

Professional Book Review

Gözübüyük Tamer M. (2014). *Globalizing Actors of Higher Education: "International Students"* (*Yükseköğretimin Küreselleşen Aktörleri: Uluslararası Öğrenciler*), Siyasal Kitabevi, ANKARA. 143pp., ISBN: 978-605-4627-67-7. 10 TL.

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Internationalization concept in higher education, which is a natural and inevitable result of globalization is a concept commonly used in higher education system. Internationalization of higher education is usually associated with exchange of information, students and instructors via international collaboration and education programs with international dimensions. This concept is also seen as a process where the aim, function and the service of a higher education institution integrates with an international, intercultural and global dimension on an institutive and national level (Knight, 2008).

According to the data from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2014) four millions of students go abroad for educational purposes. The globalization in higher education is seen as the most important way of economic, cultural and strategic development and growth on international level. Because this concept has such a big potential, many countries around the world have started to make reforms and to create new policies to take on an international level in the higher education institutions.

There have been some important developments in terms of internationalization of higher education in Turkey especially after 2000s. One of the most important steps towards the internationalization is providing the mobility of students and instructors from the universities all around the world and especially from European countries. When we talk about the mobility of students, Turkey has an upward graphic in terms of the number of students both sent from and coming to Turkey (Çetinsaya, 2014; UNESCO, 2014).

This work emphasizes the accelerating importance of internationalization in higher education and student mobility on the status, settlement and the strategies of different countries in the world. This academic research is made up of 4 chapters and brings the internationalization in higher education in Turkey to light with the ideas of foreign students studying at Karadeniz Technical University with scholarship. This work also introduces useful information and sources for policy makers, academicians and students in education field.

On the first chapter the author explains the topic of the research, which is the current situation of international student mobility and the factors that affects it, with a cross section from Turkey. Pointing out the foundations of the research topic, the author emphasizes the fact that it is very important to analyze the student mobility in Turkey together with the economic, social and cultural factors that affects the opinions and preferences of the students. She specifies that the research is a field study that allows the discovery of an existing case. Focusing on the main concepts relating to the subject and how the mobility works in Turkey and other countries, the author includes other studies on this concept in her book. On this chapter, she creates a general introductory framework to give an integrated perspective on the subject and prepare the reader to the upcoming chapters.

On the second chapter the current student mobility is assessed on national and international levels with comparable figures from the international organizations. The author discusses the current inclinations and the factors triggering the student mobility. It is emphasized that besides being a financial source, student mobility also creates qualified work force. That is why countries are constantly trying to increase their share on this concept. The author also states the countries that are preferred by the students and the share of these countries from the student mobility, the countries sending the highest number of students and the students' preferences on theoretical or practical educational programs. Turkey and Karadeniz Technical University are also assessed on points as the number of international students studying there, the percentages and the programs of the students from various countries. She analyzes the reasons why international students prefer a specific country for educational purposes and states that the language learning and cultural development opportunities, permanent immigration opportunities, educational infrastructure quality, recognition of the education and the scholarship opportunities are determinant of the countries preferred for international education.

On the third chapter we find examples of policies of countries in different continents towards the international students and student mobility practices. Countries ranking top in terms of internationalization in higher education as USA, UK and Australia address to a variety of students all around the globe with their distinguished and recognized diploma offerings, increasing promotion and consulting activities through internet and offices they open in various countries, transparent visa and immigration policies. Germany and France are on the mid level compared to the countries mentioned above in terms of internationalization and these countries are mostly preferred by the students from the countries that have a common historical and cultural context with Germany and France. These countries differentiate from the top ranking countries in terms of reasonable educational costs, increasing the number of English programs, and easier processes for getting work and residence permits during and after the educational period. Countries like Japan and Canada are trying to get more shares from the international student market with lower educational costs, credit transfer systems and flexible visa processes while other countries like Malaysia, China and Singapore are recently becoming more competitive with their policies in international mobility. At the end of the chapter we see the aims and strategies of Turkey in internationalization in higher education. The author states the facts about the scholarship opportunities, cultural adaptation programs, expansion of promotion activities, enabling foreign students pass without an exam, legal improvements, activities and support of civil society organizations in Turkey.

Lastly on the fourth chapter we see the findings of the research conducted with the international students studying in Karadeniz Technical University. The author presents demographic information on the students attending to the research and discovers the needs of the students, the expectations of social and leisure activities from the university, the reasons why they preferred Turkey, social, economic and academic problems they encountered in the application and admission processes. On the conclusion and suggestions chapter the author makes a general overview taking the findings from the research as a basis. She emphasizes that Turkey should increase the consulting activities, improve the application system, consider student expectations more and give work permit to the students during their education period to increase its share on the market. She also gives suggestions on vision, promotion and orientation services and Turkish language education to improve student mobility.

"*Globalizing Actors of Higher Education: "International Students"* tries to present concepts related to internationalization in higher education, inclinations in the world, practices and deficiencies in Turkey with a scientific point of view. We can say that this work, assessing the international student mobility in higher education with details specific to Turkey and other countries, will help people understand the internationalization in higher education and contribute to comparative education field.

References

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