

ROLE ATTRIBUTED TO WOMEN IN ROMANIAN SOCIETY: THE PERSPECTIVE OF BOTH GENDER CATEGORIES

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Abstract

Both nationally and internationally the woman is regarded as a vulnerable group. The causes are multiple - from the roles attributed to women during their evolution, their low professional integration with that of the man, the differences in the occupational categories occupied by women and men, their dependence on the man, at least in the past, but also her need to be defended.

Women's roles in society have been different from one history to another, from one society to another, but they have had something in common - they have always put the woman in vulnerable groups. This was also the reason behind the development of special programs and aids for women. The programs aimed at either its professional integration or educational development, or even aids in cases of physical violence or other special cases.

At national level, things did not differ from other countries. Also in Romania the woman is regarded as a vulnerable group, her evolution was ascending, occupying different roles from time to time.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the current role of women in Romanian society and the professional evolution of women in Romanian society. As research methods, the quantitative ones were used: sociological inquiry based on questionnaire and qualitative methods: semi-structured interview and legislation analysis.

The importance of the article results from the fact that it provides new recommendations on the implementation of measures to reduce violence among women, their professional integration and giving them the necessary support for the problems encountered.

As novelty items we find: the problem addressed - the role of women in the Romanian society from a professional and social perspective, the application of interviews and the interpretation of the comparative results - on two different categories of people, both women and men.

Keywords: *women, woman in society, women's role, women's programs, women's social problems.*

Introduction

In Romanian society, at present, women are the center of important actions both in terms of social and social policies and programs. The problems that the woman is currently facing in Romania have given rise to active moves in order to make known all these problems, but also to increase their visibility at national and external level. are related to: domestic violence, discrimination between women and men in professional life, women's and men's pay inequalities have given rise to national policies and programs to diminish them. Not all, however, are promoted nationwide and not all have managed to achieve their established goals.

This research aims at: identifying the current role of women in society at national level, both from the perspective of women and men. The objectives of this research are: to identify the problems faced by women in Romania at present; identifying the degree of satisfaction with the programs and policies implemented for them and identifying the measures that public institutions should take to combat discrimination among women, reduce violence and reduce other problems they face from the perspective of the direct target group of women.

The research hypotheses are:

"Women's role in society is interpreted differently by women and men."

"Equalization of women's and men's rights in society has not been achieved."

"Women have higher social responsiveness than men at social level."

This research is of particular importance to public institutions with repudiation in the field because it identifies the main issues of women that can be a starting point for future programs and social policies. Also, the research presents the proposed measures for improvement for such programs and policies, but also the degree of satisfaction of the woman on her role in society, putting her in the category of vulnerable groups. Another important element of the research is the analysis of men's perception of the woman's condition, thus identifying gender issues from both perspectives. This can be translated into an initiative to tackle gender discrimination and to solve problems between the two gender categories.

In Romanian society, the condition of the woman has experienced an important evolution from one period to another, being defined differently depending on the current socio-cultural context. (Liliana, P., 2004, p.20)

The differences between the roles of the sexes within the society were constantly highlighted on the
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development of the society. In this sense, the women's emancipation movement started in the sec. XVIII. (Kraus, L., Hughey, S., (2003), pp.53-65.)

In the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century, the nuclear family system was highlighted, in which the husband ensured the economic security of the whole family, and the woman was the housekeeper.(Childs, Sarah, (2008), pp.725–736.)

Following the Industrial Revolution, women were allowed to participate for the first time in the history of society in the production of goods. Since then, she was not totally addicted to the man and has earned a slightly superior social position. Based on the Romanian sociological studies, the following changes occurred in the couple: redistribution of roles between partners in favor of the wife; democratization of authority relations; diminishing the dominant role of the husband; modeling the tasks assumed by each spouse.(Jhappan, Radha. 1996, pp. 15-63.)

Throughout history, several stages have emerged among women: (Bock Gisela, (2002), pp.65-89)

- Family rights and obligations fall almost exclusively on the wife's part, with a transfer of authority, "the family being concentrated around the mother."

- The existence of a tendency to equalize

the positions of men and women. These changes in the position of women in society and family have led to a certain leveling of the status of men and women.

- The 1970s are marked by a resumption of female professional activity in all European countries and beyond. Entry into the labor market of middle-class women takes place.

- The transition from the matriarch to the patriarch was due to the man's awareness of his role in procreation.

- Another value attributed to women is maternity. - Woman's economic dependence on man will increase due to the woman's stay in the household.

