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Municipality-Non-Governmental Organizations in Ensuring City Safety: An Example Of Preventing Child And Youth Criminality in Malatya

Abstract

People living in urban areas have various local common needs, but the most prominent among them is undoubtedly living in a safe city. Regardless how adequate a city might have infrastructure and superstructure equipment, if its streets, avenues, commercial, open and closed areas lack the confidence of its inhabitants, a healthy social order cannot be established. In this study, the rehabilitation of children and youth involved in crime and their participation in social life within the scope of the cooperation of Malatya Yeşilyurt and Battalgazi Municipality with various non-governmental organizations for the purpose of ensuring urban security and building safer future was examined through case studies. Interviews were held with the Fire of Anatolia Sports Club Association, Orphans Caravan and Ya Damascus associations, among the associations in Malatya, and the impacts of the projects carried out with local governments on urban security were examined. The results revealed that the cooperation between local governments and NGOs yielded positive results and the sportive, educational support and guidance services received by young people and children should be continued increasingly. This study was conducted using phenomenological research design, as qualitative research method, and data were interpreted based on literature review and document analysis.

Keywords: Urban Security, Non-Governmental Organizations, Local Governments, Juvenile Delinquency, Youth Delinquency.

Kent Güvenliğini Sağlamada Belediye-Sivil Toplum Kuruluşları: Malatya'da Çocuk ve Genç Suçluluğunun Önlenmesine Bir Örnek

Öz

Kent alanlarında yaşamını sürdüren insanların çok çeşitli mahalli müşterek ihtiyaçları bulunmaktadır. Bunlar arasında en öne çıkan ihtiyaç şüphesiz güvenli bir kentte yaşama ihtiyacıdır. Bir kent alt yapı ve üst yapı donanımları açısından ne kadar yeterli olsa da caddeleri, sokakları, ticari alanları, açık ve kapalı alanları o kentte yaşayanlara güven vermiyorsa o beldede sağlıklı bir sosyal düzenin oluşması mümkün değildir. Bu çalışmada kent güvenliğinin sağlanması ve güvenli bir gelecek inşa edilmesi amacıyla yönelik olarak Malatya Yeşilyurt Belediyesi ve Battalgazi Belediyesi'nin çeşitli sivil toplum kuruluşlarıyla girmiş olduğu iş birlikleri kapsamında kentte suça karışmış çocuk ve gençlerin rehabilite edilerek sosyal hayata katılmaları örnek olaylar üzerinden incelenmiştir. Bu konuda, Malatya'da faaliyet gösteren derneklerden Anadolu Ateşi Spor Kulübü Derneği, Yetimler Kervanı ve Ya Şam dernekleriyle görüşmeler gerçekleştirilerek, yerel yönetimlerle yaptıkları projelerin kent güvenliği üzerindeki etkileri incelenmiştir. Çalışmanın sonucunda yerel yönetimlerle STK'ların iş birliklerinin olumlu sonuçlar verdiği ve birçok gencin veya çocuğun aldığı sportif destekler, eğitim destekleri ve rehberlik hizmetlerinin artırılarak devam ettirilmesi gerekli görülmüştür. Çalışma nitel araştırma yöntemlerden fenomenolojik araştırma tasarımıyla oluşturulmuş, veriler literatür taraması ve belge incelemesi ile yorumlanmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kentsel Güvenlik, Sivil Toplum Örgütleri, Yerel Yönetimler, Çocuk Suçluluğu, Genç Suçluluğu.

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1. Introduction

Security is regarded as one of the most essential needs of human beings. For this reason, in cities where the climate of security is dominant, the unity and order of the society is very easily ensured and the people living there lead a life of peace and happiness. Although there are many reasons for the emergence of cities, one of the most important factors is undoubtedly the need for security. In fact, the common thing seen in almost all ancient cities is the walls surrounding the city. The walls, which protected the city from external dangers, gave people confidence (Arslan, 2020, p. 55). However, it would be deficient to evaluate only external threats in terms of urban security because, as Mumford (2007, p. 70) states, “urban space is where small wars take place”.

Cities are places where dynamic change and transformation have occurred throughout history. The industrial revolution, the sharpest of these changes, resulted in the population density in Western European cities and significantly changed the administrative, legal, commercial and social relations network of the cities. As these changes have made cities more insecure, many thinkers attributed this to the dominance of competition and individualism in urban societies. This competitive attitude and the “only I am important” approach in cities increases the tendency to commit crimes. Crime affects not only the victim of crime, but also the citizens who are aware of the crime through various means of interaction, and concerns about the security of urban areas increase (Saçlı, 2021, p. 265).

The tendency of today's cities to become dangerous and feared places started with the Industrial Revolution and accelerated with globalization. While the demand for labor caused by the industrial revolution initiated rapid and uncontrolled human migration from rural areas to cities, globalization has led to rapid population growth in cities as well as alienation of individuals from each other, weakening of social ties and reduced auditability (Bayram, 2020, p. 197). In addition to these, economic problems, unemployment, unplanned urbanization and unplanned construction, the possibility of hiding in cities are among the reasons for committing crimes.

