

## A RESEARCH ON THE POPULATION IMMIGRATING INTO CITIES OF SÖKE AND ÖDEMiŞ

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### **Abstract**

The trend, which is followed recently in terms of internal migration movement in the entire Turkey, is that the immigration level within a province is higher than the interprovincial immigration level. However, all of the provinces with a positive migration level between the provinces are located in the western regions of the country. The Province of İzmir is the third among the most immigrated provinces and the fifth province with positive net migration level within entire Turkey'. The other provinces with a positive net migration rate in the Aegean region are Muğla and Aydın.

Within the scope of this study, the population structures, received through immigration by the town-centres of Ödemiş and Söke counties under the provinces of İzmir and Aydın, which are geographic neighbours and having positive net migration levels in the Aegean Region are discussed.

The scope of work will be limited within the framework of the three main titles: 1. The emigrated settlements and causes of migration, 2. The socio-economic conditions of the immigrating population in the immigrated place, 3. The expectations of the immigrating population for future.

**Key Words:** *Ödemiş, Söke, migration within the province, inter-provincial migration, socio-spatial segregation, social integration*

**JEL Classification:** IJ-SSHS

## **INTRODUCTION**

The medium-sized cities, having a potential for an economic and social development, take more and more share in the in-country migration movements. Various positive and negative effects and results caused by the immigration can be observed in the urban and spatial development processes. The developments of the medium-size cities, which are supported in terms of sustainable development and balanced regional development strategies, must be rerouted through policies developed in different scales. This study can be considered as an example of the causes immigration into the small and medium-sized cities and the position that is reached as well as the analysis of the social and economic relations that is established. The problematic of urbanization and urbanizing, which has been discussed for many years after the emigration waves from the countryside to the big cities, requires to be taken over within the framework of new conceptualizations in terms of the medium and small cities. Moreover, the evaluation of all of the relations with the immigrated place, including mainly the socio-economic status of the immigrating population, and the level of fulfillment of the expectations have a place in terms of creating social and spatial policies.

### **1. MATERIAL AND METHOD**

Although there are different definitions of the phenomenon of migration in the literature, it will not be wrong to say that its basic conceptual equivalent is a "displacement" –whether geographical or socio-cultural- according to the social scientists (Kearney, 1986; Tekeli, 2006). Though Yüceşahin and Özgür (2006: 16) say that "it occurs when the environmental conditions where one lives, becloud the livability"; Faist (2003: 41-42) defines the migration as "a spatial motion, a transfer from one place to another, from one social or political unit to another". Migration is the process of displacement of the people living in a place to other places to live for long periods of time and to adapt to the new living places (Tekeli, 2006). In the literature of migration, while in the worldwide classifications the current is stroked out from city to city, from countryside to countryside, from city to countryside and from countryside to city; Kaygalak

(2009: 13) notes that the migrations in Turkey occur more from countryside to city and/or from city to city.

According to the commission report published by the Ministry of Public Works and Settlement in 2009; during the 1975-2000 period, the rate of interprovincial migrants in the total migrations decreased from 75,3% to 71,5 % and the rate of the migrants between intra-provincial settlements increased from 24.7% to 28.5%. Thus, it can be recorded as a finding that that about one-third of the entire amount of the population involved in an interprovincial migration in Turkey at a time displaced within the same province. According to the same report; the net migration rates of 67 provinces are positive respectively 20 in the period of 1965-1970, 24 in the period of 1970-1975, 18 in the period of 1975-1980 period, 19 in the period of 1980-1985; 20 of 73 provinces in the period of 1985-1990 period, 23 of 81 provinces in the period of 1995-2000. During this period, nearly all the provinces with the positive net migration rates are located in the West of Turkey. The phenomenon of migration may be the subject of different sociological researches varying from one community to another or even according to the migrating social groups and reasons for migration etc. The migration in the researches on urban issues and migration comes up with the socio-economic issues such as housing and poverty, social exclusion and spatial segregation. Exclusion reveals itself in different economic, social, ethnic, religious, spatial and political dimensions. On the other hand, the such forms of exclusion gives rise to a different solidarity practice among the migrant communities. Ethnic, religious or other solidarity types of social groups may come out. Such kind of organizations, which can be qualified as congregational type solidarity are "environments full of all kinds of friendships, interest groupings, conflicts forming a base for relations of kinships, citizenships, neighborhoods and friendships apart from the written rules" (Güneş-Ayata, 1991: 93).

