

USER ASSESSMENT IN PUBLIC SPACES BY GENDER: A SURVEY
ON SEĞMENLER AND KEÇİÖREN PARKS IN ANKARA

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Submitted by DOURNA KIAVAR in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Architecture in Department of Architecture, Middle East Technical University by,

Prof. Dr. Canan Özgen
Dean, Graduate School of Natural and Applied Science _____

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Güven Arif Sargin
Head of Department of Architecture _____

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cânâ Bilsel
Supervisor, Department of Architecture, METU _____

Examining Committee Members:

Prof. Dr. Ali Cengizkan
Department of Architecture, METU _____

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cânâ Bilsel
Department of Architecture, METU _____

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Güven Arif Sargin
Department of Architecture, METU _____

Assist. Prof. Dr. Z. Müge Akkar Ercan
Department of City and Regional Planning, METU _____

Inst. Dr. Ela Alanyalı Aral
Interior Architecture Dept., Çankaya University _____

Date: (February, 11th 2011)

I hereby declare that all information in this document has been obtained and presented in accordance with academic rules and ethical conduct. I also declare that, as required by these rules and conduct, I have fully cited and referenced all material and results that are not original to this work.

Name, Last Name: DOURNA KIAVAR
Signature

ABSTRACT

USER ASSESSMENT IN PUBLIC SPACES BY GENDER: A SURVEY ON SEĞMENLER AND KEÇİÖREN PARKS IN ANKARA

Kiavar, Dourna

M. Arch, Department of Architecture

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cânâ Bilsel

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This thesis aims to set out an urban public design framework based on gender differences and experiences, in order to pay attention to the design of the open public spaces, parks in particular, to enhance them as places which are friendly to all people. In this manner two public parks were selected in Ankara to verify the theoretical framework and hypotheses set. The thesis study first makes a review of theoretical concepts of gender relations in public spaces and recreational areas.

Then, it explains how an open public space is examined with respect to the three main headings, user profiles, use patterns and sense of safety felt by users.

The case studies are Seğmenler Park in the Gaziosmanpaşa-Kavaklıdere district and Keçiören Park in the Keçiören district, two public parks in two different sectors of the city with different cultural, economical and social structures. The concept of gender differences and effects of gender relations on the use patterns of a place and vice a versa, different needs and perceptions of men and women in public places and effective design solutions are studied in the second chapter. Then, two public parks are examined with the above framework. This is done first with respect to the mentioned component, and then with the data based on maps, photographs, personal observation and questionnaires which to find out the problems and characteristics of the users. Finally in the conclusion, the differences and needs of users and strengths and weaknesses of design and planning of the parks are evaluated to set specific design principles and solutions in the design of public parks.

Keywords:

“Gender”, “Public space”, “Parks”, “user assessments”, “Seğmenler Park”, “Keçiören Park” and “Atatürk Botanik bahçesi”

ÖZ

KAMUSAL MEKÂNLARDA CİNSİYETE GÖRE BİR DEĞERLENDİRME: ANKARA'DA SEĞMENLER VE KEÇİÖREN PARKLARI ÜZERİNE BİR ARAŞTIRMA

Kiavar, Dourna
Yüksek Lisans, Mimarlık Bölümü
Tez Yonetici: Doç. Dr. Cânâ Bilsel

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Bu tez, farklı cinsiyetlerin kamusal mekânlarda farklı algı ve deneyimlerini temel alarak açık kamusal mekânların (parklar) tasarıımına odaklanır. ve bu mekânların herkes tarafından eşit kullanımına olanak verecek bir tasarım çerçevesi kurmayı amaçlar. Tezin teorik çerçevesini ve hipotezlerini irdelemek üzere Ankara'dan iki park arazi çalışmasının yapılacağı iki kamusal alan olarak seçildi. Bu tezde ilk olarak halka açık alanlarda ve özellikle rekreasyon alanlarında

toplumsal cinsiyet ilişkilerinin teorik kavramları gözden geçirilmekte; daha sonra, açık kamusal alanlar üç ana başlık altında, kullanıcı profilleri, kullanım şekilleri ve kullanıcıları tarafından hisedilen güvenlik duygusu açılarından incelenmektedir.

Ankara'dan farklı kültürel, ekonomik ve sosyal koşullara sahip olan iki farklı ilçeden iki park, Keçiören ilçesinde Keçiören Parkı ve Çankaya ilçesi Gaziosmanpaşa-Kavaklıdere semtinde Seğmenler Parkı çalışma alanı olarak seçilmiştir. Kamusal mekânların kullanım şekillerinde cinsiyet farklılıklarını ve toplumsal cinsiyet ilişkilerinin etkileri incelenirken, bir kamusal mekânda her cinsin farklı ihtiyaçları ve algılara yönelik etkili tasarım çözümleri teorik bölümde tartışılmaktadır. Daha sonra iki park yukarıdaki çerçeve ile kamusal mekân bileşenlerine göre incelenmiş ve hâlihazır haritalar, fotoğraflar, kişisel gözlemlerle ve kullanıcıların özelliklerini öğrenmek için yapılan anketlere dayalı verilerle zenginleştirilmiştir. Sonuç olarak, kullanıcıların farklılıkları ve ihtiyaçları ile mekânların tasarımları ve planlamasındaki güçlü ve zayıf noktaları ortaya çıkararak, özel tasarım ilkeleri ve çözümleri oluşturulmaya çalışılmıştır.

Anahtar kelimeler:

"Toplumsal Cinsiyet", "Kamusal alan", "Parklar", "kullanıcı değerlendirmeleri", "Seğmenler Parkı", "Keçiören Park" ve "Atatürk Botanik bahçesi"

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Problem Definition and Aim of the Study

This thesis focuses on the relation in between public spaces and gender of users. It tries to find out the effects of different needs, perceptions and experiences of men and women in design of a public space and vice versa. Urban public spaces are usually identified by the predominance of one sex (men). But nowadays as a result of cultural changes, with increasing educational and economical status of women, participation of women in public spaces has increased.

However, due to various reasons, there is not sufficient diligence to women's requirements, perceptions and experiences in the design process of open public spaces.

Park is a place originally created for the public needs of urban people. When the expanding needs, possibilities and demands of people in cities are considered, urban public spaces should also develop accordingly; otherwise they become unusable spaces that do not cope with the principles of design to meet the needs.

So, one of important factors in use pattern of people is the impact of their gender. Different senses of space of men and women should be

considered in design of a public space which has to be a useful place for all members of a community.

A higher ratio of people lives in cities today than in the past. The society has undergone many transformations and the inequality between men and women has declined seriously with the efforts of the latter and government support. Women's presence in the community and other public places has increased, therefore design policies in this area have grown.

Indeed, in the case of Turkey, the way men and women use the public spaces and even their presence in urban life has changed. Today's social, economical and educational condition of people has been subject to a dramatic change. So the everyday life of people has been transformed and due to these changes and their new requirement, the need of sufficient design methods and guidelines has appeared.

The design methods and guidelines are different for different cultural, educational and economical groups of men and women. So, the best design solutions which meet all the needs of different sections of a community, can only be achieved when the requirement, habits, traditions and gender relations of users are considered.

The aim of this study is, by revealing the different use patterns of park users of two districts with different cultural, educational, social or even political conditions, to explore suitable design solutions to develop these public places to become more attractive and usable for both female and male users of the park equally.

This study started with the hypothesis that the gendered use of public spaces differs in sections of the society with different educational and cultural backgrounds. For this reason, two parks located in districts with dissimilar social, cultural and educational profiles were chosen for the purpose of comparison. Focusing on the relations between gender behaviors and public space, the study aims to see the correlation between space and changing gendered usage and also life style, economic conditions, cultural construction and the boundaries between private and public spaces. Different cultural, educational and income levels are the effective factors which may influence the gendered use of public/ open spaces.

After reviewing basic concepts of gender and its effects on the consumption patterns as well as public places according to cultural, social and educational development of women in Turkey and especially the country's capital Ankara, with a focus on the basic principles in the selected parks, the existence and continuation of the initial thinking in these places are examined.

1.2. Method of the Study

In this thesis to discuss gender issues in public spaces, firstly the related literature and available studies on the subject were reviewed. This section explores the relations between urban life and gender depending principally on academic studies.

Secondly, after literature review, two case studies were chosen for examining the hypothesis about the gender issues in public spaces. Two parks are selected as case study areas because they are used by

different sections of the society, and also to help evaluate the hypothesis and differences in two open public recreation spaces.

In the fourth chapter, for finding the reliable information about the user profile, use patterns and problems of users in two selected case studies, a survey was conducted and during 9 month in different times and days photographs were captured. The result of prepared survey forms were analyzed and set in relative tables and charts to help to explore the important differences and resemblances between two parks. The findings of the survey were categorized in three groups, profiles of users of the two parks, the use of parks and the sense of safety felt by parks users. Subsequent to these categories, the results of the survey were evaluated with regard to the literature review.

And finally, in the fifth chapter, some design solutions and policies in public spaces have been suggested according to the evaluation of the findings of the survey and in the light of literature review,

CHAPTER 2

GENDER RELATIONS IN PUBLIC SPACES AND PARKS: A THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Conceptual Framework

This section explores the relations between urban life and gender depending principally on academic studies.

The term sex is a biological term, that refers to being male or female biologically, in other words, it corresponds to a biological phenomenon. But the term “gender” refers to the society's expectations and meanings which are attributed to being a male and female. In other words, gender studies do not only deal with women.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, gender is defined as follows:

“Gender is defined as, relationship between men and women which is based on identities loaded in one sex, status, roles and responsibilities defined and structured by society or culture. Gender is a socio-economic variable which helps to analyze the roles of women and men in any context, their responsibilities, constraints, opportunities and needs. It is not

constant or inborn, so it is structured over time as social and cultural sense.”¹

Gender roles and the social change interact with each other. Moreover, in social and economic reconstruction processes, gender relations within the society change as well. The intersection of social sciences and space studies from the gender point of view is not a coincidence. Gender based analyses has become central to space analysis, which has changed the content of urban studies, researches and policies.²

In order to respond to the different needs and expectations of men and women, in the daily life, the need to reorganize these urban spaces has come to the fore.

Place is defined as, a particular portion of space, either of definite or indefinite extent. Generally place is, where people can be active, surrounding them, creating a sense of belonging, limited by horizontal and vertical elements and a three-dimensional arrangement.³ The place is created and prepared according to human needs and actions.

According to Burak Asiliskender⁴, space has been described in the following way:

¹ The UN Refugee Agency, GUIDELINES ON INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION: Gender-Related Persecution within the context of Article 1A(2) of the (1951) Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, (2002), <http://www.unhcr.org.tr/MEP/FTPRoot/HTMLEditor/File/ATP%20Leaflets/gender.pdf>, (accessed December 2009).

² Serap Kayasü, “Toplumsal Cinsiyet, Kent Kimlikleri, Kentlilik”, Adakentliyim, 4, 12 (1998): 69-70.

³ Metin Başal, “Dış Mekan Tasarımı ve Arazi Biçimleme Deneyimi”, 3. *Bin Yılda Sehirler: Küreselleşme, Mekan-Planlama*, İclal Dinçer, YTÜ Yayınları, İstanbul, 418 (2000).

⁴ Burak Asiliskender, “Mekan Kavramı”, Okyanus Dergisi, İstanbul, (2002): 15-27

“Place is more than just, a formed space to live in behind its walls. It is space of life which compresses Traditions, habits, knowledge and briefly experience of the community.”

Place in the urban spaces system consists of structures, detected by citizens, a whole which all urban events are in relation with.

2.1.1. Principal Approaches to Urban Public Spaces

Urban places which belong to all citizens do not have merely physical aspects; in fact, the presence and activity of people give meaning to these spaces. Public spaces have an important role in the history of urban planning and appeared in various forms in different periods of time.

The review of the literature specialized in urban public spaces shows that due to various factors affecting the subject, the extent and effectiveness of diverse opinions (either directly or mediated), and also different and sometimes conflicting issues are presented by scholars in urban studies. Khashayar Kashanijo in his article “Recognition of theoretical approaches to urban public spaces” says:

According to his studies it seems that the main ideologists of urban public spaces can be divided into six groups on the basis of their views.⁵

1. with environmental and sustainability considerations,
2. with emphasis on spatial and visual perception,
3. with approach to improvement of social interactions,

⁵ Khashayar Kashanijo, “Recognition of theoretical approaches to urban public spaces”, Journal of Identity of the city, 4(6), (2010): 96

4. with emphasis on development of pedestrian domination,
5. with human oriented approach and security in urban space,
6. with environmental and behavioral considerations”

According to Kashanijo's categorization the main focus of this thesis study is more related to the approach to improvement of social interactions, human oriented approach and security in urban space and environmental and behavioral considerations.

Approaches with emphasis on the improvement of social interactions

One of the public realm theorists, Hannah Arendt wrote her book *The Human Condition* in 1958. She argued that the political and social life plays the main role in the constitution of public realm. Arendt has analyzed spaces in two groups: presence space between others and space among others, to provide a comprehensive understanding of the scope of public policy as well as physical public spaces of the city.

Jane Jacobs, prominent journalist and scholar on urban issues, emphasizes the role of urban public spaces in social interactions, in the book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. She believes what remains more in mind about cities are public spaces, especially the streets and sidewalks of the city. Jacobs points out that increasing the presence of pedestrians and their security have a reverse effect on racial segregation and discrimination.⁶ Therefore, sidewalks should be more alive to attract more residents.⁷ Also, she believes, in order to

⁶ Jahanshah Pakzad, *Trend of Thought in Urban Designing II, from Quantity to Quality*, (New Towns Development Company, Tehran, 2007), 135.

⁷ Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, (New York, Random House, 1961), 32.

maintain a lively pedestrian street, sidewalks are of primary importance.

Jane Jacobs identifies four urban design principles that are preconditions for the creation and preservation of vibrant, diverse cities⁸:

- “1. High densities of population and activities;
- 2. Mixtures of primary uses;
- 3. Small-scale, pedestrian-friendly blocks and streetscapes; and
- 4. The retention of old buildings mixed in with new”

Also she mentions parks as important as streets and building in city for vitality of a city.

Another theorist, William White, despite he was not an architect or urban designer, but had an effective role in the field of social and behavior problems in urban areas. In his view, the behavior of people in urban spaces is strange and unpredictable, and what seems to attract people more than any other factors is the presence of other people in space.

Jan Gehl, Danish architect and urban planner, whose research focuses on sociological and psychological aspects of urban spaces, has published several books in this field since 1970s. He believes that attractiveness of a city can be identified by considering the mass of

⁸ Jay Wickersham, “Jane Jacobs’s Critique of Zoning: from Euclid to Portland and Beyond”, http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/law/lwsch/journals/bcealr/28_4/04_TXT.htm, (accessed January 2011).

people that gather in public spaces to spend their leisure times.⁹ Gehl in his book, *Life Between Buildings*, has classified types of human activities in the public spaces into three main groups: essential-functional activities, selective-recreational activities and social activities. In the table in the next page, the principal approaches emphasizing the improvement of social interactions are summarized:

Human and security oriented approaches in urban space

Lewis Mumford can be considered as one of first scholars in the first half of the twentieth century, who has pay attention to the factors like creating security, sense of place and human scale in urban spaces. Actually he claims that he has just extended the ideas of the Patrick Geddes. In his book, *The Culture of Cities*, he has mentioned city as a place of formation of culture and defense human against the cars. Also diversity and incorporation of usages in urban spaces and the priority of the paths devoted to the pavements on the vehicles roads have been mentioned.

Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, a group of American architects and city builders who their concerns about the deterioration of urban centers, scattered development of local communities and domination of transportation vehicles in the urban environment caused the establishment of “New Urbanism” in the early 1990's.¹⁰ Walk ability, connectivity, mixed-use and diversity, mixed housing, quality architecture and urban design, traditional neighborhood structure, increased density, smart transportation, sustainability and quality of life are mentioned as the ten principle of the New Urbanism.¹¹ Actually the New Urbanism is a reaction era of modernism in the realm of urban

⁹ Jahanshah Pakzad, *Development of thought in urban planning from quantity to quality*, (Tehran, 2007), 437.

¹⁰ For more information see “The New Urbanism”, <http://www.newurbanism.org/>, (accessed February 2011).

¹¹ ibid

planning and unquestioned dominance of personal vehicles in cities. Advocates of this theory believe that it can be considered as an urban design package, are believed that by using the traditional neighborhood design principles, can design new urban spaces which are efficient and sustainable and fully consistent with human scales.

Dean Brennan and Al Zelinka are other scholars who have defined the “Safescape” as a new standard in urban planning to expand perceptions of safety and reduce crime and fear of crime, in the beginning of the third millennium in their book, *Safescape: Creating Safer, More Livable Communities through Planning and Design*.¹²

Approaches with Emphasis on Environmental and Behavioral considerations

The *Image of City* and introducing the five elements constituting city (paths, edges, districts, nodes, land marks) by Kevin Lynch in 1960 also passed over half a century, are the most effective issues in the field of urban designing.¹³

Lynch's issues like public perception of environment and the evolution of the concept of “legibility” depending on the people’s “mental maps”, make new prospects for the other researchers.

Lynch believes, all mobile agents in every city, especially people are effective to create images. Meanwhile people feel city during the

¹² Metlife Foundation, SafeGrowth: Creating Safety & Sustainability through Community Building and Urban Design, (Community Safety Paper Series, New York: 3), http://www.policefuturists.org/pdf/LISC_SafeGrowth_final.pdf, (accessed February 2011).

¹³ Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City*, (MIT Press, Cambridge, 1960).

transportation, so these qualities are essential and usage of them can help and improve the identity of city.¹⁴

The results of Kashanijo's study shows that although there has been an attention to the role and enhancing the status of urban public spaces since the emergence of cities and especially during the past century, but always there have been different points of views. It seems that most contemporary approaches about urban public spaces can be categorized, based on prevailing subjects, into three main courses: after the Industrial Revolution to 1960, from 1960 to 1990 and from 1990 to now.¹⁵

Accordingly, it can be asserted that in the first period the main emphasis is on visual and spatial perception, in the second period the emphasis is on the reinforcement of social interaction, development of implementation oriented and environmental- behavioral effects of urban spaces.

However, with stabilizing the physical and social role of urban spaces, most activities and theories are based on environmental considerations, sustainability and human security in public realm.

In other words, the study of approaches prevailing in the mentioned three periods shows that over time the human presence has been accepted as the main factor in creating dynamism and vitality of urban spaces, also focus has changed from quantitative characteristics of human such as visual attractions to the qualitative characteristics such as providing security and environmental sustainability.¹⁶

¹⁴ Kevin Lynch: 196.

¹⁵ Khashayar Kashanijo, "Recognition of theoretical approaches to urban public spaces", Journal of Identity of the city, 4(6), (2010):105

¹⁶ Ibid.

2.1.2. Public Spaces

Urban public spaces cover both open spaces and indoor spaces. Open spaces include the city parks, disclosed parking areas, landscaped ways etc. Indoor spaces are mainly built spaces. Outside public spaces cover pedestrian pathways, recreation and entertainment areas, some of shopping areas like bazaars and shopping street, transition areas and regions, streets, roads, pavements and transport areas.

