



# Examination of Locus of Control Levels of University Students Staying in Credit and Dormitories Institution

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## Abstract

This study was aimed to determine the locus of control levels of university students staying in the Credit and Dormitories Institution and to reveal whether the locus of control levels differed according to demographic characteristics. In the study, the locus of control scale adapted into Turkish by Dağ (2002) was used on 455 (170 males and 285 females) students, who were studying at Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University in 2018-2019 academic year and staying at the Credit and Dormitories Institution. Due to the parametric distribution  $p \leq 0.05$ , independent samples t-test and One-way ANOVA tests were used in the statistical evaluation of the obtained data. As a result of the research, the locus of control level of the students participating in the research was determined as  $= 134.2747$ , and considering the lowest and highest value that can be taken from the scale (the lowest 47 - the highest 235 points can be obtained from the scale.) The gender, age, faculty of education of the participants / college / vocational school, class, credit dormitories, the education status of the father and mother, father's occupation, mother's employment status and family's monthly income, while there is a significant difference according to the environment in which they grow up and the participants have internal control levels. It has been determined.

**Keywords:** Locus of control, credit dormitories, student.

## Kredi ve Yurtlar Kurumunda Kalan Üniversite Öğrencilerinin Kontrol Odağı Düzeylerinin İncelenmesi

### ÖZET

Bu araştırma; Kredi Yurtlar Kurumunda kalan üniversite öğrencilerinin kontrol odağı düzeylerini tespit ederek, kontrol odağı düzeylerinin demografik özelliklere göre farklılaşp farklılaşmadığını ortaya koymak amacıyla yapılmıştır. Araştırmada, 2018-2019 eğitim öğretim yılı Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey Üniversitesinde öğrenim gören ve Kredi Yurtlar Kurumunda kalan 455 (170 erkek ve 285 kadın) öğrenciye Dağ (2002) tarafından geliştirilmiş "Kontrol Odağı Ölçeği" kullanılmıştır. Elde edilen verilerin istatistikî değerlendirilmesinde parametrik dağılım göstermesinden dolayı  $p \leq 0.05$  T-Testi ve One-Way Anova Testleri uygulanmıştır. Yapılan araştırma sonucunda, araştırmaya katılan öğrencilerin kontrol odağı düzeyleri  $X = 134,2747$  olarak tespit edilmiş ve ölçekten alınabilecek en düşük ve en yüksek değer göz önüne alınarak (ölçekten en düşük 47 – en yüksek 235 puan alınabilmektedir.) ortalamanın altında bir değerde olduğu sonucuna ulaşılmıştır. Katılımcıların cinsiyet, yaş, öğrenim gördüğü fakülte/yüksekokul/meslek yüksekokul, sınıf, kredi yurtlar kurumunda kalma süresi, baba ve annenin eğitim durumu, baba mesleği, annenin çalışma durumu ve ailenin aylık gelir gibi özelliklerine göre farklılık görülmezken, yetiştikleri çevreye göre anlamlı farklılık olduğu ve katılımcıların içsel denetim düzeylerine sahip oldukları tespit edilmiştir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Kontrol odağı, kredi yurtlar, öğrenci.

## INTRODUCTION

The first studies on the locus of control have not directly related to the general expectations of the person that the audit is mostly internal or external,

but are studies that investigate the effects of skill and chance factors on affecting the expectations of the subject's success in a given job or task. The perception of control is defined by Rotter (1966) as a general expectation regarding whether rewards and

punishments are controlled by the individual or by several factors other than the individual (12). According to the studies of Lefcourt, Hogg, Struthers, and Holmes (1975), one's perception of the locus of control is one of the factors that direct their behavior (10). According to the social learning theory, which has been created by revealing the behavioral theory with the cognitive theory, the locus of control is related to the expectation that the person develops about what consequences his/her behaviors will create. It is possible for the individual to perceive the locus of control within or outside of himself/herself. In sum, people tend to put the responsibility of what happened to them either to themselves or to powers other than themselves, such as fate, fortune, destiny, and luck (11).

