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INVESTIGATION OF CULTURAL AFFECTS ON DESIGN EDUCATION

Design activities encompasses cerebral activities including thinking, imaging and decision-making as well as practical and externally perceptible activities such as information gathering, drawing and model-making. In getting and developing of these skills are effective inheritance and environment in addition to education. Effects of this are possible to observe every field of art and architectural design today.

It has been believed that inheritance is effective on physical and intellectual characteristics by researcher. Skills of thinking and problem solving have been transferred to people as hereditary. As for the environment, it improves or limits the characteristic that has been gotten from inheritance. Factor of environment can be considered as before, during and after of birth in growth. In this context, it is clear that the environment is effective from insemination of zygote to being born and death of person. Especially after birth, family environment of that person live in, communication quality between the people, socio-cultural status of family, friend groups, institutions in school and community, people, social values and norms are the environmental factors that improve or limits the growth of people.

In content of this study have been selected students who are in the freshman class at the Department of Architecture at KTU. Personal information (gender, age, etc.) cities that they were born, education (at elementary school, high school or private school), family structure of these students and excursions that they has been participated in has been determined by public survey. Data which had been gathered has been established relations with grade which the students got from basic design course that has been taught in the first term of Department of Architecture. Also it has been researched whether there are any connections between grade and socio-cultural factors which have been explain above. In this study data that has been obtained from survey and grades has been presented as table and graphics.

Keywords: Design Activities, Culture, Education, Environment, Architecture,

1. Introduction

Basic Design is a discipline which has purposed that students have increased level of being ready, helped them to recognize characteristic of personality, controlled their judgment and been rescued from prejudice. This discipline has given the students opportunity to realize personal differences via their life. Also it has steered the students towards knowing own potential of cognitive and sensitive by getting out of their vision and considering habits in artistic creativity and problem solving. Therefore, the conscious will has developed both general and local sense (Seylan, 2005). In addition to design education has aimed to expand on boundaries by providing creative considering.

When the basic design has investigated as words; concept of basic-as for illustrate with building-hasn't been visible after constructing building and unusually can't be direct connection with upper appearance and order. However, it must be to construct the building. The concept of design has been defined as thinking or forming in mind, formulating for a goal, finding methods, planning systematically, being a goal, target and intention, creating, finding and inventing on a subject that require high or artistic skills (Seylan, 2005). Also design is the name of becoming objective like result product, sketch, perception forms that has occurred from these process.

Consequently, the basic design course is the one of main and probably the most important components that has constituted architectural education. Being a strong of this education, ground that the foundation will settle must be strong, too, besides basis. The question-how should be a strong ground/background?-can be asked. The strong background can be constituted via talents, repetitions, discipline and convincing. Actually being learning of these actions hasn't direct connection with design. These have constituted background of design and a lot of talents. Also, there are a lot of factors that affect the design and design process like an innovation, invention and contribution of designer on idea, view, interpreting, education, custom-traditions of her/him, fashion, folklore, technology, subject which studied on, conditions of environment, economic situation, functionality, trends of art etc. (Güngör, 2005). It is impossible to educate perfectly the students who begin at department of architecture without constituting the background that contain a lot of components (Denel, 1998). Briefly it can be said that the background of student who want to be an architect should

be reinforced and then the basic of education should get established in this strong ground.

In this study has investigated factors that has been mostly effected the developing of person like structure of family, social-cultural environment and education of him/her.

Structure of family;

Family is important factor for cognitive and physical developing of her/him. The origin of most abilities besides intelligent which never could be acquired later is the family. For this reason, the structure of family, attitude of parents against children, communications between the family people has greatly influence on children's psycho-social, mental, sexual and physical development.

