



Bu proje Avrupa Birliđi ve Türkiye Cumhuriyeti tarafından finanse edilmektedir
This project is co-founded by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey

SYR-ROUND THE CHILDREN PROJECT

LIFE EXPERIENCES OF SYRIANS LIVING IN SULTANBEYLİ DISTRICT

FINAL REPORT

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Negative impacts of the humanity drama that has started in April 2011 are becoming more and more evident. Children who are the most innocent members of the war have unfortunately become leading actors of this tearjerker. Cries of children who paid their debts to nature both in Syria and Aegean sea, the most painful screams and dead bodies have been imprinted on people's memories as heart-wrenching images.

Our adventure has started on 14th February 2016 with the partnership of Decedent Haji Habibullah Geredevi Foundation, Uskudar University and CEIPES (Italy), and has been active for one year. Syr-Round the Children project has three main purposes. One of them is to contribute to increase cooperation both in national and international aspect in the field of refugee children, second one is to increase technical information of legal, economic and social rights of refugees in Turkey in line with good applications in the Europe especially regarding children and to improve education conditions of refugee children who live in Turkey.

Within the scope of Syr-Round the Children project 2 research report has been prepared through face-to-face meetings with 200 Turkish and 200 Syrian families who are residing in Sultanbeyli county. With these reports, we both took the photograph of the day, and measured and reported expectations towards the future. In order to see the best applications in their own place, researches conducted for refugees with field visitings with 10 different civil society organization representatives have been reviewed in Italy and Finland. In consequences of examinations and researches, a report was prepared regarding the best applications. Within the project, a web platform has been created to meet institutions and organizations which desire to study refugees who live in the Europe and Turkey on a common ground. As one of the most important events of the project, "International Symposium on Migration and Children" was held in November with 50 academicians and civil society organization representatives and participants over 250 people hosted by Uskudar University which is one of our project partners. Ultimately, by providing 60 hour Drama and Role Playing trainings for Syrian and Turkish children, which is the most important activity of the project, it was aimed to contribute to the integration processes of our children. In the consequence of these trainings provided for our children, plays that children prepared were presented to the invitees in the gala ceremony.

During the period of our project, we were also tired as the project application team. However, when our children's smiles come to our minds, our tiredness faded away. We have started to work again. I can tell in inner peace on behalf of the foundation that I work for, my team and I, we have paid the rights of the last penny of the grant that we took from the European Union and our government away. I hope that our activities somewhat licked our children's wounds and contributed to forget these painful times that they went through.

Before I conclude my article, I would like to express my thanks to the Mr. Abdurrahman Emin Üstün who makes us feel their supports, to Chairman of the Board of Trustees of HAGEV Kemal Abdurrahman Üstün, To my dear master Prof. Dr. Nevzat Tarhan and to valuable team of Uskudar University before him, to our project researchers Mr. Doç. Dr. Abdulfaz Suleymanov and to Mrs. Ass. Prof. Dr. Pelin Sönmez, to Mrs. Pınar Üstün who is the mother of the idea of this project, to Mr. Dr. Oğuz Demir who has done the best in preparation of this project, to our assistant project coordinator Mrs. Tuba Türk, to our project partner and also the Chairman of CEIPES Mr. Musa Kırkar although he is absence and to his team, to valuable team of the Ministry of European Union and Central Finance and Contracts Unit, to valuable team of HAGEV and to the family of Emin Evim supporting us whenever we run into a trouble during the period of project application.

Best regards,

Firat Polat
Project Coordinator

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ABSTRACT

This study titled **“Syr-Round the Children Project: Life Experience of Syrians in Sultanbeyli District”** aims to understand the reasons for immigration among the asylum-seekers in Sultanbeyli, their experiences during the process of immigration, the problems they encounter in the new living space, the educational and psycho-social problems of children and the future plans among asylum-seekers. By analysis of the data, the life experiences and problems of asylum-seekers in Sultanbeyli was discussed on the basis of their demographic and economic status, and the reasons of immigration, the process of immigration and experiences after immigration were revealed in a survey. According to the results of the study, it was understood that the participants were not subject to discrimination, isolation or mistreatment by the people of Sultanbeyli. Nevertheless, according to the results of the survey, it is indicated that asylum-seekers are challenged when communicating with the local people, and have weak neighborhood relations with them. Barrier of language has been identified as one of the important factors here. In fact, that Syrians cannot speak Turkish challenges their acknowledgement by the society and their access to public services. As can be seen in the study results, the primary reason for failure of children to continue education is financial problems (60%) and forcing children to work. On the other hand, the bad experiences these children have witnessed made a negative impact on their psychology, and have led to a number of mental and psychological problems (fear 71,4%, problematic dreams 66,7%, burst of anger 42,9%).

INTRODUCTION

During the civil war which has been going on in Syria since March 2011, millions of people have been trying to survive by seeking refuge in different countries. One of the leading destinations has been the Republic of Turkey, which has a 877 km-long border and strong historical, cultural and economic relations with Syria. Turkey, which has implemented an open-door policy for the Syrian fleeing from the war, is currently the country hosting the highest number of Syrian asylum-seekers according to official figures¹. In fact, according to data dated 01.03.2016 by General Directorate of Immigration Administration, Turkey is hosting 2,8 millions of registered Syrians (Immigration Administration 2016). Istanbul is the city hosting the highest number of Syrians in Turkey, with approximately 330,000 Syrians living here (Oytun, 2014: 68).

The most tragic form of forced immigration is the immigration of asylum-seekers. That is because the economic and socio-cultural impact of this kind of immigration is multi-directional. Also, "asylum-seekers" are among the most important migrant groups who should be handled with sensitivity (Deniz 2009: 189). These groups consist of people who do not have anything to lose and who, most likely, will never be able to go back to their countries. Faced with major problems, primarily related to accommodation and nutrition, these people also deeply suffer from psychological outcomes of the migration process, because they have left their country and alienated from being a member of a community that is interweaved with certain networks of relationships, and started to live in a new community, which has led to certain religious, social and cultural problems in the new environment. The extent of and means of struggling against these problems varies according to the physical, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the destination as well as to the mechanisms that are in place to deal with emerging problems and to ensure harmonization.

In this context, the issues to be highlighted in relation to Syrian asylum-seekers in Turkey are legal status, accommodation, learning Turkish language, having a proper job, access to healthcare services, harmonization with urban life, access to education particularly for children, basic cultural needs and problems in communicating their opinions and problems to relevant authorities (Deniz and Etlan, 2009, p. 480). Furthermore, the attitude of the local people is also very important in ensuring harmonization of asylum-seekers in their destinations.

From this perspective, the asylum-seekers have healthcare-related problems as well as socio-cultural and economic challenges. The processes are stressing and lead to psychological problems among asylum-seekers (Ehnholt and Yule 2006). The deepest scars of the war can be best observed among children. Syrian children have a

first-hand experience of the war, and therefore are faced with risks of violence, psychological problems, deprivation from education, child marriages, participation in criminal organizations and becoming a "lost generation." At this point, the status of the children is an important issue that should be handled with diligence. The group of migrant children, who have a two-fold disadvantage of being a child and of being a migrant, has to be among primary priorities.

All these issues entail an assessment of Syrian asylum-seekers on the social, economic and cultural levels. In fact, to produce reasonable and feasible policies in this area, the dynamics of asylum-seekers should be analyzed, and the behaviors, expectations, perceptions and concerns should be identified.

This research has been conducted to identify the experiences before and after migration among Syrian asylum-seekers, focusing on their lives, to identify their problems and to develop strategies to solve these problems, with a comprehensive field study representing the general population in Sultanbeyli district of Istanbul.

During this study, the fundamental characteristics and behaviors of Syrian asylum-seekers who were displaced by forced migration to Sultanbeyli district of Istanbul were studied by a field study. Furthermore, the reports of national and international organizations on Syrian asylum-seekers in Turkey as well as the findings of field studies conducted in the area were examined, and certain estimates were put forward by comparing theoretical and practical data.

The study consists of three parts. The first part offers a conceptual framework of migration and migrants to provide a theoretical ground for the study, and deals with the methodological issues for the study. It also provides an overview of the socio-economic characteristics of Sultanbeyli district and the socio-demographic characteristics of asylum-seekers who migrated to this area. The second part offers the findings of the field study conducted with Syrian asylum-seekers in Sultanbeyli. The final part includes the conclusions and recommendations.

Purpose and Importance of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to identify the socio-economic, socio-cultural and socio-psychological problems of Syrian asylum-seekers who have been forced to migrate to Sultanbeyli district of Istanbul, and particularly of asylum-seeker children who are most affected by migration; to assess the perception of future from the asylum-seekers' point of view and to make recommendations to allow improvement of existing practices. This study also aims to provide data to all parties who are responsible for solving the problems of asylum-seekers, in order to address their economic, social and cultural needs.

¹The legal status of the Syrians in Turkey is "Foreigners under Temporary Protection." The status of "asylum-seeker/migrant" is not given to Syrians arriving in masses unless they make a personal application to become a refugee. Therefore, in this article they are occasionally referred to as "asylum-seeker" because of their status in international law.

In line with these purposes, the study aims to look into the following issues:

- Analyzing demographical, socio-cultural and socio-economic conditions of asylum-seekers in Sultanbeyli,
- Identifying the reasons of migration, the experience of migration process and the problems encountered in the new living space,
- Understanding the dimensions of harmonization/integration process of asylum-seekers, the social networks, the future plans and their perceptions of the local people,
- Identifying the impact of migration on the education of Syrian children, and understanding the psycho-social problems among children.

In addition to this information, it aims to contribute to the literature as a sociologic study on the issue. Scrutinizing the impact of Syrian asylum-seekers on the social structure of Turkey in economic, cultural, political and security terms, and examining the strengths and weakness of development that occur around the issue of asylum-seekers will help to develop policies that will improve the living conditions of asylum-seekers, and to ensure their communication and harmonization with local people. Nevertheless, a more detailed analysis of social conclusions of migration to prevent creation of a sub-culture that feeds on social othering is important to prevent negative impacts of migration, to offer education and vocational guidance to migrant children and to maintain the relationship between vocation and vocational mobility.

Method of the Study

The study has been conducted on the principles of applied sociology in accordance with the theoretical framework and research problem used. It is a study that identifies a situation as it looks in the condition of Syrian asylum-seekers, determines their socio-demographic characteristics, and reveals existing problems.

"Surveying" has been chosen as the data collecting method. In line with the purpose of the study, firstly the areas where most of the asylum-seekers live in the district were identified. During the field study, the research questions were asked to these people. The questionnaires were conducted by Aksoy research company by face-to-face interviews in June 2016.

The fact that most of the Syrians could not speak Turkish was a restriction on face-to-face questionnaires. This restriction was overcome by preparing questionnaire forms in Turkish and Arabic, and with the help of translators.

The main body of the study consisted of Syrians who started living in Sultanbeyli district of Istanbul due to the civil war in Syria. The sample mass consists of 200 Syrians who were chosen among the main body by using the "Layered Random Sampling" method.

The questionnaire included demographic questions, as well as questions on phenomena and behaviors, to identify the economic and social conditions of Syrian asylum-seekers and to compare them according to demographic characteristics. There were also a number of questions on their conditions before migration, in order to make a comparison between their status before migration and their current conditions.

The data collected with the questionnaire, which included a total of 53 questions, were assessed by preparing tables consisting of percentage distributions via SPSS, and the relationship between dependent and independent variables was analyzed by using the "SPSS Crosstab" method.

Theoretical Framework and Literature Review

Migration is a movement of "relocation" that affects the society in social, economic, political, cultural and health aspects, that takes people into a new community, after leaving home due to natural, economic, political and other obligations, and that faces people with problems of re-harmonization (Arafat 2000: 33-43). In general terms, migration is a movement from one place to another to settle due to economic, religious, political or social reasons. This movement is called "internal migration" if it occurs in one country, or "international migration" if it occurs between different countries (Çakır 2011: 210).

The reasons for migration are classified in four groups: Natural causes, political and religious reasons, social and cultural reasons and economic reasons. Particularly after 1980's, there was a significant global rise in the number of migrants who seek refuge in another country due to humanitarian crises, and political instabilities in countries brought about massive flows of asylum-seekers which is a movement of forced migration (Castles ve Miller, 2008: 11).

As well as the problems of the countries receiving migrants, the migrating community also suffers from employment in undesirable heavy working areas and industries, being paid less than the amount they received in their own countries, or not being employed in jobs that are qualified for, etc., which are disadvantages of migration that challenge the harmonization process (Bayraklı 2007: 118-121).

According to Uğuz et al. (2004: 383-391) the feeling of being lost, deprivation from family, homeland, status or wealth, the feeling of being dumped, and complications in views of identity, values and roles are other factors that affect the harmonization process of migrants. According to Özdemir (2012:1-15), the decision to emigrate brings along certain material and non-material problems.

Migrants have various expectations and needs in the destination countries. According to this, a comprehensive list of needs can be made that includes basic biological

needs such as food and accommodation as well as economic, legal (problems of legal status), psychological and social (language, school, cultural harmonization, etc.) (Zulal 2002: 60-64). According to Stanley (1977: 620), the success of refugees in settling in and harmonizing with the destination country depends on the attitude of the governments and societies in those countries, the migration policies, settlement and support programs for migrants-refugees, and finally the facilitating actions for physical and mental health of migrants-refugees.

In general, the theories and opinions acknowledge that the process of settling in a new society is stressing, and the tension arising from the efforts to ensure satisfaction starts at the moment when migrants step into the foreign society and lasts for many years (Yalcin 2004: 22-56, Bilecen 2005: 78-85).

A group of sociologists emphasizes the issue of chain migration when evaluating the movements of migration (Mac Donald 1964, Wegge 1998, Böcker 1994, Shah and Menon 1999). According to Mac Donald (1964:82), the term "chain migration" is used to define the conditions where "individual migration is addressed in a longitudinal perspective that includes family, relatives and member of a community, and combines individual migration with family migration." In other words, chain migration is the process of migrants moving to the areas which they already know about, which they are affiliated with, or which they are indirectly familiar with by hearing from their friends or relatives (Erdoğan 2007: 3). Individuals do not make a decision to leave their countries and/or to move to a certain area on their own. The emigrate by relying on the information or support from their acquaintances which have already settled in those areas.

With the rise in the number of people immigrating to Turkey as asylum-seekers, the number of the studies on the subject has also increased recently. Studies conducted by academic organizations, official bodies and various non-governmental organizations deal with the issue from various dimensions. In this context, one of the most comprehensive studies in Turkey was "Syrians in Turkey: Social Recognition and Harmonization Study" conducted by Hacettepe University, Centre for Migration and Political Studies in 2014. In the study, conducted by M. Murat Erdoğan, a total of 144 people, including 72 Syrians and 72 local people, were interviewed and a public survey was conducted in 18 provinces. One of the major findings of the study is that social recognition of Syrians is remarkably high although there are occasional reactions that may be considered as xenophobia and racism (Erdoğan 2015). Another comprehensive study in this framework has been conducted by the Office of Prime Minister, Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) which offers humanitarian aid and protection to Syrian refugees in Turkey. The report of the study titled "Syrian Asylum-Seekers in Turkey, Results of 2013 Field Study" which was

conducted with a large sample by face-to-face interviews with Syrian asylum-seekers in Adana, Adıyaman, Hatay, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Mardin, Osmaniye and Şanlıurfa provinces, offers important data on demographical characteristics of Syrian asylum-seekers, the socio-economic structure, accommodation, security, health, education, nutrition, water/hygiene and prospects for the future (AFAD 2013).

Among the studies on Syrian asylum-seekers, the studies titled "Perceptions of Turkish Language by Syrian Asylum-Seekers" by Akkaya (2013), "Social Exclusion Mechanisms Faced by Syrian Asylum-Seekers" by Deniz et al. (Deniz et al. 2016), "Unexpected Guests of Turkey: Experiences of Foreign Migrants and Asylum-Seekers in the Context of 'The Other'" by Ünal (2014), "We Talked About Syrian Asylum-Seekers with Ihop" by Depeli and Oğuz (2015), "An Overview of Syrian-Turkish Relationships in the Framework of Asylum-Seekers" by Çetin and Uzman (2012), "Syria: A Civil War Fed by Global and Regional Chaos" by Dağ (2015), and "Syrian Refugees as an Example of Migrant Problem in Turkey" by Boyraz (2015), "Views, expectations and suggestions of Turkish business world about Syrians in Turkey" by Erdoğan, M. & Ünver, C. (2015), "Syrian asylum-seekers in Turkish press" by Efe, İ. (2015), and "Syrians in Turkey: Unemployment and Social Harmonization" by Turkish Foundation for Research of Economic Policies (Özpınar et al. 2016) address the subject from various perspectives.

