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## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TEACHING PROFESSION PERCEPTION AND PROFESSIONAL ANXIETY LEVELS OF PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

Özlem KARAKIŞ<sup>1</sup>

### ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to examine the relationship between teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels of prospective teachers. A total of 387 prospective teachers, participating pedagogical formation certificate program, voluntarily participated in the study where descriptive and relational survey models were used. According to the results of the study, the prospective teachers within the scope of the study have moderate levels of professional anxiety and perception, the average scores in the teaching profession perception scale were significant in favour of the female prospective teachers, prospective teachers who participated in the program to do the teaching profession afterwards, who preferred a teaching department in university entrance exams priorly and who will take the Public Personnel Selection Exam (PPSE). The average scores in the professional anxiety scale were found to be significant in favour of male prospective and employed prospective teachers. In addition, it was determined that there was a low, positive, and meaningful relationship between prospective teachers' teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels. Based on the findings of the present study, experimental studies to decrease their professional anxiety levels and increase their level of professional perceptions of prospective teachers are recommended for further research.


**Key Words:** Teaching profession, teaching profession perception, professional anxiety, pedagogical formation, teacher education

## PEDAGOJİK FORMASYON EĞİTİMİ ALAN ÖĞRETMEN ADAYLARININ ÖĞRETMENLİK MESLEĞİNE YÖNELİK ALGI VE MESLEKİ KAYGI DÜZEYLERİ ARASINDAKİ İLİŞKİ

### ÖZ

Bu araştırmanın amacı pedagojik formasyon eğitimi alan öğretmen adaylarının öğretmenlik mesleğine yönelik algı ve mesleki kaygı düzeyleri arasındaki ilişkiyi incelemektir. Betimsel ve ilişkisel tarama modelinin kullanıldığı araştırmaya, pedagojik formasyon sertifika programında yer alan 387 öğretmen adayı gönüllü olarak katılmıştır. Araştırmanın verilerine göre, araştırma kapsamındaki öğretmen adaylarının orta düzeyde mesleki kaygı ve algı düzeylerine sahip oldukları; öğretmenlik mesleğine yönelik algı ölçeğindeki ortalama puanların kadın, programa öğretmenlik yapmak amacıyla katılan, üniversite giriş sınavlarında öğretmenlik bölümünü tercih etmiş olan ve Kamu Personeli Seçme Sınavı'na (KPSS) girecek olan öğretmen adaylarının lehine anlamlı olduğu belirlenmiştir. Mesleki kaygı ölçeğindeki ortalama puanların, erkek ve çalışan öğretmen adaylarının lehine anlamlı olduğu belirlenmiştir. Araştırmada ayrıca, öğretmen adaylarının öğretmenlik mesleğine yönelik algı ve mesleki kaygı arasında düşük düzeyde, pozitif ve anlamlı bir ilişki olduğu belirlenmiştir. Bu araştırmanın bulgularına dayanarak, öğretmen adaylarının mesleki kaygı düzeylerini azaltmaya ve mesleki algı düzeylerini artırmaya yönelik deneysel çalışmalar yapılması önerilmektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Öğretmen adayı, öğretmenlik mesleğine yönelik algı, mesleki kaygı, pedagojik formasyon, öğretmen eğitimi

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Educational institutions' ability to perform the tasks of raising people who can use information and technology, create, learn, solve problems, think critically and creatively depends on the qualifications of educational services, students, and teachers. As teachers constantly interact with others (Özoğlu, 2011, p. 143), their personality and psychological traits, attitudes, and interests are even more important than teaching methods and awareness in pedagogical instruction (Chotas & Thoresen, 1976, pp. 159-184; Memişoğlu, 2006). In other words, personal and psychological traits being thrown back during the education process are at least as effective as the professional competencies for the success of teachers (Demirel, 2003; Yazıcı, 2009). In order for the teachers to educate individuals and increase the quality of education in accordance with the requirements of the age, their attitudes towards the profession should be positive-constructive, and affective domain competencies and positive psychological characteristics are required. In this context, it can be said that prospective teachers' perceptions towards the profession and anxiety levels about that profession are important psychological variables affecting their professional success.

### 1.1. Perception towards teaching profession

The professional perception of an individual is effective on factors such as having self-confidence about their profession in cognitive, affective, and behavioural sense, being conscious of what they want, being successful and peaceful in professional life, affecting the society and individuals in which they live in a positive way and improving their professional skills (Akyüz, 1978; Luthans, 1995). Today, not only aptitude, interests, and values, but also the financial return of the profession, status, suitability for the present age, and the idea of self-assurance and self-independence are effective on the perception of that profession (Kuzgun, 2000; Özyürek & Kılıç Atıcı, 2002). Prospective teachers' professional competencies and perceptions are also vital to their success in their profession. Teachers create their own professional ideas and perceptions through their experiences during their pupillage and professional life (Can, 1987, p. 160), and can be more effective in this profession, thanks to the positive professional perception (Erdem et al., 2005). In order to increase own academic success and become a qualified teacher in the future, prospective teachers should develop positive thinking (Semerci, 2001), attitude and perception about the teaching profession (Terzi & Tezci, 2007). Simply stated, prospective teachers need to have a positive professional perception to be open to improvement, acquire current professional skills, and create a successful teacher profile.

In the literature on the perception of the teaching profession, there are studies in which it has been found that prospective teachers perceive the teaching profession as life, guide, devotion, quality, disappointment, and manager (Çocuk et al., 2015) and parent, family, guide, shepherd, gardener, light etc. (Yılmaz et al., 2013). At the graduation stage, that the reasons of prospective teachers for choosing this profession are intrinsic, self-seeking, altruistic (24.11%) and extrinsic reasons, and that 15 (21%) out of 71 female prospective teachers and 48 (56%) out of 86 males would not choose the profession again are also determined (Çermik et al., 2010). In the study conducted by Nenty et al. (2015), it was determined that professional perceptions were higher in male prospective teachers and their perception of the profession had a significant effect on the motivation to be successful in teacher training programs, attitude towards teacher training programs, the value they give to the program, and the perceptions of effectiveness of the program. Also in the literature, that the reasons for prospective teachers' choice of the profession are, respectively, their own will, job security and teacher influence (Erdemir, 2010); their perceptions about the teaching profession changed with school experience (Tarman, 2012); most of them could not find their expectations about the profession, thought their professions were not respected and were worried about the future (Karamustafaoğlu & Özmen, 2004) were determined. In their study, Erus and Zeren (2017) found that prospective teachers attended this program because they liked teaching, might need this document in the future, and thought that the working conditions of teaching profession were good; consider the teaching profession to be respected and that almost all of them planned to teach in the future. It is also among the data obtained from the studies that 49.7% of them preferred the teaching profession mostly for moral reasons and then for financial reasons and that 49.7% perceived the teaching profession as a trainer and guide (Kart, 2016) and most of the prospective teachers consider the teaching profession as respectable and all of them want to do this profession (Gülşen & Gündüz, 2016). That the prospective teachers thought that pedagogical formation certificate program would make it easier to become a teacher, learned a lot of professional knowledge from this program and thought it would be more efficient if the program were long (Kiraz & Dursun, 2015) and thought that the teaching profession requires responsibility and sacrifice (Özdemir & Erol, 2015) were also determined in the studies of the related literature. Owen-Korkut et al. (2012) found that the reasons of prospective teachers for choosing the teaching profession were individual and systemic factors such as interest in the profession, the score obtained in the university entrance exam to be sufficient for this department, the suitability for the personality of the field, and the high possibility of finding a job. In the literature, there are also studies in which only 5.6 % of the prospective teachers thought that the pedagogical formation certificate program would meet the teaching profession competencies and that the program was an obstacle to squeeze the program into a short time (Yalçın İncik & Akay,

