

EXAMINATION OF GRADUATE THESES WRITTEN IN SOCIAL INSURANCE FIELD IN TURKEY

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ABSTRACT

The thematic distributions of graduate theses in social insurance field in Turkey is examined in this research. A descriptive survey model used in this research. The theses which are approved and archived by Yüksek Öğretim Kurulu (YÖK) Publication Documentation Department in the field of social insurance at departments of labour economics and industrial relations between 2008-2016 were examined. between 2008 and 2016, 1047 theses were written in the departments of labour economics and industrial relations, 66 of which are in the field of social insurance. 52 masters and 14 doctoral theses were evaluated with the document analysis technique. Since some of the theses do not have permission to access the full text, abstracts of this theses are examined. The aim of the research is to prepare a paper that will constitute a source and to guide for the researchers to select their subject in the future via examining the theses written in the social insurance field at the departments of labour economics and industrial relations in Turkey.

Keywords: Social Insurance, Social Security, Labour Economics and Industrial Relations

1. INTRODUCION

Providing a minimum level of assurance and social protection to people facing with danger is the reason for the existence of social security (Güzel et al, 2016: 2). The need of social security is a universal need, and nobody is exempt from meeting social security needs because of race, age, gender, his or her income status and beliefs (Alper, 2015: 199). Social security is provided by public institutions and organizations in the form of unrequited, contributory or lending supports in certain cases, such as unemployment, sickness, maternity, disability, old age which are deprived of necessary and sufficient financial means for the level of living suitable for individuals (Üçışık, 2015: 18).

Social protection is a fundamental element of the state. Social protection policies can prevent and reduce the consequences of some events considered social risk for the individuals (Ianc, 2008: 202). The social security system is a system that takes the necessary precautions to protect all individuals in the society against social risks and meets the losses that individuals may incur in the face of risks. Social security provides an income security when the employed workforce pays premiums while working and retires (Erol, 2014: 37-44). Social security provides health benefits and rehabilitation services to those who are ill and those who have been in the accident. Unemployed people are provided with unemployment benefits to ensure their livelihood to find a job. Social insurance also provides protection to living beneficiaries of died insured person (Kuruca & Özdamar, 2013: 39). Social security is a system aims saving all people regardless of their income from the damages caused by the social hazards which disturb the peace and welfare of society, as a "human right" and "a state duty", by using contributory or non-contributory regimes (Şakar, 2017: 6).

2. SOCIAL INSURANCE

Social law serving for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a social state uses social insurance, social indemnity, social assistance, social services and social incentives tools. Social insurance is a social law instrument that works with insurance technique. Premiums are collected from people covered by the protection in this technique (Sözer, 2013: 1). Social insurance was first established in Germany in 1881 by Emperor I. Wilhelm at the initiative of Bismark in 1881 and spread to the whole world after this date. Germany followed by Austria (1887), Hungary (1891), Norway, France (1894), Finland (1895), Italy (1898), Spain (1900). After the 1930s, Russia, Japan, the United States, Canada and other countries followed these countries. In fact, Switzerland's Bern Canton adopted a limited unemployment insurance in 1893, while the Ghent city administration in Belgium supported unemployment funds created by trade unions in 1901. Compulsory unemployment insurance was adopted in the United Kingdom for the first time in the world in 1911 and compulsory old age and disability insurance covering a limited number of workers in Austria in 1884 (Tuncay ve Ekmekçi, 2016: 17). The concept of social security, first introduced in the Social Security Act in the United States in 1935, was accepted as one of the basic principles of the social state understanding (Koray, 2008: 328). In the ILO Convention on the Minimum Conditions of Social Security No. 102, occupational accidents and occupational diseases, sickness, maternity, invalidity, old age, death, unemployment and familial burdens are defined as social risks and it is desirable for the member states to provide social protection against all or part of them (Baybora, 2013: 195).

Social insurance is different from private insurance. The main distinction is that participation in social insurance programmes is mandatory or provided by large financial assistance (Feldstein, 2005). Another difference of social insurance from private insurance is the use of social equality principles and social policy elements beyond states' strict actuarial principles (De Witt, 2010).

