

SDG PROGRESS REPORT

on **SDG-1 NO POVERTY**

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SDG PROGRESS REPORT

ISTANBUL MEDENIYET
UNIVERSITY

**Istanbul Medeniyet University
Sustainability Office**

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SDG Icons

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>

Sustainable Development Report Maps

<https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/turkey>

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<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/progress-midpoint/>

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1 NO POVERTY



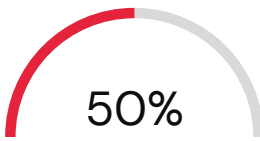
Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. While the number of people living in extreme poverty dropped by more than half between 1990 and 2015, too many are still struggling for the most basic human needs. As of 2015, about 736 million people still lived on less than US\$1.90 a day; many lack food, clean drinking water and sanitation. Rapid growth in countries such as China and India has lifted millions out of poverty, but progress has been uneven. Women are more likely to be poor than men because they have less paid work, education, and own less property. Progress has also been limited in other regions, such as South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, which account for 80 percent of those living in extreme poverty. New threats brought on by climate change, conflict and food insecurity, mean even more work is needed to bring people out of poverty.

The SDGs are a bold commitment to finish what we started, and end poverty in all forms and dimensions by 2030. This involves targeting the most vulnerable, increasing basic resources and services, and supporting communities affected by conflict and climate-related disasters.

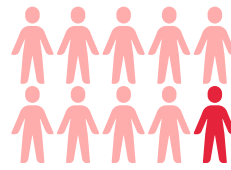
670 MILLION



people still live in extreme poverty only one in three countries will be able to halve national poverty by 2030



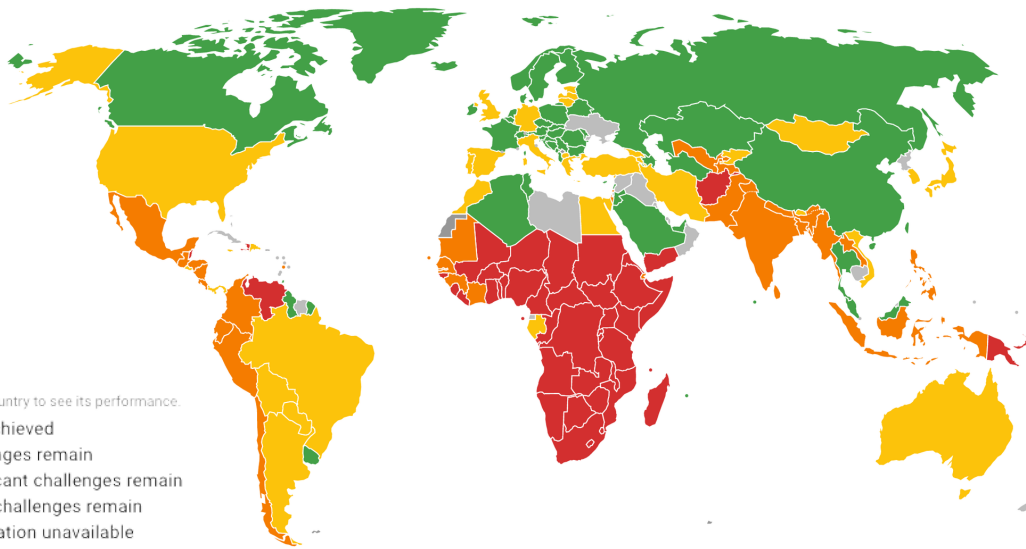
50% half of those living in poverty are under 18



one person in every 10 is extremely poor

4 BILLION

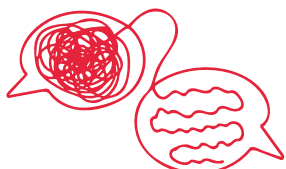
people left completely unprotected during the COVID-19 crisis



Legend
Click on a country to see its performance.
● SDG achieved
● Challenges remain
● Significant challenges remain
● Major challenges remain
● Information unavailable

165 STUDENTS

received a 100 percent food stipend



free psychotherapy service for all students and staff

601-800

"No Poverty" category 2023 ranking



55 STUDENTS

offered part-time work in various departments to earn income



discounts in housing in the university dormitory for our students

University Anti-poverty Programmes

As per the state laws and regulations that apply the principles of inclusive education, Istanbul Medeniyet University (IMU) as a public higher education institution supports access to higher education for all students from all segments of society, including those from low-income households. In line with these principles, our Turkish students are not required to pay any tuition fees and education is free for all.

