

The Issue of Women Poverty in Turkey in the Context of Capability Approach

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Abstract

The main purpose of this study is to present a detailed picture of women's poverty in Turkey in the context of capability approach. Poverty is not considered only as lack of income. Lack of income may be considered as one of the reasons for poverty but it is not sufficient in itself to examine poverty thoroughly. Therefore, this study deals with the question of "what women are able to do" and "what women are able to be" rather than women's level of income. Thus, poverty is defined as capability deprivation in this study. From this perspective, poverty is being deprived of capabilities such as being healthy, participation in social life, participating in political decision-making processes, receiving education, using and producing information, working in a paid job, travelling from one place to another, and participating in recreational activities.

The target population of this study that is carried out in Turkey is women aged 18 and over. As a result of the survey study administered to 741 women from 7 cities (Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Van, Adana, Sanliurfa) that represent 7 geographical regions of Turkey, it is seen that regional differences diversify women's level of deprivation of capacities stated above. Therefore, it can be claimed that taking regional differences into consideration, rather than making generalizations, when women's level of deprivation in Turkey is handled from the perspective of capability approach would provide a more beneficial stance to understand the issue and produce a solution.

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Introduction

In this study, poverty is taken as not being able to realize one's capacities; in other words, from the perspective of "capability deprivation" defined by Amartya Sen. It has to be stated that Sen's capability approach provides a basis for the UNPD's human poverty definition. Therefore, there is a connection between the concepts of human poverty and capability deprivation and how these concepts are encountered in our daily lives. In other words, the concepts of human development and human poverty basically are based on Amartya Sen's "Capability Approach" (Sam, 2008).

In this context, first the concepts of capability, poverty, and deprivation are addressed from Amartya Sen's perspective in this study. In the following section, method used, data, and findings of the field study that dealt with the issue of women's poverty in Turkey from the perspective of capability deprivation are addressed. Evaluation of the findings is presented in the last section.

The Concepts of Capability, Poverty and Deprivation in the Context of Amartya Sen's Perspective

Capability is the ability/capability of doing something (Cambridge Dictionaries Online). According to Amartya Sen, capability is "the ability to achieve valued functionings" (Sen, 1992).

Capability approach defines human development as the expansion process of a person's "functionings and capability". While functionings include various things a person may value enough to "do" or to "be", capability involves functioning compounds a person can possibly realize. In this case, capability can be defined as a basic freedom required for someone to achieve things that s/he values enough, as possible alternatives to each other, to do and to be (Sen, 2004). After all, capability approach presents a multi-dimensional point of view for human welfare. The approach focuses on what people "can do" and "can be" effectively instead of dealing with their income and expenses (Nussbaum, 2005; Robeyns, 2005). In other words, it is emphasized in the capability approach that it is more important to achieve all or a certain level of essential human functionings than to have a certain level of wealth (Ackerman, 1997).

In this context, poverty is defined as "lack of capability"; in other words, as "lack of feasibility". Feasibility can be stated as being physically healthy and pursuing a life of normal length, physical integrity and being safe, taking part in social life, giving and receiving social support, participating in political decision-making mechanisms and having an equal voice in decisions, having the right to education, using and producing knowledge, working at a paid job, benefiting from nursing facilities, living in a secure and pleasing environment, traveling from one place to another, joining in entertainment and recreation activities, being respected, and etc. (Robeyns, 2003).

In order to support his approach regarding poverty, Sen presents following arguments:

- 1) Capabilities emphasize deprivations that are, by nature, significant instead of emphasizing income that is only instrumentally important;
- 2) There are a few factors that explain capability deprivation; low level of income is just one of the many determinants;
- 3) The relation between low level of income and low capability depends on the difference between societies, families, and individuals (Mowafi, 2014).

