



▶ **NEET isn't working?**

Determinants and time-use of young people not in employment, education or training in South Asia

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▶ Today:

- ▶ Introduction and global overview of NEET
- ▶ Some background on youth labour markets in S Asia
- ▶ Characterising NEET in South Asia: LFS and Time use data

► What do we mean by NEET (SDG indicator 8.6.1)?

Who are the NEET?

- Young unemployed (but who are not also in education);

AND

- Young people outside the labour force (but who are not also in education)

But can we distinguish further amongst young NEETs?

NEETs are very **heterogeneous**; Standard (high income country; LFS) approach identifies further sub-groups based on reasons for being NEET:

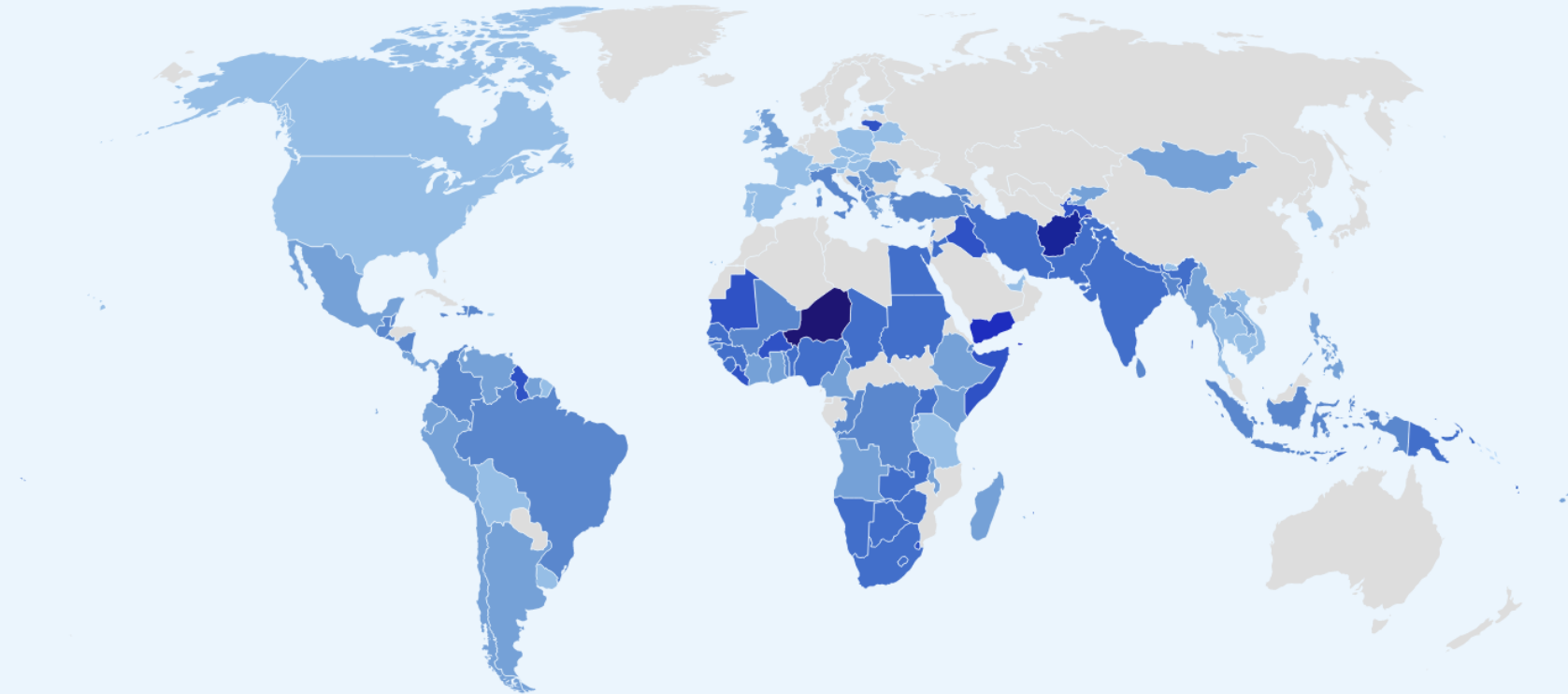
- Unemployed
- Discouraged
- Family responsibilities
- Young people with disabilities
- Other (residual category)

Alternative: Time use (& clustering)

NEET rates vary widely –across the world

► Share of young people (15-29) not in employment, education or training (NEET)

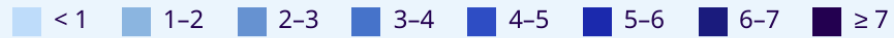
 < 8 8-16 16-24 24-32 32-40 40-48 48-56 56-64 64-72 ≥ 72

