

RESEARCH ON ACCESS BY SYRIAN YOUTH UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION TO LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

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Abbreviations

AFAD	- Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency
BAUMUS	- Bahçeşehir University Migration and Urban Studies Center
GİGM	- General Directorate of Migration Management
IFY	- International Foundation of Youth
İGAM	- Refuge and Migration Research Center
KVKK	- Personal Data Protection Law
STK	- Non-Governmental Organization
TOG	- Community Volunteers Foundation
TÜİK	- Turkish Statistical Institute
UNDP	- United Nations Development Program
BMMYK	- United Nations High Commission for Refugees
OIZ	- Organized Industrial Zone



Thank you!

In the questionnaire section of the study, we have utilized the "Opportunities for Syrian Youths in Istanbul: An Evaluation of the Labor Market", prepared by the Bahçeşehir University, Economic and Social Research Center (BETAM) in partnership with the International Foundation of Youth (IFY), and we are grateful to the entire BETAM team, first and foremost to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gökçe Uysal Kolaşın. We extend special thanks to the employees of the Young Refugees Support Program for their efforts during the data collecting process. We are thankful to the Bahçeşehir University, Center of Migration and Urban Studies, (BAUMUS), team, namely to Elif Şenyurt, Ece Yaren Tabbikha, Onur Tatar and Selin Özsoy, during the analysis process. Furthermore, throughout this time, Mehmet Cem Şahin from BETAM never left our questions unanswered.

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Management's Message

We are going through a period when more than 70 million people in the world have been made homeless due to conflicts, oppression, and human rights violations. Many countries are involved in new endeavors considering immigration policies. Turkey is in the position of the country that gave sanctuary to the largest number of asylum seekers five years in a row after the Syrian crisis of 2011. According to official records, 1.2 million of the 3.6 million Syrians under temporary protection are young people. The young population, which is one in every 3 Syrian refugees, should be able to lead a life suitable to human dignity. Access to basic social rights such as education, employment, sheltering, health, socializing areas, security, etc., are among basic necessities to sustain their lives.

Conformity to economic life and access to means of existence are among the basic problems to be solved for the self-sufficiency of the young people. What the economic needs of the young people are, to what extent they are satisfied, what the difficulties and drawbacks they encounter in accessing means of existence are, are still unclear. It is necessary for young people to access available work opportunities, creating new employment areas that do not depend on aid and the ability to live a secure, just, and transparent process in the jobs they reach.

Young refugees' access to means of existence, strengthening of their economic sufficiency and continuing their lives under appropriate working conditions shall support economic growth and sustainability of both the young people and the host population, and is very important for living together, communal peace and social cohesion. Furthermore, economic participation and access to means of existence will help young people to meet their needs in safe, sustainable ways and in accordance with human dignity, without dependence on aid, and will increase their self-confidence.

We can see, due to our experiences and in the present situation, that the final result can be reached with the collaboration of civil population, private sector, local authorities and international establishments under the coordination of public institutions.

We see that needs and opportunities in the changing world are also changing very quickly. Therefore, it can be seen that, in order for endeavors to be carried out to be sustainable and need-focused, it is quite important that regular need analysis studies should be carried out, and the results should be supported with sustainable policies.

This research, carried out by the Community Volunteers Foundation and the Young Refugees Support Program, relates outputs regarding the analysis of the current situation of young people in the field of employment and suggestions for solutions.

I hope this research becomes a useful document for all institutions planning activities in this field, and creates new opportunities for the young people who are the object of all these processes. I would like to express my thanks to all individuals and institutions that have contributed to the research process.

Muhammed Bahri Telli,
Support to Young Refugees Program,
Program Manager

THEORETICAL FRAME AND RESEARCH DESIGN

Scope and Content of the Research

Within the scope of Supporting Refugee Youth Program since 2015, **Community Volunteers Foundation** aims to support the integration processes of the youth by strengthening young refugees between the ages of 15-30 through the Youth Centers in Ankara, Diyarbakır, Hatay and İzmir, and thus, to create social impact on the basis of youth and humanitarian aid work in the civil field.

A research was planned to be conducted in İzmir and Hatay provinces on "**Access by Syrian Refugee Youth under Temporary Protection to Livelihood Opportunities**". In October and November of 2019, field research based on questionnaire and focus group studies took place in İzmir and Hatay. This research focused on demographics, immigration history, education, and work status, resources and livelihood, and participation in the labor market of the Syrian refugee youth population in Turkey. The content of the research included topics such as social aid, employment and access to work, barriers to employment, group with/without access to education, and unsafe working conditions, under the heading of Livelihood Process of Syrian Youth under Temporary Protection.

Theoretical Frame

Urban population rates among refugees and displaced persons increase just like it does worldwide (*Jacobsen, 2006*). But refugees and displaced people often live in slums due to unemployment, poverty, overpopulation and inadequate infrastructures (*Buscher, 2011*). Thus, they often face the problems of access to protection and livelihoods which they do not have in the camps. The fact that they are not familiar with how things work in the urban environment of the new country and that they do not speak the language of the country is giving them a disadvantageous start in their new lives in the first place. Also, the restrictions that states put mostly on refugees' access to the labor market can force refugees to work unregistered. And unregistered employment increases arbitrary payment and discrimination (*Sunata, 2018*). They also face an important handicap such as being stereotyped and being seen as a burden in the country they live in. However, eliminating social exclusion and inadequacy in access to rights and services is essential for getting rid of marginalization, and in this context; improving their livelihoods and facilitating access are of great importance.

It is important that refugees establish a self-sufficient, self-reliant, dignified, sustainable

and resilient life. Indeed, refugees develop a wide and creative variety of coping strategies to access livelihoods (*Macchiavello, 2004; Grabska, 2006; Jacobsen, 2006; Buscher, 2011*). According to Buscher (2011) they sometimes risk their health and safety for this purpose. Grabska (2006) points out that there is no difference between the registered and the unregistered in terms of coping strategies for access to livelihoods. It is known that the education levels of refugees who live in the city are higher than those who prefer to stay in the camp (*Macchiavello, 2004*). As a matter of fact, it is obvious that they contribute to the society they live in both economically and culturally, adding a social surplus value rather than being an economic burden (*Grabska, 2006*). It is seen that refugee workers, who appear to be making efforts to be self-sufficient economically by working, although mostly informal, are exploited by some employers (*Sunata, 2018; İGAM, 2019*). The desire to get away from this exploitation, regular unemployment or inability to work as a worker often lead refugees to start their own businesses. It is observed that female refugees are particularly successful in integrating into the local economy and ensuring the sustainability of access to livelihoods (*Macchiavello, 2004*).

In the refugee experience, youth are considered to be one of the disadvantaged social groups, because young refugees face difficulties in many different ways from physical and mental health to social life, both on their migration journeys and afterward (*Telli, 2019:18*). During migration, harsh living conditions, malnutrition and concerns about future, and later, language barrier, cultural harmony, social cohesion, concerns about the future, discrimination, stigmatization, loneliness, and depression may be experienced (*Telli, 2019:18-21*). The refugee experience in youth causes them to experience much more problems, especially in terms of access to livelihoods, as it disrupts their education and work experience.

It is important to provide livelihood support to the vulnerable local community, who usually live in the same places, study at the same school or work in the same workplaces with refugees, as well as refugees. In the acute years of the refugee crisis in Turkey, in the context of access to livelihood opportunities, the equation founded on providing aid to refugees later became the teaching of the field and it started to be emphasized that the socio-economic opportunities must be provided to both refugees and the local population they live with in the way that includes the perspective of increasing social cohesion before the public institutions and nongovernmental organizations. UN-affiliated agencies and international NGOs have expanded the headings of providing skills and courses, offering entrepreneurship opportunities and strengthening the capacities of relevant national and local public institutions to provide technical and vocational training, and increasing access to formal employment opportunities within the scope of supporting livelihood resources (*UNDP-Turkey, 2019*).

Background of the Research

The Syrian War, which started in 2011, led to the displacement of almost 5.6 million Syrians, forcing them to become refugees (UNHCR, 2020). The ongoing war forced Syrians to live especially in neighboring countries. According to January 2020 data of General Directorate of Immigration Management, there are about 3.6 million Syrians under temporary protection in Turkey (GİGM, 2020). This number corresponds to 4.4% of Turkey's population.

As with many refugees and displaced groups, Syrian refugees, too, are known to be a young population (Krafft et al., 2018).¹ It can be easily said that it is also the case with Syrian refugees in Turkey. Indeed, 1.2 million of Syrians under temporary protection are in 15-30 age range (See Table 1). 33.2% of Syrians under temporary protection in Turkey, i.e. at least one-third of them, are young people within the age range of 15-30. Besides, the ratio of Syrian female population under temporary protection to the total Syrian population under the TP is 46% (See Table 1).

Table 1. Age and Gender Distribution of Syrians under Temporary Protection

Age Group	Male	Female	Total	Rate to Total Syrian Population	Rate of Female Population to Total Population
15-18	151.335	123.552	274.887	7,49%	45%
19-24	322.686	230.245	552.931	15,08%	42%
25-29	206.404	146.644	353.048	9,63%	42%
Youth (15-30)	680.425	500.441	1.180.866	32,20%	
<i>Total</i>	<i>1.986.905</i>	<i>1.679.154</i>	<i>3.666.059</i>		<i>46%</i>

Source: Directorate General of Migration Management (19.09.2019).

While the significant majority of the Syrian population that arrived in Turkey in the first year of migration lived in the provinces of Turkey that border with Syria, they later preferred to live in Turkey's densely populated cities with larger economy (Sunata, 2018). When we examine the current data, when we look at the 10 cities where most of the Syrians under temporary protection status live, it is seen that there are 4 border cities; Gaziantep, Hatay, Şanlıurfa and Kilis (Mardin is no longer in the top 10 list), as well as 6 major cities, Istanbul, Adana, Mersin, Bursa, Izmir and Konya in the list respectively (See Table 2).

¹ For latest data, see <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/113>

Table 2. First 10 Cities where a Dense Population of Syrians Under Temporary Protection Live

	Provinces	Registered Syrian Population Under Temporary Protection	Province Population	Percentage Compared to the Province Population
1	İstanbul	548.926	15,067,724	3,64%
2	Gaziantep	450.207	2,020,563	22,19%
3	Hatay	439.032	1,609,856	27,27%
4	Şanlıurfa	428.007	2,035,809	21,02%
5	Adana	238.621	2,220,125	10,75%
6	Mersin	203.533	1,814,468	11,22%
7	Bursa	176.471	2,994,521	5,89%
8	İzmir	146.630	4,320,519	3,39%
9	Kilis	116.025	142.541	81,40%
10	Konya	109.127	2,205,609	4,95%
	<i>Total</i>	3,666,059	82,003,059	4,47%

Source: Directorate General of Migration Management (19.09.2019).

While Hatay, which is in our study, is the city which hosts the 3rd largest number of registered Syrians, Izmir is the 8th city in Turkey with a registered Syrian population. Over 439 thousand Syrians under temporary protection live in Hatay, which neighbors Syria and has a population of around 1.6 million. In other words, one out of every five people in Hatay is Syrian. This rate, which comes after Kilis which is an extremely exceptional example in Turkey, shows that Hatay is the city hosting the largest number of Syrians in ratio to the local population.

With a population of 4.3 million, Izmir is Turkey's third-largest city. Nearly 147,000 registered Syrian refugees under temporary protection (3.4%) live in İzmir (GİGM, 2019). Even though Izmir was previously read as one of the transit centers of transit migration, it has now become one of the cities where Syrians under temporary protection prefer to settle down in. However, this does not change the fact that İzmir should be examined in terms of irregular migration.

METHOD AND RESEARCH DESIGN

The purpose of this research is to understand the access processes and methods of Syrian refugee youth living in Turkey to livelihood resources. The main target group of the research is Syrian youth between the ages of 15-30 who currently live in Izmir or Hatay. The research was carried out with a mixed-method, through quantitative research such as a questionnaire study, as well as qualitative research focused on detail, such as focus group discussions.

Questionnaire Study Sampling Strategy and Restrictions

Although the current number of Syrian refugees registered under temporary protection is regularly updated for correctness by GİGM, it only gives us the total number. Also, it is not possible to draw random samples as it is not possible to share the names/address records of persons under temporary protection status according to the Personal Data Protection Law (KVKK). Probabilistic, i.e. random sample is essential for a healthy statistical analysis. However, in studies that focus on hard-to-reach groups such as refugees, convenience sampling is the most common solution that can be easily found. In convenience sampling, there may be a sample bias, i.e. some groups in the target audience may be more likely to be included in the sample. It can be said that one of the biases that may occur in this context is the higher representation of the Syrian youth who are in contact with the Community Volunteers Foundation. Another bias is the low probability of Syrian youth who are currently studying or working to become questionnaire participants due to their working hours and busyness. The only way to reduce these biases in convenience sampling is to increase the sample size. As the sample size increases, the effect of bias will decrease.

The information we gathered based on the age and district-based data obtained from GİGM in 2016 upon request is important for us to be able to project for the distribution of Syrian youth. (See Table 3 and Table 4). Approximately 34% of those under temporary protection in Hatay and 37% in İzmir are young people between the ages of 15-30. According to the latest Temporary Protection Statistics (2019) shared by GİGM, it can be estimated that there are 149 thousand Syrian youth in Hatay and 54 thousand in İzmir when we project.

Table 3. Syrian Population Under Temporary Protection According to Districts in Hatay

	City	District	Total Population*	Total Temporary Protection**	Temporary Protection 15-18 age**	Temporary Protection 19-24 age**	Temporary Protection 25-29 age**	Temporary Protection /Total Population	Temporary Protection Women Ratio	Temporary Protection Youth Ratio
1	Hatay	Reyhanlı	95.057	99.278	8.329	14.554	10.037	104%	44,09%	33,16%
2	Hatay	Antakya	370.485	58.380	5.067	8.451	5.977	16%	46,00%	33,39%
3	Hatay	Kırıkhan	113.096	48.326	4.811	7.376	4.740	43%	46,81%	35,03%
4	Hatay	Altınözü	60.603	25.729	2.367	3.398	2.253	42%	48,59%	31,16%
5	Hatay	Yayladağı	28.954	23.802	1.781	2.713	2.109	82%	48,49%	27,74%
6	Hatay	İskenderun	247.220	12.411	1.014	2.004	1.209	5%	44,08%	34,06%
7	Hatay	Belen	32.336	8.047	635	1.111	806	25%	46,41%	31,71%
8	Hatay	Dörtöyl	122.568	7.870	798	1.212	720	6%	47,87%	34,69%
9	Hatay	Hassa	55.073	7.034	585	918	640	13%	48,45%	30,47%
10	Hatay	Kumlu	13.228	6.690	708	1.097	675	51%	46,56%	37,07%
11	Hatay	Erzin	41.426	5.828	806	1.115	517	14%	49,79%	41,83%
12	Hatay	Payas	41.153	5.645	462	876	579	14%	44,34%	33,96%
13	Hatay	Arsuz	87.666	2.435	248	426	273	3%	41,77%	38,89%
14	Hatay	Defne	146.803	699	66	100	72	0%	47,21%	34,05%
15	Hatay	Samandağ	119.558	485	28	58	48	0%	49,48%	27,63%

* Hatay Governorship Web Page(2019).

** DGMM (2016)



Figure 1. Hatay District Map

Source: Wikipedia 2019.

Table 4. Syrian Population Under Temporary Protection According to Districts in Izmir

	City	District	Total Population*	Total Temporary Protection**	Temporary Protection 15-18 age**	Temporary Protection 19-24 age**	Temporary Protection 25-29 age**	Temporary Protection /Total Population	Temporary Protection Women Ratio	Temporary Protection Youth Ratio
1	İzmir	Konak	356.563	24.536	1.834	3.647	2.953	7%	42,22%	34,37%
2	İzmir	Karabağlar	479.986	20.575	1.772	2.850	2.035	4%	47,55%	32,35%
3	İzmir	Bornova	445.232	17.576	1.524	2.645	1.779	4%	45,42%	33,84%
4	İzmir	Buca	499.325	8.908	740	1.358	880	2%	46,92%	33,43%
5	İzmir	Bayraklı	311.524	4.958	405	710	480	2%	46,67%	32,17%
6	İzmir	Torbali	178.772	4.180	466	753	447	2%	47,85%	39,86%
7	İzmir	Menemen	174.564	1.090	82	176	126	1%	50,09%	35,23%
8	İzmir	Gazimur	137.553	974	80	149	105	1%	48,46%	34,29%
9	İzmir	Menderes	93.796	956	133	202	100	1%	50,21%	45,50%
10	İzmir	Kemalpaşa	106.298	761	65	93	68	1%	46,52%	29,70%
11	İzmir	Karşıyaka	344.140	544	44	78	54	0%	49,82%	32,35%
12	İzmir	Çiğli	194.525	360	37	62	52	0%	45,56%	41,94%
13	İzmir	Foça	33.131	344	38	55	24	1%	54,36%	34,01%
14	İzmir	Bayındır	40.584	298	57	64	19	1%	53,36%	46,98%
15	İzmir	Çeşme	42.489	267	12	57	60	1%	17,23%	48,31%
16	İzmir	Karaburun	10.603	242	12	45	56	2%	16,12%	46,69%
17	İzmir	Tire	84.457	213	18	34	27	0%	52,11%	37,09%
18	İzmir	Aliağa	95.392	163	7	30	20	0%	45,40%	34,97%
19	İzmir	Dikili	44.172	161	8	28	42	0%	15,53%	48,45%
20	İzmir	Seferihisar	43.546	138	9	24	20	0%	39,86%	38,41%
21	İzmir	Ödemiş	132.511	137	7	22	22	0%	43,07%	37,23%
22	İzmir	Bergama	103.185	96	11	19	12	0%	45,83%	43,75%
23	İzmir	Selçuk	36.360	85	8	16	11	0%	58,82%	41,18%
24	İzmir	Urla	66.360	74	9	16	11	0%	33,78%	48,65%
25	İzmir	Balçova	79.357	62	2	4	8	0%	58,06%	22,58%
26	İzmir	Narlıdere	66.203	61	5	4	8	0%	47,54%	27,87%
27	İzmir	Kınık	29.803	52	7	10	4	0%	53,85%	40,38%
28	İzmir	Kiraz	43.989	31	2	5	2	0%	58,06%	29,03%
29	İzmir	Beydağ	12.507	15	1	1	2	0%	60,00%	26,67%
30	İzmir	Güzelbahçe	32.592	7	0	1	2	0%	28,57%	42,86%

* İzmir Governorship Web Page (2019).

** DGMM (2016)



Figure 2. Izmir District Map
Source: Wikipedia 2019.

Also, to prevent other biases, assuming that relative registry status may be low in İzmir and considering that there may be significant differences between the three different age groups among the youth, the draft of a significant sample size is as follows:

Table 5. Sample Size and Age Quotas

Age	%	Hatay	Izmir
15-18	23	105	70
19-24	47	210	140
25-29	30	135	90
Total		450	300

Representing such target group, the study was designed to be conducted with a total of 750 young Syrians, 450 in Hatay and 300 in Izmir (See Table 5). A sample size of 750 people is not small considering that there is a total of around 200 thousand Syrian youth under temporary protection in Hatay and İzmir.² During the field study, a total of 808 Syrian youth was included in the study, exceeding the targeted number.

More than half of the participants (62.4%) were reached through external access. Besides, the questionnaires were administered at TOG Youth Centers (20.7%), at home (11.9%) or workplaces (5.1%).