Urban spaces according to their users and whom the space appeals to, can be examined in two categories, public space and private space. Private space is formed by the individual's own needs and requirements.¹⁷

In the English language “public” stands for exposed to general view, relating to people in general, accessible to or shared by all members of the community.¹⁸ Therefore, public space can be defined as places exposed to general view, where is relating to people in general and is an accessible place which is shared by all members of the community.

Public spaces have different meanings for philosophers, political theorists, and geographers, and architects. The first group uses usually the term “metaphorically”, while the later group uses it “literally”.¹⁹ Jonas Brodin in his article “The Structure of Public

¹⁷ Gaston Bachelard, “*The Poetics of Space*”, Trans. Maria Jolas. Foreword by Étienne Gilson, New York, Orion Press, (1964).

¹⁸Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/public>. (accessed January 2011).

¹⁹ Jonas Brodin, “The Structure of Public Space”, Prepared for delivery at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 20–23.

Space” claims that, public space refers to a “mental” space for philosophers and political theorists while for geographers and architects, it is a physical space. He says:

“The list of classification schemas could be made endless, but it should be clear even from these two examples that the term “public space” captures many, often wildly dissimilar, meanings. Consequently, there is no consensus in the literature on how to use the term.”²⁰

The most important point in these definitions is that, the two uses are not unrelated.

The second usage of “public space” refers to a place, in which all of the members of the community can act or communicate with other people, because it is open and all of the communications and discussions are public. The property of these places is common.

Jonas Brodin in his article shows that:

“...in metaphorical public space we find power in the relationships between human beings, while in literal public space, we find power in the relationship between human beings and their environment.”

Jurgen Habermas defined public sphere, in his book "The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society " published in 1962, as:

²⁰ Jonas Brodin, 2.

“a portion of the public sphere comes into being in every conversation in which private individuals assemble to form a public body.”²¹

According to this definition public spaces as an important part of public sphere are felt by the public.

Habermas means the metaphorical use of “public space” which he translates as “public sphere”, an environment which is surrounding individuals and provides opportunities for public opinion to be formed.

Both the physical needs of people in urban space, as well as social and psychological needs, expect to be responded by public places. Already place is an area that is shaped according to different needs and some of them conflict with each other such as communications, transportation, information and goods exchange, mutual sharing, acquaintances encounter, feeling oneself belonging to a place, meeting new people, relaxation, self-discovery and self-forgetting”.²²

Public space, unlike spaces of private life can be defined as the spaces which contain all the activities of public life, a place located in the city which is open to every age, sex and occupational group’s benefit.²³ Public places extend to streets, public spaces squares, parks and surrounding buildings. They constitute the most important parts of cities.

²¹ Jürgen Habermas, Sara Lennox, Frank Lennox, “The Public Sphere: An Encyclopedia Article”, (New German Critique, No. 3. Autumn, 1974): 49-55. <http://links.jstor.org>, (accessed January 2011).

²² Cengiz Kahraman, “Kentsel Mekan Süreklligi/Süreksizligi ve Güvenlik İhtiyaci İlişkisi”, (Y.Lisans Tezi, İTÜ, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, İstanbul, 1998).

²³ Ibid.

Today, shopping places, shopping centers, airports, entertainment centers which have mostly private ownerships, serve for public use. This makes the concept of private and public space more complicated.²⁴

Common areas and public spaces are used in order to meet social needs. Places which are used for the special needs of individuals mostly belong to persons, institutions or organizations, and are defined as private spaces. In this context spaces which are for public use, accessible by and subject to the free movement of everybody are spaces which are remaining outside the spaces accepted as private areas and do not have private owner.

Urban public spaces give tips about the socio-economical conditions of the city; also reveal the local culture of cities.²⁵ According to achieve successful results in designing public spaces which are open for community service and use, one should pay attention to the following criteria.²⁶ A successful public space should,

- be easily accessible and visible
- have aesthetic appeal
- be maintained easily and economically
- be safe.

²⁴ M. Ebru Erdönmez, Altan Akı, "Açık Kamusal Kent Mekanlarının Toplum İlişkilerindeki Etkileri", (YTÜ Arch Fac. e-Journal, 1 (1), 2005): 71-74.
http://www.megaron.yildiz.edu.tr/yonetim/dosyalar/01_09_ERDONMEZ_E.pdf, (accessed December 2010).

²⁵ Derya Oktay, "Kentsel Ortak Mekanların Niteliği ve Kent Yaşamındaki Rolü", (Yapı Dergisi, 207, 1999): 53-54

²⁶ Clare Cooper Marcus, Carolyn Francis, *People Places: Design Guidelines for Urban Open Space*. (Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York, 1990), 114.

In the urban public spaces, common living spaces for all people with different income, education and cultural level, for covering all needs and relationship network should ensure the security.

2.2. Interaction between gender and urban public space

As a result of rapid and unplanned urbanization, deepening inequality between the genders in use of urban public space appeared.

For example, poor street lighting restricts women's participation in urban life. Additionally gender-insensitive planning and designing process restricts women's participation in urban life, on the basis of security problems.

Urban spaces with the predominance of one sex are identified as urban gendered spaces. Daphne Spain in *The Importance of Urban Gendered Spaces for the Public Realm* claims that the existence of female gendered spaces is considered to be effective in the presence of women in cities and urban life, by providing safe places outside their homes, in which women establish their independence and can have an identity outside family. According to Daphne Spain not only compulsory segregated places reduce women's access to the public life, but also voluntary gender segregation at the urban scale can aggrandize it.²⁷

²⁷ Daphne Spain, *The Importance of Urban Gendered Spaces for the Public Realm*, (University of Virginia, Barcelona, Spain, 2005).

But on the other hand Jane Rendell, in “Introduction: Gender Space”, indicated some propositions to describe how gendered space can be produced:

- “•through architectural design according to the sex of the architects,
- through the interpretive lens of architectural criticism, history and theory,
- through using, occupying and transforming everyday activities”²⁸

She emphasized the importance of representation in producing gendered space. The most pervasive representation of gendered space is the paradigm of the “separate spheres”; an oppositional and hierachal system consisting of a dominant public male realm of production (the city) and a subordinate private female realm of reproduction (the home). She mentioned that this ideology is both **patriarchal** and **capitalist** that produced a binary hierarchy which divides city from home, public from private and men from women.

A difference is made between sexed and gendered space, in which places may be “sexed” according to the biological sex of people as in toilets e.g., or gendered according to the gender associated with the different kinds of activities which occur in them for example kitchen is gendered feminine because the activity of cooking is something that is socially connected with women. By this distinction, Jane Rendell emphasized the different implications of the “sex” that considers biological differences and gender that refers to social

²⁸ Jane Rendell, "Introduction: Gender, Space" in Rendell, Penner & Borden, *Gender, Space, Architecture: An Interdisciplinary Introduction* (Routledge, 2000), 101-111.

matters. So the concept of “gendered space” includes approaches toward space as a social product that may be used by gender.²⁹

Anthropology has been one of the first disciplines to suggest that there is a relation between gender and space, and that is defined through power relations.³⁰ Researchers like Shirley Ardener considered the particular role that space has in symbolizing, maintaining and reinforcing gender relations.³¹ According to Ardener’s study, feminist geographers attempted to make connections between the spaces occupied by women and their social status, and produced critiques of the work of male geographers on postmodern space, arguing that their accounts had overlooked the ways gender operates to structure space and society. In anthropological and geographical perspectives, space is socially and culturally produced and gender relations are socially, culturally and spatially constructed.

Liz Bondi a feminist geographer in her article “Gender and the Reality of Cities: embodied identities, social relations and performativities” says:

“... Gender issues are an integral aspect of urban life. It is a dimension that affects urban identities, and it animates the everyday practices that characterize the

²⁹ Jane Rendell:101-111

³⁰ Jane Rendell, *West End Rambling: Gender and Architectural Space in London 1800-1830*, (Leisure Studies, 17, (2) April 1998): 108 – 122.

³¹ Shirley Ardener, “The Partition of Space”, J. Rendell, B. Penner and I.Borden (eds.): 112-117, cited by Jane Rendell in “The Pursuit of Pleasure: Gender, Space & Architecture in Regency”, (Athlone Press, London, 2002).

city life. The genders relations embody a range of inter related meanings.”³²

There are three principal kinds of gender analysis of urban life, which approach gender through embodied identities, social relations, and performance. In this study, different aspects of these analyses are inspected. For embodied identities the focus is on how human being as male and female can influence or be related to everyday urban experiences which are one of the main parts of theoretical.³³

This thesis study focuses on one type of urban/public spaces that have contributed positively to the public realm: Public parks. This thesis study analyzes gendered practices in two public parks in Ankara. The Seğmenler Park and Keçiören Park in Ankara have been chosen as the case study areas to be studied comparatively.

Even though gender is actualized by an individual person, it does not exist completely within human bodies though it is produced through the human bodies and the milieu that surround them. This surrounding milieu involves social relations or organizing principles of urban life. Simultaneously, people activate meanings or scripts of gender, therefore the concept of gender as performance is cited in everyday life literature. Cities are most important arenas in the construction, contestation, mobilization, subversion and transformation of all these aspects of gender.

³² Liz Bondi, “Gender and the Reality of Cities: Embodied Identities, Social Relations and Performativities”, (*Estudos Feministas*, January 2006).

³³ <http://e-groups.unb.br/ih/his/gefem/labrys9/libre/liz.htm>, (accessed December 2009).

2.2.1 The Examination of Gender Factor on the Behavior of Urban Users

In traditional gender roles, women are limited by private areas to undertake child care and housework, while men are concentrated in public spaces. In this way, a hierarchical structure has been formed against the participation of women in public life.

Despite all the social and economic developments, the social statuses which were loaded to women is changing but still existing. Women and men's roles and duties in society are formed in conformity with the gender relations. In this way men are directed to public spaces and women to private spaces.

Zehra Dökmen argues:

In the definition of a typical woman or a typical man usually the first things which are mentioned are, women are soulful and sensitive, they love children and know how to care them, know cooking and are devoted. Conversely, men are independent, calm, brave, strong and working outside home.”³⁴

According to the traditional gender norms and its status and duties distribution, women belong to the private spaces, look after their children, cook, shop for home but men belong to public spaces, they work and support their homes needs. Women's traditional gender roles

³⁴ Zehra. Y Dökmen, *Toplumsal Cinsiyet; Sosyal Psikolojik Açıklamalar*, (Sistem Yayıncılık, İstanbul, 2, 2004).

which constrain them with home, are the main reason and determinant for their extremely limited public, economic and spatial rights.

Cities, developed according to traditional norms of gender roles for women, mostly formed according to male users' expectations and needs, women are secondary in this fiction. Nowadays, with the increasing participation of women in the public life in social, economic and spatial fields, the requirement to develop the spaces and the content of design for women's expectations has been emphasized.

Common living environment offered by the economic, social and spatial opportunities to exploit the opportunities, expectations and requirements are different. Therefore, policies relating to urban space, affect women and men differently, and direct them in different ways.³⁵

Feral Eke says:

"One of the basic principles of designing is the "benefit of society" which is not used as the "benefit of women". Sometimes men and women in society have similar or different everyday lives, and concurrent or conflicting responsibilities. Although the limits of these responsibilities are changing by the culture of society, level of organization, institution, social class of family or income level, but the roles in society, expectations and requirements are different."³⁶

³⁵ Ayten Alkan, "Why Local Politics is Important for Women?", (Birikim, 179, 2004): 71-77

³⁶ E. Feral Eke, "Women's role in Housing and Urban Planning", (Contemporary Local Government (Çagdas Yerel Yönetimler), 10 (1), 2001): 39-50.

Cities contain the requirements rules of social life. Especially urbanization, decentralization and the context of globalization make both women and men important actors of cities that are providing services to the organizations and urbanization of cities. But women's perceptions of urban life are different than men, because the resident norms and traditions attribute different roles and responsibilities to men and women. Cities, in fact, are most appropriate areas for men and women who are living together in the neighborhoods of the city to form and develop their relations. For this reason, the city's infrastructure and activities should be arranged according to the needs of both women and men.³⁷

As well as neighborhood relationships, various urban functions, the reflection of urban culture, life style, relationships and briefly functions which are originated from living together, is reflected in the city planning, urban design and architecture. Cities are representing the areas where deep transformations of socio-cultural and gender norms take place. For this reason, in city design, one should pay attention to the development process of cities in terms of gender point of view, also cities should be planned to provide socio-cultural and economical equality between genders.

2.2.2. Examination of Public Space and Private Space in terms of Gender issues

Concepts of public space and private space have an important role in terms of the reflection of gender inequalities in urban space and

³⁷ Anne Michaud, "A City Tailored to Women – The Role of Municipal Governments in Achieving Gender Equality", Federation of Canadian Municipalities International Centre for Municipal Development, http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/uclg/upload/docs/CTTW_ENG.pdf, (accessed December 2010).

revelation of the relations between traditional gender roles and spatial planning.

The public arena is a physical space but also a cultural construct. Public realm is important to civil society with gendered spaces; it constitutes a vital element of an egalitarian city.

Public space acts as a forum, for balancing the individual's quest for happiness and continuously developed rules for the public benefits. Also the political role of public spaces as spaces of free expression and manifestation is very important, as people in public spaces can come together to create a force or express their forces.³⁸

Marcus says, women and men when using different places, they have their own public and private spaces.³⁹

When certain portion of the society is considered, public spaces like, streets, cafes, parks, etc are almost exclusively frequented by male users any time of the day. Women are able to use only a certain portion of public spaces such as shopping places, depending on their cultural constraints.

With the participation of women in employment and business life, norms of publicity, created by society, have begun to change. Women, who previously spend their public life in the close neighborhoods, participate in the public life, together with participation in business life.

³⁸ Cengiz Kahraman, "Kentsel Mekan Süreklligi/Süreksizligi ve Güvenlik İhtiyacı İlişkisi", (Y.Lisans Tezi, İTÜ, Fen Bilimleri Enstitüsü, İstanbul, 1998).

³⁹ Clare Cooper Marcus, Carolyn Francis, *People Places: Design Guidelines for Urban Open Space*. (Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York, 1990): 114.

Easy transportation between home, day-care centers, shopping center and offices has come to be very important for women.

At least to perform these activities safely, in the public places women are facing with different, spatial, social and psychological obstacles. They encounter many problems in accessibility of public spaces, while they are responsible for child care, household and also their jobs. In the mornings, primarily a woman has to leave her child to nursery school, and then she has to take her child when returning home and additionally do shopping in the evenings.

The first problem which arises, with the acceptance of the idea of having different public areas for women and men, is whether women and men are equivalence in public realm. In solidarity of women, any conflict between benefits of families can abolish this women's solidarity, because women's benefits are as same as the benefits of their families. Therefore, the creation of a common public space and representation of women and men in that area is extremely important.⁴⁰

Due attention is not sufficiently paid to the gender factor in the formation of public policies yet. Gender discrimination can only be eliminated by democratic decisions. The differences between men and women's places, in making public policies, are subjects that should be considered compulsory. Even if the twentieth century is accepted as a period of great progress in terms of gender equality but, still these developments are not enough yet.

⁴⁰ Aksu Bora, "Public Space Private Space: Beyond the dilemma of liberation Bereavement", (paper presented at the Conference, Women at the end of the 20th century and the Future .Ed. Oya Çitçi, (TODAIE, Ankara, 1998): 63-69.

2.2.3. Spatial Requirements of Women in the City

Women and men have different needs, and therefore they have quite different forms of perception in the city. Women in urban life have many responsibilities like shopping, caring children, taking kids to school and even paying bills; all of these responsibilities concern mainly the daily life and are in relationship with the urban spaces. Despite all these, women's income level is quite lower than men's. In spite of the low rate of private car ownership of women compared to that of men, their rate of using public means of transportation is higher than men's. For this reason, women in the city have more contact than men, because they have to walk or use public transportation in any of their activities.⁴¹

For more convenient use of urban spaces by women, factors like safety and accessibility are really important. In order to provide safety and accessibility in public spaces, there are spatial requirements like appropriate illuminated places for any time of the day, places with convenient pedestrian-priority transportation, pedestrian areas and pedestrian pathways. Public places like shopping centers, parks, public transportation routes and pedestrian pathways, provide places for more safe activities in women's daily urban life, as well as these, illuminated and well-kept places can provide great convenience too.

2.2.4. Gender Problems in the Design of Urban Public Spaces

Spatial planning aims a regular and healthy urban development, and tries to organize physical dimensions of social and economic

⁴¹ Nisancioglu, Takmaz, S., "House Planning that considers women", ed. Komut, E. M, (TMMOB Chamber of Architects Broadcast, Ankara, 1996): 81-89.

improvement, accessibility, housing areas and all issues related to urbanization. However, lack of internalization of positive discrimination against women constitutes a major problem.

Feral Eke argues:

“The factor of gender issue should be considered in planning in any scale. One of the most important deficiencies of the current planning practice is assuming women's activities just as limited by households, and also ignoring the reflection of any activities to the place. For example, all types of child care have effects on use of places. But this domain is not used in architecture or urban design project sufficiently.”

Women and men living in urban areas have different social, political and economic experiences, but generally in city planning, women's needs are ignored.

Developed and developing countries, in both urban planning process and government applications, do not consider original social expectations of women sufficiently.

Member of these issues is mentioned by Wandia Seafort as follows:

1. there are excessive separations in urban planning because of ignoring women's economic stability and family activities in separated areas for settlement in urban areas and commercial areas,

2. Sufficient attention is not paid in the design of public spaces for creating safer places for women, in terms of more lighting in the streets and privilege of accessibility.

3. Public transportation vehicles, routes, and security conditions are not sufficient and sensitive in terms of women's needs.

4. Lack of child care services, obstructs the development of women in economic and public life.⁴²

Spatial planning has an important role in directing people while they are using places like, shops, family centers and child care centers. Proper city planning policies and decisions, sectoral programs and projects are required for making city's physical spaces, neighborhood areas, city centers, streets and suburbs more safe and secure places.

2.3. Recreation Areas in the City and Gender Relations

The availability of parks and other spaces in the city planning schemes is a necessity. Yet, the accessibility of these parks, squares and shopping areas, their being safe for all members of the society and their being well maintained is even more important.

Atauz discusses the openness of recreation areas as:

"These areas are areas open to women and children, but this" openness "should not give a misleading impression. Because this kind of places are open to families and women

⁴² Wandia Seaforth, "Towards Woman-friendly Cities." United Nations Human Settlements Programme, (Habitat Debate 8, 4. 2002).

as a member of the family, can be seen accompanied by a man member of family. There are not any circumstances like this for men.”⁴³

In recent years, big shopping centers with their own parking space or special services are preferred by women citizens because of their safety and quality of space.

All factors listed above and debates on most important functions which are major factors of women’s participation in urban activities, show that spatial planning was done without considering the indication of gender equality. Even if, in recent years, women began to use more frequently the public spaces of cities, this development is not yet sufficient. Urban planning tools and policies need a renovation and new strategies in terms of sharing the places by women and men equally.

