

Araştırma Makalesi/Research Article

**A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROJECT FROM TRAKYA UNIVERSITY:
“YOU ARE MY FUTURE”**

*TRAKYA ÜNİVERSİTESİ'NDEN BİR SOSYAL SORUMLULUK PROJESİ:
“GELECEĞİM SENSİN”*

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ABSTRACT: Institutions do not only limit their activities within the framework of their missions and visions. In addition, they continue their social responsibility activities. Social responsibility is for institutions to act in the interest of society, taking into account ethical values. Education is one of the most important social institutions that shape the fields of activity in this direction. Education is a social institution that ensures social equality and transitions between social classes. Thus, individuals can move from lower socio-economic level to upper classes. This mobility takes place not only with the functions of educational institutions but also with social responsibility projects of institutions. In this context, Trakya University carries out projects for the quality and continuity of the education life of disadvantaged students with low socio-economic level. One of these is the "You Are My Future" project. The project is based on the idea that music education plays an important role in the psychological development of the child as well as his mental functions, and the child, who provides internal satisfaction through music education, gains both a healthy spiritual development and a proper personality structure. This project study is presented as a case study. In this study, with the project titled "You are My Future", which was carried out within Trakya University, it was investigated how positive changes in disadvantaged children by taking instrument and singing training.

Key Words: Social responsibility, Child development, Music.

ÖZ: Kurumlar sadece misyon ve vizyonları çerçevelerinde faaliyetlerini sınırlandırmazlar. Bununla birlikte sosyal sorumluluk faaliyetlerini de devam ettirmektedirler. Sosyal sorumluluk kurumlarının, etik değerleri de gözeterek toplum çıkarı için hareket etmesidir. Bu yöndeki faaliyet alanlarına yön veren en önemli toplumsal kurumlardan biri de eğitimidir. Eğitim sosyal eşitliği, sosyal sınıflar arasında geçişleri sağlayan bir toplumsal bir kurumdur. Böylece bireyler alt sosyo-ekonomik düzeyden üst sınıflara doğru hareket edebilmektedirler. Bu hareketlilik eğitim kurumlarının işlevlerinin yanı sıra kurumların sosyal sorumluluk projeleri ile de gerçekleşmektedir. Bu bağlamda Trakya Üniversitesi düşük sosyo-ekonomik düzeyde olan dezavantajlı öğrencilerin eğitim hayatlarının kaliteli olması ve devam etmesi için projeler gerçekleştirmektedir. Bunlardan biri de "Geleceğim Sensin" projesidir. Proje, müzik eğitiminin çocuğun zihinsel fonksiyonlarının yanı sıra psikolojik gelişiminde de önemli rol oynadığı ve müzik eğitimi yoluyla içsel olarak doyum

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sağlayan çocuğun hem sağlıklı bir ruhsal gelişim hem de düzgün bir kişilik yapısı kazandığı düşüncesine dayanmaktadır. Bu proje çalışması bir durum çalışması olarak sunulmuştur. Bu çalışmada Trakya Üniversitesi bünyesinde gerçekleştirilen “Geleceğim Sensin” isimli proje ile dezavantajlı çocukların enstrüman ve şan eğitimi alarak davranış ve gelişimlerinde ne gibi olumlu değişimler olduğu incelenmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sosyal Sorumluluk, Çocuk Gelişimi, Müzik

1. INTRODUCTION

Education is not a mechanical process, but a human-oriented system (Ministry of National Education-MEB, 2018). Thinking students only with a narrow definition and numerical-verbal skills prevents them from developing in a holistic sense cannot demonstrate the qualities of individuals as a whole (Selcuk, 2000). Positive learning environments can positively affect the individual's attitude, personality, learning motivation and speed (Koyuncu & Erden, 2010). It can be said that there is a positive relationship between the economic situation (Duncan & Magnuson, 2003). As a result, disadvantaged children fail in a vicious circle and move away from their educational life. Every institution has responsibilities to prevent this.

