

**A STUDY ON WELFARE AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF DISADVANTAGED GROUPS:
THE CASE OF BURDUR PROVINCE**Asst. Prof. Mehmet ÖÇAL (Ph.D.)* Lecturer Özge KUTLU** **ABSTRACT**

Leaving differences and variances aside, the ultimate intention of social states or welfare regimes, acting with the humanitarian pursuit of social policy, is to offer a standard, decent living condition to those under its banner. In this sense, welfare states often undertake constitutionally binding commitments to citizens and implement minimum, fair social policies not to undermine the citizens' living conditions below the level of "worthy of human dignity." Whereas these policies, introduced against any social risks to adversely affect one's welfare, should be implemented equally for everyone, states may also adopt positive discrimination while implementing these policies for groups denoted as fragile or disadvantaged that are likely to be more affected by social risks to retain their welfare within "humane" standards. However, the effect of in-kind or cash social transfers within the mentioned policies to the aforementioned groups often remains veiled. Moreover, debates go on about targeting of these transfers. The present descriptive survey research attempted to measure the effectiveness of social policies aimed at improving the living conditions of individuals by contributing to their welfare. We surveyed 582 Burdur-based individuals who could be denoted as disadvantaged due to some tangible reasons. Our findings demonstrated that the participants had worse health status, higher disability rates, and severe housing health-related problems compared to the general population. We also discovered that the participants considered poor had much more inadequate living standards and welfare than those not. The participants' poverty - calculated based on their income levels – was 54.7% before receiving social assistance and became 39.5% after being opted for social assistance. In other words, we figured out that social assistance reduced the participants' poverty by 15.1%.

Keywords: Poverty, Social Aid, Social Policy, Humane Standards of Living.

Jel Codes: I31, I32, I38.

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1. INTRODUCTION

What is the social state? What are the prerequisites of being a social state? Can every welfare state be referred to as a welfare regime? It may be more prudent to seek answers to these questions first. The concept of a social state is indeed a humane pursuit. It is a commitment that preserves standards worthy of human dignity for leading a humane life with the help of social policies. Being a social state is actually the authority's self-imposed duty, and this understanding, which is often considered a constitutional principle, governs the approach of the state mechanism to citizens and the market. From this point of view, a social state may be perceived as a shield that protects those living under its banner from welfare-undermining risks. Besides, a welfare state must be interventionist, keep the market under control in a corporatist way, raise decommodification, and fairly offer at least minimum welfare to all citizens independent of the market dynamics. A social state should also set humane living standards and contribute to the welfare of those with difficulty reaching these standards in all domains of life through social policies. Although the terms social state and welfare state are interchangeably used in some sources, it can be asserted that the term welfare state is a more advanced understanding of social state that offers more inclusive and intense social protection.

The ultimate intention of a social state or welfare state is to offer all citizens a sphere where they can lead a life worthy of human dignity and enjoy social resources and opportunities equally. Given this intention, social policy practitioners act within a state structure aiming to protect citizens from the risks of market forces and to regulate the market to eliminate or minimize these risks for citizens. A welfare state or social state often resorts to social policies as tools to improve the welfare of citizens and contribute to their living conditions. Yet, states confront significant issues in implementing these policies; the most deep-rooted one may be never-diminishing poverty and inequalities in income distribution from the past to the present. In their historical context, these issues arising from the inability to achieve a fair distribution of state revenue have always not only significantly undermined one's welfare but also led to macro-scale social problems/indignation and even social explosions in turn.

Poverty is a global phenomenon that occurs when one - in absolute terms or at a particular time and place - falls behind the minimum level of welfare standards of a particular society. Having been considered a problem sprouting on financial reasons in the past, poverty is now striking its roots as a humanitarian problem. Besides, this phenomenon covers many factors beyond one's inability to attain the necessary and sustainable income to make a living. Therefore, poverty manifests itself with malnutrition, limited access to education and other essential services, social discrimination and exclusion, and deprivation of participation in decision-making processes (United Nations, 2022). In another perspective, poverty can be defined as one's inability to meet their basic needs to survive. Becoming a focus of interest of international organizations, researchers, and policymakers in recent years, poverty is a deep-rooted, multifaceted problem for not only underdeveloped but also developed countries. In this sense, it may be necessary to identify who the "poor" is to generate policies to tackle

poverty. To do so, the first step may be to bring an operational definition for poverty since it appears to be a multifaceted concept to be addressed with diverse perspectives.

