

Sustainability of Local Government Laws and Sports Services in Turkey

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ABSTRACT

Background: Sustainability is a concept that has been frequently heard and therefore given importance recently. Ecological changes occurring today, ever-increasing excessive consumption habits, unstoppable population growth rate and economic developments have caused this concept to become widespread. Therefore, states have had to act by considering their continuity and future in the planning of all kinds of services to be offered to the public.

Aim: The aim of this study is to determine the dimensions of sustainability in local government laws in the field of sports and its effect on sports services.

Methods: The case studies design was used in the study, which was designed according to the qualitative research model. Herein, in accordance with the purpose of the research document review and scanning method, which are the data collection methods, were used. It is aimed to reach more sources by analyzing the written materials containing information about the targeted phenomenon or cases.

Results: When local government laws are examined in terms of economic and environmental sustainability, there are no explanatory and satisfactory explanations regarding these issues.

Conclusion: It cannot be said that local government laws on sports and sports services are satisfactory in terms of social, and economic sustainability

Keywords: Sustainability, Local Governments, Sports Services, Rural Areas, Turkey

INTRODUCTION

Sustainability is a concept that has been frequently heard and therefore given importance recently. The ecological changes that have occurred, the ever-increasing excessive consumption habits, the unstoppable population growth rate have caused this concept to become widespread. To put it simply and understandably, sustainability is meeting your own needs while not compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.¹ Moreover, the continuation of the services provided institutionally, including future generations, without interruption, can also be called the ability to be permanent. According to the definition of the United Nations Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 used following expression: sustainability has three basic dimensions, economic, ecological, and social, and "Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable by meeting their daily needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs."²At the heart of sustainability there are not only environmental effects, but also economic and social effects are in existence. This concept has come to the present day by undergoing a multifaceted change and especially recently has entered our lives intensively.³ This concept, which is used in many areas of life, is based on the principle of transferring resources to the future and meeting development needs.⁴The concept of sustainability is associated with the concept of efficiency and is also expressed as "maintaining productivity despite obstacles"⁵⁻⁶. Sustainability should be an understanding which individuals, businesses, and institutions should take responsibility about it in all societies. If everyone makes their decisions considering their impact on future generations, the world can be moved environmentally, socially, and economically farther from where it is.⁷ However, it encourages every part of society to

make decisions by considering the long-term environmental, social, and economic effects rather than short-term gains.⁸ At the same time, it creates a balanced environment in which resources are protected, investments are determined, technological development is directed, and institutional change is in harmony, and the potential to meet human needs and wants is preserved both for the present and for the future.⁹

There are several approaches about the sustainability. The first model that forms the triad of environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and social sustainability is the most widely accepted model for sustainability. Studies focusing on the concepts of "sustainability" and "sustainable development", which have come to the fore due to rapid changes and developments in every field, where the fast consumption in the world pushes the limits, are continuing in various disciplines today. Sport has been an important political tool for countries for centuries to support social development, to raise moral and healthy citizens and to provide personal and social control.¹⁰ Since the concept of sport is a multifaceted, comprehensive, and diverse phenomenon that includes many elements, the concept of sustainability also concerns sports from many different aspects. Meanwhile sport helps to protect the health of people, on the other hand, it enables the person to develop socially, cognitively, and emotionally, making life gain meaning and shaping. The concept of sports is one of the most important fields of study that will serve to meet the needs of today, which is the main purpose of sustainability, without hindering the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.¹¹ At the stage of defining sustainability in sports, it is seen that the number of studies on sustainability in sports is limited and the theoretical bases cannot be fully established. The concept of "sustainability", whose main purpose is to ensure that people live a happy life by meeting their social,

emotional, and physical needs, should be addressed in sports with different dimensions. Sustainability in sports can be defined as making the necessary legal arrangements, constructing, and using sports facilities for human happiness and quality life, transferring them to future generations, planning and creating organizations that can be sustained for generations, ensuring continuity in sports services, and managing all of them institutionally. Therefore, the aim of this study is to determine the dimensions of sustainability in local government laws in the field of sports and its effect on sports services.

