

2014HDR  
An Assessment of Vulnerability and  
Vulnerable Groups-Turkey

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# Class Inequality

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- ▶ Equality is a principle taken together with the understanding of social justice and human rights. It is the major understanding of liberal thought that all individuals should have the equal chances of getting access to resources and opportunities of self-improvement.
  - ▶ Following this understanding it is also accepted that equality for all should be the major concern and responsibility of modern society and that the society should develop essential mechanisms to guarantee equality.
  - ▶ In this paradigm social class is the major concept and inequalities are explained / attributed to existence of social classes. Hence inequality was understood mainly originating from classes.
  - ▶ Members of a certain social class hold similar positions in the economical, social and political standing as well as sharing similar ideologies.
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# Intersectionality

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- ▶ Social class analysis has changed after 1980s with the understanding of new factors of inequalities based on gender, ethnicity, race, age. Hence, intersectionality of class, gender, ethnicity, age became the new discourse in explaining inequalities.

# Poverty

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- ▶ Poverty a new concept appeared in the literature of inequality after 1990s. Poverty is conceptualized not just as a disadvantaged and insecure economic condition (lack of employment, income, assets, social security, decent living conditions, etc.) but also as lack of voice and self –esteem, stigma, humiliation, disrespect, powerlessness, denial of rights and diminished citizenship. It is also the deprivation of the individual from opportunities and resources which will provide a decent and good quality of life.
- ▶ So argument of inequality turned its attention towards “poor” or “de-classe” sections of the society who are “socially excluded” because they were
- ▶ Poor
- ▶ Disadvantaged
- ▶ Deprived
- ▶ Discriminated



# Risk Society

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- ▶ Ulrich Beck (1992) has proposed the concept of “risk society” for conceptualization of the poverty in modern society. Poverty became a major risk of modern society due to the “late modernity” experienced after the welfare state.
- ▶ When the mechanisms of welfare state is withdrawn individuals are left on their own to deal with the pressures of the market and hence the separation of “capable” and “not-capable” individuals appeared.
- ▶ Individual takes full responsibility of her/ his well being
- ▶ At this point, Amartya Sen and “capability” approach goes together with the policy proposals for “empowerment”.



# Measurement of poverty

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- ▶ To measure poverty and deprivation various tools are developed . Economic and social development and deprivation and poverty levels of countries are ranked according to these.
- ▶ One major tool is developing indexes – HDI a first one
- ▶ Well –being indexes
- ▶ Quality of life indexes
- ▶ Gender empowerment index
- ▶ Life satisfaction and happiness indexes
- ▶ Capability index, as such



# Human Vulnerability in HDR

- ▶ Vulnerability in HDR is defined as the prospect of eroding human development achievements and their sustainability. A person (or community or country) is defined as vulnerable when there is a high risk of future deterioration in circumstances and achievements.
- ▶ HDR argues that vulnerability is multidimensional and that everyone is vulnerable to some unexpected events or circumstances but some are more vulnerable than others
- ▶ HDR proposes 3 questions should be directed in order to understand who is vulnerable?
  - ▶ Who?
  - ▶ What?
  - ▶ Why?

# 2014 HDR



Vulnerability

WHO?	WHAT?	WHY?
The poor, informal workers socially excluded	Economic shocks, health shocks	Limited capabilities
Women, people with disabilities, migrants, minorities, children, the elderly, youth	Natural disasters, climate change, industrial hazards	Location, position in society, sensitive periods in the life cycle
Whole communities, regions	Conflict, civil unrest	Low social cohesion, unresponsive institutions, poor governance

# Vulnerability

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- ▶ As presented in HDR, the concept of vulnerability has found more acceptance in the last decade or so, due to its broad and multidimensional nature.
- ▶ As we discussed above, neither social class inequality nor the concept of poverty is able to help our understanding of various risks and deprivations of human beings at present society.
- ▶ Human beings can be subject to various risks related to many factors such as :
  - ▶ Structural : economic, political, social
  - ▶ Cultural : belief systems, values, norms
  - ▶ Physical and environmental : urban structures, infrastructure, disasters, climatic
- ▶ And we need better tools / concepts to conceptualize the much more complex nature of risks of the present day societies and individuals' experiences of those risks.
- ▶ Hence, vulnerability may be a concept which can serve better to improve human development as suggested by HDR.



# An Assessment from the Perspective of Turkey

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## DATA

- ▶ Specifically it is well known fact that lack of data and information creates difficulties for comparing Turkey in international scale.
  - ▶ However, a general problem with such international ranking is that data in all societies is collected in the national scale and represents country specificities and not always comparable with others.
  - ▶ Besides, these rankings (whether they show a country as high up or low in rank) may not give us the real picture and we need country specific variables referring to inequalities, vulnerability and risks.
  - ▶ Since variables used have to be very general (education, health, demographic) it may not measure vulnerability.
  - ▶ Eg. 1. HDR 2014 says Turkey has made very good educational achievements compared to previous reports. But if we include the results of PISA study or if we consider the dropout rate from secondary education this rank is not giving us a healthy picture.
  - ▶ Eg.2 . Minorities in Turkey and their vulnerabilities can not be understood since national data is not diversified according to ethnic groups and diversities.
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# Childhood in General

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- ▶ In early childhood vulnerability is mainly related to
    - ▶ Neglect in early ages
    - ▶ Bad nutrition
    - ▶ Lack of maternal and post-natal care
    - ▶ Poor motivation during early childhood,
  - ▶ %92 of such children live in the developing world.
  - ▶ In those countries from every 100 :
    - ▶ 7 children will die before 5 years of age
    - ▶ 50 will not be registered
    - ▶ 68 will not benefit from any early childhood education
    - ▶ 17 will not attend primary school
    - ▶ 30 will not grow older
    - ▶ 25 will live in poverty.
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# Children in Turkey

