

## A FIELD RESEARCH ABOUT OPPRESSION INCURRED OF WOMAN ENTREPRENEURS IN PATRIARCHAL SOCIETIES<sup>1</sup>

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### ABSTRACT

*How is seen entrance of women into business life by man and which type of pressures are implemented to women entrepreneurs were needed to be as research topic, so this study was done. The questionnaire included both entrepreneurship qualites and difficulties which were faced by woman entrepreneurs. Analyses were done by entering data to SPSS 20.0 programme datafile. It is seen that being innovative and having high self confidence are became prominent characteristics in question which is related to the qualites which must entrepreneurs have. It is also seen that they used mainly equity in establishment of their businesses, and made use of KOSGEB and Micro credit possibilites very little. .It is seen that there is not significant differences between various demographic attributes with entrepreneur skills and oppression with initiative barriers of woman entrepreneurs. The result of this study is expected to promote and encourage woman entrepreneur candidates.*

**Keywords:** *Entrepreneurship, Entrepreneurial Characteristics, Women Entrepreneurs, Entrepreneurship suppression, Entrepreneurship Education.*

**Jel Classification:** *M130, M140, M160*

### ATAERKİL TOPLUMLARDA KADIN GİRİŞİMCİLERİN UĞRADIKLARI BASKILARIN İNCELENMESİNE YÖNELİK BİR ALAN ARAŞTIRMASI

### ÖZ

*Kadınların iş hayatına girmelerinin erkek girişimciler tarafından nasıl karşılandığı ve kadın girişimcilere yönelik ne tür baskılar uyguladığı araştırma konusu olması gerektiğinden hareket edilerek bu araştırma yapılmıştır. Bu amaçla literatür incelemesi yapılarak hem girişimcilik özellikleri hem de kadın girişimcilerin karşılaştıkları zorlukları içeren anket hazırlanmış ve yüz yüze uygulanmıştır. Anket verileri SPSS 20.0 programı veri kütüklerine girilerek analizler yapılmıştır. Girişimcide bulunması gereken özelliklere ilişkin soruda “yenilikçi olma” ve “özgüveni yüksek olma” özelliklerinin öne çıktığı, işletmelerinin kuruluşlarında ağırlıklı olarak özkaynak kullandıkları, KOSGEB ve Mikro kredi imkânlarından çok az faydalandıkları görülmüştür. Kadın girişimcilerin işletmelerinin kuruluşunda veya işleyişinde baskı görmedikleri görülmüştür. Kadın girişimcilerin çeşitli demografik özellikleri ile girişimcilik özellikleri, baskı görmeleri ve girişimde karşılaştıkları*

<sup>1</sup> In This Study, 23 to 25 May 2014 in the city of Georgia Tbilisi şehrinde 9th Silk Road International Conferance on Business, Economics, International Relations and Education were Presented as Papers at the Congress

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*engeller arasındaki anlamlı farklılıkların olmadığı görülmüştür. Bu çalışma sonucunun girişimci adayı bayanları teşvik etmesi, cesaretlendirmesi beklenmektedir.*

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** *Ataerkillik, Toplumsal Cinsiyet, Girişimcilik, Kadın Girişimci, Girişimcilik Baskısı.*

**Jel Sınıflandırması:** *M130, M140, M160*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

When the humankind created the men were created tough and physically strong unlike the women were created physically weak and delicate creatures. The physical superiority of men used as a power over women. The men who are having this power apply pressure to women and remove from social and economic fields and relegated women to second.

In patriarchal societies, the women live under the rule of men. In these societies women cannot think, cannot produce and cannot express their ideas. Largely, the position of women is determined by traditional role and status (Ökten, 2009:311; Ergöl, et al., 2012:44). Especially women, makes work at home, look after children and meet the needs of men. Whereas the men are breadwinner, who provided family income and has every decision regarding family. This case provides power and superiority to men (Koray, 2000:211; Bedük, 2005:114). That power and superiority of men dominates women and they have been out of the social and economic fields.

In recent years, the spread of information and technology the development of the education system, increased economic level of society, protective and supportive of the application of the laws to increase, lack of the livelihood and economic challenges, attitudes towards women's work due to positive developments occurring, more women began to take part in Social an economic field is observed. (Soysal, 2010:89). This situation has led to a reduction of there effect of male dominance.

