The Quest for Community Participation in Decision Making Process in Büyükkonuk (North Cyprus)

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ABSTRACT

Social Sustainability deals with people and the issue of building and preserving a quality of life. Community involvement in decision making is still at its birthing stages when it comes to the issue of Social Sustainability and not much literature is available on North Cyprus on that ground.

The purpose of this thesis is to contribute to the development of a consciousness about community participation in decision making and whether it can be implemented in Büyükkonuk, a village in the north east of the island of Cyprus. There is some form of deliberative process existing in the village but on a minor scale. In this thesis, research was carried out in the Büyükkonuk Village, which is an eco-village in North with regards to the views of the locals concerning the issue of deliberative democracy and to access its level based on the knowledge gathered through successful cases of deliberative democracy round the world and see how it can formally be implemented in Büyükkonuk.

A Survey was carried out by means of user questionnaires, interviews, personal observations and photographs. Büyükkonuk was chosen because of its attempt at the deliberative democracy process.

The results of the survey indicated the willingness of people of Büyükkonuk to take part in a fully fledged application of the deliberative democracy process. In line with this, this thesis, in its conclusions, put forward some recommendations to tailor the deliberative democracy process to suit the villagers of Büyükkonuk with the aim of improving their quality of life.

ÖZ

Bu tezin amacı halkın karar verme sürecine katılımının önemiyle ilgili bilincin oluşturulmasına katkıda bulunmak ve Kıbrıs Adası'nın kuzey doğusunda bir köy olan Büyükkonuk'ta bunun uygulanabilirliğinin araştırılmasıdır. Köyde mevcut durumda, küçük ölçekte de olsa, müzakereci bir demokrasi süreci yaşanmaktadır. Bu tez çalışmasında, son beş yıl içinde öncü bir eko-turizm merkezi olarak tanıtılıp desteklenen Büyükkonuk Köyü'nde, yerel halkın bu müzakereci demokrasi konusunda ne gibi görüş ve beklentilerine sahip olduğunu öğrenmeye yönelik bir araştırma gerçekleştirilmiştir. Çalışma, aynı zamanda, dünyadaki başarılı müzakereci demokrasi örneklerinden yararlanarak, bu kavramın Büyükkonuk'ta nasıl uygulamaya konabileceğini sorgulamaktadır. Bu bağlamda, kullanıcı anketleri, görüşmeler, kişisel gözlemler ve fotoğraflama yöntemlerinden yararlanılmıştır.

Araştırma sonuçlarına göre, Büyükkonuk'ta müzakereci tam teşekküllü bir demokrasi sürecinde yer almak için genel bir istek olduğu ortaya çıkmıştır. Buna koşut olarak, bu tez elde ettiği sonuçlarla yaşam kalitesinin iyileştirilmesi amacıyla köyde yaşayanların tercih ve beklentilerine uygun bir müzakereci demokrasi ortamının şekillendirilmesi için bazı önerilerde bulunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sosyal sürdürülebilirlik, Karar verme süreci, halkın katılımı, Büyükkonuk (Kuzey Kıbrıs.)

Dedicated to Chris, Caroline, Kofi, Sam and Edem who stood with me through

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

Table: (1) Main Typologies of participation

Table: (2) A guide to LA 21

Table: (3) Model of successful public participation

Table: (4) Proposed chain of communication

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AD   Anno Domini

AicE-Bs   Asia Pacific International Conference on Environmental- Behaviour
                   Studies

CAP   Community Action Planning

CIDM   Community Involvement in Decision Making

CPDM   Community Participation In Decision Making

DD   Deliberative Democracy

GOPP   Ministry of Housing, Utilities and New Communities

GTZ   German Technical Cooperation

ISOCARP   the International Society of City and Regional Planners

LA21   Local Agenda 21

MIT   Massachusetts Institute of Technology

QOL   Quality of Life

TRNC   Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

UNDP   United Nations Development Programme

USAID   United States Agency for International Development

WHO   World Health Organisation

YMG   Yangzhou Municipality Government

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Consequential changes in the world today all point to the fact that the world is driving itself to a slow but sure extinction. Sustainability had been found to be the answer to reverse this trend. Given as it were, sustainability bases its roots on not exploiting available resources to satisfy a present need without consideration of its impact in the future (Phillis et al, 2011). What then is sustainability? According to the Brundtland report (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987), sustainability is,

"…development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs".

Sustainability falls into three categories, i.e. Economic, Environmental and Social Sustainability. Scholars such as Hosseini & Kaneko (2012), Singh et al (2012), Mori & Christodoulou (2012), Böhringera & Jochem (2007) have extensive articles on the topic of sustainability. Previously, all the dimensions of sustainability were thought to be at different intensities, recent research has however proved that, for sustainability to be attained; all the elements have to be at par. Human Sustainability deals with ensuring that the services that are for the welfare of the individual is maintained. It includes services like health care, education, etc. Economic

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sustainability on the other hand is related to income. This is the ability of an individual to comfortably live on an income over a time frame and still be well off at the end of the period. Environmental sustainability has to do with the environment and the protection of our natural environment with regards to the land, water, minerals ecosystems etc. Social sustainability is the core of sustainability and is about maintaining and managing the quality of life of a people, McKenzie (2004, 120).

Unfortunately social sustainability is one aspect of sustainability that has been neglected. This is due to the totalitarian and elitist forms of politics that has been dominant in governmental spheres over the years.

"Social sustainability occurs when the formal and informal processes, systems, structures and relationships actively support the capacity of current and future generations to create healthy and liveable communities. Socially sustainable communities are equitable, diverse, connected and democratic and provide a good quality of life.."- Stephen McKenzie

One of the keys to pursuing sustainability is the active involvement of the community in the decision-making process. Community involvement in decision making (CIDM) popularly known as Deliberative democracy (DD) or as Community participation in decision making (CPDM) are a variety of terms signifying the same concept.

A community in this sense according to the Oxford Dictionary; refers to "a group of people living in the same place". Thus, a community may refer to neighbourhoods, a whole village or town.

The concept of community participation in decision making is not a recent development as invariably purported. Before westernisation and its attendant labels of democracy and legislature, man lived in small communities where decision-making and community participation in community projects was mandatory. Local village chiefs and family heads met on issues which varied from improving farming and fishing methods to deciding on the perfect punishment for a criminal, right down to the community providing financial and physical support to help a new couple put up their first matrimonial home. With the on-set of westernization and in the case of developing countries, the issue of colonization, western forms of governance were seen as more civilised and thus, traditional forms of governance were discarded.

Deliberative democracy, which can also be referred to as community participation in decision making or community involvement in decision making, has had a positive effect on social sustainability in many regions in the world. It is a means of bestowing authority on the citizenry; publications by authors such as Dumreicher and Kolb (2008) support this fact. Although there have been strident calls for it to replace elite democratic practises elsewhere, not much literature is available especially with regards to North Cyprus.

The re-introduction of community participation in decision making took momentum in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Some countries took the bold initiative to involve their citizenry in decision making at the local or grass-roots level. This contributed in no small way in improving the economies of those particular communities. The active participation of citizenry in decision making, spurs an upsurge of national or civic pride in the citizenry. The thought of taking a project from its birthing stages to maturity, fosters a unique sense of achievement

and it has been proven that projects that are community initiated tend to out-live those that are not. This is so because, community initiated projects has as it were, 'the blood, tears and sweat of the community', thus, the culture of maintenance is invariably adopted.

On the other hand, in the case where the project's existence is decided on by a group of experts and the sitting government, it every now and then leads to apathy as the community may not want that particular project at the said time and in some cases, boycott or sabotage it completely. Several publications such as, Ekblom (2005), Newman (1997), Lawson (2007, 9), exemplify the government initiated project of Pruitt-Igoe in St. Louis Missouri, which had to be bombed as a result of under-utilization of the project leading to the area becoming a principal crime area.

Porto Alegre in Brazil in contrast, is one of the popular success stories of community participation in decision making process. Through the "Participatory Budget" where the population had a say on what projects they wanted implemented and which they did not, quality of life improved tremendously. In depth analysis of this project is provided by a number of authors such as, (Novy, 2005; de Sousa Santos, 1998; Wright, 2003, p.45).

Based on an earlier publication by the author of this thesis, there is basis to believe that, in spite of the wide spread acceptance of the belief that community participation is necessary in decision making, some doubts have been expressed about its desirability and its benefits to society (Akortor, 2011). Some people, are of the view that decision making should be left to some experts i.e., Cutler and Johnson (1975) Kontoleon et al (2001) while others cling to the view that, community

participation is necessary (Fischer ,1993). Some of the reasons people give for non-community participation in decision making include;

They believe that the government and their technical experts have better knowledge on community project implementation. Furthermore, they insist that the government always has its way, regardless of the community's views. That involving the community would lead to a longer time spent before the realisation of the project is achieved.

This thesis attempts to critically analyze international examples of community involvement in the decision making process, and examine the present situation existing in Büyükkonuk (also known as Komi Kebir village) in North Cyprus and see if a prototype can be drawn with the aim of it being implemented in other communities on the island.

1.1.1 Problem Statement

The question is, though some form of deliberative democracy or the involvement of the local citizenry in the decision making process does exist in Büyükkonuk, spear-headed by the village co-operative society, what tangible positive impact has it had on the village with regards to improving the quality of life? Has the concept of deliberative democracy become a cookie-cutter method which is being seen as the better alternative for executing the decision making process the world over? Its success in other countries is not a guarantee that it would work or be accepted in Büyükkonuk. The ideology of Cultural Relativity maintains that though one principle can work in one community it is no guarantee that it would work in the next. Academicians such as Hofsted (1984) reiterate this fact. What are the views of the

local citizenry on the decision making process? Finally would it lead to an improvement in the quality of life?

1.1.2 Research Questions

Society has evolved over the years, some problems however seem to re-occur constantly. The continual power struggle between the government and its team of experts on one side of the divide as against the community on the other side leaves much to be desired. For years, there has been an ongoing conflict between the main stake-holders with regards to community project initiation and implementation. This has had a negative impact on the socio-economic atmosphere of most countries. To find out which mode of decision making process is most advantageous to society at large and in Büyükkonuk in particular, this thesis seeks to find out the following questions;

- The importance/effectiveness of community participation in initial decision making process.

- The pros and cons of community participation in decision making.

- To find out if community participation in decision making can be implemented in Büyükkonuk with the aim of improving the quality of life in the area.

1.1.3 Study Objectives

The main objective of this study is to critically analyse and review the concept of Community Involvement in Decision Making and its applicability in upgrading what

exists in Büyükkonuk as a prototype that can be replicated in other communities on the island of North Cyprus. The objectives of this study are;

- To examine the general concept of citizen participation in decision making process.

- To examine the current form of decision making process existing in Büyükkonuk.

- To analyze and appraise the local community's involvement in the participation and planning and its influence on the decision making process.

- To make recommendations to improve the current form of decision making process in Büyükkonuk.

- To develop a pioneering study that can be replicated in other communities in North Cyprus.

1.1.4 Justification of the Research

The results of this thesis would help decision makers in developing a consciousness about the significance of community participation in decision making in the community of Büyükkonuk in Northern Cyprus and to see if it can be extended to other communities on the island as well.

1.1.5 Limitations of the Study

One exasperating limitation to the study was the language barrier. Due to not being articulate in the Turkish language, the help of a translator was employed with the translation of the questionnaires and was asked to be present during the

interviews. This fear was however unfounded as a good number of the population in Büyükkonuk could communicate fairly in the English language.

There was inadequate statistics with regards to the latest population numbers as population is to take place in the thesis year so a projected population number was used in this thesis.

Due to lack of finances, personnel were not employed to help with the research deployment, all research work and analysis was carried out solely by the author of this thesis.

1.1.6 Research Methodology

The survey was conducted by; structured administered questionnaires, focus group interviews, personal observations and analysis of photographs. Participants were selected from the village of Büyükkonuk at random.

