

Occupations as Indicators of Lifestyles¹

Fatih KARS*

 0000-0002- 2390-4673

Metin ÖZKUL*

 0000-0003-2511-9780

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to inquire how the relationships created by individuals from various professions for the purpose of performing the profession affect their lifestyles. In this direction, firstly, the characteristics of the social environment in which the individuals, who are the representatives of various occupations, have grown up and the effect of this environment on the choice of occupation have been tried to be described. Secondly, it was tried to be determined the existence of a lifestyle specific to the members of the occupational category through the behaviors, relationships and interactions required by the profession. Finally, the possible existence of an interaction between the lifestyle of occupational members and selected variables related to their social environment and occupations was tried to be analyzed. The field data of the study was gathered interviewing face to face, via a question form which consisted of structured and semi-structured questions intending for a sample of 384 people determined at 95% confidence level over individuals in various occupational groups in the city center of Isparta. These data were categorized into various statistical categories in the light of the information in the related literature and were tried to be analyzed applying the significance test (X²). One of the most significant general results of modernization is the differentiation of the groups that constitute societies regarding various variables. One of these differentiations, also referred to as multiculturalism, is occupational groupings. This study is considered significant in terms of revealing whether social groups that differ through professional preferences form a unique lifestyle or not. As a result of the findings obtained in the study, it was detected that the occupations learned by traditional methods and the groups of professional occupations acquired through education differ in terms of their lifestyles. While members of traditional professions have less lifestyle differentiation compared to the previous generation, professional occupational groups differ much more than previous generations to which they are connected in terms of their social origins. Professional occupation groups create distinctive lifestyles in the context of professional diversity in their own category, as well as differentiation in terms of social prestige, leisure time activities, family structures, consumption tendencies and approaches of evaluating their social environment, according to the members of the traditional profession.

¹ Some of the empirical data used in this study are taken from the Master's Degree Thesis titled "Yaşam Tarzı Göstergesi Olarak Meslekler (Isparta Örneği)" under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Metin Özkul of Süleyman Demirel University, Institute of Social Sciences, Department of Sociology.

* Res. Asst., Süleyman Demirel Üni. Faculty of Science and Letters, Department of Sociology, ✉ fatihkars@sdu.edu.tr

* Prof. Dr., Süleyman Demirel Üni. Faculty of Science and Letters, Department of Sociology, ✉ metinozkul@sdu.edu.tr