Therefore, capability approach does not consider poverty as inadequacy of income depending on the standard poverty criterion but it does not mean to ignore the relation between low level of income and capability deprivation. Inadequacy of income may

present itself as the main reason of a person's capability deprivation from time to time. However, income is not the only instrument that reveals capability. Therefore, capability deprivation approach focuses on deprivations, not on low level of income that is only instrumentally meaningful. Because the instrumental relation between low level of income and low capability may vary among different societies, even between different families and different individuals (Sen, 2004). A person's age, social gender and social roles, where s/he lives, and the like may affect the relation between capability and income (Sen, 1999). Therefore, the capability approach directs attention from instruments to goals people wish to achieve and to freedoms required to achieve those goals (Sen, 1999, 2004).

However, in analyses of poverty based on gender difference, accepting income as the basic determinant of poverty, especially for women, is insufficient to consider the most meaningful dimensions of poverty; that is, being deprived of resources, opportunities, and freedoms (Chant, 2009). In other words, statistics on women's low level of income is insufficient to tell the complete story of women's poverty (Townson, 2000) and to analyze poverty in the context of being deprived of capabilities. Thus, it creates deficiencies to fully set forth different patterns and areas of women poverty.

At this point, it has to be stated that it is possible only with capability approach to include the relation between social gender inequality and poverty into the analysis (Sen, 1992).

According to Sen, there is a direct connection between capability and freedom. That is, the increase in capability increases freedoms and increase in freedoms increases capability. Freedoms, basically, are important to the degree that they increase instruments (Sen, 1999).

Sen mentions 5 basic instrumental freedoms that are important to increase an individual's capabilities/abilities. These are, in order, economic opportunities, political freedoms, social opportunities, transparency assurance, and protective security. If we are to explain these concepts (Sen, 1999);

Economic opportunities refer to individual's use of economic resources and his/her capability of getting into the market to receive income intended for consumption, production, or change.

Political freedoms refer to opportunities, in a broad sense, such as (including freedoms like civil rights) people deciding who would govern them and on what terms, monitoring and criticizing authorities, having the freedom to express their political ideas, having a free press, and having the freedom to choose among different political parties.

Social opportunities refer to regulations that society makes for education, health services, and the like. These affect a basic freedom that is the freedom of living better. These opportunities affect not only individual's private life but also his/her social life due to decreasing level of illnesses and death rates. At the same time, it affects individual's capability of joining effectively in other areas that include society's economic and political activities by increasing individual's literacy and awareness levels.

Transparency assurance makes a reference to the confidence level in the society. It is individual's interacting with institutions and the state to establish a complete system where all individuals can join and invest their capital (human and material) to realize development with assurance that activities are carried out honestly and transparently.

At last, protective security acknowledges that there might be more vulnerable groups during economic distress even in democratic systems. The freedom of protective security provides a social protection net that improves the condition of the most vulnerable and that prevents them from a humiliating poverty.

Women Poverty

It is an undeniable fact that women are among the poorest people in our day. This can be seen more clearly when the unequal distribution of sources, opportunities, and power; capability of women to control their own lives; and opportunities that women have are examined. Data showing this condition in daily life can be examined from different standpoints: education, reproduction, sexual health, access to basic rights, employment, political contribution, violence against women, and such (Bhat, 2002; Vicente, 2005).

Actually, women's poverty is a multidimensional matter. Women experience poverty in different forms, at different times, and in different places. Structural inequalities between societies differentiate how poverty is experienced on the personal level between women and men and among women and makes the feminization of poverty relative (Bradshaw & Linneker, 2003).

In this context, poverty, as stated above, is generally being deprived of sources, opportunities, and/or freedoms entitled as dimensions of poverty. The concept of women's poverty refers to the change based on gender bias when it comes to having sources, opportunities, and freedoms (Medeiros & Costa, 2008). In other words, women's poverty refers to a relative perspective based on the comparison between women and men. The key point here is always the difference between women and men. As perspective is based on "relativity", women's poverty basically depends on two unacceptable phenomenon: "poverty" and "gender differences" (Medeiros & Costa, 2008).

In this study, the issue of women's poverty in Turkey is addressed in the context of Amartya Sen's capability deprivation. As stated above, the relation between the social gender inequality and poverty can be analyzed with capability approach. It will be possible to do the most meaningful evaluation when, in the context of social gender, women and men roles, women and men's places in social life, and their state of deprivation are analyzed with capability approach. In this study, it is focused on what women in Turkey can do and be without ignoring their level of income and expenses.

