

Physical Conditions of Faculties of Fine Arts Departments of Painting

Established in and after 2005¹

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Abstract

There have been several educational policy changes in Turkey since 2002. These changes, affecting all educational institutions, have also seen an increase in the rate of school enrollment in higher education. According to this, the number of universities in Turkey has increased to a significant level.

Faculties of Fine Arts have also been affected by the increase in the number of higher education institutions. The total number of these faculties have increased from 26 in 2005 to 67 in 2013; an increase of 158 %. This numerical increase of Faculties of Fine Arts, has revealed many controversies and opinions. Positive opinions point to issues relating to an increase in access possibilities and to a wider dispersion of faculties nationwide. In the relevant literature, it can be seen that such positive opinions are discussed as a quantitative concept. The other concept which causes controversy and usually contains negative opinions is the qualitative concept.

One of the issues thought to pose a problem is mistakes regarding planning. Related research expresses that planning for Faculties of Fine Arts, established in and after 2005, has been inadequate and that new institutions commenced operations without the

¹ Report compiled from part of the author's doctoral thesis.

requisite physical and technical conditions being in place.

The aim of this research is to determine students' opinions about the physical conditions of Faculties of Fine Arts Departments of Painting established in and after 2005. Descriptive research methodology was used in the study. The research sample consisted of students of five Faculties of Fine Arts Departments of Painting which were established in and after 2005. A survey containing fifteen items was used to obtain data regarding physical conditions. The obtained data was analyzed using frequency (f) and percentage (%) and the results of the research are revealed.

Keywords: Faculty of fine arts, Physical conditions, Art, Education

Introduction

The present century is a century which has seen a noticeable increase in globalization, with borders seeming to disappear and communication tools showing greater efficiency. Today, the effects of the expansion of science and technology on the arts, as well as emerging developments at a universal level, are reflected in Faculties of Fine Arts².

There have been several changes in educational policy in Turkey since 2002. These changes, affecting all educational institutions, have also seen an increase in the rate of school enrollment in higher education. According to this, the number of universities in our country has increased to a significant level. There were 26 Faculties of Fine Art before 2005. Since then, new faculties have been established with the number of faculties increasing to 67 in 2013; an increase of 158 %. The number of faculties reaches 110, including foundation universities.

Currently, most of Faculties of Fine Arts, located in 58 provinces throughout all regions of Turkey, have started education. However, the commencement of educational operations has caused much debate. The quantitative increase of Faculties of Fine Arts has revealed much controversy. Positive opinions point to issues relating to an increase in access possibilities and to a wider dispersion of faculties nationwide. In the relevant literature, it can be seen that the positive opinions were discussed as a quantitative concept. The other concept, which causes controversy, and usually contains negative opinions, is the qualitative concept. Researchers

² The Official Gazette of The Republic of Turkey tells us there were 51 Faculties of Fine Arts, 7 Faculties of Arts and Design, 3 Faculties of Fine Arts and Design, 5 Faculties of Fine Arts, Design and Architecture, and 1 Faculty of Architecture, Design and Fine Arts, in Turkey, in 2013.

In this research, the various faculties with their different titles, are referred to under the common name of 'Faculties of Fine Arts'.

express that a quantitative increase affects the qualities of faculties. It is known that academies shaped the world of Turkish Art in the past, and faculties currently have the same function; developments of these faculties can genuinely affect today's Turkish Art.

According to Erbay (2000), "In fine arts education, to show contemporary, efficient and sufficient improvement is not only achieved by increasing the number of these institutions." Türkdoğan (2007) expresses same opinion. According to Türkdoğan, "An increase in the number of faculties is only quantitative and it can not be a qualitative increase. In Art education, regional specialties, conditions of institutions, administrators' opinions for faculties, budget allocated for spending and spending budget, academic and technical staff are effects quality of education." (Çobanlı, 1995).

"The opening of faculties is received positively, but, as a result of wrong policies, the Faculties of Fine Arts do not achieve their objectives and the necessary support is given by upper institutions." (Keser, 2009).