Our university offers various scholarship opportunities to low-income students through Istanbul Medeniyet University Support Foundation (İMÜDEV). In 2022, 100% food scholarships were provided to 45 students through İMÜDEV, while cash scholarship support was provided to 10 students. Our students with low income benefit from state dormitories and various state scholarships. In addition, all our students can benefit from free medical care services offered at public health centers and discounted ticket prices on public transportation.

Some of our foreign students are supported through a government-funded higher education scholarship program called Türkiye Scholarships. The program provides our foreign students with monthly scholarships, university tuition, health insurance, housing, Turkish language course and plane tickets, while they receive free education and participate in free cultural programs in IMU.

“ **302** STUDENTS from low-income countries studied at our university in 2022 ”

Although students are admitted through the national higher education entrance exam based on the sole criterion of academic success, low-income students admitted in IMU are assisted through food stipends, discounts in housing in the university dormitory, and part-time work opportunities.

To ensure that our students can easily access our food services in an affordable way, all our students are given an 80% discount on the regular lunch prices each year. Therefore, the cost of lunch in 2022 was only 0.214\$ for our students. Also, 165 low-income students received a 100% **food stipend** in 2022.

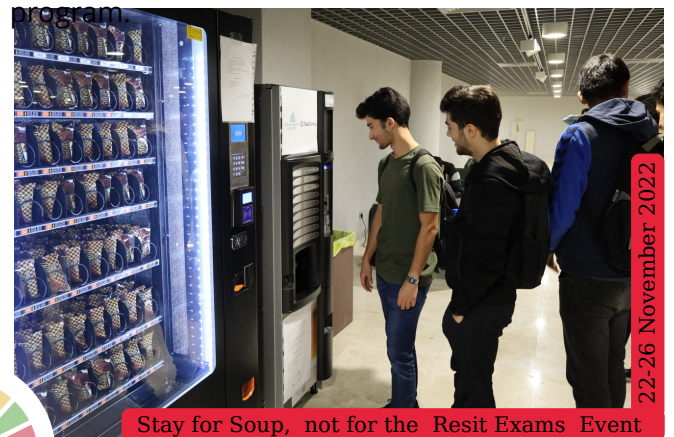
To address the **accommodation** needs of our students, we have a dormitory that is open to all low-income students in Istanbul and our students are given a 15% discount in our dormitory.

Low-income students are also offered **part-time work** in various departments of the university outside their class hours. Our part-time student-employees are selected based on their household income and in addition to a monthly income, their insurance costs are also covered by our university throughout their work period. In 2022, we supported a total of 55 students as our part-time employees.

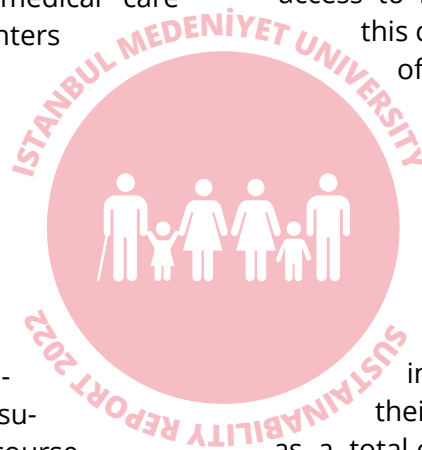
In addition to the free medical care provided by the state, we also offer free **psychotherapy and counseling services** to all our students and staff.

Our University provides free food support during exam periods to our students studying for their exams in our university library, giving them easier access to healthy food especially at nighttime. In this context, the Young Vision Student Club of our university distributed warm soup to our students during the Fall and Spring Semesters through the event **“Çorbaya Kal Büte Kalma”** (Stay for Soup, not for the Resit Exams) they organized with the sponsorship of Üsküdar Municipality. Particularly our students from low income households were assisted in their food costs during the exam period as a total of 7,000 servings of warm soup were distributed to 1400 students everyday between January 14-18 and also between November 7-11.

