

## RESEARCH

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## The Content Analysis of Dissertations Completed in the Field of Guidance and Psychological Counseling

*Rehberlik ve Psikolojik Danışmanlık Alanında Tamamlanan Tezlerin İçerik Analizi*

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to analyse of Dissertations Completed in the Field of Guidance and Psychological Counselling (PCG) programs in Turkish Republic of North Cyprus' (TRNC) universities. In this research, the dissertations were analyzed with document analysis in terms of variables such as university, year, research topic, method, sample size, and data analysis techniques. In addition, descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages were also used by using SPSS-18 program. The sample of the research is the master's and doctoral theses, which give education in the field of PCG in the TRNC. These theses constitutes the examination of theses which have been complete until 2018. 168 dissertations were included in detailed analysis. As a result of the study, it was found that, mostly preferred topics in dissertations in the field of PCG until the date of 2018 are "Depression and / or Anxiety-stress", master thesis were concentrated in 2017, doctoral thesis were concentrated in 2018, the most used research method in master thesis were quantitative, and in doctoral thesis, mixed method.

### Article Information

#### Keywords

Guidance and Psychological  
Counselling  
Postgraduate Thesis  
Content Analysis

#### Anahtar Kelimeler

Rehberlik ve Psikolojik  
Danışmanlık  
Lisansüstü Tezler  
İçerik Analizi

#### Article History

**Received:** 19/11/2018

**Revision:** 13/08/2020

**Accepted:** 20/11/2020

### ÖZET

Araştırmanın amacı, KKTC üniversitelerinde lisansüstü ve doktora Rehberlik ve Psikolojik Danışma (RPD) programlarında yapılan tezli çalışmalarının incelenmesidir. Tez çalışmaları, yıl, konu, örneklem grubu, yöntem gibi ölçütler çerçevesinde değerlendirilmiştir. Nitel yöntemli olan çalışmada verilerin analizinde içerik analizi kullanılmıştır. Dağılımların belirlenmesi için frekans ve yüzde istatistiği kullanılmıştır. Araştırmanın evreni, çalışma amacına uygun olarak KKTC'de RPD alanında yüksek lisans ve doktora alanlarında eğitim veren, programın açıldığı yıllardan itibaren 2018 yılı Haziran ayına kadar yapılan yüksek lisans ve doktora tezleri oluşturmaktadır. Çalışmaya 168 adet tez alınmıştır. Araştırma sonucunda, söz konusu tezlerde en çok 'Depresyon ve/veya Kaygı-stres' konularında tez yazıldığı, yüksek lisans çalışmalarının 2017 yılında, doktora çalışmalarının 2018 yılında yoğunlaştığı, yüksek lisans çalışmalarında en fazla kullanılan araştırma yönteminin nicel, doktora çalışmalarında ise karma yöntem olduğu belirlenmiştir.

**Cite this article as:** Bahar, T., & Görkem, A. (2021). The content analysis of dissertations completed in the field of guidance and psychological counseling. *Turkish Psychological Counseling and Guidance Journal*, 11(60), 111-127.

**Ethical Statement:** The study was carried out in 2018 and the theses were examined with the permission of the universities.

## INTRODUCTION

Universities are places where science and science are spoken have been important. It provide to opportunities to individual for develop quantitative and quantitative occupational fields. With the changes and developments of science, new profession areas have born. Guidance and psychological counseling is a one of the new professional area. Guidance and Counseling services was started to operation in 1950 in Turkey. Occupation are of PCG, continues to evolve and develop until these days. PCG services, which are also needed in globalizing and changing educational processes, have increased the need for specialization and acquiring new knowledge. Guidance and Psychological Counseling services, which continue to be active as a scientific process, have become an integral part of our education in our age. This situation show that, the scientific studies should be necessity of evaluating.

The fact that, the world is in the age of rapid information and change, it requir to individuals to improve themselves and adapt to the age (Baymur, 1972). For this reason, the period of education system has gradually extended and the period of bachelor degree and postgraduate education has increased. In this process, it was seen that concepts such as master's and doctorate get importance (Karakutuk, 2002). The concept of master's degree can be defined as an academic degree between a bachelor's degree and a doctorate degree (Turk Dil Kurumu Buyuk Turkce Sozluk [TDK], 2018). The degree of doctorate, can be defined as a highest level degree, which the reached with an exam and a scientific study after a master degree (TDK, 2018). The aims of master degree programs are; to meet the needs of the developing society according to the changing conditions of today, to train workforce and brain power, to protect the culture, to raise the level of health, happiness and welfare of the society, to be able to comment and to raise modern individuals who can look at events scientifically (T.C. Higher Education Council, 2000).

