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THE EXAMINATION OF MASTER'S THESES ON SCALE DEVELOPMENT FOR NURSES IN TÜRKİYE

TÜRKİYE'DEKİ HEMŞİRELERLE İLGİLİ ÖLÇEK GELİŞTİRME KONULU LİSANSÜSTÜ TEZLERİN İNCELEMESİ

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	ABSTRACT	ÖZET
Date of receipt/ Geliş tarihi: 01 Oct 2024	<p>This systematic review aims to examine the postgraduate theses on scale development related to nurses in Türkiye between January 2014 and August 2024. The research was conducted by searching the National Thesis Database of the Council of Higher Education in Türkiye. The data obtained were analysed in terms of parameters such as thesis type, supervisor titles, research areas and distribution by years. A total of 930 theses were reached with the keyword scale development. Of the theses examined, 90 were in the field of nursing and 25 theses met the criteria for inclusion in the study. One thesis was excluded because it was irrelevant and 24 theses were analysed. Of these, eight are master's theses and 16 are doctoral theses. 58.4% of the theses were supervised by supervisors with the title of professor. Most of the theses focused on nursing management. The scales developed are effective tools to increase the work processes, patient safety and professional competences of nurses. In this study, comprehensive information is given about the scales developed in the field of nursing.</p>	<p>Bu sistematik inceleme, Ocak 2014-Ağustos 2024 yılları arasında Türkiye'deki hemşirelerle ilgili ölçek geliştirme konulu lisansüstü tezleri incelemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Araştırma, Türkiye'deki Yükseköğretim Kurulu'nun Ulusal Tez Veritabanı taranarak gerçekleştirilmiştir. Elde edilen veriler, tez türü, danışman unvanları, araştırma alanları ve yıllara göre dağılım gibi parametreler açısından analiz edilmiştir. Ölçek geliştirme anahtar kelimesi ile toplam 930 teze ulaşılmıştır. İncelenen tezlerin 90 tanesi hemşirelik alanında olup, 25 tane tez ise çalışmaya dahil edilme kriterlerini sağlamaktadır. Bir tez, konu dışı olduğu için çıkarılmış olup, 24 tez incelenmiştir. Bunlardan sekizi yüksek lisans ve 16'sı doktora tezidir. Tezlerin %58.4'ü profesör unvanına sahip danışmanlar tarafından yönetilmiştir. Tezlerin büyük bir kısmı hemşirelik yönetimi konularına odaklanmıştır. Geliştirilen ölçekler, hemşirelerin iş süreçlerini, hasta güvenliğini ve mesleki yeterliliklerini artırmakta etkili araçlardır. Bu çalışmada hemşirelik alanında geliştirilen ölçekler hakkında kapsamlı bilgi verilmiştir.</p>
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INTRODUCTION

In the field of healthcare, nursing is a fundamental element that directly affects the quality of patient care (Nordaunet et al., 2024). The professional knowledge and skills of nurses are crucial for the effectiveness of patient care and the improvement of health outcomes (Karaca et al., 2023). In this context, the increase in research related to nursing practice and education is a significant step towards supporting the development of the nursing profession (Zhang et al., 2024). To ensure that nursing practice continually meets evolving and changing needs, it is essential to develop systematic and reliable measurement tools (Mlambo et al., 2021). In Türkiye, graduate students and researchers in the field of nursing are developing various scales to better understand and evaluate nursing practice and education (Özdemir, 2018). Scales that assess nurses' professional behaviors, knowledge, attitudes and overall professional development play a critical role in improving the quality of nursing practice. By measuring the professional attitudes of nurses, these scales help to monitor their professional development and identify their educational needs. (Şenol & Uğurlu, 2019). However, a comprehensive evaluation of the validity, reliability, and applicability of these scales is necessary (Büyüköztürk, 2011).

The use of scales in nursing practice is a critical tool for evaluating nurses' professional practices, monitoring patient care, and enhancing the quality of healthcare services. The scales provide a systematic way to measure and assess nursing practices, thereby supporting the effectiveness of nursing services, patient satisfaction, and nurses' professional satisfaction with objective data. This practice is used to establish standards in nursing practice and encourage continuous improvement (Özdemir, 2018). The use of scales plays an important role in various research studies in the field of nursing. Nursing scales are generally developed to collect information on topics such as patient satisfaction, pain management, nursing intervention outcomes, and patient safety. These scales help nurses objectively evaluate their practice processes and patient outcomes and ensure that clinical practices are based on scientific

evidence (Yılmaz & Arslan, 2022). The validity and reliability of scales enhance the accuracy and dependability of these data, thereby improving the quality of nursing research.