Individuals, based on their reinforcing histories in their past, can attribute behavioral results, the occurrence of events in their lives and their environment, to their own control or the control of external focus (luck, destiny, God, etc.) In other words, some individuals may be at the extremes of this internal-external control belief dimension (6).

According to Rotter (1966), the locus of control has formed as a result of the strengthening of an expectation that a certain reinforcer will follow a certain behavior of the person. When an individual perceives that his/her own behavior results in a positive or negative reinforcer, it will create an expectation that the reinforcer will follow this behavior in the future. This perception of reinforcement that the individual experiences in every field throughout the development process can create a generalized reinforcement expectation as a result of his/her experiences. In this context, the individual may adopt a general expectation (belief) that reinforcers are either under the control of himself/herself or by forces outside himself/herself, and by chance or destiny. It is conceptualized that the individual believes in the "internal" locus of control in the first case and in the "external" locus of control in the second. However, due to the nature of reinforcement experiences during the development process, it is also possible that there is no distinct polarization and it is in the middle of this dimension (7).

Rotter (1966) has defined locus of control as "the tendency of a person to perceive the events affecting him/her, good or bad, as the consequences of his/her own abilities, characteristics, and behaviors or as the work of powers other than himself/herself, such as

luck, fate, fortune and power of others". While people who believe that the events affecting them are mostly under their control are internally controlled, and those who believe that what happens to them are under the control of forces other than themselves, are referred to as externally controlled (13). Again, according to Rotter (1975), people cannot be invariably divided into two classes as strictly internally controlled and strictly externally controlled. It should not be forgotten that many variables together determine the behavior of an individual in a certain situation. Dividing people into two unchangeable and definite classes regarding the locus of control would be a classification error that overlooked these variables, and explains that it reduces the process of predicting behavior to a very plain way (12).

According to Kavuncu (2014), youth; it is the most dynamic segment of society. It is even more important today that this elite group, which will play an active role in the future and development of countries, is well educated and addressed to their problems. Among the accommodation alternatives for university students; public and private dormitories, private hostels, apart hotels, rental student houses or living with relatives. Many factors such as the socio-economic status of the student and his family, proximity to the school and ease of transportation, security, the quality and capacity of the housing and / or buildings built for the purpose of housing in the city where the university education is continued are effective in the selection of the accommodation types. A "healthy" dormitory environment at the university provides our youth; In addition to socialization, maturation, responsibility, and sharing awareness, it can provide many important features such as knowing people, learning to trust them, being able to distinguish between good and bad, spending more moderately, having a broad circle of friends, being able to make decisions freely, and manage life in the community.

Arlı (2013) conducted a study on "the effects of housing on university students' personal and social development and academic achievement through focus group interviews" that studying and living in the dormitory increased their self-confidence. It was also seen that they learned to stand on their own feet, to distinguish between good and bad, to respect others' behaviors, ideas and thoughts, to share and to be able to control their expenditures. Individual differences are among the important factors affecting the success of individuals in education and

training activities. In this sense, the importance of individuals' structures such as intelligence, ability, self-confidence, motivation, locus of control, learning and thinking styles has been emphasized by many studies (17).

Many studies on the locus of control have conducted in the psychological or educational field such as Cihangir and Haktanır (5), Derman (9), Saracaloğlu and Yılmaz (21), Özen and Vatansever (20), Yurtseven and Özaydınlık (24), Zembat, Tunçeli, Yavuz and Kılıç (25), Demirtaş and Yener (14), Ordu (19). In this study we conducted, the gender, age of the students staying in the Institution of Credit and Dormitories in Karaman, the faculty/college/vocational school, class, the duration of stay in the institution of credit dormitories, the educational status of the father and mother, the father's occupation, the mother's employment status and the monthly income of the family questions have answered to understand whether these variables affect the locus of control states or not.

## METHOD

### Participants

A method for descriptive screening aiming to reveal the current situation was used in the study. The universe of the study consisted of the students studying at Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University and staying at the Institution of Credit Dormitories in the fall semester of the 2018-2019 academic year. The scale was applied to 500 of these students and 455 (170 males and 285 females) the average age of the students is 20.2 years questionnaires were evaluated.

