



The Number of Women in the Rural Population of Turkey and the Women Population in Selected Metropolitan Cities¹

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Abstract

In the world the level of development is explained based on various criteria changing in different countries. . Therefore, there are very few criteria that are accepted as common indicators of development. Per capita calorie, infant mortality rates, the age structure of the population are some için these indicators of development. For many countries, the rural population and its characteristics are also considered as an important indicator. The focus on the rural population and the rehabilitation of this population has remained on the agenda since the founding of the republic. Consequently, the rural population in Turkey showed a great both quantitative and qualitative transformation since the early years of the Republic. The continuous contraction of the share of the rural population vis a vis the urban population, the change in the rural labour force, and finally some administrative changes, led to various researches on addressing the rural population and especially the female population from a significantly different perspective. In this study, the state of the overall presence of women in rural areas as well as the situation of the rural female population after the administrative arrangements in metropolitan municipalities has been examined.

Keywords: rural population, female population, metropolitan municipalities, Turkey.

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Türkiye Kırsal Nüfusunda Kadın Sayısı ve Seçilmiş Büyükşehirlerde Kadın Nüfusu

Güven Şahin**

Öz

Dünya genelinde gelişmişlik düzeyi ülkeden ülkeye çeşitli kriterlere dayandırılarak izah edilmektedir. Bu anlamda çok az husus ülkeler tarafından ortak gelişmişlik göstergesi olarak kabul edilmektedir. Kişi başına düşen kalori, bebek ölüm oranları, nüfusun yaş yapısı bu gelişmişlik göstergelerinden birkaçıdır. Pek çok ülke için de kırsal kesim nüfus miktarı ve bu nüfusun özellikleri de gelişmişliğin önemli bir göstergesi olarak kabul edilmektedir. Türkiye’de de üzerinde özellikle durulan kırsal nüfus ve bu nüfusun rehabilitesi hususu Cumhuriyetin kuruluşundan beri gündemdeki yerini korumuştur. Nitekim Cumhuriyetin ilk yıllarından itibaren Türkiye’deki kırsal kesim nüfusu hem nicel hem de nitel açıdan çok büyük bir değişim ve dönüşüm sergilemiştir. Kentsel nüfus karşısında kırsal kesim nüfusunun payının sürekli daralması, kırsal kesim işgücünde yaşanan değişim ve son olarak da idari anlamda yaşanan birtakım değişikliklerle ortaya çıkan tablo, kırsal kesim nüfusunu ve bu kapsamda da özellikle kadın nüfusunu ciddi ölçüde farklı bir bakış açısıyla ele alma durumunu doğurmuştur. Bu çalışmada genel olarak kırsal kesimdeki kadın varlığının Türkiye’deki dağılımının ana hatlarıyla izahı ile birlikte ilgili idari düzenlemeler neticesinde büyükşehir belediyelerindeki kırsal kesim kadın nüfusunun durumu irdelenmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: kırsal nüfus, kadın nüfusu, büyükşehir belediyeleri, Türkiye.

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Introduction

Population research is very important for the correct use of resources for the future of a country, society and the wider world, sustainability and, most importantly, for the individual's welfare level to be brought to a certain level. In this context, the structural characteristics of the population (such as age, gender and socio-cultural characteristics) and their distribution (according to countries, regions, and continents) need to be well known and understood. Population Geography, on the other hand, provides answers to many questions and clarifies the issues that constitute the basis of both population and economic planning.

Some data are used in order to make healthy progress in Population Geography studies. The ABPRS data compiled by the TÜİK, for the whole world the UN, OECD, FAO and used the data of some civil society organizations. It is very difficult to mention that the figures are one hundred percent reliable in a dynamic subject such as population. Especially in places where extraordinary circumstances occur (such as wars, outbreaks, natural disasters), this reliability is much lower. For example; when interpreting based on population data in countries such as Luxembourg, Belgium and Denmark (both small and stable, as well as social awareness), the reliability of population data is very high, while it is more difficult to make healthy inferences in countries such as Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Sudan. Even within the same country (especially in large countries), it is not possible to mention highly reliable data for each settlement. For Russia, Brazil, China and India, for example, this is very common. However, since the data of organizations/institutions accepted by the international community generally provide the closest values to the truth, these sources are used by referring.

The healthy analysis of the population data obtained in the focus of Population Geography is possible by evaluating on a spatial scale and interpreting it as a whole. In this way, it will be possible to direct the resources in a much healthier way and to plan them (which is also the basis of spatial planning). Otherwise, the independent interpretation of the population will have negative consequences such as inactive or inadequate investments after a short period of time, which means serious losses for developing or underdeveloped countries.

Interpreting the rural population and analyzing the short-medium and long-term development is the most challenging of the Population Geography studies. As a matter of fact, since the rural population is changing and transforming more rapidly, medium and long term assessments are very difficult. Changes in administrative terms, economic conditions, changes in the level of expectation of the population change the rural population much more quickly. In recent years, especially in this case amply illustrates the effect in Turkey. Indeed, in Turkey, Metropolitan Law was proclaimed in all 9 provinces completely change the concept of rural areas in this sense.

In short, if we interpret the Metropolitan Law, the gradual classification that states determine vertically in relation to the administrative division of land is called administrative grading. According to the managerial level adopted, managerial division is realized with the limitations made in the geographical space. The reflection of the managerial hierarchy on the land is planar, and when the spaces obtained in this way are classified from the biggest to the smallest in the systematic structure, a sort can be made as administrative region, administrative department and administrative area. In this structure which can be described as “classification of administrative units”, it is seen that administrative units are intertwined from the bottom upwards. Although some changes have been made as a managerial together on different dates in Turkey last held in 2012 and has emerged as the most important changes in this respect.

Adopted on November 12, 2012, Metropolitan Law No. 6360 in the number of Metropolitan Municipality raised from 16 to 30. With this law, the legal entities of the Special Provincial Administrations, the top-level local government body in these provinces, were terminated and their duties were completely transferred to the Metropolitan Municipalities. In addition, village headmen and town municipalities were abolished and the settlements with these bodies were transformed into neighborhood status. In other words, there is a separate form of administration in the Metropolitan Municipalities. In the remaining 51 provinces that are not metropolitan municipalities, the old form of management is maintained. With this arrangement in 2017, Turkey has 81 provinces, 922 districts, 32,105 neighborhoods, 18,306 villages, 23,939 villages are connected and the local authorities; There are 30 Metropolitan Municipalities, 51 provincial municipalities, 519 metropolitan district municipalities, 403 district municipalities and 386 town municipalities.

In the rural population in Turkey in accordance with the administrative division of presence it is encountered very serious difficulties. The focus of our study is that the concept of “village” has disappeared in metropolitan cities and the status of “neighborhood” has been replaced and “rural population” is accepted as 0 (zero). Accordingly, there is no rural population in many provinces such as Erzurum, Van and Konya. If not, to what extent can the rural population be ignored even for these provinces, Ankara and İzmir? Is it possible for the people living in the “rural” part of many metropolitan centers to be accepted as urban residents with only some legal changes? These issues have become the most current problem of the population.

The most important aspect of the above-mentioned situation in the field of Women's Studies is that the “Rural Women's Population”, which is the largest mass of people deprived of many rights, who do not have social security and who are worried about the future, is completely ignored in this way. As mentioned earlier, it is very important to know the population characteristics for the rehabilitation of rural areas. Today, the support of the UN and various non-governmental organizations, especially EU grants

and loans, is provided under the title of 'Rural'. Whereas in Turkey; in many provinces of Erzurum, Van, Diyarbakır, Şanlıurfa, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş called villages, each of them changing status as neighborhood. Accordingly, it is not possible to benefit from grants and supports for rural areas of many regions. For example, a period much spoken in Turkey, Young Farmers' Project, in these villages in the region because of the law in question can not benefit from this support led and brought sound serious sense. Women's workforce, the ability of women to receive their labor in rural areas, and the projects carried out in order to increase the level of women's welfare in rural life (all kinds of initiatives aimed at all rural activities) have been completed or interrupted in this sense.

