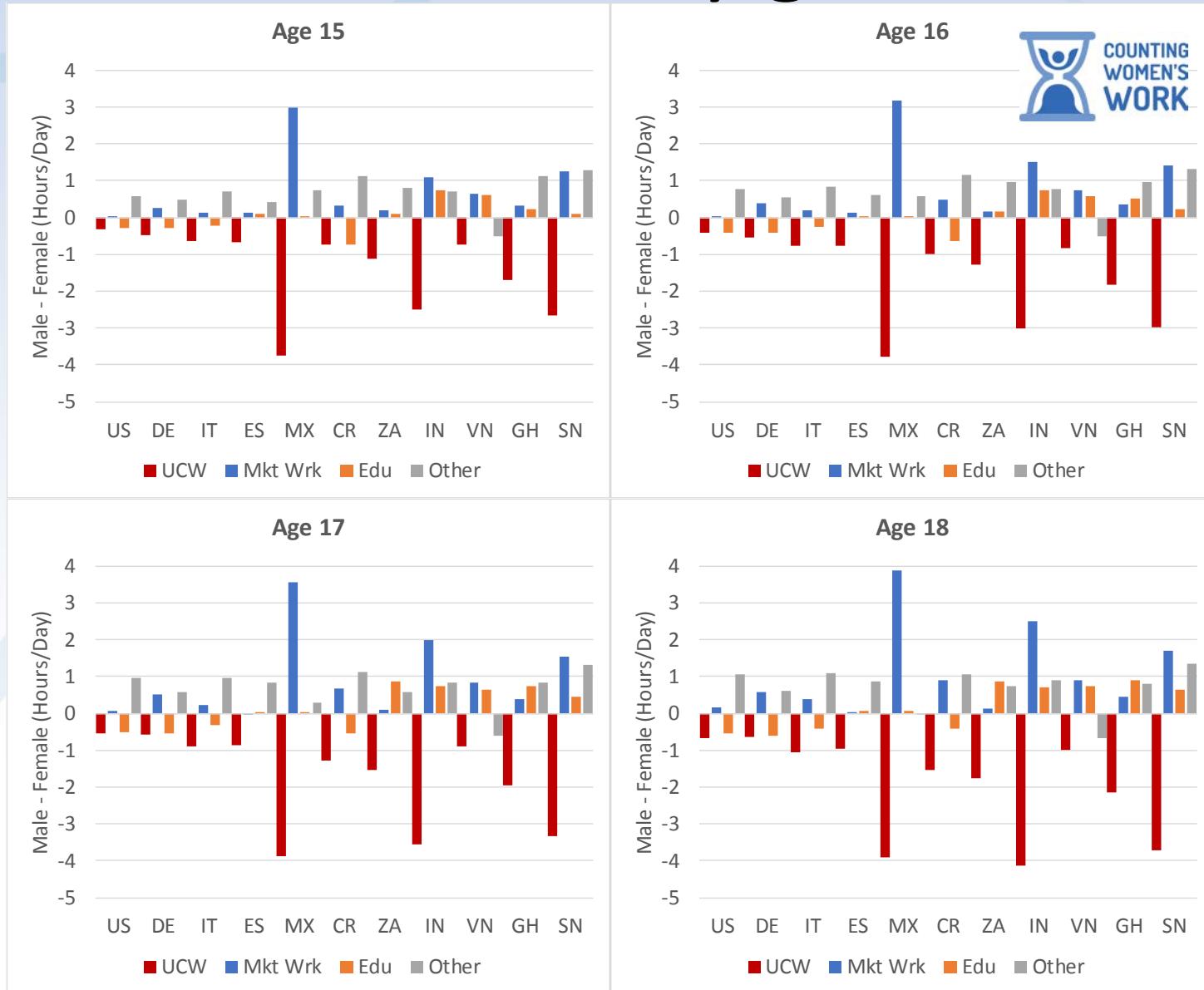


# What else are young people doing?



Countries ordered by per capita Gross National Income (ppp-adjusted)  
Source: Data from Counting Women's Work and AGENTA

# Differences by gender



Countries ordered by per capita Gross National Income (ppp-adjusted)  
Source: Data from Counting Women's Work and AGENTA

# Is all of this unpaid care and housework a problem?

- Girls work more hours than boys because of excess unpaid care work
- Early specialization in low productivity, low pay activities
- Reduces returns to girls' education and paid work
- Reason gender gaps increase in early stages of education transition but ease as incomes rise?

# Other evidence

- Data
  - “Chore gap” starts as young as age 5 (UNICEF, 2016; also seen at early ages in Young Lives datasets)
- Studies
  - Ghanaian girls missed school more often than boys, girls missed because of sick family members, boys for work in shops or farm (Wolf et al., 2016)
  - Similar results in India (Hirway, 2010)
  - Similar results from Peru (Ilahi, 2001), additional result that household income shocks caused mothers to increase paid work and daughters had to fill in at home

# What to do?

- When addressing the problem of child labor, include unpaid care work in the definition of “labor”
  - Child marriage considered a child labor problem?
- When addressing the problem of unpaid care work, pay attention to aspects specific to girls
  - 3R's: recognize, reduce, redistribute (Ellis)
- Provide school-based quality childcare, with meals and other benefits (care provision as a core element of social protection)
- Conditional cash transfers work better than lowering school fees (Fiszbein and Schady, 2009)
- Raise wages for paid care work? Professionalize paid care work?

# Data gaps

- Need more and better time use surveys, harmonized across time and place
- How to measure time use of younger children?
- Will be needed for monitoring SDGs related to unpaid care work