

## **World universities have been ranked according to their "Power of Impact": Istanbul Gelisim University has ranked 24th in Quality Education!**

An organization ranking and evaluating world universities, Times Higher Education's (THE) Impact Ranking 2021 results have been announced. In the ranking, Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) has ranked 24th to provide the highest quality education among the universities in the world, and achieved a great success.

Reputable international higher education ranking agency, Times Higher Education (THE) has announced that it received 1240 applications from 98 countries for the 'Impact Ranking 2021' (Impact Ranking 2021), which aims to measure the contribution of universities to the sustainable development of societies.

In the category of "Quality Education", Istanbul Gelişim University has achieved a great success by ranking 24th among 1240 universities worldwide. Leaving behind 45 participant universities, Gelisim university has ranked 1st from Turkey.

In the ranking, which was done in line with seventeen sustainable development goals determined by United Nations (UN) and carried out in accordance with the goals and university studies in the field of education and innovative projects, in order to evaluate their contribution to society, Istanbul Gelisim University ranks 4th in the "Health and Quality of Life" category, 2nd in the "Accessible and Clean Energy" category, 3rd in the "Partnerships for Purposes" category, 10th in the "Decent Work and Economic Growth" category in Turkey. It also ranks 95th in the "Clean Energy" category and 201st out of 300 university from all around the world in general category, while it ranks 3rd in Turkey.

**"WE ASCENDED 72 STEPS, WE ARE 24TH IN THE WORLD"**

Referring to the importance of the ranking done by London-based higher education rating agency Times Higher Education (THE) for higher education institutions,

Abdülkadir Gayretli, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Istanbul Gelişim University, reminded that they succeeded in being 96th among the first hundred universities in the world in the category of "Quality Education" last year and said:

"We continue our claim in the Quality Education category. While we were ranked 96th in the world in the same category last year, our ascending 72 steps and placing in the 24th place shows that we have achieved our goals. We are both motivated and proud that all our work we carry out for the sustainable development of the society are evaluated and appreciated by Times Higher Education (THE), one of the world's most respected international higher education rating institution. We have been crowned once again at the international level in quality in education and we will continue our success by aiming to rank among the top 10 universities in the world in the coming period.

"THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY IS POSSIBLE BY SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES"

Underlining that they have adopted sustainable development goals in order to leave a better world to future generations, Abdülkadir Gayretli said, "The future of the world and humanity is possible with the support of sustainability studies. We pay special attention to education and researches in line with this purpose. Mankind's living in peace and prosperity, eradicating poverty depend on these goals."

"WE MAINTAIN OUR DETERMINATION IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION"

Emphasizing that with the leadership of Prof. Dr. Yekta Saraç, the Higher Education Council (YÖK) has taken strategical steps in line with the New Turkey's 2023 and 2053 vision, Prof. Dr. Abdulkadir Gayretli added, "Prof. Dr. Yekta Saraç encourages us with the idea that Turkish Universities should compete with world universities and stand out in international rankings. As IGU, we continue to work towards these goals. Our 63 programs have been accredited by international accreditation organizations and we have been certified that we provide education at international standards. Now, with these crowning successes, we continue our claim in international education by competing with world universities."

## **Experts comment on cryptocurrency decision of CB: Not arbitrary but a protective precaution**

Evaluating the decision taken by the Central Bank (CB) to ban cryptocurrencies as a means of payment, Finance Specialist Dr. Hakan Yıldırım says, "The decision taken is not arbitrary, it is a protective measure for the welfare of the society. "It is important to protect the society with various measures and sanctions and to awaken it from the dream of getting rich easily."

The Central Bank has issued a regulation that prevents the use of crypto assets in payments. Accordingly, crypto assets cannot be used directly or indirectly in payments, and services for the direct or indirect use of these assets in payments will not be provided.

Finance Specialist from Istanbul Gelişim University, Lecturer Hakan Yıldırım indicated that the price bubbles formed in the market could cause economic problems and said, "We should first understand what this price bubble is. Well, the price bubble can be defined as the pricing of an asset between real and virtual value in favor of virtual value. However, it is necessary to look at how this occurred rather than its definition. Even if these price bubbles occur for one reason or another, people are fed by the dream of getting rich the easy way."