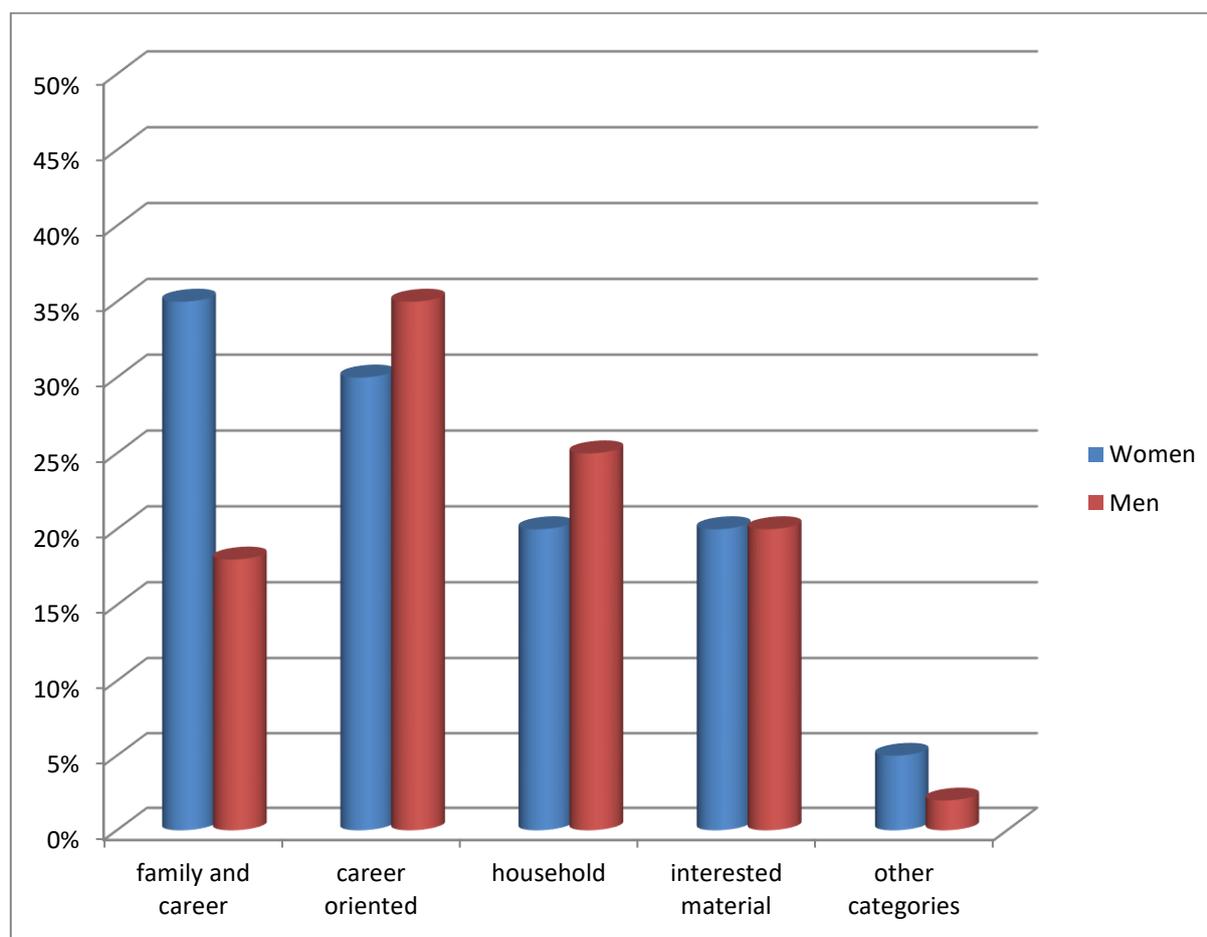
- Although, in the course of time, there is a professional tendency towards equality, all lower positions in the professional hierarchy are occupied by women. Divorced women who care for children are facing major financial difficulties and low wages make them stand at home and with a little social help.()

1. Interpretation of quantitative methods - sociological inquiry based on the questionnaire

The questionnaire was applied to 230 women aged 30-45 years in the Bucharest-Ilfov area and a number of 170 same-age men in the same region.

To the first question to women, "From what category do you think you are part of these answers are found in the figure below.

Figure 1 : The category of women-women's and men's answers



It is noticed that the highest percentage is represented by women who also have a family and a career of 35%, followed by women oriented towards career development - 30%. A percentage of 20% is represented by both women who are domestic and those who fall into other categories, and as material 11%. The latter category records a fairly large percentage, compared to the other categories.

