

THE QUALITATIVE STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF MOTHERHOOD TO ACADEMIC CAREER DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Academic staffs in universities in Turkey are 40% women. This rate offers quite a positive picture compared to European countries. But, motherhood is an important phenomenon in a women's academic career. The aim of this study is to investigate the effects of motherhood on academic life. Semi-structured interviews are conducted with fourteen female academics from fourteen faculties of Dokuz Eylül University. The data set is analysed with the NVivo Qualitative Data Analysis Program. According to the research results, motherhood effects the academic life especially in the first three years after birth. The effects are inability to focus, fatigue, and exhaustion. On the other hand, female academicians have also mentioned that motherhood helps develop multi-thinking and multi-organization abilities. In this study, we can also go beyond the boundaries of motherhood and academia and discuss the subject with different parameters and in a versatile way.

Keywords: Motherhood, female academic, career development, NVivo.