
Two Approaches to Measuring Women's Work in Developing Countries:

A Comparison of Survey Data from Egypt

Ray Langsten

Social Research Center
American University in Cairo

Rania Salem

Office of Population Research
Princeton University

Two Issues Affect Estimates of Women's Work:

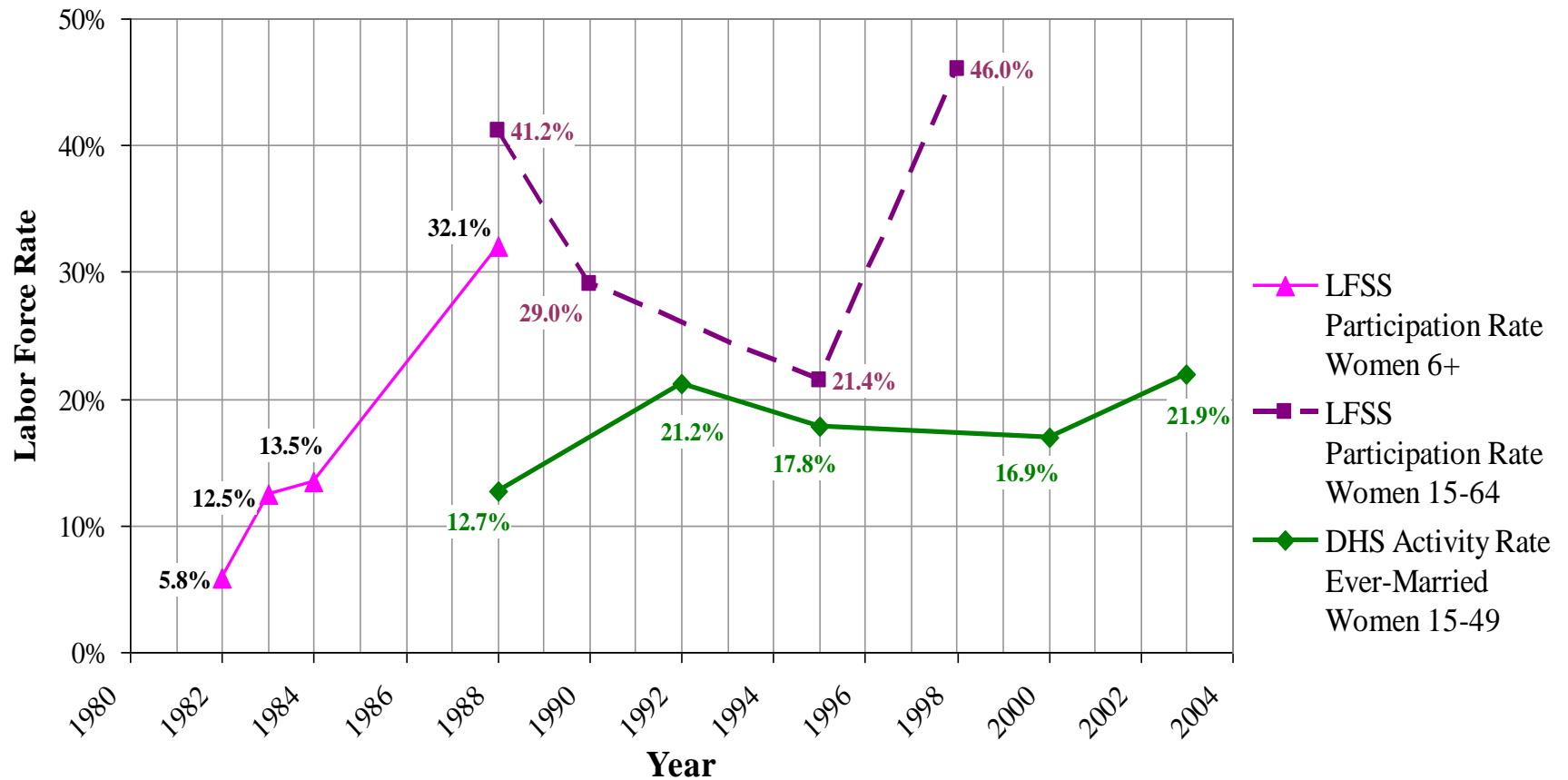
- ❑ Definition of Work
 - ❑ Market
 - ❑ Extended
 - ❑ Use Value Production
 - ❑ Measurement Techniques
 - ❑ Keyword Questions (Single / Multiple)
 - ❑ Activities List
 - ❑ Time Use
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Estimates of women's work in Egypt vary due to inconsistencies in *definitions* and in *measurement techniques*

