



Research Article

**Investigation of Spatial Satisfaction of Elderly Earthquake Victims:
The Case of Elazığ**

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the relocation that individuals aged 65 and over, whom we describe as elderly, have compulsorily experienced after the 24 January 2020 Elazığ Earthquake. The level of relationship, commitment, and sense of belonging that they have established with the new space are also aimed to be specified within this study. At this point, the problems related to relocation experienced by elderly individuals after the earthquake are essential. In this research, an in-depth interview technique is used to determine the perception of satisfaction of the interviewees with the newly moved place after the disaster. The spatial and social differences between the two settlements from the eyes of the interviewees are also evaluated by the same technique. Interviews were conducted with 23 volunteer elderly individuals, ten men and 13 women, who experienced the earthquake in the Aksaray and Hicret neighborhoods of Elazığ and had to leave their place due to the destruction after the earthquake. As a result of the field research, it has been seen that the elderly individuals have a higher sense of belonging to their former houses, and they cannot adapt due to the labor problems and the weak neighborhood relations in the newly moved place. In addition, the lack of outdoor spaces to meet the physical and social needs of the elderly people in the neighborhoods where new residences are located has decreased the perception of satisfaction of the individuals.

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