Among the recent studies, those focusing on various regions of Turkey are striking. The study titled "Refugees in Zonguldak: Life Experiences, Problems and Suggestions" by Hasan Sankır et al. at Bülent Ecevit University in 2016 (Sankır et al. 2016) offers comprehensive data on demographic characteristics of asylum-seekers in Zonguldak, their migration stories and living conditions (Sankır et al. 2016). In this context, the studies "Impact of Syrian Asylum-Seekers on Kırkhhan (Hatay) by Atasoy and Demir (Atasoy, Demir 2015), "Status of Van Province in terms of Refugee Movements and Demographic Profile of Refugees in the City" by Orhan Deniz (Deniz 2009), "Views of Problems of Asylum-Seekers in Isparta as an Example of Satellite Cities" by Özlem Kahya and Songül Sallan Gül (2013), "Living Conditions and Access to Public Services by Asylum-Seekers from the Middle-East Living in Balıkesir" by Muzaffer Yılmaz and Muhsin Baran (2014), and other studies focus on the topics of health, education, economic, working life, legal status, urban space, harmonization and establishment of social relationships among Syrians living in various regions of Turkey.

Some of the studies focus on women and children, which are the disadvantaged groups that are affected the most by migration. In this context, the studies conducted include "Report on Syrian women in Turkey" by AFAD in 2014 (AFAD, 2014), "Education of Syrian children in Turkey" (Emin, N. M. 2016), "Study to Identify Healthcare Level and

Access to Healthcare Services by Syrian Asylum-Seekers and Other Migrants Living in Zeytinburnu, Istanbul” (Torun 2016), and “Problems of Women Seeking Refuge in Turkey: Example of Isparta” (Yüksel, Es 2015).

A significant part of studies focuses on the problems of Syrians living in Istanbul. Examples of these studies include “Syrian Migrants in Turkey: Example of Istanbul” by Halit Yılmaz in 2013 and “Analysis of Socio-Economic and Socio-Cultural Characteristics of Syrian Migrants: Example of Beyoğlu, Istanbul” by Mehmet Karakuyu and Büşra Doğan. This study looks into the Syrian migrants who have taken refuge in Turkey and are living in Istanbul. The study attempts to identify the living conditions, challenges and needs of the asylum-seekers. One of the comprehensive studies in this area, which we frequently refer to in this study, is the comprehensive study conducted by Sultanbeyli Municipality on the Syrians living in the district. The study offers comprehensive information on the number, needs and demographic profiles of Syrian asylum-seekers (Sultanbeyli Municipality, Syrians 2015)

Conceptual Framework

The fundamental concepts related to the issue of migration are very important to essentially comprehend the subject. Migrant or immigrant is a person who has willingly left his/her own country – often due to economic reasons – and entered into another country by legal means (with the permission of authorities) and lives in that country under existing laws. Illegal immigration can be defined as an individual (migrant) leaving his/her own country where he/she lives legally to enter into another country by illegal means, or entering into another country by legal means but failing to leave that country within the permitted period, continuing to live/work in that country (Deniz 2014:177). The person who is involved in illegal immigration is called an illegal immigrant. Helping illegal immigrants to leave or enter a country to obtain financial benefits is called migrant-smuggling. A person who lives outside his/her native country due to fear of persecution or death and cannot benefit from protection by that country and hence does not want to go back to that country is called a refugee (Deniz 2014: 178). A person who has left his/her own country to take refuge in another country, but has not been given the status of a refugee yet is called an asylum-seeker or defector. In other words, an asylum-seeker is a person who seeks international protection but whose status has not been officially recognized yet (Küçük yazıcı 2015: 195). The movement of an asylum-seeker to another country by legal or illegal means is called asylum (Deniz 2014: 178).

Illegal immigrants are not offered protective measures in the destination country but asylum-seekers are provided with protective measures in the destination country (Deniz 2014:178). Furthermore, illegal immigrants are subject to only repatriation procedures while asylum-seekers are subject to repatriation, social harmonization or relocation in a third country.

Asylum-seekers who are forced to take refuge and live in another country are deprived of two main advantages that the other citizens have: Inability to go back to the country of his/her origin without risking his/her life, freedom or wealth, and inability to benefit from diplomatic protection by his/her own country in the foreign country of destination. These people may as well be deprived from citizenship by their governments.

In Turkish laws, the distinction between the concepts of refugee and asylum-seekers is different from the approach in international legal literature (Odman 1995:188). In this context, efforts were started to create a single legislation on refugees within the scope of accession to the European Union, and the Law no. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection was published in the official gazette on 11.04.2013. In the said law, the concept of asylum-seeker, in parallel to the regulation in the 1994 Directive on Refuge and Asylum-Seeking, is defined as “the status offered to foreigners who are outside their native countries due to the incidents occurring in European countries, for fear of persecution due to righteous reasons because of their race, religion, nationality, membership to a certain social group or political ideas, and cannot benefit from protection of this country or do not want to benefit from such protection due to abovementioned fears, and to stateless persons who live outside the country of their former residence due to such incidents, cannot go back to that country or do not want to go back due to said fears, after the procedures to identify their statuses” (a.61). The concept of asylum-seeker is referred to as “conditional refugee” in the same law, and is defined as “the status offered to foreigners who are outside their native countries due to the incidents occurring in European countries, for fear of persecution due to righteous reasons because of their race, religion, nationality, membership to a certain social group or political ideas, and cannot benefit from protection of this country or do not want to benefit from such protection due to abovementioned fears, and to stateless persons who live outside the country of their former residence due to such incidents, cannot go back to that country or do not want to go back due to said fears, after the procedures to identify their statuses”. A conditional refugee is permitted to stay in Turkey until relocation in a third country (article 62). (Küçük yazıcı 2015: 196).

Furthermore, the new law uses the term “Temporary Protection” to refer to persons who arrive in masses from areas of civil war and conflicts such as Syria. According to this, temporary protection is offered to foreigners who are forced to leave their countries, who cannot go back to their countries, who arrive at our borders or pass our borders in masses to get urgent and temporary protection (article 91/1). The acceptance of these persons by Turkey, their stay in Turkey, their rights and duties, the procedures for their departure from Turkey, measures to be taken against massive movements, cooperation and coordination between national and international institutions and organizations, the duties and authorizations of institutions and organizations

in central and rural areas shall be regulated by the directive to be issued by the Board of Ministers (91/2). (Republic of Turkey, Official Gazette, 2013, s. 27-79).

Socio-Economic Condition in Sultanbeyli District and Syrian Asylum-Seekers

Sultanbeyli district is located on the Asian side of Istanbul, and it is adjacent to Kartal and Pendik districts. This settlement area, which was founded long before the Ottoman Empire, continued to change hands as private property by means of trading after the conquest of the city. The Sultanbeyli farm, which the district is named after, was given to Mahmud Celaleddin Paşa who became the sultan's son-in-law by marrying Cemile Sultan, the daughter of the sultan during the reign of Abdülmecid, but later divided between heirs during the reign on Abdulhamid II, when the pasha fell out of favor (Sultanbeyli 2016). The farm was bought by Hasan Hüsnü Paşa, one of the leading pashas of the time and the longest-serving minister of the Navy, in 1890-1891. However, it changed hands again after the pasha's death in 1903 and during the Second Constitutionalist Period, it was sold to Frans Flipson, a Belgian Jewish businessman, with the approval of the Ministerial Board. This businessman settled Jewish migrant families in the area, but during the World War I, these families migrated to Western Europe and America on their own will. In the aftermath of the War of Independence, Flipson left Istanbul; and after his death his heirs sold Sultanbeyli. In 1945, the government nationalized 7,500 decares of land in the area to settle migrant families arriving from Bulgaria that year (it is understood that the area was largely uninhabited until that time). With the increase in the population of Bulgarian migrants, the area was given the status of village in 1957 (in 1985, the population of the village was 3,600). After construction of the TEM Highway which passed through the village, the construction works and new settlers rapidly increased in the area, and a municipality was established in the village in 1987. In 1990, the population reached 82,289, and thus the village became a district in 1992 (sultanbeyli 2016). With this aspect Sultanbeyli is considered a district hosting people from various regions of the Thrace and Anatolia from the years it became a village.

The population of the district has reached 321,730 according to data of 2015 (Sultanbeyli population – Istanbul 2015). The district is home to various religious communities, including Syrian asylum-seekers. The district has a very strong textile and construction industry. According to the latest data of General Directorate of Migration Administration, Sultanbeyli district has 18,869 citizens of the Syrian Arab Republic under Temporary Protection as of July 2016 (Syrians under our Temporary Protection, 2016). This figure corresponds to 5,8% of the total population of the district. The status of these asylum-seekers is, as specified above, "under temporary protection" under law no. 6458. In other words, they are permitted to temporarily stay in Turkey due to the widespread violence and insecurity in their own countries.

Syrian asylum-seekers living in Sultanbeyli move on by renting houses in 15 neighborhoods of the county. Most of the Syrian asylum-seekers in Sultanbeyli district (85%) are from central Aleppo (Sultanbeyli Municipality, Syrians 2015:10). A significant part of the asylum-seekers who were forced to migrate to Turkey with their families and currently live in Sultanbeyli work as assistant employees for tradesmen of various professions, or as qualified workers in industry, or at their own workplaces particularly in the food industry, or as street vendors. Syrian asylum seekers mainly work in construction, auto industry and pharmaceutical especially textile sector. Very few of the asylum-seekers have opened their own workplaces in these neighborhoods (perfumery, market, restaurant, etc.) to sustain their lives. Very few of the asylum-seekers living here (4%) lack an income and make a living with the aid of various charitable organizations (Sultanbeyli Municipality, Syrians, 2015:39).

A major part of the Syrian migrant settled in Sultanbeyli district has arrived from Syria directly to Sultanbeyli (81%). There are also those who have arrived from other Turkish cities than Istanbul (14%), followed by Syrians arriving from other districts of Istanbul (2%) and others (2%). Another reason for their migration to Sultanbeyli district is the fact that their relatives live in this district (73,7%). This is followed by the migrants who moved here on recommendation (13,7%) and who have found a job in Sultanbeyli (8,7%). The graph and table showing the number of members of Syrian asylum-seeking families in Sultanbeyli demonstrates that families of 5 leads the list with 19,5% (Sultanbeyli Municipality, Syrians, 2015:10-13).

II. Study Findings and Evaluation

The questionnaire consists of three main sections. The questions in the first section of the questionnaire form aim to identify the social, economic and demographic profiles of Syrians in Sultanbeyli. This section covers variables of gender, age, marital status, education, profession, size of household, leader of the household, family size and number of children. The analyses under this title are based on these data. The second section looks into the problems, expectations and satisfactions of Syrians. The third section includes questions to measure the perception of Turkey and future among Syrians, as well as to identify psycho-social problems of children caused by migration.

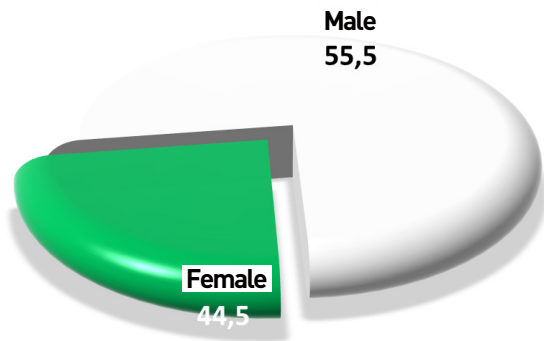


SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

1. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

1.1. Gender Distribution

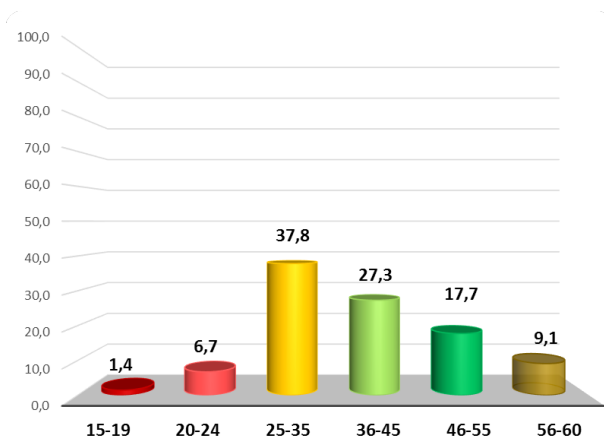
Graph-1 shows percentage distribution of genders of participants of the study. As can be seen in the graph, 45,5% of the participants are females, and 55,5% are males.



Graph 1. Gender distribution

1.2. Age Distribution

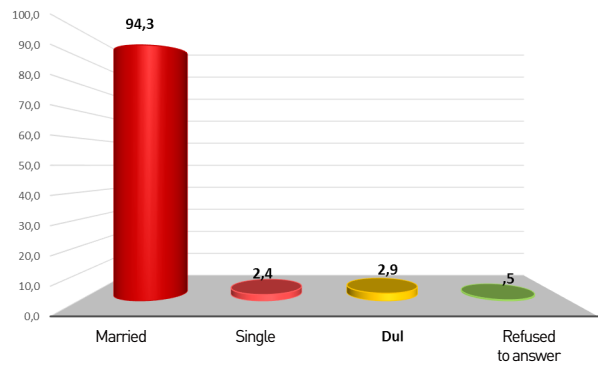
Graph-2 gives a percentage distribution of the ages of participants. As can be seen in the graph, 1,4% of the participants are 15-19 years old, 6,7% are 20-24 years old, 37,8% are 25-35 years old, 27,3% are 36-45 years old, 17,7% are 46-55 years old, 9,1% are 56-60 years old. Approximately 70% of the participants were under 40 years old. This indicates that the number of children and young population is remarkably high among asylum-seekers.



Graph 2. Age distribution

1.3. Marital Status

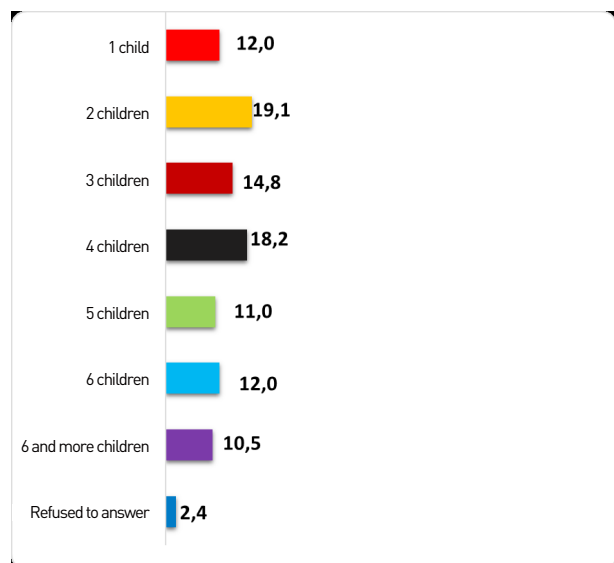
A look at the marital status of the participants demonstrates that the majority is married, with a percentage of 94,3%. 2,4% said they were single, and 2,9% were widowed, while 0,5% refused to answer the question about their marital status (Graph 3)



Graph 3. Marital Status

1.4. Number of Children

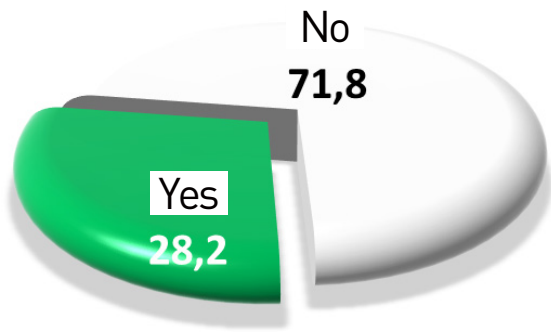
Graph-4 provides a percentage distribution of number of children among married Syrians participating in the questionnaire. As can be seen in the graph, 12% of the participants had one child, 19,1% had two children, 14,8% had three children, 18,2% had four children, 11% had five children, 10,5% had six children, and 2,4% refused to answer the question about the number of their children.



Graph 4. Number of Children

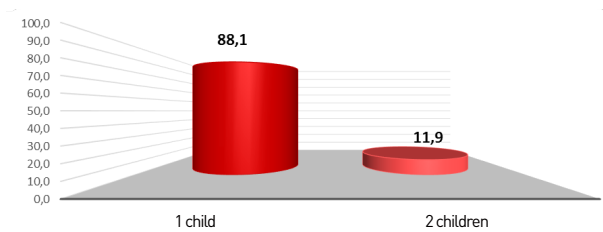
1.5. Number of children born in Turkey

Graph-5 provides a percentage distribution of the number of children who were born in Turkey. As can be seen in the graph, 28,2% of the participants said they had children born in Turkey. According to the calculations, 200,000 Syrian children were born in Turkey in the last 5 years. In this context, the findings of the study in Sultanbeyli overlap with the general tendency.