2015); approximately 40 % of them unwillingly chose their field of study, 87% wanted to teach, and 81% had negative thoughts about their professional future (Şahin, 2011). In the literature, that only 55.62 % of prospective teachers chose the teaching profession because they liked the teaching profession, 75.62 % had anxiety of finding a job in the future, 48.75 % wanted to change their fields when they had an opportunity (Taş, 2010); there was a negative relationship between professional perceptions and hopelessness levels (Dinçer et al., 2015) were also determined. Tataroğlu et al. (2011) found that the majority of them chose this profession because they were interested and loved and found teaching profession suitable for them. The factors that affect the selection of this profession were, respectively, suitability to their personality, sufficient placement score, and their ideal profession (Yılmaz & Doğan, 2015). In their study, Chong and Low (2009) determined that prospective teachers' professional perceptions, which were high at the beginning of the school experience, decreased at the end of this experience. According to the data gained from the studies conducted in the literature, we can understand that prospective teachers have both positive and negative attitudes and thoughts about the profession, they think that it is a respected but financially unsatisfactory profession, they like the certificate program but wish that it would be longer, a few of them would rather choose a different profession, and some of them have professional anxiety as well.

## 1.2. Professional anxiety towards teaching profession

Initially, during their pupillage and professional life, prospective teachers have some anxiety related to the teaching profession requiring expertise (Fuller, 1969, p. 207) because of a new lifestyle, new duties, and responsibilities (Uluğ et al., 2014). Cabı and Yalçınalp (2009) determined that prospective teachers have anxiety about communication with students, finding a job, school and economic life, professional adoption, and environment. Fuller (1969, p. 211) gathered the prospective teachers' anxiety about the profession under three groups as student, duty, and self-centred anxieties. The prospective teachers, who are worried about continuing their teaching profession successfully and are constantly under heavy stress because of this, have self-centred; the ones who are concerned about being a good teacher and researching contemporary teaching methods and materials in their field have task-centred and the ones who desire to meet the social, mental, and emotional needs of all of their students in the best way also have student-centred anxiety. Fuller and Parsons (1974) identified task and self-centred anxiety as immature stage, while student-centred anxiety as the most mature stage. It is also established in the literature that professional anxiety occurs simultaneously but not in a developmental order (Marso & Pigge, 1998; Reeves & Kazelskis, 1985). Fuller (1969) evaluated prospective teachers' professional anxiety from a developmental perspective and suggested that the prospective teachers themselves should experience and overcome it to be a better teacher. Professional anxiety among prospective teachers is expected to be at the lowest level during their first classroom experience, as they are not fully confronted with the fact that they are teaching, increasing in the years that follow, mature and decreasing through years of experience (Fuller et al., 1974). Teachers who are committed to raising future generations will be able to have confidence in themselves by starting their professional life free from their professional anxiety (Taşgın, 2006).

When the literature on professional anxiety of prospective teachers was examined, it was found that the professional anxiety of teacher candidates did not differ according to their gender (Abalı Öztürk et al., 2019; Atmaca, 2013; Bozdam & Taşkın, 2011; Dilmaç, 2010; Dinçer et al., 2015; Dursun & Karagün, 2012; Kafkas et al., 2010; Karademir & Tezel, 2011; Keskin, 2017; Ünalı & Alaz, 2008); they had a low level of professional anxiety (Dilmaç, 2010; Doğan & Çoban, 2009; Kalemoglu Varol et al., 2014; Köse, 2006) and moderate occupational anxiety (Bozdam & Taşkın, 2011; Keskin, 2017; Serin et al., 2015; Tabancalı et al., 2016); they had a high level of professional anxiety (Akgün & Özgür, 2014; Donmuş et al., 2007; Sezgin Nartgün & Gökçer, 2014); in all types of anxiety, the average of female teacher candidates was higher than that of men (Çakmak & Hevedanlı, 2005; Çubukçu & Dönmez, 2011; Kaya & Büyükkasap, 2005; Marso & Pigge, 1998; Tümerdem, 2007; Türkdoğan, 2014; Ünalı & Alaz, 2008); that men's occupational anxiety was higher than women's (Akgün & Özgür, 2014; Donmuş et al., 2007); they had the idea that they would experience anxiety mostly in classroom management and least in communication with their colleagues (Çakmak, 2008); their anxiety levels decreased as their age increased (Bozdam & Taşkın, 2011); the age factor did not significantly affect anxiety levels statistically (Atmaca, 2013); professional concerns did not show any significant differentiation according to the type of high school they graduated from (Türkdoğan, 2014); professional anxiety levels did not differ significantly according to parental education level (Türkdoğan, 2014); as their grade levels increased, their occupational anxiety levels increased (Boz, 2008; Çubukçu & Dönmez, 2011; Gözler et al., 2017; Gümrükçü Bilgici & Deniz, 2016; Özdayı, 2000) or they did not change (Akgün & Özgür, 2014); there was a significant relationship between professional anxiety and academic self-efficacy (Donmuş et al., 2007); professional anxiety levels did not differ depending on whether there was a teacher in the family (Akgün & Özgür, 2014); there was no significant difference between the variables of occupational anxiety and working hours and conditions of the profession, liking the profession and choosing it for job guarantee reasons (Akgün & Özgür, 2014); the self-centered anxiety scores of the younger teacher candidates were significantly higher than the other pre-service teachers, but this difference was not detected in task and student-centered anxiety types (Dursun & Karagün, 2012); success orientation was an important

predictor of professional anxiety (Gözler et al., 2017); women had higher appointing concerns and men had higher task-centered concerns (Gümrükçü Bilgici & Deniz, 2016); the higher the self-efficacy scores were, the lower the professional anxiety scores were (Kafkas et al., 2010); there was no significant difference in terms of professional anxiety levels regarding whether they wanted the department they studied or not (Kafkas et al., 2010); there was a significant relationship between occupational anxiety and attitude towards the profession (Kalemoğlu Varol et al., 2014; Serin et al., 2015) and there wasn't (Akgün & Özgür, 2014); there was a negative relationship between attitude and anxiety, and those who thought negatively about finding a job were more anxious (Doğan & Çoban, 2009); women experienced more anxiety in task-centered and student-centered anxiety (Tabancalı et al., 2016); there were no significant differences according to the variables of the department, class level, parental education level and the individual who performed the teaching profession in the family; occupational anxiety levels of those who preferred the teaching profession at higher ranks were lower (Abalı Öztürk et al., 2019); they thought they would have the most anxiety of not finding a job after graduation (Kaya & Büyükkasap, 2005); prospective teachers with higher academic skills decreased more than their less talented peers (Marso & Pigge, 1998) and their anxiety levels decreased at the end of the teaching practice lesson (Pigge & Marso, 1987, 1990). To sum up, prospective teachers have different levels of professional anxiety; their anxiety levels both differ and don't differ according to their age and gender; the higher the self-efficacy scores are the lower the professional anxiety scores; there is both a positive and negative relationship between professional anxiety and attitude towards the profession and there are both significant and insignificant differences according to the variables of the department, class level, parental education level.

