

Original Paper

Türkiye Social Panorama 2025 Volume Evaluation: The Transformation of Population and Family Structure in Türkiye

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Received: December 20, 2025 Accepted: February 05, 2026 Online Published: February 28, 2026

doi:10.22158/assc.v8n1p127

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22158/assc.v8n1p127>

Abstract

This study comprehensively examines the work titled “Social Panorama 2025: Population and Family,” edited by Cenk Beyaz and Faruk Tascı and published by SETA Foundation. Based on 2024 data and prepared in the context of 2025 being declared the Year of the Family (Beyaz & Tascı, 2025), this work analyzes the transformations in Türkiye’s population and family structure around five main themes: birth and death, population mobility, marriage and divorce, family-women-children-youth, and disabled and elderly. The book, created with contributions from twenty-two different authors, addresses the demographic transformation of Turkish society from a multidimensional perspective and discusses the social, economic, and cultural consequences of this transformation. This article aims to synthesize the main findings of the work and reveal current trends in Türkiye’s population and family structure.

Keywords

Social Panorama, Population, Family, Demographic Transformation

Introduction

Türkiye has been experiencing significant transformations in the context of population and family structure in recent years. The decline in fertility rates, increase in the age of marriage, migration mobility, rise in the elderly population ratio, and changing dynamics of the family institution are among the fundamental elements shaping the future of Turkish society. The declaration of 2025 as the “Year of the Family” allows these issues to receive greater place on the public agenda and policies to be shaped accordingly (Beyaz & Tascı, 2025).

The study titled “Social Panorama 2025: Population and Family,” prepared within SETA, aims to analyze the developments and data from 2024 in detail and make the change and transformation in Türkiye’s social structure understandable. The work, prepared with contributions from twenty-two experts in their fields, consists of five main sections: birth and death, population mobility, marriage and divorce, family-women-children-youth, and disabled and elderly (Beyaz & Tascı, 2025).

This article aims to present a comprehensive evaluation of the aforementioned work and discuss current trends in Türkiye’s population and family structure and the consequences arising from these trends.

Findings

1. Birth and Death Dynamics

The first section of the book addresses changes in birth and death rates from various dimensions. The article titled “Childlessness in Various Dimensions: A Current Assessment for Türkiye” authored by Başak Işıl Alpar (2025) examines the increasing trend of childlessness in Türkiye and its causes. In the article, it is observed that childlessness is addressed within the framework of multidimensional factors such as voluntary and involuntary causes, social pressures, economic factors, and career planning (Alpar, 2025).

Emel İftar Işıklı’s (2025) study titled “Change in Mortality Rates and Its Dimensions” analyzes the course of mortality rates in Türkiye and the factors affecting these rates. Particularly, developments in healthcare services, changes in disease profiles, and the effects of global health crises such as pandemics on mortality rates are evaluated (Işıklı, 2025).

Faruk Taşçı’s (2025) article titled “Life Expectancy at Birth and Aging Society” focuses on the social consequences of increasing life expectancy in Türkiye. The prolongation of life expectancy at birth brings with it an aging population structure, and this situation necessitates the search for new policies in areas such as health, social security, and care services (Taşçı, 2025).

Nergis Dama’s (2025) study titled “Private Health System and Population Dynamics” examines the effects of the private health sector on population dynamics. Issues such as the spread of private health insurance, inequalities in access to healthcare services, and the effects of private hospitals on fertility preferences are addressed (Dama, 2025).

2. Population Mobility

The second section analyzes population mobility in Türkiye from various dimensions. Muhammet Fırat’s (2025) article titled “Internal Migration After the February 6 Earthquakes” examines the internal migration mobility that emerged following the great earthquake disaster experienced in 2023. The dimensions of migration from the earthquake region to other provinces, the profile of the migrating population, and the effects of this situation on both receiving and sending regions are evaluated (Fırat, 2025).

Cenk Beyaz’s (2025) study titled “Effects of Remote Work on Population Mobility” analyzes the effects of the remote working model, which became widespread in the post-pandemic period, on

population mobility. How remote work affects migration tendencies from large cities to rural areas or smaller settlements is discussed (Beyaz, 2025).

Duygu Altunoğlu Yıldız and Yunus Kaya's (2025) article titled "Return of Syrians: Solutions Between Ideal and Reality" addresses the return tendencies of the Syrian population in Türkiye and the challenges encountered in this process. The differences between the ideal conditions of return and the reality on the ground are analyzed, emphasizing the necessity of sustainable return policies (Altunoğlu Yıldız & Kaya, 2025).

Dilara Ustabaşı Gündüz's (2025) study titled "Local Governments' Approaches and Practices Towards Immigrants" examines the policies and practices of local government units towards immigrants. The approaches of different municipalities to immigrants, the services provided, and the effectiveness of these services are evaluated (Ustabaşı Gündüz, 2025).

Ahmed Faruk Ergün's (2025) article titled "Processes and Consequences of Reverse Brain Drain to Türkiye" analyzes the tendencies of qualified human resources who have studied or worked abroad to return to Türkiye. The causes, processes, and contributions of reverse brain drain to Türkiye's fields of science, technology, and economy are addressed (Ergün, 2025).

