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## EXAMINING THE EDUCATION POLICIES IN POLITICAL PARTIES' 24 JUNE 2018 ELECTION MANIFESTOS (\*)

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### Abstract

*Political parties are among the building blocks of democracy. In countries with democratic regimes, general elections are held at certain periods. All political parties in these elections demand to have a voice in ruling the country. Political parties prepare election manifestos to win the elections. These manifestos include issues such as economy, social policy and social services, foreign and domestic politics, treasury, law, justice, education, sports, culture, local development, employment, production and environment. Thus, political parties share the policies they will follow when they become the ruling party. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the educational policies that political parties put into their election manifestos, to examine the issues that are seen as problematic by party managers and as well as the solutions that are offered towards these issues. Document analysis, a qualitative design technique, was used in the study. Political parties focus on such issues as diversification of education, development of education infrastructure and improvement of educational quality in their manifestos. It is seen that the promises in the educational parts of election declarations are far from solving the growing problems of education. The need to be analyzed continuously with new projects within a consensus of the parties.*

**Keywords:** Political Parties, Election Manifestos, Education Policy, Turkish Education System, Teacher, Student.

**Jel Codes:** D71, I21, M53.

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## **Siyasi Partilerin 24 Haziran 2018 Seçim Beyannamelerinde Eğitim Politikalarının Değerlendirilmesi**

### **Öz**

*Demokrasinin temel yapıtaşlarından biri siyasi partilerdir. Demokrasi ile idare edilen ülkelerde belirli periyotlarla genel seçimler yapılmaktadır. Seçime katılan her siyasi parti ülke yönetiminde söz sahibi olmayı istemektedir. Siyasi partiler seçimleri kazanmak için seçim beyannameleri hazırlamaktadır. Seçim beyannamelerinin içeriğini ekonomi, sosyal politika ve sosyal hizmet, dış ve iç siyaset, maliye, hukuk, adalet, eğitim, spor, kültür, yerel kalkınma, istihdam, üretim ve çevre gibi konular oluşturur. Böylece siyasi partiler iktidara geldiklerinde her alanda izleyecekleri politikaları kamuoyu ile paylaşır. Bu çalışmanın amacı, siyasi partilerin seçim beyannamelerinde yer alan eğitim politikalarının durumunu incelemek, parti yönetimleri tarafından eğitime yönelik problem olarak görülen sorunları ve çözüm önerilerini ortaya koyarak değerlendirmektir. Araştırma için nitel desenli araştırma yöntemlerinden doküman analizi tekniği kullanılmıştır. Partilerin seçim beyannamelerinde eğitim faaliyetlerinin çeşitlendirilmesi, eğitim altyapısının geliştirilmesi ve eğitim kalitesinin artırılması hususları başlıca odak noktaları olarak tespit edilmiştir. Görülen odur ki seçim beyannamelerinin eğitim bölümlerinde ortaya konulan vaatler, eğitimin gün geçtikçe artan sorunlarını çözmekten uzaktır. Siyasi partiler üstü bir eğitim anlayışıyla sürekli yeni somut projelerin ortaya konulmasına yönelik ihtiyaç devam etmektedir.*

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Siyasi Partiler, Seçim Beyannameleri, Eğitim Politikası, Türk Eğitim Sistemi, Öğretmen, Öğrenci.

**Jel Kodları:** D71, I21, M53.

### **1. Introduction**

The free will of nations is manifested with the result of the public vote performed transparently in accordance with the democracy. Politics, elections and political parties constitute the basic indispensable institutions of democratic countries. The increase of social mobility, the increase of political consciousness in parallel with the increase in educational level and the acceleration of the participation of society in politics over time highlight the use of these terms in the public opinion. According to Davut, the concept of politics means the management of cities and people (Davut, 2008: 29).

The political party concept is defined in article 3 of the Law on Political parties dated 1983 and numbered 2820. According to the article in question, "the political party is a legal entity that creates national will through the elections for the president, parliament and local administration in accordance with the views set out in their program". In addition, Kapani (2006: 176), explains the political party concept as follows: "They are organizations that try to gain political power by winning the votes of people and gather around a specific program".

Therefore, the aim of the political parties is to make political decisions when they win the majority of votes in elections. The function of the political parties in society is to combine the wishes of the social groups and to ensure the election of the administrative cadres (Berber, 2001: 5).

