



## **Sociological Evaluation of Local Government Services for Disabled and Older People: The Case of İstanbul**

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### **Abstract**

According to the Turkish Population and Housing Survey data, 6.9% of the local population has at least one disability. Based on this research conducted in the first quarter of the 2000s, more than 2 million disabled people live in İstanbul. Additionally, there are approximately 1.5 million individuals over the age of 65 in İstanbul. Because this number can be reached with the current population of İstanbul over 15 million. It does not seem possible to say that there are sufficient number of social science studies on disabled and older people in Turkey. These studies reveal that it is necessary to focus more on issues such as the problems faced by disabled and older people in the urban environment and access opportunities. This article aims to evaluate the local government service policy for disabled and older people living in İstanbul. While doing this, a qualitative research design was used with 15 participants working in district local governments. According to the results of the research, there is a need to increase the number and quality of local governments in social support services, especially in health services. Municipalities can support the family with services such as elderly, disabled and patient care. The need for cooperation and coordination in such services carried out by different public institutions has been identified. It can be said that this coordination will increase the diversity and quality of services for disabled or elderly individuals. The research found that it would be better to manage public services for disabled or older people individuals locally.

### **Keywords**

Older People, Disability, Local Governments, Social Support, Urbanization.

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