

UNIVERSITY IN THE NEWS 2022

MEDIA MONITORING REPORT



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RIGHT TO HOUSING

As the housing crisis deepened, particularly in Istanbul, the right to housing became one of the main topics of student protests. In the news articles we examined as part of our report, the right to housing and students' livelihood concerns were among the most frequently discussed subjects. In this section, which focused on the media representation of housing rights-related actions, we analyzed 44 news articles on the issue.

The predominant theme in the news articles ranged from highlighting "good news" provided by politicians regarding newly opened dormitories, scholarship opportunities, and legal regulations to addressing the concerns of housing and livelihood, occasionally giving voice to the students.

While we did not come across news articles explicitly featuring student demonstrations or legal cases concerning the matter, we encountered texts within the examined articles that shed light on the voices of students or highlighted their living conditions.

1. WHAT WAS THE PREDOMINANT THEME IN THE NEWS ARTICLES?

The predominant theme in almost all of the news articles is the issue of housing and livelihood. However, the framing of this coverage varies.

Among the examined articles, 27 of them highlight the “good news” aspect. These articles focus on newly opened dormitories, dorm occupancy rates, scholarship applications, and regulatory changes related to college and dormitory fees, often based on statements from politicians.

We also came across 13 news articles addressing the increasing housing expenses for students, the conditions of dormitories, and the limited budgets allocated for nutrition. These articles feature the difficulties of finding accommodation and the challenges students face in their livelihood.

Four news articles, on the other hand, contain discourses that target students, journalists, and politicians through the right to housing.

1.1. "GOOD NEWS"

Bakan Kasapođlu, öđrencilere müjdeyi verdi: KYK burs rakamlarında devrim yapacađız

"Minister Kasapođlu delivers good news to students: We will revolutionize the scholarship amounts of the Higher Education Loans and Dormitories Institution (KYK)", [Sabah](#), 07.12.2022

- "[105 new dormitory buildings are coming](#)",
- "[Students' Housing Problem is Being Solved](#)",
- "[Scholarship like a salary! To be given to candidates choosing these departments in university](#)",
- "[Minister Kasapođlu delivers good news to students: We will revolutionize the scholarship amounts of the KYK](#)",
- ...

The examples provided above were taken from texts that seemingly contained "good news" messages that appeared to solve all the problems related to students' housing issues. These texts emphasized the notion that the problem was resolved (?) with the construction of new dormitories, without reminding readers of the nature of the housing problem and the demands associated with it.

In these news articles, which often only feature statements from politicians, the “good news” announcements varied including topics such as new dormitories, scholarship announcements, and fee regulations for foundation universities and private dormitories.

1.1.1. THE GOOD NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW DORMITORIES

The news articles that announced the good news about dormitories primarily relied on statements from politicians, including the then Minister of Youth and Sports.

**Öğrencilerin barınma sorununu çözecek adım!
105 yeni yurt binası geliyor! Gençlik ve Spor
Bakanı Kasapoğlu A Haber'de anlattı**

“A step to solve students' housing problem! 105 new dormitory buildings are coming! Minister of Youth and Sports, Kasapoğlu, explained it on A Haber.” [Takvim](#), 12.09.2022

The above news article is also based on the statements of the Minister of Youth and Sports regarding the upcoming opening of new dormitories. The Minister explains the aim of expanding Turkey's vision in terms of student dormitories. In the statement, the minister mentions that Turkey has far more dormitories compared to the capacity in European countries.

The sentence “While some may come with different scenarios, we will come with accomplishments and services” is also included in this text. Without addressing student protests and demands related to the right to housing, this sentence in the article presents a framework that criminalizes student demonstrations while emphasizing Turkey’s success.

In another news article in this category, there is a statement from a university rector regarding the construction of dormitories. The headline reads “[Good news about dormitories from Rector Özkan](#),” emphasizing the size of the allocated area for the dormitory (10,000 square meters). Under the subheading “Students’ housing problem is being solved,” the article includes quotes from the rector stating that the area allocated for the dormitory and the students’ housing are among the issues that need to be resolved.

Erdoğan'dan çalışan ve tatil yapmak isteyen öğrencilere müjde! Gençlere yurt otel

“Erdoğan'dan çalışan ve tatil yapmak isteyen öğrencilere müjde! Gençlere yurt otel”, [Türkiye Gazetesi](#), 27.06.2022

The last example, titled “Good news,” is based on President Erdoğan's statement. The article titled “[Erdoğan delivers good news to working and vacation-seeking students! Youth hotels for young people](#)” was accompanied by a photograph of three female students posing in a workspace within a dormitory. According to Erdoğan's statements reflected in the article, he explains that students will be able to stay in dormitories for free during the summer months. However, it's worth noting that just eight months after this news article was published in June 2022, the first institutions evacuated for earthquake victims were once again student dormitories.

