

## **INFORMATION POLLUTION ABOUT VACCINATION RAISES CONCERN; HEALTH SECTOR AND ECONOMY AFFECTED**

Pointing out that there has been an increase in the number of people who have not made an appointment or did not go to their appointment recently, Dr. Mehmet Başçillar said that this is due to the psychological and social reasons that come with information pollution. He emphasized that the absence of criminal sanctions is also effective in cancellation of appointments.

Stating that there have been problems in vaccination appointments due to information pollution and anxiety recently, Dr. Mehmet Başçillar drew attention to the need to raise awareness of the public. Başçillar explained the effects of many people not getting their vaccination appointment or going to the appointment they made on the public health, the health sector and the economy.

Stating that the Ministry of Health has been working devotedly on vaccines and vaccination appointments, Başçillar said, “We know that as of today, approximately 25 million doses of vaccine have been administered. These vaccination criteria are especially focused on certain age and population groups. Vaccination can be done by making an appointment via e-nabız, e-devlet or the central physician appointment system. Likewise, appointments can be canceled with the same procedures before the appointment. Undoubtedly, there are numerous studies on the protection and effectiveness of the vaccine against coronavirus. This is unmistakably obvious. For this reason, it turns out that the vaccine is an important requirement at the point of protecting public health.”

## **INFORMATION POLLUTION INCREASES THE CONCERN**

Emphasizing that the reason why individuals do not go to or do not get an appointment through the system can be examined in different dimensions, Başçillar indicated that one of the reason is the lack of information and concern. “The first dimension of the problem is the fact that people do not make an appointment or do not go to their vaccination appointment when it’s their turn. It is useful to consider this as well. There may be many different factors behind these, but when we look at them in general, it is possible to consider these factors in two dimensions, psychological and social. First of

all, I have to say that the number of social media users in Turkey by 2021 is 60 million, which corresponds to 70 percent of the total population. Information pollution can move and progress much faster through social media. It causes false information to reach a large number of people. This can undoubtedly raise anxiety in society. Moreover the lack of information, leaving the safe area, going to a health institution, contacting with a healthcare worker can also increase this concern.”

Noting that worry causes procrastination behavior on a psychological level, Başçillar continued his words as follows:

“There is no legal sanction for the cancellation of the appointment. This can lead to arbitrary decisions. If we look at the social dimension of the issue; the roles of people in the family matters. For example, a member may be providing care for the elderly, children, disabled people. Domestic roles may lead to the absence of vaccination appointments in Turkey, especially considering that the burden of care has to be assumed by women.”

#### 1 IN 4 PEOPLE IS RELUCTANT TO GET VACCINATED

Stating that last April, a research was conducted on the vaccine in which 428 people participated in Ankara, Başçillar shared the following information about the research and its results:

The results of a study conducted in Ankara, in which 428 people participated, were shared with the public in a reputable international refereed journal last April. According to the results of this research, we know that approximately one out of every 4 participants stated that they were unwilling to get vaccinated, they were unwilling to get vaccinated even if the vaccines were domestic ones, they were worried about the side effects of the vaccine, they were worried because they did not have information about the content of the vaccine, or they were distant to the vaccine because it came from abroad.”

#### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T GO TO THE VACCINE APPOINTMENT?

Stating that people do not have vaccination appointments or do not go to the appointment they have made can bring along many problems in both health and

economics, Başçılar said, "What happens when people do not go to the vaccination appointment? Firstly, the burden of our healthcare professionals increases. Secondly, we spend our resources. It causes an increase in cost. Thirdly, the storage conditions for some types of vaccines are extremely demanding. Even in a limited number, even if the reserve list is created, it can lead to waste of vaccines. Apart from this, we recommend that individuals who have the turn should get vaccination appointments as soon as possible in order to alleviate the burden of our healthcare professionals and to return to our good old days."

