

SITUATION OF THE WOMAN ACADEMICS IN THE NEW LÄENDER OF GERMANY

Dr. Ingrid Doberez
Dipl.-Ing., Pat.-Ing. European Patent Attorney
Mittweida University of Technology and Business (FH)
Mittweida, Germany

In the former GDR there was not any unemployment. On the other hand side it is well known, that the result was a big crash of the economical and political system like in the other socialist countries.

The liquidation of administrations, enterprises, scientific and cultural institutions and organizations caused the liquidation of millions of jobs.

No wonder, that since the reunification in 1990 has started an increasingly rate of unemployment.

Most of people without jobs are women in the age after 40 (and of course very young people).

Especially big number of jobless women worked in science and culture. They had children and had their job as well. This was a double load for them, a double charge. But nowadays their children have left the home and the women have lost their jobs. They are feeling completely useless because nobody in the former GDR was prepared for such a situation. To have a job was the foundation of self-confidence for a woman.

Typical results of such a situation are the loss of social contacts with colleagues, the loss of social admission and an increasing isolation.

But there are not only psychological problems as result of unemployment.

Often the husband also has lost the job, so that suddenly the living standard of such an "academic" family dramatically has broken down.

Some statistical details:

In 1994 every 9th man and every 4th woman had lost their jobs.

More than 66% of all these women don't believe, that they will have any chance for a new job.

Let us divide the woman academics into two groups:

The first one are the engineers and the second one are the scientists.

An interesting fact is, that the engineers are much more optimistically to get a new job (80%) as the scientists (20%).

The statistic says, that higher qualified women have better chances on the job market. They push away the lower qualified women. On the other hand side having visited an university isn't a protection against pushing away from younger but lower qualified women.

Fear of Dequalification				
Group	All	Yes	No	No answer
Scientists	19	11	3	5
Engineers	10	6	3	1

What activities do the unemployment womens to find a new job? Let's have a look at the following table:

Woman activities to improve the chances on the job market		
	Number	
Kind of activity	Scientists	Engineers
Applications	21	18
Retraining	18	4
Further Education	16	2
Direct contacting of Personal Managers	5	6
Informations getting from friends	2	0
Labour Exchange	1	0
Visiting professorship for a limited time	0	2
Advertisements	1	2

Summary / Thesis

- Unemployment of 10-Thousands of women academics as the result of the German reunification is not only a deep lost of living quality for them. The losts are of spirit-intellect and material nature as well as losts of sense of living.

- The unemployment of such a large number of women scientists, engineers and artists is a very big lost of spirit potential for our nation especially in the situation where Germany is fighting for more attractivity as a centre of science and culture in europe and in the world.
- Among the unemployment woman academics is a big disapointment and disillusion about the new Germany. They had wished the new Germany and had a very big hope for a better life. Now they know, that the new society do'nt need them and will not help them. As the result they do'nt think about future and society - they have become egoistic and only do think about their own future.

