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PRIVATE LESSONS
(UNDERGRADUATE THESIS)

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I. PREFACE

Education is one of the most important things in ones life. As an educated person, I would like to say that, I am ready for my future life.

I would like to thank all my teachers for helping me to be ready for my future life.

Ass. Prof. Dr. Gül Celkan, our chairperson, is going to be one of the most important persons in my life. I would like to give my special thanks to her because of her helps to solve my problems.

II. Introduction

Education is very important all over the world, but it is more important T.R.N.C. The reason for this, are the immigrating workers from Turkey. Since there are too many immigrants and since they work for less money in standard and hard jobs, the citizens of T.R.N.C sees education very important. If a person is not educated well he will not be able to find a job with satisfying payment. Therefore families want their children to be well educated. Most of these families think that the education in the schools is not enough and they send their children to private lessons. Since I am a T.R.N.C. citizen, I had experienced this situation in my education life.

In my thesis you are going to find a detailed research about the reasons of the private lessons.

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III. The aim of the thesis

The goal of this thesis is to examine private lessons in different ways

In this thesis you are going to find researches about:

- A)
 - 1) Education System
 - 2) Living standards of parents and students
 - 3) Point of views of parents and students

- B) Ratios of giving private lesson, by teachers, according to their schools and lessons.

- C) Costs of private lessons according to the regions and to the lessons.

IV. Analyse

A) The reasons of private lessons

- 1) The reasons that are caused by the education system.

A) Books

B) Index of the books

- 1- Lack of transfer between topics and books
- 2- Books that are renewed frequently
- 3- Hardly understandable books

C) Numbers of students in class and the length of the courses

D) Not enough course hours for the including of the courses

E) Passing system

F) Courses that doesn't interest the students at all

G) Exams, such as G.C.E, university entrance

H) Economic power of teachers

I) Offering of some teachers for private lesson

J) Individual differences between students

2) The reasons that are causal by living style of parents and students

- a) Not having the habit to study regularly
- b) Working parents

- c) Not having the habit of reading books regularly
- d) Lack of interest in the class

3) The reasons that are caused by the point of view of parents and students.

- a) Shortened primary school (from 6 to 5 years)
- b) "My neighbour's child is going to private lesson"
- c) The belief that class teachers will show more interest to the students that takes private lessons from them.
- d) Foreign languages and computer lessons
- e) Importance of education
- f) To have a well-educated child

B) Teachers that gives private lessons

C) Costs of private lessons

V. The reasons that are caused by education system

A) The books

1) Index of the books

According to some secondary school teachers, the indexes of the books that they are using in their courses are not enough to prepare the students to the university entrance exams. Most of the students had complained about the same things about the books and they said that, books which are not good enough for preparing them to university, entrance exams, makes them to go to private lessons.

An interesting example is given by Turkish literature teachers.

According to these teachers, eight percent of Turkish questions in the university entrance exams, are based on understanding and using Turkish, but the books, that they are using, are teaching Arabic and archaic Turkish. These teachers added that, to be able to understand the questions in the university entrance exams, a student should go to private lesson.

2) Lack of transfer between topics and books

Since some lessons are related with each other, such as Maths and Physics, there are transfer of knowledge between them. If the book doesn't have relation with the knowledge which is given in the other lessons book, the students will have difficulties in understanding the lesson. It is difficult for a students to find the connections of two different lessons. All these reasons forces the student to go to private lesson. In the private lesson, the teacher will choose the books which are related with the other course books and will help the students to understand the things which they had studied in the class.

3) Books that are renewed frequently

Since T.R.N.C. is following Turkey in every field, we are following Turkey in education too. Books that are used in Turkey are also used in T.R.N.C. with the changing of the government, the books in Turkey changes too. When the books are changed in Turkey we also change the books in T.R.N.C. The new book can say something completely different from the old book. This makes the students to get confused. To be able not to be confused, the students go to private lessons. An experienced biology teacher had gave an example to this event.

