



A Few Comments on the Article with Topic “Social Municipalism Applications in Turkey and Example of Bornova Municipality”

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Letter To The Editor

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ABSTRACT

Today, the most important support for states to maintain their "social state" approach comes from local governments. Local administrations, which are the closest administrative units to the people, play an important role in the realization of social policies that the central government is obliged to maintain. In our country, which has a deep-rooted political, historical and cultural background, the position of local governments in the social policy system is gradually strengthening. The social practices of local governments are defined as social municipalism. The concept of social municipalism generally refers to municipalities that develop policies to solve unemployment and employment problems, engage in activities related to education, culture and health, direct public expenditures related to these areas and have an effective position in establishing social justice. Municipalities that have adopted the social municipalism model also represent the social state understanding locally by providing social municipal activities in cases where the social state is insufficient. The practices of municipalities, which continue to serve with limited resources and devotion in the conditions of our country, within the scope of the concept of social municipalism attract the attention of academic researchers and there are studies in the literature on the applications of social municipalism in various provinces of our country. This letter is about Ayşe Nur Balcılar's and Serkan Cınarlı's study titled "Social Municipalism Applications in Türkiye and Example of Bornova Municipality", which is on pages 2020; 21(2): 122-156 of Sivas Cumhuriyet University Journal of Economics and Administrative Sciences.

Keywords: Social Municipality, Social State, Social Service.

“Türkiye’de Sosyal Belediyecilik Uygulamaları ve Bornova Belediyesi Örneği” Başlıklı Makaleye Dair Birkaç Not

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Öz

Günümüzde devletlerin “sosyal devlet” anlayışını devam ettirebilmesindeki en önemli destek yerel yönetimlerden gelmektedir. Halka en yakın yönetim birimi olan yerel yönetimler merkezi yönetimin sürdürmekle yükümlü olduğu sosyal politikaların hayata geçirilmesinde önemli bir rol oynamaktadırlar. Köklü bir siyasi, tarihi ve kültürel birikime sahip olan ülkemizde yerel yönetimlerin sosyal politika sistemi içerisindeki konumları giderek sağlamlaşmaktadır. Yerel yönetimlerin yapmış oldukları sosyal uygulamalar sosyal belediyecilik olarak tanımlanmaktadır. Sosyal belediyecilik kavramı genel olarak işsizlik ve istihdam sorununun çözümüne yönelik politikalar geliştiren, eğitim, kültür ve sağlık ile alakalı faaliyetler içerisinde bulunan, bu alanlarla alakalı kamusal harcamaları yönlendiren ve sosyal adaletin tesis edilmesinde etkin bir konumda bulunan belediyeleri ifade etmektedir. Sosyal belediyecilik modelini benimsemiş belediyeler, sosyal devletin yetersiz kaldığı durumlarda sosyal belediyecilik faaliyetlerini sağlayarak, sosyal devlet anlayışını da yerel olarak temsil etmektedirler. Ülkemiz koşullarında sınırlı kaynaklarla ve özveriyle hizmet vermeye devam eden belediyelerin, sosyal belediyecilik kavramı kapsamında yapmış oldukları uygulamalar akademik olarak da araştırmacıların ilgisini çekmektedir ve literatürde ülkemizin çeşitli illerinde devam eden sosyal belediyecilik uygulamaları ile alakalı yapılan çalışmalar bulunmaktadır. Bu mektup Sivas Cumhuriyet Üniversitesi İktisadi ve İdari Bilimler Dergisi’nin 2020; 21(2): 122-156 sayfalarında yer alan Ayşe Nur Balcılar’ın ve Serkan Cınarlı’nın “Türkiye’de Sosyal Belediyecilik Uygulamaları ve Bornova Belediyesi Örneği” başlıklı makalesi ile ilgilidir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sosyal Belediyecilik, Sosyal Devlet, Sosyal Yardım

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Giriş

Dear Editor,

I have read with interest Ayşe Nur Balcılar's and Serkan Cınarlı's study titled "Social Municipalism Applications in Turkey and Example of Bornova Municipality", which is on pages 2020; 21(2): 122-156 of Sivas Cumhuriyet University Journal of Economics and Administrative Sciences.

I congratulate the authors for this study, which aims to examine the importance and characteristics of local governments, which have gained importance with globalization, to examine the concepts of social municipality within the framework of their newly assumed duties and responsibilities, and to examine the activities carried out in this field with the example of Bornova Municipality.

In the conclusion part of the study, the authors mentioned that some administrators could not fully grasp the importance of social municipality and, accordingly, they could not meet the current need because they allocated insufficient resources to social municipality activities and municipalities gave priority to seasonal, short-term, easy and politically rent-generating activities. Instead of short-term temporary aids, they suggested that activities such as providing a job and improving their technical and social skills should be included and studies should be carried out to eliminate poverty in the long term. The authors also emphasized that one of the biggest shortcomings in the field of the social municipality is social tissue studies. They stated that social tissue studies have a vital importance and that studies in this field should be increased. They stated that the service areas are not clear because there is a confusion in the task sharing between the municipalities and the central government.

I concur with the perspectives put forth by the authors, and I would like to further emphasize the significance of strategic municipal planning in fostering municipal development. It is plausible that a judicious implementation of such planning could potentially rectify

the misapplications highlighted by the authors. It also holds importance within the framework of enduring developmental constraints faced by any self-governing community, encompassing financial, human, material, and organizational aspects. Due to these inherent constraints, it is typically unfeasible to simultaneously activate all potentials and eradicate all obstacles to development, as the available resources are insufficient for such comprehensive endeavors. This circumstance renders it unfeasible for the municipal to fulfill a diverse range of social requirements, and in the event that they are unable to address all of them within a limited timeframe, they must prioritize the most essential ones. Hence, the management of local communities is an ongoing endeavor involving decision-making and future planning. All decisions made in this context are integral to the strategic approach towards municipal development. The local development strategy assumes a fundamental and paramount role as the primary document of the local government. It serves as a guiding framework for the delivery of local services, implementation of infrastructure projects, allocation of the local budget, and formulation of spatial planning initiatives. The strategy, as comprehended in this manner, aims to identify the crucial factors and possibilities for development, outline the methodology for achieving sustainable growth, and delineate the specific areas, objectives, and initiatives of the socio-economic policy to be implemented within the local government unit in the upcoming years.

Best Regards.

Kaynaklar

Balcılar, A. N., & Cınarlı, S. (2020). Türkiye'de Sosyal Belediyecilik Uygulamaları ve Bornova Belediyesi Örneği. Cumhuriyet Üniversitesi İktisadi ve İdari Bilimler Dergisi, 21(2), 122-156.