



An Evaluation on Public-Private Partnership Practices in the Provision of Public Health Services

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Abstract

The public-private partnership model is a financing model created to alleviate the expenditure burden of the public in some service offerings, especially in infrastructure investments. The use of this model is becoming widespread in public services where the public cannot completely withdraw from its presentation and the private sector cannot perform all of it on its own. In the model, a long-term contract is signed between the public and private entrepreneurs and the cost, risk and return of investments and services are shared.

Turkey started to implement the public-private partnership model in the health sector in the 1980s. Initially, it was applied in non-medical areas such as cleaning services, food, security, maintenance-repair, technological infrastructure. The public-private partnership model adopted in the delivery of health services in Turkey is city hospitals, an infrastructure-based model originating from England. In the city hospitals project, the provision of health services is carried out by public personnel. Planning, financing, construction, operation, maintenance and repair of the health facility and all support services are left to the private sector entrepreneur. Legislative infrastructure was created in the construction of city hospitals in 2005, and it started to be implemented in 2017 with the opening of Yozgat City Hospital.

The implementation of the city hospital has produced positive results in terms of both health care recipients and the public health sector. A high rate of satisfaction is observed in research on health care recipients. When evaluated in terms of the public, the financial burden of health services has decreased, the number of facilities for the supply of health services has increased, and the experience of the private sector has been benefited. In addition, with the model, idle capital belonging to the private sector is directed to domestic infrastructure investments. The negativities regarding the implementation are observed in the areas of difficulties encountered in the audit mechanism, transparency and accountability.

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