

IMPACT OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS ON PARAMETERS OF SAFETY PERCEPTION IN KADIKOY

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Abstract: *In the last decade, propelled by state support, urban transformation initiatives have gained momentum in specific areas of Istanbul in response to the challenges posed by population growth and irregular urbanization trends. These endeavors have led to diverse social, economic, and cultural shifts within these regions. However, despite the impact of changing living arrangements with urban transformation on some social perceptions, the number of studies focusing on individuals' evaluations of security, which is a basic criterion in determining living space, is quite low. Furthermore, while a comprehensive examination of the region concerning aspects such as health and education facilities, parks and green space regulations is crucial for the effective implementation of urban transformation, studies addressing these facets remain insufficient. According to the findings, the urban transformation zones within the Kadıköy district, wherein security, health, education, recreational spaces, and traffic regulations were predominantly characterized as 'completely insufficient' or 'insufficient' prior to the urban transformation, exhibited a shift towards being perceived as 'completely sufficient' or 'sufficient' following the urban transformation. Nevertheless, it is recommended that subsequent studies, encompassing diverse regions and larger sample sizes, should be routinely conducted post on-site transformation projects. This practice is essential to ensure the alignment of the expectations of residents in the evolving region after urban transformation with the actual conditions in their residing area. Such studies can unveil latent factors that warrant prioritization in future projects and contribute to mitigating the economic and social burdens associated with transformation.*

Keywords: *urban transformation, Kadikoy, Istanbul, security, urbanization*

1. INTRODUCTION

When urban transformation theory is examined in terms of its limitations, comprehensiveness and holistic approach, it is seen that an emphasis is placed on an integrated framework in which the physical, social and economic dimensions of urban transformation are at the forefront. This framework also includes the environmental dimension, which is becoming increasingly critical. However, it is not known whether these dimensions mentioned in the inclusivity of urban transformation in theory are comprehensive enough in practice. This inclusive approach not only expands the theoretical boundaries of urban transformation but also enhances its practical utility in addressing contemporary urban challenges, thus promoting more sustainable and resilient urban development practices (Turk, Tarakci and Gürsoy 2016; Bülbül Akın and Türkün 2019).

In the last decade, urban transformation projects have accelerated with state support in response to population growth and irregular urbanization trends in certain regions of Istanbul. These projects have caused various social, economic, and cultural changes in these regions. Significantly, public participation in government-led initiatives has been limited, compelling residents to adapt their living spaces to the outcomes of these efforts (Gün, Pak and Demir 2021; Haksever and Çitak 2019).

However, despite the impact of changing living arrangements with urban transformation on some social perceptions, the number of studies focusing on individuals' evaluations of security, which is a basic criterion in determining living space, is quite low. In addition, while examining the area in terms of health, education, green areas and traffic regulations with the focus of urban transformation is very essential for the healthy execution of the transformation, studies are insufficient in this regard.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study investigates the correlation between the urban transformation process, driven by evolving demands and requirements, and the social security framework in Kadıköy, Istanbul. Kadıköy Fikirtepe, prominently featured in recent urban transformation projects, is situated within the administrative boundaries of the Kadıköy district on the Anatolian side of Istanbul. The northern part of this area is intersected by the prominent D-100 (E5) State Highway and holds a strategically significant position due to its proximity to the Bosphorus Bridge on the Anatolian Side.

Consequently, its vicinity to workplaces attracts individuals, leading to irregular settlement patterns in the region. Furthermore, the elevated crime rate in Fikirtepe presents an opportunity to examine the shift in security perceptions resulting from urban transformation.

