

## Quantification of Unpaid Domestic Work: Insights from Amritsar (India)

*(Ruhi Refath Aara, Research Scholar, Punjab School of Economics, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar)*

### Abstract

The present study aims to examine the current situation of involvement in domestic work amongst house wives and working women's in Amritsar district of Punjab and to quantify and assign an approximate economic value to the unpaid work performed by women in the study area. The study is based on primary data and the same was collected from married women's with the help of a persistent questionnaire. On applying Replacement Cost Method to quantify unpaid domestic work the empirical results reveal that the average value of unpaid domestic work performed by women, both as housewives as well as working women's in the study area amounts to approximately Rs.32, 388 per month. Despite the magnitude of this figure, the financial value of the domestic work done by women continues to go unnoticed and women continue to be treated as if they contribute nothing of value to the society or to the nation. The study suggests the need to estimate the unpaid labor contributed by women to improve the conditions of unpaid workers and to support policy creation and implementation. If the amount and value of unpaid work were known, the impact of governmental policy changes such as cutbacks in health care and welfare could be better measured. As such the valuation of unpaid labor should be done keeping in mind the aim to increase access to social benefits for all, while also increasing and ensuring women's full participation in the policy making process as well.