In the cities, offenses against property are committed more often due to the advantage of not being recognized and the hope of being able to hide, and sometimes crimes such as homicide are committed for reasons such as the stress caused by the problems of the city (Derdiman, 2010, p. 68). On the other hand, those who have difficulty in making ends meet and sustaining their lives for various reasons in the city commit crimes, including theft, in order to overcome this difficulty, and thus the crime rates in the cities increase.

The increase in security problems in cities has led municipalities to assume important roles and responsibilities in the provision of essential municipal services as well as the protection of urban order and the safe living conditions of those living within the city boundaries. In addition to the security measures taken by law enforcement officers, community-based approaches of NGOs and local governments to increase urban security and safety are very important in overcoming security problems in cities (Erdoğan, 2013, p. 46). As a result of the cooperation between NGOs and local governments, social capital in the city is strengthened and the ability of people, groups and communities to overcome the problems that lead to the emergence of violence and crime is increased.

In this study, the rehabilitation of children and young people involved in crime in the city and their participation in social life within the scope of the collaborations of Malatya Yeşilyurt Municipality and Battalgazi Municipality with Anadolu Ateşi Sports Club Association, Orphans Foundation and Ya Sham Associations for the purpose of ensuring urban security and building a safe future are examined through model practices.

Since children and juvenile delinquency are at the center of the research, it is important to focus on these concepts and the factors that push children to crime in cities. Scientists and the United Nations recognize people aged 0-18 as children. The main reason for this is that most of the child's growth and development is completed by the age of 18. In this context, childhood is considered to end with the onset of adolescence.

It can be said that childhood, which is seen as the most innocent state of human beings in the development process, is a special period that not only scientists, but also thinkers, clergymen, state administrators, educators, and almost everyone interested in children have tried to define by putting forward their own point of view from past to present (Sağlam & Aral, 2016, p. 44). In this study, under the title of security problems arising from Turkey's urbanization process, children pushed to crime in cities and children's involvement in crimes in the context of crimes committed in cities were evaluated. The research aims to reveal the impact of the changes brought about by the process of individualization, which manifests itself with the process of urbanization, on the crime rates of children and youth. These changes can be counted as the weakening of ties (kinship, neighborhood), geographical mobility as a result of urbanization and the insignificance of belongings (Coşar, 2005, p. 290)

This research was conducted with a phenomenological research design, one of the qualitative research methods. The phenomenological design is a research design that comes from philosophy and psychology. The aim of this design is to understand the essence of the experiences of people who experience a particular phenomenon in depth (Creswell, 2018, p. 77). It is a research conducted with a group of individuals who have experienced the phenomenon in all its aspects. Although some studies have stated that the number of this group varies between 3-4 people and 10-15 people, which is a heterogeneous group, it is seen that this number sometimes varies (Yalçın, 2022, p. 218). The data obtained were interpreted in the light of literature review and document review. For the research, the field part of the study was started to be implemented after the decision of the ethics committee taken as the 1st Decision in the 6th Session on 28.03.2024 from Inonu University Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Board, Social and Human Sciences Research and Publication Ethics Board.

2. Security Problems Caused by Türkiye's Urbanization Process

The researches show that there was a stagnant urbanization movement in Türkiye until the 1950s, but this situation accelerated between 1950-1970. It is seen that the urbanization of Türkiye, which had become stagnant again in the 1970s, accelerated again in the 1980s.

It can be said that Marshall Plan was the most effective process in accelerating Türkiye's urbanization process. In the period between 1948 and 1958, these funds were mostly used in the fields of agriculture, mining and road construction and tractors, agricultural machinery and road construction machinery were purchased with the funds, and large amounts of money were paid for the spare parts of all these materials for years. As a result of the support for modernization in agricultural production, the surplus labor force that emerged in rural areas

was directed towards urban areas. The adaptation process has not been easy for those who migrated from rural to urban areas, and people coming from the village have encountered some unexpected problems. The most important of these problems was undoubtedly the dwelling problem. Another problem caused by the transition from village life to urban life is the change in family types. Large family types have been replaced by nuclear families, and the existence of unmet needs despite the downsizing of families has led women to work. From this perspective, urbanization is not only a population movement caused by internal migration but also a phenomenon that triggers social change-transformation (Tekeli, 2021, p. 75)

One of the most fundamental problems experienced in Turkish cities is that the rate of urbanization is high and the rate of urbanization is quite low. Because according to Keleş (1998, p. 42), urbanization is the process in which social change as a result of the urbanization movement creates changes in people's behaviors and relationships, value judgments, spiritual and material lifestyles. Kartal (1983, p. 24) defines urbanization as people migrating from rural areas to urban areas exhibiting different city-specific attitudes and behaviors and adopting social and spiritual value judgments. As can be understood from the definitions, urbanization consists of processes of change, transformation and acceptance of new values. Each of these processes can cause adaptation problems in family members, especially children and young people.