Critiques regarding the qualitative conditions of faculties can be found in formal publications. In the 238th and 239th items of the 9th Development Plan, covering the years 2007 to 2013, it is stated that increasing the school enrollment rate and students' numbers causes quality problems for education, and it is also expressed that physical and technical conditions and the development of the quality of academic staff are still a problem (Resmi Gazete, 2006/26215). The problem concerning quality has been highlighted several times by upper administrators. For example, the Head of the Council of Higher Education, Prof.Dr. Yusuf Ziya Özcan, expressed his opinion about these problems in Erzurum in 2010: "*Newly established universities have serious problems. There are serious problems about substructure, and academic and administrative problems*" (DHA, 2010).

Another important point regarding newly-established faculties is physical conditions. Physical conditions affect the rate of achievement. A lack of physical conditions and equipment, and

environmental conditions of departments of painting, can affect the quality of education negatively (Pehlivan, 2004). For this reason, the physical conditions of departments of painting are seen as being important.

Workshops, classrooms, drawing tables, easels, computers and suchlike, as well as much technical equipment and areas are needed in departments of painting. Such facilities and equipment are fundamental elements that form a physical substructure. In order to apply education planning, every possibility should be ensured at a maximum level, because a lack of tools and equipment directly affects the quality of education (Çobanlı, 1995).

Physical factors affecting fine arts education should be appropriate and suitable for the aims of the department (Erbay, 2000). In addition, the city where the university is located should possess facilities such as museums, exhibition halls and theater venues (Altinkurt, 2005). However, when looking at current faculties, most of them lack a suitable environment, as a result of their cities' natural surroundings and art environment (museums, galleries, libraries, arts and cultural centers, opera, ballet, theater, and so on.) (Günay, 1995). Universities, aiming to educate twenty-first century Turkish people, do not have high standard physical conditions, such as laboratories, classrooms, libraries, reading rooms, sports and games halls and areas (Arslan, 1999). Art education experts assert the same opinion. According to such experts, the problems facing newly-established faculties should be solved immediately.

Aim of the Research

The aim of this research is to determine the physical conditions of Faculty of Fine Arts Departments of Painting established in and after 2005. For this purpose the following research questions are the frame for this study:

- a) What are students' opinions about spatial conditions?
- b) What are students' opinions about technical conditions?

Method

Explanations of subjects regarding the research model, participants, data collection and analysis are given under this title.

Research Model

Descriptive research methodology was used to to determine students' opinions regarding physical conditions of Faculty of Fine Arts Departments of Painting established in and after 2005. A descriptive research model aims to describe a situation that existed in the past or already exists in the present. (Kıncal, 2010).

Participants

The participants of the reseach were selected from Balıkesir, Çankırı Karatekin, Gazi, Karabük and Trakya Universities' Faculties of Fine Arts Departments of Painting. The research sample consisted of students of five Faculties of Fine Arts Departments of Painting established in and after 2005.

In this research, a purposive sampling method was used to select participants. A basic understanding of the purposive sampling method is to study a number of predetermined criteria that meet all cases (Yıldırım ve Şimşek, 2006). With that in mind, three items of criteria are determined in accordance with the aim of the research.

- The participants of the research should be selected from Departments of Painting.
- Departments should be established in and after 2005.
- At least one class should have graduated.

Information regarding the sample group is shown in Table 1

Table 1

Quantitative Data Regarding Participants

	UNIVERSITY	YEAR OF FACULTY	STARTING DATE OF EDUCATION IN DEPARTMENT OF PAINTING	STUDENT NUMBERS
1	BALIKESİR	2005	2005-2006	58
2	ÇANKIRI KARATEKİN	2007	2007-2008	39
3	GAZİ	2005	2006-2007	41
4	KARABÜK	2007	2007-2008	40
5	TRAKYA	2005	2008-2009	68
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS				246

* Only 2nd, 3rd, 4th class student.

