

FT29

Pediatric Nursing Course Application's Effect on the Students' Attitudes Towards Children and their Levels of Liking of Children

Effect of Pediatric Nursing Course on the Students' Attitudes Towards Children and their Levels of Liking of Children

Aynur Aytakin Özdemir, Özlem Akarsu

Istanbul Medeniyet University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing,
Department of Child Health and Diseases Nursing, İstanbul

Amaç: Bu araştırma, Pediatric Nursing dersi uygulamasının hemşirelik öğrencilerinin çocuklarla ilgili tutumları ve çocuk sevmeye düzeylerine etkisini belirlemek amacıyla tek grupta ön test-son test yarı deneme modelinde yapılmıştır.

Yöntem: Araştırma, Türkiye’de İstanbul Medeniyet Üniversitesi’nde 11 Şubat-24 Mayıs 2019 tarihleri arasında yapılmıştır. Evreni, belirtilen üniversitenin hemşirelik bölümünde 3. sınıfta öğrenim gören öğrenciler oluşturmuştur. Örneklem grubu seçimine gidilmeden, araştırmaya katılmaya istekli olan tüm öğrenciler (n=45) araştırmaya dahil edilmiştir. Veriler, araştırmacılar tarafından “Soru Formu” ve “Barnett Çocuk Sevmeye Ölçeği (BÇSÖ)” ile toplanmıştır. Çalışmada öğrencilere Pediatric Nursing dersinin uygulamasına başlamadan önce (ön test) ve 14 haftalık staj uygulaması tamamlandıktan sonra (son test) veri toplama formları uygulanmıştır. Verilerin analizinde yüzdeler, ortalama ve standart sapma, bağımlı gruplarda t-

testi, **Mann Whitney-U testi ve Cronbach alfa katsayı**

hesaplaması kullanılmıştır. Araştırmanın yapılabilmesi için etik onay, resmi izin ve öğrencilerden yazılı izinler alınmıştır.

Bulgular: Çalışmada öğrencilerin yaş ortalaması 20.62±0.96 yıl olup, %91.1’i kızdır ve %97.8’inin kardeşi vardır, %51.1’i daha önce çocuk bakma deneyimine sahiptir. Araştırmada ön testte öğrencilerin %62.2’sinin hasta çocuklarla iletişim kurmakta zorlanırken, son testte %31.1’inin zorlandığı bulunmuştur. Ön testte öğrencilerin %84.4’ünün çocuklarla zaman geçirmekten hoşlandığı, son testte bu oranın %93.3’e yükseldiği bulunmuştur. Ön testte öğrencilerin %42.2’sinin ileride çocuk hemşiresi olarak çalışmak isterken son testte bu oranın %35.5’e düştüğü saptanmıştır. Çalışmada ön testte öğrencilerin BÇSÖ puan ortalamasının 78.17±14.75 ve son testte 82.77±13.54 olduğu, ortalamalar arasında istatistiksel olarak anlamlı fark olmadığı belirlenmiştir (p>0.05). Çalışmada kardeş sayısı ve çocuk bakma deneyimine sahip olma durumunun öğrencilerin BÇSÖ puan ortalamalarını etkilemediği bulunmuştur (p>0.05). Ön testte cinsiyet değişkeninin öğrencilerin BÇSÖ puan ortalamalarını etkilemezken son testte etkili olduğu saptanmıştır (p<0.05).

Sonuç: Çalışmada Pediatric Nursing dersi staj uygulamasının öğrencilerin çocuklarla iletişimlerini geliştirdiği belirlenmiştir. Staj uygulaması sonrasında kız öğrencilerin çocuk sevmeye düzeylerinin erkeklerden daha yüksek olduğu bulunmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Çocuk, hemşirelik öğrencisi, çocuk sevmeye durumu.

ABSTRACT

Introduction: This quasi-experimental study was conducted using pre- and post-tests with a single group to determine the effect of Pediatric Nursing course practice on nursing students' attitudes towards children and their levels of liking of children.

Method: The study was conducted at the Istanbul Medeniyet University in Turkey between February 11 and May 24, 2019. The study population consisted of junior students studying in the nursing department of the above-mentioned university. The study was carried out with all the students (n=45) who agreed to participate in the research without any sample selection. The data were collected by the researchers through a "Questionnaire" and the "Barnett Liking of Children Scale (BLCS)". In the study, questionnaires were applied before the application of the Pediatric Nursing course (pre-test) and after the completion of the 14-week internship (post-test). In the analysis of the data, percentile, mean and standard deviation, t-test in dependent groups, Mann Whitney-U test and Cronbach's alpha coefficient were used. Written consent of the students, ethical approval and official permission were obtained to conduct the research.