Survey	Female Participation
ILO/CAPMAS Labor Force Methods Test – Rural 1984 *	83% (extended) 40% (market)
Egypt Labor Market Survey 1998	46% (extended) 21% (market)

* Figure refers to those actively working, as opposed to working *or* seeking work

LFSS/ELMS and DHS Estimates of Women's Labor Force Involvement Over Time



Here we contrast two approaches to the measurement of women's work, applied to the same population of ever-married women

■ **Single Keyword Question**

“As you know, some women take up *jobs* for which they are paid in cash or kind. Others sell things, have a small business or *work* on the family farm or in the family business. ... Are you currently *doing any of these things or any other work*? Have you done any *work* in the last 12 months?”

■ **Activities List**

“Have you done any of the following activities in the last 3 months...”

Essential Consistency of the DHS and SFT Measures

		DHS 2003					Total
		A.None	B.Professional / Technical / Clerical	C.Sales	D.Agriculture/ Animal Husbandry	E.Services/ Manual	
SFT 2004	1.None	1106 94.80% <i>Kappa = 0.192</i>	22 1.90%	11 0.90%	12 1.00%	16 1.40%	1167 100.00%
	2.Professional / Technical / Clerical	25 8.10%	274 88.70% <i>Kappa = 0.844</i>	3 1.00%		7 2.30%	309 100.00%
	3.Sales	113 66.90%	6 3.60%	17 10.10% <i>Kappa = 0.141</i>	20 11.80%	13 7.70%	169 100.00%
	4.Agriculture/ Animal Husbandry	1168 85.00%	15 1.10%	9 0.70%	166 12.10% <i>Kappa = 0.102</i>	16 1.20%	1374 100.00%
	5.Services/ Manual	184 67.60%	12 4.40%	4 1.50%	27 9.90%	45 16.50% <i>Kappa = 0.21</i>	272 100.00%
	Total	2596 78.90%	329 10.00%	44 1.30%	225 6.80%	97 2.90%	3291 100.00%

Consistency of the DHS and SFT Measures

- All Kappa values are highly significant.
 - Degree of consistency is highest for the “professional, technical, clerical” category, which has the largest Kappa value.
 - Numbers of women falling into the cells on the diagonal are larger than elsewhere (with the exception of the “none” column).
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Further evidence of the Consistency of the two Measures

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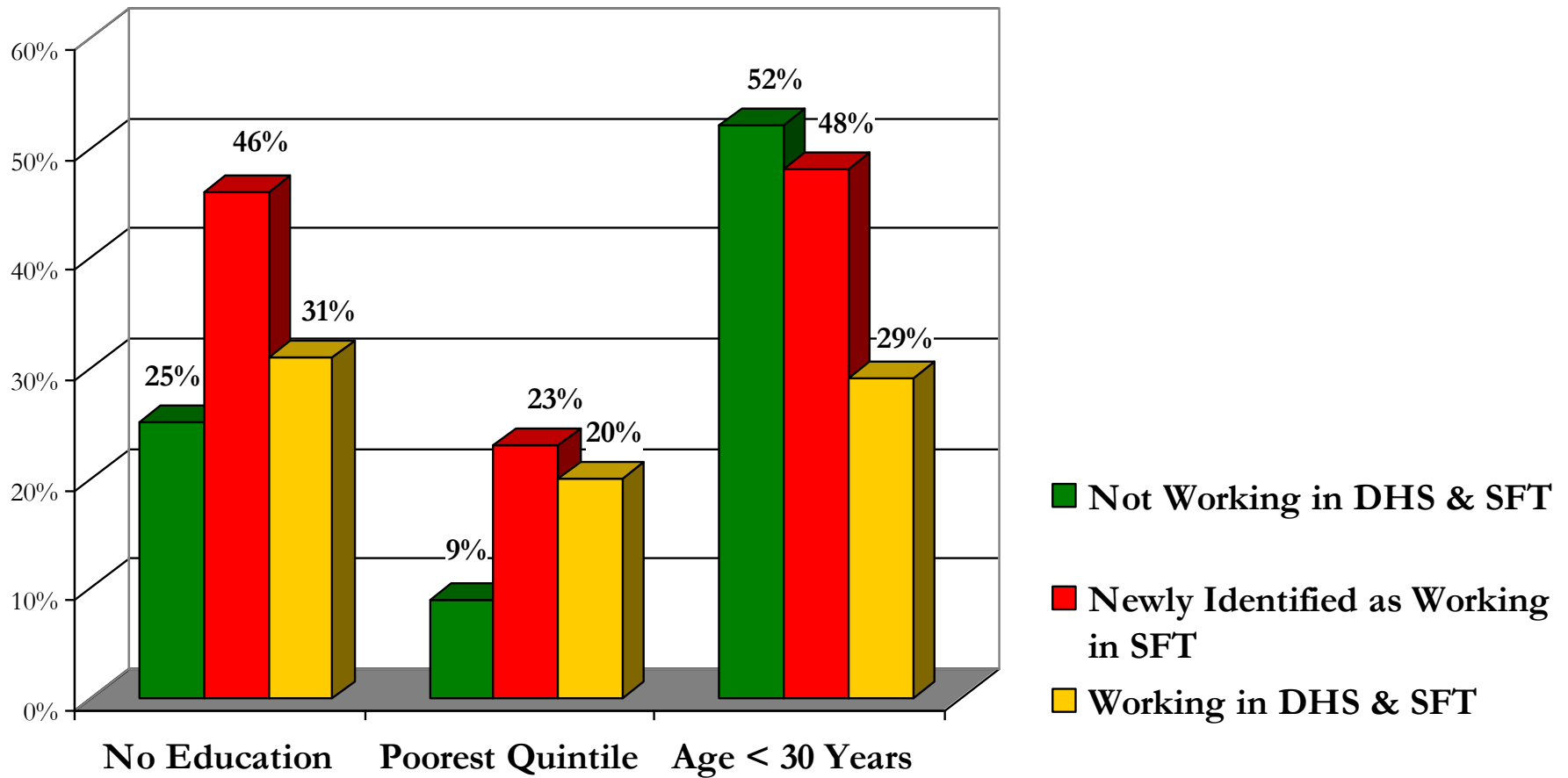
Main Difference: *Non-workers* in DHS are reclassified as *workers* in SFT

