

# Investigation of Research on Educational Decision Making: A Content Analysis Study

Mehmet Nesip Ögün<sup>1</sup>, Serdar Yurtsever<sup>2</sup>, Burak Demir<sup>3</sup>, Yücehan Yücesoy<sup>4</sup>

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## ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to examine the studies published in Google Scholar, ERIC, EBSCO, Messenger science, Web Of Science, Science Direct, Springer Nature, Index Copernicus indexes in the last 6 years by comparing them within the specified variables and examining them with content analysis method. This analysis was carried out according to six main criteria, in light of which the years of publication of the researches will be looked at according to the languages they are published, the methods they use, the number of authors, the distribution of authors by their gender and their distribution according to bibliography ranges. In the last 6 years, the words decision making and decision making in education have been scanned and the data has been collected in the indexes determined in the collection of the data. In the analysis part of the data, the studies obtained were separated in Excel pages according to the criteria and interpreted by painting with percentage and frequency distributions.

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### Keywords:

*Decision making, educational decision making, education, organizational decision making*

## INTRODUCTION

Many times in our lives, we have to choose between alternatives to the actions we do or are about to take. The selection process begins with the creation of at least two alternatives, the process processes and one of the alternatives is selected. This selection process is one of the simplest definitions of decision making. The decision-making process is so closely linked to our lives that sometimes we make decisions without even realizing that we have made a decision. Decision-making; In the General Turkish Dictionary of the Turkish Language Institution, the meaning of the word decision is the following statement; It is defined as "definitive judgment given with consideration about a job or problem" (TDK, 2021).

Decision-making is considered a cognitive process that results in an idea or movement being selected from other possible options. Whether or not each decision-making process results in a move, it necessarily presents a final choice. To define it, decision-making is when the decision-makers determine alternatives according to their preferences and values and choose from them. Decision-making can be seen as a problem solving process that results in a satisfactory solution. Since this process is based on personal and/or publicly known information, the result may be logical or illogical (Gucray,2001) An important function for all people and the intellectual final stage that shapes their actions is decision-making. People make a wide variety of decisions throughout their lives and as a result of these decisions they try to live their lives for better or worse. All decisions made can be of different level and importance to the person. The decisions made can be the result of individual thinking or group negotiations. Whether the result is the result of individual or group decisions; When making decisions, people have to review how the decisions made will affect them and other individuals and organizations (Kıral,2015; Karagöz,2018; Karagöz,2021a; Karagöz, 2021b; Yucesoy, Demir, Bağlama, Bastas & Oznacar,2020). When people shop, want to have children, they are constantly faced with the function of selection to achieve their goals such as university selection process and so on. This selection function is a decision event. The verdict is that you can't it is a choice between two or more suitable alternatives. Since the decision expresses a result, it is seen as a single event and can mislead individuals in this aspect. However, when the decision maker announces the decision, it refers only to the outcome of a process. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze this process well by focusing on the process until the decision is made rather than the decision made (Adair, 2000).

Different characteristics of individuals have an effect on decision-making behaviors. Complex situations make decision-making very difficult. This process can become a stress factor for the individual. At the same time, the complexity of this decision negatively affects the decision-making of the individual (Avşaroglu & Ure, 2007). In order for the individual to make healthy decisions, cognitive processes need to be processed.

<sup>1</sup> mehmet.ogun@akun.edu.tr ; orcid.org/0000-0002-5866-1341; Rector University of Mediterranean Karpasia, North Cyprus, Mersin 10- Turkey,

<sup>2</sup> serdar.yurtsever@akun.edu.tr ; orcid.org/0000-0003-2260-1416 ;Vice Rector University of Mediterranean Karpasia, North Cyprus, Mersin 10-Turkey

<sup>3</sup> burak.demir@akun.edu.tr; orcid.org/0000-0001-6801-7333; Department Of Institute Of Social Sciences University of Mediterranean Karpasia, North Cyprus, Mersin 10- Turkey

<sup>4</sup> yucehan.yucesoy@neu.edu.tr; orcid.org/0000-0001-8171-3130; Department of Classroom Teaching, Ataturk Faculty of Education, Near East University, North Cyprus, Mersin 10- Turkey

Options should be reviewed and evaluated very carefully before making a decision. Therefore, decision-making often comes across as a problem for the individual. In a way, the individual has to decide what to do to solve a problem. The best thing that can be done for people is to make the best decision in line with the conditions and information, and to be able to make new decisions for situations that may cause problems (Avşaroglu & Ure, 2007; Adair, 2000; Deniz, 2004; Demir, 2020). People are constantly expecting and looking for new ones, leaving them in a difficult position to use the strategies they follow when making decisions. Therefore, the strategies and styles used by the person in decision-making and decision-making behavior gain importance. It is necessary to help a person gain appropriate and effective decision-making skills in order to be happy with his life and develop. It plays an extremely important role in scientific research in the acquisition of the decision-making skills of individuals. Accordingly, it is aimed to evaluate the studies carried out for educational decision making in terms of various changes in this research. Based on this general purpose, the studies aimed at making educational decisions; by the year they were published, according to the language in which they were published, by method, number of authors, by gender of authors, their distribution will be looked at according to bibliography ranges.

