



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

Lifestyles Revisited:

“Educational Experiments in Intergenerational Environments”



Partnership Meeting at Beypazarı – Ankara – TÜRKİYE

28 – 29 / 05 / 2012



Lifestyle Variable 2 – Living Places

Prepared by

Beypazarı Girls Technical and Vocational High School



Lifestyles Revisited : Educational Experiments in IG Environments



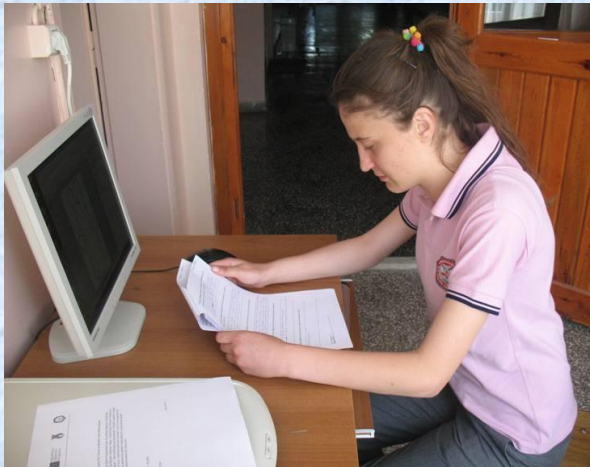


1 – Definition and Characteristics of the IG Groups

- Our group consists of 16 persons.
- 4 of them are 15 – 30 years of age, 4 of them are 30 – 50 years of age, 4 of them are 50 – 70 years of age and the rest 4 of them are over the age of 70. The average age of them is : 48.
- 11 of them are female and 5 of them are male in the group.
- 6 of them are primary, 5 of them are high school and 5 of them are university graduates.
- 12 of them live in a flat and 4 of them live in a house which has got a garden.
- The number of people living together at home is 3 or 4.
- Only 3 of them have got a pet.
- Apart from this group, students of our school and our staff took part in our studies, too.

1 – Definition and Characteristics of the IG Groups

Some of the group members



1 – Definition and Characteristics of the IG Groups

Photographs from the living places of our group members





2 – Objectives of the IG workshops

Our studies aim at getting the following information to employees and their followers.

- 1- Considering the historical progress related with home preferences and regulation of living places.
- 2- Getting ideas about the reasons which affect home preferences of different age groups.
- 3- Having an idea on the tastes of different age groups connected with the regulation of living places.
- 4- Viewing the historical development on regulation of living places. Identifying the views of different age groups about the changes in home furnitures from the past to present.
- 5- Making mutual interaction and sharing about phases passed from past to present on division of labour and how the changes in social life is reflected to the lives at homes.
- 6- Detecting different perspectives of different generations which emerges with the reflection of technology to the homes.



3 – Methodology and description of the workshop activities

Group members often came together while they were doing their workshops. These meetings are especially useful in terms of being understood by others about their thoughts and feelings on home preferences and regulation of living places. By this way, Young learners were able to get further information about the historical developments of homes and the items used to organise these houses.

Visits to the houses of group members were held in small groups. These visits gave an idea on the design of the preferences of group members. The old historical houses that became museums were visited by the group. There, The elders told youngsters stories about houses and lifestyles in the past .

As a duration of our studies, some pictures about houses and furnitures were shown to the group. Different age group's views on preferences of home and furniture and effects of these preferences was discussed.

A questionarre was applied related with house and furniture preferences of different age groups.

3 – Methodology and description of the workshop activities



Workshop 1

One of the touristic district of Ankara,Beypazarı owes this especially to its historical houses. These houses which bring the architecture and house life of long years to these days were visited and examined carefully in various aspects by our project team.

The aim of this study is to get information about the houses used in the past and being used in our days,and to reach a deeper knowledge on the reasons for transition from the old wooden houses to the new generation of houses.





One of the main reason for people's moving from old to the new generation houses is the reduction in the number of people living at homes depending on social change. However, heating systems, advances in technology, old house's care expenses and non-domestical animal's being guests to these houses from time to time can also be shown as the other reasons.





The main reason for the change in house furnitures is technological advances so, old furnitures are able to be seen either in museums or in the houses of people who try to ease the aspiration of his old days with these furnitures. More practical and modern objects are used in place of these furnitures.



