

## An Evaluation of the Effect of Financial Literacy Education on Financial Literacy among College Students

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### **Abstract**

*The aim of this research is to evaluate the effect of financial literacy education on financial literacy among college students, and to determine the financial literacy level of college students, and to explore whether individual characteristics have an effect on financial literacy level. 149 students, who have been receiving education in the state university vocational school, were hereby included into this research, and students were split into two categories randomly. No statistically-meaningful difference has been found between these two groups with regard to gender difference and age disparity ( $p>0,05$ ). One of these group had been receiving training with regard to financial literacy for two (2) weeks. After such training process, Financial Literacy Scale had been applied to both groups. As a result of analysis applied thereof, it was determined that all students attended to financial literacy education had intermediate level of financial literacy ( $52,17\pm17,67$ ), and financial literacy education had an effect on financial literacy ( $p<0,05$ ). Besides this, it was also determined that gender, class, the usage of internet banking and fathers' education level had significant effects on financial literacy ( $p<0,05$ ).*

**Keywords:** Financial Literacy, Financial Literacy Education, College Students

### **1. Introduction**

The need for financial education had been gradually increased by reason of the rapid developments that had been experienced for the creation and marketing of financial instruments, making it easier to access to the credit instruments, and the countries' tendencies for giving more responsibilities to the individuals, particularly for individual annuity insurance (Marcolin and Abraham, 2006:2). Through the lack of financial literacy, difficulties may be experienced while making long-term financial decisions, such as purchasing new houses, receiving more advanced education, or making retirement plans, and it may cause financial crises for the individuals and their family members (Braunstein ve Welch, 2002: 445). When it has been evaluated in macro-economic levels, low-level of financial literacy may sustain damages to the financial markets (e.g. reluctance to sell the stocks while depreciating) (Mandell, 2006:3).

The term of financial literacy was brought to various countries' political agenda after experiencing the economic crises in 2008, and the significance of measuring individuals' financial literacy has been increased (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2016: 15). There are many definitions for the term of "Financial Literacy". But however, that, the most frequently used term definition is "the ability to use knowledge and competence in order for the efficient management of financial resources in life-long financial soundness" (Hung, and et.al., 2009:3). Even though different definitions of financial literacy could be found, the basic characteristics of financial literacy could be summarized as follows: (1) having knowledge and being educated with regard to money, assets, banking account, investment, credit, insurance and tax, (2) to understand the basic terms under the scope of money and asset management, and (3) to use such information while making and performing financial plans (Hogarth, 2002; 15-16).

It has been stated that people could manage their assets more properly thanks to the improvement of financial literacy, and they thus could take the right decisions with regard to important matters, such as, education, health and retirement plan (Cole and Fernando, 2008:2). Financial literacy education is the most-used tools to improve the financial literacy (Hastings, et.al., 2013:349). Financial literacy education comprises of the main financial terms and information taught for the improvement of any individual's financial literacy (Blue et.al., 2014:4). With the financial literacy education, it is aimed to transform individuals into strengthened market actors by enabling them to display responsible financial actions in order to increase their prosperity (Willis, 2008: 1-2). In particular, since important and grafted financial decisions has to be made at early ages, and making financial mistakes in future may create more economic and financial costs, such circumstances have increased the importance of financial literacy research to be applied to rising generation (Lusardi, et.al., 2010:359). It was determined as per the previous researches in literature that rising generation didn't find themselves adequate while taking significant financial decisions, and in general, the financial literacy ratio was low, and thus rising generation took wrong decisions for financial matters (Lusardi, et.al. 2010: 365; Chen and Volpe, 1998: 122; Jorgensen, 2007: 43).

In this research, the study to determine the financial literacy ratio among the college students was performed, since it has been asserted that information to be received at early ages could affect the future financial decisions. The aim of this research is to determine the participants' financial literacy level, and to conclude whether the financial literacy education have an effect on financial literacy. So, this research was performed in order to determine whether the low-level of financial literacy could be improved through the submission of financial literacy education. Also, which personal characteristics have an effect on college students' financial literacy level.