In Türkiye, since the state perceives urbanization only as the arrangement of physical spaces, the social, economic and ideological dimensions of urbanization could not be seen. In addition, economic growth in Türkiye has been slower than urbanization, and business spaces could not be opened for those who were accumulated in the cities (Okutan, 1995, p. 35). Unfortunately, it has not been realized that the main thing in the understanding of urbanism is not roads, buildings and physical investments, but people. For this reason, Türkiye's urbanization has been likened to the urbanization of underdeveloped countries and its most important characteristic has been described as metropolitan cities that have emerged with the further growth of large cities. The available data also confirms these statements, as cities such as Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, Adana, Kocaeli, Bursa, Mersin grow several times more than the average city every year (Mutlu, et, al., 2016, p. 69).

While the most fundamental problems seen in Türkiye's urbanization have emerged as land and housing problems, squatting, and problems of inability to integrate with the city, the inequality in income distribution and the increase in social stratification or class, which are closely related to these, have also created important problems. As a result of the inability of the accumulated population to find jobs in the industrial sector, they have turned to informal sectors and have become the subject of the informal economy, which has hindered the commercial life of the city, and as a result of this accumulation, the development of urban behavior patterns and human relations has been negatively affected. Consequently, urban areas have become sites of social, cultural and ethnic tensions and conflicts.

Urbanization is widely influential in the spread of violence in new forms. Evaluations on this issue are addressed in Table 1. Crime and violence, which should be seen as an important problem in cities, are closely related to poverty, social change, spatial segregation, social exclusion and anomie, and these are considered internal factors, while global terrorism, ethnic and religious discrimination, globalization, modernism are considered external factors.

There is a bilateral interaction between all urban spaces and crime. If the place is convenient for crime, those with high income levels leave these areas due to security concerns, and as a result, these places become deserted and left to people who have no income and who may have the potential to commit crimes (Ataç, 2007, p. 18-19).

Security in urban areas has become more important today than ever before, as some residential areas in the city are crime-preventive while others encourage crime, depending on the income level. The security of the city is only possible by ensuring the security of these places. For this reason, city planning is highly important. Those who plan a city should pay attention to a number of parameters such as safety, accessibility and meeting the needs in the use of places (Koca and Erkan, 2022, p. 163). For example, streets are safe when used well. An empty street is generally unsafe. There should be eyes observing the street, that is, the natural owners of the street. Buildings on the street should be facing the street, buildings should not turn their backs or empty sides to the street and hinder the street. There should be someone on the sidewalks at all times and the number of active eyes looking at the street should be increased. In order to do this, some of the residents of buildings should be given an excuse to look at the Street (Jacobs, 1993, p. 55).

