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The changes in the socio-cultural and economic characteristics of mining cities due to termination of mineral extraction in Turkey: A case study of Keçiöorlu

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is, to determine the socio-cultural and economic changes happened in Keçiöorlu, after the closure of its Sulphur Enterprise. The Enterprise was active between 1934 and 1994; the welfare of the city was high. After closure of it, unemployment problem has grown and people begun to migrate. Household and trades surveys show the socio-economic and cultural differences between mining period and today's. It is revealed that Keçiöorlu has transformed into a settlement of retired people and if it is left untreated, it will turn into an decrescent town because of immigrations.

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1. Introduction

Today, some cities are called as mine cities, university cities, agricultural cities etc. because of their main functions and their social identity largely due to the economic structure as well. For instance; the 53 cities of the Ruhr Area of Germany, which is famous with its mining, could be accepted as examples of the mining cities which have began to evolve through the industrial revolution (Duisburg, Oberhausen, Bottrop, Mülheim An Der Ruhr,

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Essen, Gelsenkirchen, Bochum, Herne, Hamm, Hagen, Dortmund...). 5 million and 3 hundred thousand people of 170 different nationalities are living in 4 thousand 435 km² area and more than 100 languages are spoken in the coalfield based on the mining and heavy industrial enterprises (URL3). Adverse effects caused by the ever-changing mining market over time, depletion of mineral or the global economic crises imperil the existence of these cities which are developed thanks to the heavy industry based on mining. These cities have been lean to other alternative sources to overcome the economic crisis they fell into. Zollverein Coal Operations of Essen city in Ruhr watershed is one of the best examples for the mentioned situation. The mine has been protected immediately after the closure of the mine plant and transformed into a industry museum reflecting multi-cultural of the region. The museum in Zollverein was added to the list of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage in 2001(URL4).

