

# Deepening Inequality and Sustainable Development in Turkey

## Türkiye’de Derinleşen Eşitsizlik ve Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma

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### Abstract

Income inequality has persisted from past to present in the world, and the problems caused by income inequality appear to be the most critical socio-economic problems. Income distribution injustice is one of the most important problems that cannot be ignored and needs to be solved in Turkey. In this context, in order to fight global issues such as poverty, injustice, environmental problems, depletion of natural resources, and inequality, the Sustainable Development Goals, which are planned to be achieved by 2030, were determined by the United Nations in 2015. The goal of reducing inequality is also among the global targets. Accordingly, this study aims to examine income inequality in Turkey within the scope of Sustainable Development Goals. The results obtained show that income inequality is increasing in Turkey.

**Keywords:** Inequality, Income Distribution, Income Inequality, Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goals

### Öz

Dünyada geçmişten günümüze süregelen gelir eşitsizliği ve gelir eşitsizliğinin yol açtığı problemler en kritik sosyo-ekonomik sorun olarak karşımıza çıkmaktadır. Gelir dağılımı adaletsizliği Türkiye’de de göz ardı edilemeyecek kadar büyük ve çözülmesi gereken en önemli problemlerden biridir. Bu bağlamda, yoksulluk, adaletsizlik, çevresel sorunlar, doğal kaynakların tükenmesi, eşitsizlik gibi küresel sorunlarla mücadele etmek amacıyla 2015 yılında Birleşmiş Milletler tarafından 2030 yılına kadar gerçekleştirilmesi planlanan Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri belirlenmiştir. Söz konusu küresel hedefler arasında eşitsizliklerin azaltılması hedefi de mevcuttur. Dolayısıyla bu çalışma, Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri kapsamında Türkiye’de gelir eşitsizliğini incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Elde edilen sonuçlar Türkiye’de gelir eşitsizliğinin arttığını göstermektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Eşitsizlik, Gelir Dağılımı, Gelir Eşitsizliği, Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma, Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri

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## Introduction

Capitalism is a system that strives for constant and excessive profit. Inequality and poverty have always existed within capitalism (Kaya, 2020, p. 60). Social inequality has existed in different ways in every period of human history. However, in the era of brutal capitalism, inequalities have rapidly increased and deepened. The gap between the rich and poor has reached its highest level in the neoliberal era (Akyıldız & Şeşen, 2022, pp. 281-282). Today, inequality is growing rapidly almost everywhere in the world. While the rich are adding to their assets and becoming richer, the poor are becoming poorer (Bauman, 2013, p. 16). In this context, it is vital to distribute the income obtained fairly to all segments of society and eliminate poverty (Çelik, Künc & Acar, 2019, p. 766).

One of the most critical problems facing the world today is growing inequality within most countries around the world (Stiglitz, 2014: p. 379). Inequality not only weakens human solidarity, but can also cause the strong to oppress the weak (Bresser-Pereira, 2014, p. 199). Income inequality and extreme poverty reduce people's happiness levels, and may create negative externalities by increasing crime rates and violence (Güzel, 2018, p. 392). Inequality has profound and disruptive effects on society. As a matter of fact, inequality negatively affects economic growth and efficiency, as well as social welfare in the short and long term. The economies of societies with high levels of inequality are unstable; It is not possible for them to operate efficiently and be sustainable in the long term. Besides, inequality leads to a less efficient economy. Otherwise, high levels of income inequality will also create an equal opportunity problem in society. On the other hand, increasing equality of income and opportunity will increase the country's productivity (Stiglitz, 2016, pp. 145-171).

In order to take action against many social, environmental and economic problems existing in the world, Sustainable Development Goals, which are a universal call to action aimed at addressing many global problems and are targeted to be achieved by 2030, were put forward by the United Nations in 2015 (Sedefoğlu, 2019). The Sustainable Development Goals consist of 17 goals and 169 targets (United Nations, 2015a). The goal of reducing inequalities within the Sustainable Development Goals constitutes the tenth article.

