

Considerations on Women's Socio-Economic Inclusion

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Abstract:

Although women represent half of the world's population and have benefited more than men from the progress and social development in the last three decades, the access to resources and power remains skewed towards men while women are still overrepresented among the world's most vulnerable groups (Warth & Koparanova, 2012).

The general common sense perception about women is still, in many cultures, a traditionalist one, in which women represent cultural values linked to family, traditions and community. This conception should be revised and completed with other values held by women, like change, innovation and entrepreneurship, values that fit and are aligned with today society's trends. Often women are metaphorically regarded as bridges linking the traditional values with the present's innovations. Without an active and complete participation of women in the community and civil society, a participative development could hardly be imagined (Cace, Sfetcu, Koutmalasou, & Nicolăescu, 2012).

The promotion of gender equality is the starting point of any strategy that fights against poverty and promotes economic development because women are, in all countries, a central part of all production processes (Pastore, 2010). The equality principle promoted in the European Union integration policies for ethnic groups and marginalized women, strongly supports gender equality, sustainability and participation. An important process in obtaining gender equality is that of women's empowerment, that is women gaining more control and power over their own lives, both within and outside their homes. Gender equality and inclusive growth are two interrelated concepts, the opposite of inclusive growth being poverty. Poverty is not only the result of the diverse forms of financial inequality, that means a lower quality of life, but a combination of factors like the lack of political power and the unequal access to jobs, information, social services, infrastructure, natural resources etc.⁴

Keywords: women social inclusion, equality principle, marginalized and ethnic groups.

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