### Measurement Tools

Personal Information Form and Locus of Control Scale were used as data collection tools in the study.

### Personal information Form

In the Personal Information Form, a total of twelve questions about gender, age, faculty/college/vocational school, class, duration of stay in the institution of credit dormitories, the environment in which the father and mother's education status, father's occupation, mother's employment status, and family's monthly income was asked.

### Locus of Control Scale

The locus of control scale developed by Dağ (7) was used to determine students' locus of control orientations. As a result of the validity and reliability study of 111 students studying in the Department of Psychology, the Cronbach Alpha internal consistency coefficient was found to be .92, and the test-retest reliability coefficient was found to be .88 (7).

Locus of Control Scale was a 5 Likert type and consisted of 47 questions in total. The scale had 5 subscales as Auto control (18 questions), Belief in luck (11 questions), the Meaninglessness of striving (10 questions), Fatalism (3 questions), and Unfair world belief (5 questions). In the scoring of the scale, "not at all suitable" was equal to 1 point, "not very suitable" was equal to 2 points, "suitable" was equal to 3 points, "quite suitable" was equal to 4 points, and "completely suitable" was equal to 5 points. In the scoring of subscales of the scale, the lowest 18 points and the higher 90 points can be obtained in the auto control subscale, and the lowest 11 points and the higher 55 points can be obtained in the Belief in luck subscale. The lowest 10 points and the higher 50 points can be obtained in the meaninglessness of striving subscale, and the lowest 3 points and the higher 15 can be obtained in the fatalism subscale. Moreover, the unfair world belief subscale was the lowest 5 and the higher 25 points. In the entire scale, 22 items were scored reversely. The lowest point that can be obtained from the whole scale was 47 and the highest point was 235. The high values that can be obtained from the scale indicate that the external locus of control has increased, while the low level indicates that the internal locus of control has increased (7). The reliability coefficient of the Rotter Internal-External Locus of Control Scale applied to students in present study was determined as .72.

### Statistical Analysis

In addition to descriptive statistics (i.e., mean and standard deviation), the Skewness and Kurtosis values were checked for the normality of data. Independent samples t test was used for One-way ANOVA was used for comparing the means of more than two groups. A Tukey post-hoc test was applied for determining the source of the difference between groups. Significance was set at  $p < 0.05$ . Skewness and kurtosis values were examined to control the normal distribution of the data.

## RESULTS

The demographic characteristics of the students participating in the study were interpreted as follows. 170 (37.4%) of the participants were males and 285 (62.6%) of them were females. The distribution of researchers according to age was 53 (11.6%) were up to 18 years old, 233 (51.2%) were between 19-20, 126 (27.7%) were between 21-22, and 43 (9.5%) of them were 23 and older. 328 (72.1%) of the researchers were studying in the postgraduate program and 127 (27.9%) in the associate degree program. 181 (39.8%) of the participants were in the first grade, 142 (31.2%) were in the second grade, 89 (19.5%) were in the third grade, and 43 (9.5%) were in the fourth grade. The distribution of the participants according to the duration of staying in the dormitory was determined as 241 (53.0%) up to 11 months, 75 (16.5%) between 12 months-23 months and 139 (30.5%) for 24 months and over. The majority of the participants 68 (14.9%) lived in the metropolitan area, 170 (37.4%) were in the province, 120 (26.4%) in the district and 97 (21.3%) in a village/town. The distribution of the fathers of the participants by occupation groups, 92 (20.2) were