**METHOD**

**Model of Research**

Content analysis method was used in this research; It is the systematic impartial description and transfer of content (Berelson, 1952). In other words, content analysis; It is a research technique in which words, characters and themes in a collection of texts or texts are determined and converted into numerical data (Seggie & Bayyurt, 2015) Based on these two definitions, content analysis provides the opportunity to learn extensively about the researches by providing information about the content of an arrow study.

**Screening Criteria**

In order to reach the studies for decision making in education, the words Google Scholar, ERIC, EBSCO, Messenger science, Web of Science, Science Direct Springer Nature, Index Copernicus "Decision making "and "Decision making in Education "were scanned.

**Analysis of Data**

The analysis of the studies was interpreted in the analysis of the articles, language, method, month of publication, Number of Authors by Gender, Bibliography intervals, labels were created in Excel tables and their attributes were digitized and their percentages were determined.

**FINDINGS COMMENT**

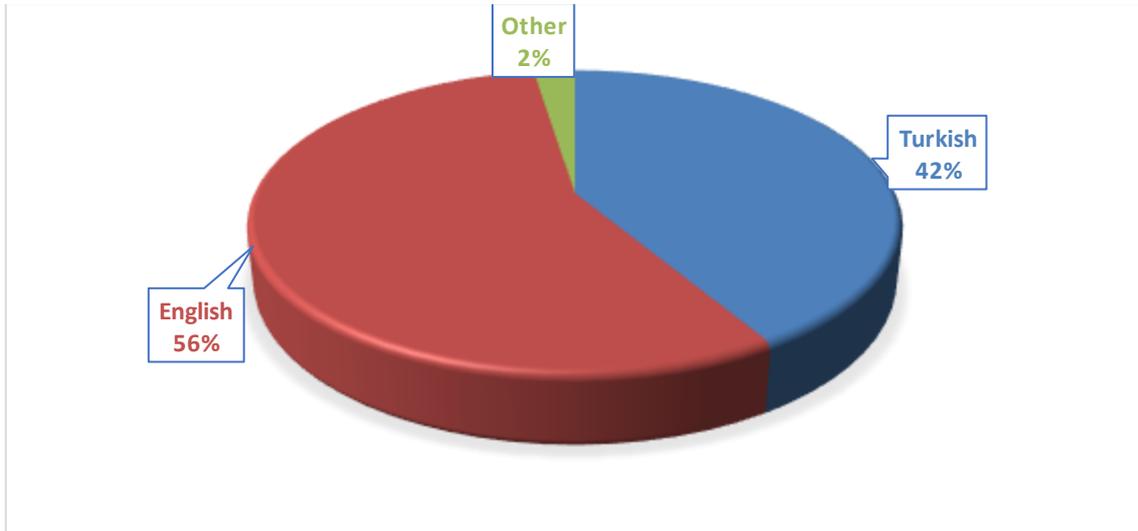
**Distribution of Articles by Year of Publication**

**Table 1: Distributions of articles by year of publication**

Year	Number Of Articles	Percentile
2016	9	%22
2017	8	%19,5
2018	14	%34,1
2019	6	%14,6
2020	3	7%,4%
2021	1	%2,4
Sum	41	%100

When we looked at the distribution of researches for educational decision making according to the years of publication, it was determined that the year with the most publications was 2018 with 14 researches and 34.1%, followed by 2016 with 9 researches and 22% rate. The third most published year was 2017 with 8 studies and 19.5%, followed by 2017 with 6 researches and 14.6% in 2019 as the fourth. If you look at the least published years, 2020 was the fifth most published year with 3 researches and 7.4%, while 2021 was the least published year with 1 research and 2.4%.

