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Determining the astronomy literacy levels of secondary school students and examining them in terms of some variables

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Abstract

In this study, it was aimed to determine the astronomy literacy levels of secondary school 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and to examine the sub-dimensions of astronomy literacy in terms of some variables. In the research, descriptive scanning method was used. The study was carried out with secondary school students studying in a secondary school in the central district of Ankara province in the spring term of the 2021-2022 academic year. 518 students participated in the study (n5th grade = 125, n6th grade = 134, n7th grade = 131 and n8th grade = 128). In the study, the study group was selected by using convenient sampling method. The data of the research were collected with the astronomy literacy scale. The data were analyzed with the SPSS package program. As a result of the analysis of the data, the affective characteristics of the students towards astronomy, which is one of the sub-dimensions of the astronomy literacy scale, were at "moderate"; behavioral and cognitive characteristics of astronomy were determined to be at "low" level. It was revealed that when the grade level of the students increased, their astronomy literacy levels increased for all dimensions. It was seen that the gender of secondary school students made a difference for all sub-dimensions of astronomy literacy, and this difference was in favor of girl students. It is noteworthy that the students who use sky observation applications have higher astronomy literacy levels for all dimensions than the students who do not use these applications.

Keywords: Astronomy literacy; secondary school students; affective; behavioral; cognitive.

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1. Introduction

The science of astronomy, adapted to Turkish as "astronomy", is the science of observing celestial bodies. Astronomy, which works interdisciplinary with other branches of science, is a very important field of application (Şensoy, Türk, Bolat, & Kalkan, 2010). The developments in the field of astronomy, one of the first branches of science that emerged with the existence of humanity, are increasing day by day. Astronomy constantly renews itself and brings new fields of study (mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology) to many branches of science (Tunca, 2002).

Interest and curiosity towards astronomy since the early ages; it has gradually increased its importance with the development of technology. Teaching the subjects and concepts related to astronomy in our country and in the world has an important place in the curriculum. Subjects related to astronomy have an important place not only in the curricula of other countries, but also in the curricula of our country. One of the main objectives of the 2018 Science course curriculum is to "gain basic knowledge about astronomy, biology, physics, chemistry, earth and environmental sciences, and science and engineering applications." (MEB, 2018). Within the framework of this basic purpose, astronomy units start from the 3rd grade in the subject area of "Earth and Universe" with the 2018 Science course curriculum. With the updated curriculum, astronomy units within the subject area of "Earth and Universe" are included as the first unit of each grade level. In 2010, secondary education classes "Astronomy and Space Sciences" course curriculum was put into effect (MEB, 2010). It is aimed to gain affective, behavioral and cognitive goals for astronomy, which takes place in the curriculum at all levels of education.

When the literature on the subject area of "Earth and the Universe" is examined, it is seen that students have difficulty in understanding the concepts of astronomy, they cannot explain scientifically, they structure the concepts with their daily life experiences, and therefore they have significant misconceptions (Benli Özdemir, 2019). When the literature on astronomy is examined, it is emphasized that astronomy literacy is an important cornerstone of scientific literacy. Using different methods and techniques in teaching astronomy concepts and subjects; It plays a very important role in gaining affective, behavioral and cognitive goals.

The concept of "astronomy literacy" refers to a broad content knowledge about affective and behavioral dimensions as well as basic astronomy concepts. An astronomy literate individual; conceptual knowledge of basic astronomy in terms of cognitive dimension; positive attitude, interest and motivation towards astronomy in terms of affective dimension; in terms of behavioral dimension, it should have observation, participation

and action related to astronomy (Benli Özdemir, 2022). Astronomical literacy is an important part of scientific literacy.