Considering that the future professional performance of prospective teachers will be influenced by their personal and psychological characteristics and perceptions of the teaching profession, evaluating teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels of the prospective teachers included in this program is of great value. As can be understood from the related studies, both professional perception and anxiety that prospective teachers experience are affected from many factors such as attitude, intrinsic and extrinsic motivation et al.; therefore, it is thought that examining the interactions of these two important factors, perception, and anxiety of prospective teachers, with each other will also contribute much to the literature. Furthermore, it is considered that this study examining the different dimensions of pedagogical formation certificate programs will also help monitor and update those programmes through a more pedagogical perspective.

### 1.3. Purpose of the research

The aim of this study is to examine the relationship between the teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels of prospective teachers having pedagogical formation education. In order to determine this relationship, the following questions were answered:

- 1- What are the teaching profession perceptions and professional anxiety levels of prospective teachers taking pedagogical formation education?
- 2- Is there a relationship between prospective teachers' teaching profession perception and their professional anxiety levels?
- 3- Do prospective teachers taking pedagogical formation education vary in their perception of the teaching profession and professional anxiety levels according to their gender, age, educational status, reason for taking pedagogical formation certificate program, preference of entering the teaching department priorly in the university entrance exam and desire to take the PPSE?

## 2. METHOD

### 2.1. Research model

This research was structured in a descriptive survey model as it primarily aims to reveal the teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels of prospective teachers. Studies aiming to identify an existing situation shall be examined within the scope of the descriptive survey model (Balci, 2005; Gay & Airasian, 2000; Karasar, 1995). As the relationship between teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels of prospective teachers is also examined in the present study, it is also structured with a relational survey model. According to Karasar (2013), relational survey aims to determine the presence and / or degree of interchange between two and more variables.

### 2.2. Study group

The study was carried out by random sampling method on 387 volunteer prospective teachers, out of 750 prospective teachers, studying at pedagogical formation certificate program at education faculty of a large-scale university located in Turkey's Western Black Sea Region. Frequency and percentage values of the independent variables are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1.**  
*Frequency and Percentage of Independent Variables*

Variable	Level	N	%
<b>Gender</b>	Female	274	70,80
	Male	113	29,20
<b>Age</b>	20-30	340	87,90
	31 and above	46	11,90
<b>Educational Status</b>	High school graduate	283	73,10
	Graduate	103	26,60
<b>Working Status</b>	Employed	66	17,10
	Unemployed	321	82,90
<b>Reason for joining the program</b>	To do teaching profession	315	81,40
	Just to get the certificate	71	18,30
<b>Preference of teaching department</b>	Yes	172	44,40
	No	203	52,50
<b>PPSE entering status</b>	Yes	325	84,00
	No	62	16,00

Of 387 prospective teachers, 274 of them are female and 113 of them are male. There are 340 prospective teachers in the 20-30 age range and 46 prospective teachers in the age range of 31 and above. 283 prospective teachers are undergraduate students and 103 of them are graduates. While 66 prospective teachers are currently working, 321 of them are not. While the number of prospective teachers stating their reason for joining the pedagogical formation certificate program as “perform teaching profession” is 315, the number of prospective teachers whose reason is “just to get the certificate” is 71. 172 prospective teachers preferred teaching department priorly at the university entrance examination, of which 203 did not. The number of prospective teachers stating that they will take PPSE is 325, while 62 of them are reluctant.

### 2.3. Data collection tools

In the study, “Personal Information Form” prepared by the researcher was used to obtain the personal information of the prospective teachers. The Professional Anxiety Scale for Prospective Teachers and The Perception of Teaching Profession Scale were also used in the study.

#### 2.3.1. Professional Anxiety Scale for Prospective Teachers

Professional Anxiety Scale for Prospective Teachers developed by Cabı and Yalçınalp (2013) was used to determine the levels of professional anxiety levels of prospective teachers. The scale consists of total 45 items that are graded as 5-point Likert type in “strongly disagree” - “strongly agree” range and eight factors (Task Centred Anxiety, Economic / Social Centred Anxiety, Student / Communication Centred Anxiety, Colleague and Parent Centred Anxiety, Personal Development Centred Anxiety, Appointment Centred Anxiety, Compliance Centred Anxiety, School Management Centred Anxiety), and its corrected item-total score correlations of the factors range from 0.23 to 0.73, and Cronbach’s alpha coefficients ranged between 0.94 to 0.67. The Cronbach’s alpha internal consistency coefficient of the scale was found to be 0.95.

#### 2.3.2. Perception of Teaching Profession Scale

In order to determine the professional teaching perception levels of the students, “Perception of Teaching Profession Scale” developed by Öztürk et al. (2005) was used. Items are graded as 5-point Likert type in “strongly disagree” - “strongly agree” range. Cronbach’s alpha coefficients of the factors, namely Teaching Skill, Career Choice and Glorifying Teaching, range as 0.64, 0.80 and 0.67, respectively. The Cronbach’s alpha internal consistency coefficient of the scale was found to be 0.78.

As both scales were suitable for total scoring, the number of factors and the number of prospective teachers’ demographic characteristics were high, the present study was analysed on the total scores of the scales. In the present study, the normality of the general total and factor scores of the scales were evaluated by examining the kurtosis and skewness coefficients and the results are summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2.**  
*Descriptive Analysis Results of Scale and Factors*

Scale	N	Minimum	Maximum	Average	S.D.	Skewness	Kurtosis
<b>Anxiety</b>	387	45	225	158.59	39.41	-0.64	-0.10
<b>Perception</b>	387	41	100	77.57	11.45	-0.33	-0.42

S.D: Standard deviation



As a result of kurtosis and skewness coefficients, it was observed that these coefficients remained between  $\pm 1.5$ . According to Pituch and Stevens (2016, p. 228), if the kurtosis and skewness coefficients are within the  $\pm 1.5$  limit, the distribution of the data set is normally distributed.

As a result of the confirmatory factor analyses (CFA) performed in Mplus program to test the structural validity of scales, related goodness of fit results of the scales are summarized in Table 3.