The returning wardrobe that we met during our visits is among the most important elements of Turkish culture's solidarity and custom.

It is located at the entrance of houses and when the person who is in need of something comes, he leaves his container to the wardrobe and he returns the cabinet.

The cabinet door which exists inside of the wardrobe is opened by the host, the container is filled and left in lockers then the cabinet is returned again.

"The giving hand isn't seen the other hand that receives."





Workshop – 2 Questionnaire

A questionnaire was applied to the group about living places, living conditions and the modernization on house furnitures..

The aim of this study is to be able to demonstrate differences between generations related with such issues as houses, household goods and sharing of domestic tasks at homes.

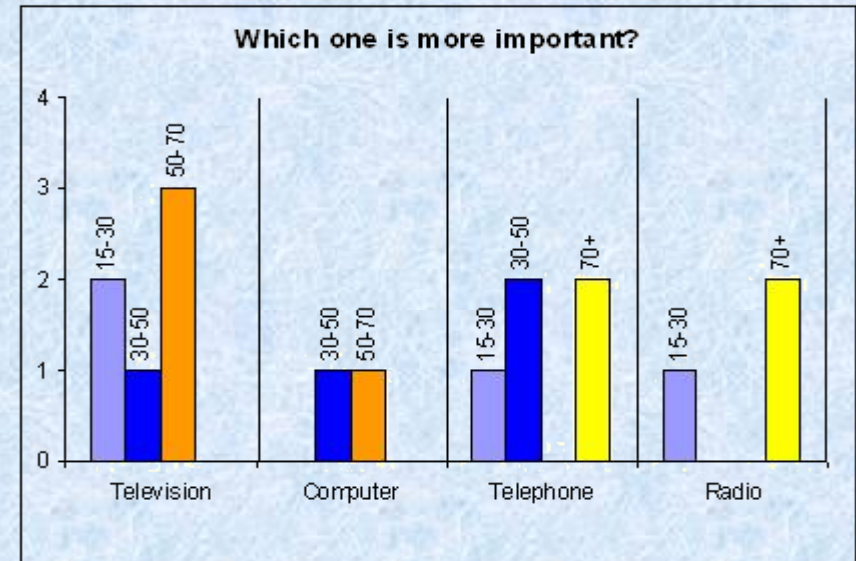
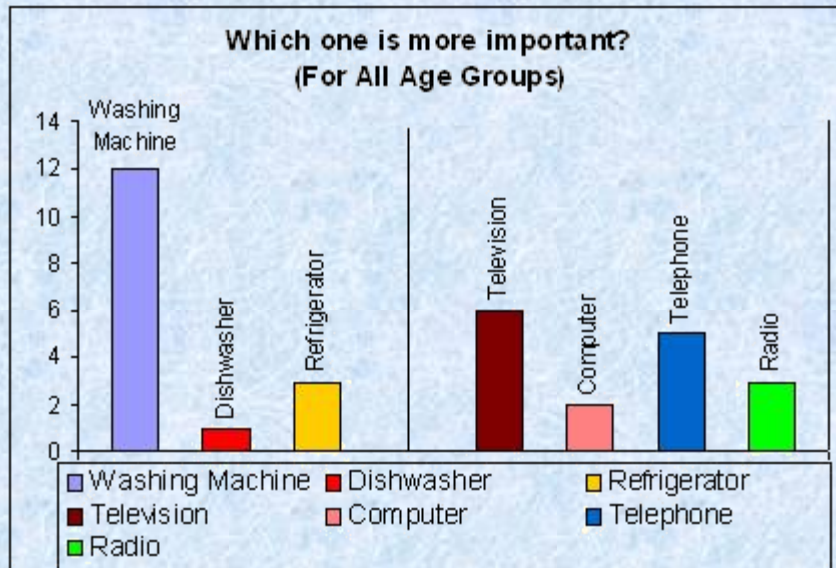
Living places questionnaire

(The following questionnaire is prepared in order to get information about the living places of you and the others in your environment. Thanks for your participation.)

