Students with Disabilities

and Educational Equity in Turkey

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Agenda



Introduction
 Focus on Universities
 Example: METU
 Photographs

Statistics

- 8.5 million (12.29%)
- 1.1 million
- 500,000

Source: Turkish Daily News; UK Home Office; TURKSTAT; Prime Minister Administration for Disabled People

History of Education for People with Disabilities in Turkey

- 1951, Ministry of National Education
- Schools for the Blind in Ankara (1950s):
 - Goreneller Korler Okulu (Aydinlikevler, Ankara)*
 - Mithat Enc Korler Okulu (Gazi Mahallesi, Ankara)

 0.74% of disabled children were receiving special education (OECD, 1995); many receiving education in mainstream schools without any support

*mandatory English lessons

Source: <u>http://kpm.metu.edu.tr/engelsiz/default.asp?page=12;</u> A Special Interest Group on Disability (2003) <u>https://kolmogorov.iam.metu.edu.tr/claire/index.php/A_Special_Interest_Group_on_Disability</u>

Legislation related to Students with Disabilities in Turkey

• Turkish Disability Act (July, 2005), Law No. 5378

• (Article 15), "The right of education of the disabled people cannot be prevented by any reason. The disabled children, youngsters and adults are provided with equal education with the non-disabled people and in inclusive environments by taking the special conditions and differences into consideration."

Higher Education Council (YÖK) directive (June, 2006)

• Universities in Turkey must establish a Disability Coordination Unit, and students with disabilities can now apply for suitable support.

Source: <u>http://www.ozida.gov.tr/mevzuat/yokozurlukoordinasyon.htm;</u> <u>http://www.ozida.gov.tr/english/act/act.htm</u>

Universities with Disability Support Coordinators

Abant IBÜ	Anadolu U	Akdeniz U
Ankara U	Bahçeşehir U	Başkent Ü
Bilgi U	Bilkent U	Boğaziçi Ü
Bozok Ü	Çankaya U	Çukurova Ü
Dokuz Eylül Ü	Ege Ü	Gazi Ü
Hacettepe Ü	İstanbul Ü	ітϋ
Kırıkkale Ü	Kocaeli Ü	Koç Ü
Mustafa Kemal Ü	Onodokuz Mayıs Ü	ODTÜ
Osman Gazi Ü	Sabancı Ü	Sakarya Ü
Uludağ Ü	Yüzüncü Yıl Ü	METU

Source: http://kpm.metu.edu.tr/engelsiz/default.asp?page=12

Example: Middle East Technical University

Policies toward Students with Disabilities pre-2004

- Often exempt from quizzes, but not from exams.
- Students with a hearing impairment were automatically exempt from listening quizzes, regardless of % of impairment
- Post-2004
 - <u>Disability Special Interest Group</u> at METU (1990s) aims to minimize and eventually exclude exemptions

Source: Interview with METU Disability Support Coordinator, March 18, 2007

Example: Middle East Technical University

Disability Support Coordinator established 2004 to support students with varying needs
1st university to do so
preceded the legislation

Example: Middle East Technical University

Actions and changes post-2004

- Taxi policy for students with physical disabilities
- Series of seminars, workshops

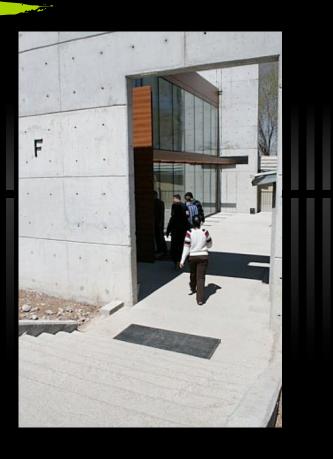
Future Challenges

- Expansion of Disability Support staff
- Issues of Accessibility: Buildings, pathways across campus, etc.

Source: http://www.eot.metu.edu.tr/engelsiz_taksi_hizmeti.html

Photographs -

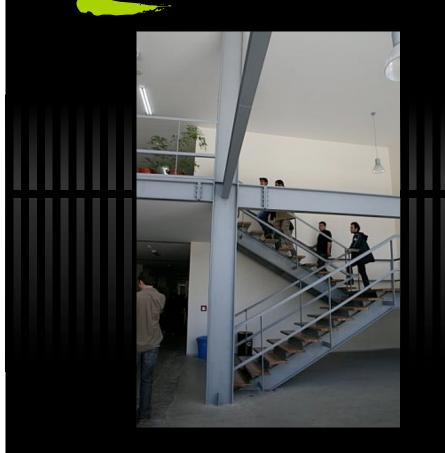
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 New building for the Department of Basic English, METU

Photographs -

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Completed Winter 2006/2007

Further Information

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