Perception of Immigration among University Students (A Comparative Analysis Istanbul-Şırnak Example)[1]

Üniversite Öğrencilerinde Göçmenlik Algısı (Karşılaştırmalı Bir Analiz İstanbul-Şırnak Örneği)

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ABSTRACT	ÖZ
The subject of our study is the attitude of university students towards immigrants, especially Syrian immigrants, who migrated to Türkiye for various reasons. A survey technique was used to explain these attitudes. Some demographic questions about attitudes towards immigrants and the "Immigrant (Syrian) Perception Scale" were included in the survey. The study population consists of university students, and the sample group consists of university students studying in Şırnak and Istanbul. A total of 302 university students, 151 from Istanbul and 151 from Şırnak, participated in the study, using snowball and purposive sampling methods. As a result of the study, it was seen that the attitude of university students towards immigrants was negative, they found immigrants disturbing in terms of economy and security, and it was determined that university students were disturbed by the presence of immigrants. It has been determined that university students residing in Istanbul have a more negative attitude towards Syrian immigrants than those residing in Şırnak. In addition, it has been determined that as the education level, age, and religiosity increase, the attitude towards immigrants becomes more positive; but it does not differ according to gender, or economic level.	Çalışma, Türkiye'ye çeşitli nedenlerden dolayı göç eden göçmenlere, özellikle Suriyeli göçmenlere yönelik tutumları üniversite öğrencileri bağlamında ele almaktadır. Araştırmada nicel araştırma yöntemi ait anket tekniği kullanılmaktadır. Ankette bazı demografik sorulara, göçmenlere yönelik tutum sorularına ve "Göçmen (Suriyeli) Algısı Ölçeği"ne yer verilmiştir. Çalışmanın evreni üniversite öğrencilerinden, örneklem grubu ise Şırnak ve İstanbul'da eğitim gören üniversite öğrencilerinden oluşmaktadır. Çalışmada kartopu, amaçlı ve kota örneklem teknikleri kullanılmış, İstanbul'dan 151 ve Şırnak'tan 151 toplam 302 üniversite öğrencisine ulaşılmıştır. Çalışmanın sonucunda, üniversite öğrencilerinin göçmenlere yönelik tutumunun olumsuz düzeyde olduğu, göçmenleri ekonomik ve güvenlik açısından rahatsız edici buldukları görülmüş ve üniversite öğrencilerinin göçmenlerin varlığından rahatsız oldukları tespit edilmiştir. İstanbul'da ikamet eden üniversite öğrencilerinin Şırnak'ta ikamet edenlere göre Suriyeli göçmenlere yönelik göçmen algısının daha olumsuz düzeyde olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Ayrıca eğitim düzeyi, yaş ve dindarlık arttıkça göçmenlere yönelik algının daha pozitif bir hal aldığı, cinsiyete göre göçmenlere yönelik algının farklılaşmadığı ve ekonomik düzeyle göçmen algısı arasında bir ilişkinin var olmadığı tespit edilmiştir.
Keywords	**Anahtar Kelimeler**
Migration, Immigrant Perception, Syrian Immigrants, University Students.	Göç, Göçmen Algısı, Suriyeli Göçmenler, Üniversite Öğrencileri.

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1. Introduction

Migration is defined as the movement of geographical, economic, social, and cultural displacement from one place to another for a temporary or permanent settlement for different reasons (Yalçın, 2004: 13). The dynamics in a cause-and-effect relationship are intertwined in the historical and sociological context. This situation makes it impossible to define migration with a limited area and makes it difficult to understand the phenomenon in all its dimensions (Göktürk & Kaygalak, 1999: 113). In the sociology of migration literature, migration definitions, and theories are tried to be defined through different perspectives. The first of these theorists, Peterson, identifies four types of migration primitive, coercive, forced, and free migration (Fichter, 2016: 154). Another view of the types of migration also includes three categories. These are individual, mass, and chain migration (Göktürk & Kaygalak, 1999: 115-116). An immigrant, who is an actor in this movement, is a person who migrates to a geographical, spatial, and cultural area from the place where he/she was born and raised to another place or a different country due to individual and social reasons such as socio-economic, political, war, politics or religion. For this reason, the phenomenon of migration is a phenomenon that needs to be addressed in sociocultural, economic, and individual-psychological terms (Güllüpınar, 2012: 56). According to the most general definition, a migrant is a person who decides to migrate of his/her own free will for personal comfort and without external coercion. Therefore, this term covers individuals and family members who migrate to another country or region to improve their material and social situation and increase their or their family's prospects for the future (Perruchoud, 2009). In fact, migrants who come to the country and have not yet acquired citizenship (Dedeoğlu & Gökmen, 2011: 60) is a definition that covers all foreign nationals in a country (Ekşi, 2015: 10-17). Immigrants may acquire minority status in the destination country, which they reach over time (Özmen, 2012: 42). In short, it is possible to say that the phenomenon of migration is the name of the struggle for a better life worthy of human dignity from the perspective of those who migrate.

