

CHAPTER THREE

FEMALE HAWKERS' DAILY ACTIVITIES

3.1 Introduction

The Labour Force Survey and Census provide information on the labour market at the macro level but do not adequately reflect labour force participation of certain groups, especially women who are involved in the informal sector of the economy. In the urban informal sector, the most significant is the hawking community.

In many developing countries, productive activities outside the household are difficult to separate from household work, and women's multiple tasks often combine the two making it difficult to distinguish between SNA and non-SNA activities.

The SNA was never designed to measure human well-being; it only measures the output, income and expenditures. One of the suggested method to measure women's economic activities is by using time use survey where the respondents report the amount of time they spend on various activities from the time they wake up until they go to bed where the 24 hours are all accounted for. A time use study in the United States in the 1980s revealed that performing simultaneous tasks is more common among women than men, particularly in household chores (United Nations Development Programme, 1995).

Time use study is time-consuming in terms of data collection, data processing and analysing but will give a more thorough information of the true value of women's

economic contributions. This method is sensitive to the varied nature of women's work.

Although time use studies consistently show significantly longer working hours for women as compared with men, especially among the poorer strata of society, official statistics continue to show a much smaller percentage of women as active participation in the labour market. Time use studies in Asia and Pacific reveal that women have average 12 to 13 hours more 'work' in a week than men do (United Nations, 1991).

Of men's total work time in developing countries, roughly three quarter is spent in paid SNA activities and one quarter in unpaid SNA activities but the opposite is true for women (United Nations Development Programme, 1995). Thereby men continue to receive the lion's share of income and recognition for their economic contribution. Status in contemporary society is so often equated with income-earning power, women suffer a major under-valuation of their economic status.

3.2 Types of Activities

The following questions were asked to elicit information on women daily activities:

- 1. Which days in the past week are typical work days/school days for you?*
- 2. Can you tell me how you spend a typical work day, from morning to night?*
- 3. Can you please tell me how you spend a typical weekend or rest day?*

The activities reported are coded in detail and classified according to the following categories:

Economic Activities

These are activities that contribute to economic gain. As our respondents are selected from their work place, all but three of the respondents are engaged in economic activities. Hawking is classified under wholesale and retail trade so it's not surprising to find out that almost all the respondents reported themselves as involved in this main activity. This category includes helping in the sale/distribution of meals/beverages in retail trade establishments and selling food or other products in the market or hawker centre. Only a few respondents reported working in manufacturing, mining or agriculture sectors.

Informal activities that are carried out in the home are classified also as economic activities. Some examples of such activities are shelling prawns/cockles or preparing food for sale.

Family Activities

These activities are not counted in the calculation of the GNP due to the informal nature of the activities. The more commercialised the country, the more productive are these activities. For instance, a Filipino maid is considered productive but a housewife who does the same work is counted as not productive. Another significant characteristic is women normally do these activities.

Among the family activities performed by the hawker women are preparing meals, washing dishes, doing the laundry which includes mending, folding and ironing clothes, cleaning the house and surroundings which include sweeping, washing floor, cleaning store/table, marketing, taking care of children, grand-children, parents, siblings or other relatives.

Other Activities

All activities not included in economic and family activities are in this category. The main other activities are religious activities, interactive activities, social activities, leisure activities and rest and relaxation. Also included in this category are travelling to and from work, personal activities, having meals, reading, knitting, teaching children and many concurrent activities such as having meals and resting and watching television and resting.

Interactive activities are activities such as playing with children, chit-chatting with children or family members, visiting children, parents or grandparents. On the other hand, social activities are activities like chit-chatting with friends or neighbours, writing letters and having telephone conversations.

Sleep

Another measure of quality of life is the hours of sleep a person has per day. This includes sleep during the day, napping.