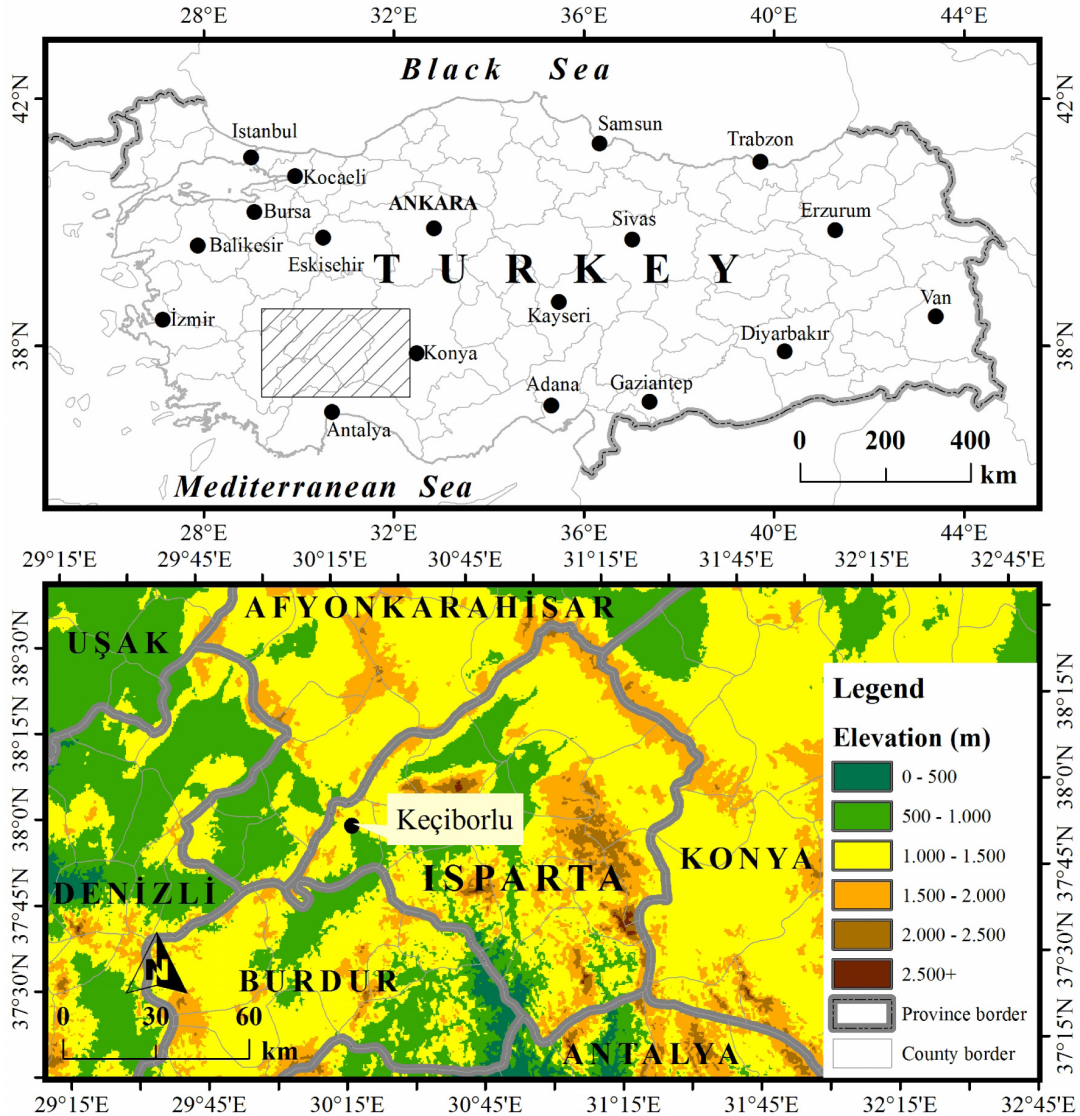


Fig. 1. Location Map of Keçiborlu

Essen has a new cultural identity now, instead of its ex-mining city identity; new business areas opened and investments were made in the city. Similar suggestions for Zonguldak, where more than ten thousand coal miners are employed, has been also studied since the seventies (Erkin, 1999; Doğru, 2004b). Unfortunately, there is any serious planning yet for unemployment and migration issues that the small and medium-sized mining towns will face, when their main source of income is removed, such as our research field Keçiöorlu. And they've been left to their own fate.

The location of research field is within the boundaries of Isparta province, where is in the Region of Lakes in Western Mediterranean Region of Turkey (Fig. 1). Etibank Keçiöorlu Sulfur Plant, which was established in 1934 by the government, was closed because of being politicized, managing poorly, employment of mine workers more than adequate and, the adverse developments in mining market etc. After its closure, the city's socio-economic life have gone off the boil and it has become a pensioners town where retired mine workers have more density. In addition to this, local community hadn't oriented alternative livelihoods because of the existence of Etibank Public Economic Enterprise (KİT), that provided employment for 60 years, and the spirit of entrepreneurship of town's remained weak. After the factory closed in 1994, in Keçiöorlu; the mining sector has removed, welfare of the city have fallen and young people began to leave the city due to unemployment. According to the 2011 census of West Mediterranean Development Agency (BAKA); the population of the city is 15,167; central population is 7.049 and the rural population is 8.118 (URL2). Keçiöorlu is accepted as a smallscale city but it is actually a town or county if its population considered. The majority of the population in the city center is the middle-aged and older retirees. Keçiöorlu had been based on the mine industry and economy for long years, so animal production and agricultural activities have been accepted as a side income channel and could not developed. Agro-economic sub-regions mean the projects that have been implemented or will be implemented in Isparta province, to increase the agricultural efficiency and Keçiöorlu is in the first sub-region of it. Keçiöorlu has appropriate conditions especially for the production of rose oil, vegetables, fruits, poplar and grove (Isparta Çevre Durum Raporu, 2008).

