Department of Economics and Business

Master in Public Administration (MPA)

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# The role of organizational culture in mitigating social stereotypes and gender inequalities in the workplace

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### **NEAPOLIS UNIVERCITY OF PAFOS**

# MASTER IN BUSSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA-EN)

GEORGIA PAPAPOLYKARPOU JANUARY 2024



# **Neapolis University of Pafos**

'The role of organizational culture in mitigating social stereotypes and gender inequalities in the workplace'

Dissertation which was submitted for obtaining a master's degree in business administration at Neapolis University.

Georgia Papapolykarpou

January 2024

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4

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The Declarant

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#### **Abstract**

Gender inequality remains a prominent concern on a global scale, particularly within the formal workplace. Women frequently encounter different manifestations of bias and inequity, which detrimentally affect their professional encounters. The presence of gender bias leads to a cascade of errors in decision-making processes, posing a significant threat to gender equality within companies and organizations. Various studies have demonstrated that Human Resources (HR) managers tend to rate male applicants as more qualified than their female counterparts.

The purpose of this dissertation is to investigate and analyze the role of organizational culture in facing and mitigating social stereotypes as well as gender inequalities in the workplace of the Electricity Authority of Cyprus (EAC), a semi-government organization in Cyprus known as AHK.

The target also is to understand how the practices, values, norms, and beliefs in an organization can conduce to or dispute existing gender disparities and stereotypes. By emphasizing organizational culture, this study aims to explore how collective behaviors and attitudes in an organization or industry can influence issues related to gender.

The methodology used was quantitative, with the use of questionnaire with closed end questions. The survey findings indicated that employees in the Electricity Organization generally hold minimal stereotypes about men and women. Additionally, their opinion about the position of women in companies and organizations is rather positive or at least neutral.

**<u>Key words:</u>** Gender inequalities, stereotypes, organizational culture, Human Resources, practices

#### Περίληψη

Η ανισότητα των φύλων παραμένει ένα σημαντικό πρόβλημα σε παγκόσμια κλίμακα, ιδιαίτερα στον επίσημο χώρο εργασίας. Οι γυναίκες αντιμετωπίζουν συχνά διαφορετικές εκδηλώσεις προκατάληψης και ανισότητας, οι οποίες επηρεάζουν αρνητικά τις επαγγελματικές τους συναντήσεις. Η παρουσία της μεροληψίας των φύλων οδηγεί σε μια σειρά λαθών στις διαδικασίες λήψης αποφάσεων, θέτοντας σημαντική απειλή για την ισότητα των φύλων σε εταιρείες και οργανισμούς. Διάφορες μελέτες έχουν δείξει ότι οι διευθυντές Ανθρώπινου Δυναμικού (HR) τείνουν να αξιολογούν τους άνδρες αιτούντες ως πιο καταρτισμένους από τις γυναίκες συναδέλφους τους.

Σκοπός της παρούσας διατριβής είναι να διερευνήσει και να αναλύσει τον ρόλο της οργανωσιακής κουλτούρας στην αντιμετώπιση και άμβλυνση των κοινωνικών στερεοτύπων καθώς και των ανισοτήτων μεταξύ των φύλων στο χώρο εργασίας της Αρχής Ηλεκτρισμού Κύπρου (ΑΗΚ), ενός ημικρατικού οργανισμού στην Κύπρο γνωστό ως ΑΗΚ.

Ο στόχος είναι επίσης να κατανοήσουμε πώς οι πρακτικές, οι αξίες, οι κανόνες και οι πεποιθήσεις σε έναν οργανισμό μπορούν να οδηγήσουν ή να αμφισβητήσουν τις υπάρχουσες ανισότητες και στερεότυπα μεταξύ των φύλων. Δίνοντας έμφαση στην οργανωσιακή κουλτούρα, αυτή η μελέτη στοχεύει να διερευνήσει πώς οι συλλογικές συμπεριφορές και στάσεις σε έναν οργανισμό ή έναν κλάδο μπορούν να επηρεάσουν θέματα που σχετίζονται με το φύλο.

Η μεθοδολογία που χρησιμοποιήθηκε ήταν ποσοτική, με τη χρήση ερωτηματολογίου με ερωτήσεις κλειστού τύπου. Τα ευρήματα της έρευνας έδειξαν ότι οι εργαζόμενοι στον Οργανισμό Ηλεκτρικής Ενέργειας γενικά έχουν ελάχιστα στερεότυπα για τους άνδρες και τις γυναίκες. Επιπλέον, η γνώμη τους για τη θέση των γυναικών σε εταιρείες και οργανισμούς είναι μάλλον θετική ή τουλάχιστον ουδέτερη.

<u>Λέξεις κλειδια:</u> Ανισότητες φύλου, στερεότυπα, οργανωσιακή κουλτούρα, Ανθρώπινο δυναμικό, πρακτικές