3. Marriage and Divorce

The third section focuses on changes in the institutions of marriage and divorce. Bilal Coşan's (2025) article titled "Consequences of the Increase in Age at First Marriage and Motherhood" examines the increasing trend in the age at first marriage and first motherhood in Türkiye and its effects on fertility. Among the reasons for the increase in the age of marriage, the prolongation of education duration, career priorities, and economic factors come to the fore (Coşan, 2025).

Büşra Ökten's (2025) study titled "Family Education Programs in the Context of the Family and Youth Fund" evaluates the Family and Youth Fund implemented by the state to support the family institution and the family education programs carried out within the scope of this fund. The content, target audience, and effectiveness of the programs are analyzed (Ökten, 2025).

Mahmut Hakkı Akın's (2025) article titled "The Changing Structure of Marriages and Divorces" addresses the changes in marriage and divorce rates in Türkiye and the social causes of this change. Issues such as the increase in divorce rates, diversification in marriage forms, and transformation in family roles are analyzed (Akın, 2025).

4. Family, Women, Children, and Youth

The fourth section examines the themes of family, women, children, and youth from various dimensions. Zeynep Esra Abay Çelik's (2025) article titled "Evaluation of Family Benefits in the Year of the Family" analyzes social assistance policies for families in the context of the 2025 Year of the Family. The scope, effectiveness, and aspects needing improvement of existing assistance programs are addressed (Abay Çelik, 2025).

Merve Çiloğlu Yörübulut's (2025) study titled "Examining the Effect of Women's Employment on Population Through Fertility on an Intellectual Basis" discusses the relationship between women's

employment and fertility within a theoretical framework. How women's participation in the labor force affects fertility preferences is evaluated in light of different theoretical approaches (Çiloğlu Yörübulut, 2025).

Hamza Kızılkaya's (2025) article titled "Being a Child and Youth in the Digital World" examines the effects of digitalization on children and youth. Issues such as social media use, digital addiction, cyberbullying, and digital literacy are addressed (Kızılkaya, 2025).

Uğur Özalp's (2025) study titled "Developments in NEET Youth" analyzes the situation of young people neither in education nor employment (NEET). The profile of NEET youth, factors leading to this situation, and policies for reintegrating these young people into society are evaluated (Özalp, 2025).

5. Disabled and Elderly

The fifth section focuses on the disabled and elderly population. Sümeyye Özdemir and Yusuf Alpaydın's (2025) article titled "Developments in Disability Education" examines the developments in access to education rights for disabled individuals and the problems encountered. Inclusive education, special education services, and support mechanisms for disabled students are addressed (Özdemir & Alpaydın, 2025).

Zeki Karataş's (2025) study titled "Functioning of the Quota System in Disabled Employment" analyzes the effectiveness of the quota system for the employment of disabled individuals. The functioning of quota applications, problems encountered, and solution suggestions are evaluated (Karataş, 2025).

Mustafa Şen's (2025) article titled "Social Assistance Practices for the Disabled Population" examines social assistance programs for disabled individuals. The scope, amount, distribution mechanisms of assistance, and the impact of these assistances on the quality of life of disabled individuals are addressed (Şen, 2025).

Harun Ceylan's (2025) study titled "Old Age and Loneliness" examines the problem of loneliness that emerges with the increasing elderly population. Social isolation of the elderly, strategies for coping with loneliness, and policies that can be developed in this regard are discussed (Ceylan, 2025).

Mehmet Merve Özyaydın's (2025) article titled "The Issue of Sustainability of the Pension System After EYT" analyzes the sustainability problem faced by the pension system following the regulation concerning those stuck by age in retirement (EYT). The financing of the system, actuarial balance, and long-term reform needs are addressed (Özyaydın, 2025).

Hıdır Apak's (2025) study titled "The Future of Working Life Within the Framework of Elderly Dependency Ratios" examines the effects of increasing elderly dependency ratios on working life. Adaptation of the labor market to the aging population, the future of retirement age, and intergenerational solidarity mechanisms are discussed (Apak, 2025).

Discussion

The work titled “Social Panorama 2025: Population and Family” fills an important gap by addressing Türkiye’s demographic transformation from a multidimensional perspective. The main findings highlighted in the book show that Türkiye is going through a rapid demographic transformation process (Beyaz & Taşçı, 2025).

Fertility and Aging: The decline in fertility rates and the prolongation of life expectancy at birth in Türkiye lead to the aging of the population (Alpar, 2025; Taşçı, 2025). This situation will create significant pressures on healthcare services, the social security system, and care services. Particularly, the increase in the elderly dependency ratio necessitates rethinking the future of working life and intergenerational solidarity mechanisms (Apak, 2025; Özaydın, 2025).

