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"A STUDY ON DETERMİNATİON OF RECREATİONAL DEMANDS AND INCLİNATİONS OF CİTY PEOPLE OF CANAKKALE"

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Abstract

This paper is an examination of behavioural features of people in terms of user preferences, the adequacy of resources, the extent of participation in recreation activities and a determination of unexpressed demands people have for recreational activities. This study will use a questionnaire to determine the public perception of recreation, the ability of recreational areas to meet the recreational demands of people and the responses of people to these activities.

The study was carried out in two stages. Firstly we undertook an analysis of the socio-cultural structure of people of Canakkale city, their natural and cultural resources, and the potential of tourism and recreation of Canakkale. Standard questionnaire forms were employed to determine the demands of people for recreational activities, recreational behavioural features and the ability of recreational resources to meet the demands of the users. Using SPSS software we performed statistical analysis along certain parameters: percent (%), mean (df), cross tabulations and statistical techniques such as chi-square (X^2) analysis was used in hypothesis testing.

According to the results of the questionnaire, it was found that people are very sensitive to recreation, but there are not enough recreational facilities to meet the demands of the users. Results strongly suggest that cultural, technical and management measures should be taken as early as possible.

Keywords: Çanakkale, green areas, leisure time, natural landscape, recreation, Turkey

Introduction.

Humans have damaged nature from the first day to the present time and as a result the natural balance has changed greatly. The significant increase in world population, industrialisation, rapid urbanization and developing technology have led to the excessive use of natural resources which have in turn created serious environmental problems.

Sometime around the year 2025, 8billion people will be living on the planet. These people will require land, energy, water, and food, regardless of whether they live in cities or in rural villages. As their incomes rise, they will consume greater quantities and varieties of goods and, in the process, will generate greater quantities of waste.

How this population growth and economic expansion will affect the environment has been a matter of debate for some time, but now there is a new dimension. By 2025, the majority of the world's population, some 5billion people, will be living in urban areas - a transformation that is bound to change the nature and scale of humanity's impact on the environment (Anonymous 1996).

In recent years, cities all over the world have experienced rapid growth because of the rapid increase in world population and the irreversible flow of people from rural to urban areas. Specifically, in the larger towns and cities of the developing world the rate of population increase has been constant and nowadays, many of them are facing unplanned and uncontrolled settlements at their densely populated sites or fringes. To prevent such occurrences, urban planners need detailed updated maps for thorough planning and management (De Brouwer et al 1990). However, most city planners have a lack of such maps and often they posses old data which is not relevant for current decision-making. Even if they do not hold a detailed updated map of the city area a regularly updated map with an acceptable resolution can at least give them an impression about the changes in the city area (Turkstra 1996).

The rapid increase in urbanization in the second half of the 20th century resulted in different uses of open and green spaces, which were originally allocated to various public services. This has led to the development of significant numbers of urban areas which do not have enough green spaces, have an unbalanced physical structure and organic wholeness with various kinds of environmental problems (Schwilgin 1974; Uzun and Altunkasa 1991).

Like in all developing/developed countries, cities show a rapid development in parallel to significant changes in socio-economic areas. In fact, this development is against green areas and natural landscape around the cities. For this reason city people are indirectly forced to travel to natural rural areas, which are far away from the cities. The increase in standard of living and developments in transport systems increase this inclination (Aslanboğa 1989).

Recreation is derived from two Latin words; re = repetition and creare = create. A person defines it as the use of leisure time in order to renew him or herself in terms of physical and psychological aspects of self. Recreation is generally described as 'wide action', which includes various activities, such as resting, entertainment, better use of leisure time and travelling (Altan 1984).

Recreation is often conceived of in terms of five phases: anticipation, travel to, on-site, travel back, and recollection (Clawson and Knetsch 1966; Driver and Tocher 1970). Much of the early research in this area focused on how people's mood changed over time. More (1973) and More and Payne (1978), for example, looked at changes in moods from shortly before to shortly after participation in on-site recreation activities.

The features and functions of recreation, which consists of essential requirements of modern societies (such as resting, entertainment and better use of leisure time) can be given such an order:

- Recreation involves action and occurs because of a personal desire and instinct, and is done in leisure time.

