

**AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM: VANDALISM****Dr. Ozgur Yerli***

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Corresponding Author*Dr. Ozgur Yerli**Duzce University Faculty of
Forestry Department of
Landscape Architecture,
Duzce, Turkey.**ABSTRACT**

Vandalism can be defined as the act of purposely and willingly harming a property, vehicle or product belonging to a person or a public entity. When considered from the environmental point of view, people are often confronted with practical reflections of vandalism in everyday life. For example: Names engraved on the surface of a tree or

on a bank in the park, broken lighting fittings, writings on the walls, unusable public toilets. In this paper, the urban areas where the problem of vandalism is observed are examined and examples related to them are presented. The problem of vandalism is related to the concepts of environment, locality, belonging, and ownership, and solution proposals are presented.

KEYWORDS: City, Environment, Quality, Vandalism**1. INTRODUCTION**

Vandalism can be defined as the act of purposely and willingly harming a property, vehicle or product belonging to a person or a public entity. The name of Vandalism comes from the Vandals who invaded Western Europe in the 4th and 5th centuries, burned everything that passed and plundered Rome in 455.^[1] Some researchers defined vandalism as an intentional act of destroying the objects of the institution or anyone.^[2,3,4]

When considered from the environmental point of view, people are often confronted with practical reflections of vandalism in their life everyday. To break the windows of the buildings, to write on the walls, to damage the buildings by arson, to write names by scratching the furniture in the parks, to tear a very valuable picture in the museum, to tear off some pages of books in libraries, to use traffic signs and plates on the highways as a target

board, hurting the telephone booths etc., are some of the most common examples of vandalism.^[1]



Fig. 1: Example of vandalism on a billboard.^[11]

Similarly Doğan and Demir (2012), Dinçtürk (2007) and Kesimli (2013) stated that the areas where vandalism is most visible are schools, transportation and communication means, sports fields, parks and gardens, public and private housing, libraries, historical artifacts and artistic structures.^[5,6,7]

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The main material of the study is the subject of vandalism and national and international articles, papers, books, theses and photographs containing this subject. Articles, papers, books and theses related to this subject were investigated; photos are taken, existing photos are compiled. The definition of vandalism has been made, its types have been mentioned and the reasons are explained. Finally, recommendations have been developed to reduce vandalism.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Vandalism as a form of aggression may occur in different views:

- * Greedy vandalism
- * Ideological vandalism

- * Playful vandalism
- * Vindictive vandalism
- * Malicious vandalism.^[7,8]

Greedy vandalism

This type of vandalism involves stealing and plundering in order to make collections or to sell to the rooks for money. An example of this is the stealing of some car crests and the breakage of telephone machines in order to play coins.^[9]

Ideological vandalism

This kind of vandalism is a conscious tactic that is applied for a certain purpose. This type of demolition can take many different views, such as writing on walls or breaking the windows.^[9]



Fig. 2: Examples of vandalism.^[12,13]

Playful vandalism

The role of the element of malice is very insignificant in the emergence of such vandalism. These appear as a result of the competition, curiosity and skills of the children. For example, who can break more street lamps? When children have the opportunity to exhibit such competitions and skills, there are some kind of damage that are described as playful vandalism.^[9]

Vindictive vandalism

It is a type of vandalism that a person uses to take revenge of a real or imaginary injustice that he thinks is done against him.^[9]

Malicious vandalism

Pouring acid on cars, removing flowers, cutting car tires in a car park, throwing stones at railways, making public toilets not used, etc. some of these examples of vandalism. In this kind of vandalism, the person takes tremendous pleasure because of his behavior.^[9]



Fig. 3: Examples of vandalism.^[14,15]

Among the causes of vandalism are personal characteristics, physical and social environment characteristics, friend environment, non-ownership, belonging, educational status, economic situation. Research shown that personal characteristics can cause vandalistic behavior. Ward (1973) and Dunning (1987) found that a large proportion of those involved in such incidents were younger persons who did not have a certain skill.^[9] Dinçtürk (2007) mentioned that factors such as lack of ownership, population density, lack of education and intensive use can be counted among the causes of vandalism.^[6]



Fig. 4: Examples of vandalism from Skopje, Macedonia (Original, 2018).

According to psychologists, vandalism is more prevalent in cities where there are a lot of buildings.^[10] Baron and Fisher (1984) mentioned that the most comprehensive initiative to explain vandalism is the justice-control model based on a socio-psychological basis. According to this model, two important concepts underlying vandalism. These are the level of justice perceived by the individual and the level of control they perceive. If an individual thinks he has not been treated justly and if the belief that the injustice can be prevented by legal means within the system is lost, vandalism can be applied in order to provide justice itself.^[1]



Fig. 5: Some examples vandalism Duzce, Turkey (Original, 2015).

4. CONCLUSIONS

The studies to prevent vandalism often stays at "saving the moment".

The effectiveness of measures that are to prevent vandalism such as the establishment of cameras, improvement of architectural designs, objects made from unbreakable or durable material and strict control of the entrance and exit places should be discussed.^[1]

Because vandalism is a social, psychological and educational problem.

Unless people in the vandalist structure are educated and changed psychologically and socially, the quality of the materials, monitoring with cameras will be only temporary solutions, they will not solve the problem of vandalism.

Although struggling with vandalism seems to be an individual problem, it is actually a social phenomenon. Because this problem has ties with social life, economic prosperity, sense of belonging and ownership.

The solution of vandalism must be made into a state policy and planned in this way.

Persons should be encouraged to participate in sporting activities and free courses and trainings should be given in sports related branches by state or state-private sector coordination.

Similarly, art should be encouraged and supported by the state.

People who interested in art and sport should be involved in civil society organizations. So that people's socialization, social individuality, and sense of ownership in society must be reinforced.

Parents and children should be provided with regular seminars on physical environment, social life in the family, social life in the society.

Starting from the primary education age, courses related to environmental and social issues should be increased and education should be done by teaching children with individual participation with play, with activity, and participation in the family should be provided.

It should be ensured that the people's sense of belonging to the whole city from the housing scale is increased. So that humans will acquire ownership and protection instincts.

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