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- ▶ 2011 , among the child population of 22,7 million (below 18 years) composes % 30,3 of total population
- ▶ According to Turkish demographic survey, in 2008, %6 of those children below 5 years of age are not registered.
- ▶ Ratio of Infant death is still very high (below 5 years of age, 18 for every 1000 infants)
- ▶ ¼ of children living in relative poverty
- ▶ Family care is about %89,6 according to 2011 survey of Ministry of Family and Social Policies.
- ▶ Children who get the benefit of nurseries and creches is about %2,4
- ▶ %10 of children are suffering from shortness and pudginess
- ▶ In secondary education PISA results are very low and dissappointing despite the fact that schooling rates in HDR have increased to %98 per cent. This indicates low quality of education.
- ▶ Also we do not have any understanding of vulnerability in rural/urban divide , regional differences and due to the effects of ethnic origins.

# 2014 poverty and unregistered employment

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- ▶ Multidimensional deprivation index can not be calculated for Turkey due to lack of comparable data.
- ▶ Ratio of population not covered by any social security is %14 since 2012.
- ▶ Unregistered employment rate %40.4 (TUIK, 2012).



# Youth in General

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- ▶ Lack of and limited employment opportunities
  - ▶ Poor quality of education in schools where the youth can not be trained for employable skills
  - ▶ Subject to conflicts and violence
  - ▶ Clientelism and lack of meritocracy has major effects on limiting employment opportunities.
  - ▶ Forced to work in precarious jobs
  - ▶ Youth unemployment rate in 2012 is %12,7 , three times bigger than the middle aged adults.
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# Youth in Turkey

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- Ratio of “15-24” age group in Turkish population is %16,6 which is equal to 12.691.746 million in 2013 out of 76 million.
- Approx. %35 of this youth in Turkey is neither in education nor in the labour market. Highest rate among OECD countries.
- Among those working % 51 is employed in unregistered informal sector.
- %35 in higher education
- One from every five young person is unemployed. Unemployment among the qualified and urban origin. %18,7 of 15-24 age group is unemployed.
- One from every young person is married. Age of marriage 27 for men and 24 for women.
- %70 uses internet

# Elderly in General

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- ▶ Usually suffer from lack of social security, lack of care, disability, poverty, social exclusion.
- ▶ Mainly dependent on family which increases vulnerability

# Elderly in Turkey

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- ▶ Population fast ageing compared to other age groups
- ▶ Ratio of 65 + population is %7,7 in 2013
- ▶ Elderly women is more vulnerable due to lack of income and low labour market participation of women
- ▶ Ratio of poor elderly men is %17,7 poor elderly women is %19,4
- ▶ Elderly population getting social benefits is %76,6 in 2012.
- ▶ Elderly dependency ratio is 11 elderly persons for every 100 working persons in 2013 which is quite high.
- ▶ Demographic Survey results show that in 2011, %21,7' of households have at least one elderly person in the household.



# Disability in Turkey

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- ▶ Although it is hard to say the exact figures it is generally accepted that %12.29 of the population is disabled in Turkey
- ▶ In men the rate is % 11, In women % 13.45
- ▶ Disability from birth is approx. %34.
- ▶ Labour market participation of the disabled is very low. %78 not in labour force.

## Women in Turkey

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- The rate of illiteracy among women in Turkey is still %7 in 2013., %1.4 for men.
- Women who benefit from pre-natal care is %97.
- Labour market participation of 15 and above population is %47,5. for men it is %69,2, for women it is %25,9 Hence Turkey still has the lowest labour market rates for women among EU and accession countries.
- Child and elderly care still is a major responsibility of women and existing social policies is encouraging this situation.
- Women's political representation is very low. But if measured by number of women MPs in the parliament it displays a rise.

# Vulnerability due to lack of recognition of equal rights

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The political structure of the society which encourages unequal treatment of

- Disabled
- Migrants
- ▶ Minorities
- ▶ Cultural diversities

As well as regional inequalities.

This can also create vulnerability in terms of lack of citizenship rights and representation, lack of freedom of choice, lack of freedom of life styles. This vulnerability is mainly encouraged by the existing normative and ideological make up of the country.

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# Building Resilience

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Policies for reducing vulnerability and building resilience

Preventing shocks	Promoting capabilities	Protecting choices
Financial regulation	Universal provision of education and health	Social protection
Climate change agreement	Full employment	Job creation
Early childhood development	Promoting gender and group equality	Building social cohesion and competencies
Macroeconomic policies	Responsive institutions	Tackling discrimination by changing laws and norms
Natural disaster risk reduction	Disaster preparedness	Crisis and conflict recovery
Social cohesion		

# Building Resiliences

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- ▶ Access to basic social services : still a major problem in Turkey because the major understanding is social assistance rather than preventive social services.
  - ▶ Preventing life cycle vulnerabilities for children, youth, elderly : needs sensitive policies rather than giving the whole responsibility to families and women.
  - ▶ Strengthening social security : re-constructing unemployment benefit scheme, policies for qualifies youth unemployment.
  - ▶ Responsive state institutions and cohesive societies : encouraging civil society and collective movements rather than punishing.
  - ▶ Preparedness for crisis and disasters: not only developing rescue teams but trying to empower and prepare the communities for disasters and travmas.
  - ▶ Understanding of inequalities and vulnerabilities : not only focusing on reduction of poverty with social assistance but developing preventive measures and more sensitive social policies.
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