THE WORKING POOR IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: THE SPECIAL CASE OF GENDER INEQUALITY

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INTRODUCTION

- Gender inequality within the working poor is a very important phenomenon.

- Firstly, employment does not guarantee a pathway out of poverty, hence the concept of the working poor.

- Secondly, gender inequality can further cause an increase in working poverty

- This paper seeks to investigate if there is gender inequality within the working poor in T&T and its extent.

- Existing economic literature was first examined and then an economic investigation was made using non-parametric tests such as the chi-square goodness of fit test, the chi-square test of independence and the Mann- Whitney U test on CSSP data for the second quarter of 2005.

- Based on the analysis of the data, policy recommendations were made and the scope for future research was discussed.

METHODOLOGY

- CSSP data form the CSO was used
- In order to determine the working poor the following was done
  - Gross income from primary, secondary and other jobs were summed to get total income
  - Those who earned an income more than $0.00 were considered working; those that earned $0.00 were considered unemployed
  - To determine poverty-
    - We first aggregated the data into households to obtain the household size and household income
    - Household income was then divided by the sum of the adult equivalent weights for the household (based on the weights used by Kariri Consultants Ltd. Adult) to obtain average individual income per household

TABLE ASSIGNING WEIGHTS TO EACH INDIVIDUAL

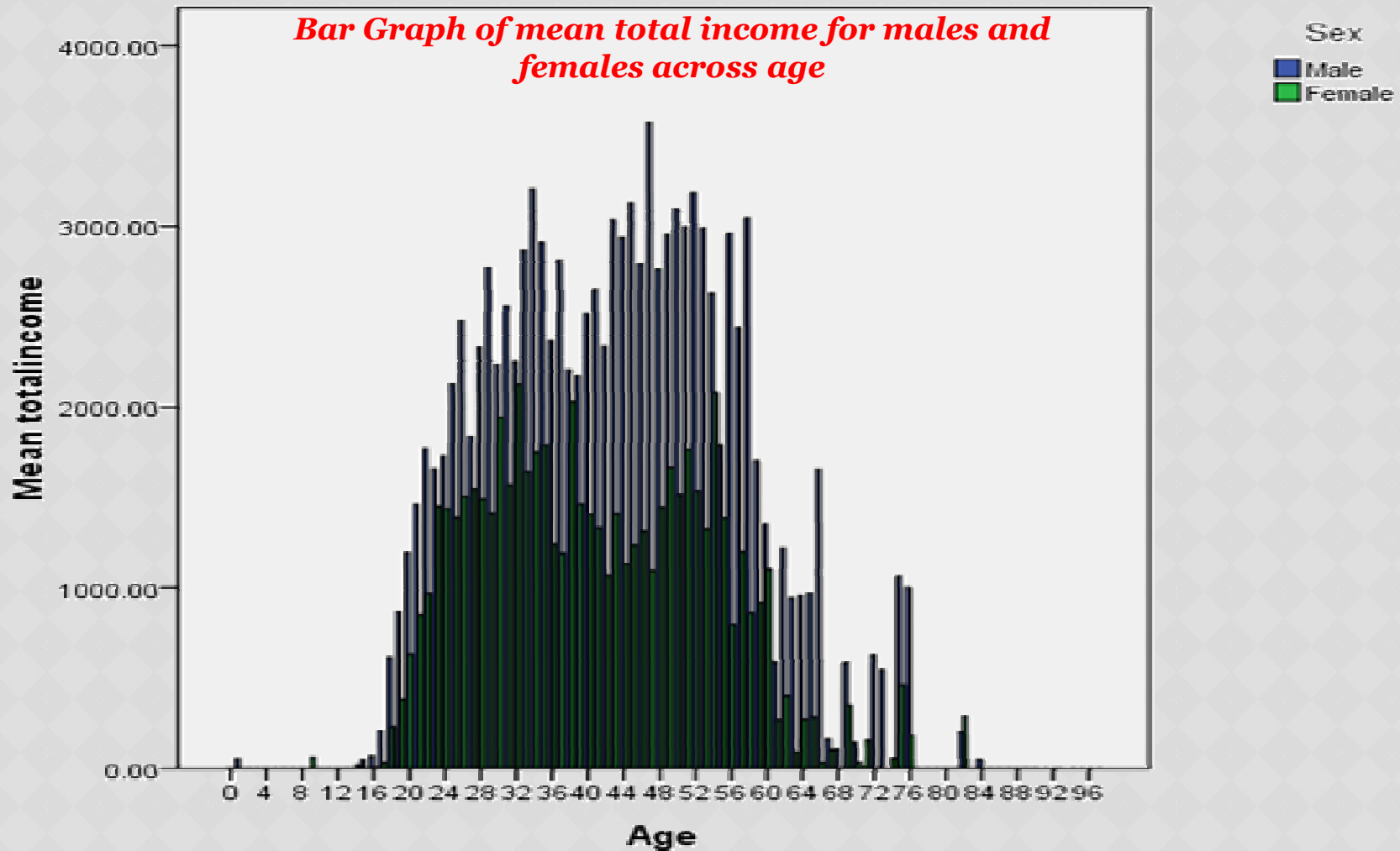| Adult Equivalence		
Age Range	**Male**	**Female**
Less than 1	0.27	0.27
1 to 3	0.468	0.436
4 to 6	0.606	0.547
7 to 9	0.697	0.614
10 to 14	0.825	0.695
15 to 18	0.915	0.737
19 to 29	1	0.741
30 to 60	0.966	0.727
61+	0.773	0.618