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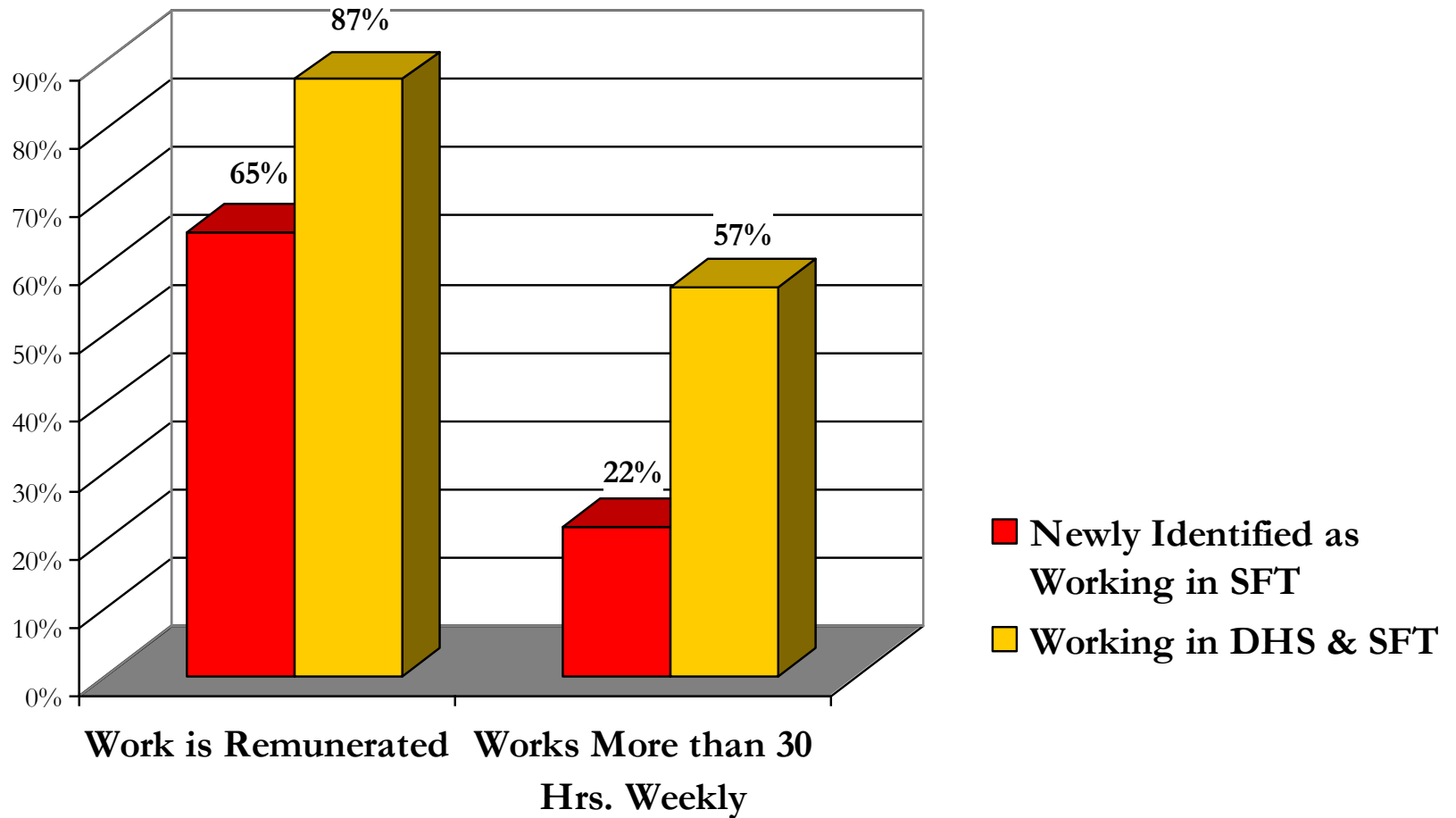
Comparing Socio-Economic Characteristics of Three Groups of Women

