



# Attitudes of The Different Occupational Groups About Parenting

## Değişik Meslek Gruplarında Ebeveynlikle İlgili Tutumların İncelenmesi

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### Abstract

**Objective:** The purpose of this study is to evaluate the point of view in different occupational groups against the parenting with a biopsychosocial approach.

**Material and Method:** A questionnaire consisting of 48 questions about Scale of Outlook to Parenting and demography was administered to individuals from different occupational groups at the age of parenting.

**Results:** It is established that the scores of attitudes to marriage of scale of Outlook to Parenting is affected by the occupation of individual's parent. The mean scores for the Attitudes to Marriage factor are found to be higher for health professionals group than security group, educator group and housewives group. It is established that regular reading habit effects Family Environment, Attitudes to Children and point of Attitudes to Marriage factors positively. Duration of education is found to effect Social Attitude factor positively.

**Conclusions:** Scale of Outlook to Parenting shows that there are statistical differences between the occupational groups.

**Keywords:** Occupations, parenting, sociology

### Öz

**Amaç:** Bu çalışmanın amacı, biyopsikososyal yaklaşım çerçevesinde, değişik meslek gruplarında ebeveynliğe bakışı değerlendirmektir.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** Farklı meslek gruplarından çocuk sahibi olma konumunda olan bireylere demografik sorular ve Ebeveynliğe Bakış Ölçeği ile ilgili toplam 48 soru içeren anket uygulandı. Uygun şekilde doldurulan 227 anket değerlendirmeye alındı.

**Bulgular:** Ebeveyn mesleğinin, ebeveynliğe bakış ölçeğindeki evliliğe bakış faktörünü etkilediği saptanmıştır. Sağlıkçıların evliliğe bakış faktör ortalama skorları emniyet personeli, eğitimci ve ev hanımın skorlarından yüksektir. Teknik personelin evliliğe bakış faktör ortalama skorları emniyet personelinin yüksektir. Düzenli kitap okumanın, aile ortamı, çocukla ilgili görüşler ve evliliğe bakış faktörlerini olumlu yönde etkilediği tespit edilmiştir. Toplam eğitim süresinin, sosyal tutum faktörünü olumlu yönde etkilediği saptanmıştır.

**Sonuç:** Meslek grupları arasında, Ebeveynliğe Bakış Ölçeğinin değişik faktörlerinin skorları bakımından istatistiksel farklılık mevcuttur.

**Anahtar Sözcükler:** Meslekler, ebeveynlik, sosyoloji



## INTRODUCTION

Family is a social institution in which the members interact with each other. The psychosocial status of the family is affected by the parents. Therefore, the parents are one of the focal points of the professionals who work with the families.<sup>[1,2]</sup> Individuals play new roles in families as a partner of each other. Another role of the partners is to be mother-father (parenting).<sup>[3]</sup> Family attitudes and behaviors towards to child are significant regarding the shaping child's future and development of the personality.<sup>[4]</sup>

The family life cycle characterizes the family as a changing system over time and describes the phases in this change process.<sup>[5]</sup> One of the changes of this cycle is parenting process the attitude to parenting of persons is significant in order to fulfill the parenting duties properly. Their attitudes can be affected by some factors. These factors are family environment, aims and ideals, personal skills, attitudes to marriage, physical competency, and attitudes to children, economic condition and social attitude.<sup>[6]</sup> It is observed that the entering the parenting period is affected by various natural phenomenon and social status such as some personal characteristics as well as marital and familial expectations, experiences, age, educational level, occupation and security, psychological, social and economic resources. Problem solving skills of the mothers who are socially supported by their spouses develop significantly.<sup>[7]</sup> The aim of this study to observe the possible effects of the profession which is an important element of family on the attitudes relating the parenting period which constitutes an important period in family life cycle.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

