



## Perception of masculinity in rural family structure

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### Abstract


**Research Problem/aim:** The objective of this study is to determine the perception of masculinity in rural family structure

**Methods:** This research is a descriptive and analytical study. The universe of the research, which was conducted between the dates of 14.11.2016 - 31.05.2017, is the people of Akşehir district of Konya Province. Individuals aged 18 and over (n=500), who participated voluntarily, were included in the research, particular attention was paid to acquire the written and verbal consents of the participants prior to the application.

**Findings:** Participants are between the ages of 18 to 65 and the median age is  $27.57 \pm 10.22$ . Almost all of the women, at 92.9%, disagree with the "the man should decide how to use the household income" statement, while 38,7% of men support this statement, it can be seen that the provided responses change according to genders ( $p=.000$ ). Both genders accept the "the man is the head of the household" statement, while 39.5% of women agree with this statement, at high rates, at 74.9%, men support this statement. While both genders think it is the man's duty to provide for the family, the support rate for this statement among male participants is significantly higher, at 71.2%, and statistical differences can be detected ( $p=.000$ ). While the "male politicians are more successful" statement is accepted at higher rates, at 49.7%, among male participants, statistically, there are huge differences between genders ( $p=.000$ ).

**Conclusions:** According to the research conducted, it is seen that traditional understanding weighs heavily, and the roles attributed to men and the perception of masculinity draw more attention. The fact that the research was conducted in a rural society where traditional understanding was dominant, substantially affected the results. The perspective of rural societies needs to change. Raising and increasing awareness on topics, such as gender roles, gender perception, and human rights with the health education method will be effective in changing the perceptions of men and women about one another.

**Keywords:** Gender, gender roles, biological sex, masculinity, rural family structure, perception.

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## 1. Introduction

Gender is a demographic category determined in accordance with an individual's biological sex. Gender, which is defined as the psychological feeling of an individual being a woman or a man (both, none, or the other), refers to the universal biological differences between males and females (Ege University, 2003; KSGM, 2008). Gender roles are shaped in accordance with the perceived differences between men and women, and the behavior of individuals who constitute the society is affected by gender roles, which is one of the cultural patterns of the society that they live in (Parashar, Dhar and Dhar, 2004). The characteristic features that society expects from women as a monolithic group and men as a monolithic group to perform are called gender stereotypes (Franzoi, 2003). The concept of gender defines the social relations between women and men according to a certain context while analyzing the relationship between women and men and girls and boys, it emphasizes how this relationship is established socially (KSGM, 2008). According to Giddens (2008), gender is "associated with socially constructed notions of masculinity and femininity and it is not necessarily a direct product of the biological sex of an individual". According to Scott (2007), gender is a way of referring to the exclusively social origins of the subjective identities of men and women. In this definition, gender is a social category imposed on a sexed body.

The main sources, where gender is propagated and tens of gender practices are derived from, are family and patriarchal traditions (Bingöl, 2014). Frequently in patriarchal societies, such as the Turkish society, qualities such as being emotional, understanding, and tolerant are attributed to girls in the process of socialization, while boys are taught to strive for a hard, aggressive, ambitious, and independent personality (Oktan, 2008). According to gender, the role of a passive and submissive person is deemed appropriate for women while the role of an active and dominant person is attributed to men (Burger, 2006).

According to Sancar (2009), to date masculinity is encountered as a subject that has been talked about but has not been examined, politically, ideologically, and academically, enough. Men have a struggle with self-identification that begins with their birth. This identity, which defines itself through "other" (women, homosexuals, bisexuals, etc.), is in a constant process of being approved and re-approved under the surveillance and supervision of other men in the society (Oktan, 2008). Additionally, in accordance with gender and its reflection on power, identifying an individual as a man can result in a wide range of effects from inequality in many areas, such as economy, politics, social life, and family life to patriarchal violence (Mora, 2005).

The perception of masculinity has an important role in the lifestyles and health behaviors of men (Fazli, Yun, Ghorbani and Khoei, 2013). According to gender and gender-stereotypes, while the most important role of men is to be the breadwinner, the most important duties of women are to raise the children and maintain the continuity of the family life (Moya, Expósito and Ruiz; 2000). Nevertheless, the man, who is seen obligated to support the household by society, can remain under both physical and psychological pressure (Akin and Demirel, 2003). Expecting men to provide for the household can also make it difficult for men to feel weak and seek help when they are sick (Mohamud and Murphy, 2001).

In the rural family structure, it is generally accepted that the man is very strong, indestructible, unshakable, and capable of everything. This situation can negatively affect the physical, social, and mental health of men, as well as affecting their quality of life, and prevent them from leading a healthy life. Researches are needed to effectively implement intervention and training programs. Adopting an egalitarian gender approach, extending education programs that are planned based on human rights, and launching national and international initiatives that will provide them are of extreme importance in the societies. However, studies on gender perception are limited in our country and there are no studies that reveal the perception of masculinity in rural family structure. The study, which was formed based on these facts, aims to determine the perception of masculinity in rural family structure.

