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## Urban activities in the view of the sustainable development

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### Abstract

The growth of the population is not considered as urbanization and the urbanization is not considered as a measure of the development. Irregular and unplanned urbanization and construction is not a development. In this paper Osmaniye city of Turkey is analyzed with the observations in the scope of the process of its change. The population, the economic structure and the urban development projects in Osmaniye are dealt with, and Fakiusagi is presented with the facilities.

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### 1. Introduction

In the beginning of 21<sup>th</sup> century, the main problems are uncontrolled growth of cities and strategies and how these cities meet the needs of individuals and society. With the increase of the population in the world and also in the cities, the urban (city) planning system gains more importance which tries to find the right solutions to these problems. Only the growth of the population in urbanization concept is not the measure of the development. Irregular and unplanned urbanization is not the development. Today city planning aims to make studies on sustainable cities which protects and sustains local resources and values. The city planning process usually begins with collecting and analyzing data about every aspect of a city. The important aspects of city planning study include problems like traffic congestion; air, water, and soil pollution; ecological preservation; and infrastructure; public

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schools, cultural sites, libraries, and so on. According to the European Declaration of Urban Rights, citizens have a right to security, an unpolluted and healthy environment, employment, housing, mobility, health, sport and leisure, culture, multicultural integration, good quality architecture and physical surroundings, harmonization of functions, participation, economic development, sustained development, services and goods, natural wealth and resources, personal fulfillment, inter-municipal collaboration, financial mechanisms and structures, equality in the cities [7].

In the international literature there are many various researches on sustainable development and urbanization. A comprehensive list of urban sustainability indicators is composed by using various sets of indicators by international and regional organizations. The set of indicators in environmental, economic, social categories and governance are presented in a single list named “International Urban Sustainability Indicators List (IUSIL)”. In the practices it is seen that there are many different indicators for urban sustainability such as biodiversity, health, poverty, land use, social work, land conservation, social welfare, transportation efficiency, education [18].

Sustainability can also be achieved through housing development because the housing promotes social equity, generates growth and promotes environmental conservation through planning, construction, design and management. In the literature many sample studies on urban sustainability and housing are seen such as Campinas in Brazil by [9], Klang Valley Conurbation in Malaysia by [20] and China by [21]. For the sustainable urbanization urban agriculture [1], and the relationship among settlement size, functionality, geographic location are also required [10] in the development of cities.

With respect to the United Nations urbanization is a movement of people from rural to urban areas. People continue moving into cities to seek a better life and economic opportunities [18]. Although the settlement patterns are grouped under two main headings as rural settlement (villages) and urban settlement, these settlements cannot be separated from each other because the urbanization carries the problems in itself through the rural area problems such as the relation between Osmaniye and Fakiusagi.

In this paper Osmaniye city of Turkey and the transformation process of the small settlement area of Fakiusagi in Osmaniye are presented with the population changes, the economic structure and the urban development projects.

## 2. City of Osmaniye and urban development projects

After the proclamation of Turkish Republic all sanjaks<sup>1†</sup> were converted to the provinces and Osmaniye was declared as a province. Then Osmaniye was announced as a town of Adana<sup>2\*</sup> in 1933. Finally it re-gained the provincial status as 80<sup>th</sup> city of Turkey according to the law numbered as 4200 and dated as 24.10.1996 [11]. Osmaniye is located on the fertile soil in the east Mediterranean Region of Turkey, on the east of Cukurova, the eastern side of Ceyhan River. Osmaniye is surrounded by developed cities: Gaziantep is on the east side, Hatay is on the south side, Adana is on the west side and Kahramanmaraş is on the north side. The total area is 3222 km<sup>2</sup>, the height from the sea level is 121 m. and the distance to the Mediterranean Sea is 20 km. [12]. Osmaniye consists of 7 towns including Merkez (Center), Bahçe, Düziçi, Hasanbeyli, Kadirli, Sumbas and Toprakkale. Totally there are 16 municipalities, 4 township and 159 villages in Osmaniye [13].

