

# Lifelong Learning Tendencies of Prospective Teachers Receiving Pedagogical Formation Education

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**Abstract** Lifelong learning tendencies of prospective teachers attending pedagogical formation certificate program were evaluated in this study. While prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation at Bartın University and Mustafa Kemal University formed the population of the research, the sample consisted of 210 prospective teachers selected randomly from the population. Screening model was employed in the research. “Personal Information Form” and 1-6 Likert-type “Lifelong Learning Tendencies Scale” which consisted of 27 items and was developed by Diker-Coşkun [17] were applied as data collection tools. Reliability of the scale was tested, and Cronbach Alpha coefficient was found as 0.72. Independent samples t-test, one-way ANOVA and Dunnett’s T3 test were employed in the study. As a result of the data analysis, lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation were generally high. Furthermore, a statistically significant difference was observed based on variables of marital status, age, universities being studied at, job status and level of income. On the other hand, lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education did not have statistically significant differences by gender, having child/children, department of graduation and work experience.

**Keywords** Lifelong Learning, Lifelong Learning Tendencies, Pedagogical Formation Education, Prospective Teachers

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## 1. Introduction

Teachers have a crucial role in development and progress of a society. Teachers are expected to follow scientific improvements and to improve themselves. Learning is a lifelong process. Teachers tend to learn during their whole lives to fulfill the expectations of the

society.

Lifelong learning can be described as a process which improves individuals’ knowledge and skills they gained throughout their lives ([9]; [3]; [49]). In other words, lifelong learning can be described as people’s learnings that they acquire intentionally and purposefully for helping their self-improvement and life quality (Overly, Mc-Quigg, Silvermail, and Coppedge, 1980; as cited by Dunlap, [21]). Lifelong learning contains all formal, non-formal and continuous purposeful learning activities carried out with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and abilities within the frame of personal, communal, social and occupational life [10]. A lifelong learner is an individual who plans, gauges his/her own learning, gathers knowledge in different disciplines and applies various learning strategies [37]. Lifelong learning removes variables such as age, place, time and socio-economic status, and it also provides equality of opportunity to the individuals [16]. Furthermore, lifelong learning covers developed education policies, implementation of these policies in schools, adult education and lifelong formal and non-formal education [42].

Living, learning and working styles are rapidly changing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is not possible for educational systems, which have the function of preparing individuals to the life, to be inalterable in such a setting where everything is changing. In this respect, teaching ways of reaching information is important rather than giving information directly in our age. In other words, learning to learn is more important than teaching [1]. That is why, skills and competences gained through lifelong learning programs are crucial for gaining occupational responsibility employees need to have and for having knowledge and skills necessary for them to carry out new tasks [4]. In learning society of the information age, lifelong learning refers to everlasting learning process at home, at work, at a café, etc. with the aim of complying with ever-changing conditions, contrary to the educational and instructional skills embedded in a certain period of life. On the other hand, lifelong learning can create new

opportunities for individuals by validating basic skills [52]. The fact that scientific, technological and cultural changes have been occurring rapidly caused humans to be in need of continuous learning [18].

One of the institutions placing great importance to lifelong learning is the European Commission, which described key competences of lifelong learning in [11] as follows:

1. Communication in the mother tongue,
2. Communication in foreign languages,
3. Mathematical competence and basic competences in science and technology,
4. Digital competence,
5. Learning to learn,
6. Social and civic competences,
7. Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship,
8. Competence in cultural awareness and expression

When literature was searched the following studies were found:

Mourtos [43] investigated lifelong learning skills of university students. As a result of the study, he suggested that some courses assisting students need to be arranged in order to improve their lifelong learning skills. Brahmi [8] investigated lifelong learning skills of medical faculty students. In the study, students expressed that lifelong learning was an internal wonder, and having a role-model was important in all steps of education. Kirby, Knapper, Lamon, Egnatoff [36] developed a scale for gauging lifelong learning in their study. Hart [26] claimed in his research that university students' using instructional technologies and in-class instructional strategies were effective in developing their self-learning skills. Cresson and Dean [12] carried out a research on 154 adult educators in an adult education center. As a result of the study, it was found out that adult educators supported lifelong learning, and their levels of belief on this topic were high. Loads [41] held a research on 5 academicians working as student advisers about lifelong learning. In this study, academicians stated that students' lifelong learning skills were affected by institutional structure, academicians and social environment. Reio [50] investigated the relationship between levels of curiousness and social learning - work performance of the adults. A significant relationship was found between level of curiousness and work performance as a result of the study. On the other hand, Atacanlı [5] investigated lifelong learning behaviors of Medical Faculty graduate students at Ankara University. The students' readiness to self-learning was found mediocre in the study. Furthermore, scale scores of the students who had computers with access to internet, who fulfilled this need at faculties and who had habit of doing sports regularly were higher than the others. Besides, learning choice evaluation scale scores of the students willing to do academic study in the future were higher than of the ones