On a typical workday, 99.5 per cent of the female hawkers carry out economic activities. Nevertheless, caution must be taken in the interpretation of this result since the respondents from this community are selected from their work place. Most of the female hawkers do not have a rest day in a week, some 78.3 per cent of the women reported involvement in economic activities on a rest day (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1

Percentage of Female Hawkers Who Carried Out Selected Daily Activities during Their Work Day and Rest Day

	Work Day	Rest Day
Economic Activities	99.5	78.3
Family Activities	80.6	83.4
Preparing meals	64.1	69.1
Cleaning house	43.8	53.0
Laundry	14.7	20.7
Taking care of others	14.7	12.9
Marketing	6.9	10.1
Other Activities	99.1	99.1
Religious activities	59.9	60.4
Travelling	56.2	47.9
Leisure activities	55.3	59.0
Rest and relaxation	53.0	59.4
Interactive activities	12.9	16.6
Social activities	1.8	6.0

Although the female hawkers are economically active, they still have to take care of their families. Some 80.6 per cent of the women are involved in some sort of

family activities like cleaning the house, doing the laundry, preparing meals et cetera. This percentage increases to 83.4 per cent on a rest day. This only shows that women who are contributing to the family income are still expected to carry out family activities. This is especially true for female hawkers who do not earn enough to hire a maid or helper to help out.

Due to the long hours that female hawkers spend on economic activities, they have less time for family activities and other social activities. From the ethnography study carried out as a follow-up of the household survey, it was found that the female hawkers depend on their children to help in doing family chores. Out of the 16 families covered in the ethnography study, 12 families reported the contribution of sons to household activities while all the 16 families; the daughters have to help out (Tan et al., 1998). This shows that girls are still expected to inherit the burden of housework from their mothers. This could lead to long term implications where the girls are expected to drop out from school to help if the needs arise. In the hawking community, this could lead to a vicious cycle where the girls from this community tend to follow the footstep of their mothers because they are not highly educated, they do not have other skills and they have to do the housework.

Among the family activities that carried out, female hawkers were more likely to be involved in the preparation of meals for the family, both on their work day (64.1 per cent) and rest day (69.1 per cent). Some 43.8 per cent of the female hawkers do cleaning activities but only 6.9 per cent do marketing on a typical work day. Overall, we can see that more female hawkers are involved in various family activities on a rest day compared to a work day except for care-giving activities.

During their free hours, female hawkers prefer to just rest and relax. Another favourite pastime is to watch television programmes or listen to the radio. Normally these activities are undertaken concurrently with other activities like having meal, relaxing or taking care of the children.

Female hawkers have little time for interactive or social activities. Only 12.9 per cent of the women reported being involved in interactive activities on a typical work day. There is only a slight improvement to 16.6 per cent respondents having interactive activities on a rest day. Only 1.8 per cent reported having social activities on a work day and about 6 per cent said they socialise on a rest day. What does this imply? We can see the drudgery of life as a hawker especially for women. After long hours at work, they still have to go home and do the housework. Resting is only possible whenever they have the time. They do not have the energy to spend quality time with the family what more with socialising with friends. This could have serious implications on family structure and could lead to family breakdown and they do not have the supports of friends or relatives to fall back on should this happen. In the ethnography study, most of the females indicate that they do not expect to stay with their children (Tan et al., 1998).

