

Republic of Turkey

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A Short Story of Turkish Woman In The 20th Century

During the Balkan War & the 1st World War, Turkish women have entered labour markets, municipal and administrative services replacing men who went to the front. Other jobs have taken by women in hospitals, as voluntary work.

Later on, Turkish women were very active during the War of Independence as well. They have helped organizing protest meetings and marches in cities and towns while the country has been under occupation.

As the war got worsened, they picked up the work of men in the fields, trundled food and ammunition to soldiers at the front and nursed the wounded. Some even were soldiers themselves.

The full emancipation of women took place after the proclamation of the Turkish Republic in 1923. Thus, after hundreds of years of waiting and striving women have been able to realize their potential, Under the leadership of Atatürk, laws recognizing the principles of equal citizenship were passed.

Related to those fundamental changes and approaches, Turkish women took part in business life and the female labour force participation rate peaked in 1955 at 72.0%.

"There is a straighter and more secure path for us to follow than the one we have been. This is to have Turkish women as partners in everything, to share our lives with them, and to value them as friends, helpers & colleagues in our scientific, spiritual, social & economic life."

M. Kemal Atatürk

The Status of Woman in Turkey

1- Education

Average education term is 5,3 years for woman (6.8 years for man)

University degree graduation for woman 29.7% (39.9% for man)

2- Economic Position

Participation to employment of women is 27,9% and it declines on yearly basis.

Low status, low wage, seasonal jobs, lack of social

3- Participation to Decision Making Process

Women share in;

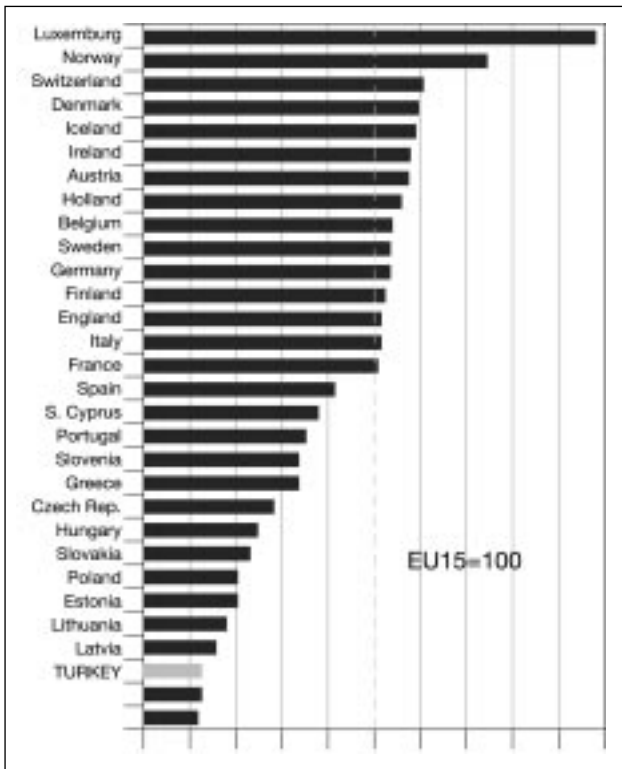
the parliament is 4,4%

in legislatures, bureaucracy & senior management is 7,0%

professional and technical workers is 31,0%

International Comparison

GNP Per Capita (2000)



The accession of the women to employment and business life increases GDP of the countries and the level of welfare.

Participation of Women to Employment With Their Educational Skills

(Age Between 25-64)

Country	Primary/secondary School	High School	University
Italy	% 32.6	% 66.1	% 81.3
Greece	% 41.1	% 56.9	% 83.2
Spain	% 39.5	% 68.4	% 82.7
Portugal	% 69.0	% 82.4	% 90.9
Poland	% 47.8	% 71.3	% 87.1
Hungary	% 34.5	% 68.4	% 78.5
TURKEY	% 25.5	% 31	% 71.5

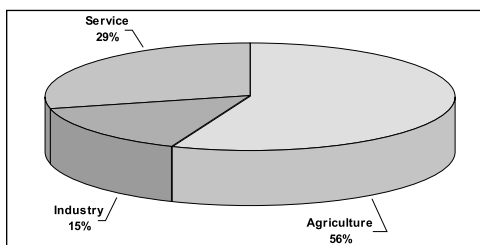
This figure shows that, Turkey should spend his efforts to increase the educational level of women for the development of their share in business life...

