

THE VIEWS OF TEACHER CANDIDATES ON NATURE OF SCIENCE

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to reveal the views of teacher candidates who attend science, preschool, social studies and elementary education departments. The study group of the research constituted of 219 teacher candidates who attended Adnan Menderes University Faculty of Education during the academic year 2016-2017. Sequential explanatory design has been applied in the study of mixed method designs in which quantitative and qualitative research methods are used together. Quantitative data were obtained using a 4-scale "Nature of Science Scale" consisting of 11 sub-dimensions and 30 items. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, t-test and one-way ANOVA. Qualitative data were obtained using interview method and descriptive analysis method was used in analysis of interview data made by three teacher candidates from each branch. When the findings obtained from the research were examined, it was seen that the opinions of the teacher candidates about the nature of science did not show any significant difference according to the gender and the variable of the department they were reading. When the data on the interviews were examined, it was found that the opinions of the teacher candidates on the nature of science overlap with some of the answers obtained from the scale items.

Keywords: Nature of science, nature of science teaching, teacher candidates.