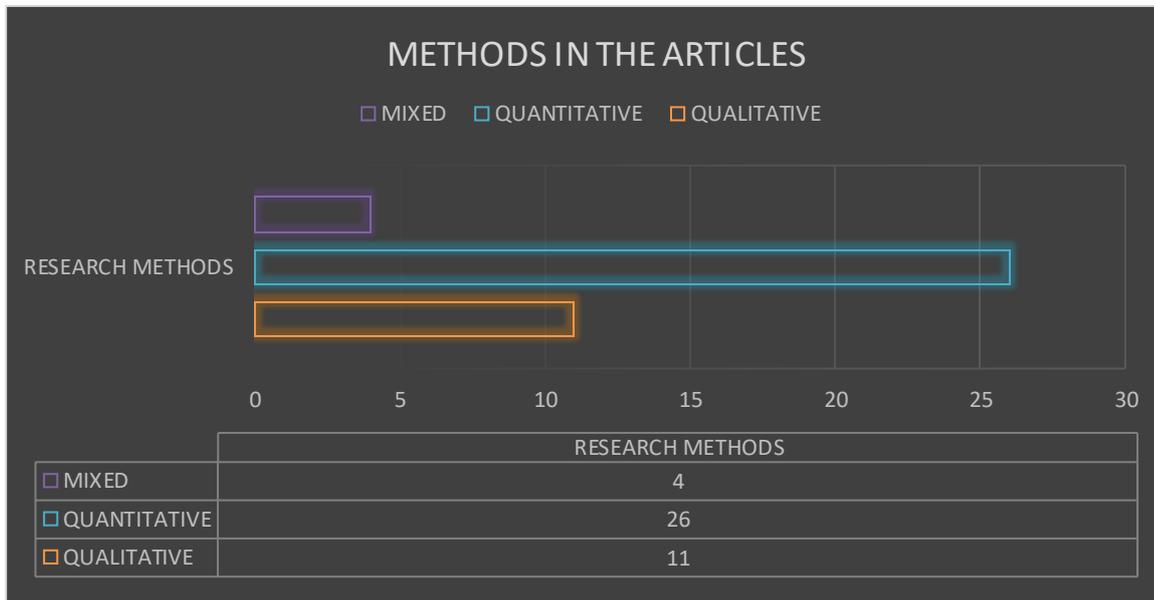
### Distribution of Articles by Published Languages



**Figure 1 Distribution of Research by Published Languages**

When we look at the distribution of educational decision-making studies according to the languages in which they are published, it is seen that there are english-oriented articles with a minimum of 56%, 42% of these articles are followed by Turkish articles, while the proportions of articles involving other languages are 2%.

### Distribution of Methods in Research



**Figure 2 Distributions of Articles by Methods**

When we look at the distribution of the articles according to the methods used, it is seen that mixed research methods are the least used research method with 9.8%. Qualitative research was determined to be the second most used research method with 11 studies and 26.8%. It was concluded that the most commonly used research method was Quantitative research methods with 26 studies and 63.4%.

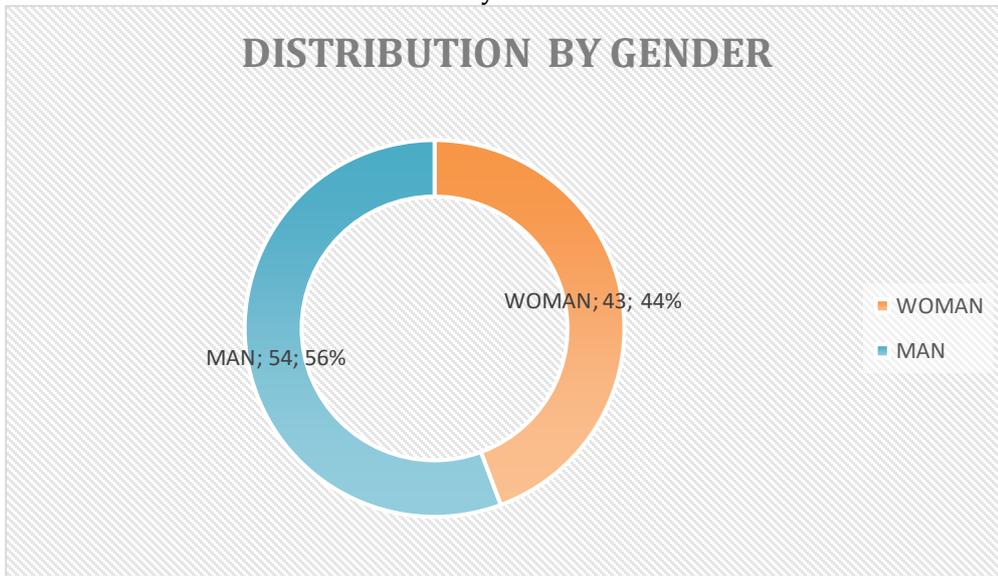
**Distributions of Researches by Author Numbers**

**Table 2 :Distribution of Articles by Author Numbers**

Number of Authors	Number of Articles	Percentile
Single Author	2	%4,9
Two Authors	25	%61
Three Authors	12	%29,2
Four Authors and Above	2	%4,9
sum	41	100

In the light of the content analysis of the researches for educational decision making, it was determined that the articles were distributed according to the number of authors, with a maximum of 25 articles and 61% of the articles with two authors.