## **2. Methodology**

The aim of this research is to evaluate the effect of financial literacy education on financial literacy among college students, and to determine the financial literacy level of college students, and to explore whether individual characteristics have an effect on financial literacy level. Since there is limited number of studies carried out for the determination of the effect of financial literacy education on financial literacy, such circumstance increases the importance of this study.

The working group of this study, which was carried out between March 2017 – June 2017, was comprises of 149 college students from a state university vocation school. Having received no financial literacy education, and being volunteer were determined as the prerequisite to attend this research. These students selected for this research were split into two categories randomly, and no statistically-meaningful difference has been found between these two groups with regard to gender difference ( $\chi^2 = 2,274$ ;  $p=0,192$ ) and age disparity ( $\chi^2 = 2,481$ ;  $p=0,148$ ) ( $p>0,05$ ). One of these group (training group) had been receiving training with regard to financial literacy for two (2) weeks and the other group (control group) didn't have any training. Within the scope of financial literacy education, the term of financial literacy, basis concepts with regard to finance, accounting and economy, financial planning, time-value of money, individual banking, retirement, insurance business, the reading and understanding of financial statements, financial markets, investment decisions and investment plans, tax and applicable legislation, investment tools, math and interest calculations, setting up budget, etc. had been lectured to the students. At the end of two (2) months, the survey form used as data collection tool was applied to both groups. The survey form used for this research contains of two categories, one of which focuses on personal characteristics, and the other focuses on financial literacy. "Financial Literacy Scale" developed by Kılıç and et.al (2015) was used to measure the financial literacy level of the students.

This scale contains thirty-eight (38) questions, ranging from basic economy and finance, individual banking, retirement and insurance, financial statements, investment, tax and legislation, math and interest calculations and finance agenda. One (1) point was appointed for each correct answer and more scores indicate more knowledge on financial literacy. All data obtained from this research was evaluated with the SPSS 25.0 package program in an attempt to use such date in line with the research objective.

Firstly, the compliance study for normal distribution had been carried out, and parametric tests had been used for the cases, where normal distribution was observed ( $z=0,066$ ;  $p=0,200$ ) and the observation number was higher than 30; and non-parametric tests had been used for the cases where such number was lower than 30, and Mann-Whitney U test and two sample t test had been used for the analysis.

### 3. Results

**Table 1. Descriptive statistics for training group (n=74)**

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	25	33,80
Male	49	66,20
<b>Age Groups</b>		
Under 20 years	17	23,00
20 years and over	57	77,00
<b>Class</b>		
1.Grade	19	25,70
2.Grade	55	74,30
<b>Credit Card Usage</b>		
Yes	37	50,00
No	37	50,00
<b>Internet Banking Instrument Usage</b>		
Yes	42	56,80
No	32	43,20
<b>Retirement Plan Usage</b>		
Yes	8	10,80
No	66	89,20
<b>Education Status of Father</b>		
Primary school or lower	42	56,80
High school and over	32	43,20
<b>Education Status of Mother</b>		
Primary school or lower	65	87,80
High school and over	9	12,20

In Table1, descriptive statistics related to the group, which had received financial literacy education, were indicated. It was observed after the evaluation of table-1 that the majority of the participants were male (66.2%), and 20 years and over (%77.0), and (74.3%) were in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. More than half of the students use internet banking instruments (56,8%), and most of them (89,2%) have no retirement plan. It was also observed that the education status of most of the students' mother and father were primary school or lower degree (respectively, 56,8%, and 87,8%).

