WOMEN IN MARITIME

ABSTRACT.

Today's women are walking step by step breaking down barriers. It is not rare for women to stand out in historically male-dominated areas such as politics, business, and athletics, among others. But there's a lot more.... women have a lot of powerful aspects that should be noted. Women's strengths, skills, and abilities, ranging from kindness to the patience, are what make them powerful and attractive every day. They are seen as a reliable and equal partner. It is true, today's entrenched stereotype haven't been totally break out, but it's a testament to the strength and professionalism of today's women that their perspectives are shifting. It's wonderful to know that such people exist in Georgia, both at sea and on land.

Feminism is a worldview in which women's economic, social, civic, political, and cultural rights should be respected. Women have come a long, tumultuous, and fascinating way to achieve this. They were distinct on the one hand, and they battled to overcome cultural norms that oppressed them differently on the other. The idea of commemorating International Women's Solidarity Day was conceived in the early twentieth century. In 1908, 15,000 women took to the streets of New York to protest for their rights. In the years that followed, there were an increasing number of large-scale protests. Because women were seen as the weaker sex, their abilities and rights were not properly assessed and their main aim was to obtain acceptability in a male-dominated environment and to equalize men's and women's rights.

The year 2019 has been declared by international maritime organizations as a year of progress for women in the maritime sector. "Gender balance remains as a challenge, but there are now many more educated, powerful women, and I believe we will be able to build a marine industry in Georgia that is free of stereotypes, balanced, and based on fair social values."

The maritime field and maritime professions are specific and radical. Qualified employees at sea or on land are essential for the country's industrial development. In real time, state policy is aimed at supporting and developing maritime businesses. It should be noted that the support of the European Union is very important in the process of education and training of seafarers, because "adherence to European standards is a guarantee of respectable employment for Georgian sailors". Sailors are representatives of those rare professions that export services from Georgia which is one of the important components of the region's economic stability.

There is no field today where women have not shown their dignity and ability to work. Many women are hesitant to choose the maritime field as a profession because they are afraid that they will not achieve the result that men achieve, but fear is only part of our imagination that keeps us from achieving success. The key is to have faith in yourself and if we do, success will follow..

Conclusions. Finally, what is there to say? That today's women are more powerful than ever before, and that society needs and demands them. Gender equality is gaining ground in the modern world and the patriarchal system, in which women had no political rights and were denied the opportunity to vote is finally being phased out. Finally, we believe that meetings involving government, businesses, and maritime unions should be organized by the International Labor
Organizations to examine how to enhance chances for "women" to work at sea.

**JEL Classification:**

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**Introduction**

Gender equality, woman in politics and social activities, woman as an active citizen person, these phrases are heard very often and are very actually nowadays. The process of globalization and new challenges in the world have brought forward the role of women in contemporary social, political and economic issues.

First of all, it should be noted that the division of people into the so-called "Weak" and "strong" genders gradually becomes conditional. Today, the words: feminism, feminist are actively heard, which indicates the growth of women's rights and responsibilities. Those stereotypical phrases, according to which a woman is associated with the family or a woman is only a mother and her job begins and ends in the kitchen, have become unfounded.

Gender equality means increasing the role of women in public life, however, this process takes place with a number of difficulties, especially in Muslim countries, where women are prohibited from many things and tradition and custom are above their rights.

The condition in our society is not favorable. The results of almost all conducted researches and surveys prove that Georgian people are still obsessed with stereotypes. Fortunately, a significant part of our population is moving to the European, Western, civil rails and evaluates correctly the role of women, both in domestic and foreign affairs or problems.

Although women were always considered as the representative of the weaker sex, their strengths were also visible and found recognition over the centuries. The fact that a woman has some special ability, she can approach things in her own way, actively look for a solutions, eliminate the problem and bring the matter to the desired result with a shrewd mind. It is often more or less understood and perceived, however, many cannot or do not admit it.

Also, achieving gender equality in the maritime industry continues to be a global challenge. This field is dominated by men all over the world. According to the International Federation of Transport Workers, women make up only 2% of the workforce in this sector. Women have been employed in the maritime field. Despite the difficulty of the job, they took responsibility for themselves, as men, and were not inferior to them in anything. Despite many obstacles, gender and stereotypes, they still continued their work. From early times, it was considered that the maritime field was a male-only field, but the first female sailors who took the first steps in this field have broken these stereotypes.

