

## Women's Education in the Past – Part I

### Persian transcript:

**مُحسِن:** شما فکر می کنید وقتی که به دختر بودن یا به زن بودن کلاً تو یک خانواده ی ایرانی به چه شکله؟ آیا مثلاً این چیزی که می گن مثلاً برادرها خواهرها را تحت کنترل دارن یا مثلاً پدر رابطه ی پدر با دختر چطوره؟ رابطه برادرها با خواهرشون چطوره می شه؟ برای ما در این زمینه بگید به هر حال شما تجربه دارید.

**ناهید:** من باید بگم این به چند سال قبل بر می گرده چون من الآن تقریباً من چهل و نه ساله از هفده سالگی اومدم آمریکا. بنابراین زمانی که من ایران بودم زمان شاه بوده زمان قبل از انقلاب بوده خیلی به اصطلاح به مقدار مُدرنیتی به ایران اومده بوده این که آزادی زنان و غیره که زنان چه قدر به اصطلاح حقوقشون چه جوری هستش و اینها ولی در عین حال توی به جامعه ی سنتی هم بودیم و سنتها و مذهب و اینها هم خیلی نقش داشتند تو کالچر (فرهنگ) ما.

**مُحسِن:** مثلاً خانواده ی شما به خانواده ی مذهبی بود، یا خانواده ی مثلاً هم مذهبی هم مُدرن؟ به چه شکل بود؟

**ناهید:** این هر دوش بود هر دوش بود. مادر من از به خانواده ی خیلی خیلی مذهبی می اومد. پدر من اون چنانی نبود پدر من خیلی بیشتر باز فکر می کرد و مُدرن تر فکر می کرد؛ و به این که بچه ها حتماً تحصیلات بالا داشته باشند و مسافرت خارج بکنند یا مثلاً در خارج تحصیل بکنند این چیزا بیشتر پدر من با این ها موافقت می کرد تا مادر من.

**مُحسِن:** یعنی مثلاً اگر به مادرتون می گفتید که شما می خواهید برید اروپا یا آمریکا درس بخونید شما به عنوان به دختر مثلاً هفده سالتون بود مادرتون موافق بود یا نه.

**ناهید:** ببینید مادر من چون خودش تحصیلات به اصطلاح رسمی نداشت و فقط خوندن و نوشتن رو یاد گرفته بود و خیلی خودش دوست داشت که مدرسه بره ولی متأسفانه موقعیتش را نداشت به تحصیل خیلی اهمیت می داد ولی خیلی در عین حال هم فکر می کرد چرا آدم بایستی که از کشورش خارج بشه بره تحصیل کنه یعنی به مقدار در گیر بود آیا درسته یا آیا غلطه برای پدر من خیلی قبول کردنش راحتتر بود تا برای مادرم.

**مُحسِن:** خب حالا سوال من اینه که ربطی داشت به دختر بودن یا نبودن مثلاً آگه برادرتون می خواست بره خارج مادر شما همین جور فکر می کرد که چرا مثلاً باید یکی بره بیرون.

**ناهید:** فکر می کنم خب مطمئناً برای دخترش خیلی نگرانتر بود. چون کلاً وقتی که ما دو تا خواهر بودیم سه تا برادرو دو تا نف... یک دختر عمومی دختر و به پسر عمومی دختر عمو و به پسر عمو ما هفت تا بودیم. و از این هفت تا چهار تا مون پسر بود سه تا مون دختر بود. و از این که ما همه تحصیل بکنیم برایشون خوب بود خیلی اهمیت می دادند، ولی اون قدر که روی تحصیل پسرها تاکید می کردند، اون قدر نگران تحصیل ما نبودند. مثلاً من یادمه که مامان من می گفتش که خب همه تون بایستی که تا دیپلم دبیرستان را بگیرید، ولی برای دانشگاه اگر دخترتون خواستند می رند ولی پسرا حتماً باید برن. می دونی یعنی این یک تاکید اضافی برای تحصیل بالاتر پسرا می کردند تا برای دخترها.

### English translation:

**Mohsen:** What do you think it is like to be a girl or a woman generally in an Iranian family? It is said that for example brothers have their sisters under control. Or for example father—how is the father's relationship with his daughter? How is the brothers' relationship with their sisters? Tell us about this; anyways you have experience.

**Nahid:** I should say this [what I want to say] goes back to many years ago, because now I am almost 49 years old and at the age of seventeen I came to America. So, when I was in

Iran, it was the time of the Shah, before the Revolution. To some extent this so-called 'modernity' had come to Iran, like women's freedom, etc.; that how the so-called women's rights are, and all. But at the same time we were also a traditional family and traditions and religion and so on also had a major role in our culture.

**Mohsen:** For example your family was a religious one, or religious and modern? How was [it]?

**Nahid:** It was both, it was both. My mother came from a very, very religious family. My father was not [religious] as much, he was more open-minded and was thinking more modernly: that the children must have higher education, travel abroad, or for example study abroad. My father agreed to these things more than my mother did.

**Mohsen:** You mean, for example if you told your mom you wanted to go to Europe or America to study, you as a seventeen-year-old girl, would your mother agree or not?

**Nahid:** Look, because my mom herself did not have so-called official education and had just learned how to read and write and she herself would have liked to go to school, but unfortunately did not have the chance, she gave importance to education, but at the same time was thinking, "Why should someone go out of his/her country in order to have education?" She was struggling to some extent with whether it was right or wrong. It was easier for my father to accept it than for my mother.

**Mohsen:** Well, now my question is whether it had anything to do with being a girl or not. For example, if your brother wanted to go abroad, would your mother think the same, "Why should someone go abroad [for his education]?"

**Nahid:** Well, I think definitely she was much more concerned for her daughter because in general when... we were two sisters, three brothers, two per... an uncle's daughter and an uncle's son, an uncle's daughter, and an uncle's son, we were seven. From this seven, four of us were boys and three were girls. The fact that all of us were studying [should get education] was important for them. They were giving it a lot of importance, but as much as they were putting emphasis on boys' education, they were not as concerned about girls' education. For example, I can remember that my mom was saying all of you should finish high school, and if the girls wanted to they could go to university, but boys must go to university. You know, there was an additional emphasis on higher education for boys and not for girls.

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