

World Bank
Youth Voices Group
Report of Youth and Governance Working Group

Definition of Governance:

Effective role played by all stakeholders in a country in the decision making process and in the implementation of these decisions.

Stakeholders of Governance:

- CSOs
- Local governments
- Government
- Youngsters (high school, university)
- Private sector

Aims of Governance:

- To improve the level of welfare in the country
- To have citizen focused governance understanding
- To develop the issues like democracy and human rights
- To diminish social conflict
- To increase and deepen the confidence between the State and public

Principles of Governance:

- Accountability (for all stakeholders)
- Transparency
- Equalitarian and comprehensive
- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Sensitiveness
- Respectful to supremacy of law
- Participatory
- Based on consensus

ANALYSIS:

- The governance phenomena has not developed in Turkey
- The implementation level of the reforms that have been realized in the Turkish public administration system is not sufficient.
- The rationale under Public Administration Basic Law is a rationale of governance.¹
- If the basic approach in public administration is implemented as aimed it could change the core of the relations between the individuals and State.
- There is a management rationale with qualifications facilitating the cooperation of various ranks of the state and civil society. There is a rationale of authority sharing.
- Democratic municipality, participatory municipality, resource creating municipality, orientating municipality and regulatory municipality concepts that have been started to be discussed with Public Administration Basic Law are actually concepts included in governance.
- Local governments are the most important implementation areas of governance.

Although the concept of governance is not mentioned in the lately prepared Public Administration Basic Law, it is frequently referred to with its content. Paragraph (f) of Article 5, paragraph (d) of Article 6 and general definition of Article 11 are examples of this. In overall justifications of these articles, development of civil society is emphasized with the change in the theory of administration, social criticism and change. All these are conceptualized under the mentality of contemporary administration of 21st century as “good governance”.

- The above-mentioned paragraphs are really open ended.
- The staff to implement the new public administration is not available.
- The information level is low on this.
- **Both the media and CSOs are insufficient to follow up the studies.**
- There are no articles in the relevant public administration law on youngsters and women that could be an efficient element of governance.

¹ Information under this title taken from an interview with KORAL GÖYMEN.

- Although the new central government is really decisive in this respect, the implementation cannot be followed up in the field organizations.
- Public administrators do not want to share their duties and authorities and the public do not have such a demand.

AN OVERALL LOOK AT TURKISH PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

- The existing situation in Turkish public administration system (classical public administration understanding) does not facilitate the development of governance phenomena.
- The decentralized structure in public administration has not developed.
- (“Decentralization”)
- There is a heavy, bureaucratic and cumbersome structure.
- The public administrators have a covert management understanding.
- There is resistance to change and contradiction with the era in terms of administration.
- Because of loyalty to etatist understanding sufficient emphasis of civil society cannot be done in public administration cycle (In this context, the civil society has a problem of insufficient and incorrect development.
- There is a lack of long term planning and action plan.
- There are serious deficiencies in terms of policy formation (For example, there is no youth policy in Turkey.)
- Limited participation opportunities by existing laws (electoral age law on associations)
- No responsibility awareness by administrators in the field of social participation and inclusion.

Due to the above reasons the phenomena of governance has not been developed in the understanding of Classical Turkish Public Administration understanding.

- **The youngsters do not have such a demand either!**
- Patriarchic society structure, family’s child-raising method, social culture are among the most important factors at this point. The most important cultural

reasons of the youngsters not to participate and not to have demands are traditional understanding of “Flesh is yours, bone is mine”, “no respond to the father and no word over father’s word.

- “Father State” concept and traditional understanding of never to question the administrators are among the reasons of the youngsters never to demand.
- The education system at schools and failure to consult the youngsters by the teachers result in the youth never to be educated in this respect.
- The youngsters are faced with problems when they are troubled and when they seek solutions to their troubles. The reason is lack of information, failure to mix the outcomes of troubles and reasons and failure to reach the root of the problems.
- **The administrative mechanisms to facilitate the participation of youngsters in administration are not available in Turkey.**
 - The country with the youngest population among EU member states and candidate countries is Turkey.
 - **On the basis of central government, the ministries in the government have studies relevant to youth in one way or another but there is no institutional structure related to the youth.**
 - **There is no integrated youth policy in Turkey.**
 - There is no Youth Commission in TGNA to develop and follow up an integrated Youth Policy.
 - **There is no National Youth Council in Turkey** but in a country like Turkey with high potential of youth, establishment of a democratic, participatory, transparent and conscious council necessitates the existence of a slow but strong process. For example, in the decision mechanisms relevant to youth in Slovenia the Government is obliged to work together with the Youth Council.
 - The youngsters in Turkey do not have any power in issues binding them.
 - **The age to be elected is 30 in general elections and 25 in local elections; the age to vote is 18.** A youngster in Turkey can elect at the age of 18 whereas

he/she cannot be elected (EU examples: The age to vote and be elected is 18 in most of the countries.)