- People are not forced into recreational activities.
- They are provided with mental satisfaction by these activities.
- They feel happy.
- Activities could be performed individually or as a group, as either planned or unplanned.
- There are different recreation activities for every age group and social class.
- People can take part as active or passive (Koç and Şahin 1999).

Many people spend much of their leisure time participating in a wide variety of organized recreation activities, such as aerobics, arts and crafts, water sports, tennis, camping and softball. Recreation programs, as diverse as the people they serve, are offered at local playgrounds and recreation areas, parks, community centres, health clubs, religious organizations, camps, theme parks, and most tourist attractions (Anonymous 1999a).

Recreation planning then, is a process that relates the leisure time of people to space. It is an art and a science that uses the concepts and methods of many disciplines to provide public and private leisure opportunities in cities. In practice, recreation planning blends the knowledge and techniques of environmental design and the social sciences to develop alternatives for using leisure time, space, energy, and money to accommodate human needs (Gold 1980).

It is important to plan recreation resources to meet certain standards and optimal uses. When planning recreation areas, several factors must be considered. The need for such facilities must be determined as well as the capacity. Listening to the requests of citizens, plus following a recreation program that continually updates facilities that appear to be in demand, will help satisfy needs. Awareness of just how many individuals can comfortably use a given site, and when the greatest demand will be realized, will help determine capacity.

In many cases, facilities have not kept pace with the rapidly increasing visitor load at outdoor recreation areas. As a result, optimum use of these areas is impossible, and overused facilities deteriorate rapidly. Where water supply, sewage disposal, and solid waste handling are inadequate, visitors will fend for themselves. The result is often a condition that is aesthetically offensive as well as a serious environmental health hazard (Anonymous1998).

The amount of leisure time and its use in a given time period play an important role as much as behavioural features of people or behavioural models in recreational planning. The nature of leisure time for people is determined by factors such as age, sex, work, and social condition. These factors show a significant variation according to persons and contradict each other (Uzun and Altunkasa 1991).

One of the key problems with present methods of planning for urban recreational open space is the failure to consider the diverse values and needs of ethnic, economic, age and other groups within the urban population (Wright et al 1976). The current ethnic population coupled with higher birth rates and immigration will dramatically affect participation in outdoor recreation. Recreation area managers must be able to decipher current and potential visitors' needs and motivations for visiting (Thapa et al 2002).

In the examination of behavioural features of people in society, user preferences, the adequacy of resources, the extent of participation of recreation activities and determination of unexpressed demands of people for recreational activities are essential (Appleton 1974; Uzun and Altunkasa 1991).

This increase and variation in recreation demands have urged the use of new management strategies and techniques in planning. The questionnaire is one of the most important methods in determining a public perception of recreation. It can also uncover the ability of recreational areas to meet the recreational demands of people and their responses to these activities. A questionnaire allows for a broader cohort to be examined simultaneously. Thus the recreational demands of society, the recreational behavioural features, the planning of recreational resources and optimal use of recreation resources can be conduction more efficiently.

In the last forty years, with the increase of time for leisure and recreation, the concept of carrying capacity has been a central research theme for social scientists (Grafe et al. 1984; Shelby 1984; Stankey and Mc Cool 1984). Problems like crowding and recreation satisfaction have been introduced as research issues, and thus there is a need for a method to measure the experiences felt by people, and to define what has been identified as the recreation carrying capacity of places (Clark, 1996; Manning, 1999).

The evaluation of recreational capacity limits is much more difficult to achieve (Schreyer 1984), although it is clearly defined as the maximum level of recreational use in terms of numbers and activities. However, there is a decline in the recreational experience from the point of view of the recreation participant (Da Silva 2002).

The aims of this study is to determine the demands people have for recreational activities, their recreational behaviour and the ability of recreational resources in meeting the recreational demands of people in Canakkale city, which has a rich potential in terms of recreational resources. This was determined by using the questionnaire method. The final aim of the study is to make suggestions on current recreational structure taking into consider the results of the questionnaire.