In patriarchal societies, be aggressive structure of men creating difficulty in women pose for business life (Sayın, 2011:24). From the 1980s, according to the results of research what women entrepreneur engaged in examination, in Turkey as in many developed an developing countries, women generally have difficulties faced like all entrepreneurs (Bedük, 2005:113).

In the study, to answer the questions of how entering working life of women is met by male entrepreneurs and by the movement of for women entrepreneurs what kinds of pressure being applied on the fact that, a field research was conducted within 2 regions in Turkey.

## **2.THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN A PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY AND WORKING LIFE**

Patriarchal society is defined as sovereignty and obedience (Stanistreet and others., 2005:873; Asiyabola, 2005:20). Men's physical power can be a constraint factor amongst women, this makes women a second class people at the societies. This situation makes women cast out from social, politic and economic life. Especially in these societies women's is to take care of children and take care of the house as for that men's role is to earn money (Braunstein and Folbre, 2001:28-29; Monagan, 2010:161; Demirbilek, 2007:23; Koray, 2000:211). Barely this understanding that makes women live at home like they are in jail in the same time effects them to cast out from social life (Çakır, 2008:27). Especially at the societies in which men are more sovereign in many fields, women is prohibited (Bedük, 2005:114-115). When the studies are analyzed, patriarchy is expressed as taking advantage of women in the final cause (Tracy, 2007:576).

The roles of women in patriarchal societies and the family and social environment around this shape affects women's labor. Man who thinks taking care of children and elder a women's job is the most limiting factor that prohibits women's labor. Especially women's role in economic life is determined by not women's individual decisions but by men's permission and control. If a women wants to be a part of the work life must have a permission from the men in the family. Married women must take permission from their husband. Bachelor women must take permission from their father or the family older boy. In these societies not only women is not permitted to work but also face serious restrictions (Önder, 2013:50). Consequently women's attendance in work life is limited. For this reason, women can feel weak, ineffective and incapable when taking decisions that effect their daily life (Çakır, 2008:26).

Patriarchal societies does not want to see women too much in politics, social and economic fields. For this reason men can use actions such as pressure, exclusion etc. in many fields. Especially working women can face violence, harassment, exclusion, threatment, intimidation and contempton.

During history women come up against sexual apartheid and inequality (Isran and Isran 2012:836). Women is seen in low status and compared to men, they are unlucky and have less rights. One of the discrimination fields women face is violence. Violence against women is mostly seemed in patriarchal societies. Women can remain silent because they can not protect themselves and does not want their family to come apart (Demirbilek, 2007:23). The most distinct discrimination against women is violence. As far as organizing societies own social life by law, the traditions that learned and applied during the socializing process can be expressed affective. Especially when we look at the patriarchal societies we see that men are in a higher status than women everytime. The sovereign men society who thinks this violence superiority and uses against women tries to continue their

sovereignty. In these kind of societies violence against women is not only in a physical violence but also in a psychologic and sexual violence is appeared. Women have difficulty protecting themselves against these bad behaviours.

Order in sovereign societies is not only provided by written rules but also by unwritten rules. Violence against women has because a part of the culture, accepted as a normal behavior, the opposite manner is described as marginal and neglected.

One of the dimensions of discrimination against women is seemed in their social life and behaviours. The affects of discrimination on women's behavior appears in a different ways in their daily life. As a result women can not use their own free will and wear clothes, speak, act and live in away a society agrees. Because of the sexual apartheid against women, they try to shape their own life by living a fictional character and not themselves (Demirbilek, 2007:23).

### **3.ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN PATRIARCHAL SOCIETIES**

As in the whole world, Turkey being a patriarchal country consider women ware respectful. This can be seen in every area of the society. Especially, with the given support to women, they have more opportunity to have a job in the field of economy and business. By this content, there have been many tendencies and applications which allow women to be adequate as entrepreneurs with economic and social motives to spread small entrepreneurships (Soysal, 2010:88). As a result of these supports, it is observed that there has been an increase of the portions of women in business life. According to the researches, about 28 entrepreneurs out of 100 are women in Turkey (Uluköy and Demireli, 2014:48; Bozkurt, 2011:24).

