

Investigation the effects of 6 weeks pilates exercises on biomotorical variables and self-esteem scores of young women

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Abstract

Purpose of this study was the investigate the effects of six weeks mat based pilates exercise on biomotorical variables and self esteem of young women. Totally 22 women (mean age; 20.1 ± 2.2 year) participated in to the study voluntary. Participants divided into the two groups (pilates:10, control: 12) randomly. Pilates group did pilates exercise for six weeks. Control group did nothing. Pretests and post tests measurements of body height, body weight, flexibility, balance, abdominal strength and self esteem performed. SPSS used for analysis. Analysis showed that there were statistical findings ($p < 0.05$) on pretest and post test measurements of pilates group of flexibility, abdominal strength, and self esteem variables ($p < 0.05$). When comparison the measurement pretest and post test differences of two groups, there was a statistical differences about flexibility, balance, and abdominal strength. According to findings it is possible to say that six weeks of pilates exercise is the proper exercise type for young girls. Also it can be advice that for positive effecting to self esteem pilates works were preferable exercise methods for young women.

Keywords: Pilates, exercise, women, bio motor, self esteem.

INTRODUCTION

Because of the technological development inactivity became the one of the major reason of health problems. Day by day people spent most of their time by sitting. Experts advised and encouraged to people doing daily physical activity to reduce the risk of health problems. There are many types of exercise which help physical condition fit but people may don't prefer participate regularly most of them because of the including long duration or heavy loading of exercise. Researchers also noticed that while regular exercise can improve physical fitness (16), the more intense the exercise the more injury will occur (15). Especially young girls may more affected by that situation because of the strength and endurance performance if compared with the adults. Enjoyable and proper exercise types needs to advice to young girls. Thanks to Joseph Humbertus Pilates (1880-1967) who described pilates exercise method, nowadays over million participants prefer doing that exercise worldwide (7).

Pilates is an exercise protocol to enhance muscular strength, flexibility, and endurance while it also improved bodily concentration and balance (12). The exercises can be carried in two different ways namely Pilates mat work and the use of Pilates apparatus. (27). Pilates exercises did positive effects on flexibility, balance, muscular strength and posture reported by researcher (18,21,31). Researchers also advised it to adults because of its' benefits (24, 35). Effects of pilates workouts on young girls are still unclear. There are many studies in literature that investigated the effects of regular exercises on psychological parameters but there weren't any findings about the effects of pilates workouts on self-esteem. Especially effects of short term pilates workouts on young girls needs to investigation. Because of this problem, this study decided to perform.

MATERIALS & METHOD

Participants; Totally twenty two female university students average ages 20.10 ± 2.27 years were participated in to the study voluntary. Inclusion criteria were being between the ages of 18-

25 years, without any health problems and never had a pilates courses before. Exclusion criteria were lack of full participation in training activities, history of previous muscle injury for a period of 6 weeks. All participants signed an informed consent form before the beginning of the study.

Procedure; Study designed a single blind, randomized control trail. Students are invited to selection after the announcement for the study, Participants who had inclusion criteria divided in two groups that Pilates group (n=10) and Control group (n=12) randomly.

Pilates group performed two sessions per week of mat based pilates exercises (one hour per session). The exercise intensity was followed as described by Gorji et al. 2014 and Pilates courses were led by an IPF certificated mat Pilates instructor. Control group did not participate in any activity during study. Control group was instructed to don't participate new exercise program. Abdominal strength, flexibility, static balance and self-esteem variables were evaluated at baseline and after six weeks of training.

Measurements; *Abdominal strength* evaluated by using one minute sit-up test (11). After one trial, number of sit-up performance recorded. *Flexibility* evaluated by using standard sit-and-reach test after three trial best distance was recorded (2) *Static balance* was evaluated using the single-legged Flamingo balance test. One minute of stance was performed and the number of falls were counted and used as a measure of postural balance (10).

Self-esteem evaluated by using Coopersmith Self-esteem Inventory –short form which was developed by Stanley Coopersmith (1967) and adapted in to Turkish by Tufan & Turan (1987) (39). The questionnaires consisted of 25 sentences with the options 'like me' (1 point) or 'not like me' (0 point). Answers multiplied with 4 and self-esteem

score was made. Self-esteem levels are rated as having a high (70-100), middle (30-69) or low (0-30) point on the Scale (39). In this study, Cronbach's was .72.

Statistical analysis; All data are expressed as mean \pm and Standard Deviations (SD) and are analyzed using SPSS statistical program to calculate the means and SD of the values collected. The differences between two groups are examined by an independent t-test. Using paired t-tests, the groups are compared before and after the exercises. For $P < 0.05$ is considered statistically significant in the interpretation of our results.

RESULTS

The physical characteristics of both groups are presented in Table 1. According to table totally 22 participant attempted in to the study and their average ages, body height and body weight were 20.10 ± 2.27 years, 159.63 ± 6.97 cm, 56.63 ± 8.13 kg found respectively.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of participants (Mean \pm SD).

Groups	Age (year)	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)
Pilates (n:10)	18.4 \pm 0.52	158.43 \pm 7.11	55.21 \pm 6.77
Control (n:12)	21.5 \pm 2.20	160.63 \pm 6.99	57.8 \pm 9.24
Total (n:22)	20.10 \pm 2.27	159.63 \pm 6.97	56.63 \pm 8.13

Table 3. Pre-test and Post-test differences of groups (Mean \pm SD).

