

COMPARISON OF COUNTRY RANKING OF OECD WITH COUNTRY CHOICES OF PRIMARY SCHOOL MANAGERS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to compare the ranking of the most chosen countries according to 2015 data of OECD with the ranking of own choices of school managers related to undergraduate education, postgraduate education and project mobility and to evaluate reasons of the choices of school managers. Qualitative research methodology was used and phenomenological study was chosen as a research design for this study. The group of the study is composed of primary school managers (31) working at central primary schools in Uşak. The opinions are obtained via semi – structured interview form. There are three questions about undergraduate education , postgraduate education and project mobility on the interview form. The interview form was examined by two instructors working in department of Educational Sciences- Education Programmes and an expert opinion was confirmed. With the first question, the most chosen first ten countries for international student mobility happening with the aim of undergraduate education were given to the managers respectively and in black and white. The managers were asked to write their opinions about the question as “if you had undergraduate education abroad , would you explain with the reason which countries you prefer as the first three from given countries .” Secondly , the most chosen first ten countries for international student mobility happening with the aim of postgraduate education were given to the managers respectively and in black and white and they were asked to write their answers related to the question as “if you have postgraduate education , would you explain with the reason which countries you prefer as the first three from given countries .” The most chosen first ten countries for mobility projects were given to the managers respectively and in black and white and they were asked to write their answers related to the question as “would you explain with the reason which countries you prefer as the first three from given countries .” The school managers chose England (13) , Sweden (9) , Australia (4) as the first three countries for the choice of undergraduate education. “ Importance of language education , quality of education, powerful backgrounds of universities, development status and life standards of these countries” take place among the reasons of these choices. The school managers chose England (10) , Sweden (9) , Australia (5)) as the first three countries for the choice of foreign countries with the aim of postgraduate education. “Reputations of the universities, importance given by the countries to science, art and human values , importance of language education, extreme supports for R&D studies” take place among the reasons of these choices of the managers. The managers chose New Zealand (8), England (7) , Norway (5) as the first three countries for the choice related to mobility projects. “Touristic attractiveness , geographical locations, supports for projects and policies in tertiary education of these countries” are among the reasons of these choices of the managers. With the general consideration of the chosen countries by the managers for undergraduate and postgraduate education and project mobility , it is observed that these countries are England, Sweden, Australia , Belgium , Netherlands and Canada. These countries take place in front lines among the most chosen ten countries within international student mobility according to 2015 data of OECD. It is observed that there is an analogy between ranking of OECD and the choices of the school managers.

Keywords: International Student Mobility, OECD Report, Manager’s Opinion.