

Opinions of Academicians on Teaching Sociology Subjects in Social Studies Course

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Abstract: We live in an age of social changes where technological developments reach the highest levels thanks to the level of knowledge achieved. The direction of these changes, in other words, will be the most dynamic and openest part of the society. In spite of this importance that should be given to youth in terms of the future of our society, problems such as unemployment and inflation, especially caused by the inadequacy of the education system in general and the social structure in general, cause the young population to be worried about their future. It would be too optimistic to expect a mass of people who pursue their individual concerns about the future to take action by considering the general interests of society. Sociology starts with life science course in primary schools and continues with social studies course. Sociology is one of the main disciplines of the social studies course which includes many disciplines. The purpose of this research; The aim of this course is to examine the views of academicians about teaching sociology subjects in social studies course. The study group consisted of 4 academicians working in 4 different universities. This research was prepared by using semi-structured interview technique which is one of the qualitative research methods. The data of the study consisted of six open-ended questions with semi-structured views of academics. The analysis of the data was presented by shortening the answers given by the working group. According to the results obtained, social studies course is related to many disciplines, but it is obtained that sociology subjects are given less importance than history and geography course. In our country, suggestions have been made such as giving more place in sociology teaching of sociology due to refugee problem and social events.

Keywords: Sociology, Social studies, Social events

Introduction

In order to explain the social foundations of education, it is necessary to examine some basic concepts about sociology which is the science of society. If so, it is useful to start by first answering the question of what is Sociology. Sociology is the scientific examination of the relations of people with each other. The word Sociology consists of the combination of the words "Socius" and "logos". Of these Latin words, Socius means community, and logos means word, information bundle. For this reason, most of the social scientists, this branch of the "social science" is also called (Aslan, 2001).

Since the beginning of the history of humanity, people have been living in a collective and social way. The collective lives of people continue today as in the past. There is no doubt that the same situation will continue in the future. Sociology is the branch of science that deals with society and social relations (Doğanay, 2008). Sociology in the West, in the turbulent process that emerged with the French and Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries, that is, in the chaotic environment where industrialization, rapid population growth of urbanization, increasing immigration and mass labor movements are experienced intensively, the problems emerged in order to find solutions to them (Yavuzer, 2015).

The social events in France, England, Germany and Europe prepared the ground for the birth of the science of sociology and spread over time to other places. Today, sociology and sociology education have become important in many places around the world. Along with the industrial revolution, there have been important changes and developments in the countries where this revolution took place. These changes and developments soon affected the Ottoman Empire. Sociology has been a source of hope for the emancipation from the chaotic

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environment that has occurred due to the changes and developments in both Turkey and Europe (Keçe & Merey, 2011). Today, both are also experiencing a very rapid change in Turkey in the world. This change and development is affecting life more and more every day. The rapid change and development in technology, especially in communication and transportation, brings convenience in many areas and raises new problems in many areas. Sociology and sociology education is gaining more and more importance both in our country and in the world in parallel with the changes and developments experienced today as in the years of its emergence. In order to keep up with these changes and developments, in order to follow and control the developments and changes, sociology education is carried out in secondary education in high school and higher education in both undergraduate and graduate and doctorate level. Compared with the old sociology getting more important every day in Turkey and widespread (Yavuz, 2015).

What is Social Studies? When asked the first answer given; Ders History, Geography and Citizenship birlikte. If we take into account that one unit of history and one unit of geography are covered in social studies courses until 2005, it is not surprising to say these definitions (Doğanay, 2008). In order to explain that social studies are not only about history, geography and citizenship, it is important to recognize the basics of social studies and the disciplines that constitute social studies. Social studies have many purposes. Many disciplines are also used to achieve this goal. This process requires interdisciplinary cooperation and interdisciplinary approach. Because social events concern many disciplines. If a historian looks at an event from his point of view, philosopher from his point of view, theologian from his point of view, psychologist from his point of view, a healthy analysis and determination cannot be made (Doğanay, 2008). Therefore, it is necessary to make an evaluation by looking at the whole picture with a more general and holistic approach. In this context, it is necessary to know the disciplines that make up social studies and to understand their place in social studies (Keçe & Merey, 2011). The importance of interdisciplinary approach is emphasized in the social studies program which has been prepared in our country in November 2003 and has been implemented since 2005 academic year. In this context, it is thought that social studies gains are in line with the data and interdisciplinary understanding of the disciplines constituting social sciences (Keçe & Merey, 2011).