Analyzing the literature, Love et al. (2013) determined the astronomy literacy level of 990 adult individuals over the age of 18. These individuals were asked six true-false questions. 80% of the participants gave correct answers to 4 of the 6 questions asked. However; the questions that astronomers "found life on Mars" and "can calculate the age of the universe" are among the two questions most frequently answered incorrectly by the participants. Benli Özdemir (2022) investigated the effects of augmented reality (AR) applications on determining the astronomy literacy levels of secondary school seventh and eighth grade students and on students' astronomy literacy levels. According to the results of the research, it was noted that the astronomy literacy levels of the secondary school students were low before the application. It was determined that augmented reality (AR) applications positively affected the astronomy literacy levels of the experimental group students.

In the literature, there are many studies in areas such as success, attitude, interest, and self-efficacy beliefs towards astronomy (Güneş, 2010; Türk, 2010; Kurnaz & Değermenci, 2011; Hoşkün, 2011; Okul, 2012; Canbazoğlu-Bilici et al., 2012; Türk et al., 2012; Deniş Çeliker, 2012; Göncü, 2013; Bektaşlı, 2013; Şahin, Bülbül and Durukan, 2013; Küçüközer, Küçüközer, Bostan Sarıoğlan, 2014; Yılmaz, Türkoğuz and Şahin, 2014; Gündoğdu, 2014; Ezberci, 2014; Yılmaz, 2014; Zurnacı, 2015; Dadlı, 2015; Öktem, 2015; Arıkurt, Durukan, and Şahin, 2015; Taşcan and Ünal, 2015; Şenel-Çoruhlu and Çepni, 2015; Albayrak, 2016; Atik, 2016; Dereli, 2016; Kazanç and Kılıç, 2016; Kurnaz, Bozdemir, Deniz-Altunoğlu, and Ezberci Çevik, 2016; Demirci and Özyürek, 2017; Ertaş-Kılıç and Keleş, 2017; Taner et al., 2017; Yener et al., 2017). However, studies on students' "astronomy literacy" levels are very limited (Benli Özdemir, 2022; Love et al., 2013). In this context, it is thought that determining the astronomy literacy levels of the students in this study and examining the astronomy literacy sub-dimensions in terms of some variables will fill the gap in the literature.

In this context, it was aimed to determine the astronomy literacy levels of secondary school students and to examine the astronomy literacy sub-dimensions in terms of some variables. In line with the stated main purpose, the problem sentence of the research is: "What is the astronomy literacy level of secondary school students?" can be expressed as based on the problem statement of the research, the sub-problems identified can be expressed as follows:

1. What is the effect of gender on the sub-dimensions of secondary school students' astronomy literacy levels?

- **2.** What is the effect of grade levels on the sub-dimensions of secondary school students' astronomy literacy levels?
- **3.** What is the effect of sky observation practices on the sub-dimensions of secondary school students' astronomy literacy levels?

2. Method

In this section, information about the model of the research, the study group of the research, the data collection process and the analysis of the data are given.

2.1. Model of the Research

In this study, descriptive survey method was used to examine the dimensions of astronomy literacy of secondary school students according to some variables. This research is a descriptive study and scanning model was used in the research. It is a case-detection study aiming to determine the astronomy literacy levels of secondary school students. Survey models are research approaches that aim to describe a past or present situation as it is. The event, individual or object that is the subject of the research is tried to be defined in its own conditions and as it is. No effort is made to change or influence them in any way. The important thing is to observe and determine what is desired to be known in an appropriate way (Karasar, 2000: 77).

2.2. Study Group

In this study, the study group was selected according to the convenience sampling method, using non-probability sampling method. In this method, participants are selected from among individuals who are easily accessible to the researcher, volunteer and suitable for the research (Gravetter & Forzano, 2012). The study was carried out with secondary school students studying in a public secondary school in the central district of Ankara province in the spring term of the 2021-2022 academic year. 518 students participated in the study (n5th grade = 125, n6th grade = 134, n7th grade = 131 and n8th grade = 128). Attention was paid to the volunteering principle of the students in the participant group of the study. Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics results for the students in the study group.

