

Oral History Kosovo

INTERVIEW EXTRACT

[The in-depth oral history interview with the narrator was conducted on May 22, 2021 in Pristina. Due to the narrator's request for anonymity, we have concealed the identity]

Interviewer: What did your parents do for a living?

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

Interviewer: What did he do at Ramiz Sadiku?

Narrator: He worked at an enterprise, he carried [stuff] from one place to another. He said it was some irons, some... at that time. And there was a child in the carriage, horse carriage as we call them, and as he was walking the horse got scared, he had gone to a store to buy something, it hurt the back of my father's brain.

Interviewer: The horse?

Narrator: Yes, the horse. And from then, my father was injured for over 30 years. He fainted all the time, the most I took care of him was [when he was out] in the streets. When my father went out of the house, I took care of him. I was younger, 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 so I always went after him. He was disabled and carried a cane with him, sometimes he could've been 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 wanted to keep everything clean. As the youngest [of the children], I mean my sisters did housework and everything. She would say to

me, “Women should take care of their personal hygiene, as well as that of the house, that’s where they’re needed the most.”

Interviewer: What did you learn from your mother?

Narrator: From my mother (laughs) [I learned how] to clean the house, cook, make homemade bread, we made homemade bread then, we baked in the wood-fired oven, with metal lids. When my mother went somewhere, since my father was sick, I had to take care of him. It was a little difficult for me, because you know the fire and metal lid are harder to cook with. But she wouldn’t take long very 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 your father?

Narrator: From my father, my father would say, “The most important thing is school. Study in school, because I want you to become a doctor” (laughs), my father always wanted that for me. But it happened so that my mother got sick, she had her appendix surgically removed, and I had to take care of my mother. At some point, some time passed, I went to school until the sixth grade, I couldn’t go for any longer.