We can see the scene of migrants on the territory of Turkey in the movement of Turks from Central Asia to Anatolia since 1071 (Erdoğan and Kaya, 2015: 29-31). The arrival of immigrants in Turkey dates back to the first departures from the Ottoman lands. For foreigners coming to Turkey to be recognized as immigrants, they must settle in Turkey and remain attached to Turkish culture (Dedeoğlu & Gökmen, 2011: 60). The migration of Syrians to our country has brought about perhaps the largest migration movement in our history. This situation, as can be expected, is expected to be quite historical in its social reflection. Studies on what the consequences are and what these consequences will be in the coming period will continue. We also see important sensitivities about recording these in the past (Babuş, 2006: 124). On the contrary, if migrants are not registered, they will have various negative effects on different institutions of the country.

Migration can involve rapidly evolving and complex "events" (IOM, 2020: 41). Learning the historical background of migration is crucial for interpreting migrants' patterns of movement, residence, and urban integration (Karpat, 2020: 39). The migration movement has been experienced in some way since people have come together. Migration has become widespread and ordinary worldwide, especially in the 20th century (Giddens & Sutton, 2014: 109). Since the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, with the end of the world wars, the suspension of the cold war, and the impact of globalization, the phenomenon of migration has become a political phenomenon as never before as it continues today (Bostan, 2018: 37). In this respect, the causes and consequences of migration have also changed according to industrial and post-industrial social structures. Internal conflicts arise for various reasons; the consequences

of political turmoil and ethnic or sectarian violence push people to find a safe place and cause the migrant population to increase. Millions of people migrate yearly for these reasons (Bostan, 2018: 47). Today,according to estimates, there are more than 272 million migrants in the world. This leads to theconclusion that 3.5 percent of the world population is immigrants (Dünya Göç Raporu 2020: 25). There is no doubt that this data for 2020 is more relevant today. These countries where migrants seek refuge can now be almost anywhere in the world. Various social science disciplines have developed concepts and theories accordingly. One thing that has not changed is that especially disadvantaged individuals such as the disabled, the elderly, children, and women are extremely affected by this movement. Among the attractive and repulsive factors that are among the reasons for the birth of migration, which is the cause of these tragic results,the repulsive factor should be carefully examined. As a matter of fact, this factor is the main factor that shapes the results of our study, which is called "war." The wars that started with the Arab Spring discourse can be given as an example.

2. Syrian Migrants in Turkey

The wars that started with the self-immolation of a citizen in Tunisia and the Arab Spring discourse soon spread to Syria and affected the whole world. There are two reasonswhy the Syrian war has affected the world so much. The first of these is that the war has become transnational and a proxy war, so there is almost no global state thatdoes not have a foot in Syria. Consequently, this war will no longer be just an Arab or Syrian war, which is still going on. The second reason is the wave of refugees that it has created globally, scattered worldwide (Samur & Cihangir, 2019: 218-219). It is estimated that more than 13 million Syrians are migrants worldwide. This number is quite high compared to the Syrian population.

Turkey has moved from being a transit country to a destination country for migrants with its increasing diversity of opportunities. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Turkey has approximately 3.7 million Syrians. When we considerthat most of these are children, women, and the elderly (UNFPA: 1-3), we see a remarkably dependent population. When we considerthat these are the official figures, with the addition of the real figure, we have an extremely important and intricate demographic structure in terms of sociological interaction. Syrians who came to our country were granted temporary protection status under the Temporary Protection (TP) Regulation dated 13/10/2014 and numbered 2014/6883 Temporary Protection Regulation (TPR), 2014, Geçici Koruma Yönetmeliği: 15/1) In countries receiving migrants, a group of people see these people as a a financial risk and socio-culturally. Will the social changes that occur be a cultural enrichment or a conflict? This situation may lead to an arabesqueisation of culture (Çelik, 2013: 143). The risk of exclusion arises along with the risk of cultural assimilation or culture shock. To address theseand other concerns, governments are implementing various policies (particularly about social integration and acceptance) (Özmen, 2012: 37). Social acceptance and integration studies carried out by our country, especially for Syrian migrants, have led to various debates. It is seen that the high level of acceptability in society has started to disappear over time. In other words, it is realized that Syrians have started to be seen as a burden rather than a guest, especially in the media (Yıldırımalp et al., 2017: 108). Undoubtedly, these views are more prevalent among young people.

