



The Role and Effects of Migration in Urban and Regional Development in Turkey

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Abstract

This study examines the multidimensional effects of migration on urban and regional development in Turkey. Migration has been regarded as a dynamic process that has transformed economic, social, and spatial structures throughout history; it has been emphasized that internal migration from rural to urban areas, which gained momentum particularly after the 1950s, has significantly influenced Turkey's urbanization process and development policies. The research was conducted within the framework of qualitative methodology through a literature review and theoretical analysis technique. Accordingly, national and international academic studies were examined, and the findings were analyzed from sociological and regional development perspectives. The study notes that migration is a complex phenomenon shaped by economic opportunities, social factors, and political causes. While migration increases economic dynamism in cities, it also places pressure on housing, infrastructure, and public services. From a regional perspective, developed regions gain strength through migration, while in regions experiencing out-migration, population loss and development challenges deepen. This situation exacerbates interregional inequalities. When evaluated in terms of sustainable development, it is concluded that planned and well-managed migration processes contribute to economic growth and social diversity, whereas uncontrolled migration leads to environmental issues and social integration problems. Therefore, the study emphasizes the need to develop comprehensive policies.

Keywords

Migration, Urban Development, Regional Development, Sustainable Development, Elazığ

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