In this study, especially the population status of the centers whose administrative status has been changed in accordance with the Metropolitan Law and the place of women in this area are examined. In this context, the role of women in rural areas in general are discussed with examples from Turkey and the world. In Erzurum, Adana and Tekirdağ, the subject matter has been elaborated and the amendments brought up by the current law have been put forward. Within the scope of our study, the fact that their having different geographical conditions and that rural activities are still being carried out have been effective in the selection of Erzurum, Adana and Tekirdağ. However, the fact that the mentioned metropolitan cities have a considerable amount of female population and a considerable part of them sustains their rural activities have been determinant. Accordingly, with the said law, some revisions have been made and attention has been paid to the situation of a large number of women.

The General Structure of the Rural Population in Turkey

In general, settlements with a population below 2000 are classified as rural settlements according to TUIK data (TurkStat). The existing population in these areas is defined as rural population. According to the first official census conducted in 1927, the rural population constituting 75.8 % of Turkey's total population, the proportional share of the total population by increasing the absolute existence despite the development over time has shown continual decline (Table 1). The rural population, which now is 7.7% of the total population, has reached the lowest level throughout the history of the republic.

The amount of share in Turkey's total population proportionally greater amount of rural population for the first time in the year 1985 census showed a decrease in the face of urban population. In other words, according to the first results of the 1985 census, the urban population in Turkey was determined proportionally to be more than the rural population. Although many factors are effective in the development of this situation, the most noteworthy is the internal migration movements that started in the 1950s and accelerated during the 1960s and 1970s. This situation, which emerged as a reflection of the industrialization moves, was experienced especially in

the cities which were identified as pilot regions in economic activities such as İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir and Adana.

Table 1. Turkey and the total amount of rural population (1927-2018)

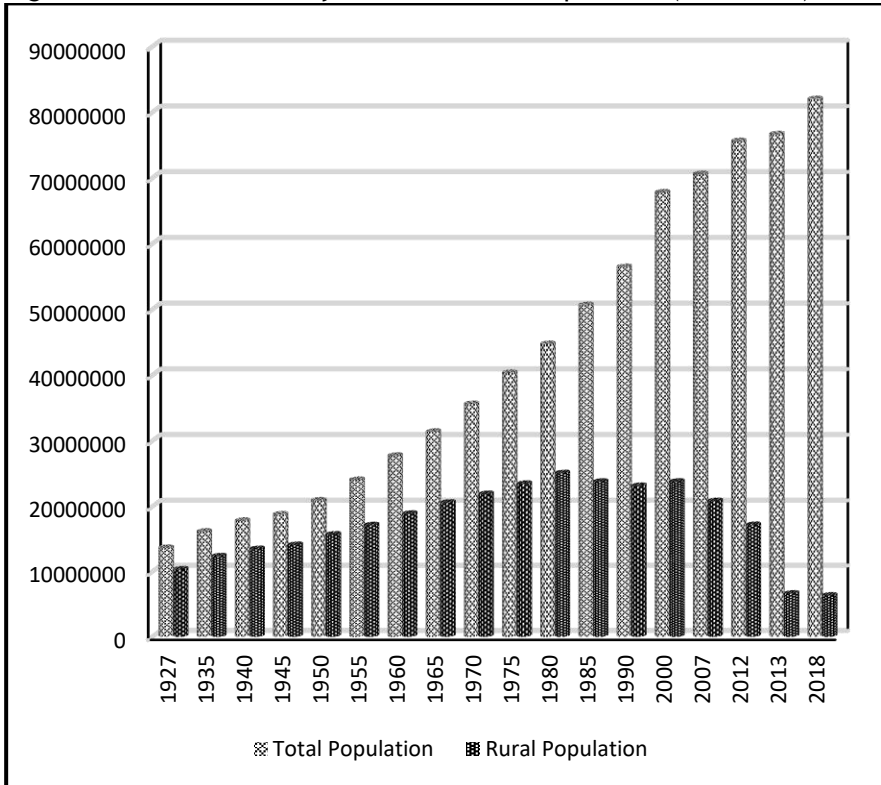
Year	Total Population	Rural Population	The Proportion of the Rural Population (%)
1927	13.648.270	10.342.391	75,8
1935	16.158.018	12.355.376	76,5
1940	17.820.950	13.474.701	75,6
1945	18.790.174	14.103.072	75,1
1950	20.947.188	15.702.851	75
1955	24.064.763	17.137.420	71,2
1960	27.754.820	18.895.089	68,1
1965	31.391.421	20.585.604	65,6
1970	35.605.176	21.914.075	61,5
1975	40.347.719	23.478.651	58,2
1980	44.736.957	25.091.950	56,1
1985	50.664.458	23.798.701	47
1990	56.473.035	23.146.684	41
2000	67.803.927	23.797.653	35,1
2007	70.586.256	20.838.397	29,5
2012	75.627.384	17.178.953	22,7
2013	76.667.864	6.633.451	8,6
2018	82.003.882	6.337.385	7,7

Source: TurkStat, 2019.

In addition, foreign migrations, which began in 1961 with agreements on the recruitment of migrant workers with many European countries, particularly Germany, were also influential. The willingness of the rural population, especially those who suffer from economic deprivation in rural areas in Turkey paved the loss of population. In the first place, only the adult male members of the family participated in the migration and other family members, including spouses and children, became involved. Thus, the number of people going out has increased and the total population has decreased proportionally with the mobility experienced in rural and internal migration within rural areas.

As indicated in Figure 1, where the total population and rural population are compared visually, the rural population has decreased proportionally rapidly since the 1985 census and has reached its current level after 2012 with a large decrease. In the emergence of this table, it is necessary to emphasize the impact of the Metropolitan Law which will be expressed in the following sections.

Figure 1. Amount of Turkey Total and Rural Population (1927-2018)



Accordingly, women in the rural population of Turkey were represented at a rate of 49% and 50% in almost every census. However, it should be underlined that the share of the female population is advancing towards the contraction tendency in rural areas. On the other hand, with the metropolitan law, there have been serious changes in the population of rural women. Indeed, In Turkey, the rural female population was 8,571,015 in 2012 and following year 3,295,886 (Table 2).

Although the share of the female population in the rural population in Turkey has decreased, this situation is parallel to the gender ratio in rural areas. In the years when the female population is more than the male population, the gender ratio is below 100, and vice versa.

Table 2. Amount of Rural Population by Gender (1927 - 2018)

Year	The Rural Population			The Proportion of Women in the Rural Population (%)
	Total	Male	Female	
1927	10.342.391	4.853.397	5.488.994	53
1935	12.355.376	5.966.802	6.388.574	51,7
1940	13.474.701	6.566.354	6.908.347	51,2
1945	14.103.072	6.943.238	7.159.834	50,7
1950	15.702.851	7.755.239	7.947.612	50,6
1955	17.137.420	8.490.362	8.647.058	50,4
1960	18.895.089	9.392.455	9.502.634	50,2
1965	20.585.604	10.213.151	10.372.453	50,3
1970	21.914.075	10.694.272	11.219.803	51,1
1975	23.478.651	11.739.888	11.738.763	49,9
1980	25.091.950	12.423.232	12.668.718	50,4
1985	23.798.701	11.661.313	12.137.388	51
1990	23.146.684	11.359.494	11.787.190	50,9
2000	23.797.653	11.919.132	11.878.521	49,9
2007	20.838.397	10.447.548	10.390.849	49,8
2012	17.178.953	8.607.938	8.571.015	49,8
2013	6.633.451	3.337.565	3.295.886	49,6
2018	6.337.385	3.227.657	3.109.728	49

Source: TurkStat, 2019.