1-) How old are you? (Please choose the most suitable one for you.)	15 - 30	30 - 50	50 - 70	70+
2-) What is your educational statue?	Primary	Elementary	high school	Üniversity
3-) In which type of house are you living?	Flat	House	Mansion	Others
4-) How many rooms has your house got ?	1-2	3-4	5-6	6+
5-) How many people are living in your house?	1-2	3-4	5-6	6+
6-) How is your house being heated?	Kalorifer	Kömür Sobası	Elektrik Sobası	Diğer
7-) In which part of your house do you spend your time most?	Garden Balcony	Kitchen	Living room	Study room
8-) Who does the shopping for your house?	Father	Mother	Children	Others
9-) Who does the households ?	Mother	Father	Servant	Adults
10-) Which of these make your life at home easier?	Washing machine	Dish Washer	Fridge	Oven

11-) Choose the most important one for you.	Television	Computer	Telephone	Radio
12-) Whose breakdown affect you most?	Electric	Water	Telephone	Internet
13-) Which of these do you prefer for resting?	Sofa	Bedstead	Canape	Armchair
14-) Where do you want to live?	In a small village	In a town	In a big city	Others
15-) In such a house do you want to live?	Flat	House	Mansion	Others
16-) Which of them do you want to change first?	White objects	Furniture	Carpet Curtain	Accessory
17-) Which of these plants do you want to raise?	Hall Flowers	Garden Flowers	Vegetable	Fruit
18-) Do you have a pet?				
19-) Please state one of the features of your house you like most.				
20-) Please state one of the features of your house you dont like.				
21-) Which object is necessary in the house you are living?				

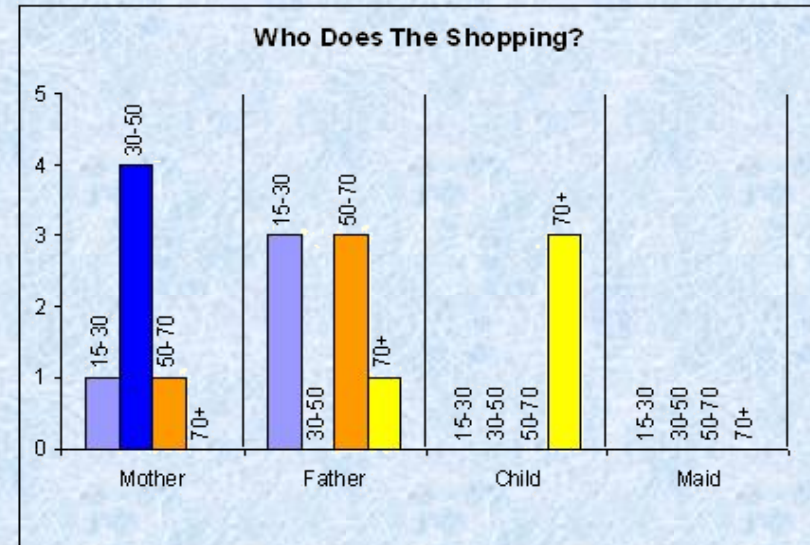
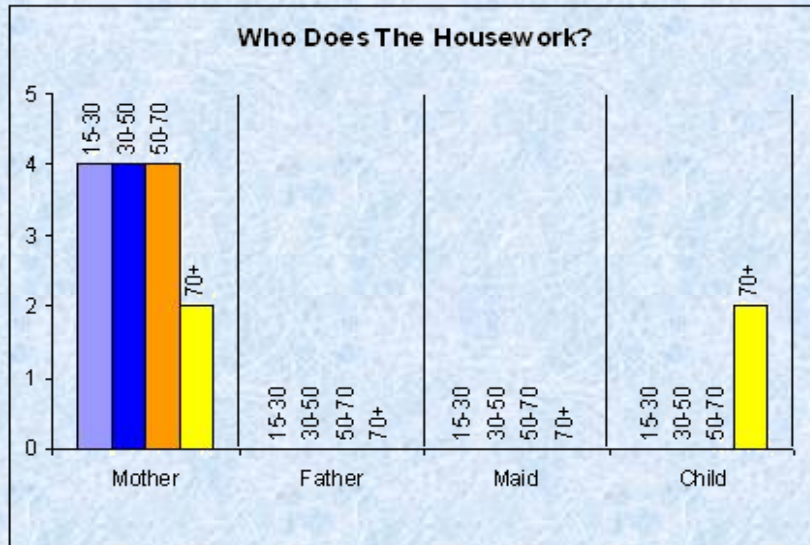
Workshop – 2 Questionnaire



The washing machine, television, and the phone is the most important technological developments.

