

# Oral History Kosovo

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## 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:** 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 sent him off [to work] all around Kosovo. Sometimes he wouldn't come home for a month and we missed him. And he never said this, or... My mother was very nice, very strict and I'm thankful, because every mother should have a limit that they should teach their children about, and not let them step out of normality.. So, I'm thankful because she taught us well, very well.

**Interviewer:** What did you learn from your mother?

**Narrator:** Everything, everything, and I keep learning even today, because regarding cooking, handicraft, my mother was very good at it, she still is even today. Her eyesight is still good and she can work, she can do everything. The seams 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 came to learn from my mother, even though she didn't have an education, she was very, very skilled. My mother also learned writing and reading when she started taking the children to school.

**Interviewer:** How did this happen?

**Narrator:** For example, when my oldest sister started school, together 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, long time ago, they didn't take girls to school then. There was a village in the Municipality of Podujeva, none of the girls there went to school. For that reason, actually they even hid their daughters, whoever had daughters hid them, "We don't have girls." Just so that they wouldn't have to take them to school. The boys, yes, the girls, no.

**Interviewer:** How old is she?

**Narrator:** My mother is 72 years old.