

Childbearing and Economic Work: The Health Balance of Women in Accra, Ghana

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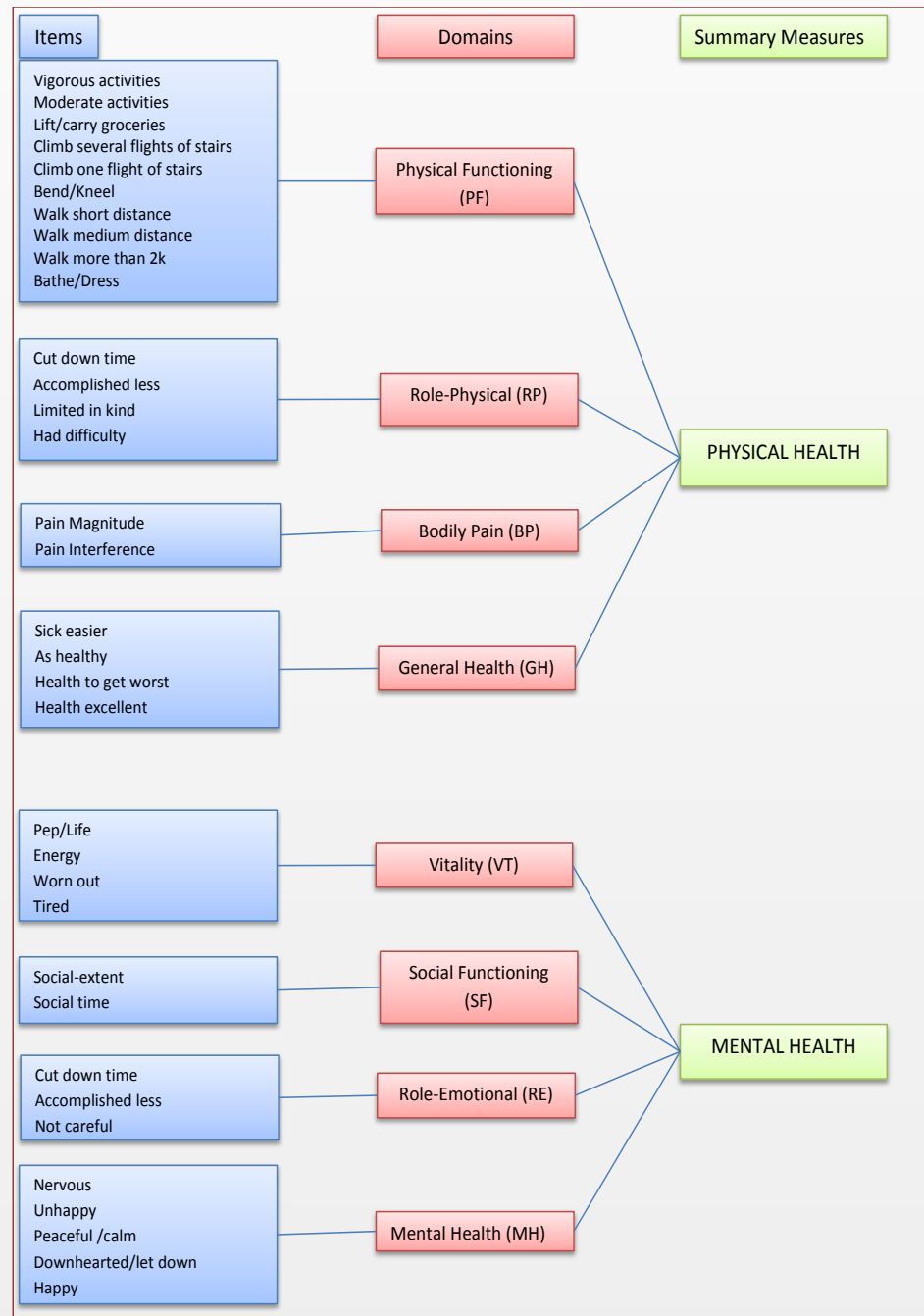
Background

- The emergence of concepts such as '*reproductive/productive squeeze*' (Whitehead 1996) and '*zero sum game*' (McGuire and Popkin 1990) in 1990s.
- Context of structural readjustment in Ghana
- Maternal multiple role performance has been linked to negative health outcomes in Ghana by Avotri and Walters (1991) and Sackey and Sanda (2009).

Data: Women Health Study for Accra

- Aim: measure prevalence of morbidity
- Study population: Women aged 18+ usually resident in AMA
- Wave I (2003) & Wave II (2008/09)
 - Issue of attrition
- Data analysis – sample restricted to
 - Women aged 18-49 at Wave-I
 - Women employed at both times of the survey
 - 29% of sample had a child alive at WHSA-II who was borne in survey interval

Measurement of wellbeing: The SF-36 questions



Method: Selection Models

- Need to account of DOM in analysis to produce valid estimates
 - 2 Step procedure involving the specification of 2 models and estimation of the IMR
 - Model 1: Selection Model
 - $Y_1 \begin{cases} 1 \text{ if } Y_1^* > 0 \\ 0 \text{ if } Y_1^* \leq 0 \end{cases}$
 - Model 2: Outcome Model
 - $Y_2 \begin{cases} Y_2^* \text{ if } Y_1^* > 0 \\ - \text{ if } Y_1^* \leq 0 \end{cases}$

Results 1

- Change in parental status not associated with change in mental or physical health at the 1 or 5% level.
- Biological motherhood primary role and contributor towards gender identity and wellbeing.
- The separation of motherhood and mothering – fostering and co-operative childrearing.
- Economic activity as a fulfilment of the maternal role.

Result 2

- Among working women with young children the significance of indicators of supports with change in mental health
- Number of males and females in the household aged 16-54 years - indicator of opportunity to redistribute labour?
- Whether the woman was born in the Greater Accra region – indicator of non-family and family ties & availability of emotional and instrumental support?