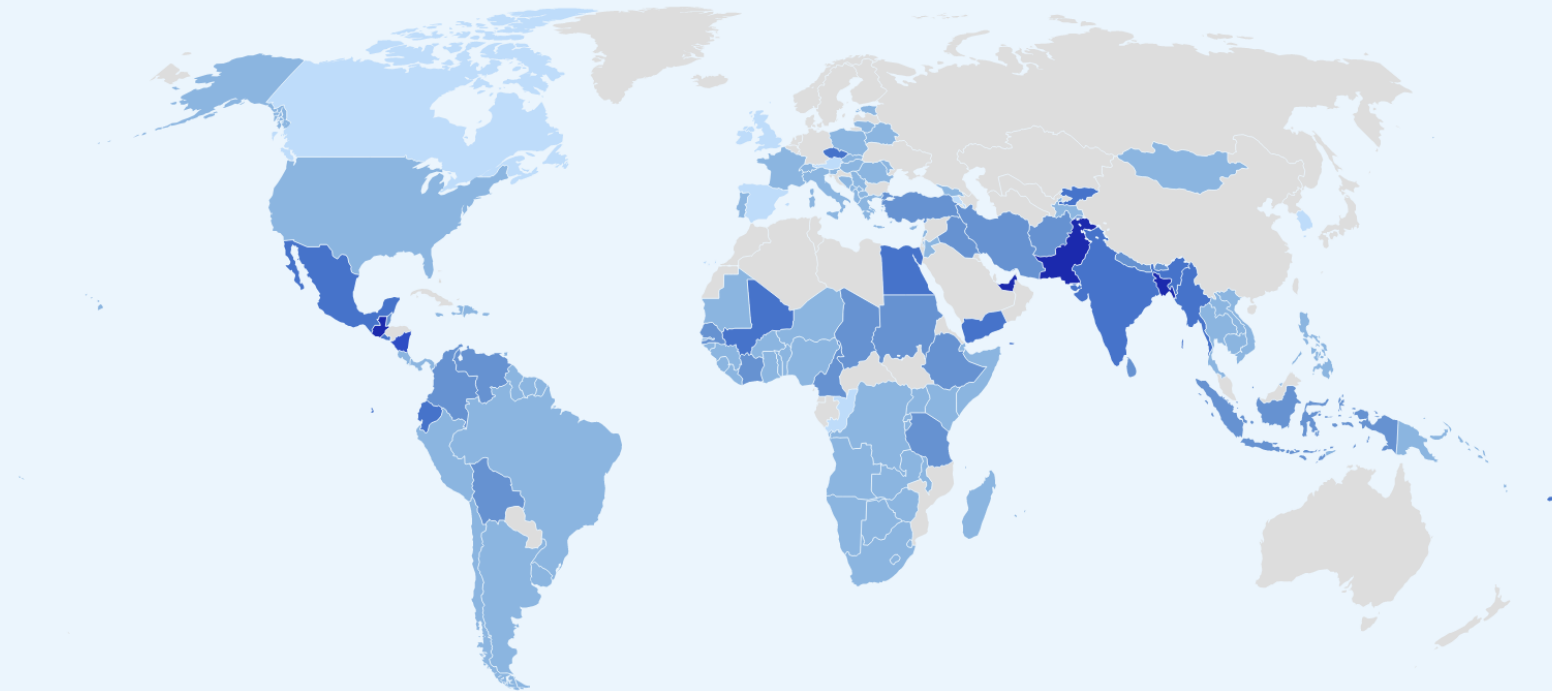


Calculated using microdata from the ILO micro-database, latest available year

But there are some regularities....first and foremost, NEET rates are almost universally higher amongst young women than young men; especially true in South Asia

► Ratio of female to male NEET rates; young people aged 15-29, 2021 or latest year

 < 1 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-5 5-6 6-7 ≥ 7

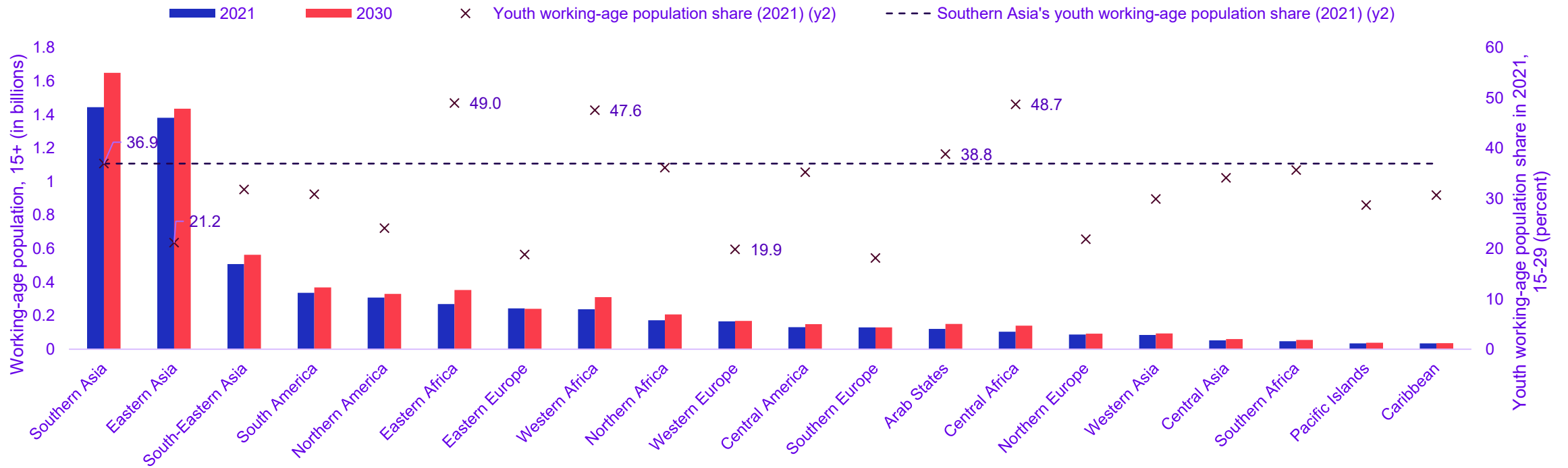


► Beyond the ubiquitous gender disparity, there are some other important empirical regularities (many of which are driven by trends in female NEET)

- The most significant 'determinant' of being NEET is 'family responsibilities'
- NEET rates tend to fall as country income increases
- NEET rates are higher – and the gender gap larger – in rural compared to urban areas
- NEET rates tend to fall with rising individual educational attainment;
- There is strong evidence of persistence/scarring especially amongst young women