2.4. Using and Appropriating Green Spaces and Parks

Public parks may have an important role to play in facilitating physical activity. They provide individuals with places for walking or jogging and many have specific facilities for sports, exercise, and other activities. But parks are often used for purposes other than physical activity.

“...Frederick Law Olmstead, the “father” of urban parks, argued that parks should be built as places where city residents could experience the beauty of nature, breathe fresh air, and have a place for “receptive” recreation (music and art appreciation) as well as “exertive” activities. Parks are also places where people can socialize with friends and neighbors. In other words, parks can play a role in facilitating physical

⁴³ Akin Atauz, “Gender, Space, and Cities”, (Mimarist, 14, 2004): 54-58

activity, but in fact, parks also provide opportunities for people to engage in sedentary behavior. Information on who uses public parks and what they do there can elucidate the current and potential contribution of parks to physical activity.”⁴⁴

There are many studies which have shown that usually women spend more time than men in the green spaces and parks. Because of their child minding role, desire for social contacts, interest in nature and for healthy life, women use parks more than men. So, attractive areas like playgrounds and sport areas in parks are important issues. Also easy access to green spaces is more important for them.

The other important issues in parks are the safety and security of parks for women, and some women usually from older generation, assume the green spaces and parks as unsafe spaces in cities.

Both of the men and women have the same design preferences, like a “fine stand of trees, lawns, and blossoming shrubs, as well as well tenderness and cleanliness in parks”. Annette Harth claims that:

“...women and girls do appreciate places with a high level of sensuous and atmospheric quality, including a great variety of vegetation, a choice of sunny and shady areas, and attractive park furniture.”

However, there are not sufficient, systematic and representative studies on the preferences, wishes, deficiencies, and spatial

⁴⁴ Frederick Olmsted, “Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns.” In: LeGates RS, F, editor. *The City Reader*. (Second ed. London: Routledge, 1870): 314–320. Cited by Deborah Cohen, Amber Sehgal, Stephanie Williamson, Roland Sturm, Thomas L. McKenzie, Rosa Lara, Nicole Lurie, “Park Use and Physical Activity in a Sample of Public Parks in the City of Los Angeles”, (a RAND Health project, 2006): 2.

appropriation patterns among men and women with different ways of life. The lack of such studies cause another problem too, as a result of spatial design and planning, patterns of behavior are regarded as characteristic of female behavior in open spaces. So this manner produces stereotype attributes, which contribute to the construction of gender as a social category and to gendered spaces.

Usually women use green spaces and public parks if the design and condition of environment offered them are suitable with easy and safe access and use patterns. Also aesthetic and atmospheric standards are important. When these conditions are provided women not only are present in great numbers but they use the places with fewer gender-specific differences. When the quality of the green spaces is suitable, women can use these spaces more easily. There are some essential facilities and places in parks for women like toilets, rest rooms and children caring places; some spatial conditions like a good lightening system in parks should also be provided.

CHAPTER 3

INTRODUCING THE CASE STUDIES: TWO PARKS FROM ANKARA

After literature review, two case studies were chosen for examining the hypothesis about the gender issues in public spaces. The case studies were selected because they are used by different sections of the society, to help evaluate the hypothesis and differences in two open public recreation spaces.

3.1. Selection of Case Studies

This study focuses on two particular parks of Ankara. The Seğmenler Park is located in a district inhabited by upper income level groups. It was built in 1983, in order to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Atatürk. The other one is the Keçiören Park which is located in Keçiören district where mainly middle-upper income groups live in Ankara.⁴⁵ Keçiören neighborhood was a green and pleasant suburban area outside the central city, but in recent years has become a large housing district in Ankara. The Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan has his Ankara residence within the district. Gender relations and different individual usage solutions in public spaces of these two different districts will be inspected.

⁴⁵ Murat Güvenç, "Ankarada Statü/ Koken Farklılaşması: 1990 Sayım Örneklemeleri Üzerinde Blokmodel Çözümlemeli", *Tarih icinde Ankara II*, Ed. Yıldırım Yavuz . (METU Architecture Faculty, Ankara, 2001):17-34.

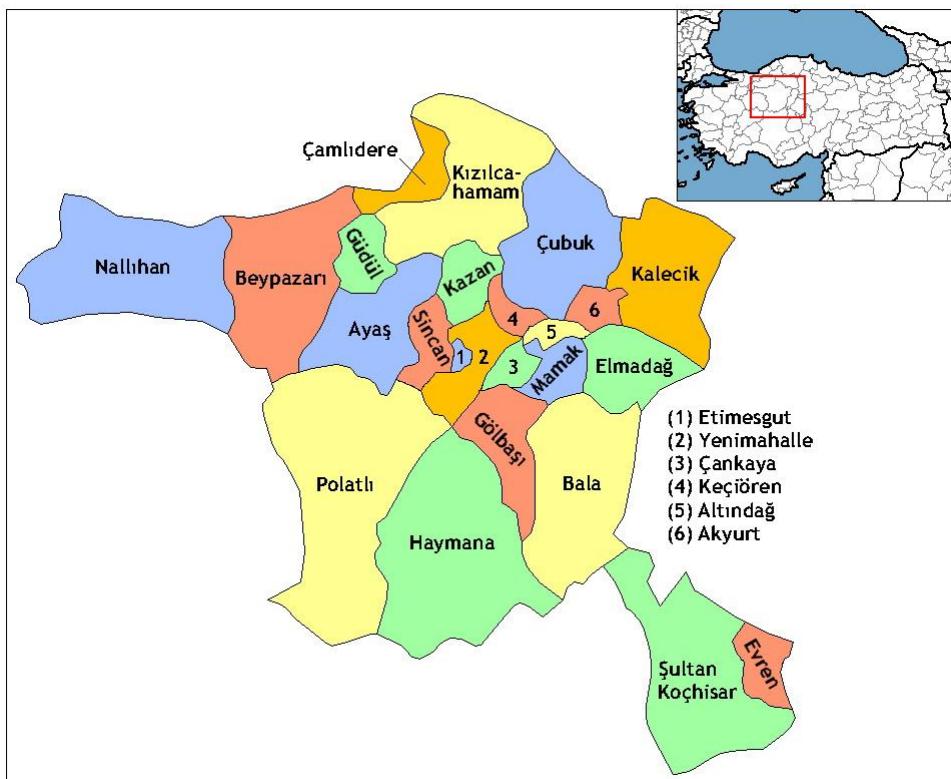


Figure 1: Keçiören and Çankaya districts position in the administrative division of the province of Ankara

The Seğmenler Park is bound by two roads thus cutting out a rectangular swath of 22.000 sqm. (2.2 hectares) Essentially the park conforms to the existing topographical features and in this manner it is informal and organic in its layout. The design incorporates water features in the form of cascades, canals, and lakes. The park also features site seeing terraces, exhibition platforms, small pavilions and an amphitheatre. The landscape designer of the project is Selami

Sözer. It was built in 1983, and the client of this project was Ankara Municipality.⁴⁶ (Figure 2, the location of the park in the city of Ankara)

The second park, Keçiören Park which in the document of the municipality named as Atatürk Botanik Bahçesi, but during this study briefly named as Keçiören Park is in the Keçiören district. There is a walking path length 750 m and totally the area of the park is 25,083 m². Some part of the walking path extends along the Atatürk Street and the other half of the park extend along the Fatih Street. Also there is a cable car system in this district which starts from Tepebaşı and ends at this park. It was built in 1996 and it was designed by Parks and Gardens Directory of the Municipality. Because of the topographical situation of the district, the park was built in an open and flat area. This position provides the park with facades from the main roads. (Figure 5, the location of the Keçiören Park in the Keçiören district).

⁴⁶ Source is Aga Khan Trust for Culture, an agency of the Aga Khan Development. http://www.archnet.org/library/sites/one-site.jsp?site_id=696, (accessed January 2010).

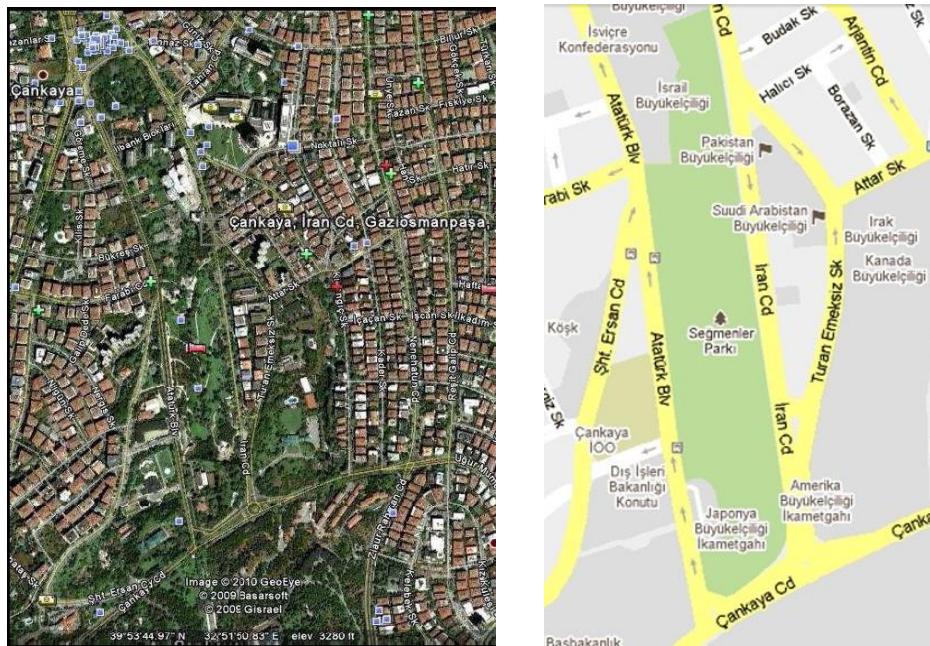


Figure 2: Position of the Seğmenler Park (Google Earth)

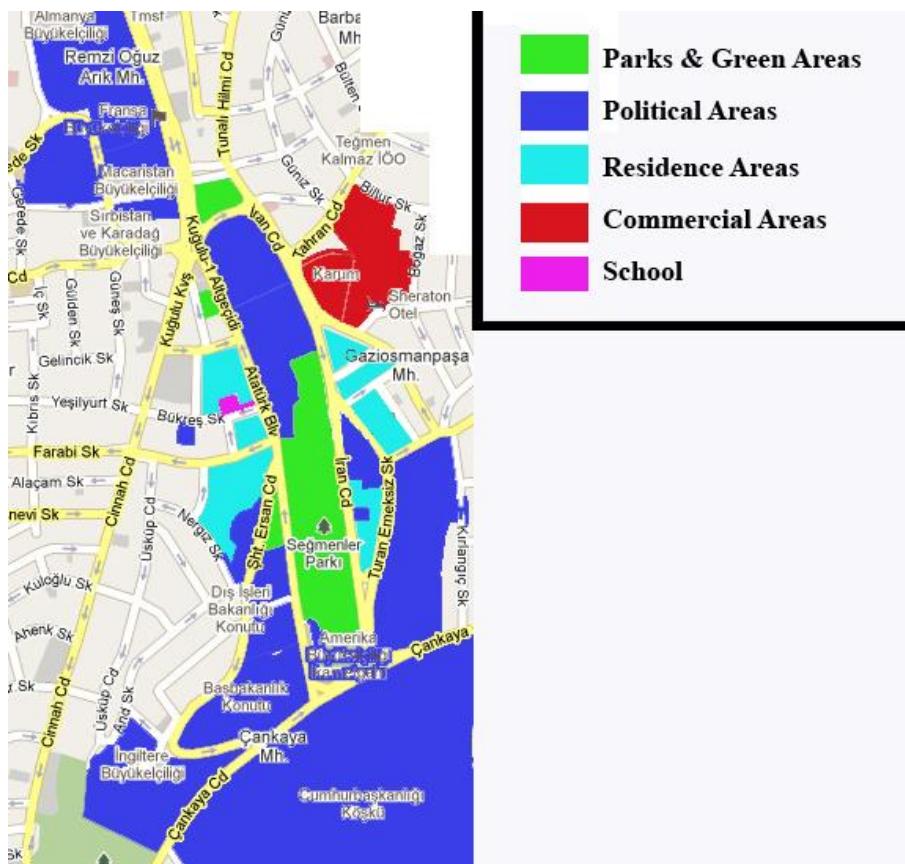


Figure 3: The usages of surrounding areas of Seğmenler Park

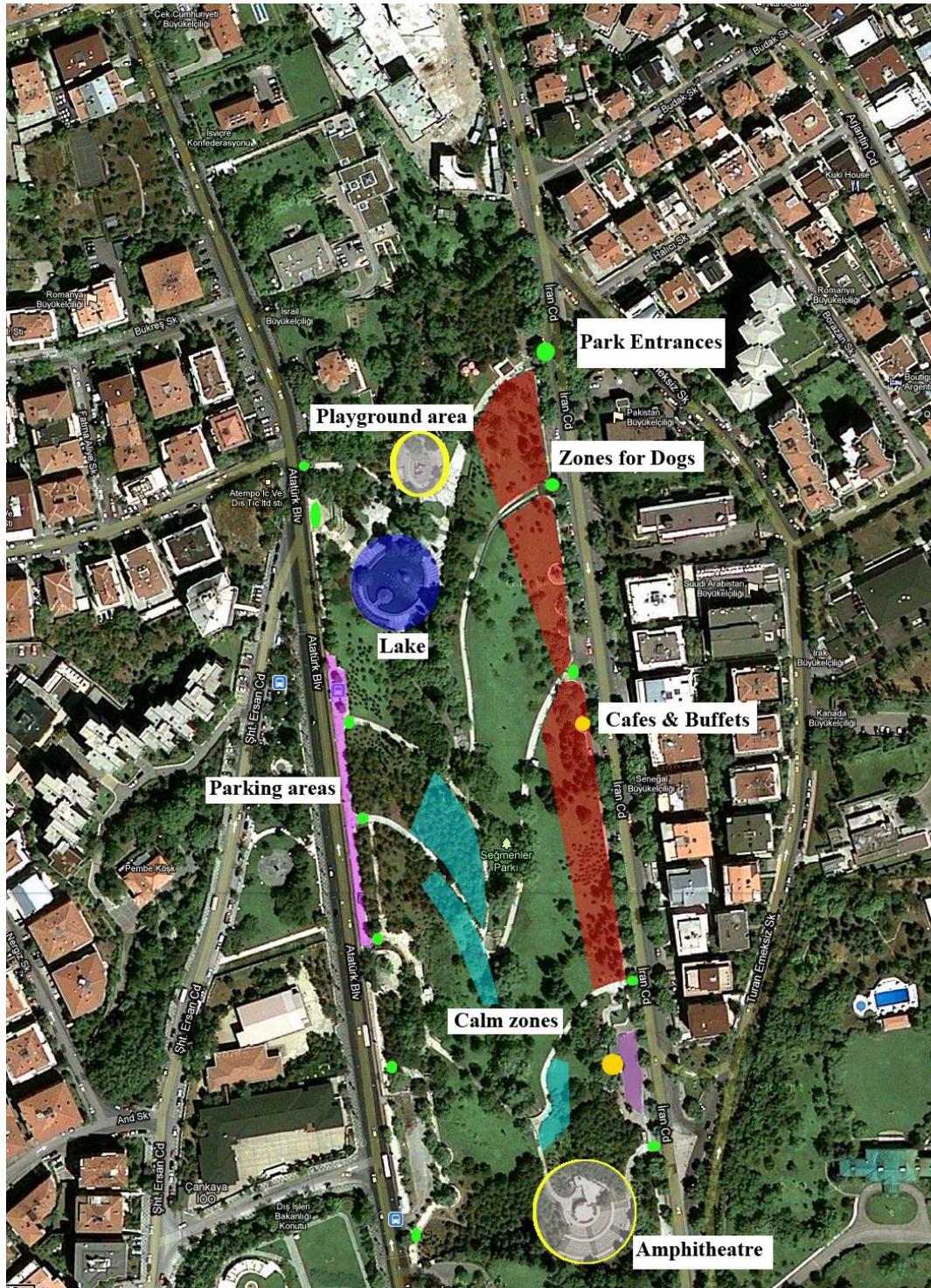


Figure 4: Different zones in Seğmenler Park

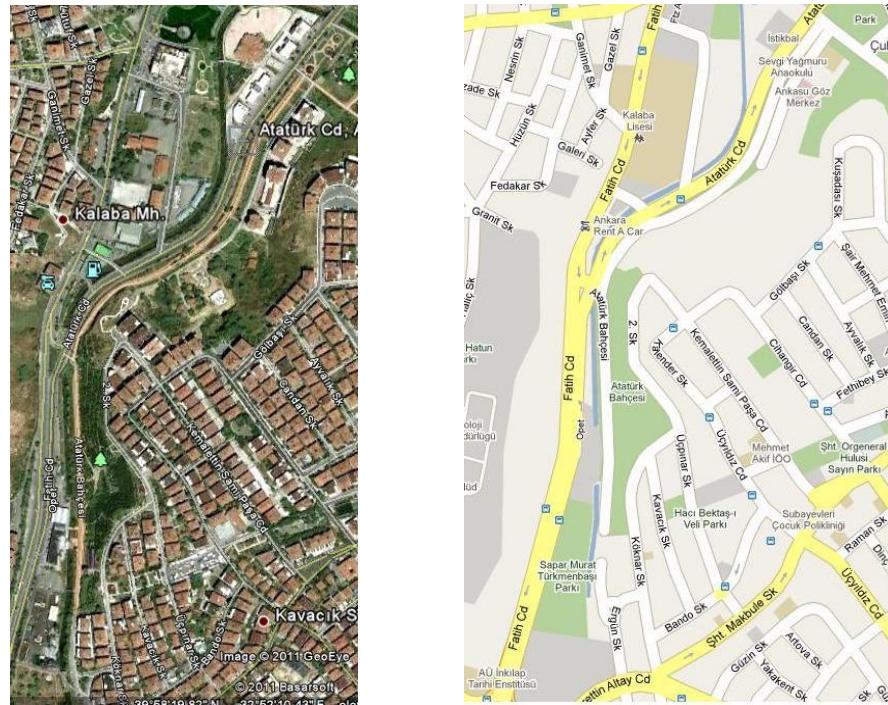


Figure 5 : Position of the Keçiören Park (Google Earth)

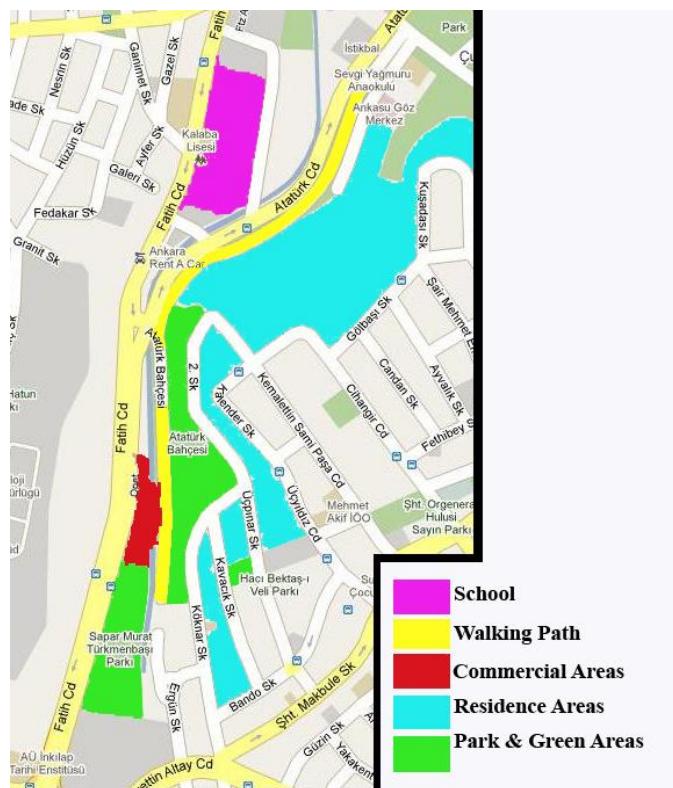


Figure 6: The usages of surrounding areas of Keçiören Park



Figure 7: Different zones in Keçiören Park

3.2. The characteristics of the districts in which the two parks are located

According to a research by Murat Güvenç about the distribution of income and status in Ankara, the Çankaya neighborhood is inhabited mainly by the upper income group; he claims that this area is the concentration place for the upper income groups of the society.⁴⁷

The Keçiören Park is located in Keçiören which is a crowded district in the northern part of the city of Ankara. According to the 2009 census, the population of the district is 796.646 of which 625,167 live in the center of Keçiören.⁴⁸ The district covers an area of 190 km² (73 sq mi). The Çubuk River runs through the middle of the district. Again according to Murat Güvenç's article this neighborhood belongs to the upper middle income groups.⁴⁹

In 1966 Keçiören was attached to the Municipality of Altındağ, then the district became a municipality in 1984. There are 43 districts within the boundaries of this district.

