

# Turkish Primary School Teachers' Self-Efficacy Perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, Use of Teaching Skills and of Educational Technology: A SEM Approach

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The Present cross-sectional survey study aims to examine, through a SEM approach, the relationship among self-efficacy perceptions for 21st century skills, teaching skills use and educational technology use of teachers. 438 Turkish primary school teachers participated in the study. A SEM approach revealed that Educational technology use (ETUS) is a significant predictor of 21st century teaching skills (TS) and self-efficacy perceptions of teachers for 21st century skills (SEP). Also, 21st century teaching skills are a significant predictor of self-efficacy perceptions for 21st century skills. It is considered that the results can contribute to studies regarding 21st century skills of primary school teachers and use of instructional technology.

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**Keywords:** Self-efficacy perceptions for 21st century skills, 21st century teaching skills, educational technology use, primary school teachers

## INTRODUCTION

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the developments in the field of information systems and technologies manifested human power qualified in all areas. Educational institutions should prepare students to live in the information age, to use today's technology and discover new things. Students should be able to make conscious decisions so that they can develop expertise and learn continuously for lifelong (Suwono, Mahmudah & Maulidiah, 2017). Physical infrastructure of educational environment, technological infrastructure, content of the curricula and similar factors are directly or indirectly related to the quality of the education delivered. In educational process, it can be said that teacher qualification is very important (Leigh & Mead, 2005), and the knowledge and skills of teachers is the most important factor supporting students' development. According to Shihab (2008), in rapidly growing and changing global economy of our day, individuals need to have certain skills to achieve competitiveness and success. One of the most important skills among these is probably the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. 21<sup>st</sup> century skills require students to use their skills in all areas of life by being creative, learning collaboratively and being part of learning communities.

When current reports of business world and educators are reviewed, it is seen that 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are highlighted, and many countries develop their educational curricula based on these skills. In literature, it is emphasized that content-based approaches are handing it over to skills day by day and skill-based purposes are getting to the foreground (Ravitch, 2009). However, to teach 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and to achieve the outcomes aimed for, improved curricula, teaching practices and assessment elements should be run to work in accordance (Rotherham & Willingham, 2010). Teachers must teach 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to students in unique contexts by providing interesting learning opportunities and integrate them into the present curricula (Larson & Northern Miller, 2011 as cited in Karahan, 2021). In this respect, Saavedra and Opfer (2012) express that most of the scientists' suggestions related to how students can learn 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and how their needs can be pedagogically met focus on concepts of information transfer, metacognition, teamwork, technology, and creativity. Besides, in the report related to how 21<sup>st</sup> century skills can be developed, Windschitl (2009) stated that professional development which can support science teachers' perceptions and practices should focus on scientific content, practice and active learning opportunities based on databased evidence (Karahan, 2021).

The issue of learners' developing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills has brought up teachers' integrating their technological knowledge with pedagogical content knowledge. Combining technology with the conceptual framework of pedagogical content knowledge was first put into practice by Pierson (1999, 2001) in the beginning of 2000s. In this model, by adding technological knowledge to pedagogical content knowledge model, "technological pedagogical content knowledge" concept was used for the first time. In the same years, affected by Shulman, 1987; Margerum-Lays & Marx (2002) used the term "PCK of educational technology". Although many researchers developed various models related to this subject, Koh et al. (2015) suggested a course design model

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related to how 21<sup>st</sup> century teachers can integrate their TPACK competencies into their courses. The basic model of this design is illustrated in Figure 1.