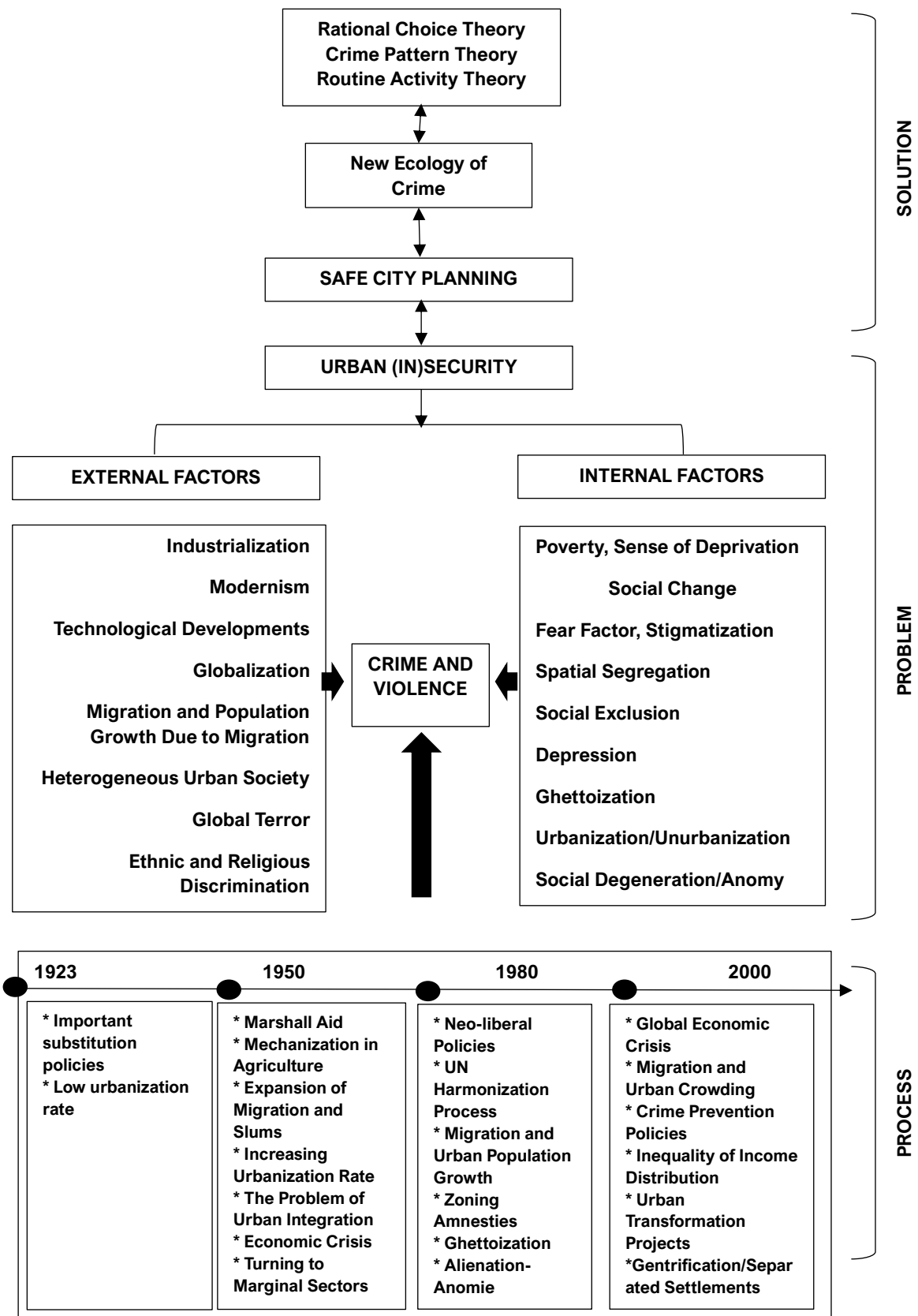


Figure 1: Urbanization Process and Urban Security in Türkiye (Aksoy, 2007, p. 87)

2.1. Children Pushed to Crime in Cities

As the research is directed towards Municipality-NGO collaborations on the prevention of youth and juvenile delinquency in urban places, juvenile delinquency needs to be defined. In the literature, the concept of children pushed to crime is used instead of the concept of juvenile delinquency, and accordingly, it is seen that the places where convicted children are held are not called jails or prisons but reformatories. The reason for this is that the child is an individual who has not yet significantly completed the development and formation of his/her personality (Gökpınar, 2007, p. 206). From this perspective, children pushed to crime can be defined as the violation of prohibited acts by minors, the limits of which are set by written criminal norms. The distinguishing feature of this type of criminality from other definitions of criminality is that the definition is limited by specifying the age range. Various studies have shown that boys commit more crimes than girls and that 14-year-old children have a higher tendency to commit crimes (Ayar & Öztürk, 2015, p. 18; Ereş, 2009, p. 93).

A child is a being that is neither inherently bad nor good. Like every living being, he/she is an individual who changes and develops biologically and at the same time socializes by interacting with his/her environment. It is the family, education and experiences that determine whether a child is good or bad. This shows that the roots of juvenile delinquency are psychological and sociological rather than legal (Işıktaç, 1999, p. 2).

2.2. Crimes Committed in Cities

This research is discussed within the scope of the “Rational Choice Theory”, “Crime Pattern Theory” and “Daily Activities Theory”, which are put forward in the context of crimes committed in the city and expressed in Figure 1.

Rational Choice is a theory which was propounded to understand the economic behavior of individuals and focuses on people's inclination towards actions that are in their interest and maximize their utility. The basis of the theory can be traced back to Adam Smith. In the theory, there are three basic hypotheses for the economic actions of individuals. These are: individuals have selfish preferences, individuals seek to maximize their own utility, and individuals act independently based on full information (Yıldız, 2020, p. 149). Although it emerged as a theory to understand the economic behavior of individuals, it has been used in other disciplines such as sociology, political science and anthropology since the late 20th century. The rational choice theory claims that when dealing with the tendency to commit a crime, a person calculates the benefits and losses that will occur as a result of the criminal act that he/she will engage in, and determines the positive and negative situations for himself/herself, and in the end, if committing the crime results in a profitable outcome, then he/she will engage in that crime. In this case, while the individual potentially has the idea of crime, the tendency to commit a crime increases if, depending on his/her analysis, the benefit from this crime is greater than the harm of the crime. In related studies, it has been revealed that sexual offenders both rationalize and calculate this behavior while committing the crime they will commit (Özdemir, Güzel P., et. al., 2018, p. 502).

Crime Pattern Theory was first proposed in the 1980s by researchers working to answer the question “Why do certain areas experience higher crime rates than others?”. One of the key components of the theory, which focuses on examining how people and things moving through space and time are involved in crime, is the idea of offenders and victims (Aliağaoğlu & Uğur,

2021, p. 45). Offending spaces are places that consistently generate criminal activity, such as bars, clubs or crowded public spaces. These areas are seen as reproduction areas for criminal behavior as they provide opportunities for those who tend to commit crimes.

The Daily Activities Theory is also known as the Routine Activities Theory. According to this theory, crime is caused by the relationships between people's daily activities, social relationships and environmental conditions (Eker & Muş, 2016, p. 25). In this respect, three main elements are needed to commit a crime: These are; the presence of a motivated offender, the presence of appropriate targets and the absence of adequate protections against crime (Uludağ & Fidan, 2023, p. 185). According to the theory, the illegal activities of criminals are reinforced by the legal activities of victims and society.

3. The Importance of Nongovernmental Organizations in Türkiye and Their Cooperation with Local Governments

Although there is no single definition of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), which emerged in the West and spread around the world, they can be defined as “a structure that is self-formed, has its own support, is autonomous from the state, and exists as an intermediary between the private sphere and the state” (Tuncel, 2011, p. 14). In Türkiye, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are organized and operate under forms such as foundations, trade unions, professional chambers and associations, and their power to influence public policies remains quite low when examined in the context of their relations with the state.