Observed attitudes and behaviors of parent have influence on activities of children, roles of sexuality, briefly, the whole personality development. It has been observed that the children of parents who have put stiff rules for children's behaviors, obstructed to explain wishes and inclinations of them and punished them has grown as faraway from creativity. It has appeared that excessive tolerant parent' attitudes have injured the children in term of emotional, too. Also the children of parents who have acted restrictive, but friendly have become shamefaced, dependent and less creative. Consistent and trustworthy parents have steered children toward their ability and they have established democratic relations with children. It has been observed the children who have growth up such families become respectful to oneself and successful (Figure 1)².

Factors such as socio-economic and cultural structure of families, broken families, nourishment habits, sequence of children's birth is important for growth. For example, it has been said people who has been grown in an artist family become more sensitive than others. While the sense, opinion and imagination have been transformed into product because, art education has built up creative action on people. The first children usually has become successful, an intellectual, regular and ambitious, but their self-confidence has been few. They also can be more deliberate and conservative. It has been observed the last children have become more lately mature than the first one. As for the second child (in a family which has three children), if there is no characteristics such sexual discrimination, can grow under pressure and they can see

own less talented. However, it has been observed they have raised more dependent, establishing well relation and being happy easily (Senemo•lu, 2005).

These factors have been taken into consideration while the questions which are in section of family structure of public survey had getting ready.

Education;

The education is important as much as family to improve the design abilities. It is hard to say person whose intelligence, opinions and action hadn't been educated become a good designer. Therefore, the education, especially before university, and its quality is important because it has constituted a ground for architecture and design education. The subject that has been discussed here is how the students should be educated or has been educated, before coming to university.

The students who have come to university with Student Selection Examination (ÖSS) that the question has been prepared as test techniques haven't learned solid geometry course that is important for architecture and design and painting course has been taught as selective course (Dural, 1998). The students who come to university with this background have become confused and panic when they have met a lot of tools not becoming familiar of them. This situation has been affected accomplishment of the students.

In contemporary community, educational model that has improved the creativity and intelligence beginning from kindergarten has been applied. As for in our country (Turkey), information has given the students as ready, the information which find in books has been accepted without thinking by them, they has been educated with a model that completely base on memorization. Therefore, the students have growth without knowing nature, art, science and technology. This has caused atrophy of curiosity sense which is necessary for teaching and designing.

This deficiency of the students who have come from such educational system should be determined and architecture and design education should be put in a strong ground. To improve the abilities and cognition design education should be taught beginning from kindergarten and elementary school. Otherwise, the education which has been taken from only university would be inadequate especially for architectural education.

Socio-cultural environment

Personality describes the characteristics which make the people unique. Seeds of the personality are potential energy that comes from with heredity. As for area that potential energy has begun to develop is environment in which human has lived there. Human has worked to saturate motives that are necessary for living with obtained abilities in environment (Ba•aran, 1997). However, the human motives which have/haven't been learned can be changed via education.

Human has interacted with environment during life-span. Especially, social and cultural environment which people has lived can have kept them under thumb by hindering behavior as one pleases and so it has been effected the growth and abilities of them.



Figure 1. Photos to be taken by design studio

2. The Method

In this paper, data has been obtained by comparing. The comparison has been made between the result of survey which has been performed to determine family structure, education and socio-cultural environment of the students and the final grade¹ which had been taken from the Basic Design Course. Therefore, it has been determined whether the background of the students has been effective on design abilities, if there is, how much the ratio is.

The public survey has been performed 30 students who are in the freshman class at the Department of Architecture at KTU. The students have been selected randomly.

In this survey, a part of data was obtained from open-ended, binary (yes, no), 5-point (very often, time to time, rarely, never) and 7-point (very, quite, some, recessive, some, quite, very) between the adjective pairs (authoritarian-tolerant, restrictive-free, prim-plicant, relevant-irrelevant, coherent-incoherent, trustworthy-distrustful) Likert scale questions whose number were twenty-nine. On the other hand, grades of the students have been used as data.

The survey consisted of four parts. In the first part, there were identity information (name and surname or the final grade taking the Basic Design Course, gender, the place of birth, province being enrollment). The second part was about the students' education. The third part was about the family structure of the students. In the fourth part, there were questions that were helped to determine students' socio-cultural level.