Every political party presents its promises on all issues (law, economics, environment, education, industry, agriculture, tourism, health etc.) in the country's agenda and shares them with public. The election declarations of political parties are usually considered as the contract between the electorate and parties. Regardless of which party is elected, the election declarations is binding. Election declarations are extremely important because voters expect the political party that established government to fulfill their promises. On the other hand, political parties are adopted by the public according to the election declarations they share with the public.

The definition of education is expressed that the equipment new generation with knowledge of the age, the ability to acquire skills according to the individual's capabilities and talents and the activities of obtaining the ability of independent thinking (Özyılmaz, 2017: 2). Ideas, characters, body and spirit forces of people are developed. It enables an individual to gain self-confidence and economic independence. It gives the ability to bring solutions to future problems. Person and group behaviors are created by education. Thanks to the education, a large number of staff that countries need are trained. If each individual of the country receives a quality education, much of the social problems will be overcome and the country's development, prosperity will be ensured. Education also implements the principles of social justice and equal opportunities for citizens.

As Özyılmaz (2017: 3) points out, there is a problem of education at the source of problems in a country. If this problem is largely solved in a country, it means that an excellent education system has been established. Therefore, the sufficient number and quality of manpower will be trained in every field that a country needs.

To summarize, the political parties which want to solve the problems of a country should first focus on education and bring solutions to the problems of the educational system. In the election declarations of the examined parties, raising the education level of the community, training people in accordance with the needs and conditions of the economy constitute some of the main objectives of the parties. The educational policies of political parties can be traced from the election declarations they post before the general elections. The research topic of this study is to evaluate the educational policies that political parties will put forward when they come to power, the actions they will perform for education, the perspectives on the problems of education and the evaluation of the solution proposals they have developed.

The conclusion of the literature searching is that the party programmes and the election declarations are not adequately examined and evaluated (Berber, 2001: 3). In the present study, only one article was identified through the academic search with the keyword "election declarations" via the Ebscohost.com. The title of the article is "Relations of

Political Parties and Forestry Based On 2007 General Election Declarations" and its author is Erdoğan Atmış. (Atmış, 2008: 33-42). Therefore, the approaches of political parties towards education cannot be unimportant. Because all educational institutions that constitute the educational system depend on the minister and the ministry representing the political party in power (Uygun, 2013: 34). Thus, the importance of the research is revealed so that it fills the determined gap.

The aim of the study is to examine the educational policies of the current political parties in the elections and to make conclusions about the educational realities, problems and recommendations for Turkey.

The following sections will focus on the evaluation of the political parties participating in the June 24, 2018, general elections for early childhood education and primary and tertiary education, common education, special education, foreign language education, equality of opportunity in education, problems of teachers and students, and financing of education. The contents of the election declarations were obtained from the official internet addresses owned by the parties.

## 2. Method

This study was carried out according to qualitative research method. The document review covers the analysis of written sources related to the subject to be investigated at the core (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2008: 187). In obtaining the data on the subject of the research, election declarations of political parties were utilized. The word "education" was scanned on the election declarations. Thus, the systematic analysis of the specific characters defined in the text yielded objective results. Within the scope of the study, the parties which prepare a declaration for the June 24, 2018 general elections and introduce a presidential candidate are the Justice and Development Party, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan; Republican People's Party, Muharrem İnce; Peoples' Democratic Party, Selahattin Demirtaş; Good Party, Meral Akşener; Felicity Party, Temel Karamolloğlu and Patriotic Party, Doğu Perinçek.

## 3. Results

In the election declarations of the parliamentary general election, the sentences related to education were evaluated. It is seen that education is regarded as one of the fundamental human rights of all citizens in all election declarations. In addition, education is an important factor in the development and advancement of countries.

It is a constitutional obligation for States to continually provide the material and human support needed in education. There is a continuous need to diversify the training programs and improve the education infrastructure in accordance with the requirements. In particular, students' interests, wishes and abilities should be explored and developed. (Kösterelioğlu and Bayar, 2014: 182). Through radical and continuous steps in education, the prosperity is provided in a short time throughout the country.