In the definitions of the size of the city, it is to see that population is a key part, although it is not exclusively sufficient. Across the country, the number of small cities (with a population of 20,000 and below) decreases. In contrast, the number of big city centers with a population of 500,000-1,000,000 and above is increasing. Accordingly, immigration and urbanization issues become more serious and a balanced spatial development cannot be obtained. Therefore, the

medium-sized cities are gaining more importance in terms of spatial and social policies. According to Yazar (2006:119 transmitted by Üzmez, 2012: 132); the medium-sized cities have a very close and dependent relation to the cities both bigger and smaller than itself within the segmentation of the countries. Most of these medium-sized cities face serious administrative, legal, spatial, social and political problems.

This is a field study about the social and economic pattern containing the migrant population within the changing and development processes of the medium-sized cities. The aim of the study is to try to analyze the socio-economic structure of the migrant population in cities of this size and to make an assessment on the basis of the resulting findings. The city centers, which were selected as the subject of the case study, are Ödemiş and Söke counties undergoing a change in demographic, social, economic and spatial senses due to the due to the immigrating population within the last twenty years. Both cities are adjacent to İzmir and Aydın provinces, which are geographical neighbors to each other and have positive net immigration levels, both in the Aegean region.

The method used in this study can be outlined as theoretical research on the conceptual framework, revealing the findings obtained from the field study by using qualitative and quantitative research methods on the selected cities and making a scientific assessment of the data. The quantitative data about immigration in Turkey and the two cities, used in this study is based on TURKISH STATISTICAL INSTITUTE (TURKSTAT) data. The data assessed specifically for the two counties are based on the household surveys and interviews carried out during the field studies between 2011-2013<sup>1</sup>.

## **2. SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF POPULATION IMMIGRATED IN THE CITIES OF ÖDEMiŞ AND SÖKE**

The subject of the study, Ödemiş and Söke, counties of İzmir and Aydın provinces, can be considered within the category mid-sized cities as of the size of

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<sup>1</sup> The field studies have been carried out between the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 academic years within the scope of Planning Workshop of Undergraduate 3 at MIMAR SINAN FINE ARTS UNIVERSITY Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

their populations. According to the data of the year 2012, the total population of Ödemiş district 129.005, where the population of the city center is 75.577, while the total population of Söke district is 115.586, where the population of the city center is 70.522.

These counties, having strong agricultural production capacities in the region, take place at the top in terms of certain agricultural products on a regional, region, or even national scale. The economy of Söke is based on the production of agro-based industrial goods, with its agricultural products providing 70% of the annual gross proceeds. The province of Aydın, having 10% of cotton production of Turkey, fulfills 60% of this production in Söke plain. Due to the fact that the center of the district had a lively trade and management echelons in the period prior to the Republic, it has been a developed central settlement unit in terms of urban services. Nowadays, there are facilities for cotton processing, spinning mills, cement and ceramic factories and agricultural machinery are produced. The construction of the organized industrial zone in Söke has been completed. When the population data of the districts of İzmir are examined, it can be seen that the agricultural characteristic of Ödemiş, having the largest rural population ratio, is reflected on its economy as well and production and manufacturing potentials have conventionally developed in this direction. Figs, olives, chestnuts, tobacco, vegetable, including mainly potatoes are grown in Ödemiş and the county has an important place in the field of cultivation of fruit trees, potatoes, cherry throughout Turkey. The main industrial branches of the county consists of the production of food products (milk, olive oil, vegetable oil, pickles, etc..) and manufacture of agricultural tools and machines. Despite the construction work continues, there is no organized industrial zone in operation yet in the county, and the small-sized industrial enterprises are active in the small industrial area. Trade, on the other hand, is performed to meet the needs of the population within the county or within the framework of commercial activities to market the agricultural and industrial products to other regions and abroad.