Variables	Groups	
	Pilates	Control
Flexibility (cm)	5.7 \pm 6.9*	0.6 \pm 1.4
Static balance (trial)	-0.1 \pm 0.3	-0.3 \pm 0.6
Abdominal strength (repetition)	15.7 \pm 5.6*	2.1 \pm 3.1
Self esteem	9.2 \pm 11.7	0.1 \pm 16.2
BMI (kg/m ²)	-0.1 \pm 0.4	0.1 \pm 0.5

* Significant differences at $p < 0.05$ level between two groups

Table 2. Pre-test and post test measurements of groups (Mean \pm SD).

Variables	Pilates		Control	
	Pre-test	Post-test	Pre-test	Post-test
Flexibility (cm)	21.6 \pm 7.2	27.3 \pm 8.6*	21.4 \pm 5.5	22.1 \pm 6.1
Static balance (trial)	1.1 \pm 0.32	1 \pm 0.1	1.4 \pm 0.6	1.09 \pm 0.2
Abdominal strength (repetition)	18.9 \pm 7.1	34.6 \pm 8.2*	28.1 \pm 12.9	30.2 \pm 14.1*
Self esteem	76.4 \pm 10.5	85.6 \pm 6.1*	72.3 \pm 15.5	72.3 \pm 16.1
BMI (kg/m ²)	22.1 \pm 2.8	22.1 \pm 2.5	22.3 \pm 2.2	22.3 \pm 2.2

* Significant differences at $p < 0.05$ level between pre-test and post-test

Findings about mean values of pre-test and post-test measurements showed at Table 2. After six weeks of trainings flexibility performance of pilates group was significantly increased from 21.6 ± 7.2 cm to 27.3 ± 8.6 cm. Paired t-test analysis proved that this change was statistically different ($t = -2.588$; $p = 0.02$). However analysis showed that flexibility performance of control group was no significant. Abdominal strength of pilates group was significantly increased from 18.9 ± 7.1 repetition to 34.6 ± 8.2 repetition. Paired t-test analysis proved that this change was statistically different ($t = -8.837$; $p = 0.01$). Beside abdominal strength of control group was significantly increased from 28.1 ± 12.9 repetition to 30.2 ± 14.1 repetition. This change was statistically different ($t = -2.359$; $p = 0.03$). Another important finding was about the self-esteem scores of pilates group. It was significantly increased from 76.4 ± 10.5 to 85.6 ± 6.1 . Analysis also proved that this change was statistically different ($t = -2.469$; $p = 0.03$).

Pre-test and Post-test differences of groups showed at Table 3. According to table important findings were about the flexibility and abdominal strength. T-test analysis proved that differences the pre-test and post-test flexibility performance of groups was significantly difference. When compared with the pilates group to control group, after six weeks of training periods, pilates group was statistically changed in flexibility performance ($t:2.447$ $p:0.02$). Analysis also proved that when compared with the pilates group to control group, after six weeks of training periods, pilates group was statistically changed in abdominal strength performance ($t:2.447$ $p:0.02$). Though self-esteem scores of pilates group were changed during the training period there wasn't any statistical finding when compared with the control group.

DISCUSSION

Pilates workouts became increasingly popular in community. This popularity makes curiosity the researcher to investigate this new exercise model. There were many studies which were investigated effects of different work load pilates training on different populations reported by Şimşek & Katırcı (37) and Cancela et al. 2014 (6). One of the investigated variables was the flexibility performance in this study. After the six weeks training period flexibility performance of the pilates group was statistically improved. There were many studies in literature reported that pilates exercises had positive effect on flexibility performance.

(8,13,22,26,29,30,31). Primarily aim of Pilates exercises was the increasing the flexibility and strength of the body as known by the practitioners. It may due to having long duration stretching exercises of the abdominal and leg muscles, as a parallel with the previous studies flexibility performance was one of the improved variables as found in this study.

Pilates exercises also reported by researcher that regular pilates work outs had positive effects on muscle endurance (28,29,32,33). Similar with the previous studies, in this study abdominal strength was statistically improved after six week pilates workouts. Because of the pilates workouts perform in a series of repetitive, high-low-impact muscular endurance exercises by using abdominal muscles, that exercises mainly effected to abdominal muscle endurance and flexibility.

One of the investigated variables in this study was the static balance performance. After six weeks of training periods there wasn't any statistical changing for balance performance. Literature has two answers for his situation. Some findings reported by previous researcher that pilates workouts has no effect on balance (4,20) but some of findings showed that plates improved balance performance (3,23,34). Those differences may cause of the different ages of the study groups and the different duration of the pilates periods. Especially 12 weeks of pilates work outs improved the balance performance as showed by Mokhtari et al. (23).

While biomotorical benefits of pilates exercises reported by the researcher, its' also effects on psychological parameters reported in literature. Participating in to regular physical activity has positive effect on self-esteem, self-confident, anxiety and depression reported by scientists (5,36,40). Recent study found that as the similar the previous studies self-esteem scores of pilates group were statistically improved. We believe that this chancing may cause the positive improvement of physiological parameters.

In this study we did not find any statistical changing about Body Mass Index (BMI) of participants. Previous studies reported similar findings as we found. Researcher noticed that short term plates workouts (4-8 weeks) statistically has no effects on BMI (1,14,17,19,32). On the other hand when periods of pilates exercises performed more than 8 weeks BMI scores effected positively as noticed by researcher (9, 38).

Pilates exercise program for six weeks has a positive effect on flexibility, abdominal muscle strength and self-esteem. According to findings it is possible to say that six weeks of mat based pilates exercises were proper physical activity type for young girls.

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