In the 20th century, World Wars I and II, particularly World War II, provided women with unprecedented career opportunities. Women were paid around 40% more in industrial production jobs than in the service sector throughout that period (teacher, nurse, secretary, waitress, etc.). Nearly 65% of West Coast shipyard employees were women in mid-1943, during the height of the shipbuilding boom. Few women, however, occupied supervisory or leadership positions such as foreman over male or mixed-gender workers.

"The war made me live better, it really did. My sister always said that Hitler was the one that got us out of the white folks' kitchen", said Tina Hill who worked at North American Aircraft in Los Angeles during World War II. (Quote from Rosie the Riveter by Penny Colman). Of all the minority groups, African-American women experienced the greatest difficulty in finding work during the war. Early on, they were hired as custodians, cooks, and food servers. Towards the end of the war, labor shortages were so acute that they were accepted in ship production - but only in lower-skilled positions [4].

The vast majority of women were dismissed from traditionally male jobs, returning to their previous lives. Women did not realize that World War II would change their lives dramatically. By displacing men
from the workforce, women would "create sparks". Now we look back at these shipbuilders of World War II and honor their enormous contributions.

In the middle of the 1970s, Jan Tiura started working on tugboats. She worked as a chef and a deckhand to earn experience and time at sea before being accepted in 1979 into the Crowley tug captain training program. In the fleet of Crowley Red Stack tugs, she is now a captain. She moves barges and docks and undocks ships as part of her job. Jan claims that "Being on the sea is the biggest benefit of this job. It is a distinct world. You are outside at all times and in all types of weather. The captain's responsibility is to ensure our survival."

In 1974 Wagner was in the first group of women admitted to the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY. After spending years working at sea she became the first woman from her class to earn an Unlimited Master's License. This license entitles her to sail as captain on any vessel, anywhere in the world.

In 1987 she was accepted into the SF Bar Pilot's apprentice program and today remains the first and only woman harbor pilot on the Bay. Occasionally, when Captain Wagner steps onto the bridge, a startled captain will ask, "Where's the pilot?" Wagner says, "I tell him, I'm here Captain…My boat says pilot on it. My coat says pilot on it. My radio says pilot on it. I'm the pilot!" [4].

Also in the history of Georgia, there were the first Georgian women sailors who were not afraid of established stereotypes. In 1936, everyone was surprised by the fact that four friends at the Batumi Maritime Technical University chose the profession of navigator. There was nothing strange in this story, except that there were four girls: Nino Kalandadze, Yulia Failodze, Shushanna Tumanishvili and Vaide Gvarishvili. A woman at sea is a rare case in Georgia even now, and even more so in 1936. This is where the women's participation begin in the Maritime history.

The girls earned the administrations' respect for studying well, and when it came time for practice, they had to overcome one obstacle. The administration wanted to meet their parents before going to sea. because revealing their plans to the family members meant taking a hand in their dream, the girls decided met their acquaintances-neighbors to the managers instead of their parents.

In 1940, studies ended. Yuliya and Nino were assigned to the Vladivostok shipyard, Shoshanna and Vaide were assigned to work in Baku. The families were also then told about their decisions that they were navigators on a board vessel.

Yulia and Nino had a dangerous adventure. They often had to swim under the bombs of enemy planes. The port of San Francisco turned out to be the final meeting place for the girls. On the way back, in La – Manche Channel, "Donbas" was bombed by the fascists. Unfortunately, Nino Kalandadze died along with the crew. Yulia moved to the sea port of Odessa, however, in 1948, according to the decree of government, women living in the Soviet Union were prohibited from serving in the fleet. Yulia also had to return to Georgia. Since 1949, she worked as the deputy director of Batumi maritime Institute. The first Georgian woman in maritime was also a participant of the Second World War [2].

As far, for all that, similar stereotypes and attitudes towards women have remained until today, which interferences the development of women in the maritime field. Today there are about 23,000 female seafarers worldwide, which is a very low number, which emphasizing the discrimination against women. Even in the 21st century, the fact that some countries refuse to give maritime education to women is recorded. Nevertheless, even the smaller number of seafaring women who try to find employment in the maritime field cannot find appropriate employment, because unfortunately many companies refuse to employ them. However, to identifying this problem, many maritime unions have taken appropriate measures and laws to protect women's rights. …

The global negative trend is characteristic of Georgia as well: there are only two women out of 12,800 sailors in the country. In order to promote gender equality and encourage women in the maritime industry, UN Women Organization has been cooperating with the Maritime Transport Agency of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia since 2018. It cooperates on the basis of reciprocity
memorandum. One of the important directions of this cooperation is the implementation of the principles of gender equality in the agency itself and strengthening women’s rights. Also, the Georgian Agency cooperated fruitfully with the United Nations Women’s Organization, which laid the foundation for many good news. It is particularly noted that the support for the involvement and strengthening of the role of women in the maritime sector was officially written in the maritime transport strategy document.

