



Evaluation of Trakya University journals in terms of Sustainable Development Goals



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INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to eradicate poverty, protect our planet, and ensure that all people live in peace and prosperity. These 17 Goals build on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals; on the other hand, it includes new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities (UN, 2021).

The information that constitutes these goals is the research published by academic journals. Therefore, the place of scientific journals in both the formation and development of these goals is indisputable. Also, journal editors are people who can influence their communities. They can direct the research topics, features and content of the articles accepted for publication. In terms of environment and energy use during publishing activities, they have effected on the factors related to sustainable development goals directly. Equality, diversity and fair working principles are also important in journal structuring. Taking into account these 17 sustainable development goals and their 169 subitems, we examined the journals published within our university both in terms of their structure and publications, and allowed our journals to review themselves within the framework of SDG purposes.

MATERIAL and METHODS

The boards, policies, aims and scopes and articles published in 2020 of 15 journals, 11 in the field of social sciences and 4 in the field of science (SSE), supported by Trakya University were examined. During this study, 169 subitems of the 17 SDGs were taken into account. In the study we also examined the female/male employee ratios in the journals. For this purpose, female/male ratio among the journal owners, editors and assistant editors, editorial board members, referees appointed to the articles in 2020 and the authors and gender equality publications were also searched. In addition, their rates (in and outside of the institute) were also investigated. The mention of SAGER guideline policies on the web pages of the journal and their use of statements about environmental awareness were also examined. Afterwards, the aim and scope, policy and about parts of Trakya University journals and the articles published in 2020 were examined and their directly or indirectly relationship with 17 SDGs.

RESULTS

There was a distinct male dominance in the editorial boards that only 1 journal owner and 3 editors were female, and no journal had female superiority in the editorial boards (Fig. 1). Of the 511 reviewers and primary or corresponding authors of the 380 articles published in 2020, 37% and 45% were women, respectively. The rate of women in terms of the number of authors was higher in 3 journals, however it was very low in 1 journal (9%).

Fifty-seven percentage of the editorial boards, 85% of the reviewers and 79% of the authors consisted of researchers outside the institution (Fig. 2).

Only 1 journal policy and 1 article included environmental awareness. Five journals were published entirely electronically. The remaining 10 journals also printed a total of 2.838.240 physical pages in 2020 (Table).

While none of the journals directly mentioned SDGs in their policies, 10 journals had indirect statements. Among them, 5 journals partially expressed the 17th SDG (partnerships for the purposes). At least one SDG was indirectly mentioned in 23% of the articles, however, only 4% of the articles were directly related to one or more SDGs (Table).

Table. Printed page numbers of the Journals and SDGs mentioning status and the number of articles in 2020

JOURNALS	Electronic	Page numbers						Pressed issues	Total pressed pages	Related Pages of Journals to SDGs	SDGs Articles	Article numbers of 2020
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020					
Balkan Araştırma Enstitüsü Dergisi	No	203	199	417	422	394	518	250	129500	17B	17A, 17B, 17B	21
Balkan Medical Journal	No	428	720	593	452	366	370	120	44400	3B	3A (7 articles), 3B (24 articles), 5A	87
Balkanistik Dil ve Edebiyat Dergisi	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	17/B	10A	14
Journal of Balkan Libraries Union	No	60	34	33	-	46	35	50	1750	0	4/B	5
Mesleki ve Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Roman Dili ve Kültürü Araştırmaları	No	-	-	-	-	-	48	50	2400	0	10B,17B	3
Rumeli İslam Araştırmaları Dergisi	No	-	-	-	192	90	184	100	18400	4B,17/B	4A	23
Trakya University Journal of Engineering Sciences	No	69	68	151	100	91	114	50	5700	9B	4A,15B,15B	9
Trakya University Journal of Natural Sciences	No	90	136	191	207	134	165	75	12375	13B,15B	2B,4B,14B,15A,15B,15B	17
Trakya Üniversitesi Balkan Müzik ve Sanat Dergisi	No	-	-	-	-	126	172	100	17200	17/B	4/B	14
Trakya Üniversitesi Edebiyat Fakültesi Dergisi	No	240	181	260	228	298	321	250	80250	0	4B,5B,10B,11A 4A, 4B (18 articles), 8B,15B	31
Trakya Eğitim Dergisi	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4B	8B,15B	64
Trakya Üniversitesi İktisadi ve İdari Bilimler Fakültesi E-Dergi	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	3B,8B,8B,10A,11B,17B 3B, 4A,4B (8 articles),9B,10B,10B,16A ,16A	11
Trakya Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi	No	346	293	459	516	1029	665	50	33250	0	3A, 3B, 3B,3B, 3B, 3B,3B,4B	59
Turkish Medical Students Journal	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3B	3B	22
TOTAL		1436	1631	2104	2117	2574	2592	1095	2838240	A: 0 article; B: 11 article	A: 20 article; B: 84 article	380

