

EVALUATION OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER AWARENESS LEVELS OF VOCATIONAL COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Abstract: The correct attitudes of individuals regarding the coping behaviors they develop in the face of disaster events; It is determined by their disaster knowledge and preparedness and awareness against disasters. The purpose of this study is to determine the disaster preparedness and disaster awareness levels of students studying at Vocational College. The research was conducted with 126 students studying at Trakya University Keşan Vocational College. In the research, a survey form consisting of 30 questions was applied to students of Electricity, Automotive technology, Tourism and hotel management, Laboratory and veterinary health and Child development programs. The obtained data were evaluated statistically. The study concluded that although students' disaster awareness levels were high, their preparedness levels against disasters were low. The Vocational College students need to be given basic disaster awareness training.

Keywords: Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Awareness, Vocational College, Student.

I. INTRODUCTION

It causes losses in different sectors and areas, including physical, economic and social, causes damage to the daily life of human beings and the environment in which they live, and affects social life. Sudden and disruptive events are defined as disasters [1]. Disasters occur frequently in our country, as in many parts of the world. Due to its geographical location and geological structure, Turkey frequently encounters natural events such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, rock falls, avalanches, forest fires, mud flows, tornadoes and storms, as well as technological disasters such as industrial accidents and transportation accidents. Disasters not only cause loss of life but also cause significant economic losses [2]. The traces left by many disasters that have occurred in different geographies of the world for many years and the experiences gained from these disasters suggest that harm reduction studies should be carried out before a disaster occurs. In this way, the heavy costs of disasters can be alleviated or eliminated [3].

Inadequate education programs are one of the factors that increase individual or social vulnerability. With the training given on disasters; Awareness can be created in the society, disasters can be turned into a manageable phenomenon, and awareness of sufficiency can be established in all segments of the society [4]. It is essential to ensure the participation of all individuals who make up the society in being prepared for disasters [3]. University students, who constitute a large portion of the young population, are more vulnerable to possible disasters than the rest of the society, as they are young and optimistic and less sensitive to dangers and risks that may lead to disasters [5]. For this reason, it is of great importance to determine the disaster preparedness and disaster awareness levels of university students [6, 7].

The study aimed to evaluate the disaster preparedness and disaster awareness levels of students studying at a vocational college. With this study, it is thought that evaluating the disaster preparedness and disaster awareness levels of technician candidates studying in five different programs of the vocational college and supporting this study with new studies to

investigate the disaster preparedness, disaster knowledge and awareness levels of the society will make an effective contribution to disaster risk management.

II. METHOD

This research was conducted between April and May 2025 to determine the disaster preparedness and disaster awareness levels of Trakya University Keşan Vocational College students. The research group consists of 126 students from the Electrical, Automotive technology, Tourism and hotel management, Laboratory and veterinary health and Child development programs of the Vocational College. The survey form applied as a data collection form in the research was prepared using the data obtained from the literature review [7-9]. The students participating in the research were asked 5 questions to obtain their demographic information. In the survey form, 18 questions were asked to the students to determine their disaster preparedness levels and 7 questions were asked to reveal their disaster awareness levels, with Yes and No options. The data obtained was evaluated statistically.

III. FINDINGS

A. Demographic Findings

Within the scope of the study, among the students who answered the survey applied to five different programs of Trakya University Keşan Vocational College, there were 45.24% (n:57) women and 54.76% (n:69) men. Since the survey was conducted with university students, it is seen that 98.41% (n:124) of the participants are young individuals between the ages of 18-25. 28.57% (n:36) of the students are students of Electricity, 15.87% (n:20) of Automotive technology, 6.35% (n:8) of Tourism and hotel management, 19.84% (n:25) of Laboratory and veterinary health and 29.37% (n:37) of Child development. The research group consists of 99.21% (n:125) first-year students of the Electricity, Automotive technology, Tourism and hotel management, Laboratory and veterinary health and Child development programs and 0.79% (n:1) second-year students of the Automotive technology program. 61.11% (n:77) of the students reside in state dormitory. Demographic characteristics of the Vocational College students were presented in table 1.