The same question states that 35% of the interviewed men responded that most women belong to the career-oriented women category, 25% - that most women are family-oriented, 20% - the most many women are in the category of women interested, 18% - that most women are in the category of women who combine career and family and only 2% - that most women are in categories other than those mentioned.

It is noticed that a higher percentage is recorded for men who consider that most women are today oriented towards the career, with a difference of 5% being those who consider that most women are family-oriented. A large percentage is also recorded for those males who consider that most women are interested in material-20%. It is an average percentage compared to the other recorded percentages.

In this case, two of the assumptions of the research are confirmed, namely: "women's role in

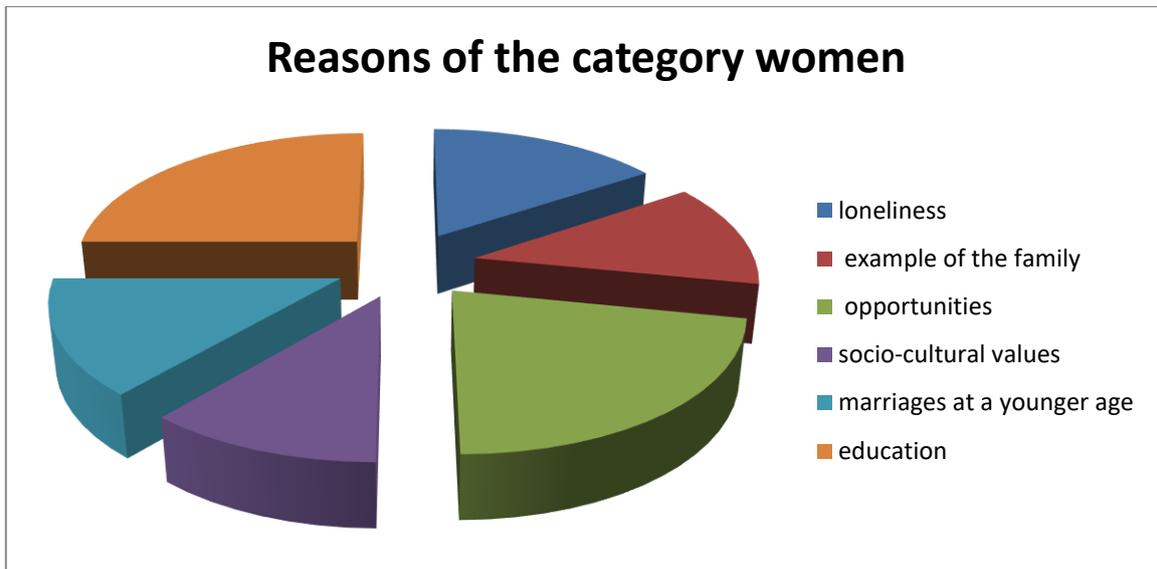
society is interpreted differently by women and men" and "Women have higher responsiveness than men at social level."

Also, 50% of women interviewed said they did not want to be part of these social categories, and 50% wanted to be part of them. Respondents who have responded that they do not want to be part of the social category they fall in have mentioned that they are part of this category for various reasons, such as:

- loneliness - being a reason that motivated them to focus on developing a career,
- the example of the family - being a reason behind the orientation to the family and assuming the role of the housewife,
- the opportunities at some point motivated them to focus on their careers, not having time to create a family,
- the education received was a good example of either the development of a career, the development of a family and the role of the housewife, or the combination of the two,
- the socio-cultural values of the past made them focus on the family, leaving professional life in second place, and the values that are currently being developed are to make an opposite sense of emphasis on the career, leaving the family in second place,