### **ATTENTION TO NECK PAIN AFTER COVID-19**

Radiology and Interventional Radiology Specialist Prof. Dr. Onur Sıldırođlu made statements about neck pain that develops after coronavirus. Sıldırođlu said, "Thyroid inflammation (thyroiditis) is common after Covid-19."

Saying that neck pain is very common in patients with Covid-19 disease, Radiology and Interventional Radiology Specialist Prof. Dr. Onur Sıldırođlu said, "This pain is especially seen in the front of the neck. In ultrasonography performed to investigate this pain, we find that the pain is concentrated on the thyroid gland in most people. In ultrasonography, we observe that the thyroid gland is darker than normal and its structure is deteriorated. This condition is called viral thyroiditis. "We can say that it is a thyroid inflammation caused by coronavirus."

### **"DAMAGES THE THYROID GLAND"**

Indicating that viral thyroiditis has increased significantly during the pandemic period, from İstanbul Gelisim University Lect. Prof. Dr. Onur Sıldırođlu said, "This situation continues for a long time. In the ultrasonographies, we observe that even if the pain disappears, it causes damage to the thyroid gland, changes in thyroid hormones depending on the extent of the damage and causes hypothyroidism in some patients. Accordingly, long-term, sometimes even lifelong thyroid hormone replacement therapies may be needed."

Referring to the connection between coronavirus and thyroid, Sıldırođlu added the following statements:

"This condition, which we call viral thyroiditis or subacute thyroiditis and we would rarely observed before the pandemic, is a condition that is seen especially in winter and spring months, especially in those who have a viral infection such as adenovirus or enterovirus. During the pandemic period, it started to occur due to the coronavirus. It is thought that the virus is caused by the overstimulated immune system attacking the thyroid gland, in other words its own tissue, rather than causing the infection by spreading directly to the thyroid gland."

#### THYROIDITIS MIGHT BE CONFUSED WITH CAROTID INFLAMMATION

Emphasizing that it is necessary to pay attention to carotid vein inflammation confused with thyroid inflammation after Covid-19. Dr. Sıldırođlu said, "In addition to viral thyroiditis, which increased after the pandemic, inflammation-related pain began to be seen frequently around the vein called carotid artery in the common language called carotid artery, passing by the thyroid glands. In medical language, we call carotid inflammation of the carotid artery. This situation, which we observed once a month or a year in the ultrasonographies we made before the pandemic, peaked with the pandemic. This overlooked disease can be detected more clearly with new technology ultrasonography devices. When a patient comes with neck pain after covid, we first evaluate the case with ultrasonography for subacute thyroiditis, and if the thyroid gland is normal, if the patient's pain spreads to the sides, adjacent to the thyroid gland, we examine the carotid artery with Doppler ultrasonography. Since the jugular vein is adjacent to the thyroid gland, the pain in this area may be confused with subacute thyroiditis during the examination."

Carotid can be found alone or can be a stimulator of large vessel vasculitis. We know that Covid-19 infection causes vasculitis, known as vascular inflammation. "In some patients, contrast-enhanced MR angiography can be performed on the neck vessels to investigate this situation and, if necessary, to determine the condition and length of the involved vessel."

Prof. Dr. Sıldırođlu emphasized that it is extremely important to perform neck ultrasonography in terms of not neglecting neck pain after Covid-19 to investigate the underlying causes and planning treatment.

## **THE FIRST MATCH FACTORY OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IS ON SALE FOR 70 MILLION LIRAS**

The first match factory of the Ottoman Empire, built by the French during the reign of Abdülhamid II in the 19th century in Küçükçekmece, has been put up for sale by families with shares for 70 million lira. Eda Akalın, one of the inheritors of the factory, said, "My great-grandfather bought the factory with his partner to produce rubber boots. When the First World War broke out, he could not realize his dream."

The factory, being idle for many years, was registered as a 1st degree historical monument in 1991 by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and was taken under protection.