**Table 2. Descriptive statistics for control group (n=75)**

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	17	22,70
Male	58	77,30
<b>Age Groups</b>		
Under 20 years	26	34,70
20 years and over	49	65,30
<b>Class</b>		
1.Grade	40	53,30
2.Grade	35	46,70
<b>Credit Card Usage</b>		
Yes	30	40,00
No	45	60,00
<b>Internet Banking Instrument Usage</b>		
Yes	30	40,00
No	45	60,00
<b>Retirement Plan Usage</b>		
Yes	2	2,70
No	73	97,30
<b>Education Status of Father</b>		
Primary school or lower	43	57,30
High school and over	32	42,70
<b>Education Status of Mother</b>		
Primary school or lower	60	80,00
High school and over	15	20,00

In Table 2, descriptive statistics related to the group, which hadn't received financial literacy education, were indicated. It was observed after the evaluation of table-2 that the majority of the participants were male (77.3%), and over 20 years (65.3%), and (53.3%) were in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Most of the students do not use internet banking (60,0%)and credit card instruments (60,0%), and most of them (97,3%) have no retirement plan. It was also observed that the education status of most of the students' mother and father were primary school or lower degree (respectively, 57,3%, and 80,0%).

**Table 3.** Financial literacy levels of the students

Financial Literacy Dimensions	Groups	Minimum	Maximum	Means	Standard Deviation
<b>Basic economy and finance</b>	Training	12,50	100,00	56,42	21,22
	Control	0,00	87,50	34,33	22,98
	Total	0,00	100,00	45,30	24,68
<b>Individual banking</b>	Training	16,67	100,00	69,37	20,28
	Control	0,00	100,00	55,33	22,95
	Total	0,00	100,00	62,30	22,71
<b>Retirement and insurance</b>	Training	0,00	100,00	73,78	23,85
	Control	0,00	100,00	62,40	23,47
	Total	0,00	100,00	68,05	24,26
<b>Financial statements</b>	Training	0,00	100,00	61,82	27,83
	Control	0,00	100,00	39,66	30,23
	Total	0,00	100,00	50,67	31,02
<b>Investment</b>	Training	0,00	100,00	42,16	23,07
	Control	0,00	80,00	27,20	20,44
	Total	0,00	100,00	34,63	22,97
<b>Tax and legislation</b>	Training	20,00	100,00	69,19	21,75
	Control	0,00	100,00	51,20	23,07
	Total	0,00	100,00	60,13	24,10
<b>Math and interest calculations</b>	Training	0,00	100,00	61,89	26,92
	Control	0,00	80,00	30,13	22,87
	Total	0,00	100,00	45,90	29,54
<b>Finance agenda</b>	Training	0,00	100,00	61,93	25,51
	Control	0,00	83,33	42,44	22,31
	Total	0,00	100,00	52,12	25,79
<b>Total score</b>	Training	23,68	89,47	61,84	15,51
	Control	23,68	89,47	42,63	14,19
	Total	2,63	89,47	52,17	17,67

In Table 3, descriptive statistics related to the students' general financial literacy level had been indicated. Because of unequal number of question mentioned in each category, scores obtained from such categories had been standardized (0-100).

It was observed while evaluating the table-3 that financial literacy level between the students received financial literacy education was  $61,84 \pm 15,51$ , the financial literacy level between the students haven't received financial literacy education was  $42,63 \pm 14,19$ , and general financial literacy level was  $52,17 \pm 17,67$ . Besides this, the part for which highest financial literacy level was observed for the students, whom received/haven't financial literacy education, and for all students, was retirement and insurance business (respectively  $73,78 \pm 23,85$ ,  $62,40 \pm 23,47$ ,  $68,05 \pm 24,26$ ) and lowest level was observed for investment (respectively  $42,16 \pm 23,07$ ,  $27,20 \pm 20,44$ ,  $34,63 \pm 22,97$ ).