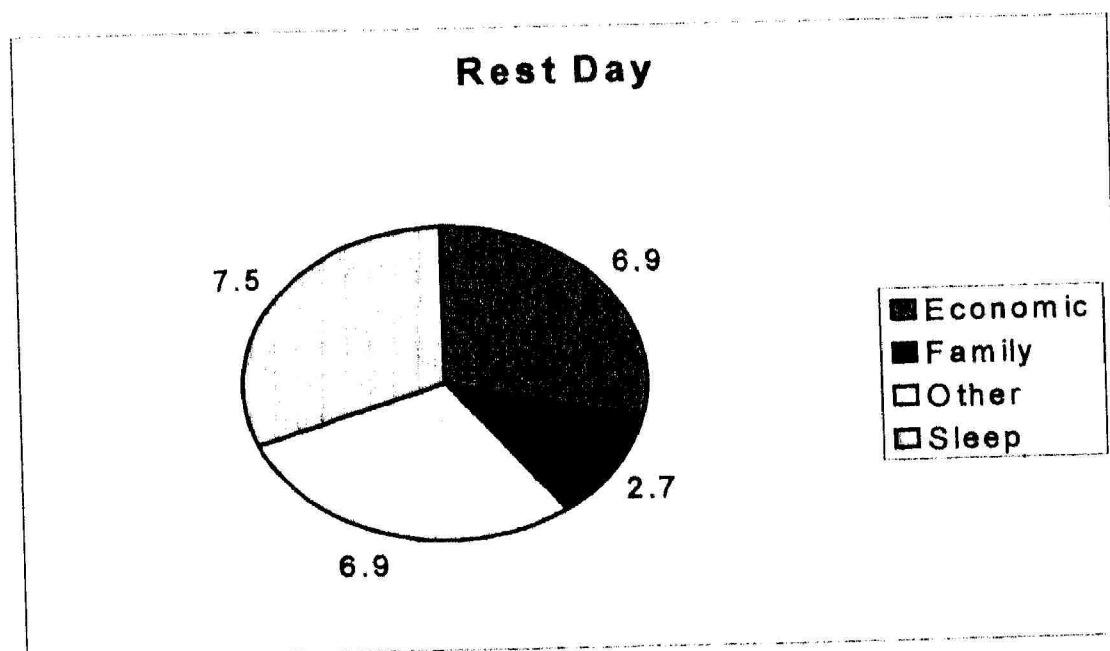
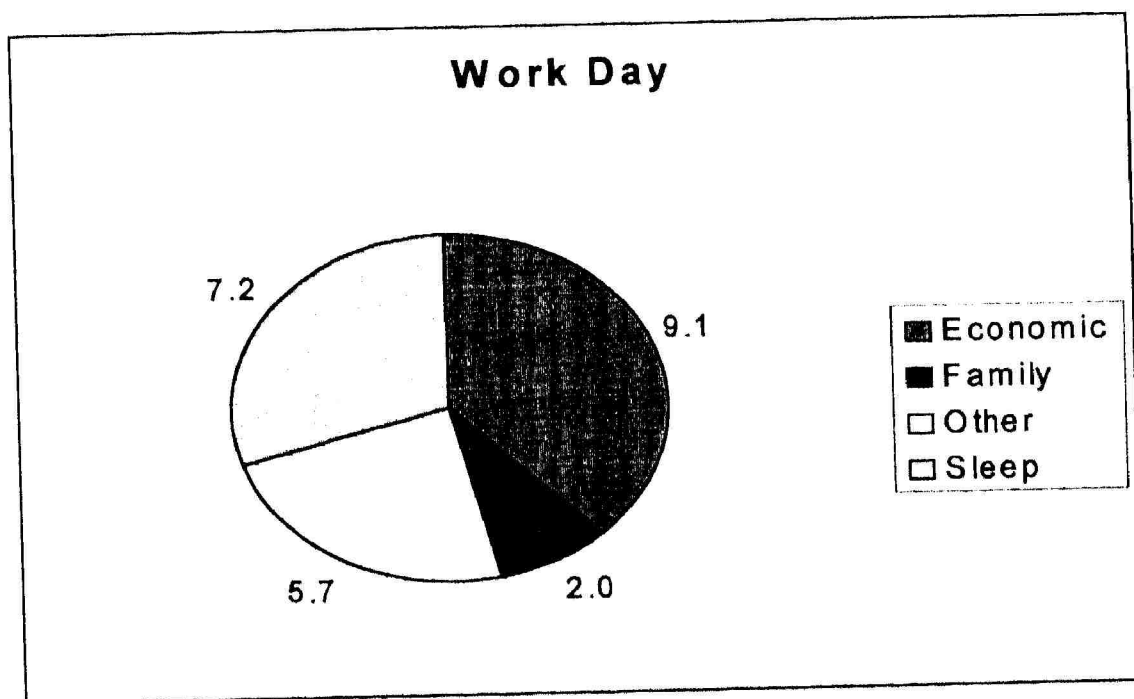
3.3 Average Time Spent on Various Activities

Figure 3.1 shows the average hours that female hawkers spend on various activities. On their work day, female hawkers spend on average 9.1 hours in economic

activities and 7.2 hours sleeping. Due to the long hours they spend on economic activities, female hawkers only have 2.0 hours for family activities in a day.

Figure 3.1

Average Hours Devoted by Female Hawkers to Various Types of Activities



Women involved in other types of economic activities do not work as long as female hawkers do. Chwee (1998) found that women in the informal sector which include six communities; hawking, fishing, land scheme, padi, squatter areas and estate spend, on average, 5.9 hours on economic activities, 7.6 hours sleeping, 3.2 hours on household activities and 6.4 hours on other activities on a typical work day.

