Gendered social and economic outcomes of social protection in South Africa

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Content from a report for the ‘New Directions in Social Policy’ 5 country study commissioned by UNRISD.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social protection effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REDISTRIBUTION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Income protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Asset building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reduction in poverty and economic inequality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Better access to labour markets for women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRANSFORMATION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reduction in social (gender) inequality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Equal access to social protection instruments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reduction in gender inequality in the private / domestic sphere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Valuing of unpaid care work.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total number of social grants by grant type as at 31 May 2016

Social assistance: Child Support Grant

**REDISTRIBUTION +ve**
- 98% caregiver recipients are women
- Redistributive rights to social protection for caregivers have been established.
- Reduces income poverty (nationally), especially in very poor and woman headed households.
- As a long-term investment in human capital, the CSG has been shown to reap benefits in nutrition, health and education.

**REDISTRIBUTION -ve**
- The monetary value is low.
- The benefits are seriously eroded by a lack of institutional synergy.
## Social assistance: Child Support Grant

### TRANSFORMATION +ve
- The CSG supports women both in their reproductive and productive roles.
- It recognises the value of the caring tasks of women.

### TRANSFORMATION -ve
- It reinforces caring as a gendered activity, and caring remains unpaid and still often invisible.
- Negative discourses about grant misuse, fertility and dependency directed at women.
- Men suffer significant social barriers to receiving the CSG.
Social insurance: Unemployment Insurance Fund

• REDISTRIBUTION +ve
  • Smooths income during unemployment / maternity leave.
  • Progressive in design - lower earners get a higher proportion.

• REDISTRIBUTION -ve
  • Only benefits formal workers who have contributed.
  • Women remain under-represented as contributors and claimants.
  • Huge accumulated surplus of R90 billion.
Social insurance: Unemployment Insurance Fund

TRANSFORMATION +ve

• Maternity provisions important for caregiving role of women.
• Inclusion of domestic workers - recognising a traditional area of care work as work.

TRANSFORMATION -ve

• Maternity provisions only protects a narrow band of women.
• Administrative problems result in delayed maternity payments - undermines its usefulness.
• Innovative thinking required for transformative outcomes.
Public works: Expanded Public Works Social Sector

Early Childhood Development

Home and Community Based Care
Public works: Expanded Public Works Social Sector

• REDISTRIBUTION +ve
  • Reduces poverty in participant households.

• REDISTRIBUTION -ve
  • The SS stipend remains unacceptably low.
### Sectoral Average Daily Wages and Percentage of Women Employed by each Sector 1 April – 30 September 2012

*Source: Vetten (2015b, p. 64)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Average Daily Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>R101.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment and Culture</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>R82.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sector</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>R40.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Works</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>R58.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non- Profit Organisations</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>R43.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average/ Totals</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>R62.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD minimum wage (2012)</td>
<td></td>
<td>R63.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public works: Expanded Public Works Social Sector

- REDISTRIBUTION +ve
  - Reduces poverty in participant households.

- REDISTRIBUTION -ve
  - The stipend SS remains unacceptably low.
  - Late payments are an administrative failure which place enormous financial stress on poor women’s households.
  - No asset-building function.
  - Social sector labour markets impacted negatively (precarity) and questionable creation of new job opportunities.
  - Post-participation employability is low.
  - Weak monitoring and outcomes data.
Public works: Expanded Public Works Social Sector

• TRANSFORMATION +ve
  • SS as a field for EPWP implementation is a novel idea.
  • Training is work-aligned and can lead to qualifications.

• TRANSFORMATION -ve
  • Participant employability remains disappointing.
  • The deepening of caring skills among women will not challenge traditional gender relations.