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URBAN TRANSFORMATION IN GLOBAL METROPOLISES: THE ROLE OF USER PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS – An Expansion for Istanbul

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Interaction of Globalization and Urban Transformation

Globalization is a phenomenon which affects all domains in human life since 1980s.ⁱ This is because, the main claim of globalization is; “the world is unique and all people are living in this whole cosmos”.

However, last 20 years the discourse “Globalization” has been discussed, the term has a deep historical meaning. Human relations and commerce have international significance since Neanderthal man living.ⁱⁱ Also Rome and Ottoman Empires have developed global systems under the context of world hegemony. The current meaning of global attempts have introduced in 19th century by Pax Britannica in Great Britain.ⁱⁱⁱ Pax Britannica has been based on global policies for British benefits.

There are some factors such as Industrial Revolution, developments in communication conduced rapidness to globalization process and came to current meaning in millennium. The term globalization has different definitions after 2000s as follows:

Globalization is defined by Tomlinson as the fact of modern human life’s characteristics and mutual networks increasing day by day.^{iv} These networks are explained as; the developed human and society relations, international data transfers, the connected electronic communication systems etc.^v These networks are appraised under the context of urban and spatial discourses as “the relativeness of global spatiality”.

Social theories maintain that globalization should be defined with clear borders and should present experimental data and should give different possibilities.^{vi} Above all, globalization affects whole social basic facilities and could not be described by definite unique description.^{vii} Urban life styles metamorphosed by social effects of globalization. Especially social behaviors and psychology changed by global discourses.^{viii} By the way, the unique social inputs should be conserved; the disintegration of social stabilities realized by global policies must be averted.

Globalization is a concept which defines a widespread historical development period.^{ix} This development caused a political integration all over the world.^x The integration conduced city-dwellers’ commercial communication and culminated the global economic formations.

In the other hand, globalization provided a transparent life-style and an open environment in variant brands such as economy, urban policies etc.^{xi} Is is discussed that the transparency provides a self control system in global life.

Information technologies carried all people on the world in a unique huge platform.^{xii} Production and working activities are realized on this platform. By this way by globalization integrated the world in a united whole.

After 1980s, a new process for cities and urban-life came into being. The orientation of economic developments made cities attractive and mega cities are constituted after 1990s. The powers of nation-prosperity weakened, the global cities – metropolis gained power after globalization. This causes unbounded city extensions and mega cities came into being.

Globalization gave importance to mega-cities by global politics. The base of global policies is constructed on metropolis and mega-cities.

Causal Connections of Globalization in Urban-Life

Globalization has been determined in different contents by scientists. Lyon, defines globalization as a cause of capitalist period discourses.^{xiii} Bell, defends post industrialized events conduced globalization.^{xiv} Williams argues that communication technologies triggered global attempts.^{xv} Toffler, determines globalization as the metamorphosed form of western culture.^{xvi} All the definitions refer to a new world disposal with global approaches.^{xvii} After globalization mankind gained a different life-style. This change in life-styles is continuing

with global policies in cities which is called urban transformations.^{xviii} In the context of global attempts, urban transformation in cities should be controlled by authorities.^{xix} Because, the revolution of urban spaces in cities can be culminated as negative growth and it causes problems.^{xx} One of the problems of negative growth in globalization is explained by Judd and Parkinson as new becoming elite circle in cities.^{xxi} For the countries who bases on democratic policies this elite circle becomes a complicated problem for city authorities.

The definitions in concern globalization can be enriched, but the basic discourse of all is there is no area on the world could be out of global attempts.^{xxii} Globalization has been expounded by different views by different societies.^{xxiii} This caused dissimilar reflections in city-life and urban areas.

When the relation between modern life styles and global conceptions are evaluated, it is realized that social opportunities give a wide expansion in cities.^{xxiv} In metropolis, it is defended that choosing benefits are more independent in cities with modern life.^{xxv} The given opportunities and a wide expansion in life formation in global life make the cities attractive.^{xxvi} This is the reason that, to be more popular cities compete each other in global life and produce global policies as urban transformations.

Urban Policies under the Context of Globalization

18th century is a historical breaking point for cities and metropolis. Globalization concepts introduced cities in a worldwide competition.^{xxvii} In concern to the competition between metropolises, to be more preferred every city enhanced urban transformation policies.^{xxviii} This event occurred emigration from country-side to cities.^{xxix} In 18th century, city life became preferred life-style for natives and the cities started to grow-up.

