

**EFFECT OF THE URBAN TRANSFORMATION ON THE PERCEPTION OF SECURITY IN ISTANBUL, FIKIRTEPE SETTING****Zortul, Seyyid Muhammed Maruf<sup>1</sup>; Petrov, Plamen<sup>2</sup>****ЕФЕКТЪТ ОТ ГРАДСКАТА ТРАНСФОРМАЦИЯ ВЪРХУ  
УСЕЩАНЕТО ЗА СИГУРНОСТ В РАЙОНА ФИКИРТЕПЕ,  
ИСТАНБУЛ****Зортул, Сайид Мохамед Маруф, Петров Пламен****Abstract:**

*Over the past decade, urban transformation initiatives have been instigated in certain precincts of Istanbul, a city experiencing both population growth and irregular urbanization. These endeavors have engendered various socio-cultural shifts within these localities. However, while alterations in living arrangements ensuing from urban transformation have influenced certain social perceptions, investigations concerning individuals' assessments of security—a fundamental criterion in shaping habitation—are notably scarce. This study investigates the nexus between the urban transformation process, and the perception of social security within the Fikirtepe locale of Istanbul. The study encompassed a survey administered to 30 individuals manifesting diverse demographic attributes. It solicited reflections on how security perceptions in Fikirtepe evolved in tandem with urban transformation, employing a five-choice evaluative scale (ranging from 'completely inadequate' to 'completely adequate'). In accordance with the findings, the Fikirtepe district, where security was predominantly assessed as 'completely inadequate' (26.67%) or 'inadequate' (56.67%) prior to urban transformation, transitioned to being predominantly appraised as 'sufficient' (46.67%) or 'completely sufficient' (36.67%) with respect to security post-transformation. Besides, there was a nonsignificant shift in abstentions. As a result, it has been demonstrated that the perception of security has experienced a favorable shift in Fikirtepe due to urban transformation. Nevertheless, it is imperative to undertake additional investigations that scrutinize the social components integral to security. This will facilitate the identification of factors that ought to be prioritized in forthcoming urban transformation inquiries, particularly with regard to the specific sociocultural context of the region in question.*

**Keywords:***Urban Transformation, Security, Istanbul, Fikirtepe*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Considering the limitation, comprehensiveness, and holistic approach of urban transformation theory, an approach in which the physical, social, and economic dimensions of urban transformation come to the fore and the increasingly important environmental dimension is also included stands out [1]. Furthermore, this integrated approach not only broadens the scope of urban transformation theory but also enhances its applicability in addressing contemporary urban challenges, ultimately contributing to more sustainable and resilient urban development practices.

Over the past decade, urban transformation initiatives have been instigated in certain precincts of Istanbul, a city experiencing both population growth and irregular urbanization [2]. These endeavours have engendered various socio-cultural shifts within these localities. Notably, public involvement in government-led endeavours has been limited, compelling residents to conform their living spaces to the outcomes of these initiatives [3, 4]. However, while alterations in living arrangements ensuing from urban transformation have influenced certain social perceptions, investigations concerning individuals' assessments of security—a fundamental criterion in shaping habitation—are notably scarce.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This inquiry scrutinizes the nexus between the urban transformation process, catalysed by evolving demands and requisites, and the construct of social security within the Fikirtepe locale of Istanbul. Fikirtepe is situated within the administrative jurisdiction of the Kadikoy district on the Anatolian side of Istanbul. The northern sector of this locale is traversed by the prominent D-100 (E5) State Highway, and it has a geographically important location with its proximity to the Bosphorus Bridge on the Anatolian side. Thus individuals tend to migrate and make irregular settlements in the area due to its proximity to working places. In addition, the high crime rate makes Fikirtepe advantageous in terms of examining the change in security perception due to urban transformation [5].

The study implicated a survey administered to 30 individuals manifesting diverse demographic attributes (gender, age, educational attainment, marital status, and monthly income) in Fikirtepe area. It solicited reflections on how security perceptions in Fikirtepe evolved in tandem with urban transformation, employing a five-choice evaluative scale (completely inadequate, inadequate, hesitant, adequate, and completely adequate). Fraction of total analysed for the parameters with the use of Graphpad Prism 9.

## 3. DATA

### 3.1. Demographics

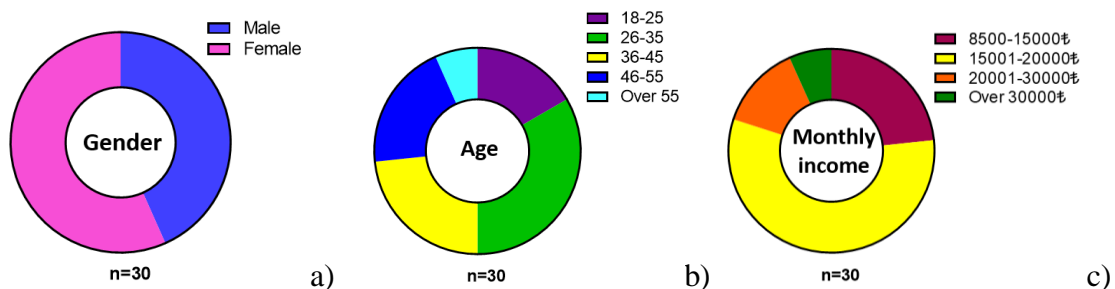


Figure 1. Demographic breakdown of survey respondents by gender (a), age (b) and monthly income (c).