## 2. Materials and Methods

**2.1. Objective:** The objective of this study is to determine the perception of masculinity in rural family structure.

**2.2. Research Type:** This research is a descriptive and analytical study.

**2.3. The Universe and Sample of the Research:** The universe of the research, which was conducted between the dates of 14.11.2016 - 31.05.2017, is the people of Akşehir district of Konya Province. Individuals aged 18 and over (n=500), who participated voluntarily, were included in the research, particular attention was paid to acquire the written and verbal consents of the participants prior to the application.

The research process started on 14.11.2016, with pre-application to 25 individuals and afterward making the necessary corrections on the form to prepare it for the actual application. During the application, the questionnaire forms were administered by the researcher by taking the written and verbal consent of the individuals and providing information about the research, about 10 - 15 minutes were given to respond to the questions on the forms. A questionnaire form created by the researcher by reviewing the literature (Akgül, 2013; Altnova and Duyan, 2013; Atı, 2010; Kahraman et al., 2014; Moç, 2013; Vefikuluçay et al., 2009) was used during the research.

**2.4. Data Collection Tools:** A questionnaire form consisting of three parts was used while collecting the data. In the first part of the form; there are 11 questions aimed to examine the age, sex, marital status, the number of people in their household, the number of daughters and sons, educational background, occupation, types of family, and regular monthly income and expense of the participants. In the second part of the form, there are 15 questions aimed to determine the gender roles and task-sharing in the families of the participants. In the last part of the form, there are 24 statements aimed to determine the perception of masculinity of the participants and they were asked to answer these statements as "I agree" or "I disagree".

**2.5. Data Evaluation:** The acquired data was evaluated by using the SPSS 17.0 (Statistical Package for Social Sciences for Windows) packaged software. In addition to data being evaluated in percentages and numbers, Chi-Square Test and Independent Samples t-Test were used to compare the socio-demographic attributes of the individuals and their perception of masculinity.

**2.6. Ethical Considerations:** In order to conduct the research necessary permissions were obtained from the Akşehir District Governorship and Selçuk University Ethics Committee (70632468-050.01.04/2016), afterward the research has commenced.

## 3. Finding

Participants are between the ages of 18 to 65 and the median age is  $27.57 \pm 10.22$ . The number of people in the household changes between 1 to 11, the number of daughters living at home changes between 1 to 8, and the number of sons living at home changes between 1 to 5. More than half of the participants (61.8%) consist of women. 68% were single. While 59% had grad or post-grad degrees, 27.4% were high school graduates. While 64.6% of the participants specified they were not working, 14.2% were laborers, and with similar percentages of 9.6% and 9.4%, participants specified they were self-employed and government employees, respectively. The most common family type was the nuclear family. While 51.4% indicated that they had regular incomes, 46% described their expenses were greater than their incomes, and 45.4% described their expenses and incomes as being equal (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Participants

	<b>n</b>	<b>Min-Max</b>	<b><math>\bar{x} \pm SS</math></b>
Age	500	18-65	27.57±10.22
Number of Household Members	499	1-11	4.52±1.66
Daughter	388	1-8	1.91±1.10
Son	359	1-5	1.59±.854
<b>Sex</b>	<b>n</b>		<b>%</b>
Female	309		61.8
Male	191		38.2
<b>Marital Status</b>			
Single		340	68.0
Married		160	32.0
<b>Education Status</b>			
Primary School and Less		35	7.0
Secondary School		33	6.6
High School		137	27.4
University and Post-Grad		295	59.0
<b>Occupation</b>			
Unemployed		323	64.6
Government Employee		47	9.4
Self-Employed		48	9.6
Laborer		71	14.2
Retired		7	1.4
Other		4	.8
<b>Family Type</b>			
Nuclear Family		415	83.0
Extended Family		67	13.4
Broken Family		18	3.6
<b>Regular Income Status</b>			
I have a regular income		257	51.4
I do not have a regular income		243	48.6
<b>Income Status</b>			
Expenses are greater than income		230	46.0
Expenses equal to income		227	45.4
Income is greater than expenses		43	8.6
<b>Total</b>		500	100.0

Participants were asked who performed some gender roles in their households. According to the participant responses, money-making is performed by men at a rate of 46.2%. While 48.8% of the participants answered both to the question of whose duty it was to determine the needs at home, 45.8% of the participants stated it was the women who determined the needs at home. 62.2% of the participants answered both to the question of whose decision it was to make where and how to spend the household income. Childcare is, at 63.8%, mostly done by women, while invoice payments are, at 63%, mostly performed by men, more than half of the participants, at 58.8% and 60.4% respectively, stated that both parents were involved while making the decisions to buy houseware and do grocery shopping. Similarly, a majority of participants, at 72.6%, stated both parents would decide whom to meet in the family. While breakfast preparation, at 73.2%, meal prepping, at 80%, house cleaning, at 81.8%, washing the dishes and doing the laundry, at 85.2%, are mostly performed by women, renovations, at 80.8%, are mostly done by men. In more than half of the households of the participants, at 67.2%, both parents engage in taking care of the children and playing games, and most of the time, at 79.6%, their leisure time activities are decided together (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Breakdown of Which Member/Members of the Household Performs Certain Acts Related to Gender Roles