▶ Youth Labour Markets in South Asia

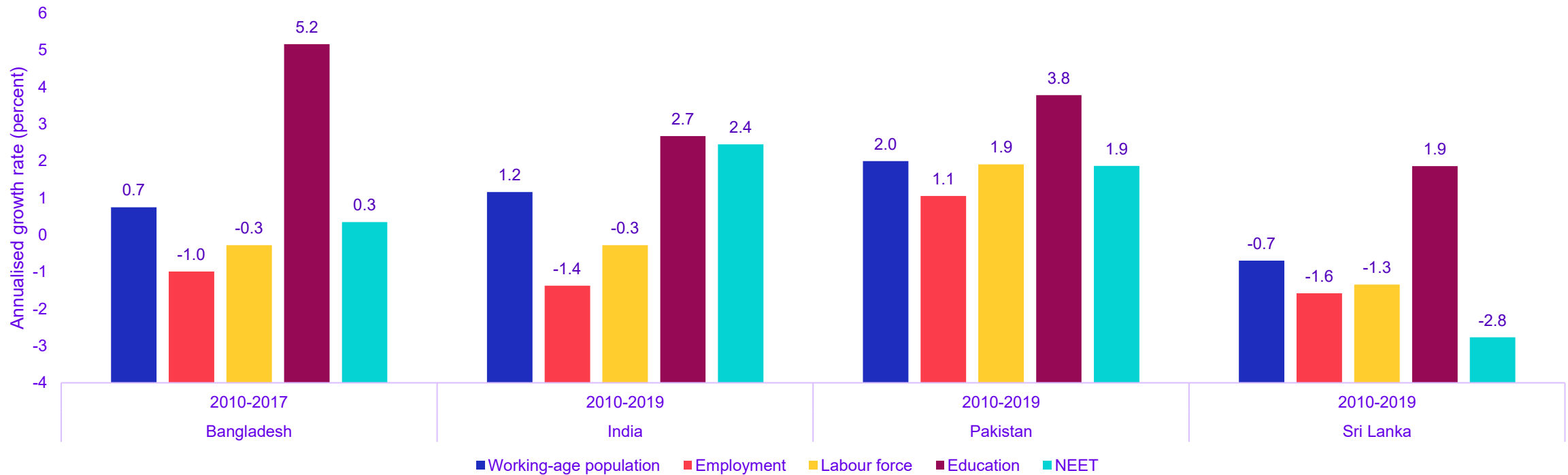
Southern Asia has the largest working-age population in the world with one of the largest youth shares



Informal employment is pervasive in Southern Asia, particularly among young people

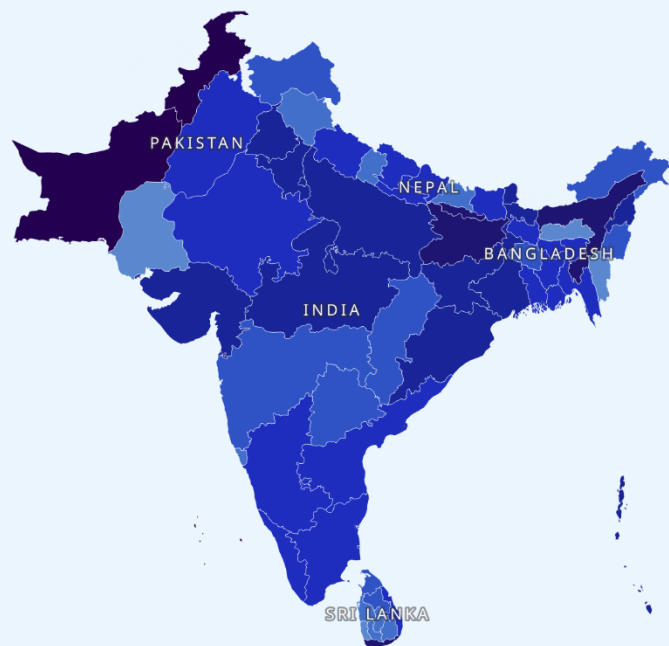


NEETs are growing fast in Southern Asia, and employment growth trails labour force growth

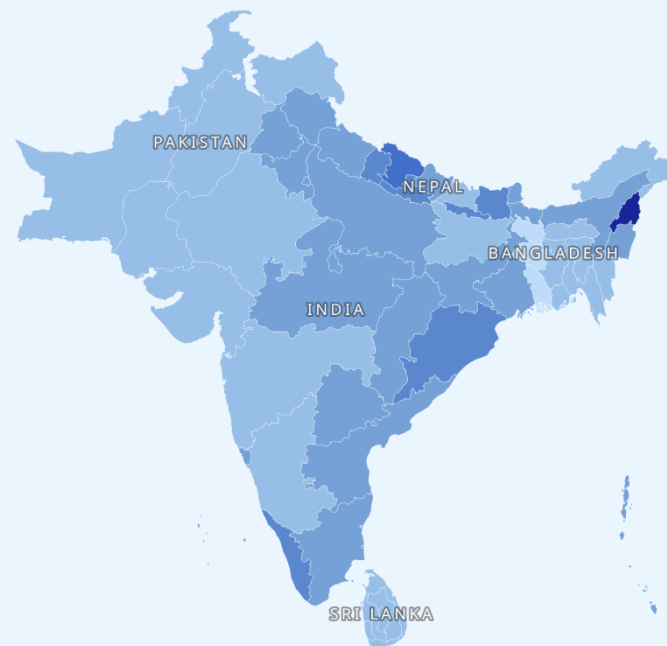
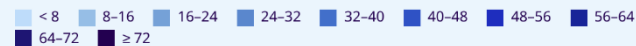


There is a significant amount of variation in NEET rates within and across countries in the region – but everywhere Young female NEETs far outnumber young male NEETs