Figure 2. The rural total and female population of Turkey (1927-2018)

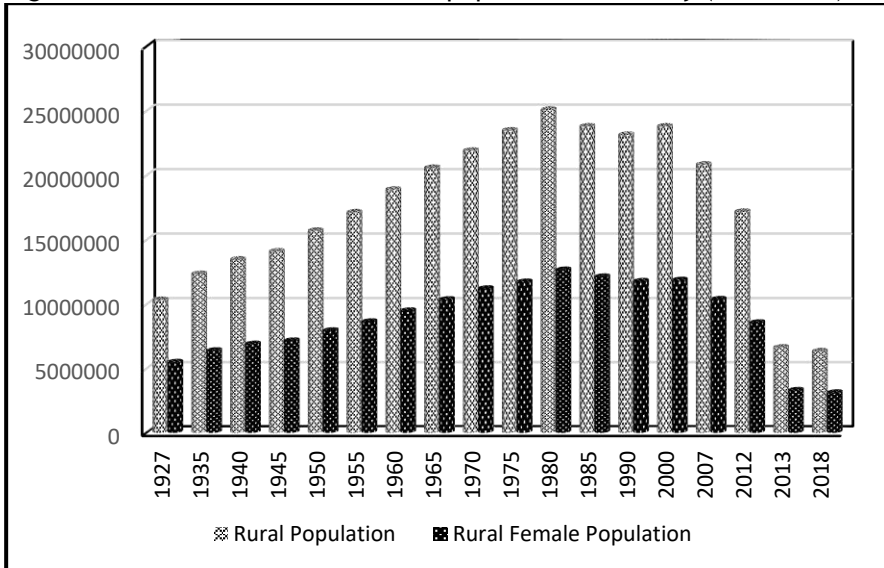
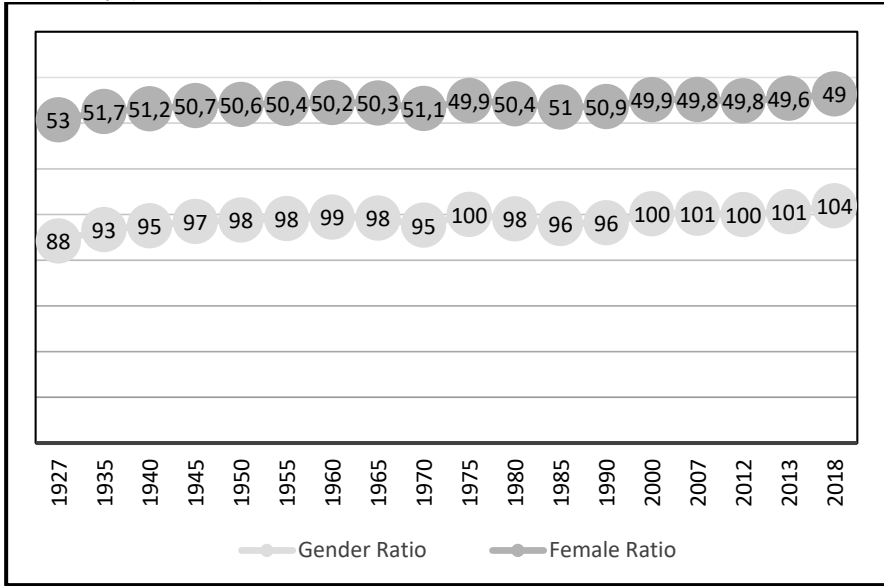
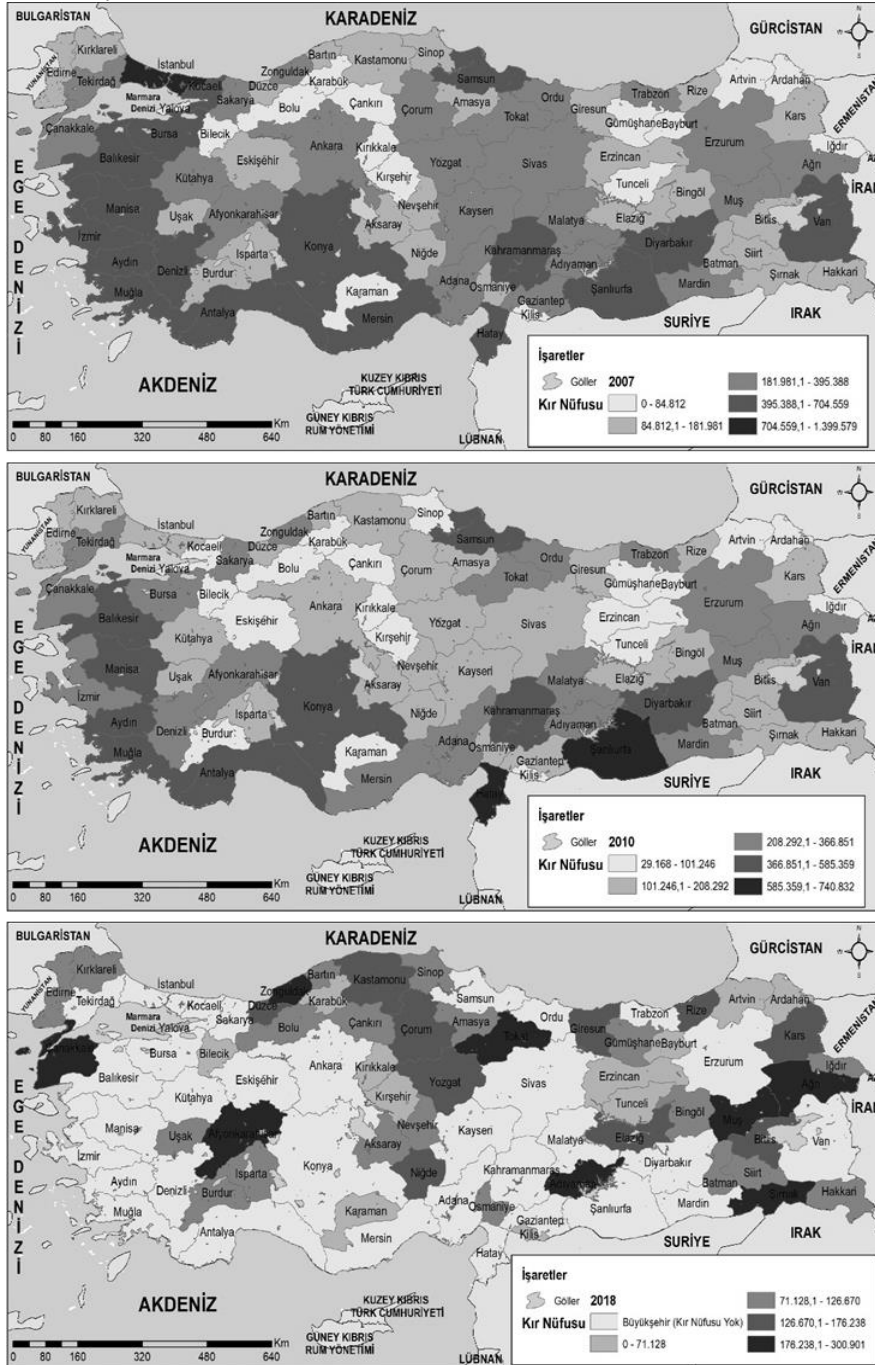


Figure 3. Percentage of Female Population and Gender Ratio in Rural Areas in Turkey (1927-2018)



When the above numerical data set forth by Turkey with the rural population, and in particular we look at the geographical distribution of the change in the general female population in the country, results can be seen much more clearly. In Figure 4, the change in the rural population of 2007, 2010 and 2018 is remarkable. In particular, the new restructuring that many major centers (such as Konya, Erzurum, Şanlıurfa, Mersin, Samsun), whose main economic activity is based on rural production, does not have rural populations under the metropolitan law also raises many issues that are open to discussion.

Figure 4. Selected Annual Provincial Scale Distribution of Rural Population in Turkey 2007, 2010 and 2018.



Municipality Law and Following Changes

In Turkey "Metropolitan" concept was first applied in 1984 and the first Istanbul - Ankara - Izmir this trio are included. In the following years, Adana, Bursa, Gaziantep, Konya, and Kayseri also became metropolitan status respectively. Finally, in 2012, Until the Law No. 6360 on "Amendments to Some Laws and Decree-Laws, the establishment of Thirteen Metropolitan Municipalities and Twenty-Six Districts" 16 provinces in total (Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Bursa, Diyarbakir, Erzurum, Eskisehir, Gaziantep, Izmir, Istanbul, Kayseri, Konya, Mersin, Samsun and Sakarya) were included. With the said law in 2012, the number increased to 29 (Aydın, Balıkesir, Denizli, Hatay, Malatya, Manisa, Kahramanmaraş, Mardin, Muğla, Tekirdağ, Trabzon, Şanlıurfa, Van). Following year, Law No. 6447 issued and Ordu accepted as a metropolitan city, so in the general context, 30 "Metropolitan" has gained a new administrative structure in Turkey (Figure 5). When the rural areas are considered, there are no significant changes in rural areas where industrial activities such as Istanbul, Kocaeli, and relatively Sakarya are concentrated. This situation has caused serious changes and disruptions especially in rural areas such as Balıkesir, Konya, Gaziantep, Mersin, Antalya, Bursa, Aydın and Adana.