3. RESULTS

Fig. 1. Demographic breakdown of survey respondents by gender (A) and age (B)

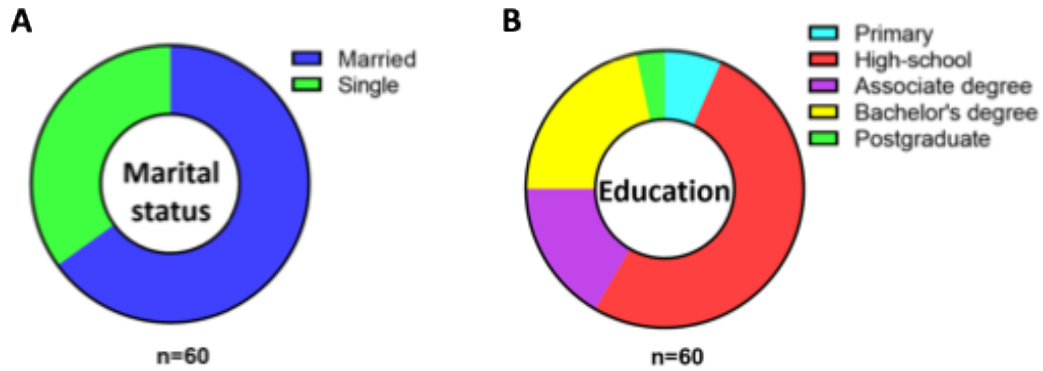


Fig. 2. Demographic breakdown of survey respondents by marital status (C) and education (D)

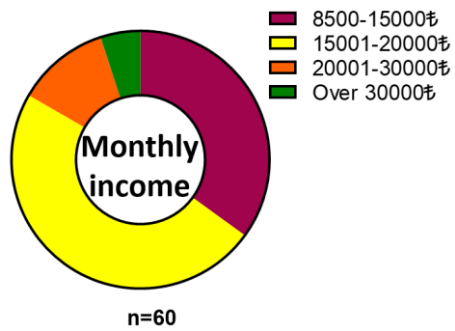


Fig. 3. Demographic breakdown of survey respondents by monthly income

3.2. Times of being in the area

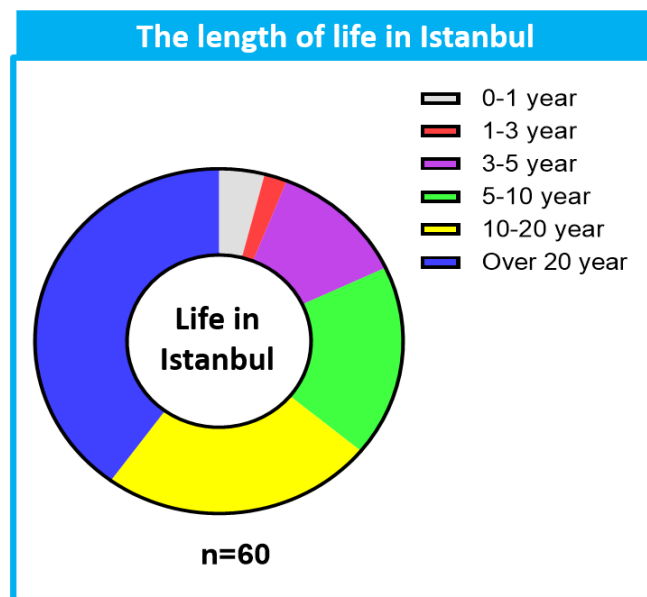


Fig. 4. Length of Life for Survey Respondents in Istanbul.