	n	%		n	%
<b>Money making</b>			<b>Breakfast preparation</b>		
Men	231	46.2	Men	13	2.6
Woman	29	5.8	Woman	366	73.2
Both parents	24	48.0	Both parents	121	24.2
<b>Determine the needs at home</b>			<b>Meal preparing</b>		
Men	27	5.4	Men	7	1.4
Woman	229	45.8	Woman	400	80.0
Both parents	244	48.8	Both parents	93	18.6
<b>Where and how to spend the household income</b>			<b>House cleaning</b>		
Men	71	14.2	Men	4	.8
Woman	118	23.6	Woman	409	81.8
Both parents	311	62.2	Both parents	87	17.4
<b>Childcare</b>			<b>Dishes/Laundry</b>		
Men	15	3.0	Men	10	2.0
Woman	319	63.8	Woman	426	85.2
Both parents	166	33.2	Both parents	64	12.8
<b>Invoice payments</b>			<b>Renovations</b>		
Men	315	63.0	Men	404	80.8
Woman	42	8.4	Woman	30	6.0
Both parents	143	28.6	Both parents	66	13.2
<b>Buying the houseware</b>			<b>Taking care of the children and playing games</b>		
Men	116	23.2	Men	24	4.8
Woman	90	18.0	Woman	140	28.0
Both parents	294	58.8	Both parents	336	67.2
<b>Grocery shopping</b>			<b>Deciding leisure time activities</b>		
Men	66	13.2	Men	36	7.2
Woman	132	26.4	Woman	66	13.2
Both parents	302	60.4	Both parents	398	79.6
<b>Whom to meet in the family</b>			<b>Total</b>	500	100.0
Men	88	17.6			
Woman	49	9.8			
Both parents	363	72.6			

The breakdown of the responses to statements about gender roles according to the genders of the participants can be found in table 3. While those who agreed with the "**the husband should make the decisions regarding the woman's life**" statement make up a fraction of women at 8.1%, this percentage rises to 42.2% among men, it can be seen that the percentage of men who agree with this statement is high enough to make a statistical difference ( $p=.000$ ). Almost all of the women, at 92.9%, disagree with the "**the man should decide how to use the household income**" statement, while 38,7% of men support this statement, it can be seen that the provided responses change according to genders ( $p=.000$ ). Both genders accept the "**the man is the head of the household**" statement, while 39.5% of women agree with this statement, at high rates, at 74.9%, men support this statement. When examined statistically, the difference in agreement between genders about the "the man is the head of the household" statement can be seen ( $p=.000$ ). While 46.1% of men support the prioritization of men when it comes to promotions at the workplace, this support falls to 13.1% among women, the responses provided to this statement change according to the gender of the participant ( $p=.000$ ). While the agreement with the "**if the family is in a difficult financial situation, only the sons should be given the opportunity to pursue an education**" statement is low among both genders, the support to this statement among men, at 11%, is high enough to make a statistical difference ( $p=.000$ ). There is a huge discrepancy about the "**in a marriage, the man's level of education should be higher than the woman's**" statement, while 22.7% of women agree

with this statement, the percentage rises to 41.4% among men, which shows, statistically, the responses provided to the statement changes according to the gender of the participants ( $p=.000$ ). While 29.1% of women agree with the "men should work in higher status professions" statement, almost half of men, at 45%, support this statement, the provided responses change according to the gender of the participants ( $p=.000$ ). The agreement with the "the man should take care of outside tasks such as grocery shopping and invoice payments" statement is high among both genders.

