

Factors Affecting Leisure Time Activities According to Vocational High School Students

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Abstract: The main problem of this study is to prove the reasons why vocational high school students cannot spend their leisure time. In the direction of this main problem, sub-problems of the study is to prove the reasons why vocational high school students cannot spend their leisure time with an activity “according to the variables such as class level, gender, region that parents live, economic conditions of the parents, educational background of mother and father. In this research, descriptive research method has been used in general screening model. The population of the study comprises of 50.539 Vocational High School students who are still attending. The sample of the study comprises of 1380 students. The reasons why they cannot spend their leisure time with an activity according to Vocational High School students are put in order from high to low: I do not have enough time, my achievement is decreasing, we are not instructed by the school, activities are not organized in my school, we are not instructed by our teachers, my parents do not allow me and my parents do not have enough income.

Key words: Leisure Time, Out-of-School Time, Free Time, Vocational High School, Education, Student.

Introduction

It may be said that since the early ages one the most important affairs of human life is spending their leisure time with useful activities. In contrast to past, controlling of children by both parents and schools is getting harder. Factors such as social environment and internet, written-visual media have started to be much more dominant than parents and the schools. In this context, the foundations of making a habit of spending their leisure time with useful activities and turning into attitudes as from person’s school age must be one of the basic functions of formal education. It is explicit that students’ spending their leisure time with useful activities will make a great contribution to students’ canalizing individual and academic success by improving themselves. It is apparent that this kind of activities has contribution intended for the students’ assuming responsibility, having positive interpersonal relations, creativities, academic successes and self-actualizations. On the other side, in the education of youths who are taking a step towards adulthood, evaluating their out-of-school time with activities for their not heading for bad habits to be formed their personalities, in their heaths’ being protected and their preparing a better future is quite important (Demir & Demir, 2006; Terzioğlu & Yazıcı, 2003; Tezcan, 1976).

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Spending free time has become an important subject in many countries of the world. Free time has some advantages such as; creativity, pleasure, satisfactory, enhancing personal satisfaction, developing physical-mental-psychological capacity and leading entertainment (Demirel & Harmandar, 2009; Sağlam Saföz, 2008; Demir & Demir, 2006). The main aim of education is to train good people, good citizens. In this context, the primary function of educational institutions is to train youths as competent adults of the future, to provide their compatibility to the social life and to gain them democratic and moral (Özer, Gelen & Öcal, 2009; Yetiş, 2008).

The most important factors for programming the students' out-of-school time are schools and parents. Parents should know that social activities are useful for their children and school works cannot supersede these activities alone. If the child has been given enough time to study, habit of preparing their weekly program should be gained by giving permission to his/her sparing enough time to play (have a good time). Schools, however, should be the place where the students can spend their out-of-school time. At the end of the school hours, with social events and recreational activities, students should be encouraged to spend their free time efficiently and the students should be in the habit of these activities and should reflect their youths and adulthoods period (Kırkpınar, 2004; Tezcan, 1976). For these reasons, in the future in order to be the students' being individuals who have completed their personalities, be able to take social responsibilities, spend time efficiently, are away from harmful habits, they should learn to use their out-of-school time accurately (Ministry of National Education, 2012). In this framework, it is thought that this study will provide contributions in terms of knowledge as a source to the school administrators, teachers, parents, civil society institutions, local administrators and other relevants.

The main problem of the study "According to Vocational High School students, the determination of the reasons of their out-of-school time." Sub-problems of the research, however, are these; how are the reasons of the Vocational High School students' not being able to spend their out-of-school time according to "class level, gender, the place where the parents live, economic situation of the parents, educational level of father and mother variables?"

Methodology

In this research, descriptive research method in general screening model has been used. Target population of the study has consisted of 50.539 students, attending the Vocational High Schools. Sample of the study, %99 confidence %1 margin of error accuracy, has consisted of 1800 students determined by ratio sampling from these schools. But, data analysis have been made through (over) the rest 1380 surveys after the ones which were filled inappropriately.

