

Evaluation of Dietitians' Current and Future Perspectives of Professional Process: A Study on The Sample of Türkiye

Diyetisyenlerin Mevcut ve Gelecekteki Mesleki Sürece Bakışının Değerlendirilmesi: Türkiye Örneklemini Üzerine Bir Çalışma

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to evaluate the work processes, opinions and perspectives of dietitians in the context of the current situation.

Online Google Survey, consisting of questions including sociodemographic characteristics, current state of dietitian profession and outlook was conducted across Turkey. Statistical package software SPSS v26 used for analyzing. Of the 400 dietitians, 52.0% worked for 1 to 5 years, 52.0% works through online consultancy. 88.5% do not think the public has sufficient information on identity of the dietitian, and 88.4% think the reason is lack of a Dietitians' Chamber. The majority of dietitians (95.3%) perceive the employment of dietitians to be insufficient. This perception is influenced by two key factors: the high number of graduates and the number of departments opened at universities (80.8%). The primary reason by 70.0% wanting to work overseas is because 76.4% believe there are better working circumstances. The majority of dietitians (57.8%) do not think sufficient dietitian employment will be possible in the future, and the most common reason stated by 81.4% is personal/health expenses are not seen as a priority due to economy. The majority of dietitians (51.5%), do not think working conditions will be improved in future and the reason is; 78.2% think the dietitian profession will continue to remain as an intermediate occupational group. The majority of dietitians (14.2%) don't think the profession will continue in the distant future is because the the AI will develop.

Dietitians in Turkey are dissatisfied with their working conditions and believe these unfavorable circumstances will persist in the future.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Dietetics, Dieticians, Diet, Work Environment, Working Conditions

ÖZ

Bu araştırma, diyetisyenlerin günümüz koşullarındaki iş süreçlerinin, görüşlerinin ve mesleğe bakış açılarının değerlendirilmesi amacıyla yürütülmüştür.

Sosyodemografik özellikler, diyetisyenlik mesleğinin mevcut durumu ve mesleğe bakış açısını içeren sorulardan oluşan çevrimiçi Google Anketi Türkiye genelinde uygulanmıştır. Analiz için SPSS v26 istatistik paket programı kullanılmıştır. Katılımcı 400 diyetisyenin %52,0'si 1-5 yıl arasında, %52,0'si online danışmanlık yoluyla çalışmaktadır. Toplumun %88,5'inin diyetisyenin kimliği hakkında yeterli bilgiye sahip olmadığını düşünürken, %88,4'ü bunun nedeninin Diyetisyenler Odası'nın olmaması olduğunu düşünmektedir. Diyetisyenlerin %95,3'ü diyetisyen istihdamının yeterli olmadığını düşünmekte, bunun nedeni olarak da %80,8 ile mezun sayısının ve üniversitede açılan bölüm sayısının fazla olmasını göstermektedir. Diyetisyenlerin %70,0'inin yurtdışında çalışmak istemesinin başlıca nedeni, %76,4'ünün daha iyi çalışma koşulları olduğuna inanmasıdır. %57,8'i gelecekte yeterli diyetisyen istihdamının mümkün olmayacağını düşünmekte, %81,4'ünün belirttiği en yaygın neden ise ekonomi nedeniyle kişisel/sağlık harcamalarının öncelik olarak görülmemesi olduğunu ifade etmektedir. Diyetisyenlerin %51,5 gelecekte çalışma koşullarının iyileştirileceğini düşünmemektedir ve bunun nedeni; %78,2'sinin diyetisyenlik mesleğinin ara meslek grubu olarak kalmaya devam edeceğini düşünmesidir. Diyetisyenlerin %14,2'si mesleğin uzak gelecekte devam etmeyeceğini düşünmesinin nedeni yapay zekanın gelişecek olmasıdır.

Sonuç olarak Türkiye'deki diyetisyenler çalışma koşullarından memnun değildir ve bu olumsuz koşulların gelecekte de devam edeceğine inanmaktadır.

Keywords: Çalışma Koşulları, Çalışma Ortamı, Diyet, Diyetetik, Diyetisyen

This study, which is based on volunteer participation, was started after receiving the approval of Üsküdar University Non-Interventional Research Ethics Committee dated 30/09/2022 and numbered 61351342.

