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## THE INTERACTION OF MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION IN THE CONTEXT OF SOCIAL INTEREST CONFLICTS

### Göç Ve Kentleşme Etkileşiminin Toplumsal Çıkar Çatışmaları Bağlamında İrdelenmesi

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#### ABSTRACT

The concept of migration has a feature that changes the quality of cities in social and physical contexts. For this reason, it has been a subject that is frequently studied scientifically. The concept of migration that have an impact in shaping the many world cities in particular has a different importance for Turkey. The most important reason for this was the expectations for increasing economic prosperity. During this transition period, which was also supported by the media, a person or family came to the city from the village where they lived and built slum-type houses to satisfy their housing needs quickly. Later, other families from the same rural area established similar lives in the same urban area. In this way, a new urban typology and slum areas have been formed that meet at a common cultural level in the urban area. There are large slum areas formed in this way in various parts of the Turkey. Some of these houses have undergone radical changes with the acceleration of urban transformation over time and are still undergoing. This study focuses on the effects of the changing urban texture on the basis of migration for different city layers. In this context, the concept of migration has been examined in the historical process and an evaluation has been made on the effects of migration on the city in terms of local people, financial groups and local administrations.

**Key Words:** Migration, slum, urban transformation, renovation

#### ÖZET

Göç kavramı sosyal ve fiziksel bağlamda kentlerin niteliğini değiştiren bir özellik taşımaktadır. Bu sebeple bilimsel açıdan sıklıkla incelenen bir konu olmuştur. Birçok dünya kentinin şekillenmesinde etkisi olan göç kavramı özellikle Türkiye açısından farklı bir öneme sahiptir. 1960'lı yıllardan itibaren, kırsal alanlardan büyük kentlere kitlesel göçler yaşanmıştır. Bunun en önemli sebebini ekonomik refahın artmasına yönelik beklentiler oluşturmuştur. Medya tarafından da beslenen bu süreçte; bir kişi ya da aile yaşadığı köyden kente gelerek barınma ihtiyacını hızlı bir şekilde karşılamak üzere gecekondulu tipi konutlarını inşa etmiştir. Daha sonra aynı kırsal bölgeden başka aileler de aynı kentsel alanda benzer şekilde yaşamlarını kurmuşlardır. Bu sayede kentsel alanda ortak kültürel zeminde buluşan yeni bir kentli tipolojisi ve gecekondulu alanları oluşmuştur. Türkiye'nin çeşitli bölgelerinde bu şekilde oluşan büyük gecekondulu bölgeleri bulunmaktadır. Bunların bir kısmı zaman içinde kentsel dönüşümün hız kazanmasıyla köklü değişimler geçirmiştir ve halen geçirmektedir. Çalışma; göç temelinde değişen kentsel dokunun farklı kent katmanları açısından ne gibi etkileri olabileceğinin irdelenmesi üzerinde durmaktadır. Bu bağlamda göç kavramı tarihsel süreçte incelenerek, yerel halk, finans grupları ve yerel yönetimler açısından göçün kente etkileri üzerine bir değerlendirme yapılmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Göç, gecekondulu, kentsel dönüşüm, yenileme

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Migration may be seen as a cumulative term for the human being's movement over varied spacial distances (NE 2013). Migration from rural to urban areas is a typical reality seen within the population all across the globe and particularly the developing countries. There are several reasons that lead to this migration, fundamental of which is to find better sources of revenue. Alike, there are several consequences of the rural to urban flow (Malik, 2015). Migration is regarded as the flow of person(s) from one ecological region to another, which can be on temporary or permanent motive. A group of persons immigrate form on the existing conditions and the motives for it alters from one person to another based on the facts that brought about the decision to migrate. Migration is a selective process influencing individuals or families/households with certain financial, social, educational and demographic features (Babi et al, 2017).