However, the group members over the age of 70 stated that Radio is also very important for them.

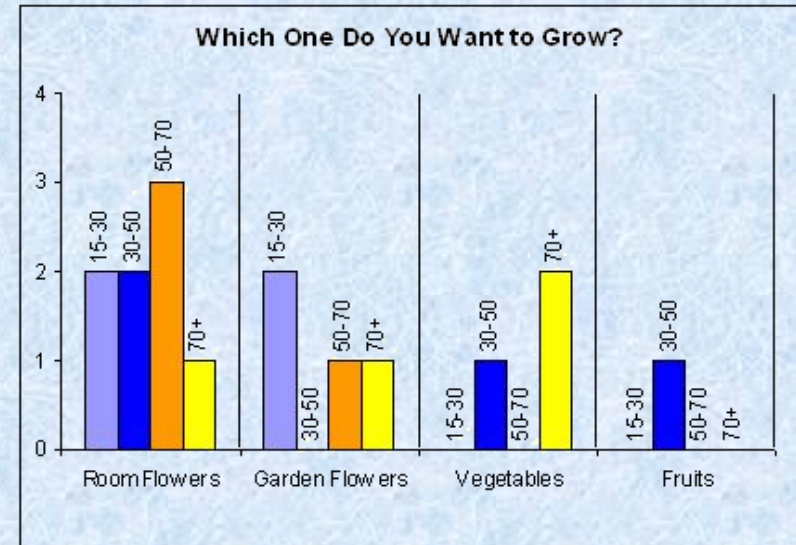
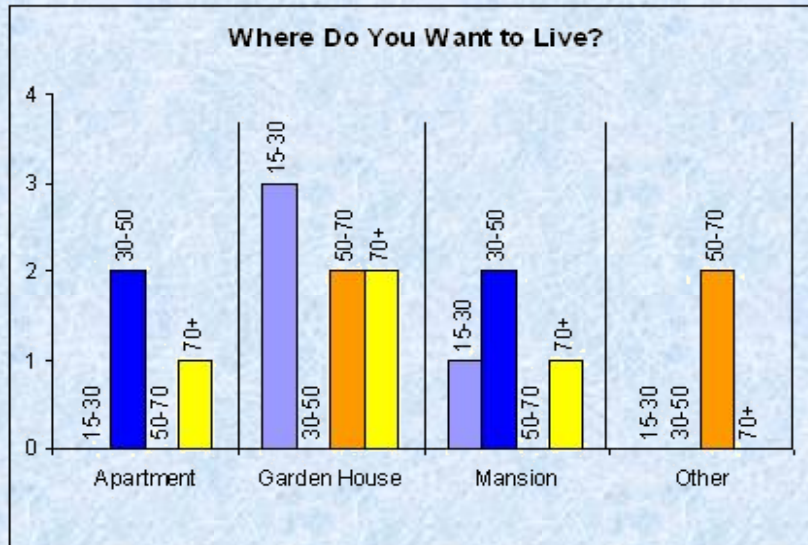
Workshop – 2 Questionnaire



In all groups, mother does the households , but either mother or father does the Shopping.

But in groups over the age of 70, adults undertake this work from time to time.

Workshop – 2 Questionnaire



Most of the group members prefer to live in a house which has got a garden but there are also people who want to live in a flat. Preference of the majority is to live in such a town as they are currently living.

According to the survey, most of the group members are interested in raising room or garden flowers, while the group over the age of 70 are also interested in raising vegetables.



Workhop-3

Some photos of items used in the past or being used at present were shown to the group and they were asked to comment on them.



The purpose of this study is to find out the changes in home furnitures from the past to present and the meanings of these items for different age groups.



For our middle age group members, each shown item has got a meaning. In fact, most of all shared with us a memory related to these items.

The youngsters think that most of these old items are used more as an accessory.

The elders, either have got no idea for the purpose and use of the new items or have never seen them in their life.



Young and old generation made mutual sharing about the objects used in the past and being used at present. While the elders gave information to youngsters about the objects used in the past with various examples, youngsters gave information about the objects being used in our days, too.



The stove which is just a warm-up tool for youngsters means much more different things for elders. According to them, stove is a socialising tool which brings people together, increases the sharing of the family with each other and around which long conversations are made. It is also an indispensable part of long winter days for them.

Chesnuts cooked on the stove is called as an aspiration even by the middle age group.