### **2.1. Demographic development and migration of Söke and Ödemiş counties**

According to the data from the TURKISH STATISTICAL INSTITUTE (TURKSTAT); 77.2% of the population of the country lives in cities in the year

2012, the rate of the rural population is % 22.8%. According to the data of same year, 91,4% of the total population of İzmir province live in the cities and 8.6% live in countryside; whereas 60.8% of the total population of Aydın province live in the cities and 39.2% live in countryside and they differ from the entire country with such demographic structures.

In terms of the size of the population, Ödemiş is the 21<sup>st</sup> biggest among the 30 counties of İzmir. When the counties outside the boundaries of the metropolitan municipality are compared, Ödemiş presents a high level of urbanization with a rate of 57%. The reason for this can be explained through the fact that the concentration in the agriculture sector in the Kiraz and Beydağ counties, which were previously the sub-districts of Ödemiş and became separate counties, overwhelmed the concentration in the industry and services sectors, and the needs for the services sector in these counties are met from Ödemiş County. When the change of total population of Ödemiş over the years is examined, a continuous increase in the population was observed during the period between 1965-1985, and during the period between 1985-1990, just in the contrary, a decline has been observed. The reason can be explained by the reason of the separation of Beydağ, which was a sub-district of Ödemiş until 1987 and became a separate county after then. However, the population growth in the period between 1990-2010 shows a stable structure. When the change of the population in the county center of Ödemiş over the years is examined, over the years, it is observed that there is a steady increase. If the increase between the years 1965-1980 is compared with the increase in between the years 1980-2010, it can be seen that the increase during the recent years is sharper. And when the level of urbanization rates is looked at, one can see that the balance of the countryside-city population has changed, there has been a serious increase in urbanization after 1980s due to the migrations, and the population of the countryside gradually decreased.

On the other hand, the increase in the ratio of the urban population against the rural population in the province of Aydın occurred after 2000s. According to the results of ADNKS in 2012, the total population of Söke County is 115.586 and 60% of the population live in the cities, 40% live in the countryside. In the distribution of urban-rural population data of Söke until this period the superiority of the countryside continued. The population of Söke County, compared to the

previous period, gained a significant impetus between 1980-1990 compared to the previous period, including mainly the increase in the urban population. Since the increase in the rural population of the county continued in this period, it can be accepted that the city and countryside received immigration. However, the total population of the county undergoes a decrease in the period between 1990-2000 compared to the previous period. In this decrease, the decline in rural population is notable. It is thought that this was because of the effects such as the provincial and district-wide fertility level is below the average of Turkey; the change in the support policies for rural production and particularly the seasonal difficulties for the cotton producers in the region.

### **2.1.1. Söke and Ödemiş city centers as immigrated places**

The facts that the emigration and immigration rates of İzmir and Aydın provinces close to each other and both having a positive migration rate point out the high level of the migration movement. It is observed that the most migration within the Aegean Region takes place in İzmir and neighboring provinces.

When the immigration data of the provinces for the years 2011-2012 are examined, one finds out that both cities received immigration mainly from their own region, and respectively from Marmara, Central Anatolia, Eastern Anatolia, Southeastern Anatolia, Mediterranean and Black Sea regions and the rates are close. It is seen that this trend is reflected in their counties as well. Ödemiş county receives the most immigration from the Aegean Region. Even, it receives most of the immigration from its own province İzmir within its region. The city center of Ödemiş receives immigration, respectively from the provinces of Marmara, Southeastern Anatolia and the Mediterranean. According to 2011 data of TURKSTAT, Söke receives immigration from Eastern and Southeastern provinces in the first place, which is followed by Aegean Region in second place, and the others. The city center of Söke immigrated the most from the regions Aegean Region, Eastern Anatolia and Southeastern Anatolia regions respectively.

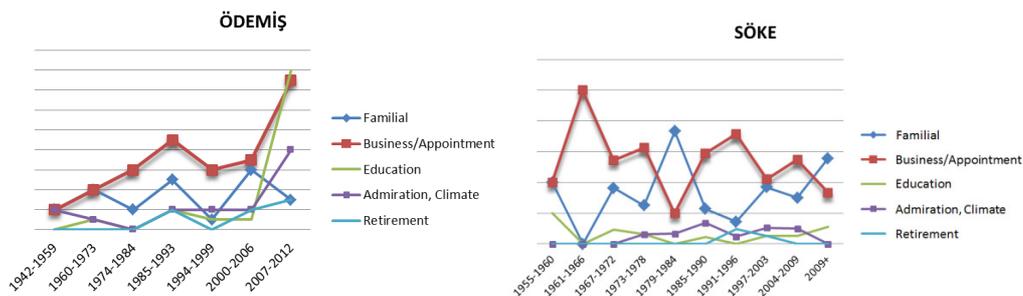
### 2.1.2. Family size of the migrant population

