

## FEMALE ACADEMICS IN DISTANCE EDUCATION FIELD

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Dear readers,

Distance education is a relatively new field of science for our country. Scholars engaged in academic and practical work in this area had to choose the different areas of social sciences before the year 2015. Open and distance education was also recognized as a separate field of specialization in the field of social sciences, making significant progress in the academic sense of distance education.

Women academicians who work in this field in various universities in our country are welcomed to our journal at every issue. We give their opinions in the field of distance education in terms of women's point of view, their contribution to this field, and their opinions on the topic of "women education and distance education". The guest of this census is Professor Dr. Mediha SAGLIK TERLEMEZ from Anadolu University Open Education Faculty.

### My Distance Education Trainer

I completed my undergraduate education at Anadolu University Faculty of Communication Sciences, Cinema-Television Department. During the school years we had a radio club and I also had an active role in that club. At the end of the last year, the radio department was established in the name of Anadolu University Educational Television (ETV) at that time and I started working as one of the first program producers. Year 1983, the first academic year of the Open Education Faculty (1982-1983). I did not meet with distance education, so it started



with radio. Here, we started to produce radio programs for the private education classes after the in-service training courses we received from experienced TRT staff. Our programs were broadcast on TRT-Radio 2. In the same year as a continuation of my undergraduate program, I started a master's degree in cinema-television and prepared a master's thesis in which I developed a model for the effective use of radio in distance education. I completed the Ph.D. After the radio programming, I participated in television production team at the beginning of the nineties. When I received the title of Assistant Professor Doctor in 1995, I concentrated my studies on the academic field in the field of Open Education. In 2005, my associate professor and my professorship in 2016, my field of study was mostly in the context of distance education, open education, television and learning

material. As a television programmer, until 2014, I wrote and directed hundreds of distance education television programs.

During the years of 2005-2011, when I was the general director of Anadolu University's local television TVA, which is a provincial broadcasting company, we adopted a broadcasting concept that is based on "lifelong education" as a team. TRT Okul was our primary target for the Open School System television programs we made through the school. At the same time, we aimed to transfer the university's scientific know-how to wider masses through culture and arts programs, which I am responsible for, and to contribute to lifelong education in a sense. I have been carrying out only my academic work since 2014. Having been in Anadolu University since the first year of the establishment of the Open Education Faculty, I have been developing distance learning and us together because I am a person serving the system.

### My Studies on Distance Education



While my work experience seemed limited to preparing audiovisual material, we had to work in common with specialists who prepared book authors, editors, and other teaching materials in the course of content preparation for these materials. We can call it a kind of media planning. Thus, besides the material you produce, you have to know the others, know their properties and know how to use them. It is also very important to know the student profile, which is the target of the program. On the other

hand, doing various researches and studies on the field with my academician identity enabled me to understand the entire system. Anadolu University Open Education System is a system that really requires very large and very coordinated work. It is constantly renewing and developing, and you have to develop yourself as part of this system.

As for academic studies. In the system I was in, I focused on the research conducted on the materials, especially on the visual materials, both in a material producing position and as being an academician. I can say that the results of such researches, we can evaluate ourselves in the production stage and shed light on our renewal. There have also been a number of studies that I have traveled from distance education-social media relations, on the grounds that social media is an indispensable part of many aspects of life. I find this area particularly important for understanding system users and getting feedback. The list of my studies can be accessed through academic pages.

## Women and Distance Education



In developing countries such as Turkey, especially women in rural areas are relatively more difficult to reach their educational opportunities. According to TÜİK (Turkey Statistical Institute) data (2017), the female population in our country is 49.8%. The rate of those who completed at least one education level is 95.1% for males and 82.8% for females. While 18.8% of males are graduated from a higher education institution, this rate is 14.2% for females. Female employment

rates are less than half of men. Although the rates have increased over the years, it is clear that educated women are not at the expected level of increase in the labor force. It can also be said that the increase in women's higher education levels is the contribution of distance education opportunities. Although this contribution can be searched separately for contribution rates in terms of primary and secondary education and higher education, various surveys in this area have shown that women who have not had the opportunity to have formal education have achieved this through distance education. Although it seems like a discriminatory approach to addressing the educational needs of an ethnically-male country, it is inevitable to go out of the way of the existing data because it is a woman who is a woman. Women; marriage, maternity, economic inadequacy, working life, family pressures, etc. As women become closer to the technology world in which distance education evolves, the levels of both programmatic and lifelong learning will increase. It is evolving that distance education will be your future education system. The view is that, in line with the general trends and developments in the world, the increasing contribution to this day will gain a higher impetus. At this point, I think that there is much that can be done in the sense of women's education, starting from the facts and requirements of the country.

## Future Plans

Throughout my business and academic life, I have been involved in a large and pioneering distance education system and have been working on this area and still continue to work on the same field. Anadolu University is continuing its open education activities with its undergraduate education by adding new areas that are increasing according to the needs of associate degree, undergraduate, graduate, certificate, in-service training and lifelong education. Distance education is more flexible and more advantageous than conventional education systems in terms of adapting to innovations and responding to training needs. Anadolu University uses these advantages as much as possible. We have an attitude research project that we started with our academics and completed the first stage. Our goal is to expand this research first in the country, then in a country level.

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