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**Symposium about the vocational education and  
employment of women<sup>\*</sup>**

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**Abstract.** On the 13th of December 2017 the symposium about „The Vocational Education And Employment of Women“ took place, hosted by the Higher Education Board, with the involvement of Julide Sarieroglu, Minister of Labor and Social Security under the leadership of the Women’s Labor Unit in the Academy, and Fatma Betül Sayan Kaya, Minister of Family and Social Policy.

**Keywords.** Education, Women employment.

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**Conference notes**

**O**n the 13th of December 2017 the symposium about „The Vocational Education And Employment of Women“ took place, hosted by the Higher Education Board, with the involvement of Julide Sarieroglu, Minister of Labor and Social Security under the leadership of the Women’s Labor Unit in the Academy, and Fatma Betül Sayan Kaya, Minister of Family and Social Policy.

Additionally, deputies, several university rectors, women’s study center officials of universities, academicians, women’s non-governmental organizations and students participated in the symposium as well, where the conflicts experienced in the women employment unit were treated and solution proposals were made.

The symposium was introduced by Higher Education Board’s Minister M.A. Yekta Sarac, Minister of Labor and Social Security Julide Sarieroglu and Minister of Family and Social Policy Fatma Betül Sayan Kaya.

HEB’s Minsiter M.A. Yekta Sarac highlighted the importance of vocational education within the scope of development policies. She mentioned that there are already a lot of studies on this topic and that the Ministry of Family and Social Politics, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, universities’ HES managers and women study units gathered together over these studies.

Minister Sarac clearly emphasized that the increase in female graduates of the HESs’ will affect the increase in women employment among the country. Not only is the participation of women in the economical life beneficial for economic improvements but also for improvements of our country overall. According to her, given the fact that a lot of statistical data is handed out as well, the main target of

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the policy is to increase the rate of employed women. This symposium, she mentions, will also have a significant impact on what is about to come in order to achieve the goal.

After HEB Minister Yekta Sarac finished her speak the microphone was handed over to the Minister of Labor and Social Security Julide Sarieroglu. She holds the opinion that the increase in education levels might explain the increase of women employment and women participating in business life, highlighting the power of women who are well educated, thus their potential to be the architects of a powerful Turkey. Giving numerical data on employment researches during the last decade, Sarieroglu states them as satisfying but the ministry of ministry would still continue to do employment-increasing studies.

Family and Social Policies Minister Fatma Betül Sayan Kaya started her speech off mentioning that reform characted steps were taken along with the legal arrangements during the last 15 years. Kaya accentuated that in a society where a woman was powerful, family and society were going to be powerful as well. She stated that it is necessary to work towards the establishment of more preference of science, technology and engineering fields by vocational colleges, as in girl students, which have a preponderant share in vocational education. Kaya stated that various studies related to this subject were made within the Ministry and she stated that girl students who graduated from vocational colleges worked on solving the problems they experienced while entering the working life and working.

After the introduction speeches, under the moderation of Sare Aydin Yilmaz from Istanbul Commerce University, a panel took place, involving TBMM President of Equal Opportunity Commission for Women and Men Radiye Sezer Katircioglu, Lale Tokgözoglu from Hacettepe University and Timur Gültekin from Ankara University. Following the panel, under the chairmanship of Nigar Demircan Cakar, oral presentations took place. Instructor Zuhul Erol How is the University of Sakarya influencing the employment of vocationally educated women ? A good instance: University of Sakarya 3+1 education model, Özlem Ünverdi Yıldız Teknik University The World's First Women Occupation Organization: Bacıyan-i Rum, Research Ass. Mine Demir Bartın University Review of the Political Contributions of the Ottoman Presidency to Women in Vocational Education.

Afterwards a Q&A was performed and a discussion round took place. The symposium was ended by Serpil Sancar's speech, reviewing the symposium overall.



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