TABLE 1: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VOCATIONAL COLLEGE STUDENTS (N:126)

Demographic Characteristics	n	%
Gender		
Female	57	45.24
Male	69	54.76
Age group		
18-21	118	93.65
22-25	6	4.76
26-	2	1.59
Department		
Electric	36	28.57
Automotive technology	20	15.87
Tourism and hotel management	8	6.35
Laboratory and veterinary health	25	19.84
Child development	37	29.37
Grade Level		
1	125	99.21
2	1	0.79
Place of Residence at the University		
With his/her family	21	16.67
Student house	15	11.90
State dormitory	77	61.11
Private dormitory	13	10.32
Total	126	100.0

B. Findings Related to Disaster Preparedness

The distribution of disaster preparedness levels of the Vocational College students was presented in table 2.

TABLE II: DISTRIBUTION OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS LEVELS OF THE VOCATIONAL COLLEGE STUDENTS (N:126)

Q No	Questions	Yes (N)	Yes (%)	No (N)	No (%)
6	Have you experienced any disaster before?	84	66.67	42	33.33
7	Have you received training on disasters?	71	56.35	55	43.65
8	Have you prepared your disaster and emergency bag?	32	25.40	94	74.60
9	Do you have information about the disaster plan of your school/home/dormitory?	41	32.54	85	67.46
10	Do you know whether your school/home/dormitory is at earthquake risk?	73	57.94	53	42.06
11	Have you participated in a disaster drill?	94	74.60	32	25.40
12	Do you consider yourself prepared for possible disasters?	40	31.75	86	68.25
14	Is there a fire detector/fire extinguisher at school/home/dormitory?	95	75.40	31	24.60
15	Do you know the safe areas at school/home/dormitory in case of a possible disaster?	79	62.70	47	37.30
17	Have you received first aid training?	48	38.10	78	61.90
19	Have you prepared your disaster and emergency information card?	11	8.73	115	91.27
21	Have you determined the persons to be called for communication within and outside the city after the disaster?	77	61.11	49	38.89
23	Are you a member of a non-governmental organization related to disasters?	5	3.97	121	96.03
24	Do you know how and when to call emergency phone numbers?	96	76.19	30	23.81
25	Do you know what to do in emergencies?	103	81.75	23	18.25
28	Do you know how to evacuate your school/home/dormitory in case of a possible disaster?	104	82.54	22	17.46
29	Do you know the school/home/dormitory gathering areas after the disaster?	80	63.49	46	36.51
30	Have you identified the dangers that may cause disasters and emergencies at home/dormitory?	73	57.94	53	42.06

C. Findings Related to Disaster Awareness

The distribution of disaster awareness levels of the Vocational College students was presented in table 3.

TABLE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF DISASTER AWARENESS LEVELS OF THE VOCATIONAL COLLEGE STUDENTS (N:126)

Q No	Questions	Yes (N)	Yes (%)	No (N)	No (%)
13	Do you have information about the moral damages of disasters?	92	73.02	34	26.98
16	Do you know the types of disasters that may occur in the city you live in?	94	74.60	32	25.40
18	Do you have information about the teams that need to go to the disaster area?	90	71.43	36	28.57
20	Do you know reliable sources where you can get information about disasters?	73	57.94	53	42.06
22	Do you know where your alternative accommodation is after a disaster?	45	35.71	81	64.29
26	Do you have information about the financial damages of disasters?	110	87.30	16	12.7
27	Do you think being aware of disasters can save lives?	116	92.06	10	7.94

