Village vs Neighborhood: Evaluating Rural Areas in Metropolitan Municipalities of Turkey Through Rural-Urban Transect

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Abstract
This study aims to focus on how the rural-urban transect changed after the enactment of Municipal Law No. 6360 in Turkey. With law No. 6360 in 2012 the metropolitan municipality boundary widened into the provincial borders. The purpose of this new law is to offer an equal amount of services to people who live far from the city center as well as city residents. However, it only replaces the term "village" with "neighborhood" and removes its self-governance authority. This study intends to define a new method to specify rural and urban areas in "metropolitan regions" through analyzing the rural-urban transect. The aim of producing a method in this study is to propose a new point of view by bringing back the concept of "village" and its meaning to conserve "gemeinschaft" of the rural community. As the borders between villages and neighborhoods become uncertain, the differences between rural and urban culture become visible.

Keywords: rural-urban transect; metropolitan municipalities; village; provincial borders; Turkey

Introduction
More people live in urban areas than in rural areas in Turkey since 1985. The distribution of the rural and urban population in Turkey had a rapid change in 2013. With Municipal Law No. 6360, the urban population of metropolitan cities increased to 59 million from 48 million as a result of intervention to city boundaries while the rural population of them has set to zero. This sudden change has gone beyond the geospatial qualifications of rural spaces in metropolitan cities while European policy agendas highly enhance the rural-urban relationship (Schröder, 2017). Rural can be defined as spread settlement that completes the urban in size and figures, also plays a significant and transformative role in a vision of habitat in Europe in a cultural-spatial view (Schröder & Weigert, 2010). Even the European Horizon 2020 Strategy and the recent UN-Habitat III Agenda which indicate a more intelligent, sustainable,
8. Housing and Social Theory

Competitive and equitable development require a shift in understanding the territory as a primary resource and implements a policy that supports urbanization that should be evaluated in terms of sustainability. Due to this artificial urbanization process in Turkey, three important terms have discussed in this paper.

The first term is “metropolitan cities.” The “metropolitan city” has a further meaning than just an overpopulated and highly urbanized agglomeration. There has never been a general agreement on the definition of the metropolitan model. Main characteristics and differences between a city and a “metropolitan city” are as below (Göçer, 1990):

- The metropolises carry both the traditional administration center function of the city and the production function of the rural together.
- The population of a metropolis is higher than a city.
- A metropolis tends to sprawl more than a city.
- The urban sprawl of the metropolis includes not only the developed urban zones but also the broad unoccupied rural zones.
- The residential areas and business centers are spatially separated in a metropolitan city.
- Social segregation is visible between different groups in a metropolitan city.

These features are very crucial to evaluate the amendments of the Law no. 5216 on metropolitan cities in Turkey considering the definition of the metropolis in the law text. Law no. 5216 indicates that any city with a population over 750,000 people can be defined as a metropolis if the physical settlement and economic development levels are appropriate. However, the law does not explain the physical or economic necessities that have to be met by the cities. Besides, the municipal system of Turkey is based on three local authorities: provincial, municipal and village to meet the local common needs. While Law no. 6360 centralizes all authorities, it overleaps the inherent needs of the rural areas in metropolitan cities. According to the transformation of rural to urban, the second and the third terms are “village” and “neighborhood”. The relationship of these two settlement units has been examined both in terms of law and the socio-cultural structure.

**Methodology**

This study first analyzes the impact of Law no. 5216 and Law no. 6360 on the cities that have the characteristics of a metropolis and have not through matching the density and qualifications of zones on their rural-urban transect. It then evaluates the impact of these laws on the quality and quantity of production of rural dwellings. The aim of producing a method in this study is to propose a new point of view by bringing back the concept of “village” and its context. Data for mapping is collected from the
8. Housing and Social Theory

CORINE Project led by The Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs in Turkey. The CORINE Project was conducted for planning, and it gives information about where urban texture ends. A transect is a cross-section of a selected environment, and it is helpful to identify the variation of both rural and urban living. Variation can show where the provincial border should be. All spatial mapping and analysis steps described were performed using ESRI ArcGIS™, and the data of the settlement pattern is derived from CORINE Land Cover (CLC) dataset, produced by the Joint Research Centre for the European Environmental Agency (EEA).