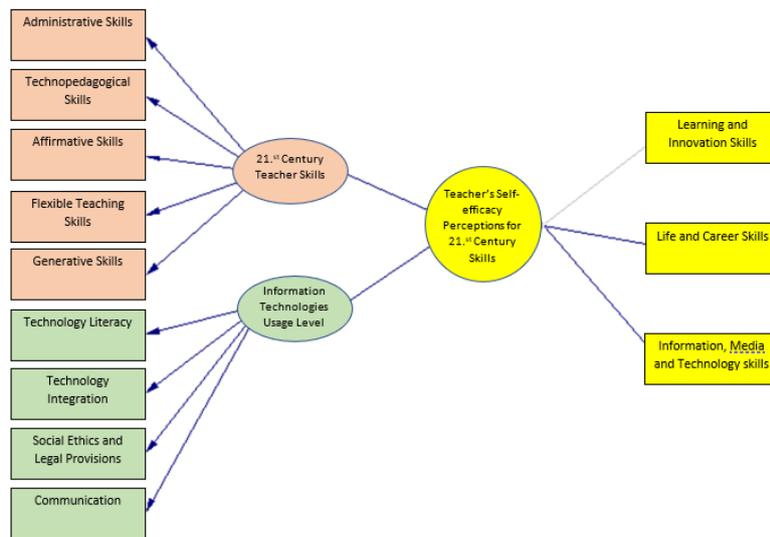


Figure 1. Latent and Observed Variables of Basic Model

In Figure 1, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are integrated with cognitive, metacognitive, sociocultural, productivity and technology dimensions. As for the course design, it consists of steps of determining content, designing course materials, applying and reflection. To make teachers develop their TPACK-21<sup>st</sup> century teacher competencies, it is necessary to get them to apply the courses they integrated with technology and test their results (Doering, Veletsianos, Scharber & Miller, 2009). Research results showed that when teachers design technology supported courses and do practices, their self-efficacies improve (Lambert & Gong, 2010; Mouza & Karchmer-Klein, 2015). In this study, focusing on teacher qualities and use of technology during courses, the conceptual framework of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that teachers have to possess is examined according to dependent and independent variables within the framework of the model developed by Koh and his colleagues (2015).

### *Theoretical Framework*

To be able to meet the expectations of today's learners, who are called digital natives, besides having certain standards, as being the most important factor in planning and applying the educational process in an environment where students with high-level skills are present, it is inevitable for teachers to possess some skills that they need to provide quality education.

### *21<sup>st</sup> century skills and teachers' 21<sup>st</sup> century skills self-efficacy perceptions*

Today's teachers are expected to raise world citizens students who are donated with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. In parallel with the increasing interest in the skills that students should have in the 21<sup>st</sup> century necessitated the development of a framework for these skills. There are five major frameworks that stand out among many different classifications (Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills (2002), AASL (2007), ISTE (2000), North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (Lemke, 2002) and National Research Council (Hilton, 2008). In the framework developed by P21, the skills that students should have in order to be ready to work in the global economy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to be more competitive in the international arena have been determined. According to the P21 (2009) 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills listed as life and career skills, learning and innovation skills, information, media, and technology skills (Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, 2009). Teacher plays an important role in students' gaining 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. This situation also requires the change of the qualities teachers have. In fact, Day, Kington, Stobart, and Sammons (2006) emphasize that the key concepts that constitute teacher identity are self-efficacy, motivation, professional satisfaction, effectiveness and commitment. Among these variables, self-efficacy appears to be one of the important factors in teachers' achieving success in their practices.

Self-efficacy is defined by Bandura (1986, 1997) as "the judgments of individuals regarding their ability to organize and execute the necessary actions in order to achieve certain performances". In other words, self-efficacy can be expressed as individuals' personal beliefs about planning and performing actions (Martin & Mulvihill, 2019). According to the Social Cognitive Theory, the concept of teacher self-efficacy refers to teachers' beliefs about their ability to successfully continue the teaching process. There are many studies examining the effect of teachers' beliefs on teaching practices in the classroom (Canrinus, Helms-Lorenz,

Beijaard, Buitink, & Hofman, 2012; Elkatmış, Demirbaş & Ertuğrul, 2013; Ghasemolanda & Hashimb, 2013; İlgör, 2019). There are also research about TSE which has been linked to desirable outcomes like the use of diverse teaching strategies (Chan, 2008), a better classroom climate (Aslan, 2015) and student performance (Mojavezi & Tavis, 2012). Fackler, Malmber & Sammons (2021) examined teacher self-efficacy in terms of teacher, class, school and administrator variables, based on TALIS data. The results of the research revealed that in all the variables, the most related to teacher self-efficacy is the class variable. In this respect, teachers must believe that they can do this job in order to play their critical role properly in implementing educational processes and getting their students to gain 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

#### *21<sup>st</sup> century teacher qualities/skills*

International Society for Technology in Education-ISTE updated teacher standards in 2017. By gathering these standards under two main headings named as professionalism (first three areas) and learner supporter (four areas), seven competency areas were identified in total. Learner expresses teachers' improving themselves professionally. Teachers follow studies in their field on a local and global scale by renewing themselves in technological and pedagogical respect. Leader expresses teachers' providing students opportunities to be successful in educational process. It involves being a model for their colleagues in making use of technology and using digital contents according to students' needs. Digital citizen expresses teachers' encouraging students to contribute as digital citizens. Teachers help students to be safe, legal, and ethical in digital environments, participate in online environments and create a learning culture here. Collaborator indicates teachers' sharing with their colleagues as well as their students. Teachers add on to their experiences by getting help from technology in problem solving, they collaborate on global and cultural levels by including their students and families. Designer expresses teachers' producing unique learner-based activities. Teachers make use of technological devices, use digital environments for individual and innovative experiences. Facilitator emphasizes teachers' supporting learning process with technology. Teachers support learners' creativity, use of technology, skills for individual and group work, knowledge, and operational thinking in learning process. Problem solver expresses students' achieving their goal with teachers' assessment data. At this stage, teachers want students to show their technological proficiencies. Teachers give students feedback, make use of technology in formative and final assessments. They cooperate with other stakeholders in students' development.