### **3.1 2018 Election Declaration of Justice and Development Party**

For the first time in the history of the Republic, the highest share of the budget has been allocated to the education area. Compulsory basic education was extended to 12 years with 3 stages and the curriculum has been changed accordingly. The number of elective courses has been increased and students' preferences have been promoted in line with their interests and abilities. For all students, free clothing has been introduced. The number of students per teacher in primary and secondary education is 16 (AKP, 2018: 53). After that, the content and quality of the education will be a priority. School types will be reduced. Guidance services will be provided in the direction of students' interests and skills (AKP, 2018: 58). The curriculum will be reviewed regularly. Priority will be given to foreign language teaching. Each child will receive at least pre-school education of one year before starting primary school (AKP, 2018: 59). In all schools, dual education will be terminated and full-time education will be started. Remote education methods will be used as an effective means of access to education. The amount and diversity of sports and art activities will be increased (AKP, 2018: 60). The number of support and training courses will be increased and students will be able to complete their deficiencies within the school. The cooperation between the school and the business world will be strengthened by disseminating practical trainings (AKP, 2018: 61). The problem of the students on accommodation will be solved completely. The share of private sector in education will be increased by encouraging (AKP, 2018: 62). In all schools, a curriculum that improves the sense of art and aesthetics will be established and implemented (AKP, 2018: 69). Leadership and personal development seminars, awareness conferences, career chats, religion and values education, courses in language, design, music and visual arts for young people will be continued to prepare them for the future.

The number of students benefiting from foreign education and exchange programs will be increased (AKP, 2018: 86). The number of students sent abroad for master and doctorate programs will be increased (AKP, 2018: 89). "Career centers" will be established and young people will be assisted in training and career planning in transition from secondary education to higher education (AKP, 2018: 91). Especially after secondary school education, all students will be provided with an sportsmen identity in a sports field until the end of high school education (AKP, 2018: 92).

### **3.2 2018 Election Declaration of Republican People's Party**

First of all, nine years of uninterrupted basic education will be increased to 13 years (CHP, 2018: 95). The powers of the family associations operating for the schools will be increased and their participation in the school administration will be ensured. The combined classes will be removed. The quantity and quality difference between schools and regions will be minimized. Village schools will be reopened and the implementation of mobile teaching will be terminated (CHP, 2018: 96). Regional boarding secondary school and high schools with hostels will be generalized. Students will benefit from

public transport free of charge. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for students for a balanced and healthy nutrition. No collection of money from parents will be allowed no matter what it is. The funding allocated from the budget for education will be increased to EU countries level (CHP, 2018: 97). The existing infrastructure of the schools will be developed in accordance with full-time education. The qualifications of schools will be upgraded to EU standards (CHP, 2018: 98). Considering the number of students, at least 1 security staff and 1 cleaning staff will be assigned to all schools in line with the needs (CHP, 2018: 99). Each student will be sent to any school they want to go. In this way, students and their families will be rescued from the stress of the exams. Flexible transition will be achieved in the first two years of Secondary Education (CHP, 2018: 100). Technology High Schools will be built. Technology High School and vocational school students will be protected by insurance (CHP, 2018: 101).

### **3.3 2018 Election Declaration of Nationalist Movement Party**

The main objective of the education is to raise new generations who have the pride and consciousness of being a member of the Turkish nation, who adopt spiritual values, who have the ability to think, perceive and solve problems, who have a sense of responsibility and a high social sensitivity, who are prone to science and technology production, and are entrepreneurs, democrats, culturalists, virtuous and faithful. Equal opportunities will be provided to children in education and training. Training of all individuals in line with their interests, tendencies and abilities will be essential. The life and philosophy of historical leading figures such as Hodja Ahmet Yesevi, Haji Bektaş Veli, Mevlana, Haji Bayram Veli and Yunus Emre who live and save the national and spiritual values of Turkishness and Islam will be studied (MHP, 2018: 97). The Islamic tradition, knowledge and wisdom will be transferred to the young generations against spiritual and cultural degeneration. It is essential to plan and implement the curriculum in accordance with national and contemporary requirements at all levels of education. Education venues, educational technologies and manpower facilities will be upgraded to the standards required by the information society in terms of quality and quantity. Within the framework of orientation at primary and secondary education level, the young people will be able to continue to higher education in any department within the scope of their abilities (MHP, 2018: 98). In addition to the traditional functions of universities such as education, research, development, informing the society, it will be ensured that they have a structure that industrializes and commercializes the knowledge (MHP, 2018: 99). In addition, internship and apprenticeship periods will be added to the retirement service. Undergraduate students will be provided with the opportunity to complete the graduate degree and the university entrance exams will be removed. The working conditions of teachers will be improved and the appointment of all teacher graduates will be ensured.