Migration Mobility: Internal migration following the February 6 earthquakes (Fırat, 2025), new settlement tendencies emerging with the spread of remote work (Beyaz, 2025), return dynamics of Syrians (Altunoğlu Yıldız & Kaya, 2025), and reverse brain drain (Ergün, 2025) are reshaping Türkiye’s population geography. These mobilities necessitate new regulations in terms of infrastructure, housing, employment, and social services in both receiving and sending regions (Ustabaşı Gündüz, 2025).

Transformation in Family Structure: The increase in the age at first marriage (Coşan, 2025), rise in divorce rates (Akın, 2025), and strengthening tendency of childlessness (Alpar, 2025) indicate significant changes in the traditional structure of the family institution. This transformation is associated with multidimensional factors such as the increase in women’s education and labor force participation, urbanization, individualization, and changing value judgments.

Women’s Employment and Fertility: The relationship between women’s employment and fertility is complex and multidimensional in nature. Çiloğlu Yörübulut’s (2025) discussion of this relationship on an intellectual basis is important for understanding the theoretical framework of the issue. It is understood that policies supporting women’s participation in the labor force should be designed together with elements encouraging fertility (flexible working models, nursery support, maternity leave, etc.).

Digitalization and Youth: The effects of the digital world on children and youth are gaining increasing importance. As Kızılkaya (2025) emphasizes, issues such as digital addiction, cyberbullying, and digital literacy are among the main problem areas that need to be addressed for the healthy development of young people. Furthermore, the existence of NEET youth analyzed by Özalp (2025) shows that policies for youth employment need to be strengthened.

Disabled and Elderly Policies: Although developments in disabled individuals’ access to education, employment, and social assistance are positive (Özdemir & Alpaydın, 2025; Şen, 2025), there are still significant problems in these areas. The effective functioning of the quota system examined by Karataş (2025), equality of opportunity in education, and adequacy of social assistance are issues that need

emphasis. As Ceylan (2025) notes, with the increase in the elderly population, the problem of old age and loneliness is also gaining importance.

Sustainability of the Pension System: As analyzed by Özeydin (2025), the sustainability of the pension system after the EYT regulation stands out as an important policy problem. The increasing elderly population, the relative decrease in the working population, and the rise in pension expenditures threaten the long-term financing of the system. This situation brings up the need for comprehensive reform in the pension system.

Conclusion

The work titled “Social Panorama 2025: Population and Family” reveals that Türkiye is progressing towards a rapidly aging population structure, the traditional structure of the family institution is transforming, and migration mobilities are reshaping the population geography (Beyaz & Taşçı, 2025). While the decline in fertility rates (Alpar, 2025) and the prolongation of life expectancy at birth (Taşçı, 2025) lead to the aging of the population, this situation creates significant pressures on healthcare services, the social security system, and care services; particularly the increase in the elderly dependency ratio necessitates rethinking the future of working life and the sustainability of the pension system (Apak, 2025; Özeydin, 2025). Mobilities such as post-earthquake internal migration (Fırat, 2025), new settlement tendencies emerging with remote work (Beyaz, 2025), return dynamics of Syrians (Altunoğlu Yıldız & Kaya, 2025), and reverse brain drain (Ergün, 2025) are reshaping Türkiye’s population geography, necessitating new regulations in terms of infrastructure, housing, employment, and social services in both receiving and sending regions (Ustabaşı Gündüz, 2025).

The increase in the age at first marriage (Coşan, 2025), rise in divorce rates (Akın, 2025), and strengthening tendency of childlessness (Alpar, 2025) indicate significant changes in the traditional structure of the family institution associated with factors such as the increase in women’s education and labor force participation, urbanization, and individualization. While the effects of the digital world on children and youth are gaining increasing importance (Kızılkaya, 2025), the existence of NEET youth shows that policies for youth employment need to be strengthened (Özalp, 2025); although developments in disabled individuals’ access to education, employment, and social assistance are positive, there are still significant problems in these areas (Karataş, 2025; Özdemir & Alpaydın, 2025; Şen, 2025). With the increase in the elderly population, the problem of old age and loneliness is also gaining importance (Ceylan, 2025), and the sustainability of the pension system after the EYT regulation threatens the long-term financing of the system due to the increasing elderly population and the relative decrease in the working population (Özeydin, 2025).

The declaration of 2025 as the Year of the Family presents an important opportunity for implementing policies aimed at strengthening the family institution during this transformation process; however, these policies need to be designed in a manner compatible with demographic realities, sustainable, and inclusive (Beyaz & Taşçı, 2025; Abay Çelik, 2025). Policies should be developed that encourage

fertility, adapt to the aging population, address migration mobilities with a holistic approach, disseminate family education programs (Ökten, 2025), strengthen digital literacy (Kızılkaya, 2025), improve disability policies, and implement comprehensive reforms in the pension system.

In conclusion, this work constitutes an important resource for understanding Türkiye's demographic transformation and developing policies appropriate to this transformation. It is clearly seen that the demographic transformation Türkiye faces contains both challenges and opportunities, and this process needs to be managed with participatory and sustainable policies based on scientific studies (Beyaz & Taşçı, 2025).

Notice: In evaluating the text, AI tools have been used to ensure proper word spacing, adherence to grammatical points, and the translation of certain terms.

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