He said that in the old book which was used for biology, evolution theory was the key for lots of things, but in the new book it is the opposite. Evolution theory is taken out of the book and the book is criticising this theory only in a page. This biology teacher had added that, if the evolution theory is taken out of the book, the student should memorise everything. Therefore they will go to private lesson to understand and to learn biology better.

4) Hardly understandable books

Another thing that parents, teachers and students complains is the Languages of the books. Since the books are written in formal language it is difficult for the students to understand the student can not be concentrated on the lesson in the class, and if he can not understand the subject in the class, he will try to understand the subject by reading it at home. Since the language of the books are formal and difficult to understand the student will not understand what he is reading. In such cases the only way of learning the subject is private lesson. Therefore simplified languages in the books can prevent student from going to private lesson.

B) Number of students in classes and length of the courses

In secondary schools the length of a course is 40 minutes, and the population of classes are around 45. By looking to the time and population of classes we can say that each student in the class will have about a minute of teachers interest. As we can understand that, it is not enough for a healthy education if the student doesn't understand the subject in the class, there isn't extra time for him to ask the subject to the teacher. Therefore he will not understand the subject. The only way to understand the subject is private lesson.

c) Not enough course hours for the including of the courses

In secondary schools, the school ends at one o'clock. The length of a semester is three and a half month. Since the lessons are finishing in half day, it is very difficult for the teachers to finish the included subjects in the lesson.

Therefore they do their lesson in a fast way. They go so fast that some of the subjects. If the student asks the teacher to review the subject, the teacher will not review, not to loose time. The private lesson is the most popular way of understanding these subjects. This problem is because of the education system.

- To solve this problem the schools should either end at later hours or should be six days.

D) Passing System

The passing system is an indirect reason for private lessons. As you know in secondary schools, if a student passes from all lessons such as Maths, Turkish, English, which are necessary lessons and fails from three other lessons they pass with average. This system makes the students lazy in the class. At the end, they find out that their selves unsuccessful. Therefore they go to private lessons. If the passing system was different, such as, all lessons should be passed to pass the class, students will show the some interest to all lessons.

E) Courses that do not interest the student at all

If a student enters to a lesson that he doesn't like, he will not be interested with the lesson. Since he did not interested with the lesson, he will be unsuccessful in this course. To change this unsucces to succes he should go to private lesson. To prevent this happen, lessons according to the aim of the student should be thought to the students.

Chasing a job and a department is not programmed for students. Most of the students choose the medicine and business department in the university. When we examine our surrounding we find out that there are too many doctors and too many business department graduates. To prevent this there should be a special exam at schools to find out the students' aims and to help them to reach their goal. Therefore the students do not need private lessons to reach their goal.

F) Exams, such as college entrance and university entrance exams

To be able to enter the college of government the students should pass an exam. There isn't any standard point to pass this exam. Highest 20-25 % of the marks of the students can enter to the college. To be able to be one of these students, children start to go to private lessons in the fifth year of the primary school. Since there are lots of fifth year students that goes to private lesson, it is better to go to private lesson in third and fourth year.

The same system is used for university entrance exams. Therefore the lycee students start to go to private lessons in lycee two or even in lycee one.

G)Economic Power of Teachers

Most of the teachers that gives private lessons had said that they are giving private lessons because of their economic power. They are saying that all the other government workers have extra jobs, which gain more money. Therefore they have a luxury life. Teachers are supporting the idea that, by giving private lessons they will gain more money to be able to live better. This idea is not always true.

When we look to the life standard of some private lesson teachers, we find out that they do not need to give private lessons to be able to live in luxury. They are too rich that they can buy whatever they want to but they are still giving private lesson. These teachers are saying that, if the students want us to give private lessons to them, we give private lessons.

Therefore we understand that the market for private lessons is growing day by day.