On a typical rest day (which may not necessarily mean the weekend), female hawkers spend on average 2.2 hours less on economic activities but they spend an extra 0.7 hours on family activities. More time is available for other activities and sleep on a typical rest day (6.9 hours and 7.5 hours respectively).

On average, the female hawker spend 11.1 hours and 9.6 hours doing either economic or family activities on a typical work day and a typical rest day respectively. This means that female hawkers are spending two-thirds of their waking hours working. Considering that 78.3 per cent of the female hawkers work 7 days a week, this has implications on the quality of life of the women as well as their families. This can best be described by the following extract:

"It's hard to imagine nine years without a weekend. But for Mrs. Chan there have been no pauses, any holidays. Her day begins at 5.30 a.m. and ends almost at midnight. Each morning she drives to the market with her husband, buys the day's fruit and opens her stall. The first customers have already arrived, and it's 2.30 p.m. before she can dash to her neighbour's to buy her lunch. She quickly brings it back to the stall and eats in between serving customers. Home at seven, half an hour for dinner, then work on the day's accounts. At 9.30 she starts her housework - and soon, exhausted, she sinks onto bed" (International Research Development Centre, 1975).

Table 3.2 shows the average hours spent by female hawkers on selected family and other activities. Most of the female hawkers' family activities are spent on preparing meals and cleaning the house. These two activities consume almost 80 per cent of the family activities done by female hawkers.

Table 3.2**Average Hours Spent on Selected Family and Other Activities**

	Work Day	Rest Day
Family Activities		
Preparing meals	0.89	1.14
Cleaning house	0.71	1.00
Taking care of others	0.20	0.18
Laundry	0.11	0.20
Marketing	0.08	0.15
Other Activities		
Leisure activities	1.01	1.36
Rest and relaxation	0.89	1.18
Religious activities	0.84	0.92
Travelling	0.64	0.57
Interactive activities	0.21	0.46
Social activities	0.03	0.11

Female hawkers spend very little time on interactive activities with family members or social activities with friends and neighbours. On a typical work day, female hawkers spend on average 12 minutes on interactive activities and 2 minutes on social activities. Time when they are not working is mostly spent on just resting and relaxing (0.9 hours) and also leisure activities (1.0 hours). Included among the leisure activities are many concurrent activities such as watching television and resting, listening to radio and resting, having meals and watching television. On a typical rest day, more time is available for other activities. Time spent on interactive activities doubled from 0.21 hours to 0.46 hours per day while time spent on social activities increased almost threefold. Time spent on leisure activities and resting and relaxing increased by about half an hour on a typical rest day compared to a typical work day. So, if female hawkers' working hours can be shortened, more time can be spent on

quality time with family members and friends. This will help to build a better social network for this group of women.

It is of interest to analyse the average hours that female hawkers spend on various activities by their different socio-demographic background. Table 3.3 shows that female hawkers from the South/Central region spend longer hours on economic and family activities compared to their counterparts in other region on a typical work day. They spend 9.9 hours and 2.9 hours on economic and family activities respectively compared to only 8.5 hours and 1.8 hours respectively for North region female hawkers. However, they spend shorter time on economic activities (6.4 hours) as compared to the East region female hawkers (8.0 hours) on a typical rest day and they work longer hours on family activities (3.8 hours as compared to 2.2 hours).

Across the ethnic group, the Malays spend longer hours on economic activities on work day and also rest day than their counterparts. The non-Malays spend on average half an hour less than their counterparts on economic activities but they spend longer hours on family activities. This could be due to the Malays having more children and thus can help to lighten the burden of housework for the female hawkers in the family.

There is not much variation in the hours spent on various activities on a typical work day among the educated and non-educated women. The difference occurred in the rest day where higher educated women spend less time on economic activities than the less educated women did, those female hawkers with upper secondary and above spend 8.1 hours on other activities compared to non-educated women who spend 6.0 hours only on the same activities.