**Table 3.** Breakdown of the Responses to Statements About Gender Roles According to the Genders of the Participants

	Woman		Men		Total		X <sup>2</sup>	p
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
<b>The husband should make the decisions regarding the woman's life</b>								
I agree	25	8.1	81	42.4	106	21.2	83.214	.000
I disagree	284	91.9	110	57.6	394	78.8		
<b>The man should decide how to use the household income</b>								
I agree	22	7.1	74	38.7	96	19.2	76.091	.000
I disagree	287	92.9	117	61.3	404	80.8		
<b>The man is the head of the household</b>								
I agree	122	39.5	143	74.9	265	53.0	59.338	.000
I disagree	187	60.5	48	25.1	235	47.0		
<b>Between men and women, the man should be prioritized when it comes to promotions in professional life</b>								
I agree	41	13.3	88	46.1	129	25.8	66.354	.000
I disagree	268	86.7	103	53.9	371	74.2		
<b>If the family is in a difficult financial situation, only the sons should be given the opportunity to pursue an education</b>								
I agree	9	2.9	21	11.0	30	6.0	13.671	.000
I disagree	300	97.1	170	89.0	470	94.0		
<b>In a marriage, the man's level of education should be higher than the woman's</b>								
I agree	70	22.7	79	41.4	149	29.8	19.747	.000
I disagree	239	77.3	112	58.6	351	70.2		
<b>Men should work in higher status professions</b>								
I agree	90	29.1	86	45.0	176	35.2	13.083	.000
I disagree	219	70.9	105	55.0	324	64.8		
<b>The man should decide which schools the children will attend to</b>								
I agree	13	4.2	35	18.3	48	9.6	27.108	.000
I disagree	296	95.8	156	81.7	452	90.4		
<b>The man should decide whom to see/meet in the family</b>								
I agree	24	7.8	67	35.1	91	18.2	59.141	.000
I disagree	285	92.2	124	64.9	409	81.8		
<b>The man should take care of outside tasks such as grocery shopping and invoice payments</b>								
I agree	148	47.9	137	71.7	285	57.0	27.351	.000
I disagree	161	52.1	54	28.3	215	43.0		
<b>The man should determine the needs at home</b>								
I agree	27	8.7	27	14.1	54	10.8	3.571	.075
I disagree	282	91.3	164	85.9	446	89.2		
<b>It is the man's duty to provide for the family</b>								
I agree	157	50.8	136	71.2	293	58.6	20.238	.000
I disagree	152	49.2	55	28.8	207	41.4		
<b>Only the sons should have the right to benefit from family inheritance</b>								
I agree	6	1.9	20	10.5	26	5.2	17.420	.000
I disagree	303	98.1	171	89.5	474	94.8		
<b>Male politicians are more successful</b>								
I agree	67	21.7	95	49.7	162	32.4	42.419	.000
I disagree	242	78.3	96	50.3	338	67.6		
<b>Whatever man says should be followed at home</b>								
I agree	21	6.8	78	40.8	99	19.8	86.139	.000
I disagree	288	93.2	113	59.2	401	80.2		

<b>The father should have the final say in who a young woman is going to marry</b>									
I agree	97	31.4	116	60.7	213	42.6	41.559	.000	
I disagree	212	68.6	75	39.3	287	57.4			
<b>Giving birth to a son increases the value of a woman</b>									
I agree	15	4.9	54	28.3	69	13.8	54.417	.000	
I disagree	294	95.1	137	71.7	431	86.2			
<b>Due to women's fertility, men should be preferred in job applications</b>									
I agree	23	7.4	54	28.3	77	15.4	39.306	.000	
I disagree	286	92.6	137	71.7	423	84.6			
<b>If the woman is infertile, the man should remarry</b>									
I agree	12	3.9	36	18.8	48	9.6	30.459	.000	
I disagree	297	96.1	155	81.2	452	90.4			
<b>If the man is in a sufficient financial situation, the woman should not work</b>									
I agree	102	33.0	127	66.5	229	45.8	53.308	.000	
I disagree	207	67.0	64	33.5	271	54.2			
<b>The woman that the man will marry should be a virgin</b>									
I agree	110	35.6	142	74.3	252	50.4	70.890	.000	
I disagree	199	64.4	49	25.7	248	49.6			
<b>Men should also contribute to the chores, such as dishes or laundry, in the house</b>									
I agree	222	71.8	67	35.1	289	57.8	65.415	.000	
I disagree	87	28.2	124	64.9	211	42.2			
<b>It is normal for a married man to cheat on his wife</b>									
I agree	2	.6	27	14.1	29	5.8	39.309	.000	
I disagree	307	99.4	164	85.9	471	94.2			
<b>Certain occupations, such as, being in the military, being in the police force, electrical or construction engineering are more suited to men</b>									
I agree	148	47.9	140	73.3	288	57.6	31.187	.000	
I disagree	161	52.1	51	26.7	212	42.4			
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100.0</b>			

Almost half of women, at 47.9%, and 71.7% of men agree with this statement, when examined statistically, it can be seen that there is a huge discrepancy between genders ( $p=.000$ ). While both genders think it is the man's duty to provide for the family, the support rate for this statement among male participants is significantly higher, at 71.2%, and statistical differences can be detected ( $p=.000$ ). While the **"male politicians are more successful"** statement is accepted at higher rates, at 49.7%, among male participants, statistically, there are huge differences between genders ( $p=.000$ ). While almost all of the women, at 93.2%, disagree with the **"whatever man says should be followed at home"** statement, the agreement rate rises to 40.8% among men, it was determined that the provided responses change according to genders ( $p=.000$ ). More than half of the male participants, at 60.7%, agree with the **"the father should have the final say in who a young woman is going to marry"** statement, there is a huge discrepancy in the responses given according to the genders of the participants ( $p=.000$ ). While the support for the **"if the woman is infertile, the man should remarry"** statement is relatively low among both genders, the fact that 18.8% of men support this statement and the provided responses change according to the genders of the participants, which could be interpreted as a striking result ( $p=.000$ ). While 33% of women agree with the **"if the man is in a sufficient financial situation, the woman should not work"** statement, the support doubles among men at 66.5%, statistically there is a huge discrepancy between these rates according to the genders of the participants ( $p=.000$ ). Half of the men and 35.6% of women support the **"the woman that the man will marry should be a virgin"** statement and 14.1% of men accept it as normal for a married man to cheat on his wife ( $p=.000$ ). Among the responses provided to the **"men should also contribute to the chores, such as dishes or laundry, in the house"** statement, huge discrepancies exist between the genders ( $p=.000$ ). While 71.8% of women agree with this statement, 64.9% of men disagree with it. Additionally, while both genders agree with the **"certain occupations, such as being in the military, being in the police force, electrical or construction engineering"**