Graph 5. Number of Syrian children born in Turkey

Furthermore, in reply to the question “How many of your children were born in Turkey?”, 88,1% of the participants said one child was born in Turkey, and 11,9% said two children were born in Turkey. (Graph 6)

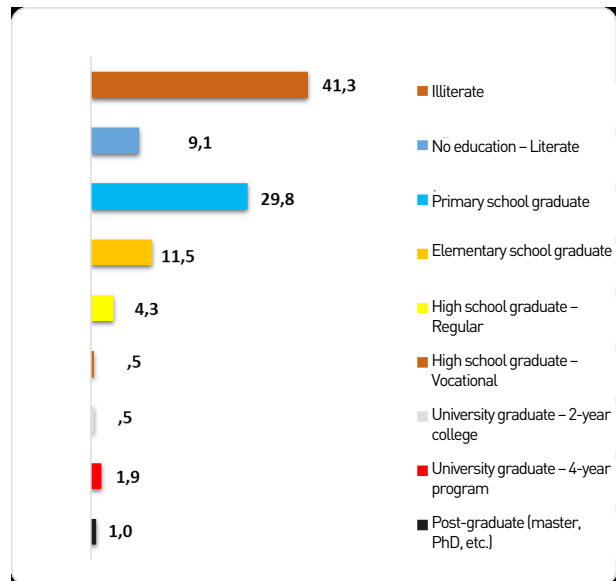


Graph 6. Number of children born in Turkey

1.6. Educational Level

Graph-7 provides the percentage distributions of educational levels of Syrians participating in the questionnaire. As can be seen in the graph, 29,8% of the participants are primary school graduates, 11,5% are secondary school graduates, 4,3% are regular high school graduates, 0,5% are vocational high school graduates, 0,5% are university or 2-year college graduates, and 1% are post-graduate program graduates. 41,3% of the participants were illiterate, and 9,1% were literate at the military level.

These findings demonstrate that most of the participants have a low level of education, which brings about certain social costs.

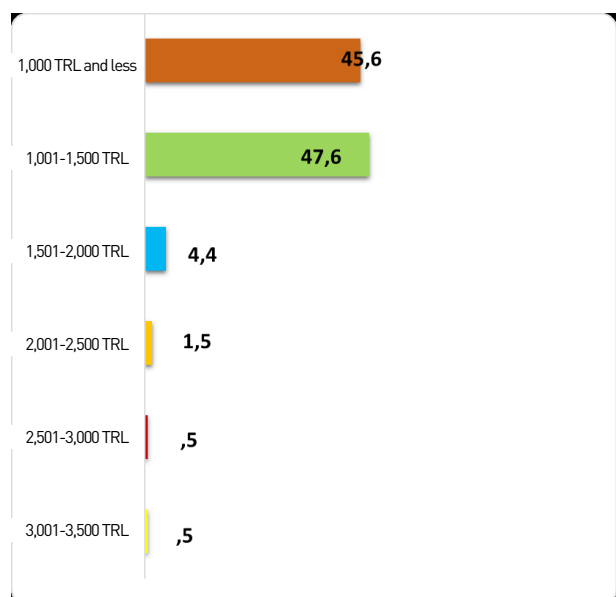


Graph 7. Educational Level

1.7. Participants' Income Level in Turkey

Level of income is an important issue that ensures adaptation and harmony of societies. In fact, meeting basic needs and maintaining social life are closely related with the level of income.

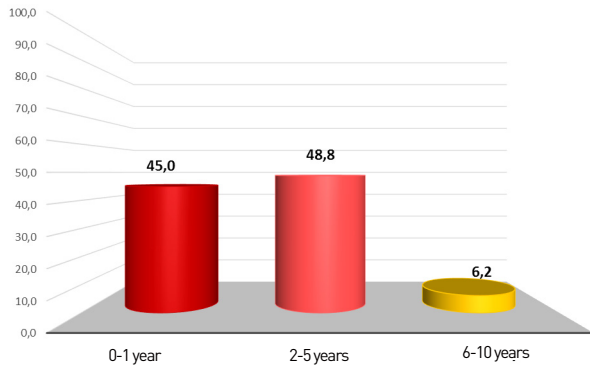
Graph-8 provides the percentage distribution of participants in relation to level of income across Turkey. The percentage distribution of participants according to the question on monthly income indicates that 45,6% of the participants had 1,000 TRL and less, 47,6% had 1,001-1,500 TRL, 4,4% had 1,501-2,000 TRL, 1,5% had 2,001-2,500 TRL, 0,5% had 2,501-3,000 TRL, 0,5% had 3,001-3,500 TRL of monthly income. These percentages demonstrate that Syrians in Sultanbeyli mainly consist of low-income groups.



Graph 8. Participants' level of income in Turkey

1.8. Participants' Residence Period in Sultanbeyli

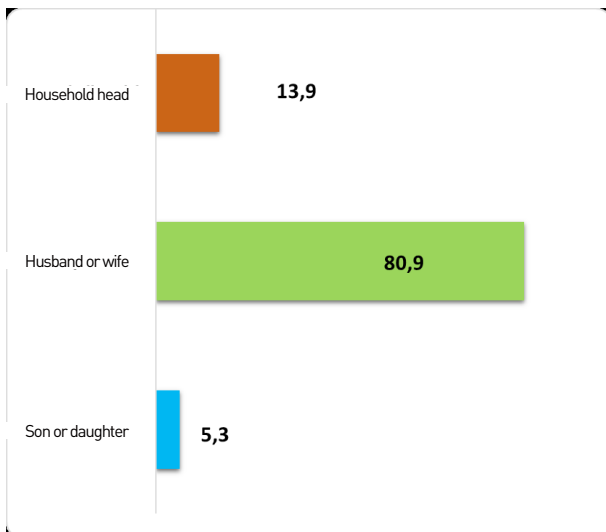
Graph-9 provides a percentage distribution of residence periods of Syrians participating in the questionnaire in Sultanbeyli. As can be seen in the graph, 45% of the participants have been living in Sultanbeyli for 0-1 year, 48,8% for 2-5 years, and 6,2% for 6-10 years.



Graph 9: Residence period of Syrians in Sultanbeyli

1.9. Status in the Household

Graph-10 provides a percentage distribution of Syrians in their households. As can be seen in the graph, 80,9% of the participants are wives or husbands of the household head, 13,9% are household heads and 5,3% are their sons or daughters.

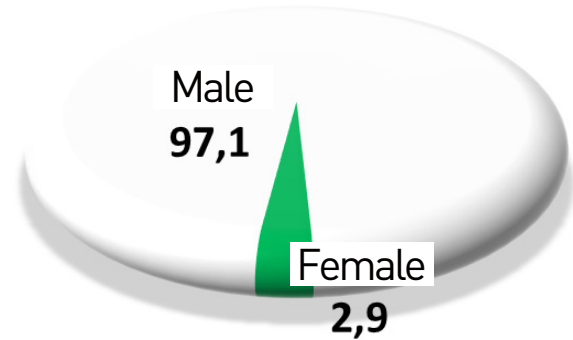


Graph 10. Status of participating Syrians in the household

1.10. Gender of the Person in Charge of the Family

Graph-11 provides a percentage distribution of the gender of the person who is in charge among Syrian families. Majority of the participants pointed out that this person was a male (97,1%). Only 2,9% of the participants said the person in charge

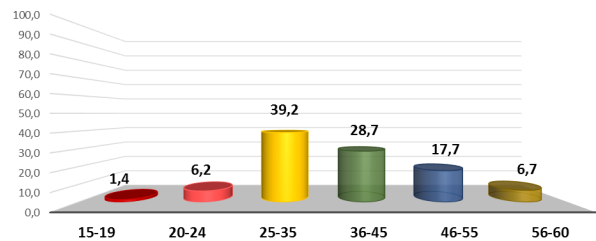
of the family was a female, who were widowed or divorced participants. These percentages demonstrate that the responsibility for the family predominantly lies with the men among Syrians.



Graph 11. Gender of the person in charge of the family

1.11. Age of the Person in Charge of the Family

Graph-12 provides a percentage distribution of the gender of the person who is in charge among Syrian families. As can be seen in the graph, the age groups of 39,2% of participants were 25-35; 28,7% were 36-45; 17,7% were 46-55; 6,7% were 56-60; 6,2% were 20-24; and 1,4% were 15-19. According to the study results, 39,2% of the Syrians who were in charge of their families were individuals aged between 25 and 35.

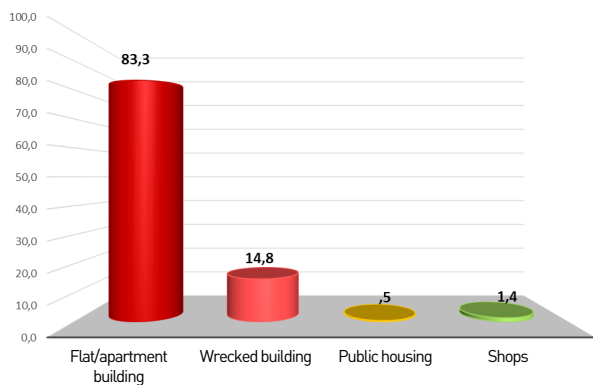


Graph 12. Age of the person in charge of the family

1.12. Type of Housing in Turkey

Graph-12 provides a percentage distribution of housing types in which participants live in Sultanbeyli. As can be seen in the graph, 83,3% of the participants live in a "flat/apartment building", 11,1% in "ruined buildings", 0,5% in "public buildings", and 1,4% in "shop" type of building.

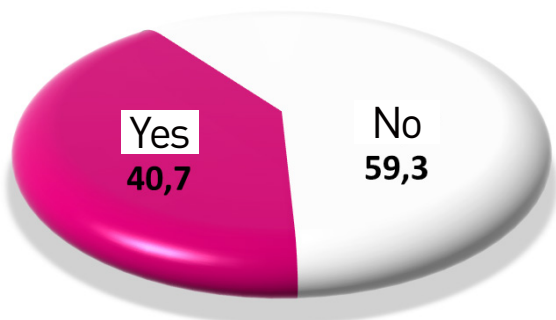
According to study findings, most of Syrians live in flats/apartment buildings, although our observations demonstrate that most of these flats are on ground floor or basement. A significant number of Syrians, which is 11,1% of the participants, live in wrecked buildings in very harsh conditions.



Graph 13. Type of housing in Turkey

1.13. Cohabitation of Syrian Families in Houses

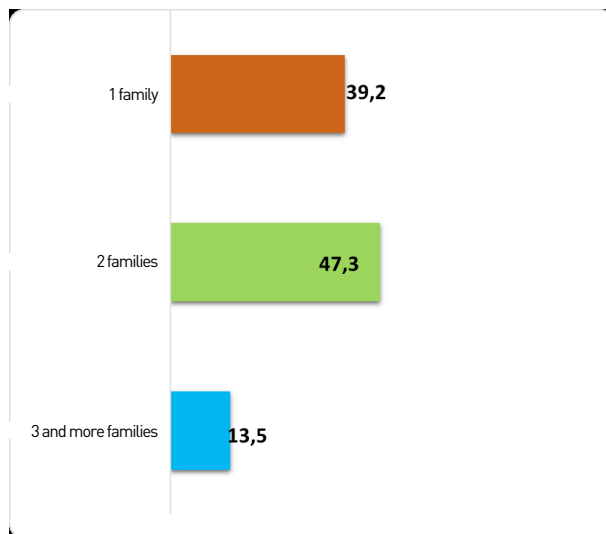
Graph-14 provides a percentage distribution of the answers of Syrians to the question "Is there another family living in your residence?" As can be seen in the graph, 40,7% of the participants share the same housing with several families. The remaining part (59,7%), live as a single family in a single housing.



Graph 14. Cohabitation of Syrian families in the same housing

1.14. Number of Cohabitant Families

40,7% of the participants who share the same housing with several families were asked how many families were living in the same residence. According to the graph demonstrating the number of families the participants share their housing with (Graph-15), 39,2% of the participants said two families share the same housing, 47,3% said three families share the same housing, 13,5% said four families lived in the same residence. These findings evidence the harsh living conditions of Syrians.

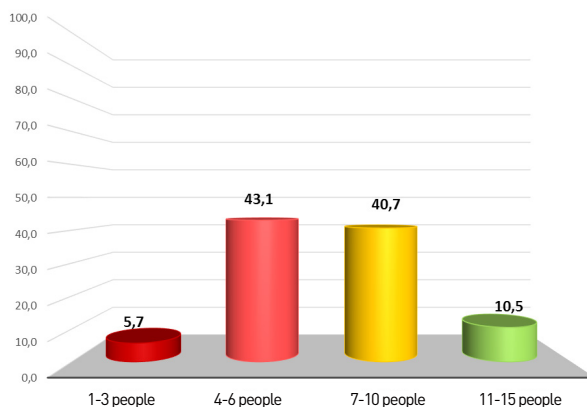


Graph 15. Number of cohabitant families

1.15. Number of People Living in the Same House with Syrians

Graph-16 provides a percentage distribution of the number of people that the participant Syrians live in the same house with. As can be seen in the graph, 40,7% of the participants said "7-10 people", 43,1% said "4-6 people", 10,5% said "11-15 people" and 5,7% said "1-3 people".

These percentages can be associated with the number of children among Syrians (see Graph 4), because more than 32% of the Syrians who are married have 4 or more children. Furthermore, there are some cases where relatives live in the same house. Cohabitation of so many people in the same house may lead to problems of hygiene and health.



Graph 16. Number of people Syrians live in the same house with

GENERAL ATTITUDE AND SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE LEVEL

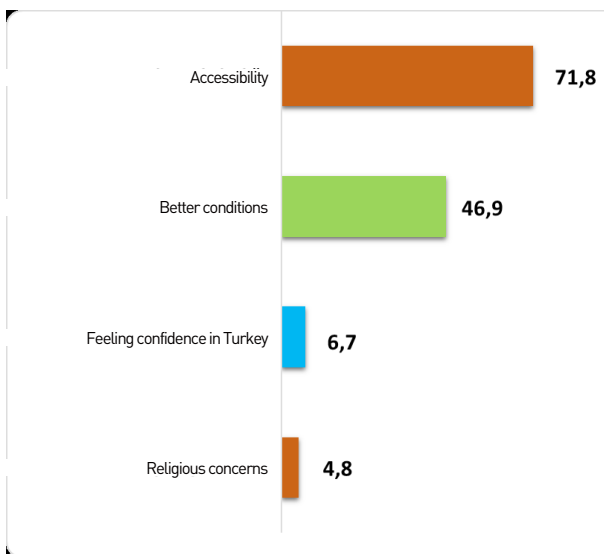
GENERAL ATTITUDE AND SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE LEVEL

The reason for participants prefer to live in Turkey and in Istanbul, identification of their health-related problems, the findings about professions, their communication with local people, perceptions and concerns about the future and their ideas about staying in Turkey in the long term are included in this section.

2.1. Reasons for Participants' Preference of Turkey

The percentage distribution of the reasons for participants' preference of Turkey demonstrates that the main reason is accessibility, that is Turkey's proximity to other regions, with a percentage of 71,8%. The second reason is Turkey's better conditions (46,9%), the third reason is confidence in Turkey (6,7%), and the fourth reason is religious concerns (4,8%). (Graph 17).

Although the participants have indicated accessibility as the main reason for preferring Turkey, it might be asserted that they feel safer as compared to other immediate neighbor countries, which may be the conclusive factor.

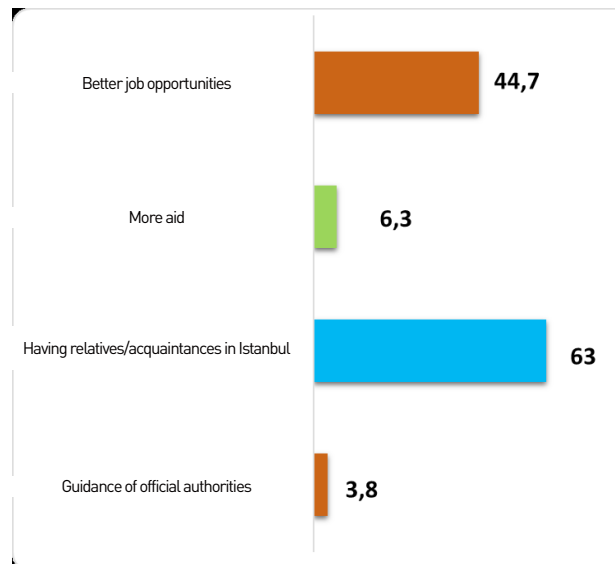


Graph 17. Participants' reasons for preferring Turkey

2.2. Participants' reasons for preferring Istanbul

Graph-18 provides a percentage distribution of the reasons for which participants prefer Istanbul. As can be seen in the graph, the answers of our participants were "having relatives/acquaintances in Istanbul" (63%), "better job opportunities" (44,7%), "access to more aid" (6,3%), and "guidance of official authorities" (3,8%).

