

The Status of Women Surveyors in Turkey

H. Ebru COLAK and Firdevs YOMRALIOGLU, Turkey

Key words: Professional practice, Women Surveyors, Surveying Engineer, Turkey.

SUMMARY

By the establishment announcement of Republic in 1923 in Turkey, providing the women having educated and being part of business were conceived as the main aims of being a contemporary country. As to achieve these goals the laws that define the social role of the indigenous women in the European countries were accepted to apply for Turkey. Accelerated industrial, economical and social developments restructuring, leads for women to include in all the areas of the social life. Today, Turkish women are able to be employed in broad diversity of highly qualified business sectors. However the women of whom population consists of approximately half of the total (49.3%) adequate existence in economical life can not be ensured.

Today in Turkey totally 280 263 architects and engineers are the members of 23 chambers affiliated with Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (UCTEA). Women constitute 13.5% of the engineers. When the task at hand is to investigate the ratio of women members with regard to total in the Chamber of Survey and Cadastre Engineers (CSCE) the women members constitutes 11% of the total where the total number and the number of women are 9463 and 1081, respectively. The matter of inequality with regard to gaining social benefits between women and men which can be encountered all over the world is also seen in Turkey just because of the resident customs stem from the existing social life conditions. Women surveyors are also suffer from the matter mentioned above. As the working conditions of the field surveying considered as not suitable for women by the common opinion of the society, women are to work in indoors. On the other hand some have the entrepreneurial spirit of working in private sector where the job conditions can be overwhelming especially for women.

The main goal of the study is to bring up the matter of women surveying engineers' statute in the community of surveying engineers in Turkey. Therefore the information belongs to the women members of Turkish organization (Turkish Chamber of Survey and Cadastre Engineers-CSCE) were provided then these information are classified according to the working areas namely academic, private and public sectors. As a result the risks and opportunities targeted to the women surveying engineers in Turkey that lies beneath the surface are brought up.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In the every period of history, women take part in economic activity with alternating manner and status according to condition and characteristics of periods. However, their employment came into being with industrial evaluation. Women began to take place in industry sector in 19th century and in services sector in the half of 20th century. After World War II, female ratio within total workforce rose with development in both public and services sectors. As a result of technological improvements, new fields, new methods in labor association and production process came into existence and this developed new business opportunities for women.

In Turkey, establishment announcement of Republic was in 1923. After 1923, legal status of women is determined in Turkey, like all contemporary countries. It is provided women having educated and being part of business. Moreover, women were given the right in 1930 to vote for elections and the right to participate in the National Assembly in 1934. The laws that define the social role of the indigenous women in the European countries were accepted to apply for Turkey. Accelerated industrial, economical and social developments restructuring, leads for women to include in all the areas of the social life. Nowadays, Turkish women are to serve in broad diversity of highly qualified business sectors. However the women of whom population consists of approximately half of the total (49.3%) adequate existence in economical life can not be ensured.

Participating women in working life as a paid worker is accepted as one of important factors for sustainable development. In Turkey, women's workplace participation rate is low and is observed steadily loss year to year. Despite egalitarian form of laws, one of the considerable reasons for this loss is to not constitute necessary mechanism providing enter women into labor market and develop women's qualifications (URL-1, 2007).

In this study, it is firstly mentioned current status of women's workplace and their difficulties in Turkey and in the world. Distribution of women's employment according to sector in Turkey and distribution of women according to academic title in Turkish universities is examined. And then, number of women engineers and architects in Turkey is stated statistically. Finally, the status of women surveyors is defined.

This paper gives a profile of women surveyors in Turkey. Firstly, the information belongs to the women members of Turkish organization (Turkish Chamber of Surveying Engineers-CSCE) were provided then these information are classified according to the working areas namely public, private, self-employed and other sectors. Number of women surveyors according to academic title in Turkish universities and changing of women surveyors who are graduated from these universities during the years is examined. As a result the risks and

opportunities targeted to the women surveying engineers in Turkey that lies beneath the surface are brought up.

