

Examination of Suicide News Presentation on Print Media Between 2018-2019 2018-2019 Yılları Arasında Yazılı Basında Yayınlanan İntihar Haberlerinin İncelenmesi

This article was presented as an oral presentation in VI International X National Psychiatric Nursing Congress as online 20th -23rd October 2021.

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Abstract

This study aimed to evaluate the presentation of suicide news published in 2018-2019 in the print media. The research was designed quantitatively and retrospectively. Data were collected by scanning newspaper archives in the National Library. For ethical reasons, newspaper names were not included in this article. A total of 212 different news contents were examined. Descriptive statistical methods were used in the analysis of the data. It was determined that most of the suicide news were published in 2019, suicide news was published more frequently in December and August, more than half of the suicides were carried out by guns. It was found that and there were ethical violations in the way newspapers presented the news, and the most common ethical violation was to publish photographs and express suicide methods.

Keywords: News, nursing, mental health, suicide

Özet

Çalışma, 2018-2019 yıllarında yayımlanan intihar haberlerinin yazılı basında sunuş biçimlerini değerlendirmek amacıyla yapılmıştır. Araştırma niceliksel türde ve retrospektif (geriye dönük) olarak tasarlanmıştır. Veriler, Ulusal Kütüphane arşivi taranarak toplanmıştır. Etik olarak, bu makalede gazete isimlerine yer verilmemiştir. Toplamda birbirinden farklı 212 haber içeriğine ulaşılmıştır. Verilerin analizinde tanımlayıcı istatistiksel yöntemler kullanılmıştır. Haberlerin çoğunun 2019 yılına ait olduğu, intihar haberlerinin daha sıklıkla Aralık ve Ağustos aylarında yayımlandığı, yarısından fazlasında intiharın silahla gerçekleştiği belirlenmiştir. İncelenen gazetelerdeki haberlerin sunuş biçiminde etik ihlaller olduğu ve en çok yapılan etik ihlalin fotoğraf yayınlama ve intihar yöntemini açıkça belirtme olduğu saptanmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Haberler, hemşirelik, intihar, ruh sağlığı

Atıf için (how to cite): Baysan Arabacı, L., Taş Soylu, G., Efekal, D., Akbaş, S., Demirtaş, H., Kızılgül, M. (2022). Examination of suicide news presentation on print media between 2018-2019. Fenerbahçe University Journal of Health Sciences, 2(3), 601-612. DOI: 10.56061/fbujohs.1156634

Submission Date: 05.08.2022, Acceptance Date: 31.08.2022, Publication Date: 26.12.2022

1. Introduction

Suicide is the act of intentionally causing one's own death (Atli et al., 2014; Bahadır Yılmaz, 2019). Suicide is a complex phenomenon with many psychological, cultural, social, or economic aspects (Tatlıoğlu, 2012) and it is a serious problem that is increasing all over the world. According to the data of the World Health Organization (WHO), 800.000 people die due to suicide every year, which is one person every 40 seconds. Although suicide may occur throughout the lifespan, it is most common under the age of 35 (WHO, 2019). It is also reported to be seen in a wide population, from individuals with economic difficulties to individuals with mental problems or individuals with normal living conditions under stress (Şevik et al., 2012). Suicide is an early detectable and preventable problem. To draw attention to suicidal behavior, World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) decided to make "suicide prevention" the main theme of World Mental Health Day in 2019 (WFMH, 2019).

Along with these developments in the world, the media may play a significant role in suicide contagion. Despite its efforts to prevent suicide, it is mentioned that it has a structure that encourages imitative (copycat) suicides. Celebrity suicides are considered newsworthy, and it is often reported in newspapers. However, such reports are particularly likely to induce copycat suicides in vulnerable persons (Niederkrötenhaler et al., 2012). Suicidal behavior can be seen as an acceptable solution for individuals who are in similarly vulnerable groups with mental disorders or economic problems. The content or presentation of suicide news in the media can prepare the suicide-inducing ground for individuals with death thoughts (Cengiz, 2005; Niederkrötenhaler et al., 2012).