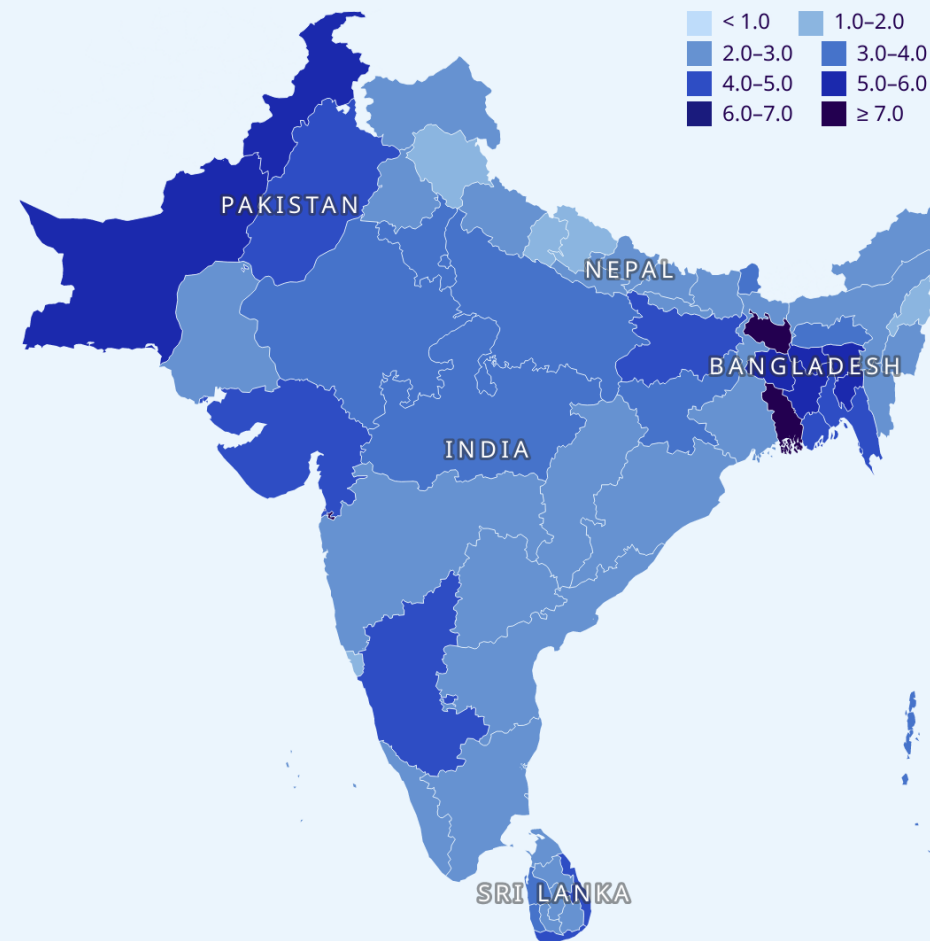
► NEET Rates of South Asia: Female



► NEET Rates in South Asia: Male



► Ratio of Regional Female to Male NEET Rates



Source: Calculated from the microdata of the most recently available LFS in the ILO micro-database for each country

▶ **Key points: Main messages on youth labour markets in Southern Asia**

- 1) Southern Asia accounts for a large proportion of the world's working-age population and the share of young people in it is also very substantial
- 2) Informal employment is pervasive, particularly among young people – work quality is also a major issue.
- 3) Employment growth is trailing labour force growth and the number of young NEETs is rapidly expanding.
- 4) Young female NEETs outnumber young male NEETs by three to one.

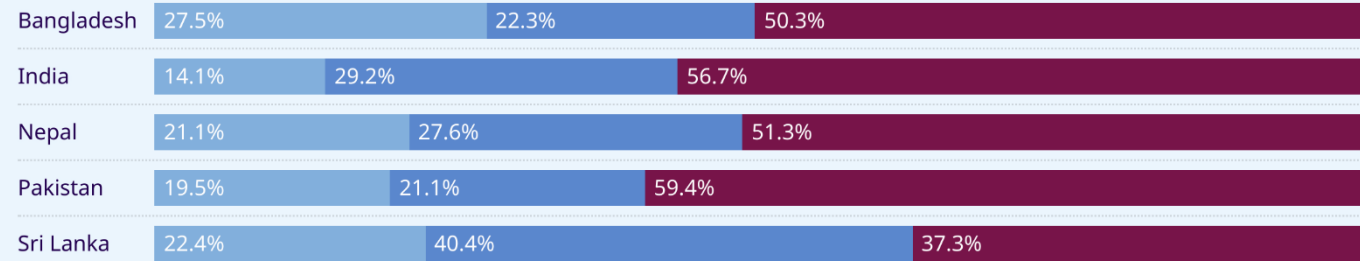
▶ **Characterising NEETs in South Asia**

Youth activities

Diversity across case study countries in the share of youth engaging in different activities

► Young women's activities

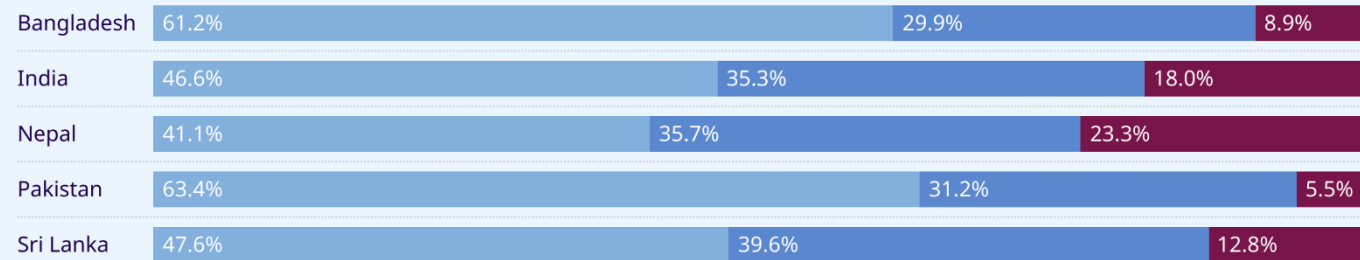
■ In employment ■ In education ■ NEET



Source: Calculated from ILO micro-database using most recent available LFS microdata