**Table 4. Effect of financial literacy education on financial literacy levels**

Financial Literacy Dimensions	Groups	Means	Standard Deviation	t	p*
<b>Basic economy and finance</b>	Training	56,42	21,22	6,091	<0,0001
	Control	34,33	22,98		
<b>Individual banking</b>	Training	69,37	20,28	3,954	<0,0001
	Control	55,33	22,95		
<b>Retirement and insurance</b>	Training	73,78	23,85	2,936	0,004
	Control	62,40	23,47		
<b>Financial statements</b>	Training	61,82	27,83	4,653	<0,0001
	Control	39,66	30,23		
<b>Investment</b>	Training	42,16	23,07	4,192	<0,0001
	Control	27,20	20,44		
<b>Tax and legislation</b>	Training	69,19	21,75	4,895	<0,0001
	Control	51,20	23,07		
<b>Math and interest calculations</b>	Training	61,89	26,92	7,763	<0,0001
	Control	30,13	22,87		
<b>Finance agenda</b>	Training	61,93	25,51	4,967	<0,0001
	Control	42,44	22,31		
<b>Total score</b>	Training	61,84	15,51	7,889	<0,0001
	Control	42,63	14,19		

\*: p<0,05 significance

In Table 4, it was evaluated whether there is any difference between the students that had financial literacy education, and the students hadn't had financial literacy education. It was observed that students that had financial literacy education had higher financial literacy level compared to the ones hadn't received such training, and the difference between these two groups was found as statistically-meaningful ( $p<0,05$ ).

**Table 5. Evaluation of financial literacy levels by individual characteristics**

Financial Literacy Dimensions	Gender		Age groups		Class	
	Female	Male	Under 20 years	20 years and over	1.grade	2.grade
Basic economy and finance	49,40±26,61 t=1,274	43,69±23,81 p=0,205	41,86±24,68 t=-1,085	46,69±24,66 p=0,280	43,22±25,03 t=-0,833	46,67±24,49 p=0,406
Individual banking	69,84±24,20 t=2,586	59,34±21,49 <b>p=0,011*</b>	57,75±22,81 t=-1,566	64,15±22,51 p=0,119	58,76±21,74 t=-1,551	64,63±23,14 p=0,123
Retirement and insurance	70,95±20,81 t=0,913	66,91±25,49 p=0,363	64,65±25,00 t=-1,091	69,43±23,94 p=0,277	65,42±22,84 t=-1,072	69,78±25,13 p=0,286
Financial statements	57,74±31,95 t=1,754	47,89±30,35 p=0,081	45,93±30,34 t=-1,190	52,59±31,23 p=0,236	45,34±30,60 t=-1,710	54,17±30,96 p=0,089
Investment	31,42±20,78 t=-1,067	35,89±23,75 p=0,288	33,95±21,17 t=-0,229	34,90±23,75 p=0,820	31,52±22,95 t=-1,340	36,67±22,88 p=0,182
Tax and legislation	64,76±23,71 t=1,474	58,32±24,12 p=0,143	57,21±25,66 t=-0,943	61,32±23,46 p=0,347	54,57±25,41 t=-2,312	63,78±22,61 <b>p=0,022*</b>
Math and interest calculations	49,52±26,95 t=0,936	44,48±30,50 p=0,351	39,53±29,43 t=-1,687	48,49±29,33 p=0,094	40,34±30,28 t=-1,878	49,55±28,63 p=0,062
Finance agenda	57,54±27,10 t=1,614	50,00±25,08 p=0,109	48,45±29,33 t=-1,109	53,61±25,82 p=0,269	47,74±23,66 t=-1,691	55,00±26,84 p=0,093
Total score	56,01±16,42 t=1,673	50,66±17,98 p=0,096	48,47±16,76 t=-1,638	53,67±17,88 p=0,104	48,39±16,78 t=-2,138	54,65±17,89 <b>p=0,034*</b>

\*: p<0,05 significance

In Table 5, the evaluations performed according to the students' personal characteristics, which affect the level of financial literacy among the college students, were indicated. As the table examined in detail, statistically-meaningful difference was found for individual banking category according to the personal characteristics ( $t=2,586$ ;  $p=0,011$ ), and for tax and legislation ( $t=2,312$ ;  $p=0,022$ ), and financial literacy total score ( $t=2,138$ ;  $p=0,034$ ) according to class variables. As per those findings, it was determined that girls and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students had more financial literacy level than respectively boys and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. No statistically meaningful difference had been found in terms of age groups ( $p>0,05$ ).

