



# A comparison of children's daily lives and activities across 16 countries

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# International research: Low-income countries

- Children spend more time on household chores and on work-related activities
- A focus on measuring this and its impact on school attendance and time spent on educational activities
- Girls more likely to work in the home, boys more likely to work outside the home
- Evidence in some countries of girls spending less time on education than boys
- Differences between urban and rural areas

*'the shifting balance of attending school and/or working within and outside the home affects children very differently according to their situation, and is one of the factors contributing strongly to diverging life trajectories.'*

(Dornan and Woodhead, 2015)

# International research: High-income countries

- Concern about leisure activities and their possible effects on child well-being
  - Sedentary indoor screen-based activities < > outdoor physical activity
  - Potential risks of new technologies
- Different activities are associated with different health outcomes
- Many children do not meet guidelines on physical activity
- However:
  - Inconsistent evidence that children's level of physical activity has decreased. Trends may differ between countries
  - Possible trade-off between time spent on computers and time spent watching television

# Children's Worlds project

- An international study of children's lives and well-being
- Wave 2 (2013-16) funded by the Jacobs Foundation
- 16 countries have completed the survey with over 54,000 children aged 8 to 12
- A further four countries currently completing it
  
- The questionnaire contains questions on a wide range of aspects of children's lives
- Includes 16 questions on time use

# 16 countries

Ethiopia	Israel
Nepal	Norway
Algeria	Poland
South Africa	Estonia
Colombia	Malta
Romania	Turkey
Spain	Germany
UK	South Korea

# 16 questions about time use

Frequency in the last 7 days

General	Family-related
Helping around the house	Talking
Taking care of others in family	Having fun
Taking classes outside school	Learning
Doing homework	
Organized leisure activities	Friends-related
Playing sports / exercising	Talking
Watching TV / listening to music	Having fun
Using a computer	Studying
Reading for fun	
Time by oneself	

# Questions to be addressed

1. Are there variations between countries in how much time children spend on work-related, education-related and leisure activities?
2. Is there a trade-off for individual children between
  - a) work-related activities and learning-related activities?
  - b) screen-based activities and physical activities?
3. Are there differences in children's time use within and between countries according to gender?