► Young men's activities

■ In employment ■ In education ■ NEET



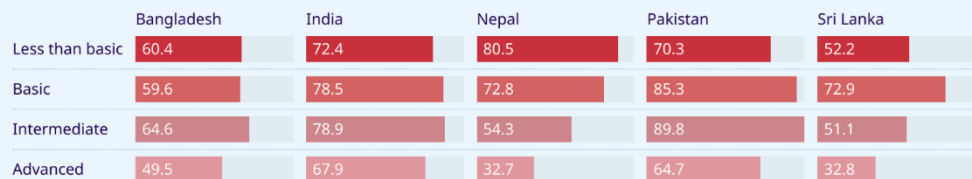
Source: Calculated from ILO micro-database using most recent available LFS microdata

NEET characteristics

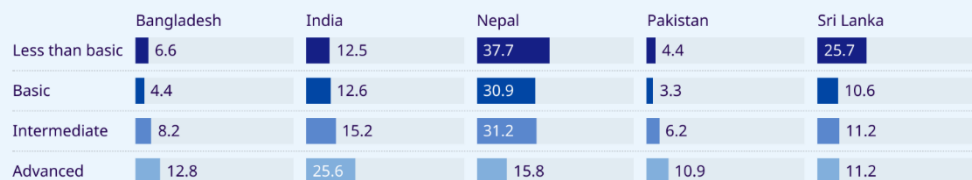
Educational attainment (25-29)

Male and female NEET rates by education

■ Less than basic ■ Basic ■ Intermediate ■ Advanced

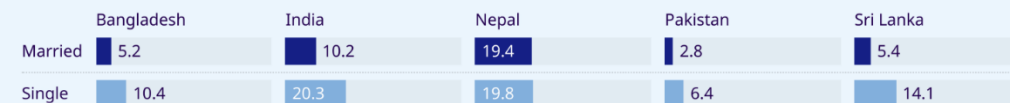
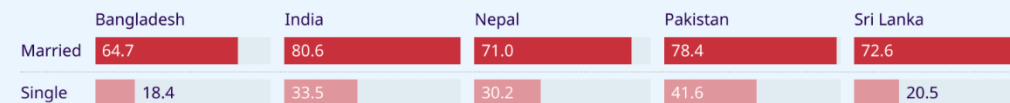


■ Less than basic ■ Basic ■ Intermediate ■ Advanced



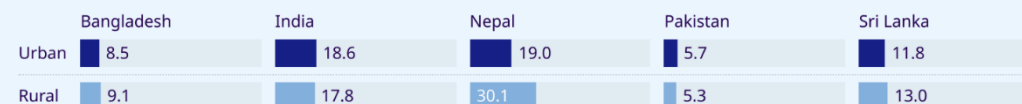
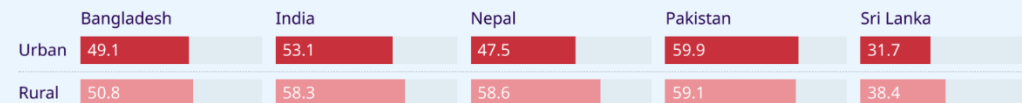
Marital status

Male and female NEET rates by marital status



Urban/rural location

Male and female NEET rates by location



▶ Determinants of NEET status

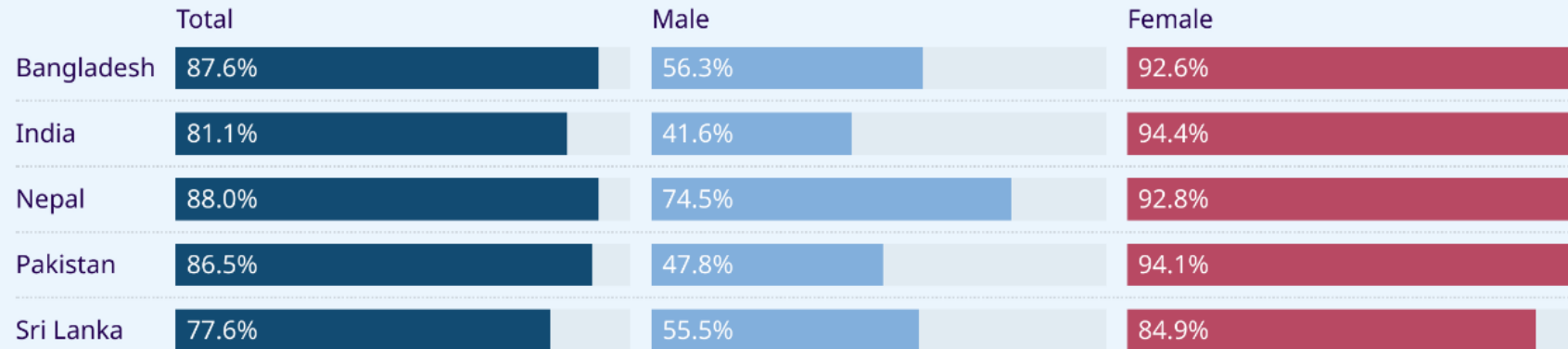
General trends

- ▶ **Marriage** associated with a substantial **increase in the probability** of NEET status for young women
- ▶ Increasing **age** associated with an **increase** in probability of being NEET
- ▶ **Rural location** associated with **increased** likelihood of being NEET for young **women**, but the effect is much smaller for young men
- ▶ Increasing **education** associated with **reduced likelihood** of being NEET for young men and women in Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- ▶ **Education** and NEET status have an **interesting** relationship in other countries

