



## **Neighboring as an Indicator of Social Integration in Residential Areas of Istanbul**

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Social integration is the degree to which people are integrated to the systems of the social structure. The systems of the society process on different domains, such as political, economic, societal and they also occur on different levels, varying from macro level as the city level to micro level as the family level. Neighboring is regarded as an indicator of social integration, as it is a type of a social system processing in the neighborhood level. Neighboring can be defined as social relations, based on spatial borders. Mainly societal and personal characteristics shape neighboring characteristics.

This paper aims to investigate if neighborhood's physical conditions influence neighboring as well as societal and personal characteristics. With this aim, the motivation of this paper relies on determination of spatial differentiation of neighboring characteristics as well as other indicators of social integration in Istanbul. The research in this paper is based on a household survey conducted in different groups of residential areas in Istanbul. Structural and functional characteristics of social relations in the residential areas and respondents' evaluations of these issues are considered as neighboring indicators while income, education level and occupation are considered as other social integration indicators.

The results indicate that, neighborhood characteristics and people's evaluations of these characteristics are correlated with neighboring characteristics. The results also depict the spatial differentiation of social integration levels in Istanbul. The paper, as evaluated from the framework of social integration concept, clarifies the role of neighboring in the society and leads us to strategies that would create the spatial conditions for improving the effectiveness of neighboring in residential areas.

**KEY WORDS:** Social integration, neighboring, residential areas, Istanbul.