Administering the Questionnaire and Field Study

A questionnaire was prepared to collect detailed information on access to livelihoods for the study. The questionnaire was administered to Syrian youth living in Hatay and Izmir. The questionnaire was completed with face-to-face interviews with a total of 808 young Syrian refugees, 489 of whom were female. The fact that females were more than males is a result of the non-random sample, and the refugee young male group is a relatively difficult group to reach due to the tendency to work, study, and inability to participate in the study, etc. As a piece of additional information, 67% of the questionnaires were conducted by female interviewers.

² For a target population of 200 thousand, a sample size of at least 385 is required within the context of a 95% confidence interval within $\pm 5\%$ of the measured value.

This research focuses on demographics, immigration history, education, and work status, resources and livelihood, and participation in the labor market of young Syrian refugee population in Turkey. The content of the research included topics such as social aid, employment, and access to work, barriers to employment, group with/without access to education, and unsafe working conditions, under the heading of Livelihood Process of Syrian Youth under Temporary Protection. In summary; this research is on the resources of access to the livelihood of Syrian youth under temporary protection in Turkey. A questionnaire study was built on 10 main headings:

1. Demography
2. Socio-economic Status
3. History of Migration
4. Education
5. Employment Information
6. Unemployment Status
7. Ideal Working Conditions
8. Social Life
9. Life Satisfaction
10. Migration and Life Conditions

The administration time of a questionnaire ranges from 20 to 40 minutes. The questionnaire includes 98 questions and a total of 214 variables. 5 questions especially about satisfaction in the legal permit process in Hatay were eliminated.³

The questionnaire was prepared in Turkish and later translated into Arabic. The pilot study was conducted to eliminate obscurities and possible inconsistencies in questions. Before the pilot study, interviewers and supervisors were provided with training, the question paper was introduced and each question was elaborated.

Focus Group Discussions

The purpose of the focus group discussions is to catch some points that were overlooked in the questionnaire and to investigate some subjects that were not sufficiently explored in the questionnaire in-depth in a more interactive environment. Apart from the questionnaire, a total of 5 focus group studies were conducted, 3 in Hatay and 2 in İzmir. In the sample determined for this qualitative study, the selection was made according to age and gender criteria. In the context of whether individuals are included in the education system or whether they are employed or not, efforts were made to keep the difference criterion in balance.

³ This situation is indicated as a footnote in the tables or figures produced for these questions.

The academic advisor of the study took part as a facilitator (moderator) in a total of 5 focus group discussions including 8-10 people. Also, all focus group discussions were conducted with a rapporteur and a translator.

Through focus group discussions as a qualitative research method, interviews were conducted with a total of 43 Syrian youth, 19 of which were women, in October and November 2019 in Hatay and İzmir. The questions addressed to Syrian youth aimed at understanding their life experiences and access to livelihoods. The youth participating in the focus groups were asked about school and work to talk about their educational status and economic needs. Before the focus group discussion started, all participants were informed about the use of a voice recorder, and their consent was obtained before the device was used. The focus groups started with introductions after the project was explained and its purpose was specified. Then, the agenda topics were followed one by one, and the other important topics that were brought up during the discussions were evaluated with spontaneous questions. The translator provided translation services in Arabic-Turkish and Turkish-Arabic throughout the focus group. After the focus group discussion, the notes and the voice recordings of the reporter and facilitator were deciphered together. Data collected from focus group discussions were analyzed with the content analysis method.

In this study, a total of 10 topics which were developed by the academic advisor before the focus group discussions and which later emerged with the data were identified:

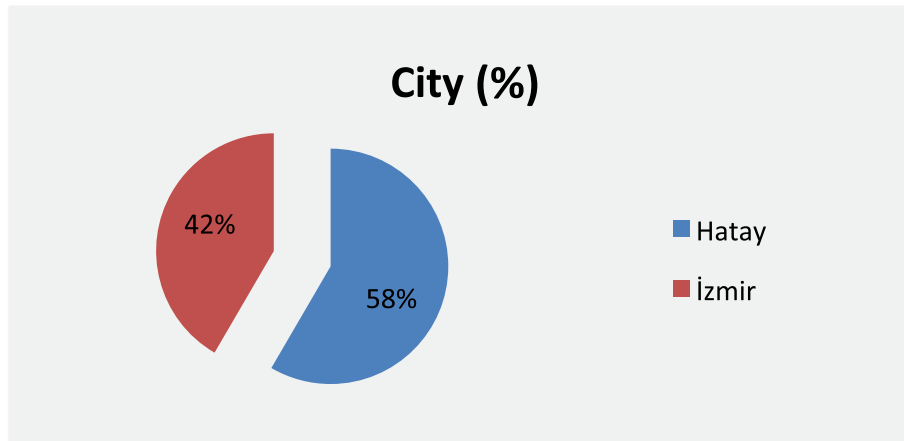
1. Education and Bureaucracy,
2. Inclusive Education and Encounters,
3. Discrimination and Violence,
4. Gender-Based Violence,
5. Complementary Training (Language and Occupational Training)
6. Employment,
7. Leisure Activities
8. Neighborhood and Friend and Neighbor Relationships,
9. Registry Status and Identity,
10. Expectations and Demands.

Please see Annex 2 for open-ended question examples appropriate for collective discussion built on the headings.

QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY FINDINGS

The questionnaire was conducted in November 2019 in İzmir and Hatay provinces of Turkey with 808 Syrian youth under the temporary protection.

Figure 1. The City where Participants Live



As can be seen from [Figure 1](#), 58.4% of the questionnaire participants are youth from Hatay, while 41.6% are youth from İzmir. Participants from Hatay come from the districts of Antakya (57%) and Kırıkhan (43%). In İzmir province, youth from various districts such as Konak (52.1%), Buca (16.7%), Bayraklı (14.9%), Bornova (7.4%), Karabağlar (5.1%) and Karşıyaka (2.7%), respectively, were interviewed ([Figure 2](#)).

Figure 2. The Districts in Hatay where Participants Live

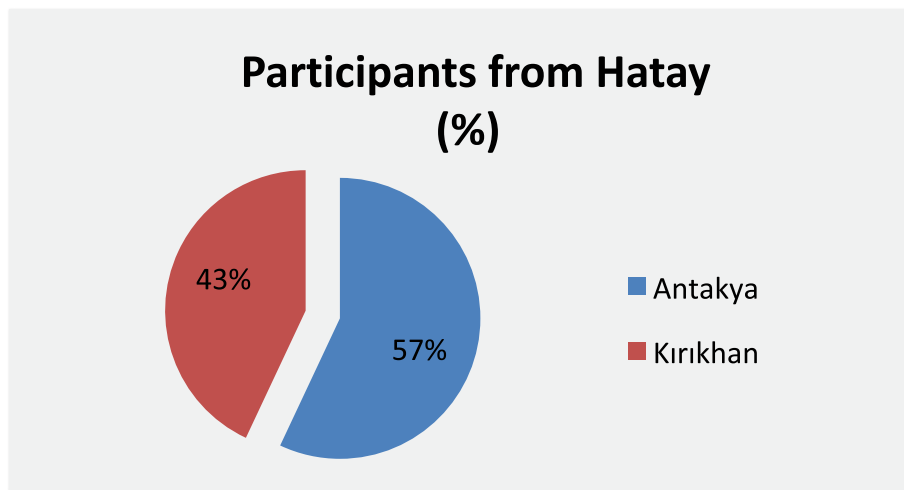
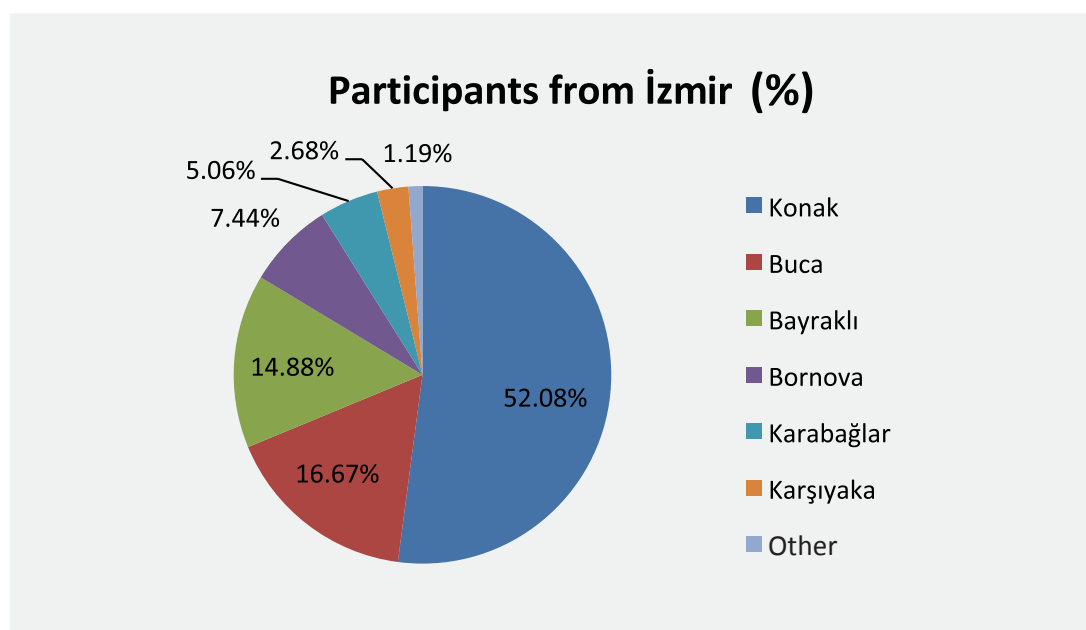


Figure 3. The Districts in İzmir where Participants Live



QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY FINDINGS

1. DEMOGRAPHY

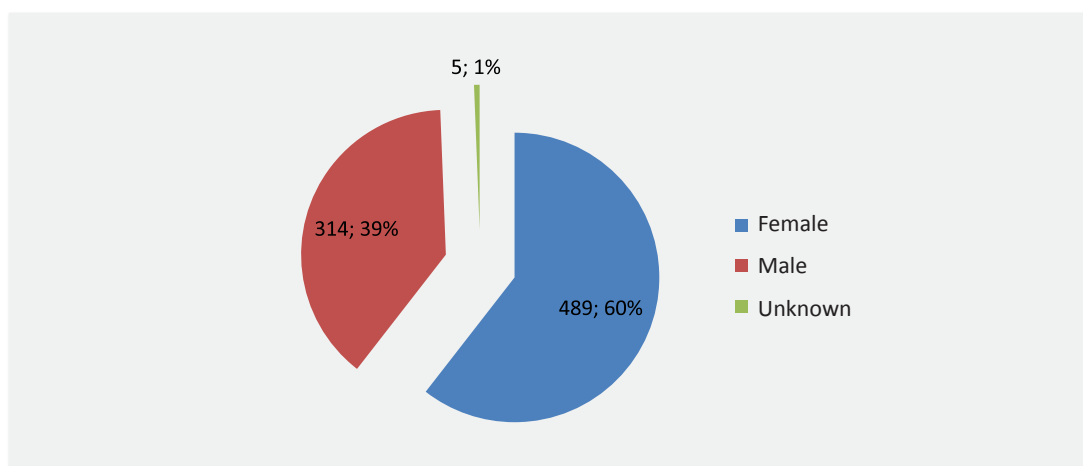
The majority of participants (40.9%) came to Turkey from the Syrian city of Aleppo. As can be seen in Table 1.1, Aleppo is followed by, respectively, Idlib (20.7%), Hama (16.4%), Latakia (5.9%), Damascus (5.6%) and Homs (5.1%)

Table 1.1. Distribution of Cities from where the Participants Come

City	Frequency	Percentage
Aleppo	326	40,9%
Idlib	165	20,7%
Hama	131	16,4%
Latakia	47	5,9%
Damascus	45	5,6%
Homs	41	5,1%
Deir ez-Zor	12	1,5%
Al-Hasaka	9	1,1%
Afrin	4	0,5%
Other in Syria	13	1,6%
Outside Syria	4	0,5%

61% of our youth sample is female and 39% is male (Figure 1.1).

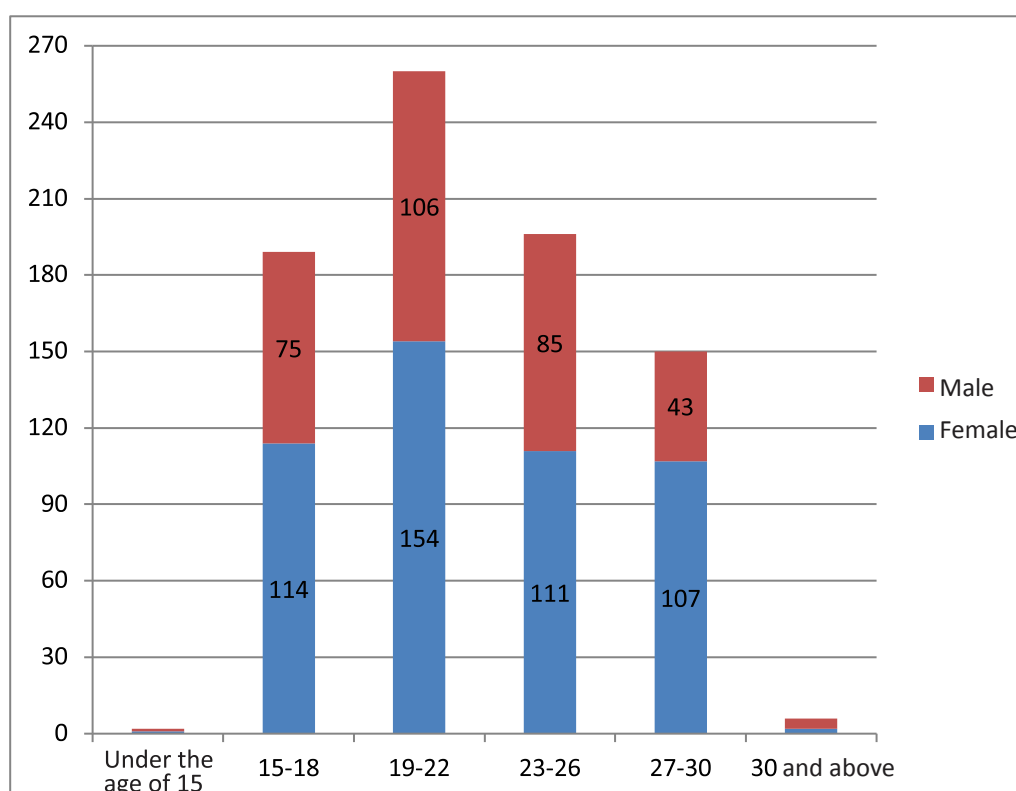
Figure 1.1. Gender Distribution of Participants



Almost half of the participants are single (49.7%), while a significant majority (43.7%) is married and there are a few engaged, divorced and widowed (6%).

In the study which reached the Syrian youth target population, 23.5% of the sample was between 15-18 years old, 32.4% between 19-22 years old, 24.3% between 23-26 years old and 18.6% between the ages of 27-30 (See Figure 1.2). It is seen that a balanced distribution has been achieved in terms of the age distribution of the participants.

Figure 1.2. Age Distribution of Participants



Age Group	Female	Male
Under 15 years old	1	1
15-18	114	75
19-22	154	106
23-26	111	85
27-30	107	43
Over 30 years old	2	4

With the question asked about the education of the youth participating in the questionnaire, both their education in Syria and Turkey were considered. As can be seen from [Table 1.2](#), more than half of the Syrian youth (54.6%) are primary and secondary school (primary) graduates in Syria. The ratio of youth who are high school (secondary) graduates in Syria is 18.1%. In the sample, the rate of Syrian youth who completed their higher education in Syria is 6.7%.

Table 1.2. The Last School the Participants Graduated From

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
There is no school graduated and not literate	14	1.7	1.8	1.8
There is no school graduated but is literate	13	1.6	1.6	3.4
First stage of primary education in Syria	140	17.4	17.5	20.9
Second stage of primary education in Syria	296	36.8	37.1	58.0
General high school in Syria	138	17.1	17.3	75.3
Vocational/technical high school in Syria	6	0,7	0,8	76.1
Vocational College in Syria	7	0,9	0,9	76.9
Bachelor's and above in Syria	46	5.7	5.8	82.7
Primary school (4 years) in Turkey	2	0,2	0,3	83.0
Primary school (5 years) in Turkey	14	1.7	1.8	84.7
Primary school (8 years) in Turkey	1	0,1	0,1	84.8
Secondary school in Turkey	21	2.6	2.6	87.5
General high school (including open high school) in Turkey	66	8.2	8.3	95.7
Vocational college/associate degree in Turkey	2	0,2	0,3	96.0
Bachelor's and above in Turkey	13	1.6	1.6	97.6
Primary school in Turkey (from temporary education center)	1	0,1	0,1	97.7
Secondary school in Turkey (from temporary education center)	4	0,5	0,5	98.2
High school in Turkey (from temporary education center)	10	1.2	1.3	99.5

In addition to this information, it is seen that 15.3% of youth participating in the questionnaire study graduated from primary and secondary schools in Turkey; 1.9% of this rate are youth who graduated from temporary learning centers in Turkey ([See Table 1.2](#)).

Table 1.3. The Schools Where The Participants Are Still Studying

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Primary school (4 years)	5	0,6	0,6	0,6
Secondary School	38	4.7	4.8	5.4
General high school (including open high school)	71	8.8	9.0	14.4
Vocational/technical high school	10	1.2	1.3	15.7
Vocational college	9	1.1	1.1	16.8
Bachelor's and above	73	9.1	9.2	26.1
Primary school (from temporary education center)	1	0,1	0,1	26.2
Secondary school (from temporary education center)	5	0,6	0,6	26.8
High school (from temporary education center)	22	2.7	2.8	29.6
Not studying in an educational institution	549	68.2	69.5	99.1
Unknown	7	0,9	0,9	100.0

On the other hand, 29.6% of the youth sample, that is, almost 30%, continues to study in primary, secondary and higher education institutions (See Table 1.3). 69.5% of the rest of the participants, i.e. approx. 70% of the Syrian youth, do not study in any institution.

When we repeat this analysis by limiting it only to school-age youth, that is, between the ages of 15-24, we see that approximately 40% of them attend an educational institution while 60% do not continue their education (See Table 1.4). **No significant difference is observed in the context of gender.**

Table 1.4. Schools that Syrian Youth aged 15-24 are Currently Studying in

	Frequency	Percentage	Female	Percentage
Primary school (4 years)	4	0,7%	2	0,6%
Secondary School	34	6,1%	24	7,4%
General high school (including open high school)	70	12,6%	42	12,9%
Vocational/technical high school	10	1,8%	6	1,8%
Vocational college	8	1,4%	5	1,5%
Bachelor's and above	61	11,0%	27	8,3%
Primary school (from temporary education center)	1	0,2%	0	0,0%
Secondary school (from temporary education center)	5	0,9%	3	0,9%
High school (from temporary education center)	22	3,9%	10	3,1%
Not studying in an educational institution	335	60,1%	201	61,8%
Unknown	7	1,3%	5	1,5%
Total	557	100,0%	325	100,0%

Besides, apart from formal education, it is among the questionnaire findings that 29.4% of the participants have a certificate, language certificate, and training document valid in Turkey.

Another issue that the questionnaire addresses is the work situation of Syrian youth. As can be seen from Table 1.5, 29% of all the participants state that they are currently employed. It should also be underlined that only 4.6% of the youth in our sample have a work permit in Turkey.