Transportation is easy from Keçiöorlu where located on the E24 state road, to all over the country. Organized Industrial Zone and Isparta Süleyman Demirel Airport are 20 minutes drive away from Keçiöorlu and make its location important. Also the city is close to the major markets such as, Antalya, İstanbul, İzmir, Afyon. Another advantage of the city is Keçiöorlu Vocational College (MYO) of Süleyman Demirel University (SDU); in some sense revived the city's economic life after the closure of the plant, will caused the increase of investments in education and students' hostels. Despite of all these advantages and 18 years have already passed since the closure of the plant, the city couldn't have a face of an university city or agricultural city, and reached the level of prosperity during the sulfur plant again.

In this study, other developable economic resources of Keçiöorlu and its strengths and weaknesses were identified. It became clear through these determinations that in what way Keçiöorlu can benefit from the West Mediterranean Development Agency (BAKA), which is in business in the region since 2010, and the feasibility of study is provided. Indeed, development agencies determines the opportunities by the findings of the socio-economic situation of the region that they are in charge, especially for rural development and put in place the incentive programs. They give financial support and manipulate the investors and local operators to developable economic areas of the city, without wasting time.

Although many studies in the literature addressing the level of socio-economic and cultural development of urbans, there is any for the cities which lost their characteristic of being mining city in Turkey. The similar research to ours is belong to Engin Erkin, who analysed the changes in Zonguldak-Kozlu-Kilimli-Çatalağzı mining cities between 1973-1996. Other than this, Necati Doğru's research is relevant to Regional Development Project of Zonguldak, Bartın and Karabük mining cities. He mentioned the development scenarios and plans for Zonguldak and its surrounding area after the closure of coal district. But the mining cities mentioned in both of the researchs are the biggest ones in Turkey, unlike small ones like Keçiöorlu.

The aim of this study is, to indicate the problems and socio-economic and cultural changes of Keçiöorlu to be used to overcome these problems and reporting. So that, a sample road map will be created for planners and local governments in order to follow, in case of similar situations which is most likely to happen in other small mining centers as well. For this purpose, an answer was sought for "What was the socio-economic and cultural status of

Keçiborlu when the sulfur plant was active and what is the emerged socio-economic and cultural changes after the closure of it?”

2. Material and Method

In the study, survey technique was used that is evaluated in descriptive method. Descriptive study investigated the current situation of a subject (Balci, 2001). Literature review and questionnaire technique were used to realize the aims of the study. The survey included asking a large number of questions to the group, by e-mail, phone or face to face to the person. If the answers of this kind of questions asked from the participant himself/herself, or questions asked him personally then this research takes the form of interviews (Büyüköztürk et al., 2008). In this research, the information is obtained through questionnaires by face to face interviewings. As a result of this method, the response rates of survey questions are increased. The researcher also achieved a lot of information out of the survey questions in this way, and they were noted in a corner of the survey. Two separate questionnaires were administered to urban artisans and households to gather data. There are 20 questions in trades survey to find out the current and past years' (Etibank period) economic situation of shopkeepers and their opinions related to future. Household survey contains 80 questions to analyze the current social and economic situations and of the past years', including the attitude scale as well. During at preparation of the survey questionnaire consisting of multiple choice and closed-ended questions, the literature was used. Before applying the surveys, the opinion of an expert on the survey questions was taken. This questionnaire applied to a small group and necessary adjustments were made, in accordance with the views of participants. In addition, the informations about social, cultural and economic life of Keçiborlu during Etibank period (when the plant was active) were obtained from a currently residing retired accounting manager in the county who worked in various positions at Etibank establishment and local market kepeers as primary data sources. The researcher made two interviews for totally three hours with the retired accounting manager. By adding some quotations from these interviews to the research, more validated and reliable interpretations done on the statistical data.

Cluster sampling method was used in the research. The sample of the research is composed of 360 business firms of selected trades occupational group and 3000 households. 50 firms were chosen randomly from these 360 business firms and 500 households were chosen from 3000 households. Household surveys were applied by visiting individually all households. Besides, the surveys applied at rush hours of the marketplace, tea houses and the occasions where ladies gathering for chatting among themselves called as “at-home day (Gün)” as well.

