

LACK of PERSPECTIVE in SOLVING WATER ISSUE: WATER ETHICS

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ABSTRACT

For people, water is a vital substance that can not be substituted. Nowadays, negative qualitative and quantitative developments have made water an important element of debates on environmental problems. In particular, the privatization movement, which is formed of current political conjuncture, included the water and it has become a significant issue whether the water might be privatized. Right to water is the focal point of these discussions.

Right to water means that people has the right to access to healthy and economically viable water. In this respect, right to water has two dimensions; being healthy and economical. In general, the debates of privatization are shaped by the economical dimension of the right to water Besides, the right to access to healthy water is neglected in the privatization movement. As for accessing to healthy water, when a public value is attributed to the water we are confronting with serious problems such as excessive use and financially unsustainability. Regarding to right to water, an ethical perspective should be embraced rather than an ideological perspective. Water ethics recovers people from subjective perspective. The purpose of this study is to present that the water ethics is necessary in order to solve the water issue.

Keywords: Water, Water Management, Right To Water, Privatization, Water Ethics.

SU SORUNUN ÇÖZÜMÜNDE PERSPEKTİF EKSİKLİĞİ: SU ETİĞİ

ÖZET

Su insanlar için ikamesi mümkün olmayan, hayati öneme sahip bir maddedir. Günümüzde su kaynaklarında meydana gelen niteliksel ve niceliksel olumsuzluklar onu günümüz çevre sorunları tartışmalarının önemli bir ögesi durumuna getirmiştir. Özellikle, son yıllarda siyasi konjonktürün etkisiyle oluşan özelleştirme hareketi, suyu da içine almış ve suyun özelleştirilip özelleştirilemeyeceği konusu önemli bir mesele haline gelmiştir. Bu tartışmaların odak noktasını ise su hakkı oluşturmaktadır.

Su hakkı, insanların sağlıklı ve ekonomik olarak uygun olan suya ulaşabilme hakkıdır. Bu bakımdan su hakkının sağlıklı olmak ve ekonomik olmak üzere iki ayağının bulunduğu söylenebilir. Özelleştirme tartışmaları genel olarak, su hakkının ekonomik boyutu içerisinde şekillenmektedir. Diğer taraftan, bu hakkın sağlıklı suya erişim ayağı, özelleştirme tartışmaları içerisinde daha geri planda yer almaktadır. Sağlıklı suya erişimde ise, suya kamusal bir değer atfedildiğinde, aşırı kullanım ve kendini finanse edememek gibi sorunları karşımıza çıkarmaktadır. Su hakkı konusuna ideolojik bir perspektiften ziyade etik bir bakış açısından bakmak daha yararlı olabilmektedir. Bu çalışmanın amacı, su sorununun çözümü için su etiği kavramının genel bir değer çatısı niteliği taşıması gerektiğini göstermektir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Su, Su Yönetimi, Su Hakkı, Özelleştirme, Su Etiği

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INTRODUCTION

Privatization policies have been gotten reaction and argued negatively and positively all world in last thirty years. One of those discussions has been about environment. In our day, we can say that water is one of the most important issue among other environmental issue because it is vital for human and life. Gotten clean and available water that replacement isn't possible has been difficult day by day. Water has been effected quantitatively and quality. So people has been sensitized to all practice and policies about water. That sensibility has been focus on right to water which one of the most important problems. Right to water is right to access that human are able to get healthy water and at affordable price. Discussions about right to water are seek an answer to "Does water has economic value or not". This situation is canalizing us to privatization debate. Thesis has been advocated about that issue is if water is privatization, people won't use this right they have so water should remain common. Otherwise, we can assert that water issue became a problem because it is common. Besides, water has controlled completely by states until recently. Water issue doesn't show up in soon. Water that accepted as a common value and controlled by state can cause to overconsumption. If water is cheap, water can't self financing. So that creates water resource which unhealthy and fewness thus right to water will be damaged. Privatizations that in states and market system don't have proper conditions damages to right to water. Thus, in our opinion, should be away from ideological perspective for water which drinkable and transferred to next generations. We can say that notion which can change may perspective and affect our behaviors is water ethics. Water ethics is find out importance of water for life and all things must be done.