Sociology is a science that examines the social realities that exist in our social lives, the groups formed by people, the behaviors of groups, social institutions and how the social environment affects our thoughts, feelings and behaviors (İçli, 2005). Sociology is one of the most important sub-disciplines of social studies because it directly examines society and its problems. In the social studies course, the student can become a person who is at peace with the society by taking the data of the structure and characteristics of the society and internalizing them (Keçe & Merey, 2011).

Social studies first appeared in the United States in the early 19th century as a concept. In those years, the word social was one of the popular words, and it was an adjective almost at the beginning of many reforms. For example, social development, social productivity, social reality, social research, social control, social education and so on. (Doganay, 2008). At the end of the eighteenth century, reformist educators started to develop a new education program for a newly developing urbanized industrial era (Çetin, 2003). One of the main reasons for these developments was to provide the necessary environment for the Americanization of immigrants coming from various parts of the world. The history lesson in the school programs provided chronological information about the past, disconnected from current events and problems. After the publication of the Social Studies in Secondary Education report by the National Education Association in 1916, the term social studies was frequently used. The concept of social studies, which is highly influenced by the ideas of John Dewey and James Harvey Robinson, one of the leading representatives of the progressive philosophical movement, assumed the function of citizenship education for a democratic society (Doğanay, 2008).

Edgar B. Wesley, one of the leading leaders of the social studies movement, defined social studies as basit the simplified form of social sciences for pedagogical purposes 19 in 1937 (Doğanay, 2008). The pedagogical objectives in Wesley's definition highlighted the needs of society and students. While history has always maintained its place among the simplified social sciences, political science, geography, economics, sociology, anthropology and psychology have taken their place in the program at different times (Çetin, 2003). Although Wesley's definition expresses a disciplinary approach to social knowledge, pedagogical aims have enabled this knowledge to be integrated into the needs of society and students (Doğanay, 2008).

When the objectives related to this knowledge, skill, value and social participation to be gained by the students are examined, it can be said that almost all of these aims are related to cultural elements and it is necessary to benefit from cultural elements in social studies course (Ergün, 1994).

According to Sozer (2008), social studies constitute an important part of the basic and general information about the lives, relationships, culture and place of people in a society. Social studies integrate the knowledge of the basic cultural elements into the information by selecting and kneading them from the findings obtained from the studies in many fields with an interdisciplinary approach. Deveci (2009) states that each society tries to develop existing culture by introducing its own culture to the young members of the society. In this study, it is aimed to examine the sociology subjects in the social studies course in line with the opinions of academicians with the literature. For this purpose, the following sub-problems were sought:

- What do you think about the appropriateness of social studies course achievements to social science disciplines and interdisciplinary understanding?
- What are the topics directly related to the social studies course?
- Does the social studies course contribute to social change?
- What are the contributions of Social Studies to Socialization?

Method

In this section, the design of the research consists of working group, data collection tools and data analysis.

Research Design:

This research was obtained by preparing semi-structured interview form which is one of the qualitative research methods.

Working Group:

This research consists of 4 academicians working in social studies education department in 4 different education faculties.

Data Collection Tools:

The data of the study consisted of 4 semi-structured open-ended questions given to the study group.

Data Analysis:

The analysis of the research data is presented by shortening the opinions of the academicians in the study group. Comments were made in line with their opinions. The views of academics are coded as A1, A2 A4.

Results

Findings and comments for the First Sub Problem:

What do you think about the appropriateness of Social Studies Course Achievements to Social Science Disciplines and Interdisciplinary Understanding? Questions to;

A1: When the achievements of social studies lessons are examined, it is seen that the majority of them are related to psychology, but there are also data on the discipline of history and the acquisition of scientific thinking processes. For example, the achievement of ar puts the main events in life in chronological order and is within the scope of history discipline. In addition, the analysis of the information in the official identity documents that it possesses inferences about its personal identity shows that it is aimed at improving the scientific thinking skills of the student, unlike the social science disciplines...

A2: Although it is seen that the gains reflect primarily the data of the discipline of history, there are also gains in the fields of anthropology, sociology, citizenship and Kemalism. It is an example that the acquisition of disiplin recognizes the elements reflecting the national culture of the family and the environment ait belongs to the discipline of anthropology...

A3: In addition to the fact that the gains are directly related to the geography, it is seen that the gains generated from the historical data are also included. By making use of legends, epics, stories, folk songs and poems, he makes inferences about the geographical characteristics of the place he lives in....

