



## FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY FOR LOCAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: EXAMPLE OF TURKEY

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### Abstract

Local sustainable development has a long term and dynamic structure. The reduction and abolishment of poverty, one of the major problems of our era is one of the fundamental keys required for local sustainable development. Local sustainable development may solely occur if many factors such as social, economic, cultural and environmental can integrate and string a long with each other. In this study, the fact of sustainable development that is known as a social event and described as “the progress of covering the needs of today without making sacrifices from the needs of next generations” in Brundtland Report, will be defined from the aspect of United Nations (UN), World Bank, OECD, European Union (EU) and Turkey. Within the context of “ÇOGEP (Social Protection and Support Program for Kids and the Youth for Kids and the Youth)” that is a step for local sustainable development and applied in 81 provinces in Turkey, the before and after part of the project of “The Youth Look to the Future with Confidence,” which aims “removing the poor children and young people from bad habits, making the mown a job through vocational education, motivating them for success in their school, socializing and encouraging them to play sports and developing them in terms of social and cultural ways” and which has been launched to be applied by Keşan District Police Headquarters in the province of Edirne to fight against poverty, will be examined and diagnosed analytically to contribute to local sustainable development in Turkey.

**Key Words:** Community Issues, Local Sustainable Development, Social Responsibility.

## YEREL SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİR KALKINMA İÇİN YOKSULLUKLA SAVAŞ: TÜRKİYE ÖRNEĞİ

### Öz

Yerel sürdürülebilir kalkınma uzun dönemli ve dinamik bir yapıya sahiptir. Çağımızın en büyük sorunlarından biri olan yoksulluğun azaltılması ve ortadan kaldırılması sürdürülebilir kalkınma için gerekli olan temel unsurlardan biridir. Yerel Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma ancak birbiri ile ilişkili pek çok sosyal, ekonomik, kültürel ve çevresel faktörün bir araya gelmesi ve uyumu ile gerçekleşebilir. Bu çalışmada Brundtland raporunda “günümüz ihtiyaçlarının, gelecek kuşakların ihtiyaçlarını karşılama olanaklarından fedakarlık yapılmaksızın, karşılanabilmesi süreci” şeklinde tanımlanan ve toplumsal bir olay olan sürdürülebilir kalkınma olgusu Birleşmiş Milletler (BM), Dünya Bankası, OECD, Avrupa Birliği (AB) ve Türkiye açısından tanımlanmıştır. Türkiye’de yerel sürdürülebilir kalkınmanın bir ayağı olan ve 81 ilde uygulanan “Güvenli Hayat ve Güvenli Gelecek için ÇOGEP (Çocuk ve Gençler Sosyal Koruma ve Destek Programı) kapsamında Edirne ilinin Keşan ilçesinde İlçe Emniyet Müdürlüğü’nün yürütücülüğünde uygulanmaya başlanan ve yoksullukla savaşarak “yoksul genç ve çocukları kötü alışkanlıklardan uzaklaştırarak, mesleki eğitim yoluyla meslek kazandırarak, okul başarısını arttırarak, sosyalleştirerek, sporyaptırarak, kültürel ve sosyal yönden geliştirerek sosyo kültürel kalkınmanın hedeflendiği “Kızanlar Geleceğe umutla Bakıyor” isimli projenin öncesi ve sonrası analitik olarak incelenmiş ve yerel sürdürülebilir kalkınmaya katkıları tespit edilmeye çalışılmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Toplum Sorunları, Yerel Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma, Sosyal Sorumluluk.

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## 1.INTRODUCTION

Poverty, which is a common problem for the future of the world, is a very important matter to be fought against globally. Thus, it is the most important issue which takes an important place in the development plans of many countries. We can define poverty in many ways; yet, Turkish Language Association defines it as being poor, being down and out, misery and poorness.

The most important thing that globalization has caused is that an event no longer remains regional or local. Globalization, which has social, ecological, economic, spatial and cultural dimensions, registers societal effects in terms of its results. Local Sustainable Development can only come true when many related social, economical, cultural and environmental factors get together and adapt to each other. In 1992, in Rio Summit, sustainable development was featured as a global purpose in local, national, regional and global level. For this reason, after defining the terms of sustainable development and poverty, in order to keep gypsy kids, which are thought to be a disadvantageous group, away from crime and poverty in the district of Keşan in Edirne, “ÇOGEP(Social Protection and Support Programme for Kids and the Youth) for Safe Life and Safer Future” that is a step for local sustainable development and is applied in all of the 81 provinces of Turkey, the before and after part of the project of “The Youth Look to the Future with Confidence” aimed for “removing the poor children and young people from bad habits, making them own a job through vocational education, motivating them for success in their school process, socializing and encouraging them to play sports and developing them socially and culturally.” which has been launched to be applied by Keşan District Police Headquarters in the province of Edirne to fight against poverty. This project will be examined here.

