

Integration of Disadvantaged¹ People to the Urban Life and Space

“ What does harmonious urbanization mean for elderly and women? ”



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1 Urban Sector Review

1.1 Basic General Data

Modern Turkey, The Republic of Turkey, was founded in 1923 from the Anatolian remnants of the Ottoman Empire by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Under his leadership, the country adopted wide-ranging social, legal, and political reforms. After a period of one-party rule (up to 1950), Turkish political parties have multiplied. Turkey is a member of a variety of international organisations such as United Nations, the Council of Europe, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, World Trade Organisation and it is candidate for full EU membership. Turkey joined the UN in 1945 and in 1952, it became a member of

¹ lacking in the basic resources or conditions (as standard housing, medical and educational facilities, and civil rights) believed to be necessary for an equal position in society (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/disadvantaged>)

NATO. Over the past decade, Turkey has undertaken many reforms to strengthen its democracy and economy, enabling it to begin accession membership talks with the European Union in 2005.

According to the 2007 (the last official census by SPO) census, population is 70.586.256. Turkey is a secular state and the capital city is Ankara. A unitary state model with local administrations has been adopted in Turkey. Elections in Turkey are held according to proportional representation system in a single stage in accordance with the principles of free, equal, secret and direct voting, public counting and tally of the votes. Every province is an electoral milieu.

Turkey, a rectangular shaped country, has a surface area of 814 578 square kilometres (314 500 square miles). It locates on two continents Europe and Asia. European part of Turkey is called Thrace, while the Asian part is called Anatolia or Asia Minor and 3 % is on the European continent while 97 % is on the Asian continent. Turkey is surrounded by sea on three sides. There is also an important internal sea, Marmara, between the straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus.

Turkey is located in the temperature zone between the 36 and 42nd degrees of northern latitudes and 26 and 45th degrees of eastern longitudes; and there is 76-minutes time difference between its easternmost and westernmost tips. It takes place within the Alpine-Himalayan zone, one of the most prominent seismic zones in the world, and eight considerably high scale earthquakes have occurred along the North Anatolian Fault since 1939.

Turkey has 81 administrative provinces and 7 geographical regions. According to the new EU NUTS classification after 2001, 81 first level, 26 second level and 12 third level regions are defined by State Planning organisation.

Demography

According to 2007 census 70.586.256 people live in Turkey. The population, which was roughly 13,6 million in 1927, recorded a fivefold increase in 80 years. In the 1990-2000 periods the annual population increase was 18,3 ‰ and it was sharply dropped to 5,7 ‰ in 2000-2007 period. Nearly 70 % of the population live in urban areas (with population of 20 000 or more) by the year 2007.

Table 1: Urban and Rural Population

YEARS Census Date	Total Population	Urban Population*	Proportion of Urban Pop. (%)	Rural Population	Proportion of Rural Pop's (%)
1970	35.605.176	10.221.530	28,7	25.383.646	71,3
1975	40.347.719	13.271.801	32,9	27.075.918	67,1
1980	44.736.957	16.064.681	35,9	28.672.276	64,1
1985	50.664.458	23.238.030	45,9	27.426.428	54,1
1990	56.473.035	28.958.300	51,3	27.514.735	48,7
2000	67.803.927	39.815.727	59,1	27.604.273	40,9
2007	70.586.256	49	70	20	30

(*) Urban refers to areas with population of 20.000 or more (definition by SPO). (**) Mid-year estimation.

Sources: SIS², TURKSTAT³, SPO⁴.

Among the 81 provinces in the country, the two most rapidly growing are İstanbul with 12 million and Ankara with 4,2 million populations.

Females comprise 33.6 and the males 34.2 million of the population by the year 2000. Now those are 35,4 (%51,2) and 35,2 (49,8) million respectively. Turkey is a country with a young population in 2000 and younger in 2007. The 0-14 age group is 30%, the 15-64 age group 64.4% and the 65+ age group 5.6% of the overall population. However in 2007 while the ratio of the first group declines, second and third group (the aged) arose. Number of the aged people has been more than five million for the first time. And with the new comers it will be near ten millions in ten years.