Figure 5. By The Year of 2019 Metropolitan Municipality in Turkey



In our context, the most important result of the "Metropolitan" law is the status of the villages or in other words the status of the rural areas and the presence of women in such areas. In many disciplines related to the subject, especially geography, rural-urban concepts and their boundaries have been constantly discussed. As a result of this complex situation, countries, societies and research institutions have evaluated rural and urban concepts by themselves and as a result, various definitions have emerged. In addition, Law No. 6360, rural settlements along the Turkey/villages close to half (47%) were abolished.

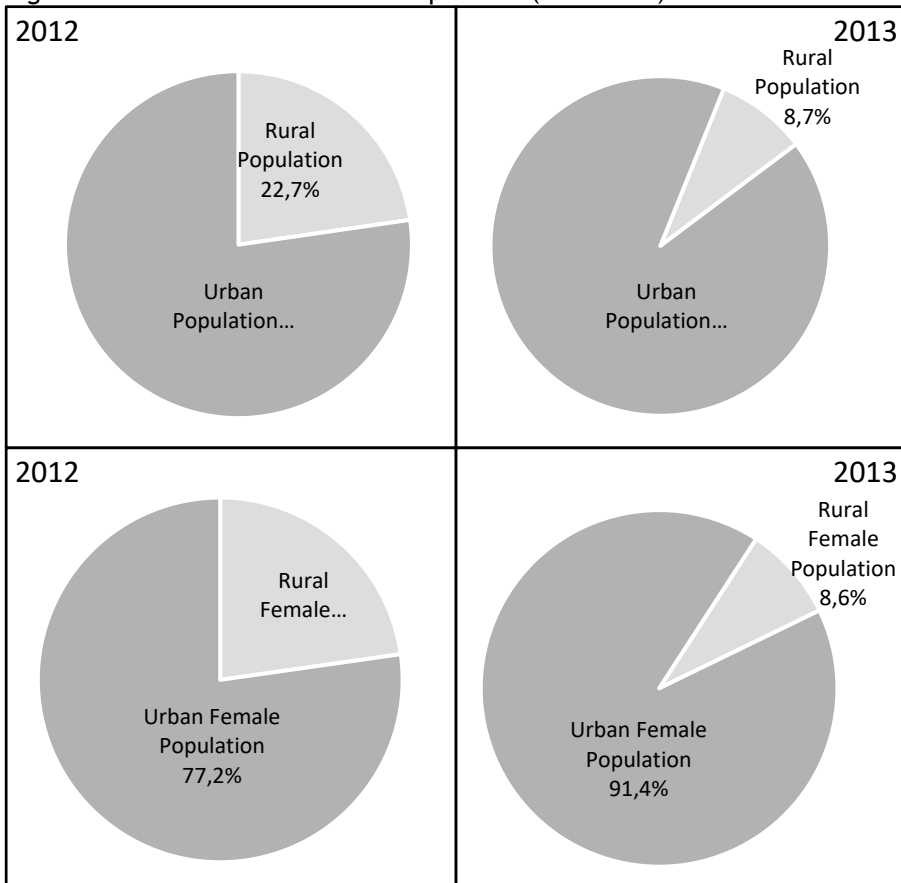
Accordingly, the legal personality of the 16.120 villages, which were converted into neighborhoods by the relevant law, has disappeared. This situation has many positive and mostly negative consequences in administrative, economic and social terms. This great change and transformation in rural areas have undoubtedly influenced the economic activities of rural areas, especially agriculture. As a matter of fact, agricultural activities that are not suitable for urban area settlements which became neighborhoods with the metropolitan law and such activities, which are the main source of livelihood of the mentioned fields, are included in the law (İrdem and Mutlu, 2018: 3). The most discussed and criticized part of the metropolitan law in this regard was the restriction of livestock activities, the impossibility of the land resources for the unintended use of agricultural land, and the development of agricultural structures (especially barns, cores) in the neighborhood boundaries. Only, with the related law, in the article 16 related forest villages, with the clause added to Article 12 of Law No. 5393;

The rights, responsibilities, and privileges granted to forest villages and forest villagers by the legislation continue for the places that turned into neighborhoods while they were forest villages. Residents of the neighborhood and other rights holders, if any, shall continue to benefit from the forage, summer pastures, winter quarters used by the village, village affiliates and municipalities, which have become a neighborhood by joining a municipality, within the framework of the provisions of Pasture Law No. 4342 dated 25/2/1998.

Exceptions are noted. However, it is also open to discussion that this privileged situation covers only forest villages. All these changes in rural areas, financial obligations on rural people, especially agriculture (such as new tax regulation), classification of municipal budgets according to new structuring, services that need to be delivered to rural areas (such as transportation, garbage collection, banks and PTT branches etc.), restricting some rural activities with the status of neighborhood is a few. Accordingly, it is undoubtedly that the relevant law will create some problems in the provinces which are not prepared for being metropolitan with the changes made only on the basis of population criterion. For example; “With the President’s Decision No. 1310 on Supporting Expert Hands in Rural Development within the Scope of Rural Development Supports” published in the Official Gazette dated July 2, 2019, social and economic mobility was targeted especially in rural areas with the commitment of university graduates to live in rural areas. While this practice can be considered as very positive, since the rural areas of the provinces covered by the metropolitan area are accepted as neighborhoods, it is not possible for young people to benefit from grants in this sense. Grants/subsidies to support all kinds of production in rural areas, especially the peasant arts / traditional crafts, have a negative impact on the rural population in general, especially the women’s population, which already has limited opportunities and income since such areas are no longer considered rural. As a result, it is obligatory to include the articles of the law in which the revisions of the relevant law and the exceptions for special settlements are specified.

When the population change in rural areas is examined together with the metropolitan law, we see very striking results. The passing and enactment of the law and the ABPRS² results for 2012 and 2013 clearly show this striking result. In Turkey, According to ABPRS results in 2012, 77.3% of the population (58,448,431 people) in a significant portion live in cities, while roughly 1/5th of the population (17,178,953 people) living in rural areas. The share of 22.7% of the rural population in the total population decreased to 8.7% with a decrease of more than 50% in the following year (Figure 6). Accordingly, the rural population decreased from 17,178,953 in 2012 to 6,633,451 in 2013. As a result, more than 90% of Turkey's population in 2013 was transferred to the urban population status.

Figure 6. Urban and Rural Woman Population (2012-2013)



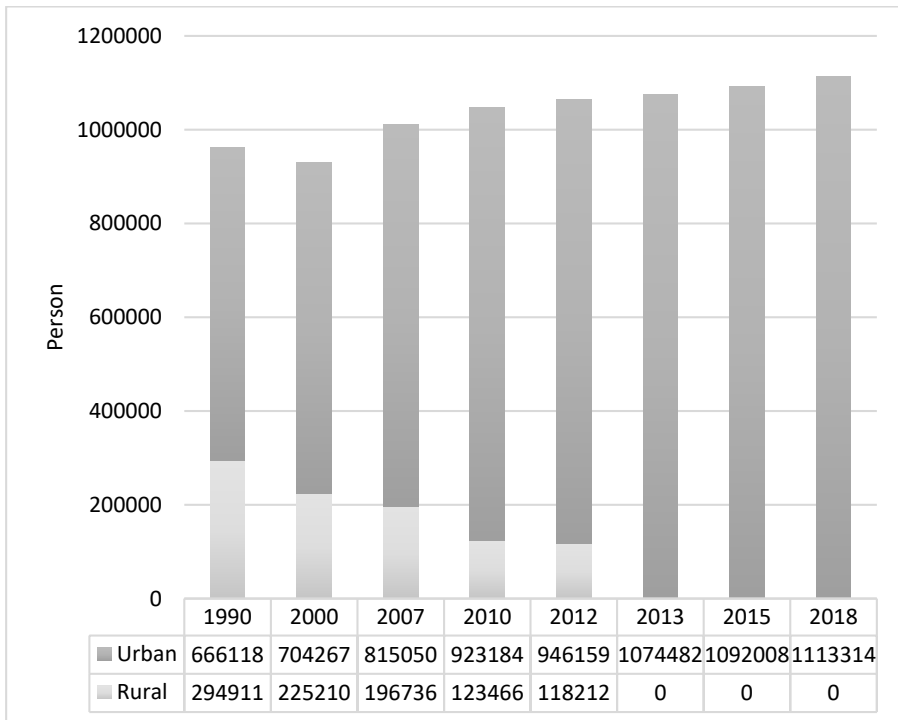
Source: TurkStat, based on 2019 data.