2. THE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN TURKEY

Turkey is a democratic, secular, unitary, constitutional republic whose political system was established in 1923. Turkey's area is 774.815 square kilometers (Figure 1). The population of Turkey is approximately 67.803.927 and the population density is 80 person per square km according to the results of Census 2000 year. The population growth rate for Turkey is 1.06% (2006 est.). 49,3% of population is female and 50,7% of population is male (Table 1). The Turkish population is comparatively young. The percentage of adults over the age 65 is 6.13%. Some 70% of the age 30 (URL-2, 2007).

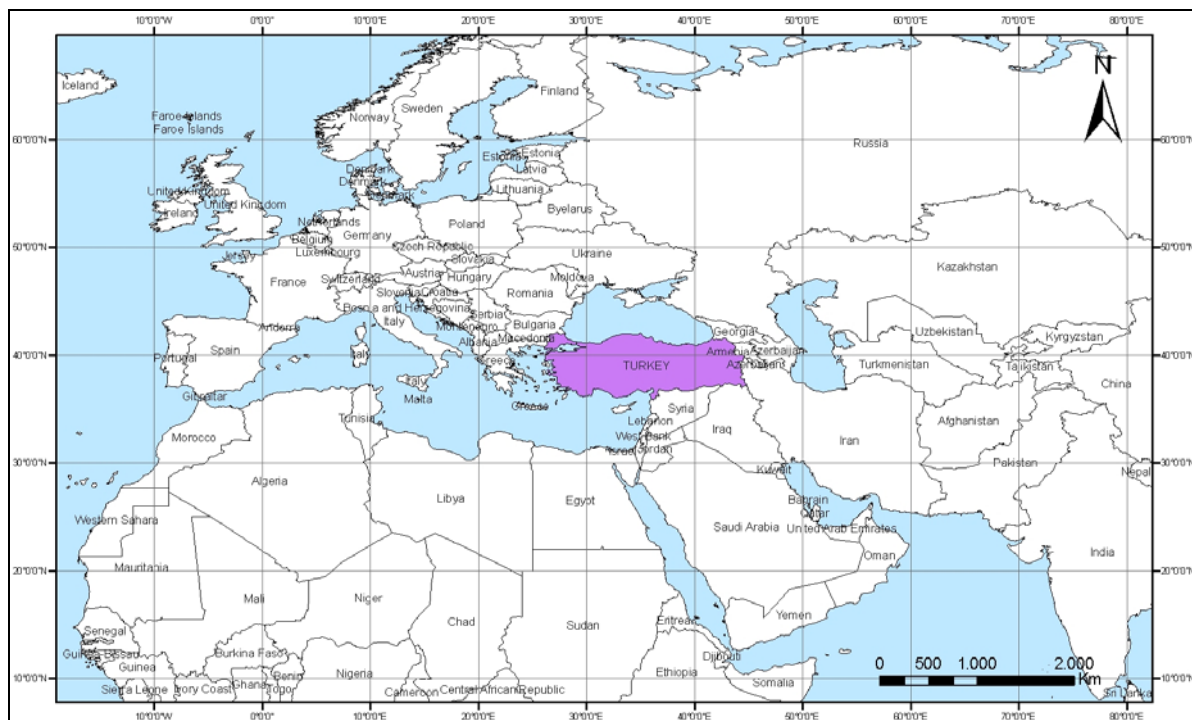


Figure 1. Location of Turkey

Table 1. Population of Turkey by gender for the years 1935, 1955 and 2000 (URL-2, 2007)

	1935		1955		2000	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Population (*1000)	8 221	7 937	11 831	12 223	33 457	34 347
Population (%)	50,9	49,1	49,2	50,8	49,3	50,7
Annual growth rate of population (%)	18,6	23,7	26,3	29,2	18,3	18,3
Proportion of city population in total (%)	22,3	24,8	26,9	30,6	64,5	65,3

The question of women's emancipation in Turkey began to be debated in the 19th century. With the reforms realized in the first decade of the Republic following its foundation in 1923,

women's citizenship rights were secured by the constitution in the context of a broader restructuring of society. However, these reforms did not ensure continuous improvements. Today, when we look at the status of women in terms of social indicators such as education, health and employment, the situation still leaves much to be desired.