Materials and Methods

This study was carried out in Canakkale, which has not only a rich history, but also an important potential of natural and cultural resources. Canakkale is located in the narrowest part of Dardanel Bosphorus in the North of the Karaçay stream. It lies near the sea and harbours of the Biga and Gelibolu peninsulas. It is 335km to İzmir via Edremit, 212 km to Balıkesir via Can, 305km to Bursa via Lapseki, and 230km to Edirne and 337km to Istanbul via Keşan. Gökçeada and Bozcaada, which are Aegean Islands, located in the south of Bosphorus mouth and belong to Canakkale Province.
In this study, the socio-cultural structure of the people of Çanakkale and its natural cultural resources were examined. Relevant literature and information documents including recreation planning and leisure researches were also used as an additional material.

The study was carried out in two stages by collecting and analyzing data.

Data Collection

We examined the socio-cultural structure of the people of Canakkale, and the potential for tourism and recreation. Standard questionnaire forms were employed to determine the demands people had for recreational activities, their recreational behaviour and the effectiveness of existing recreational resources in meeting the demands of the users. The studies of Pincombe (1969), Anonymous (1973), Gold (1980), Uzun and Altunkasa (1991), Kelkit (1996), were examined and the information obtained from this examination was used in preparing the questionnaire. Based on the city population, 100 people took part in this questionnaire. The questionnaire was carried out in the city centre of Canakkale in June 2002.

Data Analysis

The data collected from questionnaire firstly grouped by using excel software. The groups were:

Age
Sex
Education
Job (occupation)
Monthly income
Private car
Recreation means
Recreational activities
Weekend time
Preference of recreation areas
Long term-holidays
City centre based recreation activities
Deficiencies in city centre recreation areas
Outside city centre recreation activities
Deficiencies outside city centre recreation activities

Statistical analysis on these variables was performed by using SPSS (SPSS 1988) and included percent (%), mean (df) and cross tabulations. Statistical techniques used in data analyzing were chi-square (X^2) analysis to test the hypothesis.

Correlation coefficient was also performed to understand the relationships between age and long term-holidays; age and outside city centre recreation activities preference; education status and recreational activities; monthly income and long term-holidays; private car and outside city centre recreation activities; job (occupation) status and recreation means (Davis 1986).

Results

Socio-Cultural Structure

Nine different settlement periods have been determined from the remains of Troy, the earliest dating from 3000BC, indicating that there were settlers in the region from that time or earlier. The city, first recognized in 1809 by the Canakkale agreement, is a historical city providing a natural museum with evidence of many civilizations and wars. The city centre which had a population of 11,000 towards the end of the 19th century went in to a period of reconstruction after two major fires in 1860 and 1865, and a war in 1915. While the city population was 8500 in 1927, during the Second World War it reached 24,000 and after 1950 increased by 5000 annually (Erdem et al 1997).

According to the 1997 census of population, the city centre population was 69,373 (Anonymous 1997). According to the 2000 census of population it was 75,810, of these 39,558 were male and 36,252 were female. Based on the distribution of age groups, there were 22,352 in the 0-18 age group, 17,896 in the 19-30 age group, 28,843 in the 31-60 age group and 4,641 in the 61 and above age group. Eighty nine percent of the city centre population was literate with 46% primary school graduates, 8% secondary school graduates, 25% high school graduates and 10% university graduates (Anonymous 2000).

Fifty three percent of the province population lives in rural areas. Therefore, agriculture is an important part of the economy. Agriculture based industrial enterprises predominant, though other industrial enterprises are also present.

Natural and Cultural Resources

The weather is a combination of Mediterranean and Black Sea climates. Although the Mediterranean climate dominates near the coast, summer is not as hot as the Mediterranean and Aegean Coasts. At high places in the interior part of the province summer is cool and winters are quite cold. The province gets about 600-800mm of rain. Throughout the year a cool wind called the “Poyraz” blows from the North-East over the region alternating with a warm wind called the “Lodos”, which blows from the South-West and has amore pronounced climate effect than the “Poyraz”. The wind speed is 4.4m/sec (Anonymous 1999b).

