Araştırma Makalesi

Türkiye'deki Göçmen Çocukların Sağlığıyla İlgili Araştırmaların Bibliyometrik Analizi: Web of Science Veri Tabanı Örneklemi

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MAKALE BİLGİSİ	ÖZET
Makale Geliş Tarihi : 18/09/2024 **Makale Kabul Tarihi** : 01/11/2024 **Anahtar Kelimeler:** Göç, Göçmen, Sığınmacı, Çocuk, Çocuk Sağlığı, Türkiye.	Sağlık hakkı, çocukların temel haklarından biridir. Bu çalışmada, bibliyometrik analiz kullanılarak göçmen çocukların sağlığıyla ilgili Türkiye'de gerçekleştirilen araştırmaların odağını, tematik eğilimlerini ve gelişimini değerlendirmek amaçlanmıştır. Retrospektif ve tanımlayıcı özellikler taşıyan bu çalışmada, 22 Ağustos 2024 tarihinde Web of Science veri tabanında, "göç", "göçmen", "mülteci", "sığınmacı", "çocuk", "pediatri", "çocuk sağlığı" ve "Türkiye" anahtar kelimeleri kullanılarak İngilizce literatür incelenmiştir. Veri analizinde, RStudio programı ve bir R uygulaması olan "biblioshiny" aracı kullanılmıştır. Her makale dergi, yazar, atıf, kuruluş, anahtar kelime ve temalar açısından değerlendirilmiştir. Araştırmaya, 2013-2024 yılları arasında yayınlanan 50 makale dahil edilmiştir. Makalelerin yıllık büyüme oranı %15.76'dır. En çekirdek dergi Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health'dır. En çok atıf alan dergi Lancet'tir. En üretken kuruluşlar Hacettepe Üniversitesi ve Marmara Üniversitesi'dir. "Ruh sağlığı", "travma sonrası stres bozukluğu", "travma", "savaş", "müdahale", "depresyon", "bakım", "çocuklar", "ergenler" ve "davranış sorunları" terimleri göçmen çocukların sağlığıyla ilgili Türkiye'de gerçekleştirilen çalışmaların en sıcak konuları ve öncü eğilimlerini temsil etmektedir.

Bibliometric Analysis of Research on the Health of Migrant Children in Türkiye: Web of Science Database Sample

ARTICLE INFORMATION	ABSTRACT
Submission Date : 14/03/2023 **Accepted Date** : 30/03/2023 **Keywords:** Migration, migrant, refugee, child, child health, Türkiye	The right to health is one of the fundamental rights of children. This study aims to assess the focus, thematic trends and development of research on the health of migrant children in Türkiye using bibliometric analysis. In this retrospective and descriptive study, English literature was searched in the Web of Science database on 22 August 2024 using the keywords "migration", "immigrant", "refugee", "asylum seeker", "child", "paediatrics", "child health" and "Turkey". RStudio software and "biblioshiny" tool, an R application, were used for data analysis. Each article was evaluated in terms of journal, author, citation, organisation, keywords and themes. The study included 50 articles published between 2013 and 2024. The annual growth rate of the articles is 15.76%. The most core journal is Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health. The most cited journal is Lancet. The most productive institutions are Hacettepe University and

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Marmara University. The terms "mental health", "post-traumatic stress disorder", "trauma", "war", "intervention", "depression", "care", "children", "adolescents" and "behavioural problems" represent the hottest topics and leading trends in studies on the health of migrant children in Türkiye.

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1. Introduction

Türkiye has historically been both a transit point and a destination for migrants due to its geopolitical location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia (International Organization for Migration, 2024a). In particular, the Syrian civil war that started in March 2011 and the armed conflicts in other countries around Türkiye have forced many people to leave their countries and become refugees (Cakmak et al., 2024; Oymak and Maystadt, 2024). According to the 2024 World Migration Report published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Türkiye ranked first among the countries hosting the largest number of refugees for the seventh time and hosted the second largest wave of migration in the World (International Organization for Migration, 2024b). According to the data released by the Communications Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, the total number of foreigners residing in Türkiye with the legal right to stay in August 2024 is 4.425.230. Of these foreigners, 3.099.524 are Syrians under temporary protection, 221.353 are foreigners under international protection and 1.104.353 are foreigners with a residence permit (Communications Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, 2024). It is also reported that there are unregistered migrants and refugees in Türkiye and their number is estimated to be around several hundred thousand (Eliaçık and Kanık, 2021). According to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK), Türkiye's population is 85.372.377 as of December 31, 2023 (TUIK, 2024). Accordingly, migrants constitute 3.77 percent of Türkiye's population. Approximately half of the migrants residing in Türkiye are children (Eliaçık and Kanık, 2021). Although children are not responsible for the causes of migration (wars, armed conflicts, climate change, poverty, etc.), they are undoubtedly the group most affected by migration (Aközlü, 2023). Migrant children may be exposed to various health-threatening risks related to safety, shelter, nutrition, cultural adaptation, education, inability to establish social relationships due to language problems (Aydın et al., 2017), and may experience problems in accessing health services before, during and after migration (Pernitez-Agan et al., 2024). These problems can negatively affect all areas of physical, cognitive, psychological and social development of migrant children (Alemin and Çavuş Bekce, 2021).