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Geliş Tarihi / Received: 26.09.2024
Kabul Tarihi/Accepted: 21.12.2024

INTRODUCTION

Nutrition has been one of the most discussed topics throughout history. With advancing technology, nutrition has become a science. "Dietetics", a professional group trained in the field of nutrition and dietetics, which prepares customized nutrition plans for individuals with different characteristics by evaluating the habits and health status of individuals in line with the rules of nutrition science, and trains people on its implementation, was first emerged in the US in 1899 and later in Türkiye in 1966. Since then, the profession of dietitian has attracted more practitioners and has become increasingly popular, especially in recent years¹. According to the data of The European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians (EFAD), there are more than 35,000 member dietitians in total from 28 European countries². In the US, there are more than 105,000 dietitians in total. The total number of dietitians in Türkiye is estimated to be approximately 34,000³. Dieticians form the only professional group that is trained to meet the nutritional needs of healthy individuals, individuals with acute or chronic diseases, the elderly, and communities at risk, and to analyze, plan and monitor their nutritional status⁴. As the dietitian profession has progressed, the working areas of dietitians have developed with different opportunities such as educational dietitian in educational institutions, research dietitian in research institutions, therapeutic dietitian in hospitals (diabetes, oncology dietitian, etc.), executive dietitian, product consultancy in the food industry, sports dietitian in sports clubs, individual consultancy and media programme production⁵. However, in today's nutrition consultancy, individuals who are not dietitians, such as sports coaches, models or artists, have considerable influence in the field and reach the public using their platforms in the media; this has caused the dietetic profession to become more challenging for dietitians⁶. People who are not experts in the field of nutrition sharing posts about nutrition on social media, them appearing on health and nutrition related television programs, and generally overlooking the fact that nutrition

processes are personalized are among the most important reasons for information pollution in the field of nutrition and dietetics⁷. In Türkiye, the employment problem of nutritionists creates a gap in the field, and this gap is seen as an opportunity that can be filled by members of different professions or uneducated individuals⁸. In addition to the public: physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals need to be conscious of the specialty needed around nutrition. As they do not fully know the job description of dietitians, there may be confusion in this area and this confusion may lead to divisions among the healthcare team⁹. Shortcomings in education, and the problem of unemployment are also very important issues. University departments not having faculty members in their academic staff who specialise in the field and participation of non-field faculty members in professional courses cause deficiencies in terms of not meeting the learning objectives and fulfilling the professional competencies of the graduates¹⁰. Considering that quotas for nutrition and dietetics departments are increasing in Türkiye, job appointments made for the growing number of graduates every year remain at a rate of only 7-8%¹¹. The job placement rate of dietitians in the public sector remains well below 50%¹². Low wages compared to professional reputation, high workload due to the low number of dietitians, healthcare personnel's lack of knowledge of the profession's responsibilities and expertise, and lack of specialized posts are among the negative situations mentioned by dietitians⁶. In a study evaluating the working environment conditions of dietitians who are members of the Turkish Dietetic Practitioners Almost 60% of the participants stated that their earnings were insufficient, 38.8% stated that they felt their authority was frequently limited or disregarded. Approximately half of the participants experienced the anxiety of being unemployed, and a quarter of them stated that their work lives negatively affected their social lives¹³.

It is essential to evaluate the professional process of Türkiye's dietitians, put forward the problems and accordingly make the necessary improvements. This study, which aims to evaluate the situations that may harm the dietitian profession in the near future or

contribute to the existence and sustainability of the profession, will help shape steps that can be taken in the future regarding professional policies in this domain.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Design and Methodology

This descriptive study was conducted between October 2022 and April 2023 with dietitians who graduated from Nutrition and Dietetics departments across Turkey. The target population of the research is an estimated 30,000 dietitians in Turkey who are graduates of Nutrition and Dietetics department⁵. Sample size was calculated by the formula $n=(N \times t^2 \times p \times q) / (d^2 \times (N-1)) + (t^2 \times p \times q)$. According to the random sampling formulation, it was found that a minimum of 379 samples would be sufficient and a total of 400 samples were obtained for the study. An online Google form survey was sent to the dietitians participating in the study, prepared by the researcher consisting of questions about their sociodemographic characteristics, evaluation of the dietitians' current professional processes and perspectives on the future, and their corrective and improving solution suggestions for the profession in the future.