When NGOs in Türkiye are compared to developed western capitalist countries, it is seen that the rate of citizen participation in NGOs is very low. For example, while the average rate of voluntary participation in organizations in European Union countries is 45%, this figure is only 9% in Türkiye (Savaş et. al., 2021, p. 286). The main reason for this is that NGOs have always been viewed with suspicion in Türkiye. NGOs have been seen by citizens as an area where the left-right conflict of the period was carried out. This is because the emergence of various organizations within the framework of leftist thought in civil society structuring in the 1960s led to the establishment of nationalist and religious-based non-governmental organizations in reaction, (Sezik, 2019, p.120) which negatively affected the trust in NGOs. This situation declined relatively after the 1980s when it became publicly known that the state was supporting various NGOs (Keyman, 2004, p. 8).

When evaluated in terms of their founding objectives and fields of activity, non-governmental organizations operating in Türkiye can be classified as social production and reference institutions, sensitizing institutions and charitable institutions (Erol, 1995, p. 57). In today's world and in Türkiye, NGOs produce social benefits and fill an important gap by operating in many areas that central government, local governments and the private sector cannot reach. The development of cooperation between NGOs and local governments has not only been shaped by the will of these institutions, but also by the Habitat II Conference in 1996, where local governments were recommended to cooperate with NGOs or to improve existing cooperation. Since then, many activities have been carried out within the framework of cooperation between local governments and NGOs (Bullain, 2006, p. 14).

In recent years, cooperation between local governments and NGOs has focused on migration. The multi-dimensional and complex nature of the migration phenomenon has diversified the agents involved in the management of the migration process, and developments in cooperation

between these agents have also accelerated. There has been a significant increase in the number of NGOs working on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers since the 2000s, coinciding with a period when Türkiye became a destination and transit country for irregular migrants and the state withdrew from social services (Türk, 2016, p. 147). The services provided by NGOs can sometimes be in-kind, material or health assistance, while other times they can be in different areas such as access to education, employment, finding housing, legal support, etc (Toksöz et, al., 2012, p. 124).

In fact, cooperation between local governments and NGOs on various issues has brought about various advantages for both sides. Although local governments are public legal entities with administrative and financial autonomy, almost all of these institutions have difficulties in terms of both financial and human resources. Social mobility, the emergence of social, cultural and sports activities, urban population growth, increasing specialization and stratification, urban areas becoming more heterogeneous and urban risks rising further have significantly increased the workload of local governments in recent years. As a result of collaborations with NGOs, those NGOs whose ultimate goal is to offer something to society, to contribute to the social well-being, contribute positively to the process with their volunteers specialized in a certain subject (Ökmen, 2015, p. 177).

4. The Examples of Cooperation Between NGOs and Local Governments on Urban Security in Malatya

NGOs, which have an important place in urban life, are very important as institutions that contribute to the development of urban people in many areas, develop their personality, and contribute to the improvement of their personality through activities in economic, political, educational, religious or cultural fields.

Table 1: Fields of Activity of NGOs Operating in Malatya (Malatya Associations Desk)

Order No	Type	Number of Associations
1	Associations for Individual Learning and Social Development	13
2	Environmental Wildlife Animal Protection Associations	17
3	Association for Solidarity with Turks Abroad	1
4	Associations for the Realization of Religious Services	176
5	Thought-Based Associations	9
6	Education Research Associations	72
7	Disabled Associations	17
8	Associations Operating in the Field of Food, Agriculture and Livestock	13
9	Rights and Advocacy Associations	14
10	Public Improvement, Urban Planning and Development Associations	13
11	Humanitarian Aid Associations	100
12	Associations Supporting Public Institutions and Employees	2
13	Culture, Arts and Tourism Associations	48
14	Professional and Solidarity Associations	321
15	Associations Operating in the Field of Health	21
16	Sports and Sports Related Associations	47
17	Martyrs' Relatives and Veterans Associations	4
18	Associations for the Preservation of Social Values	24
Total		912

In addition to the fact that the level and form of relations of civil society organizations with the city, the community and public institutions are directly related to the fields of activity of NGOs, the fields of activity of NGOs are also determined by volunteers who want to produce solutions to the problem areas encountered in society. For example, in some periods of time, thought-

based NGOs have emerged and tried to shape society through their activities. Similarly, in other periods, humanitarian NGOs or NGOs sensitive to the environment and wildlife may come to the fore. The developments that determine which area volunteers will focus on may be international political events, economic downturns or environmental disasters.

In Table 2, the distribution of NGOs operating in Malatya according to their fields of activity is given. Among these, Professional and Solidarity Associations have the highest number of NGOs with 321, followed by associations for the realization of religious services with 176 associations. This is followed by humanitarian aid associations with 100 associations.

In Malatya, a total of 912 NGOs are active and carry out various activities. However, among these CSOs, there is no association that accepts the topic of urban security as its duty, but it can be stated that humanitarian aid associations, educational research associations and associations related to sports and sports are very effective in fulfilling this function.