## 2. MIGRATION

From past to present, the concept of migration hold qualification for orientating the cities and urbanization. One of the most important reasons for this is the economic prospects. Especially; the perception management of the press by presenting a better life in the cities has a serious effect. People migrate to cities wishing better life conditions physically and socially. As a consequence of that, problems arise by different levels of life in cities. People who migrate to urban areas mostly live in the same areas as people from old villages or towns in new settlements. In this way, they carry the life typology they maintain in the countryside to the city. When they cannot reach the level of well-being and happiness they seek in the urban area, they have difficulty in adapting to city life and continue their lives as "other" in the city.

Migration and urbanization are direct manifestations of the process of economic development in space, particularly in the contemporary phase of globalization. Understanding the causes and consequences of the former in terms of the changes in the distribution of population and economic activities, along with the success and failures of the interventions by state and other organizations would be extremely important for evaluating the available policy options and exploring areas of possible strategic intervention (UNFPA, 2007).

Referring to the studies dealing with the phenomenon of migration, internal migration especially when examining in countries such as Turkey; it is the result that migrations going from rural areas to urban areas, from undeveloped cities to metropolitan cities. No matter what is the main reason for migration (economic, political, cultural, etc.), the perception that problems and discontent in rural areas can be eliminated/reduced in urban areas accelerates the migration process to urban areas (Gül & Ergun, 2014).

This perception is one of the most important factors of continuous migration. Therefore, in the cities of under-developed countries, the most crucial fact of migration from rural areas that foster population growth and some other facts that are seen as urban problems gathered speed as the consequences of economic and social alterations which were raised in these countries at the beginning of 20th century. With the alteration of the production process and the stand out of urban manufacture, the migration from rural areas to urban areas has increasingly begun (Özden, 2008). In addition to attractive factors such as education, health, and employment opportunities in the cities; repellent factors such as poverty, landlessness, and limited socio-economic opportunities in rural areas accelerate the migration process and make migration inevitable (Macionis, 2012).

### 2.1. Repellent Factors

In the process of urbanization, the alterations of conformation occur in the rural areas parallel to industrialization are seen as one of the main reasons for migration and expresses the "repulsiveness of rural areas". Due to population growth and new techniques used in agriculture, workers in this sector are excluded from the production process and these lead to migration from rural areas. The transition from human and animal power to machine power in agricultural production, the imbalance in land ownership, and the increase in large agricultural enterprises have brought mobility to the rural population (Potter et al., 2008).

### 2.2. Attractive Factors

Economic reasons are one of the most important factors of migration. However, according to Gedik, there are other factors than the economic ones causing the migration. Comparing the opportunities between rural and urban areas is not only done for salary but also urban prosperity and facility. Associated with the

opening of schools, especially in rural areas, a group of young people living in the countryside decides to migrate to improve their education and improve their skills, while others migrate because they are not satisfied with the opportunities offered by the rural lifestyle. All of these are the attractive factors of urban areas (Williams et al., 2009).

### 3. URBANIZATION

All around the globe, urbanization is boosting and more than 50% of the Earth's population now lives in the cities (UN Habitat 2013). As reported by the estimates of the United Nations (UN), the world's urban population in 2011 amount to 3.6 billion people and was predicted to increase with 72% by the year of 2050. Meanwhile, the rural population will drop from the year of 2021 (UN 2012). There are different aspects that explain why the urban population increases. Part of it may be derived to the natural population increase but part of it can also caused by rural-urban migration which means that people move from the rural areas to settle in the urban areas as towns and cities. The effect on the population increase in a city from migration usually comes in the early stage of urbanization to later be changed by the natural population increase. The urbanization in Africa counts for 40% of the total urbanization in the developing countries around the world (Tacoli 2011).

For countries in the process of modernization, one of the most important evolvments are urbanization. Urbanization is one of the most important facts in the last 200 years. The machine technology which arose with the industrial revolution, developing production and transportation systems, the advantages and disadvantages provided by these factors led to a big mass of population broke their bonds with earth, thus these population movements created the fact of urbanization (Aldemir, 2008).

