RESEARCH ARTICLE

Determination of Intergeneration Differences of Nurses and Student Nurses About Lifelong Learning in The Changing World: Eastern Black Sea Sample

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Abstract

Objective: Advances in medicine and technology have caused professional knowledge to develop and change. The aim of the present study is to find out the intergeneration differences of nurses and student nurses about lifelong learning in the changing world.

Methods: This descriptive study was conducted on 532 student nurses and nurses in a city of Eastern Black Sea region. The data were collected through a questionnaire form prepared to find out the views of nurses about lifelong learning. Descriptive statistics and Chi-square test were used in the assessment of data.

Results: One third of the participants who were student nurses were in their third of study and nurses were found to be working in the profession with a mean of five years. It was found that the participants thought it should be obligatory for nurses to participate in continuing education activities so that they can work in health institutions. It was found that 68.5% of the nurses preferred applicability feature and 82.6% preferred visual and audio educational materials in lifelong learning programs. It was found that nurses participated in educational programs more and 84.4% of the nurses were found to have received basic electrocardiography education and 60.8% of the nurses stated that they would like to receive education on nutrition nursing. It was found that nurses wanted to participate in education programs for professional development, while student nurses wanted to participate for career development.

Conclusions: It can be seen that nurses working participated in education programs more and wanted to participate in educational activities if they were given the opportunity. The awareness for lifelong learning and reaching related programs should be raised starting from years at the university and these studies should be included in the curriculum so that nurses can hear about professional development and changes.

Key words: Thyroid, Benign, Malignant, Multicentricity

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Introduction

In nursing profession, lifelong learning is very important in terms of members of the profession following up-to-date information and practices in the field of health (Hirst et. al., 2017). Nurses' being able to have the information, skills and competence that they need for safe nursing practices, maintaining health care services with high quality and improving these services show the necessity for nurses to learn continually during their lives (Hirst et. al., 2017; 2019). Especially American Brunt. Association (ANA), American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) and a great number of accredited institutions emphasize the lifelong learning responsibilities of nurses (Dee and Reynold, 2013; Dawis et.al., 2014). Competence of students of nursing department, who are prospective nurses of today and nurses of tomorrow, in lifelong learning will be effective in creating healthy social change (Dikmen et al., 2016). At the same time, within the context of tenth development plan prepared to increase the society's level of welfare, the need "to give individuals the skills and competence required by working life considering the perspective of lifelong learning and to improve man power in health" was emphasized (10th state development plan).

Lifelong learning in nursing is defined as a dynamic process that covers both personal and professional life and it includes both formal and informal process. Lifelong learning includes gaining a new perspective and at the same time researching and appreciating new worlds or ideas to question life. knowledge, skills and interactions. The most basic characteristics of lifelong learners can be listed as investigation, reflection, enjoying learning, understanding the dynamic nature of information and participating in learning by using active learning opportunities. Keeping the mind active is necessary for both lifelong learning and for turning knowledge into the capacity to provide high quality nursing care (Dawis et al., 2014).

Working in a profession is a significant trigger for professional development irrespective of age. Fulfilling new tasks outside the unit individuals work in or fulfilling new duties encourage learning. In addition, experiences in personal life can contribute in terms of nurses' professional development. In addition to these similarities, data have shown differences in personal life and professional life which has been found to be associated with differences in professional development strategy. It has been reported that especially younger nurses aim for "balance between profession and personal life",

while middle aged nurses aim for "consistency in profession" and older nurses aim for "career and experience" (Pool et. al., 2015). When lifelong learning was examined in different professions, it was found that a study was conducted to assess the knowledge and awareness of managers of public library and librarians about lifelong learning and the results showed that 41.4% of the participants were not informed in university about lifelong learning and at the same time 86.0% of the participants did not receive in-service training about lifelong learning (Ersoy and Yılmaz, 2009). In line with these results, it can be seen that necessary interventions are not made for lifelong learning in university education and professional life.