IMU added a new one to the free food support programs it provides for its students in 2022. As of November 2022, **free tea/coffee and cakes** have been offered to our students, thanks to the vending machine system installed in our University Ziraat Bank Library. At the end of two months, a total of 16,000 food support packages were provided to our students with this support



Stay for Soup, not for the Resit Exams Event



Our University offers its students financial incentives for their professional improvement. Our Department of Library and Documentation organizes **free training and certification programs** in which our low-income students may also participate.

In this context, 8 of our students received free **Authorship Training** between 12 November - 31 December 2022 and 08 March - 31 May 2022 and were given certificates. Also, at the end of the training, a selection of the participants' works was created and a book titled "Literature in Medeniyet" was prepared.

Via the free **"productive authorship"** training organized in cooperation with Üsküdar Public Education Directorate between 13 October and 23 December 2022, 24 participants were provided with certificates.

15 of our students registered for the **"Elocution, Announcer and Presenter Training"** given free of charge in cooperation with Üsküdar Public Education Center. Participants will be given a certificate at the end of the training, which will start in October 2022 and last for 6 months.

Between 15 October and 18 May 2022, 25 of our students were given free **"A1 English Training"** and certificates which helped to strengthen their vocational training process.

21 students who registered for **"Ottoman Turkish Training"**, started on November 25, 2022 will receive their certificates at the end of the free training.

“ **1222** STUDENTS given free training/ certificate program support ”

The university-wide free training programs for our students are further consolidated with the collaboration efforts by our departments, faculties and student clubs. Our academic units and student clubs organize theoretical and practical training programs on diverse topics that our students will need for their careers. Thus, our students from low-income households in particular are provided with significant support for professional development.

In this context, in collaboration with Forensic Evidence Laboratory, our Informatics and Information Club organized a free **training on the forensic document analysis**, which is important in the functioning of a fair legal system.

As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we see education as a process that is far beyond vocational training. Therefore, we prioritize supporting our students for their **personal development** in addition to their vocational education.

In this context, we supported our Art History Club's free **culture trip to the Istanbul Archaeological Museums** on December 18, 2022, to explore and promote the cultural and historical heritage of our region. The guidance for the trip was provided by the club advisor, Res. Asst. Yasin SAYGILI. During the visit, the club members had the opportunity to examine artifacts from different periods by exploring the three main sections of the museum.



On May 26th, our students visited **Kazım Karabekir Pasha Museum** through an event jointly organized by IMU History Club and Department of Library and Documentation. In this free cultural trip, our students had the opportunity to get to know our city and our cultural and historical heritage from the time of our National Struggle and shed light on the members of the community to see the traces of the National Struggle Period. After the museum museum tour, Kazım Karabekir's daughter Timsal Karabekir gave valuable information about Kazım Karabekir's life and the museum.

Community Anti-poverty Programmes

As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we not only lead the society by carrying out activities to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the institutional level and but also guide how the SDGs are applied at local, national, and international levels as a community through our collaboration efforts and support solving problems through our research projects.

Istanbul Medeniyet University has been running a community anti-poverty program for 4 years to improve access to basic education services for students in poor regions. With the **"Village Schools Aid Project"** led by IMU Civil Engineering Department faculty member Dr. Buğrayhan BİÇKİCİ, the support of our university staff and students is delivered to village schools in need. In the project carried out with the aim of equalizing the educational conditions and opportunities of children in poor and vulnerable groups, 1210 students studying in 63 village schools were provided with boots, 27 students with coats and 273 students with stationery aid until the end of the 2022. In addition to improving access to education services, basic nutritional needs were also met with nearly 100 food packages delivered to poor families during Ramadan.



Medeniyet Bilgi Club of our University **donated 250 university exam preparation books** to Mardin Dargeçit İmam Hatip High School with the idea of providing access to equal opportunities in education. The project aimed to have a positive impact on the educational success of students with limited financial means and to make an improvement in basic education.