Keçiören is in the north of Ankara, 13 km far from the center of Ankara, with an altitude of 1075m, surrounded by mountains and hills and is a beautiful green area.⁵⁰

⁴⁷ Murat Güvenç, "Ankarada Statü/ Koken Farklılaşması: 1990 Sayım Örneklemeleri Üzerinde Blokmodel Çözümlemeli", Tarih içinde Ankara II, Ed. Yıldırım Yavuz. (METU Architecture Faculty, Ankara, 2001):17-34.

⁴⁸ Keçiören municipality's official web site, http://www.kecioren.bel.tr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=91&Itemid=280, (accessed January 2011).

⁴⁹ ibid

⁵⁰ ibid

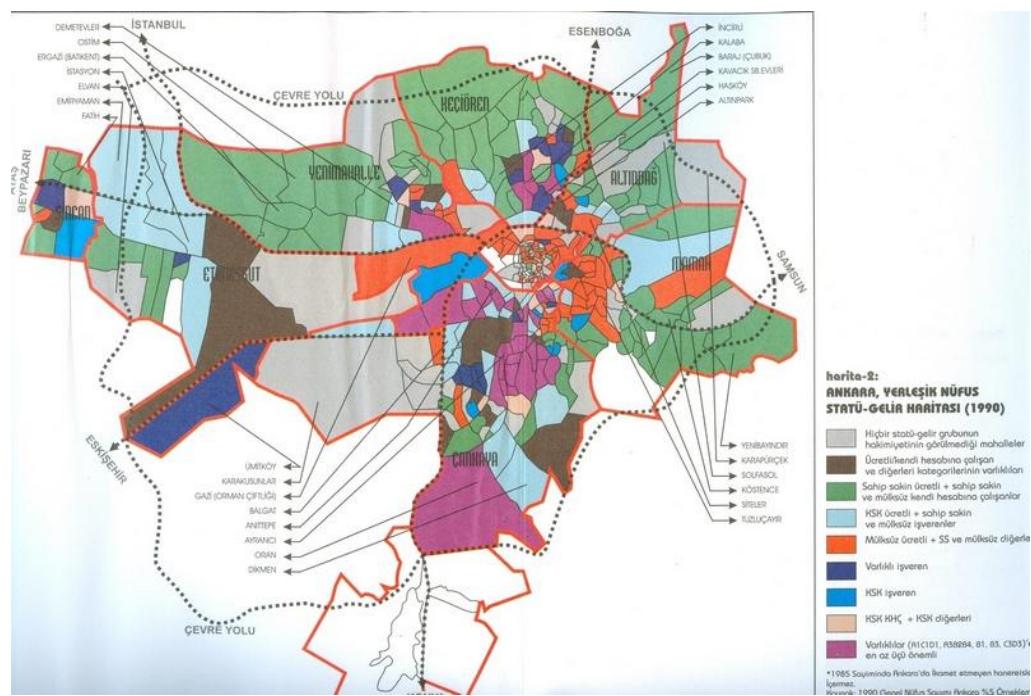


Figure 8: Distribution of Income and Status in Ankara (Murat Güvenç, Tarih içinde Ankara II)

Among metropolitan municipalities, Keçiören is the largest district in terms of population in the year 2009, according to the date of Address Based Population Registration System (ADNKS), has a population of 796,646.

In the internet site of Keçiören municipality, this institution defined itself as:

“Nature lovers
Human value
Environmentally conscious
Serving in different colors every season
Safe parks and open innovation
Municipality of the firsts Keçiören”⁵¹

⁵¹ Official web site of Keçiören municipality,
http://www.kecioren.bel.tr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=107&Itemid=338, (accessed January 2011).

Also the following are mentioned as this municipality's services related with the parks and green areas:

- Landscape studies in the parks the plans and projects of which were made before
- In facing all kinds of green areas, parks, production and plantation of garden plants, or ensure them from the places engaged in the production these plants in accordance with legal procedure.
- Maintenance, pruning, irrigation and pest conduct proceedings in the existing parks, gardens, green belt, all parts of the nursery and greenhouse plants.
- To do maintenance and to produce new seating sets, toys, sporting equipment and materials in all parks, gardens and sports centers.
- To provide suitable conditions to benefit the parks in a peaceful and safe manner.
- Increase the amount of green space per capita.⁵²

According to the Municipality's website there are 400 parks in total in this district and their total area is 1,505,000 m².

The head of Keçiören municipality is currently a member of the Political Science Faculty of Istanbul University Alumni and Foundation Vice President of the Board of Directors and also has been serving as

⁵² Official web site of Keçiören municipality.

Group President in Ankara. His active political life began since the founding of the **AK Party**.

Cankaya

Çankaya, in 1936, attained the status of district after the establishment of Ankara as a new capital city of the Republic of Turkey on 13 October 1923.⁵³

According to the 2009 census, the population of the district is 794.288 people. Due to high population of the district there are a lot of elementary schools, high schools and universities, generally it appears as a student district. More than hundred thousand students in eleven universities are currently studying in higher education levels. Most of universities of Ankara province are concentrated in this county.

Some of duties and responsibilities of the Directorate of Parks and Gardens in this municipality are enumerated as:

- The establishment of green areas, irrigation and lighting installations, benches, trash and so on. Provision of street furniture such as park infrastructures, rather than installation, repair and maintenance works related to or have to do.
- To write a comment and thought about any kind of physical and architectural construction, in parks, gardens, groves and green spaces.
- To create botanical and hobby gardens and make it available to the public.⁵⁴

⁵³ Çankaya municipality's official web site, <http://www.cankaya.bel.tr/index.php>. (Accessed January, 2010).

According to the municipality's website there are total 341 parks in this district and their total area is 1,060,705 m². M²

3.3. Methodology of the study

The research is based on the qualitative analysis of direct observation and in some depth interviews.

Objective: Parks provide places for people to experience nature, engage in physical activity, and relax. I have studied how residents with different incomes, education level and belonging to different cultural communities use public, urban neighborhood parks and how parks contribute to the physical activity and social life of people and gendered practices of people in public spaces.

Methods used: In the two public parks, I have used direct observation to document the number, gender, age group, and activity level of park users. I also interviewed park users.

On average, over how many individuals were counted in each parks, and about what proportion were sitting or moving when observed. Do more males or females use the parks? Or are males or females more active? Do interviewees identify the park as the most common place where they come regularly? Are both the use and frequentation levels of individuals in the two parks interrelated with the gender identity of users?

This study concentrates on the following questions:

⁵⁴ Çankaya Municipality's official web site.

- Who uses a park compared with those who live in the surrounding community? (Which can also show whether some groups are absent),
- How people use a park? (Which can identify whether specific facilities are being over, under, or misused)
- Why community members do (or do not) use a park? (Which can guide outreach efforts or initiatives to improve or change services) and
- What features visitors value? (which can help resolve conflicts among groups about park priorities).⁵⁵

Factors other than size may influence the park use, including accessibility, availability, security and quality of facilities. According to studies on public parks, besides physical activity, use is also likely to be a reflection of individual preferences, as well as age, exercise habits. Other important determinants include surrounding land uses and availability of organized events that draw people to the park.⁵⁶

3.4. Preparing the Survey Forms

For obtaining trustable information about the user profiles and use patterns in the parks, it was essential to prepare a survey form.

For the Arch 504 (Seminar in Thesis Research) some face to face interviews were done in both parks which help to provide a survey form. After preparing this form, in the period between 20 October and

⁵⁵ For more information on how parks managers can find answers to these kinds of questions, see “Understanding Park User ship,” the second brief in the parks series.) <http://www.wallacefoundation.org/SiteCollectionDocuments/WF/Knowledge%20Center/Attachments/PDF/ThePublicValueofUrbanParks.pdf>, (accessed November 2009).

⁵⁶ Deborah Cohen, Thomas L. McKenzie, Amber Sehgal, Stephanie Williamson, Daniela Golinelli, and Nicole Lurie, “Contribution of public parks to physical activity”. *American Journal of Public Health*, 97(3), (2007): 509 - 514.

14 November 2010, 140 face to face interviews were done in both parks, **70** person in Seğmenler Park and 70 in Keçiören Park.

Upon the findings of the literature, to find out tips on how to conduct the survey, the questionnaire form was prepared.

For evaluating the date and findings of this section, the main purpose of the survey is to find gender differences effective in use patterns and reflections of the urban environment to investigate the safety of use of urban public spaces. Women's income-generating activity is very important in urban public space use, so in questionnaire form I tried to gather data about this subject too.

In the interviews conducted with users of the parks, information about the following issues were asked:

- I. gender and age groups,
- II. educational level,
- III. employment status,
- IV. marital status and having children.

These were followed by questions about the:

- I. frequency of using parks
- II. the time when users come to the park and in which frequency,
- III. means of transportation to the park,

IV. main purpose of using the parks,

V. most used areas by users in each parks.

and finally other questions about the safety and security conditions of parks and related aspects followed:

I. the sense of safety felt by parks users,

II. the preference of being accompanied,

III. factors determining returning home from parks.

The survey was conducted in different days of a week and in different hours to reach more reliable results. Responses were collected, validated, coded and analyzed to generate a number of statistics which are used to illustrate the strength of agreement regarding the specific issues raised.

All the responses of the survey with help of specific software were analyzed. All the tables and charts were prepared in this way.

In the end of the questionnaire form there are two questions about the suggestions, critiques and comments of users of the parks. The answers were added and described in the evaluation of the findings of the survey.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS OF THE SURVEYS

In this chapter the results of the prepared surveys are analyzed and set in relative tables and charts to help to explore the important differences and resemblances between two parks.

The findings of the survey are categorized to the three groups, profiles of users of the two parks, the use of parks and the sense of safety felt by parks users.

Subsequent to these categorizations, the results of survey according the literature review are analyzed.

4.1. User profiles of the two parks

Characteristic of users of two parks like as their gender, age groups, educational level, employment status, their job sectors, marital status and having children, were illustrated. All of results under these subtitles help to introduce the user profiles of each park which determine the use patterns.

4.1.1. Ratio of male and female users

According to the result of the survey, in each park the percentage of male and female users and their age groups are explored in this section:

The results show that the percentages of female users are more than male users in both parks. However, there is a little difference between these percentages, according to the photos which were taken during nine months in both parks the number of female users in Seğmenler Park are obviously more than male users. The number of female users in Keçiören Park is also substantially high.

Table 1: The percentages of male and female users in Seğmenler Park and Keçiören Park

Gender	Parks	Seğmenler park	Keçiören Park
	Percentage		
Men		43.6	47.3
Women		56.4	52.7
Total		100.0	100.0

This table and the pie charts below help to realize the result of the survey better. Specially, in the pie charts the little difference in the percentage of male and female users can be seen clearly.

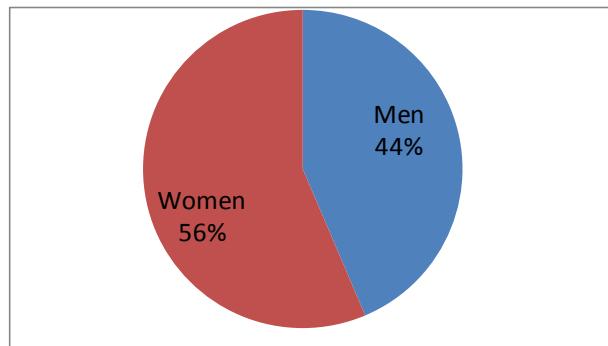


Figure 9: Percentage of male and female users in Seğmenler Park

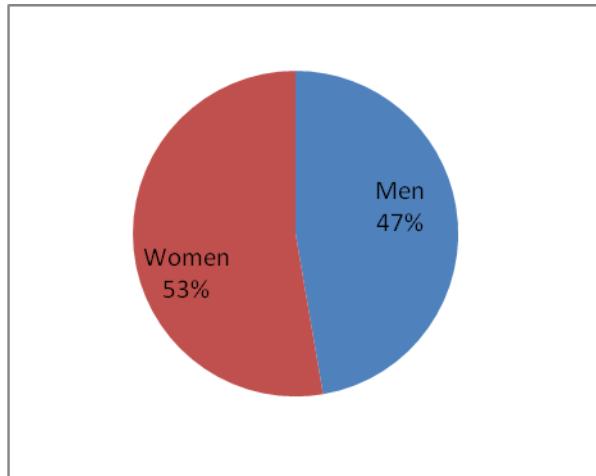


Figure 10: Percentage of male and female users in Keçiören Park

4.1.2. The distribution of age groups among the users of the parks

In this part of the survey, users are divided in 5 age groups. The main reason of this division is to explore the most active group in public urban life of each park.

Table 2: The percentages of age group divisions

Age groups	Parks	
	Seğmenler Park	Keçiören Park
Percentage		
under 20	5.5	9.1
20-30	41.8	30.9
30-50	40.0	16.4
50-70	9.1	34.5
70+	3.6	9.1
Total	100.0	100.0

According to the above table in Seğmenler Park percentage of users in the 20-30 years old and 30-50 years old groups are almost the same.

Also, on the photos, young populations are observed to be more than all users of the park. The other group which is active in this park is the people between 30-50 years old. These are families who prefer to come to this park for their children's playground and fresh air requirement.

Just **12.7** percent in Seğmenler Park are people who can be categorized as elderly peoples. There are calm zones which are not near the play ground area and elderly people usually alone seat on the benches and sometimes prefer to read newspapers or books.

A certain percentages of this group are also pet owner and they are belonging to the 50-70 years old group. Retired people with their dogs and sometimes with their grand children come to the park for playing and having fresh air. The number of female users in this group is more than male users.

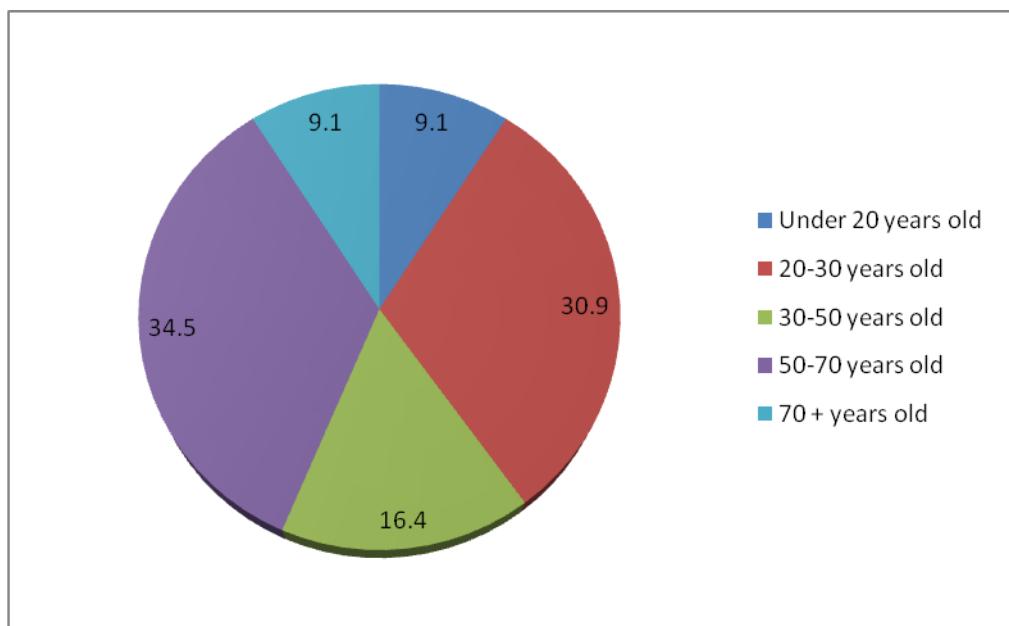


Figure 11: Age groups of Keçiören park's users

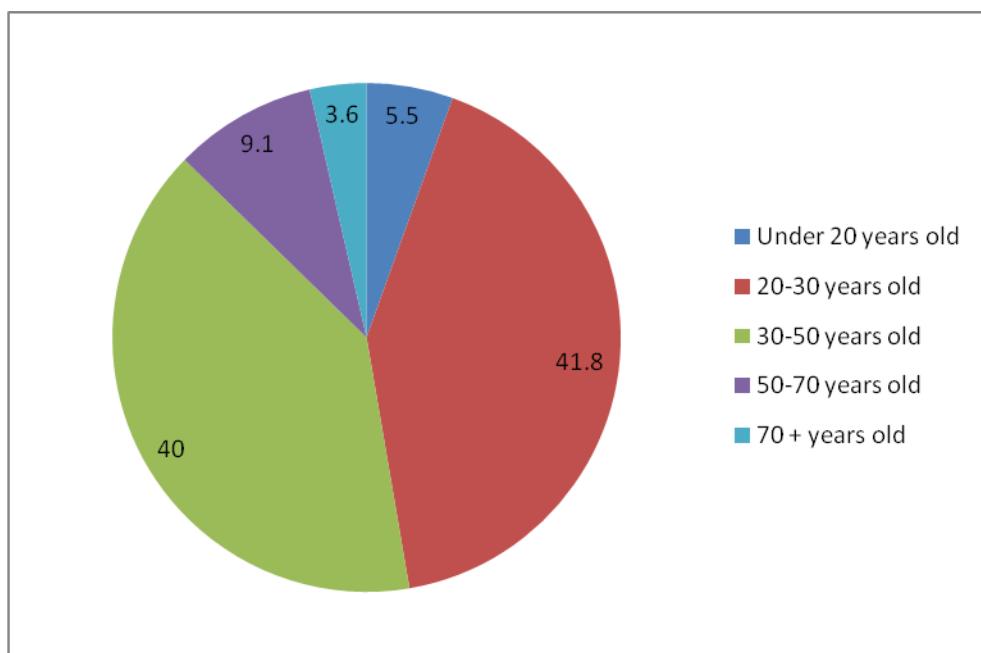


Figure 12: Users age groups of Seğmenler Park

Table 3: The percentages of different age group in Seğmenler Park and Keçiören Park

Parks		Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
Gender	Men	women	Men	Women	
	Percentages		Percentages		
under 20 years old	8.3	3.2	7.7	10.3	
20-30 years old	54.2	32.3	23.1	37.9	
30-50 years old	29.2	48.4	15.4	17.2	
50-70 years old	4.2	12.9	46.2	24.1	
70+ years old	4.2	3.2	7.7	10.3	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

48.4 percent of female users of Seğmenler Park are 30-50 years old, they are sometimes mothers who come to the park with their children, but usually they are women who come to the park for walking or running.