- The definition of youth covers the ages from 15 to 25.

Local Agenda 21 Program as an example of good governance²

“Local Agenda 21 applications in our country have been accelerated at the end of 1997 with the “Project on Promotion and Development of Local Agenda 21s in Turkey”. In UNDP’s letter to the Prime Minister dated November 1, 2001, Turkey was announced as one of the most successful countries in implementing the Local Agenda 21 Program.

Local Agenda 21 Youth Assemblies established within this program have multiple functions among which there are: youngsters participating the urban management, in planning, decision making and implementation, promoting programs relevant to youngsters and facilitating their implementation, strengthening youth organizations and developing organizational awareness, promoting knowledge and experience exchange between the youngsters, friendship ties and cultural exchange to be established with youngsters from other countries and contributing to the development of integrated youth policies at national level and National Youth Council.

Local youth platforms within Local Agenda 21 Program have a national network between themselves. As Local Agenda 21 National Youth Parliament the representatives of LA-21 Youth Assemblies come together in various regional and national programs.”

² The information under this title was taken from the Internet site of Local Agenda 21. (<http://www.la21turkey.net>)

- **The youngsters cannot participate at the level of local government.**

The youngsters do not have power in issues relevant to them in local governments unless there is a decision of the municipal assembly.

- **There are only a few projects prepared by the youngsters for the youngsters at local level.**

- Good governance should be developed from local to national level in a participatory and democratic manner. Therefore, the youth platforms at local level should facilitate the efficient participation of the youngsters at national level in decision mechanisms (Base organization model)

Especially at local level, not only municipality and governor's office but CSOs. University youth councils, high school youth councils and school assemblies should be efficient actors.

The mentioned youth platforms should cover a wide range in line with the principle of participation. (University Youth Councils, High School Youth Councils, Unemployed/Uneducated/Disadvantaged Youth, Youth CSOs, political parties' youth branches and etc.)

- **On the basis of CSOs, there are only a few CSOs actively involved at national level for youngsters.** The number is quite high in EU countries.
- The common problems of all CSOs in Turkey like lack of communication, resources, bureaucratic hindrances (law on associations) are valid for youth CSOs as well.
- Turkey taking contemporary steps on the way to EU membership should adopt practices to extend the governance awareness and to establish governance focused public administration model in the shortest time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Through initiatives taken within Higher Education Council (YÖK - HEC) preparation and implementation of governance focused social responsibility projects must be obligatory at the universities. – This will put forth new governance models with youth initiative starting from local level.

Method: In state universities “Social Responsibility Projects” may be first elective and then obligatory gradually.

Actors: HEC can initiate the Project and the universities may cooperate with the local governments in the pursuant steps.

- **With changes within local governments, mechanisms in which the youngsters could have initiative in administration must be established.**

Method: As sub section of Public Administration law draft, the definition of city councils in Article 18 of the Municipal Law should be re-arranged so as to include ‘institutionalization of youth and women assemblies’

Actors: After the necessary amendment in the law has been done, local governments, Youth and Women CSOs could cooperate on this issue.

- **Information technologies must be efficiently used in administrative mechanisms (e-governance)**

Method: As in Yalova in selected pilot areas necessary infrastructure must be established so as to ease the tasks of public through e-governance system.

- Through CSOs youngsters and local administrators should become aware of participation and governance issues.

Method: In expenses part in Article 59 of Municipal Law, it should be added that funds would be allocated for women and youth studies from the municipal budget. By this way, the CSOs will have an initiative to raise public awareness on this subject.

- The easiest way for the youngsters to be involved in government is through CSOs. For this reason, membership to CSOs must be encouraged.

Method: Activities of youth CSOs and their promotional campaigns must be supported.

Actors: Youth CSOs, World Bank (especially support for introduction and promotion materials of CSOs), Media organizations (especially TRT), universities and high schools

- Elements of culture hindering participation must be fought with.

Actors: General Directorate of Youth and Sports, Media, Ministry of National Education, HEC

Method: Advertisement campaigns, relevant info in courses

- The education system must be changed so as to support participation

Actors: MONE, CSOs

Method: The function of student councils and assemblies must be increased at schools and their weight in administration must be increased as well. Furthermore, the operation of the student clubs and branches must be developed and membership to these must be encouraged (membership might be compulsory)

- Social responsibility projects must be obligatory in high schools and universities.

- Feedback meetings must be organized at all schools between the administrators, teachers and students.

- Family training programs must be organized so as to facilitate the participation of the youngster in the family

Actors: Social Services and Child Protection Agency (SHÇEK), World Bank, MONE, Media Organizations

- The problems due to lack of governance must be regularly emphasized.

Actors: CSOs, Media Organizations