Considering some previous studies on the subject, Sedefoğlu (2019) examined poverty and income inequality within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals. Accordingly, it was stated that in the fight against poverty, it is significant to develop policies targeting human development, equality and development in this way. Türkkân (2019) evaluated regional disparities in mortality indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals. As a result, it was revealed that there are significant regional disparities in mortality in Turkey. In the study conducted by Bolatito and Madinah (2023), an overview of an exploratory discourse on the diverse effects of Sustainable Development Goal 10 was provided. Besides, the economic implications of Sustainable Development Goal 10 were examined, analyzing the potential benefits of reducing inequality for sustainable economic growth and prosperity. Accordingly, it has been concluded that the effects of Sustainable Development Goal 10 required a holistic and collaborative approach towards achieving sustainable and inclusive development. Guo et al. (2023) concluded that sustainable development goals, sustainable economic policy, and labor productivity have a critical role in the growth of the Chinese economy and to reduce inequality in society, the Chinese government must focus on sustainability.

According to World Bank data, the Gini coefficient, which is an important criterion in showing income distribution injustice, increased in Turkey between 2002 and 2019. Inequalities bring about many problems. As a matter of fact, increasing income inequality leads to many negative economic, social and psychological effects. In this context, the aim of this study is to examine income inequality in Turkey within the scope of Sustainable Development Goals with the help of tables and graphs. This study is thought to be important in terms of revealing the extent of inequality in Turkey and showing the problems that inequality brings with it. These problems show that policies to eliminate inequality need to be developed and applied. The limited number of such studies for Turkey constitutes the contribution of the study to the literature. Based on this, the conceptual framework will be explained in the section following the introduction. Then, sustainable development and Sustainable Development Goals will be introduced. Afterwards, income inequality in Turkey will be examined within the scope of Sustainable Development Goals. The study will be completed with the conclusion section.

## Conceptual Framework

Income distribution can be defined as “*the distribution of income earned in a particular economy and period among individuals or production factors*” (Göksu & Kılıç, 2020, p. 83). In other words, income distribution can also be defined as “*the distribution of national income produced in a country in a certain period of time among individuals, households, social groups, regions or production factor owners*” (Çalışkan, 2010, p. 92). In this regard, four main types of income distribution can be mentioned: personal, functional, regional and sectoral.

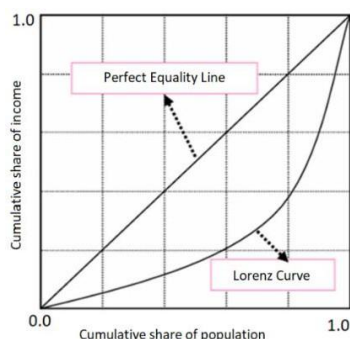
Personal income distribution refers to the share of income received by individuals who contribute to the formation of the country’s national income. In this connection, personal income distribution is the sharing of national income among individuals, households or groups. Personal income distribution is an indicator that reveals social as well as economic inequalities, as it allows the classification of income according to regions, sectors, professions and educational status (Ayhan, 2022, pp. 234-235). The functional distribution of national income shows the principles and proportions in which the total national income is shared among production factors such as labor, capital, land and entrepreneur (Erdoğan, 2004, p. 50). In other words, functional income distribution is a concept of income distribution that examines the shares of various production factors in national income (Şerbetçi, 2014, p. 95). Functional income distribution is the distribution of national income among wages, interest, rent and profit (Akın & Aytun, 2018, p. 54). Regional income distribution is the distribution of national income among regions of a country determined according to different criteria. In this distribution, countries are analyzed by dividing them into geographical regions, whether the settlements are rural or urban, and their level of development. It is not possible to say that national income is distributed equally among the regions of the countries. Sectoral income distribution expresses the share of sectors such as agriculture, industry, services, construction and trade in total production. With sectoral income distribution, it is possible to determine the sectors that are in a strong position in a country’s economy (Çalışkan, 2022, p. 220).

It is essential that the income is distributed fairly. If world income increases over the years but poverty also increases, then it is possible to talk about income inequality. Inequality is a social and economic problem. In societies with unjust income distribution leads to unequal living conditions and increases inequalities in health and life expectancy. However, it also endangers social life in countries. As a matter of fact, the tendency of impoverished individuals to engage in illegal activities may increase in societies. Therefore, poverty is not only an economic problem but also a serious problem that threatens the social and psychological structure (Evcim, Güneş & Karaalp-Orhan, 2019, p. 146).