▶ NEETs inside and outside the labour force

Young NEET women across South Asia are concentrated outside the labour force

▶ Share of NEET youth outside the labour force



Source: Calculated from ILO micro-database using most recent available LFS microdata



► **Digging deeper: NEET in India**
Social norms, socio-economic
status and time-use

▶ Caution: defining NEET in Indian TUS data

Usual Principal Activity status

Usual Principal Activity status is used in the Indian Time Use Survey to define employment and NEET status

- ▶ A person is employed if they have spent the majority of their time in the 365 days preceding the survey working for pay/profit
- ▶ A person is in education if they have spent the majority of their time in the 365 days preceding the survey enrolled in education

▶ **96%**

Of young people would be considered in the same activity status across both definitional approaches

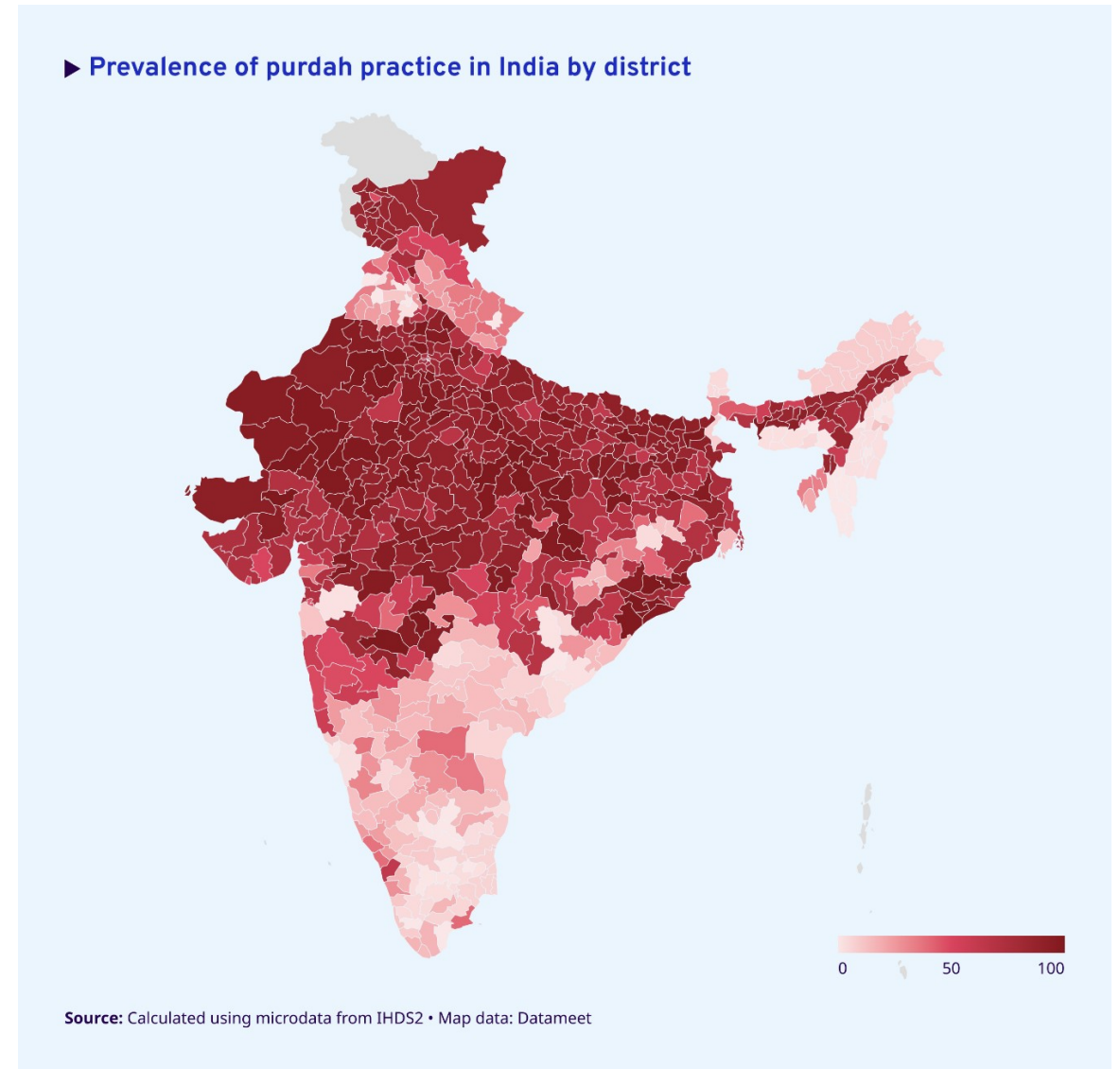
► Digging deeper

Household composition (gender roles)

Purdah practice (norms of female seclusion)

Household consumption (economic status)

Household social group (class and caste)



► Determinants of NEET status in India

General trends

- **Household composition** has statistically significant but **small** association with NEET status
- **Children** in household associated with **increased** likelihood of young women being NEET, but **decreased** likelihood for young men
- Stronger **norms of female seclusion** associated with a small **decreased** likelihood of NEET status for young men but larger **increased** probability for young women
- Young women from **Scheduled Tribes** are **much less likely** to be NEET compared to other social groups
- **While young married men are less likely to be NEET, marriage has a huge association with NEET status for young women**