Encapsulating deprivation in several domains of life and being conceptualized as a multifaceted phenomenon, poverty may appear in different types, such as absolute poverty, relative poverty, objective poverty, subjective poverty, human poverty, chronic poverty, and temporary poverty (Özdemir & İnce, 2021). Absolute poverty refers to one's failure to satisfy their fundamental needs to survive (e.g., health care, nutrition, and shelter; Karacan, 2017). In other words, absolute poverty corresponds to one's inability to meet basic physical needs to maintain their biological existence (Taş & Özcan, 2012). To uncover absolute poverty, it may be necessary to determine one's minimum consumption level to survive. Besides, relative poverty can be described as one's falling behind the welfare level of their community (Temiz, 2008). Thus, relative poverty considers not only one's physical needs but also their social aspect; in other words, the individual is regarded as a part of their community not just as a citizen in this type of poverty. While objective poverty means that one lags behind living standards set by normative, tangible measures (e.g., consumption expenditures and minimum calories needed per day), subjective poverty is a type of poverty defined based on one's preferences and perceptions. In subjective poverty, one can be defined as poor when their 'perceived' needs are not satisfied (Aktan & Vural, 2002). Human poverty, on the other hand, is a novel measure of poverty proposed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) that addresses poverty from multiple aspects. Accordingly, indicators related to health, education, and living standards (e.g., nutrition, life expectancy, access to clean tap water, school starting age, housing materials, and the durability of these materials) are the parameters adopted in the calculation of human poverty (UNDP, 2019). Human poverty embraces poverty from a broad perspective and considers it to be the deprivation of humane living conditions due to one's inability to access essential services, such as education, health, and employment, as well as income. Temporary and chronic poverty are the types of poverty defined based on the persistence of poverty. While the periodic or short-term occurrence of poverty in one's welfare is defined as temporary poverty (İncedal, 2013), chronic poverty refers to the prolonged persistence of poverty as to become a phenomenon transmitted between generations (Ak, 2016). Regardless of its type, poverty apparently leads to one's deprivation of their fundamental rights and hinders their right to live in dignity and full social engagement; therefore, it can confidently be claimed that poverty is a humanitarian problem beyond an economic issue.

The United Nations (UN) describes poverty as "the greatest global challenge" without being specific to any time period. Since poverty is a global phenomenon, the UNDP calls on states to engage in collaborations to fight poverty at a worldwide level. In parallel, ending all forms of poverty has been identified as the first of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, were ratified by all UN member states in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure

that all people live in peace and prosperity by 2030. These goals are grounded on the idea that an act in one domain will affect consequences in others and that development should balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Through these goals, the member states have committed to help accelerate progress for those left behind with the motto “Leave No One Behind” (United Nations, 2022). In this sense, the first of these goals emphasizes the importance and necessity of exerting global efforts to end poverty.