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Comparing Socio-Economic Characteristics of Three Groups of Women



Nature of Activities Performed by Working Women



Comparison of Broad Occupational Groups –ELMS 1998 and SFT

	ELMS 1998	SFT 2004
Prof / Tech / Clerical	11.9%	9.4%
Sales	2.6%	5.1%
Services / Manual	1.8%	8.3%
Agriculture / Animal Husbandry – Subsistence	30.8%	33.7%
Agriculture / Animal Husbandry– Wage/Market	2.1%	8.1%
Total Working	49.2%	64.5%
N	3849	3293

Conclusions – We Have Shown:

- Using a consistent definition of work, the activities list captures more working women than do keyword questions—whether single or multiple.
 - The newly identified working women are poorer and less educated than are the women identified as working by the single DHS keyword question.
 - Newly identified workers have jobs that are more likely to be casual, intermittent, part-time, home-based—in a word, informal.
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Conclusions – In addition, the activities list has other advantages:

- Activities questions are easy to administer; keyword questions are hard.
 - An activities list more effectively captures *all* tasks a woman does.
 - The activities list accommodates *all* definitions of the labor force, and the definition can be specified *after* data collection.
 - Activities lists are the correct choice not only for measuring women's work, but also the work of a) children; b) youth; c) the elderly—i.e. any group likely to be working in non-normative tasks.
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Thank you

Appendix A: ELMS 1998 Question Format

<p>Did you participate in any employment during the week ending 31 October 1998?</p>	<p>Did you participate during the week ending 31 October 1998 for a short period or irregular periods in any of the following activities?</p>	<p>Did you participate in any agricultural production, or keeping of poultry and livestock for family consumption?</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">I. produce goods sold at shops or projectii. offer paid services to othersiii. produce goods and selling it yourselfiv. buying goods and re-selling it yourselfv. independent paid workvi. helping in family's businessvii. participate in project- agricultural, or keep poultry and livestockviii. learn a skill in a factory or garage	

Appendix B: LSMS Question Format

ID Code	3. During the past 7 days have you worked for someone who is not a member of your household, for example, an enterprise, company, the government, or any other individual? Yes = 1 → 5 No = 2	5. During the past 7 days have you worked on a farm owned or rented by a member of your household, whether in cultivating crops, or in other farm maintenance tasks, or have you cared for livestock belonging to a member of your household? Yes = 1 → 7 No = 2	7. During the past 7 days have you worked on your own account, or in a business enterprise belonging to you or someone in your household, for example, as a trader, shopkeeper, barber, dressmaker, carpenter, or taxi driver? Yes = 1 → 9 No = 2
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Appendix C: Percent of Women with a Market-Oriented Primary Job Who Have a Secondary Job – ELMS 1998 and SFT 2004.

	ELMS – 1998	SFT - 2004
Secondary – Market	2.1%	19.2%
Secondary – Subsistence	7.7%	27.2%
Primary N	809	1014