IMU Audiology Department carried out the **"Hearing, Tinnitus, Middle Ear Function and Balance Screenings in the Elderly"** project to improve access to basic health services for the elderly over the age of 60. In the project carried out in cooperation with Üsküdar Municipality, free on-site hearing, tinnitus, middle ear function and balance screenings were carried out for elderly people over the age of 60 at the municipality's social facility "İkinci Bahar Cafe". During the screening process, the elderly were also given detailed information about balance disorders, fall risk and protective measures. At the end of the examinations, the participants detected to have hearing loss, balance disorder and middle ear pathology were referred to Göztepe Prof.Dr. Süleyman Yalçın City Hospital Ear Nose and Throat Department for treatment.



Hearing, Tinnitus, Middle Ear Function and Balance Screenings in the Elderly

Istanbul Medeniyet University led the social responsibility project called **"Age Healthy with Green Exercise"**, which was developed to contribute to the well-being of the elderly. Within the scope of the project carried out in partnership with Üsküdar Municipality, 20 people over the age of 65 living under state protection in the "Istanbul Maltepe Nursing Home" and "Istanbul Prof. Dr. Fahrettin Kerim-Nilüfer Gökay Nursing Home" affiliated with the Ministry of Family and Social Services were given free physical activity training and outdoor exercise for 12 weeks. Within the scope of the project, free hypertension and abdominal obesity screenings were also carried out to improve basic health access for individuals aged 65 and over. To reduce non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and atherosclerosis, which increase in frequency with age; health risks, and prevent cognitive and functional loss, consultancy and training was provided on gaining healthy and quality life skills.

Sociology Club, one of the student clubs of our university, cooperated with Çorbada Tuzun Olsun Association and contributed to the aid activities carried out in 2022 in order to **improve homeless people's access to basic services**. Club members regularly supported the association, which provided food aid every day throughout the year, on certain days with a volunteer group of at least 5 people. On days when they contributed to aid activities, volunteer activities such as food packaging and meal distribution were carried out.



2022

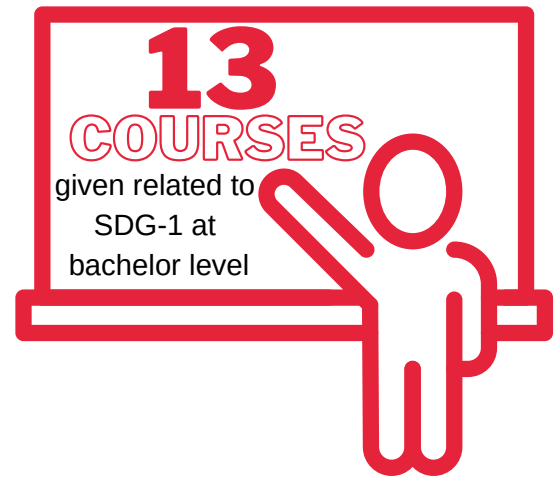
Volunteering Activity with the "Çorbada Tuzun Olsun" Association

2022-2023 Spring Term **Community Service Practices** course students carried out various social responsibility projects to improve access to basic services for all. In this context, a group of our students distributed food supplies and meals to those in need at the Turkish Red Crescent tent during Ramadan.

Sociology Club, contributed to the preparation of **aid packages for those in need during Ramadan** in cooperation with Mosque Imam of the Beyoğlu Selime Hatun Mosque. on March 27, 2022. In this event, which was held with the participation of club members, the target group to be helped was determined as families in need, the poor, orphan children and the homeless. In this direction, the clothes and belongings collected as a result of the donations to the mosque were packaged with the contributions of the club members and prepared to be distributed. The event provided social solidarity, contributing to the development of social welfare, and support was provided in helping the disadvantaged individuals of the society. Thus, the participants better understood the importance of helping others and the event contributed to raising awareness.

Learning processes are key in achieving SDGs. Thus, universities play a critical role both by training professionals who will prioritize SDGs in their future practices and by increasing local, national, and global capacity to successfully achieve SDGs. As Istanbul Medeniyet University, we are aware of our critical role and therefore, we primarily inform our students, the leaders and decision-makers of the future, about the Sustainable Development Goals through course contents, co-curricular activities and student club activities and strengthen their awareness. For this purpose, each of our faculties and departments prepares SDG-related course contents, including courses that address the Sustainable Development Goals holistically, as well as specific contributions that can be made by the expertise of the relevant professional field in which they provide training. In 2022, 13 bachelor degree courses related to SDG-1 were given at IMU.

Some of these are listed below.



