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Turkey, Factor 13: Demographics

**Turkey: Migration from villages to cities, urbanization in the country.**

Turkey is first country in farming in Europe. Agriculture is important in the country so many people are working in farms and agricultural lands. A typical Turkish family has two children, they live in one house and child or children live with their families until get marry. The family ties are pretty strong in Turkey. The families can have more or less children, it depends but the ties are nearly same in Turkish families. An Average family size is 4.3 in the country. 92% of families have children. Generally, a Turkish family is patriarchal. In Turkey, family doesn't mean just parents and siblings. It means all relatives that you have. In the family, child goes to school and parents work but generally father. Child doesn't participate in housework. Mother cleans the house, prepares the meals, washes the dishes and clothes and in some of families, father participates too but usually, mother does the houseworks and cooks. Father represents power and authority in a Turkish family; mother usually does what father says. Turkey has so many different diets because Ottoman Empire affects the diet in past centuries and in the every region, diets change but typical diet is rice, bread, olives, meatballs and desserts. In the breakfast, Turkish people eat so many things. They usually prefer a rich breakfast. They eat cheese, butter, olives, eggs, honey and Turkish sausage. They eat homemade foods and bread is important for Turkey.

12 years education is mandatory. Every Turkish must finish their 12 years education and after finishing the 12 years, they can start a university, if they want. Education is free in Turkey; they have some private schools too but most of the students go to the public school. They must take one exam in their education life for attending a high school and during the semester, they have three exams for every class. Target of the education is being independent, equal and patient. Health services are free in Turkey. Every person can access to free health service and go to the hospitals. In cities, they have hospitals and in towns or village they have some polyclinics. They get free health access when they born, in every illness they go to a hospital and doctors care them, patients don't pay anything so the health access is equal for every person in Turkey. In a typical farm, the people have many chickens and cows. Especially cows are really important for the farms in Turkey because people can get some beef and milk from them. Beef is very common in Turkey; most of the Turkish doesn't eat pork because of their religion so they can sell the cows easily when they want. Farmlands are big and near to the house and agriculture is still the occupation of the majority of the people.

Turkey has one of the largest agricultural lands in the world. They have 29.2 millions hectares so Turkey needs to have many labors for working in the lands. They are using some machines for farming but modern agriculture isn't so popular and not known. In the

west, the farmers have started to use machines. The farmers are trying to learn how they can use the machines. Large farms are generally located in Anatolian Region.

Konya is a city of Turkey and it has so many wheat corps. Konya fulfills requirement of wheat in the country. 2.5 million tons wheats are reaping in Konya. Konya's plantation areas are bigger than Lebanon, Bahamas and Kosovo's surface. The plantation land's qualities are different in every region. Most people are working on farming in Anatolia. Anatolia Region is so important for farming. In Turkey, they have different weather conditions in every different region so the regions has different corps but the most popular corps are tobacco and wheat.

Turkish tobacco is famous in the world because it has different mildness. The best tobaccos are grown in Black Sea Region because the region has an oceanic climate so the region has a rainy weather and summers are warm. In this region, people plants tea, banana and nuts. Nuts are really known in this region because of the weather so this region leads the nut productions, Turkey has 73 percent in nut selling so Turkey is first on nut, Italy is second with 14 percent and the US has 4 percent, and the black sea's tea is known and they sells the tea to the world. Turkey is the 36. country in tea export and turkey has 5.3% in production of tea.

Aegean and Mediterranean region's most popular corps are olives, sunflowers and almonds. In the east of Turkey rainfall was not enough for crops and the lands were pretty barren. Turkey has plantation agriculture, commercial agriculture and Mediterranean agriculture and finally, the country has started to organic farming. People are buying their food from supermarkets or bazaars. Bazaars are cheaper than supermarkets. People can buy anything from bazaars. Sundays are bazaar days for Turkish people and last five years, people are choosing the organic farming bazaars, they became more popular and the people are going to the bazaars but not most of the people because the prices are really high of organic vegetables and fruits so just rich persons are choosing to go to the organic bazaars but it's spreading now, if the farmers can learn about organic farming, every person can reach organic vegetables and fruits. A typical Turkish family has several barriers because the worker's salaries are not enough for the life. In Turkey, prices are not high but a typical family has two parents and they should care themselves and their children but with the salary, it is not possible. One worker is earning just 949. It equals just 315 US dollar. The average income is just 26.557 Turkish Liras. It equals to 9.09564 US Dollar, just 9.000 USD. You can not buy a house with this salary or a car in Turkey so salary is the biggest barrier in Turkey and farmer's salaries are not constant, it depends on what they plant so the government should do something about salaries, if they give more salaries to workers and farmers, they can work more because the salaries are really low.

