

# General view of university students “Marmara University Vocational School of Health Services Case”

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**Abstract.** The aim of this study was to determine the attitude towards the socio-economic conditions and demographic characteristics and the university life of medical students. To determine the students' socio-demographic characteristics "Personal Information Form" was used developed by researchers according to literature. The form contains expressions of the students such as the economic situation, future concerns, finding a job, university life, social & recreational activities, build up relationships with people and parents education level. Target group of the study were 349 students from Marmara University Vocational School of health. The environment of the survey was limited to the students studying in all programs at Marmara University Vocational School of Health. The research was carried out with students at Marmara University Vocational School of Health in the fall semester of 2014-2015.

**Keywords:** student profile; college life; vocational school students; health

## 1 Introduction

Universities are the dynamic institutions that provide students academic, technical and professional skills which improve the quality of their individual lives and that also play an important role on the scientific, economical, technological, social and cultural improvement of the societies. The main target of education currently is to raise responsible citizens that are creative, critical, sophisticated and compatible with variable conditions and that have an analytical thinking and ability to solve problems, respectful to people and tolerant to other ways of thinking. Education is one of the most important tools of raising individuals that will create changes and that will easily coordinate with changes. University education

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should be aimed to raise the students as not only professionals but also as productive and healthy young people who are confident of their selves, their jobs, their social relations and who can think and have missions and find pleasure in living. As this people of information age should be aware of developments and arguments regarding their lives and as they should become active participant citizens; utilization of technology efficiently, taking place in cultural and social activities besides improving professional abilities during education gains extra importance. Besides the pleasure of attending a university, facts like the feeling of belonging to a community, being close to have a profession, having the power to create the future and also making effort for accommodating to a new school and a new environment may cause different problems for students. Vocational Health Schools, as being one of the important institutions of universities do not only grant information and skills to the students but also undertake the responsibility of raising them as individuals who will be successfully building up the social and economical future of the society. This study has been carried out in order to designate data for periodical controls and correspondingly a better guidance and consultancy service for students attending Marmara University Vocational School of Health.

## **2 Material and method**

### **2.1 Data collecting tools**

Socio-demographic characteristics of the students were determined by the aid of “Personal Information Form” based on literature which was developed by the researchers. This form holds terms of economic situations, future concerns, job choices, university lives, social and recreational activities, parents’ educational levels concerning the university students. The target, method and benefits of the research were explained to all participants. Students accepting to participate have been informed of the research program and have been assured about the secrecy of their identifications and their approvals have been taken. They have also been informed that the collected data will only be used for academic purpose and that they may quit the research program whenever they want.

### **2.2 Limitations of the research**

The data of this study is obtained from the students of Marmara University Vocational School of Health and is limited by the students attending these programs.

## **3 Results**

295 (84.5%) of the 349 students participating in the research are girls and 54 (15.5%) of them are boys. 304 (87.1 %) of the students are graduates from Health School. Though 61.9% of the students have declared that they are in the university that they have dreamed of 55.6% have told that they are not in the school they preferred.

It is been stated that most (61.8%) of the students follow daily news from more than one publication and their newspaper/magazine reading rate is (87.1%) and the book reading rate is moderate high (71.6 %). It is found out that the students generally belong to a nuclear family (88.8%), their mothers are graduated from elementary school (49.3%) and their socio-economical level is middle (80.8 %). Most of the participant students (84%) don’t hold any scholarship, in their spare time they (42.7%) work in order to get their needs and pocket money and eventually they don’t have much time for cultural activities (56.2%), sports (79.9%) or courses (90.3%).

**Table 1.** Socio-demographic properties of the participant students.

		Frequency	Percentage			Frequency	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>	Girls	295	84.5	<b>Living</b>	With the Family	260	74.5
	Boys	54	15.5		With Home Mate	55	15.8
	Total	349	100		Dormitory	34	9.8
<b>Age</b>	18	50	14.3	<b>Homeland</b>	Total (State+ Private)	349	100
	19	123	35.2		City Center	227	65.1
	20	95	27.2		Suburbs	122	34.9
	21	42	12	<b>Family Structure</b>	Total	349	100
	22	19	5.4		Parents -Together	310	88.8
	23	11	3.2		Parents - Separated	21	6
	24	6	1.7	Parents - Dead	18	5.2	
	25	1	0.3	Total	349	100	
	26	1	0.3	<b>Number of Sisters and Brothers</b>	3 and below	21	6
	28	1	0.3		4	117	33.5
	Total	349	100		5	102	29.2
<b>Program Type</b>	Emergency First-aid	39	11.2	6	68	19.5	
	Anesthesia	59	16.9	7	29	8.3	
	Dental Prosthesis	56	16	8 and over	12	3.4	
	Technology Pathology	63	18.1	Total	349	100	
	Laboratory Technology	60	17.2	<b>Education Level of the Mother</b>	No literate	25	7.2
	Medical Imaging	72	20.6		Literate	24	6.9
	Medical Laboratory Technology	349	100		Elementary School	172	49.3
	<b>Grade</b>	1. Class	196	56.2	Secondary School	114	32.7
		2. Class	153	43.8	University	14	4
		Total	349	100	Total	349	100
<b>High School</b>	High School	45	12.9	<b>Education Level of the Father</b>	No literate	2	0.6
	Vocational School	304	87.1		Literate	8	2.3
	Total	349	100		Elementary School	122	35
<b>University as Imagined Faculty</b>	Yes	216	61.9	Secondary School	180	51.5	
	No	133	38.1	University	37	10.6	
	Total	349	100	Total	349	100	
<b>Imagined Faculty as Imagined Following Daily News</b>	Yes	155	44.4	<b>Family Income</b>	Below 1000 TL	139	39.8
	No	194	55.6		1000-1500 TL	126	36.1
	Total	349	100		Over 1500 TL	84	24.1
<b>Following Daily News</b>	Television	71	20.4	Total	349	100	
	Newspaper	25	7.2	<b>Socio-economic Level Perceived</b>	Low	48	13.8
	Internet	37	10.6		Middle	282	80.8
	More than one Publication	216	61.8		Upper	19	5.4
	Total	349	100	Total	349	100	
<b>Reading Habit</b>	Yes	250	71.6	<b>Monthly Expense</b>	0-200 TL	99	28.4
	No	99	28.4		200-400 TL	176	50.5
	Total	349	100		Over 400 TL	74	21.2
<b>News / Magazine Reading Habit</b>	Yes	304	87.1	<b>Scholarship</b>	Total	349	100
	No	41	11.7		Yes	56	16
Total	345	98.9	No	293	84		