It is an inevitable fact that, science is in an evolving process. Many researchers, before starting their theses or studies, search the literature by looking at what kind of studies are done. This literature searching process is especially important in determining the subject of the studies. In addition of this, categorizing the studies which have done is provide great opportunity and guidance for future studies. Especially, for originality of the studies, following the current studies is important in terms of contribution to science.

It is importance to determine the types and methods of the studies conducted over the years. Because it is provide to advance scientific research and to maintain the continuity of science. So, this study will be useful, helpful and guide to resarchers to focus on unknown areas. In TRNC, it has been determined that there are no content analysis studies on theses and articles. It is thought that, this study will set an example and leaded for new studies in TRNC. In this sense, it is important to determine the research slopes in scientific studies, conducted in the field of PCG and to reveal a healthy general appearance, to determine the areas and scientific methods of the subjects that are concentrated, to shed light on new scientific studies. Determination of non-researched will provide to literature to new information and new datas. In this way, it is thought that, necessity and suitable study area can be determined and created for the new subjects which cannot be studied.

The purpose of this research; It is aimed to examine the conducted in master and doctorate thesis studies in PCG programs in TRNC universities. This content analysis focus on the criteria such as years, subject, sample group data collection tools and methods of the theses.

## METHOD

This research is a qualitative research that examines the master's and doctorate studies with thesis, which are carried out in the departments of Guidance and Psychological Counseling in universities in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The obtained data were analyzed by content analysis, and frequency and percentage statistics were used to determine the distributions.

### Research Model

The research is a descriptive research and an in-depth analysis has been made with a qualitative research method. In qualitative research, the data that are numerous in the research are examined and synthesized by coding. The content analysis method used in the analysis of data, on the other hand, enables it to be summarized and interpreted (Büyüköztürk et al., 2014). Theses were entered in the table created by the researcher in Excel. Content analysis method was used in the analysis of the data obtained and for the descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages) were also used by using SPSS-18 program.

### Study Group

The study data constitute the master's and doctoral theses in the field of PCG, which were made until June 2018, from the year the universities started to graduate in their graduate and doctoral programs. It is aimed to reach all of the studies for universe. However, there are some of theses which are not allowed to be examined by the thesis author that could not be examined. 168 theses have been taken into the study. Six of them belong to 'Eastern Mediterranean University', 12 to 'Girne American University', 24 to 'European University of Lefke', 17 to 'International Cyprus University' and 109 to 'Near East University'.

### Ethical Statement

The study was carried out in 2018 and the theses were examined with the permission of the universities.

### Data Collection Tool

The data were obtained from the libraries and electronic library systems from universities. "Psychology" and "Psychological Counseling" terms were searched in order to search the theses in an electronic system. Cross check provided to two-way control. Some of the theses were found to be missing as a result of this control. These missing theses were found from library and added to the study. But some of them could not be found. Because, some researchers didn't give permission to access to their research. Therefore, theses without access were not included in this research analyses for the reliability of the research.

### Process

The data were collected from the libraries of universities and electronic library systems. For the reliability of the research, 16 theses -which were not open access- were not included in this study. Before the analysis, theses were categorised to the subject and created codes by the researcher for the content analysis. The purpose of creating these codes is to strengthen the validity and reliability of the research. Especially created codes are important step of the content analysis (Büyüköztürk et al, 2017).

The categories and codes which were used in the examination of the theses are given in Table 1.

**Table 1. The categories and codes**

<b>Standards</b>	<b>Codes</b>
<b>Grade/class</b>	1: Master 2: Doctorate
<b>Subjects of Theses</b>	1: Psychological Status 2: Attitude 3: Depression and / Or Anxiety-Stress 4: Prisoner and guilt 5: Burnout and / Or Life Satisfaction-Quality of Life 6: Addiction 7: Education Programs Activity and Methods 8: Anger Aggression Violence 9: Personal Perception-Self-Esteem and / Or Personal And Social Cohesion 10: Parent Family Marriage 11: Perception 12: Abuse 13: Conflict-Problem Solving Skills-Effective Communication-Effective Listening 14: Mourning 15: Vocational Guidance 16: Adolescence Period and / Or Development 17: Bullying and Deception 18: Awareness Level and Viewpoint 19: PCG services and / Or Prospects - Comments 20: Other Topics of Psychology 21: Suicide
Subjects of Theses (Continued)	
<b>Methods Used</b>	1: Quantitative 2: Qualitative 3: Mixed method
<b>Data Collection Tools</b>	1: Scale 2: Interview 3: Survey / Inventory and Interview 4: Survey / Inventory and Scale 5: Survey / Inventory 6: Literature Review
<b>Universities</b>	1: Near East University 2: Girne American University 3: European University of Lefke 4: International Cyprus University 5: Eastern Mediterranean University
<b>Sample Groups</b>	1: Parents and Teachers and / or School Administrators 2: Children 3: Child and Adult 4: Parents 5: Prison Inmates and Workers 6: Students and Teachers and /or School Administrators 7: Adult 8: Literature Review 9: LGBT 10: Psychological counselors and / or Psychologists 11: Soldiers