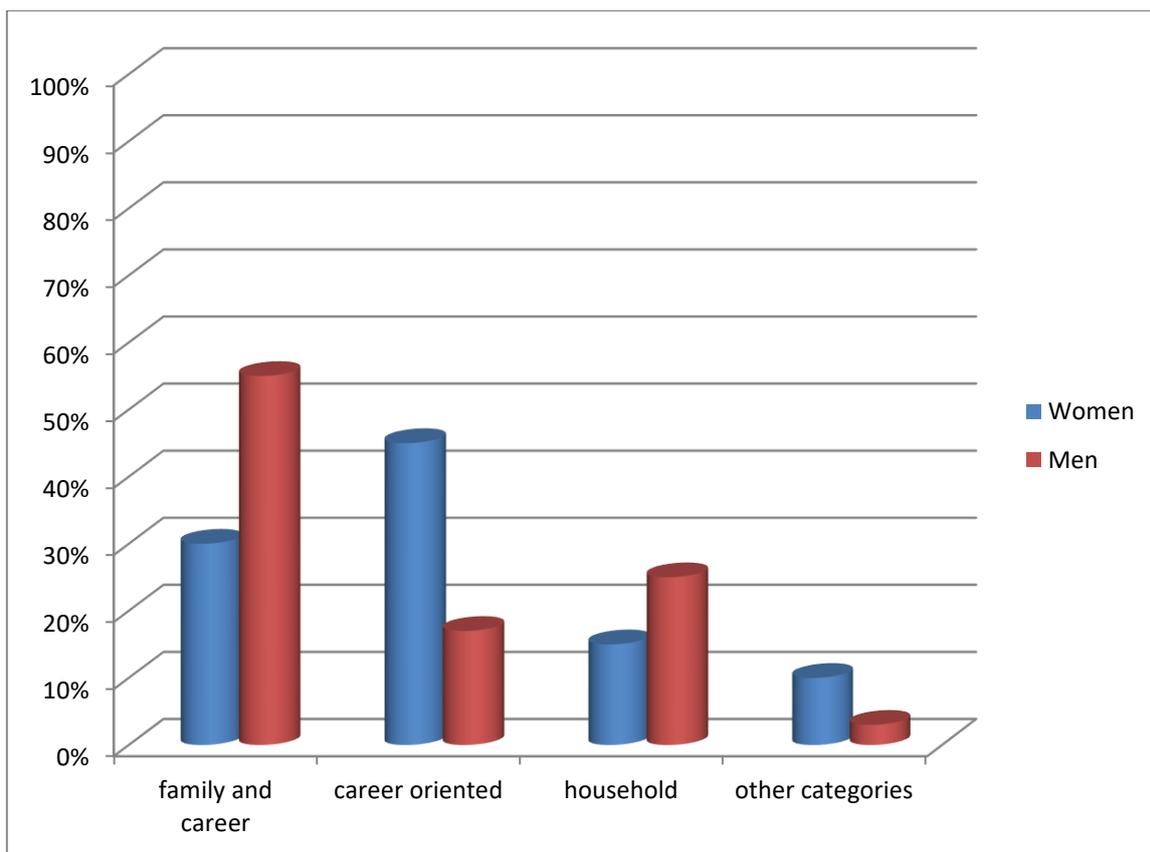
- marriages at a younger age and the rise of children prevented them from continuing their work and developing their careers, which is why they stayed home or with a medium-sized job.

Figure 2: The reasons for which women are in these categories



Both the women and the men to whom this questionnaire was applied were asked "what role should a woman have in today's society?" The answers given are found in the following figure.

Figure 3: The role that women have in today's society-women's and men's answers



It is noted that 45% of women responded that women should be more career-oriented, with only 17% of men considering it. Another major dwarfism is among men, who responded 55 percent that women should combine their career and family, while only 30

percent of women consider this. A lower percentage is reported among women who believe that the woman should be more oriented towards the family - with 15%, while 25% of the men consider this. A small percentage is also found among women-10% and men-3% who

believe that women should be in categories other than those already mentioned.

These differences are due to the different perceptions women have of their image and roles in society and of the men they have about the role and image of women in society. Differences in the image of women in society within the two sex categories also persist due to the following external factors: the familiar example, training and education, the perception of the socio-cultural values of society, its own experiences, personal relationships or even the set of own values formats.

On the basis of the answers provided, the two hypotheses are again confirmed: "women's role in society is differently interpreted by women and men" and "Women have higher social responsiveness than men at a social level."

When asked whether women should be part of vulnerable groups, the percentages of responses are similar for men (60% answered yes, it is fair that women are included in this group and 40% are not) women - 70% responding that - and 30% as not.

Figure 4: Women should be part of vulnerable groups?-women's and men's answer



Among men, there is a significant difference in the perception of the classification of the roles that women should have in society and the perception of their placement in vulnerable groups. A higher percentage thinks it is right that the woman is part of this group, but according to the answers to the previous question, a higher percentage thinks that the woman needs to have major family and career responsibilities and to assume, basically double role, although it is framed as belonging to a vulnerable group-role that requires special protection and protection at the level of the society, by the institutions with responsibilities in the field but not only.