**Table 6. Evaluation of financial literacy levels by individual financial characteristics**

Financial Literacy Dimensions	Credit Card Usage		Internet Banking Usage		Retirement Plan Usage*	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>Basic economy and finance</b>	48,32±25,36 $t=1,353$	42,83±23,98 $p=0,178$	49,82±23,31 $t=2,191$	41,07±25,31 <b>p=0,030**</b>	50,00±16,45 $u=566,0$	50,00±25,13 $p=0,322$
	64,67±22,00 $t=1,154$	60,36±23,22 $p=0,250$	63,89±21,30 $t=0,823$	60,82±23,99 $p=0,412$	75,00±21,44 $u=590,5$	66,67±22,81 $p=0,416$
<b>Individual banking</b>	68,36±25,38 $t=0,138$	67,80±23,46 $p=0,890$	70,00±23,01 $t=0,946$	66,24±25,39 $p=0,345$	80,00±15,77 $u=567,0$	60,00±24,70 $p=0,314$
	51,49±32,24 $t=0,291$	50,00±30,17 $p=0,771$	51,04±30,67 $t=0,141$	50,32±31,54 $p=0,888$	62,50±31,18 $u=684,0$	50,00±31,12 $p=0,089$
<b>Retirement and insurance</b>	33,73±22,88 $t=-0,431$	35,36±23,15 $p=0,667$	33,89±22,67 $t=-0,380$	35,32±23,37 $p=0,704$	20,00±16,99 $u=602,5$	40,00±23,35 $p=0,469$
	62,98±23,42 $t=1,308$	57,80±24,54 $p=0,193$	63,33±24,67 $t=1,574$	57,14±23,33 $p=0,118$	60,00±23,19 $u=615,5$	60,00±24,19 $p=0,534$
<b>Financial statements</b>	47,46±30,32 $t=0,580$	44,63±29,02 $p=0,563$	48,61±28,45 $t=1,081$	43,37±30,50 $p=0,281$	40,00±30,98 $u=673,5$	40,00±29,55 $p=0,868$
	53,73±25,59 $t=0,686$	50,81±26,04 $p=0,494$	54,86±25,24 $t=1,254$	49,56±26,20 $p=0,212$	58,33±26,11 $u=550,0$	50,00±25,73 $p=0,263$
<b>Investment</b>	53,77±18,29 $t=0,998$	50,86±17,14 $p=0,320$	54,35±17,02 $t=1,460$	50,13±18,13 $p=0,146$	52,63±12,67 $u=613,0$	52,63±17,98 $p=0,533$

\*: The median was used as a measure of central tendency because the number of observations in one of the groups in the variable of retirement plan usage is less than 30.

\*\*: $p<0,05$  significance

In Table 6, college students' financial literacy had been compared according to certain personal characteristics. When we evaluated the table 6, only the variable of internet banking usage causes statistically-meaningful difference in terms of financial literacy in the categories of basic economy and finance ( $t=2,191$ ;  $p=0,030$ ). According to those findings, it was determined that students, who use internet banking had lower level of financial literacy than those students, who don't use internet banking. No statistically-meaningful difference had been found between the variables of credit card usage and retirement plan usage ( $p>0,05$ ).

