

# TÜRKİYE'DE KADIN MÜLTECİLERLE FEMİNİST GRUP ÇALIŞMASI DİZAYNI

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## Öz

Savaş ve göç hareketleri sürecinde savunmasız grupların en başında özellikle kadınlar ve çocuklar yer almaktadır. Özellikle kadınlar hem kadın olmaları, hem de göç mağduru olmaları nedeniyle ikincil dışlanmaya maruz kalmaktadır. Göçmen kadınların Türkiye'de yaşadıkları sorunlar- ihtiyaçları incelendiğinde; barınma, güvenlik ihtiyacının yanı sıra dil eğitimi, ekonomik hayata katılım, meslek eğitimi; sosyal izolasyonun ve toplumsal dışlanma, sağlık-bakım sorunları yaşadıkları belirtilmektedir. Özellikle göçmen kadınların güçlendirme temelli sosyal hizmet müdahaleleri gerçekleştirilmesi gerektiği belirtilmektedir. Buradan hareketle çalışmanın amacı göçmen kadınların güçlenmelerini hedef alan feminist sosyal hizmet uygulaması bağlamında grup çalışması örneğini yapılandırmaktadır. Feminist grup çalışması ile kadınların kendi varlıklarını değerli görmelerini sağlayarak, kendilerini yeniden tanımlamalarını, yaşadıkları baskıların nedenlerini sorgulamaları ve kendilerini yeniden nasıl var edebilecekleri konusunda ortak fikir geliştirebilmelerini sağlamaları ve birbirlerine destek olabilmeleri önem kazanmaktadır. Bu kapsamda göçmen kadınlarla yapılacak olan grup çalışmasında öncelikle kadınların deneyimlerinden yola çıkılarak, haklara erişim odağında bilinç yükseltme grupları yapılmalıdır. Bu çalışmada öncelikle göçmen kadınların yaşadıkları sorunlara yer verilmektedir. Takiben feminist sosyal hizmet uygulaması açıklanmaktadır. Sonrasında teorik bilgilerden yola çıkarak göçmen kadınlarla feminist grup çalışması örneği nasıl yapılandırılabilir tasarlanmıştır. Bu kapsamda feminist grup çalışmasının amacı, katılımcıları, yapısının belirlenmesi üzerinde durulmuştur. Grup çalışmasının sürecinin oluşturulması dahilinde; grup çalışmasının başlangıç, gelişme ve sonlandırma aşamalarına yer almaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Göç, mülteci kadın, toplumsal cinsiyet, feminist grup çalışması, sosyal hizmet

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# A FEMINIST GROUP WORK DESIGN WITH WOMEN REFUGEES IN TURKEY

## Abstract

In the course of war and migration movements, especially vulnerable groups, especially women and children, take place. Particularly women are exposed to secondary exclusion because they are both women and immigrants are victims. When immigrant women's issues and needs they live in Turkey examined; as well as language training, economic life participation, vocational training; social isolation and social exclusion, health-care problems. In particular, it is stated that immigrant women should implement social work interventions based on empowerment. The aim of working here is to structure the example of group work in the context of feminist social work practice aimed at the empowerment of immigrant women. With feminist group work, it is important that women can redefine themselves, question their causes, develop a common idea of how they can re-create themselves, and support each other. Within this scope, in the group work to be done with immigrant women, awareness raising groups should be made at the center of access to rights by starting from the experiences of women. This study primarily focuses on the problems experienced by immigrant women. Feminist social work practice is followed. Then, it is designed from the theoretical knowledge on how to structure the example of feminist group work with immigrant women. In this context, the aim, the participants, the determination of the structure of feminist group work was emphasized. Within the framework of the formation of the group work; development, and termination of group work.

