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RESEARCH ARTICLE / ARAŞTIRMA MAKALESİ

Investigation of Perceptions of Afghan Immigrants Living in the TRA1 Sub-Region within the Scope of International Migration about the Region

Uluslararası Göç Kapsamında TRA1 Alt Bölgesinde Yaşayan Afganistan Uyruklu Mültecilerin Bölge Hakkındaki Algılarının Araştırılması

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Abstract

The world is experiencing the worst immigrant crisis since the Second World War; millions of people have been displaced and forced to migrate. The immigrant problem, one of the most important consequences of forced migration, is one of the most important issues in the international arena. One of the countries most affected by this problem is undoubtedly Türkiye. The aim of the article is to investigate the phenomenon of migration, which is one of the issues that affect Türkiye the most in the national and international arena, in the context of social acceptance. It is obvious that harsh solutions to the immigrant problem with strict rules are not only inappropriate for humanity but will also deepen the problem rather than solve it, and damage the image of Türkiye in the international arena. Therefore, the most fundamental solution to be developed is to ensure social acceptance through suggestions to be developed on soft ground. This is only possible if immigrants are recognized and their perceptions and efforts are known. In the study, *The Perceptions of Afghan Immigrants living in TRA1 Level 2 (Erzurum, Erzincan, Bayburt) region about the Region were investigated.*

The study was conducted using the grounded theory method. In this method, the problem is heard directly from the interlocutors and the hypothesis is obtained by analyzing the data obtained. In this study, a data pool was created through in-depth interviews and semi-structured questionnaires with immigrants from Afghanistan living in the TRA1 region, and then these data were analyzed in accordance with the grounded theory method. With the results obtained, it is aimed to make an academic contribution to integration studies by revealing the perceptions of immigrants about the region.

Keywords: International Forced Migration, Afghan Immigrants, Social Cohesion, Grounded Theory, TRA1 Region

Öz

Dünya, İkinci Dünya Savaşı'ndan bu yana en ağır göçmen krizini yaşamakta; milyonlarca insan yerlerinden edilerek göçe zorlanmış durumdadır. Zorunlu göçün en önemli sonuçlarından biri olan göçmen sorunu; uluslararası alandaki en önemli konuların başında gelmektedir. Bu sorundan en çok etkilenen ülkelerden biri ise hiç kuşkusuz Türkiye'dir. Makalenin amacı ulusal ve uluslararası arenada Türkiye'yi en çok etkileyen meselelerin başında gelen göç olgusunun toplumsal kabul bağlamında araştırılmasıdır. Göçmen sorununa, katı kurallarla sert bir şekilde getirilecek çözümlerin hem insanlığa uygun olmadığı hem de çözümden ziyade sorunu derinleştireceği ve ülkemizin uluslararası arenadaki imajını zedeleyeceği ortadadır. Bu nedenle geliştirilecek en temel çözüm; yumuşak bir zeminde oluşturulacak önerilerle toplumsal kabulün sağlanmasıdır. Bu da ancak göçmenlerin tanınması, algı ve çabalarının ne yönde olduğunun bilinmesiyle mümkündür. Çalışmada, TRA1 Düzey 2 (Erzurum, Erzincan, Bayburt) bölgesinde yaşayan Afganistan uyruklu göçmenlerin bölge hakkındaki algıları araştırılmıstır.

Çalışma, temellendirilmiş kuram (grounded theory) yöntemiyle gerçekleştirilmiştir. Bu yöntemde sorun direkt olarak muhataplardan dinlenmekte ve elde edilen veriler analize tabi tutularak hipotez elde edilmektedir. Çalışmada da TRA1 bölgesinde yaşayan Afganistan uyruklu göçmenlerle yapılan derinlemesine mülakat ve yarı yapılandırılmış anketlerle bir veri havuzu oluşturulup daha sonra temellendirilmiş kuram yöntemine uygun şekilde bu veriler analiz edilmiştir. Elde edilen sonuçlarla göçmenlerin bölge hakkındaki algıları ortaya konarak entegrasyon çalışmalarına akademik katkı sunulması amaçlanmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Uluslararası Zorunlu Göç, Afganistan Uyruklu Göçmenler, Sosyal Uyum, Temellendirilmiş Kuram, TRA1 Bölgesi

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Introduction

The phenomenon of migration is an ancient social reality that humanity has frequently faced in the historical process. Today, this ancient reality emerges as the immigrant problem. Those most affected by this problem, which has become one of the most important issues in the international arena, are undoubtedly the countries that are geographically close to a region of war.

Türkiye has become one of the biggest addressees of the migration problem as it is located between a troubled geography where wars and conflicts are intense and natural disasters affect, and a center of attraction, Europe. The **aim of this study** is to contribute to the 'immigrant problem' in line with the humanitarian aid policy adopted by Türkiye. The most fundamental solution to the immigrant problem today is to ensure social acceptance on soft ground. The study aims to make an academic contribution to integration studies by investigating migrants' perceptions of social acceptance.

Contributing to integration efforts is extremely important in terms of showing the measures that can be taken against the recent increase in anti-immigrant sentiment in the world and Türkiye. One of the most important reasons underlying anti-immigrant sentiments is that societies do not know each other and are mutually afraid of each other. This phenomenon of mutual obscurity is also hindering integration and preventing societies from cohesion. As a result of this, very crucial problems can arise, such as the exclusion and isolation of migrants and even ghettoization. The study analyzes the perceptions of the immigrant community about the region and its people by measuring whether these possibilities exist, and if so, to what extent.

Although Türkiye has a significant immigrant population, Syrian immigrants were the first group to be researched due to the urgency of the war. For this reason, the majority of the studies **in the literature** were conducted for this group. Studies on immigrants from Afghanistan - the second largest group of the world refugess - have remained relatively a minority. In this sense, the study comes to the fore by examining the phenomenon of social acceptance from the perspectives of Afghan immigrants. In addition, Afghan immigrants, unfortunately, have a deep experience of being immigrants due to long years of war, drought and environmental disasters such as air pollution. The study is also valuable in terms of benefiting from the migration experiences of a nation with this experience.

