

CultureTalk Albania Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**Gender in Higher Education**

Southern Albanian Dialect

**Albanian transcript:**

1: Per mendimin tand, a ka ndryshim persa i perket, bjen fjala, perqindjes se pjesemarrjes se meshkujve dhe femrave ne arsim? Qofte ne shkolle te mesme apo universitet, ne Shqiperi. A ka prioritet, a eshte numri i vajzave apo djemve shume i ndryshem ne periudha te caktuara te arsimit? Me nji fjale, ne shkolle fillore, te mesme...

2: Po. Kjo eshte pyetje e veshtire per arsye se...

1: Gjithmone ne pervojen tende.

2: Ne pervojen time. Po. Pervoja ime eshte qe... kur jemi rritur, persa i perket shkolles sime 8-vjecare e te mesme; e para e punes, deri ne fund te shkolles se mesme shkolla ka qene e detyruar, sic e di edhe ti, dhe nuk... Regjimi komunist ne Shqiperi ka qene jashtezakonisht i forte. Ne kuptimin qe mund te depertonte ne fshatin me te thelle dhe t'i detyronte fshataret... Psh, ti mund ta dish nga Turqia qe pavaresisht se 12 vjetet e para jane te detyruar, ose 8 vjetet e para... qeveria turke nuk ka pushtet te mjaftueshem ne Anadollin e larget. Dhe nuk i detyron dot familjet per arsye te ndryshme ekonomike, financiare, politike etj etj, PKK-ja etj. Ne Shqiperi regjimi komunist ka qene shume i forte, keshtu qe te gjithë venin ne shkolle. Dhe nuk ka qene, une nuk e kam pasur kete idene, nuk mund te them qe ka pasur favoritizem ndaj djemve ose vajzave persa i perket 'gender as such'. Tashi, kjo ishte komunizmi. Une si Ervin nuk mund te them sa ka te beje kjo me kulturen shqiptare, sa ka te beje me kulturen shqiptare para komunizmit, sa eshte kjo... Po kjo ka qene situata. Sot... Une nuk e ndjek me Fierin, se nuk kam vajtur asnjehere etj etj. Sot e rendesishme eshte universiteti. Problemi me universitetin eshte per familjet shqiptare me teper problem praktik me teper se problem ideologjik. Familjet qe nuk jetojne ne Tirane duhet t'i vene femijet, duke pasur parasysh gjendjen ekonomike te shumices se shqiptareve, duhet t'i vene femijet ne konviktin e universitetit. Imagjinata shqiptare konviktin e Universitetit te Tiranës e ka sikur eshte 'fole kurvash', te me falesh per shprehjen. Ky eshte nje problem serioz qe do na beje te buzeqeshim te gjithëve, por ndikon ne menyre negative femrat shqiptare persa i perket edukimit. Per arsye se familja ose duhet te gjeje leke, ose ka te beje me moralin, dhe me nderin dhe me prospektet e femres. Keshtu qe, me sa shoh, pavaresisht se nuk jam ne Shqiperi, ky eshte nje problem serioz – infrastruktura e edukimit te larte ne Shqiperi. Por se ca ndodh ne rrethe... Ti e di qe universiteti i Tiranës ka shume filiale neper rrethe te ndryshme ne Shqiperi. Une kam qene larg qe ne 1995-en, kjo nuk duhet te harrohet persa i perket pergjigjeve te mija. Une kam qene qe ne 95-en larg Shqiperise, dhe nuk vete, vetem maksimumi dy jave ne vit.

### **English translation:**

1: In your opinion, is there a difference, let's say between the percentage of women and men that are part of the education system? Let this be in high school or college, in Albania. Is there a priority; is there a big difference with the number of boys or girls in different periods of education? Basically in junior-high, high school ...

2: Yes. This is a difficult question, the reason being ...

1: Always in your own experience.

2: In my own experience. Yes. My experience is that ... when we were growing up, with regard to my eight years of school and that of high school ... first of all, until the end of high school it was mandatory, just like you know it. The communist regime in Albania was extremely powerful. They could penetrate in the deepest village and make the villagers go to school. For example, you might know from Turkey that even though the first 12 years is mandatory, or the first eight years ... the government of Turkey does not have enough power to control the far part of Anatolia. And you can't make the families go because of different reasons, economical, financial, political etc., etc., PKK, etc. In Albania, the communist regime was very strong; therefore, everyone went to school. It wasn't, I never had the idea, and I can't say that there was a favorite between boys and girls in terms of gender as such. Now this was communism. Me, as Ervin, I can't say this has to do with the Albanian culture, that it had to do with the Albanian culture before communism ... but this was the situation back then. Today ... I am not sure what goes on in Fieri lately, because I have never been there, etc., etc. Today the university is very important. The problem with the university today for the Albanian families is more of a practical one than an ideological problem. Families that do not live in Tirana have to put their children, taking into consideration the economical status of the majority of Albanians, have to put their children to live on campus. The imagination that Albanians have toward that of the campus of the University of Tirana is that it is a "nest of whores," I apologize for my expression. This is a serious problem that would make us all smile, but it is one that influences in a negative way the Albanian females with regard to education. The families have to deal with either being able to finance the school or deal with the morality, the honor, and prospects of the female. Therefore, from what I can see, even though I am not in Albania anymore, this is a serious problem ... the infrastructure of the higher education in Albania. I am not sure what the situation is in other cities. I have been away since 1995; therefore, take this into consideration with regard to the answers I give. I have been away from Albania since 1995, and I only come back for a maximum of two weeks once a year.

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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