Results: In the study, the average age of the students was 20.62 ± 0.96 years, 91.1% was female, 97.8% had siblings, and 51.1% had a previous child care experience. In the study, 62.2% of the students was found to have difficulty communicating with sick children in the pre-test, while this rate was 31.1% in the post-test. In the pre-test, 84.4% of the students was enjoying spending time with children, while in the post-test this rate was found to increase to 93.3%. In the pre-test, 42.2% of the students wanted to work as a pediatric nurse in the future, while in the post-test, this rate fell to 35.5%. In the study, it was found that the mean BLCS score of the students was 78.17 ± 14.75 in the pre-test and 82.77 ± 13.54 in the post-test, and that there was no statistically significant difference between the mean scores ($p > 0.05$). In the study, it was found that the number of siblings and child-care experience have no effect on the students' BLCS score averages ($p > 0.05$). In the pre-test, the gender variable was not found to affect the students' BLCS score averages, but it was found to be effective in the post-test ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion: In the study, it was found that the internship practice of the Pediatric Nursing course improved the communication of students with children. It was found that female students' levels of liking of children were higher than males after the internship.

Keywords: Child, nursing student, liking of children status.

Introduction

Love is defined as all the positive and good feelings that bring people closer together. To love is to respect and protect the individual's right through attention and tolerance. People need this feeling at every stage of their life. Especially during the childhood, children need love to develop a healthy and positive personality (1,2). Nurses working in the field of pediatrics should know the physical, social and emotional developmental characteristics and differences of children and should like them and pay attention to children (3). It is important that nurses who work in pediatrics clinics love children and try to communicate with children in a healthy way to reduce the children's hospital anxiety (4). As a result of the care given in pediatrics clinics, students experience positive emotions, such as hope, love, happiness, while also experiencing negative emotions such as fear, stress, helplessness. These positive emotions increase students' motivation and ability to learn, while negative emotions decrease their desire to learn and provide care. The higher levels of students' liking of children decreases these negative attitudes considerably (5,6). When we look at the literature, it is seen that there are very few studies on the status of liking of children of nursing students and pediatric nurses in Turkey. This study was conducted using determine the effect of Pediatric Nursing course practice on nursing students' attitudes towards children and their levels of liking of children.

Materials and Methods

Type of research

This quasi-experimental study was conducted using pre- and post-tests with a single group.

Place and time of research

The study was conducted at the Istanbul Medeniyet University in Turkey between February 11 and May 24, 2019.

Population and sample of research

The study population consisted of junior students studying in the nursing department of the above-mentioned university. The study was carried out with all the students (n=45) who agreed to participate in the research without any sample selection.

Collection of research data

The data were collected by the researchers through a "Questionnaire" and the "Barnett Liking of Children Scale (BLCS)" in the classroom setting. In the study, questionnaires were applied before the application of the Pediatric Nursing course (pre-test) and after the completion of the 14-week internship (post-test).

Questionnaire: It consists of questions about the socio-demographic and child loving characteristics of the students.

Barnett Liking of Children Scale: It's an assessment tool developed by Barnett and Sinisi (1990) for measuring people's attitudes towards children. The scale is a 14-item Likert type scale, scored between "1-Strongly Disagree" and "7-Strongly agree". Of the scale, 3rd, 6th, 10th and 13th items are reverse coded. The lowest and highest scores of the scale are 14 and 98 respectively. Higher scores indicate that people like children more, while the lower scores indicate that the level of liking of children is lower (7). The Turkish validity and reliability study was conducted by Duyan and Gelbal (2008) with university students. In the scale, 14-38 points indicate a lower level, 39-74 points indicate a moderate level, and 75-98 points indicate a high level of liking of children. In the reliability and validity study, the Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient was found as 0.92 (8). In this study, the Cronbach's alpha value was 0.90 in the first application and 0.92 in the second application.

Ethical dimension of research

Written consent of the students, ethical approval and official permission were obtained to conduct the research.

Statistical analysis

In the analysis of the data, percentile, mean and standard deviation, t-test in dependent groups, Mann Whitney-U test and Cronbach's alpha coefficient were used. Written consent of the students, ethical approval and official permission were obtained to conduct the research.

Results:

In the study, the average age of the students was 20.62 ± 0.96 years, 91.1% was female, 97.8% had siblings, and 51.1% had a previous child care experience. In the study, 62.2% of the students was found to have difficulty communicating with sick children in the pre-test, while this rate was 31.1% in the post-test. In the pre-test, 84.4% of the students was enjoying spending time with children, while in the post-test this rate was found to increase to 93.3%. In the pre-test, 42.2% of the students wanted to work as a pediatric nurse in the future, while in the post-test, this rate fell to 35.5%.

In the study, it was found that the mean BLCS score of the students was 78.17 ± 14.75 in the pre-test and 82.77 ± 13.54 in the post-test, and that there was no statistically significant difference between the mean scores ($p > 0.05$; Table 1).