**Key Words:** *Migration, women refugees, gender, feminist group work, social work*

## Introduction

Social group work is an effective and important field of application in reaching a client in social work. In terms of its objectives, it is defined as a mutual aid process that brings together people, who are experiencing the same issues and problems, enables them to get help and support one another (Shulman, 1999). The feminist group work is also structured based on these objectives. The mutual aid process consists of various topics. These topics can be listed as: discussing taboos, realizing that they are not alone in what they are going through, realizing the social impacts in what they are going through by knowing it is not their fault by developing a global perspective, developing the skill to emphasize by establishing a sense of trust for mutual aid, being able to freely express oneself, and motivate all members of the group to improve themselves and the group (Shulman, 1999). In addition, the mutual aid process is also defined as sharing “multiple voices” and supporting others to raise their voices (Steinberg, 2002). The objectives of feminist group work is explained by Gottlieb et al. (1983) as such: Putting an end to women’s isolation, touching upon social and political factors and to emphasize empowerment by focusing on women’s strengths and skills.

Immigrant women face various forms of gender inequality due to the fact that they are women and migrants. Aside from this, their different individual qualities (elderly, disabled, LGBT, poor, single parent, etc.) make their situation even harder than it already is. These situations must be studied from psychological, social, emotional and economic perspectives and in terms of their social and political strengths and weaknesses, and their experiences. At this point, social workers assume very important roles in public and civilian organizations and institutions to help women cope with their problems and empower them. Social workers are aware of the needs, problems, and strengths of the client group that they are working with. Within this context, the results of the study show a social awareness, although little, being formed in institutions. However, there is a need to introduce holistic policies and services, within the context of which individual needs and qualities are taken into consideration, the suggestions of field professionals are met, and human rights and social justice principles are put into practice with focus on immigrant women.

These policies and services should also be structured within the framework of women's empowerment. For this reason, feminist practices are becoming important tools for immigrant women's empowerment practices. In order to work in this framework, feminist group work practices can be seen as an effective service model.

The purpose of the feminist group work for immigrant women constructed on social group work, is to analyze the feminist group work practices in the literature and compile them. Thus, an information source will be created for professionals, who wish to study this field, and awareness will be raised. Therefore there are some explanations on feminist group work in this study. In the following sections, a sample feminist group work with immigrant women was constructed based on the feminist group works made with women in the literature. The content of group work focuses on the objective of the feminist group work with immigrant women, who might the participants be, how to build the structure and how to construct, evaluate and monitor the group process.

### **Social Work and the Feminist Perspective**

Within social work, there is a connection between the feminist perspective and the ecological systems approach. Social work helps individuals to become aware of their own strengths and make the necessary changes to be able to make use of this strength. And it achieves this by focusing on the strengths of individuals. Within this context, the feminist perspective studies the relationship between the personal and political. This point serves as a common ground for social work and feminist perspective. Because, the theory of social work consists of a wide range of subjects from micro to macro level. For this reason, a change takes place on individual, social, and structural levels. The feminist social work practice goes one step further and suggests that "individual and social change actually occurs within a single integrated process" (Gutierrez, 1991; Berwald and Houtstra, 2003). This integrated process is one that needs to be tackled at both individual and social levels. Within this context, sexism is one of the most important social problems that significantly affects women's lives. A great majority of the studies analyze the relationship between sexism and its adverse effect on women. Feminist

consciousness provides women with a mental framework through which they can contextualize and understand discrimination (Landrine and Klonoff, 1997; Cunningham, 2012). Feminist perspective in social work instructs us to focus on the strengths of women and to analyze this strength and issues concerned in a wide perspective starting from the individual (from micro to macro).

### **Social Group Work**

Group work in social work has been an important method of intervention while helping out people, who are facing emotional and mental issues. According to Toseland and Rivas (2009), group work has many benefits to it. One of these benefits is the fact that people within a group help out one another (Toseland and Rivas, 2009). It is a beneficial instrument helping group members to socialize, normalize and share their concerns and thoughts with one another (Greif and Ephross, 2011). According to Toseland and Rivas (2009), benefits are as follows:

*Empathy:* Understanding of the conditions of participants by others and the expert.