In the selection of the TRA1 Region, the data of the Turkish Immigration Administration was used. According to the report of the Provincial Directorate of Migration Management, as of 2023, the number of immigrants residing in Türkiye is 4 million 893 thousand 752. Considering the nationalities of immigrants living in Türkiye, the table is as follows. Iraq is in the first place; Afghanistan is in the second and Iran is in the third place. Turkmenistan, Syria, Germany, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, and Kazakhstan are the other top 10 countries, respectively. As can be seen, immigrants from Afghanistan are in the second rank in Türkiye. While Istanbul ranks first among the provinces with the highest number of Afghan immigrants in Türkiye, it has been observed that the immigrant population is generally concentrated in large provinces. Although the TRA1 region is not the region with the highest immigrant population in Türkiye, it is the region with the highest density of Afghan immigrant population compared to other immigrants. Therefore, the TRA1 Region was selected in the study.¹

¹ https://www.goc.gov.tr/guncel-veriler#

The Grounded Theory Method will be used in the study. Grounded theory is a method that refers to the place of social phenomena in human perception by referring to human consciousness. In this method, in-depth interviews are conducted with participants about a determined subject and a theory is reached by analyzing the data obtained from these interviews (Merriam, 1998). In short, according to this method, the phenomenon being studied is listened to directly from addressees, and instead of being based on an initial hypothesis, a theory is formed with the results obtained from the data received. In the study, in accordance with the grounded theory method, a data pool will be created and analyzed through in-depth interviews with immigrants from Afghanistan living in the TRA1 region.

Scientific Background of The Study

Literature Review

There is a vast literature on the immigrant problem, which has recently increased considerably in the world and Türkiye. There are numerous studies on this issue, especially in sending and receiving countries that are among the most important addressees of the problem. When the migrations from Afghanistan are taken into consideration, the countries where these migrations are made can be mentioned as Pakistan, Iran, Türkiye, the Balkans, Europe and America, with Afghanistan being the region of origin. There are serious studies on the causes and consequences of migration in these countries, which can be referred to as the Afghanistan migration route. For this reason, the study examines examples from Türkiye and the world, particularly the work done by people of Afghanistan.

As a result of the examinations, it has been observed that the literature in Türkiye consists mostly of studies on immigrants from Syria, while studies on immigrants from Afghanistan are relatively few. This study aims to fill this gap. In addition, field research has focused only on the problems of the immigrant community or the reasons for migration, whereas when it comes to integration, the host community's views on immigrants are usually included. This study, however, takes a radical approach, focusing not only on migrants' perceptions of the region or their problems but also on their perceptions of the host society. Because integration is not a phenomenon that can be realized unilaterally, but only with the acceptance of both sides. The study was carried out to fill these two main gaps in the literature.

Since the study was conducted as field research, the main sources are the data obtained from the interviews conducted in the field. In addition, the examination of previous studies on this subject has made significant contributions to the establishment of the scientific infrastructure of the subject and the determination of its subject and scope. For this purpose, an extensive literature review has been conducted and important works on the subject have been examined. Since migration has evolved into an issue that affects almost the whole world, it is possible to find countless sources on this subject. However, given the volume of the article, only the basic works are mentioned. In order for the research to proceed properly, the phenomenon of migration must first be understood. For this reason, in the first stage of the literature review, sources related to the phenomenon of migration

were examined. The main purpose of examining these sources is to ensure that the subject is mastered and to establish the academic mindset for the work to be done. Thus, the researcher was able to study the topic in depth by having a basic conceptual framework. Subsequently, sources related to the theoretical and methodological framework in the field of migration were analyzed. By examining these sources, the theoretical framework of the study was created and information was given about the methodological method to be used in the research. Finally, the sources on immigrants, especially Afghan immigrants, who are the main subject of the research, are analyzed.

The Sources About Immigration Status; Clarifying migration and other related concepts is crucial for a proper understanding of these concepts, which are often confused and used interchangeably in terminology. Many concepts related to the phenomenon of migration are interpreted differently and even used interchangeably. For instance, concepts such as asylum seeker, defector, immigrant and migrant are often confused and used interchangeably. Türken Çağlar's work titled Göç Çalışmaları İçin Kavramsal Bir Çerçeve (A Conceptual Framework for Migration Studies) has made a significant contribution to our article by preventing this confusion and ensuring the correct use of concepts. In this study, the concepts related to migration are intended to be defined, especially based on the sources of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). A terminology of migration concepts, which is used in the same sense by those interested in the subject, has been produced. This has provided guidance in terms of the concepts to be used in the study.

In scientific terms, the phenomenon of migration affects human life in every field from psychology to sociology, from politics to economy and from international relations to the security of states. The fact that this phenomenon is so comprehensive and affects every aspect of human life necessitates its discussion in the academic field. Today, it is still a controversial issue whether migration should be recognized as a field in its own right or as one of the sub-branches of social sciences. Although it is known that many research centers have been established on this subject, the uniqueness of the subject in scientific terms has still not been revealed. For instance, it is still debatable what the methodology of migration issue will be and whether it will develop a theory unique to itself in the theoretical sense. The most important achievement that this project aims to bring to the academic field is to pave the way for a methodology that will enable migration to produce its own theory on migration. The grounded theory method is the most important method in this regard. In the literature review, the important works that guide the methodological discussions of our study are the studies on this subject.

Due to the complexity of the migration issue, it is important to learn the concepts related to migration. The study focuses on the definitions of these concepts. Knowing these concepts, helped to choose the word to be used throughout the study. *İmmigrant;* "who is outside the country of his/her nationality and cannot benefit from the protection of this country because of his/her rightful fear of being persecuted due to his/her political views, or who is undesirable to benefit from that country due to such fear, or if he/she has no nationality and as a result of such events, is outside the country of his/her former residence and cannot return there, or any person unwilling to return because of such fear? (UNHCR, 2020). Türkiye accepted the 1951 Geneva Convention with "geographical

restriction" by using the right to choose in terms of space in its 1st article (Ekşi, 2009; 5). Asylum-seeker; It is the protection of a person who does not want to seek the protection of the country he has reached by fleeing from his country because he is oppressed, or who does not want to return to his own country (Papademetriou, 1997:21). In other words, it is the temporary protection of people who have applied to become a immigrant, but whose application has not yet been decided. *Immigrant*; It is defined as a person who moves from another country, place or region for economic and other social reasons (Papademetriou, 1997:21). The word "immigrant" does not have a single legal definition in the international literature. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines immigrants as moving away from their normal place of residence and moving to another direction. The legal status of this mobility, whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary, the reasons for the movement, the duration of stay gain importance (İOM, 2020). Temporary Protection and Guest; Temporary protection; It is an exceptional method used for people who need to be taken under immediate protection in cases where being accepted as an asylum seeker in mass migration events would pose a risk. Thus, with this status, it has emerged as a fast and practical application for people who reach the borders of the country in masses (UNHCR, 2020). Guest; asylum seekers who came to Türkiye due to the Syrian civil war that broke out after 2011 were first defined as 'guests', but it was understood that they were permanent due to the prolongation of the war, and they were granted temporary protection status with the legislation enacted in 2014 (Düzkaya and Yazıcı, 2017: 445).

