

In place of a foreword...

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues / Participants and Students,

Welcome to Izmir University of Economics. It's a great honour for me to be addressing you today at EDGE – International Conference on Education and Gender. I am delighted to be here and have the opportunity to talk about education and gender. These two issues are closely related to each other as gender equality can only be realised through education.

Studies on gender equality identify the gender-specific differences in education and upbringing. Therefore, we know that national and international organisations are increasingly looking for ways to further enhance gender-specific education. And EDGE: Education & Gender project focused on the realisation of this goal. I am so happy to know that our university has also been represented among these 13 project partners from 12 European countries.

Because of the expansive character of women's and gender studies as an academic field, our university has also founded EKOKAM Gender and Women's Studies Research and Application Centre in October 2009. The aim of organizing activities about social gender subjects intended for education is to increase the level of consciousness in the dimension of national and international research and communication.

I hope this project and also this conference will increase our understanding of gender based issues and inspire us to engage actively with our students. Because I know that the EDGE project has been organized under 4 main themes: Gender and Identity, Gender and Sex, Gender and Interculturality and Gender and Lifestyle, all of which are very interesting and important topics to deal with. Another important outcome of the EDGE project is the curriculum that has been developed. It is nice to know that this curriculum will be offered in several modules that can be used to realise the success of social science curricula and other educational programmes.

I hope this conference will bring together faculty and students in gender and education studies to share research and other related activities on gender. I believe and hope that you, as researchers, will have the objective of conducting scientific research, creating educational programmes, conducting awareness-raising and scientific activities, and cooperating with national and international institutions for the purpose of applied research in these two days.

I wish you all an informative and fruitful conference.
Good luck and have fun!

Prof. Dr. Oğuz Esen