The first international UN women's conference held in 1975 and the succeeding UN events, forced countries to review their policies regarding women on an international platform. Turkey's ratification of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, its adoption of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies which have been agreed on at the 3rd World Women's Conference, and its acknowledgement of women's issues in the 5th and 6th Five Year Development Plans, have mandated the establishment of a national machinery concerning women's rights. Within this framework, the Directorate General on the Status and Problems of Women (DGSPW) was established in 1990 as the lead institution aiming to develop relevant policies and promote the advancement of women, as well as having responsibility on the international level (URL-1, 2007).

In Turkey employment of women is continuing to be one of the basic areas of problem. In the context of globalization, unemployment of women during the last twenty years in Turkey has shifted to unregistered economy. The significant and continuous decline of women in participation of workforce is shown as the most important proof of this view (DGSPW, 2004). While workforce ratio is 72% in the developed counties, this ratio in Turkey is too lower with 48.4% for 2006. Considering distribution of female and male employment, women workforce ratio is also lower. The participation of women in the workforce which was 34 % in 1990, became 26.6 % in 2000 and declined 25 % in 2006 (URL-3, 2007).

In Turkey about 1.6 million (14.5 %) of 11 million active workers with social security are women. In general out of 100 women in Turkey, 48 is in agriculture sector, 14.7 in industry sector, 0.7 in construction sector and 3,5 in services sector. Table 2 shows that distribution of employment by gender in Turkey on October, 2006 (TURKSTAT, 2007).

Table 2. Distribution of employment by gender in Turkey (TURKSTAT, 2007)

Sector	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Agriculture	48,1	19,0	26,8
Industry	14,7	22,0	20,1
Construction	0,7	8,2	6,2
Services	36,5	50,5	46,9

The basic reason of working women to end their work life after a short period and/or not to be able to show their potential for advance in their career is the problem for women to reconcile their work and home life. Woman has to share the responsibilities of taking care of children and elderly in her family life with her husband and/or with the state. The number of day care centers in the country is still insufficient in spite of all efforts.

Women take part in academic field actively by participating with high rates in universities as teaching staff. When compared with the 20 years period, there has been a regular increase in

the number of female instructors. In 1990-1991 among all instructors 31% of them were female and in 1980-1981 it was 26%. In 2003-2004, percentage of female academic staff was %38 approximately (Table 3) (TCHE, 2005).

Table 3. Number of academic staff in Turkish universities in 2003-2004

Academic Title	Women	Men	Total	Women (%)
Professor	2 785	8 079	10 864	25,6
Associate professor	1 739	3 559	5 298	32,8
Assistant professor	4 094	9 461	13 555	30,2
University lecturer	4 878	7 901	12 779	38,2
Lecturer	3 123	2 414	5 537	56,4
Expert	981	1 324	2 305	42,6
Research assistant	12 244	16 186	28 430	43,1
Other	14	22	36	38,9
Total	29 858	48 946	78 804	37,9

3. WOMEN SURVEYORS IN TURKEY

In Turkey there are 23 chambers represent architectures and engineers. These chambers are affiliated with Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (UCTEA) which is a civil society organization. UCTEA was established in 1954 and according to 2005 statistics the number of architect and engineer members reached 280.263 (UCTEA, 2006). Women constitute 13.5% (37.386) of the members of UCTEA.

In Turkey the chamber of surveying engineers and cadastre engineers is called Chamber of Survey and Cadastre Engineers (CSCE) which is also affiliated with Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architectures (UCTEA). CSCE has 9463 registered members, 1081 of these members is constituted by women and 8382 is constituted by men. Distribution percentages are shown in figure 2.

