

AGE MANAGEMENT IN TURKEY

Elderly policies in Turkey; can be classified under four main headings: social insurance practices (pension systems), social assistance, social work and institutional care.

Social insurance practices are established by the state with the participation of employers and workers in order to meet certain social risks that employees may face. Its main feature is that participation is mandatory.

Although social insurance practices in our Turkey are mainly carried out by the pension fund, the Social Insurance Institution, there are also social insurance organisations established by banks, insurance companies, commodity exchanges and chambers of commerce and industry. In addition, as of 01.01.2017 in Turkey, all employees have been included in the private pension system with the "Automatic Participation" system in order to provide additional income to public institutions and private sector employees.

Social work practices, which cover all kinds of services organised to solve the problems of the elderly and provide welfare, are generally financed by taxes and service practices where no financial contribution is expected from the individual. In this context, municipalities have been given the duty of care and assistance to the elderly. Although there are different applications in municipalities; It is aimed to protect and improve health, and to maximise the quality of life of the elderly, through services such as personal cleaning, house cleaning, accompanying services, home care, physical therapy applications and psychological support.

Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services "Call 183" Social Support Line provides information and guidance regarding services to women, disabled and veterans as well as elderly individuals.

In the 10th five-year development plan of Turkey covering the years 2014-2018, the "Ageing Specialisation Commission" was established and some arrangements were made, taking into account the elderly. E.g; It is aimed to increase the number and quality of institutional services for the elderly, and to diversify the services aimed at providing care at home for the elderly who do not want to leave their own home environment.

In addition, providing solidarity between generations, ensuring that the increasing elderly population leads a more active life, and ensuring their accessibility to safe and healthy living conditions are among the objectives. Considering the elderly in urban design practices and spatial designs, increasing livability, taking into account equality of opportunity and equity is another target. Supporting local governments and developing innovative models in order to ensure the participation of elderly people in social life and increase their access to social services are among the tenth development goals.

In Article 61 of Turkish Constitution, there is a statement "The elderly are protected by the state." State aid and other rights and facilities to be provided to the elderly are regulated by law. In other words, elderly care services in our country are guaranteed by laws. However, service delivery by different ministries, deficiencies and contradictions in laws and regulations, and problems in service delivery cause quality problems.

Nursing homes, elderly care centres and rehabilitation centres were established in order to protect the mental and physical health of the needy elderly people, whose numbers are

increasing day by day, to ensure that they live in a peaceful family environment, to be in an environment of welfare and security, and to improve their social relations. and the Child Protection Agency (SHÇEK). In addition, the "Elderly Living Houses" project was created by the General Directorate of Services for the Disabled and Elderly, and the elderly living houses serve the same purposes.

Within the scope of social assistance practices in Turkey, elderly people in need are granted an old-age pension, as applied throughout the world, if they comply with the conditions specified in the law.

Institutional care services are provided by the elderly care and rehabilitation centres and nursing homes affiliated to SHÇEK, and they are also provided by the private sector or public institutions other than SHÇEK. Currently, there are 146 nursing homes and 6 service centres for the elderly and 47 living homes for the elderly, 14 affiliated to SHÇEK.

National ageing situation

In Turkey, the population aged 65 and over increased by 22.5 percent in 5 years and reached 7 million 953 thousand 555 people last year. The proportion of the elderly population in the total population increased to 9.5 percent as of 2021.

The Turkish Statistical Institute announced the results of the study of "The Elderly with Statistics" for 2021. Accordingly, the population aged 65 and over, which was 6 million 495 thousand 239 people in 2015, increased by 22.5 percent in the last 5 years and rose to 7 million 953 thousand 555 people in 2021. The proportion of the elderly population in the total population increased from 8.2 percent to 9.5 percent in the same period. In 2021, 44.2 percent of the elderly population was men and 55.8 percent was women.

According to population projections, the proportion of the elderly population is estimated to be 11 percent in 2025, 12.9 percent in 2030, 16.3 percent in 2040, 22.6 percent in 2060 and 25.6 percent in 2080.

When the elderly population is analysed by age group, in 2015, 61.3 percent of the elderly population was in the 65-74 age group, 30.7 percent was in the 75-84 age group, and 8 percent was in the 85 and over age group. 63.8 percent were in the 65-74 age group, 27.9 percent were in the 75-84 age group, and 8.4 percent were in the 85 and over age group.

While the elderly dependency ratio, which represents the number of elderly people per hundred people of working age, was 12.2% in 2015, this rate increased to 14.1% in 2021.

According to population projections, the elderly dependency ratio was estimated to be 16.4 percent in 2025, 19.6 percent in 2030, 25.3 percent in 2040, 37.5 percent in 2060 and 43.6 percent in 2080.

In summary, The right to social security in Turkey is defined in Article 60 of the Constitution as "Everyone has the right to social security. The state takes the necessary measures to

ensure this security and establishes the organisation. It is clearly stated by the provision.[4] Since ageing is accepted as a risk, insurance benefits, social benefits and social services are offered to ageing individuals within the social security system. Thus, the loss of income suffered by the elderly due to their old age is tried to be compensated within the scope of social insurance and non-premium payments. In our country, old-age insurance is one of the leading social policy implementations for elderly individuals. The purpose of old-age insurance is to compensate the income losses incurred by the individual who has withdrawn from working life actively within the scope of old-age insurance. The main benefit from the old-age insurance is the old-age pension.

In Turkey, individuals aged 65 and over are included in the elderly population group. Although ageing is not a new phenomenon, the increase in the elderly population around the world is forcing governments to make regulations and take precautions in this regard. Demographic, economic, social, political and legal, humanitarian factors are effective in the creation of social policies for elderly individuals. Still being implemented within the framework of social policy practices; insurance benefits, social benefits, institutional care services; Applications such as nursing homes and service centres for the elderly should be reorganised according to current needs.

Although the Ministry of Family is the most important institution in this regard, it is of great importance that the private sector and non-governmental organisations also produce solutions to meet the needs of the increasing elderly population. The suggestions that the civil society will present in the creation of new social work policies will also help the administrators.

Age Issues in Turkey

According to the OECD Report (2019) In Turkey, teachers are, on average, 36 years old, which is lower than the average age of teachers across OECD countries (44 years old). Furthermore, 6% of teachers in Turkey are aged 50 and above (OECD average 34%). This means that Turkey will have to renew less than one out of ten members of its teaching workforce over the next decade or so.