While the perceptions towards Syrian migrants were optimistic at first, as the number of migrants and economic problems increased, the direction of the course started to turn into pessimism. Although the cultural integration of immigrants with the societies of the countries where they settle, i.e., in the process of acculturation, is tried to be successful, most of the timeboth sides bring

about an acculturation as well as this change. Therefore, although both sidesadd innovation to their own cultures, this will not occur in the form of becoming the other or being assimilated. While the course of migration events has changed over time, the approachesto this phenomenon have also changed. As a matter of fact, according to the study conductedby Samur and Cihangir on Syrian migrants in Mardin, Batman, Şanlıurfa, and Diyarbakır in 2018,the participants gave the highest score to Turkey (35.7% very successful, 35.8% successful).In addition, to the question *"How would you rate the attitude of the state towards Syrian migrants in Turkey?",* it is noticed that a positive perspective is generally dominant (36,5% very positive, 39,3% positive). They also believe that the local people have a positive attitude towards them (17,2% very positive, 36,4% positive, 36,4% neither positive nor negative). (Samur & Cihangir, 2019: 225-231).

Although Syrian migrants are scattered all over Turkey, it should not be forgotten that they are concentrated in certain places. Accordingly, the top ten provinces where Syrian migrants live the most are as follows: Istanbul, Şanlıurfa, Hatay, Gaziantep, Adana, Mersin, Bursa, İzmir, Kilisand Konya. The first three provinces in the distribution of these data in proportion to populationare as follows: Hatay with 28.01 percent, Şanlıurfa with 23.00 percent, and Gaziantep with

20.79 percent. (Bostan, 2018: 49). Naturally, it is possible to say that Hatay, Şanlıurfa, and Gaziantep are the provinces that deal with migrants the most and feel this burden the most (Geçici Koruma Yönetmeliği: 15/1) When we look at the data of Syriansunder temporary protection according to years, in the last three years, In 2020, the number ofSyrians under temporary protection was 3,641,370; in 2021, this number showed a relative decrease to 3,373,369 and in 2022 this number was 3,595,134 people (Geçici Koruma Yönetmeliği: 15/8).

3. Migrants Between Acceptance and Rejection: Guest or Burden?

Bauman, who put forward the concept of *migration panic*, argues that the issue should be placed on the world agenda seriously in many states by looking at the Syrian migrants who have affected the whole world today (Zygmunt Bauman, The Migration Panic And Its (Mis)uses (Bauman: 2015). The mass influx of Syriansto Turkey has had a series of social, economic, cultural, social, and security impacts over time (Gülerce & Çorlu, 2021: 74). Economic and social integration (harmony-integration) is oneof the most important factors. Naturally, this situation has sometimes led to tension and conflictand sometimes to cooperation and integration. The prolonged stay of Syrian migrants in our country has accelerated the process of social integration and harmonization (Bostanci, 2017: 250) and even made it compulsory. The fact that so many migrants live in Turkey, the low probability of migrants being resettled in third countries, and the cumbersome progress in readmission policies have made integration and social cohesion inevitable. For this to happen, firstly it is necessary to face the facts. The most important of these is to understand and scientifically analyze our country's positive and negative views towards migrants.

If migrants are guests in the eyes of the public, the question "*will the guest stay this long*?" has started to be asked. The negative reality of this perception, whether necessary or unnecessary, rational or irrational and the change in positive views over time are noticeable. In addition to the identity and identification of those coming from Syria, the approach of being acceptable tothe public, especially among young people, has changed over time. So, what were the migrantsto be called? *"Guest?", "Refugee?", "Asylum seeker?"* In fact, the generally accepted legal definition has been *"refugee"* (Yıldırımalp et al., 2017: 80). These concepts belong to moderntimes (Erder, 2017: 111). Although the term refugee, which is considered appropriate in thelegal sense, started as "muhajir-misafir" among the people, this approach is nowadays approached with skepticism. As

the shared space and resources shrink, this view has turned into an even sharper perceptions. From rising rent prices to other costs of living and low-paid joboffers from employers, migrants have started to be seen as responsible for this situation, especially Syrian migrants have been under suspicion. The public's perception that they are more advantageous in terms of benefiting from the state, especially a series of positive discrimination such as economic aid, health, and education, while their own citizens do not, has made the perceptions about immigrants even harsher. Negatively evaluated statements and actions of Syrian migrants in different social media areas have increased recently. Problematization in the media (Doğanay et. al., 2016: 177), and it is seen that a perspective based on negation is dominant (Göker & Keskin, 2015: 254). This situation further reinforces some existing prejudices and leads to the emergence of different negative perspectives. This increases marginalization in society and causes Syrian migrants to be perceived as a threat (Yıldırımalp et al., 2017: 111). This inevitably creates a certain degree of pressure on the rest of society and on the government. Şallı categorizes the resulting concerns into five categories: Economic, aid, public order and security threats, health care, and education of migrants. (Şallı, 2022: 30). The existing reality in society has created an eclectic accumulation of multifaceted concerns. All these can lead to perceptions and actions of relative marginalization or implicit exclusion.

In fact, the share of Syrian immigrants in the negativity in the country is not as high as exaggerated. According to Boztepe, this rate (the share of Syrians in crime incidents) is only 1.37% (Boztepe: 2018), Especially the fact that the news on social media is more remarkable, exaggerated, and more effective in social memory causes negative perceptions to increase. Sharing the real rate and extent of this situation with society in a healthier way is extremely vital for social integration and cohesion.