Middle age and old group stated that in the past radio was the only and the most important communication tool by which they got information, listened to music and children listened to fairytales before sleeping.

But the youngsters said that they use the radio only to listen to music while they are travelling.

Workshop - 4

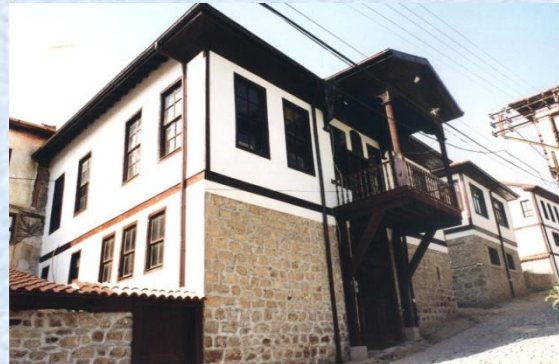
The following 6 home photos were shown to the group and they were asked to in which they want to live and they were expected to give their explanations with reasons.



The aim of this study is to see different age group's household preferences and what affects these preferences.



1



4



3

While most of the group members prefer a house which offers a tranquil and silent place and in whose garden they can deal with soil , the other members in the group prefer houses that are by the sea, center of the city or a more suitable place for sports activities.

Workshop - 5

Similarities and differences between the houses they have lived so far and the house in their dream was asked to group members.

The aim of the study is to determine similarities and differences between the houses they live and they want to live.



Youngers have mentioned that the house in their dream is very different and more comfortable than their homes. Though, they are pleased to have their own rooms and also they mentioned that they must absolutely have technology in their homes.

But for the elders, the house in their dream is the one as they had lived in their childhoods. And they stated that although technology facilitate the life, it separates people from each other and the houses where three or four families share the same house as in the past is more suitable for them. On the other hand, some group members said that the house they are living in now is the house they always imagine.

Workshop - 6

The group was asked what the important point was while they were deciding the household goods and which household goods were essential for them.

The aim of the study is to understand the differences in the selection of household goods. The old generation want a house which must be in a traditional design and the items they prefer should be robust and useful.

The youngsters want a more modern style in their choices,so they give importance to convenience and apperances.





Workshop - 6

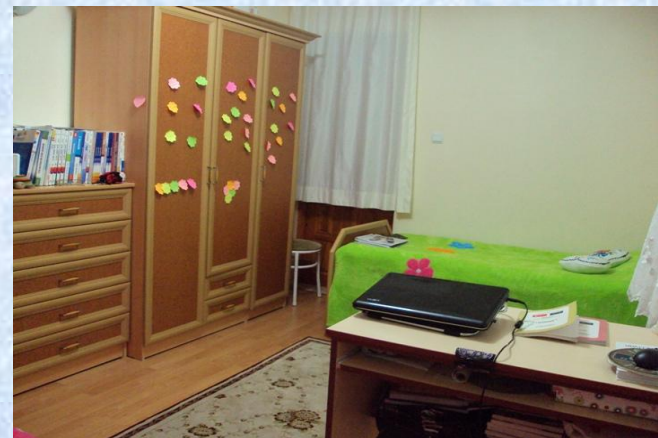


Workshop - 7

Group members were asked what the changes in the number of people living at homes these days were and their opinions about the causes and consequences of them. The aim of the study is to become aware of how different age groups perceive the transition from the structure of crowded to the nuclear families.

Even though they complained about living in the same house two or three generation together in the past, olders said that they miss those days now.

Youngers said that living in a nuclear family is better and they feel more comfortable themselves there.



Group members who have indicated that changes in social life, women's participation in business life, job opportunities and technological developments and other factors like these are effective in transition to the nuclear family structure, said these changes have got negative consequences such as the increasing number of houses, family member's moving away from each other and the traditions which are tend to be forgotten.





Workshop - 8

Group members were asked how the distribution of household tasks were made at home and whether it differed over time. The aim of the study is to gain knowledge about the changes in distribution of tasks according to distinction of women-men, old-young.

There is a close link between the household tasks ,social structure and business life.In the past,women’s working in any job was very rare. Women used to do the houseworks and men used to be responsible for sustaining his family.But today,with the changes in social structure,women take part in business world.

So,for women who works at the same time, houseworks started to be very tiresome. This made the division of labour at home necessary.