H)Offers of same teachers for private lesson

Lots of students had told that their class teachers are offering them the private lessons. They added that at the beginning of the year some teachers are saying that to be able to be successful, the students should go to private lessons. Since the teachers are the most important persons of the education system, the student believe to them, and go to private lesson. Some teachers are giving their own names as the best private lesson teacher.

These reason make the students to think that, going to private lesson is necessary to pass the class.

I) Individual differences between students

There are individual differences between the students in the class. Some of them can be very clever and can study regularly and some may not. If the teacher does the lesson according to the standard of the clever students, the other students will not be able to understand the lesson. To be able to be successful, these students will go to private lesson. To prevent this, the teachers should take the average of the class and should do the lesson according to this average, therefore everyone in the class will understand the subject.

Another way of preventing this is collecting the wise students in the same class. The students shouldn't know that the wise students are in the same class and the normal students in another class. If they know that the normal students will be disappointed and will not be able to be successful.

VI) The reasons that are caused by living style of parents and students

a) Not having the habit to study regularly

Researches had showed that not having the habit of studying regularly is one of the reasons of the private lessons.

Teachers and parents are saying that having the habit of studying regularly really helps to the students in their lessons. They can follow their lessons better and they can connect the subjects to each other of they studies regularly. The parents and teachers added that these students that studies regularly, do not need to go to private lesson to be successful. Therefore we can say that if a student wants to be successful, he either should study regularly or should pay money to private lessons regularly.

b) Working Parents

Economic conditions of T.R.N.C. had forced most of the parents to work. Since the parents of these students are working, they can not help to their children in their lessons. The parents come to the house in the evening. They start doing housework for a while. They only have one or two hour to help their children in their lessons and this is not enough.

In the old times the situations was different. Most of the mothers were not working, therefore they were able to help their children in their lesson.

In other countries, the economic conditions are not different from T.R.N.C. Both the mother and the father are working in other countries too. The difference in other countries is the education system. Everything is programmed for the children by the education system. In such conditions the parents do not have to think about their children's study.

c) Not having the habit of reading books regularly

Reading books are not a direct cause of private lesson. When we look it in a different way, we see that it helps the students to be successful in their lessons. If a student has the habit of reading books his knowledge will increase, and it will help him in his lessons. Having the habit of reading books will help the students in other way. If the teacher tells the students to read a book, which helps them to understand the lesson better, the ones which have the habit of reading will be able to read the book. The ones that do not have this habit not be as successful as the students that had read the book.

C) Lack of interest in the class

The most important think for students to understand the lesson in the class is their interest to the lesson. There may be lots of things that make the students not to show enough interest to the lesson. If they have lack of interest, they want be able to understand the subject. As we know, all the topics in the lessons are connected to each other. If a student doesn't understand a topic he will not be able to understand the next topic. As this goes on, the interest of the student will decrease in time. This lack of interest and lack of understanding the topics, will lead the children to unsucces. The way of changing this uncases to success is private lesson.

VII. The reasons that are caused by the point of view of parents and students

a) Shortened primary school from six to five years.

Primary schools were six years before 1986 in T.R.N.C. After 1986, the government reduced it to five years. There were lots of arguments at this year about the reduction. The parents were supporting the idea that their children will have less education than the students that graduated from the sixth year. They were right. They start to send their children to private lessons to make their children to close the gap between the other students.

When we talk with teacher of those years, we find out that, there was an increase in private lessons in those years. Nowadays, going to private lesson from this cause, is less, but not finished. Some parents still think that five years primary education is not enough. Therefore they send their children to private lessons.

b) "My neighbour's child is going to private lesson"

Lots of students are going to private lessons. One of the most important reasons for this is, popularity of private lesson. Since nearly every student goes to private lessons, the parents of the students that doesn't go to private lessons think that their children will be unsuccessful among the other students. The parents think that, if it wasn't necessary, my neighbour will not send his child to private lesson. Therefore they send their own child to private lesson too.

Some parents send their child to private lesson because of their jealousy from their neighbour. They think that they should be better parents from their neighbour, and they send their child to private lesson.

