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## GENDER EQUALITY IN KOSOVO, THEIR ROLE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF KOSOVO

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### Abstract

The population of Kosovo is estimated at about 1,8 million, of which 88% are Albanian, 7% Serb and 5% other ethnic groups. The shares of population are 50% for male and female, respectively. The population is very young, with high fertility rates. The society in Kosovo is characterized by patriarchal structures. This has strongly influenced the structure of Kosovar society, especially in rural areas. During the 1990s, the creation of Kosovo-Albanian parallel structures consolidated the emancipation of women. However, despite this, less than 3% of women were employed at the end of the 1990s. Kosovo Albanian women played an important role and were very active participants in the years of non-violent opposition. They helped to build parallel structures, such as schools and clinics. After the war, the placement of international organizations indicated high participation of women in civil society. Today, the position of women in Kosovo differs between urban and rural areas. A serious problem in all areas is unequal power relations, and women lack access to education, employment and decision-making positions.

**Key words:** unemployment rate, gender equality, patriarchal structure, non –violent.