1.1.2. SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Another section within the “Good news” category includes scholarship announcements. These news articles mention “scholarships like salaries” and “thousands of liras that will be transferred to the account in the blink of an eye.” There are criteria for these scholarships, ranging from specific departments to be chosen to certain foundation dormitories.

Maaş gibi burs! Üniversitede bu bölümleri seçen adaylara verilecek

2022-07-26 16:47:00

“Scholarship like a salary! To be given to candidates choosing these departments in university” [Türkiye Gazetesi](#), 26.07.2022

The news article titled “[Scholarship like a salary! To be given to candidates choosing these departments in university](#)” features the scholarships that will be provided as a result of the Higher Education Council's (YÖK) opening of new departments and protocols with the industry. The article mentions that YÖK is “opening new departments in universities to meet the need for domestic and national human resources.” The article includes photos of university lecture halls as well as visuals of cash in bundles.



The use of cash visuals is also seen in other news articles. In the article titled “[5,200 TL in your account in the blink of an eye with the scholarship provided by the General Directorate of Foundations!](#)” which refers to the scholarship provided by the General Directorate of Foundations, a visual of cash in hand is used.

Göz açıp kapatana kadar 5.200 TL hesaplarda! Üniversite öğrencilerine 8 ay boyunca ödeniyor

Ekonomi

2022-09-17 09:47:17

Günümüzde artan eğitim masrafları nedeniyle üniversiteye giden öğrenciler bir hayli zorluk yaşıyor. Öğrenciler her ay yüksek masraflar altına giriyor. Bu yüzden burs fırsatları sık sık dikkat çekiyor. Geri ödemesiz burslardan faydalanan öğrenciler borçlanmadan rahat bir eğitim imkanı yakalıyor. Bu burslardan birisini de Vakıflar Genel Müdürlüğü sağlıyor. Yükseköğrenim öğrencilerine verilen burs 8 ay boyunca düzenli olarak ödeniyor. Ödenen miktar ise en az 5.200 TL olarak hesaplandı. Enflasyonun yüksek çıkması ve bu yılki KYK'nın artacağı düşünüldüğünde bu miktarın artacağı tahmin ediliyor.



"5,200 TL in the accounts in the blink of an eye!",
[Türkiye Gazetesi](#), 17.09.2022

1.1.3. FEE REGULATIONS FOR PRIVATE DORMITORIES AND FOUNDATION UNIVERSITIES

The “calls” made to foundation universities and private dormitories constitute the final section of the “good news” category. We observed frequent news coverage of statements made by officials from the Higher Education Council, including “discount calls” to foundation universities and “sensitivity requests” directed towards board of trustees.

YÖK Başkanı Özvar'dan vakıf üniversitelerine ekstra indirim çağrısı

“YÖK Başkanı Özvar calls for additional discounts to foundation universities”, [Türkiye Gazetesi](#), 17.08.2022

Among the articles we have reviewed in this section, there is one that highlights the words of YÖK President Prof. Dr. Erol Özvar during the consultation meeting of the Higher Education Council of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB). The article titled “Call for Discounts” focuses on his statements.

The news article includes an image of a meeting with seven men present on the podium. It quotes Minister Özvar, who mentions that they have received requests for discounts from parents and that support will be provided to foundation universities, indicating that offering additional discounts would be beneficial for the universities.

16 Ağu 2022 - 17:50 - Eğitim

Vakıf üniversiteleri ücretleriyle ilgili açıklama

“Statement regarding the fees of Foundation Universities”,
[Millî Gazete](#), 16.08.2022

In another newspaper, there is a neutral headline that conveys another statement by the YÖK President on a similar topic: “Statement regarding the fees of Foundation Universities.” The [article](#) highlights the YÖK President’s remarks about students having “certain demands” and the statement “Hopefully, in the coming days, we will take a step regarding this matter” is emphasized in the spotlight. The article includes the visual of the YÖK logo.

An important point to note is that the news articles in this section often directly quote statements from institutional officials. However, they may lack additional information regarding the status of fees or specific details about students' demands.

1.2. STRUGGLE FOR LIVELIHOOD

- [“The monthly cost for students is staggering,”](#)
- [“Students are struggling with livelihood before education,”](#)
- [“Three students sharing one meal”](#),
- ...

In the news articles where the predominant theme diverges from the realm of “good news,” we encounter texts that allude to the challenges pertaining to students’ livelihoods, nutrition, housing expenses, and dormitory conditions. These texts, which revolve around this theme, were found in only two of the sources we examined: *Türkiye* and *Millî Gazete*.

Within the theme of “struggle for livelihood” that we have compiled, these news articles encompass a range of topics including calculations of monthly living costs, difficulties in renting accommodation, and discussions on the conditions of dormitories.