It is seen that the teacher competencies stated above give various roles to teachers in educational process. Today's teachers are no longer individuals to pass on information to their students but are required to undertake a designer's mission by transforming their practices with technology. Besides the purpose of using teaching technologies in learning environment to make learning easy, it should also serve the purpose of enriching teaching and facilitating individual learning. With this perspective, teacher competencies in using technology emerge as a variable with a growing importance.

#### *Teachers' Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Usage Levels*

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is essential to provide educational environments integrated with technology for individuals so that they can achieve the the competencies expected from them. In this respect, as teachers play a very important role in raising qualified individuals, their technology competencies have an important place in integrating their students and educational environment with technology. The outcomes and principles of educational curricula in Turkey were prepared in compliance with the European Qualifications Framework and organized according to the Turkish Qualifications Framework (MoNE, 2016). Also, by including 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in educational curricula, an important step was taken towards getting individuals to gain these skills. Furthermore, it is obvious that it cannot be expected to get students to gain these skills unless teachers, who are one of the most important components of teaching-learning process, are equipped with the competencies in this field (Darling-Hammond, 2006; Schleicher, 2016; Özyurt, 2020).

The technology use in education gives support within the scientific dimension and the framework of educational policies (Fraillon, Ainley, Schulz, Duckworth & Friedman 2019; OECD, 2015). In the scientific discussions related to education, the necessity of technology integration into education as well as its contribution to improving teaching and learning processes to get students to gain 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are emphasized.

Studies conducted with teachers include topics such as teachers' use of technology (Brun & Hinostroza, 2014; Ertmer & Ottenbreit-Leftwich, 2010; Türel & Johnson, 2012), and technology integration processes (Ertmer, Ottenbreit-Leftwich, Sadik, Sendurur & Sendurur, 2012; Keengwe, Onchwari & Wachira, 2008; Kim, Kim, Lee,

Spector & DeMeester, 2013). As there are studies explaining the obstacles standing in front of technology integration with poor infrastructure (Drossel et al., 2017), studies which show that teachers' beliefs in this field cause restriction also take place in literature (Backfisch, Lachner, Hische, Loose, & Scheiter, 2020; Scherer, Siddiq, & Tondeur, 2019; Taimalu & Luik, 2019). However, the relationships between teachers' motivational beliefs (in other words; self-efficacy, perceived benefit) and technology integration are not made clear yet. For example, the classic motivational belief models (e.g., expectancy value theory; Eccles & Wigfield, 2002) assume a concurrent mechanism with direct effects of self-efficacy and benefit-value on technology integration (Taimalu & Luik, 2019). As an alternative, technology acceptance models (TAM) (Al-Azawei and et al, 2017; Scherer and et al, 2019; Marangunić & Granić, 2015) suggest a gradual model. Whatever their perspectives are, both models assumed that teachers' self-efficacy perceptions and technology integration are related to each other. The purpose of O'Neal, Gibson & Cotton's (2017) study was to explore teachers' beliefs surrounding the role of technology in teaching and learning skills suitable for modern-day opportunity and employment. Their research findings suggested that, while teachers in the study saw the importance of incorporating technology into teaching and learning.