**are more suited to men"** statement, it can be seen that men, at 73.3%, agree with this statement at higher rates ( $p=.000$ ) (Table 3).

**Table 4.** Comparison of the Ages of the Participants to Their Responses to Gender Roles

	t	df	p*
The husband should make the decisions regarding the woman's life	3.131	139.576	.002
The man should decide how to use the household income	2.696	122.228	.008
The man is the head of the household	3.964	483.827	.000
Between men and women, the man should be prioritized when it comes to promotions in professional life	4.002	177.372	.000
If the family is in a difficult financial situation, only the sons should be given the opportunity to pursue an education	3.408	498	.001
In a marriage, the man's level of education should be higher than the woman's	2.472	228.080	.014
Men should work in higher status professions	1.140	304.935	.255
The man should decide which schools the children will attend to	2.385	52.680	.021
The man should decide whom to see/meet in the family	3.115	113.419	.002
The man should take care of outside tasks such as grocery shopping and invoice payments	.509	498	.611
The man should determine the needs at home	.440	498	.660
It is the man's duty to provide for the family	1.520	487.460	.129
Only the sons should have the right to benefit from family inheritance	.812	498	.417
Male politicians are more successful	1.270	498	.205
Whatever man says should be followed at home	4.522	123.843	.000
The father should have the final say in who a young woman is going to marry	1.593	416.441	.112
Giving birth to a son increases the value of a woman	4.947	78.627	.000
Due to women's fertility, men should be preferred in job applications	3.371	90.695	.001
If the woman is infertile, the man should remarry	2.414	498	.016
If the man is in a sufficient financial situation, the woman should not work	4.834	409.481	.000
The woman that the man will marry should be a virgin	2.436	477.530	.015
Men should also contribute to the chores, such as dishes or laundry, in the house	-5.521	352.864	.000
It is normal for a married man to cheat on his wife	2.732	29.603	.011
Certain occupations, such as, being in the military, being in the police force, electrical or construction engineering are more suited to men	1.544	492.625	.123

\*Independent Samples t-Test was applied

In table 4, the comparison of the ages of the participants and their responses to gender roles can be found. While the support for the: "the husband should make the decisions regarding the woman's life", "the man should decide how to use the household income", "the man is the head of the household", "between men and women, the man should be prioritised when it comes to promotions in professional life", "if the family is in a difficult financial situation, only the sons should be given the opportunity to pursue an education", "in a marriage, the man's level of education should be higher than the woman's", "the man should decide which schools the children will attend to", "the man should decide whom to see/meet in the family", "whatever man says should be followed at home", "giving birth to a son increases the value of a woman", "due to women's fertility, men should be preferred in job applications", "if the woman is infertile, the man should remarry", "if the man is in a sufficient financial situation, the woman should not work", "the woman that the man will marry should be a virgin", "men should also contribute to the chores, such as dishes or laundry, in the house", "it is normal for a married man to cheat on his wife" statements changes according to the ages of the participants ( $p<0.05$ ), in can be determined that the support for the: "men should work in higher status professions", "the man should take care of outside tasks such as, grocery shopping and invoice payments", "the man should determine the needs at home", "it is the man's duty to provide for the family", "only the sons should have the right to benefit from family inheritance", "male politicians are more successful", "the father should have the final say in who a young woman is going to marry" statements does not change according to the ages of the participants ( $p>0.05$ ).