Table 1.5. Employment Situation of Syrian Youth aged 15-30

	Frequency	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Male	Percentage
Employed	232	29,1%	56	11,6%	176	56,2%
Looking for a job	191	24,0%	122	25,2%	69	22,0%
Neither working nor looking	364	45,7%	297	61,4%	67	21,4%
Not working due to disability/illness	5	0,6%	5	1,0%	0	0,0%
Not working due to old age	2	0,3%	2	0,4%	0	0,0%
Unknown	3	0,4%	2	0,4%	1	0,3%
Total	797	100,0%	484	100,0%	313	100,0%

According to the 2018 TÜİK Labor Statistics, the employment rate among Turkish youth of 15-24 years is 35% (23.4% for female and 46.4% for male).⁴ Similarly, the analysis was repeated for Syrian 15-24 year olds and 27% of them are working, and this rate is 10.4% for female (See Table 1.6).

Table 1.6. Employment Situation of Syrian Youth aged 15-24

	Frequency	Percentage	Female	Percentage
Employed	153	27,0%	34	10,4%
Looking for a job	139	24,6%	82	25,0%
Neither working nor looking	270	47,7%	208	63,4%
Not working due to disability/illness	2	0,4%	2	0,6%
Unknown	2	0,4%	2	0,6%
Total	566	100,0%	328	100,0%

On the other hand, 23.9% of the participant youth are unemployed and continue looking for a job. According to 2018 TÜİK Labor Statistics, the rate of youth unemployment among Turkish youth in the 15-24 age group is 20.3%.⁵ Youth unemployment rate was 25.3% in October 2019 compared to the previous year (Çakır, 2020). As can be seen from Table 1.6, when we repeat the analysis for the same age group, approximately 24.6% of Syrian youth aged 15-24 in İzmir and Hatay are looking for a job. So, according to our study, no significant difference is observed between the unemployment rate of Syrian youth and their Turkish peers.

Approximately half of the Syrian youth (45.6%) between the ages of 15-30 are neither working nor looking for a job, which is remarkable (See Table 1.7).

Table 1.7. Employment Situation of Syrian Youth aged 15-30

	Female Number	Male Number	Total Number	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Employed	56	176	232	28.8	29.0	29.0
Looking for a job	122	69	191	23.7	23.9	52.9
Neither working nor looking	297	67	364	45.2	45.6	98.5

⁴ See 2018 TÜİK Labor Statistics: Labor Force Status of Population in the 15-24 Age Group
http://www.tuik.gov.tr/PreIstatistikTablo.do?istab_id=2252

⁵ See News Bulletin TÜİK Labor Statistics, 2018
<http://tuik.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=30677>

It is important to make an additional assessment considering that those who are in this situation may be in school. In this context, gender differences should also be understood. Thus, in the analysis, it was determined that 37.8% of the Syrian youth participants who do not continue their education are working, and 22.7% are looking for a job, and 39.5% neither working nor looking for a job (See Table 1.8). Unemployment among Syrian male youth is 14.7%, while unemployment among Syrian female youth is 27.6%. This shows us that, **among Syrian youth, it is the Syrian female youth who suffer the most from high unemployment.**

Table 1.8. Employment Situation of Non-Studying Syrian Youth

Gender	Employed	Percentage	Looking for a job	Percentage	Neither working nor looking	Percentage
Female	44	13,2%	92	27,6%	197	59,2%
Male	159	77,9%	30	14,7%	15	7,4%
Total	203	37,8%	122	22,7%	212	39,5%

Table 1.9. Employment Situation of Non-Studying Syrian Youth aged 15-24

	Non-studying	Percentage	Non-studying Female	Percentage	Non-studying Male	Percentage
Employed	165	29,3%	50	15,2%	115	49,4%
Looking for a job	114	20,2%	89	27,0%	25	10,7%
Neither working nor looking	99	17,6%	88	26,7%	11	4,7%

In order to compare with the Turkish youth in this context, when the analysis is repeated for the 15-24 age range, as shown in Table 1.9, **29.3% of non-studying Syrian youth between the ages of 15-24 are working, 20.2% are looking for a job, which means almost half of them (49.5%) are employed; and 17.6% of them neither working nor looking for a job.** While 42.2% of young Syrian women are employed, 60.1% of men are employed. In summary, it is seen that the Syrians, especially young men, get more employment compared to their Turkish peers. As will be seen later from the focus group study analysis, it is seen that Syrian youths stay out of education to support their families.

According to 2018 TÜİK data, the rate of those who neither study nor work among the Turkish youth in the 15-24 age group is 24.5%⁶ This rate is 33.6% for female Turkish youth, and 15.6% for male Turkish youth. In October 2019, the rate of young people who were neither in school nor employed rose to 26% (YAPI, 2020).

⁶ See http://www.tuik.gov.tr/PreIstatistikTablo.do?istab_id=2460

On the other hand, the percentage of Syrians between the ages of 15-24 living in Izmir and Hatay, who are neither studying nor working, is 17.6%; In the sample, the rate for female Syrian youth is 26.7%, while the rate for male Syrian youth is 4.7%. In light of this information, it is observed that the youth sample aged 15-24 among the Syrians who are not studying are more actively participating in the labor force compared to their Turkish peers who are not studying (6.9% difference).

In addition, it is seen that only 30.7% of the participants have the ESSN (Emergency Social Safety Net) Card.

The household size of the Syrian youth under temporary protection, who participated in the questionnaire, varies from 1 to 22 people.⁷ As can be seen from Table 1.7, 38.1% of the participants stated that they have a household size of 3-4 people and 30.7% have a household size of 5-6 people. Also, among the Syrian youth, the rate of those who live alone or share a house with another person is a considerable 14%.

Tablo 1.10. Number of Persons in the Household

	Frequency	Percentage
1-2	113	14.0
3-4	308	38.1
5-6	248	30.7
7-8	79	9.8
9-10	40	5.0
10+	33	2.1
Total	805	99.6
Unknown	3	0,4
	808	100.0

Besides 28.5% of the participants state that one member or more from their household lives in another city. The question of where the household members of the participants, who are not in the same city, live was asked in an open-ended way. When the responses were classified, a table appeared in Table 1.11. So, it is seen that the majority live in a city in Turkey (47.8%) or in Syria (44.8%), and some live in Europe (5.2%) or Arab countries (2.6%). It is observed that the household members living in another city in Turkey mostly live major cities rather than border cities, mainly Istanbul (27% of the ones in Turkey), and respectively, Gaziantep, Ankara, Izmir and Mersin. Half of the household members stated to be in Europe live in Germany.

⁷ Household means home or residence being lived in. Persons living in the same household are called "househol members".

Tablo 1.11. City Distribution of Household Members

	Frequency	Percentage
In a City in Turkey	110	47,8%
Syria	103	44,8%
Europe (half of which is Germany)	12	5,2%
Arab countries	6	2,6%

When the responses to the open-ended questions as to the reasons why household members are not in the same city are evaluated and categorized, it is seen that there are various reasons, but some of the main reasons are the lack of opportunity to come to Turkey (36.5%), work (30%), family reasons (marriage, divorce, relatives, etc.) (10.8%) and education (6.4%) (See Table 1.12.).

Tablo 1.12. Reasons Why the Household Members don't Live in the Same City

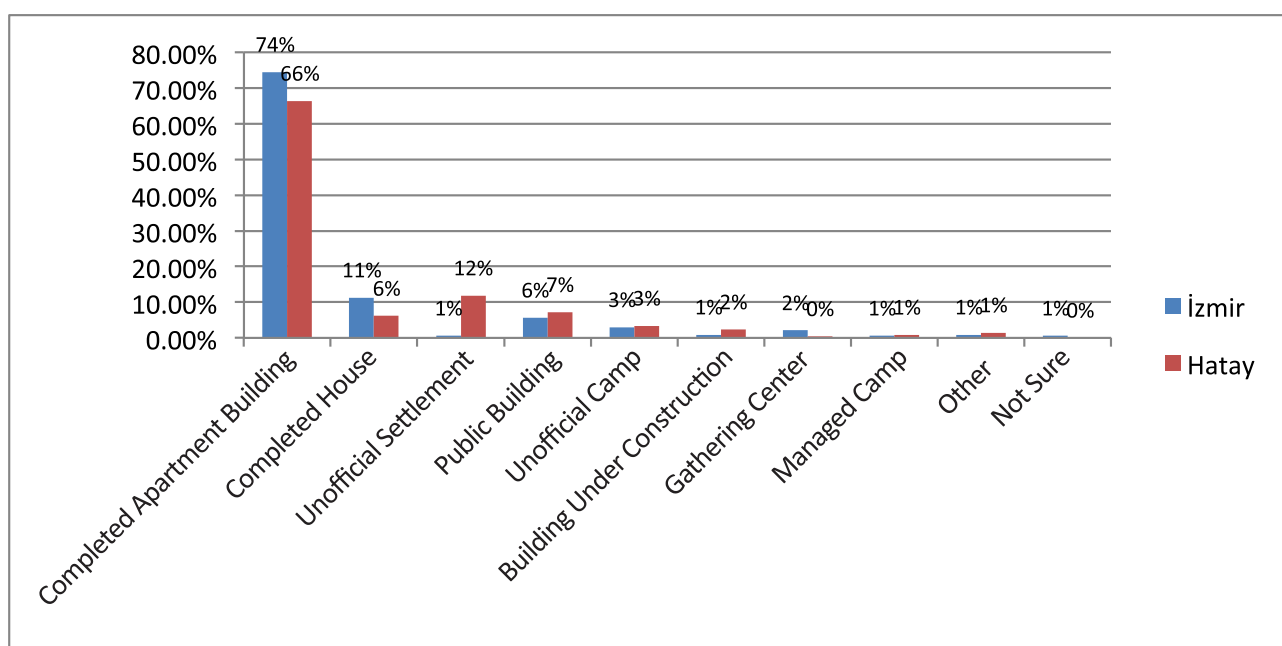
	Frequency	Percent
Not able to come/Lack of opportunity to come here (to Turkey)	74	36,5%
Due to residence	6	3,0%
Due to war	4	2,0%
Due to old age/illness	4	2,0%
Due to financial situation	3	1,5%
Due to gates being closed/state obstacle	3	1,5%
No road	1	0,5%
For work	61	30,0%
Family-related reasons (marriage, divorce, existence of relatives etc.)	22	10,8%
For education	13	6,4%
They live there	9	4,4%
I don't know/No reason	3	1,5%

QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY FINDINGS

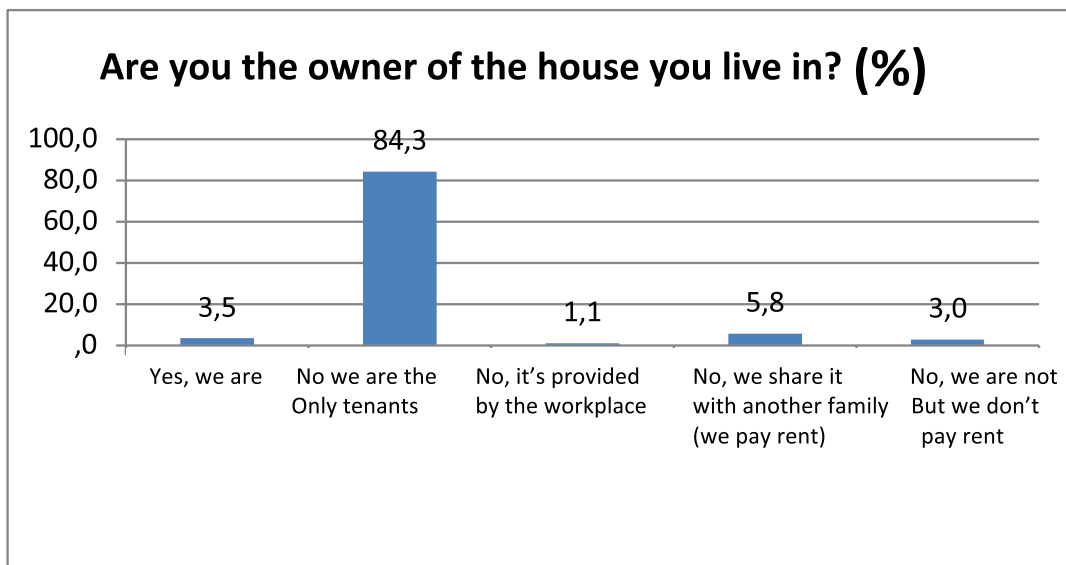
2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

In this part of the study, in which the socioeconomic status of youth is evaluated, firstly their accommodation status was examined. When the data obtained from the participants who live in the two cities which are the research areas are evaluated, it is seen that 70% of the youth live in apartments. (See Figure 2.1). On the other hand, 10% of the participants live in unofficial settlements and camps. This type of accommodation goes up to 15% in Hatay and it is seen that it takes the second place after the apartment as a form of accommodation. Finally, it also reaches up to 5% of the total percentage of the participants who live in gathering centers and informal camps in İzmir.

Figure 2.1. Accommodation Places of the Participants



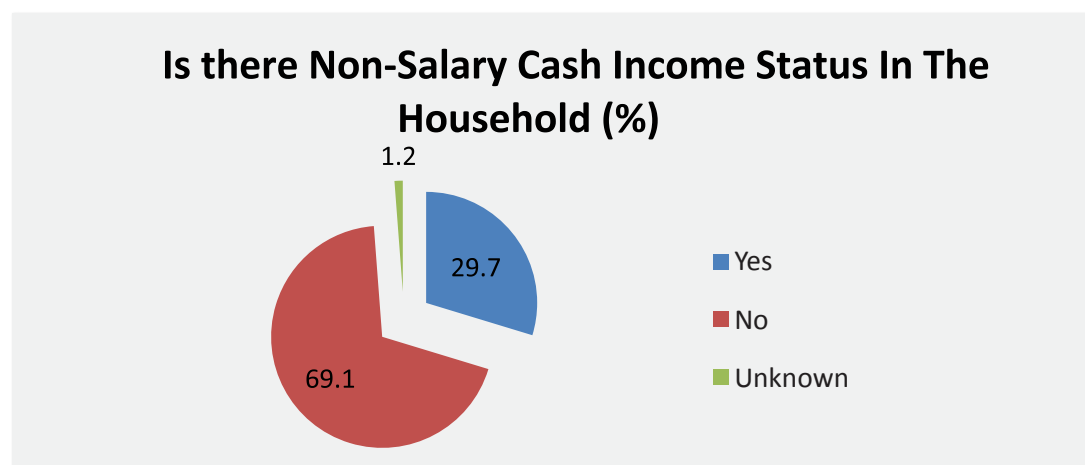
While 90.3% of the Syrian youth participants are tenants in the house where they live; 3.5% is the owner of the house where they live (See. Figure 2.2). In addition to this information, it is seen that 5.8% of the participants share their houses with another family and pay the rent together.

Figure 2.2. Ownership Status of the House Where the Participants Live

When the monthly net income of the participants was evaluated, 41% stated that they have a net income between 1000-2020 TL, 22.3% between 2020-5000 TL and 19.9% between 600-1000 TL (See Table 2.1). There is a significant 14.9% among Syrian youth who state that they have an income of 500 TL or less. The median value is 1350 TL. Considering that the 2019 minimum wage amount is 2020.90 TL, we can underline that **at least three out of every four Syrian youth are trying to survive by earning less than the minimum wage.**

Table 2.1. Monthly Net Income of the Family/Participant

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
500 TL or less	120	14.9	14.9	14.9
600-1000 TL	161	19.9	19.9	34.8
1000-2020 TL	331	41.0	41.0	75.8
2020-5000 TL	180	22.3	22.3	98.1
5000 TL and above	13	1.6	1.6	100.0

Figure 2.3. Non-Salary Cash Income Status in the Household

While almost 70% of the participants state that they do not have a non-salary cash income, it is seen that approximately 30% of them have a non-salary cash income (See Figure 2.3). While 67.9% of these cash revenues are between 600-1000 TL, 24.2% is 500 TL or less (See Table 2.2). In other words, **it is only 30% that have a non-salary cash income, which is seen to be below 1000 TL (less than half of the minimum income) for the vast majority.**

Table 2.2. Non-Salary Cash Income Range in The Household

	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percent
500 TL or less	40	24.2	24.2
600-1.000 TL	112	67.9	92.1
1.000-2.020 TL	9	5.5	97.6
2.020-5.000 TL	4	2.4	100.0
Total	165	100.0	

When asked where these non-salary cash revenues come from, most of the few responses were state aid (*ESSN Card*, etc.) (See Table 2.3). It is seen that only a few people receive aid from foreign private individuals or undertakings and from domestic associations.

Table 2.3. Non-Salary Cash Income Resource in The Household

	Frequency	Percentage
State aid (ESSN card, etc.)	17	4.0
Aid from Foreign Private Individuals or Undertakings	2	0,5
Association	1	0,2
Municipality	0	0,0
Unknown	1	0,2

Here, the non-salary cash income in the household is mostly related to having an ESSN Card. According to the most recent data, the number of people given an ESSN Card has exceeded 1.5 million (*UNICEF, 2019*). In this context, it was thought that it would be useful to see what the difference is between cities. In terms of non-salary cash income, it was observed that there is a distinct difference between Syrian youth living in Hatay and Izmir; while those who say that they don't have a non-salary cash income is 43% in Hatay, this ratio drops to 11% in İzmir (See [Figure 2.4](#) and [Figure 2.5](#)). This difference between İzmir and Hatay, which emerged in the study, was found to be related to the condition of residing in the province where one is registered, which is one of the ESSN criteria.

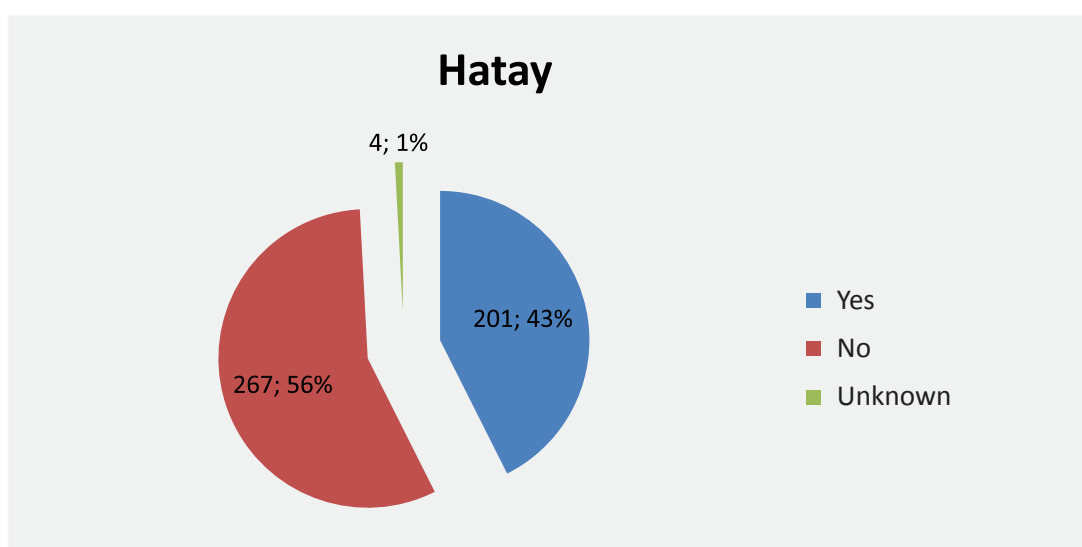
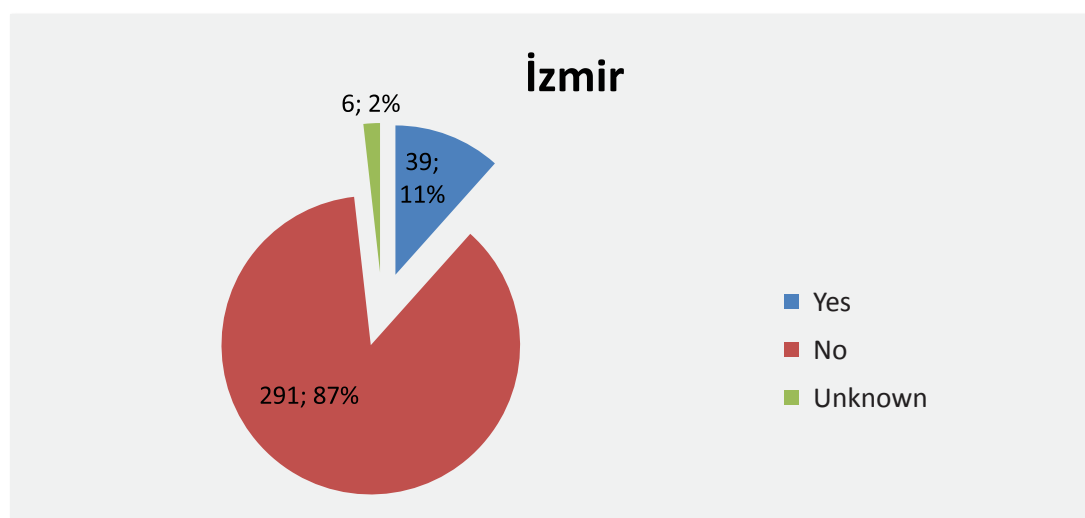
Figure 2.4. Non-Salary Cash Income Status in The Household (Hatay)

Figure 2.5. Non-Salary Cash Income Status in The Household (İzmir)

While only 4.1% of the young Syrian participants said that their families receive social aid, a significant rate of 66.8% stated that they do not receive any social aid (See Table 2.4).