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	12: University Students 13: Teachers and / or School Administrators 14: Civil Servants and Employees 15: Individuals with Anemia
<b>Institute</b>	1: Institute of Educational Sciences 2: Institute of Social Sciences 3: Graduate Education and Research Institute
<b>Episode</b>	1: Guidance and Psychological Counseling 2: Counseling Psychology

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The research data which were obtained from the libraries of universities and the electronic environment were examined one by one by the researcher, created in the "Microsoft Office Excel 2007" program. These data were arranged coded in a way to include university, year, subject, method, sample groups and data collection techniques, institute and department titles. The table consists of eight basic standarts. Theses languages' are available in Turkish and English languages. Which Theses were in English, researcher was translated into the Turkish and then data was collected.

### Data Analysis

For the research, "IBM SPSS 24" and "Microsoft Office Excel 2007" programs were used to analyze the data. In qualitative research, with document analysis, a large number of data are analyzed and synthesized by coding. The content analysis method used in data analysis, on the other hand, allows the data to be organized, summarized and interpreted (Büyüköztürk et al.2017). Frequency and percentage values were used in the presentation of the data. Creswell (2012) defines content analysis as organizing, interpreting and expressing data that are similar to each other with certain themes.

While categorizing the data, universities were specified as "Eastern Mediterranean University", "Girne American University", "European University of Lefke," Cyprus International University "and" Near East University ". As a section; it was included in the research as the Guidance and Psychological Counseling Department and Counseling Psychology.

Considering the thesis subjects studied in the PCG master and doctorate departments in universities, it is seen that the subject range is very wide and there are similar titles. In line with this situation, a general categorization process was made by the researcher in order to provide a clearer view on the subjects. In order to make the analysis of the data in the study meaningful, the subject headings were collected under 21 titles and named as follows.

**1. General Topics According to the Categorization Process;** 'perception-related issues', addiction-related issues', 'awareness level and point of view', 'conflict-problem-solving skills-effective communication-effective listening-related issues', 'depression and / or anxiety with stress related topics', 'issues related to parental family marriage', 'issues related to education programs and / or its effectiveness', 'issues related to adolescence and / or development ', 'suicide issues', 'issues related to abuse', 'personal perception-self-esteem and / or issues related to personal and social cohesion', 'prisoner and guilt-related issues', 'career guidance issues', 'anger aggression violence related issues', 'PCG services and / or expectations - issues related to opinions ', 'issues related to the psychological state ', 'issues related to other topics of psychology ', 'issues of attitude ', 'burnout and / or life satisfaction-issues related to quality of life ', 'grief issues related to ', 'bullying and intimidation "nular". Subjects under these headings are stated below. These;

**1.1. The studies on Perception Related Subjects** are gathered under two main headings. It consists of perceptions of sexuality and competence perceptions about PCG Department.

**1.2. Subjects Related to Addiction:** The codings made for collecting studies on addiction were realized under three main headings. These; substance and alcohol addiction, cigarette and alcohol addiction, technology addiction.

**1.3. Studies on Awareness Level and Point of View;** Counseling teachers 'awareness levels, university students' viewpoints on sexuality, opinions about counselors, awareness level of PCG employees about sexual education of autistic individuals, awareness level of counselor's professional duties.

**1.4. In the category of Issues Related to Conflict-Problem Solving Skills-Effective Communication-Effective Listening;** Parents' listening skills, teachers' listening skills, students' problem-solving skills, and types of conflict were taken.

**1.5. Depression and / or Anxiety Issues Related to Stress;** Students' depression levels, test anxiety, fear of death, anxiety, depression levels of prison inmates, perfectionism level, parental anxiety levels, self-disclosure, loneliness level of high school students, stress disorder, hopelessness, stress levels of counselors, family function and depression relationship, in boarding dormitories the remaining students' state trait anxiety levels.

**1.6. Issues Related to Parents, Family, Marriage;** Sexual satisfaction attachment, marital adjustment, marriage and conflict, family function, parental requirement, attachment styles to university students, mother-infant attachment, university students' spouse selection, divorce.

