

2.5. WOMEN'S ROLE IN GEORGIAN ECONOMY AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF PUBLIC OPINION

Annotation. Current Globalization and democratic processes raised the question of women's economic actuality more acutely in the order of the day. To approach with European standards and to keep the norms, which is necessary to create the relevant economic and political environment of country's development and social justice, requires to promote women's and men's equal participation in the management system of the country. We conducted research which referred to the introduction of public attitudes towards the gender equality and the result is that, the majority of the respondents support women's and men's equality in the family and in social life as well, a great part of respondents consider that woman should be on leadership positions and men and women should equally be family breadwinners. It's true that, in Georgia there's political will of formation of society, which will be democratically and socially equal, but the current changes in the country, couldn't ensure full realization of European values. Women's participation in the political and economic decision making processes is still nominal and the implementation of gender equality policy on different levels of state management is not possible.

The women's role in the modern society has been growing in economic, political and social life, but in accordance with the established stereotype, they are not able to be decision-makers. Woman is a member of society of having a full right and accordingly, striving for success is their rights too. A woman should have an opportunity to advance her career in order to feel realized herself. In Georgian society, there's a stereotype that woman's role is limited with family and house and public puts woman's role in doubt in the development of society till now and also he puts her role in doubt in the social, but in recent years this attitude has been changed. In order to find what kind of situation really is, what women's widespread roles like and the women's perception has changed only as a "housewife", we've conducted a research, which referred to the introduction of public attitudes towards the gender equality.

The problem of the research was to study the following key issues:

- How does Georgian society understand Gender equality;
- What kind of barriers do it exist for women in terms of participation in economic and political activities;
- Is there support in economy and politics on the women's involvement from family, parents, society;
- How does the society evaluate to be held a high position by the woman and how acceptable it is for him;

Within quantitative research 228 respondents were interviewed, 78 % of the respondents were female and 22 % – male. According to the age groups, the percentage share of the respondents is distributed as follows: 75 % of the respondents are included in the age group of 20-29 years, 18 % – in the age group of 30–39 years, 4 % – in the age group of 40–49 and 3 % – 50 years and older. The research was being conducted from September till December 2019 year.

The results of the study show that, imaginations related to the women's and men's functions and duties in the family are partially traditional. Georgian society is characterized with the family hierarchy and subordination between family members, which is based on stereotypical, traditional and in most cases patriarchal beliefs.

It's interesting that at the level of attitudes, 73 % of the respondents consider that woman and man spend equal time to bring the children up and 27 % of the respondents believe that woman should spend more time to bring the children up.

One of the ideas, which can be considered as fundamental for Georgian family, refers to the man's, as a breadwinner's role in the family. It's considered that men should be the head of the family and he should take responsibility to care about family welfare from the financial point of view. Masculine domination is considered as a priority in Georgian family and this is shown with the fact that neither respondent believes that this function should be combined only by the woman. 25 % of the respondents believe that the breadwinner of the family should be a man, but hereby it should be noted that 75 % of the respondents believe that, men and women should contribute equally in the family budget.

13 % of the respondents consider that man should be the main decision-maker in the family. A great number of the respondents believe that decisions should be made jointly in the family (86 %). Only one respondent from the interviewees thinks that the decisions should be made by the women in the family.

When it was asked who should manage the family budget, 87 % of the respondents consider that women and men should equally participate in the budget management. Only 7 % considers that the family budget should be managed by the men and 6 % believe that – it should be managed by the women.

Insofar as one of the main purpose of the study is to identify what kind of barriers there exist in terms of women's employment and in terms of their business-activities, it's interesting to confront the woman's role in the family as a housewife and in the society as a business woman.

It's important that a great number of the respondents (93 %) consider that none of the gender should be given a priority during the employment, only 6 % consider that man belongs the preferential right of employment.

It's considered that men have the ability to achieve success in career, he does it much better. When it was asked who better business leader was, 22 % of respondents consider that it's a man and 70 % believe that both of them are equally good business leader and only 8 % consider that woman is a better leader.

77 % of the interviewees believe that the leadership style of men and women is different from each other. 88 % believe that women should be on a high position and 10 % disagree with this opinion.

It's generally known that politics is considered as men's active field, but 70 % of the respondents believe that women and men are equally good politicians, 10 % – believe that woman is a better leader and 20 % consider that men are better politicians.