Table 1. Comparison of the Students' Scale Score Averages before and after the Pediatric Nursing Course

BLCS	Ort±SS	Test
Pre test	78.17±14.75	t=1.584
Post test	82.77±13.54	p=0.120

In the study, it was found that the number of siblings and child-care experience have no effect on the students' BLCS score averages ($p>0.05$). In the pre-test, the gender variable was not found to affect the students' BLCS score averages, but it was found to be effective in the post-test ($p<0.05$; Table 2).

Table 2. Comparison of BLCS Score Averages According to Some Characteristics of the Students

Characteristics	Pre test Ort±SS	Post test Ort±SS
Gender		
Female	77.87±15.23	83.82±13.67
Male	81.25±9.17	72.00±5.22
Test	U=75.000 p=0.780	U=24.500 p=0.017
Number of siblings		
1	82.75±9.62	78.43±14.93
2 and more	75.25±16.71	84.82±12.40
Test	U=165.000 p=0.150	U=163.000 p=0.136
Child-care experience		
Yes	79.86±13.77	84.91±13.38
No	76.40±15.84	80.54±13.65
Test	U= 226.000 p=0.539	U=194.000 p=0.180

Discussion

It is known that the care provided by nursing students and pediatric nurses is related to their levels of liking of children and that the nurses' levels of liking of children are affected by several factors. In our study, the Pediatric Nursing course did not affect the students' levels of liking of children. In the study, students' pre-test mean BLCS score was 78.17 ± 14.75 , and their mean score in the post-test was 82.77 ± 13.54 , the difference between the scores was not statistically significant (Table 1), but the students' levels of liking of children after the course were found to be higher than that of before the course. Kostak's study with nursing students also showed that (9) the students received 82.0 ± 82.09 points on the scale before taking the course, and 14.07 ± 82.35 points after taking the course, and that there was no statistically significant difference between the score averages. When we look at other studies conducted in Turkey, it was found that the average BLCS scores of student nurses and pediatric nurses working in the field of pediatrics were found to be higher (1,2,3,9,10).

In this study, a significant difference was found between the genders of the student nurses and their liking of children scores in the post-test ($p<0.05$). Female students' levels of liking of children were higher than male students. Unlike our study, Bektaş et al. found no significant differences between the students' gender and their liking of children status (1). In two studies conducted with nursing students in Turkey (9, 10), there was a significant difference between

the gender of the students and their liking of children status. Female students' levels of liking of children were higher than male students. In Turkish culture, it is believed that the fact that mothers are primarily responsible for the care of the children, and that the role of providing care for the child is assigned to females as a gender role may also cause lower liking of children scores in male students.

Conclusion

It was found that the nursing students had high levels of liking of children and that this was not affected by the Pediatric Nursing course, and that the genders of the students affected their levels of liking children in the post-test. It was found that female students' levels of liking of children were higher than males after the internship. In the study, it was found that the internship practice of the Pediatric Nursing course improved the communication of students with children. In line with these results, it is recommended to repeat the study with larger sample groups in order to determine other factors affecting the status of liking of children.

References

- 1 Bektaş M, Ayar D, Bektaş İ, Selekoğlu Y, Kudubeş AA, Altan SS. Determining the factors that influence nursing students' affection for children. *The JPR. The Journal of Pediatric Research* 2015; 2(1):37-41.
- 2 Akgün Kostak M, Semerci R, Kocaaslan E. Level of nurses' liking children and attitudes of child rising, *Gümüşhane University Journal Of Health Sciences* 2017;6(4); 146-55.
- 3 Erdem Y, Duyan V. A Determination of the factors that affect the level of pediatric nurses' liking of children. *Turk J Med Sci* 2011; 41(2):295-305.
- 4 Büyük ET, Rızalar S, Seferoğlu EG, Oğuzhan H. Analysing liking of children and parenting attitudes of nurses working in pediatric and adult clinics. *The Journal of Pediatric Research* 2014; 1(3):130-7.
- 5 Chen CW, Su TJ, Yang CY, Liu YY, Feng RF. Subjective experiences of student nurses in a pediatric practicum. *FJMM* 2009; 7(4):171-80.
- 6 Altay N, Törüner EK. Determining pediatric nursing students' clinical stress and liking of children scores, *Dokuz Eylül University School of Nursing Electronic Journal* 2014; 7:166-70.
- 7 Barnett MA, Sinisi CS. The initial validation of a liking of children scale. *J Pers Assess* 1990; 55(1-2):161-67.
- 8 Duyan V, Gelbal S. The adaptation study of barnett liking of children scale to turkish. *Education and Science* 2008; 33(148):40-48.
- 9 Akgün Kostak M. Nursing and midwifery students' state of liking of children, effects of paediatrics nursing lesson on the state of liking of children and affecting factors, *Cumhuriyet Nursing Journal* 2013; 2(2):50-56.
- 10 Baran G, Yılmaz G. Investigation of the status of liking children of the nursing students taking applied course of nursing on children's health and diseases and the effective factors. *JAREN* 2019; 5(2):91-96.