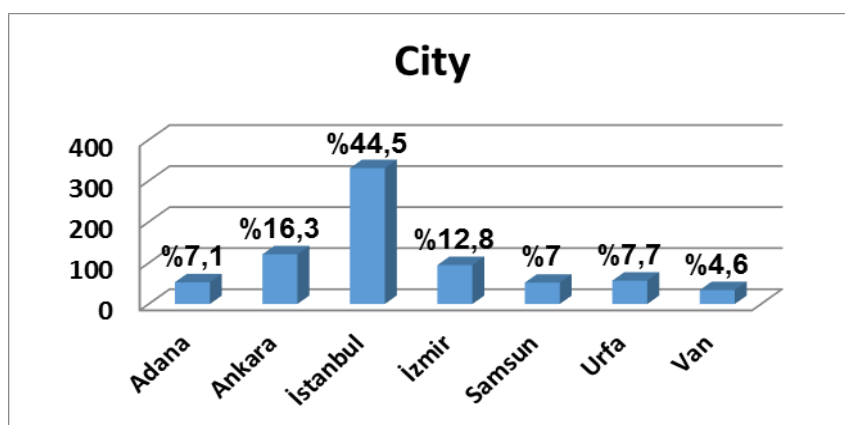
Data and Methodology

In this study, a quantitative and descriptive research design was created. Therefore, secondary written and visual data on women's poverty, capability approach, and freedom were collected and analyzed at first. Then, a survey was administered in order to obtain primary data. Data was collected by conducting face-to-face survey between September 2014 and April 2015 from 7 cities (Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Adana, Sanliurfa, Samsun, and Van).

The main population of this study conducted within the scale of Turkey is comprised of women aged 18 and over.

When selected, participants for the survey are distributed according to regions and cities. Therefore, cities from 7 different geographical regions of Turkey that are accepted as representatives of the region and that have the highest population are selected as the field of application by using judgmental sampling method in order to provide diversity. These cities are Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Adana, Sanliurfa, Samsun, and Van. When it is determined that women aged 18 and over are over 10 million according to the population register system, minimum sampling size to represent the main population for the survey study is 384 (Payne & McMorris, 1967). However, sampling size is calculated as 682 for this study that is conducted in the scale of Turkey as it is accepted that 384 surveys are not sufficient to represent the main population. Although, 741 valid surveys are obtained at the end of the field work.

The distribution of participants according to the cities, by taking the abovementioned criteria into consideration, is shown in the table below.



Graph 1: Distribution of the sample according to cities

44,5% of the participants are from Istanbul, 16,3% from Ankara, 12,8% from Izmir, 7,7% from Urfa, 7,1% from Adana, 7% from Samsun, and 4,6% from Van.

In this study that aims to reveal a detailed picture of poverty and freedom states of women in Turkey within the context of capability approach, women's poverty and freedom states are measured according to Amartya Sen's capability approach within the context of five basic instrumental freedoms a person needs to have to increase his/her capability or abilities.

Instrumental freedoms are classified as:

- Economic opportunities,
- Political freedoms,
- Social opportunities,
- Protective security opportunities, and
- Transparency assurance.

Data regarding this classification and data regarding the state where women are exposed to social gender discrimination during this process are gathered by using the survey method. In this context, 5-point Likert type scale, which is designed with questions prepared within the axis of these five main categories and in line with the literature, is used in order to measure poverty as capability deprivation. The scale is defined as 1. Strongly agree, 2. Agree, 3. Neither agree or disagree, 4. Disagree, and 5. Strongly disagree.

All of the surveys obtained at the end of the field study are coded after the first control and data are transferred to Microsoft Excel and then to SPSS packet program. In the survey study, evaluation is done on the basis of answers given to each question by first having the percentages of answers to each question and then their graphic representation. In addition, in line with the purposes of the study, sub-factors of instrumental freedoms are formed by grouping the scale definitions according to the literature. t-test and One-Way Anova are used to determine whether these factors differentiate according to the demographic characteristics of the participants.

