



International Directory of IYF Research Activities

1994 International Year of the Family
Année internationale de la famille
Año Internacional de la Familia
Международный год семьи
السنة الدولية للأسرة
国际家庭年

Supplement

Australian Institute of Family Studies in cooperation with the
United Nations Secretariat for the International Year of the Family

Turkey (cont.)

locations and different families having different socio-economic backgrounds. The study was carried out on the premise that a model of child education peculiar to the Turkish family may be evolved. In this framework data were collected as follows: demographic and socioeconomic features; the spending of leisure times; definition of authority and problems; expectations and solutions that families faced about child education. The study was conducted in 11 cities with interviews of 6156 people.

Timetable

Commenced December 1992; Completed

Funding

Family Research Institute; Amount: 1.125.000.000 (TL)

Keywords

Education; Child rearing; Parent child relationship

91**Children With Hearing Deficiency:
Learning to Survive with it as a Family****Organisation(s)**

Family Research Institute, Mesrutiyet Cad. 19, 06650
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Contact

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Summary

Studies conducted with the handicapped usually focus on the disabled person. This study approached the problem from a more family-centred perspective, focusing on families with children who had a hearing deficiency. One hundred and twenty-five families with hearing-impaired children were thus chosen to participate in the study. These families attended workshop sessions during the study, which were designed to address and overcome their various problems.

Timetable

Commenced December 1992; Completed

Funding

Family Research Institute; Amount: 167.000.000 (TL)

Keywords

Disabled children; Family relations; Child rearing

92**Family and Work Relations of Women
Running Their Own Enterprises****Organisation(s)**

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Summary

The main objectives of this study were: to examine how women with their own businesses sustained their relations with their families and business organizations, and to identify what underlying common factors were associated with the situation. Across the country, 800 women were interviewed to collect the data.

Timetable

Commenced August 1991; Completed

Funding

Family Research Institute; Amount: 269.400.000 (TL)

Publications

Family Research Institute (1993). Family and work relationships of women running their own enterprises. Ankara. 242p (in Turkish). ISBN 9751907853.

Keywords

Work family relationship; Women employers

93**Housing Types and Social Structure in the
Central Anatolian Region of Turkey****Organisation(s)**

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Contact

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Summary

The purpose of this research project is to establish housing types and models which are refined from all possible

FAMILY AND WORK RELATIONS OF WOMEN RUNNING THEIR OWN ENTERPRISES

Paper presented at Fourth International Conference of the Mediterranean Women's Forum

“Women and the City: From the Periphery to the Centre”
Dubrovnik, Croatia, June 30-July 3, 2001

Nilgun CELEBI

At the end of the medieval times people used to think that air of the city would let them free. The cities, beyond many other things, introduce freedom: Freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of choice, freedom of action, freedom of entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurship is both an individual trait and an achieved competence. Some people are born with this ability, some are taught. Being taught means that some people can gain this competence through not only by being educated at formal schools but by being provided a special opportunity also. This special opportunity will be provided by liberal values and the value-structure of a society. The city is the house of liberal values. City life, alongside other facilities, not only presents established work-places to job-seekers, but gives way to create your own work-place also.

Work-place owner means being administrator, being manager, being in employee or self-employed position. An 'employee' or 'self-employed' person deals with market directly. Being employee or self-employed is a challenge: Challenge against market conditions. Challenge is a position where you never loose in. Even if you loose your money you gain experience: Experience of survival. I, personally, always have thought that people in general should be encouraged to take risk. Especially, women, women in the cities, should be. Why? Because all we know that, almost at each work-place women are the last at hiring and the first at firing. This means that work-places owned by others are not secure enough for women. When you are fired you don't loose your job only but your self-confidence too. But, if you have your own work-place, even you are obliged to shot down your business, you leave it with ambitious feeling to set up a new one.

I made two researches on women-owned enterprises in Turkey. The first was a country-wide one and the second was, more specifically, on women entrepreneurs at tourism sector. Now, I'll present some data held from these researches. I'll focus especially on the problems raised by women themselves. They faced with threefold difficulty: Initially, before they open up the business: finding capital for starting business; renting cheap and good enough work-place; supplying goods; providing capital for equipment; relationship with bureaucratic organizations; loneliness; freshness; strange attitudes of social milieu.

Secondly, after setting up the business women faced these problems: Freshness; not knowing how to get along with consumers; not knowing how to handle the business itself; scarcity of consumers; money shortage; loneliness; feeling alien in the market; trying to make herself accepted; personnel supplying; economical discontinuities in the market; trying to make herself accepted; personnel supplying; economical discontinuities in the market; payments of loans.

Thirdly, after having set up the business and after overcoming first days' freshness and problems women complained about these issues:
Scarcity of consumers; difficulties raised by governmental organizations; scarcity of qualified personnel; supplying cheaper goods/raw material; supplying qualified goods/raw material; high inflation rates at financial and banking sectors.

Against all those problems women put forward these solutions:
Bank credits with low interest rate to develop their enterprise; reduced taxation for woman entrepreneurs; financial support for renting a work-place; lessening the red tapes; a satisfactory solution for their problems with national social security service. (In Turkey, there is a government-backed social security service called BAĞ-KUR for self-employed and employee people).

These were the problems told by women themselves. This side of picture looks quite blurred. But, there is another side of this picture too. Now, let us look at it.

These same women also said that, at very high percentages, if they were asked they wouldn't accept working as employer (%71.2) because they wanted to be independent (%45); they preferred to continue that business (80.4) instead of working at home and getting same income (%17.5); they were to continue because they enjoyed having their own business and contributing family budget (92.5). They were happy owning that shop (91.1, partly happy: %6.2), they wanted to develop their business (%74).

My both researches showed me that these women also had satisfactory relationships with their (if they are married) children, husband, parents, relatives and friends. They also thought that their position helps them to be a better citizen and individual. On the other hand these women showed quite high egalitarian sex-role attitudes compare with other women (who were studied at another research of mine on sex-role attitudes of Turkish women).

As conclusion; entrepreneurship is not a trait belong to man. Women have this quality also. What women needed is to be given opportunity to demonstrate which qualities they have. I think cities are best grounds for women to demonstrate their qualities.

Related Publications of the Author:

(1990) Kadınlarımızın Cinsiyet Rolü Tutumları (Sex-Role Attitudes of Turkish Women), Konya: Sebat Matbaası

(1993) Bağımsız İşyeri Sahibi Kadınların Aile ve İş İlişkileri (Family and Work Relations of Women Running Their Own Enterprise), Ankara: TC. Başbakanlık Kadın ve Sosyal Hizmetler Müsteşarlığı Aile Araştırma Kurumu.(Assistants of the project: Aylin Güngör Baran and Belma Tokuroğlu).

(1993) Kadın Girişimciliğini Özendirme ve Destekleme Konusunda Politikalar (Policies of Woman Entrepreneurship), ic.Kadını Girişimcilige Özendirme ve Destekleme Paneli Bildiriler ve Tartışmalar, Ankara: Devlet Bakanlığı, KSS.Gn.Md.

(1997) Turizm Sektöründeki Küçük İşyeri Örgütlerinde Kadın Girişimciler (Woman Entrepreneurs at Turism), Ankara: TC. Başbakanlık KSS Gn. Md.