There are lots of reasons why women are into entrepreneurship. As the number one of them, we can say that women become entrepreneurs because of the economic problems. Flexible employment policies and reduction of employees make women have a small work place. On the contrary, the wish for independence, self-actualization, being her own boss, and catching the balance between work and the family responsibilities are among the factors which attract women to the business life (Yetim, 2002:80). Another reason making women an entrepreneur is that the government policy which thinks women as an important actor to raise the local economy. In this policy, especially for the potential women entrepreneurs among local actors, is set forth to be leaded, encouraged, and empowered (Soysal, 2010:91).

Another reason which affects women being in economic areas is education. When the education level of women rises, they want to work instead of staying and just raising kids at home (Bedük, 2005:115). The more educated women are, the more they want to be entrepreneurs. The best

example for this is the entrepreneurship seminars and certificates given at the universities. The education given at the universities at different levels is proven to be useful to impress students' perspectives of entrepreneurship (Demireli, et al., 2014:1). When considered the fact that nearly half of the students at universities are women, the importance of entrepreneurship seminars emerges (Sayın, 2011:23).

Especially, another reason affecting women to take part in the economical field that the advancements in technology and accessibility of the information by women to socialise and to have self – confidence much more than ever. This situation provides women to take part in joint social life activities more than ever.

The other reasons affecting women to take part in the field of economy are their rising marriage age, their desire to obtain economical independence and their unwillingness to get under control of a man cause women lead to the economical fields.

The politics of government has principle and vital effects on the improving of women's entrepreneurship. After 1980s women have begun to be seen more in the fields of economy or business life scenes (Özkaya, 2009:56). The government especially have supported women to get their economical independence. The main supports are enterprise education, more credits and grants provided by development agency and supports are given by social institutions. Thanks to these supports women are leaded to be enterprise.

It is seen that entrepreneurs have major contributions to the development of Turkey in the economic field. The main factors providing this economical development are especially improving the culture of entrepreneurship, creating awareness of entrepreneurship and endeavouring to create new employment opportunities. These developments occur by the agency of KOSGEB's applied entrepreneur training programs. Women show great interest to these activities and programs. KOSGEB gave entrepreneur training and education to approximately 120.000 people between 2010 and 2013. 45 percent of people taking this education and training are women, 55 percent of them are man. Women constitute the half of them establishing their own business by obtaining credit and grant (Uluköy, et al., 2013:81).

#### **4. PRESSURES FACED BY WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN THE PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY**

Duties and roles imposed to women by patriarchal society, housework, family, taking care of the elderly, the lack of self confidence, not having sufficient support etc.. Experiencing such types of problems are also causing the number of Turkish female entrepreneurs to remain behind European countries. (Norçin, 2013:173)

The most important issue is gender discrimination in patriarchal societies. The UN General Assembly which has agreed, The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) indicates that the inequality against women is still continuing. The societies gender based inequality has been first confirmed as a human rights issue in United Nations World Conference on Human rights, held in Vienna in June 1993. (Bhattarai and Pant, 2013:416). This problem of inequality is felt in all areas of life. The women are always exposed to oppression and violence in both economic and social areas.

Women who want to become entrepreneurs in patriarchal societies are faced with many oppression. The oppression comes through families, competitors (male entrepreneurs), relatives and neighborhoods. When the studies in this area analyzed, we find that different types of oppressions are made to women. In his study Özkaya has listed the pressures on women as follows, family pressure, domestic / local pressure, the lack of job-related training, financial difficulties, lack of self confidence, entrepreneurial spirit, gender inequality, not taken seriously, lack of family support, prejudices, child and elder care responsibilities (Özkaya, 2009:67). These pressures are often seen in the form of applications such as violence, abuse, threats, intimidation, humiliation, and exclusion. The obstacles encountered by women in entrepreneurship activities are also listed as follows.

The values and beliefs of societies about women 30%, lack of information 23%, obstruction of competitors 20%, the difficulty of obtaining capital 16% and legal and bureaucratic obstacles 11% (Soysal, 2010:97).