### **3.4 2018 Election Declaration of Good Party**

Vocational training programs will be created in accordance with the needs of the age and the demands of the economy. In the curriculum, a knowledge and gain-based structure will be transformed into skill-oriented and questioning structure. With the completion of primary education, it will be ensured that children are directed to technical, vocational, health, social and science high schools according to the areas in which they are gifted and interested (İyi Parti, 2018: 101). Policies that will enable the most successful students to choose teaching will be implemented. Dual education and combined class applications will be terminated. Student dormitories will be disseminated (İyi Parti, 2018: 102). Topics related to life, such as basic computer coding, financial literacy, oratory skills and hand skills, will be added to the curriculum starting from primary school. Art and sports at all levels of education will be part of the students. Students' need for scholarships and free accommodation will be met. Scientific, social and cultural spaces such as science centers, museums, botanical gardens will be increased, their effective use will be provided as learning areas. Other common and formal education opportunities such as student exchange programs, life-long learning, e-learning platforms will be increased and the understanding of lifelong learning will be dominated. With the project "every house will be a school", parents will be trained in childcare (İyi Parti, 2018: 103). Opportunities will be provided to support the physical, emotional, cultural, artistic and cognitive development of each child. Children who need special education will be able to continue their education without being isolated from their peers through integrative education. Initiatives of the private sector in the field of education will be encouraged (İyi Parti, 2018: 104).

### **3.5 2018 Election Declaration of Peoples' Democratic Party**

Education is a right, so no money will be demanded from parents. The differences between schools will be eliminated (HDP, 2018: 52). The education system will be restructured in an integrated way with society and nature. All central examinations will be removed (HDP, 2018: 53). Schools will not be the only learning place for students and adults. Public libraries, cultural centers and learning environments spread throughout the districts of the cities will be provided over a wide period of time. University rectors and deans will be chosen by university components. Student councils will have a say in university boards at all levels. Contract and paid teaching will be abolished and all teachers will be permanent staff (HDP, 2018: 54).

### **3.6 2018 Election Declaration of Felicity Party**

The training system runs children and young people on various exams, racetracks with the logic of a marathon. Young people will be directed to vocational selection based on their skills, character and tendencies. The process of youth participation in life is still postponed with training (Saadet Partisi, 2018: 11). The duration of the training will

be shortened so that young people can be transferred to production before they are too late to live. The curriculum and teacher quality will have an importance (Saadet Partisi, 2018: 12). The council of higher education will be abolished and the structure of the Inter-University Council will be rearranged. The universities will create an administrative structure far from political pressure and tutelage (Saadet Partisi, 2018: 13). The main aim of the education system is to raise morale and merit-owning generations (Saadet Partisi, 2018: 131). Vocational training will be developed in coordination with the business world. Teacher training will be of special importance (Saadet Partisi, 2018:132). Full-time students will be given lunch. Public education will be focused on. examination fees from students will be abolished completely (Saadet Partisi, 2018: 133). Mechanisms to develop cooperation between the business world and universities will be established (Saadet Partisi, 2018: 136).

### **3.7 2018 Election Declaration of Patriotic Party**

Education reform will be made to meet the qualified labor needs of the economy (Vatan Partisi, 2018: 16). In education, no money can be taken from students and their families, under no name including contributions, fees, aid etc. The state will supply the housing, nutrition, clothing and culture needs of the students in need. Accommodation will be provided to the students in need through the state dormitories. Student hostels and public transportation vehicles will be free of charge (Vatan Partisi, 2018: 37).