1.1.7 Case Study Area

The town of Büyükkonuk is bordered by Iskele and Mehmetcik and has a total population of about 2885 (Rural Development Support Programme, 2010). The business of the town is mostly agrarian with a large portion of its produce ranging from grains (barley and wheat) to vegetables, fig tress amongst other cash crops.

Büyükkonuk has however carved a niche for itself and has overtime become known as a model village and one with an eco tourism drive, Oktay, et al (2003). Its annual eco-days where organic produce from the village are show-cased to visitors has increased the village's popularity. Tourists and visitors are taught and encouraged to make simple crafts and handiworks and also how to cook local

cuisines. Pottery lessons are being given to some children in figure (1) below and in figure (2) a traditional mill is being operated.

Figure: 1   Pottery lessons Büyükkonuk Eco-Days Celebrations 2007
(Source; D. Oktay Archive)

Figure: 2   Eco-Days Celebrations 2011

A poster from the 2008 Eco-Days Celebrations is shown in figure 3 below. According to a report by the USAID, the popularity of the eco-days celebrations has increase tourists from 240 in 2005 to 8000 in 2009.

Figure: 3   2008 Eco-Days Celebration Poster

Büyükkonuk was selected because its local co-operative has to some extent been engaged in deciding what happens in the community with regards to developmental projects. Büyükkonuk, within the larger municipal borders of the village, has also been the subject of a research project "Landscape- Level Resource Illustration and Village Centre Enhancement for Büyükkonuk Village" carried out under the auspices

of the EMU Urban Research & Development Centre by Prof. Dr. Derya Oktay and her team, and funded by USAID in December 2006 – May 2008.

Notable projects include; the design and building of accommodation facilities (village styled) in order to cater for the increasing number of visitors, the restoration of buildings which will house village arts and crafts and finally a welcome plaza in front of the church.

Some of these initiatives were initiated by the municipality, international donors and the community to sustain and promote their unique cultural heritage and do so in an environmental friendly fashion. The international organization most devoted to this initiative is the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) ably assisted by the Turkish embassy.

1.1.9 Organisation of the Study

The study is organized into five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction of the study. This chapter involves the background of the topic, problem statement, research question, study objectives, justification of the research, limitations, research methodology, criteria for the selection of the case study and organisation of the study. This chapter was previously submitted as an abridgment of the study and guides and links the development of the whole research.

The second chapter provides a relevant review of the literature on community involvement in decision making.

The third chapter analysis international examples of community involvement in decision making along the lines of; the description of the Project; Intermediary Organisation; Community Awareness; Community Organisation; Community

participation in Management; Community participation in Implementation and Success of the Project.

The forth chapter analyses conditions pertaining in Büyükkonuk a research was carried out to find out the views of the citizenry on the decision making process. It was paramount to know the view of the citizenry on issue of participatory community development as it would be wrong to assume that once a policy is successful in one area, it would work in the next one without soliciting for the views of the people who would be most affected. This chapter discusses the methodology of the research. The methodology provides a detailed account about the procedure and phases implemented during the study. Thus, the chapter details the design of the research, data requirements, data collection methods, sampling techniques and tools chosen for obtaining the information in the communities selected and presentation of the data. In addition, the chapter indicates specific phases for the research procedure as well as the detailed steps for the administration of questionnaires and interviews conducted during the field work.

The last chapter presents the main findings of the study, their implications and conclusions. In addition, recommendations for improving implementation of the decision making process are drawn in this chapter. Thus, the chapter synthesises the major findings and recommendations to affect the decision making process and further policies and strategies in Büyükkonuk.

Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1   Introduction

With regards to sustainability the general consensus in the world today borders on poverty alleviation and environmental protection. Till there is a co-operate responsibility for the environment, this sustainability utopia would be delusional. It is only through coalescent collaboration between all stake-holders responsible for development that poverty alleviation and improvement in the quality of life can be attained. This chapter presents a review of the relevant literature relating to community participation, and its relevance to the improvement in the quality of life.

"In an age where community involvement and partnerships with civil society are increasingly being recognized as indispensable, there is clearly a growing potential for cooperative development and renewal worldwide."

-    Kofi Annan[1]

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[1] United Nations Press Release (Press SG/SM/8289/OBV/281) 06/25/2002

2.1.1   The Concept of Community, Participation leading to Quality of Life.

For a better perception of community participation leading to an improvement in the quality of life, which is fundamental in poverty alleviation, there is a need for the explanation of the significant keywords that are repeated throughout this thesis.

2.1.2   The Definition of Community

The word 'community' is multifaceted and controversial depending on the angle at which one looks at it. In the Community Planning Handbook, Nick Wates describes a community as a group of people living within close propinquity to each other. (pg 184) Community could also refer to people who live in close proximity with each other.

For example publications by Wellman and Wortley (1990) and Montenegro (2002) reiterate this fact or, in other instances, pertain to people who may live on other ends of the globe but, have similar interests in a particular subject or ideology for example, gay communities, jazz communities etc., (Baker et al 1999), (Merriam and Mark 1960), (Kates 2004). Currently the introduction of the internet in the past century has proliferated an abundance of virtual communities worldwide articles by Koh et al(2007), Granitz & Ward (1996) and Fox & Roberts (1999) clarify the 'induction ceremonies' one has to undergo to join some of these virtual communities.

The word 'community' etymologically derived from the Latin word "*communitatem*"[2], which means community or fellowship. With regards to the sociological point of view, a community is one in which a community consists of people living within close proximity to each another. A common interest is yet

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[2] Online Etymology Dictionary

another element that may help shape a community these communities may either be virtual or physical writings by Chen & Hung (2010), Gruber (2010) clarify the differences. Communities differ from one locality to another as a result of history and cultural traditions.

From a political stance, a community consists of a number of dwellings and buildings which are under a particular political jurisdiction. These are so divided for the ease of administration and elections.

The Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines community as; a "group of people with common characteristics or interest living together within a larger society". For the purpose of this thesis, this definition would be adopted to mean community.

According to the WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (1978, p. 49), in the Alma-Ata Declaration defined community as; "(a) community consists of people living together in some form of social organisation or cohesion. Its members share in varying degrees political, economical, social, and cultural characteristics as well as interests and aspirations, including health."

2.1.3   The Definition of Participation

'Participation' as a word is etymologically derived from the Latin word *"participationem"*[3] which stems from the word *"participare"* which means to participate. Participation is synonymous with words such as; involvement, teamwork and engagement. In relation to this thesis, participation is about joint collaboration

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[3] Online Etymology Dictionary

with stake-holders with the aim of being involved in decision making with a goal in mind.

The Oxford Dictionary defines participation as; "the action of taking part in something". The World Bank defines participation as; "the process through which stake-holders influence and share control over development initiatives and decisions and resources which affect them". (1996)

For participation to be genuine and sustainable, it should primarily be voluntary (Carvalho and West, 2010). For instance, the fear of a dictator compelling citizens to offer services in their community, it is by no means sustainable and thus, cannot be considered as participation in the true sense of the word. With time the inhabitants would get tired of the dictator and once he is ousted from power the first thing they would rebel against is anything that signified his authority. That notwithstanding, there have been quite a couple of cases where citizens' took part in deliberations in the locality because of incentives they stood to gain from it or as a result of persuasion. This is also not sustainable because, once the attraction is absent; the participation equilibrium would be unsettled.

The spirit of participation has the ability to become a powerful force, when the community is united. Active participation of the community in the decision making process signifies trust and transparency. According to Moseti (2010) at the 46th ISOCARP Conference in Kenya, reiterated the fact that, trust and transparency are the bed-rock of the community taking active part in the decision making process. She goes on further to state that, a healthy civic culture is an attestation of the proportion of public involvement in local governance.

Claeys (2001) sees the ability of the citizenry to participate regardless of their social and economic standing as, the respect that is accorded to an individual recognising, that they have the ability to contribute something meaningful towards community advancement.

Distrust in the administration of policies and projects have been the backbone in the fight of the communities to be at the fore-front of the decision making process. Over the years, corrupt officials have used bureaucratic red-tape as a means of preventing the public to get access to documents that may incriminate them. In vanguard position in the fight to be heard, are the activists followed by, non-elected administrators in local government, then by citizens who have participated in at least a communal process or event during the year.

2.1.4 Different kinds of Participation

The driving force behind participation is as a result of a couple of subjective forces. Human beings by nature are different and thus, the compulsion to undertake participatory work unfortunately may sometimes be for the wrong reasons, whilst in some cases it is for the right reasons.

According to Pretty et al book "Participatory Learning and Action", some of the types of participation include; Manipulative Participation, Passive Participation, Participation by Consultation, Participation for Material Incentive, Functional Participation, Interactive Participation and Self-Mobilization". This is further explained in the table below by the authors.

Table 1: Main Typologies of Participation

Typology	Characteristics of Each Type
1. **Manipulative Participation**	Participation is simply pretence, the community themselves are not willing to participate in development processes but because of the external manipulation they simply pretend. Participation in this type is not sustainable because people will not always pretend.
2 **Passive Participation**	People participate by being told what has been decided or has already happened. Information belongs only to the external professionals. This is regarded as top-down approach to people participation and assume that people do not have potential to decide for themselves. This type of participation is difficult when it come to the implementation stage, people fail to support the project because they were not involved during the planning stage.
3. **Participation by Consultation**	People participate by being consulted or by answering questions. There is no room for the shared decision-making between the stakeholders and the professional. In most cases people's needs and priorities ignored by professionals. This also becomes difficult during the implementation of development projects. This type creates the gap between the local people and professionals .
4. **Participation for Material Incentive**	People participate in work for food arrangements; They may also participate for the cash or other material incentives. The activities and the participation stop when the material incentives stop. This type of participation is not voluntary but people attracted by incentive given to them. The people themselves do not own the development processes under this type.

5. **Functional Participation**	Participation is seen by external agencies as a means to achieve project goals, especially reduced costs. People participate by forming groups to meet predetermined project objectives.
6. Interactive Participation	People participate in joint analysis, which leads to action plans and formation or strengthening of local group, or institution that determine how available resources are used. Learning methods used to seek multiple viewpoints. This type is the best, because it regards local people as potential and equal partner in development processes. This type of participation creates the sense of ownership of the development project by the community.
7. **Self-Mobilization**	People participate by taking initiative independent of external institutions. They develop contact with external institutions for resources and technical advice but retain control over how resources are used.

Source; Based on Pretty, (1995, p. 61).

2.1.5   The Concept of Community Participation

"Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop."
(Dorothy Height, n.d)

Community participation or deliberative democracy takes place when citizen in a community or neighbourhood voluntarily unite to take action with the aim of improving their common lot.

This may be through the implementation of self-help schemes or deliberating on issues that directly or indirectly affects their physical, mental, social, financial, environmental or economical state of being.

According to the World Bank, community participation in development is;

"Participation is a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources which affect them."[4]

Though community participation is practiced in many countries, it should be noted that, it would be difficult to draw up one model that would serve the needs of all communities as variations in culture and idiosyncrasies peculiar to each region, brings out a uniqueness that needs to be incorporated into individual models tailored to each community's requirements.

Successful implementation of community participation in development leads to an improvement in quality of life which invariably leads to wealth distribution and poverty alleviation.

Urban Waste Expertise Program in line with their 1999 Working Document 11 by Sylvaine Bulle, defined community participation as;

> "the sociological process by which residents organise themselves and become involved at the level of a living area or a neighbourhood, to improve the conditions of daily life (water, sanitation, health, education, etc.). It comprises various degrees of individual or collective involvement (financial and/or physical contributions, social and/or political commitment) at different stages of a project. Since it implies that residents set up

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[4] The World Bank (1996) The World Bank Participation Source Book, Environmentally Sustainable Development, Washington, D.C.

management committees in charge of equipment, **community management** is to be considered the most operational and highest level of participation."[5]

According to James L. Creighton Ph.D. in his book, "The Public Participation Handbook – Making better decisions through citizen involvement", community participation does not involve actions such as strikes, lawsuits, extra-legal processes and the electoral process. Creighton, J.L (2005, p. 8)

When the inevitability of the exhaustible nature of natural resources became eminent to scientists, world leaders and politicians, there was a conscious attempt to reverse the downward decline of the earth's resources. Publications by Mark Morris (2011), Pedro de Almeida & Pedro D. Silva (2011) and Imre Dobos & Péter Tallos (2011) shed more light on this issue. This lead to earlier approaches like the Green Building Codes, "Going Green", Smart Growth, Alternative Energy and others being implemented and pursued.