Faculty	Course
Arts and Humanities	SDG443- Poverty in Turkey
	SDG409-Social Inequalities
Education Sciences	GNKY202- Community Service Practices
Health Sciences	SHB451- Poverty and Social Work
	FTR213- Social Responsibility Projects I
Political Science	MLY417- Income Distribution and Poverty
	İKT327- Economic Development
	SBK326- Crisis and Disaster Management

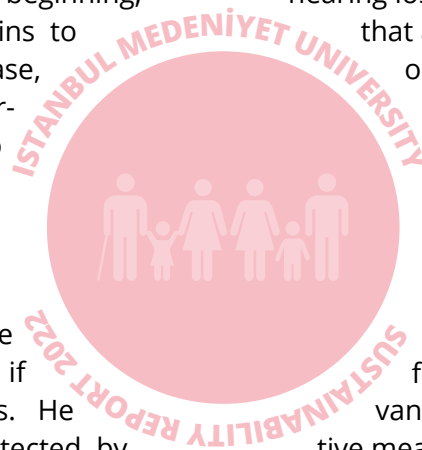


Throughout the year, our academic staff members from our Faculties of Medicine and Health Sciences inform the public about health and nutrition issues to improve access to basic services for all. For this purpose, they deliver seminars in various public and private institutions and also share their scientific expert opinions and experiences on how to avoid health risks and overcome health challenges by appearing on national media outlets.

To provide an example for the year 2022, Prof.Dr. Halit OĞUZ from the Ophthalmology Department of IMU Faculty of Medicine informed the public about the importance of the **early diagnosis of glaucoma** on the national TV channel TRT News on October 4, 2022. Prof.Dr. OĞUZ informed that unlike other eye diseases, glaucoma gradually damages the optic nerve of the patient without giving any symptoms such as loss of vision or blurred vision at the beginning, and pointed out that blindness begins to appear in the last stage of the disease, when the patients are already suffering from irreversible damages to their vision. Noting that ophthalmologists can stop the progression of the disease when they can catch early, OĞUZ emphasized that everyone after the age of 40 should have their eyes examined every year even if they do not have any complaints. He stated that the disease can be detected by measuring intraocular pressure during the examination and then the disease can be diagnosed and treated with various tests and nerve examination if necessary. Stating that glaucoma ranks second among the most common causes of blindness and that many patients can experience significant vision loss because they are late in applying to ophthalmologists, OĞUZ underlined that regular examination is of great importance, especially if the patient has risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension and myopia.

In addition to the invaluable information they shared with the public on specific health challenges, our academic staff members also contributed greatly to improving access to basic healthcare services for all by sharing the results of their academic research and their scientific expert opinions and recommendations on protection from COVID-19 through media outlets during 2022, when the pandemic continued to affect our society.

To cite an example among many, Prof.Dr. Mahmut Tayyar KALCIOĞLU, the head of Otorhinolaryngology Department at IMU Faculty of Medicine, interviewed CNN Türk on May 17, 2022 about the **relationship of Covid-19 with hearing health**. Prof.Dr. KALCIOĞLU stated that Covid-19 is closely related to hearing health in terms of both transmission and symptoms and its symptoms include loss of smell, loss of taste, hearing loss and balance disorder. He explained that although there is no definite finding yet on the relationship between Covid-19 and hearing loss, we know that as a neurotropic virus, coronavirus can cause dizziness, tinnitus and similar complaints and it has been shown to increase tinnitus. KALCIOĞLU stated that hearing loss can be experienced due to reasons such as city noise, noise from the working environment or advancing age and talked about the preventive measures.



Importance of Early Diagnosis of Glaucoma on Tv Show

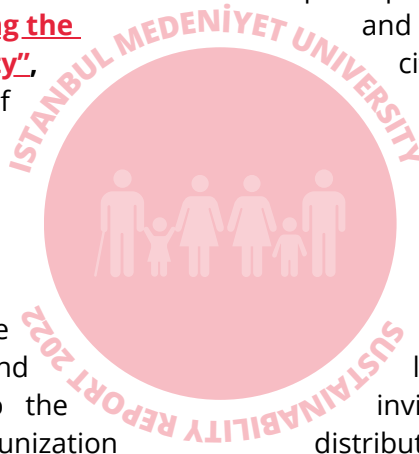


The academic staff members of our university carry out research on eradicating extreme poverty; reducing poverty at least by half; implementing social protection systems; providing equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology, and economic resources; building resilience against environmental, economic, and social disasters; mobilizing resources to implement policies to end poverty; and creating pro-poor and gender-sensitive policy frameworks; publish the results of their research to provide a foundation for policy development to achieve SDGs; and share them with other researchers, decision-makers, stakeholders, and the public.