*Feedback:* Sharing thoughts with group members

*Assisting therapy:* Establishing mutual support and help between group members, who share their own experiences and knowledge

*Instilling of hope:* A person, who successfully coped with the same situation, instilling hope to other members of the group

*Mutual aid:* Exchanging aid among participants

*Normalization:* Rationalization of problems that are stigmatized and not accepted by the society

*Socialization:* Coping with isolation and learning social skills from other participants

*Social support:* Receiving support from other participants in the group

*Approval:* Members of the group experiencing similar experiences, problems, and concerns.

Group work is made use of many assisting professions including social work (Toseland and Rivas, 2009). Group study enables the significant values of social work to gather. The literature also emphasizes the importance of these values. These values are: The skill of group members of mutual aid, the skill to empower others, and the skill to understand people despite of differences (Gougeon, 2002). As it can be understood from the explanations above, social work puts emphasis of the values of mutual aid, empowerment, and understanding differences of group work. It also has many more benefits to it. Therefore, a group work to be arranged with immigrant women will help women empower, establish support systems and raise their awareness on the situation they are experiencing.

### Immigrant Women and Feminist Group Work

The largest mass migration flow into Turkey was millions of people fleeing from Syria in 2011 due to the civil war in the country. Directorate-General of Migration Management of the Ministry of Interior declared the number of Syrian refugees, who were registered in Turkey with biometric information, as of March 22, 2018. According to this statement, the total number of registered Syrians in Turkey amounts to 3.561,707. 1.931,717 are men while 1.629,990 are women.

**Table 1.** Number of registered Syrians in Turkey as of March 2018

Age	Man	Woman	Total
<b>Total</b>	1,931,717	1,629,990	3,561,707
0-4	248,588	232,067	480,655
5-9	247,509	232,043	479,552
10-18	356,499	311,012	667,511
19-24	318,156	226,620	544,776
25-34	367,764	270,014	637,778
35-44	196,827	164,196	361,023
45-59	139,987	133,690	273,677
60-90+	56,387	60,348	116,735

Reference: URL1

As of March 22, 2018, the number of Syrians staying at temporary protection centers is 227,075 and 3.334,632 Syrians live outside camps.

The Law No. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection was adopted and this law provided a basis for the establishment of a holistic migration management structure in Turkey. With this law, national policies on migration and international protection (asylum) were provided a basis and the legal framework of migration and refugee rights were adapted to international standards and liabilities (URL2). A majority of Syrians in Turkey come from regions close to the border between Syria and Turkey. These regions are also the ones that witness intense conflict. Therefore, there are various efforts in place to provide the post-crisis psychosocial support that may be needed in camps. Educational services are offered to children of pre-school and school age in camps and immigrants can benefit from healthcare services at the same standard enjoyed by Turkish citizens. Vocational training courses are offered in adult training centers for Syrians under temporary protection.

Reports published by the United Nations show that the majority of migrants are women and children. It is also known that the majority of women, who are forced to migrate, experience various forms of violence and human rights violations (Thomas, 2008). It makes everything harder when after migration they are deprived of the social support mechanisms that they were benefiting from and not familiar with the language, culture and social structure of the country they immigrate to (Saraydın, 2007). Aside from social isolation, exclusion and cultural and language differences (Tuzcu and Ilgaz, 2015), women also experience graver problems than men and forms of abuse during migration. Such problems arise especially from difference of sex. As pointed out by Anthias (1992), issues such as working more with less pay, not being able to benefit from social security, experiencing abuse, not being able to make use of education opportunities, and not having access to information adversely affect women. In this sense, women face exclusion on two levels, namely because they are women and migrants.