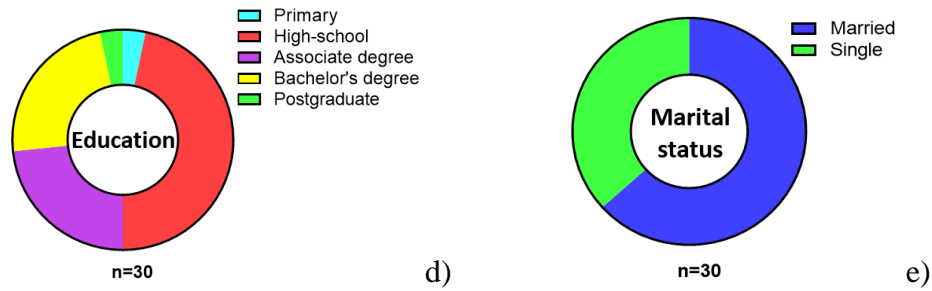


Figure 2. Demographic breakdown of survey respondents by education (d) and marital status (e).

### 3.2. Times of being in the area

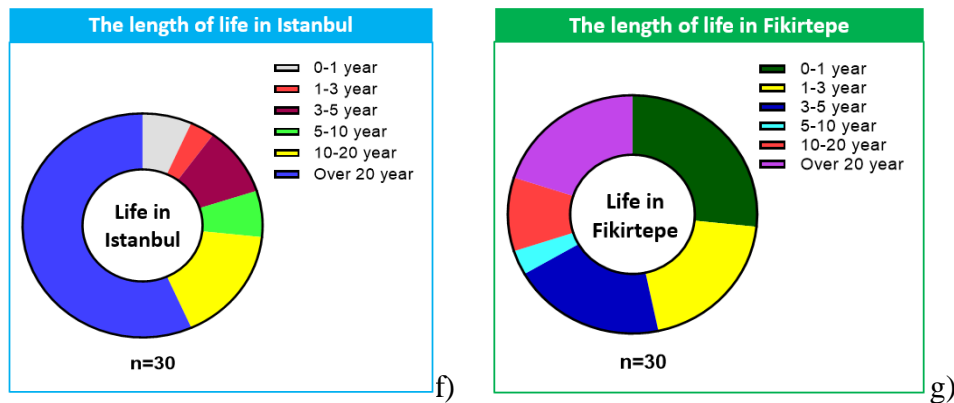


Figure 3. Length of Life for Survey Respondents in Fikirtepe (f) and Istanbul (g).

### 3.3. Security adequacy

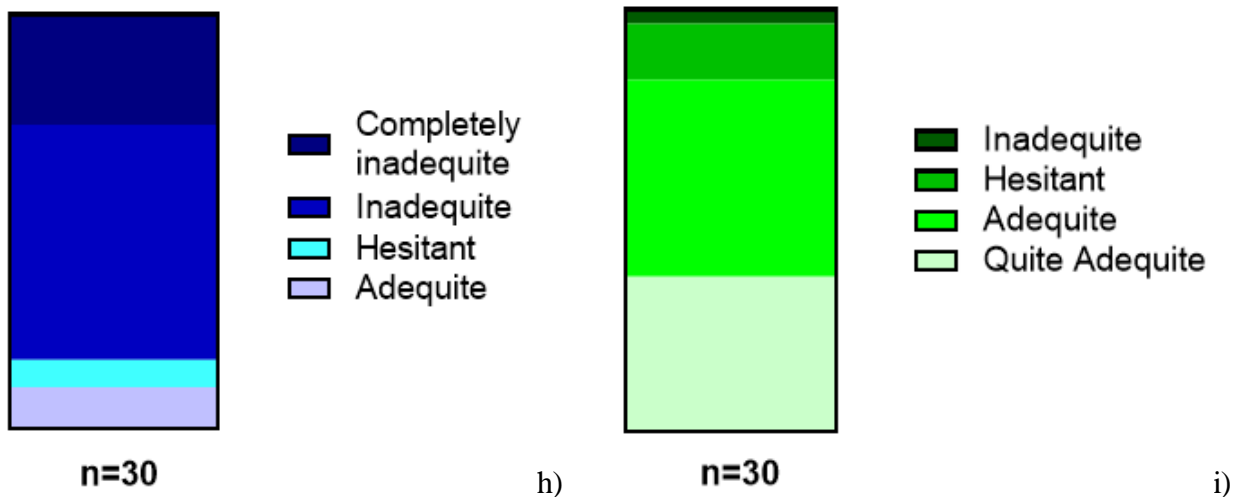


Figure 4. Security adequacy in Fikirtepe (h) and security adequacy in Fikirtepe with urban transformation (i).

## 4. RESULTS

In accordance with the findings, the Fikirtepe district, where security was predominantly assessed as 'completely inadequate' (26.67%) or 'inadequate' (56.67%) prior to urban transformation, transitioned to being predominantly appraised as 'adequate' (46.67%) or 'completely adequate' (36.67%) with respect to security post-transformation. In addition, there was no significant change in abstaining votes. As a result, it has been revealed that the perception of security in society has changed positively in Fikirtepe with urban redevelopment.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

Consequently, it has been demonstrated that the societal perception of security has experienced a favourable shift in Fikirtepe due to urban transformation. Nevertheless, it is imperative to undertake further research by scrutinizing the social constituents that underpin security, thereby delineating elements necessitating consideration in subsequent urban transformation initiatives, including but not confined to health, education, transportation, parking facilities, green spaces, infrastructure, and seismic resilience, particularly tailored to the sociocultural milieu under investigation. In addition, the effects of Fikirtepe's urban transformation should be investigated in future studies with larger sample groups and focused survey studies.

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