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EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN TÜRKİYE

Recently, in Türkiye, there has been a great interest in sustainable development and a body of language being created from the points of view of many disciplines such as engineering, architecture, tourism, economy and administrative sciences. Despite the appreciation of importance of SD in those areas, there has been relatively little recognition in terms of Education for Sustainable Development. In other words, ESD is not yet a well-known issue and concept in the context of Turkish education system.

Nevertheless, environmental education (EE) is very popular in Türkiye and a great amount of research has been conducted. Most of these studies have approached the matter in a very specific disciplinary framework mostly focusing on biology and chemistry rather than sustainable development through a holistic perspective.

Türkiye currently takes part in many national and international projects that contribute to ESD. However, while they may be supportive of ESD, the dominant focus is on environmental education rather than sustainable development. There is also the problem that certain projects mainly involve private schools. For this reason, it is necessary to encourage public schools to take part in ESD and environmental education related projects. It is also important that the focus should not be limited to environmental science methods and concepts but that human dimensions of society and economics are given full consideration.

The project of the Eco-School arranged by Turkish Environmental Education Foundation and the Project of Green Pack arranged by The Regional Environmental Center (REC) are widespread projects trying to improve the quality of the ESD.

-The Green Pack Project provides a curriculum kit including educational materials for both teachers and students. This kit includes lesson plans, animations and short movies, teacher guide books, games and interactive educational tools. In addition, REC provided some training programs in order to enhance effective usage of these materials. Teachers were informed about how to use these documents and how to integrate them into their own lessons.

-The Eco-School project assures cooperation between teachers, students, school managers and also parents. The aim of the school is to obtain the Green Flag Award which refers sustainability of the school. In order to obtain this flag a coordinator teachers manage

responsibilities of each teacher and students in a specific task. As a consequence of their work, they report their progressions to official of the project.

Lastly, it can be said that, because Türkiye is a developing country with a large population of students and young people, it is vital to develop and implement the principal goals of education for sustainable development for all levels of education.

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