After global discourses, Second World War and its extended wars caused the primary cities with the leadership of United States and England.^{xxx} Economic developments switched out to primary cities and mega cities started to grow-up.^{xxxi}

The disclosed diagram shows the increase of working population in cities. The percentage of population mostly increases between 1990s the present day. This references the globalization period affected city population.

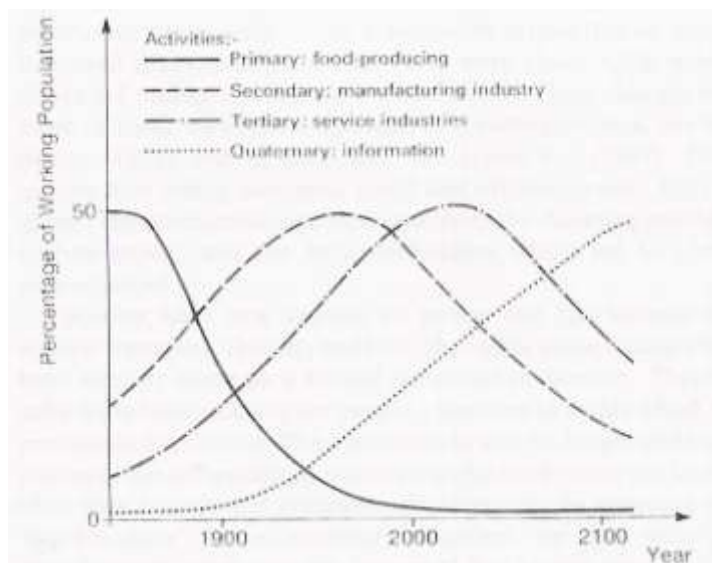


Image 01. The Change of Working Population between the 1900 and 2000s.

Jones, E., 1990. *Metropolis*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, p.92.

The last periods of 20th century, traditional political blocks disappeared by the effects of global discourses and liberal politics gained importance.^{xxxii} International immigration started and in millennium in some cities it reached to 30% immigrated population in metropolis.^{xxxiii} At the mid of 1990s, approximately for one billion city-dweller started to live in big cities.^{xxxiv} This development has occurred more urban area necessity for new population in cities. At the beginning of millennium, first time in World history more than half of the world population started to live in cities.^{xxxv} This process motivated in international urban policies in metropolis.

Global developments made an expansion of the definition of city.^{xxxvi} Cities started to exist individually, not with their domains after globalization.^{xxxvii} This makes the metropolis dynamic every time.

Cities experience the impacts of globalization in different processes.^{xxxviii} Every city has its own urban policy in concern urban transformation in global approaches. The units of urban transformation models in cities are; international relations, logistic and transformation instruments, technological developments, industrial organizations, the new building activities, non-governmental organizations, financial organizations, city-dweller participations, environmental impacts etc.^{xxxix} The purpose of the units are all to bring up the city in a top degree in global competition.

All the revolutions and developments in global disposal in cities are based on economic relations.^{xl} Economic parameters determine the structuring density of cities in urban transformation processes.^{xli} According to new necessities in cities new building types started to be built. The new building types provide alternative life styles in urban areas.^{xlii} They give variant opportunities and this is the reason that in global life, metropolises are chosen to live in. Also the various opportunities give citizens to choose in every brand. This makes global cities more democratic.

The Meaning of “Metropolis” and Urban Transformations in Metropolis

Metropolis – big city concept exists since settled mankind’s history.^{xliii} Economic activities, political reasons always made societies competing each other to control the world. Imperials had some worldwide cities such as Constantinople, Rome etc. At the present day, the term metropolis has different meanings when compared with traditional denotation.^{xliv} The impacts of global cities has discrete technological fixtures, economic-politic-social fit outs. This is the reason that, metropolis is not meaning just a big-city; it refers a mega-city which is above its country. So, metropolis is dominated after globalization as Metropolitan Region.

Metropolitan region means the combination of the global cities and their neighborhoods.^{xlv} In other words, metropolitan region is the settlement which can dominate other adjacent cities. Metropolitan regions have their influence zones.^{xlvi} These zones differ not according to their domestic features; they are related with global characteristics.

Global policies have reflection on metropolitan regions as new building type with new citizen approaches. Historical area expounds, conversion of old buildings, gentrification enterprises are the examples of metropolitan region transformation.^{xlvii} This is the brands of urban transformation of metropolises. Also there are some new buildings such as; big scaled residential, shopping malls, mega cultural centers are the new building types of urban transformation models in metropolitan regions.