METHODOLOGY

- The average individual income per household was the compared to the poverty line of $665 as determined by Kairi Ltd for 2005.
- If the average individual income fell below this poverty line, that person was considered poor; if not they were not considered poor.

- The working poor were persons who were working and belonged to poor households.

- To investigate gender inequality within the working poor, the data was filtered to include those who were the working poor and the variable sex was used as a proxy for gender
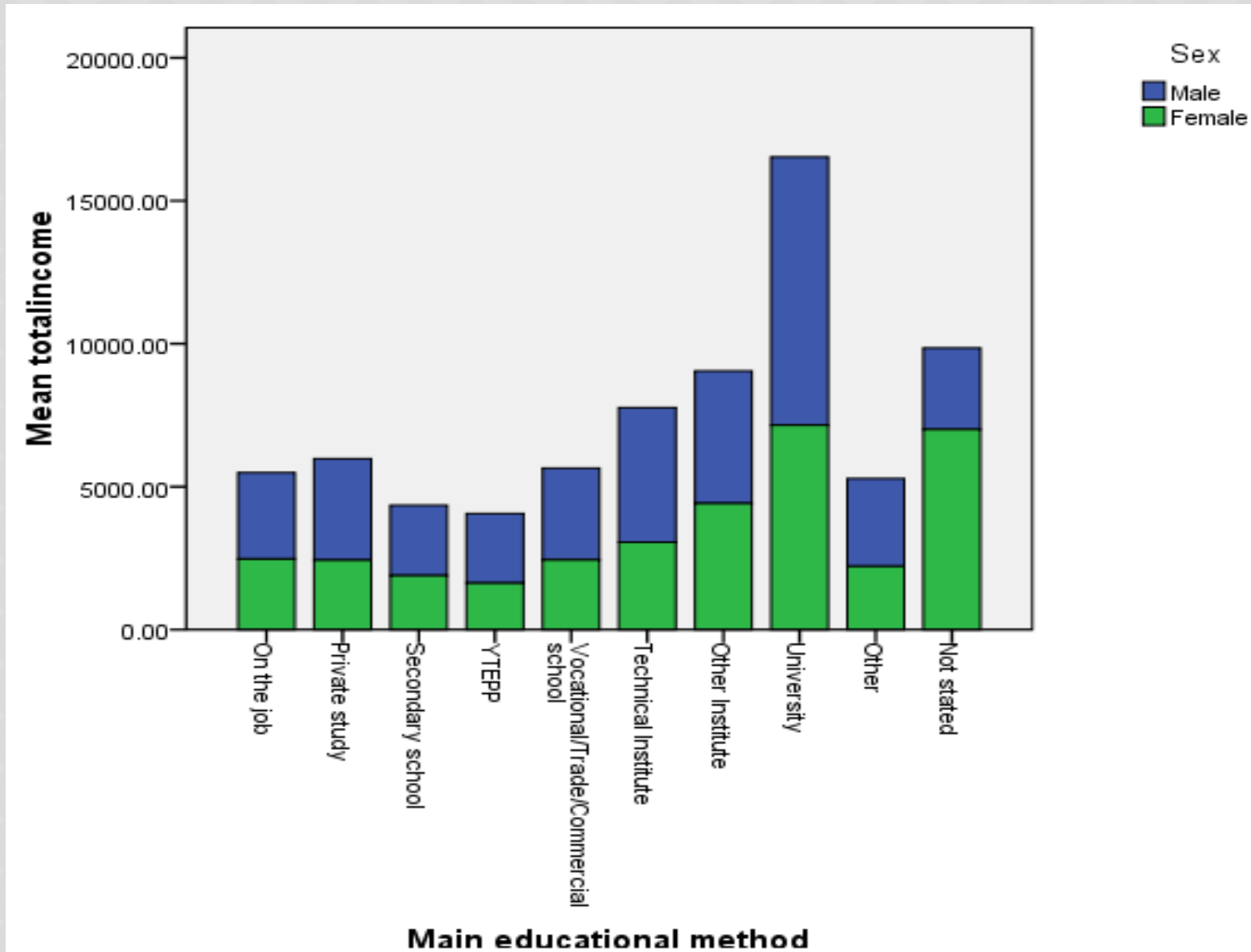
PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