The studies carried out in recent years indicate that to change this situation, there should be media campaigns aimed at reducing suicidal behavior (Pirkis et al., 2019). Despite existing regulations in Turkey, it is seen that suicide news have not been published with enough care and sensitivity. Although the Press Council Code of Professional Principles (2019) state that the main function of journalism is "to discover the facts and communicate them to the public without distortion or exaggeration" (Basın Konseyi, 2019), in practice, it is seen that there are news headlines that contain ethical violations such as "He killed his girlfriend who did not want to make peace and committed suicide", "The mother of two children committed suicide by jumping from the fourth floor". Community members who read or watch these and similar news in the print and visual media not only read or watch them but they can also act actively or unconsciously as learners from these news. At the 51st National Congress of Psychiatry press conference, the Psychiatric Association of Turkey stated that presenting the suicide news with all the details of the cases and by dramatizing them with visual elements has negative effects on people (Psychiatric Association of Turkey, 2015). Health professionals, especially nurses are aiming to protect the health of individuals starting from birth until death, pursuance, cure, and improvement. Therefore, they also make attempts to maintain the health of the community in the context of suicidal behaviors. Print and visual media and public service announcements may raise public awareness to prevent suicides by encouraging the public to access aid resources and may inform them where to seek help (Tel, 2016). At the same time, training and informing may increase the level of media professionals' awareness. Because of all these reasons, media, which have a significant and guiding effect on the public, is at a strategic point in terms of

protecting and promoting public health. Based on this essential idea, this study aims to evaluate the presentation of suicide news published in 2018-2019 in the print media.

2. Method

The research was designed quantitatively and retrospectively. The presentation forms of suicide news in the print media during 2018 and 2019 were examined in the top three highest circulated newspapers (A, B, and C). The research data were collected between January and February 2020 by scanning the newspaper archives in the National Library in Çankaya, Izmir.

2.1. Aim

This study aims to evaluate the presentation of suicide news published in 2018-2019 in the print media.

2.2. Sample and Universe

The universe of the study consisted of suicide news published in the print media during 2018 and 2019 in the top three highest circulated newspapers. Sample selection was not made, all suicide news that met the inclusion criteria were included in the study. Each newspaper has a circulation of over 300,000 (Newspaper Circulation [Gazete Triajları], 2020). A total of 212 different news items published in these newspapers were found.

2.3. Data Collection and Data Tools

The data were collected by the researchers in line with the "Suicide Cases Characteristics Determination Form". The form consists of 14 open-ended and closed-ended questions to determine information about suicide time, demographic features, suicide methods, suicide results, factors causing suicide, type of newspaper, the platform on which the news were presented, and the ethical aspect of the presentation. While evaluating the ethical aspect of suicide news, the relevant literature and the "WHO, Preventing Suicide: a resource for media professionals" were taken as the basis (WHO, 2008). Suicide news were analyzed ethically in line with the principles set by the World Health Organization including *do not use language which sensationalizes or normalizes suicide, do not present it as a constructive solution to problems, avoid reporting it as a story, do not explicitly describe the method used, do not use sensational headlines, do not use photographs, video footage or social media links, apply particular caution when reporting celebrity suicides* (WHO, 2008).

2.4. Ethical Consideration

Approval was obtained from the Social Research Ethics Committee (decision number 2020/03-01) of a university to conduct the research. The names of the three different newspapers examined within the scope of the research were not explicitly specified in order not to cause institutional stigmatization, and the code name (A, B, C) was used throughout the article.

2.5. Data Analyses

The data included in the study were evaluated using the SPSS 22.0 program. Descriptive statistical methods (frequency and percentage distributions, mean and standard deviation) were used in the analysis of the data.