When evaluating these results, the typical characteristics of migrations should be taken into consideration. In fact, both domestic and international migrants use their relationships with relatives to deal with the problems of accommodation and employment. The same applies here as well. On the other hand, Istanbul is an attractive destination for asylum-seekers as a city with a strong economy and material sources. In the family research conducted by Sultanbeyli Municipality, the reasons for Syrians preferring Sultanbeyli were asked, an important reason was revealed as relatives already living in this district (73,7%). This was followed by "recommendation" (13,7%) and "finding a job in Sultanbeyli" (8,7%). (Sultanbeyli Municipality, Syrians, 2015:12)

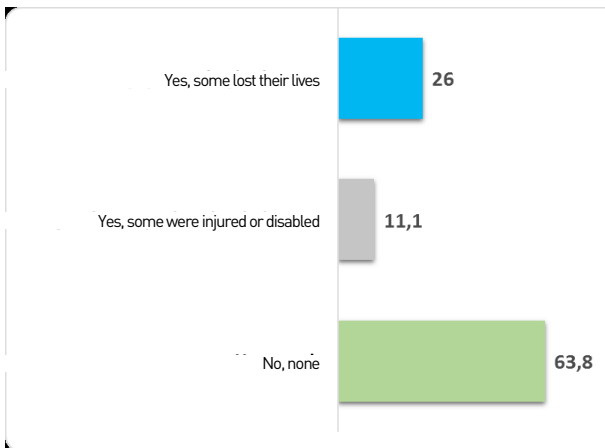


Graph 18. Reasons for Syrians preferring Istanbul

2.3. Impairment of Family Members during the War

The participants in the study were asked if any members of the family were impaired during the war. 63,8% of the participants said they did not lose any relatives, while 26% said they lost someone. 11,1% said there were some injured or disabled people among their relatives (Graphic 19).

As can be seen in the findings, 26% of the sample, which is a significant ratio, said they lost a relative in the civil war. This high ratio demonstrates the extent of the civil war in Syria. These data evidence the necessity for rehabilitating activities for the asylum-seekers in this category.

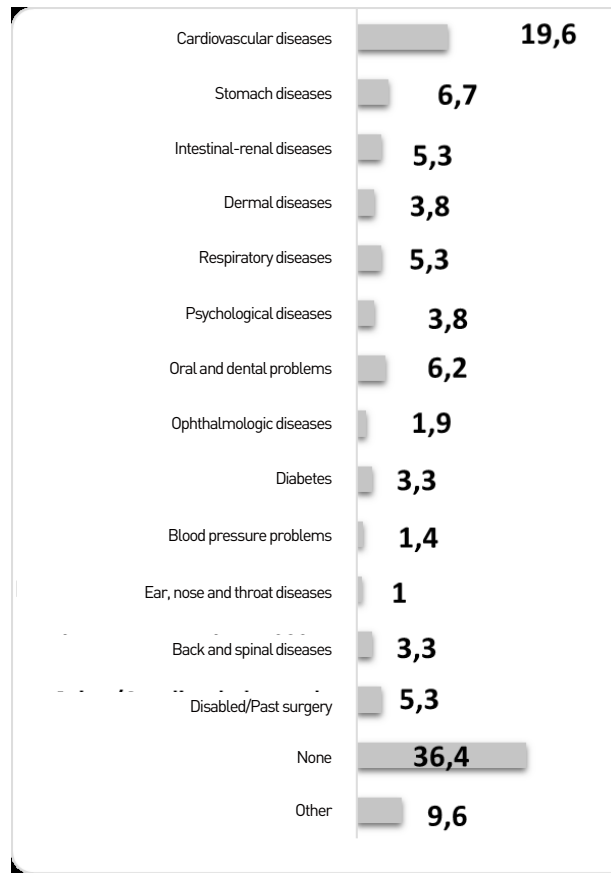


Graph 19. Impairment of family members during the war

2.4. Health Condition of Syrian

Migrations create a sudden and rapid change in the environment, and affect the society and individuals in social, cultural and physical terms, thus leading to very important impact on health and health-related variables. In fact, the cultural differences in the new society in which the individuals start living after migration can be very decisive in challenges of adaptation and health problems.

Graph-20 provides a percentage distribution of diseases among Syrians and their relatives participating in the questionnaire. More than one choices were selected in this question and the analyses were conducted with due consideration of this situation. The general health problems of the participants include cardiovascular diseases which was the most common answer with 19,6%. It was followed by stomach problems with 6,7%, oral and dental problems with 6,2%, intestinal-renal diseases with 5,3%, respiratory problems with 5,3%, dermal diseases with 3,8%, psychological problems with 3,8%, diabetic problems with 3,3%, back and spinal diseases with 3,3%, ophthalmologic diseases with 1,9%, blood pressure problems with 1,4%, ear, nose and throat diseases with 1,0% and other diseases and problems with 9,6%. 5,3% of the participants were disabled/had past surgery, and 36,4% said they did not have any diseases.



Graph 20. Health condition of Syrians

2.5. Access to Healthcare Services

Study findings demonstrate that access to public services such as healthcare services is limited. In fact, in reply to the question "Do you have access to healthcare services?" in the study, 54,5% of the participants said they did not, while 45,5% said they did (Graph-21).

This is an indication that informative and guiding mechanisms on the rights of asylum-seekers are not in place, and the coordination between institutions and organizations offering these services is weak. In fact, it can be observed that the staff have limited information on the solution of the fundamental problems, including life, health, safety and education, of applicant asylum-seekers, and on the practices for protection of these individuals. The common tendency among many public officials is to keep the necessary aid limited to avoid making their institution or area "attractive" to asylum-seekers. The fact that asylum-seekers cannot speak Turkish and public offices do not offer services in multiple languages further complicate the access to public services.

One of the important factors that affect access to healthcare services among Syrian citizens is often indicated as the problem of language.

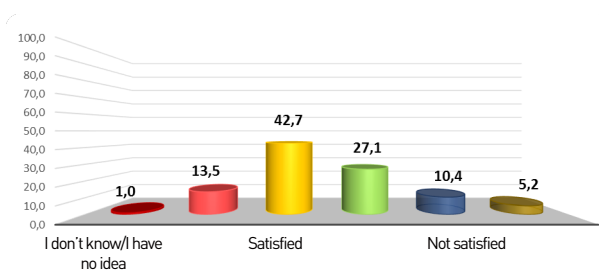
On the other hand, the lack of sufficient access to healthcare services among Syrians brings about several serious health-related issues. In fact, it is important to develop actions to vaccinate Syrian asylum-seekers who are disadvantaged for contagious diseases and mechanisms to ensure they have access to healthcare institutions in the event of a disease, as well as conducting studies to identify risk areas/neighborhoods.



Graph 21. Access to healthcare services among Syrians

2.6. Satisfaction among Syrians with the Healthcare Services Provided

Graph-22 provides a percentage distribution of Syrians by their answers to the question "How satisfied are you with the healthcare services you are offered in Turkey?" As can be seen in the graph, 13,5% were "Very satisfied", 42,7% were "Satisfied", 27,1% were "Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied", 10,4% were "Not satisfied", 5,2% were "Very dissatisfied" and 1,0% said "I don't know/ I have no idea." According to the findings, the answer "Satisfied" is predominant (42,7%).



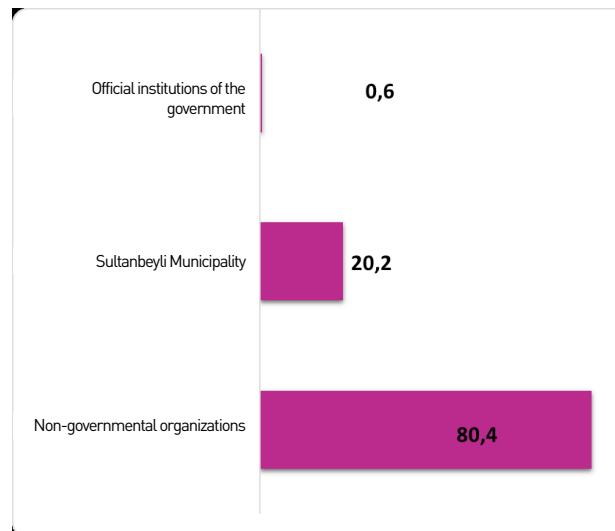
Graph 22. Level of satisfaction among Syrians with the healthcare services

2.7. Access to Humanitarian Aid from an Official Institution and Organization or Private Persons in Turkey

Graph-23 provides the percentage distribution of the answers to the question "Do you receive humanitarian aid from any official organization or institution or private person in Turkey?" The results show that 78,8% of the participants received aid, and 22,2% did not.

2.8. Institutions Offering Aid to Syrians

Graph-24 provides a percentage distribution of the answers to the question on the source of aid for the Syrians who have said they receive aid from any official organization or institution or private persons. The answers demonstrate that the most of the participants receive aid from the non-governmental organizations in the area (80,4%). This is followed by the aid provided by Sultanbeyli Municipality (20,2%) and aid from the other official institutions of the government (0,6%).



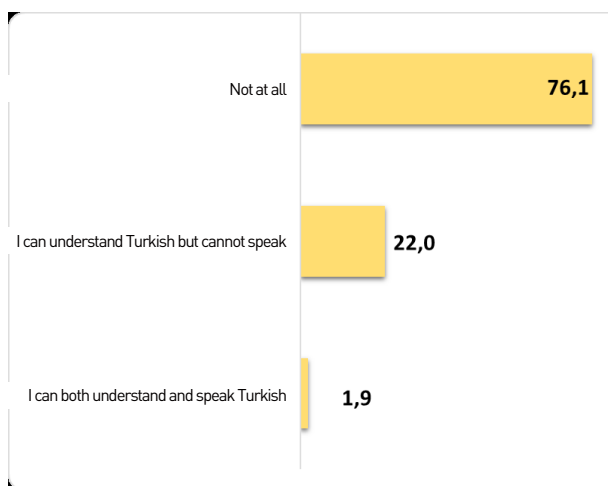
Graph 24. Institutions offering aid to Syrians

2.9. Level of Command of Turkish Language

The percentage distribution of the answers to the question related to the command of Turkish among the participants (Graph 25) demonstrates that 76,1% did not speak Turkish. 22% of the participants said they could understand Turkish but could not speak, while only 1,9% said they could both understand and speak Turkish. These findings demonstrate that the majority of Syrian asylum-seekers in Sultanbeyli does not speak Turkish. This is a problem that has been clearly evidenced by other studies in other regions of Turkey. This has a negative impact on both adults and children in various aspects. In fact, the problem of language is a serious barrier to access to public services. Furthermore, it brings

about certain problems in social harmonization of asylum-seekers.

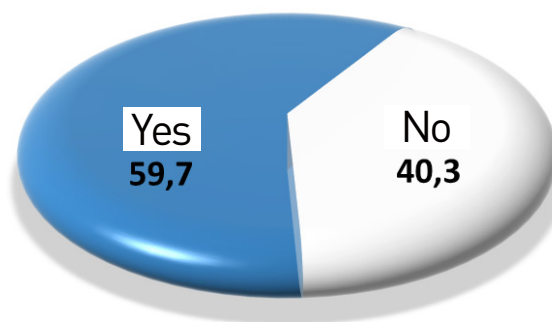
A cross analysis has been conducted with the gender and their answers to the question "Do you speak Turkish?" among the participants. The answer "Not at all" had a similar percentage among males and females (85,7% in females, 73,1% in males). The answer "I can understand Turkish but cannot speak" was 14,3% among females and 24,4% among males. In the analysis, there was not a linear correlation between gender and the other variable, while males have the advantage of having a social environment in learning language.



Graph 25. Level of command of Turkish among Syrians

2.10. Level of Willingness to Learn Turkish

Graph-26 provides a percentage distribution of the answers to the question "Do you want to learn Turkish?" given by the participants. As can be seen in the graph, 59,7% of the participants are willing to learn Turkish. As is well-known, when Syrians started entering Turkey, it was thought to be something temporary. Therefore, the majority were not interested in learning Turkish. However, the prolonged process has increased the demand to learn Turkish among Syrians (including adults). Officers to offer Turkish lessons to adults should be created to address this demand. On the other hand, a significant percentage of the participants said they did not want to learn Turkish (40,3%). We can understand that these people are rather willing to go back to their own countries or move to another country.

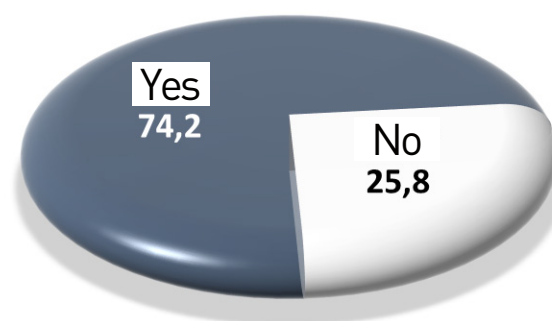


Graph 26. Level of willingness to learn Turkish among Syrians

2.11. Employment Status of Participants in Syria

Graph-27 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question "Were you employed in Syria?" As can be seen in the graph, 74,2% of the participants said "Yes" and 25,8% said "No." According to the results, it can be suggested that the majority of the Syrians were included in the working life when they were in their own country.

In the cross analysis between the age of the participants and their answers to the question "Were you employed in Syria?", no linear correlation was revealed between age and the other variable. In fact, in relation to the migration process, the percentage of the participants who answered "No" was the highest (100%) in the age group of 15-19, while it was minimum in the age group of 20-24 (10,8%). The answer "Yes" was 89,2% in the age group of 46-55, while it was 42,9% in the age group of 20-24.

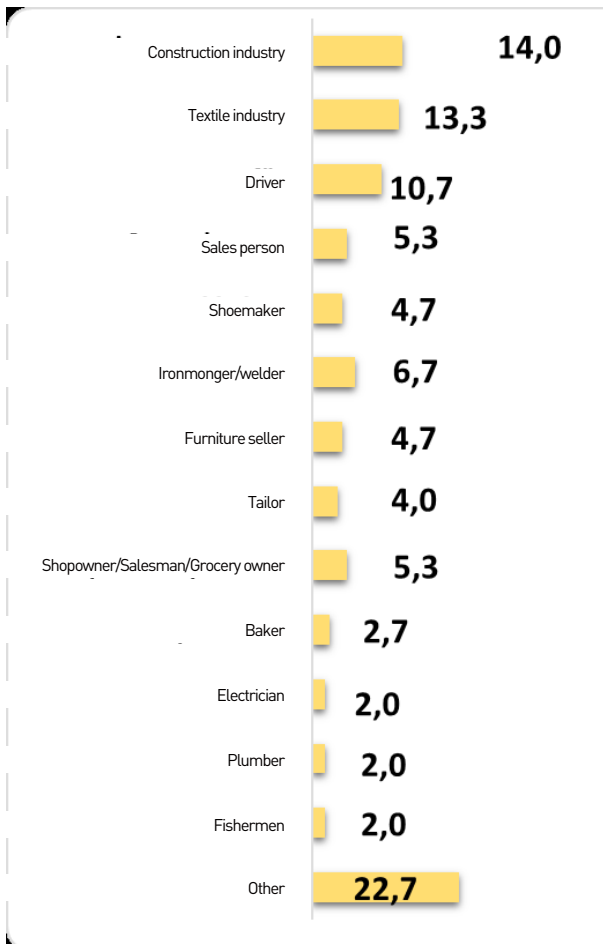


Graph 27. Employment status in Syria

2.12. Employment Areas of Participants Who Were Employed in Syria

The participants who said they were employed when they were in Syria were asked what kind of jobs they did in Syria. As can be seen in Graph-28, 14% of the participants said they worked in construction industry, 13,3% in textile industry,

10,7% as drivers, 6,7% as ironmonger/welder, 5,3% as sales officer, 4,7% as shoemaker, 4,7% as furniture seller, 4% as tailor, 5,3% salesman/shopowner/grocery owner, 2,7% as baker, 2% as electrician, 2% as plumber, and 2% as fishermen. Furthermore a high percentage of the participants (22,7%) worked in other jobs, including free tradesmen, public officer or students.



Graph 28. Employment areas of participants who were employed in Syria

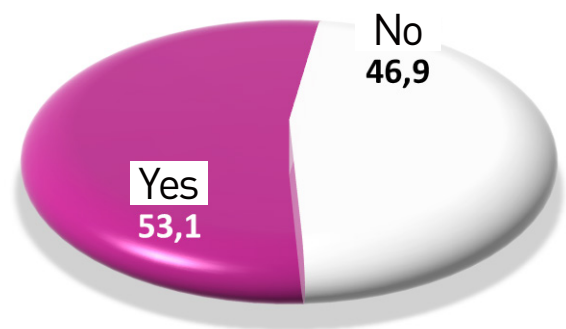
2.13. Employment Status of Syrians in Turkey

Graph-29 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question "Are you employed in Turkey?" As can be seen in the graph, 53,1% of the participants said they are currently working at a job, while 46,9% said they are not.

These findings indicate that a remarkable sector of the participants, amounting to 46%, is unemployed. Identifying the skills of these unemployed people and including the qualified workers in the labor force as well as training them to employ them in the industries where there are vacant positions is important to ensure that asylum-seekers can sustain their lives and to prevent certain problems

that arise from unemployment. On the other hand, this could also be turned into an advantage in Turkish economy by benefiting from these people with their resources and strengths. The lack of intermediate staff, which is one of the major problems of Turkish economy, can be addressed by Syrian citizens.