Source: Information obtained from administration of Departments of Painting.

Data Collection Tools and Application

A data collection tool was developed by the author and used to collect research data. The literature, as well as experts³ opinions and suggestions, was utilized to determine the items of the data collection tool. In this context, literature related to the research subject was reviewed and items were established in accordance with the presented opinions and the findings from the literature. Twenty four items of the data collection tool were presented to experts for a content validity study. Following the views of the experts, nine items were excluded from the data collection tool. With this study, the validity of the data collection tool was provided.

The coefficients of ‘Spearman-Brown’ and ‘Cronbach’s Alpha’ were examined within the scope of reliability analysis. The Spearman-Brown coefficient was reported as $r = ,919$ and the Cronbach α reliability of the scale was reported as $r = ,905$. It can therefore be said that the data collection tool was valid and reliable.

³ Six academics who are expert on Art Education from three different universities. (1 Professor, 2 Associate Professor, 3 Assistant Professor)

Obtained data from 188 participants was analyzed in the research. Participation in the process of the rate of data collection was determined as 78.04%.

Analysis of the Data

The data collected from questionnaires was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 15.0 using frequency (f) and percentage (%) for each item.

Findings

Under this title, the findings regarding students' opinions concerning the physical conditions of Faculty of Fine Arts Departments of Painting established in and after 2005 are presented.

Students' opinions regarding the spatial conditions of departments are presented in Table 2.

Table 2:

Students' Opinions Regarding Spatial Conditions

Item No:	Absolutely		Agree		Agree Less		Disagree		Absolutely	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1. I think that the physical conditions of the faculty buildings are designed to meet the needs of the department.	6	3,2	22	11,7	23	12,2	36	19,1	101	53,7
2. I think that our studios have enough working space.	9	4,8	14	7,4	25	13,3	36	19,1	104	55,3
3. For input and output of various materials, our studios are conveniently located in the building.	9	4,8	27	14,4	25	13,3	42	22,3	85	45,2
4. We have enough places to store produced works.	5	2,7	12	6,4	28	14,9	45	23,9	98	52,1
5. I think that the exhibition halls in our	7	3,7	26	13,8	50	26,6	27	14,4	78	41,5

Item No:	Absolutely Agree		Agree		Agree Less		Disagree		Absolutely Disagree		
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	
	departments are sufficient.										
6.	I think that rest and share areas where we can relax and discuss topics are sufficient.										
	5	2,7	27	14,4	27	14,4	55	29,3	74	39,4	
7.	I think that the number of places where we can buy various materials are sufficient.										
	9	4,8	22	11,7	26	13,8	30	16,0	101	53,7	

* Original item numbers are not used. Item numbers have been reorganized.

When the first item of Table 2 is examined, it can be seen that 3,2% of students selected 'Absolutely Agree', 11,7% selected 'Agree', 12,2% selected 'Agree Less', 19,1% selected 'Disagree', while **53,7% selected 'Absolutely Disagree'**. From this result, it can be said that students believe that the physical conditions of their faculty buildings were not designed to meet the needs of their departments.

When the second item of Table 2 is examined, it is seen that 4,8% of students selected 'Absolutely Agree', 7,4% selected 'Agree', 13,3% selected 'Agree Less', 19,1% selected 'Disagree', while **55,3% selected 'Absolutely Disagree'**. From this result, it can be said that students believe that their studios have insufficient working space.

When the third item of Table 2 is examined, it can be seen that 4,8% of students selected 'Absolutely Agree', 14,4% selected 'Agree', 13,3% selected 'Agree Less', 22,3% selected 'Disagree', while **45,2% selected 'Absolutely Disagree'**. From this result, it can be said that students believe that their studios are not conveniently located within the building.

When the fourth item of Table 2 is examined, it can be seen that 2,7% of students selected

'Absolutely Agree', 6,4% selected 'Agree', 14,9% selected 'Agree Less', 23,9% selected 'Disagree', while **52,1% selected 'Absolutely Disagree'**. From this result, it can be said that students believe that they have insufficient places to store produced works.