Migrants are obliged to abide by the rules of law and public order of the country of destination. Migrants, therefore, have the same obligations as citizens of the country of destination (Peoples' Bridge Association, 2017: 120-121). As immigrants' integration and harmonization process in our country progresses constructively, the positive perspective toward immigrants will increase. Seeing this as a cultural richness and developing action policies away from assimilation efforts will create a permanent mutual acculturation process, and over time, immigrants will begin to be perceived as one of us rather than the other. In this way, the phenomena that will be experienced in sociocultural and different issues or that will turn into the possibility of conflict will maintain integration by protecting the immigrants' own cultures.

Migrants experience certain changes according to the sociocultural and religious structure of the country and society they migrate to (Altintas, 2008: 257). The state and various NGOs provide different services in many areas, such as the Syrian refugee labor market. According to the report published by the Ombudsman's Office, some of the services provided for Syrian migrants are listed as follows: Entry and registration, translation services, information activities, legal aid services, accommodation and resettlement, security, education, health, psycho-sociological support, labor rights, and employment, social assistance, practices for women and children, services for the disabled and elderly, religious services, Turkish Red Crescent and its services (Çiğdem et al., 2018: 118-180). The legislative executive has enacted various laws and regulations on these issues and distributed to the relevant units. The main purpose of the services has been to ensure the necessary peace and tranquility for both migrants and citizens of our country. In this sense, as a result of the encounter of both parties, certain responsibilities fall on them (Gülerce & Çorlu, 2021: 74).

There are also views that Syrians make significant contributions to the Turkish economy, provide a favorable place for foreign capital, enable the creation of new employmentopportunities, and make significant contributions to exports (Taştan et al., 2017: 20-22). In this sense, it should not be forgotten that there are differences between the perceptions formed in society and the realities, but there are problems in communicating these differences to society. In addition, the research revealed that the idea that Syrians shop only with their own compatriots in the ghettoization tendency does not reflect the truth and that they shop wherever they find it cheaper (Çatak, 2020: 182).

Despite everything, the number of citizens who maintain the ensar-muhajir approach to the issue is also considerable. The fact that more than half of the approximately 30 billion dollars spent on Syrian migrants in Turkey has been made through the aid provided by NGOs and citizens (Şallı, 2022: 28). Shows the constructive approach of the society to the issue. Although there is a perception of discomfort regarding Syrian migrants, the general acceptance is that they should not be sent from the country, especially due to the sensitivity ofreligion and conscience. Rather, this process should be transformed into a readmission process according to their own voluntary consent. The perception in Turkey is that besides notgranting citizenship, we should help and harbor them as much as we can (Erdoğan, 2014: 3).

4. Method of the Study

4.1. Method, Scope, and Limitations of the Study

The research is limited to explaining the attitudes of associate, undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral level university students residing in Istanbul and Şırnak towards immigrants living in Turkey and the difference in the perception of Syrian immigrants according to demographic variables. In order to measure this difference, the *"(Syrian) Migrant Perception Scale"* developed by Tecim and Karakoyunlu was used (Tecim & Karakoyunlu, 2021). In addition to this scale, demographic questions, religious attitude questions, identity questions, and attitude questions toward immigrants were included in the questionnaire. The questionnaire form prepared due to the Covid-19 pandemic was sent to university students residing in both Şırnak and Istanbul as an online survey prepared through Google Forms.

In the research, the documentation technique of the qualitative research method and the questionnaire technique of the quantitative research method was utilized. The conceptual and theoretical framework of the research was created using the documentation technique. A questionnaire form was prepared based on the hypotheses of the research. The questionnaire form was sentonline to university students residing in Istanbul and Şırnak. Of course, it is not possible to reachthe entire research population. The number of sample groups representing the universewas reached using convenience and purposive sampling methods. The number of samplegroups was distributed equally to Şırnak and Istanbul with the quota sampling technique. A totalof 302 university students, 151 from Istanbul and 151 from Şırnak, participated in the study.

"(Syrian) Migrant Perception Scale" is a valid and reliable scale prepared to measure the perception towards Syrian migrants. The scale consists of 4 sub-factors and 21 items. The firsttwo factors include xenophobia, and the other two factors include tolerance items. Factor 1 is named a "danger" factor because immigrants are considered as a danger, factor 2 is nameda "social exclusion" factor because immigrants are subjected to social exclusion, factor 3 is named a "social inclusion" factor, and factor 4 is named as "humanitarianism" because it contains more humane elements towards immigrants. The first 11 questions in the scale consistof reverse items. While the

lowest score that can be obtained from this scale is 21, the highestscore is calculated as 105 (Tecim & Karakoyunlu, 2021). The data obtained from the questionnaire were analyzed with SPSS 20 package program.The data relating to demographic variables were analyzed with frequency and descriptive analysis techniques, the relationships between two different groups were analyzed with independent samples t-test, and the relationships between more than two groups wereanalyzed with one-way variance analysis (One-way ANOVA). The results related to the difference were tried to be explained according to a 0.05 significance level. In the research, Tukey multiple comparison techniques were used to determine the source, level, and direction of the differences that emerged in multiple comparisons between groups.