In a report by the commonwealth of Australia entitled, "Our Community Our Future: A Guide to LA21"[6], there is an argument that there is no proof that the Sustainability paradigm or concept is attainable however, attempts at attaining sustainability through approaches such as "greenhouse gas emission reduction", "smart growth", "green codes" and others, are a step in the right direction in the pursuit of restoring the equilibrium of the availability of natural resources vis-ά-vis man's habitation of the planet.

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[5] Sylvaine Bulle (1999) Issues and Results of Community Participation In Urban Environment, Comparative Analysis of Nine Projects in Waste Management.

[6] Our Community Our Future: A Guide to LA21, Commonwealth of Australia 1999.

LA 21 the acronym for Local Agenda 21 is a resolution arrived at the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit of 1992 aimed at implementing sustainable developments at a community level. This resolution geared towards sustainability derives its strength from the active participation and of the community both at the planning, implementation and sometimes management levels of a particular project. LA 21 is the implementation of the decision making process at the grass-root level, taking into account the contribution of the common man in the community regardless of their economic, educational or any other social standing.

During this summit, 179 world leaders signed the "globalized action plan for sustainable developments"[7]. Presently, most communities in the 196 countries in the world are involved in LA 21 which has each been tailored to suit local demands.

Preceding the implementation of the LA 21 is drawing up of a tactical action plan that normally encompasses previous existing policies and programmes and an agreement on a specific time frame work. (Skanavis et al, 2011; Ahmed et al, 2009)

Significant outcomes of the implementation of the LA 21 include; a solid bond between community and local government. Which comes with advantages such as, comprehensive decision making with takes into account all the aspects of the social, economic, and the physical involving the whole community; a progressive involvement of the community and the local government in a bid to attain sustainability and others. (Keitumetse, 2011; Rad, 2011)

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[7] Maurice Strong, Chairman, Earth Council, - Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide.

Table: 2

Action Area 1: Preparing the ground — identify council structures, strategies and resources to be used to develop a Local Agenda 21 with the support of the council, staff, including senior management, and the community.

Action Area 2: Building partnerships — establish an understanding of the community and develop ways and means of extending awareness and involvement in Local Agenda 21.

Action Area 3: Determining vision, goals, targets and indicators — set out what the council and the community wish to achieve, ideally broken down into goals with indicators and targets.

Action Area 4: Creating a local action planning document — prepare a statement of actions that the council will undertake in order to realise each target; this includes timeline, budget and responsible officers for each action.

Action Area 5: Implementing, reporting, monitoring and reviewing — consider whether the actions are helping to achieve the targets, whether progress is being made towards the goals and whether any aspect of the Local Agenda 21 needs changing

Table: 2.   (Source; Our Community, Our Future; A Guide to Local Agenda 21)

According to the Local Agenda 21 planning document, "Our Community, Our Future; A Guide to Local Agenda 21", there are some systematic steps that are necessary to be taken to ensure the success of the LA 21 programme. These steps are highlighted in the table (2) above.

Some of the benefits of communities implementing the LA 21 include; a more effective development policy planning and execution, greater collaboration between the community and the local governing council, an effective management of developmental change, which leads to a healthy vibrant community among others.

Chapter 3

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION – GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

3.1 Introduction

An integral part of this research work would be to critically review past instances of successful cases of community involvement in decision making, glean valuable lessons from their successes and determine if the approaches employed or modifications of these approaches can be applied in Büyükkonuk. The cases chosen for the research analysis are from various regions all over the world and although community involvement in decision making can be applied to the health care industry, tourism industry, architectural and housing industry, water industry, finance and budgeting industries and so forth, for the sake of this research, instances were limited to successful examples of community involvement in decision making in the architectural/housing industry and the tourism industry as these are the major areas related to Büyükkonuk.

The successful cases of community involvement in decision making chosen to be investigated are:

3.1 Community involvement in upgrading the Old City of Yangzhou in China

3.1.1 Introduction

The old city of Yangzhou was undergoing rehabilitation and losing its historical and cultural heritage due to rapid urbanization and modernization. To stem this ugly tide the locals in cooperation with Yangzhou Municipal Government, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and Cities Alliance teamed up using a Community Action Planning (CAP) approach to develop a three layer framework for improving the house, facade and street of the old city. At the end of the project, living conditions and quality of life of the people was tremendously improved.

In describing the project, China like many other countries had experienced accelerated population growth at the detriment of its existing urban core. This development has led to the destruction and re-development of old districts and the creation of new ones.

Yangzhou, the example at hand is located in the historic quarter has a rich history of 2500 years and covers an area of 5.1m², notable in the history of this Old City is its link to the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

3.1.2 The Initiative and Project Implementation

This area consists of between one – two storey traditional houses as shown in Figure 4 & 5 below were fast deteriorating, narrow alleys taken over by street vendors, out of the historic context multi-storied houses and haphazard extensions to existing houses before the regeneration project. Renovations and extension to the existing houses were haphazardly done without consideration for the history and culture of the area. Due to the poor living conditions existing in Yangzhou, most of

the young economically independent adults in the Old City moved out, leaving the

lower income groups, aging generation and young children.

Figure 4 Historical City of Yangzhou   (Source; GTZ Expert Team)

Figure: 5 Aerial View of Project Area.   (Source; GTZ Expert Team)

After many years of neglect, decay and unsanitary living conditions, as shown in Figure 6 & 7 below, the Municipality Government of Yangzhou with the in conjunction with the German government initiated the concept of "Sustainable Urban Conservation". Unique about this project is the involvement of the community and the adaptation of the "process-oriented upgrading" (gradual) rather than a "project-oriented approach" which would have called for the re-location of the inhabitants while project was underway. The dangers of relocating inhabitants while an upgrading project is under way is, most times, these inhabitants do not participate in the upgrading process and when it is completed, others who may be more economically well-off than the original inhabitants may take over the upgraded area, resulting in a case of gentrification.

Problems existing in this Old City included;

- Unsanitary living conditions: the un-availability of toilet and bathroom facilities in houses with inhabitants normally using public bath houses.

- General dilapidation and deterioration in the buildings.

- The un-availability of basic infrastructure such as drains, and sewage system.

- Public urban space over taken by illegal building extensions and street vendors. Limiting access in the case of emergencies.

Figure: 6   (Source; GTZ Expert Team)

Figure: 7   (Source; GTZ Expert Team)

Intermediary organisation started with a grant from Cities Alliance, Yangzhou Municipality Government (YMG) and German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) decide to undertake a project with collaboration of the inhabitants aimed at revamping their environs, preserve their historic buildings and homes and improve their economic status. Preliminary call on the community by the municipality was met with nonchalance. It was after the invitation of Professor Goethert from MIT who is a Community Action Planning (CAP) expert to join the production team that the project successfully went under way.

CAP Model
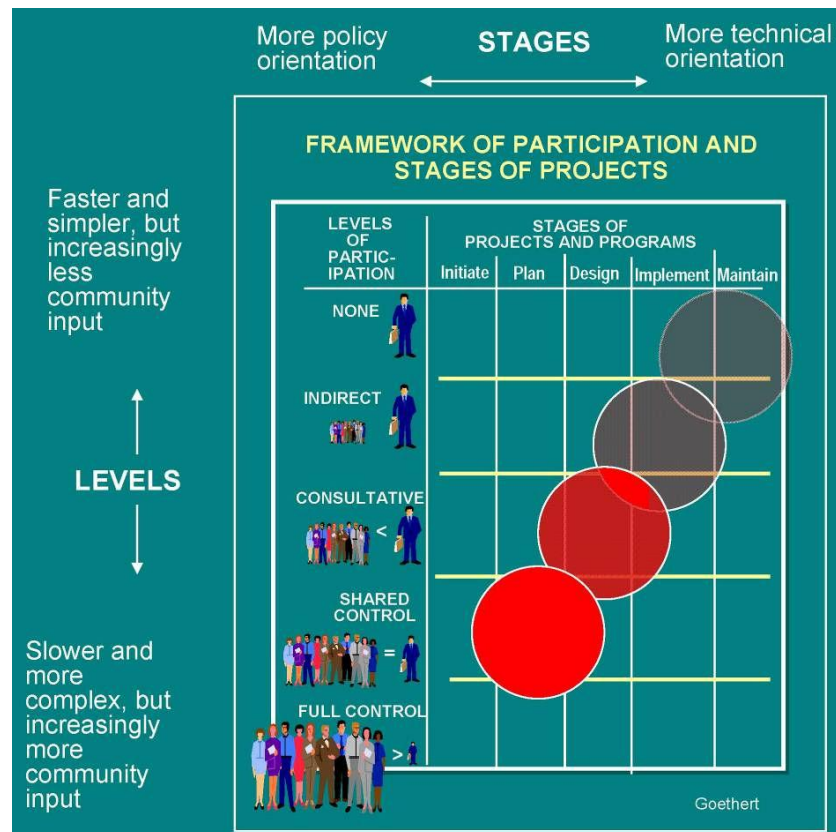
Figure 8 Different stages, levels and effects of public participation. ♟ refers to government representatives, relevant professionals and practitioners, 🧑‍🤝‍🧑 refers to community residents. (Source; Goethert)

With regards to community awareness, preliminary action after meeting with the residents was to pose some questions which engineered towards development.

"What would you be proud to show visiting relatives or tourists?"

"What would you want to pass on to your children?"

Residents after being given portable cameras were asked to capture what they considered good historic views in their community they thought should be preserved.

The aim of this exercise was to instil in the population;

- An awareness and appreciation of their history and modes of identifying historical elements.

- Comprehend elements according to future planning and implementation.

- Recapitulate elements to establish a common shared understanding and emphasize limited issues.

Design objectives were to find solutions to problems concerning the interior of the house, the lanes and alleys adjoining the residential units and the facade of the buildings.
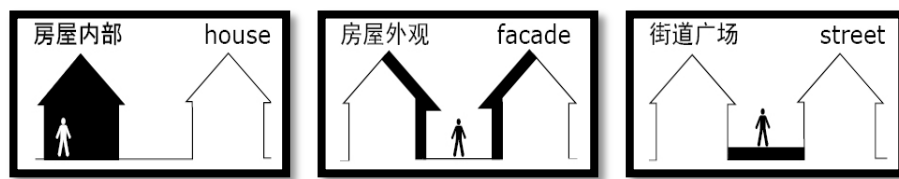
Figure 9 Framework for the CAP workshop
(Source; GTZ CA Project Team/ iYET)

Community Organisation commenced in this order;

Day 1: Residents were briefed on the theme of participation and enlightened on the historic values of the Old City.

- Exhibition of the photos residents had taken on the historical and non-historical elements of the street, facade and house.

- Residents deliberated on the theme questions of. "What would you be proud to show visiting relatives or tourists?" and "What would you want to pass on to your children".

- Problems of the street, facade and house were deliberated upon taking into consideration the history of the Old City.

- Cost analysis of the project.

- Scale of preference was drawn for the project with regards to budgetary allocation.

Day 2: In-depth Analysis of Field Survey of Problems and Issues

By going to the house to house, GTZ professionals, residents and representatives from the neighbourhood committee investigated and marked out the problems of the lanes and the facade on a map for the preparation for a detailed inventory.