Table 2: Proportion of Population by Age Groups

Age Groups	1997	2000	2007
0-14 Age Group	31.7	30.0	26,4
15-64 Age Group	63.1	64.4	66.5
65+ Age Group	5.1	5.6	7.1

Source: Turkey 2007, TURKSTAT

² State Institute of Statistics

³ Turkish Statistical Institute (After 2004)

⁴ State Planning Organisation

Table 3: Population by Age Groups

Age Groups	Total	Male	Female
0-4	5.793.906	2.978.972	2.814.934
5-9	6.436.827	3.303.329	3.133.498
10-14	6.411.658	3.288.472	3.123.186
15-19	6.157.033	3.159.723	2.997.310
20-24	6.240.573	3.181.804	3.058.769
25-29	6.512.838	3.295.102	3.217.736
30-34	5.727.699	2.885.151	2.842.548
35-39	5.072.441	2.565.112	2.507.329
40-44	4.725.800	2.379.314	2.346.486
45-49	4.085.065	2.057.626	2.027.439
50-54	3.565.669	1.781.029	1.784.640
55-59	2.788.858	1.369.618	1.419.240
60-64	2.067.714	981.178	1.086.536
65-69	1.698.583	781.165	917.418
70-74	1.373.077	629.241	743.836
75-79	1.069.961	441.289	628.672
80-84	578.879	212.383	366.496
85-89	182.188	58.552	123.636
90+	97.487	27.473	70.014
Toplam	70.586.256	35.376.533	35.209.723

Source: Turkey 2007, TURKSTAT

In general, education cost is paid from the general budget in Turkey⁵ and Ministry of National Education takes nearly 2 % of the total budget. Access to education in Turkey is increased highly in primary education when compared to establishment years of the Republic but secondary and high school data show still low rates. A positive development took place in 1997 and the government has committed for eight years of compulsory education. However, there exist still very important cultural and religious obstacles for the literacy of females and children especially in less developed urban areas and in rural areas.

Economy

⁵ Private education possibilities exist at all levels of the education, from primary school to university.

Turkey pursued an economic policy based on import substitution until 1980. A stability programme introducing radical economic reforms and transformations was put into force in 1980. Thus, Turkey adopted a new policy focusing on and attaching priority to export. Today Turkey is one of the most liberal foreign exchange regimes in the World. The average GNP growth rate of Turkish economy was 5.3% during 1980-1990, 3.2% during 1990-1995 and 7.9% during 1995-1997. Although the economy receded by 9.5% as a result of the financial Crisis of 2001, it successfully recovered in 2002 and GNP rose by 7.9%. In line with the economic stability and anti-inflationary policies adopted since 1998, inflation rate decreased to a single digit number in 2004 with 9.3 %.

The share of agriculture in the GDP receded from approximately 30% in the late 1960s to 15 % in the early 1990s. On the other hand, the share of industry increased from 19% to 25 during the same period. The services sector also increased its share in line with the developments in the world economy. Its share rose to 58% in 1995 and to 65% in 2007.

1.2 Urban Facts and Figures Related to Shelter

The biggest share in housing production is belonging to private sector in Turkey and there exists nearly 2.2 millions housing deficit especially for the low income group. Local governments, except the Greater City Municipalities, have not enough budget and tools for housing production under favourable terms and conditions and in a short time. Under these conditions, market mechanism plays the greatest role and there exists huge problem in access to healthy and affordable housing for low income groups. Under current economical conditions, poor people or low-income groups cannot acquire quality houses with favourable terms and conditions. This, in turn, lead to illegal and irregular housing areas in poor quality.

According to national statistics, production of formal residential housing is approximately 363 000 per year in average for the years 1970 to 2003. But this figure doesn't reflect the real housing demand and there exist 2.2 million housing deficit for the lower-middle and low income groups by the year 2005, especially in metropolitan areas, due to migration, unbalanced urbanisation and income polarisation. Metropolitan areas and big cities suffer from the illegal housing with

growing numbers. However access to basic services and infrastructure in these illegal areas is not a big problem and nearly all of them have tap water, electricity swage system and mass transportation.

1.3 Policy

Although physical planning scheme has the legal bases and there exist standards, norms and codes, implementation process have serious problems. There exists an extreme land speculation and it causes changes in plan decisions at all levels and excessive value on land. It is the most important obstacle on production of cheap and affordable housing. The typology of low and high cost housing is multi-rise apartments. Illegal and high rise apartments have widely seen especially at metropolitan fringe areas.