As can be seen in Figure 6, this remarkable proportional change in the total population is naturally reflected in the female population. In 2012, 22.8% of the

rural women's population has become only 8.6% with 3,295,886 people in 2013. Accordingly, more than 90% of the female population in Turkey lives in cities.

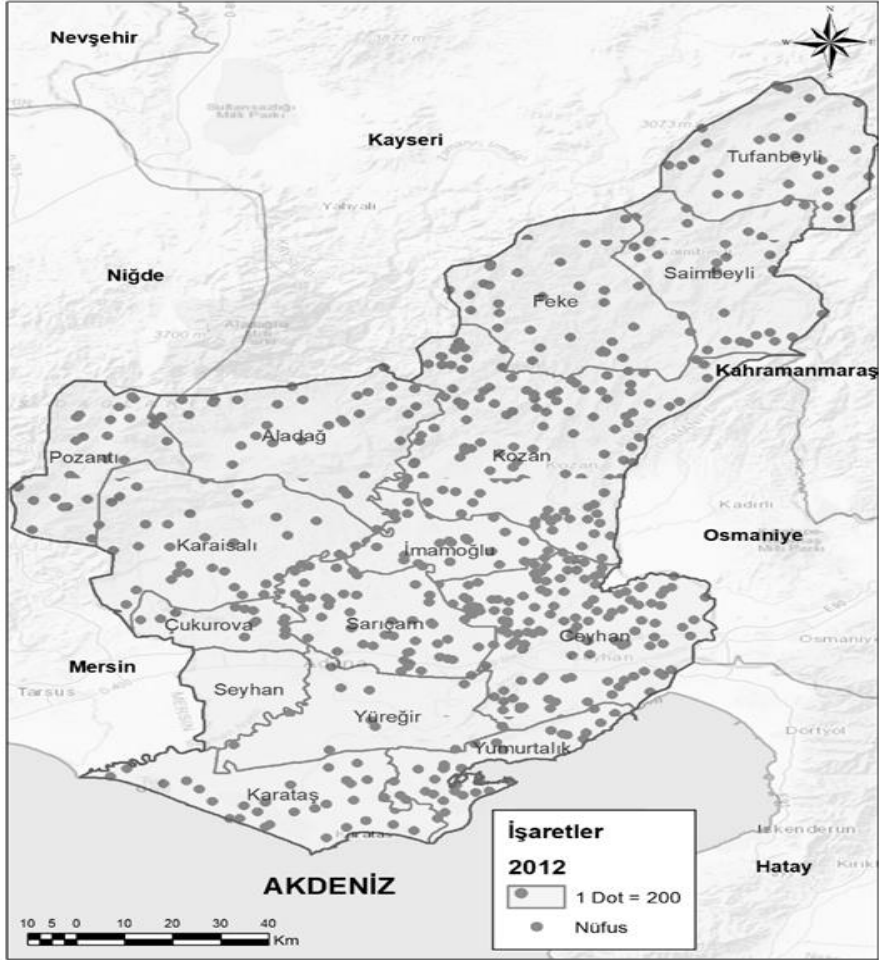
When we examine Adana, Tekirdağ, and Erzurum, respectively, among the sample cities we have chosen to put forward the issue in a more concrete way, it is noteworthy that when we first look at the situation in Adana, the female population in rural areas generally tends to decrease since 1990 (Figure 7). The rural female population in the province, which was 294,911 in 1990, was 123,466 in 2010 with a decline of more than 50%. Finally, in 2012, the female population of the rural population, which consists of 118,212 people in the province, is accepted as zero (0) since 2013 with the amendment of the law on local governments. The urban women's population, which is constantly increasing, has increased even more with this regulation. With the change in the regulation, the total female population in Adana first exceeded 1 million in 2013 and became 1,113,314 in 2018. In general, according to law no. 6360, it is understood that there is no striking result in Adana.

Figure 7. The proportion of Female Population in Urban and Rural Areas by Selected Years in Adana



Source: TurkStat, based on 2019 data.

Figure 8. Geographical Distribution of Rural Women's Population in Adana in 2012

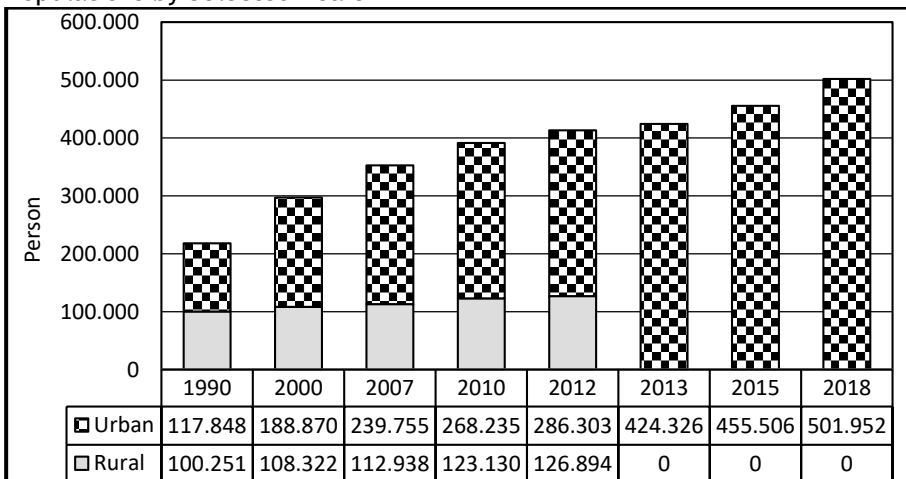


According to the official data in Adana, when we look at the distribution of the female population in rural areas, which is the last time counted in 2012, it is observed that it is concentrated in central and eastern parts in general and in Seyhan, Yüreğir and northern districts. Depending on the agricultural activities that have an important place in the province's economy, it is seen that the population of rural women has increased in Karataş, Yumurtalık, Sarıçam and İmamoğlu, especially Ceyhan (Figure 8). In the mountainous areas, the population is rare.

When we look at the situation in Tekirdağ, according to 2018 total female population values, it is seen that the female population of Tekirdağ is roughly 50% of Adana. However, it is understood that the law numbered 6360 in Tekirdağ has even more effective results. In contrast to Adana, it is

observed that the female population of rural areas in Tekirdağ has an increasing tendency, and the female population of rural women which was 100.251 in 1990 was 126.894 in 2012 (Figure 9). In 2012, twice the rural women's population is in the cities. With the legal change, a rapid increase was observed in the urban population in response to the rural population which was reset in 2013. According to the current legislation, the entire female population in the province consists of urban women and the number is constantly increasing. Of course, it is difficult to estimate how much of this is made up of rural women. As can be seen in Figure 9, roughly one out of two women lived in the city and one in the countryside while in 2012, two out of every three women living in the cities and one in the countryside. Originating from the increasing trend of both rural and urban women in 2018, it is possible to say that three out of every four women live in cities and one in rural areas. In other words, we can say that one-fourth of the total female population in Tekirdağ lives in rural areas.