Table 3.3

Average Hours Spent on Various Activities by Selected Characteristics

Characteristics	n	Work Day				Rest Day			
		E	F	O	S	E	F	O	S
Region									
East	116	8.9	1.8	6.0	7.3	8.0	2.2	6.5	7.3
South/Central	53	9.9	2.9	4.3	6.9	6.4	3.8	6.1	7.6
North	47	8.5	1.8	6.5	7.1	4.8	3.0	8.7	7.5
Ethnic group									
Malays	162	9.2	1.9	5.7	7.2	7.0	2.7	7.0	7.4
Non-Malays	54	8.7	2.5	5.8	7.1	6.7	2.9	6.7	7.7
Educational level									
No schooling	57	9.1	2.0	5.8	7.1	8.8	2.0	6.0	7.2
Primary	72	9.0	2.0	5.8	7.1	6.7	2.8	7.0	7.5
Lower secondary	42	9.0	2.3	5.4	7.2	6.2	3.4	6.8	7.5
Upper secondary+	45	9.2	2.0	5.6	7.2	5.4	3.0	8.1	7.5
Age group									
<30	47	9.3	1.9	5.2	7.5	6.9	2.7	6.8	7.6
30 – 39	57	8.8	2.2	5.9	7.1	4.8	3.5	8.0	7.6
40 – 49	55	8.7	2.5	5.8	6.9	7.1	2.9	7.0	7.1
50+	57	9.4	1.6	5.8	7.2	8.7	1.9	5.9	7.4
Marital status									
Single	36	9.4	1.4	5.8	7.5	6.3	2.4	7.8	7.6
Currently married	146	9.0	2.2	5.7	7.0	6.9	2.8	6.9	7.4
Widowed/Divorced/ Separated	34	9.0	2.0	5.6	7.4	7.5	2.9	6.1	7.4
Place of operating stall									
Market	87	9.1	1.9	5.8	7.1	7.8	2.2	6.7	7.2
Hawker centre	43	9.2	1.9	5.4	7.4	4.9	3.4	7.9	7.8
Roadside	51	9.8	2.4	4.9	6.9	6.5	3.5	6.3	7.6
Others	32	7.5	2.2	7.0	7.2	7.3	2.0	7.4	7.3
Main income-generating activity									
Non-food hawkers	86	9.2	1.7	6.0	7.2	8.2	2.2	6.4	7.2
Food hawkers	60	8.7	2.7	5.5	7.0	5.6	3.6	7.3	7.6
Shop/Stall assistants	36	9.0	2.0	5.7	7.3	5.5	3.0	7.8	7.8
Others	31	9.5	2.0	5.1	7.3	7.4	2.4	6.6	7.5

E – Economic activities

F – Family activities

O – Other activities

S – Sleep

n – no. of cases

Across the age group, the younger and older women have the longest economic hours on a work day while on a typical rest day, women age 50 and above work 1.8 hours more on economic activities than their counterparts age below 30. Female hawkers age above 50 spend shorter hours on family activities as compared to their counterparts both on a work day and a rest day. This is partly due to women in this group having grown-up children who help in doing the household chores.

The single female hawkers work longer hours on economic activities and less on family activities than their counterparts on work day. The widowed/divorced or separated women have to spend long hours on economic work and various family activities on both their work day and rest day.

The roadside hawkers spent the highest hours on economic activities, they spend on average 9.8 hours on economic activities compared to only 7.5 hours for those who operate their stalls at coffee shops, tailor's shop or using mobile stalls on a typical work day. Women trading at the hawker centres has shorter working hours on rest day, they spend about 5 hours while women at the market place spend about 8 hours working on a rest day. Roadside hawkers spend about 0.2 – 0.5 hours longer than other hawkers on family activities on work day and about 0.1 – 1.5 hours more on rest day.

Respondents who worked as sundry shop owners, restaurant owners, cooks and others spend longer hours on economic activities than the non-food hawkers or food hawkers on a work day. The non-food hawkers spend the longest hours on economic activities on a rest day than their other counterparts, they spend 8.2 hours compared to only 5.5 hours for those who are shop/stall assistants. Regarding the family activities,

Food hawkers spend the longest hours of 2.7 and 3.6 hours on work day and rest day respectively.

3.3 Multivariate Analysis

Multiple Classification Analysis (MCA) is used to consider simultaneously several predictive variables and their relationship with time spent on economic and family activities both on a work day and a rest day. Results from the ANOVA and MCA show that the model with seven factors namely region, ethnic group, educational level, age group, marital status, place of operating stall and main income-generating activity is significant in explaining the variances in time spent on economic and family activities on a work day or a rest day.

