

Motivating Albanian women seeking higher education

PhD (C.) Adriana Qafa
Albanian University, Berat

Dr. Brikena Osmani
Universite Populaire Albanaise-Geneve

Abstract

Education is recognized by UNESCO (2012) as “a fundamental human right, one that all individuals are entitled to enjoy whatever the circumstances in which they live, that also brings important benefits to human society as a whole (p.8).

In order to achieve faster these benefit, it is necessary the participation of men and women on an equal basis. In that sense, keeping women away in all aspects of the development process only be reason of gender is a waste of valuable resources, even more when they constitute half of the population.

However, the importance of women’s participation in education is critical. According to Dundar and Haworth (1993), education of women is important not only from the angle of equal education opportunity between the sexes, but also for the substantial social and economic returns to female education that can be achieved by raising women’s productivity and income level, producing better educate and healthier children, and reducing fertility rates (p.1). Vanderslice and Litsch (1998) in turn, expressed that woman who have increased education are more aware about opportunities for themselves. They are more self-confident, open minded, and more competitive. While Kelly and Slaughther (1991) argued that through qualifications and credentials secured through the higher learning, women would equip themselves for all manners of professional positions, entering the market place and political arena with the same advantages as men.

Keywords: Albania, women, higher education.

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