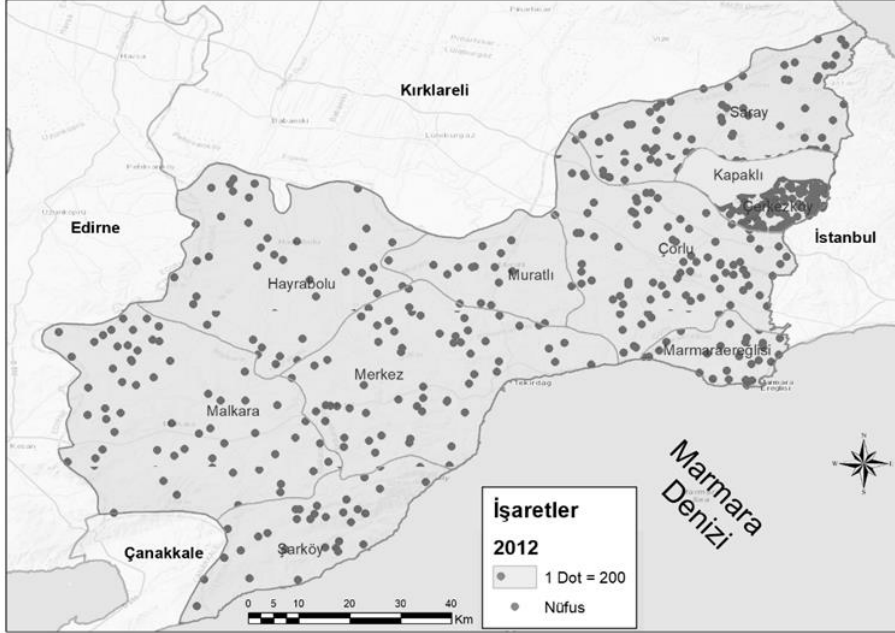
Figure 9. Female Population Proportions in Tekirdağ City and Rural Populations by Selected Years



Source: TurkStat, based on 2019 data.

According to the 2012 data in Tekirdağ, when we look at the distribution of the female population in rural areas, it is actually possible to mention a roughly homogeneous distribution throughout Tekirdağ. Similar natural conditions throughout the province have been quite decisive in the distribution of the population in this sense and created a relatively homogeneous distribution (Figure 10). Today, agricultural activities, which are still very common in Tekirdağ, and the fact that Tekirdağ is suitable for many agricultural activities, cause the development of rural activities in almost every part of the province.

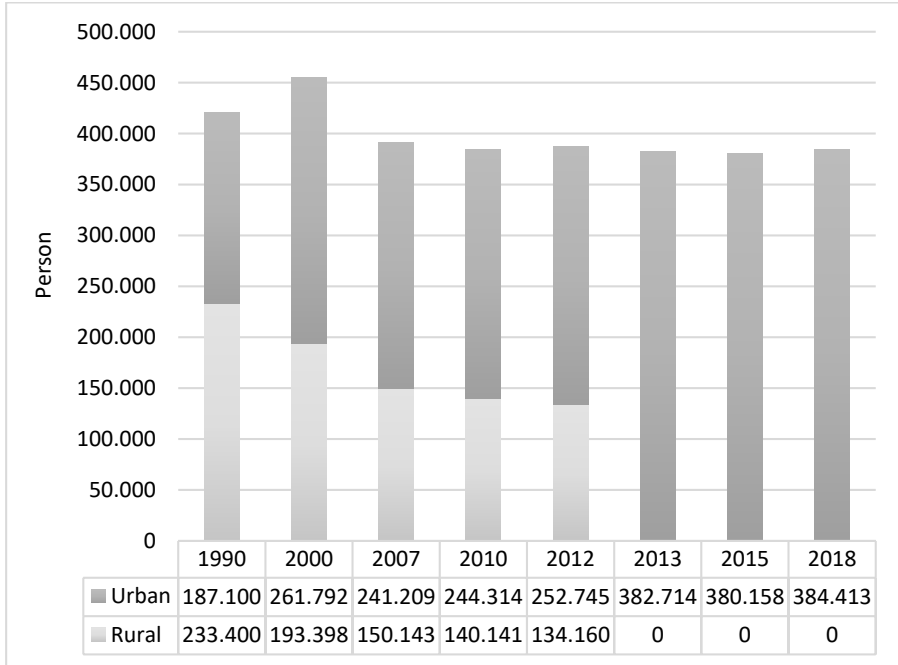
Figure 10. Geographical Distribution of Rural Women Population in Tekirdağ, 2012



Source: TurkStat, based on 2019 data.

Finally, when we look at the situation in Erzurum, where the female population is much less compared to Adana and Tekirdağ. It is seen that there is a similar development in Erzurum compared to Adana. In Erzurum, it is noteworthy that from 1990 to 2012, the female population in rural areas decreased continuously. The population of rural women in the province, which was 233,400 in 1990, declined to 150,143 in 2007 and to 134,160 in 2012 (Figure 11). According to this, from 1990 to 2012, the female population in Erzurum decreased by 42.5%. In fact, although the development in Erzurum has similar characteristics to that in Adana, the change has been much faster than in Adana. While the female population in the province was more than urban women in 1990, the female population in rural areas decreased continuously and rapidly in the following years. Today, it is estimated that 1 out of every 3 women in the province lives in rural areas. On the other hand, although all kinds of agricultural activities cannot be conducted in Erzurum in general, rural economic activities in general still have an important share in Erzurum. Therefore, it should be noted that the rural population in Erzurum in general and the female population in rural areas in particular still have important and strategic shares depending on economic conditions.

Figure 11. Total and Proportions of Female Population in Erzurum City by Selected Years



Source: TurkStat, based on 2019 data.

As of 2012, when we look at the distribution of the female population in the rural areas in Erzurum, a homogenous distribution can be mentioned here, although not as much as in Tekirdağ. If the relatively northwest districts of Erzurum are left aside, it is seen that the rural women population is concentrated in the remaining districts. The density increases in especially in Köprüköy, Hınıs, Karaçoban, and Şenkaya. On the other hand, it is seen that the rural women's population in Yakutiye, Palandöken, Pazaryolu, and Aziziye has decreased considerably.

Figure 12. Geographical Distribution of Rural Female Population in Erzurum, 2012

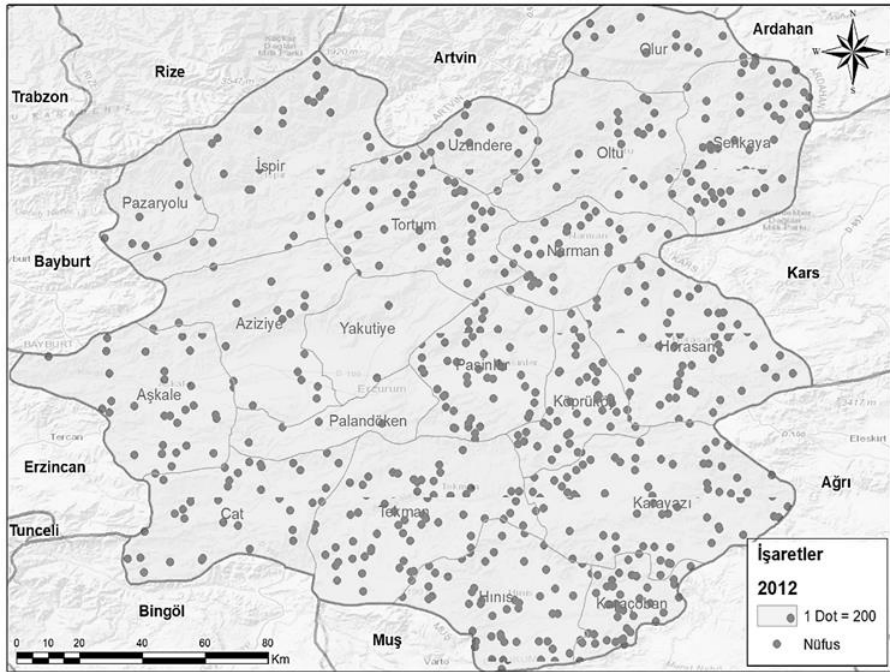


Table 3. Rural Population in Adana, Erzurum, and Tekirdağ by Selected Years

Years	Centers	Total Population	Woman	Rural Population	Woman	Proportion (%)*
2000	Adana	929.477		225.210		12.2
	Erzurum	455.190		193.398		20.6
	Tekirdağ	297.192		108.322		17.4
2010	Adana	1.046.650		123.466		5.9
	Erzurum	384.455		140.141		18.2
	Tekirdağ	391.365		123.130		15.4
2012	Adana	1.064.371		118.212		5.5
	Erzurum	386.905		134.160		17.2
	Tekirdağ	413.197		126.894		14.8
2013	Adana	1.074.482		0		0
	Erzurum	382.714		0		0
	Tekirdağ	424.326		0		0
2018	Adana	1.113.314		0		0
	Erzurum	384.413		0		0
	Tekirdağ	501.952		0		0

* Rural women population to total population ratio

When we examine some of the indicators related to the proportional value of rural women population in the mentioned provinces and the basic economic activities of rural areas in general (Figure 3), it can be seen that

in the selected years, there is a considerable proportion of rural women in the sample provinces. However, the total female population of the 3 selected provinces exhibits a different structure from each other. While the total female population is increasing in Tekirdağ, it is almost stable in Adana and decreasing in Erzurum. While the female population in rural areas has decreased remarkably in Adana and Erzurum, it has increased in Tekirdağ. In addition to this situation, the proportional share of rural women in the total population decreased in all of these centers. Finally, in 2012, the female population in the rural areas constitutes 17.2% in Erzurum, 14.8% in Tekirdağ and 5.5% in Adana (Table 3). In the following years, as per Law no. 6360, their shares were 0 (zero).