4.2. Hypotheses of the Study

- **H1:** The attitude of university students towards immigrants is negative. University students see immigrants as a threat in terms of economic and security**.**
- **H2:** University students' perceptions of Syrian immigrants are negative.
- **H3:** The perceptions of Syrian immigrants of students residing in Istanbul and Şırnak differ significantly. The perceptions of university students residing in Şırnak towards Syrian immigrants are more positive**.**
- **H4:** The perception of Syrian immigrants differs significantly according to the level of education. As the level of education increases, the perception of Syrian immigrants becomes more positive.
- **H5:** The perception of immigrants differs significantly according to religious attitude. As religiousness increases, the perception of Syrian immigrants becomes more positive.
- **H6:** Perception of immigrants differs significantly according to economic level. As the economic level increases, the perception of Syrian immigrants becomes negative.
- **H7:** Migrant perception differs significantly according to age. As the age increases, the perception of Syrian immigrants becomes more positive.

5. Findings

5.1. Social Profile of the Respondents

A total of 302 university students participated in the study titled *"Perception of immigration in university students."* 151 of these students reside in Istanbul and 151 of them reside in Şırnak and are studying at the college, undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels (Ph.D).

The study participants consisted of 69.9% women and 30.1% men. 43.0% of the participants have a college degree, 47.0% have a faculty degree, 7.9% have a master's degree, and 2.0%have a Ph.D. While 92.4% of the participants were between the ages of 17-30, therate of individuals over the age of 30 was 7.6%. Since the majority of the participants are university students, it is possible to say that the age range is gathered in the young populationage range. It is seen that 75.8% of the participants have medium, 16.6% low, 7.0% high, and 0.7% very high economic status. It is possible to say that the majority of the participants belongto the medium economic level.

Information on the educational status of the participant's mothers and fathers is as follows: 28.8% of the participants' mothers were illiterate, 23.2% were in primary school, 18.9% were in highschool, 10.3% were illiterate, 9.9% were secondary school, 6.3% were undergraduate, 1.7% were graduate school and 1.0% were postgraduate. On the other hand, 27.5% of theparticipants' fathers had high school education, 24.8% had secondary school education, 22.22% had primary school education, 8.9% had undergraduate education, 6.6% did not attendschool, 6.3% were

illiterate, 2.0% had graduate school education, and 1.7% had postgraduateschool education. It is seen that the education level of the participants' fathers (x:4,11) is higherthan the education level of their mothers (x: 3,14). In addition, it is determined that there is no doctorate level education among the parents of the participants.

The information about the participants' perception of religiosity and God is as follows: 93.4% ofthe participants believe in the existence of God, while 6.6% do not believe in the existence of God. While 88.4% of the participants believe in a religion, 11.6% of them state that they do notbelieve in a religion. This shows that the rate of believing in the existence of God among university students is higher than the rate of believing in a religion. It is possible to evaluate thisresult as an indicator that deism has started among university students, albeit partially. Whenwe look at the situation of the participants according to the degree of religiosity, it is seen that53,0% of the participants are religious, 36,8% of them are less interested in religion, 7,3% haveno interest in religion, and 3,0% are very religious.

Information about the participants' perception of themselves as nationalist and modern is as follows: The mean of the participant's self-assessment as nationalist is x:2,91 (min:1, max:5),while the mean of self-assessment as modern is x:3,49 (min:1, max:5). It is possible to say thatthe participants' self-identification as modern is higher than the self-identification as nationalist.

5.2. Participants' Attitudes towards Migrants Living in Turkey

In order to measure the attitudes of the participants toward immigrants in Turkey, five different questions were asked of the participants. The data obtained regarding this situation are presented in the table below.

Table 1: Participants' Attitudes towards Migrants Living in Turkey

Attitudes towards migrants	N	X	Min.	Max.	S.S.
1. I find Turkey's immigration policy correct.	302	2,05*	1	5	1,17
2. I am disturbed by the presence of immigrants.	302	3,40	1	5	1,40
3. Migrants pose a serious security threat.	302	3,57	1	5	1,36
4. Immigrants pose a serious economic threat.	302	3,68	1	5	1,33
5. I want immigrants to leave my country.	302	3,55	1	5	1,41

In the study, to measure university students' attitudes toward immigrants livingin Turkey, five questions, including attitude statements about immigrants, were asked. The responses were evaluated according to a five-point Likert-type response scale. 1 was coded as strongly disagree, 2 as agree, 3 as undecided, 4 as agreed, and 5 as strongly agree. When the data obtained were evaluated, it was concluded that the university students who participated in the study saw the immigrants in Turkey as a serious danger both in terms of economy (x:3,68) and security (x:3,57), stated that immigrants should leave the country (x:3,55)and were disturbed by the presence of immigrants (x:3,40). In addition, the participants state that they do not find the immigration policy implemented by Turkey correct (x: 2,95). From these data, it is possible to say that university students are uncomfortable with the immigrantsin Turkey in terms of economics and security and that they have the idea that immigrants shouldbe sent back. These results show that hypothesis H_1 is confirmed.