**Table 3.**

*Goodness of Fit Index for Factor Structure of the Scales*

Goodness of Fit Index	Acceptable Limit	Anxiety Scale	Perception Scale
$\chi^2/sd$	<5 Medium level	3066.58907=3.34	1218.04/167=7.29
CFI	>0.90	0.96	0.89
NNFI	>0.90	0.95	0.88
RMSEA	<0.08	0.07	0.12

(Çokluk et al., 2010, pp. 271-272)

As a result of the CFA of the Professional Anxiety Scale for Prospective Teachers, consisting eight dimensions, the standardized path coefficients of the items varied between 0.525 - 0.943, and it was observed that the correlations between the factors varied between 0.211 - 0.873. Also, when the fit indexes given in Table 2.3 are examined, it is seen that the data fit well to the structure tested. The general reliability of the Professional Anxiety Scale for Prospective Teachers was calculated as 0.982 with stratified alpha. Cronbach et al. (1965) proposed the use of the Stratified Cronbach Alpha coefficient for the reliability of the total scores obtained from measurement instruments with factors. The stratified Cronbach's alpha coefficient was calculated using "sirt" (Robitzsch, 2017) package in R program. The scale is evaluated on both factor scores and total score. As a result of CFA, it was observed that the three-dimensional structured Perception Scale for Teaching Profession's standardized path coefficients ranged between 0.415 - 0.934 except for the first and third items, and it was statistically significant. The correlations between the factors were observed to vary between 0.268-0.666. The overall reliability of the scale was calculated as 0.853 with layered alpha.

## 2.4. Data analysis

The results of the first research question are summarized with mean and standard deviation values. In the second research question, the relationship between the scale total scores was expressed by Pearson correlation coefficient as the data showed normal distribution. Since fully agreed intervals was not found in the interpretation of the correlation coefficient in terms of magnitude, the results of this study have been interpreted using the limits that Kirk (2008, p. 138) and Büyüköztürk (2011, p. 32) stated as they use frequently. These limits are very high if the absolute value of the correlation coefficient is  $r \geq 0.90$ ;  $r = 0.70-0.89$  if high; if  $r = 0.69-0.30$ , it is defined as a moderate relationship and  $r \leq 0.29$  as a low-level relationship. The third research question was examined by t-test of parametric tests because of the normal distribution of data, sufficient observations in the categories of independent variables and two categories of independent variables. Levene test, being used to determine the homogeneity of the groups during T-test, was performed for all groups, and at the level of 0.05 Levene test results were not statistically significant, so the variance of the groups was found to be homogeneous. The statistical analysis performed based on the research questions were carried out on the total scores due to the high number of independent variables and factors.

## 2.5. Ethical permission of the study

In this study, all the rules specified to be followed within the scope of "Higher Education Institutions Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Directive" were complied with. None of the actions specified under the heading "Actions Contrary to Scientific Research and Publication Ethics", which is the second part of the directive, have been taken.

### Ethics committee permission information

Name of the committee that made the ethical evaluation: Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University Human Research Ethics Committee in Social Sciences

Date of ethical evaluation decision: 03.05.2019

Ethics assessment document issue number: 2019/187

## 3. RESULTS

This section contains the findings of each research question, respectively.

### 3.1. Findings on the first research question

Teaching perception and professional anxiety levels of prospective teachers were examined with mean and standard deviation values of scale total scores and the calculated results are summarized in Table 4.

**Table 4.**

*Results of Descriptive Analysis of the Scales*

Scales	Average	SD
Perception	77.57	11.45
Anxiety	158.59	36.41

When Table 4 is examined, it is seen that the prospective teachers' teaching profession perceptions are at medium level with 77.57 and the professional anxiety scores of them are moderate level with an average of 158.59.

### 3.2. Findings on the second research question

The relationship between teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels of prospective teachers was examined with Pearson correlation coefficient and summarized in Table 5.

**Table 5.**

*Pearson Correlation Analysis Results*

Scales	Perception	Anxiety
Perception	1.00	0.15**
Anxiety	0.15**	1.00

\*\* $p < 0,01$

When Table 5 is examined, it is seen that there is a low-level, positive, and significant relationship between teaching profession perception and professional anxiety scores ( $r = 0.15$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ).

### 3.3 Findings on the third research question

Independent groups t-test was used to determine whether prospective teachers' teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels change according to the independent variables.

a) Independent groups t-test results related to whether prospective teachers' teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels change according to gender are given in Table 6.

**Table 6.**

*t-test Results by Gender*

Scale	Variable	N	Average	S.D.	t	sd	p
Perception	Female	274	79.07	10.87	4.01	385	0.00*
	Male	113	73.95	12.03			
Anxiety	Female	274	154.69	39.79	-3.06	385	0.02*
	Male	113	168.04	36.97			

\* $p < 0,05$

When Table 6 is examined, it is seen that the average teaching profession perception scores of female and male prospective teachers are 79.07 and 73.95, respectively, and the difference between the two means is statistically significant in favor of female prospective teachers ( $t = 4.01$ ;  $p = 0.00$ ). According to this result, it can be said that the perception scores of female prospective teachers are higher than the perception scores of males. In addition, mean scores of professional anxiety scale scores of female and male prospective teachers are 154.69 and 168.04, respectively, and the difference between these two averages is statistically significant in favor of males ( $t = -3.06$ ;  $p = 0.02$ ).

b) Independent groups t-test results regarding whether teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels of the prospective teachers change according to their age groups are given in Table 7.

**Table 7.**

*t-test Results Regarding Age*

Scale	Variable	N	Average	S.D.	t	sd	p
Perception	20-30 years old	340	77.37	11.57	-0.83	384	0.41
	31 and above	46	78.87	10.59			
Anxiety	20-30 years old	340	157.79	39.87	-0.98	384	0.33
	31 and above	46	163.89	35.05			



When Table 7 is examined, it is seen that the average teaching profession perception scale scores of prospective teachers in the 20-30 age and 31 and older age groups are 77.37 and 78.87, respectively, and there is no significant difference between the mean scores of the two groups ( $t = -0.83$ ,  $p = 0.41$ ). Moreover, professional anxiety scale mean scores of prospective teachers between the ages of 20-30 and 31 and older are 157.79 and 163.89, respectively, and the difference between these two averages is not statistically significant ( $t = -0.98$ ;  $p = 0.33$ ).

c) Independent groups t-test results related to whether teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels of the prospective teachers change according to their educational status are given in Table 8.

**Table 8.**

*t-test Results According to Educational Status*

Scale	Variable	N	Average	S.D.	t	sd	p
<b>Perception</b>	Undergraduate	283	77.74	11.74	-0.33	375	0.97
	Graduate	94	77.79	10.43			
<b>Anxiety</b>	Undergraduate	283	156.87	39.68	-1.56	375	0.12
	Graduate	94	164.19	38.64			

\* $p < 0.05$

When Table 8 is examined, it is seen that the average perception scores of the undergraduate and graduate prospective teachers are 77.74 and 77.79, respectively, and there is no significant difference between mean scores of the two groups ( $t = -0.33$ ;  $p = 0.97$ ). On the professional anxiety scale, the mean scores of undergraduate and graduate prospective teachers are 156.87 and 164.19, respectively, and the difference between these two averages is not statistically significant ( $t = -1.56$ ;  $p = 0.12$ ).

d) Independent groups t-test results related to whether prospective teachers' teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels change according to their employment status are given in Table 9.

