

# **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZING LEISURE TIME OF CHILDREN: DISTINCTION STRATEGIES OF THE NEW MIDDLE CLASS**

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This study examines the involvement of the new middle class parents in the process of organizing children's leisure time. Parents from different socio-economic background pursue different strategies while involving in the using of leisure time of their children. Therefore, leisure can be evaluated as a field of reproduction of cultural capital. Accordingly, it is argued that usage of leisure time of children are associated with the class position of their family and can be seen as a distinction strategy. Distinct identities are constituted through content of the daily schedule, activities participated in, courses taken and so on. Because the ways of using leisure is a social locator in itself, and leisure activities are also distributed unequally among classes. Although the involvement of parents in schooling process is mostly examined in order to demonstrate the effect of family background on children's progress, the importance of the differences in schedules of students out of school are quite understudied. In this framework, this study examines the parental strategies of the new middle class from the perspective of Pierre Bourdieu. For this research, in-depth interviews done with the new middle class parents in Istanbul are analyzed.

**Key words:** reproduction, cultural capital, distinction strategy, parental strategy, the new middle class, leisure time