The relationship between migration and child health is complex and multifaceted (Pernitez-Agan et al., 2024). Researchers show how poor the health of migrant children is on a global scale (Aközlü, 2023; Cakmak et al., 2024; Fındık et al., 2021; Oymak and Maystadt, 2024; Pernitez-Agan et al., 2024). Migrant children should be addressed in a more specialized way than adult migrants in terms of their health needs due to factors such as their inability to protect themselves and the need to move to a new environment while they are still growing and developing and still dependent on their parents (Aközlü, 2023). The health of migrant children is directly affected by their traumatic experiences related to migration, the health of their caregivers, the maintenance or disruption of family cohesion, parental employment, socioeconomic conditions and access to health services (Aközlü, 2023; Eruyar et al., 2018). In addition, the migration experience is unique and can lead to profound changes in the lives of migrants (Schwartz et al., 2021). Migrant children may face more adversities than other children and this may negatively affect their health (Fındık et al., 2021). Bu nedenle, dezavantajlı bir grup olan göçmen çocukların sağlık hizmetleri ihtiyaçları ele alınmalıdır (Pernitez-Agan et al., 2024; Sahin et al., 2021).

Researchers report that the most common health problems among migrant children globally are infectious diseases (tuberculosis, measles, malaria, hepatitis B, HIV and intestinal parasites, etc.), malnutrition, poor living conditions, dental caries, accidents and injuries (Cakmak et al., 2024; Oymak and Maystadt, 2024; Sahin et al., 2021). Health problems such as inadequate access to preventive and curative health services, low vaccination rates, language and communication problems, living in overcrowded conditions, low quality drinking water, neglect and abuse, psychological problems, socioeconomic difficulties, not being able to go to school, early marriages and adolescent pregnancies, forced labor, child labor can also be seen more among migrant children compared to other children (Cakmak et al., 2024; Nasıroğlu et al., 2018; Pernitez-Agan et al., 2024; Sahin et al., 2021; Sweileh et

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al., 2018). Moreover, lack of access to primary health care services increases rates of congenital heart disease among migrant children (Cakmak et al., 2024). In addition, the prevalence of consanguineous marriages among immigrants has been associated with an increased prevalence of rare metabolic and genetic diseases (Aydın et al., 2017; Buser et al., 2021; Cakmak et al., 2024).

The health of migrant children is a key global health priority (Cakmak et al., 2024). It is estimated that the world population, which is expected to reach ten billion by the middle of the twenty-first century, will significantly differentiate the regional distribution from today; Central and South Asia will be the world's most populous region by 2037; more than half of the global population growth in the period up to 2050 will take place in Africa, doubling the population of Sub-Saharan Africa. Demographic imbalances across regions and countries are projected to put pressure on labor supply, and global and regional migration movements may accelerate in the future due to climate change-induced weather events, natural disasters and geopolitical tensions (Presidency of Strategy and Budget of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, 2023). In line with these data, it is predicted that Türkiye will be a country that will continue to receive migration in the future. In this bibliometric analysis, we aimed to assess the status of research articles published in the Web of Science (WoS) database on the health of migrant children in Türkiye, to map the available evidence, and to identify gaps. It is thought that this study will provide important data to improve evidence-based policies and practices related to the health of migrant children in Türkiye at national, regional and global levels and identify gaps in the existing literature.

2. Method

2.1. Type of Research

This study is retrospective and descriptive and was conducted using bibliometric analysis. Bibliometric analysis is the review of publications produced by individuals or institutions in a specific field, in a specific period and in a specific region, and the relationships between these publications with a quantitative technique. Bibliometric analysis is a research method that provides important contributions to measuring scientific impact, establishing research collaborations and scientific policies, visualizing datasets for researchers to access information more easily, and better understanding scientific communication and knowledge production processes (Cahit Arf Knowledge Center, 2024).