Day 3: Expand thorough Action Strategy

- Resident representatives as shown in Figure 10 and 11 below were grouped according to residential lanes to weigh-up and conclude on issues.

- A line of action is settled-on to determine how the project should run with regards to money and time.

Figure 10   (Source; GTZ Expert Team)

Figure: 11   (Source; GTZ Expert Team)

The community participated in the managing the project by the help of the professional support team drew up a simple visual matrix as shown in figure 12 below which is easy for both the residents to understand. Further deliberations produced the final format. A representative from each lane was elected to serve as a contact in the execution of standards agreed up at the workshops.
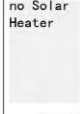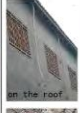
Figure: 12   Visual Matrix   (Source; GTZ Expert Team)

The residents participation in the implementation of the project by baring 70% of the cost of renovating their houses. The contractor in charge of the project agreed to work with residents and though this collaboration necessitated a modification in their usual construction approach, this however was an advantage in the implementation process. It lowered the cost of the project, speeded up the time used in execution and conflicts were avoided. Being more enlightened about the cultural value of their neighbourhood, the residents readily demolished illegal extensions as shown in Figure 10 & 11, to their houses in favour of more open spaces and lane access.

The residents also played an active role in the selection and location of street furniture sensitive to the cultural and historical identity of the area.

In reference to the typology of participatory methods found in table (1) this example falls under number (6) which is "Interactive Participation".

Figure: 13   (Source; GTZ Expert Team)

Figure: 14   (Source; GTZ Expert Team)

According to the final report submitted to the municipality on the Yangzhou project, the project was deemed a great success. The active and enthusiastic participation of the community, their appreciation of the cultural and historical value of their area leading them to voluntarily pull down structures that were encroaching on public land, the resident now having the capability to making informed decisions concerning their houses, and neighbourhoods and their ability to plan and facilitate short and medium term rehabilitation of their housing environment taking into consideration the limited funds available. The transformation of a make-shift bathroom and kitchen is shown in Figure 15, 16 and 17 below. While a courtyard that was painted prior to the rehabilitation in colours not sensitive to the traditional context is rehabilitated to reflect the rich culture of the area is shown in Figure 18 and 19.

Figure: 15   (Source; GTZ Expert Team)

Figure: 16   Figure: 17   (Source; GTZ Expert Team)

Figure: 18   (Source; GTZ Expert Team)

Figure 19   (Source; GTZ Expert Team)

3.2 Cumalikizik - Bursa, Turkey

Located on the north-western upper corner of Turkey, in the region of Bursa whose history predates the Xia Dynasty of China (2070 BC), Bursa originates around the time of the Stonehenge (2200 BC) and Bursa was founded around 200 BC by the king Prusia of Bytinia. Formerly ruled by the Romans and the Byzantines, at the turn of the 14th century Bursa became the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Cumalikizik established around the 1300 AD, is a 713-year-old village rich in history and is the sole survivor of seven Ottoman villages located in greater Bursa.

3.2.1 Introduction

Peculiar about Cumalikizik (shown in figure 20 below) has been its ability to withstand the rapid urbanisation, industrialisation and migration that transformed the

other Ottoman villages such as Hamamlikizik, Fidyekizik, Derekizik, Degirmenlikizik, Dallikizik, and Bayindirkizik.

Figure: 20   Location of Cumalikizik, Map of Turkey,
Source; Oren et al   (2002)

Consisting formerly of 270 houses of vernacular Ottoman architecture, only 180 are currently standing of which 150 are presently inhabited (Ozturk & Cahantimur, 2010). Other buildings worth mentioning in this village include; a mosque, a Turkish bath, places of ceremonial bathing the ruins of a churches and cemeteries. The small population numbers existing in this village is as a result of migration to nearby urban areas. This high percentage of migration has had an adverse effect on the village of Cumalikizik as it resulted in wide-scale dilapidation of the buildings due to lack of maintenance.

3.2.2   The Initiative and Project Implementation

The main goals of "The Living Ottoman Village in the Third Millennium - Cumalikizik Collaboration Project" are the advancement at the national and international level, high standards of quality in the fields of heritage, conservation, architecture, urban and rural planning and strive for sustainable development of the

built, natural, urban and rural environment with the participation of the local people. The conservation aimed building development plan is below,
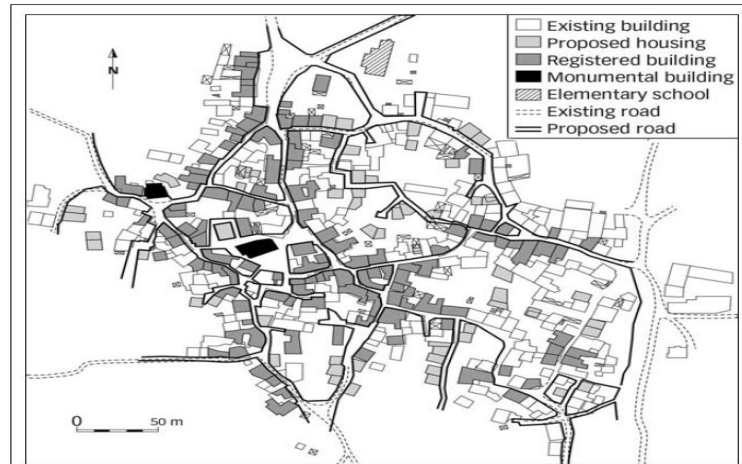
Figure: 21   (Source; Tas, et al, 2009)

Preceding the adaptation of the LA 21, there was declaration of Cumalikizik as an urban and natural preservation site in 1981. Two years later the village was added to the World Heritage List. Also in the year 1983, a project competition aimed at the preservation of the village was initiated through a project competition by the Aga Khan Foundation in collaboration with the chamber of Architects for students of architecture in Turkey to study changes in the village up to the year 2007 and find out its effects on life and the environment (Tas et al, 2009).

The Bursa Local Agenda 21 Cumalikizik Conservation and Revitalization Action Plan were initiated in 1998. The aim of this Local Agenda 21 is to advance the economic, physical and the socio-cultural aspects of the community with the intension of attaining sustainability. LA 21 was started by the Bursa Metropolitan Municipality and the Bursa Tophane UNESCO Youth Association.

In Cumalikizik according the typology of participation listed in table (1) by Pretty, it was mainly 'participation by consultation'. According to the paper "A

participatory governance model for the sustainable development of Cumalıkızık, a heritage site in Turkey" by Tas et al (2009), only a small percentage of the population of Cumalikizik participated in the conceptual project competition and symposium set up to generate the vision of the village. The villagers however also took part in the implementation phase of the project, contributing physical manpower and local materials, and were responsible for submitting procurement requests to the administration commission at various stages of the conservation project.

With regards to the project in the village two aspects were developed for the conceptual agenda of the developmental model that is; "sustainable development and heritage management". The special administration responsible for overseeing the implementation in Cumalikizik village is shown in the figure 22 below.
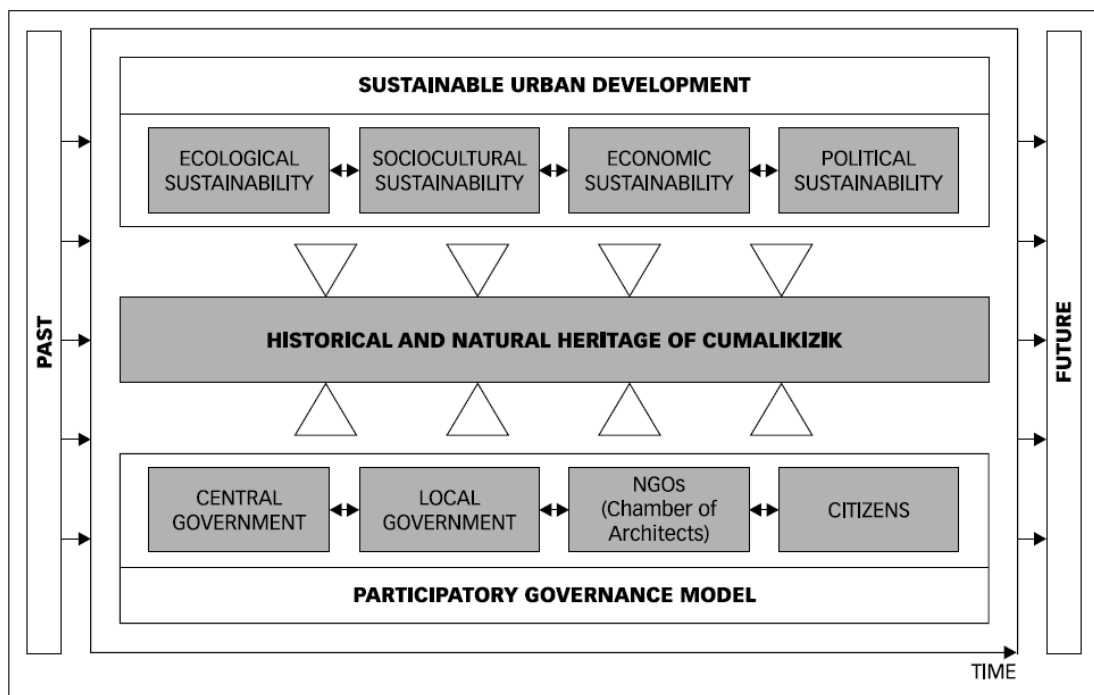
Figure:22   (Source; Tas et al,2009)

To maintain coordination among the stakeholders of the project, throughout the implementation phase, an environmental management plan was developed, which is shown in figure 23 below.

Environmental management plan for Cumalıkızık	
Stages	**Activities**
Determination of the current situation	Identification of the management, function and conservation requirements of the area Development of the necessary relationships between the participants
Field work and analysis	Identification of the problems
Development of strategies	Development of management, administration, institutional and financial strategies for Cumalıkızık to indicate its vision of the future
Preparation of action plan	Budget analysis and identification of financial resources Development of short-term action plan Development of middle-term action plan Development of long-term action plan

Figure : 23   (Source; Tas et al, 2009)