Statistical Analyses

Descriptive statistics for categorical variables (demographic characteristics) are presented as frequencies and percentages. The Shapiro-Wilk test was used to test the normality of numerical variables. Descriptive statistics for numerical variables are presented as mean standard deviation for normally distributed data and median for non-normally distributed data. The Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare two independent groups that did not have a normal distribution. In all calculations and interpretations in the study,

the level of statistical significance was considered to be 'p<0.05, p<0.01, p<0.001' and the hypotheses were bidirectional. SPSS v26 (IBM Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) package program was used for the statistical analysis of the data.

Ethical Considerations

This study, which is based on volunteer participation, was started after receiving the approval of Üsküdar University Non-Interventional Research Ethics Committee dated 30/09/2022 and numbered 61351342.

Limitations of the Research

The fact that the study was conducted after the COVID-19 pandemic caused it to be affected by economic stagnation and recession. Participants may have preferred not to answer the questions because they did not want to endanger their current working situation, in parallel with their concerns about the future. Since it was aimed to reach dietitians all over Turkey, the data collection method was used with a Google form survey, and since not all dieticians had the time to respond to the survey, the number of samples was limited to 400 people.

Acknowledgements

The authors thank all participants involved in the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 36.2% of the dietitians participating in the study have been working for less than 1 year, 52.0% for 1-5 years, 11.8% for more than 5 years. 52.0% of the dietitians surveyed, a majority, consulted with

clients online. The least common type of work, with 0.5%, was consulting in amateur and professional sports clubs (Göztepe, Fenerbahçe, Galatasaray, etc.) and in pharmacies (Table 1).

A total of 88.5% of the dietitians participating in the study do not think that the public has sufficient information about the professional identity of a dietitian, and 4.8% do. The most common reason, with 88.4%, for thinking that the public does not have enough information about the professional identity of a dietitian is stated to be insufficient legal information regarding the professional identity of a dietitian, due to the lack of a dietitians' chamber. The least cited reason, with 6.5%, was "Other" (Table 2).

The majority of the dietitians participating in the study, 95.3%, do not think that the employment of dietitians is sufficient. The most common reason for not thinking that the employment of dietitians is sufficient is, with 80.8%, that the number of university graduates is high due to the opening of new dietetics departments in too many universities. While 18.5% of the participating dietitians do not want to work abroad as a dietitian, 70.0% do. The most cited reason for wanting to work abroad as a dietitian was, with 76.4%, better working conditions as a dietitian abroad (Table 3).

A total of 18.4% of the dietitians participating in the study think that adequate dietitian employment can be achieved in the future, and 57.8% do not think so. The most common reason (81.4%) for not thinking that sufficient dietitian employment will be achieved in the future is that it is not seen as a priority in individual/health expenditures due to the economic crisis, and the least common reason (1.7%) were stated as other conditions. The majority of the participants, 51.5%, do not think that working conditions of dietitians will be improved in the future, and 15.5% do. The most common reason for not thinking that dietitian working conditions will be improved in the future, with 78.2%, is the belief that the dietitian profession will continue to be defined as an intermediate professional group in the future (Table 4).

A total of 67.3% of the participants think that the dietitian profession will continue in the distant future and 14.2% do not think so. The main reason for not thinking that the dietitian profession will continue in the distant future is that the participants think that the need will disappear in parallel with the development process of artificial intelligence with 78.9% (Table 5).

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of dietitians' length of service as a dietitian according to their gender

