

PROTECTION OF ART WORKS AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: GOVERNMENTAL DIMENSION AND POLICY IN TURKEY

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Abstract

Art works are the most valuable and available instruments that inform people about the value of the past and the value of life. Therefore, they are expected to be protected against environmental and intentional dangers. This could be done through sustainable governmental policies.

Many historical remains and art works are common heritage of mankind on the earth which will need to be protected for future of mankind. Thus, this study uses Turkey as a case in the assessment of the needs for the protection of art works and historical heritage against environmental change.

The study recognises that Turkey has great numbers of historical remains, heritages and art works from different civilizations which the Turkish government has not made appropriate decisions or given complete protection.

Keywords: Historical heritage, environment, protection, policy and art works.

Introduction

There are many historical remains and art works which are common heritage of mankind on the earth which will need to be protected for future of mankind. Life on the earth changes rapidly because of technological advancements and consumption approaches which yields environment pollutions daily (Calef and Goble, 2007). Meanwhile all historical accumulation and art works of past are in danger of pollution.

In some countries, governments enact laws to protect environmental values, historical and artistic accumulations. The mission of the government is to have environmental policy that will convey environmental and historical heritage to the future (Gabriel and Terich, 2005).

Developed countries are more likely to protect their environment, historical and

artistic works than many underdeveloped countries. This may be because many underdeveloped or developing countries faces socio-economic and internal problems that makes them to be less concerned about their environment, historical remains and art works. Even though International agreements to ameliorate environmental dangers on the earth are being signed by many governments, some governments still make wrong decisions about developments (Kadilar, 2010).

Ecological balance is a unique value for human life. Industrial activities at times increases degradation of the environment while technology advancement accelerates change in environment. Some governments have initiated policies for development with appropriate decisions to

protect their environment while some do not.

For example, contemporary agricultural techniques can sometimes harm nature and environment, while ecological balance can change towards harmful movements like flood, or like extreme temperature (Carvell and others, 2007). People can also harm their environment unconsciously or intentionally in bid to survive and live in comfort.

There are especially many historical and artistic remains in many countries of the world where agriculture is their predominant and traditional occupation, such like Egypt, India and Turkey etc. People firstly settled in abundant lands to make agriculture and also constituted enormous civilisations in these lands with their glorious buildings and artistic works.

Natural structure can survive itself in its natural loop and can improve its natural deficiencies and its natural hitches but it can be inadequate and cause harm to people. When people harm natural

Environmental Conditions, Art and Protection

Human population steady change on the earth and increase threat to environmental balance, historical and artistic accumulation of man. Environmental issues were discussed and evaluated in series of conferences and summits that have been held in different parts of the world. These brought about the advocating and applications of some conservation policies and protection procedures in different parts of the world (Shi and others, 2005, 1280).

Art works are priceless values of countries but they are valuable when they are protected against different dangers. There are very many historical places and art works which are result of thousands years and many civilisations in Turkey. These great historical and artistic accumulation provided people the safety and prosperous base to live. Unfortunately so many people are not aware of historical value and sometimes governments may not but

structure by destroying it or by living wrong, nature may not find adequate solutions to resolve the problems (Turner, 2006). In this case, governments will have to start-up to protect environmental value and to provide next generations a livable nature.

Some international organisations force governments to make correct decisions to protect nature and to appreciate ecological balance but some governments do not consider their advice.

The government of Turkey mostly intensifies its interest on development and economy but has not totally decided on environmental problems, historical and artistic works. Recently, the Turkish Government made a decision to allow the building of hydroelectric power plant in different parts of Turkey on December 28, 2010 but never regarded the historical heritages and art works in historical places.

there are still some governments that attempt to protect unique artistic remains (Yildirim and Gates, 2007). The protection of historical and artistic values are directly concerned with environmental pollution and life style of people.

Human is a component of the great environmental entity with his life and productions with none of its components having the capacity to exist alone. Every component is in need of another in nature. Human being can live in the natural environment and become significant with history and with accumulation of people (Brehm, 2007). Art is expression of people and ornamental of life in lives of people and is naturally related to all environmental world of people. "*Art is the most significant residue which can tell man with all his dimensions to other people and to future*" (Cereci, 2008, 38). Man produced art to be immortal in eternity and used all his aesthetic accumulation for art.

Man who deals with art is inspired from natural life and mostly from extraordinary parts of life. Everything can inspire an opinion to man to work on art. Sea wave for instance or a fisherman near a river. Environmental values are main sources of art and a well-preserved environmental area also presents people a civilisation base. In a civilized area, people naturally produce artistic works and the government has the responsibility of protecting the environment and art works against environmental and intentional dangers.