2.2. Data Collection

The study data were obtained from the Web of Science database on 22 August 2024 using the keywords "migration", "migrant", "refugee", "asylum seeker", "child", "paediatrics", "child health" and "Turkey". While research articles were included in the study, book chapters, reviews and case reports were excluded. No articles on the health of migrant children in Türkiye were found in the WoS database before 2013. In the study, 50 articles published between 2013 and 2024 and meeting the inclusion criteria were analysed. Each publication was analysed according to journal, author, citations, keywords and themes.

2.3. Data Analysis

Data analysis was performed using the "biblioshiny for bibliometrix" tool, an R application tool designed for bibliometric analysis in conjunction with RStudio software. RStudio is an integrated development environment for R, a programming language for statistical computing and graphics. The "biblioshiny for bibliometrix" tool, a user-friendly interface for the bibliometrix R package, facilitates comprehensive bibliometric analysis, allowing users to visualise and interpret bibliometric data effectively (Aria and Cuccurullo, 2017).

3. Results

General information about the articles published in the WoS database on the health of migrant children in Türkiye is shown in Figure 1. In the bibliometric analysis, a total of 50 articles published in the WoS database between 2013 and 2024 were analysed. The articles, written by a total of 213 authors,

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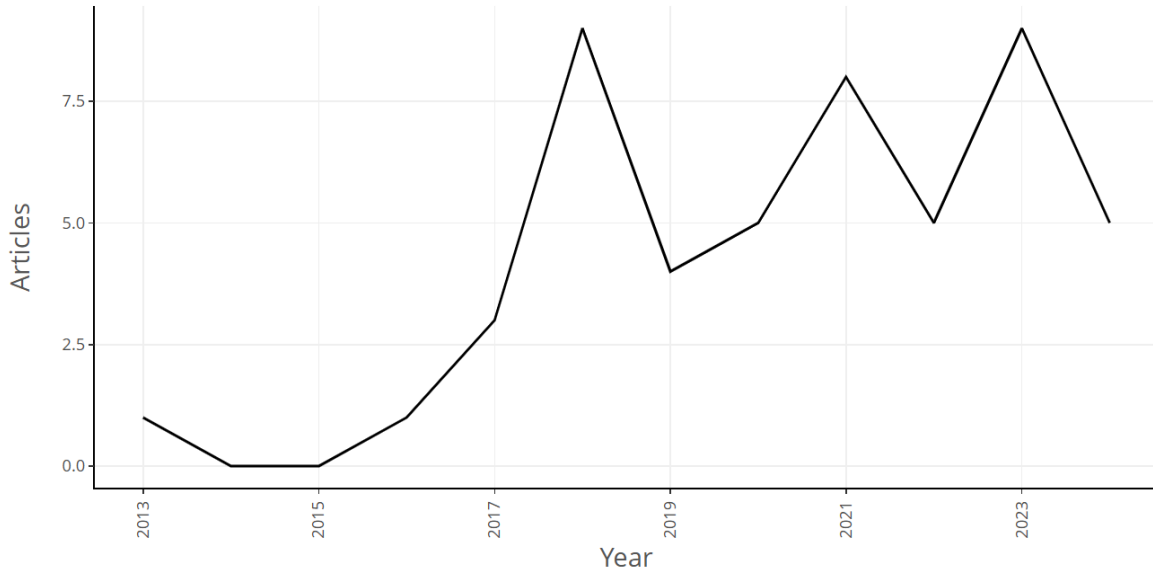
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were published through 41 different publication sources. The annual growth rate of the articles is 15.76%. The number of co-authors per article is 5. Two of the articles are single authored and 20% of the articles have international co-authors. The average number of citations per article is 10.94. There are 153 keywords and 1.804 references in the articles (Figure 1).

Figure 1. General Characteristics of Articles Published in the WoS Database on the Health of Migrant Children in Türkiye

The change in the number of articles within the time interval is shown in Figure 2. In the first five years of the analysed period (2013-2017), only 5 articles were published. In the second five years (2013-2022), the number of articles reached 36. The number of articles reached 50 between 2023-22 August 2024. More than 50% of the articles (27 articles) were published after 2021.

