

Social Gender Analysis in a Turkish Province. The Province of Tokat: a case study

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1. Introduction

In the process beginning with the rural development efforts, technology, broadcasting and education services have been offered to males by means of rural development projects but the groups such as women, children and the elderly people have been ignored.

As a result of this, the social differentiations already existing have worked against women and other disadvantaged groups (e.g. the elderly, children, nomadic and handicapped people).

The place of women in the process of development in the world was first touched upon in detail by Boserup (1970). Boserup emphasized that women took advantage of the opportunities of development

much less than males in a global scale, and more importantly the new technologies envisaged by the developmental programs aggravated the status of women. The status of women is globally at a low level and in general they cannot receive education at the same level as the males. In economic terms, the employment of women is considered as an activity providing additional income to the male employment and the work performed by women at home is not considered as productive labor. Participation of women in the developmental process at the same level as the males faced serious obstacles in Turkey as it did in the Western societies. Some of these obstacles are cultural, while others are social (Sirman, 1991).

Abstract

This study reports the information obtained from 171 married women and their husbands in 34 villages of the provincial centre and other counties of the province of Tokat by means of a survey. The social gender analysis has allowed to elicit judgments regarding the social gender roles of women dealing with agricultural activities from the viewpoints of males and females. In the analysis of the roles played by women in the agricultural activities and in the family life, the considerations by males and females on the roles of women have been found to be different. The approach of the males towards the roles of women is based on traditional values. On the other hand, the females have been found to adopt more equalitarian, more democratic and more actively participatory roles both in the context of agricultural activities and in the family life.

Keywords: Gender, social gender, rural women, male, female.

Résumé

Dans la présente étude, on passe en revue les résultats d'une enquête menée sur 171 femmes mariées et leurs maris dans 34 villages du centre de la province de Tokat et dans d'autres contées. L'analyse sociale selon le genre a permis de faire ressortir des jugements sur le rôle social des femmes engagées dans des activités agricoles, ainsi que perçu par les deux sexes. L'analyse des rôles joués par les femmes dans les activités agricoles et au sein de la famille a mis en évidence une diversité d'opinion entre femmes et hommes. D'une part, l'approche des hommes vis-à-vis des rôles des femmes repose sur des valeurs traditionnelles. D'autre part, les femmes montrent une aptitude plus égalitaire, plus démocratique et plus participative tant sur le plan des activités agricoles que de la vie familiale.

Mots-clés: Genre, dimension sociale selon le genre, femmes rurales, homme, femme.

For the purpose of giving women prominence, there have been worldwide efforts for 20 years in order to gather information on the participation of women in the development of the countries. In Turkey as well, studies are being carried out due to the important roles of women in agricultural development. The overall rate of participation in the labor force in rural areas in Turkey is 53.6 %, being 72.9 % for males and 39 % for females (Anonymous, 2007). The majority of women employed in the rural areas concentrate in marginal works and are in the position of nonpaid family workers. The women, who participate in every stage of the production actively, cannot receive

an adequate share from the opportunities produced by the development. In underdeveloped and developing countries, where unemployment is widespread and educational and health services are limited and distributed in an unbalanced manner, the situation, position and problems of women in rural areas are even more remarkable. Due to the simultaneous performance of housework and production, low level of education and social status, lack of organization, lack of part-time working opportunities, the deficiencies in the legislation concerning the working life, the issue of social security being the most important hurdle, important problems emerge for women in rural areas (Anonymous, 2004).

In many societies, the fact that sexual discrimination is influential and that women are kept in the background prevents them from becoming people controlling and managing resources rather than being people producing things.

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However, the contribution women provide to the wellbeing of the households, the society and the country is not less than that provided by the males. Especially in developing countries, the observations showing that the sexual differentiation works continually against women have brought the role and function of women into the agenda.

In the present study, a social gender analysis reveals the factors which are influential in the continuation or change in the social gender roles.

The «social gender analysis» constitutes the focal point in the development of the agricultural broadcasting programs. The social gender analysis determines the difference between the roles concerning the gender and the gender roles. In this regard, the «social gender analysis» bears great importance for every country in making the agricultural broadcasting studies' achieve their goals (Hablemitoğlu, 1999).

