

THE ROLE OF THE FEMALE IN THE FAMILY, SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONTEXT

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ABSTRACT

Traditional gender roles within the family have changed with the growth of double income households, thus changing relationships within this social structure and redefining the role of women in social and professional context. Employed mothers face a unique relationship between custody and employment expectations. Despite the importance of the role of women in the socio-economic life of the family and, consequently, of society as a whole, these relationships have not been subject of rigorous studies. Guided by the concepts of intense maternal ideology and workplace ideals, this paper addresses the new relationships created in the double income family as well as the new role of women in the social context and belief system that characterizes the Albanian post-COMMUNIST society. The study was conducted through the data collected from the realization of a qualitative study, the results of which identified that family sacrifices had a greater impact on employed mothers versus career sacrifices. They are willing to give up their careers and not fulfilling individual pleasures if family needs are required. This finding seems to indicate that mothers continue to compare themselves to the intense ideology of mothers and not the ideal worker rate. This research has important implications for understanding the new social context created as a requirement of the economic conditions within which the Albanian woman plays her multiple roles.

Keywords: Female, family, social context, faith systems, Albania.