MATERIAL & METHODS

The case studies design was used in the study, which was designed according to the qualitative research model. Situation analysis is a method in which one or more events, environments, programs, social groups, or other interconnected systems are examined in depth.¹² Accordingly, document analysis method, one of the data collection methods, was used in accordance with the purpose of the research. Document analysis includes the analysis of written materials containing information about the case or cases that are aimed to be investigated

RESULTS

DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Social Sustainability

The concept of social sustainability includes issues such as social equality, livability, community development, social capital, social support, human rights, settlement, social responsibility, social justice, cultural competence. Institutions, organizations, and businesses, considering the social existence, caring about social problems other than their duties and interests and thinking about the possible consequences of the steps to be taken form the basis of responsible behavior.¹⁴⁻² Social sustainability measures employment conditions and rights applied within institutions, health, safety, and welfare of employees. Furthermore, the level and quality of the relationship of the organization with other stakeholders is also an important part of social sustainability.

The loyalty of the employees and establishing fair and durable relations with the serviced segments can create a protective shield as the biggest capital of the institutions in difficult times. Social sustainability is not business of today, but it requires long-term planning with a strategic perspective. However, it is a way of capital accumulation that cannot be ignored to create fair, livable, and durable social relations, to save the future of institutions and to reduce the size of fluctuations.¹⁵

It is possible to define social sustainability as the process of understanding what people need from the places where they live and work, creating sustainable and successful places that support welfare and providing services, and ensuring the participation of citizens by preparing infrastructure and social facilities that support social and cultural life. Thus, socially sustainable, equitable, diverse, connected, democratic and a good quality of life is created for communities.

The dimension of sustainability studies related to society and individuals reveals the importance of approaching the issues from a social perspective.¹⁶ The

social dimension of sustainable development emphasizes meeting the basic needs of the members living in the society. Concordantly, social sustainability can be thought of as the process of understanding what people need from the places where people live and work, and creating sustainable, successful places that provide well-being.¹⁷ In other words, social sustainability includes the creation of physical, cultural, and social spaces that support social sensitivity and social welfare, and the process of interacting with the people living in these places.¹⁸ Herein, it can be said that various investments should be made to ensure social sustainability. These investments are ensuring access and equality in receiving various social benefits and services, access to basic health, education, and similar rights, not disrupting the livelihoods of communities and not changing their settlements involuntarily.¹⁹ Five basic principles can be mentioned to create a socially sustainable society. These principles²⁰ Equality; Equal opportunities and services should be provided for all members of the community, especially those who are financially disadvantaged. Variation; Diversity for communities should be encouraged. Loyalty; Systems and structures that enable interconnection at the formal, informal and institutional level within and outside the community should be promoted and provided. Life quality; Ensure that basic needs are met and a good quality of life is developed for all members at the individual, group and community level. Democracy and administration; Democratic processes, transparent and accountable management structures should be provided for the community.²¹

Economic Sustainability: The goal of development and structure of sustainable institutions are to maintain the economic welfare-producing capacity of societies and to provide future generations with a level of welfare equivalent to current generations. Herein, the fact that individual and social welfare, personal benefit, income, and consumption do not decrease over time is defined as sustainability.²²⁻²¹ In terms of administrations, economic sustainability is to provide the services to the societies which they need and meanwhile, the main purpose of institutions, which are economic entities, is to make their economic performance and activities sustainable by maximizing their income, and to protect the image of institutions based on society. Therefore, economic sustainability is considered as an approach that aims to be profitable and continuity while maintaining activities and services that are beneficial to the society. This approach aims to create value for the benefit of society in the long term by utilizing the opportunities that arise with economic, social, and environmental activities.²³⁻²⁴

Environmental Sustainability: In recent years, mostly due to the “physical, social, psychological, sensory, and cognitive” negative effects of city life on people, people go to different places and participate in some activities to get rid of the monotonous lifestyle of city life, even for short periods. At the beginning of these activities, sports activities come. The concept of sustainability, which ensures that the vital factors that nature and the environment offer to people and that exist for their happiness and survival, are renewable again without being consumed, should be also considered in sports with different dimensions. Sports can be done in indoor and