Distribution of Female Labour Force By Sectors

(as a % of female labour force)

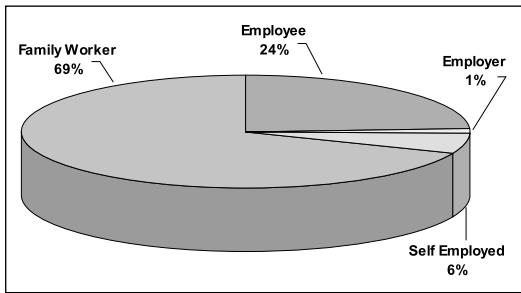
Statistics show that; (1995-2002)

- Female employment in agriculture : 56%
- Female employment in industry : 15%
- Female employment in services : 29%



Status of Employed Woman Population in Turkey (%)

Year	Employee	Employer	Self Employed	Family Woker without salary
1970	10,2	0,2	6,6	90,0
1980	13,8	0,1	4,7	81,2
1990	17,7	0,2	7,3	74,7
2000	24,3	0,9	5,9	68,9



Self-Employment in Turkey

Groups	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total self-employment as a percentage of % total civilian employment	51,40	52,82	50,25	49,36
Male self-employment as a percentage of % total male civilian employment	46,51	47,46	45,11	44,53
Female self-employment as a percentage of % total female civilian employment	64,71	66,79	63,02	61,88

OECD statistics show that about 12,5% of all entrepreneurs in Turkey are women, while the corresponding number is 25% in OECD member countries

Small and Medium Size Enterprises in Turkey

In the last decades, Industrialization process has always played an effective role in the development of Turkish Economy. The key role which the small and medium scale industry plays in the economic life of Turkey has been appreciated very well and promoted not only because of their number and variety but also because of their;

- ✓ involvement in every aspect of the economy,
- ✓ effect on unemployment problems,
- ✓ flexibility in manufacturing fields,
- ✓ respond to market forces,
- ✓ reaction readily to economic fluctuations,
- ✓ contribution to industrialization and regional development,

In addition to that, The SMEs are a major source of employment. Today, their share in employment is 76,7%

The Problems Facing SMEs in Turkey

- Difficulties in accessing institutional credit
- Inability to make use of state incentives
- Use of low level technology
- Inability to keep up with technical and commercial development at home or abroad
- Shortage of skilled manpower
- Inability to keep up with competition in the face of Custom Unions
- Lack of access to institutional support mechanisms such as technical training, financing, and formal support networks.

Problems Faced by Women Entrepreneurs in Turkey

- Instability in market conditions
- Political instability
- Instability in financial sector
- Limited access to qualified personnel
- Limited access to new technologies
- Limited access to qualified managers
- Values in keeping a woman's role confined to the family context

Policy Recommendations For Entrepreneurship in Turkey

- ✓ National qualitative and quantitative data
- ✓ Increased access to credit
- ✓ Increased access to information
- ✓ Inexpensive child and home care facilities.
- ✓ Measures for girls to acquire schooling and skills.
- ✓ Networking among relevant institutions.
- ✓ Legal & societal measures to struggle with gender discrimination
- ✓ Institutional local mechanisms to offer consultancy for women.
- ✓ Establishing women's commissions in all business and commercial aspects
- ✓ Establishment of new financial institutions for encouraging woman entrepreneurs
- ✓ Nationwide supporting platforms to create information flow among
- ✓ Developed communication convey towards public to underline the role of woman entrepreneurship.

Evaluation

Since the infrastructure of entrepreneurship notion is based on SMEs, woman entrepreneurs should be oriented to access business life with SMEs.

Thus, NGOs and related institutions such as KOSGEB and KAGİDER make efforts to promote and encourage this aim, including the cooperation with the supranational bodies like EU, for being supported their project in financial and organizational aspects.

However, in order to strengthen woman entrepreneurs, it is crucially important to lead those forwards from local basis to international level.

In this context, large scale regional economic institutions such like BSEC, have an essential role to create a synergy by gathering local woman entrepreneurs and to steer them to foreign trade.

Consequently, number of prosperous business women will rise and this will solidify social wealth and democratic tissue in developing countries.

"Everything we see in the world is the creative work of women."

M. Kemal ATATÜRK