

THE VALUATION OF THE ARCHAEO PARKS IN THE SCOPE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE: KÜÇÜKYALI ARKEOPARK

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ABSTRACT

The archaeoparks, which are taken into account in the context of cultural heritage, gain not only a cultural value but also an economic value with the protection and use consciousness thanks to tourism. In Turkey this area is assessed as more archaeological sites are converted to archaeoparks in recent years. One of these archaeoparks is the Küçükaly Archaeological Park, which is located in the living area of the Anatolian side of Istanbul. The main aim of the study is to evaluate the perception of the local people towards the cultural heritage in the region. Another aims of the study are to determine the national awareness for archaeoparks and how the archaeoparks are evaluated in terms of tourism. Achieve the desired objectives archaeoparks in Turkey were examined and the focus is on Küçükaly Arkeopark 10 open-ended questions for the local people in the region of Küçükaly Arkeopark were prepared and one-to-one interview method was applied. The answers were evaluated, and recommendations were presented. When the findings of the research are examined, it is seen that Küçükaly Archaeopark is evaluated within the scope of cultural heritage especially during the project process, trainings are organized and awareness is tried to be created. However, the fact that the excavation area was forgotten after the project and the people who recently moved to the region and the people living in the neighborhood is almost unknown to Arkeopark is among the negative results.

Keywords: Cultural Heritage, Tourism, Turkey, Küçükaly Arkeopark

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INTRODUCTION

Existence efforts of human being have led to the formation of a changing, developing culture starting from the region where they exist. Cultural heritage refers to the sum of concrete values that have been developed by a society over the years, including historical cities, historical textures, cultural landscapes, monuments and archaeological sites, and living but abstract values, such as linguistic, customary and artistic values (İSMEP, 2014:12). Cultural heritage which is precious and natural with superior universal value is the treasures left behind by our ancestors (Li et Al., 2006:561). Cultural heritage produces concrete representations of value systems, beliefs, traditions and lifestyles as a part of human activity (<http://www.cultureindevelopment.nl>, 02.03.2019).

Our cultural and natural heritage constitute the source of life as valuable assets for humanity from past to present. Therefore, it is extremely important its protection and maintenance. Throughout history events that have greatly damaged the culture and cultural structure have been developed. Besides the natural disasters such as floods and fires, cultural destruction by hand of human is in question.

Especially in the 1950s, with the motive of protecting and preserving occurred in people, measures began to be taken to prevent damage to cultural values and structures bearing the traces of the past. With this understanding, policies aimed at protecting cultural heritage have been developed by local governments and even by countries. Examples of the preservation of cultural heritage exist as the first legislation in Europe to preserve the unearthed monuments and artifacts in the 15th century. Cultural heritage was first discussed in the international law in 1907. The definition of approaches and principles for archaeological sites at the international level was achieved by UNESCO for the first time in 1956 with the document titled as

"Recommendation on International Principles Applicable to Archaeological Excavation". Since the 1950s, UNESCO and other international organizations have developed a collection of international treaties and texts for the protection of cultural heritage. The UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage, which Turkey signed in 1983, was adopted in 1972. (www.unesco.org.tr, 21.04.2019; Kaderli, 2015: 39; Blake, 2000: 61).

Since then, in many international documents, interventions and principles of archaeological heritage and conservation have been included in different years. 'The Regulation on the Conservation and Management of Archaeological Heritage', drafted by ICOMOS, is an important indicator of the scope and approaches developed by gaining the emphasis on 'management' within this framework.

Turkey, such as European countries, has made legal arrangements for the protection of cultural heritage, signed international documents, created responsible and competent organizations in the state

status in this process. Some reports that Turkey signed within the scope of the protection of the cultural heritage are as follows:

- European Cultural Treaty (1954),
- The Venice Regulation (1967),
- Amsterdam Declaration (1975),
- European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage in Malta (1999).

In order to protect the cultural heritage, important regulatory and quidding legislation is tried to be developed by the state in Turkey. In particular, the protection of national culture and the development of sustainable cultural heritage conservation policies in line with international criteria constitute the priority areas of work of central and local governments. Conservation policies and projects aiming to preserve archaeological sites and transfer them to future generations are carried out in accordance with international standards and treaties. The preservation of these works, which are world cultural heritage, necessitates the creation of common conservation policies by working with different disciplines. Cultural heritage management is not only limited to conservation, but also has important values for improvement of tourism, ensuring restoration, promotion and brand creation and economic development.

1. ARCHAEO PARKS WITHIN THE SCOPE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Archeological heritage; provides information about the cultural and social order of many civilizations lived in the past. Apart from conservation and presentation activities in the archeopark, they are also recreation practices with functions such as entertainment and relaxation. Recreational activities prepared according to the area management plan events and activities increase the attractiveness of these areas (Bayraktar, 2010:25).