- 49.7% of the sample data were male and 50.3% female
- 34.8% of the sample population were poor
- 3332 persons were employed
- Of the employed, 60.4% were male and 39.6% female
- 63.2% of the employed worked 33-40hrs and 25.4% worked 41-50 hrs.
- The total income of the employed ranged from $100 - $32,008 per month.
- 303 persons were considered working poor of which 57.8% were male and 42.2% female
- 57.0% of the working poor population worked between 33-40 hours a week and 24.8% even worked 41-50 hours a week.
  - Yet they did not earn enough for their family to come out of poverty. The total income of the working poor ranged from $100 - $7,000 per month.
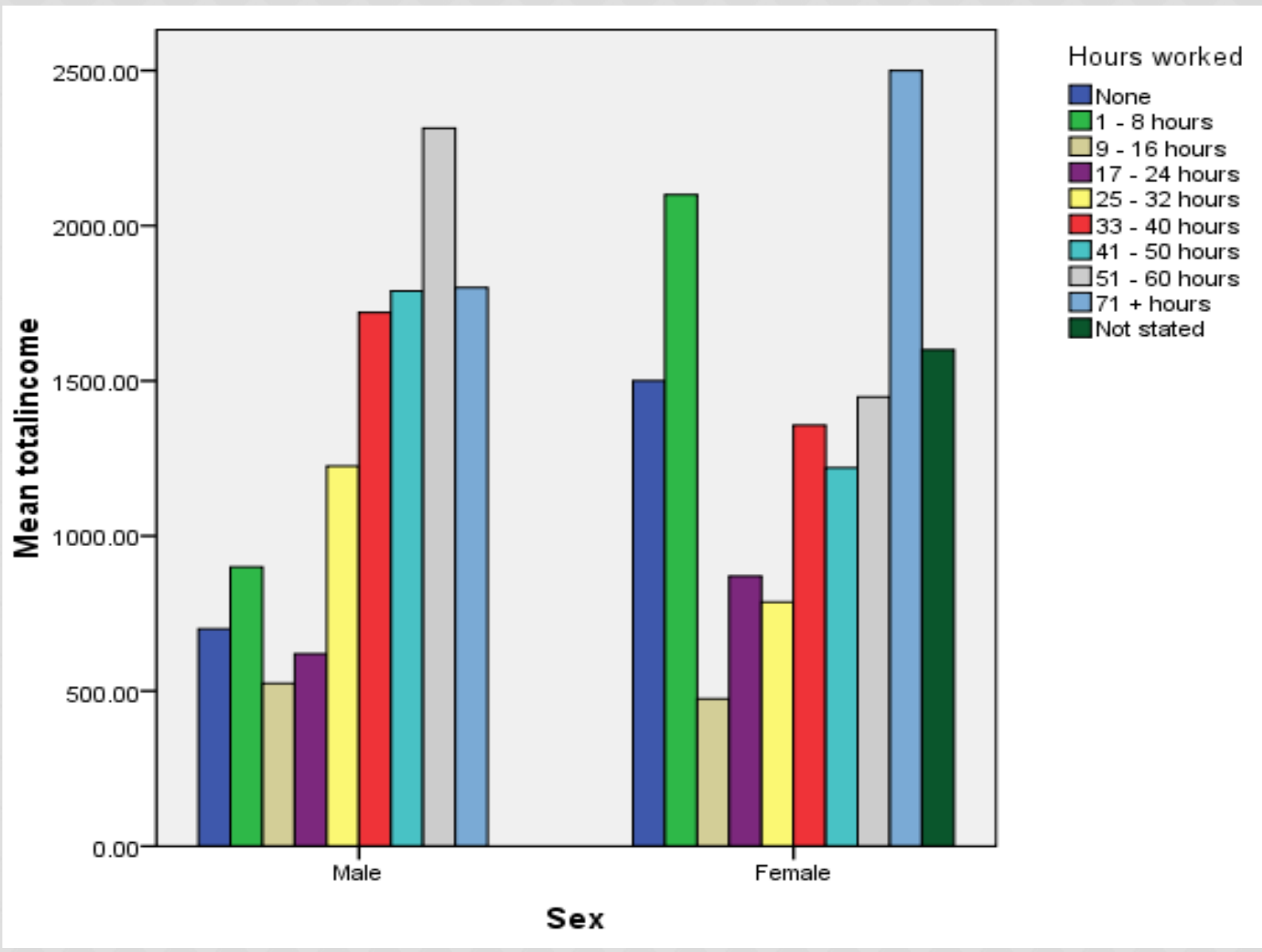
PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