	Gender				Total	
	Male		Female		n	%
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Duration Working as a Dietician						
Less than 1 year	5	19.2	140	37.4	145	36.2
Between 1 and 5 years	16	61.6	192	51.3	208	52.0
More than 5 years	5	19.2	42	11.3	47	11.8
When and Where Practicing*						
Online consultancy (with clients)	7	26.9	201	53.7	208	52.0
Through social media applications (Instagram, Twitter, smartphone and internet applications etc.)	4	15.4	86	23.0	90	22.5
I have my own consultancy office	7	26.9	53	14.2	60	15.0
I am working at a private clinic along a doctor	0	0.0	11	2.9	11	2.8
Wellness – beauty center	0	0.0	12	3.2	12	3.0
Gym	2	7.7	12	3.2	14	3.5
I am working at an amateur or Professional sports club (Göztepe, Fenerbahçe, Galatasaray etc.)	1	3.8	1	0.3	2	0.5
Consulting at a pharmacy	0	0.0	2	0.5	2	0.5
Private hospital/clinic/medical center	2	7.7	25	6.7	27	6.8
Consulting at Non-Governmental Organizations	1	3.8	2	0.5	3	0.8
Consulting at private companies or organizations	4	15.4	16	4.3	20	5.0
In state health institutions (hospitals, health centers, women's health centers, family and community health centers)	4	15.4	31	8.3	35	8.8
In state administrative institutions (provincial and district municipalities, district governorships)	0	0.0	10	2.7	10	2.5
Catering industries (restaurants, hotels, holiday villages, catering companies, etc.)	3	11.5	21	5.6	24	6.0
Consulting at nutritional support or pharmaceutical companies	0	0.0	3	0.8	3	0.8
Academic at a higher education institution such as university	2	7.7	11	2.9	13	3.3
Other	3	11.5	44	11.8	47	11.8

*: Multiple answers

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of the findings of whether dietitians think that the public has sufficient information about their professional identity as dietitians according to their gender

	Gender					
	Male		Female		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Whether Dietitians Think that the Public Has Sufficient Information About Their Professional Identity as Dietitians						
Yes	0	0.0	19	5.1	19	4.8
No	26	100.0	328	87.7	354	88.5
Undecided	0	0.0	27	7.2	27	6.8
The Reason for not Thinking that the Public Has Sufficient Information About Dietitians' Professional Identity*						
Since individuals are given information about of nutrition by other health professionals (doctors, nurses, health personnel, etc.) who are not experts in dietetics in health institutions (hospitals, health centers, mother-child health centers, family health centers, etc.).	2	7.7	46	14.0	48	13.6
Giving nutrition courses in educational institutions by individuals outside their field of expertise	11	42.3	174	53.0	185	52.3
That information about nutrition in mass media (television, radio, newspapers, magazines, etc.) is provided by individuals other than dietitians (doctor, model, artist, sports trainer, etc.).	10	38.5	126	38.4	136	38.4
Due to the existing information pollution, the public thinks of the dietitian only as an individual who helps one lose weight and perceive them as a cosmetic and beauty expert.	17	65.4	242	73.8	259	73.2
Lack of legal information regarding the dietitian identity due to the lack of a dietitians' chamber	22	84.6	291	88.7	313	88.4
Dietitians introducing themselves as doctors	12	46.2	214	65.2	226	63.8
Other	2	7.7	21	6.4	23	6.5

*: Multiple answers

Table 3: Descriptive statistics of the findings of dietitians' opinion on whether the employment of dietitians is sufficient, and their willingness to work abroad as a dietitian, according to their gender

	Gender					
	Male		Female		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Status of Thinking that the Employment of a Dietitian is Sufficient						
Yes	1	3.8	13	3.4	14	3.4
No	24	92.4	357	95.5	381	95.3
Undecided	1	3.8	4	1.1	5	1.3
Reason for not thinking that dietitian employing is sufficient*						
The number of university graduates is high due to the opening of dietetics departments in too many universities.	16	66.7	292	81.8	308	80.8
Insufficient appointments and posts	17	70.8	311	87.1	328	86.1
That people who are not experts in the field of dietetics (models, sports instructors) have influence over the public and open nutrition consultancy centers	10	41.7	233	65.3	243	63.8
Lack of a dietitians' chamber	12	50.0	250	70.0	262	68.8
Since they are not included in health insurance, dietician expenses are not seen as essential because individuals must cover this expense from their own budgets.	8	33.3	176	49.3	184	48.3
Other	1	4.2	4	1.1	5	1.3
Status of Willingness to Work Abroad as Dietician						
Yes	17	65.4	263	70.3	280	70.0
No	8	30.8	66	17.6	74	18.5
Undecided	1	3.8	45	12.1	46	11.5
Reason for Wanting to Work Abroad as Dietician*						
Because better working conditions are provided for dietitians abroad	12	70.6	202	76.8	214	76.4
Due to less or no violence against healthcare workers	5	29.4	73	27.8	78	27.9
Due to higher wage policies	8	47.1	168	63.9	176	62.9
Health professionals other than dietitians are not involved in the nutrition process	6	35.3	153	58.2	159	56.8
Better access to information and materials in professional development processes	5	29.4	143	54.4	148	52.9
Keeping the concepts and work areas of nutritionist and dietitian separate	5	29.4	138	52.5	143	51.1
Other	2	11.8	4	1.5	6	2.1