workers, 121 (26.6%) were farmers, 66 (14.5%) were tradesmen, 70 (15.4%) were civil servants. Moreover, 63 (13.8%) were retired and 43 (9.5%) were self-employed. While the mothers of 88 (19.3%) of the researchers work in any job, the mothers of 367 (80.7) did not work in any job. The distribution of the researchers according to the education status of the fathers was found as 47 (10.3%) were illiterate, 159 (34.9) were primary school graduates, 115 (25.3%) were secondary school graduates, 91 (20.0%) were high school graduates, and 43 (9.5%) of them were university graduates. The distribution of researchers according to maternal education status is that 75 (16.5%) were illiterate, 169 (37.1%) were primary school graduates, 124 (27.3%) were secondary school graduates, 56 (12.3%) of them were high school graduates and 31 (6.8%) were university graduates. The distribution of participants families according to their monthly income was found as; 135 (29.7%) up to 2020 Turkish Liras, 180 (39.6%) between 2021-4000 Turkish Liras, 82 (18.0%) 4001-6000 TL between 25 (5.5%) was between 6001-8000 Turkish Liras and 33 (7.3%) is 8001 Turkish Liras and above.

**Table 1.** Participants' mean scores from Locus of Control Scale

	Auto control	Belief in luck	Meaninglessness of striving	Fatalism	Unfairworldbelief	Total
n	455	455	455	455	455	455
$\bar{x}$	52,97	31,94	26,57	9,08	13,70	134,27
S.D.	11,47	4,87	7,62	3,06	4,74	15,52

In Table 1, the students' mean score in the locus of control scale was  $\bar{X}$  =134,27. It was observed that the students' mean scores in the auto control subscales were  $\bar{X}$  =52,97, the belief in luck subscale

were  $\bar{X}$  =31,94, the meaninglessness of striving subscale was  $\bar{X}$  =26,57, the fatalism subscales was  $\bar{X}$  =9,08, and the unfair world belief subscale was  $\bar{X}$  =13,70.

**Table 2.** Results regarding the subscales and total scores of participants' General Locus of Control Levels

Locus of Control Levels Subscales	n	$\bar{x}$	S.D.	Min	Max	The Lowest and Highest Scores
Auto control	455	52,97	11,47	18,00	90,00	18-90
Belief in luck	455	31,94	4,87	11,00	51,00	11-55
Meaninglessness of striving	455	26,57	7,61	10,00	50,00	10-50
Fatalism	455	9,08	3,05	3,00	15,00	3-15
Unfair world belief	455	13,70	4,74	5,00	25,00	5-25
Total	455	134,27	15,52	83,00	178,00	47-235

Table 2 showed the general subscales of the locus of control and the total score means of the participants. As a result of this examination, it was found that the mean score of the participants in the auto control subscale was  $\bar{X}$ =52,97, while in the

belief in luck subscale the mean score of the participants determined as  $\bar{X}$ =31,94. In the meaninglessness of striving subscale, the mean score was determined as  $\bar{X}$ =26,57, and in the fatalism subscale, it was determined as  $\bar{X}$ =9,08. Moreover, in

the unfair world belief subscale mean score was determined as  $X=13,70$  and the locus of control total mean score was determined as  $X=134,27$  points. According to the values that can be obtained from the scale, it can be said that the participants had medium mean scores in the auto control, the meaninglessness of striving and fatalism subscales, and in the belief in luck and fatalism, the

participants had mean scores under the medium level. Besides, the participants had a mean score under the middle level in the general score of locus of control. According to the mean scores of the participants  $X= 134,27$  from the total locus of control, it was determined that the participants had internal control levels.

**Table 3.** One-Way ANOVA Test results regarding subscales of Locus of Control and total score means by location variable of participants' lives

Locus of Control Subscales	Where Most of Their Life Spent	n	$\bar{x}$	S.D	Df	F	p	Difference
Auto Control	Metropolitan	53	52,05	9,85	451	,797	,496	-
	Province	233	52,42	11,93				
	District	126	54,21	11,41				
	Village/Town	43	53,39	10,92				
Belief in luck	Metropolitan	53	31,20	10,35	451	1,482	,219	-
	Province	233	31,68	10,42				
	District	126	32,59	14,89				
	Village/Town	43	32,34	15,23				
Meaninglessness of striving	Metropolitan	53	24,45	8,30	451	4,047	,007	1-4
	Province	233	25,98	7,69				
	District	126	27,99	7,21				
	Village/Town	43	28,23	6,54				
Fatalism	Metropolitan	53	8,71	2,93	451	,839	,473	-
	Province	233	8,99	3,05				
	District	126	9,42	3,01				
	Village/Town	43	9,00	3,37				
Unfair world belief	Metropolitan	53	12,62	4,24	451	1,218	,303	-
	Province	233	13,87	4,74				
	District	126	13,65	4,93				
	Village/Town	43	14,25	4,59				
Total ( $\leq$ )	Metropolitan	53	129,05	15,88	451	5,494	,001	1-3
	Province	233	132,96	16,70				
	District	126	137,88	12,94				1-4
	Village/Town	43	137,23	12,66				

