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**STRESZCZENIE PRACY DOKTORSKIEJ
W JĘZYKU ANGIELSKIM**

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Sytuacja społeczna kobiet na wsi kaliskiej w latach 1918-1939

The social situation of women in the village of Kalisz in the years 1918-1939

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The dissertation „The social situation of women in the village of Kalisz in the years 1918-1939" addresses the issue of social situation of women living in the rural areas of Kalisz County (powiat kaliski) between 1918 and 1939.

The aim of this work was to study living and working condition, as well as to determine social position of rural women at the dawn of Polish independence, and to present the events and processes leading to the changes in said conditions throughout the two decades of independent Polish state.

The dissertation consists of an introduction, five chapters divided into subsections, conclusion and bibliography. It has been supported with annexes, lists of tables and photos. The introduction presents the purpose of writing a doctoral dissertation, an overview of the current state of research on this subject, the source base, and research problems, the analysis and explanation of which are highlighted in the further part of the work. Chapter I is the socio-economic characteristics of the Kalisz County in the years 1918-1939, being the general background of the work. It presents the administrative structure of the County and its impact on its development, changes in borders, as well as the role of the municipal self-government and village councils. Next, the demographic and national-religious structure, the ownership structure, and the general economic situation of the Kalisz rural areas are presented. One of the subchapters is devoted to the discussion of the organizational life in the County, which consisted of the activities of political parties and parties as well as various economic, professional, educational, cultural, religious, social, charitable and sports organizations.

The next chapter deals with the condition of rural women on Polish lands in the first half of the 20th century. At the beginning, the environment of their functioning is presented: the family-run agricultural farm and its elements, the social roles of a rural woman and her issues. Then, the activities of women suffragettes and their initiatives, aimed at improving the lives of rural women and their emancipation, are discussed. Given special attention was the participation of rural women in the women's movement in the interwar period, the actions and importance of the Rural Housewives Associations (Koła Gospodyń Wiejskich) and other forms of rural women's activity, such as participation in social organizations or in extracurricular education. The factors influencing the social position of a rural woman are also discussed: obtaining political rights by women after 1918, the impact of paid work, social views and customs, the role of education and the participation of the gentry.

The third chapter is devoted to the political and social activity of women in the Kalisz rural areas between 1918 and 1939. After discussing general social problems and the situation of women after restoration of Polish independence, the author presents the participation of women in the political and organizational life of the county. While women had a modest share in political life, they were actively involved in the activities of social organizations, not only typically female (Women's Clubs, National Organization of Women, Women's Civic Work Union), but more general as well (Catholic Action, Gymnastic Society "Sokół", Union of Rural Youth "Wici"). The last subchapter is devoted to the participation of social activists in the social advancement of women in this area, with particular emphasis on the clergy, especially the parish priest in Lisków, father Waclaw Bliziński.

The fourth chapter presents the cultural and educational activity of women. One of the conditions for changing the situation of women was the possibility of education, hence one of the subchapters is devoted to the characterization of education in the Kalisz County at the primary, secondary and adult education levels. Then, the participation of women in various forms of school and extracurricular education is discussed. The efforts of girls and women in obtaining education, their activities for the promotion of education and culture, as well as their free time activities are presented. At the same time, the involvement of women in the cultural and educational life of the rural community is shown. It took place primarily through participation in the activities of associations, especially the Rural Housewives Associations. A special role in the activation of rural women was played by women's movement leaders - RHA instructors and activists, teachers and landowners.

The last, fifth chapter is devoted to the presentation of various factors shaping the social situation of women in the Kalisz rural areas of the Second Polish Republic. One of the most important conditions mentioned by the author was the economy – women's work on their own farms, but also the search for new sources of income. The situation of women was also affected by the sanitary condition of the Kalisz rural areas, the organization of social welfare and care institutions. The following subchapters are devoted to religious and cultural conditions and the influence of tradition, including folk culture, on the position of women in the rural environment. At the same time, attention was drawn to the ongoing changes in the performance of social roles by housewives. At the end of the chapter, the conditions of everyday life on the farms and in the families are described, with particular emphasis on the role of the mother and organizer of the houselife.

The presented topic has not been properly and fully studied yet. The conducted analysis and final conclusions extend the current state of research on the social situation of rural women living in the Kalisz rural areas in the interwar period.