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ARMED FORCES ACADEMY
SLOVAK REPUBLIC

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE of SCIENTIFIC PAPER
AFASES 2012
Brasov, 24-26 May 2012

NEW CONCEPT OF SECURITY AND GENDER PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT: *New trends in the society development are restructuring the traditional relation between women and war, and require a more comprehensive analysis of the change in the social status of women and men in the context of history. From the gender vantage point the objective of the reorganisation processes of complex systems, such as human society, is not to achieve gender parity, but to take advantage of a unique and powerful way women along with men can provide in war conflict prevention and elimination, thus enhancing peace efforts and security of individuals in common life. Traditional limitations in gender determination bring about the question of further integration of women into armed forces, but also the need to innovate the understanding of social care ethics and social welfare in order to promote peace and security.*

KEY WORDS: *Women, men, war conflict, human security, gender equality principles.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Humanity and dignity represent the core of the common good and the highest values a human being as an individual or a society as such should strive for. [4] The development and the implementation of the social values can only be possible in coexistence, a person's dignity and human rights have a social and institutional form. From the ethical point of view, human dignity is the basic and fundamental value of providing quality life in a society. The basic values include the institution of marriage and family and political order which can provide fundamental values of common good, namely social justice, freedom and peace.

These values have been questioned over the time due to war conflicts and there have been changes in the traditional social positions and roles of women and men. Currently, the increasing need for appreciation of equality of women's and men's rights and their equal participation in all areas, as well as the opportunity to cooperate in providing peace and security, have an impact on

these values. These trends necessitate the need to innovate the approach to understanding social care of complex systems, such as the human society, by means of applying the principles of gender equality.

2. HISTORICAL CHANGES IN GENDER STEREOPTYPES AS THE AFTERMATH OF WAR CONFLICTS

Antropological researches describe and prove the effort to protect women who symbolize life as an important imperative of human race. That means that there are good evolution reasons to keep women away from the centres of war danger. The texts on the history of women in modern war describe their roles in a more comprehensive way, adopting the roles of unifying symbols of a nation, mothers, victims, non combatants, or those we notice as combatant exceptions.

Their social status and position cannot be fully grasped in its complexity, the most dominant model is represented by the so called "military women" motivated to survive the war period and, more or less on voluntary basis, to provide care for soldiers,

provisions, clean water, sanitary facilities, quarters, spiritual but physical support as well, education, medical care.

If the understanding of masculinity and femininity is connected with the notion of unpassable border between the two, this leads to making a barrier and the expected models of behaviour become overruling. Then, any nonconformity is punished by mockery, oppression, rejection, exclusion from society, in some cultures even death. This unpassable division line between the sexes is the basic prerequisite of gender "stereotypes". [7] An integral part of the development of modern nations is the notion of women as a non-combatant unity. Another part of the stereotype is the difference in the attitude of men and women to violence. At the end of the 18th century male violence could be justified in war only, female violence was not acceptable beyond any scope of expectations. [5] Female violence was considered evil and individual. Male violence in war time could be regulated and controlled by rules. Also sharp differences between personal and public life arose, the ones between the family and the nation. Women were the guardians of families, men were defenders of a nation. From this vantage point men's heroic deeds were seen as the stories of bravery, courage, morale and fame. Women adopted the role of generosity, sacrifice, service, immortality. [11]

War is the main reason of the "family crisis" characterised by the separation of male family members, the change in the demographic development, the shift in the traditional role of women in a family, loosening social ties and the „loss of morale“ (showing itself in corruption, sexual promiscuity, adultery, homosexuality). [1] The absence of men in families made women do men's work, take over decision making and the responsibility for providing the family with money. It was not easy, as during wartime the effort to provide the basic needs was in a conflict with higher needs of, for example, a municipality, government. The departure of men into war represented the loss of the breadwinner. Not even war bonuses for families and other social-political measures to keep stability could make up for a considerable decrease in the standard of living.

From the gender point of view it is interesting to note, that not only women, but also men fall victims of gender stereotypes. Once a war broke out, men had no choice. The

conscription, ethical and moral ideals ruled over social ties and the dread of death paralysed them, resulting in dodging the conscription. The gender stereotype was also followed by women supporting anti-pacifist ideas in WWI. Those women mocked young men not wearing a uniform by wearing white feathers, the symbols of cowardice. The ways to dodge conscription were almost unlimited, ranging from requests, appeals to corruption. Desertion, escapes to being taken hostage, faking being sick, self-harm were also ways to avoid the battlefield. An interesting option was getting disqualified because of the importance for the economy.

A long-term absence of men in families, their losses or reunions marked with mental trauma or physical handicap resulted in socio-economic and mental problems and the change in social roles, which could not be easily reversed in post-war periods.

3. NEW SECURITY CONCEPT AND GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Modern armies face new challenges in international peace deployment, the objective of their effort is no longer "combat", or "victory", but conflict prevention, peace settlement and peace enforcement. A military mission of the 21st century can be characterised by activities such as "protection", "aid", "rescue". It does not involve just the protection of the country, but assisting in the settlement of conflicts in other countries. [12] The concept of the so called "human security" and the legislative need to provide security of an individual is promoted by the UN. "Human security...must be focused on an individual, not only a country or a nation. The security concept must change from being the concept of the national security to a concept focused on individual security. It must change from the security provided by arms to security concerning the issues of food supply, job security and healthy environment". [3] These objectives are in line with the traditional female qualities of care, [9] protection, moreover, they enhance their application from the family level to society and require both male and female experience, skills, education. Female blue helmets, so called "observers", in the area of human rights and other women deployed in missions, offer new possibilities and options for the area of ongoing development of peace keeping. Women often find it easier to socialise with locals and gather information, communicate with local women, can provide the sense of security for children, seniors, victims of violence or natural disasters. The fact that women



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are an integral part of army units in appointments of female soldiers, policewomen, mediators, doctors, social workers, enhances security conditions for victims, but also initiates the processes of post-conflict reconstruction not only in official peace talks, but also the enhancement of their roles in the reconstruction of citizen society and the basic infrastructure. It also enhances the need to integrate the gender point of view into planning, developing and implementing humanitarian aid and allocating relevant assets in this area.

Conclusion

The participation of women in peace support processes is essential. [6] It is an appeal for women to join peace negotiations, as combat war conflicts have a different impact on men and women. One of the indicators of a shift to post-military society is the enhancing of the civil principles and civil and political rights of military personnel. That is why the enhanced military role of women can be understood as promoting civil and political rights and the indicator of a broader historical shift from a society with a predetermined status to the one aimed at performance. The principle of their „equal participation and full integration into all activities to support peace and security“ in line with the UN resolution number 1325 of 2000 is not followed and the decisions concerning conflict prevention and settlement are often made without any involvement of women. [10] The objective is not for women to replace male appointments, but to enhance the opportunities, take advantage of a unique and powerful way women and men can inspire, complement one another and participate in providing peace and security.

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