1. WATER CONDITION

All of water resources in the our world aren't utilizable for people. Water supply that benefits living beings less than all of the water supply planet have. World's three out of four is water. Its mean that water area in the world greater than soil area. However, ninety seven of the water is brine. Also, seventy percent of two and a half percent of remaining portion is iceberg on the Greenland and Antarctica (Güler and others, 1999: 1), and some of part is mixed into sea by melt. There are water resources in the world are air, soil, rivers, lakes and oceans. The water in the air moves between atmosphere and earth through hydrological cycle's instrumentality. Water resources on the earth are in the form groundwater (Çepel and others, 2003: 4). Distribution of the water resources in the world aren't regular. Each continent has different water resources and population. At the same time, water resources are the most important natural resources for countries. If a person can expend 8.000-10.000 m³ water in a year in any country, this country is rich in the water. There are six country that rich in the water. These countries are China, Canada, Brazil, Russia, Columbia and, Indonesia (WWF-Türkiye, 2011: 6). We can say that a large part of the world isn't rich in water .

2. IMPORTANCE OF THE WATER

Where there is water there is life, and where water is scarce, life has to struggle (UNESCO, 2011: 2). Water is an indispensable resource for people. There is no substitution. It means that access to healthy water is an important issue. According to many people, water has a greater value than its economic value. Water has a vital value that man needs for sustaining human life (Güler and others 1999: 6). Water is an essential material for human metabolism. Besides, it provides to circulation, reproduction and excretion. That is so necessary a function (Akin and others, 2007: 105). Eighty-nine percent of human blood is water. Seventy-five percent of our muscles consist of water (Çepel, 2003: 1). So ever since the creation of the world, water has been an important resource for humankind. A congress was held in Johannesburg called the 2. World Environment Summit in 2002. The sentence of *No Water No Future* was the emphasis of the congress. This sentence summarized the congress (Tamer, 2006: 447).

Water resources are important for human life, the survival of states, its safety and economy too (USIAD, 2009: 5). Because of technological development, people have benefited from water. For example, we have irrigated farmland and have used it in hydroelectric power plants (Akkaya and others, 2006: 95). Finally, water is useful and vital to human.

3. LIMITED WATER

800 million people in the world have no safe drinking water. Besides, 2.5 billion people do not have enough sanitation. Unfortunately, they must live like that. Negative effects on water resources have increased and continued (USIAD, 2009: 6). The world population is increasing constantly. Because of industrialization, unplanned urbanization, drought and global climate changes, while water supply has decreased rapidly, demand for water has increased (DSİ 2007 Faaliyet Raporu, 2008: 7). According to World Bank and IMF's forecast, 2.5 billion people in the world will go through water shortages in 2025 (Dünya Su Forumları Bülteni, 2009: 11). They are not going to find enough water. Negative effects on the water resource are a threat to all of the world.

According to studies done in recent years, water shortages in the entire world have been demonstrated (Dünya Su Forumları Bülteni, 2009: 11):

- a) 1.6 billion people have no access to water, because of their economic condition.
- b) According to the United Nations Development Program's last study, people who live in slum areas spend more money than others to access to healthy water.
- c) Three thousand children are dying in each year because of dirty water.

On the basis of these data, in the world, we can say that there are water shortages seriously.

4. THE CAUSES of WATER SHORTAGE

We should emphasized especially that, people that live in deceloped country have enough healty drinkable water. There are any problems about water. Water resources are limited. So water pollution in the world, water resources should be protected more (Karadağ, 2006: 210). Water shourtage we encountered has alot of reason. We can put in order these reasons TMMOB (Planlama, 2007: 24):

a) *Natural Factors*: Water resources aren't same rate at all over the world. Water resources are shortage. Some part of the world is droughty.

b) *Demographic Fators*: World population are increasein rapidly, so water quality and amount is decrease

c) *Social and economic Factors*: Poor people aren't access to healthy water easily. Social and cultural charecteristic can cause that.

We have problems about save the water resourcess and use effective it. A lot of the problems are containing environmental problems. Actually, environmental problems can effect and cause the water problem. We can exemine these problems under three headings (Çolakoğlu, 2008: 52):

a) *Water shortages resulting from population growht*: World population is increasing fastly. Each year world population are increasin average 80-100 million. If we say that water resources and amount unchanging, growing population will not find enough water to drink. Thus, next generations may have water shortage.

b) *Water pollution resulting from industry, agrycultural and, urbanization*: Water pollution is polluted ground and underground water resources. Because drugs in agriculture have mixing with water, industrial wastes have mixing with water and, urban wastes have mixing with water like that.

c) *Global warming effects water resource negatively* : Global warming effects the all of the world negatively. Extreme leat and extreme cold can effects water quality and water cycle badly. Drought and water flooding caused by global warming damage water resourse and its quality.