Findings

Demographic features of participants are below:

Table 1: Demographic Features of Participants

	Variable	Frequency	Percent		Variable	Frequency	Percent
Age	18-28	194	26,2	Profession	Housewife	225	30,4
	29-39	213	28,7		Worker	52	7,0
	40-50	195	26,3		Civil servant	35	4,7
	51-61	104	14,0		Engineer	18	2,4
	62 and up	35	4,7		Teacher	93	12,6
	Total	741	100,0		Self-employment	34	4,6
Marital Status	Married	439	59,2	Have Regular Income	Other ¹	282	38,2
	Single	237	32,0		Total	739	100,0
	Other ²	65	8,8		Yes	363	49,5
	Total	741	100,0		No	370	50,5
Social Security	Social Security Foundation	640	82,2	Type of Employment	Total	733	100,0
	Individual Retirement	28	3,6		Full Time	268	63,1
	Health Insurance	30	3,9		Part Time	69	16,2
	No Social Security	56	7,2		Seasonal	13	3,1
	Other ³	25	3,2		Daily	19	4,5
	Total	779	100,0		Retired	41	9,6
Level of Education	Illiterate	48	6,5	Personal Income	Other	15	3,5
	Primary School	150	20,2		Total	425	100,0
	High School	160	21,6		0-500 TL	242	33,7
	College	59	8,0		501-1000 TL	121	16,8
	Undergraduate	263	35,5		1001-1500 TL	97	13,5
	Graduate	40	5,4		1501-2500 TL	131	18,2
	Other ⁴	21	2,8		2501-3000 TL	65	9,0
	Total	741	100,0		3001 TL and higher	63	8,8
Personal	0-500 TL	491	66,8	Total	719	100,0	

¹ retired, student, doctor, bank employer, accountant, nurse, lawyer, secretary, etc.

² divorced, widow, living apart from her spouse, living with a man without marriage.

³ Green card and other social security groups

⁴ Literate, doctorate

Expenditure	501-1000 TL	128	17,4	Source of Personal Income ⁵	Job	387	53,4
	1001-1500 TL	55	7,5		Investments	17	2,3
	1501-2500 TL	36	4,9		Social Support Funds	11	1,5
	2501 TL and higher	25	3,4		Other	310	42,8
	Total	735	100,0		Total	725	100,0

Participants' Perceptions Regarding Instrumental Freedoms

Table 2: Results of the Test (Independent Sample t-Test) Measuring Difference in Participants' Perception Regarding Instrumental Freedoms Depending Whether They Have a Regular Job

Political Freedoms	Yes	363	,9265	-6,159	,000
	No	370	1,0687		
Economic Opportunities	Yes	363	,8849	-8,867	,000
	No	370	1,1049		
Protective Security	Yes	363	,9806	-1,586	,113
	No	370	1,0115		
Transparency Assurance	Yes	363	1,0191	2,247	,025
	No	370	,9834		
Social Opportunities	Yes	363	,9910	-,834	,404
	No	370	1,0124		

In Table 2, it is examined if participants evaluate instrumental freedoms differently depending whether they work at a regular job or not. Accordingly, there are statistically meaningful differences between women who work and women who do not regarding their perceptions on Political Freedoms ($t=-6159$; $p=0,000$), Economic Opportunities ($t=-8,867$; $p=0,000$), and Transparency Assurance ($t=2,247$; $p=0,025$). Thus, women who work have the perception that they have more political freedoms and economic opportunities than women who do not while women who do not work have the perception that they have more transparency assurance than women who do.

