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GEORGIA

DATA-USER'S REPORT

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Introduction

By the end of the twentieth century Georgia having placed itself in the system of democratic values, made a vital choice for democracy through a number of social and political changes. Social-economical development of country based on national peculiarities reflects in gender aspect of development.

In mid -1997 UNDP and Georgian government has launched the joint project ``Women in Development``. The main goals of the project were to widen public awareness on gender related problems in Georgia and to facilitate a more equal involvement of women in the country social, economic and political life, establish National Institutional Mechanisms in Georgia.

By the initiative of the project staff, the Edict of the President of Georgia created the Government Commission on Elaboration State Policy for Women's Development. The members of the Commission are the representatives of government, ministries and non-governmental organizations. It was first attempt of coordination and cooperation of different governmental and non-governmental structures, and one of the real preconditions for future establishment of National Institutional Mechanisms. Project together with Government Commission elaborated National Plan of Action 1998-2000. The parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Ethnic Minorities and special Subcommittee on the Protection of Rights of Women, Children and Family now exist in the Georgian Parliament. A special position was created in the National Security Council. In State Chancellery there was established special department on Women, Children and Family issue. The

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significant role in this regard plays the office of Ombudsman, recently chosen woman as defender, representative from NGO, Women Parliamentarian`s Club, which works very intensive in this field.

To enhance the Government's efforts in implementing sustainable gender programs in the country, it is necessary to have active work with different structures of appropriate ministries to take into consideration gender parameters in all programs. From this point is very important the decrees of President of Georgia about the Measures of Strengthening the Protection of Human rights of Women in Georgia and The Action Plan on Combating Violence Against Women/2000-2002/

The project ``Gender in Development`` provides systematic workshops and training for executive structures and appropriates in order to establish focal points in the ministries, which will work on gender issues. . Prepared special materials for training: Women`s leadership, Gender Economic Equality. Violence against Women, Women`s Right. Training for the Staff of the State Commission, Government officials, for the Parliamentarians and Ombudsmen`s office are providing by the local and international gender experts.

By the initiative of the project there was negotiation with SIDA`s organization about training the 14 members of Government Commission and representatives of Government structures. In December 1999 in Sweden there was conducted special study tour for them by SIPU`s organization. This program of training is continuing in Tbilisi. There are six focal points in the Ministries of Education, Economic, Internal affairs, Social Defense and Health Care, Foreign Affairs, ministry of Culture, which are responsible on gender issues. Lack of proper financing is the major problem of Government of Georgia, but still there were allocated 30 000 \$ from the State Budget for cost-sharing project `` Gender in Development``. .

It is obvious, that Gender is not only a fundamental division of society, but also a division with an economic significance, that can change with level of economic development. Despite its economic significance, gender has not been a major concern of economics and politicians of Georgia. Government is not considered a top priority gender issue

Changes took place in Georgian statistical registration as well, through, prevalence of inherited statistical registration methodology complicates usage of existing international experience in gender development, compliance of standards and conduction of action strategy in some way.

Analysis of statistical materials existing in Georgia showed that women and men are not visible in the statistics, why it is important, that all statistics must be desegregated by sex in all spheres of the society. Study of Georgian statistical registration system manifested, those indicators existing in the view of gender do not allow analyzing gender aspect of county complex development. It is necessary to work out following indicators system for gender sensitization of statistics in Georgia: Demography, Economic and business, management and participation in political and economic life, social security, health care, education, standard of life, science, culture and sport, criminal sphere, migrations, gender and environment, ethnic structure, family. We can definitely admit that there are some progress made in the production of gender sensitive statistics. In Georgia special booklets on women and men statistics have published and spread among NGOs. .

“Gender Development Association” which provided a lot of activities, survey and investigation on gender issue, prepared Recommendations on Improvement of gender Registration in Statistics in Georgia, identify which gender statistics are available and what is missing. It is importance to listen to the needs of the users of the statistics. Unfortunately there is lack of cooperation in this field. There should be a close connection between users and producers of statistics.

Global situation, economic and financial crisis, unemployment, the obstacles that women faced in the family and in the labor market effecting souci-economic status of women in Georgia. The gap between men and women participating in economic activities and ensure a source of income is constantly growing. Changes of the gender structure of the Georgian Society are very impressive from the point of social-economic point of view.