5. Research Findings

This research has been conducted with a Phenomenological approach. The main reason for choosing this approach is that Phenomenology focuses on phenomena that we are aware of but do not have a detailed and deep understanding of. We may encounter these phenomena in different ways in our daily lives, such as events, experiences, perceptions or situations. However, this does not mean that we fully understand these phenomena. Therefore, phenomenology is used for studies aiming to investigate the phenomena that we frequently encounter on a daily basis, which are not unfamiliar to us, but whose full meaning we cannot grasp, and constitutes a suitable research ground (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2016, p. 69).

The study focuses on NGOs established in Malatya that have an impact on urban security through their activities and develop cooperation with local governments in this regard. In this research, association managers, volunteers participating in association activities, and bureaucrats assigned by local governments were interviewed and analyzed in the light of the common experiences of individuals. This research was conducted through three NGOs that cooperate with local governments for activities that are considered to have an impact on urban security and focus their activities on disadvantaged youth. These structures were determined as Anadolu Ateşi Sports Club, which was established in 2006 and builds its activities on sports, Orphans Foundation, which started its activities in 2008, and Malatya Sham Association (Ya Damascus - Association for Solidarity and Education with Syrians), which started its activities in 2015.

The first question asked to the interviewees was *“What the most important security problem is for the city?”*. The manager of the Anadolu Ateşi sports club (S.Y), who responded to this question, stated that the most important security problem for cities and countries is young people who are alienated from family and community care, and that young people who are soulless, do not pursue any endeavor and hope to get rich by sitting down may be the source of more serious security problems in the future. Responding to the same question, the official of Ya Sham Association (F.D) answered by associating the issue with the February 6 earthquakes and stated that the chaotic structure and disorder that emerged after the earthquake started to threaten life safety. In addition, he stated that the deterioration of socioeconomic and socio-cultural structures negatively affected people's psychology and that the people of Malatya became more quarrelsome and intolerant. The founder and chairman of

the board of directors of the Orphans Foundation (İ.Ç) responded to the same question as follows: *“There are not enough police officers in Malatya, the fact that the streets are still not lighted, and that the roads damaged by the earthquake cannot be fully utilized constitute a security problem.”*

The second question answered by the interviewees was: *“What is the type of crime that children and young people are involved in?”* All three NGO representatives who participated in the research answered this question as drug addiction, gang membership, theft and harassment.

The answers given to the question of *“What kind of a study do you conduct on the factors that lead children to crime and what conclusions have you reached on this subject,”* asked to volunteers and managers working in associations, vary according to the fields of activity of the associations. Anadolu Ateşi Sports Club volunteers attributed the children's inclination towards crime to the region they live in and their living conditions, while Ya Sham Association volunteers stated that it was the lack of interest of families and problems in schooling. It was stated that the Orphans Foundation does not have any activities directly targeting children but works on families. It was stated that the association, which provides material and moral support to 2500 families, focuses on orphanhood and poverty and produces projects. The Anadolu Ateşi Association stated that they support young people and children participating in their activities through social, cultural and sporting activities, and that young people disciplined through school, sports and competitions have reached the level of national teams.

The answers to the question *“What can you say about the socio-economic factors and family structures that push children and young people into crime?”*, which was asked in order to better understand the situation of children and young people involved in crime, also differ according to the participant association managers. The manager of the Anadolu Ateşi Association (R.A) stated that in a significant number of the young people and children they encourage to sports, their fathers do not work, some of their mothers work in day-labor, some of their parents were sentenced for drug dealing or theft, and some of them are out on probation. Employees of Ya Sham Association (E.G., M.S.) responded to this question by saying *“The economies of the families are very bad, below the minimum subsistence limit and domestic violence is common.”* A volunteer from the Orphans Foundation (İ.Ç) responded to this question as follows: *“The irregularity in the family structure of children and the lack of awareness of mothers increase the influence of friends on children. In general, children from low-income families are involved in crime, but there are also many cases where children from better-off families are involved.”*

In response to the question of the role of the relations between educational institutions and NGOs in reducing the tendency to engage in crime, *“What is the role of the education system in children getting involved in crime? How can educational institutions support this issue? What kind of collaboration can be made between NGOs, local governments and educational institutions on this issue?”*, Anadolu Ateşi Sports Club volunteer (A.Y, R.A) made the following assessment on this issue: *“Unfortunately, teachers go to school to complete their working hours and students go to school to spend the day. Public resources cannot be used efficiently. Although we requested a shuttle service for our student athletes who were placed in containers after the earthquake to reach their schools easily, the District National Education Directorate preferred to change their schools instead of meeting this requirement. For this reason, we had*

students who dropped out of school.” The volunteer of Ya Sham association (M.S, B.B) stated that it has become a necessity for school guidance services to be more active and that local governments and educational institutions occasionally organize various vocational courses for the children and youth of families residing in Malatya with temporary shelter status in order to ensure their professional development. A volunteer from the Orphans Foundation (H.G) emphasized that local governments and educational institutions should develop closer cooperation with NGOs.

