



**İZMİR YOUTH MUNICIPALITY  
SHELTERING PROBLEM REPORT**

**Prepared by: İzmir Youth Municipality Founding Team**

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## **OUR VIEW**

In addition to the difficulties brought by the pandemic process, we have been observing for a few years that the economic turmoil brought on by the wrong decisions taken for many years has made the pain of the families even more unbearable, creating a painful picture and hindering the right to shelter and education, which are among the most basic rights. In these times when inequality of opportunity has become painful, it is not possible to talk about high quality education or even to mention its name. Our peers, who left the city they live in with the dream of education, said, "We cannot shelter!" and they expressed the problem they experienced with this slogan. While the lucky ones were guests with their acquaintances, the unlucky ones either lived in parks and gardens for a long time or returned to their hometowns by suspending their study just because they could not find shelter. In 2021, the universities in İzmir reached a 100% occupancy rate, and it was expected that eighty-three thousand more young people would come to our city, which had approximately two hundred thousand students in 2021, in 2022, and it was. The prices of a year ago doubled, tripled, or even quintupled day by day.

According to the data of official institutions, the bed capacity of 16 thousand in state dormitories and 12 thousand in private dormitories in Izmir cannot meet even 10 percent of the number of students in the city. On the other side of the iceberg, real estate agents say that many areas do not have flats for rent, and even if they do, most landlords do not rent their flats to students. On the unseen side of the iceberg that hurts us, young people who had to settle in congregation and sect dormitories are driven to suicide due to the pressures made due to their different lifestyles.

It is obvious that the main reason behind the lack of shelter and many current problems stems from the political singularity of the economy. We know that equality of opportunity and quality education can be achieved when the social state understanding is truly applied, when our young people who receive education are not approached with the understanding of a bank or even a usurer, and young people are prevented from starting their life behind at zero.

The developments experienced this year have actually shown us the existence of a mentality that opposes the sheltering of the youth in our country, not only in dormitories and apartments, but directly in Turkey. Despite all the restrictive and repressive actions, we will continue to work until we reach every right we deserve, and we will bring the good days in our palms with our efforts today.

**Izmir Youth Municipality**

## INTRODUCTION

There are basic needs that must be met continuously in every period of human life. The most important of these needs is the need for security. The need for security, which is located in the second step of Maslow's hierarchy of basic needs, is related to the needs that protect people from psychological or physiological harm. The need for security is based on important needs such as shelter. Maslow, in his theory of human motivation, placed the need for shelter at the one step up to the basic needs such as nutrition, breathing and sleep.

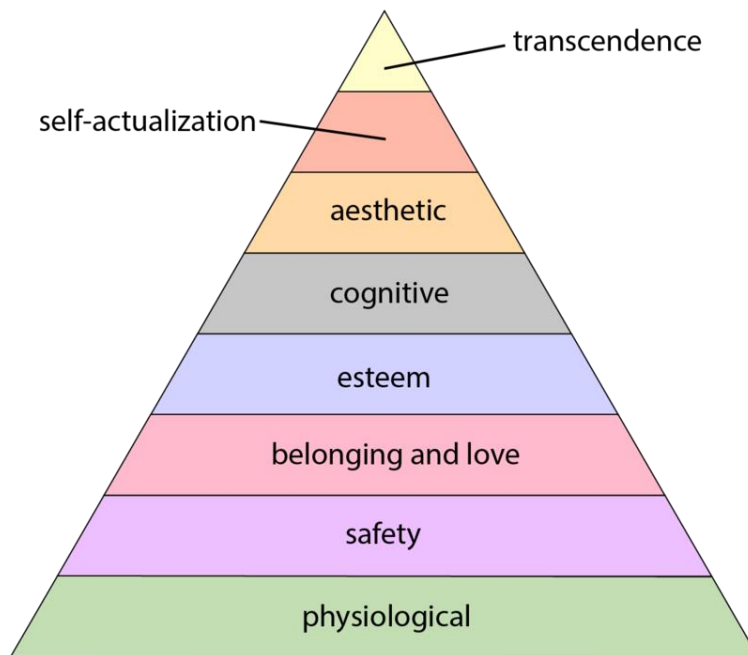


Figure 1.1 Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Pyramid

Shelter protects people from being out of sight and against possible dangers. Today, it can be said that shelter is an important phenomenon that affects personal, social, and psychological development as well as meeting the most basic needs of security and health.