This is observational, analytical and prospective study. It was approved by Ankara Training and Research Hospital Ethics Committee with date: 05.10.2011, meeting no: 0435, decision no: 3609. The individuals who applied to the Ankara Training and Research Hospital Family Practice Clinic between the dates October 2011-February 2013, from different professions who were in the position of having children, and agreed to participate are included in the study. The data was collected by questionnaire method. Before starting the survey, the written consents are obtained from the participants. Six different occupational groups are included in this study. These occupational groups are designated as health professionals (41 individual), technicians (39 individuals), security (34 individuals), educator (45 individuals), self-employed (33 individuals) and housewives (35 individuals). Samples are collected by quota sampling considering the occupational groups. Several questions which comprise the name, surname, age, gender, number of children, regular reading habit, profession, number of family members, total education duration, educational level and 48 questions in Scale of Outlook to Parenting were asked to the individuals constitute the sampling. The data were evaluated according

to the Scale of Outlook to Parenting points table. Comprising the 8 factors and 48 attitude sentences, the Scale of Outlook to Parenting is a scale which validity and reliability is reviewed. The Cronbach's Alfa value of the overall reliability of the scale is 0,893 (revised as 0,890) and considering the revised value, the scale is "high" level reliable scale.<sup>[6]</sup> The factors of the scale are Family Environment (FE), Aims and Ideals (AI), Attitudes to Children (AC), Physical Competency (PC), Attitudes to Marriage (AM), Economic Condition (EC), Social Attitude (SA), and Personal Skills (PS). During the evaluation of the attitude sentences the 5 point Likert Scale is preferred.

The data is evaluated by SPSS version 16.00. First, the average scores of the factors were calculated. Then, the features of the research group such as distribution by the occupational group, age, etc. are revealed by the descriptive type of analysis. Then, gender comparisons of the factor average scores of the each occupational group are performed with Mann Whitney U independent groups test. The possible effects of the other factors (age, profession, gender, regular reading habit, number of children, and number of family members and duration of education) which may affect the Scale of Outlook to Parenting Factors were evaluated with Factorial ANOVA test. The effects of factors that are deemed significant were evaluated with the Spearman correlation and Mann Whitney U independent groups test. The factors of which p value is lower than 0.05 are considered as significant statistically.

## RESULTS

All 227 individuals (98 men, 129 women) were included the study. Mean age was 35.23 years in men and 35.57 years in women (**Table 1**).

The average scores of the factors according to gender Scale of Outlook to Parenting are compared with the Mann Whitney U independent groups test. In comparison of factor average scores regarding gender in Health Professionals group, statistically significant differences were detected between the men and women in terms of Physical Competency and Economic Condition factors (**Table 2**).

In comparison of factor average scores regarding gender in Security group, statistically significant differences were detected between men and women's in terms of Attitudes to Children ( $p=0.023$ ). The scores of men were higher than women's regarding AC factor ( $3.78\pm 0.74$ ,  $2.82\pm 1.12$ ,  $p=0.023$ ). In comparison of Technician group, any statistically significant data were not detected. In comparison of factor average scores regarding gender in Educator group, statistically significant differences were detected between men and women in terms of Personal Skills ( $p=0.01$ ). The scores of women were higher than men's regarding PS factor ( $4.03\pm 0.76$ ,  $3.08\pm 0.75$ ,  $p=0.01$ ). In comparison of factor average scores regarding gender in Self-Employed group, statistically significant differences were detected between

**Table 1.** Demographic characteristics of study group

Parameter	Man		Women		Total	
	n	(%, mean±SD)	n	(%, mean±SD)	n	(%, mean±SD)
Age	98	35.23±7.26	129	37.57±7.14	227	36.56±7.27
Number of children	98	1.21±0.91	129	1.52±1.00	227	1.39±0.97
Number of family members	98	3.48±1.20	129	3.53±1.01	227	3.51±1.09
Total education duration	98	13.52±3.45	129	12.73±4.20	227	13.07±3.91
<b>Regular Reading Habit</b>						
Reading	38	(35.5)	69	(64.5)	107	(100)
Not reading	60	(50)	60	(50)	120	(100)
<b>Educational Level</b>						
Primary school	2	(10.5)	17	(89.5)	19	(100)
Secondary school	8	(47.1)	9	(52.9)	17	(100)
High school	35	(50)	35	(50)	70	(100)
University	52	(44.8)	64	(55.2)	116	(100)
PhD degree	1	(20)	4	(80)	5	(100)