Data, obtained from questionnaire and the students' grade, was evaluated with help of Microsoft Excel software.

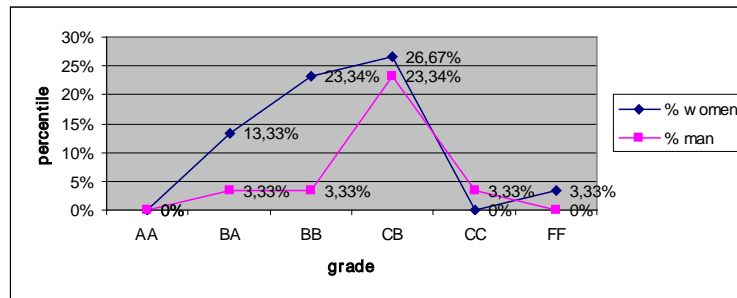
3. Evaluation

In the paper has been investigated whether the students' education which had been before undergraduate, family structure, socio-cultural environment has been affected on their success that had obtained from the Basic Design Course or not. For this reason, these factors has been researched over the students' success which had been obtained from the course that has been taught at freshman class, at Department of Architecture, KTU, in 2007-2008. 69 students had been enrolled the course and 67 students had been participated in the final exam. The public survey had been applied on 30 students. %66, 67 of them were woman, the other was man.

Firstly, when has been seen the effect of gender on the success in the course, the women had been more successes than

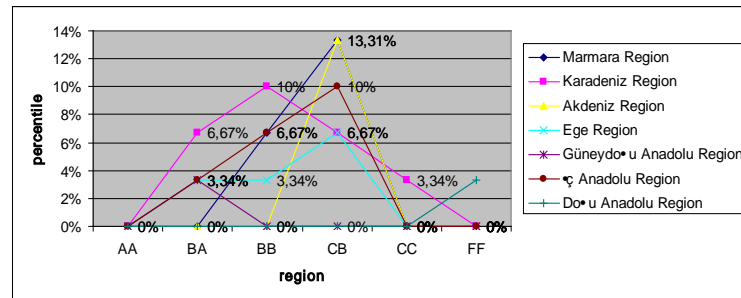
men. %13,33 of the students who had been taken BA grade was woman, %3,33 was man. %23,34 of the students who had taken BB was woman, %3,33 was man (Table 1).

Table 1. Success distribution as to gender



The west region of Turkey has more developed and possibilities than the east one. Therefore, place of birth and province being enrollment have been seen as effective factors on accomplishment. The Black Sea Region of Turkey was the first when had been seen the effects of regions in which students born on success. Marmara had followed the Black Sea. % 6,67 of the students who had taken BA was in the Black Sea Region, %3,34 in Marmara. % 10 of the students who had taken BB was in the Black Sea Region, %6,67 in Marmara (Table 2).

Table 2. The effect of the region on success.



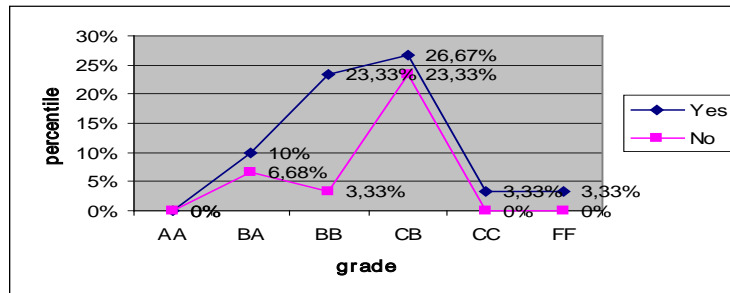
When has been comparison between province being enrollment and accomplishment, it has been seen at first the Black Sea Region and than İç Anadolu region. The question-where are you come from- was answered by 29 students. % 10,34 of the students who had taken BA was in the Black Sea Region. The region can have been preferred by success student of that place.