By means of this social gender analysis study which was carried out in the province of Tokat, the judgments regarding the social gender roles of women dealing with agricultural activities have been tried to be determined from the male and female viewpoints.

Adoption of the use of social gender analysis in all studies to be carried out in rural areas would prevent discrimination against women. Thus, determination of the realities and needs of the women living in rural areas will be able to be achieved. For this purpose, the present study is based on the explanation of the gender roles of women living in rural areas from the viewpoints of males and females, thus concretizing, in a way, an essay on the principles of the social gender analysis.

2. Material and Method

The main material of the present study comprised the information obtained from 171 married women and their husbands in 34 villages of the provincial centre and other counties of the province of Tokat by means of a survey.

There are totally 686 villages administratively depending upon the provincial centre and other counties of the province of Tokat. Five per cent of these villages were chosen to carry out the surveys, thus 34 villages being determined for this purpose.

In defining the sample of the study, «Two-Stage Stratified Random Sampling» method, which is one of the two «Stratified Sampling» methods, has been used (Düzgüneş et al., 1983; Çingil, 1990).

The total number of the households of the 34 villages determined by randomly choosing different geographical areas was found to be 855. Since it was not possible to conduct the survey on all of the 855 households due to the limited time and financial resources, 20 % of the 855 households, which equaled to 171, were chosen to be included in the scope of the survey.

In order to estimate the number of households to be included in the sample from each village included in the scope of the study, the sampling rate was determined. By multiplying this rate by the number of households in each village, the

number of the households to be included in the sample was determined statistically (Sümbüloğlu, 1978).

In the social gender analysis, the gender roles of males and females were compared by using z test in terms of allocation of resources, role balancing, roles and needs, gender roles and participation into the decision-making processes.

3. Findings

An important aspect of the division of labor is that the works done by females and males differ. In general, the works done by males are socially more prestigious and/or produce more income. The works done by women are generally home-based and labor-based seasonal, part-time, unpaid works. Depending on these factors, since the products obtained from the works done by females – such as food and garments – are generally consumed immediately, they have no economic value. As a result of this, housework and agricultural works are considered connected in rural areas and the fact that some housework has the quality of being supportive work in the agricultural enterprises causes the work done by women to seem worthless and invisible. From this viewpoint, judgments gain acceptance among the society that «male works» are more valuable while «female works» are less valuable (Hablemitoğlu, 2001).

It was found in a previous study that there was inequality between the genders in Turkey and in other countries when some criteria (such as income and average life expectancy) were taken into consideration (Kızılaslan and Kızılaslan, 2007).

In Table 1, «the opinions regarding social gender roles» are examined considering (1) the gender roles, (2) allocation of resources, (3) balancing the roles, (4) roles and the needs, and (5) gender roles and participation in decision processes.

3.1. Gender Roles

As seen in Table 1, the majority of males (81.87 %) support the opinion that «the place of a woman is her house», and the majority of women (82.46 %) has also the same opinion. While the rate of the males disagreeing with this opinion is 14.62 %, the rate of the females disagreeing with this opinion is 15.79 %. The rates of agreeing and disagreeing between the males and females were found to be very close to each other. Besides, in the statistical analysis carried out, no difference was found between males and females about this opinion.

The majority of females and males (81.87 % and 80.70 %, respectively) had the opinion that «males are more resilient than females», while 14.04 % of the females and 9.36 % of the males disagreed with this opinion. The rate of the females disagreeing with this opinion is higher than the males. However, according to the z value calculated, the difference between the answers given by female and male participants is not significant.

The rates of the females and males having the opinion that «the head of the family is the husband» were found to be both high and close to each other (84.80 % and 82.46 %, respec-

Table 1 – Opinions of the Females and the Males Concerning Women's Gender Roles.