The cross analysis of the gender of the participants and their answers to the question "Were you employed in Syria" revealed a linear correlation between gender and the other variable. In fact, the percentage of unemployed women was 91,8%, while the same percentage was 33,1% among males. Therefore, it is observed that the ratio of unemployed women among asylum-seekers is quite high as compared to men. This demonstrates that it is important to focus on programs for women in actions taken by relevant bodies in relation to vocational training and employment.



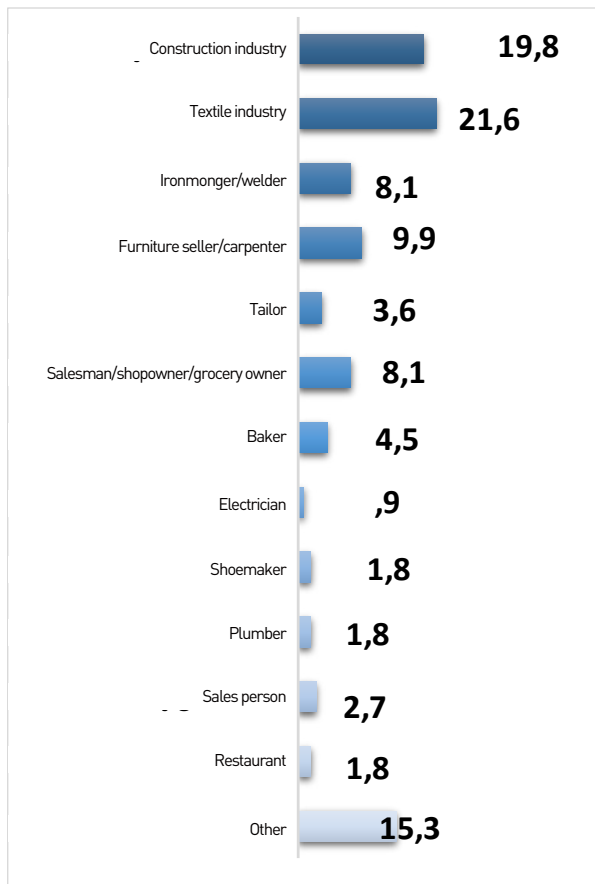
Graph 29. Syrians Working in Turkey

2.14. Employment Areas of Syrians Who Are Employed in Turkey

The participants who said they are currently employed were asked what kind of job they were doing. 21,6% of the participants said they worked in textile industry, and 19,8% in construction industry. The other participants were employed as ironmonger/welder (8,1%), furniture seller/carpenter (9,9%), tailor (3,6%), salesmen/shopowner/grocery owner (8,1%), baker (4,5%), electrician (0,9%), shoemaker (1,8%), plumber (1,8%), sales person (2,7%), and in restaurants (1,8%). 15,3% of the participants replied this question as "other areas". (Graph 30).

A comparison of the questions on "employment areas of Syrians who were working in Syria" and on "employment areas of Syrians who are working in Turkey" offers important clues to understand whether the asylum-seekers who were displaced from their homes can perform their own professions.

In fact, a comparison of answers to these two questions demonstrates that a significant part of the participants continue with the same jobs as in Syria. Therefore, people arriving from Syria have started working in jobs that comply with their qualifications. Syrian asylum-seekers in general have succeeded in bringing their skills from Syria to Turkey. Although some have moved from other industries to construction sector, in general they have continued working in their own professional branches.



Graph 30. Employment areas of Syrians who are working in Turkey



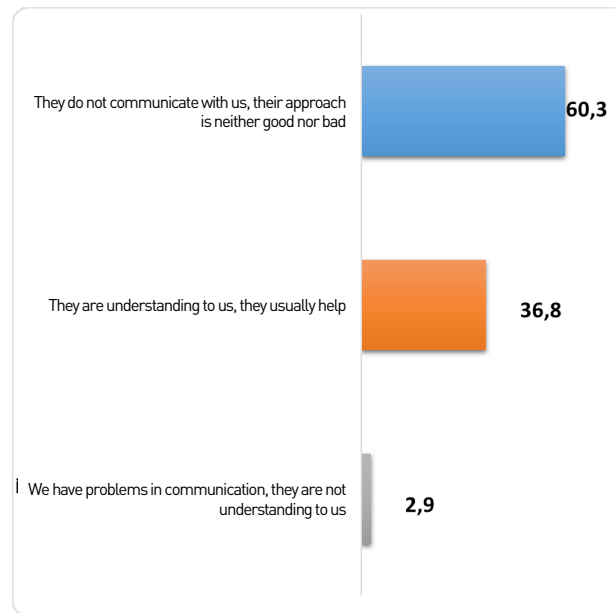
SOCIAL HARMONIZATION AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION STATUS

BÖLÜM 3: SOCIAL HARMONIZATION AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION STATUS

3.1. Assessments of Syrians About the Approaches of Turkish People in Istanbul

The participants of the study were asked about the approach of the people of Istanbul towards them. As can be seen in Graph-31, very few of them (2,9%) said the approach was unfavorable and communication was problematic. 36,3% said the people were understanding and helpful. A significant percentage of the participants (60,3%) said the people were not good or bad since they did not communicate with Syrians. Among the reasons for this, the lack of communication due to barriers of language should be emphasized. Furthermore, the unfavorable discourse against Syrians in the press, public reaction to Syrians who are employed as cheap labor force, and biases against Syrians who are suspected in criminal incidents in the area are among important barriers to communication.

A cross analysis of the participants' ages and their answers to the question on how they assess the attitude of Turkish people in Istanbul against Syrians demonstrates a linear correlation between the age and the other variable. In fact, the age group of 36-45 was predominant in answering "They do not communicate with us, they do not have a good or bad approach" with a percentage of 68,4%. The age group of 56-60 is at the minimum value with a percentage of 36,8%. 57,9% of those who answered "They are understanding with us, they usually help us" were in the age group of 56-60. However, the age group of 20-24 was had the highest percentage with 7,1% among those who answered "We have problems in communication, they are not understanding to us."

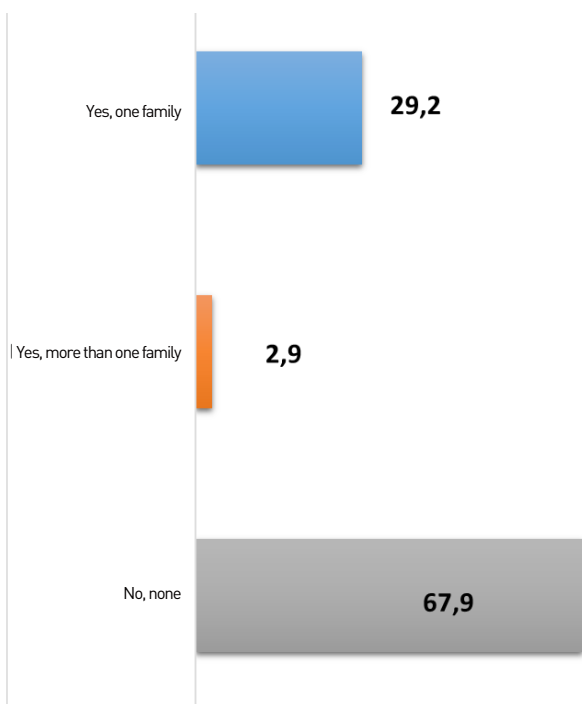


Graph 31. Assessment of Syrians regarding the attitude of Turkish people living in Istanbul

3.2. Friendship, Fellowship Between Syrian and Turkish Families

In the distribution of the answers to the question whether the participants have any Turkish family/families who they often meet (befriended) in their neighborhood, 67,9% of the participants said "No". The ratio of the participants who had a family they frequently meet with was 29,2%, while those who answered "Yes, several families" was 2,9% (Graph-32).

The evaluation of the findings demonstrate that the asylum-seekers have problems in communicating with local people and have weak neighborhood relationships with them. The barrier of language is probably the most important factor here. In fact, language is an important communication tool to understand and depict the world one lives in.



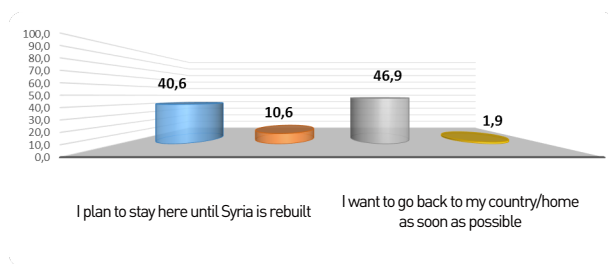
Graph 32. Friendship/fellowship between Syrian and Turkish families

3.3. Future Plans

Graph-33 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question on what they plan to do if the war in Syria is ended. Some of the participants said they were planning to go back home after the war (46,9%), and a remarkable part of the participants said they were not planning to go back (40,6%). It can be understood that those who plan to go back regard their current conditions as temporary. Those who are not willing to go back and plan to stay here until Syria is rebuilt are understood to bear the traces of the war climate and relevant traumas in their memories. Another important reason may be the lack of hope for seeing the end of the problems in their country in the near future 10,6% of the participants said they wanted to become a Turkish citizen and continue living here, while 1,9% said they were undecided, did not know what they will do or the situation was ambiguous.

The comprehensive study conducted by Sultanbeyli Municipality in November 2015 with the Syrians living in the district (a study with 2032 families) collected the following answers to the questions asked to Syrians under the title of "What they will do after the war is over": 81% said "I will go back to Syria", 8% said "I will stay in Turkey", 11% said "I have not decided yet" (see. Sultanbeyli Municipality, 2015 Report of Study with Syrians). In this study, 46,9% of the participants who were asked "What do you plan to do when the

war in Syria is ended" said "I want to go back to my country/home as soon as possible", which indicates that the hopes for going back home has gradually decreased in the meantime. Furthermore, in cases where massive asylum-seekers are present and the problems persist for months or years, the tendency to go back weakens for some asylum-seekers even if the problem has been solved. Such a case is not out of possibility for the Syrians participating in this study.



Graph 33. Thoughts about the planned future when the war in Syria is over

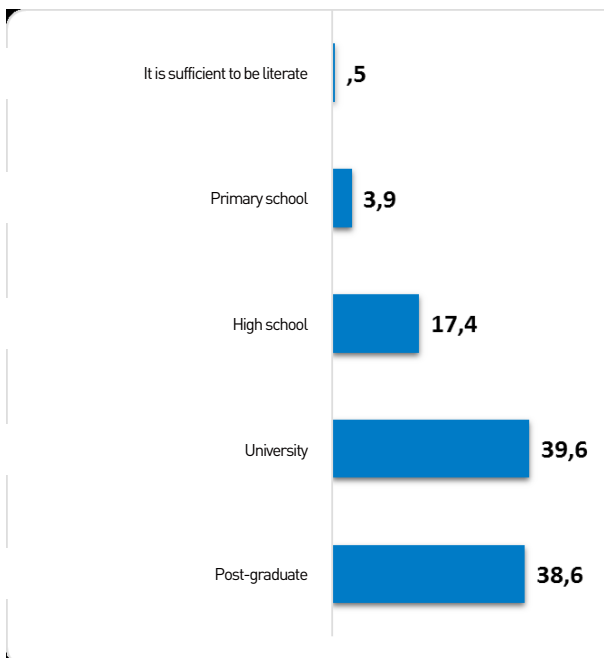
**PARENTS' THOUGHTS ABOUT
EDUCATIONAL AND
SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL
PROBLEMS OF SYRIAN CHILDREN**

4. PARENTS' THOUGHTS ABOUT EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF SYRIAN CHILDREN

More than half of the Syrian asylum-seekers in Turkey are children under 18 years old. Considering that forced migration brings about many challenges, clearly children are faced with multi-dimensional problems. In this context, limited access of children to education and healthcare services, failure to adapt to the new environment, cultural conflict due to cultural differences, not being embraced by friends, feeling alienated, becoming introvert and isolated, failure to comply with the school's rules and failure at courses are among the most important problems. A series of questions have been asked to Syrian parents to understand the problems of children in the context of Sultanbeyli.

4.1. Parents' Thoughts About Educational Level of Syrian Children

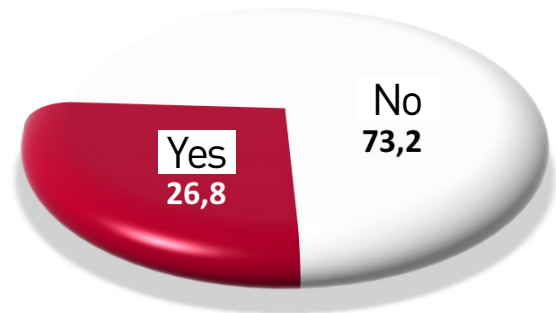
Graph-34 provides a percentage distribution of Syrians' answers to the question "What level of education would be sufficient for your child in your opinion?" As can be seen in the graph, participants replied "It is sufficient to be literate" (0,5%), "Primary school" (3,9%), "High school" (17,4%), "University" (39,6%), and "Post-graduate" (38,6%).



Graph 34. Parents' thoughts about the educational level of Syrian children

4.2. Situation of Children Attending Schools

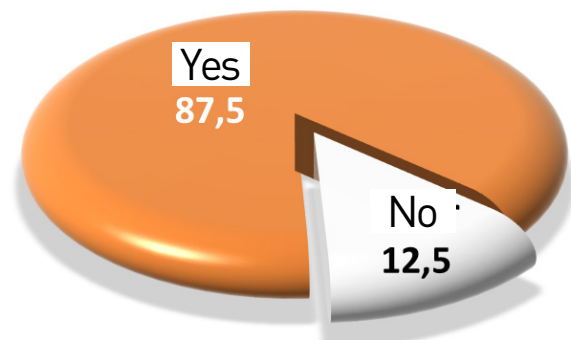
Graph-35 provides a percentage distribution of the answers of Syrians to the question "Do you have a child who is attending school?" As can be seen in the graph, 26,8% of the participants said "Yes", and 73,2% said "No."



Graph 35. Situation of children attending schools

4.2.1. Attendance of Children Who Are Enrolled in Schools

When the participants were asked "If you have a child attending a school, can the child continue the education at school without interruption?", 87,5% said "Yes", and 12,5% said "No." (Graph 36).



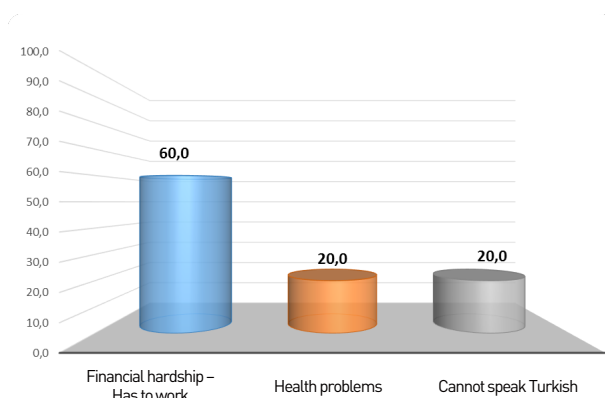
Graph 36. Attendance of Syrian children who are enrolled at schools

4.2.2. Reasons for Failure of Syrian Children at School Age to Continue Education

The participants whose children could not attend schools were asked about the reasons for failure of their children to continue education. The most common answer was financial challenges and obligation of the child to work with a percentage of 60%. The other answers were health problems with 20%, and children's inability to speak Turkish with 20% (Graph 37).

As can be seen in the results, the leading reason for failure of Syrian children to continue their education is financial hardship and the obligation of children to work. Thus, Syrian children who are the main victims of the war, become part

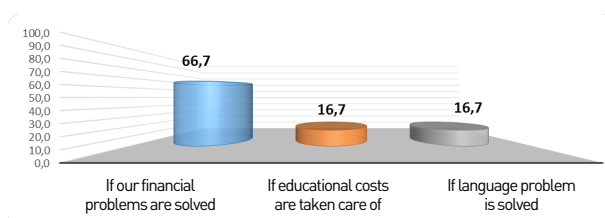
of their families' struggle to survive and are deprived from their right to education. Child labor is rapidly spreading in industries where informal employment is high. Syrian children work at knitting shops, textile factories, dried fruit factories, shoe manufacturing shops, car repair shops, agricultural labor, or sell napkins or water on the streets. The children are also forced to work when adults cannot find jobs. A great problem and danger underlies the fact hundreds of thousands of children are growing up without education. It is known by the findings of this study and other studies that the number of students who can attend schools is very low in metropolises such as Istanbul. This entails a risk of creating a "lost generation of Syrians".