IV. DISCUSSION

In the study, it was seen that the rate of students who had experienced any disaster before was 66.67% (n:84). In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was revealed that the proportion of students who had experienced any disaster before was 56.55% (n:82) [10]. In a study conducted to determine the earthquake awareness of students at a state university Vocational School of Health Services; It was reported that 68.5% (n:243) of the students had been exposed to an earthquake before [11]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was determined that 56.35% (n:71) of the students received training on disasters. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was revealed that 68.28% (n:99) of the students received disaster-related training [10]. In the study conducted to evaluate the knowledge and awareness levels of nursing students about disasters; It was reported that 60.8% of the students received training on disaster [12]. In addition, in the study conducted to determine the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 56.78% (n:113) of the students received earthquake-related training [13]. In the study conducted to determine the knowledge and awareness levels of Trakya University Keşan Vocational College students about earthquakes; It was determined that 51.59% (n:65) of the students received earthquake-related training [14]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was found that 74.60% (n:94) of the students did not prepare their disaster and emergency bags. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 77.93% (n:113) of the students did not have disaster and emergency kits ready in their homes/dormitories [10]. In the study where medical faculty students' knowledge, attitudes and behaviors about disasters and disaster medicine were evaluated; It was reported that 88.2% (n:755) of the students did not keep a disaster kit in their living spaces [15]. In a study conducted to determine the earthquake awareness of students at a state university Vocational School of Health Services; It was published that 72.4% (n:257) of the students did not keep an earthquake emergency kit where they lived [11]. In the study conducted to evaluate the knowledge and awareness levels of Trakya University Keşan Vocational College students about earthquakes; It was determined that 76.98% (n:97) of the students did not have earthquake bags ready in their living spaces [14]. In the study conducted to evaluate the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 83.42% (n:166) of the students did not have earthquake bags ready in their living spaces [13]. In the study where the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences students were evaluated; It was reported that 86.7% (n:299) of the students did not have an earthquake kit. [8]. In the study where the basic disaster awareness and preparedness levels of Gümüşhane University Kelkit Aydın Doğan Vocational School students were evaluated; It was published that 88.7% (n:236) of students did not have an emergency bag. [7]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was determined that 67.46% (n:85) of the students did not have information about the disaster plan of their school/home/dormitory. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 72.41% (n:105) of the students did not have information about the disaster plan of their school and/or living area [10]. In the study where medical faculty students' knowledge, attitudes and behaviors about disasters and disaster medicine were evaluated; It was reported that 86.0% (n:738) of the students did not have a personal/family disaster preparedness plan [15]. In the study where the basic disaster awareness and preparedness levels of Gümüşhane University Kelkit Aydın Doğan Vocational School students were evaluated; It was published that 85.9% (n:214) of the students did not make a personal/family disaster preparedness plan. [7]. In the study where the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences students were evaluated; It was reported that 95.4% (n:329) of the students did not have information about the school disaster plan [9]. Research findings are similar to findings in the literature.

In the study, it was determined that 57.94% (n:73) of the students knew that their schools/homes/dormitories were at risk of earthquake, while 42.06% (n:53) did not know these situations. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was observed that 44.14% (n:64) of the students had information about whether their schools/houses/dormitories were at risk of