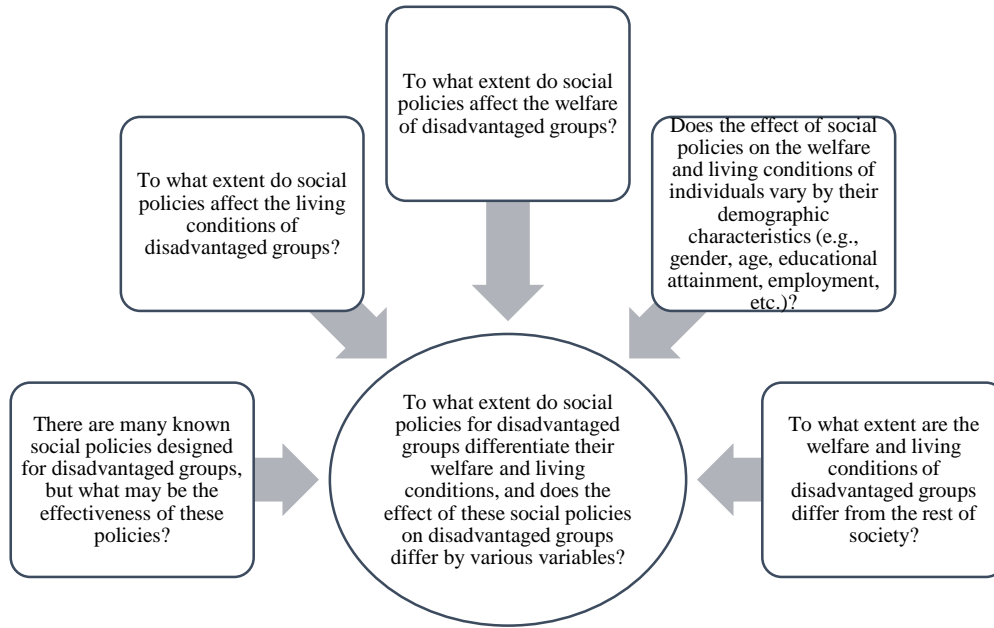
Ending poverty is closely related to identifying and analyzing underlying causes, including globalization, unequal income distribution, non-participation in the labor market, economic crises, and social and demographic reasons. Poverty emerges as a socioeconomic reflection of changes in family structures (Arpacıoğlu, 2012). Global dynamics, labor market conditions, low wages, high unemployment rates, poor working conditions, the prevalence of informal employment, and inequalities in income and resource distribution may be counted among the prominent causes of poverty in Türkiye. In addition, poverty in Türkiye is also boosted and maintained by factors related to employment, education, and migration (Gül & Gül, 2008).

Household-based surveys provide an overview of economic inequality and poverty since the distribution of household or personal income differs by factors such as socioeconomic characteristics and regions. Research on household income is deemed essential thanks to its capacity to reveal how all the revenue generated in a country in a specific time period is distributed among households or individuals and the changes in the social and economic structure of the household over the years (Devlet Planlama Teşkilatı, 2001). In this respect, the present research aimed to explore the link between household structure and characteristics and poverty and address poverty by various household-related variables. After a comprehensive analysis of the welfare and living conditions of disadvantaged groups, we attempted to measure the effectiveness of welfare-enhancing services and policies for these groups and to offer recommendations for future policies.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Comprehensive household-based research seems to make it possible to track welfare parameters and how these parameters differ by specific variables. Moreover, such studies help document the validity of how a social state distributes minimum welfare and sets targets for social assistance, thus contributing to the development of more efficient policies. In line with the emphasized perspective of social policy, we aimed to reveal the effectiveness of the social policies implemented oriented to the needs of disadvantaged groups in Burdur province. In this direction, we sought an answer to the question, “To what extent do the social policies implement for disadvantaged groups affect their welfare and living conditions, and does the effect of these social policies differ by various variables?”. Therefore, our findings would guide us to recommend what services and policies can further be introduced to settle the needs and problems of disadvantaged groups. The problem statement is illustrated below (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Problem Statement



We carried out this descriptive survey study to examine the welfare and living conditions of disadvantaged citizens living in the city center and villages of Burdur province, to identify any possible differences between their living conditions and welfare and demographic characteristics, and to explore how social policies designed for these disadvantaged individuals affect their living conditions and welfare. General survey research is often concerned with the causes in describing broad masses' views and is characterized by its three main features: selecting a sample representing the universe, collecting the data only from the sample, and extracting data from the participants' responses to pre-determined questions (Robson, 2015). The descriptive survey model, on the other hand, is a research method adopted for large groups where the group members' opinions about and attitudes toward the intended phenomenon are attempted to be identified and described (Karakaya, 2012). In other words, a descriptive survey study aims to make generalizations and predictions of the data obtained from the sample to elicit an idea about the target population.

The Non-Interventional Clinical Research Ethics Committee of Mehmet Akif Ersoy University granted ethical approval to our study (No.: GO 2023/11 dated 01.04.2023). While our target population consisted of individuals living in the city center and villages of Burdur province and being opted for social assistance, we randomly selected the sample among the individuals above. Accordingly, we collected the data face-to-face from a total of 582 participants within the 4-month data collection period between March and June 2022. We collected the data using a questionnaire form comprised of six parts. In the first part, we inquire about the participants' household size and district and neighborhood of residence. In the second part, the form includes questions about the demographic characteristics of household members (e.g., gender, age, place of birth, length of residence in Burdur, household members, orphanhood in the household, educational attainment, disability, marital status, and conviction status).