Civil Administration Divisions in Turkey

Provinces (il), and districts (ilçe) as the subdivisions of provinces, and sub-districts constitute the civil administration divisions of Turkey. The core administrative areas managed by the headmen (muhtar) are called the "village administrative area", while the municipal and city areas managed by the municipality are called the "urban administrative area". Besides the core administrative areas, there are public properties that are not located within the administrative borders of any village or city but can cover large areas within the administrative borders of a district. With Municipal Law No. 6360 the Turkish metropolitan municipality system changed and village administrative units in metropolitan cities were abolished. This urbanization process under the EU accession period has two stages: firstly, with Law No. 5216 in 2004 it was decided that the metropolitan municipality boundary governed by the mayor would be a circle with a radius of 20 kilometers for cities with a population of up to one million, a radius of 30 kilometers for cities with a population of between one and two million and a radius of 50 kilometers for cities with a population of more than two million. Secondly, with Law No. 6360 in 2012 the radius widened into the provincial borders. However, it is hard to identify a city that has no rural zones. The map below shows the relationship between “municipal circles” and provincial borders.

Figure 1: Provincial Administrative Borders After Law No. 5216
8. Housing and Social Theory

According to the provisional article 2 of the Municipality Law No. 5216 in 2004, municipality service areas of the provincial centers (except İstanbul and Kocaeli, their administrative borders and provincial borders overlap) are bound with a circle drawn according to the population of the city. Geographically, there is no scientific support for these geometric limitations (Özçağlar, 2012). The governor's building is assigned as the center of the circle and then all the rural settlements which are located in that circle (Fig.1) became neighborhoods rather than villages. If the border of the circle passes through the village borders, the part that is in that circle also became an urban neighborhood. Although there was no spatial difference between the villages outside and inside the circle; all spatial productions inside the circle are under the construction law. This urbanization process continued with the enactment of municipal law no. 6360 “The Establishment of fourteen Metropolitan Municipalities and Twenty-Seven Districts and Amendments at Certain Law and Decree Laws.” With Law 6360 in 2012 the metropolitan municipality boundary was widened into the provincial borders (Fig.2).

Figure 2: Provincial Administrative Borders After Law No. 6360

This act, Law 6360, caused indeterminacy between rural and urban areas both in the adjustment of borders and administration, as well as being against article No.127 of the Turkish constitution. Article No. 127 creates three local authorities: provincial, municipal and village to meet the local common needs. These local authorities were established as self-governing decentralization units, and they have their assets and budgets. Law 6360 disbands these local authorities. The purpose of this new law was stated to offer an equal amount of services to people who live far from the city center as well as city residents. However, it only replaced the term "village" with "neighborhood" and removed its self-governance authority. While this replacement annihilated the power of the muhtar (headman), the authority to control building production in villages was given to the district municipalities under the Unplanned Areas Regulation. In case of the request of the district municipalities, the construction of the non-commercial (residential) buildings to be built in villages turned into the construction of architectural projects according to traditional, cultural and architectural characteristics in the direction of the zoning
8. Housing and Social Theory

legislation in force. If special projects were outside the type of projects to be applied, the projects should be approved by the district municipality according to current legislation (Law no. 6360, 2012). That being the case, the economic and social formation of the rural population come into prominence.