Table 3 showed the results of the oneway Anova test on Subscales of Locus of Control and Total Score means, according to the where most of the participants' life spent variable. In this context, the participants who lived in metropolitan areas mean scores determined as  $X= 52,05$  and the participants lived in the province mean score determined as  $X= 52,42$ . Moreover, while the participants' mean scores lived in the district determined as  $X = 54,21$ , the participants' mean scores lived in the village or town determined as  $X= 53,39$ . Accordingly, a significant difference was not determined in the variable of the place where most of the participants' spent their life in the auto control subscale from the locus of control scale ( $p < 0.05$ ). In the subscales of locus of control, belief in luck subscale, the participants who spent most of their

life in the metropolitan areas mean score determined as  $X= 31,20$ , and the participants lived in the province  $X= 31,68$ . Moreover, while the participants' mean scores lived in the district determined as  $X= 32,59$ , the participants' mean scores lived in the village or town were  $X= 32,34$ . Accordingly, in the belief in luck subscale, no significant difference was found in the variable of the place where most of the participants' spent their life ( $p < 0.05$ ). According to the meaninglessness of striving subscale, the participants who spent most of their life in the metropolitan areas mean scores determined as  $X= 24.45$ , and the participants' who lived in the province mean scores determined as  $X= 25.98$ . Besides, the participants' mean scores lived in the district determined as  $X= 27.99$ , and the participants' mean scores lived in the village or town determined as  $X= 28.23$ . Accordingly, in the meaninglessness of

striving subscales, a significant difference was found in the variable of the place where most of the participants' lives passed ( $p < 0.05$ ). It was observed that the mean scores of those who spent most of their lives in villages or towns were higher than those who spent most of their life in a metropolitan city. In the fatalism subscale which was one of the subscales of locus of control, the majority of their life spent in the metropolitan were  $X = 8,71$ , those living in the province were  $X = 8,99$ , those living in the district were  $X = 9,42$ , and those living in the village or town were  $X = 9,00$ . Accordingly, no significant difference was found in the locality variable of the participants' life in the fatalism subscale from the locus of control scale ( $p < 0.05$ ). In the unfair world belief subscale, most of their life spent in the metropolitan were  $X = 12,62$ , those living in the province were  $X = 13,87$ , those living in the district were  $X = 13,65$ , and those living in the village or town were  $X = 14,25$ . Accordingly, no significant difference was found in the place where most of the participants' spent their life in the fatalism subscale which was the subscale of locus of control ( $p < 0.05$ ). In the locus of control total score mean, most of their lives spent like this in the metropolitan = 129,05, in the province = 132,96, in the district = 137,88, in the village or town = 137,23. Accordingly, a significant difference was found in the variable of the place where most of the participants' life spent in terms of the total score mean of the locus of control ( $p < 0.05$ ). According to this; those who spent most of their lives in the district and village or town had a higher mean point of locus of control than those who spent most of their lives in a metropolitan area.

In terms of locus of control subscales and total score of the participants, no significant difference was determined in a variable such as gender, age the education, the class, the duration of staying in a dormitory, father's job, the situation whether the mother works or does not, father's educational background, mother's educational background, and the monthly income of the families of the participants.

## DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION

This study was conducted to determine the locus of control levels of university students staying at the Credit and Dormitories Institution and to reveal whether their locus of control differs according to demographic characteristics.

