


## **Migration and Fertility at the Intersection of Gender: A Qualitative Study on Syrian Refugee Women**

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### **Abstract**

This research examines the social, cultural, and structural factors that determine the high fertility rates of Syrian refugee women in Turkey from a gender perspective. According to 2018 data, the total fertility rate for Syrian women was recorded at 5.3, compared to 1.99 for the country as a whole. This striking difference demonstrates that the fertility behavior of these refugees is influenced not only by individual choices but also by religious beliefs, cultural norms, patriarchal gender roles, and barriers to accessing healthcare. The study is based on semi-structured in-depth interviews conducted with 24 married Syrian individuals (12 women, 12 men) residing in Erzurum. The interviews provided an opportunity to comparatively assess the fertility experiences of women and men. The data reveal that high fertility trends are legitimized by religious and cultural values, that women's identity is largely constructed through motherhood, and that lack of knowledge about modern contraceptive methods and trust issues are common. The research offers a unique theoretical framework for immigrant women's fertility through conceptualizations such as "forced motherhood culture," "patriarchal fertility burden," and "hidden resistance strategies," and offers multidimensional suggestions that can contribute to social policy development processes.

### **Keywords**

Syrian Refugees, Migrant Fertility, Gender, Reproductive Norms, Biopolitics

### **Citation**

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