When the fifth item of Table 2 is examined, it is seen that 3,7% of students selected 'Absolutely Agree', 13,8% selected 'Agree', 26,6% selected 'Agree Less', 14,4% selected 'Disagree', while **41,5% selected 'Absolutely Disagree'**. From this result, it can be said that students believe that the exhibition hall facilities in their departments are insufficient.

When the sixth item of Table 2 is examined, it can be seen that 2,7% of students selected 'Absolutely Agree', 14,4% selected 'Agree', 14,4% selected 'Agree Less', 29,3% selected 'Disagree', while **39,4% selected 'Absolutely Disagree'**. From this result, it can be said that students believe that the rest and share places, where they can relax and discuss topics, are insufficient.

When seventh item of Table 2 is examined, it can be seen that 4,8% of students selected 'Absolutely Agree', 11,7% selected 'Agree', 13,8% selected 'Agree Less', 16% selected 'Disagree', while **53,7% selected 'Absolutely Disagree'**. From this result, it can be said that students believe that the places where they can purchase various materials are insufficient for their needs.

It can therefore be said that the students' opinions regarding spatial conditions are negative.

The students think that the conditions are generally inadequate.

The students' opinions regarding the technical conditions of departments are presented in Table 3.

Table 3

Students' Opinions Regarding Technical Conditions

Item No:		Absolutely Agree		Agree		Agree Less		Disagree		Absolutely Disagree	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
8.	The sinks and cleaning areas in studios are sufficient.	19	10,1	26	13,8	30	16,0	33	17,6	80	42,6
9.	The artificial illumination systems in studios are sufficient.	4	2,1	27	14,4	38	20,2	45	23,9	74	39,4
10.	I think that the heating systems in studios are sufficient and do not prevent courses taking place.	16	8,5	31	16,5	43	22,9	30	16,0	68	36,2
11.	I think that we effectively take advantage of contemporary educational technologies on theoretical courses.	9	4,8	34	18,1	65	34,6	40	21,3	40	21,3
12.	The numbers and specifications of electronic devices (computers, printers, scanners, cameras and suchlike) meet our needs.	7	3,7	20	10,6	27	14,4	36	19,1	98	52,1
13.	I think that the number of materials (easels, shelves, footstools) is sufficient.	8	4,3	27	14,4	40	21,3	44	23,4	69	36,7
14.	I think that all necessary measures are taken for our health and safety in our faculty.	4	2,1	23	12,2	45	23,9	62	32,9	54	28,7
15.	I think that references in our library related to our department are sufficient.	10	5,3	31	16,5	43	22,9	35	18,6	69	37,6

* Original item numbers are not used. Item numbers have been reorganized.

Item No:	Absolutely		Agree		Agree Less		Disagree		Absolutely	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%

When the eighth item of Table 3 is examined, it can be seen that 10,1% of students selected ‘Absolutely Agree’, 13,8% selected ‘Agree’, 16% selected ‘Agree Less’, 17,6% selected ‘Disagree’, while **42,6% selected ‘Absolutely Disagree’**. From this result, it can be said that students believe that the sinks and cleaning areas in their studios are insufficient.

When the ninth item of Table 3 is examined, it can be seen that 2,1% of students selected ‘Absolutely Agree’, 14,4% selected ‘Agree’, 20,2% selected ‘Agree Less’, 23,9% selected ‘Disagree’, while **39,4% selected ‘Absolutely Disagree’**. From this result, it can be said that students believe that the artificial illumination systems in their studios are insufficient.

When the tenth item of Table 3 is examined, it can be seen that 2,1% of students selected ‘Absolutely Agree’, 14,4% selected ‘Agree’, 20,2% selected ‘Agree Less’, 23,9% selected ‘Disagree’, while **39,4% selected ‘Absolutely Disagree’**. From this result, it can be said that students believe that the heating systems in their studios are insufficient.

