

Views of Middle Graders toward the Concept of Tolerance

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ABSTRACT The aim of this study was to determine the views of secondary school students on the concept of tolerance. For this purpose the researchers developed a 3-point Likert type Tolerance Scale (TS) with 26 items. The TS was administered as a questionnaire to 476 students from five secondary schools within Diyarbakir in the 2011-2012 academic year. Data was also analyzed in terms of grade level and gender variables. The results show that students consider the role of family to be important in the upbringing of tolerant people. They think that their parents value themselves and also indicate that they value other people's feelings and thoughts. They hold that the role of education, especially teachers, family, religious and social environment is important for raising tolerant people. The study provides further evidence that teachers can create good examples and assist the upbringing of tolerant people by applying democratic attitudes and behaviors in the classroom.