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Senem Aysel ER: Impact of Women's Status on Fertility Control in Turkey. (Unpublished Master Thesis. Ankara, Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies, 2004)

Fertility and fertility control which are the main areas of demography, have an indispensable effect on structure of population. Women become more significant especially in the control of fertility. Despite the fact that the personal characteristics of woman are important, sociocultural and economic structure cannot be denied. One of the reasons why women cannot participate actively in business life and politics is the patriarchal structure and gender. In patriarchal structure, relationship between gender in terms of power, decision- making, the right to use resources efficiently are used in favor of men. This attitude causes women to be treated as a second-class person.

The concept of "Women Status" which is used to define the role of women in society has not only become popular recently in demographic research, but has also helped to understand what kind of effect it has on demographic changes. Therefore, eliminating the barriers against the rise of women status will cause women to have an active role in decision-making process about themselves.

The aim of this study is to evaluate whether women are dominant in determining their fertility control by the help variables (such as education, social security, marriage, number of children, income, age and gender role women in societies), that are used to identify the women status. The Women Status Index formed by factor analysis provides us with the possibility of making a comparison between the role of fertility control among women in different status. Interesting results have come up while studying the relationship between woman status, her using of contraceptive method (men's contraceptive methods, women's contraceptive methods, family planning methods) and induced abortion. The results show that the higher the women status, the lower the use of contraceptive methods or induced abortion. Data used in this study are gathered from Turkey Demographic and Health Survey-1998 (TDHS-1998) carried-out by Hacettepe University Institution of Population Studies. Analyses are based on currently married women between the ages 15 and 49. Grouping of women status by the help of TDHS-1998 provide significant clues in showing the differentiation in fertility control of women.