willing to work as specialist physician. In Kara and Kürüm's [28] research, perception of the students studying at Primary School Teaching department in Education Faculty of Anadolu University about lifelong learning was analyzed. It was concluded in the study that the students did not know concepts related to lifelong learning sufficiently. Gencil [25] also investigated perceptions of prospective teachers towards lifelong learning competences. 551 students studying at Faculty of Education in Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University were included in the study. As a result of the study, it was suggested that the prospective teachers regarded themselves "adequate", they regarded themselves adequate at communication in native language at most and adequate at communication in foreign language and in social-civic competence at least. Furthermore, perception of female prospective teachers about lifelong learning competences was higher than of the males. Additionally, while perceptions of the students at the departments of English Language and Literature, German Language Teaching, Turkish Language Teaching and Computer Education-Instructional Technologies about lifelong learning competences were high, perceptions of the students at the departments of Art Education and Music Education were less than of the other students. Karakuş [29] analyzed lifelong learning competences of vocational college students. It was revealed in the study carried out with 231 students that lifelong learning competences of the students were on a good level, and there was no significant difference among the departments. Oral and Yazar [45] studied lifelong learning perceptions of the prospective teachers in their research. They stated as a conclusion of their study that the prospective teachers' perceptions about lifelong learning did not differ by gender and departments. Özçiftçi [46] and Yıldırım [57] found in their research that lifelong learning tendencies of the class teachers were at a high level. It was also revealed that a significant difference was found in favor of boys, and no significant difference was observed by the variables of age, seniority and place of work.

In our age, individuals' developing lifelong learning tendencies has become more important in parallel with social changes and developments. Accordingly, even the most developed countries have plunged into a quest to develop their educational systems steadily and to increase educational quality. As teachers have a vital role in individuals' having lifelong learning tendency, individuals receiving pedagogical formation knowledge and skills also need to be responsible for lifelong learning.

When literature related to lifelong learning was investigated, most of the studies were about lifelong learning tendencies of university students ([44]; [29]; [18]) or teachers ([33]; [32]; [54]; [2]). Therefore, determining tendencies of the students receiving pedagogical formation regarding lifelong learning was believed to contribute to the field.

### 1.1. Aim of the Study

In this study, lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers were analyzed in relation to some variables (gender, marital status, having child/children, age, university being studied, department having been graduated, job status, level of income and work experience). The following questions were answered in order to achieve this aim of the study:

1. What are the lifelong learning tendencies of prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education?
2. Do their lifelong learning tendencies differ according to
  - a) gender
  - b) marital status
  - c) whether they have children
  - d) age
  - e) the universities which prospective teachers graduated from
  - f) the departments they graduated from
  - g) job status
  - h) level of income
  - i) work experience
3. At what level are lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education?

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Research Model

Survey model was employed in the study. Survey model aims to describe a situation existing in the past or being active currently as it is [30]. This model was selected since it aims to describe an existing situation as it is.

### 2.2. Population and Sample

While the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education both at Bartın University and at Mustafa Kemal University in 2016-2017 academic year comprised population of the study, 210 prospective teachers randomly selected from this group formed the sample of the research. All of the prospective teachers in the sample had graduated from a bachelor's degree program. They applied to the universities for pedagogical formation education to be able to become teachers in the following years. Some of them had jobs while the others did not. On the other hand, some of them were married.

### 2.3. Data Collection Tools

"Personal Information Form" developed by the author and "Lifelong Learning Tendencies Scale" with 27 items

developed by Diker-Coşkun [17] were used for data collection. This scale was preferred since its validity and reliability study had been carried out. Turkish version of this scale was used since the participants of the study were Turkish.

The scale consisted of four sub-scales which were motivation, persistence, a deficiency of arranging learning and a deficiency of wonder. However, the sub-scales were not applied in the current study. The scale was 6-likert type with "complying a lot", "complying partially", "complying slightly", "not complying slightly", "not complying partially" and "not complying at all". When 1 was considered as the start point, the value 3,5 was supposed as midpoint of "complying slightly" and "not complying slightly". Accordingly, minimum score to be received from the lifelong learning tendencies scale was 27 (27x1) while median score was 94,5 (27x3,5) and maximum score was 162 (27x6).