The citizens in metropolis and cities are called city-dwellers. The investigations show that city-dwellers prefer to live and experience in the new building types in metropolises.^{xlviii} These demands to new building types embolden city governments to gain the new buildings to metropolises by urban transformation policies.^{xlix} Contemporary administration model is democracy in all metropolises, this makes urgent to participate city-dwellers into the urban transformation processes.^l In the article city-dwellers participation discourses are evaluated under the context of globalization.

User Participation and City-Dwellers in Urban Transformation Policies

People live in cohabitation with the method of sharing living places. Cities come into existence with telescope of living places people live together.^{li} In design process, designer and user have to communicate with each other. Yet living places changes in accordance of people’s life styles and habits.

Design is an intuitive fact that includes multi dimensional concepts. There is not only one way of design method, but the result should satisfy both designer and user in functional and aesthetic perspective.

Needs of humankind, life styles, requests, requirements, and spatial perceptions change from time to time. Yet the life, in movement, is fact that takes on a shape with changes of age. Designers submit spaces to use of people with appropriate implementation for their changing life styles.^{lii} New environments, building areas should be designed with the target of democratic life styles. Participants should have the right to submit their opinions in this process. Design process can be satisfactory with the versatile interactions of the designer such

as environmental, social, economic, and cultural. Interactions will enrich with the participation of the users.^{liii} In these context local authorities in contemporary cities, designers cooperate to citizens with different methods and implement them to design process.

With globalization, city dwellers prefer to live in metropolises for more job opportunities.^{liv} Life styles in metropolises cohabite both local and global values.^{lv} User participation in metropolitan areas should have analyzed with global and local concepts together. In this context, participant policies should be designed with the local and global needs in metropolitan areas.

A Brief History of User Participation in Cities and Metropolis

The term user participation has a theoretical history since 1950s.^{lvi} In early 1960s, user participation models in design processes started to develop in academic environments.^{lvii} Some local applications are also experienced in these dates.

Urban designer Patrick Geddes discussed the place of citizens in design processes in 1912.^{lviii} Geddes suggested composing a social forum in local governments and city-dwellers should be represented in design process. Geddes' suggestion has considered by government and other governments evaluated user participation.

User participation is a reactional behavior for dominant and non-democratic design processes by citizens.^{lix} The reaction voiced the feelings of the users and architects-urban planner's who are protesting impositive designs. The issue repercussioned in professional media in 1960s.

In 1971, Manchester Conference held with the issues "Design and Participation". In academic environment the issues are evaluated deeply and first participation models are proposed. After the conference the publications open House and SAR spread user participation models in design processes.

Article titled "The Agenda 21" in UN Conference in 1992, user participation is embraced in global contexts and concluded with sustainable participation models.^{lx} The conclusion is embraced in some democratic countries. Especially, user participation became law in Scandinavian countries.^{lxi} Sweden, Norway and Denmark are the pioneer countries of participation applications.

At the end of 1990s, user participation models became urgent laws in some contemporary metropolitan governments.^{lxii} England is the leader of user participation appliances in governments. After England; Holland, United States and some other countries' metropolises made participation as urgent laws. In 1994, the conference "Participatory Design Conference" held by Tom Erickson. The conference concluded that: participation models should be developed unique for metropolis.^{lxiii} Today, contemporary metropolises have their own participation models for their own dynamics.

Participation has processes such as; to include city-dwellers' opinions to design and feedback of the results. Both of the processes are active participations and could be separated each other to reach a satisfactory conclusion. Egalitarian approaches are the base of participatory system. Otherwise, the conclusion will not reflect the realistic features of citizens.

City and environment is an organic phenomenon and has dynamic features. Different cities are experienced by different citizens and have unique life style formations.^{lxiv} This context shows that there cannot be a common participation model valid in every city.^{lxv} Every city should have its own participation model for its own heritage.

To develop a participation model for a city, the historical experiences should be used with current parameters.^{lxvi} The opportunities which can be supplied by city and to analyze the user's profile are the basic factor of user participation model. The model should be flexible for the permutations in years.

Designer can succeed by marrying their professional fit out with user's (citizen's) daily experiences.

An Evaluation of User Participation in Concern Urban Transformation in Istanbul

Istanbul has been an important worldwide city with its historical, cultural, strategic and commercial heritages.^{lxvii} This is the reason that, Istanbul has been a cosmopolitan and a dynamic city since its existence.

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Istanbul's position needs to be evaluated in different approaches in its problematic. Because Istanbul always had a cosmopolitan population and had been in a secretly settlement. This is the reason that Istanbul city has an exceptional position.