⁵ retirement, pocket money, financial support from her family, scholarship

Table 3: ANOVA Test Results on the Differences in Perception Regarding Political Freedoms According to Participants' Demographic Characteristics

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	F	Sig.
Age	18-28	194	1,0175	7,211	0,000
	29-39	213	0,9679		
	40-50	195	0,9902		
	51-61	104	0,9591		
	62 and over	35	1,2633		
Marital Status	Married	439	1,0228	6,851	0,001
	Single	237	0,9383		
	Other	65	1,0647		
Level of Education	Illiterate	48	1,5574	45,847	0,000
	Primary	99	1,1422		
	Secondary	51	1,0628		
	High School	160	0,948		
	College	59	0,8716		
	University (Undergrad)	263	0,8843		
	Graduate School	40	0,9254		
	Other	21	1,2333		
Personal Income	0-500 TL	242	1,1666	25,034	0,000
	501-1000 TL	121	0,9992		
	1001-1500 TL	97	0,9078		
	1501-2500 TL	131	0,8982		
	2501-3000 TL	65	0,8754		
	3001 TL or more	63	0,8578		
Household Income	0-1000 TL	119	1,205	25,897	0,000
	1001-2000 TL	181	1,1013		
	2001-3000 TL	166	0,9504		
	3001-4000 TL	83	0,893		
	4001-5000 TL	83	0,8787		
	5001 TL or more	96	0,8515		

The results of the ANOVA test on whether the participants evaluate political freedoms differently depending on their age, marital status, level of education, personal income, and household income are given in Table 3. Accordingly, there are statistically meaningful differences ($p > 0,05$) in all the aforementioned variables among women regarding their access to political freedoms. According to the results of the Post Hoc (Tukey) test that was conducted to determine between which age groups differences exist, it is seen that women who are 62 and older have the perception that they have less political freedoms than women in other age groups. It is seen in the results of the Post Hoc (Tukey) test conducted on the women's marital status that women who are single have the perception that they have more political freedoms

than women who are married and women who are in the other group. According to the results of the Post Hoc (Tukey) test conducted on the level of education variable, it is determined that women who are illiterate than women in other groups, women who graduated from primary and secondary schools than women who graduated from college, university and graduate schools, women who graduated from high school than women who graduated from university have the perception that they have less political rights. In terms of personal income, it is determined that women who have 500 TL or less personal income than women in other groups, women who have 501-1000 TL personal income than women who have 3000 TL and more personal income have the perception that they have less political rights. When it comes to the Post Hoc (Tukey) test on household income, it is determined that women who have less than 1000 TL household income than women in other income groups and women who have 1001 TL- 2000 TL household income than women who have more have the perception that they have less political rights.

Table 4: ANOVA Test Results on the Differences in Perception Regarding Economic Opportunities According to Participants' Demographic Characteristics

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	F	Sig.
Age	18-28	194	1,0014	4,337	0,002
	29-39	213	0,9633		
	40-50	195	0,995		
	51-61	104	0,9806		
	62 and over	35	1,2273		
Marital Status	Married	439	1,0285	7,454	0,001
	Single	237	0,9243		
	Other	65	1,0439		
Level of Education	Illiterate	48	1,601	56,352	0,000
	Primary	99	1,2148		
	Secondary	51	1,0938		
	High School	160	0,9682		
	College	59	0,8722		
	University	263	0,8366		
	Graduate School	40	0,8438		
	Other	21	1,2074		
Personal Income	0-500 TL	242	1,2178	43,66	0,000
	501-1000 TL	121	1,0268		
	1001-1500 TL	97	0,8609		
	1501-2500 TL	131	0,8615		
	2501-3000 TL	65	0,8396		
	3001TL or more	63	0,76		
Household Income	0-1000 TL	119	1,2477	41,679	0,000
	1001-2000 TL	181	1,1458		
	2001-3000 TL	166	0,939		
	3001-4000 TL	83	0,8676		
	4001-5000 TL	83	0,8201		
	5001TL or more	96	0,7807		

The results of the ANOVA test on whether the participants evaluate their access to economic opportunities differently depending on their age, marital status, level of education, personal income, and household income are given in Table 4. Accordingly, there are statistically meaningful differences ($p > 0,05$) in all the aforementioned variables among women regarding their access to economic opportunities. According to the results of the Post Hoc (Tukey) test that was conducted to determine between which age groups differences exist, it is seen that women how are 62 and older have the perception that they have less economic opportunities than women in other groups. It is determined in the results of the Post Hoc (Tukey) test conducted on participants' marital status that women who are single have the perception that they have more economic opportunities than women who are married and women in the

other group. It is seen in the Post Hoc (Tukey) test results conducted on the level of education variable that women who are illiterate than women in other education level groups; women who graduated from primary and secondary schools than women who graduated from high school, college, university, and graduate school; women who graduated from high school than women who graduated from university have the perception that they have less economic opportunities. However, women who graduated from high school have the perception that they have more economic opportunities than women who are in the other group.

