

**PANTEION UNIVERSITY Centre for Gender Studies**

134 Sygrou Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, GR 17671 ATHENS, Tel: +30- 210 9210177-8, fax: +30- 210 9210178

<http://www.genderpanteion.gr>, e-mail: [gender@panteion.gr](mailto:gender@panteion.gr)

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

**Zizi Saliba**, *Historian, Department of Economics, University of Peloponisos, Greece.*

### **TITLE**

**The female members of foreign workers families in the region of Megalopolis, Arcadia.**

This study is focusing on the contribution of the female members of foreign workers families to the various procedures of social economic organization and adaptation in the social environment in the area of Megalopolis, Arcadia.

This area in the past was one of the poorest regions of Greece, providing with labor hands the overseas immigration. Today with the operation of The Public Power Corporation (DEI) factory and the coal mines this region has been transformed in a welcoming place of foreign workers who in their overall majority are coming with their families, not only to create a small capital and leave but to settle down.

Accordingly, while men are working for their daily bread, the female members of the families are trying to insure the daily survival of the family. The division of labor and family duties as per gender and age prevail in the survival strategies of the family. Labor families are dispersed in Megalopolis and its environs.

These families live in rented houses or in very poor lodgings "kalyvia" next to the house where they are employed to nurse bedridden aged people. The women adopt strategies very durable to the years.

This knowledge of survival comes to them historically and determines the necessary capital to cope with their needs. The composition of their income indicates the kind of social organization.

The survival strategy usually followed by the family is based on the following parameters: first, the labor of male members of the family is subject to unemployment, interpersonal relations and connections and for these reasons is not permanent, second the occupation of the female members of the family functions as a safety valve insuring the necessary for living.

Most of today's foreign workers who want to become permanent citizens of the area are Albanian ex-peasants. Their women continue to follow archaic methods and practices of self nourishment to ensure their daily bread. At the same time they recourse to all sort of informal type of work being offered.

They work at the fields, they nurse aged people, they clean houses, shops, grazing the cattle, guard summer- houses and working as gardeners and also to coffee shops and to outdoor canteenes.

The contribution of women in family's adaptation to the social environment is of major significance.

This study is based on written documents about the area, the phenomenon of immigration and interviews as well.