## 2.SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY TERMS

When we examine Sustainable Development as a concept, it can be defined as continuing improvement. This improvement may be for an existing good case to be maintained or for a bad case to be fixed and maintained. Interacting with social, economical, cultural and environmental factors are available in Sustainable Development (Kaypak,2011:22).Besides, sustainable development policies necessitate the integration of



economic, social and environmental policies called “Three Dynamics” (Çetin,2006:8).Today, sustainable development policies are formed within the scope of these three dynamics. In 1987, in “Brundtland Report” published by World Commission on Environment and Development, WCED (Report on our Common Future),” poverty eradication, equality in the distribution of benefits gained from natural resources, population control and improving eco-friendly technologies are associated directly with sustainable development policy. In this sense it was put forward in the report that based on the hypothesis that economic growth can be achieved through an eco-friendly perspective, in order to overcome environmental problems and to prevent poverty, it is vital for developing countries to step into a long-term growth era, which will enable reorganization (Yıkmaz,2011:14).

Agenda 21, which drew attention to increasing poverty, starvation, illiteracy, diseases, deterioration in ecosystems, international and national inequality, was opened with the saying “Humanity is on the verge of a historic moment”. The basic approach of Agenda 21, through understanding of decentralisation, is to develop the cooperation between the governments and establishments apart from the governments (Emrealp, 2005:16).

“4 main objective was put forward about sustainable development within Agenda 21 document in which Local Agenda 21 concept was improved” (<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/yerel-gundem-21.tr.mfa>):

- Local governments of each country has to initiate a participative process with their own people and form a consensus about Local Agenda 21 for their own cities,
- Improving the cooperation between international community and local governments and taking steps for enhancing the cooperation among local governments in international scale,
- Developing the level of coordination and cooperation between local government units and representatives of other local government for the purpose of enriching the information exchange and experiences,
- Improving and applying programs of every local government to encourage effective participation of women and the youth to the decision, planning and application processes.

As an initiative sustainable development, which has cultural, spatial, economical, ecological and social dimensions, has become an important fact. Operating there sources, directing the investments, canalizing the technical developments, institutional changes have to be consistent with both to days and next generations’ needs (Yapıcı,2003:224-225). Besides



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programs such as LEADER, INTERREG, EQUAL and RECITE-II serving the aim to perform the sustainable development, it is an important objective within the plans and programs of the countries (Molitor, 2004:1 Transmitting Çetin, M.2006:1).

Today, notably United Nations as well as, organizations such as OECD, World Bank, WTO, UNEP, UNCSD, UNCTAD, World Wide Fund for Nature, World Resources Institute and World Business Council on Sustainable Development and EU have the position of a coordinator in decisions and activities on sustainable development due to their level of development (Gönel, 2002:2). Income inequality and other reasons among countries in the world resulted in the countries having different levels of development. Particularly, the far cry between developed and underdeveloped countries gives the floor to the economically developed countries about the issues of the world, which concerns the future of the whole humanity. On the other hand, economic and social conditions interact with each other in terms of solution of unemployment problem, poverty reduction and income distribution. (Gürlük, 2010:87). Specifically the notion which is called poverty, causing the loss of resources of the countries, is the most important matter in local sustainable development. For this reason, the perception of the notion is vital for the development process. However, today the term poverty is defined variously. Poverty, which we assign the meaning of shortage, not possessing or not being able to possess, is an important global problem for which all the countries search for a solution. For this reason, after approving that it is an obligation to get rid of poverty, World Bank and United Nations admitted that poverty is a problem concerning the third world in the Community Development Summit carried out in Copenhagen by UN in 1995, and fight against poverty took its place in the development. (Özdek, 2009:2-3). From the 1990's onward, due to start of fight against poverty taking place in the development process, it helped both the local and international organizations increase the irendeavor, survey and concept of poverty. (Gündoğan, 2008:42). Thus poverty, apart from local scale, has become a fact to be abolished via international economic stabilization, incentive of the investments, reducing the inequality and improvement of organizational capacity (Uzun, 2003:167-168). The concept of poverty intended to be abolished in local and international scale was divided into subtypes and fight against them was meant to be identified. Accordingly, poverty is defined separately such as absolute, relative and humane poverty. Absolute poverty is “not being able to provide the minimum



required consumption level for the individual's or members' of the family to reproduce himself/herself biologically and survive" (Temiz,2008:61). Relative poverty is "the welfare situation of the individuals or household to be under a specific welfare ratio compared to the society." It mentions the ones who are under the mean life standard but above starvation line (Çalışkan,2010:101). Humane poverty is the type of poverty stating the factors such as freedom, personality which constitute humanity together with humans reaching their basic (Doğan and Tatlı, 2014: 101).