3. Results

3.1. Findings Related to News Headlines and Dates

When the number of news published and made accessible in two years for each newspaper is examined; a total of 212 suicide news were found in the newspaper "A", 108 suicide news were found in the newspaper "B" and 165 suicide news were found in the newspaper "C". When the publication dates were examined, it was observed that 57.5% of the news in newspaper "A", 50.9% of the news in newspaper "B", and 57.5% of the news in newspaper "C", were published in 2019. Suicide news published in all three newspapers (50%; 41.7%; 49.1%, respectively) occurred mainly in metropolises (Table 1).

Table 1. Evaluation of findings related to the headlines and dates of suicide news

	Newspaper A		Newspaper B		Newspaper C	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
News Count	212		108		165	
Distribution by years						
2018	90	42.5	53	49.1	76	46.1
2019	122	57.5	55	50.9	89	53.9
Suicide Location						
Unspecified	3	1.4	4	3.7	2	1.2
Metropolises	106	50.0	45	41.7	81	49.1
City	31	14.6	18	16.7	22	13.3
District	72	34.0	41	38.0	60	36.4
Suicide Months						
January	14	6.6	7	6.5	10	6.1
February	18	8.5	14	13.0	16	9.7
March	18	8.5	8	7.4	16	9.7
April	20	9.4	11	10.2	18	10.9
May	14	6.6	4	3.7	10	6.1
June	19	9.0	4	3.7	14	8.5
July	9	4.2	6	5.6	6	3.6
August	29	13.7	14	13.0	26	15.8
September	12	5.7	8	7.4	11	6.7
October	8	3.8	5	4.6	5	3.0
November	17	8.0	11	10.2	15	9.1
December	34	16.0	16	14.8	18	10.9
News Headlines Review						
Glorifying the event (<i>sensationalizes or normalizes suicide</i>)*						
<i>Normalizing by specifying the status</i>	33	15.5	22	20.3	41	24.8
<i>Normalizing by explaining reasons</i>	51	24.0	13	12.0	30	18.1
Describing and teaching the method used	52	24.5	17	15.7	35	21.2
Total	212	100	108	100	165	100

Descriptive statistics were used.

* It has been evaluated only in terms of sensational (gutter press) news headlines. (e.g. *The Lawyer killed himself with gun.*)

It was determined that suicide news peaked in December and August. When news headlines were evaluated according to ethical principles for media professionals set by WHO, it was observed that the suicide news were presented within the framework of two basic ethical violations: glorifying the event (sensationalization/normalization) and teaching suicide methods.

When suicide news headlines were examined, it was observed that the suicide attempts were glorified by depicting words such as “horror, brutality, massacre, and tragedy”. Suicide news contained disclosed information such as professional status (police, doctor, athlete, officer) and victims' reputation in the community. Additionally, it was observed that the incident was tried to be normalized by giving reasons: “Forbidden love, divorce, disagreement, jealousy, homicide, etc.”

It was also found that suicide methods such as “shot himself/herself with a shotgun, committed suicide by drinking cyanide, jumped on rails, jumped from the 11th floor” were explicitly described in the news headlines (Table 1).

3.2. Findings Regarding the Presentation of the News

When the forms of presentation of suicide news were evaluated ethically, it was observed that more than half of the news in newspaper B and news in newspaper C and approximately 1/3 of the news in newspaper A focused on emotional aspects of suicide cases. It was determined that the suicide method was clearly stated and photographs were published in almost all of the news (over 95%). Similarly, factors causing suicide were highlighted in more than half of the news (66.1% in newspaper C; 64.8% in newspaper B; 63.7% in newspaper A respectively) in all three newspapers (Table 2). In addition, it was observed that 77.8% of the news in newspaper B, 79.3% of the news in newspaper C, and 79.7% of the news in newspaper A, did not provide information about where to seek help including mental health services, suicide prevention centers, crisis help lines, etc. (Table 2).