earthquake or not [10]. In the study conducted to determine the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 60.80% (n:121) of the students did not have the knowledge that their schools and/or living spaces were low, medium or high risk or did not pose an earthquake risk [13]. In a study conducted to determine the earthquake awareness of students at a state university Vocational School of Health Services; It was reported that 41.7% of the students did not know the physical earthquake risk status of the university where they studied, but 63.4% of the students (n:225) were informed about the earthquake risk status of the city they lived in during their student years [11]. In the study conducted to evaluate the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was observed that 82.41% (n:164) of the students had information about whether the city they lived in was at risk of earthquake or not [13]. In the study conducted to evaluate the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of Trakya University Keşan Vocational College students; It was stated that 83.33% (n:105) of the students knew the earthquake risk status of their city [14]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was seen that 74.60% (n:94) of the students participated in a drill related to disasters. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 79.31% (n:115) of the students participated in a drill related to disasters [10]. In the study conducted to determine the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was found that 80.40% (n:160) of the students participated in the earthquake drill [13]. In the study conducted to evaluate the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of Trakya University Keşan Vocational College students; It was determined that 83.33% (n:105) of the students participated in the earthquake drill [14]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was determined that 68.25% (n:86) of the students did not consider themselves prepared for possible disasters. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 71.03% (n:103) of the students did not think that they were individually prepared for disasters [10]. In the study conducted to evaluate the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 65.83% (n:131) of the students individually thought that they were not prepared for the earthquake [13]. In the study conducted to evaluate the knowledge and awareness levels of Trakya University Keşan Vocational College students about earthquakes; It was determined that 59.52% (n:75) of the students did not consider themselves prepared for the earthquake [14]. In the study where the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences students were evaluated; It was reported that 78.3% (n:270) of the students did not consider themselves prepared for possible disasters [8]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was found that 87.30% (n:110) of the students had information about the material damages of disasters, and 73.02% (n:92) had information about the moral damages of disasters. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 85.52% (n:124) of the students had knowledge about the material damages of disasters, and 89.66% (n:130) had knowledge about the moral damages of disasters [10]. In a study conducted to determine the earthquake awareness of students at a state university Vocational School of Health Services; It was reported that 88.2% (n:313) of the students had information about the material damages of the earthquake, and 94.4% (n:335) had information about the moral damages of the earthquake [11]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was determined that 75.40% (n:95) of the students had a fire detector and/or fire extinguisher in their schools/homes/dormitories. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 72.41% (n:105) of the students had a fire detector and/or fire extinguisher in their schools and/or living spaces [10]. In the study where the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences students were evaluated; It was reported that 83.2% of the students had the idea that the most important step necessary to prevent fire is to eliminate fire hazards beforehand [8]. In the study where the basic disaster awareness and preparedness levels of Gümüşhane University Kelkit Aydın Doğan Vocational School students were evaluated; It was published that 86.7% of the students think that eliminating fire hazards in advance is the most important precaution to be taken to prevent fire [6]. Research findings are similar to findings in the literature.

In the study, it was determined that 62.70% (n:79) of the students knew the safe areas in their schools/homes/dormitories in case of a possible disaster. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 51.03% (n:74) of the students knew the safe areas in their schools and/or living spaces in case of a possible disaster [10]. In the study conducted to evaluate the knowledge and awareness levels of Trakya University Keşan Vocational College students about earthquakes; It was determined that 62.70% (n:79) of the students knew the safe areas in their schools and/or living rooms in case of an earthquake [13]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was determined that 74.60% (n:94) of the students knew the types of disasters that could occur in the city they lived in (Keşan/Edirne). In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 79.31% (n:115) of the students knew the types of disasters that could occur in the city they lived in (Keşan/Edirne) during their student years [10].

In the study, it was concluded that 61.90% (n:78) of the students had not received first aid training, while 38.10% (n:48) had received this training. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 53.10% (n:77) of the students received first aid training [10]. In the study conducted to evaluate the knowledge and awareness levels of Trakya University Keşan Vocational College students about earthquakes; It was determined that 36.51% (n:46) of the students received first aid training [14]. In the study conducted to evaluate the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 55.23% (n:110) of the students had received first aid training [13]. Research findings are similar to findings in the literature.

In the study, it was found that 71.43% (n:90) of the students had information about the teams that needed to go to the disaster area. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 65.52% (n:95) of the students had information about the teams that needed to go to the disaster area [10]. In the study conducted to evaluate the knowledge and awareness levels of Trakya University Keşan Vocational College students about earthquakes; It was determined that 75.40% (n:95) of the students knew which teams would go to the scene after the earthquake [14]. In the study conducted to evaluate the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was stated that 67.84% (n:135) of the students had information about the teams that should go to the scene after the earthquake [13]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was determined that 91.27% (n:115) of the students did not prepare disaster and emergency information cards. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 93.10% (n:135) of the students did not have disaster and emergency information cards prepared [10]. In the study where the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences students were evaluated; It was reported that 100% of the students (n:345) did not carry a disaster emergency card [8]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was concluded that while 57.94% (n:73) of the students knew reliable sources from which they could obtain information about disasters, 42.06% (n:72) did not know these sources. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 54.48% (n:79) of the students did not know reliable sources from which they could obtain information about disasters [10]. In the study conducted to evaluate the knowledge and awareness levels of Trakya University Keşan Vocational College students about earthquakes; It was determined that 60.32% (n:76) of the students did not have earthquake-related applications on their phones [14]. In the study conducted to evaluate the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 62.81% (n:125) of the students did not have earthquake-related applications on their phones [13]. Research findings are similar to findings in the literature.