The flora of the province changes according to altitude, with forest in the high places, and Mediterranean flora in elsewhere. Half of the province area is covered with forests and bushes. Canakkale also has important water resources, including dams such as Kara Menderes, Tuzla, Sarıçay, Kavak, Biga, Gönen, Uludere, Bayramdere, Cınardere, Büyükdere, Tayfur Streams. Tuz and Hoyrat Lakes, and Tayfur and Atikhisar, which are important surface water resources. In addition there are wetlands in the province. All these water resources are important in terms of wildlife richness and water based recreation.

Tourism and Recreational Potential

Canakkale is a good candidate to become a tourist and recreation centre due to presence of its special land forms, its rich coast structure, Gökçeada (Imbros) and Bozcaada (Tenedos) Islands, Troia, Assos (Behramkale), Gelibolu Peninsula and other important natural and cultural resources in the historical structure.

Determining Recreational Demands And Inclinations Of People By Using Questionnaires.

Statistical analysis of the questionnaires was performed by SPSS and the results were evaluated to determine the demands people have for recreational activities, their recreational behaviour and the ability of recreational resources to meet these demands.

The general features of those who took part are:

Age	
11%	below 18,

51%	19 to 30
32%	31 to 60
6%	61 year and above

Sex	
52%	male
48%	female

Education	
1%	illiterate
4%	primary school
6%	secondary school
33%	high school
56%	university graduate

Occupation	
42%	student
32%	staff
1%	worker
9%	self-employed
11%	housewife
5%	others

Income	
24%	less than 100 million
17%	between 100-200 million
18%	between 200-300 million
22%	between 300-400 million
19%	400 million above

Car use	
63%	private car
37%	No private car

What follows is a summary of the responses to the questions in the survey:

Regarding the question “What Recreation Means?” of the participants, 27% said ‘resting, entertainment’, 50% ‘active and passive actions in leisure time’, 6% ‘picnic’ and 17% ‘trips’.

To the question “What are your recreational activity preferences?”, 35% ‘sight seeing’, 28% ‘camping and picnic’, 15% ‘swimming’, 12% ‘fishing’ and 10% ‘art based activities’.

Regarding the question “How they spend their weekend time?”, 21% said ‘staying at home’, 29% ‘picnic’, 15% ‘sports’, 14% ‘reading’, 17% ‘hill walking’ and 4% ‘others’.

According to the choice of recreation areas, 56% said ‘open spaces’, 42% ‘open-closed spaces’ and 2% ‘closed spaces’.

Regarding the question “How they spend long term holidays?”, 58% said ‘seaside’, 10% ‘forest areas’, 6% ‘village’, 22% ‘home’ and 4% ‘others’.

To the question “What are your city centre based recreation activity preferences”, 12% said ‘city parks’, 49% ‘walking at seaside’, 10% ‘fishing’, 12% ‘sports’, 9% ‘gardening’ and 8% ‘art based activities’.

Regarding the question “What are the deficiencies in city centre recreation areas?”, 17% said ‘management and care’, 26% ‘cleaning’, 19% ‘noise problem’, 9% ‘parking’, 13% ‘open green spaces’, 8% ‘resting and walking areas’ and 8% ‘equipment’.

Regarding the question “Outside city centre recreation activities”, 27% stated ‘forest areas’, 45% ‘seaside’, 17% ‘historical places’, 6% ‘riverside’ and 5% ‘others’.

Regarding the question “Deficiencies in outside city centre recreational activities”, 21% ‘transportation’, 6% ‘forest areas’, 47% ‘cleaning’, and 26% ‘equipment’.

Age group based distribution of preference of long-term holidays as provided by questionnaire participants were given in Table 1.