**1.7. Issues Related to Education Programs and / or Its Effectiveness;** Painting education activity, educational programs, European Union youth education programs, contemporary structuring methods, Montessori education model activity, teaching staff's ability to use verbal Judo.

**1.8. Adolescence Period and / or Issues Related to Development;** Investigation of effective factors and level of knowledge in adolescence.

**1.9. Suicide Related Issues.**

**1.10. Issues Related to Abuse;** Examination of child sexual abuse according to the views of psychological counselors, the effect of child abuse on the compliance in military service, the negative psychological consequences of abuse and neglect on the child, the effect of child abuse on alcohol and cigarette use in adolescents in Kkctc, evaluation of child abuse in schools according to the opinions of educators working in secondary education.

**1.11. Issues Related to Personal Perception-Self-Esteem and / or Personal and Social Adaptation;** Bodybuilders 'body perception, obese individuals' self-esteem, adaptation behavior, third culture self-esteem, facebook and personal perception, self-esteem, self-esteem in university students, self-efficacy, self-actualization.

**1.12. Issues Related to Prison and Criminality.**

**1.13. Issues Related to Vocational Guidance;** School Failure, Professional Maturity Level, Academic Success, School Success.

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**1.14. Anger Aggression Issues Related to Violence;** the Effects of Type and Frequency of Computer Use on Adolescents' Anger and Aggression.

**1.15. Issues Related to Psychological State;** Examining the Psychological Status of 6 - 7 Years Old Students with Certain Drawing Tests, Effects of War on Psychological State, Psychological conditions of individuals with anemia, emotional intelligence,

**1.16. Subjects Related to Other Subjects of Psychology;** Play Therapy in Children, Positive Psychotherapy Childhood, Psychotherapy Childhood Nightmare, Effects of Imagination on Development, Examination of Emotional Intelligence and Social Skills Levels of University Students, Expanded Contact with Turkish Cypriot Children by Reading Stories.

**1.17. PCG Services and / or Expectations - Issues Regarding Opinions.**

**1.18. Issues Related to Attitude;** Parental Attitude, LGBT, Attitude Levels of Parents towards Their Children, Assessment of Information and Attitudes towards Family Counseling that Should Be Provided to Parents with Different Developing Children, Information Attitudes of Families on Behavioral Disorders of Children, Attitudes towards second foreign language, teacher candidates' attitudes towards multiculturalism.

**1.19. Issues Related to Burnout and / or Life Satisfaction-Quality of Life;** it covers the topics of Investigation of Burnout Levels of Academicians, Evaluation of Burnout Levels of School Psychological Counselors Working in High Schools, Quality of Life of Parents, Life Satisfaction, Burnout and Job Satisfaction in Healthcare Professionals.

**1.20. Issues Related to Grief;** Effects of post-loss mourning in children and adolescents with parental loss.

**1.21. Issues Related to Bullying and Mobbing.**

**2. General Target Audiences According to the Categorization Process;** While creating target audiences, those in Erikson's development periods; The category of 'Child' for 0-18 years old and 'Adult' for 19 and over is taken into consideration (Topses & Serin, 2014). Primary, secondary and high school students of unspecified age; it is specified in the "Child-Adolescent" category as a general title for target audiences under the age of 18. High school students are included in this group because they are in the specified age ranges, and a "high school" group has not been opened in order to provide a general distinction. The subject stated as literature review; it was stated that the target audience was not found in the research, but only for the researches where the source was scanned.

For civil servants and working individuals; Women working in the brothel, consomatrists, civil servants, workers and private sector employees were coded by including undergraduate and graduate students in the category of university students.

While creating the other codes of the target audience, the target groups specified in the studies were not included in any category that was used exactly. These include the areas specified by the researcher, such as teachers and school administrators, psychologists and psychological counselors, soldiers, individuals with anemia, menopausal women and cancer patients. Thus, the target audience codes of the research were determined as the following:

"Individuals with Anemia, Soldiers, Prison Inmates and Staff, Children and Adults, Children, Parents, Parents and Teachers and / Or School Administrators, LGBT, Literature Review, Civil Servants and Working Individuals, Students and Teachers and / or School Administrators', Teachers and / or School Administrators, Psychological Counselors and / or Psychologists, University Students, Adult ”.

## RESULTS

In this section, the results of the analysis for the distribution of master's and doctoral theses in the field of PCG by subject titles, methods, data collection tools, sample groups, institutes, departments, universities and years are included.