[4] presents the urban population growth in Turkey and in Osmaniye from 1950 to 2000 in tabular. It is seen that the population growth flows a certain trend and it is above the general population growth in Turkey. In this paper Table 1 shows the population of Osmaniye in 1980, 1985, 1990, 1997, 2000, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010, and Table 2 shows the total population, village population and city center population of Osmaniye in 1997, 2000 and 2010.

Osmaniye has an agriculture based economic structure. Approximately 40% of the total land area is arable area and approximately 70% of this area is irrigable area. Industry culture has developed slowly because traditionally the way of life is on land and agricultural production. In fact, the geographic location and transportation facilities offer significant advantages for industrialization. However the structure of agricultural production from generation to generation, lack of information and communication, lack of historical and cultural accumulation requires to entrepreneurship and partnership, to use capital accumulation is easier than the real sector, and problems and

<sup>1†</sup> Sanjak: Subdivision of a province. An administrative structure at Ottoman Empire.

<sup>2\*</sup> Adana: is a province (city) in the south of Turkey.

uncertainties in the future on the country's overall economic structure are the factors that prevent industrialization in the city. In recent years Osmaniye Organized Industrial Zone (OOIZ) begins to grow and the subsidies have brought vitality to the industry [11].

Table1: Population of Osmaniye

Year	Total Population	Explanation
1980	316511	Reference: [6]
1985	358702	Reference: [6]
1990	384104	Reference: [6]
1997	428349	Reference: [6]
2000	458782	Reference: [4]
2007	452880	Reference: [19]
2008	464704	Reference: [19]
2009	471804	Reference: [19]
2010	479221	Reference: [19]

Table2: The growth rate of population of Osmaniye village population and urban population

Year	Total Popul.	Urban Popul.	Village Popul.	Urban Popul. %	Village Popul. %	Explanation
1997	428349	287268	141081	67	33	Reference: [6]
2000	458782	311994	146788	68	32	Reference: [4]
2010	479221	346707	132514	72	28	Reference: [19]

OOIZ is established in Village of Great Tüysüz in Toprakkale in 1994. It continues the activities with 118 parcels on 380 ha. area. OOIZ doesn't have a significant improvement until 2004, but it has made a rapid development and attracted significant investors after the law numbered as 5084 comes into force in 2004. Currently there are 7557 employees at more than 80 sectors. It is possible to group these sectors as spinning, weaving, food, construction, metal, wood, chemicals, feed, plastics and others [14].

Urban development activities are carried out quickly in Osmaniye. Due to the construction sector gained tremendous momentum the development plan was re-revised by Municipality of Osmaniye in 2009. The arrangements especially on floor increasing are implemented. OOIZ has a primary role in the development of the urban (Fig. 1a). The development of industrial developments, establishment of industrial and commercial contacts with the other provinces, providing job opportunities to the local people, revival of the transportation and carrying sector, the continuation of outward-looking of life, and moving the innovations and developments in other provinces are the factors provided by OOIZ [5].

In 2007 the first mass housing is completed in Fakiusagi District by Municipality of Osmaniye. The works on Yaveriye Mass Housing Zone continue to make cheap and reliable houses for citizens. The construction activities started on Yeşilyurt District Urban Renewal Project by building 320 houses on 25 acres of land. Result of this project the houses on Yeşilyurt District that has unplanned constructions are expropriated by the municipality, 25 acres of land is produced, ground improvement works are done, and earthquake-resistant houses are built. This study aims to create a modern urbanism and a nice neighborhood [2]. One of the biggest investments is Underground Car Park and Square Arrangement Project. It aims to transform the depression area which has lost its function to the

urban life again in the center with urban and social renewal. Thus the first commercial urban transformation is started. In addition, underground parking for 120 cars will meet the need of mandatory parking [8].

New Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Market Project, that is an important part of municipal revenues and negatively affects the development of the city by staying within the city, is realized in 2010. This wholesale market is built opposite to The Village Akyar where the transportation facilities can be achieved more easily and the municipality is able to get more revenue.

