

Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic on Private Sector and Public Sector Employees in Turkey in Terms of Different Anxiety Levels

Naci İbrahim Keleş

Istanbul Gelisim University, Turkey
nikeles@gelisim.edu.tr

Mahsum Ökmen

Istanbul Gelisim University, Turkey
mokmen@gelisim.edu.tr

Merve Seven

Istanbul Gelisim University, Turkey
mseven@gelisim.edu.tr

Abstract:

The negative effects of the Covid-19 epidemic, which started in Wuhan, China in 2019, and affected the whole world, cannot be stopped despite all precautions. It is possible to argue that the routine change, isolation and fear of getting Covid-19 threaten the mental health of individuals, although the quarantine decisions of many countries consecutively since February 2020 slowed the spread of the epidemic somehow. Similarly, the economies of the countries have been adversely affected by the virus in terms of different sectors such as travel companies, cafes and restaurants, education, entertainment, etc. This is definitely another factor that threatens the mental health of individuals through channels such as fear of losing a job, inability to pay debts, and financial difficulties. However, it can be expected that negative economic effects would be eliminated with respect to the type of job security. Fear of losing a job in sectors with high job-security like public sector will be lower than in sectors with low security; that is, private sector. In this study, the economic , routine changes, isolation and health anxiety levels will be compared with respect to public and private sector employees in Turkey by survey method. In addition, it will be investigated whether the fear of losing jobs of public sector employees is lower than private sector employees during the pandemic.

Keywords: Covid-19, anxiety, fear of losing job, health anxiety, routine change, isolation, public sector, private sector

JEL Codes: E71, I19