### Findings of PCG Master Theses

**Table 2. Frequency and percentage distribution of master theses in the field of PCG**

Number	Frequency	% (Percentage)
Total	147	100

When the table is 2, it is seen that a total of 147 master's thesis were written in the field of PCG in TRNC universities.

**Table 3. Distribution and percentages of master theses in the field of PCG by subject**

Subject	Frequency	% (Percentage)
Depression and (or) anxiety-stress	25	17,0
Conflict problem solving skill effective communication effective listening	12	8,16
Personal perception self esteem and (or) personal and social cohesion	12	8,16
Attitude	10	6,80
Burnout and (or) life satisfaction-quality of life	9	6,12
Consciousness level and way of thinking	8	5,44
Vocational guidance	8	5,44
Addiction	7	4,76
Parental family marriage	7	4,76
PCG services and (or) expectations-opinions	7	4,76
Other topics of psychology	7	4,76
Prisoner and guilt	6	4,08
Anger aggression violence	6	4,08
Abuse	5	3,40
Psychological Status	5	3,40
Training programs and (or) effectiveness-methods	4	2,72
Bullying and intimidation	4	2,72
Adolescence period and (or) development	2	1,36
Perception	1	0,68
Suicide	1	0,68
Mourning	1	0,68
Total	147	%100

When table 3 is examined, it is seen that depression/ anxiety-stress (f =25, 17%) is studied, while the second most studied subjects are personal perception self-respect and (or) personal and social cohesion, conflict problem solving ability, effective communication, effective listening (f=12, 8.16%), and the least studied subjects are master's thesis on perception, suicide and age (f=1,0.6%).



**Table 4. Distribution and percentages of master theses done in the field of PCG according to their methods**

Method	Frequency	%(Percentage)
Quantitative	112	76,19
Qualitative	31	21,09
Mixed	4	2,72
Total	147	%100

As shown in Table 4, it is seen that the thesis in the field of PCG Master's degree is carried out using the most quantitative (f=112, 76.94%) research method, followed by qualitative (f=31, 21.09%) and mixed (f=4, 2.72%) methods.

**Table 5. Distribution and percentages of master theses done in the field of PCG according to the sample group worked**

Sample Group	Frequency	%(Percentage)
University students	28	19,05
Teacher-Administrator	23	15,65
Child	23	15,65
Child-Adult	22	14,97
Literature Review	18	12,24
Parent	7	4,76
Adult	6	4,08
Officer	5	3,40
Prison-Prisoner-Employees	4	2,72
Student-Teacher-Administrator	3	2,04
Parent-Teacher-Administrator	2	1,36
Psychological Counselors	2	1,36
Soldier	2	1,36
Anemia	1	0,68
LGBT	1	0,68
Total	147	%100

As can be seen in Table 5, it is seen that the study group is mostly working with university students (f = 28, 19.05%), and then children and teacher-manager (f = 23, 15.65%) group. Anemia and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans) (f = 1, 0.68%) were the least studied sample group.

**Table 6. Years and percentages of master theses done in the field of PCG**

Year	Frequency	%(Percentage)
2003	15	10,1
2004	7	4,7
2005	9	6
2006	10	6,7
2007	5	3,4
2008	6	4
2009	6	4
2010	10	6,7
2011	7	4,7
2012	8	5,4
2013	9	6
2014	3	2
2015	7	4,7
2016	13	8,8
2017	22	14,8
2018	10	6,7
Total	147	%100

When the table is examined, it is revealed that most theses were made in 2017 ( $f = 22, 14.8\%$ ) in the field of PCG in the TRNC, and then in 2003 ( $f = 15, 10.1\%$ ). In 2014, it is seen that at least a master's thesis was written in the field of PCG ( $f = 10, 6.7\%$ ).

**Table 7. Distributions and percentages of master's theses in PCG according to data collection tools**

Data Collection Tools	Frequency	%(Percentage)
Scale	61	41,50
Survey/Inventory	31	21,09
Interview	20	13,61
Survey/Inventory and Scale	17	11,56
Literature Review	16	10,88
Survey/Inventory and Interview	1	0,68
Survey and Scale and Interview	1	0,68
Total	147	%100

When the Table up there is examined, it is seen that the scale ( $f = 61, 41.50\%$ ) is used as a data collection tool in master's theses, and then the use of Survey/inventory ( $f = 31, 21.09\%$ ) comes. Survey/inventory and interview ( $f=1,0.6\%$ ) and Survey and scale and interview ( $f=1.0.6\%$ ) are used as the least data collection tools.