“Social responsibility” is a concept which we hear often recently and increasing in importance by the day. It is possible to mention about many projects implemented with this access firstly in the private sector. Although this role is approved of the private sector in understanding, many public authorities can develop voluntary projects useful for society by using their own resources. “Willingness” concept plays a critical role in reply to this question definitely. We as Trakya University firstly believe that social responsibility mission belongs to not the only the private sector, also to public parties. So we want to make up a project as “willingness”. We as Trakya University firstly believe that social responsibility mission belongs to not the only the private sector, also to public parties. Music came out as the most efficient item to socialize children that live in disadvantaged places, don't have hopes for future and have “learned helplessness”.

We set the main targets of our Project as follows:

1. Bringing children who locate in disadvantaged areas of Edirne again in life with music
2. Giving children new hopes, getting a target
3. Taking them away from harmful area effects, help to join with society
4. Giving them an environment that they can contact with peers, learn as sharing.
5. Contributing their abilities about music with a professional training term
6. Forming their career in music axis in accordance with their abilities.

2. METHOD

In this study, the data were collected with reference to the qualitative research method. The qualitative research method was defined by Dey (1993) as "a research method that examines the meanings that people attribute to events or how they describe these events". In addition, according to Yaman and Erdoğan (2007), the case study pattern was preferred as the pattern of the study suitable for the nature of the research.

First, we think that projects should be on a sustainable basis, should have measurable results, benefit concretely for society, should connect the institution and society. With these ideas in January 2018, in Edirne, one of the important cities of our ancient civilization, the centre of different civilizations, cultures, and the city our university located in; We started to think about questions like:

- What we can change positively?
- How we can gather our university and society closely?
- How we can contribute to social development?

Analysing detailed our city's needs and university's opportunities, we tried to choose the best development area to gather these needs and possibilities. After lots of collaboration meetings and one to one discussions we decided to focus on elementary and secondary school children living in disadvantaged areas of Edirne, having duration and discipline problem, don't think to go on education and unfortunately having "learned helplessness".

We named the aim of project we will implement as giving breath again, bringing to life our young friends that suffer in life, can maybe drift into crime if we don't help with the new aims motivating them. Our target was clear but we made many studies, researches about what will be the method and process in this way. And finally, we decided that music is the most suitable item for us. Definitely we used scientific data while deciding this.

Scientific researches made about music and child development show that there is an important connection between music education and brain development. Children getting internal satisfaction with music education, both make a mental development and correct personality. Additionally, it is clearly observed that children become more self-sufficient, get leadership and responsibility mind and generally behave positively by means of music.

After this finding, we performed studies to analyse our target crowd more properly. We saw that children living in disadvantaged locations of Edirne have "learned helplessness". Behaviours like tending to bad habits refusing education, not going on to school are seen commonly. As a result of this "learned

helplessness”, we determined that the thought “What will happen if I receive an education?” is accepted generally.

Our target was sending away our children who live in disadvantaged locations of Edirne from harmful area effects with music and bringing them again in society, life. Upon the request of Dear Emine Erdoğan, it has been seen that many public and private institutions looked after social responsibility projects for public development. We as Trakya University arranged meetings about how to support social development together with our academicians.

Dear academicians of our Trakya University Conservatory undertook the task “Voluntary representative” of our Project. Our academicians made a detailed search in 17 primary schools of disadvantaged places in Edirne, beginning the year 2018 and they detected 55 intelligent students that have “learned helplessness”. Children being talked have been trained about sound, musical note and basic instruments by Trakya University Conservatory “Voluntary Representative” academicians using conservatory opportunities. Every intelligent student discovered as part of the Project has been trained in a busy programme by their teachers in parallel with their abilities. In this term, positive developments have been seen in general behaviours of children who learned teamwork and cooperation, followed up that how working in discipline and programme contributed to their personal development and abilities.

Starting from 05.02.2018 our first study until our first concert on 31.05.2018, being gathered every Wednesday, we worked for 18 days (per study 3 hours) mainly in solfege, instrument, singing, and diction. After a busy training and preparation period “Your Are my Future” concert organized by ensemble and orchestra formed by children was performed in Edirne on 31.05.2019 and enjoyed a lot. In the concert organized in Trakya University, Art, Education and Performance Center our cute friends presenting their skills to art lovers after their training programme have achieved success. This concert which attracted notice as locally and nationally was not end of the project, it was a start-up in away.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Later on ensemble and orchestra we presented our project to The Presidency of the Turkish Republic and First Lady Emine Erdoğan, we were invited to Presidential Complex by her, so felt proud. Children gave a concert which attracted notice in-country general in The Presidential Complex, November 2018. The Project has been introduced as a model to wives of 81 city governors of Turkey. Children probably have not been out of Edirne before, felt the honor of being in Presidential Complex, Ankara thanks to this invitation. Ankara voyage made incredible positive effects on both children and their parents.

