





## Cultural Change Experienced by University-Aged Young Women Through Spatial Mobility: The Case of Aksaray

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### Abstract

This study aims to understand the cultural change experienced by young women born in Sultanhanı, a district of Aksaray, Turkey, who leave their hometown to attend university. The research seeks to reveal how these young women experience changes in their cultural practices due to the cultural capital they acquire through university education, particularly in a district where women are marginalized in public spaces and social control operates against them. A field research was conducted using a case study approach, one of the qualitative research designs. In-depth interviews and, to a limited extent, observation techniques were employed. In line with homogeneous sampling method, one of the purposive sampling techniques, in-depth interviews were conducted with ten young women aged 17–25 who reside in the district outside their educational period. The interviews were carried out between February 2023 and May 2023. During the research process, participants were asked questions about their interactions in the district, their social interactions in the city where they attended university, and their cultural change practices. The findings indicate that young women face intense social control in their hometowns and feel restricted in public spaces, but they enjoy broader socialization opportunities and greater individual freedoms in the university city. It was observed that the participants' increasing cultural capital and diversified interaction areas led to variations in their cultural practices. Additionally, the university also played a major role in facilitating cultural change. Furthermore, findings revealed that participants experienced discomfort due to male dominance in social life within their home district.

## Keywords

Cultural Change, Cultural Diversity, University Life, Young Woman, Aksaray

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