The third part concerns the participants' employment status (i.e., employment status, workplace status, year of employment, and employment type and duration). The fourth part covers questions about the participants' monthly income, the type of social assistance they receive, assistance-granting agencies, their need for urgent social assistance, and the adequacy of social assistance. The fifth part of the form explores the participants' participation in the labor force. The last part of the questionnaire asks questions about the participants' general health status, chronic diseases, type of housing, ownership, heating type, and physical housing conditions. Following data collection, we analyzed the data using SPSS 25.0.

3. FINDINGS

We administered our questionnaire form to 582 participants. We addressed the participants' demographic findings in five aspects: general health status, housing health, employment and labor force status, income, and social assistance.

3.1. Participants' Demographics

The participants' demographics are presented in the table below (Table 1).

Table 1. Participants' Demographic Characteristics

Variable (n = 582)	N	%
Age group		
15-19 years	21	3.60
20-24 years	44	7.56
25-29 years	48	8.24
30-34 years	44	7.56
35-39 years	48	8.24
40-44 years	62	10.65
45-49 years	46	7.90
50-54 years	50	8.59
55-59 years	44	7.56
60-64 years	53	9.10
65 years and older	122	20.96
Gender		
Female	405	69.5
Male	177	30.5
Educational attainment		
No formal education	59	10.13
Primary school	279	47.93
Middle school	54	9.27
High school	123	21.13
Undergraduate	62	10.65
Postgraduate	5	0.85
Marital status		
Married	374	64.2
Widowed/Divorced/Single	208	35.8

There were 405 females and 177 males in the study. While the participants were predominantly married (n = 347), 208 were widowed, divorced, or single. We discovered the mean age of the participants to be 47 years. Of them, 21 were in the 15-19 age group, 44 in the 20-24 age group, 48 in the 25-29 age group, 44 in the 30-34 age group, 48 in the 35-39 age group, 62 in the 40-44 age group,

46 in the 45-49 age group, 50 in the 50-54 age group, 44 in the 55-59 age group, 53 in the 60-64 age group, and 122 in the age group of 65 years and older.

Considering the number of household members, we found that most of the participants (n = 168) had a 4-person household, followed by 135 with a 2-person household and 133 with a 3-person household. In addition, 71 participants lived in a single-person household, 52 in a 5-person household, 17 in a 6-person household, 3 in a 7-person household, 3 in an 8-person household, and one in a 10-person household. Besides, 26 participants reported an orphan member in their household. On the other hand, the majority of the participants (n = 279; 47.93%) replied “primary school” to the question, “*What is the highest level of school you completed?*”. To put it another way, almost one out of every 2 participants was a primary school graduate, followed by high school education with 123 participants, undergraduate education with 62 participants, no formal education with 59 participants, and middle school education with 54 participants. The least participants held a postgraduate degree (n = 5)

3.2. Findings of General Health Status

In this section, we present the participants’ general health status given their disability and chronic disease status (Table 2).

Table 2. Participants’ General Health Status

Variable (n = 582)	N	%
General health status		
Very good	88	15.1
Good	320	54.9
Fair	118	20.2
Bad	46	7.9
Very bad	6	1
Chronic disease		
Yes	163	28.1
No	419	71.9
Disability		
Yes	40	6.8
No	542	93.1

The majority of the participants (n = 320; 54.9%) reported having good general health. While 20.2% defined their health status as fair, 15.1% as very good, 7.9% as bad, and 1% as very bad. Besides, 28.1% had a chronic disease, and 6.8% had a disability. The most frequent type of disability was reported to be a physical disability (n = 17), followed by a mental disability (n = 9), a psychological disorder (n = 2), and a chronic disease (n = 5). In addition, 18 disabled participants held a disability identity card.

We asked the participants, “*To what extent does your disability restrict your life?*” to understand the impacts of any disability on their life. While three participants mentioned that their disability excessively restricts their life, 13 mentioned tolerable restricting impacts of their disability. Moreover,

12 participants did not indicate any restricting effects of their disability, 6 stated that having a disability does not limit their life, and the remaining 6 stated that having a disability never limits their life.