When we look at other studies on attitudes towards immigrants living in Turkey, Akman (2020) conducted a study on 232 teachers and found that teachers' attitudes towards immigrants were

relatively moderate (Akman, 2020). In a field study conducted by Parsak and Saraç (2021) on135 physical education teachers, it was found that the attitude of physical education teacherstowards immigrants was at a negative level (Afyonoğlu & Buz, 2021: 1111). According tothe results of the study conducted by Afyonoğlu and Buz (2021) on 280 university students, it was observed that students were undecided in their attitudes towards asylum seekers and didnot agree with the negative opinions expressed about Syrian immigrants (Afyonoğlu & Buz, 2021).

5.3. Participants Perceptions of Syrian Migrants

The data obtained from the university students who participated in the study regarding their perceptions of Syrian immigrants are presented in the table below.

Table 2: Participants' Perceptions of Syrian Migrants

Perception of Syrian Migrants					
	N	Min.	Max.	X	s.s.
Danger	302	5,00	25,00	11,77	6,02
Social exclusion	302	6,00	30,00	18,76	7,37
Social inclusion	302	6,00	30,00	12,24	5,59
Humanism	302	4,00	20,00	11,26	4,92
Migrant Perception Total Score	302	21,00	99,00	54,05	18,67

The perception scale towards Syrian immigrants consists of four factors: danger, social exclusion, social inclusion, and humanitarian. Based on the factor averages, it was determinedthat the participants' tendency toward social exclusion towards Syrian immigrants (x:18,76) was high. When the scale items related to this factor are examined, it is seen that university students do not want to make friends and neighbors with Syrian immigrants, avoid being in the same environment with Syrian immigrants and have the attitude that Syrian immigrants should leave their country. It was determined that the total mean score of Syrian immigrant perception was x: 54,05, and the participants' perception of immigrants was at a medium level.

5.4. Perceptions of University Students Residing in Istanbul and Şırnak towards Syrian Migrants

The t-test was used to measure the perceptions of university students studying in Istanbul and Şırnak provinces towards Syrian immigrants. The table below shows the differences obtained in this case.

Table 3: Perceptions of University Students Residing in Istanbul and Şırnak towards Syrian Migrants

	Place of Residence	N	X	S	Sd	t	p
Perception towards Syrian Migrants	Istanbul	151	48,61	19,82	300	-5,27	0,00
	Sirnak	151	59,49	15,73	300	-5,27	
	Total	302	54,05	18,67			

In the t-test conducted to reveal whether the place of residence variable has a significant effecton the perception towards Syrian immigrants, a significant difference was found between the mean perception towards immigrants of university students living in Istanbul (x:48,61) and themean

perception towards immigrants of university students living in Şırnak (x:59,49) (p<0,05).In this case, it is possible to say that the place of residence significantly affects the perception towards immigrants and that university students living in Şırnak have a more positive perception of immigrants than university students living in Istanbul. In addition, it is determined that the possible average score (x:54,05) to be obtained from this scale is providedby university students living in Şırnak, while university students living in Istanbul are below theaverage. Based on these results, it is possible to say that hypothesis H$_3$ is confirmed.

When university students living in Istanbul and university students living in Şırnak were compared in terms of sub-factors, it was determined that the factors of "danger" (p>0,05, p:0,08), "social inclusion" (p>0,05, p:0,913) and "humanism" (p>0,05, p:0117) did not differ significantly between the two regions. In terms of the "social exclusion" factor, a significant difference was found between university students living in Istanbul and university students living in Şırnak (p<0.05, p:0.00). Looking at the direction of the difference, it was determined that university students living in Istanbul had a higher level of social exclusion towards Syrianimmigrants than university students living in Şırnak. It is possible to say that university studentsresiding in Şırnak do not accept the statements about exclusion towards Syrian immigrants.

It is possible to evaluate the results related to the differences obtained in the context of social integration. The concept of integration is generally used with terms such as solidarity, unity, collectivism, integration, collective consciousness, balance, and adaptation, as well as harmony, fusion, balance, unification, harmony, and acculturation. (Bayram & Aydınalp, 2021: 111). It is possible to say that individuals residing in Şırnak province, which is located in the Southeastern Anatolia region, stay together with individuals from different ethnic identities andaccept different identities more.

5.5. Participants Perceptions of Syrian Migrants According to their Level of Education

ANOVA test was used to measure the difference between the perceptions of the university students who participated in the study and their perceptions towards immigrants at the college, faculty, master, and doctorate levels. The data related to this situation are presented in the table below.