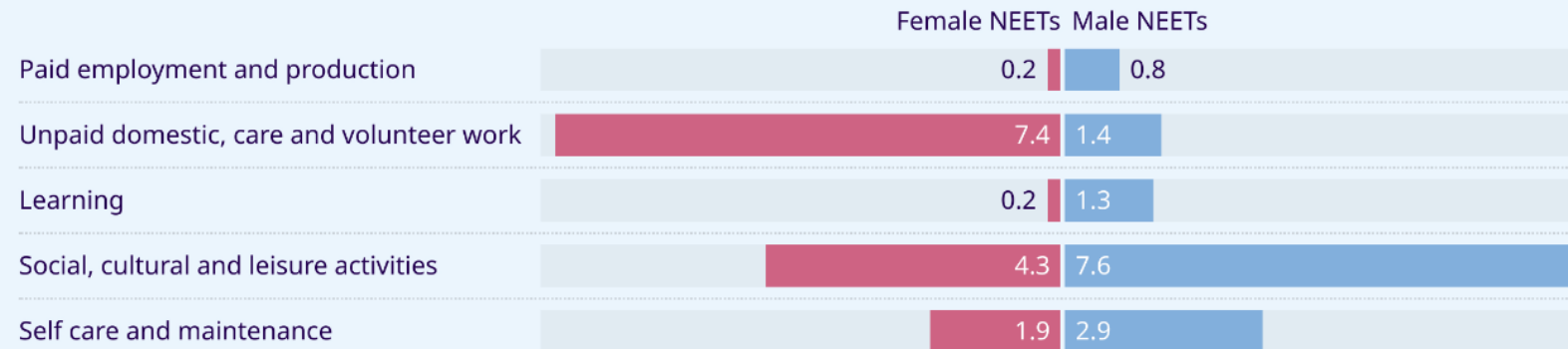
Time-use survey data

TUS data provide detailed information on how individuals use their time over a specific reference period



▶ NEET time-use

▶ Average time spent on activities daily by male and female NEETs in India (hours)



10 hours that are attributed to Division 9, which includes sleeping and eating, within the 24 hour reference period are omitted from the visualisation.

Source: Calculated from microdata of India Time Use Survey 2019

▶ **7.4hrs**

The average time spent daily on unpaid domestic, care and volunteer work by young NEET women

▶ **3.5x**

The amount of time spent in paid and unpaid work activities by young NEET women compared to young NEET men on an average day

Comparing youth time-use

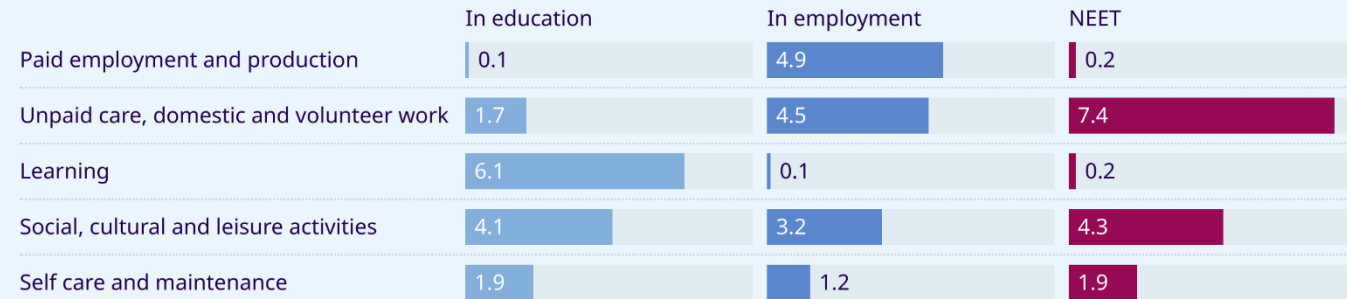
▶ 2.2 hrs

The average difference in time spent in paid work by young men in employment compared to young women

▶ ~ 1 hr

The average difference in hours spent daily on unpaid and paid work combined between young men and young men in employment

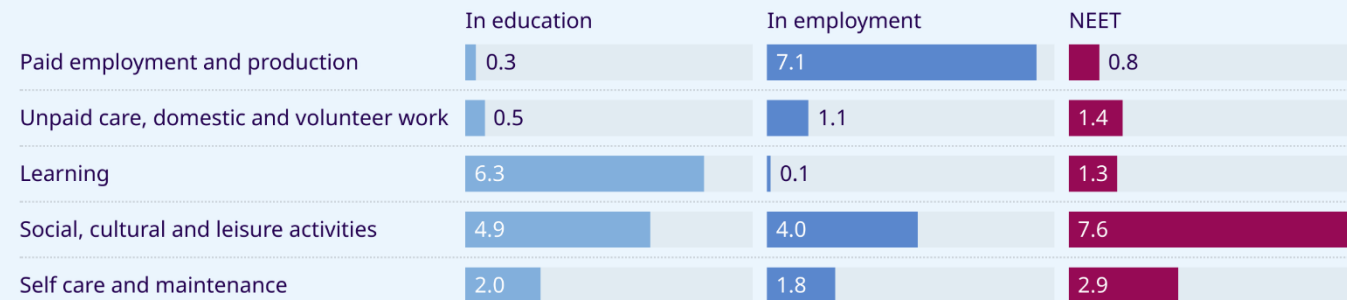
▶ Average hours spent on activities daily by young women (15-29) by activity



10 hours attributed to self care and maintenance, which includes sleeping and eating, during the 24 hour reference period are omitted from the visualisation

Source: Calculated from microdata of India Time Use Survey 2019

▶ Average hours spent on activities daily by young men (15-29) by activity



10 hours attributed to self care and maintenance, which includes sleeping and eating, during the 24 hour reference period are omitted from the visualisation