The results of the trades and household surveys was analysed through SPSS 15.0 program and the findings are interpreted through tables and graphs. The surveys applied in 2011.

3. Findings and Discussion

3.1. *Keçiborlu's socio-economic and cultural status during Etibank Sulfur Plant's active period (1934-1994)*

Keçiborlu district, was a small town of the people lived on agriculture and animal husbandry before the establishment of the sulfur plant (Özdemir, 2007; Karaca, 2007). The number of employees was 284 in 1953; the number of administrative and technical employees and workers reached 880 in 1974 and the total number of employees increased to 1056 in 1980 in Etibank Keçiborlu Sulphur Enterprise established for the creation of employment through the state in 1934 to the development of the country with its own resources (Şeker, 2010). When the corporation has stopped production in April 1994, there were 1200 workers and 200 technical staff; totally 1400 people were employed. The city's population has increased over the years due to the increase of recruiting workers and the population reached 21,522 in 1985, that is the highest number in history of the city (Keçiborlu Kaymakamlığı, 1994). The income level of the local community was above Turkey's average until the factory was closed and urban had become one of the center of migration attraction. There were five movie houses and at least four or five theater exhibited games in the town in the 1970s. There was an inflow of money to the town, around two million per month with today's figures, just because of the salaries of workers. There were three banks in that years in the town: İş Bankası, Ziraat Bank and Halk Bankası. Etibank was paying into these banks to keep them permanent. (Keçiborlu Belediyesi, 2011).

“...Except for civil servants of Etibank, earnings of workers was very good as well at that time. The workers did not make any investment in the city because they thought that their children's future was guaranteed because of the existence of the factory. They spent their earnings to build their own houses and to be a man of property. The cooperation that was referred to as “Enterprise” or “Etibank” by local community, providing its construction equipment and workers to the municipality, incase it had a difficult problem, for a nominal figure. In addition, special days and meetings were held in the premises of Etibank. In addition, the population could get health service in the health unit of the Enterprise. Until 1982, the factory made wise personnel recruiting but then it was used as a potential vote tool by governments and recruitment increased. Thus, since the end of the 80s, Enterprise had began to make a loss, so was closed in 1994. When it was closed, it is known that there is still rich in 3 years and 5 years in the poorest (low tenor) sulfur reserves under the ground.”

According to the household survey applied to 500 households in ten neighborhoods in Keçiborlu, 170 family members of the sample retired from Etibank sulfur factory and the other Etibank organizations. 72 employees of sulfur plant were transferred to Eskişehir-Kırka, Kütahya-Emet and Balıkesir-Bigadiç Bor (Boron) factories of Etibank and also Konya Seydişehir Aluminum Factory. These workers returned to Keçiborlu when they retired. The informations about the town's Etibank period were provided from the Etibank ex- employees who were already involved into survey with other local inhabitants and older trades who have lived in the district at that period.

It was asked in household survey to Etibank pensioners that when they were working how much did they get a salary with today's figures, to have an idea for the prosperity of them at that years. It is approximately between 1000 TL and 5000 TL. The ones who had a salary between 1000TL-2000TL is 24%, 2500-3000 TL is 41%, 3500TL-4000TL is 26% and 4500TL-5000TL is 9%. Retired workers also added the bonuses with the assistances including food and clothing they received from Sümerbank and Etibank factory, to these per month incomes.

“...If you were a mine worker and worked underground you earned well. Because you received bonuses three times in a year. Except the salary you also had some assistances; dry legumes, coats, shoes, etc... You could buy cheap red meat which was very qualified from Etibank exchange service(canteen).”

According to the survey, the answer for the degree of their satisfaction about salaries was 98% “Yes” when they were an Etibank personel. Per household of mining workers' current monthly income is 3000 TL and net income per capita is around 660 TL at Etibank period. 98% of the Etibank ex-employees in the sample have their own houses. The current monthly income of all households is in forty-five percent 1000 TL and below (Graph 1). It is understood that the income of mining workers was quite well between 1934-1994. The results of trades questionnaire's datas seem to confirm these mentioned findings. The trades group who were doing business at Etibank period as well has a share of 52% of the sample. They were asked to compare their Etibank period's earnings to today's earnings. The answer of half of them was “far better than today's”.