# Analysis

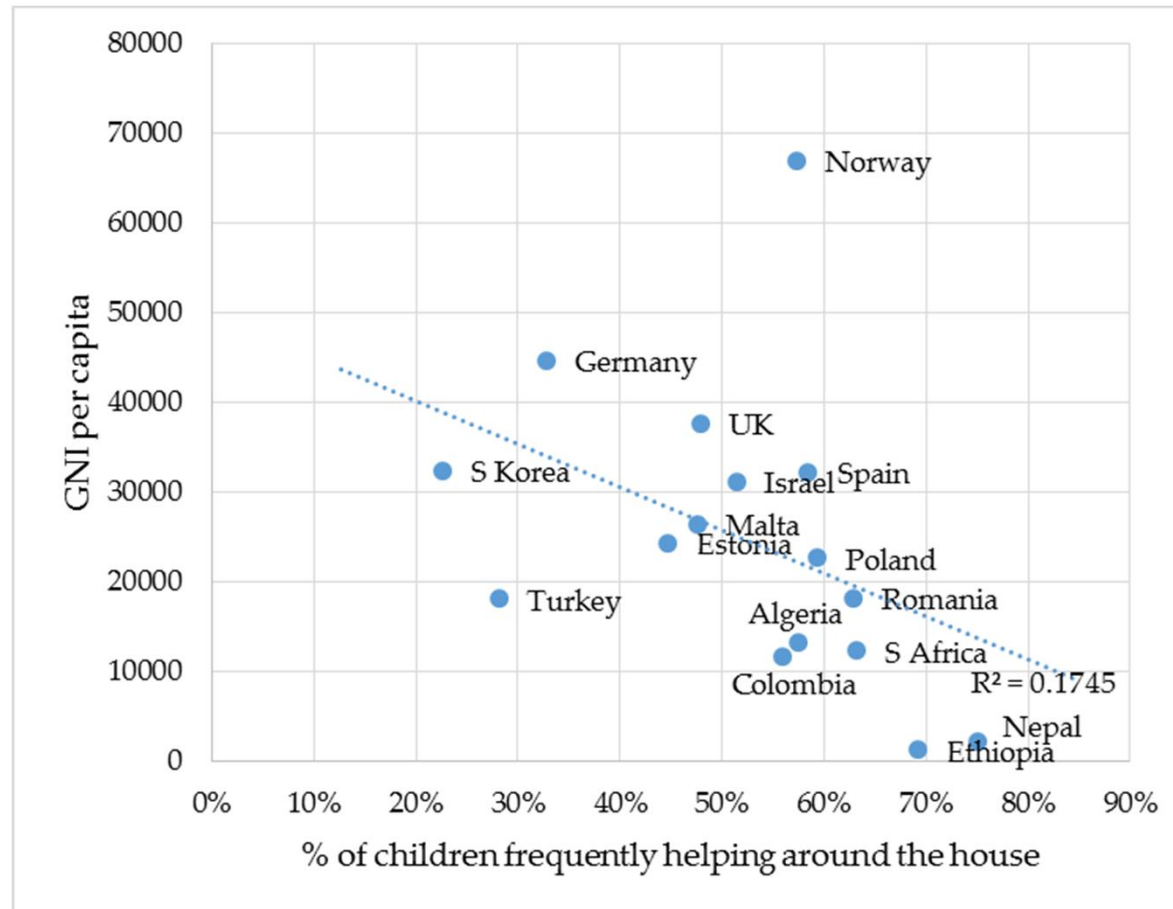
- Data from 12-year-olds: 19,212 children in 16 countries
- Weighted data to maximise the representativity of the sample in each country
- Tests used
  - Associations at a country level = Pearson correlation
  - Associations within countries = Non-parametric tests (Kendall's tau, Chi-square tests)
- For all within-country comparisons a p-value  $< 0.01$  was regarded as statistically significant (\*); p-values  $< 0.001$  are marked by \*\*



