Rural women in community&economic life

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Abstract: In order to evaluate, within the scope of social life, the problems women face in rural settlements and to carry out the works of gender-balanced development, the roles the women have undertaken must be defined first. In terms of level of development as socio-economic and cultural structures between the rural settlements, the studies qualified as scientific towards defining the roles the women in rural areas have undertaken, in most underdeveloped forest villages, are very few. In this context, the purpose of the proceeding is to make some determinations on the roles that the rural women living in forest villages have on economic, social and cultural life. The main focus on the proceeding were as follows: women in everyday life, women in economic life, time utilization, status of women in terms of education, health and social security, women's participation in decision making, women's expectations for the future, women's level of relationship with the forest resources, etc. in Isparta-Turkey. According to the findings, it was defined that the women have a so an important role and heavy workload in communal-economic life. However women's education level and participation in decision processes of both economic and social contexts is at a very low level. A large portion of women have worked forestry activities. And they consider forest labor to be an appropriate work group for them. Besides, the presence of positive perception towards environmental forest resources is very important in terms of the relationships the women have with natural resources. On the other hand, a significant portion of women in the Isparta region being satisfied with their lives is another important result of the study.

Keywords: Forest villages, Rural women, Community life, Isparta