This research aims to provide comprehensive information about the scales developed in the field of nursing by evaluating the master's theses on scale development related to nurses in Türkiye between January 2014 and August 2024 in terms of certain parameters, and to contribute to the development of new scales to fill these gaps by identifying gaps in the literature.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Study Type

This study is retrospective descriptive research.

Population and Sampling

The research data were collected by searching the National Thesis Database of the Council of Higher Education over the internet. Detailed search was carried out between 1 May 2024 and 28 August 2024. In the study, theses on scale development related to nurses between January 2014 and August 2024 were examined. All theses with open access on the system were included in the study.

In this study, the types of theses in the field of nursing, the titles of thesis advisors, research areas and their distribution according to years were analysed. The population of the study consisted of the National Thesis Database of the Council of Higher Education and the sample consisted of postgraduate theses on scale development related to nurses in Türkiye. The sampling was done by using the keywords “scale development”, “nursing” and “nurse”. As a result of the search with the keyword ‘scale development’, a total of 930 theses were reached. 90 of these theses are in the field of nursing. As a result of the search, a total of 25 postgraduate theses were reached. During the examination process, it was determined that one thesis covered the subject of patient care and was excluded from the study. As a result, 24 theses were

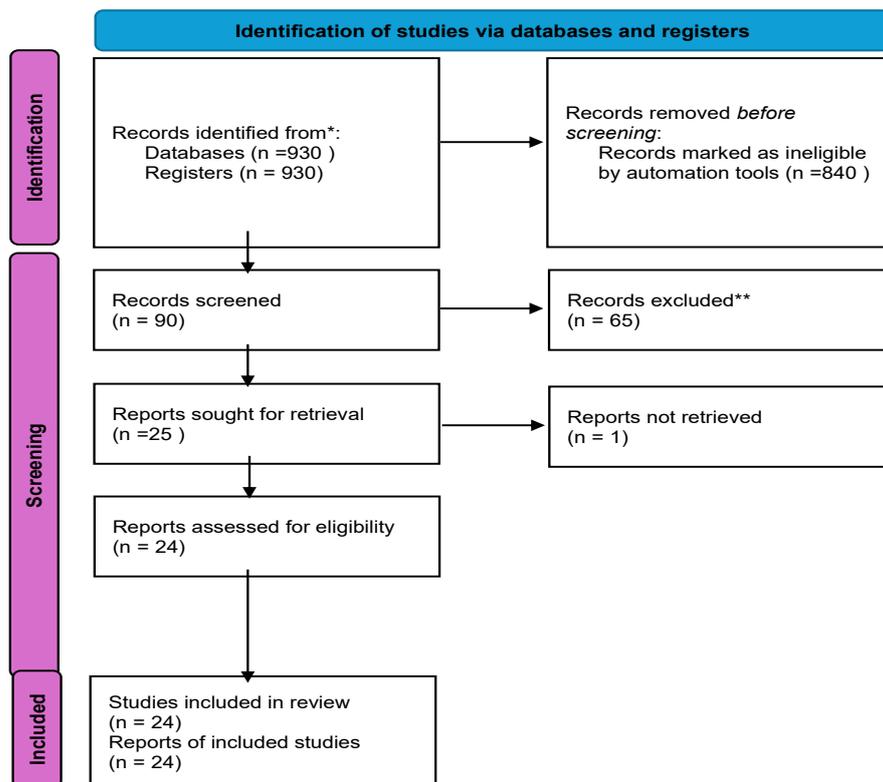
analyzed. The study was methodologically organized in accordance with the PRISMA 2020 notification checklist (Figure 1).

Inclusion Criteria

- The full text of the thesis must be accessible.
- The thesis must have been conducted in Türkiye.
- The thesis must involve scale development work.
- The thesis must be related to scale development for nurses.
- The thesis must have been completed between January 2014 and August 2024.
- The thesis must have been conducted by departments of nursing and/or nursing science.

Figure 1

PRISMA Flow Diagram of the Study



Data Collection

This research focused on scale development in graduate theses in the field of nursing. The theses were systematically presented in tables according to the type of thesis, distribution by years, the purpose and results of the thesis, type of measurement, and the titles of thesis advisors. Each study's title, number of scale items, sub-dimensions of the scale, purpose, and results were also evaluated separately in a table.

Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences for Windows version 25.0 (SPSS 25.0) program. Descriptive statistics, percentages, and frequency methods were used during the analysis.

Limitations of the Study

The search was restricted to theses specifically within the field of nursing, leading to a limited pool of available theses for analysis. The limitations of the study include the access to theses being restricted to only the national database.

Ethical Committee Approval

Since all the authors of the graduate theses examined in the study have approved accessibility via the Council of Higher Education (CoHE) National Thesis Center data entry form, it was not necessary to obtain an Ethics Committee Approval.

RESULTS

In this study, theses registered in the National Thesis Center between January 2014 to August 2024 were examined in detail, and 24 graduate theses that met the research criteria were analyzed. The study investigated the types of theses conducted in the field of nursing, the titles of thesis advisors, research areas, and their distributions by years. A total of 24 theses were analyzed. Among these, eight (33.4%) were master's theses, and 16 (66.6%) were doctoral theses. The distribution of thesis advisors' titles was as follows: 58.4% (n=13) were Prof. Dr.,

33.3% (n=8) were Assoc. Prof., and 8.3% (n=2) were Asst. Prof. (Table 1). When examining the distribution of theses by year, 2022 and 2019 had the highest number of theses, showing a significant increase with 5 theses (20.7%). This year was followed by 2018 12.65% and 2023 (12.65%). In 2020 and 2014, only one thesis (4.20%) was observed, marking the lowest number of theses. Overall, it was observed that the majority of theses in the field of nursing focused on management topics and were guided by senior academic advisors (Table 1).

Table 1.

Characteristics of Graduate Theses on Scale Development Related to Nurses in Türkiye

Type of Thesis	n	%
Master's	8	33.40
Doctoral	16	66.60
Thesis Advisor Title		
Prof. Dr.	14	58.40
Assoc. Prof.	8	33.30
Asist. Prof.	2	8.30
Field of Study		
Nursing Management	13	54.20
Fundamentals of Nursing	5	20.70
Emergency Nursing	2	8.30
Public Health Nursing	1	4.20
Pediatric Nursing	1	4.20
Nursing Education	1	4.20
Psychiatric Nursing	1	4.20
Distribution by Years		
2014	1	4.20
2016	2	8.30
2017	2	8.30
2018	3	12.65
2019	5	20.70
2020	1	4.20
2021	2	8.30
2022	5	20.70
2023	3	12.65

The analyzed postgraduate theses were categorized under the titles of author/year, thesis advisor title, thesis type, thesis title, scale name, scale sub-dimension and number of items, and thesis results and presented in Table 2.

Table 2
Characteristics of Postgraduate Theses on Scale Development Related to Nurses

Author-Year- Advisor Title	Thesis Type	Thesis Title	Developed Scale	Item Count / Subdimensions	Result
ÇİĞDEM TORUN KILIÇ (2023) Prof. Dr.	Doctoral	Applications of lean management in nursing services	Lean Management in Hospitals Scale for Nurses	22 items / 5 sub-dimensions	The scale is valid and reliable. Nurses' working time and steps decreased.
ESRA ÖZBUDAK (2023) Prof. Dr.	Doctoral	Nurses' attitudes towards falling prevention	Nurses' Attitudes Towards Prevention of Falls Scale	19 items / 4 sub-dimensions	Validity and reliability confirmed.
ESMA BAŞARAN (2022) Prof. Dr.	Doctoral	Nurse competence scale and its relationship with personality traits	Competency Scale for Nurses	101 items / 8 sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool. Personality traits influence competencies.
GAMZE SAATÇI (2022) Prof. Dr.	Master's	Attitude scale towards specialization in nursing	Attitude Towards Specialization in Nursing Scale	18 items / 3 sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable measurement tool.
GÜLŞAH KAYA (2022) Prof. Dr.	Doctoral	Determining stigmatization perception in nursing students	Scale for Determining Nursing Students' Perceptions of Stigmatization	19 items / 5 subgroups	Validity and reliability confirmed.
HANİFE ÇAKIR (2022) Assoc. Prof.	Doctoral	Diversity management practices in healthcare	Diversity Management Scale for Nurses	14 items / 3 subdimensions	Valid and reliable instrument.
NİDA KIYICI (2022) Prof. Dr.	Doctoral	Determining attention control levels of nurses	Scale for Determining Attention Control Levels of Nurses	19 items / 4 sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.
TUĞBA ULUOCAK KÖSE (2022) Prof. Dr.	Doctoral	Development of A scale to measure intellectual capital	Intellectual Capital Scale for Healthcare Organizations	34 items / 3 sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.
ESENGÜL ELİBOL (2021) Assoc. Prof.	Doctoral	Determination of nurses' compulsory citizenship behavior levels	Compulsory Citizenship Scale	12 items / 3 sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.
NAİLE BODUÇ (2021) Prof. Dr.	Doctoral	Developing the scale for attitudes of nurses toward time management	Nurses' Attitude Scale on Time Management	30 items / One dimensional	Valid and reliable tool.
SEÇİL ÖZÇİFTÇİ (2020) Prof. Dr.	Master's	Development of ethical attitude scale in nursing care	Ethical Attitude Scale in Nursing Care	34 items / One dimensional	Valid and reliable tool.
CENNET ÇİRİŞ YILDIZ (2019) Asst. Prof.	Doctoral	Qualitative review of reality shock in new graduated nurses	Reality Shock Scale	47 items / 4 sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.

