

Summary

The Women Craft School in Svrlijig from 1934 to 1947

During the existence of the Women craft school in Svrlijig, from 1934-1947, the town went through the period of uncertainty and instability. Namely, the School started to work in September 1934, and soon after, the country experienced the great tragedy on 9th October, when the king Alexander was assassinated in Marseilles. The people felt uncertainty and fear. The school had also to face great problems during the war, but in spite of all the difficulties, it continued educating young girls and women for their independent work. This school had an outstanding importance in the country with economic difficulties and with a great number of illiterate people, specially among the female population. This was greatly appreciated by the citizens of Svrlijig, so almost all the girls from the town attended this school, but very few from the surrounding villages, due to the patriarchal attitude that girls should be under the parents' supervision until they get married.

The education of women for their independent work has always been of the great importance for every society which tries to get modernized. As the freedom of men is the prerequisite for every modern society, the freedom of women is equally important. However, women could not reach their freedom without being qualified for the independent work or without achieving some economic independence.

After the war, the compulsory seven-year schooling was introduced and many junior grammar schools were opened in many provincial small towns, including Svrlijig. Many girls went to the Junior grammar school, which was obligatory, and, since in 1946/47 there were only 19 schoolgirls attending the Women craft school, the school had to be closed. The school was re-opened and worked between 1953 to 1958 as the Women vocational school.