The social insurance technique is used to provide social security to those who have the power to work and earning. Employees must contribute to the financing of the system in order to get help from the system (Arıcı, 2015: 19). The desire to make ambitious changes in the Turkish social security system, and in particular the social insurance system, is caused by the problems of the system. The problem of impairment of the active / passive insured equilibrium is derived from early retirement age (Alper, 2016: 29). Social insurances must have a function to provide actuarial account balancing as required by the insurance policy. In order to benefit from social insurance benefits, it is necessary to complete the minimum period of internship, subject to the condition of being paid premiums and insured for a certain period of time (Alper, 2017: 225).

3. AIM of RESEARCH

The aim of the research is to prepare a paper that will constitute a source and to guide for the researches to select their subject in the future via examining the thesis written in the social insurance field at the departments of labour economics and industrial relations.

4. METHOD

The graduate theses written in the field of social insurance at the departments of labour economics and industrial relations in Turkey since 2008 have been examined by The National Thesis Center System of YÖK. 52 masters and 14 doctoral theses were evaluated with the document analysis technique. Since some of the theses do not have permission to access the full text, abstracts of this theses are examined.

Table 1: Thesis Access Rates (Full Text)

Thesis Access	Master (n)	PhD (n)
Available	42	12
Not available	10	2

As shown in Table 1, 42 of the master's theses have full text access, while there are limits to full text access to 10 master's theses. In the doctoral dissertations, there are 12 full text accesses and 2 full text access limits.

Table 2: Thesis Written at the Department of Labor Economics and Industrial Relations

	Master (n)	PhD (n)	Total
Thesis Written at the Departments of Labor Economics and Industrial Relations	852	195	1047
Thesis written in the social insurance field at the departments of labour economics and industrial relations	52	14	66

1047 thesis were written at the departments of Labour Economics and Industry Relations, 66 of which are in the field of social insurance between 2008 and 2016. 52 out of 852 master's theses are about social insurance.

5. FINDINGS

The distribution of the master and doctorate theses according to years, universities, the sex of the researchers, the title distribution of the thesis supervisor and the social insurance fields in which theses are written has been examined. In this respect, Table 3 shows the distributions of master's and doctoral theses according to years.

Table 3: Distribution of Graduate Theses by Years

Year	Master (n)	PhD (n)	Total
2016	8	1	9
2015	4	-	4
2014	6	1	7
2013	10	3	13
2012	3	2	5
2011	5	3	8
2010	6	2	8
2009	4	2	6
2008	6	-	6
Total	52	14	66

As shown in Table 3, a total of 66 theses have been written in the field of social insurance at the departments of labour economics and industrial relations. The highest number of theses in the field of social insurance belongs to the year of 2013. It is observed that the most doctoral thesis appeared between 2011 and 2013. Minimum number of the thesis in the field of social insurance was written in 2015 between 2008-2016. Distribution of the graduate thesis according to universities is given in Table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of Graduate Theses by Universities

University	Master (n)	PhD (n)	Total
Marmara University	12	4	17
Uludağ University	7	-	7
Dokuz Eylül University	6	5	11
Süleyman Demirel University	5	-	5
Cumhuriyet University	4	-	4
Gazi University	4	2	6
Ankara University	3	1	4
Sakarya University	2	-	2
Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University	2	-	2
Yalova University	2	-	2
İstanbul University	2	2	4
Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University	1	-	1
Pamukkale University	1	-	1
Ordu University	1	-	1
Total	52	14	66

When the distribution of theses according to universities are examined, it is seen that Marmara University is the leading university in master level. Uludağ and Dokuz Eylül Universities come from behind. When we look at doctoral theses in the field of social insurance it is seen that Dokuz Eylül University has a leading role. It is understood in table 4 that no thesis is written in the field of social insurance at doctoral level at many universities. Writing more theses at the doctoral level in the field of social insurance will increase the wealth of knowledge in this field. The distribution of theses made by social insurance according to gender of researchers is reflected in Table 5.