This difference in the perception of men as a woman has to take a double role and its fit into a vulnerable group can be justified by the fact that men regard the woman as being defensive, which is why she is considered to need additional protection on the basis of national legislation. Assuming the double role is due to the fact that in the past the woman was the homemaker, she cared for the house and the family, and now she started to occupy a higher professional level. The second role developed simultaneously with the one in the past, without considering that the woman should give up entirely or, at least, to a large extent to the first role-house and develop her -the second-oriented career.

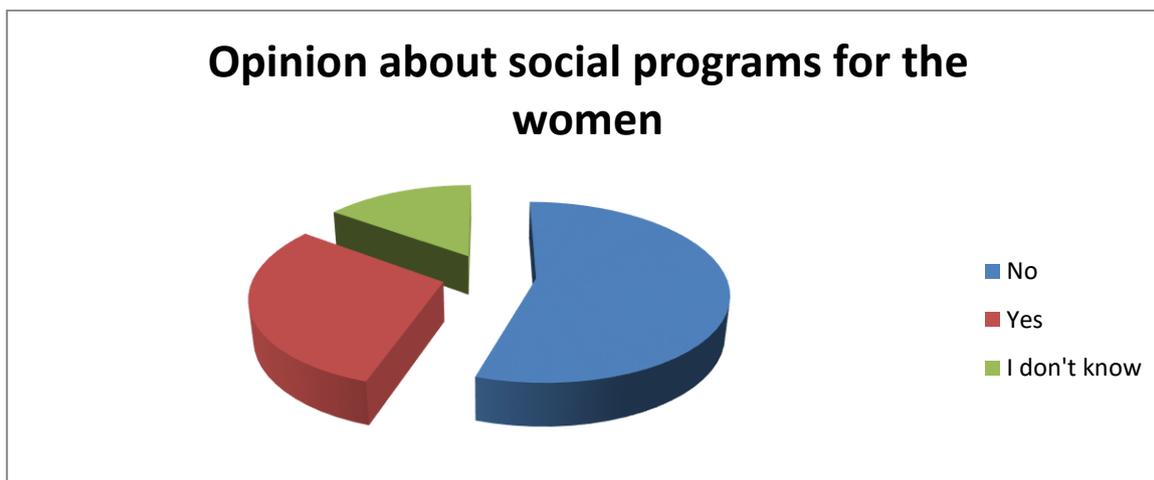
Asked whether women are equal in their rights with men, at present, 75% of them said that not only 25% of them are considered equal to men. They stated that the main issues women think of today's society are:

- verbal, physical and psychic violence, wage discrimination at the workplace, too much responsibility and must fulfill all of them successfully with family responsibilities, child care, work, friends, relatives, involvement in other social activities, etc., is

considered to be an example for children because they spend more time with them, which is a more responsive and extra attention.

With regard to the problems they face, only 30% of them consider that policies and social programs implemented to help them meet their needs and needs, with 70% believing that their policies and social programs do not meet their needs.

Figure 5: Policies and social programs implemented to help women meet their needs?-women's answer



Women interviewed also responded that the following aspects should be improved in the policies and social programs implemented to solve their problems:

- facilitating post-natal post-natal integration after two years of post-natal care need special programs for professional reintegration,
- equal pay with that of men provided by legislation and punishment of private companies that violate this,
- creating optimum workplace conditions that meet their needs,
- the adaptability of jobs so as to allow them to return to work for child care and childcare less than 2 years ago: playgrounds, kindergartens, nursing homes for companies where they work, flexible programs,
- implementation of several programs on the professional integration of women,
- reasing the visibility of programs specifically created for them,
- Increasing the visibility of institutions with reputation in the field.

The last two interpreted questions confirm the third hypothesis, according to which "Equalization of women's rights with men's in society has not been achieved."

2. Interpretation of qualitative methods - semi-structured interview

Semi-structured interviews focused on a sample of 50 women aged 30-45 from Bucharest-IIfov. Based on the interviews, the main conclusions are as follows:

Women find themselves discriminated from the point of view of the workplace,

Women believe they have multiple roles in society, the main ones being focused on family care, household chores and jobs.

They are not satisfied with their current image in society and the roles they have to fulfill,

She thinks she is attributed to the wrong label that "doing things well at home and at work," and for fear of disappointing feel mentally tired, physically, without motivation,

Career orientation has destroyed or even prevented them completely from forming a family, and vice versa, more family orientation has impeded them to form their desired career.