Figure 2. Distribution of Articles Published in WoS Database on the Health of Migrant Children in Türkiye within the Time Interval

Among the 50 articles examined and analysed in the study, the most cited and relevant journals and the top 10 most cited articles are shown in Table 1. The top two most productive journals are Journal

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of Immigrant and Minority Health, and Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies (3 articles) and the top two most cited journals are Lancet (48 citations) and European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (46 citations). The article titled "Mental health problems of Syrian refugee children: the role of parental factors" written by Eruyar et al. (2018) and published in European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry is the most cited study with 83 citations among the articles examined (Eruyar et al., 2018) (Table 1).

Table 1. The top 10 journals with the highest number of publications and citations and the top 10 most cited articles in the WoS database on the health of migrant children in Türkiye

Journal	Number of articles
Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health	3
Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies	3
Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry	2
Journal of Pediatric Nursing-Nursing Care of Children & Families	2
Turkish Journal of Clinical Psychiatry	2
Nordic Journal of Psychiatry	2
Psychiatry and Clinical Psychopharmacology	2
Anatolian Journal of Psychiatry	1
Archives of Psychiatric Nursing	1
Asian and Pacific Migration Journal	1

Journal	Global citation count
Lancet	48
European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	46
Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry	44
Journal of the American Academy of Child Psychiatry	33
Child Abuse & Neglect	21
Child Development	21
Journal of Traumatic Stress	17
Social Science & Medicine	15
International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health	14

Author, Year, Journal	Global citation count	DOI
Eruyar S, 2018, Eur Chıld Adolesc Psych	83	10.1007/s00787-017-1101-0
Çeri V, 2016, Neuropsychıatrıe	58	10.1007/s40211-016-0195-9
Görmez V, 2017, Psychıatry Clın Psychopharmacol	42	10.1080/24750573.2017.1304748
Görmez V, 2018, J Immıgr Mınor Health	39	10.1007/s10903-017-0680-7
Yayan Eh, 2020, J Pedıatr Nurs	30	10.1016/j.pedn.2019.06.012
El-Khanı A, 2018, Vulnerable Chıld Youth Stud	30	10.1080/17450128.2017.1372651
Sirin S, 2018, Vulnerable Chıld Youth Stud	25	10.1080/17450128.2017.1412551
El-Khanı A, 2017, Interventıon	25	10.1097/WTF.0000000000000136
Eruyar S, 2020, Clın Chıld Psychol Psychıatry	24	10.1177/1359104519882758
Nasıroğlu S, 2018, Psychıatry Clın Psychopharmacol	21	10.1080/24750573.2017.1422958

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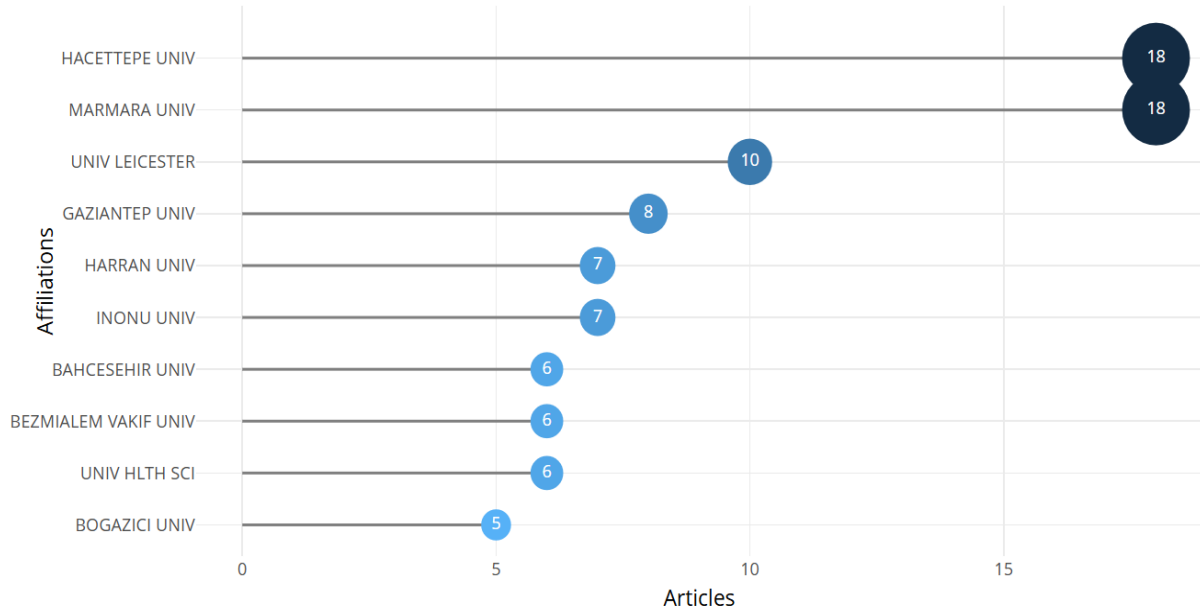
The top 10 most published and cited authors in the WoS database on the health of migrant children in Türkiye are shown in Table 2, and the top 10 most productive institutions are shown in Figure 3. Veysi Çeri (6 articles), who works at Marmara University, is the most prolific author publishing on the health of migrant children in Türkiye in journals searched in the WoS database. Türkan Akkaya-Kalaycı (5 citations) working at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria, is the most cited author whose articles on the health of migrant children in Türkiye published in journals searched in the WoS database (Table 2). The two most productive institutions are Hacettepe University (18 articles), and Marmara University (18 articles) (Figure 3).