When it comes to personal income, it is determined that women who have 500 TL or below personal income and women who have 501-1000 TL personal income have the perception that they have less economic opportunities than women in other income groups. It is seen in the Post Hoc (t-Tukey) test results on household income that women who have less than 1000 TL or 1001-2000 TL household income have the perception that they have less economic opportunities than women who have 2001 TL or more household income. Moreover, it is determined that women who have 2001-3000 TL household income have the perception that they have less economic opportunities than women who have 5000 TL or more household income.

Table 5: ANOVA Test Results on the Differences in Perception Regarding Protective Security Services According to Participants' Demographic Characteristics

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	F	Sig.
Age	18-28	194	0,9834	1,794	0,128
	29-39	213	0,9866		
	40-50	195	0,9866		
	51-61	104	1,0551		
	62 and over	35	1,0409		
Marital Status	Married	439	1,0131	2,126	0,120
	Single	237	0,9693		
	Other	65	1,0001		
Level of Education	Illiterate	48	1,0107	1,17	0,318
	Primary	99	1,0572		
	Secondary	51	0,9957		
	High School	160	1,0107		
	College	59	0,9801		
	University	263	0,976		
	Graduate School	40	0,9744		
	Other	21	0,9665		
Personal Income	0-500 TL	242	1,0254	3,092	0,009
	501-1000 TL	121	1,0541		
	1001-1500 TL	97	0,9795		
	1501-2500 TL	131	0,9577		
	2501-3000 TL	65	0,9372		
	3001 TL or more	63	1,0203		
Household Income	0-1000 TL	119	1,0365	1,571	0,166
	1001-2000 TL	181	1,0123		
	2001-3000 TL	166	0,975		
	3001-4000 TL	83	1,0312		
	4001-5000 TL	83	0,9691		
	5001 TL or more	96	0,9693		

The results of the ANOVA test on whether the participants evaluate benefiting from protective security services provided by the state differently depending on their age, marital status, level of education, personal income, and household income are given in Table 5. According to the results obtained, there are no statistically meaningful differences ($p < 0,05$) in any of the aforementioned variables except personal income variable among women regarding benefiting from the protective security services provided by the state. According to the Post Hoc (Tukey) test results conducted to determine among which groups there are differences in terms of personal income, it is determined that women who have 501-1000 TL personal income per month have the perception that they benefit less from the protective security services than women who have 1501-2500 TL and who have 2501-3000 TL personal income.

Table 6: ANOVA Test Results on the Differences in Perception Regarding Transparency Assurance According to Participants' Demographic Characteristics

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	F	Sig.
Age	18-28	194	0,9747	2,066	0,084
	29-39	213	1,0008		
	40-50	195	1,0144		
	51-61	104	0,9941		
	62 and over	35	1,0782		
Marital Status	Married	439	0,9955	1,125	0,325
	Single	237	0,9986		
	Other	65	1,0383		
Level of Education	Illiterate	48	1,038	1,123	0,347
	Primary	99	0,9653		
	Secondary	51	0,9738		
	High School	160	1,0021		
	College	59	1,028		
	University	263	0,9959		
	Graduate School	40	1,0453		
	Other	21	1,0198		
Personal Income	0-500 TL	242	0,9848	1,394	0,224
	501-1000 TL	121	1,0072		
	1001-1500 TL	97	1,026		
	1501-2500 TL	131	1,0346		
	2501-3000 TL	65	0,9862		
	3001 or more	63	0,9805		
Household Income	0-1000 TL	119	1,0016	0,18	0,970
	1001-2000 TL	181	1,0088		
	2001-3000 TL	166	0,9947		
	3001-4000 TL	83	1,0001		
	4001-5000 TL	83	0,9875		
	5001 or more	96	1,0107		

The results of the ANOVA test on whether the participants' perceptions on transparency assurance differ depending on their age, marital status, level of education, personal income, and household income are given in Table 6. According to the results obtained, women do not evaluate transparency assurance differently according to their age, marital status, level of education, personal income, and household income.