Inequality is a lack of equality, particularly in terms of status, rights and opportunities (United Nations, 2015b). Equality or inequality of opportunity is often measured by examining non-income dimensions such as health, education and access to basic services (Dev, 2016: p. 1). In other words, equal opportunity is a concept that expresses the equal access of everyone to fields shaped by social demands and expectations, such as health, education, social security and employment, without any discrimination (İnan & Demir, 2018, p. 339). It is possible to define income inequality as the degree of difference in income in a region, a country or throughout the world, and the deviation of the income of individuals, households or social groups from the average distribution (Çobanoğlu & Yılmaz, 2019a, p. 26). In other words, income inequality is a concept that expresses the situation where income distribution is not shared regularly and fairly (Çobanoğlu & Yılmaz, 2019b, p. 2634). The problem of income inequality and poverty has been on the agenda of societies in every age. However, these problems have become more serious, especially during the period of industrial capitalism (Çalışkan, 2010, p. 91). There are various criteria to measure income distribution, such as coefficient of variation, percentage shares analysis, the mean logarithmic deviation, Lorenz curve, Gini coefficient, Pareto coefficient, inverted U hypothesis, Atkinson’s inequality measure, Theil index, etc. (Öztürk & Göktolga, 2010, p. 6). Briefly mentioning these measures, the standard deviation of a series is divided by the arithmetic mean of the series and the result is multiplied by 100 to obtain the coefficient of variation (Kubar, 2011, p. 231). In the percentage shares analysis, first, the households are ranked from smallest to largest according to their total disposable income, and the households are divided into the same number of groups to the percentage shares to be analyzed. With the help of this analysis, the difference between the first group with the highest share of total income and the last percentage group with the lowest share of total income can be compared (Özdemir, 2021, p. 580). In the mean logarithmic deviation method, the differences in incomes from the general average are measured. This method measures the relationship between each household’s income and average income in logarithmic terms (Akın & Aytun, 2015, p. 56). The Lorenz curve expresses the percentage sharing of income, and a box diagram is used to determine the extent of inequality in income distribution.

The population is shown on the horizontal axis of the diagram, and the cumulative income of this population is shown on the vertical axis. If there is an absolute equality between income percentiles and population percentiles, the Lorenz curve overlaps with the line of absolute equality and takes the form of a 45-degree line. In another saying, at every point on the

line extending from the origin at a 45-degree angle, the population percentage and the share of this population from the income are equal. On the other hand, if the Lorenz curve shifts to the right, away from the line of absolute equality, it means that income distribution is unequal (Doğan & Tek, 2007, p. 99; Erdoğan, 2004, p. 49). Figure 1 shows the Lorenz curve.



**Figure 1.**

***The Lorenz Curve***

**Source:** Çalışkan, 2010: p. 98.

The closer the Lorenz curve is to the diagonal, the more equal the income distribution. On the contrary, the further the Lorenz curve moves away from the line of perfect equality line, the more unequal becomes the income distribution. The Gini coefficient was developed by Corrado Gini and is one of the world's most widely used measures of income distribution (Danmarks Statistik, 2019, p. 1). The Gini coefficient takes values between 0 and 1. As the coefficient approaches 0, it means that income is shared equally in society, while as it approaches 1, it means that inequality in society increases (Erikli & Yücel, 2019, p. 245). Accordingly, the lower the Gini coefficient value, the more equal a society is considered to be (Trapeznikova, 2019, p. 6). The Pareto coefficient is based on the assumption that there is a particular relationship between a certain level of income and the number of people who earn that income or more. This coefficient is also interpreted as a measure that approximately shows how the probability of people being promoted to the upper income group increases as their income level increases. The inverted U-hypothesis is a hypothesis developed in 1955 by Simon Kuznets. According to this hypothesis, as income levels increase, inequality first increases and then decreases. This relationship is known as the inverted U-hypothesis, and the curve showing the income distribution and income level is referred to as the Kuznets curve (Kubar, 2011, p. 233; Piketty, 2015). Atkinson's measure of inequality presents the total income percentage that a given society would have to forego in order to have more equal shares of income between its citizens (United Nations, 2015c). The Theil index is shown with values between 0 and infinity and shows the same level of sensitivity to the distances between different income groups. As the index value increases, it means that inequality in income distribution increases, while as the value decreases, it means that injustice decreases (Çelik, Künc & Acar, 2019, p. 768).