3.3. Findings of Housing Health

Housing health, a key indicator for one's living conditions and welfare, was explored on several parameters (e.g., type of housing, ownership, heating type, etc.; Table 3).

Table 3. Housing Characteristics

Variable (n = 582)	N	%
Housing type		
Detached house	364	62.5
Apartment	215	36.9
Container house	3	0.5
Ownership		
Owner	402	69
Tenant	162	27.8
Living rent free	18	3.2
Heating Type		
Yes	40	6.8
No	542	93.1

More than half of the participants reported living in a detached house. Besides, 402 participants owned their dwellings, 162 were tenants, and 18 lived rent-free. The mean rent reported by the tenant participants was TRY740.46. On the other hand, the number of rooms in the houses was reported to be 1 at least and 9 at most. For heating, the majority of the participants (n = 347) utilized natural gas, followed by a stove (n = 209), a coal heater (n = 23), an air conditioner (n = 2), and an electric stove (n = 1). About one-fifth of the participants (n = 131; 22.5%) reported broken glass, roof leaks, or damp walls in their houses. Almost all of them (n = 543; 93.5%) stated that they were content with the physical conditions of their houses, and 541 (92.9%) reported owning basic furniture and stuff to satisfy their needs.

3.4. Findings of Employment and Labor Force Status

This section presents the data on the participants' employment and labor force status. To explore their employment status, we asked the participants, "Have you ever been employed in a paid job to earn cash or in-kind income during the reference week?". Accordingly, we found out that 481 participants were not employed in the reference week and that the employed participants worked an average of 26 hours during the reference week. Besides, we discovered that 89 participants were employed as paid, salaried, or casual workers, six were self-employed, 5 were unpaid family workers, and 1 was an employer. In terms of workplace status, the findings showed that 76 of the participants were employed in the private sector, 23 in the public sector, and 2 in foundations or associations. While 85 out of 101 participants in the labor market were registered, and 16 were unregistered employees. Regarding the type of employment, we found that 86 participants were employed in a full-time job and 15 in a part-

time job. Finally, 72 participants were employed in a permanent position and 29 in a temporary or limited-term job.

3.5. Findings of Income and Social Assistance

Our findings revealed that 12% of the participants (n = 72) were regular beneficiaries of social assistance and that the participants had an average monthly income of TRY3984.66. While the majority of participants (76.3%) received social assistance from public agencies, the remaining 23.7% were beneficiaries of social assistance from private institutions. Besides, while 41.8% of the female social assistance beneficiaries did not find the amount of assistance sufficient, it was found to be 37.3% among the male participants. In this sense, we discovered the average amount of social assistance the participants desire to receive to be TRY2783.99 from their responses to the question, “*How much social assistance should you receive for you to perceive it to be sufficient?*”. On the other hand, about two-thirds of the participants (61.2%) reported that they did not disclose to others that they were granted social assistance. While 26.8% of the participants rated the service quality and staff attitudes in assistance-granting agencies as very good, 61.1% as good, 8.9% as fair, and 3.2% as bad.

The monthly average amount of social assistance granted to the participants was found to be TRY1300. Considering the participants’ ability to make their payments as scheduled in the last 12 months, we realized that 140 participants could not pay their utility bills (electricity, tap water, and natural gas), 97 participants could not pay their installments, credit card receipts, and other debts, and 40 participants could not pay rents or housing loans.

4. DISCUSSION

The research data allowed us to generate a poverty profile for the participants and to examine the relationships between their poverty and demographic variables, general health status, labor force status, housing health, income, and social assistance status. The mentioned profile was generated by comparing the participants’ monthly income to one-third of the net minimum wage. The net minimum wage became TRY5500.35 as of 2022. Accordingly, we considered those with a monthly income below one-third of the minimum wage to be “poor.” Therefore, we found out that 46.3% of the females and 32.8% of the males were poor; the difference may provide a common lens on the gender dimension of poverty. In this sense, we can claim that women are more affected by poverty despite some differences between countries. Gender differences in poverty often depend on social norms and women’s unpaid labor in their private sphere rather than being employed in income-generating jobs due to the gender-based division of labor, such as childcare and domestic responsibilities (World Bank, 2018).