Urbanization is the process of a larger proportion of human exercises – financial, social, cultural – occurring in cities. It is characterized by an increase in the urban rate of the total population (Ledent 1982). It is a process that relatively all countries have experienced or are presently experiencing, and is especially obvious in those societies that are incurring a social and economic transformation from an agricultural society to an industrial one (He, 2013).

In Turkey, urbanization started from the 1950s until the 1980s and created many problems. Owing to the population growth in rural areas and agricultural mechanization, existing lands were carved and those carved lands are bought together by some people, thus ownership of lands had serious changes. These changes caused a large mass in rural areas to not get along or become unemployed as a result of having an insufficient amount of land, thereby fueled the rural-to-urban migration phenomenon (Yenigül, 2005).

### 4. SOCIAL AND SPATIAL EFFECTS OF MIGRATION

The fact of migration is not only a movement between locations or a population movement. Migration is a geographical movement insofar as with economic, political, cultural, and social aspects causing significant changes in social structure as a population movement (Tümtaş, 2009). In this context, it creates a serious change and transformation in the social and spatial structure. For immigrants to move not only their physical assets but also the socio-cultural effects of their previous settlement, they create cultural interaction, because immigration leads to contact and communication between people who are culturally and geographically disconnected. It exchanges behavior patterns, creates new ideas, enriches, and expands culture (Doğan, 2002). The most important factor that determines this cultural interaction is whether migrants have socio-cultural differences with those living in the new settlement or not. The degree of this difference is decisive in the integration with the new social structure. In other saying, in cases where the socio-cultural difference is distinct, interaction and adaptation are more arduous. Herein, the main determinant is the profile of the social structure (Tümtaş, Ergün, 2016).

Therefore, there is a relationality between migration and culture. Immigrants take their cultural texture to a new settlement and also affected by the culture of a new location. For this reason, one of the most common causes of acculturation is migration. As the strongest element of social changes, migration brings together communities with different physical structures, religions, cultures, and languages, and prepares an environment for these communities to live together and thus interact (Karpat, 2013).

Evaluated as the fundamental fact causing to change of spatial patterns in a long-acting industrialization period, the most important effect of migration on urban areas is unplanned urbanization. Housing demand caused by intense migrations reveals the lack of housing in cities. The rapid growth of the population

creates land speculation in parallel with the ever-increasing housing demand and forces a large number of immigrants with limited opportunities to settle in the outer regions of the city or low-standard areas. Immigrants pushed to regions lacking urban services as a result of this situation in underdeveloped countries establish their own living spaces by building their own unauthorized and low-standard dwellings (slums), thereby causing the city to spread uncontrollably, also it had an impact on spatial separations. While migration deepens spatial separations, it also causes poverty to intensify locally and some social groups to lack urban facilities and infrastructure. Because the regions where immigrants are in the majority, they attract new immigrants to the city with their cosmopolitan and dynamic structures and cause a spatial concentration of poverty by causing certain places to appear as immigrant neighborhoods in the city (Yenigül, 2005).

#### **4.1. Evaluation of the concept of migration in terms of different focal points**

The effects of migration action on the city is a multi-layered phenomenon that has emerged over many years. Therefore, it is possible to say that their effects are different in terms of different groups in the city. It is obvious that each group has taken its share in this process in terms of both new urban residents who came from the rural areas and settled in the city, as well as the audience who was born and raised in the city and adapted to the city life much earlier.

There is also another group led by finance in the city. The determinants of this group are interest groups such as construction sector and banks. This group has been decisive especially in the recent years in terms of housing construction and lending for lower income and upper income groups in urban transformation. Within the scope of the study, an overview of the migration problem is presented for different masses.