Much of the literature until the mid-1960s investigated the differences between rural and urban population and emphasized the rural-urban continuum. Rural residents were identified as a population that had a tendency to exhibit primary social interactions, to have more traditional values, to be more religious, to be more socioeconomically homogeneous and to have more informal social controls than their urban counterparts (Zube & Moore, 1991). By 1970 this notion was largely discredited due to the studies on suburban settlements. These settlements whose populations were often small in size but were urban in their values and behavior (Gans, 1970). However, we cannot compare these examples with Turkey which had urbanization and industrialization between 1950 and 1980 (Çavuşoğlu, 2014) (Kiray, 1993). According to (Hobsbawm, 1994), Turkey was still the last “peasant stronghold” of Europe and the Middle East in the mid-1980s. As Kiray had predicted 20 years ago, the villages in metropolitan areas did not have the features of rural villages (1993). The suburban areas would be examined as a part of metropolitan areas, but villages in Anatolia (Asia Minor) still showed the properties of gemeinschaft. Besides, studies on the Middle East conducted by Paul Stirling (1965) suggested the discrepancy between rural and urban societies was not the main subject, for him, what matters was the relation between them. The relationship of rural and urban was discussed by Stirling (1965) in his study of two Turkish villages. Total distance between the town of Kayseri and the village of Sakaltutan was twenty miles, but the villagers thought of this in terms of six hours. Stirling argued a broader span of social distance in the urban and rural ranking systems is the result of social segregation; they do not share a common life. He suggested that vertical sociability within rural society is greater than horizontal sociability outside it. The main problem with rural and urban societies was how they get in contact.

In the meantime, steps taken for sustainability produced results that sped up rural transformation. As an example, Turkey signed the United Nations Convention on Climate Change in 2004 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2009. Turkey received low-interest funding from the Clean Technology Fund financed by the World Bank (Hoşgör, Ece, & Konak, 2016)(World Bank Clean Technology Fund, 2016). It is stated in the Clean Technology Fund Investment Plan, renewable energy investments in Turkey will contribute to the reduction of emissions of global greenhouse gases. Also grants will have a positive contribution to the quality of life and the environment. It is also noted that hydroelectric plant investments will contribute positively to the development of poor regions of the country (Hoşgör, Ece, & Konak, 2016). Using cultivated areas for different purposes was forbidden before the Law 6360. According to Turkish Criminal Law 5237 article 154/2, penalties shall be imposed on any person who, in whole or in part, seizes, sits on, or continues to use immovable property such as pasture, threshing area, road and wetland knowing that it belongs to the village legal entity or has been abandoned to the common use of the
8. Housing and Social Theory

village forever. Law No. 6360 opened the way to the unintended use of agricultural lands, and local administrations will make the decisions. Under these circumstances, the sensitivity of rural residents to the environment became crucial.

To investigate the environmental impact of villagers, three advanced environment-behavior hypotheses were adopted. The objective conditions hypothesis that is advanced by Dillman and Christenson (1972) suggests rural residences experience fewer pollution problems. Hence they tend to be more irrelevant to the environmental problems and “less supportive of societal efforts to ameliorate these problems than urban residents” (Zube & Moore, 1991). Murdock and Schriner (1977) suggested because rural places tend to be characterized by low-income and high unemployment rates, they have a great interest in promoting income. Joan Martínez-Alier (2002) put forward another thesis named the environmentalism of the poor. Environmentalism of the poor includes the fight of communities which is in direct relationship with nature against the threats to their living spaces and resources. Poor people do not think as environmentalists, but because of their interests and values, they act against the companies and the state regarding sharing the "resources" (Martínez-Alier, 2002).

Results

As it is seen in the map below, the cities in Minor Asia except for İstanbul and Kocaeli, have a similar settlement pattern, nearly all of the cities have a main civic center and discontinuous urban fabric defined as districts (ilçe) around this center (Fig. 3).

Figure 3: The Settlement Pattern of the Cities in Minor Asia

Three cities, two of them border each other, and one of them is an Asia Minor city, were chosen to analyze the difference between metropoles and cities. İstanbul is a city without borders that encompasses the cities around it. Kocaeli and İstanbul have a solid relationship; they complement each other in terms of economy and social practices. For this reason, special legislation for these two cities would be right but implementing the same law to every metropolis would end up creating settlements neither rural nor
8. Housing and Social Theory

Urban, but having the characteristics of rural. To determine the harmful effects of the law on rural areas, this study analyses the transect of another metropolitan city. Bursa is an industrial city prosperous with an historical background that has many historical rural settlements that are still alive. Law 6360 turned out as a threat to these settlements and their traditional land use practices by virtue of the construction law.

