

Economic crises and strategies to struggle with crises: a study on Turkey

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It is a known fact that national and global economic crises taking place in recent years have negative impacts on global economy and Turkish economy. Under this context, crises pose severe economic and social impacts on different income groups in the society in the long term. The consumption behaviors and habits of these groups and families undergo economic, social and physical changes. This study examines the influences of economic crises on behaviors of households, which plays a very important role in stabilization of national income balance in terms of macroeconomics. Based on the results of this research, this study also defines the ways in which wage earners of different income groups working in the formal sector are influenced from economic crises economically, socially and physically. Another purpose of the study is to compare different strategies that wage earners working in these sectors implement to struggle against poverty through focusing on strategies they apply to struggle with potential crises and actual crises. This way, it is tried to reveal the significance of the strategies these groups apply so as not to be caught by poverty impasse by combating with economic problems occurring as a result of economic crises. Wage earners comprising women and men in the sample taken as basis in our study are examined comparatively in terms of their demographic characteristics, labor force characteristics, income (wages) characteristics, the changes in their compulsory and non-compulsory needs, physical and psychological ways of being influenced from the crises, and personal and market-based strategy applications to combat with the crises and to alleviate the effects of the crisis. Research data were collected from the studies conducted by McKenzie (2001, 2003 and 2006), Frankenberg et al. (1998), Frankenberg et al. (1999), Frankenberg et al. (2002), Wetterberg (2007), Kalkan et al. (2006), Kalkan et al. (2006), Duygan (2004), Erbas and Turan (2004) and by means of questionnaire form prepared with use of researches on this topic in the literature. In the long term, crises have negative influences on wage earners of different income groups comprising civil servants and workers. On the other hand, individuals in low income groups and those in high income groups are influenced from the crises differently. It is observed that life standards of wage earners having different income levels fall, and consumption and spending habits change as a result of the crises

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