It can be said that there is a close relationship between income distribution and poverty. At a given income level, the higher the income inequality is, the higher the poverty rate will be. In other words, a rise in inequality causes poverty to increase. Although poverty can be defined in different ways, it can basically be defined as people's inability to have minimum living standards that meet their basic needs. Besides, while the minimum level of income and expenditure required by households or individuals is called absolute poverty, relative poverty focuses on the differences in the distribution of income and wealth rather than the absolute income levels by different groups (Balçı İzgi & Alyu, 2018, pp. 988-989; UNDP, 2022, p. 9). A life in poverty is not sustainable as it deprives people of their basic rights (<https://globalis.dk>). Poverty is also a serious social problem. Increasing inequality and poverty also cause child labor. Especially children from low-income families are forced to leave school at an early age and enter working life. In addition to depriving children of their right to education, it is a serious problem that needs to be solved because it also brings about the problem of child labor. As a matter of fact, while a total of 160 million children are in child labor worldwide, 720 thousand children between the ages of 5-17 worked in Turkey in 2019. Education, which is a fundamental right, is also an important key to eliminating inequalities existing in society, preventing

elements that harm society, and achieving both socio-economic and human development. For this reason, it is a major importance to prevent factors that create inequality in access to education (ILO, 2023; Bilgin & Erbuđ, 2021, p. 237).

### Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals

It can be said that the concept of sustainable development has emerged as a result of socio-economic issues to do with poverty and inequality, increasing global environmental problems, and concerns about a healthy future for humanity (Hopwood, Mellor and O'Brien, 2005: p. 39). The concept of sustainable development was first introduced in the Brundtland Report presented by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987, emphasizing that the needs of future generations should be taken into account while meeting today's needs.

Sustainable development aims to achieve a balance between economic development, social welfare and environmental quality. In other words, sustainable development consists of the interaction of three basic dimensions: environmental, social and economic. The environmental dimension of sustainable development includes a healthy environment, conservation of non-renewable natural resources, and rational use of renewable natural resources. The main goal of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, which emphasizes the importance of a healthy environment is to reduce the problems that occur during the production activities of institutions and the consumption actions of society and to prevent damage as much as possible. The social dimension of sustainable development, which aims to increase the welfare level of society by increasing the quality of society, consists of items such as health, education, security, employment, equality, participation and cultural identity. Growth, efficiency and stability, and the efficient use of limited resources are among the objectives of the economic dimension of sustainable development (Karabođa, 2022: p. 79; Soubbotina, 2004: p. 10).

As a follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals were adopted at the United Nations Development Summit in 2015, covering 17 goals and 169 targets, with the signatures of 193 countries. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes both quantitative and qualitative objectives on interconnected environmental, social and economic issues, aiming to be achieved by 2030. These 17 Sustainable Development Goals are given in Table 1 below (Derin, 2018: p. 560; Filho et al., 2020; Mathers and Deonandan, 2018: p. 11).

**Table 1.**  
***United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals***

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals

**Source:** United Nations, 2023b.

Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 10 is about the reduction in inequality within and among countries (Dev, 2016, p. 1). In addition, the aim is to empower and promote the inclusion of all, irrespective of social, economic or other status, and to ensure equal opportunity (Human Rights Council, 2023: p. 5).

Increasing and deepening inequality is an obstacle to the development and sustainability of life. As a matter of fact, if people are deprived of their right to a better life, it will not be possible to achieve sustainable development. Increasing inequality in income and opportunity also gives rise to new threats to human rights. Inequality has negative consequences, such as increasing poverty, weakening the economy, threatening social harmony and development, and causing environmental degradation (Human Rights Council, 2023, p. 5; United Nations, 2023a).

### Deepening Inequality in Turkey

According to the 2022 World Inequality Report prepared by the World Inequality Lab, income inequalities have been increasing in different countries and in different ways, and inequality has increased in many countries, especially since 1980 (World Inequality Lab, 2021, p. 5). It can be said that this is due to the accelerating globalization, liberalization and the increasing rise of neoliberal policies.

