

Abstract

This thesis focuses on harmonisation of work and family life of female university graduates at beginning of their careers and at the time when they were taking care of babies up to five years of age. I have chosen this topic not only because it is rather an actual topic but also because I'm personally attached to it.

My feminist research analysis is based on the theory of power and knowledge as is it described by Foucault and Butler. I was interested in original families of my communication partners where they grew up and where they adopted their social habits and behaviour. In the light of this social process, I have analysed what powers they had to face in their original families in terms of usage of gender stereotypes based on patriarchal layout of our society and preferential existence of one gender over the other.

I have also focused on current families of my communication partners and on power relationships on the basis of which the process of harmonisation of professional and family life of my communication partners takes place, both in their private and public space. I have also analysed how social habits and behaviour gained during their childhood are implemented.

It was very important for the interviews and for my feminist research to approach my communication partners as subjects, and thus to prefer the subject-to-subject relationship to the typically applied object-to-subject relationship between me (as the researcher) and my communication partners.

I have tried to maximise effect of answers provided by my communication partners by usage of direct transcriptions of the interviews. My aim was to maximise the authenticity of the interviews because as Kiczkova says the objective is not to do the reconstruction of what happened and how it happened but we would like to know what and how happened according to our communication partners. I wanted to find out by means of their direct narration – and only by means of such direct narration – what they have experienced.

Keywords

family, education, power, gender, social links, husband, who am I, self-realisation, double work load, work harmonisation, family harmonisation, private and public sphere