In comparative evaluation of both parks, the most active group among the park users are young women in the 20-30 years old group and the percentage of the women users in the 50-70 years old group follow them. The second group includes middle age women who usually come together in the park for picnic or meeting their friends in afternoon before nightfall.

4.1.3. Educational Status of the Parks Users

Table 4: The Percentages of different educational level of Seğmenler Park and Keçiören Park

Parks	Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
Gender	Men	women	Men	Women
Educational level	Percentages		Percentages	
Primary school	0.0	6.5	7.7	0.0
Middle school	4.2	6.5	19.2	27.6
High school	16.7	25.8	50.0	55.2
University graduate	79.2	61.2	23.1	17.2
Master / Doctorate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

As mentioned in the first part of the survey, the percentage of the young men in the Seğmenler Park is more than other users. Usually this group is university students or newly employed men who come to this public space with their friends or dogs. Also educational level of this neighborhood is usually graduated of a university. Likewise all

families which were in the survey claims they are graduated of a university. So, this can describe the 79.2 percent of university graduated men and 61.2 percent university graduated women in this park.

On the hand, in Keçiören Park the number of middle age male and female users is more than other users and this group's maximum educational level is high school. This group prefers calm and free promenades so they are partaking in entertainments in various parks. Keçiören municipality according to needs and suggestions of inhabitants has an active team for the design and development of parks. The head of green areas and parks in this municipality, Mr. Adnan DOĞAN asserts that they develop parks according to the inhabitant's needs and suggestions, for example he stresses that they add sport equipments in proportion to suggestions of park users.⁵⁷

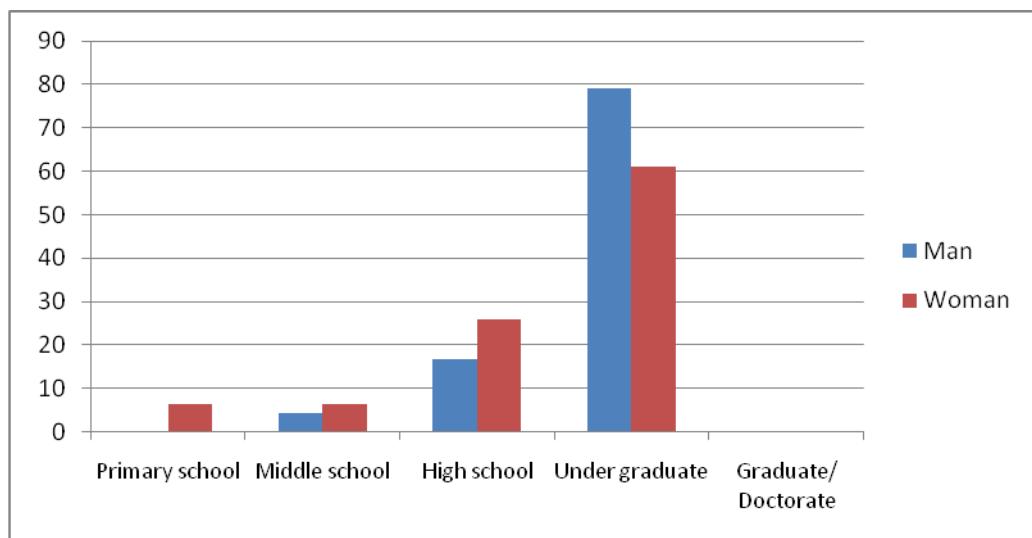


Figure 13: Comparative educational level of male and female users in Seğmenler Park

⁵⁷According to the Interview taken by author with Mr. Adnan DOĞAN, the head of green area and parks in Keçiören municipality.

In this chart educational level between male and female users of Seğmenler Park is comparatively evaluated. Unfortunately during my survey I have not faced with anyone who had a master or doctorate degree. However the percentage of university graduated people in this park is noticeable.

Among the women interviewed by participating in Seğmenler Park, it is observed that 3/5 of them are university graduates and only ¼ of them are high school graduates.

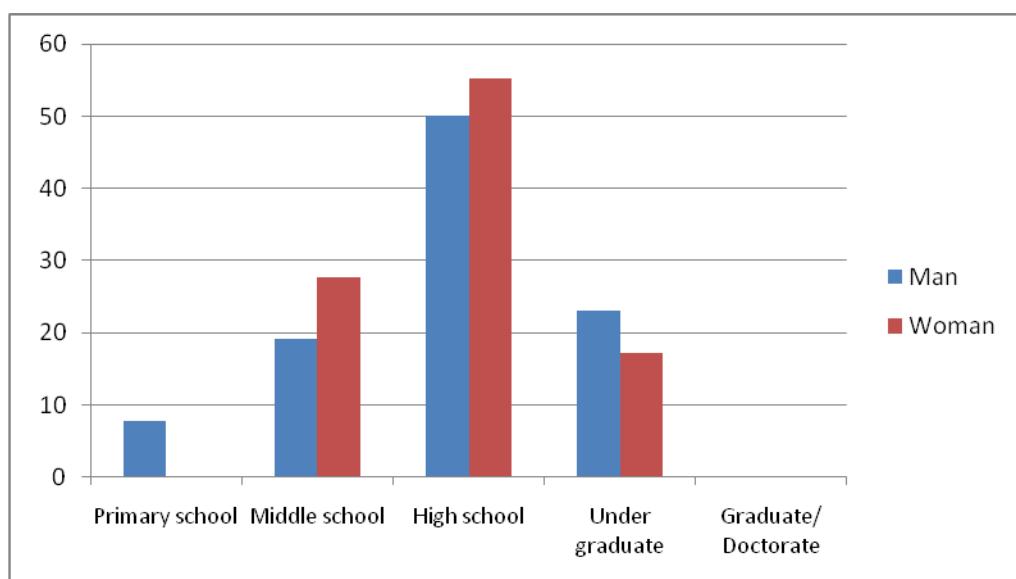


Figure 14: Comparative educational level of male and female user in Keçiören Park

This chart introduces the middle age and elderly users of Keçiören Park with maximum high school education. When I was trying to make inquiry with families usually fathers answered my survey questions and in most cases their educational level was high school.

4.1.4. Employment status of the park users

Table 5: Job status of male and female users of Seğmenler and Keçiören Parks

Parks	Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
Gender	Men	women	Men	Women
Employment status	Percentages			
Working	50.0	29.0	38.5	20.7
Unemployment	41.7	64.5	11.5	77.3
Retired	8.3	6.5	50.0	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

In the result of surveys and my personal observation most of female users of both parks are students and housewives, which explains the 64 or 77.3 percent of unemployed women.

This table explores the different group of users by their employment status. Also the charts below help to understand and compare the values more clearly. In Seğmenler Park the percentage of employed male users is more than employed female users. This explain the higher presence of female users in the park, because employed male and female users can only use their leisure times in weekends and late afternoons after work hours, for this reason, in the surveys the number of student and housewives, especially mothers, are more than the other users of the park.

As mentioned before in Seğmenler Park the percentage of elderly people is less than that in Keçiören Park comparatively. It is to note that 50 percent of the users are retired male users in this park. Usually the retired men spend their times out of home in cafes, but also in parks with their friends or sometimes they just use parks for reading

newspapers and having fresh air. The number of elderly women in this park is not negligible either. Similarly they spend time with their friend and grandchildren in the park.

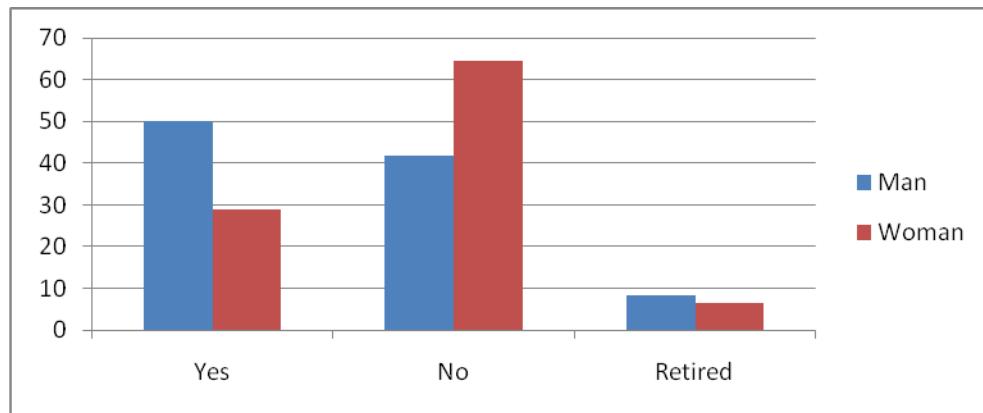


Figure 15: Employment of the users in Seğmenler Park

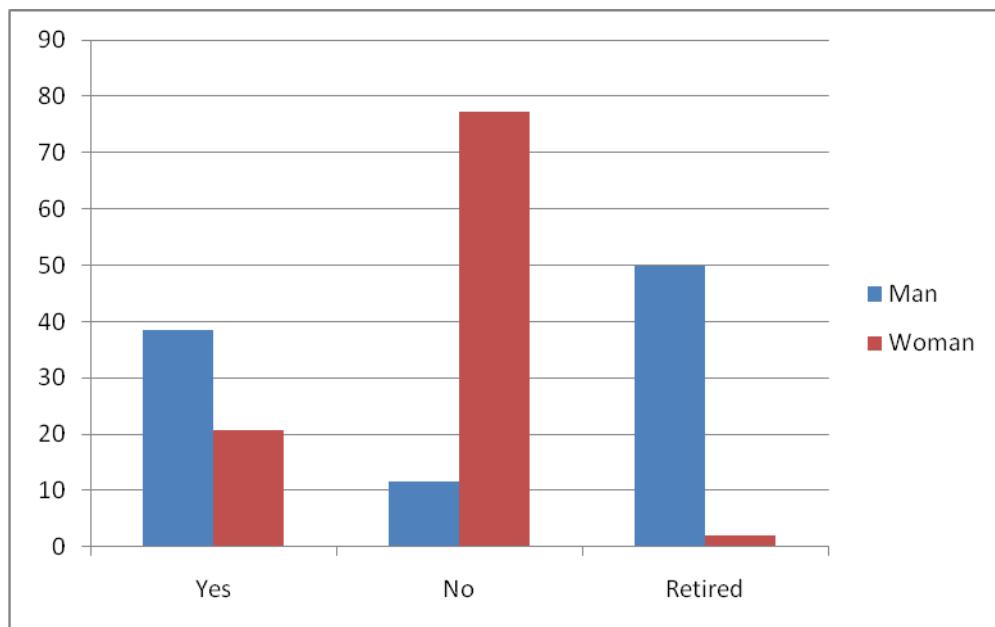


Figure 16: Employment of the users in Keçiören Park

Tables in the next page show the percentage of job sectors and status of park users. As mentioned before the percentage of young people in

Seğmenler Park is more than that in Keçiören Park, 41.7 percent of the users of Seğmenler Park are student.

Young boys and girls with their dogs can have good time with their pets and also socialize with other young people. Additionally in this neighborhood young students prefer to spend time out of home with their friends, they create a social environment by their presence in public life. This way of socialization is very common in Seğmenler Park, unlike the other park.

Table 6: The percentages of job division in different sectors

Employment sector	Parks	Seğmenler Park	Keçiören Park
	Percentages		
Private sector		32.7	41.8
Public employees		12.7	9.1
Housewife		25.5	29.1
student		29.1	20.0
Total		100.0	100.0

Table 7: The percentages of different job sectors of male and female users in Seğmenler and Keçiören Parks

Employment sector	Parks	Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
		Men	Women	Men	Women
	Percentages	Percentages		Percentages	
Private sector	45.8	22.6	80.8	6.9	
Public employees	12.5	12.9	7.7	10.3	
Housewife	0.0	45.2	0.0	55.2	
student	41.7	19.4	11.5	27.6	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

4.1.5. Marital Status of the Park Users

This part of survey's results illustrates that young users constitute the majority in Seğmenler Park; therefore 62.5 percent of male users are single men. The number of married housewives who prefer the park for morning sport and walking is considerable. Certainly the usage of park however varied considerably in two case studies. So the comparative evaluation of surveys leaves no room for doubt that in Keçiören district, parks are open public spaces for families and retired men.

Table 8: The percentages of marital status of male and female users in Seğmenler Park and Keçiören Park

Parks Marital status	Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
	Percentages		Percentages	
Married	33.3	61.3	65.4	65.4
Single	62.5	35.5	26.9	34.5
Widow	4.2	3.2	7.7	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

62.5 percent on male users in Seğmenler Park are single, while 61.3 percent of women in this park are married.

Surprisingly in Keçiören Park near to the 3/5 of male and female users are married.

4.1.6. Percentage of Parks Users who have Children

Table 9: The percentages of park users by children in Seğmenler and Keçiören Parks

Having children	Parks	Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
		Men	Women	Men	Women
		Percentages		Percentages	
Yes		33.3	58.1	69.2	55.2
No		66.7	41.9	30.8	44.8
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

58.1 percent and 55.2 percent of women in Seğmenler and Keçiören parks are women who have children. On the other hand just 33.3 percent of male users have children in Seğmenler Park.

Most of the male users of Seğmenler Park are young men in the 20-30 years old age groups, so they are usually single and do not have children.

Near to 70 percent of male users of Keçiören Park have children, also symptoms of this result can be observed in photos. Spending leisure times in parks is very common in this district for families. They come to parks for different reasons.

In contrary to Keçiören Parks, near to 70 percent of male users do not have children.

All those tables illustrate an important profile of users of each park. Seğmenler Parks is a collective public open space for young and single group of Çankaya district, unlike in Keçiören Park, dominant user groups are families.

4.2. The Use of the Parks

In this part of survey by some critical question about the frequency of use, preferred time for use, means of transportation to the parks, main purpose for coming to the parks and most used areas in the parks by users, tried to explain the use patterns of case studies which surely help the design process of open public spaces like parks.

It is important to have information about the needs and habits of users of public places. A well designed public space by paying attention to these patterns could respond to all the needs and habits of users.

4.2.1. The Frequency of Using Parks

Table 10: The percentage of frequency of use by male and female users of Seğmenler and Keçiören Parks

Frequency	Parks	Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
		Men	Women	Men	Women
		Percentages		Percentages	
Every day		4.2	9.7	11.5	3.4
4-6 times a week		37.5	22.6	19.2	3.4
2-3 times a week		25.0	35.5	7.7	20.7
1-2 times a week		25.0	16.1	46.2	41.4
Few times in a month		8.3	16.1	15.4	31.0
Rarely		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Just 9.7% of women interviewed in Seğmenler park come to the park every day, 22.6 % can come 4-6 times a week, 35.5% can come 2-3 times a week. Usually women are coming frequently for morning sport, walking or for their pet or children's playing. Coming 1-2 times in a

week and few times in a month, percentages of both of these cases are the same, 16.1 percent.

However men or women who come to the park every day have a lower percentages than other cases, they are owner of dogs who have to take out their dog every day for their essential needs. Especially in sunny days owners of pets do not lose this chance and 4-6 times in a week they come to the park. In Keçiören Park, however people who are coming to Keçiören Park frequently are old women and men bored at home after retirement. 46.2% and 41.4 divided to men and women who try to spend their weekends in public parks, benefit from fresh air and green area, 1or 2 times a week.

In this chart values can be compared easily between male and female users in both parks. All of these comparisons explore that Seğmenler Park has some routine users who come frequently and especially the weekends are the most crowded days.

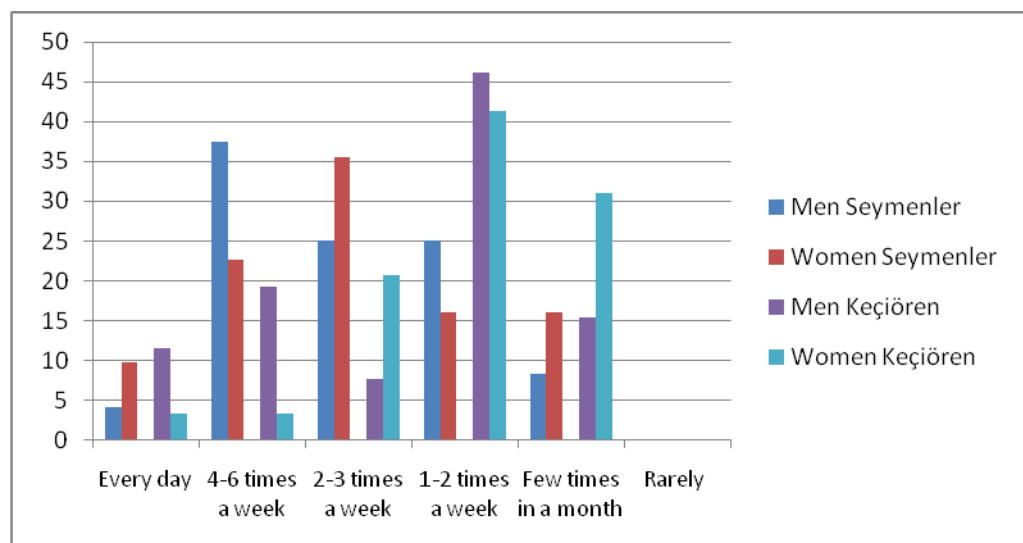


Figure 17: Illustrated comparative evaluation of frequency of using parks

4.2.2. The Time Preferred for Using the Parks

The time period in a day in this survey is categorized as: Morning (05.00-11:00), Noon (11.00- 14:00), Afternoon (14:00-18:00), Last afternoon (18:00- 20:00), Evening (20:00-23:00) and Night (23:00-05:00).