Some opinions were suggested to find out the attitudes of family members (500 respondents) interviewed at household survey related to Etibank period (1934-1994) in Keçiborlu and participation rate of respondents to these views, was identified. The data of the county's social, cultural and economic status in Etibank period was obtained in this way. Accordingly, 75% of respondents participated in this view: “Keçiborlu was a beautiful, modern, a well-being city and had a vibrant social and cultural life when Etibank Keçiborlu Sulphur Enterprise was active”. 11% of respondents did not participate in this view, and 14% of them submitted that they were unstable. 73% of respondents participated the view of: “The city's future collapsed after the closure of the factory”. This means that respondents have a pessimistic attitude towards the future of the city and they believe that they could not have an experience of such an era again. According to these, it is understood that the local community was satisfied with their life and the socio-cultural and economic life of the city was vibrant when the factory was working. They are longing for the past.

3.2. Socio-cultural and economic changes in the characteristics of the city after the closure of Keçiborlu Sulfur Plant (1994-...)

The only study determining the situation of Keçiborlu in socio-economic development ranking of 872 county of Turkey was made by State Planning Organization (DPT). This report shows not only the socio-economic indicators of Keçiborlu in 2004 but also the situation of the town after the closure of Sulfur Plant. According to this report, Keçiborlu has a low population dependency rate in the ranking of 872 districts of Turkey (831 Ranked); its average

household size is low (669 Ranked); it has a high urbanization rate and an average population size. It is in the middle of the ranking in terms of unemployment rate. Its health services are adequate, social service and agricultural sector are developing. It is also in the third degree highly developed counties which included 309 towns and described as agricultural towns by DPT.

The total population of 500 households is 1.537 which is emerged in the household survey. The distribution of the main age groups of the population is: 19% in the 0-14 age group, 28% in the 20-39 age group, 42% in the 40-64 age group, 5% in the 66 and over age group. The greatest density of the sample is middle-age group.

It is seen that commercial activities are at the forefront with a rate 35% in the distribution of labour force in branches of economical activities. In fact, the number of those engaged in craft is 116 in the sample. Then, the proportion of community services is 31% and manufacturing sector 11% follow the commercial activities. Although the proportion of agricultural sector in 1.169 workers is 4%, there is a high share of agricultural products as a side-income of households. So, for households in the sample; agricultural activities aren't seen as the main source of livelihood but a source of side income.

The average household size is 3.07 and families usually have two or three children in the sample of household survey. According to the relationship between occupation and education level of interviewed family members (500 people- households): It is seen that 5-year primary school graduates are workers with a rate 19% ; the share of retired workers of Etibank sulfur factory is high in this group (14%). Housewives have the highest value as 5-year primary school graduates in the group (25%). The level of education of civil servants is 19% of high school and 26% of college. And it is found that most of the tradesmen are high school graduates. 40% of respondents were housewives and other profession experts (marginal jobs, etc.) and 10% of them were civil servants. The rate of the workers was 9% and tradesmen's was 11% in the household sample. The rate of all the retirees in the sample was 30%. According to these rates, housewives and retirees had the largest share of the sample.

Table 1: The average monthly income of the households retired from Etibank and non- retired from Etibank (Keçiborlu Household Survey, 2011)

Income of Etibank retirees (2011)	Income of non-Etibank retirees (2011)
64%; 1000 TL and below	36%; 1000 TL and below
9%; between 1000 TL -1499 TL	14%; between 1000 TL -1499 TL
15%; between 1500 TL -1999 TL	22%; between 1500 TL -1999 TL
4%; between 2000 TL -2499 TL	7%; between 2000 TL -2499 TL
3%; between 2500 TL -2999 TL	8%; between 2500 TL -2999 TL
5%; 3000 TL and over	13%; 3000 TL and over

While the workers who had an per-month income between 3000 TL and over at Etibank period, were 26 % of the mine workers, today this rate is 5%; The rate of the ones had an per-month income between 2500 TL-2999 TL fell from 41% to 3%. When Etibank retirees' income, compared with the income of other household's income it is observed that their income has decreased (Fig. 1). If we do not count in the side-incomes of families, average monthly family income per household is 1.590 TL and net income per capita is 517 TL in the sample consisted of totally 500 households and 1.537 people.