**Table 9.**

*t-test Results According to Employment Status*

Scale	Variable	N	Average	S.D.	t	sd	p
<b>Perception</b>	Employed	66	76.61	11.47	-0.75	385	0.45
	Unemployed	321	77.77	11.45			
<b>Anxiety</b>	Employed	66	169.29	36.89	2.44	385	0.02*
	Unemployed	321	156.39	39.61			

\* $p < 0.05$

When Table 9 is examined, it is seen that the mean scores of employed and unemployed prospective teachers in teaching profession perception scale were 76.61 and 77.77, respectively, and there is no significant difference between the average scores of the two variables ( $t = -0.75$ ;  $p = 0.45$ ). On the other hand, mean scores of professional anxiety scales of employed and unemployed prospective teachers are 169.29 and 156.39, respectively, and the difference between these two averages is statistically significant in favor of employed ones ( $t = 2.44$ ;  $p = 0.02$ ).

e) Independent groups t-test results related to whether prospective teachers' teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels change according to their reasons of participating in the program are given in Table 10.

**Table 10.**

*t-test Results According to the Reasons of Participation in the Program*

Scale	Variable	N	Average	S.D.	t	sd	p
<b>Perception</b>	To do the teaaching profession	315	79.59	10.53	8.02	384	0.00*
	Just to get the certificate	71	68.42	10.92			
<b>Anxiety</b>	To do the teaaching profession	315	158.04	39.22	-0.67	384	0.50
	Just to get the certificate	71	161.52	40.44			

\* $p < 0.05$

When Table 10 is analyzed, it is seen that the mean teaching professional perception scores of the prospective teachers who stated their reason for participating in pedagogical formation education as "do the teaching profession" and "just to get the certificate" are medium level as 79.59 and 68.42, respectively and the difference observed between the two means is statistically significant in favor of prospective teachers who stated their reason as to do the teaching profession ( $t = 8.02$ ,  $p = 0.00$ ). On the other hand, it was seen that the mean professional anxiety scale scores of the prospective teachers of both groups are medium as 158.04 and 161.52, respectively and the difference between these two means is not statistically significant ( $t = -0.67$ ;  $p = 0.50$ ).

f) Independent groups t-test results related to whether prospective teachers' teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels change according to their preference of teaching department priorly in university entrance exams are given in Table 11.

**Table 11.**

*t-test Results According to Preference of Teaching Department Priorly in University Entrance Exams*

Scale	Variable	N	Average	S.D.	t	sd	p
Perception	Yes	172	79.99	10.56	3.80	373	0.00*
	No	203	75.57	11.80			
Anxiety	Yes	172	157.90	39.45	-0.35	373	0.73
	No	203	159.33	39.76			

\*p<0.05

When Table 11 is examined, it is seen that teaching profession perception scale mean scores of prospective teachers who preferred and who did not prefer a teaching department in university entrance exams priorly are 79.99 and 75.57, respectively, and the difference between the two means is statistically significant in favor of prospective teachers who preferred a teaching department in university entrance exams priorly ( $t = 3.80$ ;  $p = 0.00$ ). On the other hand, the average professional anxiety scores of the prospective teachers of both groups are 157.90 and 159.33, respectively, and the difference between these two averages is not statistically significant ( $t = 2.16$ ;  $p = 0.03$ ).

g) Independent groups t-test results related to whether prospective teachers' teaching profession perception and professional anxiety levels change according to the status of taking PPSE are given in Table 12.

**Table 12.**

*t-test Results According to the Status of Taking PPSE*

Scale	Variable	N	Average	S.D.	t	sd	p
Perception	Yes	325	78.29	11.23	2.86	385	0.01*
	No	62	73.81	11.90			
Anxiety	Yes	325	158.42	39.74	-0.20	385	0.85
	No	62	159.48	37.96			

\*p<0.05

When Table 12 is examined, it is seen that teaching profession perception scale mean scores of the prospective teachers of whom will and will not take PPSE are 78.29 and 73.81, respectively, and the difference between the two means is statistically significant in favor of prospective teachers who will take PPSE ( $t = 2.86$ ;  $p = 0.01$ ). On the other hand, it is seen that the average of the professional anxiety scale scores of the prospective teachers who will and will not take PPSE are 158.42 and 159.48, respectively, and the difference between these two averages is not significant ( $t = -0.20$ ;  $p = 0.85$ ).

#### 4. DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION and SUGGESTIONS

- 1- In the present study, the finding that the teaching profession perceptions of prospective teachers are at medium level is an indicator that the perception of prospective teachers of teaching skills, career choice and glorifying teaching profession is at moderate level. When the literature on prospective teachers' teaching profession perceptions is reviewed, the data of the study by Çermik et al. (2010) concerning that 15 of the 71 female prospective teachers and 48 of the 86 male prospective teachers would not choose the profession again support the current research data. The findings considering that the reasons of preference of the profession are mainly due to their own desire and job security (Erdemir, 2010); the fact that they like teaching profession and think that teaching profession is prestigious (Erus & Zeren, 2017) and regard teaching profession as respectable (Gülşen & Gündüz, 2016) also promote the findings of the present research. The data indicating that prospective teachers prefer teaching profession mostly for moral reasons and then for financial reasons, 49.7% of them perceive teaching profession as educators and guides (Kart, 2016); they believe that a great deal of responsibility and sacrifice is needed in the realization of the teaching profession (Özdemir & Erol, 2015) are also parallel with the data of the present research. The studies stating that professional teachers' reasons of preferring teaching profession are individual and systemic factors such as interest in the profession, sufficiency of the score obtained in the university entrance exam, suitability to the personalities of the field, and the possibility of finding a job (Owen-Korkut et al., 2012); 55.62% of them chose the teaching profession because they love it and 48.75% of them want to change their fields when they have an opportunity (Taş, 2010); most of them have chosen this profession because of their interest and affection and they find teaching profession suitable for them (Tataroğlu et al., 2011); the factors that are effective in choosing this profession are that it is appropriate to their personality and it is their ideal profession (Yılmaz & Doğan, 2015) also support the data of the present research.