Cronbach's Alpha internal consistency coefficient of the lifelong learning tendencies scale with 27 items was found as .89 in the research carried out by Diker-Coşkun [17]. In the study, reliability of the scale was re-tested, and Cronbach's alpha coefficient was calculated as 0.72. The scale was used to analyze general lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers.

### 2.4. Data Analysis

SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) program was used in data analysis. Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk tests were applied in order to determine whether the data showed normal distribution or not. As p value was higher than .05 according to the results of these tests, the data were regarded to be in normal distribution. Furthermore, the fact that the data showed normal distribution was confirmed with Levene's test. Independent samples t-test and one-way ANOVA were employed for data analysis. Additionally, Dunnett's T3 test was applied to determine difference between the groups as a result of one-way analysis.

## 3. Results

The data obtained from the study were shown in tables as follows.

**Table 1.** Independent Samples t-test Results of the Scores Received from Lifelong Learning Tendencies Scale by the Prospective Teachers Receiving Pedagogical Formation Education by Gender

Gender	N	$\bar{X}$	sd	df	t	p
Male	83	125.87	16.442	208	-1.699	.091
Female	127	129.54	14.496			

The data in Table 1 revealed that there was no significant difference between the scores received from lifelong learning tendencies scale by the prospective

teachers receiving pedagogical formation education and gender variable [ $t(208) = -1.699$ ;  $p > .05$ ].

**Table 2.** Independent Samples t-test Results of the Scores Received from Lifelong Learning Tendencies Scale by the Prospective Teachers Receiving Pedagogical Formation Education by Marital Status

Marital Status	N	$\bar{X}$	sd	df	t	p
Married	61	131.31	11.591	208	2.264	.025
Single	149	126.77	16.514			

According to the results given in Table 2, there was significant difference between the scores received from lifelong learning tendencies scale by the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education and the variable of marital status [ $t(208) = 2.264$ ;  $p < .05$ ]. This significant difference was in favor of the married prospective teachers.

**Table 3.** Independent Samples t-test Results of the Scores Received from Lifelong Learning Tendencies Scale by the Prospective Teachers Receiving Pedagogical Formation Education by the Variable of Having Child/Children

Having Child/Children	N	$\bar{X}$	sd	df	t	p
Yes	49	130.14	13.506	208	-1.071	.285
No	161	127.46	15.869			

As it can be seen in Table 3, there was no significant difference between the scores received from lifelong learning tendencies scale by the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education and the variable of having child/children [ $t(208) = -1.071$ ;  $p > .05$ ].

**Table 4.** One-Way ANOVA Results of the Scores Received from Lifelong Learning Tendencies Scale by the Prospective Teachers Receiving Pedagogical Formation Education by Age Variable

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Sum of Squares	F	p
Inter-groups	4289.252	4	1072.313	4.882	.001
Within-Groups	45029.205	205	219.655		
Total	493118.457	209			

According to Table 4, the scores received from lifelong learning tendencies scale by the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education showed significant difference by age variable [ $F(4,205) = 4.882$ ;  $p < .05$ ]. Dunnett's T3 test was employed to find out between which groups this difference was. According to Dunnett's T3 test results, there was significant difference between the prospective teachers who were 36 years old and over and the ones that were 20-27 years old. The difference was in favor of the ones that were 36 years old and over.

It can be concluded from Table 5 that there was significant difference between the scores received from lifelong learning tendencies scale by the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education and the variable of universities being studied [ $t(208) = 2.597$ ;  $p < .05$ ]. This difference was in favor of the prospective teachers studying at Bartın University.

**Table 5.** Independent Samples T-test Results of the Scores Received from Lifelong Learning Tendencies Scale by the Prospective Teachers Receiving Pedagogical Formation Education by the Variable of Universities They Studied

Universities They Studied	N	$\bar{X}$	sd	df	t	p
Bartın University	115	130.59	13.980	208	2.597	.010
Mustafa Kemal University	95	125.05	16.451			

**Table 6.** One-Way ANOVA Results of the Scores Received from Lifelong Learning Tendencies Scale by the Prospective Teachers Receiving Pedagogical Formation Education by the Variable of Departments They Graduated From

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Sum of Squares	F	p
Inter-Groups	464.669	2	232.335	.984	.375
Within-Groups	48853.788	207	236.009		
Total	49318.454	209			

The data in Table 6 revealed that there was no significant difference between the scores received from lifelong learning tendencies scale by the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education and the variable of departments graduated [ $F(3,206) = .984$ ;  $p > .05$ ].

