

# School Adaptation Problem: Examining Turkish Children

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## ABSTRACT

Individuals who are born abroad and who live there for a period of time have to encounter many problems when they repatriated. Perhaps the foremost of those problems is the problem of adaptation. Children or the youngsters, especially if they are at school age, adaptation constitutes a significant problem. The purpose of this research is examining the problems encountered in the process of adaptation to school on the basis of Turkish children born abroad. The interview technique, one of the qualitative research methods has been used in this research. In the capacity of researcher have created semi-structured interview form. Interviews have been held with 11 students in different schools located in Istanbul and the method of purposeful sampling has been used. The students have been asked questions about the problems that they encounter with respect to the skill of using Turkish language, problems that they encounter in their relations with their teachers, problems that they encounter in their relations with their friends, the interest of the counseling service and whether it is sufficient or not, what their feelings were when they returned to Turkey conclusively. The data obtained from the interviews have been analyzed using the method of descriptive analysis. According to the results of the study, the biggest obstacle to adaptation to the country is the language problem. Individuals coming from abroad have difficulties in social and academic sense because they do not have sufficient command of Turkish language.

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## INTRODUCTION

Migration is the movement of displacement from one place to another, affected by social, cultural, political and individual movements which could be short-medium and long term, which are with returning plan or which aim at permanent residence (Akıncı, Nergiz and Gedik, 2015; Yalçın, 2004, 12-13). It has a big field of effect and it covers the superior qualities on culture and it is one of the main channelers of all changes (Can, 2011, p.140).

Undoubtedly, one of the most significant public events in the agenda of Turkey from early 1960's is the workers' immigration to abroad. The workforce emigration from Turkey to abroad is certainly associated with economic reasons principally (Çetin and Ercan, 2008; Doğanay, 1997, 204). Germany the industry of which developed fast after the Second World War started to suffer from lack of workforce toward mid-1950. Germany tried to remedy this deficiency with the workers from Italy in 1955 at first sight and then from Spain and Greece. She procured workforce from Turkey after 1961 and from Morocco only to employ in the mines in 1963 (Başkurt, 2009, p.82). The biggest difference between the workers' immigration from Mediterranean countries and from Turkey to Western Europe and the workers' immigration in the countries where immigration happens on the basis of tradition is that it realizes for a short and specific period of time and covers the immigrations with purpose (Kuruüzüm, 2002, p.103). The number of Turkish workers who went to European countries to work in 1960s reached up to the highest level in early 1970s. Germany has always been one of the top countries preferred to go abroad for work from Turkey (Akbalık, Karaduman, Oral and Özdoğan, 2003, p.2). The main reasons for Turkey to send workers to abroad for employment purposes initially were provision of training of unqualified workers, to find a temporary solution to the growing problem of unemployment in the country and to enable the workers going abroad to contribute to the foreign payment balance of Turkey with the foreign money they would send. Turkey was the second biggest market of workforce for West and North European counties following Yugoslavia till the economic crisis which started in 1973 (Doğan, 1990, p.1).

West European counties who experienced a stationary economy in late 1960s began to discuss new and debatable issues in the concept of migration in line with deceleration of worker recruitment. These are the

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