



STRENGTHENING THE RIGHT TO THE CITY FOR CHILDREN?

THE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN URBAN PLANNING IN TURKEY AND ISTANBUL

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BACKGROUND

MAINSTREAM DEVELOPMENT APPROACH:

**A vision for inclusive and participatory cities
(NUA, SDG, etc.)**

CHILDREN IN THE CITY OF ISTANBUL:

**Rapid urbanization causes many children to be
marginalized and deprived of their rights to
basic quality of life and participation in society.**

CHILDREN PARTICIPATION IN URBAN PLANNING:

**complex process, which requires a specialized
child-centered approach**

PROBLEMS that children participation faces

CONCEPTUALIZATION of CHILDREN

Future citizen, people in vulnerable situation

NON-VOTING STATUS

ADULT BIASES

Skeptizism, power-sharing



IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY:

**Belated acknowledgement of citizen
participation**

scarcity in children's participation

CAPABILITY APPROACH

Nussbaum (1997)

- **basic capabilities** (basis condition to build on)
- **internal capabilities** (the condition to fulfill the desired function)
- **combined capabilities** (the combined condition of internal and external capabilities)



Capability Approach offers opportunities to children to exercise their participatory rights concerning their internal capabilities that can be utilized within combined capabilities

AND

Public Policy works as external capabilities within combined capabilities

RIGHT TO THE CITY

Lefebvre (1996)

“cry and demand of urban citizens”

Harvey (2008)

“a kind of shaping power over the processes of urbanization”



FOR CHILDREN:

- **The right to the difference** (Dikeç, 2001)
(breaks unified category, vulnerability approach)
- **The right to the appropriation** (Dikeç, 2001)
(breaks their non-voting status)



NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

Turkey lacks the **collaboration between governmental organizations** to implement children's rights and **inclusive and integrated child-focused legislation** based on children's **individuality and citizenship**.



PROBLEM IN COLLABORATION AND JURISDICTION :

- predominantly plays the protecting role as the national approach
- insufficient cooperation with other public institutions
- lack of jurisdiction at the local level

PROBLEM IN CONCEPTUALIZATION:

- their rights are not specified explicitly
- children are predominantly identified as a disadvantaged group that needs to be protected
- children are treated as members of the family who are obligated to listen to their parents



LOCAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

Because of the **limited jurisdiction** bestowed to local governments, and **the lack of collaboration**, as in the form of capacity building, between governmental organizations at the national and local levels, results in ineffective initiatives for children's participation at the local level.



- Children are included to participatory processes as **informants** rather than active participants.
- Municipal services does not define **a mechanism for enabling children's participation.**
- There is a Children Assembly under City Councils with **no power of sanction.**

CONCLUSIONS

FOR LOCAL AUDIENCE:

policy change leading to changes in the content of policy-making, such as,

- resolving children's conditional citizenship
- Introducing a specialized mechanism for children's participation



FOR GLOBAL AUDIENCE:

- The defined citizenship of children illuminates the degree of their participation.
- children need (supplementary) support through a child-centered approach to their citizenship and participation from policy-making.

THANK YOU

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