The presence of poverty, which is a global problem affects all countries differently. Since getting rid of it will result in positive effects, following a path to fight with the types of poverty from the specific to the general may be regarded a proper approach partially. Hence, growth and development programs of regional and local communities contributed notably to local development for so many years (Doamekpor, 1 and Beckett,2015:2)

Recently, for sustainable development, especially focusing on areas such as :

- poverty and social exclusion;
- the quality of civil constitutions and governance;
- satisfaction of personal welfare, health and life;
- job seeking;
- economic performance;
- standards acquired at school,

•crime and social diversity has increased the importance of local sustainable development. (Altay,2007:344). In Turkey, the aids provided by the government and non-governmental organizations and microloan practices are very important (Önder and Şenses,2005:14). One of the examples that can be given for the practices in Turkey is the project of "The Youth Look to the Future with Confidence" adopted within the context of Social Protection and Support Program for Kids and the Youth for Safe Life and Safer Future (ÇOGEP).

### **3.FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY: THE YOUTH LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE PROJECT**

Social Protection and Support Program for Kids and the Youth for Safe Life and Safer Future (ÇOGEP), whose aim is to "provide the kids and the youth develop personally and



socially by actualizing the precautions in societal manner, contribute them to be beneficial to society by providing them social and educational support, decrease the indirect limitations of the ones who emigrated from the country to the cities and not fitted in the social life or the disadvantageous groups for safer life and integrating them to social life” has a target group of kids who are between 12-16, the youth between 17-25 and families of the target groups, and besides exceptionally kids between 5-12 in terms of improving the communication with the children within the scope of protection and support practices (<http://www.asayis.pol.tr/Sayfalar/cogep.aspx>). The organizations that signed this protocol are: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Security, Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Ministry of Development, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Association of Municipalities of Turkey, Turkish Union of Chambers and Exchange Commodities.

Within the frame of this program, the project called “The youth look to the future with confidence” which costs 217.180 TL was put into effect in 2014 in Keşan, Edirne by District Police Department of Keşan. The coordinator of the project is the District Police Department of Keşan with the association of Keşan Social Care Center, Keşan District Youth Services and Sports Directorate and Mayorship of Keşan. At the beginning, the main goal of the project was established as breaking the bad habits of gypsy kids and youth who have low financial situation, socializing them, giving them vocational training, providing course and documents for the ones getting ready for Placement Test (SBS) and Undergraduate Placement Exam (LYS), training 30 male high school studentson judo and 30 male students on basketball.

The issues committed in the project are as follows as the date of January,2015(Project Officer Olcay Bilmiş):

In March 21, 2014 with the association of District National Education Directorate of Keşan, after determining 50 students who are at grade 8 in 17 secondary schools that prepare for Placement Test and 50 students who are at grade 12 getting ready for Undergraduate Placement Test in 12 schools, their supplementary text books were handed in with the company of directors of schools. In March 28, 2014 with the support of the Directorate of Keşan Public Education Center, a Placement Test course for secondary school students was opened with the participation of 78 students and an Undergraduate Placement Test course for 26 students.



A world knowledge quiz contest was held for social interaction named “The Youth of Keşan Compete” (Keşanlı Gençler Yarışıyor) and gifts were given for the winners. Besides, poor kids who have the possibility to get involved in crime were determined by district police department of Keşan in 19 elementary schools and they were encouraged to participate in Kite Festival as a means of social entertainment. Within a Cultural and Social activities context, 80 students were taken to Ankara and Samsun in different times. In order to raise physically and mentally healthy individuals in the society and encourage poor kids for sports to fight against crime, 36 football teams were formed and a football tournament was held in local level.

Finally, within the scope of “Vocational Training and Forming Vocational Curriculum,” the kids and youths who are involved in the project as a number of 30 males and 30 females who got involved in crime or have the possibility to get involved in crime aged between 15-18 and poor 16 females and 9 males neither involved in any crime nor have the chance to get involved in crime were given Greenhouse Cultivation course to have a job and social functionality Moreover, in order to provide employment to those, who completed their green housing course, cooperation was held with the related foundations and non-governmental organizations. Short term taekwondo and basketball courses were opened in the district and 25 poor kids were circumcised. Activities will keep going until 2016 within the project. The purpose is to raise the opportunities of poor youths to look to the future with hope and confidence.

#### **4.CONCLUSION**

It is more obvious for the countries that wish to have economic development to prioritize their local regional development thanks to globalization. In order to fight against poverty which is a global problem, countries formed regional and international economic unions and this resulted in polarization among the countries in terms of their development level. The organizations, which we define as economic unions that were formed by the developed countries have the voice on the plans and program for sustainable development and have carried it into local scale. Today, each country keeps their struggle on development within the frame of their opportunities. However, developmental differences among the countries cause inequality in sustainable development policies of those countries.



It is very important for developing countries such as Turkey to enable the development via the donations and support by EU and other organizations. Ministry and Governmental regional development agency supports and facilitates our local sustainable development. Thanks to the project within the scope of ÇOGEP in Keşan, gypsy kids and young people who are more likely to commit various crimes because of poverty and social discrimination compared to their peers were saved from the feeling of exclusion and brought to the society. These kind of projects, especially aiming the kids, are very important in order to provide local development which is the primary step of the development and make it sustainable.

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