DUYGU YILDIRIM (2019) Assoc. Prof.	Master's	Development of scale of human dignity perception in nursing	Human Dignity Perception and Understanding Scale in Nursing	43 items / One dimensional	Valid and reliable tool.
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Table 2*Characteristics of Postgraduate Theses on Scale Development Related to Nurses (continued)*

İSMAHAN TEZCAN (2019) Asst. Prof.	Master's	Patience in nurses: A scale development study	Patience Scale in Nurses	24 items / 3 sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.
MERVE KIRŞAN (2019) Assoc. Prof.	Master's	Development of scale of ethical problems in clinical teaching in nursing	Scale of Ethical Problems in Clinical Teaching in Nursing	52 items / Two sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.
NİLGÜN KATRANCI (2019) Prof. Dr.	Doctoral	Developing a self-efficacy perception scale for administrator nurses and determining the relationships between the decision making and self-efficacy	Scale of Self- Efficacy in Nurse Managers	41 items / Five sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.
AYŞE KARADAŞ (2018) Prof. Dr.	Doctoral	Nurse managers' Perceived sources of power: A scale development study	Scale of Power in Nursing Managers	35 items / Five sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.
BERNA AKÇAKOCA (2018) Assoc. Prof.	Master's	Developing a measurement tool to be used in evaluating the hidden curriculum in nursing education	Implicit Program Evaluation Scale in Nursing Education	43 items / Three sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.
AYFER KARA (2018) Prof. Dr.	Doctoral	The impact of family centered care training on attitudes in child nurses	Family Centered Care Attitude Scale	58 items / Three sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.
ESİN SAPÇI (2017) Assoc. Prof.	Master's	Development of public health nursing lesson attitude scale	Public Health Nursing Course Attitude Scale	34 items / Two sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.
BEGÜM YALÇIN (2017) Prof. Dr.	Doctoral	Developing organizational silence behaviour scale and determining nurses' organizational silence level	Organizational Silence Behavior Scale	32 items / Four sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.
SEDA DEĞİRMENCİ (2016) Prof. Dr.	Doctoral	Developing the scale of emotional labor behavior for nurses	Emotional Labor Behavior Scale of Nursing	24 items / Three sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.
NEŞE MERCAN (2016) Assoc. Prof.	Doctoral	Development 'scale on assessment of simulated patient application' using in education of medical and nursing students	Scale On Assessment of Simulated Patient Application	27 items / Five sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.
AYŞE DOST (2014) Assoc. Prof.	Master's	Developing a scale for the image of nursing profession	Scale For The Image Of Nursing Profession	42 items / Six sub-dimensions	Valid and reliable tool.

DISCUSSION

The development of scales related to nursing is critical for enhancing the quality and effectiveness of nursing care and education. This study shows that doctoral theses represent a higher proportion than master's theses. It was observed that scale development studies in the field of graduate nursing were mostly conducted in doctoral theses. Since nurses at the doctoral stage gain more scientific experience and knowledge compared to master's degree, it is likely that researcher-related errors, which are the main source of errors that may be encountered in the scale development process, will be less. The study conducted by Savaş and Pazar in 2021 also supports our findings.

