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An Assessment Regarding Postgraduate Theses About "Green Buildings" in Turkey

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Introduction: Architectural structures consume water, use energy and cause emission of greenhouse gas and CO₂. Green buildings which are regarded environment friendly and academic studies conducted on them are important. In this context, it is aimed to review and assess the postgraduate theses written in Turkey about "green buildings", interpret the change in the way that the issue is addressed in those theses and present the results that might guide us regarding "green building" implementations.

Material and Methods: Within the scope of the research National Thesis Data Centre of the Council of Higher Education is scanned by using "green building" as key words and the theses the contents of were reached have been classified in terms of year released, university, institute and department, purpose, scope and method and the obtained findings are interpreted.

Results: It is determined that the earliest theses written on "green building" is dated 2009 and there is only one doctoral thesis among the theses written between the years of 2009 and 2017. When the distribution of the 34 theses reached over is examined it is seen that the highest number of studies conducted belongs to Istanbul Technical University with 38%. When the distribution of the theses is examined with regard to the institutes their writers are affiliated with, it is seen that 94% of theses were written at Institutes of Science. When professions of the writers are examined, it is understood that the writers in the field of architecture have written 47% of them and remaining theses have been written by writers from different occupational groups. It is seen that problem definitions used in the studies and their purposes, scopes and methods vary in time.

Discussion: As almost all of the theses reviewed in the study are postgraduate theses, it is important as it reveals the need for more detailed academic studies. It is considered that the number of universities and academicians studying this topic should increase for the sake of environmental responsibility. Although construction of green buildings is under the responsibility of architects, the nature of the issue necessitates joint studies conducted with various engineering disciplines. In this context, it is considered that developing postgraduate thesis studies within interdisciplinary studies will be beneficial. Problem definitions, purposes, scopes and methods of theses that underwent changes in time are important for the progress of academic researches.

Keywords: ecology, green building, sustainability, Turkey