Table 4: Participants' Perceptions of Syrian Migrants According to their Level of Education

	Education Level	N	X	S.S.	F	P	Differences
Perception towards Syrian Migrants	a.Higher School	130	54,60	18,61			
	b.Faculty	142	51,95	18,16			
	c.Master's Degree	24	58,58	19,49	3,38	0,01	d-b
	d.Doctorate (Ph.D)	6	73,66	18,05			

It was determined that the participants in the study were educated at the level of high school, faculty, master's degree, and doctorate. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to measure whether there is a significant difference between the perceptions of those with different levels of education toward Syrian immigrants. It was determined that the mean perception of those who studied at higher education level towards Syrian immigrants was 54,60, those who studied at faculty level 51,95, those who studied at master's level 58,58, andthose who studied at doctorate level 73,66 scale points. As can be seen in the table, there is asignificant difference between the level of education and the level of perception toward Syrianimmigrants (p<0.05, p: 0.01). It is seen that hypothesis H4 is confirmed by the data of the study.

As a result of the Tukey multiple comparison tests, a significant difference was found between those who were educated at the doctoral level and those who were educated at the faculty level (p<0.05, p: 0.01). It has been determined that the perceptions of those who study at the doctorate level towards Syrian immigrants are more positive than other education levels. In general terms, based on the averages of the perception scale towards Syrian immigrants, it isseen that the positive attitude towards Syrian immigrants increases as the level of education increases. It is possible to explain the difference in the level of perception towards Syrian immigrants between the level of higher education and the level of faculty as follows: In this study, it was determined that the perception of those who were educated in Şırnak towards Syrian immigrants was higher according to the place of residence, and it was determined thata large proportion of those who were educated in Şırnak marked the option of having a highereducation at the college level. It is possible to say that this situation is also reflected in the difference in education level.

5.6. Participants Perceptions of Syrian Migrants According to Religious Status

The t-test was used to measure the perceptions of the participants towards Syrian immigrants according to their belief in the existence of God and religion. The table below shows the differences obtained for this situation.

Table 5: Participants' Perceptions of Syrian Migrants According to Religious Status

	Belief in the Existenceof God	N	X	S	Sd	t	p
Perception towards Syrian Migrants	Yes	282	54,45	18,66	300	1,39	0,58
	No	20	48,45	18,49	300	1,40	
	Belief in a Religion	N	X	S	Sd	t	p
Perception towards Syrian Migrants	Yes	267	54,88	18,58	300	2,13	0,47
	No	35	47,74	18,45	300	2,14	

In the t-test conducted to reveal whether the variables of believing in the existence of God and believing in religion have a significant effect on the perception of immigrants, no significant difference was found between the variables and the perception scale towards Syrianimmigrants (p>0.05, p: 0,58; p: 0,47). However, when we look at the averages of the scale ofperception of Syrian immigrants, it is seen that those who believe in the existence of God havea more positive perception of immigrants than those who do not believe and those who believein a religion have a more positive perception of immigrants than those who do not believe. ANOVA test was used to measure the difference between the degree of religiosity of the participants in the study and their perceptions towards immigrants. The data related to this situation are presented in the table below.

Table 6: Participants' Degree of Religiosity

	Degree of Religiosity	N	X	S.S.	F	P	Differences
Perception towards	a. Nothing to do with religion	22	46,68	19,49	8,93	0,00	a-c,d
Syrian Migrants	b. Less interested in religion	111	48,81	17,94			
	c. Religious	160	57,83	17,67			
	d. Very Religious	9	69,44	20,29			

It is seen that the participants in the study have no interest in religion, little interest in religion, religious and very religious levels of religious status. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was

used to measure whether there is a significant difference between the perceptions of those with different levels of religiosity towards immigrants. It was determined that those who had nointerest in religion had a mean perception scale score of 46,68, those who had little interest inreligion 48,81, those who were religious 57,83, and those who were very religious 69,44. As can be seen in the table, there is a significant difference between the level of religiosity and the level of perception towards Syrian immigrants ($p < 0.05$, p: 0.00). As a result of the Tukey multiple comparison test, a significant difference was found between those who have no interest in religion and those who are religious and very religious (a-c,d). There was a positivecorrelation between the two variables. It is possible to say that as religiosity increases, the perception towards immigrants becomes more positive, and hypothesis H_5 is confirmed by the dataof the study.

According to the integration theory defended by sociologists such as Durkheim, Parsons, and Bellah, special institutions such as family, religion, economy, and legal system, which regulatethe activities of the lower segments of society, are considered complementary and regulating social unity. As a matter of fact, the results of this study show that religion is an important factor affecting the process of social cohesion and integration. (Furseth & Repstad, 2020: 268). The belief in "tawhid" in Islam has an important role in contributing to individuals' religious, social, and cultural integration in society. The religion of Islam, which states that there is no superiority between races and embraces all segments, states that superiority between individuals can only occur through piety. It is possible to say that positivebehaviors and emotions such as brotherhood, compassion, kindness, benevolence, and benevolence, which are possessed by individuals who accept the religion of Islam and live thisreligion more closely, have a significant effect on the fusion of people with each other (Günay, 2012). As a matter of fact, it is seen that this tolerance stemming from religious feelings is alsoeffective in the perception of immigrants.

