

## Subculture named *Muhaxhire* that live between Shijak and Durrës in Albania

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### Abstract

This study explores in sociological approach the *Muhaxhire* subculture living in the villages between Shijak and Durrës. These are Bosniaks who have emigrated from Bosnia to Albania almost a century and a half ago. The research focus is to investigate their subcultural features, analyze the factors that have influenced the preservation of these features and the relationship of the *Muhaxhire* subculture with the wider Albanian culture.

The research methods used in this study are qualitative methods and secondary source analyses. The instruments used for the collection of qualitative data are: semi-structured interviews, participant sociological observation and conversation analysis. The study is based on semi-structured conducted interviews with members of the *Muhaxhire* subculture, and interviews with Albanians who have multilateral connections and collaborations with members of the *Muhaxhire* subculture. The aim of the semi-structured interviews is to collect detailed data and analyze in comparative approach the *Muhaxhire* subculture with the Albanian society dominant culture. In addition, conversation analyses were conducted, as well as participant sociology observation method and secondary sources are used to collect detailed data.

This study highlighted *Muhaxhire* subculture features that distinguish it in some aspects from the dominant Albanian culture. These features are reflected in cultural symbols, cultural values, material culture, social relations, etc. The results of this study show that *Muhaxhire* subculture has had the needed space in Albanian culture to preserve and develop its subcultural features and identity. In addition, Albanian cultural values of tolerance and hospitality have contributed in this process. The study revealed that culture and subcultures are in a process of constant change. The subculture member can participate in several subcultures at the same time and without conflicting with the dominant culture. The members of the *Muhaxhire* subculture are also members of *Central Albania* subculture. The results of the study show that *Muhaxhire* subculture members are integrated into Albanian society, but they also have a link with their ancestors' culture. They speak Bosnian language in a dialect from the last quarter of the 19th century inherited from their ancestors, but they also speak Albanian. The study revealed that Albanian society culture has created the needed space for Bosniaks to preserve and develop their subcultural identity, but at the same time the *Muhaxhire* subculture has not resisted to integrate into Albanian culture. This integration process has happened naturally.

**Keywords:** culture, subculture, cultural values, community, national minority, prejudice, ethnocentrism, cultural diffusion, adaption, cultural symbols, material culture.

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