As mentioned earlier, rural agricultural activities constitute the main economic activity in the context of our sample of provincial status. As of 2018, a total of 4,855,975 Dkar, the agricultural areas of Adana ranks 11th in Turkey. With an area of 3,971,345 Dkar, Tekirdağ ranks 13th and 3,403,205 Dkar Erzurum ranks 24th in the field (TUIK, 2019). In terms of agricultural production items, as mentioned before, agriculture constitutes the main economic activity of rural areas. Accordingly, all kinds of plant and animal production in the areas considered as rural areas are of great importance in terms of the local and general economy. When we look at the production/number of selected plant and animal values in the provinces we have selected within the scope of our study, this importance is clearly understood. Looking at the wheat production of Turkey which is one of the main products, despite the close production values of Adana and Tekirdağ, Erzurum has much more limited wheat production (Table 4). As of 2018, these 3 provinces produced a total of 1,512,466 tons of wheat. It said, these values constitute a fraction of 7.5% in the same year as Turkey production, which cannot be underestimated. When we look at sunflower production due to intensive production in Tekirdağ in 2018, 3,528,281 tonnes of the production, was formed the same year, more than a quarter of Turkey's all production. Legumes widely consumed in Turkey in chickpea production point of Adana - Erzurum - Tekirdag have met a slice of 1.2% of the total, it has been mentioned for the production of grapes and pears similar rate. Selected in only three provinces in Adana in terms of the orange production is around 22 % share in this province alone Turkey orange production is quite remarkable in terms of agricultural production. In terms of animal values, Erzurum has 768,250 cattles, so these three provinces cover close to 7% of cattle need in Turkey. In terms of poultry, chicken is remarkable in Adana (7 million over the head) and selected for 3 provinces, they have the presence of 2.3 % of the chickens in Turkey. It is seen that Tekirdağ, one of the selected provinces, mainly Adana, has a considerable share in poultry production which has the largest share in poultry. Accordingly, the selected three provinces in Turkey in 2018 have 2.3 % of the chicken asset. Based on the selected examples, it can be seen that Adana - Erzurum, and Tekirdağ have significant shares especially in the production of certain agricultural products. With the "Agricultural Production Status and Potentials of

Metropolitan Cities” covering all 30 metropolitan cities, it is clear that the rates will be much larger.

Table 4. Quantity and Shares of Selected Provinces in Specific Agricultural Productions (2018)

Product	Adana	Erzurum	Tekirdağ	Total of 3 Provinces	Turkey	Shares of Provinces (%)
Wheat (Ton)	681.905	192.876	637.685	1.512.466	20.000.000	7.5
Sunflower* (Ton)	176.639	4.140	347.502	528.281	1.949.229	27.1
Chickpea (Ton)	7.626	20	327	7.973	630.000	1.2
Orange (Ton)	416.102	0	0	416.102	1.900.000	21.9
Grape (Ton)	17.803	62	45.189	63.054	3.933.000	1.6
Pear (Ton)	1.930	1.469	4.952	8.351	519.451	1.6
Cattle (Head)	265.249	768.250	149.347	1.182.846	17.154.419	6.9
Chicken (Head)	7.236.248	149.136	703.050	8.088.434	353.561.499	2.3

The Role of Women in Rural Areas

Studies have shown that the basic labor force in rural areas, especially in developing and underdeveloped countries, is based on women. However, besides the direct impact of women, the indirect effects that are not subject to statistics or official records are also undeniable. In developing countries, 80% of the agricultural enterprises are family enterprises (Grassi & fri, 2015:1). In this type of enterprise, women constitute the labor force which is labor-intensive and often does not receive paid wages. Accordingly, it should be noted that it is still in a strategic position of women on the basis of agricultural activities in many countries, including Turkey.

The workload of men and women in rural areas, especially in developing patriarchal societies, has been going on for centuries. Accordingly, while the workload of men and women varies roughly from country to country, the workload of men is mostly composed of heavier / man-handling labor, whereas shorter jobs (such as construction of village dwellings and attachments, production of farm equipment, production of agricultural equipment); women are usually lighter, but longer works (such as the maintenance and management of households and their add-ons, the maintenance of the dependent population, the maintenance of the vineyard). Of course, with the developing techniques, the workload of both men and women in rural areas has been considerably reduced. Many issues that can be increased, such as developments in agricultural tools and machinery, the establishment of drip irrigation systems, early warning systems for agricultural damages, have been important steps towards facilitating life in rural areas. For example;vegetable growing in Nepal is

based on 80% female labor force, and the time spent on irrigation has decreased by 50 % due to the infrastructure works in the country (Smart irrigation systems, drip irrigation) (Grassi et al. 2015: 23). When we categorize and elaborate the workload of men and women in accordance with all these conditions, as shown in Table 5, men can be built, livestock breeding, especially pastoral livestock work, labor and fishing in classical field works, as well as in rural/urban traffic/exchange facility most of the time man is responsible as well as financial affairs. The activities of women are mostly limited to the village and most of their time is spent between home and land works. However, as noted in most studies, the time spent by women outside fieldwork is often not considered as workload. Childcare, home care and work outside the fieldwork are already regarded as activities that women are expected to do (!) Naturally. The workload of rural women is increased especially during certain periods of the year, for example by harvesting, threshing, winter preparations, and if these are to be marketed and packed appropriately. In addition, most peasant crafts are based on women's labor. Care of children and the elderly, who make up the dependent population, is also another task expected of women. When the rural areas where the basic nutrients are provided for the survival of people and the work of women at this point are considered together, it is clear that many issues, especially food security, are interrelated with each other. Since harvesting, processing of post-harvest products, individual workloads depending on the application of hot or cold chain in product processing, the resulting product (whether processed or unprocessed) is duly packed/stacked and made ready to be placed on the market is often the result of women's labor force. It is also very important to make them conscious producers. As a matter of fact, food safety and public health will be achieved like developed countries only through conscious producers.

If we briefly explain the role of women in rural areas and their worldwide impacts worldwide, women's labor force is the basis of the rural economy especially in all developing countries (SOFA Team & Doss, 2011: 2). In broader terms, women; it is both a vital (subsistence) and a key executive in the economic sense for rural areas. Women are at a very strategic point, especially in the agricultural sector, which is still among the most important economic activities. Various studies have shown that 60-80 % of agricultural production is based on the female labor force (SOFA Team & Doss, 2011:11).

