Extended Summary

Purpose

Rapid increase of knowledge and the development of technology today show the increasing need of education of all communities. Traditional educational institutions are unable to meet the growing demand of education about obtaining knowledge (Aydın, 2002). It is observed that the educational institutions are insufficient in meeting this emerging demand and so the need of education is growing day by day. For this need, the concept of “distance education” (based on information technologies) being one of the alternative educational approaches has spread quickly and come to the forefront for the areas where traditional education cannot reach (Boyacı, 2000).

Distance education applications have become widely preferred in higher education programs (associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees) in Turkey in the recent years (Şimşek, 2007). Growing demand of the universities is remarkable in this scope. It is necessary to investigate the practicability of the similar distance education centers of our university in the institutions of the Ministry of National Education as well.

Transferring the flexibility of distance education to Vocational Open Education may provide possible advantages such as preventing labor loss, decreasing dependency to the place and saving time. Investigating the implementation possibility of conducting the courses taught face-to-face through distance education will be a basis for the steps to be taken in this issue.

The studies investigating distance education experiences of high school-level students are not common in Turkey. Therefore, it is thought that the study will be an important contribution to the field.

In this study, it is aimed to investigate whether it is possible to give the applied courses taught face-to-face through distance education method in Vocational Open High Schools.

Method

For this purpose, the study has been conducted by making two separate groups as the students for the experimental group taking face-to-face education and the students for the control group taking distance education chosen by random selection technique out of 40 students attending 10th grade of Vocational Open High School being taught “Package Programs”. The validity and reliability studies of the data have been made, the data regarding the levels of success and satisfaction have been collected through quantitative and qualitative data collection tools before and then analyzed. T-Test and content analysis methods have been used in the data analysis.
Results

In the study, it was seen that there are noticeable differences between the academic success of the students in the groups in favor of the experimental one. This study shows that the participants are highly-satisfied with the application and have positive views about the strong and weak points of distance education.

Discussion

As a result, distance education is a more suitable education method for the individuals controlling their own learning responsibilities. In addition, the ones lacking the skills of basic computer and internet use need to join some training programs and seminars to overcome the obstacles in order to have an efficient distance education. It can also be stated that the convenient basis and conditions should be formed to be able to give some of the education programs in high schools through distance education method.

Conclusion

- In this respect, the trainers should make great effort to raise awareness in the community through seminars and meetings.
- Readiness level of the students for distance education should be determined and brought up to the sufficient level.
- Student-student, student-teacher and student-content interaction included in the distance education structure should be increased in terms of quality and quantity.