Table 11: The percentage of preferred time for using Seğmenler and Keçiören Parks

Preferred time	Parks	Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
		Men	Women	Men	Women
		Percentage		Percentage	
Morning		12.5	20.6	30.7	13.8
Noon		8.3	30.7	46.2	34.5
Afternoon		78.1	38.7	17.2	41.4
Last afternoon		0.0	6.0	3.8	10.3
Evening		1.1	4.0	2.1	0.0
Night		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

I should like to point out that according to result of surveys 78.1 percent of men in Seğmenler Park prefer to use park in afternoons. On the other hand female users divide 90 percent of their time preference between morning, noon and afternoon, almost equal proportions.

Near to the $\frac{1}{2}$ of the male users prefer to come to the Keçiören Park in the noon, but again women in this park prefer noon and afternoon especially in weekends.

Also none of women in the interviews prefer to use the park in evening and night.

In the Seğmenler Park just 4 percent of users prefer evening. According their claims, unfortunately the other park beside Seğmenler Park, kuğlu Park, is preferred during evening and night.

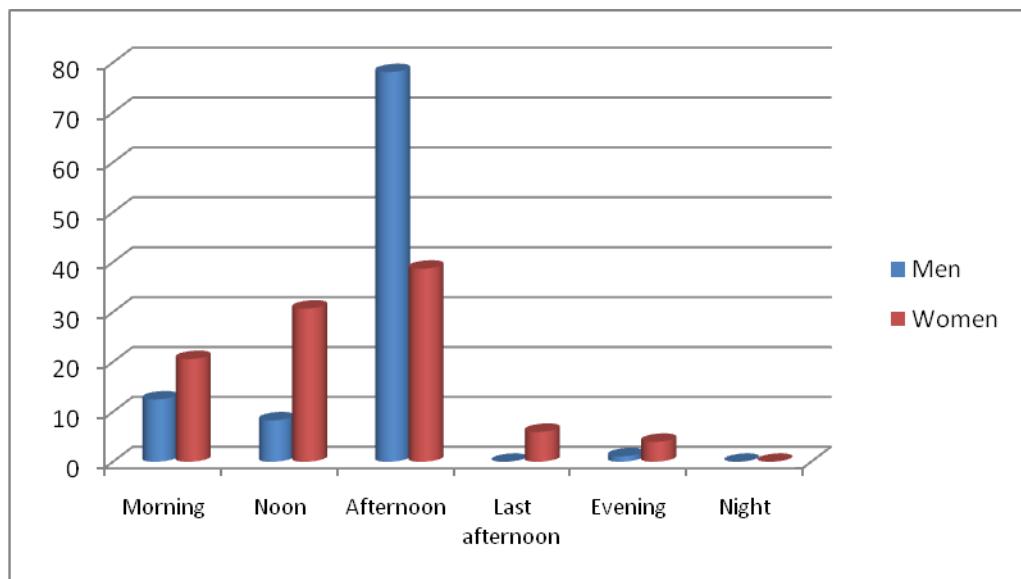


Figure 18: Illustrated comparative evaluation of preferred time by male and female users of Seğmenler Park

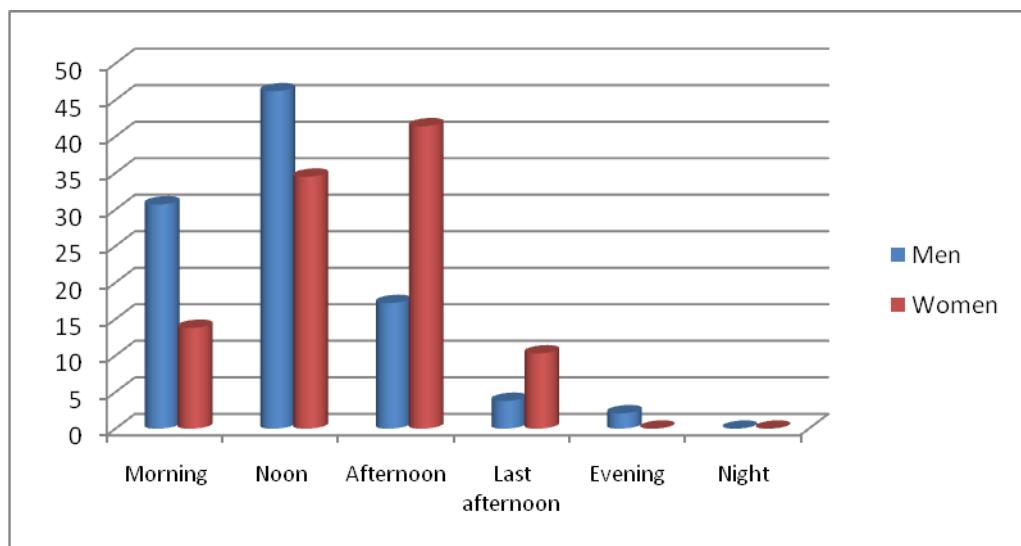


Figure 19: Illustrated comparative evaluation of preferred time by male and female users of Keçiören Park

4.2.3. Means of Transportation to the Park

In this section of the survey, the ownership of private car and means of transportation by male and female users of each park are examined.

Table 12: The percentages of means of transportation to the parks

Transportation to parks	Parks		Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
			Men	Women	Men	Women
			Percentage		Percentage	
walking		79.2	54.8	76.9	69.0	
private vehicle		16.7	32.3	19.2	24.1	
Taxi		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Mini bus		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
City Bus		4.2	12.9	3.8	3.4	
Metro		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Services		0.0	0.0	0.0	3.4	
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

The survey's results show that about 80 percent of male users in Seğmenler Park and Keçiören Park prefer to walk to the parks.

The percentage of women in Keçiören Park who walk to the park is more than women in Seğmenler Park.

1/3 of female users in both parks use private cars for their means of transportation to the parks.

Also just 13 percent of female users in Seğmenler Park use public transportation vehicles. This percentage is really low for male users of Seğmenler Park and male and female users of Keçiören Park.

4.2.4. Means of Transportation Preferred by Park Users

Table 13: The percentages of users with private vehicle in Seğmenler and Keçiören Parks

Parks	Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
	Percentage		Percentage	
Yes	66.7	61.3	30.8	17.2
No	33.3	38.7	69.2	82.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

This table explores that most of inhabitants in the Çankaya neighborhood own a private car. Nearly 70 percent of male and female users of Seğmenler Park, own a private car. On the contrary, in Keçiören Park 4/5 of female users do not own any private car, likewise 70 percent of male users.

The next table shows that most of the users of this park prefer public transportation as they benefit from special discounted or free transportation cards.

Table 14: The percentages of different means of transportation of park users in Seğmenler and Keçiören Parks

Vehicle	Seğmenler park	Keçiören park
	Percentage	Percentage
Private car	63.6	30.9
Taxi	9.1	0.0
Mini bus	3.6	7.3
City bus	21.8	60.0
metro	0.0	0.0
Service	1.8	1.8
Total	100.0	100.0

63.6 percent of Seğmenler park users use their private car as a means of transportation generally. Partly because of the lack of metro station in this district, the percentage of the public transportation users is very low. Nearly the 1/5 of people participated in survey use public transportation. In Keçiören Park, 3/5 of the interviewed people use city buses as a main means of transportation.

Table 15: The percentages of different means of transportation of users in Seğmenler and Keçiören Parks

Parks Vehicle	Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
	Percentage		Percentage	
Private car	66.7	61.3	30.8	31.0
Taxi	8.3	9.7	0.0	0.0
Mini bus	4.2	3.2	3.8	10.3
City bus	16.7	25.8	65.4	55.2
metro	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Service	4.2	0.0	0.0	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

When dividing the result of resurvey thought of gender of users in each park, some interesting data are obtained. Percentage of private car ownership in Seğmenler Park is almost the same between male and female users. 61.3 percent of women who participated in interviews are using their own private vehicles; the remaining 39 percent prove other public transportation vehicles.

In the case of Keçiören Park, as highlighted in the table, more than half of the people participated in survey claims that they prefer city buses as their main means of transportation.

4.2.5. Main Purpose of Using Parks

Parks are multipurpose public spaces. There are different activity areas in each park. In this part of the survey, six main reasons for coming to the park are formulated in the questions and almost all the answers of the interviewed people could be categorized under these answers. The most prevalent reason and purpose of male users in Seğmenler Park is meeting their friends. Nearly 40 percent of male interviewed people in Seğmenler Park come to this park as their meeting place with friends.

Table 16: The percentages of main purpose of male and female users of the parks

Purpose	Parks		Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
			Men	Women	Men	Women
			Percentage		Percentage	
Walking		8.3	12.9	7.7	6.9	
Because of children's play ground		8.3	19.4	11.5	13.8	
The green space requirement...		8.3	29.0	50.0	31.0	
Friends meetings		37.5	16.1	19.2	34.5	
Sport		12.5	16.1	3.8	13.8	
Pet walk		25.1	6.5	7.7	0.0	
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Also ¼th of the interviewed male users of Seğmenler Park claim that their main purpose of using the park is because of the basic needs of their dogs and their playing. Especially young male users with their dogs constitute 25.1 percent of all the male users.

Nearly 30 percent of female users of Seğmenler Park are coming to the park for the green space and fresh air requirement. Also 20 percent of female users come to the park with their children to the children's playground.

On the other hand, in Keçiören Park the purpose of exactly 50 percent of male users is the green space and fresh air requirement. Families and retired men groups share this purpose of use.

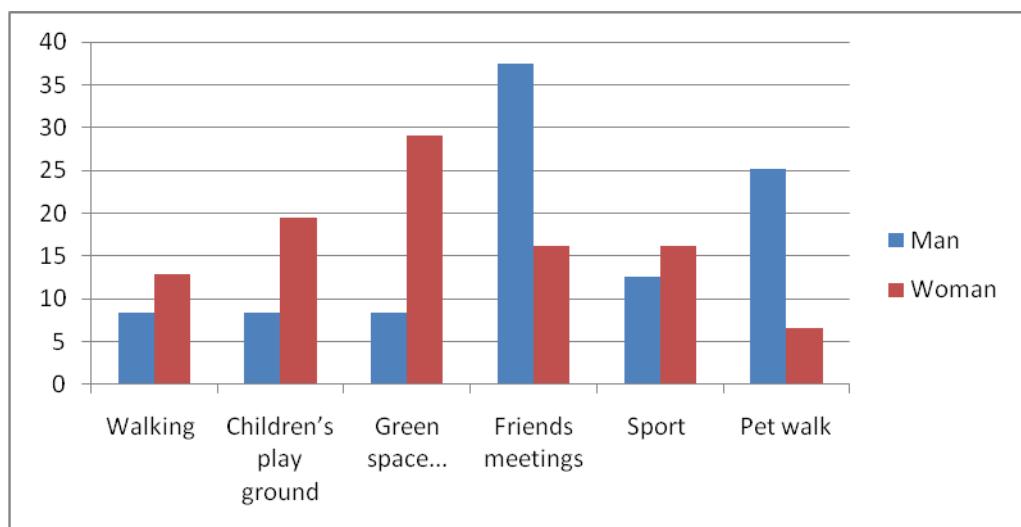


Figure 20: Illustrated comparative evaluation of purposes of users of Seğmenler Park

About 20 percent of male users come to the park to meet their friends in an open green area and just 11.5 percent of men come to the park with their children because of children's playground.

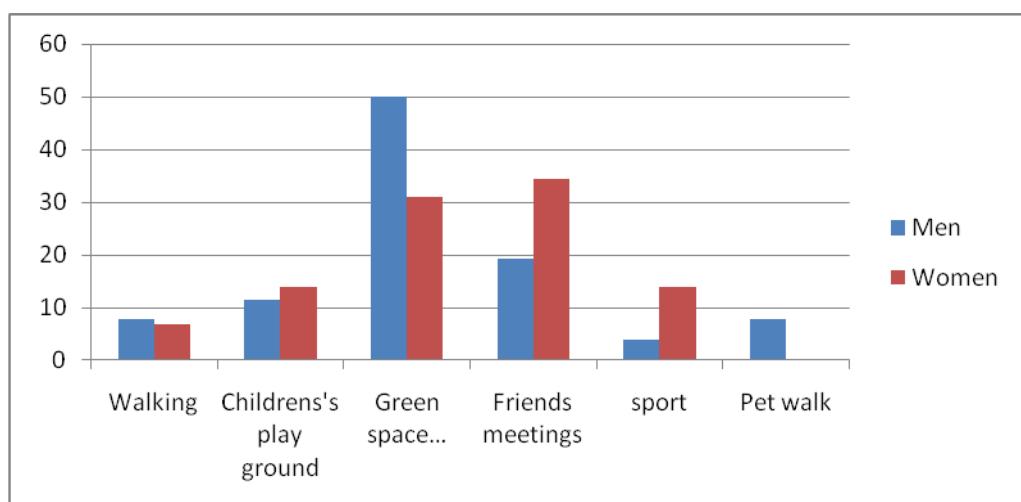


Figure 21: Illustrated comparative evaluation of purposes of users of Keçiören Park

As it is possible to see in the figure 20, in the Seğmenler Park, the ratio of female users in four of the main options of using the park are significantly more than male users. The ratios of women who come for walking, playground area of children, green space requirement and sport are more than men.

In Keçiören Park, the ratio of women who are active in the sport areas and walking paths are more than that of men, but when the options like walking and children playground are considered, these ratios are almost the same (Figure 21).

4.2.6. Most Used Areas by Users of Each Parks

Table 17: The percentages of most used areas by male and female users in Seğmenler Park and Keçiören Park

Areas	Parks		Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
	Percentages		Percentages			
Sport area	20.8	25.8	11.5	20.7		
Café	4.2	16.1	7.7	3.4		
Outdoor seating areas	66.7	48.4	69.2	65.5		
Children's playground	8.3	9.7	11.5	10.3		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		

Another Influential factor in the use patterns of the parks is the most preferred areas in the park by users. Zones in the parks are categorized in four main groups, sport areas, cafes, outdoor seating areas and children's playground areas.

Table 17 shows that most of the users claim that they use outdoor seating areas more than the other parts. 66.7 percent of men and 48.4 percent of women in Seğmenler Park use the outdoor seating areas. The variety of these areas in this park provides the users having different lifestyles and requests with different places.

Likewise about 70 percents of male users in Keçiören Park prefer outdoor areas in this park. The other most used area in both parks is sports areas like walking and running paths and sport equipments. In both of the parks, people are concerned with their health and also they are aware of the necessity of sport in their life. 20.8 percents of men and 25.8 percents of women in Seğmenler Park and 20.7 percents of women in Keçiören Park prefer sport areas. Also my personal observation reveals that women are more serious than men in sport in Keçiören district.

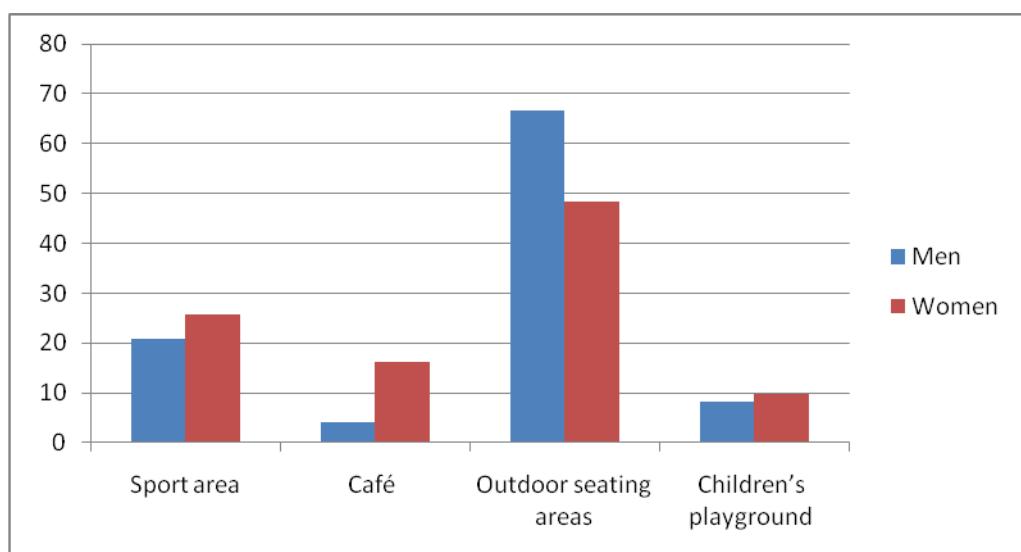


Figure 22: Illustrated comparative evaluations of different used areas by Seğmenler Park users

Figure 22 shows that women in Seğmenler Park are as active as men in most areas of the park and no unused area is found, however there

is an open amphitheater in this park but usually there is not any activity organized in it.

Women more than men use cafes in this park but it is important to say that unfortunately the survey is not conducted at nights in this park; but according to my personal observations this park's cafes are crowded at night and most of the users are men who come there with their personal cars because there is adequate parking area in front of the cafés.

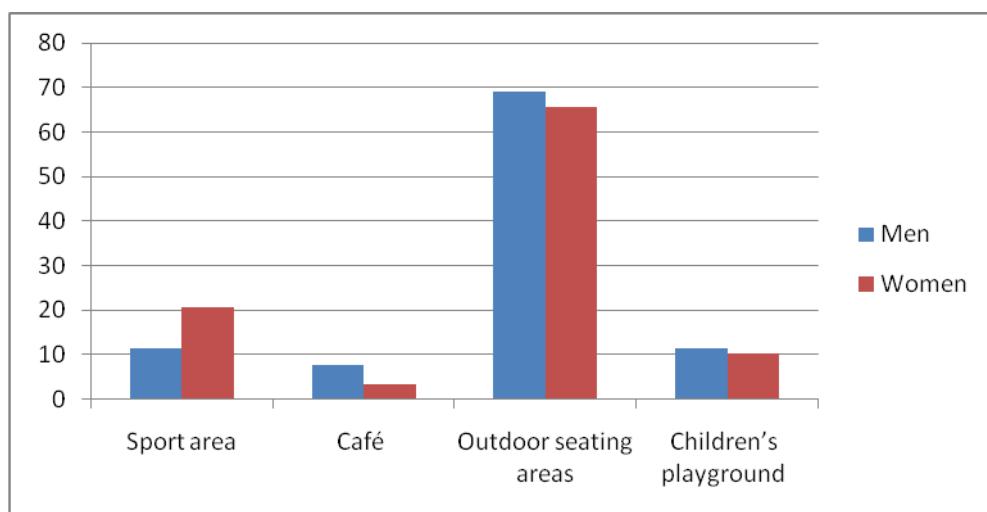


Figure 23: Illustrated comparative evaluations of different used areas by Keçiören Park users

In Keçiören Park the ratio of people coming to the café is less than that in Seğmenler Park, but outdoor seating areas, especially pergolas are most favorite areas in Keçiören Park for families and young couples.

4.3. Safety and Security Conditions of Parks and Related Aspects

When the impacts of gender on public spaces and vice versa are considered, the issues of security and safety are mentioned as the most important and impressive factors.

Especially women, in any way, do not prefer places in which they cannot have the sense of safety. Security is also important for men as well as women in public parks. So, in this part of the survey, some information collected about the sense of safety felt by the users of the parks, their preference of coming alone or accompanied by someone and finally determining factors of leaving the parks are considered.