A: Direkt Goals B: Indirect Goals; 2: Zero Hunger, 3: Good health and well-being, 4: Quality Education, 5: Gender Equality, 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 10: Reduced inequalities, 11: Sustainable cities and communities, 13: Climate action, 14: Life below water, 15: Life on land, 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions, 17: Partnerships for the goals.

DISCUSSION, LIMITATIONS and CONCLUSION

SDGs walk in a spirit of partnership and pragmatism, making the right choices today to sustainably improve life for future generations. It provides all countries with clear guidance and objectives to adopt in accordance with their priorities and the environmental challenges facing the world (UN, 2021). Studies have shown that there are still huge gaps in the literature regarding SDGs, and publications that use SDGs are mostly Life sciences & Biomedicine and Social sciences (Meshede, 2020). Gender equality is an issue that has been on the agenda of the national and international world for many years and cannot be resolved despite certain progress in limited regions. So much so that recent constitutions set important examples with their emphasis on respect for human rights and equality between men and women. A 'gender-sensitive constitution' does not only include gender equality provisions specifically, but also outlines the entire document in the language of human rights (Eroğlu, 2011). Amrein *et al.* (2011) found in their study that women were represented very little on editorial boards in the vast majority of medical journals.

In this study, it was revealed that Trakya University journals should pay more attention to environmental sensitivity. At least, it is recommended that more journals switch to online publishing and use more digital media in their correspondence. It should not be forgotten that the situation of journals is quite good in terms of the diversity of external authors and referees, but this is an issue that needs to be maintained. It has been observed that our journals include statements and articles directly related to the 17th SDG article, since the university is the founder of the Balkan Universities Union which constitutes from 20 countries in the Balkans and has around 80 members, and the university has the most students from the Balkan countries (close to 5000) in Turkey. In this respect, it is noteworthy that our journals are strong. It has been determined that one of our health-related journals is one of the most popular journals in the region, and that many of its articles are indirectly related to the SDGs.

There may be a partial difference in the data due to the fact that the name of the institution is not specified in some boards, and some names are used by both genders.

In conclusion, we recommend that Trakya University journals should pay more attention to gender equality and environmental protection in their boards and policies, and encourage studies on SDGs under their scope. Our study will serve as an example for other journals/publishers to review themselves in this respect.

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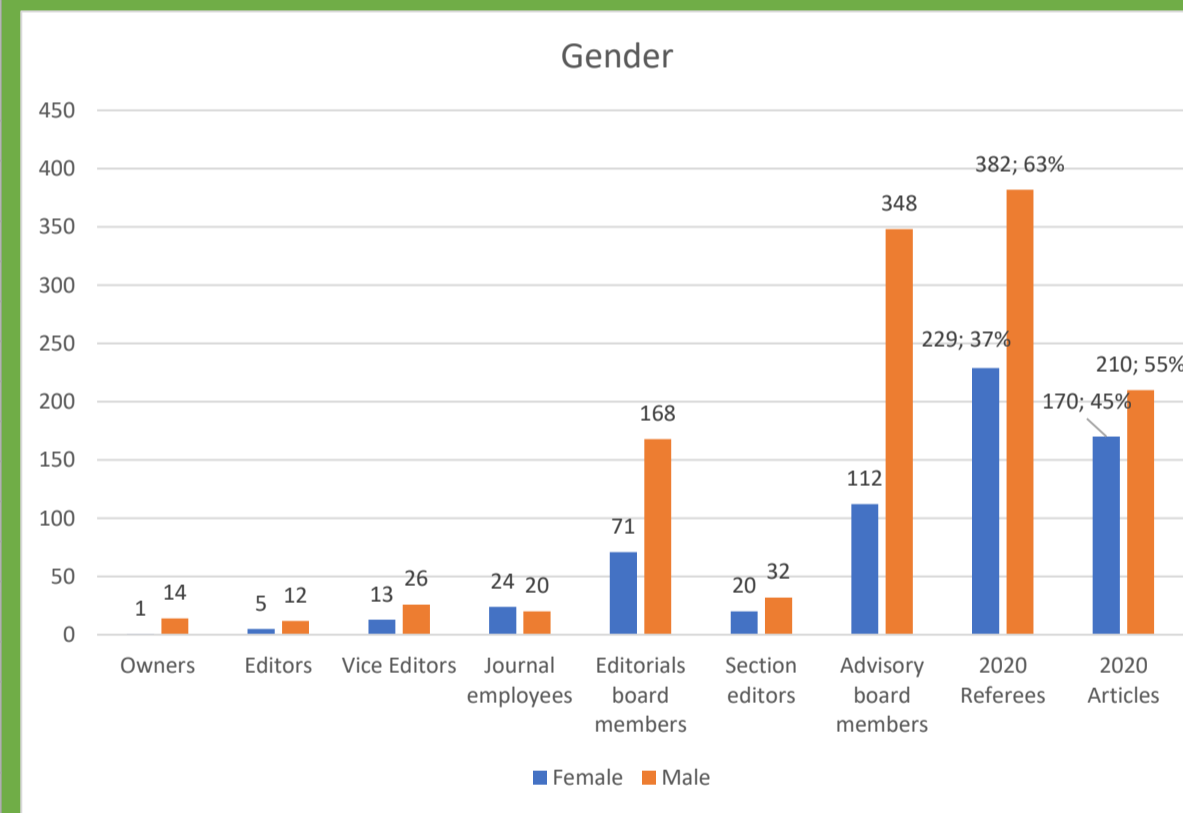