Graph 37. Reasons for failure of Syrians at school age to continue education

4.3. Conditions Required for Syrian Children to Attend Schools

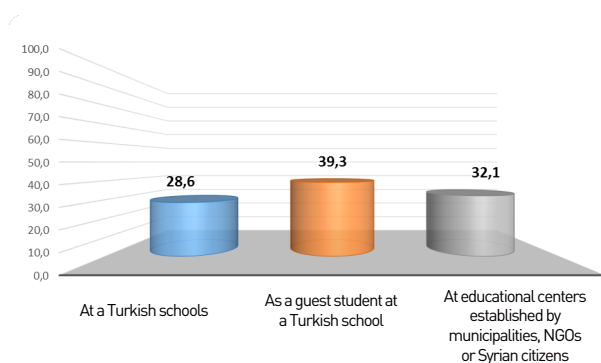
Graph-38 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question "Under which conditions would you send your child to school?" As can be seen in the graph, 66,7% of the participants answered "If our financial problems are solved"; 16,7% said "If educational costs are taken care of", and 16,7% said "If language problem is solved."



Graph 38. Conditions required for Syrian children to attend schools

4.4. Thoughts of the Participants Who Children Continue Education About the Child's School

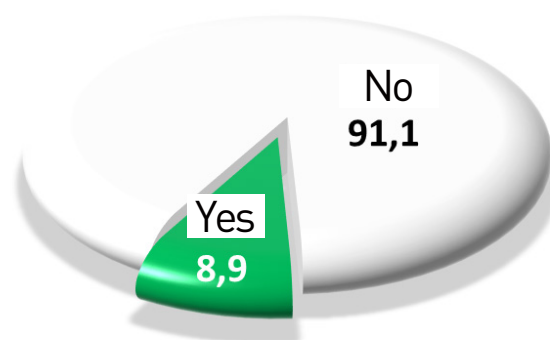
Graph-39 provides a percentage distribution of the ideas of participants whose children continue education about their children's schools. As can be seen in the graph, 28,6% said "Turkish school", 39,3% said "as a guest student at a Turkish school", and 32,1% said "at educational centres established by municipalities, NGOs or Syrian citizens."



Graph 39. About the children's school, if the child continues education

4.4.1. Problems of Communication related to Schools Which Syrian Children Attend

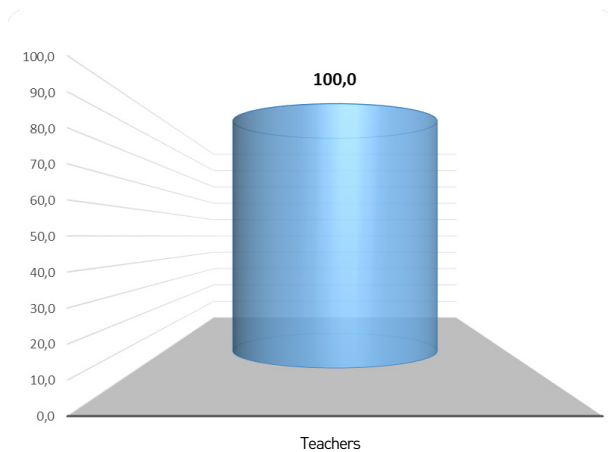
Graph-40 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question "Do the children have problems of communication at their schools?" 9,1% of the participants said they did not have any problems of communication at school. This is an indication of an easier adaptation of children to their environment. The children who have problems of communication at school (8,9%) can be said to have such problems due to barriers of language as well as insufficient support from their teachers.



Graph 40. Problems of communication among Syrian children at school

4.4.2. Persons With Whom Syrian Children Have Problems at School

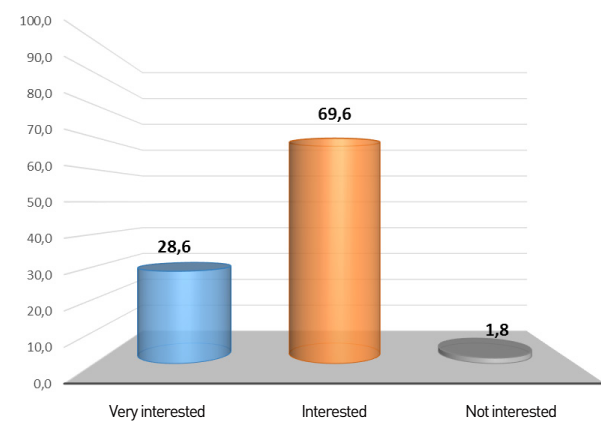
Graph-41 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question "With whom do your children have problems at school?" As can be seen in the graph, all of the participants (100%) said they had problems with their teachers. To prevent this, teachers and administrators should have information on harsh living conditions of Syrians, their rights, available services and mechanisms, and their approach to Syrian children should be based on rights.



Graph 41. People with whom Syrian children have problems at schools

4.4.3. Attention Paid by School Administration/ Teachers to Problems of Syrian Children

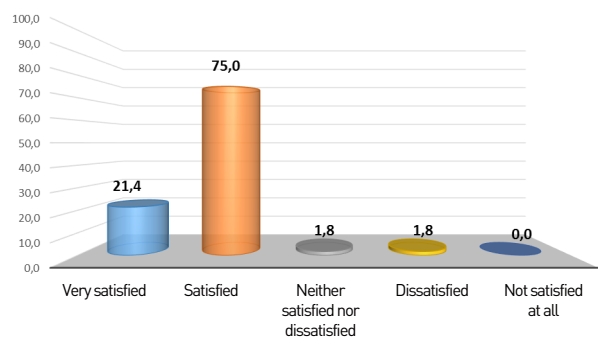
Graph-42 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question about the attention paid by school administration/ teachers to their children's problems. 28,6% of the participants said they were very interested, while 69,6% said they were interested and 1,8% said they were not interested.



Graph 42. Attention paid by school administration/ teachers to the problems of Syrian children

4.4.4. Satisfaction of Syrian Parents With the Education Their Children Receive in Turkey

Graph-43 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question about their satisfaction with the education their children receive in Turkey. As can be seen in the graph, 21,4% of the participants were very satisfied, and 75% were satisfied with the education. Only 1,8% said they were not satisfied. 1,8% of the participants said they were undecided. Therefore, the participants have indicated that they find the education offered to Syrian children in Turkey sufficient and that they were satisfied with it in general.



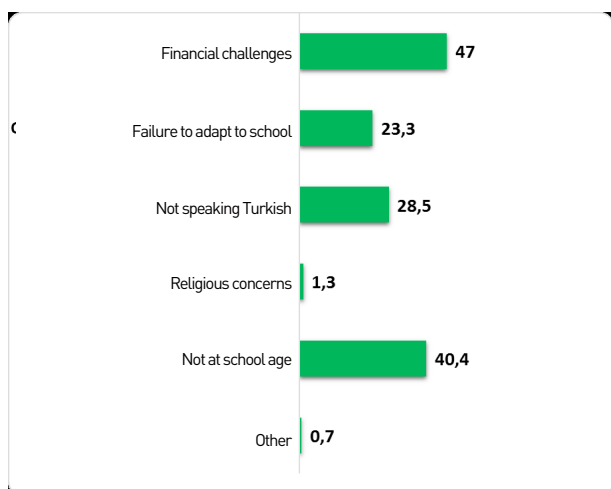
Graph 43. Satisfaction of Syrian parents with the education their children receive in Turkey

4.4.5. Reasons for Syrian Children Not Going/Failing to Go to School

The participants whose children cannot attend school were asked "Why does your child does not/ cannot go to school?" The participants stated that financial challenges were the first reason (47%), children not speaking Turkish were the second reasons (28,5%), and children's failure to adapt to the school was the third reasons (23,3%). Other reasons include religious concerns (1,3%) and other concerns (0,7%). 40,4% of the participants said the main reason was that the child was not at school age. (Graph 44)

30-35% of the Syrians whose number go beyond 2,800,000 in Turkey are children at school age. Only one in 5 Syrian children at school age can attend schools somehow. According to the report issued by Human Rights Watch, more than 400,000 Syrian children in Turkey cannot go to school (Turkey: 400,000 Syrian Children Out of School, 2015). The findings of this study and other studies reveal that primarily financial challenges and barriers of language and social integration prevent children from receiving education. Considering the importance of education in social integration of individuals, necessary regulation should be put

in place to eliminate the barriers to children's education as soon as possible.

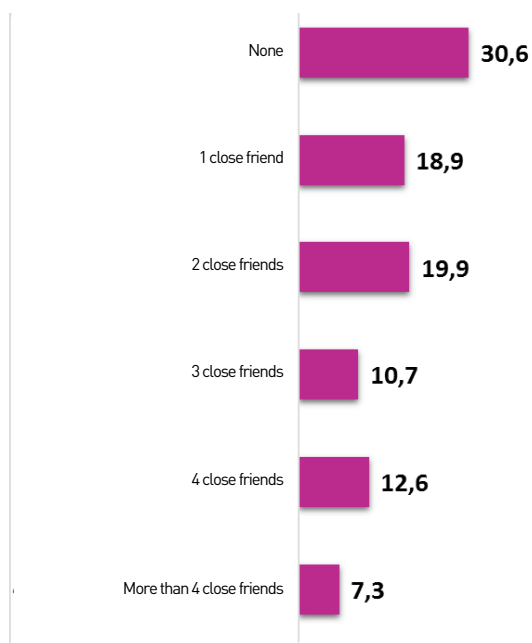


Graph 44. Reasons for Syrian children not attending/failing to attend schools

4.4.6. Number of Close Friends of Syrian Children

Graph-45 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question on how many close friends their children have. As can be seen in the graph, the majority of the participants (30,6%) said their children did not have any close friends. 19,9% said they had two close friends, 18,9% said one, 10,7% said three, 12,6% said four, and 7,3% said more than four close friends.

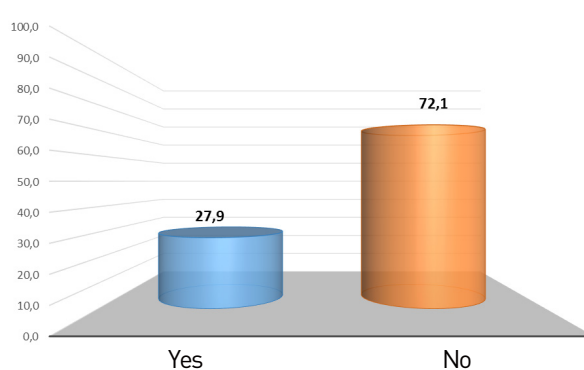
Children who migrate to a country with a very different culture go through a short period of trauma due to failure to communicate with their peers particularly because they do not speak their language (Süleymanov 2013). Unfortunately, Syrian parents complain that teachers and classmates all around the world see Syrian children as potential enemies and fail to act sensitively. In other words, these individuals have a high risk of becoming anti-social people.



Graph 45. Number of close friends of Syrian children

4.4.7. Close Friendship between Syrian Children and Turkish children

Graph-46 provides a percentage distribution of participants' answers to the question "Is there any Turkish child among your child's close friends?" As can be seen in the graph, 72,1% of the participants said "No", while 27,9% said "Yes."



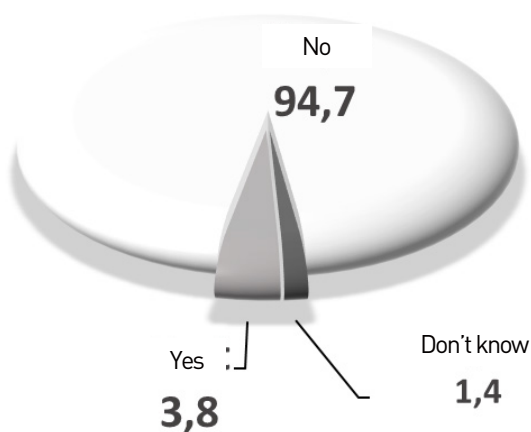
Graph 46. Close friendship between Syrian and Turkish children

4.5. Psychological Problems Among Syrian Children After the War

Wars, conflicts and migrations in the ensuing process have physical and social impact on children. Children, experiencing the negative effects of migrations and/or violence are influenced by psychological problems such as deep fear and despair. On the other hand, children's alienation from society, which starts with the feeling of isolation at school and contusion of being

a foreigner, makes children and youth inforvert and causes them to live a life full of psychological problems. These children, who believe they cannot have the job or future they want because of lack of education or language skills, have a high tendency to crime (Süleymanov, 2013). In the study conducted with Syrians living in Sultanbeyli to understand the phonemenon, the participants were asked a series of questions about the psychological condition of their child/children.

In this context the first question asked to the participants was whether their children suffered from any psychological problems after the war. Almost all of the participants (94,7%) replied "No." Only 3,8% of the participants said "Yes", while 1,4% said they did not know (Graph 47). A comparison of the answers to this question to the answer to the other questions related to psychological problems reveals certain contradictions. In fact, in other questions, findings indicating to psychological problems among children are predominantly obvious. Here, the fact that the person answering the question has also experienced war and may not consider certain symptoms as a problem as they also bear them should be taken into consideration. Furthermore, lack of knowledge among the parents about what a psychological problem is, or failure to see certain problems as psychological diseases are also other factors. Similarly, fear of stigmatization of their children for psychological disorders may have led the parents to give those answers.

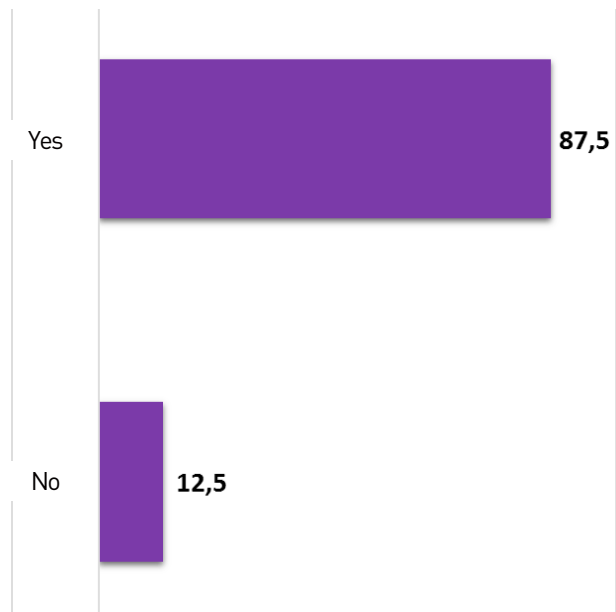


Graph 47. Psychological problems among Syrian children after the war

4.5.1. Phobia

Fear is one of the potential reactions to trauma. These may rather be a fear of reoccurrence of the events in the future or fear of losing one's relatives. Age periods in children are important in evaluating these kinds of trauma.

Graph-48 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question whether their children have experienced phobia. As can be seen in the graph, 87% of the participants said "Yes", and 12,5% said "No." According to the results of the questionnaire, a predominant ratio of children, 87,5%, have experienced phobia.

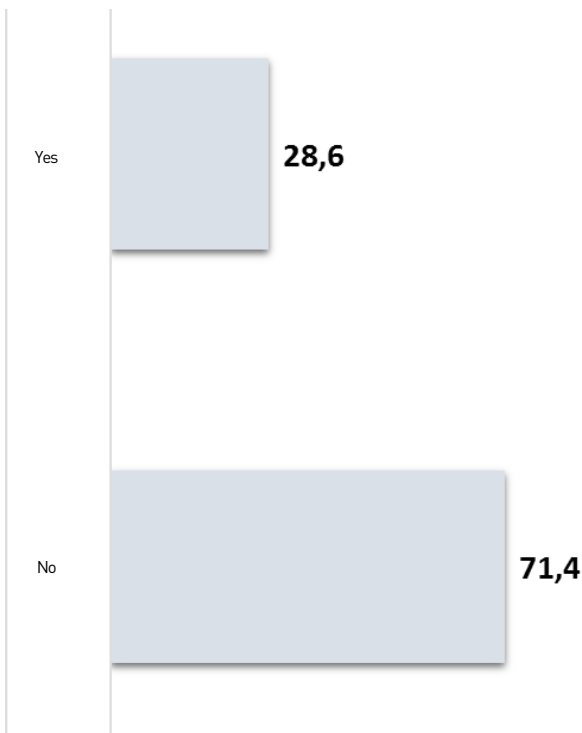


Graph 48. Phobia among Syrian children

4.5.2. Unresponsiveness

Graph-49 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question if their children experienced unresponsiveness. As can be seen in the graph, 28,6% of the participants said "Yes" while 71,4% said "No."

After traumas, individuals may react as nothing happened in order to avoid situations which remind past events. This can be defined as loss of interest, unresponsiveness or apathy. It can be suggested that the children of 28,6% of the participants experienced such unresponsiveness.