According to the instruction of First Lady “We Need To Move This Project To International Platforms” we contacted with the Ministry Of Foreign Affairs European Council Department. After long negotiations with Çiğdem Pattaman from this department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs accepted the request for giving a concert in European Parliament Strasbourg, France by ensemble and orchestra formed by children and presenting the project. After discussions with The Parliament, our university and children in the project were invited to the European Council. Upon this invitation, Rector of Trakya University Prof Dr Erhan Tabakoglu, Chairman of Project Expert Dr Nilgün Tabakoğlu, Vice-Rector and President of Conservatory Prof Dr Ahmet Hamdi Zafer and 8 children went to Strasbourg as representatives of Project Team. The project was explained and presented visually there. After, our children in the project gave a concert.

During the meeting attended by many parameters of European Council Committee including 47 members, 5 observers from Turkey and 52 countries, Trakya University “You are my future orchestra” giving a concert in the lobby of European Council Strasbourg, showed an awesome performance vocalizing musical Works “Turkish March” –composition of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, “Neşeye Övgü” taking place in last part of 9th Symphony of Ludwig van Beethoven together with many Turkish Works like “Çanakkale Türküsü”, “Uzun İnce bir Yaoldayım”, “Nihavent Longa”, “Vardar Ovası”, “Drama Türküsü”, “Üsküdar’a gider iken” with Turkish style instruments in heart of Europe.

Before and during the concert a movie explaining all steps of the project was presented to visitors in English. At the end of the concert taking nearly 1 hour, participants while having fun with jazz performance of the group, clapped the orchestra standing for a long time at the end of the programme. Strasbourg experience has expanded new horizons of children who participated in the Project.

President of Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) Dear Mustafa Şentop who took a strong interest to our studies and projects invited “You Are My Future” Ensemble and Orchestra to TGNA for a concert to children of World who were invited to our country on the occasion of 23rd of April National Sovereignty and Children's Day. Our concert broadcasted live in TRT and Assembly TV attracted notice in the national and international press.

As for the measurable part of the Project According to result of studies 8 of intelligent 55 students (who lived discipline and going to school problem) after passing the exams successfully qualified as a student of Trakya University State Conservatory. All children participated in the Project, while clinging again to life, started to study for conservatory target orderly and disciplined.

All studies have been recorded from beginning to end and different education programmes were planned as following children's development period closely. The Project which attracted attention a lot in local and national media enriches children's world who even have not been outside of Edirne before as conducting them to go to Ankara TGNA Complex and moreover Strasburg.

4. CONCLUSION

As being a successful social responsibility Project reference, through music studies still going on with the participation of qualified children from disadvantaged places of Edirne, children gained more confidence, their communication abilities became stronger this internalized their teamwork culture, their capacity of being social developed. After the Project they got more self-confidence, going on to school and discipline problems solved, they became more successful.

As part of this project we aimed to contribute social development in the literal sense, all our academicians worked voluntarily day and night. We touched together to their lives with our project implemented nicely. Today, we live the happiness of giving them targets ensuring to connect life tightly. Our students participated in the project got a target which is reachable in art and education.

Through this project, we saw that extends beyond being a party making science, our university undertook the mission of gaining for society. Owing to this we experienced that, corporations firstly focus on "human" sense together, have the power to affect society positively.

Our project became a start for many things. 12 of our teenagers who think "What will happen if I go to school?" just before months ago are students of Trakya University State Conservatory today.

All our students participated to project have targets today. They want to go to conservatory anymore. They trust themselves and know the pleasure of being successful well. They saw how training is important and nice, they met art, became hopeful for the future.

Wishing this sustainable understanding to be a reference for many public and private institutions, lucky for us, if we contribute them to be hopeful for future

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