The annual distribution data of our study shows that there are periodic fluctuations in the production of graduate theses and that there may be increases or decreases in certain years. As a matter of fact, while scale development studies have traditionally been widely used in the fields of educational sciences and psychology, in recent years, it has found increasing interest and application in the field of nursing (Karaca et al., 2023; Savaş & Pazar, 2021). This is due to the need for new measurement tools, especially in areas such as evaluating the quality of care of nurses, increasing patient safety and measuring professional competence. As seen in the postgraduate theses on scale development concerning nurses in Türkiye, the majority of these works focus on nursing management, professional competencies, and attitudes, reflecting the growing need for valid and reliable measurement tools in these areas. In the study conducted by He et al. (2023), the significance of self-efficacy for nurse managers is highlighted, emphasizing its role in enhancing both work efficiency and overall quality of life. Despite its importance, there has been a limited development of professional tools specifically designed to evaluate self-efficacy in nurse managers. This gap indicates a need for more targeted instruments that can accurately assess the self-efficacy levels within this professional group, potentially contributing to better managerial performance and well-being in nursing

environments (He et al., 2023). Cho and Choi (2024) developed a scale to measure holistic leadership competencies in nursing and emphasized the importance of managerial skills in improving healthcare outcomes. Similarly, the “Lean Management in Hospitals Scale for Nurses” developed by Kılıç (2023) is in line with this trend by providing a tool to measure lean management practices necessary to increase efficiency in healthcare settings. The fact that 66.6% of the theses are doctoral-level works indicates a significant academic investment in creating advanced tools for measuring nursing-related constructs (Table 1). The scale development studies presented in these theses, such as the "Nurses' Attitudes Towards Prevention of Falls Scale" (Özbudak, 2023), reflect the broader international concern with patient safety and quality of care, a theme frequently explored in nursing literature (Jones et al., 2019). In addition, the results related to the focus areas of these scales, such as nursing management, fundamental nursing, and emergency nursing, are consistent with the priorities outlined in global healthcare frameworks. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2021) has stressed the importance of developing competencies in emergency nursing and management to respond to global health crises effectively. The scale developed by Kaya (2022) to measure stigmatization perception in nursing students is particularly noteworthy as it addresses the psychosocial dimensions of nursing education, a topic of increasing relevance in both national and international research (Yang et al., 2022). In terms of methodological rigor, the theses from Türkiye generally report strong validity and reliability measures, comparable to those found in international studies. "Nurses' Competency Scale" (Başaran, 2022) and the "Diversity Management Scale for Nurses" (Çakır, 2022) were developed following strict psychometric principles, ensuring their applicability in diverse healthcare settings. Similar approaches are seen in international works such as the development of the "Nurse Professional Competency Scale" by Nilsson et al. (2014), which also underwent thorough validation processes to ensure its effectiveness across various healthcare environments.

CONCLUSION

The research highlighted in the table demonstrates that scales developed in the field of nursing are valid and reliable tools. Postgraduate theses on scale development related to nursing in Türkiye demonstrate strong alignment with international studies in terms of focus, methodological rigor, and the growing emphasis on developing reliable and valid instruments to evaluate nursing competencies, attitudes, and work processes. These scales, designed to improve patient safety, enhance professional capabilities, and elevate the overall quality of healthcare services, serve as essential tools for advancing nursing practice, education, and management. Furthermore, their implementation plays a vital role in optimizing healthcare institutions' administrative procedures while fostering the professional growth of nurses. Future studies should further investigate the application of these scales in diverse clinical environments and evaluate their effects on patient care outcomes. Additionally, broad adoption and integration of these instruments across various healthcare settings could significantly contribute to improving healthcare quality and service efficiency.

ETHICAL COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Since all the authors of the graduate theses examined in the study have approved accessibility via the Council of Higher Education (CoHE) National Thesis Center data entry form, it was not necessary to obtain an Ethics Committee Approval.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

Idea/concept: EÖ; Design: EÖ; Consultancy: MA,AN; Data collection: EÖ,AN,MA,DC; Data Processing: EÖ,AN,MA,DC; Analysis and/or Interpretation: EÖ,AN,MA,DC; Literature review: EÖ,AN,MA,DC; Writing of the article: EÖ,MA; Critical review: AN,DC.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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This study has not been financed by any institutional organization.

PEER REVIEW

Externally peer-reviewed.

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