outdoor facilities with its features, in natural environments and areas, with various tools and materials. Environmental sustainability in sports can be realized by the construction and use of sports facilities and sports venues and areas for human happiness and quality life, creation and planning of organizations and activities that can be sustained for generations with their functional and qualitative characteristics and it can be defined as the management and monitoring of all of them.²⁵ An environmentally sustainable sport is achieved through the effective and efficient use of all sub-systems and the natural environment and areas where it is made. Karpuzcu²⁶ defines the environment as the sum of the physical, chemical, biological, and social factors that can have an immediate or later direct or indirect effect on human activities and living beings. It can be defined as an environment in which living things live, in which they are dependent on vital conditions and in which they are affected and affecting others in various ways.²⁷ In the field of sports, the concept of environmental sustainability appears as a part of sustainable development, to prevent emerging environmental problems and destructions and to contribute to the protection of natural habitats.²⁸ Today, constructed sports halls, stadiums and other sports structures have very wide functions. These goals should fully coincide with the environment and sustainable development.²⁹ According to Mazurkiewicz,³⁰ environmental sustainability is defined as minimizing waste and harmful emissions in the production and facility planning of institutions and organizations, increasing efficiency in the use of resources, and ensuring that future generations benefit from the country's resources at a high level. In order that minimize the significant environmental impacts in sports and recreation areas and to ensure environmental sustainability, the following important questions must be answered before designing the facilities. • Is this facility needed? • What type of facility best meets the needs of potential users? • What will be the long-term consumptions (financial, social, and environmental) of the facility and who/what resources/livings will pay these costs? • Which living creatures will threaten the habitat during the construction phase of this facility and what effects will it have on the sustainability of life there? If these critical questions are fully answered and needs can be determined correctly, energy savings and environmental costs will be achieved, conflicts will be prevented, and financial or ecological destruction will be avoided.³¹

Local Government Laws in Turkey and Duties and Responsibilities on Sports Services

Local government units in Turkey are divided into three: Special Provincial Administrations, Municipalities and Villages.

a) Duties and Responsibilities of Special Provincial Administrations in Sports Services

Special Provincial Administrations must act in accordance with the Law No. 5302 of 2005. When we look at the articles of this law:

Article 6- Provided that it is within the borders of the city: Making an environmental plan for youth and sports, health, agriculture, industry, and commerce. Kindergartens and hostels: It is responsible for providing a place for primary and secondary education institutions, construction,

maintenance and repair of their buildings and providing services related to meeting their other needs.

In Article 62, editing has been made by saying, *...depending on the decision of the provincial council, the special provincial administration may become a member of international organizations and organizations operating on issues related to its field of duty and may carry out joint activities and service projects.*

Article 64 allows *joint projects to be carried out with associations on matters related to their duties, in line with the public interest and in line with the positive opinions of the provincial assemblies.* Sports clubs are also associations in Turkey. Therefore, it can be said that clubs can benefit from this article.

With the regulation made in Article 65, *... the special provincial administration implements programs for the participation of volunteers in order that ensure solidarity and participation in the province in the provision of health, education, sports, environment, traffic and cultural services and services for the elderly, women, and children, the disabled and the poor.*

b) Duties and Responsibilities of Metropolitan Municipalities in Sports Services

There are two types of Municipalism in Turkey. The first is the municipalities and the second is the metropolitan municipalities. Metropolitan municipalities act within the framework of Law No. 5216 of 2004. In the third part, where the duties and responsibilities of the metropolitan municipality are explained (7/m), it is stated that, *... to build, have, operate, or have the social areas, regional parks, zoos, animal shelters, libraries, museums, sports, entertainment, and similar places to serve the Metropolitan.*

It has been defined as *...to provide financial aid to amateur sports clubs when necessary, to provide materials, to organize sports competitions between amateur teams, to award athletes, managers, trainers, and students who have excelled in national and international competitions or won degrees, by the decision of the city council.* Nevertheless, in article 7 section d, *... Building parking lots, sports, recreation and entertainment places and parks, providing social and cultural services for the elderly, disabled, women, youth, and children...* duties has been given to metropolitan municipalities. In Article 15 it is stated that *... it is obligatory to establish a zoning and public works commission, environment and health commission, plan and budget commission, education, culture, youth and sports commission and transportation commission within the metropolitan municipality council.*

Duties and Responsibilities of Municipalities on Sports Services: The concept of sports in municipal services is also included in the Municipal Law No. 5393 of 2005.

Article 14 stated that *... it provides traffic, cemeteries, afforestation, parks and green areas, housing, culture and art, tourism and promotion, youth and sports, social service and assistance, marriage, vocational training, development of trade in the city.*

When necessary, in order that promote sports, it gives sports materials to young people, provides financial aid and support to amateur sports clubs, and organizes all kinds of amateur sports events. It may awards students, athletes, technical managers, and coaches who have excelled in national and international competitions or received

degrees, by the decision of the city council.

In the first p section of the same law:

It can develop economic and social relations with municipalities and local administrations in the country and abroad with the permission of the Ministry of Interior. It can carry out activities and projects in fields such as culture, art, and sports. Within this framework, it may decide to construct, have, lease, or allocate land, buildings, and similar facilities.