- 2- It has been determined that, in teaching profession perception scale, the mean scores of male and female prospective teachers are at moderate level and the difference between the two averages is statistically significant in favor of females ( $t = 4.01$ ;  $p = 0.00$ ); the average scores of the prospective teachers who stated the reason for participating in pedagogical formation certificate program as to do the teaching profession or just to get the certificate are moderate and the difference between the two averages is statistically significant in favor of the ones whose reason is to do the teaching profession ( $t = 8.02$ ;  $p = 0.00$ ); the perception scale mean scores of prospective teachers who preferred and who did not prefer a teaching department in the university entrance exam priorly are at moderate level and the difference between the two averages is statistically significant in favor of the ones who preferred a teaching department in the university entrance exam priorly; the perception scale mean scores of the prospective teachers who will and will not take PPSE are at moderate level and the difference between the two averages is statistically significant in favor of the ones willing to take PPSE; the average perception scale scores of undergraduate and graduate prospective teachers, currently employed and unemployed prospective teachers, prospective teachers between the ages of 20-30 and above 31 are at moderate level and there is no significant difference between the mean scores of these two groups. According to the data obtained, it has been found that the teaching profession perception of the female prospective teachers towards the teaching profession is higher. This is an indication that the perception of teaching skills, career choice and glorification of teaching is more intense among female prospective teachers. In the studies conducted by Eskicumalı et al. (2001) and Saban (2003), it has been concluded that in most of the research in Turkey the participants perceive teaching profession as a “female profession”, and thus, these studies can explain that female prospective teachers have higher perceptions towards the profession within the scope of this research. The higher perception level of the prospective teachers to do the teaching profession may be an indication that they think they have made a more correct decision in their vocational preferences, acquire teaching skills through this program and perceive the teaching profession as a valuable profession than others. In the study conducted by Erdemir (2010), it has been determined that the prospective teachers prefer the program voluntarily is the most important reason, and Erus and Zeren (2017) have found that the most common reason for prospective teachers to participate in a pedagogical formation education program was that they liked the teaching profession. These findings coincide with the finding of the present research which prospective teachers taking this program to do the teaching profession have higher perceptions towards the teaching profession. Gülşen and Gündüz (2016) have found that most of the prospective teachers regard teaching profession as respectable and all of them want to perform this profession; these findings are also parallel with the finding of the present study that prospective teachers taking this program to do the teaching profession have higher perceptions about the teaching profession. In the present study, it has been found that prospective teachers who preferred a teaching department in university entrance exam priorly have higher professional perceptions than the ones who did not; this finding is an indication that the prospective teachers, having adopted teaching profession, have the basic qualifications required by the profession and already have perceptions about teaching skills, professional choice, and glorification of teaching (Acat et al., 2005). Within the scope of this research, teaching profession perceptions of the prospective teachers who will take PPSE have higher perceptions than those who will not; in other words, these prospective teachers are aware of the fact that they have to take PPSE in order to work as a teacher at a state institution and they can be appointed according to the results of this examination. In the study conducted by Erdemir (2010), it was found that job security was among the reasons for prospective teachers to choose this profession with a rate of 22.6%. In the present study, it is also supported that teaching profession perceptions of the prospective teachers who will take PPSE are more meaningful. It is found that the average teaching profession perception scale scores of the prospective teachers being undergraduate students and graduate, currently employed and unemployed, between the ages of 20-30 and above 31 are at moderate level and there is no significant difference between the average scores of these two groups. This finding may be due to the fact that prospective teachers’ teaching profession perceptions for all age groups are at similar and medium level, that they are still in the pupillage, and they do not have any experience about teaching yet; as Can (1987, p. 160) states, individuals form their own professional ideas and perceptions within the experiences they gain during both their pupillage and professional life. Karadag (2012) found that first grade undergraduate students have higher positive attitudes and perceptions towards teaching profession; however, his/her finding does not match the findings of the present study that the teaching profession perception scale’s mean scores of the undergraduate students and graduate prospective teachers, of the 20-30-year and above 31-year age groups are moderate and there is no significant difference between the mean scores of these two groups.
- 3- According to the data obtained from the research, it is determined that the prospective teachers’ professional anxiety is at moderate level. This finding of the present study is supported by some of the studies in the literature (Bozdam & Taşgın, 2011; Keskin, 2017; Serin et al., 2015; Tabancalı et al., 2016).

In the study conducted by Karamustafaoğlu and Özmen (2004), the findings, that most of the prospective teachers in the scope of their research could not meet their expectations of the profession, they think that their profession is not respected, and they are worried about the future, support the findings of the present study. In the study conducted by Özdemir and Erol (2015), prospective teachers who receive pedagogical formation education emphasize the difficulties experienced in performing the teaching profession and the required responsibilities and sacrifice. Difficulties, responsibilities, and sacrifice being experienced by teachers in performing their teaching profession cause them to experience professional anxiety; therefore, this finding supports the finding of the present study that the prospective teachers have moderate professional anxiety as well. The professional anxiety scale scores of male and female prospective teachers are 154.69 and 168.04, respectively, and the difference between these two averages is statistically significant in favor of male prospective teachers. The finding of present study that the professional anxiety level of male prospective teachers is higher than that of females is supported by the findings of the studies conducted by Akgün and Özgür (2014) and Donmuş et al. (2007). The finding that male prospective teachers experience more task-centered anxiety (Gümrükçü Bilgici & Deniz, 2016) also partially supports the finding that male prospective teachers have higher general professional anxiety than females. This finding of the present study shows that male prospective teachers are more concerned about the tasks required by the profession, financial reasons, communication with students, colleagues, school administration and parents, personal development studies and the possibility of being appointed as a teacher. It is also determined that the average of the professional anxiety scale scores of currently employed and unemployed prospective teachers in the study is at moderate level and the difference between these two averages is statistically significant in favor of the currently employed prospective teachers. This finding of the present study is not in line with the findings of Doğan and Çoban (2009) stating that those who are pessimistic about finding a job have higher professional anxiety levels. The reason for higher levels of occupational anxiety among the prospective teachers who are currently employed in the study may be because these prospective teachers will have to change their current professions if they are appointed as teachers or start working in the private sector. In the study, it was seen that the anxiety scale mean scores of prospective teachers between the ages of 20-30 and above 31 are at moderate level and there is no significant difference between the mean scores of these two groups. This finding of the present study is supported by Atmaca (2013) stating that age factor does not significantly affect professional anxiety levels; however, it is not supported by Bozdam and Taşgün (2011) stating that anxiety levels decrease as age increases; it is partially supported by Dursun and Karagün (2012) finding that younger professional teachers have higher self-centered anxiety scores, yet this difference is not detected in task and student-centered anxiety types. These findings may indicate that all prospective teachers, regardless of age, are experiencing professional anxiety about teaching profession they intend to perform in the future. The finding that all prospective teachers in the current study have moderate level professional anxiety is an indication that the pedagogical formation certificate program they are receiving could not sufficiently reduce their anxiety. This is partly supported by the finding conducted by Yalçın İncik and Akay (2015) stating that only 5.6 % of the prospective teachers think that the program will meet their professional competencies. The finding that the average professional anxiety scale scores of the undergraduate and graduate prospective teachers in the present study is at moderate level and there is no significant difference between the mean scores of the two groups is supported by the finding of Atmaca (2013) that the age factor of the prospective teachers does not affect their professional anxiety levels significantly. It is seen that the average professional anxiety scale scores of the prospective teachers who will and will not take PPSE are at moderate level and there is no significant difference between the mean scores of the two groups. The fact that both groups have a moderate level of professional anxiety is supported by the findings of the study by Sezgin Nartgün and Gökçer (2014). The finding that the average professional anxiety scale scores of the prospective teachers who preferred a teaching department in the university entrance exam are at moderate level and there is no significant difference between the average scores of these two groups may be because these prospective teachers have not yet started their profession and thus their perceptions about the teaching profession are still moderate. Similarly, according to the findings of the study conducted by Abalı Öztürk et al. (2019), prospective teachers who have preferred a teaching department in different rankings in the placement of the undergraduate program have similar professional anxiety levels and there is no significant difference between them. The prospective teachers who stated the reason for participating in pedagogical formation program as not only to do the teaching profession but also just to get the certificate have moderate professional anxiety scale scores, and there is no significant difference between the mean scores of these two groups. This finding is an interesting indicator of the fact that prospective teachers who participate in this program just to get a certificate are experiencing professional anxiety like those aspiring to do teaching profession.