Bar Graph of mean total income for males and females across age

BAR CHART

BAR CHART

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

- ## *Chi-square test for goodness of fit*
  ### (Test of Proportions)

- *Is the working poverty estimate as a percent of the employed for Trinidad and Tobago in 2005 similar to that of 13.6% obtained in Majid (2001) report for 1997?*

WORKINGPOOR665

	Observed N	Expected N	Residual
Non- Working Poor	3029	2878.8	150.2
Working Poor	303	453.2	-150.2
Total	3332		

- Significance Level: 5%

- In this case the discrepancy is large and is statistically significant (Asymp. Sig =0.000).

- The Chi-square goodness of fit test indicates that there was a significant difference in the proportion of working poor identified in the 2005 sample (9.09%) as compared to the value of 13.6% obtained in Majid (2001) report for the year 1997.

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

- ## *Chi-square test for independence*

- *Is the proportion of employed males that are considered working poor the same as the proportion of employed females?*

Sex * WORKINGPOOR665 Crosstabulation

| | | | WORKINGPOOR665 | | |
			Non- Working Poor	Working Poor	Total
Sex	Male	Count	1837	175	2012
		% within Sex	91.3%	8.7%	100.0%
		% within WORKINGPOOR665	60.6%	57.8%	60.4%
		% of Total	55.1%	5.3%	60.4%
	Female	Count	1192	128	1320
		% within Sex	90.3%	9.7%	100.0%
		% within WORKINGPOOR665	39.4%	42.2%	39.6%
		% of Total	35.8%	3.8%	39.6%
Total		Count	3029	303	3332
		% within Sex	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%
		% within WORKINGPOOR665	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	90.9%	9.1%	100.0%

- *Significance level: 5%*
- *P-value: 0.358*

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

- ## *Mann-Whitney U Test*

- *Do males and females differ in terms of their level of income?*

Ranks

	Sex	N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
totalincome	Male	2012	1788.88	3599225.00
	Female	1318	1477.15	1946890.00
	Total	3330		

Test Statistics[a]

	totalincome
Mann-Whitney U	1077669.000
Wilcoxon W	1946890.000
Z	-9.160
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.000

a. Grouping Variable: Sex

- The Mann- Whitney U Test revealed that there was indeed a significant difference in the income earned of males and females, U= 1077669 , z = -9.160 , p= 0.000

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- 'Gender inequality is a structural impediment to poverty elimination. It is in everyone's interests to remove it' (DFID, 1999)

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Education and Training
- Additional Social Programmes
- New and Amended Legislation
- Increased Formal Employment

THANK YOU