The iron construction frame of the factory, whose walls were destroyed due to lack of care, remains intact. Its doors and windows were damaged, trees and grasses emerged in it. The decoil rails laid in the factory to carry the matches under the conditions of the period have also survived until today. The building, which consists of two parcels with 15 thousand 377 square meters of land, is a commercial property with a closed area of 5 thousand square meters.

## **NOWADAYS THE FACTORY IS USED AS A WAREHOUSE**

Shareholder families continue to use the factory, which they divided into 5 separate sections, to run their own businesses. One of the families uses it for their marble business, while the other uses it for the production of rubber bands. The building is generally used as a warehouse and will be evacuated after its sale.

## **AKALIN: MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER PURCHASED IT IN THE REPUBLIC PERIOD**

Eda Akalın, one of the fourth generation inheritors of the factory, said, "It was one of the buildings sold as a factory property with the establishment of the Republic. My great-grandfather and one more person bought this place as 2 families to establish a rubber boots factory. When they go abroad to buy both machinery and raw materials, the 1st World War breaks out and they return to the country without getting anything. For this reason, the factory remains idle, deaths and births occur in both families and the families expand. This place is very big, we could not come into agreement with

other families. Since it is a historical artifact, we cannot manage and use it. That's why we have decided to sell it. It can be used as many purposes such as factory, cultural center, shopping center, restaurant, entertainment complex. However, it cannot be used as a house, because it has the status of a historical monument. It can be restored and similar buildings can be built around it but it can not be destructed from outside."

#### 5 FAMILIES AND 20 SHAREHOLDERS

Stating that the restoration is very costly, Akalın said, "We inherited the factory from our grandfathers. We are a total of 20 people in 5 families, we want to sell the building because everyone is doing different jobs. We would very much like the state to evaluate this place. We are in favor of it being sold to the Turks. We did not make any changes in it. It looks like the way it was built. We try to protect it, but as time changes everything, it also damages property. "We did not take any action because the restoration was very costly."

#### VERY IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

Cultural Heritage Management Specialist from Istanbul Gelisim University Lecturer İlknur Türkoğlu said, "The match factory is an important cultural and industrial heritage. This is the first match factory of the Ottoman Empire, which started production in 1897. At that time, the factory had 200 workers and 50 personnel, mostly women. The production stopped when there was a shortage of raw materials in the early 1900s. It was registered in 1991 and was declared a 1st degree protection area in 1993."

#### NOT PROTECTED WELL

Stating that the restoration work was carried out in the first block of the factory in 2005, Türkoğlu said, "The other blocks are used by the shareholder families for various purposes, but unfortunately they cannot be adequately preserved. Sections other than the first block have been put up for sale. The entire factory area should be expropriated as an industrial heritage as soon as possible. I would like it to be restored and to be transformed into an urban identity as a cultural center by organizing it to reflect its

industrial heritage identity. Historical buildings can also be preserved even if they are used. But of course we have to use them correctly.”

#### AN EXAMPLE OF THE OTTOMAN'S WESTERNIZATION PERIOD

Emphasizing that it was one of the important factories built by the Ottoman Empire during the Westernization period, Türkoğlu said, “In 1893, the Ottoman Empire made a commercial agreement with the French. After the agreement, the French financed the building of factory. There was a problem in the supply of raw materials, then the 1st World War began, so the life of the factory couldn't be so long.”

#### THIS TIME “SOCIAL IMPERATIVE PROJECT” FROM THE STUDENTS

University students announced that they have started a project to draw attention to the issue of digital addiction. It is aimed to reduce technology addiction and gain the habit of reading books with the project called "Social Imperative Project" (SOIP).

Speaking about the social responsibility project, which aims to raise awareness of young people who use technology a lot about digital addiction, the project coordinator from Istanbul Gelisim University Asst. Prof. Dr. Melis Boyacı, “Digital addiction is a situation that we all face as individuals of an era in which digital transformation is intense. Especially with the pandemic, it started to be felt much more. We wanted to create an awareness about this situation. At this point, we decided to share on the social media platform as a place where we can make our voices heard and at the same time create awareness as a reverse corner.