It is a known fact that women and children experience various forms of negligence and abuse during the process of migration. However, there is no widely accepted social and political protection approach in place (Dartnall

and Loots, 2009). The number of female asylum seekers increased due to intense violence, war and the indifference of some states towards the rights of women and the threat of violence starts the moment they leave their homes and continues until they return back to their country and settle (Barın, 2015).

Within this framework, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identified five categories of tragic gender-based violence incidents women go through during various periods throughout migration (Barın, 2015):

1. During conflict, before escape: Harassment by those in power, sexual torture, sexual violence by 'soldiers', mass rape and forced pregnancy, kidnapping by the armed members of parties in conflict.
2. During escape: Bandits, sexual assault by border guards, human traffickers, getting caught by slave traders.
3. In the country of asylum: Sexual assault by those in power, sexual abuse of girls, who are separated from their parents, in foster families, forced sexual intercourse or prostitution to survive, sexual abuse while waiting for a legal status to have access to aid or resources in the asylum country.
4. During return: Re-introduction of harmful traditional practices for women, sexual abuse of women and children, who were separated from their families, sexual abuse by those in power, bandits, sexual assault by border guards, forced return.
5. During re-integration: Sexual abuse as a form of punishment for those who return, sexual bullying to restore legal status, exclusion of women from decision-making processes, obstruction of access to resources.

According to the study carried out by Barın (2015), one of the issues Syrian women living in camps in Turkey face is living spaces that are unfit for their traditions (according to Syrian traditions, a woman, who just lost her husband, goes through a grieving period of three months, or four based on the region). According to their traditions, women are not to see any men during this period and this causes women to not come out of their tents." (URL 3). Not having equal number of male and female security guards, female staff working at



nighttime, or female interpreters also create an obstacle in accessing services. Also, materially they have problems in accessing water, hot water, and shower cabins. They are unable to practice self-care.

In addition, according to a 2014 research by Interior Disaster And Emergency Management Presidency, the majority of Syrian women are with poor or no education. And many of the women were married before the age of 18. Since child marriage is normal in their culture, there are many early marriages and early pregnancies on and off camps. The study of Barın (2015) showed that many young women were married to men outside the camp and were forced to return to camps. It was also observed that the number of early age pregnancies and age difference between spouses are high (URL3).

Women are also unaware of mechanisms they can refer to in case of physical or verbal abuse and usually stay silent when such a thing takes place. The interviews showed that many women stay silent in case of violence and abuse and especially domestic violence cannot be confirmed for this reason. Therefore, as indicated in AFAD's report, an advisory and supervisory body is needed that will prioritize women's issues, inform women and try to solve their problems (URL3).

Due to the fact that Syrian women in the labor force usually working in dangerous industries or in average jobs such as baby-sitting or cleaning since their Syrian diplomas are not valid in Turkey or take too much time to be validated, causes them to become unqualified (Barın, 2015).

According to Barın (2015), women living off camps mostly experience difficulty in meeting their shelter and basic needs. While some of the women that were interviewed stated that they could not generate any income, some said that they could not find enough food and had problems meeting even their most basic needs such as fuel, kitchen and sleeping supplies.

They also experience psychosocial problems and issues in accessing healthcare services. According to Barın's (2015) study, Syrian women, both on and off camps, experience psychological problems due to stress and depression during and after war. "Considering the fact that psychosocial disorders resulting from forced migration are more prevalent in women, it

can be concluded that their adaptation takes a longer time. For this, is it vital to establish rehabilitation centers off camps as well to make sure that these women are treated and receive psychosocial support even though through interpreters” he pointed out clearly demonstrating how traumatically women are affected by migration. Especially women do not go to hospitals when they are ill because they are not familiar with the healthcare system in Turkey. Women also are in need of support during pregnancy and breast-feeding since they are unable to meet their basic needs.

In addition, Syrian women also experience problems in terms of employment. According to studies conducted by Mazlum-Der and AFAD, the rate of employment among women is pretty low and most of them are not working. And the majority of the ones employed are working in the textile industry as cheap labor force or as seasonal agricultural workers depending on their area of settlement. This shows us that women work in undeclared jobs rather than in public works (cleaning, salesmanship, hairdressing, dish washing, etc.).