**Table 7. Evaluation of financial literacy levels by education status of parents**

Financial Literacy Dimensions	Education Status of Mother*		Education Status of Father*	
	Primary or lower level	High-school or upper level	Primary or lower level	High-school or upper level
<b>Basic economy and finance</b>	50,00±25,08 $u=1267,0$	50,00±21,90 $p=0,224$	37,50±25,48 $u=2147,0$	50,00±22,81 <b>p=0,026**</b>
<b>Individual banking</b>	66,67±23,11 $u=1262,5$	58,33±20,25 $p=0,208$	66,67±21,47 $u=2404,0$	66,67±24,28 $p=0,214$
<b>Retirement and insurance</b>	60,00±25,05 $u=1288,0$	80,00±19,26 $p=0,256$	60,00±23,58 $u=2427,5$	80,00±25,19 $p=0,244$
<b>Financial statements</b>	50,00±31,42 $u=1494,5$	50,00±29,48 $p=0,977$	50,00±32,38 $u=2668,0$	50,00±29,35 $p=0,838$
<b>Investment</b>	40,00±23,09 $u=1413,5$	30,00±22,70 $p=0,645$	40,00±22,38 $u=2670,5$	40,00±23,90 $p=0,845$
<b>Tax and legislation</b>	60,00±24,69 $u=1452,0$	60,00±21,19 $p=0,798$	60,00±23,90 $u=2596,5$	60,00±24,56 $p=0,625$
<b>Math and interest calculations</b>	40,00±29,57 $u=1396,0$	40,00±29,87 $p=0,583$	40,00±28,78 $u=2554,5$	40,00±30,63 $p=0,516$
<b>Finance agenda</b>	50,00±25,38 $u=1235,0$	66,67±27,35 $p=0,164$	50,00±25,24 $u=2252,5$	66,67±26,14 $p=0,068$
<b>Total score</b>	52,63±18,19 $u=1448,0$	53,94±14,95 $p=0,788$	50,00±17,73 $u=2428,5$	56,58±17,62 $p=0,263$

\*: The median was used as a measure of central tendency because the number of observations in one of the groups in the variables is less than 30.

\*\*: $p<0,05$  significance

In Table 7, college students' financial literacy had been compared according to certain personal characteristics. When we evaluated the table-7, only the variable of education status of father causes statistically-meaningful difference in terms of financial literacy in the categories of basic economy and finance ( $t=2,147$ ;  $p=0,026$ ). According to those findings, it was determined that students, whose fathers had received high-school or upper level of education had higher financial literacy level than those, whose fathers had received primary or lower level of education. No statistically-meaningful difference had been found for the variables of education status of mother ( $p>0,05$ ).

#### **4. Discussion**

In this study, the effects of financial literacy education on the financial literacy among the college students were evaluated, and the level of financial literacy were determined, and it was hereby assessed that whether personal characteristics had an effect on financial literacy.

According to the results yielded from herein, students that had financial literacy education had upper intermediate level of financial literacy ( $61,84\pm15,51$ ), and students that hadn't received financial literacy had pre-intermediate level of financial literacy ( $42,63\pm14,19$ ). It was also found that the categories, for which highest level of financial literacy was observed, was retirement plan and insurance business ( $68,05\pm24,26$ ); and lowest level of financial literacy was observed for investment ( $34,63\pm22,97$ ). It was determined within the research conducted by Barmaki and Şener (2017), who performed such research in order to evaluate financial literacy level of college students, it was revealed that students had intermediate level of financial literacy and had highest level of financial literacy for basic monetary concepts, and had lowest level of financial literacy for savings and investment plans. It was taught that students had relatively more information with regard to insurance business and retirement plan, because of the existence of insured or retired family members; and they had relatively low level of information with regard to investment plans, because there were young and they hadn't any income suitable for financial management. Furthermore, according to the research conducted by Lusardi and et.al., (2010) in order to determine the financial literacy level among young people, people had relatively low level of financial literacy, and the children's parents that make investment for retirement plans had higher financial literacy level than poorer parents. According to the results, in which the effects of financial literacy education on financial literacy were evaluated, it was determined that students that had financial literacy education had higher level of financial literacy in comparison to those, who hadn't received financial literacy education ( $p<0,05$ ).