The production of urban areas in Istanbul is handled in three epochs.^{lxviii} Early period (1950-1960): The emigration from countryside to city started and the city center is covered with shanty residences.^{lxix} After 1950, industrialization started in Istanbul and manufacturer society came into being and private sector investments realized.^{lxx} Intermediate period (1960-1980): National improvement reflected to city settlements. Residential buildings have built in city borders. City started to differ in these years. Global period (1980-2010): In Istanbul global impacts started to be seen in city.^{lxxi} New building types built in city center, and this process is continuing.

Since 1990s, global building type's construction gained speed. This momentum caused unplanned urban area structuring. For new building construction, any special cautions, laws or strategies could not be formed. Annuity factor is the basic reason of unplanned construction in Istanbul. Global policies trigger construction of mega buildings in Istanbul without any urban planning. These evolutions make difficult the integration of the new buildings to Istanbul.



Image 02. Istanbul and Its New Buildings After Globalizaiton.

Onduline AŞ., 2009. Avrupa Kültür Başkenti "İstanbul"- The European Capital of Culture. Doğan Burda Publications, İstanbul, p.86.

After 1980, the impacts of globalization triggered new construction areas in Istanbul and this reflects globalization in Istanbul.^{lxxii} The image above presents the new view of Istanbul. Urban transformation is consists of the flowing capital data and spatial constitutions. Production of new buildings in Istanbul are realizing in residences, high-rise offices, iconic buildings, shopping malls. These building types are increasing day by day in Istanbul.

The image below (Image 03) shows the new building types in Istanbul center – Levent region. The multi functional high-rise buildings and their integration-disintegration can be seen with individual residential settlements.



Image 03. The Integration-Disintegration of High-Rise Building with Individual Residences in Levent Region.

Onduline AŞ., 2009. Avrupa Kültür Başkenti “İstanbul”- The European Capital of Culture. Doğan Burda Publications, İstanbul, p.145.



Image 04. The Photo of Urban Transformation in Levent-Maslak District after Globalization

Onduline AŞ., 2009. Avrupa Kültür Başkenti “İstanbul”- The European Capital of Culture. Doğan Burda Publications, İstanbul, p.143.

Building evolutions in Istanbul has been stated and is still continuing in irregular, rapid formations.^{lxxiii} Lynch introduced that, in Istanbul the urban transformation develops parallel to world's dynamics but the development realized by chaotic ways.^{lxxiv} This caused the annuity problematic in Istanbul. The rapid and irrational constructions in Istanbul damage the

genuine structure of Istanbul. The photograph below shows the relations between global construction areas and residential configuration of Levent region in Istanbul.



Image 05. Residential Configurations and Global Constructions together in Levent Region.

Onduline AŞ., 2009. Avrupa Kültür Başkenti “İstanbul”- The European Capital of Culture. Doğan Burda Publications, İstanbul, p.136.

New constructions built after globalization has been discussed for their effects to Istanbul’s historical and natural heritage. This approach gained to global constructions a new dimension in concern urban transformation system in Istanbul. New buildings reflect their contemporary periods and gives new expansions to cities. The problem occurs when they built out of any urban transformation model in metropolises.

Conclusion: Proposal of User Participation in Istanbul with Global City-Life and Suggestions of User Participation and Urban Transformation Concepts for Istanbul

Participating behaviors of city-dwellers are related to their educational, social and cultural level. By the effects of globalization in cities, alienation threat of city dwellers to their environment occurs. The relations of city-dweller and their environment develop weakness by metropolitan life style. To avoid this weakness, local authorities should lay crackdown to citizen relations.

Local governments organize some interactive events with citizens in formal and informal social medium. This events support the possession of city-dweller with their metropolitan area. In contemporary metropolises the participation starts with social activities by the help of non-governmental organizations. In Istanbul, the local authorities should collaborate with non-governmental foundings for user participation in different urban areas.

Istanbul experienced a non-planned structuring process after globalization. In this context city dwellers could not be able to participate in the new structuring processes in Istanbul. This development occurred alienation between city and citizen. To strengthen the relations between city-dweller and Istanbul, citizen’s urban concernments should be expanded. Urban transformations in Istanbul and the new structuring processes should be participated with Istanbul citizens. The participating starts in designing, constructing and post-construction operations. This participating will be able to success in Istanbul.

User Participation concepts can gain different meanings according to user’s educational, socio-economic and cultural levels.^{lxv} To feel the specialty of participation philosophy, user should have some major vital qualities. User participation models in less developed countries cannot work in democratic ways.^{lxvi} Because, the priority of their life for citizens is to survive or to earn money. They do not mind about their vital qualities and urban areas.