To better understand the project phases and it implementation, the participatory governance model is shown in figure 24 and 25 in the next pages,
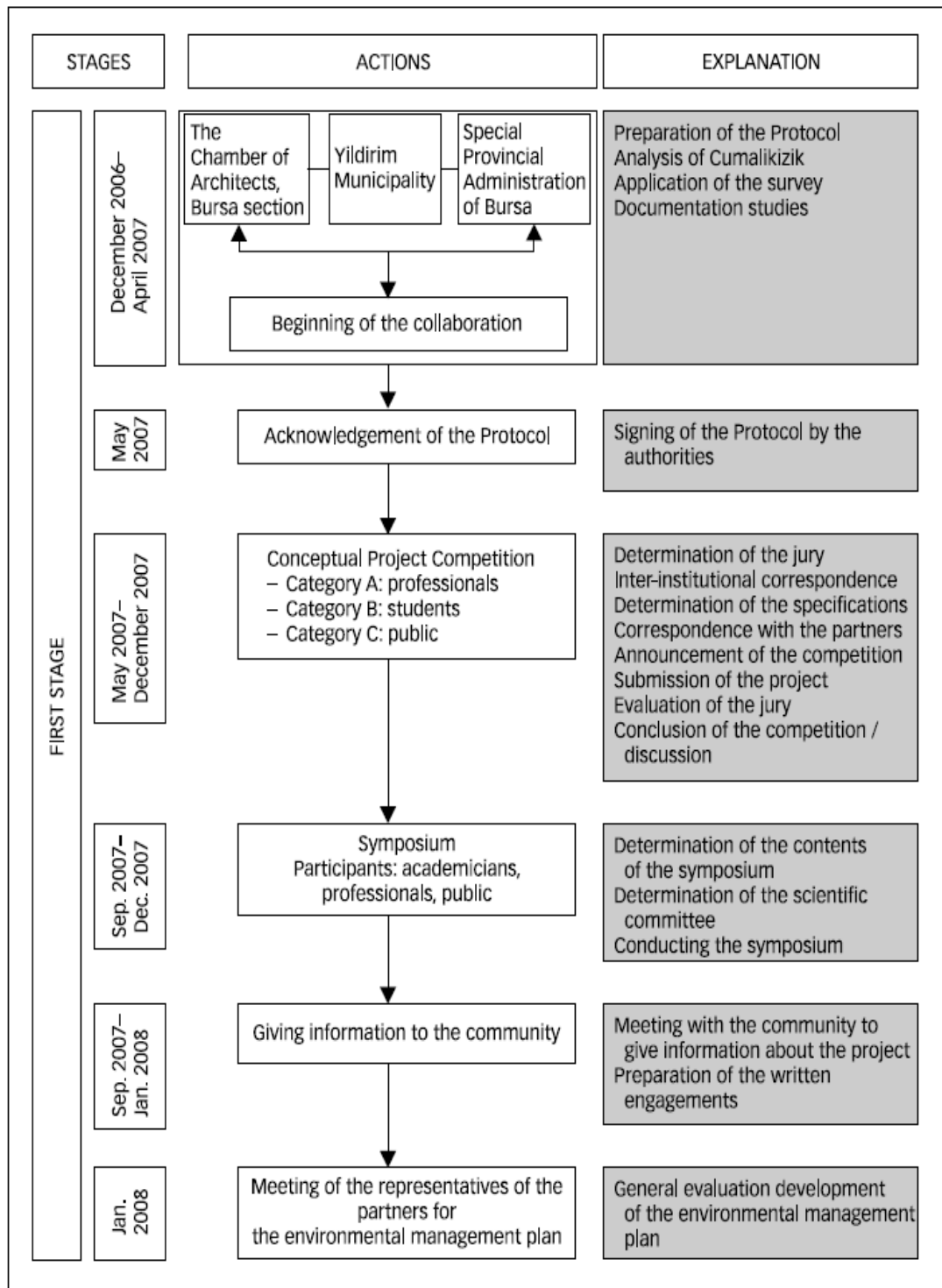
Figure : 24   Participatory Governance Model Cumalikizik
(Source; Tas et al, 2009)
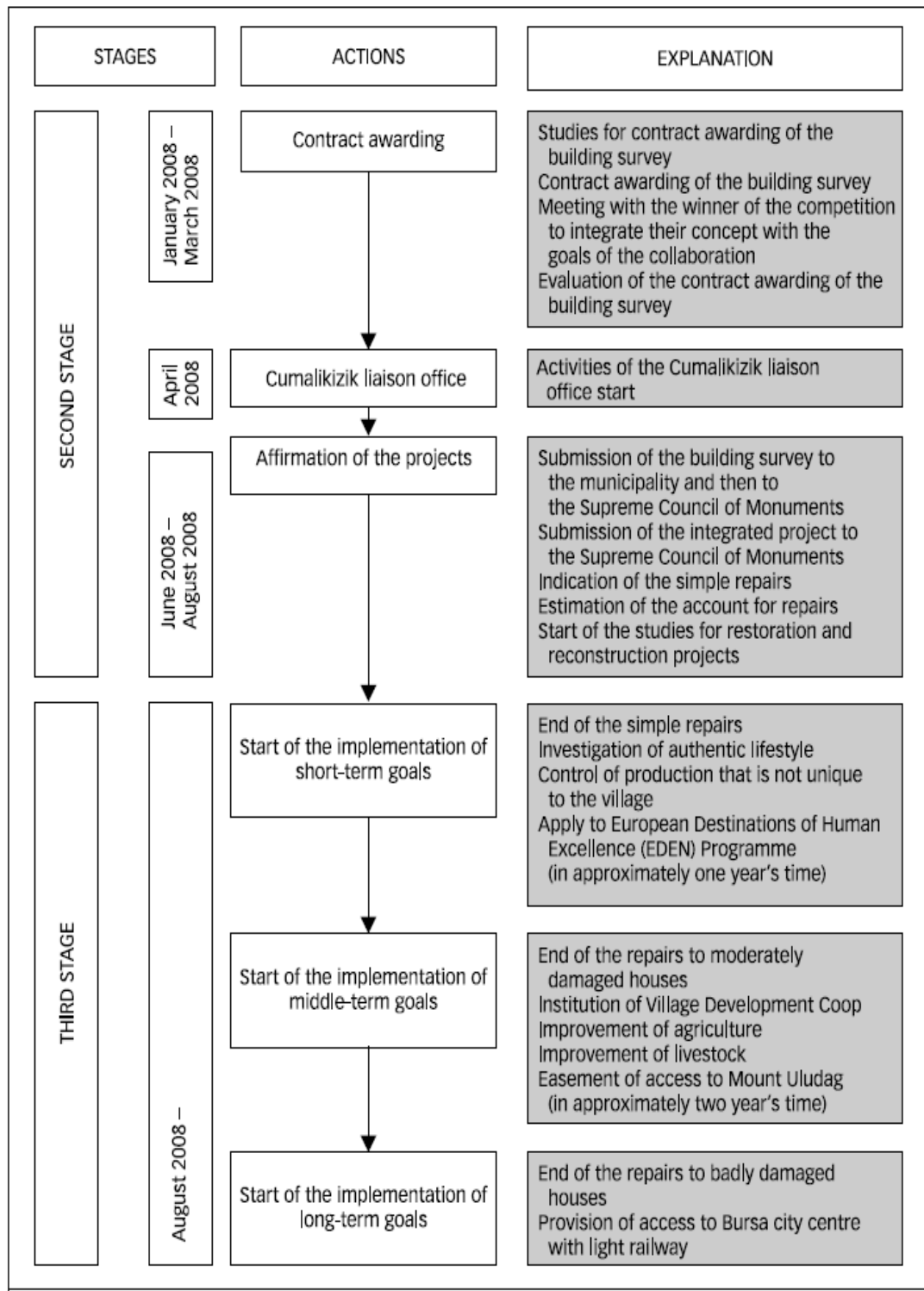
Figure: 25   Participatory Governance Model Cumalikizik cont.
(Source; Tas et al, 2009)

Images from Cumalikizik are shown in the following pictures below;

Figure: 26   Images of Cumalikizik before rehabilitation (1990)

(Source; D. Oktay Archive)

Figure: 27   Images of Cumalikizik before rehabilitation (1990)

(Source; D. Oktay Archive)

Figure: 28   Images of Cumalikizikbefore rehabilitation (1990)

(Source; D. Oktay Archive)

Figure: 29   Images of Cumalikizik after environmental rehabilitation (2009)

(Source; D. Oktay Archive)

Figure: 30   Images of Cumalikizik after environmental rehabilitation (2009)

(Source; D. Oktay Archive)

Figure: 31   Images of Cumalikizik after environmental rehabilitation (2009)

(Source; D. Oktay Archive)

3.3 Calvia, Majorca – (Balearic Islands) Spain

3.3.1 Introduction

Calvia is a small town on the south-western part of the island Majorca in Spain. Founded in 1249 with 80 inhabitants, it present population stands at 52,645 people according to the 2010 population estimate. Due to the influx of tourists, the population of Calvia has jumped by more than 70% having shot up from 2,690 people in 1960 to its current number.

3.3.2 The Initiative and Project Implementation

Tourism is the main economic stay of the island and in the late 1980's due to a downturn in the tourism industry on the island, tourism fell by 20% which invariably had an adverse effect on the economy. To revert the town back to its former glory as a tourism hotspot but, with sensitivity to the impact of unsustainable practices on the environment, the municipality in alignment with the Spanish Ministry of Tourism decided to implement "The Calvia Plan for Tourist Excellence". This policy was fashioned after the 'LA21' which is Local Agenda 21.

The municipality, in association with the Spanish Tourist Ministry after two years of consultation drew up the "The Calvia Plan for Tourist Excellence" which focuses on revamping of the tourism industry bearing in mind the irreversibility of damaging effects of deforestation and pollution etc on the environment and an attempt to reverse and prevent the effects of environmental degradation. Some of the measures adopted included;

- A demolition exercise targeting un-lawfully put up buildings and structures and, buildings that did not meet the safety regulatory codes through the implementation of "The Building Clearance Plan".

- A means of attracting tourists during the tourist lean month of winter.

- The training of man-power and personnel to handle the new face of tourism being branded.

In 1996, after some months of deliberation, the "Draft Project for Local Agenda 21" was agreed upon. The public was enlightened on its proceedings and the foundation for participation was implemented at the municipality level.

Community Organisation in the year 1997 jump-started the implementation process. There was the organisation of the Calvia International conference on Tourism and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean, followed by the formation of an expert caucus to formulate the "Key Subject Areas". Succeeding this chapter, the preliminary assembly of the Citizen Assessment Forum took place. This further led to the official formation of the Citizen Assessment Forum and the Institutional Committee. The Citizen Assessment Forum and the Institutional Committee birthed the Subject Committees who pioneered the Assessment Forum. The work of all these committees, sub-committees and forums produced the Programme Document.

In Calvia, participation in the decision making process was mainly through the debates and deliberations held within the various committees and forums. The citizenry were instrumental in the drawing up of the policies however, there is not enough documented evidence to show that they physically took part in the

construction process or were they subjected to bearing a percentage of the cost of the project.

In reference to table (1) which is the typology of participation table, the form of participation occurring in Calvia is Interactive Participation.

The municipality in Calvia, lead by the mayor and his group of advisors were in the forefront of the management and implementation of projects. This they did after consultation with the citizenry which was through a forum of citizens consisting of 300 representatives from community groups, businesses, tourist facilities, trade unions and others.

Calvia has been lauded as an example of the successful implementation of the Rio summit Resolution. International awards include, "Sustainable Town of Europe 1997" and Calvia has been listed as one of the good examples of "Sustainable Tourism" projects listed in the 2010 edition of " A Good Practice Guide – Tourism for Nature and Development".

3.4 Winchester – United Kingdom

3.4.1 Introduction

Winchester is a city with a strong cultural identity, whose cultural heritage and rural setting has made it a popular tourist destination. According to the mid-year estimates of 2010 provided by the Office of National Statistics, the population of the City stood at 114,300 as against 35,000 in 1998.

Winchester began as a small town in 70 AD as a Roman settlement. Its history and culture has been the magnet which has drawn tourists over the years. Notable

inhabitants of Winchester include the author Jane Austin who was buried in the cemetery adjoining the Winchester cathedral.

3.4.2 The Initiative and Project Implementation

Locals of Winchester have long been indignant about the negative impacts of tourism on their neighbourhoods and environment. Some of the downsides of tourism they experienced included; pollution, congestion, intrusion etc. which the residents see as diminishing their wellness of being. This caused the Winchester City Council after consultation with the locals to develop the "Strategic Tourism Development Plan for Winchester" which, was implemented in line with the theme of the Earth Summit of Rio in 1992 on sustainable tourism.

Winchester city in a bid to attain sustainable tourism set out to address some issues bordering on the non-sustenance of previous tourism developments policies by;

- Reversing the then trending approach of previous policies of tourism development without taking into consideration of the impact of these approaches on pollution, congestion etc.
- Incorporate the rural areas into tourism destinations there by propagating a form of tourism that would lessen the impact of vehicular and human traffic which encourages wear and tear on Winchester city.
- To fashion all future developmental policies to incorporate the theme of sustainability along the lines of tourism.

The sustainable tourism approach was conceived by the Community Services Department in conjunction with other Council departments, the local community and

regional tourism industry. Monitoring the success of these policies happens to be the Chief Executive of the Council Departments.

The "Working Group of the Winchester City LA21" is made up of; City "Councillors", local interest group representatives and facility bodies, voluntary groups, the local populace and other local agencies. These groups deliberated and decided on policies in line with the Earth Summit in Rio 1992 theme.

In implementing the LA21 theme in Winchester, a group made up of 1,600 residents who constitute the citizens' panel regularly fill questionnaires, deliberating on issues and recommending strategies to improve and attain the satisfactory level of sustainable tourism with the aim of improving the quality of life for residents.

