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##### **Economic empowerment and intra-household power**

## **Measuring Intra-household Power and Decision-making from the Family Structure Survey in Turkey**

Note by TurkStat\*

### *Abstract*

Family is the smallest entity of the society. Family, as an important institution, constitutes the society and gives important information about its structure. In all life stages, from babyhood to old ages, an individual builds her/his relations with other actors in the social network based on their family relations in many different ways. In this context, familial relations play a very important role for steady social life. The purpose of this study is dealing in detail with the subject of measuring intra-household power and decision-making within the framework of Family Structure Survey (FSS) in Turkey. Characteristics of decision-makers in house selection, house layout, matters related to children, shopping, relations with relatives, relations with neighbours, holiday and entertainment which were asked in FSS can be important indicators of power in the household and also in the society. In this paper, the characteristics of households in which the decision-makers live in and the demographic properties of the decision-makers were determined. The selected variables which can have an effect on decision-making in the household were analyzed by Decision List Model method using SPSS Modeller. According to the results, it was observed that the selected variables led to significant differences in decision-makers. Keywords: Family Structure, intra-household decisions, intra-household power, decision-making

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## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Subject and purpose**

1. Since family is one of the most fundamental units of society, collecting data about the family has importance in terms of identifying the structural transformation within the social change process and creating social policies. FSS in Turkey which was held for the third time in 2016 (first in 2006 and second in 2011) and which was included in the Official Statistics Programme, aims at figuring out the family structure in Turkey, lifestyle of individuals in the family setting and their value judgments regarding family life. The research reveals the current condition of families in Turkey, gathering information about household characteristics, marriage, relations within the family, kinship relations, values regarding children, elderly and other social values as well as family problems in addition to identifying which changes are taking place over time.

### **B. Research design**

2. FSS 2016 was carried out for the third time in cooperation with the Ministry of Family and Social Policy - General Directorate of Family and Community Services and TURKSTAT within the framework of the protocol.

#### **Data collection tools**

3. Data were collected from the households which were selected by a defined sampling method. During interviews with the households, firstly a household member list was created by filling “Main Characteristics of Household Members' Questionnaire”. After that “Household Questionnaire” and “Individual Questionnaire”, which was applied to individuals aged 15 and more, were filled. All the data were collected by the method of face-to-face interview with the individuals aged 15 and more who lived in the sampled households. The field application of the study was conducted in the period of 1 June-26 September 2016.
4. The application was realized by Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method. According to this method, interviewers asked the questions to individuals in the household and saved the answers directly to computers by using data entry program during their visits.
5. All questions in Individual Questionnaire were answered by the individual himself/herself. Since Individual Questionnaire consisted of social and perceptive questions, proxies were not used. The survey was not administered by telephone. For any household member with whom the interview couldn't be done in the first visit, the next visiting date was planned by calling the relevant individual by telephone, and the survey was completed by interviewing all household members aged 15 and over in the household.

#### **Sample**

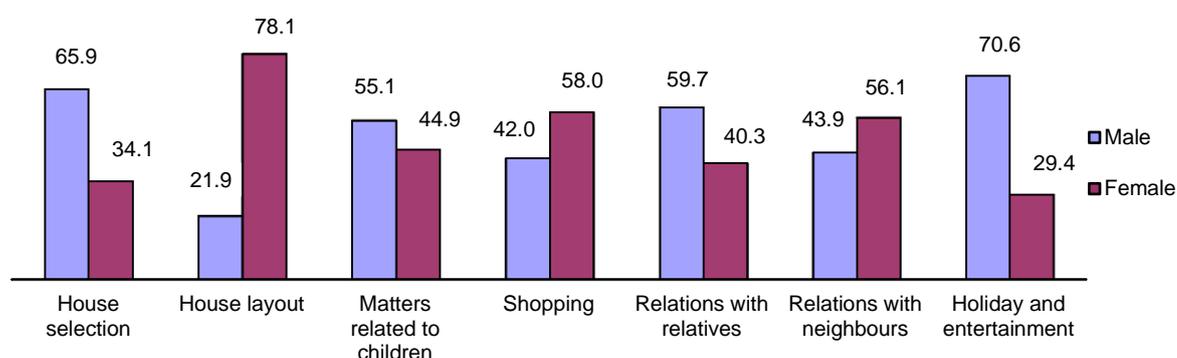
6. The sampling frame is based on administrative registers. It was applied to all individuals aged 15 and over in selected households. Sample size of the survey was accounted in a way to produce estimations on the basis of total of SR Level 1 (12 regions) and 3 major provinces (Istanbul, Ankara, İzmir). The sample size was 20,580 households. Since non response conditions were considered at the stage of calculating the sample size, substitution for households and individuals were not used.

