

# **The effect of a group guidance program to elementary 8<sup>th</sup> grade students' views towards apprenticeship training**

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## **Introduction**

The amount of knowledge that contemporary human should know is increasing continuously, because business life needs talented individuals than untalented ones. In the new era, knowledge and sophisticated individuals are the most important inputs of economy. Thus, individuals should be facilitated by knowledge, attitude and skills. These qualifications will make life easier for individuals. For that reason if individuals are not facilitated by these components, they cannot fulfill the needs of the society.<sup>1</sup>

Nowadays unemployment is a major problem for Turkey. Every year, the population in working field increases. 1.800.000 young people enter labor force market. According to Turkish Statistic Institute (TÜİK) the number of unemployed people increased from 1.456.000 to 2.294.000 in 2000 and 2005 respectively. The rate of unemployment in young population is 17.6%. Despite this, employers complain about absence of labor force in the market. There are different types of jobs which needs qualified labor force; whereas there are lots of unskilled laborers who are looking for a job.<sup>2</sup>

In this context, education institutes should supply qualified labor force to all sectors. Education institutes should prevent the occurrence of unemployed labor force by being sensitive against the problems of unemployment. Here, these institutes can contribute to balance between sectors by educating qualified people in vocational and technical education.<sup>3;4</sup> Vocational and technical education are thought as a dual system based on apprenticeship training, school, when classified wider.<sup>5</sup>

Apprenticeship training includes a practical training which aims to teach a theoretical and particular job and career to young individuals in workplaces. 30%

of the theoretical educational programs are general information classes and 70% of them are vocational information classes.<sup>6</sup>

According to Kuzgun<sup>7</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school students make a choice when they go on academic education or vocational education and when they quit education and join work life. For that reason, the guidance services in elementary schools take the responsibility to choose a career. It is important for students to determine their talents and teachers should guide them guided according to their skills. In Turkey, vocational guidance in elementary schools has started with Guidance Direction in Elementary School in 2003.<sup>8</sup>

Elementary school years are very important in fixing possible wrong attitudes and values, because these years constitute important period in personal development. In this period, individuals' self esteem, self acceptance, self design and inner locus of control develop. In childhood period, opinions, attitudes, values and perceptions are important for educational and vocational development.<sup>9</sup> For that reason programs about apprenticeship training should be designed with the cooperation of school counselors and school administrators.

#### *The Aim of the Research*

The aim of this study is to investigate whether the vocational group guidance program affect on decreasing 8<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school students' negative opinion levels against apprenticeship training or not.

#### *Hypothesis*

Vocational group guidance program is effective in decreasing negative opinions of 8<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school students against apprenticeship training.

#### **Method**

##### *Design of the Research*

In this research, pre test, post test control group model was used in order to test whether vocational group guidance program is effective in decreasing the negative views of 8<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school students towards apprenticeship training.

##### *Scope of the Research*

The scope of the study was determined randomly from the students of Zeliha ve Lütü Kulluk Elementary School. These were the ones who gave "No" answer to the question "Do you want to enroll apprenticeship training ?". 25 students from

this group were chosen as experimental group and the 25 students were chosen as control group in an unbiased way.

### *Instrument*

“Apprenticeship Training Evaluation Form-B (ATEF-B)” developed by the researcher and was used in order to gather data.

*Apprenticeship Training Evaluation Form-B (ATEF-B)*: There is a changing relationship between correlation coefficients of ATEF-B  $r=.49$  and  $r=.25$  ( $p<.05$ ). These gathered values were provided by repeating the test and they showed the levels of the items consistently. These results showed that the instrument could measure the views of 8th grade elementary school students towards apprenticeship training. The validity of the instrument was provided by the experts in this field.

### **Findings**

*Hypothesis 1: Vocational group guidance program is going to change negative views of 8<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school students against apprenticeship training into positive views.*

Table 1. Mean Scores and Standard Deviation Values of ATEF-B Pre test Post test Scores

Group	Procedure	n	$\bar{X}$	sd
Experiment	Pre-Test	25	71.68	9.96
	Post-Test	25	56.28	9.84
Control	Pre-Test	25	69.28	8.12
	Post-Test	25	67.60	7.36

Table 2. t values of ATEF-B Difference Score Means and Standard Deviation

Group	n	$\bar{x}$	sd	t	p
Experiment	25	-15.40	11.15	-5.840	0.001
Control	25	-1.68	3.31		

When Table 2 is examined, there found to be a significant relationship between pre test, post scores of experimental group ( $t = -5.840$ ,  $p < .001$ ). In other words, the negative views of 8<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school students against apprenticeship training decreased.

## Conclusions and Discussion

The results of the study showed that there has been a prominent decrease in 8<sup>th</sup> grade elementary school students' negative views towards apprenticeship training. According to social development period, 13-15 year old students struggle with role crisis against gaining identity. Individuals at this period, try to find vocations suitable for them. However, MacCulloch and Henley<sup>10</sup> state that the parents consider vocational training as a failure, for that reason they do not want their children to enroll apprenticeship training. Hypatia Project<sup>11</sup> made a research with families in order to make clear the obstacles towards apprenticeship education and found supportive results to the mentioned findings. Moreover, Ismailoğlu<sup>12</sup> stated that students' social environment had a big influence in perception of vocational values and these perceptions affected career decision. In several studies<sup>13;14;10</sup> concerning negative views towards apprenticeship training, gender discrimination has been found as an important factor. On the other hand, the students who do not want to enroll apprenticeship education do not choose this education because 80.7% of them think that apprenticeship education lasts for a long time. 79.4% of them also stated that they didn't want to wear boilers suit. As some researches mentioned, it shows that students are lacking of information about apprenticeship education.<sup>15;16;17</sup> According to Atlin and Pond-White<sup>18</sup> not only family and social environment guide students to higher education; but also inefficient school counselors guide them to higher education and tell them that the apprenticeship training is bad.

Above mentioned reasons and the problem in career counseling make students think that only unsuccessful students choose vocational schools and apprenticeship training. This situation is similar to the results of the current research. Insufficient information about apprenticeship training should be fulfilled and apprenticeship training should be introduced to students and this training should be seen as an alternative to other types of trainings.

## References and Notes

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## Summary

### **The effect of a group guidance program to elementary 8<sup>th</sup> grade students' views towards apprenticeship training**

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The primary purpose of this study is to determine the effect of a group guidance program to elementary 8<sup>th</sup> grade students' views towards apprenticeship training. This study is a control group pre-test post-test experimental research. The research was conducted to students who were enrolled in an elementary school in Konya, Turkey. While research's experimental group was constituted of 11 female and 14 male students (total: 25 students), control group was constituted of 11 female and 14 male students (total: 25 students). Vocational group guidance was conducted to experimental group for 9 weeks once a week. The views of experimental and control group students towards apprenticeship education were measured by Apprenticeship Education Evaluation Form-B (AEEF-B) at pre-test post-test phases. In this research, applied vocational group guidance program includes views and behaviours which can be measured by Apprenticeship Education Evaluation Form-B. Group discussion and homework techniques were used to gain vocational views and behaviours in vocational group guidance. After analysis there have been found significant difference between experimental and control groups' AEEF-B pre-test post-test average scores at 0.01 level. Findings showed that vocational group guidance method had a positive effect against negative ideas to apprenticeship education. In addition, vocational group guidance method has been found to be effective in changing 8th year elementary school students' negative views towards apprenticeship education to positive views. This program is compatible as long as it is used in vocational guidance activities of 8th year elementary school students.

**Key words:** elementary education, vocational guidance, apprenticeship training,