In ancient times, people that lived in a natural environment were concerned about their life styles without thinking of harming the environment. They worked for their survival by planting trees, growing vegetables and plowing land for their survival and never destroyed environment for their survival (Thuiller and others, 2006). They never thought art as a separated occupation but lived with art as a main component of their lives and blessed art as their lives and their existences. Environment and historical remains and art works were protected by approach of people about lives and about existences. They did not need protection decisions and governmental efforts.

Approach about environment and about art is naturally related with education and accumulation of people. Traditional public education had respects to the environment and art in the past. Thus, people were

Environmental Policies in Turkey

Towards the end of the 20th century, many removable historical remains and art works were taken to abroad from Turkey. This include Altar of Zeus, Statue of Herakles and Bogazkoy Sphinks. This is because, the protection law was not available. Also there was not protection of artistic and historical remains consciousness.

Turkish Government is currently ambivalent between development and to protect environmental value, historical remains and artistic works Apart from the

living in totality. This covered life, environment, art and protection. It was modernity that brought a new approach for art and the environment leading to the reckless use of the environment.

In the past, people utilized plants in nature, feed on them also preserved the harmful plants. This is because they were aware that every living creature has a vital role in ecological system (Bagarinao, 1998). They were aware that the harm to the environment will also mean harm to its human components. This is a conservation approach and decisions for the environment.

In recent times, It has been noted that many countries are concerned with environmental and cultural protection of their natural values such like sea, lakes, and forests from degradation. Therefore, governments of some countries consider environmental questions for their sovereignty in an attempt to take precautions for their future (Laakkonen and Laurila, 2007). Thus, in the 21st century, environmental problems and heritages of the past may need to be considered as one of the most relevant agenda of governments.

need to develop cost-effective energy supply strategies, the rapidly growing energy demand in Turkey results in an increasing importance of the control of air pollution. "*Turkey's request for admission into the European Community (EC) in 1987 makes the present activities to harmonize air pollution control strategies within the EC of major interest*" (Plinke and others, 1990)..

Turkey held some habitat meetings several times and had some official decisions aimed at protecting natural structure and

to protect its environmental values. Nevertheless, Turkish Parliament had made some decisions about energy policies and about highways and about construction which may be against the good of the environment, historical remains and art works.

Turkish Government is having some energy agreements about oil and about natural gas, but still lacks cogent protection law for its environment, historical heritages and art works. In some underdeveloped countries, the expectations of the people are firstly regarded and before the law is planned (Driesen, 2006). In Turkey, the government firstly tries to respond to the expectations of people in a populist behavior and mostly misses legal dimensions of problems. There is a local problem in Turkey, law is sufficient but application of law is insufficient. Thus, it is not easy to apply law about protection of environment or protection of art works.

Turkish Government had some decisions about domestic and foreign investments after 1980 and never evaluated the balance between environment and investments (Erkin, 2010). Economy is always the most important dynamics for a country but it necessarily involves a good plan and necessary measures. Governments sometimes does not regard the negative results of economy such as its damaging effects on the environment.

Turkey is one of the country that have a great number of historical, artistic works

Conclusion

The earth is a unique place where man can live while the environment is the unique atmosphere with an indispensable component of vital totality. Environment is so important for man that a little insufficient of environment can cause end of mankind. The importance of environment to mankind makes governments to have environmental policy plans that will ensure the protection of environment for the publics. Apart from the environment, historical remains,

and remains in different regions and its contemporary culture was constituted on this valuable accumulation. However, it is possible to watch wrong decisions of the government about energy policies or about constructions which are dangerous for environmental existence and for historical artistic remains. There is at present not a protection policy of the government for historical and artistic works against contemporary change, especially in ancient regions. Governments are liable to protect the historical remains and art works, thus there is need to have protection policies to convey heritage of past to future (Glasmeier and Farrigan, 2003). There are many historical agoras with ornate contents heading, and Roman theaters with costly reliefs, and Byzantine churches with fascinating frescos, and historical mosques with unique tiles and with colourful bedecks in Turkey but there are also a lot of constructions and energy plans in Turkey.

The government has decided for new nuclear power stations and hydroelectric power plants in different regions where many historical remains and art works are found. These historical accumulation and art works were constituted on a great base which contains Hittite Civilisation, Assyrian Civilisation, Urartu Civilisation, Greek Civilisation and Ottoman Civilisation etc in Turkey. Most of these historical remains are under danger recently because of environmental abrasion which Turkish Government may need to protect.

cultural values and art works are also important components of man's vital totality and should be essential components of governmental agenda.

The human population increases and the earth's technological advancement have recently reveal danger for environment, the historical remains and art works. Since Art is the most valuable production of mankind that guides people to an illuminated future, it thereby needs to be protected for the future generation.

Turkey as a country has a great number of historical, artistic works and remains and also unique environmental values.

Therefore, the Turkish Government will need to protect its environment and art works against contemporary dangers.

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