**Table 5.** Breakdown of Participant Responses According to Their Educational Status

	Primary School or Less		Secondary School		High School		University and Post Grad		X <sup>2</sup>	p
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
<b>The husband should make the decisions regarding the woman's life</b>										
I agree	13	37.1	11	33.3	51	37.2	31	10.5	49.482	.000
I disagree	22	62.9	22	66.7	86	62.8	264	89.5		
<b>The man should decide how to use the household income</b>										
I agree	9	25.7	9	27.3	45	32.8	33	11.2	31.001	.000
I disagree	26	74.3	24	72.7	92	67.2	262	88.8		
<b>The man is the head of the household</b>										
I agree	23	65.7	22	66.7	84	61.3	136	46.1	14.183	.003
I disagree	12	34.3	11	33.3	53	38.7	159	53.9		
<b>Between men and women, the man should be prioritized when it comes to promotions in professional life</b>										
I agree	11	31.4	17	51.5	49	35.8	52	17.6	29.380	.000
I disagree	24	68.6	16	48.5	88	64.2	243	82.4		
<b>If the family is in a difficult financial situation, only the sons should be given the opportunity to pursue an education</b>										
I agree	2	5.7	6	18.2	11	8.0	11	3.7	12.386	.006
I disagree	33	94.3	27	81.8	126	92.0	284	96.3		
<b>In a marriage, the man's level of education should be higher than the woman's</b>										
I agree	10	28.6	14	42.4	48	35.0	77	26.1	6.264	.099
I disagree	25	71.4	19	57.6	89	65.0	218	73.9		
<b>Men should work in higher status professions</b>										
I agree	12	34.3	20	60.6	57	41.6	87	29.5	16.030	.001
I disagree	23	65.7	13	39.4	80	58.4	208	70.5		
<b>The man should decide which schools the children will attend to</b>										
I agree	6	17.1	5	15.2	19	13.9	18	6.1	10.503	.015
I disagree	29	82.9	28	84.8	118	86.1	277	93.9		
<b>The man should decide whom to see/meet in the family</b>										
I agree	5	14.3	11	33.3	46	33.6	29	9.8	41.075	.000
I disagree	30	85.7	22	66.7	91	66.4	266	90.2		
<b>The man should take care of outside tasks such as grocery shopping and invoice payments</b>										
I agree	20	57.1	20	60.6	78	56.9	167	56.6	.194	.979
I disagree	15	42.9	13	39.4	59	43.1	128	43.4		
<b>The man should determine the needs at home</b>										
I agree	6	17.1	8	24.2	17	12.4	23	7.8	10.782	.013
I disagree	29	82.9	25	75.8	120	87.6	272	92.2		
<b>It is the man's duty to provide for the family</b>										
I agree	22	62.9	25	75.8	91	66.4	155	52.5	12.184	.007
I disagree	13	37.1	8	24.2	46	33.6	140	47.5		
<b>Only the sons should have the right to benefit from family inheritance</b>										
I agree	2	5.7	5	15.2	8	5.8	11	3.7	8.057	.045
I disagree	33	94.3	28	84.8	129	94.2	284	96.3		
<b>Male politicians are more successful</b>										
I agree	11	31.4	15	45.5	58	42.3	78	26.4	13.541	.004
I disagree	24	68.6	18	54.5	79	57.7	217	73.6		
<b>Whatever man says should be followed at home</b>										
I agree	15	42.9	11	33.3	42	30.7	31	10.5	41.731	.000
I disagree	20	57.1	22	66.7	95	69.3	264	89.5		
<b>The father should have the final say in who a young woman is going to marry</b>										
I agree	16	45.7	16	48.5	64	46.7	117	39.7	2.597	.458
I disagree	19	54.3	17	51.5	73	53.3	178	60.3		
<b>Giving birth to a son increases the value of a woman</b>										
I agree	7	20.0	9	27.3	29	21.2	24	8.1	20.375	.000
I disagree	28	80.0	24	72.7	108	78.8	271	91.9		

<b>Due to women's fertility, men should be preferred in job applications</b>										
I agree	7	20.0	9	27.3	33	24.1	28	9.5	19.980	.000
I disagree	28	80.0	24	72.7	104	75.9	267	90.5		
<b>If the woman is infertile, the man should remarry</b>										
I agree	2	5.7	7	21.2	16	11.7	23	7.8	7.524	.057
I disagree	33	94.3	26	78.8	121	88.3	272	92.2		
<b>If the man is in a sufficient financial situation, the woman should not work</b>										
I agree	19	54.3	21	63.6	81	59.1	108	36.6	25.079	.000
I disagree	16	45.7	12	36.4	56	40.9	187	63.4		
<b>The woman that the man will marry should be a virgin</b>										
I agree	19	54.3	21	63.6	82	59.9	130	44.1	12.154	.007
I disagree	16	45.7	12	36.4	55	40.1	165	55.9		
<b>Men should also contribute to the chores, such as dishes or laundry, in the house</b>										
I agree	13	37.1	12	36.4	70	51.1	194	65.8	22.534	.000
I disagree	22	62.9	21	63.6	67	48.9	101	34.2		
<b>It is normal for a married man to cheat on his wife</b>										
I agree	2	5.7	2	6.1	19	13.9	6	2.0	23.987	.000
I disagree	33	94.3	31	93.9	118	86.1	289	98.0		
<b>Certain occupations, such as, being in the military, being in the police force, electrical or construction engineering are more suited to men</b>										
I agree	22	62.9	21	63.6	88	64.2	157	53.2	5.674	.129
I disagree	13	37.1	12	36.4	49	35.8	138	46.8		
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>100.0</b>		

