

Oral History Kosovo

Interviewer: What did your parents work?

Narrator: Actually, my father worked at Ramiz Sadiku, but he got injured at the workplace.

Interviewer: What did he work at Ramiz Sadiku?

Narrator: He worked in a *preduzeq* [Srb.: *enterprise*] like this, he delivered from one place to another. He said some iron, some... at that time. And there was a child in the carriage, horse carriage as we called them then, and as he was walking the horse got scared, he got into a shop to buy something, it hurt my father's brain.

Interviewer: The horse.

Narrator: Yes, the horse. And from then, my father was injured for over 30 years. He fainted nonstop, I took care of him the streets the most. When my father wanted to get out of the house, I took care of him. I was little, my brothers were in school, my sisters were married. I took care of him, I was scared he would get run over by a car and I followed him. He was an handicapped with a cane, he wasn't capable, sometimes he was very close to being run over. But thank God nothing happened to him in the streets. At home...

Interviewer: Tell me a little about your mother, what kind of a woman was she?

Narrator: My mother was very hardworking, very hardworking, she kept everything clean. I was the youngest, my sisters did housework and everything. She would say to me, "Women should take care of their personal hygiene, also of the house, that's where they're needed the most."

Interviewer: What did you learn from your mother?

Narrator: From my mother (laughs) to clean, cook, make homemade bread, we made homemade bread then, we baked in the wood-fired oven, with *saç*.¹ When my mother went somewhere I had to take care of my father who was sick. It was a little hard for me, because you know the fire and *saç* are

harder to work with. But it didn't happen often, rarely, because she was stronger, but because of my father I had to be interested, taking care of him.

Interviewer: What did you learn from him?

Narrator: From my father, my father said, "The most important thing is to go to school. Learn, I want you to become a doctor." (laughs) My father always wanted that. But my mother got sick, she had an appendix surgery, and I had to take care of my mother. At some point, a time passed, I went until the sixth grade, I couldn't go more.