The resident community of Winchester City under the auspices of "Discover Winchester Consortium", the "Alresford Town Council Tourism Committee and Bishop Waltham Strategy Committee", "Future of Winchester Group", "City Centre Management Group" are the main deliberative volunteer groups residents join to ensure that, their goal of sustainable tourism leading to a wellness of being is attained.

In reference to table (1) which is the typology of participation table, the form of participation occurring in Winchester is Interactive Participation.

The success story of the historical city of Winchester is due largely in part to the active participatory citizen groups. This process has translated in improving the quality of life which was the main aim of the implementation of the LA21 theme.

Winchester's exemplary approach to tourism is worth replicating as their adaptation of the LA21 theme was designed to suit their own idiosyncrasies.

Chapter 4

Eco-Tourism and Community Participation in Büyükkonuk North Cyprus

4.1 General information about Büyükkonuk

Büyükkonuk, situated on latitude of 35.41 (35° 24' 30 N) and a longitude of 34 (34° 0' 0 E) is a village appropriately nicknamed the "Gateway to Karpaz" is located along the foothills of the Girne Mountains on the northeastern part of the island of Cyprus. Being a mixed village of Turkish and Greek inhabitants before 1974, this village was also known as "Komi Kebir", and now predominantly populated by Turkish Cypriots and Turks from mainland Turkey (Oktay, et al, 2003).

Büyükkonuk is bordered by Iskele and Mehmetcik and has a total population of about 1,132 people (TRNC 2006 Population & Dwelling Census, Figure 32). Being a community with strong social ties as with most Cypriot villages, these social bonds have resulted in the pristine built environment and cultural values pertaining in the village.
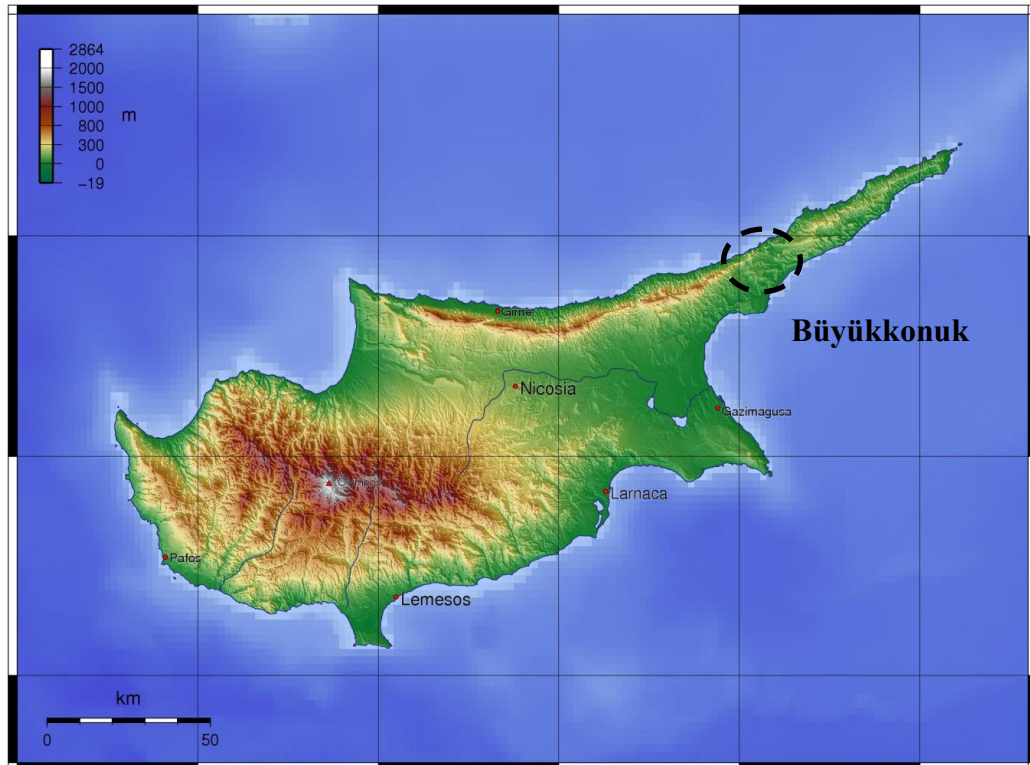
Figure: 32 Map of Cyprus*;* (Source; Wikimedia.org)

With the Kakovathra Forest 1.51 km west of Büyükkonuk , the Blekti Forest 1.61 km north west and the Rakht tou Katsoura forest 1.79 km northwest, the economic mainstay of this village happens to be agriculture with the olive tree being the most cultivated cash crop. The other significant crop cultivated is the carob tree which is processed to produce the syrup called *pekmez*. Animal husbandry is also popular with the production of cheese being another specialty of this village (Elinc et al, 2011; Oktay, et al, 2003; Oktay, 2007).

4.1.1 Introduction to Case Study

To better understand the socio-cultural atmosphere in the village with regards to community involvement in decision making, questionnaires were distributed and interviews conducted to find out the perspective of the local populace in Büyükkonuk on the decision making process. It should be noted that, some form of

community involvement in decision making does exist in the village of Büyükkonuk however on a modest scale through the organization of the village cooperative. The channels of implementation of the deliberative process is not as wide spread as the inhabitants would like, their main complaint being their inability in having powerful voice in the decision making process and desire for a better and more organized implementation of the deliberative democracy.

There have been a lot of initiatives initiated by the municipality, international donors, and the community, to sustain and promote their unique cultural heritage and do so in an environmentally friendly manner. The international organization most devoted to this initiative is the United States Agency for International Development, (USAID) ably assisted by the Turkish embassy.

Amongst the many initiatives being embarked on to maintain their cultural heritage in the village, three projects stand out.

The first is the design and building of accommodation facilities (village styled) in order to cater for the increasing number of visitors as shown in Figure 33. The second initiative is the restoration of buildings which will house village arts and crafts finally a welcome plaza which is shown in figure 34.

Figure: 33. Village – Style Accommodation

Figure: 34. Welcome Plaza Büyükkonuk

The annual organisation of eco-days celebrations to enlighten the locals, visitors and tourists on the benefits of consuming organic products for which Büyükkonuk is famous has, increased the tourists numbers significantly.(figure:35)

Figure: 35   Crowd at 2011 Eco-Days Celebrations

Figure: 36   Eco-Days Poster

Naturally produced products like olive oil and olive products, delicacies from carob and locally baked village bread are just of a few of items on display at the festival.

4.1.2 Methodology Employed

The survey was conducted by questionnaires, interviews, personal observations and analysis of photographs. Participants were selected from the township of Büyükkonuk at random.

Since the area of the case study has predominantly Turkish speakers, the questionnaires were translated into Turkish whilst, in the case of the interviews where respondents could not understand English, the help of a translator was enlisted.

The methodology employed in this research work consisted of questionnaires distributed to a sample of the population in Büyükkonuk. The questionnaire consisted of carefully prepared questions that tapped the opinions of local residents on the issue of deliberative democracy. A total of 40 questionnaires were given out in the case study areas. Out of the 40 questionnaires handed out, 37 were returned. As such the response rate was 92.5% that is very high in terms of acceptable statistical standards. 43% of the questionnaires were filled by females whilst 56.7% were filled by males. 18.9% of the questionnaires were filled by people between the ages of $16 - 24$, 32.4% by people between the ages of $25 - 34$, 18.9% by people between the ages of $35 - 44$, 21.6% by people between the ages of $45 - 54$, none by people between the ages of $55 - 64$, 5.4% by people between the ages of $65 - 74$ and 2.7% was filled by a person between the ages of $75 - 84$. Five interviews were also conducted in Büyükkonuk. The interviews were personal face-to-face interviews and conducted in English and in some cases with the help of a translator. The interviewed respondents confirmed that they were indigenes of Büyükkonuk, and gave their opinions of the way decision making was handled in the community and offered solutions on how

they thought it could be improved. The general consensus among all the interviewed respondents in Büyükkonuk was that deliberative democracy was helpful and should be encouraged.

4.1.3 Results Obtained

The purpose of this research endeavour is to find out the importance of 'deliberative democracy', its pros and cons and its applicability in Büyükkonuk. Questionnaires were handed to participants at random; there was no discrimination with regards to age or sex.

Of the forty given questionnaires in Büyükkonuk, thirty–seven people returned theirs. The questionnaires sought the response of community members on the following measures:

- Relationship between the community and its leaders.

- Percentage of respondents occupying leadership positions.

- Percentage of respondents involved in decision making.

- Opinion of respondents on community participation in decision making.

- Satisfaction with the decision making process.

- Desirous of change in the decision making process.

Findings of the survey reveal that on the issue of the relationship between the community and its leaders, **30%** think the relationship between the community and its leaders is **good, 70%** consider it to be **fair,** while **0%** consider it to be **poor,** figure 37 provides a graph of the results.

Relationship between community and leaders

Good
Fair
Poor

0%
30%
70%
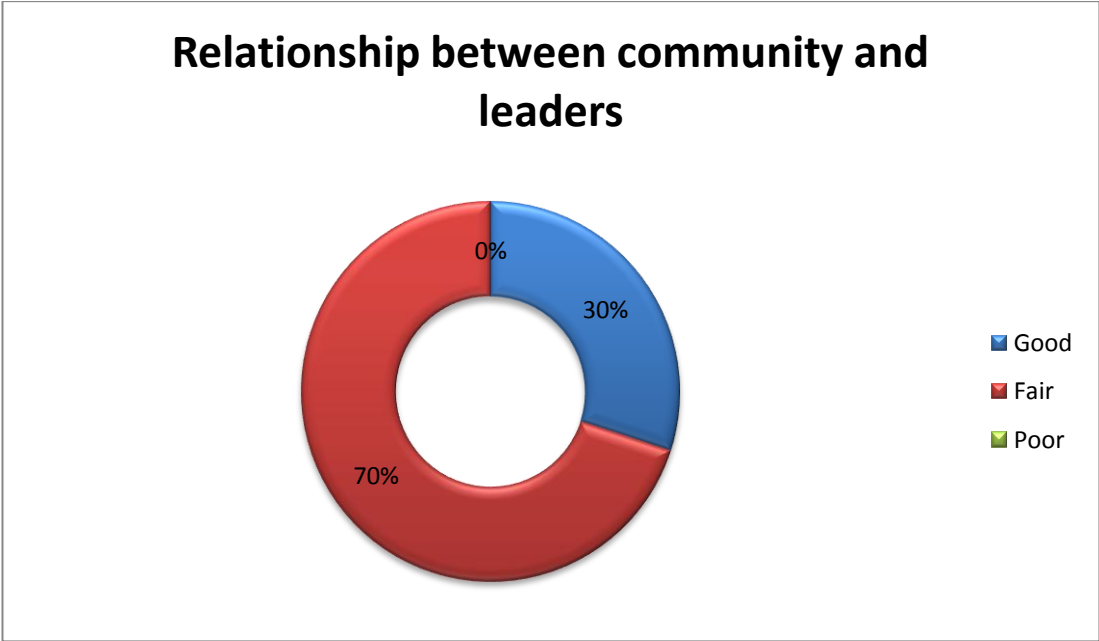
Figure: 37. Relationship between the Community and its Leaders