The immigrants of Afghanistan who come to Türkiye are under the International Protection regime. There is considerable debate about definitions. Due to the breadth of these discussions, the word immigrant will be used in the study.

The Sources About Methodology; The first of the researches that shaped the methodology of the study is Hayriye Erbaş's book titled 'From Departures to Escapes Migration and Migrants Theory Method and Field Papers'. The author's book, in which she states that she is in a methodological search on migration, has helped to explore the methodological methods that can be used in the field of migration in a deeper way. In addition, the book's treatment of migration as a humanitarian crisis and its emphasis on the fact that everyone can be a potential migrant is a very effective way to overcome the prejudices that exist in our society. It will also help to overcome prejudices and increase ways of solidarity with migrants.

The Discovery Of Grounded Theory Strategies For Qualitative Research, which examines the grounded theory method used in the study, was written by Barney G. Glaser and Anselm L. Strauss. According to Glaser and Strauss, an adequate sociological theory cannot be independent of the production process; a research process moves simultaneously with the data on the way to a theory. One of the ways to assess whether a theory is useful is how it is generated, and a better theory is inductively generated from social research. Other criteria are logical coherence, clarity, density, scope, integration, theory workability and relevance. They all depend on how the theory is produced. This book has made a very important contribution to our research. Its contributions, such as conducting and analyzing interviews and using the snowball method, are undeniable. The scientific framework of the research is to examine the issue of migration in factual, conceptual,

theoretical and methodological terms. In the application part of the study, although the data obtained from interviews and semi-structured questionnaires conducted in the field are the main sources, previous field research is also very important in terms of guiding the study. For this reason, previous studies on immigrants are examined in the literature review and the common perceptions of immigrants are attempted to be comprehended. 'We Crossed a Bridge and It Trembled' by Wendy Pearlman is one of the most important recent sources on migration. Wendy Pearlman's book is the most comprehensive work to guide the research. In this book, Pearlman narrates the lives of immigrants in their own words. Because the easiest way to understand a problem is to ask the addressee of the problem. Unfortunately, studies by people who have not been exposed to this problem and who try to interpret them from the outside often lead to criticism rather than understanding. One of the main causes of racism and hostility towards migrants in the world is, undoubtedly, ignorance. Individuals, institutions and organizations that do not have information about migrants, unfortunately, cannot provide a clear solution to the problem when they are in a decision-making position. One of the main aims of this study is to convey the problems in the words of the original addressees of the problems, as Pearlman did. Although this book seems to be about immigrants, most of it is about Syrian political history. It tells the process leading up to the war and its aftermath, in short, what happened during this process through interviews with Syrian citizens. As is well known, the migration problem today is multi-layered and deep. Although the author has extensively interviewed Syrian citizens in Türkiye, Lebanon and Syria and, in his own words, listened to the Syrian citizens themselves, about whom we have always spoken until today, he has difficulty in carrying out a deep analysis of the problem as the focus group is very large. In addition, these people consist of a wide range of professions, from insurgents to imprisoned revolutionaries, from doctors to writers. Although this situation helps us to understand the war in Syria and the process that developed in the aftermath in great detail, it is insufficient to fully understand the issue of migration. The research will be more specific as it will focus on migrants' perceptions of the locality in Türkiye rather than the political course of the war.

The Sources About Afghanistan and Afghan Immigrants; Aresh Nasrisfahani, in his work on migration, 'Der Khanevi Berader (In the house of the brother)', examines the situation of Afghan immigrants living in Iran. In this book, which discusses the perspectives towards immigrants and their adaptation to Iran and their society, the main question is why Iran is seen as a brotherly home and why immigrants cannot feel like homeowners. Iran may have welcomed the immigrants but the requirements for full integration have not been considered. This book shows clearly what the obstacles to full integration are. The study examines the problem of migration in depth and examines the problems that immigrants face in terms of adaptation. The main contribution of this book to our research is to provide insights into the future of social cohesion. The main aspect of the book to be criticized is its one-sided perspective. The issue of integration needs a dual perspective. Migration in Afghanistan: History, Current Trends and Future Prospects: (Katie Kuschminder, Manoj Dora); Historically, Afghanistan has been a trading country between east and west and a key point on the Silk Road trade routes. Migration is therefore an integral part of this country's historical identity. This has led to Afghanistan's identity as a 'immigrant-producing country'. The reasons for these migrations vary in

each period: war and conflicts, poor economic situation, Soviet occupation, takeover by organizations such as the Taliban, drought, etc. This is a very comprehensive study on Afghan migrations. The fine details that migrations provide about their causes allow for a broader perspective on migration. For instance, contrary to popular belief, the fact that the study states that not only wars and conflicts but also harsh winter conditions cause seasonal migration from Afghanistan to Pakistan, shows that the study is the product of a very comprehensive research. This book has made an important contribution to the research. It is extremely crucial to have a good grasp of the history of Afghanistan and the issue of migration Because knowing the main outlines of the subject has guided the interviews (conversations) and increased the depth of the conversations.

Research Question and Hypothesis

At this stage, the research question of the project has been put forward. The research question developed at this stage will be revised as the studies deepen.

Research Question;

What are the opinions of Afghan immigrants living in the TRA1 Region about the region and how do they perceive the region?

What is the level of satisfaction of Afghan immigrants with the region and its people? Will they stay in the region for a long time?

An in-depth interview method was used to answer the first question. In other words, the participants were asked about their thoughts on the region; the answers were then categorized. For the second question, the participants were asked to rate the general picture that emerged as a result of the interviews. Thus, the degree of satisfaction with the region has also been measured.