Ensuring and maintaining the sustainability of archaeological artifacts that have the value of information and documents is also important for learning and making sense of the past. Arrangement of archaeological sites, restoration of archaeological findings and taking measures to protect them are not sufficient to ensure the permanency of archaeological sites.

Sustainability can only be achieved by raising in particular the level of public in terms of sensitivity and protection awareness towards these areas, arrangement of archaeological sites, preservation, exhibition of findings, facilitating the meeting of such ruins with the public and increasing the sensitivity of societies to archaeological monuments. The approaches to the right conservation strategy, presentation and exhibition to be determined especially within the scope of a management plan in archaeological sites, should be determined as a result of the analysis and evaluations to be made in advance. Some of the methods of exhibition and presentation frequently used in archaeological site management plans are known as follows; exhibition in archaeological area, exhibition outside archaeological area, exhibition in museum, exhibition as archaeopark.

Exhibiting cultural heritage as an archaeopark is a method practiced especially in the ruins of developed countries today. Such examples are found specifically in the European countries. The purpose of these archaeoparks, which are also regarded as open-air museums, is to preserve the cultural heritage of the past civilizations and to ensure the intergration of society and cultural heritage. It is also among the other aims to establish the awareness of protecting and preserving the cultural heritage by the communities.

2. ARCHEOPARK EXAMPLES IN THE WORLD

The phenomenon of urban archeology, which aims to preserve the values of under and above ground for the historical continuity and sustainability of cities, has emerged towards the end of the 20th century.

In the last quarter of the 19th century, many buildings and excavations were emphasized, especially in the European cities. After 1840, many archaeological ruins were recovered in England - London. After 1870, the ruins of the middle ages emerged in Oslo, the center of Norway which is another European country. Traces of ancient societies in cities like Oslo and London, which are the important European cities, are considered the beginning of modern urban archeology. After the findings of the old cities, especially in the 1930s, archeology was attached more importance. In particular, buried monuments were gradually replaced by buried settlements. (Herbert Sarfatij ve Piera Melli, 1999:22)

During the Second World War of 1939-45, the bombings of many European cities caused the destruction of most of the cities, the destruction of the historical and cultural heritage of these cities and the emergence of the ruins of the ancient eras. European cities began to question their origins after this war. After the end of the war, many city centers, which had become ruins, were reconstructed. Although the period of renewal is not fully experienced in today's sense, we can accept it as the period when the first systematic urban archaeological studies started. It is seen that these studies are concentrated especially in the most affected regions such as Poland Germany and the western Soviet Union where the war left the most traces. The first important steps of the modern era of urban archeology came from these countries. (Erder, 2007:231-238).

When the examples of archaeological parks in the world are examined, it is seen that these areas are generally located in and outside of urban areas. (Tuna ve Erdoğan, 2016:117).

- As an example of the archaeological parks outside the urban area, the “Yacoraite Archaeological Park in Argentina, the Xanten Archaeological Park in Germany, the“ Carnuntum Archaeological Park in Austria, the “Kaiserpfalz Werla Archaeological Park also in Germany, ‘Jerusalem Archaeological Park’ in Israel ”, Jordan “Petra Archaeological Park”.can be shown.

• As an example of archaeological parks within the urban area; Germany “Grosser Jüdenhof Archaeological Park”, Austria “Michaelerplatz Archaeological Park”, Mexico ‘Tenochtitlan Archaeological Park’ can be shown.

There are many important archaeoparks in the world. For example; The Archaeological Park of Pavlov (Czechia), which contains the remains of the Paleolithic Age settlement, it is an important part of both local and universal cultural heritage with its identity that clarifies the archaeological excavations here. The archaeological site, very large part of which is under the ground, almost refers to both modern architecture and the architecture of prehistoric civilizations. (<https://www.kilsanblog.com/mimarlik-farkli-ilginc-yapilar/pavlov-arkeopark/>; 15.04.2019).

3. ARCHEOPARK EXAMPLES IN TURKEY

Traces of the different periods of history underground and aboveground, incorporates as stratified in many of the cities in Turkey. The ruins besides providing information about the social lives of the past, shed light on the political and socio-economic life of the ancient civilizations. It offers many information and documents ranging from art to sports and science, In the light of all this information, it is possible for us to learn about the cities and past societies we live on. The first legal regulation on the protection of archeological remains and cities in our country is the ‘Asar’ı Attika Regulation’ which was enacted on 13.02.1869. This regulation, which allowed excavations by foreign researchers, did not prohibit the removal of antique artifacts from our country.