		(
Grade Level	Grade Level Girl		Boy		Total	
_	n	%	n	%	N	%
5th grade	63	50,4	62	49,6	125	24.13
6th grade	55	41,04	79	58,96	134	25.86
7th grade	59	45,03	72	54,97	131	25.29
8th grade	76	59,37	52	40,63	128	24.72
TOTAL	253	48,84	265	51,16	518	100

Table 1. Descriptive statistics results for the students in the study group

According to Table 1; 24.13% are 5th grade students, 25.86% are 6th grade students, 25.29% are 7th grade students and 24.72% are 8th grade students of the participants.

2.3. Data Collection Process

The data obtained in this study were collected with the "Astronomy Literacy Scale" developed by the researcher (Benli Özdemir, 2022).

2.3.1. Astronomy Literacy Scale

The "Astronomy Literacy Scale" developed by the researcher was used to measure the students' astronomy literacy levels (Benli Özdemir, 2022). The scale is in five-point Likert type, consists of four separate parts and 21 judgments. The first part is self-perception towards astronomy; the second part, the affective dimension to astronomy; the third part includes the behavioral dimension for astronomy and the fourth part includes the cognitive dimension for astronomy. While the 5 items in the first section, "self-perception towards astronomy", are evaluated as frequency/percentage; 16 judgments including affective, behavioral and cognitive dimensions were numbered from 1 point to 5 points from the lowest to the highest astronomy literacy levels of the students. The applied astronomy literacy scale was evaluated as 80 points in total. A reliability study was conducted for the astronomy literacy scale developed by the researcher (Benli Özdemir, 2022). The scale was applied to 316 students different from the study group. According to the analysis obtained, the coefficients of internal consistency and sub-factors were determined. The reliability coefficient was found as $\alpha = .89$. Since this value is over $\alpha = .70$, the measurement tool has sufficient reliability to collect data (Büyüköztürk, 2011).

2.4. Analysis of Data

The data of the "astronomy literacy scale", which is used to determine the astronomy literacy levels of the students and to examine them in terms of some variables, were analyzed with the SPSS statistical package program. The sum of the answers given by each student to the scale was calculated. Independent group t-test was used to determine whether gender and astronomy observation practices have any effect on the sub-dimensions that make up students' astronomy literacy. A one-way ANOVA test was applied to find out if the grade level had any effect on the scores obtained by the students for these dimensions. Percentage and frequency values were used in the evaluation of astronomy literacy levels.

2.5. Compliance with Ethical Rules

Ethics, principles and rules were followed at all stages of this research. In order to determine the compliance of the research with the ethical rules, it was discussed at the meeting of Gazi University Ethics Committee dated 24.05.2022 and numbered 10, and the approval of the Ethics Committee was obtained with the letter dated 01.06.2022 and numbered E.374395. Approval document related to ethics committee approval is presented in Appendix B.

3. Results

In the study, three sub-problems were examined in order to determine the astronomy literacy levels of secondary school 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and to examine the astronomy literacy sub-dimensions in terms of some variables. Findings and comments regarding the astronomy literacy levels of the students in the study group are given below, respectively.

3.1. Findings and Comments on Students' Self-Perception of Astronomy

The dimensions in the "astronomy literacy scale" include the "affective, behavioral and cognitive dimensions", as well as the "self-perception of astronomy" dimension. The answers of the students regarding this dimension included in the scale are given in the table below.

Table 2. Descriptive analysis of students' "self-perception of astronomy" dimension