5.7. Perception of Syrian Migrants According to the Economic Level of theParticipants

ANOVA test was used to measure the difference between the economic levels of the university students participating in the study and their perceptions towards Syrian immigrants. The data related to this situation are presented in the table below.

Table 7: Participants' Perceptions of Syrian Migrants According to Economic Level

	Education Level	N	X	S.S.	F	P	Differences
Perception towards Syrian Migrants	a. Low	130	55,48	18,40	,701	0,55	--
	b. Medium	142	54,12	18,37			
	c. High	24	49,14	22,81			
	d. Very High	6	62,00	16,97			

When the study data were evaluated, it was determined that those with low economic status had a mean score of 55.48, those with medium economic status had a mean score of 54.12, and those with high economic status had a mean score of 49.14 on the scale of Syrian immigrant perception. It was determined that there was no significant difference between the variables ($p > 0.05$, p:0.55). Perception towards Syrian immigrants does not differ significantly according to economic level. It is possible to say that hypothesis H_6 is falsified.

5.8. Participant's Perceptions of Syrian Migrants According to Their Ages

Pearson Correlation test technique was used to measure the relationship between the ages ofthe university students participating in the study and their perceptions of Syrianimmigrants. The results of the analyses are presented in the table below.

Table 8: Pearson Simple Linear Correlation Analysis of the Scale Scores Used in the Study

Pearson Simple Linear Correlation Analysis for the Scale Scores Used in the Study		
	1	2
1. Age	1	
2. Attitudes toward Syrian Migrants	,233**	1

**p<0,01

The study participants' age levels were asked as open-ended questions and were not categorized. Therefore, Pearson Correlation test technique was used to measure age and Syrian Migrant Perception. According to the results of this analysis, there is a positive low-level relationship between age and perception towards Syrian immigrants (r: ,233). In other words, it is determined that as the age level increases, the attitude toward Syrian immigrants becomes more positive.

6. Conclusion

Recent studies and trends on displacement and migration, as well as the transforming patterns, are as essential as the importance of this subject. Forced migration, which is one of the types of migration due to war and political consequences, has been experienced countless times in history and continues to be experienced even today. The main purpose of these migrations, which are sometimes carried out for better living conditions and sometimes just to survive, has never been anything other than the effort to reach a life worthy of human dignity. In our study, while it is still being discussed whether Syrian migrants in Turkey are treated in accordance with this dignity or whether they have obtained a proper identity, we aimed to reach the conclusion of the level of perception towards Syrian migrants in our country. It is seen that the negative perception towards Syrian immigrants in our country has started to increase.

The study analyzed the attitudes of university students residing in Şırnak and Istanbul towards immigrants and the perception of Syrian immigrants according to demographic variables. A total of 302 university students at the associate, undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels participated in the study. It was determined that the attitudes of the university students participating in the study toward immigrants were negative. University students see immigrants as a security and economic threat and are uncomfortable with the presence of immigrants. In addition, the immigration policy implemented by Turkey is not accepted as correct by the participants, and it is stated that immigrants should return to their countries. These results confirm hypothesis H1.

It is seen that the other hypothesis of the study, H2, is partially confirmed by the data of the study. It is determined that the Syrian immigrant perception of the university students participating in the study is at a medium level. The average Syrian immigrant perception scale score is 54.05. When the situation is evaluated through sub-factors, it is determined that university students accept the social exclusion factor at a high rate. It is possible to say that Syrian immigrants are exposed to "social exclusion."

Another important result of the study is that university students living in Şırnak have a more positive perception of Syrian immigrants than university students living in Istanbul. It was determined that this difference was caused by the "social exclusion" factor. It is concluded that this factor is accepted at a low level by university students residing in Şırnak. Şırnak is a region where different racial and cultural groups live together due to its geographical location and cultural outlook. It is possible to say that social integration is higher in this region, and Syrian immigrants are not excluded due to this. These data partially confirm hypothesis h3.

It is seen that H4, H5, and H7 are also confirmed by the data of the study. It has been determined that the perception of immigrants differs according to the education factor, and as the level of education increases, the perception of immigrants becomes more positive. Likewise, it is determined that the perception of Syrian immigrants differs according to age, and as age increases, the perception of Syrian immigrants becomes more positive. Religion and religiosity also positively affect the perception of Syrian immigrants. It is determined that as religiosity increases, the attitude toward immigrants becomes more positive, and religion's positive behaviour and emotion also affect the perception of Syrian immigrants. The only hypothesis that was not confirmed in the study was H6, and it was determined that economic status has no effect on the perception of Syrian immigrants.

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EKLER

Ek-1: Etik Kurul İzni

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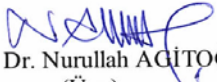
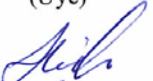<div align="center">

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