Barın (2015) also points out that women had to deal with issues such as being disturbed by men, working in dangerous industries, and multiple marriage. Within this framework, it is pointed out that women work in dangerous jobs due to the fact that they are migration victims. However, according to a study by Hacettepe University, only women working in dangerous jobs in Syria continue to work in such jobs in Turkey (Erdoğan, 2014). And off camps, women are married at an early age to not return to Syria and so that families can secure themselves economically. It is also quite common for women to be married through religious marriage ceremonies or becoming the second, or third wife to a man due to the fact that they do not hold any official documentation.

All studies and researches conducted in this area clearly shows us the need of consultancy, awareness-raising and empowerment activities to recover women from social depression and improve their adaptation to life in Turkey. It is necessary for women to be adequately and effectively informed regarding the rights and statutes they can enjoy in Turkey, general rules and access to services and centers.

Solutions to be offered to Syrian women must be at the same level of international humanitarian and human rights standards. And such solutions must include the global standards relating to Syrian women's safety, dignity, and rights and be based on the IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action (2006) and Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions of IASC (2015). Also, Syrian women's skills to adapt to migration and cope with problems must be improved to avoid abuse and empowering social work activities must be carried out to make them realize and uncover their strengths (Barın, 2015). From this point of view, the aim of this study is to generate ideas on how to construct an empowerment based feminist group work for Syrian women. The objective of the study is to construct the group work example within the framework of a social work practice that targets the empowerment of immigrant women.

The literature suggests that a group work conducted with people experiencing trauma has a positive and therapeutic effect (Clemans, 2008). Through group work, people, who experience trauma due to a violent incident, feel less ashamed and isolated and develop positive coping skills. Clemans (2008) suggested that a group work "would be effective in diminishing others' negative reactions thanks to its positive, supportive and informative aspects". According to Brenton and Nosko (2011) women come to realize that they are not alone with regards to what they are experiencing and empower and support one another through group work.

Depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, low self-esteem, and sense of powerlessness lead to severe damage in women. Immigrant women react differently to their own experiences. Many authors recommend supportive group work with immigrant individuals (Loewy et al., 2002; Ljubomirovic, 2002, Healy, 2004; Woodcock, 1997). Mostly, group works carried out with immigrant adolescents and women attract attention.

Because the feminist practice touches upon the unique experiences of women living in patriarchal cultures, stereotypes, and the importance and necessity of the theories of these aspects. Feminist practices include awareness-raising, social and gender role analyses, re-integration, and social action (Lin, 2009). For this purpose, the feminist group act serves as a guide. From this point of

view, the feminist group work was applied to various groups of people. Some of these groups are: rape survivor women (Yasen and Glass, 1984; Clemans, 2005), women who are survivors of male violence (Wood and Roche, 2001), disabled women (Berwald and Houtstra, 2002; Avery, 1998), women with disabled children (Tekindal, 2006), women with alcoholism issues (Saulnier, 2003), and black women (Jones and Hodges, 2001). This study aims to plan a group work with focus on immigrant women.

### **A feminist group work with immigrant women**

In this section, feminist group works in literature conducted with women were compiled (Yasen and Glass, 1984; Clemans, 2005; Wood and Roche, 2001; Berwald and Houtstra, 2002; Avery, 1998; Saulnier, 2003; Jones and Hodges, 2001; Tekindal, 2006). Each and every group work was analyzed. Each and every feminist group work was further detailed based on its objective, participants, structure, and process. Based on all of these analyses, a plan of a feminist group work that can be applied to immigrant women was drawn up.