Scope, Sample and Target Population

The scope of the study is limited to the TRA1 (Erzurum, Bayburt and Erzincan) region. This region, where the Afghan immigrant population is dense, was chosen to conduct the interviews that guided the research. The reason for choosing this region is the high concentration of immigrants from Afghanistan. The study was conducted in these three provinces and its scope is limited to this region.

Target group; the target group of this research is immigrants from Afghanistan living in the TRA1 region. Ensuring harmony between this group and the local population is essential for the peace and prosperity of the region. For this reason, in-depth interviews with participants were conducted to measure their perceptions of the region. The identification and analysis of immigrants' opinions and sharing them with the immigrants and the people living in the region will contribute to the establishment of an environment of mutual respect, which in turn will contribute to social acceptance. Other important elements of the target audience are the policymakers who are likely to benefit from the research results, especially stakeholders, and the audience that the outputs will reach.

A sample is a group of a smaller number of objects and individuals selected in a certain way from a population (Kaptan, 1998: 118). A set of units or elements that are selected from the research population by any method suitable for the purpose and capable

of representing the population is called sample (Ural and Kılıç, 2011: 23). The sample of this project is the immigrants in the TRA1 population who will be reached with the information provided by the provincial migration administrations. In this qualitative study, the number of people is not important. In interviews with individuals according to grounded theory, researchers continue in-depth interviews until they reach similar answers. This usually happens when data starts to be replicated or when researchers are reasonably convinced that all the data that can be collected from the field has been collected (saturation). The interviews are terminated when the data obtained increases and multiplies with the Snowball method and a similarity is reached. These data will then be categorized. In this study, interviews were conducted with 50 participants and data were obtained

Methodology

In this study, the 'grounded theory' approach, one of the qualitative research methods, was used. According to the grounded theory, social reality cannot be understood objectively by looking at it from a conceptual standpoint, from outside. It can only be understood if it is seen in its own patterns. For this reason, the social spaces of Afghan immigrants who have been subjected to forced migration were entered, interviews were conducted with them and their impressions about the TRA1 region were investigated.

Grounded Theory Method;

Glaser and Strauss, who are considered the founders of this method, state that the method will bring a new breath to qualitative research. According to them, previous qualitative studies have focused on how a theory needs to be validated, but this destroys the individual's desire to explore and even diminishes the value of the field. Authors, who believe and agree that theory testing is one of the most fundamental issues in sociology, argue that many sociologists have re-discovered the known reality by testing existing theories and have produced almost no theory. (Glaser and Strauss, 1967). The authors emphasized that categories are hidden in the raw data and that researchers should be able to conceptualize the data obtained without relying on any theory and reveal the categories hidden in the data (Charmaz, 1995; Glaser and Straus, 1967). In short, they state that in qualitative research, data are collected to test theories; in the grounded theory method that they developed, theories can be generated from data. In other words, a researcher will not test theories that consist of repetition but will try to create their own theory.

In their own words, Glaser and Strauss evaluate the grounded theory methodology as follows:

"Much writing on sociological methods has been concerned with how to obtain the precise information and how to test a theory rigorously. In this book, we have presented how to explore theory from data. We call it the grounded theory. This is a major challenge facing sociology today. In this book, we make an attempt to explore the grounded theory. Instead of strictly demarcated procedures and definitions, we present situations, counter-cases and examples. In this sense, we can say that the grounded theory is "the method of comparative analysis." (Glaser and Strauss, as cited in Arik, 2016: 286).

The main aim of our study is to investigate the perceptions about integration, which is one of the main solution models of the migration problem. As stated above, the method that will enable us to achieve this aim is the grounded theory method. Because the study of perceptions cannot be carried out by looking from a distance or commenting on theories. Undoubtedly the most important way to measure perception is to ask participants for their thoughts. In this method, in-depth interviews will be conducted with the participants and their thoughts on the subject will be asked. In methods with multiple-choice questions such as questionnaires, participants' opinions are restricted, and only answers to the existing questions are obtained. However, in the grounded theory method, participants' will is not restricted, and they are allowed to express their own thoughts. Ethical approval was obtained from the Ethics Committee of Atatürk University (Date: 05.08.2022, Decision No: 231) before the commencement of the data collection. Informed consent form was obtained from the participants for the study. Researchers do not guide the participants, on the contrary, the participants guide the researchers. Researchers categorize answers given by participants and establish their hypotheses. In short, participants play an active role in all processes, which contributes significantly to the scientificity and factuality of the study. Thus, the main aim of the project, which is to investigate perceptions, is realized in a highly objective manner.

The study will proceed through two main questions; data will not be collected only through the questions asked in the interviews. A short questionnaire will also be organized about the categories created based on the answers given by the participants because the aim of this study is not only to measure the perceptions of immigrants about the region but also to determine their satisfaction levels. In fact, these questionnaires will be constructed in a way that can be a kind of provision of the categories formed in line with the answers given by the first participants. Participants, for instance, generally give categorical answers to the question "How do you perceive the region, how does it feel to live in this region?". For instance, "my perception of the region depends entirely on the behavior of its people". As a result of this answer, the questionnaire question is formulated as "how satisfied are you with the people of the region"?. In other words, if someone who says they are very satisfied with the public gives a score of 1 in the questionnaire, it means that the interview was not conducted properly. However, if the answer and the score are in agreement, it can be concluded that the interview is successful. In other words, in a way, it is a kind of verification of the interviews.

Demographic Structure of The Participants

The study was conducted through in-depth interviews. The interviews were conducted with the participants and then they were asked the questionnaire questions prepared as a result of the first interviews conducted as preliminary research. The number of participants is 50 and their demographic characteristics are as follows:

Demographic Structure of the Participants

Gender	Out of a group of 50 participants, 28 are women and 22 are men. In percentage, 56% of the group consists of women and the remaining
	44% of the group consists of men.