In the following I will give some of the quotes from the interviews:

"At 32, I have the desired career. I completed all my studies and training courses four years ago, during which I worked simultaneously in two jobs - one full-time, and one part-time in an Ong. ... but only now I have managed to get the job I would not give up for nothing. I like what I do, I work in the field of education and I find myself in this field. That cost me a family and a relationship. Thanks to the time allotted to my professional training, I have not managed to make a family. I would like this but I know they can not combine both!" O.A (32 years old)

"I do not consider myself equal in rights or in repudiation with men. For example, not with my husband. I have more responsibilities and fewer rights and I think that it is true for most serious and

responsible women today. We work in the same company on equal terms. He has a salary of 400 ron more, a service car, laptop and phone. I'm just a phone call. He is paid for hours worked overtime, I do not ... but more, I'm given work at home-just because I know how to do what others do not know. If she asks for a free day, she does not have to apply for leave, the manager being also a man, and I have already refused three times a holiday request in a month because I am indispensable in certain matters. ... At home things are alike. I have to know where all the things in the house are, what to wear children, what they eat children and husband, what everyone likes and what is not ... but he ... only time spent with children .. games and fun .. " A.G. (43-year-old)

"I consider myself a victim of the current national system of discrimination between men and women. Yes, we are part of a vulnerable group not because we would like to be so, but because that's how they made us become. They are the grandmothers and the system. Easy to hit, beat and other things, being physically weak and more emotional, they all took advantage. And the men and the laws and patrons of the companies we work for. We are the victims of a system and men's default .. repet .. not because that we would like ... Instead, what we have to do is work of 3 people not 2 or one-house, family, job .. our problems there is still time ... and so the woman lives for husband and wife or career or both, depends not on her ... in this country where violence and discrimination are made unnoticed. leaders are men!" O.G-31-year-old housewife

"Equal to new men? Yes .. we have many responsibilities and we have many rights .. we have fewer rights and fewer to do .. the "many" and "few" words are the same ... following it is different. I gave up a family and I decided to stay with only a career because there was a lot to do on both sides and I'm not a robot, and he has much more to do than a job. I chose to do the same and divorced after just 3 years of marriage. It was not easy but obsolete .. I could not even .. if it appeared and a child would have been impossible for me because I know that even in this case would not have shared things. E.V. - 38 years old jurist

And based on the conclusions of the interviews, it can be seen that the three hypotheses formulated earlier confirm, namely: the role of woman in society is interpreted differently by women and men. There has been no equalization of women's and men's rights in society and women have higher social responsibilities than men.

Conclusions

It is important to see the woman's perception of the roles that she has in society, what she should have, the issues she faces, the things they want to be

improved at society's level, but and men's perceptions of women's roles in today's society to tackle the gap between them. All these aspects can contribute through social policies and programs specifically designed to meet women's current needs to reduce discrimination between women and men, both socially and professionally, but also to standardize their responsibilities.

Without a real opinion of women about their social problems without a real picture of the roles the woman plays either in a community or at society level, both from the perspective of women and men, social programs and policies created specifically for them will not fully correspond to them and their results will not be successful.

At national level, Romania is trying to take the following measures: equalizing the rights of men and women, at least in the field of work and at the professional level, combating violence against women, reducing the gaps between women and men in professional life, but it seems these measures are neither sufficient nor well known.

The three hypotheses confirmed by the research confirm that Romania has failed to fulfill these attributions in the field. In order for this to happen, there is a need for a real opinion of the target group targeting women, but also of the opposite target group on their image-men. The differences between the two are given, as we have previously stated, to certain external factors. These factors can also be taken at national level.

Why is it necessary to analyze the perceptions of men regarding their role and image in professional and social terms? Why is it necessary to reduce the gaps in women's roles in society, what they have and what men think they should have? Because all these things will influence, even indirectly, in the next period, the birth rate at a national level - by assuming the role of the family member of the woman or not, the number of marriages, the divorce at national level, and implicitly of the children from disjointed families. Why is it necessary to improve social policies and programs that target women and women's condition in society - both professionally, socially, family? To improve its condition at society, to reduce violence and other problems it faces, to combat discrimination of all men and women and to unify the rights and responsibilities between women and men.

All these things are not only necessary, given the quality of Romania's democratic state, the quality of a member state of the European Union, our national "emancipation" as the country, and the overcoming of the conditions and things that correspond to a society in the past, of equal opportunities between men and women - on an equal footing in an economic and socio-cultural context.

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