To meet the needs of green space and social space Emre District Park, Selimiye District Park, Yeni District Park, Esenler District Park and Yeşilyurt District Park are completed. Children's play areas, sports equipment and recreation areas are located in these parks. Especially Pocket Parks and Mini Sports Equipment are established for children [5].

### 3. Village/Neighborhood of Fakiusagi

Fakiusagi is a living area connected to Merkez (Center) Town of Osmaniye that has a transformation from village to district of municipality. It is on south-west of Center and 4 km away from Center [17]. A referendum is made for Village of Fakiusagi because its population is increasing every day and it wants to benefit from the municipality services as a district. The residents of Fakiusagi have agreed to connect to Municipality as a district with a referendum. In the referendum 245 voters voted, 178 of them voted yes, 66 of them voted no and 1 of them was invalid [3].

The most important factor that enables the development of Fakiusagi is the establishment of Osmaniye Korkut Ata University (OKU) in this area. OKU is established with the law numbered as 5662<sup>38</sup>. The region is recovered with the establishment of the university and the change is needed. The density and the flow of the population of the academicians, the workers, the students and the visitors have the influence on traffic, roads, building construction and the need of market-restaurant-café.

In Fakiusagi the initial social mass houses with 264 ones are built by Presidency of Mass Housing Administration in 2007 (Fig. 1b). With the new structuring the animal shelters are demolished and the livestock is depleted because of the new apartments. Also, orange orchards and olive groves that have the small houses are devastated with the high-rise buildings. While high, beautiful, strong, livable houses are being built, fertile land, orange orchards and olive groves are destroyed (Fig. 1c and Fig. 1d).

### 4. Evaluation

Turkey has the agricultural potential that can feed itself so it should make attractive the rural area conditions. However, under the present conditions the migration from the villages to the urban are experienced because of both financial and psychological reasons. This situation is also true for Osmaniye. When the efforts and the projects for urban development are realized the regions that have the rural features lose their features. This is a good example of developments in Fakiusagi, especially after the establishment of the university there.

Considering the age reached and life expectancy the distance between the buildings should be more, main roads should be broader if thinking that the density of the transportation to the university will be more in later years. In addition, the car parks will not be enough according to the speed of the construction. Therefore there will be the shortage of parking and the cars will have to be stopped on the roads or pavements. This means that the roads will be narrowed even further. Besides all it is seen that enough space is not allocated for the green fields of the requirements. Both in the province and in Fakiusagi there are only mini parks and mini-sport facilities. There are not any large recreation and entertainment parks.

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<sup>38</sup> Official Gazette No: 26536, Official Gazette Date: 29.05.2007.