Table 2. Evaluation of the ethical violations regarding the presentation of the news

	Newspaper A		Newspaper B		Newspaper C	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Ethical violation in news presentation						
There is an ethical violation	210	99.1	108	100.0	164	99.4
No ethical violation	2	0.9	0	0.00	1	0.6
If there is an ethical violation;						
Suicide is dealt with emotionally						
Yes	77	36.3	59	54.6	86	52.1
No	135	63.7	49	45.4	79	47.9
Method explicitly described; photographs published						
Yes	203	95.8	103	95.4	159	96.4
No	9	4.2	5	4.6	6	3.6
Suicide is shown to be presented as inexplicable and inevitable						
Yes	19	9.0	8	7.4	16	9.7
No	193	91.0	100	92.6	149	90.3
Suicidal factors are highlighted (bankruptcy, exam failure, sexual abuse etc.)						
Yes	135	63.7	70	64.8	109	66.1
No	77	36.3	38	35.2	56	33.9

Descriptive statistics were used.

Table 2. Evaluation of the ethical violations regarding the presentation of the news (*Continued*)

	Newspaper A		Newspaper B		Newspaper C	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Suicide news is reported to honor victims' suicidal behavior						
Yes	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
No	212	100.0	108	100.0	164	100.0
Accurate information about where to seek help is not provided (contact information of mental health services and help lines, etc.)						
Yes	169	79.7	84	77.8	130	79.3
No	43	20.3	24	22.2	34	20.7
Total	212	100.0	108	100.0	165	100.0

Descriptive statistics were used.

In all three newspapers, in the vast majority of news there was not any statement that would honor the victims or emphasis that suicide is inevitable.

3.3 Findings Related to the Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Individuals who Commit Suicide

When the socio-demographic characteristics of the individuals who committed suicide in the examined news are evaluated, it was determined that the majority of those who committed suicide (3/4) were male and the most (1/4) to be between the ages of 26-38. It was observed that in about 1/3 of the suicide news in the newspapers, the marital status of the individuals who attempted suicide was not specified, and in about 1/3 of the individuals who committed suicide were married. In addition, it was observed that information about the educational status (over 80%) of those who attempted suicide was not included in the news content, and more than half of the news did not contain any information regarding their occupational status (Table 3).

Table 3. Socio-Demographics Characteristics of Individuals Who Commit Suicide

	Newspaper A		Newspaper B		Newspaper C	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Gender						
Female	43	20.3	30	27.8	37	22.4
Male	169	79.7	78	72.2	128	77.6
Age						
13-25	48	22.6	21	19.4	35	21.2
26-38	58	27.4	28	25.9	47	28.5
39-51	39	18.4	23	21.3	30	18.2
52-64	16	7.5	6	5.6	13	7.9
65-77	11	5.2	4	3.7	9	5.5
Unspecified	40	18.9	26	24.1	31	18.8
Marital Status						
Married	75	35.4	40	37.0	61	37.0
Single	38	17.9	22	20.4	29	17.6
Divorced	15	7.1	8	7.4	11	6.7
Unspecified	84	39.6	38	35.2	64	38.8

Descriptive statistics were used.

Table 3. Socio-Demographics Characteristics of Individuals Who Commit Suicide (*Continued*)