There is a relationship between teachers' teaching skills and their self-efficacy perceptions about teaching 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Studies on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills focus on the effects of different teaching strategies on gaining 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (Korkmaz, 2019; Nouri, Zhang, Manila & Norén, 2020; Pana & Escarlos, 2017) and professional development (Sharif & Cho, 2015). In Turkey, studies conducted with teachers related to 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are limited with studies aimed at determining views and efficacy perceptions (Karadeniz & Vatanartıran, 2015; Orhan Göksün, 2016; Gürültü, Aslan & Alcı, 2018; Aydın, 2019; Cemaloğlu, Arslangilay, Üstündağ & Bilasa, 2019; Çelebi & Sevinç, 2019; Eğmir & Çengelci, 2020). In literature, there are studies which consider the conceptual framework of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills with respect to teacher self-efficacy (Wilborn, 2013; Uyar & Çiçek 2021; Coşanay & Karalı 2022) as well as studies which examine teachers' self efficacy with their self-efficacy about their skill teaching (Wilborn 2013; Uyar & Çiçek 2021; Coşanay & Karalı 2022). Also, Kuloğlu & Karabekmez (2022) searched the relationship between 21<sup>st</sup> century teacher skills and critical thinking skills of the classroom teachers. Çimen (2022) examined the relationship between the general self-efficacy levels of physical education and sports teachers and their efficacy perception of skill teaching. Research results revealed that there was a moderate positive correlation between the self-efficacy and efficacy perceptions for skill teaching of physical education and sports teachers.

In all the studies mentioned above, it is seen that teacher is an important element in educational processes, it is essential for teachers to have 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and to have a high self-efficacy in teaching skills, and use of technology in education is an important factor in 21<sup>st</sup> century skills teaching. However, when studies in literature were examined, no research related to the relationship between teachers' 21<sup>st</sup> century skills self-efficacy perceptions, 21<sup>st</sup> century teacher qualities and teachers' technology use was found.

Applying structural equation model which holds the variables mentioned within the scope of the study is important as it reveals the interaction between the variables and its predictive power for the dependent variable. It is considered that the results of this study will make unique contributions to the literature of education sciences especially in the subject area of teachers' 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and teaching technologies. Setting off from this theoretical framework, the structured model illustrated in Figure 2 was constructed. According to the model, teachers' use of 21<sup>st</sup> century teacher skills and educational technologies are independent variables, teachers' self-efficacy perceptions towards 21<sup>st</sup> century skills teaching is treated as dependent variable.

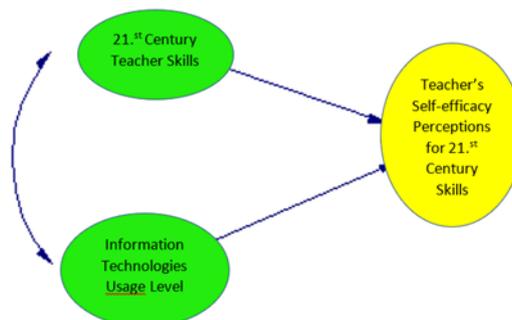


Figure 2. The Hypothetical Model

## Objectives of the Study

This study aims to test and build a holistic model, through a SEM approach, for the variables as self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, teaching skills use and educational technology use of Turkish primary school teachers. The results of the present study have the potential to contribute to the literature regarding 21<sup>st</sup> century skills of primary school teachers and use of educational technology. The predicted structural model of the study is that direct relations exist among self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, teaching skills use and educational technology use of primary school teachers. The hypotheses for the current study have been identified as follows:

H1: 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching skills (TS) is a direct affect on self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (SEP) as a significant predictor.

H2: Educational technology use (ETUS) is a direct affect a self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (TEP) as a significant predictor.

H3: Educational technology use (ETUS) and 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching skills (TS) are significant predictors of self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (SEP).

## METHOD

### Research Design

The authors employed the correlational survey research design to examine the relations among self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, teaching skills use and educational technology use of teachers. Survey research involves studying relationships among variables and their directions (Fraenkel, Wallen & Hyun, 2012). In this study, educational technology use and 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching skills are the independent variables whereas self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are the dependent variable of the study.

### Population and Sample

The target population is all primary school teachers in Turkiye, and the accessible population is all primary school teachers in the city of Izmir, a western city of Turkiye. According to the data of İzmir Provincial Directorate of National Education (2020) records, the number of primary schools in Izmir is 651 whilst the number of primary school teachers is 13281. Considering the reliability of 95% confidence interval, the required number of teachers for the sample is 373. And the authors administered the scales to 490 teachers. When the data set was cleaned from the missign data, the sample included a total of 438 Turkish primary school teachers. The demographics of the teachers are displayed in Table 1.