When the average ages of working nurses were examined, about 40% were in X generation (born between 1965 and 1980) and 60% were born in Y generation (millennium generation, born between 1981 and 2000), and X and Y generation nurses were found to work actively in the profession (Sherman, 2006; Yilmaz Esencan and Ozdil, 2017). X generation individuals are open minded individuals who have feelings of cooperation and liberty and who like things they can feel comfortable with in their lives (Takase et al., 2007). Y generation individuals care about the balance between professional life and personal life and they expect a fun and innovative professional life (Yilmaz Esencan and Ozdil, 2017). Giving opportunities to increase their professional content and quality of life to nurses who are actively working will increase level of contentment both for nurses and patients. When it is considered that a great majority of nursing students also consist of Y generation and Z generation which includes deep sensuality (crystal children born after 2000), finding out their views about lifelong learning is very important in terms of showing the differences in the changing world.

Questioning the current states of nurses and student nurses about lifelong learning with the present study will contribute to lifelong adjustments that can be made. The aim of the present study was to find out the intergeneration differences of nurses and student nurses in terms of lifelong learning in the changing world through Eastern Black Sea sample.

Methods

Study Design and Setting

This descriptive study was conducted to find out the views of nurses and student nurses about lifelong learning. The universe of the study consists of 300 nursing students studying at the Health School of a

university in Eastern Black Sea region during the 2017-2018 Academic Year and 300 nurses actively working in Research and Training Hospital. Sample was not chosen, and the sample was formed with a total of 532 participants, 285 nursing students and 247 nurses, who agreed to participate in the study. The aim was to find out the intergeneration differences between the groups. The inclusion criteria were being nursing department student in the Health School of the university, a nurse working in the Research and Training Hospital and agreeing to participate in the study.

Data collection

The data were collected by the researcher with face-to-face interview method by using questionnaire form in 10-15 minutes.

Instruments

In data collection, "Views on Lifelong Learning Form" prepared in line with the literature was used out participants' socio-demographic characteristics (age, income, marital status, monthly income, level of education, years in the profession, years in the current hospital, unit nurses worked in and job in the institution) and their views on lifelong learning. Views on Lifelong Learning Form includes questions about the necessity of lifelong learning education, questioning participants' views on lifelong learning, their wishes to participate in such education, the necessity of having such education to work in health institutions, the characteristics lifelong learning should have. materials and tools preferred in lifelong learning, education programs they received within the context of lifelong learning or education programs they would like to receive if they were given the opportunity and the reasons.

Data analysis

The data were assessed with IBM SPSS 23.0 (Chicago, USA). Descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, average) and Chi-square test were used in the assessment of data. p<0.05 was considered as statistically significant.

Ethical consideration of study

Before starting the study, written permission was taken from the institution the study was conducted in and approval from Recep Tayyip Erdogan University Non-interventional Clinical Researches Ethics Board (decision number: 2018/30, 16.02.2018). In addition, the participants were informed about the study and they were told that their personal information would

be protected and those who volunteered were included in the study.

Limitation of the study

The study was limited to nurses working in a training and research hospital in the northeast of Turkey and nursing students studying in Health School.

Results

the distribution of the descriptive When characteristics of the participants were examined, it was found that mean age of the student nurses was 20.89±1.72 (min: 17; max:29) years, 98.2% were single, 51.2% were found to have equal income and expenditure, 28.8% were found to be in their third year of study. Mean age of the nurse group was found as 26.00 ± 6.78 (min: 20; max:54) years, 84.2% were female, 57.1% were single, 44.9% were found to have equal income and expenditure, 59.1% were found to have undergraduate or higher level of education, 60.7% were found to be working in surgical clinics, with a mean working years of 5.00 ± 6.73 (min: 1; max: 35), while 89.1% working as clinic nurses with a mean of 3.00 ± 5.38 (min: 1; max: 35) (Table 1-2).