Generations, who know our Turkish well, patriotic, full of love of public service, free-thinking, resisting injustice, courageous, peaceful, solidarity, respect for labor, paying attention to public affairs, sharing, loyal to humanity, talented, knowledgeable, responsible, whose idea, wisdom and conscience are free, will be raised. Vocational training will be given according to the personal skills and tendencies of the students and the training plan. Youth' interests, talents, and the chosen professions will be harmony (Vatan Partisi, 2018: 38). To give importance to music, painting, theatre, culture and art classes at all educational levels is the condition of educating virtuous people. Sports and regular physical activity are an essential part of healthy life for every citizen (Vatan Partisi, 2018: 39). Private dormitories and all private educational institutions will be expropriated. The entrance exam to the university will be removed. According to the national plan, vocational training will be developed to address the needs of economic, social and cultural development (Vatan Partisi, 2018: 40). Vocational high schools will also be created on the basis of sectors such as agriculture, animal husbandry, trade and tourism (Vatan Partisi, 2018: 41). Youth and citizens will be encouraged to develop their talents in at least one art branch (Vatan Partisi, 2018: 43). Fine arts high schools and conservatories will be disseminated (Vatan Partisi, 2018: 44).

#### **4. The Main Problems Of Turkish Education System**

It is possible to summarize the main problems of Turkish education under the following headings;

- Widespread education is of great importance since the apprenticeship gap needed by artisans such as tailor, butcher, auto mechanic, hairdresser is not sufficiently provided by formal education.

- The methods of education are not based on observation and experimentation and are not capable of giving students the research and questioning skills.

- Education system is not open to changes and dynamic conditions of the day in accordance with the necessities of the economic and social structure.

- Higher education is also not a driver and accelerator for economic, social and cultural development. The education system has not been transformed into a flexible structure in the face of a wide variety of qualified labor needs of the economy.

- The theoretical knowledge of graduates is insufficient to meet the requirements of business life. There has been no progress or development in the studies related to the new types of professions.

- This situation brings important expenses to the exams, the inefficient utilization of resources allocated to education and the economic and psychological problems of the students' families.

#### **5. Discussion**

All parties include the issues of education in election declarations. All political parties mention the issues of higher education and equal opportunities in education. However, there was no awareness among the parties on the issues of non-formal education, pre-school education and special education.

It is inevitable that some problems arise during training activities. These problems can be expressed as problems related to educational policies, problems arising from educational programs, problems arising from teacher and student qualifications, problems arising from applied educational methods, financial problems. (Saribaş and Babadağ, 2015: 18). There is a need for suggestions that will address and solve the problems of education in party programs.

Solutions to chronic problems should be sought and expressed rather than giving promises that voters would like. For example, during registration to schools, the selection procedures of the students must be determined first. In the election declaration of the Justice and Development Party, it is emphasized that "students will be directed according to their interests and skills" but in the current application, the students are registered to the nearest school to their residence. This present situation is not the right criterion in the student's choice of school. Again, the Justice and Development Party has promised to

establish career centers and to help young people plan their careers. It would be prudent to develop solutions by increasing the functions of guidance teachers in schools rather than establishing a new institution in the public body.

The Ministry of National Education should implement the policy that the Republican People's Party want to implement in the direction of opening village schools and remove mobile teaching. The proposal that students should benefit from public transport means free of charge should be taken into consideration by the municipalities and should be implemented as soon as possible. The proposal of the Ministry of National Education to supply students' breakfast and lunch is also a practical proposal that can be implemented in a short time.

The proposal of the Nationalist Movement Party to transfer the Islamic tradition, knowledge and wisdom to young generations against spiritual and cultural degeneration should be taken into account and the curriculum should be rearranged accordingly. Again, the promises of the Nationalist Movement Party for the duration of internship and apprenticeship are incomplete. From the age of 14, apprenticeship insurance should be provided to all students and the government must pay their insurance premiums.

The promise of "lifelong education will be dominated" in the Good Party election declaration needs to be explained in terms of content. The proposal of passing to a skill-oriented and interrogator structure in the curriculum should be taken into consideration by the Ministry of Education and should be implemented. Increasing the number of scientific, social and cultural venues is a good educational policy.

The proposal of "ensuring the learning environments spread over a wide period of time", which was laid out by the Peoples' Democratic Party, is also considered as an educational policy application that can be examined and implemented in terms of content.

The policy of giving importance to the curriculum and teacher quality that is put forth by the Felicity Party is always in a valid policy. Again, the proposal to focus on public education is one of the educational policies that should be implemented.