A4: Although it is directly related to science and technological developments, there are also data on the disciplines of geography, history and sociology. For example, taking into consideration the changes made by

technological products in our lives and our environment, it compares the past and the present, and when the gains are examined, data on sociology, history and scientific technological developments are presented here...

Findings and comments for the second sub-problem:

What are the topics directly related to the social studies course? Questions to;

A1: They stated the subjects of Social Studies course that can be directly related to the society and the applications they have made in teaching these subjects. Since 2005, the Social Studies course has been established by the Board of Education. groups, institutions, social organizations; culture and heritage; power, governance and society; people, places and environments; science, technology and society; global connections; economy and social life; our country and population; communication and human relations; It is stated as the adventure of democracy.

A2: It is seen that the subjects expressed by the Social Studies teachers within the context of the issues that can be directly related to the society are in line with the issues related to sociology in the program. This situation can be interpreted as classroom teachers are aware of the issues that can be related to society.

A3: It is seen that the subjects that can be directly related to the society are generally the same in all socio-economic levels, but the practices in teaching these subjects differ according to the socio-economic level where the school is located.

A4: Applications that cannot be done in schools at socio-economic level include group invitations, internet softwares, internet research, studies with families and trips. The reasons why these practices cannot be included can be explained by the inadequacy of the financial resources of the school, the lack of interest of the families, the low level of education of the families and the low economic level of the families.

Findings and comments for the third sub-problem:

Does the social studies course contribute to social change? Questions to;

A1: Opinions about the social change dimension of the social studies course in schools at all socio-economic levels: by teaching the rules of etiquette; gaining knowledge and skills; teaching the administrative structure and history of the country; contributing to values education; It contributes to social change by raising sensitive citizens towards the country and the world...

A2: Traffic rules; economic thinking; conscious consumerism; harms the use of harmful substances; Social Studies course has an impact on social change by teaching the functioning of official institutions and their role within institutions and through children teaching their families what they have learned at school....

A3: Social Studies course contributes to social change by teaching how to become a conscious consumer....

A4: I think that Social Studies course is not effective enough on social change because of the contradictions between what is learned in Social Studies course and the characteristics of large family structure ", sağlama Providing social participation and inadequate implementation of what is learned"....

Findings and comments for the fourth sub-problem:

What are the contributions of Social Studies to Socialization? Questions to;

A1: Regarding the socialization dimension of the Social Studies course, in schools at all socio-economic levels: Learning about their rights and responsibilities; To gain cultural values adopted in society; He has theoretical and practical areas such as communicating with the elderly through oral history studies...

A2: Contributes to the socialization dimension by serving the learning of rights and responsibilities...

A3: Learning about their rights and responsibilities, gaining cultural values adopted in the lower-middle-upper society, communicating with the elderly through lower-middle-upper oral history studies, communicating with peers through lower-middle-upper collaborative studies, and carrying out studies with middle-upper families. contributions are

A4: The course which has the primary effect on the socialization of the individual is the social studies course

Conclusion and Suggestions

In line with the views of academicians, although it is emphasized that the subjects are discussed in a multidimensional way related to history, geography, citizenship, economics, psychology, sociology, anthropology, law and education, it is seen that most of the program consists of knowledge of history, geography and citizenship on the basis of one disciplinary understanding. It can be said that they have sufficient information about osy concepts and issues related to sociology Sosyal in Social Studies course. In the Social Studies course, it was observed that the activities performed in the processing of the subjects directly related to the society were generally at the level of knowledge in the schools located at the lower socio-economic level; It was concluded that sufficient cooperation with society, institutions and non-governmental organizations could not be achieved. It can be said that the effect of Social Studies course on social change is inadequate in lower socioeconomic level schools. When the views of social studies teachers on the “socialization” dimension of the Social Studies course are examined, it is possible to communicate with their peers in collaborative studies; their opinions about carrying out studies with families were expressed only in the schools at the middle and upper socio-economic levels, but not in the schools at the lower socioeconomic level. In the light of these results;

- First of all, the gains in the social studies curriculum should be structured in accordance with the disciplinary understanding in general and the number of the gains prepared in this way should be increased.
- Studies can be conducted in which the sociological dimension of the Social Studies course is evaluated based on the views of different stakeholders such as students and families.
- Due to the refugee problem and social events in our country, sociology needs to be more involved in teaching social studies.

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