Furthermore, it was also stated that financial literacy education was one of the most-efficient tool for increasing the financial literacy level among the college students. According to the research conducted by Er and et.al. (2014) for the deliberation of the effects of field of education on financial literacy, students, who had received financial training had more financial literacy level than those, who hadn't received any financial training. And, in parallel with the foregoing circumstances, the research conducted by Bernheim and et.al (2001) revealed that persons that had received financial training in high-school tend to save more money at their medium ages.

And according to the research conducted by Biçer and Altan (2016) for the evaluation of attitude and behaviors of college students with regard to financial literacy, students that had financial training had more financial literacy perception than those who hadn't received financial literacy education. Furthermore, in the research conducted by Mandell and Hanson (2009) for the evaluation of the effect of financial literacy education on financial literacy level among the college and high-school students, it was determined that students attended to financial training had more financial literacy level. In this research, and upon the evaluation financial literacy based on personal characteristics, statistically-meaningful difference had been observed for gender, class, the usage of internet banking and fathers' education level( $p<0,05$ ), but however that, no statistically-meaningful difference had been found with regard to variables of age, credit card usage, individual retirement, and mother education level( $p>0,05$ ). According to those findings, it was determined that girls had higher level of financial literacy than boys with regard to individual banking, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students had higher level of financial literacy than 1<sup>st</sup> grade students with regard to tax, applicable legislation and general concepts, and students use internet banking had higher level of financial literacy than those, who don't use such banking instruments with regard to basic finance and economy concepts, and students, whose fathers had received high-school or upper level of education had

more financial literacy than those, whose fathers had received primary school or lower level of education. According to the research conducted by Chen and Volpe (2002) in an attempt to determine the effect of gender difference on financial literacy level, it was revealed that male students had more financial literacy level than girls. According to the research performed by Ergin and et.al. (2014) for the determination of financial literacy level among college students of business administration, it was revealed that students had fundamental level of financial literacy, and this level may be varied based on gender, teaching methods, and monthly average household income. Besides this, according to the research conducted by Cude and et.al. (2006) for the evaluation of financial literacy level of college students, it was expressed that parents were the most efficient factor for the socialization of students in terms of financial matters. And, according to the research conducted by Chen and Volpe (1998) with 924 college students, it was revealed that students' financial literacy level was intermediate, and women, low-class students, unemployed persons, and persons below the age of 30, and persons that had lack of required business experience had lower level of financial literacy. In addition to the foregoing, according to the research conducted by Jorgensen and Savla (2010), in which they evaluated the financial literacy among young persons, families had direct or medium level of effects on financial literacy. And as per the research conducted by Çoşkun (2016), in which the financial literacy level among the vocational school students was evaluated, personal characteristics (e.g., gender, marital status, department, class, program, household level of income, employment conditions, and residential address) have no effect on financial literacy. And pursuant to the research carried out by Temizel and Bayram (2011), in which the financial literacy level of 433 students, who had been receiving education at the faculty of economics and administrative business, were measured, it was revealed that 84% of the students received financial information from their parents.

In conclusion, it was revealed within the scope of this research that students' financial literacy ratio was intermediate level, financial literacy education had increased the level of financial literacy among the students, certain personal characteristics, namely gender, class, usage of internet banking and father education level had effects on financial literacy. According to these findings, it was suggested that inclusion on financial literacy education into the official curriculum so as to increase the financial literacy of college students could pave the way for students to take better financial decisions, and to increase their ability to make savings, and to provide opportunity to improve themselves in the field of financial investments. But however, that, there were certain limitations in terms of the generalization of the results obtained from this research, since it was conducted to the students, who had been receiving education at state university vocational school only.

Besides this, it was suggested that new researches should be carried out with regard to different characteristics and circumstances deemed to have effect on financial literacy. It was suggested that results obtained from this research shall provide contributions to the activities related to the improvement of financial literacy.

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