**Table 8. Distributions and percentages of master's thesis in PCG by universities**

University	Frequency (Number of Thesis)	%(Percentage)
NEU	100	66,4
EUL	24	16,1
AUC	12	8,1
EMU	6	5,4
CIU	5	3,4
Total	147	%100

When Table 8 is examined, it is seen that a total of 147 master theses were written in 5 universities in the field of PCG in TRNC. It is seen that PCG theses are mostly written in NEU ( $f = 100, 66.4\%$ ), then in EUL ( $f = 24, 16.1\%$ ) and GAU ( $f = 12, 8.1\%$ ).

**Table 9. Distributions and percentages of master's thesis in PCG by institutes**

Institute	Frequency (Number of Thesis)	%(Percentage)
Institute of Educational Sciences	124	84,35%
Institute of Social Sciences	12	8,16%
Graduate Education Research	11	7,48%
Total	147	%100

The table is examined, it is seen that the highest number of master's thesis ( $f = 124, 84.35\%$ ) in the institute of educational sciences in the field of PCG in trnc is written in the Institute of Social Sciences ( $f=12, 8.16\%$ ), and in the graduate education research institute ( $f=11, 7.48\%$ ).

**Table 10. Distributions and percentages of master's thesis in the field of PCG by departments**

Department	Frequency (Number of Thesis)	%(Percentage)
PCG	135	91,84%
Counseling Psychology	12	8,16%
Total	147	%100

When the table is examined 10, it is seen that 135 (91.84%) master's thesis were written in PCG fields in TRNC and 12 (8.16%) in the field of counseling psychology.

## Findings of PCG Doctorate Dissertations

**Table 11. Number and percentage of doctoral dissertations in PCG**

Doctorate thesis	Frequency (Number of Thesis)	%(Percentage)
Total	21	100

Table 11 is examined; it is seen that a total of 21 doctoral thesis were written in the field of PCG in TRNC universities.

**Table 12. Subjects and distributions of PhD theses in the field of PCG**

Subjects	Frequency	%(Percentage)
Training programs and (or) effectiveness-methods	5	23,8
Depression and (or) anxiety-stress	3	14,3
Parent family marriage	3	14,3
Adolescence and (or) development	2	9,5
Personal perception self-respect and(or) personal and social cohesion	2	9,5
Conflict problem solving ability effective communication effective listening	1	4,8
Prisoner and guilt	1	4,8
Vocational guidance	1	4,8
PCG services and (or) expectations-opinions	1	4,8
Other topics of psychology	1	4,8
Attitude	1	4,8
Total	21	%100

Table 12 is examined, it is seen that the doctoral thesis is written on the subjects of education programs and (or) effectiveness-methods ( $f = 5$ , 23.8%) and then depression and (or) anxiety-stress ( $f = 3$ , 14.3%) and-beveyn family-marriage ( $f = 3$ , 14.3%). A doctoral thesis was written on attitude, conviction and guilt, personal perception self-respect and (or) personal and social cohesion, professional guidance, and other subjects of psychology ( $f = 1$ , 4.8%). The total number of theses is 21.

**Table 13. Distributions and percentages of doctoral dissertations in the field of PCG according to their methods**

Method	Frequency	%(Percentage)
Quantitative	6	28,6
Qualitative	1	4,8
Mixed	14	66,7
Total	21	%100

Table 13 is examined, it is seen that the thesis performed in the field of PCG PhD was carried out using the most mixed ( $f = 14$ , 66.7%) research methods, followed by quantitative ( $f = 6$ , 28.6%) and least qualitative ( $f = 1$ , 4.8%) methods.

**Table 14. Distributions and percentages of doctoral dissertations in the field of PCG according to the sample group studied**

Working Sample Group	Frequency	%(Percentage)
University Students	5	23,8
Child	3	14,3
Child-Adult	3	14,3
Parents	3	14,3
Adult	3	14,3
Teacher-Administrator	1	4,8
Officer	1	4,8
Prison-Inmate-Employees	1	4,8
LGBT	1	4,8
Total	21	%100

As seen in Table 14, it is seen that the most university students ( $f = 5, 23.8\%$ ) were studied as a sample group, and then they worked with the sample group of civil servants, teachers-managers, LGBT, prison inmates-employees ( $f = 1, 4.8\%$ ).

**Table 15. Distributions and percentages of PhD thesis in PCG fields by year**

Years	Frequency	%(Percentage)
2010	1	4,8
2012	1	4,8
2013	1	4,8
2014	7	33,3
2015	4	19,0
2016	2	9,5
2018	5	23,8
Total	21	%100

The table was examined, it was revealed that a doctoral thesis was written in 2014 ( $f = 7, 33.3\%$ ) and later in 2018 ( $f=5, 23.8\%$ ) in the field of PCG in the TRNC. In 2010, 2012 and 2013, at least a doctoral thesis was written in the field of PCG ( $f=1, 4.8\%$ ).

