

FEMALE ACADEMICS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

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Dear readers,

We continue to invite female academics working at the universities in our country in the field of distance education. We publish their opinions about "women's education and distance education" and their contributions to the field of distance education in women's point of view. The guest of this issue is one of the faculty members in Anadolu University Open Education Faculty: Assoc. Prof. Özden CANDEMİR.

My Education and Journey in Distance Education

In 1982, I graduated from Anadolu University, Faculty of Communication Sciences, Department of Cinema and Television. I completed my master's degree at Marmara University, Institute of Social Sciences, Department of Communication Sciences in 1987. I got the degree of proficiency in the Art from the Marmara University Graduate School of fine arts in 1996. In 1998, I received my PhD degree from Marmara University Institute of Social Sciences.

During my undergraduate education, Anadolu University's Educational Television (ETV) was an institution where we took our applied courses. After my BA, I started to work as a video switcher in this institution in the TV education programs produced for Open Education Faculty. That's how my distance learning adventure started. Since its beginning, I have accompanied huge amount of excitement in this institution, one of today's highly prestigious open education institutions of today.



I worked as a video switcher, production officer and producer director in TV production programs. I also participated in national and international projects in the realm of open education and distance learning. I took part as a researcher in Anadolu University BAP Project, "Anadolu University Employees' Attitudes towards Open Education and Distance Learning" aimed at receiving stakeholders' opinions. I conducted academic studies made visual anthropological documentaries and a high number of TV education programs on Anadolu University Open Education Faculty, instructional video, educational television. Among my academic studies are bibliography studies, the perception of distance education, the role of the media in the creation of this perception, the use of learner-instructor interaction in educational programs, and the people in the training videos.



One of my fields of study is the expert instructors teaching in the instructional videos and to determine how they have a positive impact on the audience.

Educational videos with several forms of presentation, in which image, sound and movement are presented together, are described as an appropriate teaching material for distance learning. These programs offer students the opportunity to access information in different formats from different sources. In Anadolu University Open Education system, too, educational television programs were used as important teaching materials in distance education in the 1980s.

As for the form of instruction, the subject experts communicated the pre-determined content to the audience in TV broadcasts within a period of 20 minutes, and the best subject experts were brought together. An interesting observation at the time was that some courses, such as law, were watched not only by students but also by the public. The reason for this is not only related to the course itself but also the way the lecturer teaches it: A warm introduction to the lesson, examples from the real life, fluent instruction without pauses, repetitions only when necessary. Even though the educational videos as supplementary materials have undergone some changes, I think it is still an important part and richness of distance education. "Interaction in distance education", with its importance widely appreciated and dealt with in several studies as a concept, is another area that I am interested in. Several interaction-focused applications are conducted at Anadolu University,

The process evolving from "Exam Preparation" live broadcast, conducted for the purpose of explaining the subjects which Open Education, Economics and Business Administration Faculty students had difficulty in understanding and answering the questions of, before the final, mid-term and make-up exams, and developing interaction between the instructor and the student into today's web-based applications is one of the topics attracting my attention.

Distance Education and Women

Distance education offers people the educational opportunity they need at any level and in every realm of their lives. This feature is seen as a solution for women who cannot receive education for various reasons. Education is a right that all people must enjoy equally, regardless of gender discrimination. However, women benefit less from formal education than men due to economic difficulties, marriage, childcare responsibilities, domestic work or gender-based pressure. It is important for women to be aware of distance education practices and to encourage each other about education. Research shows that individuals who cannot find opportunity for formal education view distance education as a starting point. The concept of education from home can somehow reduce gender-based pressure. However, the main problem is to defend women's right to education and to enable them to use the knowledge they gain as modern individuals. Distance education programs should also be diversified and arranged in this understanding.

Future Plans

Anadolu University Open Education System, which aims to introduce new products and provide facilities for the disabled in many areas, ranging from educational materials to examination services, continues its efforts to offer new opportunities for disabled people in both education and social life. I would like to continue my work on these groups.

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