In research, the 5th section of the survey "Forms of the students' spending their out-of-school time and the factors affecting these forms" has been used in order to determine the forms of the Vocational High School students' out-of-school time and the factors affecting these forms as data collection tools. The 1st section of the survey comprises personal information. In 2nd section, 7 cases have been given the reasons why the

students cannot take part in the activities in their out of school time. As this section (5th section) has the classification property, reliability work has not been studied.

Findings

3.1. What are the reasons of the Vocational High School students' not being able to spend their out-of-school time with any activities? findings relating to this basic problem

Table 1. The reasons of the Vocational High School students' not being able to spend their out-of-school time

	n	%
have enough time	746	54,1
achievement is decreasing	383	27,8
we are not instructed by the school	298	21,6
activities are not organized in my school	273	19,8
we are not instructed by our teachers	214	15,5
My parents don't allow	188	13,6
My parents don't have enough money	176	12,8

According to Table 1, the reasons of not being able to spend their out-of-school time in regard to Vocational High School students are like these from top to least (maximum to minimum): "I don't have enough time (% 54,1), my achievement is decreasing (% 27,8), we are not instructed by the school (% 21,6), activities are not organized in my school (% 19,8), we are not instructed by our teachers (% 15,5), My parents don't allow (% 13,6) and My parents don't have enough money (% 12,8).

3.2. "How are the reasons of the Vocational High School students' not being able to spend their out-of-school time with any activities" according to gender?

Table 2. The reasons of not being able to spend time according to "gender" variable

Reasons of not taking part in activity	Gender	Yes		No	
		n	%	n	%
I don't have enough time	Girl	251	% 33,6	405	% 32,3
	Boy	495	% 66,4	429	% 67,7
My parents don't allow	Girl	79	% 42,0	177	% 31,6
	Boy	109	% 58,0	115	% 68,4
My parents don't have enough money	Girl	44	% 25,0	112	% 34,2
	Boy	132	% 75,0	192	% 65,8
Activities are not organized in my school	Girl	80	% 29,3	176	% 34,0
	Boy	193	% 70,7	131	% 66,0
My achievement is decreasing	Girl	133	% 34,7	123	% 32,4
	Boy	250	% 65,3	174	% 67,6
We are not instructed by our teachers	Girl	48	% 22,4	108	% 35,0
	Boy	166	% 77,6	158	% 65,0

are not instructed by the school	Girl	78	% 26,2	178	% 34,9
	Boy	220	% 73,8	104	% 65,1

According to the gender variable, the reasons of the Vocational High School students' not being able to take part in an activity are like these: at most school boys, I don't have enough time (66,4%), my parents don't allow (58,0%), my parents don't have enough money (75,0%), activities are not organized in my school (70,7%), my achievement is decreasing (65,3%), we are not instructed by our teachers (77,6%) and we are not instructed by the school (73,8%).

3.3. How are "The reasons of the Vocational High School students' not being able to spend their out-of-school time with any activities" according to class level?

Table 3. The reasons of not being able to spend time according to "class level" variable

Reasons of not taking part in activity	Class Level	Yes		No	
		n	%	n	%
don't have enough time	9	109	% 14,6	81	% 12,8
	10	394	% 52,8	98	% 47,0
	11	196	% 26,3	102	% 31,9
	12	47	% 6,3	53	% 8,4
my parents don't allow	9	19	% 10,1	71	% 14,3
	10	90	% 47,9	102	% 50,5
	11	68	% 36,2	130	% 27,7
	12	11	% 5,9	89	% 7,5
parents don't have enough money	9	21	% 11,9	69	% 14,0
	10	93	% 52,8	99	% 49,8
	11	50	% 28,4	148	% 28,9
	12	12	% 6,8	88	% 7,3
activities are not organized in my school	9	45	% 16,5	45	% 13,1
	10	141	% 51,6	151	% 49,8
	11	72	% 26,4	126	% 29,4
	12	15	% 5,5	85	% 7,7
achievement is decreasing	9	65	% 17,0	25	% 12,5
	10	191	% 49,9	101	% 50,3
	11	112	% 29,2	186	% 28,7
	12	15	% 3,9	85	% 8,5
are not instructed by our teachers	9	24	% 11,2	66	% 14,2
	10	76	% 35,5	116	% 52,8
	11	92	% 43,0	106	% 26,2
	12	22	% 10,3	78	% 6,7
are not instructed by the school	9	35	% 11,7	55	% 14,3
	10	142	% 47,7	150	% 50,8
	11	101	% 33,9	197	% 27,4
	12	20	% 6,7	80	% 7,4