Table 7: ANOVA Test Results on the Differences in Perception Regarding Social Opportunities According to Participants' Demographic Characteristics

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	F	Sig.
Age	18-28	194	1,023	1,211	0,305
	29-39	213	1,0006		
	40-50	195	0,9862		
	51-61	104	0,9556		
	62 and over	35	1,0833		
Marital Status	Married	439	0,9826	2,07	0,127
	Single	237	1,0137		
	Other	65	1,0706		
Level of Education	Illiterate	48	1,1637	3,139	0,003
	Primary	99	1,0258		
	Secondary	51	1,0782		
	High School	160	1,0054		
	College	59	0,9952		
	University	263	0,9421		
	Graduate School	40	1,0302		
Personal Income	0-500 TL	242	1,054	4,217	0,001
	501-1000 TL	121	1,0562		
	1001-1500 TL	97	0,9944		
	1501-2500 TL	131	0,9772		
	2501-3000 TL	65	0,9034		
	3001 or more	63	0,8903		
Household Income	0-1000 TL	119	1,0974	5,307	0,000
	1001-2000 TL	181	1,0645		
	2001-3000 TL	166	0,9777		
	3001-4000 TL	83	0,9505		
	4001-5000 TL	83	0,9302		
	5001 or more	96	0,9218		

The results of the ANOVA test on whether participants' perceptions on benefiting from social opportunities differ depending on their age, marital status, level of education, personal income, and household income are given in Table 7. According to the results obtained, women do not evaluate social opportunities differently in terms of their age and marital status; however, there is a statistically meaningful difference ($p < 0,005$) in terms of their personal income and household income. According to the results of the Post Hoc (Tukey) test that was conducted to determine between which education levels differences exist, it is seen that women who are illiterate have the perception that they have less social opportunities than women who graduated from university. It is determined that women who have 0-500 TL and who have 501-1000 TL personal income have the perception that they have less social opportunities than women who have 2501-3000 TL and who have more than 3000 TL personal income. Moreover, women who have 0-1000 TL household income together with women who

have 1001-2000 TL household income have the perception that they have less social opportunities than women who have 2001 TL and more household income.

Discussion and Results

When an evaluation is done on having five basic instrumental freedoms based on whether participants work or not, it is seen that women who work have a perception that they have more political freedom and economic opportunities than those who do not. Thus, it is possible to say that women who work have the perception that they can become a member of and a candidate from a political party, have the right to decide which political party they would vote for, go out alone whenever they want, live alone separated from family, apply to authorities on their own to protect their rights, decide solely on their own whom to marry, travel alone without facing any difficulties, express their thoughts freely in every situation, have property and an equal share from the inheritance. In addition, they have the perception that they are free to work at a paid job, have the freedom to decide which job they will have, can start a business on their own, will have no difficulty in finding a job because of their gender, would have equal income with men, and have the right to save money as they wish from the income they earn.

When it comes to transparency assurance, it is seen that perception of women who do not work is more positive than of women who do. In this context, it is possible to say women who do not work has a perception that they have a transparent state which answers her citizens regarding any issue, that they can easily access any decision which the state makes concerning women, that the state sufficiently monitors the activities of institutions and organizations which affect the society, that employment processes in the public sector and private sector are carried out honestly and transparently.