The youngers still support the traditional structure.According to them,women should do the houseworks,men should earn money and maintain his family in economis sense.

But youngers want the division of labour at home. They think that Now that women work and contribute to her family budget , men also should help women with houseworks.

Workshop - 9

Group members were asked about the changes and developments in bathrooms and ,one of the most important elements of our culture, in Turkish baths and they were wanted to express their thoughts on the consequences of technological developments in this area.

As the water was carried from the fountains of the villages to the homes,while there wasn t any part designed as a bathroom at homes; In mansions, every room used to have got a seperate bathroom wardrope and in center of the cities there used to be Turkish baths which were opened for men and women on certain days of the week.





Today, due to water being in every home, technological advances and always hot water in their homes; people prefer to bathe in their homes and Turkish baths which is used for bathing at the same time as a center of social sharing for people began to take its place as it was in the history. People organise various entertainment and activities in these Turkish baths and stay there for long hours.

Other workshops proposed by the staff and the group members.

Workshop - 1

Giving household items used in the past to the youngsters and new household items to the elders and demanding from them to use these objects and express their feelings.



Other workshops proposed by the staff and the group members.

Workshop - 2

Old and young generations' spending a day together in one of the mansions.



Other workshops proposed by the staff and the group members.

Workshop - 3

Requesting from the group members to draw the house in their dream.



Workshop - 4

Group member's sharing an event they couldn't forget related with the houses they have lived and the objects they have used.



Workshop - 5

Getting our group member's ideas about wall coverings and floors being used at homes.





4 – The acquisitions and general results that employees and group members derived from the workshops.

- Changes in the areas of life around us is closely related with the transition from large family types to the nuclear family type.
- Different age group's preferences of living places may be similar to each other.
- An household item can have such features as increasing social sharing and connecting people even if it seems ordinary.
- Changes in distribution of tasks at homes generally related with the decrease in the number of people sharing the same house and the statuses of women in business circles.
- Even if the development in technology make the life simpler , its results may not be good.
- Changes in living places are mostly effective on people's behaviours , the future of culture and social life.



4-The acquisitions and general results that employees and group members derived from the workshops.

What have we learned?

The Youngers

- They had the opportunity to think about the reasons of changes in houses.
- Youngers who have very little information about the house life of former years, had the opportunity to receive knowledge from the people who lived in those years.
- They learned some of the intended use of household items which were used in the past but only decorate the houses now.
- They learned how people reacted to some of the household items when they first came into use.
- They learned how hard was listening to music and watching tv at those times.
- They had more information about the developments in technology .
- They remembered once more that at once upon times the olders were also young.



4 –The acquisitions and general results that employees and group members derived from the workshops.

What have we learned?

THE OLDERS

- They had the opportunity to think about the reasons of changes in houses.
- They learned the ideas of the young people about house life.
- They had the opportunity to explain old days.
- They had the opportunity to think about the reasons for changes in houses.



4 –The acquisitions and general results that employees and group members derived from the workshops.

What have we learned?

THE STAFF

- They had the opportunity to think about the reasons of changes in houses.
- They learned the difficulties in working with different age groups.
- They learned some of the intended use of household items which were used in the past but only decorate the houses now.
- They had the opportunity to recall some cultural elements which are about to be forgotten.
- They learned that different age groups can have similar preferences in living places.
- They had the opportunity to be able to see the good and bad aspects of technology.
- They had information about different areas of life around us.
- They learned how comfort and convenience affect people's relationships with each other.
- They learned how important is transferring the experiences elders had to the youngsters.

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5 – Difficulties we met during our studies and their applicability by other partners.

W1. Photographing the houses: We didn't meet any difficulties so it can be used by other partners.

W2. Questionnaire: We didn't meet any difficulties so with small changes in questions , partners can use it.

The most important difficulty in W3 – W4 – W5 – W6 – W7 – W8 and W9 is to get all of the group members together. The other difficulties are visiting group members over the age of 70 at their homes, organising common meetings according to the group member's working hours and working with four different age groups at the same time. Despite of these difficulties; we got more information and had merry times during our studies.

From the proposed workshops;

W1 can be applied to choose suitable objects.

W2 It can be put into practice If health and material subjects are not the problem.

W3 It can be applied to individuals who are good at drawing.

W4 – W5 can be applied without any difficulty.

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