**Table 1. The demographic background of the sample**

<b>Gender</b>	<i>f</i>	%	<b>Work experience</b>	<i>f</i>	%
Female	354	80.82	Above 20 years	142	32.42
Male	84	19.18	10-14 years	89	20.32
<b>Level of education</b>	<i>f</i>	%	5-9 years	74	16.89
PhD	1	0.23	15-19 years	70	15.97
Master	70	15.98	1-5 years	63	15.38
Undergraduate	367	83.79	<b>School location</b>	<i>f</i>	%
<b>Graduation</b>	<i>f</i>	%	City center	202	46.12
Faculty of Education	356	81.28	District	164	37.44
Faculty of science and literature	30	6.85	Town	17	3.88
Other	20	4.57	Village	49	11.19
Institute of Education	18	4.11	Neighborhood	4	0.91
Teacher High School	14	3.19	not working currently	2	0.46
<b>Age</b>	<i>f</i>	%	<b>Which grade are you teaching?</b>	<i>f</i>	%
30-39	160	36.53	1st grade	115	26.26
40-49	106	24.20	3rd grade	108	24.66
20-29	92	21.00	2nd grade	107	24.43
Above 50	80	18.27	4th grade	99	22.60
			Multi-age classroom	9	2.05

## Data Collection Tools

The scale of self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (SEP)

SEP was developed by Anagün, Atalay, Kılıç and Yaşar (2016) with 42 items and a three-factor structure. The factors of SEP included (1) learning and innovation skills, (2) life and career skills and (3) information, media, and technology skills. The correlations among factors vary between 0.28-0.50 and they are significant at .01 level. EFA results revealed that the three-factor and approximate total explained variance of SEP was 51.30%. Whereas CFA analysis revealed acceptable goodness-of-fit values (Kline, 2015)  $\chi^2/df=2.00$ , RMSEA=.055, CFI=.93, IFI=.93. The Spearman Brown value of the scale is 0.731 while the Guttman Split- Half value is 0.731. The Cronbach alpha ( $\alpha$ ) value of the whole scale is 0.89. Alpha value for the factors are as follows: 0.845 for the Factor 1, 0.826 for the Factor 2 and 0.810 for the Factor 3. In addition, considering that the item-total correlations of the scale varied between .152 and .499, it has been understood that the scale had a consistent structure based on items (Anagün et al., 2016).

The scale of 21<sup>st</sup> century teacher skills use (TS)

Orhan Göksün and Kurt (2015) developed the TS based on general teacher competencies of the Turkish Ministry of National Education, ISTE for teachers, Lemov (2010), and Melvin (2011). The total variance explained in the scale is 40.33% and the internal consistency score is 0.87. Final version of that five-point scale has five factors and 27 items. Namely, administrative skills, techno-pedagogical skills, confirmative skills, flexible teaching skills and productive skills are the factors of the scale. The structure was also confirmed using confirmatory factor analysis ( $\chi^2 / df = 0.87$ ;  $p = 0.95$ ; RMSEA = 0,00).

The Level of Teachers' Educational Technology Usage Scale (ETUS)

The ETUS was developed by Bayraktar (2015). This five-point scale consists of 38 items with four factors. It was reported that these factors together explain 62,90% of the total variance. Namely, the factors of the scale are Technology Literacy (19 items), Technology Integration into the Subject (9 items), Social Ethical and Legal Provisions (6 items) and Communication (4 items). Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) value of the scale is 0.975. And the Cronbach Alpha internal consistency score is 0.975.

## Data Analysis

Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) approach was used to test the research hypotheses. The term structural equation modeling (SEM) does not designate a single statistical technique but instead refers to a family of related procedures (Kline, 2015). Pearl (2012) defines SEM as a causal inference method that is a set of hypotheses based on theory and a set of logical implications of the model that may not directly correspond to a specific parameter but that still can be tested in the data. The point of SEM is to test a theory by specifying a model that represents predictions of that theory among plausible constructs measured with appropriate observed variables (Hayduk, Cummings, Boadu, Pazderka-Robinson, & Boulianne 2007 cited in Kline, 2015). In this research, before starting structural equation modeling (SEM) analysis, model SEM assumptions were tested. First, preliminary analysis such as outlier, univariate, multivariate normality, and multicollinearity were tested. Then, the data were analyzed with two stage SEM.

At the beginning of the data analysis stage, the Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) assumptions were tested by performing a preliminary analysis. These assumptions include outlier, univariate, multivariate normality, and multicollinearity before starting the Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) analysis (Kline, 2015). Outlier analysis was performed to ensure normality and the outliers Mahalanobis distance was calculated (Uzun & Çokluk-Bökeoğlu, 2019). Mahalanobis distance maximum value is 12,370. This distance maximum value is 13.816 at the 0.001 significance level. This means that there are not any outliers. After, skewness and kurtosis values were examined for checking normality as shown in Table 2. Since these values are between -2 and +2 as suggested (Hair, Black, Babin ve Anderson 2010) this assumption was provided.