Opinions Regarding the Roles	Gender	Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Total	
		S	%	S	%	S	%	S	%
Gender Roles									
1. The place of a woman is her house.	Female	141	82,46	3	1,75	27	15,79	171	100,00
	Male	140	81,87	6	3,51	25	14,62	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 0,141$ insignificant				$Z_{\text{account}} = 0,301$ insignificant			
2. Males are more resilient than females.	Female	140	81,87	7	4,09	24	14,04	171	100,00
	Male	138	80,70	17	9,94	16	9,36	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 0,277$ insignificant				$Z_{\text{account}} = 1,346$ insignificant			
3. Head of the family is the male.	Female	145	84,80	7	4,09	19	11,11	171	100,00
	Male	141	82,46	14	8,19	16	9,36	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 0,585$ insignificant				$Z_{\text{account}} = 0,535$ insignificant			
Allocation of resources									
4. Women should use the agricultural tools.	Female	91	53,22	23	13,45	57	33,33	171	100,00
	Male	79	46,20	28	16,37	64	37,43	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 1,298$ insignificant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -0,790$ insignificant			
5. Females working in agricultural sector increases the family income.	Female	157	91,81	7	4,09	7	4,09	171	100,00
	Male	137	80,12	14	8,19	20	11,70	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 3,113$ significant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -2,610$ significant			
Opinions Concerning the Roles									
Opinions Concerning the Roles	Gender	Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Total	
		S	%	S	%	S	%	S	%
Balancing the Roles									
6. Females and Males should share the agricultural works equally.	Female	125	73,10	19	11,11	27	15,79	171	100,00
	Male	82	47,95	33	19,30	56	32,75	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 4,757$ significant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -3,660$ significant			
7. In agricultural activities fields, the responsibilities of sons are more than those of the daughters.	Female	127	74,27	15	8,77	29	16,96	171	100,00
	Male	141	82,46	13	7,60	17	9,94	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 1,840$ insignificant				$Z_{\text{account}} = 1,902$ insignificant			
8. Females are responsible for the housework.	Female	152	88,89	7	4,09	12	7,02	171	100,00
	Male	153	89,47	6	3,51	12	7,02	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 0,170$ insignificant				$Z_{\text{account}} = 0,000$ insignificant			
9. The females provide substantial contribution in the execution of agricultural activities.	Female	150	87,72	10	5,85	11	6,43	171	100,00
	Male	116	67,84	21	12,28	34	19,88	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 4,422$ significant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -3,680$ significant			
10. Females and males should share the housework equally.	Female	88	51,46	16	9,36	67	39,18	171	100,00
	Male	61	35,67	24	14,04	86	50,29	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 2,944$ significant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -2,070$ significant			
Opinions Concerning the Roles									
Opinions Concerning the Roles	Gender	Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Total	
		S	%	S	%	S	%	S	%

Roles and Needs									
11. The males assume some responsibilities (e.g. cooking, cleaning, looking after the children, etc.) only when they are obliged.	Female	139	81,29	14	8,19	18	10,53	171	100,00
	Male	124	72,51	24	14,04	23	13,45	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 1,924$ insignificant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -0,830$ insignificant			
12. Females' participation in the agricultural activities makes it more difficult for them to take care of their husbands and children.	Female	140	81,87	11	6,43	20	11,70	171	100,00
	Male	124	72,51	20	11,70	27	15,79	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 2,062$ significant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -1,100$ insignificant			
13. Agricultural activities limit the time females spare for housework.	Female	141	82,46	11	6,43	19	11,11	171	100,00
	Male	129	75,44	14	8,19	28	16,37	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 1,592$ insignificant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -1,410$ insignificant			
14. The females dealing with agricultural activities do not have free time.	Female	140	81,87	11	6,43	20	11,70	171	100,00
	Male	112	65,50	24	14,04	35	20,47	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 3,438$ significant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -2,210$ significant			
Gender Roles and Participation in the Decision Making Processes									
15. Females should attend courses concerning agricultural activities.	Female	118	69,01	19	11,11	34	19,88	171	100,00
	Male	78	45,61	24	14,04	69	40,35	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 4,373$ significant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -4,130$ significant			
16. Females can manage an agricultural enterprise successfully.	Female	89	52,05	39	22,81	43	25,15	171	100,00
	Male	61	35,67	25	14,62	85	49,71	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 3,051$ significant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -4,690$ significant			
Opinions Concerning the Roles									
Opinions Concerning the Roles	Gender	Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Total	
		S	%	S	%	S	%	S	%
Gender Roles and Participation in the Decision Making Processes									
17. Women should advise about how to spend the agricultural income.	Female	137	80,12	22	12,87	12	7,02	171	100,00
	Male	98	57,31	18	10,53	55	32,16	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 4,548$ significant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -5,860$ significant			
18. Women can carry out the official transactions such as receiving credit for agricultural activities and purchasing.	Female	56	32,75	16	9,36	99	57,89	171	100,00
	Male	42	24,56	27	15,79	102	59,65	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 1,674$ insignificant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -0,330$ insignificant			
19. The females' skills in carrying out agricultural activities are more developed than those of the males.	Female	53	30,99	30	17,54	88	51,46	171	100,00
	Male	30	17,54	27	15,79	114	66,67	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 2,901$ significant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -2,860$ significant			
20. Women should participate in the income-generating non-agricultural activities during the winter season.	Female	106	61,99	21	12,28	44	25,73	171	100,00
	Male	95	55,56	21	12,28	55	32,16	171	100,00
		$Z_{\text{account}} = 1,208$ insignificant				$Z_{\text{account}} = -1,310$ insignificant			