On the other hand, measuring the impacts of social assistance on poverty was another primary pursuit of this study. Hence, we attempted to statistically suggest the effect of outright and direct social transfers to individuals by public or non-governmental organizations on poverty. Then, we generated a

new poverty profile through the participants' social assistance-adjusted income (subtracting the social assistance amount granted from their monthly income).

Table 4. Effect of Social Assistance on Poverty

Male	N	Percentage (%)	Difference (%)	Effect
Poverty	58	32.8	13	Decreasing
Poverty without social assistance	81	45.8		
Female	N	Percentage (%)	Difference (%)	Effect
Poverty	186	46.3	17.4	Decreasing
Poverty without social assistance	256	63.7		

Our findings demonstrated that the social cash transfers alleviated the poverty of both male and female participants. While the poverty rate for the male participants decreased by 13% with the help of social assistance, it was 17.4% for the female participants, which overlaps the above proposal that women are much more disadvantaged than men in poverty. Thus, social assistance may reduce the poverty of poorer women much more effectively than of men, suggesting that gender may be considered a parameter in targeting social assistance.

Table 5. Pre- and Post-test on the Effect of Social Assistance on Poverty

		Poverty After Social Assistance		Total	
		Poor	Not Poor		
Poverty Before Social Assistance		N	246	93	339
	Poor	Previous Poverty Status (%)	72.5	27.4	100
		N	0	243	243
	Not Poor	Previous Poverty Status (%)	0	100	100

We found that the status of 93 (27.4%) participants classified as poor exceeded the poverty line after they were granted social assistance ($\chi^2 = 91.011$; $p < 0.000$). McNemar's test yielded that social assistance granted to the participants showed a significant poverty-reducing effect; in other words, the shift from being poor to being not poor with social assistance was determined to be significant.

According to the participant's new income calculated by subtracting the average amount of social assistance from their actual income, 63.7% of the female and 45.8% of the male participants were poor. As mentioned above, social assistance granted to the participants seemed to reduce poverty by 17.4% in the female and 13% in the male participants. In general, our findings seem to overlap with the previous research. In their study, Eroglu et al. (2017) found that social assistance granted between 2004 and 2011 significantly reduced inequalities in income distribution in 21 OECD countries. Similarly, Polat (2020) concluded that cash transfers to households alleviated their poverty and inequality in income distribution. Moreover, Özdemir and İnce (2021) examined the effects of in-kind and cash transfers on poverty and reported a significant correlation between social assistance expenditures and poverty.

We also concluded that 43.8% of the participants without a formal education degree, 42.5% of the primary school graduates, 42.6% of the secondary school graduates, 36.9% of the high school graduates, and 38.8 with an undergraduate or above degree were poor. Therefore, we can claim that poverty is inversely related to educational attainment, overlapping with the findings of Çalışkan (2007). The results of the Income and Living Conditions Survey 2021 by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) demonstrated that 24.1% of illiterate individuals, 24.4% of individuals without a formal education degree, 13.8% of individuals with below high school education, 7.5% of individuals with high school or equivalent education, and 2.5% of individuals with a higher education degree were poor (TUIK, 2021). Increased educational attainment in society is likely to indirectly contribute to reducing poverty thanks to the participation of highly-educated individuals in the labor market (Aksan, 2012). Similarly, the previous research determined significant relationships between poverty and the size/type of household and the age and educational attainment of household members (Durgun, 2011). In their study tracing the factors affecting household poverty, Ayvaz Kızılgöl and Demir (2010) found increased age and educational attainment of household heads to be associated with decreased poverty. In addition, they identified the increased number of household members as a factor that contributes to poverty.

Considering the participants' general health status, 21.6% of the participants with very good health, 43.9% with good health, 44.1% with fair health, 72.7% with bad health, and 75% with very bad health were poor, which implies that poverty is inversely related to health status. Indeed, a robust interaction between one's socioeconomic status and general health condition leads to a vicious cycle. While poverty often ends up with a worsening of health due to restricted access to adequate nutrition, education, and environmental conditions, deteriorated health status is likely to lead to job losses (Ergül, 2004). Şantaş (2017) also stated that one's poor health status hinders their chance of employment and, thus, deepens their poverty

In this study, while 52% of the participants with disabilities were poor, this rate was 42.5% for those without a disability. We also concluded that individuals with disabilities were poorer than those without. Similarly, Elwan (1999) determined that disabled individuals may be poorer than non-disabled individuals and that people experiencing poverty may have a higher risk of being disabled. The relevant

literature hosts a plethora of studies concluding significant correlations between disability status and poverty and that the disabled are poorer and more exposed to social exclusion than their non-disabled counterparts (Fujiura & Yamaki, 2000; Yeo & Moore, 2003; Loeba et al., 2008; Braithwaite & Mont, 2009; Besiri, 2009; Isaac et al., 2010; Buettgen et al., 2012).