The system created by humanity, which has developed its mind and skills through experiences and observations in the evolutionary development process spanning thousands of years, in a systematic way, can be mentioned as the system created for all learning and teaching activities. The places where knowledge is produced, interpreted, and evaluated are higher education institutions and universities. Universities are the most important terms in raising the qualified manpower needed by a country, in the production of knowledge and in serving the society. The

Latin term "Universitas", which means the institution where people gather for the same purpose, is the equivalent of today's university. As of 2022, there are 205 universities in Turkey. Of these, 129 are state universities and 76 are private universities. As of 2022, there are 10 universities in İzmir. 6 of them are state universities and 4 of them are private universities. University education brings along the problem of accommodation.

## **SHELTERING AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

The point where all the results of the young people in the society are based on in their lives are closely related to the region they live in and the place they live in. Undoubtedly, one of the important problems that students starting higher education must solve is sheltering. Sheltering is a vital issue that determines the fate of university students' educational life. Economic inadequacy, which is one of the reasons behind the sheltering problem, leads students to some other precautionary actions, such as working part-time or long hours, which may prevent their graduation because they cannot meet their most basic life needs, or not buying expensive textbooks that will help them continue their education. Studies have proven that students suffering from poverty do not consume the necessary nutrients, so their brains are affected so badly that they harm their academic success.

While the students who won a university in the same province that their families stay, stay with their family, accommodation alternatives for a student who won a university in a different province can be in the form of staying at home with one or a few friends, or living in a private or state dormitory. The main purpose of the dormitories, which is one of these accommodation alternatives, is to accommodate the students in an environment of peace and security in modern environments in accordance with the requirements of the era, and to provide all kinds of services necessary for their social, cultural and sports development. According to the definition of the General Directorate of Credits and Dormitories (KYK), students who meet the conditions and are enrolled in a higher education can benefit from these facilities of the dormitories.

The increasing number of universities in recent years, the increase in student quotas and the inadequacy of student dormitory capacities have made the accommodation problem of university students more serious. Because shelter actually represents an environment where many basic needs such as security, protection, heating, nutrition, study and healthy life are met. The quality of the accommodation and the extent to which it provides these conditions have a direct impact on the student. The fact that university students form a consumer group that has

not started to contribute to production in general and that they are dependent on their families for their needs shows that financial problems have an important place in the need for sheltering. Within the scope of the research conducted by Istanbul Bilgi University Youth Studies Unit with 425 students, it was determined that the biggest expenditure item in the monthly budget of the students was the accommodation expenses with 36.4%. Similarly, in İköz's (2008) study, the question regarding the reasons for students staying in state dormitories to prefer state dormitories; 54.4% of the students answered that it is financially suitable. On the other hand, in the same research, we have also encountered inadequate business hygiene, limited study spaces and inadequate accommodation opportunities. In Ersoy and Arpacı's (2003) study, it was seen that almost half of the students (48%) studying at the university and staying at the residence had problems in their sheltering, and in response to the reasons for the students to prefer their current sheltering, the first place was that the rent was affordable (%27,8), and the second was that it was close to the school (%20,8). The fact that economic reasons are at the forefront in sheltering preference prevents students from considering their academic success in the first place. The increase in the number of people with whom the students share the house in order to decrease the rent share in the residence will cause a decrease in a healthy working environment, hygiene problems, and problems of agreement and harmony. According to the research of Kara, Aykul, Pulat (2019), it can be seen that students prefer state dormitories due to financial difficulties. Due to the negativities such as "the lack of adequate and regular study opportunities, the noise and loud noise, the limited entry and exit times, the inability to get along with roommates" brought by the collective life, the students who are in better financial situation prefer to rent a house with their friends or stay in a private dormitory, rather than stay in a state dormitory. When considered in terms of students, the only attraction of the state dormitory is that it is less costly financially.