4.3.1. The Sense of Safety Felt by Parks Users

Security of a place is affected by the design of it. Furthermore sense of safety in a place attracts more users, and in return the presence of more users in the parks provides more sense of safety for users.

Table 18: The percentage of feeling safe in parks

Parks Feeling safe	Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
	Percentages		Percentages	
Safe	100.0	83.9	96.2	96.6
Insecure	0.0	16.1	3.8	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The majority of men and women in the survey claimed that they feel safe in both of the parks; just 16 percent of women in the Seğmenler Park said that this park is not safe in the evenings. According to data

collected presented in Table 18, nearly 4 percent of men and women in Keçiören Park claimed that the park is not completely safe for them.

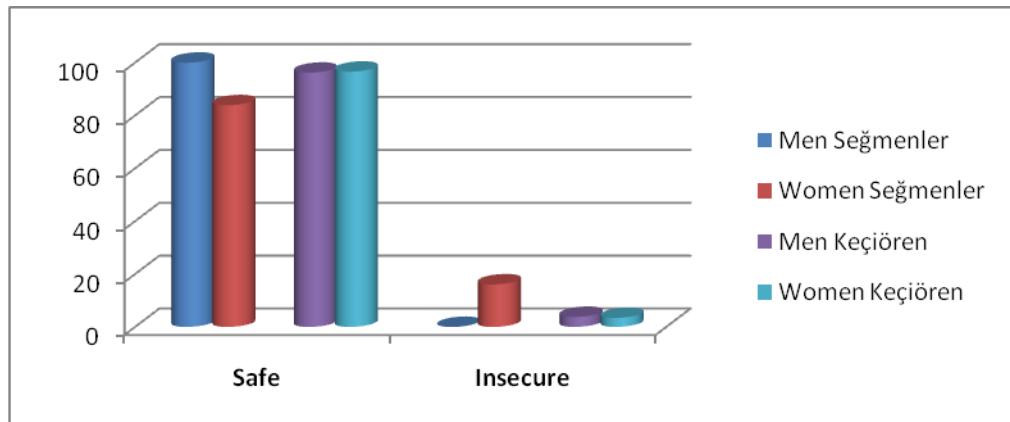


Figure 24: Illustrated comparative evaluation of feeling safe in parks

Figure 20 helps to evaluate the data of the survey. The ratio of the women who feel insecure in Seğmenler Park is more than that in the other case; the topographic condition of the park and inappropriate lightening system are some of the reasons of their fears.

4.3.2. The Preference of Being Accompanied

The preference of using the parks alone or being accompanied is another determining factor about the use patterns of users and conditions of the parks.

Table 19: The percentage of preference of using the parks alone

Using alone	Parks	Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
		Men	Women	Men	Women
		Percentages		Percentages	
Yes		62.5	54.8	53.8	13.8
No		37.5	45.2	46.2	86.2
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

More than half of the men and women in the Seğmenler Park and male users in the Keçiören parks claimed that they usually prefer to use the parks alone and they feel secure. Nevertheless 86.2 percent of female users in Keçiören Park do not use the park alone. Finding any alone female user in this park is rare.

Nearly 40 percent of male users in Seğmenler Park do not prefer to use the park alone but this is not a compulsory selection because they usually prefer to use the park with their friends or dogs. In this park significant proportion of the men and women who come alone are found in different hours a day.

Table 20: The percentage of preference of being accompanied in parks

Partner preferring	Parks		Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
			Men	Women	Men	Women
			Percentages		Percentages	
My spouse	12.5	9.7	7.7	6.9		
My friends	16.7	25.8	38.5	55.2		
My pet	37.5	16.1	3.8	0.0		
My family	4.2	9.7	19.2	20.7		
Girl/ Boy friend	8.3	6.5	15.4	13.8		
Alone	20.8	32.3	15.4	3.4		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		

The inhabitants of Keçiören district are people who usually were not born in the capital city, and have mostly traditional life styles. Also the political view of this neighborhood effects the way women are dressed. The number of veiled women is not negligible; yet they participate in public daily life like as morning sports, walking, spending time with

families and children in parks. But rarely single women can be observed in this park.

3.4 percent of female users prefer to use the park alone and most women come to the parks with their families or friends, unlikely, on the other hand the percentage of alone female users in Seğmenler Park is **32.3** which are very high in comparison with other alternatives.

4.3.3. Factors that Determining Returning Home from the Parks

Table 21: The percentage of reasons of returning home from the parks

Returning home	Parks	Seğmenler park		Keçiören park	
		Men	Women	Men	Women
		Percentage		Percentage	
Whenever I want		41.7	22.6	46.2	6.9
Trying to come back before nightfall		58.3	77.4	53.8	93.1
Times of public transportation		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

As mentioned for the sense of security, the users trying to come back before nightfall constitute a considerable percentage. In both parks women's main reason is this; they share the same answer although it might be for different reasons. After nightfall Kuğlu Park which is very close to Seğmenler Park is more attractive and safe, so people prefer this place and leave the latter. On the contrary, women usually state that they have to come back home before nightfall because their husband or father do not let them out after these hours.

As the comparison of the percentages illustrates, nearly **50** percent of male users of each park choose the first alternative, which means that there are no limitations for them in the hours of returning home. Most of them have their personal cars and also in Turkey's culture usually families do not make any limitation to men, so it is very common.

4.4. Evaluation of the Survey in the Light of the Literature Reviews

4.4.1. User Profile of the Parks:

Ratio of male and female users

- Women in groups prefer to spend their leisure times in open public spaces like parks and sometimes park is their meeting place for tea times or picnics.
- Women are using these parks as much as men now; even most of the times the majority of users seem to be women.
- Although the users of Seğmenler park claim women have been active in the Seğmenler Park since 1980s.



Figure 25: Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 26: Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)

The distribution of age groups among the users of the parks

- For many young people, open public spaces are the stage for performance, where they construct their social identity in relation to other members of the society. In Seğmenler park young

people especially in good weathers prefer to lie in the grasses. The topographic situation of the park and extended green spaces provide such a facility for users. Also, these areas are suitable places for dogs to run and play. As it is possible to see in the results of survey and the photos of Seğmenler Park, the numbers of people who have pets and especially dogs are notably more than the other neighborhoods, so owners of pets have to take them out every day. Usually dogs prefer to play in an open area, but sometimes other users of the park can be disturbed, then owners of pets prefer Seğmenler Park, because it has a specific zone reserved for pets near the main street. In this zone dogs can play and run freely, also this zone is not close to the children's play ground. So, families are satisfied.



Figure 27: Young people in different groups in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 28: Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)

- Young girls and boys under 20 years old are accompanied with their families or sometimes with their boy or girl friends. Rarely, girls in this age are alone in Keçiören Park; in fact most of the women users of this park do not prefer to use the park alone.



Figure 29: Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 30: Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 31: Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)

- Sometimes spending leisure times with their family in the green areas and sometimes meeting their friends are the reasons of young women's presence in Keçiören Park. Dominant ideologies, parent ideologies and the ideologies that arise from their own experiences of daily life do not let them to presence in public life alone.



Figure 32: Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)

Educational status of the parks users

- Improvement of culture, economic and class of women and society are the main reasons of frequented presence of women in public areas like parks.
- People's level of educational has a deep influence in social and cultural life. Those with limited education usually have limited social relations, which are restricted with the family and some close friends. But in Seğmenler Park I personally observed people who were keen on talking and sharing some information. They were really helpful and open to socialization. On the other hand, in Keçiören Park people usually presence in the environment of the parks in closed groups and socialization with strangers is really uncommon for them.



Figure 33: User groups in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 34: User groups in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 35: User groups in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 36: Friend groups in pergola in Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 37: Friend groups in pergola in Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)

- Conducting survey was more easy and enjoyable in the Seğmenler Park. People are really helpful and keen on the methods and result of the study. Also communication with users was simple and they usually welcome interviewer, on the other

hand, in the Keçiören Park capturing photographs or ever conducting survey was not as welcome as other park.

- Educational level and surly cultural level of users are effective factors in the socialization ways and their use patterns.



Figure 38: Young people sit on the grasses in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 39: Dogs are effective in socialization of people in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)

Employment status of the park users

- After retired men, the majority of users of Keçiören Park are families who come to the park for picnic, especially in weekends

family picnics under pergolas are very common. By this way all members of family accompanied by father or husband can participate in public urban life.



Figure 40: Retired men and women in Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)



- Employed women prefer to spend time in weekend with their children in nice weathers. Now it is very important for young mothers that their children can spend times in the fresh air with their families outside of home, also pedagogy asserts the importance of children's participation in public life and social relations. Parks are one of the convenient public places for this aim, so mothers take some of their times outside of home in the parks for their children in the playgrounds.

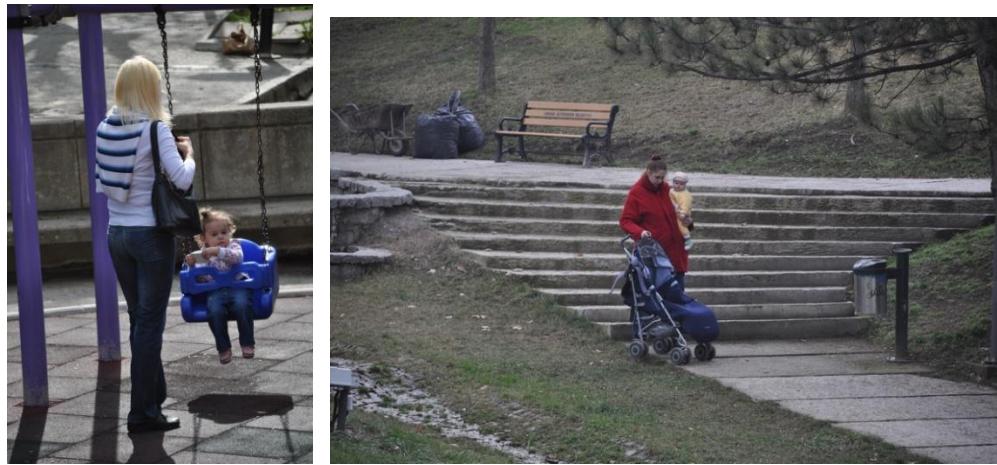


Figure 41: Mothers in weekend in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)



- Unfortunately the systems of inequality which are established in the culture and economic condition in Turkey elevate men's status above women's. Women seldom occupy the public realm. They rarely can have influence on the economic condition of the family. In the case of Keçiören Park, the way that women try to adapt this public park for their presence in public life is significant. Also, municipality's design policies help this process. There are many pergolas in different part of park and they are common places for female groups and families. Pergolas make special spaces which are private in public space. These

pergolas circumvent the probable gaze and let peoples to benefit from the green space and fresh air.



Figure 42: Pergolas in Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)

- The percentage of female students in Keçiören Park is important. On the other hand, the desire of the young girls and boys to socialize, or even to flirt with each other is observable, but still their socialization ways are not acceptable and common in this peripheral neighborhood of Ankara. They also prefer pergolas, secluded corners and waterfalls which are most romantic places of the park protected from the gazes.

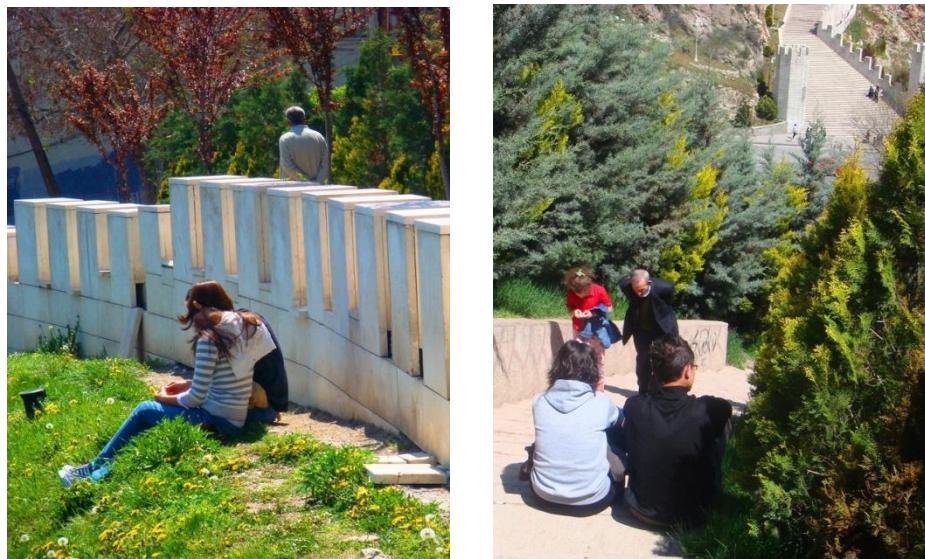


Figure 43: Young boys and girls do not prefer crowded areas in Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)

Marital status of the park users

- Seğmenler Park composed of big green areas and paths that cross the sloped topography, in Keçiören Park, paths are covered with a special material which is suitable for walking. There are a large number of pergolas and benches; also there is a different zone in the park which contains playgrounds and suitable places for children for biking.



Figure 44: Walking paths are covered with an especial material (Taken by the author)

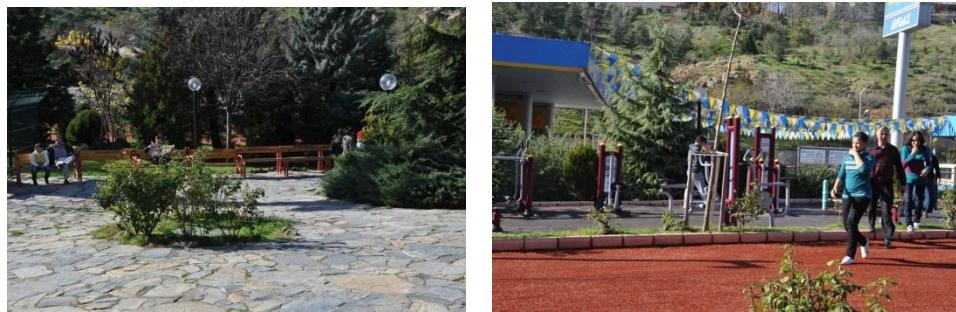


Figure 45: Benches and sport equipments in Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 46: Playground areas in Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)

- Presence of married women in Keçiören Park for any aims accompanied by their husband, but if they are in the age group of 50-70 years old, they can be seen in small friends groups too. Usually elderly people's mean aims of using parks are walking or fresh air and green space requirement. Therefore, they usually prefer more benches which are far from the playground zone. Also propensity to seat in the open cafes in the parks is very common in Turkish culture. For this propose there is café

near to the second playground in Keçiören Park which enable families to have tea or coffee when their children are playing.



Figure 47: Women in Keçiören Park are rarely alone. (Taken by the author)

Percentage of parks users who have children

- There are a number of specific activities which should be in parks. Children playground area is one of them. There are instruments like slide and swing in playground areas which are very attractive and collective for children. Most of the parents' reasons for coming parks are their children. Children in all ages need fresh air, green area, large areas for running, playing, cycling and meeting their peers. Park's environment provides all these opportunities for children. Therefore parents with their children are potential users of parks.



Figure 48: Children in playground in Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 49: Playground area in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 50: Children with their parents in playground area in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)

- Mothers are usually searching for ways to get out of the home and into public life. I would love to say that they take their

children on fabulous hikes, informative museum trips and culture-packed jaunts to the big city on a daily basis, but I would be lying. Mostly they stick close to home and explore their suburban parks and playgrounds.



Figure 51: Children play in the playground area while their children seat on the benches in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)

- Mothers and fathers can engage in play with their children or take a seat and watch them. Families who come to the park with their children have possibilities for socialization in the playground during children's play times. Young mothers share some information during this time.

4.4.2. Use patterns of the parks

The frequency of using parks

- In Keçiören Park people's attempt for walking, running and practicing with sport equipment is remarkable. However in crowded hours female users do not prefer using sport equipments but they are active in hiking traces. In the interviews they claim that at least they try to come for hiking 1 or 2 times a week.



Figure 52: Sport activities of Keçiören Park users (Taken by the author)

- In the same manner families come to the park one or two times a week for picnic and at the same time children can have fun in the playground. It is possible to spend time in the public space also all members of the family enjoy this multipurpose public space.



Figure 53: Families in the picnic in Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)

- On the other hand, in Seğmenler Park there are some different use patterns. Users are active in sport activities especially in the morning, although there is not appropriated walking or running path in this park, but the green environment and fresh air of the park attract users for sport.
- The majority of the users of Seğmenler Park are young people with dogs. Most crowded areas of the park are filled by people who are playing or walking with their dogs. Also these activities provide socialization opportunities for them. Users try to use

zones which are not near to the playground area because sometimes dogs make mothers to feel uneasy and anxious.



Figure 54: Young men in groups with their dogs in the Segmenler Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 55: Different friend groups with their dogs use the park while their dogs are playing. (Taken by the author)

- Generally it can be said that there are three types of park users. The first group is people who are in **terminal trip** and just use the park as a path. The second group use the park **functionally**, like as walking, running and using sport equipments. The last one uses the parks for **recreational** aims, which includes leisure time activities such as picnic, meeting friend, socialization and playing with dogs.

- In both of the selected parks all of three mentioned groups are active. Both of the parks have an extensive area, they are ongoing throughout a long street, so many people who are passing these street prefer to enter to the parks and see the green area.



Figure 56: In the background of the picture, Fatih Street is observable in the Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 57: Seğmenler Park is covered by two main streets; in the picture Ataturk Street is observable. (Taken by the author)

- In both of the districts habitants take sports into serious and try to participate in sport activities. Most common sports for both of the men and women are walking or running. There are active groups in the morning and especially in weekends. Keçiören Park there is a zone for sport equipments placed according to users' suggestions.

- Many users mention the green space requirement, need of fresh air, spending time alone or just watching the water falls as their main reason of using these parks. These people prefer to spend their leisure time in these free public spaces to meet their simple needs such as mentioned above. These requirements are the same for both the men and women, although some women cannot use the public park alone but just being out of home and getting some fresh air are enough for them.



Figure 58: Preference of using park alone by female users in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)

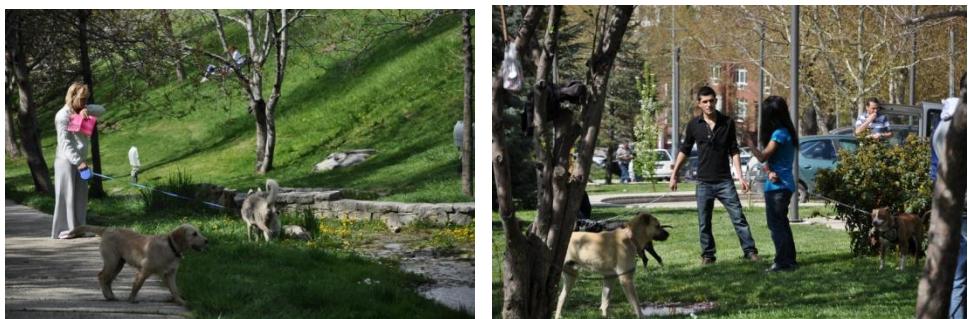


Figure 59: Some of use patterns of female users in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)

- There is a café in Keçiören Park named as a “café for family”. This type of naming shows that the owner of the café believes that most of costumers are families and this label can attract them. Indeed, the dominant users of Keçiören Park are families who come to park for picnic.



