

Women Working Outside the Home

Persian transcript:

مُحَسِّن: اگر شما مثلاً لیسانستون رو می گرفتید به عنوان یک مهندس حالا مهندس ساختمان یا مهندس مکانیک فکر می کنید خانوادهتون اجازه می دادند یا کلاً خانواده های ایرانی در اون زمان اجازه می دادند به دختر با مدرک مهندسی بره به جایی کار کنه یا می گفتن فقط این برای این بود که به مهندسی داشته باشه؟

ناهید: آها خب خیلی خیلی این را من اتفاقاً از مادرم می شنیدم "تحصیلات خیلی خیلی خوبه می تونی دانشگاه بری دکترم بشی ولی هیچ لزومی نداره که حتماً کار بکنی و در آمد داشته باشی." اگر چه می گم اون زمانی که به اصطلاح من داشتم دوره ی نوجوانیم را سر می کردم که به دانشگاه پرسم این جَریان که خانم ها بیشتر بیرون کار بکنند داشت خیلی بیشتر توی جامعه جا می افتاد شاید زمان پدر و مادرم اصلاً این نبودش.
مُحَسِّن: یعنی نه تنها این نرم نبود که بد بود.

ناهید: بد هم می دونستن؛ اینی که به زن کار می کنه یعنی این مرد نمی تونه این خانواده رو تامین که زنش مجبور شده که کار کنه. و اصلاً جَریان توی ذهن مردم این طوری فکر می کردن که این مردش مشکل داره که زنش داره کار می کنه. حالا مگر این که به خانمی کار می کرد حالا تحصیلاتی داشت کاری می کرد و بعدش به عنوان این که خُب نه این خانم به خاطر تحصیلاتش داره کار می کنه و خودش می خواد کار بکنه اگر چه هیچ لزومی هم نداره کار کنه.

مُحَسِّن: فکر نمی کنید که محیط کار هم تاثیر داشت؟ مثلاً می گم اگر یکی به معلم بود در یک دبیرستان دخترانه خب و یکی هم مهندس باشه که بین مردا کار می کنه، فکر نمی کنی [که تاثیر داشته باشد].

ناهید: آ خیلی خیلی تاثیر می گذاشت برای این که این به اصطلاح مُدِل فکری که توی مردم بودش که فکر می کردند که به دختر یا به خانم باید بیشتر با مردا تماس داشته باشه یا این که با بچه ها تماس داشته باشه چون همیشه می گفتند که دختر و پسر یا مرد و زن مثل آتیش و پنبه می موندن این ها را کنار هم بگذارید به اتفاقی می افته.

English translation:

Mohsen: If you would get your BA in engineering, for instance civil engineering or mechanical engineering, do you think your family would let you—or in general Iranian families at the time would let a girl with an engineering degree work somewhere—or would they say it was just for [the sake of] having an engineering degree [and not more]?

Nahid: Aha, well incidentally I heard this from my mom many, many times that, "education is very, very good; you can go to university, get your PhD, but it's not necessary for you to work and have an income." However, I say when I was a teenager on my way to go to university, the fact that women work outside [of the home] was becoming more and more common in the society. Maybe, in my parents' time there was not such a thing at all.

Mohsen: You mean, not only it was not a norm, but it also was [considered] bad.

Nahid: They considered it bad [because if] a woman is working it implies that this man cannot support the family so his wife has been forced to work. And actually the story in people's mind was that a man must have a problem that [makes] his wife work. Except

when a lady was working and it was because of her education and she herself wanted it even though it wasn't necessary for her to work.

Mohsen: Don't you think the working environment had an effect as well? For instance, I say, well if someone was a teacher in a female high school and someone else was an engineer who was working among men, don't you think that it would have an effect?

Nahid: It was very, very important. The way people thought those days was that a woman should be in contact more with men or with children. Because they always were saying a boy and girl or a man and woman are like fire and cotton, if you put them next to each other, something would happen.

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