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**OVERVIEW OF DISTANCE EDUCATION PROCESS IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROCESS**

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**ABSTRACT**

A new type of Coronavirus that unexpectedly appeared in Wuhan, China, threatened human life and quickly affected the entire world. The outbreak caused by the Coronavirus is considered by experts to be one of the biggest health crises faced by humans from the recent past to the present. Many sectors such as economy, education, tourism, especially health, as well as social life were affected due to the Coronavirus epidemic. Most of the educational institutions around the world have tried to reduce the impact of the epidemic and take measures by interrupting face-to-face education during the pandemic process. With the decision taken to minimize the transmission rate of the virus, formal education was suspended on March 16, 2020 in schools in Turkey like the rest of the world. After this date, all educational institutions started distance education. Reorganizing the content and methods of the trainings within the scope of distance education, providing access to technology and resources, and preparing the technological infrastructure made it necessary to plan and manage education in a very short time, taking into account the inequality of opportunity. For many years, distance education practices have been used by many institutions in Turkey and around the world on a small scale, while education has been moved from formal education to distance education due to the pandemic that took place in this unexpected process. The pandemic process has led to the spread and development of distance education. Although it is a negative process for many sectors, it has become a positive process for distance education in the name of the expansion of distance education and the expectation that it will spread to a more professional basis in the future.

**Key Words:** Pandemic, Digitalization, Distance Education.