## **SHELTERING PROBLEM OF STUDENTS IN IZMIR**

In Izmir, Turkey's third largest city, approximately 200 thousand students study at 10 universities. The capacity of the dormitories affiliated to the General Directorate of Credits and Dormitories is 16 thousand. The capacity of private dormitories is approximately 12 thousand. The increase in house rents in districts such as Bornova and Buca by 30-40 percent compared to last year has dragged the students into an unbearable situation. Dokuz Eylül University, one of the largest universities in Izmir, has its own dormitory, but the student capacity of the dormitory is 564 people. KYK dormitory located in Ege University hosts 2,900 students. At the end of 2022, this figure will increase to 6 thousand with new blocks. Apart from KYK and

university dormitories throughout the city, there are student dormitories of Bornova, Bayraklı, Karabağlar, Balçova and Karşıyaka Municipalities. The dormitory capacities put into service by municipalities are at a level that can accommodate an average of 200 students. Considering the financial situation of the students, the dormitories where placements are made can meet the accommodation needs of very few students. The number of private dormitories in İzmir is 44. Their bed capacity is around 12 thousand. Many students state that they cannot stay in private dormitories because the prices are too expensive, and they have to sign a 1-year promissory note when entering the dormitory. After the earthquake, house rents increased throughout İzmir. With the opening of universities, the increasing house rents have almost doubled. The rents of the most suitable rental apartments near the university in İzmir are at or above the minimum wage.

Students who came to İzmir from different cities to study at university, because they could not find a place to stay due to the high rents and dormitory prices, came together on September 21, 2021, and gathered in Hasanağa Park in Buca district and unfurled a banner reading "We cannot shelter, we are on the street". The students who stayed in the park until the morning said, "Universities have opened after about 1.5 years, but the exorbitant house prices are a big obstacle for students. We came to study, but we cannot find a place to stay. As the house prices are high, and the demand for state-owned dormitories is high, we become the 8,000th reserve candidate. It is not possible to settle in a state dormitory." they reproached. Students who cannot find a place apply to private dormitories this time, but their prices are too high. Students: "At the moment, we have no place to stay but the street. We explained this issue to the members of the parliament and asked for their support. We have demands such as imposing an upper limit on rents, expropriating private dormitories and opening them to university students, and a budget for education."

## **OUR RECOMMENDATIONS**

As İzmir Youth Municipality, we consider it our responsibility to support the process of solving the sheltering problem. We approach this process from two different perspectives. One of these points of view is the way of resolving it with the actions of local governments, non-governmental organizations, chambers, in short, experienced people who are older. Another is the way of creating youth employment by gathering age groups and youth participation to a common point so that young people can provide their own financial income.

1. To bring together aged and young individuals on a common ground. Older individuals who live alone and need support to do their daily work can be provided with young individuals whose primary problem is shelter.
2. A real estate application that can be installed on the digital platform can be designed for homeowners and students who want to share a room in their home with young people. Students who meet the criteria mutually and families can be brought together.
3. We know that local governments cannot open dormitories easily, but by opening and expanding “student hostels”, accommodation opportunities can be created for students with small fees.

## **CONCLUSION**

Apart from metropolitan cities such as Izmir, Ankara, and Istanbul, it has become mandatory for all conscientious local government mechanisms in our beautiful country to make an effort by taking young people as stakeholders. İzmir Youth Municipality is committed to being the partner, policy maker and energy source of all these efforts so that İzmir will not only have the most beautiful sunset in our country, but also host new suns to rise, and will continue to work with this principle.