**Table 7.** Independent Samples T-test Results of the Scores Received from Lifelong Learning Tendencies Scale by the Prospective Teachers Receiving Pedagogical Formation Education by the Variable of Job Status

Job Status	N	$\bar{X}$	sd	df	t	p
Working	102	131.04	14.965	208	2.750	.006
Not Working	108	125.30	15.276			

As it can be understood from Table 7, there was significant difference between the scores received from lifelong learning tendencies scale by the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education and the variable of job status [ $t(208) = 2.750$ ;  $p < .05$ ]. This difference was in favor of the ones working.

**Table 8.** One-Way ANOVA Results of the Scores Received from Lifelong Learning Tendencies Scale by the Prospective Teachers Receiving Pedagogical Formation Education by Their Levels of Income

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Sum of Squares	F	p
Inter-Groups	2491.161	4	622.790	2.726	.030
Within-Groups	46827.296	205	228.426		
Total	49318.457	209			

According to Table 8, there was significant difference between the scores received from lifelong learning tendencies scale by the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education and their levels of income [ $F(4,205) = 2.726$ ;  $p < .05$ ]. Dunnett's T3 Test was employed in order to determine between which groups the difference was. Based on the test results, there was significant difference between the prospective teachers whose levels of income were 2001-3000 TL and the ones who had no level of income. Moreover, this difference

was in favor of those whose levels of income were 2001-3000 TL.

**Table 9.** One-Way ANOVA Results of the Scores Received from Lifelong Learning Tendencies Scale by the Prospective Teachers Receiving Pedagogical Formation Education by Their Work Experiences

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Sum of Squares	F	P
Inter-Groups	1254.022	3	418.007	1.792	.150
Within-Groups	48064.435	206	233.323		
Total	49318.457	209			

According to Table 9, there was no significant difference between the scores received from lifelong learning tendencies scale by the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education and their work experiences [ $F(3,206) = 1.792$ ;  $p > .05$ ].

**Table 10.** Overall Lifelong Learning Tendencies of the Prospective Teachers Receiving Pedagogical Formation Education

	N	Min. Score	Median Score	Max. Score	$\bar{X}$	ss
Whole Scale	210	27	94.5	162	128.09	15.361

As a result of Table 10, the minimum score to be received from the lifelong learning tendencies scale by the prospective teachers was 27 and the maximum score was 162. It was found out that mean score that the students received from the scale was (128.09) higher than median score of the scale (94.5). In this case, it is possible to claim that lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers were high.

#### 4. Discussion and Conclusions

When the scores received from the lifelong learning tendencies scale by the married and single prospective teachers were compared, it was revealed that there was a significant difference in favor of the married ones. There was a significant difference between the prospective teachers that were 36 or over and the ones who were 20-27. Moreover, this difference was in favor of the ones that were 36 or older. A significant difference was observed between universities being studied (Mustafa Kemal University and Bartın University). This difference was in favor of the prospective teachers studying at Bartın University. On the other hand, there was a significant difference between the scores received from the lifelong learning tendencies scale by the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education and their job status, and this difference was in favor of the ones who had a job. There was also a significant difference between the prospective teachers who had income between 2001-3000 TL and the ones who had no income. The difference was in favor of the prospective teachers who had income between 2001-3000 TL.

The results obtained had some similarities and differences with the previous studies. These similarities

and differences are important since it gives the chance to assure the validity and contribution of the current study. In the research, lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education did not show significant difference by their genders. This finding shows some similarities and differences with the previous studies. Yaman [55], Oral and Yazar [45], Şahin, Akbaşlı and Yanpar Yelken [53], Arcagök and Şahin [2], Kozikoğlu [39], Savuran [51], Tunca, Şahin and Aydın [54], Dündar [22] suggested in their studies that gender factor did not affect lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers. Additionally, Yıldırım [57] Ayaz [6], Yaman and Yazar [56] stated in their studies carried out with teachers that gender factor was not effective on lifelong learning tendencies of the teachers. Doğan and Kavtelek [19] found out that gender was not effective on lifelong learning tendencies of the institutional executives. On the contrary, Demirel and Akkokunlu [14], Karakuş [29], Gencel [25], Kılıç and Tuncel [33], Diker-Coşkun and Demirel [18], Demiralay [15], Erdoğan [24], stated in their studies that lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers changed by their genders. Furthermore, effect of gender variable on lifelong learning tendencies was confirmed by Kılınc and Yenen [34] who carried out the research with trainees in public training centers, by Diker Coşkun [17] who held the study with university students, by Konokman and Yanpar Yelken [38] who carried out their research with academic staff. Deakin Crick, Broadfoot and Claxton [13] determined in their research about lifelong learning that the girls' scores related to learning timidity, creativity and learning relations were higher than the boys'; however, the boys' scores related to strategic awareness and critical curiousness were higher.