Table 2. Top 10 authors with the most publications and most citations in the WoS database on the health of migrant children in Türkiye

Most Related Authors	Number of articles	Most Cited Authors	Number of Citation
Çeri V	6	Akkaya-Kalaycı T	5
Eruyar S	4	Çeri V	5
Vostanis P	4	Özer U	5
Semerci B	3	Özlu-Erkılıc Z	5
Unver H	3	Popow C	5
Calam R	2	Yalçın M	5
Duken ME	2	Alowaybıl R	1
El-Khani A	2	Çelebioğlu A	1
Eryurt MA	2	Dayıoglu M	1
Fiş NP	2	Duken ME	1

Figure 3. Top 10 organisations publishing the most on the health of migrant children in Türkiye in the WoS database

Keyword plus is a WoS-specific system that refers to words or phrases taken from the titles of cited articles. When the keywords of the articles were examined according to this classification, it was determined that concepts such as "mental health", "posttraumatic stress disorder", "trauma", "war", "depression", "care", "children", "impact", "adolescents" and "behavioural problems" were frequently

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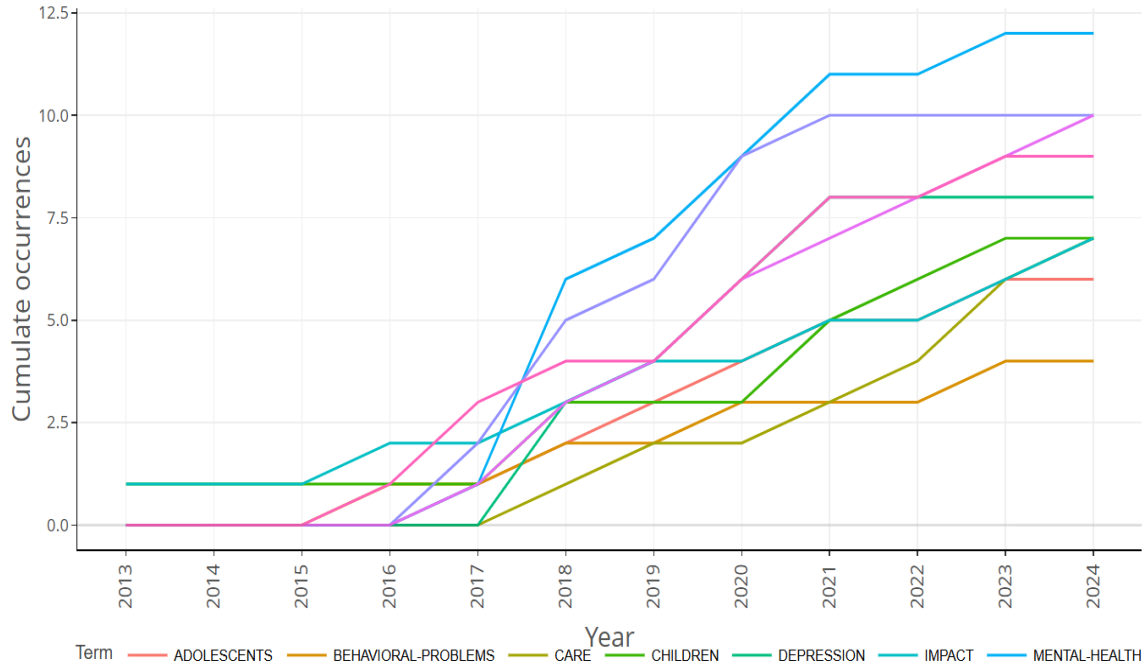
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used together in the studies on the health of migrant children in Türkiye scanned in the WoS database (Figure 4).