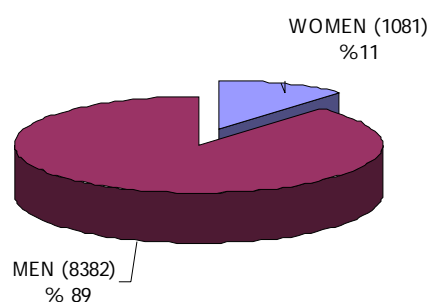


Figure 2. The two genders' proportion as survey engineers in Turkey (CSCE, 2007)

In Turkey working area of surveying engineers can be classified as public organizations, municipalities, private surveying companies, private construction companies, planning companies, mine companies and etc. The distribution of gender of surveying engineers according to sectors is shown in table 4. It is clear from table 4 that women surveyors prefer

public organizations and male surveying engineers prefer private sector. Women surveyors generally work in municipalities, governmental offices and in universities as public organizations. In Turkey at recent years the number of women surveyors work in private surveying companies and private construction companies is increasing day by day because private sector has gained some developments technologically and financially. Women were not used to work in fields before but now developing technology made them more active in private sector and made them to work in offices and to work in private sector.

Table 4. Distribution of gender of surveyors in Turkey according to working sector (CSCE, 2007)

Sector	Women (%)	Men (%)	Total (%)
Public	388 (%4)	2284 (%24)	2672 (%28)
Private	288 (%3)	2899 (%31)	3187 (%34)
Self-employed	190 (%12)	1763 (%19)	1953 (%21)
Other	215 (%2)	1436 (%15)	1651 (%17)
Total	1081 (%11)	8382 (%89)	9463 (%100)

There are 9 universities in Turkey give Surveying Engineering education at the level of graduation and additional to this there are 2 universities give education at the level of master and PhD. Totally there are 225 lecturers at these 9 universities, 42 of it is women and 183 of it is men. Women constitute %19 of academician surveying engineers. 6 of women academician is professor, 6 is associate professor, 4 is assistant professor and the rest of 26 is research assistant (Table 5). First women surveying engineers are graduated at 1974 and first woman has assumed as professor at 1997(Serbetci, 99).

Table 5. Number of academic surveyor staff in Turkish universities (2007)

Academic Title	Women	Men	Total
Professor	6	34	40
Associate professor	6	13	19
Assistant professor	4	45	49
University lecturer	0	12	12
Research assistant	26	79	105
Total	42	183	225

According to a research performed in 2001 total number of academician survey engineers was 180 and 30 of it was women (Kizilsu, 2001). At 2001 percentage of women academician was %17 during six years it is observed that the increase of women percentage is %2. This increase shows that women surveyors work in public organizations mostly prefer universities.

This research also investigates the yearly change of number of total graduation and distribution of number of women surveyors since the establishment date of two universities (Karadeniz Technical University and Selcuk University).

Karadeniz Technical University is one of the first universities which give surveying engineering education in Trabzon, Turkey and first surveying engineers were graduated at 1974. The number of graduation from Karadeniz Technical University between years of 1974 and 2006 is 1686. %17 (290) of total graduation number is constituted by female survey engineers and %83 (1346) is constituted by male survey engineers. At 1974, the percentage of graduated female survey engineer was %7, after 10 years at 1984 this percentage reached to %10, at the end of second 10 year at 1994 the percentage reached to %15 and at the end of 2006 this percentage reached to %17.

Selcuk University in Konya, Turkey since 1977 totally 1604 person graduated as a survey engineer. 211 (%13,2) of total graduate number is constituted by females and 1393 (%68,8) of total graduate number is constituted by males. Since the establishment of department, at 1977 percentage of graduated female survey engineer was %4,7 after 10 years at 1987 this percentage is reached to %6,3, after second ten years at 1997 this percentage is reached to %15 and at the end of 2006 this percentage is reached to %13,2.

The yearly change of percentage of graduation number by gender can be seen in figure 3. It is clear from the graphic that number of graduated female surveying engineer is increasing as the years passed. This increase shows that females prefer the job of survey engineering at a rate of slowly but continuously.