% of respondents with leadership roles

Leadership Roles
No Role

40%
60%
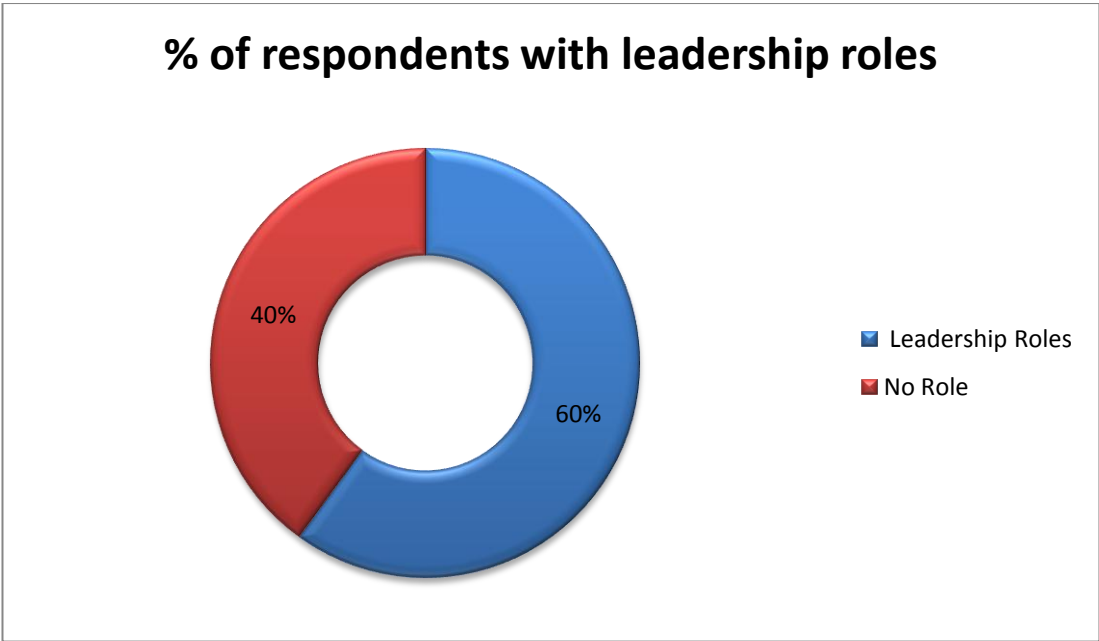
Figure: 38. Percentage of respondents holding Leadership Roles

Out of the respondents interviewed **60%** had leadership roles in the community. Figure 38 provides a graph of the results. It was discovered that on the issue of actively participating in decision making, **none are very active, 10% fairly active,**

60% try to partake, 20% partake when necessary and 10% do not partake
figure 39 provides a graph of the results. On the opinion of respondents on community participation in decision making in general, in the decision making process, **70%** think it is a **good idea** to involve the community in the decision making process, while **none** consider it to be **not a good idea**, **30% do not know**. Figure 40 provides a graph of the results.
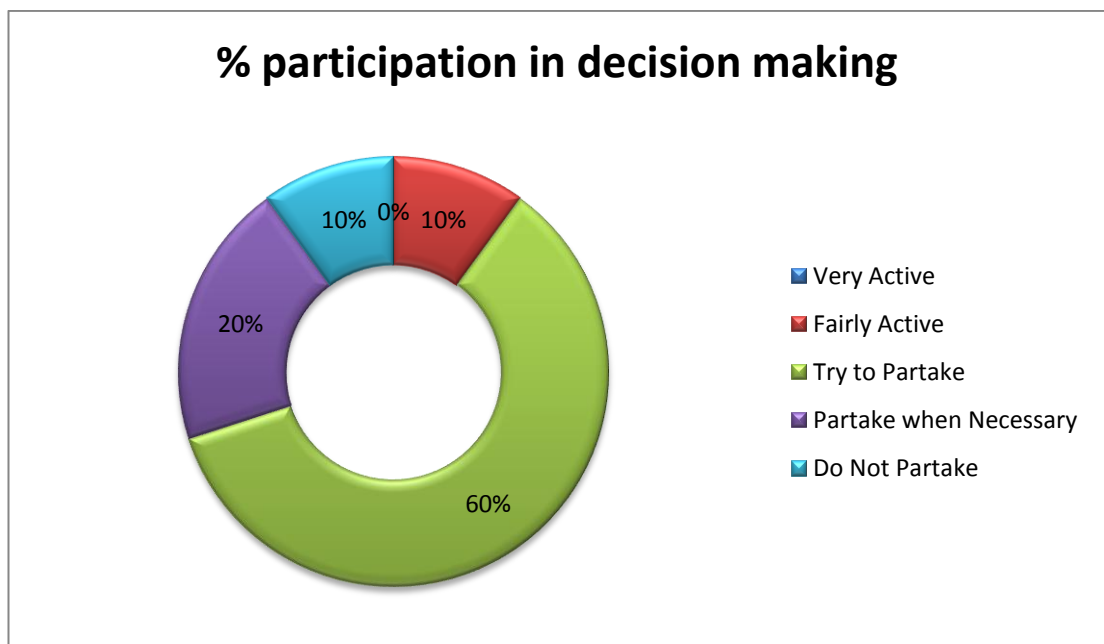
Figure: 39. % Participating in Active Decision Making

Opinion of respondents on community participation in decision making

30%

0%

70%

- Good Idea
- Not a Good Idea
- Do not Know
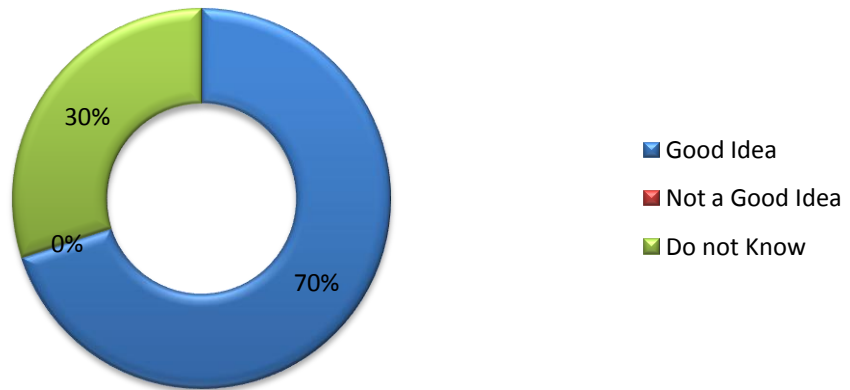
Figure: 40 Opinion of Respondents on Community Participation in Decision Making

On the issue of the satisfaction of the respondents with the decision making process, **none** were **very satisfied** with decisions taken in the community so far, **50%** were **fairly satisfied**, **40%**   **neither satisfied nor dissatisfied**, **10% fairly dissatisfied**, **none were very dissatisfied** figure 41 provides a graph of the results.
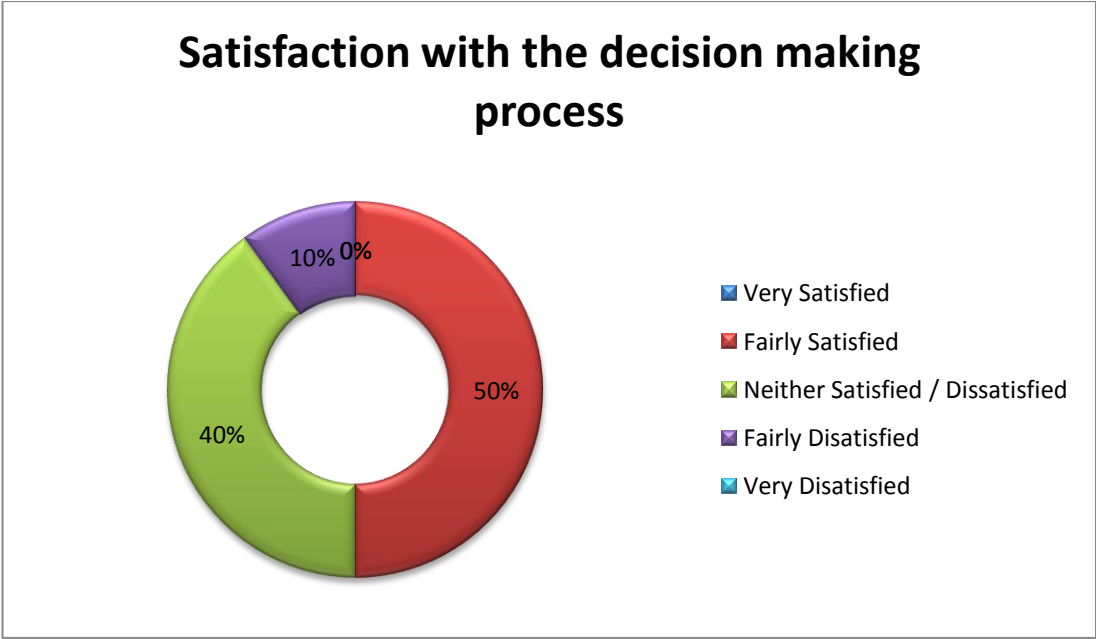
Figure: 41. Satisfaction with the Decision Making Process
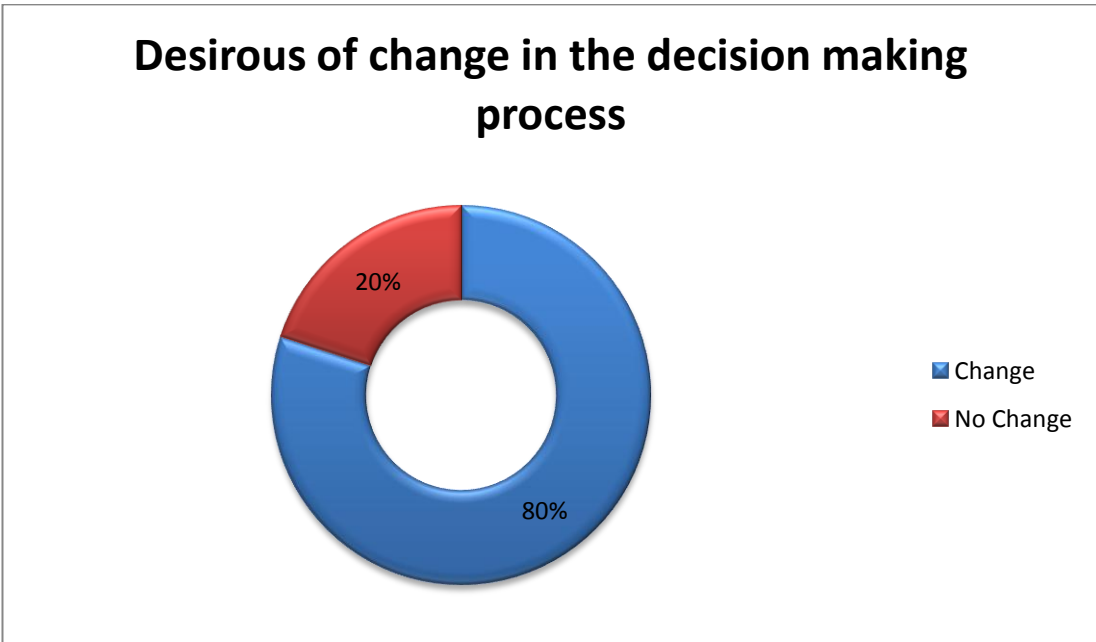
Figure: 42 Desirous of Change in the Decision Making Process

Another issue investigated was the desire of the respondents for a change in the decision making process. In Büyükkonuk, **80%** would prefer the way decisions are

taken in the community to be done differently, while **20%** did not want any difference. Figure: 42 provides a graph of the results.

In Büyükkonuk, some of the suggestions participants made regarding how they would want things to be done differently with regards to decision making included;

- *Community budgetary allocation should be increased.*
- *Better administration of community involvement in decision making.*

All of the respondents would prefer future surveys to be done by **questionnaire**, and not by email, post or telephone.

From the survey, in (Figure 37) it is obvious that, the citizens of Büyükkonuk believe that the relationship between the people and the leaders is good and fair with most of the citizens (Figure 38) have leadership responsibility, it can thus be deduced that the people in Büyükkonuk are more involved and therefore can be said to be proactive as there are more people involved in the decision making process. With regards to community involvement in decision making, (Figure 39) none of the respondents in Büyükkonuk think it is a bad idea. These deduced trends highlight the participatory nature in Büyükkonuk village Consequently participatory nature in Büyükkonuk is not forced or orchestrated but flows naturally perhaps out of the strong bond that exists in a village setting where everyone is his/her brothers' keeper. In conclusion from Figure 42, even though the people in Büyükkonuk are satisfied in the decision making process they are still interested in improving the system which reiterates my position that since Büyükkonuk is a village-like setting and everyone is tied to one another and there is an economic incentive to keep the environment at its best, so there is more input from all and sundry and consequently a better environment.