Table 2.4. Social Aid Rate

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	33	4.1	4.1	4.1
No	540	66.8	66.8	70.9
Unknown	235	29.1	29.1	100.0
Total	808	100.0	100.0	

As can be seen from Table 2.5, the majority of the Syrian youth (60.4%) who participated in the questionnaire stated that it is difficult to get by with their total monthly household income, and even 42.5% stated that it is very difficult to get by. The rate of those who say it is easy to get by is 10.2%.

Table 2.5. How the Household Gets By for A Month with The Total Monthly Household Income

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very easy	28	3.5	3.5	3.5
Easy	54	6.7	6.7	10.1
Average	229	28.3	28.3	38.4
Difficult	145	17.9	17.9	56.4
Very difficult	343	42.5	42.5	98.8
Unknown	9	1.1	1.1	100.0
Total	808	100.0	100.0	

As can be seen from [Table 2.6](#), while the total of those who say that it is difficult to borrow when their financial situation gets worse is 68.4%, an important part that indicates that it is even very difficult is more than half of the Syrian youth (54%). The total of those who think that they can easily borrow is 13.5%.

Table 2.6. Whether Syrian Participants Can Borrow When Their Financial Situation Gets Worse

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Very easy	33	4.1	4.1	4.1
Easy	76	9.4	9.4	13.5
Average	135	16.7	16.7	30.2
Difficult	116	14.4	14.4	44.5
Very difficult	436	54.0	54.0	98.5
Unknown	12	1.5	1.5	100.0
Total	808	100.0	100.0	

QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY FINDINGS

3. HISTORY of MIGRATION

When we look at the status of Syrian youth surveyed in Turkey, those on temporary protection status seem to be the majority with 78,8 (See Table 3.1). None the less, 16% of the participating youth state that they are not registered. Besides, the rate of participants who obtained Turkey citizenship among the said youth is 3.7%. Considering city and gender breakdowns for residence situations, being unregistered in Izmir (33.9%), being registered in Hatay and getting citizenship, and male registry status are relatively higher.

Table 3.1. Residency Status of Syrian Youth in Turkey

	Frequency	Percentage	Hatay	İzmir	Female	Male
I am registered under temporary protection	637	78,8%	87,9%	65,8%	78,5%	80,3%
I'm not registered	129	16,0%	3,2%	33,9%	16,8%	14,7%
I obtained Turkish citizenship	30	3,7%	6,4%	0,0%	3,7%	3,8%
Unknown	12	1,5%	2,3%	0,3%	1,0%	1,3%

It is known that the majority of the Syrian youth took refuge in Turkey, fleeing Syria as of 2011 due to the crisis in Syria. When the year of arrival in Turkey of the Syrian youth in the questionnaire is examined, it is observed that 71.3% of the participants entered Turkey between the years of 2013-2017 (see Table 3.2). When we look at the rates of arrival of the youth sample in Turkey who came with a huge wave of migration, we see that 13,1% arrived in Turkey in 2013, 16,5% in 2014, 14,8% in 2015, 15,2% in 2016 and finally, 12,1% arrived in 2017 (Table 3.2). In addition, it is seen that the rate of coming to Turkey among participants, which kept increasing until 2014, decreased over time to 0.9% in 2019.

Table 3.2. Dates of the Syrian Youth's Arrival in Turkey, Registration and Arrival in Cities Where They Reside

	Arrival in TR		Registration		Arrival in IZM/HTY	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
2010	8	0.8	3	0.3	2	0.2
2011	30	3.3	27	2.8	26	2.7
2012	67	7.8	39	4.5	53	6.1
2013	111	13.1	52	5.9	81	9.7
2014	138	16.5	161	19.6	125	15
2015	123	14.8	127	15.3	123	14.9
2016	127	15.2	136	16.5	122	14.6
2017	101	12.1	101	12.1	115	13.4
2018	78	9.3	85	9.8	95	10.9
2019	18	1.9	30	3.2	30	3.3
Unknown	7	0.8	51	5.7	36	4.3
Total	808	100	808	100	808	100

On the other hand, when the registration dates of the Syrian youth under temporary protection status in Turkey are examined in relation to the dates of their arrival in Turkey, it is seen that while the registration rate was relatively low (about 50%) in the first years of the crisis, it began to become parallel with the arrival rate in 2014. Finally, for youth sample, it is among the findings of the questionnaire that there is a parallel between the date of arrival in Turkey and the date of arrival in places where they settled and their places of settlement became clearer as of 2015 (See Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1. Dates of the Syrian Youth's Arrival in Turkey, Registration and Arrival in Cities Where They Reside (%)

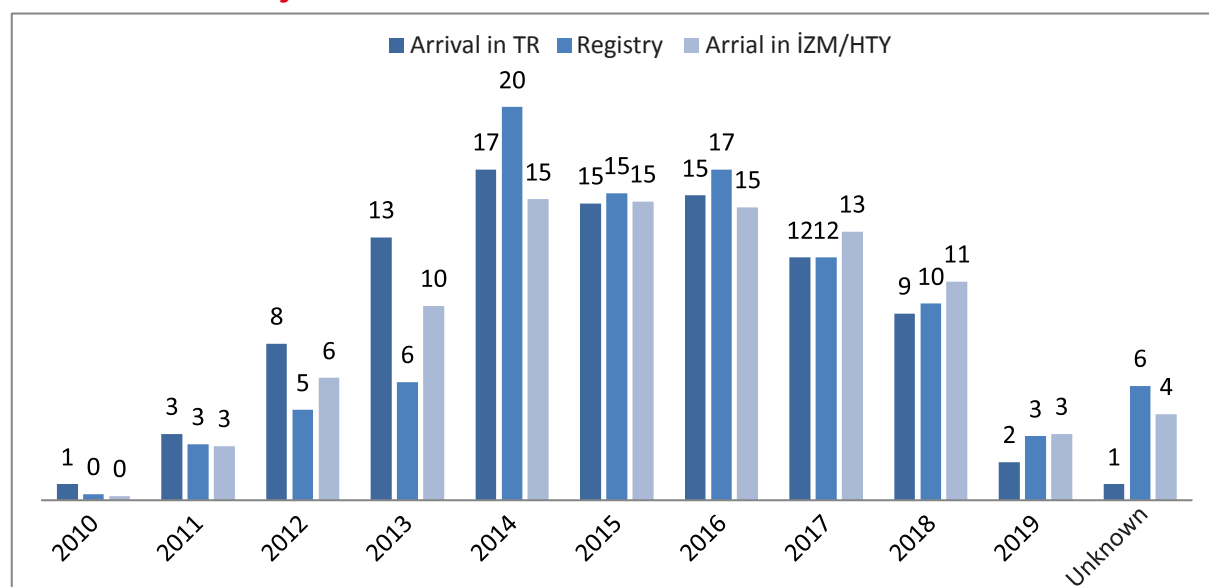


Table 3.3. Who Do the Syrian Youth Think the Registration is Done By?

	Frequency	Percentage
State of Turkey	188	23,3%
Provincial Directorate of Migration	229	28,3%
Police Department	49	6,1%
Directorate of Civil Registry	6	0,7%
Camp Administration	2	0,2%
Unknown	334	41,3%

28.3% of the participants stated that their registrations were done by the Provincial Immigration Administrations (See Table 3.3). In addition to this, 23.3% of participants stated that Turkish State carried out the registration. The Police Department (6.1%) and the Civil Registry Department (0.7%) were also specified as registrars. Besides, 0.2% of the participants stated that they were registered by the camp management.

Table 3.4. Registry Status of The Participants Under Temporary Protection in the City where They Live

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	748	97,6%
No	18	2,4%

It is seen that 2.4% of Syrian youth under temporary protection are not registered in the city where they live (See Table 3.4). As for reasons for not registering, the following were stated respectively: being illegal/unregistered (38.5%), not having information about registration or where the registration is done (30.8%), entering Turkey via illegal ways (15.4%) and not thinking of staying in Turkey (15,4%).

77.8% of those who state that they do not have any registry in the city they live in, are in Izmir within the context of our sample. Their reasons are, respectively, being registered in another city, being unable to register in or transfer their registry to the city they live in, and not having temporary protection.

QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY FINDINGS

4. EDUCATION

While 74% of the youth who participated in the questionnaire stated that they are not currently in formal education, 24.8% of them said that they received formal education (See Figure 4.1). In other words, 3 out of 4 participants are not in formal education.

Figure 4.1. Enrollment in formal education

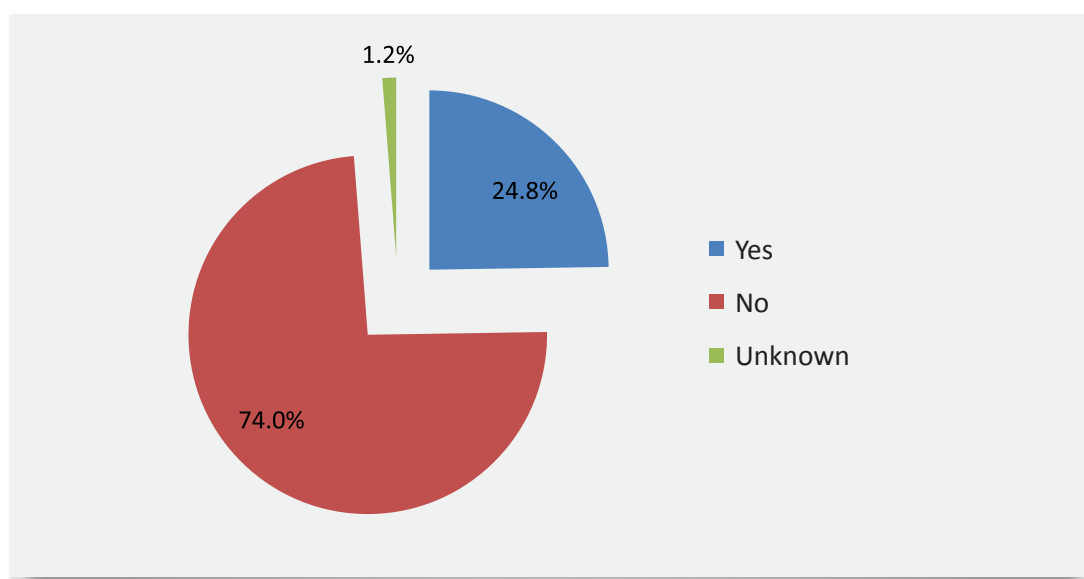
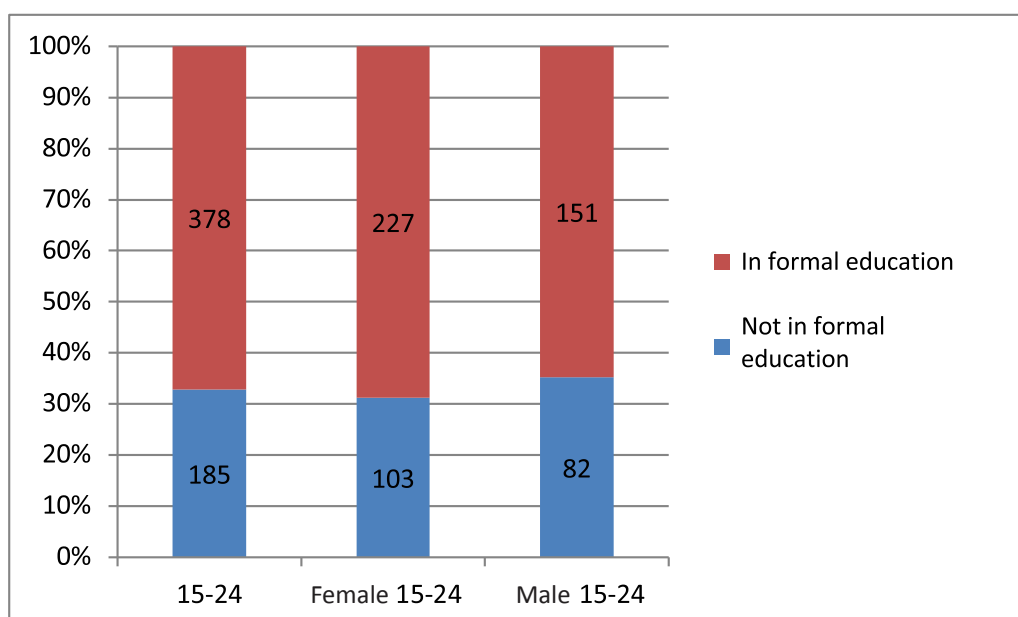


Figure 4.2. Rate of Enrollment in Formal Education of School-Age Youth (15-24 y.o)



It is seen that the rate of those in formal education among the 15-24 year-olds participating in the questionnaire is around 33% (Figure 4.2). When the participation rate in formal education was analyzed on a gender basis, it was found that men (35.2%) had more education than women (31.2%) with a difference of 4%.

Tablo 4.1. What level of school did you last graduate from in Syria?

Did not get education	12	1,5%
Primary school	183	22,6%
Secondary School	365	45,2%
High school	120	14,9%
University	49	6,1%
Unknown	79	9,8%

As can be seen from Table 4.1, the most frequent response in terms of school the participants last graduated from in Syria was the secondary school with a rate of 45.2%. The rate of those who state that they last graduated from primary school is 22.6%, and that of those who say that they last graduated from high school is 14.9%. Those who say that they graduated from a higher education level institution in Syria constituted a slice of 6.1%.

Tablo 4.2. If you have a diploma from the education you received in Syria, did it have equivalency in Turkey?

Yes	90	11,1%
No	651	80,6%
Unknown	67	8,3%

Those who said the education they received in Syria do not have diploma equivalency in Turkey constitute 86.6% of the total participants (See Table 4.2).

Tablo 4.3. Did you have to leave Syria while you were still in school?

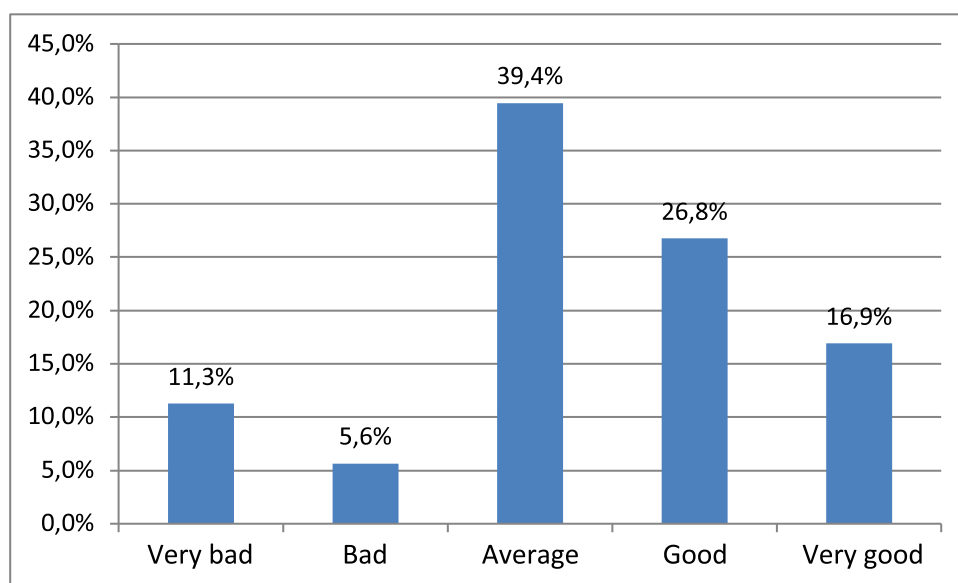
Yes	296	36,6%
No	436	54,0%
Unknown	76	9,4%

As can be seen from Table 4.3, **the rate of those who had to leave Syria while they were still in school is 36.6%**. Participants other than this constitute 54% of the sample.

While 61.5% (182 people in our sample) of those whose education was disrupted said that they were able to continue their education in Turkey, 38.5% was unable to continue. In other words, it seems that 4 out of 10 youth who were in school while in Syria had to drop out.

The context of satisfaction in the field of education is also important. When we asked the youth about their satisfaction with the education they received in Turkey; 39.4% of the participants who received education in Turkey evaluated their satisfaction to be average, 43.7% to be good, 16,9% bad and 17% very good. When we look at the results, it is seen that the rate of the Syrian youth who are satisfied with the education they received in Turkey is higher than the rate of those who are not satisfied. (See Figure 4.2).⁸

Figure 4.2. Level of satisfaction with the education received in Turkey

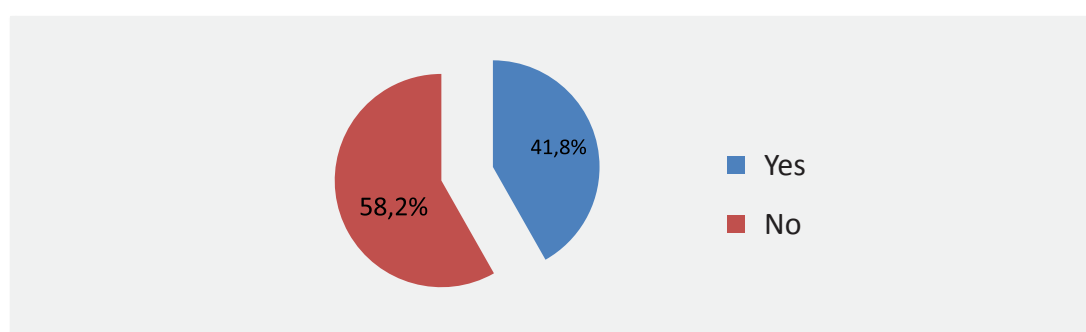


While 88.5% of the participants stated that they did not receive financial aid to complete their education, only 11.5% said that they received aid for their education. Among the institutions that provided financial aid, Red Crescent/Turkey scholarship was the biggest rate with 80%, followed by European Union with 10%.