![Figure 4: Artificial Surfaces and City Borders](image)

The map above defines the field of study (Fig.4). İstanbul and Bursa are adjacent to Kocaeli and these three cities are the main metropolitan municipalities of the Marmara Region.

As Duany and Talen (2002) described, the sequence of habitats in nature is continuous, but the rural-to-urban continuum must initially be segmented into discrete categories to fit human environments within the language of our current approach to land regulation – zoning. The rural-urban transect approach is useful in order to determine these zones. The transect seeks both the inappropriate intermixing of rural and urban elements known as sprawl, at the same time it eliminates the vacant open spaces – “ruralizing of the urban”- in the urban core. It could be defined as a way to find the appropriate spatial allocation for the components of human habitat. The optimal allocation of the zones can be seen in the fig.5.

![Figure 5: Physical Characteristics of the Transect, Source: Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company](image)

The method developed by Duany and Talen (2002) is very compatible with the Anatolian cities and it will be implemented in this study but with some differences. The transect in the study of Duany and
8. Housing and Social Theory

Talen offered a rural-urban continuum from the periphery to the core, but in this study we intend to draw a transect that begin from the border and extend to the cores of two neighbor cities. The aim of this approach is to see how cities merge under different conditions and what the Law no. 6360 brings. To specify the transect routes, we focused on the main roads that connect city centers and then drew a line from the core to the intersection of the main road and the metropolitan municipality boundary. The map below visualizes the urban sprawl by using settlement densities.

Figure 6: Rural and Urban Settlements - World Population Estimated Density Map, 2015

The default colors in the map above show rural populations in purple hues, with the lighter purple representing the most rural 4-5% of people (Fig. 6). Beige is settled or light urban, while the orange and red represent urban and dense urban populations (ArcGIS World Population Estimated Density 2015). Estimated global population density is expressed in units of persons per square kilometer modeled by Esri for the year 2015. The breaks for the classes are at the following levels of persons per square kilometer:

- 100 - Rural (0.7% of all people live at this density or lower)
- 400 - Settled (4.1% of all people live at this density or lower)
- 1,908 - Urban (81.1% of all people live at this density or higher)
- 16,978 - Heavy Urban (24.2% of all people live at this density or higher)
- 26,331 - Extreme Urban (15.4% of all people live at this density or higher)

Note: values over 60,000 are likely to be erroneous due to inaccuracies in source boundary data.
8. Housing and Social Theory

The map above analyzed the alteration of settlement patterns (Fig. 6). A section line was drawn from the city center (the area with the highest density) to where the main road connecting the center of the selected cities intersected the periphery. Then a circle with a radius of 4000 meters was drawn from the junction point. The radius of this circle was determined due to the gradient of density in Istanbul. As seen in Figure 7, the border running through the residential areas, the only buffer zone on the main road between Istanbul and Kocaeli, was formerly a military zone.

![Figure 7: Transect of Istanbul-Kocaeli Border](image)