**Table 1 (continue).** Socio-demographic properties of the participant students.

	No Answer	4	1.1	Total	349	100
	Total	349	100	<b>Amount</b>	0-150 TL	22
<b>News / Magazine Reading Rate</b>	Everyday	90	25.8	<b>Scholarship</b>	150-300 TL	34
	Weekends	134	38.4	<b>ip</b>	Total	56
	On Occasion	76	21.8		No Answer	293
	Sometimes	8	2.3		Total	349
	Total	308	88.3	<b>Working State</b>	Yes	149
	No Answer	41	11.7		No	199
	Total	349	100		Total	348
<b>Joining Cultural Activities</b>	Yes	153	43.8		No Answer	1
	No	196	56.2		Total	349
	Total	349	100			
<b>Joining Courses</b>	Yes	34	9.7	<b>Monthly Income</b>	Below 750 TL	49
	No	315	90.3		750-1500 TL	95
	Total	349	100		1500 TL and Over	5
					Total	149
<b>Joining Sports Activities</b>	Yes	70	20.1		No Answer	200
	No	279	79.9		Total	349
	Total	349	100			100

## 4 Discussion

Most of the students (84.5%) in our study group consist from girls. Average age of the students is 20.75 ( $\pm 2.18$ ). As the educational status of the families is concerned fathers are more educated than the mothers. 55.6% of the participant students have declared that they are not in the school they have imagined. Balcı et al. have demonstrated that a big portion of the nursing students have preferred to attend a life ensuring program rather than the programs they are interested [4]. It has been detected by that almost half of the students are happy with the school they are attending, but the other half is not happy and they are also indecisive by Şahin et al. study [11]. Probably most of the students have chosen a life ensuring program instead of a program they like. This case sometimes causes the students attend a school that they are not interested at all, just graduating from a university. Being educated in a field that they are not concerned effects their lives, objectives and pleasure of being a university student negatively.

Socio-Economic Status (SES), determines an individual's status in society. SES has a multi-dimensional structure defined by factors as education, income and living conditions of the individuals. There is not any specific criterion in Turkey to make this measurement. Various criteria of our country regarding socio-economic cases (T.C. Prime Ministry, Turkish Statistical Institute) have been taken as socio-economic status determiner but an objective evaluation has not been made. In developed countries there are criteria to measure socio-economic status.

Students' families with high socio-economic status hold a percentage of 5.4, families of middle 80.8% and families of low 13.8%, so most of them belong to middle socio-economic level. It was determined that the percentages are as 43% high and 35% middle when the research was made for Medical Students [2].

It has been found out that the 56.2% of the participant students did not attend cultural activities. This can be considered as the result of the middle and low socio-economic status of the families as the students do not have enough time for sports or social, cultural activities because they have to work during their education period. Most (87.1%) of the students are graduates of vocational high school of health and 42.7% of them work while they attend university. In the research made by Baykal et al. [1], it is determined that students are displeased because of not contributing to social or academic activities. The participants have stated that they live with their families (74.5%), their families are nuclear families (88.8%) and they live at the city center (65.1%). There are various researches made with the Vocational School students related to their general profile and communication abilities and the transition system without examination [5, 7, 8 and 9]. As a

result of these researches it is found out that the managers of vocational schools think that the graduates of vocational high schools being established to universities without examination. They are not happy with the fact that the students coming from ordinary high schools and vocational high schools have real differences in educational level, so that students from vocational high schools cannot perform as expected. Kuşat [10], by her research carried out with the vocational school students, has been determined that there is not a significant difference (42%) in the educational success of the students graduated from either kind of high schools. 38.1% of the students have declared that they are not in the university that they have dreamed. Social deficiencies may be one of the reasons. Hence, it would be reasonable to constitute some regulations as enlarging social facilities to encourage social contribution, supplying active working opportunities in youth clubs, arranging activities that students can enrich their spare time and setting up a good academic consultancy service.

## 5 Conclusion

In the scope of this research it is intended to determine the general opinions and expectations of the students attending Vocational School of Health about their lives and socio-demographic properties.

Data obtained has been linearly analyzed by appropriate statistical methods in order to be explicated in a linear way. The effects of all data obtained and all evaluations made during this study is limited by Marmara University Vocational School of Health as it is known that the geographic, managerial and other qualitative differences between universities and the probable cultural and socio-demographic differences of the students will affect the results. However, though influence of this study is limited by these students, we believe that it has the potential to be a base for similar studies to be carried out in other universities and so create a widespread influence and added value. Hereunder, we suggest that the issue should be handled through a worldwide sample in a collective extent enabling both the maximization of the effectiveness and the contribution of new approaches.

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