More	5th .	grade	6th gr	rade	7th grade		8th gr	rade
Too much	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
More 13 10.4 19 14.18 21 16.03 23 15 16 16 17 14 18 14.18 21 16.03 23 15 16 16 17 18 18 14.4 16 14.5 65 49.6 71 75 75 75 75 75 75 75								
Intermediate	8	6.4	12	8.95	13	9.92	12	9,37
Note much 32 25.6 26 19.40 24 18.32 20 17.00 18 14.4 16 11.97 8 6.13 2 17.00 18 100 131 100 128 100 134 100 131 100 128 100 134 100 131 100 128 100 134 100 131 100 128 100 134 100 131 100 128 100 134 100 131 100 128 100 134 100 131 100 138 100 134 100 131 100 138 100 134 100 131 100 134 100 131 100 134 100 131 100 138 100 138 100 13	13	10.4	19	14.18	21	16.03	23	17,9
Note much 32 25.6 26 19.40 24 18.32 20 17.00 18 14.4 16 11.97 8 6.13 2 17.00 128 1.00 134 100 131 100 128 1.00 134 100 131 100 128 1.00 134 100 131 100 128 1.00 134 100 131 100 128 1.00 134 100 131 100 128 1.00 134 100 131 100 128 1.00 134 100 131	54	43.2	61	45.5	65	49.6	71	55,4
Total	32	25.6	26	19.40	24	18.32	20	15,6
Frequency of studying on astronomy	18	14.4	16	11.97	8	6,13	2	1,73
Too much	125	100	134	100	131	100	128	100
Too much								
More 10	5	4	9	6,71	8	6.13	11	8,59
Intermediate 51 40,8 59 44,02 59 45,03 64 Not much 31 24,8 35 26,11 27 20,61 27 2 None 28 22,4 15 11,2 20 15,26 8 Not much 125 100 134 100 131 100 128 Not much 125 100 134 100 131 100 128 Not much 125 100 134 100 131 100 128 Not much 131 100	10	8	16					15,62
Not much 31 24,8 35 26,11 27 20,61 27 2				,		,		50
None 28 22,4 15 11,2 20 15,26 8 Total 125 100 134 100 131 100 128		,		,		,		21,09
Total		,		,				4,7
Lessons at school								100
Lessons at school								
Internet	74	59 2	72	53 73	67	51 14	65	50,78
Tv								27,34
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$,				11,71
Family/friends 5 4 4 3 4 3,07 4 3 Total 125 100 134 100 131 100 128 People he/she talked to about astronomy Teachers 92 73,6 80 59,70 69 52,67 68 5 Friends 18 14,4 30 22,38 34 25,95 32 Family 5 4 9 6,71 15 11,45 16 1 People in the virtual environment 6 4,8 11 8,20 10 7,63 10 7 No one 4 3,2 4 3,01 3 5,3 2 1 Total 125 100 134 100 131 100 128 Frequency of speaking about astronomy Too much 10 8 14 10,44 9 6,87 11 8 More		,		,		,		7,03
Total 125 100 134 100 131 100 128						,		3,14
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$								100
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$								
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	92	73.6	80	59.70	69	52.67	68	53,12
Family 5 4 9 6,71 15 11,45 16 1 People in the virtual environment 6 4,8 11 8,20 10 7,63 10 7 People in the virtual environment 4 3,2 4 3,01 3 5,3 2 1 Potal 125 100 134 100 131 100 128 Prequency of speaking about astronomy		,		,		,		25
$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$,		,		,		12,5
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$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$								1,57
Too much 10 8 14 10,44 9 6,87 11 8 More 11 8,8 17 12,68 20 15,62 18 1 Intermediate 53 42,4 65 48,50 67 51,14 73 5 Not much 31 24,8 24 17,91 22 16,79 18 1 None 10 8 14 10,47 13 9,58 8 6								100
Too much 10 8 14 10,44 9 6,87 11 8 More 11 8,8 17 12,68 20 15,62 18 1 Intermediate 53 42,4 65 48,50 67 51,14 73 5 Not much 31 24,8 24 17,91 22 16,79 18 1 None 10 8 14 10,47 13 9,58 8 6								
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	10	8	14	10.44	9	6.87	11	8,59
Intermediate 53 42,4 65 48,50 67 51,14 73 5 Not much 31 24,8 24 17,91 22 16,79 18 1 None 10 8 14 10,47 13 9,58 8 6				,		,		14,06
Not much $ \begin{array}{ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$,		,		57,03
None 10 8 14 10,47 13 9,58 8 6		,		,		,		14,06
		,				,		6,26
Total 195 100 194 100 191 100 190								100
Total		\$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc	8 6.4 13 10.4 54 43.2 32 25.6 18 14.4 125 100 5 4 10 8 51 40,8 31 24,8 28 22,4 125 100 74 59,2 25 20 13 10,4 8 6,4 5 4 125 100 92 73,6 18 14,4 5 4 6 4,8 4 3,2 125 100 10 8 11 8,8 53 42,4 31 24,8 10 8	f % f 8 6.4 12 13 10.4 19 54 43.2 61 32 25.6 26 18 14.4 16 125 100 134 5 4 9 10 8 16 51 40.8 59 31 24.8 35 28 22.4 15 125 100 134 74 59.2 72 25 20 36 13 10.4 17 8 6.4 5 5 4 4 125 100 134 92 73.6 80 18 14,4 30 5 4 9 6 4,8 11 4 3,2 4 125 100 134 10 8 14 11 8,8 17 53 42,4 65 31 24,8 24 10 8 14	f % f % 8 6.4 12 8.95 13 10.4 19 14.18 54 43.2 61 45.5 32 25.6 26 19.40 18 14.4 16 11.97 125 100 134 100 5 4 9 6,71 10 8 16 11,96 51 40,8 59 44,02 31 24,8 35 26,11 28 22,4 15 11,2 125 100 134 100 The state of the	f % f % f 8 6.4 12 8.95 13 13 10.4 19 14.18 21 54 43.2 61 45.5 65 32 25.6 26 19.40 24 18 14.4 16 11.97 8 125 100 134 100 131 5 4 9 6,71 8 10 8 16 11,96 17 51 40,8 59 44,02 59 31 24,8 35 26,11 27 28 22,4 15 11,2 20 125 100 134 100 131 The stript of t	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