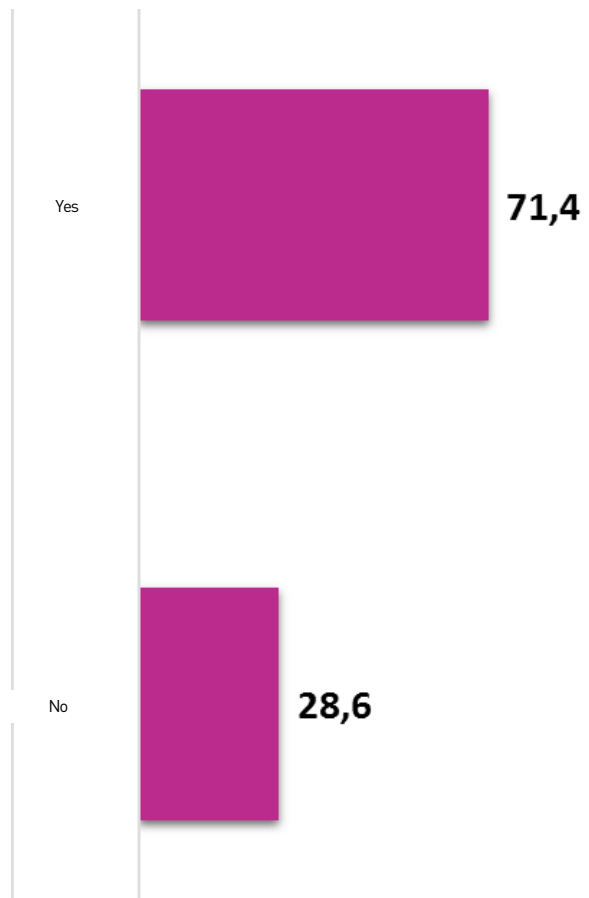


Graph 49. Unresponsiveness among Syrian children

4.5.3. Re-experiencing War-Related Fears

Graph-50 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question if their children re-experienced war-related fears. As can be seen in the graph, 71,4 % of the participants said "Yes" while 28,6% said "No." It is clear that war-related fears are predominantly re-experienced among the children of the participants.

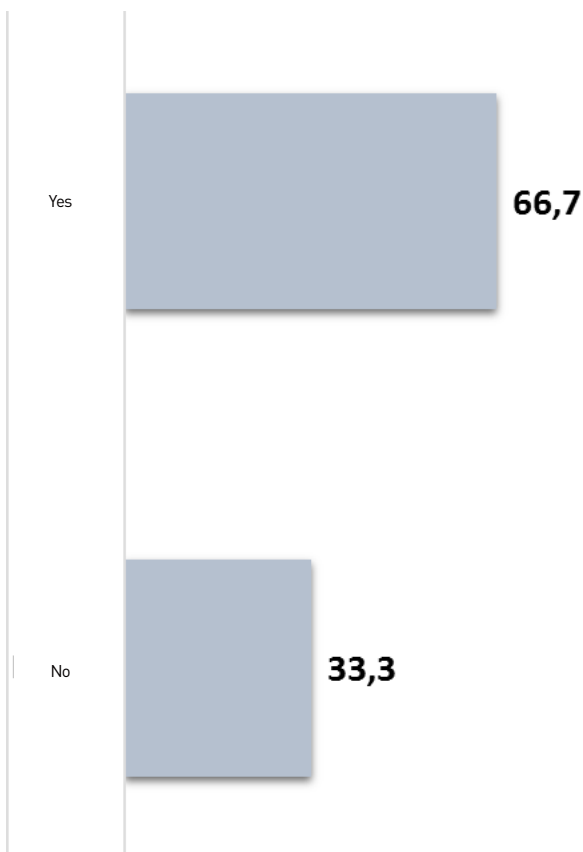
In children who have witnessed war, terror and other cases of violence, and saw the death or injury of their family members or relatives, the ambiguousness caused by forced migration, despair and problems of addressing physical needs may leave deep traces in the subconscious after the trauma. This may lead to a fear of reoccurrence of war and/or the relevant trauma. Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorders, which occur after post-war traumas, may lead to remembering of unwanted images of past experiences and thus a feeling of reliving the events.



Graph 50. Re-experiencing of war-related fears among Syrian children

4.5.4. Problematic Dreams

Graph-51 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question if the children have problematic dreams. 66,7% of the participants said their children have this kind of dreams. Sleep disorders and nightmares are among the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder which is related to the trauma of war. The subconscious is set free during sleep, and may aggravate the images recorded during trauma to turn them into nightmares. Not only first hand experience of events but also relatives suffering from these events followed by despair, ambiguousness and concerns of the future during forced migration may lead to sleep disorders and problematic dreams.

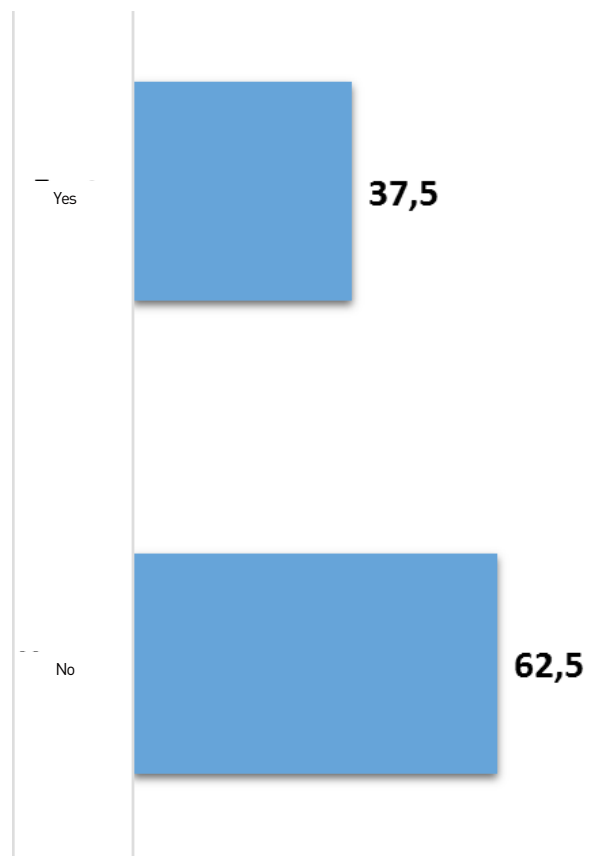


Graph 51. Problematic dreams among Syrian children

4.5.5. Over-tendency to violence

Graph-52 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question if their children had over-tendency to violence. As can be seen in the graph, 37,5% of the participants said "Yes" while 62,5% said "No."

The answer "No" is predominant in the questionnaire results with a percentage of 67,5%. However, it is remarkable that 37,5% said there was an over-tendency to violence. The traumas of the war as well as the problems related to forced migration in the ensuing process may lead to rage against those who cause those events or war, or this rage may be diverted towards close relatives. The children may have over-tendency to violence to protect themselves due to the fears, doubt or feeling of being a foreigner to their environment. Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder include disquiet and tendency to violent actions.

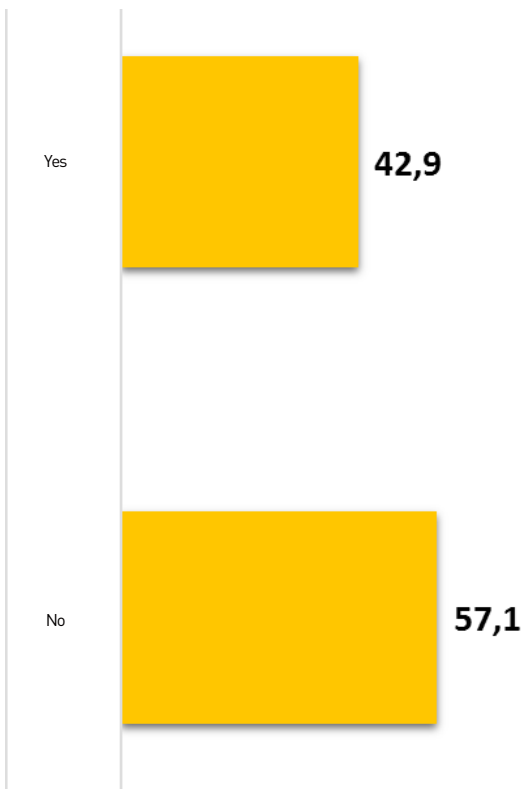


Graph 52. Over-tendency to violence among Syrian children

4.5.6. Burst of Rage

Graph-53 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question if their children have bursts of rage. As can be seen in the graph, 42,5% of the participants said "Yes" while 57,1% said "No."

Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder may include tendency to actions that involve bursts of rage. Through burst of rage, children express the fears, sorrows and concerns they have accumulated inside them. These reactions to the effects of the events may target members of the family as well as friends.

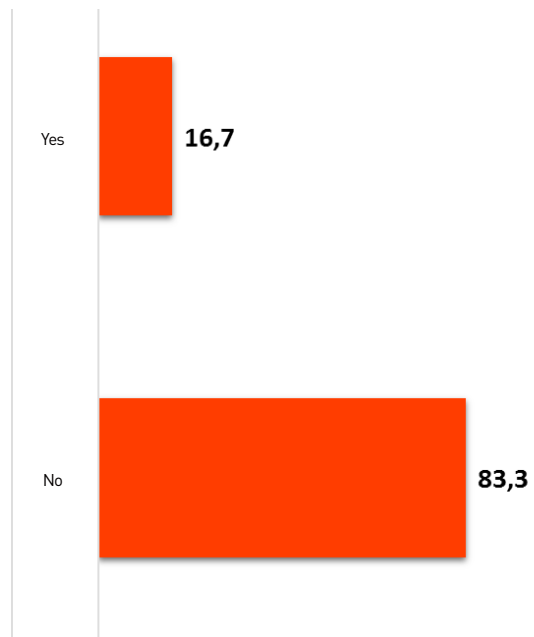


Graph 53. Bursts of rage among Syrian children

4.5.7. Stammering

Graph-54 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question if their children have stammering. As can be seen in the graph, 16,7% of the participants said "Yes" while 83,3% said "No."

Traumas of war and fears related to forced migration in the ensuing process may lead to children avoiding personal relationships and having problems of self-confidence. The reactions vary according to the development stage of the child. It may be evident in problems related to building an identity or self-expression. Problems of communication are often observed in symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

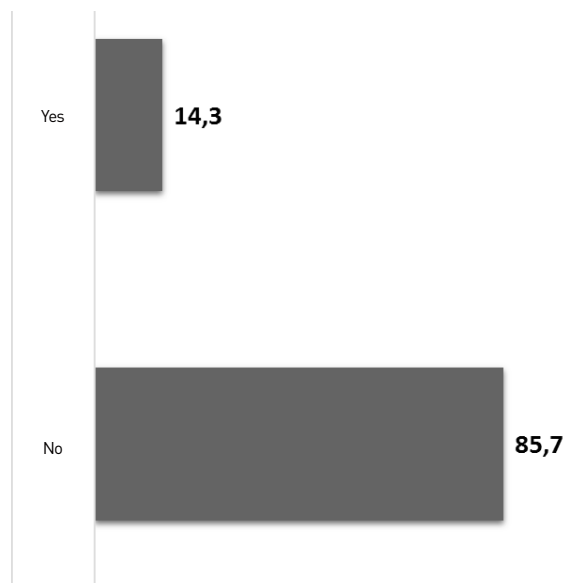


Graph 54. Stammering among Syrian children

4.5.8. Episodes of Rage

Graph-55 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question if their children have episodes of rage. According to the results of the questionnaire, 85,7% of the participants said "No" while 14,3% said "Yes", which is striking.

Bursts of rage or tendency to behaviors that involve episodes of rage are common in post-traumatic stress disorder. The reactions to the effects of the events may target family members as well as friends.

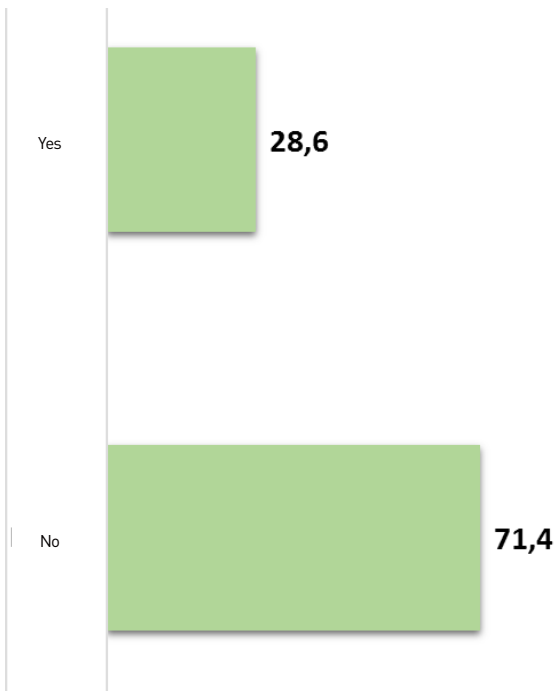


Graph 55. Episodes of rage among Syrian children

4.5.9. Aggression

Tendency to behaviors that involve aggression are among the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. These behaviors stem from the fact that the children want to protect themselves in case the trauma reoccurs.

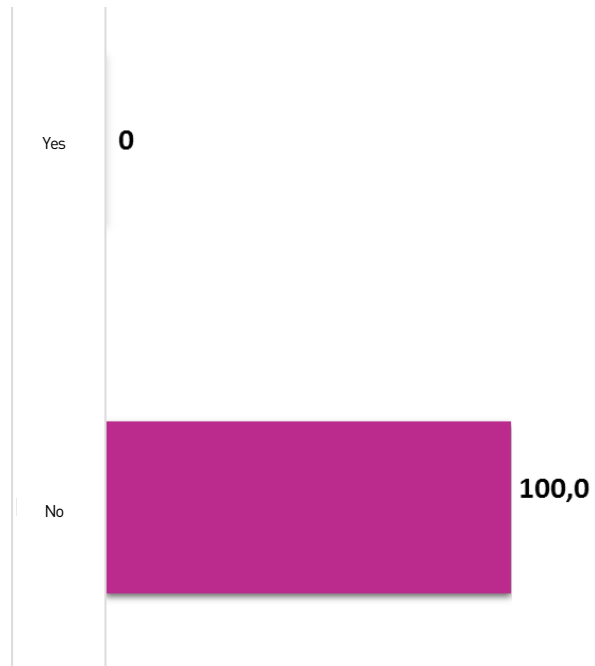
Graph-56 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question if their children had aggressiveness. As can be seen in the graph, 71,4% of the participants said "No", while 28,6% said "Yes."



Graph 56. Aggression among Syrian children

4.5.10. Shyness

In general, shyness and timidness are among the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. To measure the effect of this symptom on the Syrian children living in Sultanbeyli district, the participants of the survey were asked if their children had shyness. All of the participants replied as "No" (Graph-57). These findings indicate that shyness is not expressed as a post-traumatic symptom in this area.

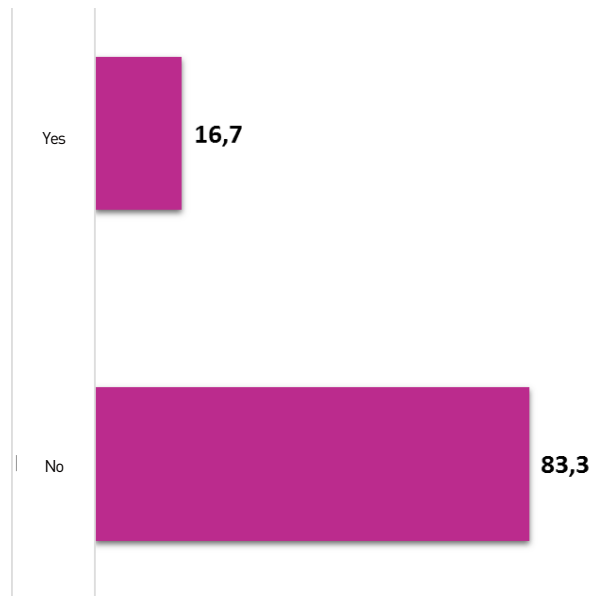


Graph 57. Shyness among Syrian children

4.5.11. Insomnia

Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder may include insomnia and nightmares. Insomnia may also result from reluctance to go to sleep to avoid the images of events of war and migration and to avoid reliving those events.

83,3% of the participants who were asked if their children had insomnia responded "No" while 16,7% said "Yes" (Graph 58).

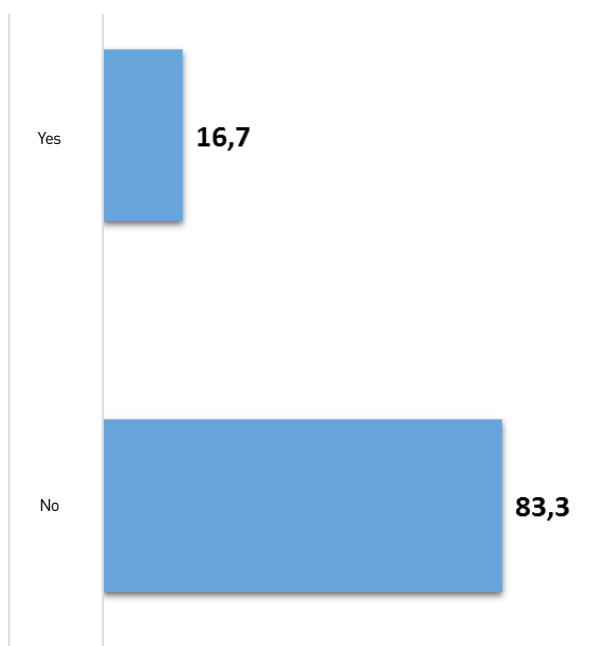


Graph 58. Insomnia among Syrian children

4.5.12. Difficulty in Getting Along with Peers

Graph-59 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question if their children had problems in getting along with their peers. As can be seen in the graph, 83,3% of the participants said "No", while 16,7% said "Yes", which is striking.