3.4.1 Time Spent on Economic Activities

The model consists of all the seven independent variables is able to explain about 16 per cent and 25 per cent of the variances in time spent on economic activities on a work day (Table 3.4) and a rest day (Table 3.5) respectively. The eta square value shows the percentage of variances explained by the variable and the beta value shows the relative importance of factors in explaining the variances.

The average hours spent on economic activities by female hawkers on a week day is 9.1 hours. Place of operating stall is the most significant factor in explaining the variances in the average hours spent on economic activities by the female hawkers (7.3 per cent) followed by region (3.6 per cent). The educational level of the female

hawkers and their ethnicity contribute little to the explanation in the differences in the variances.

Table 3.4

Multiple Classification Analysis (MCA) on Hours Spent on Economic Activities on a Work Day by Selected Socio-Demographic Variables

Variables	n	Unadjusted	Eta	Adjusted	Beta
Total	212			9.1	
Region					
East	114	8.9		9.0	
South/Central	51	9.8		9.8	
North	47	8.5	0.19	8.4	0.20
Ethnic group					
Malays	158	9.2		9.3	
Non-Malays	54	8.7	0.08	8.4	0.16
Educational level					
No schooling	57	9.1		8.9	
Primary	70	9.0		9.2	
Lower secondary	42	9.0		9.1	
Upper secondary+	43	9.1	0.02	9.0	0.05
Age group					
<30	45	9.3		8.7	
30 – 39	56	8.8		8.9	
40 – 49	55	8.7		8.8	
50+	56	9.3	0.12	9.7	0.17
Marital status					
Single	35	9.4		9.4	
Currently married	143	9.0		9.0	
Widowed/Divorced/Separated	34	9.0	0.06	9.2	0.07
Place of operating stall					
Market	87	9.1		8.9	
Hawker centre	42	9.2		9.5	
Roadside	51	9.8		9.8	
Others	32	7.7	0.27	7.6	0.29
Main income-generating activity					
Non-food hawkers	86	9.2		9.2	
Food hawkers	60	8.7		8.6	
Shop/Stall assistants	36	9.0		8.9	
Others	30	9.5	0.11	9.5	0.13
Multiple R Squared					0.16
Multiple R					0.40

n – no. of cases

After adjusting for all other variables, the beta value shows that place of operating stall is still the most important factor in explaining the differences in the variances followed by region and age group. The least important factors are the educational level and the marital status of the female hawkers.

Before adjusting for other factors, female hawkers below 30 spend on average 6.3 hours on economic activities which is similar to the hours spent by women age 50 and above. After adjustment, female hawkers below 30 spend on average 8.7 hours as compared to the female hawkers above 50 who spend 9.7 hours on economic activities. In fact after adjusting for other variables, a positive relationship between age of the women and the hours spent on economic activities on a week day can be seen where the older the female hawkers, the more time is spent on economic activities.

In term of ethnicity, the differences in the mean become more pronounced after adjusting for all other variables. The Malay female hawkers spend on average 0.9 hours more on economic activities as compared to their non-Malay counterparts. As for the other variables, the unadjusted means and the adjusted means are similar.

The combined seven independent variables can explain the differences in the mean better on a rest day than the work day. On average women hawkers spend 6.9 hours on economic activities on a rest day. The age factor is able to account for about 10.9 per cent of the variances in the time spent on economic activities on a rest day. According to the beta value, the age factor is the most important factor in explaining the differences in the variances.

Table 3.5

Multiple Classification Analysis (MCA) on Hours Spent on Economic Activities on Rest Day by Selected Socio-Demographic Variables