When Table 2 is examined, it is seen that as the grade level increases, the students show higher improvement in the dimension of "self-perception towards astronomy".

3.2. Findings and Comments on the First Sub-Problem

"What is the effect of gender on the sub-dimensions of secondary school students' astronomy literacy levels?" The t-test analysis results for independent samples related to the sub-problem are given in Table 3.

Gender	Factors	n	\overline{X}	SD	df	t	р	
Girl	Affective	254	24.03	6.01	516	9.26	.00	
Boy		264	19.08	6.11				
Girl	Behavioral	254	11.45	2.71	516	8.06	.00	
Boy		264	9.35	3.18				
Girl	Cognitive	254	32.96	7.61	516	11.96	.00	
Boy		264	23.88	9.52				

Table 3. Independent samples t-test results by gender variable for students' astronomy literacy levels

When Table 3 was examined, it was seen that gender made a difference for all subdimensions of astronomy literacy (p< .05). When the average scores of astronomy literacy levels are examined, it is seen that this difference is in favor of girl students.

In Figure 1 below, the average scores of the students for the sub-dimensions of astronomy literacy by gender are given.

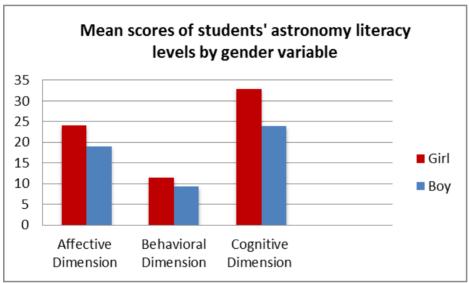


Figure 1. Mean scores of students' astronomy literacy levels by gender variable

According to Figure 1, considering the average scores; It is noteworthy that there is gender-related variability for affective, behavioral and cognitive dimensions.

3.3. Findings and Comments on the Second Sub-Problem

"What is the effect of grade levels on the sub-dimensions of secondary school students' astronomy literacy levels?" ANOVA test analysis results for independent samples for the sub-problem are given in Table 4.