In the study, the analysis of trending topics over the keyword plus the time interval is shown in Figure 5. According to the trending topic analysis; while "mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder" was the trending topic in 2018, especially after 2000, the terms "care", "children", "trauma", "war", "depression" and "impact" represent the hottest topics in the journals scanned in the WoS database on the health of migrant children in Türkiye.

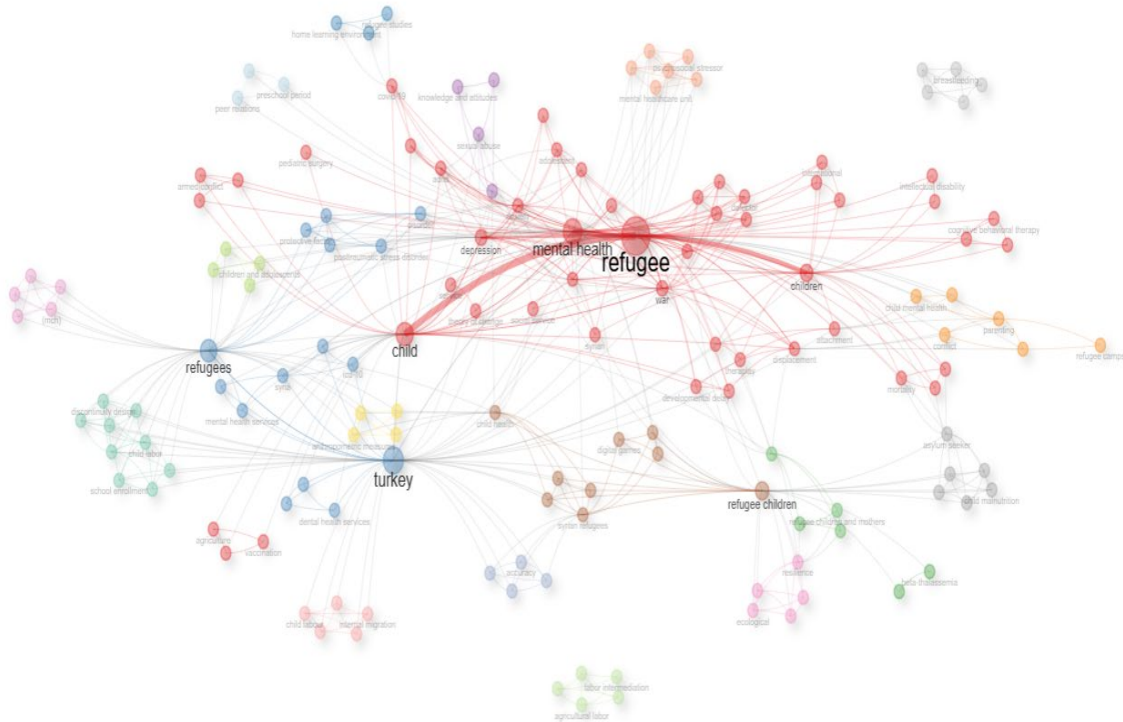*Figure 4. Tree map created from the most frequently used words*