Source: Calculated from microdata of India Time Use Survey 2019



International
Labour
Organization

Understanding NEETs with time

A time-use based clustering of NEET youth in India

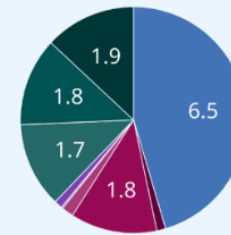


NEET time-use typology

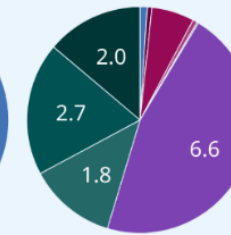
Cluster analysis

- ▶ Based on ICATUS Major Divisions of time-use across all NEET youth
- ▶ K-Means clustering methodology
- ▶ Seven clusters named according to their distinguishing time-use characteristics

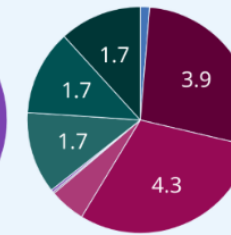
▶ NEET time use typology: Mean hours spent on activities daily



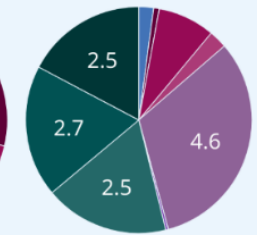
Employment seekers



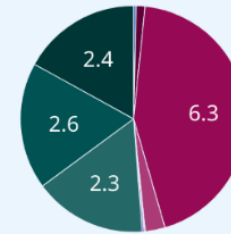
Learners



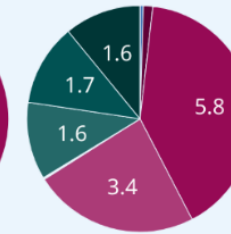
Own-use producers



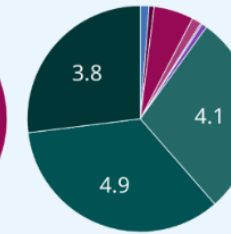
Volunteers



Household domestic workers



Household carers



Free-timers

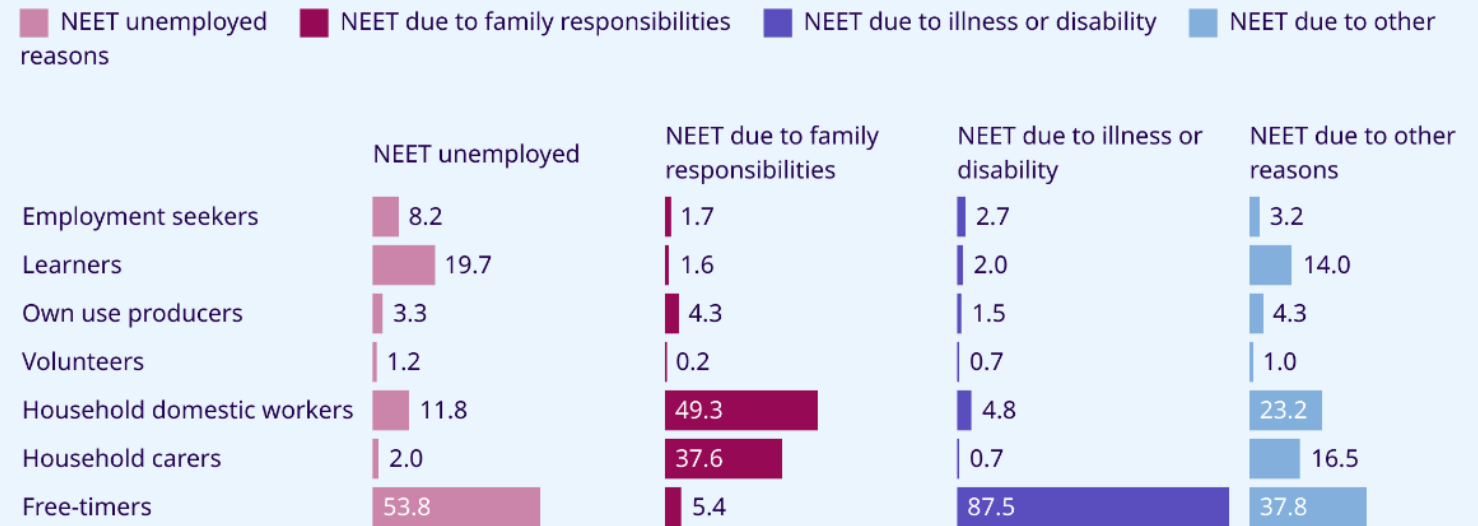
Source: Author's analysis of India TUS 2019 microdata

► Categorising NEETs

Eurofound and time-use

- Eurofound approach based on labour force activity and reasons for not being available for/seeking work
- Time-use typology based on clusters of time-use across all NEET youth

► NEET subgroup composition by time-use cluster



Source: Calculated using microdata from India TUS 2019

NEET time-use typology breakdown

► Share of NEET activity group membership by gender

	Employment seekers	Learners	Own use producers	Volunteers	Household domestic workers	Household carers	Free-timers
Male	8.3	17.4	3.9	1.2	7.3	1.5	60.5
Female	1.6	2.0	4.2	0.2	49.1	37.0	5.9
Total NEETs	2.5	3.9	4.1	0.3	43.9	32.7	12.6

Source: Author's calculations using microdata of India TUS 2019

Final thoughts

School-to-work or school-to-wife?

- ▶ **Marriage** has a profound effect on young women's livelihood trajectories

NEET isn't working?

- ▶ NEETs in South Asia are doing **valuable work** that is unremunerated and uncouncted

Where could NEETs work?

- ▶ In a context of jobless growth, alongside lifting barriers to employment, we need to think about **where decent work opportunities could be**



▶ **Thank you**