The promise of housing, feeding, clothing and cultural needs for needy students in the election declaration of Patriotic Party is insufficient. The situation is that the State has to provide them to every student. The "virtuous human raising" policy, which belongs to the Patriotic party, can also be accomplished by the Ministry of National Education. There are no obstacles in this promise to apply.

When the findings obtained in the light of the research are interpreted, the following points are noteworthy: Students should be directed to technical and vocational training in the secondary school stage after the four-year primary school. In the current educational infrastructure, only fine arts high schools, sports and social sciences high schools, the secondary parts of vocational and technical high schools are not available. Fine arts secondary schools, sports and social sciences secondary schools, trade, vocational and technical secondary schools should be opened immediately.

Special education classes for special students who have learning difficulty should be removed and the integration training must be made mandatory. For a full modern transformation of the Turkish Education System, the school-industry should be cooperative and continuously developed. Students should learn in a practical manner by making and experiencing. Skill trainings should be focused on performance.

Adult courses and vocational courses should be increased throughout the country as a result of the educational approach at all times in everywhere. To improve the quality of education in each level, the content and application methods of the programmes must be reviewed every year.

In order for individuals to benefit from the European Union grant funds and to gain their own economic independence, entrepreneurship and project management courses should be taken from elementary school to the final year of undergraduate education. High quality and qualified foreign language teaching should be performed on all training steps. Pre-school education, which is important in shaping social, cognitive, mental and moral development, should be compulsory rather than optional.

To summarize, education is the common future of the Turkish Nation. The solution of social problems is in education. It is possible for a person to be useful to himself and his community through education. The quality and productivity of the needed labor increases thanks to education. The realization of the principle of social state and ensuring equality of opportunity throughout the country are achieved through education. The possibility of modernization in economic, political and social life depends only on the raising of free and conscientious individuals through education. Therefore, education should be given importance.

### **5.1 Conclusion**

Political parties are indispensable elements of democracy. Therefore, they explain what they are going to do in their election programmes for the development of all areas of the country when they come to power and use them in campaign swing. When political parties come to power, they must apply their policies in a way that coincides with the realities of the country. Voters should be followers of this. Because in every field, the focal point of development and enhancement is human. It is imperative that people be trained continuously from cradle to grave and learn throughout life. As a requirement of being a social state, the state must meet the basic needs of its citizens who make up the most valuable components. One of the basic human needs is education.

In this study, educational policies of the political parties participating in the June 24, 2018, general elections were examined. It is a fact that all political parties pay special attention to education. However, the parties should create short, medium and long-term strategies and put out educational policies in this way. It is seen that the promises in the educational parts of election declarations are far from solving the growing problems of education.

In the context of education, there are still problems in success levels between regions and school types, quality of learning environments, restructuring of teaching profession, integration of education curriculum into the technology, career management in teaching profession, improvement of student and teacher performance. In addition, there are no suggestions for the elimination of these problems. These problems continue to have the need to be analyzed continuously with new projects within a consensus of the parties.

Turkey has improved its social and physical infrastructure, especially in the field of education, according to world standards. Significant increases have been achieved in all levels of schooling. The number of students per classroom has been significantly reduced. Great improvements have been carried out in the education of poor students. The mobile training was reinforced and the compulsory training period was increased to 12 years. The secondary education system was restructured and a 4+4+4 organization has been adopted. Teachers' in-service trainings have been increased. Students' textbooks are provided free of charge. Public funding allocated to education has increased more than previous periods. Tablet computers were distributed to high school students within the scope of the Movement of Enhancing Opportunities and Improving Technology (FATİH Project). Higher education has been disseminated to every province throughout the country and the quotas of existing programmes have been increased with new programmes. All these are the right applications. The right applications should be maintained with modern new applications.

There is also a need for good examples in education. For example, every student must have an art and a sports hobby from elementary school to senior college. Village schools must be reopened with at least one teacher in each village and mobile education should be terminated country-wide. Students must benefit from public transport and public dormitories free of charge. All students must be supported by the State for breakfast and lunch. All students from the age of 18 must be covered by health and individual retirement insurance and their insurance premiums should be paid by the State. The historical lives of the opinion leaders who live and conserve the idea of Turkish-Islam should be taught as a lesson. All undergraduate people should be provided with the opportunity to complete the graduate education. Personal rights of educators should be improved in order for the most successful students to choose the teaching profession. As a final goal, permanent teacher employment should be performed instead of paid teaching. The fees of examinations should be removed completely. The share of vocational and technical education in general secondary education should be increased above the share of general high schools. Therefore, there is still a need for different perspectives in educational policies.