In 5 out of the 13 news articles in this section, there is inclusion of students’ voices. Thus, these articles can be considered as the ones where students’ voices are most frequently heard. Alongside students, the opinions of experts, real estate agents, and marketplace sellers also form the foundation of these news articles.

Öğrencinin aylık maliyeti dudak uçuklatıyor

“The monthly cost for students is staggering”,
[Türkiye Gazetesi](#), 23.07.2022

In the news article titled “The monthly cost for students is staggering,” the spotlight emphasizes how economic conditions are causing university candidates to contemplate their choices as the application deadline approaches. The article includes an interview with an education and career counselor, providing insights and advice on the matter.

Bir öğrenci evi ne kadara döşenir?

Eğitim

2022-09-24 05:42:30

“How much does it cost to furnish a student apartment”,
[Türkiye Gazetesi](#), 24.09.2022

In another news article that seeks to answer the question, “How much does it cost to furnish a student apartment?” interviews with marketplace sellers in Istanbul are featured. The article begins with the statement, “There is currently a student activity at the marketplaces, and the shopkeepers are happy.” It provides advice to students on topics such as the cost of furnishing a student apartment and offers suggestions like free portage services.

20 Eylül 2022 - 04:30 - Eğitim GÜNCELLEME: 20 Eylül 2022 - 09:49

KYK'de koğuş sistemi!

Üniversite kazanan gençler, KYK yurtlarının barınma sorununa çözüm olmasını beklerken bu sene yeni bir uygulama ile karşılaştı... Yurt odalarında ranzalar artırıldı...

“Ward system at KYK!”, [Millî Gazete](#), 20.09.2022

The news article titled “Ward system at KYK!” draws attention to the condition of dormitories. The article highlights the increase in bunk beds in dormitory rooms, and mentions that students have expressed their dissatisfaction with this situation. While there are no direct interviews with students, the article states, “Students have been expressing their reactions on social media, likening the dormitory rooms to prisons and trying to bring attention to the situation by sharing photos of their dormitory rooms.”

2. WHOSE VOICE WAS HEARD?

In the analyzed news articles, significant attention was given to politicians, particularly the Minister of Youth and Sports, representatives from the Higher Education Council (YÖK), and university rectors. Out of 16 articles that highlighted the presence of politicians and other influential figures, only eight of them incorporated the perspectives of students to some extent. However, it is noteworthy that merely four of these articles included statements directly from students regarding their specific issues. Additionally, two separate articles that featured the voices of students also subjected them to targeting. Alongside these observations, the news coverage encompassed institutional announcements and featured statements from local businesses, real estate agents, and experts.

In the majority of the news articles with “Good News” theme, the statements of politicians and official individuals and institutions were highlighted. In this section, the statements of the Minister of Youth and Sports, particularly regarding dormitory capacities and the construction of new dormitories, were frequently featured.

The Minister's remarks were followed by the President of the Higher Education Council (YÖK), who made calls for discounts in foundation universities. Also, President Erdoğan's words appeared in a promising good news article titled "Youth Hotels as Dormitories."

Among the [news articles](#) that featured politicians, there was only one article that included a written statement from Saadet Party Member of Parliament Abdulkadir Karaduman, which also shed light on the challenges confronted by students. Karaduman emphasized the considerable hardship faced by students because of the ongoing increase in dormitory costs and examination fees. This statement was published under the headline "Students Struggling to Fulfill Basic Needs."

In the news articles we examined, the thoughts or demands of students did not prominently appear. When we included sentences that encompassed the general opinions of students, we came across 10 articles. Out of these 10 articles, four of them included statements from students regarding specific issues without targeting the students.

The [interview](#) conducted with a student who started living in a caravan as a response to the high rental prices in Samsun served as an example of news articles where the student expressed their problems in their own words.

Ev kiralari artınca karavanda yaşamaya başladı: Aylık 750 TL ödüyor

“Started living in a caravan, paying a monthly fee of 750 TL when the rental prices increased”, [Millî Gazete](#), 28.10.2022

The news article about the visit of Republican People’s Party Member of Parliament Okan Gaytancıoğlu to a student house was one of the articles that directly conveyed the students’ words. Titled “[University Student: We divide one cheese into three, I am ashamed of this situation](#),” the article consisted of statements made by the students. It is worth noting that all the students whose direct statements about the issues were included in the news articles were male students.

Two news articles emerged as examples of targeting. The [first one](#) featured photos from a student’s trip abroad, shared on social media, along with the statement “We cannot find shelter!” made by the same student during a group meeting in the Parliament. The second [article](#) included the messages about a student’s statement about the lack of beds in dormitories reported by journalist Nevşin Mengü discussing.

The only news article about protests consisted of a headline and a brief description, spanning nine lines. Titled “Protest by Students at Muğla KYK,” the [article](#) mentioned that students were protesting against the dormitory management. However, it did not provide information about the reason behind the protest or the outcome of the demonstration.