It's true that society is not a supporter to remove the women from the politics, but at the same time, women's involvement in any field of politics is not advisable, in case of men, there're no similar opinion – in case of men, there're no fields of politics, where he can be less successful than women. Accordingly, the field

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of political activity is limited for women – men have the potential to succeed in any political field and women are able only in a certain fields. These fields are less likely to include high political positions. The results of the study showed that men are imagined as a presidential candidate more than woman (39 %), 5 % of the interviewees support women as a presidential candidate and the rest 57 % consider that both of them are acceptable for them to be the president.

According to the majority's opinion, to plan personal life, to determine the future and to choose the profession, men are more free (55 %) than women (15 %), 30 % of the respondents found it difficult to answer.

On the question “do you agree or disagree with the opinion that women's and men's rights are equally protected in Georgia” – 50 % of the respondents agree with this formulation, 38 % - partially agree with the opinion that women's and men's rights are not equally protected, only 14 % believe that men's and women's rights are equally protected.

To leave the property to the son is Georgian tradition, which is based on the idea that family property should be belonged to the men and for women, compensation is a dowry (marriage portion). At the same time, in case of marriage woman becomes “co-owner” of the spouse's property, which was left to the man by his parents in accordance with the custom. However, this “co-ownership” most of all is considered as a right to use the property (to live in this house, to use the things) and it less means its disposal especially in case of divorce.

When it was asked the question who should be given a preference – daughter or son – while dividing the parents' property, 24 % of the respondents consider that son should be given a preference. None of the respondents, even one percentage, believes that daughter should be given an advantage and 76 % of the interviewees consider that heirs of the both gender should equally be given a preference.

Education is important for the development of the country, the results of the study confirmed that the society realized a special role of education. 96 % of the respondents consider that to get a

higher education is equally important for the both gender and only 2 % believes that getting a higher education is more important for men than for the women.

A great number of the respondents consider that women's involvement in public life has support from the family, parents and spouse (65 %), 27 % of the respondents believe that women have no support and 9 % make it difficult to answer.

The answers on the following question were distributed as follows: should the women be represented on high position? (respondents were able to fix several answers at the same time), 69 % of the respondents believe that this is women's and men's equal right, 56 % – women are as qualified as men, 27 % think that, if woman is on high position, she will give a motivation to the other women for career advancement, 22 % consider that, women can manage the risks better, 6 % think that woman is the guarantor of economy success of the company and 4 % consider that woman should be on high positions.

The impediment factor of women's promotion on high positions in private/public sector, is considered: family (57 %), stereotypes – (44 %), inflexible work schedule (30 %), education, lack of qualification (17 %). 58 % of the respondents think that performing the housework prevents women to make a career. (Respondent could have multiple answers).

According to the study, 66 % of the respondents consider that the reason for women's unemployment is to combine the household with the work, that's why she prefers not to work. 47 % of the respondents answered that woman's unemployment is her husband's desire, 32 % believe that the reason for women's unemployment is that she can't find a job and 12 % consider that woman herself doesn't want to work.

Despite of the fact that in accordance with the study, the majority of the respondents agree with the gender equality, only a little part of it understands the real content of the equality. It's true that, a great part of respondents agree with the fact that women should be on high positions, but on such responsible position as the president is, women are not greeting. Respondents think that, education is important for both gender, but breadwinner and budget

manager in the family is still a man. A great part of it still supports the traditional distribution of gender roles.

Unlike the previous researches, the study, which was conducted by us, fixes changed opinions, the majority of the respondents support women's and men's equality in the family and in social life as well, a great part of respondents consider that woman should be on leadership positions and men and women should equally be family breadwinners, but the real picture is quite different, in Georgia and not only in Georgia, there's still women's and men's field of employment, women's and men's role models – according to it, men is considered as a main source of income in the family, and women's main activity is to look after the children, despite of the fact that the majority of the respondents don't support the inequality.

This can be explained by the fact that 75 % of respondents are between the age 20–29 and the real idea of gender equality is closer to them. As the interview was done through the internet (through the social network), this group of age was more active because they have more access to the internet than older generation, whose opinions still remain as mainly traditional, patriarchal character.

We think that, the above-given results are somehow connected to the fact that the majority of the respondents (78 %) were women and evaluations are made from their position.

Such a traditional country as Georgia is, men and their rights dominate on the women's rights, in brief, men and women are not equal in Georgia. They have different abilities and status in society. Democratic development means to provide equal rights and opportunities for men and women, to give equal opportunities to them in order to satisfy their own and special needs.

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