	Newspaper A		Newspaper B		Newspaper C	
	n	%	n	n	%	N
Education						
Elementary school	3	1.4	1	0.9	3	1.8
High school	8	3.8	4	3.7	7	4.2
University	22	10.4	11	10.2	20	12.1
Unspecified	179	84.4	92	85.2	135	81.8
Occupation						
Worker	13	6.1	7	6.5	10	6.1
Civil servant	22	10.4	8	7.4	16	9.7
Student	20	9.4	9	8.3	16	9.7
Housewife	2	0.9	1	0.9	1	0.6
Retired	4	1.9	5	4.6	5	3.0
Military officer	2	0.9	-	-	1	0.6
Unspecified	125	59.0	58	53.7	93	56.4
Other	24	11.3	20	18.5	23	13.9
Suicide methods						
Self-immolation	5	2.4	1	0.9	1	0.6
Hanging	18	8.5	6	5.6	11	6.7
Wrist cutting	10	4.7	4	3.7	8	4.8
Firearms	112	52.8	60	55.6	93	56.4
Poison	10	4.7	8	7.4	8	4.8
Drug overdose	4	1.9	-	-	3	1.8
Jumping (<i>In front of an oncoming vehicle, from heights</i>)	41	19.3	23	21.3	33	20.0
Multiple methods	6	2.8	1	0.9	3	1.8
Unspecified	6	2.8	5	4.6	5	3.0
The result of the suicide attempt						
Death	171	80.7	89	82.4	133	80.6
Living with permanent damage	18	8.5	12	11.1	16	9.7
Living healthy	23	10.8	7	6.5	16	9.7
Factors Causing Suicide						
Economic situation and unemployment	1	0.5	2	1.9	2	1.2
Depression, psychiatric disorder	20	9.4	10	9.3	16	9.7
Love	15	7.1	5	4.6	10	6.1
Family disharmony	21	9.9	12	11.1	13	7.9
Failure (School, work)	2	0.9	-	-	-	-
Lost (Death, separation)	4	1.9	2	1.9	3	1.8
Protest, go to jail	2	0.9	-	-	1	0.6
Homicide followed by suicide	19	9.0	15	13.9	18	10.9
Unspecified	57	26.9	24	22.2	43	26.1
Multiple reasons	71	33.5	38	35.2	59	35.8
Total	212	100	108	100	165	100

Descriptive statistics were used.

Suicide methods are clearly stated in the suicide news contents examined. In all three newspapers, it was observed that more than half of the suicide attempts were carried out by firearms, followed by jumping from heights and hanging. Suicide attempts were found to result in death in the majority of

newspaper articles (over 80%). In all three newspapers, in about 1/4 of the news there was not any information given about the factors causing suicide. Also, in one-third of the news, it was stated that suicides occurred due to multiple reasons. Homicide, family disharmony, and mental illness were mentioned as the most common causes of suicides. News about individuals who committed suicide due to school or business failure were not included in the newspaper “B” and newspaper “C”. On the other hand, it was determined that 0.9% of the news in the newspaper “A” included the suicidal behavior of individuals due to failure (Table 3).

4. Discussion

In this study, the presentation of the suicide news was examined in three different newspapers, each representing different political views and circulated at the national level. According to results, the majority of suicide news were published in 2019, most suicide news were published in newspaper “A”, which represents the liberal-conservative center-right view, and these suicide news were published in newspaper “A” one day after newspaper “B” and newspaper “C”. As a result, it was observed that most of the news in the newspaper “A” were a repetition of the news in newspapers “B” and “C”. More suicide cases were encountered in the print media in 2019 compared to the previous year. This may be explained by the increasing suicide tendency depending on changing living conditions and stress caused by social and economic transformation experienced in recent years in Turkey. Indeed, “family incompatibility, mental illness” are among the most common causes of suicide mentioned in the news content. Similarly, Niederkrotenthaler et.al. (2010) stated that although multiple factors were reported as the reason for suicide in news, individuals committed suicide mostly because of life events. Arafat et.al. (2018) stated that depression, hopelessness, personal problems, and economic problems are the most frequently mentioned causes in suicide cases in internet news (Arafat et al., 2018). In a five-year retrospective study in Turkey, it was determined that most of the suicide cases were committed by the individuals diagnosed with major depression (Metem et al., 2020). It was also stated that if the news content includes statements such as “*suicide occurred after they stated the distress they were in*” had a negative effect on the individuals living in society. Exposure to suicide-related content in the media is a trigger factor for suicidal behavior, especially in adolescents and sensitive individuals (İlhan et al., 2019; Kızılpınar et al., 2019).

