

An Assessment of Efforts to Enhance the Quality of Life in Mordogan: A Case Study

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Abstract

Quality of life studies are usually either objective or subjective in nature. Objective quality of life studies concentrate on social indicators whereas subjective quality of life studies attempt to assess the perceived satisfaction that individuals report experiencing in their lives. The assessment of efforts to enhance the quality of life in Mordoğan in terms of social indicators; decreasing unemployment rate and poverty of local people will be the focal point of the study. The subject of the case study is focused on Mordoğan, a sea-side town in Karaburun district in İzmir. The municipality of Mordogan is characterized by the lowest economic indicators among the 28 districts of the region of Izmir. The Municipality faces intense poverty problems, as well as particularly high unemployment rates. There has been intensive work on creating of a centre which will act as an important innovative structure to promote local sustainable development and fight poverty and unemployment through training schemes of vocational training. In this sense, a vocational training centre has been created in the municipality of Mordogan that could accommodate the educational services of training. Subjects of training were ranging from tourism, information technology, coastal fishing to handicrafts. Towards that goal, an existing building was renovated and it was transformed into a training centre by equipping it with the necessary hardware and software infrastructure. This creation of the centre was aiming to analyze the local needs and design the socio-economic profile of the district, and to create the required tool for training programmes and design the pilot seminar for the training of the designers. This centre required staffing with the suitable administrative personnel (director, secretary and task force) and the fulfilling of the pilot seminar for the designers so that they are better placed to address the particularities and specific needs of the local residents. A list also has been drawn including the specialised people as teachers that could conduct the training seminars to the population. The planning of pilot seminars of vocational support and training for women and young persons of the locality and the realization of these pilot programmes in selected sectors seeking to increase employment opportunities in the wider region were also the aims of the centre. During the implementation process, special focus has been given to the target groups of women and young persons, the two groups that are most hardly hit by unemployment. In this centre a series of vocational training seminars has been designed and fulfilled while specialized personnel have provided the necessary support to the population. In the first place, the centre of vocational training has developed a local strategy for

training schemes and fulfilled a pilot training programme for the designers of the training seminars to the local population. These attempts sought to better accustom the designers with the peculiarities of the locality and its unexploited development potential. In the second place, the centre has provided the necessary support and organized pilot seminars of vocational training for women and young persons seeking to fight poverty and unemployment while contributing to the wider sustainable economic growth of the district and its residents. The study aims to evaluate contributions of the vocational training centre to Mordogan in regard with the results, and determine the current works of the centre.