SD: Standart Deviation

**Table 2.** Factor average scores in health professionals group considering gender

Profession	n	Man mean±SD	n	Women mean±SD	p	n	Total mean±SD
<b>Healthy professionals</b>							
FE	15	4.28±0.67	26	4.35±0.52	NS	41	4.32±0.57
AI	15	4.55±0.46	26	4.61±0.40	NS	41	4.59±0.42
AC	15	3.43±0.71	26	3.27±0.84	NS	41	3.33±0.79
PC	15	4.54±0.63	26	3.65±0.91	0.002	41	3.98±0.92
AM	15	4.29±0.53	26	3.96±0.94	NS	41	4.38±0.82
EC	15	3.50±0.69	26	3.90±0.47	0.025	41	3.75±0.59
SA	15	4.60±0.35	26	4.60±0.38	NS	41	4.60±0.36
PS	15	3.88±0.76	26	3.91±0.91	NS	41	3.90±0.85

FE: Family Environment, AI: Aims and Ideals, AC: Attitudes to Children, PC: Physical Competency, AM: Attitudes to Marriage, EC: Economic Condition, SA: Social Attitude, PS: Personal Skills, NS: Nonspecific, SD: Standart Deviation

men and women in terms of Attitudes to Children. The scores of men were higher than women's regarding AC factor (3.88±0.68, 3.05±0.73, p=0.003). The factorial ANOVA analysis was applied in order to evaluate the possible effects of the other independent factors (gender, regular reading habit, occupation, number of children, number of family member, education duration) and scores which were gained from the each factors of the scale by the participants together. When the other factors which may affect the Family Environment factor were analyzed together, it has been observed that the regular reading habit was effective (p=0.004). In pairwise comparison, the Family Environment factor average scores of the participants who have regular reading habit was higher than the participants who do not have (4.18±0.65, 3.81±0.80 p<0.001). When the other factors which may affect the Aims and Ideas factor were analyzed together, any statistically significant data were not detected. When the other factors which may affect the Attitudes to Children factor were analyzed together, it has been observed that the gender and regular reading habit factors were effective (respectively; p=0.005, p=0.009).

In pairwise comparison, the attitudes to children factor scores of men were higher than women's (3.64±0.79, 3.38±0.89, p=0.016). The attitudes to children factor scores of the participants who have regular reading habit were higher than the participants who do not have (3.61±0.80, 3.39±0.90, p=0.71). When the other factors which may affect the Physical Competency factor were analyzed together, it has been observed that the gender and number of children factors were effective (respectively, p=0.004, p=0.020). In pairwise comparison, the physical competency factor scores of men were higher (4.26±0.79, 3.84±0.77 p<0.001). In correlation analysis, the number of children affected the PC factor score negatively (Spearman's rho=- 0.224, n=227, p=0.01). When the other factors which may affect the Attitudes to Marriage factor were analyzed together, it has been observed that the regular reading habit and occupation factors were effective (respectively; p=0.005, p=0.029). In pairwise comparison, the scores of the participants who have regular reading habit was higher than the participants who do not have (3.87±0.86, 3.52±1.01, p=0.01). In pairwise comparison among the profession groups regarding the AM factor, statistically differences were detected between Health Professions and Security (4.38±0.82, 3.45±0.89 p=0.002), Health Professions and Educator (4.38±0.82, 3.57±0.92, p=0.003), Health Professions and Housewives (4.38±0.82, 3.37±1.16, p=0.006), Security and Technician (3.45±0.89, 3.90±0.72, p=0.018). When the other factors which may affect the Economic Condition factor were analyzed together, any statistically significant data were not detected. When the other factors which may affect the Social Attitude factor were analyzed together, it was observed that the total education duration was effective (p=0.008). In correlation analyze the total education duration affected the SA factor score positively (Spearman's rho=0.185, n=227, p=0.005). When the other factors which may be affect the Personal Skills factors were analyzed together, any statistically significant data were not detected.