When all the newspapers were examined, it was found that suicide news were published more frequently in winter and summer. It was determined that suicide news peak in December and August. Arafat et al. (2018) conducted a retrospective online news content analysis. They stated that suicides happened more frequently in the night and the spring season in Bangladesh (Arafat et al., 2018). Previous studies indicate that suicide rates are seasonal and increase in spring (Christodoulou et al., 2012; Rocchi et al., 2007). It is thought that this difference between study findings may be related to cultural and geographical features.

Suicide cases published in newspapers occurred mostly in metropolises. Similarly, in a study evaluating the content of suicide news on the internet, it is stated that approximately half of the individuals who commit suicide live in the metropolises (Arafat et al., 2018). Contrary findings were determined in studies conducted in many developed countries such as Australia, China, and Germany.

These studies stated that suicide attempts are more in rural areas than in urban areas (Helbich et al., 2017; Yip et al., 2000). It is thought that this difference in the literature may be due to the different population density and cultural characteristics of the countries where the research was carried out. Namely; religious factors, good social support due to high familiarity in rural areas, the possibility of social stigmata of victim's family may play a role in preventing suicide (Arafat et al., 2018). On the other hand, more difficult life struggles in big cities, less perception of social support, social stigmata, deeper feelings of negativity and stress, insufficient coping mechanisms of the individual may cause individuals to commit suicide.

The characteristics of the suicide victims in the news content were examined and it was observed that most of the suicides in all newspapers were committed by males and the young-middle aged individuals (26-38 years old). Similar findings were found in studies that examined suicide news on the Internet (Arafat et al., 2018; İlhan et al., 2019). In the news examined, it was observed that little information was given about the marital status of suicide victims. Similarly, the educational status and occupations of suicide victims were specified in very few cases. Suicide attempts have resulted in death in the majority of the news in the newspapers (over 80%). Previous studies show that completed suicides are reported more in the media (Niederkröthaler et al., 2010). Based on the knowledge that the phenomenon of "death" in the press will create a rating and will bring news features to the related text, completed suicides are reported by more journalists. Considering that incomplete suicides appear less or are not included in the press, it may be said that the cases of suicide attempts are more than the ones seen. This appears as an important indicator of mental health in society.

Suicide methods are clearly stated in most of the news. It is noteworthy that suicide was most frequently carried out by gun shooting, showing how easy and accessible it is to obtain a firearm carrying and possession license in Turkey. In their study, Niederkröthaler et al. examined the reflection of suicide news in the media. They stated that firearm was the most common method followed by jumping from heights and hanging (Niederkröthaler et al., 2010). Similar findings were obtained in a study that examined suicide news on the Internet. According to that study, using a firearm was the most popular method followed by hanging and jumping from heights (İlhan et al., 2019). It was observed that approximately 80% of published news does not provide information about where to seek help. It should not be forgotten that the absence of helpful resources in the suicide news, dramatizing the situation, and providing details about suicide may have caused a suicide contagion.

It was determined that there were ethical violations in the way of presenting news and that the most common ethical violation was in the form of publishing photographs (*on average 95% of suicide news*) and explicitly describing suicide methods (*using cyanide, jumping in front of a freight train, shooting with a hunting rifle or shotgun, hanging by tying socks, jumping into the sea, jumping from the roof*). It was observed that all the news published in the newspapers shared information about the location of the suicide. Findings show that suicides occur more frequently in metropolises, districts, and cities, respectively. Similar findings were gathered in previous studies. Cengiz (2005) stated that 96% of the