When the eleventh item of Table 3 is examined, it can be seen that 4,8% of students selected ‘Absolutely Agree’, 18,1% selected ‘Agree’, **34,6% selected ‘Agree Less’**, 21,3% selected ‘Disagree’, and 21,3% selected ‘Absolutely Disagree’. From this result, it can be said that students believe that they can not completely take full advantage of contemporary educational technologies in theoretical courses.

When the twelfth item of Table 3 is examined, it can be seen that 3,7% of students selected ‘Absolutely Agree’, 10,6% selected ‘Agree’, 14,4% selected ‘Agree Less’, 19,1% selected ‘Disagree’, while **52,1% selected ‘Absolutely Disagree’**. From this result, it can be said that students believe that the number and specification of electronic devices available are

insufficient to meet their needs.

When the thirteenth item of Table 3 is examined, it can be seen that 4,3% of students selected 'Absolutely Agree', 14,4% selected 'Agree', 21,3% selected 'Agree Less', 23,4% selected 'Disagree', while **36,7% selected 'Absolutely Disagree'**. From this result, it can be said that students believe that the number of materials (easels, shelves, footstools) available are insufficient.

When the fourteenth item of Table 3 is examined, it can be seen that 2,1% of students selected 'Absolutely Agree', 12,2% selected 'Agree', 23,9% selected 'Agree Less', **32,9% selected 'Disagree'**, while 28,7% selected 'Absolutely Disagree'. From this result, it can be said that students believe that adequate measures were not taken for their health and safety in their faculties.

When the fifteenth item of Table 3 is examined, it can be seen that 5,3% of students selected 'Absolutely Agree', 16,5% selected 'Agree', 22,9% selected 'Agree Less', 18,6% selected 'Disagree', while **36,7% selected 'Absolutely Disagree'**. From this result, it can be said that students believe that references in their library related to their department are insufficient.

It can be said that students' opinions regarding the technical conditions in their faculties are generally negative. The negative opinions concerning health and safety measures and heating systems issues are worth noting. Students think that the conditions are generally inadequate.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

Under this title, the results of the research aiming to determine students' opinions regarding the physical conditions of Faculties of Fine Arts Departments of Painting established in and after 2005 are presented. The results obtained from the surveyed students' opinions are divided under two headings; spatial and technical.

Conclusions Regarding Spatial Conditions

As a result of the present research, it has been found that a majority of students stated that their faculty buildings do not meet the needs of their departments. The same result can be seen with the students' opinions regarding working spaces. Another finding obtained in the research is that the students' studios are not conveniently located in the building. It was found that the departments have insufficient areas to store produced works. In addition to this result, it was also found that exhibition halls, rest areas and stationery shops are insufficient.

The students stated negative opinions for all the items regarding spatial conditions. It is concluded that the spatial conditions of departments are inadequate.

Conclusions Regarding Technical Conditions

The same result was found with technical conditions. As a result of the research, it was found that the cleaning areas, illumination and heating systems of departments are insufficient. This result can be understood from students' responses regarding technical conditions. Another finding obtained in the present research is that the numbers and specifications of electronic devices, materials (easels, shelves, footstools) and references in departments are insufficient and do not meet the needs of the departments. It was also found that most measures were not taken in regard to students' health and safety in the faculties. The only positive result of the research concerns the usage of contemporary educational technologies in theoretical courses. It can be said that the contemporary educational technologies of departments seem to be adequate.

Students stated negative opinions for most of the items concerning technical conditions. It is concluded that the technical conditions of departments are inadequate.

Recommendations

From the results obtained from the surveyed students' opinions, it is recommended that faculties should have buildings designed to meet the needs of departments, and that conditions should be appropriate to the aims of the departments.

It is further recommended that the size and position of studios should be selected carefully. In addition to main studios, exhibition halls, archive centres, cafeterias and stationery shops should be included. Technical conditions should also be improved, and health and safety concerns, in particular, should be solved immediately. In addition, it is recommended that libraries, educational technologies, materials and other technologies should also be improved.

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