It is seen clearly that the rate of the lowest income group (1000 TL and below) has spread to the base on Graph 1. While the ones who have an income between 1500 TL -1999 TL are in the second level, 1000TL-1499 TL earners are in the third level. The earners of 3000 TL and over are mostly the civil servants or tradesmen families, that there are more than one employee in the family.

The highest rate of side-income of households are agricultural products (30%). Actually the agricultural product meant as a non-commercial product; meets the needs of the family's own. The commercial agriculture activity is very rare. According to the income groups, 1000 TL and below earners are maximum among the ones declared agricultural products as their side income. Retirees, in this group, especially mining retirees are engaged in agriculture.

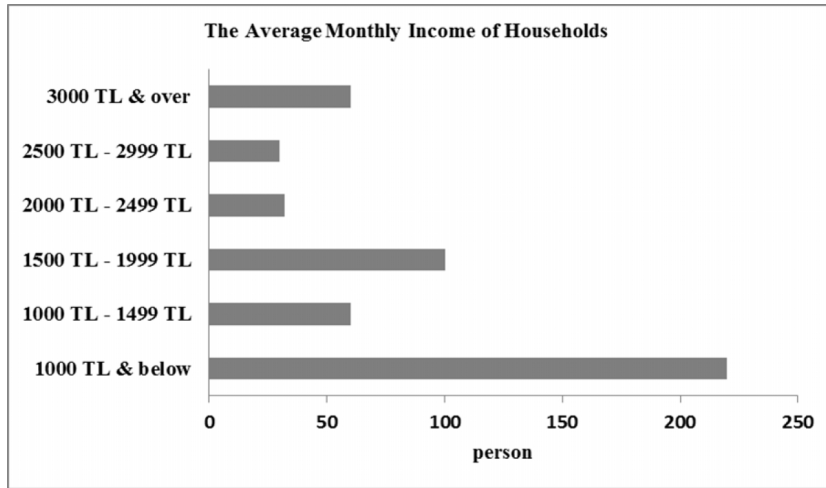


Fig. 2. Distribution of family incomes by income groups (Keçiöorlu Household Survey, 2011)

It can be presumed that these families have varieties of income but not commercial ones or their multiple incomes provides them irregular and small amount of money. In fact, this lower income group which has majority retirees, managed to raise their living standards through investments they had already done before. Accordingly Fig. 2; excluding those have an income between 2500 TL -2999 TL, the value of agricultural products is high.

Table 2: The average monthly income and side incomes of households (Keçiöorlu Household Survey, 2011)

Total Monthly Income of Households	Side Incomes of Households					Total
	Agricultural products	Rent incomes	Overseas-Interest incomes	Multiple incomes-Other	Nothing	
1000 TL and below	81	13	6	33	94	227
between 1000 TL -1499 TL	22	1	3	16	19	61
between 1000 TL -1499 TL	22	16	7	14	40	99
between 1500 TL -1999 TL	10	5	0	2	14	31
between 2500 TL -2999 TL	3	4	1	7	15	30
3000 TL and over	11	9	1	20	11	52
Total	149	48	18	92	193	500

As a result of this, it is understood that almost every household or family elders in the sample have a certain piece of land. Whether or not the farmer, almost everybody has a farm land so it means that the farm lands are fragmental and operating it isn't profitable. Families with more than one income are at the second place with a rate of %18. The other group with multiple side incomes is the high-income group (3000 TL and over). The rate of the families who declared rental income as a side income is 10% and the majority of this group is again centered at the lower income group. This situation is a result of the investments done before by retirees as it mentioned above, even if their retirement salary is low. 2-3 storey houses were built by respondents themselves, especially the retirees, in Etibank period and they bought house and lands. In other words Etibank retirees have assets as a return of Etibank presence.

