

MIRZETA MEMISEVIC HODZIC

ROLE MODEL
IN FORESTRY SECTOR

HER CAREER

As an excellent student, I received a scholarship from a small but successful forestry company, and already in the first year of studies, I had the opportunity to meet with very friendly colleagues from that company and learn from them about everyday work and application of acquired knowledge. I think that this happy circumstance influenced my later desire to decide to advance in science and connect science and profession, despite all the difficulties. After graduating from the Faculty of Forestry, I got a job in the public enterprise "Bosanskohercegovačke šume" and continued my education through Masters and Ph.D. studies.

PERCEPTIVE ABOUT THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FORESTRY

I think that there are many extraordinary women in forestry, but their visibility is low. There is no job that women cannot do. Only their preferences might be different. The employee must be aware of personal abilities and preferences and a successful and good manager will make the best use of it.

EXPERIENCES WITH WOMEN WORKING IN FORESTRY SECTOR

I have had only positive experiences working with women from the sector. Some women like certain kinds of jobs, while others don't. It's all about preferences, but they certainly can do all jobs in forestry very well. For a successful career in forestry, women should find a niche where they can show their expertise. We cannot talk about any obstacles for female career development generally. I think they are on an individual, private level and female professionals in forestry are well aware of them.

ABOUT MIRZETA MEMISEVIC HODZIC

Mirzeta Memisevic Hodzic is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Forestry, University of Sarajevo. She lives and works in Sarajevo and has over 20 years of professional experience.



WHAT SHOULD BE DONE FOR BETTER INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN FORESTRY SECTOR?

I think that women should be encouraged to be aware of their ambitions and work on their realization. You can start with that from the first years of life. Teach children, pupils, students, workers, that through hard work and learning they can become what they want, regardless of their gender or any other affiliation.

Gender should not be considered when recruiting for any position. A person's ability to perform a particular job can be tested in prescribed ways related to that position. To improve the opportunities for career development of female workers, additional training and education should be organized in public companies and administration in the forestry sector.



INTERESTING INITIATIVES WHICH HELPED WOMEN WITH THEIR CAREER

In recent years, part of the funds for the employment of women has been allocated through government employment programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through all levels of education, every effort should be made to motivate people for progress and self-development in a particular field, regardless of any affiliation. Doing that, only objective eligibility criteria for performing a particular job should be taken into consideration.

KEY MESSAGES FOR YOUNG FEMALE IN EARLY CAREER

Be aware of your ambitions and move towards their realization.

Don't let anyone determine what you are capable of and what you are not, what is and what is not for you, and especially what you should or should not want or be.

Remember that human rights are not divided into women's rights and men's rights.



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