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Figure 5. Distribution of trend terms in studies on migration and child health in Türkiye over time
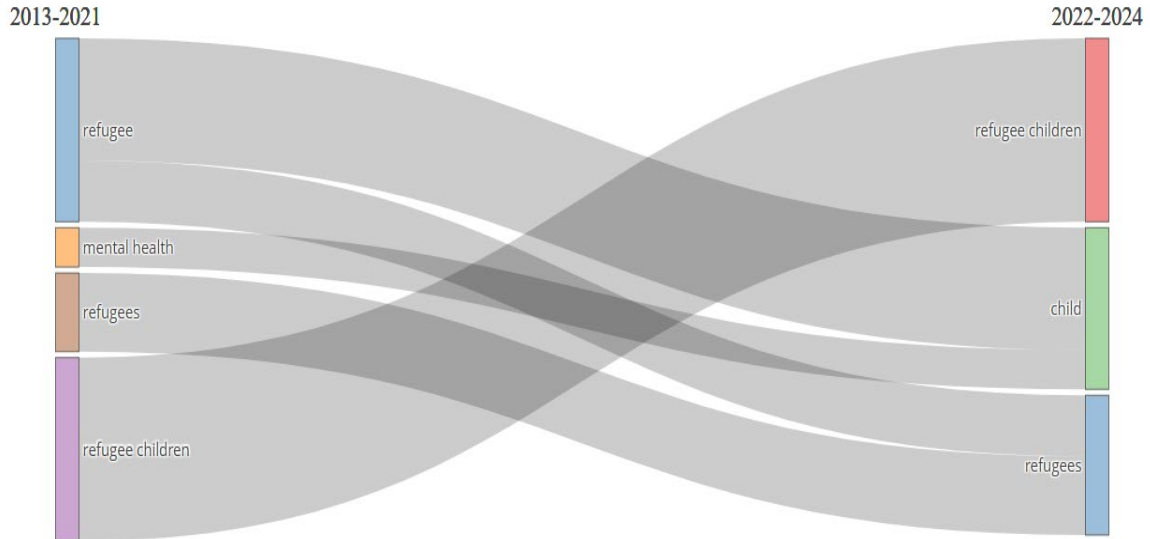

The thematic map and thematic network based on the authors" keywords are shown in Figures 6 and 7. According to the thematic map and thematic network, the terms "mental health", "post traumatic stress disorder", "trauma", "war", "intervention", "depression", "care", "children", "adolescents" and "behavioural problems" represent the hottest themes.

Figure 6. Thematic network map based on authors" keywords

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Figure 7. Thematic map made through keyword plus

Figure 8 shows a map of key themes, motor themes, niche themes and emerging or declining themes based on keyword plus. According to the map, "care", "health", "armed conflict", "disorder" emerge as core themes. "Mental health", "post traumatic stress disorder", "trauma", "children", "impact", "behavioural problems", "risk", "association", "young children" are motor themes. Niche themes are "education attainment", "labour" and "student". "Syrian refugees" and "needs" were identified as emerging themes or themes with declining popularity.

Figure 8. Thematic map of the studies based on keywords plus

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The thematic evolution of research on the health of migrant children in Türkiye published in journals indexed in the WoS database is shown in Figure 9. While the themes of "refugee", "mental health", "refugee children" were the main themes between 2013-2021, it is understood that the themes evolved towards "refugee children", "child" and "refugee" between 2022-2024.

Figure 9. Thematic evolution map based on keyword plus

4. Discussion

In this study, studies on the health of migrant children in Türkiye from 2013 to 22 August 2024 in journals indexed in the WoS database were evaluated using bibliometric analysis method. This analysis shows that since the first article published in 2013, the number of articles on the health of migrant children in Türkiye published in journals indexed in the WoS database has increased continuously. The fact that the first article published in the WoS database on the health of migrant children in Türkiye was published in 2013 may be due to the fact that the Syrian civil war, which started in 2011, initiated the most dramatic migration event of the 21st century. The fact that 3.77% of Türkiye's population consists of migrants and the expectation that Türkiye will be one of the countries that will receive migrants in the future suggests that the subject will continue to be studied rapidly. Furthermore, the current trend analysis predicts that research on the health of migrant children in Türkiye will continue to increase in general in the coming years. In the last thirteen years, migration has become one of the most important socio-economic and public health problems in our country (Eliaçık and Kanık, 2021). According to data released by the Ministry of Interior Directorate of Migration Management, 73.9 per cent of Syrians under temporary protection registered in Türkiye in July 2024 were women and children (Refugee Association, 2024). Migrant children are in a very vulnerable group (Cakmak et al., 2024). Like all children, migrant children have the right to equal and optimal health care (Trummer et al., 2016). It can be said that this increase in the number of studies is due to the fact that Türkiye is a country that continues to receive migration and the number of child refugees in Türkiye covers a large population and the importance of defining the health status of child migrants and preventing problems.

In the study, it was understood that the first 10 journals identified as core sources in the period from 2013 to 22 August 2024 comprehensively addressed issues on child and adolescent health, including migration and child health studies. Migrants represent 3 per cent of the global population (Fransen et al., 2022). Approximately half of the world's migrant population is made up of children (Cakmak et al., 2024; Cohodes et al., 2022). It is known that migration has a negative impact on child health (Nacar and Özer, 2017). It is thought that increasing global concerns about the health status of

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migrant children have led to an increase in research on migration, migrant health and migrant children"s health.