Table 1. Descriptive characteristics of student nurses (n=285)

Characteristics	n	%		
	Mean ±SD (min; max)			
Age	20.89±1.72 (1	min: 17; max:29)		
Gender				
Female	215	75.4		
Male	70	24.6		
Marital status				
Married	5	1.8		
Single	280	98.2		
Monthly income level				
Income higher than expenditure	30	10.5		
Income equal to expenditure	146	51.2		
Income lower than expenditure	109	38.2		
Year of study				
1st year	66	23.2		
2nd year	77	27.0		
3rd year	82	28.8		
4th year	60	21.1		

In the distribution of the participants' views about lifelong learning, it was found that participants' views about the necessity of professional lifelong learning, their wishes to participate in lifelong learning activities for professional development, considering learning new information or skill as an indispensable part of life were not found to be statistically significant (p>0.05). The state of thinking that it should be obligatory to participate in lifelong learning activities for the permission to work in health

Differences of Nurses About Lifelong Learning

institutions was statistically significant in terms of profession groups and that nursing group thought that participating in lifelong learning activities should be obligatory more than the student group (p<0.05). When the participants were asked about what features

lifelong learning program should have, it was found that 68.4% of the participants thought they should be applicable by students, while 82.6% thought that visual and auditory educational materials were preferred by students (Table 3).

Table 2. Descriptive characteristics of nurses (n=247)

Characteristics	n	%		
	Median (min; max)			
Age	26.00 (m	in: 20; max:54)		
Years in the profession	5.00 (m	in: 1; max:35)		
Years in the hospital	3.00 (m	in: 1; max:35)		
Gender				
Female	208	84.2		
Male	39	15.8		
Marital status				
Married	106	42.9		
Single	141	57.1		
Monthly income level				
Income higher than expenditure	31	12.6		
Income equal to expenditure	111	44.9		
Income lower than expenditure	105	42.5		
Level of education				
High school	39	15.8		
Two-year degree	56	22.7		
Undergraduate and higher	146	59.1		
Unit				
Internal medicine clinics	61	24.7		
Surgical clinics	150	60.7		
Other units	36	14.6		
Job in the unit				
Clinic nurse	220	89.1		
Clinic head nurse	24	9.7		
Nurse manager	3	1.2		

When the top 5 education programs received by the participants were compared between the groups, it was found that the rate of participation in education programs was higher in the nurse group and the difference was found to be statistically significant (p<0.05). The education which was most received by the nurses was basic electrocardiography with a rate of 84.4%. When the top 5 education programs the participants would like to participate in were compared between the groups, it was found that the nurse group was more willing to participate in education programs and the rate was found to be statistically significant (p<0.05). It was found that 60.8% of the participants would like to receive nutrition nursing education if they were given the opportunity (Table 4).

When the distribution of the participants' views about their reasons and wishes to participate in education programs were analyzed, it was found that the nurse group participated for professional development and there were significant differences in

terms of groups. (p<0.05). It was found that nurses and student nurses would like to participate in education programs if given the opportunity and the reasons why they wanted to participate were found to show statistically significant difference (p<0.05) (Table 5).

Differences of Nurses About Lifelong Learning

Table 3. Distribution of participants' views on lifelong learning

	Student group		Nurse g	group	Test and p value
	n	%	n	%	
Thinking that lifelong learning is nece	ssary in the	e profession			
Those who agree	258	90.5	234	94.7	X ² =3.374, p=0.66
Those who disagree	27	9.5	13	5.3	
Wishing to participate in lifelong learn	ning activit	ies for profes	sional develo	pment	
Yes	250	87.7	225	91.1	X ² =1.574, p=0.210
No	35	12.3	22	8.9	
Thinking that learning new information	on and skil	l is an indispe	ensable part o	of life	
Yes	257	90.2	230	93.1	X ² =1.479, p=0.224
No	28	9.8	17	6.9	
Thinking that it should be obligatory to) participat	e in lifelong l	earning activ	ities for per	mission to work in health
institutions					
Those who agree	182	63.9	180	72.9	$X^2=17.264$ p=0.000
Those who disagree	90	31.6	43	17.4	
No opinion	13	4.6	24	9.7	
Features that a lifelong learning progr	am should	have *			
Motivation	149	53.4	155	63.3	
Selectivity	55	19.7	68	27.8	
Applicability	191	68.5	153	62.4	
Other (innovative)	2	0.7	1	0.4	
Instruments preferred in lifelong learn	ning educat	tion*			
Programmed teaching materials	185	67.0	149	61.8	
Visual and auditory teaching materials	228	82.6	192	79.7	
Advisor teachers	188	68.1	158	65.6	