**Table 16. Distributions and percentages of PhD thesis in PCG according to data collection tools**

Data Collection Tools	Frequency	%(Percentage)
Scale	8	38,1
Interview and Scale	5	23,8
Survey/Inventory and Scale	3	14,3
Survey/Inventory	3	14,3
Survey/Inventory and Interview	2	9,5
Total	21	%100

The table above is examined, it is seen that the most scales ( $f = 8, 38.1\%$ ) in the field of PCG in trnc are then written doctoral thesis using scale and interview ( $f=5, 23.8\%$ ) data collection tools. It is seen that a doctoral thesis is written using the data collection tool at least survey/inventory and interview ( $f=2, 4.8\%$ ).

**Table 17. Distributions and percentages of PhD thesis in PCG fields by universities**

University	Frequency	%(Percentage)
CIU	12	57,1
NEU	9	42,9
Total	21	%100

The table 17 is examined, it is seen that a total of 21 doctoral thesis were written in 2 universities in PCG fields in TRNC. PCG theses belong to CIU( $f=12,57.1\%$ ), NEU( $f=9,42.9\%$ ).

**Table 18. Distributions and percentages of PhD thesis in PCG by institutes**

Institute	Frequency	%(Percentage)
Institute of Educational Sciences	9	42,9
Graduate Education Research	12	57,1
Total	21	%100

When the table is examined, it is seen that doctoral dissertations written in the field of PCG in TRNC are written in the Institute of Educational Sciences ( $f = 9, 42.9\%$ ). In the Graduate Education Research Institute ( $f=12, 57.1\%$ ), menstrual writings are seen.

**Table 19. Distributions and percentages of doctoral dissertations in the field of PCG by departments**

Department	Frequency (Number of Thesis)	%(Percentage)
PCG	21	100

When the table is examined, it is seen that all doctoral dissertations written in the field of PCG in TRNC ( $f = 21, 100\%$ ) are written in the PCG section.

## DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS

As a result of this research, the recommendations of the researcher are presented below.

1. In this study, the percentage and frequency values were looked at in this study where the content analysis of master's and doctoral thesis in the field of guidance and psychological counseling was carried out in TRNC universities. Meta-analysis of subsequent studies can be recommended to researchers.
2. In the research, which mentions variables such as year, university and method of master's and doctoral dissertations in the field of guidance and psychological counseling in TRNC universities, only one variable can be addressed and more detailed in-depth researches can be done.
3. It is very important to have both content and meta-analysis studies on theses, especially in universities in TRNC, in terms of determining research topics that will shed light on the field and especially many researches. It may be offered to increase research in this field.
4. Not all thesis can be found in the libraries of TRNC universities. There are theses reached by the researcher from the Institutes. It can be recommended to classification thesis in library systems with a more systematic edit.

In this study, the subtleties and subtleties of master's and doctorate in PCG in TRNC:

When we look at the master's studies conducted in the field of PCG in universities in TRNC, it is seen that the university with the highest number of thesis is Near East University with 100 thesis ( $f = 100, 66.4\%$ ). Since Near East University is older than other universities in trnc as its founding year, it is a foreseeable result that the number of thesis is high. 'Lefke European University' ranks second with 24 master's thesis ( $f=24, 16.1\%$ ).

When we look at the distribution of theses according to their years, it is seen that master's studies were concentrated in 2017, while doctoral studies were concentrated in 2014 with 33.3% and 23.8% in 2018. It is seen that the master's thesis numbers made in 2011-2013 have an equal and balanced distribution with 4.8%. In 2018, 23.8% and 5 doctoral thesis were found in universities in TRNC. However, given that 2018 is an ongoing year, it is predicted that master's and doctoral dissertations may increase. In this

case, we can say that there has been an increase in master's and doctoral thesis studies and this increase will continue. With the 'Examination of Master's Thesis in The Field of Measurement and Evaluation in Education' conducted by Senyurt and Ozkan (2017), it is seen that the thesis in the field of measurement and evaluation in Turkey was high between 2009 and 2012 and gradually decreased towards the last years, while on the contrary, master's thesis in the field of PCG in TRNC increased between 2015 and 2016.