Gender Parameters in Georgia in 1999/ percent/ is considered like this;

Table 1

	Women	Men
number of population	52,2	47,8
life expectance at birth	77.2	68.9
level of education	99	98
active population	47,6	52,4
employers	48,1	51,9
unemployment	45	55
share of incomes	39,3	60,7
average wage in lari	42,2	75,6
place in parliament	6,9	93,1
administrative and chief	18,3	81,7

1. Woman and Man in 1999 of Georgia. Collection Statistic Data Tbilisi 1999 p. 5

Coming out of traditions of Georgia, family labor expenses are definitely high. Consequently family labor expenses 4 times exceed men's expenses. . That is the main reason for Georgian woman to have less economic activity. Women's share in the total amount of society labor exceeds to men's. The most part of women's immense labor expenses falls on women's spare time. It is a real sign of gender discrimination. It` is not taken into account while making statistical analyzing.

The collapses taken place during transition period to market economy changed level of women's involvement in natural economy. 55,2 percent of unemployment are women. 29,4 percent with high education, 27,0 % with special secondary education, 37,05% with secondary education.

According to all data economic crisis forced out more women than men from enterprises did. This is partially explainable because professions common for women were light industry, food, chemical, petroleum-chemical industry and such kind of industrial enterprises ceased to exist.

On appreciation of specialist of the Ministry of Labor unemployment rate is 20-23% among men, women's unemployment rate mounts to 30-32. That means that each 3-rd woman is unemployed. In the State Department of Labor 160 000 unemployment are counted as a labor seekers, 60% percent of them are women.

The importance of statistics to describe reality and confirm or refute gender stereotypes and prejudices are very high.

Division of employed according profession in the transition is following:

Table 2

	Women	Men
chiefs of management sphere	3,8	10.0
high level of professional skills	18,2	9.8
average level of professional skills	10,5	5,4
people employed in preparing documents of information and service	2,7	0,5
trade, service	8,7	9,8
in rural sphere	47,3	41,2
industry, transport, communication	2.0	6,9
unprofessional labor	6,1	8,1

2. Woman and man in 1999 of Georgia. Collection of Statistic Data, Tbilisi, 1999, p31

At the same time the high educational level, qualification and proved professionalism, the necessity of supporting family and chance of realization of own potential capabilities encourage women in Georgia to gain material and moral independence, to form solid material basis for rearing their children. That is the reason of high level female aspiration to business in Georgia.

It ought to be mentioned that number of women on leading positions in structures elaborating economic policy is low, it restricts their ability to participate actively in management of processes on macro and micro levels. For women it is relatively more difficult to get engaged in the economic activities, to obtain support of official or private structures, to receive bank credits, to find business partners, etc. In the period of bank liberalization the huge credits were taken by men, no woman was among of 100 big debtors.

The participation of women in privatization process is rather interesting. In privatization of huge enterprises women did not even took a part, what is easily explainable. Women failed to achieve their goal in this process, because they were not psychologically ready of becoming owner of huge enterprises. They might have been scared of management difficulties or they had not enough resources to buy them. There were cases of formal privatization of enterprises to women, but in fact their husbands and male family members occurred to be real owners. Woman has to activate their potentialities and combat the subconscious fear of responsibility. There is a specifically stereotype of a woman, who is not considered reliable in economic activities.

The involvement of women in the process of privatization of small enterprise can be described as following.

Table 3

fields	the list of proved object for privatization	the number	the number privatized by women
Industry	319	223	12
Energetic	31	28	0
Agriculture,	548	341	57
Baking enterprises	139	95	1
Building Industry	165	252	-
Trade	4056	3897	1254
Public service enterprises	4106	3891	987
Petroleum materials	164	164	2
health	669	523	85
Social sphere	85	396	41
not living space	-	193	32

3. Special Information from Ministry of Property Arrangement. Tbilisi, 1999

The difference of salaries received by men and women, this is not a result of discriminatory low salaries purposefully set for women (which is prohibited by the Georgian law), but a consequence of the difference of the position levels and corresponding salaries, when a man engaged in a certain industry holds a relatively higher position with a higher salary, which also influences the average salary indicator of the industry.

Since the sectors of the social sphere were the hardest hit by the effects of the transition period, it is not surprising that women appeared to be the least protected in the period of transformation. Namely, if we consider that the current financial system requires downsizing of 'inflated' budget organizations, and reduction of work places primarily pertains to the education sector, it becomes obvious that a major part of Georgian women is faced with another problem -- they have to struggle Intensively to keep their jobs, perfect their professionalism, or change their professional orientation to meet the new demands of the market economy.