*: Multiple answers

Table 4: Descriptive statistics of the findings of dietitians' thinking on whether adequate dietitian employment can be achieved in the future and whether dietitians' working conditions will be improved in the future, according to the respondents' gender

	Gender					
	Male		Female		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Status of Thinking that Adequate Dietitian Employment Can Be Achieved in the Future						
Yes	10	38.5	64	17.1	74	18.4
No	14	53.8	217	58.0	231	57.8
Undecided	2	7.7	93	24.9	95	23.8
Reason for Not Thinking that Adequate Dietitian Employment Can Be Achieved in the Future *						
Not being seen as a priority in personal/health expenditures due to the economic crisis	9	64.3	179	82.5	188	81.4
In parallel with the development of the digital age, social media is actively used by individuals who are not experts in the field of dietetics as a means of making money.	8	57.1	136	62.7	144	62.3
Due to the inadequacy of current post and appointment increases in parallel with the population increase	7	50.0	149	68.7	156	67.5
In parallel with smartphone and computer applications, social media, the rise of the pharmaceutical industry and information pollution, individuals make nutrition decisions based on their own knowledge	7	50.0	115	53.0	122	52.8
Difficulties that may be experienced in nutrition and food processes due to global warming and food shortages	2	14.3	83	38.2	85	36.8
Other	1	7.1	3	1.4	4	1.7
Belief that Dietitians' Working Conditions Will Be Improved in the Future						
Yes	8	30.8	54	14.4	62	15.5
No	13	50.0	193	51.6	206	51.5
Undecided	5	19.2	127	34.0	132	33.0
Reasons for Not Thinking that Dieticians' Working Conditions Will Be Improved in the Future*						
I think that the dietitian profession will continue to be defined as an intermediate professional group in the future	9	69.2	152	78.8	161	78.2
Due to economic crisis	4	30.8	102	52.8	106	51.5
Due to the insufficient number of qualified personnel with the specialized knowledge required by the positions	5	38.5	106	54.9	111	53.9
Inadequacy of wage policy	4	30.8	106	54.9	110	53.4
Lack of security regarding violence against healthcare workers	3	23.1	39	20.2	42	20.4
That there are no punitive measures against individuals who provide nutrition information to the public on platforms such as mass media, social media etc. without expertise in the field of nutrition	5	38.5	123	63.7	128	62.1
The need for a dietitian disappearing due to smartphone and computer applications being developed in the field of nutrition and diet.	4	30.8	88	45.6	92	44.7
Other	1	7.7	0	0.0	1	0.5

*: Multiple answers

Table 5: Descriptive statistics of the findings of thinking that the dietitian profession will continue in the distant future

	Gender				Total	
	Male		Female			
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Status of Thinking that the Dietitian Profession Will Continue in the Distant Future						
Yes	19	73.1	250	66.8	269	67.3
No	5	19.2	52	13.9	57	14.2
Undecided	2	7.7	72	19.3	74	18.5
Reasons for Not Thinking that the Dietitian Profession Will Continue in the Distant Future*						
The need disappears in parallel with the development of artificial intelligence	2	40.0	43	82.7	45	78.9
Transition to pill-style nutrition in parallel with the developments in the medical and pharmaceutical industry	0	0.0	32	61.5	32	56.1
Due to artificial food production	0	0.0	27	51.9	27	47.4
Depletion of food resources in parallel with global warming and food shortages	0	0.0	33	63.5	33	57.9
The existence of nutrition software for smartphones and computers that develop in parallel with the digital age.	4	80.0	37	71.2	41	71.9
Due to economic crisis	0	0.0	35	67.3	35	61.4
Due to wars and migration	1	20.0	18	34.6	19	33.3
Other	2	40.0	3	5.8	5	8.8

*: Multiple answers

The working period of the dietitians participating in this study was found to be predominantly between one and five years, with the majority of them offering online counselling services. Similarly, in studies conducted in Turkey, the tenure of dietitians was found to be 1-5 years^{14, 15}.