In the first analysis, D-100 road which connects Istanbul and Kocaeli was selected as the study area and the transect of these two cities was drawn above. When the transition between these two cities was examined, it can be seen that the general urban zones merged without any rural areas. The green areas shown in the right side of the Fig. 7 was formerly Tuzla Infantry School Command but after the coup attempt occurred on July 15th 2016 it is decided to move the military zone out of the city. An important question arises: What will happen to former military zones? If these areas are zoned for construction, these two cities will merge without any separation zone. Meanwhile, Bursa has a structural issue that turns into rural areas as it goes to its borders. In other words, the law has become the acceptance of unification which is the inevitable result of the urbanization policies projected for Istanbul and Kocaeli, but the same situation does not apply to other cities. Fig. 8 visualizes the border between Bursa and Balikesir. The same transect span was used to compare these two vicinities. The intersection of these two cities is consisted by croplands and villages, even the closest village has 96 people living in. The croplands and surface waterbodies are visible on the satellite pictures below. This area matches with the T2 Rural Preserve zone on the transect table but it is considered as an urban area due to the law.
The closest settlement to the municipal boundary of Bursa is Taşköprü “neighborhood” (formerly village). There is not an exact term in English for “X mahallesi” so the “neighborhoods” that were villages before like Taşköprü will be stated as “Taşköprü district.” The distance of the settlement to the city center is 96 kilometers by car. The nearest settlement to Taşköprü is Adaköy district (formerly village). The name Adaköy consists of two words which are ada (island) and köy (village). It would also be pointed out that many villages in Turkey have names that involve the word “köy.” As an example, some of the names that belong to former villages in alphabetical order are Ağaköy, Akköy, Ayvaköy, Bakırköy, Başköy, Bayırköy, Behramköy, Boğazköy, etc. The notion of “X-köy mahallesi” causes a semantic confusion, although the names of former villages are written as “X köyü mahallesi” in roadside signs. These complications are further evidence of the unsuitability of Law no. 6360 in rural areas. To create a solution to this disorganization, this study intends to define a new method to specify the provincial administrative boundaries. Bursa is selected as the study area and the possible urbanization zone of this city is illustrated in the map below.
8. Housing and Social Theory

World Population Estimated Density Map and the artificial surfaces level of CORINE data had superposed in order to analyze the distribution of people and the buildings. The natural obstacles shown in the map is mostly compromised of hills, mountains and lakes. Due to these geographical inhibitors the center of Bursa sprawled in two directions, the western part of the city is mostly consisted of industrial estates and the eastern part is consisted of both industrial and residential areas. Another indicator of the growth pattern of Bursa is the metro route. Bursaray (the name of the metro route of Bursa) connects the Uludağ University (the west end of the town) and Kestel which is a district located between Bursa and İnegöl. İnegöl has the highest number of population among the other districts except the central ones. Also İnegöl has a tendency to sprawl in the direction of Bursa but there is no certainty that İnegöl will merge with the central districts of Bursa.

In order to draw a scientifically supported municipal border we used the rural-urban transect method developed by Duany and Talen (2002). It offers a rural-urban continuum from the periphery to the core and it is very compatible with the growth pattern of Anatolian cities. The different zones of Bursa had analyzed in order to find out how this city tends to sprawl. The T2 zones are rural preserves which have livestock, farmlands, less density and wooden or adobe dwellings. The T3 zones are sub-urban and they are consisted mostly of housing estates and small enterprises. The T4, T5 and T6 zones form the urban core. The D zones are special districts composed of industrial estates.

Figure 10: Map of the designated municipal borders

The proposed border has drawn in order to involve both the city center and the villages nearby. It is an alternative to the circle that is suggested in the Law no. 5216. In 2004, it was decided that the metropolitan municipality boundary governed by the mayor would be a circle with a radius of 30
8. Housing and Social Theory

kilometers for cities with a population of between one and two million. As it mentioned before, the circle that the law propose has no geographically scientific support (Özçağlar, 2012), also it includes villages on the hills but does not include the city center of İnegöl. The natural obstacles are strong enough to prevent urban sprawl. Uludağ is the highest mountain of northwestern Turkey with its 2,543 mt/8,343 ft summit and Bursa has been founded on the skirts. Due to this, the border on the northern and the southern side of the city goes along with the topography. There are some villages nearby at the west side of the city and they are close enough to be managed by the municipality of city.

The next part of this paper summarizes the discussions on the future of rural in Turkey under impact of the laws mentioned before and the reasons of this study.