### **"SOME INVESTORS MAY GIVE UP PURCHASING"**

Stating that the bubbles of asset prices in the market move in four stages, Yıldırım said, "The first of this stage is confidentiality. Confidentiality can be expressed as a region or process where prices are low and can be expressed as an initial price. In this process, investors who can be described as smart ones start to buy assets and asset prices gradually enter into an upward pricing behavior. The second stage is the awareness process. In this process, institutional investors now appear on the scene and prices continue to rise in this region and experience a sudden but not sharp decline after a certain point. The main reason for this is that the first sales occur. This point is called the bear trap and some investors stop buying even if they don't panic too much."

In the last phase of this process, prices rise with the attention of the media and the news. ”

“THEY BELIEVE THE PRICES WILL CONTINUOUSLY RISE”

Stating that every segment of the society want to make investments and earn money easily in the third process, Yıldırım continued his words, “With great enthusiasm, they start to believe that the prices will increase continuously. Now they tend to sell almost all of their assets to the investment instrument or to buy the asset in which they show great interest. Prices go into an extreme increase behavior in this process. In this process, the price of the asset hits the highest point, and this peak becomes the first and last peak. Now the price bubble has inflated so much that nobody believes that this bubble will collapse. Of course, in this process, some smart investors or financially literate investors gradually start selling to attract their profits. Other part of the investors, on the other hand, do not take this pressure of slowly dropping price into consideration. In other words, at this point, the belief that prices will always increase becomes more dominant and this process represents the fourth phase, the extinction process.”

“PRICES CAN'T BE RECURED”

Indicating that prices fell due to short and small movements during the extinction process and investors start to deny this “price fell”, Yıldırım said, “This denial is due to the behavior of investors who believe that the asset will return to previous levels. Therefore, there will not be a total panic atmosphere against the falling prices, and it causes the continuation of purchases with the aim of making a profit even if the profit will not be huge. However, even though the low buying pressures in terms of quantity cause the prices to enter a small correction period, a falling price behavior is inevitable again. In this way, panic is inevitable and some investors start to sell, and as a result of the selling pressure, there is a dramatic decrease and prices become no longer

recovering. In this way, investors who buy while the price is at a high level will make great losses.”

“IT IS A DREAM OF MAKING MONEY FOR OLD ROPE”

Emphasizing that the decision taken is not arbitrary, Yıldırım said, “It is a protective measure for the welfare of the society. The important thing is to protect the society with various precautions and sanctions and to awaken it from the false dream of getting rich easily. In addition to restricting the crypto asset in payments, it is also essential to strictly supervise investment activities. The fact that some institutions allow investors to buy and sell cryptocurrencies with 1:10 leverage causes investors to take more risks against highly volatile cryptocurrencies. In other words, not only the risk but also the possible damage increases 10 times more. In short, it seems like it is a condition that some regulations should be introduced, as both trading within a leveraged system and trading without leverage involve significant risks for investors ”.

## **FOOD PRODUCTS SOLD ON SOCIAL MEDIA POSSESS A GREAT RISK FOR HEALTH**

During the pandemic, many people met their food as well as clothing needs from the internet. Pointing out this carries some risks, Food Science Specialist, Dr. Murat Doğan says that products that are not effective and that do not have the necessary permissions from official institutions should not be respected. "Shopping on social media possesses a great risk for consumers," says Levent Küçük, President of the Consumers Association.

Mentioning that food offered for sale on social media platforms other than corporate sites is out of control and this may harm human health, Food Science Specialist from Istanbul Gelişim University, Murat Doğan warns “Foods offered for sale on social media platforms may carry many health risks because of their production, transportation and storage processes.”

“BACTERIAS MAY CAUSE DEATHS”

Stating that many habits of people have changed with the COVID-19 epidemic, Dr. Murat Doğan says, "We have become able to buy food online. We see an increase of 66 percent in this type of shopping. There are some rules we need to be aware of when purchasing food on social media. We should check whether the food we are to buy is the right product in terms of food safety. The products must be labeled. The permits of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock must be complete. A wide variety of bacteria can grow in cheese made from raw milk. "The bacteria we call "clostridium botulinum" in canned products can even cause deaths."