As a result of this examination, it was found that the mean score of the participants in the auto

control subscale was  $X = 52,97$ , while in the belief in luck subscale the mean score of the participants determined as  $X = 31,94$ . In the meaninglessness of striving subscale, the mean score was determined as  $X = 26,57$ , and in the fatalism subscale, it was determined as  $X = 9,08$ . Moreover, in the unfair world belief subscale mean score was determined as  $X = 13,70$  and the locus of control total mean score was determined as  $X = 134,27$  points. According to the values that can be obtained from the scale, it can be said that the participants had medium mean scores in the auto control, the meaninglessness of striving and fatalism subscales, and in the belief in luck and fatalism, the participants had mean scores under the medium level. Besides, the participants had a mean score under the middle level in the general score of locus of control. According to the mean scores of the participants  $X = 134,27$  from the total locus of control, it was determined that the participants had internal control levels.

While there was a significant relationship between subscales of locus of control and total mean scores of the participants, the variable of the place where most of the participants' spent their life in the subscale meaningless of striving of locus of control; mean scores of those who spent a most of their life in village or town were higher compared to those who spent most of their lives in a metropolitan. In total point means of locus of control; the total point means of those who had passed a big part of their lives in district and village or town were higher compared to those who had passed a big part of their lives in a metropolitan. no significant difference was determined in a variable such as gender, age the education, the class, the duration of staying in a dormitory, father's job, the situation whether the mother works or does not, father's educational background, mother's educational background, and the monthly income of the families of the participants.

In the study conducted by Cengil (4), the locus of control perceptions of the students of the theology faculty was mostly internal control. There was no significant relationship between students' locus of control and gender. Moreover, according to the results, there was no significant relationship between the class variable and the locus of control in the economic level variable. According to the research conducted by Şara (22), there was no significant difference in terms of gender in the internal locus of control scores and external locus of control scores of classroom teacher candidates.

Durna and Şentürk (14) did not found a significant difference between the gender factor of students and their locus of control in their study. In terms of gender, the studies of Cengil (4), Şara (22), Durna, and Şentürk (14) showed parallel results with the results of this study results. According to the result of the study conducted by Beytekin, Kadı, and Toprakçı (3), while there was a significant difference between the meaningfulness of striving, fatalism and unfair world belief scores of the teacher candidates according to the gender variable, there was no significant difference between the belief in luck and auto control scores. In their study, Gencer and İlhan (15) found that female athletes' locus of control scores were significantly higher than male athletes.

In the result of the study, no significant difference was found in the variables of age, education, class, duration of stay in the dormitory, father's occupation, whether the mother worked or not, father's education status, mother's education status, and families' monthly income. In the studies conducted by Beytekin, Kadı, and Toprakçı (3), it was found that teacher candidates' unfair world belief scores differed according to the department variable, and they did not found a difference between the scores according to the grade level variable. In the study conducted by Şen, Amanak, Akgün, and Karagöz (23), no statistically significant difference was found between the locus of control scale mean scores of midwifery students according to their classes. In their study, Günüşen and Üstün (16) found that students' locus of control scores were meaningful to their grade level. It was determined that the locus of control scores of the first-grade students were significantly higher than the second and fourth graders, and there was no difference with the third-grade students. According to the research of Şara (22), it was found that the control centers of the classroom teacher candidates did not differ significantly according to the residential areas where their families lived. Durna, Şentürk (14) stated that 48.8% of the students were internal control, 27.3% were internal-external control and 23.9% were external control according to the locus of control of students. The striking point here was that almost half of the students were internal control, which was they believe that they lead their own lives, and they look for their failures in their own mistakes. There was a significant difference between the locus of control that a student had and the faculty/department he/she was studied. There was

no significant difference between the place of life and the locus of control.

Considering the results, it can be said that the participants had internal control levels. According to the result of the research conducted by Kızanlıklılı and Konaklıoğlu (18), the majority of the participants (56.9%) consisted of individuals with an internal locus of control who believe that they can direct the events around them and interpret their lives according to their characteristics and behaviors. In general, it can be said that the participants were internal control and the reasons for those who spend most of their lives in towns and districts to had a higher locus of control scores were due to the difficulties in living conditions from metropolitan to rural life and the experiences of students living in rural areas in solving their problems.

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