According to the class level variable, the reasons of the Vocational High School students' not being able to take part in an activity are like these: at most 10th grade students, I don't have enough time (52,8%), my parents don't allow (47,9%), my parents don't have enough money (52,8%), activities are not organized in

my school (51,6%), my achievement is decreasing (49,9%), we are not instructed by the school (47,7%); 11th grade, we are not instructed by our teachers (43,0%).

3.4. “How are the reasons of the Vocational High School students’ not being able to spend their out-of-school time with any activities” according to the place where parents live?

Table 4. The reasons of not being able to spend time according to “the place where parents live” variable

Reasons of not taking part in activity	Place where the parents live	Yes		No	
		n	%	n	%
I don't have enough time	City	443	% 59,4	127	% 51,6
	County	234	% 31,4	131	% 36,4
	Town	8	% 1,1	19	% 3,0
	Village	61	% 8,2	57	% 9,0
My parents don't allow	City	80	% 42,6	109	% 57,9
	County	93	% 49,5	172	% 31,2
	Town	2	% 1,1	25	% 2,1
	Village	13	% 6,9	105	% 8,8
My parents don't have enough money	City	91	% 51,7	179	% 56,4
	County	56	% 31,8	109	% 34,0
	Town	2	% 1,1	25	% 2,1
	Village	27	% 15,3	91	% 7,6
Activities are not organized in my school	City	144	% 52,7	126	% 56,5
	County	99	% 36,3	166	% 33,1
	Town	4	% 1,5	23	% 2,1
	Village	26	% 9,5	92	% 8,3
My achievement is decreasing	City	214	% 55,9	156	% 55,8
	County	136	% 35,5	129	% 33,0
	Town	4	% 1,0	23	% 2,3
	Village	29	% 7,6	89	% 8,9
We are not instructed by our teachers	City	113	% 52,8	157	% 56,3
	County	76	% 35,5	189	% 33,4
	Town	5	% 2,3	22	% 1,9
	Village	20	% 9,3	98	% 8,4
We are not instructed by the school	City	170	% 57,0	100	% 55,5
	County	94	% 31,5	171	% 34,3
	Town	7	% 2,3	20	% 1,8
	Village	27	% 9,1	91	% 8,4

According to the place where the parents live variable, the reasons of the Vocational High School students’ not being able to take part in an activity are like these: at most students living in cities, I don’t have enough time (59,4%), My parents don’t have enough money (51,7%), activities are not organized in my school (52,7%), my achievement is decreasing (55,9%), we are not instructed by our teachers (52,8%) and we are not instructed by the school (57,0%); students living in counties, My parents don’t allow (49,5%).

3.5. “How are the reasons of the Vocational High School students’ not being able to spend their out-of-school time with any activities” according to the economic situation of the parents?

Table 5. The reasons of not being able to spend time according to “the economic situation of the parents” variable

Reasons of not taking part in activity	Economic situation of the parents	Yes		No	
		n	%	n	%
I don't have enough time	Good	149	62,0	64	25,9
	Medium	544	72,9	20	66,2
	Poor	53	7,1	50	7,9
My parents don't allow	Good	33	17,6	80	23,5
	Medium	136	72,3	28	69,5
	Poor	19	10,1	84	7,0
My parents don't have enough money	Good	9	5,1	104	25,2
	Medium	114	64,8	50	70,6
	Poor	53	30,1	50	4,2
Activities are not organized in my school	Good	57	20,9	56	23,1
	Medium	198	72,5	66	69,2
	Poor	18	6,6	85	7,7
My achievement is decreasing	Good	66	17,2	47	24,8
	Medium	300	78,3	64	66,6
	Poor	17	4,4	86	8,6
We are not instructed by our teachers	Good	31	14,5	82	24,2
	Medium	169	79,0	95	68,2
	Poor	14	6,5	89	7,6
We are not instructed by the school	Good	56	18,8	57	23,8
	Medium	228	76,5	36	68,0
	Poor	14	4,7	89	8,2

