**Women's Empowerment: The Road to Empowering Women**

***“Stepping towards the women empowerment and development with a strong motive***

***and objective”***

**Why is there a need for such a book?**

 "Women's empowerment", an internationally accepted concept that can be briefly defined as "the restoration of authorities of women who don't possess or have been stripped of any authorities related to making decisions". Making decisions on how to manage and guide one's own life within or outside of their home, making choices on their private issues at all ages, having the right to access any resource and being respected within the society can be given as examples regarding these said decisions. Interpretation of this concept of women's empowerment varies greatly among most institutions, establishments and non-governmental organizations. Besides all the activities put forth on a national and international scale, because of its popularity, this topic is also of economic, social and political interest to both the academia as well as the mass media while at the same time, governments have been diverting more and more attention to it. In fact, since human rights fundamentally rely upon the equality of sexes, the establishment of equality of sexes within society to achieve societal progress.

Governmental durable progress programs require participation of both sexes to the workforce. This is because it is foreseen that gender equality will stimulate growth and reduce poverty. An increase in number of schooled women is associated with an increase in workforce participation rate and economic growth. In a global scale, it is observed that women have a highly significant role in the growth of local, national or international economies and establishment of social welfare. In its essence, women's empowerment should be economically, socially, culturally, legally, politically and psychologically analyzed and evaluated with all of its aspects. However, each of these aspects are already very vast by their own and require creation of individual sub-areas of influence. For this reason, women's empowerment is investigated in a less broad manner, basing itself mostly on the empowerment and freeing of women in developing or less developed countries because of the fact that such countries exhibit more oppression and disempowerment towards women.

There are numerous social as well as economic effects of women's empowerment on the future lives of women. As a result, women's education is taken into consideration while in the meantime governments are enacting legal regulations to increase the activity and authority of women within labor market. Efforts are being taken to instill the notion of "equal pay for equal work" by empowering women and providing gender equality in labor market and job providers, especially within private sector, are expected to lend their support to this cause. Indeed, since unreported employment is mainly present in private sector where employees are majority women, without any support coming from this sector, it is not possible to increase countrywide welfare and provide durable progress. By providing an equality of opportunity with the aid of women's empowerment, diversity within the labor market will increase and thus the productivity of women with no marginal productivity in such a competitive sector will increase.

It is a known fact that unemployment has become a global concern, confronted by and is unavoidable for every country around the world, while having various macroeconomic consequences for each country in regards to their sector, age and gender distribution, characteristic properties and internal structure. This is in fact more complicated when it comes to countries in development. In most of the countries, including the developed ones, unreported employment is the biggest concern regarding productive labor. In addition, as a consequence of global economic crises, many countries face temporary unemployment problems which have a negative impact on economies. Major obstacles on the prevention of unemployment are, not completing supportive macroeconomic policies, abolishing payments and social securities via collective agreements in communication with trade unions, not planning for employment opportunities and employment limits imposed on women. Work without any security, temporary employment and part-time work options are getting increasingly more present among mostly young working women. When compared to workers at working age, women are either working in jobs that either have bad working conditions or are unreported, or are mostly unemployed. Even though labor force is one of the important factors which would let women be employed in labor force, when countries are individually examined, it becomes apparent that they are still facing low schooling rates and insufficient opportunities in education.

Also in our country, due to an insufficiency in economic, financial, technological and communicational resources to them, when compared to men, women are present in labor market as being less employed. However, the means of access to financial resources should be especially examined in order to increase the marginal productivity of women in labor market and thus increase their social and economic welfare. A reason for this is the fact that women are perceived as risky entrepreneurs, which draws women further away from work. Within many regions of Turkey, a paradox is present when it comes to gender equality in society. This is caused by the persistence of patriarchal system not only in rural but also urban areas, a tradition which has been shaping lives of women at every stage in accordance with decisions taken by men. On the other hand, this patriarchal view present in our country has remained unchanged for the past 50 years. In fact, this situation over the last few years has been increasingly affecting women. In reality, if we were to examine women under two categories, we might better understand the cause of this effect. If we classify women as a group, then, ethnic, cultural and religious values become more apparent whereas if we classify them as individuals, education, experience, profession, age and civil status start to matter more. Women can also be classified based on their ideological and political identities. Thus, if governments to these issues when making reformations on social and economic policies or changes on new legal regulations do not give necessary care, the gender inequality gap will eventually widen further more.

This compilation book entitled ***"Women's Empowerment: The Road to Empowering Women"*** has been designed to fill an important gap within the Turkish literature concerning women's empowerment becoming the most important objective of employment policies. As a discipline, labor economics, and due to its structure, employment policies are both economically and socially multi-faceted. One of the main motivational elements, which can be taken into account, is that this study is the first in its field, which will take into account women's empowerment by basing itself off the fact that economy and democracy are fundamentally dependent on the participation of women into social and economic life. This book which aims to consider women's empowerment within the scope of the theory of gender equality in society and its effects on economy with a different perspective ***is in English and is expected to contain around 10-12 chapters with each chapter consisting of around 8,000-10,000 words***.

**Subjects that are planned to be addressed within the Book**

Studies conducted on women's empowerment on a local scale is mainly focused on increasing internal activity. When taking globalization into account, not only individuals, but also marginal groups are affected by changes that take place both on a national and global scale. Economically or politically, global powers will further marginalize certain groups, empowering those that are outside. For this reason, status assessments should also be taken into account to understand at which point during the process do global powers influence social gender. Hence, from social policies to employment policies, from policies in sports to educational policies, women's empowerment has been taking on a diverse and multi-dimensional shape. Even though subjects, which are expected to be addressed within this book, are listed below, authors can contribute on subjects related to employment with original topics and may be presented with suggestions.

* Empowerment of gender mainstreaming in society
* Approaches on women's empowerment
* Women, education and its empowerment
* Employment policies and importance of the economic empowerment of women
* Empowerment via political participation
* Women's empowerment and social policy suggestions
* Women's empowerment during crises
* Women's empowerment with sports
* Women's empowerment and the concept of immigration
* Women's empowerment and the role and importance of non-governmental organizations
* How does women's empowerment affect a country’s economy?
* Success stories of women around the world

**Estimated compilation schedule**

You can send your suggestions and abstracts regarding this book that we will be preparing together with your contributions, until ***March 2nd, 2018*** to the e-mail addresses below. Deadline for the delivery of chapters is on ***June 15th, 2018***.

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