ABSTRACT

TRANSITION AND PRIVATISATION IN SERBIA – IMPACT ON LABOUR MARKET

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In this paper, I explore the impact of privatisation and structural adjustment on gender inequalities in Serbia. Primarily, I explain directed non-development and refusal of transition in Serbia during 1990 and absence of labour market. Secondly, I research relative economic poverty of women in Serbia during the transition process and reform of labour market. Finally, I conclude that challenges of transformation at the labour market in Serbia lead to some expected gender consequences. All the data from other post-socialist countries, as well as my analysis of the situation in Serbia, show a paradox of democracy. Transition sharpens economic inequalities between women and men, as well as among women, especially regarding job opportunities.

In the transformation process in Serbia full employment will not be guaranteed any more. It could be expected that transition in Serbia would lead to the increase of unemployment resulting from decreasing of labour demand on the one hand and increasing of its supply on the other hand. Under the circumstances of generally high unemployment rates, structural changes in employment could also be expected. These changes will probably lead to greater availability of temporary, seasonal and low-paid jobs. Women are likely to be pushed out even from such employment opportunities by unemployed men. Some positive effects of all these changes may be expected, but they will not benefit everybody. Besides, all these changes have their time lags. In a short time period, the unemployment will remain high and the salaries of workers low. Highly educated and skilled women may still get new job opportunities in the newly expanding sectors. However, we can hope only for a few female winners among many female losers amidst expected economic changes.

In this paper, I use theoretical perspective Gender and Development (GAD) and combine it with neo-institutional theory. Beside analysis of relationship between Women and Development, and confirmation of subordinated position of Women in Development, in Gender and Development I recognise the significance of male contribution in this process. I consider men's role in development from their role as obstacles to female development and gender oppression to their strategic gender partnership.

KEY WORDS: transition, labour market, gender inequalities, gender and development