## II. Results

### A. Characteristics of Decision-makers

7. FSS has one question in the “Household Questionnaire” concerning intra-household decision-making in household. The related question is “Who gives the decision in your household about the topics of home choice, order of home, children related matters, shopping, relations with relative, relations with neighbours and holidays and entertaining?”. The member of the household who gives the decision is selected as answer. We focused on this question’s results for this study.
8. According to FSS 2016 results, when the decision-makers on some selected issues for individuals were analysed by sex, it was seen that females had decision-making priority on house layout with 78.1%, shopping with 58% and relations with neighbours with 56.1%, respectively. Males were decision-maker on holiday and entertainment with 70.6%, house selection with 65.9% and relations with relatives with 59.7%.

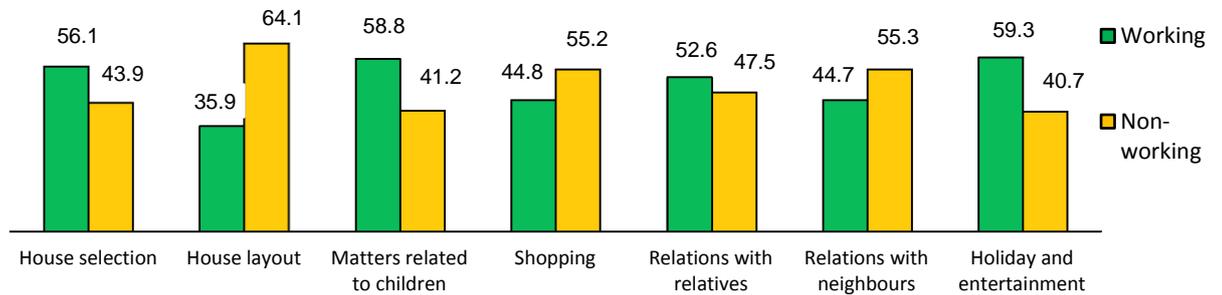
**Figure 1: Household decision makers by sex (%)**



Source: Turkstat-Family Structure Survey-2016

9. In addition to what is mentioned above, when the decision-makers on these issues were analyzed by sex and SR level 1, it was seen that there were significant differences between the regions. In the subject on the decision of house layout where females had most voice with 78.1%, the lowest proportion for females on the subject of household layout was observed in South East Anatolia with 69%, while the highest proportion for the same subject was observed in Aegean with 84.2%. In the subject on the decision of holiday and entertainment where males had most voice with 70.6%, it was seen that the lowest proportion for males on the subject of holiday and entertainment was observed in Istanbul with 63.7% while the highest proportion for this subject was observed in North East Anatolia with 82.3%. While on the subjects of shopping and relations with neighbours, females had decision-making priority in general, it was seen that this situation became reversed in the east parts of Turkey.
10. When the decision-makers on these issues were analyzed by education, it was seen that on the subjects in which females were the main decision-makers, the decision-makers’ educational status was lower. On the other hand, when the working status of decision-makers was analyzed with respect to same subjects, it was seen that the proportion of non-working people was higher.

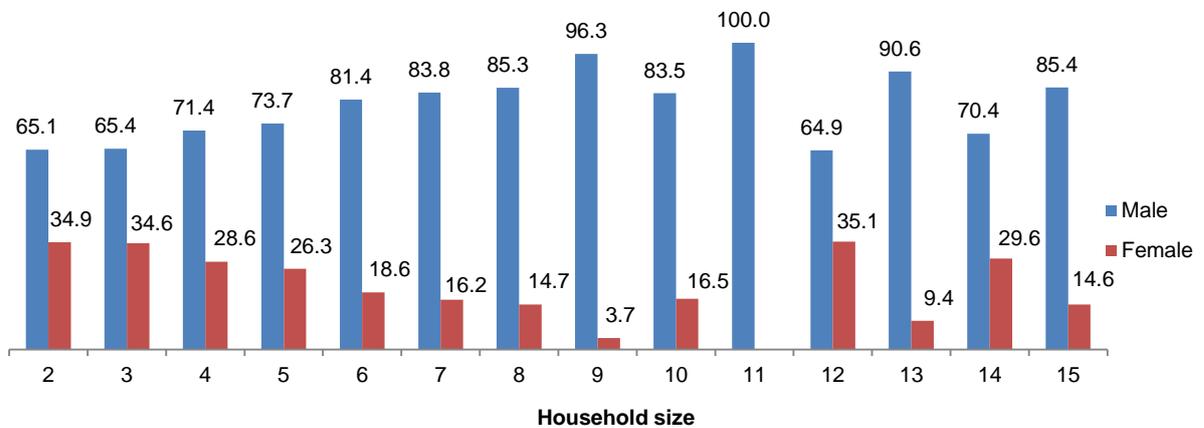
**Figure 2: Household decision makers by working status (%)**