Some special statistic research prove that Georgian women, exhibit no less, and often more intense economic activity than men. For example, studies of home-based businesses show that among the surveyed, 92% of economically active women and 91% of economically active men are officially employed. It is interesting that among the officially employed women, the majority (up to 70%) is self-employed and enterprises and organizations hire only 30%. For comparison, out of working men, 66% are self-employed, while officially registered enterprises and organizations hire 34%. At the same time, 17% of the employed women work in the private sector.

At the first sight, this statistics shows that women are quite actively involved in the private sector and conduct their own businesses as well (if a person conducts a private business without the status

of a legal entity, he/she is regarded as self-employed). But if we take a closer look at the data related to the status and role of women in the private sector, it becomes obvious that real entrepreneurs (i.e. decision-makers) among Georgian women are still very few.

Thus, only 1.5% of self-employed women acts as employers, while 20% is engaged in individual work without any hired help. If we consider the specific conditions of Georgia, it becomes clear that the latter category (i.e. the group of individual entrepreneur women) mostly includes people engaged in most labor-intensive and low-effective sectors of agriculture. The remaining 79% of women are hired employees.

As to the current sector structure of women's employment, 85.4% of self-employed women are engaged in agriculture. For comparison, an analogous indicator for self-employed men is only 79%. With regard to other sectors of the economy, slightly more than 11% of self-employed women are engaged in trade (for comparison, men make up 15%), while only 3-4% of women are engaged in industry, construction, transport and other sectors (men make up about 7%). Average incomes of self-employed in per month of woman is 74,5 Lari and for man 139,7 Lari.

Proceeding from that, self-employed women, who make up the major part of actually working women, are predominantly engaged in agricultural work in their private farms. Trade sphere ranks the second. This ratio is quite legitimate, since proceeding from the specifics of self-employment, economic activity without the status of a legal entity is most convenient and the simplest in agriculture and small-scale trade.

The process of globalization has had a negative impact on social-economic condition of women. . So called ``The Iron transition``, which was characterized in Georgia, has been rough, accompanied by sharp socio-economic reversals and distortions. Having lost all social benefits, the legal environment regarding tax policy and inequity financial institutions create unfavorable conditions for women to create self-help initiatives. Despite all activities which women carried out during this period compared to men, women have a higher incidence of poverty and poverty among women has increasing tendency.

According to statistics 87 percent of the Georgian population is poor. 57 percent of them earn a salary less than the minimum subsistence level, and 40 percent should theoretically be unable to exist, even they spent 100 percent of their income on food. Limits of an income or commodity became usual norm of life for most of women in Georgia. War conflicts and more than 300 000 refugees in Georgia shared poverty indicators.

As it is known human poverty index based on four factors: longevity, knowledge, income and sexual exclusion. Traditionally Georgia had very high level index by first two parameters, which is not changed very much, but tends to decline. The two last of parameters have declined especially during transition. The subsistence minimum, which is an objective measure, calculated on the basis a hypothetical minimum consumption basket-is very difficult to define that. . Under such conditions women can hardly afford health care, education, professional training and fulfillment of other demands. Declines in real output and in measured incomes, along with deteriorating tax revenues, have reduced the tax base. The declining share of government tax revenues to GDP has reduced the

state ability to provide a viable social safety net and support human capital investment. Pressure for macroeconomic stability has placed additional fiscal constraints on government activity.

The relevant situation was expressed in the book ``Report of Women Status of Georgia`` which was published in 2000 in English and Georgian languages. A lot of statistical information provided by Statistical Department was used during preparing this book. But information was not enough essential, the real picture of social-economic condition of women in Georgia was not visible in statistics, many indicators were not disaggregated by sex, and we used some nonofficial information of investigation and survey, provided throughout Georgia by NGOs and other organizations. Sometimes statistical information given from different Ministries was not the same as it was given in the information of Statistic Department. Some statistical information, which was very important, was not available.

For improving this situation it is very important to enhance the co-operation between producers and users. Go from producer oriented to user and problem oriented statistics. It must be clear identify: why do we need gender sensitized statistics, which will use how do we produce gender sensitive statistics, what are the problems with gender sensitized statistics. It would be very good to prepare analytical report for government user and for NGO. Change the outlook of the statistical system- most statistics on family have women as the norm while statistics on men deal mostly with issues such as unpaid work, classification of work, wages, There is usually little connection between men and children, e.g. how much time spent on child rearing. , define the share of women in producing national economy. It is very important to introduce a gender statistic module into university statistics course.

Special workshops should be provided for the State Commission and Statistical Department for review gender statistics, to identify gaps in the booklets, plan survey of domestic violence.