## DISCUSSION

In our study, the factors which may affect the Scale of Outlook to Parenting factors are examined together with the occupations of the parents. When considered from this point of view, it is observed that the occupation of parents affects the attitudes to marriage independently. Regarding the attitudes to marriage factor, the scores of health professionals are higher than the scores of security, housewives and educator, as well as the scores of technicians are higher than the scores of security group. It is admissible that the health professionals who have life time education chance and communication skills can easily fit into their marriage and parenting involvements due to these abilities. Thus, in our study parallel to previous studies, the attitudes to marriage scores of the health professionals are higher than the scores of security and educator groups. The studies conducted previously detects that the security groups are in significant psychological breakdown. The initial sources of stress are lack of communication, inspection frequency, heavy responsibilities and workload, facing with the danger and victims of crime, constant mobility and pressures of lawyers.<sup>[8]</sup>

Similar to our study, concerning the occupational groups, the factor scores of attitudes to marriage of security group is significantly lower than the other groups. The previous study which examines the attitudes to parenting of the future mother's fathers reveals that the gender has impact on the economic condition, physical competency, aims and ideals factors, and women should receive support.<sup>[6]</sup> In another study it has been revealed that the marital adjustment level is higher among the men than women.<sup>[9]</sup> Similarly, in our study it has been observed that the factor average scores of men regarding the attitudes to children and physical competency are higher than the women's significantly. In our study, it has been detected that as an independent factor the total education duration affects the social attitude factor positively. In a previous study, it has been detected that the education duration affects the economic condition, physical competency, personal skills and social attitudes factors positively.<sup>[6]</sup> In our study, positive impact of total duration of education on social attitude is considered to be consistent with the earlier studies. In our study, it has been detected that as an independent factor the regular reading habit affects Family Environment, Attitudes to Children and Attitudes to Marriage factors positively. Reading shapes the individual's behavior and relationships with others, enriches the inner world, expands the perspective, enables to be unprejudiced, unbiased and tolerant, increases the level of appreciation, enables to gain freedom of thinking and creation and evaluation habits.<sup>[10]</sup> In our study, it has been detected that the number of children factor has negative impact on the Physical Competency. As the number of children is increasing, the father participation rate decreases and the physical punishment applications are increased.<sup>[11]</sup> According to the results of a study conducted by Mehall, increasing number of children brings into view a father who is less interested in his babies.<sup>[12]</sup>

The findings of our study can provide guidance service to the groups which are risky in terms of attitudes to parenting. Discovering with our study that the Scale of Outlook to Parenting is effective on the Attitudes to Marriage factor independently, it can be stated that the occupation factor is effective on the overview on the attitude to parenting as initially predicted. For this reason, considering the occupational groups is significantly important regarding the scientific surveys on parenting, social planning and the related service policy to be planned.

This study reflects only the characteristics of Turkish society. For this reason, in order to reach international results, the similar studies should be conducted in other societies and cultures.

## CONCLUSION

Our study reveals the importance of the factors which affect the attitude to parenting such as occupation, regular reading habit, and number of children, gender, and duration of education. Our study might shed light on various researches to be done in the future.

## ETHICAL DECLARATIONS

**Ethics Committee Approval:** The study was carried out with the permission of Ankara Training and Research Hospital Ethics Committee (Date: 05.10.2011, Decision no: 0435-3609).

**Informed Consent:** All patients signed the free and informed consent form.

**Referee Evaluation Process:** Externally peer-reviewed.

**Conflict of Interest Statement:** The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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