⁸ Since the question about education satisfaction was not requested to be asked in Hatay, it was not asked. Therefore, this question was asked only in İzmir.

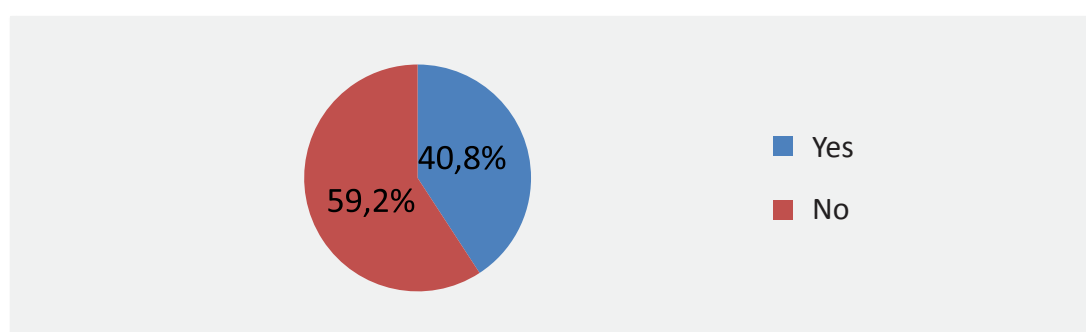
Another question with which we wanted to evaluate the situations Syrian youth face in their educational life is whether they encounter difficulties or not. The rate of those who said they did not encounter any problems during the education they received in Turkey is 58,2%, while the rate of those who said they faced problems is 41.8% (See Figure 4.3).

Figure 4.3. Did you face any problems during your education in Turkey?



Xenophobia/racism is one of the main challenges Syrian youth face during their education, with 34,8%. With a rate of 21.7%, the language problem was the second one among the difficulties encountered. While the difficulty of curriculum and learning difficulties were expressed by 17.5% of the youth, 13% expressed the problem of enrollment.

Figure 4.4. Did you take any language courses in Turkey?



Among the Syrian youth, the rate of those who received language education in Turkey was 40.8%, while the rate of those who did not is 59.2% (Figure 4.4).

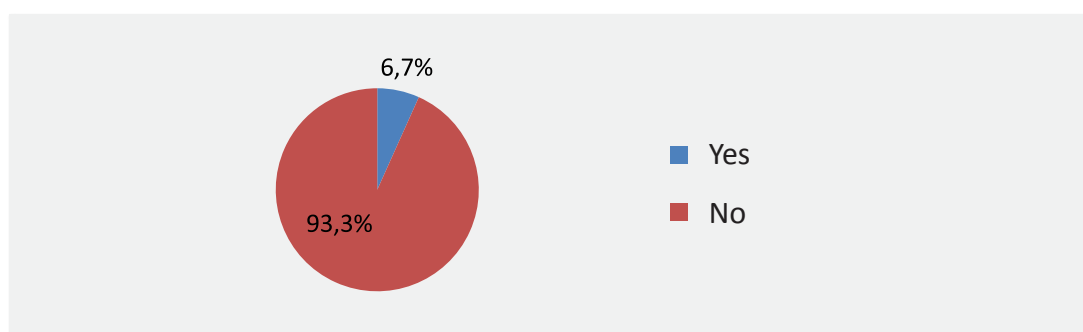
As can be seen from Table 4.4, while 21.1% of those who took language courses in Turkey stated that they went to the Public Education Centers; 17% stated that they benefited from language courses organized by Red Crescent, 15.6% by Yuva Association and 13.8% by TÖMER. Although the importance of Public Education Centers is clear when we examine on a city basis; Yuva Association stands out in Hatay, and Red Crescent and TÖMER stand out in İzmir.

Table 4.4. From what institution or organization did you take the language courses?

	Total	Percentage	Hatay	Percentage	İzmir	Percentage
Public Education Center	61	21,1%	37	21,4%	24	20,7%
Red Crescent	49	17,0%	7	4,0%	42	36,2%
Yuva Association	45	15,6%	45	26,0%	0	0,0%
Tömer	40	13,8%	1	0,6%	39	33,6%
Turkish Government/State	28	9,7%	28	16,2%	0	0,0%
Private Education Center/Course/Prep School	23	8,0%	22	12,7%	1	0,9%
Youth/Culture/Community Center	20	6,9%	16	9,2%	4	3,4%
Formal Education Institutions/School/University	6	2,1%	6	3,5%	0	0,0%
ASAM	3	1,0%	0	0,0%	3	2,6%
Other	14	4,8%	11	6,4%	3	2,6%

93.3% of the youth said that they didn't take any vocational training courses in Turkey (See Figure 4.4). Only 6.7% of the youth received a vocational course. It is seen that Yuva Association is very active in vocational courses, more than 60% of those who said that they took vocational courses mentioned Yuva.

Figure 4.5. Did you take any vocational education courses in Turkey?

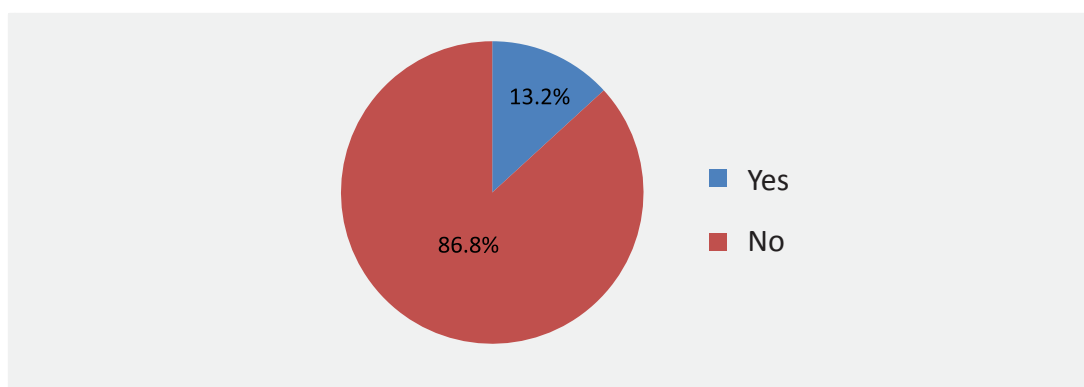


QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY FINDINGS

5. CURRENTLY WORKING (EMPLOYED)

86.8% of the participants who are currently working said that they do not have a work permit (See Figure 5.1). 13.2% of the working participants stated that they have a work permit. 19.4% of the working youth participating in the study are female and 10.1% are male. In total, **almost 87% of the working Syrian youth work informally**. This result obtained from the field study conducted shows that, like other studies, the registered working rate of Syrians under TP is very low (Sunata, 2018; IGAM, 2019).

Figure 5.1. Work Permit Status



To examine the work permit status, those who do not have work permits were asked about the reasons, those with work permits were asked about the difficulties of obtaining work permit, and all working youth were asked about the possible advantages of work permit.

Firstly, the reasons for failing to obtain a work permit were tried to be understood. As can be followed from Figure 5.1, when we asked this question to the Syrian youth, the most common reason, with 35.3%, for those who do not have a work permit was that they were unable to find a registered job. The rate of those who say they have no information about work permit is 16,7%. Other reasons that followed are personal choice, bureaucratic obstacles, not knowing how to obtain a work permit and not being able to meet the required conditions. When gender breakdown is evaluated, women are more likely to state that it is a personal choice and that they do not to know how to obtain it.

Table 5.1. Reasons for Lack of Work Permit

	Frequency	Summated Percent	Female	Male
I was unable to find a registered job	76	35,3%	34%	35.9%
I don't know about work permit	36	16,7%	17%	16.7%
My choice	24	11,1%	21.2%	8.3%
Bureaucratic obstacles	24	11,1%	6.3%	12.5%
I don't know how to get work permit	23	10,6%	12.7%	10.1%
I am unable to meet the required conditions	23	10,6%	8.5%	11.3%
Employer's choice	17	7,9%	8.5%	7.7%
Other	19	8,8%	10.6%	8.3%

Then, we asked the Syrian youth with work permit about the difficulties they faced while getting a work permit. The youth answered this by stating that the bureaucratic process was long, with a rate of 28.1%, as the main difficulty they encountered during the process of obtaining a work permit (See Table 5.2), and 17.2% of the currently working participants stated that they had difficulty in obtaining the documents required for the application. In addition, there were some who stated that they could not obtain work permits related to their profession, could not reach the necessary information, had difficulties in meeting the conditions and could not understand the course of the process. The rate of those who stated that they did not face any problems was only 7.8%.

Table 5.2. Difficulties Faced in Obtaining Work Permit

Bureaucratic process took long	18	28,1%
I had difficulty obtaining the required documents	11	17,2%
I was unable to obtain work permit for my own occupation	9	14,1%
I was unable to reach necessary information	8	12,5%
I had no problem	5	7,8%
I could not understand the course of the process	5	7,8%
I had difficulty providing the conditions required for application	2	3,1%
Other	6	9,4%

Finally, about the work permit, the benefits of obtaining a work permit were asked. The responses by the Syrian youth to this question were; the working conditions would

improve (%31,1), the payment would improve (%29,7), and the working hours would decrease (%27,7) (See Table 5.3). While the youth state that it would improve their working conditions in general, only 9% think that it would not contribute in any way.

Table 5.3. Contributions of obtaining work permit

There was/would be an increase in payment	105	29,7%
There was/would be an improvement in my working hours	98	27,7%
There was/would be an improvement in other working conditions	110	31,1%
There was/would be no contribution	32	9,0%
Other	9	2,5%

Table 5.4. Main Activity Field of the Workplace

	Total	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Male	Percentage
Textile Industry	36	17,9%	11	26,8%	25	16,3%
Food and beverage service	31	17,4%	5	12,2%	26	17,0%
Other service fields (driving, hairdressing, automechanic etc.)	31	16,9%	6	14,6%	25	16,3%
Construction industry	30	16,3%	0	0,0%	30	19,6%
Qualified service field (education, healthcare, translation, community center etc.)	30	16,3%	13	31,7%	17	11,1%
Production industry	13	7,1%	2	4,9%	11	7,2%
Agriculture industry	12	6,5%	4	9,8%	8	5,2%
Trade	11	6,0%	0	0,0%	11	7,2%

Among the main fields of activity of the workplaces where Syrian youth work, the most frequently seen are, respectively; textile (17.9%), kitchen services (catering) (17.4%), other service areas (16.9%), construction (16.3%) and qualified service areas (16.3%) (See Table 5.4). In addition to these sectors, manufacturing and agriculture sectors and trade are also among the main fields of activity of the workplaces where Syrian youth work. When we look at gender breakdowns; it is seen that women mostly work in the fields of textile and qualified service, and men work in the fields of construction, food and beverage services and other services.

When asked to the Syrian youth what they do at their workplace, in an open-ended way, the most common answers were worker (26% when we add the unskilled and the construction worker) and tailor (19% when we add the machine operator and textile/helper), followed by translator, salesperson, driver, assistant/secretary, cook, waiting staff, iron-smith, nurse, hairdresser, repairman, cleaner, maid, and teacher (See Table 5.5).

Table 5.5. What job do you do in your workplace?

	Total	Percentage	Female	Percentage	Male	Percentage
Worker	26	13%	1	3%	25	17%
Tailor	17	9%	6	16%	11	8%
Translator	16	8%	6	16%	10	7%
Unskilled worker	14	7%	5	14%	9	6%
Construction worker	12	6%	0	0%	12	8%
Machine operator	12	6%	0	0%	12	8%
Sales personnel	10	5%	2	5%	8	6%
Textile/Helper	8	4%	2	5%	6	4%
Grocery Store/Food	7	4%	0	0%	7	5%
Driver	7	4%	0	0%	7	5%
Assistant/Secretary	7	4%	3	8%	4	3%
Cook	6	3%	1	3%	5	3%
Ironsmith	6	3%	0	0%	6	4%
Nurse	6	3%	3	8%	3	2%
Waiting staff	5	3%	0	0%	5	3%
Hairdresser	5	3%	2	5%	3	2%
Repairman	4	2%	0	0%	4	3%
Cleaner	4	2%	2	5%	2	1%
Servant/Maid	3	2%	2	5%	1	1%
Teacher	3	2%	2	5%	1	1%
Doctor	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%
Pharmacist	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%
Unknown	19	10%	6	16%	13	9%

Syrian youth who are employed were asked whether they had a professional occupation when they were in Syria. 22% of the Syrian youth said that they had a professional occupation, while 78% said they did not. (See Table 5.6). Considering the age range of youth who are the target audience of the study, this result was not surprising.

The vast majority of the Syrian youth, **almost 83%, are employed as salary workers** (See Table 5.7). **The rate of employers among the working Syrian youth is 10.6%.** There is also a 3.1% segment who say they work for themselves.

The next two questions asked in the context of working conditions were asked to find out whether they received their salaries on time and in full. While the rate of the youth who said that they received their salary on time was 63.8%, 36.2% of the working Syrian youth stated that they did not receive their salaries on time (See Table 5.8). On the other hand, while only 21.2% said that they received their salary in full, the majority of the working Syrian youth (78.8%) said that they did not receive their salary in full (See Table 5.9).

Table 5.6. Did you have a professional occupation in Syria?

Yes	51	22,0%
No	181	78,0%

Table 5.7. Form of salary

Paid, salary-worker	187	82,7%
Employer	24	10,6%
Self-employed	7	3,1%
Casual worker	4	1,8%
Unpaid family worker	4	1,8%

Table 5.8. Were you able to get your salary in time?

Yes	111	63,8%
No	63	36,2%

Table 5.9. Were you able to get your salary in full?

Yes	46	21,2%
No	171	78,8%

The number of employees in the workplaces gives us information about the size of the workplaces. It is seen that the Syrian youth mostly work in small-scale companies (See Figure 5.2). The vast majority, almost 70% of them, work in companies where 10 or less people work.

As can be seen from [Figure 5.3](#), it is seen that they generally work as the only Syrian in those companies (63.7%).

Figure 5.2. Number of Employees in the Workplace

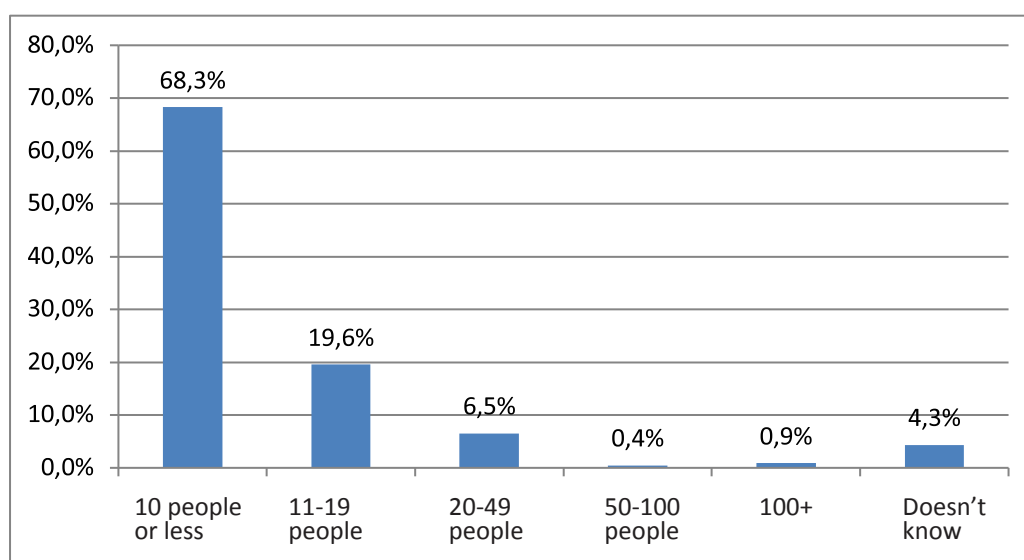
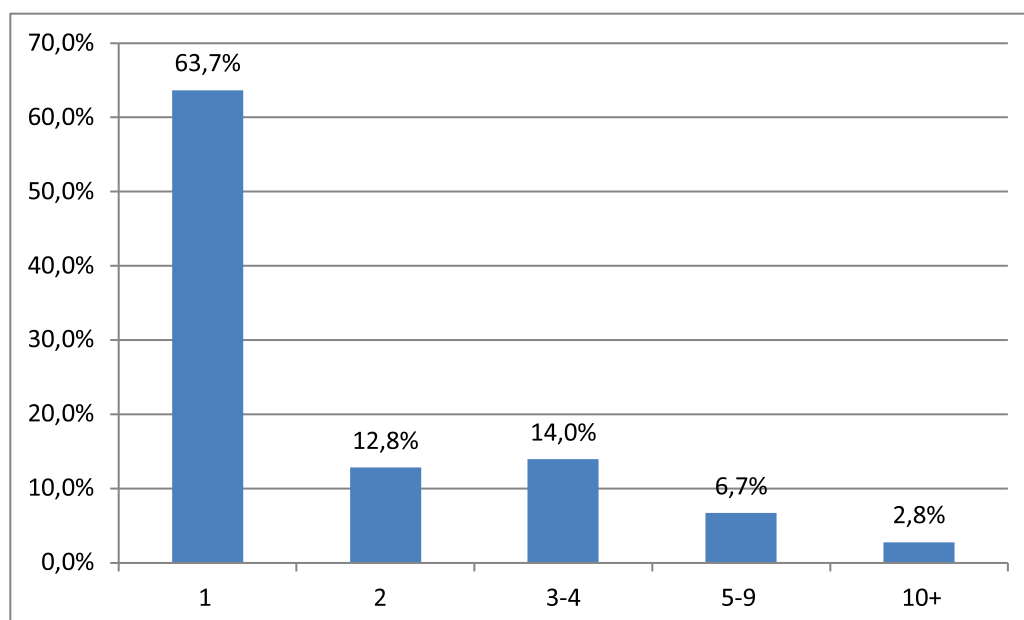


Figure 5.3. Number of Syrian Employees in the Workplace



When we tried to evaluate their continuity in their workplaces, 'less than a year' takes the first place with 31.5%, followed by less than two years with 29.6% and less than three years with 15.7%. ([Table 5.10](#)).

Table 5.10. How Long has He/She been Working in the Same Workplace?

2014 and before	9	4,2%
2015	12	5,6%
2016	18	8,3%
2017	34	15,7%
2018	64	29,6%
2019	68	31,5%
Doesn't know	11	5,1%

Answers to the question asked to learn how they found their current job were; conventional ways of finding a job, that is, mainly Syrian social networks (38.4%) and social bonds established with Turkish people (13.9%) or by direct application with the employer (See Table 5.11). Finding a job through Rızk, which is a private employment office known as the Syrian employment office or the Syrian İŞKUR by people is remarkable as the third most used way of finding a job among the Syrian youth.

Table 5.11. How did you find your job?

Via Syrian relative, spouse and friend	116	38,4%
Via Turkish relative, spouse and friend	42	13,9%
<i>Rızk</i>	38	12,6%
Through direct application with the Employer (Looking at the job ads on the gate of OIZ etc.)	35	11,6%
Via social media	26	8,6%
<i>Via Turkish Employment Agency</i>	9	3,0%
<i>Via private employment offices (kariyer.net,yenibiris.com etc.)</i>	9	3,0%
Via middleman/broker/commissioner	6	2,0%
<i>United Work</i>	3	1,0%
By using printed media such newspapers, magazines	3	1,0%
Via nongovernmental projects	1	0,3%
Other	14	4,6%

The difficulties faced by the Syrian youth while looking for a job are low payment offers (20,2%), poor working conditions (15,9%), not knowing how to look for a job (12,8%) and being unable to reach vacant jobs due to not speaking Turkish (9,9%) (See Table 5.12).