“What are the programs and support provided by local governments for the rehabilitation of children involved in crime?” When the answers given to the question were examined, the volunteer of Orphans Foundation (İ.Ç.) answered as follows: “Since the rehabilitation of young people and children requires expertise, both local governments and the central administration should take responsibility”, while the volunteer of Ya Sham Association (M.S., B.B.) stated that “children under temporary protection are generally neglected in the programs carried out by local governments”. The question of what could be the reason for this was answered as social pressures, perceptions created on social media and political pressures. The founder of the Anadolu Ateşi Sports Club (S.Y) answered this question by stating that even a small support given by a municipality is turned into an advertisement as if it is a very big thing and continued: “One of our municipalities gave us small support and published our activities in and out of the province with pictures and videos. As a result, they were awarded the first prize among hundreds of municipalities using our work. Then the support was cut off. There must be sincerity in the work, there must be a love of serving young people. When this is not the case, everything becomes “as if”.”

The common response to the question *“Do you find the practices of local governments sufficient for urban security?”* was that the temporary shelter centers created after the earthquake had significant security problems and that security measures in park areas were inadequate. The lack of adequate sports fields in park areas and the renting of a public space such as a park to merchants are also considered as neglect of the city's youth.

The question of *“What support local governments provide for the sporting activities of youth and children?”* was answered by NGO volunteers and municipality employees. A volunteer from the Orphans Foundation stated that “fees should not be charged for sports halls and swimming pools and the number of facilities should be increased. Young people should be directed to cycling and wrestling, which is our national sport, and the support in these areas is very inadequate”, while a volunteer from Ya Sham Association (E.G) said, ‘The sports fields created in the city are inadequate, and the support provided to young people and children for their sportive activities is also very inadequate’. Anadolu Ateşi Sports Club volunteers (R.A, D.Y.) stated that it is not appropriate to put all municipalities in the same category and continued, “For example, the Metropolitan Municipality sees sports as an unnecessary endeavor, Battalgazi Municipality is in favor of supporting it but is afraid of the economic burden, and Yeşilyurt Municipality supports activities on a project basis. This is also insufficient.”

Battalgazi Municipality and Yeşilyurt Municipality officials (B.P., B.P.) stated that the majority of NGOs are in financial difficulties and constantly demand financial support for their activities as they cannot receive the monthly payments they are supposed to receive from volunteers. It is seen that Yeşilyurt Municipality, which carefully follows the activities of the Orphans

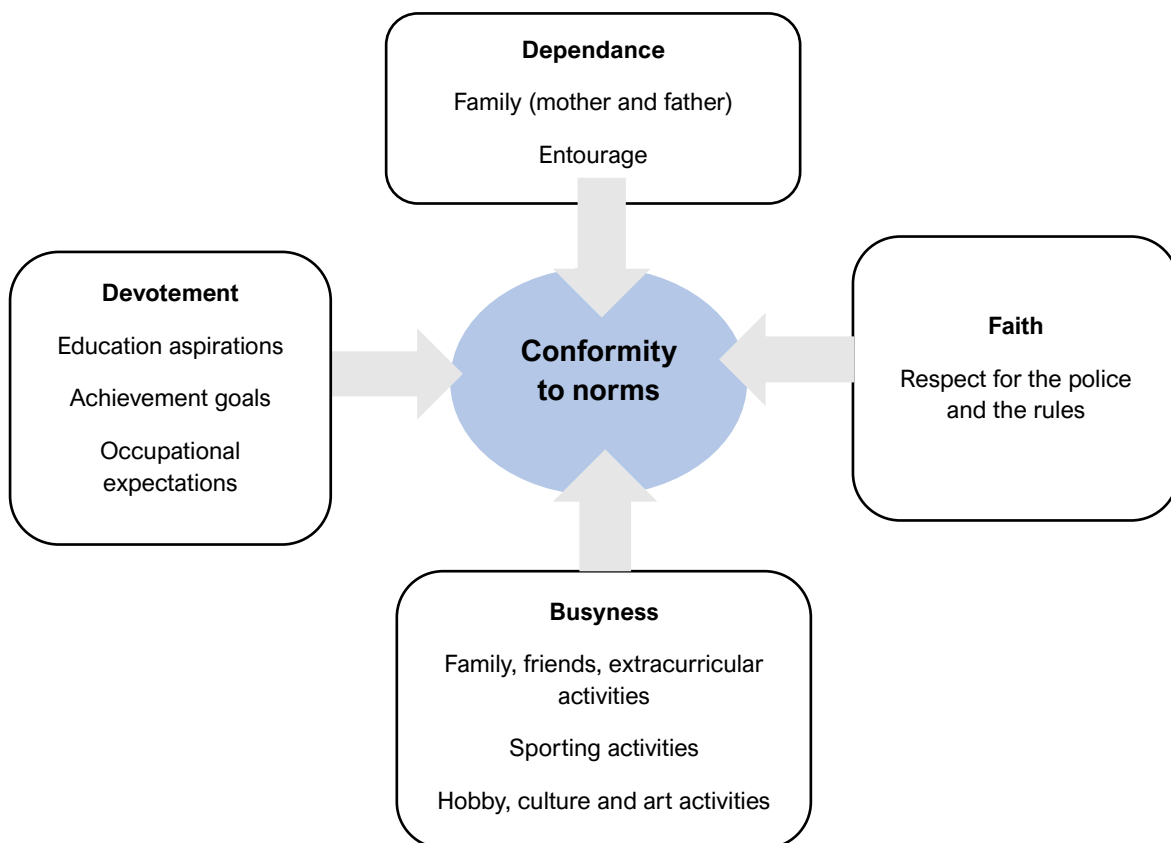
Foundation, has implemented the Orphan Coordination Unit within the municipality to address similar issues.