Figure 60: Cafe in Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)

- Also, retired men and women, mostly men, use the Keçiören Park in groups. So, they can spend time with their friend in public spaces.
- On the other hand, retired men and women are mostly observed alone in Seğmenler Park.

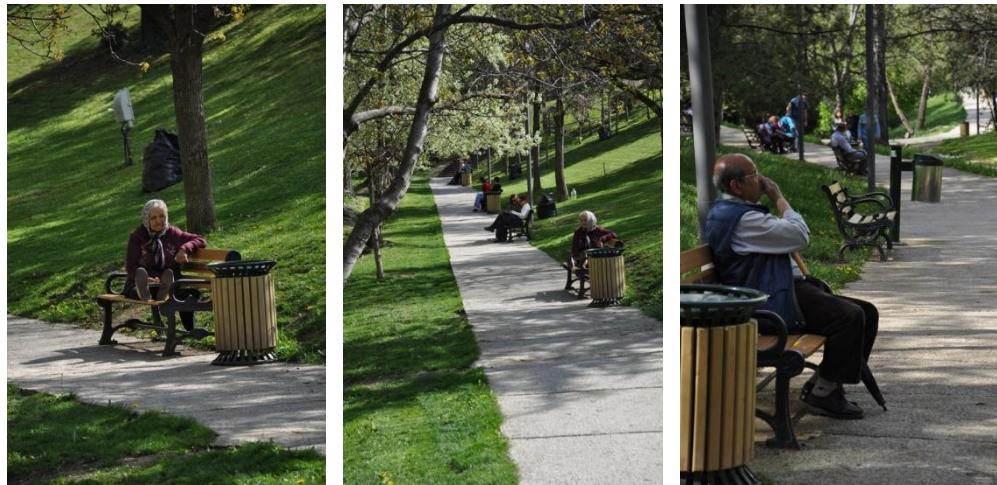


Figure 61: Retired men and women were observed alone in the Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 62: Seğmenler Park autumn 2010, old men and women prefer to use park alone. (Taken by the author)

- There is a puppet house in Seğmenler Park, but unfortunately it has been inactive for a long time. According to the users it was very active and entertaining during 1990s. Also young people in groups make music in this park which is very common in this district (Tunali Street).



Figure 63: Puppet house and musician group in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)

- As Jane Jacobs mentioned the density of people as a important factor of vitality in public spaces, during crowded hours and usually before nightfall, women prefer to use Seğmenler Park alone, but in the Keçiören Park alone women are rarely observed even in crowded areas.

The Time Preferred for Using the Parks

- One of effective factors in gendering a space is different time preference of male and female users in public spaces. This issue can gendered a place during that period.
- These divisions are sometimes compulsory or voluntary. In some cases this divisions can increase the participation of one sex. However, in most of cases, this division appears because of time scheduler of office hours of men and also, their leisure times. During morning, noon and early afternoon, men have to be present at their offices or work places, so participating in public spaces during these hours especially for household women, provide more safe, secure and comfortable environment for women.

- On the contrary, in some cases, for indulges need of watching and being watched, users prefer crowded hours in which they can be active and participate in urban context and public spaces. Weekends and late afternoon, after work hours, are times which are both of male and female users of parks prefer to be present in these public spaces.

Means of Transportation Preferred by Park Users

- In the division of social labor force, children's care jobs, in order to provide home needs, such as shopping are undertaken by women. Even though, they have lower ownership of private car than of men. In this case, one of the most important factors affecting women's participation in urban public life is means of public transportation. A system which can provide a suitable and safe transportation for women's needs in any time of the day, increase their participation in public places.
- Owning private vehicle in civil public life is extremely effective tool. In most of the cases it makes easier, more safe and secure access to any places. Especially for a woman public transportation is not always safe. Therefore transportation systems seriously affect participation of women in public spaces.
- Most of the Seğmenler Park users use their private cars as means of transportation to the park. There is a parking site in this park but it is not free, most of the users prefer to park their car on the street instead of this parking area. Weakness of public transportation in this district causes most of people use private cars. There are not any mini bus services around Seğmenler Park.

- But in the Keçiören Park, there are appropriate buses and mini bus services which make most of users prefer buses as the means of transportation to the park.



Figure 64: Bus station and parking area in the entrance of Keçiören Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 65: Users do not prefer the parking area which is not free in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)

4.4.3. The Sense of Safety Felt by Parks Users

- However there are many reasons for whatever women's fear or feeling insecure in urban context, scholars have pointed out that this factor can have a significant negative impact on women's quality of daily life because it restricts their spatial opportunity and freedom.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ Day, 1994; Haskell & Randall, 1998/1999; Keane, 1998; Pain, 1991; Valentine, 1989 Day, Kristen. Conceptualizing Women's Fear of Sexual Assault on Campus: A review of causes and recommendations for change, *Environment and Behavior*, 26, (1994): 742–765. Lori Haskell, & Melanie Randall, "The Politics of Women's Safety: Sexual violence, women's fear and the public/private split", *Resources for Feminist Research*, 26, (1998/1999):113–149.

- It is not an inborn quality of women to be fearful, during their experiments and expectations from public spaces, when they face problems make them vulnerable in society, when they found that there are not any pre-designed solutions for these problems, also under pressure of their families they become fearful. In this way, a place can be insecure for women, while male users feel actually safe. Here the concept of gendered spaces appears. By connecting memories and emotions, gendered space is shown to be an active process that comes into being.⁵⁹
- Feeling safe in public space is one of most important factors of making place attractive for users, so safety is an important quality of places. The aim of surveys of this study is also to reveal and explore the response of users of each park about this important subject and quality of park.
- However all men users in the interviews in Seğmenler park claimed that they feel safe in this park, but after fall night no one prefer to stay in this park. According to my personal observation, although there are at least two security personnel all the time in the park, because of poor lightening system of park and lack of any attractive element in the park, this park is almost empty after nightfall. Also, it seems that these two securities personal are

Carl Keane, "Evaluating the Influence of Fear of Crime as an Environmental Mobility Restrictor on Women's Routine Activities", *Environment and Behavior*, 30, (1998): 60–74.

Rachel Pain, "Space, Sexual Violence and Social Control: Integrating geographical and feminist analyses of women's fear of crime", *Progress in Human Geography*, 15, (1991): 415–431.

Gill Valentine, "The Geography of Women's Fear", *Area*, 21, (1989): 385–390.

⁵⁹ Lia Bryant, "Exploring the Gendering of Space by Using Memory Work as a Reflexive Research Method", *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 6(3), (2007):5

not enough for this expended park, the topographical position of which makes a low façade from main roads, likewise this park is between two important main streets, Iran Street and Protokol Street (Atatürk Boulevard), which are very close to the many embassies. Due to this fact, there are two police teams in each street all the evening and night.

- However, in Keçiören Park there are not any security personnel but most of users feel safe in this park. Because of existing cable car system in the park, there is sufficient lightening system after nightfall, and also park has a wide facade from the street. There is a café in the park which attract customers; additionally there is an oil station beside this park which keeps around of park crowded.
- It is important to mention that all people who said that they feel safe in Keçiören Park assert on the fact that just in the day time they feel safe. Some of people interviewed claim that their reason to prefer is that this park is quit extended and has sufficient security that do not let any unwanted people gather in the park. However this park is not as extended as Seğmenler Park but it is well maintained all the time that makes sense of safety too.

The Preference of Being Accompanied

- Living in a Muslim country really influences the gender relations especially in public life. According to the traditional beliefs an obedient women have to be protected by her husband or father. Public places are the most common places where women need more protection because according Muslims culture women are

vulnerable assets. Economic and cultural condition and also the lack of self confidence make women more vulnerable.

- To diminish gender differences, public places safety has to be taken into account in the urban design. This could be improved by integrating sufficient lightening in the evening and by adding attractors, such as shops and cafes near parks. Then it is possible to see people throughout the day with a large variation of actors entering the public scene.
- Participation in outdoor activities like employment in work, forms of market access and using open public green area, women's ability to do all of these things is mediated by the men who control the terms of their entry into the public sphere, where all of these activities are generally located.

The Sense of Safety Felt by Parks Users

- As mentioned before, sufficient lightening system is effective in feeling safe in parks. In both of the parks there is a lightening system but user in Seğmenler Park claim that usually this lightening system is not active at nights. But because of cable car system in Keçiören park lights are turned on till late hours at nights.
- Also, in Seğmenler Park there are security guards and three security office in different zones of the park.



Figure 66: Lightening system of Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)



Figure 67: Security office in Seğmenler Park (Taken by the author)

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

Gender differences and relations are efficient factors in the use of public spaces and public life experienced in these spaces. Since 1960s, there has been an increased attention in the role that public places play in shaping social relations, but the effects of gender differences are subjects which are not investigated sufficiently. Consequently, there must be sensitive public design methods into gender differences and different needs to transform public places into more safe, secure, vital and usable places for all sections of the community.

It is obvious that parks are one of the most important public urban spaces where daily public life can be experienced. Green space requirement, the need of socialization, meeting friends, spending leisure times, fresh air requirement, the need of children's playground, and spending time with family can be mentioned as some of the fundamental reasons of using a park. Therefore, investigating on gender issues on public spaces and improvement of design methods to meet different needs of users, can increase the quality of public life.

In the growing cities like Ankara designing open public spaces to meet the needs of different sections of the population is a pressing task. The city has expanded into the surrounding region, for this reason urban landscape designing and new open green public spaces are the

tasks which are still important for local government to satisfy residents. Their aims are to improve and upgrade public recreation areas in districts; they are places in the neighborhood where everyday life unfolds.

The development of re-using vacant sites in districts is not a new undertaking. Many new parks have emerged in recent years in Keçiören district while there is an abundant development of commercial and industrial areas. Due to the political objectives and financial situation most of the vacant and adjacent sites to construction areas have been converted into green spaces, leisure and recreational areas.

Ali Madanipoor emphasizes that, in designing in urban scale, one should avoid looking up urban public spaces and try to impose a compulsory order to these places. He points out the different experiences of urban spaces when one participates as a user in urban environment.⁶⁰

Gender issues in public spaces are one of the aspects which are not perceptible within the theoretical literatures about the equality of genders or even separated places are proposed by some scholars. All of the experiences, when participating in an urban public space are different according to the person's gender and identity of place. Hypotheses and theories can be useful to revealing the main reasons of these differences but sometimes there are some hidden influential factors. Basically, the experience of reasons is not easy, because there are many effective factors affecting the experience and perception of a public place.

Gender issues on public places are not a separated and isolated subject, all cultural, economical, educational or even political conditions

⁶⁰ Ali Madanipoor, *Design of Urban Space: an inquiry into a Socio-spatial Process*, tr. Farhad Mortezaei, Pardash ve barnamerizi shahri, (2008):93.

are effective, and also people of community effect gender relations. As mentioned in chapter 2, the concept of gender is not fixed; it includes different aspects in different communities.

So, when I use both parks as spaces where the public life unfols, as a woman, I have different perceptions and experiences which are in some cases different from my hypothesis. In each of the park there are different use patterns.

So, when I used these public parks as a participator (user):

Firstly, the main aim was to explore use patterns of users, this was done by face to face interviews and personal observations. In order to clarify effective factors in these use patterns.

Then, this study aimed also to reveal needs of these different use patterns in both of the parks.

During interviews, this study attempted to find out users' suggestions to improve the environment and condition of these public spaces.

Use patterns of Seğmenler Park users can be ranged as below:

1. Dominant users of the park are young men and women.
2. Also users with dogs are most active group of the park.
3. The ratio of families in this park is less than the first mentioned group, but still they are an important user group.
4. Presence of women who come to the park alone in different hours of a day is observable.
5. Young men allocate some zones for themselves for playing with dogs and socialization.

6. Presence of users in the park in addition to all reasons which were claimed by users, according to my personal observation, is for making social relations and meeting new people.
7. The park is not considered as a safe place after nightfall.

In Keçiören Park use patterns and needs can be categorized as below:

1. The dominant user group is families and groups of men and women who know each other and come to the park for spending time.
2. The second active group in the park is people who are coming for sport or walking, but this group is active in specific times of a day, like morning and noon.
3. Also as a free public place, this park is very popular for young couples.
4. Presence of women who come alone to this park is rarely observed.
5. Retired men in groups are one of the most active groups in the park.
6. Semi-closed spaces (pergolas) are very desirable in this park.

After reviewing all of the use patterns, problems and disadvantages of these parks, mentioned by users or observed by the author as a user of these parks, it is possible to say that:

According to the five effective elements introduced by Kevin Lynch as elements of the image of urban spaces, landmarks have a specific role

in attracting and perception of a space. In the main entrance of Seğmenler Park, there is a sculpture hidden in the vegetation and lost its effectiveness, but on the other hand there is a cable car system in the Keçiören district and its station is in Keçiören Park. This system and its tower have an attractive role as a huge landmark for this park.

However, due to fact that Seğmenler Park has a thirty years history and there are many users who have used this park when they are child as a one of most extended parks in Ankara, there are many users who use this park regularly.

Also, edges are another important effective element of a public space. Edges provide facades which are attractive for users and also appropriate and clear facades provide the sense of safety of users too.

There are some general conclusions and suggestions in the design of public space in the light of the **gender** issues:

- Gender differences should be one of the key considerations in design process of public spaces like parks.
- Local planning authorities (municipalities) should develop gender-disaggregated statistical data on the needs of men and women in each district.
- There is an essential need to pay more attention to gender considerations at the local public urban planning level.
- Local authority (municipalities') technical departments (Parks and green space department) need to develop awareness of the different impact of their decisions and designs on women and men.

- Urban planning policy should pay more attention into account the requirements of women as well as men in the location of public parks.
- Usually most of the planners and urban decision makers are men; they need be aware of the different needs of women and men.
- There is an essential need of a prepared guideline to help local planning authorities to integrate gender considerations into planning.

According to the suggestions of the users there are some general improvements which must be paid attention:

- improvements of design process in accessibility and flexibility of parks,
- more broadly defined sports equipments,
- a better integrated playgrounds into overall park design, which improves safety for all users and offers more comfort for accompanying adults,
- improvement in safety by increasing security personnel and sufficient lighting system,
- Implementation and improvement of information offers, and most importantly provide a basis for the development of green space strategies.
- Clear signs are another issue, since it is important for users to know where they are and how they can exit the park. This is very important from safety perspective
- Well placed urban furniture in the parks
- Women prefer appropriate wardens, bus conductors and toilet attendants rather than police.

Public space is where people with different personalities, tastes and behaviors can experience the space. Public parks are one of these spaces. Since 1960s, there has been an increased interest in the role of public spaces play in shaping public culture. There have been considerable studies, projects and management activities in making parks into more comfortable, safe, secure, vital and usable for all sections of community. Providing spaces of quality for all of park users is an important matter. How men and women feel when using these parks is the main focus of the study. An interdisciplinary approach to parks is needed. Many effective actors must collaborate to enhance the quality the parks.

Parks should be regarded as an important element of public realm which are effective in social and gender relations. An improvement project regarding a park should enhance environmental conditions to provide a variety of user activities as well as providing a suitable realm for socialization.

In a properly designed public park, many activities can occur simultaneously by men and women without any conflicts among users. Also, it is important to mention that a successful park do not emerge suddenly and without paying attention to the different culture and needs of inhabitants.

During this study different needs of two different districts in selected two parks are revealed and some sufficient design suggestions for improvement of conditions for both of men and women in different age groups are suggesting.

Urban public quality concept has become more important for the last couple of decades. For this reason, gender issues in public places and parks in our context, are examined in some detail.

After identifying the use patterns, it should be determined that how could the design of a park support and encourage these patterns. A well designed public place beside cultural, economical and social improvement can influence and improve gender and social relations.

As Jan Gehl says: "...in a good environment, a completely different, broad spectrum of human activities is possible".⁶¹

The development of public spaces in cities is subjected for many studies in urban context. Public spaces can reflect an image for the city. Being a central place for friends meeting, spending leisure times or any various activities improve the social environment in city. Public parks have to be sustained because communities need more variety of social experiences in the public realm.

⁶¹Jan Gehl, "Three type of outdoor activities; Outdoor activies and quality of outdoor space", *Urban design reader*, Mattew Carmona, Steven Tiesdell,143.

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APPENDIX

THE QUESTIONNARE FORM

INFORMATION OF PERSON WHO RESPONDENS SURVEY

Date/Time:

Gender: Female Male

Place of birth: Ankara Outside Ankara

Age: under 20 20-30 30-50 50-
70 More than 70

Your level of education: Primiry school Elementry school
 High school Graduate from a University Ms,
Ma/ PHD

Reside Neighborhood: Çankay Keçiören

Your Occupation:

1. Marital status?

- 1. Married
- 2. Single

2. Do you have child?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

3. Are you working?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Retired

4. Where are you working?

- 1. Private sector
- 2. public employee
- 3. housewife
- 4. student

5. Which of means of transportation do you use?

1. Prive car()
2. Taxi ()
3. Mini bus ()
4. City bus ()
5. Metro ()
6. Services ()

6. Do you have private car?

1. Yes ()
2. No ()

INFORMATION ABOUT THE USE OF THE PARK

1. Why do you come to this park?

- () 1. For walking
- () 2. For playground area of children
- () 3. Green space requirement/ reading books or newspaper/ sunbathe / picnic
- () 4. Meeting friends
- () 5. Sport
- () 6. Pet walk

2. Which areas of the park more often do you use?

- () 1. Sport areas
- () 2. cafe
- () 3. Outdoor seating areas
- () 4. Children's playground

3. When do you prefer to use the park?

- () 1. Morning
- () 2. Noon
- () 3. Afternoon
- () 4. As the evening / after work () 5. Akşam
- () 6. Night

4. How often are you going to the park?

1. Every day ()
2. 4-6 times in a week()
3. 2-3 times in a week ()
4. 1-2 times in a week ()
5. 1 time a month ()
6. Very rare ()

5. Do you feel safe in this park

1. Yes () 2. No ()

6. Do you prefer to use the park alone?

1. Yes () 2. No ()

7. If you come not alone, who do you prefer to come with?

1. My spouse () 2. My friends () 3. My pet () 4. My family ()
5. Girl / Boy friend
6. Alone ()

8. How do you come to the park, by which means of transportation ?

() 1. onfoot
() 2. Private car
() 3. Taxi
() 4. Mini bus
() 5. City bus
() 6. Metro
() 7. Scool service

9. What are the factors determining the time of return home?

1. when ever I want I can return home ()
2. before nightfall ()
3. I set myself in times of public transport ()

10. Can you mention the most used areas in this par and why?

1
2
3
4
5

11. Can you mentions areas which you do not prefer to use? Why?

1
2
3
4
5

12. What do you prefer to be in this park? Do you have any suggestions?

.....
.....
.....