The main difficulties faced while working are language/communication problem (21,7%), low payment (19,7%) and long working hours (14,6%) as poor working conditions (See Table 5.13). Apart from these, another remarkable difficulty is being mistreated by colleagues.

Table 5.12. Difficulties faced while searching for job

Low payment offers	98	20,2%
Bad working condition offers	77	15,9%
I don't know how to look for a job	62	12,8%
I am unaware of vacancies as I don't speak Turkish	48	9,9%
Because I don't have documents such as diploma, etc.	47	9,7%
I can't apply because I don't speak Turkish	36	7,4%
Employers don't want to have registered workers	31	6,4%
I usually get short-term job offers	27	5,6%
My skills and experience are not accepted by employer	25	5,2%
I am discriminated due to my gender	12	2,5%
Other	22	4,5%

Table 5.13. Difficulties faced while working

Language/communication problems	107	21,7%
Low payment	97	19,7%
Long working hours	72	14,6%
Mistreatments by colleagues	51	10,3%
Working in an unhealthy environment	49	9,9%
Working without a single leave day a week	46	9,3%
Working in dangerous jobs	31	6,3%
Being maltreated due to gender	18	3,7%
Other	22	4,5%

93.2% of the Syrian youth work full-time (See Table 5.14). Only 6.8% of them work part-time. The youth prefer to work part-time mostly because they are still studying (38,1%) (See Table 5.15). Other reasons for working part-time are existence of a family member that needs to be cared for (19%), nature of job (19%) and other family related and personal conditions (14,3%).

Table 5.14. Form of Employment

Full time	207	93,2%
Part time	15	6,8%

Table 5.15. Reason for Working Part Time

Due to school	8	38,1%
Due to caring for needy individuals in family (children, elderly etc.)	4	19,0%
Due to nature of work	4	19,0%
Due to other family and personal reasons	3	14,3%
Due to not being able to find a full-time job	2	9,5%
Due to his/her own illness or disability	0	0,0%
Other	0	0,0%

When we calculate, on average, the total net cash income of the working Syrian youth from their main job; we see that it is 14 TL per hour, 96 TL per day, 507 TL per week and 2.169 TL per month (See Table 5.16).

About 30% of the working Syrian youth think that they need an additional job (See Table 5.17).

40.6% of the youth stated that their daily working hours are 9-10 hours on average, and approximately 30% of them stated that they work 11 hours and more per day on average (See Table 5.18). The majority of the employed work 5-6 days a week (See Table 5.18). Another remarkable result from the study was that one out of every five Syrian youth stated that they work every day, that is, 7 days a week (See Table 5.19). The average home-work commute time is close to half an hour (See Table 5.20). It is seen that about half of the Syrian youth walk to work, while others, respectively, use shuttle, private transport and public transport options (See Table 5.21).

Table 5.16. Total Net Cash Income From the Main Job (average)

Hourly	14 TL
Daily	96 TL
Weekly	507 TL
Monthly	2.169 TL

Table 5.17. Do you think that you need an additional job?

Yes	50	29,6%
No	119	70,4%

Table 5.18. Hours of work a day

3-6 hours	7	4,4%
7-8 hours	41	25,6%
9-10 hours	65	40,6%
11 hours and above	47	29,4%

Table 5.19. Days of work a week

1-2 days	2	1,2%
3-4 days	4	2,4%
5-6 days	128	77,1%
7 days	32	19,3%

Table 5.20. Time of commute between home and work

05-15 minutes	42	24,3%
20-35 minutes	71	41,0%
40-60 minutes	57	32,9%
60 minutes and above	3	1,7%

Table 5.21. Means of transportation used to get to work

Public transport	10	11,9%
Private transport	12	14,3%
Walking	41	48,8%
Shuttle	20	23,8%
Other	1	1,2%

33.3% of the youth, that is, one out of three Syrian youth thinks that their current job and the education they received previously are incompatible (See Table 5.22). 31.5% of the youth state that their job does not require any skills or education. The rate of those who state that their education is fully compatible with their job is 28.6% and that of those who think that their job is compatible with their skills but not related to the education they received is 6.6%.

Table 5.22. How compatible do you think your current job is with the education you received before?

Completely compatible	61	28,6%
Completely incompatible	71	33,3%
My job is compatible with my skills, but the education I received is not in this field.	14	6,6%
My job does not require any skills or education.	67	31,5%

QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY FINDINGS

6. UNEMPLOYMENT STATUS

This section tries to explore the situation of the youth who were unemployed at the time of the questionnaire. More than 70% of the unemployed Syrian youth stated that they were looking for a paid job, while around 30% stated that they wanted to start their own business (See Table 6.1).

Table 6.1. Unemployment Status (self-employed/paid job)

I want to start my own business	81	29,3%
I am looking for a paid job	195	70,7%

As can be seen from Table 6.2, 46.4% of those who are unemployed, almost half of them, are looking for part-time jobs. It is known that the Syrian refugee women prefer part-time jobs, especially due to housework and providing care (*Sunata, 2018*). While 32% of the unemployed Syrian youth seek full-time jobs, there is a nearly 12% who say they will accept part-time if they cannot find full-time jobs.

Table 6.2. Unemployment Status (full-time/part-time)

Full-time	108	32,0%
Full-time, but OK with part-time if full-time is unavailable	40	11,8%
Part-time	157	46,4%
Part-time, but OK with full-time if part-time is unavailable	14	4,1%
Doesn't matter whether full-time or part-time	19	5,6%

When asked about the job search channels and what channels they use, it is revealed that almost all of the Syrian job seekers go through this process primarily through Syrian relatives and friends (See Table 6.3). Compared to those currently working, it stands out that Turkish social network is not used in the job search process. Apart from Syrian social networks, social media is already known and used as a job search channel by more than half of the unemployed and job seeking youth. Again, it is seen that only a quarter of the Syrian youth know and use firms that support the participation of Syrian refugees in the labor market, such as Rızk and United Work.

Table 6.3. Channels for Job Search

	Knows	Uses
Via Turkish Employment Agency	8,9%	3,7%
Via private employment offices (kariyer.net, yenibiris.com, etc.)	7,3%	6,8%
United Work	38,7%	21,5%
Rızk	24,6%	23,0%
Via Turkish relative, spouse and friend	9,9%	19,9%
Via Syrian relative, spouse and friend	97,4%	97,9%
Via social media (facebook etc.)	66,0%	55,0%
Through direct application with the Employer (Looking at the job ads on the gate of OIZ etc.)	25,1%	22,0%
By using printed media such newspapers, magazines	4,7%	3,1%
Via middleman/broker/commissioner	9,4%	6,3%
Other	5,8%	5,8%

It is observed that the unemployed Syrian youth have been looking for jobs for an average-median of about 8 months. (For grouped job search time distribution, [See Table 6.4](#)). The rate of those who state that they were not accepted for any oral or written job exam or interview is 93.2%. ([Table 6.5](#)). The average net median of the lowest net wage that Syrian youth looking for a job will accept is around 1,700 TL. (For grouped minimum wage expectation distribution, [see Table 6.6](#)). The most desired work sector is the service sector which ranks first with 27.4%, followed by education with 19.1% and health with 17.8%. ([See Table 6.7](#)).

Table 6.4. How Long Have You Been Looking for a Job?

1-3 months	85	34,7%
4-6 months	29	11,8%
7 months-1 year	41	16,7%
1-2 years	36	14,7%
2 years and more	5	2,0%
Other	49	20,0%

Table 6.5. The Rate of Sitting Oral/Written Job Exam/Interview

Yes	19	6,8%
No	261	93,2%

Table 6.6. The Distribution of the Lowest Net Wage Accepted by Job Seekers

500 TL or less	39	17,2%
600-1000 TL	37	16,3%
1000-2000 TL	90	39,6%
2000-5000 TL	61	26,9%

Table 6.7. The Most Desired Industries for Working

Services	63	27,4%
Education	44	19,1%
Health	41	17,8%
Private	17	7,4%
Public/Government	16	7,0%
Trade	15	6,5%
Self-employment	14	6,1%
Art	10	4,3%
Textile	5	2,2%
Unknown	5	2,2%

The most common difficulties Syrian job seekers face during the job search are low wage with 71.2% and poor working conditions with 43.5%. (See Table 6.8). **It is seen that more than half of the job seeking youth do not know how to look for a job.** Not having diplomas or equivalence certificates is also among the difficulties that youth face during their job search. In addition, approximately one out of three Syrian youth seeking a job cannot access news about vacant jobs due to not speaking Turkish or cannot apply for jobs due to language barriers.

Table 6.8. Difficulties Faced While Searching for a Job

I don't know how to look for a job	105	55,0%
I am unaware of vacancies as I don't speak Turkish	68	35,6%
I can't apply because I don't speak Turkish	50	26,2%
Because I don't have documents such as diploma, etc.	82	42,9%
My skills and experience are not accepted by employer	42	22,0%
Employers don't want to have registered workers	37	19,4%
Low payment offers	136	71,2%
Poor working condition offers	83	43,5%
I usually get short-term job offers	29	15,2%
I am discriminated due to my gender	17	8,9%
Other	31	16,2%

It is seen that the 86.3% majority of Syrian youth seeking a job have not applied to any institution for a job before, and only 13.7% have applied to an institution for a job before (See Table 6.9). When the ones who made job applications before were asked how many times they applied, the most common answer was I applied three times with a rate of 42.9%. (See Table 6.10). 15.7% of the Syrian youth seeking a job stated that they rejected a job offer they received earlier (Table 6.11). The reasons for rejecting the Job Offer are, respectively, low payment with 21,5%, difficulty reaching the workplace with 12,9%, and still being in school with 11,8%.

Table 6.9. Previous Job Application with an Institution

Yes	40	13,7%
No	252	86,3%

Table 6.10. Frequency of Applying for Jobs

I applied once	9	25,7%
I applied twice	6	17,1%
I applied three times	15	42,9%
I applied more than four times	5	14,3%

Table 6.11. Rejecting Job Offers

Yes	37	15,7%
No	199	84,3%

Table 6.12. Reason for Rejecting Job Offers

The payment offered was low	20	21,5%
It was difficult to reach the workplace	12	12,9%
Still in school/training	11	11,8%
Other work conditions were not favorable	10	10,8%
Working hours were not favorable	9	9,7%
The offered job was not compatible with my skills	7	7,5%
Busy with housework	7	7,5%
My spouse's work status changed	5	5,4%
I got pregnant	4	4,3%
My spouse/family does not allow	2	2,2%
Due to other family and personal reasons	2	2,2%
Due to caring for needy individuals in family (children, elderly etc.)	1	1,1%
I got married	1	1,1%
Disabled or ill	1	1,1%
Other	1	1,1%
I didn't want to work	0	0,0%
My current conditions were better	0	0,0%

QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY FINDINGS

7. IDEAL WORKING CONDITIONS

The Syrian youth, who are currently employed, were asked about the three ideal jobs and working conditions they consider most important to them. Approximately 70% of Syrian youth responded to this question as "a job with insurance", as their first choice (See Table 7.1). The second answer was "satisfactory payment" and the third most frequent answer was "being fond of the job". The youth's answers to the question of ideal working conditions were, respectively, providing training opportunities, being compatible with the education I received, permanent job, not working at weekends, peaceful working environment, workplace close to home, no overtime, career/promotion opportunities, childcare at the workplace, and women and men working in separate places.

Table 7.1. Ideal Working Conditions

Job with insurance	292	68,9%
Satisfactory payment	195	46,0%
Being fond of the work	107	25,2%
Providing training opportunities	100	23,6%
Compatible with the education I received	95	22,4%
Permanent job	84	19,8%
Not working at the weekends	80	18,9%
A peaceful working environment	79	18,6%
Workplace close to home	68	16,0%
No overtime	64	15,1%
Career/promotion opportunities	53	12,5%
Availability of childcare at the workplace	29	6,8%
Women and men working in separate places	21	5,0%
Other	6	1,4%

QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY FINDINGS

8. SOCIAL LIFE

In this section which tries to explore the social life of the Syrian youth, they were firstly asked about friendship networks. It was seen that the Syrian youth in Turkey had 2-3 non-Syrian friends as a mean-median (See Table 8.1). 29% of the youth stated that they had more than 5 non-Syrian friends and 23% said they had no friends other than the Syrian ones. It was seen that the Syrian youth in Turkey had 2 Turkish citizen friends as a mean-median (See Table 8.2). The rate of the youth who stated that they had more than 5 non-Syrian friends is 24% and more than 26% said that they had no Turkish friends.

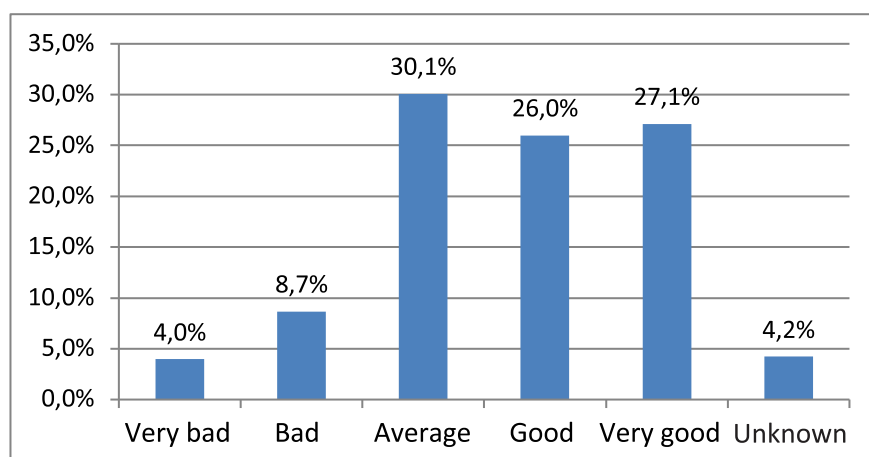
Table 8.1. How many non-Syrian friends do you have in Turkey?

None	186	23,0%
1-2	200	24,8%
3-4	170	21,0%
5+	237	29,3%
Unknown	15	1,9%

Table 8.2. How many of them are Turkish citizen?

None	213	26,4%
1-2	209	25,9%
3-4	171	21,2%
5+	193	23,9%
Unknown	22	2,7%

53.1% of the Syrian youth stated that their interactions with local people are generally positive (See Figure 8.1). The rate of the Syrian youth who are undecided and picked average in this regard constitutes an important part with 30.1%.

Figure 8.1. Interaction with Local People

Another question asked to youth to understand their social lives was whether they visit community/youth centers. 66.2% of the Syrian youth said that they visit community/youth centers (See Figure 8.2). However, considering that some of the participants were reached via TOG youth centers, it should be considered that there may be an illusion in the rate of visiting community/youth centers, making it seem bigger than it is. The ranking of most frequently visited community/youth centers is TOG with 63.6%, ASAM with 19.1% and Red Crescent with 13%, and this also needs to be interpreted carefully, considering that one of the methods used within the scope of the research to reach the youth was through TOG youth centers. (Table 8.3.)

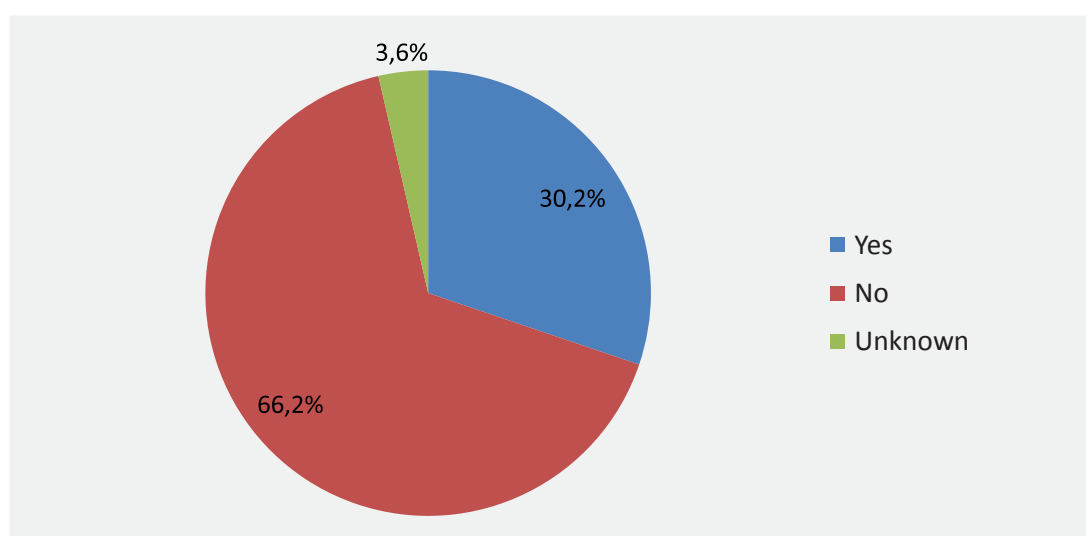
Figure 8.2. Do you visit Community/Youth Centers?

Table 8.3. Community/Youth Centers Visited

TOG	103	63,6%
ASAM	31	19,1%
Red Crescent	21	13,0%
Other	7	4,3%

Among the purposes of the Syrian youth to visit the community and youth centers; getting education ranks first with 55.5%, in the second rank is participating in social activities with 26.3%, and making friends ranks third with 13.5% (See Table 8.4).

Almost half of the Syrian youth who do not visit community and youth centers stated that they do not have time as their biggest reason for not visiting (See Table 8.5). Those were followed by reasons such as work, education and housework-care.

Table 8.4. For what purpose do you visit community/youth centers?

For education	156	55,5%
For making friends	38	13,5%
For participating in social events	74	26,3%
Other	13	4,6%

Table 8.5. Reasons for Not Visiting Community/Youth Centers

I have no time	197	47,0%
Because I am working	45	10,7%
Education	35	8,4%
Housework/care	35	8,4%
I don't want to	34	8,1%
Marriage	8	1,9%
My spouse does not allow	7	1,7%
It's far	3	0,7%
I don't know	55	13,1%

QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY FINDINGS

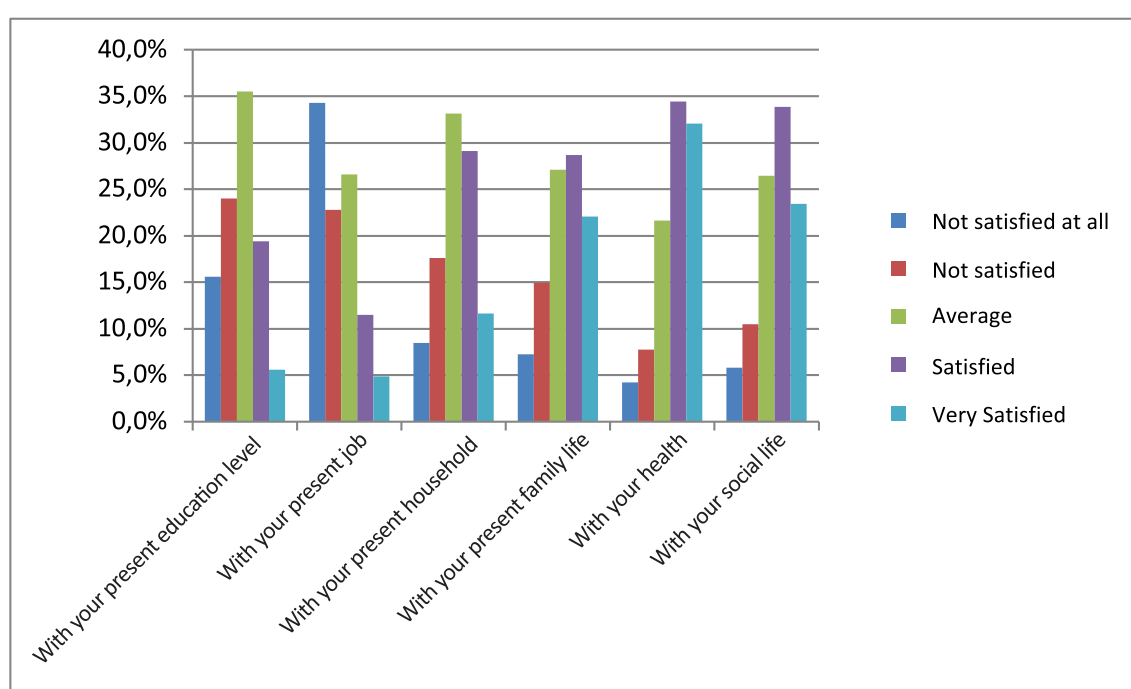
9. LIFE SATISFACTION

To determine life satisfaction, Likert scale assessment was made on the current education levels, jobs, homes, family lives, health and social lives of the youth (See Table 9.1). In the scale evaluation; it was concluded that the Syrian youth are relatively dissatisfied with their current education levels and jobs; and that they are relatively satisfied with their home, family life, health, and social life (See Figure 9.1).