It has been seen that the average family size of Ödemiş and Söke districts are between 3,5-4 in conformity with the average of the country, region and provinces. The average number of the people in the households immigrating to Ödemiş city center is 3,31, while the same number is 3,76 for Söke. It can be noted that the family size was not changed due to the fact that Ödemiş receives immigration at county-level mostly from its own region. In addition, it can also be said that the migration from the countryside did not affect the size of the families in the neighborhood units much because the average of the settlement in urban and rural areas are also close. Whereas size of the families in Söke at county-scale exceeded the average because it was immigrated mainly from Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia regions, where the family size is larger. This fact causes also a higher average in the neighborhood units settled by the migrants from these regions in both counties. On the other hand, average of Söke at county-scale is larger than the city center.

### 2.1.3. Reasons of migration of the immigrants

The reasons migration of the immigrants show a similarity in the two city centers independent of the concentration. Despite the prominent reasons vary over the years, they can be observed as looking for/finding a job, appointment/assignment, immigration/assignment, immigration due to the dependence on one of the members of the family, training, appreciation and retirement, and this trend appears parallel in İzmir and Aydın provinces.

Chart 1. Reasons of Migration of the Immigrants to Ödemiş and Söke over the years



Source: MIMAR SINAN FINE ARTS UNIVERSITY, Household Survey Data, 2011-2012

#### **2.1.4. Employment opportunities and income-level of immigrants**

The sectorial distribution of the workforce in Ödemiş city center occurs as 74% for the service sector, 14% for industry and 12% for agriculture. The sectorial distribution of the workforce in Söke city center occurs as 77% for service, 19% for industry and 4% for agriculture. The share of agriculture seems to be low in both cities, despite of the rural sector being the center of the production. Notwithstanding, the services reaching such a high rate of 77% can be explained by the presence of the central services and trade.

The reasons such as decline in the yield of agricultural products in Ödemiş, the attractiveness of the city in terms of capabilities, possibilities for searching new job opportunities triggered the emigration from the countryside and caused changes in the ways of production of the migrating section. 90% of those immigrating to the city center are employed in the service sector, 8% are employed in agriculture and 2% in the industry. This result shows that the people coming town because of the agricultural disengagement are concentrated in the service sector, and a parallel development took place in Ödemiş as well. The segment engaged in the service sector in the city consists more of the civil servants. The types and rates of the professions of the immigrants to Söke city center are as follows; 20% farmers, 19% public employee-civil servants, 16% self-employed, 10% factory workers, 7% students, 4% housewives, 8% unemployed, 10% retired, and 8% other. It has been determined through the survey questionnaire that those immigrants, taking place in the biggest part and describing themselves as farmers reside in the city center and work as agricultural workers or seasonal workers in the villages. Hence, the emergence of the service sector predominantly in the center of Söke and this being followed by industry with the fact that an important part of the immigrants choose service and industrial sector.

The employment rate of the population of working age in the households in Ödemiş is 40,37%, the rate of unemployment is 5.63%. While the unemployment rate across the Söke county of Aydın province in 2004 was around 4%;

unemployment increased to 8% according to the data from the studies on households in the city center in 2011. This change in the rate is thought to be caused by the agricultural capacity of the county's countryside and the period was just before the general economic crisis in 2008. The rate of unemployment among the immigrants is around 8%.

Based on the data of TURKSTAT, the monthly income per capita was 3580 TL according to the provincial level results of the GDP in Izmir in general in accordance with the purchasing power parity, while this figure decreases to 2630 TL in Aydın. The average monthly income of the immigrants to Ödemiş is 2000 TL, while it is around 1500 TL in Söke. In both settlements, those segments having an average monthly income below 1,000 TL have been specified to be mostly the immigrants coming from the Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia Regions.