“Everbody built their own houses. Today their kids are living in that houses without paying rent. It is impossible today to built a house with your salary. But that days not only Etibank workers, everbody in the city earned well.

Today we have only retirement salary; it is nothing. And all the investments have melt. We have small piece of farmlands but just for potter about; you earn less than you spent. Young people have to go outside for finding a job. Shopkeepers can earn much because of the university. But our biggest problem is unemployment”.

The group declared that have any side income in the households, have a density in lower income group again. 1000 TL and below earners have a large share in the households had incomes more than one, and they have real chattels and vehicles as well more than others have in entire sample. So this means that there are other workers in the family or the goodmen are still working although they are retirees. In fact, the rate of the retired ones, who are busy with a couple of work at the same time, are the second rank in the household sample.

Local keepers were asked to evaluate their current economic status comparing the past years in the tradesmen survey. When they compared their current earnings to the last few years' earnings; 62% of them declared that their economic trend was getting worse. The economic situation of Shopkeepers and non-producing ones who based on only their retirement salary is deteriorating day by day.

According to the household survey data, 40% of the sample determined that the biggest problem of the city is unemployment. The second set of issues are determined as electricity, water and sewage problems, including the unemployment problem (42%). When it is asked to households whether they have got any membership of a social activity; it is seen that 72% of the sample have none. That means the respondents are incapable of taking part in the adoption and solution of the city's problems.

Some opinions were suggested on Keçiborlu via survey questions, to determine household's attitudes about the current situation and the future of the city and their perceptions about Keçiborlu where they are living. 88% of the respondents among 500 household members, granted the view that: “Keçiborlu, is a pensioner city”. Accordingly, the city is not perceived as a mining town anymore, but is seen as a pensioner city where elderly population is increasing rapidly. In fact, each three of the 500 households are pensioner families in the sample.

The opinion of "Keçiborlu, is a agricultural city"; supported by 36% of the sample. 45% of the sample didn't participate that opinion and the rate of the indecisives is 19%. According to the answers, the city is assumed as an agricultural town with a few percent difference. But when the indecisive ones evaluated together with those who disagreed with this view; 54% of the sample didn't characterise the city as an agricultural town.

The opinion of: “The most important advantage of Keçiborlu to develop is its transportation facilities” is supported by 81% of the sample. Accordingly, it is highly accepted that the city is in an advantageous position in terms of transport and that should be evaluated. In fact, 9,300 vehicles per day pass through the E 24 Highway (Keçiborlu Belediyesi, 2011). So after a revision, the introduction of the terminal building which is on the state road via a build-operate-and transfer model is planned by the municipality.

The opinion of: “The most important advantage of Keçiborlu to develop is rose agriculture and industry” is supported by 43% of the sample. The ratio of the indecisives is 13% and those who disagreed is 54%. Participants are agree with that the rose industry which has one or two month harvest season will not be effective in the development of the city. In fact, the plots in the city center are valuable lands especially for the production of rose oil (Isparta Çevre Durum Raporu, 2008).

The opinion of: “If departments and the number of students of SDU Keçiborlu MYO increased, then the city may have a future” is supported by 82% of the sample. Survey participants are highly accepted that the vocational college is an important resource for the development of the city.