^{*}Percentages were calculated from the multiple answers given

Table 4. Comparison of the top five education programs the participants received or would like to receive if provided

Tooghing program	Nurse		Student nurse		Test and p value
Teaching program	n	%*	n	%*	
Top 5 education programs received					
Basic electrocardiography	38	84.4	7	15.6	X ² =28.923, p= 0.000
2.Family consulting	16	84.2	3	15.8	X ² =11.330, p= 0.003
3.Research in nursing	15	83.3	3	16.7	X ² =10.165, p= 0.006
4.Basic life support (BLS)	61	81.3	14	18.7	X ² =42.917, p= 0.000
5.Wound care	28	77.8	8	22.2	X ² =15.355, p= 0.000
Education programs participants would	like to re	eceive if prov	vided		
1.Nutrition nursing	59	60.8	38	39.2	$X^2=23.510$, p=0.000
2.Basic electrocardiography	65	56.0	51	44.0	$X^2=18.781$, p=0.000
3.Health law and ethical principles in	62	55.4	50	44.6	X ² =13.241, p=0.001
health					-
4.Trainer education	55	55.0	45	45.0	$X^2=16.625$, p=0.000
5.Management in nursing	68	54.0	58	46.0	X ² =13.456, p=0.001

^{*}Percentage of rows was taken

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Table 5. Distribution of partic	cipants views on	i wny they participate	or want to participate in 6	education programs

	Nurse		Stu	dent	Test and p value
	n	%	n	%	
Reasons why they parti	cipated in ed	ucation progra	ams previously		
Professional	13	76.5	4	23.5	$X^2=6.744$
development					
Career development	4	36.4	7	63.6	p=0.034
No reason given	230	45.6	274	54.4	
Reasons why they would	d like to part	icipate in educ	ation program	s if provided	
Professional	26	49.1	27	50.9	$X^2=40.719$
development					
Career development	13	15.1	73	84.9	p=0.000
No reason given	208	52.9	185	47.1	

^{*} Percentage of rows was taken

Discussion

In this section, the results of the study were analyzed regarding the intergeneration differences between participants' views on lifelong learning.

In the present study, it was found that participants thought nurses should be obliged to participate in lifelong learning activities for permission to work in health institutions (Table 3). Studies conducted show that managers of institutions define the concept of lifelong learning (LLL) with metaphors such as "obligation, human product, life, continuity, health and guiding" and emphasized the significance and necessity of LLL. Health professionals have also stated that LLL approach should be made more widespread (Dogan and Kavtelek, 2015). It is stated in the studies that nurses think that continuous education is necessary in order to provide quality health care and to save lives (Caporiccio et al., 2019).

According to another study conducted, generation Y workers change their jobs due to their wishes of education and development. Caring about education and development opportunities is very important in terms of expectations from professional life (Metin and Kızıldag, 2017). In the present study, the fact that especially working generation Y nurses were aware of this situation is an indicator that they are aware of their needs for lifelong learning in terms of professional development.

In terms of the features a life-learning program should have, it was found that the features of being applicable by students and visual and auditory educational materials were preferred (Table 3). According to literature, it has been stated that there are no significant differences between generations Y and Z in terms of "perceptive-intuitional", "visual-auditory" and "sequential-integrated" learning styles. It is stated that when compared with generation Y, generation Z prefers perceptive-intuitional learning, while generation Y prefers "visual-auditory" and "sequential-integrated" learning (Kavalci and Unal,

2016). In addition, generation Y shows that they are more inclined to lifelong learning with their beliefs that they can succeed when they want, their ambition to promote quickly, their entrepreneurial spirit, their sophistication and their command on technology (Erden, 2017). When considered that "seen-heard-told-done" information provide 90% permanence (Hacialioglu, 2013), it is thought that this might be the reason why the feature of being applicable by students was the feature most wanted by the participants.