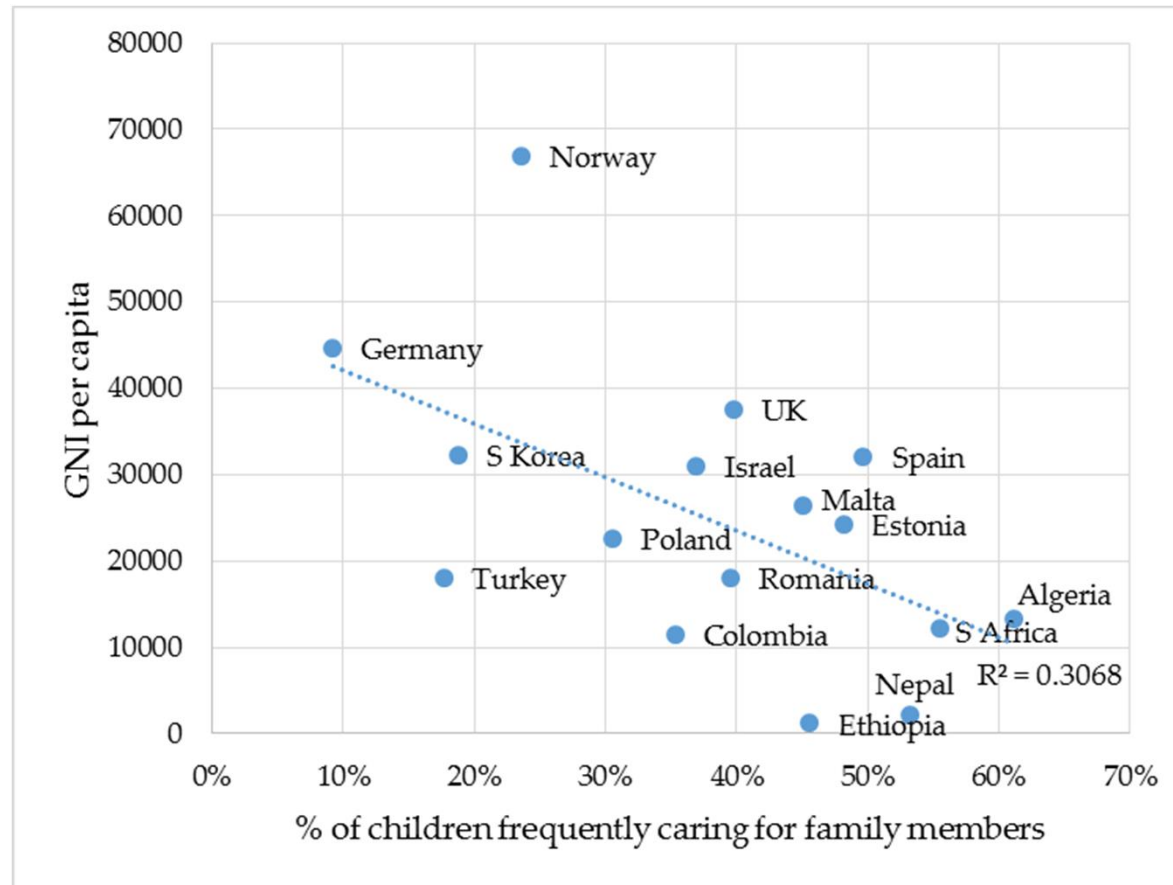
# Rankings

	House work	Caring	Classes	Home work	Sports	TV	Computer	Reading	Org leisure	Self
Ethiopia	2	6	13	13	16	16	16	15	9	16
Nepal	1	3	15	11	14	15	15	7	7	15
Algeria	7	1	8	12	13	14	12	5	6	13
S Africa	3	2	6	10	9	13	11	3	1	4
Colombia	9	11	5	14	7	7	7	9	5	10
Romania	4	9	10	5	4	4	8	4	10	14
Spain	6	4	3	4	6	8	6	10	11	2
UK	11	8	14	16	8	3	5	11	4	1
Israel	10	10	7	8	3	5	3	6	8	5
Norway	8	13		7	2	2	9	13		9
Poland	5	12	9	3	1	6	4	12	14	7
Estonia	13	5	1	2	5	1	1	14	13	6
Malta	12	7	4	1	12	10	2	1	2	3
Turkey	15	15	12	6	10	11	10	2	3	8
Germany	14	16	2	9	11	9	13	8	12	12
S Korea	16	14	11	15	15	12	14	16	15	11