We discovered that 56.6% of the participants with broken glass, roof leaks, or damp walls in their houses and 39.5% without such problems were poor. This rate was found to be 42.6% for those with non-livable physical housing conditions and 51.7% for those with livable housing conditions. Moreover, slightly less than half of the participants having basic furniture and stuff to satisfy their needs (43.1%) and 45.4% that did report owning such stuff were poor. Finally, our findings exhibited that 14.3% of the employed participants, 44.4% of the unemployed participants, 95.3% of those not participants in the labor force, and 46.6% of the retired participants were poor. The 2009 data from the OECD suggested that 9% of the OECD population of working age suffered from poverty (OECD, 2009). When it comes to the relationship between poverty and social assistance, we found that 58% of the social assistance-receiving participants and 41.7% of the participants not found eligible for social assistance were poor, which may attribute controversy to the criteria in targeting of social assistance. Besides, the literature often emphasizes the robust links between poverty and household size and the educational attainment and age of household members (Yılmaz, 2006; Zülfikar, 2010; İncedal, 2013).

5. CONCLUSION

The ultimate goal of social policies, particularly implemented in social or welfare states, is to ensure development, improve citizens' economic and social welfare, and secure social peace. One prerequisite for achieving such goals may lie in the fair distribution of state revenues, which is indeed closely linked with uncovering social dynamics and the needs of disadvantaged groups. In this sense, comprehensive field research is becoming more and more essential to lead the efforts to preserve and further improve the welfare of disadvantaged groups. Ultimately, we investigated the relationships between poverty among disadvantaged individuals living in Burdur province and their demographic characteristics, general health status, employment and labor force status, income, housing health, and social assistance status. Overall, our findings revealed that women, those with lower education, those with poor health, those with a disability, and those unemployed experienced more poverty when compared to their counterparts in the study.

States may need to take consistent and long-term measures and collaborate with non-governmental organizations to implement these measures to combat poverty and income inequality effectively. Upon our findings, it seems to be an apparent need to introduce economic and social policies oriented to promote women's participation in the labor force since women-related practices are likely to create a butterfly effect in a community. In addition to women, older adults should be encouraged to participate in social life and engage in active aging. Furthermore, as well as social policies to eliminate

accessibility issues in the public sphere, equal opportunity in education needs to be secured to cut the chains of child poverty in the long run.

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Fikir veya Kavram / <i>Idea or Notion</i>	Araştırma hipotezini veya fikrini oluşturmak <i>/ Form the research hypothesis or idea</i>	Asst. Prof. Işıl DEMİRTAŞ (Ph.D.) Burak BAŞ
Tasarım / <i>Design</i>	Yöntemi, ölçeği ve deseni tasarlamak / <i>Designing method, scale and pattern</i>	Asst. Prof. Işıl DEMİRTAŞ (Ph.D.) Burak BAŞ
Veri Toplama ve İşleme / <i>Data Collecting and Processing</i>	Verileri toplamak, düzenlemek ve raporlamak / <i>Collecting, organizing and reporting data</i>	Asst. Prof. Işıl DEMİRTAŞ (Ph.D.) Burak BAŞ
Tartışma ve Yorum / <i>Discussion and Interpretation</i>	Bulguların değerlendirilmesinde ve sonuçlandırılmasında sorumluluk almak / <i>Taking responsibility in evaluating and finalizing the findings</i>	Asst. Prof. Işıl DEMİRTAŞ (Ph.D.) Burak BAŞ
Literatür Taraması / <i>Literature Review</i>	Çalışma için gerekli literatürü taramak / <i>Review the literature required for the study</i>	Asst. Prof. Işıl DEMİRTAŞ (Ph.D.) Burak BAŞ

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