Age	Of the 50 participants, 13 are between the ages of 18-24, 23 are between the ages of 25-35, 11 are between the ages of 36-55, and 3 are 56 years and older. Participants between the ages of 18-24 constitute 26% of the group, while individuals between the ages of 25-35 constitute 46%, individuals between the ages of 36-55 constitute 22% and individuals over the age of 56 constitute 6%.					
Marital Status	Of a group of 50 participants, 30 are married, 9 are single and 11 are widowed. In percentage, 60% of the participants are married, 18% are single and 22% are widowed. Of those who are married, 50% are men and 50% are women. Approximately 55% of singles are women and 45% are men. Approximately 36% of widows are men and 54% are women.					
Education Level	Of the 50 participants, 20 are illiterate, 11 are primary school graduates, 3 are secondary school graduates, 12 are high school graduates and 2 are university graduates. 2 people are doing a Master's degree. In percentage, 40% are illiterate, 22% are primary school graduates, 6% are secondary school graduates, 24% are high school graduates, 4% are university graduates, and 4% are doing a Master's degree.					
Occupation	Of the 50 participants, 21 are housewives, 7 are workers, 9 were self- employed, 8 are students and 5 are unemployed. In percentage, 42% of the participants are housewives, 14% are workers, 18% are self- employed, 16% are students and 10% are unemployed.					
Cities	Of the 50 participants, 20 were selected from Erzurum, 15 from Erzincan and 15 from Bayburt. 40% of the participants participate from Erzurum, 30% from Erzincan and the remaining 30% from Bayburt.					
Countries	Of the 50 participants, 42 of them came to Türkiye directly from Alghanistan, while 8 of them migrated to Iran and then came to Türkiy after a certain period of time. In percentage, 84% of the participant are from Afghanistan and 16% are from Iran.					
Length of stay	Of the 50 participants, 3 have been living in Türkiye for less than 1 year, 19 for 1-3 years, 1 for 3-5 years, and 27 for more than 5 years. In percentage, 6% of the participants have been living in Türkiye for less than 1 year, 38% for 1-3 years, 2% for 3-5 years and 56% for more than 5 years.					

Findings (Satisfaction Ratings)

Through in-depth interviews with immigrants from Afghanistan; the immigrants' perceptions about the TRA1 Region have been revealed. The data revealing these perceptions were obtained from interviews with 50 participants in accordance with the grounded theory method. Then these data categorized by using the snowball method. As a result of this categorization process, it has been revealed that immigrants perceive the region through six variables. These six variables are, in order of importance, security, public, economic welfare, environmental conditions, local community and working environment. In addition, with a mini-questionnaire, the participants were asked to evaluate the region over these six variables, in other words, to score. Thus, both the participants' perception of the region and their level of satisfaction with the region have been measured.

The most important issue that has come to the fore in the interviews with the participants is security. Since the main reason for international forced migration is security concerns, the majority of immigrants primarily address this issue. Another important issue that has

come to the fore in the interviews is the public services provided in the region. As it is known, public institutions are among the most affected by the war. Due to the reasons such as the damage to buildings like hospitals, schools, etc. in the attacks and the lack of sufficient personnel due to the war, the public has the most difficulties in the procurement of public services. Because of this situation, immigrants pay attention to the provision of these services in the regions where they live. In the interviews, the participants also express their opinions on these services.

The economic welfare level of a country is one of the most important factors affecting citizens' satisfaction. Individuals who migrate for reasons such as unemployment and low living standards due to economic deterioration in their own country tend to evaluate the country they migrate to according to its economic conditions. The interviewees also state that the economy is one of the main factors affecting their lives after security and public services. Although the reasons for migration from Afghanistan are diverse, one of the most important reasons is environmental factors such as drought and air pollution. İmmigrants who migrated due to these difficult conditions also evaluated the TRA1 Region in terms of environmental conditions and scored it with questionnaires.

The attitude of the local community is also one of the important issues affecting immigrants. During the interviews, they state that the attitudes of the people are also effective in their perception of the region. Finally, the participants also evaluate their working environments or schools they attended while sharing their observations about the region. Given that most of life is spent in the workplace or at school, it is not a coincidence that they have a significant place in the perceptions of immigrants.

In sum, immigrants generally perceive the region they live in through the six variables listed above. After these categories were obtained, when the immigrants were asked to evaluate the region on these issues, the answers they gave were somewhat verified by the ratings they gave. As a result of the analysis, the participants' perceptions and satisfaction levels about the region are as follows.

Satisfaction with the Security of the Region

The human security approach was first conceptualized in the Human Development Report published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1994. There are differences in the definition of the concept because it is easier to detect situations where there is no human security than it is to detect situations where it does exist. Given these circumstances, security against chronic threats such as hunger, disease and oppression, and protection from sudden and harmful disruptions in the daily life order are defined as the two main elements of human security. Human security covers global hunger, drug trafficking, climate change, HIV/AIDS, irregular migration and terrorism. In the absence of a global protection mechanism against these ever-present threats, two fundamental changes in the understanding of security are expected. First of all, instead of a security approach based on borders, the importance given to the security of individuals should be increased. Secondly, security should be achieved through sustainable human development rather than through armaments (UNDP, 1994). In the study, the importance of both individual and global security perception is taken into consideration. In sum, human security is an extremely crucial issue and it is essential to ensure human security

in all areas and places. The interviews also reveal that immigrants migrated for security reasons and that they mostly focused on security in the regions they came from. The table below shows the degree of satisfaction of immigrants with the security of the region they live in.

Table 9
Satisfaction Level by Satisfaction Type

Satisfaction Type	Frequency	Satisfaction Level					
		Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Expressed	Not Satisfied	Not Satisfied At All	Total
Satisfaction with the Security of the Region	Count	27	13	8	1	1	50
	Percentage	54	26	16	2	2	100
Satisfaction with Public Institutions and Social Services in the Region	Count	16	12	11	10	1	50
	Percentage	32	24	22	20	2	100
Satisfaction with the Economic Welfare Level of the Region	Count	1	4	12	14	19	50
	Percentage	2	8	24	28	38	100
Satisfaction with the People of the Region	Count	17	15	10	3	5	50
	Percentage	34	30	20	6	10	100
Satisfaction with the Working Envi- ronment (Schools) of the Region	Count	27	13	8	1	1	50
	Percentage	54	26	16	2	2	100
Satisfaction with the Environmental Conditions of the Region	Count	22	17	8	0	3	50
	Percentage	44	34	16	0	6	100
The overall satisfaction of the participants with the region	Count	11	20	13	5	1	50
	Percentage	22	40	26	10	2	100

As seen in Table 9, the majority of the Afghan immigrants interviewed state that they are satisfied with the security of the region. While 40 out of 50 participants state that they are satisfied with the security, only 2 people are not satisfied and the remaining 8 people do not want to express an opinion. In terms of percentages, 80% of the participants are satisfied with the security of the region, 4% are not, and 16% do not express an opinion.