Table 5. Distribution of Male and Female Workload in Rural Activities

Male	Female
Construction of rural structures and add-ons	Maintenance and administration of houses, farms, stables and other structures
Herd management/shepherd	Supply and processing of animal products (Cheese, butter, cream, etc.)
Animal Care	Some branches of animal husbandry (Silkworm, poultry, etc.)
Plowing, soil tillage	Sowing, harvesting, threshing, and post-threshing
Fishing (especially hunting)	Collecting activities especially in forest villages (mushrooms, salep, thyme, etc.)
Agricultural marketing (Sales of agricultural products and processed agricultural products to intermediaries, or directly to markets)	Winter preparations (pickles, tomato paste, pomegranate juice, jam, canned food, noodles production)
Rural-urban communication	Care of children and other dependent populations
Partially peasant crafts (coppersmith, hammersmith, blacksmithing, saddlery, woodworking, pottery, etc.)	Peasant crafts (Weaving, knitting, potting, folkloric doll production, etc.)
Irrigation related to agricultural activities	Supply of clean water for households and basic life activities
Service sector (Transportation, guidance, rural tourism activities)	Service sector (Hospitality of rural tourism guests, manufacture and marketing of tourist goods)

Of course, not only agricultural production is meant here. Women in Africa constitute an important part of the agricultural labor force, such as 60 % to 80 %, as well as fuel and water supply is the basic labor force of them (Özgüç, 1998: 102). In addition to this high rate in developing countries, women constitute 43% of the agricultural workforce worldwide (Grassi and fri., 2015: 1). When we look at various examples to reveal the importance of women in agriculture-oriented activities; 90 % of total vegetable production in Mexico in the mid-1990s; In Colombia, the production of flowers (cut flowers, ornamental plants, etc.) has been shown to be based on 60 % to 80 % of the female labor force (SOFA Team & Doss, 2011: 24). However, it should be noted that the female labor force is very limited in some areas of rural activities. It is noteworthy that the female labor force is more limited especially in the grazing of small and large ruminants and fishery (mostly offshore fishing). For example; In China, where both hunting and aquaculture activities are highly developed, female employment in this area is around 21 % and in India, it is around 24 % (SOFA Team & Doss, 2011: 15).

Table 6. Employment Rates of Selected Countries in Agriculture by 2017³

Countries	Total Employment (%)	Woman Employment (%)
Afghanistan	42.8	65.6
Azerbaijan	36.4	42.2
Thailand	31.5	28.5
Armenia	31.3	34.8
Philippines	25.4	15.3
Zambia	23.5	23
Turkey	19.4	28.3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	18.9	20
Panama	14.5	8.8
Chile	9.3	5.3
France	2.6	1.6
South Korea	2.5	1.1
Denmark	2.2	1
Norway	2.1	0.9
Canada	1.5	1

Source: International Labor Organization, 2019.

In countries where fisheries are underdeveloped and seafood consumption is low, these rates fall below 10 %. If we look at the situation of women's employment in agriculture as of 2017, although there are estimated results for some countries, the difference between underdeveloped and developed countries, in general, can be seen clearly. When Table 6 is examined, it is understood that it does not reach even 3% of total employment and women employment in countries such as France, Denmark, and Norway. In countries such as Afghanistan, Armenia, and Zambia, it is understood that employment in the agricultural field and the women employed in this field still have an important share. The total employment in the agricultural field as Turkey, 19.4 % in 2017, while the employment of women was 28.3 %. On the other hand, because of the conditions mentioned above in rural distinction matters in Turkey, this rate is even possible to say that high. However, even if we accept the real value at a rate of 28.3 %, it should be noted that this represents a very large mass of women. From this point onwards, social security status, basic citizenship rights and personal/special needs of the women employed in the field of agriculture are brought to the agenda.

When we look at the working time in rural areas, there is again a situation against women. The reason why it is said to be unfavorable here is that women who work longer have received lower wages from income than men. If we explain this situation with examples from the world; In Kenya, the average working time of men working in the field of agriculture is 4.3 hours per day, whereas women working in the field are 6.2 hours. In the same country, men spend 3.8 hours for other non-agricultural rural activities, while women spend 6.1 hours. In Nigeria, males have 7 hours for agricultural activities and 1.5 hours for non-agricultural activities; women spend 9 hours for agriculture and 5 hours for non-agricultural activities (CTA, 2000: 11). In Turkey, where the mobility in this sense is much more variable conditions in question. Particularly within the

scope of harvest activities carried out in connection with seasonal workers, Hazelnuts in the Black Sea Region, figs, grapes, olives, cotton in Aegean Region, cotton and pepper in Adana region, the need that cannot be met by domestic labor so it is tried to be compensated by seasonal workers. At this point, depending on the agreement between the employee and the employer and the quality of the product to be harvested, some shifts may take 10 hours. Even in a busy season, women in Adana reported that they worked in the fields for 13 to 15 hours. Of course, it is important to point out that not only the female labor force but also child workers do not have a significant share.

Conclusion

As the world's female population, in Turkey's female labor force in rural areas is strategic even vital, especially in rural sustainable development strategy emerges much more clearly. Crop and animal production, which constitute the main economic activity of the rural sector, processed agricultural products and the presence of women in the peasant crafts are the main points of development. As a matter of fact, increasing the awareness level of women, who constitute the most important link of these production activities, and making them conscious individuals/citizens, is among the priority issues of most countries. Turkey has taken important steps at this point.

In Turkey, before the rehabilitation of women's presence in the countryside difficulties in determining the number of women in the population from the rural areas begins. As a matter of fact, due to the number of metropolitan cities that reached 30 within the scope of Law No. 6360 in 2012, the rural population has decreased considerably. Rural economic activities and the definition of the rural population, which still have a very important place in the province such as Konya, Adana, Tekirdağ, Erzurum, Van, Mardin, and Gaziantep, have also changed or disappeared. In accordance with the relevant law, the rural population is accepted as 0 (zero) in the cities which are metropolitan. This situation creates serious problems in rural areas in general terms (especially in terms of legal status and rights) and has created a disadvantage for the women population who cannot benefit from most of their rights or benefits of the age. At the point of research, healthy data could not be reached and especially in population studies, there were difficult situations to explain.

Describing the situation of women's presence in the countryside in Turkey, investments to be made for women (training activities, courses, such as employment areas) in order to attempt to set up a healthy infrastructure, in addition, in the projects aimed at increasing the level of welfare and awareness, it is necessary to know the existence of women and their characteristics such as age, marital status, and education level. In this respect, the provinces in accordance with relevant laws Metropolitan in Turkey is still needed to define a new place to protect the rural property. Otherwise, it will not be possible to talk about healthy and long-term development in these places. For this reason, both general and special measures should be taken for women who live in metropolitan areas and still carry out rural activities and

who owe their livelihood to it. It is possible to list the things to be done in the first place as follows;

- Providing social insurance coverage necessarily and giving pensions to women who continue their rural activities in metropolitan cities;
- Ensuring that urban agriculture activities are carried out within certain principles within the framework of sustainability and urban ecology principles and actively involving the female workforce in this;
- Supporting the female workforce more in some branches of plant production (such as cut floristry, ornamental plants cultivation, medicine - aromatic plants) and involving women in the process from soil to store in terms of processed products obtained from them;
- Trying to include the female workforce in almost every stage of the economic life with concepts such as women's market, women's bazaar in the packaging and marketing of processed agricultural products as well;
- Benefiting from the female workforce in other branches of animal husbandry, such as poultry farming, aquaculture and petshop animals, aside from cattle and ovine breeding;
- Making women more effective in all areas of rural-based crafts such as carpet and rug weaving, vegetable fiber knitting, soap making, which are called peasant crafts;
- Enabling women to participate in training activities and awareness-raising activities while incorporating women in production and marketing activities in herbal, animal and craft products;
- Ensuring support by providing some special privileges for women in metropolitan cities who cannot benefit from rural funds of the EU and the United Nations.

The aforementioned issues may vary locally according to agricultural structure and mainly production activities. For example; for forest villagers, many different alternatives need to be identified. Nevertheless, it is possible have some changes in in strategies to be determined based on regional differences in the provinces, which are our sample. To give an example to this situation, it is more important for Tekirdağ to support women in viticulture activities and production of grape products (grape molasses, wine, fruit pulp); For Adana, supports such as citrus fruits, pepper (especially capia) and products obtained by processing them (such as jam, tomato paste, dried vegetables) should be brought forward. All these measures should be carried out with the aim of moving to a much better position of women whose financial and social positions have changed administratively with the change that arose. Because only by improving the female population, it will be possible a healthy demographic development.

Notes

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² ABPRS: Address Based Population Registration System.

³ The rates in the table do not include those working in forestry and fishing areas.

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Web Resources:

ILO web page: <https://www.ilo.org/global/lang-en/index.htm>