

Chapter 2

Modernization and Accountability in Public–Sector Administration: Turkey Example

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ABSTRACT

The issue of studying has been determined as the development of the Turkish public sector in terms of modernization and accountability. In this chapter, it is aimed that postmodernism and new public administration concepts as well as the effects of modernization and accountability concepts coming to the public in the field of public administration are aimed. These impacts will be examined by examining the legal arrangements related to political and administrative accountability as well as the use of new legislative acts such as e-government and ombudsman. Modernization and accountability in public sector management in Turkey can be evaluated under the following headings; Political Accountability, Public Accountability, Accountability at Public Administration, Accountability at Public Employees, Accountability as Different Citizens, Citizenship Accountability.

INTRODUCTION

Postmodernism is a model aimed at establishing a new state–citizen relationship in public administration with an anti-modernist view. In this direction, the citizen argues for active participation in the administration and not to take part in public administration of the bureaucracy. In this respect, the concepts of e-government application that can be effective in reducing the bureaucracy and the governance that can

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be evaluated as an effort to carry out the state function together with the people on behalf of the public are foreground. These concepts, which are relatively new but postmodernism's product, also come to life in Turkey as it is in all developed countries. In addition, new legislative structures such as the ombudsman institution have been established in the Turkish management system in the near future, in order to provide political and administrative accountability. At the same time, these structures also serve the "New Public Management" approach, which advocates that the public should aim for efficiency and efficiency like the private sector. In this respect, it can be said that modernization and accountability in public sector management are evident and evolving with the reform studies carried out in Turkey especially after 2004.

In light of these explanations, it is thought that it is important to put forward the example of Turkey as a candidate of a European Union and a representative of a cultural exposition which is a state tradition of 2,200 years in terms of comparable to other countries. For this reason, the issue of studying has been determined as the situation and position of Turkish public administration in terms of modernization and accountability and its development in this process.

Within this context, it is aimed to reveal the reflection of modernization and accountability cases in the field of public administration within the framework of postmodernism and new public administration approaches in Turkey as it is in the whole world in working. As a result of these reflections, the legal arrangements related to political and administrative accountability as well as the effects of new structures such as e-government and ombudsman will be investigated through the use of these circulars. In addition, as a result of the Referendum on the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey to be held on April 16, 2017, it will be evaluated whether or not there are regulations regarding modernization and accountability. There is no study evaluating the public sector in the field of direct modernization and accountability in the Turkish field literature. It is possible to find studies that examine the Turkish public sector within the framework of any of the concepts of modernization, accountability, post-modernization and transparency.¹

ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT

From the public administration literature, it can be said that one of the most used concepts in recent periods is "accountability". When considered from the conceptual point of view, it appears that accountability is defined in similar ways in the literature. According to these definitions, accountability means that any person or group has to explain or respond to another person or group outside his / her own due to the actions and transactions that he or she has performed (Eryılmaz & Biricikoğlu, 2011, p. 21). It is seen that accountability is classified in various forms. In the following, an assessment has been made on the basis of the distinction between political accountability, accountability in the sense of public administration, accountability in the aspect of public employees and accountability in terms of citizenship.

POLITICAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Responding to the public for political leaders' actions is called the Political Accountability Principle (Layok, 2013:4)

At national level, political accountability has two dimensions: 'vertical' and 'horizontal'. Vertical accountability is expressed in regular, free and fair elections. This is linked to the division of power

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