The concept of urban archeology in Turkey began to be used first in the symposium which was organized by the Council of Europe in 1990, in theme of "Urban Archeology". In this symposium, the use of this term firstly by the committee established under the Ministry of Culture stands out. (Boylu, 1994:5).

If we want to give an example to archaeological parks of our country; Aktopraklık Archeopark in Bursa province, Istanbul Küçükyalı Archeological Park, Urfa Halepli Bahçe - Göbekli Tepe Archaeoparks, İzmir-Menderes Klaros Bilicilik, İzmir Bornova Yeşilova Mound, and Germanicia in Kahramanmaraş are among these examples.

Menderes which is located in Izmir province is hosting to the Turkey's first ArkeoPark considered important in terms of both Anatolian geography and world archeology. The historical artifacts found during the excavations started in 2001 are exhibited in the Menderes archaeological park. ‘The Sacred Sanctuary of Clarus’ and the Heka Tomb (100 animal tying block), which is mentioned in many ancient monuments, are the first archaeological evidence of the sacrificial animals or the sacrifice ritual (<https://www.visit-izmir.org/tr/ilce/menderes/nasil-gelmeli/turkiyenin-ilk-arkeoparki>, 10.04.2019).

In the Şanlıurfa Haleplibahçe Archaeological Park, the Neolithic cell structures, the first developed villages of the Chalcolithic period, the city states of the Bronze Age, the settlement

examples of Iron Age and the Hellenistic era are located (<http://sanliurfamuzesi.gov.tr/TR-178651/arkeopark.html>, 01.04.2019).

There are also underwater archaeological parks in our country. Examples include Antalya - Kaş, underwater caves, shipwrecks, reefs, canyons, airplanes, tunnels and the diversity of underwater life has always been an attractive underwater diving center. Kaş Underwater Archaeological Park is one of the most famous underwater archaeological parks. As of 2009, an underwater archaeological park project was started in Mordoğan, İzmir. The excavations in İzmir-Limantepe are listed among the world's top 10 underwater excavations of Archeology, in 'Archeology' one of the most important archeology journals published in the USA.(July issue 2009) (<http://archive.archaeology.org/0907/>, 01.03.2019).

4. KÜÇÜKYALI ARCHEOPARK

The Küçükalyalı Archaeological Park, located in the Maltepe district of the Asian side of Istanbul, is the largest archaeological site in the residential area that has survived to the present day and is the first archaeological park in Istanbul. This archaeological park, which was very close to the Sea of Marmara in ancient times, but got away from the coast due to the urban and filling works, could be seen from the Princes' Islands. (<https://kyap.ku.edu.tr/>,20.03.2019; <http://aktuelarkeoloji.com.tr/> 20.03.2019; <http://www.abmaltepe.org/>, 20.03.2019). In 1995, preliminary field studies were started in Küçükalyalı, surface surveys were conducted between 2001-20014 and excavations were conducted in 2009-2010. (<http://www.yapi.com.tr/>, 25.03.2019). In 2014 a protocol was signed between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums and Koç University in order to prepare 'The Management plan of the Küçükalyalı Archaeological Park'. (<http://kulturvarliklari.gov.tr/>, 10.04.2019).

The Sustainable Urban Archeology Experience: The Küçükalyalı Archeopark Project also continued between 01 September 2014 and 31 August 2015. In addition to the ongoing excavations in the area, archaeological excavations, cultural heritage trainings and landscaping were also carried out with the participation of neighborhood residents within the scope of the Project, participation- based 'archeology for society". In addition, the Küçükalyalı Archaeological Park has been designed as a live visiting area and has hosted many cultural, art and educational activities for the visitors. (<https://kyap.ku.edu.tr/>, 20.03.2019).

5. OBJECTIVE AND METHOD

The main objective of the study was to evaluate the perception of local people on cultural heritage in the region where they live by considering ArkeoParks within the scope of the cultural heritage in Turkey. In addition, how it is evaluated ArkeoParks in Turkey in terms of tourism and

recreation and to reveal its level of awareness at local level are designated as other purposes within the scope of the work.

In order to achieve the desired objective of the study, primarily the definition of cultural heritage and archaeological heritage are made, ArkeoPark examples are given from the world and has been focused on the Küçükyalı ArcheoPark. In order to evaluate awareness of archaeparks and perception of local people on cultural heritage 10 open-ended questions were prepared and one-to-one interview were conducted with 55 locals. An evaluation was made based on the received answers.