The results of this study revealed that "mental health", "post traumatic stress disorder", "trauma", "war", "depression", "care", "children", "impact", "adolescents", and "behavioural problems" were the most frequently used terms in the studies on the health of migrant children in Türkiye searched in the WoS database in the last 11 years. This shows that children, and adolescents are the main target group in these studies due to forced migration (Nacar and Özer, 2017), and that migrant children frequently experience mental health problems and have increased psychological health needs, especially after the war (Cohodes et al., 2022; Eruyar et al., 2018).

The terms "mental health", "post traumatic stress disorder", "trauma", "children", "impact", "health risk", "care", "labor", "students" and "behavioural problems" represent the hottest themes in the study. According to existing studies, migrant children and adolescents are at risk of developing a wide range of psychiatric disorders (Eliaçık and Kanık, 2021; Eruyar et al., 2018; Nasıroğlu et al., 2018). It has been shown that migrant children have problems with their peers and have lower self-esteem than other children (Fındık et al., 2021). According to Bronstein and Montgomery's (2011) systematic review, 19-54% of refugee children living in western countries experience post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression rates vary between 3-30% and various emotional and behavioural problems are observed (Bronstein and Montgomery, 2011). Studies analysing the mental health of migrant children and adolescents in Türkiye have also found an increase in mental health problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, PTSD and enuresis (Fındık et al., 2021; Nasıroğlu et al., 2018). Migrant children are known to have witnessed or been exposed to various traumatic events such as violence, explosions and exploitation in the pre-migration period (Cohodes et al., 2022). In addition to the trauma experienced prior to migration, migrant children are also stressed by the nature of the migration experience, and minors are often exposed to significant trauma during the migration process itself (Cohodes et al., 2022). It is reported that many migrant children have lost family members and friends and therefore migrate alone, unaccompanied or separated from their families, i.e. without parents or legal guardians (Cakmak et al., 2024; Fındık et al., 2021). Negativities such as separation from their families increase the risks of trauma, sexual abuse and forced labour for migrant children. In addition, refugee children and their families face family problems, livelihood difficulties, difficulties related to the asylum process, daily life stresses, discrimination and problems finding a job (Dreby, 2015; ISSOP Migration Working, 2018). For all these reasons, it is reported that more than half of the children in Türkiye may suffer from at least one psychiatric disorder (Fındık et al., 2021). In line with this information, when the themes emerged in the study are reviewed, the studies on the health of migrant children in Türkiye in the journals scanned in the WoS database show that there are concerns about the high rate of mental health problems in these children and that there is a significant research area in this field.

4.1. Limitations

In this study, only English language studies in the Web of Science (WoS) database were analysed. In the future, it is suggested that all articles in other databases such as PubMed and Scopus should be examined together. Thus, the scope of the research can be expanded and more comprehensive results can be obtained. Bibliometric analysis involves the quantitative examination of publications. However, bibliometric methods do not enable the interpretation of the content and quality of a research. This is another limitation of the study.

5. Result

The right to health is one of the fundamental rights of children. This study is the first bibliometric analysis to reveal the status, hot topics and research trends of studies on the health of migrant children in Türkiye in journals indexed in the WoS database. Although the history of migration is quite old, publications on the health status of migrant children in Türkiye in the WoS database are quite new. However, the number of researches is gradually increasing. This field offers an active research topic for

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all health professionals caring for migrant children in Türkiye. Migration is a complex and multifaceted issue covering economic, social and political dimensions. There is a need for more in-depth research on the adverse health conditions of migrant children, how best to meet their health needs, and how to integrate them into Turkish society and ensure their equal access to health services. Accordingly, it is recommended that in-depth systematic reviews of the existing literature on the health status of migrant children in Türkiye be conducted. These reviews should focus on specific areas of health, such as mental health of migrant children. Research groups should be established to improve the health conditions of child migrants in Türkiye. These groups should work to gather information on the health of child migrants and develop solutions. International research networks should be established to address the problems of migrant children related to prenatal care, immunisation, infectious diseases, mental health, housing, nutrition and education. It is envisaged that this will be of critical importance to increase knowledge sharing in the field. It is thought that the findings to be obtained from these studies will provide a solid basis for researchers and guide future research.

Ethical Information Related to the Research

There is no ethics committee report in the study due to the use of document analysis method.

Contribution Rate of Researchers

The authors contributed equally to the study.

Conflict Statement

There are no potential conflicts of interest in this study.

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