

The meaning of work in the life plan of young men and women

by Frans Meijers

Compared to men, women have a weaker position on the labour market. Recently, the Dutch government tried to persuade young women to choose labour market relevant training and, after entering the labour market, to opt not only for traditional women's jobs. In this article it is argued that young women are not able and not willing to develop such a concrete orientation towards work i.e. the labour market. On the basis of empirical data it is shown that most young women lack positive models (women they know, who work in non-traditional occupations). Moreover, they don't communicate about work or the labour market. The result is that they develop a diffuse orientation towards paid labour in which the relation between work and motherhood is not well considered (young men have, by the way, exactly the same diffuse orientation). With that, for many young women the realisation of a career in the labour market seems completely dependent on luck.

Individualization and the attitude to social support

by Bart Gubbels, Alphons A.M. Fiselier and Harry J.M. Hüttner

The research-question is whether there exists an association between a high degree of individualization and a low degree of social support in the Netherlands. Also we supposed a different relationship between individualization and social support for each of the three following categories: christian democrats, social democrats and liberals. We investigated a representative sample from the Dutch population. The results show that there is no association between individualization and social support, even when social support is differentiated in practical and emotional components.