In agriculture, in last year especially in fifty years, Turkey is growing and improving so the workers and farmers are working with some machines and agricultural lands are getting smaller by businessman and the government. For example, this year the government decided to build a thermal reactor and they cut off 6.110 olive trees in Yrca, Soma. Greenpeace and people made some events, they talked with government, and they wrote articles. The farmer's harvest vanished but end of the events; the government changed their ideas about the reactor. In some years Turkey had water scarcity especially

the east side of the country, Turkey's has so many climates, especially in the east, the weather is so dry and rainfall is not enough for planting so the government and Turkish people cooperate together and solve this problem. Water scarcity can be a big problem in next years and the farmers usually don't go to the university, they finish their mandatory education and after the mandatory education, they start to farming in the country.

In Turkey, people believe that: "Everybody can be farmer:" and if your parents are farmer, they don't gain enough money for a university because of this problem, so many students couldn't go to a university and living with their families and being farmers, it is a big problem in rural areas of Turkey. Just 4,000 Agricultural Engineers are graduating in every year and just 33 universities have Agriculture Sciences so the people don't use pesticides truly so efficiency of the agriculture decreases and workers do not work effectively. The people have access to food markets and adequate nutrition if they are working and having their salaries but not more just the adequate nutrition...If they can not reap so much, they don't gain enough money. In Turkey, people have just one community garden and it is in the capital city of the country.

I selected the 13th factor, demographics. Turkey is becoming urban day by day and people are thinking that urbanization should be. The farm workers are moving to the big cities in the country.

They are starting to work in big factories so the agricultural lands are being empty. Farmers are going to big factories and working for less money and this situation affects everything like other workers... Every year farmers are moving and the numbers of the farmers are decreasing and this migration increases every year in Turkey. In the east population is decreasing every year and everyone is trying to move to the west part of Turkey. It is improving. Farmer families are moving so they are trying to adapt everything in city. Skewed urbanization is spreading and the families are living in suburban areas because of the salary problem so suburban areas are getting bigger in the cities. It affects everything in cities. Cities are more expensive than villages so now, women are starting to work too so the mothers can not care their children so much. According to reports, in 1935, immigration from village to cities was 1.1 million but in 1980–1985 was 2.8 million. It increased 1.7 million in 50 years. In 5 years, 11,144 people who live in villages, they moved to cities. In one village (Doganyurt), 20 percent of the people moved to cities in four years so urbanization in Turkey, is improving every day.

Turkey's population is increasing so if the government can pay more to the workers especially who work in the farming so the people change their minds and maybe they can back their homes. Pollution, energy demand will increase with the factor that I selected. Education will change too because in the villages or towns, they had schools and teachers too. Teachers will not work in the same school. Cities will be crowded and it will change the climate because the people will use more transportation, machines and more charcoal. The climate can change in the next 50 years.

Crops will decrease so the plantation lands will be empty, landslides and erosion will affect the lands. And erosion is a big problem in Turkey, according to records: 5 million tons of lands are being removed. If the farmers go to cities for learning agriculture, it can improve their information about agriculture. They can start to learn sustainable agriculture, use

farming machines for a right agriculture system. The government tried to stop water scarcity in the east so, Southeastern Anatolia Project or GAP (Güney Anadolu Projesi) has started. The project is really important who lives in Southeastern in Turkey and GAP just is not about agriculture, the project is really beneficial for hydroelectric power production, education and health. The total cost of the project is 42.1 billion. The project helps to improve the lands of the country. Before 2005, farmers couldn't plant any crops because of the water problems but after 2005, they started plant. Fishing was not there before the project but now, they are fishing and selling them, people who lives in the east, they are using hydroelectric with this project. GAP became one of the largest series of hydroelectric power plants in the world. The project is still progressing and the migrations are decreasing so this project is the most important for Turkey but the project needs more support so east can be greener in the next years and the population can be same in the region if the government continues to support GAP.

The government should support farmers; they should give more money for planting and reaping to the farmers. They can make more projects about the east Turkey east has so many lands for plantation, the government can give free seeds and they should authorize agricultural engineers for teaching sustainable farming so the farmers can learn how they can learn sustainable agriculture practices more. They can open new fabrics in villages about farming so people can earn more. For example transportation prices will not be so farmers will earn more. People can come from near villages to work in there so everybody can earn own salary. They can open community gardens in every city, so people can plant something in every city and they can share them with other people.

The government can give some scholarships farmer's children if they want to attend a university and the government should give more support to agricultural engineers because in Turkey, the people doesn't know the importance of agricultural engineers.

The ideas should change about them and the farmers should learn from them, so farming in Turkey can go on and people don't think to move from villages.

Cooperatives can give credits for buying machines so people can earn more without strain so farmer's living standards can increase. The farmers can talk with leaders from the government and they can apply for cooperatives. Agriculture is important for Turkey like in the world and it should continue. Everybody must eat, we must have meals, and so farmers and farming are really important for living. Nobody should not forget it.

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