

Oral History Kosovo

Interviewer: Which one of your parents are you closest to?

Narrator: I'm closer to my father, because my father wasn't always home. He worked in construction, but back then they took him all over Kosova. Sometimes he wouldn't come home for a month and we missed him. And he never said this, or... My mother was very good, very strict and I'm thankful, because every mother should have a limit, not let her children go beyond the normal. So, I'm thankful because she taught us well, very well.

Interviewer: What did you learn from your mother?

Narrator: Everything, everything, and I continue to learn even today, because cooking, crafting, my mother was very good at it, even today. She can still see and work, she can do everything. The seam my mother sewed, now there are machines, now there are all kinds of machines that can't do it as well as my mother. Many women in our village who came to learn from my mother, even though she didn't have an education, she was very clever, very clever. My mother also learned writing and reading when she took the children to school.

Interviewer: How did this happen?

Narrator: For example, when my oldest sister started school, with her. She learned all the letters. Now she writes, she reads a lot, she doesn't lack anything, even though she didn't get an education. She loved school and she tried to push us forward.

Interviewer: Why didn't your mother go to school?

Narrator: Well, my mother, a long time, a long time ago, girls didn't go to school then. It was a village in the Municipality of Peja, none of the girls went to school there. For that reason, they even hid their daughters, "We don't have girls." Just so they wouldn't take them to school. The boys, yes, not the girls.

Interviewer: How old is she?

Narrator: My mother is 72 years old.