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The Role of The University Department In Wage Inequality Among The University Graduates in Turkey

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ABSTRACT

Education increasing the quality of human capital is one of the main factors to determine the income level of the individuals through their work life. There is an agreement in the literature that education level of an individual is directly related to the income of that individual. The number of the universities and the number of students who graduated from these universities have been increasing rapidly since the beginning of the 2000s in Turkey. Furthermore, some faculties and some departments have been increasing disproportionately over time. To illustrate the faculties and university departments of the social sciences have been increasing more than the departments of natural sciences or the departments that requires high technology investment such as departments of engineering sciences. This is due to the fact that the number of universities and numbers of the students to be educated in specific departments are not determined based on the demand of sectors and the structure of the production. Then, a substantial wage inequality exists among the university graduates from different departments. The main aim of this study is to examine the wage inequality among the workers who graduated from different departments in their education life by using household labor force surveys of Turkey in this perspective. The results of the study are essential to provide some policy implications about the determinations of the number of the student to study in the specific academic departments.