C) The belief that class teachers will show more interest to the students that takes private lessons from them

There is a common belief that the teacher will show more interest to his private lesson student in the class, and it is true. When we examine this, we find out that nearly non - of the students which goes to private lesson to their class teacher, didn't fail in their lesson. This shows us that the teachers help to these students to pass.

Another thing is the interest of teacher to these students in the class. They help to these students more in the class and they honour them, if they say something correct in the class. This makes the other student to think about going to private lessons to their class teacher.

D) Foreign languages and computer lessons

Apart from exam preparation, students are going to private lesson to learn foreign languages and computer. The parents of the students think that their children will need foreign language and computer usage in the future. When they look to the job advertisements in the newspapers they see that, knowing English and computer usage is an advantage. Therefore they send their children to English and computer lessons, to make them ready for their future life. By knowing English and computer usage these children will get better jobs in the future.

E) Importance of education

Another reason for the increase of private lesson is the becoming of the education important. Specially in rural regions, parents were not sending their children to private lesson, and they were making the children to help them in their own works in the fields. When they noticed that people were rising from lower classes to higher classes by vertical social mobility with the help of education, they start to send their children to school. The standard families of town find out the same importance of education and they had started to send their children to private lessons, in order to make their children more educated from the other children.

F) To have a well - educated child

In the old times, lice graduates were very valuable persons in the society. They were working in very good jobs. Nowadays things had changed. Even being a university graduated is not very important nowadays. Nearly everyone is sending their child to university. Therefore there are lots of university graduates in the society. When the parents noticed that, they had started to do more things to grow up a super child. They had started to send their successful children to private lesson to make them more successful.

VIII. Teachers that gives private lessons

In this chapter, you are going to find the number of teachers giving private lessons.



I had made researches in the following schools about the teachers that give private lessons.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1) Lefkoşa Türk Lisesi | - | Lefkoşa |
| 2) 20 Temmuz Fen Lisesi | - | Lefkoşa |
| 3) Bayraktar Ortaokulu | - | Lefkoşa |
| 4) Bayraktar Koleji | - | Lefkoşa |
| 5) Türk Maarif Koleji | - | Lefkoşa |
| 6) Şht. M. Ruso Ortaokulu | - | Lefkoşa |
| 7) Kurtuluş Lisesi | - | Güzelyurt |
| 8) Şht. Turgut Ortaokulu | - | Güzelyurt |
| 9) Namık Kemal Lisesi | - | Mağusa |
| 10) Anafartalar Lisesi | - | Girne |

382 teachers took place in this research. Teachers of Maths, English, Science, Turkish, Music, Art took place in this research.

This research had showed that

78% of Math teachers

60% of English teachers

35% of Science teachers

23% of Turkish teachers

88% of Music teachers

8% of Art teachers

Are giving private lessons

IX. Costs of private lessons

In this section you are going to find the cost of private lessons.

There are lots of factors that influence the costs of the private lessons. If the teacher is a well known and famous, the payment will be more from the standards. If the teacher is a friend of the parents the payment will be less.

These payments can be done in different ways. Most of the times, teachers take money for these payments. In rural areas the teacher may get this payment as “hellim” or “tarhana”.

The age of a student is another factor in the cost of the private lesson. In primary schools the costs of private lessons is less than the secondary and lycee.

In primary schools the cost of a private lesson is between one and three million for an hour.

In secondary schools and lycees, it is between five and ten million.

If the children go to private lesson with a group, the cost of an hour is about five million. If the teacher comes to the students' house for the lesson, the cost of this lesson increases and becomes about ten million.

X. Conclusion

In the past years, private lesson was not so widened. Nowadays, it became an illegal education system. In the future, the private lessons may take the place of the government schools.

The belief that the child with more success will get better education is changing to; the child with more money will get better education.

To solve these problems, government should forbid private lesson and should reorganise the education system in a modern way. If they do so, no one will think to send their children to private lessons and their money will stay in their pocket.