

**EVALUATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
TURKEY AND EUROPE PERSPECTIVE**

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Definition:

The structures formed by individuals coming together to solve a common problem area or for their purposes constitute the civic dimension of society. These structures take names such as associations, foundations, unions, cooperatives, unions. Today, in societies where democracy is dominant, there are thousands of non-governmental organizations operating in many different fields for the benefit of society, independent of the state, without profit. Among these organizations, associations are the most popular form of organization.

Associations operate in social areas such as education, environment, health, women's rights, youth, advocacy, monitoring and agenda setting and similar purposes. Education from these social areas; It attracts the attention of associations directly or indirectly and associations see the field of education as a natural working area. Educational associations vary according to their establishment, field of activity and aims.

Role in Development

The concept of development, which is intertwined with development, modernization and progress, and the nation-state, whose influence has begun to decline, has been removed from being an actor suitable for economic development by capitalism. Its role in development has led from the state to non-profit non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in the field of civil society and their functioning as actors of development.

European Union and Examples:

The NGO Monitor research institute in Germany is Germany's global leader in providing development assistance. On aid, the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), In 2019, has allocated around 1.2 billion Euros from its budget directly to "civil society and business groups and institutions". In 2018, non-governmental organizations in Germany exceeded 800 thousand. They directed NGOs to sectors such as sports, education, social services and health services to develop their capacities. 76% of those working in the field of social services, 78% of those working in the education sector and 26% of those working in the health sector are employed by non-governmental organizations. Today, the welfare system in Germany has a core system defined by the principle of subsidiarity, which prioritizes non-profit organizations over public services.

To support, enable and promote participatory democracy within the scope of the Enlargement policy in the EU 2014-2020 Civil Society Support targets. It aims to provide an environment conducive to civil society activities and that NGOs should be effective and accountable independent actors, to strengthen their own capacities, increase their effectiveness, and develop financial support resources in order to achieve their goals.

In their 2030 strategy, the European Union states that it wants to provide more financial support and financing to develop civil society organizations and enable these organizations to support political, social and economic systems. If the EU wants to realize its civil society promise, it should be able to demonstrate the superior performance of Civil Society Organizations at all stages of the development process.

Introduction:

In this research, the problem areas of the Education Associations were discussed in various dimensions and the General Problem Areas of the Education Associations were listed as follows in the interviews held with the non-governmental organizations and the officials of the associations interested in education. Economic deficiencies, Lack of State Support, Number of Participants, Lack of System, Social Insensitivity, Inability to Produce Projects, Lack of Legal Information, Recognition, Lack of Communication, Lack of Time, Lack of Institutional Capacity. Considering the breadth of the education field and its areas of influence, it is seen that the existing problem areas cannot be solved only by the state.

The creation of civil structures in the field of education has a historical tradition. In this area, very important civil practices were carried out in the Ahi organizations, craftsmen's lodges and especially in foundation practices in the Ottoman state and before. This deep-rooted accumulation and activity ground of the field of education was also used in the early period of the Republic, and some associations formed in this context were used effectively in the transfer of the new ideology to social life. Education is within the field of interest of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in Turkey. Most of the NGOs have made it a mission to organize projects and campaigns for the education problem of the society by making reference to the concept of education. Operating in the field of education provides NGOs with the opportunity to be respected and recognized. The interest shown by the media and the public in

educational activities and the needs of the society in the field of education direct NGOs to this field. Organizations in the field of education in Turkey are predominantly in the form of associations.

Educational associations vary according to their establishment, field of activity and aims. Especially in recent years, associations in general; In particular, the number of associations in the field of education is increasing. The fact that civil society is a common discourse tool, the positive contribution and prestige that the education field brings to associations, and the facilitation of legal legislation are effective in the formation of this situation. When the associations operating in the field of education in Turkey are classified, it is seen that there are ten different categories: Education-Research-Project Associations, School-Protection-Development Associations, Alumni Associations, Religious Education Support Associations, Region-Region-City Education Support Associations, Disabled-Private Education Associations, Environment and Health Education Associations, Earthquake-Search and Rescue Education Associations, Scholarship Axis Associations, Specialization Education Axis Associations.