The goal of reducing inequalities is an important item within the scope of the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to reducing income inequality, the aim of reducing inequalities is to promote universal social, economic and political inclusion, ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination, implement financial and social policies that promote equality, improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions, ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in financial institutions, responsible and well-managed migration policies, special and differentiated treatment of developing countries, encouraging development assistance and investment in the least developed countries, and reduction of transaction costs for remittances (<https://www.kureselamaclar.org>). However, this study is limited to the issue of income inequality. In this context, this section will try to examine the situation of income inequality in Turkey. Based on this, in Graph 1, first of all, the economic growth rates of Turkey between 2002 and 2022 are given. As can be seen in the graph, Turkey's economic growth rates followed a fluctuating course during the period in question. In particular, the sharp decline in economic growth rates in 2009 is remarkable. It can be said that this situation stems from the financial crisis that occurred in 2008. It is seen that economic growth rates, which increased again in 2011, have decreased and fluctuated since this year. It can be said that the decrease seen in 2019 is due to the COVID-19 pandemic that emerged in December 2019. While there was an increase again after 2019, there was a decrease in 2022 and the growth rate was 5.57%.

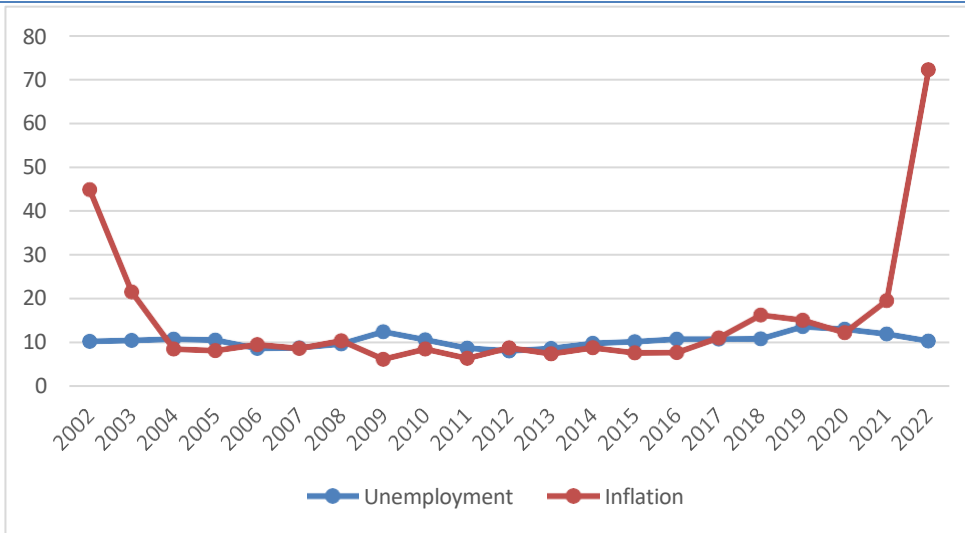


**Graph 1.**  
**Economic Growth Rates (%), 2002-2022**

Source: World Bank, 2023.

Graph 2 shows Turkey's unemployment and inflation rates for the years 2002-2022. When Turkey's inflation rates are examined, it is seen that there was a decrease from 2002 to 2004 and then followed a horizontal course. In 2022, Turkey's inflation rate was as high as 72.31%. When looking at unemployment rates, Turkey's unemployment rates followed a horizontal course between 2002 and 2022. While Turkey's unemployment rate was 10.35% in 2002, it is seen to be 10.43% in 2022.

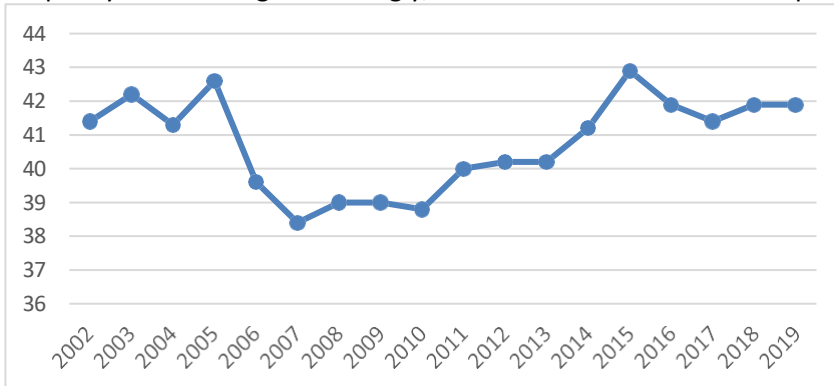




**Graph 2.**  
**Unemployment and Inflation Rates, 2002-2022**

Source: World Bank, 2023.