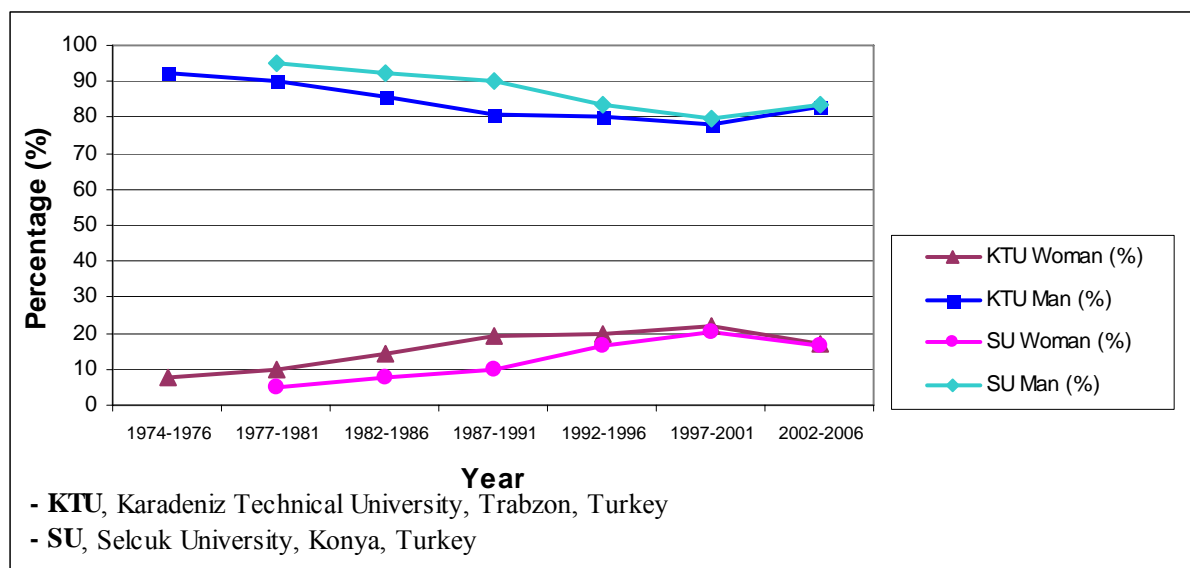


Figure 3. The yearly change of percentage of surveyor graduation number by gender

4. CONCLUSION

Even in developed countries where women participation in working life is very common, the existence of a child and the increase in child numbers consolidate the role of women at home and the dependence on their family. Most women are not oriented to work outside home due to their primarily defined cultural position as mother and wife (Arslan and Kivrak, 2004). A great many of women who are worked leave their professions by reason of marriage of after

childbirth. Consequently, women have an important role in their family. Therefore, women's working life is influenced by responsibilities on their family. As a result, women are not supposed to evaluate same standards with men in working life.

The matter of inequality with regard to gaining social benefits between women and men which can be encountered all over the world is also seen in Turkey just because of the resident customs stem from the existing social life conditions. Women surveyors are also suffer from the matter mentioned above. As the working conditions of the field surveying considered as not suitable for women by the common opinion of the society, women are to work in indoors. On the other hand some have the entrepreneurial spirit of working in private sector where the job conditions can be overwhelming especially for women.

The difficulties such as hard land conditions, long working hours, transport, accommodation in the surveying industry and the possibility of pregnancy were the main accounts for the lower employment of women surveyors. Women surveyors, who are married or have children, prefer to work in public sectors and universities instead of working in private sector. Women surveyors also prefer to work in technical office rather than field works with heavy geodetic instruments, and movements in hard conditions.

Today, as women have management ability, well educated and special female skills, they take place varied projects which requiring surveying. Women surveyors, working in the office adapt immediately to use new technologies. As women used with new technologies to give better opportunities to their professional career, the new technologies have accepted faster from the surveyors professionals. Most of women surveyors are very successful professionals such as manager, director, academic staff, and owners of companies now. This way creates a fascinating image of the women surveyors that encourages more and more women to choose surveying engineering.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

H. Ebru Colak is a research assistant at Karadeniz Technical University (KTU), Turkey. She graduated from the Department of Geodesy and Photogrammetry Engineering at KTU in 2001. She received her MScE degree with thesis entitled “Producing Cancer Maps for Trabzon Province with Geographic Information Systems” in August 2005. She is studying on her PhD thesis. Her research interests are Geographic Information Systems, Health GIS and GIS History.

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