In the study, it was determined that 61.11% (n:77) of the students determined the people to call for communication within and outside the city after the disaster. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 50.34% (n:73) of the students identified people to contact within and outside the city after the disaster [10].

In the study, it was determined that 64.29% (n:81) of the students did not know where their alternative accommodation was after the disaster. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 78.62% (n:114) of the students did not know where their alternative accommodation was after the disaster [10]. In the study conducted to evaluate the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 71.36% (n:142) of the students did not know alternative shelters after the earthquake [13]. In a study conducted to determine the earthquake awareness of students at a state university Vocational School of Health Services; It was reported that 72.4% (n:257) of the students did not have alternative accommodation after the earthquake where they lived [11]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was determined that 96.03% (n:121) of the students were not members of a non-governmental organization related to disasters. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 80.69% (n:117) of the students were not members of a non-governmental organization related to disasters [10].

In the study, it was determined that 76.19% (n:96) of the students knew how and when to call emergency phone numbers. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was reported that 75.86% (n:110) of the students had knowledge of emergency telephone numbers and how and when to call these numbers [10].

In the study, it was determined that 81.75% (n:103) of the students knew what to do in emergencies and disasters. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 80.0% of the students (n:116) knew what to do in emergencies and disasters [10]. In the study where the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences students were evaluated; It was reported that 59.74% (n:331) of the students knew what to do in case of an earthquake in their school (8)[8]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was seen that 92.06% (n:116) of the students thought that being aware of disasters could save lives. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 94.48% (n:137) of the students predicted that being aware of disasters could save lives [10]. In a study conducted to determine the earthquake awareness of students of the Vocational School of Health Services at a state university; It was reported that 97.5% (n:346) of the students knew that being aware of earthquakes could sometimes save lives [11]. In the study conducted to evaluate the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 88.94% (n:177) of the students believed that having earthquake awareness could save lives [13]. In the study conducted to evaluate the knowledge and awareness levels of Trakya University Keşan Vocational College students about earthquakes; It was determined that 94.44% (n:119) of the students believed that being aware of earthquakes could save lives [14]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was determined that 82.54% (n:104) of the students had information on how to evacuate their schools/homes/dormitories in case of a possible disaster. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 72.41% (n:105) of the students had information about evacuating their schools and/or living spaces [10]. In the study conducted to evaluate the knowledge and awareness levels of Trakya University Keşan Vocational College students about earthquakes; It was determined that 78.57% (n:99) of the students knew how to evacuate their schools/homes/dormitories during an earthquake [14]. In the study conducted to evaluate the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 60.30% (n:120) of the students had knowledge about evacuating their schools/homes/dormitories [13]. In the study where the sustainable earthquake awareness levels of Düzce University students were examined in terms of different variables; It was reported that 59.2% (n:327) of students knew how to evacuate their schools in case of danger [16]. The research findings support the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was concluded that while 63.49% (n:80) of the students knew the gathering areas of their schools/homes/dormitories after the disaster, 36.51% (n:46) did not know these areas. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 57.93% (n:84) of the students did not know the gathering areas of their schools and/or living

spaces after the disaster [10]. In the study conducted to evaluate the earthquake knowledge and awareness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was determined that 50.75% (n:101) of the students did not have knowledge about earthquake gathering areas [13]. The research findings are similar to the findings in the literature.

In the study, it was determined that 57.94% (n:73) of the students identified the dangers that could lead to disasters and emergencies in their homes/dormitories. In the study conducted to determine the disaster awareness and disaster preparedness levels of students at Trakya University Keşan Hakkı Yörük Health of School; It was observed that 51.03% (n:74) of the students identified dangers that could lead to disasters and emergencies in their living spaces [10].