Table 4. Descriptive analysis results regarding the average of students' astronomy literacy levels according to grade level

Factor	Group	N	\overline{X}	S
	5th grade	125	18.26	7.30
	6th grade	134	21.12	5.80
Affective	7th grade	131	21.60	5.33
	8th grade	128	24.99	5.93
	Total	518	21.51	6.54
	5th grade	125	8.92	3.90
	6th grade	134	10.29	2.98
Behavioral	7th grade	131	10.97	2.39
	8th grade	128	11.29	2.60
	Total	518	10.38	3.14
	5th grade	125	24.78	11.09
	6th grade	134	27.93	8.05
Cognitive	7th grade	131	28.40	8.40
	8th grade	128	32.14	9.95
	Total	518	28.33	9.57

When Table 4 is examined, 8th grade students have the highest average of astronomy literacy levels in terms of affective and cognitive dimensions; 7th grade students have the highest behavioral dimension.

In Figure 2 below, the average scores of the sub-dimensions of astronomy literacy according to the grade levels of the students are given.

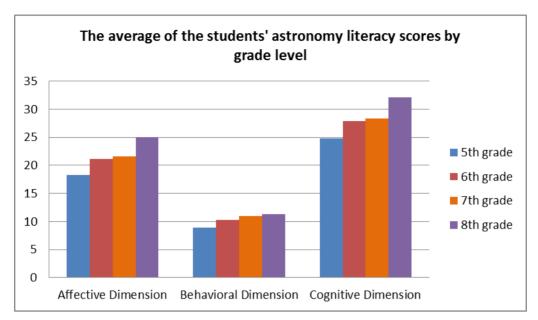


Figure 2. The average of the students' astronomy literacy scores by grade level

According to Figure 2, when the average scores of astronomy literacy are taken into account, it is noteworthy that there is a difference for all sub-dimensions.

Factor	Source of variance	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	Mean squares	F	р
Affective	Between Groups	2897,22	3	965.74	25.75	.00
	Within Groups	19274,24	514	37.49		
	Total	22171,46	517			
Behavioral	Between Groups	418,80	3	139.60	15.32	.00
	Within Groups	4683,03	514	9.11		
	Total	5101,83	517			
Cognitive	Between Groups	3452,29	3	1150.76	12.92	.00
-	Within Groups	45768,59	514	89.04		
	Total	49220,88	517			

When Table 5 is examined, all sub-dimensions of the astronomy literacy levels of the students participating in the research show a significant difference according to their grade levels ($F_{Affective} = 25.75$; p<.05; $F_{Behavioral} = 15.32$; p<.05 $F_{Cognitive} = 12.92$; p<.05). Scheffe test was used to find out between which grade levels this difference was.

Table 6. Scheffe results of students' astronomy literacy levels by grade level

Factor	Group (i)	Group (j)	p
	5th grade	6 th grade	.00
	_	7 th grade	.00
		8 th grade	.00
	6th grade	5 th grade	.00
		7 th grade	.93
Affective		8 th grade	.00
	7th grade	5 th grade	.00
		6 th grade	.93
		8 th grade	.00
	8th grade	5 th grade	.00
		6 th grade	.00
		7 th grade	.00
	5 th grade	6 th grade	.00
		7 th grade	.00
		8 th grade	.00
	6 th grade	5 th grade	.00
Behavioral		7 th grade	.34
		8 th grade	.06
	7 th grade	5 th grade	.00
		6 th grade	.34
		8 th grade	.86
	8 th grade	5 th grade	.00
		6 th grade	.06
		7 th grade	.86
	5 th grade	6 th grade	.06
		7 th grade	.02
		8 th grade	.00
	6 th grade	5 th grade	.06
		7 th grade	.98
a		8 th grade	.00
Cognitive	7 th grade	5 th grade	.02
		6 th grade	.98
		8 th grade	.01
	8 th grade	5 th grade	.00
		6 th grade	.00
		7 th grade	.01

When Table 6 is examined, in terms of affective dimension; there is a significant difference between grade levels except for Grades 6th – 7th Grades (p<.05). In terms of behavioral dimension; There is a significant difference between grade levels except for 6th Grade - 7th Grades, 6th Grade - 8th Grades, 7th Grade - 8th Grades (p<.05). In terms of cognitive dimension; There is a significant difference between grade levels except for Grade 5th - Grade 6th, Grade 6th - Grade 7th (p<.05).