The majority of the immigrants state that they were not exposed to any practices or acts that jeopardized their safety in Türkiye, where they came after the chaotic situation in Afghanistan, and that they are very satisfied with this situation. In particular, most women state that they feel safe in Türkiye in a wide range of areas, from public security to individual security. As can be seen in the examples below, most of the participants feel safe in Türkiye.

Fatıma², one of the participant women, expresses that she feels safe with the following sentences: 'I was experiencing very serious problems in Afghanistan. I have been feeling very well since I came to Türkiye. Türkiye is very comfortable'.

² Nicknames were used in the study to ensure the privacy of the participants.

It has been observed that the existing laws in Türkiye protect the people of Afghanistan even against their own countrymen. Hediye, one of the women interviewed, says, "Türkiye is a very safe place, but it would be safer without Afghans. My father killed my mother because I ran away. If he finds out, he'll kill me too. That's why I don't talk to Afghans, so they don't tell my father".

In the interviews, it is observed that men are not as positive as women. This is because they are more involved in the public sphere than women. It is observed that they have problems, especially in terms of occupational safety. Serhat, one of the participants interviewed, states that Türkiye is a safe place in general, but that he has problems in terms of work, especially in terms of salaries, that he did not receive his salary in some workplaces where he worked and that he hesitated to apply to the necessary authorities. 'When I first came to Türkiye, I was working at a car wash. The owner said business was bad. He started withholding my money. No matter how many times I asked for it, he didn't give it to me. Where could I go to complain, I was already working illegally. So I quit my job'.

Satisfaction with Public Institutions and Social Services in the Region

Social work is defined as an applied science that helps people reach an effective level of psycho-social functioning and is used to influence social changes that will increase the well-being of individuals. The principles of human rights and the concept of social justice form the basis of social work. In light of the 1948 Declaration of Human Rights, the social work profession aims to provide social welfare and social justice to all citizens of the world regardless of religion, language, race and gender. In the context of this ethical principle, it is an obligation for social work to ensure that migrants live a life worthy of human dignity. Migrants face serious problems in many areas such as health, education, housing, access to employment, language, lifestyle, etc. in the countries they go to. The urgent resolution of these problems depends on the social services provided (İzmirli, 2018).

In the study in which 50 participants participated (Table 9); it is seen that 16 people are very satisfied with the social service of the region, 12 people are satisfied, 11 people do not express an opinion, 10 people are not satisfied, and 1 person is not satisfied at all. In percentage, it is concluded that 56% of the immigrants are satisfied with the social services provided in the region. Almost all interviewees state that education is the area where public services are best provided. Both the parents who send their children to school and the participants who receive education themselves state that they are nearly one hundred percent satisfied with the educational institutions and officials in the region.

Ali, one of the participants, states that his daughter is a primary school student and that he is very satisfied with the education and treatment she received at her school. 'My daughter is in the fourth grade; she loves her teachers. The teachers love her too. She is very hardworking. The schools here are very good. One day she was absent for a day and they called us immediately and asked why she was absent. That's why we feel very comfortable, we always know where she is'.

As a result of the interviews, 22% of the participants state that they are moderately satisfied. They say that while some services are provided well, others are very poor. One

of the participants, Fatma says, 'I am satisfied with hospitals but not with the courts. My husband is a drug addict, his family is after us and I want a divorce. I have been on the case for almost six months and they say it will take another year. Every time I go there, there are some expenses, I cannot pay, I am alone with two little children'.

As a result of the interviews, it is concluded that the most complained public service is related to hospitals. 22% of the participants are dissatisfied with public services, especially hospitals. The main reasons for this are the lack of insurance, the inability to make online appointments due to language barriers, and the general lack of familiarity with the functioning of hospitals. Serhat, one of the participants interviewed, states that he came to Türkiye three months ago and expresses the problems he experienced in the hospital as he did not know the system of the country in general. 'We came three months ago. I eloped with my wife and we came here for fear of the Taliban. We were allowed to stay because my wife was pregnant and we were not deported. But we had no insurance and we didn't speak the language. We had a very difficult time in the hospital, the procedures were very difficult. There was a Turkish woman next to us and they took her for a caesarean section right away, they kept stalling us. My wife was going to give birth standing up. I comforted her. I said look, that woman is weak, she will have to have a cesarean section, you are strong, you can have a normal birth. Actually, there were problems with the procedures, but I didn't tell her so she wouldn't be scared. I left her for a while and ran to deal with the procedures. Thank God, I got the procedures done and she got into the delivery room'.

Another important reason for dissatisfaction with the hospitals is the departure of the psychologist assigned to them by the migration administration. Most of the participants, especially women, draw attention to this issue and ask for the reappointment of a psychologist. One of the participants, Musevi, says; 'There used to be a woman named Ayşe. I was taking my daughter to her. Her father had abused her and she had not told anybody out of fear. After he died, my daughter told me about it, so I took her to Ayşe and my daughter slowly started to recover, she gave her some medicines. But now there is no psychologist, the state is directing us to a psychologist in Ankara, we don't know how many months it will take for our turn to come and whether we will be able to get permission. My daughter is now having nightmares again and getting worse again and we don't know what to do. I wish a psychologist would be reassigned to this city'.

Satisfaction with the Economic Welfare Level of the Region

In terms of economic development, migration can be considered as the mobility of individuals who want to increase their level of human development (Aktaş, 2014: 45). Jacobsen states that immigrants will be less dependent on aid if they are given freedom of movement, facilitated access to resources and work productively with the local people to make a living (Jacobsen, 2002: 95). This will enable immigrants to live in more humane conditions. In fact, it can be said that the main reason underlying the desire to migrate is the desire of individuals to live in better conditions. Therefore, migrants want basic humanitarian conditions to be provided in the countries where they settle. This is also the case for immigrants from Afghanistan. Türkiye is an adequate country in meeting the basic needs of immigrants and providing services in line with the social state approach.

However, the global economic downturn has also affected Türkiye, which undoubtedly has an extremely negative impact on immigrants. In this study, the immigrants, who state that they are satisfied with Türkiye in almost all areas, also express that they have an extremely negative perspective in the field of economy.