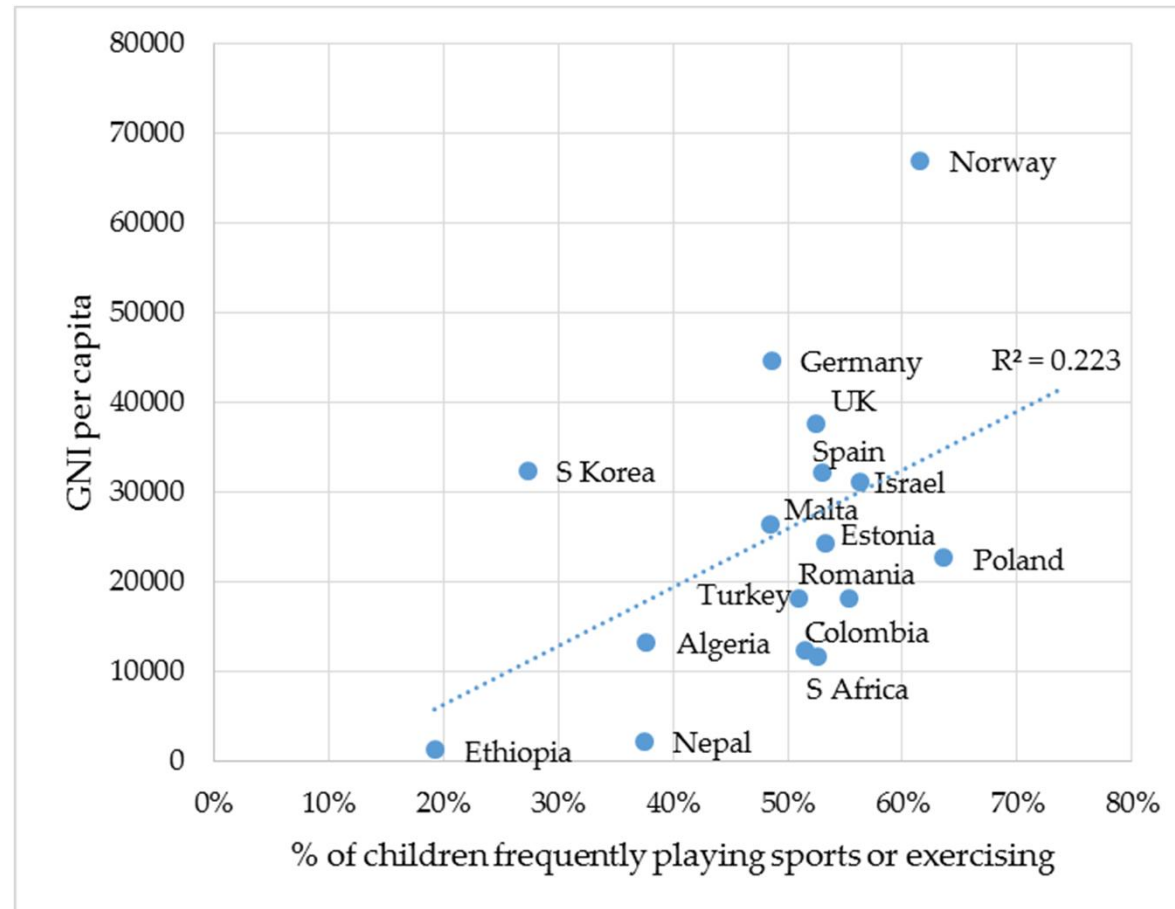
# Helping around the home and national wealth



# Caring for others and national wealth



# Sports / exercise and national wealth



# Learning-related activities

% 'every day or almost'