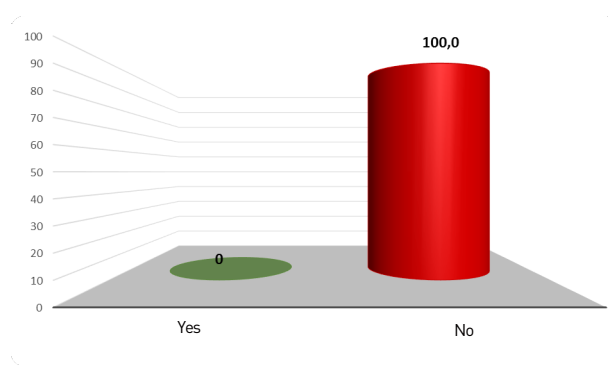
Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder include bursts of rage, isolation, problems of communication, and tendency to violent behaviors. These reactions to the effects of events may target family members as well as friends, which may cause problems in relationships between friends.



Graph 59. Problems of getting along with peers among Syrian children

4.5.13. Psychological Support for Syrian Children for Psychological Disorders

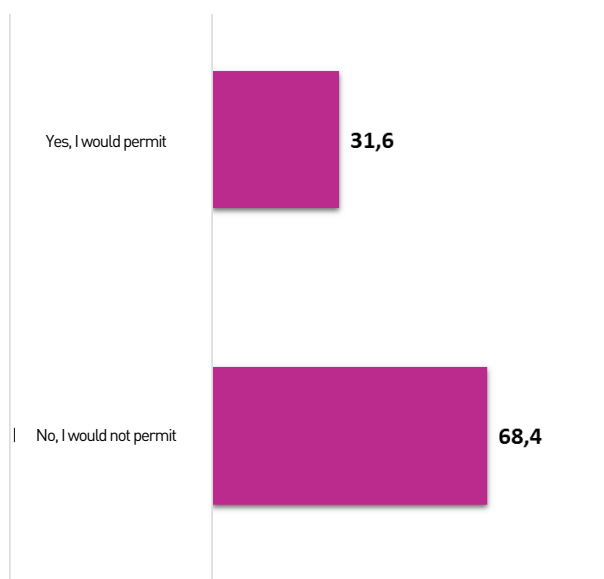
Graph-60 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question if their children had/are having psychological support for their disorders. 100% of the participants responded to the question as "No." This indicates that children do not receive psychological support after trauma.



Graph 60. Psychological support for Syrian children for their psychological disorders

4.6. Permission by Syrian Parents for their Children Getting Married under 18 Years of Age

Graph-61 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question if participants would allow their children to get married before they are 18 years old. As can be seen in the graph, 31,6% of the participants said "Yes" while 68,4% said "No."

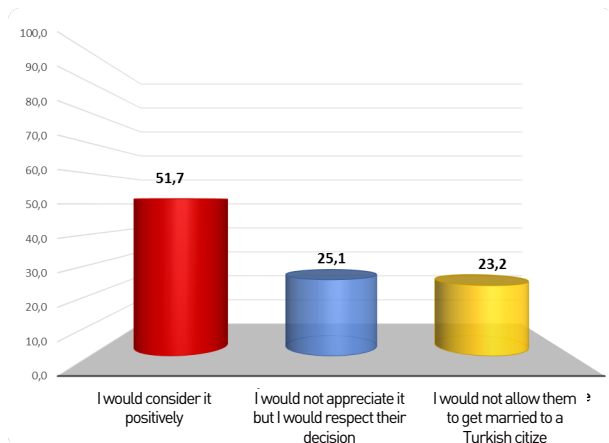


Graph 61. Permission of Syrian parents for their children to get married before they are 18 years old

4.7. Thoughts of Syrian Parents About the Prospect of Their Children Getting Married to a Turkish Citizen

Graph-62 provides a percentage distribution of the participants' answers to the question how they would react to their children getting married to a Turkish citizen. According to the opinions of Syrian asylum-seekers about their children getting married to Turkish citizens, almost half of the participants responded "Positive" (51,7%). This ratio is very high when compared to the positive answer given by local Turkish people to the same question about Syrian asylum-seekers. 25,5% of

the participants said “I would not appreciate it but I would respect it”, while 23,2% said “I would absolutely oppose it”. The higher willingness among Syrian asylum-seekers to become relatives with the Turkish people and to get closer in cultural terms may be due to the fact that they regard it as a way of getting Turkish passport and therefore staying in Turkey as well as the advantages of being married to a Turkish citizen.

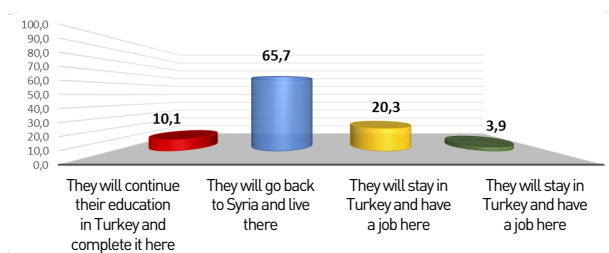


Graph 62. Opinions of Syrian parents about the prospect of their children getting married to a Turkish citizen

4.8. Thoughts of Syrian Parents About Where Their Children’s Future Lies

Graph-63 provides a percentage distribution of the participants’ answers to the question as to where they see the future of their children. As can be seen in the graph, 65,7% of the participants believe they will go back to Syria and live there, which is a sign of an optimistic approach for the future.

The remaining part of the participants plan the future of their children in Turkey. In fact, 20,3% of the participants believe their children will stay in Turkey and have a job here, 10,1% believe their children will continue their education in Turkey and complete it here. 3,9% of the participants were more pessimistic and said they did not see any future for their children.



Graph 63. Opinions of Syrian parents about where their children’s future lies

CONCLUSION

The subject of refugees and asylum-seekers, which play an important role in the problem of migration and displacement, has various internal dynamics. People leave or forced to leave their countries due to political and/or economic reasons, which brings about various problems for them and the people in the destination countries. In this context, scrutinizing the problem of asylum-seekers through scientific studies has become essential for humanitarian concerns as well as to suggest viable policies for the problem in Turkey.

On the basis of this concern, this study titled "Hand in Hand with Syrian Refugee Children: Life Experiences of Syrians" aims to understand the reasons for asylum-seekers settling in Sultanbeyli, their experiences during the migration process, the problems in the new living spaces, the educational and psycho-social problems of their children and their plans for the future. On the basis of the analysis of data, the life experiences and problems of asylum-seekers in Sultanbeyli in terms of demographic status and economic conditions were addressed under certain titles, and the reasons for migration of asylum-seekers, the migration process and the experiences after migration were revealed through a survey. The findings under these titles were shaped with the answers to survey questions about socio-demographical characteristics of asylum-seekers, their sources of income, conditions for accommodation, their employment and vacation conditions, if any, their educational status, positive or negative reactions from the social environment and the psychological state of children. Here, the asylum-seekers have considered Turkey, which is one of the nearest countries to them, as the most convenient destination due to the undesirable conditions in their own country. One of the reasons for asylum-seekers preferring Turkey as a destination was the easy access to the country.

The asylum-seekers in Sultanbeyli currently live in undesirable economic conditions. Most of them lack a regular income or have a very little income. In parallel to the low income level among the asylum-seekers, their conditions for accommodation was not favorable as well. In fact, the majority of the asylum-seekers share their housing with several families, and in buildings where living conditions are not favorable.

The results indicate that most of the participants have a low educational level, which inevitably brings about various problems. The main problem in education for them is the barrier of language.

The problem of language also affects and restricts the social life of asylum-seekers. In fact, inability to speak Turkish is a serious problem when establishing a social environment or accessing public services.

A comparison of command of Turkish among the participants by their genders reveals that the male population who can speak Turkish is larger than the female population. On the other hand, 40% of the population replied "No" when they were asked if they were willing to learn Turkish, which is a significant finding. It may be considered that they gave this answer because they do not plan a future in Turkey. Also, the assumption that they can communicate in their own language in various areas such as going out, shopping, education and healthcare in Turkey and therefore they are not willing to learn Turkish should also be taken into consideration.

Among the health problems of participants, the most common answer is the cardiovascular diseases with 19,6%. This is followed by stomach diseases (6,7%), oral and dental diseases (6,2%), intestinal-renal diseases (5,3%), respiratory diseases (5,3%), dermal diseases (3,8%), psychological disorders (3,8%), diabetes (3,3%), back and spinal disorders (3,3%), ophthalmologic diseases (1,9%), blood pressure disease (1,4%), ear, nose and throat diseases (1,0%) and other diseases (9,6%) izlemiştir. 5,3% of the participants were disabled/had past surgery, while 36,4% did not have any diseases. The majority of the asylum-seekers in Sultanbeyli have access to healthcare services in Turkey. Comparative questions in the study have revealed that a significant part of the participants continue doing their former professions in Turkey. Therefore, people arriving from Syria have taken jobs that comply with their qualifications. One of the most important findings of this study is that Syrian asylum-seekers are usually successful in bringing their talents from Syria to Turkey. Although some have shifted from other industries to construction, in general they are maintaining their own professions.

Approximately 90% of the asylum-seekers aged between 46-55 used to work in Syria but only 24% of the same age groups is currently employed in Turkey. This percentage is very striking and demonstrates that the job opportunities in Turkey is more open to the young population. On the other hand, this age group which is not employed in a job may include parent groups who are in charge of looking after their children or grandchildren at home due to domestic social roles. Considering the

families who did not use to live as a large family in Syria but had to live like that due to financial reasons in Turkey, it is probable that the younger members of the family are working while their mothers/fathers are looking after their babies or children. Among the employment areas of Syrian asylum-seekers the textile industry stands out. Considering the high number of textile factories that use informal work force in Istanbul, it is not surprising that asylum-seekers are employed in this industry. However, it is important to conduct studies in this area and reveal the working conditions of asylum-seekers in textile industry to ensure humanitarian working conditions. In terms of job opportunities and social gender in Turkey, the males among the Syrian asylum-seekers have better opportunities for jobs when compared to women and therefore their skills of speaking and understanding Turkish have improved.

In terms of social recognition, the participants have stated that they are not subject to a significant level of exclusion, discrimination or mistreatment. 36,3% of the participants said "They are understanding to us and they usually help us". On the other hand, the results of the questionnaire demonstrate that asylum-seekers have difficulty in communicating with local people and their relationships with the locals is weak, therefore Syrian asylum-seekers are alone in social terms. Here the problem of language between the local people and the asylum-seekers is an important factor. Furthermore, the unfavorable discourse against Syrians in the press, public reaction to Syrians who are employed as cheap labor force, and biases against Syrians who are suspected in criminal incidents in the area are among important barriers to communication.

Looking at the opinions of Syrian asylum-seekers about the marriage of their children to a Turkish citizen, it is observed that almost half of the participants think positively about this situation. This ratio is higher as compared to the positive answers given by local people to the same question about the asylum-seekers. The higher willingness among Syrian asylum-seekers to become relatives with the Turkish people and to get closer in cultural terms may be due to the advantages of being married to a Turkish citizen (as a way of getting Turkish passport and therefore staying in Turkey).

The results demonstrate that some of the participants plan to go back after the war is over (46,9%), while a significant part (40,6%) do not plan to go back to their countries since the conflicts and

the traumas have left traces in their memories. Another important reason for that may be the lack of hope for seeing the end of the problems in their country in the near future. 10,6% of the participants said they wanted to become a Turkish citizen and live here, while 1,9% said they were undecided, or did not know or it was ambiguous for them.

The forced massive migration stemming from the civil war in Syria has had the greatest impact on women, children and youth. As can be seen in the study results, the most important reasons for children failing to continue education are financial hardships (60%) and forcing the children to work. The other answers were health problems (20,0%) and that the children could not speak Turkish (20,0%). Thus, Syrian children who are the main victims of the war, become part of their families' struggle to survive and are deprived from their right to education. The children are also forced to work when adults cannot find jobs. A great problem and danger underlies the fact hundreds of thousands of children are growing up without education. It is known by the findings of this study and other studies that the number of students who can attend schools is very low in metropolises such as Istanbul. This entails a risk of creating a "lost generation of Syrians".

Wars, conflicts and migrations in the ensuing process have physical and social impact on children. Children, who witness the negative effects of migration and/or violence are subject to psychological disorders such as deep fear or despair. To measure the phenomenon among the Syrian citizens living in Sultanbeyli, a series of questions were asked to the participants related to the psychological state of their children. The answers demonstrate that children are negatively affected by the unfavorable events they witnessed in psychological terms, and various mental psychiatric problems have emerged, fear 71,4%, problematic dreams 66,7%, burst of rage 42,9%. According to the study findings, children who suffer from these traumas have not received any psychological support.

Recommendations

Considering the purposes and findings of the study, the following practices are considered to be beneficial for asylum-seekers:

- Multi-dimensional strategies should be developed by taking into consideration the abovementioned risks for Syrian asylum-seekers who are expected to stay in Turkey for a long time, and the subject should be addressed with an

understanding that covers permanent solutions;

- A data bank should be created by an efficient recording of asylum-seekers via a unit that will be established with the participation of relevant bodies, and a monitoring system should be developed. A periodical analysis of conditions and needs should be conducted by this unit, and an aid campaign should be held with the NGOs and the public;
- Social activities should be held by the municipalities and district governorships to raise awareness and consciousness in the society about this humanitarian tragedy;
- Local administrations should be encouraged to take actions and undertake more active roles to ensure participation of asylum-seekers in social life and their access to public services;
- Subject-based mechanisms should be in place to ensure access of children, women and other disadvantaged groups to healthcare services. The healthcare staff should be given necessary training, and translation services should be offered at healthcare institution to ensure equal, accessible and quality healthcare services for everyone. Basic protective healthcare services (including maternal and infant health, vaccination) should be offered regularly without requiring application;
- All actors in the legal system should be trained to ensure access of asylum-seekers to legal system. Necessary changes in the legislation should be applied to ensure functioning application methods against all kinds of rights violations and unjust treatments;
- Educational and language courses should be established to ensure integration of Syrian asylum-seekers and vocational training courses should be opened to offer them jobs to sustain their living; consulting units with translators should be created at district governorships, municipalities and healthcare institutions;
- Necessary legal regulations should be in place to ensure access of Syrian asylum-seekers to job opportunities, and their exploitation as cheap labor should be prevented. They should be protected against informal employment without social security at low salaries, based on exploitation and abuse. Social assistance and solidarity funds for asylum-seekers should be transparent, traceable and accountable.
- Benefiting from skills and knowledge of Syrians can be turned into an advantage for Turkish economy. The lack of intermediate staff, which is one of the major problems of Turkish economy, can be addressed by Syrian citizens. On the other hand, creating employment groups that are

parallel to the cultural artisan and vocational groups which the migrants used to be involved in their own countries will help to eliminate the feeling of exclusion (Süleymanov 2016), and diverse working areas will help to solve the problem of unemployment and ensure cultural enrichment.

- Social projects to be held by NGOs and municipalities may help to improve sharing by increasing psycho-social support to asylum-seekers. All NGOs that intend to send aid to the area and contribute to the solution of problems should be coordinated.
- Social dynamics should be monitored, and the policies should be developed on this social basis.

Suggestions on Education and Psycho-social Support for Children

- Accelerated Turkish language programs should be created at public schools to help Syrian children overcome the barriers of language;
- Certain programs on education of morals and ethics should be in place to prevent delinquency among Syrian children in the long term;
- Necessary evaluation and monitoring of children for sexual abuse and gender-related violence should be done periodically;
- Syrian parents should be supported and trained to help them deal with the problems of their children;
- Empowering programs for Turkish students, teachers and parents should be in place to improve communication between Syrian children enrolled at schools and their peers and teachers;
- It must be ensured that teachers and administrators are familiar with the harsh living conditions of Syrians, their rights and available services, and adopt an approach towards Syrian children that is based on rights;
- Activities and programs should be in place at schools to facilitate coexistence of Syrian and Turkish students and families and to eliminate the prejudices between the two communities;
- Communication should be established with children/adolescents to support and protect the mental health of children and adolescents, and then various intervention programs should be applied; structured or semi-structured clinic interviews with children and adolescents should be conducted both individually and in the presence of their families;
- “Trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy” is recommended for treatment of children with post-traumatic stress syndrome (Tokuç 2014:21). All clinicians should be sensitive for cultural cases because reactions of traumatic stress may vary according to cultures.

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