When Etibank pensioners were asked to evaluate their earnings as a Etibank worker with today's figures, 41% of those with income between 2500 TL -3000TL are dominated. 98% of Etibank retirees stated that today, the miners could'nt earn as much as they did. The yesterdays' miners with a well economic condition who are pensioners today, have quite varied investments such as field, land, house, car and side incomes. Actually, these are the ones who have the most multiple incomes in the sample although their salaries are in the low income group (1000 TL and below). In addition, 98% of the group has built their houses themselves. The monthly income per household of Etibank mine workers was 3000 TL and net income per capita is around 660 TL in today's value according to their claims. Today's average monthly income per household is 1590 TL and net income per capita is around 517 TL in the household sample. Thus people have become poorer after the closure of the factory. 30% of the sample is retired people. And 29% of these pensioners engaged one or two works at the same time. It is not enough to live just on pensions in the changing economic conditions. The trades who were operating at Etibank period as well, claimed that the purchasing

power of the people, was much better than today. And 50% of them are satisfied with their profits in that years. Today, the most important issue for the trades is the low purchasing power of customers.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The unemployment is shown as the primary problem of the city at the household survey. As the impact of young people's decision to leave the city to find a job, the middle and over aged people's population has been increased in the town. And the major group (housewives and pensioners) at households is five-year primary school graduated. People did not give enough importance to education because unemployment wasn't a problem at Etibank period. However, after the closure of the factory, unemployment problem has emerged. Besides, the opening of the SDU Keçiborlu Vocational college, aroused the interest of people in education. In fact, the existence of MYO is considered as an important sources for the development of the city. But it has only a few departments and its number of students are low.

Agriculture and animal husbandry are seen as an additional source of income just for providing the own needs of families in the city. The city's scattered and fragmented lands, prevent the execution of profitable agricultural managements. As it seen in findings, the city was not evaluated as an agricultural town but a pensioner the city by the participants. Also, rose agriculture done significantly in the past, has been abandoned at the city center lands. Although it is known by the participants that the city is located on an important point in terms of transportation, this advantage hasn't been evaluated adequately so far. Although the Organized Industrial Zone and Isparta Süleyman Demirel Airport are 20 minutes drive away from Keçiborlu and make its location important, people have still immigrated and complained about unemployment problem. Finally, there are some paradox according to findings and the 2004 report of DPT. Keçiborlu was seen in the third degree highly developed counties which included 309 towns and described as agricultural towns by DPT. But since 2004 it has turned into nor a agricultural city or a university city.

According to findings, the weaknesses of the city are briefly: Main economic structure was based on mining and alternative livelihoods were neglected, a strategic plan had not done to be applied in case of depletion of the mine, high unemployment and migration rate, there are not enough qualified workers because of giving less important to education, crowded old population, the spirit of entrepreneurship of town's remained weak and hasn't got enough capital to operate their own industry plant, local people are not experts in trade and agriculture and fragmental farm lands problem.

The strengths of the city are: Productive farmlands, irrigated agriculture facilities, very favorable conditions for the production of fruit, vegetable and rose, opportunity to turn into the city of university, very favorable conditions for transportation because of its location, close to Organized Industrial Zone and Isparta Süleyman Demirel Airport and close to the major markets such as, Antalya, İstanbul, İzmir, Afyon

Recommendations are already based on the attitude scale at the household survey. It is suggested that departments and the number of students of SDU Keçiborlu MYO should be increased, agricultural land consolidation process should be completed. Besides encouragement of organic farming, steps should be taken for the potential development of agro-tourism or in a sense ecotourism. If rose agriculture handle again, as well as its economic returns; an opportunity can be created for the initiation of agro-tourism activities. There are lots of examples around the world for agro-tourism; just for to gather the rose flower, every year in May and June, 40 thousand tourists from Japan goes to Bulgaria. BAKA's work on adding the rose gardens and rose oil factories into the Japanese's İstanbul-Konya-Pamukkale-Cappadocia mainly tour organizations is still continuing (URL2). Also the completion of the terminal building of the city has ended and it will have a positive effect on the economic situation of the people in the future. Besides, BAKA may present new job opportunities through the Organized Industrial Zone and Isparta Süleyman Demirel Airport by making investments which included Keçiborlu as well.

BAKA can play an important role in order to provide rural development and for the improvement of the socio-economic status. But first of all, public support should be provided to better assess the county's resources by BAKA and local government. Due to the presence of the factory serviced for many years entrepreneurship is not sufficiently developed in the city. So there is a vital need to raise public awareness.

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