According to the economic situation of the parents variable, the reasons of the Vocational High School students' not being able to take part in an activity are like these: students who are perceived their parents' economic situations as medium, I don't have enough time (72,9%), My parents don't allow (72,3%), My parents don't have enough money (64,8%), activities are not organized in my school (72,5%), my achievement is decreasing (78,3%), we are not instructed by our teachers (79,0%) and we are not instructed by the school (76,5%).

3.6. “How are the reasons of the Vocational High School students' not being able to spend their out-of-school time with any activities” according to the educational level of mother?

Table 6. The reasons of not being able to spend time according to “the educational level of mother” variable

Reasons of not taking part in activity	Educational level of mother	Yes		No	
		n	%	n	%
I don't have enough time	Not educated	23	% 3,1	22	% 3,5
	Primary school graduate	404	% 54,2	146	% 54,6
	Secondary school graduate	135	% 18,1	116	% 18,3
	High school graduate	155	% 20,8	132	% 20,8
	University graduate	23	% 3,1	15	% 2,4
	Other	6	% 0,8	3	% 0,5
My parents don't allow	Not educated	8	% 4,3	37	% 3,1
	Primary school graduate	112	% 59,6	138	% 53,5
	Secondary school graduate	21	% 11,2	130	% 19,3
	High school graduate	42	% 22,3	145	% 20,6
	University graduate	4	% 2,1	34	% 2,9
	Other	1	% 0,5	8	% 0,7
My parents don't have enough money	Not educated	7	% 4,0	38	% 3,2
	Primary school graduate	118	% 67,0	132	% 52,5
	Secondary school graduate	27	% 15,3	124	% 18,6
	High school graduate	19	% 10,8	168	% 22,3
	University graduate	4	% 2,3	34	% 2,8
	Other	1	% 0,6	8	% 0,7
Activities are not organized in my school	Not educated	8	% 2,9	37	% 3,3
	Primary school graduate	127	% 46,5	123	% 56,3
	Secondary school graduate	55	% 20,1	196	% 17,7
	High school graduate	68	% 24,9	119	% 19,8
	University graduate	11	% 4,0	27	% 2,4
	Other	4	% 1,5	5	% 0,5
My achievement is decreasing	Not educated	19	% 5,0	26	% 2,6
	Primary school graduate	218	% 56,9	132	% 53,4
	Secondary school graduate	63	% 16,4	188	% 18,9
	High school graduate	67	% 17,5	120	% 22,1
	University graduate	13	% 3,4	25	% 2,5
	Other	3	% 0,8	6	% 0,6
We are not instructed by our teachers	Not educated	7	% 3,3	38	% 3,3
	Primary school graduate	111	% 51,9	139	% 54,8
	Secondary school graduate	48	% 22,4	103	% 17,4
	High school graduate	42	% 19,6	145	% 21,0
	University graduate	5	% 2,3	33	% 2,8
	Other	1	% 0,5	8	% 0,7
We are not instructed by the school	Not educated	4	% 1,3	41	% 3,8
	Primary school graduate	152	% 51,0	198	% 55,3
	Secondary school graduate	66	% 22,1	185	% 17,1
	High school graduate	65	% 21,8	122	% 20,5
	University graduate	7	% 2,3	31	% 2,9
	Other	4	% 1,3	5	% 0,5

According to the educational level of mother variable, the reasons of the Vocational High School students' not being able to take part in an activity are like these: students whose mothers are primary school graduate, I don't have enough time (54,2%), My parents don't allow (59,6%), My parents don't have enough money (67,0%), activities are not organized in my school (46,5%), my achievement is decreasing (59,9%), we are not instructed by our teachers (51,9%) and we are not instructed by the school (51,05%).