Women's not having equal conditions of competition with men is another problem. In in interviews with women, they stated that, especially in professions where men entrepreneurs take place, they could not find an equal opportunity to compete (Yetim, 2002:89-90). The lack of a fair competition environment in the patriarchal society is a condition encountered. The women not-free as men, cannot benefit from all rights, As a result of being seen as secondary in social life, they cannot get the respect they deserve in the business life as well. By taking a very few example aside, women not being seen valuable in business life, are not considered equal with male employees. Consequently their income reduces and they cannot find opportunities to take high-wage jobs by not being considered as suitable.

## **5. RESEARCH APPLICATION**

### **5.1. Methodology**

In this study aiming to determine the oppressions female entrepreneurs face in patriarchal societies, surveys are used to collect data. To this end, after a literature research, a survey consisting of 13 questions was prepared. The survey included both entrepreneurial characteristics and the difficulties and obstacles female entrepreneurs may face. By using convenience sampling method, 84

female entrepreneurs who built business in Adiyaman or Balikesir, were found contactable and face-to-face surveys were conducted with all of them. Analysis was done by entering the data obtained from the survey to the data logs of SPSS 20.0 software package. In the analysis, it is found that the reliability of scale (Cronbach's Alpha) is, 818.

## 5.2. Findings

As a result of survey, in the light of data obtained from the questions in the survey, data were created regarding female entrepreneurs and their companies. These data are presented in the tables below:

**Table 1:** Demographics of Female Entrepreneurs

<b>Education</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Primary	20	23,8	Younger than 30	26	31,0
High school	32	38,1	31-40	44	52,4
Associate degree	16	19,0	41-50	10	11,9
Graduate	14	16,7	Older than 51	4	4,8
Post-Graduate	2	2,4	<i>Total</i>	84	100,0
<i>Total</i>	84	100,0			
<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>			
Single	42	50,0			
Married	42	50,0			
<i>Total</i>	105	100,0			

When the demographics of those who answered the survey, was analyzed it was found that about 23,8% of respondents were primary school graduates, 38,1% were high school graduates, 19,0% were associate degree graduates, 16,7% were university graduates and 2,4% were post-graduates. It was also found that as the education level of a woman increases, she is less likely to be an entrepreneur. One can say that the reason for this is that as women grow older they become more risk-averse. It was observed that 83,4% of women were younger than 40 and 50% of them were married. When demographic variables are analyzed it is evident that the education level of the women who want to be entrepreneurs are low, they are younger than 40 and half of them are married.

**Table 2:** Demographics of Companies

<b>Capital</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Capital Structure</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Less than (10) thousand	44	52,4	Equity	56	66,7
Between (11-50) thousand	26	31,0	Liability	20	23,8
Between (51-100) thousand	8	9,5	Remittance	8	9,5
More than (101) thousand	6	7,1	<i>Total</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>100,0</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>100,0</i>			
<b>number of employees</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>			
Manufacturing	12	14,3			
Trade	54	64,3			
Services	18	21,4			
<i>Total</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>100,0</i>			

When the demographic variables of the companies established by the female entrepreneurs who participated in the survey are examined, it is observed that 14,3% of the companies are in manufacturing sector, 64,3% are in trade sector, 21,4% are in services sector. When the capital structures of these companies are examined, it is evident that 66,7% of the companies are established with equities, 23,8% with liabilities and 8% with remittance. When companies' initial capitals are examined, it is observed that 52,4% of the companies are established with initial capital less than 10.000 thousand Turkish Liras (TL), 31,0% less than 50.000 TL, 8% less than 100.000 TL and 6% more than 100.000 TL. When the demographics of the companies examined, it is evident that most of the companies are established with low capital and owner's equity.

**Table 3:** Professional Experience

<b>Have you ever worked in another company before?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Have you ever done entrepreneurial activity before?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	34	40,5	Yes	22	26,2
No	50	59,5	No	62	73,8
<i>Total</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>100</i>

When the professional experience of female entrepreneurs is examined, it is observed that the ratio of female entrepreneurs who have not worked in another company is 59,5% and the ratio of those who have worked is 40,5%. This implies that more than half of the female entrepreneurs have no professional experience. While the ratio of female entrepreneurs who participated in the survey and have done entrepreneurial activity before, is 26,2%, the ratio of those who have not is 73,8%. Thus it may be concluded that most of the female entrepreneurs have done entrepreneurial activity for the first time.