3.4. Findings and Comments on the Third Sub-Problem

"What is the effect of sky observation practices on the sub-dimensions of secondary school students' astronomy literacy levels?" The t-test analysis results for independent samples for the sub-problem are given in Table 7.

Using Sky	Factor	n	$\overline{\overline{\mathbf{y}}}$	SD	df	t	р
Observation Applications			Α				
There is	Affective	202	24.01	5.98	516	7.29	.00
There isn't		316	19.91	6.39			
There is	Behavioral	202	11.54	2.73	516	7.03	.00
There isn't		316	9.64	3.16			
There is	Cognitive	202	32.32	7.91	516	7.86	.00
There isn't	_	316	25.78	9.97			

Table 7. Independent samples t-test results according to the variable of students' astronomy literacy levels using sky observation applications

When Table 7 is examined, it is seen that sky observation practices make a difference for all sub-dimensions of astronomy literacy (p<.05). When the mean scores were examined, it was revealed that this difference was in favor of the students who used sky observation applications.

In Figure 3 below, the average scores of the sub-dimensions of astronomy literacy according to the usage status of sky observation applications are given.

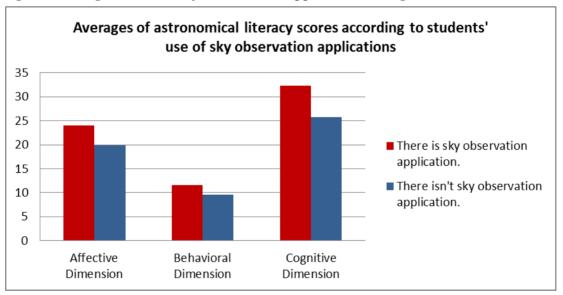


Figure 3. Averages of astronomical literacy scores according to students' use of sky observation applications

According to Figure 3, when the average scores of astronomy literacy are taken into account, it is noteworthy that there is a difference for all sub-dimensions.

4. Discussion and Conclusions

In this study, the astronomy literacy levels of secondary school 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students were determined and the sub-dimensions of astronomy literacy were

examined in terms of some variables. In this context, it is very important for the literature to determine the factors affecting the astronomy literacy, which has been a subject of curiosity and interest since the early ages, and whose importance is gradually increasing. According to the findings obtained, the results of the study and its comparison with the relevant literature are expressed as follows.

According to the results of the research, the affective characteristics of the students towards astronomy, which is one of the sub-dimensions of the astronomy literacy scale, were at "moderate"; behavioral and cognitive characteristics of astronomy were determined to be at "low" level. When the literature is examined, Okul and Oğuz-Ünver (2011) and Karatay and Meriç (2015) examined the attitudes of pre-service teachers from different branches towards astronomy and showed that the attitudes of pre-service teachers towards astronomy are moderate.

According to another result obtained from the research, it was revealed that as the grade levels of the students increased, their astronomy literacy levels increased in affective, behavioral and cognitive levels.

In the studies conducted by Bostan (2008), Ekiz and Akbaş (2005), Öztürk and Uçar (2012) and Saraç (2017) regarding the attitude towards astronomy, it was concluded that the students had prejudices towards astronomy and their attitudes progressed negatively as the grade level increased.

According to the results of the research, it was seen that the gender of secondary school students made a difference for all sub-dimensions of astronomy literacy. It was observed that this difference was in favor of girl students. When the literature is examined, in the studies conducted by Balbağ and Koç (2020), Özcan and Yılmaz (2018) and Bozdoğan (2008) on interest in astronomy, they concluded that students who go to science centers have a higher interest in astronomy. According to another result obtained from the research, it was noted that the students who used sky observation applications had a higher level of astronomy literacy for all dimensions than the students who did not use these applications.