General Problems of Education Associations:

Economic:

It can be said that many problem areas are based on economic inadequacies. Generally the main

Associations whose income source is member fees are experiencing economic difficulties because their members do not pay their dues on time and sufficiently. This situation limits the activities of associations. They clearly stated that when there are no economic problems, they can reach more people and engage in more activities. Associations have made economic contributions by organizing food and clothing fairs; but once a year for each association. These incomes are also limited since they have the right to do kermes.

Support of Government:

The interviewed association members were asked whether they received financial support and/or assistance from the state and whether they would like to receive it. Accordingly, 6 association members stated that they did not receive and want to receive support and / or assistance from the state, 14 association members stated that they did not receive support and / or assistance from the

state and did not want to receive it. According to this result, the working group produced two main ideas.

It may or may not be subsidized by the state. The main arguments of the group, which did not want support, were formed within the framework of the emphasis they placed on the civic characteristics of non-governmental organizations. In addition, it was expressed that if they received support from the state, the state would hold them accountable and this would limit their freedom. They also think that state support will reduce their economic dependence, independence and freedom of action, and increase controls. An association manager expressed this clearly as follows: “I don't want to get help today and be beaten tomorrow.” This is because they do not want to feel dependent on any place. Associations are free to express themselves. The group affirming that they receive support from the state, on the other hand, stated that they can help more people as an association if they receive help from the state.

they have done. The idea that their economic comfort will expand their field of activity and that they can reach more needy people is dominant in this group. Those who think this way actually want to build a bridge between the state and the people (the people in need).

Social Insensitivity:

Social insensitivity shows parallelism with participation. The insensitivity of people reduces participation at the same rate. For the solution of this, they want to involve the public in the civil society movement by organizing seminars, conferences and bazaars for the public.

Lack of Legislative Knowledge:

The lack of information on the legislation of the association managers and members causes them to be deprived of many opportunities that they can use as an association. The associations, which were initially established to contribute to education, later experience various problems in their legal processes. The association is unable to hold its annual meetings and to take and implement decisions. Eventually, it turns into a signage association and loses its function. Some administrators stated that they could not close the association due to ignorance of the legislation and that the association was waiting dysfunctionally. Eliminating the deficiencies of the managers or members of the association

about the legislation will enable them to act more consciously and to carry out their activities comfortably.

Lack of communication:

The lack of communication between the associations causes the aid to be distributed uncoordinated and unevenly, the real needy cannot be reached, and the same person receives help from several associations at the same time. miscommunication despite being in the same area, reduces the power of associations.

Inability to Produce Project:

They attribute the biggest reason for not being able to produce projects to their economic problems. Each association thinks about new projects in line with its objectives, but they cannot realize these projects because they do not have enough financial means to realize them.

Recognition:

They are of the opinion that in order for associations to be effective, they should engage in activities that will make a sound in the society and reach large masses. This is important in terms of forming public opinion and advocacy. Some associations increase their reputation and recognition in the society by organizing tree planting campaigns, blood donation campaigns, and providing courses to students who cannot attend private teaching institutions. Besides; They increase their recognition by making oral or written press releases, organizing conferences and seminars on special days. Their activities ensure the recognition of associations. Therefore, associations that do not have the opportunity to operate are also less well-known in the society.

Needs for These Problems:

1- To research and interview non-governmental organizations abroad, to learn how they develop their capacities, how they develop their financial resources, how they develop their institutional strength, their relations with the European Union and non-governmental organizations, and to implement the training. It is absolutely important to be a bridge to strengthen civil society dialogue and intercultural exchange in Turkey and Europe. There is a requirement to enable them to produce and apply for European Union projects.

2- By establishing support and consultancy offices for non-governmental organizations, informing non-governmental organizations that more financial resources will be provided, supporting their development, helping and encouraging them to have democratic rights, being a mentor and mentoring training should be provided. It is necessary to evaluate the capacities of CSOs in Turkey and to monitor the favorable environment for non-governmental organizations.