6. FINDINGS

The historical structures included in the definitions such as archaeological and cultural heritage are opened basically for the purposes of preservation of the historical and cultural texture and transferring into upcoming years and to be opened to the visitors for the recreation and tourism purposes. If the suitable conditions were created and the historical structure is also meets requirements. In this context, archeological tourism is a sector that develops awareness of protection of archaeological remains, that economically supports national and local resources and that provides financial gain. The sector in question, which is a branch of cultural tourism, helps people to increase their level of culture by teaching the development process of cultures through tours to archaeological sites, museums and ruins sites (Parlıtı, 2017:11). The Küçükyalı Archaeological Park is an important example in terms of achieving these goals.

The Küçükyalı Arkeopark, which is located in the living area of the city, and considered within the scope of the study, is planned as a live visit center within the scope of the project. During the project, the archaeological park area hosted social and cultural activities and was opened to visitors. But in time it has entered a stagnant period. In addition to this, road information signboards to reach the park have been placed in the vehicle routes and walking areas. There is also an Excavation House / Visitor Center for Park visitors.

The evaluation of the answers to the question ‘Did you visit the Küçükyalı Archaeological Park?’ which was first directed to the local people living in the immediate vicinity of the Küçükyalı Archaeological Park, is as follows;

- It was revealed that 15 locals and their children participated in cultural heritage trainings and some social activities in which excavation activities took place. It was also observed that the participants were also informed about the cultural and historical values of the Arkeopark.
- During the running period of Küçükyalı Arkeopark project, 22 people who were living in the area and but not involved in the project were aware of the existence of the region, and that they saw a number of studies in the archaeological area. They knew the name of the park but did not have any information about the cultural heritage value.

- Some of the individuals (10 people) who have moved to the region after the project were aware of the existence of the Archaeological Park but never have visited and have no information about its cultural heritage, and as for 8 people, they have no information about the Archaeological Park.

The question ‘Would you like to visit?’ was asked to 40 residents who have not visited the Küçükaly Archaeological Park and all participants responded positively.

- The 12 locals of the regions stated that they were aware of Arkeopark in their county and that they wanted to visit but they could only walk around because it was not open.
- 10 locals stated that they constantly saw its name on the sign plates, they wondered but could not find the opportunity to visit and they wanted to visit it as soon as possible.

The answers given to the direct questions about the concept of cultural heritage reveal that consciousness rose to a certain level among the people of the region. It is also stated that cultural heritage is an important value and it should be protected and make people know about. It is seen that the activities carried out within the scope of the project have an important role in this regard, especially since the Küçükaly Archaeological Park is located in the region. The fact that the children of the locals grew interest in archaeological excavations is among the other findings.

The residents also stated that the park was very active during the first excavations, but no activity was held after the project. All the residents interviewed, about the opening of the archaeological park to visitors both at home and abroad, increasing awareness in its regard at the international level and increasing the activities, expressed a positive opinion.

CONCLUSION

Archaeological parks are a method used to exhibit cultural heritage in the world. Turkey is a very rich country in the context of its historical and cultural values she has. However, she failed to show improvement sufficient for the development of archaeological parks as a tourism and recreation area, the introduction of them to visitors by introducing them at national and international levels and their use as a social center.

ArchaeoParks visited by many tourists in the world could not be visited by a sufficient number of tourists in Turkey. The most important reason for this is the lack of awareness of the existence of archaeological parks and the lack of awareness of cultural heritage. The studies carried out for the Küçükaly Archaeological Park started in 1995 with preliminary field studies, and continued from the beginning of the 2000’s to the present day with surface, excavation, archive and literature studies. Park, which was evaluated within the scope of two projects, was visited by a large number of people during the project process (01 July 2013 - 31 December 2015; December 2014 - September 2015). Excavation House / Visitor Center were established and it has gone through its peak period with many

activities including the people of the region. However, this intensity did not continue in the following period.

When the findings of the study are examined, it is seen that Küçükyalı Archeopark is evaluated within the scope of cultural heritage, especially during the project process, trainings are organized and awareness is tried to be created. One-to-one interviews have also emerged that these studies have achieved their purpose and are beneficial for the locals of the region. However, it is also an important aspect that the region has a high perception of cultural values. In addition, it is among the negative results that the excavation area is forgotten in the post-project period, and it is almost unknown by the people who have recently moved to the region and by those live in the neighbourhood.

Archaeoparks represent a very important value for the purposes such as raising awareness about cultural heritage, preserving historical and cultural values and transferring them to future generations, keeping history alive, performing tourism and recreational activities. However, in order to ensure the sustainability of these purposes, future studies should also be carried out. The opening of the Küçükyalı Archaeopark and other archaeological parks to the visitors, increasing its international recognition, ensuring that it takes part in tour programs, conducting studies on cultural and historical value, and using them as a social activity center are the issues that need to be emphasized.

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