Table 1. Age group based distribution of preference of long-term holidays

Age group/Long-term Holidays	Sea sides	Forest areas	Village	Home	Others
18>	4	-	-	7	-
%	36,4	-	-	63,6	-
18-30	35	4	1	7	4
%	68,6	7,8	2,0	13,7	7,8
31-60	15	4	4	6	3
%	46,9	12,5	12,5	18,8	9,4
61<	1	1	-	4	-
%	16,7	16,7	-	66,7	-
Total	55	9	5	24	7
%	55,0	9,0	5,0	24,0	7,0

According to the data in table 1, those who are younger than 18 and those who are older than 61 spend their long-term holidays at home, while the people in other age groups generally prefer to go seaside regions. Statistical analysis agrees with this statement. The relevant test resulted in an X^2 value of 27,551. This value was compared to Table value of (X^2_t = 21,03) at df = 12 and α = 0,05. Because the $X^2$was greater than the table value and p= 0,006 it was concluded that there is a significant relation between the age groups and preference of long-term holidays.

Age group based distribution of preference of outside city centre recreational activities as provided by questionnaire participants were given in Table 2.

Table 2. Age group distribution of preference of outside city centre recreational activities

Age Groups / Activities	Forest areas	Sea sides	Historical places	River sides	Others
18>	2	9	-	-	-
%	18,2	81,8	-	-	-
18-30	15	18	12	5	1
%	29,4	35,3	23,5	9,8	2,0
31-60	9	12	5	3	3
%	28,1	37,5	15,6	9,4	9,4
61 <	2	2	-	-	2
%	33,3	33,3	-	-	33,3
Total	28	41	17	8	6
%	28,0	41,0	17,0	8,0	6,0

It was observed that as the individuals got older their preferences shifted from seasides to forests areas. The statistical analysis confirmed these findings. The relevant test resulted in a X^2 value of 21,556. This value was compared to Table value of (X^2_t = 21,03) at df = 12 and α = 0,05. Because the $X^2$was greater than the Table value and p= 0,043 it was concluded that there is a significant relation between the age groups and preference of outside city centre recreational activities.

Education status based distribution of preference of recreational activities as provided the questionnaire participants were given in Table 3.

Table 3. Education status based distribution of preference of recreational activities

Education Status / Activities	Sigh seeing	Camping and picnic	Swimming	Fishing	Art based activities	Others
Illiterate	-	-	-	-	1	-
%	-	-	-	-	100,0	-
Primary school	2	1	-	1	-	-
%	50,0	25,0	-	25,0	-	-
Secondary school	3	2	-	-	-	-
%	60,0	40,0	-	-	-	-
High school	16	9	3	2	1	-
%	51,6	29,0	9,7	6,5	3,2	-
University	16	24	5	4	3	6
%	27,6	41,4	8,6	6,9	5,2	10,3
Total	37	36	8	7	5	6
%	37,4	36,4	8,1	7,1	5,1	6,1

As the educational level of individuals got higher, their preference got more diverse. The statistical analysis confirmed these findings. The relevant test resulted in a X^2 value of 31,722. This value was compared to Table value of (X^2_t = 31,41) at df = 12 and α = 0,05. Because the $X^2$was greater than the Table value and p= 0,046 it was concluded that there is a significant relation between the education status and preference of recreational activities.

Monthly income based distribution of preference of long-term holidays as provided the questionnaire participants were given in Table 4.

Table 4. Monthly income based distribution of preference of long-term holidays

Monthly Income / Long-term Holidays	Sea sides	Forest areas	Village	Home	Others
0-100 Million	9	1	-	12	3
%	36,0	4,0	-	48,0	12,0
100-200 Million	12	3	-	2	-
%	70,6	17,6	-	11,8	-
200-300 Million	11	1	-	5	-
%	64,7	5,9	-	29,4	-
300-400 Million	12	3	2	4	1
%	54,5	13,6	9,1	18,2	4,5
400 Million <	11	1	3	1	3
%	57,9	5,3	15,8	5,3	15,8
Total	55	9	5	24	7
%	55,0	9,0	5,0	24,0	7,0

As monthly income got higher, they spent less time in their home and they prefer seaside's and forest areas. The statistical analysis confirmed these findings. The relevant test resulted in a X^2 value of 29,850. This value was compared to Table value of (X^2_t = 26,30) at df = 12 and α = 0,05. Because the $X^2$was greater than the Table value and p= 0,019 it was concluded that there is a significant relation between the monthly income and preference of long-term holidays.

