Chapter 18
The Role of Municipalities in the Management of Social Work Practices in Turkey

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ABSTRACT

Almost all countries in the world intervene in social problems depending on their own social structure and management systems. They also aim to offer rapid and effective social work policies and practices for women, children, elders, young, and disabled people. To do so, governments need to execute social work practices through local managements along with central management. The 1980s were a beginning of a new period for the management of public services. Specifically, localization and globalization directly affected the view that not only central management, but also local managements need to be strengthened. In 1984, Turkey enforced metropolitan municipalities law and formed another stage of management in mega cities. During the 1990s, social work practices implemented in mage cities like Istanbul, Ankara, and Konya were like a sample study for many other municipalities within the country. Thus, soon after the juridical reforms beginning in the early 2000s, municipalities took over remarkable responsibilities in local social work practices.

INTRODUCTION

Almost all countries on the world intervene in social problems depending on their own social structure and management systems. They also aim to offer rapid and effective social work policies and practices for women, children, elders, young and disabled people in public. To do so, governments need to execute social work practices through local managements along with central management.

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During the 1990s, social work practices implemented in mage cities like Istanbul, Ankara and Konya were like a sample study for many other municipalities within the country. Thus, soon after the juridical reforms beginning in the early 2000s, municipalities took over remarkable responsibilities in local social work practices. Through legal changes in municipality laws, municipalities started to offer more qualified social work for women, children, elders, young and disabled people (Kalaycı, 2017, p. 125; Artan, 2012). In 2012, with the final reform for the management of municipalities, they had more responsibilities and rights in social services in local parts of the country.

Owing to ongoing Covid-19 pandemics all over the world, social work practices for disadvantageous people in public have been realized to be more considerable. Especially in the delivery of social services for elders, disabled, women and children in local areas, municipalities have been more advantageous by comparison with central management because the recognition of these groups of people brought municipalities forefront in the support and care services. The study focuses on the contributions of municipalities in Turkey to the management of social work policies in local areas.

MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

This study is a qualitative research collecting social work practices implemented by leading municipalities in Turkey. The data included in the study was collected through written and visual documents published regularly by these municipalities. One of the sources that is effectively used in qualitative research is document review which is paraphrased as studying related written and visual materials regarding the study subject (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2013, p. 217-218). To do so, we thoroughly studied the websites of the municipalities (Neuman, 2014, p. 187-188) included in the study and obtained various documents like plans, programs, reports and news bulletins.

The data regarding municipalities was evaluated by content analysis method. Content analysis is the process of comprehensible explication of similar and collective data through certain concepts. That's why, during analysis, reasonable parts between coding and data were detected and the results were comprehensibly explicated (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2013, p. 259-260).

Depending on the nonstochastic sampling method, municipalities conducting social work practices for women, elders, children, youth, disabled people and immigrants were included in the study. This method of sampling provides access to any case or situation that is considered to have a great deal of information. Having information for various cases and situations helped to compare the social work services of municipalities (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2013, p. 135).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In addition to its remarkable contributions to human and social life, social work is a discipline of science and an occupation (Cılga, 2004: 35) that deals with human, his environment and society (Kongar, 2007: 1) and that offers opportunities and possibilities to increase the level of welfare (Friedlander, 1965: 6). Therefore, social work has been an important discipline both for human and social health and to humanize management systems of countries.

In dealing with social problems, depending on their social structure and management systems countries on the world have developed various social work practices for women, children, youth, elders and

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