- 4- According to the data obtained from the study, it is determined that there is a low, positive, and significant relationship between the prospective teachers' perception of teaching profession and professional anxiety levels ( $r = 0.15$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ). This finding of the present study is supported by findings of some of the studies in the literature stating that prospective teachers perceive teaching profession as life, guidance, devotion, quality and management, as well as "disappointment" as they experience a little bit professional anxiety (Çocuk et al., 2015); do not perceive their profession as respected, majority of them are unable to meet their expectations regarding their profession, and have professional anxiety about the future (Karamustafaoğlu & Özmen, 2004); will need a pedagogical formation education certificate in the future despite the respectful perception of the teaching profession and are worried about the future (Erus & Zeren, 2017). These findings are important indicators that they are experiencing financial, task and personal anxiety despite their positive perceptions towards the teaching profession.

Although presenting important results, the present study has been a quantitative one. Empirical studies can be carried out which make it possible to make more in-depth and causal inferences about qualitative and more in-depth perception and anxiety levels of prospective teachers. The data obtained in the present study are cross-sectional data reflecting the opinions of prospective teachers over a certain period. Longitudinal future studies can be carried out with prospective teachers especially after being appointed as teachers. Experimental studies can also be conducted to prospective teachers who have medium level of anxiety and teaching profession perception to decrease their professional anxiety levels and increase their level of professional perceptions.



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## GENİŞLETİLMİŞ ÖZET

### 1. GİRİŞ

Öğretmenlerin başarıları üzerinde en az mesleki yeterlikleri kadar etkili olan diğer özellikler kişisel ve psikolojik özelliklerdir (Demirel, 2003; Yazıcı, 2009). Bu bağlamda, öğretmen adaylarının bu mesleğe yönelik algı ve mesleki kaygılarının mesleki başarıyı etkileyen önemli psikolojik değişkenler olduğu söylenebilir. Bir öğretmenin iş hayatında yeni öğretim yöntem ve teknikleri kullanabilmesi, öğretim stratejilerini etkili bir şekilde geliştirebilmesi, öğrenci gelişimini takip edebilmesi ve etkili iletişim becerilerine sahip olması mesleki formasyonuna ilişkin algı düzeyinin yüksek olmasına bağlıdır (Üredi & Üredi, 2007). Fuller (1969, s. 211) öğretmen adaylarının mesleğe ilişkin kaygılarını öğrenci, görev ve ben merkezli kaygılar olmak üzere üç grup altında toplamıştır. Öğretmen adaylarının gelecekteki mesleki performanslarının sahip oldukları kişisel ve psikolojik özelliklerinden etkileneceği ve süresi ve niteliğiyle tartışmalara neden olan pedagojik formasyon sertifika programlarının çeşitli boyutlarının incelenmesinin bu tartışmalara daha pedagojik bir bakış açısı kazandırabileceği düşünüldüğünden dolayı bu eğitime dahil olan adayların öğretmenlik mesleğini algılama biçimlerinin ve mesleki kaygı düzeylerinin değerlendirilmesinin önemli olduğu düşünülmektedir.

### 2. YÖNTEM

Mevcut araştırma, iki ve daha fazla değişken arasındaki birlikte değişimi belirlemeyi amaçlayan ilişkisel tarama modeli ve var olan durumu analiz etmeye yarayan betimsel tarama modelinde yürütülmüştür (Karasar, 1995). Araştırma, Türkiye’de Batı Karadeniz Bölgesi’nde bulunan bir üniversitenin Eğitim Fakültesinde pedagojik formasyon eğitimi sertifika programındaki gönüllü 387 öğretmen adayı ile yürütülmüş ve veri analizinde ortalama, standart sapma, Pearson korelasyon katsayısı, t testi ve Levene testi kullanılmıştır.

Araştırmada, araştırmacı tarafından hazırlanmış Kişisel Bilgi Formu; Cabı ve Yalçınalp (2013) tarafından geliştirilmiş olan Öğretmen Adaylarına Yönelik Mesleki Kaygı Ölçeği ve Öztürk vd. (2005) tarafından geliştirilmiş olan Öğretmenlik Mesleğine Yönelik Algı Ölçeği kullanılmıştır. Mevcut araştırmada, Öğretmen Adaylarına Yönelik Mesleki Kaygı Ölçeği’nin tümünün Cronbach alpha iç tutarlık katsayısı 0,853; Öğretmenlik Mesleğine Yönelik Algı Ölçeği’nin tümünün Cronbach alpha iç tutarlık katsayısı 0,78 bulunmuştur.

### 3. BULGULAR, TARTIŞMA ve ÖNERİLER

Araştırmanın, öğretmen adaylarının mesleğe yönelik algılarının orta düzeyde olduğu bulgusu bireylerin öğretim becerisine, meslek tercihine ve öğretmenliği yüceltmeye yönelik algı düzeylerinin orta seviyede olduğunun bir göstergesidir ve Çermik vd. (2010), Erdemir (2010), Erus ve Zeren (2017), Kart (2016), Taş (2010) ve Yılmaz ve Doğan (2015) tarafından yapılmış çalışmalarla ve Bozdam ve Taşgün (2011), Keskin (2017), Serin vd. (2015), Tabancalı vd. (2016) ve Karamustafaoğlu ve Özmen (2004) tarafından yapılan çalışmaların bulgularıyla örtüşmektedir. Araştırma kapsamındaki öğretmen adaylarının büyük bir çoğunluğunun mesleğe ilişkin beklentilerine karşılık bulamamaları, mesleklerinin saygın görülmediğini düşünmeleri ve gelecek kaygısı taşımaları; Özdemir ve Erol (2015) tarafından yapılan çalışmada öğretmenlik mesleğinin yerine getirilmesinde yaşanan zorluklar, gerektirdiği sorumluluk ve fedakârlıklar mevcut çalışmanın öğretmen adaylarının orta düzeyde mesleki kaygıya sahip olduğu bulgusunu da destekler niteliktedir.

Araştırmada, algı ölçeğindeki ortalama puanların, kadın, öğretmenlik yapmak amacıyla katılan, üniversite giriş sınavlarında öğretmenlik bölümünü tercih etmiş olan ve KPSS’ye girecek olan öğretmen adayları lehine anlamlı olduğu; 20-30 yaş ve 31 ve üstü yaş aralığındaki, lisans öğrencisi ve lisans mezunu ve çalışan ve çalışmayan öğretmen adaylarının ortalama algı ölçeğinde ortalama puanlar arasında anlamlı fark olmadığı belirlenmiştir. Eskicumalı vd. (2001) ve Saban (2003) tarafından yapılan çalışmalarda Türkiye’deki araştırmalarda öğretmenlik mesleğinin adaylar tarafından “kadın” mesleği olarak görülmesinin araştırma kapsamındaki kadın adayların mesleğe yönelik algılarının daha yüksek olmasında etkili olduğu söylenebilir. Mevcut araştırmanın sertifika programına öğretmen olmak için katılan adayların mesleki algılarının daha yüksek olduğu bulgusu Erdemir (2010), Erus ve Zeren (2017) ve Gülşen ve Gündüz (2016) tarafından yapılan çalışma bulgularıyla desteklenmektedir. Mevcut araştırmada, üniversite giriş sınavlarında öğretmenlik bölümü tercih etmiş olan öğretmen adaylarının daha yüksek mesleki algıya sahip olduğu bulgusu ise öğretmenliği benimsemiş olan bu öğretmen adaylarının mesleğin gerektirdiği ve Acat vd.ne göre (2005, s. 29) mesleki algıyla doğrudan ilgili olan temel niteliklere sahip olduğunun ve bu adayların öğretim becerisine, meslek tercihine ve öğretmenliği yüceltmeye yönelik algılarının halihazırda var olduğunun bir göstergesidir. KPSS’ye girecek öğretmen adaylarının öğretmenlik mesleğine yönelik algılarının daha yüksek olması ise bu adayların devlet kurumunda öğretmenlik yapabilmek için KPSS’ye girmeleri gerektiğinin ve bu sınav sonucuna göre atanabileceklerinin bilincinde olduklarının bir göstergesidir ve Erdemir (2010) tarafından yapılan çalışmanın bulgusu desteklenmektedir. 20-30 yaş ve 31 ve üstü yaş aralığındaki, lisans öğrencisi ve lisans mezunu ve çalışan ve çalışmayan öğretmen adaylarının ortalama algı ölçeği puanlarının orta