Fig. 1. Gender ratios of Trakya University Journal boards and articles

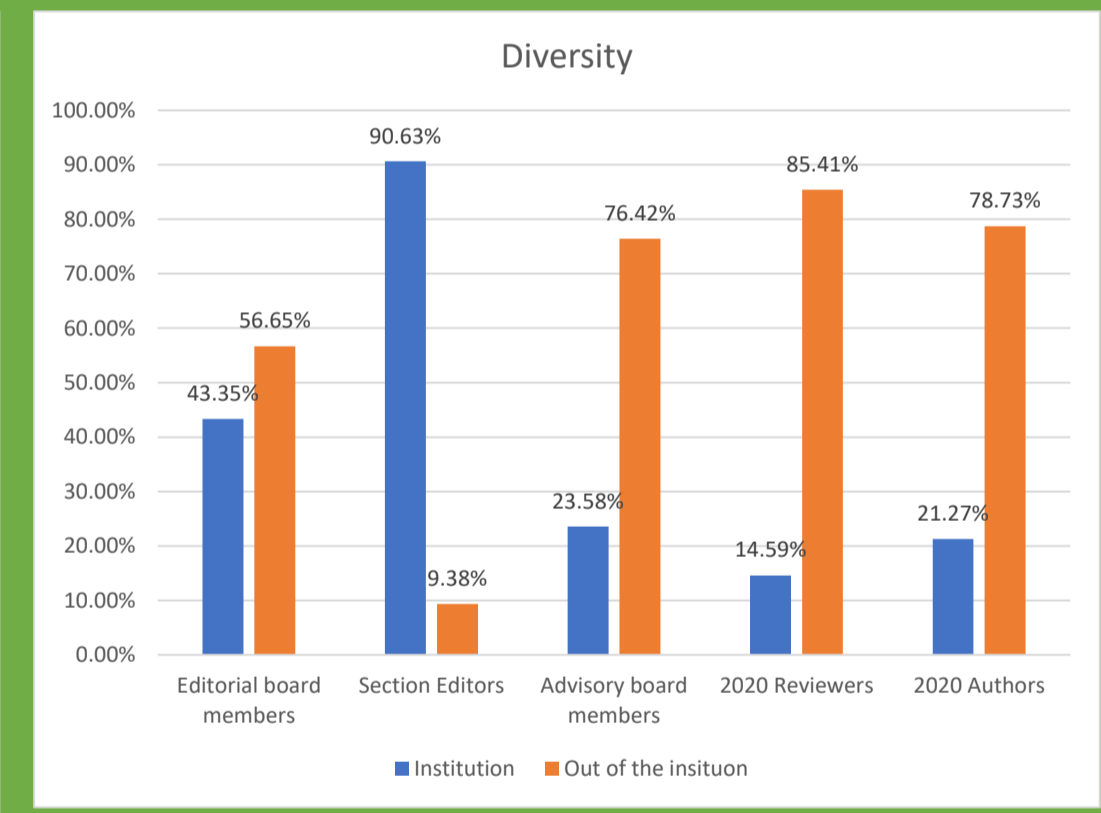


Fig. 2. Diversity ratios of Trakya University Journals