Of the 50 participants interviewed (Table 9), only 1 is very satisfied with the economic welfare level of the region, 4 are satisfied, 12 are moderately satisfied, 14 are dissatisfied, and 19 are not satisfied at all. In brief, the degree of satisfaction of immigrants is extremely low. They indicate inadequate social assistance, employment problems and low wages as the most important reasons for this. It is observed that this is mainly due to the economic difficulties experienced during and after the pandemic. 66% of the participants state that their economic difficulties are very serious and that they have difficulty in meeting their basic needs.

Semira (71), one of the participants, states that she had to live alone after the war and the negativities experienced and that she was helped by a young man who is a distant relative. 'My husband and son were martyred in the war. One of my sons is paralyzed and his uncle is taking care of him in Afghanistan. My son, with whom we came here, got married and is in another city. He can barely make ends meet and couldn't take care of me. Thanks to my nephew, he took me in. We are trying to live on Turkish Red Crescent aid, but it is very difficult and everything has become very expensive. We are having trouble'. Another participant, Şukufe (36), describes her difficulties in the following words. 'I have been here for 11 years and we have never had such a hard time. Even when I first came, we were comfortable, we rented a flat. Now we can't pay the rent. It is difficult to live on the money from the Red Crescent card. It's barely enough for rent and bills'.

10% of the participants express their satisfaction with the economic prosperity of the region. Those in this group generally consist of people who have an established order and jobs. Puya (45), one of the participants, states that he is a tradesman and lives in good economic conditions with the following words. 'I came here 10 years ago and started a business with my brother three years ago. Thank God, our business is good. We love it here'. Another participant, Bibigül (20), expresses her satisfaction with the economic conditions in the region in the following words. 'I have been married for three years; my son is two years old. My husband is working, I can buy my son what he wants, I can feed him, I can buy medicine when he is sick. I don't want anything else'.

24% of the participants state that they are moderately satisfied with their level of economic well-being. Muhammed, one of the participants, says 'what can I say, sometimes it is good here and sometimes it is bad. It's a bit bad now, but thank God, we get by with the helps. There was nothing in Afghanistan. I think it's not very good or bad here, it's normal'. Meryem, one of the participants: 'Good if you work, bad if you don't. My husband sometimes works and sometimes does not. When he doesn't work, we are in a very bad situation, but when he goes to work, everything is fine'.

Satisfaction with the People of the Region

Researchers such as Bernays and Robinson argue that public relations is a field centered on social sciences. Social sciences include communication sciences, psychology,

economics, sociology, social anthropology, political science, geography and many other sub-disciplines (Grunig & Hunt, 1984: 5). This situation shows that public relations has an understanding that can create macro effects in society in many areas. Moreover, it points to functions ond influencing and persuading people. It is also possible to say that this definition mentions the main foundations of public relations that are intellectually important (Kuş, 2019: 11). In the study conducted with immigrants, it is observed that public relations is one of the most important issues affecting society. The immigrants have stated that their lives are directly affected by the social perspective. Public relations is also the greatest guarantor of social order. For this reason, this phenomenon is also emphasized meticulously in the study.

Of the 50 participants interviewed (Table 9), 17 state that they are very satisfied with the people of the region, 15 are satisfied, 10 do not want to express an opinion, 3 are not satisfied, and 5 are not satisfied at all. The reasons and percentages of satisfaction are as follows;

64% of the immigrants interviewed are satisfied with the people of the region. They state that they especially like the helpfulness and warm-bloodedness of Turkish citizens in the region where they live. Samane, one of the women interviewed, states that she had financial problems but is very pleased with the Turkish citizens who helped her solve these problems. Samane says, 'I divorced my husband, I was left alone with my child, I had nowhere to go. My family is in Afghanistan and if I return they will kill me for dishonoring them. Thanks to the people here, nobody interferes with me, people even help me. Especially my homeowner is very nice, he never said anything when I paid the rent late. 'I live on aid, and when my child grows up a little more, I will do home cleaning'. Semira states that the Turks have treated her well with the following words: 'Turks are very tolerant. We are much more comfortable than in Afghanistan. I'm running from Afghans. We have many enemies, but the Turks do not interfere. How nice. If there is a problem, you can already complain'.

20% of the participants state that they are moderately satisfied. Some of them say that the locals used to treat them well, but now they have started to experience difficulties. Ayşe, one of the participants, says, 'It was not like this when we first came. The neighbors were very good to us. Now they are always insulting, telling us that we are Afghans. The other day my son was beaten by children and he had a nosebleed. And they also spat on him. I think their parents are teaching them to do so'.

16% of the participants likewise express that they are not satisfied with the people of the region. Those in this group are generally new arrivals, who experienced serious difficulties on the road and had problems adapting to the region. Hatice says, 'The smuggler took all our money while we were coming from Afghanistan. Then he left us and ran away. We were left homeless with five children. They're all little and sick. I tried to enroll them in school but they don't speak the language. So I quit. I only enrolled one of them. I sent my daughter to work. She will have to take care of us. Because, our neighbors, there are so many people in this city but no one sees us. We can't tell them our problems because we don't know their language. No matter whom I went to, I couldn't find a solution'.

Satisfaction with the Working Environment (Schools) of the Region

People need to work to earn a living and live in better conditions. The right to work is one of the fundamental human rights and that must be recognized for everyone with the exceptions specified by law. Every state sets rules regulating the right to work of its citizens. However, states regulate the right to work of foreigners, since foreigners living in that country apart from the citizens of the country have the right to work. Türkiye is a country where many foreigners reside due to its economic and political stability, employment opportunities and geographical location. During the interviews, the participants refer to this situation and discuss their thoughts on the subject. Finally, the degree of satisfaction on this issue is measured and the table below is the result.

Of the 50 participants (Table 9), 27 are very satisfied with the environment in which they work or the school they attend, 13 are satisfied, 1 is not satisfied, 1 is not satisfied at all and 8 do not express an opinion. The degree of satisfaction of the participants with their professions and the environments in which they perform these professions is as follows;

58% of the interviewees are housewives or men who cannot work for various reasons. The remaining 42% are either working or students. Based on this 42% segment, the questionnaires were evaluated and percentages were calculated. According to this calculation, 60% of those working or studying are satisfied with their working environment and 40% are not satisfied.

The satisfied participants express their satisfaction in the following words. Ali; 'I am very happy with my workplace; we have no problems. We are tradesmen, there are some incidents, but generally, we are fine'. Mehdi, 'I love my job very much, after all, we make a living. We're working a little too hard, but that's okay. After all, I am making sustenance for my family'. Mehya, 'I go for cleaning, I usually come across very nice people. There are a lot of people who give me things and take care of me. I'm all alone, what am I going to do if these people don't do me favors, don't call me for cleaning?