Table 5: Distribution of Theses Concerning Social Insurance by Gender of Researchers

Gender	Master (n)	PhD (n)	Total
Female	23	2	25
Male	29	12	41

When the distribution of the researchers' gender is examined, it is seen that the number of men and women in master's level is almost close to each other. At doctoral level, we see in Table 5 that men show much more interest in social insurance than women. Table 6 deals with the number of thesis supervisors according to their titles.

Table 6: Number of Thesis Supervisors According to Distribution of Title

Title of thesis supervisor	Master (n)	PhD (n)	Total
Professor	25	11	36
Associate Professor	14	3	17
Assistant Professor	13	-	13

As seen in Table 6, most of the supervisors of graduate theses in the field of social insurance seem to be professors. In the master thesis, it is seen that the number of associate professors is one more than the number of assistant professors after professors. The social insurance areas of graduate theses at the departments of labour economics and industrial relations are given in Table 7.

Table 7: Social Insurance Areas of Graduate Theses

Area	Master (n)	PhD (n)	Total
Social Security Support Premium Application	1	-	1
Social Security Reform and Social Security Change	11	4	15
Unregistered Employment	3	-	3
Social Insurances Premium Incentives and Employment	1	-	1
Service Identification in Social Security Law	1	-	1
General Health Insurance	7	3	10
Auditing and Inspection in Social Security	1	-	1
Insured Concept in Social Security Law	1	-	1
Minimum Labor Practices in Social Insurance	1	-	1
Short Term Insurance Branches	8	-	8
Administrative Monetary Cases and Appeals in Social Security Law	1	-	1
Social Security of Foreign Personnel	1	-	1
Long-term Insurance Pensions	10	2	12
Social Security of Independent Employees (4/B)	1	-	1
Social Security of Public Officials (4/C)	1	-	1
Unemployment Insurance	3	-	3
Disruptions in the Social Security System	3	-	3
Impact of the Social Security System on Income Distribution	1	-	1
Social Security System from a demographic perspective	1	-	1
Quality of Service of Social Security Institution	1	-	1
Service Debt	1	-	1
Social Security Institution Employees' Perception of Trade Unions and Their Performance	1	1	2
Women in Social Insurance Law	2	1	3
Social Security Policies for Active Aging	-	1	1
Medication Problem in Turkish Social Security System	-	1	1
Determination of the Social Insurance-Related Social Insurance Relationship by Action	-	1	1
Social Security Systems of Other Countries	1	4	5

As can be seen in Table 7, the issues of social security reform and the changes in social security were discussed in the graduate theses in the field of social insurance in the departments of labour economics and industrial relations between 2008 and 2016. Most researched issues were the social security system and general health insurance of other countries except social security reform at the doctoral level.

Pensions linked to long-term insurance branches, short-term insurance branches and general health insurance were most researched issues except social security reform at the master level. When we look at the thesis of the graduate students, it is seen that the old age pension is studied the most in the long term insurance branches.

When we examine the graduate theses, it is seen that the short-term insurance branches are treated only at the master level. The fact that the issue of women is not discussed much in the social insurance law as can be seen in Table 7, but this subject should be included in more theses subjects. It is also important to examine the theses that deal with the future of social insurance.

6. CONCLUSION

Graduate theses written in the field of social insurance at departments of labor economics and industrial relations in Turkey between 2008-2016 examined by the years, universities, the gender of the writers in this study. When the theses are examined in terms of gender, it is seen that male-female ratio at masters level is very close to each other, while men at doctoral level have much more research on this issue. It is noteworthy that in the theses, women do not deal with social insurance very much.

Between 2008 and 2016, 1047 theses were written in the departments of labour economics and industrial relations, 66 of which are in the field of social insurance. 52 of the 852 master's theses are about social insurance.

With the reform of the social security system in Turkey in 2008, the main subject of social security field at the departments of labor economics and industrial relations has been the change of social security reform and social security. It is important to examine more theses that deal with the future of social insurance.

When the distribution of graduate theses written in the field of social insurance at the departments of labour economics and industrial relations in 2008-2016 according to universities was examined, Marmara, Dokuz Eylül and Uludağ Universities produced the most thesis in this area respectively.

Graduate theses written in the field of social insurance at the departments of labor economics and industrial affairs, need to address current problems more. It is also essential that the topics of the thesis in social insurance are more varied.

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