Within the modern and integrated disaster management cycle, the risk management approach includes the harm reduction approach. Disaster Risk Management covers the prevention of possible disasters, if possible, mitigation of damage if it cannot be prevented, and disaster preparedness efforts [3]. The mitigation phase of disaster management includes all the work that needs to be done to repair weak points and take precautions against disaster hazards and risks so that societies can be more resilient against disasters [17]. Community-based emergency and disaster management should be implemented effectively, focusing on the pre-disaster, in order to prevent hazards from turning into disasters or, even if they do, to overcome possible losses with the least damage [18]. Reducing the possible damages caused by a disaster is extremely important in terms of both ensuring the security of the society and allowing the country's economy to continue its development activities. Disaster situations of all segments of the society should always be analyzed and taken into consideration, even in normal times before the disaster. It is essential to ensure the participation of individuals who make up the society in preparation for disasters [3]. In addition, local institutions need to be strengthened and experts and practitioners should be included in the process [4].

Vulnerability is defined as the individual's or society's lack of capacity to perceive the danger, predict its possible effects, reduce its harms, cope with the consequences if it occurs, and return life to normal as soon as possible. One of the factors that increase vulnerability is inadequate training programs [19]. The correct attitudes of individuals regarding the coping behaviors they develop in the face of disaster events; It is determined by their disaster knowledge and preparedness and awareness for disaster [12]. Studies have shown that the society's level of knowledge and awareness about disasters, as well as their preparedness against disasters, are low. In order for individuals from all segments of society to cope with disasters that they may encounter, disaster knowledge and awareness and preparedness levels against disasters need to be increased [6, 20, 21]. This study, in which the disaster preparedness and disaster awareness levels of the students of Vocational College Electricity, Automotive Technology, Tourism and Hotel Management, Laboratory and Veterinary Health and Child Development programs are evaluated, and the supporting studies to be carried out on the relevant subject will contribute to disaster risk management from a social perspective.

V. CONCLUSION

According to the study results; It has been revealed that Vocational College students are aware of disasters, but they have individual inadequacies in coping with disasters. For this reason, disaster awareness training needs to be planned, developed, sustained and delivered to all segments of society in order to be prepared for disasters and to raise disaster awareness.

Vocational College students need to receive Basic Disaster Awareness training in order to be prepared for the golden hours after the disaster when they are faced with a possible disaster event and to cope with the disaster by acting correctly.

With the awareness of being a society living in close proximity to disasters, the culture of taking precautions against disasters and mitigating harm needs to be developed within the society. For this purpose, basic disaster awareness training is provided to university students, who constitute the majority of the young segment of the society; It should be given with the aim of being prepared for the first 72 hours of disasters, gaining a culture of disaster preparedness, raising awareness, informing them about the basic precautions they can take in the environment they live in, teaching and practicing the correct behavior in disasters.

Disaster education should be considered as a very important issue within the education system. To this end; Courses on disasters and disaster activities should be included in the education curriculum starting from the pre-school period, and disaster-related training should also be included in both formal education and non-formal education practices. Thus, the knowledge, awareness, awareness and preparations of the public regarding disasters can be increased by using written and visual media and internet technologies. Moreover; Activities to raise social awareness about disasters should also be continuous at a basic level. Recognizing the types of disasters that cause the most loss of life and property in our country, improving the level of knowledge in disaster avoidance planning, and knowing the organization of disaster management in the public administration system will support increasing awareness about disasters.

Disaster awareness can be developed and a disaster culture can be created by being aware of the dangers and risks that may be encountered in all areas of life, by taking and living the necessary precautions, by taking individual and social responsibility, by creating social unity and being a part of the solution, and by being sensitive to the living environment. Disaster culture is an approach that strengthens social resilience against disasters by increasing the level of social vulnerability. Education, information and social awareness activities play an important role in disseminating disaster culture.

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