##### **4.1.1. Evaluation in terms of local people living in the city**

In the migration process that started after 1950s, people came to the cities in masses with the search for a comfortable and good life. This process generally started with the transfer of a nuclear family to a city in a rural settlement and progressed to the way of its citizens. The majority of this population coming from the village to the city is a low income group and they live by building their slums. This mass lives a connected life rather than an individual life culture in urban life. However, due to reasons such as livelihoods and housing difficulties especially in big cities, it caused an increase in the quality of life and the separation of people depending on the income level of different groups in the city. New citizens coming to the city by migration cannot fully adapt to the city even though they have broken off from the countryside. For this reason, they remain on a plane between rural and urban life. The slightly more wealthy population living in the city regards this group as the “other” in the service sector. This situation paved the way for people to be pushed into poverty and crime.

In recent years, especially in line with the low income group housing projects led by TOKİ (Mass Housing Administration), slums have been demolished and mass housing areas have been designed and implemented. In this context, people have been forced to break with their lifestyle. In terms of housing typology, mass housing and its surroundings, which offer a more comfortable living space, have caused problems of place attachment and belonging to people. In addition, infrastructure problems in most residential areas triggered this situation. These people, who have been maintaining neighborly relations in their own personal gardens, have moved to the apartments and their green spaces and common areas.

##### **4.1.2. Evaluation in terms of sectors that shape the city**

Land parceling in the city has evolved in a different direction after the slums created by migration. The process has progressed for many years as follows: The mass coming from the rural area invades a land seen as empty and constructs the slum type housing. During the election periods, the houses are given title deed, and then the owners of such houses built especially for settlements close to the city agree with the contractors in exchange for housing, allowing the construction of high-rise buildings on the land. With this system, high-rise buildings have been built in many slum areas and the city face has changed drastically. Çukurambar Neighborhood, located in Ankara Çankaya District, is one of the most prominent examples of this change. The images in Figure 1. reflect the situation for the old and new condition of the region. The new high-rise typology shaped in the back silhouette of the photo with the slums is also striking



**Figure 1.** The photo above is a view from the slum area of Çukurambar (URL 1), the photo below is a view from the new version (URL 2)

This situation has made great contributions to the construction industry. Construction has been the fastest moving sectors in Turkey and residential tenders have become very participatory and valuable. Increasing housing and carrying out such initiatives in areas far away from the city have also expanded the transportation system of the city. Continuous road renewing constructions have been carried out and big cities have moved away from pedestrian priority consciousness and have turned into places that provide convenience for those traveling by car.

#### 4.1.3. Evaluation in terms of local authorities

From the point of view of local governments, the improvement of such areas, which are located in an environmentally well established order, requires a very comprehensive study. Those living in the region should be prepared both psychologically and physically. Projects that local administrations proceed with a participatory approach by sharing their future projections with local people are much more successful. In this context, the studies to be made especially for the lower income groups should cover not only shelter but also issues such as fighting poverty, equality in education and health, access to green areas and parks. In general, it is time-consuming and sometimes reactive to adapt to urban life, as these types of income groups are remembered at important turning points of countries.

### 5. CONCLUSION

The concept of migration encompasses a series of actions that shape and transform countries over many years. Resolving the class contradictions within the urban dwellers and lifestyles will increase the quality of life in the city physically and socially. The policies produced for the city should be arranged in a way to protect not only the interests of certain groups but also the whole society.

The global system created by capitalism has brought an order where the rich are richer and the poor struggle with hunger and impossibilities. The global system created by capitalism has brought an order where the rich are richer and the poor struggle with hunger and impossibilities. This situation creates social and physical segregation in the cities. Transformation works in slum areas are important for people to have more comfortable living spaces. However, while the urban transformation works are being carried out, it is

necessary to involve the local people in the process, to be regularly informed throughout the process, and to ensure that financial and social conditions are appropriate. In order to create an environment in which the crime rate is low, life quality is high and people have a happy life, it will be possible only if the needs of the whole city are met correctly.

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