

Chapter 6

AN EVALUATION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION GEOGRAPHY CURRICULUM AND COURSEBOOKS

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Introduction

Course books are the main tools used for teaching the curriculum in secondary education institutions in Turkey. It is the primary learning material and the first resource for the students. The course books are the guides that are available to the students and teachers for the implementation of the curriculum.

The course books are used every day in classrooms as a teaching material and are important tools in supporting quality education (Horsley, 2007). The course books are one of the most important educational inputs and also the their texts reflect the main aspects of national culture. The information contained in the books are organized and arranged by the state to prepare the new generations to the life. The lessons contribute to the improvement of the self-esteem of the students and also show the borders of the society. The geography course books are especially important in this regard, as we learn why, how and where we live.

In addition to being the first source of information, the course books also contribute to the development of critical thinking, reading, rational thinking and evaluation skills (Pingel, 2010). Well-designed course books enable teachers to improvise and adapt, as well as they can strengthen the student's interaction with the course (White, 2017). Therefore, a good course book contributes to effective classroom practice (Yuda, 2015). In this respect, geography courses, geography course curriculum and geography course books hold great importance.

The majority of course books use pictures and texts to transfer meaning. This is a sensitive issue that the necessary attention must be paid; the texts, visual elements, especially maps should be organised in a very clear manner in geography course books. The maps are used as a second language to translate meaning in geography education (Lucas, 2007). In this respect, the geography course books are the main part and component of the implementation of the curriculum.

Knowing the subject and teaching the subject are two different things. If a person masters the subject and if he/she knowingly apply the teaching methods, it means he/she implements the teaching of the course (Güngördü, 2012). In this regard, the preparation of geography course books is very important. The geography lessons should include visual materials and the text should be easy to understand to support

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it is important that the teachers should be trained well to gain necessary qualities to teach the geography lesson. Professional success of geography teachers also means the success of geography education.

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