* The value of $Z_{0,05} = \pm 1,96$ has been taken as basis in the comparison of the z value.

tively). The rate of the females disagreeing with this opinion (11.11 %) is higher than the males (9.36 %). There is no significant difference between the responses given by females and males.

3.2. Allocation of Resources

The rate of the females having the opinion that «women should use the agricultural tools» (53.22 %) is higher than the rate of males having the same opinion (46.20 %). The rate of the males disagreeing with this opinion (37.43 %) is higher than the females (33.33 %). However, the rates are close to each other. When the z values are considered, it was seen that the difference between the responses was insignificant.

While the majority of the females and males agreed with the opinion that «women working in the agricultural sector can increase the family income» (91.81 % and 80.12 %, respectively), the rate of the males disagreeing with this opinion (11.70 %) was found to be higher than the females disagreeing with the opinion (4.09 %). The difference between the rate of the males disagreeing with this opinion and the rate of the females disagreeing with the same opinion was found to be significant.

3.3. Balancing the Roles

The rate of the females having the opinion that «females and males should share the agricultural works equally» (73.10 %) is higher than the rate of males having the same opinion (47.95 %). It was found that 32.75 % of the males and 15.79 % of the females disagreed with this opinion. The difference between the rate of the males agreeing with this opinion and the rate of the females was found to be significant. Besides, a significant difference was found between the males and females in terms of disagreeing as well. When the table was examined proportionally, it was also seen that there was an increase in the rate of the participants showing a tendency towards being undecided.

When the females and males included in the extent of the study were asked whether they agreed with the opinion that «the responsibilities of sons are higher than those of daughters in terms of agricultural activities», 82.46 % of the males and 74.27 % of the females stated that they agreed, while 16.96 % of the females and 9.94 % of the males stated disagreement with this opinion. The difference of opinions between the females and males agreeing and disagreeing with this opinion was found to be insignificant.

While 88.89 % of the females and 89.47 % of the males agreed with the opinion that «housework is the responsibility of women», the rate of the females and males disagreeing with this opinion was found to be the same (7.02 %). Concerning the opinion that «housework is the responsibility of women», no statistical difference was found between the responses of female and male participants.

While the rate of the females agreeing with the opinion that «the contribution of the females to the operation of agricultural activities is substantial» was found to be 87.72 %, the rate of the males having the same opinion was found to be

67.84 %. The rate of the males disagreeing with this opinion (19.88 %) was found to be higher than the females disagreeing with the same opinion (6.43 %). According to the z value calculated, the difference between the responses of the males and females agreeing and disagreeing with this opinion was significant. It may be concluded from this result that males have a tendency to ignore the labor provided by women. It is also possible to say that males may deem the work of women in agricultural activities not as a contribution, but as duties they have to perform.

While approximately half of the females (51.46 %) agreed with the opinion that «females and males should share the housework equally», the rate of the males agreeing with this opinion was found to be 35.67 %. While the rate of males disagreeing with this opinion was 50.29 %, the rate of disagreeing females was determined as 39.18 %. Additionally, 14.04 % of the males stated to be undecided concerning this matter. The differences between the responses of the males and females to this opinion in the cases of agreeing and disagreeing were found to be statistically significant. It is understood from the responses given to this opinion that the social gender roles have been established.

3.4. Roles and the Needs

While the majority of the females and males (81.29 % and 72.51 %, respectively) agreed with the opinion that «males assume some responsibilities (such as cooking, cleaning and looking after the children) only when they are obliged, the rate of the disagreeing males was determined to be 13.45 % and the rate of the disagreeing females as 10.53 %. It can be said that this result supports the general societal approach that women are responsible for the care and nutrition of the family. The difference between the responses is not significant.

