

SHE LEADS PROJECT



TIME DIARIES

REPORT

"Today's Girls are Tomorrow's Leaders"

*A STUDY CONDUCTED BY ERUDITE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION (EWEF) IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL, GHANA (DCI- GHANA).*

ASANTE AKIM NORTH DISTRICT

JULY, 2021.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Policy Brief presents the results of the research project, She Leads Time Diary Survey on time use by girls and boys in the Asante Akim North District. The aim of this project is to collect and analyse data on how girls and boys in the Asante Akim North District use their time in paid and unpaid works, especially with regard to household chores, mass media and learning. The diagnosis thereby made shall enable us to, among other things, raise awareness of the need to have a balanced treatment for girls and boys at the household level, as well as formulate public policy recommendations concerning the articulation of the inclusion of girls and young women in leadership and decision- making processes as a tool to promote gender equality. The Policy Brief provides a brief background of the project and its intervention to tackle this issue, describing its population size, the methodologies and key findings, conclusions and recommendation.

INTRODUCTION

Globally, there are 582 million girls aged 10 to 19 years. Over 85% of adolescent girls are estimated to live in poverty (less than \$2 per day). Approximately 25% of girls in developing countries are not in school. In over a dozen countries across the world, more than 50% --- and in some as much as 87% of girls – do not complete primary school (Calder & Huda, 2013) Many girls and young women are not empowered/educated due to the overburdened household work on them. This household work/care work is usually unpaid for. Unpaid care work reduces the productive hours girls/young women can use for economic activity The burden of unpaid care work reduces girls/young women opportunity to participate in leadership and decision making at all levels. Unpaid care work is one of the worst forms of discrimination due to the socialization of many communities which puts so much work load on girls as opposed to boy.

Ghana Statistical Service (2010) shows that there are more females who are self-employed without employees than their male counterparts in Asante Akim North District. This confirms the usual observation that females are more likely to be self-employed without employees than males in the country. Our time diary analysis points out that female respondents spend more time in doing household chores than male respondents, this study contradicts Ghana Statistical Service data which also shows that more males (11.3%) engaged as employees than females (7.2%). Also, males (3.1%) are more likely to be self-employed with employees than females (2.7%). On the other hand, there is high proportion of females than males who are into contributing to family work or work casually. These are likely to weaken the ability of women to contribute financially to the upkeep of their households in the district. The data further shows that less than two percent (1.4%) of the population of the district have attained tertiary level of education. The probability of males furthering their education to the tertiary level is higher (4.4%) than for females (2.8%).

There is the need to generate evidenced based data to track time use of girls/young women for advocacy. The time diaries tool helps to track the time use of girls and young women to engage communities and duty bearers on the need for time sharing among boys & girls and women & men. The tool was initially developed by ActionAid Ghana and has helped Songtaba (one of the contracted partners on the She Leads Project, in the Northern Region) to engage with many communities with the evidence on time use by girls and young women, hence calling for time sharing with their male counterparts. This situation has dire implications or consequences for the district and will affect the district if not attended to as a matter of urgency.

STUDY SITES, SURVEY AND DATA COLLECTION METHODS

The study was carried in the Asante Akim North District. Five Communities were purposely selected; Agogo, Hwidiem, Akutuase, Juansa and Domeabra.. The District is located at the eastern part of the Ashanti Region of Ghana. The total population of the District is 69,186 in 2010. The district has a more populous rural sector (53.5%) than the urban sector (46.5%) (Ghana Statistics Service, 2010).

The study was designed as descriptive study based on sample of time diary survey questionnaire. The main purpose of the study was to generate evidence- based data to track the time use of girls and boys in the Asante Akim North District for effective advocacy. The study attempts to see the differences in time utilization between girls and boys in regard to household chores, learning and accessing mass media. 50 boys and girls from ages 10 to 19 were considered as respondent for this study.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