news shared information about the location of the suicide and 85% gave detailed information about the suicide method. Özel & Deniz (2016) stated that the rate of news without information on suicide location was 33.3%. İlhan et al. determined that in 70.4% of the news, the place where the suicide occurred was clearly described (İlhan et al., 2019). In another study it was stated that in Turkish media most of the suicide news include photographs and suicidal methods were described encouragingly (Özel & Deniz, 2016). Whereas, within the framework of ethical rules set by WHO for media professionals, suicide victims should not be identified by names or photographs in order not to be encouraging people with suicidal tendencies. Also location and method details should not be provided in the news in order not to cause copycat (imitative/copy) suicides (WHO, 2019). Therefore, it should be kept in mind that these frequent ethical violations in three national newspapers with the highest circulation, i.e., more read, may increase suicidal tendencies due to imitation or may pose a significant risk for suicide attempts. A detailed explanation of the method in suicide news may provide data on how the method was successful; this may cause an increase in suicide contagion. Explicitly detailed news such as *"First he cut his wrists, and then he committed suicide with a shotgun"* should be considered risky for the mental health of society and a supervisory system should be established for the publication of news within ethical boundaries. It should be noted that sharing ethically unacceptable information will not be an approach to prevent suicide.

WHO emphasizes that a language that does not glorify, praise, encourage, or romanticize suicide should be used in indirect or direct news (WHO, 2008). However, in the study, it was observed that approximately half of the news headlines in all three newspapers used a language that "glorifies the suicide event by magnifying it" or "normalizes the situation by presenting it in a cause-effect relationship" or "encourages and normalizes the situation by emphasizing the status of the victim in society". Similarly, in a study, it was revealed that suicidal behavior was romanticized in 46% of the news (Cengiz, 2005). The reading count of the news is increased by drawing attention to headlines with definitions such as *"horror, disastrous, horrible, massacre, insanity, freezing, brutality, screaming,"* and suicidal behavior is reinforced with laudatory language. Presentation language that establishes a cause-effect relationship in the news headline (*to the wife who wants to divorce ...; when rejected...; poverty and debt...; because he did not kiss... love pain...etc.*) is justified, confirms, and reinforces the suicidal behavior. It is known that 22% of the suicide news published in Turkey present suicide as a solution (Cengiz, 2005). In another form of presentation in news headlines, it was observed that the social status and reputation of the person who committed suicide were emphasized. This form of presentation may lead to the acceptance or adoption of suicidal behavior by creating the perception that "if suicidal behavior can be carried out even by a socially qualified, reputable-valued person (*champion, young celebrity, son of Fidel Castro, former president of youth group, Cypriot former minister, head of the department, retired officer, police, doctor, etc.*), it is very normal for me to do it". Suicide news presented in a confirming language may leave deep traces in social memory and may increase the risk of psychiatric disorders such as anxiety disorder. Unlike the national literature, recent studies in the international literature emphasizes that the media may have positive effects on suicide prevention (Pirkis et al., 2019). 6.2% of the news content in the media includes a language with an approach to prevent suicide (Niederkrötenhaler et al., 2010). In this context, for the mental health of

the society, it may be said that creating an approach and language in the Turkish media to prevent suicide is necessary and important.

5. Conclusion

In this study, suicide news in the three highest circulation newspaper were examined. Results show that suicide news were published more frequently in December and August. Using a firearm was found to be the most preferred method of suicide. It was determined that there were ethical violations in the way newspapers presented the news. In addition, it was determined that most suicides were committed by males between the ages of 26-38 by using a firearm. When increasing suicide rates are considered, publishing news content aimed at preventing suicide rather than reporting suicides, avoiding providing details in the presentation of suicide news to reduce suicide contagion and imitative suicides, the publication of suicide news under ethical rules, providing accurate information about where to seek help are recommended. In addition, considering the effects of presentation of suicide news on the suicidal knowledge, attitude, and perception of the society, establishment of a system for the evaluation and supervision of news by experts (*psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse, psychologist etc.*) is recommended. Healthcare professionals (psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, psychologists, etc.) may inform or advise media professionals to raise awareness and sensitivity on suicides. Thus, media professionals may provide support by taking an active role in preventing suicide.

Authors Contributions

Topic selection: LBA; Design: LBA; Planning: LBA; Data collection and analysis: GTS, DE, SA, HD, MK; Article writing: LBA, GTS; Critical review: LBA.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest.

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