While 76.1% of the theses studied were master's thesis using quantitative method, it is seen that master's researches conducted using mixed method were used less than quantitative method with 2.7%. In Doctoral studies, it is seen that the usage rates of mixed methods with 66.7% and quantitative methods with 28.6% are high. Therefore, we can see that the mixed research method is more preferred in doctoral studies. Ozan and Kose (2014) found that quantitative method is the most used research method in their research (81.5%) in which they examined 'Research Trends in Education Programs and Education'. Arık and Turkmen (2009) also indicated that quantitative research methods were used more (68%) in their studies. Keldal and Bİlge (2016) In their content analysis study on 'Mixed Method Research in the Field of Psychological Counseling and Guidance', they examined the mixed-method researches published in five journals within the scope of SSCI and SCI-E in Turkey between 2010 and 2015 with the method of content analysis and stated that the use of the mixed method in articles in the field of psychological counseling and guidance was low. With the 'Examination of Master's Thesis in The Field of Measurement and Evaluation in Education' conducted by Senyurt and Ozkan (2017), it is seen that quantitative methods are used in the field of measurement and evaluation in Turkey, while the thesis made in the field of PCG in TRNC has a high quantitative weight.

When we look at the institutes of master's studies, it is seen that the Faculty of Education has a rate of 84%. The lowest (8.1%) percentage is found to belong to the Graduate Education Institute. For doctoral dissertations, it is seen that the Graduate Education and Research Institute, i.e. 57.1%, has the majority of the percent. In the study carried out by Arık and Turkmen (2009), the 2008 issues of four different journals of educational sciences were scanned in SSCI. As a result of the research, it was determined that the most studies were carried out in the field of 'Educational Technologies' and then in the field of 'Guidance and Psychological Counseling'. In 2012, Goktas and others' study on 'Trends in Educational Research in Turkey' revealed that one of the areas studied mainly is the field of 'Guidance and Psychological Counseling'.

When we look at the sampling groups of master's thesis; the most preferred sample group is 'University Students' (19.05%). It is then seen that there are 'Child' and 'Teacher and/or Administrator' working groups representing the age range of 15.6% to '0-18'. 'LGBT' and 'Anemia individuals' have the lowest rates. Senyurt and Ozkan (2017) 'Students are the most preferred target audience in the research on the Thematic and Methodological Examination of Master's Thesis in the Field of Measurement and Evaluation in Education. It has been determined that the use of 'graduate students' as a target audience is low. In the research they examined the research trends in the Journal of Counselling Psychology with the Turkish Journal of Counseling and Guidance conducted by Guven et. al. in 2018; the most used target audience was found to be children, adults and university students. In the study carried out by Arık and Turkmen (2009), it was determined that the application areas were high among university students in the study called 'Review of Articles in Scientific Journals Published in the Field of Educational Sciences'.

According to the subjects of the study, it was determined that the most studied subject was 'Depression and/or Anxiety-stress'. In the research conducted by Guven et. al. in 2018, they examined the research

trends in the Journal of Counselling Psychology with the Turkish Journal of Psychological Counseling and Guidance and found that the most studied topics related to depression were the issues related to depression. The results of the research coincide.

As a result, when we look at the thesis made in the field of TRNC PCG, it is seen that the subjects studied are concentrated in some areas and the methods usually used in Master's thesis are quantitative or qualitative studies and mixed patterns are not included. It is seen that the published theses usually belong to 'Near East University'.

For this research, the results of the study were wanted to be compared, but since there was no similar research on this subject in the TRNC, the findings were discussed with studies conducted in TC and abroad. It is indicated that the compared results are similar to other studies and other data obtained.

It is thought that this research topic will be an example of other studies to be carried out on similar issues and provide more information to the field.

### **Suggestions**

In this study, the percentage and frequency values were looked at in this study where the content analysis of master's and doctoral thesis in the field of guidance and psychological counseling was carried out in TRNC universities. Meta-analysis of subsequent studies can be recommended to researchers.

Again, in the research, which mentions variables such as year, university and method of master's and doctoral dissertations in the field of guidance and psychological counseling in TRNC universities, only one variable can be addressed and more detailed in-depth researches can be carried out.

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### **Author Contributions**

This study was conducted by all the authors working together and cooperatively. All of the authors substantially contributed to this work in each step of the study.

### **Conflict of Interest**

It has been reported by the authors that there is no conflict of interest.

### **Funding**

No funding support was received.

### **Ethical Statement**

This research was completed in line with the Helsinki Declaration. In line with this, the study was investigated and permitted by European University of Lefke Scientific Research and Ethical Review Board.

**Ethics Committee Name:** European University of Lefke Scientific Research and Ethical Review Board.

**Approval Date:** 09/2018