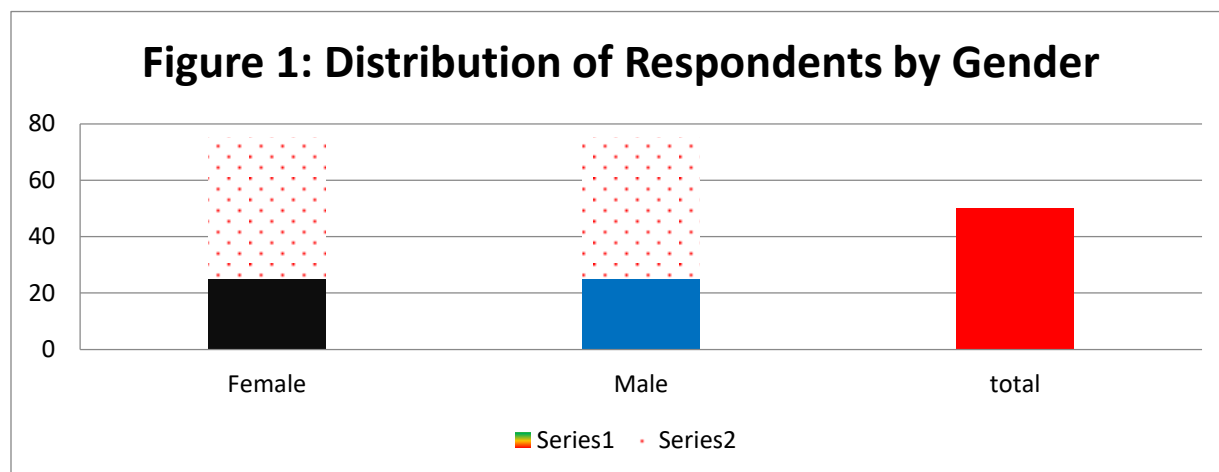
Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Results of a cross-tabulation of respondents gender and age are presented in tables and figures 1, 2 and 3. Table and figure 1 point out that 50% of the respondents are females and 50% of the respondents are males.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

Gender	TOTAL	
	Number(N)	Percentage (%)
Female	25	50
Male	25	50
Total	50	100

Source: Field Data (2021)



Source: Field Data (2021)

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age Group	TOTAL	
	N	%
10 - 12	13	56
13 - 15	28	44
16-19	9	12
Total	50	100

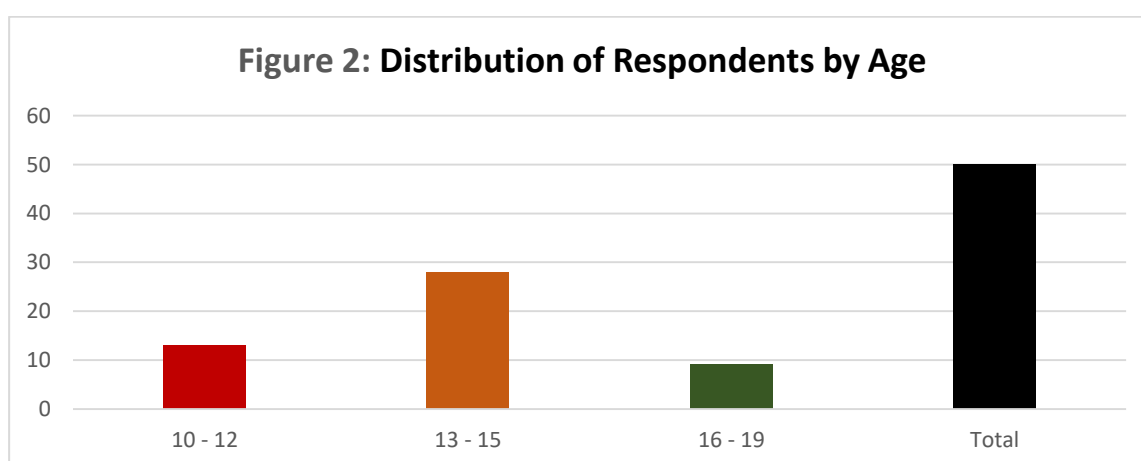
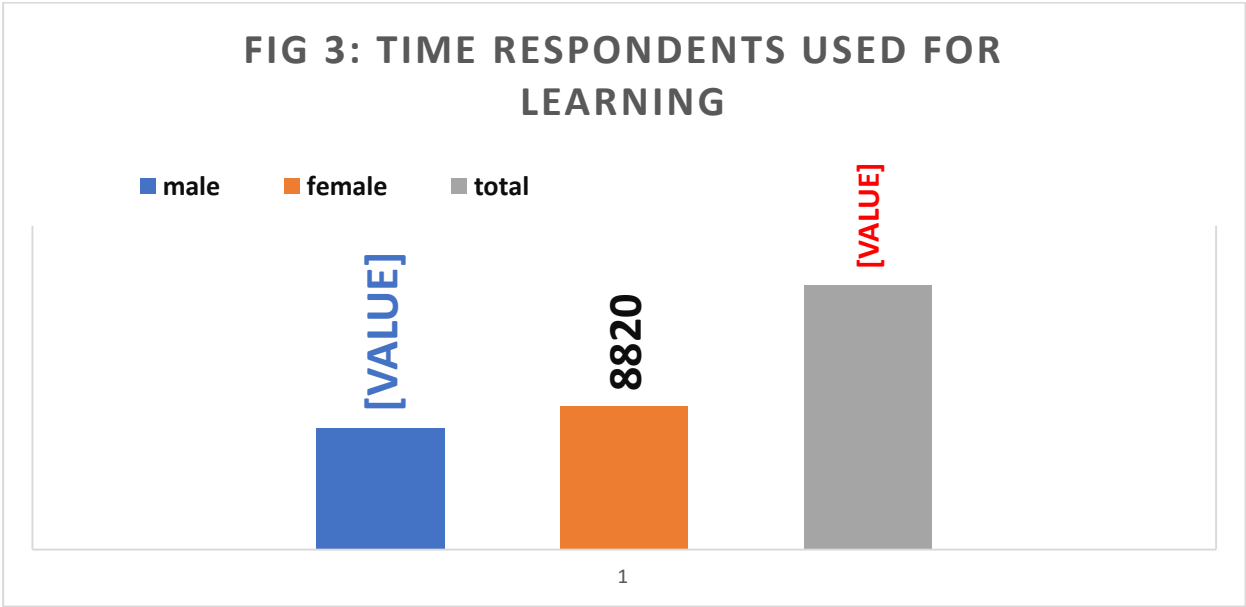