**Table 2. Variables Correlation and Normality Values**

Variables	$\bar{X}$	Sd	SEP	TS	ETUS
Self-efficacy perceptions for 21 <sup>st</sup> century skills (SEP)	4.270	.314	-	.657	.456
21 <sup>st</sup> century teaching skills (TS)	4.214	.328	.657	-	.478
Educational technology use (ETUS)	3.961	.562	.456	.478	-
Skewness			.151	.031	-.201
Kurtosis			-.479	-.896	-.416
VIF				1.296	1.296
TI				.771	.771

Second, the correlations among variables (see Table 2), tolerance, VIF values were examined for checking multicollinearity assumption (Anagün et al., 2016; Uzun & Çokluk-Bökeoğlu, 2019). And it was observed that none of the correlations among variables are greater than .80 and the tolerance values are above 0.1 as suggested by Uzun & Çokluk-Bökeoğlu (2019) which indicates no problem with multicollinearity. The correlation values are between .657 and .478. It is acceptable that VIF values are smaller than 10 (Alpar, 2022). The VIF value is 1,296 and similar among independent variables.

## FINDINGS

The linear regression analysis shows the prediction on self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (SEP) using 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching skills (TS) and educational technology use (ETUS).

The linear regression model is significant ( $F_{(2,435)}=183.66, p<.001$ ). The variance in the dependent variable was explained by independent variables at %46 ( $R^2_{adjusted}=.46$ ). In this research all the hypothesis (H1, H2 and H3) are accepted. The regression model equation is in the following:  $SEP= 1.57+ .54 * TS + .10 * ETUS$ . The values are shown at Table 3.

**Table 3. Linear Regression Values**

Variable	Non-Standard		Standard		R	R <sup>2</sup>	t	p
	Coefficients	S.E	Coefficients	β				
Constant	1.571	.143			.677	.458	10.988	.000
TS	.544	.038		.569			14.163	.000
ETUS	.103	.022		.184			4.571	.000

21<sup>st</sup> century teaching skills (TS) are positive and significant predictors of self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (SEP).  $\beta=.57, t_{(435)}=14.16, p<.001$ ,  $pr^2=.32$ . These values show, H1 acceptance. And also, H2 is accepted. Educational technology use (ETUS) is positive and significant predictor of self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (SEP).  $\beta=.18, t_{(435)} = 4.57, p<.001$ ,  $pr^2=.05$

Educational technology use (ETUS) and 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching skills (TS) are positive and significant predictors of self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (SEP). For answering this hypothesis, a SEM was created. The Structural model is in the following:  $SEP= 0.75* TS + 0.14* ETUS$ ,  $Errorvar.=0.028, R^2 =0.72$ . This means that TS and ETUP variables are together explain the variability (difference) on SEP %72. The factor loadings were as shown in table 4.

**Table 4. The Factor Loadings of the Variables**

Latent variable	Observed variable	Standardized factor load	P	R <sup>2</sup>	Error variance
SEP	Learning and Innovation Skills	0.711	.000	0.506	0.494
	Life and Career Skills	0.760	.000	0.577	0.423
	Information, Media, and Technology Skills	0.638	.000	0.407	0.593
TS	Administrative Skills	0.895	.000	0.800	0.200
	Technopedagogical Skills	0.696	.000	0.484	0.516
	Affirmative Skills	0.601	.000	0.361	0.639
	Flexible Teaching Skills	0.361	.000	0.130	0.870
	Generative Skills	0.567	.000	0.322	0.678
ETUS	Technology Literacy	0.752	.000	0.566	0.434
	Technology Integration	0.917	.000	0.841	0.159
	Social Ethics and Legal Provisions	0.585	.000	0.342	0.658
	Communication	0.602	.000	0.363	0.637

As seen in Table 4 the latent variables of measurement model standardized factor load on the observed variables (ranged from .36 to .91,  $p < .001$ ) are related. As a result, the observed variables in the present study are significantly explained by the latent variables to which they depend. The measurement model is shown in Figure 4 indicates the T-values. Also, the results of the equation for the model is given below.  
 Self-efficacy skills =  $0.71 * \text{Teacher skills} + 0.13 * \text{ICT usage}$ , Errorvar. = 0.061,  $R^2 = 0.91$