**Distributions of Authors in Research by Gender**



**Figure 3 Distributions of Authors in Articles by Gender**

When we look at figure 3, when the distribution of the authors in the researches for educational decision-making by gender is examined, it is seen that male authors are more dense with 54% of the 97 authors and 56% of the authors in the studies, followed by male authors with 43 authors and female authors with 44%.

**Distributions of Research by Bibliography Ranges**

**Table 3**

**Distribution of Bibliography Range in Articles**

Bibliography range	Number of Articles	Percentile
1-15	7	%17,1
16-30	22	%53,7
31-45	10	%24,3
46+	2	%4,9
sum	41	100

When table 3 is examined, it is seen that the most proportion of the researches for educational decision making according to bibliography ranges are 22 articles and the most common articles in the range of 53.7% to 16-30 bibliography 31-4 In the 5 bibliography range, 10 articles were included and the second most intermittent variable with 24.3% was 1-5 bibliography range, 7 articles were included and 17.1% were taken. The minimum range was obtained by the bibliography range of 46 and above, which received a ratio of 4.9% with only 2 studies.

## CONCLUSION and DISCUSSION

When we look at the results obtained in this study, which examines the researches aimed at making decisions in education, it is concluded that the year with the most publications is 2018 and the least published year is 2021. Yücesoy and Dağlı (2019) Have analyzed the content of research on technology leadership, and according to their results, it can be said that the most researches are in 2017, contrary to the result obtained in this research, but the number of studies conducted in 2018 is similar to the result obtained in this research, accordingly, the distribution of educational decision making and the number of studies in the field of technology leadership by year is similar.

When we looked at the distribution of the studies with the second sub-objective of the study according to the languages in which they were published, it was determined that the articles with a weight of English were published more. Turkish articles followed these articles, while articles with other languages received the least proportion. Allahverdiev (2020) When he examined the academic studies for visual arts education, it was seen that the language that was published the most was Turkish, contrary to the result obtained in this research, and it can be said that the researches on educational decision-making and the researches on visual arts education differed interdisciplinary according to the languages of publication.

When we looked at the distribution according to the methods used in the research for educational decision making, it was concluded that the most quantitative research methods were used after qualitative and at least mixed research methods. Bicen and Demir (2020) When they looked at the distribution of researches using augmented reality and infographics in education according to the research methods used in the studies, they determined that quantitative research was used more to support the results obtained in this research. Accordingly, it can be said that research on augmented reality and infographic use in education may be similar to the methods used even if their disciplines are different in educational decision-making research.

When we looked at the distribution according to the number of authors in the studies, it was determined that the articles with a maximum of two authors were published, while at least four or more authors were published. Islek and Hursen (2014) When they looked at the distribution of critical thinking research according to the number of authors in the articles in their study, they determined that up to two authors were published to support the result obtained in this research. From here, it can be said that the distribution of research on critical thinking in educational decision making and education according to the number of authors is equivalent.

When we examined the researches for educational decision making, it was concluded that 54 of these 97 authors were male and 43 individuals were women. Danju and oth. (2020) In their study, they examined research on new orientations in education and examined research that gave information based on the gender of the study groups participating in the researches, and determined that the researches that gave the most information were researches on the theory of multiple intelligence. In this research, which includes studies aimed at making educational decisions, it can be said that it is involved in research that provides information about genders in a multidisciplinary way.

When we looked at the distribution of the study according to the bibliography range in the studies with the last sub-problem, it was determined that the range with the most studies was 16-30 bibliography studies, and it was concluded that the researches with the least bibliography range were in the range of 45 and above. Nacak and Yücesoy 2020 When they examined the distribution of the studies according to the bibliography ranges in their researches that analyzed the content of research on art education addressing social communication issues, they determined that the most bibliography ranges were in the range of 15-25 bibliography, where the results showed a similar degree of parallel to the result obtained in this research. In light of this, it can be said that there are researches for educational decision making and the bibliography ranges of studies for social communication have increased and decreased in a similar way. Although this research is limited to studies conducted between 2006 and 2011, it is limited to studies aimed at decision-making on an educational scale Based on the results of the research, it is seen that there has been a decrease in the studies related to decision making since 2018 and it is recommended to increase the studies to be carried out for the researchers to make decisions both administratively and in business dimensions.

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