

RECREATIVE USE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION CENTERS

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Abstract

Adult education has four aspects which are professional, social, personal developmental and recreational functions. However, professional skills generally become the main topic of the conversations related to the adult education so that the other aspects of adult education cannot come to the forefront which is the reason why these aspects are neglected. Since the economic dimensions are given the priority with respect to the adult education, opportunities that will provide potentially beneficial results in terms of the social aspect of adult education are missed. Public Education Centers play an important role among the adult education institutes in Turkey. The number of Public Education Centers and the people who benefit from them is increasing year after year. As of the year 2010-2011, 3 416 006 people have been trained in 175 360 courses held in 969 Public Education Centers. 77.983 of them are held for recreational purposes and the number of people who preferred to be trained in these courses is 1.410.187. When the number of people who preferred these courses is taken into account, it is obvious that along with Public Education Centers, recreational courses are very important for adult education in the sense that they increase the quality of their life, provide protective effect against the adverse events in life (such as stress, depression etc.), contribute to the social participation and increase the level of productivity in educational life. This research aims to determine whether there is a significant increase in the number of recreational courses of Public Education Centers and their participants through searching the relevant national data and comparing them by years. As a result, it has been found out that the ratio of recreational courses among the whole opened courses has increased in time. However, on the contrary to the aforementioned ration, Public Education Centers do merely open vocational training courses.

Key Words: Adult Education, Leisure, Public Education Centers, Recreation.