In Istanbul, the report of “Istanbul Metropolitan Region Planning” have approaches for “City-Dweller’s Rights and Planning” published in 2006.^{lxxvii}

The Importance of City-Dweller’s rights are highlighted in the report. Some policies are developed to determine user’s rights in Istanbul. Also, European Urban Conditions which is accepted by European Council in 1992 have been embraced in Istanbul Metropolitan Planning strategy. European Urban Conditions report is an important document for user’s rights.^{lxxviii} The report determines the minimum urban vitalities for every citizen. User participation is a mandatory part of this report index. Report highlights the necessity of every government should have its own user participation model. However, in Istanbul Metropolitan Report does not have any methodology for participating, and did not practice user participations in governmental profiles.

User participation strategy should aim to solve the problematic issues of Istanbul by pluralist democracy.^{lxxix} Republican government system is the administrative choice of Turkey. This means urban transformation models should be determined by democratic ways in Turkey and also in Istanbul. To realize democratic design processes, the local government system should encourage the citizens to participate in urban problematic.

User participation approaches have approximately 40 years history in context of developed metropolis governments. Istanbul has been a very important metropolis in history, but still has any citizen – user participation models in government mentality. Some local governments in Istanbul tries some primitive participation attempts but could not succeed in entire city.^{lxxx} Also, non-governmental organization should support the local authorities about user participation practices.

Turkey is a developing country; Istanbul is the biggest metropolis of Turkey. With its 15 million populations, Istanbul has a heterogenic population. This is the reason to compose an user participation model for whole Istanbul is impossible. Istanbul’s participation model should be arranged for each region, each different local area.

Istanbul has a consuming historical, cultural and economic heritage. And like all metropolises in the world, Istanbul is changing in parallel to current developments. This is the reason it needs urban transformations, new buildings and different dynamic in the city. In this context, the transformative processes should be assimilated with its citizens – users of the city. This will make the administration more democratic in Istanbul and the designs will succeed.

Istanbul has always been a worldwide city in its history. With its cosmopolitan structure and heterogenic population the city has dynamic characters. These features make Istanbul a very important metropolis. But because of the administration of the city and urban transformation methodologies, Istanbul is still categorized as a developing metropolis.

After globalization, new building types for new lifestyles started to construct rapidly and uncontrolled ways in Istanbul’s city center. The urban transformation systems could not integrate these buildings to metropolitan substructure. The users could not internalize these developments in Istanbul.

Users perceive the fundamentals of participating if they have a vital standard. Otherwise, they do not feel and want to be participated in. Because citizens will have different priorities in their lives. For Istanbul, the citizens should be well educated in concern user participation. Citizens of Istanbul do not know participation and its fundamentals which will be proposed.

The main aim of participation model in Istanbul should be to determine the basic problems of Istanbul in citizens’ point of view. This determination will lead to organization techniques for participation. The governmental system should be revised as open to user participation. The central and local governments should encourage users to participate in.

User participation in Istanbul can be divided in two parts. The first part is the disclosure policy events; the second part is the feedback gathering. This study introduces the disclosure and feedback methodologies for Istanbul.

Disclosure of City-Dwellers in User Participation Context:

- Exhibiting and announcement of user participation system in public spaces,
- Issuing the feedback forms for citizen opinions and collecting the forms in data repository,
- Information in internet media,
- Presentations of designers in concern the projects to local communities,
- Sending newsletters to city-dwellers prepared by local governments and non-governmental organizations,

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- Delivering technical details to citizens about the project,
- Organizing interactive panels for city-dwellers.

Feedback of City-Dwellers Vision in User Participation Context:

- Collaboration with advisors and volunteers for collecting the feedbacks of citizens,
- Questionnaire and user evaluations,
- Feedback methods in internet media,
- Feedback methods by Charette technique,
- Informal invitations with city-dwellers,
- Participating journeys with citizens,
- Feedback by citizen representatives in governmental committee,

Participating policies for Istanbul, must be as local as it can be. Because every different region has different urban dynamics and different kind of populations in Istanbul.

Istanbul should have participation models like the other developed metropolises all over the world. The citizenship of Istanbul should feel that the city is re-shaping with them and their opinions. By citizen's contributions, users will feel to be an Istanbulian, and take pride in to be a member of Istanbul.



Image 06. The new buildings in Istanbul after Globalization

Poster: Ece Ceylan Baba, Photographed by: Duran Ceto-March 2009, Ahmet Tanju-February 2009, Oğuzhan Ardahan-January 2009, Mehmet Yalhi-October 2006.

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