Table 9.1. Life Satisfaction

	I am not satisfied at all	I am not satisfied	Average	I am satisfied	I am very satisfied
With my current education level	15,6%	24,0%	35,5%	19,4%	5,6%
With my current job	34,3%	22,8%	26,6%	11,5%	4,9%
With my current house	8,5%	17,6%	33,2%	29,1%	11,6%
With my current family life	7,2%	15,0%	27,1%	28,6%	22,1%
With my health	4,2%	7,8%	21,6%	34,4%	32,0%
With my social life	5,8%	10,5%	26,4%	33,9%	23,4%

Figure 9.1. Life Satisfaction



In the city of Hatay, although the question of satisfaction with the city lived in was not asked for the reasons mentioned at the beginning of the study, it was asked in the İzmir part of the study. The responses to this question are in parallel with the general satisfaction state specified above. While working conditions, finding job and living conditions are the most important issues that youth are not satisfied with concerning the city they live in; the issues they are satisfied with are the health of children, the education of children, and health, respectively (See Table 9.2).

Table 9.2. Satisfaction with Settlement in the City You Live in

	I am not satisfied	I am neither satisfied nor unsatisfied	I am satisfied
<i>Finding job</i>	52,4%	35,1%	12,5%
<i>Working conditions</i>	55,2%	36,1%	8,7%
<i>Living conditions</i>	38,9%	40,2%	21,0%
Education	24,3%	43,1%	32,6%
Social Life	18,4%	48,5%	33,1%
Health (physical, psychological etc.)	12,1%	39,2%	48,7%
Children's education	6,5%	38,5%	54,9%
Children's health	4,1%	33,5%	62,4%

*This question was asked only to the youth in İzmir.

QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY FINDINGS

10. MIGRATION AND LIFE CONDITIONS

When we asked the Syrian youth about their plans to return to Syria when conditions are favorable in Syria, more than 47% stated that they prefer to return and about 51% prefer not to return (See Figure 10.1). The rate of those considering leaving Turkey is seen to be 51,6%.

Figure 10.1. Do you plan to return to Syria when the life conditions in Syria allow?

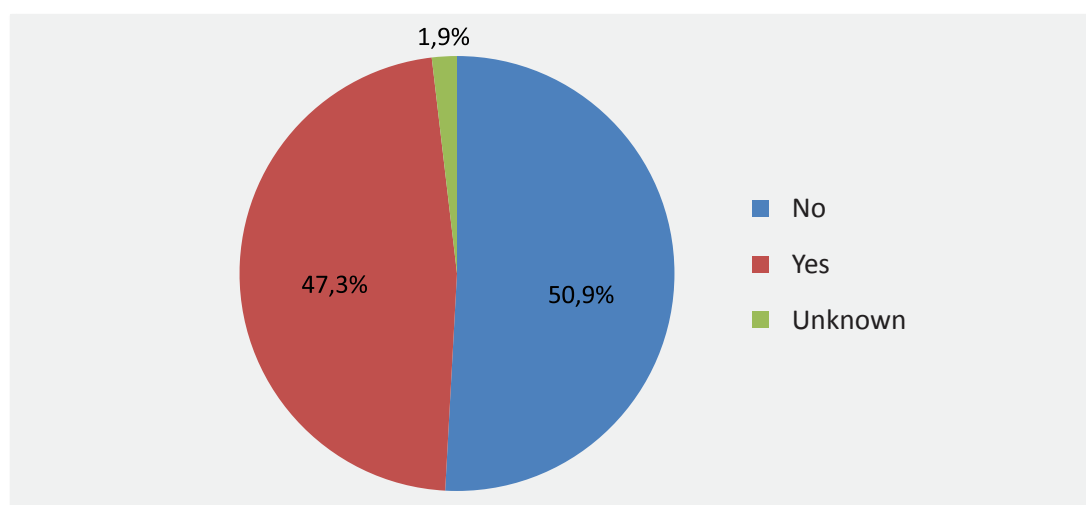
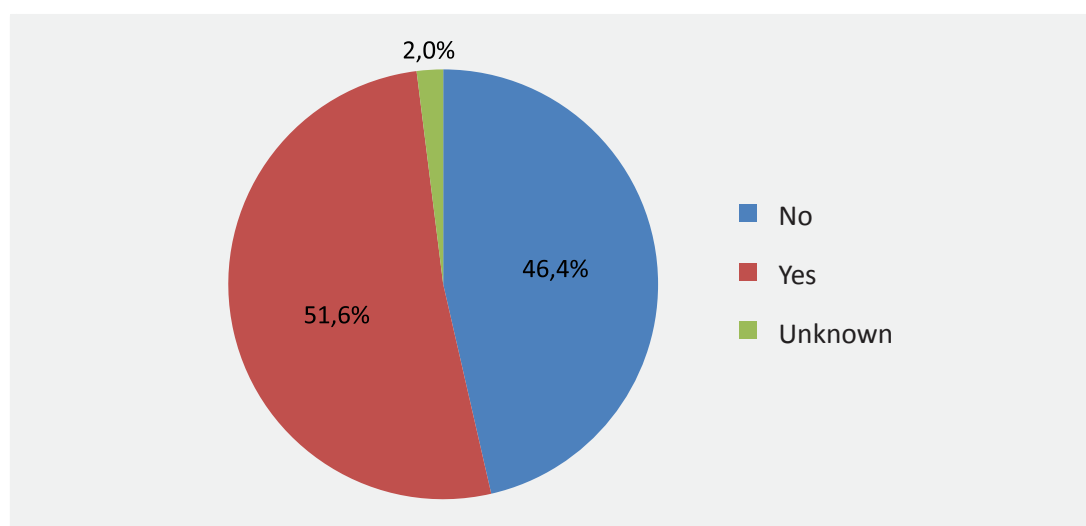


Figure 10.2. Do you consider leaving Turkey?



As can be seen in Table 10.1, when we evaluate this analysis for the two cities separately, it is seen that the tendency of the youth living in Hatay to return to Syria

(52,8%) when the conditions in Syria allow is higher compared to that of those living in İzmir (39,6%) On the other hand, the youth in İzmir is more inclined (64%) to leave Turkey than those in Hatay (42,8%). This result suggests that İzmir is still a transit city for immigrants and refugees, and the opportunities in this sense are plenty.

Table 10.1. Inclinations to Return Syria and to Leave Turkey

	Yes		No		Unknown	
	Hatay	İzmir	Hatay	İzmir	Hatay	İzmir
Returning to Syria	52,8%	39,6%	45,6%	58,3%	1,7%	2,1%
Leaving Turkey	42,8%	64,0%	55,3%	33,9%	1,9%	2,1%

It was seen that the Syrian youth believe that they experience some exclusion patterns because they are Syrian (See Table 10.2). In this context, almost half of the youth think that they were not attended to in state offices because they are Syrian. There are those who think they work in worse working conditions compared to their Turkish colleagues (24,2%), they were unable to enroll in school (23,5%), they couldn't rent a house (21%), they were mistreated at the workplace (18,9%), they were not hired (15,9%), they were harassed (11,3%), alienated at school (11%), all because, again, they are Syrian.

Table 10.2. Because I am Syrian...

They didn't attend to me in state offices	162	49,4%
My working conditions were worse compared to Turkish friends	79	24,1%
My enrollment in school was rejected	77	23,5%
I was unable to rent/find a house	69	21,0%
I was mistreated at the workplace	62	18,9%
I wasn't accepted for work	52	15,9%
I was harassed	37	11,3%
I was alienated at school	36	11,0%
I was expelled from school	20	6,1%
Other	4	1,2%

*This question was asked only to the youth in İzmir.

FOCUS GROUP ANALYSIS

PARTICIPANTS

The target group of the study in the quantitative research section, just like it was in the qualitative research section, is the Syrian refugee youth in Turkey in the 15-30 age range and the study was limited to the cities of Hatay and İzmir. In this context, a total of 5 focus group discussions were held with the youth in both cities, and a total of 43 Syrian youths, 19 of whom were women, were interviewed in Hatay and İzmir in October-November 2019.

Focus group discussions in Hatay were held on October 22, 2019 at TOG Hatay Youth Center with 3 different groups and a total of 30 participants. And the focus group in İzmir was held on November 19, 2019 at TOG İzmir Bulut Öncü Youth Center, with 2 different groups, 1 of which was only for women, and a total of 13 participants in the group.

The age of participants in Hatay range between 15 and 29. The first focus group included youth in 17-22 age range, the second group 17-29 and the last group included youth in 15-28 age range. While the first focus group was more homogeneous in terms of age, the most heterogeneous group was the third group. A total of 11 people from the focus group participants are under the age of 18 (adolescent) and four are over the age of 25. Although the ratio of female-male in the discussion groups was intended to be balanced, the male participants in all groups happened to outnumber the female participants. In total, only 10 of the 30 participants are female.

Due to the difficulties faced in reaching female participants in the focus group discussions held in Hatay area, a female priority strategy was followed as for the participants of the focus group discussion planned in İzmir. In fact, the first focus group discussion was held with five women aged 15-21; the second focus group discussion was held with a mixed group with youth between the ages of 20-27. During the second focus group discussion held in İzmir, an unexpected development was observed as two siblings from Iraq who have special needs participated in the group. Their participation in the focus group discussion was not prevented, on the contrary, it was thought that their presence and views in the last focus group would contribute with a mixed composition. After the focus group discussion, they were informed about and referred to the institutions and organizations where they could receive health services.

Diversity and experience in education and business careers were prioritized in the selection of participants, especially in the context of access to livelihoods.

Focus group participants in Hatay vary in the context of the Syrian cities they came

from (*Idlib, Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Latakia, Hama, Afrin, etc.*); In the focus groups in İzmir, it was observed that the majority of the participants were from Aleppo.

It was observed that almost 80% of the participants spoke Turkish at some level (34 people). It was seen that the education levels of the participants were higher in profile compared to the results of the quantitative research.

Among the participants of the focus group discussions, there are 2 participants who are primary school graduates, and the common characteristics of both of them are that they are women and not working. 2 male participants attending the discussions from Hatay are currently not working and are secondary school graduates. There is a total of 13 participants who state to be studying in high school, 8 of whom are male and 5 of whom are female. 2 of the participants from İzmir who are high school students stated that they also work. Of the 6 high school graduate participants, 4 stated that they are working and 2 are looking for a job. In this context, it was determined that all 3 female participants who are high school graduates are actively working. 1 participant interviewed in Hatay stated that he/she is still a university student. Among the participants, there are 3 university graduates and 2 of them live in İzmir; one stated that he/she is currently working and the other stated that he/she is not working due to the vocational course he/she is attending. One female university graduate participant lives in Hatay and is currently working.

One of the participants of the focus group study quit at the level of secondary school (female), 2 of them quit at high school (*1 female, 1 male*) and 3 at university (*2 males, 1 female*). All of them are currently working, except for the female participant who dropped out of secondary school.

In this study, which was conducted with 3 focus groups in Hatay and 2 in İzmir, and a total of 43 participants, the report did not include the names, cities, interview group numbers, age and gender information of the individuals in terms of ethical confidentiality and to provide an environment where the participants could express their views comfortably. Other demographic information of the participants is given in Table 1.

EDUCATION

The focus group studies tried to explore the school life experiences of the Syrian refugee youth studying in Turkey. The stories of the Syrian youth participating in the focus group discussions showed that they often encounter difficulties in their school lives. These difficulties were put into the 4 categories below.

1. Bureaucratic Difficulties with Enrollment and Documents

It was observed that the most frequent problem faced by the Syrian youth with regard to their educational life is bureaucratic problems regarding enrollment and relevant documents. The youth who had to leave Syria while still in school said that the documents required to continue their education in Turkey created problems during enrollment in school. A 19-year-old male participant stated that he wanted to enroll as soon as he came to Turkey but had problems with the documents (H-1). Another participant stated that he had already completed secondary school by the time he came to Turkey but it was not accepted here and he had to take the exam again (Male, 19, H-1).

While problems related to enrollment are frequently mentioned by the participants in Hatay; participants in İzmir stated that they were provided with facilitating methods for enrollment. For example; *"There was a school nearby. They said 'come' without any enrollment. I went there for three months, and then enrollment was required."* (Female, 15, İ-1). However, some participants in İzmir also stated that they had difficulty with documents such as high school graduation diploma and getting equivalence certificate.

2. The Gaping Age Difference in Case of Not Being Able to Continue Education

It was observed that the youth, who had to quit their education due to war and compulsory migration and are having difficulties in resuming their education due to *age difference*, prefer the **"Open High School"** option. At this point, the remarks of a female participant about why the age gap occurred are noteworthy: *"We didn't think of studying right away. We thought of working first to get by. So, we were late"* (Female, 20, İ-2).

3. Bullying and Problems with School Administration

In the focus group discussion in İzmir with only young women, those who went to school stated that they did not experience peer bullying, that they had difficulties at first, but they gradually adjusted. In the other focus group discussion, it was observed that there were no youth attending the same school with the Turks. It was observed that there were many youths in Hatay who tried to study together with Turks. Some of the youth stated that they faced violence with Turkish students in the schools they go to. One participant stated that he had been subjected to physical violence twice inside and outside the school, and when he went to the school administration to complain, they did not listen to him, so he had to see a lawyer and as a result of all these

processes, he left the Turkish school and applied to the temporary education centers which provide education with the Syrian curriculum. (Male, 19, H-1). Another male participant also stated that he experienced a similar situation and said that he was subjected to violence not only physically but also psychologically (Male, 19, H-1).

Describing an incident, he witnessed about the problems faced regarding the school administrators, he related the situation as follows: *"At the end of 2017, there was a knife issue. (The youth claims that a Turkish youth stabbed a Syrian youth.) The school administration expelled the Syrian student from the school. Whereas the perpetrator was the Turkish one. On top of that, the Syrian was a student; the Turkish one was not even a student."* (Male, 18, H-3). Moreover, in the 3rd Focus group in Hatay, participants said that, in general, the administrators did not intervene in the problems that occurred between the Syrian and Turkish students in school and therefore some of their friends had to quit the school.

Nevertheless, although the youth expressed problems such as language problems, violence and discrimination, almost all of them also stated that they had more Turkish friends than Syrian friends.

4. Discrimination, Violence and Safety Problems

Another problem expressed by the youth in all focus groups is safety. Although they said that they faced discrimination by local people, they stated that they faced discrimination by the police or gendarmerie as well when they resorted to them when they had safety problems. For example; a young male participant said that while he was passing through the villages, the gendarmerie stopped and questioned him because of the car and the plate and so he sold his car because of this problem (Male, 26, H-3). A participant in group 2 in Hatay stated that the police were there when a discussion took place in a neighborhood, but did not interfere because they were Syrian. In this context, a youth from Hatay stated that he did not feel safe and was afraid that he would be followed if he leaves the house (Male, 16, H-3).

Stating that they faced discrimination in almost every aspect of their lives, the youth drew an inter-spatial picture from the neighborhood to the market and from the school to the business environment, while telling about their experiences.

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS

In the focus groups there are youth who continue their education in Turkey as well as the ones who cannot or do not. It was seen that they did not continue their education mostly due to having to work. Also, some of the female youth stated that they do not wish to study. For example, a young woman in Hatay stated that she had to quit her education in University of Aleppo and couldn't continue studying when she came to Turkey because she had to work (Female, 24, H-2). Moreover, another young woman expected to be school-age neither worked, nor studied (Female, 16, H-3).

While some of the participants stated that they work regularly, it was seen that some were getting by working occasionally.

1. Skill Mismatching

There are people working in fields other than the ones they received education for in Syria. For example, a 28-year-old young woman had studied French teaching in Syria, but works as a healthcare intermediary in Hatay (Female, 28, H-3). The number of people who experience *skill mismatching* like this is quite high (Female, 28, H-3; Male, 24, H-2; Male, 25, I-2; Male, 26, I-2; Male, 27, I-2).

2. Vocational Courses

Apart from skill mismatching, the opportunity of facilitating access to livelihoods by using vocational non-formal education was examined. Participation in vocational courses which was low according to the quantitative research findings was observed to be high among the focus group participants in terms of access to livelihoods, since the youth attending vocational courses were in the majority in each group. In addition to a few young people who attend a computer course in groups, there are also youth who say that they went to different courses such as dessert making, pencil drawing, sculpture, pre-accountancy, and handicrafts.

TURKISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Although there are those who took language courses, it is seen that a significant majority learned from their friends in conventional ways. It was observed that especially the Syrian youth who study in Turkish schools or work with the Turks were faster in learning Turkish.

The participants said that they experienced the language problem both at school and work. Besides, language is a key point in social relations in daily life, too. The youth who preferred to learn the language in order to facilitate both work and school life, and daily life were in the majority. However, in the focus groups, there were also those who can't speak Turkish.

While some stated that they work with Turkish bosses, some said that they prefer to work with Syrian bosses because they do not speak Turkish. A Syrian young man stated that he has mostly worked with Syrians and therefore does not speak Turkish (Male, 19, H-1).

Participants stated that while the language problem at school causes difficulties in terms of education, it also creates problems in student relations. For example, a young woman living in Hatay said that the schools in Syria are better and the reason for this is that she can't understand the lessons and her friends in Turkey very well because of language barrier (Female, 15, H-3).

Stating that they face discrimination because they are Syrian, the youth said that local people want to bully them when they do not speak Turkish. In addition, a youth said that there were many Arabic speakers in Hatay, but they still could not communicate (Male, 19, H-1).

In addition to those who learned Turkish in youth centers and schools, there were participants who could not take language courses because they do not have time due to work (Male, 19, H-1), those who learned Turkish from television (Female, 24, H-2), and those who did not want to learn Turkish and went to an English course instead (male, H-2).

SYSTEMATIC DISCRIMINATION

Systematic discrimination is the name given to the patterns of all behaviors, policies or practices against a particular social group to maintain their disadvantage or create disadvantages to them. It can also be read as institutionalized discrimination against people in the disadvantaged social group. It indicates the situation that discriminatory practices are aimed at a certain social group in daily life and social institutions. The participants emphasized that, when they stated that they are Syrian, they were subjected to both material and moral discrimination by an important part of the society. However, they stated that it is wrong to impose the perception of Syrians being "bad" people on all Syrians, just like they think that it is not the whole society that discriminates.