In table 5, the breakdown of participant responses according to their educational status can be found. The responses provided to the: "the husband should make the decisions regarding the woman's life", "the man should decide how to use the household income", "between men and women, the man should be prioritised when it comes to promotions in professional life", "if the family is in a difficult financial situation, only the sons should be given the opportunity to pursue an education", "men should work in higher status professions", "the man should decide which schools the children will attend to", "the man should decide whom to see/meet in the family", "the man should determine the needs at home", "it is the man's duty to provide for the family", "only the sons should have the right to benefit from family inheritance", "male politicians are more successful", "giving birth to a son increases the value of a woman", "due to women's fertility, men should be preferred in job application", "if the man is in a sufficient financial situation, the woman should not work", "the woman that the man will marry should be a virgin", "men should also contribute to the chores, such as dishes or laundry, in the house", and "it is normal for a married man to cheat on his wife" statements change according to the educational status of the participants ( $p < 0.05$ ). While the responses provided to the: "in a marriage, the man's level of education should be higher than the woman's", "the man should take care of outside tasks such as, grocery shopping and invoice payments", "the father should have the final say in who a young woman is going to marry", "if the woman is infertile, the man should remarry", "certain occupations, such as, being in the military, being a police, electrical or construction engineering are more suited to men" statements are in close proximity of each other and the responses do not change according to the educational status of the participants ( $p > 0.05$ ).

#### 4. Discussion

As part of the research, the participants were asked who performed some gender-related roles and task sharing within the family. According to the responses provided, money-making, at 46.2%, renovations, at 80.2%, and invoice payments, at 63%, are mostly performed by men. Breakfast preparation, at 73.2%, meal prepping, at 80%, house cleaning, at 81.8%, washing the dishes and doing the laundry, at 85.2%, on the other hand, are mostly done by women. Similar to the conducted research, according to the Research on Family Structure (2006), within households ironing, meal prepping, doing the laundry, and washing the dishes are, at a rate of over 80%, found to be duties

performed by women, while invoice payments and renovations are, at a rate of over 60%, found to be duties performed by men (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family and Social Policies, 2016). In the research conducted by Pınar et al., (2008) to determine the gender stereotypes of the youth living in Başkent University dormitories, the statement "men cannot look after themselves alone, therefore, they need the care of women" was supported at a rate of 94.0%. In the research, named "Gender and Perception of Gender Roles", conducted by Vatandaş (2007) in 197 locations, it was determined that task sharing within the household had a substantially traditional character. It was observed that household chores, such as meal prepping, at 76%, washing the dishes, at 83%, house cleaning, at 76%, and ironing, at 67%, were mostly performed by women in the conclusion of this research too. According to the results of the 2013 Turkey Demographic and Health Survey, the majority of women, at 75.2%, had stated that men should also contribute to house chores such as meal prepping, dishes, laundry, ironing, and house cleaning (Turkish Statistical Institute, 2014). In a similar fashion to the examined researches, the research we have conducted also shows, traditionally some gender roles, tasks, and responsibilities are attributed to men more often and masculinity is identified with these roles and tasks, however, it also shows that women expect men to get more involved with some chores within the household. In the research conducted by Beyazıt and Mağden (2015), which studied the hypergender ideology and perception of fatherhood among male university students, concluded that as the perception of fatherhood increased, they started to take more responsibilities within the household, and their characteristics related to hypergender ideology decreased.

According to the research conducted, while the support for the **"if the family is in a difficult financial situation, only the sons should be given the opportunity to pursue an education"** is low among both genders, men at 89% and women at 97.1% oppose it, it was concluded that 11% of male participants agreed with this statement ( $p=.000$ ), participants who had college or post-grad degrees were the ones that agreed the least with this statement, and the support for this statement changed according to the educational status ( $p=0.06$ ) and ages ( $p=.001$ ) of the participants. According to the Turkish Statistical Institute data (2014) that supports the research conducted, the rate of the illiterate female population is five times higher than that of males. While the illiteracy rate of those aged 25 or older in the general population is at 5.7%, this rate is at 1.9% among men and at 9.4% among women. While the rate of those who graduated from a high school or its equivalent is at 18.2% among those aged 25 or older in the general population, this rate is at 22.2% among men and at 14.4% among women. The rate of those with university or post-grad degrees is at 12.9% in the general population, this rate is at 15.1% among men and at 10.7% among women (Turkish Statistical Institute, 2014). According to the research conducted by Vefikuluçay et al., (2009) which examined the point of views of university students on gender roles, it was determined that the "if the family is in a difficult financial situation, only the sons should be given the opportunity to pursue an education" statement was not supported by a majority of student among both genders, however, it was discovered that the disagreement rate among male students was, at 90.1%, lower than that of female students, at 98.4%. In a different research conducted by Vefikuluçay et al., (2007) among senior students at Kafkas University, which examined their points of view on gender roles, the "if the family is in a difficult financial situation, only the sons should be given the opportunity to pursue an education" statement was supported by 20.4% of male students, every one out of the five male students, the support was interpreted as a striking discovery. In the examined studies, similar results to the research we had conducted were found, while the support for the "if the family is in a difficult financial situation, only the sons should be given the opportunity to pursue an education" statement was low, the fact that a portion of the male students agreed with this statement was interpreted as an evidence of male students adopting and supporting the perception of masculinity more commonly.

