

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to examine how care policies affect both men and women's lives while affecting gender roles within societies. To better understand the impact that care policies have on gender roles, Sweden and Turkey are chosen to represent two distinctly different welfare state models. Thus, the focus of this study is to establish the influences and implications of care policies as it relates to Sweden and Turkey correspondingly. Since the classifications of welfare states are directly related to the set of policies associated with their respective welfare regime, further focus is placed on the structural make-up of the welfare regimes. In order to resolve the welfare regimes of these two countries, Esping-Andersen's comparative welfare study was marked as the starting point. However, the fundamental reference point of this study is one of the main criticisms regarding the Esping-Andersen's study that is the absence of gender perspective. Therefore, this study is based on 'gender policy regimes' approach, which was created by Sainsbury (1999) as a critic to the absence of gender perspective in Esping-Andersen's study. In this approach, Sainsbury (1999) indicated that the absence of gender perspective in comparative welfare studies was one of the causes that lead to the misinterpretation of gender relations as well as leading to the ignorance of the inequalities that surrounds gender relations. In light of this study, Sweden was already classified within the 'individual earner-carer' category of the gender policy regimes. Although, Turkey has been placed under the 'male bread regime' category in multiple studies, with this study Turkey's classification is configured according to Sainsbury's original approach. Moreover, the implications of care policies in these two countries are compared within the foundation of the gender policy regimes.