It has been known the education which had been taken before undergraduate is an effective factor on success. For this

reason, it had been investigated whether the students went to kindergarten, which high school they went and the courses which took the high school.

The students who went to kindergarten have become more successful. % 10 of the students who had taken BA, %23,33 of BB went to kindergarten (Table 3).

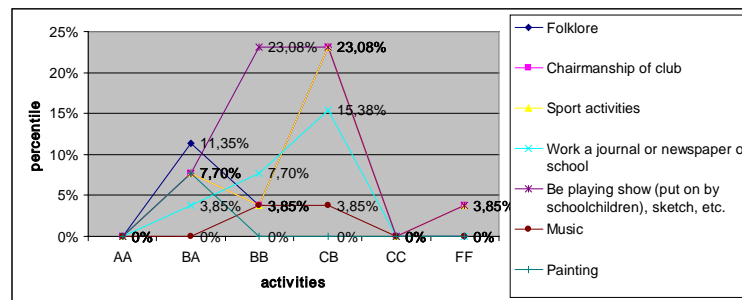
Table 3. The comparison between going kindergarten and success.



It had been asked for the student which courses that develop the ability such painting, home economy etc. had been taken before undergraduate education. The most of 22 students who answered the question had taken these courses. But these haven't been effective on the success.

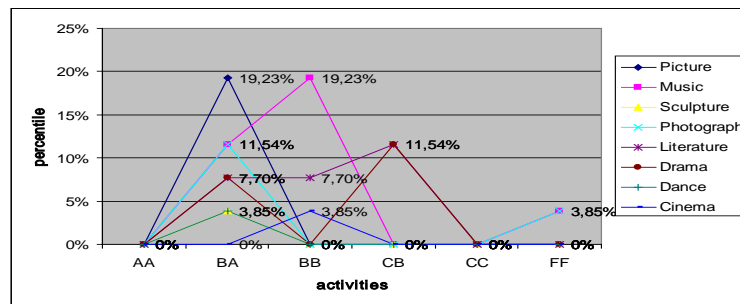
26 students had answered the question-what activities (social, cultural, administrative, etc.) had you participated in high school? It has been seen the students who had participated in folklore activities has been more successful (Table 4).

Table 4. The effect of activities that were out of courses on success.



26 students had answered the question-what branches of art (painting, music, sculpture, literature, etc.) have you been interested or performed? % 19,23 of the students who had taken BA have been interested in painting, % 11,54 in photography. % 19,23 of the students who had taken BB have been interested in music and % 7,70 in literature. It has been seen that such interest fields has been effective on success (Table 5).

Table 5. The influence of the students' interest fields on success.



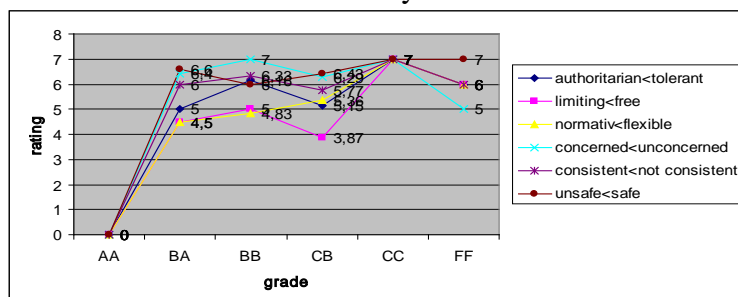
It has been observed that the sequence of children's birth hasn't been effective on success of the Basic Design Course.

The type of family hasn't been investigated because the whole students had been growth in nucleus family that contains parents and children except for one. Also education of the parent hasn't been an effective on success.

In the survey has been investigated with whom and where the students have lived. The students who have lived at home with their family, private and public dormitory had been more successful than others.

It hasn't been observed that factors related to attitude of family have been effective on success (Table 6).