When political freedoms are evaluated, it is seen that women at the age of 62 and older than women in other age groups; women graduated from elementary and primary school than those graduated from high school, college, university, and graduate school; women graduated from high school than those graduated from university; women who have a personal income of 500 TL or below per month than those in other income groups; women who have an income of 501-1000 TL than those who have an income of 3000 TL and above; women who have less than 1000 TL household income than those in other income groups and women who have 1001-2000 TL household income than those who have more household income have the perception that they have less political freedom. It is concluded that the less education women receive and the less they have household and personal income, the less political freedom they have. For that, it is possible to say that women in this category have the perception that they cannot become a member of and a candidate from a political party, do not have the right to decide which political party they would vote for, cannot go out alone whenever they want, cannot live alone separated from family, cannot apply to authorities on their own to protect their rights, cannot decide solely on their own whom to marry, cannot travel alone without facing any difficulties, cannot express their thoughts freely in every situation, cannot have property and an equal share from the inheritance. It is seen in analyses of political freedoms that single women have more political freedom than married women or the ones in the other category. It can be said at this point that married, divorced, or widow women have less political freedom than single women and that being single makes women more

free to have a voice about their lives, make political decisions as they wish, and live their life as they would like.

When it comes to economic opportunities, it is seen that it is harder for women at the age of 62 and older than women in other age groups; women who are illiterate than women in other groups; women graduated from elementary and primary school than those graduated from high school, college, university, and graduate school; women graduated from high school than those graduated from university; women who have less than 1000 TL personal income than those in other income groups; women who have 2000 TL or below household income per month than those who have 2001 TL and above; and finally women who have 2001-3000 TL household income than those who have 5000 TL or above to access economic opportunities. The basic conclusion that can be drawn from these results is that the less education women have and the less they have personal and household income, the less economic opportunities they have. Therefore, it can be said that women in this category have the perception that they are not free to work at a paid job, do not have the freedom to decide which job they will have, cannot start a business on their own, will have difficulty in finding a job because of their gender, would not have equal income with men, and do not have the right to save money as they wish from the income they earn.

It is seen in analyses of economic opportunities that single women have more economic opportunities than married women or women in other categories. It can be stated at this point that married, divorced, or widow women have less economic opportunities and being single makes women act more freely in terms of economic activities and; thus, makes them free economically. For example, single women have the perception that they are free whether to work at a paid job or not and to decide which job they will have. In addition, single women also have the perception that they have the right to save money as they wish from the income they earn.

When an evaluation is done from the perspective of protective security, it is determined that women who have less than 1000 TL personal income per month can benefit less from the protective security services than women who have 1000-3000 TL personal income per month. Therefore, women who have less than 1000 TL personal income per month have the perception that the state does not help women in economically hard conditions enough and that they cannot benefit from state's aid opportunities whenever they need. As stated above, by acknowledging that there might be more vulnerable groups during economic distress, protective security provides a social protection net that improves the condition of the ones in hard conditions and prevents them from poverty. It can be stated at this point that the perception of women in the low-level income category that they cannot benefit enough from the state's protective security measures causes a view that the state is insufficient in the services of social security.

When transparency assurance is evaluated, the basic conclusion drawn is that women did not consider transparency assurance differently according to age, marital status, level of education, personal income, and household income. Only working or not working makes a difference in the perception of transparency assurance. It is seen that women who do not work have a more positive perception of transparency assurance than women who do. In contrast, women who work have a negative perception of transparency assurance than women who do not. In this context, it can be said that women who work have the perception that they do not have a transparent state which

answers her citizens regarding any issue, that they cannot access any decision which the state makes concerning women, that the state does not sufficiently monitor the activities of institutions and organizations which affect the society, that employment processes in the public sector and private sector are not carried out honestly and transparently. It can be accepted as normal that women who work have a different perception than women who do not and that differences in transparency assurance perceptions depend on the fact that whether the women work or not because working women's experience in the employment processes both in public and private sectors and knowledge about how public and private institutions and organizations that they are in connection with in working life function and about their activities increase their level of experience regarding the activities that take place in this area.

When it comes to social opportunities, it is determined that women who are illiterate than women graduated from university, women who have 1000 TL or below personal income than women who have 2500 TL or above personal income per month, women who have 2000 TL or below household income than women who have 2001 TL or above household income per month have less social opportunities. Moreover, illiterate women, women who have less than 1000 TL personal income per month and women who have less than 2000 TL household income per month have the perception that they cannot benefit from state's free health and education services like every other citizen and that they do not have enough infrastructure, transportation, security, street lighting, and etc. services in the areas where they live.

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