3.7. “How are the reasons of the Vocational High School students’ not being able to spend their out-of-school time with any activities” according to the educational level of father?

According to the educational level of father variable, the reasons of the Vocational High School students’ not being able to take part in an activity are like these: students whose fathers are primary school graduate, I don’t have enough time (44,92%), My parents don’t allow (52,7%), My parents don’t have enough money (56,80%), activities are not organized in my school (35,9%), my achievement is decreasing (45,4%), we are not instructed by our teachers (39,3%) and we are not instructed by the school (35,2%).

Table 7. The reasons of not being able to spend time according to “the educational level of father” variable

Reasons of not taking part in activity	The educational level of father	Yes		No	
		n	%	n	%
I don't have enough time	Not educated	5	% 0,7	10	% 1,6
	Primary school graduate	335	% 44,9	149	% 39,3
	Secondary school graduate	159	% 21,3	143	% 22,6
	High school graduate	189	% 25,3	195	% 30,8
	University graduate	55	% 7,4	37	% 5,8
	Other	3	% 0,4	0	% 0,0
My parents don't allow	Not educated	0	% 0,0	15	% 1,3
	Primary school graduate	99	% 52,7	185	% 40,7
	Secondary school graduate	46	% 24,5	156	% 21,5
	High school graduate	29	% 15,4	155	% 29,8
	University graduate	14	% 7,4	78	% 6,5
	Other	0	% 0,0	3	% 0,3
My parents don't have enough money	Not educated	3	% 1,7	12	% 1,0
	Primary school graduate	100	% 56,8	184	% 40,2
	Secondary school graduate	24	% 13,6	178	% 23,1
	High school graduate	39	% 22,2	145	% 28,7
	University graduate	10	% 5,7	82	% 6,8
	Other	0	% 0,0	3	% 0,2
Activities are not organized in my school	Not educated	0	% 0,0	15	% 1,4
	Primary school graduate	98	% 35,9	186	% 43,9
	Secondary school graduate	53	% 19,4	149	% 22,5
	High school graduate	97	% 35,5	187	% 25,9
	University graduate	25	% 9,2	67	% 6,1
	Other	0	% 0,0	3	% 0,3
My achievement is decreasing	Not educated	6	% 1,6	9	% 0,9
	Primary school graduate	174	% 45,4	110	% 41,1
	Secondary school graduate	81	% 21,1	121	% 22,2
	High school graduate	91	% 23,8	193	% 29,4
	University graduate	28	% 7,3	64	% 6,4
	Other	3	% 0,8	0	% 0,0
We are not instructed by our teachers	Not educated	2	% 0,9	13	% 1,1
	Primary school graduate	84	% 39,3	100	% 42,9
	Secondary school graduate	49	% 22,9	153	% 21,7
	High school graduate	66	% 30,8	118	% 27,3
	University graduate	12	% 5,6	80	% 6,9
	Other	1	% 0,5	2	% 0,2

e not instructed by the school	Not educated	0	% 0,0	15	% 1,4
	Primary school graduate	105	% 35,2	179	% 44,3
	Secondary school graduate	67	% 22,5	135	% 21,7
	High school graduate	100	% 33,6	184	% 26,2
	University graduate	25	% 8,4	67	% 6,2
	Other	1	% 0,3	2	% 0,2

Conclusion, Discussion and Suggestions

In this research, it has been aimed to reveal the reasons of the Vocational High School students' not being able to spend their out-of-school time. "I don't have enough time and my achievement is decreasing" are the basic reasons of the Vocational High School students' not being able to spend their out-of-school time with any activities. This outcome proves that students take the best part of their free time to study because of testing system in Turkey and academic success.

In terms of research outcomes, these are the suggestions: 1- Activities should be included in curriculum (instructional program) in order for the students to spend their out-of-school time efficiently. 2- Parents administrators and teachers should be raised awareness of this subject. 3- Testing system should be restructured.

The suggestions that are for the future research depending on the research outcomes might be these: 1- This research can be applied to other high schools and youths out of school. 2- Researches should be done in order to provide awareness for the term "out-of-school time" being perceived.

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