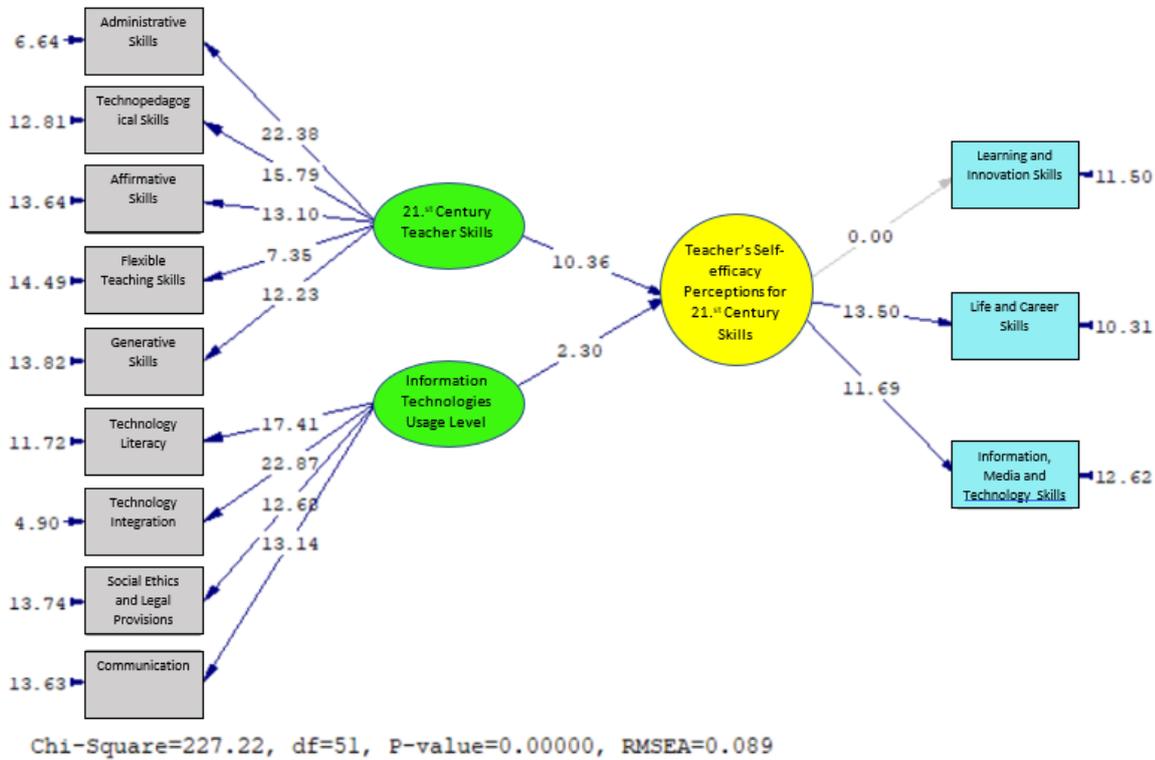


Figure 4. Measurement model T-value diagram

Table 5. The findings of the measurement model and the rationale for the criteria

Value	Criteria	Measurement model	Rationale
X <sup>2</sup>	N/A	227.220	Bollen (1989)
df	N/A	51	Ayyıldız, Cengiz & Ustasüleyman (2006)
X <sup>2</sup> /df	≤ 5 Acceptable ≤ 3 Excellent	4.455	Hooper, Coughan & Mullen (2008) Marsh & Hocevar (1988)
CFI	0.90 ≤ CFI ≤ 1.00 Acceptable	0.960	Şimşek (2007); Tabachnick & Fidell (2001)
GFI	0.90 ≤ GFI ≤ 1.00 Acceptable	0.920	Schermelleh-Engel & Moosbrugger (2003); Tabachnick & Fidell (2001)
AGFI	0.90 ≤ CFI ≤ 1.00 Acceptable	0.878	Schermelleh-Engel & Moosbrugger (2003)
SRMR	0 ≤ SRMR ≤ 0.10 Acceptable	0.065	Şimşek (2007); Brown (2006)
RMSEA	0 ≤ SRMR ≤ 0.08 Acceptable	0.089	Hooper, Coughan & Mullen (2008)

The Goodness of Fit indices are the criteria for accepting or declining the model which was tested by SEM. As shown in Table 5, the statistical results for the proposed model suggested that the CFI=0.96 and the GFI=0.92 values indicated the perfect fit and the AGFI=0.878 value indicated acceptable fit. Also, the SRMR value was calculated as 0.065 while the RMSEA was 0.089. These values also indicated acceptable goodness of fit.