In this study, most of the dietitians do not think that the public has sufficient information about the professional identity of the dietitian, and the main reason for this stated to be the lack of legal information regarding the professional dietitian identity due to the lack of a dietitians' chamber. Similarly, in the study conducted by Ongan et al., participants cited the lack of a professional chamber/trade association and the incomplete job description of a dietitian as the reasons for professional deficiency⁶. This situation can be explained by the fact that the emergence of ambiguities or inconsistencies among experts in the profession regarding the professional identity of the dietitian due to the absence of a professional chamber and the insufficient definition of the profession, which may lead to information confusion among the public.

Most of the dietitians in this study think that the employment of dietitians is not sufficient and the main reason for this according to dieticians surveyed is the lack of current appointments and posts. Similarly, in a recent study, it was determined that almost

half of the dietitians were not employed, and this situation is explained by lack of sufficient employment opportunities compared to the number of dietetics departments opened¹⁵. It is thought that this situation most clearly reflects the excess supply and lack of employment opportunities for dietitians in Turkey.

Most of the dietitians in this study want to work abroad and the most stated reason for this is that better working conditions are provided abroad. Similarly, in a study conducted in Ankara in 2010, it was stated that dietitians complained about various working conditions¹⁶. It is seen that among international migration categories in recent years, the category in which the migration rate has increased the most belongs to highly qualified professionals. Top reasons for migration are as follows: perception of better career prospects, security, healthcare, and more developed professional network opportunities¹⁷. The study finds that reasons such as negative economic conditions, high unemployment rates and labor exploitation, disruptions in education, and negative working conditions played a role in professional people's decision to migrate abroad¹⁸. This situation may be due to the fact that dietitians want to practice their profession in different countries where they will enjoy higher professional satisfaction

because they find their current professional conditions tiring, due to the high workload in the dietitian profession, lack of sufficient appointments, economic problems, not being valued in society, too much intervention by non-experts in the field, and similar reasons.

Most of the dietitians in this study do not think that sufficient dietitian employment will be possible in the future in Turkey. The leading reason the participants stated for this is that dietician expenses are not seen as a priority in individual/health expenditures due to the economic crisis. Similarly, in a study conducted in recent years, it was showed that Turkey's health expenditures made by both the public and private sectors cannot even reach half of the average of the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development) countries of which it is a member¹⁹. This situation can be associated with the lack of sufficient investment healthcare and the low supply of preventive health services due to people restricting their health expenditures because of financial limitations and, accordingly, the inability to provide sufficient appointments for dieticians.

Most of the dietitians who participated in this study think that the working conditions of dietitians in Turkey will not improve in the future, and the main reason for this is that they think that the dietitian profession, which is

defined as an intermediate professional group, will continue in its current definition in the future. This may be an indication that the professional terms such as dietitian, registered dietitian and nutritionist should be separated and defined more clearly in Turkey as is the case in many countries, especially in the US and the UK.

In this study, suggestions that the participants agreed with the most in order to improve policies for the dietitian profession were the establishment of a dietitians' chamber and an active collaboration with the Ministry of Health in developing professional policies for dietitians. According to Ataman, in the absence of professional chambers, the opinions and suggestions of professionals whose number can be expressed in the tens of thousands will not be taken into account and appropriate working conditions will not be provided²⁰. This situation illustrates that Turkey's dietitians want to come together under one roof and produce solutions to current problems: they expect a process in which the Ministry of Health will take an active role for the development of the dietitian profession.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In this study, it was concluded that dietitians across Turkey are not satisfied with the professional conditions such as quality of education, social status, recognition, employment opportunities and working conditions in the current professional process and that they think that these negative conditions will continue in the future and accordingly they want to continue their profession outside of Turkey with the prediction that they will find better conditions abroad.

In this regard, studies on professional groups should be increased and plans should be made with this data, together with a joint work plan with the World Health Organization, to improve the current working

processes and satisfaction of health professionals who are of vital importance in exceptional situations such as floods, disasters, earthquakes and pandemics.

It is essential to evaluate the professional process of dietitians in countries all over the world, identify the problems and accordingly make the necessary improvements. Discussing the situations that may harm the dietitian profession in the near future or contribute to the endurance and sustainability of the profession will help shape future steps towards professional policies on this subject. In addition, it is very important to manage problems created by migration through increasing employee satisfaction in parallel with professional development. Since there is

no study in this direction in the international academic literature, this research pioneers and guides future studies.

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