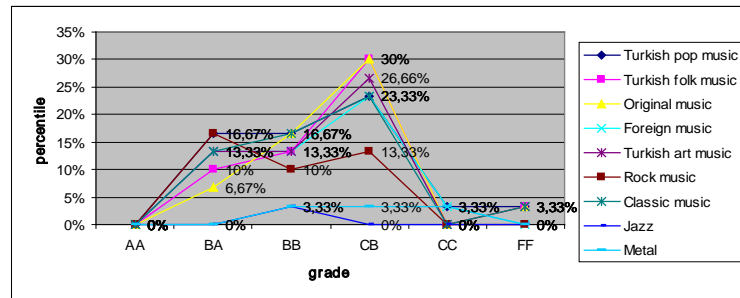
Table 6. The effects of family's attitudes on success.



Journey that had been visited areas in homeland or foreign country hasn't been effective alone on success of the course (only two students have been in foreign country).

It has been observed that listened music type (especially rock music) has been effective on success (Table 7).

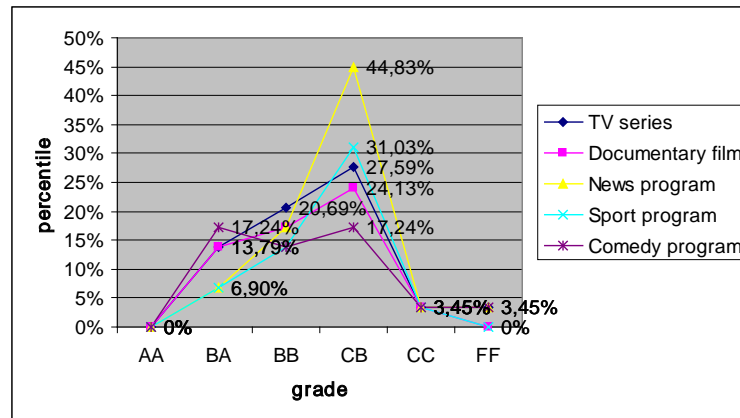
Table 7. The effects of the music that has been listened to by the students on the success.



Effective factor hasn't been found on evaluation of spare time.

It has been observed the students who watch the comedy programs have been more successful than others (Table 21).

Table 21. The effect of the TV programs on the success.



Architectural design principles valid for other art fields such as painting, music, sculpture, literature, photography, dance etc. for this reason, in this study has been investigated whether the students have an interest any art field. According to results, frequency of going theatre has partly effective on the success.

4. Conclusion

The education system which has been effective at last years especially in developed countries has required to use multiple cultural structure, social reconciliation and cultural wealthy as a tool. Following of the same approach has been necessary for our county that is cultural diversity. Therefore, education and result product will be removed from be ordinary by utilizing from the students who has come from different culture.

In the study, it has been tried that the effects of socio-cultural structure that is own by the students have been determined on architectural education by aid of the students' education before undergraduate, family structure and socio-cultural tendencies that have been effective on constituting the background and knowledge compile. The survey questionnaires have been prepared by selecting from factors that thinks to be effective on children growth. The influences of these factors on education have been researched by comparing with the success of them at the Basic Design Course.

The main result of the study, according to data obtained from survey and observation, is that the student hasn't been growth freely to reflect differences of their cultural and social because of training with the same educational system. Another striking result is that women have become more successful than men. One-way responses have come about the foreign county experiment that has been expected to be effective on success but not reflect to result, situation of working/not working, being interested in art. Therefore these values haven't been deeply investigated.

The negative results of the educational systems that students has educated for architecture or other departments in Turkey has reflected the survey study which had been performed on department of architecture, KTU. Even though the students have come from different region of Turkey, this difference hasn't been felt on the survey result and they have been educated ordinary. The previous of undergraduate education should be renovated and an education system which has revealed students abilities and been democratic and free should be constituted.

5. Notes:

1. The students' grades that had been taken from the Basic Design Course was obtained from Prof. Dr. Gülay Keleş USTA and Res. Ass. Demet YILMAZ.

2. Works of basic design has been received from archives Ass. Prof. Dr. Asu Beşgen Gençosmanoğlu.

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