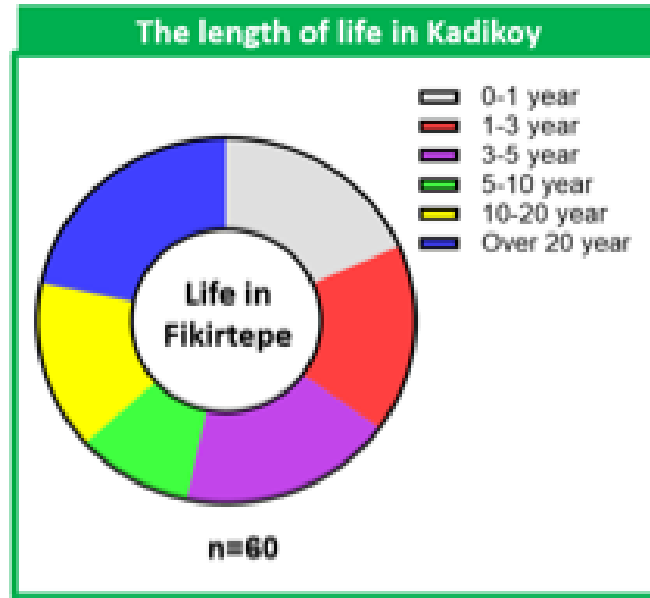


Fig. 5. Length of Life for Survey Respondents in Kadikoy

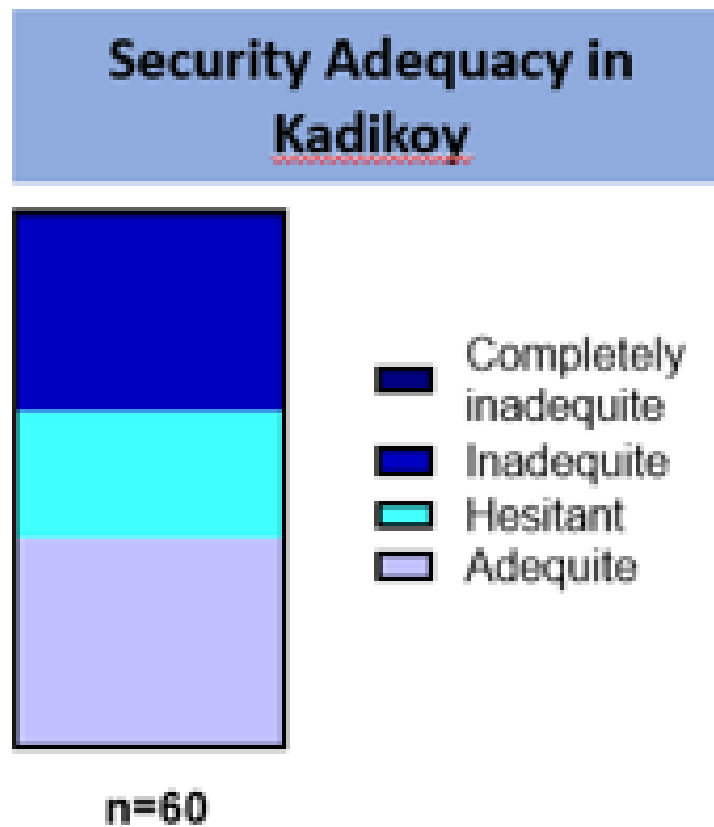


Fig. 6. Security adequacy in Kadikoy



Fig. 7. Security adequacy in Kadikoy with urban transformation

According to the findings, Kadikoy district, where security was evaluated as 'inadequate' (35.59%) or 'hesitant' (23.73%) before urban transformation, was evaluated as 'adequate' (28.26%) or 'completely adequate' (43.48%) after urban transformation.

4. DISCUSSION

The examination of urban transformation theory reveals a comprehensive and holistic approach that emphasizes an integrated framework, giving precedence to the physical, social, economic, and increasingly critical environmental dimensions (Turk, Tarakci and Gürsoy 2016; Bülbül Akın and Türkün 2019). This inclusive perspective aims to broaden the theoretical boundaries of urban transformation and enhance its practical utility in addressing contemporary urban challenges. However, the application of these dimensions in practice remains a question, as their comprehensive implementation is not clearly demonstrated.

Over the last decade, Istanbul has witnessed a surge in urban transformation initiatives, spurred by state support to address population growth and irregular urbanization trends. These projects have brought about significant social, economic, and cultural changes in specific regions, notably Kadıköy. Public participation in these government-led endeavors has been limited,

should be routinely conducted after the transformation projects. This practice is essential to ensure the alignment of the expectations of residents in the evolving region after urban transformation with the actual conditions in their residing area. Such studies can unveil latent factors that warrant prioritization in future projects and contribute to mitigating the economic and social burdens associated with transformation.

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