Private car based distribution of preference of outside city centre recreational area as provided the questionnaire participants were given in Table 5.

Table 5. Private car based distribution of preference of outside city centre recreational area

Private Car/ Activities	Forest Areas	Sea Sides	Historical Places	River Sides	Others
Yes	15	29	14	5	-
%	23,8	46,0	22,2	7,9	-

No **%**	13 35,1	12 32,4	3 8,1	3 8,1	6 16,2
Total **%**	28 28,0	41 41,0	17 17,0	8 8,0	6 6,0

The possession of private car makes it possible to travel to the seaside as well as historical sites. The statistical analysis confirmed these findings. The relevant test resulted in a X^2 value of 15,068. This value was compared to Table value of (X^2_t = 9,49) at df = 4 and α = 0,05. Because the $X^2$was greater than the Table value and p= 0,005 it was concluded that there is a significant relation between the private car and preference of outside city centre recreational area.

Job (occupation) status based distribution of preference of recreation means as provided by the questionnaire participants were given in Table 6.

Table 6. Job (occupation) status based distribution of preference of recreation means

Job Status/ Recreation Means	**Resting-Entertainment**	**Active and Passive Actions in Leisure Time**	**Picnic**	**Trips**	**Others**
Student **%**	18 41,9	19 44,2	- -	5 11,6	1 2,3
Staff **%**	5 23,8	14 66,7	- -	1 4,8	1 4,8
Worker **%**	- -	- -	1 100,0	- -	- -
Self-employed **%**	- -	7 87,5	- -	1 12,5	- -
Housewife **%**	2 18,2	8 72,7	- -	1 9,1	- -
Others **%**	2 12,5	7 43,8	- -	6 37,5	1 6,3
Total **%**	27 27,0	55 55,0	1 1,0	14 14,0	3 3,0

The chi-square test resulted in a X^2 value of 126,006. This value was compared to Table value at df = 25 and α = 0,05. Because the X^2 was greater than the Table value **(**X^2_t = 37,65) and p= 0,000 it was concluded that there is a significant relation between the job (occupation) status and preference of recreational means.

Discussion and conclusion.

In the developing world today, the natural increase of the urban population is at least as important as migration. The high rate of natural increase in these cities, however, does tend to follow migration, because most migrants are of reproductive age. Another contributor to urban growth is the reclassification of city boundaries, which can result in dramatic changes in urban size (Terence and Griffiths 1994).

With the rapid increase in population the migration to cities have caused unplanned and inappropriate urbanization. In this way cities have moved away from nature and green areas have been used for different land use purposes. Therefore, cities have turned into biologically deficient places for human life. This has increased people desire towards nature and recreation has become the most important way of satisfying this desire.

Inappropriate urbanization was seen in Canakkale until 1950. First city development plan appeared in 1959 (Erdem et al 1997). Various measures have been taken to make Canakkale a modern city in recent years. Canakkale as a city has a rich potential because of its geo-political location, natural and cultural sources as well as its historical structure and enough opportunities for recreational activities. However, from the results of the questionnaire, it was understood that current recreational resources and user potential are not utilized as much as they are expected to be. In addition, a significant number of participants were found to be very interested in recreation.

The participants stated important deficiencies in recreational areas in the city centre or outside the city such as cleaning, equipment, management and care as well as noise pollution, inadequate in open green spaces and resting and walking areas.

The finding that 63% of the participants have their own private car and the adequacy of other means of transport systems, indicate that there is no problem of transportation to recreation areas. Of the people who took part in this study, 62% are in the 0-30 age group and prefer recreational activities such as sightseeing, camping and picnic and swimming which suggest that there is a huge demand for planned recreational areas. In addition 49% of the participants prefer to go to seaside for walking.

In conclusion, the findings of the present study indicate that, Canakkale has an important potential with its historical past, historical places and remains, rich coast structure, natural and cultural sources for recreational activities. Necessary cultural, technical and management measures should be taken by preparing programs and projects by authorities to obtain the best use of this potential in meeting the recreation demands of people, this should be based on protection - using principle.

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