### **Objective**

Group study to be implemented with women victims of migration is constructed on the four principles of feminist therapy (Worell and Remer, 2003). These principles are: 1. Personal and social identities are interlinked. 2. What is personal is political. 3. Relationships are egalitarian. 4. Experiences of women are of value. The first principle is that personal and social identities are interlinked. For this purpose, the objective of the group leader is to analyze how the participants' attitudes and behaviors cross with their gender-related and cultural identities. The second principle is that what is personal is political. Within the framework of this principle, the role of the group practitioner is to enable participants to express how personal problems such as despair, depression and anxiety is related to the socio-political system. According to the third principle (relationships are egalitarian), the group practitioner must structure the techniques and processes to be adopted in the group with an aim to empower the person. For the fourth principle (experiences of women are of

value), the stories of women participants must be approved and the situation must be evaluated from their perspective (Tunç, 2013).

Social services that need to be offered to refugee women according to the feminist practices are as follows:

- Raising awareness about increasing access to rights
- Establishing connection between women and women's rights, services offered and civil society organizations
- Language education, shelter, participation in economic life, social pressure
- Vocational training
- Reproductive health, gynecology
- Ensuring social integration
- Providing private consultancy and awareness-raising activities (Barın, 2015).

To prevent women to experience abuse during migration, necessary social work interventions must be executed to make sure they are empowered, are able to cope with problems and realize and uncover their strengths.

Within this framework, the objectives of the feminist group work for immigrant women that is based on the characteristics of social support groups, the principles of the feminist practice and feminist group work and the analyses and compilation of past studies are to:

- Make the experiences of women visible,
- Make women feel that they are not alone during the migration process,
- Make women feel comfortable enough to talk about their problems,
- Guide women to empowering resources,
- Identify the individual problems women are experiencing and exchange ideas on how to solve them,
- Bring the sexism and exclusion women are going through due to gender stereotypes to the forefront, question the reasons (share the experiences in

Turkey and in their own countries, make them realize that the patriarchal ideology is a universal issue),

- Expose women's existing strengths, raising their awareness, setting future goals and to identify the steps needed to be taken based on these goals,
- Have a successful adjourning.

The purpose of the feminist group work is to share experiences of immigrant women with regards to the phenomenon of migration, improve immigrant women's perspective about themselves, increase their interpersonal awareness, raising their awareness about the fact that the situation they are in is caused by the social and cultural structure, and to make them feel of value so that they can get empowered.

### **Participants.**

During the pre-group preparation phase, the practitioner has to identify the participants based on the criteria (voluntariness, literacy, education level, age, income level, marital status) designated by him/her. Preliminary interviews must be conducted with each participant. Preliminary interviews to be held with immigrant women before group sessions are of importance in the sense of identifying the content of the group work, earn the trust of women (Tekindal, 2016), and to find out why are they participating in the group work. These interviews usually take a lot of time so, their content needs to be well analyzed. Because the group sessions are designed based on the topics discussed in these interviews. After the preliminary interviews, the content of the group work must be identified. Also, while conducting group work with immigrant women, it is important to have an interpreter and a psychiatrist as a part of the process (Ljubomirovic, 2002).

### Process.

Based on the goals of feminist group work and problems of immigrant women, the topics tackled in the feminist group work that is performed by Tekindal (2015) with women with disabled children can also be the focus in a feminist group work with immigrant women. Within this framework, focal points of a feminist group work with immigrant women can be as listed below:

- Meeting
- Highlighting positive characteristics and commonality of experiences
- Life experiences and commonality of experiences
- Making experiences visible and evaluating strengths and weaknesses
- Learning gender role stereotypes
- The effect of the patriarchal ideology on women
- The importance of effective communication in becoming self-reliable
- Liberating support systems women need
- For liberation: women's rights
- Setting future goals
- Adjourning and evaluation

The feminist group work (Tunç, 2013), can be put into practice based on the stages (forming, storming, norming, performing, adjourning) designed by Gladding (2008) for group work for violence survivor women, immigrant women, too. Within this framework, women in a group work with immigrant women are projected to go through these stages. Here are some brief explanations regarding these stages:

It is necessary to make use of trust-building activities at the forming stage of a group work with immigrant women (Blustein, 1982, Gladding, 2008). Also, in order to make sure that women go through positive group experiences, Yalom's (1999) factors of universality, instillation of hope, interpersonal learning, cohesion, and catharsis must be taken into consideration during the inception of the group. The idea of universality of what women are experiencing and the

fact that they are not alone must be instilled at this stage. And this can only be achieved through appropriate trust-building activities. Through such activities, women will find the opportunity to exchange experiences, and gain insight about their similarities, gender roles, and cultural values.

Another stage is storming. This stage may lead to conflicts among immigrant women due to their different backgrounds, characteristics, and experiences (Gladding, 2008). At this stage, the practitioner must bring to the fore different experiences of immigrant women with focus on different forms of oppression based on the principle of 'what is personal is political.'

Norming is the stage in which women realize their strength as a group rather than their individual womanhood (Gladding, 2008). Making use of 'the here and now principle' in particular will commonize experiences and uncover the strength and importance of the group.

Performing is the stage during which women achieve their individual goals and the goals of feminist group work, which were identified above (Gladding, 2008). During this stage, experiences before, during and after migration are shared, feelings are expressed, empowerment stories of other migration women are shared and women mutually aid one another. At this stage, the practitioner must take part in group interactions by sharing his/her own thoughts, feelings and experiences further strengthening the relationship among women. During this stage, immigrant women also establish short, medium and long term future goals and even take steps towards these goals.

Within the identified goal and time, migrant women must be prepared in advance for the idea that the group will be adjourned (Singh and Hays, 2008). What is important here is to focus on immigrant women's feelings and help them express their thoughts on the adjourning of the group through activities. Adjourning is a challenging stage for any group work. It may be relatively more challenging when it includes a special group such as immigrant women. Because women, who are not understood in their daily lives due to communications issues, can easily express themselves in a group. Adjourning this easy communication may lead women to sadness. They may not want to leave the group since they are socially integrated into it. For this reason,



women must be encouraged to maintain their relationship networks. They even must be encouraged to take part in different social systems.

In addition to all this, the change and awareness that is resulted by the group work in immigrant women must also be revealed. Therefore, proof-based practices must take place during the evaluation stage that will lead the way for future group works. The evaluation will improve the efficiency and productivity of the group work. An evaluation with immigrant women can be done both in written and verbally. Open ended questions and face-to-face in-depths interviews may take place.

Finally, a monitoring session must be held with immigrant women. It is important to hold these sessions on a mutually agreed day and time to improve women's belonging, follow-up on their lives, see what changes they are going through and make referrals, if necessary.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The fundamental values and principles of group work are empathy, instillation of hope, mutual aid, normalization, socialization, social support, and approval. These values and principles lie at the foundation of the other two practices, as well. Other fundamental values and principles of feminist group work are elimination of isolation, analyzing the effects of socio-political factors, and emphasizing on strengths. A feminist group work to be conducted with immigrant women is a very specific field. The fundamental values and principles of this field are to analyze migration based on women's experiences, focusing on raising internal and external awareness on migration, linking migration with the social, political and cultural structure, making immigrant women aware of their own values and strengths and focusing on developing their skills.

Studies and researches show how an important role group work and feminist group work play in social work intervention and their effectiveness has been proven by scientific researches. Based on these results, the theory and practice of feminist group work must be included in the curriculum and this practice must be made a part of consultation practices. Social workers



operating in this field must be trained in feminist group work. Social workers, in particular the ones working in the field of migration, must attach importance to the empowerment perspective while working with women. For this reason, feminist group work that is explained theoretically must be applied by social workers operating in this field and its results evaluated scientifically.

As a result of this study and based on this conceptualization, this feminist group work with immigrant women that is planned to serve as a guide for professionals can also be applied to different groups of people.

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