**PAL WOMEN – Migrant Women in a situation of unemployment in Spain. Literature review**

As an imposed period of inactivity of labour force, unemployment is one of the causes of poverty and exclusion (Gil, Mar 4th 2019; McConell, Brue & Macpherson, 2007; Herrador Buendía, 2002). At the same time, it is one of the enemies of the Welfare State, which is aimed at solving collective situations and problems for the benefit of society as a whole and the equal opportunities for all (García Cotarelo, 1987). Safeguarding the Social Welfare is one of the reasons why we all should fight social exclusion and unemployment (and long-term unemployment particularly[[1]](#footnote-1)) (Herrador Buendía, 2002).

Generally speaking, unemployment is an economic and social matter (Herrador Buendía, 2002). It involves a waste of human resources, potential, and talent, at the cost of the country’s growth. At the same time, it has negative consequences on the unemployed person, in a broad sense. We are talking about circumstances in which it is not possible for the unemployed person to cover and satisfy their family and personal needs. In parallel, this situation may lead them to have more possibilities to be socially excluded, with all the consequences that would entail (Herrador Buendía, 2002).

Despite the large amount of different social groups considered as population at risk of unemployment, social and labour exclusion, for the purposes of this report, we will focus on migrant women coming from other countries and currently living in Spain, with special emphasis on the Valencian Community. In Spain, being a woman usually involves having less opportunities in terms of access to the labour market, salary and fair labour conditions. According to data from the Statistical National Institute, from 2009 to 2018, the risk of poverty in Spain has increased, and there is usually a significant difference in favour of men as a tendency.

According to Llano Ortíz (2019), unemployment rate (and part-time employment rate) in Spain has been traditionally higher for women than for men, which is a clear indicator of gender discrimination. In 2018, 17’02% of women were in a situation of unemployment. Instead, 13’72% of men were in the same situation. In parallel, part-time employment was more common among women (24%) than among men (6’8%). As for salaries, women are still paid less than men, according to the 2014 Wage Structure four-yearly Survey (Oct 28th 2016). Salary gap reaches 14’02% in favour of men. Particularly in the Valencian Community, from 2008 to 2017, the figures show a similar situation. There is a salary gap of about 4.500 euros in favour of men throughout the whole period contemplated. A survey with open-ended questions was used to delve into the questions, and one of the respondents underlined the impact of the patriarchal society:

I think that the main difficulty is the fact of being subjected to a patriarchal culture, which confines them in their domestic and family environment, so when the husband is unemployed, or they separate, and need to start working, they find many difficulties because of the language, since they have not been related to native people in all that time. (S1)

As far as a situation of migration is considered[[2]](#footnote-2), about two thirds of foreign women stay in Andalucía (12%), Valencian Community (15%), Community of Madrid (21%) and Catalonia (22%). The Valencian Community gathers both migration of residential nature and migration related to employment reasons. It is a region which is an attraction for residential tourism and people looking for employment related to the tourism it generates. In 2007, 58% of migrant women living in Spain was not yet 35 years (En Red Consultoría, 2009, based on figures from the Municipal Register the National Statistical Institute led in 2007). As for their level of education, in 2007, 34% of migrant women had achieved secondary education, and 20% of them, even higher education. At the same time: “Generally speaking, there are no great variations between the sexes, if any, indicating a higher level of education among women. It is significant that among the illiterate population, the percentage of men is twice that of women”. (En Red Consultoría, 2009)

Stereotypes play an important role in employability, according to the following respondent:

Stereotypes are a serious difficulty that often prevent them from accessing a job, either because of the prejudices of the recruiter, or because of what he thinks a potential client or supplier of the company will have. In addition, stereotypes and prejudices undermine their self-confidence in approaching the difficulties of an active job search process. (S3)

There are worrying figures in terms of salary and access to employment in Spain and in the Valencian Community. The Table 1 shows the wage distribution by gender and nationality in 2014 in Spain.

**TABLE 1. Wage distribution by gender and nationality in 2014. Spain**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Both genders** | **Women** | **Men** |
| **Spain** | 23.237,94 | 20.038,72 | 26.234,90 |
| **UE except Spain** | 20.327,65 | 16.911,69 | 23.419,20 |
| **Rest of Europe** | -15.147,39 | -12.122,48 | -19.432,43 |
| **Latin America** | 14.714,46 | 12.831,05 | 16.155,88 |
| **Rest of the world** | 14.720,89 | -12.170,27 | 15.631,83 |

\* When having a negative sign (-) before the figure, it indicates that the number of sample observations ranges from 100 to 500, which means that the figure is unreliable and should be considered with caution.

Source: 2014 Wage Structure four-yearly Survey, Statistical National Institute (Spain)

According to the Labour Force Survey led by the Statistical National Institute from 2009 to 2019, within the Valencian Community, from 2013 to 2019 the unemployment rate of migrant people has decreased, but it is still specially high for women coming from other European Union (EU) countries (25%, which means 14% more than men coming from the EU), and also for women coming from outside the EU (27%, which means 10% more than men coming from outside the EU).