**Table 4:** Remittances Female Entrepreneurs Received When Establishing Their Companies

Have you received remittances when establishing your company?	Woman				Total	
	Yes		No		f	%
	f	%	f	%		
SMEDO <sup>2</sup>	10	11,9	74	88,1	84	100,0
Development Agency	2	2,4	82	97,6	84	100,0
Microcredits	12	14,3	72	85,7	84	100,0
Social Institutions	0	0,00	84	100,0	84	100,0
Ministries	4	4,8	80	95,2	84	100,0
Family and Relatives	44	52,4	40	47,6	84	100,0

When the remittances the female entrepreneurs who participated in the survey received is examined, it is found that 11,9% of the remittances was received from SMEDO, 2,4% was from Development Agencies, 14,3% was microcredits, 4,8% was from ministries, 52,4% was from families and relatives. It is evident from the table that, the ratio of female entrepreneurs, who received remittances from government institutions when establishing their own companies, is very small. The reason for this is that the existence of governmental remittances and loans are not well known among the women and they do not know how to apply for and use these remittances and loans. It is evident that the female entrepreneurs received support from their families and relatives the most. In Turkey which has a patriarchal society, this fact is important.

**Table 5:** The degree to which Female Entrepreneurs agree that they faced oppressions on the path of entrepreneurship

Type of Oppression/ The degree to which They agree	Harassment		Threat		Discouragement		Insults		Violence		Isolation	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Strongly Disagree	64	76,2	66	78,6	48	57,1	58	69	70	83,3	60	71,4
Disagree	16	19,0	6	7,1	6	7,1	6	7,1	4	4,8	6	7,1
Neither agree nor disagree	0	0,0	8	9,5	16	19,0	12	14,3	10	11,9	6	7,1
Agree	2	2,4	4	4,8	8	9,5	6	7,1	0	0,0	10	11,9
Strongly Agree	2	2,4	0	0,0	6	7,1	2	2,4	0	0,0	2	2,4
<b>Total</b>	84	100	84	100	84	100	84	100	84	100	84	100

<sup>2</sup> Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB)

When the data regarding the entrepreneurial oppressions, female entrepreneurs were subject to by male entrepreneurs is analyzed, it is concluded that most of the female entrepreneurs do not agree that they were subject to oppressions listed above by male entrepreneurs. Among the female entrepreneurs who answered the survey, 5% of them were harassed and threatened by male entrepreneurs, 16% of them were subject to discouragement, 9,5% were insulted, 14,3% were subject to isolation and none of them was subject to violence. According to these results it may be concluded that despite the structure of Turkey's patriarchal society 84 female entrepreneurs who are the sample of this study, were not subject to entrepreneurial oppressions.

**Table 6. Obstacles Female Entrepreneurs Face**

Entrepreneurial Obstacle	Frequency	%
Family	20	23,8
Competitors (Male Entrepreneurs)	20	23,8
Education Level	20	23,8
Friends	4	4,8
Market Experience	20	23,8
Total	84	100

When the entrepreneurial obstacles are analyzed according to the answers 84 people who consists the sample gave, it is found that there is not a common, agreed-on obstacle among the female entrepreneurs who think that they faced obstacles since 4 of the options (family, competitors (male entrepreneurs), education level and market experience) are chosen equally, 23,8% each, and "friends" option is 4,8%. Thus there is not a specific obstacle which can be improved. Even though obstacles imposed by the family were expected to be higher in the patriarchal Turkish society, it had the same rate with other obstacles.

**Table 7. The Anova Table between the Education Level of Female Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurial Oppressions**

	Education Level	N	Avg.	Std. Dev.	Std. Err.	F	Sig.
Harassment	Primary	20	1,6000	,94032	,21026	1,04	0,39
	High School	32	1,5000	1,13592	,20080		
	Associate Degree	16	1,6250	1,14746	,28687		
	Graduate	14	1,5714	,93761	,25059		
	Post-graduate	2	1,0000	0,00000	0,00000		
	Total	84	1,5476	1,03441	,11286		
Threat	Primary	20	1,4000	,94032	,21026	1,17	0,33
	High School	32	1,3125	,85901	,15185		
	Associate Degree	16	1,3750	,71880	,17970		