To give a few examples from our faculty's research activities on SDG-1 in 2022;

Prof.Dr. Seyfettin ERDOĞAN of IMU Department of Economics co-authored a research article titled **"The Wealth of Nations during the Pandemic: The Vaccine Equity"**, which questions the problem of inequality in access to basic health-care services during health crises as exemplified by the recent Covid-19 pandemic and focused on the economic and social costs and benefits of vaccinations during the pandemic in advanced, middle, and low-income countries. According to the authors, as a part of systematic immunization programs, the development, licensing, and implementation of the vaccines against the Covid-19 virus started to address health service inequalities among countries. The authors noted that due to the weak economic conditions of developing countries, they could not provide enough financial and health support to their citizens during this period and poor countries were very vulnerable in getting equal vaccines. However, since the global GDP loss from not inoculating all countries is higher than the cost of manufacturing and distributing vaccines globally, there has been a growing demand to international cooperation to have global vaccination without omitting any countries. The authors analyzed the role of vaccination in promoting population health and economic performance and finally offered some policy suggestions to get more benefits from the vaccination both for economic and health outcomes.

Asst.Prof.Dr. Müge YETKİN ATAER, faculty member of the Department of Public Finance at IMU Faculty of Political Sciences, published a research article titled **"Participatory Budgeting: A Critical Approach"**, in which she examined different applications of participatory budgeting practices from all over the world by focusing on two related issues. According to YETKİN ATAER, the first issue is related to the possibility that the process may evolve into political participation rather than individual participation in local administrations that are already chosen through representative democracy practices. And the second issue involves the risk of further harming those with the lowest incomes and marginalized/disadvantaged groups as a result of the efforts aimed at ensuring individual participation using the benefits of technological advancements. YETKİN ATAER gives examples for this side effect of technology from online participation where suggestions are collected and project options are provided to the citizens. She notes that in such cases, those with no internet connection, senior citizens, and much less represented disadvantaged social groups get excluded from the election and decision-making processes. Online practices may be seen as a necessity, especially in large cities, but their caveats may invisibly affect inequality in income distribution and in the distribution of public resources. She posits that the least represented and lowest income groups should be involved more directly in the decision-making processes in order to determine their actual needs and to increase their living standards and offers particular policy recommendations on these issues.



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ARAŞTIRMA MAKALESİ / RESEARCH ARTICLE

Katılımcı Bütçeleme: Eleştirel Bir Yaklaşım

Participatory Budgeting: A Critical Approach

Müge YETKİN ATAER¹

Article: "Participatory Budgeting: A Critical Approach"

2022



In an article published in our University's Journal of Civilization Studies on the problems of gated communities titled **"New Ghettos of the City: Administrative and Social Problems of Gated Communities"**, Prof.Dr. Hamza ATEŞ, faculty member of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at IMU Faculty of Political Sciences, and Naime Merve KARACAOĞLU YILDIZ, PhD student of the Department, defined gated communities, discussed the historical background and reasons for their emergence, and examined their problems from legal, administrative, social and urban-ecological perspectives. Among the social problems created by gated communities, the authors argue that such communities create social segregation and these complexes attract a significant portion of urban infrastructure investments, causing old and historic neighborhoods with traditional fabric to fall into disrepair and become neglected and transformed into poor neighborhoods inhabited by low-income people. The urban space abandoned by the educated, specialized and high-income workforce is left to low-income groups and small-scale producers who do not have these opportunities, and the quality of life in the city declines. The authors concluded that as places that do not allow interaction, gated communities create an insecure society, increase urban and social segregation, damage the public space, and disrupt the physical fabric of the city. In order to overcome this situation, they suggested the development of public spaces where people can socialize, taking into account the holistic design approach when developing housing projects.