Through this article, which evaluates the subject of education in the party programmes, the problems that arise in education for those who are interested in the subject, the current situation and suggestions for future solutions are put forward. Democracy consciousness will be strengthened by raising the education level of all young and old alike. Today, the needs are continuing for individuals being open to new thoughts, perceiving events correctly, having advanced problem-solving ability, following the outside world,

assimilating universal humanitarian values, having a sense of responsibility, having social sensitivity, being aware of science and technology, having high skill level. Thanks to the fulfillment of this need for labor, the human rights and rule of law will always dominate country-wide. A prosperous Turkey, which individual rights can be used in the widest plan, guaranteeing basic human rights, increasing peace and prosperity, will come to exist. The realization of the investments of social and physical education infrastructure for the last two decades, Turkey has improved education standards according to world standards (Akça, Şahan and Tural, 2017: 400) but not enough. The need for continuous improvement in education involves a process that has never ended and it accommodates endless mobility. With the power of quality education of its citizens, Turkey will produce information at a global level, transforming the knowledge into added value and will become a strong actor in the global league of nations.

## **5.2 Suggestions**

The main suggestions of the authors of the present article for the development of the Turkish education system are as follows;

- The form of continuing education for 12 years with four years intervals should be restructured as one year for pre-school, three years for primary school, four years for secondary school and four years for high school supported by the intensified curriculum.

- Students should be oriented under the guidance of vocational teachers based on the skills, character and tendency in secondary school after completing the first three years of primary school that gives the education of reading and writing. Thus, students' interests and abilities will be determined in advance. High school orientation is too late and is not ideal. First, students should be directed according to their characteristics in secondary school.

- All levels of education must be integrated with business life. School and industry cooperation should be provided at every stage of education. Education programs should be life-oriented and production-based.

- The ultimate goal of the trainings to be given should be to train the quality human power which is well trained in every field, following technological developments and contributing to technology.

- While developing the science and technology infrastructure of the country, labor force should be trained in accordance with the use of advanced technology.

- Vocational training should be restructured to meet the need for qualified labor emerging in globalization and integration with the European Union.

- The financial resources allocated for education of the country should be increased as much as possible and private sector investments in education should be encouraged.

- Education levels of all individuals and the quality of education should be improved.

- Labour should be trained in accordance with the demand of the market and the quality of education and training should be improved.

- The Ministry of National Education should be reorganized in a structure that emphasizes lifelong learning approach for all, oriented to production, providing equal opportunities for students.

- Basic skills such as working as a team, making decisions and solving problems and taking responsibility should be gained first.

- Turkey should become a center of attraction in education of university. Instead of spending the budget allocated for promotion of Turkey abroad, it would be prudent to allocate the budget to the students who will come from abroad.

- Breakfast and lunch to all students studying in primary and secondary education should be given. If Turkey is a social state, it should be realized.

- New joint universities to be established by Turkey and the friendly nations should be come to realize. Currently, the University of Galatasaray in conjunction with France, the Turkish German University with Germany, the University of Ahmet Yesevi with Kazakhstan and the University of Manas with Kyrgyzstan are among the successful examples. In addition, the University of Imre Naci with Hungary, the University of Haydar Aliyev with Azerbaijan, the University of Aliya Izzet Begovic with Bosnia Herzegovina and the University of Ziya Ulhak with Pakistan should be established first.

- The training needs of labor force, which cannot be supplied with formal education, should be supplied with vocational, technical and informal education programs.

In addition, the following suggestions can be made for future studies to contribute to the literature: firstly, the problems of pre-school education, primary education, secondary education and higher education of Turkish education system and their solutions can be examined separately. Teacher training, working conditions and individual rights can be studied. The relationship between education and Total Quality Management can be laid out. A study can be carried out to examine the status of the universities established in cooperation with different countries.

Finally, the authors expect that this research will encourage and contribute to the future researches in the field.

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