It should be noted that within the memorandum, 6 girls were also trained for employment on cruise ships. In order to increase access to relevant education, the agency also started cooperation with maritime schools. In particular, supporting women's participation in marine industry is one of the priorities of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Georgia is constantly involved in the process of global advocacy. The Maritime Transport Agency constantly participates in various activities, which is planned to achieve gender equality in international campaigns to strengthen the role of women in the maritime sphere. It should be noted that the Georgian representation at IMO took an active part in the development of the IMO gender equality network document.

Cooperation between the UN Women's Organization and the Maritime Transport Agency within the framework of the project - “A Joint Action for Women's Economic Empowerment in Georgia”, was implemented with the funding of the Norwegian government.

Maritime organizations have established the International Day for Women in Maritime, which is celebrated every year with various events and announcements, which is very gratifying. In this year, 2022 was the message from IMO Secretary-General. In his message for the inaugural IMO International Day for Women in Maritime, IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim, highlighted the relevance of gender equality.

"At IMO through training, visibility, recognition we aim to support a barrier-free working environment for Women in Maritime. Let’s work to break down barriers and ensure that we create a work environment that is enabling, supportive and inclusive of diverse participation by all, without hindrance in the maritime community," he said [6].

International organizations have made as a slogan "empowering women in the maritime community”, that more attention should be paid to women's rights and their opportunities. Also, every year international labor organizations hold meetings involving government, employers and other maritime organizations to discuss how to promote women's employment at sea. Today, there is no field where women have not shown their dignity and ability to work. Many women restrained from choosing a career in the maritime field because they are for fear thinking of won’t be able to achieve the same results as men. It is difficult to develop the skills needed for other jobs when they aren't expected to contribute anything other than having the proper weight. It supports the false consideration that women only have limited roles on boats. Hopelessness and fear is only a part of imagination that prevents us from achieving success. The main thing is to have faith in ourselves and if we have that, success is real.

And finally, what can be said? That today the woman is stronger than ever, needed and demanded by the society. Gender equality step by step is conquers in the modern world and the patriarchal system, when women had no rights in politics, when they did not even have voting rights. Although there is still a long way to go before gender equality is achieved. This way should be gone by the international community, but it is committed to that aim. It must be ensured that no woman feels the need to defense her presence or not to appreciate for the work she carries out. I hope that the women of the world will reclaim their voices, are free from abuse and that they feel safe to be themselves. It will be one step together in the journey towards equality.
იშვიათი მოვლენა არაა, რომ ისტორიულად ქალები გამოირჩევიან მამაკაცებით დომინირებულ სფეროებში, როგორიცაა პოლიტიკა, ბიზნესი, მძლეოსნობა და კიდევ ბევრი რამ. ქალებს ბევრი ძლიერი ასპექტები აქვთ, რაც უნდა აღინიშნოს. საზღვაო სფერო და საზღვაო პროფესიები სპეციფიკური და რადიკალური. გავავითარებული თანამშრომლობები ზღვაზე უცხოელი აფრიკელი, რათა მოხდეს ქალების ობიექტიური გადამზადება. იშვიათი მოვლენა არაა, რომ ისტორიულად ქალები გამოირჩევიან მამაკაცებით დომინირებულ სფეროებში, როგორიცაა პოლიტიკა, ბიზნესი, მძლეოსნობა და კიდევ ბევრი რამ. ქალებს ბევრი ძლიერი ასპექტები აქვთ, რაც უნდა აღინიშნოს. საზღვაო სფერო და საზღვაო პროფესიები სპეციფიკური და რადიკალური. გავავითარებული თანამშრომლობები ზღვაზე უცხოელი აფრიკელი, რათა მოხდეს ქალების ობიექტიური გადამზადება. იშვიათი მოვლენა არაა, რომ ისტორიულად ქალები გამოირჩევიან მამაკაცებით დომინირებულ სფეროებში, როგორიცაა პოლიტიკა, ბიზნესი, მძლეოსნობა და კიდევ ბევრი რამ. ქალებს ბევრი ძლიერი ასპექტები აქვთ, რაც უნდა აღინიშნოს.
[10] https://www.marineinsight.com/life-at-sea/woman-seafarer-ship-challenges/?fbclid=IwAR16XKZVh0rmS0uA5or-F2ENvHSBO7Lr8aOv8BT7t5CGancliQRLZetMM