National shelter policy has changed after 2002 sharply with the changing role of National Housing Development Agency (HDA). It has aimed at improving and strengthening private sector's involvement and contracted for the production of luxury housing sites (gated) for high income groups in order to create new financial source for the lower income groups. But now it is clearly seen and criticised that poor and the low income groups couldn't benefit from this system and they are waiting for their turn. The policy at present is under review and needs to be altered.

1.4 Actors and their Roles

Turkey has experienced inflation of responsible public organizations from urban planning and implementation for nearly 30 years (after 80s through neoliberal economic policies). This has caused integration problems between and even inside the urban settlements. Central government, ministries, municipal bodies (3215), and semi-private public organizations held the approval right and they acted as independent actors on the space. Private sector was and is the main producer of housing.

Recently, the main actors of the urbanization are transformers. They are dealing only with the market side of housing and urbanisation. Public agencies are all in the race of creating new urban rent via planning. Free market planning is now in charge. Cities loosing their values, historical and natural sites and valuable

old city areas are being transformed into luxury housing areas or big shopping centers or sold or rented for long terms.

We can summarise the position of planning system as being in a dark and a long tunnel. There are small but ineffective critics and oppositions from some NGOs, Chamber of Planners and Architects and academicians but process goes on.

2 Organisation

City and Regional Planning Department is one of the eight departments in Engineering and Architecture Faculty of Gazi University. Gazi University is one of the biggest and oldest university in Turkey and the biggest in Ankara, the capital. After taking place as a specialisation area in the department of Architecture for nearly ten years, City and Regional Planning is separated and is founded as an individual department in 1984. It was a new department with 11 academics at that time, now, in 2008, reached to 43 and experienced increasing quality in education. It has played an important role in the planning education, research and urbanization process in the country.

Although planners could not and can not totally direct or change the existing abnormal nature of urbanization and planning in the country, their aim is to minimize the risks and damages by means of planning policies and implementation tools.

City and Regional Planning department plays an active role through consultancy in urbanisation process and it gives support to activities of Chamber of City Planners and Chamber of Architects. It is an active member of Turkish Planning Schools Association (TUBOP) and it will hold the honorary presidency of TUBOP in 2009.

3 Urban Problem

The big cities examine (as mentioned above) some negative economic, social and spatial changes that have taken also place in Turkey nearly for the last thirty years. Ankara, the capital, is one of them. Urban transformation has played the main role in this process. It has had major consequences for both the social structure and the

built environment of Ankara. It has become increasingly socially polarised due to the changes in its economic structure. The growth of high-earning groups as well as the poors and a parallel increase in income inequalities have had major impacts on the nature of housing market. Urban transformation (due to especially urban renewal and gentrification projects transformed not only physical structure but also economic and social) has been paralleled by the growing marginalisation of the urban poor (unskilled, unemployed, unsecured, etc).

Increasing inequalities in the city has made living difficult for the poor and more difficult for the “poor and the other⁶” (elderly people, women, children and the handicapped). Because the dark picture drawn above effects the disadvantaged groups more than the other city dwellers. Elderly people and the women among the others are the most prone groups to what free market produces negative in the cities. Increasing disparities between the income groups and low quality urban environment makes integration of others to the urban life and space difficult.

The aim of this study will be to state and make clear the problems and expectations of the “poor and the other” in an “unequal city” context. Then it would be easier to develop strategies, policies, tools for the action plans and participation of all groups in the city.

Determination of existing problems in living conditions, expectations and their survival strategies and developing a proposal for better integration consists the focus of this study.

A harmonious city needs to improve participatory processes leading to better living environments (instead of just surviving) especially for the “poor and other”.

3.1 Field Survey /Interview

In this part of the study an interview has been applied to the elderly and women in Ankara, the capital. The interview consists of five main sub-headings with 49 questions, and searches for the existing situations, needs and complaints of elderly and women from the urban environment as following:

⁶ In this study elderly and women are taken as the most disadvantaged groups among the all disadvantaged.

- General information about the elderly people (and women) and dwelling (number of household, year of residence, social and economic situation, age, sex, education, employment, career, etc.)
- Condition of housing and living environment (property ownership type, how many storey, building material, general appearance of the house,
- Urban mobility (mode of transportation to work, shopping, cultural and recreational facilities, car ownership)
- Municipal services and social-technical infrastructure (municipal services, garbage collection, water, sewer system, drainage, sanitation and open areas)
- Participation and employment facilities (relations with the local bodies, participation facilities, training facilities, expectations from the municipality, and mayor)



Interview with the elderly. Picture by Kupra Camur, 2007.

