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SOCIAL CHANGE: A CONTENT ANALYSIS STUDY

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Abstract

Social change is a multi-dimensional and dynamic process. Each dimension can be analyzed in detail within itself. The aim of this study is to synthesize the studies on social change in Turkey. It is tried to analyze in which dimensions and issues social change takes place, what kind of effects it has on societies, and what are the policies and strategies carried out. The study utilized a systematic review model and was prepared with a content analysis design. 20 studies were analyzed by following the stages of systematic review. As content trends, studies between 2000 and 2024 were analyzed according to publication types. Content analyses were conducted according to the patterns used as methodological distribution, sampling cities, data collection tools, and types of data analysis. The researchers of this study mostly investigated the role of social and cultural influences in social change. Future researchers are recommended to conduct more empirical studies and practitioners are recommended to organize activities that promote inter-community interaction.

Keywords: Society, Social Structure, Change, Research Synthesis

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Introduction

Due to the struggle of human beings to survive, the events, phenomena and situations in their lives do not remain constant but are in constant change. This rapid change can manifest itself in every field. When considered in the economic and technological field, changes can be seen in employment and labor force; when considered in the social field, changes can be seen in family structure and education; when considered in the cultural dimension, changes can be seen in the value judgments and norms of societies; when considered in political and political meanings, changes can be seen in law and justice; when considered in the environment, changes can be seen in urbanization, use of natural resources and climate changes. These rapidly increasing changes may cause social, social and political problems among people (Dinçer, 2003). There is no doubt that there may be internal or external reasons that push societies to these changes. While these reasons, which cannot be avoided, can sometimes lead to positive results in societies, sometimes there may be unrest and conflicts between societies due to cultural conflicts (Kaymak, 2023).

Changes in the structure of societies, transformations in family structures, methods of making a living, behavioral patterns, religious beliefs, changes in the tools they use in accordance with the technology of the time can be given as examples (Kongar, 1999).

Social Change

Sağlam (2003) defines society as a network of relationships within a geographical area, which have adopted common cultures and have gained the ability to sustain themselves. Social change can be defined as changes in the structure, culture, institutions and inter-institutional relations of societies (Kaymak, 2003). For example, the transformation of the family structure of societies from extended family to nuclear family, or the change in the machines and capital produced in the transition from agricultural society to industrial society have started to gain importance (Güneş, 2016). If we give examples of other changes, the way societies live with the Covid-19 pandemic, changes in the health sector, or the introduction of virtual applications in education and distance education into our lives can be given as examples of social changes.

In sociology, the concept of social change is considered as a term that refers to a comprehensive transformation in social history, social structure, institutions, human relations and transition from the current situation to a different situation (Sunar, 2016). Social change can be recognized in all elements of a society's cultural life. When change is felt in many areas such as clothing style, language, customs, traditions and customs, objects used and living spaces, development becomes inevitable (Güçhan, 1991).

Erol (2011) summarized the developments that cause social change as follows; cultural changes, changes in social theories, great advances in science and technology, great changes in state administrations, innovations in human relations, innovations in communication, wars, economic changes, migration, political events, natural disasters can be shown as the reasons for changes in societies.

When the literature on social change in Turkey is examined; research has been conducted on many topics such as technology (Uyar, 2010), globalization (Gül & Aslan, 2009), family profile (Kaymak, 2023), management (Candan, 2015),

cultural change (Öter, 2019), the effects of educational institutions (Genç, 2020), the place of children's games in social change (Mihladız, 2023). It is seen that research has been conducted in different fields. The abundance of studies mostly in the field of sociology draws attention. It is observed that not much work has been done in the field of education related to social change.

Importance of the Research: With this research, it is thought that theses, articles, books, etc. on social change will be analyzed and will inspire further studies.

Purpose of the Research: With this research, it is aimed to understand the society, analyze the change processes, understand the dynamics, reveal the common and different aspects of societies, evaluate the results, make suggestions and make inferences for the future. It is aimed to seek an answer to the question of how is the conceptual content trend and methodological distribution of social change?

Methods

Research Design

In this study, a systematic review model was used and it was prepared with a content analysis design. Content analysis is a method that summarizes and analyzes the information obtained from research such as theses, articles and reports (Cohen, Manison & Morrison, 2007; cited in Ertem, 2020). It is also a research plan based on the principles of systematic and impartiality that is used to seek answers to many research questions in various fields (Koçak & Arun, 2013).

Data Sources

The first five steps of the seven main stages of the systematic review by Petticrew and Robert (2006) were included. In the first stage, the methodological distribution on social change, which is the question for content analysis on social change, was examined. In the second stage, relevant studies such as articles, theses, theses and book chapters that will be used in the study were accessed. In the third stage, a literature review was conducted through research databases such as Google Academy and YÖK Thesis on the subject of social change. In the fourth stage, the limitations of this study were identified. In the fifth stage, the data of the studies obtained were recorded in the computer environment and content analysis was performed with the 20 most appropriate studies for the content of the study.