Apart from environmental issues, there are a lot of reasons about water pollution not only environmental but also human impact. These reasons can cause pressure on the water resources. We can summarize that reason: people have interested in environmental issues, at he same time people have no information about causes and solutions about these problems, there are no financial resources for solving environmental or water issues and, finally there is confusion authority and information (Günce Dergisi, 2010: 2). We can say that:

a) Water resources are shortage

- b) We have harmed to environment so water resources have effected it negatively.
- c) Social insensitivity
- d) There are deficiencies in water management
- e) There is financial inability

5. FROM COMMON VALUE to ECONOMIC GOODS

Water issue is so important subject of debate, because water is different from other goods which tradables. For example, fruit, vegetables, gold. The reason for this, water is vital than other things. Before globalization, customization and, world economic conjuncture goes in parallel that fact have occurred, water was a natural resource such as sun and air. It wasn't an economic value. There have many pressures on water resources. One of the most important is excessive consumption of water. We can solve this problem. Water can be priced to provide excessive consumption. We can use liberal economic policies (Kibaroglu, 2006: 47).

Water customization has begun in first half of 1990. We could have seen policies about water customization since second half of 1990. Besides, water has regarded as economic goods (Tamer, 2007: 447). Common value attributed to water has changed at the congress held in Dublin in 1992. That explanation has made in Dublin congress: "water should be considered as economic goods, water should be priced like other economic goods and, participation of stakeholders should be provided in water management process (TMMOB, 2007: 31). Also, in that study has alleged that water pricing may have hindered excessive consumption.

6. WATER as an ECONOMIC GOODS

Water resources are limited. Demand to water has been increasing year after year. Infrastructure investment and financing investment are needed for meeting demand to water. Private sector investment may make this. According to Atilgan (Atilgan, 2008: 9); there are two reasons to solve for water customization: *First*: more investment and infrastructure services are needed for healthy and usable water. *Second* water management activity could be achieved due to functioning of the state. Technology and knowledge custom sector has should be used for activity and efficiency in water resource management.

World Bank and IMF known as twin organizations. World Bank and IMF lending policies have been encouraged the customizations. These practices and encouragement have covered water resources too (Ulugbay, 2007, www.ulugbay.com/blog_hikmet/?p=50). According to these organizations, focus on demand should be based to make water services. Private sector, people and civil society should participate to water management. Shortly, water should be evaluated as a commercial goods (Ayar, 2007: 25). World Bank emphasizes that following good and

comprehensive planning methods are enough to good water management (TMMOB Su Raporu, 2008: 17). According to World Bank, measurability problem in environmental externalities, water is accepted as a public good and, water has priced below its value are accepted as failure in water management (Güler, 1999: 20-23). Finally, according to World Bank, water pricing and water should be trading in market mechanism in order to clean water resources and availability in the time to come.

Congree was organized called The International Conference on Environment and Water (ICWE) in Dublin on 26-31 January 1992. At the conference was mentioned water has economic value and should be considered as economic value (Küçük, 2006, www.meteoroloji.org.). At the same time, according to ICWE, water should be seen as economic asset because it has been consumed recklessly and damaged to environment. If only we described it as an economic good, we can talk about effective and fair use. Water pricing in market conditions will be automatically (Evcimen, 2009, www.politeknik.org.tr).

Some principles have been adopted for effective and efficient use of water in Dublin. These principles (Ayar, 2007: 22-23):

- a) Fresh water resources are extremely important for environment and life. It is valuable and limited.
- b) Water management should contain participation of users, planner and politician.
- c) Protection and use of water is a duty for women.
- d) Water has an economic value. That feature should be taken into account. It is an economic good.

7. RIGHT to WATER

The right to water has an issue that has brought up on many platforms. Right to water issue has emerged last in 25-30 years because water has been accepted as a commodity. Some people oppose to commercialization of water issue who have different reasons for. Some claim that commercialization is an exploitation tool for international companies. Some claim that it is a new move capitalism. Common opinion is "water is a human right". In the period after 1980, commercialization policies which World Bank and IMF keep on the agenda in developing countries have been caused to resources of countries which undeveloped and developing countries to be sold cheaply and injustice in society (Tokatlıoğlu, 2005: 108).