### **3.2. Migration-social exclusion and integration**

The sociological and economic relations established with place of immigration has an important place in the development of in the sense of belongingness and social cohesion. Particularly, if the immigration is due to the hope of finding a job, usually there is a combination of social and economic deprivations. The major ones of such deprivations are having insufficient training; having no accommodation with sufficient equipment in the emigrated and immigrated places, lack of the a regular income, lack of any social assurance. The reason for migration is the wish to overcome such deprivations. The individual migrates with the expectation to find a more secure future for himself and his children. However, the deprivations may also be the cause of exclusion in economic and social sense.

The first thing done at the place immigration is trying to solve the housing problem in the cheapest way. Elimination of unemployment and obtaining regular income is the other important issues. The jobs available for the immigrants are usually temporary for a long time or social assurance with a low income return. Important problems are encountered in overcoming the other deprivations as well. So deprivations continue at the immigrated place, too. In addition, being a

stranger in the immigrated place or alienation is another factor, which makes the integration in the social life more difficult. Even if the immigration is due to different reasons such as political, ethnic, gender reasons, there is the possibility to be excluded or finding no social acceptance and social and spatial segregation may be in question. If the of the segregation is carried into the dimensions that can impact the economic and social life, it can cause deprivations poverty.

### **3.2.1 Integration of the immigrants to city centers of Ödemiş and Söke**

The problems, which are observed in many of immigrated places in Turkey, regardless of being large or medium-sized, are observed in Ödemiş and Söke as well. The city center of Ödemiş consists of 16 neighborhoods. The low physical and environmental quality of life in **Üç Eylül**, and **Kemalpaşa and Fevzipaşa Neighbourhoods**, where the migrants mainly live among the 8 neighborhoods of Söke show that in the selected cities we face spatial segregation as well as social segregation present in the cities in this scale as well. This segregation seems to be an indication of material deprivations and the whole city stands as an obstacle in front of the physical and social integration. Another common aspect of these neighborhoods is that they had been the living areas of the non-Muslim populations prior to the exchange of people, and the places of religious and ethnic segregation in the history are settled by the immigrants nowadays. These areas, emptied because of emigration, with status uncertain of property have been facing physically devastation over the long years. These re-settled areas also full of deficiencies in terms of urban services. Creating urban services in these neighborhoods takes time and most of the time the process becomes a subject of political interest for local politics. Again, the development of the social networks is tried to be resolved within the congregation or fellowship of townsmen, which is defined as specific to the rural life instead of the ones seen in contemporary cities.

According to the data obtained as a result of the surveys and interviews conducted with the migration of households across the county, the economic problems can be stated as finding a job, costliness, high rent, economic stagnation, etc.. However, not being able to get used to the environment, loneliness, not being able to define self, adaptation problem, difficulty in adapting the social life, discomfort

of social relations, cultural diversity, etc. are other issues. However, very few of the members of these families think to emigrate somewhere else. 49% of the immigrant families in Ödemiş and 54% of the immigrants in Söke defined themselves as a local. Among the reasons of those who declared otherwise are being from another city, being here only for a job, reconcile with the city are listed. Those who want to emigrate said that they want to move to İzmir city center or to another city in the Aegean region instead of moving to the place of emigration.

## **IN LIEU OF CONCLUSION**

The data from the research that we performed in the cities of Söke and Ödemiş revealed that the migrant population have various integration problems but despite of this, nearly half of them have identified themselves as "local" and protect their living space so as to own a house. However, in coping with the problems, it has been observed that they used social networks instead of the urban media and networks. Our studies on the problematic of immigration received by the small and medium-sized cities and the immigrant population as well as their social integration and the findings that we obtained aimed to open the debate on this scale rather than achieving a result. The concentration of the migration researches on the big cities with a domestic net migration ranking of and rate in the positive direction, causes ignoring the problems in the arising in the mid-level cities which tend to become prominent in migration. Whereas, it is accepted that feasibility of sustainable spatial, social and economic life areas in the small and medium-sized cities and it is prescribed to protect, support and increase the number of cities at this scale. Through the researches on the immigration capacities of cities at this scale and their social and economic integration, the positive side of migration may be brought out. of the research with the positive direction. For the continuity of cities, and in order to transmit them to the future as a cultural and social economic heritage, an increase in the population is required.

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