According to the research conducted, 86.7% of women and 53.9% of men disagree with the **"between men and women, the man should be prioritized when it comes to promotions in professional life"** statement. While 46.1% of men support the prioritization of men when it comes to promotions, this support falls to 13.1% among women, the agreement with this changes according to the gender ( $p=.000$ ), educational status ( $p=.000$ ), and age ( $p=.000$ ) of the participants. According

to a research conducted by Vefikuluçay et al., (2009) while almost all of the female students, at 99.2%, and 79% of male students disagreed with the "it is normal for men to be prioritized between men and women, whose ranks are the same, when it comes to promotions in professional life", it was determined that some 11% of male students agreed with this statement. In a striking result of the research conducted by Kahraman et al., (2014) among the academic personnel of Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University the support for the "it is normal for men to be prioritized between men and women, whose ranks are the same when it comes to promotions in professional life" was found to be at 6.2%. In different research conducted by Vefikuluçay et al., (2007) it was discovered that a majority of female students, at 91.9%, disagreed with this statement. Compared to the examined researches, the research we have conducted found that the support for the "between men and women, the man should be prioritized when it comes to promotions in professional life" was higher among both men and women and as a result of the domination of traditional point of view, seeing the promotion as men's right is more common.

According to the research conducted, both genders accept men as the head of the household, while 39.5% of women agree with this statement, it was determined that this statement was supported at higher rates, at 74.9%, among men. When examined statistically, the agreement with the "**man is the head of the household**" statement changes according to the gender ( $p=.000$ ), educational status ( $p=.003$ ), and age ( $p=.000$ ) of the participants. In the research conducted by Dinç-Kahraman (2010) was conducted to determine the points of view of women on gender inequality, women were asked the "given the choice, which gender would you prefer for your children to be born" question, and it was discovered that the rate of women that preferred to have sons was higher than that of women that preferred to have daughters. The reasoning of women who preferred to have sons was mostly, at 73.9%, because they thought men as having more freedom in society. According to the research conducted by Vefikuluçay et al., (2009) 56% of male students agreeing with the "man should be the head of the household" statement was found to be striking. According to the research conducted by Aydın (2010) among students from the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Education at Hacettepe University, 42.9% of engineering students saw the father as the head of the household compared to 29.8% of students from Faculty of Education. According to research conducted by Kahraman et al., (2014) the fact that academic personnel found to have accepted traditional gender roles in statements such as, "the main duty of women is to look after the home and the family", "men should be the head of the household", "it is the men's responsibility to provide for the family, and that women accepted these traditional roles were found to be striking results. According to the research conducted by Pınar et al., (2008) among students staying at Başkent University dormitories, female students were found to support the "happiness does not exist in the household, in which, men dominate" and "the relationship between a man and woman is one that does not need one of them to assume leadership" at 98% and 94%, respectively. According to the research conducted by Seçgin and Tural (2011) among primary school teaching candidates, 64% of female teaching candidates disagreed with the "man is the head of the household" statement, while 66% of male teaching candidates accepted men as the heads of the households and found this statement favorable. According to research conducted by Ersoy (2009) to determine the female and male identity in gender perception, it was determined that an essential part of both genders disagreed with the "men are superior to women and whatever men say should be followed within the household" statement, women disagreed with this statement more, and men were more supportive of this statement. In the same research, it was established that as the educational status among both genders increased, the opposition, to the idea that men are superior and whatever men say should be followed within the household, was formed. On the other hand, educated women were more opposed to this statement than educated men. The conclusions of this research support the conclusions of the research conducted, it is seen that women and people with higher educational status oppose the "men are the heads of the households and whatever men say should be followed within the household" more often.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The concept of masculinity is encountered as a concept accepted in most societies, it, especially, makes its existence felt in rural societies with patriarchal family structures. According to the research conducted, it is seen that traditional understanding weighs heavily, and the roles attributed to men and the perception of masculinity draw more attention. While the effect of the perception of masculinity is more commonly seen among male participants, as evidenced by the responses provided by women, it was found that some gender roles are more accepted by women and some gender roles and tasks are attributed to men, they identified with men, and the perception of masculinity was dominant. The fact that the research was conducted in a rural society where traditional understanding was dominant, substantially affected the results. Though the idea of the perception of masculinity being more dominant among male participants could rise, it is important to remember women raise men and being raised in a traditional family structure where men are praised heavily, cause these results. The perspective of rural societies needs to change. Raising and increasing awareness on topics, such as gender roles, gender perception, and human rights with the health education method will be effective in changing the perceptions of men and women about one another. Additionally, it is further important to focus on future parents, especially men, and contribute to their advancements.

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