Yeşilyurt Municipality official (A.T., İ.B.) stated that it is very important but also very difficult for municipalities to meet the educational problems and financial needs, especially the education of the families of young people and children who are involved in crime or under the threat of being involved in crime, and continued that the employment of expert educators, the solution of transportation problems of these children, the inadequacy of facilities that can provide education and sports opportunities, each of which requires serious financial resources. They concluded their words by saying, “The resources allocated for these issues are unfortunately limited, but despite this, the good work of the NGOs with whom we cooperate on projects within the framework of our possibilities makes us happy.”

6. Discussion and Assessment

One of the situations that emerged as a result of the interviews is the need to strengthen the social ties that children and young people have established with the society. Indeed, people stay away from criminal acts because of the fear that the relationships they have established with their social environment such as family, friends, neighbors, profession and school will be damaged. The social bond theory developed by Hirschi, who worked in the context of preventing children and young people from committing crimes in urban spaces, is very important in terms of understanding the evaluations put forward by the research. Hirschi saw the emergence of crime as the weakening or breaking of the ties between the individual and the society and tried to explain what these broken ties are.

Figure 2: Hirschi's Theory of Social Bonds (Bingöl, İlhan; 2022, p. 648).



Hirschi, who discusses the ties between the individual and society through four factors, lists these factors as follows: 1- Commitment, 2- Dedication, 3- Continuous engagement and social activities, 4-Belief (Güçlü & Akbaş, 2016, p. 103).

As a result of a child or young person's attachment to his/her family and circle of friends with a bond of love, he/she will stay away from behaviors that they may not like. This bond is therefore very important.

As in the rational choice theory, human beings are essentially rational beings who behave rationally and calculate the profit and loss to be gained as a result of their behavior. Therefore, young people need motivation to achieve their legitimate goals of success and to realize their educational aspirations. For this reason, the educational aspirations, success goals and professional expectations of young people should be supported by local governments and NGOs.

Young people who see themselves as future engineers, doctors, teachers or specialists in any field of work will be more likely to obey the rules. It can be stated that the NGOs and local governments interviewed in this regard have achieved this through various training programs.

It is also very important to plan children and young people's time apart from education. Extracurricular activities such as sporting, cultural and artistic activities will occupy young people's time and keep them away from criminal activities. It can be said that there are activities of NGOs and local governments that were interviewed within the scope of the research on this issue. However, it is very important to increase the number and diversify the activities on this issue.

As long as norms and rules are followed by individuals, crime and deviant behaviors can be prevented. As a matter of fact, individuals adopt and internalize social norms if they believe in their necessity and correctness (Güçlü & Akbaş, 2016, p. 105). Children and young people's respect for social norms is realized through a healthy socialization process. While the family is the most prominent institution in healthy socialization, the circle of friends, educational institutions and NGOs are also very important. In this research, it was observed that NGOs receiving support from local governments intervened in the process of mis-socialization caused by family and friends and brought young people who respect. There are very few associations in Malatya that focus on youth and children in terms of their work areas and policies. In studies examining the relationship between crime and guilt, the family is mentioned as the primary rules and are disciplined into society.

7. Conclusion

Socialization institution in the socialization of the individual. This is because the family transmits the rules, customs, traditions and culture of the society to children. As a result of the problems experienced in the family, which is the primary institution of socialization, children and young people may tend to become irregular. As a matter of fact, according to the data obtained from the interviewees, it is easier for children and youth to be pushed into crime in homes and neighborhoods where domestic violence, family carelessness and socioeconomic inadequacies are experienced. One of the most basic results of the interviews is that the most common crimes committed in juvenile delinquency are crimes against the person, crimes against property and sexual crimes.

Children and youth who do not want to experience social exclusion in the neighborhoods where they live see themselves as members of a group through gangs where crime is socially organized. As a result of the participation of these young people and children in clubs and associations where they can show their talents, become disciplined and obtain the status of “athlete”, which is an acceptable status in society, they will also become a member of a group accepted by society.

In today's Türkiye, since education has largely ceased to be a means of cultural and economic class advancement, young people do not pay the necessary attention to education. In addition, as a result of educators' substituting a working approach for idealistic education, the problems in educational institutions are getting bigger.

Although each of the NGOs subject in this research produces important projects in the name of social responsibility, the number of young people and children they can reach is quite limited. One of the main reasons for this is the lack of financial resources, while the other is the lack of sufficient human resources. Trying to overcome these deficiencies through municipalities may exceed the power of municipalities. NGOs should overcome their financial resource problems by mobilizing their volunteers, and should ask for help from municipalities when they need expert support. Municipalities, on the other hand, need to organize their collaborations with NGOs as realistic collaborations rather than advertising themselves, and they should focus on social service activities for young people and children rather than the social assistance activities of NGOs.

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