In 2021, the richest 10% of the global population earned 52% of global income, while the poorest part of the population earns only 8.5% of this (World Inequality Lab, 2021, p. 4). According to OECD's current data, Turkey is the 4th country in terms of income distribution inequality among 38 OECD countries (OECD, 2024). The rate of people living below 50% of median income in Turkey was 16.8% in 1994 and 17.3% in 2019 (United Nations, 2023c). Gini coefficient is an important coefficient that shows income distribution inequality, and while a decrease in the Gini coefficient indicates that inequality has decreased, an increase means that inequality has increased (Juul, 2015: p. 12). Graph 3 shows Turkey's Gini coefficient for the 2002-2019 period. When looking at the Gini coefficient, the year with the highest inequality was 2015, and the year with the lowest was 2007. According to Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) data, the Gini coefficient increased in 2023. When evaluated in general, the Gini coefficient increased in Turkey in the period discussed. However, when compared to Europe, Turkey's Gini coefficient value is seen to be high. An increase in the Gini coefficient means that income distribution is deteriorating, that is, inequality is increasing. Accordingly, it can be said that income inequality in Turkey is gradually increasing.



**Graph 3.**  
**Gini Coefficient, 2002-2019**

Source: World Bank, 2023.

Table 2 shows the distribution of annual equivalised household disposable income in sequential 20% groups between 2012 and 2023, within the scope of the income and living conditions research conducted by TurkStat. The first 20% group in the table constitutes the group with the lowest income, while the last 20% group constitutes the group with the highest income. When we look at the table, the share of the lowest 20% group decreased compared to the previous year and reached 5.9%, while the share of the highest 20% group from the total income increased compared to the previous year and reached 49.8%.

When the table is evaluated in general, there is a quite large difference between the bottom 20% and the top 20%. It can be interpreted from the table that there is an unfair income distribution in Turkey and that no positive development has been observed in this field in the 12-year period. As of 2023, the 20% of people earning the highest income earn approximately eight times more than the 20% of people earning the lowest income.

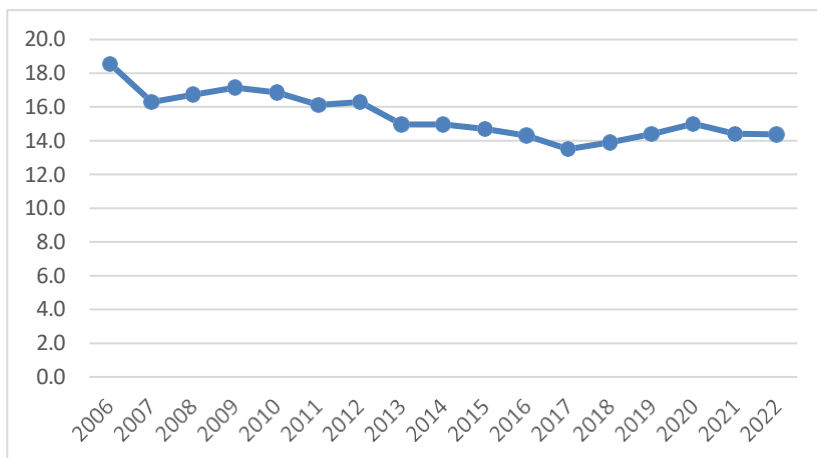
**Table 2.**

***Distribution of Annual Equivalised Household Disposable Income by Ordered Quintiles, (%), 2012-2023***

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
First %20 (The bottom)	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.0	5.9
Second %20	10.6	10.7	10.9	10.7	10.6	10.7	10.6	10.9	10.6	10.8	10.4	9.8
Third %20	15.3	15.2	15.3	15.2	15.0	14.8	14.8	15.2	14.9	15.1	14.7	14.0
Fourth %20	21.7	21.4	21.7	21.5	21.1	20.9	20.9	21.4	21.1	21.3	20.9	20.5
Last %20 (The top)	46.6	46.6	45.9	46.5	47.2	47.4	47.6	46.3	47.5	46.7	48.0	49.8

**Source:** TÜİK, 2021; TÜİK, 2024.

Turkey's poverty rate between 2006 and 2022 is given in Graph 4. The graph shows that there has been a decrease in the poverty rate in Turkey between these periods. However, considering that there is still a significant population living below the poverty line, more effective steps need to be taken in this regard (Çelik, Künc & Acar, 2019, p. 776).