Discussion on Rural Settlements

Along with the Law no. 6360, the metropolitan municipalities have begun to take the place of the main actors in rural area management and planning. Therefore the notion of village faded away (Kızılboğa & Alçı, 2013). 47% of the villagers and 54% of the municipalities were excluded from the local government system. In the National Development Plan (1973), a village is identified as “a settlement which has an economic structure largely based on agriculture, and that has a population up to 2,000 inhabitants that constitute the smallest administrative unit with a specific settlement boundary”. According to the Village Law of 1924, settlements below 2,000 were defined as villages, those between 2,000 and 20,000 as towns, and settlements with more than 20,000 as cities. According to Sharp (1946), it is not possible to understand that a settlement is considered as a village or a city merely by its magnitude, on the contrary, the magnitude can be misleading. According to the legal definition, the village is not a type of settlement, rather it is an administrative unit (Özçağlar, 2012). Since the concept of village expresses the boundaries of the administrative unit, the neighborhoods within these boundaries are called rural settlements.

The rural settlements are defined as follows by Geray (2011): “Places that have an economic structure based on agriculture and no division of labor, large family unity and face-to-face relationships, and consequently, separated from the areas where urban communities live”. The vast majority of studies on peasantry focus on differences between urban and rural communities like the concepts of Gesellschaft (society) and Gemeinschaft (community) by Tönnies (1887), Redfield's (1956) folk and urban society, Becker's (1950) sacred and secular concepts, and Durkheim's (1893) mechanical and organic solidarity theories. Besides, Shanin (1987) identified the distinctive features of the concept of "peasantry" as a sociological category. There is agricultural enterprise based on family labor and a work department organized around it. The primary source of livelihood is soil. The peasant agriculture consists of jobs that have defined more traditionally and require a relatively low level of specialization.
8. Housing and Social Theory

Seasonal and natural changes seriously affect the lives of the peasants who try to survive with limited resources. There is a culture that reflects the proper way of life for the small village community. Social solidarity networks and collective consciousness, shaped by the originality of space in the village, give prevalence to more traditional and conformist behavioral patterns. The distance to the political/economic power makes the peasants suffer. The peasants are among the most vulnerable social groups among the existing domination relations. These situations, which are not observed in the urban society, are a sign that the legal regulations may negatively affect the rural areas. Although, Keyder and Yenal (2013) have stated these features of peasantry defined by Shanin are no longer valid for Turkey, also Keyder claims “some of the poor peasants have moved up to the ranks of middle peasantry” as a result of agricultural mechanization in the 1950s and clear cutting of pasture areas (Keyder, 1983). However, Köymen (2008) argues the small-scale enterprises (family farms) sell their place to large-scale agricultural enterprises.

All of these studies provide important insights into the changes in rural life in Turkey as a result of the amendment of Law No. 6360. Rural communities in Turkey are characterized by a strong sense of common identity, personal relationships, and attachments to various concerns even though the new law defines them as “neighborhoods” in urban culture. As the borders between villages and neighborhoods become uncertain, the differences between rural and urban culture become visible. The spatial evidence of this shift is seen in the newly built rural dwellings both produced by peasants and government. A newly built dwelling in Fig. 11 dissociates from the local dwellings in terms of construction, materials and relationship with environment.

Figure 11: An old and a newly built dwelling in Karyağmaz neighborhood (formerly village) in Balıkesir, 2017

According to Lefebvre (1970), the social phenomena distinguishes between rural, industrial and urban areas that differ in terms of meanings and perceptions, spaces and times, concepts, language and rationality, theories and social practices. He defines urban society as a society born out of industrialization and industrialization as a process that absorbs and dominates agricultural production. He states that agricultural production has lost its autonomy in large industrial countries in the world scale and has undergone a change in becoming a part of industrial production. As a result of the transformation of agriculture, the traditional village of the peasant life, named as the village, is also
8. Housing and Social Theory

being transformed. Although the local and regional authenticity from the period when agriculture is dominant is not yet over, the extensions of "urban texture" are spreading to the rural areas. The concept of "urban texture" as defined by Lefebvre (1970) may not be the area created in cities, but it may include "a summer house in the middle of the country" or "supermarket near the motorway." One of the factors accelerating the spreading is the rural mass housing projects ongoing by the government, which has similar production practices with these examples. Urban management units and urban design teams have begun to produce mass housing projects for the rural areas so that the villages and towns have begun to form for the city-based villagers. The removal of village and city boundaries under Law no. 6360 also supports this situation.

