

INVESTIGATION OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ROLE OF WOMEN IN VÁRASZÓ

During my research I focused on investigating the economic and social role of women in Váraszó. Váraszó is a village in the northern part of Heves County, Hungary, where I grew up, so I find it important to explore the social and economic characteristics of its population, with a special focus on women. The goal of my Master's thesis was, in addition to defining the social and economic role of women in Váraszó, to explore inequalities between male and female residents.

As part of my investigation, I studied international as well as domestic literature about the role of women in society, in certain communities such as family and household, in economy and in the professional world. During my research I studied the migration, marital and childbearing patterns of the local population, as well as the development of education and employment. I conducted both primary and secondary research. As my primary research, I did a questionnaire survey involving both male and female residents of the Váraszó population, and I conducted different types of interviews. In my secondary research, I used databases such as the National Regional Development and Planning Information System, which integrates the data collected by the Central Statistical Office and the summary charts of the office provided me with extensive data as well. I analyzed the obtained data in Microsoft Excel, primarily using the Pivot Table function, and then I analyzed some of the extracted data in SPSS, including by Chi-square test or correlation analysis, in accordance with qualitative and quantitative properties of the developed indicators.

The results of my investigation were consistent with the trends and parameters defined in the literature in most cases, however, while the increase in economic activity or the improvement in education of women in Váraszó – with the exception of the intense increase in the number of women participating in higher education – show consistency with the literary data, the general mating practices, as well as the distribution of marital status by local population, and the development of childbearing habits are slightly different from the information taken from reference works and literature.