düzeyde olduğu ve iki grubun ortalama puanları arasında anlamlı fark olmadığı bulgusu ise araştırma kapsamında bütün yaş aralığındaki öğretmen adaylarının öğretmenliğe yönelik algılarının benzer ve orta düzeyde olması, onların henüz öğrencilik döneminde olmalarından ve öğretmenlikle ilgili herhangi bir deneyime sahip olmamalarından kaynaklanıyor olabilir.

Kaygı ölçeğindeki ortalama puanların, erkek ve çalışan öğretmen adaylarının lehine anlamlı olduğu; 20-30 yaş ve 31 ve üstü yaş aralığındaki, lisans öğrencisi ve lisans mezunu, pedagojik formasyon eğitime katılma nedenini öğretmenlik yapmak veya sadece sertifika almak olarak belirten, üniversite giriş sınavlarında öğretmenlik bölümünü tercih etmiş olan ve olmayan ve Kamu Personeli Seçme Sınavı'na (KPSS) girecek ve girmeyecek öğretmen adaylarının ortalama puanları arasında anlamlı fark olmadığı görülmüştür. Araştırma kapsamındaki erkek adayların mesleki kaygılarının kadın adaylardan daha yüksek olduğu bulgusu literatürde Akgün ve Özgür (2014), Donmuş vd. (2007) ve Gümrükçü Bilgici ve Deniz (2016) tarafından yapılmış araştırma bulgularıyla desteklenmektedir. Araştırma kapsamındaki çalışan ve çalışmayan öğretmen adaylarının kaygı ölçeği puanları ortalamasının orta düzeyde olduğu ve çalışan adayların lehine istatistiksel olarak anlamlı olduğu bulgusu bu adayların öğretmen olarak çalışmaya başladıkları taktirde iş değiştirecek olmalarından kaynaklanıyor olabilir ve Atmaca (2013) ve Dursun ve Karagün (2012) tarafından yapılan çalışmalarla desteklenmektedir. Araştırma kapsamındaki 20-30 yaş ve 31 ve üstü yaş aralığındaki öğretmen adaylarının ortalama puanları arasında anlamlı fark olmadığı bulgusu, yaş fark etmeksizin tüm öğretmen adaylarının öğretmenlik mesleğine yönelik mesleki kaygı yaşıyor olduklarının bir göstergesidir. KPSS'ye girecek ve girmeyecek öğretmen adaylarının ortalama kaygı ölçeği puanlarının orta düzeyde olduğu ve iki grubun ortalama puanları arasında anlamlı fark olmadığı bulgusu Sezgin Nartgün ve Gökçer (2014) tarafından yapılan çalışmanın bulgularıyla desteklenmektedir. Üniversite giriş sınavlarında öğretmenlik bölümünü tercih etmiş olan ve olmayan öğretmen adaylarının ortalama kaygı ölçeği puanlarının orta düzeyde olduğu ve iki grubun ortalama puanları arasında anlamlı fark olmadığı bulgusu ise bu öğretmen adaylarının henüz mesleğe başlamamış olmalarından kaynaklanıyor olabilir ve Abalı Öztürk vd. (2019) tarafından yapılan çalışmanın bulgusuyla desteklenmektedir. Pedagojik formasyon eğitime katılma nedenini öğretmenlik yapmak veya sadece sertifika almak olarak belirten öğretmen adaylarının kaygı ölçeği puanlarının orta düzeyde olduğu ve iki grubun ortalama puanları arasında anlamlı fark olmadığı bulgusu ise ilginç bir şekilde programa sadece sertifika almak için katılmış adayların öğretmenlik yapma arzusunda olan adaylar gibi mesleki kaygı yaşıyor olduklarının göstergesidir.

Araştırmada, öğretmen adaylarının öğretmenlik mesleğine yönelik algı ve mesleki kaygı arasında düşük düzeyde, pozitif ve anlamlı bir ilişki olduğu bulgusu, öğretmen adaylarının öğretmenlik mesleğini yaşamsallık, rehberlik, özveri, nitelik ve yöneticilik olarak algılamalarının yanı sıra “hayal kırıklığı” olarak da algılamaları (Çocuk vd., 2015); mesleklerini saygın olarak algılamalarına rağmen büyük bir çoğunluğun mesleğe ilişkin beklentilerine karşılık bulamamaları ve gelecek kaygısı taşımaları (Karamustafaoğlu & Özmen, 2004); öğretmenlik mesleğinin saygın algılamalarına rağmen ilerde pedagojik formasyon eğitimi belgesine ihtiyaç duyacak olmaları (Erus & Zeren, 2017) bulgularıyla desteklenmektedir. Bu bulgular, öğretmen adaylarının öğretmenlik mesleğine yönelik algılarının olumlu olmasında rağmen ekonomik, görev ve kişisel kaygılar yaşıyor olduklarının önemli göstergesidir.

Öğretmen adaylarının mesleğe yönelik algı ve kaygı düzeyleri ile ilgili nitel ve daha derinlemesine ve nedensel çıkarımlarda bulunmayı mümkün kılan deneysel çalışmalar da gerçekleştirilebilir. Bu programlara katılan öğretmen adayları ile sonraki araştırmalarda boylamsal çalışmalar da yürütülebilir. Öğretmenlik mesleğine yönelik kaygı düzeyleri yüksek ve orta olan öğretmen adaylarına kaygılarını azaltmak ve mesleki algı düzeyleri düşük ve orta olan öğretmen adaylarının da algılarını arttırmak için deneysel çalışmalar yapılabilir.

## ARAŞTIRMANIN ETİK İZNİ

Yapılan bu çalışmada “Yükseköğretim Kurumları Bilimsel Araştırma ve Yayın Etiği Yönergesi” kapsamında uyulması belirtilen tüm kurallara uyulmuştur. Yönergenin ikinci bölümü olan “Bilimsel Araştırma ve Yayın Etiğine Aykırı Eylemler” başlığı altında belirtilen eylemlerden hiçbiri gerçekleştirilmemiştir.

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