Source: Turkstat-Family Structure Survey-2016

11. For all of the subjects, the marital status of most decision-makers was ‘married’. The level of education of the decision-makers on house layout is lower than the level of education of decision-makers on the other subjects.
12. Another important matter is that decision-makers’ characteristics change by household size in which the individuals live. Accordingly, it can be said that the higher the household sizes, the more the men are decision-makers, especially in the subjects where it is mostly males who make the decisions.

**Figure 3: Household decision-makers by household size (%)**



Source: Turkstat-Family Structure Survey-2016

## B. Results of the Analysis by Decision List Method

13. The selected variables which can have an effect on the decision-makers in the household were analyzed by Decision List Model method using SPSS Modeller with a confidence level of 95%. The individual factors were taken into account for the study.
14. The selected variables used in SPSS Modeller were determined as household size, household type and household monthly average income from the household variables. The selected variables were sex, age, relationship to the household responsible, education status, working status, marital status and SR level 1 from the individual variables. Significant differences were observed between the selected variables for decision-makers.
15. In house selection subject, it was seen that the individuals having the most probability (76%) for being decision-maker had the following characteristics: Their relationship to the household responsible was that they were household responsible. Their age is greater than 29. The households in which these individuals live have following: The household size was 2 and the average household monthly income was less than or equal to 3,100 TL (\$1,058).
16. In house layout subject, it was seen that the individuals having the most probability (82.4%) for being decision-maker had the following characteristics: Their relationship to the household responsible was that they were spouse of household responsible. Their age is smaller than or equal to 66. Their sex is female. The households in which these individuals live have following: The household size was 3 and the average household monthly income was greater than 1,200 TL (\$410).
17. In shopping subject, it was seen that the individuals having the most probability (65.4%) for being decision-maker had the following characteristics: Their relationship to the household responsible was that they were spouse of household responsible. Their sex is female. The households in which these individuals live have following: The average household monthly income was greater than 4,500 TL (\$1,536).
18. In relations with neighbours subject, it was seen that the individuals having the most probability (69.4%) for being decision-maker had the following characteristics: Their relationship to the household responsible was that they were household responsible. Their age is greater than 44. The households in which these individuals live have following: The household size was 2.
19. In relations with neighbours subject, it was seen that the individuals having the most probability (60.8%) for being decision-maker had the following characteristics: Their sex is female. Their age is greater than 24 and smaller than or equal to 66. The households in which these individuals live have following: The household size was 2.
20. In holiday and entertainment subject, it was seen that the individuals having the most probability (83%) for being decision-maker had the following characteristics: Their relationship to the household responsible was that they were household responsible. Their sex is male. Their age is greater than 24 and smaller than or equal to 66. They are married. The households in which these individuals live have following: The average household monthly income was less than or equal to 1,500 TL (\$512).
21. In matters related to children subject, it was seen that the individuals having the most probability (54.5%) for being decision-maker had the following characteristics: Their relationship to the household responsible was that they were household responsible. Their age is greater than 34 and smaller than or equal to 44. They are married. The households in which these individuals live have following: The average household monthly income was less than or equal to 3,100 TL (\$1,058).

### III. Conclusion

22. There is no doubt that the most important and basic institution in the society is family. The characteristics of the family directly reflect the society. Therefore, measuring intra-familial relations, decision-making and household power is crucial for getting information regarding relations between family and society.
23. The ability to participate in decision-making is an important indicator of power in household and also in the society. In the results of FSS, it was seen that in domestic subjects like house layout and shopping the decision is made mostly by females. In non-domestic subjects like house selection, holiday and entertainment the decision is made mostly by males. The subject of matters related to children draws attention for reflecting the power of males in the society, since the decision related to children is made mostly by males. While decision on relations with neighbours is made mostly by females, decision on relations with relatives is made mostly by males. This can be the result of women having relations with close environment.
24. It was seen that there were significant differences between the regions. In east regions, males were the decision-makers in a higher proportion than the rest of Turkey. On the other hand, the higher the household size, the more the males are decision-makers especially in the subjects where males were decision-makers mostly. It shows that different family types and traditional structures affect the intra-household power.

### IV. Sources

Family Structure Survey, 2016

[http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/PreTablo.do?alt\\_id=1068](http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/PreTablo.do?alt_id=1068)

<http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=24646>

<http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=21869>

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