Variables	n	Unadjusted	Eta	Adjusted	Beta
Total	212			6.9	
Region					
East	114	8.0		7.6	
South/Central	51	6.3		6.8	
North	47	4.8	0.30	5.2	0.23
Ethnic group					
Malays	158	6.9		6.6	
Non-Malays	54	6.7	0.02	7.7	0.11
Educational level					
No schooling	57	8.8		8.1	
Primary	70	6.6		6.9	
Lower secondary	42	6.2		7.0	
Upper secondary+	43	5.4	0.29	5.1	0.23
Age group					
<30	45	6.8		7.8	
30 – 39	56	4.9		5.3	
40 – 49	55	7.1		6.9	
50+	56	8.7	0.33	7.7	0.24
Marital status					
Single	35	6.2		6.8	
Currently married	143	6.9		7.1	
Widowed/Divorced/Separated	34	7.5	0.09	6.2	0.07
Place of operating stall					
Market	87	7.8		6.9	
Hawker centre	42	5.0		6.4	
Roadside	51	6.5		6.9	
Others	32	7.3	0.24	7.3	0.06
Main income-generating activity					
Non-food hawkers	86	7.8		7.4	
Food hawkers	60	5.0		5.8	
Shop/Stall assistants	36	6.5		6.3	
Others	30	7.3	0.29	8.2	0.19
Multiple R Squared					0.25
Multiple R					0.50

n – no. of cases

Other factors like the region, the educational level and the main income-generating activity of the female hawkers also contribute significantly to the

explanation for the differences in variances. On the other hand, ethnic group and marital status of the female hawkers are less able to explain the variation in the average hours spent by female hawkers on economic activities on a rest day.

Place of operating stall by itself is able to explain about 6 per cent of the differences in the variances but after adjusting for other variables, this factor becomes the least important in explaining the variation of the means.

Regional differences in the means are less pronounced after adjusting for other factors with the East region female hawkers spending on average 2.4 hours and 0.8 hours more on economic activities in a rest day as compared to their counterparts in the North and South/Central regions respectively. In term of educational level, the higher the level of education of the female hawkers, the less time is spent on economic activities on a rest day. The younger and the older women work longer hours on economic activities on a rest day as compared to their counterparts. As for main income-generating activity of the female women, the non-food hawkers who recorded the longest hours on economic activities on a rest day is found to keep much shorter hours after adjusting for other factors. In contrast, the female hawkers involve in other activities such as sundry shop owners and restaurant owners are found to have spent longer hours on economic activities on a rest day.

3.4.2 Time Spent on Family Activities

The model with the seven independent variables of region, ethnic group, educational level, age group, marital status, place of operating stall and main income-generating

activity is slightly better in explaining the variation in the time spent on family activities on a rest day as compared to a work day (18 per cent and 16 per cent). Looking at the beta value, Table 3.6 shows that regional differences is the leading factor in explaining the differences in the variances of the time spent on family activities on a work day (5.8 per cent). The other significant factors are the main income-generating activity (4.4 per cent) and marital status (2.6 per cent). The educational level and the place of operating stall are not significant in explaining the variances in the time spent on family activities on a work day.

The beta value shows that marital status is a more important factor in explaining the variances in the hours spent on family activities on a work day as compared to region for the female hawkers. After adjusting for other variables, the differences in the total hours spent on family activities on a work day is more pronounced between the different marital status of the women. The unadjusted mean shows that the currently married women spend 0.9 hours and 0.3 hours more on family activities than the single and widowed/divorced or separated women. After adjustment with other factors, the widowed/divorced or separated female hawkers spend the longest hours (2.5 hours) on family activities followed by the currently married women (2.3 hours), and the single women (0.8 hours).

The unadjusted and adjusted means across the region show similar results with the South/Central region women spending more time on family activities as compared to their counterparts from the East and the North. After adjusting for all other variables, women below 30 spend longer hours on family activities than women in other age

oup. Women age 50 and above recorded shorter hours on family activities on a work day compared to their younger counterparts.

Table 3.6

Multiple Classification Analysis (MCA) on Hours Spent on Family Activities on a Work Day by Selected Socio-Demographic Variables

Variables	n	Unadjusted	Eta	Adjusted	Beta
Total	211			2.0	
Region					
East	113	1.8		1.8	
South/Central	51	2.9		2.9	
North	47	1.8	0.24	1.9	0.24
Ethnic group					
Malays	157	1.9		1.9	
Non-Malays	54	2.5	0.12	2.4	0.11
Educational level					
No schooling	56	2.0		2.3	
Primary	70	1.9		1.7	
Lower secondary	42	2.4		2.2	
Upper secondary+	43	2.0	0.08	2.3	0.13
Age group					
<30	45	1.9		2.5	
30 – 39	55	2.2		2.1	
40 – 49	55	2.4		2.3	
50+	56	1.6	0.15	1.4	0.21
Marital status					
Single	35	1.4		0.8	
Currently married	142	2.3		2.3	
Widowed/Divorced/Separated	34	2.0	0.16	2.5	0.29
Place of operating stall					
Market	86	1.9		2.3	
Hawker centre	42	2.0		1.6	
Roadside	51	2.4		1.9	
Others	32	2.2	0.10	2.3	0.14
Main income-generating activity					
Non-food hawkers	86	1.7		1.7	
Food hawkers	59	2.7		2.4	
Shop/Stall assistants	36	2.0		2.1	
Others	30	2.0	0.21	2.3	0.16
Multiple R Squared					0.16
Multiple R					0.40

