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Women's Cooperatives Contributions to Local Region Economy: Seferihisar Agricultural Cooperative Development Model-Turkey Development Model Turkey

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ABSTRACT

The cooperative movement have played a very important role over the social and economic development of all countries since 19th century's second half. Cooperatives provide health, housing and banking services; they promote education and gender equality; they protect the environment and workers' rights. According to 2014, data the total number of cooperatives is 79.486 in Turkey, while the total number of partners of cooperatives is approximately 7.8 million. The research's sample group "Hıdırlık Agricultural Development Cooperative" was founded by the wife of the Seferihisar mayor and six women. It has been a subject of curiosity that what the contributions of the cooperative which has developed the economy of the region since 2010. Therefore, various questions asked to the president and members of the cooperative, and significant results were obtained. The fact that within the boundaries of local governments, the establishment of "women's cooperatives" and their active management can be supported with 10 basic criteria for the regional and national development can be predictable. These dimensions; ecological balance and sensitivity, the revival of the tourism sector, the mobility of logistics activities, new investments and increase of land value, the increase of women employment, the increase of healthy living standards, increase of competitiveness and trade earnings, the creation of new brands, widespread of the agricultural sector and the increase of social and educational level of women. The similar implementation of "Seferihisar Women's Cooperatives Model" in the research is considered form an important enterprenurship model not only for our country but also for all countries.

KEYWORDS Women's Cooperative; Local region economics; Enterprenurship Model