

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DYNAMICS OF DEVELOPMENT  
**CASE STUDIES**



**Editors**

**Savaş Çevik, Hamza Şimşek & Harini Mittal**

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# **SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DYNAMICS OF DEVELOPMENT CASE STUDIES**

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# **Introduction**

## **Social & Economic Dynamics of Development: Case Studies**

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*Hamza Şimşek*  
*Harini Mittal*

**I**t is reasonable to accept that there is no simple answer to achieving development. It is a complex, changing, flexible and dynamic phenomenon which is influenced and determined by various factors (Pitt, 1976). Indeed, the development itself is multidimensional in terms of both indicators and determinants. While economic relations among actors produce social outcomes, social interactions are expected to create important economic outcomes on societies' prosperity. Today, almost all approaches to development recognize that fighting poverty and unemployment, increasing social and human capital, establishing institutional state capacity and social-political stability and even creating a developmental culture (Erdoğan, 2015) are important factors to enhance economic performance of the nations.

Thus, economic development must also be examined as a product of social and economic interactions between the society's members. This book presents some case studies on macroeconomic issues such as unemployment, tax structure and R&D activities/supports, on socio-economic dimensions such as gender problems in economic activities, and industrial relations and on consuming behaviors. The book is based on the selected papers presented in 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Political Economy whose main theme was 'State, Economic Policy, Taxation and Economic Development', held in Istanbul on June 28-30, 2016.

One important concern in economics is measuring welfare of nations and explaining differences between countries in formulating appropriate economic policies. Standard economic approach mostly assumes that the economic welfare of nations is reflected in per capita national income. However, this measure is criticized to be insufficient to indicate the welfare level of a country and its citizens. Besides, the economic development is a multidimensional phenomenon beyond monetary measurement. A recent trend in economics is to study the subjective well-being and the quality of life (QOL) to capture exact level of welfare. In this context, the first study of the book by Feyyaz Cengiz Dikmen and Gülten Dursun analyzes the QOL indicators to rank Turkish provinces and to determine differences between provinces with the help of Multi-Objective Optimization by Ratio Analysis (MOORA) methodology. MOORA is mostly used in engineering decision problems.

## **Introduction**

Next two chapters focus on social exclusion and inequality issues. In Chapter 2, Hilal Yıldız and Tuğçe Çağlayan analyze the interrelation between social exclusion and financial exclusion by using survey data collected in Marmara Region of Turkey. As they provide empirical contribution to the subject rarely examined for Turkey, the results indicate that financial exclusion is associated with social exclusion. The paper by Fatma Eda Çelik and Aslı Yılmaz Uçar in Chapter 3 examines the redistributive impact of the Law 6360 which is an amendment that imposes significant change in Turkey's administrative structure. Although the amendment in question was discussed with respect to political, administrative and legal dimensions, Çelik and Uçar focus on the relatively neglected side of the subject, the possible redistributive outcomes of this change in legal-administrative framework, through specific cases from rural and urban settlements.

Chapter 4 and 5 consider the gender dimension of development and unemployment. In her examination of gender roles in Chapter 4, Sevgi Uçan Çubukçu discusses how women's role in public sphere was affected by the Second World War and the economic policies of the wartime with the help of archival documents and daily newspapers and periodicals of that period. She concludes that gender roles in Turkey were very similar to those in battling countries with respect to a dominant image of educated, economizing and reproducing woman, even though Turkey did not get involved in the war. Aslı Yenipazarlı, Necmiye Cömertler Şimşir and Funda Çondur in Chapter 5 examine the relationship between unemployment and economic growth with aspect of gender. As mostly macroeconomic studies tend to deal with aggregate unemployment in association with economic performance, authors analyze the male and female unemployment separately in a panel data from EMG20. They conclude that economic growth has impact on decreasing in male employment rather than female unemployment, although this gender-specific effect is weak in some fragile countries such as Turkey and Mexico.

In Chapter 6, Gülten Dursun and Ervisa Sulmina investigate the unemployment problem, one of the most serious phenomena in contemporary economies. Unemployment can be seen as a result of labor market characteristics, in the form of the natural rate of employment. On the other hand, according to hysteresis hypothesis, the natural rate of unemployment could be "pulled" by actual unemployment rate in the same direction. Analyzing panel data from fourteen European countries, Dursun and Sulmina present evidence in favor of the hysteresis hypothesis in all the European countries except Belgium and the Netherlands. However, when they introduce structural breaks the results are in the favor of natural rate of unemployment.

Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 investigate the nexus between governmental activities and economics performance. In Chapter 7, Çiğdem Börke Tunalı empirically analyzes the Wagner's law on the expansion of the governmental activities by depending on the level of economics development, a famous discussion in economic literature. She empirically tests if per capita GDP leads an increase in government expenditures in the nine European Union countries through time series techniques. Halit Yanıkkaya and Taner Turan analyze the effect of tax structure on economic growth using the data of a panel of countries in Chapter 8. Their finding reveals how taxation impacts economic growth different countries in different ways. According to results of the study, the robust and significant effect of general level of taxation was found only for lower income countries. Besides, while the shifting from income tax to consumption and property taxes leads to significant and positive effect on growth for the whole sample, for the low income countries, a shifting from consumption and property taxes to income taxes produces the positive effect on the growth.

Chapter 8 and 9 examine the R&D, patenting and innovation which are important to create technology and to stimulate economic performance. Osman Geyik and Aykut Aydın provide the outcomes of a survey on the relationship between R&D incentives and patenting in the case of Turkey in Chapter 8. Along with a comparison of R&D incentives, R&D expenditures and patenting data to reflect Turkey's position in international level, they also discuss the reasons for low level of patenting and innovations of Turkey. In Chapter 9, Ünal Töngür empirically examines the determinants of

patent activities by analyzing provincial level data in Turkey. He concludes that human capital and technological infrastructure are important for obtaining R&D support. He also finds that R&D support increases patent activities.

Next two chapters deal with labor relations in the context of case studies and methodological issues. In Chapter 10, İlyas Coşkun and Şule Daldal provide a comprehensive account of the unionization problem in textile sector which is one of the most labor-intensive sectors in Turkey and elsewhere in the world. While Turkey has a low rate of unionization compared to OECD countries, textile and readymade garment sector is an important employment area for fragile labor such as women or unskilled workers. Thus, the paper discusses the worker's problems and reveals findings to understand structural problems that arose from inter-parties relationships in a specific case of the embroidery sector. In Chapter 11, Taner Akpınar considers methodological problems to study labor relationship in Chapter 12. He argues that the mainstream perspectives and current structure of research on labor relations mostly ignore many important sectors such as agriculture and small and medium-sized enterprises, while the dominant theoretical paradigm which was developed from Western societies' experiences in the area does not provide a satisfactory explanation for issues with respect to labor relations in developing countries.

The last two chapters of the book are on consumer perspective and behaviors. Chapter 12 by Muhammad Ubair Riaz provides an empirical analysis based on survey data on determinants of inbound tourism in the case of Pakistan. Tourism can be seen as important alternative resource of revenue for Pakistan given its natural touristic places and economic problems as unemployment. The study's finding indicates that factors such as availability of facilities, tourist information system, cost living, distance and the level of corruption were important determinants of the intent of inbound tourism. In the last paper, Eyyup Yaraş examines the effect of culture, lifestyle and psychographic features of consumers on their expectancy of the benefit of a brand. Using the findings of the structural equation modeling of survey data from US residents, Yaraş argues that cultural orientation, social and emotional value perception have indispensable effects on consumers' brand and quality perceptions. These findings may be important to figure out the consumption behavior of contemporary people.

November 2016

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# SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DYNAMICS OF DEVELOPMENT CASE STUDIES

International Conference of Political Economy (ICOPEC ), takes as a goal to identify and analyze the status of its age, held its first conference with the theme "International Political Economy: Adam Smith Today " in 2009. Following the ICOPEC conference, JOPEC Publication started to be published in 2010 . JOPEC Publication aims at searching required alternatives, in addition to existing alternatives, with a critical approach, has been the main supporter of ICOPEC conference by including the studies in this context. In 2016, ICOPEC conferences were turned into a conference series with its 7th conference and the main theme of the 7th conference was determined as "State, Economic Policy, Taxation and Development". JOPEC Publication has undertaken to publish the papers, presented at this conference in English and Turkish, as an e-book. It is reasonable to accept that there is no simple answer to achieving development. Today, almost all approaches to development recognize that fighting poverty and unemployment, increasing social and human capital, establishing institutional state capacity and social-political stability and even creating a developmental culture are important factors to enhance economic performance of the nations. This book presents some case studies on macroeconomic issues such as unemployment, tax structure and R&D activities/supports, on socio-economic dimensions such as gender problems in economic activities, and industrial relations and on consuming behaviors.

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