

The Shadow Education System: Private Courses

By

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Abstract

The purpose of this study conducted in Turkey is to determine the opinions of those parents who have children in private courses with regard to these institutions. The research is a descriptive study based on the survey model. 784 parents are used as samples for the study. In the study “proportional cluster sampling” method is used. The participants of the study consist of the parents who have sent students to 54 different private courses active in Denizli, Turkey. The means of data collection has been prepared based on “The Survey of Determining Parents’ Opinion of and Expectations from Private Courses”. Frequency (f) and percentages (%) with regard to each sub-problem are found. The participant parents claim that private courses provide more exam techniques, that private courses will exist as long as there are exams and that private courses fill the gap left by schools. The most important expectation of parents from private courses is to get their children to enter university. Private course fees exceed the family budget of most parents. Yet, a majority of students who attend private courses are the children of families with either middle or low income. a great majority of parents seem to object to the frequently expressed idea of closing down the private courses.

Keywords: *Private courses, university entrance examination, parents’ opinions*