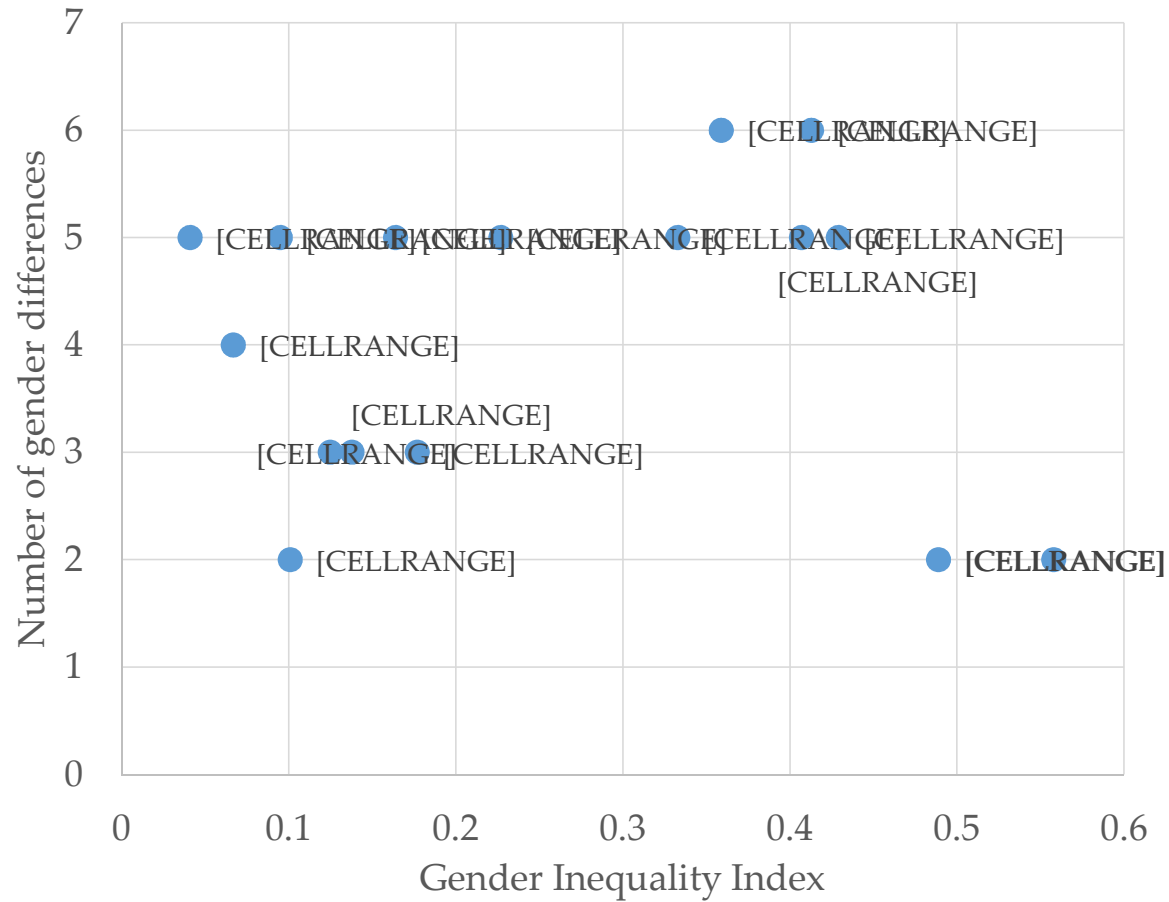
	Classes		Homework		Learning with family		Studying with friends	
Ethiopia	13%	13	68%	13	25%	8	21%	2
Nepal	12%	15	76%	11	51%	2	18%	5
Algeria	19%	8	76%	12	59%	1	23%	1
S Africa	34%	6	79%	10	42%	4	19%	3
Colombia	35%	5	67%	14	43%	3	15%	6
Romania	19%	10	88%	5	35%	7	12%	8
Spain	42%	3	88%	4	23%	11	3%	15
UK	13%	14	52%	16	20%	13	7%	11
Israel	29%	7	81%	8	24%	9	10%	9
Norway			84%	7	21%	12	7%	13
Poland	19%	9	90%	3	24%	10	6%	14
Estonia	51%	1	91%	2	15%	14	8%	10
Malta	36%	4	97%	1	36%	6	7%	12
Turkey	14%	12	85%	6	38%	5	12%	7
Germany	42%	2	80%	9	12%	15	1%	16
S Korea	18%	11	54%	15	11%	16	19%	4



# Gender differences

	House work	Caring	Classes	Home work	Sports	TV	Comp-uter	Reading	Org leisure	Self
Algeria*	G			G	B	B	B		B	
Colombia*	G		B	G	B			G		
Estonia	G			G	B			G		G
Ethiopia	G				B					
Germany	G				B		B	G	B	
Israel			B		B					
Malta			B	G	B			G	B	
Nepal				G					B	
Norway		B			B	G	B			
Poland*	G			G				G		
Romania	G			G	B		B	G		
S Africa*	G			G	B			G	B	
S Korea					B	G	B			
Spain*			B	G	B			G		G
Turkey*	G			G	B		B	G	B	
UK*				G	B	G				

# Gender differences and Gender Inequality Index





# Conclusions

- Children spend more time on work-related activities and a little less time on leisure-related activities in poorer countries
- Different patterns of learning-related activities in different countries
- No evidence of trade-off between work-related and learning-related activities
- No evidence of trade-off between screen-based and physical activities
- Many gender differences in time use within countries
- Unclear link between gender differences and gender equality among adults
  
- Limitations and gaps in activities included in the questionnaire
- Children attending school only
- Specific age range