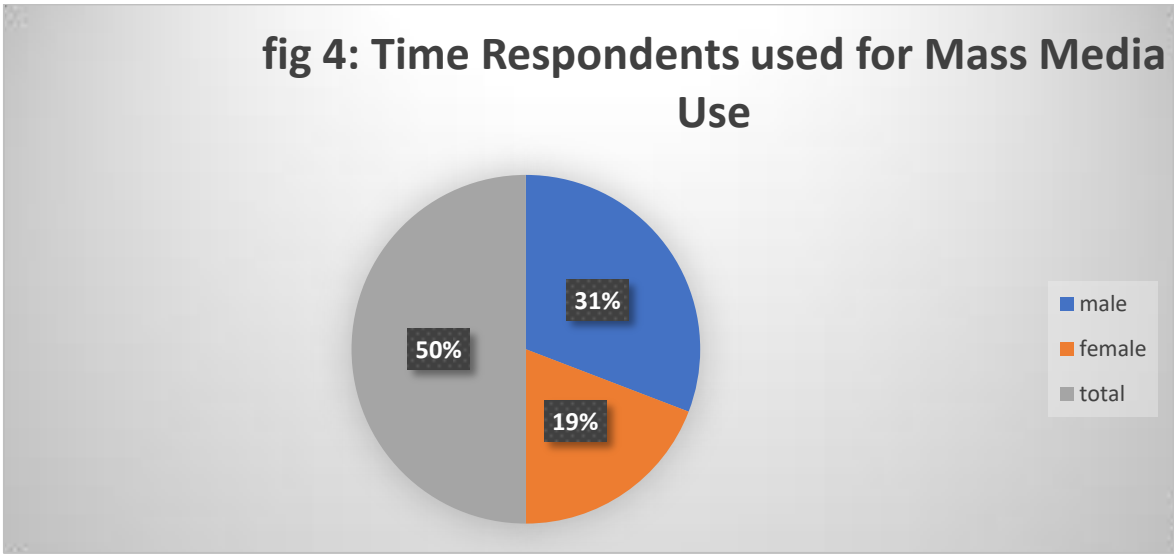
Table 2 and Figure 2 point out that 26% of the respondents are between 10 and 12 years of age, 56% are aged between 13 and 15 years and 18% aged between 16 and 19 years.