While systematic discrimination in Hatay is remarkable especially in the field of education, the participants who went to school in İzmir stated that they did not experience discrimination. Some of the participants emphasized that they also faced discrimination in their neighborhoods from time to time. Discrimination is seen especially in the field of health in İzmir. Stating that she was discriminated against, a young woman from İzmir reported her own experiences as follows: *"There is a lot of discrimination in hospitals. Secretaries and nurses say bad words about foreigners. I wrote a complaint the other day, it was not the first time she did this, she tells us to shut up, so I put a complaint in the box"* (Female, 21, İ-2).

In this context, the Syrian youths expressed the hardships they experienced in Turkey with their following statements:

"There is discrimination. When there is an issue that requires intervention by authority, they take side with Turks. Even though we are guests, we can't exercise our rights even if we have one. If they stabbed me in Turkey, the Turkish person would be right" (Male, 18, H-1).

"Actually, there are many Arabic speakers in Hatay but they don't talk to us. They are prejudiced towards us all because of some Syrians who do wrong/bad things. In general, Turks think that Syrians are inferior and worth less" (Male, 19, H-1).

"If there is a quarrel, Syrian is seen guilty even if he/she is not, and gets deported" (Male, 18, H-2).

"There are rumors that all Syrians receive wage from the government" (Female, 22, H-2).

"I live in Turkey but I don't feel safe here either. For the fear that someone could follow me if I left the house" (Male, 17, H-2)

"Even if we wanted to go to the police and file a complaint, we would have no result because we are Syrian. There is injustice, after my situation, I told the police that they could check the cameras but they cussed at me and blamed it on me. They stabbed me on the chest, there were always cameras working in the scene but still it was blamed on me, they were going to deport me but they didn't because I am studying. They always say that camera isn't working or broken when it is about us... One day there was a problem at someone's house. Police took their father and used violence on him before his children who are very young, it is very disrespectful, although the fault wasn't ours. 'If I had a match, I would burn them all' he/she says. He/she only

went to the police station with hihe/her parents" (Male, 18, H-2)

"They hit us when our car was outside in 2013, I didn't speak any Turkish at that time, someone from the grocery store was translating for us. He spoke to the police; I didn't understand anything. At first, they said that the Turk is faulty. They asked if we had IDs. They said you are faulty when they saw our Syrian IDs. We paid 5000 TL, we paid for repair of both our car and the faulty person's car" (Female, 22, H-2).

"First, they talk badly about foreign patients when I am there, they ask me 'where are you from' and when they find out, their attitude changes... Even the professor where I work does so, you are a professor, you are supposed to be better than this. He/she talks badly about foreigners but charges them high amounts because they are foreigners and acts sweet during examination. Starts talking behind their back when the patient leaves. I am supposed to translate everything as a translator, but it is problematic, so I don't translate everything" (Male, 27, İ-2).

"Once we went into a store to buy clothes with my brother, there were a few Syrians. The woman said, 'They are Syrian, don't let them try on first, you go first'; and my brother said 'we are Syrian, too'" (Female, 20, İ-2).

"They should treat us the same way they treat Turks in official places. It takes one day for Turks and may take a week for us." (Female, 23, İ-2)

"Actually, I experienced. There is an idea: they asked me bad questions because I am not a covered woman, 'Are you Syrian? Ohhhh! I am shocked', this upset me a lot. And sometimes they ask us very ridiculous questions such as 'Do you have bananas, apples, phones there?' I used to cry when I came here first, yes, we have them all, too. There is a different idea about Syrians so we try to do different things" (Female, 20, İ-1).

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

It was tried to understand whether the problems that youth experience based on their gender have changed. As stated above in the systematic discrimination section, it is seen that both men and women are subjected to physical and psychological violence. In addition to physical violence on the part of men, it was stated that the fact that they have to work to support their families and the idea among local people that they fled rather than fighting put a psychological pressure on them.

While the youth strive to reduce the burden on their family, struggling to get by in Turkey, they express that they suffer verbal violence as Turks ask them why they are here while there is a war going on in their country. For example, a participant said: *"You are Syrian, our soldiers are fighting in Syria and you are here, doing nothing'. There is a prejudice especially towards the Syrian youth who dress well"* (Male, 22, H-2). The Syrian youth stated the following, regarding the psychological violence/pressure expressed by the men: *"Responsibility is too much, and if there is a child in a family too, how can a man take that responsibility, he has to take on the burden of livelihood"* (Male, 22, H-2). Expressing that verbal violence is not limited to the men only but women face it as well, a young female participant stated: *"They also ask us 'What are you doing here when there is a war in Syria?', there is no difference"* (Female, 22, H-1).

Many of the female participants stated that they experienced harassment situations such as being cat-called in the streets. A young Syrian woman in the focus group, maybe making the most comprehensive statement about gender-based violence in terms of violence against women, said the following: *"Turkish women don't like Syrian women especially, thinking 'They always dress up, go out, trying to seduce and steal our husbands'. Turkish men marry Syrians unofficially only with religious marriage when their wives stop attending to them physically. And when the child is born, they may neglect the child and the woman doesn't have any rights. There is marriage with up to four women traditionally in Syria, it's not that different, but here Turkish men create a lot of victims. I haven't experienced any discrimination because I speak Turkish and look Turkish typically. But Syrian women face a lot of discrimination. But in the time of those who arrived first, they think 'I can have a relationship with this woman with little money', it was the case when they first came, and now, they see everyone the same. It was rare when I lived in Afrin before, but now it increased since there is war. Families, parents think like 'I should marry my son, daughter away so as to protect my dignity, to be safe from soldiers' harassment; to save my son and daughter from soldiers and rape'. Or if they are going through financial difficulties, they want to marry their daughters away especially in the camps"* (Female, 24, H-2).

SOCIAL LIFE, EXPECTATIONS AND DEMANDS

Almost all of the participants stated that their Turkish friends outnumber their Syrians friends in social life, like a Syrian young female participant who said that they cook and go to the park with their Turkish neighbors.

1. No to Discrimination, Yes to Equality

If we were to summarize the expectations and demands of the Syrian youth, they say **"No to Discrimination, Yes to Equality."** Describing their expectations from Turkey, the youth usually have expectations regarding almost all of the problems they have stated in their own words and which were examined under the titles. It is because they think that they will live a life as they wish in terms of basic matters such as education, health, safety and work when these problems are solved. Although they generally agree on the idea of no to discrimination, yes to equality; there are different expectations as well. In addition to this, some participants said that they would return if the situation improved in Syria, and that they have no expectations from Turkey. In the focus group discussions, when the statements of the youth are evaluated, it was seen that the expectations of Syrian youth from Turkey are: facilitating obtaining citizenship, establishing equality in education life, non-discrimination, and equal treatment by state and security forces against discriminators, local people to approach them in a more understanding way and to avoid behaviors such as violence and insults, having opportunity to change cities to evaluate job opportunities, etc.

2. Lifting Movement Restriction, and Freedom of Travel

The participants stated that it is sometimes difficult to fulfill the requirements for traveling and that they cannot even obtain permission. Others stated that they faced bad attitudes during these processes. Within the scope of the movement restriction, a youth stated that he could not get permission to travel to more than one place and expressed the difficulty of traveling to Istanbul as follows: *"I had to go somewhere, but they didn't give me permission for two cities at a time, they told me to pick one city, so I picked one. I was going to go to Istanbul recently, they did not permit, I asked for paper from the foundation and finally got the permission, but if it was any other person, they wouldn't give permission for Istanbul at all"* (Male, 20, İ-2).

Another participant said, *"We were getting permission from the Provincial Directorate of Migration to see our relatives in Istanbul, but recently we go to the Provincial Migration, they either accept with long faces or they glower at us and say bad things"* (Female, 21, İ-2).

One of the youths who mentioned that the job opportunities are insufficient, underlined the importance and necessity of freedom of movement and added that it was difficult to leave the city, not only for work but also for travel (Woman, 22, H-2). Another young woman living in Hatay thinks that a special work permit must be issued for Syrians at least (Woman, 28, H-3). She stated that it is very difficult to work in these conditions and that they remain in the suspense with the residence permit.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The study generally made an assessment of economic integration, focusing on the current situation of Syrian youth and their difficulties in accessing livelihoods. Economic integration is three-dimensional: legal, economic and socio-cultural at micro level (IGAM, 2019). The three aspects of the economic cohesion are that (i) Refugees having the rights and powers that will enable them to access work opportunities and employment rights without discrimination due to their legal status; (ii) not being dependent on aid provided by humanitarian actors or the host state but being self-sufficient and having sustainable livelihoods and (iii) interacting positively with local communities and other refugees in their daily lives and workplaces.

The fact that almost 90% of the youth included in the study state that they work without a work permit makes it necessary to evaluate in detail this decrease in the registered employment rate in access to the labor market (Table 5.1). The fact that the most common difficulty faced by the youth in terms of formal employment is finding a registered job is important as it shows that the business market is progressing through informal processes. The presence of young people who stated that they are still not aware of the existence of this permit despite the fact that there is common information provided about the work permit has revealed the critical importance of continuing the dissemination of the information.

Difficulties and obstacles experienced in the process of obtaining a work permit can be considered as the most important causes of informal employment. In this context, the most frequently expressed difficulties by the Syrian youth were related to the long bureaucratic process and the required documentation (See Table 5.2). The fact that work permit process for the Syrians under temporary protection is conducted through employers, as is the case with all other foreigners in Turkey, makes it difficult to overcome these two challenges. Indeed, when we asked the Syrian youth why they do not have a work permit, the most common reason, with 35.3%, was that they were unable to find a registered job (See Figure 5.1). In other words, it can be interpreted as not finding an employer who provides registered work opportunity. The rate of those who say they have no information about work permit is 16,7%. Other reasons that followed are personal choice, bureaucratic obstacles, not knowing how to obtain work permit and not being able to meet the required conditions.

The fact that the youth responded with there would be an improvement in working conditions and salary, as the most common answer regarding the benefit of getting a work permit (See Table 5.3), shows that the employees who are currently working without a work permit work for long working hours and under the minimum wage.

80.6% of the youth sample responded that the diplomas they received from the training they received in Syria has no equivalence in Turkey (See Table 4.2). In addition, 33.3% of the participants stated that the work they are doing now is incompatible with the education they received (See Table 5.22). In the focus group study, the title of skill mismatching was explored in the context of employment and working conditions. At this point, participants who cannot obtain equivalence certificates have difficulty in continuing their education, and cannot document their competence to employers. To overcome this disadvantage, intensive courses or certificate programs can be developed with which the Syrian youth can get equivalence in Turkey for the education they received in their country.

Among the main fields of activity of the workplaces where the Syrian youth work, the most frequently seen are, respectively; textile (17.9%), kitchen services (catering) (17.4%), other service areas (16.9%), construction (16.3%) and qualified service areas (16.3%) (See Table 5.4). In addition to these sectors, manufacturing and agriculture sectors and trade are also among the main fields of activity of the workplaces where Syrian youth work. When we look at gender breakdowns; it is seen that women mostly work in the fields of textile and qualified service, and men work in the fields of construction, food and beverage services and other services.

When asked to the Syrian youth what they do at their workplace in an open-ended way, the most common answers were worker (26% when we add the unskilled and the construction worker) and tailor (19% when we add the machine operator and textile/helper), followed by translator, salesperson, driver, assistant/secretary, cook, waiting staff, iron-smith, nurse, hairdresser, repairman, cleaner, maid, and teacher (See Table 5.5).

More than 68% of the Syrian youth who are currently employed work in small scale companies where 10 or less people work (See Figure 5.2). In accordance with the condition that the number of Syrian employees working in a workplace cannot exceed 10% of the number of Turkish citizens working in the same workplace; it is a legal requirement for workplaces with 10 or less employees or no employees at all to have 1 registered Syrian employee. Having more than one Syrian employee seems to reflect the unregistered work.

The results of this research, which revealed that having an insured job is important for Syrian youth, is important in terms of showing us that the youth are seeking safe jobs. On the other hand, it is seen that they want insured jobs due to the fact that working hours are less compared to uninsured jobs, the salary is the minimum wage, and due to the expectation that their rights will be recognized and granted.

Employers' offers of low wages and poor working conditions are the main challenges faced by the Syrian youth sample during the job search period (See Table 5.12). In addition, the fact that a certain part of the job seekers does not know how to look for a job is another reason for this difficulty. The difficulties that Syrian youth face while looking for a job are also the basis of the difficulties they face while working after they find a job (Table 5.13). Language and communication problems add to the difficulties experienced while working, due to not knowing the local language in the country they live.

Syrian youth stated that they had difficulties in job search processes due to not speaking Turkish or speaking it insufficiently. Spreading language learning among youth will facilitate job search processes, job application and job interviews.

Although the majority of the focus group participants indicated that they have Turkish friends, it was also discussed that there are tensions and conflicts with Turkish peers. The quantitative research shows that 23% of the Syrian youth have no non-Syrian friend in Turkey (See Table 8.1). Moreover, even if the existence of non-Syrians in Turkey is mentioned, the fact that a section of 26.4% stated that their friends are not Turkish (See Table 8.2) revealed the need to improve the dialogue between the two communities.

The perception that they are excluded because they are Syrian was seen in both Table 10.2 and the focus group study. In the light of the information obtained, it is seen that the majority of the Syrians think that they are systematically discriminated against. In order to prevent this discrimination, trainings and events can be organized in public and private institutions to break the "bad" perception of the Syrians. In addition, informative content that can reverse the increasing prejudice among local people can be produced and shared on social media.

SUGGESTIONS

- Projects should be developed to encourage employers towards registered working.
- The extra charges employers are to pay because of having a Syrian employee should be lifted or minimized.
- The number, hours and program flexibility of Turkish language courses should be increased.
- Turkish language teaching materials and resources should be increased and varied.
- Skills and experiences should be certificated in a way that would make them acceptable by employers.
- The youth should be directed towards education and job opportunities in line with their existing skills, talents and education.
- Dialog environment should be established in order to both accelerate the social integration of the Syrian youth with local community, and to eliminate prejudiced attitude of Turkish youth towards their immigrant peers.

ANNEX 1. Demographic Information of Participants

Focus Group	Age	Gender	Where From	Place of Residence	Education Status	Work Status	Can Speak Turkish?
H-1	19	Male	Idlib	Saraykent	Secondary School Graduate	Not Working	Yes
H-1	18	Male	Damascus	Ekinici	High School Graduate	Employed	Yes
H-1	18	Male	Homs	Örgenli	High School Graduate	Not Working	Yes
H-1	19	Male			High School Graduate	Not Working	
H-1	19	Male	Damascus	Saraykent	High School Drop-Out	Employed	No
H-1	17	Male	Idlib	Saraykent	Secondary School Graduate	Casually Working	Yes
H-1	20	Female	Aleppo	Çarşı	High School Graduate	Employed	Yes
H-1	22	Female	Aleppo	Uzunçarşı		Employed	Yes
H-2	17	Male	Aleppo			Employed	
H-2	18	Male	Aleppo	Cumhuriyet	Studying in High School	Not Working	
H-2	22	Male	Latakia	Emek		Employed	Yes
H-2		Male	Hama	Ekinici	Studying in High School	Not Working	No
H-2	24	Female	Afrin	Kırıkhan	University Drop-Out	Employed	Yes
H-2	29	Female	Aleppo	Kırıkhan		Not Working	Yes
H-2	22	Female	Saudi Arabia	İskenderun		Employed	Yes
H-3	16	Male	Idlib	Saraykent	Studying in High School	Not Working	Yes
H-3	18	Male	Latakia	Stadyum	Studying at University	Not Working	Yes

H-3	17	Male	Aleppo		Studying in High School		Yes
H-3	18	Male	Damascus			Casually Working	No
H-3	19	Male	Homs	Saraykent			Yes
H-3	28	Female	El Hasakah		University Graduate	Employed	Yes
H-3	15	Female	Delirşav	Akasya mah.	Studying in High School	Not Working	Yes
H-3	16	Female	Idlib	Valigöbeği	Studying in High School	Not Working	Yes
H-3	15	Female			Studying in High School	Not Working	Yes
H-3	25	Female	Rokko	Saraykent		Not Working	Yes
H-3	16	Female	Latakia	Saraykent		Not Working	No
H-3	17	Male	Hama	Saraykent	Studying in High School	Not Working	Yes
H-3	16	Male	Idlib	Saraykent	Studying in High School	Not Working	Yes
H-3	16	Male	Idlib	Saraykent	Studying in High School	Not Working	Yes
H-3	26	Male	Hama	Kırıkhan	University Drop-Out	Employed	Yes
İ-1	21	Female	Aleppo	Basmane	Primary School Graduate	Not Working	No
İ-1	21	Female	Aleppo	Agora	Primary School Graduate	Not Working	No
İ-1	15	Female	Aleppo	Basmane	Studying in High School	Not Working	Yes
İ-1	20	Female	Aleppo	Bornova	High School Graduate	Employed	Yes
İ-1	20	Female	Damascus	Bozyaka	High School Graduate	Employed	Yes

İ-2	23	Female	Aleppo	Karabağlar	Studying in High School	Employed	Yes
İ-2	25	Male	Aleppo	Ballıkuyu	University Graduate	Not working due to courses	Yes
İ-2	26	Male	Aleppo	Ballıkuyu	University Drop-Out	Not working due to courses	Yes
İ-2	20	Male	Aleppo	Yamanlar	Applied to Open High School	Employed	Yes
İ-2	20	Female	El Hasakah	Ballıkuyu	High School Drop-Out	Employed	Yes
İ-2	27	Male	Baghdad	Çamdibi	University Graduate	Employed	Yes
İ-2	21	Female	Baghdad	Çamdibi	Secondary School Drop-Out	Not Working	Yes
İ-2	22	Male	Aleppo	Çiğli	Studying in High School	Employed	Yes

EDUCATION AND BUREAUCRACY

- Did you have any difficulties while enrolling at the school or while studying there?
- Did you have any difficulties with enrolling at any school?
- Did those who were studying in Syria have to take a break from their education?
- Syrian school or Turkish school, which one was better?
- Why do you prefer imam hatip schools?

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION and ENCOUNTERS

- Where do the problems with peers in Turkey stem from?
- What is it like studying with Turkish people?
- What is this violence issue like in school, how does the administration respond?
- Was there a lot of violence in the first period or was it always like this?

GENDER

- In daily life, does it matter whether you are a Syrian Male or Female?
- Are there any problems that young Syrian girls face?
- What is it like being a Syrian young male?
- Do Turkish people harass/use violence on Syrian male youth?
- Are there a lot of early marriages? (Turkish-Syrian)

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION

- What/how is your language education status?
- Do you attend a vocational course?

EMPLOYMENT

- What is the work environment like for workers, do you work with Turkish people or Syrians?
- Is there a difference between working for a Turkish boss or Syrian boss?

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

- Where do you spend your time when you are not at school/work?
- What do you do in your free time?

NEIGHBORHOOD, FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR RELATIONSHIPS

- Do you have Turkish neighbors?
- Do you have Turkish friends?
- Are there problems in the neighborhood you live in which are similar to the ones in school?

EXPECTATIONS AND DEMANDS

- As a Syrian youth, if you had a wish, what would it be?
- What is your expectation from Turkey?
- Is there anyone considering going to another city?

REGISTRY STATUS AND ID

- Is there anyone who doesn't have any ID, is it easier for them or is it easier when you are registered?

DISCRIMINATION

- Who discriminates more? (*Government, local people, etc.*)

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NOTES

RESEARCH ON ACCESS BY SYRIAN YOUTH UNDER TEMPORARY PROTECTION TO LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