n – no. of cases

Female hawkers spend on average 2.7 hours on family activities on a rest day, which is 0.7 hours longer than the average for a typical work day. Table 3.7 shows that the main income-generating activity, the marital status and region are the important factors in explaining the variances in the time spent on family activities on a typical rest day. The unadjusted mean shows that marital status of the female hawkers is not significant in explaining the variation in the means but after adjusting for all other factors, the marital status of the female hawkers plays an important part in the explanation of the variances.

Female hawkers in the South/Central region spend longer hours on family activities on a rest day compared to their counterparts from the East and the North but the differences are less pronounced after adjustment with all other variables. Educational level of the women and the time spent on family activities is positively correlated. Across the age group, younger and older women spend less time on family activities on a rest day.

Women traders in the hawker centres and the food traders spend longer hours on family activities compared to other type of traders. The eta value shows that place of operating stall and the main income-generating activity are able to explain about 6 per cent of the variances individually but after adjustment with other factors, these two factors become less important.

Table 3.7

Multiple Classification Analysis (MCA) on Hours Spent on Family Activities on a Day by Selected Socio-Demographic Variables

Variables	n	Unadjusted	Eta	Adjusted	Beta
Total	211			2.7	
Region					
East	113	2.2		2.4	
South/Central	51	3.7		3.4	
North	47	3.0	0.26	2.8	0.17
Ethnic group					
Malays	157	2.7		2.9	
Non-Malays	54	2.9	0.04	2.4	0.09
Educational level					
No schooling	56	2.0		2.3	
Primary	70	2.8		2.5	
Lower secondary	42	3.3		3.1	
Upper secondary+	43	3.0	0.18	3.3	0.16
Age group					
<30	45	2.7		2.8	
30 – 39	55	3.4		3.1	
40 – 49	55	2.9		2.9	
50+	56	1.9	0.22	2.1	0.15
Marital status					
Single	35	2.5		2.0	
Currently married	142	2.7		2.7	
Widowed/Divorced/Separated	34	2.9	0.06	3.6	0.19
Place of operating stall					
Market	86	2.3		2.6	
Hawker centre	42	3.4		3.1	
Roadside	51	3.4		3.0	
Others	32	2.0	0.25	2.0	0.14
Main income-generating activity					
Non-food hawkers	86	2.2		2.5	
Food hawkers	59	3.6		3.4	
Shop/Stall assistants	36	3.0		2.7	
Others	30	2.3	0.25	2.0	0.19
Multiple R Squared					0.18
Multiple R					0.42
– no. of cases					

Conclusion

Time use study on female hawkers' daily activities reveals that female hawkers spend long hours on economic activities. They spend on average 9.1 hours and 6.9 hours on economic activities on a work day and rest day respectively. Economic and family activities take up almost two-thirds of the female hawkers' waking hours on a typical work day and about 58 per cent of their non-sleeping time on a typical rest day. This leaves very little time for the female hawkers to be involved in other activities such as social activities with family and friends. Female hawkers only spend 0.21 hours on productive activities with family and 0.03 hours on social activities with friends on a typical work day.

Female hawkers in the South/Central region, women traders by the roadside and women in the older age group are spending more time on economic activities as compared to their counterparts from other region, place of operating stall or age group. Multivariate analysis shows that region and place of operating stall are the two main important factors in explaining the variances in the time spent on economic activities on work day but on a rest day, the main important factors in explaining the variances are the age group, the educational level and region.

Variances in the time spent on family activities on a work day are best represented by the marital status of the women and region. The marital status and the type of main income-generating activity can explain differences in the class means for hours spent on family activities on a rest day.