#### “WE RAISE AWARENESS WITH HUMOUR”

Stating that they made informative shares about digital addiction and its varieties, Boyacı said, “At the same time, we try to bring digital addiction to the agenda in a humorous way and raise awareness by visualizing digital addiction in a fun and critical way with the illustrations and animated graphics made by our students. In addition, our students create a 'challenge' (trend) based on the books they read. Thus, we propose ways to use our time more efficiently with habits such as reading books against digital addiction. In addition, we are trying to emphasize the positive use of technologies that provide us with many facilities.”



## "WE BECOME ADDICTED RATHER THAN CONNECTED"

Noting that there are different types of digital addiction, Boyacı used the following statements:

"There are different types such as social media addiction, digital shopping addiction, stalking, digital game addiction, mobile phone addiction. The synchronicity, interactivity and mobility provided by the new media brings along a social transformation. Now we can always be in contact with everyone, wherever we want. This brings along the desire to be in constant communication, also defined as 'FoMo', and the anxiety of missing something. We want to stay in touch and keep up-to-date with developments and shares. The time we spend on social media platforms is increasing, we spend hours looking from one shopping site to another on digital platforms. We find ourselves playing games for hours in front of our computers or mobile phones or surfing on the internet from that news to another. At this point, social media platforms provide us with a more free and democratic way of reaching information and being in communication and changes our status from being 'connected' to social life to being 'dependent' on these platforms."

## "BIZCE İSTANBUL" PROJECT RESEARCHES TURNED INTO AN EXHIBITION

The researches of the Bizce İstanbul\* project, which was signed by university students, aiming to raise awareness about the formation of a youth that embraces its art and culture by promoting the cultural heritage of Istanbul correctly, turned into an exhibition.

The exhibition, made up of the research series of the "Bizce İstanbul" project team, which consists of undergraduate students in many different departments such as Interior Architecture, Interior Architecture and Environmental Design, Cinema and Television, Communication Design, Graphic Design, met with art lovers online.

In the exhibition held within the scope of Design Fest21, organized by Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) Faculty of Fine Arts, images of the "Learn at Home" series, "Notes on Istanbul" series and "News from Istanbul" series are featured.



Providing information about the preparation and content of the research series, Asst. Prof. Dr. Pelin Aykut said;

“The works in the exhibition consist of series that we have produced for a year under pandemic conditions. In our ‘Learn at Home’ series, we talk about the narrations and histories of Istanbul's iconic artifacts. Interior Architecture students Seray Nisa Yavuz and Ahmet Taha Demirci from our team take place in this series. We came across information that we believed to be interesting and fascinated us, and therefore we wanted our series to be included in the exhibition. Another series of our ‘Notes on Istanbul’ belongs to Simge Irmak Arbaç from our team's Communication and Design Department. We presented many unheard-of information about Istanbul to our followers and we enjoyed it. It was one of the series that fed us a lot. Interior Architecture students Seray Nisa Yavuz and Ahmet Taha Demirci from our team took part in our ‘News from Istanbul’ series. We have compiled the news about Istanbul's historical and buildings waiting to be restored. We also had the opportunity to take a look at the stories of the buildings. In this sense, we have completed another series that is both enjoyable and informative and featured in the exhibition. As our team motto is ‘to look at Istanbul from all sides’, we continued this motto despite the pandemic process with our series.”

The exhibition can be visited online via links posted on the university's website.

**Translator's Note (\*)** : I preferred to keep the original name of the project to protect it's authenticity. However, in order to fully grasp the concept of it one should understand it's name. The turkish word ‘bizce’ can be interpreted as ‘from our perspective’. Therefore, the project's name can be translated as ‘Istanbul from our perspective’.