	Education Level	N	Avg.	Std. Dev.	Std. Err.	F	Sig.
	Graduate	14	1,7143	,91387	,24424		
	Post-graduate	2	1,0000	0,00000	0,00000		
	Total	84	1,4048	,85192	,09295		
Insult	Primary	20	1,4000	1,23117	,27530	1,87	0,12
	High School	32	1,5000	,95038	,16801		
	Associate Degree	16	2,3750	1,25831	,31458		
	Graduate	14	1,7143	,91387	,24424		
	Post-graduate	2	1,0000	0,00000	0,00000		
	Total	84	1,6667	1,11218	,12135		
Violence	Primary	20	1,2000	,61559	,13765	0,66	0,62
	High School	32	1,1875	,53506	,09459		
	Associate Degree	16	1,2500	,68313	,17078		
	Graduate	14	1,7143	,91387	,24424		
	Post-graduate	2	1,0000	0,00000	0,00000		
	Total	84	1,2857	,66896	,07299		
Isolation	Primary	20	1,4000	1,23117	,27530	1,04	0,39
	High School	32	1,5000	1,07763	,19050		
	Associate Degree	14	1,8571	1,51186	,40406		
	Graduate	14	2,5714	1,74154	,46545		
	Post-graduate	2	1,0000	0,00000	0,00000		
	Total	82	1,7073	1,35617	,14976		

When the results of one-way-anova analysis done to determine the significant difference between the education level of female entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial oppressions is examined, no significant difference could be found in any of the oppressions. In other words, even if the education level of female entrepreneurs change, their opinion about entrepreneurial oppressions do not change, most of them share the same thoughts.

## 6. CONCLUSION

In this study aiming to determine the oppressions female entrepreneurs face in patriarchal societies, it is found that education level of the women who participated in the survey are low, they are younger than 40 and half of them are married. The ratio of female entrepreneurs who graduated from a university is very low. This may be because of the fact that women who graduate from a university tend to work in sectors that are related with the faculties they graduated from. Most of female entrepreneurs operate in the trading sector. It is found that most of the companies founded by female entrepreneurs are established with low owner's equity. Companies that are established by female entrepreneurs have very low initial capital. It is observed that female entrepreneurs usually establish micro-businesses. The reasons for this are that there is not sufficient capital; female entrepreneurs are

more risk-averse and afraid of negative reactions that may come from their own families in the case of bankrupt.

When the professional experiences of female entrepreneurs who participated in the survey is analyzed, it is found that most of female entrepreneurs who have not worked in any company engaged in entrepreneurial activities for the first time. When the remittances taken during the establishments of the companies are examined, it is evident that the remittances female entrepreneurs took from the governmental institutions is very low. The reason for this is that they do not know these remittances and loans exist, how to apply for and use them. It was observed that female entrepreneurs received the most support from their families and relatives. In Turkey as an example of patriarchal society, this fact is important.

When the entrepreneurial oppressions female entrepreneurs face are examined, it is observed that they are not oppressed by male entrepreneurs. But among the female entrepreneurs, 5% of them were harassed and threatened by male entrepreneurs, 16% of them were subject to discouragement, 9,5% were insulted, 14,3% were subject to isolation and none of them was subject to violence. Despite the patriarchal society, it is observed that female entrepreneurs were not subject to much oppression by male entrepreneurs. The reasons for this is that there are government policies protecting the women, that education level is increasing and women participate in social life more actively. These reasons made male entrepreneurs accept this situation.

When the entrepreneurial obstacles female entrepreneurs face is examined, it is found that the ratio of female entrepreneurs being hindered by either their own families or male entrepreneurs is only 24%. In the patriarchal Turkish society this ratio can be considered low. But despite government policies protecting the women and supporting female entrepreneurship, female entrepreneurship is still being hindered. In the patriarchal Turkish society, obstacles imposed by families were expected to be higher but it had the same rate with other obstacles.

To conclude, it is found that there are not any significant differences between various demographics of female entrepreneurs and their entrepreneurial characteristics, oppressions, the entrepreneurial obstacles they face. As a result of this study, the findings might be expected to encourage female entrepreneurs.

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