In the research carried out, lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers did not differ by the variable of having child / children. It was found by Özkorkmaz [47] whose sample was public training center executives and by Duman [20] whose sample was master's students that there was no significant difference between lifelong learning tendency and marital status. These results are parallel to our findings.

As a result of the research, lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation did not show a difference by departments they graduated. This finding is similar with the previous studies. Oral and Yazar [45], Karakuş [29] also claimed that lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers did not change based on departments being studied at. On the other hand, Arcagök and Şahin [2], Tunca, Şahin and Aydın [54], Diker Coşkun and Demirel [18], Gencel [25], İzci and Koç [27] and Savuran [51], Şahin, Akbaşlı and Yanpar Yelken [53] concluded that lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers showed a difference by departments being studied at. The same finding was obtained by Ekinci [23] who implemented the research on university students.

Another finding of the study was the fact that lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation were not different by their work experiences. Özçiftçi [46] also revealed that there was no statistically significant difference between lifelong learning tendencies of the class teachers and their seniorities. Finding obtained in our study and Özçiftçi's conclusion show similarity. On the contrary, Yaman [55], Arcagök and Şahin [2], Yıldırım [57], Kılıç and Tuncel [33] suggested that there was a significant difference between lifelong learning tendencies of the teachers and their seniorities. Additionally, Bahat [7] claimed that there was a significant difference between lifelong learning tendencies of public training centers directors and their seniorities. These findings were different from the ones obtained from our study.

It was found in this research that there was a significant difference between lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation and the variable of marital status, and this difference was in favor of the married ones. This finding is different from the previous studies. Duman [20] concluded in his research that lifelong learning tendencies of the masters' students and their marital status were not statistically different.

Another finding of the research was that there was a significant difference between lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education and age variable, and this difference was in favor of the older ones. This finding shows similarities with the previous studies. Kılıç [32] claimed in his study that there was a significant difference between lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers and age variable, and this difference was in favor of the older ones. In addition to this, Doğan and Kavtelek [19], determined in their study that there was a significant difference between lifelong learning tendencies of the institutional executives and age variable. However, Kara and Kürüm [28], Özçiftçi [46], and Duman [20] stated in their studies that there was no significant difference between lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers, the class teachers and master's students respectively and age variable. Similarly, Kıran [35] suggested in his study that age variable did not affect lifelong learning tendency. There is difference between our findings and those studies.

Lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education showed a significant difference by universities being studied. Köksal and Göçmen [40] revealed that there was a significant difference between lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers studying at Van Yüzüncü Yıl University and Pamukkale University. Moreover, Diker Coşkun [17] found out that a significant difference was observed between lifelong learning tendencies of the university students studying at Marmara University and

Yeditepe University. Özmenteş [48] claimed that lifelong learning tendencies of the university students differed by universities they studied at. Kozikoğlu [39] also highlighted that type of schools was effective on lifelong learning. These findings and findings obtained from the current study show similarities.

In the current study, lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education created difference based on their job status, and the difference was in favor of the ones who had a job. This finding is similar to Kıran's [35] finding he revealed in his research. Kıran [35] expressed that level of income was effective on lifelong learning tendencies of the trainees in public training centers.

Another finding obtained from the study that there was a significant difference between lifelong learning tendencies and their levels of income, and this difference was in favor of the ones whose levels of income were high. This conclusion is similar to and different from the previous studies in some ways. Diker Coşkun [17] revealed that there was a significant difference between lifelong learning tendencies of the university students and their levels of income. It was found in that study that lifelong learning tendencies of the university students whose levels of income were high were low. However, in our study was it concluded that lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education were high. On the other hand, Dündar [22], Kılıç [32] claimed that there was no significant difference between lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers and their levels of income

Finally, lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers were found high in the current study. This conclusion shows some similarities and differences with the previous studies. While Kılıç [32], Tunca, Şahin and Aydın [54], Oral and Yazar [45], Gencil [25] suggested that lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers were high, Diker Coşkun [17] claimed that lifelong learning tendencies of the university students were low.

As a conclusion, no statistically significant difference was observed in lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers by gender, having child/children, department of graduation and work experience. On the other hand, there was a statistically significant difference by marital status, age, university being studied at, job status and levels of income. Furthermore, lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education were high in general. However, awareness about lifelong learning tendencies of the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education should be created. As the current study was limited to the prospective teachers receiving pedagogical formation education at Bartın University and Mustafa Kemal University, further studies with different sample can be carried out in the future.



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