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Gender Dimension of Social Economic Policies in Turkey: How Do Women Access to active Labor Market Policies

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ABSTRACT

At the beginning of 1990 has witnessed an increasing rehabilitated interest for socio economic policies across the world. Especially in 1997 East Asia, 2000 Russia, 2001 Turkey and 2002 Brazil economic/financial crises and rising anti-globalisation movement is pushed many governments to expand social expenses amount in their budgets for social policies on the purpose of reducing the effects of crises and impacts of neoliberal reforms. These reforms were held when the governments noticed the failure of the neoliberal economic model to reduce poverty and create economic growth. On the other hand, impacts of globalisation on political sphere in last two decade brought out new possibilities for social movements to put in the words their pretensions on better social and economic policies which can eliminate consequences of neoliberal reforms and policies.

After 1990s, gender dimensions of social and economic polices have began to more trend topic on academic and public agenda. As a part of this debate, women's situation within very low employment and high unemployment rate also became more visible by years. Therefore, this study tries to figure out the situation of women in the labour markets in Turkey. In spite of many gender sensitive changes in social and economic policies, men and women tend to have different opportunities in terms of putting women vulnerable position in the labour market. In a consequences of neoliberal wave on social and economic policies, according to labour statistics women's participation in paid work have been increasing but insufficient gender sensitive social and economic policies continues re-creating, gender-based divisions and wage inequalities.

In this study, a statistical overview of the trends in the labour market outcomes by gender will be the first source to evaluate this situation. We also look over the governments attempts to regulate labour market policies in terms of creating more gender equal athmosphere. As a result we would like to discuss how social policies can change women's situation in the labour markets and how policy makers can reorganise labour market paralel to economic growth.