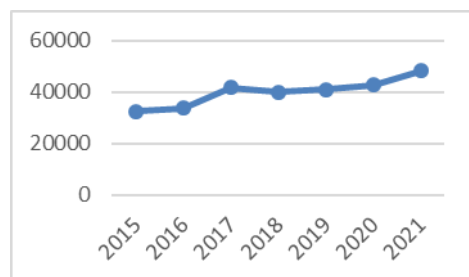


**Graph 4.**

***Poverty Rate, 2006-2022***

**Source:** TÜİK, 2022.

In Graph 5, where Turkey's material and social deprivation rates are presented, it is clearly seen that the material and social deprivation rates have increased from 2015 to 2021. Besides, according to TurkStat's data within the scope of poverty and living conditions statistics for 2022, persistent poverty increased from 2018 to 2022 and reached 14% in 2022 (TÜİK, 2022).



**Graph 5.**

***Material and Social Deprivation Rate, Thousand People, 2015-2021***

**Source:** Eurostat, 2023.



Table 3 shows the figures for the gender wage gap according to education level in 2018. TurkStat data in the table shows that earnings increase as the education level increases. Besides, when examined in terms of gender, it was observed that men had higher incomes than women at all education levels. Based on this, it is seen that there is an income/wage gap between genders in education levels in Turkey. Accordingly, it is possible to talk about a working life where there is no same pay for the same work. Therefore, the same wage should be paid for the same work and societal gender equality should be ensured in all areas (Mayda & Vurkun, 2018, p. 225).

**Table 3.**  
**Gender Pay Gap by Educational Attainment, 2018**

	Annual Average Gross Wage (TRY)		
	Men	Women	Total
Primary school and below	35.666	28.294	33.765
Primary education and secondary school	34.702	28.720	33.383
High school	37.334	32.013	35.812
Vocational high school	50.820	36.183	47.532
Higher education	73.095	58.754	66.786
Total	47.515	43.866	46.358

Source: TÜİK, 2018.

### Conclusion

The capitalist system inherently creates inequalities. It is a known fact that inequality has negative effects on both individuals at the micro level and society at the macro level. As a matter of fact, inequality is a serious problem for both the individual and the society, and it is a phenomenon that threatens social peace, welfare and justice. Therefore, inequality and poverty are among the most urgent economic and social problems that need to be solved. Since the increase in inequality will negatively affect people's quality of life, ignoring the increasing and deepening inequality will inevitably lead to bigger problems. For this reason, it is important to take more serious steps and develop comprehensive policies in order to eliminate economic, social, opportunity and gender inequalities and ensure that people have decent living standards.

The goal of "reducing inequalities" is also included in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations. According to data obtained from the World Bank, Turkey's Gini coefficient increased in the period of 2002-2019. With this situation, it is understood that income distribution is distorted. According to TurkStat data, the share of the highest income group of 20% in total income in Turkey in 2023 is 49.8%. On the other hand, the poorest 20% receive only 5.9% of the income. Besides, according to TurkStat data, there has been a decrease in poverty rates in Turkey between the 2006-2022 period. However, material and social deprivation rates increased between 2015 and 2021. According to the figures on the gender pay gap by educational attainment, earnings increase as the level of education increases. It has also been observed that men have higher incomes than women at all education levels. Therefore, it is possible to talk about a working life in which the same wage is not paid for the same work. Based on this, the same wage should be paid for the same work and situations that create gender inequality should be eliminated. In this context, if a general evaluation is made in the light of data, tables and graphs; The increase in material and social deprivation rates in Turkey over the periods discussed, the increase in the Gini coefficient and its higher values compared to many countries, reveal increasing and deepening inequality. Eliminating inequality is also important for sustainability. It is important to eliminate inequality, eliminate poverty, increase

the welfare level of the society, ensure social peace, ensure equality of opportunity and ensure sustainable development. Inequalities also cause migration movements. Thus, the country's workforce migration and brain drain go to other countries. Hence, it is important to create policies that aim to eliminate inequalities in order to create a just system. It is obvious that the current system cannot solve the problem of inequality. For this reason, neoliberal policies that further deepen inequality should be abandoned.

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