#### "DO NOT RELY ON UNLABELED PRODUCTS"

Stating that it's important to consider the production conditions of a product, whether the labeling is carried out or not and the storage conditions and the shipment process before buying food, Doğan continued his words as follows:

"We should not buy products from places we do not trust. We must make sure that it is brought in appropriate conditions during the shipping process. We should check if there is a cold storage. We must access company information very easily. While the animal is being treated with antibiotics in places without a Ministry permit, antibiotics inevitably pass into the milk of the animal. Consequently, we may end up giving our children milk with animal antibiotics in it. It is necessary to see the label well. One must not rely on products without label."

#### KÜÇÜK: SOCIAL MEDIA HAS BECOME A MARKET

Noting that there has been a significant increase in sales without coming face to face with the seller in other words remote sales during the epidemic period, President of the Consumers Association, Levent Küçük, says, "Social media has become a new market. Especially many people selling their own products are marketing. We do not know whether the food products we buy are safe or not. Unfortunately, there are also malicious fraudsters among those sellers on social media. Sometimes, promised products are not sent. There are even those who do not send any products. "Shopping on social media poses a great risk for consumers."

### “CAUSES THE STATE TAX-LOSS”

Pointing out that consumers should prefer companies whose corporate identity they can rely on, Küçük continued his speech as follows:

“Do not send money before the product arrives. Choose the option to pay at the door. Controlled delivery practices applied by cargo companies should be preferred. If the seller have a certificate, more reliable shopping is done. Buying food products that are not controlled is a big risk in itself. It is healthiest for them to prefer food that is inspected by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock. Especially the sale of eggs, milk, cheese and butter in the market carry serious risks even if the salers provide them daily. There are also people who make unregistered sales. When we look at it in this sense, the state also has tax losses.”

### “VACCINE PROVISION TAKES OVER MASK PROVISION”

Stating that a new era and a unique experience has emerged for the whole world with curfews, restricted social life and economic recession, Political Scientist Dr. Firat Demirkol says, “The supply of masks has been replaced by vaccine supply. This situation created a new competition area.”

From the department of Political Science and International Relations in Istanbul Gelisim University Dr. Lecturer Firat Demirkol, who emphasizes that medical masks, which can be produced with low technology, have turned into a serious competition area among countries, says, “Countries with developed economies in the world's economic system have excluded many production activities from their own production system due to their low added value. Instead, areas such as high-tech production and software have become a priority. However, these priorities changed with the pandemic. From this point of view, this unique experience of humanity will reveal its effect on the economic order. Although this process called "mask wars" has slowed down compared

to the earlier times, it has been replaced by a new topic, vaccine provision process, and this has created a new competition area.

Saying the tendency to produce value-added and high-profitable products will change at the end of the pandemic period, Dr. Demirkol indicates, "Now, it is thought that countries will write the production of basic medical supplies and basic food products that do not have high added value in their to-do lists. "This situation can be explained as introversion or increasing nationalism, but it can also be interpreted as the psychological change brought about by the pandemic."

#### "THE SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY WILL RISE"

Indicating that this experience will continue to change our social habits for a while, Dr. Demirkol says, "Issues such as the use of masks and staying away from public areas have lead to this situation. With the pandemic, the activities in the single-storey garden or with nuclear family gained importance. Another topic brought to societies by this period is the importance of solidarity. All scientists state that this process cannot end only with vaccination in certain countries or with the vaccination of a group in the society, but the period will end with a total approach. This situation, although not voluntarily, reminds humanity of the fact that when the ship sinks, everyone will drown. Therefore, it can be said that the spirit of solidarity will necessarily come to the fore both within the societies and the international community."

#### **Evaluation of the UN report: "Early marriage is the cause of trauma"**

Stating that the mental health of a child married at an early age is impaired, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Prof. Dr. Ayten Erdoğan says, "It is necessary not to allow marriages before the age of 18, even with the consent of the family. There should be serious criminal sanctions, especially imprisonment. Traumas, identity and personality disorders occur in children who cannot bear the responsibility of early marriage and

being a mother or father. Parents should allow their children to flirt with their peers. Otherwise, eloping and marriages occur at young ages.”

Women's Unit of the United Nations (UN Women) issued a new report on the early and forced marriage of children which reveals perceptions and attitudes towards marriage. The report aims to provide guidance to facilitate men and boys to play a stronger role in creating behavioral change, eliminating early marriages and achieving gender equality.

