Urban Transformation in Global Metropolises: The Role of User Participation in the Process – An Expansion for Istanbul

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Globalization became a phenomenon which affects all over the world since 1980s. The impacts of globalization and new life formations with contemporary demands for city-dwellers metamorphose metropolises and mega cities. By these changing processes, the term "metropolis" gains different meanings after globalization. As a result of globalization, new building types have been emerged or some existing building areas have been transformed to different functions in metropolises. These interferences are all defined as urban transformations in metropolises under the context of globalization. This article aims to present an expansion of urban transformation in metropolises after the affects of globalization. The expansion involves the evaluation of urban transformation in metropolises by the view of city-dwellers. The issue will be discussed as how city-dwellers should be participated in urban transformations in metropolises. The term "user participation" and the "methods of user participation" will be introduced. The article is going to be concluded with a proposal and an argument which analyses the urban transformation enterprises in Istanbul related with city-dwellers. Globalization affects all social substructures in cities and city-lives. Social behaviors and psychology concepts in cities gain new meanings after global approaches. In this context, social heritages should be conserved in city-lives. Lifestyle formations distinguish as parallel to changes in cities and city transformations. Because some new living demands occur in global urban lifestyle and recent building types arise as new buildings in metropolises. (Skyscrapers, malls, housing estates etc.) Also, some existing urban areas began to transform to different functions. The term gentrification in cities takes place in city transformation policies. These enterprises are all the reflections of global developments in the world on metropolises. Metropolises are preferred to be lived by people in global world according to features of cities as; new buildings and urban areas, business opportunities, alternative life style formations. This is the main economic aim of global policies on metropolises. In a disparate point of view, the basic reason of transformation in cities is globalization. Under the context of global policies, urban transformation is becoming the preferential method to lead city-dwellers to metropolitan living formation. This perspective has an expansion for city-dwellers; they are the main influenced society cause of the transformations. If the urban transformation in metropolises by globalization continues with its current process, how will the cities and city-lives will be shaped? How will the world look like? These questionnaires can be increased but, the important point is the city-dwellers should participate in urban transformation processes. Citizens should have the opportunity to lead the urban attempts which affect their lifestyle. Cities – Metropolises exist by their dwellers that experience city-life. Cities change in according to changing world disposals. City-dwellers should have the right for participating of these new differing enterprises in metropolises. User participation should be adopted into city policies as a democratic approach. User participation methods in metropolises are in use by urban transformation policies in developed countries all over the world. User participation techniques should be improved by cities' own unique dynamics. There is not a common user participation methodology which is valid for all metropolis transformation, because each one has its own socio-cultural origin. Every different citizen group could be integrated in user participation system by a specific way. In this paper, user participation models under the context of urban transformation policies will be tendered by socio-cultural and psychological approaches in developed metropolises in the world. This study concludes with a proposal and an evaluation for Istanbul and Istanbul's urban transformation enterprises.

KEY WORDS: Globalization, urban transformation in metropolises, the relations between city-city-dwellers, user participation in metropolises, Istanbul.