In Article 75 - in line with the decision of the city council and the agreement, the municipality would make:

- a) *It may undertake the construction, maintenance, repair, and transportation works of local administrations and other public institutions and organizations, with or without charge, or realize joint service projects with these institutions.*
- b) *It may realize joint service projects with professional organizations in public institutions, associations working for the public interest, associations, and foundations for the disabled.*

Thus, it was tried to support sports services.³²

Article 26, stating the duties of the youth and sports directorates, includes following statements: *"While municipalities are preparing their city plans, it is essential that they receive the opinions and proposals of the provincial advisory board and the sports directorate in determining the places they will allocate. It is obligatory to establish sports facilities in mass housing, organized industrial zones, educational institutions and factory projects."*

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d) Roles and Responsibilities of Village Administrations in Sports Services

Villages in Turkey are governed by Law No. 442.

There is no article related to sports in this law. However, thanks to other laws that can be associated with villages, sports services are offered. In the Law No: 5355 of 2005 it is stated that: *Local administrations (special provincial administration, municipality, and village) may establish unions among themselves to carry out one or more of the duties assigned to them.* In the Law No: 5355 and Article 18 stated that: *A service delivery union may be established with the participation of all villages in order that assist, perform, have other services carried out by the villages and to ensure rural development.* Herein, it can be said that, starting from the unity created, it can be said that the establishment of the union of providing services to the villages has been paved with the participation of all villages for the provision of services (including sports services) included in the special provincial administration and municipal law.³

DISCUSSION

When the laws which are obligatory for local government are examined in terms of sports and sports services, these concepts are usually not directly mentioned. Instead, it is being taking out a duty from the situation associated with other services that are planned to be offered to the public. Under these circumstances, the level of perception of sports and sports services by local units and their willingness to do so come to the fore. This situation creates an atmosphere that can be done in local governments if they wish or if it is deemed appropriate, and as a result, the services that should be offered to the citizens are adversely affected. Koçak et al,¹¹ described sustainability in sports as, *"Making the necessary legal arrangements, constructing and using sports facilities for human happiness and quality life, transferring them to future generations, planning and creating organizations that can be sustained for generations, ensuring continuity in sports services and corporate management of all of them"*.

At this point, when the issue is considered from the perspective of sustainability, it cannot be said that local government laws meet these criteria. While the laws are being prepared, if the decisions to be taken are made considering the effect on future generations, the world can be moved much further than it is, both environmentally and socially and economically. However, the laws should encourage all those who will serve the society to make decisions considering the long-term environmental, social,

and economic impacts rather than short-term gains. At the same time, it should be made clear that resources are protected, investments determined, and even in the event of a change of management, the potential to meet human needs and desires will be preserved both now and for the future. However, when the local government laws are examined, it is observed that there are no clear statements that will include these issues. Woodcraft et al.¹⁷ identified the social dimension of sustainable development as the process of meeting the basic needs of the members living in the society, understanding what people need in the places where they live and working, and creating successful places that provide welfare. In other words, social sustainability includes the creation of physical, cultural, and social spaces that support social sensitivity and social welfare, and the process of interacting with the people living in these places.¹⁸ In this context, when we look at local government laws in terms of social sustainability, it is seen that there are no clear statements. Regarding economic sustainability, Kurnaz and Kestane²⁴ consider it as an approach that aims at the continuity and sustainability of economic performance and activities by maximizing the income of the most basic purpose of institutions, while providing the services they need. Nevertheless, regarding the issue of sustainability, Pepe²⁵ defines environmental sustainability in sports as the construction of sports facilities and sports venues and areas for human happiness and quality life, the effective and efficient use of natural environment and areas, the planning of organizations and activities that can be sustained for generations, and the management of all these. When local government laws are examined in terms of economic and environmental sustainability, there are no explanatory and satisfactory explanations regarding these issues.

CONCLUSION

As a result, it cannot be said that local government laws on sports and sports services are satisfactory in terms of social, environmental, and economic sustainability.

Suggestions:

- ✓ Within the laws of the Local Government, the provisions regarding sports and sports services should be presented directly under the title of sports, not indirectly.
- ✓ Provisions regarding sports and sports services should not be open to interpretation by the units that will provide these services and should be understandable and clear.
- ✓ Provisions on the provision of sports and sports services to the public should express certainty and order.
- ✓ Social, economic, and environmental sustainability aspects of sports should be considered while preparing laws related to local governments.
- ✓ Laws should encourage every segment that will serve the community to make decisions considering the long-term environmental, social, and economic impacts, rather than short-term gains.

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