The rate of the females agreeing with the opinion that «participation of women in the agricultural activities makes it more difficult for them to take care of their husbands and children» was 81.87 %, while the rate of the males agreeing with the same opinion was found to be 72.51 %. 15.79 % of the males stated that they disagreed with this opinion, while the rate of the disagreeing females was determined to be 11.70 %. Besides, 11.70 % of the males stated that they were undecided concerning this opinion. The responses given by the agreeing females and males were significantly different. But no significant difference was found between the responses of the disagreeing males and females.

The rates of the females (82.46 %) and males (72.51 %) thinking that «agricultural activities limit the time women spare for housework» were found to be close to each other. The rate of the males disagreeing with this opinion (16.37 %) is higher than the rate of the disagreeing females (11.11 %). There are no significant differences between the opinions of the males and the opinions of the females.

While a great majority of the females (81.87 %) agreed with the opinion that «women performing agricultural activities have no free time», the rate of the agreeing males was found to be 65.50 %. While 20.47 % of the males disagree with this

opinion, 14.04 % of them were undecided in this matter. Of the females, 11.70 % stated that they disagreed with the opinion. The opinions of the females and males regarding «women performing agricultural activities have no free time» are different.

3.5. Gender Roles and Participation in Decision Processes

The rates of the males agreeing with the opinion that «women should participate in the courses concerning the agricultural activities» (45.61 %) and of the males disagreeing with this opinion (40.35 %) are close to each other. Of the females, 69.01 % agreed with this opinion while 19.88 % disagreed. The difference between the opinions of the females and males concerning this approach was found to be significant.

While 52.05 % of the females agreed with the opinion that «the females can manage an agricultural enterprise successfully», 49.71 % of the males didn't agree with this opinion. While 25.15 % of the females disagree with this opinion, 35.67 % of the males stated that they agreed with the opinion. There were significant differences between the replies the females and males gave to this opinion.

It was determined that 80.12 % of the females included in the extent of the study supported the opinion that «women should advise about how to spend the agricultural income», and of the males 57.31 % supported the opinion while 32.16 didn't support it. Besides, 12.87 of the female participants stated to be undecided about the opinion. The opinions of the females and the males regarding the fact that «women should advise about how to spend the agricultural income» are different.

Of the females, while 32.75 % agreed with the opinion that «women can carry out the official transactions such as receiving credit for agricultural activities and purchasing», 57.89 % disagreed with this opinion. Of the males, 59.65 % disagreed with the opinion, while 24.56 % agreed and 15.79 % stated to be undecided. There are no significant differences between the responses given to this opinion.

51.46 % of the females and 66.67 % of the males disagree with the opinion that «the females' skills in carrying out agricultural activities are more developed than those of the males». The rate of the females supporting this opinion (30.99 %) is higher than the rate of the males (17.54 %). The rates of the undecided groups were found to be close to each other in females and males (17.54 % and 15.79 %, respectively). The differences between the opinions of the females and males concerning this approach is significant.

It was determined that 61.99 % of the females and 55.56 % of the males agreed with the opinion that «the women should participate in the income-generating non-agricultural activities during the winter season». The rate of the males disagreeing with this opinion (32.16 %) was found to be higher than the rate of the females disagreeing with the opinion (25.27 %). The rates of the undecided groups in the females and males were found to be equal (12.28 %). The differences

between the responses were found not to be statistically significant.

Conclusion

In the present study, the roles of women in agricultural activities and in the family life were analyzed; it was found that the considerations of the males and females regarding the roles of women were different. The males have been found to approach the roles of women with traditional values. On the other hand, partly due to the influence of the social changes, the females have been found to adopt, both in the context of agricultural activities and in the family life, more democratic and more actively participatory roles.

The contributions of women living in rural areas to agricultural production and to the family economy cannot be ignored. In the programs implemented with the purpose of improving the living conditions of the people living in rural areas, the inclusion of women should be a prerequisite.

The balance between the genders should be established sensitively, and the gender-balanced development approach should be adopted. Division of labor between the genders should be employed; responsibilities, resources and needs should be shared equally; and the roles should be balanced.

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