3- The need to improve tools for accountability and transparency of CSOs for more effective advocacy and dialogue with public institutions. Transparency; timely publication, sharing and presentation of information in an easily accessible format before the public or other actors request it. accountability; justify every action. Statutes, financial reports, staff and contact information, and donors must be made public. Cooperating with government institutions, participating in the policy-making process, organizing joint activities. In particular, it is necessary to be in contact with the General Directorate of Civil Society Relations, and to ensure that the associations listen to their recommendations and contributions, and take their suggestions into account. State and private banks do not even offer credit cards to associations and non-governmental organizations that are still considered unimportant.

Conclusion and Suggestions:

After the 1980s, under the influence of various national and international factors, civil society structures were formed in all areas of social life in Turkey. One of these fields is the field of "education". The field of education attracts the attention of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and many NGOs carry out activities in this field. Evaluation of these NGOs formed the starting point of this research. Associations are the most common among these non-governmental organizations. One of the most intense working areas of associations is education. These two features necessitated the examination of educational associations. In addition, considering the breadth of the education field and its areas of influence, it is seen that the existing problem areas cannot be solved only within the possibilities of the state. When these factors came together, the importance and necessity of education field associations became apparent. In this context, the results of this research can be summarized as follows: It has been observed that the ability of associations to serve their purposes and to use opportunities sufficiently is directly proportional to their economic situation. All the interviewed association officials stated that they were in economic distress.

They emphasized that they could not do the projects they wanted to realize due to financial difficulties, they could not employ personnel, and their membership fees were insufficient, and many economic problems. This emphasis is on non-governmental organizations.

It is seen in every related research. In the research conducted by Eraslan in 2008 with a working group of 565 people, consisting of different types of organizations such as associations, foundations and unions, it was concluded that one of the main problems of non-governmental organizations is economic factors. This situation is very clearly revealed in the "NGO Mapping Study: Non-Governmental Organizations: Needs and Limitations" report conducted by the Civil Society Development Center (STGM) in 2005. Similar results were obtained in the study named "The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Strengthening Civil Society and Participation" conducted by Akşit et al. In 2002. The number of voluntarily participating associations increases in proportion to the recognition of the association and the impact of its activities. The number of volunteer members is much higher than the number of registered members. Volunteer members can participate in all kinds of activities of the association, provide financial opportunities, and all kinds of support are provided in the context of participation. The voluntary and consensual basis of civil society is seen in the results of the research. In the research "Investigation of NGOs Operating for Women" by Menteş in 2008, it was stated that volunteering was the main emphasis of all NGO managers and participants.

In order for the associations to be effective, they will make a sound in the society and reach large masses. they think that they should engage in activities that can reach them. This situation It is important for them to create public opinion and advocate. Some associations organize tree planting campaigns, blood donation campaigns.

They increase their reputation and recognition in the society by providing courses to students who cannot go to private teaching institutions. Besides; They increase their recognition by making oral or written press releases, organizing conferences and seminars on special days.

On the basis of provinces, the level of communication of associations with each other is low. This situation is also seen in general NGOs in Turkey in particular associations. Lack of communication is a fundamental problem. In the study conducted by Eraslan (2008), it was concluded that the working group did not

consider the relationship levels of CSOs with each other and their potential to act together sufficient.

One of the biggest criticisms directed to NGOs in Turkey is that NGOs operating in the same or different fields cooperate with each other to a limited degree or not at all. There are also findings supporting this view in the STGM mapping study. Accordingly, CSOs do not seem to be aware of the importance of networking with other CSOs. In most of the interviews, the participants stated that they do not know exactly about other NGOs working in the same field. For this reason, it has been stated that most of the NGOs live for themselves in their own limited world, without following the activities, problems, developments and organizations in the field of civil society.” (STGM, NGO Mapping Study, 2005). Since associations cannot provide the support of the public in their activities, they have problems in forming public opinion and influencing decision processes. They think they serve the people on behalf of the people, but they have significant difficulties in participation and insensitivity. In associations, deficiencies were observed in factors such as focusing on a specific purpose, determining a mission, institutionalization and professionalization. It was determined that the activities were carried out in an amateurish and unplanned manner and that there was no systematic study.

When the problem areas of the associations were evaluated in general, it was seen that all the problems were related to each other and the most important and affecting them were the economic reasons. Associations increase communication and solidarity among individuals in the society with their activities. Since they are not for-profit organizations, they provide social, cultural and economic assistance to individuals. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the number of associations, encourage them and raise awareness of the society.

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