4.1.4 Conclusions and Recommendations

The examination of the community of Büyükkonuk with regards to deliberative democracy proved that, even though, the time frame for the deliberative process is lengthy, its benefits surpass its disadvantages. Even though one school of thought thinks it is best for the decision making be left solely in the hands of the government and its experts (Kontoleon et al; 2001, Cutler and Johnson; 1975) results obtained from the survey indicate that community participation is indeed crucial. Through the research it became obvious that the citizenry want to play an active role in the decision making process. This they saw as their democratic and civic right.

Though deliberative democracy is being practiced on a small scale through the local village co-operative in Büyükkonuk, its positive effects are already bearing fruits. According to a USAID report of 2009, as a result of the co-operative initiated eco-days in Büyükkonuk, a combination of local and foreign tourism has increased from approximately, 240 in 2005 to 8000 in 2009. This has led to an increase in household income as a result of the patronization of local handicrafts, goods and services in the village. Some pictures of eco-days celebration over the years are shown, in figure: 43, 44, 45 and 46 below.

Figure: 42   (Source; D. Oktay Archive)

Figure: 43   (Source; D. Oktay Archive)

Figure: 44   Eco-Days Celebration 2011

Figure: 45   Eco-Days Celebration 2011

In order for the success of deliberative democracy process;

- Communities should work in close collaboration with the universities on the island with regards to specific projects. For example, if there is to be an architectural project to be undertaken, the communities should fraternise with the architectural faculties in the universities on the island, to work collectively with the municipality and the funding organisations.[8]

- The administrative process of deliberative democracy should be simple and graphic so everyone can easily understand.

- A model of the decision making process should be designed so it can be reciprocated in other communities on the island.

- Since there are lots of historic old buildings in the community especially and in North Cyprus in general, with the involvement of the community, a scheme to restore them should be undertaken so it can benefit the citizens economically.

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[8] The Research and Development Project by Oktay et al (2007) provided a revitalization scheme for the village centre but unfortunately was not taken into consideration by the municipality in the implementation process.

Chapter 5

Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the major findings of the study concerning the implementation of 'Community Participation in Decision Making' in Büyükkonuk village. The chapter summaries the main results from the analysis of data collected. Firstly the main findings of the study are presented in line with the objectives of the study. Secondly, recommendations to improve the decision making process presently existing in the village. Finally, the general conclusion forms the last aspect of this chapter.

5.1.1 Summary of Findings

Key findings from the study about community participation in decision making in Büyükkonuk are discussed in this section. These includes the willingness of the community to partake in the decision making process and what aspects of the decision making process presently existing in their village they find un-satisfactory as well as other important findings.

5.1.2 Views of the Community on Involvement in the Decision Making Process

- Residents of the village of Büyükkonuk with a population of about from the survey are generally satisfied with the relationship that exists between the citizenry and the community leadership however, they felt a need for an improvement in this relationship.

- Though a good number of the community residents are involved in some form of leadership responsibilities according to the findings of the survey, there citizenry demanded equal voting rights.

- The general consensus concerning the community participating in the decision making process is that, not only is it helpful but also a necessity in their opinion.

- Regardless of the fact that some form of community involvement in decision making does exist in Büyükkonuk, the villagers were of the view that, it should be better organised with the active participation of all citizens.

5.1.3 Recommendations

Implementation of the "Community involvement in the Decision making Process" though it may seem simple from afar does need intense planning and execution. Western countries that have gone down the path of deliberative democracy over the years through the process of trial and error have established patterns or models that have worked in their localities.

It would however be an error to assume that once a model works in one area, it should be adopted without any modification into another locality. Cultures is what makes people different and just as every culture confronts and solves problems differently, it is a must for organisers of any event which affect the masses to carefully incorporate the beliefs and norms of the society into its model.

Those notwithstanding there are still some steps of community participation planning that are paramount and found in most societies. According to the "Public

Participation Hand Book" by James L. Creighton, there are some basic steps to be taken when drawing and implementing community participation.

In his proposed model of public participation (2005, p. 28) he defines the three necessary steps for a successful public participation model. This model is shown in table 3 below.

Table: 3

Decision Analysis
• Clarify the decision being made.
• Specify the planning or decision-making steps and schedule.
• Decide whether public participation is needed and for what purpose

⇩

Process Planning

• Specify what needs to be accomplished with the public at each step of the decision-making process.
• Identify the stakeholders, internal and external Identify techniques to use at each step in the process
• Link the techniques in an integrated plan

⇩

Implementation Planning

• Plan the implementation of individual public participation activities.

(Source; Creighton; 2005, Public Participation Handbook; p. 28)

One of the most challenging aspects of Community Participation in the Decision-Making process is actually getting the community to participate. This is sometime due to a lack of trust or lack of time. To effectively carry out this process in the case

study area, the author of this thesis would like to propose a form of ladder of communication in the deliberative process that would make it easy for everyone to participate.

5.1.4 Proposed Chain of Communication, Deliberative Process Büyükkonuk

To better facilitate the communication process so no one who genuinely wants to participate is not left out, the model in Table: 4 is proposed as a communication chain.

(Village Heads interact with the Government and N.G.Os)

Table: 4
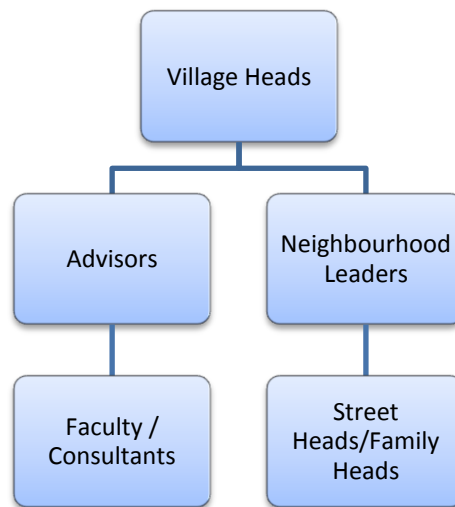
(The Proposed Model)

To this end, it is recommended that, with regards to the decision making process to be implemented in Büyükkonuk.

- Citizens should be organised into committees according to profession and interest areas. Groups of students in related departments to these groups should be assigned to the said groups as part of their course credits. The municipality should however re-reimburse the students with transportation and meals.

- Before the implementation of any project the citizenry should be asked to deliberate and vote regarding the project.

- A developmental policy should be drawn involving the community, the students and the government agency involved in the administration of the policies and the plan should be available for everyone in the community to make an input. For example, what does the community want to achieve in the next 5years. This development plan should further be divided into weeks, months and years.

- Policies should be channelled towards the eco-tourism goals with the underlying theme of sustainable tourism which leads to a quality of life.

Some of the committees may deal with the following issues:

- Social Issues
- Economic Issues
- Eco-Tourism Issues
- General wellbeing relating to quality of life issues
- Technical Issues
- Environmental Issues
- Community wealth generating issues
- Sanitation and community beautification issues

Committees should be non-political to facilitate smooth operation and does not face extinction if the party they support is no longer in power.

5.1.5   Conclusions

Significant issues stemming from the analysis of the data and the subsequent findings revealed the importance of community participation in the decision making process. The active participation of the citizenry in the planning and implementation of developmental programmes invariable leads to sustainability and this has been the bed rock of Local Agenda 21 which aimed at sustainable developments leading to an improvement in the quality of life.

For the successful implementation of the developmental approach of community involvement in decision making, there needs to strong collaboration between all stake holders namely, the municipality/community, the government and the funding N.G.O. It is only when this bond exists will there be successful effectuation of developmental projects.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Questionnaire English

<u>Research Question(s)</u>

This questionnaire is to find out your views concerning community participation in decision making process and whether you think this is best approach to be used for developmental projects in this area. This is strictly confidential and your answers will be used only for research purposes. Thank you for your time.

(i)   Name of community_____

(ii)   How long have you lived in this community _____

(iii)   Do you know your local leaders in this community?
                (a) yes   (b) no

(iv)   How is the relationship between the community and its leaders?
                (a) good (b) fair (c) poor

(v)   Do you have any leadership role in the community?
                (a) yes   (b) no

a)   If yes, please specify _____

(vi)   How involved are you as a person in the decision making process here in this community? (a) very active

                (b) Fairly active

                (c) Try to partake

                (d) Partake when necessary

                (e) Do not partake

(iv)   Do you think it is a good idea to involve the community in decision making?
                (a) yes   (b) no   (c) I don't know

(v)   Were you satisfied with the results of the decision(s) taken?
                (a) Very satisfied
                (b) Fairly satisfied

           (c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

           (d) Fairly dissatisfied

           (e) Very dissatisfied

(vi)   Would you prefer things to be done differently?

           (a) yes   (b) no

(vii)   If you answered **yes** to no. (**vi**), how? _____

(viii)   Any further suggestions?

           _____

(ix)   How would you have preferred this survey to be conducted?

           (a) questionnaires

           (b) email

           (c) post

           (d) telephone

(x)   Title _____   Name:

(xi)   Age: 16 – 24   25 – 34   35 – 44   45 – 54   55 – 64   65 – 74   75 – 84

Appendix B: Questionnaire Turkish

<u>Anket Araştırması: Karar alma sürecinde Halkın Katılımının Ölçümü:</u>

Bu anket, köy halkının karar alma sürecine ne kadar katıldığı konusu hakkında görüşlerinizi ortaya çıkarmak ve katılımın bölge projelerinin geliştirilmesi için en iyi yaklaşım olup olmadığının ölçülmesi için tasarlanmıştır. Vereceğiniz bilgiler kesinlikle gizli tutulacak ve sadece araştırma amaçlı kullanılacaktır. Vakit ayırdığınız için çok teşekkür ederim.

(i)   Topluluğun ismi:_____

(ii)   Ne kadar zamandır bu topluluktasınız? _____

(iii)   Toplumun yerli liderlerini tanıyor musunuz?

              (b) Evet   (b) Hayır

(iv)   Toplumla liderler arası nasıld<u>ır</u>?

             (b) iyi (b) orta (c) zayıf

(v)   Toplumda liderlik vasfı varmıd<u>ır</u>?

            (b) Evet   (b) Hayır

a)   Evet ise, belirtiniz _____

(vi)   Bir birey olarak toplumda karar alma sürecinde ne kadar yer alıyorsunuz?

           (a) çok aktifim

           (b) oldukça aktifim

           (c) katılmaya çalış<u>ıyorum</u>

           (d) gerektiğinde katılmaya çalış<u>ıyorum</u>

           (e) katılmayorum

(v)   Karar alma sürecine halkın katıl<u>ımı</u> akıllıca mıd<u>ır</u>?

            (b) Evet   (b) Hayır   (c) Bilmiyorum

(vi)   Alınan kararlardan memnun musunuz?

           (f) Çok memnun

           (g) Yeterince memnunum

           (h) Ne memnunum ne de memnun değilim

           (i) Memnun değilim

           (j) Hia memnun değilim

(vii)   Daha farklı olmasını ister miydiniz?

                        (b) Evet   (b) Hayır

(xii)   Evet cevabını işaretlediyseniz (**vi**), nasıl?

                    _____

(xiii)   Başka öneriniz varmı? _____

(xiv)   Bu araştırmaya nasıl katıldınız?

                        (e) Anket

                        (f) E-posta

                        (g) posta

                        (h) telefon

(xv)   Unvan _____   Isim:

(xvi)   Yaş: 16 – 24   25 – 34   35 – 44   45 – 54   55 – 64   65 – 74   75 – 84