Data Collection

The process of synthesizing the data collected for the study follows Petticrew and Robert's (2006) sixth stage of synthesizing studies. The data obtained around the topic of social change were organized and synthesized. The data were analyzed according to their content and methods. Many criteria such as date of publication, type of publication, place, methods used, data collection tools, data analysis techniques, sample groups in which the application was made were taken as criteria. Since data collection was not performed in this study, ethics committee approval was not obtained.

Data Analysis

This section is the seventh and final stage of Petticrew and Robert's (2006) systematic review model, namely the analysis of results. In the sixth stage, content analyses were created, including the classification of the studies examined. Along with quantitative descriptive indicators such as frequency and mean values, qualitative descriptive indicators were also included. These indicators are presented in the findings and conclusion sections.

Findings

Conceptual Content Tendency

The 20 studies included in the content analysis were analyzed in terms of year and publication type and are presented in the table below.

Table 3.1.1. Frequency Information on Content Tendencies

Variables	Sub Variables	Frequency
Year	2000-2004	2
	2005-2009	2
	2010-2014	6
	2015-2019	3
	2020-2024	7
Publication Type	Doctoral Thesis	5
	Master Thesis	8
	Article	6
	Book	1

When Table 3.1.1. is examined, the 20 studies included in the content analysis were evaluated in two different aspects as year and publication type. The studies included in the analysis were grouped into five different date groupings covering the period between 2000 and 2024. The number of studies published between 2000-2004 and 2005-2009 (n=2) is equal. It is seen that the most studies were conducted between 2020-2024 (n=7). The years with the least number of studies were between 2000-2004 and 2005-2009.

When Table 3.1.1. is reviewed, it is seen that the majority of the 20 studies deemed appropriate for content analysis belong to master's theses (n=8). Master's thesis is followed by articles (n=6) and doctoral thesis (n=5) respectively. Among the studies deemed appropriate between 2000-2024, it is seen that the least published study in terms of publication type is a book (n=1).

Method Distribution

When we consider the research methodologically, 20 eligible studies were analyzed according to the design, sample city, sample type, data collection tool and data analysis criteria. The findings of the analysis are presented in the table below.

Table 3.2.1. Frequency Information on Methodological Distribution

Variables	Sub Variables	Frequency
Pattern	Descriptive Screening	6
	Quantitative Research	3
	Qualitative Research	4
	Mixed Method	4
	Document Review	2
Sample City	Istanbul	1
	Izmir	3
	Ankara	2
	Isparta-Burdur-Antalya	2
	Turkey	1
	Sivas	1
	Mugla	1
	Adana	1
	Hatay	1

Sample Stage	Primary School	1
	Middle School	1
Data Collection Tool	Survey	6
	Interview	4
	Literature Review	8
	Written Document	1
Data Analysis	SPSS	4
	Descriptive Analysis	9
	T-test	2
	Chi-square	1

When Table 3.2.1. is examined, the 20 studies included in the content analysis were evaluated in five different aspects: design, sample city, sample type, data collection tool and data analysis. When the study design is analyzed, it is seen that the number of descriptive surveys (n=6) is the highest. The lowest number of study designs was document analysis (n=2).

There are two variables related to the sample of the study. The cities where the studies were conducted and the levels where the studies were conducted. When the levels at which the studies were conducted are examined, it is seen that the number of primary schools (n=1) and the number of studies conducted in secondary schools (n=) are equal. If we examine the cities where the studies were conducted, it is seen that the most studies were conducted in Izmir (n=3) and the least studies were conducted in Istanbul (n=1), Sivas (n=1), Muğla (n=1), Adana (n=1), Hatay (n=1) with one study each.

When the data collection tool sample in the table is analyzed, it is seen that literature review (n=8) is used the most in the studies. Literature review is followed by questionnaires (n=6), interviews (n=4) and written documents (n=1).

Finally, when the data analysis is analyzed, it is seen that there are four variables. It is seen that the most commonly used method in the analyses in the studies is descriptive analysis (n=9) and the least used method is chi-square (n=1).

Conclusion and Discussion

The fact that new generations are information societies and rapidly developing technology cause societies to change rapidly. In other words, technology constitutes the material basis of all changes and transformations (Kongar, 1985; cited in Meder, 2001).

It is seen that the majority of the studies on social change are related to the field of sociology. It is noteworthy that studies on education are few and insufficient. Different studies can be conducted by addressing the issue of social change with education, schools or students through different variables. In addition, research with quantitative studies on similar topics can be emphasized. Due to the sociological nature of the subject, it is seen that descriptive studies are predominant and the literature review method is generally used in the studies.

Since the majority of the studies on the subject are conducted in the field of sociology, it is seen that the sampling level is generally the people of the city. Although the majority of the studies examined are master's degree studies, the number of articles is quite close to the number of master's degree studies. It is seen that the studies were conducted in different cities and İzmir is the most preferred city.

In addition, the researchers should address some of the results of this content analysis study, such as why education or schooling is less studied. It is suggested that researchers should conduct similar content analysis studies, and even conduct research on the role of education in social change.

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Attachments

List of Studies Included in Content Analysis

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