



## Motherhood Across Generations: Changing Roles and Perceptions in the Case of Siirt

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### Abstract

The phenomenon of motherhood is an area that needs to be addressed from multiple dimensions as it encompasses social, cultural, and biological aspects. The formation of a woman's maternal identity is influenced not only by her biological structure but also by processes of socialization. In other words, working life and family responsibilities expected from women create pressure on women and their ability to struggle in this process determines the identity of women. Various meanings have been attributed to the phenomenon of motherhood in different periods of history, and an important transformation has been observed with the phenomenon of globalization. These developments and transformations have affected many things as well as women's motherhood roles. In regard to these changes, evaluating the transformation of motherhood in today's society from a sociological perspective is important to comprehend the roles of motherhood. In this sense, the aim of this research is to make the meaning attributed to motherhood, which is a gender role imposed on women by a patriarchal gender structure, visible from a sociological perspective. Based on the assumption that social, cultural and political structures shape the experience of motherhood, this study aims to conduct a discussion on the reproduced and transformed position of motherhood in the focus of various discourses. The study focuses on what the concept of motherhood means across different generations. Within the scope of the study, 30 women from Siirt were interviewed, but the answers of 15 people were not considered appropriate for the purpose of the study and were not evaluated. One-third of the women interviewed are over 65 years old, one-third are between the ages of 35-64, and one-third are women under the age of 35. In the interviews, all participants defined motherhood using narratives that glorify it, agreeing that one of the essential aspects of motherhood is self-sacrifice and that motherhood is sacred. However, the nature of this self-sacrifice differs between the older generation and the middle and younger generations.

### Keywords

Motherhood, Gender, Identity, Cultural Change, Intergenerationality

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