

ERASMUS+ Programme 2015 – KA2 Adult Education

Project nº: 2015-1-ES01-KA204-015937

Document name: O1. - Complex research according to the ethnomethodological pattern by applying professiography to the target group of housewives

Partner: KERIGMA

Author: Joana Carvalho

Employment and Women on the 21st century in Europe: From Household economy to SME economy (Small and Medium enterprises) – MUPYME Project

O1.- Complex research according to the ethnomethodological pattern by applying professiography to the target group of housewives

The five interviews took place between February and March of 2016. Each interview lasted for about 2/3hours. It was based on a structural questionnaire provided by FEUP. The interviewer use also observation methodology.

The interviewer Joana Carvalho was one who visited all women at their homes and made all interviews. Joana is a professional on area of Adult Educator, and since 2008 she works in the field of Adult Education on the recognition of informal and non – formal competencies also she trainer of trainers.

The selection of the 5 women was based on geographical criteria, on experiences in household and the economic status. All women lives near in the centre of Barcelos and all of them already worked outside home; their ages are between 36 and 60 years old; and their levels of study are: (1) primary school; (1) basic school; (1) secondary school and 2 - University. The 5 woman's are married or have been married and 4 of them have children on their care (1 of them have a children with trisomy 21).

FINDINGS

1. All women listed and explain the household tasks. The vast majority mentioned the following tasks that they perform:

- Cleaning the house;
- Maintenance of the house;
- Farming;
- Shopping;
- Ironing;
- Home work of children;
- Cleaning house;

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- Clothing treatment;
- Paying bills;
- Gardening;
- Cooking;
- Social contacts;
- Logistics and accounts;
- Planning tasks for the week;
- Maintenance of family clothes;
- Volunteer work.

2. Some the housewives have low self-esteem and self-confidence. They feel isolated and feel that they obliged to do all the tasks and the most of the time they do not have time for themselves.

3. In general they perform their activities alone, and the men's help them with tasks that require more physical effort such as: cleaning the cars, painting, woodwork and financial effort such paying the builds or solving problems with the finances.

4. They look very good managers of the expenses and the most of them producing goods for own consumption in order to contribute to the family economy.

5. The most of the activities / tasks have been passed through the knowledge of their mothers, and through their life experience.

6. One of them lives alone with the daughter and her daughter is a handicap - trisomy 21, requiring daily monitoring. She recognizes that it needed to do training, updating content and have more time to devote to herself.

7. All of them are interested to participate in training to improve their skills and knowledge. The training could be related on they work field or another field that allowed the professional retraining.

9. The most of them believe that are very good in: solving problem; creativity; communication skills; leadership skills; time management and concentration skills.

10. Concerning possible improvements in the household, all of them say that new technology improve their work performance (they mentioned the cook robots or the electronically tools

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such the iron or the wash o dry machine), but the most of the tasks are made by the manual way, especially when they work on the land.

13. Concerning job conditions, all of them have very good conditions they refer that for the some tasks they need a very high level of concentration and physical ability.

14. All of them had experiences in the past that help them in the implementation it's works as domestics.

15. They support that every day they take many decisions related to the tasks they have and in relation mainly with other members of the family especially decisions that involves take care of children.

16. All of them work a lot on the financial issues (pay bills; do purchases; they keep income and expenses)

17. All of them consider that their work at home could be compared at a small company. They need to be able to deal with: financial area, time management, social commitment, protection of healthy household, personal development, health economy, self-discipline, family development, planning.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Special training for women to increase their self-confidence; self-esteem; motivation and personal development;
2. Training courses should be structured to promote the personal and professional development;
3. The training should have a very strong practical component and involve experts on the different fields to share the best practices;
4. Training should not be too long in time and should have a great connection with the everyday practice;
5. It should be accessible to all and not only to housewives.