While the change in the production of rural housing and settlements weakens the relationship between man and nature established in rural areas, it also separates the components of nature, animals, and plants. After the "Green Revolution," which was the first physical breakdown between man and nature, the agricultural production inputs were transformed into interdependent commodities, and the components of nature, plants, and animals have separated (Foster, 2000).

Figure 11: The Human-Animal-Plant Relationship

The transformation of the human-nature distinction into the human-plant-animal distinction has also affected the production of rural space while redefining the concept of the peasantry. With Law 6360, the villages turned into the neighborhoods of the city and building production has become a planned process. As Rapoport (1969) stated, as long as the tradition keeps going, the shared image of life and accepted model of built environment operates, without tradition there is a beginning of institutionalization. In this case, the institutionalization process is put into practice not only by peasants but by the government via law amendments and rural mass housing projects. In these cases, we can say the urban fringe does not limit the urbanization process. The dwellings newly built by peasants are the outcomes of their shared image of life, but this image is influenced significantly by urban culture.

For Redfield (1956), peasant cultures (vernacular) are replenished and influenced by the high culture (urban) because they are aware of it. The evidence can be seen in the recently built vernacular dwellings and the participation ratios of peasants to the accession agreements. At the same time, being the owner of a house legally built in reinforced concrete due to the earthquake regulations is a core...
8. Housing and Social Theory

competency for them or a capability defined by Sen (1982). The vernacular houses became illegal with the new law because the majority of them have wooden base or completely made of adobe. One cannot build a house that entirely made of adobe or has a wooden base in urban areas due to the construction law but can build one in a village. Also repairing these houses are forbidden because they do not have a housing permit. Unfortunately, the earthquake regulations do not cover the adobe buildings.

Conclusion

The spatial production practices of the countryside are very different from the city, so the zoning law should be different in the city and the countryside. Design guidelines or a new zoning law for the rural area should be developed to answer today’s necessities, however, this law should apply to the local spatial production practices in a sustainable manner. Metropolitan city law will, in one sense, speed up the environmental problems that some of the villagers are not aware of at the moment. Also rural areas will contend with urban problems due to law. The law encourages the production of institutional rural housing by removing the rural from the periphery of every city having a population over 750,000. However, the only city that meets the definition of the metropolis in Turkey is Istanbul.

Many villages around the major cities of Turkey became a part of the urban areas of these cities between 1970s and 2000s. Although being a part of the city, they have protected their legal entities until the Law no. 6360. Gözler (2013) assumes one of the main reasons of urban sprawl in Turkey is the authority of headman on building production in villages nearby the city center. Those villages become a part of the city over time but they have protected their legal entity and that conduct informal construction practices until 2012. The Law no. 6360 prevents informal construction activities in rural parts of metropolitan municipalities but also it can be turned out as a catalyst for the conversion of rural to urban. This study is conducted in order to preclude the negative outcomes of the law, yet the law could has some positive contributions on planning the urbanization process of metropolitan cities. It provides legal basis for integrated planning and promises more equality in terms of benefit from the services. In order to achieve the positive contributions of the Law no. 6360 yet meet the needs of different groups, the law should be implemented on a designated area. This area should be comprised of the central districts and villages nearby, also it should be designated according to the growth pattern of the city.

All the communities in rural have their own local needs different than the needs of people who live in the core of the city. Therefore, to minimize the negative effects of globalization, a rural residential design approach with the necessary infrastructure and rural landscaping should be planned with the participation of the villagers to encourage agriculture and to respond to the physical and social needs of rural life than centralizing the management.
8. Housing and Social Theory

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8. Housing and Social Theory