Rodríguez Fernández (2011) states that regulating their situation and finding a job are the main problems led by migrants when reaching Spain. Not all the possible measures to prevent and overcome a situation of unemployment are under the control of migrant women. One of the strategies hold by them is related to entrepreneurship, despite the difficulties:

[We can find, among the difficulties associated with entrepreneurship,] a low knowledge of the cultural reality, a lack of knowledge for the management of a business, difficulties in taking advantage of the existing aid network, lack of personal skills linked to empowerment, and also sometimes linguistic competence is a problem. (S3)

In spite of the difficulties, there is a greater social integration among migrant people when creating their own business, according to Pérez Yruela y Rinken (2005), Observatorio Argos (2009), En Red Consultoría (2009), and Rodríguez Fernández (2011). Entrepreneurship provides more effective strategies to enter and remain on the labour market. In Spain, and also within the Valencian Community, setting up a business is more and more frequent among migrant people. This kind of strategies among migrant women has not been sufficiently studied and documented as a social phenomenon (Moreras, 1999; Solé & Parella, 2005; Tomás López, 2016), but it has an important role to play in terms of empowerment of migrant women, upward social mobility, equal opportunities, personal, professional, and social development.

# BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Domingo Pérez, C. & Viruela Martínez, R. (1999). Mujeres inmigradas en València. *Cuadernos de Geografia*, núm. 65-66, 165-192. Recuperado de <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=37820>

En Red Consultoría (2009). Análisis de la situación laboral de las mujeres inmigrantes. Modalidades de inserción, sectores de ocupación e iniciativas empresariales. Madrid, Instituto de la mujer (Ministerio de Igualdad). Retrieved from <http://www.inmujer.gob.es/areasTematicas/estudios/serieEstudios/docs/analisisLaboralIinmigrantes.pdf>

García Cotarelo, R. (1987). Origen y Desarrollo del Estado de Bienestar. Proceso histórico del Bienestar Social: La consolidación del «Estado de Bienestar». *Sistema: Revista de ciencias sociales*, N. 80-81, 5-22.

Gil, G. (Mar 4th 2019). Cerca de 5 millones de mujeres en edad laboral se encuentran en riesgo de exclusión o pobreza. *Fundación Adecco*. Retrieved from <https://fundacionadecco.org/cerca-de-5-millones-de-mujeres-en-edad-laboral-se-encuentran-en-riesgo-de-exclusion-o-pobreza/>

Herrador Buendía, F. M. (2002). Aproximación teórica al fenómeno del desempleo. El caso del desempleo de larga duración. *Revista del Ministerio de Trabajo e Inmigración*, N. 35, 121-143. Retrieved from <http://www.mitramiss.gob.es/es/publica/pub_electronicas/destacadas/revista/numeros/35/estudio6.pdf>

Labour Force Survey (n.d.). Statistical National Institute (Spain). Retrieved from <https://www.ine.es/dyngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736176918&menu=ultiDatos&idp=1254735976595>

Llano Ortíz, J. C. (2019). *9ª Informe 2019. El estado de la pobreza. Seguimiento del indicador de pobreza y exclusion social en España 2008-2018*. España, EAPN (European Anti Poverty Network). Retrieved from <https://www.eapn.es/estadodepobreza/ARCHIVO/documentos/Informe_AROPE_2019_Resumen_Ejecutivo.pdf>

McConell, C.; Brue, S. & Macpherson, D. (2007). *Economía Laboral*. McGraw Hill interamericana.

Moreras, J. (1999). *Musulmanes en Barcelona, Espacios y dinámicas comunitarias*. Barcelona: CIDOB.

National Immigrant Survey (2007). Retrieved from <http://www.pegv.gva.es/auto/produccion/web/ENI/ENI2007/cas/informe_ENI.pdf>

Observatorio Argos. (2009). Las personas extranjeras en el mercado laboral andaluz. 2008. Sevilla: Consejería de Empleo de la Junta de Andalucía.

Organización para la Cooperación y Desarrollo Económico (OCDE) (1988): Perspectivas del Empleo. MTSS, Madrid.

Pérez Yruela, Manuel y Rinken, Sebastián. (2005). *La integración de los inmigrantes en la sociedad andaluza*. Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Colección Politeya).

Rodríguez Fernández, A. (2011). Comportamiento emprendedor de los inmigrantes: estrategias de integración psicológica y social (1). En F.J. García Castaño y N. Kressova. (Coords.). Actas del I Congreso Internacional sobre Migraciones en Andalucía (pp. 21-28). Granada: Instituto de Migraciones. ISBN: 978-84-921390-3-3

Solé, C. y S. Parella, S. (2005). *Negocios étnicos. Los comercios de los inmigrantes no comunitarios en Cataluña*. Barcelona: CIDOB.

Tomás López, A. (2016). La «economía étnica» como motor para la integración económica, jurídica y socio-laboral del emprendedor inmigrante en España y en la Unión Europea. Estudios de Deusto: revista de la Universidad de Deusto, Vol. 64, N. 2, 345-365. Retrieved from <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=5878502>

Wage Structure four-yearly Survey (Oct 28th 2016). Statistical National Institute (Spain). Retrieved from <https://www.ine.es/prensa/np996.pdf>

1. According to OCDE (1988), long-term unemployment refers to a situation in which a person is unemployed and looking for a job for one year or more (p. 169). It is both a problem to deal with and a challenge at the same time, as Herrador Buendía (2002) says. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Many migrants fall outside the official statistics” (Domingo Pérez & Viruela Martínez, 1999). In spite of this, according to the National Immigrant Survey led by the Statistical National Institute in 2007, about 290.000 migrants arrived in the Valencian Community from 2002 to 2007. Most of them were from Latin American and Eastern Europe. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)