The dissatisfied participants generally complain about the illegal working environment, problems with employers and working hours. Esma, one of the participants, says, 'It is a very interesting situation. School hours are very long here. You go in the morning; you go until the evening and there is no time for you to improve yourself. Too long hours also lead to inefficiency. School hours were shorter in Afghanistan. A friend of mine is in Switzerland and he says it is short there too, I don't understand why it is longer here'. Riza, one of the participants, says, 'There are bad people and good people everywhere. I cannot say that all Turks are good or bad. For example, my old boss was a very bad person, he didn't pay my money. I said I would file a complaint and he said I would file a complaint against you for being a fugitive. But my current boss is very good, we have no problems'. Hatice, one of the participants interviewed, says, "Today we had a fight with the boss at work. He grabbed my collar and was going to beat me, but the people around broke up the fight. Now how can I call the people here good? I am really upset today. I don't want to quit my job either because I am used to it and I sew well. I am afraid that I might have bigger problems elsewhere'.

Satisfaction with the Environmental Conditions of the Region

There are many different definitions of the environment. In general, in a very broad sense, every region up to the point that humans can perceive is considered to be the environment. Today, the environment is considered as a whole of natural, economic and cultural values. All living and non-living beings together with human beings are considered as a whole of physical, chemical, biological and social factors that affect all kinds of actions and behaviors of living beings. In brief; the environment is all physical, chemical, biological and social effects that directly or indirectly affect humans and other living beings (Demir and Hiz, 2017: 813).

The environment is an area that concerns everyone living in it, and the participants also emphasize this issue when talking about their perceptions of the region. The main reasons for their focus on this issue are that environmental conditions play an important role in affecting living conditions and adverse climatic conditions are among the reasons that force immigrants to migrate.

Of the 50 participants interviewed (Table 9), 22 state that they are very satisfied with the environmental conditions of the region, while 17 are satisfied and 3 are not satisfied at all. 8 participants state that they do not want to express an opinion on the subject.

The interviews reveal that 78% of the migrants are satisfied with the environmental conditions of the region. It is observed that they are particularly satisfied with the environmental arrangements, weather conditions and cleanliness of the cities. Considering that Afghan immigrants come directly from Afghanistan (Kabul) and Iran (Tehran), it is not surprising that the vast majority are satisfied with the environmental conditions. Kabul and Tehran are among the world's leading countries in terms of air pollution. When people living in these regions come to the TRA1 region, they like the weather and environmental conditions in the region. Mehsa, one of the women interviewed; 'I was in Tehran before I came here. The air in Tehran was very polluted. Sometimes schools were closed so that children would not be harmed. The air here is very clean but very cold'.

Studies show that Kabul has very serious air pollution. Even during the pandemic, more people died from air pollution. The relief website, which makes important publications about Afghanistan, shows the extent of air pollution. It also reveals in numbers how it affects people and causes migration. Our studies also support this situation. For example; Nazife, one of the participants interviewed, says, 'The villages of Afghanistan are very beautiful, mountainous but very cold. We went to Kabul and the air was very polluted, especially sometimes it lasted even for a month, you would get a headache as soon as you went outside. My son's lungs were being damaged. We came here and we breathed a sigh of relief'.

Only 6% of the participants express that they are not satisfied with the weather and environmental conditions. The main reason for this is that they do not have the economic conditions to withstand the cold weather conditions of the region. Zehra, one of the participants, says, 'It is very beautiful here but it is very cold. Even if we light the stove, our house is very cold. The government gives us coal and we buy firewood, but it is so cold that we cannot heat our house'.

16% of the participants state that they are moderately satisfied with the environmental

conditions. Behram, one of the participants, says, 'the landscaping is good here, the municipality is always cleaning and organizing it. But it's so cold that we don't like it here. It is very difficult for those without money to live here'.

Conclusion

Immigrants become part of a country from the moment they arrive. Of course, it is also possible that they are an unwanted part of it (Sallan-Gül, 2002:90). Not existing in a country from the very beginning, arriving there later as a result of necessity, and being temporarily in a transit country like Türkiye for an indefinite period of time make the already difficult life of immigrants — as displaced people- even more difficult (Manap Kırmızıgül, 2019: 87). Although it is not possible to improve these conditions and eliminate the problems completely, many of them can be prevented by ensuring integration. Integration is only possible if mutual perceptions are known. The aim of this study is to provide an academic background to the integration phenomenon by measuring the perceptions of immigrants about the region they live in. In sum, this study does not offer solutions on how to realize integration, but only aims to measure mutual perceptions, which can be considered as the first stage of integration, and the study has proceeded in this direction and reached its conclusion.

Table 9 shows the perceptions of Afghan immigrants about the TRA1 region where they live, and their satisfaction levels measured in six main areas. Accordingly, 31 of the 50 participants are satisfied, 6 are not satisfied, and the remaining 13 do not express an opinion. Some of the participants who do not want to express an opinion state that they do not have a clear idea yet as they are new to the region. Others state that they are living in the region out of necessity, so it does not matter whether they are satisfied or not. In short, it is concluded that 64% of the immigrants are satisfied with living in the region, 12% are not, and 26% do not want to express an opinion on the issue.

As can be seen, the immigrants are generally satisfied with the region they live in. The area with the lowest level of satisfaction is the economy. The study concludes that the difficult economic conditions, especially in the last two years, have deeply affected the immigrants and that social cohesion has also been negatively affected by this situation. The majority of the interviewees state that disagreements started in the last two years. This corresponds exactly to the period when economic conditions began to deteriorate. Because the people of the region blame the immigrants for the economic difficulties. This is the only phenomenon that places dynamite on the ground for social cohesion. Jacobsen's views on this issue are crucial. Jacobsen underlines that when immigrants are given freedom of movement, access to resources is facilitated and they work productively with the local population to make a living, they will be less dependent on aid and tensions and conflicts between the two communities will be more easily overcome. In sum, paving the way for immigrants to work will contribute to the growth of the national economy and ultimately to the economic prosperity of the entire population. In other words, the theory of mutual benefit is the only factor that can contribute to social cohesion. The fact that only economic satisfaction is low among the data obtained as a result of the study summarizes this situation.

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