The findings obtained in this study may contribute to detecting the existing situation and taking precautions.

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APPENDIXES

Appendix . Astronomy literacy scale

Appendix . Ethics committee approval

Appendix A. Astronomy literacy scale

CHAPTER 1 (Astronomy Literacy Self-Perception)

- 1. How much do you think you know about astronomy?
- A. Too much
- B. More
- C. Intermediate
- D. Not much
- E. None
- 2. How would you describe yourself about doing studies/research on astronomy?
- A. I do a lot of study/research.
- B. I do more work/research.
- A. I do a moderate amount of study/research.
- D. I don't do much study/research.
- E. Never
- 3. Which of the following contributes the most to learning the subjects and concepts related to astronomy?
- A. Lessons at school
- B. Internet
- C. Television
- D. Article/book/magazine/newspaper
- E. Family/Friends
- 4. Which of the following do you talk about studies, researches or subjects related to astronomy?
- A. Teachers
- B. Friends
- C. Family
- D. People in the virtual environment
- E. Nobody
- 5. How often do you talk to people around you about astronomy-related topics?
- A. Too much
- B. More
- C. Intermediate
- D. Not much
- E. None

CHAPTER 2 (The Affective Dimension of Astronomy Literacy)

_	The file of the fi					
		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1.	1. I am interested in astronomy.					
2.	2. I enjoy learning new information about astronomy.					
3.	3. I can easily learn the concepts and subjects related to					
	astronomy.					
4.	4. I make mistakes when explaining astronomy concepts.					
5.	5. Astronomy has no contribution to my daily life.					
6.	6. I don't want to work on the sky.		•			

CHAPTER 3 (The Behavioral Dimension of Astronomy Literacy)

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		tro	∆gree	Neith agree)isa	Strong
		ω <i>α</i>	7		Ι	σ
7.	1. I observe the sky using sky survey programs (Google sky, sky					
	map, NASA, sky walk etc.).					
8.	2. I watch the sky with the naked eye (without any observation					
	tool) at night when the weather conditions are suitable.					
9.	3. I follow the astronomer or astronauts who work on the sky					
	on social media.					

CHAPTER 4 (Cognitive Dimension of Astronomy Literacy)

	Strongly agree	gree	Neither agree nor)isagree	Strongly disagree
	a a	A	Z 87 :	D	g. ig
10. 1. I can express the geometric shape of the sun.					
11. 2. I can explain the direction, duration and consequences of the					
Sun's rotation.					
12. 3. I can express the geometric shape of the Earth.					·
13. 4. I cannot tell the size of the moon.					·
14. 5. I can explain the moon's age.					
15. 6. I can express the geometric shape of the moon.					
16. 7. I cannot explain how stars are formed.					

Appendix B: Ethics committee approval

Evrak Tarih ve Sayısı: 01.06.2022-E.374395



GAZİ ÜNİVERSİTESİ Etik Komisyonu

Sayı : E-77082166-604.01.02-374395 01.06.2022

Konu: Değerlendirme ve Onay

Sayın Prof. Dr. Ergin HAMZAOĞLU Fen Bilgisi Eğitimi Anabilim Dalı Başkanlığı - Öğretim Üyesi

Araştırmacı grubu Ergin HAMZAOĞLU ve Esra BENLİ ÖZDEMİR'den oluşan "Ortaokul Öğrencilerinin Astronomi Okuryazarlık Düzeylerinin Belirlenmesi ve Bazı Değişkenler Açısından İncelenmesi" başlıklı araştırma öneriniz Komisyonumuzun 24.05.2022 tarih ve 10 sayılı toplantısında görüşülmüş olup,

Çalışmanızın, yapılması planlanan yerlerden izin alınması koşuluyla yapılmasında etik açıdan bir sakınca bulunmadığına oybirliği ile karar verilmiş ve karara ilişkin imza listesi ekte gönderilmiştir.

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