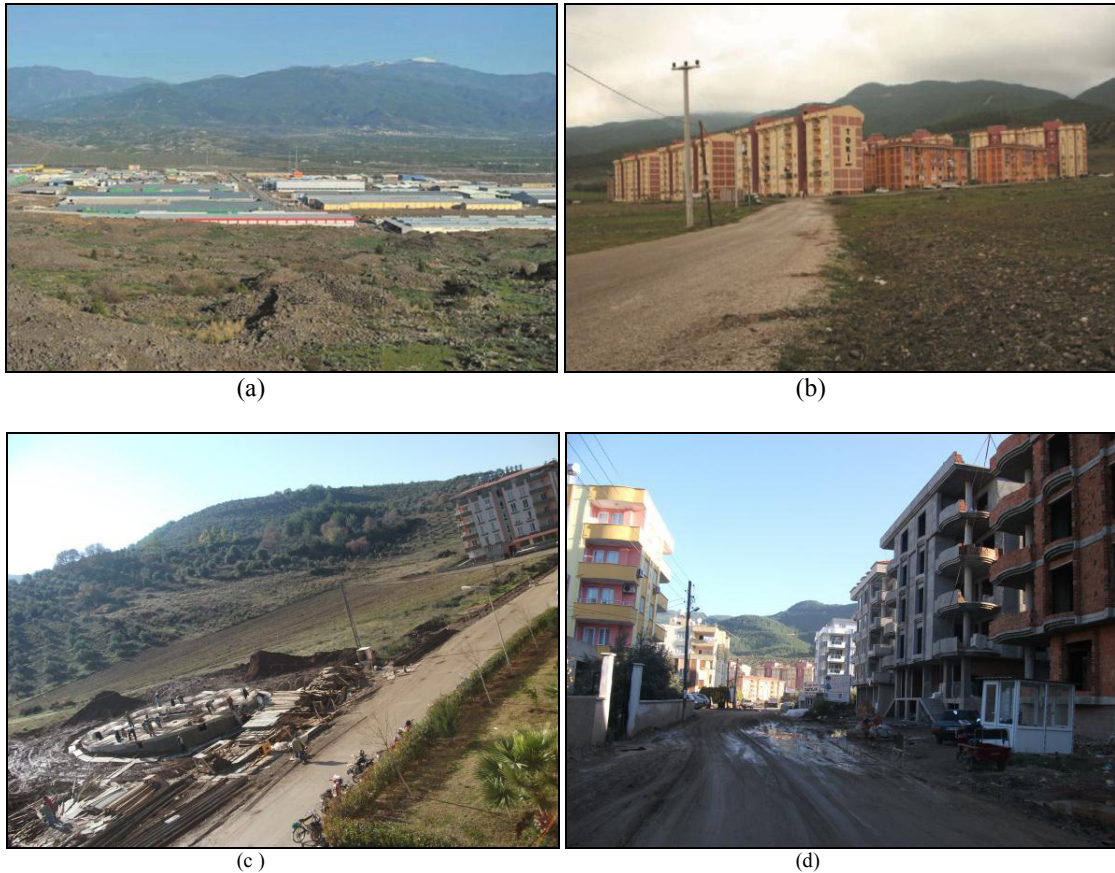


Fig. 1. Different view of the case study. (a) A view from Osmaniye Organized Industrial Zone, (b) A view from Fakiusagi Social Mass Houses [15], (c) A view on building on fertile land, orange orchards and olive groves, (d) A view on buildings and road in Fakiusagi.

Currently Fakiusagi as a district of Center Town is in a new view and an environmental pollution that does not meet today's needs and expectations. The olives and citrus that are the identifier of the Mediterranean climate plants have been destroyed. The roads are not comfortable to use because of the constructions. The large vehicles such as tractor, truck, mixer that provides the construction materials damage to the roads. The municipality should closely follow the developments during the works and prevent from the undesirable activities that begin to turn into the destruction.

The coal is used for heating in the city. Diesel, LPG and heating oil are the other fuels. The number of buildings with central heating system is almost negligible. The growing population of the city, developing industry and increasing number of transportation vehicles lead to air pollution, especially during the winter months.

## 5. Conclusion

Osmaniye is the province in Turkey, which was announced in 1996. In this article the urbanization in Osmaniye and urbanization projects are evaluated. In particular the developments and observations are presented. Fakiusagi has changed its administrative structure from the village to the district of the municipality to be able to get more revenue from the municipality. The most important factor of the development in Fakiusagi is the establishment of Korkut Ata University.

Osmaniye has been living the period of the urbanization since 1996. A 15-year time period is not less time, however Osmaniye cannot use this time as needed, and still endeavors to perform the expected rapid growth. In recent years the OOIZ and the university have been the progress for Osmaniye. The settlement showing the fastest



growth is Fakiusagi with the establishment of the university. Therefore in particular the investigations in Fakiusagi are presented. Agricultural areas, such as olive and orange orchards, are destroyed despite the basic source of income in Osmaniye is the agriculture in fact. Furthermore insufficient distance between the buildings, lack of green areas allocated, inadequate parking lot and narrow main road thinking that the traffic density in future can be determined.

For urbanization in a healthy way and sustainable development it is needed to think in multi-way and to act. Only the proliferation of buildings is not the urbanization and development. All social and technical disciplines should think and work as integrated.

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