According to the report, 25 percent of men in Turkey think that only the females under 15 years are considered to be children. Conducted with men and women from different cities of Turkey and based on qualitative and quantitative data obtained from interviews, the report maps the attitudes and perceptions about childhood and adulthood, marriage age and applications, family and relations, individuality, gender inequality, gender norms and early & forced marriages in Turkey.

The highlights of the report are as follows:

“While 10 percent of men think that girls reaching adolescence period are ready for marriage, only 2.5 percent of them think this fact is valid for boys. 18.1 percent of the participants think that early and forced marriage should not receive a punishment. While 27.9 percent say that the father and mother have the last say when making a marriage decision for a girl, this rate is 23.8 percent for a boy. When they witness early and forced marriage, the rate of those saying "I don't find it right but I am not the right person to intervene" is 36.8 percent. Among the participants, the rate of those who say that their mother married at a child age was 26.7 percent, while the rate of those who said that their father got married at a child age was 7.18 percent. The rate of girls who cannot attend school due to early and forced marriage is 19 percent while this rate is 10.5 percent in boys. 18 percent of the married participants state that they are in a consanguineous marriage.”

The report also includes participants' views on early marriage. Some of the views are as follows:

"When I was 17, i was obligated to marry, even though I didn't want it. In my environment people said that I was a grownup, I became a man, I had to get married. Here, you know, when one reaches the age of 17, they get married directly. Because you are a man. I had a forced marriage and I didn't realize I was still growing up. "

"When the woman turns 35, nobody wants her."

"But there are differences between men and women. If a woman does not marry at a young age, her chance to get married decreases. "

"My cousin got married at the age of 15 and became a mother at the age of 16. She is not a mother to her children, my aunt brings up children. That's why these kids raise their children while they raise themselves. Everything is left unfinished, left incomplete. They're crushed."

"My wife was 14 years old, she was my uncle's daughter and I was 8 years older, I did my military service and got married with her a year later. The important thing was her morality, I liked everything about her and I married her. My daughter got married at the age of 22. I made her marry her uncle's son."

Evaluating the results of the report, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Prof. Dr. Ayten Erdoğan says that not only the early marriages but also consanguineous marriages are welcomed in some parts of Turkey.

## PEOPLE MARRYING EARLY CAN'T STAND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A CHILD

Stating that early marriage is very harmful for children and the children they will bring into the world, Prof. Dr. Erdogan says, "When 14,15, 16 years old children became parents developed countries had a lot of trouble. Thousands of children abandoned

their babies because they could not bear the responsibility of having a child. Adolescents get bored with the person in their lives after a while and they can instantly end their marriage.”

## "SEXUAL EXPERIENCE AT EARLY AGES IMPAIRS THE MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILD"

Noting that sexuality experienced in early marriages creates a traumatic effect, Prof. Dr. Erdogan says, “It deeply injures the mental health of child, which makes them vulnerable to all kinds of mental problems such as personality and identity disorder. One of my patients, who was 15 years old and lived in a smaller place, eloped with a 28 years old man she met online. Her family brought the child to me to consult on what needs to be done. The girl told me ‘Everybody in our village gets married at my age, what I did was not abnormal. Even my mother said she got married at my age.’ When I met with her mother, she confirmed what her daughter said, it’s a terrible situation. The girl behaved in accordance with her environment.”

## “SHOULD BE PENALIZED”

Emphasizing that there should be serious criminal sanctions for those who force individuals under 18 to marry for sexual or marital purposes, Prof. Dr. Ayten Erdoğan says, “The prison sentence should also be applied. Children under the age of 18 should not be allowed to get married. In our country, girls who reaches 16 can marry with the permission of their parents. Courts ask us “Can the child marry? Is their mental health suitable for this or not? We are very uncomfortable with these questions. In our opinion, no one is ready for marriage before the age of 18. That’s why we write ‘no mental illness right now’ in the report and pass over it. We never write ‘she can marry’.”

## FAMILIES SHOULD ALLOW THEIR CHILDREN TO FLIRT

Warning that dating should be experienced at this age group, Prof. Dr. Erdogan says, “Adolescents of the same age can flirt by holding hands and sitting side by side. When families do not allow their adolescent children to flirt, these adolescents think that sexual intimacy can be reached only through marriage. Therefore, situations such as eloping and marriage emerge. When parents allow them to flirt with their peers under their control during adolescence it will prevent them from eloping and getting married. Flirting while growing up is refused, there is such a prohibition, but this causes our girls to elope at an early age.”