Main Findings



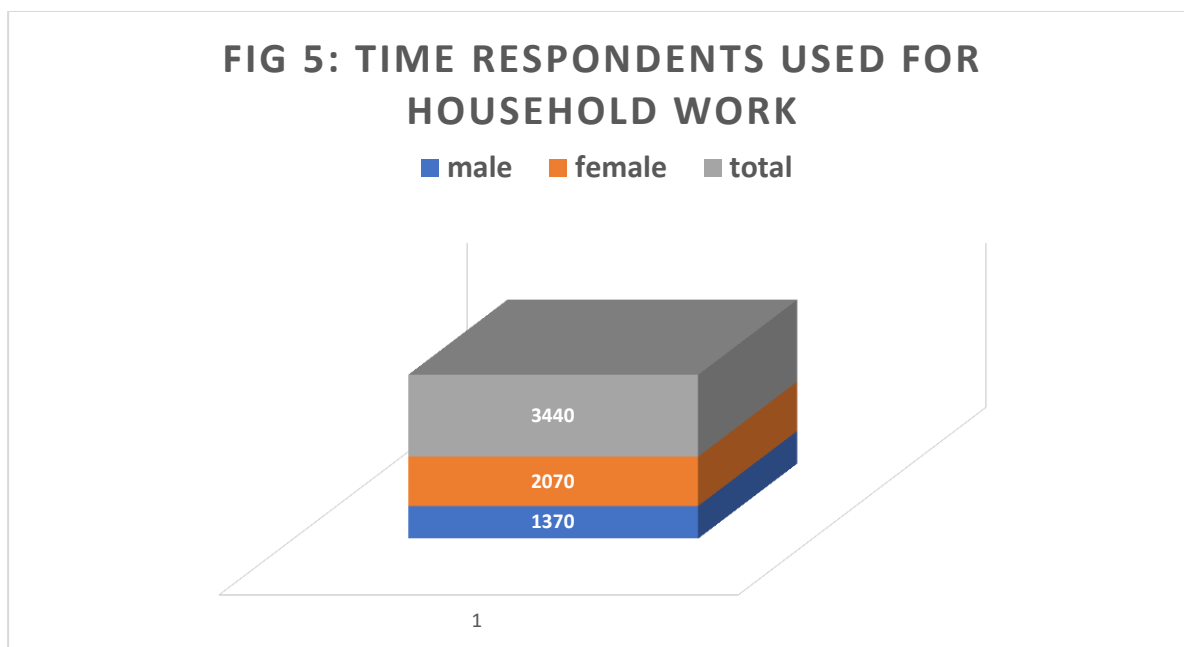
Source: Field Data (2021)

Figure 3 points out that female respondents spend much of their time in learning than male respondents.



Source: Field Data (2021)

Figure 4 points out that male respondent's access mass media more than female respondents.



Source: Field Data (2021)

Figure 5 points out that female respondents spend more time in doing household chores than male respondents.

CONCLUSION

This study provides an empirical evidence for strengthening advocacy on the leadership and inclusion of girls and young women in decision- making processes. The study findings provide some evidence that girls spend more time in helping their families to do household chores, sleeping, doing unpaid work more than engaging in empowering activities. The findings show that girls utilised their little time judiciously in learning as compared to boys.

To realize the goal of the She Leads Project by 2025, a pathway to change can be drawn out that values the impact school education has on a girl's life, as well as her ability to interact in structured activities that build her leadership skills. These things can combine to develop the kind of leadership competencies we expect to see in young women leaders- voice/assertion, confidence, decision-making, organization and vision. This is where the importance of

advocacy for girls' rights, gender equality and transforming gender dynamics are critical to creating the supportive relations and enabling environments girls and young women need.

RECOMMENDATIONS

At the heart of any of these four priority areas is the urgent need to challenge and transform social and gender norms that prevent girls and young women from acting on their leadership aspirations:

❖ **Communities should be encouraged to contribute to the cultural change necessary to achieve gender equality.**

Particularly, emphasis should be placed on including those who are in traditional leadership roles. Therefore empowering women to access their rights must sit along communities to address the barriers to those rights. There should be changes in attitudes, beliefs, practices and discriminatory social gender norms.

❖ **Create safe spaces for girls and young women.**

Girls and young women can bring unique perspectives, experiences, skills and knowledge to broader community- engaged activities. Creating safe spaces for GYW can help them build their networks, support one another, share knowledge, and develop strategies and ideas.

These spaces can be created in schools, workplaces, as part of community programs and at events and forums.

❖ **Equal sharing of unpaid household chores among girls and boys.**

The data reveal that girls in Asante Akim North District spend more time on unpaid house works than boys do. Time spent on chores limits a girl's time to play, socialize with friends, study and be a child. This unequal distribution of labor among children also perpetuates gender stereotypes and double-burden on women and girls across generations. Parents are therefore encouraged to share household work equally among their children.

❖ **Dialogue, collaboration and collective action.**

Various stakeholders such as Traditional Leaders, MMDCEs, Ghana Education Service, Religious Organizations etc. should partner and support Civil Society Organizations to act collectively and give a voice to gender equality issues and promote them in practice.

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