Moreover,  $X^2/df$  value of the model was 4.455. As a result, it is concluded that the proposed model has a valid and reliable structure.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This study aimed to test and build a holistic model, through a SEM approach, for the variables as self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, teaching skills use and educational technology use of Turkish primary school teachers. The results of the study indicated that the measurement model is eligible for structural equation analysis. According to the results, the level of educational technology use of elementary school teachers and their 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching skills are significant predictors of their self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Therefore, it is concluded that there is positive correlation between the level of educational technology use of elementary school teachers, their 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching skills and self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Also, it was revealed that the 91% of the variance regarding primary school teachers' self-efficacy skills of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills were explained by their educational technology use and 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching skills.

According to Taimalu and Luik (2019), expectancy value theory (Eccles & Wigfield, 2002) assume a concurrent mechanism with direct effects of self-efficacy and benefit-value on technology integration. As an alternative to the expectancy value theory, technology acceptance models (TAM) (Al-Azawei et al., 2017; Marangunic & Granić, 2015; Scherer et al., 2019) suggest a gradual model. Both models assume that there is a relationship between teachers' self-efficacy perceptions and technology integration. Research results support these opinions. Similarly, Arslan-Cansever et al. (2021) came up with similar results in their study. They examined the correlation and predictive power between the 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching skills of primary school teachers and their 21<sup>st</sup> century skills efficacy perception levels. Results of their research indicated that utilization of 21<sup>st</sup> century teacher skills increase as does 21<sup>st</sup> century teacher skills efficacy perceptions. Similarly, Kara et al. (2022) reached the conclusion in their study that teachers' professional Studies in the literature support this result. Wilborn's study (2013) which examines teachers' self-efficacy within the framework of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills revealed that if teachers' perceptions of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills they have are positive; this is also reflected in their practices. Self-efficacy significantly predicts teachers' perceptions of their 21<sup>st</sup> century skills competence. Even though teachers in Turkey consider themselves capable to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, centralized national education system in Turkey may bring about those teachers having problems in reflecting these competencies in their teaching practices. In fact, research on the effective use of information and communication technologies and Web 2.0 tools in classrooms, which is one of the basic requirements of teaching 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, has shown that these applications are rather insufficient (Şengür, 2020; Yaşar, 2021).

In sum, the authors would like to conclude that present age in which we live in, involves technology which is considered as one of the most crucial elements for teaching 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Teaching students to effectively use an then how to produce technology affect both their academic and professional life experiences. It is indicated that the use of technology in learning environments improves deep learning, research and inquiry skills. And also technology supports self-directed learning; proliferates vital and professional skills of learners (Boyras, 2008; Rashid & Asghar, 2016). Teachers are considered to have key roles for the success of educational reform and innovations (Butler and Schnellert, 2012). For helping students to build twenty-first century skills, positive perceptions of the teachers for the twenty-first century learning is crucial at first. Therefore, current study intended to test and build a holistic model, through a SEM approach, for the variables as self-efficacy perceptions for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, teaching skills use and Educational technology use of Turkish primary school teachers. Although it is limited with primary school teachers in Turkey and the results are limited to the responses of the teachers in the study group, it is considered that the results fill the gap in professional development studies regarding primary school teachers' self-efficacy skills of 21<sup>st</sup> century. Finally, the authors argued following implications for further studies: To improve primary school teachers' self-efficacy skills of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, relevant professional development courses can be designed, developed, and implemented particularly at nation-wide in Turkey. In such professional development programs, learning goals can cover primary school teachers' educational technology use and teacher skills for successful and need-supportive models. On the other hand, some courses including the issue of being a 21st century teacher can be added to the curriculum of education faculties. Also, it is suggested researchers to conduct this study with the teachers from other disciplines as well.

## Declarations

### Conflict of Interest

No potential conflicts of interest were disclosed by the authors with respect to the research, authorship, or publication of this article.

### Ethics Approval

The formal ethics approval was granted by the Social And Humanities Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Committee of Ege University. We conducted the study in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration in 1975.

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### Research and Publication Ethics Statement

The study was approved by the research team's university ethics committee of the Ege University (Approval Number/ID: 02.2021/06. Hereby, we as the authors consciously assure that for the manuscript " Turkish Primary School Teachers' Self-Efficacy Perceptions for 21st Century Skills, Use of Teaching Skills and of Educational Technology: A SEM Approach " the following is fulfilled:

- This material is the authors' own original work, which has not been previously published elsewhere.
- The paper reflects the authors' own research and analysis in a truthful and complete manner.
- The results are appropriately placed in the context of prior and existing research.
- All sources used are properly disclosed.

### Contribution Rates of Authors to the Article

The authors provide equal contribution to this work.

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