3.2 Guidelines From The Survey

The conclusions that are withdrawn from the implementation of the interview can be stated as follows for the elderly and women:

Elderly

- Being elderly in general, but specially the elderly with low income and education, means more alination and being more prone to lack or insuficency of urban basic and social services.
- Elderly people needs more socialization facilities with growing age and with alienation.
- Higher income and education increases expectations from the urban area and municipality, and this group ia more capable of demanding, but low income

and poor elderly even are not aware of the problems that they face in their daily urban life. Then necessity for the capacity building and education-information networking gains more important for these groups.

- They do not know what is participation and participating to decision making process that are related to specially their daily life. They want to be in relation with the local bodies, to participatee facilities, training facilities but they expect the first step from the municipality.
- They are more prone to the accidents and physical damaging due the physical aging.They are in need of design of urban environment according to their special needs. For xample they are more dependent on the public transportation due to loosing their abilities in movement and due to incresing eye problems. Planning and design should re-invite these people to the urban area as a place of all.
- They need more social care and more service with aging.
- They need more hygenic urban environment(sanitation,clean air, water, etc) and need provision of housekeeping services, environmental care services (for the house and garden).
- They need more accessible urban social services (parks, first step health services, recreational services, etc) for socialising facilities. They prefer accessible and small scale shopping places instead of big supermarkets and malls.

Women

- Social segregation, security and safety are the key problems need to be solved for the urban women.
- They need more education.
- They want to be in relation with the local bodies, to participatee facilities, training facilities but they expect the first step from the municipality (as in elderly).
- They are in need of being more mobile and this means they lack public transportation facilities. They wish to be outside the house but the changing urban conditions restricts them into to the houses.
- They want to live in their house (not rented) even it is illegal, or lacking urban services.

- Women (consisting half of the population) needs more inclusiveness and freedom in the urban area for harmonious urban life.

4 Proposal for Change and Improvement

The knowledge and experience gained from the elderly people survey indicates that urban planners and local bodies should develop and adopt new planning approaches which cares about the needs and demands of these people in economic, social and physical dimensions. We need to develop plans and strategic implementation plans for inclusiveness, equality and equity. These new terms should be key factors for the new approaches at all levels of policy development.

Learning and benefitting from the experiences of other countries (developed or developing), adopting the global elderly and women strategies according to local conditions, a national strategy and local strategies should be developed by the responsible bodies with a participatory approach.

A new legislation for strengtening law enforcement seems essential for the implementation.

Improving urban physical environment, urban social environment, and improving economic conditions of the poor and the elderly and women needs new development of new financial resources by the national and local governments. Co-financing and cross-financing models can help in solution of finance and should be considered as a strategic tool.

At the local level development of human resource capacity gains importance. Participation, networking and building information system in the community also can help solving problems of these vulnerabile groups in the city and promise can for the better and inclusive city with equality, equity and harmony.

5 Personal Action Plan

An action plan for implementing the proposals and strategies has been developed to describe activities and responsible bodies and a timing as follows:

Proposed Activities	Level of Activity	Responsible Body	Time
A National Strategy Development	National	State Planning Organization Ministry of Public Works and Settlements	Medium Term (2011)
Local Strategies	Local	Municipalities	Medium +Short Term (2009-2011)
A New Legislation for Strengthening Law Enforcement	National	Parliament	Medium Term (2011)
New Financial Resources	National +Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o State Planning Organization o Ministry of Public Works and Settlements, o Municipalities 	Medium+ Long Term (2011-2014)
Improving urban physical environment, urban social environment, and economic conditions	National +Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ministry of Public Works and Settlements, o Municipalities, o Universities (by knowledge support; developing a manual for the elderly and women inclusiveness; participating symposiums for increasing awareness; courses, etc.) 	Short+ Medium+ Long Term (2009-2014)
Development Of Human Resource Capacity (through participation, networking and building information system)	National +Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Municipalities, o Universities (by knowledge support; developing a manual for the elderly and women inclusiveness; participating symposiums for increasing awareness; courses, etc.) 	Short+ Medium+ Long Term (2009-2014)

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