It is recommended by prospective nurses to be open to innovations, to learn how "they can access information and how they can use information" in undergraduate education and to develop these during their profession as a necessity of following technological developments in health (Nayda and Rankin, 2008). It is seen that nurses use computers at work or out of work to access continuous education and resources (Caporicio et al., 2019). With the use of materials, the number of senses can be increased in the learning process and more permanent learning can be supported. This situation shows that permanence in education process can be provided through being applicable. Studies show that self-learning increases creativity (Navda and Rankin, 2008). In studies conducted to find out educational needs, it is emphasized that professionals' active participation should be provided and professional studies should be shared (Serbet and Ulupinar, 2010). It is advocated that by teaching students self-learning in their undergraduate education, their skills such as "criticizing, thinking and creating" can be developed and thus their curiosity to learn can be made permanent (Guclu et al., 2013). Studies have shown that using lifelong learning strategies in student nurses such as "independence in intellectual practice, cooperative learning, inquisitive thinking, permanent learning, needs based learning, learning management, suitable learning environment and development" is

important in terms of increasing the quality of education, developing nurses' competence and increasing quality of patient care (Qalehsari et al., 2017). In addition, the emphasis was placed on the need for a more consistent and standardized nursing education in lifelong learning (Caporiccio et al., 2019). According to the literature, it is emphasized that nursing students' self-directed learning skills should be increased (Kaulback, 2020).

In the present study, it was found that there were too many educations working nurses received and the education received most by the nurses was basic electrocardiography and if they were given the opportunity, they would like to participate in more education programs and they wanted to receive especially nutrition nursing education program (Table 4). Studies have shown that in units except for intensive care and emergency units, level of knowledge is not sufficient in terms of taking and reading ECG and does not differ in terms of level of education or years of working (Dogan and Mehmet, 2012). It can be seen that a great majority of nurses think that they need in-service training and ECG is one of the top five educations they would like to receive with a rate of 10,8% (Bugdayli and Akyurek, 2017). In nursing practices, considering the active role of nurses in patient follow ups and the significance of electrocardiography education while making these follow-ups and the effect of these on patients' quality of life, it can be seen that receiving electrocardiography education is important in terms of emergency situations. The results of the study show that there are no differences between generations in terms of this and it is equally important for groups. It is a known fact that nutrition is important to maintain the continuity of life cycle from birth to death and some chronic diseases can be prevented with healthy eating habits. When nurses teach individuals eating habits that they can turn into lifestyle, the continuity of healthy life style behaviors can be increased. Considering the active role of nurses in conducting health educations, nurses can increase individuals' awareness in using health recommendations specific for the individual and thus contribute to developing the health states of individuals (Yilmaz Yavuz, 2018). The reason why nurses stated that they would like to have nutrition nursing education can be assessed as their being aware of the fact that nutrition is the basic need in increasing health care quality and as a step of providing a high quality health service.

When the participants' views on the reasons for receiving education programs were analyzed, it was found that nurse group received education for professional development and nursing students wanted to receive education for career development if given the opportunity (Table 5). In a study which was conducted on intensive care nurses who give complicated and technology assisted patient care, it was found that almost all of the nurses expected education given to contribute to professional developments, to contribute to personal development and to increase the quality of health services, and in addition education programs given were expected to increase skills of team work (Celen et al., 2007). When it is considered that generation Y was higher in number in the study, the fact that career expectations, which is a general characteristic of the generation, is also desired by the students shows that "expertise in a profession" is cared by students who have not started their professions yet and that they are aware of the fact that they should specialize in their field in terms of professionalism. Managers and nurse managers should be aware of career planning, management processes and career development approaches of their employees and thus guide their expectations. In addition, employees should be able to make career plans which are not confined to an organization or profession (Tatar Baykal and Yalcin, 2014).

Conclusion

In the present study which was conducted to find out the intergeneration differences between nurses' views on lifelong learning, it was emphasized that continuous education should be made obligatory to be able to work in health sector. It was concluded that especially working nurses participated in more education programs and that they would like to participate in more education activities if given the opportunity. The necessity of professional development is obvious for hearing professional development and changes. Within this context, awareness should be built about lifelong learning and reaching related programs starting from university years and these should be included in the curriculum.

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