

Chapter 58

Ecological Influences on the Evolving Planning System in Turkey

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ABSTRACT

Many developing countries' national plans and urbanization policies lack effective measures to address environmental degradation and support the sustainable use of natural resources. Sustainable urban development policies, the most important pillar of socio-economic development, have not been produced and/or integrated to the urban planning system in Turkey. Suggesting that economic growth may be equaled to wealth and welfare is only possible in environments where certain requirements are satisfied. These requirements may be enumerated as not surpassing the natural renovation capacity, minimizing pollution risks, optimal protection and preservation of non-renewable resources, use of natural resources according to protection-utilization principles. This chapter firstly addresses planning tradition in conceptual background, and analyses relationship of this convention with urban development. Secondly and final phase it addresses the ecological influences created by the urban development shaped by urban planning tradition on the environment, and presents suggestions for solution.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the chapter is to state the influence of the increased population growth and urbanization on the development, and role of ecological needs in Turkey's planning system in the context of impacts of population growth and rapid urbanization on the developing world. Due to lack of failure to apply proper planning policies in Turkey, and in connection therewith, lack of sustainable urban development policies, examination of urban planning system in the context of sustainable urban development poses various difficulties in terms of methodology. For this reason, in order to make a general evaluation to overcome such difficulties, in this part of the study, the planning tradition upon which the urban planning system is based and which is determined by a legal framework and formed with historical know-how

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of the system has been addressed in the first place, and evaluations have been made with regard to the relationship of this tradition with the basic paradigms of sustainable urban development. Subsequently, the impact of urban development shaped by urban planning tradition on environment has been canvassed, and criticisms and proposals have been presented.

BACKGROUND

The development of urban planning as a discipline and as an area of policy application has been accompanied by various images as to the scope, issues, concerns, and the type of activities with which the field is preoccupied. Different aspects are held by the ordinary citizen, by professionals in related disciplines, and crucially by planners themselves. This variety is not new to the profession. There is reason to believe, however, that it has increased greatly with the past decade (M. Needleman & C. Needleman 1974; Erber, 1970; Eldredge, 1967) and that it is departing fundamentally from the conventional and popular definitions associated with the field in its earlier years. In tracing the evolution of planning thought over the past two decades, the dynamics of consensus and conflict among planners, and the problems associated with circumscribing the emerging themes of planning theory are suggested to be critical to an understanding of the state-of-the-art in planning theory nowadays. Planning at this time is essentially different from planning at the turn of the century because of the increased recognition of the plurality of values in society and in the profession and because of the expanded scope of substantive area applications of planning (Galloway & Mahayni, 2007). "The diversity within the planning area raises a number of important questions concerning the present and future role of planning in urban policy making. This diversity has sprung from a number of alternative planning definitions and strategies. Policy makers concerned with decisions governing the role of planning in their organizations are having an increasingly difficult time sorting out the planning process and the field to which this process relates. This appears true for governmental officials at all levels and administrators in higher education governing academic programs in planning as well as the public at large. The field of planning as a discipline justifiably has taken pride in the eclecticism, spontaneity, and innovative thrusts that have characterized the field over the past decades" (Godschalk, 1974).

THE EVOLUTION OF PLANNING TRADITION/SYSTEMS IN TURKEY

The concept of urban planning emerged in industrialized societies to solve multi-faceted urban problems brought by industry. On the other hand, urban planning followed a different route in countries like Turkey that remained behind in the industrialization process. The first zoning movements in Turkey which could be considered in the context of urban planning "were initiated to seek solutions for initial integration of pre-industrial towns with the world economy" (Tekeli, 1991). In Turkey, the urban planning system has reached the present, undergoing different stages throughout the Republican period. In this context, the evaluation of the urban planning system in Turkey has been conducted by periods which represent break points that influenced planning. Tekeli's grouping (Tekeli, 1998) has been relied upon in the determination of such periods, and 1923 - 1950 period, 1950 - 1960 period, 1960 - 1980 period and post-1980 period have been used.

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