Purpose of private sector is to make profit. According to Evcimen (Evcimen, 2009: 7), commercialization isn't a story of success. It is a tool to inflate price. On the basis of these explanations, it may be said that water is a commercial commodity to be wrong. Reasons can be put in order like that (Atılğan, 2008: 6):

a) Water demand has unique feature. That demand can not be postponed. Its substitution isn't possible. From all reasons, water expenses of poor families have important proportion in their all expenses. So water subsidies are necessary.

b) Opportunities that people have are limited to stock water. Water services whoever do it, as a result monopolization will be happened. Private sector monopol will be occurred because of privatization of water services. Finally, water prices will be raised.

Water as a commodity literally may be wrong to characterize. For example, countries that have water resources must give water other countries that have a portion of river bend owing to international agreements. If it was a literally a commodity, it must have sold. Moreover, if the water has a common property, for humankind it may have negative consequences.

8. ETHICS PERSPECTIVE

The concept of ethics is derivated "ethos" from Greek. Ethics is identified moral value and character that expressing the behavior (Ertan, 1998: 126). In other words, behavior that we has done it means good which as should be. Today, we can see he claims put forward about environmental problems in general, water issue in particular, have shaped around current ideologies. On the other hand, question of "is a environmentalism ideology" is a topic to discussion.

The application of ethical concepts has a direct practical relevance in water resource management (UNESCO, 2011: 16). According to anthropocentric view, all beings live and nonlive have created for serving to people. If plants and animals are benefit to people, they can be valuable (Ertan, 1998: 135). On the other hand, some of scientist say that human is part of environment at all times. Beside they emphasis that environment must be considered by human (Kayaer, 2013: 65). Presens of water can be analyzed by both anthropocentric and ecocentric perspective. We may have different results. First, when we had considered from anthropocentric perspective, we have can say water has valuable because it has provided benefit which necessary for living to people. Also, if we suppose that water has a economic benefit, we can say water is a economic value and it benefits provid us. On the other hand, when we had considered ecocentric perspective, environment has right same as us. Human are part of the world just like the environment. Ecocentric perspective object to ideology which has included people are centre of world and everything in environment devoted to them (Ertan, 1998: 137).

We may will be protected water resources and cleaned them, but it means even minimum damage that we have to take a risk for technologic progress, development and other variations, we can't run the risk of that. Beside, environment can't save with hard rules, using force and, disciplinarian methods too (Kayaer, 2013: 66). Hence using force and establish rules for everythings aren't good opinion. Before everything else, protection of environment and its elements should be taken advantage of rules and ethics. That ethics norm must touch to human's conscience. For providing efficient water services, first

of all can be made optimum price and taught ethics to society. Sustainable water resources must be provided.

9. ETIC PROBLEM in COMMON VALUE

Hardin (Hardin, 2003: 14) said that " *if we don't assume that world is finite, we can improve human disaster clearly* ". Even if water resources have limited, water has a environmental problem by human. We look at problem from broad perspective, we can't say root of problems encountered that result of problems on water resources happen in one night. One hundred and fifty years ago, Americans can kill bison, they can eat or use part of it whatever they want, rest of it can't be used. Because bison are limited now, make people's blood run cold (Hardin, 2003: 20). Obviously, beginning of the water problem before water has seen as commodity. Pollution of water resources and it hasn't used efficient and active result of it has evaluated as common. Use of common freely can cause everyone may ride far a fall (Hardin, 2003: 18). Same problems can be seen same sea and ocean too. Countries use oceans and seas for their own interest. They don't refrain from act will bring end of the resources (Hardin, 2003: 18). Overconsumption and pollution continues until all resource run out. As Hardin said that in "Tragedy of Commons", that tragedy can be put away by use method that shelter private ownership and similars. However, like as air, water can't be enclosed with rail fence (Hardin, 2003: 19). Therefore, it should be developed legal arrangement as well as ethics values. Ethics values can be discreditable as right act and life that occur among human, environment and society in the sense of environmental philosophy (Ertan, 1998: 127). When viewed this aspect, for water ethics, we should make a decisions which will not debar from right to healthy water current and next generations.

CONCLUSION

Water is the most important for life. Water is life. So every action to be taken and decisions about water issues is vital. In our opinion, Human are in centre of the environment. Beside human may have ethics and moral values. When view this aspect human make a right decisions ethical. In addition, Human are rational. We can know that what important for us. If we take cognizance of water is scarce and limited, water doesn't evaluated as properly common may cause an desirable results. If human make optimal pricing of water, ethical for water and, legal protections, they may benefit from water pretty much and transpose to next generations.

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